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Environmental Impact Assessment

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Finds/ Environmental Analysis

Field Evaluation & Excavation


Historic Building Recording


Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**Residential Development:
Cotton Street, Paisley, East Renfrewshire,
Archaeological Evaluation**

Report No. 3243

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**Residential Development:
Cotton Street, Paisley, East Renfrewshire,
Archaeological Evaluation**

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in December 2014 at land adjacent to Cotton Street, Paisley, East Renfrewshire (NS 48758 63964, centred) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Westpoint Construction Company (Scotland) Ltd prior to the reapplication for the development of the remaining area on the site. This evaluation was undertaken in order to allow the developer to ascertain the likelihood of encountering archaeological remains and in particular, human remains, prior to starting the redevelopment.

A method Statement (MS) dated 05 December 2014 covering this programme of works was produced by CFA on and approved by West of Scotland Archaeological Service (WoSAS).

A map regression report (Haines & Glendinning, 2008) was prepared for this development which identified three areas (Areas 1-3) of potential archaeological survival within the development area. The area of this evaluation lies within Area 2 as defined in this report (Fig. 1). For the previous application a watching brief had been requested on this area as there was potential for the fragmentary remains of the graveyard, associated with the former United Presbyterian Church that once occupied the site, to be present (Fig. 3).

The programme of work that was undertaken in Area 1 and part of Area 2 as part of the existing planning application for this development will be reported on under a separate cover.

1.2 Background

The development area is situated within a rectangular portion of land which is bounded on the east by Mill Street, Renfrewshire Council Buildings to the south and Paisley Police Station to the north. Previously, the development area had been landscaped as part of the grounds of the Renfrewshire Council buildings. The area had been a mixture of soft and hard landscaping.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives were:

- to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area; to establish their vulnerability to the proposed development; and to propose mitigation measures.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods.

2.2 Evaluation

All of the trenches were excavated using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator, equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

The total development area was c.1300m² and the MS proposed the excavation of 130m² of trial trenches which amounted to 10% of the total development area. However, due to on-site obstructions and underground services the total area available for evaluation amounted to approximately 305m². Five trial trenches amounting to 68m² (c.22%) were excavated within the area available (Figs. 2, 4-8).

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 2.

3.2 Evaluation

Trench 1 (Fig. 2, 3 & 4)

Trench 1 measured 7.5m long by 3.5m wide with a maximum depth of 1.7m. The deposits consisted of 0.7m of modern hardcore (**0106**) overlying 0.2m-0.3m of black/grey furnace ash/gravel (**0107**) overlying c.0.70m of mixed rubble in matrix of very compact grey clay (**0108**). This overlay a sandstone and mortar-bonded wall (**0105**) and an alignment of kerb stones (**0103**).

The wall was aligned broadly north-east by south-west and the exposed remains measured 3.25m in length by 0.7m in width. The top of the wall was uncovered at a depth of 0.85m from the current site surface and extended down past the base of the trench at 1.7m below the site surface. The alignment and position of this suggests it was the graveyard wall (Fig. 3). On the east side of the wall, which would have been external to the graveyard the natural subsoil (**0000**) was identified on the base of the trench and the foundation trench (**0109**) for the wall was visible cut in to this.

Four flat, rectangular stones (**0103**) overlying very firm brown clay (**0112**) were identified at a depth of 1.4m below the current site surface, and slightly to the east of the proposed graveyard wall. The alignment and position of these suggest they might have been kerb stones, possibly relating to the old alignment of Mill Street (Fig. 3). Only a short length measuring approximately 3.0m was present in the trench as the northern end was truncated by a later pipe trench.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2, 3 & 5)

Trench 2 measured 4.5m long by 2.0m wide with a maximum depth of 1.8m. The deposits consisted of c.0.5m of modern hardcore (**0202**) overlying 0.3m mixed made ground consisting of brick and rubble within a matrix of very compact clay (**0203**) overlying 1.0m of courser made ground (**0204**). This was not bottomed but it overlay A short length of sandstone and mortar-bonded wall (**0201**).

