

# birmingham archaeology

WARWICK STREET/WARNER STREET,  
BIRMINGHAM

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
2006

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



Project No.1392.01

**WARWICK STREET/WARNER STREET, BIRMINGHAM**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION 2006**

By Mary Duncan

With a contribution by Stephanie Ratkai

*For further information please contact:*

Alex Jones (Director)  
Birmingham Archaeology  
The University of Birmingham  
Edgbaston  
Birmingham B15 2TT  
Tel: 0121 414 5513  
Fax: 0121 414 5516  
E-Mail: [bham-arch@bham.ac.uk](mailto:bham-arch@bham.ac.uk)  
Web Address: [http://www barch.bham.ac.uk/bufau](http://www.barch.bham.ac.uk/bufau)

**WARWICK STREET/WARNER STREET BIRMINGHAM**  
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION 2006**

**CONTENTS**

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1	BACKGROUND.....	1
1.2	LOCATION.....	1
<b>2</b>	<b>BACKGROUND</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>METHOD</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>RESULTS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
5.1	INTRODUCTION.....	3
5.2	NATURAL SUBSOIL.....	3
5.3	TRENCH 1 (FIG. 4).....	3
5.4	TRENCH 2 (FIG. 4).....	4
<b>6</b>	<b>THE FINDS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
6.1	THE POTTERY BY <i>STEPHANIE RÁTKAI</i> .....	5
<b>7</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	<b>7</b>
	<i>Appendix 1 Trench Summary</i> .....	8
	<i>Appendix 2 Design Brief</i> .....	10

**Figures**

- 1 Location of the site within central Birmingham
- 2 The site: areas investigated by trial-trenching
- 3 Map of 1855
- 4 Plan of Trench 1 and section of Trench 2

**Plates**

- 1 Trench 1, view southwest
- 2 Trench 2, view northwest

**Table**

- 1 Pottery identification and quantification

## **WARWICK STREET/WARNER STREET, BIRMINGHAM**

### **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION 2006**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In February 2006 Birmingham Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at the junction of Warner Street and Warwick Street, Bordesley, Birmingham (centred on NGR SP 0824 8602). The fieldwork was undertaken for the Midland Catering Company Limited in advance of a proposed residential development. A previous desk-based assessment highlighted the proximity of the site to the Bordesley High Street/Camp Hill Road junction, one of the main routes into the medieval core of Birmingham. The assessment suggested that archaeological evidence relating to the early development of Bordesley could survive within the proposed development area. Two trenches were excavated in the eastern part of the proposed development area to evaluate the potential for buried archaeological deposits and to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy which could be required in advance of development. The earliest features and deposits identified by trenching were related to an almshouse chapel, laid out in 1820-1. The remains of the brick built floor and wall footings of part of the chapel were encountered in the northeastern corner of the proposed development site. This structure had evidently been demolished in the 1970s at which time the ground level was raised by 1.2m. No features or finds of medieval date were recovered.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

##### **1.1 Background**

Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned by the Midland Catering Company Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed residential development at the junction of Warwick Street and Warner Street, Bordesley, Birmingham (hereafter 'the site', centred on NGR SP 0824 8602).

This report outlines the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out in February 2006, undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Institute of Field *Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (IFA 2001). The evaluation was undertaken following the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Archaeology and Planning: Department of the Environment, 2000), Policy 8.36 of the Birmingham Unitary Development Plan, and the Council Archaeology Strategy, adopted as supplementary planning guidance.

As an earlier stage of archaeological input to the development process an archaeological desk-based assessment (Ramsey 2006) had been prepared.

The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief (Birmingham City Council 2006, reproduced as Appendix 2), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Birmingham Archaeology 2006), approved by the council.

##### **1.2 Location**

The site is located at the junction of Warwick Street and Warner Street, Bordesley, to the south of Birmingham city centre, to the west of the junction of Bordesley High Street, Camp Hill (Stratford Road) and Coventry Road, and is centred on NGR SP 0824 8602 (Fig. 1).

At present the eastern part of the proposed development site comprises a tarmac car park. The remainder of the proposed development site comprises the brick built premises of the Midlands Catering Company. Warwick Street forms the western site boundary, and the Warner Street the southern site boundary (Fig. 2).

## 2 BACKGROUND

This section of the report summarises the results of the desk-based assessment (Ramsey 2006).

Although prehistoric and Roman activity had been noted in the Birmingham area, there is no present evidence for any activity of this early date within the vicinity of the site (*ibid.*). The name 'Bordesley' could suggest a Saxon origin for the area, although Saxon settlement is very difficult to locate in the Birmingham area due to the lack of below-ground evidence (Hodder 2004). The assessment highlighted the possibility that the earliest settlement evidence within the site and its environs could be dated to the medieval period. This is suggested by the location of the site close to Bordesley High Street, one of the earliest routes from Coventry, Warwick, Stratford, Alcester and ultimately London, leading towards the medieval markets of Birmingham (Buteux 2003). The central part of medieval Birmingham rapidly expanded from 1166 when Birmingham was granted a market charter (Ramsey 2006). It is possible that the settlement of Bordesley expanded at the same time as Birmingham, as a direct result of the increase in trade at this time (*ibid.*). The earliest reference to Bordesley dates to 1226, and it has been suggested that a rival market to Birmingham could have been established in Bordesley, although no archaeological evidence for this market has yet been found (*ibid.*). Furthermore, the precise location and extent of medieval settlement in the Bordesley area cannot presently be located. One of the aims of the evaluation was to test the potential of the site to contain evidence of medieval activity, which would help more generally towards an appreciation of the growth of medieval settlement in Bordesley.

