

**LAND AT BEDMINSTER PARADE  
BEDMINSTER  
BRISTOL**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION**

*For*

**PG ENTERPRISES LTD**

CA PROJECT: 9002  
CA REPORT: 04135

NOVEMBER 2004



LAND AT BEDMINSTER PARADE  
BEDMINSTER  
BRISTOL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

CA PROJECT: 9002  
CA REPORT: 04135

Author:	Jon Hart and Tim Havard	
Approved:	Mark Collard	
Signed:	.....	
Issue: 01		Date: November 2004

*This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.*

## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION .....	3
<i>The site</i> .....	3
<i>Archaeological background</i> .....	3
<i>Archaeological objectives</i> .....	4
<i>Methodology</i> .....	5
2. RESULTS .....	5
<i>Area A (Fig. 3)</i> .....	6
<i>Area B (Fig. 4)</i> .....	8
<i>The Finds</i> .....	10
3. DISCUSSION .....	11
<i>Area A</i> .....	11
<i>Area B</i> .....	13
<i>Conclusions</i> .....	15
4. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	16
5. REFERENCES.....	16
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS.....	18
APPENDIX 2: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES.....	21

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25, 000)
- Fig. 2 Areas A and B, showing evaluation trenches (1:500)
- Fig. 3 Area A; plan and section of 19th-century cultivation features (1:100 & 1:50)
- Fig. 4 Area B; plan and section (1:100 & 1:50)

## SUMMARY

**Site Name:** Land at Bedminster Parade  
**Location:** Bedminster, Bristol  
**NGR:** ST 5882 7188  
**Type:** Archaeological excavation  
**Date:** 25 February-8 April 2004  
**Location of Archive:** to be deposited with City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery  
**Site Code:** BED 04

Archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February and April 2004 at the request of PG Enterprises Limited on land at Bedminster Parade, Bedminster, Bristol. In compliance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation two areas were excavated within the development area.

A similar sequence of deposits was identified in both trenches. Alluvial deposits were identified at the base of the trenches, sealed by a cultivation soil. These deposits were covered by 19th-century layers of dumping and made ground deposited in preparation for construction. Two subsequent phases of 19th and 20th-century re-development were identified.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February and April 2004 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of archaeological investigation for PG Enterprises Limited at land at Bedminster Parade, Bedminster, Bristol (centred on NGR: ST 5882 7188; Fig. 1). The work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition attached to consent for a mixed-use redevelopment of the site.

1.2 The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation produced by CA (CA 2004) and approved by Mr R.H. Jones, Bristol City Council Archaeologist. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Programme of archaeological work* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999). It was monitored by Mr R.H. Jones, including a site visit on 3 March 2004.

### ***The site***

1.3 The site is approximately 0.40ha in area and contains a number of standing buildings, including the extant Bedminster Library and the former Bedminster Police Station, as well as areas of open space (Fig. 2). It is located in an urban area bounded by dwellings to the north, Bedminster Parade to the east, Regent Road to the south and New Charlotte Street to the west and lies at approximately 8.50m AOD.

### ***Archaeological background***

1.4 A detailed archaeological desk-based assessment of the site was carried out by CA (CA 2002) and should be consulted for a full developmental history of the site. To summarise, the site lies within an area of possible medieval settlement extending along what is now Bedminster Parade out of the Redcliffe suburb of Bristol into Somerset, crossing the Brightbow Bridge over the Malago Brook close to the south of the site. Little is known about the character or extent of this medieval settlement and physical evidence for the early post-medieval period has also been sparse. Ashmead's plan of 1828 shows a central lane between two linear property rows crossing the northern part of the site, and this may indicate a back lane to post-medieval or earlier properties fronting onto the main street frontage (now Bedminster

Parade) to the east, with further plots extending to the west. The southern part of the site is depicted as containing a more piecemeal arrangement of properties. All the buildings depicted on the 1828 plan were demolished between the 1830's and early 1850s and a Temperance Hall, chapel and the first Bedminster Police Station were constructed along Bedminster Parade. Subsequently, terraced housing was built along New Charlotte Street, the police station was rebuilt on a larger scale and between 1903 and 1914 Bedminster Library was built on the southern part of the site.

### **Archaeological objectives**

1.5 The principal objectives of the programme of archaeological work were to:-

- ensure that a full and detailed record of the archaeological site was compiled;
- analyse the primary data appropriately, and provide an interpretive synthesis of the data for dissemination;
- ensure that dissemination was achieved and that the archive was deposited with the appropriate repository.

1.6 Specifically, the programme of archaeological work aimed to:-

- determine the pre-urban environment of the site and changes to this over time;
- investigate the layout, function, development and use of the buildings that may once have fronted onto what is now Bedminster Parade, as well as the land to the rear in order to determine the origins and character of settlement in this area;
- establish the nature of medieval and early post-medieval land-use in this area;
- investigate the nature, extent and survival of the County of Bristol boundary shown on Rocque's plan of 1742;
- investigate the layout, function, development and use of the 19th-century buildings that were encountered to the rear of the former police station during the evaluation;

- investigate the nature, extent and date of the imported make-up encountered in the evaluation trenches, in particular, any link with the construction of the nearby New Cut of the Avon in 1808-9;
- add to current knowledge about the economy of the area and the living conditions of its inhabitants, including identification of the wider context e.g. by the recovery of material from the local glassmaking industry;
- record the historic structures of Bedminster Library and Police Station prior to and during alterations and demolition work;
- consider the site within its local and regional landscape, and to consider its national significance

### ***Methodology***

- 1.7 The fieldwork comprised the programme of archaeological work of two areas; Area A measured 15m in length x 5m in width whilst Area B measured 15m in length x 6m in width with a 10m long by 5m wide return at one end.
- 1.8 Both areas were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon. In consultation with the City Archaeologist, some deposits were recorded and then removed by machine in order to expose underlying deposits. All trenches were then hand cleaned and recorded in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 1: *Excavation Recording Manual* (1996).
- 1.9 All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.10 The archive and artefacts from the programme of archaeological work are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive (including artefacts) will be deposited with the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery.

## **2. RESULTS**

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the programme of archaeological work results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in

Appendices 1 and 2 respectively. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix 3.

