ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AT ROOKERY STREET, WEDNESFIELD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Justin Hughes

With contributions by Angus Crawford and Alan Jacobs

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt and Steve Rigby

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Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological excavation was undertaken at land off Rookery Street in Wednesfield, Wolverhampton (National Grid ref. SJ 9430 0010). It was undertaken on behalf of Wolverhampton City Council prior to its planned construction of an urban square and footpath link between Bentley Bridge and High Street, Wednesfield.

Archaeological assessment has previously been carried out to the immediate east of Area B (Cherrington and Coates 2004; Rogers and Robson-Glyde 2006). This work complements documentary evidence, which suggests that Wednesfield originated as a hamlet or small village in the medieval period.

The initial brief for Area B was to establish whether there are any archaeological features present within the proposed development and to establish their nature and importance. Three trenches were examined. The first lay to the immediate west of an existing textile manufacturers premises. Trenches 2 and 3 lay to the east of the textiles building.

In much of the sampled area modern cellaring and material from recently demolished 20th century buildings dominated. However, a property boundary ditch exposed in Trench 1 produced an early 17th century tyg (a vessel designed for communal drinking) and other fragments of pots. In order to clarify the significance of this evidence for occupation Trench 1 was re-opened and extended, exposing further archaeological features and deposits, including a second ditch. Both features were probably constructed to form a boundary and drainage facility between two properties. The second ditch contained a near complete, tyg vessel, datable to late 16th/early 17th century.

The fills of both linear features contained waste iron smithing slag fragments from hearth bases, indicating 17th industrial activity.

A vaulted cellar was encountered in Trench 2 and has been left *in-situ*. Extensive cellaring was evident in Trench 3 disturbing natural deposits, although three pit features, conjectured to be contemporary with the cellar, were recorded within its northern half, towards Rookery Street.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological excavation was undertaken at Rookery Street (NGR: SJ 9430 0010), Wednesfield, Wolverhampton (Fig 1), on behalf of Wolverhampton City Council. The client intends to construct an urban square and footpath link between Bentley Bridge and High Street for which it has submitted a planning application (ref. 05/1091/DW).

Previous investigation on an adjacent site (Area A: Cherrington and Coates 2004; Rogers and Robson-Glyde 2006) identified archaeological remains and artefacts dateable to the 12th or 13th centuries. It was therefore proposed by Mike Shaw, the Black County Archaeologist, that Area B should be investigated to determine whether similar archaeological deposits were present in this area. Because the evaluation produced evidence of late 16th-early 17th century occupation, excavation of an extended area around Trench 1 was requested.

1.2 Project parameters

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

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Mike Shaw, Black Country Archaeologist, on behalf of Wolverhampton City Council (Shaw 2005) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2007).

1.3 Aims

The aims of the excavation were to locate further archaeological deposits and to record and interpret them, in order to assess the potential impact of the development on the area's material remains.

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Black Country Sites and Monuments Record (BCSMR). In addition to the sources listed in the bibliography the following were also consulted:

Cartographic sources

- 1842 Wednesfield tithe survey and award (Wolverhampton Archives ref. MAP/101/a)
- 1st edition 1887 Ordnance Survey map, Wednesfield sheet, 25":1 mile
- 1902 Ordnance Survey map, Wednesfield sheet, 25":1 mile
- 1919 Ordnance Survey map, Wednesfield sheet 25":1 mile
- 1938 Ordnance Survey map, Wednesfield sheet, 25":1 mile
- 1953 Ordnance Survey map, Wednesfield sheet, 1:2,500

2.2 Fieldwork methodology

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2007). The evaluation was undertaken between 18th and 21st June 2007 and the excavation of the extended area was carried out between 17th and 20th September 2007.

A borehole survey carried out by GIP Technical Services was also monitored in order to establish the character of deposits and the depths of natural across the area proposed for development (Fig 2 and Appendix 1).

In the first phase of the investigation in Area B, three trenches (32 x 1.6m, 22 x 1.6m and 10.5 x 1.6m) were excavated (Fig 2). Trench 1 was later extended (15 x 5m, Fig 6). Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material in order to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995).

2.2.1 Structural analysis

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

2.3 Artefact methodology, by Angus Crawford and Alan Jacobs

2.3.1 Artefact recovery policy

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

2.3.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. Artefacts were identified, quantified and dated and a *terminus post quem* date produced for each stratified context.

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; Hurst 1994).

3. Topographical and archaeological context

The archaeological background to this site has previously been described in a report prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Cherrington and Coates 2004, Section 4.1). The following is a summary derived from Rogers and Robson-Glyde (2006, 5-6).

The site is located to the south-west of the medieval village of Wednesfield and falls within the historic core of the settlement. The placename suggests a Saxon origin as a field or open ground of the Anglo-Saxon god *Woden* (the equivalent of the Norse *Odin*) and this name is first recorded at the end of the 10th century. This may imply the existence of a shrine to the god somewhere in this area. Settlement at Wednesfield is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086.

Medieval Wednesfield seems to have been a small village surrounded by farms, some of them moated, and four open fields. The village lay in the parish of St Peter's, Wolverhampton and Wolverhampton Deanery Manor.

Yates' County Map of Staffordshire of 1775 shows buildings along Rookery Street at this time (Shaw 2005).

Industrialisation arrived later in Wednesfield than other Black Country towns, its open fields lasting into the 19th century. It was noted for its cottage industries such as key making (Chubb Locks still operate a plant here) and trap making. In 1795 the Wyrley and Essington Canal (BCSMR 6939) was built, passing through the town to the west of the High Street. This was a narrow canal principally used to carry coal from mines in the Wyrley and Essington area to Wolverhampton.

By the end of the 19th century large-scale manufacturing industry had arrived in the south part of Wednesfield. An ironworks and a manure and acid works are shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 and a chocolate factory on the 2nd edition of 1902.

Despite the intrusion of large-scale manufacturing, small-scale industry survived well into the 20th century. Kelly's Directory of 1896 lists fourteen key makers and two lock makers in Rookery Street alone, as well as ten key makers in Hall Street.

The tithe map of 1842 shows Wednesfield as a large village. There are houses fronting onto Rookery Street with narrow plots extending back through the subject site although there is also a building on the frontage of Well Lane.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 shows further buildings along Well Lane, and a public house on the corner of Well Lane and Rookery Street. A smithy is shown immediately south of the site, fronting onto Well Lane, although this is not marked on the 1902 edition. On the 1919 edition, several small outhouses have been constructed to the rear of the street frontages.

The 1971 OS map shows many of the terraced houses along Well Street replaced with the semi-detached houses that still stand. In the 1970s all the houses in this block were demolished including the public house on the corner which was re-shaped to allow easier turning between Rookery Street and Well Lane.

Close to the site (1-5, Church Street) is a mid 18th century house (BCSMR 5878) and 'The Pyle Cock' public house (SMR 13234) built in 1867. The 'Dog and Partridge' Inn (BCSMR 445) a late 16th century building is the earliest known structure still standing in Wednesfield.

4. Results

4.1 Structural analysis: Trenches 1 - 3 and Trench 1 extension

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 3-5 and in Plates 1-3. Data relating to the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

4.2 Evaluation Trenches 1 – 3

4.2.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

Natural deposits on the site comprised sandy clay silts (contexts 103, 217 and 304), varying from mid-orange brown to yellow/grey in colour with frequent rounded and sub-angular stones. This is the equivalent to deposit 107 from the 2003 evaluation (Cherrington and Coates 2004).

4.2.2 Phase 2 Post-medieval deposits

A tyg vessel (Plates 14 and 15) was recovered from the fill (context 105) of a north to south aligned ditch (context 104), which was cut into natural deposits (Trench 1, Fig 3 and Plate 4). A 20th century sewer line to the north of this feature had removed any further, potential contemporary information.

4.2.3 Phase 3 18th -19th century deposits

Artefacts were retrieved from the upper fill (context 107) of a pit (context 106) but the feature was not excavated due to severe water logging in the southern end of Trench 1. The deposit contained sherds from jars of 18th century type.

A vaulted cellar was exposed in Trench 2 (contexts 211, 213, 218 and 219). It was constructed with brick (Plates 10 and 11) and three of its walls appear to have survived intact, including a wall with a lime-faced interior at the southern end of the vault. Three pit features (contexts 207, 208 and 209), which are likely to be contemporary with the cellar, were not excavated because they lay at an unsafe depth between the two unstable trench baulks.

