

Trinity Business Centre
South Street
Taunton
Somerset

Archaeological Watching Brief



for:
RPS Consulting Services Ltd.

on behalf of:
McCarthy & Stone

CA Project: EX0098
CA Report: EX0098_1

December 2020



**Trinity Business Centre
South Street
Taunton
Somerset**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Trinity Business Centre, South Street, Taunton, Somerset
Location:	Taunton, Somerset
NGR:	323489 124234)
Type:	Watching brief
Date:	February and October 2020
Planning reference:	38/19/0266
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Somerset Museums Service and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	TRI19

In February and October 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the residential development of the site at Trinity Business Centre, South Street, Taunton, Somerset.

No structural remains associated with the 19th century South Street Brick Works were uncovered during the watching brief other than a circular brick yard surface.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In February and October 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Trinity Business Centre, South Street, Taunton, Somerset (centred at NGR: 323489 124234; Figure 1). This watching brief was undertaken for RPS Consulting Services Ltd on behalf of McCarthy & Stone.
- 1.2. Somerset West and Taunton Council has granted planning permission for residential development of the site (planning ref: 38/19/0266). Condition 5 of this planning permission requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with an approved WSI.
- 1.3. The scope of this watching brief was defined by Steve Membery (South West Heritage Trust), the archaeological advisor to Somerset West and Taunton Council. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2019) and approved by Steve Membery.
- 1.4. The watching brief was also in line with Somerset Archaeological Handbook (South West Heritage Trust 2017), *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *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: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5. The proposed development site is approximately 0.67ha in extent. It lies on the south-western side of South Street, to the south-east of Taunton town centre. The site was occupied by the Trinity Business Centre, which comprised a group of light industrial buildings and associated hardstanding.
- 1.6. The site slopes down gently from a height of c. 24m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at its western corner to a height of c. 23m aOD at its eastern corner.
- 1.7. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Group, which formed in the Triassic Period. No superficial deposits are recorded at the site.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The following text is summarised from a desk-2.1. based heritage assessment of the proposed development site (CgMs 2018).

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43) and Roman (AD 43–AD 410)

- 2.2. There is no evidence for prehistoric activity within or in close proximity to the proposed development site. The site appears to have been located away from known areas of Roman settlement and activity.

Early medieval (AD 410–1066) and medieval (1066–1539)

- 2.3. Taunton originated during the early medieval period as a fortified settlement (a 'burgh'). The early medieval and medieval town core is thought to have been located c. 450m north-west of the proposed development site. The site is likely to have lain within the town's surrounding agricultural hinterland.

Post-medieval (1530–1800) and modern (1800–present)

- 2.4. Bowen's Map of Somerset (1765) and the 1802 Ordnance Survey (OS) map show the proposed development site within open land to the south-east of Taunton.
- 2.5. By the time of the 1839 Taunton Tithe Map, a residential property had been constructed within the site's north-eastern corner (fronting onto South Street). The remainder of the site was depicted as within parts of two larger meadows.
- 2.6. The 1890 OS map shows most of the site as occupied by the South Street Brick Works and associated substantial clay extraction pits. The works buildings were concentrated in the south-eastern part of the site and included a brick kiln, brickmaking sheds, a horse-powered pug mill and a ropewalk. Brickmaking at the site is believed to have ceased by 1904. The extraction pits were situated in the north-western part of the site and were infilled with domestic refuse in the early 20th century.
- 2.7. The 1915 OS map records an allotment garden within the former area of extraction in the north-western half of the site. Minor new buildings are shown in the south-eastern part of the site in 1931. The site was developed for light industrial use by 1962 and was redeveloped again by 1982.
- 2.8. The 19th century clay extraction activity and the 20th century industrial development are likely to have had a negative impact on the survival of any below

ground archaeological remains which may have been present at the proposed development site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. The general objectives of the watching brief were:

- to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the watching brief results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

3.2. The specific aim of the watching brief was to investigate and record any structural remains associated with the 19th century South Street Brick Works (see Archaeological background, above) which have survived below-ground at the site.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The watching brief comprised the observation by a competent archaeologist of all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed development. These works comprised the post-demolition removal of existing foundations and floor slabs, etc., and the machine excavation of new foundation and service trenches.

4.2. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3. No deposits were identified that required sampling.

4.4. CA will make arrangements with Somerset Museums Service for the deposition of the project archive. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).

