

PRESTON TOWN CENTRE, LANCASHIRE



Archaeological Watching Brief



Oxford Archaeology North

February 2004

**Alfred McAlpine Utility
Services**

Issue No: 2003-4/175

OA North Job No: L9091

NGR: SD 538294

Document Title: PRESTON TOWN CENTRE, LANCASHIRE

Document Type: Archaeological Watching Brief

Client Name: Alfred McAlpine Utility Services

Issue Number: 2003-4/175

OA Job Number: L9091


National Grid Reference: SD 538294

Prepared by: Paul Clark
Position: Project Supervisor
Date: February 2004

Checked by: Alison Plummer
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: February 2004

Signed.....

Approved by: Alan Lupton
Position: Operations Manager
Date: February 2004

Signed.....

Document File Location Alison/Projects/L9091prest/report

Oxford Archaeology North

Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1TF
t: (0044) 01524 848666
f: (0044) 01524 848606

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd (2004)

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0EA
t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	3
1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
1.1 Circumstances of the Project	4
2. METHODOLOGY.....	5
2.1 Project Design.....	5
2.2 Watching Brief.....	5
3. BACKGROUND.....	6
3.1 Site Location	6
3.2 Geology.....	6
3.3 Topography.....	6
3.4 Historical Background	6
4. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS.....	9
4.1 Trial Trenches	9
4.2 Manchester Road Trenches (MR 1-10).....	9
4.3 St John's Place Trenches (SJ 1-25).....	10
4.4 Cross Street Trenches (CS 1-20).....	10
4.5 Mount Street Trenches (MS 1-33)	11
4.6 The Finds	12
5. CONCLUSIONS.....	13
5.1 Discussion of Results.....	13
BIBLIOGRAPHY	14
ILLUSTRATIONS	15
List of Figures	15
List of Plates	15
APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN.....	16
APPENDIX 2: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS	17
APPENDIX 3: FINDS LIST	21

SUMMARY

Between July and October 2002 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), undertook a series of archaeological watching briefs within Preston, Lancashire, centred between Manchester Road to Mount Street, and lying to the south of Fishergate and Church Street (SD 538 294); the work was undertaken on behalf of Alfred McAlpine Utility Services.

The aim of the watching brief was to establish the existence and location of any surviving archaeological remains during the course of refurbishment works associated with the water supply to Preston town centre.

In total, 88 trenches were excavated, of which 66 revealed only the modern backfill of service trenches. Eight of the trenches revealed natural geological deposits, sealed by modern material, suggesting that in these areas any archaeological stratigraphy had been previously destroyed. Three trenches, however, revealed layers that may represent surviving archaeological deposits. Unfortunately, none of these layers produced any archaeological finds, leaving them undated. A further seven trenches had been excavated and backfilled without any archaeological presence, whilst four revealed relatively modern brick structures.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OA North would like to express its thanks to Alfred McAlpine Utility Services for commissioning the project and for their assistance during the archaeological works. Vix Hughes, Mark Bagwell, Chris Wild, Neil Wearing and Richard Heawood carried out the fieldwork. The report was written by Paul Clark and Vix Hughes, with Jo Dawson and Andy Bates examining the finds. Drawings were compiled by Emma Carter. Alison Plummer was responsible for project management and report editing together with Emily Mercer.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) undertook a series of four archaeological watching briefs on behalf of Alfred McAlpine Utility Services, working for United Utilities, during the refurbishment of the water main network in central Preston. These watching briefs were located along Fishergate, the eastern end of Church street, and the area directly to the south.
- 1.1.2 The work was carried out as a mitigation measure imposed by Preston Borough Council, in consultation with the Lancashire County Archaeological Service (LCAS). The results of the Watching Brief are detailed in this report.
- 1.1.3 A full archive of the watching brief has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (1991).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by OA North in response to a verbal brief provided by LCAS. The programme set out in the project design was a permanent watching brief in order to accurately document the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features within the excavations in the course of the proposed water main refurbishment. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice.
- 2.1.2 During this phase of work, recording comprised a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their location. All archaeological information collected in the course of fieldwork was recorded in standardised form with the project design was adhered to in full.

2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 This work comprised of the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the foundation works, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts identified during observation.
- 2.2.2 **Recording:** the recording methods employed by OA North accord with those recommended by English Heritage's Centre for Archaeology (CFA). Recording was principally in the form of *pro forma* Trench Sheets for each trench, which recorded the orientation, length, and depth of each trench, and described the nature of the topsoil, subsoil (where applicable), and geological deposits. Where there were anticipated significant archaeological features, or where significant features were identified, the features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* context sheets based on those designed by MoLAS and English Heritage's Centre for Archaeology (CFA). A full textual, drawn, and photographic record was maintained for all deposits and features.
- 2.2.3 **Finds:** all finds recovered were bagged and recorded by context number; all significant finds were retained and have been processed and temporarily stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines).

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 SITE LOCATION

3.1.1 The site (Figs 1 and 2) occupies the southern central part of Preston town centre bound by Fishergate through to Church Street to the north, the railway station to the west, Avenham Park to the south and Grimshaw Street to the east. The site is split into four distinct clusters of trial trenches (Figs 3-5), labelled according to the main road/street within each area (MR - Manchester Road, SJ - St John's Place, CS - Cross Street, MS - Mount Street).

