



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION OF LIFT SHAFT
LOCATIONS, BLOCK E – HUNGATE PHASE 2**

A REPORT

Report Number 2014/58

December 2014



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In September 2014 York Archaeological Trust carried out the excavation of three small trenches within Block E, the Hungate Phase 2 development area. These trenches were positioned at the proposed location of three lift shafts to mitigate any damage to archaeological deposits during construction.

Beneath overburden, layers of mid-20th century levelling were encountered relating to the 'slum clearance' events of the 1930s-1950s. These levelling layers were found to overlie intact late 19th-early 20th century archaeology, including a well, a sump and a footpath. Investigative slots into earlier deposits revealed that the late 19th-early 20th century features were cut into Post-Medieval horticultural soils similar to those encountered previously in the Block E excavation of 2006 and across much of the Hungate area.

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	Archaeological Excavation of Lift Shaft Locations, Hungate Phase 2.
YAT Project No.	5000
Report status	Final
Type of Project	Excavation
Client	Hungate York Regeneration Ltd
Planning Application No.	
NGR	SE 60794 51780
Museum Accession No.	
OASIS Identifier	
Author	Arran Johnson
Illustrations	Arran Johnson
Editor	Dave Aspden/Peter Connelly
Report Number and Date	2014/58 [14/11/14] [08/12/14] [10/12/14]

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1 INTRODUCTION

In September 2014, York Archaeological Trust carried out an excavation in advance of construction work on the Block E area of the Hungate Development (NGR SE 60794 51780)(Figure 1, 2). The work was carried out on behalf of Hungate (York) Regeneration Ltd and involved the excavation of three trenches positioned in the location of the proposed building's lift shaft bases (Figure 3). The excavation was carried out to mitigate against, through preservation by record, any damage to intact archaeological deposits caused by the construction of the lift shafts for the new development.

2 METHODOLOGY

The three trenches were scheduled to be excavated to a depth of 7.85m OD. A tracked 360° mechanical excavator was used to strip modern overburden and mid-20th century demolition and levelling layers. Intact archaeological deposits were hand excavated, where required, to reach the formation depth. As the current ground surface is a loose piling matt of crushed concrete rubble, the trench edges were sloped to avoid collapse.

Archaeological deposits were recorded using YAT's standard single context recording system (YAT, 2005). Composite post-excavation plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections were drawn, where relevant, at a scale of 1:10. Digital area and context photographs were taken and context cards filled out for each excavated deposit.

The excavation of a fourth lift shaft trench in the north-west corner of Block E was not carried out as part of this project due to the area already being cleared of archaeological deposits during earlier remedial works.

3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The Block E area is bounded by the junction of Palmer Lane and Dundas Street to the north, residential buildings to the east (the Hungate Phase 1 development), the Foss Navigation to the south and undeveloped land to the west (the proposed Block F development plot). The ground was relatively level, comprised of a piling matt of crushed concrete and lay at c.9.07m, prior to commencement of the works.

Historically, the site lies c.375m south-east of the Roman Legionary Fortress and within the area defined by the medieval city walls north-east of the River Ouse, immediately north-west of the River Foss.

The superficial geology of the area consists of riverine alluvium and the Vale of York Formation incorporating clay, sand and gravel (1:50 000 scale superficial deposit descriptions, Geology of Britain viewer: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The superficial geology overlies the Sherwood Sandstone Group (1:50 000 scale bedrock geology description, Geology of Britain viewer: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological and historical background to the Hungate area has been covered in some detail by an initial desk-top study (Macnab 1999), the Hungate Research Design (Ottaway et al 2005) and the ongoing Hungate archaeological works.

The Block H excavation, carried out from 2007 to 2011, situated immediately to the northwest of Block E (Figure 2) revealed 2000 years of continuous use of the local landscape. Excavations have revealed a Roman cemetery, 10th to 11th Century Anglo-Scandinavian urban development, the medieval parish church of St John The Baptist and its associated graveyard, medieval refuse dumping, the late 16th Century Cordwainers (Shoemakers) guildhall, evidence for late 16th to early 19th Century horticulture and late 18th to mid-20th Century domestic housing and industrial development (YAT forthcoming).

The major impact on the Hungate landscape during the last 1000 years was the creation of the King's Pool shortly after the Norman Conquest. The King's Pool was created as a product of the damming of the River Foss close to its confluence with the River Ouse to make a wet moat around the Norman motte and bailey. The damming of the Foss downstream of Hungate had the effect of flooding the lower Foss valley in the Hungate area, creating the Pool. By the later medieval period the margins of the King's Pool were being used for rubbish disposal.

In the area of the Block E lift shaft excavations the findings of the 2007 Block E excavation reveals the known extents of the archaeology in the immediate location.

The findings of the 2007 Block E excavation were summarised as follows:

"The earliest deposits encountered were alluvial deposits, which indicate that this site lay on the margins of the King's Pool during the medieval period. This area was reclaimed from the Pool by the 17th century, and a soil developed across the site. Rows of narrow linear features, cut into the lower part of the soil, are interpreted as lazy beds, and indicate that the soils were initially associated with horticulture. The upper part of the soil was cut by larger, mortar filled pits which are regarded as garden features. It seems the area was turned over to more residential use by the early 19th century, and the site now lay in the back gardens of properties fronting onto Palmer Lane and Lower Dundas Street.

