



**YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT  
NEWGATE MARKET, YORK**

*WATCHING BRIEF REPORT*

Report Number 2014/04    January 2014



# YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2014 on behalf of the City of York Council. Five trial holes were monitored to allow ground compaction tests to be carried out. The trial holes were within the boundary of Newgate Market, York. The majority of the deposits and structures observed are post medieval in nature associated with the use of the area as tenement housing that was demolished in 1955 to allow Newgate market to be constructed. The earliest archaeology encountered was in Trial Hole 5, a potentially late medieval wall and construction related deposit.

## KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	Newgate Market Watching Brief
YAT Project No.	5744
Report status	Final
Type of Project	Watching Brief
Client	City of York Council
Planning Application No.	
NGR	SE 60428 51859
Museum Accession No.	
OASIS Identifier	yorkarch1-199760
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Illustrations	Steven Collison
Editor	David Aspden
Report Number and Date	2014/4 [28/01/14]

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Between the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014 and the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2014, YAT carried out an archaeological watching brief on the excavation of 5 trial pits to allow for ground compaction tests to be carried out. This was to inform future works in the area. The pits were located within Newgate Market, York (NGR: SE 60428 51859). The work was carried out on behalf of York City Council.

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

Most of the excavation was carried out by contracted ground workers. The site archaeologist worked to excavate and record deposits and features when required. The works took place overnight so as to avoid disruption to Newgate market during the day. Lighting was provided by the ground workers in the form of generator powered floodlights. The upper paved surfaces were removed using picks and any concrete encountered was removed using a pneumatic breaker. Soft deposits below were excavated with picks and shovels. All deposits were recorded in accordance with York Archaeological Trust standard practices. The artificial lighting made conditions for identifying any subtle changes in context challenging. A site engineer was present to conduct ground compaction tests at set depths within the trial pits. These tests involved a thin steel probe being inserted into the ground and would have had very minimal impact on any archaeological deposits within the trial pits.

## **3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY**

The trial pits were located within Newgate Market, Newgate, within the historic core of the City of York on the north-east bank of the River Ouse. Heights relative to Ordnance Datum (OD) for each trial pit are given in section 5 – Results. Below the archaeological deposits lie glacial deposits, mainly boulder clay but with pockets of gravel and sand, occasionally waterlogged.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The site lies 24m outside the south-east side of the Roman legionary fortress but little is known of activity in the area in this period. Newgate first appears in the 14th century but its origins are unclear and may have been a new road or a modification of an existing lane possibly reflecting the line of an extramural Roman road running to the south-east side of the Legionary Fortress (Dean G, 2007). The row of houses that survive on the north-west side of Newgate (Nos 12-15) are thought to be associated with the foundation of a chapel within St Sampson's Church (Dean G, 2007). Newgate Market was created in 1955 (P.M Tillott, 1961) by the demolition of a street known as Little Shambles and the buildings that formed the south-east side of Newgate, with the exception of one timber framed building that now forms a restaurant.

## **5 RESULTS**

Results are given below listed by trench number as allocated in the project design. As specified within the project design each trench was designed to be 1m<sup>3</sup>, however due to the practicalities of the ground conditions and archaeological deposits observed, trench

dimensions vary at the surface and at the base of the excavated trench and are detailed below. The results are presented stratigraphically starting with the most recent contexts. A complete list of contexts observed and their descriptions is detailed in Appendix 2.

### 5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 - 1.1m long, 1.1m wide and 1.02 m deep, 15.66m OD

Immediately beneath the existing ground surface of concrete paving slabs (101) and its sand bedding layer (102) a levelling layer (103) consisting of typical demolition debris 0.21m thick was observed. No dating evidence was recovered from this context, it is likely to be 20<sup>th</sup> century in origin. Beneath this demolition layer was a red brick floor surface (104) extending across the extent of the trench, also likely to be early 20<sup>th</sup> century in date. The floor surface (104) was set onto a bedding layer (105) of sand & gravel, 0.05m thick. The bedding layer overlies a demolition deposit (106), 0.3m deep, and a red brick floor surface (107) extending 0.47m from the south east side of the trench. The floor surface (107) is set onto a bedding layer (108) of sand and gravel 0.03m thick. A waste deposit (109) (?description) had built up beneath (108). This was a gradually built up layer of occupation debris. Beneath this sequence an earlier red brick floor surface (110) and its associated bedding layer (111) was observed across the trench. It is likely that (107), (108) and (109) were butting up against a NE SW running wall that has since been removed and backfilled with (106). No construction cut was visible for this wall. The wall was possibly constructed on top of surface (110). Beneath bedding layer (111) lay two waste dumping deposits (112) which was 0.13m thick and, beneath that, a deposit (113), containing well preserved organic material 0.12m thick. No dating evidence was recovered from these lower deposits however given their composition with CBM fragments they are likely to be post medieval.

