

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION
AT
THE FORMER MG ROVER NORTH
WORKS AND NORTH WORKS
CAR PARK, LONGBRIDGE,
BIRMINGHAM

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Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

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Archaeological Evaluation at the former MG Rover North Works and North Works Car Park, Longbridge, Birmingham

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Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the former MG Rover North Works and North Works Car Park, Longbridge, Birmingham (National Grid reference SP 0090 7755). It was undertaken on behalf of Halcrow Group Limited and their client, who intends to build a mixed commercial and residential development on the site. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate what its location, date and nature were.

The archaeological evaluation identified stone walls and cobbled surfaces, which are the remains of Longbridge Farm. Pottery recovered suggested that the farm dated to the late 17th century and was potentially even earlier. Trenching also identified the former course of the River Rea, which once crossed the site and demonstrated the survival of a broad area of alluvial deposits, which have the potential to provide information on the past environment of the area.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the former MG Rover North Works and North Works Car Park, Longbridge, Birmingham (NGR SP 0090 7755, Fig 1), on behalf of Halcrow Group Limited and their clients. The client intends to build a commercial development on the site, which is considered by the Birmingham City Council Planning Archaeologist to potentially affect a site of archaeological interest.

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 Birmingham City Council (BCC 2003) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2003). The report is to be appended to an Environmental Impact Assessment, which is being prepared by Halcrow Group Limited

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 aims have been identified.

- To locate prehistoric sites, particularly burnt mounds, which may be present along the course of the River Rea.
- To locate any Roman settlement focussed on the road or ford/ bridge.
- To date the origins of Longbridge Farm which was present on the early OS maps.
- To investigate the former course of the River Rea paying particular attention to any environmentally significant deposits.

2. Topographical and archaeological context

2.1 Location

The site is located on the south-eastern side of the A38 Bristol Road on the site of the former North Works (BSMR 20723) and the North Works Car Park. (BSMR 20722) The site slopes down hill from west to east but has been subjected to large scale landscaping.

2.2 **Geology**

The site lies on a succession of solid geological types (from west to east), Lickey Quartzite, sandstone, red marls / mudstones, sandstones and mudstones. There is alluvium beside the River Rea, which formerly flowed from east to west across the North Works site.

2.3 **Historical and Archaeological Background**

A full account of the Historical and Archaeological background is in the desk-based assessment carried out for the Environmental Statement (Halcrow 2003). The Birmingham Sites and Monuments Record do not register any archaeological sites in the area of the evaluation. The area of the site is believed to have potential for a type of archaeological site known as 'burnt mounds'. These are commonly found close to streams and are thought to be cooking places or the sites of sauna baths and date to the Bronze Age. Surveys of the banks of the River Rea and its tributaries elsewhere in Birmingham have identified many burnt mounds and one estimate for the number of burnt mounds suggests that there are as many as five for every mile of stream (Barfield and Hodder 1989).

The Roman road between the forts at Droitwich and Metchley follows the present line of the Bristol Road, which forms the western boundary of the site. The Roman road would have crossed the River Rea, either via a bridge or ford somewhere in the area and could have formed the focus for a Roman settlement.

The area appears to have been rural during the medieval and post-medieval period, Longbridge Farm is shown adjacent to the Bristol Road for the first time on the 1840 tithe map and it thought to potentially have medieval origins.

The Halesowen railway, which forms the southern boundary of the site, was built in 1881 and the first factory was established in 1892 on the southern side of the line. The area to the north of the railway remained as fields until the North Works was built in 1916, at which time the River Rea was diverted into a culvert running down the length of Longbridge Lane.

3. **Methods**

3.1 **Documentary search**

A desk-based assessment carried out for the Environmental Statement collated the relevant sources derived from the SMR, early Ordnance Survey maps and any information supplied by the client (Halcrow 2003). This was consulted in detail prior to the fieldwork taking place.

3.2 **Fieldwork**

3.2.1 **Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2003).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 13th October and the 22nd October 2003.

Seven trenches amounting to just over 285m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 85ha, representing a sample of 0.33%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

The site to be evaluated was divided into two areas; Area A and Area B. Area A was the former North Works car park and was the proposed location for Trenches 1 and 2. These were sited to investigate the area adjacent to the Roman road. Area B was the area of the former North Works and was the proposed location for Trenches 3, 4 and 5. Trench 3 was

sited to investigate the area of Longbridge Farm and Trenches 4 and 5 were sited to investigate the former course of the River Rea and any potential alluvial deposits.

The presence of services and other below ground obstructions across the site meant that most of the trenches could not be excavated to their proposed lengths or locations. Trench 1 could not be fully excavated due to the presence of 3.5m of modern made-ground in the area and instead 5m lengths (Trenches 1a and 1b) were excavated at either end of the proposed 50m trench. Trench 3 had to be divided into two (Trenches 3a and 3b) because of a methanol tank in that area; their lengths were then also constrained by the presence of services to the north and south. Trench 4 was shortened to avoid below-ground sumps and the storm drain culvert of the River Rea. Trench 5 was shortened due to the presence of a re-inforced concrete base measuring over 1m thick which could not be broken through.

In many cases it was not possible to enter the trenches because of the depth of the trenches, flooding and concerns about chemical contamination from the former works. As a result recording had to be carried out from the top of the trench.

Trenches 1, 2 and 3 were located in areas of tarmac road /car park and Trenches 4 and 5 were located within the concrete floor of the former works. As a result all trenches had to be broken out with a breaker. Once the tarmac or concrete had been removed, deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° wheeled 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). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material except for the concrete and tarmac, which was not backfilled.

3.2.2 **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.

3.3 **Artefacts**

3.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

All artefacts from the area of salvage recording were retrieved by hand and retained in accordance with the service manual (CAS 1995 as amended).

3.3.2 **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, a *terminus post quem* was produced for each stratified context. 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).