3.2 GEOLOGY

3.2.1 The solid geology of the area is Permian red sandstone and conglomerates of the Sherwood Group (BGS 1967). Since it is in an urban area there is no soil information for the study area; however, excavations elsewhere in Preston have indicated a drift deposit of compacted sands (LUAU 1989).

3.3 TOPOGRAPHY

3.3.1 The study area occupies west-sloping ground, approximately 30m above sea level. This is positioned to the immediate north-west of an east/west ridge, on which the parish church of St John is situated at the highest point. From the church the land gradually falls away to the west and north; to the south and east the slope is more pronounced. At the western end of the survey area the ground begins to level off before rising again further to the west.

3.4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.4.1 The site lies within the historic centre of Preston (Fig 1), within the post-medieval ward of St George's. To the north of the site is Fishergate, the main north-west/south-east-aligned road leading from the market place in the centre of Preston.

3.4.2 There has been little evidence for prehistoric activity located within the centre of Preston. This may, in part, reflect either the relative lack of archaeological work within the town centre or the disturbance of prehistoric deposits by later development. All known evidence for that period in the Preston area has been recorded during the nineteenth century when the docks were constructed and the course of the River Ribble was altered. The finds included a large assemblage of human skulls, log boats and animal bones including whale vertebrae (Middleton *et al* forthcoming).

3.4.3 There is limited archaeological evidence for any Roman activity within Preston town centre, although excavations at Walton-le-Dale (*c* 1km to the south) revealed significant Roman remains (Gibbons *et al*, forthcoming; OA North 2002). These represented a considerable settlement associated with

industrial activity. Similarly, recent excavations at the two neighbouring forts of Kirkham (Howard-Davis and Buxton 2000) to the west, and Ribchester to the east (Buxton and Howard-Davis 2000) suggest an intensive early military occupation of the area during the Roman period. However, the only evidence for a Roman presence within the town centre itself is a mortarium rim found in a pit on New Hall Lane (Hunt 1992).

- 3.4.4 Continuous occupation in Preston probably began in the early medieval period, with a grant of land given by St Wilfrid in the seventh century for the establishment of a monastery (Hardwick 1857). Little is known of the community but the placename evidence of *Prestune* 'town of the priests' from the Domesday Book suggests an early monastic settlement. Other placenames in the vicinity of the town centre, such as Avenham, Fishwick and Ashton, all point to an Anglian settlement established prior to the Norse settlement of the area during the ninth and tenth centuries (Hunt 1992, 10).
- 3.4.5 There is potential for archaeological remains relating to the medieval and probably Anglo Saxon settlement of Preston being located within the area of the refurbishment works. The long history of the development of the town is likely to have left significant archaeological remains including the remains of buildings, alleyways and burgage plots. The site is within the main area of medieval settlement in Preston, which appears to have been centred on the Market Place and Parish Church. Later development appears to have been relatively limited until the later 18th and 19th centuries, when large developments associated with the textile industry took place in the town.
- 3.4.6 Preston was granted borough status when it obtained its first recorded royal charter from Henry II in 1179; the town had obviously enjoyed some form of local importance in the surrounding area due to its location on the junction of several trading routes and different agricultural zones (Whittle 1837). The granting of borough status meant that Preston replaced Lancaster as the major town of North Lancashire, although not from an administrative point of view. This is clearly seen from the assessment of Lancashire for tax purposes in 1218-19 and Preston was the wealthiest town (Hodge 1984, 6). However, archaeological work in the last 15 years has failed to identify substantial evidence for medieval activity in the town centre. In particular, there has been a lack of structural evidence, although rubbish pits have produced useful evidence for the local pottery tradition (Hunt 1992). The nature of the finds retrieved have provided an indication of the relative prosperity of the town and its trade links with other areas.
- 3.4.7 During the 17th and 18th centuries Preston became a centre for legal and administrative business in Lancashire. It was considered to be a genteel town, characterised by the large number of town houses held by the local aristocracy and professional classes (*ibid*).
- 3.4.8 In the late eighteenth century the character of the town changed due to the industrial revolution. The town became a centre for textile production, and by 1857 there were 75 large mills. Between 1801 and 1851 the population rose from 11,887 to 68,587, and was largely accommodated in dwellings which infilled open areas within the town, and surrounding countryside (*ibid*).

- 3.4.9 During the late nineteenth century a series of monumental buildings were constructed in the town centre, including The Harris Library and Art Gallery, Sessions House, Town Hall, Millar Arcade and Post Office; these probably replaced the existing medieval buildings in the town centre (*ibid*).

4. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

4.1 TRIAL TRENCHES

4.1.1 In total, 88 trenches (Figs 3, 4 and 5) were excavated along various roads running south from Fishergate and, at the eastern end, Church Street. Two trenches, located along Manchester road, had already been excavated and backfilled prior to the presence of on-site archaeological supervisor, and therefore were not recorded. The majority of the trenches were excavated by hand in order to connect services onto the new water main. As a result they measured an average c1.2m x 0.9m x 1.1m deep. The individual dimensions are provided in *Appendix 2*. Every 100m a larger launch pit c6m x 1.5m x 1.4m was opened in order to feed the new pipe into the existing water main (Plate 1).