Within trench 1 a sequence of well preserved post medieval layers was observed. Three prior surfaces (104), (107) and (110) indicate the areas constant reuse. Evidence survived to suggest a structure had been present as floor surface (107) was in use but has been removed in antiquity. This is entirely consistent with the known usage of the area as tenement housing until the construction of Newgate market.

### 5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 – 1m long, 1m wide, 0.8m deep, 16.05m OD

The existing ground surface consisted of granite sets (200) with a sand & mortar bedding layer (201). Beneath the bedding layer was a 0.16m thick steel reinforced concrete slab (202). Directly underneath the concrete slab, a sequence of clearly stratified dumping and waste deposits was observed. All these deposits extended across the trench and contained a mix of occupation debris (pottery sherds and butchered animal bone) and demolition/construction debris (tile, brick, stone and mortar). A list of deposits is given in Appendix 2. The trench was excavated down to a depth of 0.8m.

Deposit (205) had a high proportion of organic material well preserved within its matrix. Each subsequent deposit below (205) had very well preserved organic material within them. CBM recovered and analysed from deposit (203) & (209) indicated a date range of 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century for the material, see table below. The deposits are likely to be later however with earlier material reused and dumped in later deposits. The well stratified waste deposits within

this trench suggest that this area was in use as a waste dump for a considerable amount of time. This trench also suggests well preserved archaeological remains at a depth no greater than 0.3m below ground level.

**Table 1 CBM from Trench 2, full report in Appendix 4.**

Context	Date	Forms
203	13-16 <sup>th</sup> century	Peg, Plain
209	12-16 <sup>th</sup> century	Curved, peg, plain

### 5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 – 0.9m long, 0.9m wide, 0.95m deep, 16.31 OD

The existing surface consisted of the same granite sets (300) and a similar bedding layer (301) as Trench 2. In this trench a concrete slab (302) was also encountered and was 0.12m thick. Below this was single homogenous waste deposit (303) that extended across the trench and to the maximum excavation depth of 0.95m. No dating evidence was recovered from this deposit, it is likely to be 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century in origin however.

The waste deposit (303) beneath the concrete further suggests that this area was used as a waste dump similar to that observed in Trench 2. Unlike Trench 2 (303) is a single deposit, this may be a deposit within a larger cut feature beyond the limit of excavation of the trench.

### 5.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 – 0.8m long, 0.8m wide, 0.95m deep, 16.31m OD

The existing surface consisted of the same granite sets (400) and a similar bedding layer (401) as Trenches 2 and 3. In this trench a concrete slab (402) was also encountered and was 0.11m thick. Beneath the concrete slab a deposit of demolition debris (405) was evident across the trench. After the removal of 0.1m of this material a square red brick drain inspection chamber (404) was observed, having been backfilled by the same deposit (405). The chamber was 0.8m long and 0.4m wide in plan, with three sides visible within the trench. Exterior to the chamber a deposit of demolition material (403) backfilled the construction cut for the chamber which was not within the limit of excavation. Context (403) was excavated to a thickness of 0.38m but continued on. After the removal of the material (405) backfilling the chamber, and the removal of 3 courses of brick on the north-west side, the base of the chamber became evident at a depth of 0.95m. The drain itself was set into the base of the chamber and ran NNE-SSW.

Bricks taken from structure (404) were dated to between 1857 and 1889, see report in Appendix 4. The construction of this 19<sup>th</sup> century structure has removed any earlier archaeological deposits at this depth. The alignment of the drain matches the alignment of the buildings fronting onto the Shambles and may suggest 19th century structures were on the same alignment. Chamber (404) probably went out of use during the development of Newgate Market in 1955.

### 5.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 – 1.2m long, 1.3 m wide, 0.93m deep, 15.50m OD

The existing ground surface consisted of paving slabs (500) bedded onto a thin layer of sand (501) 30mm thick. Beneath the sand a levelling deposit (502) 0.13m thick consisting of a



