NAA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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FUTURIST THEATRE
SCARBOROUGH

prepared for

Wilmott Dixon Construction Ltd

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FUTURIST THEATRE, SCARBOROUGH
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

FUTURIST THEATRE, SCARBOROUGH
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Summary

This document presents the results of archaeological investigations carried out in advance of the redevelopment of Futurist Theatre, Scarborough (TA 044 886; Fig. 1). The work was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd (NAA) for Wilmott Dixon Construction Ltd between the 22nd and 24th of January 2018.

The evaluation showed that both medieval and post-medieval archaeological deposits are present within the upper tier of the development site, which has recently been used as a public car park adjacent to King Street.

Trench 1 revealed part of a substantial post-medieval bay window cut into natural substrate, fronting onto the beach to the east. Sealing the post-medieval bay window was a layer of demolition rubble, which contained a fragment of 13th to 14th-century Scarborough ware strap handle and fragments of 15th to 17th-century bricks. This was a strong indication that post medieval development in the area had truncated earlier medieval remains.

Trench 2 exposed a series of pits containing animal bone, medieval pottery and charcoal. This represented general domestic and food waste dating to the medieval period. A small section of a flagstone floor, potentially contemporary with the medieval pits, was also recorded within Trench 2. Both the flagstone surface and pits were cut through a pale-yellow clay, which overlaid natural substrate. The medieval remains were truncated by a post-medieval building, which was in turn sealed by a mixed demolition layer and capped by tarmac.

A substantial post-medieval brick built structure was recorded within Trench 3. This structure was encountered less than 0.2m below ground level (BGL). A blocked-up doorway was recorded on the eastern elevation of the building that probably indicated the original floor level, which was cut through natural subsoil at a depth of 2.12m BGL.

The trial trenching was successful in assessing the archaeology present beneath the King Street car park and showed that both medieval and post-medieval remains are present within the top tier of the development. The trenching has also shown that post-medieval structures are cut through natural subsoil layers and there is little chance that medieval archaeology survives underneath the footprint of these structures. However, medieval archaeology may survive in the spaces between the post-medieval buildings.

FUTURIST THEATRE, SCARBOROUGH
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document presents the results of archaeological investigations carried out at Futurist Theatre, Scarborough (Fig. 1). The work was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd (NAA) for Wilmott Dixon Construction Ltd between the 22nd and 24th of January 2018 in accordance with a condition of planning consent (ref 17/01714). A Desk-Based Assessment (YAT 2017a), which was carried out to support the planning application for the development, highlighted the probability for medieval remains on the site and advised that the upper tier of the site, located in the former King Street car park, should be evaluated by the excavation of three trial trenches.

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken to help inform the planning process by determining the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the site and ascertaining the extent (including surviving levels), condition, character and date of any such remains.

1.3 All archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (YAT 2017b), which had been agreed in writing with Scarborough Borough Council and the North Yorkshire Heritage Team. The trial trench evaluation was completed to relevant standards and guidance published by Historic England (2015) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

2.0 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Location

2.1 Futurist Theatre stands on Foreshore Road, at the foot of St Nicholas' Cliff, in Scarborough's South Bay (TA 044 886; Fig. 1). The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the former King Street public car park (Fig. 2), which is situated on the crest of the cliff within the historic core of Scarborough, in the medieval area known as Newborough. The western boundary of the site was close to St Thomas Street, which is where the boundary of the medieval settlement is thought to be.

Geology and soils

2.2 The underlying bedrock is made up of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone; sedimentary deposits formed during the Jurassic period, approximately 165–172 million years ago (British Geological Survey 2018). Overlying the bedrock is Devensian till, the deposits of which would have originally formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period prior to being glacially moved.

Topography and land-use

2.3 The site lay within the boundary of the King Street car park, located off Newborough Road, north-west of the Futurist Theatre. Access was via the main entrance to the car park at the south-western corner of the site.

3.0 SUMMARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been discussed at length in the Desk-Based Assessment (YAT 2017a), and only a brief summary of information relevant to the archaeological investigations is given here.

