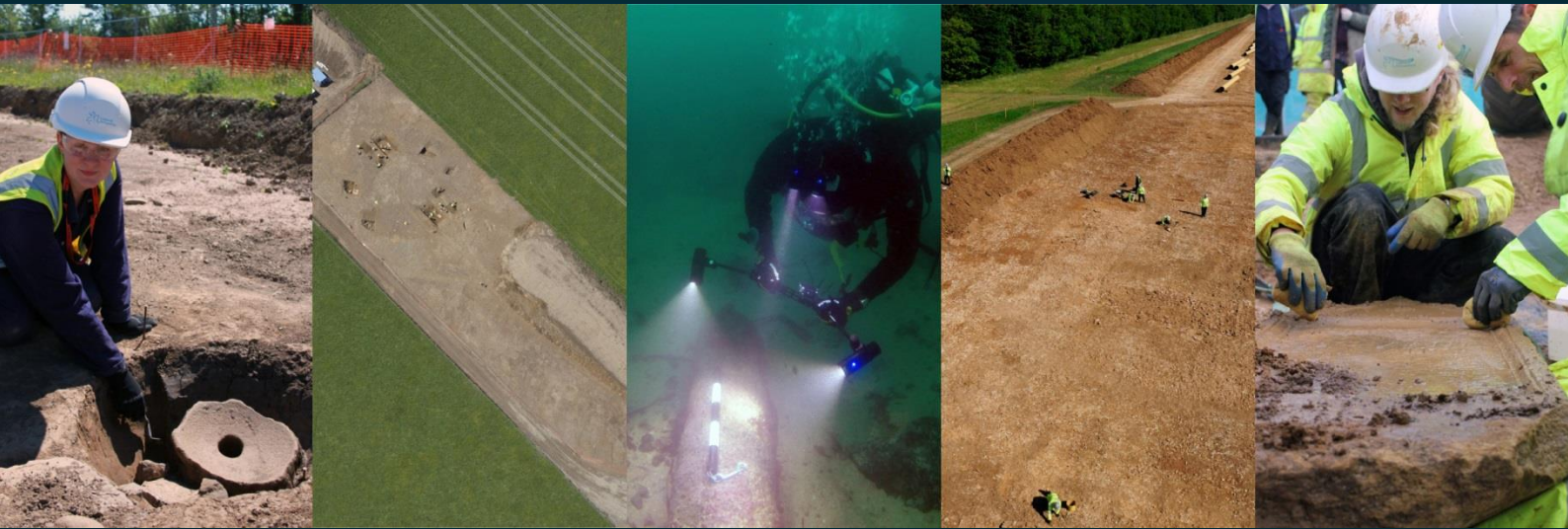


**Stall Street and Lower Borough Walls  
Bath**  
**Bath and Northeast Somerset**  
*Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
Bath and Northeast Somerset  
Council

CA Project: 5268  
CA Report: 16355

July 2016



# Stall Street and Lower Borough Walls Bath

## Bath and Northeast Somerset

### Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 5268  
CA Report: 16355



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	28 June 2016	Luke Brannlund	Simon Cox	Internal review		

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Stall Street and Lower Borough Walls  
**Location:** Bath, Bath and Northeast Somerset  
**NGR:** ST 7505 6458  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 9-19 February 2015  
**Location of Archive:** The Roman Baths Museum  
**Site Code:** SSB 15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the enhancement of the street layout and resurfacing around the area of Stall Street and Lower Borough Walls, Bath.

A section of the Roman and medieval town wall, two vaulted cellar roofs and a series of former road surfaces were revealed during the excavations.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Bath and Northeast Somerset Council (BANES) at Stall Street and Lower Borough Walls, Bath (centred on NGR: ST 7505 6458; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 A watching brief was commissioned by Bath and North East Somerset Council (BANES) Council following the compilation of an Archaeological Impact Assessment (CA 2014), and subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Richard Sermon Archaeological Officer, BANES. The fieldwork also followed the *standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2014), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Richard Sermon, including a site visit on the 11th February.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The development area is approximately 0.3ha, and comprises Stall Street and Lower Borough Walls, within the centre of Bath. The site lies at approximately 25m AOD, with the ground level dropping gently away to the south.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic period with superficial River Terrace deposits of sand and gravel formed in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2015). The natural substrate was not observed during the watching brief.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Besides the national designation of parts of the site and adjacent areas as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM BA 82: the Roman Baths and Site of Roman Town, Bath), a number of sites and monuments listed in the Historic Environment Record (HER) lie within, or immediately adjacent to, the development area. These are summarised below:



