

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF AND EVALUATION
(STAGE 2) AT
BUSHBURY HILL PRIMARY
SCHOOL, OLD FALLINGS LANE,
BUSHBURY, WOLVERHAMPTON

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Project 3407
Report 1727

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Archaeological watching brief and evaluation (stage 2) at Bushbury Hill Primary School, Old Fallings Lane, Bushbury, Wolverhampton

Tom Vaughan and Graham Arnold

With contributions by Darren Miller and Dennis Williams

Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological watching brief and evaluation was undertaken at Bushbury Hill Primary School, Old Fallings Lane, Bushbury, Wolverhampton (NGR: SJ 9268 0213). It was undertaken on behalf of Jacobs UK Ltd, whose client, Wolverhampton City Council, intends to demolish the existing school buildings and rebuild on an unoccupied grassed area to the south and south-west. The project followed a previous stage of evaluation and aimed to determine the full extent of stone foundations of an earlier building or buildings to the northwest of the Georgian Bushbury Hill House. Monitoring was also carried out on the exposure of the cellars previously identified below Bushbury Hill House, prior to stabilisation works.

A number of sandstone walls were identified with associated flagstone and brick floors, brick and slate lined drains. The structures discovered form part of a substantial building, located to the north of and on the same alignment as Bushbury Hill House. They appear to form part of the northeast corner of the buildings which contained the farm yard and are recorded on cartographic sources. The most substantial building, of ashlar sandstone blocks, has foundations over 1m deep and walls 0.50m wide, indicating that it may well have been two storeys in height. Material within the made ground butting the walls is of 18th and 19th century date. It is therefore conjectured that the majority of the buildings date from the 18th century, probably *c* 1780 when Bushbury Hill House itself was built although the scale of the ashlar wall might suggest an earlier date for this building.

One of the drains comprised early/mid 18th century bricks, however all of the drainage is considered to be later and date from the 19th century, the bricks having been reused from elsewhere.

Although the walls recorded within the previous phase of evaluation are of similar dimensions to those recorded in this phase of works, they are in fact on a slightly different orientation. They are also constructed of different material; those in the initial works were of red sandstone compared with the use only of yellow sandstone of those recorded during this phase. The structures are therefore considered to relate to different buildings entirely, the red sandstone buildings predating those identified during this phase of works.

The cellars below Bushbury Hill House were found to survive from *c* 0.20m below the current ground surface. They were constructed of hand made red bricks throughout, with arch ceilings and appeared to be of a single phase of construction. They comprised four compartments accessed via a central corridor with an extant staircase. Features included an ancillary spiral staircase, light wells with sandstone mullioned windows, a coal chute, bases for three chimney stacks in the external walls and brick storage benches.

The site had been subject to landscaping, most extensively during demolition of the house and farm buildings in 1948 and the subsequent construction of school buildings within the north quarter in the early 1950s.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological watching brief and evaluation was undertaken at Bushbury Hill Primary School, Old Fallings Lane, (NGR: SJ 9268 0213) Bushbury, Wolverhampton (Fig 1), on behalf of Jacobs UK Ltd, whose client, Wolverhampton City Council (WCC) intends to demolish the current school buildings and rebuild to the south and southwest, as part of the Primary Capital Programme.

This is considered by the Wolverhampton Council Archaeologist to have the potential to affect archaeological remains (BCSMR ref. MBL 1835), previously investigated and identified by the Service (Vaughan 2009; Webster 2009).

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008b).

The project also conforms to a programme of archaeological requirements prepared by the Wolverhampton Council Archaeologist (WCC 2009), and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2009).

1.3 Aims

The aims of this stage of evaluation and the watching brief during the exposure and stabilisation of the cellars were to determine and delineate the full extent of the stone foundations, their state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation. The purpose of this was to establish their significance, since this would make it possible to recommend an appropriate treatment which may then be integrated with the proposed development programme.

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a desk-based assessment was undertaken by the Service (Vaughan 2009).

2.2 Fieldwork methodology

2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2009).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 23 and 29 September.

In the initial evaluation, seven trenches, amounting to approximately 160m², were excavated (Webster 2009). In this second stage, two trenches (Trenches 8 and 9), amounting to approximately 75m², were excavated toward the north side of the site, which covers a total area of approximately 16,500m².

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision using a wheeled excavator, employing a toothless bucket. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

A watching brief on the stabilisation works of Bushbury Hill House foundations and cellars was also carried out. The southeast corner has not excavated, due to the presence of live services. The cellars were photographed and planned before backfilling and compacting.

2.2.2 **Structural analysis**

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was affected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

2.3 **Artefact methodology by Dennis Williams**

2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2).

2.3.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand retrieved finds were examined and a primary record made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992; www.worcestershireceramics.org).

2.4 **Environmental archaeology methodology**

2.4.1 **Sampling policy**

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). All deposits and features were evaluated during excavation on site for their environmental and eco-factual potential. In the event, no environmental samples were deemed necessary to be taken.

3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

The background to the site has previously been presented in the desk based assessment of the site, undertaken by the Service (Vaughan 2009).

Previous fieldwork on site has involved geophysical survey (Smalley 2009) and initial trial trench evaluation by the Service of those areas of interest identified during the survey (Webster 2009). The following is a summary from the initial evaluation:

The project revealed the presence of two large buildings; one was the known Bushbury Hill farmhouse, built in the 1780s and demolished in 1948, with associated out-buildings; the second lay to the north and was an earlier built structure constructed with large sandstone foundations that appears to represent an earlier phase of the farm which has been previously

unknown. Whilst the site as a whole had been subject to at least two large scale landscaping episodes in the last 100 years, in-situ deposits were noted to survive under an average depth of 0.45m of overburden.

4. Results

4.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded in Trenches 8 and 9 are shown in Figs 2-7 and Plates 1-15. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

The plan of the cellars exposed during the watching brief is shown in Fig 8 and Plates 16-29.

4.1.1 Trench 8 (Plates 1-13)

A large sandstone wall of a substantial building, 8002, was exposed, at least 9m in length, aligned northeast to southwest with a right angle to the northwest at its southwest end (Fig 3). It survived as a single course of ashlar blocks, supported on unmortared sandstone foundations, 8047, up to 0.97m deep and 0.50m wide, bedded directly onto the natural matrix. The foundations were sealed by layers of made ground, 8030 and 8032, levelling the site after the building's demolition.

A brick floor surface, 8004, abutted the northeast face of the southern arm of wall 8002. It was bedded on a levelling deposit of sandy silt with frequent stones, 8030. Both the wall and the floor surface had been truncated by a modern service trench, 8029, aligned approximately north-south, which had removed the corner of the wall.

Sandstone wall foundations 8000 and 8001, 0.35m wide, formed the southeast and southwest walls of a later and less substantial building, on the southeast side of wall 8002. They enclosed an area approximately 2.25m wide.

A flagstone and brick floor surface, 8003, abutted walls 8000-8002. It was bedded on a levelling deposit, 8048, of silt with extension charcoal and brick rubble inclusions. Both walls 8001 and 8002 and the adjacent floor 8003 had been truncated to the northeast by modern landscaping, 8013.

To the southeast of 8002, another wall, 8007/8046, was recorded running parallel, 4.50m in length and 0.30m wide, surviving to 0.22m high. It was bedded on a levelling deposit of slightly clayey, silty sand with occasional pebbles and charcoal, 8050, overlying the natural matrix. The levelling deposit had also been dug through to insert a column of masonry rubble, 8052, approximately 0.50m in height. This formed an additional foundation for wall 8007, although it is unclear if it related to an earlier structure.

A slate lined drain, 8053, lay along the southeast side of wall 8007. It was up to 0.42m deep, sealed by a silty clay layer, 8025, with occasional charcoal brick rubble and pebbles.

On the northwest side of wall 8007/8046, lay a floor surface, 8006, comprised of a single line of flagstones, 5.75m in length. Between this floor and the wall lay a brick lined drain, 8005, and 8024. The drain was filled with building debris, 8028. The drain turned a right angle to the southeast at either end.