4.2.4 Phase 4 20th century deposits

Features in the northern end of Trench 1 were confined to a ceramic sewer pipe (context 112) within a cut (context 113), intersected on its north to south course, by a brick manhole (context 114). The whole trench was concreted over in the latter half of the 20th century for use as a car park.

Trench 2 largely contained building rubble from demolished industrial premises. Two structures have survived however. The first is a brick manhole (context 207) and the second a base for a petroleum storage container (context 204). This steel-framed tank (Plate 13) contained a tiled floor surface (context 205) and appears to be one of several present on the 1953 Ordnance Survey map.

At least four brick cellars (contexts 311-314) were evident in Trench 3, each cut into natural deposits, and each removing any potential evidence for earlier archaeological activity in the sampled area (Plate 3).

Three pits (contexts 305, 307 and 309) were excavated and recorded in Trench 3. The first of these was severely truncated by the most northerly cellar (314). The other two did not produce any dating information (Plate 12).

4.3 Trench 1 Extension

4.3.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

As in the earlier trenches (Section 4.2.1), natural deposits within the extended area consisted of clay silts (context 103) varying from mid-orange brown to yellow/grey in colour with frequent rounded and sub-angular stones.

4.3.2 Phase 2 Post-medieval deposits

A two-handled tyg (Plates 16 and 17) was recovered from the fill (context 153) of a north to south-aligned ditch (context 152), which was cut into natural deposits (Figs 6 and 7; Plate 6). The cut lay adjacent to, and followed a parallel course to ditch 104/150/157 (at a right angle with the current road). Ditch 152/159 had a similar U-shaped profile but was much shallower than linear cut 104/150 (Fig 7).

The fills of both linear features contained a single large fragment of iron-smithing slag, which is typical of hearth bases created as a by-product of this industrial process (pers comm Derek Hurst).

4.3.3 Phase 3 18th -19th century deposits

Two pits (contexts 161 and 164) contained pottery and tile fragments indicating 18th century activity. The first, circular, pit had an upper fill with a charcoal/ash matrix (context 162) and a primary fill of loose but gravely silt. The second cut (164) was oval in plan, but elongated and with deep vertical sides and a flat base. Both features probably supported foundation structures for work sheds but this could not be substantiated in the space available for excavation.

A third, large oval-shaped pit (context 154) lay to the immediate north-west of the post pits but contained no dating information.

4.3.4 Phase 4 20th century deposits

The whole trench within the current grassed area was concreted in the latter half of the 20th century for use as a car park.

5. Discussion

Much of the sampled area comprised demolition material from late 20th century light industrial outlets (Trench 2) or the remains of cellaring (Trench 3). A mid-Victorian vaulted cellar remained largely intact (Trench 2).

Trench 1 contained stratified post-medieval deposits and evidence of activity pre-dating the industrial revolution. The course of the two ditches, fully identified during the excavation of the extended area (contexts 150 and 152) runs parallel to property boundaries recorded on the 1842 tithe map for Wednesfield (Fig 8) and at right angles to Rookery Street, although neither appear to run on the line of the property divisions shown on the 1842 plan. They may represent a division between properties of 17th century or earlier date, which were later combined, or they are a division within a property. Alternatively they may have been purely for drainage within a property.

The tyg cups are of particular interest as they are likely to have been manufactured by local potters at Wednesbury, 6km south-east of Wednesfield (Hodder 1992). The slag hearth base material corroborates the assignment of a 17th century date for activity in this area of Rookery Street.

5.1 Artefact analysis, by Angus Crawford and Alan Jacobs

The pottery assemblage retrieved from the investigated area consisted of 55 sherds of pottery weighing 2.119kg. In addition roof tiles, shoe leather, coal, fibreglass, glass, coal, slag and a clay pipe stem were recovered. The group came from nine stratified contexts and could be dated from the post-medieval and modern periods (see Table 1). Level of preservation was generally good with the majority of sherds displaying only moderate levels of abrasion.

Context	Material	Type	Total	Weight (g)	Date range
0	Coal	Fragment	3	27	Undated
0	Glass	Vessel	1	117	19th-20th century
0	Pottery	Modern	2	134	19th-20th century
0	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	8	1650-1750
0	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	31	16th-18th century
0	Pottery	Post-medieval	5	209	17th-18th century
0	Pottery	Post-medieval	2	37	18th century
0	Pottery	Post-medieval	8	177	19th-20th century
105	Coal	Waste	3	2	Undated
105	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	86	17-E18thC
107	Pipe	Stem	1	2	17th-18th century
107	Pottery	Post-medieval	2	96	18th century
107	Pottery	Post-medieval	5	256	Early-mid 19th century
107	Pottery	Post-medieval	8	496	Late 17th-18th century
111	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	1	Late 16th-17th century
151	Pottery	Post-medieval	2	98	18th century
151	Slag	Iron	1	1684	Undated
151	Stone	Burnt	2	15	Undated
151	Stone	Sandstone	1	25	19th-20th century
153	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	102	17th-18th century
153	Pottery	Post-medieval	6	130	Late 16th-17th century
153	Slag	Iron	1	734	17th century
153	Stone	Fire cracked	2	82	Undated
165	Coal	Fragment	2	26	Undated
165	Pipe Drain	Modern	1	293	19th-20th century
165	Pottery	Post-medieval	3	39	17th-18th century
166	Pottery	Post-medieval	3	215	17th-18th century
168	Coal	Fragment	1	12	Undated
168	Fibreglass	Fragment	3	2	1938-2000
168	Glass	Vessel	1	1	19th-20th century
168	Glass	Window	1	1	19th-20th century
168	Mortar	Lime	1	39	17th-mid 19th century
168	Tile	Roof	1	16	19th-20th century
204	Leather	Shoe sole	1	3	20th century
204	Pottery	Modern	1	1	19th century
204	Pottery	Modern	3	3	19th-20th century
204	Tile	Roof	3	2592	Late 15th-18th century
Unstratified			61	3619	Various
Total			85	7792	

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

5.1.1 **Discussion of the pottery**

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (see Table 2) and all sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span.

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 and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

Fabric	Name	Total	Weight
78	Post-medieval red sandy ware	31	1364
91	Post-medieval buff ware	3	122
108	Midlands purple ware	2	62
81.4	Modern stone ware	2	134
83	Porcelain	2	2
85	Modern stone china	15	435

Table 2: Quantification of the post-medieval and modern pottery by fabric

Post-medieval period

Post-medieval sherds dominated the pottery assemblage with 36 sherds accounting for 60% of the total pottery assemblage. The dominant fabric was that of post-medieval red sandy wares (fabric 78) with several pancheon or large storage jar sherds (context 107, 151 and 153) dating to the 17th-18th century, a partial double handle tyg of 17th century date (context 105, Plates 14 and 15), another possible tyg sherd (context 111) and a near complete example of a two handled cup (context 153) of late 16th-early 17th century date (Fig 1, no. 1). Post-medieval buff ware (fabric 91) was represented by only three sherds, in the form of pancheons or large storage jars (context 107 and unstratified) and a small hollowware vessel. Two highly fired sherds of midlands purple ware (fabric 108) were also present, most likely dating to the 17th-18th century (context 166 and unstratified).

Modern period

Modern sherds were the second largest part the group assemblage with 19 sherds accounting for 40% of the total pottery assemblage. The dominant fabric was modern stone china (fabric 85), represented by 15 sherds. Three of the sherds (context 204) could be identified as originating from a teacup of 19th- 20th century date. Early examples of modern china were present including an example in a buff earthen ware fabric (context 107) with a glossy mustard coloured glaze of early to mid 19th century date (pers comm Laura Griffin). Several other, early china sherds were present including a fragment of Mocha ware (unstratified context), of very late 18th-early 19th century date. Two sherds of porcelain (fabric 83) were recovered, one form that of a domestic cup possibly of 19th century date (context 204), the other a fragment of biscuit fired teapot lid (unstratified context), and dating from the 19th-20th century. Two examples of bottles, in miscellaneous late stoneware (fabric 81.4), were recovered (unstratified contexts), and date from the 19th-20th century.

5.1.2 **Other finds**

Other finds consisted of a several fragments of coal (contexts 105, 165, 168 and unstratified), three fragments of fibreglass were recovered (context 168). This material dates from 1938 onwards and most likely indicates a mid 20th century date for this context. Several fragments of modern window and bottle glass were recovered (168 and unstratified), and these date to the 19th-20th century. Tiles were present in the form of complete and near complete roof tiles (context 204), these are probable of late 15th to 18th century date. A partial clay pipe stem of 17th to 18th century date (context 107) and a partial leather shoe heel of 20th century date (context 204) and a fragment of modern drainpipe (context 165) were also recovered. Two substantial lumps of iron slag hearth bottoms were recovered (context 151 and 153), these are

of post-medieval (possibly 17th century) date and are clear indications of local iron smithing activity.