course black sand and gravel extended across the trench. Beneath (502) a demolition deposit (503) extended across most of the trench. After excavation it was determined to be thicker towards the south, with a maximum thickness of 0.31m. This deposit contained very modern material and is likely to be related to the redevelopment of the area in 1955. After the removal of (503) the cut (508) of a NE-SW running drainage trench became visible at 0.25m below ground level, this trench cut was 0.6m wide. The backfill (509) was excavated down to a depth of 0.84m below ground level on the eastern side of the drainage pipe. On the western side it was excavated down to a depth of 0.64m below ground level. The ceramic drainage pipe was 260mm in diameter, the top of which was 0.64m below ground level. Context (508) cut through a waste deposit (507). Trench conditions were poor and (507) was only recorded in section. It was 0.46m deep, there were no finds recovered. This deposit is the fill of a cut (506) that was, again, only visible in section. The cut had vertical sides and its base extended beneath the limit of excavation. It is possible that the cut (506) is a robber cut to remove material from a NE-SW running limestone wall (504). The construction cut for the wall was not visible due to it being outside the limit of excavation and due to truncation by (508) and (506). The material backfilling the cut though, was evident. A yellowish-white silty sand and sub angular limestone mix (505) was packed against the wall. The wall (504) was only visible in the NW facing section as it ran parallel but underneath the limit of excavation on the south east side of the trench. The wall was composed of well dressed substantial limestone blocks. Wall (504) was bonded to an earlier limestone wall footing (510) that ran approximately north-south. Only a small fragment of this structure was visible within the trench. This footing was laid onto a construction horizon (511), again only a small amount of this material was visible given the confines of the trench.

Trench 5 demonstrated much of the activity within Newgate in a very small area. The very modern demolition deposit (503) related to the areas redevelopment in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The drainage pipe trench (508) representing the areas use in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as tenement housing with improved drainage. Despite only being visible in section wall (504) was perhaps the most important feature within this trench. It was most likely built out of reused blocks from demolished earlier medieval structures that are known to have existed in the area. This is supported by the recovery of residual late 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds and 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century CBM fragments within the backfill of the construction cut for the wall. The wall is on the same alignment as an alleyway leading through to the Shambles and matches up with the alignment of structures known to be in the area based on the 1852 OS map. Without further excavation, wall footing (510) and deposit (511) are very difficult to interpret and date, they are however the earliest remains found within Trench 5, and may represent the only medieval deposits observed on the watching brief.

## LIST OF SOURCES

'Guilds, markets and fairs', A History of the County of York: the City of York (1961), pp. 481-491, Tillott P.M, URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=36383&strquery=newgate> Date accessed: 17 January 2014

'New Electricity Sub-station, Silver Street, York, Watching Brief and assessment report' Dean G, 2007, unpublished.

**APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE**

Item	Number of items
Context sheets	45
Levels register	1
Photographic register	0
Drawing register	1
Original drawings	8
B/W photographs (films/contact sheets)	0
Colour slides (films)	0
Digital photographs	72
Written Scheme of Investigation	0
Report	1

**Table 2 Index to archive**

## APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT LIST

Trench	Context no.	Description
1	101	Paving Slabs, existing ground surface. 0.05m thick.
1	102	Loose light yellowish grey and, across trench, 0.15m thick.
1	103	Loose dark black sandy gravel, across trench, 0.21m thick.
1	104	Red brick floor surface, 1 course, machine made frogged bricks, worn on upper surface, brick dimensions: 230mm x 120mm x 55mm, bonding material is a dark black cement, across trench, 0.55m thick.
1	105	Friable light yellowish brown sand with 50% gravel, across trench, 0.05m thick.
1	106	Loose mid brownish grey sand with gravel, CBM, white mortar & charcoal flecks, 0.6m wide x >1.0m long x 0.3m thick.
1	107	Red brick floor surface, 1 course, worn upper surface, frogged bricks dimensions: 235mm x 120mm x 40mm, smooth whitish grey lime mortar used as a bonding material, >1.0m long x 0.47m wide x 0.04m thick.
1	108	Loose light yellow sand & gravel, >1.0m long x 0.47m wide x 0.03m thick.
1	109	Soft dark blackish grey silty clay with lenses of charcoal & white lime mortar, flecks of CBM, charcoal and mortar, >1.0m long x 0.47m wide x 0.13m deep.
1	110	Red brick surface, 1 course, very badly degraded, bonded with and obscured by a hard dark black ash mortar, >1.0m long x 0.47m wide x 0.055m thick.
1	111	Light whitish yellow sand with 50% gravel, occasional mortar & charcoal flecks, >1.0m long x 0.47m wide x 0.04m thick.
1	112	Soft light brownish grey clayey silt with occasional mortar and charcoal flecks, occasional CBM fragments <12cm, across trench, 0.13m thick.
1	113	Soft light blackish grey clayey silt with frequent peaty organic lenses, across trench, >0.12m thick.
2	200	Granite sets, existing ground surface, 0.1m thick.
2	201	Light yellowish grey sandy mortar, across trench, 0.05m deep.
2	202	Steel reinforced concrete slab, across trench, 0.16m thick.
2	203	Soft dark greyish black sandy clay with occasional CBM, mortar & charcoal flecks & occasional charcoal fragments <10cm, across trench, 0.14m thick.
2	204	Friable mid blackish brown silty sand with occasional lenses of grey clayey silt, occasional grit & pebbles, frequent mortar, charcoal and CBM flecks, across trench, 0.09m thick.
2	205	Very soft dark blackish brown slightly sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and lenses of organic peaty material, across trench, 0.09m thick.
2	206	Friable dark greyish black slightly sandy silt, occasional sub angular limestone fragments, occasional mortar & CBM flecks, across trench, 0.08m thick.
2	207	Soft mid bluish grey silty clay with approx 50% sub angular limestone fragments <10cm, >1.0m long x 0.32m wide x 0.08m thick.
2	208	Very soft dark blackish brown slightly sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and organic peaty lenses, across trench, 0.07m thick.
2	209	Very dark greyish black clayey silt with abundant lenses of peaty organic material, across trench, >0.08m thick.
3	300	Granite sets, existing ground surface, 0.1m thick.
3	301	Light yellowy grey sand & gravel mortar, across trench, 0.08m thick.