3.2 The layout of the medieval settlement of Scarborough, built on the headland leading up to the castle, appears to have been similar to the present street layout. It was characterised by a grid pattern layout divided into two areas: Oldborough, the original core of the settlement, located closest to the castle; and Newborough, a later extension to the west. The dividing line between the two boroughs is now known as Friargate. The western boundary of the medieval settlement, with a defensive ditch and possibly a wall, lay close to the present St Thomas Street/ St Nicholas Street. King Street, previously known as Rievaulx Lane, was located within the area of Newborough (Pearson 2001, 85–94).

3.3 There were a number of ecclesiastical establishments within the two boroughs; of these, an 11th-century Carmelite Friary lay approximately 200m to the north of the site of the evaluation (Pearson 2001, 85–94).

Post medieval and modern

3.4 Comparison of historic mapping (National Libraries of Scotland 2018) indicates gradual expansion of the town, associated with its development as a spa, and later the arrival of the railway. The First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1850 depicted a number of buildings on the location of the current car park site, with a series of paths

leading down the cliff. On the OS revision of 1893, there was little change except for a Public House at the foot of the cliff, to the north of the position of the current Futurist Theatre. A prominent building on King Street, within the current evaluation area, was labelled 'hospital'. The map revisions of 1912, 1929 and 1946 showed the development of the Futurist Theatre, but also a gradual reduction in the number of buildings on the car park site.

Archaeological Interventions

3.5 Prior to the current trial trench evaluation there was only one archaeological investigation within the site boundary. In April 2007, MAP archaeology carried out a programme of trial trenching on land at No. 3 King Street prior to construction of a housing development. Two trenches were excavated in total, revealing medieval and post-medieval building remains at a depth of between 0.7m and 1.5m below modern ground level (Stephens and Langford 2007).

4.0 OBJECTIVES

4.1 The principal objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site and to ascertain the extent, condition, character and date of any such remains;
- to provide a detailed record of any archaeological features in advance of their loss through the development;
- to recover and assess any associated artefactual and environmental evidence to help inform understanding of the layout, date, function, phasing, development and economic basis of the site;
- to prepare an illustrated report on the results of the evaluation for submission to Scarborough District Council in order to inform the planning application process and help determine the need, if any, for further archaeological work to mitigate the effects of the proposed development.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

Evaluation

5.1 Three trial trenches were excavated using a back acting JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. A pneumatic breaker was used to remove the modern tarmac and concrete surfaces. The machine removed demolition and levelling deposits down to a level at which significant archaeological deposits were revealed. All subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand.

5.2 Within Trench 1 the pneumatic breaker was used to remove a section of Victorian stonework to establish the depth at which this structure cut through natural subsoil.

5.3 Excavation was generally limited to a maximum depth of 1.5m below the modern ground surface. Initially each 5m by 5m trench was excavated down to 0.75m depth and then stepped in by 1m and excavated down a further 0.75m, creating a 3m by 3m trench in the centre. Where this was not possible, a sondage was excavated parallel to substantial upstanding remains in order to investigate the depth of these structures. In this case, excavation continued until natural subsoil or further archaeological horizons were encountered.

5.4 Where archaeological deposits were encountered, they were cleaned by hand and then photo-planned. Information was transferred to AutoCAD software and reproduced for incorporation within this report. All levels were tied in to Ordnance Datum.

5.5 A representative sample of the different types of archaeological features and deposits encountered was hand-excavated to determine their character, dimensions and preservation and to facilitate recovery of sufficient artefactual and environmental evidence to enable dating and assessment.

5.6 Written descriptions of all archaeological features and deposits were recorded on pro forma sheets using the NAA context recording system.

5.7 A photographic record of the site was taken using monochrome prints. Digital images were also taken using a digital SLR camera at a resolution of 10 megapixels.

5.8 Pottery, animal bone and other categories of artefacts were collected as bulk samples. Finds were appropriately recorded and processed using the NAA system and submitted for post-excavation assessment.

5.9 All recovered finds were appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions. Finds recovery and storage strategies were in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995; Watkinson and Neal 2001).

5.10 A small number of bulk palaeoenvironmental samples were taken from appropriate deposits. These have been retained at NAA and will be processed prior to completion of the archaeological mitigation. Recovery and sampling of environmental remains was carried out in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 2011).

