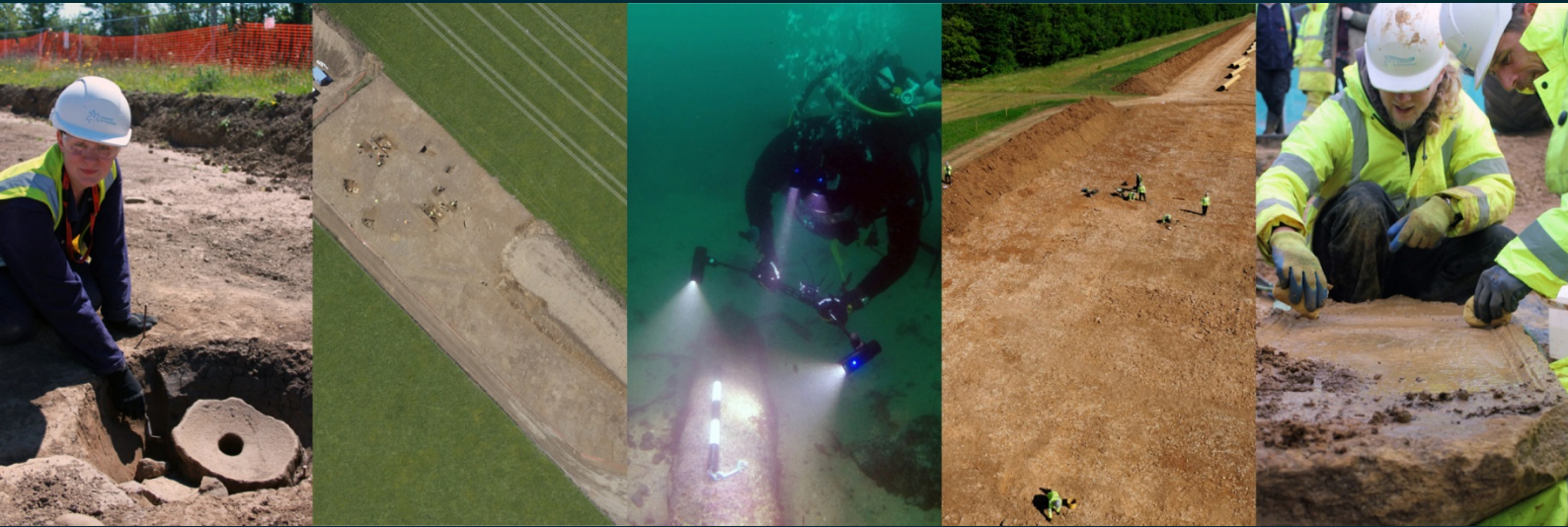


# Castle Way Taunton Somerset

*Programme of Archaeological Work*



*for*  
Pegasus Group and  
Harlequin Group Ltd

*on behalf of*  
Openreach

CA Project: 880176  
CA Report: 17170

April 2017



# Castle Way Taunton Somerset

## Programme of Archaeological Work

CA Project: 880176  
CA Report: 17170



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Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	6 April 2017	Christina Tapply and Derek Evans	Derek Evans	Internal review	–	Derek Evans
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C	4 May 2017	Christina Tapply and Derek Evans	Derek Evans	Client review (2)	Revised para 5.2 in line with client comments	Derek Evans

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**SUMMARY**

**Project Name:** Castle Way  
**Location:** Taunton, Somerset  
**NGR:** ST 22567 24528  
**Type:** Programme of Archaeological Work  
**Date:** 05–09 February 2017  
**SMC:** S00157249  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with the Somerset Museums Service  
**Site Code:** CWAY 17

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with installation of a new DSLAM cabinet and associated ducting at Castle Way, Taunton, Somerset.