4.2 MANCHESTER ROAD TRENCHES (MR 1-10) (FIG 3)

4.2.1 **MR Trenches 1-3:** Trench 1 had been excavated and backfilled without the presence of an archaeologist, whilst Trench 2 had been excavated without archaeological monitoring but had not been backfilled. The deposits within the trench were of highly mixed brown silty material containing numerous inclusions of rubble. It is likely that in this case the trench was excavated entirely within the confines of previously disturbed ground. No artefacts were recovered and no significant archaeological remains were detected. Trench 3 had already been backfilled prior to any archaeological presence.

4.2.2 **MR Trenches 4-7, 9 and 10:** Trenches 4-7, 9 and 10 were inspection holes to connect the services from the shops onto the new main. All of these trenches were observed to be more extensive excavations than the original excavation of the trenches sometime during the 1920s as the original cuts could be identified, and the material to either side of the cuts appeared to be undisturbed. Once through the modern road surface all of the seven trenches revealed evidence of the square stone sets used as a hard wearing road surface. Beneath the sets was a thin layer of blackish-brown silty clay, approximately 0.05m thick and probably the result of material percolating through the sets. Below the occupation debris was a thin layer of sand, which was the bedding material for the sets which overlay a rubble fill. Underlying this was orangey sand and at the base of the trenches was approximately 0.45m of greyish-brown subsoil. No archaeological features or finds were recovered from these trenches.

4.2.3 **MR Trench 8:** Trench 8 was located at the northern end of Manchester Road and revealed not only the original water mains but several other services crossing east/west at the north end of the trench. Although this trench was heavily disturbed, four apparently undisturbed layers were observed (Plate 2). These consisted of a grey sand overlying a charcoal-rich sand, itself overlying a brown sand sealing the natural. Unfortunately, no artefacts were recovered

from these layers, making them undateable, but it seems likely that they could represent the remains of deposits, of possible archaeological potential.

4.3 ST JOHN'S PLACE TRENCHES (SJ 1-25) (FIG 3)

- 4.3.1 ***SJ Trench 1:*** the majority of Trench 1 contained the backfill of the original pipe trench. However, in the south-east corner of the trench part of a red-brick structure was observed, up to a maximum six courses deep. The structure measured 0.3m north/south by 0.2m east/west and continued beyond both the eastern and southern baulks, whilst being truncated to the west. The alignment of this structure remains unknown, although it may represent an *in situ* wall foundation. No dateable evidence was recovered but it is likely that it dates to the Post-medieval period.
- 4.3.2 ***SJ Trench 2:*** Trench 2 revealed the trench for the original water main truncating a soft clean brown sand deposit, 0.4m thick, possibly representing a natural deposit. No artefacts were recovered from this layer, which was sealed by a 0.3m thick layer of modern made ground beneath the road surface.
- 4.3.3 ***SJ Trench 3-5, 7, 9, 12 and 15-20:*** Trenches 3-5, 7, 9, 12 and 15-20 all contained the backfill of the original water pipe trench. No other features or deposits were observed.
- 4.3.4 ***SJ Trenches 6 and 8:*** Trenches 6 and 8, revealed evidence of natural deposits together with the original pipe trench. No archaeology was observed within these trenches.
- 4.3.5 ***SJ Trenches 10-11, 13-14, and 21-25:*** Trenches 10, 14, 21 and 23-25 revealed evidence of both the original water pipe trench and further service trenches, as well as further modern disturbance of unknown origin.

4.4 CROSS STREET TRENCHES (CS 1-20) (FIG 4)

- 4.4.1 ***CS Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 13-20:*** Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 13-20 revealed modern material, which appeared to result from the backfilling of the original water pipe trench.
- 4.4.2 ***CS Trench 3:*** Trench 3 revealed the backfill from service trenches, together with the lowest three courses of a brick structure. Given the confines of the small trench, little can be said about the form of this structure and, unfortunately, no dating evidence was recovered.
- 4.4.3 ***CS Trenches 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12:*** Trenches 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 had been fully excavated, backfilled and reinstated without any archaeological supervision.

4.5 MOUNT STREET TRENCHES (MS 1-33) (FIG 5)

- 4.5.1 **MS Trenches 1-6, 9-11, 13, 16, 17, 19-21, 27, 30 and 33:** Trenches 1-6, 9-11, 13, 16, 17, 19-21, 27, 30 and 33 revealed only the material from the backfilling of the original water pipe trench.
- 4.5.2 **MS Trenches 7, 8, 14 and 15:** Trenches 7, 8, 14 and 15, revealed deposits that were the result of the backfill from the original water pipe trench, as well as evidence of more recent service trenches.
- 4.5.3 **MS Trench 12:** Trench 12 was cut beyond that of the original pipe trench, which was observed in plan. As a result of this, stratigraphy which was undisturbed by the pipe trench was observed in both of the long sections, although it all still appeared to be relatively modern in date. One course of a red-brick structure, three bricks in length, was observed in the north-east corner of the trench. There was no associated dating material but it is thought likely to be relatively modern.
- 4.5.4 **MS Trench 18:** Trench 18 located the original water pipe trench and a later electricity cable trench. In the north-eastern corner was a brick structure, which overlay the water pipe, hence making it later in date.
- 4.5.5 **MS Trenches 22 and 25:** flooding at the base of Trenches 22 and 25 made observation difficult but they appeared to contain backfill for the original trench.
- 4.5.6 **MS Trenches 23, 24, 26, 28 and 29:** whilst Trenches 23, 24, 26, 28 and 29 contained the backfill of the original trench they were wide enough to reveal yellowish-brown clays and sands at the base. These deposits occurred at varying depths but with an average of 0.6m below ground surface, and a maximum of 0.9m below ground surface in Trench 29. No artefacts were observed within this layer and it seems most likely that it represents the underlying natural geology.
- 4.5.7 **MS Trench 31:** Trench 31 was almost entirely excavated within the existing water pipe trench, although at the base of the east and west sections underlying deposits were observed. These deposits consisted of a brownish-yellow clayey-sand containing large fragments of red-brick overlying a dark grey clay-silt containing no artefacts. This lower layer occurred at a depth of 0.95m below ground surface and may potentially be an archaeological deposit.
- 4.5.8 **MS Trench 32:** as with Trench 31, Trench 32 was again excavated almost entirely within the existing water pipe cut. At the base of the western edge of the trench (0.9m below ground surface) a dark grey clay-silt layer was observed. This layer appeared very similar in nature to the deposit at the base of Trench 31 and may well represent an undisturbed archaeological deposit. No artefacts were uncovered.

