

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION  
AT  
ALICE OTTLEY SCHOOL, UPPER  
TYTHING, WORCESTER

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Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

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# Contents

<b>Part 1 Project summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Part 2 Detailed report</b>	
<b>1. Background</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1 Reasons for the project	2
1.2 Project parameters	2
1.3 Aims	2
<b>2. Methods</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Documentary search	2
2.2 Fieldwork	3
2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy	3
2.2.2 Structural analysis	4
2.3 Artefacts	4
2.3.1 Artefact recovery policy	4
2.3.2 Method of analysis	4
2.4 Environment	4
2.4.1 Sampling policy	4
2.4.2 Method of analysis	4
2.5 The methods in retrospect	4
<b>3. Topographical and archaeological context</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. Description</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1 Artefactual Analysis	6
4.2 Environmental	8
4.3 Phase 1 Natural deposits	8
4.4 Phase 2 Post-medieval/modern deposits	8
<b>5. Discussion</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6. Publication summary</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>7. The archive</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>8. Acknowledgements</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>9. Personnel</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>10. Bibliography</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>11. Abbreviations</b>	<b>12</b>

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# **Archaeological evaluation at Alice Ottley School, Upper Tything, Worcester**

**Tom Vaughan**

## **Part 1 Project summary**

An archaeological type of project was undertaken at Alice Ottley School, Upper Tything (National Grid reference SO 8478 5574). It was undertaken on behalf of the school, who intends to demolish existing buildings and construct a new teaching block for which a planning application has been submitted. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological remains were present and if so to identify the location, date and nature.

No features, horizons or structures pre-dating the post-medieval period were identified within the two evaluation trenches. A single residual Roman sherd and a medieval roof-tile were recovered in association with post-medieval and modern material. A small number of post-medieval and modern features and layers were observed. Dump deposits containing building debris lay directly over the natural matrix of river terrace sand and gravel, indicating that earlier horizons had been scoured off prior to their deposition. They are considered to be associated with construction and development of the site from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

A ENE/WSW ditch was recorded, on the south-east side of the site. It may represent the southern boundary of the medieval White Ladies Priory which lay to the north, although it had clearly been scoured out and repeatedly recut before it was finally backfilled in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Part 2 Detailed report

### 1. Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Alice Ottley School, Upper Tything, Worcester (SO 8478 5574), on behalf of the school. They intend to demolish existing buildings and erect a new arts and drama teaching block and has submitted a planning application to Worcester City Council (no reference), who consider that a site of archaeological interest may be affected (WCM 93509 and 96059).

#### 1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999).

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Worcester City Museum Archaeology Section (WCM 2003) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2003).

#### 1.3 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, 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.

More specifically the following research aims have been identified:

- the presence of Roman buildings, industry or other remains.
- the extent and character of medieval buildings, cemeteries or other activity associated with Whiteladies priory.
- the survival of 16<sup>th</sup> century tiling.
- the character of other post-dissolution activity

### 2. Methods

#### 2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). In addition the following sources were also consulted:

##### *Cartographic sources*

- Worcester. Speed 1610. BL King's Maps C7 C550: WCRO 4885/VI 899x426
- An exact ground plot of the City of Worcester as it stood fortified 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1651. Anon 1660. BL Kings Maps XLII

- 
- Plan of Worcester City, Doharty 1742
  - Plan of the City and Suburbs of Worcester from Actual Survey 1779, George Young
  - Plan of the City and Suburbs of Worcester, Valentine Green 1795
  - Plan of the City and Suburbs of Worcester, Nash 1781/1799
  - Map of Worcester, Eaton 1810
  - Plan of White Ladies Estate, 1826, CRO b261.5 BA 3617/6
  - A Plan of The City and Environs of Worcester, T. Eaton 1829, from “A History of Worcester”
  - A Map of the City and Suburbs of Worcester, Crisp 1832
  - A Map of the City and Suburbs of Worcester, Clements 1835
  - Plan of Worcester. Bentley 1840
  - 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, 1886, scale 1:500, sheet XXXIII.3.20
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, 1905, scale 1mile:6”, sheet XXXIX NE
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 1930, scale 1mile:6”, sheet XXXIX NE
  - Provisional edition Ordnance Survey, 1938, scale 1mile:6”, sheet XXXIX NE

*Documentary sources*

- County histories (VCH II).
- Site archives (Edwards 1992; Goad and Darch 2003).

## 2.2 **Fieldwork**

### 2.2.1 **Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2004).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2004.

Two trenches, amounting to approximately 26.75m<sup>2</sup> in area, were excavated over the site area of approximately 575m<sup>2</sup>, representing a sample of 4.65%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected 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). Mention any variation from standard practice. On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

### 2.2.2 **Structural analysis**

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

## 2.3 **Artefacts**

### 2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2). This in principal determines that all finds, of whatever date, must be collected. However, in this case only a sample of later material was collected from the spoil during machining. These comprised the majority of the finds recovered from the site. All artefacts were recovered from stratified deposits or were unstratified and recovered during machining.

### 2.3.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand retrieved finds were examined. A primary record was made of all finds on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. Artefacts were identified, quantified and dated. Where possible, *terminus post quem* dates have been allocated based on the evidence recorded and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

Pottery 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).

## 2.4 **Environment**

### 2.4.1 **Sampling policy**

The environmental sampling policy was as defined in the County Archaeological Service Recording System (1995 as amended). Large animal bone was hand-collected during excavation from two contexts of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century date.

### 2.4.2 **Method of analysis**

Animal bones were identified with the aid of modern reference collections housed by the County Historic Environment and Archaeology Service. However, as these are modern in date, only brief comments were made.

## 2.5 **The methods in retrospect**

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

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### 3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

The development site is located in the north-west corner of the Alice Ottley School grounds, off the Upper Tything, approximately 1km north of Worcester city centre (Fig 1). The area is presently occupied by a single storey classroom, with an associated paved area and gardens consisting of a lawn, trees and flowerbeds. It is largely flat, at a height of approximately 21.50m AOD. The River Severn lies to the west, with tributaries the Barbourne Brook, to the north, and the canalised Frog Brook to the east. The site is bounded by school buildings on all sides except the north, which is a separate property occupied by Pullinger House.

The city of Worcester lies in the valley of the River Severn. The predominant soil series is unknown as the site lies in an unsurveyed urban area (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1986). However at Pitchcroft, 0.5km to the west, the soils are of the Arrow Soil Series (aO) comprising gleyic coarse loamy brown earths over fluvio-glacial; while on Merrimans Hill, 0.6km to the north-east, they are of the Worcester series (Wf) of typical argillic clayey pelosols, and the Whimple series (wM) of stagnogleyic argillic brown earths – fine loamy or fine silty over clayey, drift - both over reddish Triassic mudstone or clay shale (Keuper Marl) (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1982). Geologically the site rests on the Second Worcester Terrace comprising sands and gravels (Barker 1968-9, 10; British Geological Survey 1993).

Archaeological evidence indicates that there has been settlement within Worcester from as early as the Iron Age (Barker 1968-9, 14, 44-51). However it is unclear what form the earliest occupation comprised. In the Roman period it became a town, possibly known as *Vertis*, with roads connecting it with other settlements such as those at Alcester, Droitwich (*Salinae*), and Gloucester (*Glevvm*) (Barker 1968-9, 15-9). The Roman town was centred on the cathedral precinct to the south of the study area, although activity from the period has been identified close by, to the west of the Tything and Upper Tything. Finds indicate that the settlement was particularly important for the smelting of iron. Stray Roman coins are reported to have been found at White Ladies adjacent in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (WSM 07300).

In the medieval period Worcester was a walled town. The present site lies to the north of the walled historic core, but is within a suburb that developed in the late 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century.

Whiteladies Priory at Whitstones, also known as the house of St Mary Magdalene, lies to the north of the site, in the grounds of the present Royal Grammar School (WCM 98016; WSM 00526). It was founded by Bishop Walter de Cantelupe before 1255 for the order who maintained it down to the dissolution by 1538. It was then given over to Richard Callowhill and the majority of the buildings, excluding the chapel, were demolished. The exact layout of the priory precinct is unknown, although the chapel lies 50m north of the present site. Burials have been identified to the north of the chapel. Thus the cloisters and claustral ranges are conjectured to lie to the south, and may extend into the study area. In the post-medieval period the priory became Whitstone Farm and the Royal Grammar School was established in the 1860's. As an aside, the Black Pear used on the city's coat of arms is reputed to have come from the priory and Elizabeth I is said to have stopped there during her visit to the city in 1575 (VCH II, 154-6; Pevsner 1968, 325; Hughes 1980, 276-7; Goodrich 1994).