The watching brief recorded no archaeological features. A buried topsoil layer survived in one area, but this had been removed in the remainder of the monitored groundworks by extensive modern disturbance. The groundworks disturbed no burials or other features associated with the Saxon cemetery recorded in this area by previous archaeological works.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2017, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of archaeological work at Castle Way, Taunton, Somerset (centred on NGR: ST 2256724528; Fig. 1). This work was commissioned by Pegasus Group and Harlequin Group Ltd, on behalf of Openreach.
- 1.2 Castle Way lies within part of a Scheduled Monument (National Heritage List ref. 1013541: Shell keep castle, part of the associated outer bailey, ninth century cemetery and a Civil War siegework at Taunton Castle). The watching brief was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC ref: S00157249) granted for the installation of a new DSLAM cabinet and associated ducting (linking to an existing PCP119 cabinet). The scope of the archaeological work was defined in consultation with Mel Barge (Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England).
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2017). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015).

### ***The site***

- 1.4 Castle Way is a short, north-north-west/south-south-east aligned thoroughfare in the centre of Taunton.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Group of the Triassic Period, overlain by alluvial clays, silts and gravels (BGS 2016).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Castle Way lies within part of a Scheduled Monument (National Heritage List ref. 1013541: Shell keep castle, part of the associated outer bailey, ninth century cemetery and a Civil War siegework at Taunton Castle). The full archaeological



background of the site is set out in a heritage statement (Pegasus Group 2016). The following text presents a brief summary background.

### ***Saxon cemetery***

- 2.2 Taunton had a Minster from at least AD 904. The exact location of this church building is unknown, but it is thought to have stood within the area of the later outer bailey (see below). Previous archaeological investigations at Castle Green, which lies to the immediate north-east of Castle Way, have recorded burials dating from the 9th–11th centuries and it is likely that these lay within the Minster cemetery (Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) Refs. PRN 44397 and PRN 44407).
- 2.3 An archaeological trial trench excavated to the immediate south of the existing PCP119 cabinet in Castle Way (CA 2016) recorded the natural mudstone substrate at a depth of 0.6m below present ground level (bpgl). This was cut by two archaeological features: a pit and a north/south aligned grave. The grave showed signs of historic disturbance, but had also been partially truncated by a manhole associated with the PCP119 cabinet. The grave was sealed by a 0.15m-thick possible gravesoil, which yielded four sherds of pottery dating from the 12th to 14th centuries. This soil layer was sealed in turn by a 0.35m-thick layer of redeposited natural mudstone, which was overlain by the existing pavement and associated modern make-up layers.
- 2.4 Further graves were recorded during groundworks immediately north of the present development area (HER ref. 28737). These lay at a depth of 0.6m bpgl and were sealed by made ground.
- 2.5 It is likely that the northern extent of the proposed development groundworks is within the former bounds of the Saxon cemetery. The southern part of the proposed works is believed to be beyond the cemetery's anticipated extent.

### ***Taunton Castle***

- 2.6 The existing fabric of the castle dates from the 13th century, although it is thought to have developed from an earlier motte and bailey castle. The castle site was defined by an external moat, which enclosed two areas: an inner ward to the north and a larger outer bailey to the immediate south. Castle Way is within the area of the former outer bailey.

- 2.7 The outer bailey is known from historical sources to have accommodated storage facilities and various auxiliary buildings, including apartments and chambers, barns, a cowshed, a chapel, stables, a dairy, a dovecote, a press and a store for surplus building materials. The area of the outer bailey is now extensively built over; however, the foundations and lower levels of internal structures, together with other features such as pits and postholes and the outer ditch, are likely to survive as buried deposits.
- 2.8 Observations in the 1930s during the construction of the Gaumont Cinema (now the Top Rank Bingo Club), to the immediate west of Castle Way, recorded a double line of posts within the buried castle moat (HER ref. 44629).
- 2.9 Archaeological monitoring of a cable access pit (HER ref. 30398) and a gas main replacement trench (HER ref. 28338), both on the eastern side of Castle Way, did not record any archaeological features.