Trench	Context no.	Description
3	302	Steel reinforced concrete, 0.12m thick.
3	303	Soft mid brownish grey sandy clay with occasional sub angular limestone fragments < 12cm, occasional CBM, coal & mortar fragments <5cm, occasional charcoal flecks, across trench, >0.65m deep.
4	400	Granite sets, existing ground surface, 0.1m thick.
4	401	Light yellowish grey sand & gravel mortar, across trench, 0.09m thick.
4	402	Steel reinforced concrete slab, across trench, 0.11m thick.
4	403	Friable dark grey black slightly silty sand with occasional gravel, CBM & mortar fragments, and charcoal flecks, >1.0m long x 0.38m wide x >0.38m thick.
4	404	Drain inspection chamber, 0.8m long x 0.4m wide x 0.5m deep, 3 sides visible, 6 courses of brickwork survive, upper three courses are factory made redbrick, dimensions 240mm x 115mm x 60mm. Lower 3 courses are a glazed fire brick, dimensions 230mm x 110mm 70mm, dark grey very hard lime mortar used as a bonding material. Floor of chamber consists of 2 rows of curved bricks set curved end towards drain in centre of chamber. Drain is 0.24m wide x >0.4m long and runs NE -SW.
4	405	Loose dark grey black slightly silty sand with frequent fragments of CBM, occasional mortar & CBM flecks, 0.66m long x 0.38m wide x 0.5m deep.
5	500	Paving slabs forming existing ground surface, 0.05m thick.
5	501	Light greyish yellow sand, across trench, 0.03m thick.
5	502	Dark brownish black sandy gravel, across trench, 0.13m thick.
5	503	Dark black gravel & sand with frequent sub angular stone, coal and CBM fragments <10cm, frequent paint flecks & pressed asbestos sheet, >1.0m long x >0.4m long x 0.31m thick.
5	504	Limestone block wall, NE – SW running, >0.6m long x >0.4m deep, only visible in section, three courses visible, not fully excavated, Blocks are smoothly finished and well dressed with some tool marks visible, max block size 330mm x 200mm, bonding material is a whitish grey lime mortar.
5	505	Very coarse friable light yellowish white sand & lime mortar mix with abundant CBM (tile) <12cm and abundant sub angular limestone fragments, <12cm, >1.0m long x >0.7m wide x 0.6m thick.
5	506	Cut with vertical sides, unseen in plan and unexcavated base, >0.4m long x 0.4m wide x 0.37m thick.
5	507	Firm mid yellowish grey silty sand with abundant sub rounded limestone & CBM fragments <15cm, occasional charcoal & CBM flecks, >0.4m long x >0.4m wide x 0.37m thick.
5	508	Cut, linear in plan with very steep sides, a sudden break of slope to the top and an unexcavated base, >1.0m long x 0.6m wide x >0.56m deep.
5	509	Dark greyish black slightly clayey sand, with frequent CBM, sub – angular limestone fragments, frequent charcoal, mortar & CBM flecks, >1.0m long x 0.6m wide x >0.56m deep.
5	510	Fragment of north – south running limestone block wall footing, 0.9m long x 0.3m wide x >0.1m deep, 1 course visible, undressed roughly hewn limestone blocks with a white lime mortar bonding material, block size 200mm x 200mm x 100mm average.
5	511	Soft mid brownish grey clay with frequent mortar flecks, frequent sub angular limestone fragments and occasional CBM fragments, unexcavated, visible in plan only, 0.45m long x 0.24m wide.

Table 3 Context list

## APPENDIX 3 – FINDS

### Pottery assessment

Six sherds of medieval pottery from three contexts were viewed (see Table 4). The wares are typical of the region and found on a number of local excavations (see Mainman and Jenner 2013). There are no further recommendations for work.

