

birmingham archaeology

WEDNESBURY TOWN CENTRE
DEVELOPMENT

STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION, 2006

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



Project No. 1518
May 2006

**WEDNESBURY TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT
STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION 2006**

By Phil Mann

With contributions by Stephanie Ratkai and Emma Tetlow

For further information please contact:
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
Web Address: <http://www.barch.bham.ac.uk/bufau>

**WEDNESBURY TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT
STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION 2006**

CONTENTS

SUMMARY

1 INTRODUCTION	2
1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT	2
1.2 LOCATION AND GEOLOGY	3
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	3
3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	3
4 METHODOLOGY	3
5 RESULTS (FIG. 2)	4
6 THE FINDS	9
6 DISCUSSION	9
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	10
8 REFERENCES	10

FIGURES

- 1 Location of the site in Wednesbury
- 2 Trench locations (A-H), including trenches (1-9) excavated during Stage 1 evaluation
- 3 Trenches A and B, plans
- 4 Trenches E, G and H, sections

PLATES

- 1 Trench A, ditch 10355
- 2 Trench B, ditches 10372 and 10359
- 3 Trench C, ditch 10359, wall 10379
- 4 Trench E, southeast facing section

APPENDICES

- 1 Design Brief, Wednesbury Town Centre Phase II. Sandwell MBC
- 2 Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation, Birmingham Archaeology
- 3 Photographic Register
- 4 Project Summary Sheet

WEDNESBURY TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION 2006

In November-December 2006, Birmingham Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on behalf of Wm Morrison Supermarkets PLC (with advice from S R Davis Architects) in advance of proposals for the construction of a new supermarket and petrol filling station in Wednesbury, West Midlands (centred on NGR SO 9862 9490). Two areas were investigated: to the west of Camphill Lane and to the south of Camp Street. A total of eight trial trenches were excavated in November-December 2006 following the completion of a desk-based assessment, an earlier stage of trial-trenching, and an area excavation. The excavation, located to the southwest of Camphill Lane, examined evidence for pottery production, and the dumping of quantities of waste pottery into the adjoining town ditch. The floruit of this industry was in the 17th century, although some evidence of possible earlier pottery manufacture was also found.

The Stage 2 trial-trenching was intended to assess the evidence for surviving below-ground deposits related to medieval settlement and industry, and post-medieval industry. A roughly north-south aligned length of the possible town ditch was located to the west of Camphill Lane (Trenches A-C). The same feature was further examined by the excavation to the south, where the ditch had been enlarged, and used in connection with pottery production. Evidence of undated plot boundary ditches was recorded adjoining the Russell Street frontage within the Market Hall car park. A single plot boundary of possible 16th-17th century date was recorded to the south of the Camp Street frontage. Much of the remainder of the Market Hall car park had been disturbed by 19th century development. However, it is likely that any surviving early post-medieval features will be unaffected by the new supermarket car park, which will only involve limited reduction in ground level within the area of the Market Hall car park.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the project

Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned by Wm Morrison Supermarkets PLC (with advice from S R Davis Architects) to undertake a programme of trial trenching in advance of a proposed supermarket and petrol filling station development in Wednesbury Town Centre (hereafter 'the site', Planning Application Nos. DC/04/42399 and DC/05/44324, Fig. 1).

This report outlines the results of a field evaluation carried out during November-December 2006 and has been prepared in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists 'Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations' (IFA 2001). The evaluation conformed to a Design Brief prepared by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (2006, reproduced as Appendix 1), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Birmingham Archaeology (2006, reproduced as Appendix 2), approved by the local planning authority prior to implementation. The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with guidelines laid out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16, Department of the Environment 1990).

The evaluation was informed by an Archaeological Impact Assessment (Lobb 2006) which provided a full map regression, historic background and assessment of archaeological potential.

1.2 Location and geology

The Wednesbury Town Centre Development site is bounded by Union Street, Holyhead Road, Russell Street and Camp Street, and is centred on NGR SO 9862 9490 (Fig. 2).

Wednesbury Town centre lies on the Upper Coal Measures with the underlying geology comprising grey clays with alluvial deposits to the north.

Two areas were investigated during the Stage 2 evaluation. The first comprised the car park to the south of the Council Housing Office, and a grass verge to the north of that building, an area bounded by Loxdale Street, Holyhead Road and Camphill Lane (Fig. 2, Trenches A-C). The second area comprised the Market Hall car park, located between Camp Street and Russell Street (Trenches D-H). These areas were not available for investigation during the earlier stage of trial-trenching (Krawiec 2007).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Full details of the archaeological background are provided by the assessment (Lobb 2006), which will not be repeated in full here.

The earliest evidence for occupation in Wednesbury is the suggested Iron Age hillfort on Church Hill. Whilst there is no datable evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlement, the place-name evidence suggests activity in that period.

During the medieval period the focus of settlement appeared to have moved from Church Hill down to the Market Place (Lobb 2006, fig. 2). The bulk of archaeological material from Wednesbury comes from the post-medieval period. Pottery production in Wednesbury appears to have increased greatly in the post-medieval period, with numerous sherds of Midlands Purple wares, Cistercian ware, glazed red earthenwares and Midlands Yellow wares being recovered (Lobb 2006). Hodder (1991) suggests that these finds indicate that pottery production occurred as a cottage industry in post-medieval Wednesbury. During the later post-medieval period large quantities of coal and iron were produced in the town. The 18th-century saw a growing industry of gunlock filing and forging in Wednesbury (Greenslade 1976, 35), which extended within an area of the overall development to the south of Union Street.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principle aim of the evaluation was to determine the character, extent, date, state of preservation and potential significance of any buried remains. In particular, it was intended to provide information to illuminate the development of Wednesbury from the medieval period to the present, including evidence of industrial activity.

4 METHODOLOGY

A total of eight trenches were excavated across the two evaluation areas, to test the potential of the Stage 2 areas as widely as possible. In total, the trenching provided a sample of 5% of the areas investigated in November-December 2006.

One trench (A, measuring 2m by 3m) was located in the grass verge to the north of the Council Housing Office. Two further trenches (B-C) each measuring 2m by 12m were located in the car park to the south of the Housing Office. These trenches were located to test an area suspected to lie within the bounds of the

early post-medieval town, and specifically, to investigate the potential for the survival of features associated with early post-medieval pottery production.

The remaining trenches (D-H) were located in the Market Hall car park located between Camp Street and Russell Street. In the southwest of the car park, three trenches were excavated, two (D and F, each measuring 2m by 10m) testing areas to the rear of the street frontages. The third trench (E, measuring 2m by 6m) was located to examine an area between Trenches E and F. Two trenches were excavated in the northeast of the Market Hall car park (G-H, each measuring 2m by 10m). Overall, the trenches were positioned to sample the archaeological potential of the car park as widely as possible. Investigation within Trenches G-H was limited to a maximum depth of 1.2m below the modern ground surface.

The tarmac/gravel surfaces were removed by a JCB excavator with a breaker attachment. Subsequently, all topsoil and modern overburden was removed with a toothless ditching bucket, working under direct archaeological supervision, down to the top of the uppermost archaeological horizon or the subsoil. Subsequent cleaning and excavation was by hand.

In places it was necessary to widen the trenches so that their sides could be stepped, for safety (Trenches D-E).

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

Recovered finds were cleaned, marked and remedial conservation work was undertaken as necessary. Treatment of all finds will conform to the guidance contained within 'A Strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds' (English Heritage).

The full site archive includes all artifactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive will be prepared according to 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 Wednesbury Museum, subject to permission from the landowner.

5 RESULTS (FIG. 2)

This section of the report provides a summary of the results, arranged in trench order.

Trench A

Trench A (Fig. 3) was located to the south of Loxdale Street. The natural clay subsoil (10357) was reached at 133.85m AOD. This was cut by a north-south aligned ditch (10355) measuring 1.66m wide and 0.86m deep. This was backfilled with two deposits: a grey silty-clay (10354), which was overlain by a yellow silty-clay (10353) 0.32-0.64m in depth and which contained 17th century pottery.

This ditch (10355) was re-cut by a later north-south aligned ditch (10352) measuring 1.86m wide and 0.94m deep which was filled by a black, charcoal rich silty clay (10351). This contained late 17th-early 18th century pottery.