- 2.2 Immediately adjacent to Lower Borough Walls is the site of former church St James with an associated post-medieval cemetery (MBN 10064) the extent of which is retained as an open space. The current railings probably demarcate the extent of the burial ground by the late 18th century (P. Davenport pers. comm.), and it is possible that the cemetery may have originally extended further towards the centre of the current roadway prior to this date, and therefore into the development area.
- 2.3 To the immediate north of St James Memorial Hall, excavations at 6 Lower Borough Walls recorded the face of the Roman town wall incorporated into cellar walls and standing to approximately street level in height (ADS 2015). The medieval town wall, clearly illustrated in John Speed's 1600s map of Bath, that is believed to be based on the pre-existing course of the Roman town walls, runs along the length of Lower Borough Walls. To the eastern end of the street formerly stood Southgate, which was thought to have been demolished in 1754 (MBN 1914; HG 2015). At the corner of Southgate Street and Lower Borough Walls, close to Southgate, an excavation revealed deposits thought to be part of the town ditch (MBN 10016; HG 2015).
- 2.4 In addition to the above Stall Street, Lower Borough Walls and the surrounding area have revealed a wealth of remains from the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods including, but not limited to, listed buildings, structural remains and find spots.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
  - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the *WSI* (CA 2015). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising trial trenching and removal of existing street furniture (Fig. 2).
- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).
- 4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with the Roman Baths Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 5.1 Twelve trenches were excavated along Lower Borough Walls measuring up to 3.6m in length, 1.5m in width and up to 1.4m in depth below present ground level (bpgl). The natural geological substrate was not observed. All the trenches contained a series of silt-clay layers averaging 0.1m in depth interspersed with bedding layers that were overlain by probable road surfaces. All trenches were sealed by modern paving or tarmac. Trenches 2, 3 and 8 were devoid of archaeological remains.

### *Roman/medieval*

- 5.2 In the southern part of Trench 1 the north face of the former town wall (109) was revealed at a depth of 0.7m bpgl (Fig. 3) running approximately east-west along the course of Lower Borough Walls. Six courses of roughly rectangular stone blocks set in yellow sand mortar were exposed. The face of the wall appeared to be stepped, widening towards the base. The core of the wall was constructed from irregular stone blocks set in yellow sand mortar. The southern face was not exposed in the trench. However, it was observed a short distance to the west in the cellar of No.6 Lower Borough Walls (previously identified; ADS 2015) giving the wall here an approximate width of 3m. Situated immediately to the north of the wall, ditch 106 was approximately 0.6m in width, >0.4m in depth and was filled by silt-clay (107)

and a fragment of mortared stone work (108) that was interpreted as part of the main wall that had been disturbed by later activity.

#### *Post medieval-modern*

- 5.3 Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 contained probable road services averaging 0.1m in depth consisting tarmac, concrete and mortar with stones. All were sealed by current road surfaces.
- 5.4 Foundations associated with standing buildings were observed in Trenches 11, adjacent to Lloyds Bank and 10, adjacent to the Technical College. A Victorian bottle dump (408) was observed in Trench 4 next to, and probably associated with, the Lamb and Lion Public House.
- 5.5 In Trenches 5 and 6 the roof of two cellars (508 and 604 respectively), consisting of Bath stone set in grey charcoal mortar, were observed. Both appeared to be vaulted and relate to the standing buildings (No's. 6 and 5-4).

## **6. THE FINDS**

- 6.1 Artefactual material from watching brief was hand-recovered from four deposits: three made ground layers and one structure (a cellar roof). The recovered material dates to the medieval and post-medieval/modern periods. Quantities of the artefact types recorded are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric.

#### *Pottery: medieval*

- 6.2 Made ground layer 407 produced a bodysherd of Laverstock (southeast Wiltshire) glazed ware (SEW, 7g), in good condition. This ware type was in production from the mid to late 13th century (Musty 1969, 93; 132–3).