St Oswald's Almshouses lie to the south of the site (WCM 96012; WSM 00529). It was established as a hospital, probably in late 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century, although the earliest records date from 1268. From the 14<sup>th</sup> century it was used for monks infected with leprosy and the associated graveyard was for criminals and strangers. In c 1539 it was saved from destruction by its Master, Nicholas Udall, who leased it out, with the consent of the Prior of the Monastery and the Bishop of Worcester. However the property suffered severe neglect in the immediate post-dissolution period due to the actions of a number of successive tenants. It was extensively renovated prior to the Civil War when it was badly damaged. Subsequent renovation is thought to have been very sympathetically carried out, although the buildings

were remodelled in the Victorian period by H. Rowe (VCH II, 177-9; Pevsner 1968, 334; Hughes 1980, 274-6).

A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken at St Oswald's. A medieval stone wall was recorded in 1990-1 and thought to be substantial enough to have supported a large building, possibly the church associated with the hospital. The excavations also revealed a large amount of demolition debris from the medieval period, along with medieval and post-medieval burials (WSM 09931; Edwards 1992).

The earliest cartographic sources focus on the centre of the city and do not include the suburbs, or are at too large a scale to be of use. Young's map of 1779 and Green's of 1795 are the first detailed maps to include the present site (Figs 3 and 4). They indicate orchards or formal gardens with a number of structures toward the west side, plus one on the frontage in the north-west corner, adjacent to the planned development. The 1826 plan of White Ladies Estate depicts little detail of the study area although is of interest as it includes plot divisions and the names of the then owners (Fig 5). A Miss Jones owned the thin strip along the north side which included the L-shaped building in the north-west corner, while W. Shaw esq. owned the land to the south, immediately north of St Oswald's burial ground. The 1886 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map reveals a new square building in the north-west corner of the site, possibly built when the school was established in 1883, originally as 'The Worcester High School for Girls' (Fig 6). By 1905 the OS notes the construction of the main school building recessed back from the Tything frontage and a further building off the frontage adjacent to the earlier structure in the north-west corner (Fig 7). In 1914 the school was renamed after its first Headmistress, Miss Alice Ottley ([www.thealiceottleyschool.co.uk](http://www.thealiceottleyschool.co.uk)). Since WWII the main building has been radically extended, while more recently two parallel single storey classrooms have been erected within the development area. There do not appear to have ever been any buildings within the location of the trenches.

Two minor archaeological investigations have previously been undertaken within the school grounds. In 1989 four trenches were archaeologically monitored (WCM 100434). Their exact location is unclear, but they revealed only post-medieval debris within late soils. A trial trench evaluation in 2003, 75m to the south-east of the present site, revealed a potential Roman ploughsoil at 21.15m AOD, directly over natural sand with pebbles at 20.80m AOD (WCM 101137; Goad and Darch 2003).

#### 4. **Description**

A summary of the artefacts recovered can be seen in Table 01. The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figs 2, 10 and 11.

##### 4.1 **Artefactual Analysis**

The assemblage retrieved from the excavated area came from twelve stratified contexts and the surface of two trenches. The group ranged from the Roman to modern periods, with the earliest material dating to the mid 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> century. The level of preservation was generally good with only the Roman pottery exhibiting a high degree of abrasion.

Pottery formed 15.5% of the assemblage. Sherds were identified and grouped by fabric (see Table 2). The majority of sherds were undiagnostic but could be dated to between the mid 1<sup>st</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> centuries on the basis of fabric type. The earliest pottery consisted of a single sherd of Severn Valley ware (fabric 12; [102]).

Ceramic building material was the largest group accounting for 71.8% of the assemblage. All was of late medieval to modern date. Identifiable fragments comprised flat roof tile from [104, 105, 108, 208, 210, 216, 223 and 224], a fragment of Malvernian ridge tile (fabric 3) from [223], several fragments of brick from [103, 104, 105, 108, 204,208, 218, 223 and 224] and a complete brick from [204].



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Other finds consisted of three clay pipe stem fragments (one unstratified and one each from context 208 and 216), shards of modern glass (two unstratified and three from [224]) and a piece of unstratified blast furnace slag.

#### *Roman*

A single sherd of Roman Severn Valley ware pottery (fabric 12) was recovered from [102] and dated to between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was the only Roman material recovered during the evaluation and was undiagnostic due to its small size and heavily abraded condition.

#### *Medieval*

A single residual piece of medieval Malvernian ridge tile (fabric 3) was recovered from [223]. Other finds within this context consisted of modern tile and brick fragments identifying [223] by *terminus post quem* as a modern deposit.

#### *Post medieval*

Eight sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered on site. Of these seven were from unstratified context and identified as individual sherds of post-medieval buff ware (fabric 91), creamware (fabric 84) and five pieces of tin glazed ware from a single form (fabric 82). Only the tin glazed ware was diagnostic and identified as originating from a domestic bowl. The creamware (fabric 84) could be more precisely dated due to its short period of manufacture of between 1760-80.

Two contexts [216] and [208] were identified by *terminus post quem* as being of probable late post-medieval date. A single sherd of post medieval buff ware (fabric 91) was recovered within [216] but was undiagnostic. Other finds within this context were a fragment of clay pipe stem and three fragments of roof tile all datable by type to 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century manufacture. [208] contained a large brick fragment 50mm thick placing it around the 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century and a clay pipe stem of similar post-medieval date, although the context also contained modern material.

The remaining material attributed to this period consisted of a single fragment of unstratified clay pipe stem.

#### *Modern*

Five stratified contexts from the site were identified as modern; containing finds dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century. These contexts [104,103, 105, 108, 204, 208, 210, 218, 223 and 224] all contained fragments of common building material datable to the modern period. [103, 204 and 218] also contained brick material of 3" thickness that would post-date these finds to the introduction of the brick tax of 1784. Glass bottle shards datable to the 19<sup>th</sup> century were also recovered within [224].

The remainder of the modern assemblage was of unstratified material and consisted of a single piece of blast furnace slag, two shards of bottle glass and two sherds of pottery. The pottery was identified as porcelain fragments (fabric 83) from a dinner or tea service plate.

Material	Total	Weight (gm)
Modern brick	11	8858
Modern brick/tile	27	1496
Vessel glass	5	54
Clay pipe stems	3	7
Modern pottery	2	15
Post-medieval pottery	8	28
Roman pottery	1	2
Blast furnace slag	1	85
Post-medieval roof tile	6	300
Medieval ridge tile	1	52
Modern roof tile	6	997

**Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage**

Fabric Number	Context	Total	Weight (gm)
12	102	1	2
82		5	11
83		2	15
84		1	4
91		1	11
91	216	1	2

**Table 2: Quantification of pottery fabrics by context**

#### 4.2 Environmental

A total of 4.778kg (125 frags) were hand-collected from [105] and [224].

In [105], well-preserved, complete or almost complete horse lower mandibles, loose teeth (canines and molars), femur, tibia, metatarsal, radius, calcaneus and phalange bones, were recovered. No butchery marks were noted. Domestic cattle bones, included several phalanges (toe bones), were also well-preserved and did not appear to be butchered. These bones are likely to have been rapidly deposited and sealed, and are unlikely to derive from general background waste re-deposited from other areas of the site. It is uncertain from what process these derive, as there was no direct evidence for primary butchery or specialist industrial or craft waste. A sheep or goat lower mandible and loose molars were also recovered from context 224. Although phalange bones can indicate tanning or horncore waste, the assemblage was not particularly dominated by these bones.

#### 4.3 Phase 1 Natural deposits

The natural matrix comprised river terrace deposits with varying proportions of sand and gravel [109] and [202].

#### 4.4 Phase 2 Post-medieval/modern deposits

No features were identified within Trench 1. The stratigraphy consisted of a sequence of dump deposits and thin two soil horizons. The dumped layers contained varying proportions of post-medieval demolition debris, silty sand and gravel. One soil horizon [102] lay toward the top of the sequence and represented the modern topsoil. The lower, [107], a very thin discrete band, lay toward the base of the trench, over the deepest of the dump deposits [108].