4.5. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B.
- 5.2. The natural geological substrate (**101**) comprised mid-red silt/clay and was revealed at an average depth of 1.2m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by made ground deposits comprising mid-grey clay, with modern concrete, brick and shingle inclusions (**100**), averaging 0.12m in thickness.
- 5.3. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, other than a circular brick yard surface likely to be associated with the Brick Works, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see Archaeological background, above), no structural remains associated with the 19th century South Street Brick Works were uncovered during the watching brief other than a circular brick yard surface. It is likely that further structural remains associated with the South Street Brick Works were removed during previous developments of the site.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Adam Howard, Tim Brown and Jonathan Orellana. This report was written by Ray Kennedy. The report illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The project archive has been compiled by Richard Paxford and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2020 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> Accessed 27
November 2020

Cotswold Archaeology 2019 *Trinity Business Centre, Taunton, Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CgMs 2018 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Trinity Business Centre,
South Street, Taunton, Somerset

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2019 National Planning
Policy Framework

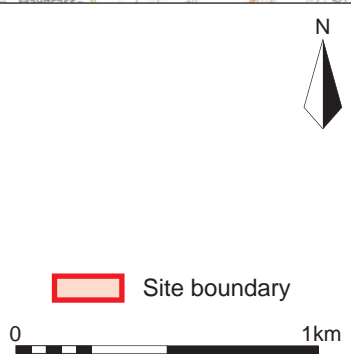
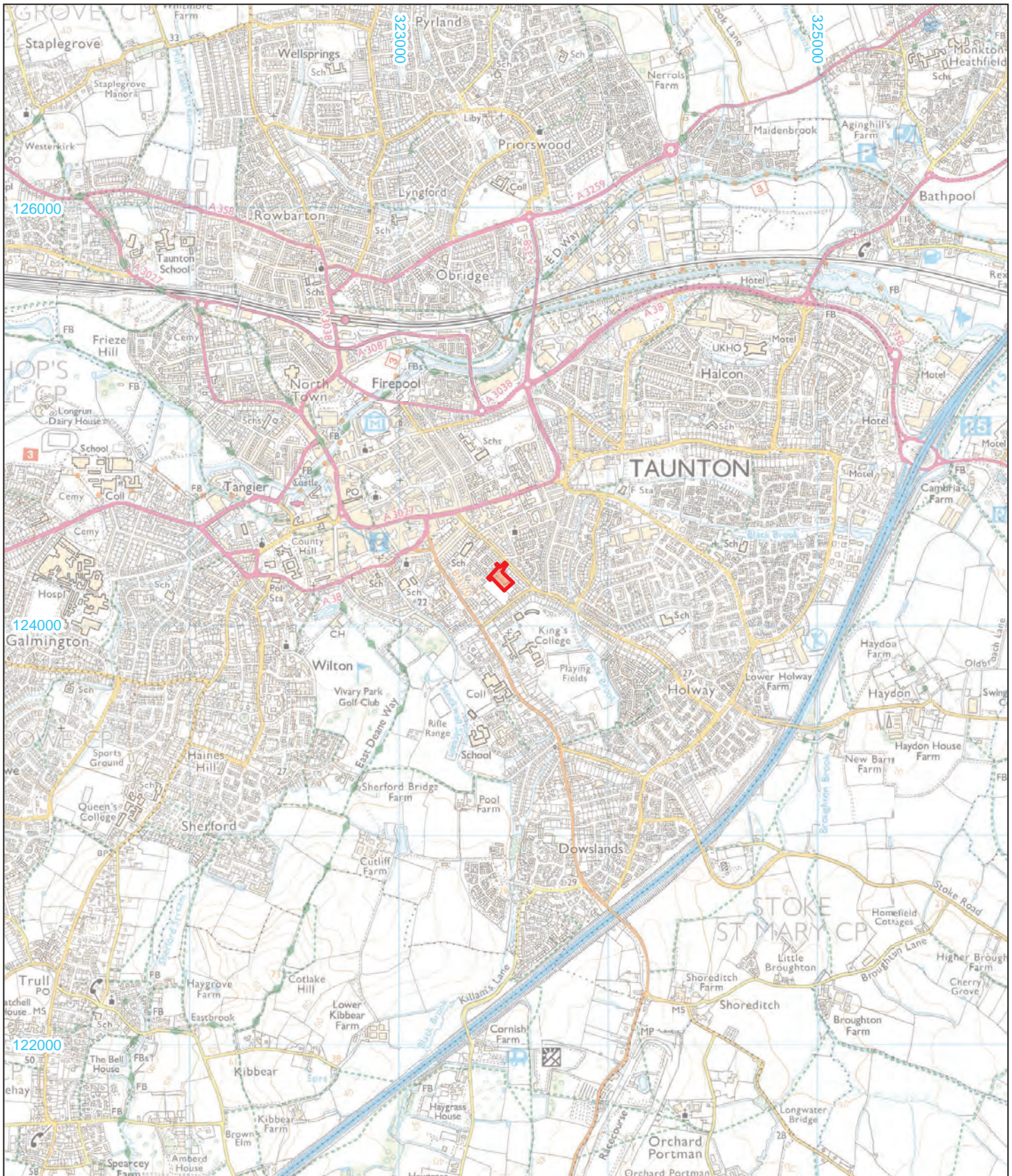
Somerset County Council 2007 The Archaeology of South West England: South
West Archaeological Research Framework – Resource Assessment and
Research Agenda