#### *Post-medieval/modern*

- 6.3 Pottery from this date range totals six sherds (73g) from three deposits. The average sherd weight of 12g is rather low for a group of this age, however, condition is very good in terms of surface preservation and edge abrasion. Of post-medieval date are: three sherds of glazed earthenware (GRE), from made ground layers 404 and 603, dateable to the mid-16th to 18th centuries; a sherd of Creamware (CRE), of 18th-century date, from cellar roof 508; and a bodysherd of tin-glazed earthenware



(TGE), dating to the late 17th to 18th centuries, from made ground layer 603. Slightly later in date (late 18th to 19th centuries) is a sherd of refined whiteware (RWH) from made ground layer 404.

#### *Other finds*

- 6.4 A total of five fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem, broadly dateable to the late 16th to late 19th centuries, was recorded in made ground layers 404 and 603.

## **7. DISCUSSION**

- 7.1 The remains uncovered during the watching brief most probably dated to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. No evidence for St James cemetery (MBN 10064) extending into the current roadway was observed. Substantial parts of the Roman/medieval town wall are known to survive below and above ground level. The section seen in Trench 1 and the cellar of No. 6 Lower Borough Walls demonstrates that, along Lower Borough Walls, a section of the wall survives below present ground level. The observed sections suggest that the wall is up to 3m in width and runs along the centre of the road. No evidence was recovered to confirm whether the section revealed was Roman or medieval in date. The cellar and former road surfaces uncovered date to the post-medieval period and suggest a build-up of approximately a metre of material during this period.

## **9. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Luke Brannlund. The report was written by Luke Brannlund. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cox.

## **10. REFERENCES**

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Road	Tarmac		0.1	
1	101	Layer		Road bed	Concrete		0.2	
1	103	Cut		Service trenches	Generic number for all services		n/a	
1	104	Fill	103	Fill of service trenches	Type 1, rubble, silt clay		n/a	
1	105	Layer		Made ground	Mid brown-grey silt clay with stones		0.4	
1	106	Cut		Possible ditch	E-W linear in plan. Not fully excavated	0.7	0.3	
1	107	Fill	106	Fill of possible ditch	Yellow-brown silt clay with stone	0.7	0.3	
1	108	Struct	106	Fragment of wall	Fragment of roughly dressed stone wall with yellow sand lime mortar	0.6	0.4	
1	109	Struct		Town wall	N face roughly finished rectangular stone blocks set in yellow sand lime. Core; undressed irregular blocks of stone. S face not seen.	1.2	0.6	
1	110	Layer		Made ground	Mid orange-brown clay with stone and oyster shell		n/a	
2	200	Layer		Road	Tarmac		0.1	
2	201	Layer		Road bed	Concrete		0.2	
2	202	Cut		Service trenches	Generic number for all services		n/a	
2	203	Fill	202	Fill of service trenches	Type 1, rubble, silt clay		n/a	
3	300	Layer		Pavement	Paving slabs		0.05	
3	301	Layer		Pavement bed	Sand, concrete		0.2	
3	302	Cut		Service trenches	Generic number for all services		n/a	
3	303	Fill	302	Fill of service trenches	Type 1, rubble, silt clay		n/a	
4	400	Layer		Pavement	Paving slabs		0.05	
4	401	Layer		Pavement bed	Sand, concrete		0.05	
4	402	Cut		Service trenches	Generic number for all services		n/a	
4	403	Fill	402	Fill of service trenches	Type 1, rubble, silt clay		n/a	
4	404	Layer		Made ground	Black-brown silt clay with stone		0.3	
4	405	Layer		Made ground	Grey clay with stone		0.1	
4	406	Layer		Former road/surface	Compacted stone, gravel and silt		0.1	
4	407	Layer		Made ground	Dark brown-black silt clay with stone		n/a	
4	408	Dep		Bottle dump	Broken glass and silt		n/a	
5	500	Layer		Road	Tarmac		0.05	
5	501	Layer		Road bed	Tarmac, rubble		0.15	
5	504	Struct		Former road	Compacted stone, gravel and silt		0.1	
5	505	Layer		Former road bed	Concrete, mortar		0.1	
5	506	Layer		Made ground	Dark brown-black clay silt		0.15	
5	507	Layer			Light pink-grey silt and mortar		0.2	
5	508	Struct		Cellar roof	Top of structure rough unshaped stone set in dark grey-brown charcoal lime mortar		n/a	
6	600	Layer		Road	Tarmac		0.08	
6	601	Layer		Road bed	Tarmac, rubble		0.1	
6	602	Layer		Former road	Compacted stone, gravel and silt		0.15	
6	603	Layer		Made ground	Dark brown clay silt with stones		0.2	
6	604	Struct		Cellar roof	Top of structure rough unshaped		n/a	