### **Area A (Fig. 3)**

#### *Phase 1*

- 2.2 The earliest encountered deposit was alluvium 139 which was exposed throughout the base of Area A. This was cut by seven similar features (142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152 and 154). Although none of these were fully exposed within the excavation, all were shallow and ephemeral and were either pits or the terminals of linear features. They were all filled with dark fills similar to overlying layer 136 and are most likely to have been cultivation features. The fills of cuts 146 and 148 contained 18th-century finds whilst those of 142 and 152 contained 19th-century finds. Layer 136 sealed the fills of these features, was similar in appearance and contained 19th-century finds.

#### *Phase 2*

- 2.3 Layer 136 was sealed by a thin dump of industrial waste, 141. This comprised crushed clinker and was itself sealed by two successive layers rich in iron slag, 140 and 135. These deposits were sealed by dark grey clay silt layer 134 which contained moderate quantities of domestic waste. With the exception of layer 141, all of these deposits contained 19th-century pottery.

#### *Phase 3*

- 2.4 Layer 134 was overlain by several localised dumps of building material. The lowest of these, 138, comprised a thin lens of crushed sandy mortar. This was overlain by 137, a dump of lime as well as clay, iron nails and crushed sandy mortar. This was itself sealed by two successive thin lenses of crushed sandy mortar, 133 and 132. With the exception of 138, all of these deposits contained 19th-century finds.

#### *Phase 4*

- 2.5 The foregoing deposits were sealed by up to 1.6m of dumped layers. The earliest of these was grey-brown silty clay 128 which contained small quantities of building material and 19th-century finds. At the south-eastern end of the excavation, this was overlain by 129, a layer of clinker with large quantities of 19th-century pottery of a single fabric which was itself sealed by 127, a layer of small red sandstone pieces mixed with pink sand and crushed ceramic building material (CBM). This was in turn



sealed by 126, a layer of red-brown sandy silt containing demolition material. More generally across Area A, layer 128 was sealed by redeposited mudstone layer 121 from which 19th-century finds were recovered.

2.6 Layers 126 and 121 were both sealed by mid brown sandy silt layer 125 which was itself overlain by a localised layer of fine red-brown sand, 120. Mudstone layer 121 was also covered by thin dark grey-brown sandy silt layer 124 which was itself overlain by layer 123, a grey sandy silt containing demolition debris. Both of the latter deposits contained 19th-century finds.

2.7 Layers 120 and 123 were both sealed by redeposited mudstone 119 which was itself sealed by crushed pink lime mortar 122. This was sealed by grey clay silt layer 109 which contained small quantities of building/demolition debris and 19th-century pottery. Layer 109 was sealed by a thin clinker layer 108 from which 19th-century pottery was recovered. Both of these deposits contained 19th-century finds. This had been cut by pipe trench 114 containing ceramic service pipe 116. It was also overlain by brown sandy silt layer 107 which contained building/demolition debris and was itself overlain by brown-grey sandy silt 131. This was sealed by light grey crushed mortar 106 which was in turn covered by brown sandy silt layer 130 which contained demolition/building material. This was sealed by dark brown sandy silt 105 which was itself covered by demolition layer 104 which comprised lumps of lime mortar and stones with attached lime mortar.

#### *Phase 5*

2.8 Layer 104 was the latest deposit into which the majority of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century structural features and associated services were cut. These comprised manhole 110 and cut 117. The latter had been backfilled with rubble and may have been either a service trench or a wall foundation trench. These were sealed by 103, the make up for flagstone surface 102 and an associated stone drain 113.

### *Phase 6*

- 2.9 The flagstones were sealed by the modern tarmac surfacing 101.

### **Area B (Fig. 4)**

#### *Phase 1*

- 2.10 The earliest encountered deposit was alluvium 202 which was exposed in several areas in the base of Area B. This was sealed by deposit 201 from which a residual sherd of medieval pottery and a sherd of 17th to 18th-century pottery were recovered. This deposit was similar, though slightly darker in appearance to 202. Layer 203 sealed 201 and comprised dark grey black humic clay silt measuring approximately 0.6m in depth. A small quantity of pottery of 17th to 18th-century pot was recovered from this.

#### *Phase 2*

- 2.11 In the south-western part of the trench 203 was sealed by layer 276 which was similar in composition but contained frequent fragments of mortar and plaster. Two pits (281 and 283) and a brick drain 278 were cut through layer 276. Pottery of 19th-century and later date was recovered from the fills of the two pits. A further pit 285, filled almost entirely with oyster shells, was cut through layer 203 in the northern part of the trench.

#### *Phase 3*

- 2.12 Layer 276 and 203 were sealed by successive layers of dumped material and made up ground. The earliest three of these layers (207, 277 and 289) all contained frequent mortar or brick fragments with 207 also containing a large quantity of re-deposited natural mudstone/sandstone. They were all sealed by a dumped silty clay deposit observed throughout the trench as 211, 218, 264 and 290 which contained occasional brick fragments with pottery of 19th-century date being recovered from 218. This group of deposits was sealed by several localised dumped deposits (210, 214, 217, 219 and 245) which contained either brick or mortar fragment inclusions with layer 245 comprising a high mortar and plaster composition. These localised deposits, particularly in the southern edge of the trench, appeared to be acting as localised levelling deposits sealing earlier dumped deposits.

#### *Phase 4*

- 2.13 Two cut features, 209 and 212, of uncertain function and only observed in section were cut into the top of dumped layers 210, 214 and 217. These two features and the earlier dumped/levelling deposits were sealed by successive thin, compacted surfaces. The earliest of these, 216, comprised a rough compacted gravel and clay surface. It was sealed by two identical compacted sand and gravel surfaces, 215 and 268, which were likely to have been the same surface; later disturbance having removed the relationship between the two deposits. This in turn was sealed by successive compacted clay and gravel surfaces 206, 223 and 224.
- 2.14 Construction cut 267 was exposed in the north-western edge of the trench and was cut through dumped layers 264 and 290. It contained a rough stone wall footing 254/262 on which a single surviving brick course 258 was laid.

