



# **19 WATER STREET, RIBCHESTER, Lancashire**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief**



**Oxford Archaeology North**

September 2005

**Ms J Nightingale**

Issue No: 2005-6/380

OA North Job No: L9523

NGR: SD 6506 3588

**Document Title:** 19 WATER STREET, RIBCHESTER, LANCASHIRE

**Document Type:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Client Name:** Ms J Nightingale

**Issue Number:** 2005-6/380

**OA Job Number:** L9523

**Site Code:** WS05

**National Grid Reference:** SD 6506 3588

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## SUMMARY

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Following a request by Ms J Nightingale, Oxford Archaeology North undertook an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of wall footings for a conservatory extension to the dwelling at 19 Water Street, Ribchester, Lancashire (SD 6506 3588). The work was undertaken on 3rd May 2005.

The site lies within the garden to the rear of the dwelling, and within the area of the Roman *vicus* - the civilian settlement (designated as Scheduled Monument LSM55), approximately 220m north-east of the Roman fort and 150m to the north of the Roman bathhouse. The site is also located on a main thoroughfare through the village. Therefore, there was high potential for Roman, medieval and post-medieval remains in the vicinity.

The foundation trench was excavated to a width of 0.6m and formed the two external sides of the proposed extension. The overall development area was 8.5m by 0.6m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.75m. The watching brief revealed a stone-built drain, **2**, of possible Roman date, immediately beneath 0.15m - 0.30m of garden soil, **1**. The stone-built drain **2** was constructed from grey sandstone slabs. These slabs were laid to create a flat base, two vertical edges using two and three courses of slabs, and a further course covering the structure to provide a roof. The drain was curved and was aligned roughly east/west, curving to the south at its western end. The roof of the drain had been truncated by a cast iron pipe. The interior of the drain appeared to be in good condition.

The fill of the drain, **3**, was identical to topsoil **1**, and presumably had filled the drain after the truncation from the cast iron pipe had occurred. Undisturbed parts of the drain to the east and west of the trench appeared to be fairly empty.

Roman drains are well-recorded within Ribchester, with a variety of structural designs, including both stone-built and timber-lined (such as drain **736** recorded within the industrial area of the extramural annex of the fort - Buxton and Howard-Davies 2000). The curving alignment of drain **2** may well suggest that it ran parallel with Water Street, and then turned eastwards towards the river. It is unfortunate that later truncation has compromised the environmental evidence, as the function of the drain, either water, domestic or sewage, is not known.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Oxford Archaeology North would like to offer thanks to Ms J Nightingale for commissioning the project, and would also like to thank the whole Nightingale family for their help and interest during the project.

The watching brief was undertaken by Hannah Gajos, who also compiled this report. The finds were examined and reported upon by Chris Howard-Davies. The drawings were produced by Kathryn Blythe and Emma Carter. The project was managed by Stephen Rowland, who also edited the report, together with Alan Lupton.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by Ms J Nightingale to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a development at 19 Water Street, Ribchester, Lancashire (SD 6506 3588). The terraced house on the site lies within an area of high archaeological potential, standing within the area of Ribchester formerly occupied by the *vicus*, the Roman civilian settlement associated with the fort. Together, the fort and *vicus* form a Scheduled Monument (LSM55), within which 19 Water Street lies between the fort itself and the bathhouse to the east. Previous archaeological investigations in the area have revealed extensive and well-preserved Roman remains (Buxton and Howard-Davies 2000).
- 1.1.2 Consequently, the potential for archaeological remains was high, and Lancaster County Archaeology Service (LCAS) requested that a watching brief be undertaken during the excavation of foundations trenches for the wall footings of a conservatory extension to the existing building. The development site, to the rear of the property, comprised an area measuring 8.5m by 0.6m (Fig 3). This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document which outlines the findings.

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 In accordance with a verbal brief from the Development Control Officer for Lancashire County Council, a project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by OA North in response to a request by Ms J Nightingale for an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundation trenches for a conservatory extension at 19 Water Street, Ribchester. Following acceptance of the project design, OA North was commissioned to carry out the work, which was undertaken on 3rd May 2005. The project design was adhered to in full. All archaeological work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

### 2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 The area of concern covered the footings for the conservatory extension wall, which consisted of a linear trench measuring 8.5m x 0.6m, forming the two external sides of the proposed extension the east of the house. Soil was removed by hand to a maximum depth of 0.75m, under constant archaeological supervision. All archaeological deposits were examined to a sufficient degree to recover evidence of date, condition, origin and function of relevant deposits.
- 2.2.2 The recording methods employed by OA North accord with those recommended by English Heritage's Centre for Archaeology. The recording comprised a full description and preliminary classification of the features and materials revealed on OA North *pro-forma* sheets. A plan was produced showing the location of all the trenches and features, with representative sections being drawn at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was maintained, using monochrome, colour slide and digital formats.
- 2.2.3 All artefacts were recorded using the same system as the contextual information and, following current Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidelines, were handled and stored according to standard practice. Although during the course of the watching brief a feature was revealed that would normally require environmental sampling, as indicated in the project design, apparent contamination of the relevant deposits negated the potential for environmental analysis and, consequently, no samples were taken.

### 2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 The results of the fieldwork will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991*) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository

is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct.

- 2.3.2 Ms Nightingale has requested that she be responsible for all finds from the watching brief and, accordingly, all finds will be entrusted to her care. The remainder of the archive for the archaeological work undertaken at the site will be deposited with Ribchester Roman Museum, which is the nearest museum which meets Museums' and Galleries' Commission criteria for the long term storage of archaeological material (MGC 1992).
- 2.3.3 A synthesis (in the form of the index to the archive and a copy of the publication report) will be deposited with the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record. A copy of the index to the archive will also be available for deposition in the National Archaeological Record in London.