					stone set in dark grey-brown charcoal lime mortar. Clearly seen vaulted shape			
7	700	Layer		Pavement	Paving slabs		0.05	
7	701	Layer		Pavement bed	Sand		0.1	
7	702	Layer		Former road	Tarmac		0.08	
7	703	Layer		Former road bed	Tarmac and rubble		0.2	
7	704	Layer		Former road	Concrete/ mortar		0.05	
7	705	Layer		Former road bed	Yellow mortar and rubble		0.1	
7	706	Layer		Made ground	Dark black-brown clay silt with stone		n/a	
8	800	Layer		Pavement	Paving slabs		0.1	
8	801	Layer		Pavement bed	Sand		0.1	
8	802	Cut		Service trenches	Generic number for all services		n/a	
8	803	Fill	802	Fill of service Trenches	Type 1, rubble, silt clay		n/a	
8	804	Layer		Made ground	Dark grey-brown humic clay silt		n/a	
9	900	Layer		Pavement	Paving slabs		0.08	
9	901	Layer		Pavement bed	Sand		0.05	
9	902	Layer		Made ground	Grey-brown silt clay		0.5	
9	903	Struct		Cellar or foundation	Stone and mortar		n/a	
10	1000	Layer		Pavement	Tarmac		0.08	
10	1001	Layer		Pavement bed	Type 1		0.1	
10	1002	Struct		Light well wall	Stone wall of light well		n/a	
10	1003	Dep		Services	Generic number for all services		n/a	
10	1004	Dep		Made ground	Rubble and grey silt		n/a	
11	1100	Layer		Pavement	Paving slabs		0.08	
11	1101	Layer		Pavement bed	Sand		0.05	
11	1102	Struct		Foundations	Foundations of Lloyds bank		n/a	
11	1103	Layer		Made ground	Redeposited dark black-brown silt clay with multiple services		n/a	
12	1200	Layer		Road	Tarmac		0.08	
12	1201	Layer		Road bed	Tarmac and rubble		0.15	
12	1202	Cut		Service trenches	Generic number for all services		n/a	
12	1203	Fill	1202	Fill of service Trenches	Type 1, rubble, silt clay		n/a	
12	1204	Layer		Former road	Concrete/ mortar		0.2	
12	1205	Layer		Made ground	Mid brown-grey silt clay		1	
12	1206	Layer		Made ground	Mid orange-brown clay with stones		n/a	

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
404	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	GRE	2	35	LC18-C19
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Refined whiteware	RWH	1	3	
	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem		3	3	
407	Medieval pottery	Southeast Wiltshire ware	SEW	1	7	MC13-LC13
508	Post-medieval pottery	Creamware	CRE	1	4	C18
603	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	GRE	1	27	LC17-C18
	Post-medieval pottery	Tin-glazed earthenware	TGE	1	4	
	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem		2	5	

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Stall Street and Lower Borough Walls, Bath, BANES	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the enhancement of the street layout and surfacing around the area of Stall Street and Lower Borough Walls, Bath.</p> <p>A section of the Roman and medieval town wall, two vaulted cellar roofs and a series of former road surfaces were revealed during the excavations.</p>	
Project dates	9-16 February 2015	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Heritage Impact Assessment (CA 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Stall Street and Lower Borough Walls, Bath, BANES	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.4 ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 7505 6458	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	BANES Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Simon Cox	
Project Supervisor	Luke Brannlund	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	Roman and medieval town wall	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	The Roman Baths Museum	Pottery, clay tobacco pipe
Paper	The Roman Baths Museum	Context sheets, Masonry sheets, trench sheets
Digital	The Roman Baths Museum	digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Stall Street and Lower Borough Walls, Bath, BANES: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report <b>16355</b></p>		