#### *Phase 5*

- 2.15 Wall 254/262 was demolished and sealed by several post-demolition deposits (256, 255, 253 and 252). The mortar content of 253 in particular implying that these deposits resulted from the demolition of this structure.
- 2.16 In the south-western corner of the trench, surface 224 was cut by a shallow rectangular cut 274. It was also sealed by up to 0.8m of successive dumped layers. The earliest of these, 220, was sealed by layer 221 which contained a large quantity of china, tile, brick, stone and glass. This was sealed by clay and brick layer 222 which was in turn sealed by a layer 232 which consisted of a large quantity pottery fragments. Several sherds of 19th-century or later china were recovered from this layer. This was sealed by three more localised layers of clay base dumped/made up ground (269, 270, and 271) all of which contained brick, mortar or stone fragments. It was noticeable that the majority of the dumped layers described above were tipping either from the north-east downwards or the south-west downwards. Layers 232, 270 and 271 were sealed by 233, a layer of silt clay with frequent brick and stone fragments which extended across most of the trench.

#### *Phase 6*

- 2.17 The latest dumped layer 235 was cut by five stone wall footings. Wall footings 227, 229 and 231 all comprised uncoursed irregular tightly packed stone pieces and measured a maximum of 0.4m in depth. Wall footings 266 and 292 comprised well

coursed and well dressed stone. They were both much more substantial than 227, 229 and 231; with 292 measuring at least 0.7m in depth and 266 at least 1.2m.

- 2.18 Layer 252 was cut by soakaway 251 which was backfilled with at least seven distinct fills.

#### *Period 3, Phase 7*

- 2.19 Layer 233 and layer 242 of soakaway were both cut by concrete beam 205 which was in turn overlain by the existing ground surface 205.

### ***The Finds***

- 2.20 Quantities of pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material, glass, clay pipe, slag and metal artefacts were recovered during excavations, the majority from demonstrably modern contexts.

#### ***Pottery***

- 2.21 A total of 155 sherds of pottery were recovered, weighing 4114g. The bulk of this material (54.2% by count) is modern in date (after c.1800). 44.5% is identified as post-medieval, dating from the 17th to 18th centuries, with the small remainder representing residual medieval material. The condition of the pottery is generally good with few instances of abrasion. Much of the tin-glazed earthenware has suffered partial loss of its outer surface, an occurrence common with this fabric. The average sherd weight is high at 26.5g reflecting the presence of a number of large sherds of china and stoneware.

#### ***Medieval***

- 2.22 Two sherds of residual medieval pottery were recovered, comprising a sherd of Redcliffe ware (BPT118) from fill 128 and a sherd of probable Ham Green cooking pot (BPT32), from layer 201. Both fabrics are produced in Bristol and are well documented.

#### ***Post-medieval***

- 2.23 69 sherds of pottery are dated to the later 17th to 18th centuries, however the majority appears to be residual occurring alongside modern material. A small number of contexts, layers 126, 201, 203 and fills 149 and 153 produced material

solely of this date. The reliability of this dating however is poor with fills 149, 153 and layer 126 based on single sherds of pottery and layer 201 based on just two. The fabrics encountered are all well known and documented in the Bristol area and comprise tin-glazed earthenware (BPT99), iron glazed earthenware (BPT211), Westerwald stoneware (BPT95), porcelain (BPT white salt-glazed stoneware (BPT186), North Devon gravel-tempered ware (BPT112) and Frechen stoneware (BPT286).

#### *Modern*

- 2.24 84 sherds of pottery are dated as modern. The majority of this material consists of china and creamware with smaller quantities of late English stoneware present. These fabrics are of probable Bristol origin and abundant locally. Of note, as possible evidence of pottery production in the area, is a kiln spacer fragment in a white china fabric, recovered from layer 134.

### **3. DISCUSSION**

#### ***Area A***

##### *Phase 1*

- 3.1 The alluvium was directly overlain by dark layer 136 with no trace of the weathered alluvium seen elsewhere on site during the evaluation and in Area B. This may indicate that the features cutting the alluvium relate to cultivation on the site, coinciding with its depiction as an open area on the 1742 Rocque plan. The derivation of the overlying layer, 136, remains unclear: it may represent an *in situ* land surface or it may have been a dump of material. Whatever its derivation, the similarity of layer 136 to the fills of the putative cultivation features suggests that it may have been worked as a soil. Although 18th-century finds were recovered from two of the putative cultivation features, the 19th-century finds recovered from similar features and from layer 136 is suggestive of a 19th-century date for Phase 1.

##### *Phase 2*

- 3.2 Phase 2 represents an effort to raise ground level using a series of dumps, some or most of which were derived from industrial waste. This seems to have been done in advance of construction work indicated by Phase 3. A 19th-century date for Phase 2 is likely based on the finds.

### *Phase 3*

- 3.3 The 19th-century dump of construction material that comprised Phase 3 appeared too localised to represent part of the ground-raising effort indicated by earlier deposits. It is more likely to reflect construction work on site, possibly the first such development as depicted on the 1828 Ashmead plan and seen in Trenches 1 and 4 of the evaluation (CA 2003). This development comprised a number of buildings fronting onto Bedminster Parade, with Area A therefore being within the backlands of these properties. The piecemeal plan of these properties has previously been taken to suggest a medieval origin for the property plots with the buildings themselves presumably being subject to piecemeal rebuilding until the redevelopment of the site between the 1830s and 1850s. If this is the case, then the construction debris encountered in Area A may represent 19th-century modification to these properties.

### *Phase 4*

- 3.4 Phase 4 comprised a series of dumps intended to raise ground level still further. These are likely to have been associated with the early 19th-century redevelopment depicted on the 1855 Ashmead plan of the area. This redevelopment included the construction of the police station, completed in 1836 (CA 2002). In contrast to the earlier dumps, although industrial waste deposits were present, the bulk of the made ground appeared to derive from re-deposited riverine material. This may have come from the New Cut, although whether from its construction or from later management remains unclear. These riverine deposits were interleaved with layers of demolition debris, perhaps as an attempt to stabilise the ground. The few dumps of industrial waste belonging to this phase may have had the same intended use.

### *Phase 5*

- 3.5 The surfacing and drainage belonging to this phase was associated with the 19th-century police station.

### *Phase 6*

- 3.6 This phase represented continued modern use of the site prior to the current redevelopment.