6.0 RESULTS

Trench 1

6.1 Trench 1 was located at the northern end of King Street car park. The earliest archaeology encountered within Trench 1 was the remains of a brick-built post-medieval bay window (Fig. 3), looking out over the bay to the east. This structure consisted of two concentric curving walls approx. 0.5m wide. Between these two walls was a narrow void, which contained a brick-lined drain and cast iron pipe. The foundations of this structure cut through natural subsoils at a depth of 1.2m below modern ground level (BGL). Natural subsoil within this trench consisted of a reddish brown slightly sandy clay.

6.2 A dark soil layer was recorded against the outside face of the bay window, which has been interpreted as a garden soil layer. This is consistent with historical mapping of the area, which shows an open grassy area outside of this building. A small ceramic gaming piece was recovered from this deposit, thought to be part of a Victorian children's game known as 'knucklebones' or 'fivestones'.

6.3 Sealing the Victorian deposits within Trench 1 was a thick layer of general demolition rubble (100), consisting of modern and post-medieval brick and roof tile and a wide range of pottery fragments. The earliest pottery recovered from this deposit was part of a green glazed Scarborough ware strap handle, dating to between the 13th and 14th centuries. Also recovered from demolition deposit 100 were three fragments of brick dateable to between the 15th and 17th centuries. The inclusion of much earlier

medieval and post-medieval artefacts within a demolition layer sealing Victorian structures is a strong indication that earlier medieval deposits have been truncated by later development.

6.4 The latest feature within Trench 1 was a large concrete slab, directly beneath the tarmac, with a number of parallel wall foundations set into the concrete. These are the remains of a 1970s building that stood on the site.

Trench 2

6.5 Trench 2 was located to the south of Trench 1, roughly in the centre of King Street car park. The earliest features encountered within Trench 2 (Fig. 4) were a series of five refuse pits and a stone paved area cut into a pale-yellow clay (**214**), which was recorded 1.73m BGL. Artefacts recovered from the fills of pits **202**, **204** and **209** included green-glazed pottery dating from the 13th to 14th centuries, fragments of animal bone, and a glazed roof tile dating from between the 13th and 16th centuries.

6.6 A small section of stone paving slabs (**215**) was recorded next to pit **202**. The feature consisted of three roughly-dressed slabs laid directly onto pale-yellow clay (**214**). No evidence was recovered to suggest a date for this feature. It was likely that this feature was part of a yard surface associated with the medieval pits, as they were all cut into clay deposit **214**.

6.7 Cutting pits **209**, **210** and **212** was the construction trench for a brick-built structure, probably Victorian in date. Sealing the Victorian structure was a general demolition layer very similar to layer **100** within Trench 1.

Trench 3

6.8 Trench 3 was located at the southern end of the King Street car park, to the south of Trench 2.

6.9 The earliest feature encountered within Trench 3 was the remains of a Victorian brick building (Fig. 5) fronting onto King Street. This building survived to a considerable depth (approximately 1.3m BGL) and was observed cutting into natural subsoil, identical to Trench 1, at a depth of 2.5m BGL.

6.10 Two interior cells could be seen within Trench 3, infilled by brick rubble. It was not possible to excavate these cells due to the instability of the thin interior walls. They

probably represented infilled cellars or interior rooms. A large section of the exterior of the east wall was exposed, which contained a blocked-up doorway with a doorstep at its base, likely indicating the original external ground level. The doorstep was cut into natural subsoil.

6.11 A general demolition layer overlay the building and was in turn sealed by tarmac.

7.0 DISCUSSION

7.1 The archaeology encountered within Trench 2 dates from either the 13th or 14th centuries and probably represents an area where general household debris was disposed, potentially a back yard area. The dates of these features are consistent with the archaeology uncovered by MAP archaeology in 2007 along the northern boundary of the car park, where a wall dating to the 13th century was recorded (Stephens and Langford 2007).

7.2 Trench 1 recorded the footings of a bay window, which was part of a building shown on the OS Second Edition map of 1893 as a hospital. King Street Hospital (also known as King's Cliff Hospital) was founded by Lady Louisa Sitwell in 1883 (Sitwell Society 2018), although the building in which it was housed was constructed prior to 1850. This had been demolished by c.1929.

7.3 The trial trenching has confirmed the presence of medieval remains, which have been heavily truncated by later development of the site. It is considered unlikely that medieval remains survive beneath the foot-prints of the post-medieval buildings, but there is some potential for further medieval features or deposits to survive in between and to the east of the later buildings (Fig. 6).