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A late 20<sup>th</sup> C. soak-away with an associated drainpipe was noted in the west end of trench. An electric cable was identified and left in-situ within the eastern end directly below the paving slabs [100].

Within Trench 2 the majority of features were small sub/circular pits or postholes, although a few continued into the trench balks and may potentially be ditch termini. Most contained a small amount of post-medieval debris and all cut into the natural matrix [202].

Three inter-cutting linear features, probably ditches, were observed at the south end of the trench, [222] [225] and [227], on similar E/W or ENE/WSW alignments. The northernmost, [227], was the earliest. It was cut by [22], which was in turn truncated by [225].

Layer [228] above did not appear to be a deliberate fill of the inter-cutting ditches, but was rather a gradual silting fill of the resultant slump. Layer [218], overlying [228], however was probably a deliberate dump to fill-in the residual hollow.

Linear [209] was not excavated to its full depth as it was determined to be a probable service trench of recent origin. A modern electric cable adjacent was left in-situ at a depth of 0.24m.

Clay layer [201], directly below the garden soil [200], was considered to be redeposited natural keuper marl. It was probably derived from the foundation trenches for the most recent school buildings adjacent to the east. Layers [203] and [204] below were determined to be the result of the dumping of demolition or construction debris.

## 5. Discussion

Small quantities of residual Roman pottery are commonly retrieved from archaeological evaluations within Worcester. As only a single sherd of heavily abraded Severn Valley ware [102] was recovered during the evaluation it suggests there is no evidence for significant Roman activity on the site.

There is also no evidence for significant activity on site from the medieval through to the modern period. The medieval ridge tile was retrieved from a context [223] containing modern material and was above a context consisting of modern finds [224].

The remainder of the material recovered during the evaluation is consistent with general rubbish discarded from the late post-medieval period to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Deposits containing modern building debris were identified directly over the natural terrace sand and gravel. All finds predating the post-medieval period were determined to be residual within later features or layers, indicating that any earlier horizons have been removed, probably during construction of the first buildings on the site in the mid/late 18<sup>th</sup> century. In addition all features noted cutting into natural were determined to be of post-medieval or modern date. It is therefore considered that there was never any substantial activity within the study area prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and that the site was probably sparsely utilised open ground between the two ecclesiastical establishments throughout the medieval period and before.

The ENE/WSW ditch identified within Trench 2 may relate to the south boundary of the 'Nun's Walk (site of)' noted on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map, which was still an extant boundary feature in 1826. It may therefore represent a medieval feature - namely the south boundary of the White Ladies Priory. However the lack of medieval artefacts indicates that it must have been scoured out, and had certainly been repeatedly recut before its eventual backfilling sometime in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 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 evaluation was undertaken at Alice Ottley School, Upper Tything, Worcester (NGR ref. SO 8478 5574; HER ref. WCM 101213). Two trenches were excavated toward the north-west corner of the school grounds. No features, horizons or structures pre-dating the post-medieval period were identified. A single residual Roman sherd and a medieval ridge tile were recovered in association with post-medieval and modern material. A small number of post-medieval and modern features and layers were observed. Dump deposits containing building debris lay directly over the natural matrix of river terrace sand and gravel, indicating that earlier horizons had been scoured off prior to their deposition. They are considered to be associated with construction and development of the site from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. A ENE/WSW ditch was recorded, on the south-east side of the site. It may represent the southern boundary of the medieval White Ladies Priory which lay to the north, although it had clearly been scoured out and repeatedly recut before it was finally backfilled in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

## 7. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

4	Fieldwork progress records AS2
1	Photographic records AS3
28	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogue AS4
1	Context number catalogue AS5
1	Levels record sheets AS19
40	Abbreviated context records AS40
2	Trench record sheets AS41
3	Scale drawings
3	Boxes of finds
1	Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery

Foregate Street

Hartlebury

Worcester WR1 2PW

Tel: Worcester (01905) 25371

## 8. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Shane Cusack (bursar, Alice Ottley School), Mike Taylor (Taylor and Co. Architects) and James Dinn (Archaeological Officer, Worcester City Council).

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9. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Tom Vaughan. The project officer responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Griffin. Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Vaughan and Simon Sworn, finds analysis by Angus Crawford, environmental analysis by Liz Pearson and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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11. **Abbreviations**

HER	Historic Environment Record.
NMR	National Monuments Record.
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record.
WCM	Numbers prefixed with 'WCM' are the primary reference numbers used by the Sites and Monuments Record of Worcester City Museum Archaeology Section.
WCRO	Worcestershire County Records Office.
WSM	Numbers prefixed with 'WSM' are the primary reference numbers used by the Historic Environment Record of Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment and Archaeology Service.

## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 9.85m Width: 1.35m Depth: 0.95-1.35m

Orientation: ENE/WSW

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Floor surface	Modern grey concrete paving slabs. 0.60x0.60x0.04cm. Patches of fawn /orange Portland cement and compact blue/grey gravel bedding material.	0.00-0.25m
101	Dump deposit	Machine made red brick fragments, 10x6x?cm. Hard pinkish grey Portland cement adhesions. Fawn-yellow sand. Well-defined boundaries with [100] above and [104] below. Compact. Not cohesive. Within east end of trench.	0.15-0.38m
102	Soil horizon	Dark greyish brown silty sand. Compact. Not cohesive. Within west end of trench. Occasional root activity, small pebbles, charcoal flecks and fragments. Very occasional tile flecks and small fragments. Diffuse boundary with [103] below.	0.09-0.32m
103	Dump deposit	Mixed brown/orange/grey slightly silty sand. Frequent small-large pebbles, charcoal flecks and fragments. Occasional roof tile and brick fragments. Very occasional light fawn/off-white mortar lumps. Compact. Not cohesive. Within west end of trench. Diffuse boundary with [102] above. Defined boundary with [105] below. Same as [104]?	0.22-0.87m
104	Dump deposit	Brownish grey slightly silty sand. Frequent small-large pebbles, charcoal flecks and fragments. Occasional light fawn/off-white mortar lumps, roof tile and brick fragments. Compact. Not cohesive. Within east end of trench. Slightly diffuse boundary with [105] and [109] below. Diffuse boundary with [102] above. Defined boundary with [101] above. Same as [103]?	0.19-0.88m
105	Dump deposit	Red roof tiles, handmade red brick	0.62-0.87m

		fragments, sandy pinkish/off-white mortar with lime flecks and brownish orange sand. Very occasional medium pebbles. Bricks 10x6.5x?cm. Defined boundary with [103] above, [107] and [109] below. Diffuse boundary with [104] above. Compact. Not cohesive. Same as [106] and [108]? Within west end of trench.	
106	Dump deposit	Handmade red brick fragments, sandy pinkish/off-white mortar with lime flecks and brownish orange sand. Defined boundary with [104] above and [109] below. Compact. Not cohesive. Same as [105] and [108]? Within east end of trench.	0.74-0.86m
107	Soil horizon	Dark grey slightly sandy silt. Occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles. Defined boundary with [105] above and [108] below. Compact. Moderately cohesive. Within west end of trench.	0.95-1.02m
108	Dump deposit	Mid orangey brown slightly silty sand and pebble gravel. Very occasional white sandy lime mortar flecks, brick and tile fragments. Defined boundary with [107] above. Diffuse boundary with [105] above and [109] below. Same as [105] and [106]? Within west end of trench.	0.85-1.04m
109	Natural	Mid brownish orange sand and pebble gravel. Moderately compact. Not very cohesive. Diffuse boundary with layers above. No finds or charcoal.	0.80m+