Cut through this ditch in the northeast of the trench was a wall foundation (10356) consisting of six courses (five of red brick, one of stone). The wall was cut into the western edge of ditch 10352, and was aligned northeast-southwest. The wall consisted of red brick measuring 9 x 4.5 x 3.5 inches overlying a single course of grey sandstone blocks. These features were overlain by a brown silty-clay topsoil layer (10350) measuring approximately 0.22-0.30m in depth.

Trench B

Trench B (Fig. 3) was located to the southeast of the Council Housing Office. The southwest of the trench had been heavily truncated by the foundations for a brick built wall (10389) measuring 1.5m in length by 0.28m in width, surviving to two courses in height. This wall ran approximately east-west, with a north-south return, which measured 0.74m in length and 0.26m in width.

Towards the centre of the trench the natural subsoil (10357) was located at 133.52m AOD. Cutting the subsoil was two features, both aligned north-south. One feature (10372) measured 2.04m in width and 0.42m in depth. Its primary backfill was a blue-grey clay (10373, not illustrated) which contained small-mid sized rounded stones. Above was an orange-yellow clay (10397) which also contained rounded stones of varying sizes. Within the feature was also a thin lens of a dark brown clay (10398, not illustrated) measuring 0.10m in width and 0.15m in depth. The absence of finds and the presence of rounded stones suggests that this could be a periglacial feature.

To the northeast of feature 10372 was a ditch (10358) measuring 1.52m in width by 0.46m in depth. It was backfilled with dark brown silty-clay (14000) with some charcoal inclusions, and which contained 17th century yellow ware, blackware and coarseware pottery. This feature was the southward continuation of ditch 10355 located in Trench A (see above). As also recorded in that trench, the primary ditch was re-cut slightly to the northeast by a smaller ditch (10382) which measured 0.72m in width by 0.44m in depth. This re-cut was backfilled with dark brown silty-clay (10383).

Sealing these backfilled features across Trench B was a black silty clay layer (10387, not illustrated) which measured around 0.28m in thickness and showed evidence for industrial waste materials such as charcoal and ash throughout. Sealing this layer towards the centre of the trench was a small deposit of an orange-yellow silty clay (10388, not illustrated) which measured 0.20m in depth. Towards the southwestern end of Trench B was a deposit of brick demolition rubble (10386, not illustrated) which measured 0.30 in depth, probably associated with the demolition of building 10389.

Overlying these layers was a grey stone hardcore deposit (10385) measuring 0.20m in thickness, and above this a black tarmac layer (10384) which formed the foundation for the modern car park.

Trench C

Trench C (not illustrated in detail) was located to the southeast of Trench B, in the Council Housing Office car park. The natural subsoil, a yellow silty clay (10381) was reached at 133.10m AOD. In the southwestern end of the trench was revealed the southwards continuation of the ditch recorded in Trenches A and

B. This ditch was not excavated in this trench. The ditch was cut in Trench C by wall footings (10379, Plate 3) measuring 2.30m in length by 1.28m in width, and consisting of orange-red frogged bricks (9 x 4 x 3 ¼ inches) bonded with a white lime mortar. This wall was supported by a series of sandstone blocks, most likely added to provide additional stability to the structure.

To the southwest of wall 10379 was a second, east-west aligned wall (10378) measuring 1.40m in length by 0.23m in width. This consisted of orange-red bricks, and is likely to be the southward continuation of wall 10389 located in Trench B.

Overlying the two walls in Trench C was an orange-brown rubble demolition layer (10377) consisting of bricks and other stone debris and which also contained late 18th century pottery.

Towards the northeast end of the trench there was less disturbance and the natural subsoil here was reached at 133.43m AOD. Cut in to this was a small sub-circular post-hole (10422) measuring 0.40m wide by 0.10m in depth. This was filled by a black sandy silt (10421) which contained fragments of brick.

Overlying all these features was the make-up layer for the car park which consisted of a mid grey rubble concrete hardcore (10376) measuring 0.06-0.10m in depth, overlain by a tarmac (10375) approximately 0.10m thick.

Trench D

Trench D (not illustrated in detail) was located to the southeast of Camp Street. It was aligned southwest-northeast. The natural subsoil was not located in this trench for safety reasons, as a result of the depth of deposits. The earliest layer encountered was a black, charcoal-rich silty-clay (10418) measuring 0.20-0.42m in depth. This was overlain by a black silty clay (10417) 0.40m in depth, which was in turn overlain by a grey silty clay (10414) measuring 0.24-0.48m in depth to the southwest, and by a yellow silty redeposited natural clay (10416) 0.10m thick to the northeast.

Overlying 10416 to the southwest was a thin lens of light brown silt with industrial slag/waste throughout (10413) measuring approximately 0.14m in depth. To the northeast 10416 was overlain by a grey silty-clay layer (10415) measuring 0.20-0.52m in depth. Overlying these contexts was a layer of charcoal-rich black silty-clay (10412) 0.32m thick. This in turn was overlain by a red silty clay rubble layer (10410) measuring around 0.24-0.42m in depth.

10410 was overlain in the northeast of the trench by a layer of red crushed brick (10411) measuring 0.06m in depth. Both of these layers were sealed by a red brick rubble demolition deposit (10409) which measured 0.92m in width and 0.28m in depth. Above was a layer of black charcoal (10408) 0.12m in depth. Sealing 10408 in the southwest of the trench was a layer of black silty-clay with some red brick inclusions (10407) measuring 0.46m in depth, and in the northeast was a yellow silty-clay (10405) 0.22m in depth. Overlying 10405 was a small deposit of grey silty clay (10420) measuring 0.26m in thickness. Sealing both these layers was a silty black charcoal deposit (10404) measuring 0.20-0.26m in depth.

Cut through 10404 was the service trench for a modern drainage pipe (10420). Backfilled cut 10420 and layer 10404 were in turn overlain by the car park surface which consisted of tarmac (10403).

Trench E

Trench E (Fig. 4) was located in the southwest of the Market Hall car park. It was aligned approximately east-west. The natural yellow clay subsoil (10480, not illustrated) was located at around a depth of 131.42m AOD. This was overlain by a yellow silty clay layer of probable redeposited natural subsoil (10371). Above was an orange/brown silt deposit containing pieces of slag and industrial residue (10370) which yielded late 18th-19th century finds. This was overlain by deposits of black silty-clay (10368-9).

Sealing these layers was a brown silty-clay deposit (10367). Overlying this layer was a thin lens of black charcoal (10366) which in turn was overlain by a lens of yellow sand (10365). Sealing both these contexts was a layer of black, charcoal rich silty-clay (10364).

Overlying 10364 was a red silty-clay demolition layer containing brick/rubble (10362). Sealing this layer in the southwest of the trench was small deposit of industrial slag (10363) which measured approximately 0.20m in depth.

Layers 1062-3 were overlain by the stone foundation of the car park (10361), sealed by the car park surface (10360).

Trench F

Trench F (not illustrated in detail) was located in the southwest of the Market Hall car park, and was aligned northwest-southeast. The natural subsoil (10480, not illustrated) was encountered at a depth of 131.08m AOD. Cut into the subsoil were two possible north-south aligned ditches. One (10431) measured a maximum of 4.08m in width. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.44m, but its full profile could not be recovered because of health and safety issues. It was filled with blue-grey silty-clay (10427). The second ditch (unexcavated: 10430) measured 1.34m in width by 0.36m in depth and was filled by a grey silty-clay (10432). The fills of the two ditches were very similar, which may suggest that they were broadly contemporary. Both included areas of yellow probable redeposited natural silty-clay throughout. Overlying 10432 in the northeast of the trench was a deposit of black charcoal industrial waste (10429).

Sealing the backfilled ditches was a thick layer of a black silty-ash (10426). Cut into this layer in the southwest of the trench was the corner of a wall foundation (10428) consisting of orange-red bricks, overlain by a demolition deposit (10425).

Above 10425 was the rubble foundation (10424) for the tarmac car park surface (10423).

Trench G

Trench G (Fig. 4) was located to the west of the Market Hall. The trench was aligned approximately north-south. At the southeastern end of the trench the natural subsoil (10480, not illustrated) was recorded at 132.60m AOD. Cut into the subsoil was a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (10475, not illustrated) which measured 0.64m in width and 0.18m in depth. It was filled with mid brown silty-clay (10474, not illustrated) that contained mid 16th-17th century blackware pottery. To the northwest of 10474 was a small sub-circular pit (10477, not illustrated) that measured 1.10m in width by 0.2m in depth. It was filled with black silty clay (10476, not illustrated) which contained charcoal and sherds of 19th century pottery. Sealing these features was a layer of dark brown silty-clay

(10455) which measured 0.44m in depth. This layer was in turn overlain by a yellow silty-clay (10454) measuring 0.24m thick.