7.4 Given the degree of previous disturbance, it is considered that archaeological monitoring of groundworks (a watching brief) should be undertaken in order to mitigate these impacts.

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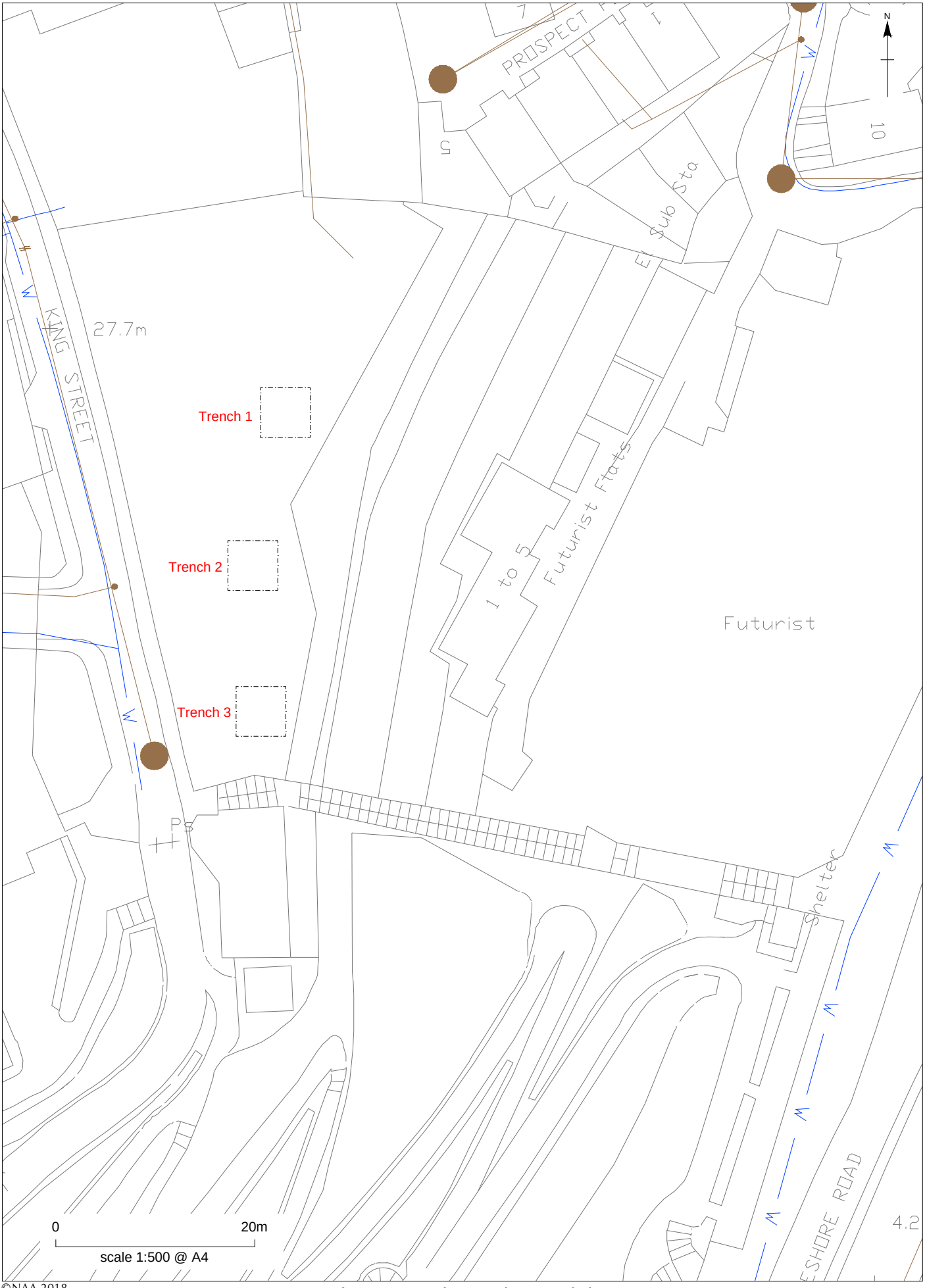
APPENDIX A