**Trench 2**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 9.95m Width: 1.35m Depth: 0.70-1.15m

Orientation: NNW/SSE

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Blackish grey sandy silt. Frequent root activity. Occasional small pebbles. Very occasional red roof tile fragments. Turfed to south. Moderately loose. Not cohesive. Defined boundary with [201] below.	0.00-0.29m
201	Dump deposit	Mid pinkish brown clay. Occasional hard grey grit/lumps. Moderately compact and cohesive. No finds. Defined boundary with [200] above, [203] and [204] below.	0.18-0.45m
202	Natural	Mid orangey yellow sand. Occasional pebble gravel patches, increasing with depth. Moderately loose. Not cohesive. No finds or charcoal. Defined boundary with layers above.	0.77m+
203	Dump deposit	Mid fawn/brown sand. Moderately compact. Not very cohesive. Defined boundary with [201] above and [204] below.	-0.58m
204	Dump deposit	Grey sandy silt. Frequent red handmade bricks, 6.2x11x23.5cm with hard light fawn/off-white lime mortar adhering. Extensive greyish/off-white mortar. Frequent charcoals flecks. Defined boundary with [201] and [203] above, [211] and [218] below. Diffuse boundary with [210] and [212] below.	0.41-0.67m
205	Fill	Dark grey very sandy silt. Frequent charcoal flecks and fragments. Moderately compact and cohesive. Defined boundary with [206] below. Fill of ?post-pipe within [207].	0.79-0.98m
206	Fill	Light greyish brown slightly silty sand. Moderately compact and cohesive. Occasional small/medium pebbles. Defined boundary with [205] above. Post-packing fill of [207].	0.79-0.99m

207	Posthole	Sub-oval feature. Sharp break of slope. Sub-concave sides at <math><70^\circ</math> to horizontal curving to flattish base. Filled by [205] and [206]. Continues into east section.	0.79-0.99m
208	Fill	Mid brown silty sand. Occasional orange sandy bands. Frequent small/medium pebbles. Moderately compact. Not very cohesive. Fill of [209].	0.65- >1.45m
209	Linear	Linear feature aligned WSW/ENE. Sharp break of slope. Near vertical sides. Not fully excavated. Filled by [208]. Probable service trench.	0.65- >1.45m
210	Soil horizon	Brownish grey silty sand. Occasional medium pebbles and charcoal flecks. Diffuse boundary with [204] above and [214] below. Defined boundary with [211] above.	0.68-0.88m
211	Dump deposit	Mid brownish orange sand. Occasional charcoal flecks and small/medium pebbles. Very occasional white lime mortar flecks. Moderately compact. Not cohesive. Redeposited natural? Defined boundary with [204] and [218] above and [210] below.	0.56-0.79m
212	Fill	Grey sandy silt. Occasional pebbles. Diffuse boundary with [204] above. Moderately compact. Not cohesive. Fill of [213].	0.63-0.82m
213	Pit/posthole	?Sub-oval feature. Shallow break of slope. Concave sides at <math><30^\circ</math> to horizontal, curving to slightly pointed concave base. Continues into east section. Filled by [212].	0.63-0.82m
214	Fill	Mid-light brown sandy silt. Occasional charcoal flecks and small pebbles. Compact. Moderately cohesive. Slightly diffuse boundary with [210] above. Fill of [215].	0.79-0.95m
215	Pit	?Circular feature. Very shallow break of slope. Irregular sides at c <math>45^\circ</math> to horizontal, curving to shallow concave base. Continues into east section. Filled by [214]. Cuts [202].	0.79-0.95m
216	Fill	Dark brown sandy silt. Very occasional charcoal fragments. Compact. Moderately cohesive. Defined	0.68-0.84m

		boundary with [210] above. Fill of [217].	
217	Pit/ditch terminus	Sub-rectangular-linear feature aligned ENE/WSW. Shallow break of slope. Concave sides at 75-80° to horizontal. Shallow concave base. Sub-rounded terminus to east. Continues into west section. Filled by [216]. Cuts [202].	0.68-0.84m
218	Soil horizon	Dark brown sandy silt. Occasional charcoal flecks and brick/tile fragments. Not compact or cohesive. Defined boundary with [204] above and [228] below. Within south end of trench.	0.39-0.91m
219	?Posthole	Circular. Moderate break of slope. Irregular concave sides at 45-60° to horizontal, curving to a concave base. Filled by [229]. Cuts [202].	0.71-0.81m
220	Fill	Orangey brown silty sand. Occasional sub-angular gravel and charcoal flecks. Not compact or cohesive. Upper fill of [222]. Cut by [225].	0.88-1.14m
221	Fill	Light brown silty sand. Frequent gravel and pebbles. Defined boundary with [220], [223], [224] and [228] above and [202] below. Not compact or cohesive. Lower fill of [222]. Cut by [225].	0.86-1.43m
222	Linear ditch	Linear aligned WSW/ENE. Shallow break of slope. Convex to concave sides at c 45° to horizontal, curving to concave base. Filled by [220] and [221].	0.86-1.43m
223	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt. Occasional brick/tile and charcoal flecks. Moderately compact and cohesive. Upper fill of [225]. Defined boundary with [228] above and [224] below.	1.16-1.31m
224	Fill	Dark brown sandy silt. Frequent brick/tile and charcoal flecks. Compact and cohesive. Defined boundary with [223] above and [202] below. Lower fill of [225].	1.19-1.66m
225	Linear ditch	Linear aligned ENE/WSW. Sharp break of slope. Concave side at 50-80° to horizontal, curving to shallow concave base. Filled by [223] and [224]. Cuts [221]. Within south end of	1.16-1.66m

		trench.	
226	Fill	Orangey brown sand and gravel. Not compact. Not cohesive. Fill of [227].	0.78-1.13m
227	Ditch/?pit	Linear aligned NE/SW. Shallow break of slope. Shallow concave sides at 30° to horizontal, curving to concave base. Cut by [222]. Filled by [226]. Cuts [202]. Within south end of trench.	0.78-1.13m
228	Soil horizon	Mid-light brown sandy silt. Occasional small mortar and brick/tile fragments. Frequent charcoal flecks. Loose. Not cohesive. Defined boundaries with [218] above, [220], [221], [223] and [226] below. Within south end of trench.	0.78-1.32m
229	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt. Frequent pebbles and gravel. Occasional charcoal flecks. Loose. Not cohesive. Fill of [219].	0.71-0.81m



