GOOSE HILL FORMER SCHOOL SITE
MORPETH
NORTHUMBERLAND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

DECEMBER 2022

The Archaeological Practice Ltd.

GOOSE HILL FORMER SCHOOL SITE
MORPETH
NORTHUMBERLAND

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

***Frontispiece**: Two chutes divided by a sandstone wall, representing latrines in the northern cell block of Morpeth County Gaol.*

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SUMMARY

This report details intermittent archaeological monitoring of a large and varied scheme of works on the site formerly occupied by Morpeth First School. The monitoring took place between April 2021 and August 2022. The purpose of this monitoring was to establish the presence and character of archaeological remains surviving on the site.

An initial phase of works comprised of investigations into existing drainage infrastructure within the site area. This was prompted by flooding in February 2021, thought to be result of a blocked culvert which forced emergency excavation of an in-situ chute recorded previously. These investigations were designed to establish the location and character of a pre-existing system of culverts. Further investigation of culverts for the purposes of infrastructure planning resumed from November 2021 until February 2022.

Works to install new drainage infrastructure began in March 2022. These works consisted firstly of the cleaning out of the culvert in order to install new pipework within it. From April, a phase of excavation of new pipe runs and catch pits was carried out, including a large water attenuation system in the east of the site. Starting in May, footing trenches were excavated for the construction of retaining walls along Goose Hill and alongside the future car park's access road, among other general groundworks.

Investigation of the drainage infrastructure on site in April revealed a well-built stone culvert and features associated with the men's cell block. Two partially complete latrines were encountered, probably within the men's cells themselves, while two locations of probable further latrine chutes were observed in the top of the culvert. In the course of the site works as a whole, the full course of the culvert was able to be traced. The north branch's course followed the line of the men's cells faithfully, while the branch that headed into the meeting point from the direction of the Debtors' Gaol was comprised of multiple angles and turns, presumably to take waste from multiple points within the Debtors' Gaol complex. Both arms of the culvert flowed shortly after their meeting point into a large, extremely well-constructed chamber complete with some form of sluice gate probably necessitated by flooding events in the Wansbeck.

Structures above the culvert encountered in April 2021 included the suspected internal walls of an individual cell and the aforementioned latrines. The survival of these features below the level of post-demolition consolidation was not repeated elsewhere along the line of the men's cells. The two latrines in particular had remarkably avoided substantial deconstruction or demolition. Later, during works to excavate the roadway to finished height, which gave a wider picture of the same area, north and south walls of the men's cell line were encountered in the same place, along with dividing walls delimiting individual cells, or at least their foundations. This confirmed the 1859 OS Plan's relative accuracy in depicting the individual cells' width as a paltry 2 m. The distance between the north and south walls associated with the men's cell line, measured as 4.70 m internally on site represent the width of the individual cell plus the width of corridor. No northern cell wall was identified.

Outside of the culvert and some parts of the men's cells, few structural elements of the gaol seem to have survived. The gaol perimeter wall was encountered in several places. A structure visible on the 1859 OS Plan as a corner projection from the line of the men's cells was able to be tentatively identified on its location and orientation alone during early test excavations on site. The arrangement of walls present in the men's yards, 'radiating' outwards from the north end of the Governor's House, were all able to be identified where they were disturbed by excavation, as was the north wall of the Labour Shed. None of these structures provided any more information than confirming their locations. A feature comprising a setting or basin surrounded by a possible surface was not able to be equated

confidently with any gaol plans. Notable for the absence of any structural remains or surviving deposits above the level of the culvert were the location of the Debtors' Gaol, much of the line of the men's cells, the Joiner's Shop and west Male Debtors' Yard wall and the gaol's graveyard.

The medieval deposits or layers recorded in the north-west corner of the site area represent the first medieval layers encountered during works at Goose Hill, including the previous phase of monitoring in the winter of 2020. In other areas outside of the footprint of the gaol, no similar layers were observed, possibly indicating that the focus for medieval activity along Goose Hill was closer to Castle Square and the bridging point of the Wansbeck.

The surviving and in situ structural features encountered during the project represent a very small fraction of the gaol's structure as a whole. Similar remains may still survive in situ in some places below the depths reached the works for the car park, including further remains of known structures like the arrangement of 'radial' yard walls and the male debtors' gaol yard wall. Any future work after the use-life of the new car park should take the possibility of encountering limited surviving remains into account. Any work over the wider footprint of Morpeth County Gaol, including that under the current Police House complex and further south, is likely to encounter in situ, well-preserved structures, especially in areas where the effect of large-scale construction projects like that of the school has not been a factor.

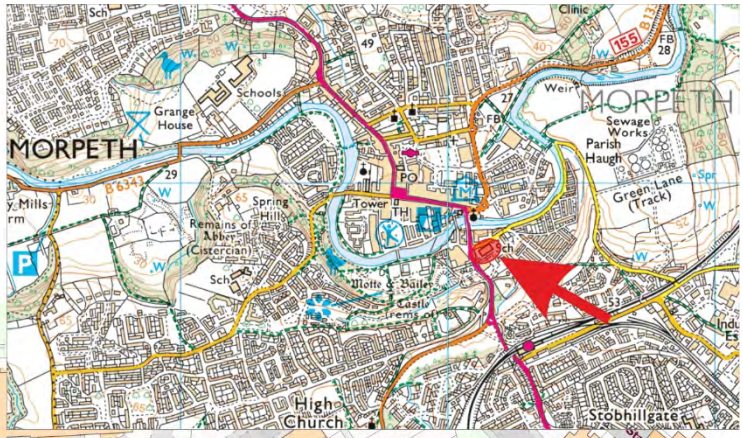
1. INTRODUCTION

This report details intermittent archaeological monitoring of development on the site formerly occupied by Morpeth First School. The land (centred upon NGR: NZ 2014 8574*; see Illus. 01 and 02*) is to be redeveloped into a car park following the school's 2019 demolition. The site area, bounded by Goose Hill to the north-north-west and by Castle Square to the west-south-west, was previously occupied by Morpeth County Gaol from 1821 to 1881, before the school's construction, completed in 1911.

A previous phase of archaeological monitoring and evaluation was carried out between October and December 2020, during ground reduction works subsequent to the demolition of the school. The evaluation and monitoring encountered a small number of in-situ features from the gaol. In light of this, excavation related to the development of the car park necessitated a further archaeological watching brief to be carried out. The watching brief detailed in this report was designed to monitor all groundworks which may have had an impact on archaeological remains. Any ground reduction reaching deeper levels than those reached during the previous phase of works was required to be monitored.

Illus 01. *The location of the school site within Morpeth. (right)*

Illus 02. *The site area, south of Goose Hill and east of Castle Square. (below)*



The archaeological works associated with the current programme took place intermittently between April 2021 and August 2022. An initial phase accompanied investigations into existing drainage infrastructure within the site area. This was prompted by flooding in February 2021, thought to be result of a blocked culvert which forced emergency excavation of an in-situ chute recorded during the 2020 monitoring and evaluation (Archaeological Practice 2020). These investigations were designed to establish the location and character of a pre-existing system of culverts. Further investigation of culverts for the purposes of infrastructure planning resumed from November 2021 until February 2022.

Works to install new drainage infrastructure began in March 2022. These works consisted firstly of the cleaning out of the culvert in order to install new pipework within it. From April, a phase of excavation of new pipe runs and catch pits was carried out, including a large water attenuation system in the east of the site. Starting in May, footing trenches were excavated for the construction of retaining walls along Goose Hill and alongside the future car park's access road.

The purpose of the scheme of archaeological works was to establish the presence and character of archaeological remains surviving on the site.

2. CULTURAL HERITAGE BACKGROUND

The site is located in an area of high archaeological potential with respect to remains associated with the former Goose Hill school (recorded by Historic Buildings Record in 2020), the 19th century gaol and possible earlier deposits associated with medieval and later settlement.

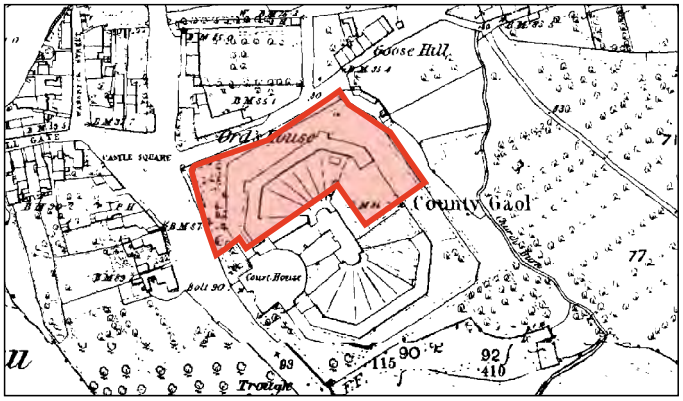
An archaeological assessment of the site carried out by AD Archaeology in October 2019 described historic map regression which showed that part of the site was occupied in the 19th Century by Dobson's Morpeth County Gaol of 1822, the demolition of which, in 1881, left only the gateway (Morpeth Court House, a Grade II* listed building) immediately to the south of the site. It was also concluded that the site, near to the original Norman castle at Haw Hill and the later castle just to the south, may have been the focus of medieval settlement, perhaps from the 13th century, around the castle and the road leading to the crossing point of the Wansbeck. Certainly, some structures were present under the footprint of the wider goal before its construction, as Hodgson reports that the present incumbent (c. 1832) of the Parsonage House associated with St Mary's Church constructed an extension to it using "materials of several houses, pulled down to make room for the new gaol" (1832: 31). A school built on part of the old gaol site in 1911 was closed in 2019 and a decision made to demolish it, on condition of an historic buildings record in mitigation of its loss.

The archaeological assessment concluded that sub-surface remains of the northern half of the gaol may survive on the site, as well as archaeological features relating to the medieval and early post-medieval development of Morpeth, including features relating to the earliest development of the settlement. The assessment report also noted the possible presence of waterlogged deposits and the discovery of human remains during the construction of drains for the gaol in the 19th century, as well as an association of the Goose Hill area with the execution and burial of criminals and victims of the plague. In the 19th Century Morpeth Gaol continued the tradition as a designated place of execution after its construction, with executed interred in the north-east side of the gaol.

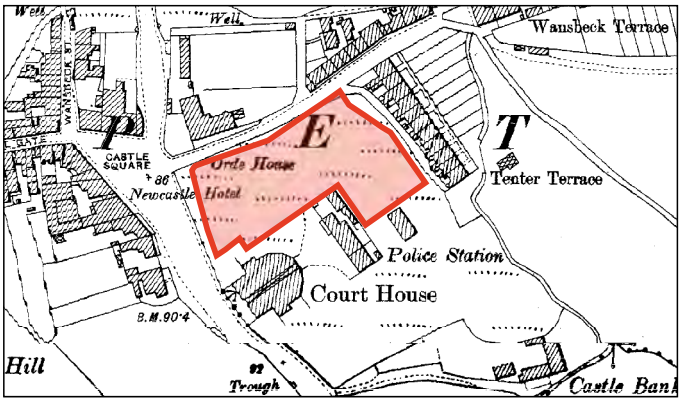
The assessment report further noted that, should human remains of any period or medieval and earlier remains of other activities be encountered on the site during the construction of the car park or associate drainage works, they would require detailed archaeological investigation and recording prior to exhumation.

No invasive archaeological work had taken place on the site before 2020, but non-archaeological test-pits excavated by Technical Services (DCC) in 2013 showed a build-up of topsoil and tarmac/granular fill to a depth of 500-650 mm below current ground level (bgl), while borehole excavations by Dunelm revealed successive layers of made ground, including brick and cobbles, of likely post-medieval date, to a depth of 1000-1300 mm bgl. This layer was considered likely to represent the build-up of the ground level for the construction of the gaol, with the potential for cut features associated with the gaol, including possible burials, to be located in these deposits and below, while earlier remains were thought likely to lie at greater depths.

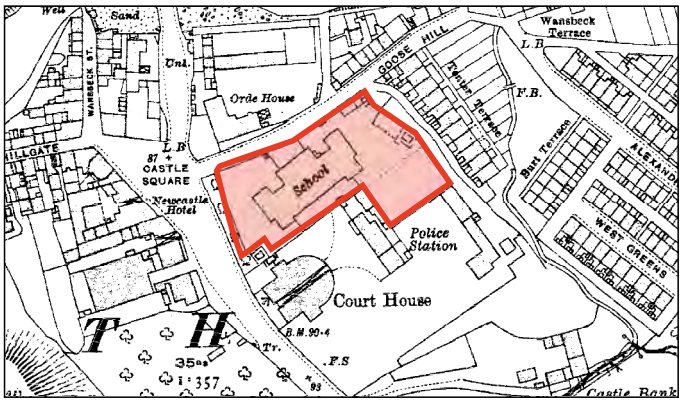
Illus. 03: Historic map sequence showing the development of the site area.



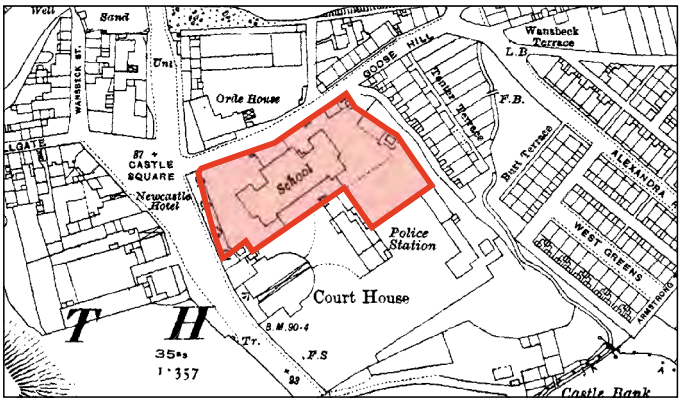
***A:** Extract from the 1850s Ordnance Survey.*



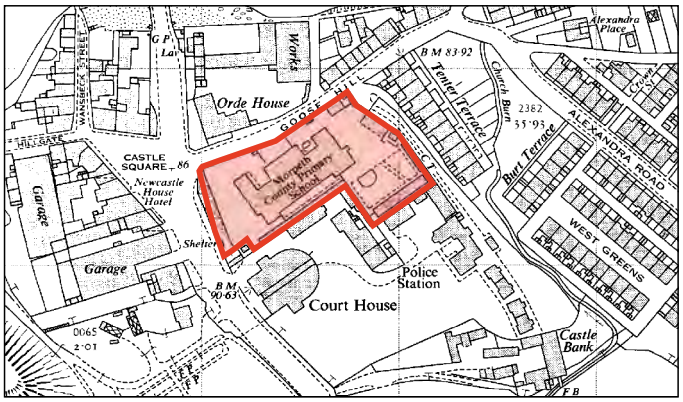
***B:** Extract from the 1890s Ordnance Survey.*



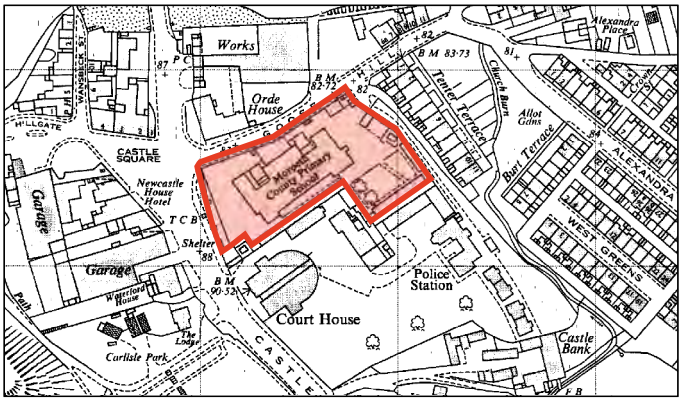
***C:** Extract from the 1920s Ordnance Survey.*



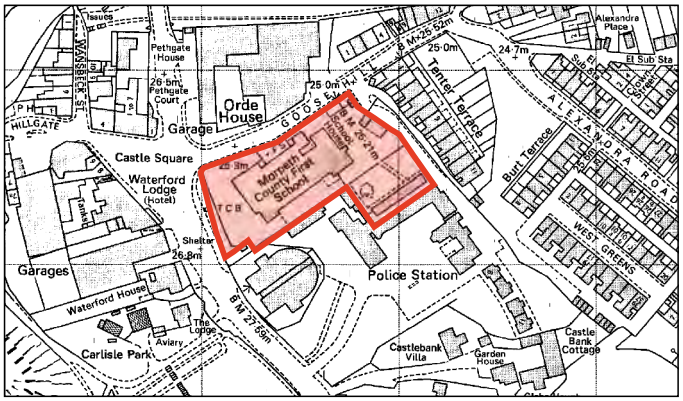
***D:** Extract from the 1930s Ordnance Survey.*



***E:** Extract from the 1950s Ordnance Survey.*



***F:** Extract from the 1960s Ordnance Survey.*



***G:** Extract from the 1980s Ordnance Survey.*

***H:** Extract from the current Ordnance Survey.*

3. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

No archaeological fieldwork is known to have been carried out within the site area before 2020. An Historic Building Recording was carried out by the Archaeological Practice in 2020 in order to record the school buildings prior to demolition.

Between October and December 2020, a scheme of archaeological monitoring and evaluation was carried out during post-demolition works on the site of the former school. The work comprised four broad phases:

- A first phase of evaluation involved the excavation of three trenches cut to depths no greater than 0.75 m below the school playground level.

- Subsequent ground reduction over the majority of the site was monitored intermittently over six working days from October to November.

- Three deeper trenches were excavated in late November in the same locations as the first phase of evaluation trenching. These trenches were excavated largely to a specification designed by Northumberland County Council, although trenches two and three were not excavated to their full depths as natural horizons were encountered.

- A small area was re-excavated in December in order to clarify the character of features and deposits encountered in a test-pit excavated in November during general ground reduction.

Over the four phases listed above, a handful of recognisable, in-situ features relating to the gaol were encountered surviving as footings or low walls. These features were for the most part able to be equated confidently with features of the gaol depicted on the 1859 OS Town Plan. The gaol's perimeter wall, two walls that were part of a radial layout of dividing walls within the men's yard, and the outer wall of the male debtors' yard were all depicted on the town plan, while a toilet chute and remains of drainage features under the former school boiler room were consistent with the location of a men's cell block. A possible well feature encountered during both phases of trenching in Trench 1 is not depicted on any historic plan and has the potential to predate the gaol, although it is also plausible that the feature could be related to the gaol – Hodgson comments that the "machinery for pumping the water in the house of correction side is worked… in the tread-mill manner" (1832; 73). The apparent well may have been what the pump drew water from.

The site was considered to have potential for both the presence of human remains and survival of features pre-dating the gaol along the frontage of Goose Hill or elsewhere on site. No human remains were encountered during the monitoring and evaluation, while no secure pre-gaol layers or features were discovered.

These works informed the current scheme of works, insofar as demonstrating that gaol features were only demolished to around ground level in at least some areas and survived in situ where the construction of the school had not impacted on them. The results of the 2020 monitoring and evaluation were sufficient to recommend that further groundworks on site be subject to watching brief.

4. METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological works were to identify and determine the character of any remains uncovered during groundworks on the site, and to make an appropriate record of such finds by photographic and other means. Features were recorded as deemed appropriate by the monitoring archaeologist on site, following the principles outlined in section 2.2 of the Written Scheme of Investigation:

> *"The purpose of the watching brief is to record any archaeological features as they appear, but not to cause significant delays to the groundworks operation. Thus, sufficient time will be allowed by the developer for archaeological recording where deemed necessary by the contracting archaeologist, but the level of recording will not normally be at the same level of detail expected during archaeological evaluation or mitigation excavation."*

In keeping with this guidance, some structures were recorded by photograph only. Where it was thought that sufficient value or better contextualisation might be gained from more detailed recording, large-scale plans were drawn.

The archaeological works took the form monitoring of an initial phase of investigatory excavation focused on the suspected locations of probable 19th century sandstone culverts, followed by monitoring of a phase of groundworks associated with the car park's water attenuation system and new access road. The deep excavations entailed in both phases of work had the potential to disturb archaeological remains surviving at a deeper level than that reached during ground reduction in the 2020 monitoring and evaluation.

All mechanical excavation was carried out either by 360° excavators of various sizes or by backhoe excavator, supervised throughout by an archaeologist from the Archaeological Practice Ltd. Both toothed and ditching buckets of widths ranging from 0.20 m to 1.80 m were used, although in every case where cleaning or clearing of spoil was requested for archaeological purposes, a toothless ditching bucket was used. All archaeological layers were investigated and/or hand excavated by trained archaeological staff from The Archaeological Practice Ltd where it was safe to do so.

5. RESULTS

A large and varied programme of work was intermittently carried out at Goose Hill, Morpeth, over the course of more than a year ahead of the construction of a car park. The following summary of results is largely chronological and has been split into three parts to reflect three broad phases of site activity. An initial 2021 investigation into the culvert system on site was followed by a second phase of investigation and preparatory works in late 2021 and early 2022. From March 2022, drainage works and groundworks for the car park commenced.