5.1.3 **Significance**

The artefacts recovered from Area B do not indicate archaeological activity in this area prior to the late 16th or more likely 17th century, and are characteristic of domestic assemblages. Specific artefacts display continuous deposition from the post-medieval into the modern period. This material gives clear indications of local industrial activity. A few unusual forms were present in this group, in particular the near complete example of a two-handled cup (Fig 9; Plates 16 and 17), which is probably late 16th century or 17th century in date. This indicates the possibility for the survival of significant post-medieval deposits in this area. The less complete tyg (Plates 14 and 15), which has a cruder glaze, may be of a slightly later date.

The following contexts have been allocated *tpq* dates as a result of the assemblage quantification:

- Context 105, 17th-early 18th century
- Contexts 107, early 19th century
- Contexts 111, late 16th-17th century
- Contexts 151, 18th century
- Context 153, 17th-18th century
- Contexts 165, 19th-20th century
- Contexts 166, 17th-18th century
- Context 168, 1938-2000
- Context 204, 20th century

6. Conclusions and recommendations

There has been little archaeological work in Wednesfield and the level of preservation of archaeological deposits is largely unknown (Shaw 2005 and pers comm). The ditches have local archaeological significance and require further investigation if affected by any development proposals, as the existing information has indicated that they have the potential to provide valuable information about late medieval/early post-medieval property divisions in Wednesfield and associated industrial activity.

The ditches were discovered in the southern half of Trench 1 where there appears to have been only minimal disturbance to archaeological deposits. It is therefore recommended that further groundworks in this area be closely monitored to record any new archaeological information.

Archaeological deposits in Trenches 2 and 3 had either been removed by foundations for modern buildings or were heavily disturbed by demolition material from 20th century brick buildings. From these sampled areas there is no new archaeological information to be gleaned prior to the mid-19th century. A vaulted cellar (Trench 3) remains *in-situ.* Groundwork in the area of Trenches 2 and 3 are unlikely to have an archaeological impact, but if they exceed a depth of two metres, further monitoring may be merited.

7. 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 excavation was undertaken at land off Rookery Street in Wednesfield, Wolverhampton (National Grid ref. SJ 9430 0010). It was undertaken on behalf of Wolverhampton City Council prior to the planned construction of an urban square and footpath link between Bentley Bridge and High Street, Wednesfield.

Three trenches were examined. The first, Trench 1, which was subsequently extended, lay to the immediate west of an existing textile manufacturers premises. Trenches 2 and 3 lay to the east of the textiles building.

In much of the sampled area modern cellaring and material from recently demolished 20th century buildings dominated. However, a ditch exposed in Trench 1 produced an early 17th century tyg (a vessel designed for communal drinking) and other fragments of pottery indicating activity which pre-dates the Industrial Revolution. A second 'tyg' vessel of late 16th/early 17th century date was recovered from the extended area, in an adjacent ditch. The deposits filling both linear features contained waste iron smithing slag fragments from hearth bottoms. It is suggested that properties were laid out along this section of Rookery Street in the 17th century or earlier, and that they may have been engaged in industrial activity.

A vaulted cellar was encountered in Trench 2 and has been left in-situ. Extensive cellaring was evident in Trench 3 disturbing natural deposits, although three pit features (probably associated but with no dating information) were recorded within its northern half, towards Rookery Street.

8. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Peter Collings, Rob Freewood (Wolverhampton City Council), Leon Hawley (GIP), Mike Shaw (Black Country Archaeologist, Wolverhampton City Council) and Mike Hodder (Planning Archaeologist, Birmingham City Council) for his comments on the two tyg cups.

9. Personnel

The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan. Fieldwork was undertaken by Justin Hughes, Adam Lee and Christine Elgy, finds analysis by Angus Crawford and Alan Jacobs, and illustration by Carolyn Hunt and Steve Rigby.

10. Bibliography

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11. The archive

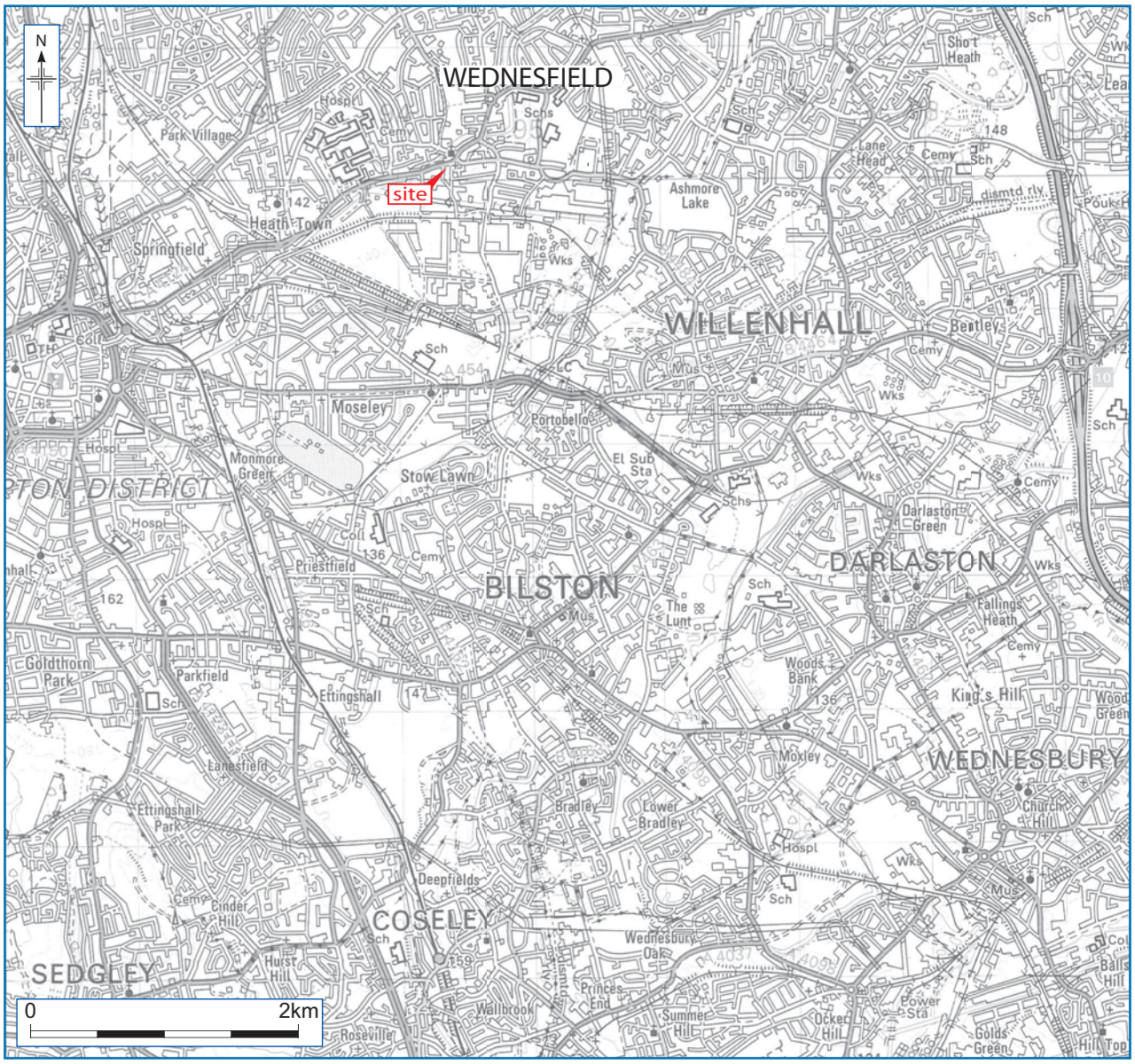
The archive consists of:

67	Context records AS1
2	Photographic records AS3
138	Digital photographs
1	Context finds sheet AS8
1	Levels record sheet AS19
7	Trench record sheets AS41
5	Scale drawing sheets
1	Box of finds