This length of wall was identified on the same alignment as (**0110**) and was interpreted as a continuation of this (Fig. 3). It was identified at depth of 1.8m. No further excavation was possible due to trench instability.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2, 3 & 6)

Trench 3 measured 7.1m long by 2.3m with a maximum depth of 3.5m. The deposits generally consisted of 0.1m of modern hardcore (**0301**), 1.7m of mixed gravel and rubble within a matrix of very compacted clay (**0302**). This continued past the base of the trench. Excavation was ceased due to trench instability.

Nothing of archaeological interest was identified.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2, 3 & 7)

Trench 4 measured 5.8m long by 2.1m wide with a maximum depth of 2.7m. The deposits in Trench 4 consisted of 0.1m of modern hardcore (**0401**) overlying c.1.9m of mixed gravel and rubble within a matrix of very compacted clay (**0403**). This overlay a possible concrete surface (**0402**) measuring 3.5m long by 1.5m wide by 0.3m thick. However, this was only partially exposed and it could have been a large loose block of concrete demolition debris. Excavation continued to a depth of 2.7m down the side of the concrete and the material below this appeared the same as **0403** and continued past the base of the trench. Excavation was ceased due to trench instability.

Nothing of archaeological interest was identified.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2, 3 & 8)

Trench 5 measured 3.0m long by 2.0m wide with a maximum depth of 2.6m. The deposits consisted of 0.6m of modern hardcore (**0501**) overlying a 0.12m deep lens of sand (**0502**) overlying c.1.1m of mixed gravel and rubble within a matrix of very compacted clay (**0503**) overlying c.0.75m of black/grey clay overlying courser ash and rubble (**0505**), this continued past the base of the trench and excavation was ceased due to trench instability

Nothing of archaeological interest was identified.

4. CONCLUSIONS

It seems certain that the two lengths of sandstone wall (**0110 & 0201**) identified in Trenches 1 and 2 correspond to the graveyard boundary wall depicted on the Ordnance Survey Town Plan of Paisley (1867-68) (Fig. 3) and that the rectangular stones (**0103**) correspond with edge of Mill Street, as depicted on the same map. If this is the case then it would appear that during the previous phase of redevelopment of the site (the Council Offices) the ground level in this area was built up by over 1.4m as evidenced by the depth these features were buried at.

Based on the position of the wall identified in Trenches 1 and 2 it is clear that Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5 were all located within the former graveyard. Natural undisturbed subsoil was not exposed in this area and deposits of mixed disturbed ground containing brick, rubble and plastic detritus were identified to depths generally greater 2.6m below the current site surface. If we consider that the this whole area has been built up by c 1.4m then it does seem likely that the graveyard area has been disturbed to a depth of significantly more than 1m below the original graveyard surface. This suggests that there is very little chance of anything of the graveyard surviving. It now seems likely that the graveyard was emptied when the previous council buildings were developed, hence the depth of the disturbed ground in this area.

It is recognised that the evaluation was limited but it is considered that the results are valid in showing that there has been considerable disturbance in this area. It is considered that the area within the mapped confines of the graveyard has been disturbed to a depth of significantly more than 1m below the original graveyard surface and that the potential for any burials surviving is very low. Whilst elements of the boundary wall of the graveyard and the earlier alignment of Mill Street may survive these are not considered to be archaeologically significant and their presence has been recorded by this evaluation.

The developer has advised that the foundation solution that will be adopted in this area is a piled one and the current site surface is around the level of the finished site surface. It is currently considered that the deepest excavation that will be required to construct the new build properties will around 1m down from the current site surface. Based on the available evidence it would appear that all of the excavations would terminate in the made ground with only the piles themselves going below this. Based on this it is questionable whether further mitigation such as a watching brief will be relevant. However, it is recognised that the final decision as to whether further work is required rests with the council as advised by WoSAS.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the SMR.

A summary statement of the results of this work will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* and an online OASIS entry submitted on completion of the project

5. REFERENCES

Bibliographic

Haines, K & Glendinning, B. 2008, *Cotton Street, Paisley. Map Regression Report*, CFA Archaeology Ltd Report No. 1546.