5.1 Investigations into Culvert System, April 2021

(*Illus. 04*)

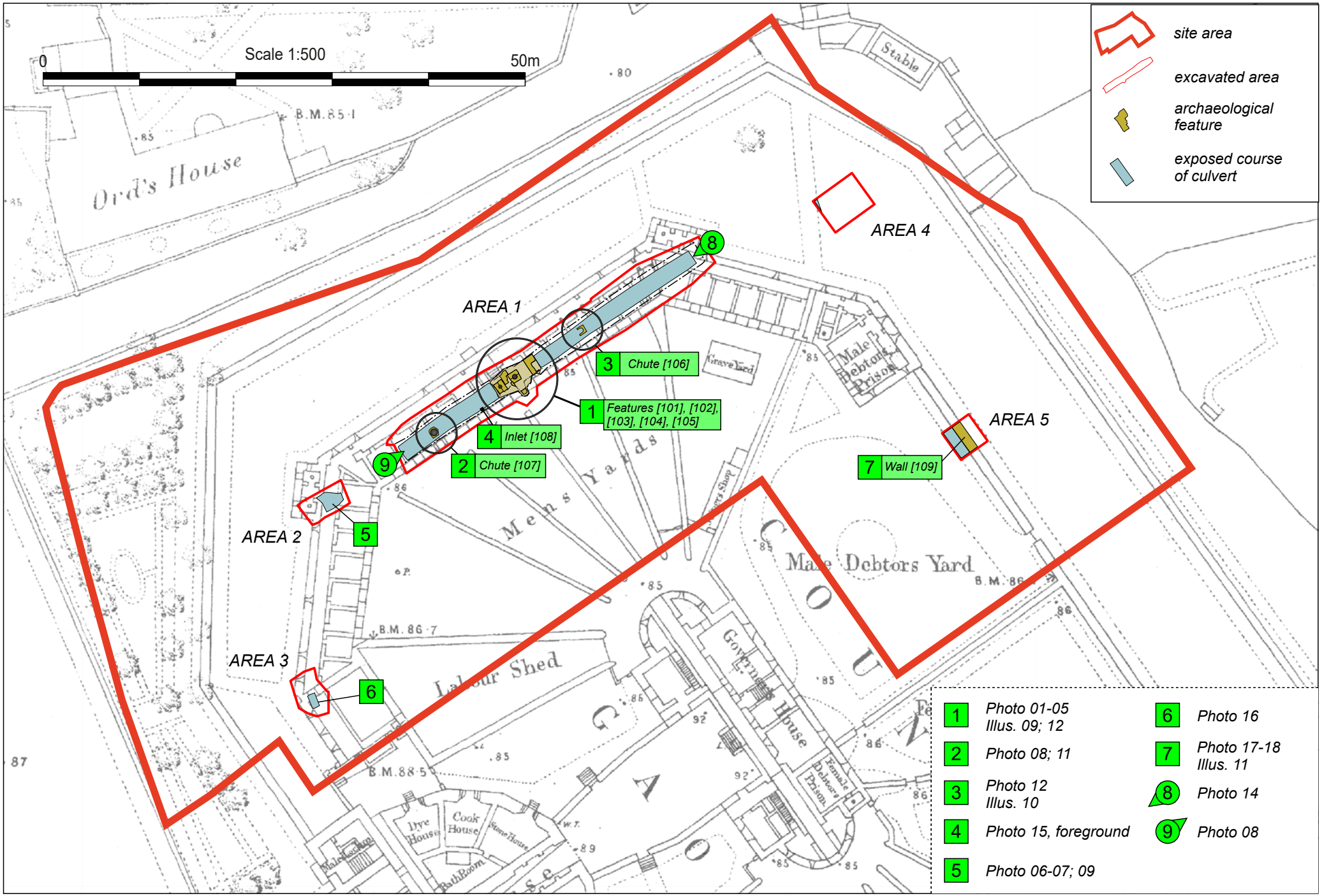
Over four working days between the 6th April and the 12th April 2021, excavations were carried out in five separate areas by Northumberland County Council to determine the location and nature of culverts running through the site area.

A c. 1.80 m wide stepped trench (area 1) was excavated between the 6th and 8th April, along a broadly north-east to south-west alignment, following the line of the culvert in both directions from the chute recorded in the previous phase of monitoring and partially deconstructed in February 2021 (*see below*). A complex of features was encountered in the area around this chute (101), including a second sandstone chute (102) and remains of probable sandstone walls (103), (104), and (105). These features were left in situ and no deeper mechanical excavations took place within their footprint. Outside of this area, the trench was excavated at least down to the top of the capping stones of the culvert (given the number (115) as a whole), with further excavation into the culvert occurring in an area where the capping stones had previously collapsed or been removed. Two further probable chutes were identified within this trench, as well as an inlet pipe feeding into the culvert from its south side.

Two further areas of excavation (areas 2 and 3) along the course of the same culvert were carried out in the south-west corner of the site over the same dates, both revealing the culvert's capping stones. The culvert divided in area 2 to take waste water from another source. In area 3, the culvert's capping stones were removed in order for the council works unit to sample the waste material for contaminants, revealing inward-canted stones at the top of the culvert side walls.

A deep excavation (area 4) carried out on the 12th April located culvert capping stones of a north-west to south-east coursing culvert near the north-east corner of the site, slightly west of its expected location. A further excavation (area 5) on the same day located the same culvert further south along its course and revealed a section of the gaol's male debtors' yard wall.

No deposits or surfaces were considered suitable for sampling. Surface layers consisted of demolition debris and levelling material, while the contents of the culvert, where exposed, was evidently contaminated with modern waste material, although it is unclear how and when. All features above the line of the culvert



***Illus. 04**: Plan of April excavations against 1859 OS Town Plan. Survey data used with kind permission from Carl Hinde.*

5.1.1 Chutes [101] and [102] (area 1)

(*Illus. 09, 12*)

Chute [101] (*Photos 01; 04-05*), exposed upon arrival to site, had had three full courses of slabs removed in February 2021, during emergency groundworks to prevent flooding (*see Appendix 2: Written Scheme of Investigation, 1.4*). The south-east half of its fourth course had also been removed during these works. The removed stones were present on site. The north-western stone of the fourth course of slabs down survived to a height of 24.84 m above ordnance datum (AOD), while the top of exposed fifth course of slabs down from the surface was at a height of 24.57 m AOD. Each of the removed slabs had been numbered by course by the contractor in February, although the orientation of the individual 'half' slabs was not recorded. The third course down appeared to consist of one large slab with no discernible join, while all other courses consisted of two 'half' slabs. The deconstructed condition of the chute allowed accurate measurements to be taken within the surviving structure, as well as allowing measurements of the removed courses to be taken. A projected section was drawn comprising the surviving elements and the stones removed prior to monitoring (*Illus. 12*).

The lengths and widths of the stone slabs comprising the chute were variable, but all measured courses were uniformly 0.27 m in depth. The projected depth of the structure of the chute, taking into account the four present courses and the three removed courses, was c. 1.90 m. At the bottom of this depth, the circular opening of the chute opened out into the culvert below. The holes formed by the chute slabs got progressively wider further down the chute; the opening recorded in 2020 measured 0.19 m in diameter at the site surface, while the opening at the bottom of the fourth course down had a 0.44 m diameter and that at the interface of chute and culvert (the bottom of the seventh course down) measured 0.60 m in diameter. The opening formed by this bottommost course was unique in having a similar diameter at its meeting with the sixth course down – the middle of the seventh course was recorded as having a 0.63 m diameter opening, giving only this course a concave face. While the topmost slabs of chute [101] were noted as forming a rather irregular hole during the 2020 monitoring and evaluation, the regularity of the stonecutting was evident on all lower courses.

Chute [102] (*Photos 03-05*) (was located 0.72 m south-west of the western edge of chute [101]. Its structure survived to a height of 25.15 m AOD, roughly equivalent to the projected top of the third course down in chute [101], suggesting that a minimum of two courses of the structure of chute [102] had been removed during the demolition of the gaol or construction of the school. The western slab of the two visible in plan measured a maximum of 0.46 m in width and 1.03 m in length. The eastern slab measured a maximum of 0.46 m in width and 1.13 m in length. The depth of this course was measured as being c. 0.27 m in depth, consistent with the stonework of chute [101]. The diameter of its opening was 0.31 m, preventing the same level of recording as was possible with chute [101].

The chutes observed during the monitoring the current scheme of works are certainly related to the northern cell block of the gaol, as depicted on the OS Town Plan of 1859 and both the plans of Mackenzie (1825) and Hodgson (1832). They undoubtedly served as latrine chutes feeding directly into the culvert below and were more than likely located inside cells. The cell layout is depicted inconsistently between the three known plans of the gaol, so whether the cells in this block was designed for an individual or cellmates is not clear – the 1859 OS Town Plan shows variably-sized small cells, while the two older plans appear to show more spacious rooms between walls. It is probable that each cell would have been designed with one toilet chute each, precluding the need to escort prisoners to a latrine. The walls observed during this phase of the works did not fully clarify layout of cells. The position of two likely further chutes were identified at two places along the top of the culvert (*see 5.1.3*

below) but the remains of chutes [101] and [102] represent preservation that clearly is not reflected along the whole cell block.

5.1.2 Walls [103], [104] and [105] (area 1)

(*Illus. 09*)

Wall [103] (*Photos 03-05*) was aligned broadly north-west to south-east and neatly divided chutes [101] and [102]. A block to the south-east measuring 0.50 m by 0.22 m in plan and along the same alignment was also considered to represent part of wall [103], as it was shown in section to constitute part of the same structure. Between the two chutes, maximum width of wall [103] was 0.49 m, while to the north-west of the line of the chutes its maximum width was 0.79 m. Wall [103]'s visible length was 1.81 m, including the block on the same alignment. It was present to a maximum height of 25.30 m AOD. Its layout seemed to indicate some form of return around the north-west corner of chute 101, but damage from the gaol's demolition, the school's construction or the 2021 emergency works made this unclear.

Possible wall [104] (*Photos 01-02*) was aligned north-west to south-east, parallel with wall [103]. The length of the structure exposed was 1.70 m, the width a maximum of 1.02 m. No joins were observed in this structure, although the northern part of its surface seemed to consist of mortar, possibly masking joins. An approximately rectangular 'gap' was present, measuring 0.93 m by at least 0.58 m in plan. It was filled with loose mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional lime flecks, presumed generic made ground backfill (111). The full extent of this shape was masked by the stepping down of the excavations down to the level of the culvert capstones to the north-east of possible wall [104], but it is possible that this rough rectangle represents the space formerly occupied by another chute, although no evidence either to support this or rule this out was observed during excavation of the trench to the east at lower height relative to [104]. Alternatively, [104] might plausibly represent a floor surface, or potentially the lower layer of a floor surface upon which flags might have been set.

A small length of a probable wall [105] was visible to the south-east of chute [101], apparently on a north-east to south-west alignment, parallel with the alignment of the cell block as a whole. This wall was only partially revealed, having been exposed during emergency works in February 2021 prior to the archaeological watching brief detailed in this report. Where exposed, it measured at least 0.53 m in length and at least 0.32 m in width.

5.1.3 The culvert and related features in area 1

During the course of the first phase of works on site, the culvert system was investigated in five different areas as per the objectives of the council works unit.

In area 1, c. 36.30 m of the culvert [115] was exposed to at least the capping level (s*ee photos 06-09; 13-15*). Immediately east of possible wall [104], the culvert capping was measured at 23.82 m AOD. The culvert's capping slabs, where undamaged, measured c. 1.10 m wide. The bottom of the culvert was able to be investigated in an area where the capping stones had been destroyed almost certainly by the 2020 demolition of the school boiler room, where the culvert was observed and speculated to represent sewerage infrastructure (Archaeological Practice 2020: 27, 30). The lowest courses of two more apparent chutes were observed along the capping of the culvert; a possible chute [106] apparently truncated by a pipe was located 6.10 m north-east of possible wall [104], while another chute [107] was located 7.50 m south-west of chute [102].

Possible chute [106] (*Photos 12-13*) consisted of one 'half' sandstone chute slab with a semi-circular opening. This slab was at least 0.57 m wide by 0.81 m long. This surface of this existing slab was at 23.89 m AOD, a similar level to the surface of the capping stones of the culvert. It was assumed that a counterpart slab once existed and was removed to make way for an extant metal service pipe running on a north-south alignment across but not into the culvert (*Illus. 10*). Small sandstone blocks on the same level as the extant slab of chute [106] were lying under the course of the pipe, suggesting their re-use in the service run. These blocks were placed irregularly, contrary to the generally very neat construction of the culvert and chutes. The hole formed by this structure was c. 8.40 m from the hole formed by chute [101].

Chute [107] (*Photos 08, 11*) consisted of a regular hole 0.60 m in diameter formed by the meeting of two neat sandstone slabs with semi-circular openings cut into them. Full dimensions of the slabs were not fully exposed during excavation of area 1. It is highly likely that this structure represents the bottom course of a similar chute to [101] or [102] – the dimensions of the hole were entirely consistent with those measured in chute [101], as was the position of the two slabs forming [107] directly feeding into the culvert. This hole formed by this structure was c. 8.30 m from the hole formed by chute [102], similar to the distance between chute [101] and [103]. Also located in area 1 was inlet pipe [108] (*visible in the foreground of Photo 15*), located 2.80 m south-west of chute 102. Unlike the metal pipe truncating chute [106], inlet pipe [108] was ceramic and fed directly into the culvert. The pipe likely represents a secondary addition to the culvert system. At the south-western end of area 1, the culvert cover slab was measured as 24.27 m AOD, while at the north-eastern end of area 1, it was measured at a height of 23.74 m AOD.

In area 1, a layer of dumping later given the context (136) consisting of slag, other industrial debris and glass and ceramic bottles (*Photo 10*) was observed above the level of the culvert [115] and the gaol demolition debris overlying this (110). The land appears to have remained undeveloped between the demolition of the gaol and the start of the construction of the school, a span of nearly three decades. This layer might therefore be interpreted as opportunistic discard on waste ground by local industry.

5.1.4 The culverts and related features in areas 2-5

Areas 2-5 were smaller excavations than that undertaken in area 1. Area 2 was excavated in order to investigate a branching of the culvert identified by a closed-circuit-television pipe survey. A length of flat culvert capping stones was revealed and recorded by photograph (*Photo 07*). The feature was aligned north to south, measured consistently c.1.10 m wide, and present for at least 2.50 m. When the capping stones were removed, revealing the culvert channel, a small branch headed to the west from the north-south aligned culvert, probably to take wastewater or sewerage from the small structure that is shown to project from the outside corner of the cell block on the OS 1859 Plan (*Photo 09*). It is possible that these structures (a counterpart projection at the northernmost extent of the cell block is also depicted on the OS 1859 Plan) housed latrines for prison staff.

In area 3, close to the extant substation in the south-west corner of the site, the culvert was revealed on a north-west to south-east alignment. Its capping stones, present at a height of 24.69 m AOD were removed, revealing the channel and the silt in the channel. The culvert was recorded by photograph (*Photo 16*).

Area 4 was excavated in eastern side of the site to more than 2.50 m below the present ground surface (to a depth of c. 23.15 m AOD) to try and locate the meeting point of the two known arms of the culvert. The excavation located a small width of the eastern edge of a culvert slightly west of where it

was expected to be, running roughly north-west to south-east, and so the meeting point was not observed.

Area 5 was excavated along the projected line of the same culvert discovered in area 4. This line was projected by checking the alignment of the culvert in a manhole to the north of area 5. During the excavations to reach the culvert level, a sandstone wall [109] was encountered (*Photos 17-18*). Further excavation of this investigatory pit was able to be carried out leaving this wall *in situ*, with the culvert capping reached at a height of 24.02 m AOD. Wall [109] was a maximum of 1.18 m in width and at least 1.73 m in length. Its uppermost courses were present to a height of 25.45 m AOD. It consisted in plan of relatively neat facing ashlar of various widths and lengths. These faces took up the outside thirds of the width of the wall. The middle third consisted of a variety of fill-in material, ranging from large, neat stones to smaller, fragmented, rubble-like stones. Its location was consistent with that of the male debtor's yard wall, a section of which was recorded in plan and photographed in the 2020 monitoring project (Archaeological Practice 2020). The excavation down to the culvert capping was not stepped, precluding detailed recording in section, but the wall was recorded by way of drawn plan and photograph (*Illus. 11*). Wall [109]'s individual stones were able to be discerned, with only a few patches of mortar remaining on the wall's surface as discovered, unlike the previously encountered length of the same wall.

5.2 Further Preliminary Works, November 2021-February 2022

From the 15th November 2021 to early March 2022, further investigations into existing culvert and drainage infrastructure were carried out.

Initial investigations carried out between the 15th and 17th November 2021 focused on revealing existing service infrastructure under the south pavement and under the roadway of the street known as Goose Hill. During these investigations, a section of the outer gaol wall was revealed. Additional stretches of the perimeter wall were monitored, including the removal of some stretches, in February and March 2022. Further investigation of culverts and testing of ground conditions took the form of targeted test pits excavated between the 25th November and 16th December 2021, mostly along the projected line of the culvert. These test pits revealed sections of the culvert, as well as the foundations of a structure [113] correlating with the location of a small extension shown on the 1859 OS Town Plan to be at the very north of the men's cells. Further excavation along the line of the culvert on the 20th January 2022 for the purposes of clearing and sampling contaminated material revealed a long section of culvert, covered by a mixture of flat capping stones and vaulting.

5.2.1 The Gaol outer wall

(*Illus. 07*)

Between the 15th and 17th November 2021, excavations into the pavement and roadway conducted by the council works unit in order to locate modern services revealed a c. 7 m stretch of the gaol perimeter wall (*Photos 19-21*), given the number [114] as a whole. a feature that was previously noted in the monitoring phase of the 2020 project (Archaeological Practice 2020). The structure's southern face was able to be revealed by hand excavation, allowing both a section of the length of wall and a plan to be drawn (*Illus. 13-14*). It survived to a maximum of seven courses of ashlar, bonded by mortar, although its construction was irregular in section, with distinctly larger stones evident towards the north-eastern end of the revealed structure. The very base of the wall, not observed in 2020, was recorded at a height of 23.26 m AOD, overlaying an apparent levelling layer of sand. Overlaying the

sand levelling layer and deposited against the wall was dark grey-brown demolition debris or made ground (110), containing occasional pieces of sandstone rubble. A small profile of the width of the wall had been created by historic truncation described below. While heavily disturbed by the truncation, this section appeared to show neater ashlar blocks forming the faces of the wall, with cruder rubble and mortar infill between (*see Photo 21*).

Evidently, almost one metre's length of the wall had been removed for a service run since the gaol's demolition. A plastic pipe still extant on the northern side of the wall was presumably once connected to the brick manhole observed in the excavated area on the school side of the gaol wall. This service run was likely cut through the wall for groundwater drainage from the playground, either during construction of Morpeth First School or as an improvement to school drainage infrastructure.

On the 28th February and 1st March 2022, more of this wall was exposed in the process of removing a large section of it (ultimately, most of the wall fronting Goose Hill) for the car park's access road. The length recorded in November 2021 (see above) was revealed again while a further stretch of wall measuring approximately 10 m was exposed to the east of the stretch already recorded. The newly exposed stretch was recorded in plan (*Illus. 16*) and surveyed, and a section was taken through the width of the wall as it was being removed from the side. One consequence of the wall's removal was that it allowed better observation as to its construction. The wall was founded on sizeable blocks of sandstone which became clear once the structure above these stones as removed. The section through the wall (*Photo 22*., *Illus. 15*), although not clear, supported the observation made in November that the wall was faced with relatively neat ashlar and the infill between the faces was rubble and stone bonded with mortar.

The surface of the wall as a whole lay sloping slightly downwards towards the river (the north-west). Whether this represents a quirk of construction or some kind of later effect on the structure is unclear. The foundation slabs for the wall were simply placed on top of a thin layer of sand or straight onto natural silty sand. Joins between stones in the wall were sometimes difficult to see due to the use of mortar practically the same colour as the sandstone blocks. As with all other structures observed during the works, no obvious signs of render or wash were observed on the curtain wall.

5.2.2 Trial Pits

(*Illus. 05*)

In November and December 2021, several trial pits were excavated by mechanical digger along the projected line of the culvert. These excavations largely revealed small snapshots of culvert (*e.g. Photos 24-25*), although the first also revealed the edge of a line of stones or stone foundations that might have underpinned a wall in the men's cell block (*see Photo 23*). The height of the culvert capping in these trial pits ranged from 24.55 m AOD in trial pit 1 to 23.48 m on the disturbed culvert side wall in trial pit 3.

The exception in terms of structures was trial pit 3, excavated along the projected line of the culvert. Observed within this test pit was what appeared to be the footprint of a structure, [113] (*Photo 26, Illus. 19)*. What remained of this structure was roughly rectangular, measuring approximately 2.25 m by 1.65 m, and was present at a height of c. 24.45 m AOD. A rectangular area devoid of any masonry was present in the rough centre of the structure, measuring 1.03 m by 0.81 m. This structure was consistent in both location and orientation with that projecting from the corner of the men's cell block at its northern extent, as depicted on the 1859 OS Plan. Not much could be concluded from the walls of the structure, which seemed to consist of very large, possibly foundational stones. The rectangular

area devoid of *in situ* masonry might be speculated to be a void left by a similar chute to those recorded during the spring (see sections 5.1.1 and 5.1.3 above), supporting the idea that these small corner projections housed latrines as the symbology of the 1859 OS Town Plan would seem to suggest (see 5.1.4 above). The structure was overlain by demolition material (110). No sealed deposits unrelated to demolition were encountered. The trial pit was then excavated deeper, removing structure [113], in order to confirm the presence of the culvert and record its level.

5.2.3 Exposed Length of Culvert

On the 20th January 2022, excavations commenced along a length of the culvert towards the western end of the site, on the culvert's N-S course. These excavations entailed revealing and removing the culvert's capping stones so that the waste material within could be cleared and sampled (*see Photos 27-29*).

During the course of these excavations, a length of culvert totalling c. 8 m was revealed in piecemeal fashion. The length excavated consisted of a small section of straight culvert running into a corner of c. 30°, with a longer length of straight culvert following this. The height of the culvert's side wall was recorded as 24.59 m AOD at the bend of the culvert. The revealed structure was able to be planned in stages (*Illus. 17*). Most of the capping of the culvert consisted of flat stones. Two sections of vaulted culvert were present, each measuring a metre in length and situated approximately 1.75 m apart, a couple of metres north of the bend in the culvert. These vaulted sections, one of which was recorded in profile (*Illus. 18*), consisted of four visible voussoirs of a metre's length and c. 0.38 m in depth. The top of the stones averaged 0.36 m in width corner to corner, tapering down to a measurement of 0.15 m corner to corner at the bottom of the stones. The top stones of the culvert's side walls tended to be slightly tilted inwards when revealed, regardless of whether they were below vaulted or flat capping.