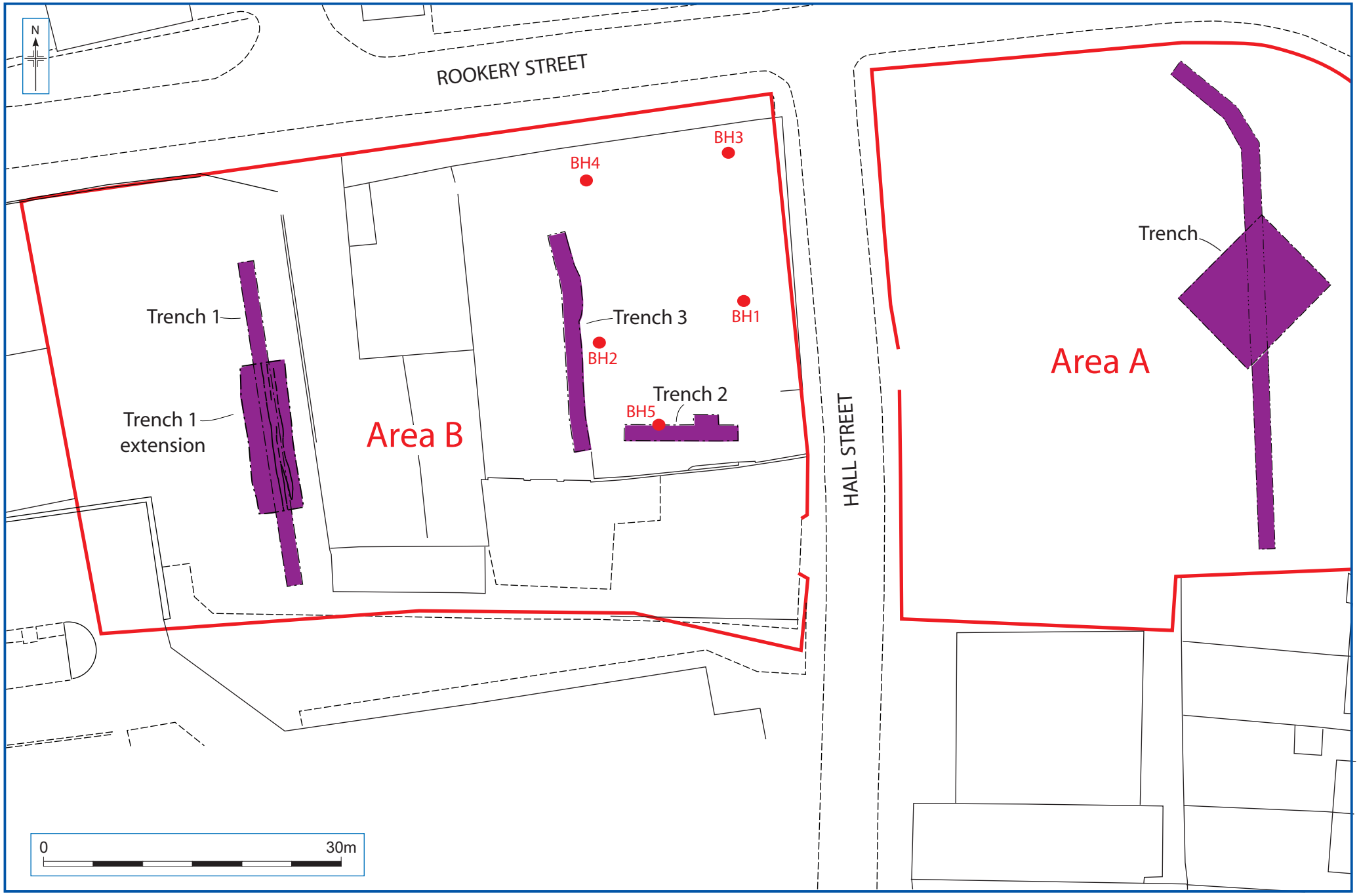
The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Black Country Museum,
Tipton Road,
Dudley.
DY1 4SQ