Plate 1: Trench 1, general picture, view east



Plate 2: Trench 1, south section stratigraphy, west end



Plate 3: Trench 1, south section stratigraphy, east end



Plate 4: Trench 2, general picture, view north



Plate 5: Trench 2, east section stratigraphy, mid trench

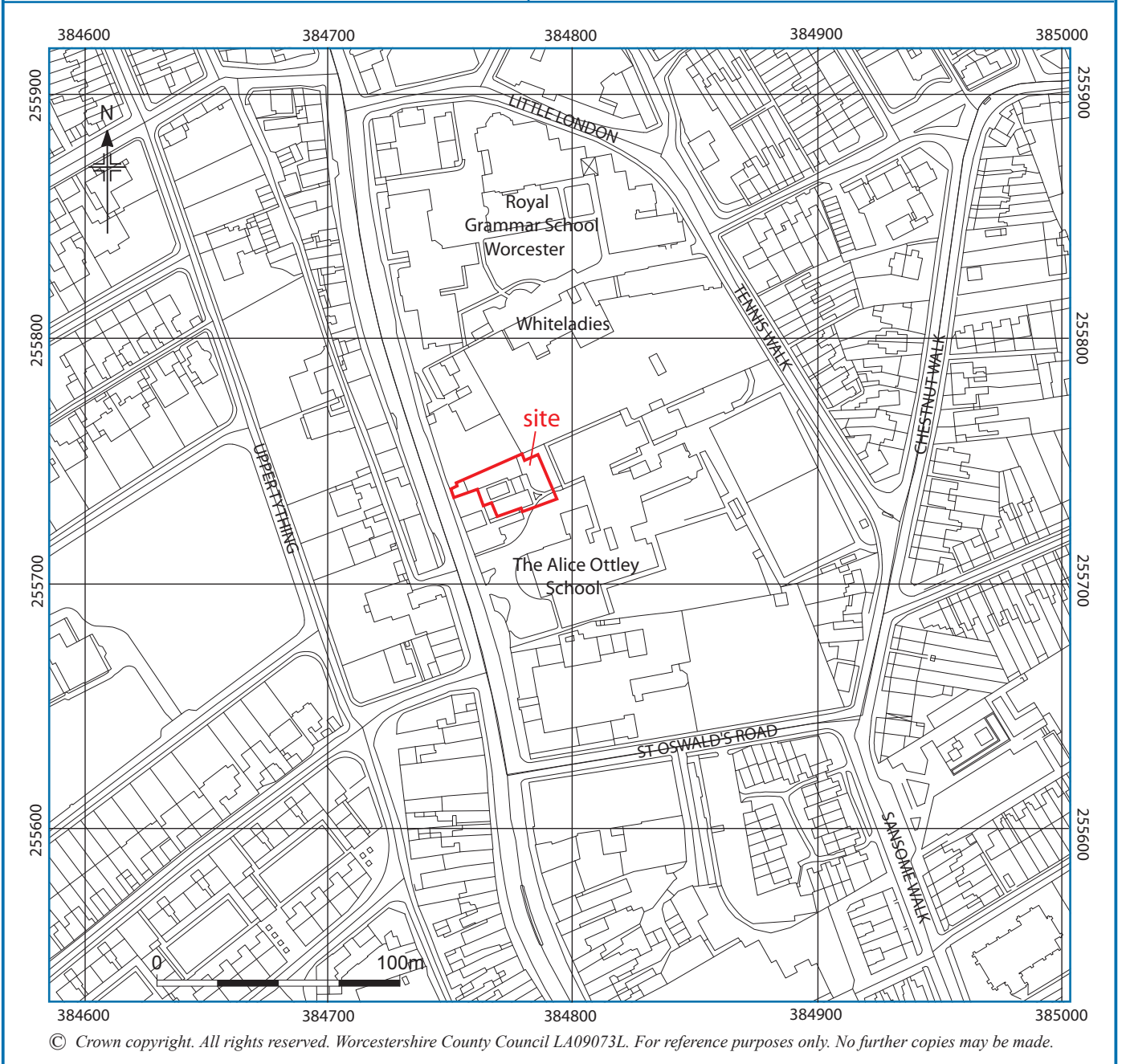
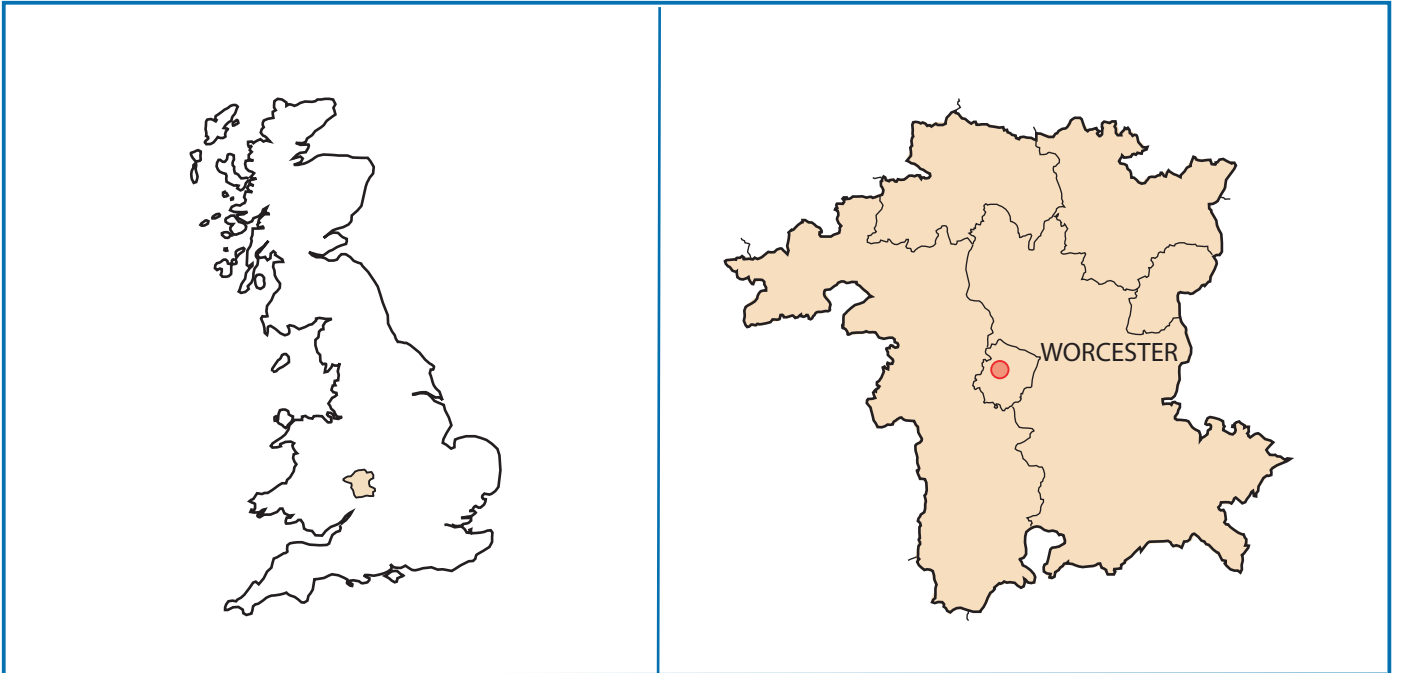


Plate 6: Trench 2, recut ditch [222, 225 and 227], view east



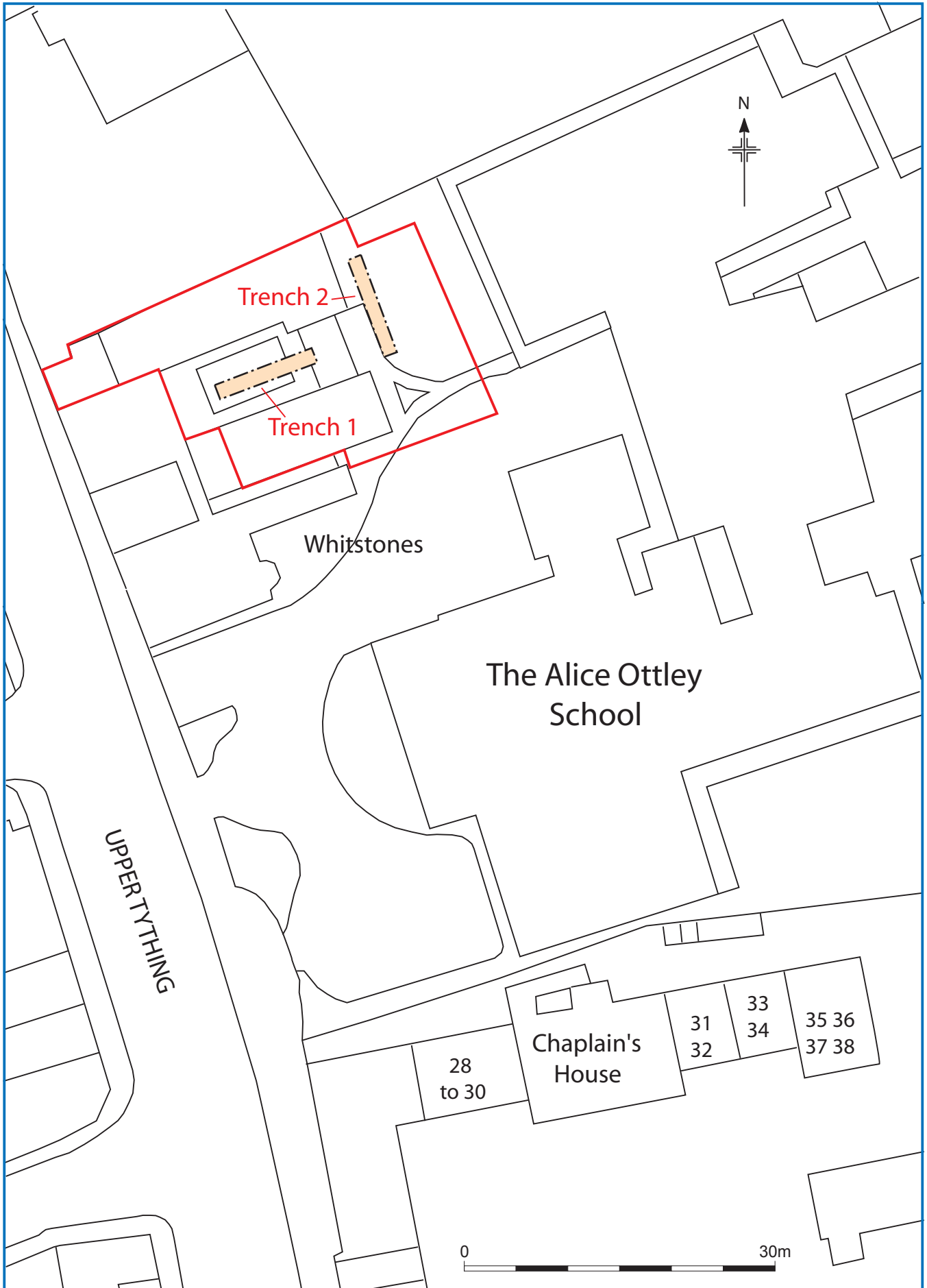
Plate 7: Trench 2, recut ditch [222, 225 and 227], view north





Location of the site.