## **Area B**

### *Phase 1*

- 3.7 The alluvium 202 was identified at 6.30m AOD, slightly lower than that of the evaluation, some 2.3m below the existing ground surface; such a depth below ground level perhaps indicates why alluvium was not encountered in the adjacent evaluation trench 4. The weathered alluvium 201 over it was of similar thickness to that identified in the evaluation. The dark layer 203, similar to 136 identified in Area A also apparently resulted from cultivation activity, then this correlates with the depiction of the site as an open area on Rocque's plan of 1747. Pottery recovered from 203 indicates a 19th-century date for Phase 1.

### *Phase 2*

- 3.8 The high mortar content of 276 compared to 203 suggests that this deposit derives from demolition debris. It is a fairly localised deposit, being confined to the south-western part of the trench. This may show the area was being used as an open area for refuse disposal, as also shown by the oyster shell filled pit 285 and pits 281 and 283, all of which are cut through 276. The only evidence for any structural features of this phase is brick drain 278.

### *Phase 3*

- 3.9 Phase 3 comprised several deliberately dumped layers, probably deposited as part of a deliberate attempt to raise the ground level. The frequency of brick and mortar inclusions in phase 3 contexts suggests that these layers have mostly derived from demolition debris. Layer 207 contained a large quantity of re-deposited natural mudstone/sandstone, the only deposit in Area B in which this was observed, unlike the more frequent occurrence of this material seen in phase 4 of Area A. This probably occurred in the 19th century based on dating evidence recovered from layer 218.

### *Phase 4*

- 3.10 The deliberate raising of ground level seen in Phase 3 was probably in preparation for the construction seen in Phase 4. The earliest cartographic evidence for development of this area is Ashmeads plan of 1828. The position of wall footing 254/262 corresponds with a property on this map. No return of this wall within the excavation area was observed; this is likely to be due to later truncation caused by

the construction of wall 266. The property in question has disappeared by the time of Ashmeads later map of 1855.

- 3.11 Cut features 209 and 212 observed in the top of the latest phase 3 layers may be the result of some small scale refuse disposal prior to phase 4 construction or may be the result of demolition. However further interpretation is difficult as these two features were only observed in sections.
- 3.12 Five distinct surfaces of phase 4 were observed. The two earliest surfaces (216 and 215/268) may relate to the open area between buildings shown on Ashmeads 1822 plan. Later surfaces are spread over a larger area which may represent the larger open area between the Chapel and Police Station shown on Ashmead's later map of 1855.

#### *Phase 5*

- 3.13 Phase 5, comprising a series of dumped layers, represents another deliberate attempt to raise ground levels, in preparation for phase 6 construction. This must have occurred sometime between 1855 and 1872 when a school is constructed on the site.

#### *Phase 6*

- 3.14 The location of walls of phase 6 can be related to buildings shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1883 and in all likelihood to structures shown on Ashmead's 1872 map. Wall 292 is likely to be the north-eastern outer wall of the school, with less substantial walls 227, 229 and 231 being internal divisions of this. The position of wall 266 corresponds to the north-eastern wall of the Free Library. It is notable that the south-western outer wall of the school was not encountered within Area A. There are two possible explanations for this: firstly it may have been totally cut away by the insertion of modern concrete beam 205, or secondly that the 1883 O.S. map may be inaccurate and it is in fact wall 266.
- 3.15 The position of soakaway 251 correlates to that of a small extension to the south-west side of the school which is not shown on Ashmead's 1872 plan but is on the 1883 O.S. map. It is thus probable that the soak away was deliberately backfilled in preparation for the construction of this extension.



### *Phase 7*

- 3.16 It has previously been assumed that the 20th-century cinema had simply been converted from the 19-century school building, having been situated on the same footprint. However the position of concrete beam 205 correlates almost exactly with the position of the south-western wall of the cinema shown on a 2002 Ordnance Superplan of the area. The presence of a concrete beam would suggest that new building, rather than just the re-use of an existing structure has occurred.

### **Conclusions**

- 3.17 A similar sequence of events was identified in both trenches. Alluvial deposits were exposed in both areas at between 6.30m and 6.41m AOD. (during the evaluation, similar deposits were identified at between 6.58m and 7.19m AOD). As with the evaluation, the results of the programme of archaeological work suggest that prior to the 19th century, the site was undeveloped and probably consisted of marshland between the River Avon and the medieval route following what is now Bedminster Parade. Evidence for cultivation activity in the form of a cultivation soil and probable cultivation features was encountered, with artefactual evidence suggesting that this continued until the 19th century. Ashmead's 1828 plan shows the north-eastern part of the site as being either an open area or lying in the rear of settlement plots so it is conceivable that cultivation was still occurring on site at this time.
- 3.18 A major redevelopment of the site occurred between 1828 and 1855 with the construction of New Charlotte Street, the clearing of buildings on Ashmead's 1828 map and the construction of Temperance Hall, the Police Station and a chapel. This was observed in both trenches in the form of dumped demolition material containing quantities of building material and rubble and the demolition of wall 254/262. Further ground make up in the form of dumped material and re-deposited riverine deposits also occurred. The latter deposit (only observed in Area A) is of interest given the proximity of the New Cut. This was excavated between 1804 and 1809 which pre-dates the re-development of the site. Such deposits on site may have resulted from the re-deposition of a nearby dump of material derived from the New Cut.
- 3.19 Further redevelopment of the site occurs between 1855 and 1874, as shown by Ashmead's maps of these dates. In 1874 the Police Station has been expanded significantly, the chapel to a lesser degree, a school has been built and houses fronting onto New Charlotte Street have been constructed. This redevelopment is

particularly in apparent in Area B where the surfaces of phase 4 are sealed by further layers of made up ground. During both phases of redevelopment the ground level was raised. This may be partly due to a continued need to reclaim previously marshy ground but is more likely to be down to expediency, it was easier to use demolition deposits to level ground prior to new construction and it afforded a readily available area for waste disposal.

- 3.20 The excavation has shed little light on the pre-urban nature of the area. No evidence pre-dating urban development suggestive of any other activity than cultivation was uncovered. This is consistent with Rocque's 1742 depiction of the site as being an open area. The earliest dating material recovered was two sherds of residual medieval pottery; no features pre-dating the 18th-century were encountered. Such a lack of pre-urban evidence can be accounted for by 19th-century redevelopment which may have caused truncation of underlying deposits. No trace of the County of Bristol Boundary shown by Rocque was revealed. This boundary is shown on Ashmead's 1828 plan as lying outside the site. It is still not clear from the excavation why this boundary, established in 1373, bows out to the south-west to include the parcel of land on which the site is located.