4.6 THE FINDS

- 4.6.1 A full list of all finds, (with dates and descriptions) recovered can be found in *Appendix 3*.
- 4.6.2 **Pottery:** thirty fineware sherds were recovered. Most of these are probably from tableware vessels, and the majority are undecorated. However, a single Willow-patterned sherd, two other blue transfer patterned sherds, five blue shell-edge sherds, one underglaze blue decorated sherd, and one industrial slipware sherd were also recovered.
- 4.6.3 All the sherds date from the late 18th century through to the 20th century, and only one of them is relief-moulded porcelain, two are stoneware and the remainder being white earthenware. Nine of the remaining sherds are from red earthenware kitchen vessels.
- 4.6.4 There are, in addition, three brown glazed stoneware sherds, one north-west purple-ware-type vessel sherd, one blackware sherd, one imitation blackware base sherd from a faceted drinking vessel (Davey 1987, 129, vessels 2 and 3), one cream bodied marbled slipware sherd, and one cream bodied golden glazed sherd. All these sherds date to between the 18th and 20th centuries, with the exception of the north-west purple ware-type sherd, which may date to between the mid-16th century and the mid-17th century, and the blackware sherd, which may date to between the 17th and 19th centuries.
- 4.6.5 **Clay pipe:** two clay pipe sherds were recovered, a stem sherd and a plain bowl. The stem appears to date to between the 18th and 20th centuries due to its narrow bore, while the bowl dates to between the 17th and 19th centuries (Ayto 1994, 5-7).
- 4.6.6 **Glass:** two bottle sherds were recovered, one light turquoise and one green. Neither was diagnostic in terms of shape, but are thought to be Post-medieval in date.
- 4.6.7 **Ceramic building material:** a single sherd from a ceramic drain pipe was recovered.
- 4.6.8 **Metal:** a copper alloy coin was recovered, but its surfaces were obscured by corrosion.
- 4.6.9 **Bone:** various fragments were recovered, but given their unstratified nature provide no useful information.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

- 5.1.1 In total, 88 trenches were excavated during the course of an archaeological watching brief maintained during the refurbishment of an existing water pipe. Seven of these trenches (MR 1 and 3 and CS 6,8,9,11 and 12) had been excavated, backfilled and reinstated with no archaeological presence and so no information was recorded. Sixty-six of the trenches revealed only modern material, with most of this associated with the backfilling of the original water pipe trench. In addition, more recent service trenches and levelling deposits were also encountered as modern deposits
- 5.1.2 Brick structures were encountered within four of the trenches (SJ1, CS3, MS12 and MS18), with at least one (MS18) post-dating the original water pipe. The dating of the remaining three is uncertain, due to a lack of associated archaeological finds, but it is likely that they are relatively modern in date. The comparatively small nature of the trenches also made it difficult to interpret the full form and function of these structures.
- 5.1.3 In eight trenches (SJ2, SJ6, SJ8, MS23, MS24, MS26, MS8 and MS29) the underlying natural geology appeared to be present. The layers immediately above were exclusively modern in date suggesting that any archaeological stratigraphy has been destroyed by more recent development.
- 5.1.4 Three trenches (MR8, MS31, and MS32), however, did contain layers that may represent archaeological stratigraphy. Within MR Trench 8, three distinct layers were observed, directly overlying the natural geology, which could well represent archaeological deposits. MS Trenches 31 and 32 both contained a very similar dark grey clay silt layer at the base of the trench, which given their close proximity (c6.25m apart) is likely to be one and the same layer. Unfortunately, no artefacts were recovered from the possible archaeological deposits within any of the three trenches, and so they remain undated.
- 5.1.5 The majority of trenches examined remained within the previous water pipe trench and so offer no additional information about the archaeology of this area of Preston. Furthermore, those trenches larger than the original water pipe trench cut displayed varying stratigraphy. A number contained purely modern stratigraphy directly overlying the natural, suggesting that relatively recent activity (much of it relating to the continuous insertion and maintenance of services) has destroyed any archaeology that may have once existed in the area. However, three of the trenches did show at least potential that evidence of the earlier Preston may, in places, still remain.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Ayto, EG, 1994 *Clay Tobacco Pipes*, Princes Risborough
- British Geological Survey, 1967, *Warrington Solid Sheet*, Ordnance Survey, Southampton
- Buxton, K, and Howard-Davis, C, 2000 *Bremetenacum: Excavations at Roman Ribchester*, Lancaster Imprints, 9, Lancaster
- Davey, PJ, 1987 Merseyside: the Post-Roman pottery, *Merseyside Arch Soc*, 7, 121-150
- English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, London.
- Gibbons, P, Howard-Davis, CLE, Hair, NJ, Garner, DJ, Miller, I, forthcoming, *Excavations at Walton-le-Dale, 1982-1997*
- Hardwick, C, 1857 *History of the borough of Preston and its environs*, Preston
- Hodge, AC, 1984 *A History of Preston*, Preston
- Howard-Davis, C, and Buxton, K, 2000 *Roman Forts in the Fylde: Excavations at Dowbridge, Kirkham*, Lancaster
- Hunt, D, 1992 *A History of Preston*, Preston
- LUAU 1989 *Excavations at Fishergate, Preston*, unpubl client rep
- Middleton, R, Tooley, MJ and Innes, JB, forthcoming *The Wetlands of West Lancashire*, Lancaster Imprints, Lancaster
- Whittle, P, 1837 *The history of the burgh of Preston in the county palatine of Lancaster*, Preston