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### 3. BACKGROUND

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#### 3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 Water Street is located on the northern bank of the river Ribble (NGR SD 6506 3588). It is at the southern edge of the village of Ribchester in central Lancashire (Fig 1), roughly mid-way between the central Pennine uplands and the Irish Sea.
- 3.1.2 The solid geology around Ribchester is dominated by Sabden shales of the Millstone Grit Group masked by thick (up to 50m to bedrock) boulder clay deposits (Aitkenhead *et al* 1992). Ribchester town and the fort are thought to stand on deposits of a second terrace of the Ribble (*ibid*) which rises to *c* 3-4m above the floodplain. This terrace formation is being actively eroded with about one third of the area of the fort lost to fluvial processes to date. Soils of the second terrace comprise 0.6m-0.8m of unmottled sandy loams overlying slightly mottled sandy clay loams (Countryside Commission 1998).

#### 3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Prehistoric period:** little is known of prehistoric Ribchester, although Early Bronze Age activity was recorded by Olivier and Turner (1987) who excavated a circular ditch enclosing an arc of five cremation burials in collared urns, located *c*200m to the west of the current development site. Soil analysis has indicated some agricultural disturbance on the banks of the Ribble during the Bronze Age, but also implied that the site had been abandoned some hundreds of years before the arrival of the Romans (Buxton and Howard Davis 2000). The nearby hillfort of Portfield Camp, near Blackburn, appears to have been established during the Late Bronze Age, continuing in use throughout the Iron Age, and possibly re-fortified at the time of the Roman invasion (Beswick and Cooks 1986).
- 3.2.2 Although there is increasing evidence for Iron Age activity in the south of the county (Nevell 1999), only very occasional finds of Iron Age date have been made in central or northern Lancashire. Indeed, the county is noted for this as yet little discussed, or fully explained, anomaly (Haselgrove 1996).
- 3.2.3 **Roman period:** the presence of extensive Roman remains at Ribchester is well-known and its identification as the Roman town of *Bremetenacum* is secure, based on the discovery within the town of a third century dedication to Apollo Maponus (RIB 583) from the town (Rivet and Smith 1981, 277). The strategic importance of the site of Ribchester was recognised by the Romans: it lay at the confluence of several important communication routes, including that running between Carlisle, via the Lune/Eden corridor in the north and Chester and Manchester to the south (Margary 1973, 370) as well as that along one of the few major trans-Pennine routes. This east/west route connected Ribchester with the industrial site at Walton-le-Dale and the fort at Dowbridge, Kirkham (Buxton and Howard-Davis 2000) to the west, before running eastwards to the fort at Elslack and then on to Aldborough and York.

The town's position on the Ribble is close both to a crossing point, but also marks the limit of navigability.

- 3.2.4 Recent excavations suggest that during the early AD70s, under the governorship of Petilius Cerialis, a wooden fort had been built on the site. It was modified *c* AD 82-86, replaced in stone some time between AD 125-135, and potentially occupied up to, and beyond, the end of Roman authority in AD 410. As the frontier moved north during the first and second centuries AD, the fort would have dominated the hinterland between the settled and "Romanised" region around Chester and "the Wall" frontier (*ibid*). The fort and settlement at Ribchester lay within the western territory of the occasionally rebellious native British Brigantes and, therefore, the garrison must have fulfilled something of a policing function.
- 3.2.5 Roman occupation of Ribchester is known to have continued into the third century AD. The identity of the Ribchester garrisons is uncertain for the first two centuries AD, although the VI Legion and the XX Legion are attested epigraphically (*ibid*), as is the *Ala Secundae Asturum*, a Spanish cavalry unit ([www.roman-britain.org/places/bremetenacum.htm](http://www.roman-britain.org/places/bremetenacum.htm)). Later, the fort was garrisoned by several units of Sarmation auxiliary cavalry (descendants of nomadic steppe warriors who had settled in what is now modern Hungary), including the *numerus equitatum Sarmatorum Bremmetennacensium*, recorded from a stamped tile and, later, the *Cuneus Sarmatorum Bremetenraco*, recorded in the Notitia Dignitatum at the turn of the fifth century (*ibid*). These soldiers are thought to have been settled at or around the fort after discharge as veterans; hence the name of the settlement, *Bremetenacum Veteranorum* (Buxton and Howard-Davis 2000).
- 3.2.6 Both the fort and the settlement, which have been well-known from the sixteenth century onwards (Edwards 2000), lie largely beneath the extant church and glebe lands of St Wilfrid. Extra-mural settlement has been proven as far as 500m to the north of the fort, and evidence from other parts of the town indicate that it is unwise to assume any area in the vicinity of the fort, even if partially damaged, has little or no archaeological value (Buxton and Howard Davis 2000).
- 3.2.7 Since the mid-sixteenth century, antiquarian writers have commented on the richness of the site and there have been numerous chance finds from the town, including the well known Ribchester Helmet, a second century cavalry parade helmet, now in the British Museum. In the last two centuries, numerous excavators have investigated both the fort and the extramural settlement, establishing the existence of a long, detailed, and well-preserved archaeological sequence, which spans the entire period of the Roman occupation. Unfortunately, a great deal of information from the earlier work has been lost. These smaller excavations have been most coherently summarised by Edwards and Webster (1985; 1987a; 1987b; 1988) in their consideration of the township during the Roman occupation. The majority of the excavations undertaken in Ribchester in recent years have, however, been in response to threats to archaeology from actual development, and have therefore been concentrated to the north and east of the fort. These excavations have been summarised recently in Buxton and Howard-Davis (2000).

