

birmingham archaeology

Land to the rear of the
Three Tuns Public
House, Long Street,
Atherstone, Warwickshire:
an archaeological
evaluation and
watching brief 2008

Project No. 1762

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**LAND TO THE REAR OF THE THREE TUNS PUBLIC HOUSE, LONG STREET,
ATHERSTONE, WARWICKSHIRE:**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF 2008

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SUMMARY

During March 2008 an archaeological evaluation and watching brief were undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology on land situated to the rear of the Three Tuns Inn, Long Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire (centred on NGR SP 3078 9779). The work was carried as a condition of planning consent for the proposed construction of new residential dwellings, a new toilet block and extension and was commissioned by Arragon Construction Ltd. Three trial-trenches were excavated during the evaluation and a foundation trench was recorded during the watching brief.

The earliest evidence for activity on, or in the vicinity of, the site is a sherd of possible early-middle Saxon pottery which appears to be a residual find in a later context. This suggests archaeological features or deposits of a similar date, relating to Saxon pre-urban settlement could be present in the vicinity.

The evaluation identified two archaeological features of potential archaeological significance. In one trial-trench a small pit or possible gully terminal contained no dating evidence, but may date to the 14th or 15th centuries, or earlier, on the basis of evidence from the layer sealing it. A large shallow pit in a second trial-trench, also contained no dating evidence, but may date to the 17th century, or perhaps earlier, on the basis of evidence from the layer sealing it. It is possible that this pit was utilised to deposit waste from boneworking of leather manufacture, although the evidence from the animal bone was not conclusive. Traces of a third possible pit, in the same trial-trench, were also recorded. It is probable that these features are associated with medieval or early post-medieval backplot activity associated with crafts or small-scale industries within burgage plots, to the rear of structures fronting onto Long Street. The potential for survival of medieval and early post-medieval features is enhanced by the presence of possible medieval or post-medieval layers sealing these features, across most of the site, and by the apparent lack of major development to the rear of the Three Tuns. Two brick structures recorded by the evaluation appear to relate to late 19th or early 20th century outbuildings on the site, depicted on Ordnance Survey maps of 1903 and 1924.

The watching brief recorded an undated small posthole or gully terminal which, in view of the results from the evaluation, could potentially be of medieval or post-medieval date.

**LAND TO THE REAR OF THE THREE TUNS PUBLIC HOUSE, LONG STREET,
ATHERSTONE, WARWICKSHIRE:**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF 2008

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background to the project

Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned by Arragon Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation and watching brief at the Three Tuns Public House, Long Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire. The evaluation was carried out as a condition of planning consent by North Warwickshire Borough Council for the proposed construction of new residential dwellings (planning application ref. no. PAP/2006/0535). The watching brief was carried out as a condition of planning consent for a new toilet block and extension (Planning Application ref. no. PAP/2007/0570). Both the evaluation and watching brief were undertaken during March 2008.

This report outlines the results of both the field evaluation and watching brief and has been prepared in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance (IFA 2001a and 2001b).

The evaluation and watching brief conformed to briefs produced by Warwickshire Museum (Appendices 1 & 2), and a written scheme of investigation by Birmingham Archaeology (Appendix 3) which was approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to implementation, in accordance with guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990).

1.2. Location and geology

The proposed development area is located at land to the rear of the Three Tuns Public House, 93-95 Long Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire (Fig. 1, hereinafter referred to as the site) and is centred on NGR SP 3078 9779. The Three Tuns is a Grade II listed late 18th- century building formerly known as the Black Boy Inn (North Warwickshire Borough Council 2006) and is located within the Atherstone conservation area. The site is situated on the south side of Long Street and is bounded to the east by retail premises housing a chemist (No.97, Grade II listed mid-18th century merchants house) and associated car park, to the west are further commercial premises (No.91) and rear yard. To the south the site backs onto Station Street.

The drift geology of the site comprises of superficial sand and gravel deposits (middle Pleistocene) overlying solid geology of the Mercia Mudstone (British Geological Survey 2006).

The present character of the site is a yard and grassed beer garden.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Long Street, Atherstone was formerly part of the Roman road Watling Street. Roman activity appears to be concentrated to the south at Mancetter.

Atherstone is listed in Domesday as part of the estate of Countess Gadgifu (Godiva of Coventry). Place name and cartographic evidence may suggest continuous settlement may

have begun as early as the Anglo-Saxon period, although there is little archaeological evidence for this. In the 11th century Atherstone was granted to the Abbey of Bec erlouin in Normandy by the Earl of Chester. The Abbey was given a charter allowing the right to hold markets by King Henry III in the 13th century. A new town including a rectangular market place was laid out from the 13th century.

The present site lies at Long Street within the historic medieval settlement of Atherstone (SMR No. MWA9488). This is an area of high archaeological potential and structural remains and evidence of burgage plots, probably laid out in the 13th and 14th centuries, and backplot activities could be present within the site. An archaeological watching brief carried out at 45-47 Long Street (SMR No. MWA 7478, Fig. 1) revealed evidence of 17th-/18th- century structures and residual 15th and 16th century pottery.

To the north of the site is the Atherstone Friary (SMR No. MWA267, Fig. 1), a building that was refounded in 1378 but may lie on the foundations of an earlier 12th-century abbey. Also to the north is the Church of St Mary (SMR No. MWA269, Fig. 1), a building of a similar date.

The earliest depiction of Atherstone is Hewitt's plan of 1716. This simplified plan shows the market place and houses represented schematically in a nearly unbroken row along either side of Long Street. The rear of the plot corresponding to the site is shown as undeveloped at this time as are almost all the former burgage plots to the rear of the buildings on Long Street. Later mapping including early OS maps (1889, 1903 and 1924) show the site has remained relatively free of development up to the present.

The 18th and early 19th century saw a growth in tenements and court-type housing with the rise of industry, notably hat manufacture. Examples of these buildings still survive to the west of the site (SMR No. MWA1880, Fig. 1), with historical evidence for similar buildings to the east (SMR No. MWA5818, Fig. 1) and the south (SMR Nos. MWA5815 and 5816, Fig. 1). This court type housing was demolished in the mid 20th century and later mainly infilled by modern structures. Large housing estates were built beyond the historic settlement area from the 1930s to the 1970s.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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

More specific aims were to:

- investigate the survival of structures, boundary features and backplot features relating to the medieval settlement and other medieval features,
- investigate the survival of post-medieval remains,
- Investigate the potential for the site to contribute to the understanding of the historic development of Atherstone.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. Fieldwork

The proposed new dwellings cover an area of approximately 160 sq. m and the proposed toilet block extension covers an area of approximately 36 sq. m (Fig. 2). During the evaluation a total of three trial-trenches were excavated across the site, two linear trenches measuring 10m x 1.6m and one 'L'- shaped trench measuring 6m x 1.6m/ 5m x 1.6m (Trenches 1-3, Fig. 2). Trenches were located to provide a representative sample of the whole area. A further trench (Trench 4) was excavated at the western part of the site

All topsoil and modern overburden was removed using a Hitachi Mini-digger mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision, down to the top of the uppermost archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil. Subsequent cleaning and excavation was by hand.

During the watching brief an experienced archaeologist attended site to monitor construction groundworks as required in the brief. Groundworks observed were the removal of existing tarmac and concrete slab and the excavation of a foundation trench (Trench 4, Fig. 2). Following the stripping of topsoil/recent overburden the machined surface was inspected, and sufficient hand-cleaning was undertaken to facilitate the definition of archaeological or possible archaeological features and deposits.

All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Features were planned at a scale of 1:50, 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 colour slide photography, and with high resolution digital photography.

Twenty litre soil samples were taken from 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*. Recovered finds were cleaned, marked and remedial conservation work was 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 includes 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 Archaeological 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 Warwickshire Museum, subject to permission from the landowner.

5. RESULTS

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

5.1. Trench 1

Trench 1 (Fig. 3, Plate 2) was located at the northeast part of the site. Natural subsoil was located at a depth of 100.32m AOD and consisted of yellow silty clay with some stone inclusions (111). Cut through subsoil 111, at the southwest end of the trench, was a small pit (110) or gully terminal, 0.27m in diameter and 0.19m deep, extending beyond the trench. Pit 110 was filled by grey silty clay (109). No dating evidence was recovered from this feature. Overlying pit 110 and subsoil 111 was a layer of light brown silty clay (108), 0.30-0.42m deep, containing sherds of pottery dating to the 14th-15th century and one residual sherd of late 13th-early 14th century pottery. Layer 108 was overlain by a black/grey silty clay (107), 0.32-0.42m deep, containing numerous flecks of charcoal. Overlying 107 was a thin band of orange silty clay (106), 0.08-0.12m deep.

Sealing 106 was a layer of black silty clay that contained large amounts of charcoal and stone (105), 0.14-0.22m deep. Pottery dating from the 17th-18th century was recovered from layer 105. Overlying layer 105 at the southwest end of the trench was a thin layer of light brown silty clay (101), 0.14m deep. Overlying layer 101 and layer 105, in the northeast part of the trench was a brown topsoil (100), 0.18m deep. Cutting 100, towards the centre of the trench, was a modern rubbish pit (104) that contained modern glass bottles and plastic.

5.2. Trench 2

Trench 2 (Fig. 4, Plate 3) was located at the centre of the site aligned northwest-southeast. The natural subsoil was located at a depth of 99.36m AOD and consisted of red silty clay (203). Cut through subsoil 203 at the southeast part of the trench was a large shallow pit (218, Plate 1), at least 3.1m in diameter and 0.24m in deep. The full extent of pit 218 was not recorded, as it extended beyond the trial-trench. Pit 218 was filled with a black silty clay (217) and contained animal bone and horn cores. To the southeast of pit 218 was black silty clay (220) which may have been the fill of a similar pit. Overlying pit 218, context 220 and subsoil 203 was a layer of black grey silty clay (208), c. 0.5m deep, containing a sherd of early-middle Saxon pottery (likely to be residual in this context) and sherds of 17th- century glazed pottery. Layer 208 was overlain by a brown silty sand layer (207), 0.3m in deep.

Cutting layer 207, at the southeast end of the trial-trench, was a foundation trench (213) for a brick wall (211). Wall 211 was made of red bricks (9 x 4 x 2.75 inches) that were bonded by a cement mortar, and survived to a height of 0.8m. Infilling 213 was a mixed yellow-brown sandy silt (212). Overlying 211 was a layer of grey-brown sandy silt (206), 0.5m deep, containing fragments of brick rubble.

At the northwest part of the trench and cutting layer 206 was a modern wall foundation trench (214), 1.8m wide, which contained brick wall 210. Wall 210 was made of five surviving courses of a red brick (9 x 4.25 x 2.75 inches) which were bonded by a cement mortar and were resting on a 0.2m deep cement foundation base. Infilling 214 was a black crushed tarmac (209). To the northwest of foundation trench 214 were a series of layers that probably represent the levelling layers for a floor surface associated with wall 210. Overlying layer 207 was a dark brown-black sand layer (216), 0.08m deep, which was overlain by a orange-brown sandy clay (215), 0.3m in deep, containing charcoal flecks. Overlying 215 was a layer of orange-red clay (205), 0.15m in deep, which was overlain by a grey-brown cement/gravel (204) which formed a possible floor surface, 0.15m thick. To the southeast, layer 206 was overlain by an orange-brown silty sand (201), 0.20m deep, containing sherds of 19th-20th century pottery. Layer 201 was overlain by a brown topsoil (200), 0.11m deep.

5.3. Trench 3

Trench 3 (Fig. 5, Plate 4) was located at the south of the site. The natural subsoil was a red silty clay (305) located at a depth of 99.59m AOD. Overlying subsoil 305 was a layer of grey-orange silty clay (303), 0.3m deep, which was a probably redeposited natural subsoil. Sealing layer 303 was an orange-red clay (302), 0.5m deep, containing charcoal flecks. Layer 302 was overlain by a layer of brick rubble (301), 0.2m deep. This was sealed by a layer of crushed brick and black tarmac (300), 0.5m deep, that formed the yard surface in this area of the site.