It has been suggested that the settlement of Bordesley, having enjoyed a period of prosperity in the medieval period, contracted and fell into decline sometime during the later medieval period, before becoming absorbed into Birmingham (*ibid.*). The earliest cartographic evidence for this site, dated to 1760, shows the site as open fields. By 1808 the site is built-up, reflecting the rapid expansion of Birmingham at this time. In 1820-21 two rows of almshouses and a chapel were constructed on the eastern side of the site. The 1855 map (Fig. 3) best illustrates the layout of these buildings. These buildings survived until demolition in the second half of the 20th century.

## 3 OBJECTIVES

The principal aim of the evaluation was to determine the character, state of preservation and the potential significance of any buried remains.

More specific aims were as stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Birmingham Archaeology 2006), to:

- determine any evidence for the survival of domestic/industrial activity, in the form of structures, finds or environmental evidence.
- assess the potential contribution of the site towards an appreciation of the historic development of Bordesley.

## 4 METHOD

A total of two trenches were excavated on the eastern side of the site totalling 74m square metres in extent, providing a 5% sample of the total proposed development area (Fig. 2).

Trenches were located within the car park to the northeast of the Midlands Catering Company warehouse, which remained in use at the time of the evaluation. Trench 1 was located in order to test the below-ground survival of the demolished 19th century almshouses, and Trench 2 was sited outside the footprint of the almshouse building. This trench was dug in two stages.

All modern overburden was removed using a JCB mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, working under direct archaeological supervision, to expose the uppermost significant archaeological horizon. Subsequent cleaning and excavation was by hand.

All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Features were planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50, and sections were drawn through all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50. A comprehensive written record was maintained using a continuous numbered context system on pro-forma context and feature cards. Photographs using digital, monochrome print and colour slide photography supplemented written records and scale plans.

The full site archive includes all artifactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive will be prepared according to the guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage 1991), the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (Museum and Art Galleries Commission, 1992). Finds and the paper archive will be deposited with Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, subject to permission from the landowner.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

Detailed summaries of the individual trenches are presented in Appendix 1 and full details are available in the project archive.

### 5.2 Natural subsoil

The natural subsoil (**2007**) sloped downwards to the northwest and southeast, with its highest point located towards the centre of Trench 2 (Fig. 4, Plate 1). This was reached at a height of 118.95m AOD with the lowest part of the slope encountered at 118.41m AOD at the southern end of Trench 2 and at 118.06m AOD towards the north end of Trench 2. The natural subsoil (**2007**) consisted of dark red clay with limestone inclusions.

### 5.3 Trench 1 (Fig. 4)

The natural subsoil was not recorded within this trench. The earliest deposits identified within Trench 1 (Fig. 4, Plate 1) consisted of a series of layers of redeposited natural red clay throughout (**1008, 1016, 1017, 1026: not illustrated and 1031**), containing varying amounts of grey silt and brick rubble inclusions. The earliest of these layers (**1017** and **1031**) was excavated to a depth of 0.25m. Layer **1016** contained pottery dating to the late 17th-18th century which might be residual; layer **1031** contained pottery dating to the 1840s.

A brick built structure overlay these build-up layers (Fig. 4, Plate 2). The trench exposed the full length of the southeastern wall (**1001**) of the brick built almshouse chapel (Fig. 3)

This wall was recorded for a maximum length of 9.56m, and measured 0.8m in width, and comprising two courses in width. This outer wall was constructed of red bricks, each measuring 0.23m in width. The wall measured a minimum of 0.62m in depth, but its base could not be identified during the trenching. There were three internal dividing walls (**1032**, **1033** and **1034**), each one brick in width (0.11m) located within the interior of the structure. These internal walls were made of red bricks each measuring 9"x4½"x3". Associated with these internal walls were the remains of internal brick floors (**1007** and **1035**) and traces of a plaster floor (**1025**, not illustrated). Surface **1035** was sealed by a dump of burnt coal (**1024**).

Externally to the building was a well-preserved brick build path (**1002**) constructed of grey engineering bricks, each measuring 9"x4"x3. These brick pavements were laid in a stretcher bond. A line of brick stretchers was recorded parallel to the southwestern side of the building, along with a return along the northeastern side of the building. Adjoining the southeastern external wall of the structure were a series of post-holes (**1004**, **1005**, **1006** and **1027**). These measured 0.35m by 0.3m in plan, and 0.3m in depth. Except where they adjoined the wall, they were edged with tile and were predominantly backfilled with dark grey silt (**1018**, **1019**, **1020**, **1021**, **1022**, **1003** and **1028**, not illustrated: see Appendix 1). The post-holes formed part of the structure. Pottery from the post-hole backfills mainly dated to the 18th century, although it is likely that this was residual material; backfill **1003** contained 19th century pottery.