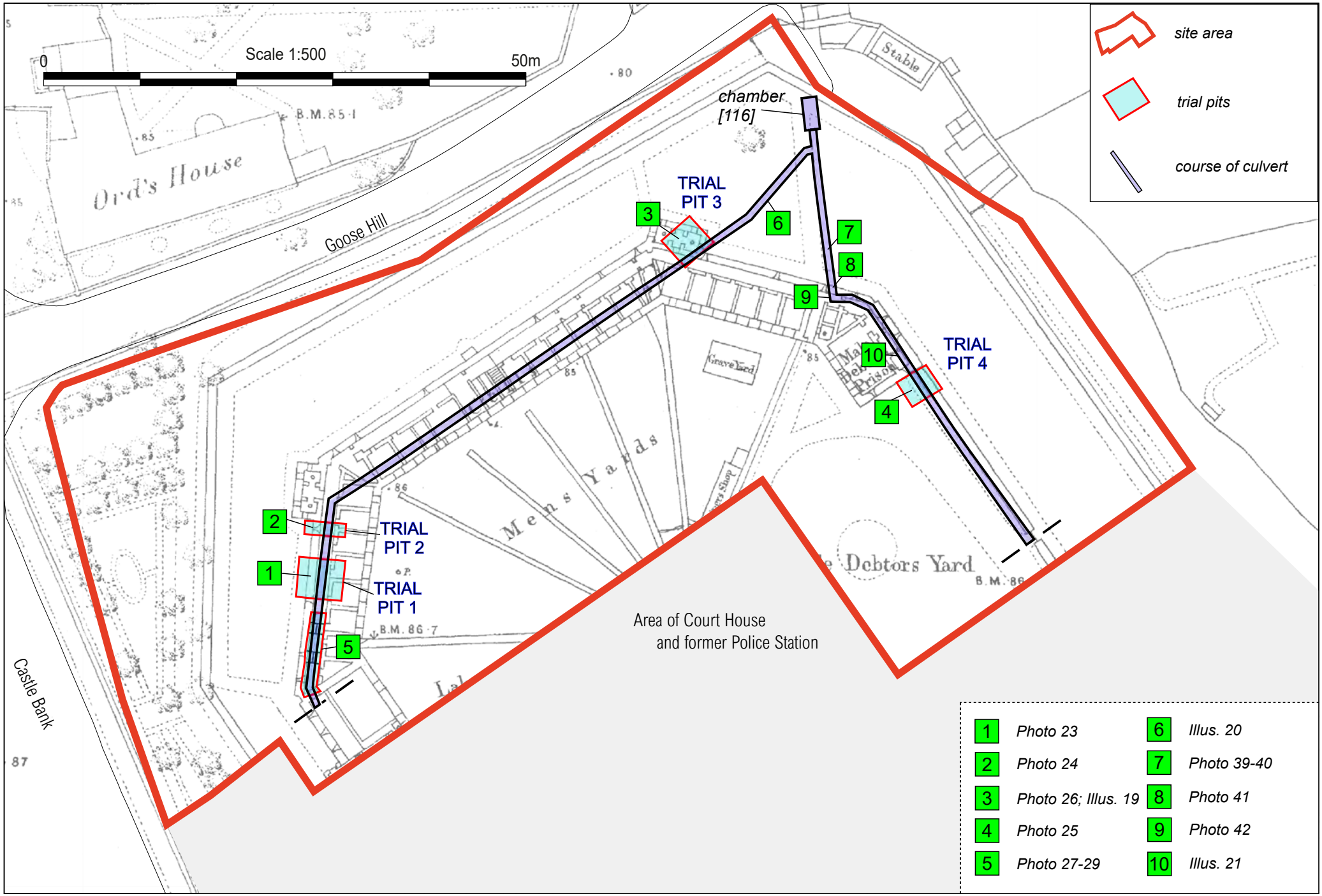
5.3 Groundworks and Drainage Infrastructure

In Spring 2022, the main body of groundworks commenced. After clearance of the culvert's contents, new drainage pipes were laid within the existing culvert walls, destroying the process any remains above the line of the culvert, including capping stones and vaulting. When this process was complete, new drainage infrastructure in the form of catchpits and drainage runs were excavated. A large area was excavated to a depth of c. 23.60 m AOD in June for a substantial water attenuation system and interceptor tank. The area of the car park's access road, finished to an incline, was also excavated in several stages.

5.3.1 Culvert Clearance

From the 1st March 2022, excavation of the culvert [115] commenced in order to clear the waste material within and lay a pipe run along the route of the culvert (*see Photos 30-34; 36; 41-45; 47*). This entailed excavating down to the culvert's level, removing any surviving capping stones, pumping or excavating waste material out and laying a new pipe run within the surviving culvert walls. These excavations were monitored only where they covered areas of site previously untouched. In practicality, this meant that excavations primarily in the eastern end of the site were monitored as part of these works.

The excavations took the form of narrow and deep trenches that were shored up with trench boxes as soon as necessary to prevent sidewall collapse. Once the capping stones and any significant waste



***Illus. 05**: Plan of trial pits and culvert works against 1859 OS Town Plan.*

material had been removed from the culvert, the pipe was laid over gravel and the trench was backfilled. Lengths were excavated and backfilled in this fashion sequentially, usually with no more than c. 10 m of trench open at any one time. These works were recorded mostly by photography. Conditions within the trench boxes were not conducive to in depth recording, although two sections of the culvert side wall were later drawn using comprehensive measurements (*Illus. 20-21,* although note that heights AOD on these illustrations have been approximated using nearby height measurements on the culvert side wall and could therefore vary from those given. Exact heights were not taken during the recording referred to above).

The culvert's course (*see Illus 05*) largely followed the footprint of the men's cell block, only diverging from it in the north-east corner of the site, where it kinked northwards before joining the other branch of the culvert system just south of a large, well-constructed sandstone chamber system ([116] – *see Illus. 22-23, Photos 33; 35; 37-38*). This chamber consisted of a smaller southern chamber with internal measurements of 0.98 m x 0.96 m in plan with a height of 1.50 m, in front of a larger chamber with maximum internal measurements of 2.70 m x 0.92 m in plan, with a height of 3.30 m. The larger chamber contained a setting that had evidently housed some sort of sluice gate or similar mechanism (*Photo 35*). Subsequently these chambers appear to have been altered for integration into modern sewerage infrastructure, with a brick wall being constructed at the southern end of the larger chamber (*Photo 33*) and concrete square bars being used to cap it. Below this capping, the chamber's topmost stones were present to a height of 25.36 m AOD.

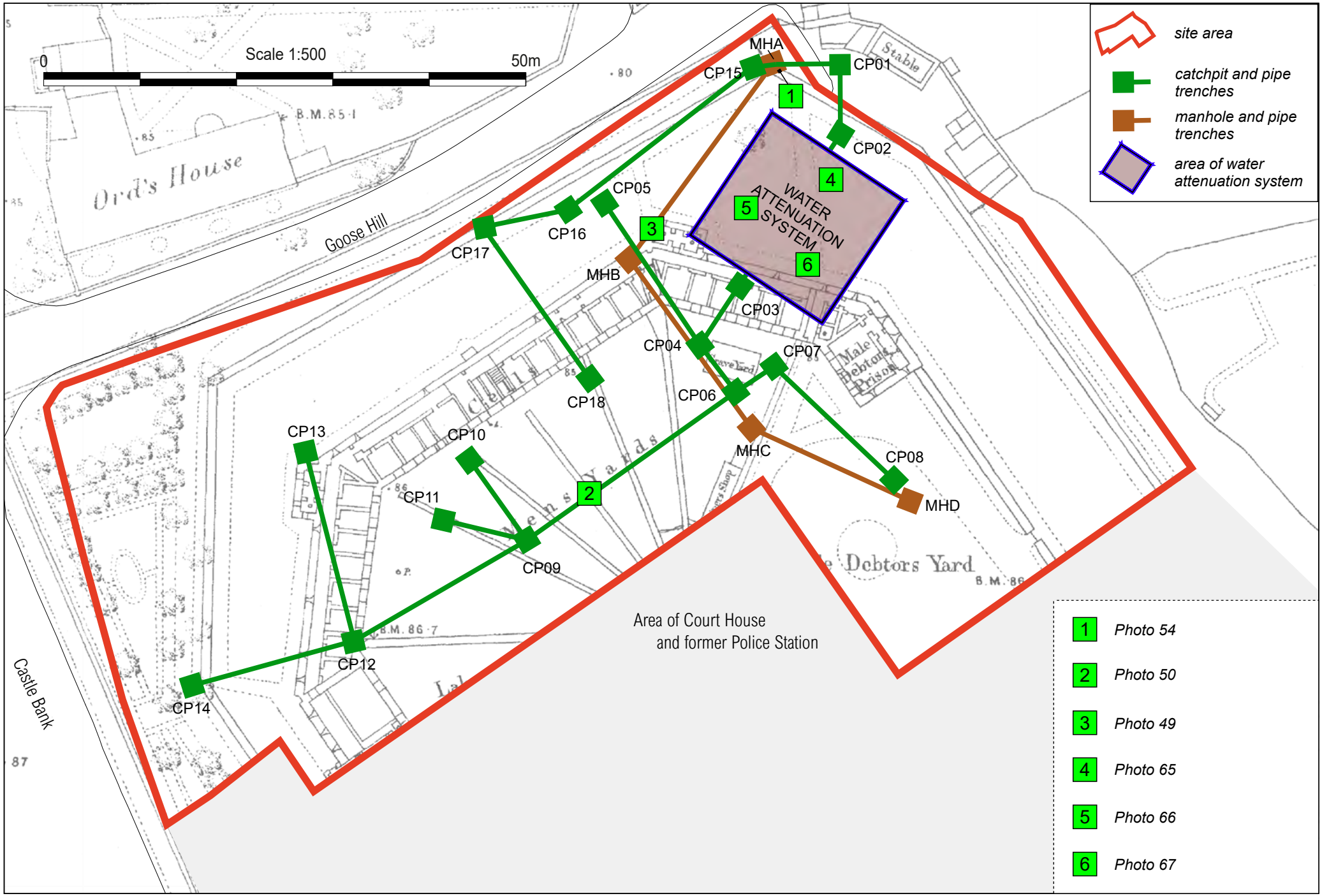
The other leg of the culvert's course was not a fully straight north-north-west to south-south-east line as projected by the results of trial pitting (see sections 5.1.4 and 5.2.2 above). Heading away from the chamber ("upstream" in terms of the direction of drainage), the culvert's course was almost due north-south to a point c. 17 m from the chamber before turning c.60° east under the former location of the cell blocks or the male debtors' prison and then curving back south in stages (*see Photos 42 and 43 respectively*). On this stretch, at around 4 m to the north of this bend, was a rectangular chute or inspection chamber [117] directly above the culvert (*Photo 39-40*). This structure was constructed of irregular stone, but with neat internal wall faces. The void of the chute measured only 0.27 m by 0.32 m in plan. It was picked up initially at 24.30 m AOD, but higher courses of it may have been machined away during excavation of the trench. From the location of the former debtors' prison, the course of the culvert followed a straight line along the west side of the male debtors' yard wall until the site boundary (*Photo 47*). A stretch of this wall, probably including the section recorded in April 2021, was revealed during the excavation of a wider pit for a manhole at the south-east extent of the excavations, although it was not able to be drawn in profile because of the depth of the excavation (*Photo 46*).

A further section of vaulted culvert, again constructed of four substantial voussoirs on top of the side walls of the culvert, was encountered in the couple of metres to the north of the culvert bend (*Photo 41*). Otherwise, all of the culvert encountered consisted of two side walls of varying height and construction capped with fairly regular flat stones. No further in situ features or structures were encountered, although much building rubble was encountered above the footprint of the male debtors' prison (*Photo 44*), including half of a course of a chute similar to those encountered in April 2021 (see section 5.1.1 above).

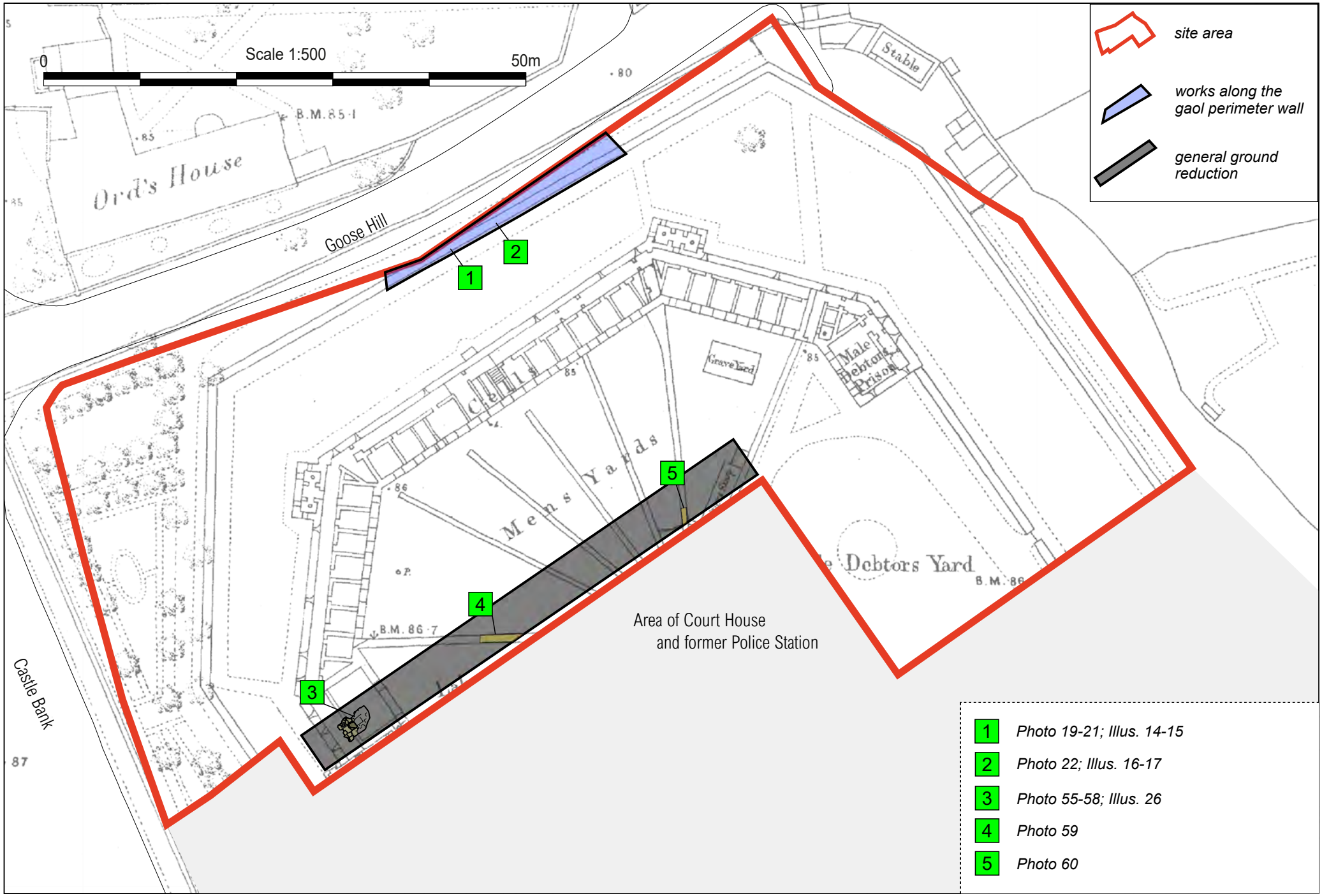
5.3.2 Excavations for Catchpits and Attenuation Tank

(*Illus. 06*)

Excavation of a site-wide system of catchpits and manholes commenced in early April 2021, continuing intermittently until August 2022. This comprised the excavation of around 20 pits, c. 2 m x 2 m in plan



***Illus. 06**: Plan of the system of catchpits and manholes against the 1859 OS Town Plan.*



***Illus. 07**: Plan of Perimeter Wall excavations (north) and general site groundworks (south).*

and of variable depths. The catchpits (referred to hereafter as CP) were all connected to each other by a system of newly excavated pipe trenches (*e.g. Photo 48*), all eventually taking water to the same point in the north-east corner of the site. New manholes (hereafter referred to as MH) were also excavated during this scheme of works. A large attenuation tank preceded (in terms of direction of flow) by an oil separator were to be installed near the north-eastern corner of the site, requiring a sizeable complex of excavation to be carried out to a depth of around 2 m. In addition to groundworks for new water management systems, an existing foul line was rerouted away from the area of the attenuation tank.

The groundworks detailed above were monitored in their entirety. No cut features or sealed deposits were observed. The works yielded few surviving structural elements associated with the gaol. In two areas, structures were able to be equated to features of the 1859 OS Plan with certainty, while a further structural element could only be linked loosely with known features. The excavation of the pipe run between CP 06 and CP 09 encountered the five 'radial' men's yard walls crossing the pipe run, surviving to heights between 25.07 m and 25.29 m AOD, not far below finished car park level. These were recorded by photography (*Photo 50*) and much of these walls still survive in situ. In the north-east corner of site, a large area was excavated for the installation of MH A and CP 15, cutting through the gaol perimeter wall and allowing a profile to be recorded by photograph and section drawing (*Photo 54; Illus. 27*). The wall survived to a maximum undisturbed height of 25.05 m AOD, while its large foundational stone was at 23.54 m AOD.

To the west of the above section of perimeter wall, in the drainage run between MH A and MH B, an apparently in situ stone was encountered at the base of the trench below sandstone rubble during excavation of the pipe run (*Photo 49*). This stone, possibly foundational, was likely a structural element of men's cell block and was encountered at a height of 23.56 m AOD.

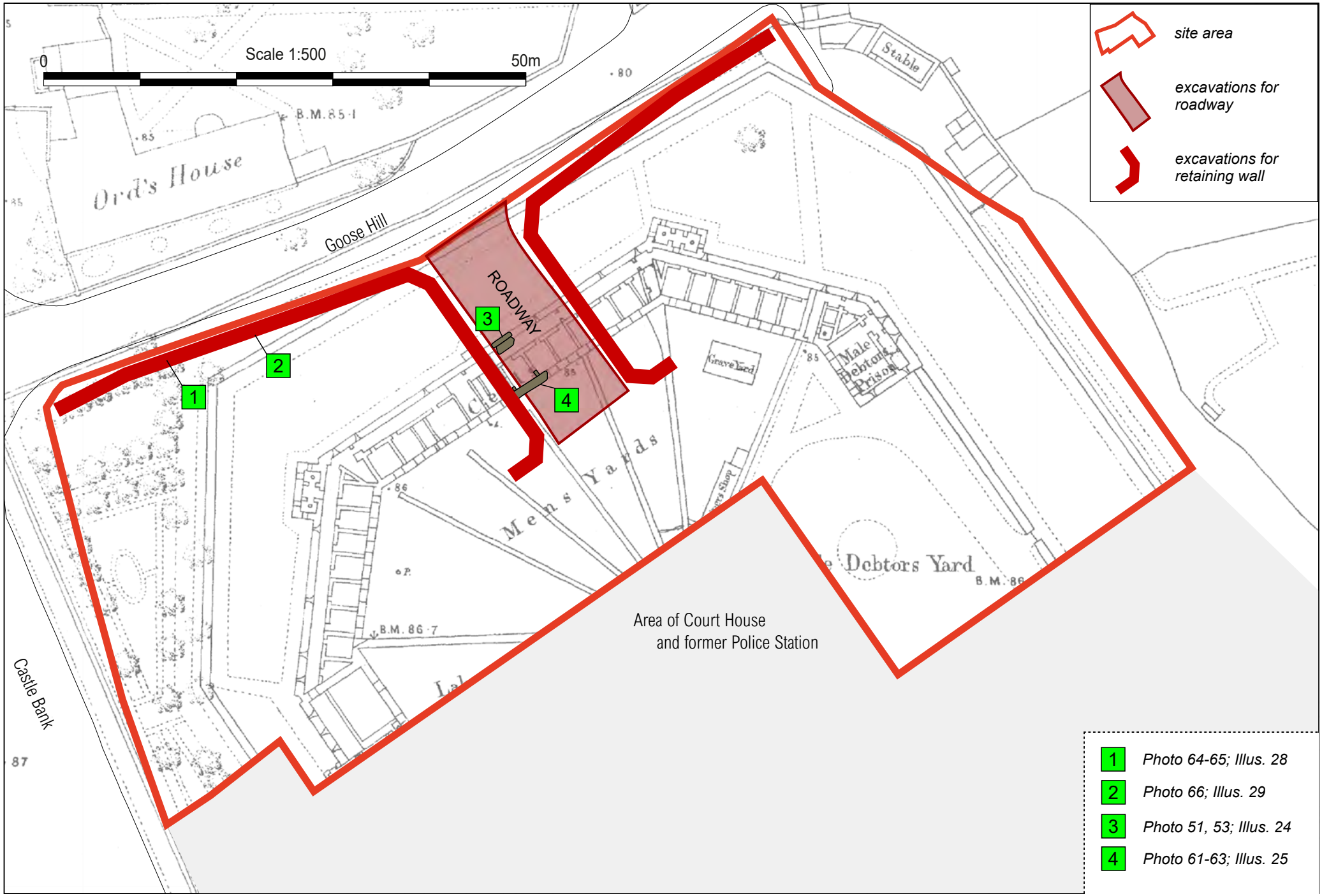
The large footprint of excavation for the water attenuation system and interceptor revealed no cut features or in situ structural remains (*Photos 67-69*). Sandstone masonry debris was encountered in the south and west of the tank's footprint. This debris is probably attributable to the demolition of the men's cells – when the 1859 OS Plan is projected onto the position of the attenuation system, the line of the men's cells to the north-west of the debtors' prison slightly overlap the attenuation system.

5.3.3 Excavations for the Access Road

(*Illus. 08*)

Excavations in April-May 2022 for the access road into the car park consisted of a wide corridor coursing south-south-east from Goose Hill onto the site. The finished height of the excavation rose towards the south-south-east end of its course, in order to reach the height of the finished car park, as the land to the south of Goose Hill is significantly higher than the road surface height. During the course of these excavations, two parallel structures were encountered, one of them probably comprising two phases.

Initially, concrete was encountered at 25.10 m AOD running alongside a line of sandstone blocks resembling a wall *(Photo 51; Illus. 24)*. Curiously, two lengthy railway or wagonway track segments were present overlying the concrete *(Photo 52)*, although it was unclear to what extent they were part of the structure. It was suggested by a machine driver who had apparently seen similar usage that they might have been present in order to support a large door. It is however far from certain that they were fixtures of the structure or even precisely along the same alignment. They seem a rather rough and



***Illus. 08**: Plan of excavations for the roadway and the retaining wall.*

ready construction solution for either gaol or school, both of which are noted as being very well-constructed.

Once the above phase of construction was removed, a further layer of sandstone construction was encountered in the same place (*Photo 53; Illus. 24*). The structure was 4.75 m in visible length, and was encountered in the western side of the roadway. It did not appear to be present in the eastern half of the new roadway as it was not encountered despite excavations at the same level. It had visible concrete abutting it in the same alignment as that of the concrete encountered the level above. The concrete element, given the number [125], superficially resembled that used in the school foundations encountered during the evaluation, and appeared to have been laid after the sandstone blocks around it at this level, with an apparent triangular gap in the join between sandstone blocks filled with the concrete. The two likely origins of the concrete are that it was laid in the early 19th century to reinforce an element of the gaol construction, or it was laid for early 20th century construction of the school following along a convenient pre-existing line (i.e. courses of a surviving gaol wall). It is not clear which, although it should be noted that no similar concrete had previously been found in association with the gaol, with all bonding of gaol sandstone consisting of white or grey lime mortar with no obvious brick or sandstone aggregate.

The sandstone elements of the structure, given the number [126], consisted of large slabs in a broad line, although the easternmost slab appears to be either thinner or broken. Two slabs appeared to form some kind of return, heading south-east, at right angles to the general alignment of slabs. This structure might have formed a floor surface or a foundation for a wall – its location, when projected onto the 1859 OS Plan of the gaol, is at the northern side of the men's cells, which presumably would have consisted of a substantial wall. This structure was present at a height of 24.92 m AOD.