Subsequently, the properties were subdivided with large brick walls. The garden soils were overlain by cindery surfaces, and both these deposits and pits cut into them contained quantities of domestic waste. The one building encountered was a well-preserved block of five toilets, flushed by an unusual Duckett tipper flush system. This evidence points to increasing occupation levels in the vicinity in the late 19th/early 20th century.

The area was cleared in the 1940s and turned over to industrial use."

5 RESULTS

5.1 Trench A

An in-situ concrete pile cap (context 28001) meant that this trench had to be expanded around 2m to the north-east to expose a sufficient area to characterise the deposits. The trench measured approximately 4m x 4m at the surface, stepped and banked to an area measuring roughly 2m x 2m at the base (Figure 4).



Plate 1. NE facing view of Trench A

Beneath the piling matt (context 28000) a concrete pile cap (context 28001) was exposed, cutting through a layer of mid-20th century material (context 28002). This deposit (context 28002), surviving at 8.08m OD, was a friable, dark-brownish grey sandy clay silt containing fragments of coal, mortar and occasional lenses of ceramic building material rubble. The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of soft to friable, mid-brownish grey sandy silty clay (context 28003), which was encountered at 7.59m OD, directly below the 20th century levelling (context 28002). This deposit was interpreted as an upper layer of the horticultural soils that are known to have existed in this area from the Post-Medieval period.

The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 7.50m OD, as the base of the trench was 1.56m below present ground level, it was recorded from the surface and immediately backfilled to ensure a safe working environment. All excavation was carried out by machine as no deposits that required hand excavation were revealed during this process.

5.2 Trench B

Measuring 4m x 4m at the surface, sloping to approximately 3m x 2m at the base, this trench contained intact archaeology at a shallower depth than Trench A (Figure 5). After the piling matt (context 28100) was removed, a layer of mid-20th century dumping was also machine excavated (context 28101).



Plate 2. NW facing view of Trench B.

At a depth of 8.05m OD, two 19th-early 20th century features were exposed. Close to the south-east side of the trench were the remnants of a footpath running north-east/south-west, parallel to the nearby River Foss (context 28102). While the presumably flagstone surface was no longer present, a make-up layer of compacted yellowish brown sand and gravel (up to 15mm thick), held in place by a kerb of edge set sandstone slabs measuring 600mm x 170mm x 20mm, remained *in situ*. The pathway was exposed to a width of 0.74m, with its full extent beyond the edge of excavation. The pathway was investigated with a hand dug slot measuring 0.50m in width. This was excavated to a depth of 7.99m OD.

To the immediate north-west of the pathway a sump feature was exposed (context 28104) (Plates 2 and 3). This comprised of a cast-iron tank in the shape of an upturned bell. The rim of the tank measured 0.55m in diameter and was topped with a single course of unbonded, re-used brick fragments. The bricks ranged in size and were between 16th and 19th century in date; all were laid on edge. The total depth of the tank was 0.44m (7.58m OD). A salt-glazed ceramic pipe, measuring 0.16m in diameter, was set in a gap in the brickwork on the northern side of the sump. The fall of the pipe suggests that it was designed to drain the sump as opposed to feeding into it. It was interpreted as a form of settling tank associated with a surface water drain that presumably related to the adjacent footpath.



Plate 3. Brick and iron sump 28104.

Both the pathway and the sump were cut into an upper layer of the aforementioned horticultural soil (context 28106) which was exposed at 8.05m OD. Comprised of a dark greyish-brown slightly sandy clay silt, the deposit could represent a former ground surface, although no definitive evidence of trample or compaction was noted. This deposit was investigated in a slot measuring 1.40m x 0.50m to a depth of 7.75m. This deposit overlaid an earlier layer of similar horticultural material (context 28107).

5.3 Trench C

The starting ground level around Trench C was encountered at around 8.50m OD, approximately 0.50m lower than that around Trenches A and B. As a result of this reduced elevation, the trench was shallow enough to allow the smaller dimensions of 2m x 2m, only requiring a slight sloping of the edges (Figure 6). The same piling matt (context 28200) and mid-20th century dumping (context 28201) encountered in Trenches A and B were machine excavated, revealing intact 19th to early 20th century archaeology at a height of 7.93m OD.

The latest feature encountered was a linear cut aligned north-west/south-east (context 28203). Exposed to a maximum width of 0.50m, the backfill (context 28202) contained frequent fragments of concrete, CBM, clinker and salt glazed ceramic pipe and was hand excavated in a 1.00m wide hand dug slot to a depth of 7.78m OD (Plate 4). The feature appears to be a 20th century service trench or clearance cut.



Plate 4. NW facing view of Trench C.

Cut by the 20th century service (context 28203), a thin trample layer of compacted pinkish brown brick dust and silt (context 28204) was found to overlay a deposit of dark-greyish brown sandy silt (context 28208), which was interpreted as an upper layer of horticultural soil. The deposit was hand excavated to a depth of 7.84m OD in a 1.00m wide slot and appeared to be similar to the horticultural soils in Trenches A and B (contexts 28106 and 28003).

In the northern corner of the trench a brick built well was exposed, surviving to a height of 7.92m OD (context 28206). Measuring 1.25m in diameter, and built flush to its construction cut (context 28207), the well was excavated to a depth of 7.58m OD. Backfilled with a loose, gritty mid-brownish grey clayey silt, the well was found to cut through the horticultural soil (context 28208). The well most likely relates to 19th century buildings situated along Lower Dundas Street.

5.4 Discussion

5.4.1 Trench A

The excavation of Trench A revealed no significant archaeological deposits at a depth of 7.59m OD. The earliest material exposed in the trench was the last in a sequence of horticultural deposits that were active into the early 19th century.