**Table 4 Pottery Summary**

CONTEXT	FABRIC	NOSH	DATE	COMMENT
203	Humber	2	15th century	glazed oxidised fabric
209	Humber	1	15th century	glazed oxidised fabric
209	Reduced green glazed	2	15th century	jug decorated with applied strip and pellet
505	Brandsby	1	late 13/14th century	jug dull mottled green glaze

### Bibliography

AY. Addyman, P. V. (ed). *The Archaeology of York (London and York)*

#### 16 The Pottery

9 A Mainman , A Jenner, 2013. *Medieval pottery from York Where sould this go?*

### Ceramic Building Material from Project 5744, By J.M.McComish

A total of 9.63kg of CBM was recovered from the site, which was recorded to a YAT methodology. The CBM is a small collection, mainly of use for dating the specific contexts in question. None of the CBM was worthy of retention.

The CBM comprised one sherd of curved tile of late12th-early13th century date, two sherds of peg tile and 13 sherds of plain tile which are of 13-16<sup>th</sup> century date, and three modern machine made bricks. The medieval material was all typical for York as a whole in terms of dimensions, method of manufacture and the fabrics present.

**Table 5 Summary of CBM by context**

Context	Date	Forms
203	13-16 <sup>th</sup> century	Peg, Plain
209	13-16 <sup>th</sup> century	Curved, peg, plain
404	1857-1889	Brick
505	13-16 <sup>th</sup> century	Plain

The machine made bricks were all firebricks and each had makers stamps, one of which was insufficiently preserved to identify, while two related to the Leeds Fireclay Company of Wortley. All

three were from Context 404, and details are given in the catalogue below. The Leeds Fireclay Company was resultant from a merger of several companies in 1889, including Joseph Cliff and Sons, Burmatofts Co, Edward Brook and sons, Oates and Green Ltd, W. Ingham and Sons, Wortley Fireclay Co. and Joseph Brooke and Sons. The company was famous in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century for the production of glazed clay known as Burmantofts Faience and terra-cotta. The company had a factory called the Burmantofts' Works, located on Torre Road. The company closed in 1957.

**Table 6 Brick description summary.**

<p>Machine made bullnose brick. Firebrick fabric and light brown glaze on all surfaces. Frogs 60mm wide and 11mm deep on both beds. One frog obscured by concrete. Second frog has part of a makers stamp with the letters Co visible. Too little of the stamp survives to match this brick to a makers stamp.</p>
<p>Machine made, in two adjoining sherds, but part of centre missing. Firebrick fabric and light brown glaze on most surfaces. Frogs 180x61x7mm in size on both beds. Frogs rectangular with rounded corners. Upper frog bears makers stamp of Leeds Fireclay Co L. The lower bed has two circular indents 46mm in diameter.</p>
<p>Machine made, in two adjoining sherds, but part of centre missing. Firebrick fabric and dark brown glaze on all surfaces. Frogs 60mm wide and 10mm deep on both beds. Frogs rectangular with rounded corners. Upper frog bears three line makers stamp of letters DS FIRECLAY CO LIMD, for the Leeds Fireclay Company Limited. The central line is on a diagonal. The basal frog contains a three line stamp of which WORTLE LEEDS ENGLAND, survives, originally Wortley, Leeds, England</p>