5.4. Watching brief (Trench 4)

The watching brief (Trench 4, Fig. 6, Plate 5) was carried out at the west part of the site. The natural subsoil, a yellow silty clay (410), was only located at the northeast end of the trench and was situated around 1m below the present ground surface. Subsoil 410 was heavily truncated by modern service trenches and pipe trenches. Cutting subsoil 410 was a small posthole or gully terminal (412) which extended beyond the trench, 0.40m wide x at least 0.65 long and 0.32m deep, filled by a grey silty clay (411). No finds were recovered from fill 411. Overlying subsoil 410 and fill 411 was a layer of black silty clay (407), c.0.1-0.6m deep, containing flecks of charcoal. Subsoil 410 and layer 407 were sealed by a layer of pink silty clay (409), 0.75m deep. Layer 409 was partly sealed by a layer of yellow/orange clay (408), 0.16m deep. At the northeast end of the trench layer 407 was cut by a modern drain (406), and an electricity cable service trench (404). At the southwest end of the trench, layer 407 was cut by a large manhole (401), and associated brick structure (402). Layer 407 and features 401, 402, 404 and 406 were sealed by a tarmac layer (400) that formed a footpath in this area.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 The pottery by Stephanie Ratkai

A number of sherds of pottery were recovered from various contexts. Below is a list of these contexts along with descriptions of the pottery.

Layer 105

- 1 x Blackware jug sherd dating to the 17th century.
- 1 x Clean red coarseware bowl sherd with internal black glaze, external red-brown slip but no underglaze slip, indicating that there is a colorant in the glaze. Most likely 18th century in date.
- 1 x Fragment of modern wall tile

Layer 108

- 1 x Hard, over-fired buff ware or proto- Midlands Purple ware jug rim-handle sherd. Slashed strap handle, thin patchy brown glaze. Likely to be a Chilvers Coton product dating to the 14th or 15th centuries.
- 1 x Whiteware (most likely a Chilvers Coton A), cooking pot base sherd with heavy external soot, dating to the second half of the 13th century or early 14th century. It is likely to be residual in this context

Layer 201

- 2 x 19th or 20th century sherds.

Layer 208

- 1 x reduced black cooking pot sherd rim. Sparse-moderate, sub-angular milky quartz or quartzite c 0.25mm, sparse-moderate calcareous matter in the clay matrix, rare ?mudstone fragments, very rare golden mica, rare iron oxide, possibly some burnt-out organic matter, possibly some feldspar. The sherd is abraded. The rim is of a simple, everted, curved form. The rim form is not one which is typical of post-Conquest pottery and could possibly be as early as the early-middle Saxon period.
- 1 x 17th century coarseware jar base sherd with internal mid-brown glaze and external tan glaze splash. Internal and external red-brown slip.

Unstratified, Trench 2

- 1 x mottled ware mug sherd dating to the later 17th-mid 18th century.

Comment

There is only one SMR reference (SMR No. MWA261) to early-middle Saxon finds in Atherstone (pers. comm. Cathy Coutts). This records the discovery of 12 loomweights in the 1940s, in the cemetery extension to the west of Sheepy Road. The entry is somewhat vague and the original documentation is not now on file. Assuming the loomweights were correctly identified, then they would indicate the possible presence of at least one early-middle Saxon building of the *grubenhause* type.

The findspot of the loomweights was some 600m north of the putative early-middle Saxon rim sherd, which was found, probably residually, in a thick silt layer 208, sealing a pit containing cattle bone and horn cores.

6.2 The animal bone by David Brown

Methodology

The assemblage comprised of a total of 2680g equating to one standard-sized museum archive box (450 x 265 x 160mm). All the bone was identified to species and assessed for preservation, evidence of processing, taphonomy and pathology and diagnostics for ageing. Due to the very small number of specimens, all recording will be noted here rather than in a *pro forma* Microsoft Access database.

The assemblage

All the bone from the site came from context 208 and all were identified as cattle bones. Preservation and fragmentation were all noted as very good/excellent and three specimens were recorded as measurable to that effect. However, there is nothing especially diagnostic about the remains to formulate a full interpretation for the deposit. There is no evidence of processing, gnawing, special taphonomy or pathology. Patterns of fracture on the three horncores (with attached skull remains) are indicative of possible hornworking, but the sample is too small to be conclusive. There is no evidence to suggest any other sort of industrial activity. Scrape marks on the diaphyses of the complete femur and radius are recent and probably the result of machine scraping. In essence, there is no evidence to indicate that the remains have been subject to any sort of activity relating to human agency with the exception of being buried. It is possible that they represent domestic waste as five of the nine bones are meat-bearing elements but this is inconclusive in itself.

6.3 Environmental remains by Rosalind McKenna

Introduction

A single sample – SN.1 (context 217) was submitted for an assessment of its environmental potential.

Methodology

The material was processed by staff at Birmingham Archaeology using standard water flotation methods. The flot (the sum of the material from each sample that floats) was sieved to 0.5mm and air dried. The heavy residue (the material which does not float) was not examined, and therefore the results presented here are based entirely on the material from the flot. The flot was examined under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x12 and x40.

A four point semi quantitative scale was used, from '1' – one or a few specimens (less than an estimated six per kg of raw sediment) to '4' – abundant remains (many specimens per kg or a major component of the matrix). Data were recorded on paper and subsequently on a personal computer using a Microsoft Access database.

For technical reasons related to computer handling the convention 'sp(p)' to denote that more than one plant species was (or may have been) present is used throughout, even where only one specimen of the taxon was recorded (and thus only one species could have been present. 'cf.' is used to indicate a 'best guess' as to the identity of the fossil specimens.

Results

The sample contained charcoal, twigs and root/rootlet fragments, sand and herbaceous detritus. The sample also contained what appears to be a modern contaminant of several different taxa of plant macrofossils, in very small numbers.

Table 1: Components of SN.1 (context 217)

Component	Quantitative Score
Charcoal fragments	3
Herbaceous detritus	4
Insect fragments	1
Plant Macrofossils (modern contaminant)	1
Root / rootlet fragments	3
Sand	1
Twigs	3

N.B: Semi quantitative score of the components of the samples is based on a four point scale, from '1' – one or a few specimens (less than an estimated six per kg of raw sediment) to '4' – abundant remains (many specimens per kg or a major component of the matrix).

Recommendations

No further interpretable proxy evidence such as archaeological charred or waterlogged plant remains and insects were recovered from the sample, hence further environmental analysis on this sample is not recommended. Taphonomic and post-depositional processes at the site

clearly preclude the preservation of identifiable or interpretable, site-specific proxy evidence. It is however recommended that any future material is processed to 0.3mm in accordance with standardised processing methods (Kenward *et al.* 1980 and English Heritage 2002).

7. DISCUSSION AND RECCOMENDATIONS

The earliest evidence for activity on, or in the vicinity of, the site is a sherd of possible early-middle Saxon pottery which appears to be a residual find in a later context. Other possible early-middle Saxon finds have been recorded 600m to the north of the site (SMR No. MWA261). This suggests archeological features or deposits of a similar date, relating to the Saxon pre-urban settlement could be present in the vicinity. As highlighted by the West Midlands Regional Research Framework for Archaeology (Hines 2002) over much of the west Midlands region there is relatively little known evidence for this period and any archaeological features dating to this period would be of high significance.

The evaluation identified several features of potential archaeological significance. The undated small pit or possible gully terminal 110, in Trench 1 may date to the 14th or 15th centuries, or earlier, on the basis of evidence from the layer sealing 110. The undated large shallow pit 218 in Trench 2, contained no dating evidence, but may date to the 17th century, or perhaps earlier, on the basis of evidence from the layer sealing 218. It is possible that this pit was utilised to deposit waste from boneworking of leather manufacture, although the evidence from the animal bone is not conclusive. The environmental evidence could suggest some modern contamination of the fill of 218. Unexcavated fill 220 in Trench 2 may be evidence of another similar pit. These features probably constituted the earliest features on the site. It is probable that the features are associated with medieval or early post-medieval backplot activity associated with crafts or small- scale industries to the rear of structures fronting onto Long Street.

Layer 108, Trench 1 may date to the 14th or 15th centuries although it is not clear how it was deposited. Layer 208 is probably of 17th century date, but again it is not clear how this was deposited. The brick structures recorded by the evaluation appear to relate to late 19th or early 20th century outbuildings on the site depicted on Ordnance Survey maps of 1903 and 1924.

The watching brief recorded an undated small posthole or gully terminal which, in view of the results from the evaluation, could potentially be of medieval or post-medieval date.

Although the potentially most significant archaeological features were not directly dated, they do suggest low level medieval and post-medieval activity at the rear of burgage plots fronting onto Long Street, Atherstone. The potential for survival of medieval and early post-medieval features is enhanced by the presence of a post-medieval layers sealing these features, across most of the site, and by the apparent lack of major development to the rear of the Three Tuns. The medieval, post-medieval and modern layers sealing possible medieval and post- medieval archaeological features are between 1.0-1.6m in depth below the present ground surface. Therefore any groundworks deeper than 1.0m below the present ground surface may affect archaeological features. As the construction of foundations and services for the proposed building is likely to affect archaeological features and deposits, an archaeological excavation or 'strip and record' fieldwork and archaeological watching brief may be appropriate as mitigation for the proposed development. However, recommendations for further archaeological work should be made by the Planning Archaeologist, Warwickshire Museum.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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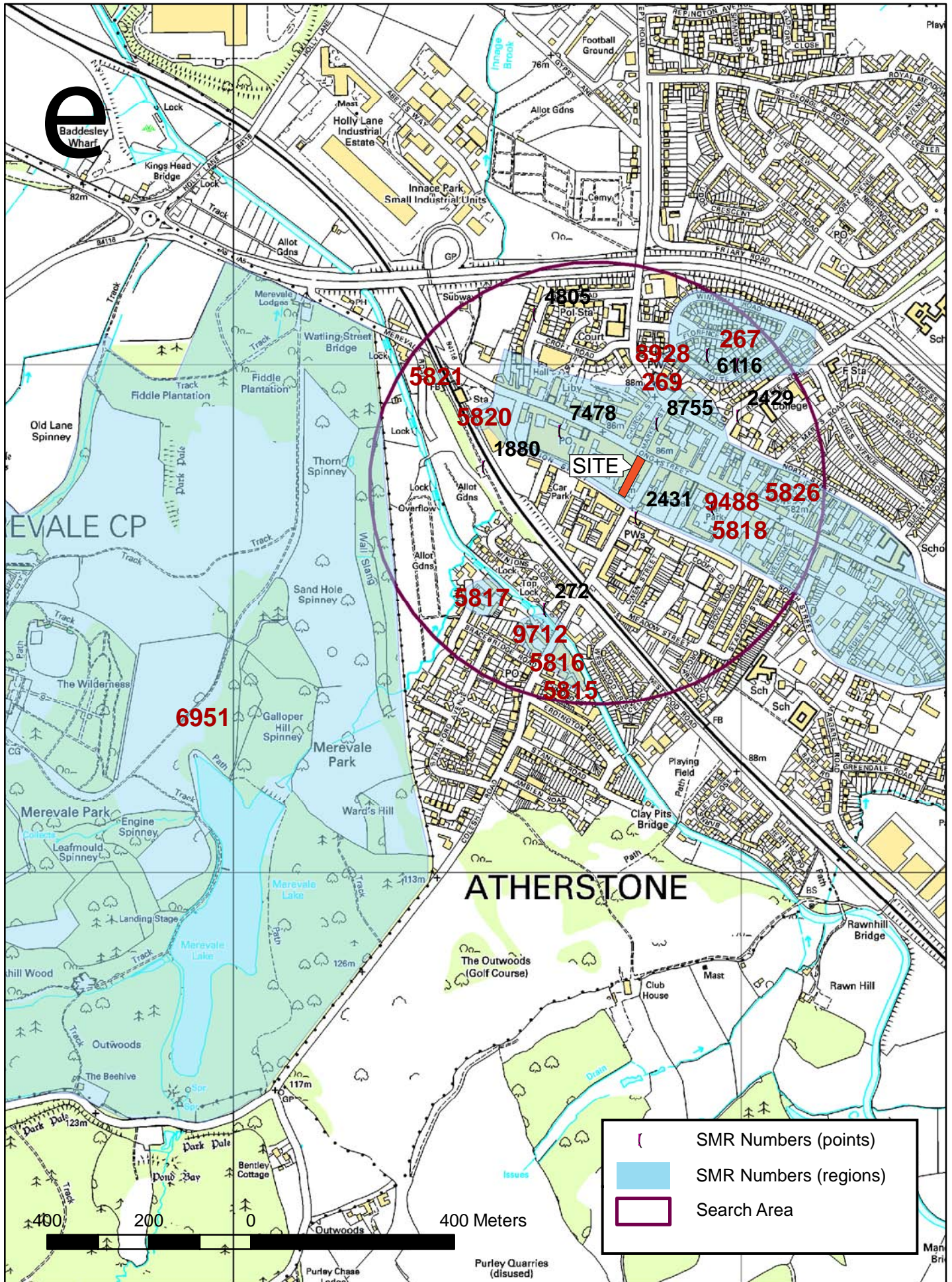