### **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 As defined in the WSI (CA 2017), the objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features revealed by the development groundworks; and
  - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the project results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

### **4. METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out in the WSI (CA 2017). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks, which comprised the excavation of service trenches and other excavations in advance of a new DSLAM cabinet and a new jointer box (Trenches 1–5, Fig. 2).
- 4.2 Trenches 2, 3 and 5 were hand-excavated by the groundworks contractors. Trenches 1 and 4 were machine-excavated. All excavation, whether by hand or by machine, took place under constant archaeological supervision.



- 4.3 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.4 CA will make arrangements with the Somerset Museums Service for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection.
- 4.5 A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1 This section presents a summary of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the finds (artefactual material) recovered during the watching brief are given in Section 6 and Appendix B. Details of the human bone recovered during the watching brief are given in Section 7.

### ***Trenches 1 and 4 (Figs. 3, 4 and 8)***

- 5.2 Trenches 1 and 4 were excavated to a maximum depth of 1m below present ground level (bpgl). Natural mudstone 104/406 was revealed at a depth of 0.6m bpgl. It was sealed in Trench 1 by 0.1m of sandy clay 103, which may represent a buried topsoil layer. This layer was not present in Trench 4.
- 5.3 Layer 103 was disturbed by modern cut 105, which was sealed by 0.4m–0.5m of modern made ground 102/405. This made ground directly overlay the natural mudstone in Trench 4, and was disturbed by substantial modern cuts 404 and 408.
- 5.4 Trenches 1 and 4 were sealed by tarmac road surface 100/400 and associated bedding layer 101 (Trench 1 only).

### ***Trenches 2 and 3 (Figs. 5, 6 and 7)***

- 5.5 Trench 3 was excavated to a depth of 0.6m bpgl; Trench 2 was excavated to a depth of 0.75m bpgl. The earliest encountered layer was redeposited natural 203/302, which contained modern brick and stone inclusions and was exposed





0.25m bpgl. Layer 203/302 was sealed by modern made ground deposits 202, 201 and 301, which were covered in turn by modern paving slabs 200/300.

### ***Trench 5 (Fig. 9)***

- 5.6 Trench 5 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m bpgl. It was entirely within the backfill of the previous archaeological excavation (CA 2016).

## **6. THE FINDS**

- 6.1 The following section summarises the artefactual material recovered during the watching brief. A finds concordance table is included as Appendix B.

### ***Pottery***

- 6.2 A total of two sherds (15g) of pottery was recovered from two deposits. Both sherds date to the medieval period. Both are abraded and were recovered as residual/redeposited in later contexts.
- 6.3 A single sherd recorded from modern backfill layer 501 (Trench 5) occurs in a hard, moderately coarse fabric tempered with sub-rounded quartz and rare flint, similar to fabric Q403 (Mephram 2002). This fabric belongs to a group of similar fabrics dateable to between the 10th and 14th centuries. A second sherd recorded from redeposited natural layer 302 (Trench 3) occurs in a finer, sandy fabric with rare carbonaceous inclusions; this is similar to fabric Q406 and is dateable to the 13th and 14th centuries (ibid., 155).

## **7. THE HUMAN BONE**

- 7.1 Two fragments of human bone were recovered as disarticulated/redeposited from modern backfill layer 501 (Trench 5). These comprised a distal femur fragment from a medium-sized adult and a proximal right femur fragment from a large adult.

## **8. DISCUSSION**

- 8.1 The watching brief recorded no archaeological features. A small area of buried topsoil (as recorded during the previous archaeological work at the site; CA 2016) survived in Trench 1, but this had been removed elsewhere by extensive modern

disturbance. Trenches 2 and 3 were within the backfill of the construction cut for the immediately adjacent Top Rank Bingo Club building, which was constructed in the 1930s. Trench 5 was entirely within the backfill of the 2016 archaeological works and was not deep enough to disturb the fragmentary Saxon burial recorded previously in this area.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Christina Tapply, assisted by Parris Stubbings. This report was written by Christina Tapply and Derek Evans. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Katie Marsden and Sharon Clough, respectively. The report illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