A north-south aligned brick lined drain, 8015, lay to the northeast of drain 8020. Their relationship is unclear. The drain was found to truncate wall 8001 to the northeast and flagstone floor 8003 to the north. It was truncated by modern concrete foundation 8017 to the south and a modern service trench aligned northeast-southwest.

A modern structure comprising a section of brick wall, 8037, and on a concrete foundation, 8017, was observed aligned northwest to southeast. It lay over the modern service trench and drain 8015. It truncated drain 8005 and wall 8000 which lay on the same alignment to the northeast. It comprised at least ten courses of very roughly mortared brick and formed the foundation for a later red brick wall, 8018, which survived to up to five courses and lay on the same alignment but was recessed back to the southwest.

A single circular posthole, 8036, was identified toward the northeast side of the trench. It lay in isolation, at a depth of 1.10m+ below the surface. The fill comprised a sandy silt with moderate charcoal. No finds were recovered and no other similar features were recorded.

Overlying these features and structures were a number of layers of made ground, 8009-8011, associated with the modern landscaping of the site. They comprised a silty sand, a silty clay and a sandy silt respectively, with variable building debris and gravel.

The natural reddish-brown clay and gravels, 8056, lay at approximately 1.26m+ depth. Above the natural were a number of layers of made up ground, including 8043, 8049, 8050 and 8051, which were largely comprised of silty sand variably with pebbles and charcoal. The turfed topsoil, 8008, comprised a silty clay with occasional rounded stones, and sealed all of the aforementioned deposits and structures.

4.1.2 **Trench 9 (Plates 14 and 15)**

No archaeological features, structures, layers or horizons pre-dating the modern period were recorded within this trench.

The natural sand and gravel, 9005, was revealed at a depth of 0.60m. This lay below a sequence of levelling deposits, 9002-9004, sealed by a shallow turfed sandy silt topsoil, 9001. The levelling deposits comprised sandy silts with mixed inclusions of stone and brick rubble. These were truncated by a 20th century brick manhole, 9006, and a drainage pipe, 9009.

4.1.3 **Trench 10 (Plates 16-29), by Darren Miller and Tom Vaughan**

The cellars of Bushbury Hill House survived from approximately 0.20m to 3m below the existing surface. The walls and foundations were comprised entirely of unfrosted hand made red bricks, bedded in an off-white lime mortar and included both typical and more unusual features (Fig 8; Plates 5-18).

The cellars were divided into four compartments or rooms, two to the northeast and two to the southwest, accessed via a northwest-southeast aligned corridor which spanned the centre of the building. The compartments were covered by substantial brick arches as were the passages that connected them. The corridor walls were rendered with white plaster. The compartment walls were white washed.

Besides the arches, the most significant features were those in the northeast compartments. Here, the bases of two chimneys had been pierced to provide alcoves for storage. In the north room benches had been built along three walls with brick arches topped by stone slabs to provide cool conditions for storage of dairy produce. The walls of the northeast compartments also incorporated a coal chute and three light-wells. The window mullions were of yellow limestone with iron bars inset. Other features included a stone spiral staircase in the southeast corner, and a flight of stairs with fourteen extant green sandstone steps in the middle corridor leading down from the ground floor.

4.2 Artefact analysis, by Dennis Williams

4.2.1 The artefact assemblage

The assemblage, recovered from six stratified contexts, is summarised in Table 1. All the finds dated from the post-medieval or modern periods, and were generally well preserved. The high weight of ceramic finds, relative to the remainder of the assemblage, was biased by the inclusion of two complete bricks (with a combined weight of 7.1kg) that were taken as samples of building material. The two small pieces of bone, probably from cattle, were noted but not analysed further.

Period	Material class	Count	Weight (g)
Modern	Glass	2	3
Post-medieval	Ceramic	36	7,451
Post-med/modern	Ceramic	17	225
Post-medieval	Glass	10	39
Post-medieval	Metal	3	35
Post-medieval	Stone	1	4
Undated	Bone	2	24
Totals:		54	7,781

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

4.2.2 The pottery

The pottery sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Table 2). Post-medieval red wares (fabric 78), found in contexts 8023, 8025, 8032, 8042 and 8049, accounted for the largest part of the pottery. This common fabric, often with black or brown glazes, dated from the 17th and 18th centuries, but may well have been produced later than this. Two flanged rim sherds from flared bowls (glazed on the inside) were identified, but no other forms could be determined for vessels with this fabric.

Other pottery finds comprised late post-medieval or early modern fabrics. These included hand-painted porcelain (fabric 83) from 8027, white-glazed china, with blue willow pattern decoration (fabric 85), found in 8023 and 8049, and stoneware with a mottled brown glaze, also from 8049. Flowerpot sherds from 8023, 8025 and 8027 were listed under miscellaneous post-medieval/modern pottery (fabric 100).

Period	Fabric code	Fabric common name	Count	Weight(g)
Post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red wares	12	288
Post-medieval/modern	81.4	Miscellaneous late stoneware	1	7
Post-medieval/modern	83	Porcelain	2	18
Post-medieval/modern	85	Modern china	4	23
Post-medieval/modern	100	Miscellaneous post-med./ modern wares	12	177
Totals:			31	513

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by period and fabric-type

4.2.3 **Other artefacts**

Brick

Both sample bricks, from 8004 and 8005, were hand-made, without frogs, but with a marked difference in size. The brick from the former context was $9\frac{3}{8} \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ " ($240 \times 112 \times 77$ mm), which did not provide a close fit to any of the known standards, although its large size suggested it was produced during the late 18th or early 19th centuries, i.e. after the introduction of the Brick Tax in 1784. The brick from 8005 was considerably smaller, at $9\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{3}{8}$ " ($230 \times 110 \times 62$ mm). These dimensions were close to those of the minimum brick size specified by Act of Parliament in 1725. Therefore, this brick has been provisionally dated to the mid 18th century, although it could be earlier.

Tile

Two ceramic tiles, one roof, the other floor, were retrieved from 8042. Both were undiagnostic in terms of form, but had orange-brown fabrics consistent with post-medieval manufacture.

Glass

Window glass, very fragmentary, with flaking, iridescent surfaces, was recovered from 8023, 8025 and 8027. Small fragments of green bottle glass found in 8027 and 8042 exhibited tool marks on their outside surfaces. All of these finds were consistent with post-medieval material and manufacturing methods.

Metal

The only metal finds were large, hand-made, iron nails, from 8027, and likely to have been used in post-medieval building construction.

4.2.4 **Overview of artefactual evidence**

The finds from this evaluation were consistent with occupation and use from the mid 18th century onwards, with the pottery being broadly similar, in terms of forms and fabrics, to that recovered from the previous phase of evaluation (Webster 2009). The *terminus post quem* dates deduced for the contexts are shown in Table 3.

Context	Material class	Object specific type	Fabric code	Count	Weight(g)	Start date	End date	<i>Terminus post quem</i>
8004	Ceramic	Brick	-	1	3018	c.1784	c.1803	c 1784
8005	Ceramic	Brick	-	1	4084	c.1725	c.1784	c 1725
8023	Ceramic	Pot	78	4	83	1600	1800	1800
	Ceramic	Pot	85	3	22	1800	1950	
	Ceramic	Pot	100	7	103	1800	1970	
	Ceramic	Clay pipe	-	1	3	1600	1800	
	Stone	Slate	-	1	4	1800	1950	
	Glass	Window	-	3	6	1700	1900	
	Bone	-	-	1	9	-	-	
8025	Ceramic	Pot	78	2	59	1600	1800	1800
	Ceramic	Pot	100	3	47	1800	1970	
	Glass	Window	-	1	1	1700	1900	
	Bone	-	-	1	15	0	0	
8027	Ceramic	Pot	83	2	18	1750	2000	1900
	Ceramic	Pot	100	2	27	1800	1970	
	Metal	Nail	-	3	35	1700	1900	
	Glass	Window	-	4	5	1700	1900	
	Glass	Window	-	2	3	1900	1950	
	Glass	Bottle	0	1	5	1700	1900	
8032	Ceramic	Pot	78	2	21	1600	1800	1700
8042	Ceramic	Pot	78	2	75	1600	1800	1700
	Ceramic	Roof tile	-	1	25	1700	1900	
	Ceramic	Tile	-	1	33	1700	1900	
	Ceramic	Pot	78	1	6	1600	1800	
	Glass	Bottle	-	1	22	1700	1900	
8049	Ceramic	Pot	78	1	44	1600	1800	1800
	Ceramic	Pot	81.4	1	7	1800	1950	
	Ceramic	Pot	85	1	1	1800	1950	

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

4.2.5 Significance

The finds from this evaluation were of limited significance, insofar as they were all typical of domestic activity in the post-medieval and modern periods, with no evidence of earlier occupation or use of the site.