Figure 1



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Trench location plan.

Figure 2



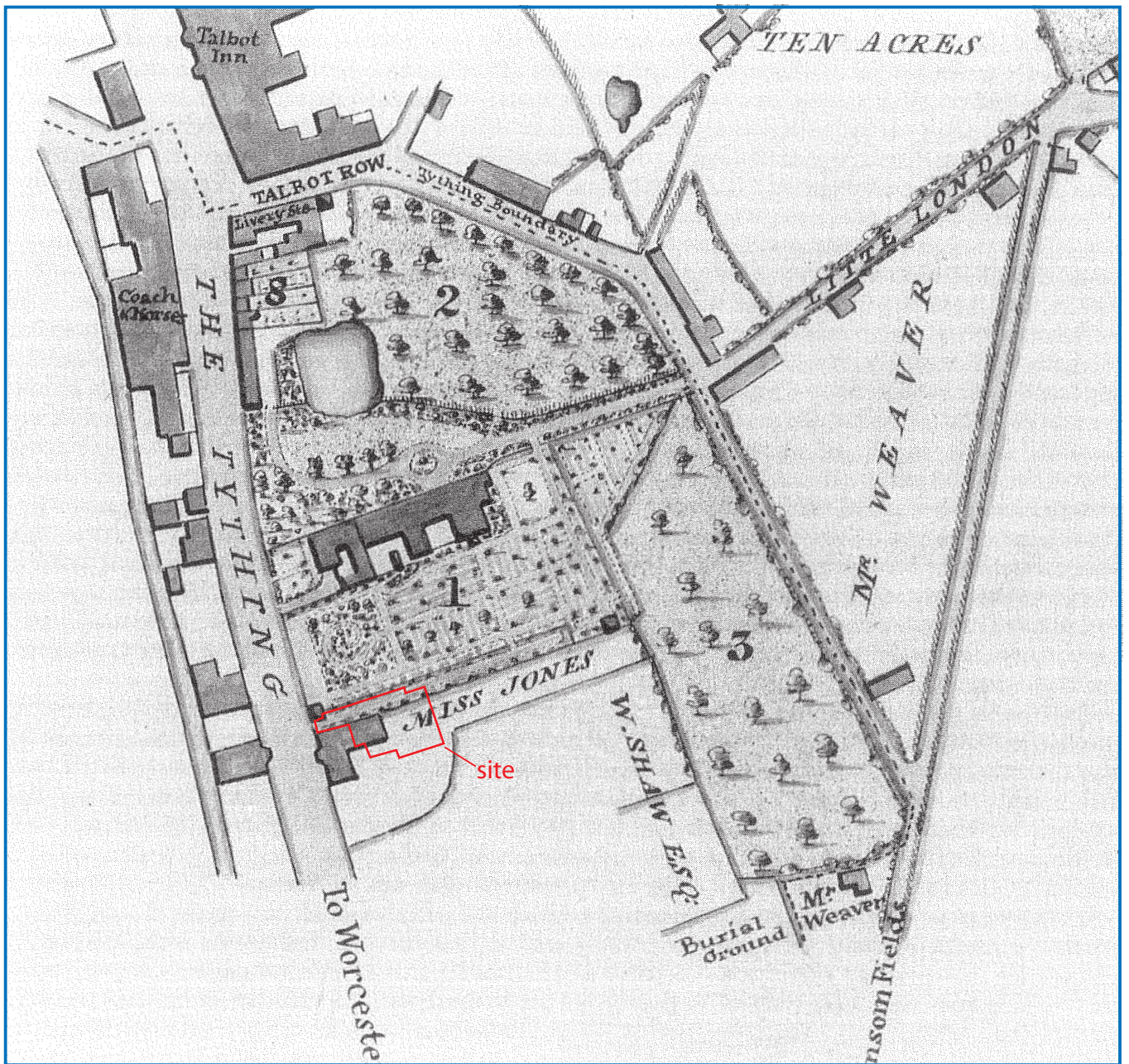
Extract from George Young's map of Worcester, 1779.

Figure 3



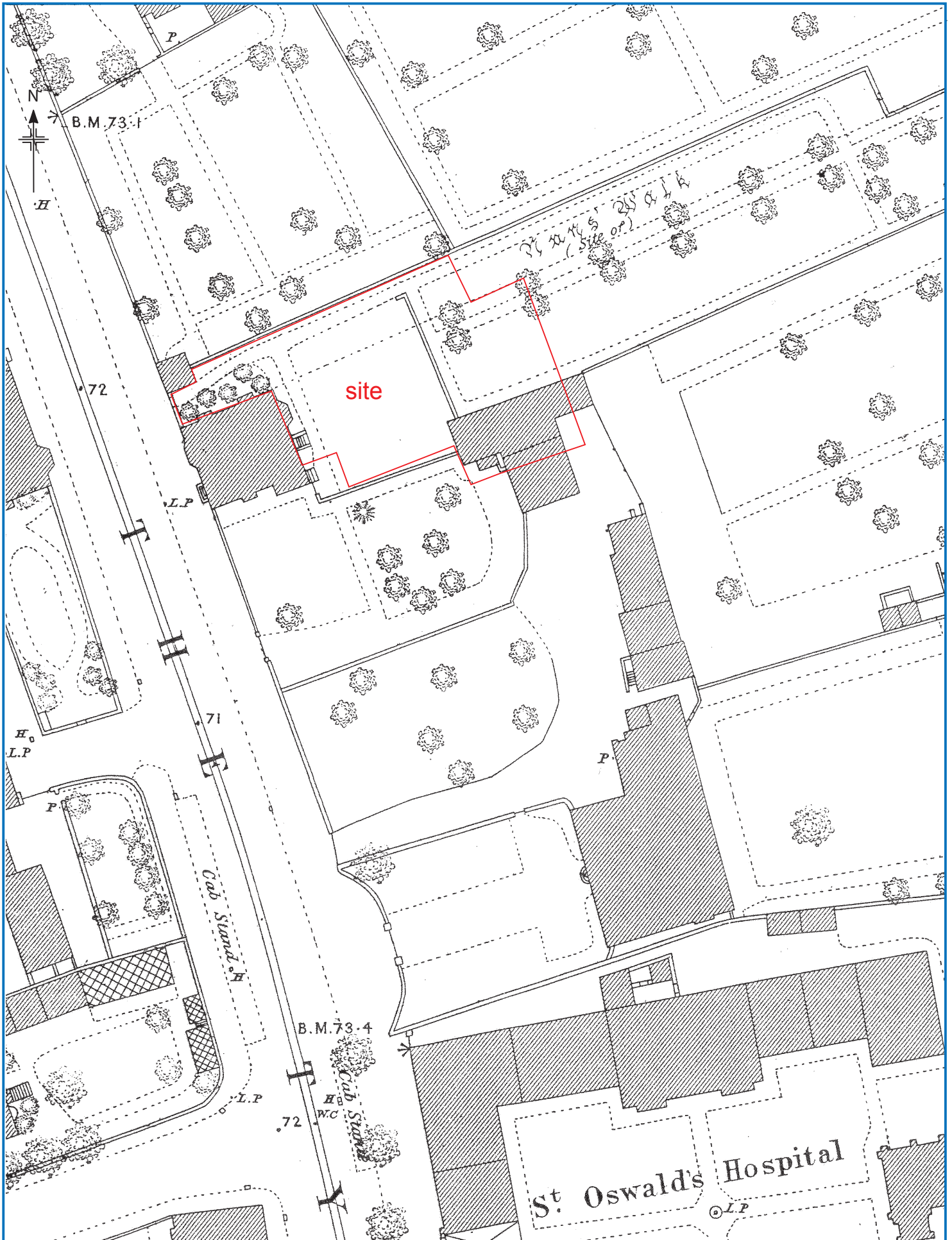
Extract from Valentine Green's map, 1795

Figure 4



Extract from 1826 Estate Plan.