- 3.2.8 **Medieval period:** the circumstances of Ribchester in the early post-Roman period are uncertain. Whitaker suggested that the town was abandoned, and then later inhabited by '*... a few Saxon settlers of uncertain period*' (1823), and certainly a number of items recorded by antiquarians as coming from Ribchester, along with a small collection of objects in the Museum, suggest that there was post-Roman occupation. Complete abandonment of the town following the withdrawal of Roman administration from Britain would appear increasingly unlikely and a growing body of evidence from sites such as Birdoswald on Hadrian's Wall (Wilmott 1997) provides examples of possible continuity of occupation from the Roman to the early medieval period.
- 3.2.9 Such continuity may be inferred from the building of the church of St Wilfrid situated within the walls of the fort, reputedly built in *c* AD 596 (Baines 1870, 2), and a church certainly stood on the site before the Domesday Survey (Farrer and Brownbill 1912). Ribchester is listed in the Domesday Survey as *Ribelcastre* (Hinde 1985, 154). It was possibly uninhabited wasteland at that time, as the settlement may well have undergone 'sweeping desolation' as a result of the rebellions of 1069-70 and William's subsequent harrying of the north (*ibid*). A similar fate appears to have befallen the community again around 1320 'by the great incursion of the Scots' (Whitaker 1823).
- 3.2.10 **The post-Medieval period:** It seems unlikely that there was much significant change in the layout or status of Ribchester until the Industrial Revolution. Several textile mills were built on the outskirts of the settlement, which affected both the layout and economic focus of the town. Corry (1825) notes that in 1821 Ribchester had 300 houses, 303 families, and was inhabited by 1760 persons, suggesting a thriving community capable of sustaining a textile industry.

## 4. FIELDWORK RESULTS

### 4.1 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The foundation trench was excavated to a width of 0.6m and formed the two external sides of the proposed extension (Fig 3). The overall development area measured 8.5m by 0.6m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.75m.
- 4.1.2 The deposits within the garden consisted of a dark greyish-brown silty-clay garden soil **1**. This overlay a stone-built drain, **2**, which was constructed from grey sandstone slabs. These slabs were laid to create a flat base, with two and three courses of slabs used to form the drain and a further course covering the structure to provide a roof (Fig 5; Plates 1 and 2). The drain was curved and was aligned roughly east/west, curving to the south at its western end. The roof of the drain had been truncated by a cast iron pipe aligned north-west/south-east, which had resulted in the top of the structure being severely disturbed within the watching brief trench (Plate 3). However, the two sections revealed in the sections of the trench showed the drain to be in better condition to the east and west of the trench (Plates 4 and 5). The interior of the drain also appeared to be in good condition (Plate 6).
- 4.1.3 The fill of the drain, **3**, was identical to topsoil **1**, consisting of a dark greyish-brown silty-clay, and presumably had filled the drain after the truncation from the cast iron pipe had occurred. This theory is further reinforced by the fact that undisturbed parts of the drain to the east and west of the trench appear to be fairly empty (Plate 6).
- 4.1.4 The area to the north of the trench had been truncated by two modern drainage pipes, which truncated garden soil **1**, but did not appear to have truncated further archaeological remains. The foundation depth was reached before natural soil was revealed.

### 4.2 FINDS

- 4.2.1 **Introduction:** in total, 139 fragments of artefacts and ecofacts were recovered during the watching brief, comprising animal bone, copper alloy, glass, iron, and pottery. The finds were retrieved from contexts **1** and **3**. The types of finds found are summarised by context, below in Table 1. A full catalogue is also presented in *Appendix 2*.

	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Total</b>
Animal bone	4	6	10
Copper alloy	1	0	1
Glass	1	0	1
Iron	1	0	1
Pottery	101	13	114
Other	11	1	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>139</b>

Table 1: find-type by context

- 4.2.2 The majority of the datable artefacts are late in date, falling, in the main, into the period from the end of the eighteenth century to the present day. There is a

small group of marginally earlier pottery, probably dating from the last quarter of the seventeenth century. The Roman and medieval period are represented by single sherds.

- 4.2.3 **Pottery:** the Romano-British pottery fragment is small and highly abraded. It is probably an example of Black Burnished Ware category 1, but soil conditions have damaged the distinctive burnished surface. The rim form suggests a mid-to late second century date. The single small fragment of medieval green-glazed ware is from a jug or cistern handle in a very sandy reduced fabric. The medieval pottery sequence for this part of Lancashire is not well-known, but the nature of the fabric suggests a fourteenth to sixteenth century date range.
- 4.2.4 The small group of seventeenth century material suggests a domestic context, with the slip-trailed cup and early stoneware suggesting a fairly comfortably-off household. It must, however, be stressed that it is a very small group, and interpretation remains tentative. The later material is also domestic, being a mix of storage vessels and fine tablewares, perhaps deriving from domestic middens in the close vicinity.
- 4.2.5 **Other finds:** a single copper alloy button was recovered, and was probably contemporary with the bulk of the pottery. The iron nail cannot be dated: hand-forged nails have a long life, and could date from anywhere between the Roman period and the present day. A small amount of animal bone was also recovered and was clearly butchered. The presence of distinctive butchery marks, for instance ribs were sawn across, would suggest that the bone is most likely to derive, like the bulk of the pottery, from late midden deposits. Some burnt shale and unworked stone was also recovered, but is of no significance to the understanding of the site.
- 4.2.6 **Discussion:** the presence of single sherds of Roman and medieval pottery is not unexpected within the context of the archaeological development of Ribchester, comprising little more than background noise. The remainder of the material reflects the later development of the town and whilst of interest, is not of particular archaeological significance.