5. Synthesis

5.1 Structures north of Bushbury Hill House

The structures discovered form part of a substantial building, located to the north of and on the same alignment as Bushbury Hill House.

The earliest wall appears to be 8002. It would have formed a substantial and imposing building, being comprised of mortared ashlar sandstone blocks, 0.50m wide and at least 9m

in length, northeast-southwest. As it was on a foundation of rough sandstone blocks dug to just over 1m deep, 8047, it is conjectured to have been two storeys high. Although intrinsically undated, the butting internal floor, 8004, to the northwest comprised bricks dated to 1784-1803, bedded on layers of made ground, 8032 and 8042, which also butted against the wall, and contained material of 18th century date. This would suggest that the building is of 18th century or earlier date. It is considered likely to have been constructed at the same time as Bushbury Hill House in the 1780s but may equally represent a more substantial building pre-dating the more ordinary farm buildings recorded in this area.

The two parallel structures to the southeast were less substantial. Building 8000/8001 appeared to butt against 8002, so is considered to be a later addition. The relationship with building 8007 is unclear as it lay parallel, at a distance of 1.55m. Unfortunately these walls and the associated floor 8003 did not contain dateable material, although they may be similarly dated to the (later) 18th century by association with, and their similar construction to, building 8002.

The brick drain, 8005/8020/8024, alongside wall 8006 is comprised of bricks dating from 1725 onwards, although the made ground below, 8023 and 8049, contained material from 1800 or later. This indicates that the bricks are reused and that the drain, and the butting flagstone floor 8006 adjacent, are of 19th century date and hence postdate the aforementioned buildings.

Drain 8015 truncates structure 8000 and 8001. It lies at a higher level and a totally different orientation to drain 8005/8020/8024. Although their relationship is indeterminate, it is conjectured to postdate the latter drain, although is also of 19th century date.

The sandstone walls appear to relate to structures identified on the cartographic sources (Vaughan, Figs 5-10 and 13). They appear to be parts of the northeast corner of the farm buildings which form the square farmyard to the north of the main house. It is further considered that the main northwest-southeast aligned arm of the farm buildings would have been two storeys in height, whereas the shorter northeast to southwest wing would probably have been only one storey.

Although the walls recorded within the initial evaluation are of similar dimensions to those recorded in this phase of works, they are in fact on a slightly different orientation (Fig 2). They are also constructed of different material; those in the initial works were of red sandstone compared with the use only of yellow sandstone of those recorded during this phase. The structures are therefore considered to relate to different buildings entirely, the red sandstone buildings predating those identified and discussed during this phase of works.

5.2 **Bushbury Hill House cellars**

The cellars below Bushbury Hill House were found to survive from as little as *c* 0.20m below the current ground surface. They were constructed of hand made unfrosted red bricks throughout, with arch ceilings and appeared to be of a single phase of construction. They comprised four compartments accessed via a central corridor aligned northwest-southeast, which contained an extant staircase up to the ground floor. Part of an ancillary spiral staircase was recorded within the corner of the east compartment, which may have provided external access. The walls within the four compartments had been white washed. Those within the corridor had been rendered with white plaster. The bases of three chimney stacks were noted within the northwest and southeast external walls of the three compartments which were fully exposed. The south compartment was not excavated due to the presence of live services. Light-wells and a coal chute were noted within the north and east compartments; that within the northeast wall of the east compartment was semi-circular. Low brick arches surmounted by stone slabs provided cool storage around three walls of the north compartment.

5.3 **20th century deposits and structures**

The whole site has been subject to landscaping within the last century. This probably occurred most dramatically in 1948 when the Bushbury Hill House and associated farm buildings were demolished. And again in the early 1950s when three blocks of school buildings were erected within the north quarter on a northwest-southeast alignment (Vaughan 2009, 15). The modern concrete and brick foundations, 8017, 8018 and 8037, recorded within Trench 8 appear to form part of the foundation for the northern most school building, recorded on the OS map of 1954 (*ibid*, Fig 13).

Other drains and services identified may relate to these buildings, which were demolished in the last decade, or the extant school buildings which lie to the northeast.

6. **Publication summary**

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An archaeological watching brief and evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Jacobs UK Ltd at Bushbury Hill Primary School, Old Fallings Lane, Bushbury, Wolverhampton (NGR: SJ 9268 0213).

A number of sandstone walls were identified with associated flagstone and brick floors, brick and slate lined drains. The structures discovered form part of a substantial building, located to the north of and on the same alignment as Bushbury Hill House. They appear to form part of the northeast corner of the buildings which contained the farm yard and are recorded on cartographic sources. The most substantial building, of ashlar sandstone blocks, has foundations over 1m deep and walls 0.50m wide, indicating that it may well have been two storeys in height. Material within the made ground butting the walls is of 18th and 19th century date. It is therefore conjectured that the majority of the buildings date from the 18th century, probably c 1780 when Bushbury Hill House itself was built although the scale of the ashlar wall might suggest an earlier date for this building.

One of the drains comprised early/mid 18th century bricks, however all of the drainage is considered to be later and date from the 19th century, the bricks having been reused from elsewhere.

Although the walls recorded within the previous phase of evaluation are of similar dimensions to those recorded in this phase of works, they are in fact on a slightly different orientation. They are also constructed of different material; those in the initial works were of red sandstone compared with the use only of yellow sandstone of those recorded during this phase. The structures are therefore considered to relate to different buildings entirely, the red sandstone buildings predating those identified during this phase of works.

The cellars below Bushbury Hill House were found to survive from c 0.20m below the current ground surface. They were constructed of hand made red bricks throughout, with arch ceilings and appeared to be of a single phase of construction. They comprised four compartments accessed via a central corridor with an extant staircase. Features included an ancillary spiral staircase, light wells with sandstone mullioned windows, a coal chute, bases for three chimney stacks in the external walls and brick storage benches.

The site had been subject to landscaping, most extensively during demolition of the house and farm buildings in 1948 and the subsequent construction of school buildings within the north quarter in the early 1950s.

7. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Peng Seong Beh (Property Services, Wolverhampton City Council), David Warren (Jacobs UK Ltd), Forkers Civil Engineering and Mike Shaw (Black Country Archaeologist, Wolverhampton City Council).