Figures

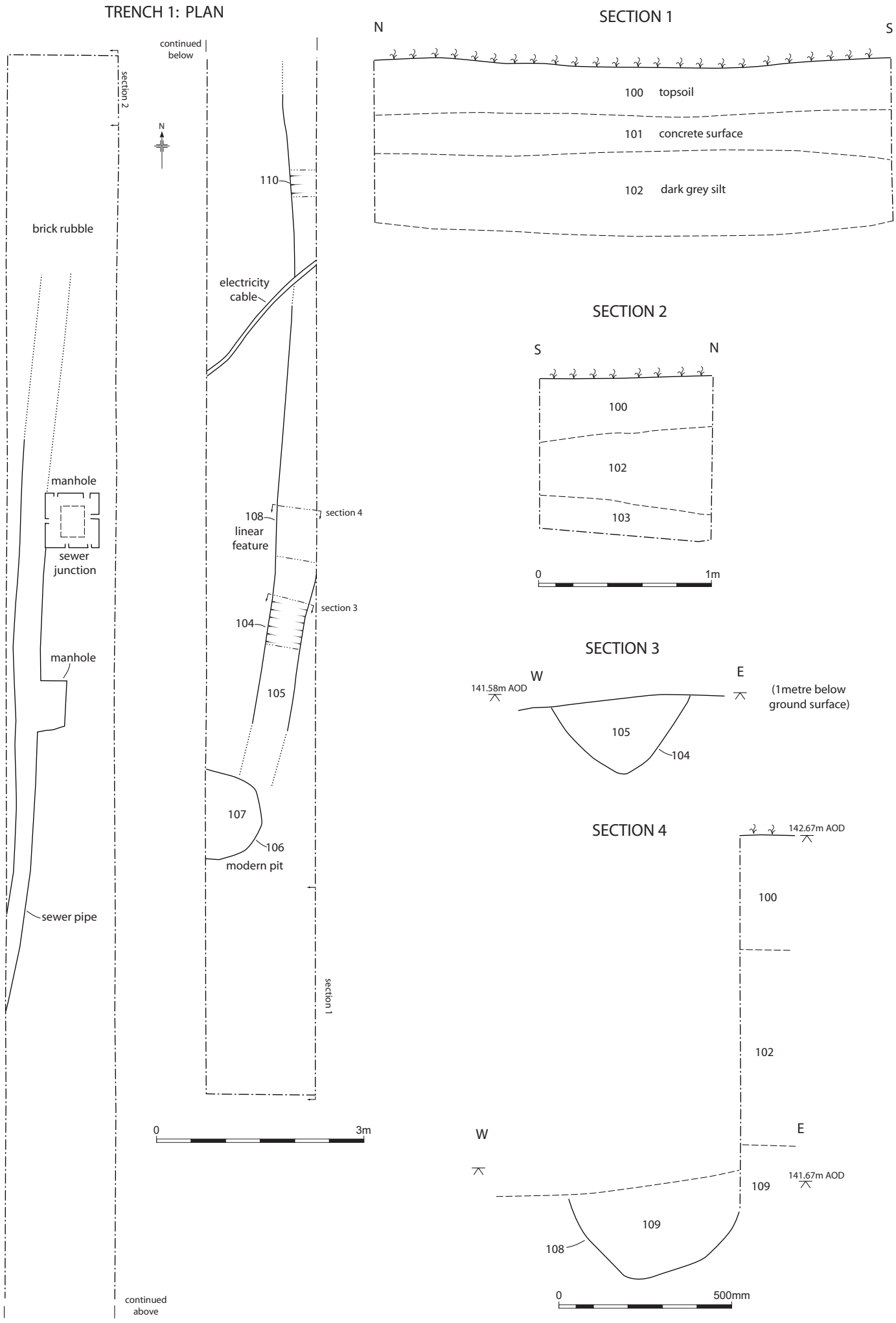


Location of the site. *Figure 1*



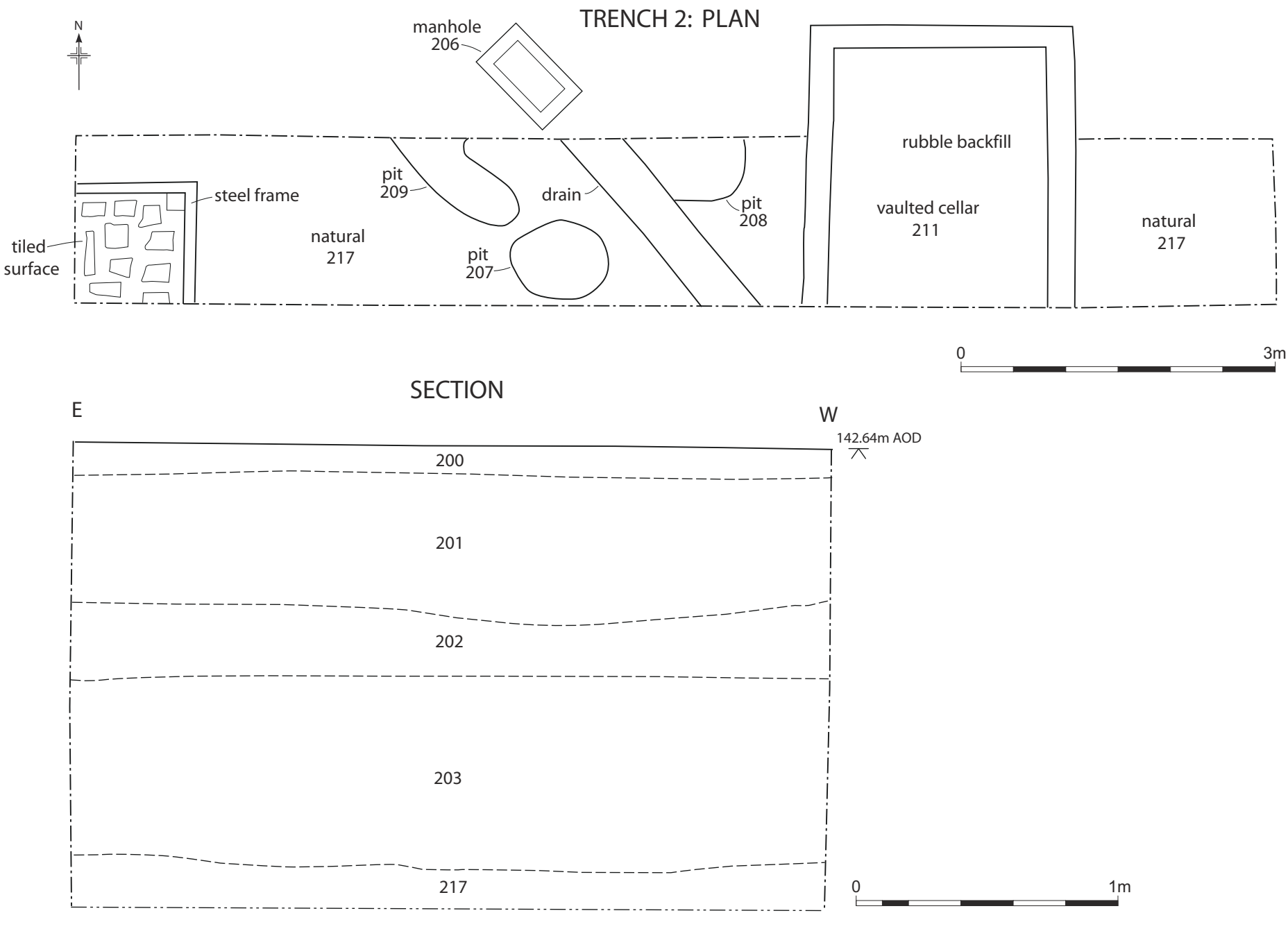
Trench location plan: Area B

Figure 2



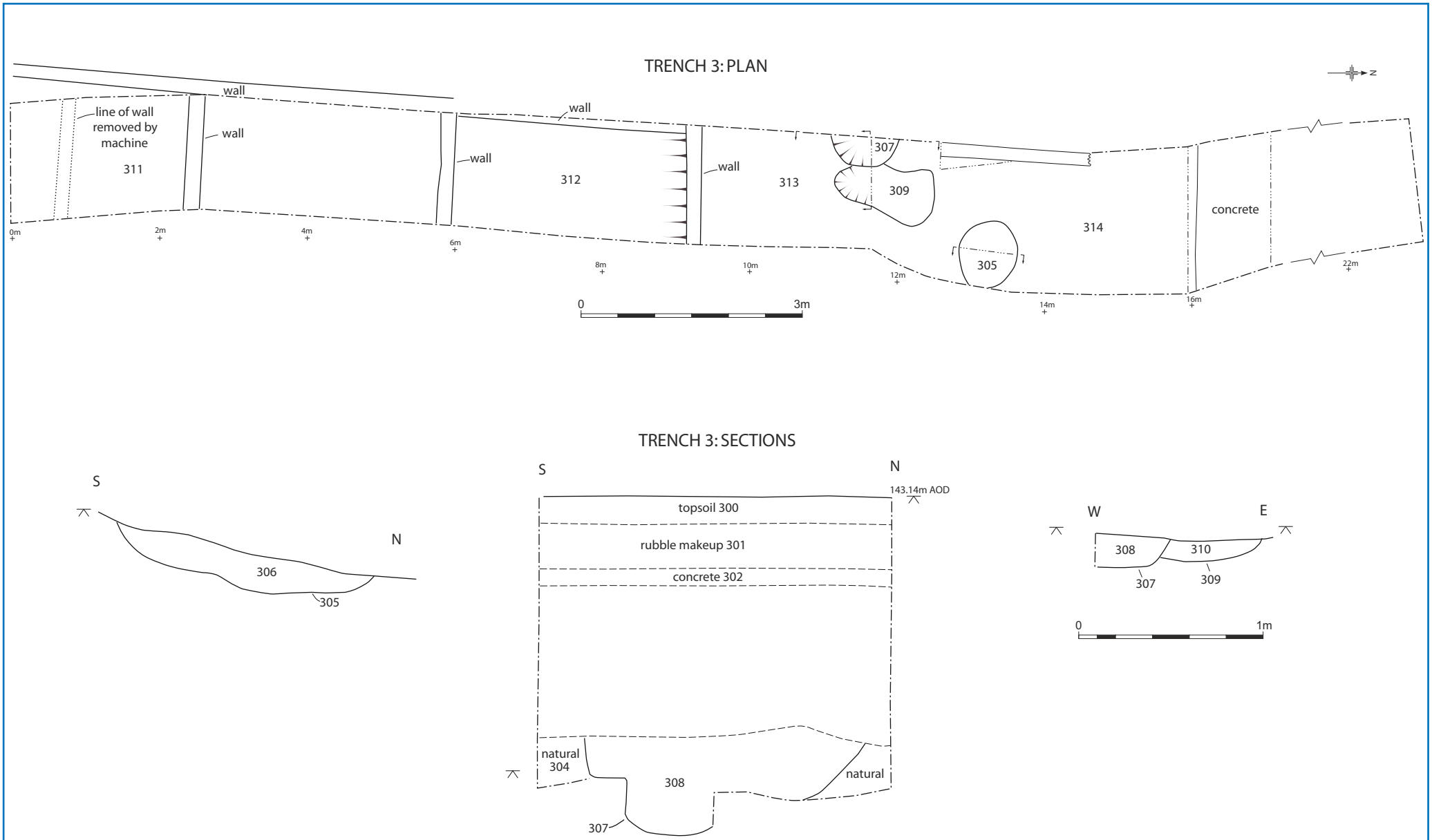
Trench 1: Plan and sections

Figure 3



Trench 2: Plan and section

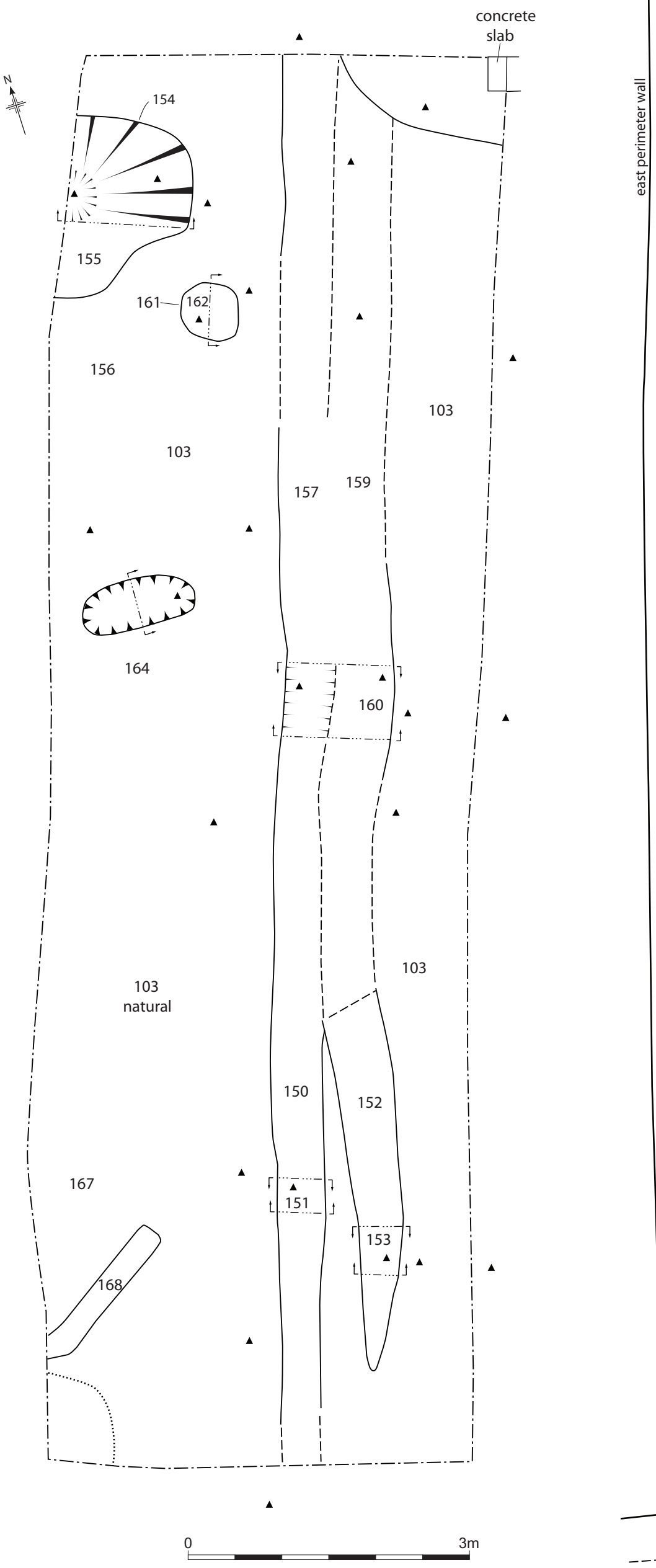
Figure 4



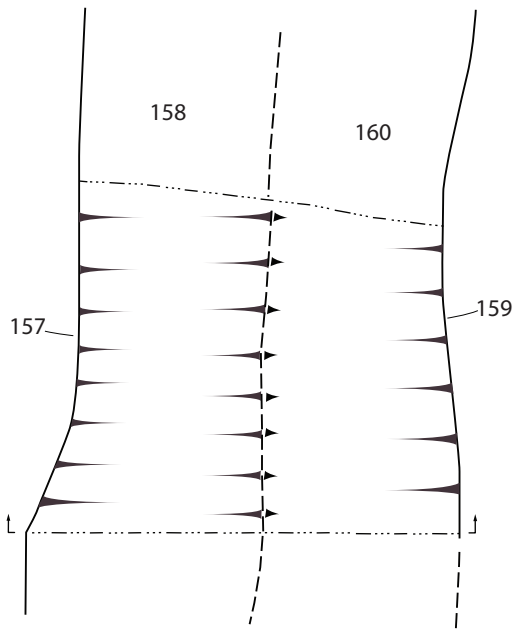
Trench 3: Plan and sections