5.4.2 Trench B

A small amount of 19th century archaeology was revealed in this trench relating to a time when the area was largely open space, criss-crossed with footpaths linking gardens and horticultural plots (Plate 5). The features encountered relate to the use of one of these

footpaths, which was probably still in use in the early 20th century. Post-Medieval soils were only reached in the base of an investigative slot, located at a depth of 7.75m OD.



Plate 5. Detail taken from the 1907/08 Sanitation Survey Map of Hungate. Back yard and open garden space is clearly visible to the rear of Lower Dundas Street and Palmer Lane.

5.4.3 Trench C

As in Trench B, this location revealed that the formation depth of the proposed development is situated on the interface between 19th century and earlier deposits, with late 18th century material only beginning to show at a depth of c.7.85m OD.

5.4.4 Conclusions

The excavation of the three lift shaft trenches has revealed that the Block E development area is situated above a deeper deposit of 20th century overburden than has been seen in other parts of the Hungate development. As such the impact of the Block E development on earlier archaeological deposits is significantly decreased in this area. Excavation down to the formation depth of the lift shafts has revealed the upper limits of early 19th century horticultural deposits. This information corresponds well with observations made during the previous Block E excavation, where similar deposits were revealed at a depth of 7.9m to 8.1m OD (Hunter-Mann 2008, 9). Immediately to the northwest of the Block E area, in the vicinity of the former medieval church of St John The Baptist, these horticultural deposits have been shown to be well over 1.00m deep (Johnson 2014, 20, forthcoming).