#### **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Hart and Tim Havard, assisted by Derek Evans, Robert Hartle, John Lord, Darren Muddiman and Richard Young. The report was written by Jonathan Hart and Tim Havard with illustrations by Lorna Gray. The finds were examined by Sam Inder and Ed McSloy. The archive has been compiled by Jon Hart and Tim Havard, and prepared for deposition by Ed McSloy. The project was managed for CA by Mark Collard.

#### **5. REFERENCES**

CA 2002 *Land at Bedminster Parade, Bedminster, Bristol: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Building Assessment*. CA typescript report 02102

CA 2004 *Land at Bedminster Parade, Bedminster, Bristol: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Programme of archaeological work*.

## **Cartographic sources**

1742 J Rocque *A Geometrical Plan of the City and Suburbs of Bristol*

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

## Area A

101	Tarmac surface, 0.05m depth.
102	Flagstone surface, 0.08m depth.
103	Sand bedding layer for 103, 0.07m depth.
104	Dumped layer: demolition material; stone fragments and lime mortar lumps, 0.15m depth.
105	Dumped layer: dark brown sandy silt, 0.10m depth.
106	Dumped layer: demolition material; crushed lime mortar, 0.10m depth.
107	Dumped layer: demolition material; red sandstone, lumps of green clay, lumps of grey lime mortar and occasional lumps of clinker within mid brown sandy silt matrix, 0.25m depth.
108	Dumped layer: industrial waste; small clinker lumps and charcoal within a dark brown to black sandy silt matrix, 0.08m depth.
109	Dumped layer: mid grey clay silt with occasional small pennant stone fragments (derived from New Cut?), 0.4m depth.
110	Construction cut for manhole 111, 0.65m depth.
111	Iron base plate of manhole, 0.07m depth.
112	Backfill of manhole: mid grey brown sandy silt with pennant stone fragments, 0.6m depth.
113	Stone drain, associated with surface 102, 0.15m depth.
114	Pipe trench for pipe 116, 0.6m depth.
115	Bedding for pipe 116, 0.05m depth.
116	Ceramic pipe and concrete capping, 0.23m diameter.
117	Service trench? No service pipe visible, 1.7m depth.
118	Backfill of service trench: tarmac, CBM and concrete rubble within a grey-brown sandy silt matrix, 1.7m depth.
119	Dumped layer: mudstone fragments within a grey sandy silt matrix, 0.4m depth.
120	Dumped layer: red brown silty sand (natural or industrial waste?), 0.13m depth.
121	Dumped layer: mudstone fragments within a grey sandy silt matrix, 0.4m depth.
122	Dumped layer: demolition material; crushed pink lime mortar with small fragments of pennant stone, 0.1m depth.
123	Dumped layer: demolition material; light grey sandy silt with fragments of CBM, pennant stone and lumps of white to yellow mortar, 0.35m depth.
124	Dumped layer: dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks (from garden or yard material or from river?), 0.04m depth.
125	Dumped layer: mid brown sandy silt with lumps of pink clay (mainly from river?), 0.3m depth.
126	Dumped layer: light red-brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal and white mortar flecks and small fragments of pennant stone, 0.4m depth.
127	Dumped layer: demolition material; pink layer comprising crushed pink sandstone and CBM, 0.4m depth.
128	Dumped layer: mid grey-brown silty clay with charcoal and yellow to white lime mortar flecks as well as small to medium fragments of pennant stone; mix of ?riverine material with small quantities of demolition material, 0.3m depth.
129	Dumped layer: clinker and pottery fragments within a dark grey silty sand matrix; industrial waste, 0.25m depth.
130	Dumped layer: mixture of demolition material and industrial waste; mid brown sandy silt with lumps of pale brown clay, flecks of charcoal and white lime mortar and lenses of material similar to 108, 0.28m depth.
131	Dumped layer: redeposited riverine material; mid brown-grey sandy silt, 0.3m depth.
132	Demolition material (possibly <i>in situ</i> ): yellow-grey crushed sandy mortar with CBM fragments, iron nails and lumps of grey-white lime mortar, 0.05m depth.
133	Demolition material (possibly <i>in situ</i> ): light grey crushed sandy mortar with lumps of grey-white lime mortar, occasional CBM fragments and lumps of ?glass slag, 0.2m depth.
134	Dumped layer: dark grey clay silt with grey lime mortar flecks; redeposited riverine material?, 0.1m depth.
135	Dumped layer: dark red-brown clay silt with grey lime mortar flecks, CBM fragments and lumps of red-brown slag; redeposited riverine material mixed with industrial waste?, 0.17m depth.
136	Mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional white to grey lime mortar flecks: ?dumped layer, possibly re-worked as a cultivation horizon or in situ cultivation horizon, possibly derived from marsh silts, 0.6m depth.
137	Building construction material: lumps and blocks of lime within a mixed matrix comprising green-brown clay with frequent charcoal flecks and loose crushed sandy mortar with CBM fragments, iron nails and charcoal flecks. Formed a localised lump of material, 0.15m depth.
138	Building construction material: yellow-grey crushed sandy mortar with lenses of mid brown clay, charcoal flecks and CBM fragments. Localised dump underlying 137, 0.1m depth.
139	Alluvium: pink to light green-grey silty clay