In the north of the trench the earliest layer encountered was a yellow-brown silty-clay (10437) which contained pottery of early 19th century date. This deposit was sealed by a stony grey silt layer (10436). Overlying 10436 was a dark brown silt layer (10435).

Cutting through these layers to the northwest was a grey sandstone wall (10440) consisting of irregularly sized blocks (0.30–0.60m) of grey sandstone, with coal or charcoal adhering to the surface of the stone blocks. The foundation trench for this wall was backfilled with charcoal (10441).

Towards the centre of the trench was the construction cut for a cellar (10447) measuring a maximum of 6.40m in width and 0.98m in depth. The cellar was cut through layers 10454 and 10437, and into earlier deposits. The cellar consisted of two northeast-southwest aligned walls (10448 and 10452) and the southeast-northwest return wall (10449) for the building. All three walls consisted of red clamped bricks each measuring 9 x 4 x 3.5 inches, bonded with lime mortar. Wall 10448 survived to a height of eleven courses in the trench, and wall 10452 to a height of nine courses. The chamfered bricks at the southeastern corner of the cellar indicated one side of a doorway. Also associated with 10449 was a floor surface made of red tiles each measuring 9.5 x 9 x 2 inches, just to the southwest.

The earliest fill of the construction cut was a dark brown clay with red brick rubble throughout (10446). Overlying this was a yellow silty clay (10445), in turn overlain by a thin layer of black charcoal (10444). To the north of wall 10448 and above 10445 was a small deposit of yellow silty clay (10443), sealed by a layer of black silt (10442).

The cellar structure itself was mainly filled with brown silt with large amounts of brick and tile throughout (10450) and (10451). Above was a layer of light brown silty-clay (10456A).

In the south of the trench 10447 was overlain by a layer of black silt flecked with charcoal (10453). This in turn is cut by a modern drain (10439).

Sealing all these contexts was the foundation for the car park (10434) overlain by the tarmac car park surface (10433).

Trench H

Trench H (Fig. 4) was located in the east of the Market Hall car park. The trench was aligned northeast-southwest. In the northeast of the trench the natural subsoil (10480, not illustrated) was located at 132.74m AOD. It was cut by a small pit measuring 0.94m in width by 0.22m in depth and filled with grey silty-clay (10478, not illustrated). Sealing 10478 and the subsoil was a layer of yellow-grey silty-clay (10473) which contained fragments of a 19th century brown stoneware flagon. Overlying 10473 was a layer of grey silty-clay (10472) which was flecked with charcoal. This was overlain by a black silty-clay layer (10471).

Truncating these layers towards the centre of the trench was the east-west aligned foundation trench measuring 0.72m in depth and 2.60m in width (10470) for a red brick wall (10463). This wall consisted of red bricks (each measuring 9 x 4.5 x 3.5 inches) bonded with lime mortar.

Filling the construction cut were a number of layers, in order comprising light brown silty clay (10469), a layer of black charcoal (10468), a deposit of orange-red silty clay (10467), a black silty clay layer (10466) and at the top of the sequence, a brown silt rubble layer (10465), which contained fragments of red brick.

These layers were overlain further to the southwest by a series of demolition/infill layers that were contained within a cut (10464), which measured 6.60m in width from the southwestern end of the trench. The earliest of this group of layers was a yellow-grey silty clay (10462), sealed by a black charcoal rich silty-clay (10461) that contained fragments of red brick rubble throughout, overlain by an orange-red brick rubble layer (10460).

Cut through 10460 in the southwest of the trench was a small modern pit (10459). This measured 1.24m in width and 0.34m in depth and was filled by a dark brown silty-rubble (10458).

All these contexts were then sealed by the stone foundation (10457) for the tarmac car park surface (10456B).

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The pottery by Stephanie Ratkai

TABLE 1: Pottery spot dates from Trenches A-H

<i>Context</i>	<i>Spot date</i>	<i>Details</i>
10351	Late 17th–early 18th c	
10353	17th century	
10359	17th century	Yellow ware, blackware and coarseware
10370	Late 18th–19th century	
10377	Late 18th century	
10437	1830's	
10473	19th century	Brown stoneware flagon
10474	Mid 16th–17th century	Cistercian ware/blackware
10476	Early 19th century	

6 DISCUSSION

The main features identified in Trenches A-C comprised a north-south ditch and its re-cut. This ditch was identified further to the south in an area excavation (Edgeworth and Ratkai forthcoming). In the excavation the ditch had been enlarged and deepened, probably for use in a process associated with pottery production. It had also been backfilled with a very large quantity of pottery. It is possible that the ditches identified in Trenches A-C formed part of the western town ditch, although they were comparatively small in size to have fulfilled that purpose. In Trenches A-B the earliest ditch was backfilled with 17th century pottery, and may have been in use during the adjoining episode of pottery production recorded in the excavation. The re-cut ditch contained 17th century pottery, which may have been residual, together with 18th century pottery which may place the re-cut in the period post-dating the abandonment of the pottery industry. The later features comprised brick buildings laid out along the western frontage of Camphill Lane during the 19th century.

Ditch 10475 in Trench G produced the earliest pottery, dating to the 16th-17th centuries. This could suggest a later medieval-early post-medieval layout of plot boundaries to the rear of the Camp Street frontage, although it would be unwise to rely on the evidence from a single feature of this comparatively early date. Other contemporary features or deposits could have been scoured-out by extensive cellars and other building activity.

The two undated roughly north-south aligned ditches recorded in Trench F could have represented plot boundary ditches cut to the north of the Russell Street frontage. In the absence of dating evidence, the significance of these features cannot be established.

The remaining evidence relates to the construction of brick built structures, some associated with cellars. Mapping indicates that the Camp Street frontage was built-up by 1844, while the Russell Street frontage was merely divided into plots (Lobb 2006, fig. 3). By the later 19th century both frontages were occupied by terraces (Lobb 2006, fig. 4, map of 1890). To the rear of the street frontages were back-plot areas, some containing outbuildings. The layout of buildings on the street frontages and to their rear shows little change from the late 19th-mid 20th century (Lobb 2006, maps of 1890, 1919, and 1938, figs. 5-7).

Ground disturbances in the area of the Market Hall car park associated with the construction of the new supermarket car park will be limited, and may not disturb any surviving early post-medieval deposits.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was commissioned by Wm Morrison Supermarkets PLC with advice from SR Davis Architects. Thanks are due to Allan Broadhead for his co-operation and assistance throughout the project. Thanks also go to Graham Eyre-Morgan and Charlotte Lewis, who monitored the project on behalf of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. Work on site was undertaken by Liz Bishop, Sean Daly, Phil Mann (Supervisor), Andy McLeish and Anna Wallis. Stephanie Ratkai is thanked for providing the pottery dating. Phil Mann prepared the written report which was illustrated by Nigel Dodds, and edited by Alex Jones who also managed the project for Birmingham Archaeology.

8 REFERENCES

Crossley, D, 1990 *Post-Medieval Archaeology in Britain*, Leicester University Press.

Cherry, J, 1991 Pottery in *Blair, J, and Ramsay, N, English Medieval Industries* Hambledon and London.

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

Edgworth, M, and Ratkai, S, forthcoming *Wednesbury Town Centre Redevelopment, Post-Excavation Assessment*. BA report no. 1620C.

Greenslade, M W, (ed.) 1976 *Victoria County History Vol. 17 A History of the County of Stafford* Oxford University Press: Oxford.

Hodder, M A, 1991 'Excavations in Wednesbury, 1988 and 1989: The Medieval and Post-Medieval Settlement and the 17th-century pottery industry' in *South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society Transactions*, 32, 96-115.

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

Krawiec, K, 2007 *Wednesbury Town Centre Development, Archaeological Evaluation Stage 1, 2006*. BA report no. 1468C.02.

Lobb, M, 2006 *Wednesbury Town Centre: An Archaeological Impact Assessment*, BA Report 1468C.01.

Sandwell MBC 2006 *Archaeological Evaluation: Wednesbury Town Centre Phase II, Brief*.

**APPENDIX 1: DESIGN BRIEF, WEDNESBURY TOWN CENTRE
PHASE II. SANDWELL MBC**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

WEDNESBURY TOWN CENTRE

SANDWELL MBC

AUGUST 2006

PHASE II



Site: Wednesbury Town Centre land bounded by Union Street, Holyhead Road, Russell Street and Camp Street.