## 10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

Accessed 26 August 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Castle Way, Taunton, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation* CA typescript report **16498**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Castle Way, Taunton, Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Work* CA typescript report **16498**

Mephram, L. 2002 'Pottery' in Hutcheson, A. and Andrews, P. 2002 'Excavations at the County Hotel, Taunton 1995–6' *Somerset Archaeol. Natur. Hist.* **144**, 139–163

Pegasus Group 2016 *Proposed DSLAM Cabinet at Castle Way (PCP119), Taunton: Heritage Statement*



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Depth/ (thickness) (m)
1	100	Layer		Road surface	Tarmac	(0.07)
1	101	Layer		Modern made ground	Loose black/brown silty sand	(0.1)
1	102	Layer		Modern made ground	Dark grey-black sandy material with modern brick and mortar inclusions	(0.4)
1	103	Layer		Buried topsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	(0.1)
1	104	Layer		Natural	Reddish brown mudstone	
1	105	Cut		Modern cut	Modern cut	0.3
1	106	Fill	105	Fill of modern cut	Dump of large stones in mid grey clayey matrix	0.3
2	200	Layer		Pavement surface	Stone slabs	(0.05)
2	201	Layer		Modern made ground	Mixed mid purple brownish clayey sand	(0.15)
2	202	Layer		Modern made ground	Loose yellow sand with stone inclusions	(0.12)
2	203	Layer		Redeposited natural	Mixed reddish brown sandy clay	(0.52)
3	300	Layer		Pavement surface	Stone slabs	(0.08)
3	301	Layer		Modern made up	Dark grey brown mixed clay	(0.25)
3	302	Layer		Redeposited natural	Mixed reddish brown sandy clay	(0.55)
3	303	Layer		Modern made ground	Light grey/brown mixed sand with bricks	(0.35)
3	304	Layer		Modern made ground	Orange brown clay, compacted	(0.55)
4	400	Layer		Road surface	Tarmac	(0.08)
4	401	Layer		Bedding layer	Tarmac fragments	(0.25)
4	402	Layer		Modern made ground	Grey/beige gravel hard core, loose	(0.45)
4	403	Fill	404	Fill of 404	Tarmac and large stones in silty clay matrix	1
4	404	Cut		Modern cut	Modern cut, filled by 403	1
4	405	Layer		Modern made ground	Tarmac, brick fragments and large stones in silty clay matrix	(0.58)
4	406	Layer		Natural	Reddish brown mudstone	
4	407	Fill	408	Deposit	Tarmac and large stones in silty clay matrix	0.08
4	408	Cut		Modern cut	Modern cut, filled by 407	0.08
5	500	Layer		Pavement	Stone slabs/tarmac	(0.08)
5	501	Layer		Modern backfill	Hardcore	(0.6)