140	Dumped layer: industrial waste; lumps of iron slag in an orange (iron-stained) silty sand matrix, 0.08m depth.
141	Dumped layer: industrial waste; crushed clinker, 0.04m depth.
142	?Cultivation feature: not fully exposed in plan. Pit or terminus of cultivation trench, 0.3m width, 0.04m depth.
143	Only fill of 142: mid grey-brown silty clay, probably derived from overlying layer 136, 0.04m depth.
144	?Cultivation feature: not fully exposed in plan. Pit or terminus of cultivation trench, 0.38m depth, 0.1m depth.
145	Only fill of 144: mid grey-brown silty clay, probably derived from overlying layer 136, 0.1m depth.
146	?Cultivation feature: not fully exposed in plan. Pit or terminus of cultivation trench, 0.45m width, 0.03m depth.
147	Only fill of 146: mid grey-brown silty clay, probably derived from overlying layer 136, 0.03m depth.
148	?Cultivation feature: not fully exposed in plan. Pit or terminus of cultivation trench, 0.35m width 0.05m depth.
149	Only fill of 148: mid grey-brown silty clay, probably derived from overlying layer 136, 0.05m depth.
150	?Cultivation feature: not fully exposed in plan. Pit or terminus of cultivation trench, 0.6m width, 0.04m depth.
151	Only fill of 150: mid grey-brown silty clay, probably derived from overlying layer 136, 0.04m depth.
152	?Cultivation feature: not fully exposed in plan. Pit or terminus of cultivation trench, 0.45m width 0.03m depth.
153	Only fill of 152: mid grey-brown silty clay, probably derived from overlying layer 136, 0.03m depth.
154	?Cultivation feature: not fully exposed in plan. Pit or terminus of cultivation trench, 0.23m width, 0.05m depth.
155	Only fill of 154: mid grey-brown silty clay, probably derived from overlying layer 136, 0.05m depth.

## Area B

200	Intermittent lens between 201 and 203, light orange brown sandy clay, 0.1m maximum depth.
201	Weathered alluvium: dark brown grey silty clay, 0.1m to 0.2m depth.
202	Alluvium: light to mid green grey silty clay, at least 0.1m depth.
203	Probable cultivation soil: dark grey/black slightly humic clay silt, 0.6m to 0.7m depth.
204	Cut for concrete beam: 0.9m width, 0.95m depth.
205	Concrete beam: 0.9m width, 0.95m depth.
206	Dumped layer: light orangey brown clay, 0.15m to 0.2m depth.
207	Dumped layer: mid orangey brown silty clay, maximum of 0.25m depth.
208	Cut feature: only observed in section, 0.6m width 0.34m depth.
209	Fill of 209: mid brown silty clay and sandy silt, 0.34m depth.
210	Dumped layer: mid grey brown silty clay, 0.2m depth.
211	Dumped layer: mid grey silty clay, 0.1m depth.
212	Cut feature: only observed in section, 0.7m width, 0.3m depth.
213	Fill of 212: mid orangey brown silt with clay pockets, 0.3m depth.
214	Dumped layer: light grey sandy silt with occasional mortar fragments, 0.25m depth.
215	Dumped layer: yellow white compact sand, 0.05m depth.
216	Dumped layer: dark brown silty gravelly clay, 0.15m to 0.2m depth.
217	Dumped layer: very mixed mid grey brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions, 0.4m depth.
218	Dumped layer: dark brown silty clay with occasional brick/tile fragments, 0.3m depth.
219	Dumped layer: mid grey silt clay with occasional irregular stone fragments, 0.2m maximum depth.
220	Dumped layer: light brown slightly silty clay, 0.1m depth.
221	Dumped layer: mid grey silty clay with large amounts of pottery/china, 0.3m depth.
222	Dumped layer: mid brown silty clay with occasional brick fragments, 0.3m maximum depth.
223	Probable surface: mid to dark brown compacted silty clay, 0.1m depth.
224	Probable surface: compacted dark brown and yellow brown clay with very occasional brick and irregular stone inclusions, 0.06m to 0.12m depth.
225	Existing ground surface, mid grey brown sand mixed with brick and stone rubble, 0.2m maximum depth.
226	Construction cut for wall footing 227: vertical sides and flat base, 0.44m width, 0.34m depth.
227	Wall footing: well compacted pitched flat pieces of limestone in silty clay matrix, 0.44m width, 0.34m depth.
228	Construction cut for wall footing 228: vertical sides and flat base, 0.64m width, 0.56m depth.
229	Wall footing: well compacted pitched flat pieces of limestone in silty clay matrix, 0.64m width, 0.56m depth.
230	Construction cut for wall footing 231: vertical sides and flat base, 0.4m width, 0.5m depth.
231	Wall footing: well compacted pitched flat pieces of limestone in silty clay matrix, 0.4m width, 0.56m depth.
232	Dumped layer: mid brown silty clay with frequent pottery/china inclusions, 0.3m maximum depth.
233	Dumped layer: mid brown silty clay with occasional brick fragments, 0.4m depth.
234	Number not assigned.
235	Concrete beam: same as 205.