Figures

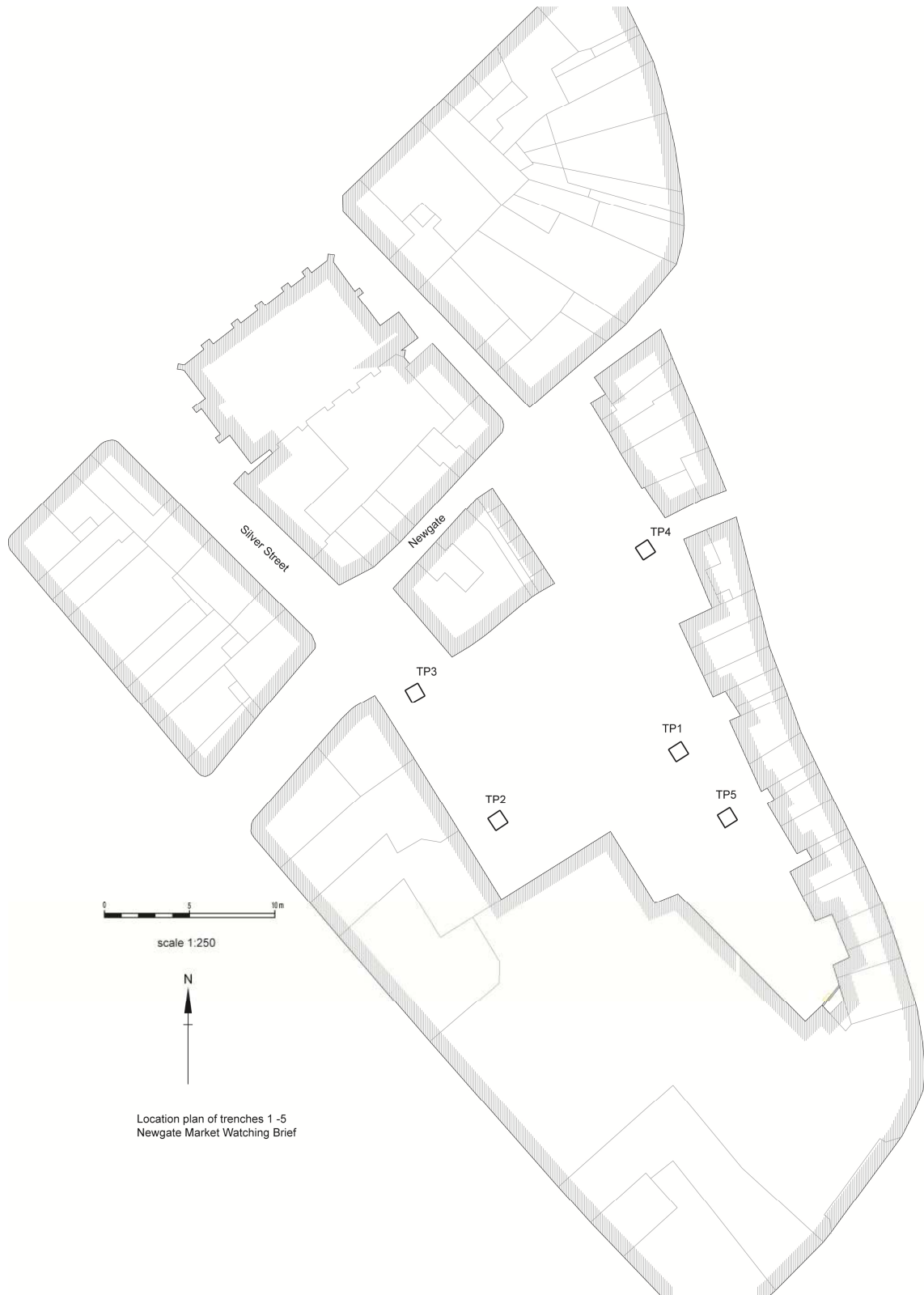


Figure 1 Trench location plan

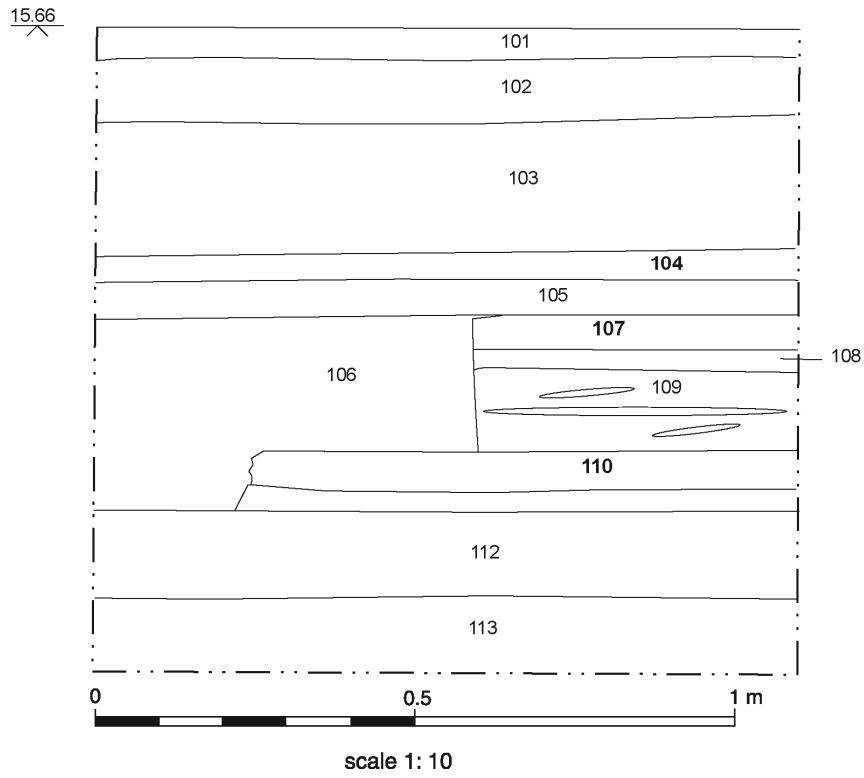


Figure 2 south-east facing section of Trench 1