The destruction of this structure was dated by map evidence to the later 20th century. Layer **1031** was sealed by a deposit of crushed plaster (**1029**). A shallow demolition layer comprising broken slate tiles (**1013**, not illustrated) directly overlay the external yard surface (**1002**). This layer was sealed by a deposit of crushed brick and plaster (**1000**; **1023**, not illustrated) mainly located within the interior of the demolished building. Sealing this demolition deposit were a series of levelling layers that totalled 1.2m in depth. These later, compacted demolition layers (**1015**, **1014**, not illustrated) contained rubble, coal and clay, together with domestic rubbish. A service trench (**1036**) was recorded cutting into the structure and associated surfaces towards the centre of the trench. Layers **1014** and **1015** were sealed by make-up deposits comprising clean red clay (**1012**, not illustrated) and sandy clay (**1011**, not illustrated) and crushed brick (**1010**, not illustrated). In turn these deposits were sealed by crushed brick, overlain by tarmac (**1009**, not illustrated).

#### 5.4 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

The underlying natural clay subsoil (**2007**) was encountered in Trench 2 (only). As in Trench 1, the earliest deposits identified within Trench 2 (Fig. 4, Plate 1) consisted of a series of layers of redeposited natural red clay (**2004**, **2005** and **2006**) containing varying amounts of grey silt and brick rubble inclusions throughout. Each of these layers measured an average of 0.25m in depth. The earliest of these layers (**2006**) directly overlay the natural subsoil. Pottery from this layer was dated to the late 18th-early 19th century. Together the overlying levelling layers made up the ground by between 0.5m and 1.2m within the trench.

Sealing these redeposited layers was further series of build-up layers, these consisted of compacted layers (**2002**, **2003**) of rubble, coal and clay along with various inclusions of generic rubbish (plastic, metal, wire etc). A brick path (**2009**) was cut diagonally across the trench, truncating layer **2002**, and underlying layer **2003**. The path was overlain by redeposited clay (**2008**). A layer of sandy clay (**2001**), sealed by crushed brick, overlay layers **2002** and **2008**, and was in turn overlain by tarmac (**2000**).

## 6 THE FINDS

### 6.1 The pottery by Stephanie Rátkai

TABLE 1: Pottery identification and quantification

<i>Context</i>	<i>fabric/ware</i>	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1003	mottled ware	1	late 17th-mid 18th C		
1003	pearlware	1	19th C		too small to date accurately, trace of blue transfer printed design
1013	white ?stoneware	2	late19th-early 20th C	?	
1013	white ?stoneware	1	late19th-early 20th C		internal black inscription ... (s)hould be (?) .... 2nd line ..... (?k or ?h)ont betw(een)....
1016	slip-coated ware	1	late17th-18th C	bowl	
1018	slip-coated ware	2	18th C	small bead-rim jar	
1020	crw	1	late 18th C	hollow ware?	very small thin walled sherd
1025	slip-coated ware	1	18th C	bowl	
1026	slip-coated ware	1	18th C	mug?	
1026	creamware	2	1780-1810		
1026	coarseware	1	18th-19th C	bowl/pancheon	
1026	pearlware	1	19th C	blue shell-edge plate	
1026	painted ware	1	1830s-1840s		
1026	industrial slipware	1	e 19th C	bowl?	exterior 'encrusted'
2006	brown salt-glazed stoneware	9	late 18th?-19th C	flagon	
2006	creamware	1	c 1760-1770	plate	
2006	creamware	1	c 1780-1790	plate	
2006	coarseware	1	18th-?19th C	hollow ware	unglazed, int. and ext. red-brown slip
T1 u/s	slip-coated ware	1	late 17th-18th C	hollow ware	
T1 u/s	tile	1	19th C?	wall/hearth tile	exterior dark green glaze

#### Spot dates of selected contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Date</i>
1003	19th C
1013	late 19th-early 20th C
1016	late 17th-18th C
1018	18th C
1020	late 18th C
1025	18th C
1026	1840s?
2006	late 18th-early 19th C



## 7 DISCUSSION

No evidence was found of any features, deposits, or finds which could pre-date the late 17th century. Because the area investigated by trenching was necessarily small, the lack of evidence for medieval or early post-medieval activity should not be interpreted to suggest that this part of Bordesley was not settled in these early periods, although this is a possibility. In particular, any earlier deposits may possibly be anticipated to survive within the rectangular courtyard between the parallel almshouse blocks. This area was not developed after 1820-1. By the late 18th century (1778 map, Ramsey 2006), the site was incorporated into long narrow rectangular plots.

The earliest deposits found above the natural subsoil in both trenches (**1008, 1016, 1017, 1026, 1031; 2004-2006**) may be interpreted as levelling material, which incorporated late 18th to 19th century pottery. This material, which incorporated broken brick and tile could have been imported from the near vicinity. The latest datable pottery from these deposits comprised creamware and painted ware dates 1780-1810 and 1830s-1840s, respectively. The almshouses were in fact built 1820-1821 (Ramsey 2006).

The development comprised two parallel almshouse blocks (outside the area examined by trial-trenching), and a rectangular chapel positioned at a right-angle to the main build (Fig 3, map of 1855). This complex was described as follows in White's Directory of Birmingham (1849):

*'James Dowell Esq's Retreat, Warner Street, consists of twenty houses, with a chapel in the centre, built of brick in the Gothic Style, over each door is a figure, Faith and Hope. The houses are for poor old women, who each receive 1s. 6d. per week, and two tones of coal per year.'*

Trench 1 identified the full length of the southeastern wall of the almshouse chapel, together with some details of internal arrangement, as well as part of the external brick yard surface. Although traces of three internal walls were identified (**1032, 1033** and **1034**) insufficient of the building interior was examined within the trench to enable any deductions to be made concerning its overall internal arrangement.