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## 5. DISCUSSION

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### 5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The watching brief carried out during the excavation revealed a well-constructed drain, which had been sealed by a garden soil, containing a high proportion of nineteenth century pottery, but which may have started to accumulate in the seventeenth century. The absence of a primary fill within the drain, along with the fact that the construction cut for this feature was not encountered, means that there was no opportunity for the recovery of any associated dating evidence.
- 5.1.2 Drains are well-recorded within Roman Ribchester, with a variety of structural designs, including both timber-lined and stone-built. A timber-lined drain (Feature 736) was recorded as part of Building 722, within the extramural annex of the fort, and draining into the main drainage ditch of the settlement. This drain carried water, domestic waste and sewage waste (Buxton and Howard-Davies 2000, 110). A covered stone-built drain was also recorded within the industrial area to the east of the fort, which ran alongside an industrial building. This drain appeared to be used to alleviate the pressure on the main ditch, and carried only water. It was thought that this drain may have been used to carry water away from a garden area (*ibid*, 407).
- 5.1.3 Drain 2 appears to be a similar drain to that recorded within the industrial area. Its curving alignment may well suggest that it ran parallel with Water Street, and then turned eastwards towards the river. It is unfortunate that the truncation which has occurred on site had compromised the environmental evidence, as the function of the drain, either water, domestic or sewage, is not known.
- 5.1.4 The majority of finds recovered from the site come from garden soil I, and date to the post-medieval period, although one sherd of Roman pottery and one sherd of medieval pottery were also recovered from this context. It is possible that garden soil I began to accumulate from the seventeenth century onwards, and the correlation between increasing pottery concentration and date may suggest that the immediate area was becoming increasingly developed. Due to the disturbance on site, it is not possible to ascertain whether the drain remained in use until this period. If it is assumed that the drain is Roman, the rather limited amount of material from either the Roman or medieval periods could relate to one of several factors: either that there was little activity contemporary with these periods within the immediate area (in which case, building a substantial stone drain seems unlikely) or, that any deposits had been truncated following the construction of the post-medieval buildings along Water Street. It is possible, however, that the drain, which lies perpendicular to the axis of Water Street, was installed to serve either a former building, or the extant structure, on the site.
- 5.1.5 If the drain is of Roman date (and unfortunately, there is no conclusive evidence to suggest that it is), the archaeology revealed during the watching brief is significant in that it appears to parallel discoveries made in earlier excavations.

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## APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Ms J Nightingale (henceforth, the Client) has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit costs and a project design for the undertaking of a watching brief during groundworks ahead of the construction of a conservatory at 19 Water Street, Ribchester, Lancashire NGR SD 6506 3588. The site lies within the area designated as a Scheduled Monument (LSM 55) about 220m north-east of the Roman fort and approximately 150m north of the Roman public bath house.
- 1.1.2 There is limited evidence for prehistoric activity in Ribchester, but this does include a small Bronze age cremation cemetery which lay around 200m to the west of the proposed development and comprised five collared urns arranged in an arc and surrounded by a circular ditch. During the Iron Age, Ribchester lay within the territory of the Brigantes, whose tribal seat, at least by the time of the Roman conquest, was the oppidum at Stanwick, North Yorkshire. The strategic importance of the site of Ribchester was recognised by the Romans: it lay at the confluence of several important communication routes, including that running between Carlisle in the north and Chester and Manchester to the south as well as that along one of the few major trans-Pennine routes, running eastwards to York from the fort at Kirkham in the west. Its position on the Ribble is close both to a crossing point, but also marks the limit of navigability. During the early AD70s, under the governorship of Petilius Cerealis, a wooden fort had been built on the site, replaced in stone some time between AD 125-135, and potentially occupied up to, and beyond, the end of Roman authority in AD 410. Epigraphic evidence indicates that this installation, named *Bremetanacum*, was garrisoned by elements of the II, VI and XX legions until their replacement in the early third century AD by several units of Sarmation auxiliary cavalry (descendants of nomadic steppe warriors who had settled in parts of modern Hungary), including the *numerus equitum Sarmatarum Bremmetennacensium* recorded from a stamped tile, and later, the *cuneus Sarmatarum, Brementenraco*, recorded in the *Notitia Dignitatum*. Upon retirement, these soldiers were granted land outside of the fort, founding the extramural settlement of *Bremetannacum Veteranorum*, the limits of which extend up to 500m north of the fort. The church of St Wilfrid, constructed within the site of the fort in c596, is mentioned in the Domesday Book, but the medieval village is likely to have been far smaller and less significant than its Roman predecessor, suffering at the hands of the Normans during their Harrying of the North and at the hands of Scots invaders during the fourteenth century.
- 1.1.3 Numerous archaeological investigations in Ribchester have uncovered extensive and deeply stratified deposits of Roman material, revealing evidence of the fort, the civilian settlement and of public and military buildings such as the two bath houses. A number of these excavations have uncovered the waterlogged remains of organic materials such as leather, and environmental remains, such as plants and insects that can provide vital information about the daily lives of Ribchester's past inhabitants.

#### 1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has considerable experience of undertaking watching briefs of all periods, having conducted a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 25 years. Fieldwork has taken place within the planning process and construction programmes, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.2.2 OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) **registered organisation, registration number 17**, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed in accordance with the Lancaster Council Archaeology Service LCAS document entitled *General Conditions for Appropriate Archaeological Contractors in Lancashire*.
- 2.2 **Watching Brief:** a formal archaeological watching brief will be maintained in order to determine the presence, date and state of preservation of previously unknown archaeology.
- 2.3 **Report and Archive:** a report will be produced for the Client within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. The report will aim to summarise the results of the watching brief within the context of existing knowledge about the site and its surroundings. These results will provide the basis for any recommendations for further work, should this prove appropriate. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

## 3. WORK PROGRAMME

- 3.1 In line with the objectives and stages of the archaeological works stated above, the following work programme is submitted:
- 3.2 **Watching Brief:** to be maintained during any ground disturbing activities relating to the construction of the conservatory, such as, for example, the excavation of foundations.
- 3.3 **Report and Archive:** production of a suitably illustrated report and properly ordered archive.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 WATCHING BRIEF

- 4.1.1 A programme of field observation will accurately and systematically examine and record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features, horizons and/or deposits revealed during the course of ground disturbance, along with any artefacts, identified during observation.
- 4.1.2 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid co-ordinates where appropriate). Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large-scale plan. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 4.1.3 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more dimensioned sections will be produced, regardless of the presence of archaeology.
- 4.1.4 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified during groundworks, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels, depending on the subsoil conditions and, where appropriate, sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated (ie. selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal).
- 4.1.5 It is assumed that OA North will have the authority to stop the works for a sufficient time period to enable the recording of important deposits. It may also be necessary to call in additional archaeological support if a find of particular importance is identified or a high density of archaeology is discovered, but this would only be called into effect in agreement with the Client and LCAS and will require a variation to costing.
- 4.1.6 **Human Remains:** any human remains uncovered will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial. LCAS and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential, the

exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Home Office license, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. An application will be made by OA North for the study area on discovery of any such remains and the removal will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations, and if appropriate, in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981.