FIGURES

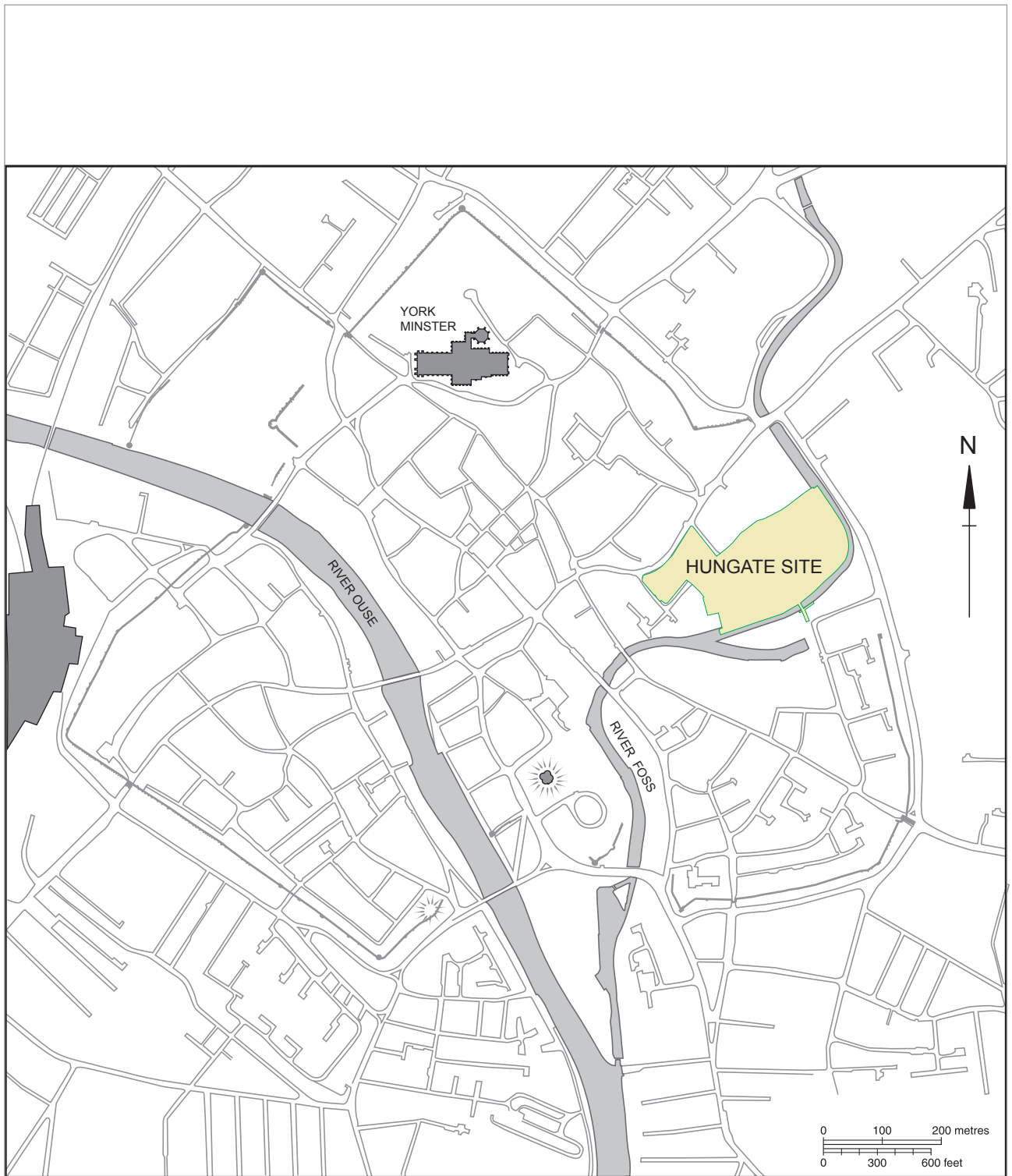


Figure 1: Site Location

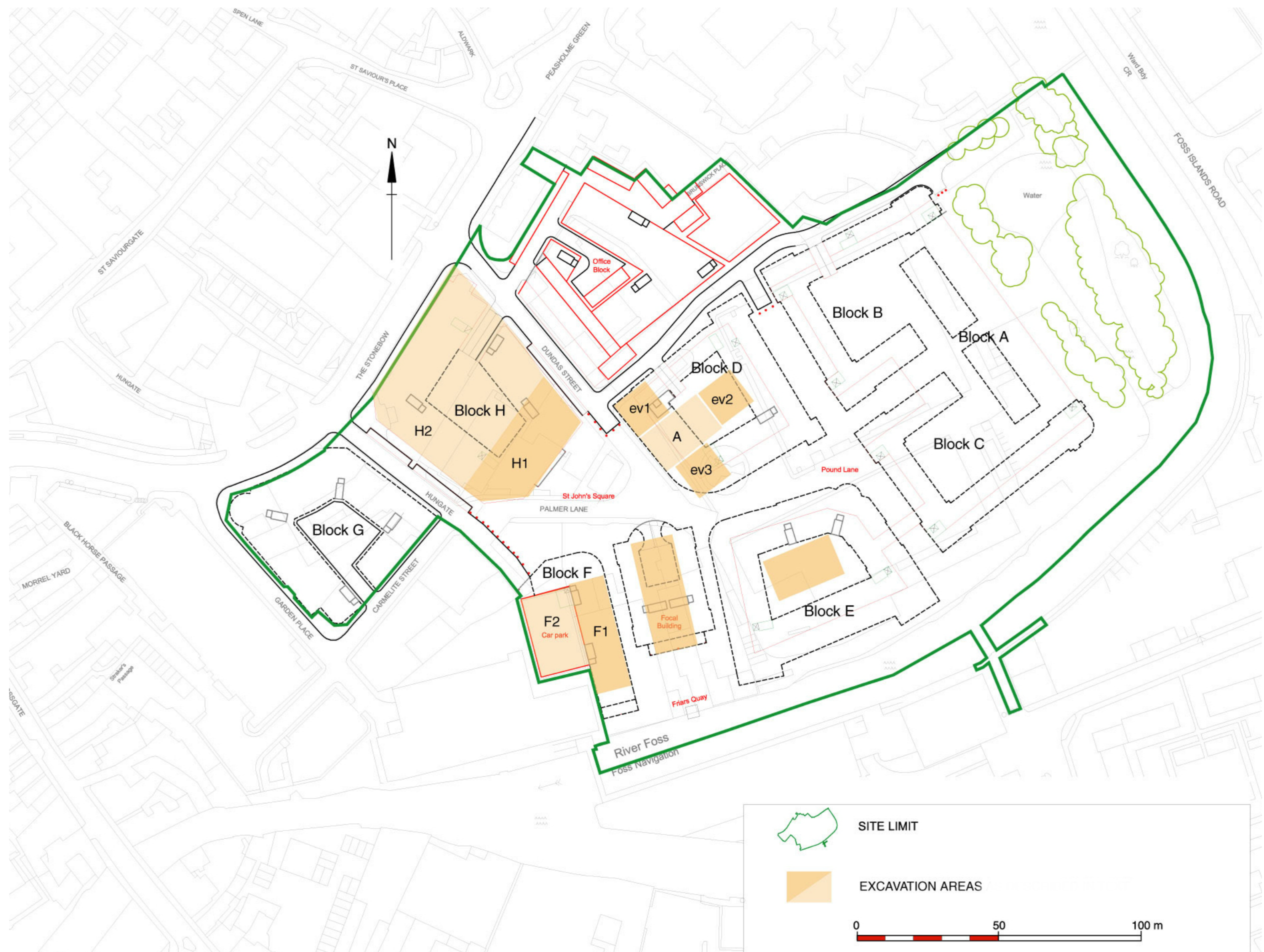