3.4 **Environment**

3.4.1 **Methods**

Fieldwork and sampling policy

The environmental sampling policy was as defined in the County Archaeological Service Recording System (1995 as amended). Monolith samples and bulk samples of 10 to 20 litres were taken from undated palaeochannel deposits in trenches 2 and 4. In trench 2, monolith samples were taken for pollen and sediment analysis from contexts 2006 and 2011. Spot samples for pollen were taken from the top, middle and bottom of context 2012. For bulk samples see Table 1.

Processing and analysis

Sub-samples of 1 litre from the bulk samples were processed by the wash-over technique as follows. The sub-sample was broken up in a bowl of water to separate the light organic remains from the mineral fraction and heavier residue. The water, with the light organic fraction was decanted onto a 300µm sieve and the residue washed through a 1mm sieve. The remainder of the bulk sample was retained for further analysis.

The remaining soil from contexts 4008, 4009, and 4013 from 20 litres was processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flot was collected on a 300µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were fully sorted by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. The flots were scanned using a low power EMT stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by the Service, and seed identification manual (Beijerinck 1947). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the Flora of the British Isles, 3rd edition (Clapham, Tutin and Moore 1989).

3.5 The methods in retrospect

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

4. Description

The results of the structural analysis are presented in Table 1, with Table 2 summarising the artefacts recovered. The trenches and features recorded are shown in Fig 3 to 5.

4.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

With the exception of Trench 5 natural deposits were identified in all of the trenches at depths ranging from 1m to 3.5m below the present ground surface.

4.2 Phase 2 Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval deposits

No deposits or artefacts from the Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval periods were positively identified during the evaluation although some of the alluvial deposits that are presently undated could potentially date from these periods.

4.3 Phase 3 Post-medieval deposits

The remains of Longbridge Farm was identified in Trench 3a (Fig 4) and consisted of two brick walls with stone foundations and an area of cobbled surface. The earliest feature was a metalled surface consisting of small angular and rounded stones set in a compact layer of silty clay (3023 and 3040), which overlay the natural and extended across most of the trench. This was then overlain by a layer of larger cobbles set in a compact layer of silty clay (3039 Plate 2), which covered the southern 3m of the trench. The cobbles were then overlain by a

series of layers; 3021, 3022, 3020, 3018, 3019, 3025, 3026, 3042 of which only 3018 contained datable finds. The layers were then cut by the construction trenches for brick walls 3015 and 3029. Both brick walls were bonded to foundations built of sandstone blocks. A foundation of large sandstone blocks (3030 and 3047) crossed the northern end of Trench 3a aligned approximately from northwest to southeast. The blocks of reddish brown sandstone were set within and upon a base layer of mixed clay 3045 (Plate 1). The walls were then sealed by a series of layers of mixed soils, mortar and rubble, which are thought to be demolition layers (3014, 3015, 3012, 3038, 3037, 3036, 3035, 3041, 3043). The area to the north of wall 3030, 3047 had been truncated by a modern service trench (3031, 3032 and 3046).

Artefacts. The assemblage retrieved from the excavated area came from one stratified context (context 3018) and the general ground surface. The group consisted exclusively of pottery and was all roughly of similar date ranging between the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The level of preservation was generally good with low levels of abrasion amongst the stratified material.

The discussion below is a summary of the finds and associated location or contexts by period. Where possible, terminus post quem dates have been allocated based on the evidence recorded and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

Sherds were identified as being of the same black glazed post-medieval red sandy ware fabric (fabric 78) and were grouped by individual vessel as far as possible. A large proportion of the assemblage was diagnostic and identifiable vessels consisted of five pancheons, two cups or small jars and a single bowl or basin.

Vessels of this fabric and the associated forms are of domestic types commonly seen from sites of mid-late post-medieval date in this region. The sherds from context 3018 in particular would indicate a terminus post quem of late 17th century for this particular layer.

4.4 **Phase 4 Modern deposits**

Modern deposits were present in all the trenches and broadly took the form of levelling layers and structures associated with the former works.

The ground level in area of Trench 1a and 1b had been raised by the dumping of over 3m of soil adjacent to the Bristol Road. Finds from this dumping suggested that it had occurred sometime in the 1920's or 1930's. The ground levels had also been raised in the areas of Trenches 2, 3a and 3b by episodes of dumping and successive layers of car park and road surface.

Trench 4 identified the location of the course of the River Rea prior to the river being diverted into a culvert when the North Works was built during the First World War (Fig 5). The location of the channel was indicated by a wide depression at least 18m wide and approximately 1.5m deep, which had been filled-in with a dark sandy silt (4006). It was not possible to distinguish between the in-filled material and any original river silting that may have survived due to the flooding of the evaluation trench and other safety concerns. The brick and concrete base to support a stanchion for the works roof (4005) at the southern edge of the channel is larger and deeper than other stanchion bases in the trench, which suggested that this had been designed to compensate for, the last known location of the channel. The southern edge of the channel overlies layers of earlier alluvium and suggested that the course of the Rea had varied through time.

The multiple layers of concrete over the channel demonstrated several phases of construction for the former works, this was also demonstrated in Trench 5 where two basements were found beneath the concrete floor of the later works. The basements had brick walls and had been backfilled with rubble and pieces of industrial equipment including the remains of a conveyor belt (Plates 3 and 4). The high water table in the area had also meant that water had

seeped into the basements and flooded them. An area of alluvium approximately 4m wide and 1.5m deep survived between the two basements 0.7m below the modern ground surface.

4.5 **Phase 5 Undated deposits**

Undated alluvial deposits were located in Trenches 1a, 2, 4 and 5. The alluvial deposits in Trenches 1a and 2 were approximately 0.5m deep and represent the location of a broad, marshy area prone to flooding while the deeper alluvial deposits in Trenches 4 and 5 seem to be located within the river valley.