Borough Archaeologist: Graham Eyre-Morgan (0121 569 4025)

Assistant Archaeologist: Charlotte Lewis (0121 569 4217)

Planning Officer: Christine Phillips (0121 569 4040)

Applicant: WM Morrison Supermarkets plc

Agent: Allan Broadhead SRD Architects (0121 569 9234)

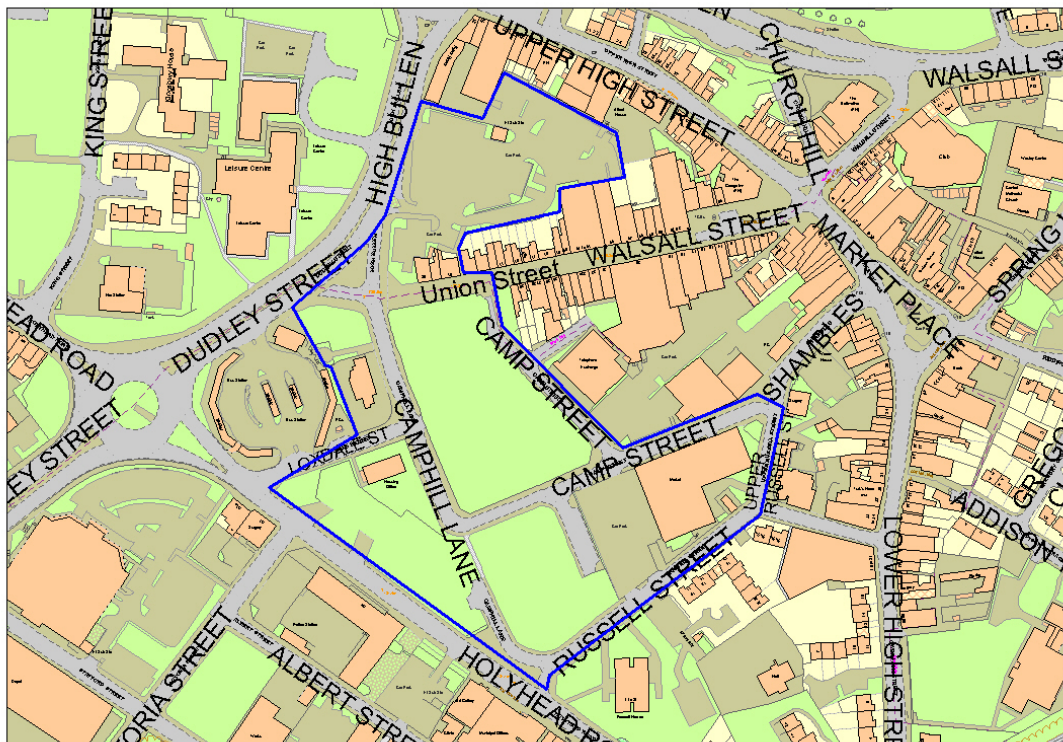
This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Borough Archaeologist should be contacted. Any written scheme of investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period. The contractor is strongly advised to visit the site before completing their written scheme of investigation, as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.

1. Introduction

The Assistant Archaeologist for Sandwell MBC has prepared this Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation. Planning consent has been granted to WM Morrison Supermarkets plc for redevelopment of Wednesbury Town Centre, land bounded by Union Street, Holyhead Road, Russell Street and Camp Street. Drawing on the results of the Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment completed by Birmingham Archaeology in July 2006 this Brief sets out the mitigation strategy for the evaluation and excavation of the below-ground archaeological remains within the development area. Should substantial archaeological remains be discovered during the evaluation phases, it is possible that a third phase warranting further more extensive archaeological work maybe required before any development can take place. Once completed the results will be deposited at the Community History and Archive Service at Smethwick Library, Wednesbury Museum and National Monument Record Centre where they will be available for public and research consultation.

2. Site Location and Description

The proposed development lies within an “Area of Archaeological Potential” as defined in the Councils Unity Development Plan 2004. The development area is located at land bounded by Union Street, Holyhead Road, Russell Street and Camp Street, Wednesbury NGR 9862 9490. The aim of this investigation is to access the archaeological potential of the area identified in the Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment completed by Birmingham Archaeology in July 2006.



Plan highlighting extent of development area, Wednesbury Town Centre.

Copyright Sandwell MBC 2006

3. Planning Background

3.1 Planning Applications DC/04/42399 and DC/05/44324 has conditional approval, based on Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (DoE and DNH 1994) together with the Councils UDP policies, the following condition has been attached to the planning permission of this site:

“ No development, demolition or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.”

3.2 Based on the advice given in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990, paras 21-22) the evaluation is designed provide sufficient information on the presence/absence, nature, quality and extent of any below ground remains. If present, the investigation will identify any archaeological remains thereby enabling the formulation, if appropriate, of an additional programme of excavation; should the deposits be of ‘national importance’ there will be a presumption in favour of their in-situ preservation.

This Brief and the resulting Contractors’ Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) will ensure that the requirements of the Phase II Survey are completed to an appropriate standard.

4. Archaeological Background

The site is within close proximity to the historic core of the medieval town, possible Anglo Saxon burgh and possible Iron Age hill fort, the 14th Century church of St Bartholomew’s stands a short distance to the north. Due to recent excavations at Lower High Street and Meeting Street, the extent of the medieval core of the town have been extended with early pottery finds and large ditch, thus this area could prove a link between the two sites recently discovered. It is believed that the location of the proposed development was the focus of later medieval and post medieval occupation. It has been suggested that that alignment of the Roman road running from the Roman Fort at Metchley to the Fort at Stretton suggests that it should be either in or close to the study area. A full historical record can be found in Birmingham Archaeology’s Phase 1 report, July 2006.

Recent excavations at Meeting Street revealed a large ditch and contained a large assemblage of early post-medieval pottery shards. The report for “Archaeological Trial Trenching Land Adjacent to No 4 Meeting Street” is held with the SMR Officer Fay de Souza. An open area excavation was undertaken at the Lower High Street, Wednesbury by Ironbridge Archaeology in 2005. A large assemblage of medieval and post medieval pottery was discovered which

from first glances dated from 13th to 18th Centuries. In this assemblage was a large amount of saggars and wasters, which suggested the close proximity to a late medieval pottery kiln. Further information can be obtained from the Borough Archaeologist. Excavations by Mike Hodder at the Shambles/Upper Russell Street and Market Street have all revealed medieval remains. Should archaeology be discovered it is possible that further archaeological work may be required at the site before any development may take place.

5. Requirement for Work

5.1 The purpose of the archaeological investigation is to locate and identify any surviving remains within the constraint area; in this particular instance this office wishes to know the extent, the date, nature and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits, which may be present under the area, proposed for development. The work must also assess the relative importance of these deposits, and the potential loss of any archaeological information by the development, therefore substantiating any need for further excavation or change in the planning consent.

5.2 A 5% sample of the development area will be investigated by trial trenching and the layout should be designed to ensure uniform coverage across the site; a trench plan must be appended to the specification.

5.3 The site-specific aims are:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area
- To determine the nature, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered
- To provide further information on the origins and development of Wednesbury from the medieval period to the present day
- To contribute to any existing corpus of academic knowledge
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation subject to any confidentiality restrictions

5.4 The evaluation recommended above is only the first stage in the archaeological investigation of each of the sites recommended. The scope of any further archaeological

recording on each of the sites will depend on the results of the preliminary (and a third phase if appropriate) evaluation of surviving archaeological deposits.

5.5 If evaluation indicates that significant archaeological evidence survives on the site, and would be negatively impacted by the proposed redevelopment, a further stage of detailed archaeological excavation and recording will be carried out, in accordance with a site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Assistant Archaeologist, which sets out specific aims of further recording work.

6.0 General Methodology

6.1 The evaluation shall be supported by a Written Scheme of Investigation.

6.2 The contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

6.3 Details including the name, qualifications and experience, of the site director and all other project personnel (including specialist staff) shall be supplied to the Assistant Archaeologist as part of the written scheme of investigation.

6.4 Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the members of the team shall be provided in writing to Assistant Archaeologist at least one week in advance of commencement of work.

6.5 The site code for this project is WTCP2WS06.

6.6 All the latest Health and Safety guidelines shall be followed on site.

6.7 Should the client wish to curtail the investigation for any reason at any point in advance of its completion the contractor will still be expected to produce a full report including specialist finds assessments within the timetable set out below.

6.8 The IFA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the production of the written scheme of investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.