Fig.1

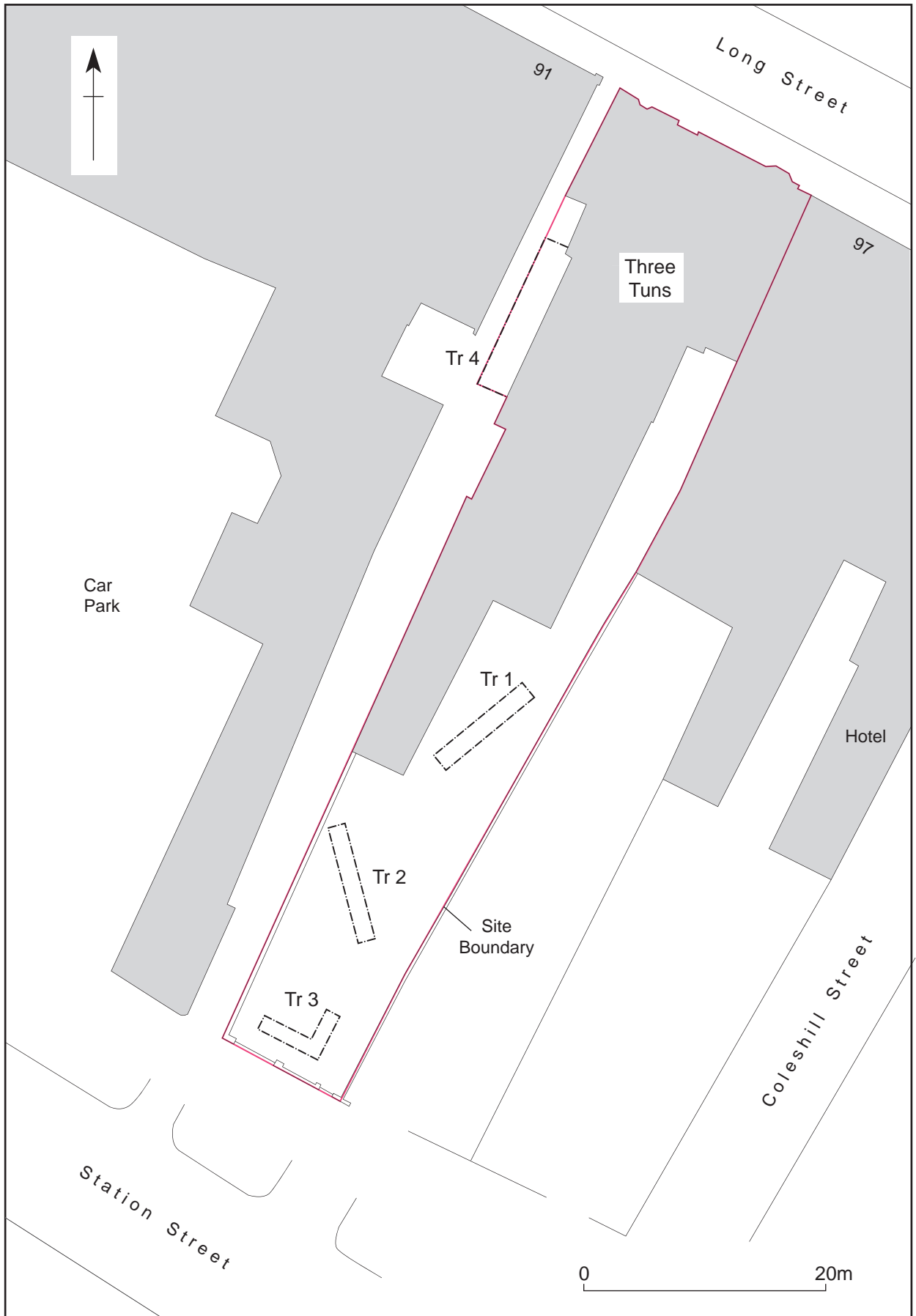


Fig.2

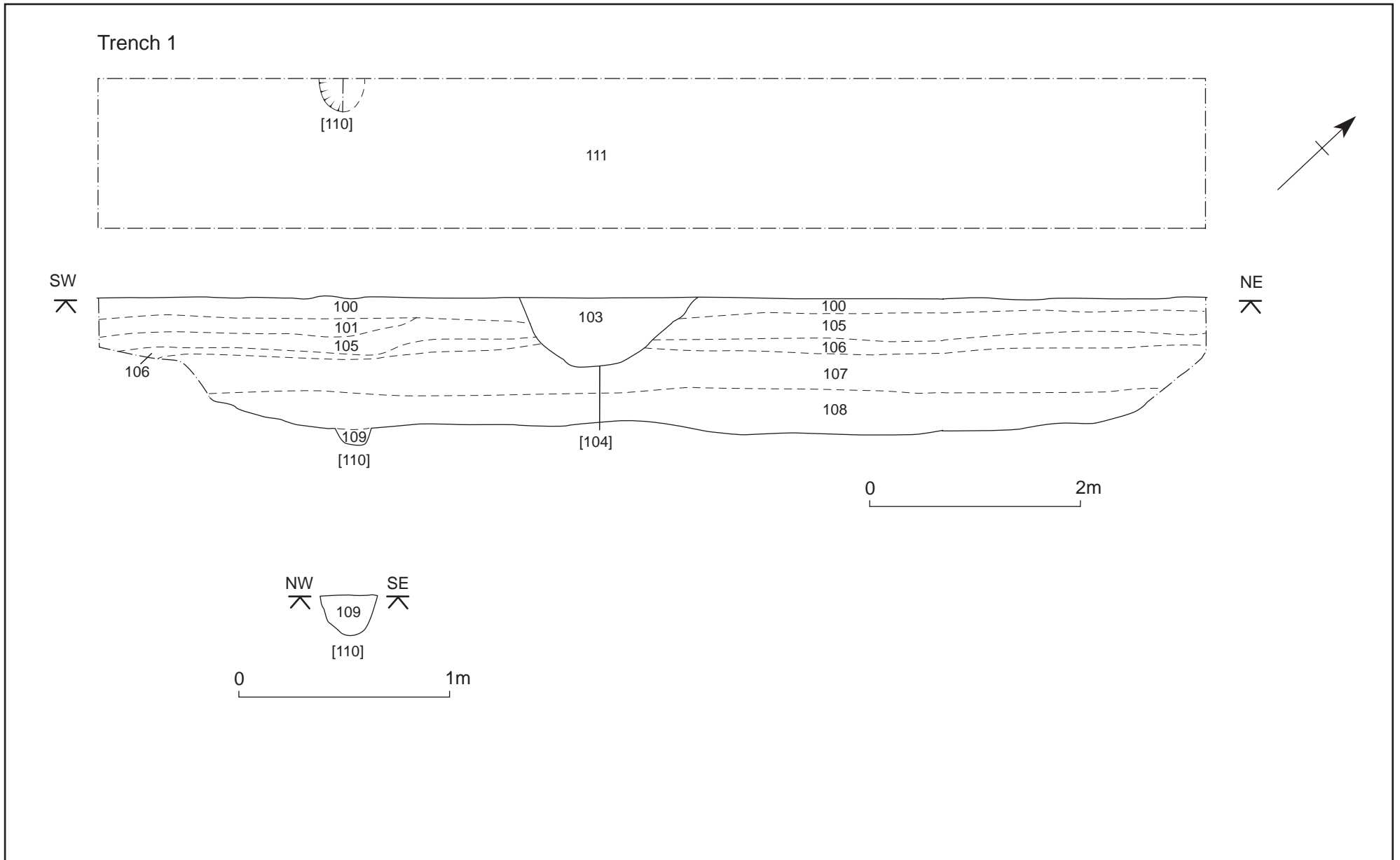


Fig.3

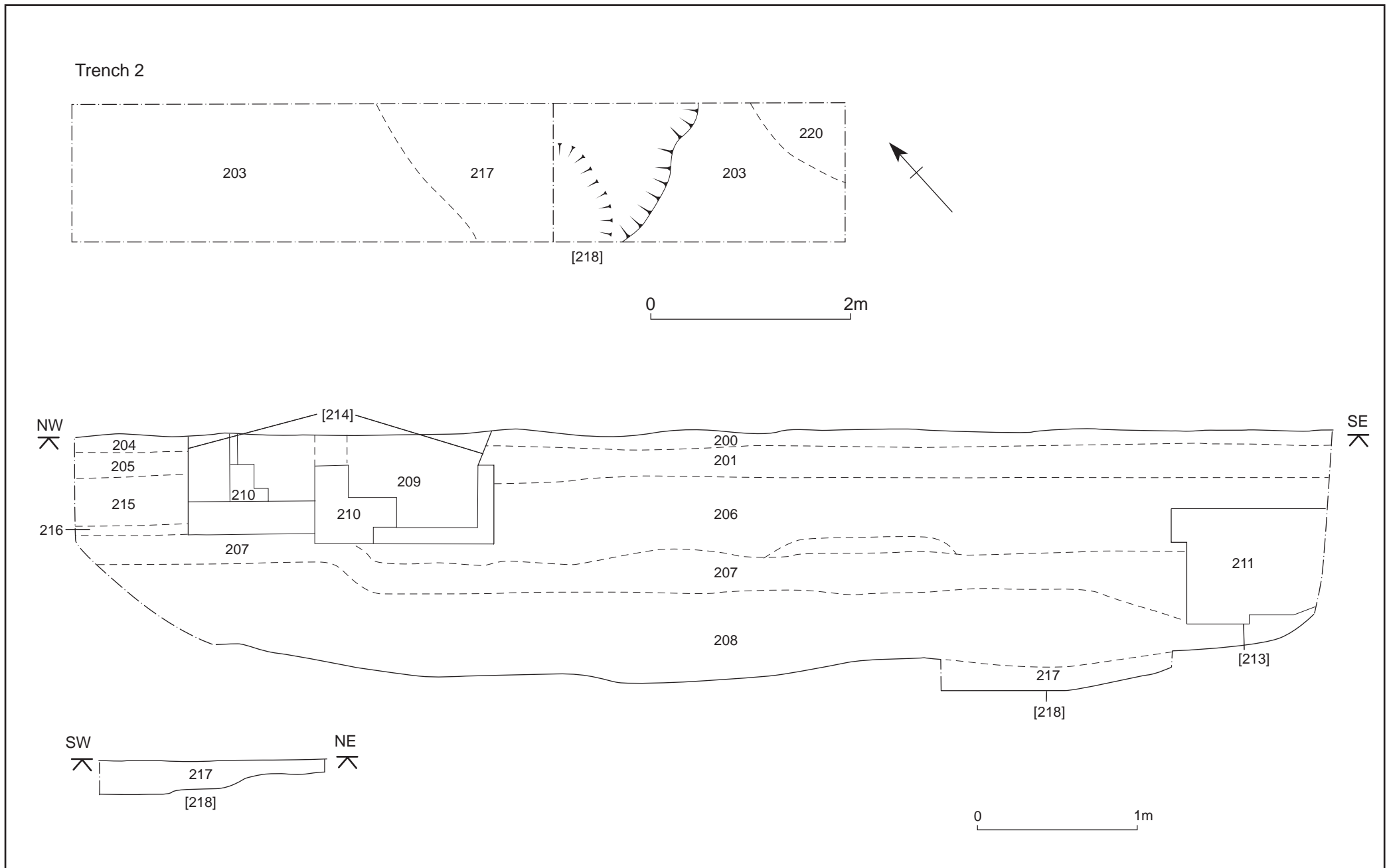


Fig.4

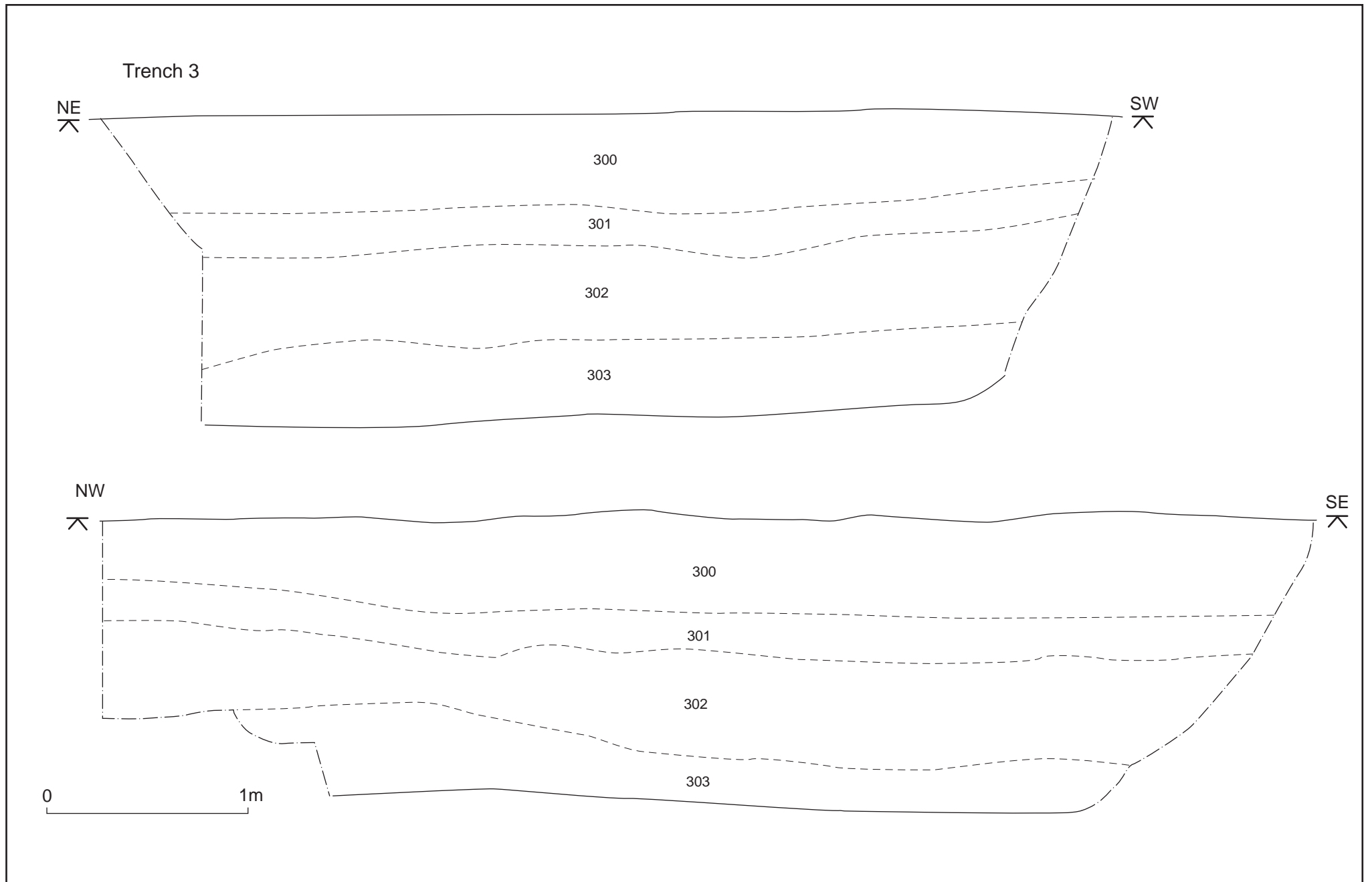


Fig.5

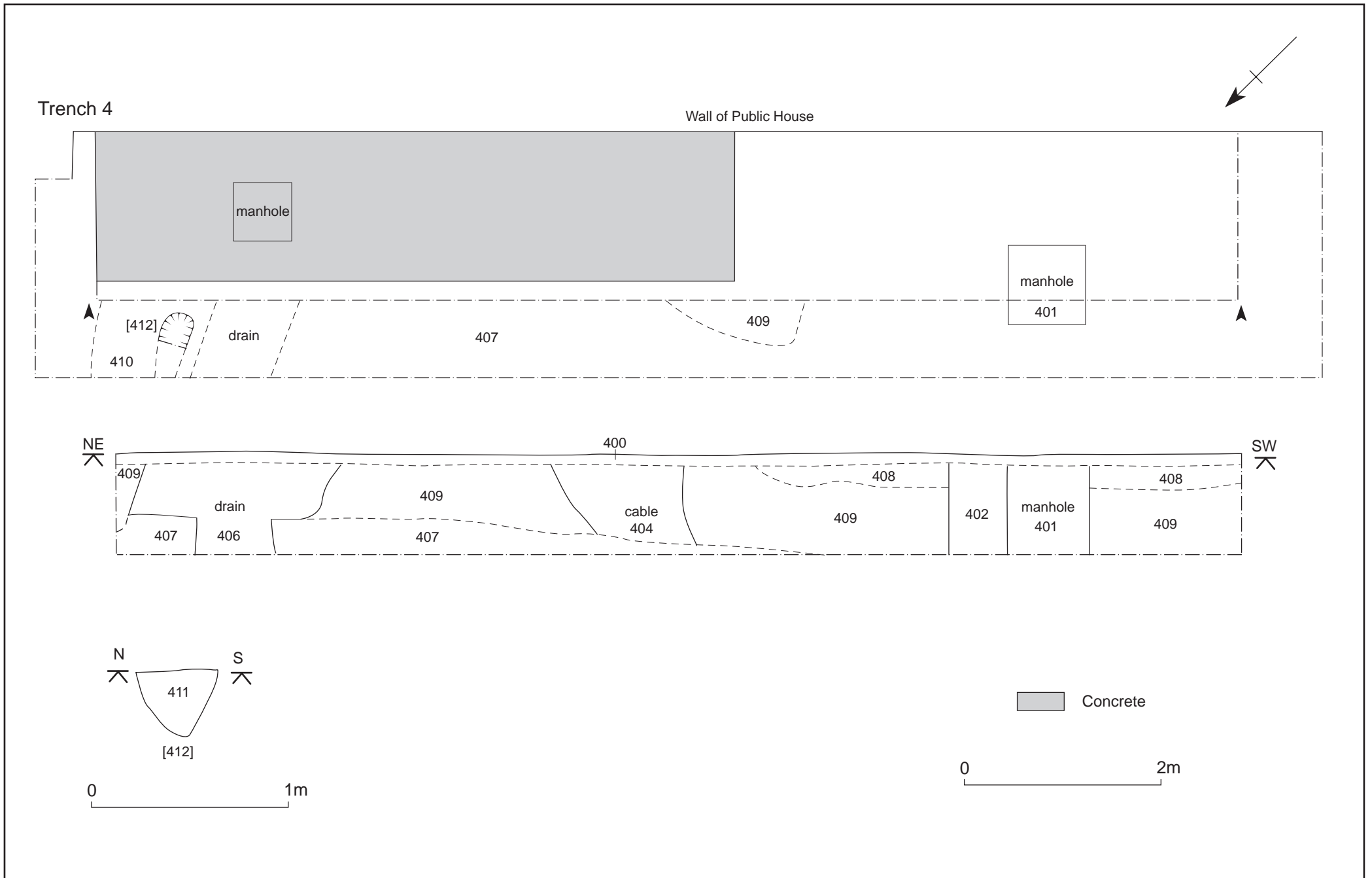


Fig.6



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3



Plate 4



Plate 5

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www.warwickshire.gov.uk/museum

your ref	PAP/2006/0535
my ref	AS/soa/NW07_0535.2
date	November 21 st , 2007

Dear Mr Jones,

Proposed: Residential development to form 5 no. 1 bedroom flats, 2 no. 2 bedroom flats and 2 no. 2 bedroom dwellings at The Three Tuns, Long Street, Atherstone.

Please find enclosed a brief for the first phase of archaeological fieldwork at the above site as advised as a condition of the planning permission PAP/2006/0535. The work described in the brief could be carried out by any competent and qualified organisation of your choice. Information regarding archaeological contractors can be obtained from the Institute of Field Archaeologists, SHES, University of Reading, Whiteknights, P.O. Box 227, Reading, RG6 6AB. Tel 0118 378 6446, or from their website www.archaeologists.net.

Please note that the detailed proposal for archaeological work specified in section 6 of the brief should be forwarded to the County Archaeologist or myself for approval.

As we have discussed, the trench plan has been produced on the basis that the wall which extends down the centre of the site will have been reduced to ground level prior to the evaluation being undertaken. The foundations of this wall should not be grubbed out at this stage. I would be happy to discuss the re-location of the proposed trial trenches if this is not possible.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Stocks,
Planning Archaeologist.

Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation

Location: The Three Tuns, Long Street, Atherstone.

Proposed: Residential development to form 5 no. 1 bedroom flats, 2 no. 2 bedroom flats and 2 no. 2 bedroom dwellings.

Summary

Planning permission has been granted by the North Warwickshire Borough for the residential development to form 5 no. 1 bedroom flats, 2 no. 2 bedroom flats and 2 no. 2 bedroom dwellings at The Three Tuns, Long Street, Atherstone (PAP/2006/0535). The proposed development lies within an area of significant archaeological potential, within the probable extent of the medieval settlement at Atherstone.

It is a condition of the planning permission that, before the development commences, the applicant should secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority. This is in line with government advice as set out in the DoE Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16). This brief sets out the requirements for the first phase of archaeological evaluative fieldwork on the site. Further evaluative fieldwork may be required once the standing building on the site has been demolished. The evaluation may inform further archaeological mitigation as part of this development.