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey, *Town Plan of Paisley*, 1:500 (1867-68)

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

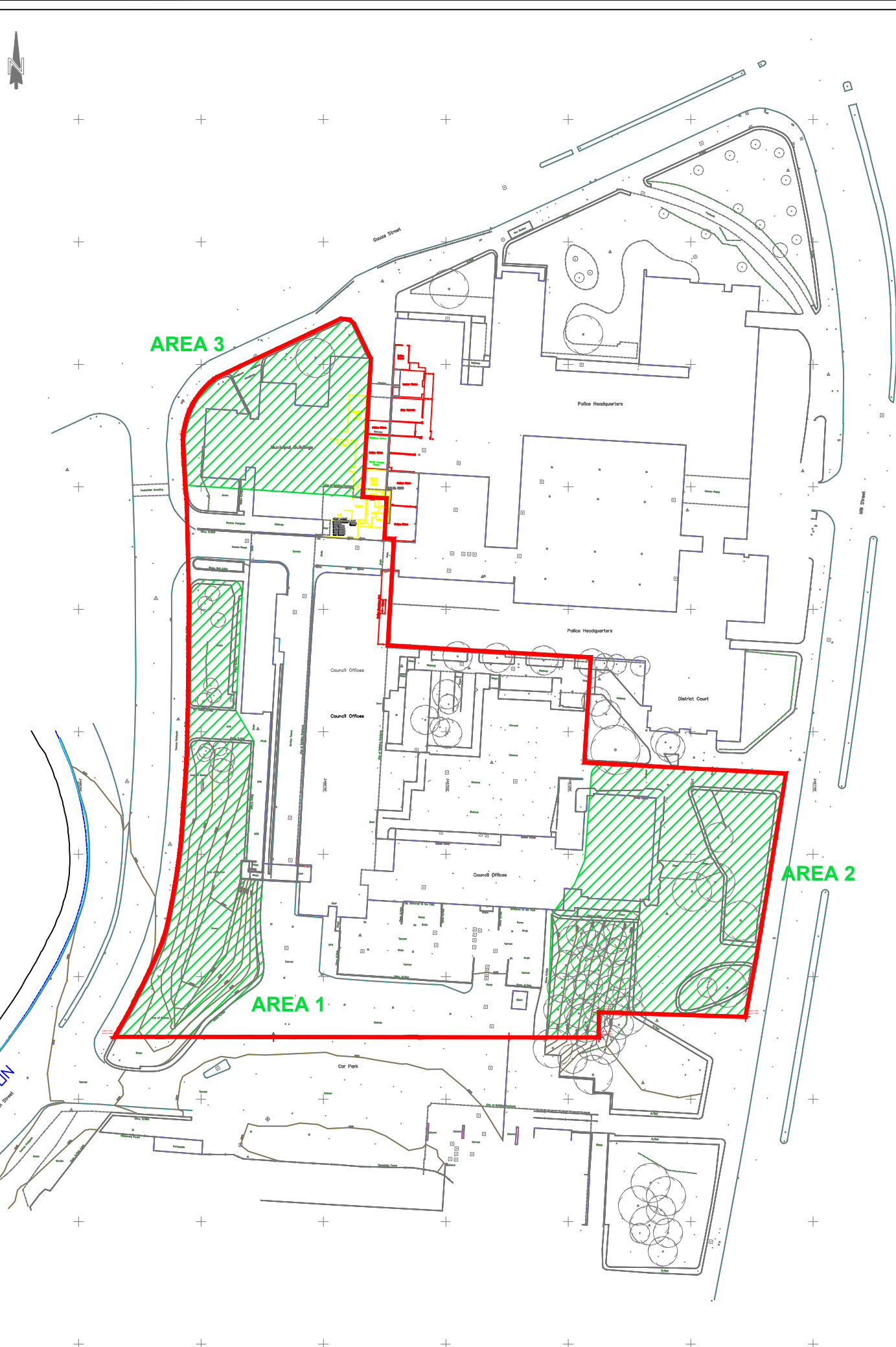
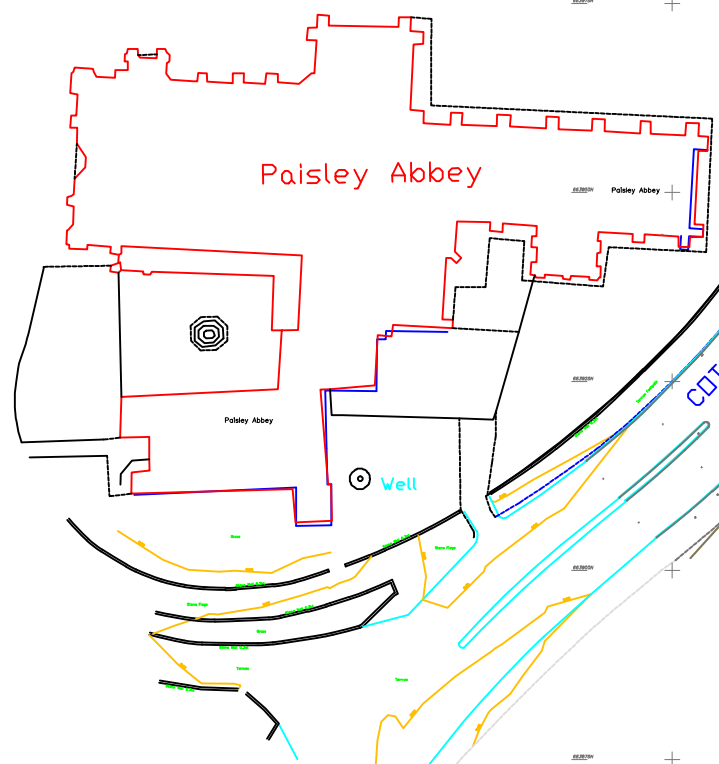
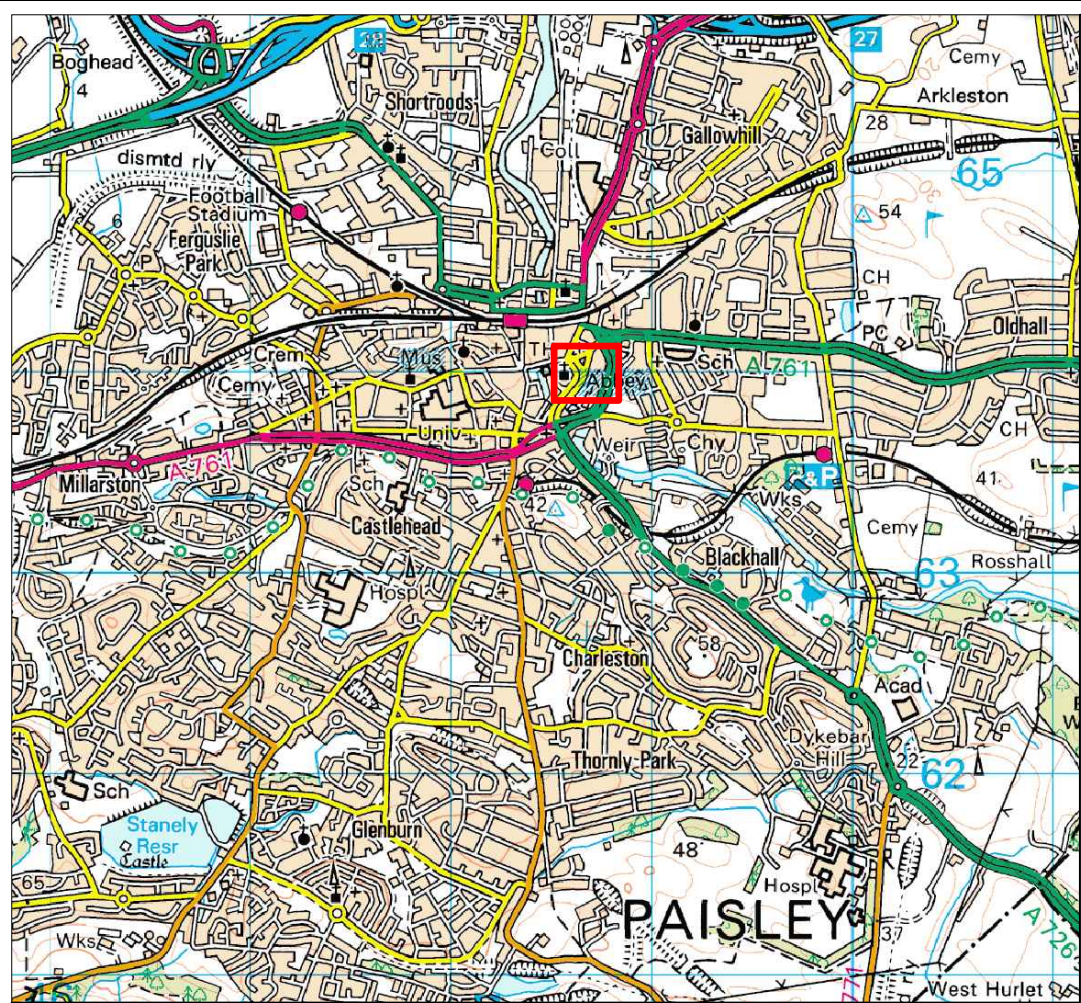
Number	Description	From
1	General shot of the Block D (Area 2) showing the limit of land available for evaluation and debris around the outside	N
2	General shot of the Block D (Area 2) showing the limit of land available for evaluation	SE
3	General shot of the Block D (Area 2) showing the limit of land available for evaluation	N
4	General shot of the Block D (Area 2) showing the limit of land available for evaluation	NE
5	General shot of the Block D (Area 2) showing the limit of land available for evaluation	S