CONTEXT CATALOGUE

Context	Trench	Description	Relationships
100	1	Backfill demolition above Victorian structures.	
101	1	Dark garden soil layer outside of building. Probably Victorian.	
102	1	Interior bay window wall.	
103	1	Exterior bay window wall.	
104	1	Material between **102** and **103.**	
105	1	Natural.	
201	2	Fill of **202**.	Fill of **202**
202	2	Cut of pit.	Filled by **201**
203	2	Fill of **204**.	Fill of **204**
204	2	Cut of pit.	Filled by **203**
205	2	Basal fill of pit truncated by Victorian foundations.	Fill of **209**
206	2	Charcoal layer above **205**.	Fill of **209**
207	2	Clay fill above **206**.	Fill of **209**
208	2	Siltier fill above **207**.	Fill of **209**
209	2	Cut of pit.	Filled by **205**, **206**, **207**, **208**
210	2	Cut of pit.	Filled by **211**
211	2	Silty clay fill of **210**.	Fill of **210**
212	2	Cut of pit.	Filled by **213**
213	2	Fill of **212**.	Fill of **212**
214	2	Yellow clay cut by pits and paving slabs.	
215	2	Paving slabs	
300	3	Rubble.	
301	3	Brick building.	
302	3	Blocked door.	
303	3	Doorstep cut into natural.	
304	3	Natural.	

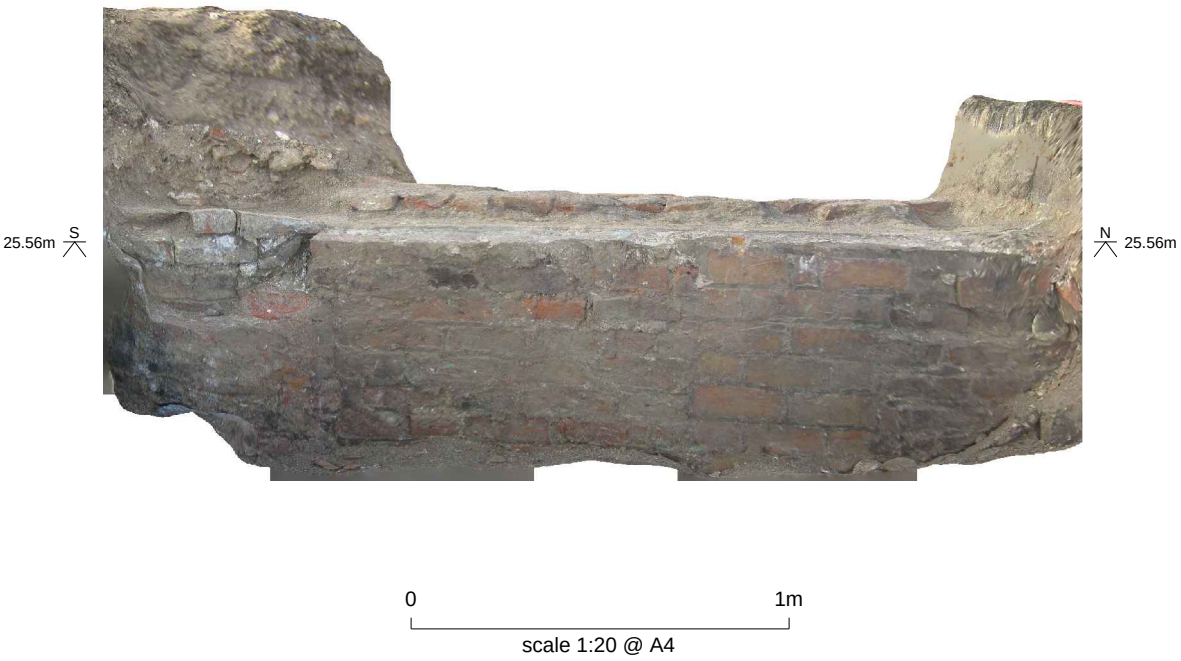
Futurist Theatre, Scarborough: site location *Figure 1*