1. Location.

1.1 The site is centred around national grid reference 43078 29778 in the parish of Atherstone.

2. Archaeological Background

2.1 The proposed development lies within an area of significant archaeological potential, within the medieval settlement of Atherstone (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA 9488). Recent archaeological fieldwork in Atherstone has demonstrated that significant medieval features can survive in the historic town core. The proposed development has the potential to expose archaeological features associated with medieval and post-medieval urban activity including structural remains, rubbish pits and boundary features.

2.2 Further details of archaeological sites in the vicinity of the proposed development can be obtained from the County Historic Environment Record, Warwickshire Museum Field Services Office, The Butts, Warwick, CV34 4SS. (Please note that the online version of the SMR may not contain comprehensive or up to date information on individual sites and is not suitable for use in the preparation of specifications, desktop appraisals or other commercial applications).

3. Requirement for an Evaluation

3.1 The proposed development together with associated service trenches and access routes would severely damage or destroy any archaeological remains which may be present on the site. It has been recommended that the applicant should secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

3.2 The objectives of the evaluation should be to gather sufficient information to establish presence / absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of proposed development.

3.3 The evaluation should investigate the whole of the area to be disturbed by the development.

3.4 The project is to comply with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* and all relevant IFA Standards and Guidance documents.

4. Evaluation Techniques

4.1 Land use at the time fieldwork is carried out will influence the methods used. The techniques chosen should be selected to cause the minimum amount of destruction and should comply with all relevant health and safety regulations. It is envisaged that the following work would be required:

4.2 Examination of any available maps (printed and manuscript), aerial photographs and other relevant background material including the County Historic Environment Record;

4.3 Visual inspection of the entire site. This should include examination of any available exposures (e.g. recently-cut field ditches and geological test pits);

4.4 A programme of trial trenching; the locations and proportions of trenches should be influenced by existing information and by the results of preliminary field investigation but should not neglect areas of no known archaeology; the positions of trenches must be agreed with the County Archaeologist or Planning Archaeologist. A proposed trenching layout has been included.