When excavation of the roadway resumed to the south, a further sandstone wall [127], was encountered (*Photo 61; Illus. 25*). This structure was more clearly a wall, with completely regular, straight sides, unlike the structure encountered to the north. It was 1.00 m wide, and present for a length of 4.05 m, at a recorded height AOD of 25.00 m. Its location was consistent with the projected location of the southern wall of the men's cell block, and for this reason, additional excavation of a narrow trench on the north side of the wall was carried out using a small 360° mechanical excavator with a ditching bucket to see if any internal walls could be located. Two walls were revealed, abutting the southern wall of the men's cells and at right angles to it (*Photos 62-63*). These were interpreted as being internal cell division walls, or at least the course of them, as these particularly wide walls may have been a basis for a thinner wall or a sleeper wall for metal bars. Both had significant residue of bright white lime mortar. The western of the two walls, [129], lay partially under the baulk, with a width of 0.70 m present within the small trench. Slightly more than 0.30 m of its length was revealed. The upper course of this wall appeared to have been broken during or after demolition as 0.47 m of its width was stepped down to a lower stone, with a visible imprint of mortar where a stone would have been on the outer wall. The eastern of the two internal walls, numbered [128], had a complete width of 1.07 m, with a length of slightly more than 0.30 m revealed again.

The distance between the features identified as the north and south walls of the men's cell line was c. 4.70 m between internal wall faces, a measurement made somewhat ambiguous in its value due to the north wall having possibly been altered and disturbed by later activity. No north internal cell wall was observed during excavations for the roadway, just as none was observed during the investigatory phase (*section 5.1 above*). Within this space and heading parallel with the north and south walls, but closer to the south wall, was where the culvert was shown to have coursed during the investigation phase in April 2021, and where it was subsequently excavated for a new pipe in early 2022. By survey location, wall [127] certainly equates with wall [105] and wall [129] equates to wall [103] (*see section 5.1.2*). Whether [104] above (*section 5.1.2*) represents a wall is unclear, but wall [128] identified in

May 2022 again locates well to be considered likely to equate with wall [104]. The fact that these appear to constitute the same walls, as well as the condition of the latrine chutes here compared to elsewhere (*section 5.1.1*) would imply that such survival of the structure of the men's cells is limited to this area.

All structures described in this section were removed after being recorded during the works for the access road. No further structures were encountered further to the east within the roadway corridor. Nearly the whole sweep of the north men's cells, from the labour shed to the male debtors' prison is within the footprint of the now demolished Morpeth First School, so it is likely that much would have been destroyed by excavations for the school's sizeable foundations noted during the previous phase of watching brief (Archaeological Practice 2021). Irrespective of this, it is possible that further similar structural elements could survive in places not touched by the early 20th century works for the school and the current scheme of works.

5.3.4 General Site Groundworks

(*Illus. 07*)

During early May 2022, an area of ground against the south wall of the site that had previously served as a baulk was stripped, taking c. 0.50 m of overburden away. These works revealed three notable features, the first a stone and packed clay or mortar surface surrounding a something resembling a setting or basin, the second the wall of the labour shed, and the third one of the 'radial' yard walls. All three features were recorded by photograph and the setting or basin by drawn plan, before further stripping and/or use of the roller disturbed these features further.

The former feature (*Photos 55-58; Illus 26*) comprised of an area of c. 3.20 m by 2.10 m. An apparent surface consisting of an arrangement of somewhat irregular and degraded stone blocks with packed clay or mortar [131] surrounded a square basin or setting [130] filled with mid to dark grey-brown silty sand (137). This surface lay at c. 26.05 m AOD. The complex consisted of at least some stone and appeared to also comprise of packed clay and/or mortar, although this was difficult to determine. When the demolition material was cleared from [130], an apparently square sandstone slab was revealed at the bottom, with a triangular, wedge-shaped piece of sandstone present in the corner formed by the south-west and south-east sides of [130]. The right-angled corner of this piece of sandstone sat nearly flush with this corner of the basin or setting. Feature [130] measured approximately 0.65 m by 0.66 m, although the north side of it was far less neat and straight than the other three sides, having possibly been disturbed during a phase of demolition or construction. The slab at the bottom of the basin measured 0.60 m square. At the northern corners of the slab were two compacted slates (*clearest in Photo 58*).

When projected onto the 1859 OS Plan, this feature can be located in the structure immediately west of the labour shed and north of the court house, apparently divided from the latter by a small yard. The function of the feature is not immediately clear. The square feature seems too wide for a setting for a post or support pillar, but not watertight enough for a basin. It could potentially have been a setting for a fixture or workstation, but its positioning on the 1859 OS Plan appears to place it in the middle of an internal wall. The overlaying of this plan onto present day mapping relies on the shape and size of the courthouse, and while many features surveyed in during the course of both projects have located well compared to where they should be, it is feasible that there could be some discrepancies. On both the 1825 Mckenzie plan and 1832 plan from Hodgson, the same room (and indeed nearly every room along both cell lines) contains two small squares. Whether these depict pillars is unclear.

Also encountered during the stripping of this corridor was [134] an east-west coursing wall (*Photo 59*). When located and projected onto the 1859 plan, this structure can be seen to represent the external wall of the labour shed. This feature was present for around 2.30 m in length and was c. 0.72 m wide, and was encountered surviving to a height AOD of 26.10 m. Its surface seemed to be entirely covered with a light, almost white yellow-brown mortar with no joins between stones visible, much like many of the wall remains encountered at Goose Hill between 2020 and 2022. On the internal side of the labour shed wall (*to its right in Photo 59*), a shallow deposit different in consistency to made ground (111) was encountered and given the number (124). It contained a piece of butchered animal bone, a clay pipe stem and a piece of residual medieval pottery. This deposit was present within the line of the baulk for a length of only 1.55 m before petering out.

Further to the east, the stripping of the baulk revealed the eastmost of the arrangement of 'radial' yard walls (*Photo 60*) within the men's yards [118]. A length of around 0.95 m was revealed, with the wall's length beyond this having evidently been truncated by a modern service. The wall's width was 0.62 m, and two courses were visible, the lower course flush with the ground and containing more irregular stones – perhaps a more foundational course – and the upper consisting of a single block in the baulk, covering the entire width of the wall and 0.08 m in height.

5.3.5 Footings for Retaining Wall

(*Illus. 08*)

From 18th May 2022, wide footings were excavated along the northern perimeter of the site for the car park's retaining wall, due to be built along the frontage of Goose Hill and along both sides of the entrance road. Excavations for the footings in the west of the site revealed a medieval buried deposit along the frontage of Goose Hill outside of the footprint of the gaol. These footings also revealed sections of the gaol perimeter wall, and a further length of a wall along the line of the men's cells.

These excavations commenced in the north-west corner of the site, towards the western extent of the street frontage of Goose Hill. They stepped down in several stages from west to east. At a point 7.60 m west of the extant stone wall bounding the site on Castle Square, the excavation stepped down 0.20 m from its previous height to a level of 24.98 m AOD. At this height, a deposit of mixed, mid to dark grey-brown clayey silt with mid red-brown and mid orange-brown clay inclusions and frequent charcoal was revealed (*Photos 64-65*). After the discovery of a sherd of glazed medieval pottery during a superficial clean, a test pit was excavated which recovered several more sherds of medieval pottery and a large fragment of ceramic building material (CBM). The deposit, numbered (132), was present to a thickness of 0.17 m, underlying a layer of made ground (111), itself below the foundations of the deconstructed school wall, and overlying a sterile light to mid grey-brown silty sand with moderately frequent cobble inclusions (*see Illus. 28*). This lighter layer was later numbered (135), but might possibly equate with natural (100). Deposit (132) was sampled twice in different places along its length. It was present for around 5.00 m before appearing to be fade into (133) a less mixed, mid grey-brown clayey silt layer (*Photo 66*). Layer (133) was present to a maximum level of 24.93 m AOD and to a maximum thickness of 0.25 m. A few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from cleaning it. Layer (133) overlay a mid grey-brown silty sand layer concluded to represent natural (100), which appeared sterile and contained no finds (*see Illus. 29*). Analysis of the samples collected from (132) produced charcoal, clinker, coal, magnetised fuel waste and charred plant macrofossils (*see Appendix 3*).

Further to the west, excavation of the trench revealed the gaol perimeter wall coursing in from the south, diagonally into the trench before it turned east to course broadly parallel to the street. On the

same day, the trenches for the retaining wall alongside the new site access road were excavated, showing a further length of the north wall along the line of the men's cells, located to the west of those detailed in 5.3.3 above. The gaol perimeter wall was revealed in plan to the east of the new access road during works in late May 2022. The trench excavated for footings for the new retaining wall encountered the surviving surface of the perimeter wall at a height of 24.60 m AOD, although it appeared to drop below the level of the base of the trench at its west extent. It was overlain by mixed demolition, including brick and fragmentary sandstone. Its individual stones could not be well discerned.

5.4 Context Description

(100) Natural - Coarse, mid orange-brown/mid grey-brown silty sand/sandy-silt, occasionally with moderately frequent, small, rounded pebble inclusions
[101] Chute - Probable latrine chute consisting of three and a half extant courses of sandstone slabs.
[102] Chute - Probable latrine chute consisting of a possible five courses of sandstone slabs.
[103] Wall - Probable cell wall consisting of sandstone blocks. NW-SE alignment. Probably same as [129].
[104] Wall - Probable cell wall consisting of sandstone blocks. NW-SE alignment. Probably same as [128].
[105] Wall - Probable cell wall consisting of sandstone blocks. NE-SW alignment. Probably same as [127].
[106] Possible Chute - Possible latrine chute consisting of a single sandstone block. Feature cut by a later service.
[107] Possible Chute - Hole for possible latrine chute in the surface of culvert [115].
[108] Inlet Pipe - Metal pipe feeding into culvert [115] in area 1.
[109] Wall - Sandstone wall consisting of neat ashlar facing blocks.
(110) Demolition Debris - Generic number for demolition debris related to the gaol across site. Coarse, mid yellow-grey/brown sand with frequent sandstone debris fragments.
[111) Made Ground - Coarse, mid to dark grey-brown silty sand with moderately frequent brick and sandstone rubble fragments.
[112) Made Ground - dark grey-brown silty sand, modern made ground.
[113] Structure - Number given to structure encountered in trial pit 3, probably representing corner projection on men's cell line.
[114] Gaol Perimeter Wall - Generic number for the whole of the gaol perimeter wall, encountered in several places along its course. Sandstone wall, consisting of neat facing ashlar and sandstone rubble fill-in material, bonded with mid yellow-grey mortar, occasionally light white-grey mortar.
[115] Culvert - Generic number for gaol culvert system. Construction of generally neat sandstone blocks of inconsistent size.
[116] Chamber complex - Chamber complex consisting of a smaller and a larger sandstone chamber and presumed sluice gate setting. Constructed of very neat sandstone ashlar.
[117] Observation Hole - Possible observation hole/drain encountered above culvert [115]. Consisting of irregular but neatly faced sandstone blocks
[118] 'Radial' Wall - (eastmost) Sandstone wall, part of a system of dividing walls in the men's yards. Sandstone wall, consisting of neat facing ashlar and sandstone rubble fill-in material, bonded with mid yellow-grey mortar. N-S alignment.
[119] 'Radial' Wall - (centre east) Sandstone wall, part of a system of dividing walls in the men's yards. Sandstone wall, consisting of neat facing ashlar and sandstone rubble fill-in material, bonded with mid yellow-grey mortar. NNW-SSE alignment.

[120] 'Radial' Wall - (central) Sandstone wall, part of a system of dividing walls in the men's yards. Sandstone wall, consisting of neat facing ashlar and sandstone rubble fill-in material, bonded with mid yellow-grey mortar. Broadly NW-SE alignment.

[121] 'Radial' Wall - (centre west) Sandstone wall, part of a system of dividing walls in the men's yards. Sandstone wall, consisting of neat facing ashlar and sandstone rubble fill-in material, bonded with mid yellow-grey mortar. Broadly NW-SE alignment.

[122] 'Radial' Wall - (westmost) Sandstone wall, part of a system of dividing walls in the men's yards. Sandstone wall, consisting of neat facing ashlar and sandstone rubble fill-in material, bonded with mid yellow-grey mortar. WNW-ESE alignment.

(123) Buried Garden Soil - Coarse, loose, organics-rich, mid to dark grey-brown silty sand located under former school margins.

(124) Deposit - Mid grey-brown sandy silt with moderately frequent, small, angular sandstone fragments. Finds of butchered bone, 1 sherd of medieval pottery and one fragment of clay pipe stem recovered.

[125] Concrete Structure - Linear concrete, possibly associated with the school. Consisting of light grey cement bonded around frequent sandstone fragment and brick fragment aggregate.

[126] North Cell Wall - Wall consisting of sandstone blocks. NE-SW alignment.

[127] South Cell Wall - Wall consisting of sandstone blocks. NE-SW alignment. Probably same as [105].

[128] East Internal Cell Wall - Wall consisting of sandstone blocks bonded with mid yellow-grey and light white-grey mortar. NE-SW alignment. Probably same as [104].

[129] West Internal Cell Wall - Wall consisting of sandstone blocks bonded with mid yellow-grey and light white-grey mortar. NE-SW alignment. Probably same as [103].

[130] Possible Setting/Basin - Angular, square feature of L 0.66 m x W 0.65 m in plan. The feature contained a single sandstone fragment sitting nearly flush with the south-west and south-east sides of the feature.

(131) Packed Clay/Mortar Floor Surface - Probable surface consisting of indeterminate, compact material suspected to consist of either packed clay or mortared stone, or both. In plan, revealed area was L 3.20 m by W 2.10 m.

(132) Medieval Buried Soil - Compact, mid to dark grey-brown clayey silt with mid red-brown and mid orange-brown clay inclusions and frequent charcoal. Medieval pottery and CBM recovered.

(133) Layer - Compact, mid grey-brown clayey silt. Medieval pottery recovered.

[134] Labour Shed Wall - Wall consisting of sandstone blocks bonded with mid yellow-grey mortar.

(135) Possible Natural - Mid grey-brown silty sand.

(136) Dumping Layer - Dark grey-brown silty layer containing ubiquitous slag and glass debris, including whole bottles.

(137) Fill of Possible Setting/Basin - Fill of possible basin or setting [130]. Coarse, mid to dark grey-brown silty sand with moderately frequent sandstone rubble fragments. Possibly contemporary and of the same phase of deposition and consistency as made ground (111).

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Interpretation of Results

6.1.1 The archaeological investigations on the site, following on from the evaluation/watching brief of late 2020, were a chance to see what remains of structures, other features and deposits survived within the wider site area and to deeper levels than those encountered previously. The 2020 consolidation of the site after demolition of Morpeth First School only revealed structures to a certain depth, with few areas of deep excavation outside the evaluation trenches. The 2021-22 works represented a far more intrusive programme of excavation.

6.1.2 The original investigation of the drainage infrastructure on site in April 2021, following emergency works in February 2021 revealed a well-built stone culvert. This culvert was no doubt built as part of the wider plan for the gaol, since its course followed the line of the men's cells and its construction was both of the same stone and high quality. The latrines encountered during excavation for the culvert drained into it. Two partially-complete latrines were encountered, probably within the area once occupied by the men's cells themselves, while two locations of probable further latrine chutes were observed in the roof of the culvert. Over the course of the site works the full course of the culvert was traced, with the north branch following the line of the men's cells faithfully, and the branch that headed into the meeting point from the direction of the Debtors' Gaol comprised of multiple angles and turns, presumably to take waste from multiple points within the Debtors' Gaol complex. The culvert was capped mostly with flat capping stones, with two observed areas of vaulted capping. It might be postulated that this was for reinforcement where specific, heavy structures were planned to be built, although this does not appear to have taken place in either area where vaulting was encountered. The culvert flowed into a large, extremely well-constructed chamber complete with some form of sluice gate, probably necessitated by flooding events on the Wansbeck. From here, presumably the waste water was sent directly into the river or into whatever street drainage infrastructure existed at the time.

6.1.3 Structures above the culvert encountered in April 2021 included the suspected internal walls of an individual cell and the aforementioned latrines. The survival of these features below the level of post-demolition consolidation was not repeated elsewhere along the line of the men's cells. The two latrines in particular had remarkably avoided substantial deconstruction or demolition. Later, during works to excavate the roadway to finished height, which gave a wider picture of the same area, north and south walls of the men's cell line were encountered in the same place, along with dividing walls delimiting individual cells, or at least their foundations. This confirmed the 1859 OS Plan's relative accuracy in depicting the width of individual cells as a paltry 2 m. The distance between the two internal walls as measured on site was 1.93 m, although the internal features may have been sleeper walls with bars inset above, or wall foundations for narrower internal walls, perhaps affording inmates a fraction over 2 m of cell width. The distance between the north and south walls associated with the men's cell line represents the width of the men's cell line as a whole, including cell and corridor. No northern cell wall was identified.

6.1.4 Outside the culvert and some parts of the men's cells, few structural elements of the gaol seem to have survived. The gaol perimeter wall was encountered in several places and recorded in section, profile and plan in a few places. In one area, the wall had been comprehensively exposed, but not yet badly damaged by the groundworks, allowing a good section and plan to be drawn. Other efforts to effectively record the wall's structure, especially where it had been cut through, were somewhat

hampered by its poor surviving condition. A structure visible on the 1859 OS Plan as a corner projection from the line of the men's cells was tentatively identified on the basis of its location and orientation alone during early test excavations on site. The arrangement of walls present in the men's yards, 'radiating' outwards from the north end of the Governor's House, were all identified where disturbed by excavation, as was the north wall of the Labour Shed. None of these structures provided any more information than confirming their locations The feature comprising a setting or basin surrounded by a possible surface was not able to be equated confidently with any gaol plans, but was overlain and partly filled by a layer of later made ground, providing no further evidence for its use. Notable for the absence of any structural remains or surviving deposits above the level of the culvert were the location of the Debtors' Gaol, much of the line of the men's cells, the Joiner's Shop and west Male Debtors' Yard wall and the gaol's graveyard.

6.1.5 The medieval deposits or layers recorded in the north-west corner of the site represent the first medieval layers encountered during works at Goose Hill, including the previous phase of evaluation and monitoring in the winter of 2020. The paleoenvironmental assessment of samples taken from the layer produced coal, charcoal, clinker, pottery, fired clay and magnetised fuel waste, including hammerscale. Charred plant macrofossils were also present in the samples, with evidence for oats, bread wheat, barley, rye and a diverse range of weed seeds. Both samples contained charred animal droppings thought to represent the likely burning of sheep/goat manure. The charcoal consisted mainly of alder and oak, with sample 2 additionally containing birch. It is suggested in the paleoenvironmental assessment (*see Appendix 3*) that these woods were used for the production of charcoal and might provide more evidence for small-scale smithing alongside the presence of hammerscale. This layer likely represents generalised build-up of domestic and small-scale industrial activity. In other areas outside the footprint of the gaol no similar layers were observed, possibly indicating that the focus of medieval activity along Goose Hill was closer to Castle Square and the bridging point of the Wansbeck.

6.1.6 The site was considered at the onset of the wider project to have the potential to produce human remains, but no human remains were observed or recovered during the entire scheme of works. As noted in the report for the Evaluation and Monitoring of 2020, remains associated with the gaol graveyard were likely to have been removed during the construction of the school. Other postulated remains, including possible plague burials and the remains of executed persons from before the construction of the gaol, were likely disturbed by Georgian era works. If any pockets of survival exist, the current works did not disturb them.

6.2 Recommendations

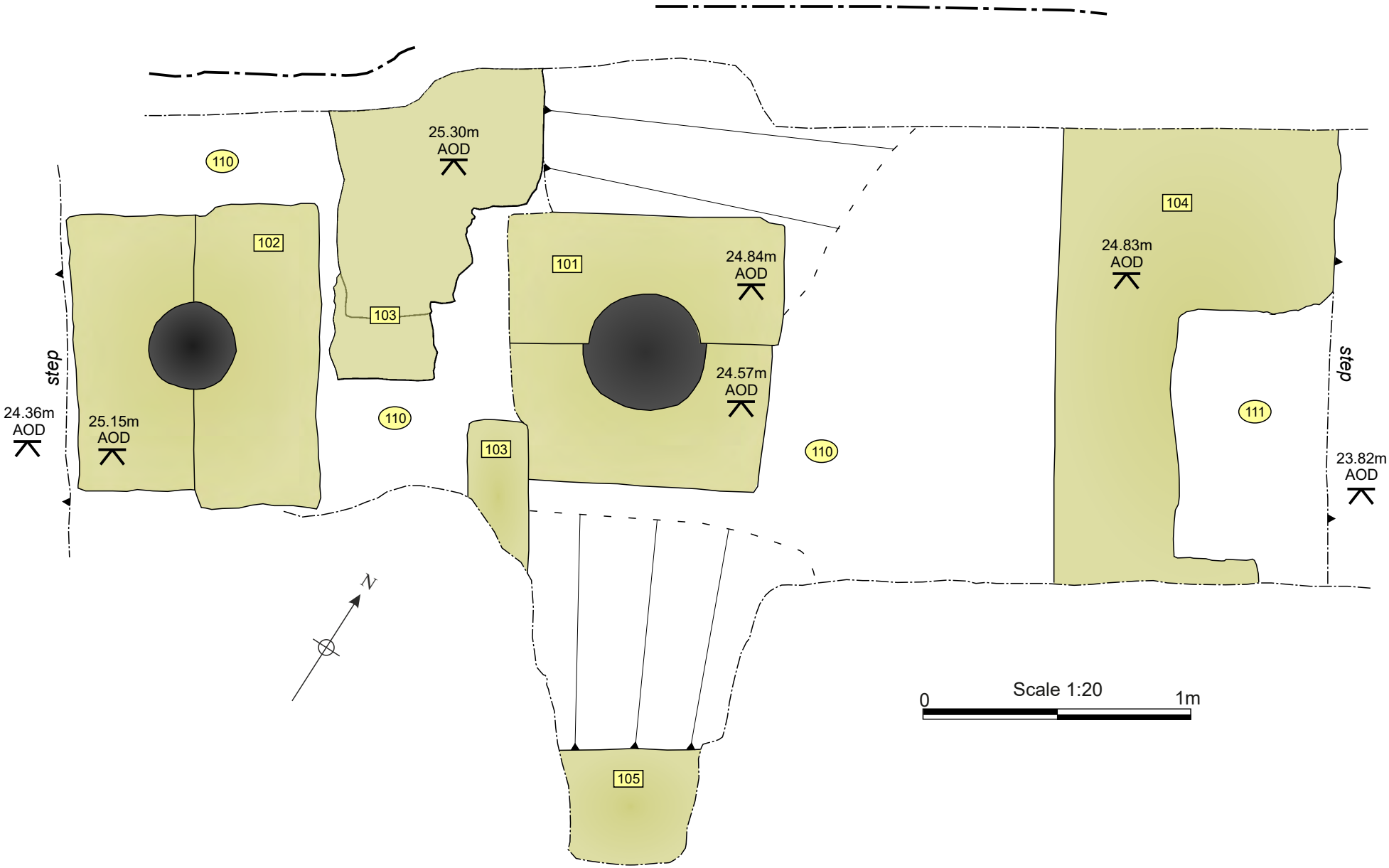
6.2.1 The surviving and in situ structural features encountered during the project represent a very small fraction of the gaol's structure as a whole. Nothing more than demolition debris was found where many structures would have been located, notably across the majority of the footprint of the men's cells and the male debtor's gaol. Some remains may still survive in situ in some places below the depths reached by the car park works, including further remains of known structures like the arrangement of 'radial' yard walls and the male debtors' gaol yard wall. Any future work after the use-life of the new car park should take the possibility of encountering limited surviving remains into account, although it should be noted that the groundworks were a damaging or destructive process, especially in those areas cut by drainage runs, catchpits and the large water attenuation system.