Environmental Results

In Trench 2 (Fig 3) a narrow east-west aligned channel (2011) filled by a dark greyish brown silty loam, cut into natural sandy deposits. A later extensive deposit of lighter greyish brown sandy loam appeared to be slightly organic and may have formed in an area of marshland. However, the presence of large rounded pebbles scattered throughout much of this deposit, and its sandy nature suggest some disturbance resulting from high-energy water flow (perhaps flooding). A later east-west aligned channel (2012) flowed to the south of 2006.

The organic content of the processed sub-samples from 2006 and 2011 was, however, low, the presence of fragmented charcoal and possibly coal contributing to the dark appearance of the deposits. Highly humified and unidentifiable woody material or bark was the only organic matter recovered. Occasional fragments of possible tar or bitumen were noted which were similar to material which has only been recorded previously from an environmental sample from a tile dump at Brickwalls Farm, Hanley Castle (Pearson and Griffin 2001).

Approximately 1.5m of gleyed alluvial deposits were recorded in Trench 4 below modern rubble and concrete. However, only bulk samples could be taken before the trench rapidly filled with water and became unstable, and it was not possible for the sedimentary sequence to be examined by a specialist as planned. These deposits were relatively more organic (and more clayey) than those in trench 2. In the uppermost alluvial layer (4008), well-preserved remains of beetles and possibly mites survived, despite the low volume of organic flots. Little organic material was recovered from context 4009, while in the lowermost layer (4013) seeds of rush (*Juncus* spp) and small wood fragments were moderately abundant. Occasional fragments of beetle wing case were also recovered.

5. **Discussion**

5.1 **Prehistoric**

No prehistoric deposits or artefacts were identified during the evaluation but the broad areas of alluvium that are present on the site suggest that the site has potential for prehistoric sites such as burnt mounds to be preserved.

5.2 **Post-medieval**

Trench 3a confirmed the location of Longbridge Farm and showed there to be a good degree of preservation with walls and layers associated with the farm buildings surviving and dated to the late 17th century. The cobbled layers contained no datable finds but seem to be pre-date the walls of the buildings although it is not possible to say by how far other than that are late 17th century or earlier and it has been assumed in this report that they are in some way associated with the farm. The excavated deposits are identified as part of a post-medieval farmstead. Such types of settlement are widespread in the region, but few have been subjected to archaeological investigation. Discrete assemblages of 17th century to 18th century pottery are rare and as such this site is of considerable importance (V Bryant pers comm.).

5.3 **Undated deposits**

In the time scale available it was only possible to consider macrofossil evidence from selected bulk samples. In the light of this it is suggested that alluvial deposits in the area of Trench 4 are most likely to produce more than one category of results, which are useful in interpreting changing environmental conditions. These deposits contained identifiable macrofossil remains (mostly insect fragments, with some identifiable seed remains) and it is also likely that pollen will be relatively well preserved, and could contribute towards the results.

However, the sedimentary sequences are different in the areas covered by trenches 2 and 4 and merit evaluation and comparison by a geoarchaeologist. A second stage for evaluation in the area of trench 4 would be particularly valuable as it was not possible to examine these deposits in detail or take monolith samples. Further sampling during the second evaluation in the area of trench 4 could be used to recover material for radiocarbon dating and pollen analysis. In trench 2 despite the low organic content, dating of the channels is recommended which could be done using the samples retained. However, as the organic content is low, AMS dating is likely to be required.

The sequence of palaeochannels and alluvial deposits has the potential to provide a resource for compiling of information on the past environment of this area of local significance. This is particularly important as little palaeoenvironmental work has been carried out in the area, and hence little is known about the affect that the fluvial topography has had on settlement and use of the land, and of aspects such as episodes of woodland clearance.

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 the former MG Rover North Works and North Works Car Park, Longbridge, Birmingham (National Grid reference SP 0090 7755). The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate what its location, date and nature were.

The archaeological evaluation identified stonewalls and cobbled surfaces, which are the remains of Longbridge Farm. Pottery recovered suggested that the farm dated to the late 17th century and was potentially even earlier. Trenching also identified the former course of the River Rea, which once crossed the site and demonstrated the survival of a broad area of alluvial deposits, which have the potential to provide information on the past environment of the area.

7. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

- 8 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 8 Trench record sheets AS41
- 7 Scale drawings
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at Birmingham City Museum

8. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank Delia Farrow, Caroline Vickers and Steve Box of Halcrow and Mike Hodder, Birmingham City Council Planning Archaeologist for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project.

9. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Chris Patrick. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Derek Hurst. Fieldwork was undertaken by William Crawford, James Goad and Elizabeth Pearson. Finds analysis was by Laura Griffin, environmental analysis by Elizabeth Pearson and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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11. **Abbreviations**

SMR Sites and Monuments Record.

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1a

Site area: Area A

Maximum dimensions: Length: 5m Width: 2m Depth: 3.5m

Orientation: North-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Car park surface	Modern mixed layer consisting of the tarmac car park surface and its base, an orange brown sandy gravel over a brown grey silty clay.	0-0.5m
1001	Layer	Mixed layer of re-deposited material, medium brown sandy silt mixed with reddish brown sandy silt. Roots found at approximately 2m below the ground surface. Corrugated iron sheet also present in the layer.	0.5-2.5m
1002	Layer	Blue grey sandy silty clay with rounded pebbles particularly towards the base of the layer.	2.5-3.5m
1007	Natural?	Reddish brown silty clay with rounded stones.	3.5m+

Trench 1b

Site area: Area A

Maximum dimensions: Length: 5m Width: 2m Depth: 2m

Orientation: North-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1003	Car park surface	Modern mixed layer consisting of the tarmac car park surface and its base of gravel and tar.	0-0.3m
1004	Layer	Mixed layer of orange brown silty clay, blue grey clay and pinkish brown clay. Some rounded pebbles present.	0.3-0.8m

1005	Layer	Dark brown sandy silt with tree roots and small rounded pebbles. Layer of tarmac at base of the layer.	0.8-1.3m
1006	Layer	Reddish brown silty clay with rounded stones.	1.3-2m+