7. Evaluation Methodology

7.1 The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

7.2 It is recommended that a minimum of 5% of the area to be developed is investigated by trial trenching. The trial trenches will be machine excavated using a toothless ditching bucket, and under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be hand cleaned in all trenches and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.

7.4 At least 50% of all contained features shall be excavated. A stated percentage of structural and linear features to be excavated shall be provided in the WSI. For those trenches where substantial nineteenth and twentieth century masonry remains are encountered hand dug test pits will be excavated within the trench in order to examine the presence/absence of earlier remains. NOTE: In some circumstances it may be necessary to use shoring to support the sides of the trench, but advice must be sought from the Assistant Archaeologist before employing this methodology.

7.5 Details of how all archaeological contexts and artefacts will be excavated, surveyed, recovered and recorded shall be provided. The site grid will be tied to the national grid.

7.6 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the WSI. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

7.7 The photographic record shall consist of photographs in both monochrome and colour mediums with negatives if 35mm or medium format cameras are used in preference to digital cameras. This shall include both general and feature specific photographs, a photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. A

photographic register and supporting plan detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot shall accompany the photographic record.

7.8 The contractor must arrange, through a suitably qualified specialist, the assessment of the environmental and metallurgical potential of the site through the examination of suitable deposits. Guidance should be sought from the appropriate English Heritage Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science and details of the methodology included within the WSI.

8.0 Finds

8.1 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed and marked with both the site code and context number.

8.2 The WSI shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants who might be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.

8.3 Finds work should be to accepted professional standards and adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Guidelines for Finds Work*. Details of the finds retrieval policy must be included within the WSI.

8.4 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed with Wednesbury Museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed in writing with the Assistant Archaeologist.

9.0 Results

9.1 The draft full report including all specialist assessments of artefact assemblages shall be submitted to the Assistant Archaeologist within six weeks of completing the fieldwork for approval. Once approved a total of eight copies plus a copy on CD-ROM are to be supplied to the Assistant Archaeologist for general distribution.

9.2 The report must contain:

- The aims and methods adopted during the course of the evaluation.

- Detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. This must be linked to the research objectives cited above and consider the sites in their local, regional and national context.
- An assessment of the local, regional national importance of the site. The latter should be based on the criteria for scheduling as set out in Annex 4 of PPG 16 (DoE 1990).
- Impact Assessment and recommended mitigation strategy will be used to assess the impact of the proposal on the surviving archaeological resource.
- The contractor is also expected to formulate a mitigation strategy and future research programme. The latter should be based on national/regional/local research frameworks and identify the aims/objectives of any future excavation.
- Although the emphasis should be on those deposits that are likely to be destroyed, the wider potential the site must also be considered
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results
- All specialist reports and assessments
- Site location plan, copies of any historical maps and a representative sample of the photographs including colour prints
- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. All corners of each trench shall be given a 10 figure grid reference
- A section/s within each trench showing the depth of deposits including the present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale
- Sufficient plans by period and area to aid interpretation
- Artefact illustrations that would be submitted in any future publication

9.3 The following appendices should also be included:

- Location and summary of the archive contents
- Completed summary sheet (copy attached to brief)
- Photographic register
- Archaeological brief, the approved contractors' written scheme of investigation together with the completed pro-forma and site location plan which were submitted as part of the planning application

9.4 The proposed format of the report will be described within the WSI.

10.0 Archive

10.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the Contractor must contact the Community History and Archives Service, Smethwick Library (High Street, Smethwick, West Midlands B661AB. Tel. 0121 5582561), to determine the requirements for the deposition of the archive.

10.2 The archive should include the record photographs, negatives, colour slides, film register, and digital information together with a copy of the Report.

10.3 Photographic prints should be re-produced at a minimum of five by four inches and labelled on the back using indelible ink with the film and frame number, date, photographers name together with the site code, name and grid reference; the photographs being mounted in archival quality sleeves.

10.4 It is the responsibility of the Contractor to meet the Community History and Archives Service requirements with regard to the preparation of material for deposition.

10.5 Written notification of the commencement of fieldwork shall be given to Community History and Archives Service at the same time as the Assistant Archaeologist.

10.6 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to Assistant Archaeologist at the time of deposition.

11.0 Monitoring

11.1 The Assistant Archaeologist will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and should be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, interpretation and reporting stages.

11.2 Written Notification of the start date will be given to the Assistant Archaeologist at least one week before the commencement of work and once the fieldwork stage of the investigation has been completed.

12.0 Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation

12.1 Any variations to the WSI shall be agreed in writing with the Assistant Archaeologist before being implemented.

12.2 This Brief has been written following a cursory examination of the site by the Assistant Archaeologist, potential contractors are therefore strongly advised to carry out their own inspection before submitting a written quotation.

12.3 If on first visiting the site or at any time during the recording exercise, it appears that:

- i) part or the whole of the site is not amenable to the recording programme outlined above, and/or
- ii) an alternative approach may be more appropriate or likely to produce more informative results, and/or
- iii) any features that should be recorded as having a bearing on the interpretation of the site have been omitted,

then it is expected that the Contractor will contact the Assistant Archaeologist as a matter of urgency.

For further information regarding the content of this Brief please contact the author at the address below. As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content and presentation of this Archaeological Brief.

Graham Eyre-Morgan
Borough Archaeologist
Charlotte Lewis
Assistant Archaeologist
Sandwell MBC
Development House
Lombard Street
West Bromwich
West Midlands
B70 8RU

Tel (0121) 569 4025

Fax (0121) 569 4265

Email: graham_eyremorgan@sandwell.gov.uk

Email: charlotte_lewis@sandwell.gov.uk

APPENDIX 4 PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Wednesbury Town Centre land bounded by Union Street, Holyhead Road, Russell Street and Camp Street.	
Borough: Sandwell	NGR: 9862 9490
Type of Work: Phase 2 Archaeological Evaluation	Site Code: WTCP2WS06
Contractor:	Date of Work: Nov-Dec 2006.
Location of Finds/Curating Museum:	
Title of Report: Wednesbury Town Centre Development, Stage 2 Archaeological Evaluation 2006.	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. North-south ditch, 17th century in date, aligned east-west, cut to west of Camphill Lane. Re-cut in 17th-18th century. Ditches may represent part of western circuit of town ditch, also recorded by excavation further to the south. 2. Evidence for undated plot boundary to the north of Russell Street, and 16th-17th century pottery filling possible plot boundary to south of Camp Street. 3. Extensive evidence of disturbance by 19th century brick structures. 	
Author of Summary: AEJ	Date of Summary: 31/5/2007.

<p>APPENDIX 2: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, BIRMINGHAM ARCHAEOLOGY</p>

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, WEDNESBURY TOWN CENTRE (MORRISONS)
(Site Code: WTCP2WS06)**

PART A (SITE SPECIFIC)

1 INTRODUCTION

This document describes the programme of work required to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the above site. It follows the requirements of a Brief prepared by the Assistant Archaeologist, Sandwell MBC. Any proposed changes to the work detailed in this document will be discussed with the Assistant Archaeologist before implementation.

The work is required in advance of the construction of a new Wm Morrisons Supermarket, and related developments. This document relates only to the field evaluation stage of the project.

A separate written scheme of investigation would be prepared should further, mitigation fieldwork be required.

This document is concerned with two parcels of land within the overall Wednesbury Morrisons development: (1) the Sandwell MBC Housing Office car park/ grass verge, and (2) the Market Hall car park. It does not include the Market Hall area (not currently available for evaluation; to be evaluated when the building is demolished), and other areas of the development where evaluation is complete.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The area for evaluation comprises:

- (1) the Sandwell MBC Housing Office car park to the west of Camphill Lane, and the grass verge to the north of the housing office and south of Loxdale Street, and
- (2) the Market Hall car park, to the southeast of Camp Street, and to the northwest of Russell Street.

The overall site centre is NGR. SO 9862 9490.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The main source for the archaeological and historical development of the site is the desk-based assessment completed by Birmingham Archaeology in Summer 2006.

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, defined by Sandwell MBC Unitary Development Plan (2004). The site is located close to the possible Iron Age hill fort, Saxon burgh, and to the historic core of the medieval town. The suggested alignment of the Roman road from Metchley to Stretton could lie near, or even within the site. The church of St Bartholomew, which originated in the 14th century is located just to the north of the site.