Figure 2: Hungate excavation areas

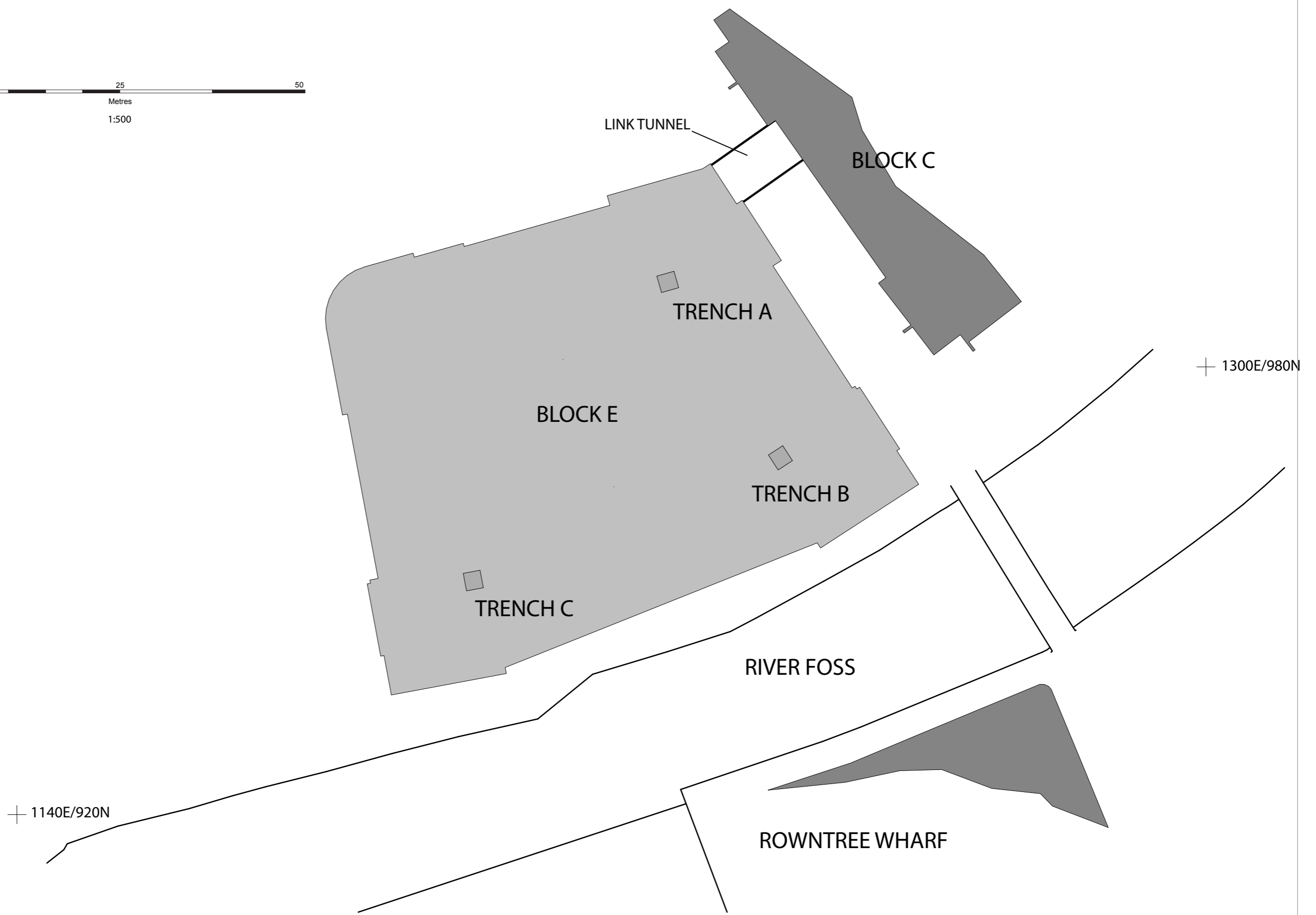
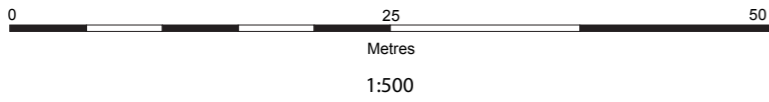