Trench 2

Site area: Area A

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 2m Depth: 2m

Orientation: North-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2000	Car park surface	Modern mixed layer consisting of the tarmac car park surface and its base.	0-0.14m
2001	Layer	Concrete layer.	0.14-0.24m
2002	Layer	Layer of crushed brick.	0.14-0.2m
2003	Layer	Layer of loose to friable mid-brown silty sand, moderate small rounded stones, occasional larger stones.	0.18-0.38m
2004	Layer	Mid-grey sandy silt.	0.38-0.5m
2005	Layer	Thin lense of charcoal.	0.44-0.46
2006	Layer	Soft brown clay / friable mid brown sandy silt with occasional rounded stones.	0.5-0.84m
2007	Layer	Friable light grey silty clay with occasional rounded stone inclusions.	0.7-1.08m
2008	Layer	Pale grey silty sand.	0.7-0.9m
2009	Layer	Dark grey silt.	0.68-0.82m
2010	Layer	Light grey-brown sandy clay.	0.4-0.78m
2011	Layer	Mid-grey silty clay, fill of a channel.	0.66-1m
2012	Layer / Fill	Friable light grey sandy silt with occasional patches of red clay at the bottom of the layer overlying stones.	0.4-0.72m

		Probably the fill of a channel	
2013	Layer	Backfill of pipe trench.	0.2-0.6m
2014	Layer	Friable orange brown sandy clay.	0.58-0.8m
2015	Layer	Bitumen	0.2-0.25m
2016	Layer	Crushed brick and tile.	0.25-0.35m
2017	Layer	Bitumen	0.35-0.42m
2018	Layer	Mid-grey sandy silt.	0.36-0.46m
2019	Layer	Sandstone rubble layer.	0.28-0.38m
2020	Layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt.	0.38-0.5m
2021	Layer	Grey brown silty clay with abundant rounded stones.	0.78-0.88m
2022	Layer	Dark brown silty clay with organic material.	1.02-1.14m

Trench 3a

Site area: Area B

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10.3m Width: 2m Depth: 1.2m

Orientation: North-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
3010	Car park surface	Modern tarmac car park surface and its base.	0-0.2m
3011	Layer	Layer of compact black ash and clinker material.	0.2-0.38m
3012	Layer	Mixed rubble layer, compact and consisting of light yellow brown silty sand, tile, white mortar and small angular stones.	0.4-0.56m
3013	Layer	Thin layer of compact black ash, charcoal material.	0.5-0.54m
3014	Layer	Thin layer of sandy mortar mixed with medium brown silty clay.	0.54-0.6m
3015	Wall	Brick wall built of thin handmade bricks bonded in mortar and entering	0.54-0.86m

		the trench from the northeast. The wall is bonded with lime mortar to a large reddish brown sandstone block present in the southern end of the trench.	
3016	Cut	Construction trench for wall 3015	0.54-0.86m
3017	Fill	Backfill of construction trench 3016	0.54-0.86m
3018	Layer	Mixed layer of medium brown silty clay with small angular and rounded stones, mortar and pottery.	0.6-0.74m
3019	Layer	Mixed layer of dark brown silty clay with small angular and rounded stones.	0.6-0.74m
3020	Layer	Medium reddish brown silty sand, some stones and broken brick and tile.	0.6-0.74m
3021	Layer	Reddish brown silty sand with some small stones.	0.74-0.9m
3022	Layer	Thin layer of medium brown silty clay overlying cobbled surface 3023.	0.9-0.94m
3023	Layer	Layer of very compact small rounded stones and dark brown silty clay forming a cobbled surface at least 50mm thick.	0.94-0.99m+
3024	Layer	Medium brown layer of silty clay containing fragments of tile.	0.6-0.8m
3025	Layer	Layer of soft pink / white sandy mortar.	0.8-0.9m
3026	Layer	Dark grey brown silty clay with rounded stones.	0.9-1.24m
3027	Cut	Construction cut for wall 3029.	0.78-1.04m
3028	Fill	Backfill of 3027, a mixed brown silty clay with abundant broken tile.	0.78-1.04m
3029	Wall	Brick wall aligned approximately NW-SE bonded to sandstone foundation 3030.	0.44-0.92m
3030	Wall	Large reddish brown sandstone foundation. Same structure as 3047.	0.92-1.25m
3031	Layer	Layer of compacted black ash and charcoal material.	0.5-0.8m
3032	Fill	Dark reddish brown silty clay with rounded stones, brick, sandstone.	0.8-1.3m

		Backfill of modern service trench.	
3033	Cut	Vertically sided cut.	0.44-1.04m
3034	Fill	Mixed grey brown silty clay backfill of 3033.	0.44-1.04m
3035	Layer	Mixed layer of orange brown clay and broken brick. Demolition layer?	0.46-0.56m
3036	Layer	Compact medium brown sandy silt layer.	0.56-0.7m
3037	Layer	Compact dark brown sandy silt layer.	0.56-0.7m
3038	Layer	Compact grey / white mortar layer with broken brick and tile, two bricks bonded together in the layer <i>insitu</i>	0.7-0.92m
3039	Layer	Medium brown silty clay layer with large quantities of rounded stones averaging approximately 200mm in diameter. Thought to be a yard or road surface.	0.8-1m
3040	Layer	Very compact yellow brown silty clay layer with abundant small rounded and angular stones measuring on average 40mm in diameter. Metalled surface under 3039. Same as 3023.	0.98-1.06m+
3041	Layer	Mixed grey brown / reddish brown silty clay layer with rounded stones and broken tile.	0.5-0.9m
3042	Layer	Soft light brown silty clay.	0.84-1.38m
3043	Layer	Layer of mixed grey brown / reddish brown silty clay with rounded stones and abundant broken brick and tile. Demolition layer.	0.5-1m
3044	Layer	Grey brown sandy silt layer with lumps of reddish brown sandstone.	0.9-1.18m
3045	Layer / Fill	Mixed greeny yellow and reddish clay. Firm with abundant charcoal. Foundation layer for sandstone wall foundation 3047.	1.06-1.36m
3046	Layer	Mixed layer containing medium brown silty clay, red sand, sandstone, brick and tile. Backfill of modern service trench?	0.5-1.3m
3047	Wall	Wall foundation built of large reddish brown sandstone blocks resting on	0.56-1.3m