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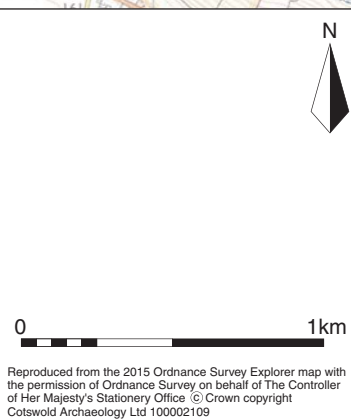
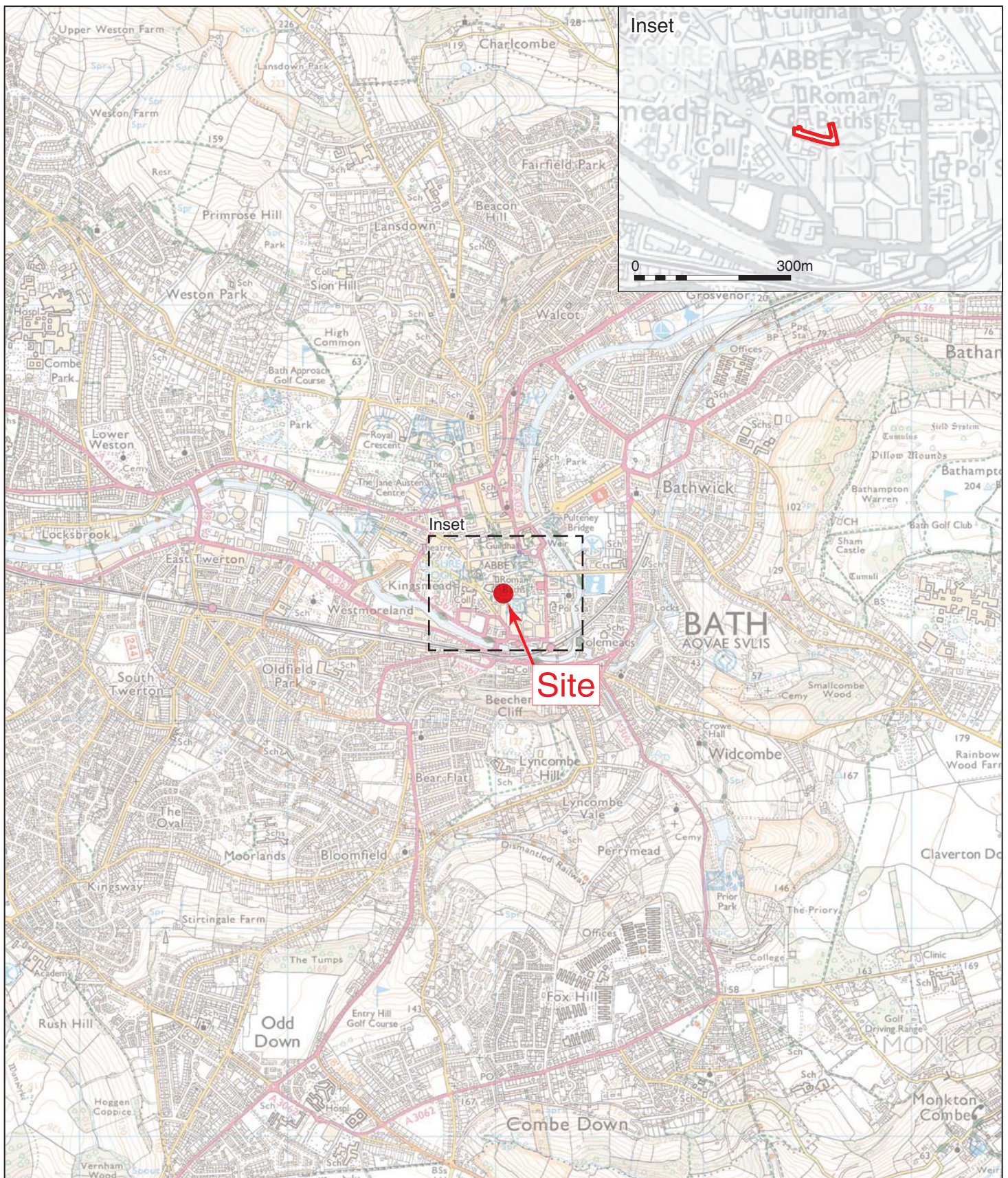
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Stall Street and Lower Borough Walls  
 Bath, BANES