8. Personnel

The fieldwork was led by Darren Miller. Report preparation was undertaken by Tom Vaughan and Graham Arnold. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan. Fieldwork was undertaken by Darren Miller, assisted by Tim Cornah and Tegan Cole, finds analysis by Dennis Williams and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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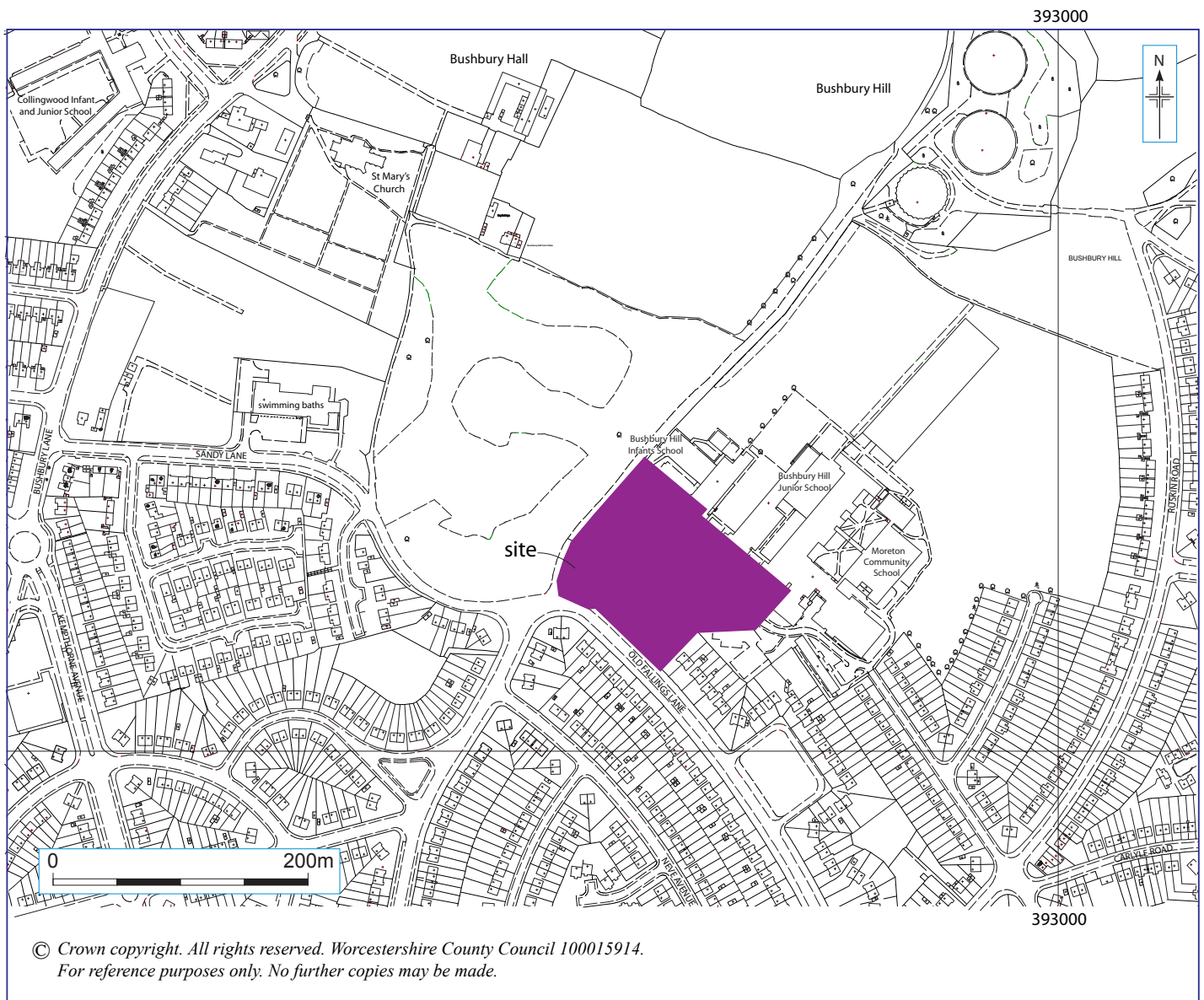
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Figures