6	General shot of the Block D (Area 2) showing the limit of land available for evaluation	SE
7-8	Possible kerb stones/road surface (0103) from Mill Street	S
9	Wall (0105), kerb (0103), foundation trench cuts (0101) and (0109)	S
10	As above	SSE
11-13	East facing elevation of wall (0105)	E
14-15	General shot showing removal of part of wall (0105)	S
16-17	North facing section of Trench 1 showing made ground (0106-0108), wall (0105) and kerbs (0103)	N
18	East facing section of Trench 1 showing wall (0105), made ground (0106-0108) and modern pipe cut	E
19	Oblique shot showing the same as above	SE
20	Trench 2 with sandstone wall (0201)	S
21-22	Trench 2 showing wall (0201) in plan	N
23	Trench 2 showing wall (0201) in plan	W
24-25	North-east facing section of Trench 3	NE
26-27	North-east facing section of Trench 3 with more detail	NE
28	South-west facing section of Trench 3 with benching of trench sides	SW
29	South-west facing section of Trench 3	SW
30	As above	SW
31	Trench 3 in relation to working area	SSW
32	Trench 3 in relation to working area	S
33	Trench 3 in relation to working area	NNE
34-35	Sondage in Trench 3 completely through made ground (0301)	NE
36	Edge of concrete surface (0402) with one cobble still set into concrete	NNW
37	Edge of concrete surface (0402) in Trench 4	SE
38	Concrete surface (0402) in Trench 4 with additional sondage	SE
39	Concrete surface (0402) in Trench 4 with additional sondage	S
40	South facing section of sondage in Trench 5	S
41	Oblique of south facing section of sondage in Trench 5	SW
42	As above	SW