Four post-holes (**1006, 1005, 1004** and **1027**) were recorded adjoining the outer face of wall **1001**. These post-holes may have supported the roof of the structure, a covered walkway or verandah.

The remaining features and deposits relate to the demolition of the building in the later 20th century. After demolition, the surviving almshouse chapel remains were buried beneath up to 1m of rubble and soil.

## 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was commissioned by Keith Reynolds, on behalf of The Midlands Catering Company. Thanks are due to Keith Reynolds and Mr Khan for their co-operation and assistance throughout the project. Thanks also go to Dr. Mike Hodder who monitored the project on behalf of Birmingham City Council. Work on site was undertaken by Mary Duncan and Phil Mann. Specialists to whom thanks are due are Erica Macey-Bracken and Stephanie Ratkai. Mary Duncan produced the written report which was illustrated by Bryony Ryder, and edited by Alex Jones who also managed the project for Birmingham Archaeology.

## 9 REFERENCES

1849 White's History and Directory of Birmingham.

Birmingham Archaeology 2006 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial-Trenching At Warwick Street/Warner St, Birmingham*

Buteux, S, 2003 *Beneath the Bull Ring: the Archaeology of Life and Death in Early Birmingham*, Brewin Books.

Department of the Environment (DoE) 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning*

Hodder, M, 2004 *Birmingham the Hidden History*, Tempus.

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) 2001 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*

Ramsey, E, 2006 *Warwick Street/Warner Street, Birmingham: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment 2006*, Birmingham Archaeology Report Number 1392.

**Appendix 1 Trench Summary**

Context number	Description	Date
Trench 1		
1000	Layer of crushed brick within interior of structure	20th C
1001	Brick built outer wall of structure	19th C
1002	Brick yard surface	19th C
1003	Top fill of post-hole 1027, dark grey silt lined by tile on all but northwestern side	19th C
1004	Cut of square post-hole 0.24m wide, 0.34m deep	
1005	Cut of square post-hole 0.29m wide, 0.25m deep	
1006	Cut of square post-hole 0.25m wide , 0.36m deep	
1007	Brick internal floor surface	
1008	Layer of grey silt with sand lenses throughout 0.25m deep	
1009	Car park surface. Layer of tarmac 0.1m deep	20th C
1010	Levelling layer of crushed brick 0.1m deep	20th C
1011	Levelling layer of sand and clay	20th C
1012	Levelling layer of re-deposited clay, with some rubble	20th C
1013	Demolition layer of broken roof slates, 0.1m deep	late 19th-early 20th C
1014	Levelling layer of silt and rubble	20th C
1015	Levelling layer of black clay, rubble and assorted rubbish 0.5m deep	20th C
1016	Levelling layer of silt and clay, some rubble 0.25m deep	late 17th-18th C
1017	Levelling layer of redeposited clay with some brick rubble	
1018	Top fill of post-hole 1006 black silt lined by tile on all but northwestern side	18th C
1019	Primary fill of post-hole 1006, dark grey silt and clay	
1020	Fill of post-hole 1005, black silt lined with tile on all but north side	late 18th C
1021	Top fill of post-hole 1004 black silt lined by tile on all but north site	
1022	Primary fill of post-hole 1004, dark grey silt and clay	
1023	Layer within structure comprising crushed plaster and ash	
1024	<b>Dump of burnt coal within structure</b>	
1025	Narrow layer of plaster 0.02m deep	18th C
1026	Layer of redeposited natural clay with some plaster and charcoal	1840s?
1027	Cut of square post-hole 0.26m wide, 0.42m deep	
1028	Primary fill of post-hole 1027, grey silt	
1029	<b>Layer of crushed plaster 0.1m thick</b>	
1030	Layer of redeposited clay with some charcoal, 0.1m thick	
1031	Layer of redeposited clay	
1032	Brick wall, interior partition, single course thick, 0.6m deep	
1033	Brick wall, interior partition, single course thick	
1034	Brick wall, interior partition, single course thick	
1035	Brick floor surface associated with interior partition walls 1032 and 1033	
1036	Modern service trench	

Trench 2		
2000	Car park surface. Layer of tarmac 0.1m deep	20th C
2001	Levelling layer containing crushed rubble and stone 0.5m deep	20th C
2002	Levelling layer of stone and rubble in clay and silt 0.45m deep	20th C
2003	Levelling layer of black silt with charcoal	20th C
2004	Levelling layer of redeposited natural subsoil	
2005	Levelling layer of redeposited natural subsoil with some brick rubble	
2006	Levelling layer of redeposited natural subsoil	late 18th- early 19th C
2007	Natural subsoil	
2008	Redeposited clay over brick path	
2009	Brick built path 0.9m wide in middle of trench	

## **Appendix 2 Design Brief**

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

**Application number C/07710/05/FUL**

**Warner Street, Birmingham (SP 0824 8602)**

**Proposed residential development**

**Brief for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment and Field Evaluation in advance of determination of planning application**

### **1. Summary**

*Proposed development at Warner Street may contain remains of medieval and post-medieval settlement and industry. This brief is for assessment of the impact of the proposed development on archaeological remain, consisting of an **Archaeological desk-based assessment followed by an archaeological field evaluation consisting of excavated trenches**. This will determine the need for preservation of archaeological remains in-situ and/or for further archaeological excavation in advance of commencement of development.*

### **2. Site location and description**

The application site is located at the junction of Warner Street and Warwick Street. The south-western part of the site is occupied by a building, and the north-eastern part is a surfaced car park.