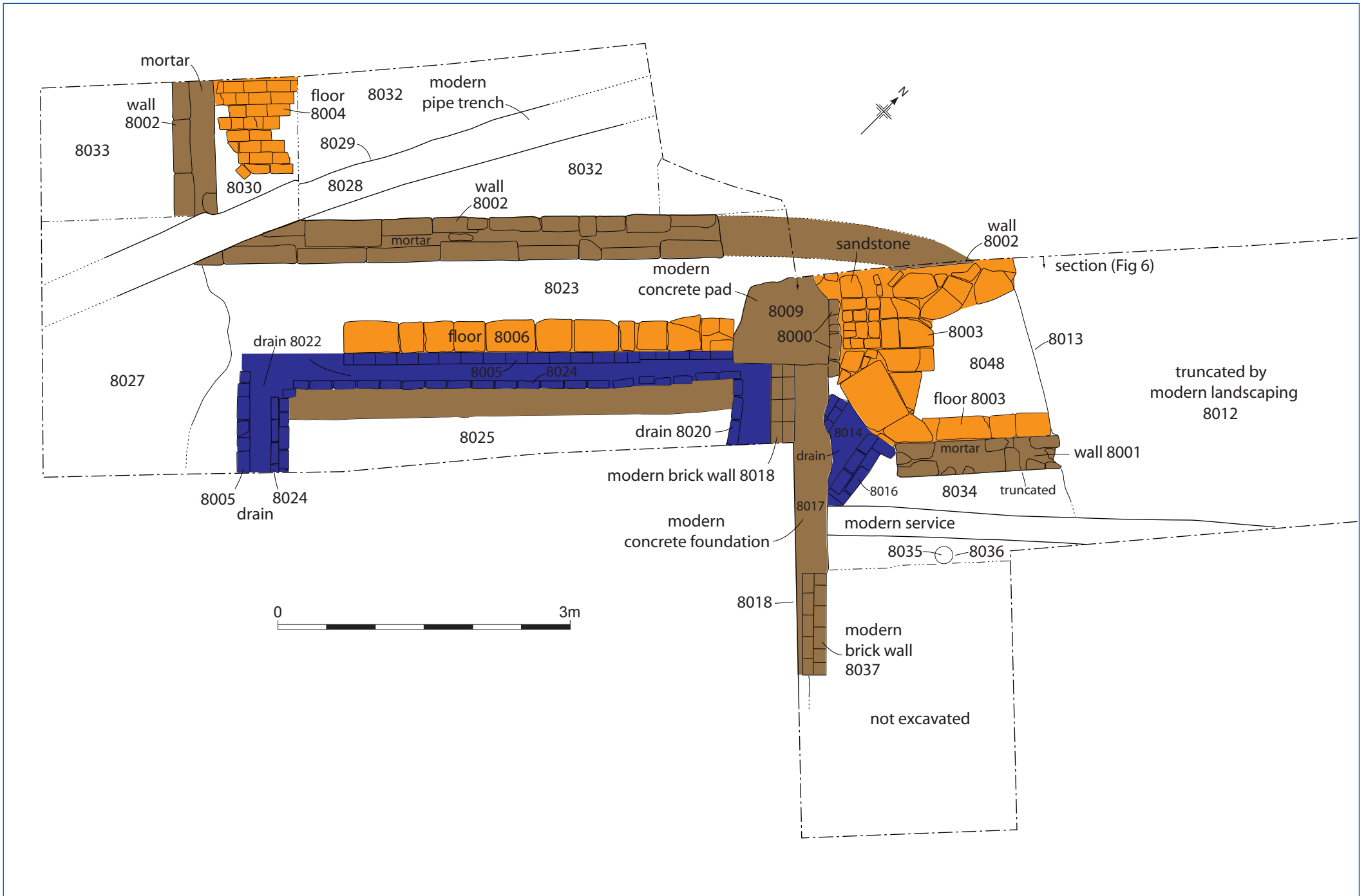
Location of the site

Figure 1



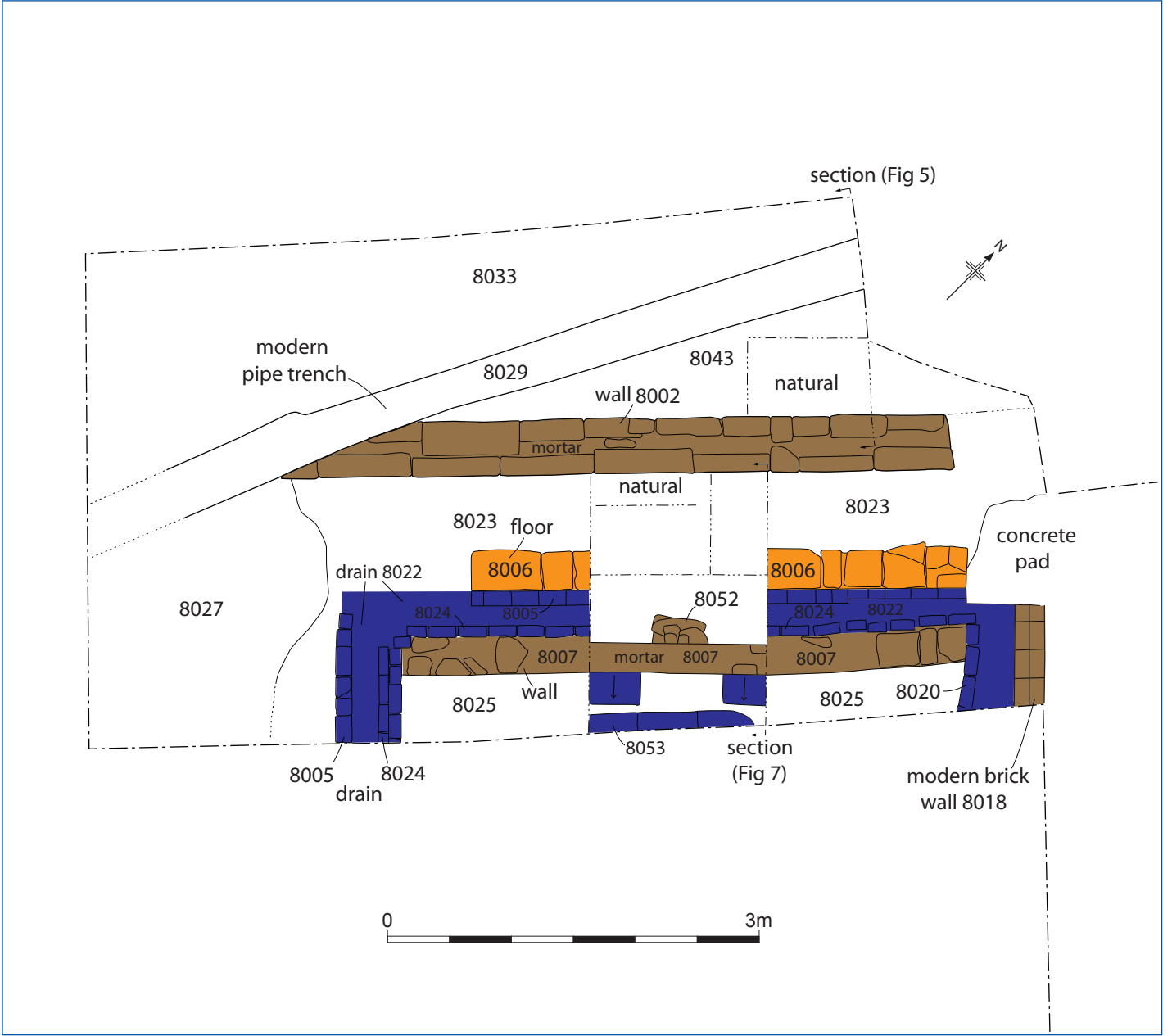
Trench location plan (based upon Jacobs Dwg No BU 10001T_Bush_Topo_2D)