6.2.2 Most of the gaol structures encountered during the groundworks were destroyed or heavily damaged during the process, including the majority of the gaol perimeter wall along the frontage of Goose Hill, any higher features such as the basin or setting and the walls of the men's cell line, any

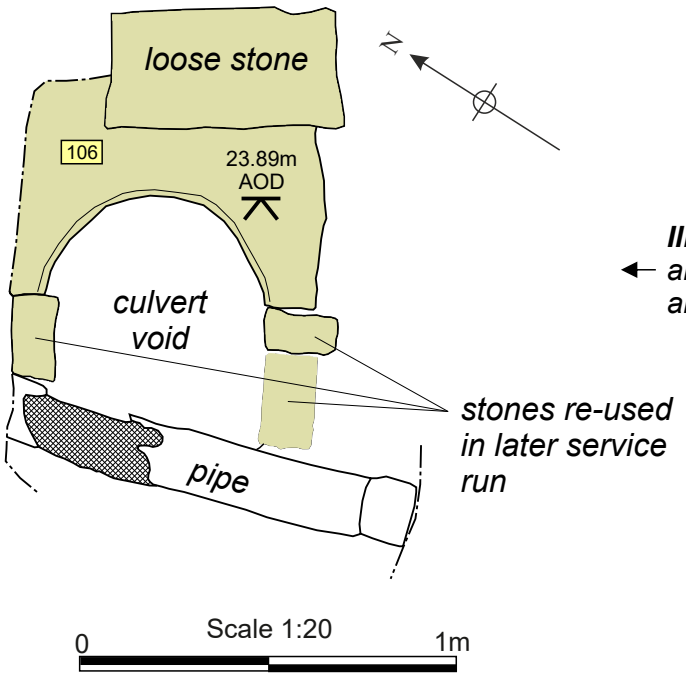
structures within the line of the culvert above the level of the culvert side walls, and the well-constructed chamber fed by the two legs of the culvert. The 'radial' arrangement of walls in the men's yard remain largely in situ, being cut only by a drainage run, while the men's debtors' yard wall likely survives to a large degree having been only minimally damaged by excavations to clear the culvert.

6.2.3 Any work over the wider footprint of Morpeth County Gaol is likely to encounter in situ, well-preserved structures, especially in areas where the effect of large-scale construction projects like that of the former school have not been a factor. This might apply particularly to the elements of the gaol south-east of the former court house, where development looks to have been lighter and potentially less impactful.

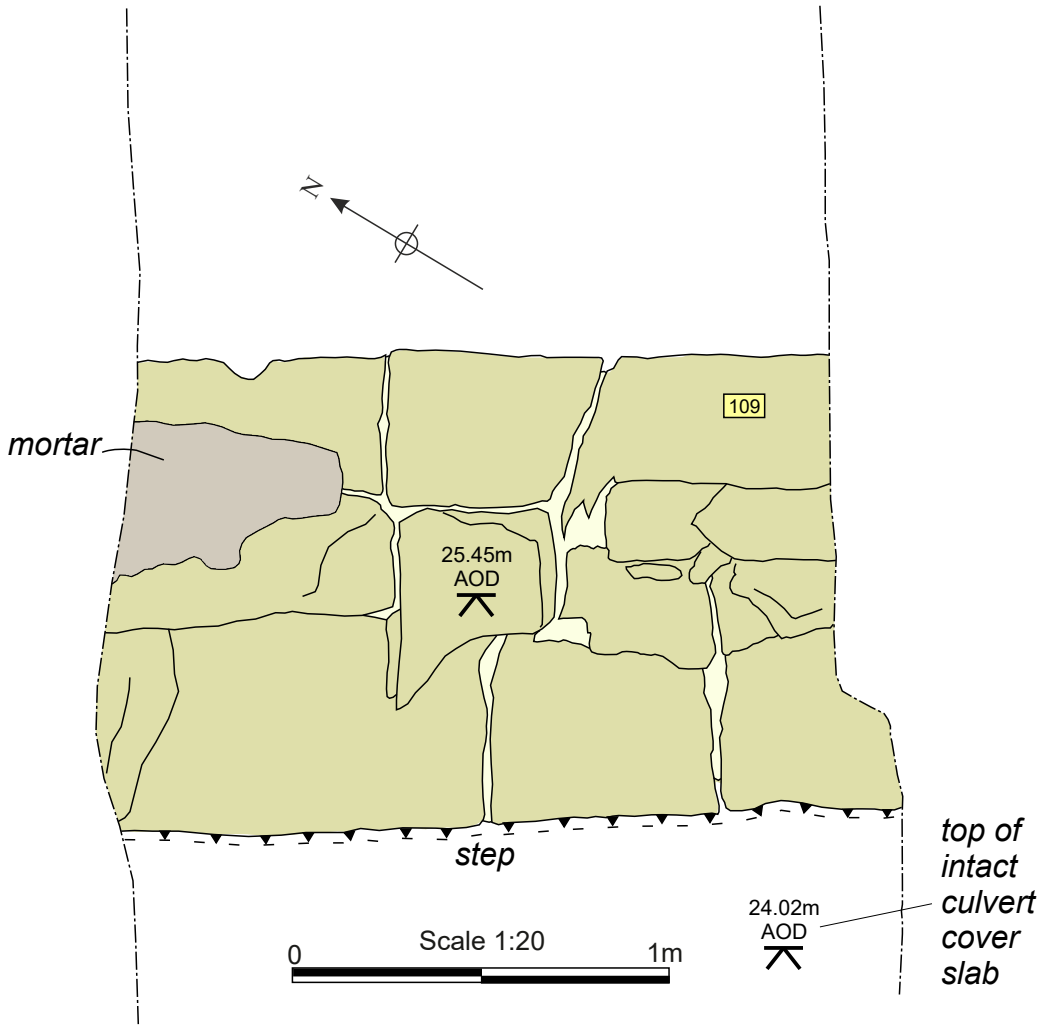
6.2.4 As with the previous phase of works, natural horizons were encountered in few areas. No features were observed cut into these levels within the footprint of the attenuation tank, or in limited areas of natural sub-soil reached during excavation elsewhere, such as when encountered in the drainage runs and catchpits. Any future intrusion that might reach depths greater than the level of build-up likely deposited before the gaol would need to account for the possibility of encountering traces of activity from before the construction of the gaol.



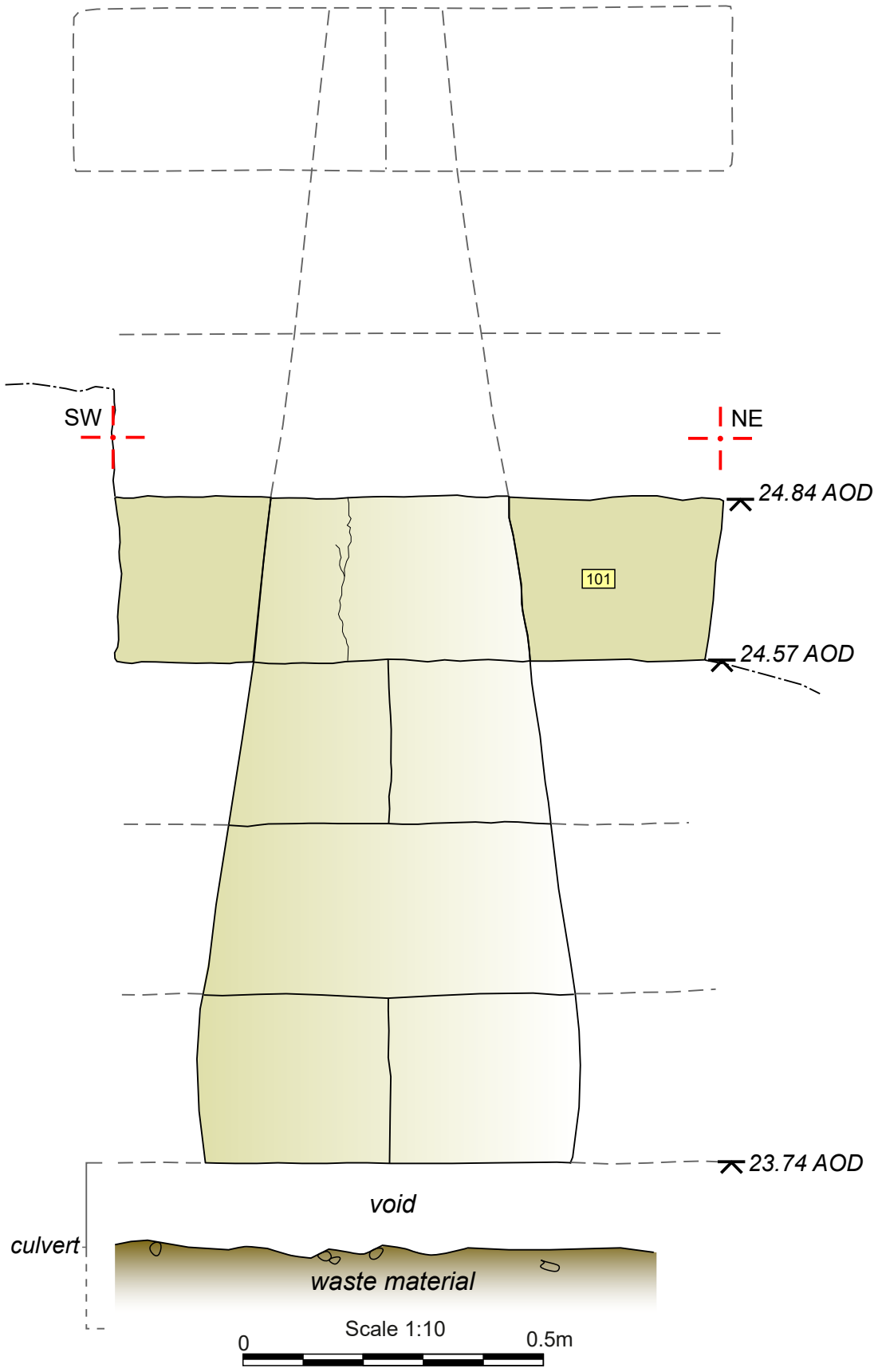
Illus. 09. *Plan of Chutes [101] and [102] and Walls [103], [104] and [105] in Area A.*



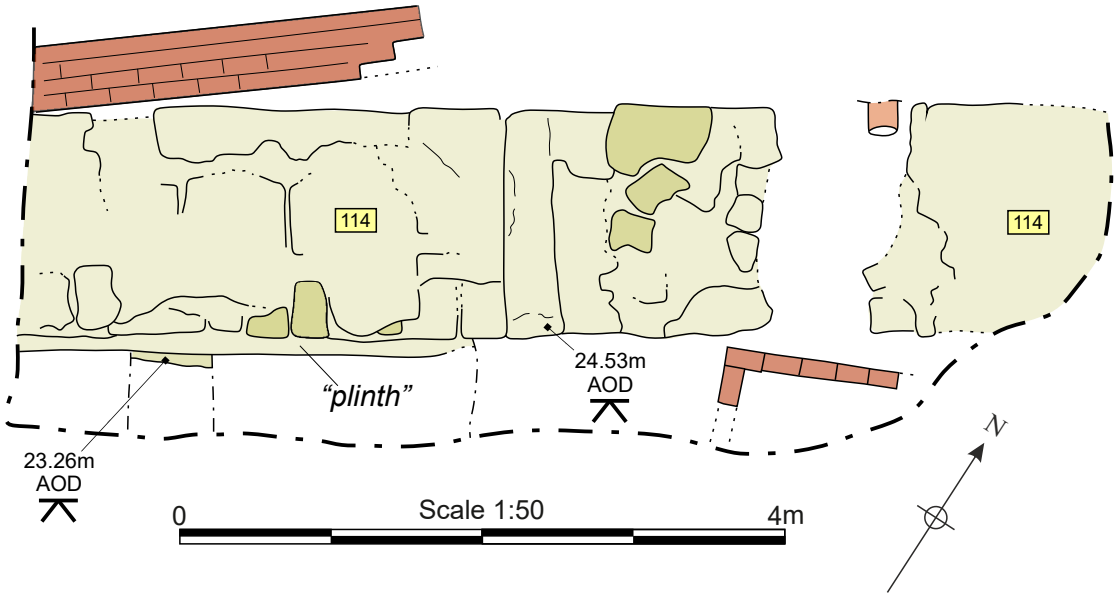
Illus. 10 *Plan of probable chute [106] and a pipe run, presumed to postdate and cut chute [106].*



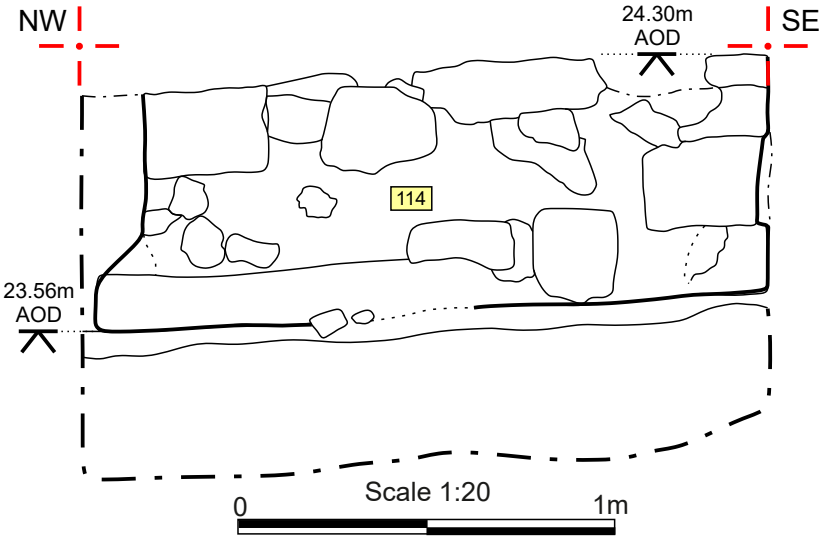
Illus. 11*. Plan of male debtors' yard wall [109].*



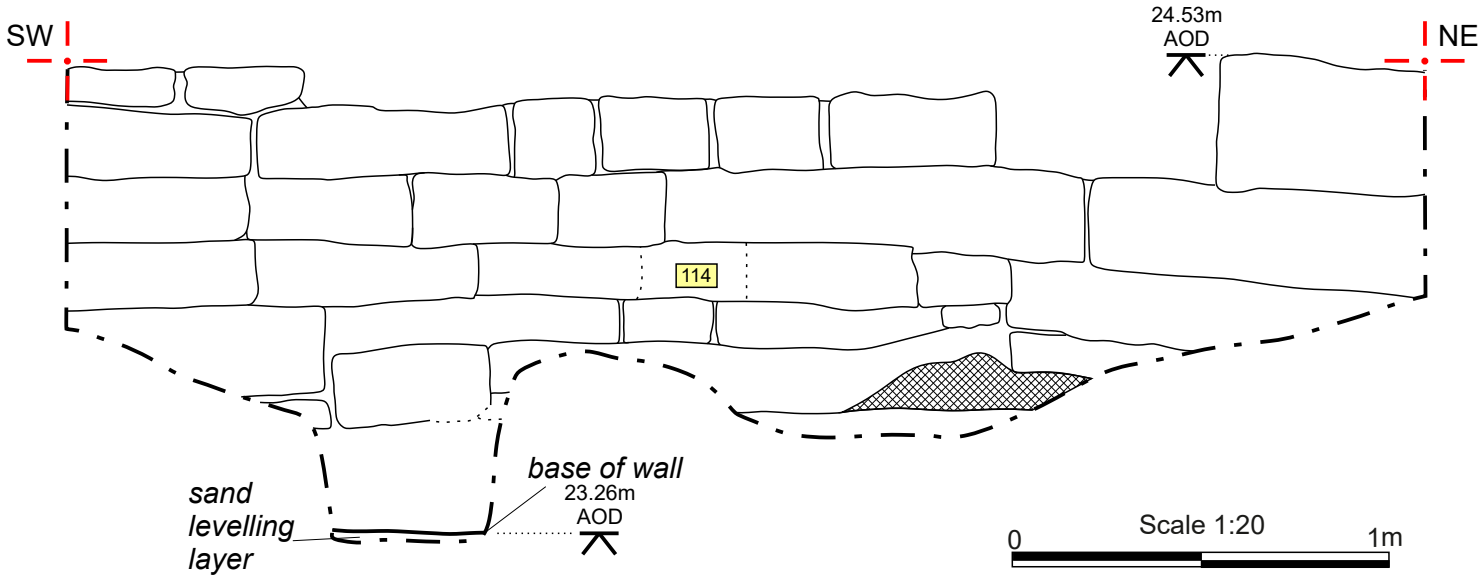
***Illus. 12**. SE facing section showing extant and projected elements of Chute [101].*



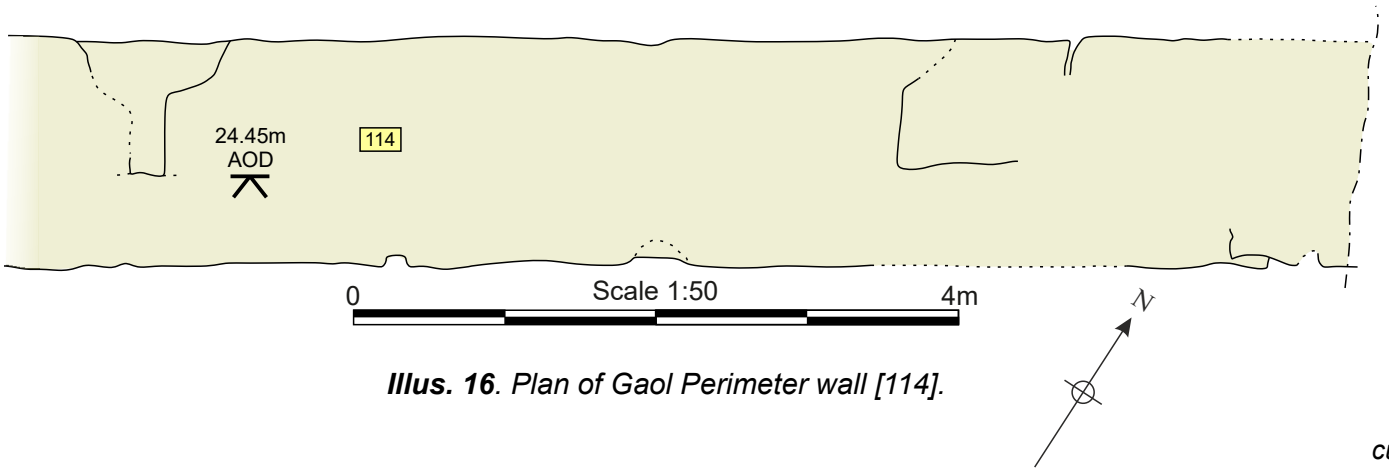
***Illus. 13**. Plan of Gaol Perimeter wall [114].*



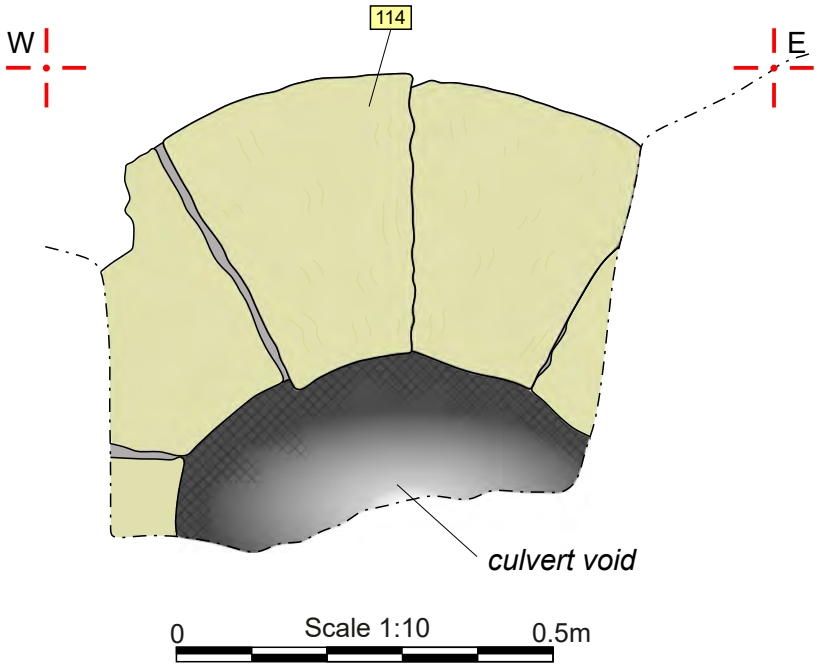
***Illus. 14**. SW facing section through Gaol Perimeter wall [114].*



