



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BIRMINGHAM

**Medical School Lawns,
University of Birmingham**

**Archaeological Watching
Brief 2002**

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit



Institute of Field
Archaeologists

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
Project No. 1004
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**Medical School Lawns, University of Birmingham
Archaeological Watching Brief 2002**

by
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MEDICAL SCHOOL LAWN, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2002

1.0: SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the cutting of a service trench within Metchley Roman forts (NGR SP044838), Birmingham, within the campus of the University of Birmingham. The work was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, on instruction from the Estate Management Office of the University. The area observed during the watching brief was found to have been disturbed by recent trenches, and during the construction of the adjoining Medical School. No archaeological features or deposits could be identified, and no finds were recovered.

2.0: INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the cutting of a service trench for a new electricity supply within the campus of the University of Birmingham. The work was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit on instruction from the Estate Management Office of the University. The area examined during the watching brief lay within the interior of the northern annexe of Metchley Roman forts (centred on NGR SP 044838; Fig. 1; Jones 2002).

The archaeological watching brief involved cleaning of the sides of a machine-cut trench, and the recording of the identified stratigraphy by a scale profile drawing, on pre-printed pro-formas, and by colour print photography.

The purpose of the watching brief was to identify and record any features associated with the northern fort annexe, or other features of pre-modern date, following a watching brief strategy agreed with the Planning Archaeologist, Birmingham City Council. Other lengths of the same service trench, also subject to a watching brief will be reported-on separately.

3.0: RESULTS (Plates 1-2)

The orange-brown natural gravel (1001) was recorded at a depth of 0.2m below the modern ground surface. Above was a layer of humic dark grey-brown topsoil (1000), which also formed the backfill of earlier service trenches along the western part of the area examined during the watching brief.

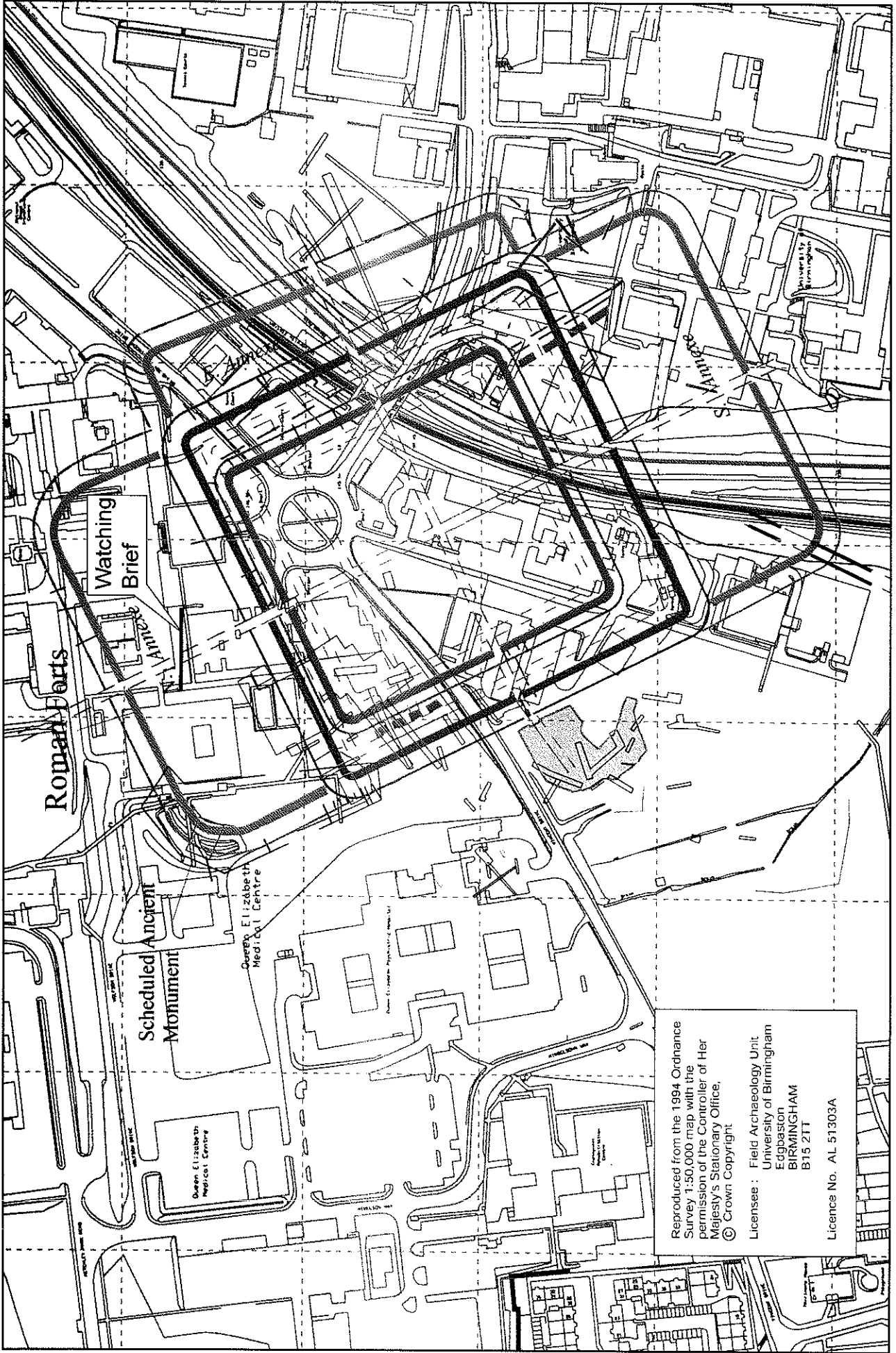
No trace was found of any features, or possible features of archaeological interest, and no finds were collected. In particular, no evidence was found of the roughly north-south aligned road leaving the *Porta Decumana* of the fort, which would have crossed the area examined, possibly because this part of the new service trench was cut through the backfill of an earlier service trench.