### **3. Planning background**

N/07710/05/FUL is for demolition of existing buildings and residential development of the whole site. Because the site may include archaeological remains which would be affected by the proposed development, an assessment of its archaeological implications is required in advance of consideration of the proposals and before the application can be determined. This is in accordance with Policy 8.36 of the City Council's Unitary Development Plan, the City Council's Archaeological Strategy which has been adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance, and government advice in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, "Archaeology and Planning". The archaeological assessment will enable appropriate archaeological mitigation strategies to be devised. The mitigation strategies may involve modification of site layout or foundation design to ensure in situ preservation of archaeological remains, or, if this is not feasible, **full recording of archaeological remains by archaeological excavation in advance of development, followed by analysis and publication of the results.**

### **4. Existing archaeological information**

The application site lies within or on the edge of the medieval settlement of Bordesley. Archaeological information from excavations on the north-eastern side of High Street Bordesley gives an indication of the likely archaeological remains on the application site. These revealed remains of metalworking and the extraction of clay pottery, brick or tile making in the 17th and 18th centuries.

### **5. Requirements for work**

The archaeological desk-based assessment and field excavation are required to define the likely extent, survival and significance of archaeological remains in the area of the proposed development, so that the appropriate mitigation strategies can be devised. The mitigation strategies may involve modification of site layout or foundation design to ensure in situ preservation of archaeological remains, or, if this is not feasible, full recording of archaeological remains in advance of development, followed by analysis and publication of the results.

In particular, the archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation must address the following:

- (i) The survival of remains of domestic activity and industrial processes from the medieval period onwards, in the form of structures and/or residues;
- (ii) The survival of remains of past environmental conditions;
- (iii) The potential of the site to contribute to an understanding of the historic development of this part of Birmingham.

## **6. Stages of work**

The extent, survival and significance of archaeological remains on the application site, as described in part 5 above, are to be assessed by site inspection and a search of published and unpublished written records, illustrations and maps, archaeological and geotechnic records, and a comparison with archaeological evidence from nearby sites. The attached guidance note provides information on sources. In addition, relevant papers in the West Midlands Archaeological Research Framework should be consulted.

The archaeological field excavation is to consist of excavated trenches across the whole site. The number of trenches and the location and size of each trench are to be agreed on site with the Planning Archaeologist prior to commencement. Surface deposits in each trench are to be mechanically removed, under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation is to be entirely manual. Excavation in each trench is to be sufficient to define, record and sample all archaeological features encountered. The potential of deposits to contain evidence of the past environment and industrial residues must be assessed. Finds are to be cleaned, marked and bagged and any remedial conservation work undertaken.

## **7. Staffing**

The archaeological desk-based assessment and archaeological field evaluation are to be carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct, Standards, Guidelines and practices of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and all staff are to be suitably qualified and experienced for their roles in the project. It is recommended that the project be under the direct supervision of a Member or Associate Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

## **8. Written Scheme of Investigation**

Potential contractors should present a Written Scheme of Investigation that details methods and staffing. It is recommended that the Written Scheme of Investigation be submitted to the City Council's Planning Archaeologist before a contractor is commissioned, to ensure that it meets the requirements of the brief.

## **9. Monitoring**

The archaeological desk-based assessment and archaeological field evaluation must be carried out to the satisfaction of Birmingham City Council, and will be monitored by the Planning Archaeologist. At least five working days notice of commencement of the assessment must be given to the Planning Archaeologist, so that monitoring meetings can be arranged.

The monitoring will include a review meeting on completion of the research for the archaeological desk-based assessment to determine requirements for the field evaluation, and at least one site meeting during the evaluation.

## **10. Reporting**

The results of the archaeological desk-based assessment and archaeological field evaluation are to be presented as a written report, containing the following:

- (i) Copies of historic maps and other appropriate illustrations
- (ii) An analytical summary of features and deposits found in the evaluation;
- (iii) Appropriate plans and sections;
- (iv) A summary of finds;

- (v) An assessment of the site's significance in terms of national, regional and local importance. The non-statutory criteria for scheduling should be employed;
- (vi) A copy of this brief.

A copy of the report must be sent to the Planning Archaeologist.

### **11. Archive deposition**

The written, drawn and photographic records of the archaeological desk-based assessment and archaeological field evaluation, together with any finds, must be deposited with an appropriate repository within a reasonable time of completion, following consultation with the Planning Archaeologist.

### **12. Publication**

The written report will become publicly accessible, as part of the Birmingham Sites and Monuments Record, within six months of completion. The archaeological contractor must submit a short summary report for inclusion in *West Midlands Archaeology* and summary reports to appropriate national period journals. On completion of the project the contractor must also complete the obligatory fields of the OASIS form and submit an electronic version of the report to OASIS (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/oasis>).