***Illus. 15**. SE facing section of Gaol Perimeter Wall [114].*

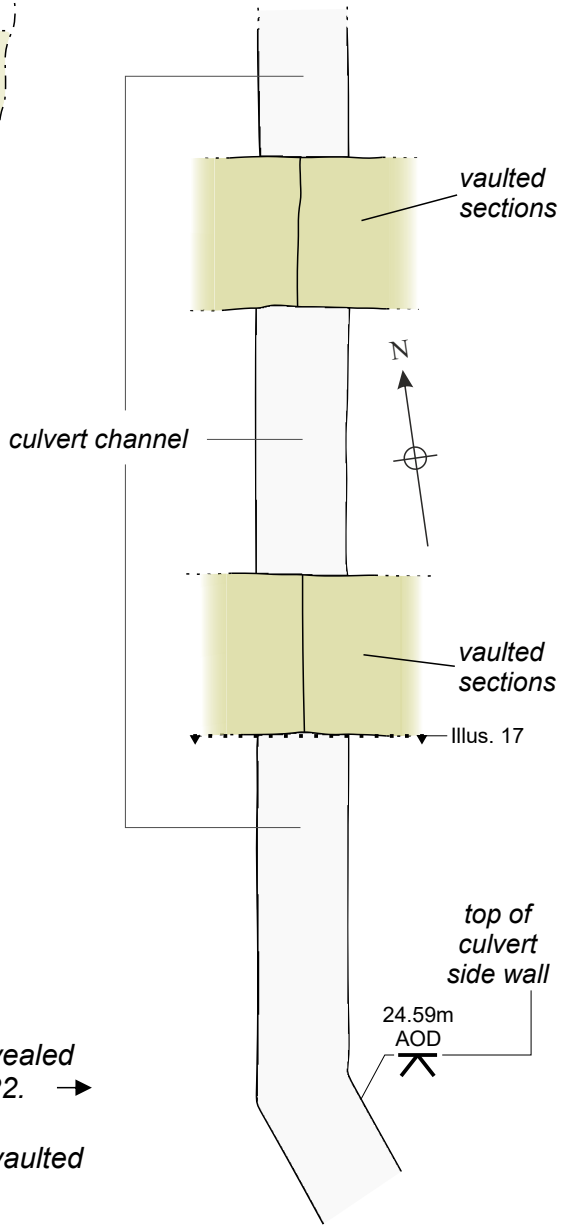


***Illus. 16**. Plan of Gaol Perimeter wall [114].*

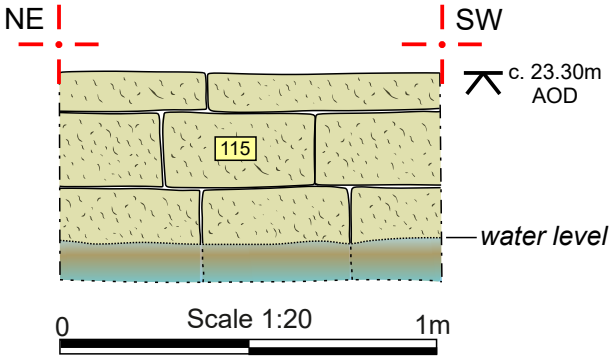


***Illus. 17**. Plan of culvert [115] as revealed during investigations in January 2022.* →

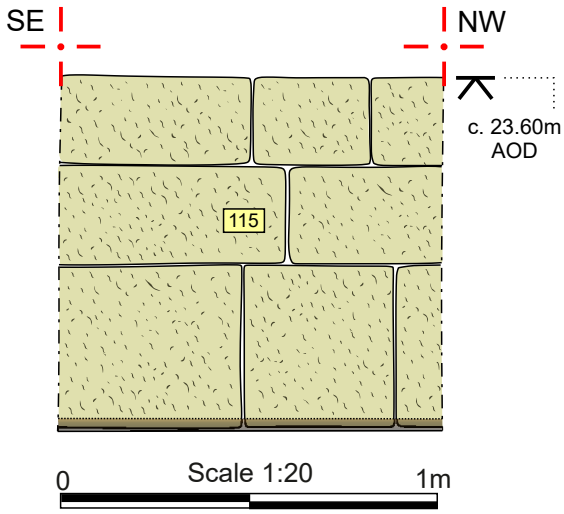
← ***Illus. 18**. S facing section of a vaulted section of culvert [115].*



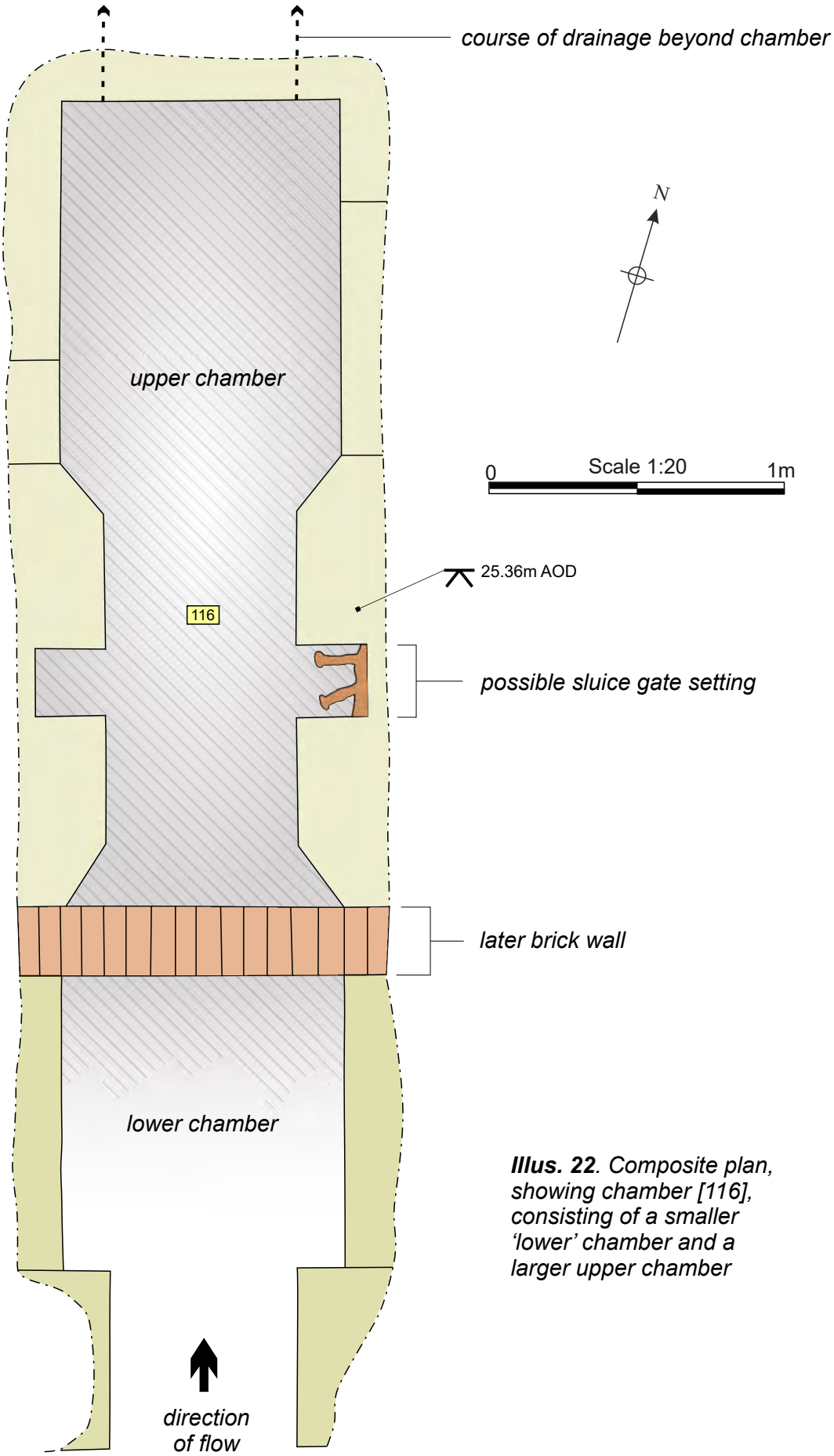
***Illus. 19**. Plan of structure [113].*



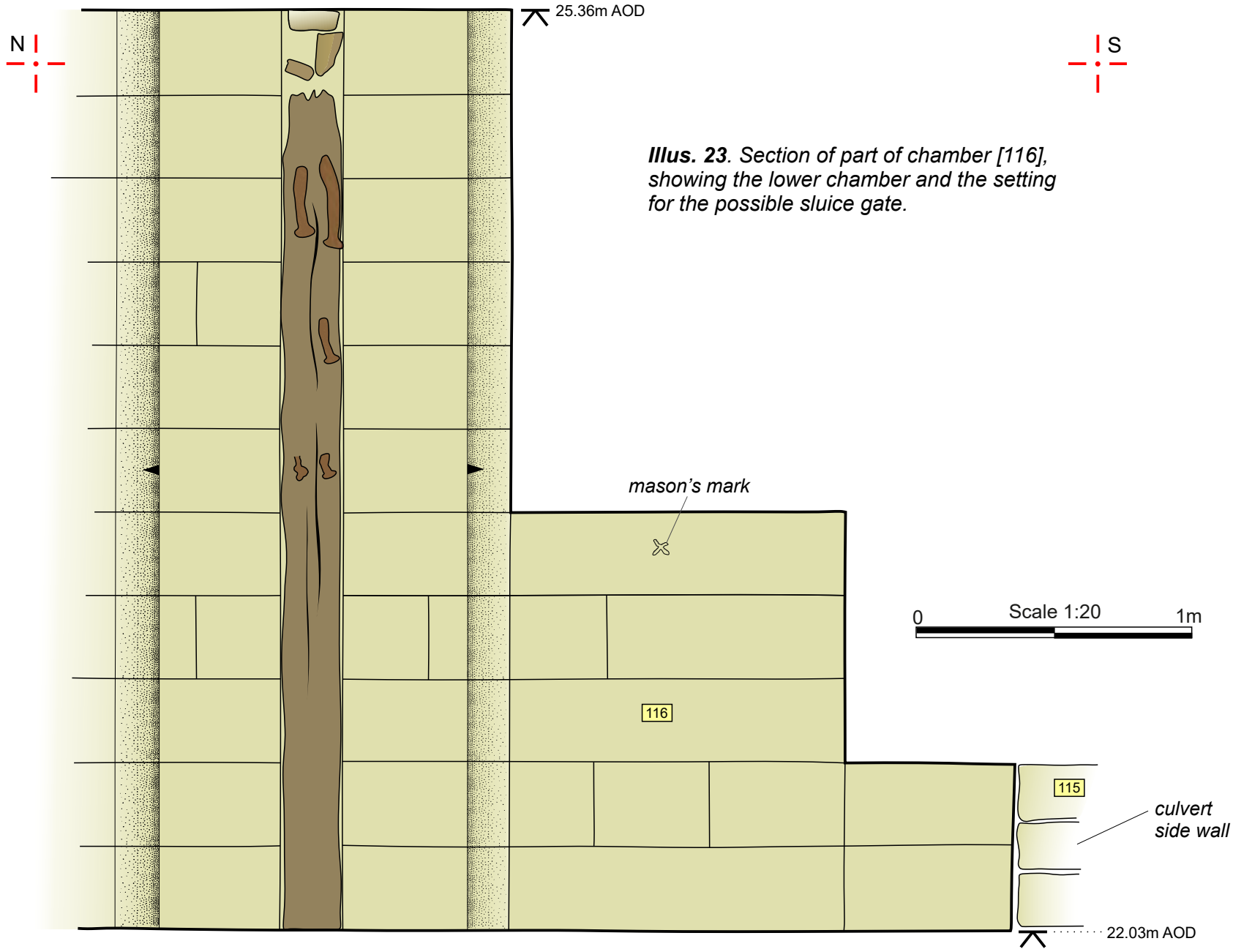
***Illus. 20**. Section of culvert [115] side wall, see Illus 05. for location. Drawn schematically using recorded measurements due to conditions in the trench boxes.*



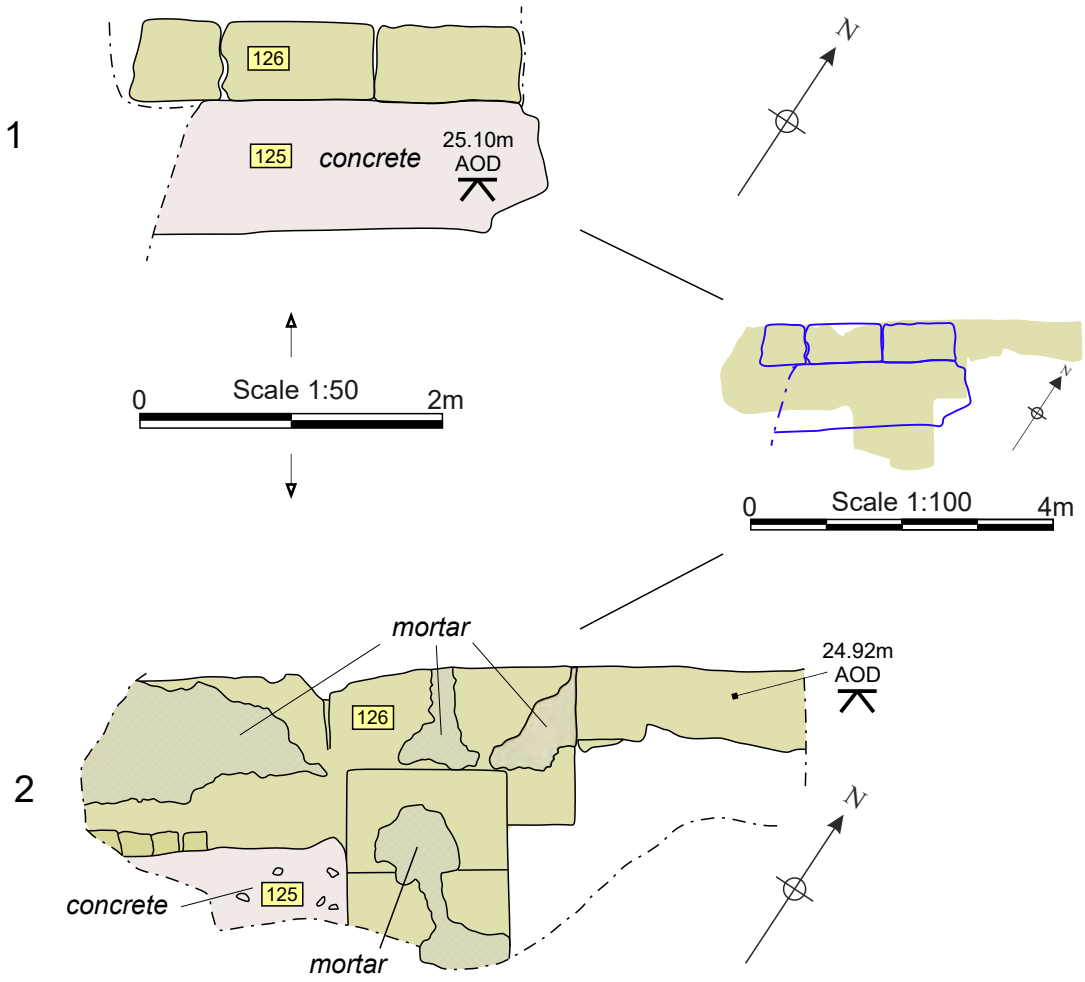
***Illus. 21**. Section of culvert [115] side wall, see Illus 05. for location. Drawn schematically using recorded measurements due to conditions in the trench boxes.*



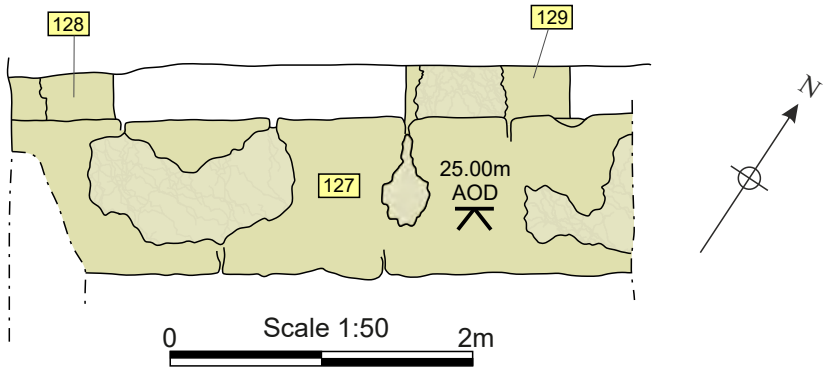
***Illus. 22**. Composite plan, showing chamber [116], consisting of a smaller 'lower' chamber and a larger upper chamber*



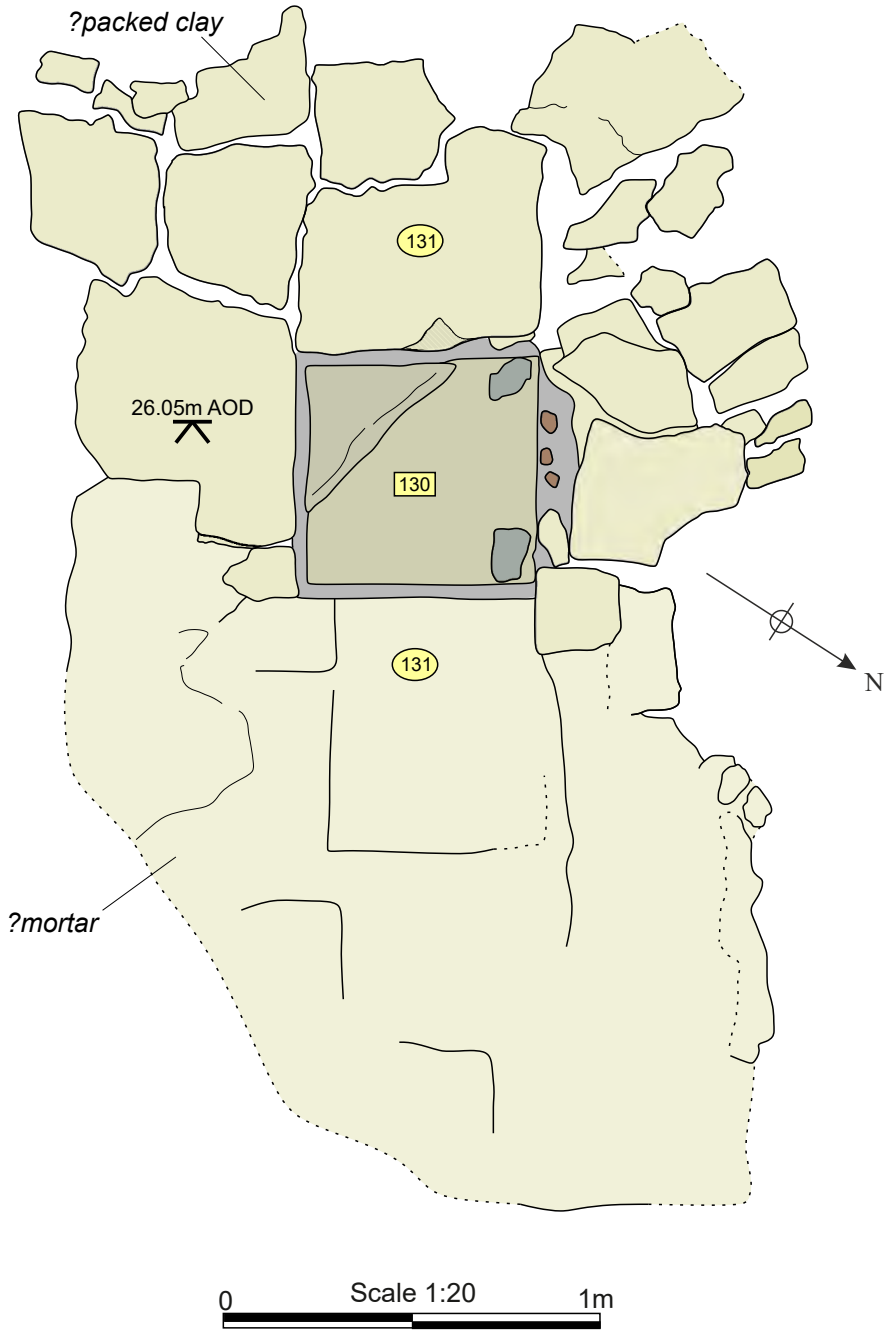
***Illus. 23**. Section of part of chamber [116], showing the lower chamber and the setting for the possible sluice gate.*



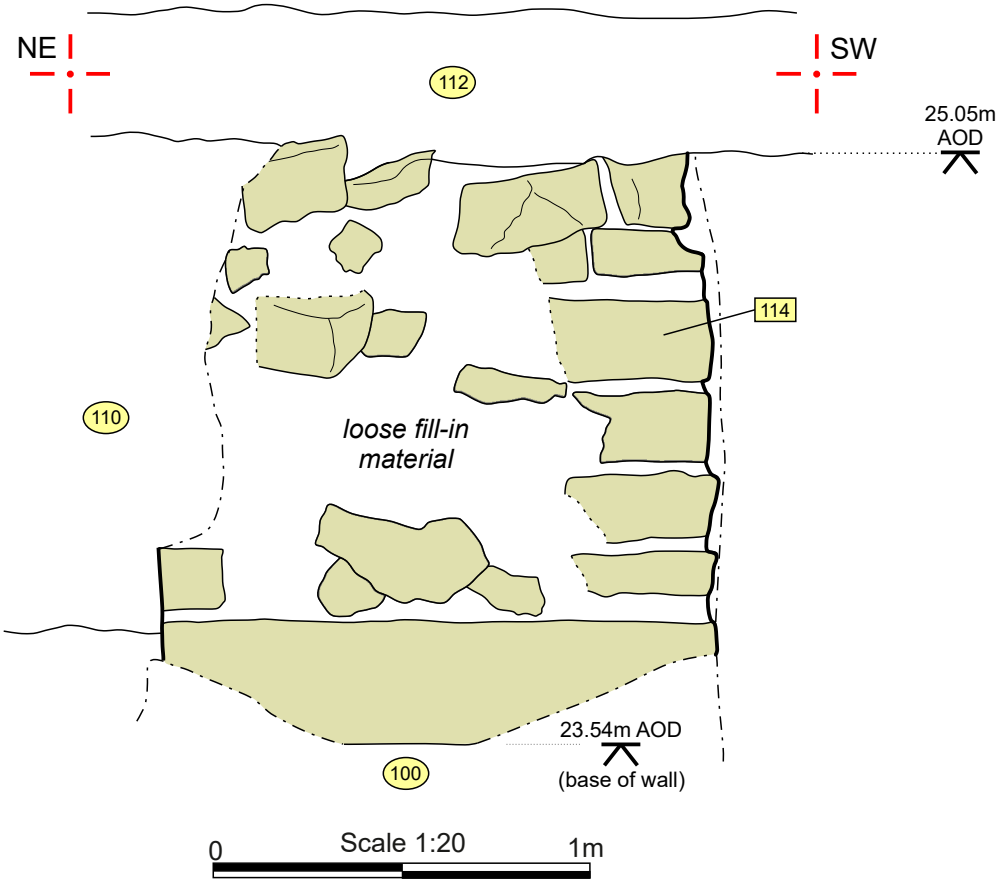
***Illus. 24**. Plans of concrete [125] and the N wall of the men's cell line [126], showing the two revealed levels of the structure (above left, denoted 1 and 2 after the order of their discovery) and their relative position (above right).*