4.5 A programme of sampling of appropriate materials for environmental and/or other scientific analysis. Special attention should be paid to any waterlogged deposits encountered;

4.6 Any other investigative techniques as appropriate.

5. Excavation Guidelines

Where trenches are to be opened by machine the following guidelines should be observed:

5.1 The health and safety implications of any use of earth-moving machinery on the site should be taken into account;

5.2 Those preparing the specification should be aware of the past use of the site and the potential for the presence of contaminated ground should be taken into account;

5.3 An appropriate machine should be used. The choice should be influenced by the prevailing site conditions, and the machine must be able to carry out a clean and safe job;

5.4 An appropriate bucket should be used. In most cases this will be a wide, toothless ditching bucket;

5.5 All machining should be carried out under the direct supervision of an archaeologist and should be halted if archaeological deposits are encountered;

5.6 All topsoil or recent overburden should be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive, level spits. Machining of archaeological deposits can on occasion be justified **but under no circumstances should the machine be used to cut arbitrary trenches down to natural deposits;**

5.7 When determining the level to which machine excavation can be carried out, it should not be assumed that the most recent archaeological remains on the site are the least important;

5.8 The first significant archaeological horizon may be cleaned using the machine, but must be subsequently cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological features;

5.9 A representative sample of any archaeological features or deposits which are identified must be excavated by hand. No archaeological deposits should be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable. It is not necessarily expected that all trial trenches will be fully excavated to natural stratigraphy, but the depth of archaeological deposits across the entire site must be assessed. The stratigraphy of all trial trenches should be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified;

5.10 All excavation, both by machine and by hand, must be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appear to be worthy of preservation in situ;

5.11 Any human remains which are encountered must initially be left in situ. If removal is necessary this must comply with the relevant Home Office regulations.

5.12 Contractors may find it convenient to produce digital photographs for ease of dissemination; however, conventional (silver halide) photography should be undertaken for inclusion within the project archive.

6. Evaluation Proposal

A **detailed** evaluation proposal, including the following, should be prepared by potential contractors and submitted to the County Archaeologist or Planning Archaeologist for approval on behalf of the planning authority:

6.1 A consideration of the whole range of investigative techniques and a statement justifying the proposed omission of any technique;

6.2 An explanation of the sampling strategies to be used;

6.3 A description of the proposed methods of survey and excavation, and recording system;

6.4 A projected timetable for work on site, including machine hire time and staff structure and numbers;

6.5 A projected timetable for all post excavation work, including staff numbers and specialist sub-contractors;

6.6 Any significant variations to the proposal must be agreed by the County Archaeologist or Planning Archaeologist in advance.

7. Site Monitoring

7.1 The Warwickshire Museum will be responsible for monitoring the evaluation. A minimum of one week's notice of the commencement of fieldwork must be given by the archaeological contractor to the Museum so that arrangements for monitoring can be made;

7.2 Site inspections will be arranged so that the general site stratigraphy can be assessed in the initial stages of trial trenching, and/or so that the site can be inspected when fieldwork is near to completion but before any trenches have been backfilled.

8. Reporting Requirements

8.1 The evaluation should result in a report including a description of the methodology employed; plans showing survey areas; plans and sections at an appropriate scale showing location and position of trenches dug and features located; upon completion of each evaluation trench at least one long section will be drawn; section drawing should include heights OD; plans should include OD spot heights for all principal strata and features; a list of and spot date for any significant finds recovered and a description and interpretation of the deposits identified.

8.2 The objective account of the archaeological evidence recovered should be clearly distinguished from the interpretation of those features. The methodology used should be critically reviewed.

8.3 Pottery reports will be expected to refer to the appropriate type series, including the Warwickshire type series for Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery.

8.4 Four copies of the evaluation report should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record, on the understanding that it will be made available as a public document after an appropriate period (not exceeding 6 months from the completion of fieldwork); a further copy to be sent to the relevant Local Planning Authority Planning Officer.

8.5 The results of the work should be published in an appropriate journal or other publication and should include an account of any structures located and full details of significant finds, illustrated as appropriate. Details of the place and date of publication must be notified to the County Historic Environment Record.

8.6 A summary account of the work should be submitted to the editor of *West Midland Archaeology* and any relevant period journals (e.g. *Medieval Archaeology*, *Post-Medieval Archaeology*) no later than March 31st of the year following completion of fieldwork.

9. Deposition of Archive and Finds

9.1 The archaeological archive arising from the evaluation should be deposited in an appropriate local institution, in a format to be agreed with that institution. The County Historic Environment Record must be notified of the arrangements made. Any finds of archaeological interest should be appropriately conserved and deposited in an appropriate institution: any finds which cannot be so deposited should be fully analysed and published.

Warwickshire Museum
November 2007

The Three Tuns, Long Street, Atherstone
Planning App: PAP/2006/0535.

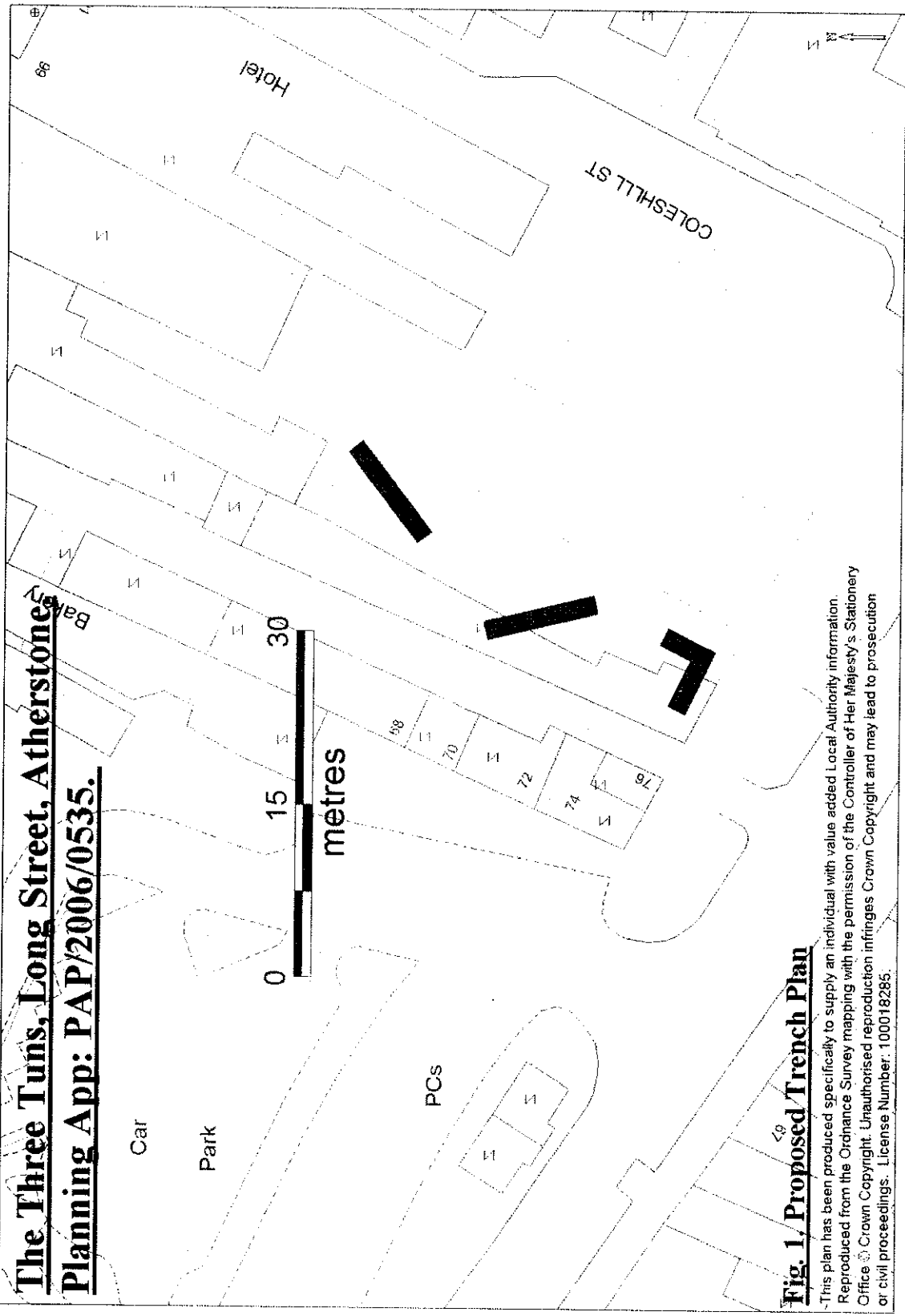


Fig. 1. Proposed Trench Plan

This plan has been produced specifically to supply an individual with value added Local Authority information. Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. License Number: 100018285.

Mr J. Barnes,
Arragon Construction Ltd

Jsn83@aol.com

your ref PAP/2007/0570
my ref AS/NW/NW07_0570.2
date November 23rd, 2007

Dear Mr Barnes,

Proposed: New toilet block and extension at The Three Tuns, Long Street, Atherstone.

Please find enclosed a brief for a programme of archaeological work at the above site as advised as a condition of the planning permissions PAP/2007/0570.

The work described in the brief could be carried out by any competent and qualified organisation of your choice. Information regarding archaeological contractors can be obtained from the Institute of Field Archaeologists, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 227, Reading, RG6 6AB, Tel/Fax: 0118 931 6446. www.archaeologists.net

Please note that the detailed proposal for archaeological work specified in section 6 of the brief should be forwarded to me or the County Archaeologist for approval.

As we have discussed, I would not object to the results of this fieldwork and the evaluation being undertaken in response to the condition upon planning consent PAP/2006/0535 being combined in the same report, provided that both pieces of fieldwork are undertaken within twelve months of each other, and by the same archaeological unit.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Anna Stocks
Planning Archaeologist.

Adult, Health and Community Services

Anna Stocks
Planning Archaeologist
Warwickshire Museum Field Services
The Butts
Warwick CV34 4SS
Tel: 01926 412734
Fax: 01926 412734
annastocks@warwickshire.gov.uk
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/museum

Brief for Archaeological Work

Location: The Three Tuns, Long Street, Atherstone.

Proposed: New toilet block and extension.

Summary

Planning permission has been granted by the North Warwickshire Borough Council for the erection of a new toilet block and extension at The Three Tuns, Long Street, Atherstone (ref. PAP/2007/0570). The proposed development lies within an area of significant archaeological potential, within the medieval settlement of Atherstone.

It is likely that some archaeological deposits of interest may be disturbed or exposed by the development. It is a condition of the planning permission that, before the development commences, the applicant should secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority. This is in line with government advice as set out in the DoE Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16). This brief sets out the requirements for that programme of archaeological works.

1. Location.

1.1 The site is centred around national grid reference 43078 29779, in the parish of Atherstone.

2. Archaeological Background

2.1 The proposed development lies within an area of significant archaeological potential, within the medieval settlement of Atherstone (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA 9488). Recent archaeological fieldwork in Atherstone has demonstrated that significant medieval features can survive in the historic town core. The proposed development has the potential to expose archaeological features associated with medieval and post-medieval urban activity including structural remains, rubbish pits and boundary features.

2.2 Further details of archaeological sites in the vicinity of the proposed development can be obtained from the County Historic Environment Record, Warwickshire Museum Field Services Office, The Butts, Warwick, CV34 4SS. (Please note that the online version of the SMR may not contain comprehensive or up to date information on individual sites and is not suitable for use in the preparation of specifications, desktop appraisals or other commercial applications).

3. Requirement for archaeological work

3.1 The proposed development would severely damage or destroy any archaeological remains which may be present on the site. It is a condition of the planning permission that the applicant should secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

3.2 The objective of the work should be to obtain an adequate record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed by work associated with the development.

3.3 The whole of the area to be disturbed should be examined.

3.4 The project is to comply with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* and all relevant IFA Standards and Guidance documents.