Figure 5

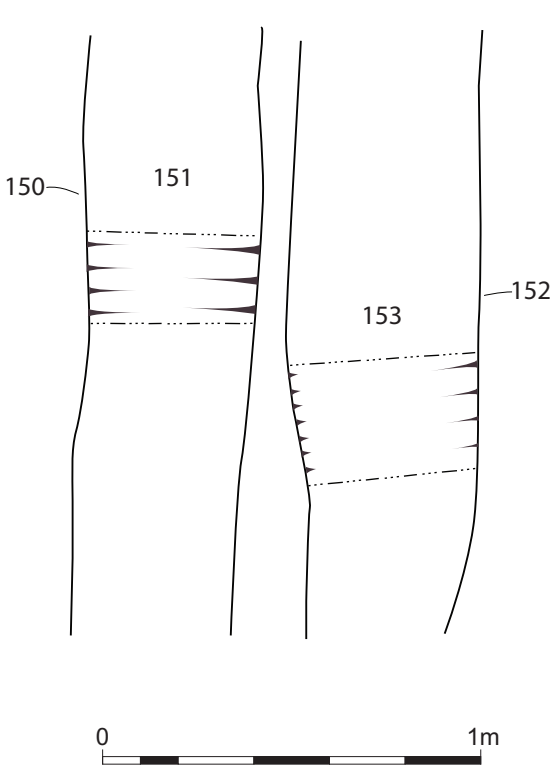
TRENCH 1 EXTENSION: PLAN



DETAIL PLAN OF 157 AND 159



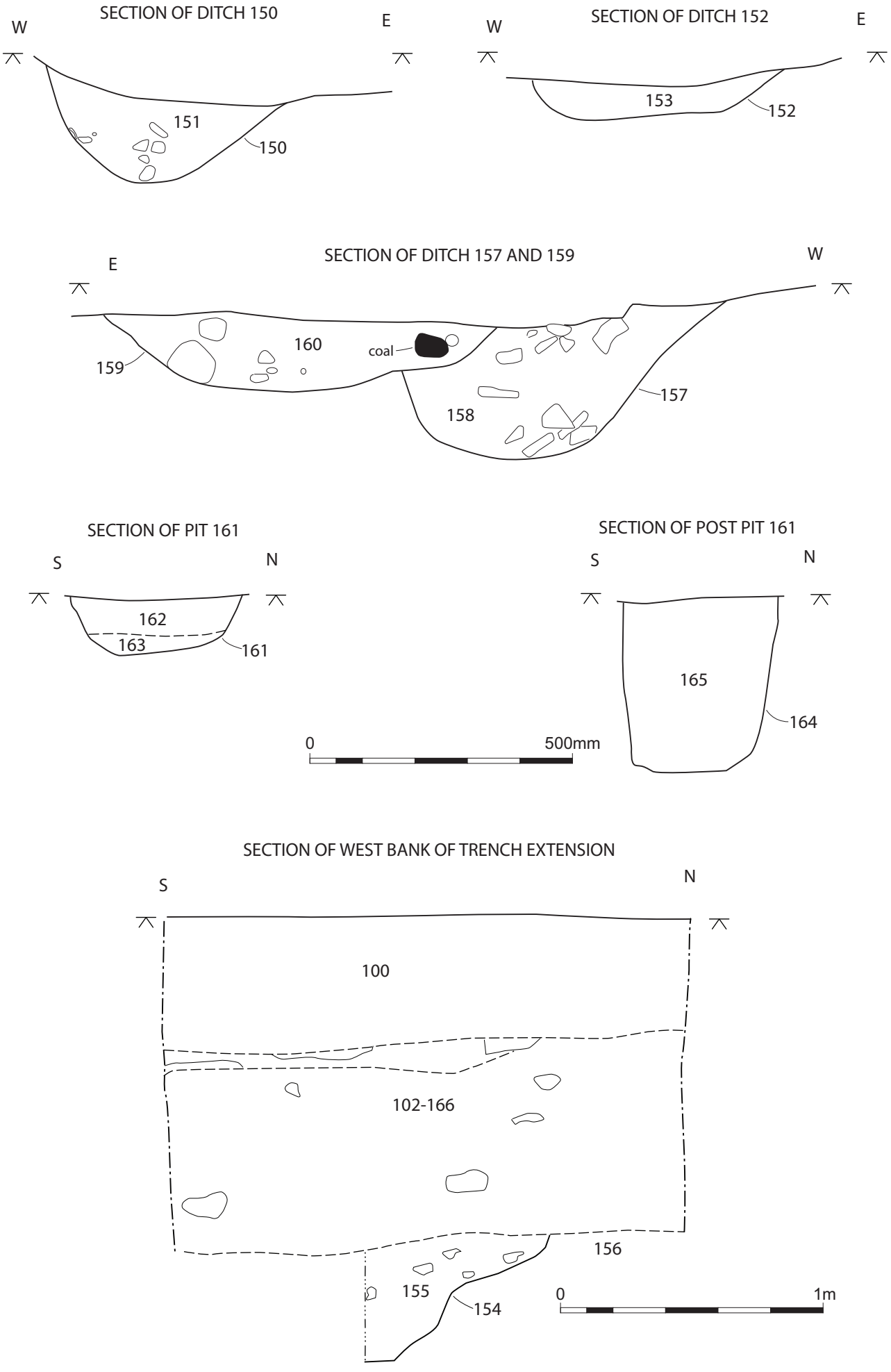
DETAIL PLAN OF 152 AND 150



Trench 1 extension: Plan and detail plans

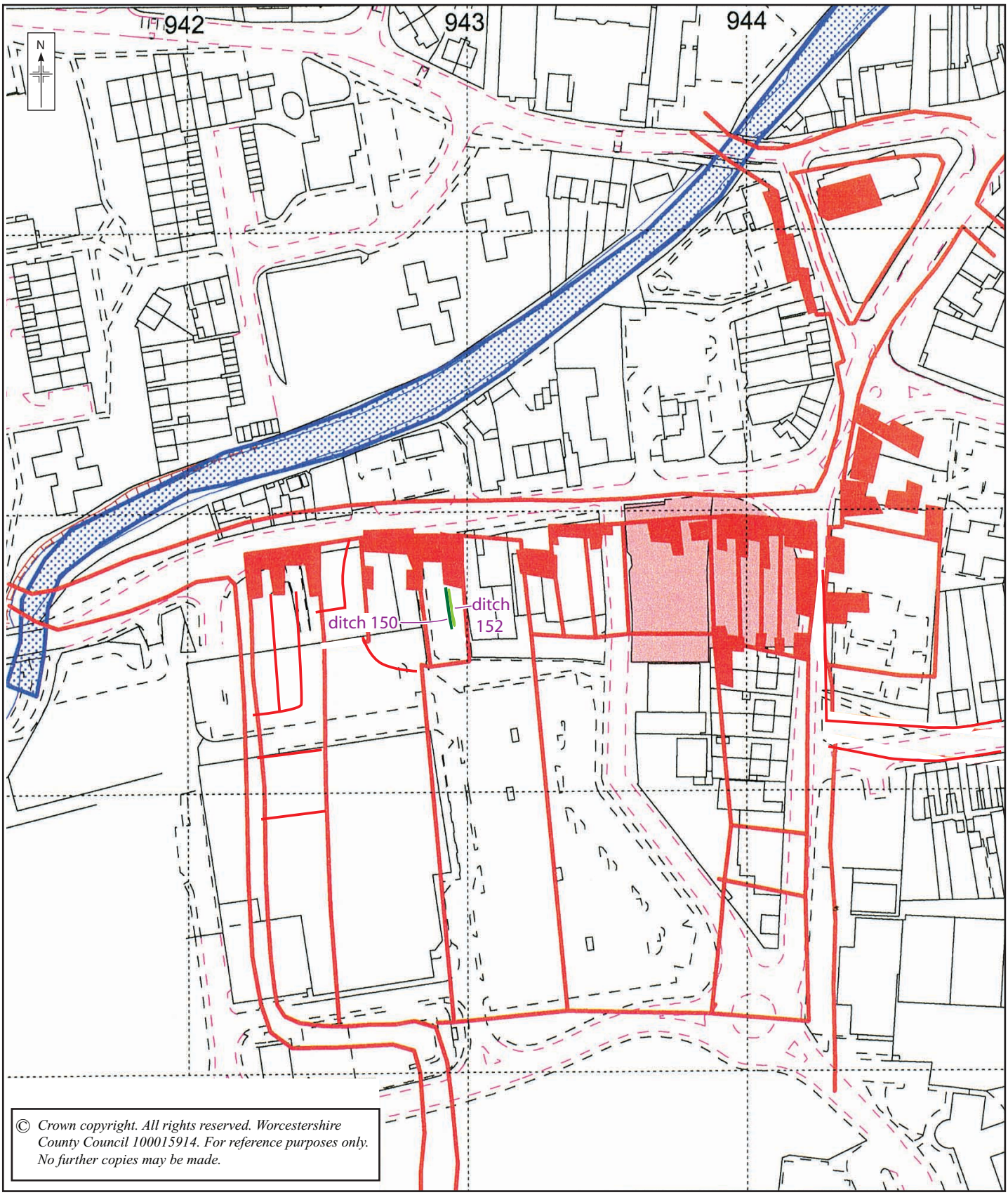
Figure 6

TRENCH 1 EXTENSION: SECTIONS



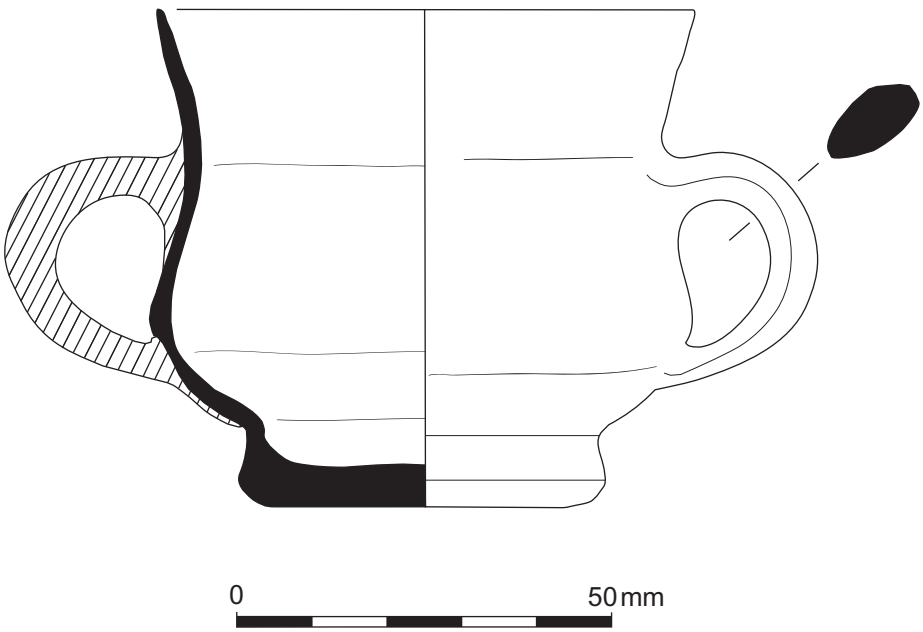
Trench 1 extension, sections

Figure 7



OS with Tithe Map overlay