Figure 3: Trench locations

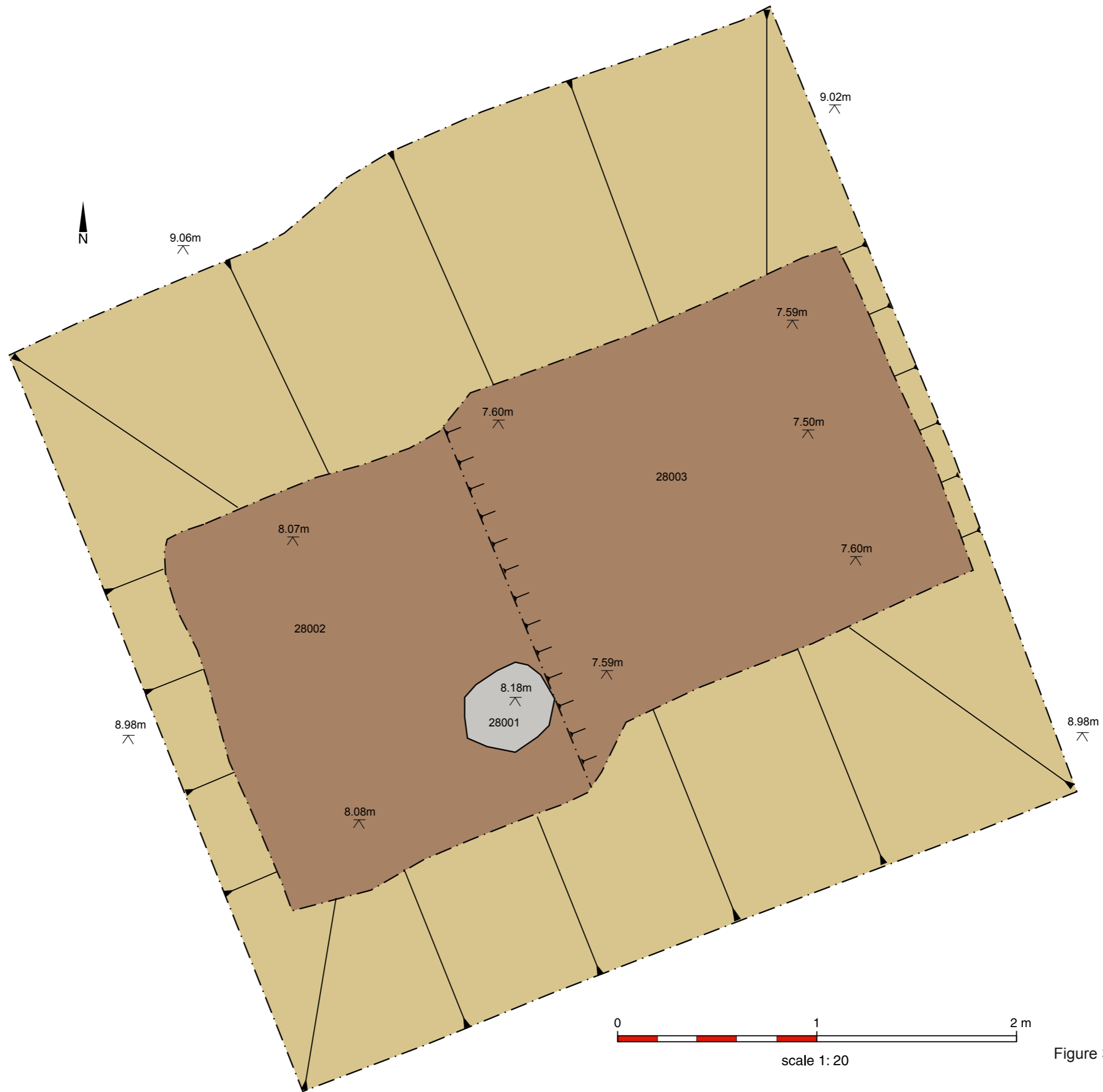


Figure 3: Trench A

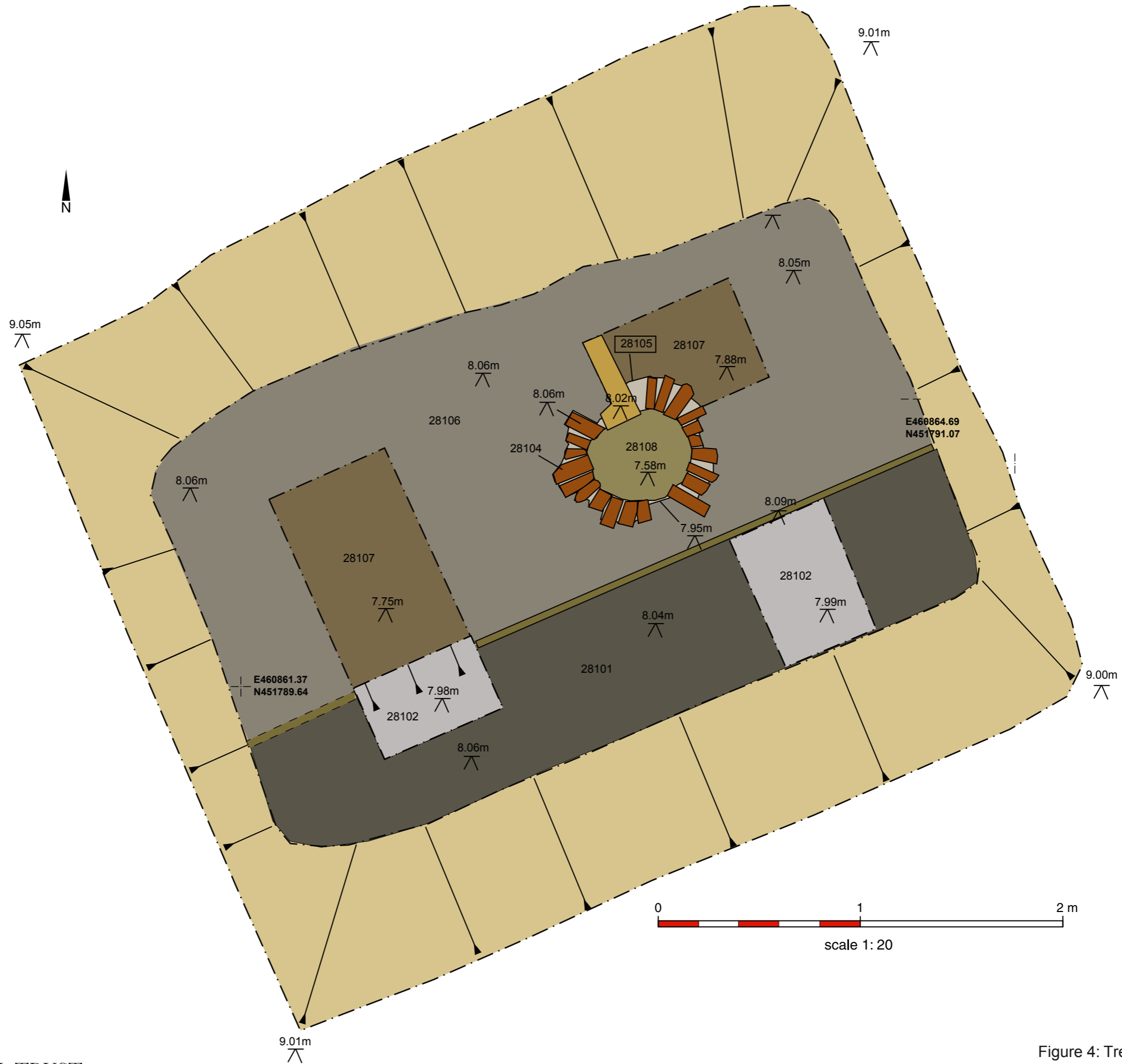


Figure 4: Trench B

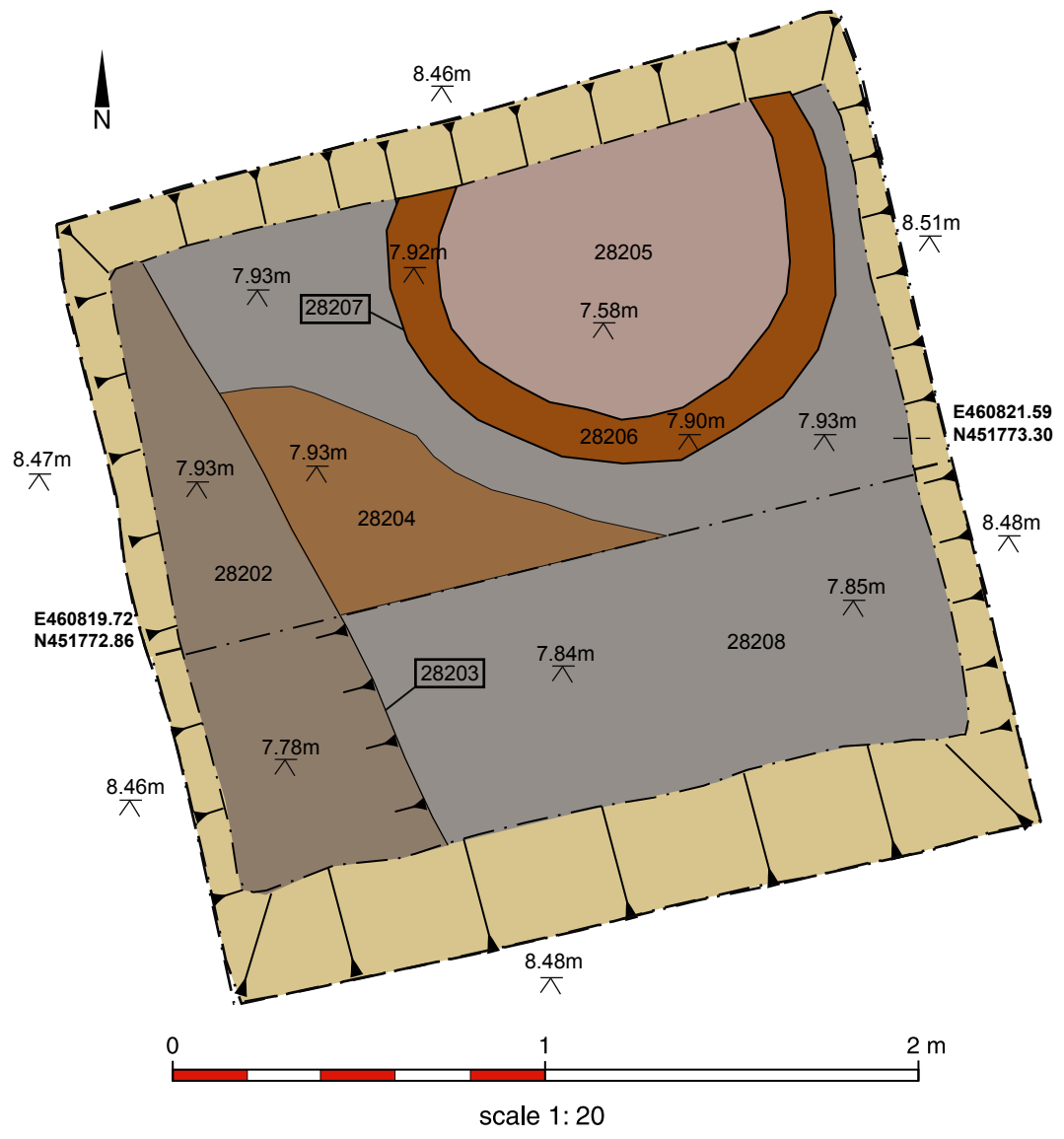


Figure 5: Trench C

LIST OF SOURCES

British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, December 2014:

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hunter-Mann, K. 2008. *Block E Hungate Development York, A Report on an Archaeological Excavation, Version 2.0*. YAT Report 2008/2

Johnson, A. 2014. *Archaeology Live! 2013. Hungate Block H, Palmer Lane, York*. YAT Assessment Report 2014/60

Macnab, N., 1999. *Hungate, York. Report On An Archaeological Desk-Top Study*, YAT Field Report 1999/32

APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE

Item	Number of items
Context sheets	22
Context register	1
Photographic register	n/a
Levels register	2
Drawing register	n/a
Original drawings	3
B/W photographs (films/contact sheets)	n/a
Colour slides (films)	n/a
Digital photographs	69
Written Scheme of Investigation	1
Report	1

Table 1 Index to archive

APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT LIST

Trench	Context no.	Description
A	28000	Rubble piling matt
	28001	Concrete pile cap
	28002	20 th century dumping/accumulation
	28003	Horticultural soil
B	28100	Rubble piling matt
	28101	20 th century dumping/accumulation
	28102	Path make-up and kerbing
	28103	Construction cut for 28102
	28104	Brick and iron sump
	28105	Construction cut for 28104
	28106	Upper horticultural soil
	28107	Lower horticultural soil
C	28108	Sump backfill (within 28104)
	28200	Rubble piling matt
	28201	20 th century dumping/accumulation
	28202	Backfill of 28203
	28203	Cut feature (disturbance?)
	28204	20 th century trample
	28205	Infill of well 28206
	28206	Brick built well
	28207	Construction cut for 28206
	28208	Horticultural soil

Table 2 Context list

APPENDIX 3 – METHOD STATEMENT



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

**EXCAVATION OF LIFT SHAFT LOCATIONS
HUNGATE PHASE 2: METHOD STATEMENT**

Document Number 2014/47 September 2014



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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7 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.....	3
8 WORKING HOURS.....	3
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KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	Hungate Development, York
YAT Project No.	5000
Report status	Final
Type of Project	Excavation
Client	Hungate York Regeneration
Author	David Aspden
Editor	Peter Connelly
Document Number and Date	2014/47 [03/09/2014]

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1 INTRODUCTION

This document provides a Method Statement for the archaeological excavation of <number lift shaft pits for Hungate and incorporates a Risk Assessment conducted by York Archaeological Trust (YAT) (Appendix 1).