4.0: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The watching brief was sponsored by the Estate Management Office of the University of Birmingham, and was undertaken by Alex Jones for BUFAU, with advice from Dr. Michael Hodder, Planning Archaeologist, Birmingham City Council.

5.0: REFERENCE

Jones, A. E. 2002 Roman Birmingham Volume 1, Metchley Roman Forts Excavations 1963-4, 1967-9 and 1997. *Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society*, 105



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Fig.1

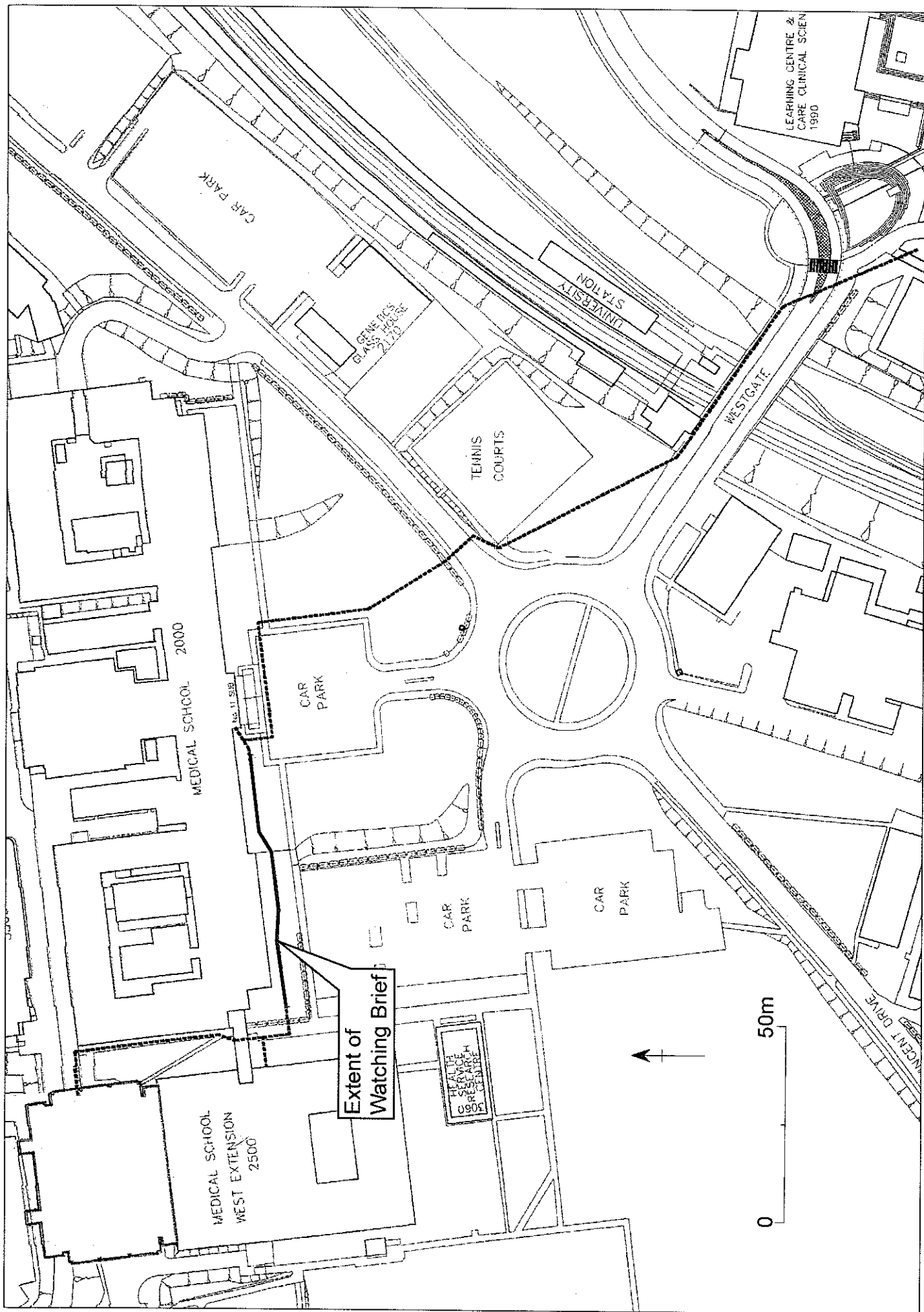


Fig.2

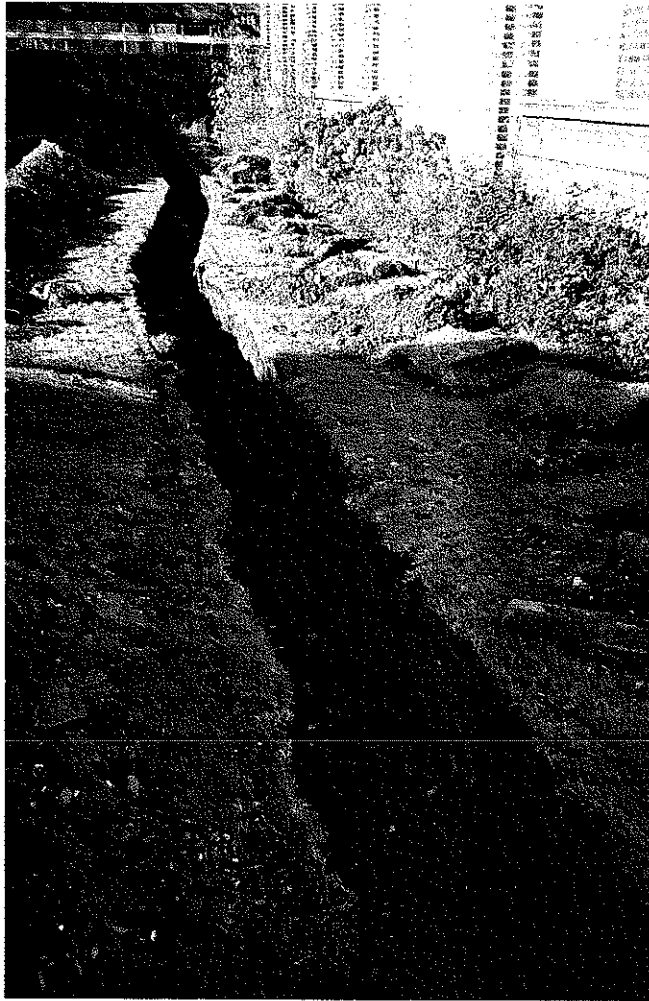


Plate 1

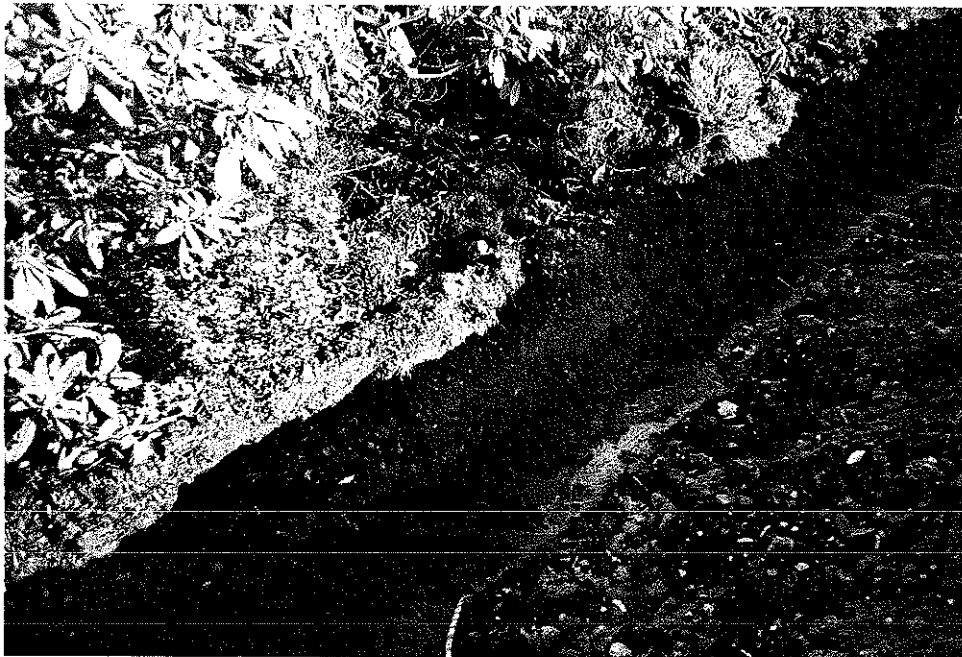


Plate 2