Figure 8



Early 17th century tyg cup

Figure 9

Plates

Plate 1, Trench 1, facing north

Plate 2, Trench 2, facing east

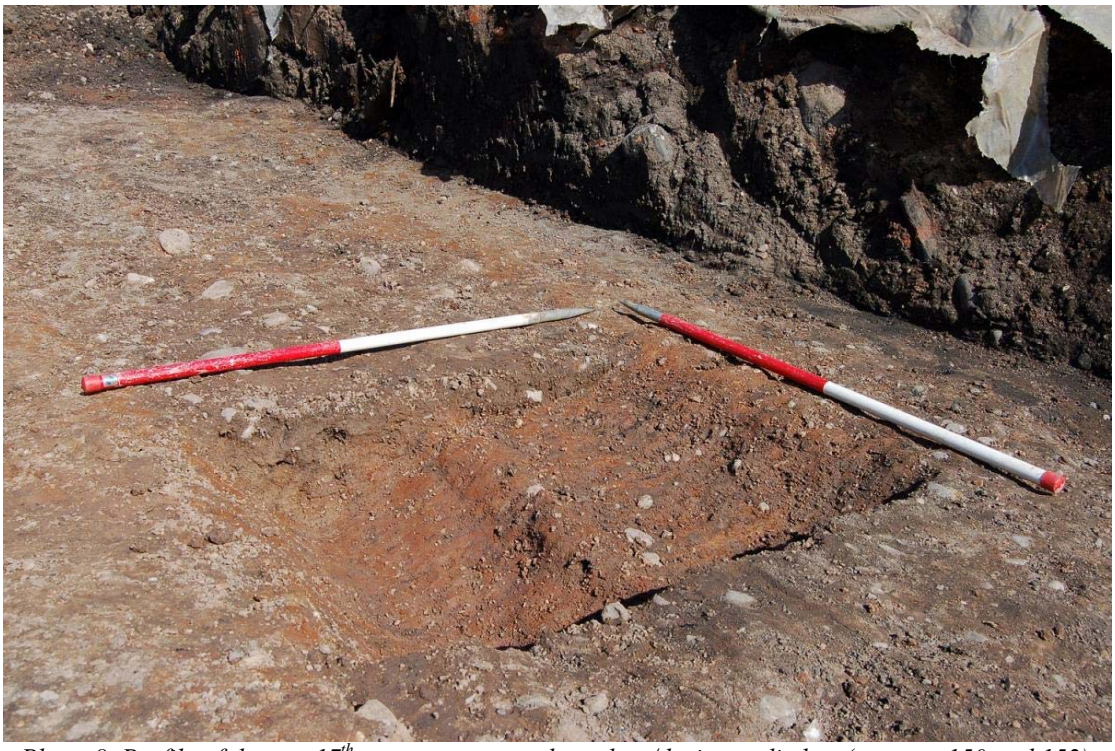
Plate 3, Trench 3, facing south

Plate 4, 16th/17th century ditch (context 104), facing north

Plate 5, Trench 1 extension, facing north

Plate 6, The two 17th century property boundary/drainage ditches (contexts 150 and 152), facing north