Recent work at Lower High Street and Meeting Street, the extent of the medieval settlement has been expanded. At the former site a large group of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered, including evidence for nearby pottery manufacture. At the latter site a substantial ditch was identified, containing early post-medieval pottery. Earlier work at Shambles/Upper Russell Street and Market Street also identified medieval remains. In particular, medieval deposits may be anticipated on the Camphill Lane and Camp Street frontages within the site.

Earlier trial-trenching undertaken in advance of the present development identified a pit, beam-slot and possible property boundary ditch close to the southern frontage of Union Street, to the east of its junction with Camphill Lane. These features contained pottery of late medieval-early post-medieval date. Most of the remainder of the area evaluated to the north of Camp Street and to the northeast of Camphill Lane was heavily disturbed by modern activity.

A single trench cut to the southwest of the Camphill Lane/Camp Street junction identified a pit containing a large quantity of pottery of predominantly 17th century date, together with overall layers containing large quantities of relatively large and unabraded sherds of similar date. Subsequent excavation identified part of the base of a pottery kiln, along with a group of associated features, possibly representing one or more fences/windbreaks. The main feature identified was a northwest-southeast aligned ditch, which varied in both width and depth. The northwestern and southeastern excavated segments of the ditch were comparatively shallow, and flat-based in profile. Towards the centre of the excavation the ditch both broadened and deepened. This enlargement of the ditch is interpreted as evidence of use related to the process of pottery production, perhaps for puddling clay. The southwestern part of the area excavated contained brick buildings of 19th century date notably associated with cellared outbuildings.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principle aim of the evaluation is to determine the character, extent, date, state of preservation and the potential significance of any buried remains. In particular, it is intended to:

- Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the nature, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains identified.
- To provide data concerning the development of Wednesbury from the medieval period to the present.
- To contribute towards an appreciation of the development of the pottery industry in late medieval-early post-medieval Wednesbury (Housing Office car park site, immediately to the northwest of the completed excavation).
- To contribute to the broader appreciation of the development of the town.

PART B (GENERIC)

5 METHODOLOGY

A total of three trenches will be excavated adjoining the Housing Office. One trench measuring 3m by 2m will be located in the grass verge to the northwest of the Housing Office. Two trenches, totalling 24m by 2m will be dug in the car park to the south of the building.

Five trenches will be excavated in the Market Hall car park. Three trenches, totalling 26m by 2m will be dug in the first stage of investigations, which will be confined to the western half of the car park. In the second stage of investigations, two trenches totalling 2m by 20m will be dug in the eastern half of the car park.

All trench locations have been agreed with the Borough Archaeologist. Some limited re-location of trenches may be required to avoid live services. Should the depth of overburden exceed 1.2m it will be necessary to broaden the trenches to a total width of 4m, so that the trenches will measure a minimum of 2m wide at base. The maximum depth of excavation will be 2m below the modern surface. No deeper excavation will be undertaken. Trenches dug to a greater depth than 1.2m below the modern surface will be stepped and/or battered for safety.

All topsoil and modern overburden will be removed using a JCB excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision, down to the top of the uppermost archaeological horizon or the subsoil. A toothed bucket may be required to remove modern (eg demolition) deposits. Subsequent cleaning and excavation will be by hand. A representative sample of archaeological features and deposits will be manually sampled sufficiently to define their character and to obtain suitable dating evidence. Generally, 50% of pits or post-holes and a 1m section of linear/ curvilinear features will be excavated. Archaeological deposits will not be completely excavated unless this is unavoidable. The depth of archaeological deposits across the site will be assessed, although the full length of every trench will not necessarily be excavated down to natural. Where extensive 19/20th century structural remains hand-dug test-pits will be dug to prove/disprove the presence of earlier below-ground deposits.

All stratigraphic sequences will be recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Features will be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50, and sections will be drawn of all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:10. A comprehensive written record will be maintained using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* context and feature cards. Written records and scale plans will be supplemented by photographs using monochrome and colour print and colour slide photography.

Twenty litre soil samples will be taken from suitable datable archaeological features for the recovery of charred plant remains. The environmental sampling policy followed the guidelines contained in the Birmingham Archaeology Guide to On-Site Environmental Sampling and the *Report of the Association for Environmental Archaeology Working Party on Sampling and Recovery*, September 1995. Recovered finds were cleaned, marked and remedial conservation work will be undertaken as necessary. Treatment of all finds conformed to guidance contained within 'A strategy for the care and investigation of finds' published by English Heritage.

The full site archive will include all artefactual and/or ecofactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive will be prepared according to 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 (Walker 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 Wednesbury Museum, subject to permission from the landowner.

6.0 STAFFING

The project will be managed Birmingham Archaeology by Alex Jones (BA, MA, MIFA), and supervised in the field by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeological supervisor assisted by a team of up to four experienced site assistants.

Specialist staff will be, where appropriate:
Stephanie Rátkai, post-Roman pottery
Erica Macey-Bracken, small finds
Dr Ben Gearey/ Dr Emma Tetlow, environmental analysis
Matilda Holmes, animal bone

7 REPORT

An illustrated archive report would be compiled on completion of the fieldwork, to include:

- (a) Summary.
- (b) Description of the archaeological background.
- (c) Aims and methods.
- (e) A narrative description of the results and discussion of the evidence, set in their local, regional and national research context, supported by appropriate plans, sections and photographs.
- (f) Summary of the finds and environmental evidence.
- (g) Specialist assessments of the finds and environmental evidence.
- (h) Impact assessment and recommended mitigation strategy
- (i) Site location plan, identifying the trench locations, copies of historic maps, a selection of plans and sections, with AOD levels, as appropriate.
- (j) Appendices including the archive contents; fieldwork summary sheet; photographic register; archaeological brief; this document

The written report will be made publicly accessible, as part of the Sandwell MBC Sites and Monuments Record within six months of completion. Two copies of the report will be lodged with the Assistant Archaeologist, Sandwell MBC. A digital copy on CD-ROM will be provided. A summary report may be submitted for inclusion in *West Midlands Archaeology*. If the results are considered of regional or national importance it may be appropriate to publish the report in an archaeological journal.

8 TIMETABLE

Review/ monitoring meetings will be arranged during the fieldwork.

Weeks 1-2: setting out trenches, start of machine excavation, hand-excavation/recording in Housing Office area and west of Market Hall car park.

Week 3: Backfilling/reinstatement of trenches (by others)

Weeks 4-5: setting-out trenches and machine excavation, hand-excavation/recording in eastern half of Market Hall car park

Week 6: Backfilling/reinstatement of trenches (by others)

9 GENERAL

All project staff will adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The project will follow the requirements set down in the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001).

A detailed Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork. All current health and safety legislation, regulations and guidance will be complied with. The evaluation will conform to the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992 and Health and Safety in Field Archaeology Manual (SCAUM 1991).

Any human remains encountered will be initially left *in situ* and covered. In the event that human remains need to be removed this will be carried out under the terms of a Home Office Licence and adhering to relevant environmental health regulations. All finds which may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1997 will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner. If removal is not possible on the same working day as discovery, appropriate security arrangements will be provided to keep the finds safe from theft.

BIRMINGHAM ARCHAEOLOGY 5 NOVEMBER 2006.

APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Digital BA
Film number 1

<i>No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Orientation</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Initials</i>
1	Trench A, northwest facing section	SE	1x2,1x1	PM
2	Trench A, northwest facing section	SE	1x2,1x1	PM
3	Trench A, plan shot	NE	1x2,1x1	PM
4	Trench A, plan shot	NE	1x2,1x1	PM
5	General site shot	W		PM
6	General site shots	NE		PM
7	General site shots	NE		PM
8	Trench B, 10358	NE	1x2,1x1	AW
9	Trench B, 10358	NE	1x2,1x1	AW
10	10372	NE	1x2, 1x1	AW
11	10372	E	1x2,1x1	AW
12	10372	N	1x2,1x1	AW
13	Trench E, general shot	NW	1x2	PM
14	Trench E, general shot	NW	1x2	PM
15	Trench E, general shot	NE	1x2	PM
16	Trench E, general shot	E	1x2	PM
17	Trench D, south facing section	N	1x2	PM
18	Trench D, south facing section	N	1x2	PM
19	Trench D, south facing section	N	1x2	PM
20	Trench D, general shot	SE	1x2	PM
21	Trench D, general Shot	NE	1x2	PM
22	Trench D, general Shot	SW	1x2	PM
23	Trench B, general Shot	SE	1x2,1x1	AM
24	Trench B, general Shot	NW	1x2,1x1	AM
25	Trench B, 10358/10372	SW	1x2, 1x1	PM
26	Trench B, 10358/10372	SW	1x2, 1x1	PM
27	Trench C, general shots	NW	2x2	PM
28	Trench C, general shots	SE	2x2	PM
29	Trench C, general shots	NW	1x2	EAB
30	Trench C, 10379	NE	1x2	EAB
31	Trench C, 10379	NE	1x2	EAB
32	Trench C, general shot	SE	1x2	EAB
33	Trench C, southeast facing section	NW	1x2	EAB
34	Trench C, southeast facing section	NW	1x2	EAB
35	Trench C, post hole	E	1x0.4	EAB
36	Trench G, general shot	E		PM