3048	Fill	layer 3045. Same as wall 3030. Backfill of modern pipe trench	0.6-1.2m
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Trench 3b

Site area: Area B

Maximum dimensions: Length: 18.5m Width: 2m Depth: 1m

Orientation: North-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
3001	Car park surface	Modern tarmac car park surface and its base.	0-0.06m
3002	Layer	Dark grey silty sand with ash.	0.06-0.46m
3003	Fill?	Dark brown sandy silt. Backfill of 3004, the cut for the River Rea culvert?	0.3-0.9m+
3004	Cut	Cut for River Rea culvert.	0.3-0.9m+
3005	Layer	Layer of crushed brick and stone.	0.3-0.5m
3006	Layer	Dark grey sandy silt.	0.5-0.92m
3007	Layer	Medium brown silty sand	0.92-1m

Trench 4

Site area: Area B

Maximum dimensions: Length: 33m Width: 2.5m Depth: 3m

Orientation: North-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
4000	Concrete slab	Concrete slab, former factory floor.	0-0.25m
4001	Layer	Gravel base for concrete floor.	0.25-0.35m
4002	Concrete slab	Concrete floor of earlier phase of factory.	0.25-0.5m
4003	Layer	Silty dark grey ashy layer.	0.5-0.75m

4005	Brick and concrete base	Base for roof stanchion, lower part brick, upper part concrete, located in centre of former river channel.	0.75-2.25m
4006	Layer / Fill	Medium grey sandy silt, moderate small to medium sized rounded stones. Wood also present. Fill of former course of River Rea.	0.9-2m
4007	Natural?	Reddish brown silty clay with abundant rounded stones. Probably natural.	2m+
4008	Layer / Fill	Grey brown silty clay with rounded stones. Lower fill of former course of the River Rea.	1.05-1.7m
4009	Layer	Mid grey silty clay alluvial layer.	1.7-2.25m
4010	Natural	Grey sandy clay with gravel.	2.5m+
4011	Layer	Layer of red sand, probably a base for the concrete slab of the factory.	0.65-1.05m
4012	Layer	Reddish brown silty clay alluvial layer with moderate rounded stones on southern edge of the former course of the River Rea.	1.15-2.5m

Trench 5

Site area: Area B

Maximum dimensions: Length: 21m Width: 2m Depth: 1.7m

Orientation: North-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
5000	Concrete slab	Reinforced concrete slab lay over a thin layer of red sand.	0-0.3m
5001	Fill	Backfill of basement formed by walls 5002 and 5003. Basement filled with brick and concrete rubble and items of industrial equipment including an old conveyor belt. Basement was also flooded with water at 1.7m.	0.3-1.7m+
5002	Wall	Brick wall of basement aligned approximately north to south.	0.3-1.7m+

5003	Wall	Brick wall of basement aligned east to west.	0.3-1.7m+
5004	Layer	Medium grey coloured silty clay alluvial layer. Water table at 1.1m, alluvium appeared to continue to 2.25m	0.7-1.1m+
5005	Cut	Cut for basement through the alluvial layer 5004 and made ground layer 5007.	0.3-1.7m+
5006	Concrete pad	Concrete pad at southern end of trench.	0-1.5m
5007	Layer	Layer of mixed orange brown sandy clay and charcoal.	0.3-0.7m
5008	Wall	Brick wall of basement aligned east to west at southern end of the trench.	0.3-1.7m+
5009	Fill	Backfill of southern basement.	0.3-1.7m+

Table 1: List of bulk environmental samples

Context	Sample	Context type	Description	Period	Sample vol (L)	Vol processed (L)	Res assessed	Flot assessed
4008	1	layer	alluvial	?	20	20	Y	Y
4009	2	layer	alluvial	?	20	20	Y	Y
4013	3	layer	alluvial	?	20	20	Y	Y
2011	4	layer	alluvial	?	10	1	Y	Y
2011	5	layer	alluvial	?	10	1	Y	Y
2011	6	layer	alluvial	?	10	1	Y	Y
2006	7	layer	alluvial	?	10	1	Y	Y



Plate 1: Wall foundation in east facing section of Trench 3a.