### **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

**Date prepared: 30 December 2005**

**Planning Archaeologist: Dr Michael Hodder Tel: 0121 464 7797 Fax: 0121 303 3193**

Birmingham City Council  
Alpha Tower  
Suffolk Street Queensway  
Birmingham B1 1TU

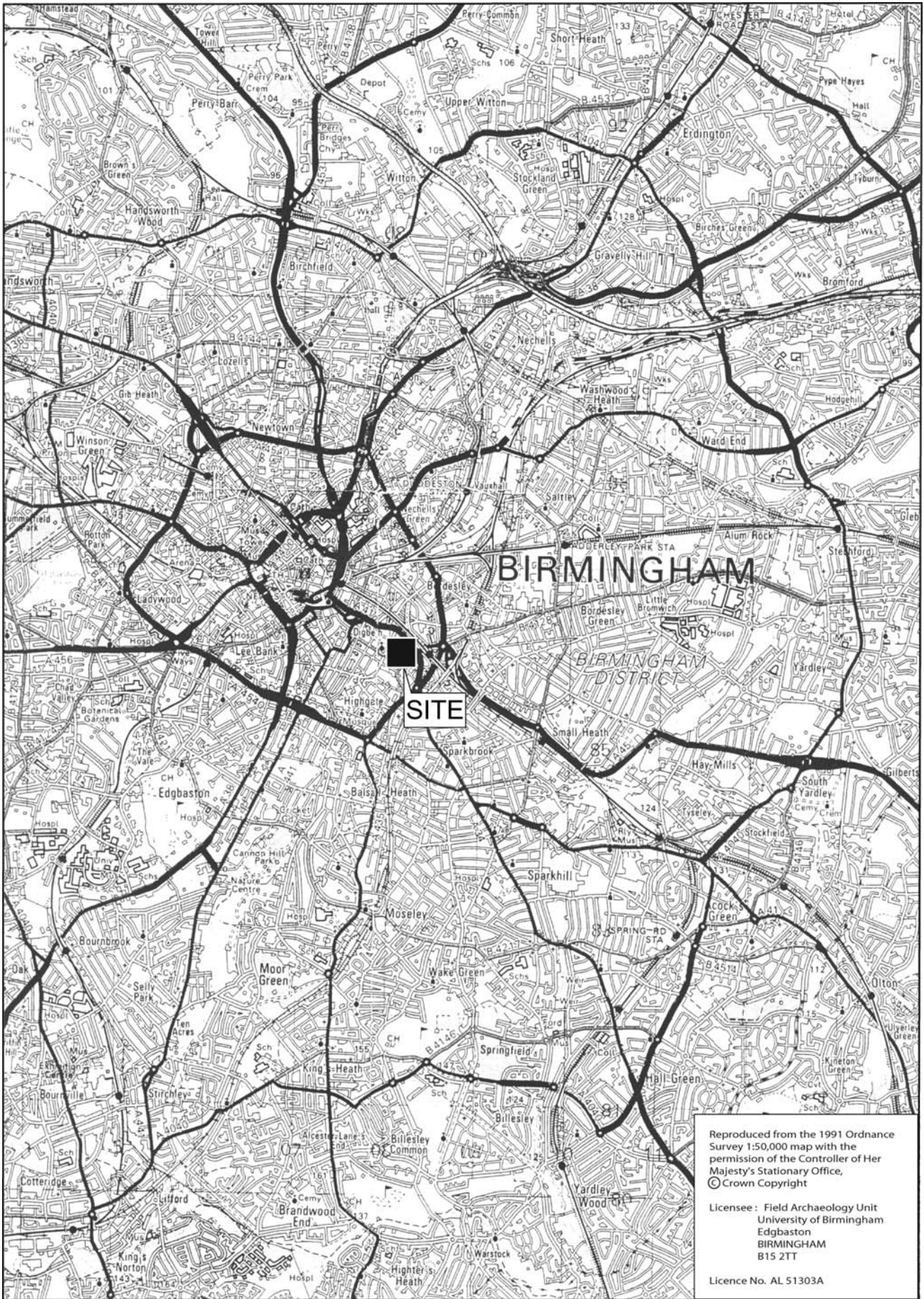


Fig.1