ILLUSTRATIONS

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Location Map

Figure 2: General location map

Figure 3: Detailed trench location plan - eastern area (SJ - St John's Place, MR - Manchester Road)

Figure 4: Detailed trench location plan – central area (CS - Cross Street)

Figure 5: Detailed trench location plan - western area (MS - Mount Street)

LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: View of typical trench showing original water pipe at base

Plate 2: MR Trench 8, with potential archaeological layers at base of section

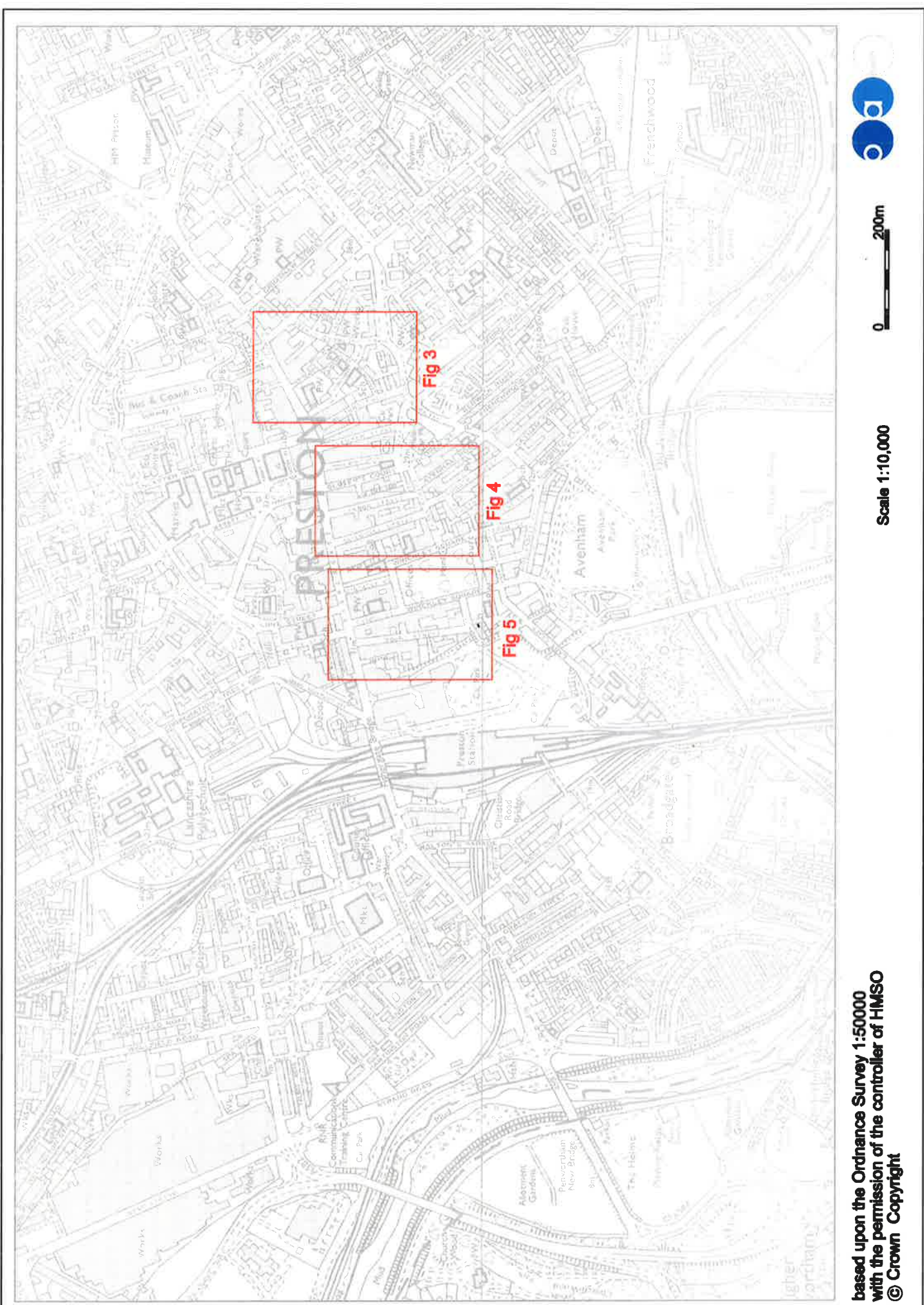


based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:250000
 with the permission of the controller of HMSO
 © Crown Copyright