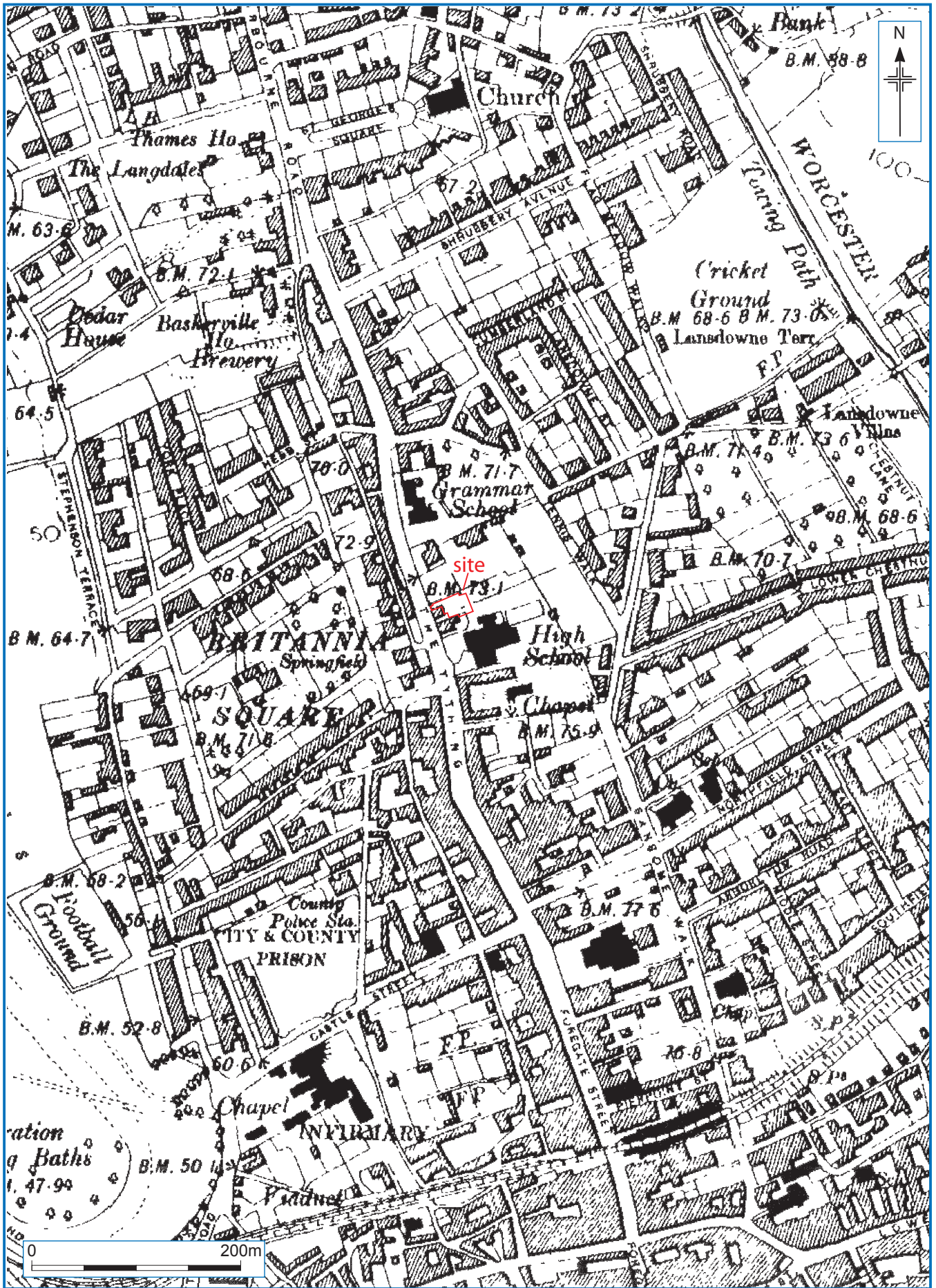
Figure 5



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Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:500 mapping, 1886 (Worcester sheet XXXIII.3.20).

Figure 6



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Extract from 1905 Ordnance Survey.

Figure 7

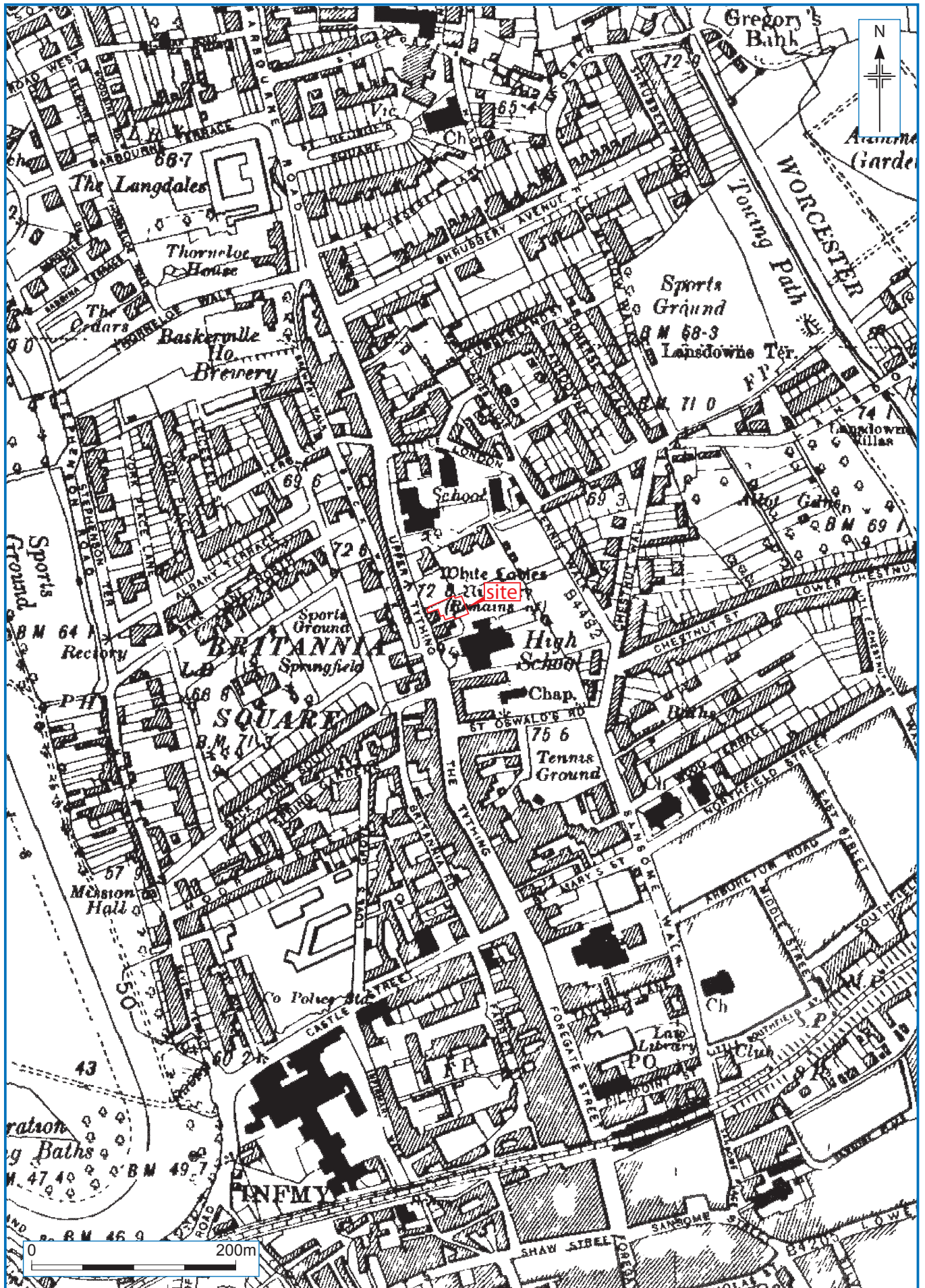


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Extract from 1930 Ordnance Survey.