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context	Trench	Description	Plan	Section	Photo
0101	1	Wall foundation trench	1	8	9-13
0102	1	Fill of wall foundations trench	1	8	9-13
0103	1	Possible kerb stones or foundations of a wall, concrete blocks	1	8	7-10
0104	1	Brown clay levelling below kerbs (0103)		8	9-10
0105	1	Sandstone, mortar-bonded wall	1	8	9-13
0106	1	Upper levelling modern hardcore		8	17-19
0107	1	Levelling deposit, black furnace ash layer		8	16-17
0108	1	Mixed rubble in matrix of very compact grey clay			16-19
0109	1	Cut for (0105)		8	9-10
0110	1	Fill of cut (0109)		8	9-10
0111	1	Brown clay deposit		8	16-17
0112	1	Mixed rubble in matrix of compact clay		8	16-17
0113	1	Cut for clay pipe		8	16-17
0114	1	Fill of cut (0113) for pipe		8	16-17
0201	2	Sandstone and mortar-bonded wall which is most likely the same as (0105)	2		20-23
0202	2	Modern hardcore			
0203	2	Brick and rubble within a very compacted matrix of clay			
0204	2	Rubble layer			
0301	3	Modern hardcore			24-27
0302	3	Firm grey clay			24-27
0401	4	Modern hardcore			24-27
0402	4	Concrete surface for cobbling			24-27
0403	4	Brick and rubble within a very compact matrix of clay			24-27
0501	5	Modern levelling/made ground		7	40-42
0502	5	Pocket of sand within mixed deposits		7	40-42
0503	5	Levelling layer/made ground		7	40-42
0504	5	Clay layer below 0503		7	40-42
0505	5	Levelling layer/made ground below (0504)		7	40-42