0 2500 5000
 metres

Figure 1: Location Map

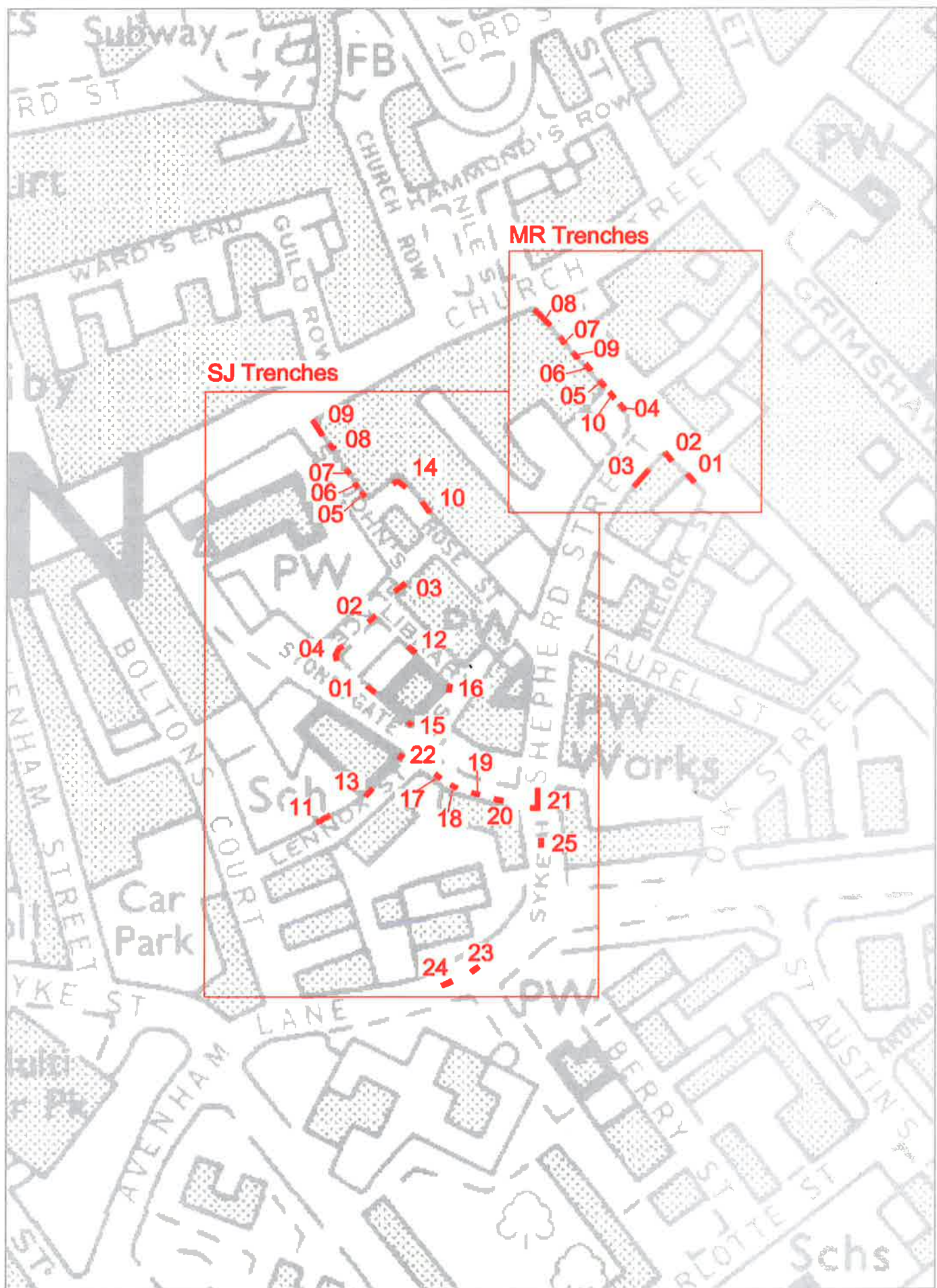


based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:50000
 with the permission of the controller of HMSO
 © Crown Copyright