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Made ground	Mid grey clay, with modern concrete, brick and shingle inclusions			0-0.12
1	101	Layer		Natural	Mid red silty clay			1.2+
1	102	Cut		Pit	Cut of modern pit	9	6	N/A
1	103	Fill	102	Fill of pit	Mixed red/black clay with brick inclusion	9	6	N/A
1	104	Cut		Pit	Sub-oval pit	4	3	N/A.
1	105	Fill	104	Fill of pit	mid grey sandy clay and brick rubble	4	3	N/A
1	106	Layer		Road surface	Red brick road surface, single course of bricks	9	2.44	0.09
1	107	Cut		Cut of road	Construction cut of the road, curvilinear, vertical sides, and a flat base	9	2.44	0.09
1	108	Structure		Wall	Red brick wall with concrete footings	5.5	0.49	0.20
1	109	Cut		Foundation cut	Construction cut of concrete footings	5.5	0.49	0.20
1	110	Layer		Buried soil	Mid red silty clay			

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Trinity Business Centre, Taunton, Somerset	
Short description	In February and October 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the residential development of the site at Trinity Business Centre, South Street, Taunton, Somerset. No structural remains associated with the 19th century South Street Brick Works were uncovered during the watching brief other than a circular brick yard surface.	
Project dates	February and October 2020	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work		
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Trinity Business Centre, Taunton, Somerset	
Study area (m ² /ha)	0.67ha	
Site co-ordinates	323489 124234	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator		
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans/Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Adam Howard, Tim Brown, and Jonathan Orellana	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) Somerset Museums Service	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		Context sheets, matrices etc
Digital		Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2020 Trinity Business Centre, Taunton, Somerset: <i>Archaeological Watching Brief CA</i> typescript report EX0098_1		




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PROJECT TITLE
 Trinity Business Centre, Taunton,
 Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10.12.20	1
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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- Site boundary
- Area of observed works
- Modern
- Structure
- Surface



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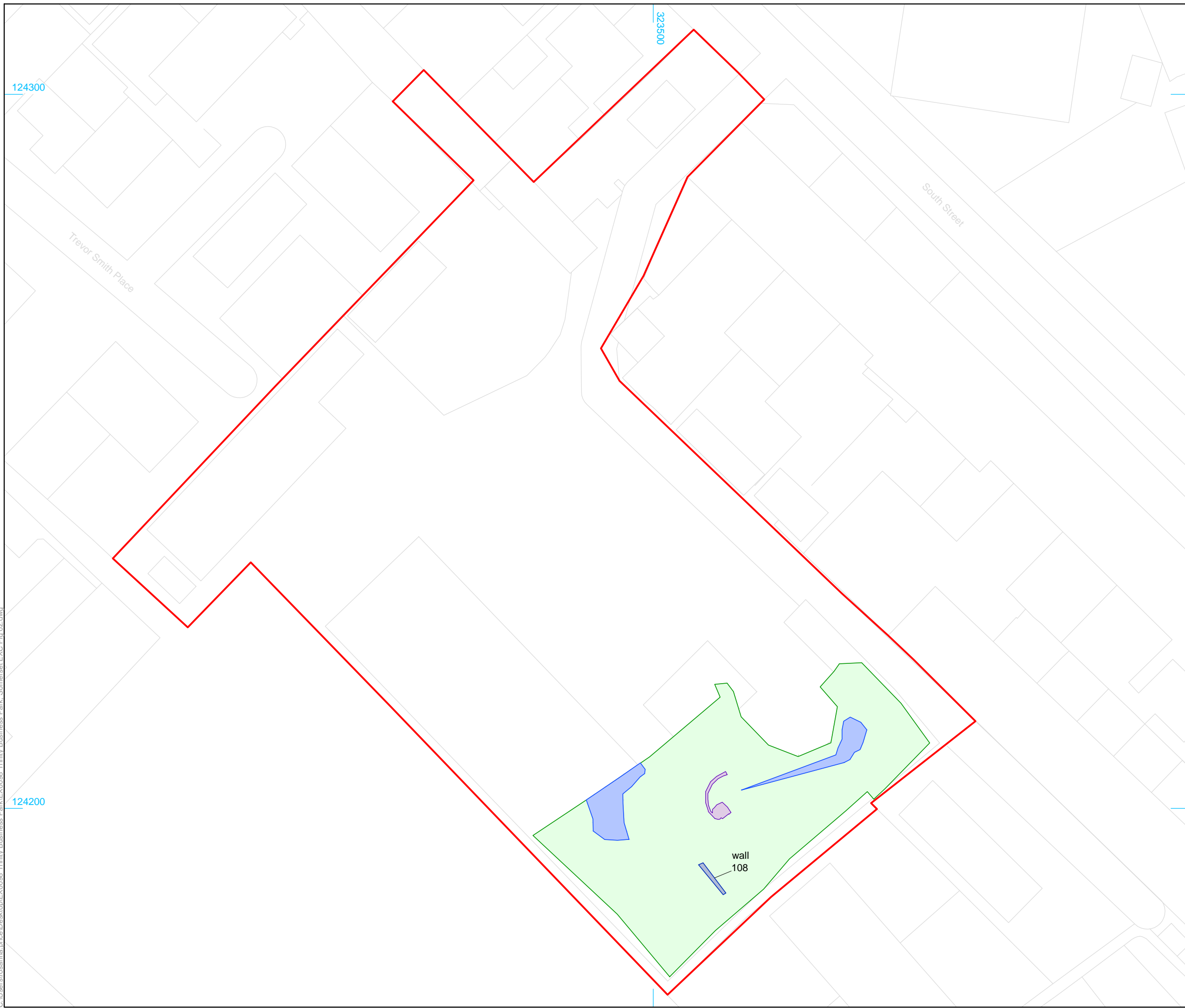
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PROJECT TITLE
Trinity Business Centre, Taunton, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
Area of observed works