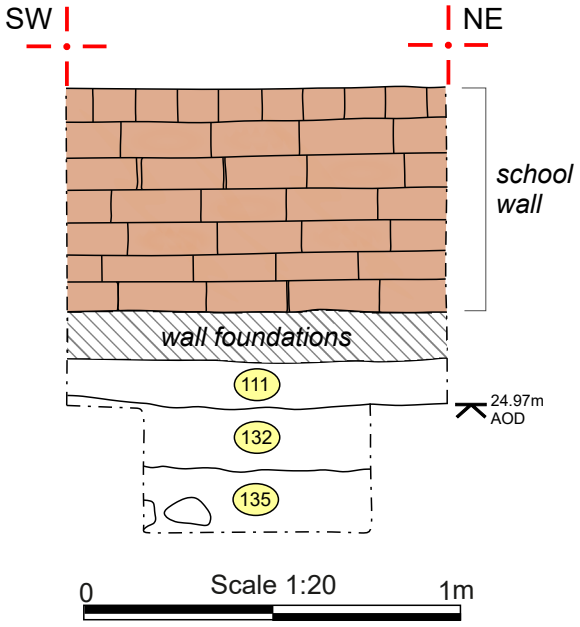
***Illus. 25**. Plan of S wall of the men's cell line [127], showing the presumed internal cell walls [128] and [129].*



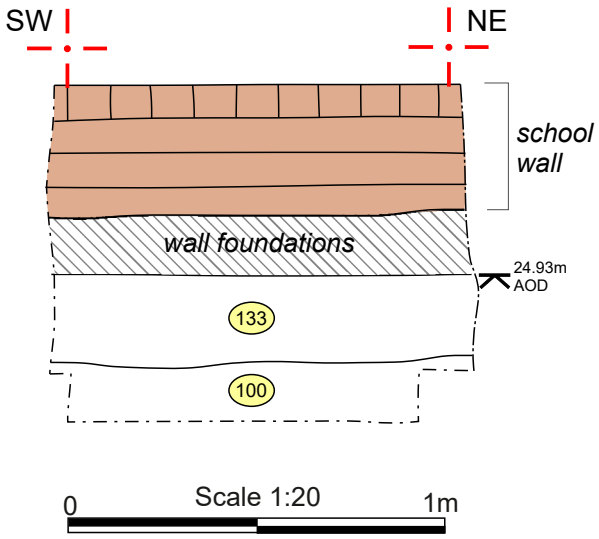
***Illus. 26**. Plan of possible basin or setting [130] and surface (131) Drawing completed while the triangular stone (A) was still in situ and not yet removed (as in Photo 58).*



Illus. 27. *Section of Gaol Perimeter wall [114].*



Illus. 28*. Sample section showing medieval layer (132) in section.*



Illus. 29*. Sample section showing medieval layer (133) in section.*

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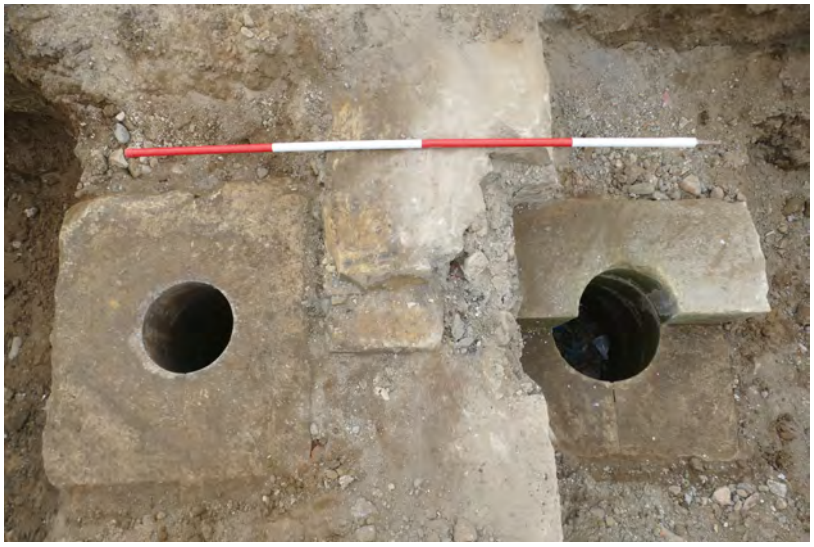

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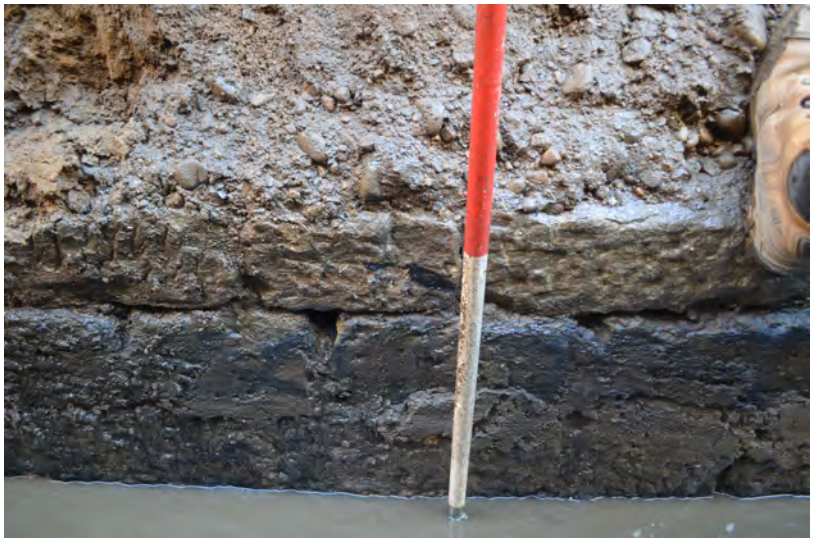
Photo 30. *The culvert towards the east of site, with a flat capping stone visible E view.*



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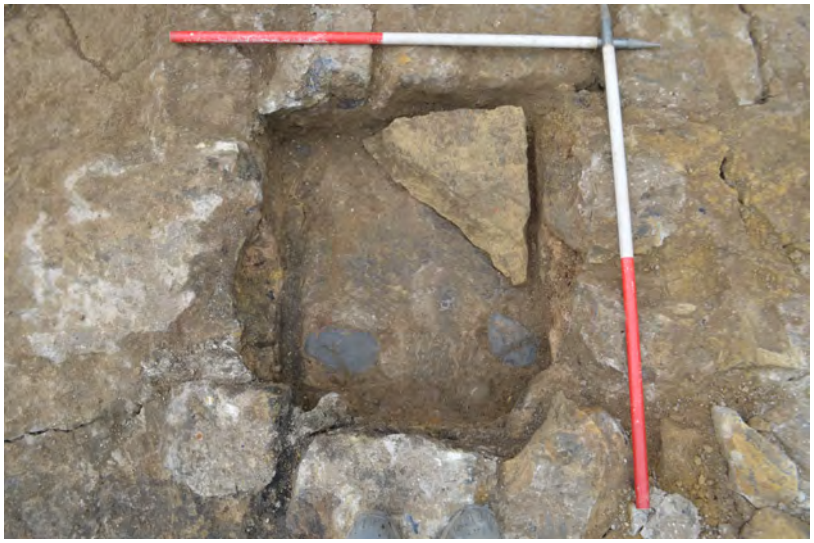

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APPENDIX 1: FINDS CONCORDANCE

AP21/31 - Goose Hill, Morpeth 2021-22 Monitoring - Finds Concordance							
Feature	**Context**	**Description**	**Spot Date**	**Pottery (#/g)**	**CBM (g)**	**A. Bone (g)**	**Other**
	124	Layer		(1) 1g		23	Clay Pipe Stem (1) - 1g
	132	Layer		(13) 176g	192	2	
	133	Layer		(4) 4g			

APPENDIX 2: Medieval pottery and brick

A total of 17 sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from two contexts, 13 weighing 176g from [132] and four weighing 20g from [133].

[132] The 13 sherds represent fabrics ranging from untempered or lightly-sanded to coarse-gritted:

Fabric 1 - Untempered pink fabric with light grey exterior.
[132] One base/body sherd

Fabric 2 - Very finely sand-tempered buff-grey fabric:
[132] Two conjoining sherds of a large base (min. diam. 17 cm, but prob. rather larger) in grey-buff fabric, internally completely covered by a mature green glaze, thin blotches of which also appear on the buff exterior.
One straight, thickened rim of a closed (jar or jug) form, with pointed profile and incipient rim-seat
One body sherd with oxidised buff-orange interior, buff exterior and reduced core
[133] One small body sherd appears similar to [132/rim]

Fabric 3 - Fabric with abundant coarse sand and/or grit, externally buff to brown, internally buff, light grey and orange.
[132] Six body sherds varying in coarseness and density of inclusions, two with remains of splashed external glaze, one with a splash of glaze overlapping original and sheared parts of the same external face (perhaps indicating this was a spacer), one thin-bodied sherd much harder with full external brown glaze (perhaps over-fired).
[133] Two body sherds.

Fabric 4 - Gritty white-ware.
[132] One base/body and one body sherd of very coarse, gritty fabric, internally off-white, externally-sooted.
[133] One small body sherd with external incomplete (splashed?) green glaze.

Fabric 5 – Very coarse, light-buff gritty fabric.
[132] A single brick fragment of 192g retaining parts of two faces (one reddish, one dark buff) is made in this extremely coarse fabric which is probably too coarse for pot-forming but is likely to have performed an industrial function in relation to high-temperature and/or repeated episodes of heating, potentially pottery-making, smithing or other light-industrial activities.

Discussion
This assemblage of exclusively-medieval pottery contains a preponderance of unglazed hearth-wares in coarse fabrics - some carrying signs of external sooting - with table-wares poorly represented, although the lack of internal sooting may suggest functions in relation to milk-processing rather than cooking. The prevalence of coarse fabrics, lead-rich glazes, presence of gritty whitewares and absence of reduced glazed-wares places the general character of the material relatively early in the high medieval period, probably in the early post-Conquest 12th/13th rather than 14th century or later. Two sherds in particular -both F3/[132] - are suggested as 'wasters' (or in one case, a waster possibly used as a kiln spacer) on the basis of over-firing and a glaze splash extending over a sheared break. This, together with a fragment of brick in an extremely coarse, light-buff, fireclay-like material suggests the possibility that pottery manufacture may have been taking place locally.

APPENDIX 3:

Goose Hill, Morpeth, Northumberland: Paleoenvironmental Assessment, Archaeological Services Durham University

Prepared by Archaeological Services Durham University for The Archaeological Practice Ltd.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
The Archaeological Practice Ltd

Goose Hill
Morpeth
Northumberland

palaeoenvironmental assessment

report 5899
January 2023

Durham University

Contents

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1. Summary

The project

1.1 This report presents a palaeoenvironmental assessment of two bulk samples from a medieval spread taken during archaeological works at Goose Hill former school site, Morpeth, Northumberland.

1.2 The works were commissioned by The Archaeological Practice Ltd and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

Results

1.3 The bulk samples comprise fuel waste typical of medieval occupation and include evidence of small-scale smithing activities. Arable crops consist of oats, bread wheat, rye, barley and the fibre/oil crop, flax.

Recommendations

1.4 No further analysis is required for the samples. The flots should be retained as part of the physical archive of the site. The residues were discarded following examination.

1.5 The following charred remains are recommended as the best options for radiocarbon dating and are ranked by their likelihood to provide a reliable date:-

- [132] <1> spread - Charred large oat grain (15mg), good condition
- [132] <1> spread - Alder branchwood charcoal (28mg), good condition
- [132] <2> spread - Charred cf. bread wheat grain (10mg), good condition

2. Project background

Location and background

2.1 Archaeological works were conducted by The Archaeological Practice Ltd at Goose Hill former school site, Morpeth, Northumberland. This report presents a palaeoenvironmental assessment of two bulk samples from a medieval spread [context 132].

Objective

2.2 The objective of the scheme of works was to assess the palaeoenvironmental potential of the samples, establish the presence of suitable radiocarbon dating material, and provide the client with appropriate recommendations.

Dates

2.3 The samples were received by Archaeological Services on 7th November 2022. Assessment and report preparation was conducted between 17th and 27th January 2023.

Personnel

2.4 Assessment and report preparation was conducted by Dr Charlotte O'Brien and Elena Stefani. The charred animal droppings were examined by Dr Louisa Gidney. Sample processing was by Henry Morris.

Archive

2.5 The site code is **MGH22**, for **M**orpeth **G**oose **H**ill 20**22**. The finds are currently held in the Palaeoenvironmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services Durham University awaiting collection. The flots and charred plant remains will be retained at Archaeological Services Durham University.

3. Methods

3.1 The bulk samples were manually floated and sieved through a 500μm mesh. The flots were examined at up to x60 magnification for charred and waterlogged botanical remains using a Leica MZ7.5 stereomicroscope. Identifications were aided by comparison with modern reference material held in the Palaeoenvironmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services Durham University, and by reference to relevant literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006). Plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010). Habitat classification follows Preston *et al.* (2002). The residues were scanned for additional charcoal and charred plant remains, and finds such as bone, shell and industrial waste.

3.2 Selected charcoal fragments were identified to provide material suitable for radiocarbon dating and to determine the nature and condition of the assemblages. The transverse, radial and tangential sections were examined at up to x500 magnification using a Nikon Eclipse microscope. Identifications were assisted by the descriptions of Schweingruber (1990), Gale & Cutler (2000) and Hather (2000), and modern reference material held in the Palaeoenvironmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services Durham University.

3.3 The works were undertaken in accordance with the palaeoenvironmental research aims and objectives outlined in the regional archaeological research framework and resource agendas (Petts & Gerrard 2006; Hall & Huntley 2007; Huntley 2010).

4. Results

4.1 The two samples of medieval spread [132] are generally similar, comprising coal, clinker, charcoal, charred plant macrofossils, pottery, fired clay and magnetised fuel waste (including hammerscale in sample <1>). Charcoal is well preserved, with a larger quantity present in sample <1>. This is predominantly alder stemwood and branchwood with a few oak fragments, while sample <2> has birch, alder and oak stemwood. Both samples comprise a few charred animal droppings (cf. sheep/goat).

4.2 The plant macrofossil assemblages are similar although sample <1> has a larger quantity and diversity than sample <2>. There is evidence for oats, bread wheat, rye and barley, with weed seeds deriving from arable, ruderal, damp grassland and heathland habitats. Both large (>2mm) and small (<2mm) forms of oat grains are present, possibly indicating more than one oat species, however only chaff of common oat (*Avena sativa*) was noted. Other charred remains include hazel nutshell fragments, a flax seed and a small number of soil fungus sclerotia.

4.3 Material for radiocarbon dating is available for both samples. Detailed palaeoenvironmental results are presented in Appendix 1.

5. Discussion

5.1 The bulk samples comprise characteristic fuel waste of medieval occupation with oats, bread wheat, rye, barley and flax being typical field crops of this period. There is evidence for small scale smithing activities and as birch, alder and oak all produce high quality charcoal, it is feasible that these were used as charcoal rather than wood, with coal forming an additional fuel source.

5.2 While many of the seeds derive from weeds of cultivated land, others such as heath-grass, cinquefoils and sedges reflect the exploitation of heathland or acid grassland, as sources of winter fodder, thatch, fuel and/or turves. The charred sheep/goat droppings probably indicate the presence of burnt stable manure.

6. Recommendations

6.1 No further analysis is required for the samples. The flots should be retained as part of the physical archive of the site. The residues were discarded following examination.

6.2 The following charred remains are recommended as the best options for radiocarbon dating and are ranked by their likelihood to provide a reliable date:-

- [132] <1> spread - Charred large oat grain (15mg), good condition
- [132] <1> spread - Alder branchwood charcoal (28mg), good condition
- [132] <2> spread - Charred cf. bread wheat grain (10mg), good condition

7. Sources

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Appendix 1: Data from palaeoenvironmental assessment

Sample	Context	Feature	Volume processed (l)	Flot volume (ml)	C14 available	Rank	Notes
1	132	spread	14	200	Y	**	Charcoal-rich flot with a moderate quantity of charred plant macrofossils. The charcoal is in good condition and dominated by alder stemwood and branchwood with a few oak stemwood fragments. Cereals include large and small oat grains, cf bread wheat grains, a bread wheat rachis fragment, a rye grain and rachis fragment and a few barley grains. The weed flora includes arables (corncockle, corn marigold, fumitories, black nightshade, shepherd's-needle), sedges, docks, heath-grass, vetches, goosefoots and cinquefoils. Other charred remains include a few hazel nutshell fragments, a flax seed, a small number of soil fungus sclerotia and a few charred animal droppings (cf. sheep/goat). Coal, clinker, magnetised fuel waste (including hammerscale), pottery and fired clay were noted in the residue. **Medieval**
2	132	spread	14	90	Y	*	Some charcoal and charred plant macrofossils but fewer than in sample <1>. Cereal remains include grains of oats (large and small), barley and wheat (including cf bread wheat). Weed seeds are buttercup, docks, vetches, heath-grass, cf bromes and cinquefoils. A few charred soil fungus sclerotia and animal droppings are again present. As for sample <1>, coal, clinker, magnetised fuel waste, pottery and fired clay were noted in the residue. **Medieval**

[Rank: *: low; **: medium; ***: high; ****: very high potential to provide further palaeoenvironmental information]

APPENDIX 4:

GOOSE HILL FORMER SCHOOL SITE, MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND - Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief, Vs. 2, March 2021

Prepared by The Archaeological Practice Ltd.

GOOSE HILL FORMER SCHOOL SITE
MORPETH
NORTHUMBERLAND

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared by

The Archaeological Practice Ltd.

March 2021
Vs.2

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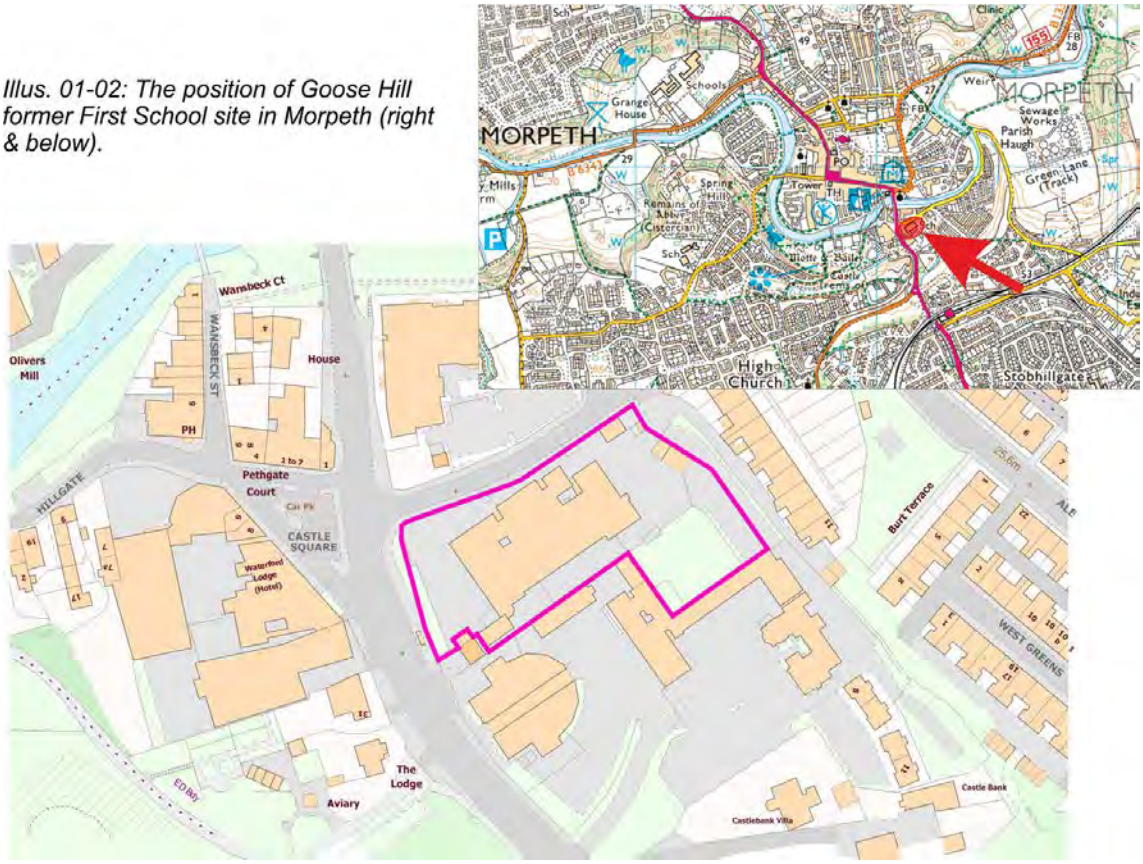
ILLUSTRATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 The following represents a project design for a programme of archaeological investigation to mitigate the impact of excavations proposed during groundworks required to create a new car park on the site of the former Morpeth First School on Goose Hill, Middle Greens, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 1TL, itself partly on the site of the former Morpeth Gaol. The proposed work seeks the provision of a new car park to provide a total of 142 no. parking bays, 128 no. to be standard parking bays, 8 no. disabled parking bays and 6 no. electric vehicle charging bays.

Illus. 01-02: The position of Goose Hill former First School site in Morpeth (right & below).



1.1.2 The site is located in an area of archaeological potential on in the centre of the medieval and later town, and has been subject to pre-determination assessment by the Assistant county archaeologist for Northumberland. This concluded that the invasive work associated with development has the potential to impact upon archaeological remains, specifically those associated with the medieval and later activities which are documented in the area.

1.2 Cultural Heritage Background

1.2.1 An archaeological assessment of the site carried out by AD Archaeology in October, 2019 noted that part of the site was occupied in the 19th Century by Dobson's Morpeth County Gaol of 1821, the demolition of which, in 1881, left only the gateway (Morpeth Court House, a Grade II* listed building) immediately to the south of the site. It was also concluded that the site, near to the original Norman castle at Haw Hill and the later castle just to the

south, may have been the focus of medieval settlement, perhaps from the 13th century, around the castle and the road leading to the crossing point of the Wansbeck.

1.2.2 The former school building, built on open ground created by demolition of the old gaol, was opened as a new council school on May 29th, 1911, for 520 pupils - 227 boys being the first entrants - with the aim of providing elementary education for Morpeth children who were transferred from an older school at that time.

1.2.3 The archaeological assessment concluded that sub--surface remains of the northern half of the gaol may survive on the site, as well as archaeological features relating to the medieval and early post-medieval development of Morpeth, including features relating to the earliest development of Morpeth. The assessment report also noted the possible presence of human burials on the site, including victims of gaol executinos in the 19th century and earlier remains; the Goose Hill area being associated with the execution and burial of criminals and victims of the plague.

1.2.4 No invasive archaeological work had previously taken place on the site, but a desk-based assessment was prepared for the site in 2013 and an historic buildings record of the school prepared in 2020. Non-archaeological test-pits excavated by Technical Services (DCC) in 2013 showed a build-up of topsoil and tarmac/granular fill to a depth of 500 - 650 mm below current ground level (bgl), while borehole excavations by Dunelm revealed successive layers of made ground, including brick and cobbles, of likely post-medieval date, to a depth of 1000 - 1300 mm bgl. This layer is likely to represent the build-up of the ground level for the construction of the gaol, with the potential for cut features associated with the gaol, including possible burials, to be located in these deposits and below, while earlier remains may lie at grater depths.