Scale 1:10,000



Figure 2 : General location map

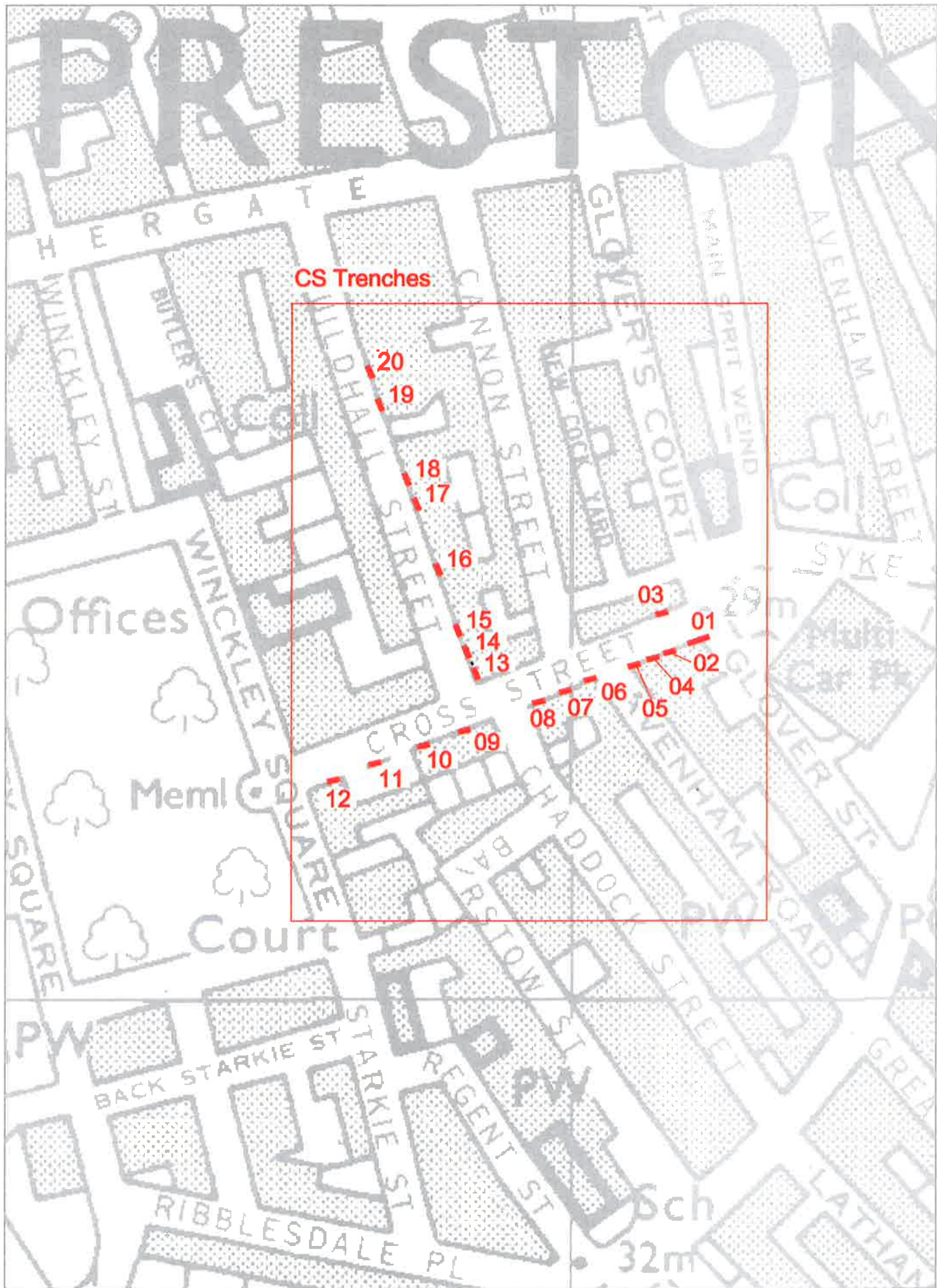


based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:50000
 with the permission of the controller of HMSO
 © Crown Copyright

Scale 1:2000



Figure 3 : Detailed trench location plan - eastern area. SJ - St John's Place (MR - Manchester Road)



based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:50000
 with the permission of the controller of HMSO
 © Crown Copyright

Scale 1:2000



Figure 4 : Detailed trench location plan - central area (CS - Cross Street)



based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:50000
 with the permission of the controller of HMSO
 © Crown Copyright

Scale 1:2000

0 50m



Figure 5: Detailed trench location plan - western area (MS - Mount Street)



Plate 1: View of a typical trench showing original water pipe at base



Plate 2: MR Trench 8, with potential archaeological layers at base of section

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

Oxford
Archaeology
North

July 2002

**RENEWAL OF WATER MAINS,
PRESTON TOWN CENTRE
LANCASHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
PROJECT DESIGN**

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to a request from Alfred McAlpine Utility Services for an archaeological watching brief during the renewal of water mains in Preston town centre.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Alfred McAlpine Utility Services (hereafter the client) intend to renew the existing cast iron water main network in central Preston, which includes areas of medieval Preston. Due to the possibility that archaeological remains may exist in this area, Lancashire County Archaeology Service has recommended that a watching brief should be carried out. This project design has been written to comply with a verbal brief from the Sites and Monuments Record Officer at the County Archaeology Service.
- 1.2 There is the potential that archaeological remains relating to the medieval and probably Anglo Saxon settlement of Preston are located within the area of the refurbishment works. The long history of the development of the town, first recorded in Domesday Book as *Prestune*, is likely to have left significant archaeological remains including the traces of stalls and booths, remains of buildings, alleyways and burgage plots.
- 1.3 Oxford Archaeology North (OAN) has considerable experience of excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past 20 years. Evaluations, assessments, watching briefs and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. OAN has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OAN has carried out a number of excavations, watching briefs and evaluations in Preston and the surrounding area. Of most relevance, OAN undertook the recent watching brief along Fishergate.
- 1.4 OAN is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) **registered organisation, registration number 17**, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to evaluate the archaeological deposits affected by the proposed developments. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:
- 2.1.3 ***Permanent Presence Watching Brief:*** archaeological monitoring during all ground disturbing activities on site.
- 2.1.4 ***Report and Archive:*** a report will be produced for the client within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

3. METHODS STATEMENT

3.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the stages and objectives of the archaeological work summarised above.