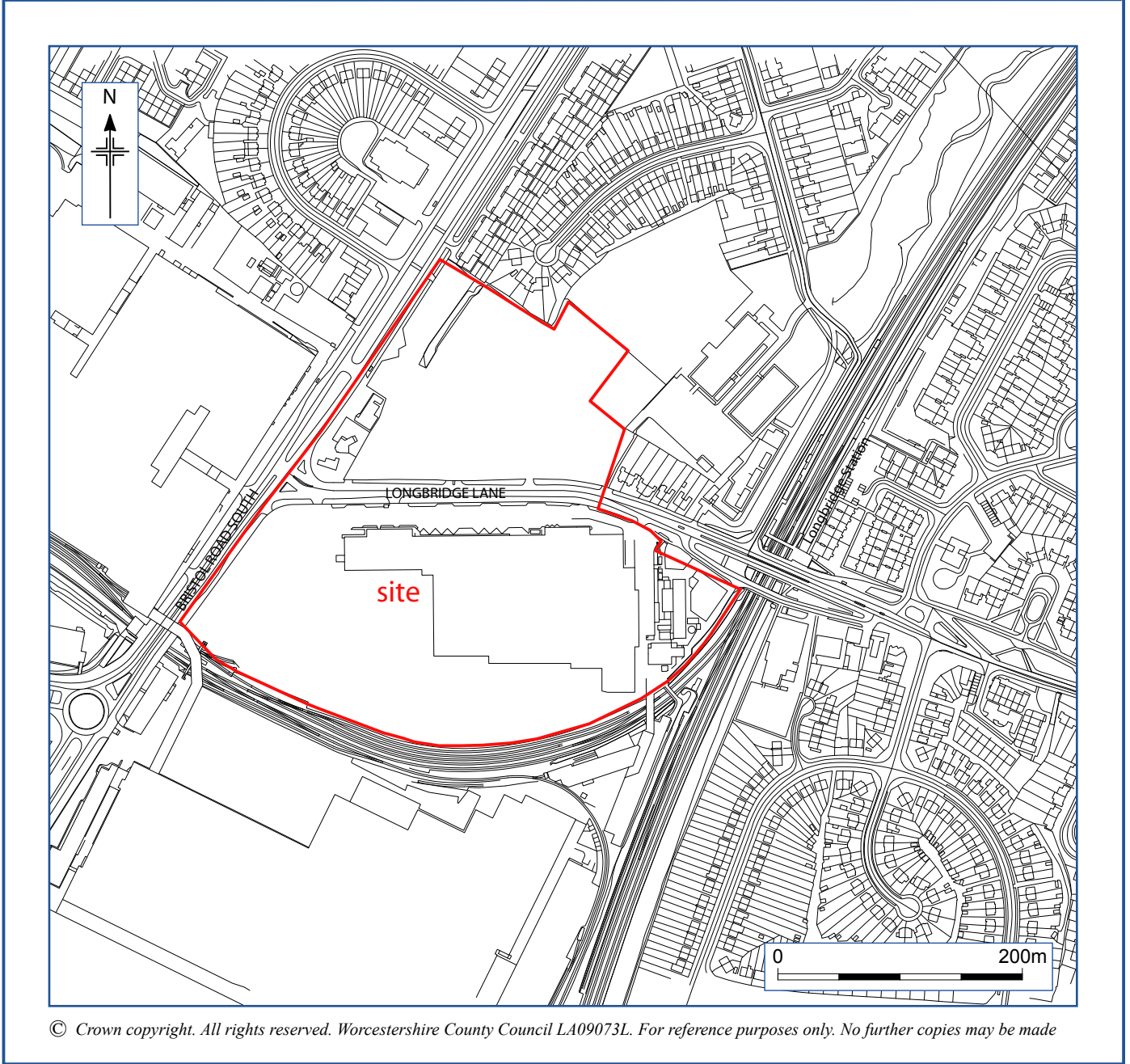
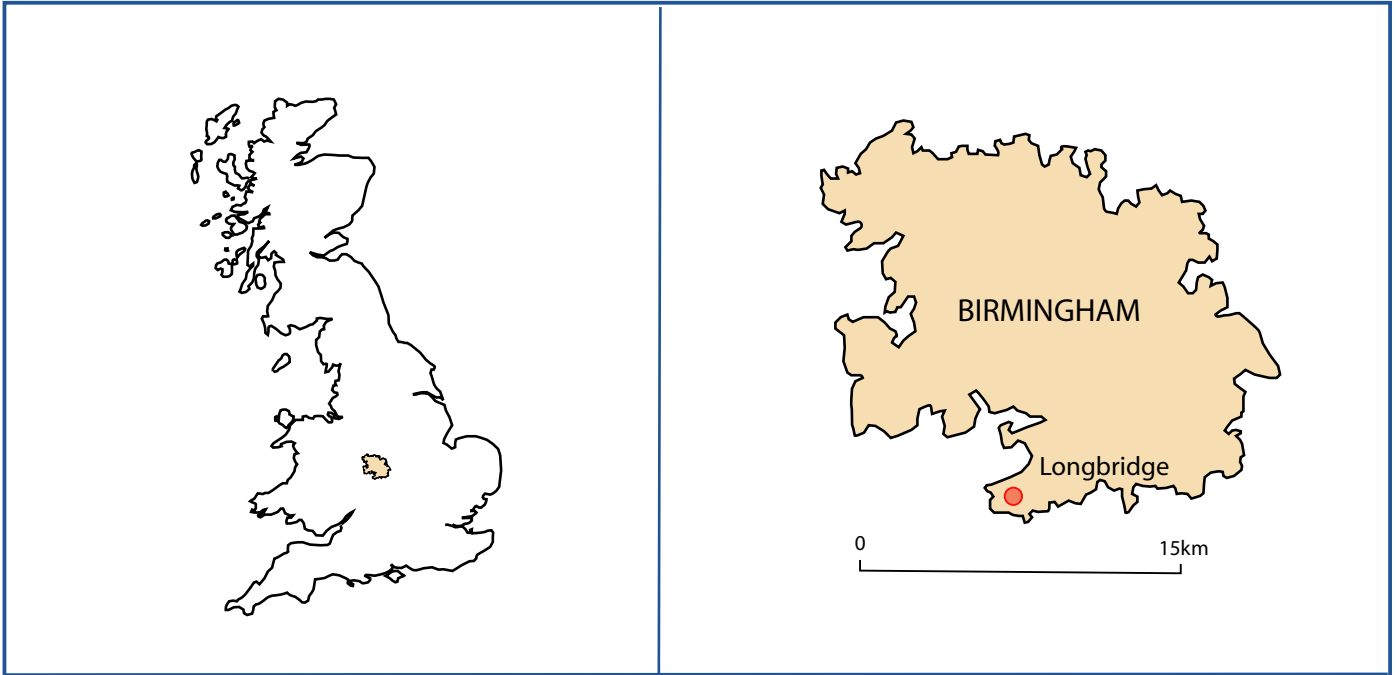
Plate 2: Cobble layer at south end of Trench 3a..



Plate 3: Basement at north end of Trench55.