Futurist Theatre, Scarborough: trench layout *Figure 2*

Trench 1

Trench 1 - inner bay window wall east facing elevation



Trench 2

0 2m

scale 1:50 @ A4

Trench 2 - east facing elevation

0 1m

scale 1:40 @ A4

Futurist Theatre, Scarborough: Trench 2 *Figure 4*

Trench 3

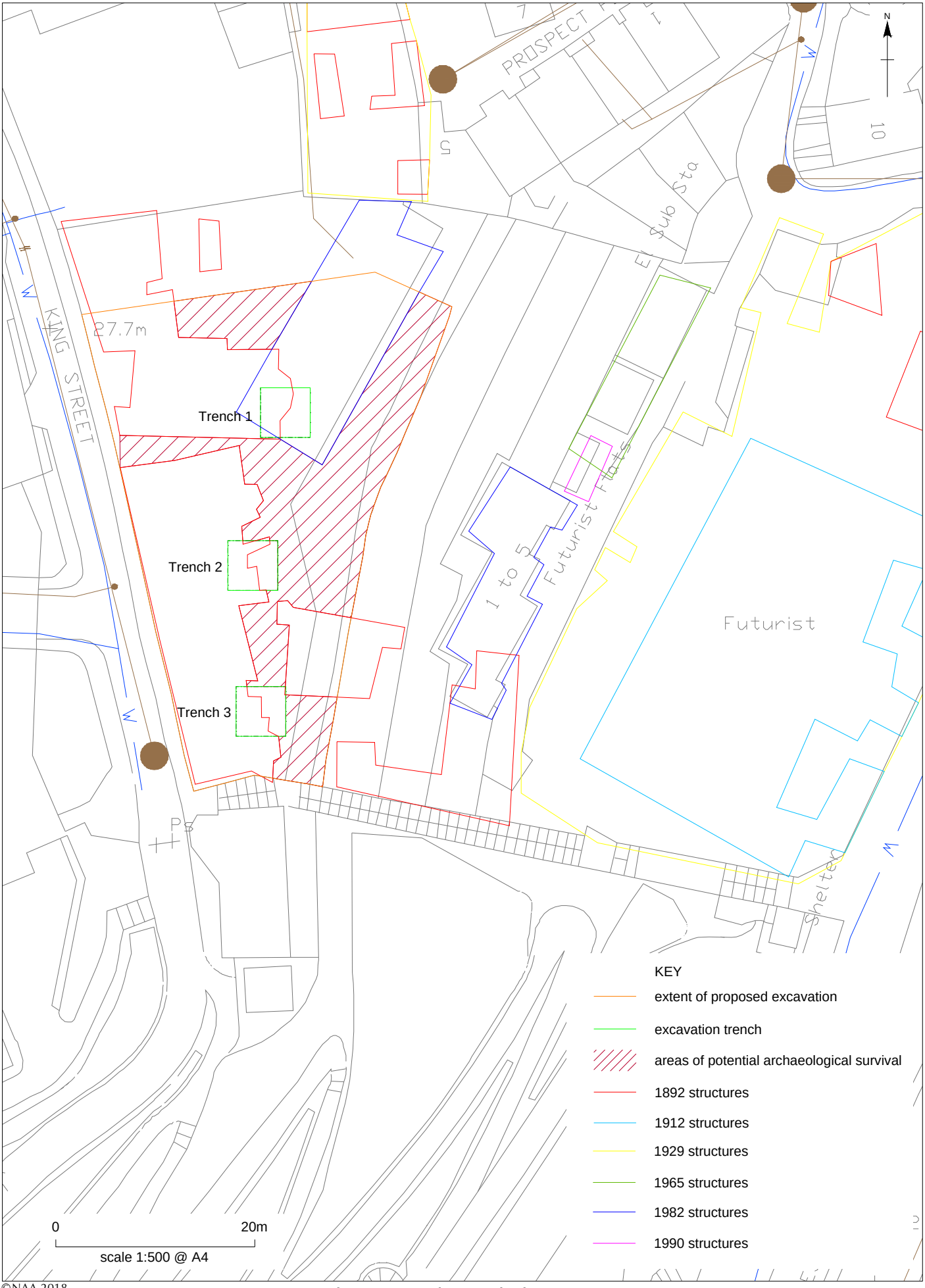
0 2m

scale 1:50 @ A4

Trench 3 - east facing elevation

0 1m

scale 1:40 @ A4



Futurist Theatre, Scarborough: heritage assets *Figure 6*