4. Techniques

Land use at the time fieldwork is carried out will influence the methods used. The techniques chosen should be selected to cause the minimum amount of destruction and should comply with all relevant health and safety regulations. It is envisaged that the following work would be required:

- 4.1 Examination of any available maps (printed and manuscript), aerial photographs and other relevant background material including the County Historic Environment Record;
- 4.2 Observation of all ground disturbance by archaeological staff in order to identify any deposits of archaeological importance; the archaeologists must have the authority to halt any earth moving activity if necessary to define and record areas of archaeological interest;
- 4.3 Investigation and recording of all archaeological contexts and artefacts disturbed or exposed;
- 4.4 A programme of sampling of appropriate materials for environmental and/or other scientific analysis. Special attention should be paid to any waterlogged deposits encountered;
- 4.5 In the event of significant archaeological deposits being identified they should either be recorded and then protected from any further disturbance or, if that is not practical, be excavated and recorded as soon as possible.

5. Excavation Guidelines

Where excavation is to be by machine the following guidelines should be observed:

- 5.1 The health and safety implications of any use of earth-moving machinery on the site should be taken into account;
- 5.2 A representative sample of any archaeological features or deposits which are identified must be excavated by hand. The site stratigraphy should be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified;
- 5.3 Any human remains which are encountered must initially be left in situ. If removal is necessary this must comply with the relevant Home Office regulations.
- 5.4 Contractors may find it convenient to produce digital photographs for ease of dissemination; however, conventional (silver halide) photography should be undertaken for inclusion within the project archive.

6. Proposal

- 6.1 A detailed proposal, including the following, should be prepared by potential contractors and submitted to the County Archaeologist or Planning Archaeologist for approval on behalf of the planning authority:
- 6.2 A description of the proposed methods of excavation and recording system;
- 6.3 An explanation of the sampling strategies to be used;
- 6.4 A projected timetable for work on site, including machine hire time and staff structure and numbers, and for all post excavation work, including staff numbers and specialist sub-contractors.
- 6.5 Any significant variations to the proposal must be agreed by the County Archaeologist or Planning Archaeologist in advance.

7. Site Monitoring

- 7.1 The Warwickshire Museum will be responsible for monitoring the archaeological work. A minimum of one week's notice of the commencement of fieldwork must be given by the archaeological contractor to the Museum so that arrangements for monitoring can be made;

8. Reporting Requirements

- 8.1 The archaeological work should result in a report including a description of the methodology employed; plans showing survey areas; plans and sections at an appropriate scale showing location and position of trenches dug and features located; section drawing should include heights OD; plans

should include OD spot heights for all principal strata and features; a list of and spot date for any significant finds recovered and a description and interpretation of the deposits identified.

8.2 The objective account of the archaeological evidence recovered should be clearly distinguished from the interpretation of those features. The methodology used should be critically reviewed.

8.3 Pottery reports will be expected to refer to the appropriate type series, including the Warwickshire type series for Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery.

8.4 Four copies of the report should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record, on the understanding that it will be made available as a public document after an appropriate period (not exceeding 6 months from the completion of fieldwork); a further copy to be sent to the relevant Local Planning Authority Planning Officer.

8.5 The results of the work should be published in an appropriate journal or other publication and should include an account of any structures located and full details of significant finds, illustrated as appropriate. Details of the place and date of publication must be notified to the County Historic Environment Record.

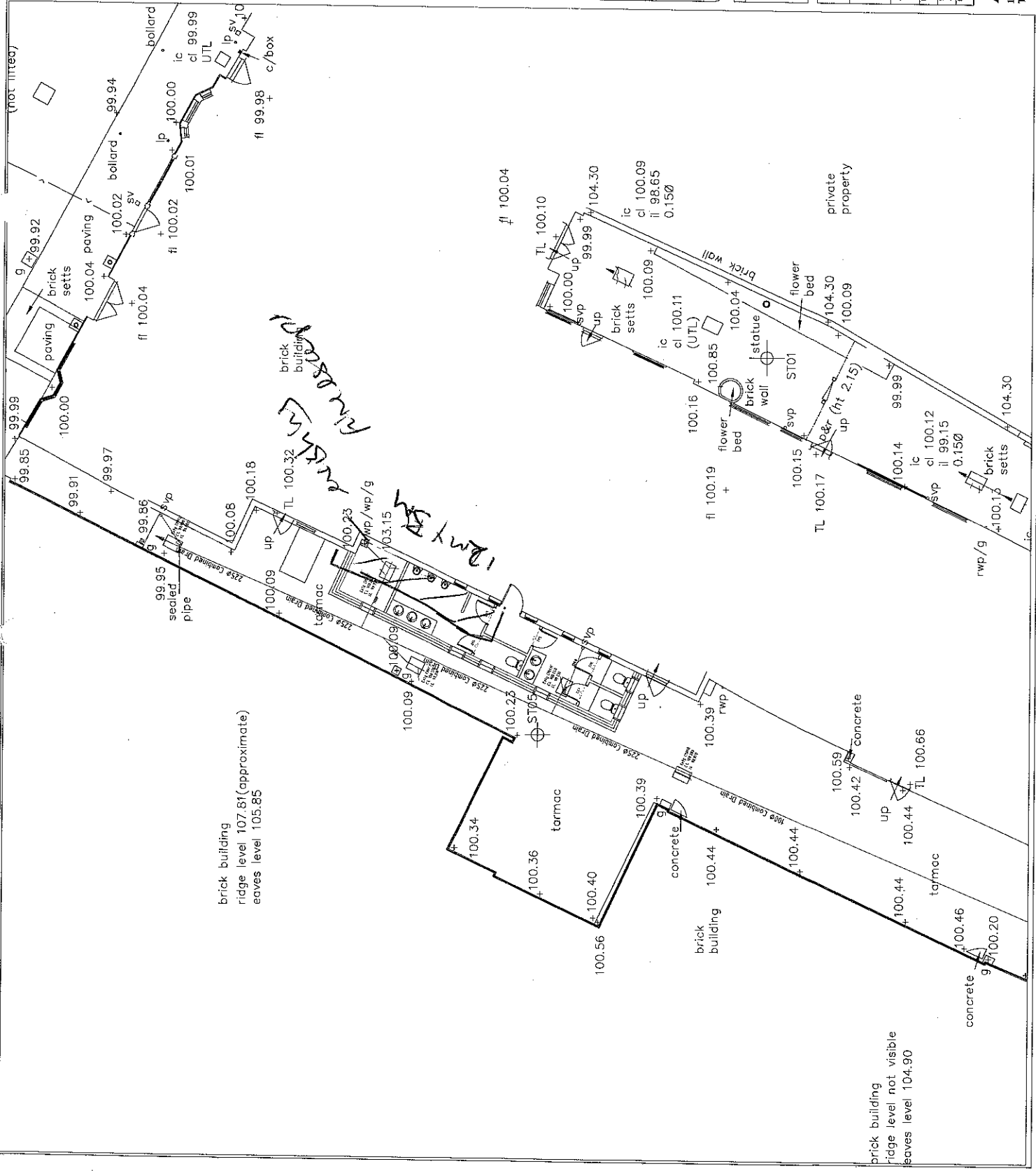
8.6 A summary account of the work should be submitted to the editor of *West Midland Archaeology* and any relevant period journals (e.g. *Medieval Archaeology*) no later than March 31st of the year following completion of fieldwork.

9. Deposition of Archive and Finds

9.1 The archaeological archive arising from the work should be deposited in the appropriate local institution, in a format to be agreed with that institution. The County Historic Environment Record must be notified of the arrangements made. Any finds of archaeological interest should be appropriately conserved and deposited in an appropriate institution: any finds which cannot be so deposited should be fully analysed and published.

Warwickshire Museum
November 2007

NOTES:



Rev	Date	By	Description

Client: Arragon Properties Limited
 Project: Toilet Extension @ Three Tuns Hotel, Long Street, Altherstone
 Drawing Title: Drain Survey
 Drawn: J. Barnes BSc (Hons) Data E. ACL/TH/DS
 Checked: M. Jones BSc (Hons) Data E. ACL/TH/DS
 Date Indicated: Nov 2007
 Drawing No: ACL/TH/DS
 Rev: 1st Issue

Arragon Construction Ltd
 14 Market Street - Atherton - North Warwickshire - CV9 1ET
 Tel. 01827 713335 Fax. 01827 713335

Brief for Archaeological Work

Location: The Three Tuns, Long Street, Atherstone.

Proposed: New toilet block and extension.

Summary

Planning permission has been granted by the North Warwickshire Borough Council for the erection of a new toilet block and extension at The Three Tuns, Long Street, Atherstone (ref. PAP/2007/0570). The proposed development lies within an area of significant archaeological potential, within the medieval settlement of Atherstone.

It is likely that some archaeological deposits of interest may be disturbed or exposed by the development. It is a condition of the planning permission that, before the development commences, the applicant should secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority. This is in line with government advice as set out in the DoE Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16). This brief sets out the requirements for that programme of archaeological works.

1. Location.

1.1 The site is centred around national grid reference 43078 29779, in the parish of Atherstone.

2. Archaeological Background

2.1 The proposed development lies within an area of significant archaeological potential, within the medieval settlement of Atherstone (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA 9488). Recent archaeological fieldwork in Atherstone has demonstrated that significant medieval features can survive in the historic town core. The proposed development has the potential to expose archaeological features associated with medieval and post-medieval urban activity including structural remains, rubbish pits and boundary features.

2.2 Further details of archaeological sites in the vicinity of the proposed development can be obtained from the County Historic Environment Record, Warwickshire Museum Field Services Office, The Butts, Warwick, CV34 4SS. (Please note that the online version of the SMR may not contain comprehensive or up to date information on individual sites and is not suitable for use in the preparation of specifications, desktop appraisals or other commercial applications).

3. Requirement for archaeological work

3.1 The proposed development would severely damage or destroy any archaeological remains which may be present on the site. It is a condition of the planning permission that the applicant should secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

3.2 The objective of the work should be to obtain an adequate record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed by work associated with the development.

3.3 The whole of the area to be disturbed should be examined.

3.4 The project is to comply with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* and all relevant IFA Standards and Guidance documents.

4. Techniques

Land use at the time fieldwork is carried out will influence the methods used. The techniques chosen should be selected to cause the minimum amount of destruction and should comply with all relevant health and safety regulations. It is envisaged that the following work would be required:

- 4.1 Examination of any available maps (printed and manuscript), aerial photographs and other relevant background material including the County Historic Environment Record;
- 4.2 Observation of all ground disturbance by archaeological staff in order to identify any deposits of archaeological importance; the archaeologists must have the authority to halt any earth moving activity if necessary to define and record areas of archaeological interest;
- 4.3 Investigation and recording of all archaeological contexts and artefacts disturbed or exposed;
- 4.4 A programme of sampling of appropriate materials for environmental and/or other scientific analysis. Special attention should be paid to any waterlogged deposits encountered;
- 4.5 In the event of significant archaeological deposits being identified they should either be recorded and then protected from any further disturbance or, if that is not practical, be excavated and recorded as soon as possible.

5. Excavation Guidelines

Where excavation is to be by machine the following guidelines should be observed:

- 5.1 The health and safety implications of any use of earth-moving machinery on the site should be taken into account;
- 5.2 A representative sample of any archaeological features or deposits which are identified must be excavated by hand. The site stratigraphy should be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified;
- 5.3 Any human remains which are encountered must initially be left in situ. If removal is necessary this must comply with the relevant Home Office regulations.
- 5.4 Contractors may find it convenient to produce digital photographs for ease of dissemination; however, conventional (silver halide) photography should be undertaken for inclusion within the project archive.

6. Proposal

- 6.1 A detailed proposal, including the following, should be prepared by potential contractors and submitted to the County Archaeologist or Planning Archaeologist for approval on behalf of the planning authority:
- 6.2 A description of the proposed methods of excavation and recording system;
- 6.3 An explanation of the sampling strategies to be used;
- 6.4 A projected timetable for work on site, including machine hire time and staff structure and numbers, and for all post excavation work, including staff numbers and specialist sub-contractors.
- 6.5 Any significant variations to the proposal must be agreed by the County Archaeologist or Planning Archaeologist in advance.