Figure 2



Plan of Trench 8

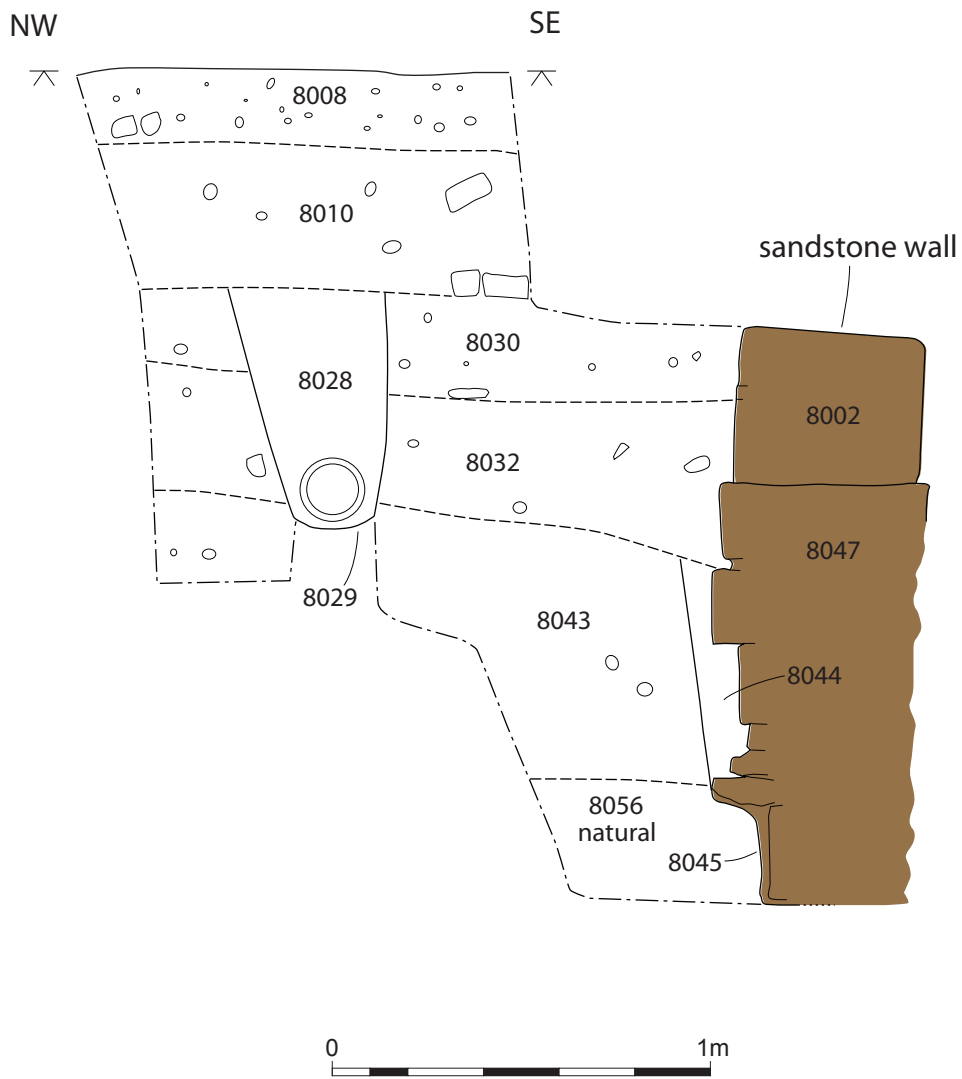
Figure 3



Plan of Trench 8: overlay to Figure 3

Figure 4

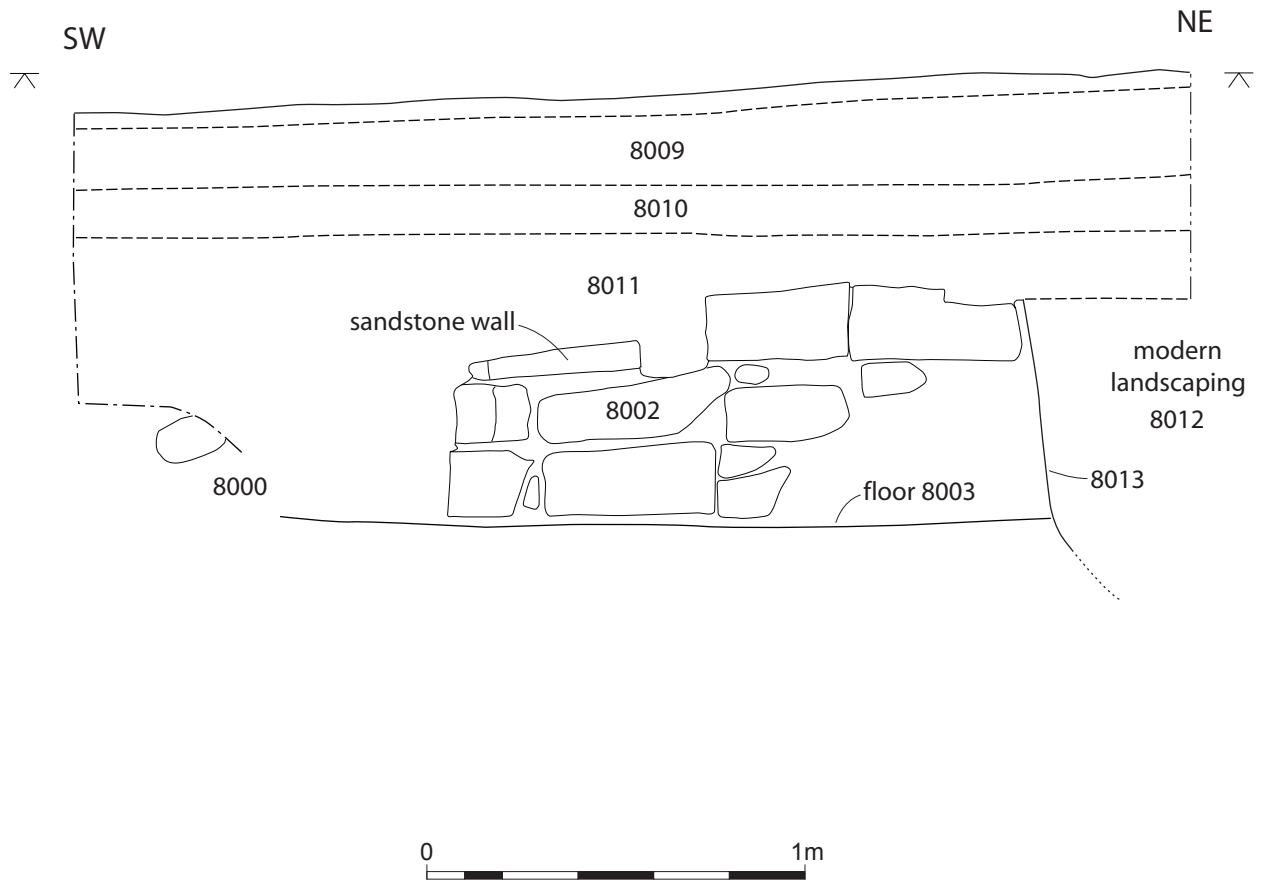
TRENCH 8 SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION



Trench 8: South-west facing section (see Fig 4 for location)

Figure 5

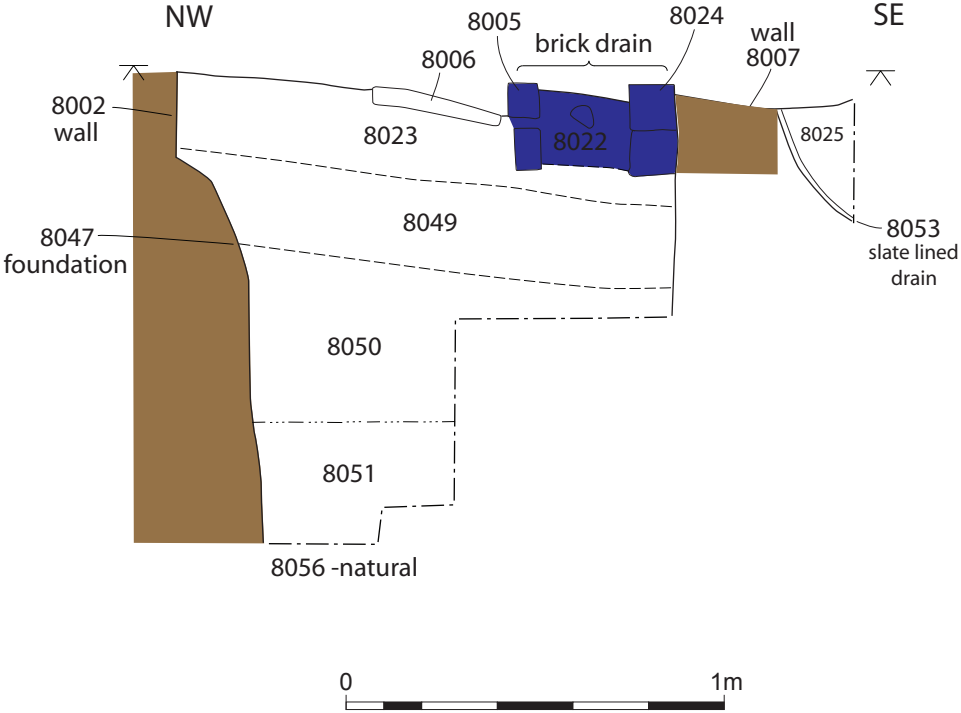
TRENCH 8 SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION



Trench 8: South-East facing section (see Fig 3 for location)

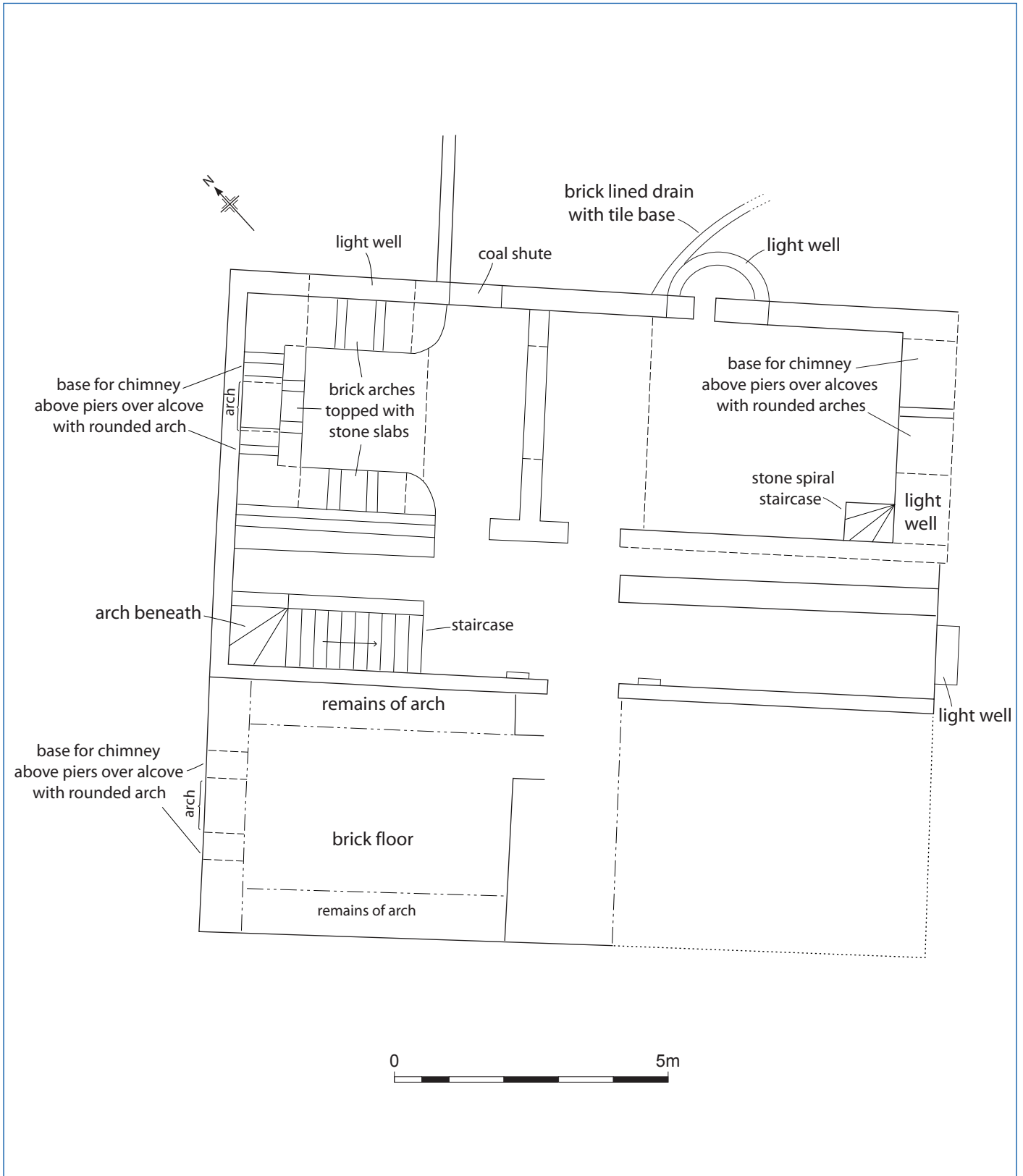
Figure 6

SOUTH-WEST FACING SECTION



Trench 8: South-west facing section (see Fig 4 for location)