2 METHODOLOGY

It is the main contractor and the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that Health and Safety requirements are fulfilled, pertaining to the excavation of the trenches.

The project will be monitored by the City Archaeologist.

The site work will comprise the archaeological excavation of the locations of 3 number pits for the bases of lift shafts. Prior to the archaeological excavation commencing the main contractor will ensure that no services are present prior to excavation and remove any piling matt material located in the area of the lift shaft pits and providing a clearance of at least 1m around each lift shaft pit location.

Following removal of the piling matt excavation will proceed under archaeological supervision until the top of archaeological deposits are encountered or to the required depth of 7.85m OD is reached. If archaeological deposits are encountered machine excavation will cease and the excavation will proceed archaeologically by hand. The anticipated depth of excavation is 650mm. In the event that deeper excavation is required and in order to ensure stability of the excavation edges the excavation will be stepped by 1m metre for every metre in depth. If significant archaeological deposits are believed to be present with the step that is retained this will be removed locally after an assessment of the stability of the excavation has been made.

Archaeological excavation

The project will be undertaken in a manner consistent with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991).

The excavations will be fully recorded using an approved standard system of context sheets, conventionally-scaled plans, sections and photographs.

Due attention will be paid to artefact retrieval and conservation, ancient technology, dating of deposits and the assessment of potential for the scientific analysis of soil, sediments, biological remains, ceramics and stone. Where appropriate, the advice of the Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (Yorkshire) at English Heritage may be called upon.

Finds will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in First Aid for Finds (Watkinson & Neal, 1998). In accordance with the procedures of MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991), all iron objects and a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins) will be X-radiographed before assessment.

Samples will be taken for scientific dating, including radiocarbon dating, or provision made for a specialist sub-contractor to take samples for archaeomagnetic dating, or dendrochronology, as appropriate, where dating by artefacts is insecure.

A sampling strategy will be devised for the retrieval and assessment of the preservation conditions and potential for analysis of all biological remains. Sampling methods will follow the guidance of the Association for Environmental Archaeology (1995).

If human remains are exposed during the course of the works, a burial licence will be obtained for their removal, from the Dept. of Constitutional Affairs. If burials are exposed, working areas will be screened and the removal of any human remains will be done with due respect.

General excavation practice

Trenches over 1.2m in depth or those less than 1.2m where the ground is deemed by the Site Manager to be unstable will be stepped or battered.

Trenches will be inspected for stability at the beginning and end of each working day. If the Site Manager suspects a trench is unstable no staff shall enter that trench until appropriate action had been taken.

All workers must be within hearing distance of other workers.

No one will enter or work in an excavation deeper than 0.5m in depth unaccompanied.

The Main Contractor shall arrange for pumps if required.

3 PERSONNEL

Project Manager: David Aspden: 01904 663018, 07908210025

Site Manager: Toby Kendall: 07908210026

4 EQUIPMENT

Hand tools: shovels, mattocks, hoes, trowels

5 WELFARE FACILITIES

The Main Contractors site welfare facilities will be available for use by YAT staff on site. YAT staff will also have welfare facilities available at the adjacent Hungate warehouse currently occupied by YAT.

6 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Safety helmets

Hi-visibility vests

Gloves

Safety boots – toe and midsole protection

Safety glasses

Ear protection if required

7 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the event of an accident the emergency services (999/112) and the site manager and Hungate York Regeneration will be contacted immediately.

HOSPITAL

The York Hospital

Wigginton Road

York

North Yorkshire

YO31 8HE

Tel: 01904 631 313

In an emergency contact one of the people below:

Professional Remediation Solutions

Mike Coleman

Contracts Director

Tel: 07702807532

YAT

David Aspden

Operations and Contracts Manager

Tel: 01904 663018, 07908210025

Hungate York Regeneration

Ian Shepherd

Operations Manager, Residential Development: Lend Lease

Tel: 0121 7121700, 07920246500

8 WORKING HOURS

08:00 – 16:00 Mon-Fri

9 SAFETY PROCEDURES

Safety Procedures are set out in the YAT Risk Assessment (Appendix 1).

The risk assessment shall form the basis of the site induction that shall be undertaken by all staff. The induction will be provided by the Site Manager, in this instance Toby Kendall.

All YAT staff shall be inducted by Professional Remediation Solutions and shall adhere to all Professional Remediation Solutions requirements at all times.

10 HAZARDS

The hazards identified below are itemised and control measure provided in the YAT Risk Assessment (Appendix 2).

- Personal Injury
- Lone Working
- Public Access
- Slips, trips etc
- Manual Handling
- Hand tools and equipment usage
- Hygiene (Weils disease, vermin)
- Sharps
- Asbestos
- Falling debris
- Ground contamination
- Spillages
- Deep excavations
- Mechanical Plant
- Services
- Vehicles on site

The risk assessment will be reviewed at the beginning and end of each working day to take in to account any changes in site conditions and working, in particular in relation to interactions with other contractor activities. Variations and additions to this Risk Assessment shall be added by the Site Manager, in this instance Toby Kendall and communicated to all staff immediately following the update.

APPENDIX 1 – RISK ASSESSMENT