Figure 8

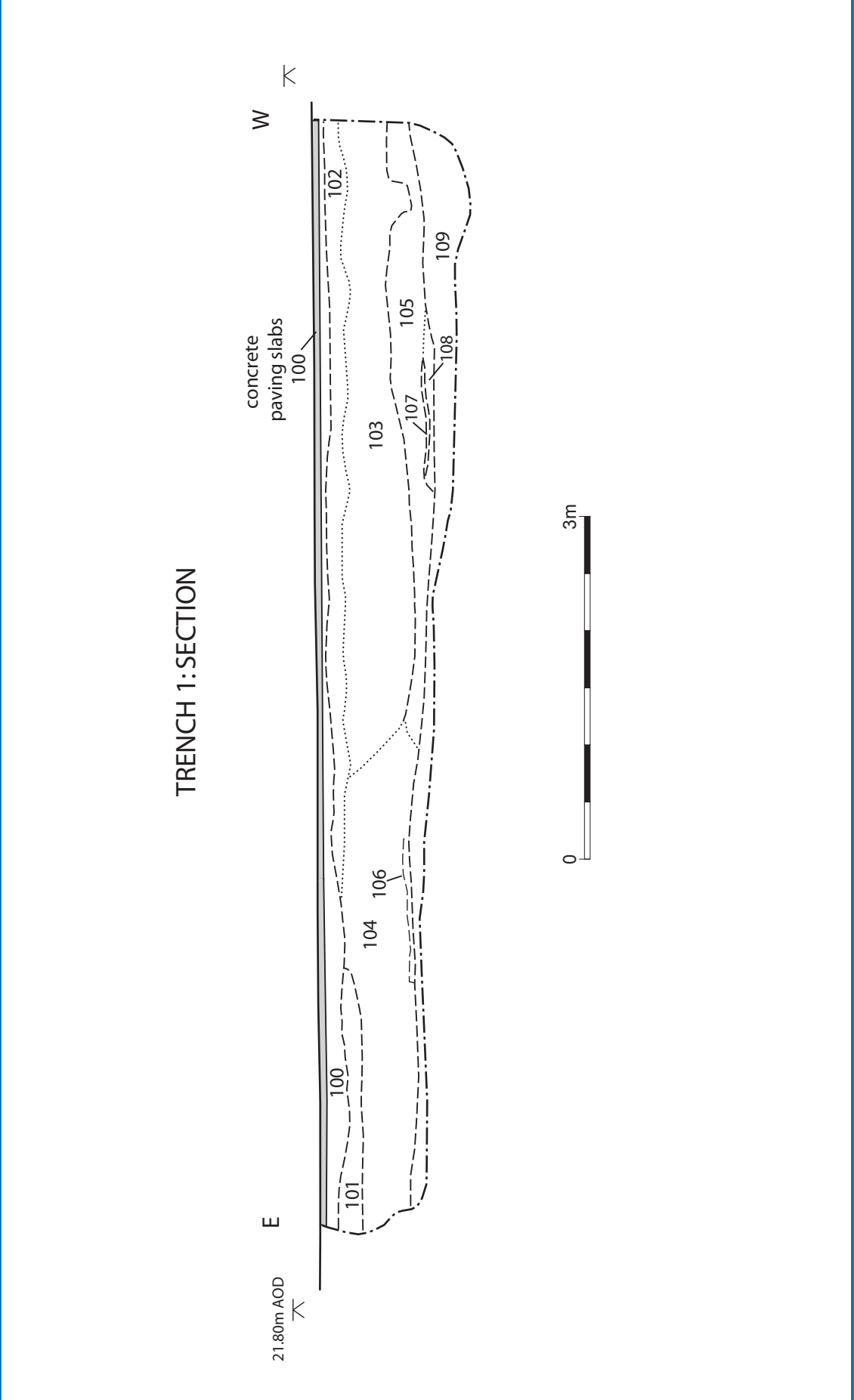




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Extract from 1938 (provisional edition) Ordnance Survey.

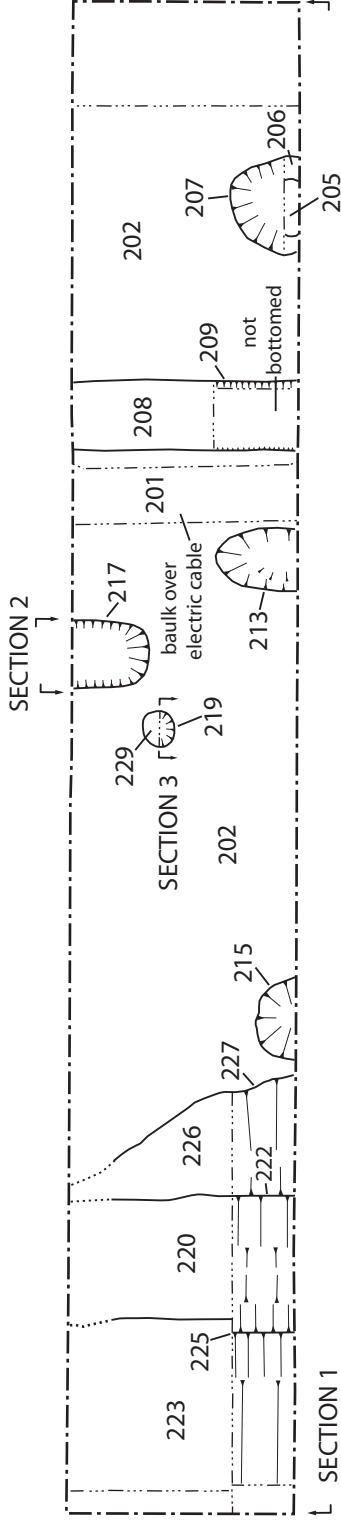
Figure 9



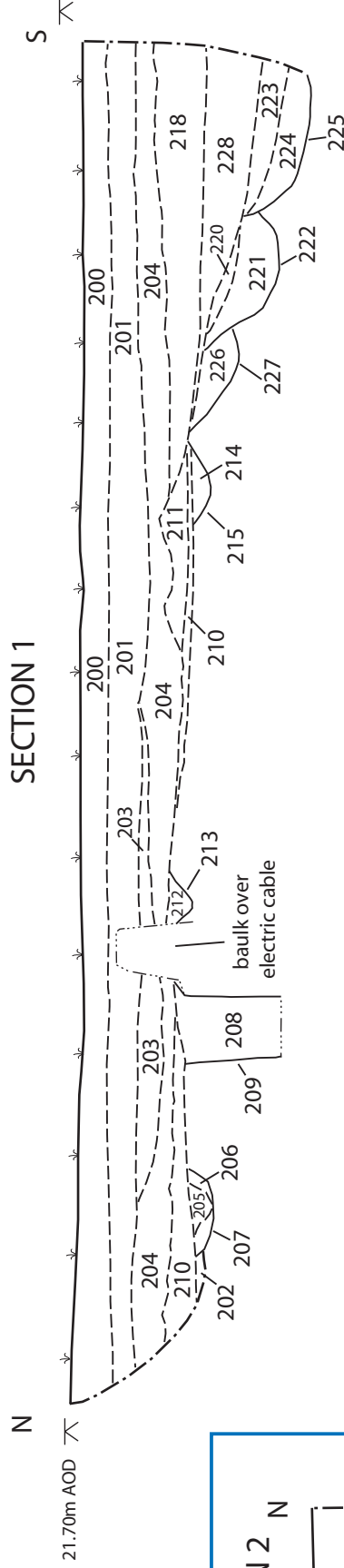
*Trench 1: section.*

*Figure 10*

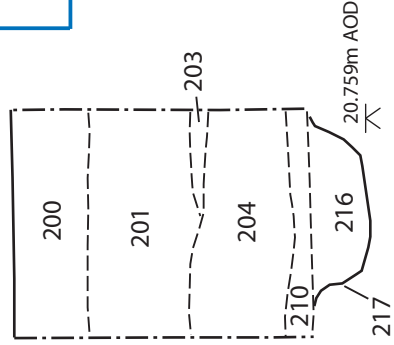
# TRENCH 2: PLAN



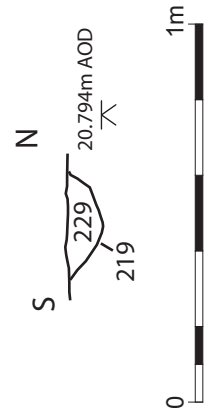
## SECTION 1



## SECTION 2



## SECTION 3



Trench 2: plan and sections.

Figure 11