Figure 7



Plan of Trench 10: Bushbury Hill House cellar

Figure 8

Plates



Plate 1, Trench 8, general view northeast



Plate 2, Trench 8, general view southwest



Plate 3, Trench 8, general view southwest of wall 8002 and floor 8004



Plate 4, Trench 8, view southwest of wall 8004 and floor 8004, truncated by modern service pipe



Plate 5, Trench 8, view northeast of deposits to northwest of wall 800s (Fig 5)



Plate 6, Trench 8, view northwest of foundation 8047 and wall 8002 in sondage



Plate 7, Trench 8, view northwest of wall 8002 and floor 8003 to northeast end of trench



Plate 8, Trench 8, view southwest of floor 8003 with wall 8001 to southeast and 8002 to northwest



Plate 9, Trench 8, view southwest of wall 8000 truncated by concrete base 8017



Plate 10, Trench 8, view south of brick drain 8015 adjacent to floor 8003, truncated by concrete base 8017



Plate 11, Trench 8, view northeast of section through floor 8006, brick drain 8005/8024, wall 8007 and slate lined drain 8053



Plate 12, Trench 8, view southeast of masonry pile foundation 8052 below wall 8007 in sondage



Plate 13, Trench 8, view southwest of brick 8037 and concrete foundation 8017 below brick wall 8018



Plate 14, Trench 9, general view northeast



Plate 15, Trench 9, view southeast of natural matrix 9005 and manhole 9006



Plate 16, Trench 10, general view east of work in progress



Plate 17, Trench 10, general view northwest of northeast compartments



Plate 18, Trench 10, general view west of chimney base and storage benches in north compartment



Plate 19, Trench 10, view northeast of light-well and coal shute in north compartment



Plate 20, Trench 10, view southwest of storage benches with brick arches below and doorway to corridor



Plate 21, Trench 10, view southwest of east compartment with spiral staircase in south corner



Plate 22, Trench 10, detail of stone spiral staircase in south corner of east compartment, view south



Plate 23, Trench 10, general view southeast of northeast compartments



Plate 24, Trench 10, general view south of cellar corridor



Plate 25, Trench 10, view southwest of staircase at northeast end of cellar corridor



Plate 26, Trench 10, view southeast of window to light-well at southeast end of cellar corridor



Plate 27, Trench 10, general view east of southwest compartments



Plate 28, Trench 10, general view north of west compartment with chimney base and alcove



Plate 29, Trench 10, light-well to northeast of cellars, view southwest

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trenches 1-7 were excavated and reported on during the initial evaluation (Webster 2009)