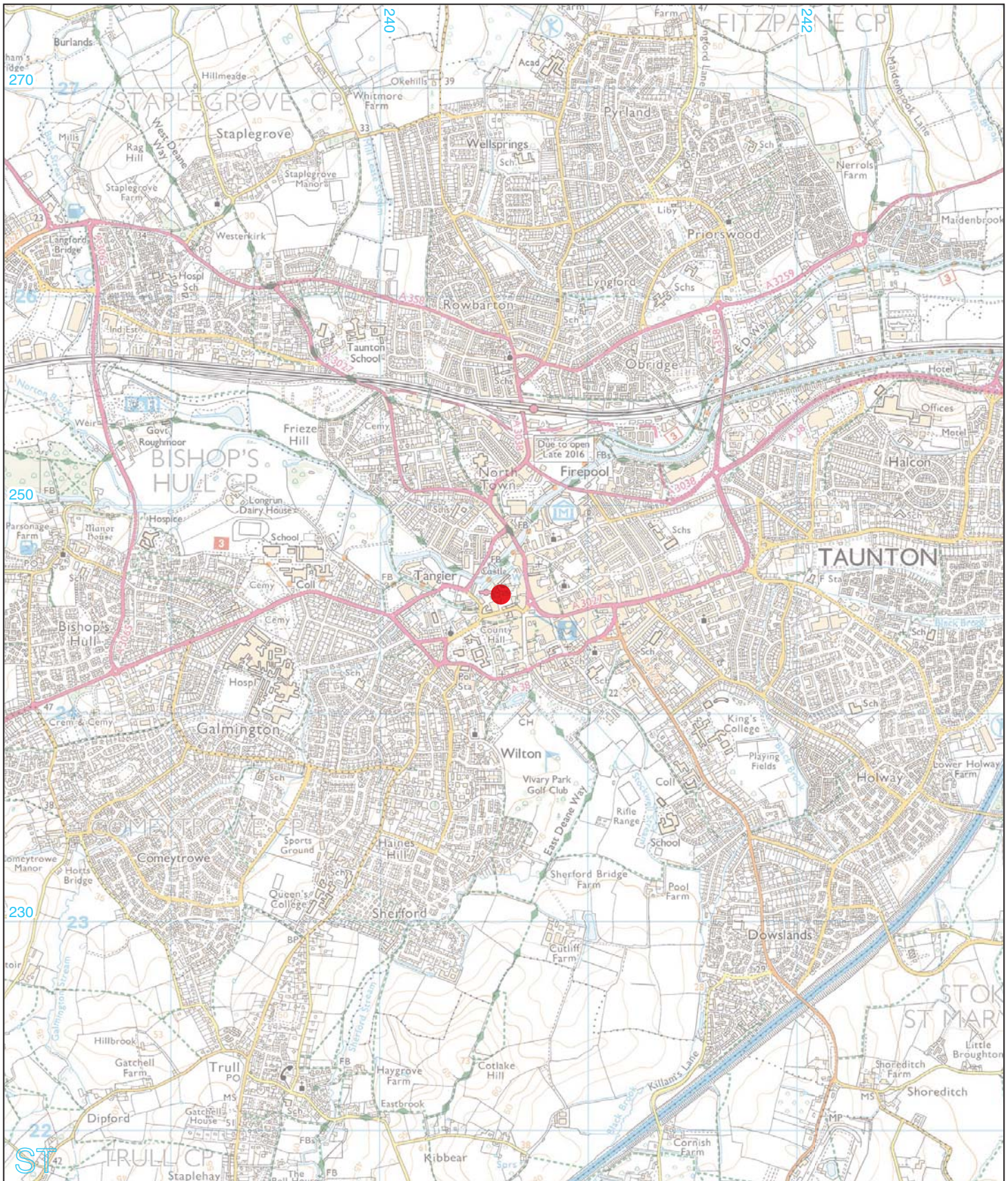
## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
302	medieval pottery	glazed, sandy fabric	1	7	C13-C14
501	medieval pottery	coarse, quartz-tempered	1	8	C10-C14

Table B1: finds concordance

## APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Castle Way, Taunton, Somerset: archaeological watching brief	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with installation of a new DSLAM cabinet and associated ducting at Castle Way, Taunton, Somerset.</p> <p>The watching brief recorded no archaeological features. A buried topsoil layer survived in one area, but this had been removed in the remainder of the monitored groundworks by extensive modern disturbance. The groundworks disturbed no burials or other features associated with the Saxon cemetery recorded in this area by previous archaeological works.</p>	
Project dates	5 February–9 February 2017	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (Pegasus Group 2016) Archaeological evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2016)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Castle Way, Taunton, Somerset	
Study area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	ST 22567 24528	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Christina Tapply	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Somerset Museums Service	Ceramics, bone
Paper	Somerset Museums Service	Trench record sheets, site drawings
Digital	Somerset Museums Service	Database, digital photos etc.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2017 <i>Castle Way, Taunton, Somerset: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report 17170		