<small>DRAWN BY</small> RP	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> EX0098	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
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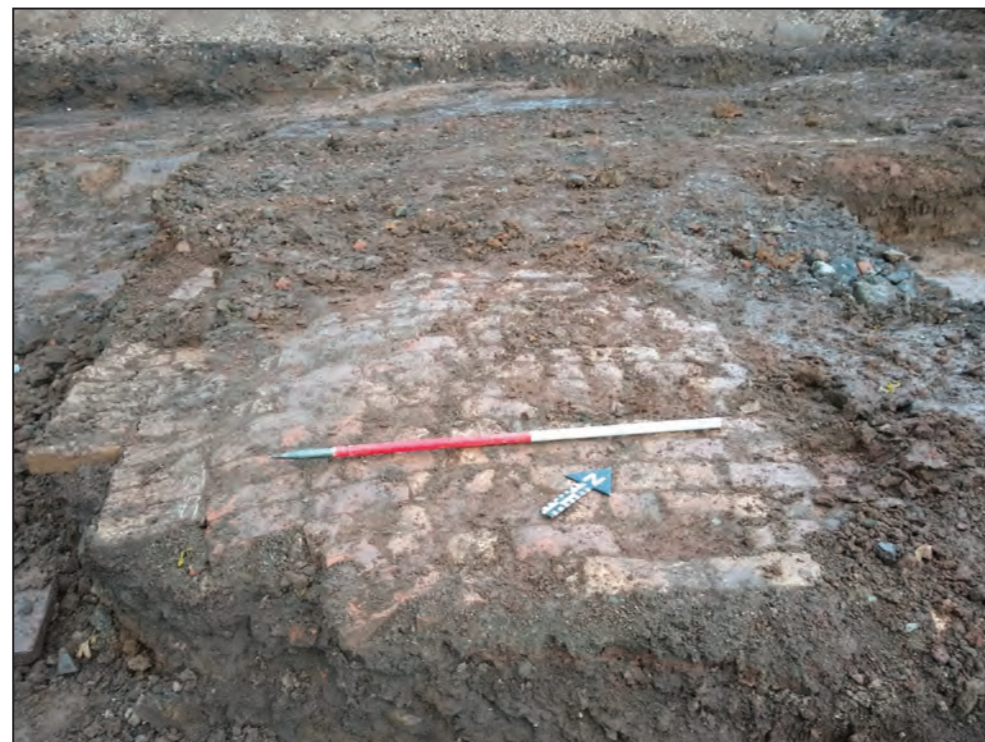
3

General working shot, looking north-west (1m scale)



4

General working shot



5

General working shot, looking north-west (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Photographs

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6

General working shot



7

General working shot, looking north-east (1m scale)



8

General working shot, looking north-west (1m scale)


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FIGURE TITLE
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