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 15m Width: 6m Depth: 2.2m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
8000	Wall	Roughly hewn sandstone wall, orientated southeast-northwest, relates to 8001, Southwest wall of room adjoining building 8002. Below 8003. Same as 8001?	0.90-1.08m
8001	Wall	Squared sandstone wall 1.70m x 0.38m x 0.36m. Orientated northeast-southwest. East wall of room adjoining building 8002. Below 8003. Same as 8000? Truncated by 8013 and 8015.	0.75-1.01m
8002	Wall	Ashlar sandstone walled building < 600m x 0.47m x 0.57m with 2 courses surviving, founded on 8047. Below 8032 and 8023	0.54-1.11m
8003	Floor surface	Flagstone and brick floor, with flagstones up to 0.55m x 0.50m x 0.14m. Half bricks 2 ¾ " wide. No bonding. Below 8013 and 8016. Above 8000, 8001 and 8046	0.96-1.10m
8004	Floor surface	Brick floor 4.20m x 1.05m x 0.05m of handmade, unfrogged bricks (9" x 4½" x 2½"). No bonding. On compacted surface 8030, truncated by 20 th century service trench 8029 Overlies 8030.	0.60-0.65m
8005	Drain	Brick lined drain. Two courses of handmade, unfrogged bricks (9½" x 4½" x 3¼") laid on edge, bonded with brown sandy lime mortar. 0.10m in width. Same as 8020/8024. Overlies 8049. Contains 8022 and below 8023.	0.55-0.80m
8006	Floor surface	Stone slab floor, no bonding. Largest slab 0.56m x 0.33m x 0.04m, smallest slab 0.16m x 0.30m x 0.04m. Overlies 8024. Below 8026.	0.64-0.68m
8007	Wall	Sandstone wall 2.10m x 0.31m x 0.22m aligned NE-SW with roughly hewn sandstone blocks 0.30m x 0.26m x 0.07m and bonded by a light yellow sand mortar. Same as 8046. Overlies 8052.	0.58-0.80m
8008	Topsoil	Friable, turfed mid-pinkish brown silty clay with frequent root action and worm sorting. Occasional small rounded stone. Overlies 8009.	0.00-0.05m
8009	Made ground / subsoil	Friable, mid-reddish brown silty sand with abundant small gravels. Sealed by 8008. Overlies 8010.	0.05-0.24m
8010	Made ground.	Friable, compacted mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional brick fragments. Below 8009. Overlies 8011.	0.24-0.39m
8011	Levelling deposit	3m in length in E section. Fairly compact brown and black sandy silt with frequent ceramic building material, glass and pebbles. Overlies wall 8007/8046. Below 8010.	0.39-1.14m
8012	Fill	Fill of modern landscaping cut <4.0m in length and 0.80m in depth. Fairly compact amorphous, grey, brown and black sandy silt with abundant inclusions of CBM and glass. Below 8011. Overlies 8013.	0.60-1.40m
8013	Cut	Cut for modern landscaping < 4.0m in length and 0.80m in depth. Filled by	0.60-1.40m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		8012. Below 8011. Truncates 8001, 8002, 8003, 8034 and 8048.	
8014	Fill	Fill of drain 8015. Mixed coal, charcoal, ash and CBM. Truncated by 8017.	0.64-1.12m
8015	Drain	Brick drain on a N-S alignment, Truncated by concrete pad 8017. Filled by 8014. Within cut 8016.	1-1.10m
8016	Cut	Cut for drain 8015. 0.95m x 1.05m x 0.60m with sharp vertical sides, aligned N-S. Truncates 8001.	0.64-1.24m
8017	Structure	Modern concrete pad 2.21m x 0.97m x 0.34m. Within 8019. Truncates 8000, 8005/8024, 8006, 8014 and 8015. Incorporates 8037. Foundation for 8018. Below 8026.	0.30-0.64m
8018	Wall	20 th century brick wall with cement bonding on top of concrete pad 8017. Below 8026.	0.54-0.72m
8019	Cut	Construction cut for 8017, concrete pad 1m x 0.90m – not excavated. Truncates 8000, 8005/8020/8024, 8006, 8014 and 8015.	0.50m+
8020	Wall	Rough wall, forming part of drain 0.70m x 0.12m x 0.18m. Same as 8005/8024. Below 8021.	0.54-0.72m
8021	Fill	Loose greyish brown sandy silt with frequent CBM and glass. Not excavated. Between walls 8018 and 8020. Below 8026. Modern.	0.60m+
8022	Fill	Fill of drain 8005/8020/8024. Loose mixed black and dark reddish brown silty sand and gravels with frequent post-medieval and modern CBM inclusions. Below 8026. Overlies 8023. Fill of drain 8005/8020/8024.	0.55-0.75m
8023	Made ground	Dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal, CBM and small rounded pebbles. Same as 8025 and 8048? Overlies 8049. Below floor 8006 and drain 8005/8020/8024.	0.52-0.90m
8024	Drain	Brick lined drain. Two courses of handmade, unfrosted bricks (9½" x 4½" x 3¼") laid on edge, bonded with brown sandy lime mortar. 0.10m in width. Same as 8005/8020. Contains 8022. Below 8026.	0.54-0.79m
8025	Made ground	Mid-reddish grey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal, CBM and small rounded pebbles. Same as 8023. Below 8026. Overlies/fill of 8053.	0.60-0.90m
8026	Made ground	Mid greyish brown silty clay, abundant CBM. Overlies 8025. Sealed by 8008.	0.05-0.55m
8027	Made ground	In SE end of Trench – Friable light yellowish brown sand, abundant sandstone and brick fragments. 1.92m x 1.12m x 0.60m. Below 8026.	0.55m+
8028	Fill	Fill of modern pipe trench 8029. Grey brown sandy silt, frequent CBM, coal and rounded pebbles. < 7m x 0.60m x 0.90m. Below 8010.	0.39-1.29m
8029	Cut	Modern pipe trench cut aligned N-S. < 7m x 0.60m x 0.90m Filled by 8028. Truncates 8002, 8004, 8027, 8030, 8032 and 8043. Sealed by 8010.	0.39-1.29m
8030	Made ground	Compact grey brown sandy silt with frequent rounded stones. 3.20m x 1.60m x 0.16m. Overlies 8031. Below 8004. Truncated by 8029.	0.60-0.84m
8031	Made ground	Friable broken red brick and occasional mortar. 3.20m x 1.60m x 0.20m. Below 8030. Overlies 8032.	0.75-0.95m
8032	Made ground	Compact yellowish mottled grey silty and sandy clay, frequent rounded stones. Below 8031. Overlies 8042/8043 and 8044. Truncated by 8029. Butts	0.86-1.15m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		8002/8047.	
8033	Made ground	Compact light reddish brown silty sand, frequent gravels. Below 8032.	1.10m+
8034	Made ground	Compact orangey brown sandy silt, moderate CBM, coal and small rounded stones. Below 8036. Overlies 8001.	1.10m+
8035	Fill	Fill of possible post-hole 8036. Fairly compact greyish brown sandy silt, moderate charcoal and small rounded pebbles. Below 8010.	1.10m+
8036	Cut	Possible circular posthole 0.25m in diameter. Not excavated. Cut through 8034.	1.10m+
8037	Wall	20 th century brick wall with a light yellow sandy mortar aligned E-W, 1.36m x 0.24m x 0.75m. Incorporated within 8017. Within 8038. Below 8016.	0.30-1.05m
8038	Cut	Construction cut for wall 8037 < 1.36m x < 0.24m x 0.75m.	0.30-1.05m
8039	Redeposited subsoil	Mid-reddish brown silty sand with common small gravels. Below 8010. Overlies 8040.	0.39-0.69m
8040	Buried soil	Soft mid greyish brown silty loam occasional gravels. Below 8039. Overlies 8041.	0.69-0.81m
8041	Buried soil	Soft mid-reddish brown fine sandy silt, occasional small gravels. Below 8041.	0.81-1.00m
8042	Made ground	Friable reddish brown sandy silt, frequent rounded pebbles. 3.20m x 1.60m x 0.56m. Same as 8043. Below 8030. Overlies natural 8056.	1.15-1.85m
8043	Made ground	Same as 8042.	1.15-1.85m
8044	Fill	Fill of construction cut 8045 for wall 8002. Fairly soft reddish grey brown sandy silt, occasional rounded small rounded pebbles.	1.50-2.50m
8045	Construction Cut	Linear cut with vertical sides and a flat base, 0.15m wide x 0.90m deep. Filled by 8002 and 8044. Truncates 8043 and natural 8056. Below 8032.	1.50-2.50m
8046	Wall	Sandstone wall on top of 8052 Masonry pile. Sandstone wall 2.10m x 0.31m x 0.22m aligned NE-SW with roughly hewn sandstone blocks 0.30m x 0.26m x 0.07m and bonded by a light yellow sand mortar. Same as 8007.	0.58- 0.80m
8047	Foundation	Offset sandstone foundation courses of wall 8002; c 0.80m in width and 0.97m in height. No bonding. Butted by 8032, 8049, 8050 and 8051. Truncates natural 8056.	1.50-2.5m
8048	Levelling deposit	Loose brown and black silt with heavy coal inclusions and frequent CBM. 1.70m x 1.80m x 0.10m. Below flagstone surface 8006. Same as 8023? Overlies natural 8056.	1.24-1.34m
8049	Made ground	Friable mid-greyish, red, brown silty sand, occasional rounded pebbles. Below 8023. Overlies 8050. Butts foundation 8047.	0.70-1.10m
8050	Made ground	Friable mid reddish, grey brown slightly clayey, silty sand, occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks. Below 8049 and 8055. Overlies 8051. Butts 8047.	1-1.43m
8051	Made ground	Friable mid reddish brown clayey, silty sand, occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded pebbles. Below 8051. Overlies natural 8056. Butts 8047.	1.43-1.75m
8052	Foundation	Random coarse sandstone blocks 0.40m x 0.17m x 0.16m bonded with light yellow sand. 0.40m in width and 0.50m in height. Beneath wall 8007/8046. Cut through 8054.	0.80-1.30m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
8053	Drain	Slate-lined drain, aligned NE-SW alongside wall 8007/8046. Slates are 0.47m x 0.14m and randomly placed. Exposed drain 1.50m x 0.39m x 0.31m. Below/filled by 8025.	0.59-0.90m
8054	Fill	Soft mid-brown silt, occasional coal fragments. 0.15m wide. Fill of cut 8055 for foundation 8052. Not excavated.	1.30m+
8055	Cut	Construction cut for foundation 8052. 0.15m wide. Filled by 8054. Unexcavated. Truncates 8050. Sealed by 8049.	1.30m+
8056	Natural	Mid reddish brown clay and gravels.	c 1.26m+

Trench 9

Maximum dimensions: Length: 9.70m Width: 1.50m Depth: 1.10m

Orientation: NE - SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
9001	Topsoil	Compact greyish brown sandy silt with frequent root action and worm sorting. Very frequent inclusions of small rounded stone.	0.00-0.20m
9002	Levelling	Fairly compact greyish brown sandy silt, moderate inclusions of small rounded stones and brick fragments.	0.20-0.45m
9003	Levelling	Fairly compact dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small rounded stones, brick fragments and charcoal.	0.45-0.60m
9004	Levelling	Compact pinkish brown sandy silt.	0.60-1.10m
9005	Natural	Mid reddish brown sand and gravel.	0.60m+
9006	Drain	Brick Built Manhole Structure – modern drain at SW of trench.	0.60-1.10m
9007	Cut	Construction cut for manhole – modern.	0.60-1.10m
9008	Drain	Fill of modern drain pipe to manhole 9006. Not excavated.	1.10m+
9009	Cut	Construction cut for drain 9008. Not excavated.	1.10m+

Trench 10

Trench 10 was only recorded with plans and photographs (Fig 8; Plates 5-18). No context records were made.

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

155	Context records AS1
5	Fieldwork progress records AS2
1	Photographic records AS3
117	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
1	Context number catalogues AS5
1	Trench record sheets AS41
11	Scale drawings
1	Box of finds
1	Computer disc

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Wolverhampton Arts and Museum Service
Wolverhampton City Council
Wolverhampton Art Gallery
Lichfield Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1DU
Tel. Wolverhampton (01902) 552055