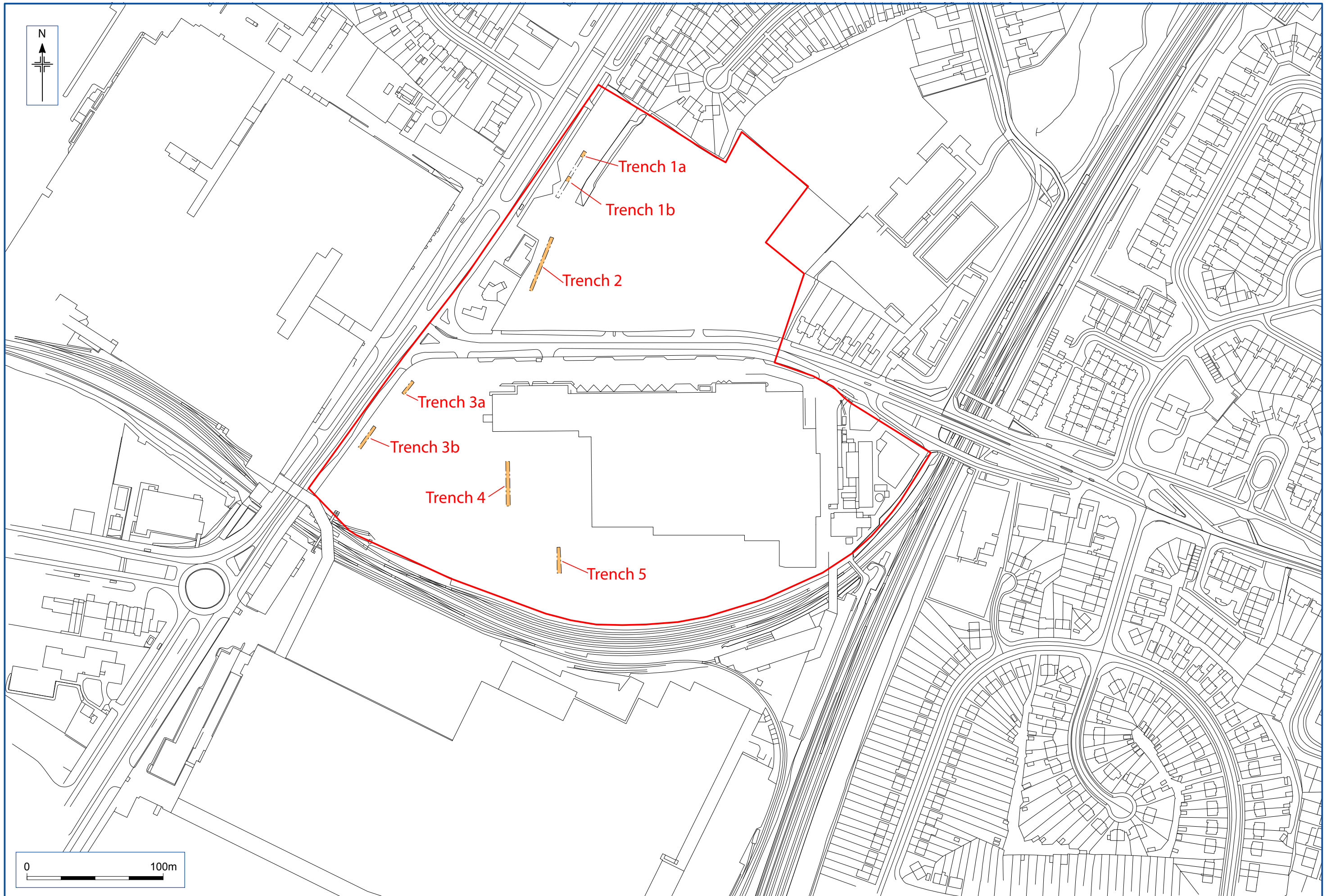
Plate 4: Industrial debris from backfill of Trench 5 basement.



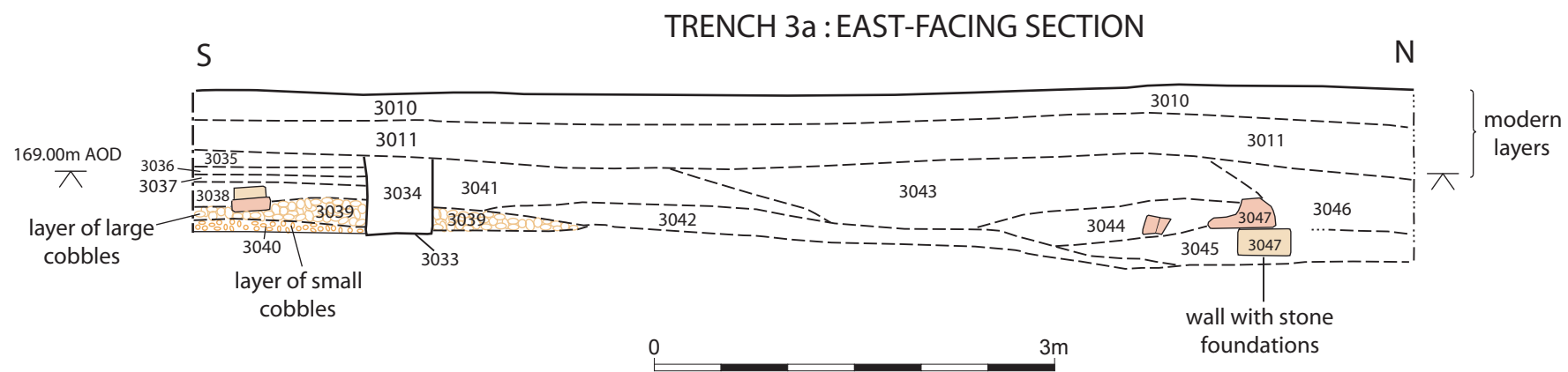
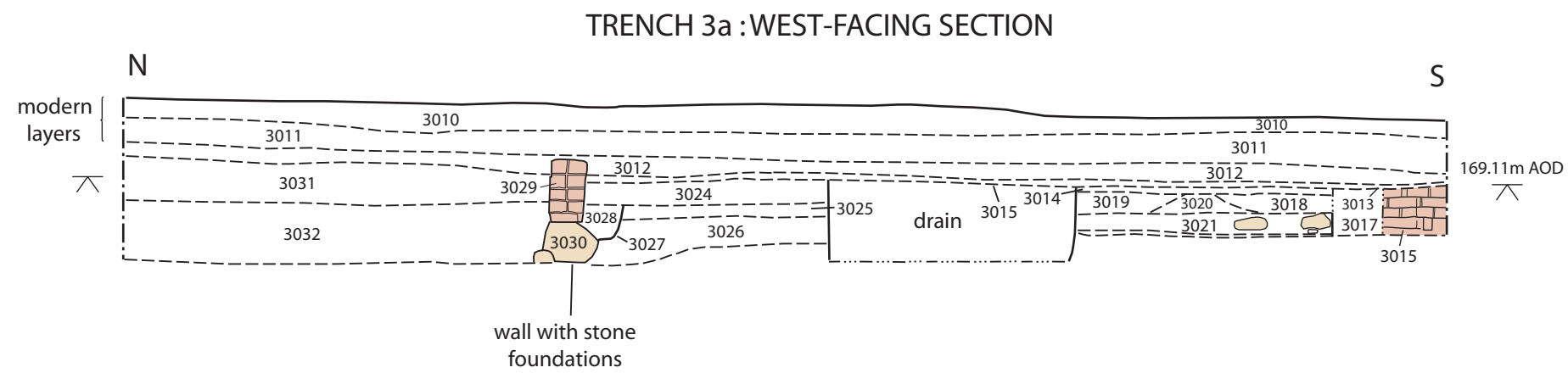
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Location of the site.