Digital BA
 Film number 2

<i>No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Orientation</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Initials</i>
37	Trench G, general shot	E		PM
38	Trench G, general shot wall	NE		PM
39	Trench G, general shot	NW		PM
40	Trench H, general shot	SW		PM
41	Trench H, general shot	NE		PM
42	Trench G, general shot	NW		PM
43	Trench G, southwest facing section	NE	1x2	PM
44	Trench G, southwest facing section	NE	1x2	PM
45	Trench G, southwest facing section	NE	1x2	PM
46	Trench G, southwest facing section	E	1x2	PM
47	Trench G, general shot	N	1x2	PM
48	Trench G, wall 10452	NW	1x1	PM
49	Trench G, wall 10449	NE	1x1	PM
50	Trench G, plaster	E	1x1	PM
51	Trench G, wall 10448	SE	1x1	PM
52	Trench G, general shot	NW	1x1,1x2	PM
53	Trench G, general shot	SE	1x1,1x2	PM
54	Trench G, southwest facing section	NE		PM
55	Destroyed toilet	NE		PM
56	Destroyed toilet	NE		PM
57	Destroyed toilet	NE		PM
58	Trench G, 10475	NE	1x1	AM
59	Trench G, 10475	NE	1x1	AM
60	Trench G, 10477	NE	1x1	AM
61	Trench G, 10477	NE	1x1	AM
62	Trench G, general shot	E	1x1	AM
63	Trench H, 10479	NE	1x1	AM
64	Trench H, 10479	NE	1x1	AM
65	Trench H, 10479	NE	1x1	AM
66	Trench H, west facing section	S	1x2	PM
67	Trench H, west facing section	E	1x2	PM
68	Trench H, west facing section	E	1x2	PM
69	Trench H, west facing section	E	1x2	PM
70	Trench H, west facing section	E	1x2	PM
71	Trench H, general shot	N	1x2	PM
72	Trench H, general shot	S	1x2	PM
73	Trench G, 10440	N		AM
74	Trench G, 10440	N		AM

Colour slide BA
Film number 3

<i>No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Orientation</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Initials</i>
1	10359, Trench B	N	1x2, 1x1	AW
2	10359, Trench B	W	1x2, 1x1	AW
3	10359, Trench B	W	1x2, 1x1	AW
4	10359, Trench B	SW	1x2, 1x1	AW
5	10359, Trench B	SW	1x2, 1x1	AW
6	10359, Trench B	E	1x2, 1x1	AW
7	10359, Trench B	E	1x2, 1x1	AW
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				
31				
32				
33				
34				
35				
36				

APPENDIX 4 PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Wednesbury Town Centre land bounded by Union Street, Holyhead Road, Russell Street and Camp Street.	
Borough: Sandwell	NGR: 9862 9490
Type of Work: Phase 2 Archaeological Evaluation	Site Code: WTCP2WS06
Contractor:	Date of Work: Nov-Dec 2006.
Location of Finds/Curating Museum:	
Title of Report: Wednesbury Town Centre Development, Stage 2 Archaeological Evaluation 2006.	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. North-south ditch, 17th century in date, aligned east-west, cut to west of Camphill Lane. Re-cut in 17th-18th century. Ditches may represent part of western circuit of town ditch, also recorded by excavation further to the south. 2. Evidence for undated plot boundary to the north of Russell Street, and 16th-17th century pottery filling possible plot boundary to south of Camp Street. 3. Extensive evidence of disturbance by 19th century brick structures. 	
Author of Summary: AEJ	Date of Summary: 31/5/2007.



Fig.1

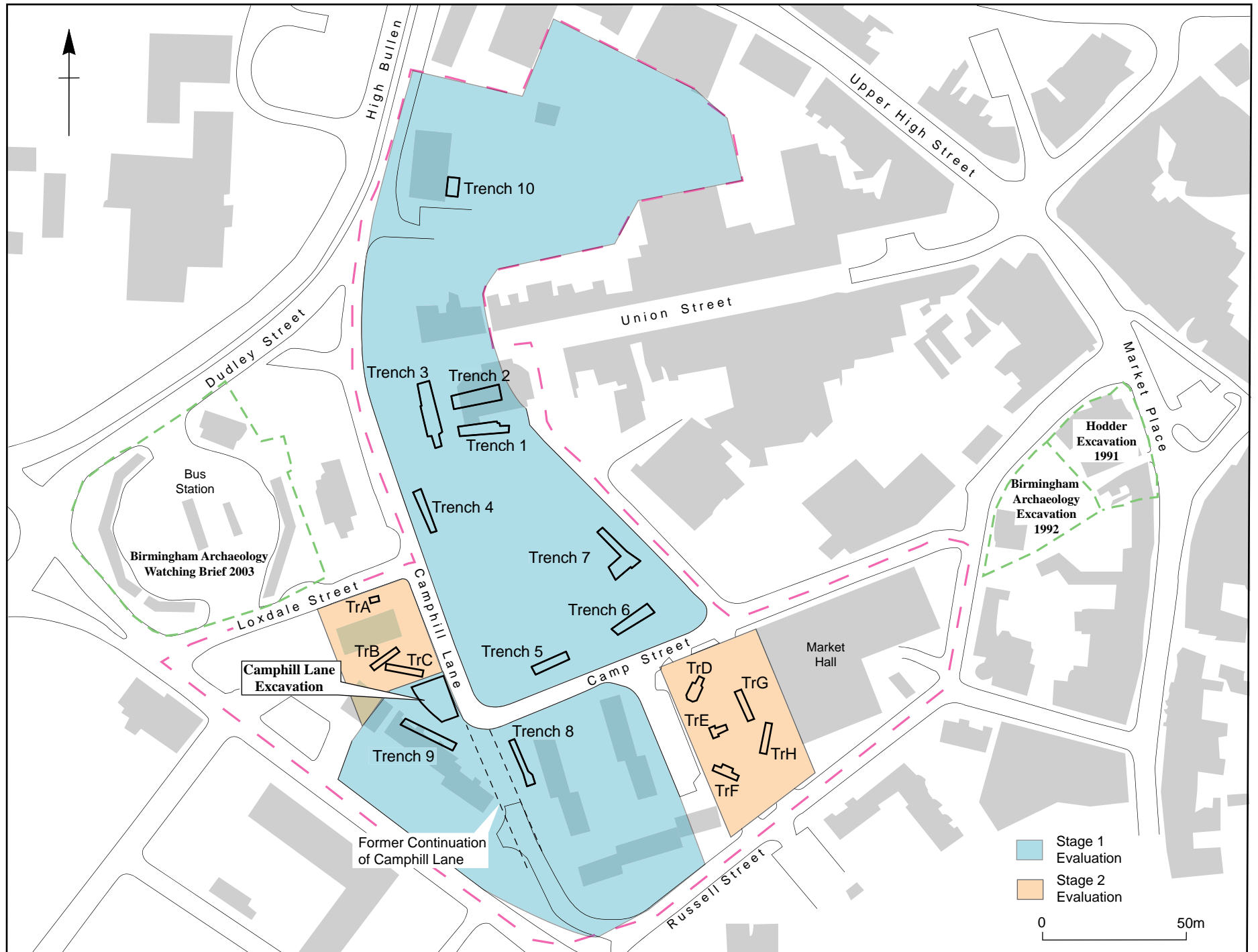
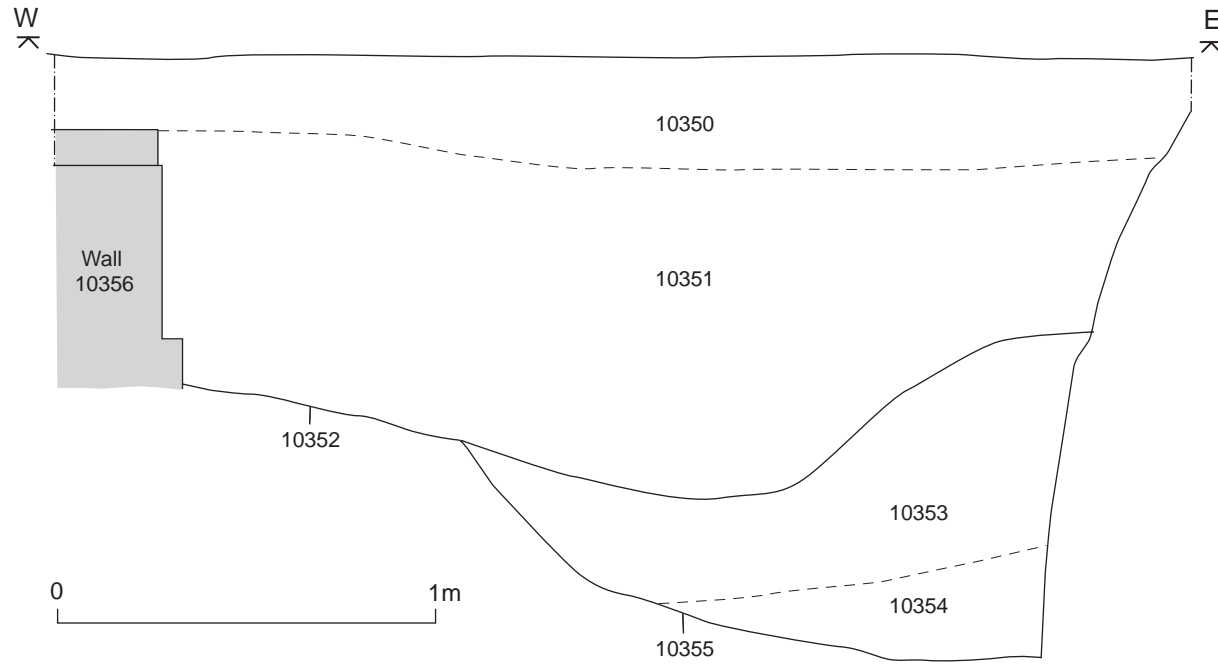