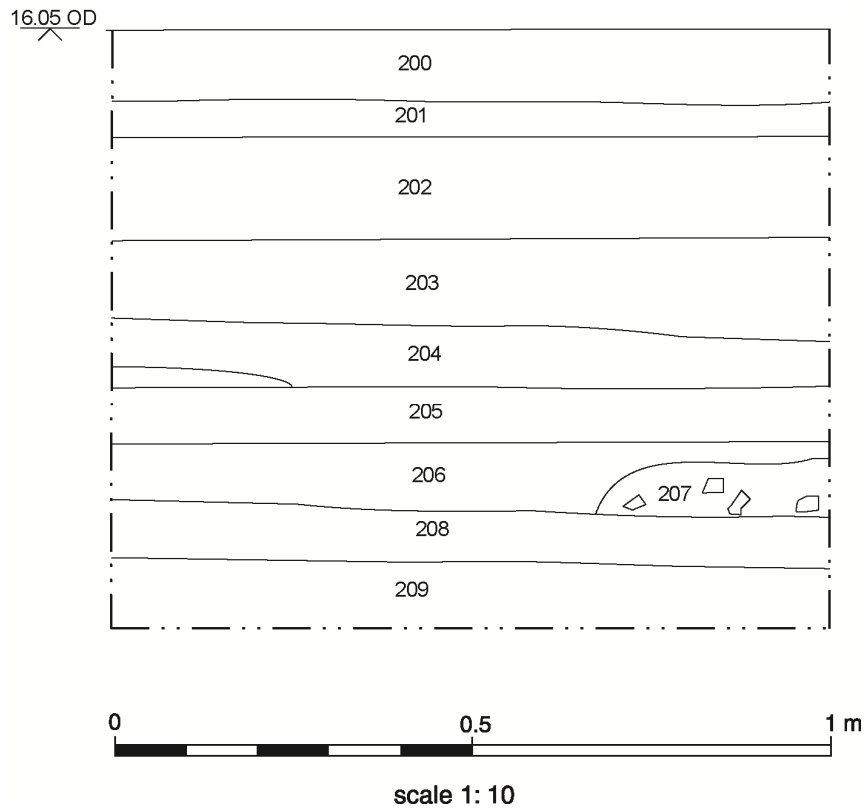


Figure 3 south-west facing section of Trench 2



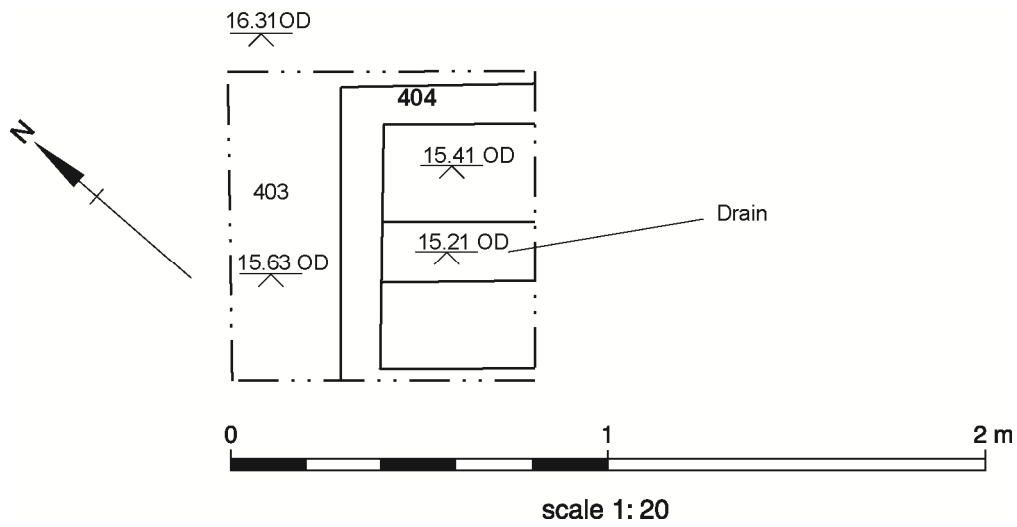


Figure 4 Plan of Trench 4 post excavation.