- 4.1.7 **Recording:** all information identified in the course of the watching brief works will be recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs or contact prints) to identify and illustrate individual features as well as the nature of the demolition work. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.
- 4.1.8 Results of the field investigation will be recorded using a paper system, adapted from that used by the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. The archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large-scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20, and 1:10). Levels will be tied into the Ordnance Datum. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.
- 4.1.9 **Treatment of finds:** all finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines.
- 4.1.10 **Treasure:** any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.
- 4.1.11 All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained on advice from the recipient museum's archive curator.
- 4.1.12 **Contingency plan:** in the event of significant archaeological features or human remains being encountered during the watching brief, discussions will take place with the Planning Archaeologist, as to the extent of further works to be carried out, and in agreement with the Client. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design.

## 5. REPORT

- 5.1 The results of the data gathered in *Section 4.1* above, will be collated and submitted in report format, illustrated with the relevant photographs and drawings. Where appropriate, the report will attempt to relate any findings to the known history and archaeology of the site, and to its local setting.
- 5.2 One bound and one unbound copy of the report will be submitted to the Client, and others in digital format will be submitted to the County Archaeologist and to the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record together with an archive CD-ROM. Any subsequent work arising from this survey will be subject to separate consideration in liaison with LCAS and the Client.
- 5.3 The final report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above, and will include details of the final deposition of the project archive.
- 5.4 A brief summary of the fieldwork will be prepared and submitted to the Council for British Archaeology North West *Archaeology North West* within 12 months of the completion of the project.

## 6. ARCHIVE

- 6.1 The results of the photographic survey and watching brief will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. It will include

summary processing and analysis of any features and finds recovered during fieldwork, in accordance with UKIC guidelines. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository, is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA, and arrangement to this effect will be made with the museum curator prior to the commencement of the project.

- 6.2 All finds will be treated in accordance with OA North standard practice, which follows current IFA guidelines.

## 7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 7.1 OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.
- 7.2 The client would be asked to determine the nature of any utility services to the properties and site prior to any fieldwork being carried out.
- 7.3 OA North has professional indemnity to a value of £2,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £10,000,000 and public liability to a value of £15,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

## 8. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 8.1 The final report is designed as a document for the specific use of the Client, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.
- 8.2 Any proposed variations to the project design will be agreed with LCAS in co-ordination with the Client. OA North will arrange a preliminary meeting, if required, and LCAS will be informed of the commencement of the project in writing.

## 9. WORK PROGRAMME

- 9.1 The following programme is proposed:
- 9.2 **Watching Brief:** the duration of the watching brief will be dependent upon the progress of the contractor.
- 9.3 **Archive/Report:** the report and archive will be produced following the completion of all the fieldwork. The final report will be submitted within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork and the archive deposited within six months. If desired, an interim statement could be produced within ten days of completion of the fieldwork.

## 10. STAFFING

- 10.1 The project will be managed by **Stephen Rowland BSc, MSc** (Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 10.2 The watching brief will be undertaken by an OA North supervisor, suitably experienced in fieldwork techniques. Present timetabling constraints preclude detailing at this stage exactly who will be undertaking this element of the project.
- 10.3 The archaeological work will be monitored by LCAS, which will be arranged accordingly.

## 11. REFERENCES

Buxton, K and Howard-Davis, C, 2000, *Bremetenacum: Excavations at Roman Ribchester 1980, 1989-1990*, Lancaster University Archaeological Unit

English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edn, London

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC), 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of archives for long-term storage*, London

## APPENDIX 2: FINDS CATALOGUE

Cxt	OR	Material	Category	No	Description	Date
<i>1</i>	<i>6</i>	Bone	Animal	4	Small butchered fragments	Not closely dated
<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	Ceramic	Tobacco	1	Stem	Eighteenth century on
<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	Ceramic	Building material	1	Small fragment.	Not closely dated
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment black-glazed redware, white internal slip.	Late eighteenth/nineteenth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	13	Body fragment black-glazed redware, storage vessels.	Late eighteenth/nineteenth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment black-glazed redware chamber pot.	Late eighteenth century?
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	2	Body fragment press-moulded, slip decorated dish.	Late eighteenth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Handle fragment. Reduced green-glazed ware.	Fourteenth/sixteenth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment early mottled stoneware.	Seventeenth/eighteenth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment hollow ware, yellow ground, slip decorated and jewelled cup rim.	Late seventeenth century?
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment mottled ware, red fabric.	Late eighteenth/nineteenth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	8	Body fragments blue and white underglaze transfer-printed white wares.	Late eighteenth/nineteenth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment Body fragment lustre ware.	Nineteenth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment white salt-glazed stoneware.	Late eighteenth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Rim fragment. Black Burnished ware Category 1. Very abraded	Second century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment ?creamware with blue-painted feather edge.	Late eighteenth/nineteenth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment, striped but otherwise not identified.	
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	21	Body fragments black-glazed redware.	Late eighteenth/nineteenth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	2	Body fragment black-glazed cream fabric dish.	Late eighteenth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment with brown slip and applied moulded decoration.	Nineteenth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment early stoneware.	Eighteenth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment coarse pink fabric, self-glaze.	Nineteenth/twentieth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	2	Body fragments garden	Nineteenth/twentieth