1.2.5 In view of the relatively high archaeological potential of the site, Northumberland County Council issued planning advice that archaeological evaluation by excavation was appropriate in order to determine the level of archaeological potential of the site and any constraints upon the proposed new development.

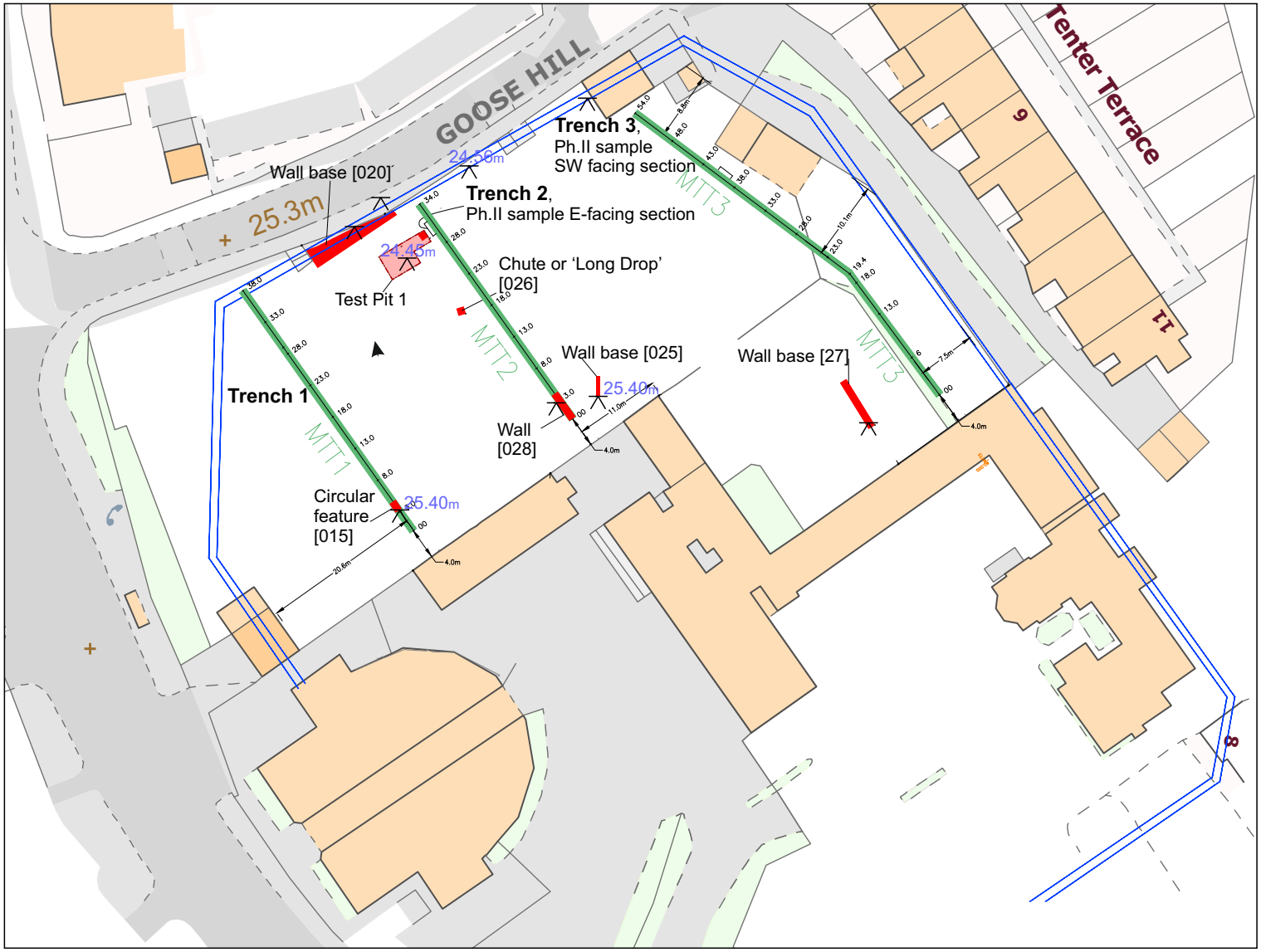
1.3 Archaeolocal Evaluation in 2020

1.3.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by The Archaeological Practice Ltd. was agreed with Northumberland Conservation in advance of fieldwork which was carried out in two main stages between October and November 2020, with intervening monitoring during ground reduction works. The evaluation work was carried out as the first stage in the invasive archaeological investigation of the site which may subsequently lead to further exploratory or mitigation excavations.

1.3.2 The archaeological works took place in four phases:

Phase 1. Evaluation trenching by means of three trenches cut to depths no greater than 0.75 m below the school playground and buildings demolition level;

Phase 2. Having identified no constraints on further ground reduction, the areas between the trenches were subsequently reduced to the same level as the trench floors, a process that involved intermittent archaeological monitoring over the entire site area.



Illus. 03: Location of evaluation trenches and additional features excavated on the Goose Hill site between October 12th and December 1st, 2020.
[The gaol outer precinct wall is shown in blue, evaluation trenches in green, excavated features in red (with context numbers) and aOD heights are shown in blue]

Phase 3. Between the 23rd and the 25th November, deeper trenches were excavated in the same locations as the Phase I evaluation trenches. The trenches were designed by Northumberland County Council to record and evaluate any archaeological found to survive in areas where the scheme of works would exceed 0.75 m up to 1.80 m below demolition ground level. In practice, the deepest areas of trench 2 and 3 were not excavated fully to the proscribed depths as natural horizons were encountered, negating the need for further investigation.

Phase 4. Re-excavation of a small area near the north end of Trench 2 in order to clarify the character of structural features and deposits encountered in a test pit placed there during the monitoring phase

1.3.3 The results of the evaluation process (*Illus. 03*), including monitoring of ground reduction following the first phase of evaluation, uncovered relatively few remains of significance and no structural remains pre-dating the 19th century gaol. The gaol had evidently been largely or completely demolished to ground level in 1881 leaving a handful of recognisable, *in situ* features surviving in areas where school foundations did not truncate or destroy them. Other elements of the gaol, notably those associated with drainage, lie below the depths reached under the current scheme of works.

1.3.4 Elements of the gaol surviving as footings or low walls that can be confidently equated with features depicted on the 1859 OS Town Plan include its perimeter wall, two yard-division walls and the outer wall of the male debtors' yard, all demolished to ground level. Other remains not depicted on the 1859 plan include a toilet chute and remains of drainage features under the school boiler room which may be associated with the northern cell block of the gaol. A possible well feature recorded in Trench 1 in the south-west part of the current development site is not shown on historic plans and may be associated with the construction phase of the gaol, or could predate it entirey, before being filled in as part of the levelling of the male prisoners' yard surface.

1.3.5 Securely pre-19th century finds were restricted to those of a dozen or so abraded medieval pottery sherds, most recovered with late modern finds close to the surface of Test Pit 1 and in Trench 2, with a smaller number coming from an apparent buried (probably truncated), silty topsoil deposit beginning at 25.0 m aOD, revealed in an extension to the same test-pit in the north part of the site. While no pre-gaol remains were encountered, it appears that this deposit of top-soil probably formed in the later medieval period, presumably when this area was used as gardens associated with housing on the adjacent approach roads to the medieval bridge crossing of the Wansbeck. No early post-medieval or pre-19th century pottery was retrieved from this deposit, suggesting tat the area may have been abandoned by the endo fthe medieval period or, alternatively, that later deposits were stripped from it prior to construction of the gaol. It is noted, in this regard, that the foundations of the gaol precinct wall, revealed on the north side of the site, are at a deeper level than the top of this presumed medieval topsoil deposit. The other gaol-period features encountered - notably yard dividing walls and the entrance to a drainage chute - were also at a similar level to the top of this deposit, but accuntnig for the slope of the ground S to N towards the river, these are built on top of the natural ground revealed in the phase II evaluation trenching.

1.4 Additional Groundworks in 2021

During early February 2021 some emergency investigation works were carried out on site with regard to some surface water and combined sewer flooding. As well as truncating the surface part of a chute feature identified during ground reduction within the evaluation phase, this identified the line of an old culvert running directly through the middle of the site (entering the site from just east side of the NPG Sub-Station, heading northwards for approx. 25m then heading eastwards towards the old school vehicular entrance gate). It is now proposed to carry out additional site investigation works to expose the full length & extent of this and other existing culverts within the site, since these could potentially impact on the proposed car park works. During this work, scheduled for early April 2021, it is proposed to excavate down the sides of the culverts at specific locations to obtain details of the depth, form and width of the built culverts.

1.5 Requirements for monitoring

1.5.1 A requirement, or Condition for archaeological watching brief in has been imposed by Northumberland County Council Planning Department, on the advice of Northumberland Conservation, with regards to all groundworks carried out on the new Goose Hill car park site which could impact on archaeological remains. In practice, the condition will apply first to the investigation of new drainage courses on the site, and subsequenty to the creation of a new roadway into the site from the north. This work will be carried out in compliance with the following Condition imposed on planning consent:

Condition
A programme of archaeological work is required in accordance with NCC Conservation Team (NCCCT) Standards for Archaeological Mitigation and Site Specific Requirements document (dated 26/1/2021). The archaeological scheme shall comprise three stages of work. Each stage shall be completed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before it can be discharged.

a) No development or archaeological mitigation shall commence on site until a written scheme of investigation based on NCCCT Standards and Site Specific Requirements documents has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

b) The archaeological recording scheme required by NCCCT Standards and Site Specific Requirements documents must be completed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation.

c) The programme of analysis, reporting, publication and archiving if required by NCCCT Standards and Site Specific Requirements documents must be completed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation.

Reason
The site is of archaeological interest.

1.5.2 The watching brief will cover parts of the site where groundworks could impact on surviving archaeological remains, including:

- The site access ramped into the site;

- Ground reduction to a greater depth than the 750 mm reduction already carried out across the site which continues to the depth of known archaeological remains;
- Any impact on the gaol boundary wall;
- Drainage, service connections and other groundworks which are required to a depth at which they have the potential to impact on archaeological remains;
- Any human remains whether articulated or disarticulated.

1.5.3 Accordingly, the archaeological monitoring by watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with further site investigation and construction work.

1.5.4 The archaeological monitoring requirement applies to the entire application site and will be carried out in accordance with the current North East Regional Research Framework (NERRF) and Northumberland County Council (NCC) Conservation Team] Standards for Archaeological Mitigation Work (2018).

1.5.5 The archaeological watching brief will not be required in areas where groundworks are shallow and do not extend to depths at which they are likely to impact upon archaeological remains.

2. METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

2.1 The Field Investigation will be carried out by means of Archaeological Watching Brief within the area highlighted on *Illus. 04*.

2.2 The purpose of the watching brief is to record any archaeological features as they appear, but not to cause significant delays to the groundworks operation. Thus, sufficient time will be allowed by the developer for archaeological recording where deemed necessary by the contracting archaeologist, but the elvel of recording will not normally be at the same level of detail expected during archaeological evaluation or mitigation excavation. Where the importance of archaeological remains is considered such that a higher level of ecoding is necessary, the county archaeologist will be consulted with regard to including this recording within the 40 day contingency period allowed for additional excavation beyond the normal scope of works.

2.3 All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) and will follow the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations.

2.4 All staff must be suitably qualified and experienced in archaeological excavation and recording and a curriculum vitae will be supplied if requested to the Northumberland Conservation for approval prior to work commencing. Furthermore, all staff will familiarise themselves with the archaeological background of the site and with the work required, and must understand the projects aims and methodologies.

3 EXECUTION OF THE SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

3. 1 The monitoring of groundworks will be carried wherever it is deemed that archaeological remains are likely to survive. Excavation, recording and sampling procedures will be undertaken using the strategies indicated below.

3.2 Should any remains be revealed which, in the opinion of the assistant county archaeologist merit additional time to excavate and record, a contingency of up to 40 days must be allowed.

3.3 Unstratified modern overburden will be removed by machine. Any excavation of archaeological features will be carried out by trained, archaeologically competent staff.

3.4 Although the site is private property without public access, signs will be displayed to warn of deep excavations on the site.

3.5 All excavation of archaeological horizons and trench faces will be carried out by hand and every effort will be made to leave all potentially nationally important remains *in situ*.

3.6 Specifically, preservation *in situ* of any burials uncovered will be preferred, but some excavation - with the relevant permissions in place (see Section 3.4.10, below) - may be required.

3.7 Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits identified will be excavated by hand through a sampling procedure to enable their date, nature, extent and condition to be described. Pits and postholes will normally be sampled by half-sectioning although some features may require complete excavation. Linear features will be sectioned as appropriate. No archaeological deposits will be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable.

3.8 Each context identified as important will be considered for recording by drawing and photography.

3.9 An appropriate control network for the survey of any archaeological remains revealed will be established.

3.10 The survey control network will be related to the OS grid.

3.11 The survey control network and the position of recorded structures, features and finds will be located on a map of an appropriate scale (1:2500 or 1:500)

3.12 At least one absolute height value related to aOD will be recorded for each archaeological context and for the top and bottom of trenches.

3.13 Archaeological stratigraphy revealed by excavation will be recorded by the following means:

3.13.1 **Written descriptions.** Each archaeological context will be recorded on a pro-forma sheet. Minimum recorded details will consist of the following: a unique identifier; an objective description which includes measurements of extent and details of colour and composition; an interpretative estimate of function, clearly identified as such; at least one absolute height value; the identifiers of related contexts and a description of the relationship with such contexts (for preference, executed as a

mini Harris matrix); references to other recording media in which representations of the context are held (plans, sections, photographs).

3.13.2 **Measured illustrations.** Detailed plans and sectional profiles of archaeological features will be at appropriate scales (1:50, 1:20 or 1:10). Archaeological contexts will be referenced by their unique identifiers. All illustrations will be properly identified, scaled and referenced to the site survey control and, in turn, accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area

3.13.3 **Photographs.** A digital photographic record of all contexts will be taken with each photograph in sharp focus, well lit and including a clearly visible 1 m or 2 m scale. A register of all photographs will be kept and the location of all photographs will be recorded on a base plan. A system will be used for identifying the archaeological features photographed. The record will include, in addition to detailed views of specific features, the context of the feature and the relationship of the feature and its context to the wider setting and, where appropriate, to other sites or viewpoints. A full archive of photographs will be maintained on the APLtd hard drive and provided to ADS, York.

3.14 All processing, storage and conservation of finds will be carried out in compliance with the relevant CIfA and UKIC (United Kingdom Institute of Conservation) guidelines.

3.15 Portable remains will be removed by hand; all artifacts encountered will be recovered.

3.16 The potential requirement for specialist analyses (see below) is an unavoidable risk in all such excavations. The scientific investigation of any features/deposits which are considered significant will be undertaken as a non-negotiable part of this programme. Any such analyses would be carried out by specialists and priced to the client on a costs only basis within the ceiling of costs established by the project brief.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING AND SCIENTIFIC DATING

4.1 The investigations will be undertaken in a manner consistent with Management of Research Project in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England [HE] 2015): *https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/morphe-project-managers-guide/* and with Environmental Archaeology Guidelines (English Heritage 2011): https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/environmental-archaeology-2nd/.

4.2 Don O'Meara, Historic England Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (0191 3341137 or 07713 400387), will be consulted to confirm the following, proposed environmental sampling strategy before the excavation begins.

4.3 Deposits/fills with potential for environmental evidence will be assessed by taking up to two bulk samples of 30 litres from any context selected for analysis by the excavator from suitable (i.e. uncontaminated) deposits. Deposits/fills totalling less than 30 litres in volume will be sampled in their entirety. Should waterlogged deposits be present, smaller samples (10 litres) will be considered sufficient. Should a diverse range of deposits be present then a series of samples reflecting the range of deposits represented will be taken.

4.4 Bulk samples will be processed to extract plant remains, and the coarse residues will be sorted for the remains of artefacts, industrial residues (slag, and micro-hammerscale), bones, mineralised remains. These bulk samples may be subsampled for insect and pollen remains if organic, waterlogged deposits are encountered

4.5 Animal bones will be collected, as assessed in line with Historic England guidelines (HE 2019: *https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/animal-bones-and-archaeology/).* Remains will be assessed for their preservation, diversity of remains, and their ability to answer site specific and regional research questions.

4.6 Waterlogged organic materials should be dealt with following the recommendations provided in Historic England guidance (HE 2018): *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/waterlogged-organic-artefacts/heag260-waterlogged-organic-artefacts/).

4.7 Deposits will be assessed for their potential for radiocarbon, archaeomagnetic, Optically Stimulated Luminescence and dendrochronological dating using available HE and other guidelines (e.g. guidance on archaeomagnetic dating from the Magnetic Moments in the Past project: https://www.bradford.ac.uk/archaeomagnetism/). Dendrochronological sampling will follow *Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood* (HE 2010: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/waterlogged-wood/waterlogged-wood/), currently being updated. Samples for radiocarbon dating will be extracted from the archaeobotanical material but no scientific dating will take place if other relative techniques can be employed - i.e. dating via the association with artefacts.

3.4.8 Information on the nature and history of the site, aims and objectives of the project, summary of archaeological results, context types and stratigraphic relationships, phase and dating information, sampling and processing methods, sample locations, preservation conditions, residuality/contamination, etc. will be provided with each sample submitted for analysis.

3.4.9 Laboratory processing of samples shall only be undertaken if deposits are found to be reasonably well-dated, or linked to recognisable features and from contexts the derivation of which can be understood with a degree of confidence.

3.4.10 Human remains will be treated with care, dignity and respect, in full compliance with the relevant legislation (essentially the Burial Act 1857 and HE 2007: *Guidance for Best Practice for the treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* - https://www.archaeologyuk.org/apabe/pdf/APABE_ToHREfCBG_FINAL_WEB.pdf) and local environmental health concerns. If found, human remains will be left in-situ, covered and protected, and the police, coroner and County Archaeologist informed. If it is agreed that removal of the remains is essential, the Archaeological Practice Ltd, will apply for a licence from the Home Office. Analysis of the osteological material will take place according to published guidelines, including Annex S4 of HE (2007): Minimum standards for post-excavation procedures.

3.4.11 No scientific analysis of skeletal remains will be undertaken without consultation with the client, the county archaeologist and the Historic England Science Advisor.

3.4.12 If anything is found which could be Treasure, under the Treasure Act 1996, it is a legal requirement to report it to the local coroner within 14 days of discovery. The Archaeological Practice Ltd. will comply with the procedures set out in The Treasure Act 1996. Any treasure will be reported to the coroner and to The Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer, (0191 2225076) for guidance on the Treasure Act procedures. Treasure is defined as the following:

- Any metallic object, other than a coin, provided that at least 10% by weight of metal is precious metal and that is at least 300 years old when found
- Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find
- All coins from the same find provided that they are at least 300 years old when found, but if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least ten
- Any object, whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, another object that is Treasure
- Any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. Only objects that are less than 300 years old, that are made substantially of gold or silver, that have been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery and whose owners or heirs are unknown will come into this category

3.4 Analysis and Reporting of Recovered Data

3.3.1 Following the completion of the Field Investigation and before any of the post-excavation work is commenced, an archive (the Site Archive) containing all the data gathered during fieldwork will be prepared. This material will be quantified, ordered, indexed and rendered internally consistent. It will be prepared according to the guidelines given in English Heritage's MAP 2 document, Appendix 3 (English Heritage 1991).

3.3.2 An interim report of no less than 200 words, containing preliminary recommendations for any further work required, will be produced within two weeks of completion of the field investigation for the commissioning client.

3.3.3 Following completion of the Field Investigation, an interim report will be produced within 30 days and a full report will be prepared within 3 months of the completion of fieldwork, collating and synthesizing the structural, artefactual and environmental data relating to each agreed constituent part of the evaluation works.

4 PRODUCTION OF FINAL REPORT

4.1 Digital copies of the report will be provided within one month of the completion of fieldwork in pdf format to the Client and Northumberland County HER. The report will be formatted with each page and heading numbered. The report will include as a minimum the following:

A summary statement of methodologies used.
A location plan of the site and any significant discoveries made.
Plans and sections of any archaeological discoveries of note.
A summary statement of results.
Conclusions

A table summarizing the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds.

4.3 The report will finish with a section detailing recommendations for further archaeological work needed to mitigate the effects of the development upon any significant deposits revealed during the evaluation or if necessary, for further evaluation.

4.4 Following completion of the analysis and publication phase of the work, an archive (the Research Archive) containing all the data derived from the work done during the analysis phase will be prepared. The archive will be prepared to the standard specified by English Heritage (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute of Conservation guidelines.

4.5 Arrangements will be made to deposit the Site Archive (including Finds) and the Research Archive with the designated repository within 6 months of the end of the fieldwork. Additionally, a copy shall be offered to the National Monuments Record (NMR).

4.6 Summary reports of the project will be prepared, if necessary, for inclusion in the appropriate Notices, Annual Reviews, Reports, etc.

4.7 An entry for inclusion in the Northumberland County Heritage Environment Record will be prepared and submitted.

5 OASIS

5.1 The Archaeological Contractor will complete the online form for the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations Project (OASIS), following consultation with the relevant planning authority The Contractor agrees to the procedure whereby the information on the form will be placed in the public domain on the OASIS website, following submission to or incorporation of the final report (see 3.4) into the HER.

5. TIMESCALE

5.1 Following the agreement of the current WSI document with the planning archaeologist, it is proposed to carry out the above tasks according to the developer's schedule in April 2021.

5.2 Environmental samples, ecofacts and artefacts will be submitted for analysis immediately following the fieldwork period and a reporting period of 1 month requested.

5.3 Structural reports on the trenches will be completed to allow submission of an interim report within 30 days of completion of the second phase of fieldwork.

5.4 The full archive report will be produced using the structural report and any commissioned specialist reports within 6 months of the completion of fieldwork.

6. PERSONNEL

The Archaeological Practice Ltd. has been operating in its present form since 2002, previous to which it was a part of the former Department of Archaeology at the university of Newcastle. During this time is has considerable experience and expertise in producing reports based on a combination of fieldwork and documentary analysis.

The Archaeological Practice Ltd comprises Richard Carlton and Dr Alan Rushworth, both of whom are highly experience in carrying out fieldwork and documentary studies leading to the production of detailed, analytical reports, and Marc Johnstone who is principally engaged in documentary research and illustration.

The fieldwork will be carried out by Richard Carlton, Marc Johnston and Adam Leigh.

Further details of The Archaeological Practice and its staff can be found on its web-site at: http://www.archaeologicalpractice.co.uk