APPENDIX 3: Field Drawings

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Description	Plan/Sect (P/S)	Scale
1	1	Plan of Trench 1	P	1:50
2	1	Plan of Trench 2	P	1:50
3	1	Plan of Trench 3	P	1:50
4	1	Plan of Trench 4	P	1:50
5	2	Plan of Trench 5	P	1:50
7	2	South facing section of Trench 5	S	1:20
8	3	North facing section of Trench 1	S	1:20



Key:

- Development Area
- Archaeological Sensitive Area



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Fig. No: 1 Report No: 3243

Title:
 Site location and site plan
 with archaeologically sensitive
 areas

Project:
 Residential Development:
 Cotton Street Paisley, East
 Renfrewshire, Archaeological
 Evaluation

Client:
 Westpoint Construction
 Company (Scotland) Ltd

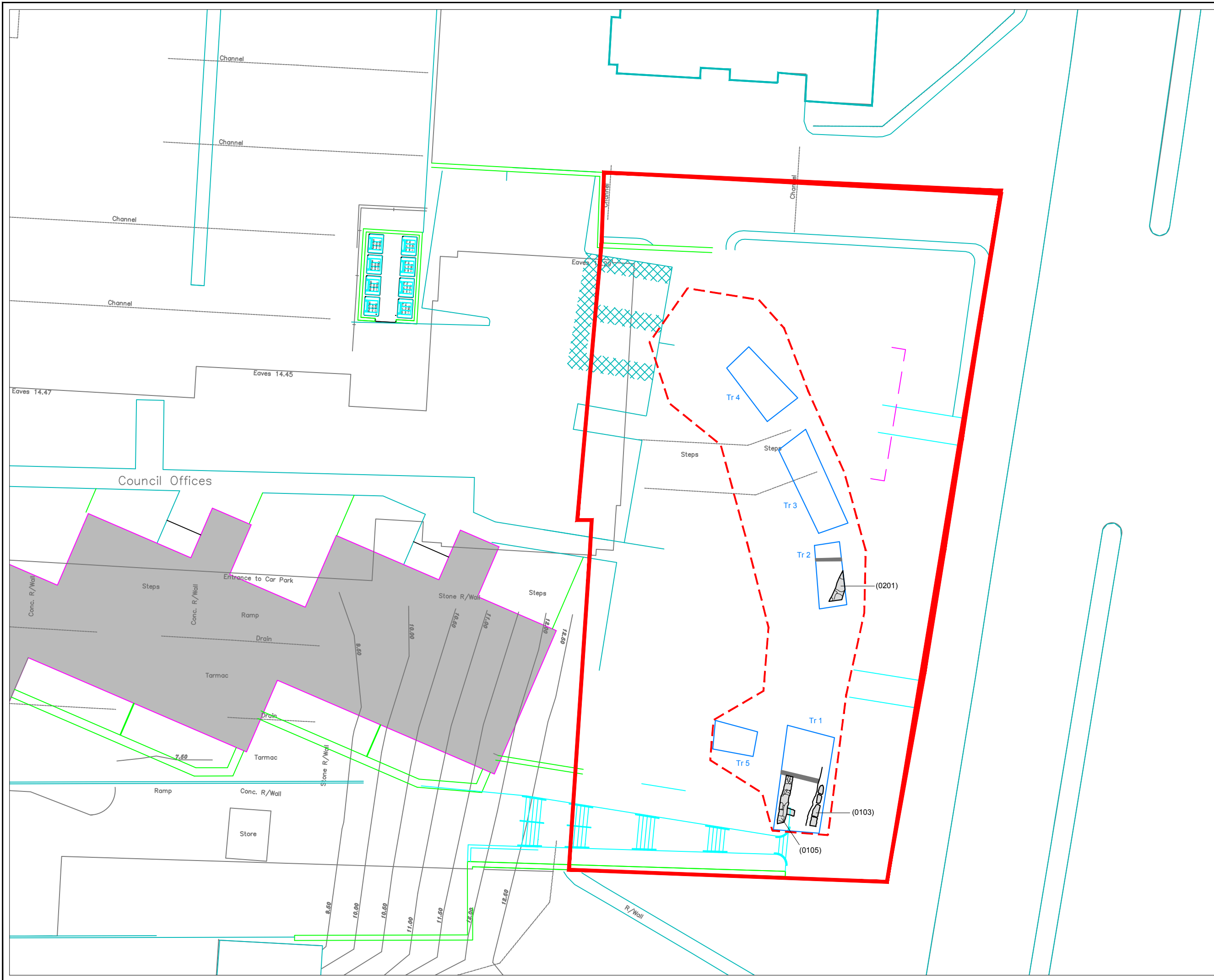
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Drawn by: SW Checked: BG Date: 22/07/2014

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Key:

- Area of Evaluation (full)
- Area Available for Evaluation
- Trench Location
- Stone
- Modern Services



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Fig. No: **2** Report No: **3243**

Title:
Trench Locations

Project:
**Residential Development:
 Cotton Street, Paisley, East
 Renfrewshire, Archaeological
 Evaluation**