Fig.2

Trench A



Trench B

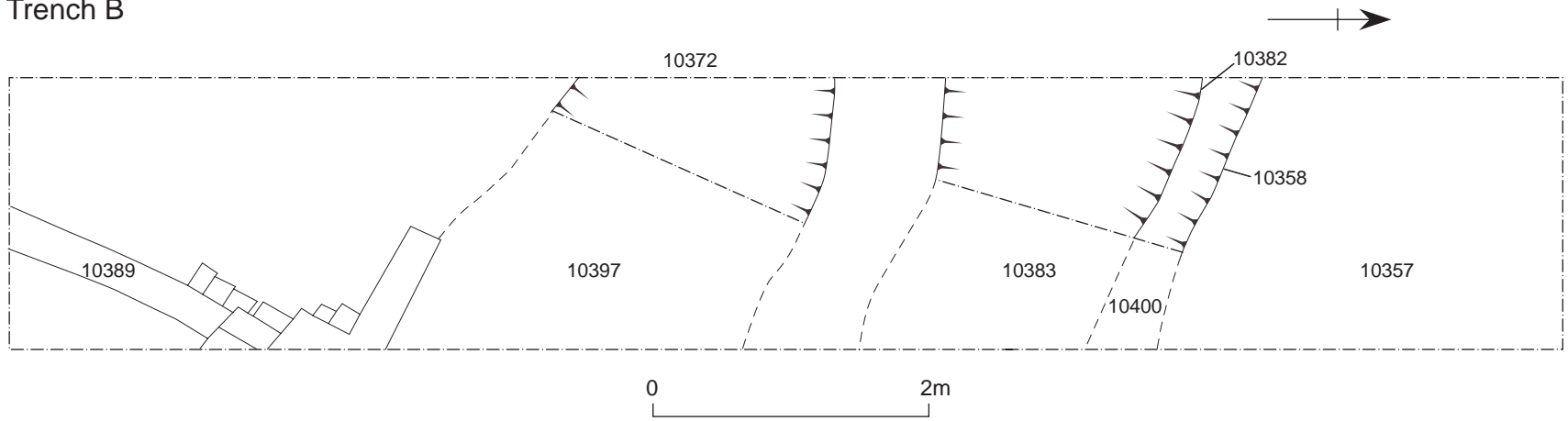


Fig.3

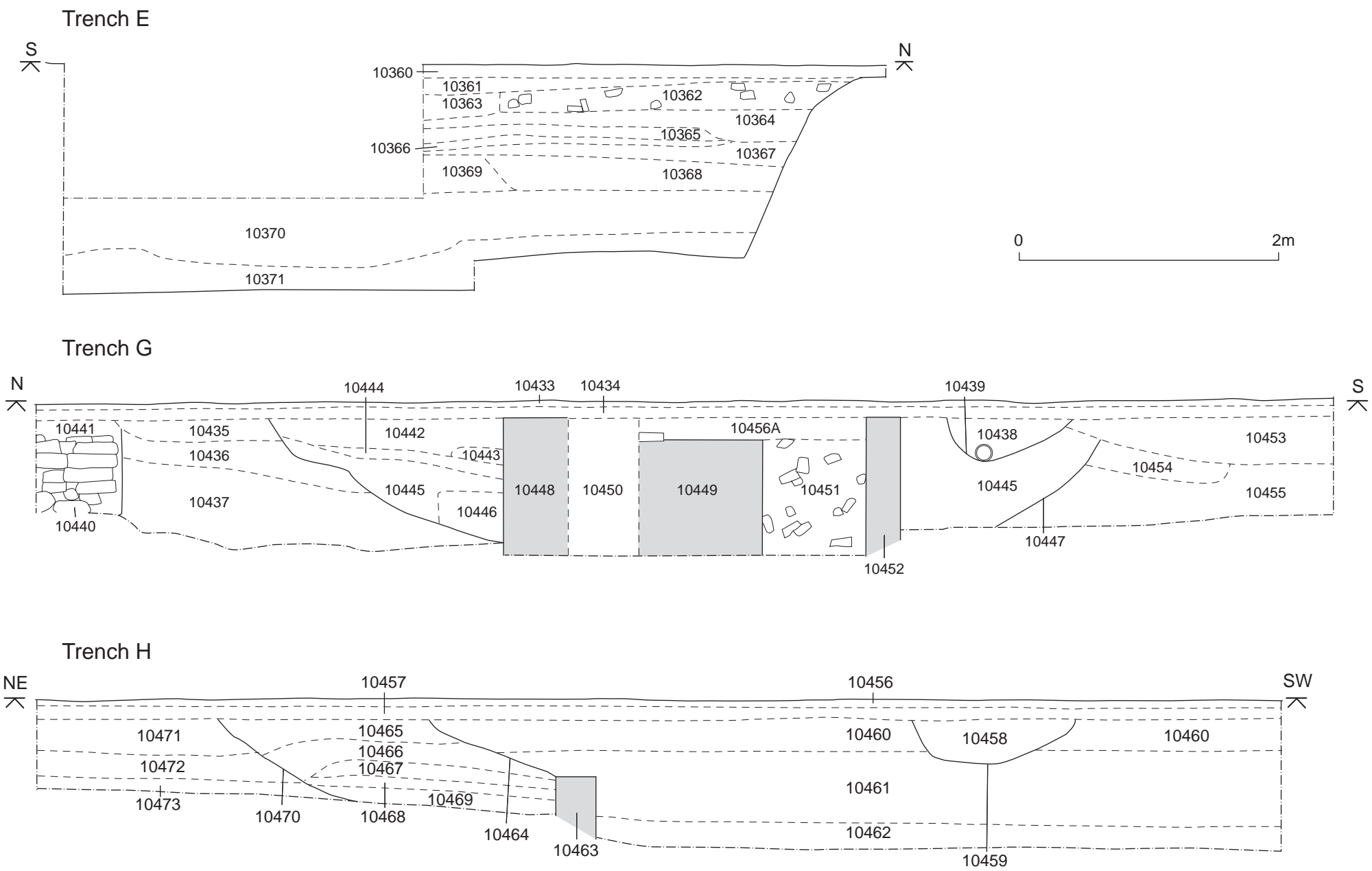


Fig.4



Plate 1: Trench A, 10355



Plate 2: Trench B, 10359, 10372



Plate 3: Trench C, Wall 10379, Ditch 10359



Plate 4: Trench E, SE Facing Section