					ware.	century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	3	Body fragments fine yellow fabric, self glaze.	Nineteenth/twentieth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	2	Body fragments white porcelain.	Nineteenth/twentieth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment greenish stoneware.	Nineteenth/twentieth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	32	Body fragments whiteware (mixed).	Nineteenth/twentieth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment agate ware.	Eighteenth century
<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	Cu alloy	Button	1	Flat round button with loop to rear.	Nineteenth/twentieth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Glass	Vessel	1	Body fragment Pyrex or similar.	Twentieth century
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	Iron	Nail	1	Nail	Not closely dated
<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	Plaster?		5	Small fragments of white-painted plaster	Nineteenth/twentieth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Plaster?		1	Small fragment of white-painted plaster	Nineteenth/twentieth century
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Stone		1	Natural stone	
<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	Stone		2	Burnt shale	
<i>3</i>	<i>7</i>	Bone	Animal	6	Small butchered fragments	Not closely dated
<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment black and white-painted porcelain.	Nineteenth/twentieth century
<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment black-glazed redware.	Late eighteenth/nineteenth century
<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment blue and white-painted porcelain.	Nineteenth/twentieth century
<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment creamware.	Late eighteenth/nineteenth century
<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment ?creamware with green-painted feather edge.	Late eighteenth/nineteenth century
<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment late brown stoneware.	Nineteenth/twentieth century
<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment early mottled stoneware.	Seventeenth century
<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Fragment of unpainted white figure.	Nineteenth/twentieth century
<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment garden ware.	Nineteenth/twentieth century
<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	2	Body fragment self-glazed redware.	Late eighteenth/nineteenth century
<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment whiteware.	Nineteenth/twentieth century
<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment mottled ware, red fabric.	Late eighteenth/nineteenth century
<i>3</i>	<i>7</i>	Ceramic	Tobacco	1	Bowl fragment, stamped.	Eighteenth century?

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## 7. ILLUSTRATIONS

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Plate 6: Interior of the east of drain 2







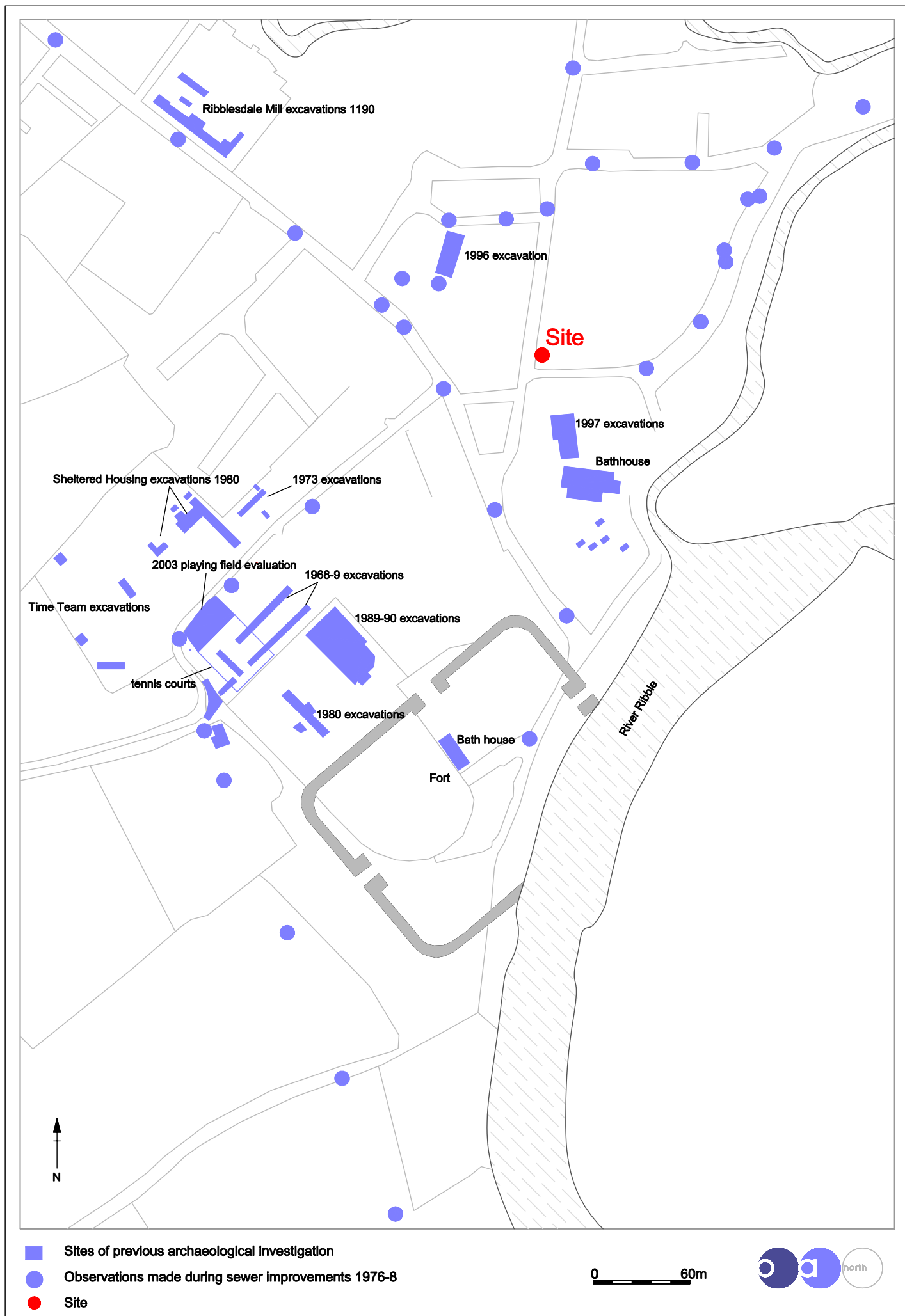


Figure 2: Detailed location plan of site and previous excavations relative to the Roman fort