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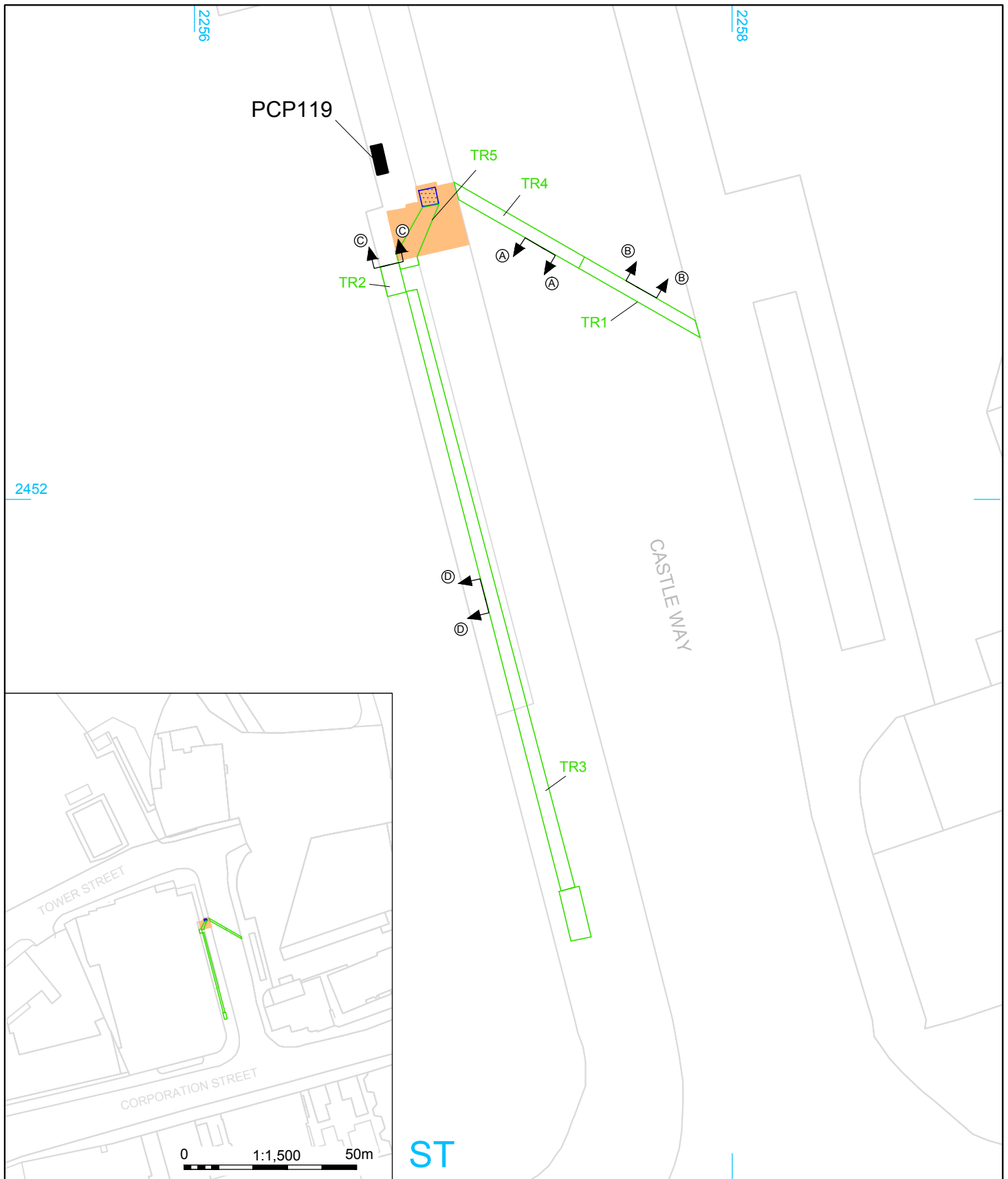
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Castle Way, Taunton, Somerset






**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan



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<b>DRAWN BY</b>	EE	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	880176	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	DJB	<b>DATE</b>	06/04/2017	<b>1</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	DE	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	1:25,000	