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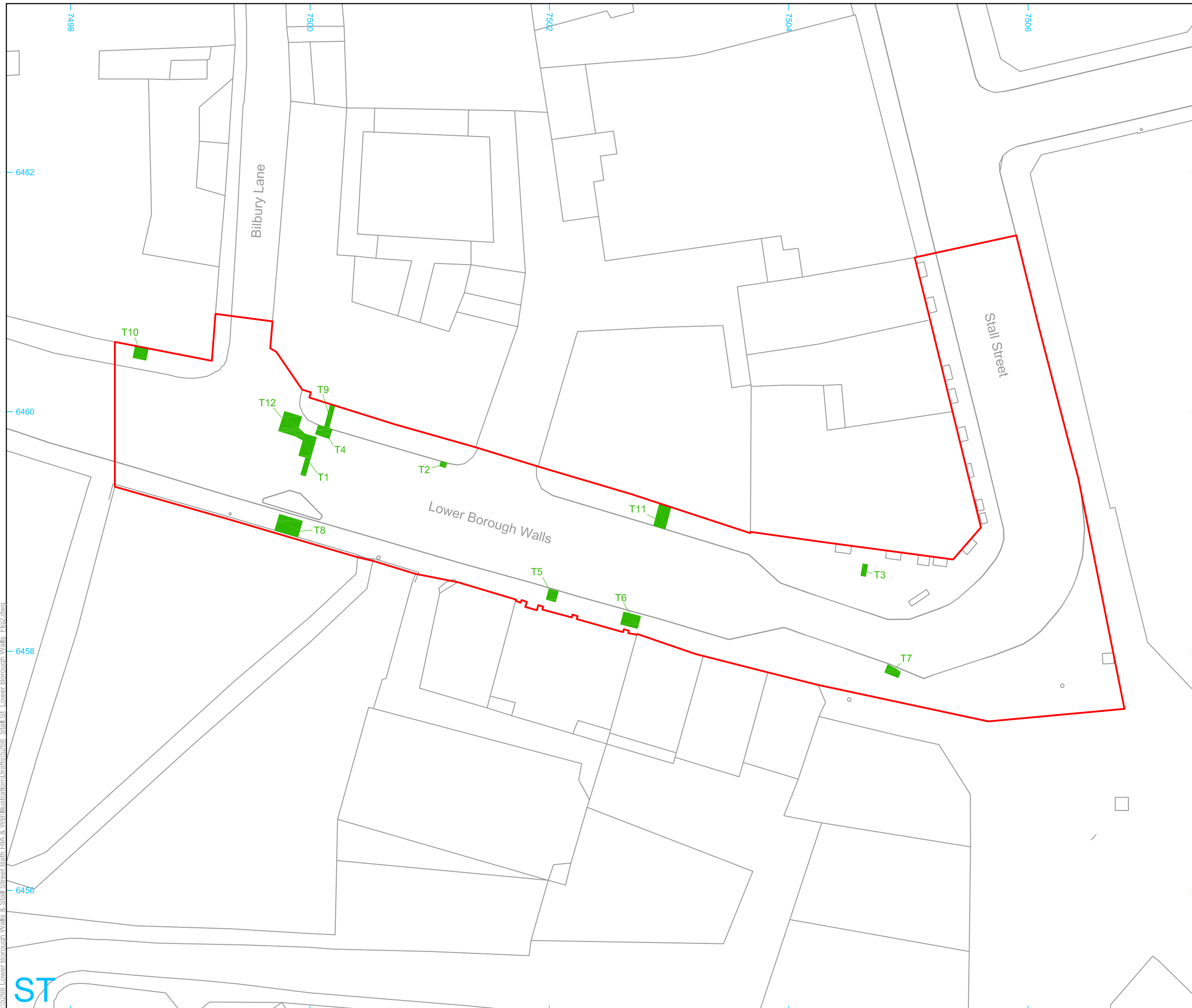
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 Site location plan

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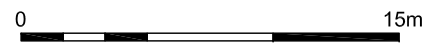
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- site boundary
- trench



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
**Stall Street and Lower Borough Walls**  
**Bath, BANES**