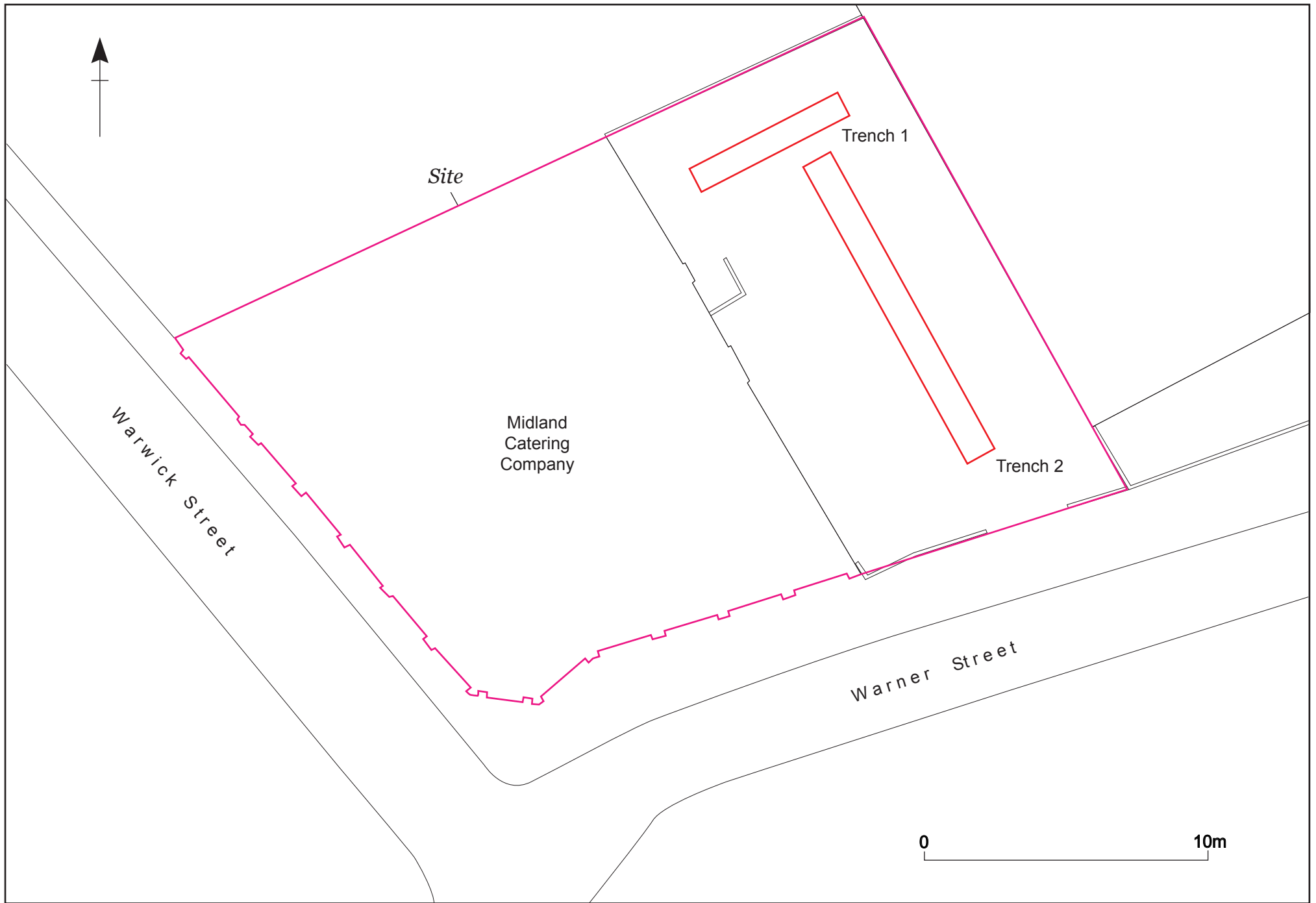


Fig.2

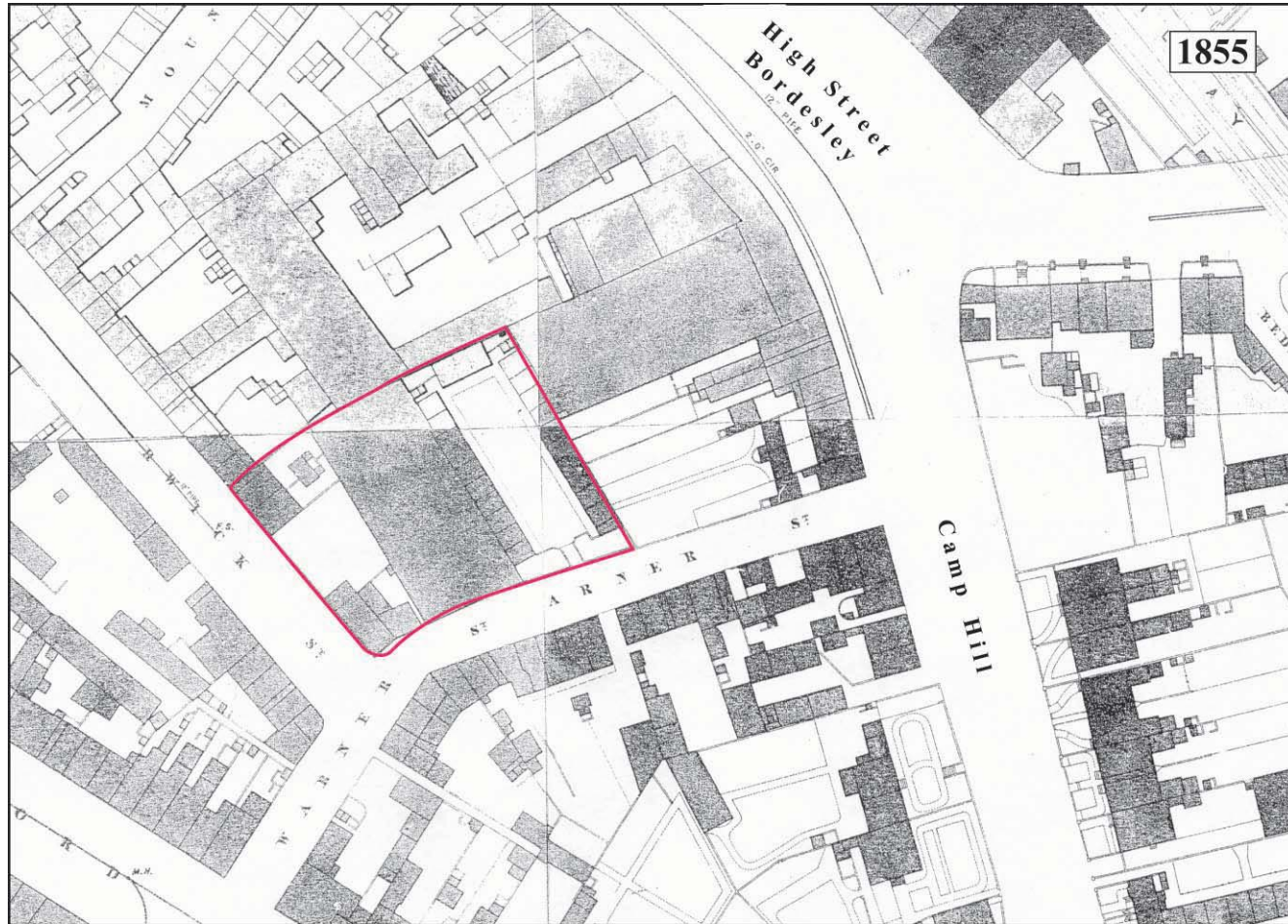


Fig.3

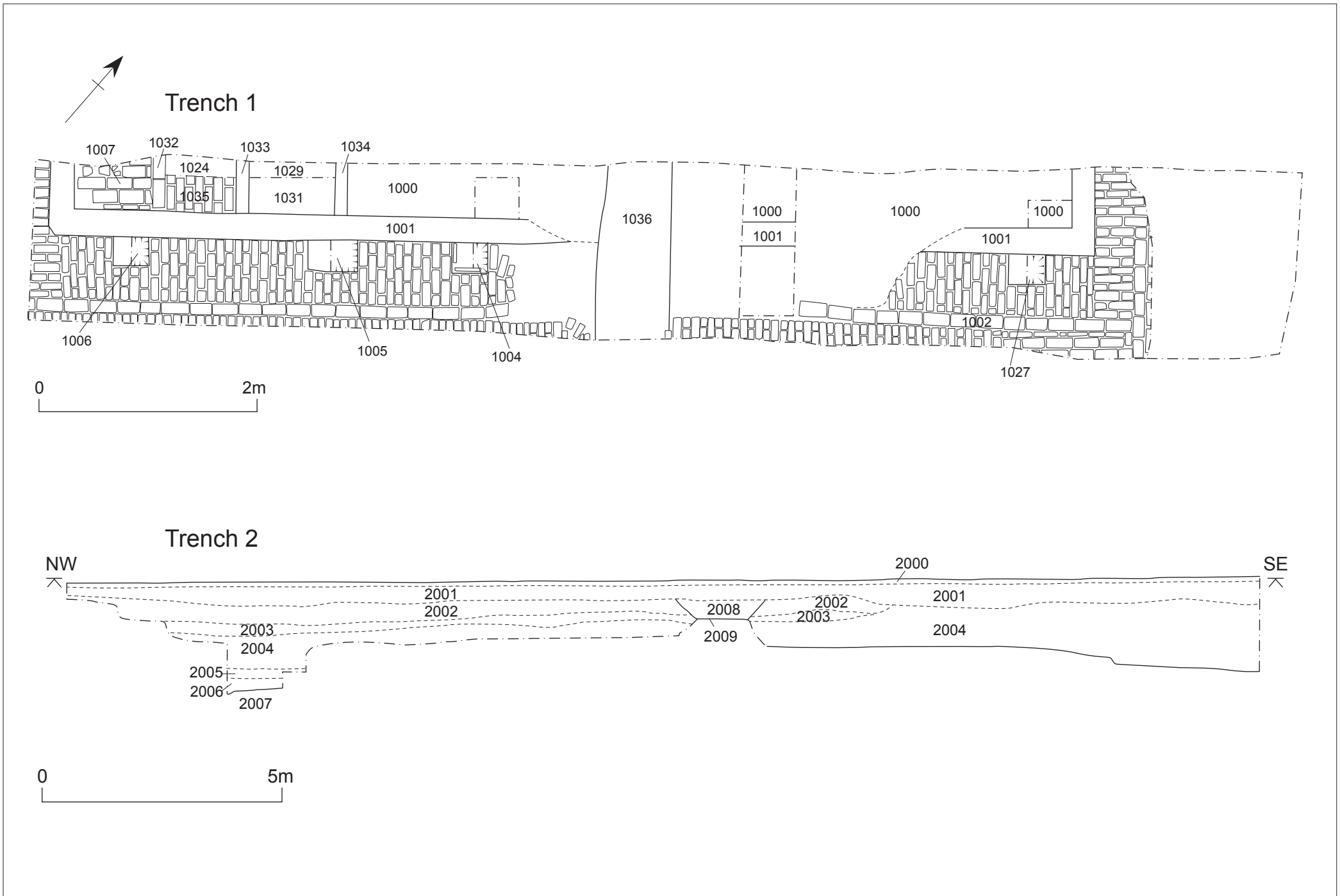


Fig.4



Plate 1



Plate 2