-  Monitored groundworks
-  Previous excavation area (CA 2016)
-  BT box
-  Manhole
-  Section location

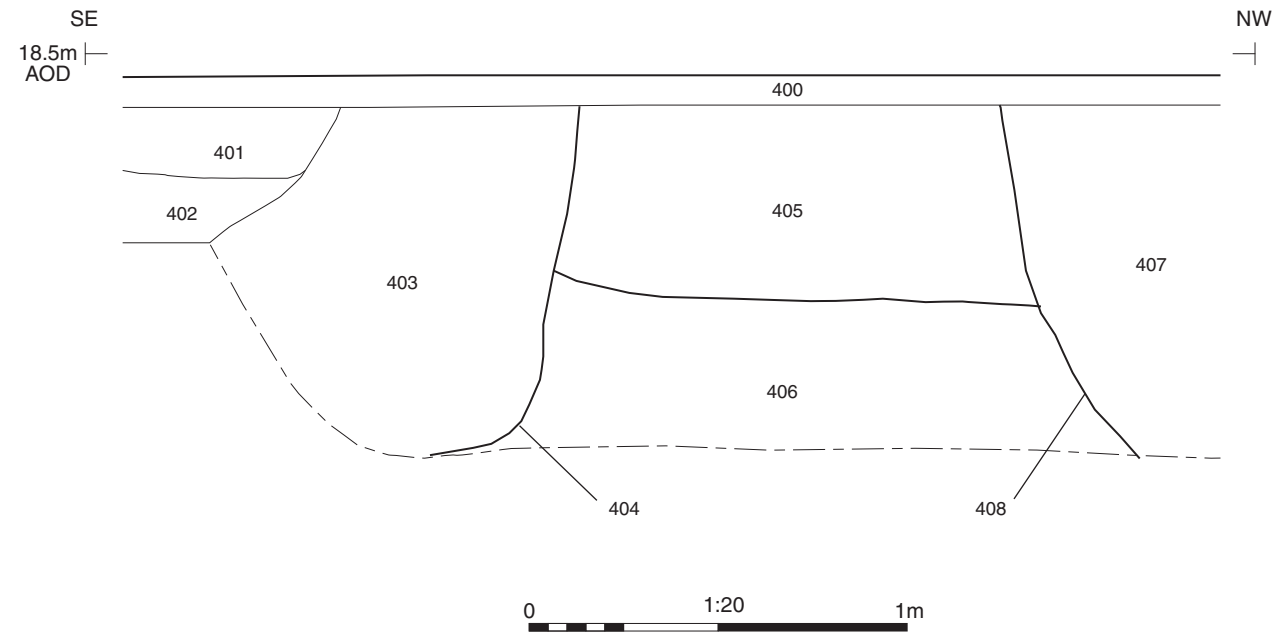


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PROJECT TITLE  
 Castle Way, Taunton, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE  
**Location of monitored groundworks**

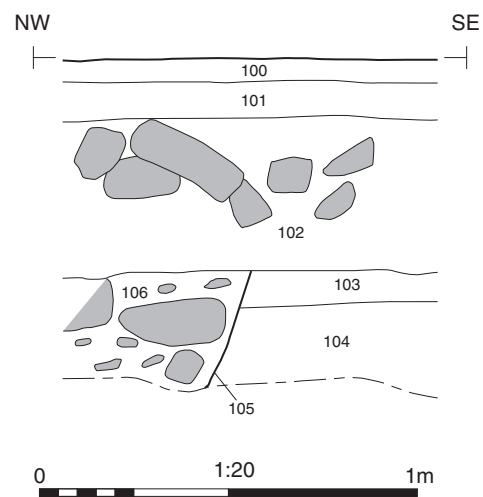
Section AA



Trench 4, looking south-west (1m scale)