**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Trench location plan**

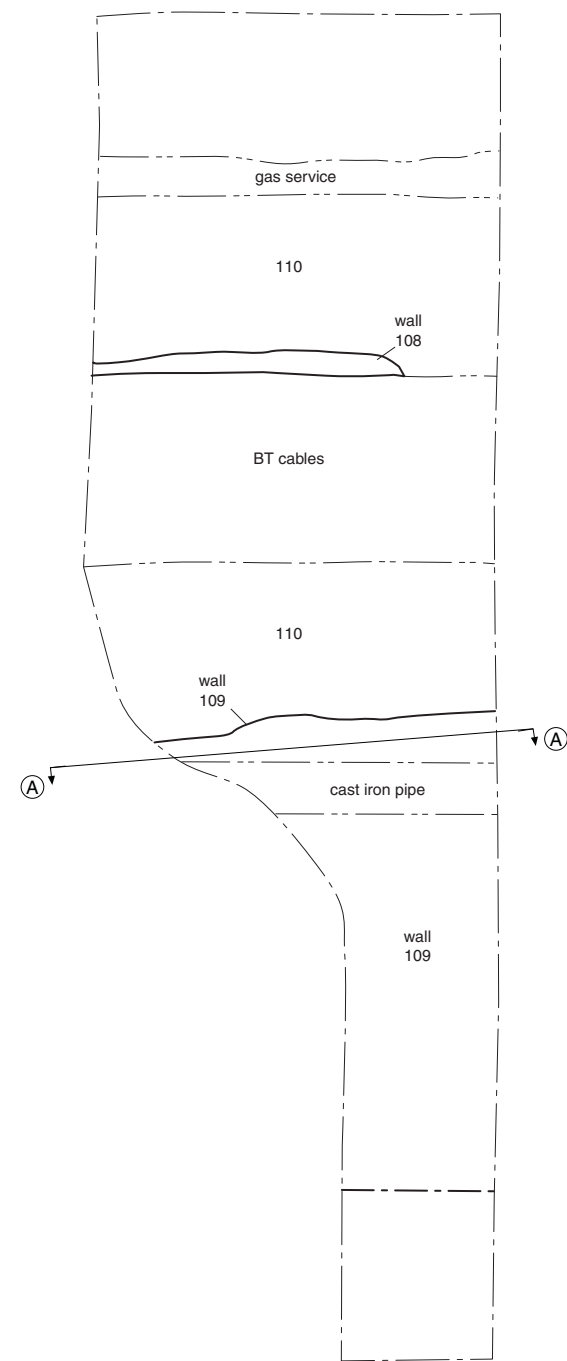
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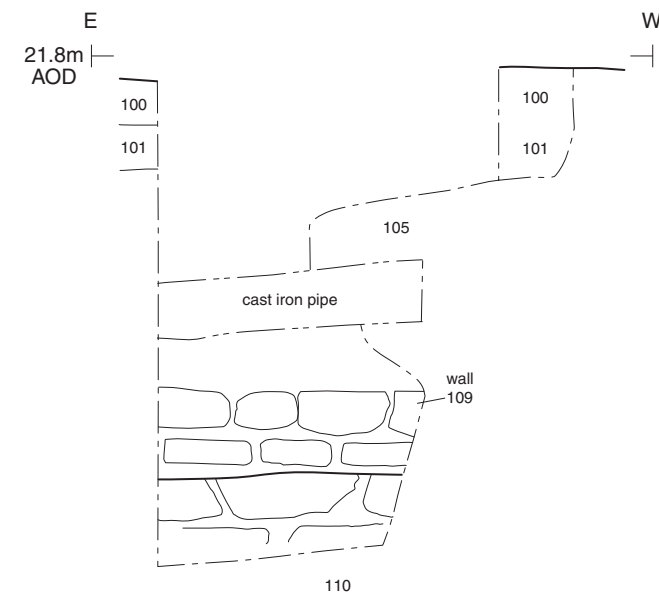
ST



Trench 1, plan



Section AA



Trench 1, north-facing wall [109] (1m scale)




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**Stall Street and Lower Borough Walls  
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 FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 1: plan, section and photograph**

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 CHECKED BY **DJB** DATE **18/11/15**  
 APPROVED BY **SC** SCALE@A3 **1:20** **3**