7. Site Monitoring

- 7.1 The Warwickshire Museum will be responsible for monitoring the archaeological work. A minimum of one week's notice of the commencement of fieldwork must be given by the archaeological contractor to the Museum so that arrangements for monitoring can be made;

8. Reporting Requirements

- 8.1 The archaeological work should result in a report including a description of the methodology employed; plans showing survey areas; plans and sections at an appropriate scale showing location and position of trenches dug and features located; section drawing should include heights OD; plans

should include OD spot heights for all principal strata and features; a list of and spot date for any significant finds recovered and a description and interpretation of the deposits identified.

8.2 The objective account of the archaeological evidence recovered should be clearly distinguished from the interpretation of those features. The methodology used should be critically reviewed.

8.3 Pottery reports will be expected to refer to the appropriate type series, including the Warwickshire type series for Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery.

8.4 Four copies of the report should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record, on the understanding that it will be made available as a public document after an appropriate period (not exceeding 6 months from the completion of fieldwork); a further copy to be sent to the relevant Local Planning Authority Planning Officer.

8.5 The results of the work should be published in an appropriate journal or other publication and should include an account of any structures located and full details of significant finds, illustrated as appropriate. Details of the place and date of publication must be notified to the County Historic Environment Record.

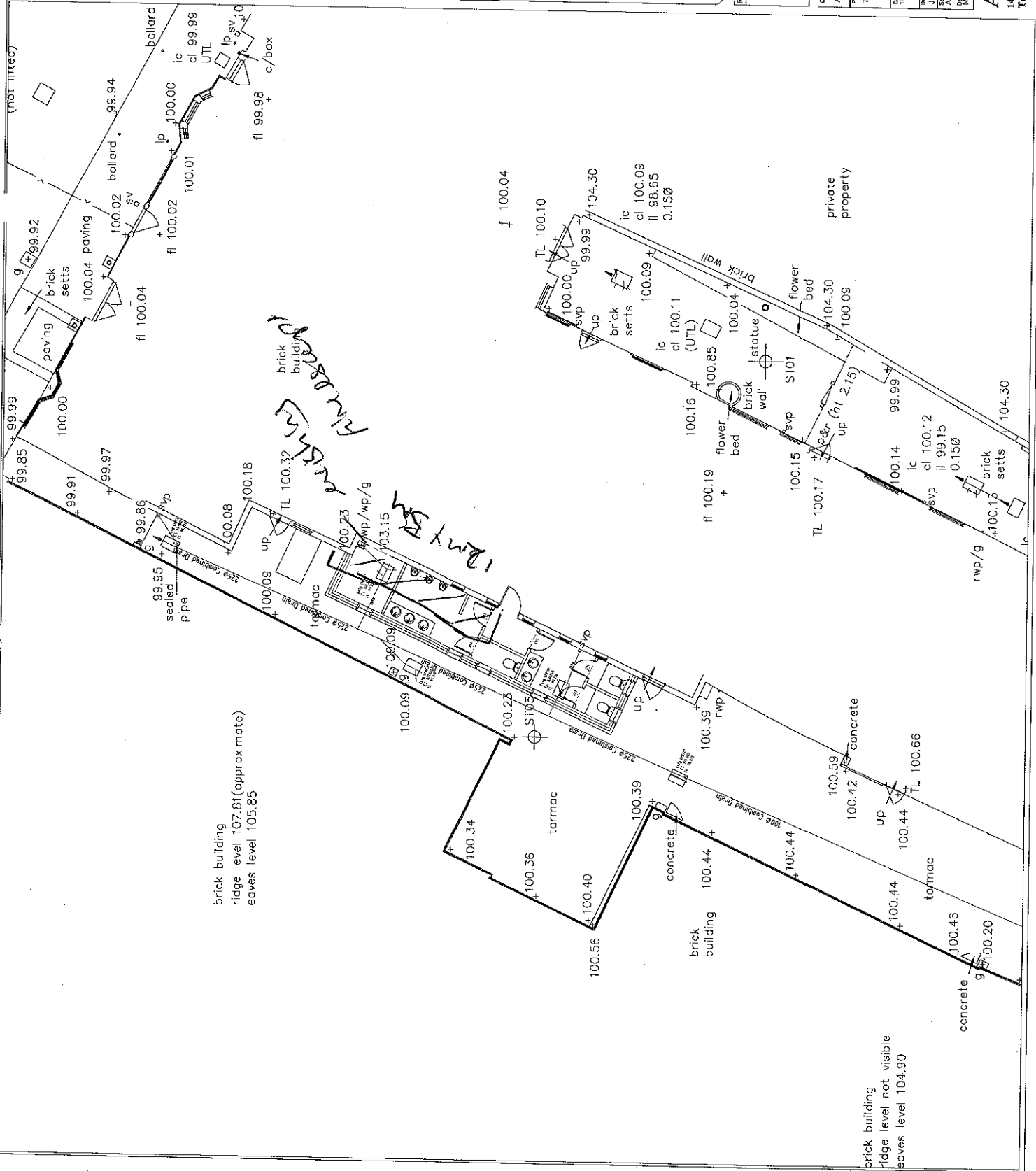
8.6 A summary account of the work should be submitted to the editor of *West Midland Archaeology* and any relevant period journals (e.g. *Medieval Archaeology*) no later than March 31st of the year following completion of fieldwork.

9. Deposition of Archive and Finds

9.1 The archaeological archive arising from the work should be deposited in the appropriate local institution, in a format to be agreed with that institution. The County Historic Environment Record must be notified of the arrangements made. Any finds of archaeological interest should be appropriately conserved and deposited in an appropriate institution: any finds which cannot be so deposited should be fully analysed and published.

Warwickshire Museum
November 2007

NOTES:



Rev	Date	By	Description

Client: Aragon Properties Limited
 Project: Toilet Extension @ Three Tuns Hotel, Long Street, Atherstone
 Drawing Title: Drain Survey
 Drawn: J. Barnes
 Checked: J. Barnes
 Date: 2007
 Scale: As Indicated
 Drawn No: ACL/TTH/DS
 Date: Nov 2007
 Rev: 1st Issue

Aragon Construction Ltd
 14 Market Street - Atherstone - North Warwickshire - CV9 1ET
 Tel. 01827 713335 Fax. 01827 713335

PN 1762

**THE UNIVERSITY
OF BIRMINGHAM**



BIRMINGHAM ARCHAEOLOGY

**Land to the rear of the Three Tuns, Long Street, Atherstone,
Warwickshire**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation and
watching brief**

Planning Application Nos.: PAP/2006/0535 PAP/2007/0570

NGR: SP 3078 9779

Client: Arragon Construction Ltd

Archaeological Contractor: Birmingham Archaeology

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document outlines a proposed programme of work required to undertake archaeological evaluation and watching brief (salvage recording) of land to the rear of the Three Tuns Public House, Long Street, Warwickshire. Planning permission has been granted by North Warwickshire Borough Council for the proposed construction of new residential dwellings (planning ref. PAP/2006/0535) and a new toilet block and extension (planning ref. PAP/2007/0570).
- 1.2 There is high potential for the existence of significant archaeological features and deposits within the proposed development area.
- 1.3 The presence or absence, character, date, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area is, at present, unknown.
- 1.4 It has therefore been recommended that a programme of archaeological work should be carried out as a condition of planning consent. Two briefs have been issued by Warwickshire Museum for an archaeological evaluation (Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation, Warwickshire Museum, November 2007: planning ref. PAP/2006/0535) and archaeological watching brief (Brief for Archaeological Work, Warwickshire Museum, November 2007: planning ref. PAP/2007/0570) within the area of the proposed residential dwellings and the proposed toilet block respectively. The evaluation will be used to provide information which will aid mitigation for the proposed construction of the new residential dwellings, if required, which may take the form of preservation insitu, archaeological excavation or watching brief.
- 1.5 This document was prepared in accordance with government advice contained in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16. Any variation in the scope of work would be agreed in advance with the Planning Archaeologist. The programme of work described below will fulfil the requirements of the briefs.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The proposed development area (hereafter referred to as 'the site') is located at land to the rear of The Three Tuns Public House, 93-95 Long Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire CV9 1BB (centred on NGR SP 3078 9779). The Three Tuns is a Grade II listed late 18th century building formerly known as the Black Boy Inn (North Warwickshire Borough Council 2006) and is located within the Atherstone conservation area. The site is situated on the south side of Long Street and is bounded to the east by retail premises housing a chemist (No.97, Grade II listed mid- 18th century merchants house) and associated car park, to the west are further commercial premises (No.91) and rear yard. To the south the site backs onto Station Street.
- 2.2 The proposed new dwellings cover an area of approximately 160 sq. m and the proposed toilet block extension covers an area of approximately 36 sq. m (see attached plan).

- 2.3 The site is at a height of approx. 87m AOD. The drift geology of the site comprises of superficial sand and gravel deposits (middle Pleistocene) overlying solid geology of the Mercia Mudstone (British Geological Survey 2006).
- 2.4 The present character of the site is a grassed area and yard.

3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Long Street, Atherstone was formerly part of the Roman road Watling Street. Roman activity appears to be concentrated to the south at Mancetter.
- 3.2 Atherstone is listed in Domesday as part of the estate of Countess Godgifu (Godiva of Coventry). Place name and cartographic evidence may suggest continuous settlement may have begun as early as the Anglo-Saxon period, although there is little archaeological evidence for this. In the 11th century Atherstone was granted to the Abbey of Bec erlouin in Normandy by the Earl of Chester. The Abbey was given a charter allowing the right to hold markets by King Henry III in the 13th century. A new town including a rectangular market place was laid out from the 13th century.
- 3.3 The present site lies at Long Street within the historic medieval settlement of Atherstone (SMR No. MWA 9488). This is an area of high archaeological potential and structural remains and evidence of burgage plots, probably laid out in the 13th and 14th centuries, and backplot activities could be present within the site. An archaeological watching brief carried out at 45-47 Long Street (SMR No. MWA 7478) revealed evidence of 17th/18th century structures and residual 15th and 16th century pottery.
- 3.4 The earliest depiction of Atherstone is Hewitt's plan of 1716. This simplified plan shows the market place and houses represented schematically in a nearly unbroken row along either side of Long Street. The rear of the plot corresponding to the site is shown as undeveloped at this time as are almost all the former burgage plots to the rear of the buildings on Long Street. Later mapping including early OS maps show the site has remained relatively free of development up to the present.
- 3.5 The 18th and early 19th century saw a growth in tenements and court-type housing with the rise of industry, notably hat manufacture. This court type housing was demolished in the mid 20th century and later mainly infilled with modern structures. Large housing estates were built beyond the historic settlement area from the 1930s to the 1970s.

4 AIMS

- 4.1 The principle aim of the archaeological work is determine the character, extent, date, state of preservation and the potential significance of any buried remains within the site. This information would enable an appropriate mitigation strategy to be devised.

More specific aims are to:

- investigate the survival of structures, boundary features and backplot features relating to the medieval settlement and other medieval features,
- investigate the survival of post-medieval remains,
- investigate the potential for the site to contribute to the understanding of the historic development of Atherstone.

5 METHODOLOGY

Evaluation

- 5.1 Three trenches (two linear trenches measuring 10m x 1.6m and one 'L'-shaped trench measuring 6m x 1.6m/ 5m x 1.6m) are to be excavated in the proposed locations shown on the attached plan. The location of the trenches is designed to test areas where building foundations and services are to be excavated.
- 5.2 The location of the trenches is designed to provide an adequate evaluation of the area affected by the development in order to obtain information on the presence and preservation of any archaeological deposits.
- 5.3 The location of the trenches may be subject to alteration due to the presence of modern services or safety considerations. Any alteration to this specification will only be made after consultation with the Planning Archaeologist, Warwickshire Museum.
- 5.4 A site inspection will be conducted prior to any excavation in order to assess risk and access. A visual inspection of the site will be conducted during the evaluation, which will include examination of any available exposures.
- 5.5 Available historic maps and relevant background documents including those held by the county Sites and Monuments Record will be consulted.
- 5.6 Excavation of topsoil and modern overburden will be carried out using a JCB type mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, down to the top of the uppermost archaeological horizon, or to the subsoil level if no archaeological deposits are encountered. Subsequent cleaning and excavation will be by hand as appropriate. Spoil from machine excavation and hand-excavation would be temporarily stored on-site.
- 5.7 The machine excavation will be carried out under the direct supervision of a qualified archaeologist.
- 5.8 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 and 1:20. 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.
- 5.9 All stratified finds will be collected by context and, where appropriate, individually recorded in 3 dimensions. Unstratified finds will only be

collected where they contribute to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest. On-site conservation advice will be provided by the appropriate specialist in the event of artefacts requiring conservation and 'lifting'. Finds of treasure will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act procedures. Recovered finds will be cleaned, marked and remedial conservation work will be undertaken as necessary. Treatment of all finds will conform to guidance contained within 'A strategy for the care and investigation of finds' published by English Heritage.