3

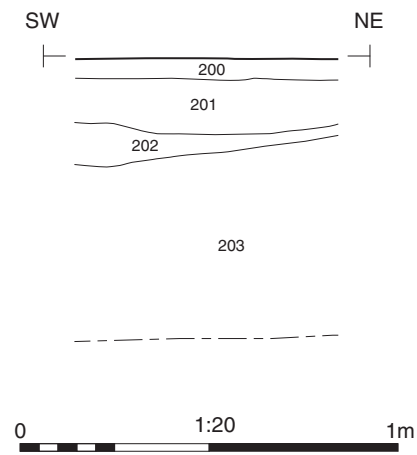
Section BB



Trench 1, looking north-east (1m scale)

4

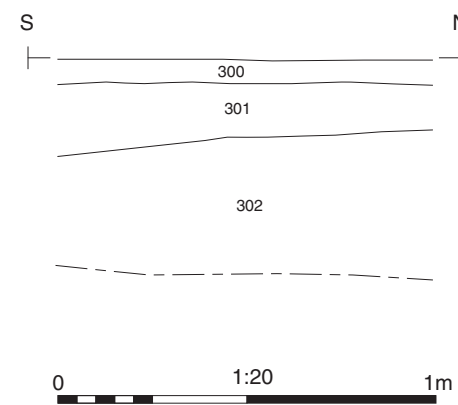
Section CC



Trench 2, looking north-west (1m and 0.4m scales)

5

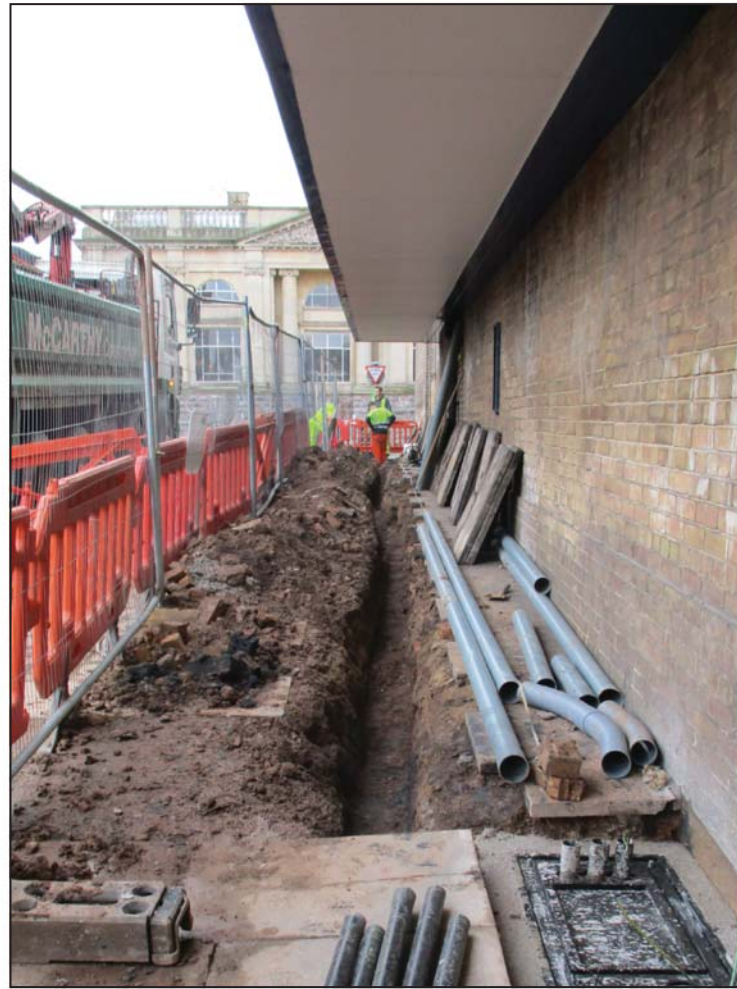
Section DD



Trench 3, looking east (1m scale)

6





7

Trenches 2 (foreground) and 3, looking south-east



8

Trench 4, looking north-west



9

Trench 5, looking north-west

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