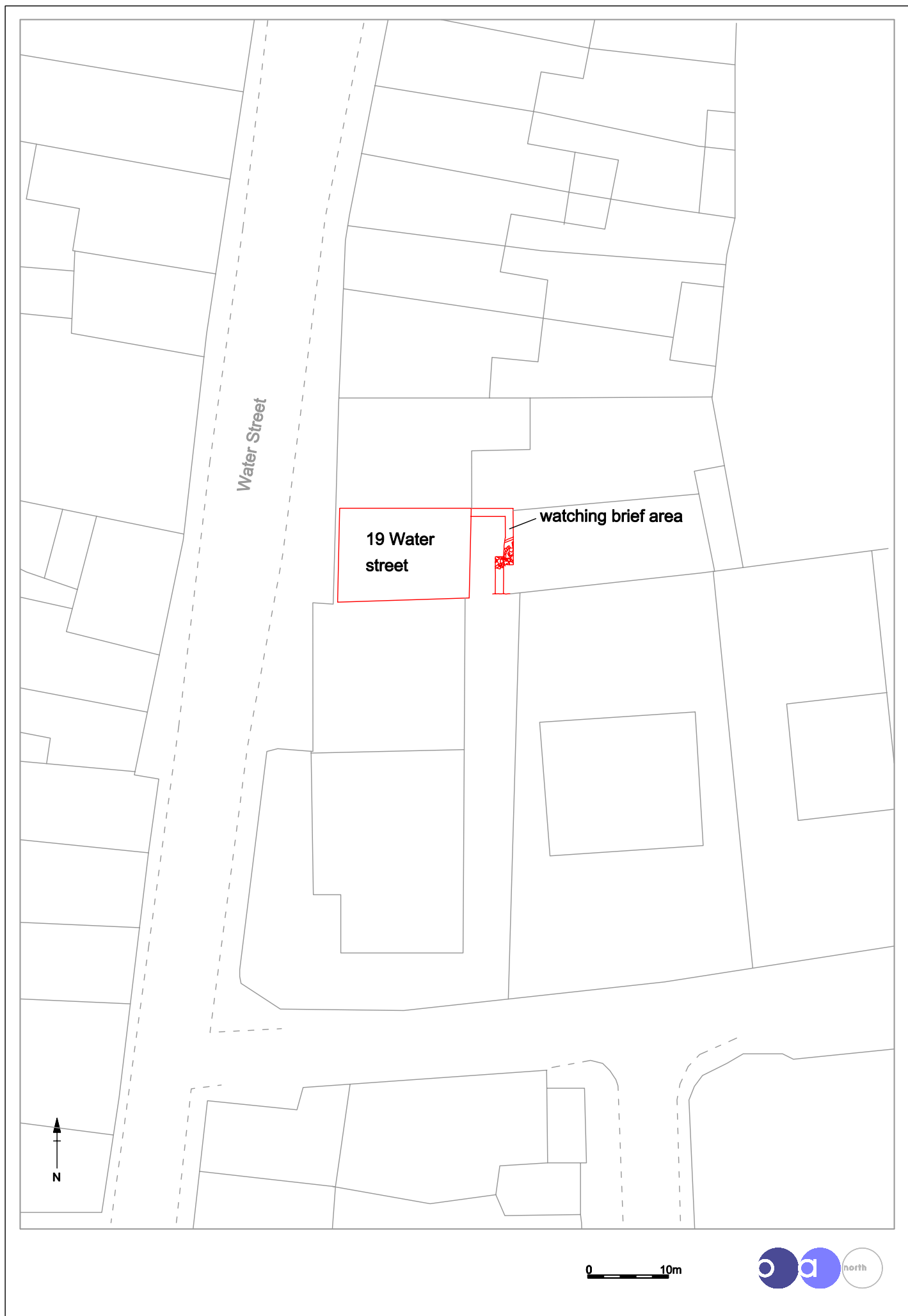


Figure 3: Detailed location plan of watching brief area

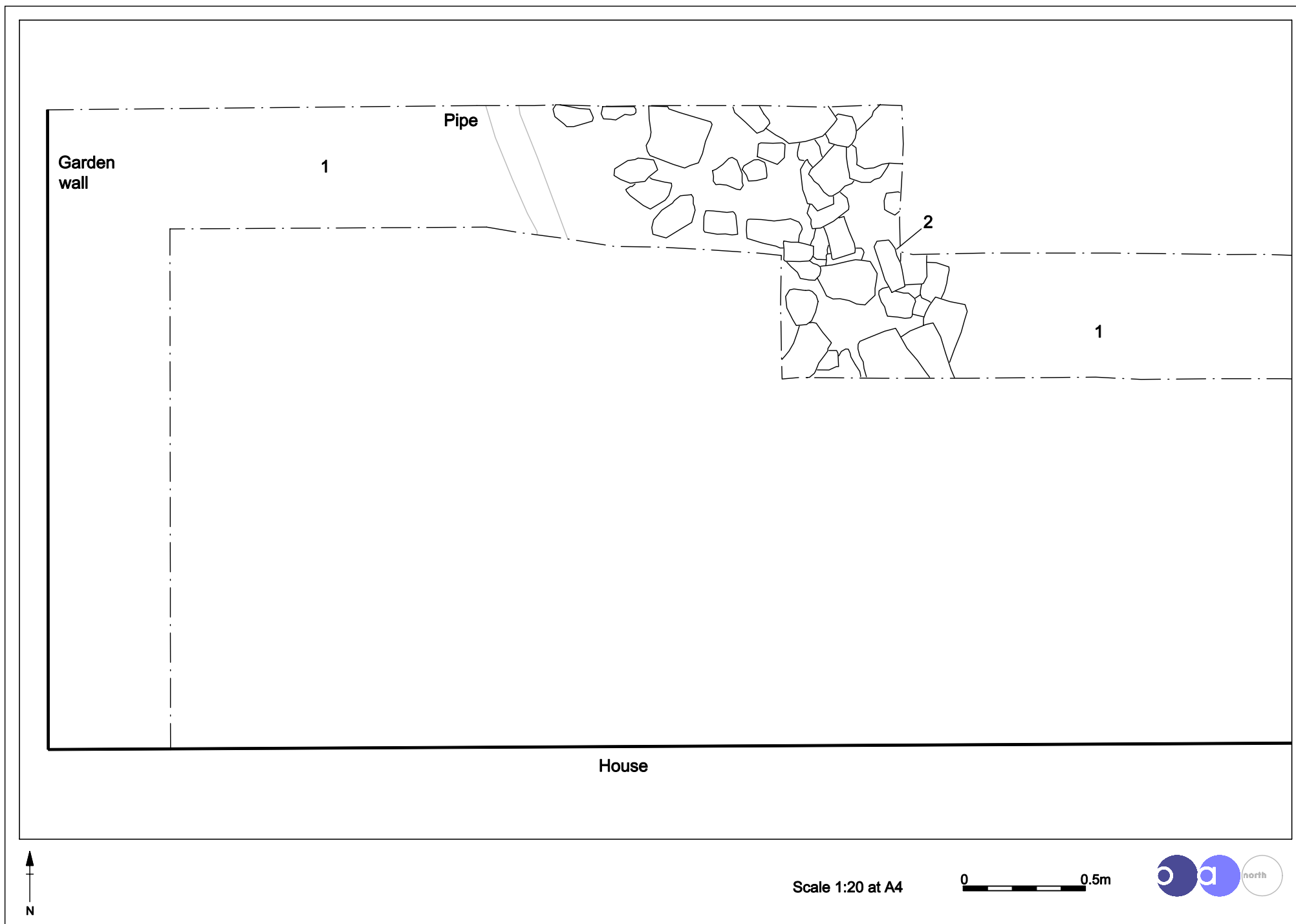


Figure 4: Plan of proposed extension showing archaeological features

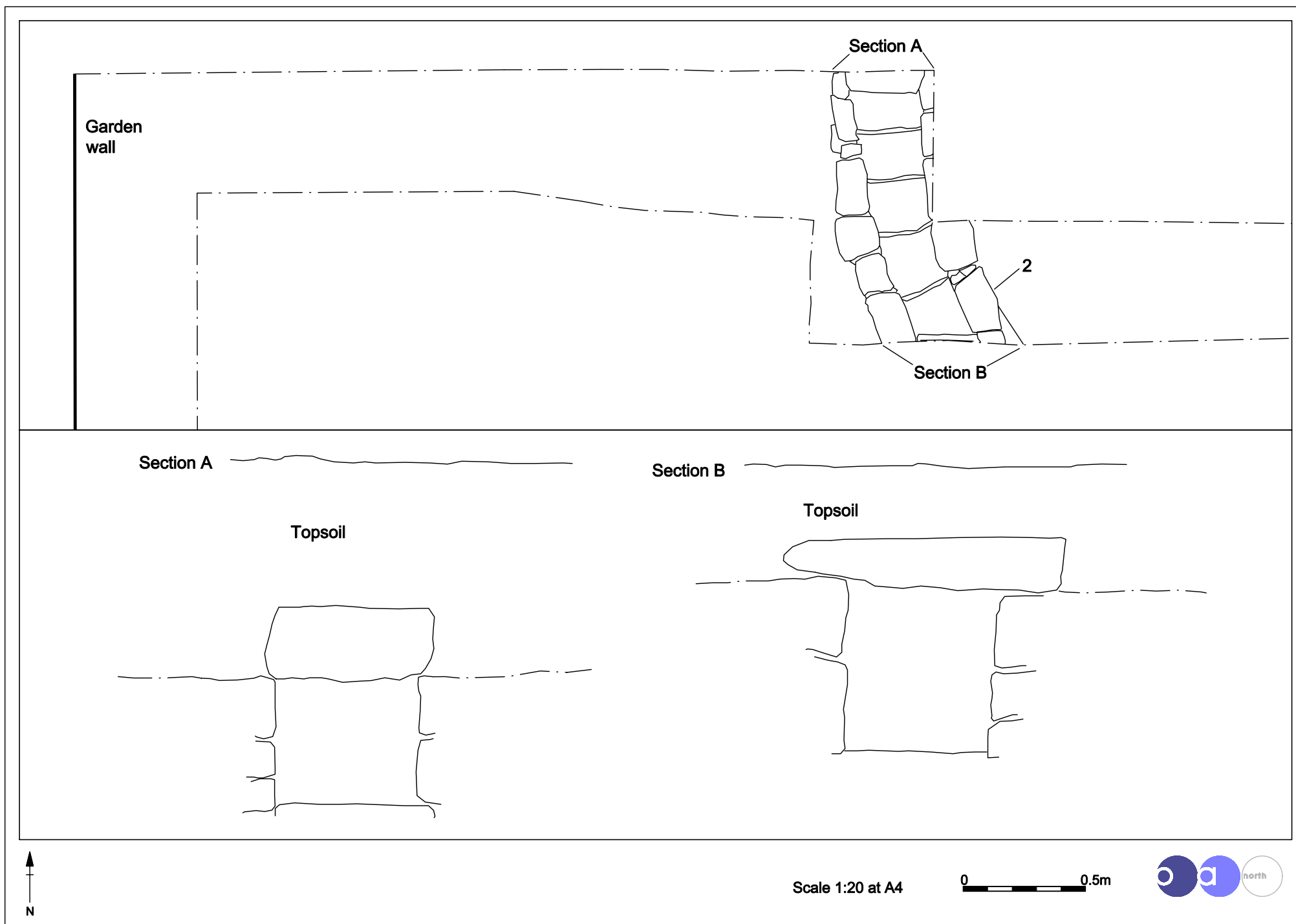


Figure 5: Drain 2



Plate 1: East-facing plan of drain 2



Plate 2: West-facing plan of drain 2





Plate 3: South-facing plan of disturbance to the roof of drain 2



Plate 4: East facing section of drain 2



Plate 5: West-facing section of drain 2



Plate 6: Interior of the east of drain 2