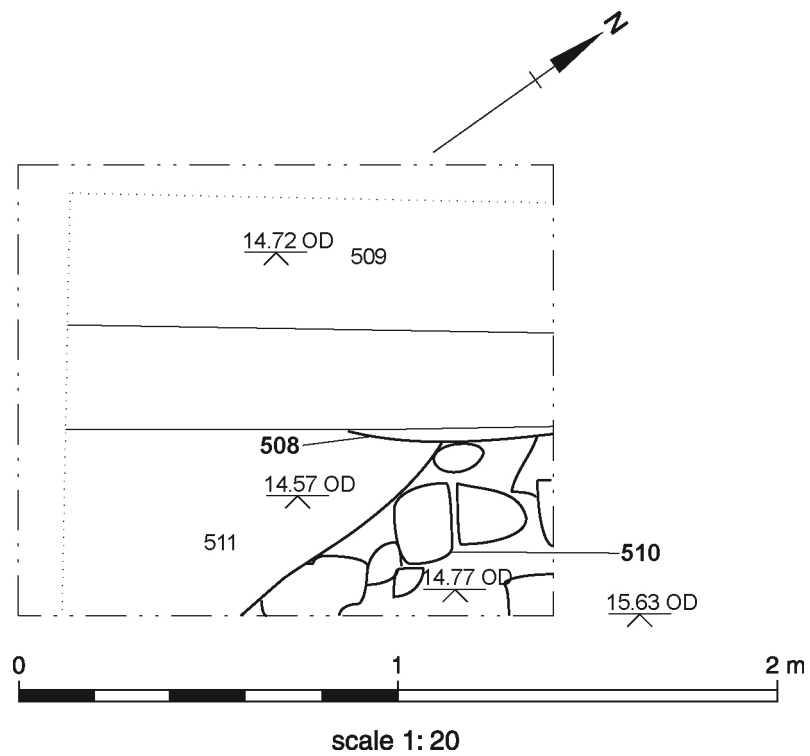


Figure 5 Plan of Trench 5 post excavation.



Figure 6 north-west facing section of Trench 5.

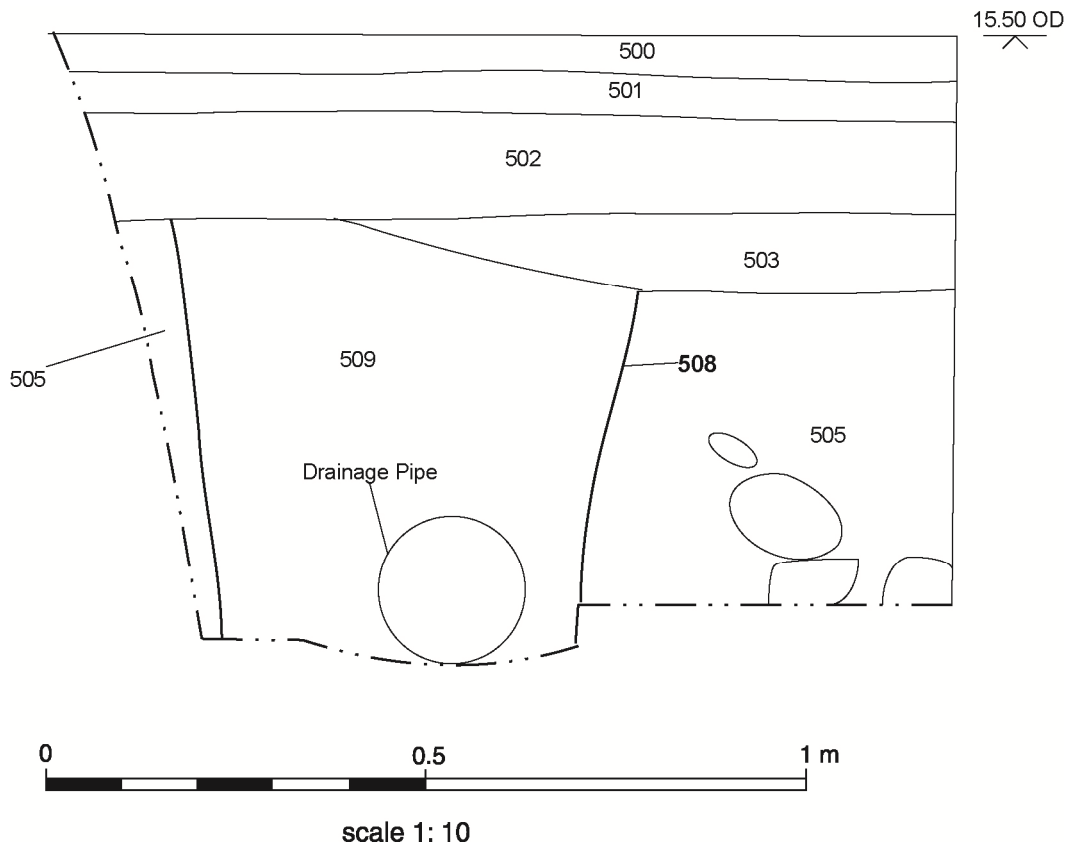


Figure 7 south-west facing section of Trench 5.

**Plates**



**Plate 1 Floor surface 107, north-east facing, 0.1m scale divisions**



**Plate 2 Section of Trench 2, north-east facing, 0.1m scale divisions**



**Plate 3 Section of Trench 3, north-west facing, 0.1m scale divisions**



**Plate 4 Vertical view of 404, 0.1m scale divisions**



**Plate 5 Section through Trench 5 showing wall 504, north-west facing, 0.1m scale divisions**



**Plate 6 Wall 510, east facing, 0.1m scale divisions**