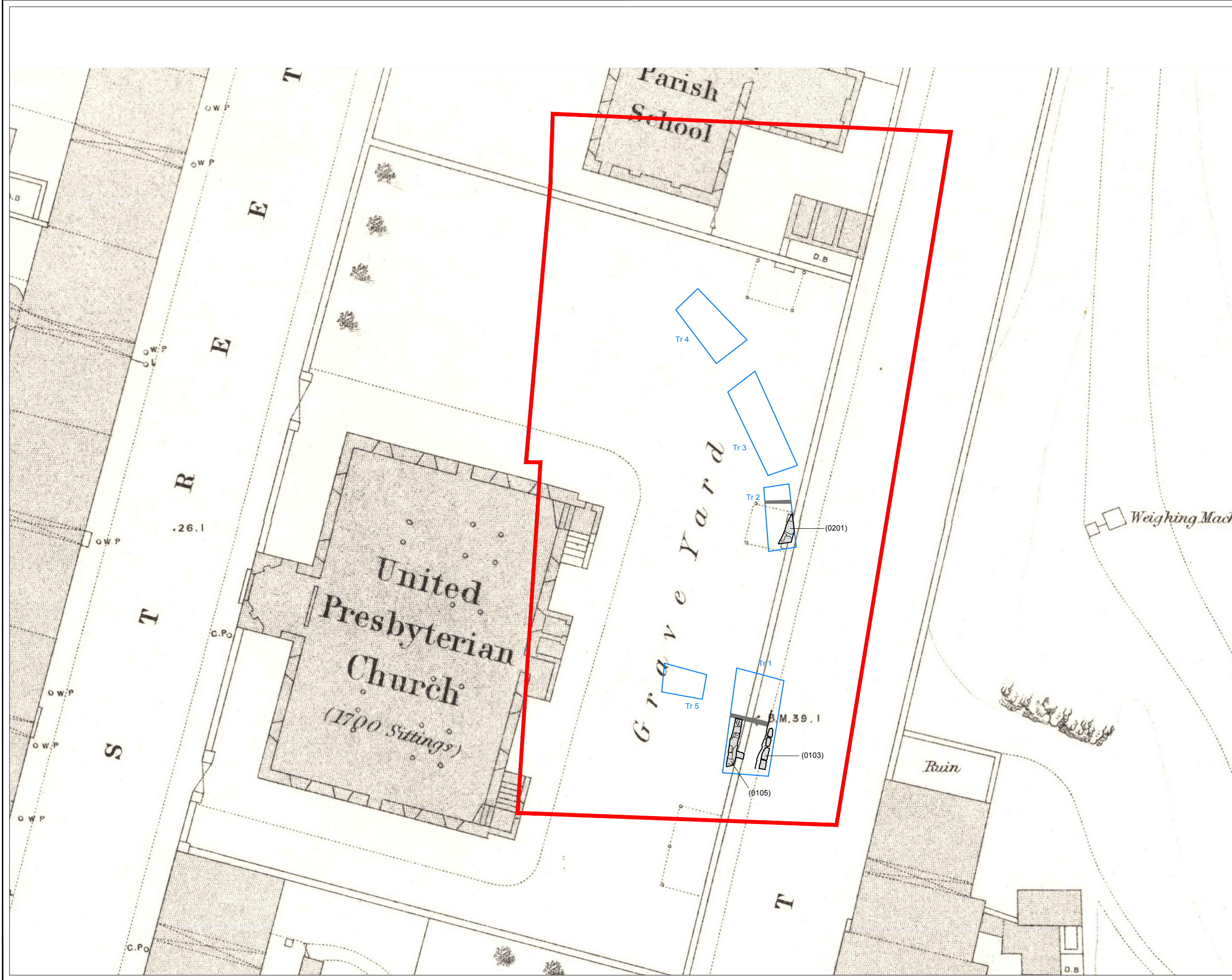
Client:
**Westpoint Construction
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Scale at A3:
1:250

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Key:

- Development Area
- Trench Location
- Stone
- Modern Services



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Fig. No: **3** Report No: **3243**

Title:
**Ordnance Survey Town
 (1867-68) with overlay of
 features**

Project:
**Residential Development:
 Cotton Street, Paisley, East
 Renfrewshire, Archaeological
 Evaluation**

Client:
**Westpoint Construction
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Scale at A3:
1:250



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Fig. 4 - Wall (0110) and road surface (0103), Trench 1.



Fig. 5 - Wall (0201) in Trench 2.



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Title:
Plates - Trench 1 & 2

Fig. 4-5	Report: 3243	Drawn: SW	CKD: BG	Date: 18/12/14
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Client:
Westpoint Construction Company (Scotland) Ltd

Project:
**Residential Development: Cotton Street, Paisley, East Renfrewshire,
 Archaeological Evaluation**





Fig. 6 - South-west facing section of Trench 3.



Fig. 7 - Trench 4 from the south-east.



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Title:	Fig. 6-7	Report:	3243	Drawn:	SW	CKD:	BG	Date:	18/12/14
Plates - Trench 3 & 4		Client: Westpoint Construction Company (Scotland) Ltd							
Project: Residential Development: Cotton Street, Paisley, East Renfrewshire, Archaeological Evaluation									





Fig. 8 - South facing section of Trench 5.



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Title: Plates - Trench 5	Fig. 8	Report: 3243	Drawn: SW	CKD: BG	Date: 18/12/14
	Client: Westpoint Construction Company (Scotland) Ltd				
Project: Residential Development: Cotton Street, Paisley, East Renfrewshire, Archaeological Evaluation					