236	Number not assigned.
237	Construction cut for 235: same as 204.
238	Fill of soakaway 251: mid to dark grey silt with occasional irregular stone inclusions, 0.36m depth.
239	Fill of soakaway 251: mid grey compacted silt, 0.06m depth.
240	Fill of soakaway 251: mid red grey sandy silt, 0.12m maximum depth.
241	Fill of soakaway 251: light grey loose mortar, 0.08m maximum depth.
242	Fill of soakaway 251: mid green grey loose sandy silt, 0.14m depth.
243	Dumped layer: mid red brown clay silt, 0.06m to 0.14m depth.
244	Dumped layer: mid grey loose sandy silt, 0.08m depth.
245	Dumped layer: light green grey loose silty mortar, 0.2m depth.
246	Dumped layer: dark grey silty sand, 0.32m to 0.36m depth.
247	Fill of soakaway 251: mid grey silty sand, 0.28m depth.
248	Fill of soakaway 251: mid grey green silty sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks, 0.2m depth.
249	Fill of soakaway 251: dark brown grey silt with occasional charcoal flecks, 0.18m depth.
250	Fill of soakaway 251: mid grey loose silty sand with occasional moderately sized square stone pieces, 0.6m depth.
251	Cut for soakaway: near vertical sides with fairly flat base, at least 1.24m width, 1.4m depth.
252	Dumped layer: light to mid grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking, 0.36m depth.
253	Dumped layer: light grey mortar, 0.38m depth.
254	Wall footing: only seen in section, large pieces of squared stone bonded with mid grey lime based mortar, 1m length, 0.2m height.
255	Dumped layer: dark brown clay silt, 0.06m depth.
256	Fill of 257: light grey clay silt, 0.14m depth.
257	Probable demolition cut: steep sides with flat base, 0.64m length, 0.14m maximum depth.
258	Single brick course sealing wall 254/262, poorly coursed, stretcher bond, 2m length, 0.12m height.
259	Number not assigned.
260	Preparation layer for 258: light grey clay, 0.72m length, 0.14m depth.
261	Number not assigned.
262	Wall footing: stone construction with mortar bonding, mortar hiding form of stones, 1.82m length, 0.22m height.
263	Same as 262.
264	Dumped layer: dark brown silty clay with occasional irregular stone fragments, at least 0.08m depth.
265	Construction cut for wall 266: linear in plan, vertical sides, base not exposed, at least 0.9m width, at least 1m depth.
266	Wall: largely trench built: at least 9 courses, irregularly dressed well coursed, at least 6.2m length, 0.9m width, at least 1m height.
267	Construction cut for walls 254 and 262: only observed in section, at least 1.08m length, at least 0.06m width.
268	Dumped layer: light grey sandy silt with very occasional charcoal patches, 0.2m maximum depth.
269	Dumped layer: light grey sandy silt with occasional brick fragments, 0.16m to 0.5m depth.
270	Dumped layer: mid to dark brown silty clay with occasional brick and angular stone fragments, 0.3m depth.
271	Dumped layer: mid grey silty sand with occasional brick and china fragments, 0.1m depth.
272	Cut for drain pipe, 0.35m width, 0.25m depth.
273	Concrete encased drain.
274	Cut feature: only observed in section, 0.5m width, 0.2m depth.
275	Fill of 274: dark grey silty clay, 0.5m width, 0.2m depth.
276	Dumped probable demolition layer: mid brown silty clay with frequent large pieces of mortar and occasional brick fragments.
277	Dumped layer: mid to dark brown silty clay with occasional flecks of mortar, 0.2m depth.
278	Cut for brick drain: linear in plan, vertical sides and flat base, 0.75m width, 0.35m depth.
279	Brick drain: heavily truncated.
280	Fill in interior of 279: mid to dark brown clay silt.
281	Cut for pit: ovoid in plan, moderately sloped concave sides, flat base, 1.3m diameter, 0.4m depth.
282	Fill of 281: light to mid brown silty clay with occasional clay lumps and very occasional brick fragments.
283	Cut for pit: circular in plan: moderately sloped concave sides, concave base, 0.8m diameter, 0.3m depth.
284	Fill of 283: mid brown silty clay with occasional stone fragments.
285	Cut for pit: ovoid in plan, gently sloped regular sides and flat base, 2.2m length, 1.1m width, 0.15m depth.
286	Fill of 285: 95% oyster shells, 5% mid brown silty sand.
287	Fill of soakaway 251: mid grey loose silty sand, 0.06m depth.
288	Fill of soakaway 251: yellow grey silty mortar, 0.09m depth.
289	Dumped layer: mid yellow grey mortary sand, 0.1m depth.
290	Dumped layer: light orange green clay silt with occasional clay lenses, 0.14m depth.
291	Construction cut for wall 292: linear in plan, at least 13m length, at least 0.3m width, at least 0.64m depth.

292	Wall: largely trench built: at least 7 courses, irregularly dressed well coursed, at least 13m length, 0.3m width, at least 0.64m height.
-----	---

## APPENDIX 2: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres above Ordnance Datum, calculated using the benchmark located at Boot Lane (9.38m AOD).

	Area 1	Area 2
Current ground level	0.00m (9.06m)	
Top of dumped lime 137	1.57m (7.49m)	
Top of weathered alluvium	-	
Top of Alluvium	2.65m (6.41m)	
Limit of programme of archaeological work	2.65m (6.41m)	

Upper figures are depth below present ground level, lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD. All represent the highest values exposed.

Reproduced from the 1997 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office  
© Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeological Trust ALS0196A



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

Land at Bedminster Parade,  
Bedminster, Bristol

FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

SCALE

1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

9002

FIGURE NO.