- 5.10 Human remains will be recorded *in-situ*. If removal is required this will be in accordance with the terms of a Home Office and IFA guidelines (*Guidance to Standards for Recording Human Skeletal Remains* Brickley & McKinley 2004).
- 5.11 Spot levels will be taken where appropriate and all levels will be recorded relative to an Ordnance Survey datum level.
- 5.12 The trench will be backfilled 'as dug' with the excavated soil, but no allowance is made for specialist reinstatement or compaction of backfilled deposits.
- 5.13 A representative samples of the features, or feature types present in the trench will be hand-excavated to provide data concerning the survival and complexity of the features and their fills, and to recover artefacts and ecofactual samples for analysis. Generally, 50% of pits or postholes and a 1m section of linear/ curvi-linear features will be excavated. Further sampling of features will only be undertaken if the initial sampling has failed to clarify the date, function and morphology of the features. 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.
- 5.14 Features believed to be of no archaeological potential may remain unexcavated in agreement with the Planning Archaeologist.

Environmental sampling

- 5.15 Appropriate sampling would be undertaken to assess any archaeological deposits that may have an environmental potential. Particular attention would be paid to any charred remains or waterlogged deposits. Twenty litre soil samples will be taken from suitable datable archaeological features for the recovery of charred plant remains. The environmental sampling policy will follow 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.

Watching brief

- 5.16 An experienced archaeologist will attend site to monitor construction groundworks, as required in the Brief. Groundworks to be observed are removal of existing tarmac and concrete slab, excavation of foundation and service trenches. If any other stripping of larger areas of topsoil/recent overburden, B-horizon subsoils, is carried out during the

groundworks this will also be monitored. The archaeologist will have the authority to halt machine excavation at the level at which the first archaeological deposits or features are visible. Following the stripping of topsoil/recent overburden the machined surface will be inspected, and sufficient hand-cleaning will be undertaken to facilitate the definition of archaeological, or possible archaeological features and deposits.

- 5.17 A suitable time allowance for hand-cleaning, excavation and recording of archaeological features and deposits by one or two archaeologists should be made by the developer and their construction groundworkers. The archaeologist undertaking the investigation will maintain regular liaison with the site manager/foreman to keep disruption of the construction programme to a minimum. Where it is unsafe to enter deep trenches archaeological recording will be confined to photography and the completion of pre-printed pro-formas.
- 5.18 Should significant, or potentially significant groups of archaeological features be uncovered or larger areas containing archaeological features are to be stripped or are to be subject to compaction, the Planning Archaeologist will be informed immediately. There may be circumstances, where more detailed recording or limited excavation may be necessary. A contingency allowance for a team of archaeologists for the recording of important or unexpected discoveries will be allowed for. Further funding for conservation and/or specialist analysis of unexpected finds may be required.
- 5.19 Recording methodology will be identical to that detailed in paragraphs 5.8-5.14 above.

Monitoring

- 5.20 Warwickshire Museum will be responsible for monitoring the evaluation. Sufficient notice will be provided prior to the commencement of fieldwork so that arrangements for on-site monitoring can be made.
- 5.21 Site inspections will be arranged so that the general site stratigraphy can be assessed in the initial stages of trial trenching, and/or so that the site can be inspected when fieldwork is near to completion but before any trenches have been backfilled.
- 5.22 Warwickshire Museum will be informed of any unexpected discoveries at the earliest opportunity.

Health and safety

- 5.23 Health and safety requirements will take priority over archaeological requirements. All current health and safety legislation, regulations and guidance will be complied with. The excavation will conform to the *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992* and *Health & Safety in Field Archaeology Manual* (SCAUM 1991). A detailed Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork. All staff will be made aware of this and be given an on-site safety briefing.

If the requirements of the brief are altered due to the interests of health and safety, this will be done with prior consultation with Warwickshire Museum.

6 REPORTING

6.1 An illustrated report on the findings of both the evaluation and watching brief will contain the following:

- Summary
- Description of the archaeological background
- Methodology
- Results, including a description and interpretation of the deposits identified, supported by appropriate plans and sections, including a trench location plan, a feature location plan and a long section of the trench.
- Summary of the finds and environmental evidence. Pottery reports will refer to the appropriate county type series.
- A discussion of the archaeological evidence recovered.

6.2 If the evaluation and watching brief fieldwork is undertaken separately then separate reports will be prepared if a period of more than 6 months elapses between fieldwork.

6.3 Three copies of the report will be available for the client and one will be available for the Local Planning Authority. A further four copies will be sent to Warwickshire Museum for deposition with the County Sites and Monuments Record, on the understanding that it will be made available as a public document after an appropriate period. A further copy will be sent to the relevant Local Authority Planning Officer.

6.4 The results of any mitigation excavation work may be published in an appropriate journal or other publication, and will include an account of any structures located and full details of significant finds, illustrated as appropriate. Details of the place and date of publication will be notified to the County Sites and Monuments Record.

6.5 A summary account of the work will be submitted to the editor of *West Midland Archaeology* and any relevant period journals no later than March 31st of the year following the completion of fieldwork. All new BA reports will be made available online on the OASIS database (accessed via the Archaeological Data Service website).

7 STAFFING

The project will be managed and directed for Birmingham Archaeology by Laurence Jones Cert He (B. Archaeol) MIFA. The evaluation will be supervised in the field by Mark Charles BA Hons, MA, an experienced archaeologist, assisted by a team of two experienced site assistants.

Specialist staff will be, where appropriate:

Barry John Bishop- Flint artefacts, freelance consultant lithics specialist.

Dr Ann Woodward- Prehistoric pottery, Research Fellow, Birmingham Archaeology, University of Birmingham.

Dr Jeremy Evans- Roman pottery, Honorary Research Fellow, Birmingham Archaeology, University of Birmingham.

C. Jane Evans- Roman pottery, freelance consultant pottery specialist

Stephanie Rátkai- Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery, Honorary Research Associate and Finds Researcher, University of Birmingham.

Erica Macey-Bracken- Small finds, Birmingham Archaeology, University of Birmingham

Dr Andrew Howard- Archaeo-geomorphology, Lecturer in Archaeo-geomorphology and Remote Sensing, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Dr. Ben Gearey- Palynology, Geoarchaeology, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Dr Emma Tetlow- Palaeoentomology, Geoarchaeology, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Dr Pam Grinter- Charred plant remains, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Matilda Holmes- Animal bone, freelance consultant archaeozoologist.

Dr David Smith- Micro-fauna, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Dr Megan Brickley- Human Bone, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Dr Roger White- Coins and brooches, Project Manager, Lecturer and Assistant Director (Development), Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Jane Cowgill- slag and industrial residues, freelance consultant.

Rowena Gale- charcoal and wood, freelance consultant.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 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 an appropriate local repository, subject to permission from the landowner. The county SMR will be notified of the arrangements for deposition of the archive.

9 TIMETABLE

- 9.1 It is anticipated that the watching brief element of the project will commence in the week beginning 25th February, subject to the approval of this WSI. No date for the commencement of the evaluation trenching is available at present. A draft evaluation report will be provided within four weeks of the completion of trial-trenching with bound copies of the report provided when approved.

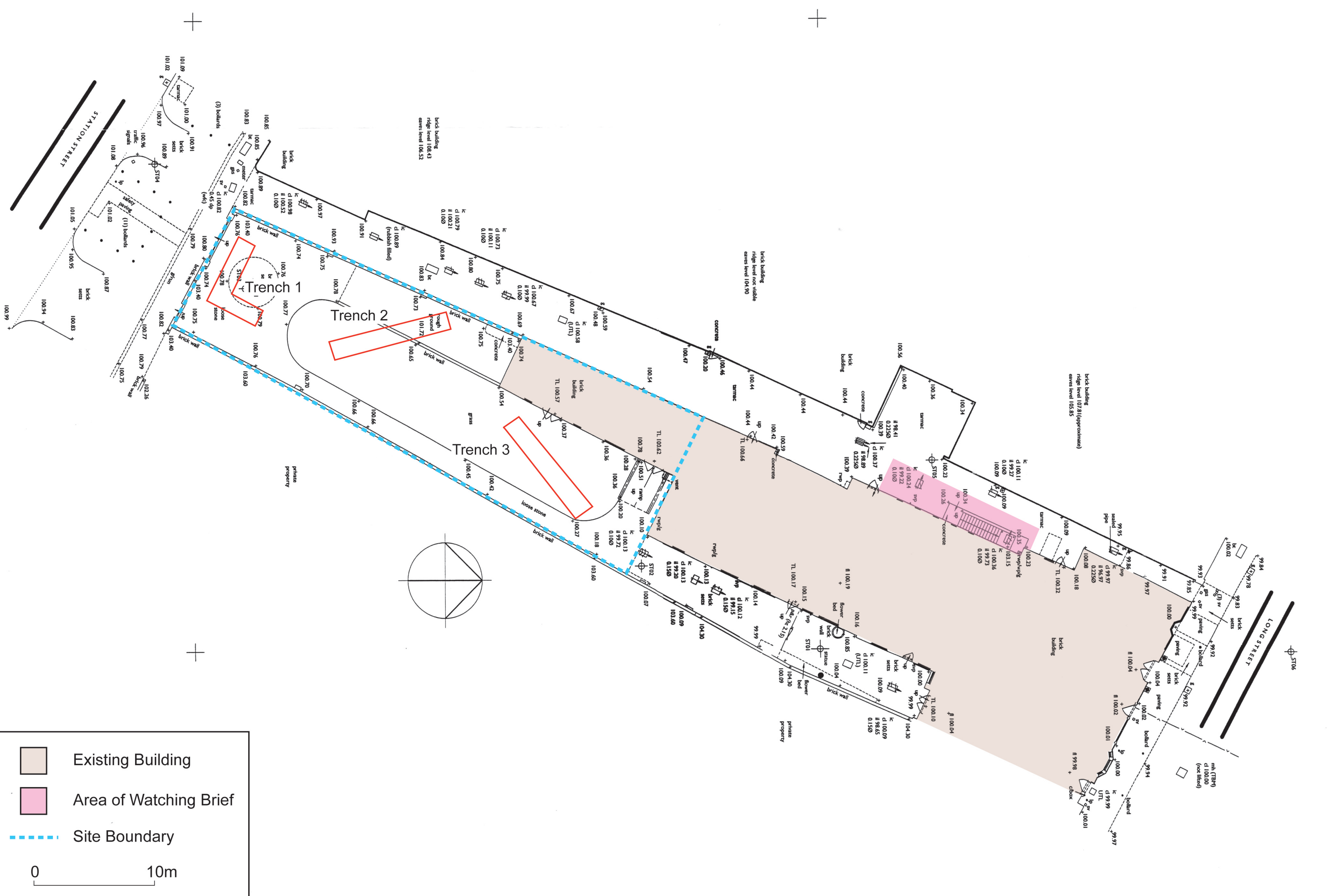
10 INSURANCE

- 10.1 Birmingham Archaeology as part of Birmingham University holds Public and Employer's Liability Insurance to a limit of £50,000,000.

11 QUALITY CONTROL

- 11.1 Birmingham Archaeology is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists. 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).

Birmingham Archaeology, 20th February 2008



Existing Building
 Area of Watching Brief
 Site Boundary

0 10m