Plate 7, The two 17th century property boundary/drainage ditches (contexts 150 and 152), facing south



Plates 8, Profile of the two 17th century property boundary/drainage ditches (contexts 150 and 152), facing north-east

Plate 9, Profiles of the two 17th century property boundary/drainage ditches (contexts 150 and 152), facing north-west

Plate 10, Vaulted cellar south wall (context 218)

Plate 11, Vaulted cellar north wall (context 219)

Plate 12, Trench 3 (contexts 307 and 309) facing north

Plate 13, Trench 2 (context 204) facing west

Plate 14, left facing profile of 17th century tyg

Plate 15, right facing profile of 17th century tyg

Plate 16, 16th/17th century tyg, context 153

Plate 17, 16th/17th century tyg, context 153

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Site area: Area B

Maximum dimensions: Length: 33m Width: 1.6m Depth: 1.10m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
100	Topsoil	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate small to large stones and large modern lumps of CBM and concrete	0.34m
101	Concrete	Modern concrete car park.	0.24m
102	Makeup layer	Firm dark black to brown sandy/clay silt with patches of stony black material, frequent 19th century and later CBM. Disturbed by modern services.	0.50m
103	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy/silty clay with patches of sand. Frequent small to large rounded stones.	0.95 to 1.10m
104	Cut	N-S aligned gully – same as 108 and 110	9.00 by 0.24 by 0.46m
105	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay/sandy silt with moderate small to large rounded stones. Frequent natural concretions within the soil matrix – same as 109 and 111	
106	Pit	Unexcavated, modern feature – waterlogged	0.52 by 0.30m
107	Fill	Firm dark brown sandy/clay silt – contains large amounts of pottery – sample retrieved.	
108	Cut	Same as 104 and 110	
109	Fill	Same as 105 and 111	
110	Cut	Same as 104 and 108	
111	Fill	Same as 105 and 109	

Trench 1 extension

Site area: Area B

Maximum dimensions: Length: 15m Width: 4.70m Depth: 1.30m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
150	Cut	Ditch, aligned N-S, U-shaped profile but with acute angle where it cuts into natural. West slope steeper than east. Equivalent to 104 and 157.	< 15.00 x 0.47 x 0.30m
151	Fill	Mid greyish brown clay silt, moderate compaction with small to large rounded stones. Some contamination from layer 166.	See 1:50 plan of excavation
152	Cut	Ditch, aligned N-S, broad, shallow but irregular U profile, with moderately steep section and broad base. Some truncation probable. Equivalent to 159.	For length see 1:50 plan of excavation. 0.45 by 0.06m
153	Fill	Mid greyish brown clay silt, small to large rounded pebbles. Some contamination from layer 166. Equivalent to context 160.	> 0.35 x 0.45 x 0.06m
154	Cut	Pit. Round in form, west side lost under west trench baulk. Concave sides, becoming more acute near base – inverted bell shape profile.	Length 1,70m, depth 0.40m
155	Fill	Mid grey sandy silt, loose with occasional to moderate angular and sub rounded pebbles, occasional slate and coal.	0.40m
156	Layer	Orange brown sandy clay, loose to friable with moderate rounded and sub rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal.	See 1:50 plan of excavation
157	Cut	Same as 104 and 150, cut along its eastern side by context 159.	< 15.00 x 0.46 x 0.25m
158	Fill	Mid greyish brown clay silt, moderately compact, common medium to large angular pebbles and small to medium ovoid pebbles. Common coal fragments.	> 0.90 x 0.46 x 0.25m
159	Cut	Ditch irregular in plan with broad U shape profile, gently sloping with clear angle at surface, curving to broad base and slightly undulating and sloping to south. Equivalent to context 152.	> 0.85 x 0.65 x 0.15m
160	Fill	Mid greyish brown clay silt, moderately compact, occasional to moderate small – medium sub oval and sub angular pebbles. Common coal inclusions. Equivalent to context 153.	> 0.85 x 0.65 x 0.15m
161	Cut	Circular post pit, rounded profile with flattish base.	Diameter 0.34m. Depth 0.12m
162	Fill	Upper fill of context 161 – dark grey ash in grey silty clay matrix.	0.09m
163	Fill	Lower fill of context 161 – mid grey, loose silty clay.	0.03m
164	Cut	Pit. Elongated oval in plan. Vertical sides with flat base.	0.54 x 0.34 x 0.34m
165	Fill	Mottled grey-orange clay silt, loose to friable with gravely texture.	0.34m
166	Make up layer	Dark grey clay silt, equivalent to context 102.	
167	Cut	Pipe trench, aligned SW-NE, truncated at NE end.	0.54 by 0.12m
168	Fill	Dark grey ashy soil in a sandy clay matrix. Not excavated.	N/A

Trench 2

Site area: Area B

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10.9m Width: 1.5m Depth: 2.00m

Orientation: W-E

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
200	Tarmac	Dark black-concreted tarmac.	0.10m
201	Rubble makeup	Makeup layer of aggregate (BM and cinder).	0.50 – 0.60m
202	Makeup layer	Black loose to friable clay silt	0.30m
203	Makeup layer	Firm brown black sandy/clay silt with lumps of CBM and moderate small to large rounded stones	0.70m
204	Structure	Steel-framed, square-shaped base for container	0.50 by 0.50m
205	Surface	Tiled surface within 204	0.50 by 0.50m
206	Structure	Manhole constructed with blue brick	0.95 by 0.75m
207	Cut	Circular, unexcavated pit	0.80 by 0.55m
208	Cut	Sub-ovular, unexcavated pit – cut by 221	1.2 by 0.60m
209	Cut	Elongated, unexcavated pit	1.40 by 0.60m
210	Cut	Unexcavated linear cut possibly associated with 206	2.00 by 0.40m
211	Structure	Vault for cellar constructed with CBM, concrete and mortar	2.60 by 2.60m
212	Fill	Rubble infill mainly comprised of CBM	
213	Structure	East cellar wall supported by 211	
214	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy/clay silt – fill of 207	
215	Fill	Firm dark brown grey sandy/clay silt – fill of 208	
216	Fill	Firm dark brown grey sandy/clay silt – fill of 209	
217	Natural	Mid to light grey orange/yellow silty clay with moderate small to medium rounded stones	1.40 –2.00m
218	Structure	South (lime-faced) perimeter wall of 211 – brick, only visible in trench baulk	
219	Structure	North perimeter wall of 211 – brick, visible in trench baulk	
220	Fill	Firm dark brown grey sandy/clay silt – fill of 210	

Trench 3

Site area: Area B

Maximum dimensions: Length: 22m Width: 1.60m Depth: 1.80m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
300	Topsoil	Fine, loose, dark grey clay silt.	0.20m
301	Makeup layer	Building rubble mainly comprised of CBM.	0.30m
302	Structure	Concrete surface – building foundation.	0.10m
303	Layer	Mixed black clay silt deposit – makeup and demolition material	0.80m
304	Natural	Compact yellow to mid brown silty clay with moderate small to large rounded stones.	1.40 to 1.80m
305	Cut	Circular pit	1.00 by 0.60m
306	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy clay silt containing lumps of red sandstone	
307	Cut	Circular pit – west end under trench baulk	1.00 by 0.50m
308	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy clay silt with moderate charcoal flecking	
309	Cut	Elongated ovular pit cut by 307	1.70 by 1.40m
310	Fill	Firm light brown grey sandy clay silt with moderate rounded stones	
311	Structure	Brick-built cellar	2.00 by 1.60m (min)
312	Structure	Brick-built cellar	3.80 by 1.60m (min)
313	Structure	Brick-built cellar	2.80 by 1.60m (min)
314	Structure	Brick-built cellar	4.40 by 1.60m (min)

Borehole Data

Borehole 1	Concrete	Surface	0.00 – 0.20m
	Dark black brown clay silt	Disturbed	0.20 – 0.60m
	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.60m +
Borehole 2	Tarmac and hardcore	Surface	0.00 – 0.15m
	Black ash	Topsoil	0.15 – 0.60m
	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	0.60m +
Borehole 3	Dark grey loam	Topsoil	0.00 – 1.20m
	Orange brown sandy clay	Natural	1.20 – 2.00m
	Orange sandstone	Natural	2.00m +
Boreholes 4 and 5	not observed		