Figure 1



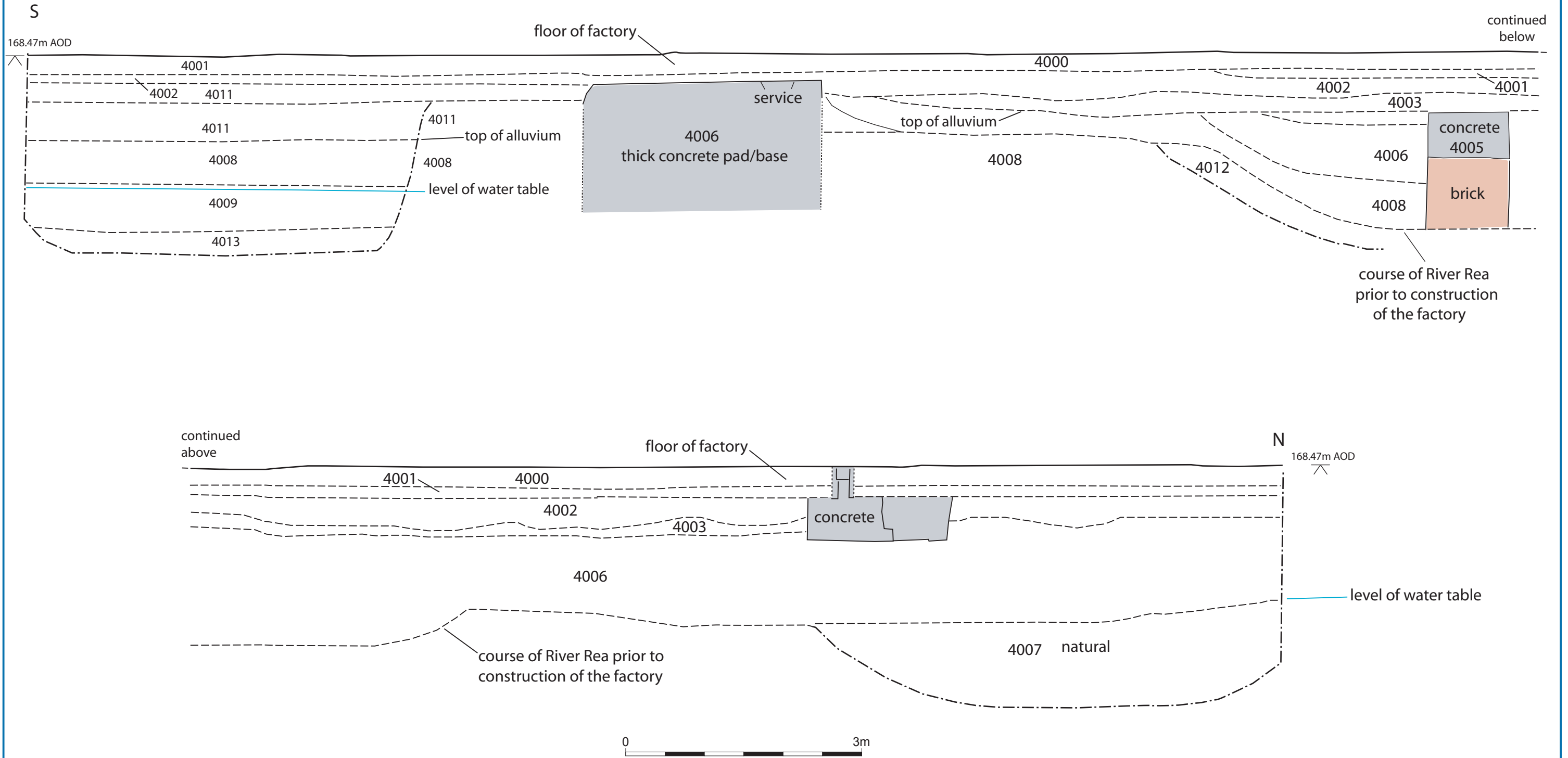
Trench location plan.



Trench 3a: West-facing section and Trench 3a: East-facing section.

Figure 4

TRENCH 4: EAST-FACING SECTION



Trench 4: East-facing section.

Figure 5