**1**





- site
- excavation area
- evaluation trench

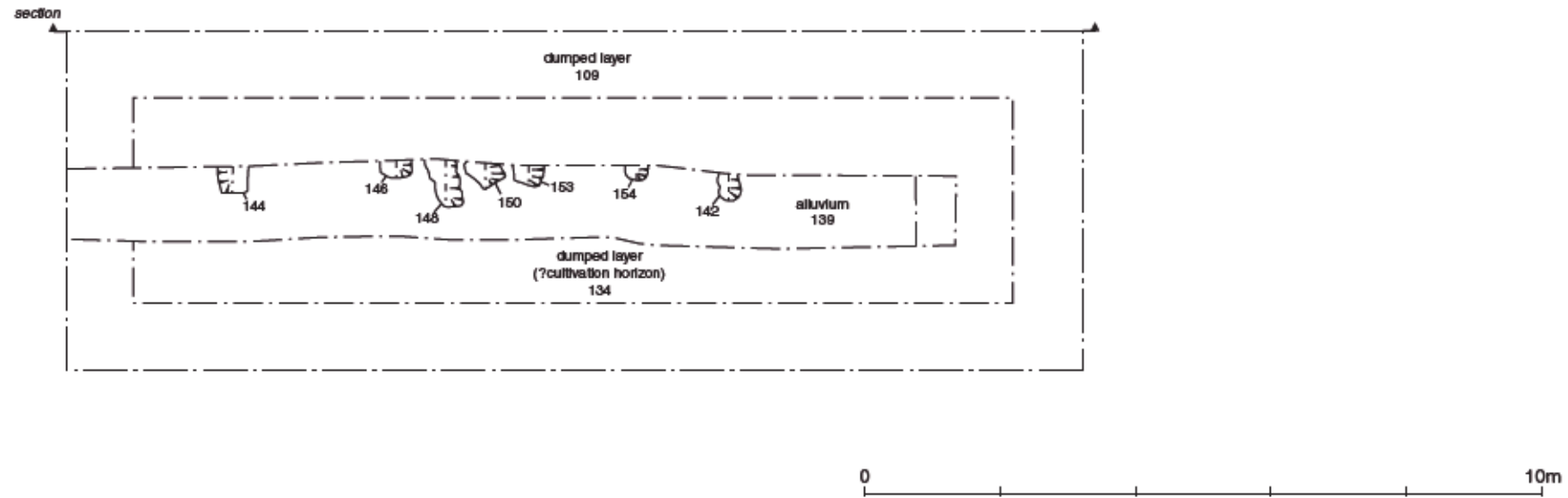


**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Bedminster Parade,  
 Bedminster, Bristol

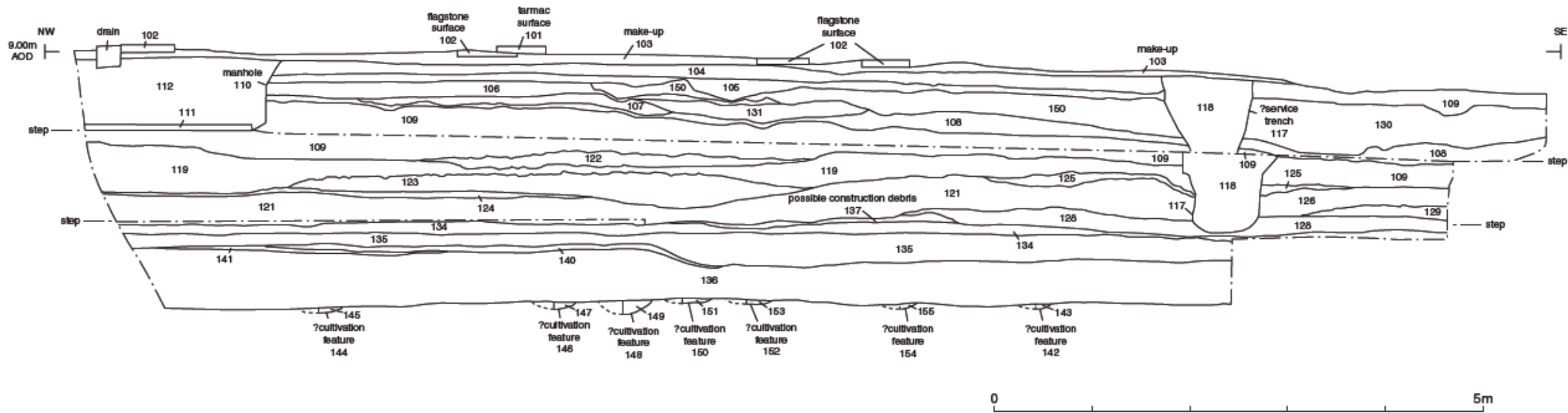
**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Areas A and B, showing  
 evaluation trenches**

<b>SCALE</b> 1:500@A4	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 9002	<b>FIGURE NO.</b> <b>2</b>
--------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------------

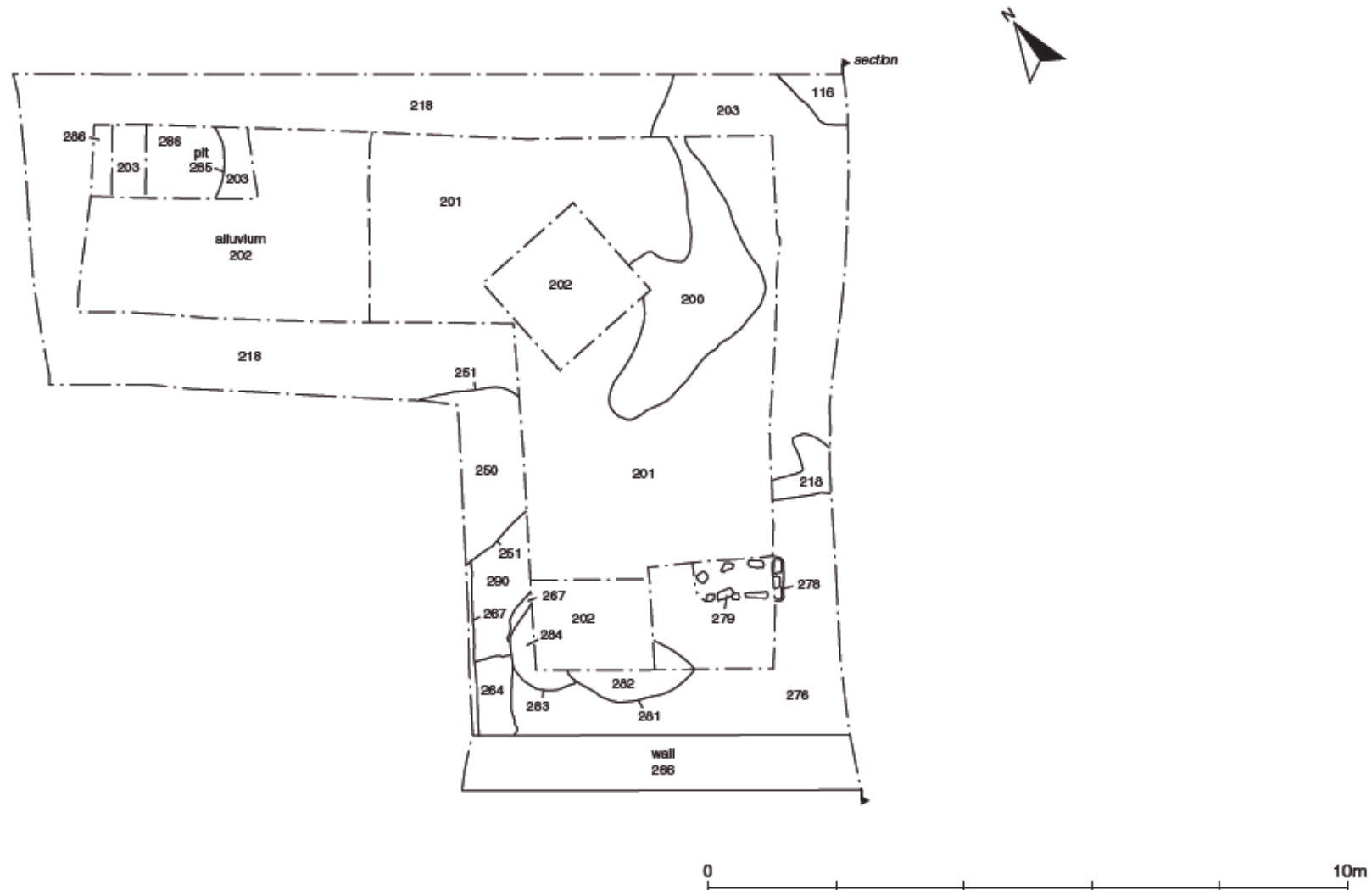
Area A plan



Area A section



Area B plan



- period 1
- period 2
- period 3

Area B section