3.2 PERMANENT PRESENCE WATCHING BRIEF

3.2.1 A permanent programme of observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features within the excavations in the course of the proposed development. This work will comprise observation during the excavation for these works, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the foundation works, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation.

3.2.2 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, or as grid co-ordinates where appropriate). All archaeological information collected in the course of fieldwork will be recorded in standardised form, and will include accurate national grid references. Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large scale plan provided by the Client.

3.2.3 It is assumed that OAN will have the authority to stop works for up to one hour to enable the recording of significant archaeological deposits.

3.2.4 **Health and Safety:** OAN provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.

3.2.5 OAN has professional indemnity to a value of £2,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £10,000,000 and public liability to a value of £15,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

3.3 REPORT AND ARCHIVE PRODUCTION

3.3.1 **Archive:** the results of Stage 3.2 will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991*) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct.

- 3.3.2 This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCII files (as appropriate). The paper archive will be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. The material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) will be deposited with an appropriate museum following agreement with the client. A synthesis of the archive will also be available for deposition in the National Monuments Record.
- 3.3.3 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of the report will be submitted to the client within six weeks of completion of the fieldwork. A further copy of the collated final report will be submitted to the County SMR within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. The final report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above, and will include recommendations for any further mitigation works and details of the final deposition of the project archive.
- 3.3.4 **Confidentiality:** the final report is designed as a document for the specific use of the client, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

4. WORK TIMETABLE

- 4.1 The various stages of the project outlined above will fall into two distinct phases, which would follow on consecutively, where appropriate. The phases of work would comprise:
- 4.1.2 **Permanent Presence Watching Brief:** the development programme will dictate the timescale of this phase. OAN generally calculates a 1:0.5 ratio of fieldwork: post-fieldwork (archive, analysis, and report preparation) if the level of archaeology observed is low or 1:1 if the level of archaeology is high.
- 4.1.3 **Archive/Report:** the report and archive will be produced following the completion of all the fieldwork. The final report will be submitted within six weeks of completion of the fieldwork and the archive deposited within six months.

5. OUTLINE RESOURCES

- 5.1 The project will be managed by **Alison Plummer, BSc (Hons)** (OAN Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 5.2 Present timetabling constraints preclude detailing exactly who will be carrying out each specific task, but all elements of the project are likely to be supervised by an OAN project supervisor experienced in this type of project. All OAN project officers and supervisors are experienced field archaeologists capable of carrying out projects of all sizes.

- 5.3 Assessment of the finds from the watching brief will be undertaken by OAN's in-house finds specialist **Christine Howard-Davis BA MIFA** (OAN project officer). Christine acts as OAN's in-house finds specialist and has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England.

6. MONITORING

- 6.1 Monitoring of the project will be undertaken by the County Development Control Officer (DCO).
- 6.2 Access to the site for monitoring purposes will be afforded to the DCO at all times.

APPENDIX 2: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (max) (m)	Location
MR1	NA	NA	NA	Manchester Road
MR2	3.5	0.9	1.4	Manchester Road
MR3	NA	NA	NA	Manchester Road
MR4	1	0.9	1.15	Manchester Road
MR5	1.2	0.95	1.2	Manchester Road
MR6	0.9	0.8	1.1	Manchester Road
MR7	1	0.9	1.15	Manchester Road
MR8	4.2	0.9	1.6	Manchester Road
MR9	1.25	0.8	1.2	Manchester Road
MR10	1.2	0.8	0.85	Manchester Road
SJ1	0.87	0.67	1.3	Stoneygate
SJ2	1.82	1	1.05	St John's Place
SJ3	1.93	1.47	1.1	St John's Place
SJ4	1.6	1.2	1.1	St John's Place
SJ5	0.7	0.65	1.1	St John's Place
SJ6	1.07	0.7	1.3	St John's Place
SJ7	1	0.73	1.2	St John's Place
SJ8	0.92	0.57	1.18	St John's Place
SJ9	6.8	1	0.8	St John's Place
SJ10	1.9	1	1.3	Rose Street
SJ11	0.9	0.9	0.92	Lennox Street
SJ12	1.1	0.68	0.9	Library Street
SJ13	1.6	1.2	0.9	Lennox Street
SJ14	2.6	0.8	1.1	Rose Street
SJ15	2.6	1.4	1.1	Stoneygate

SJ16	2.3	0.8	1	Library Street
SJ17	1	1	1.15	Stoneygate
SJ18	1	1	1.15	Stoneygate
SJ19	1	1	1.15	Stoneygate
SJ20	2	1	1.2	Stoneygate
SJ21	5	2	1.2	Shepherd Street
SJ22	2	1	1.2	Lennox Street
SJ23	1	1	1	Shepherd Street
SJ24	1	0.3	1	Shepherd Street
SJ25	1	0.5	1	Shepherd Street
CS1	2.2	0.5	1.05	Cross Street
CS2	2	0.55	1	Cross Street
CS3	0.75	0.4	0.6	Cross Street
CS4	0.8	0.5	1.1	Cross Street
CS5	2.85	0.6	1.1	Cross Street
CS6	NA	NA	NA	Cross Street
CS7	4	0.6	1.1	Cross Street
CS8	NA	NA	NA	Cross Street
CS9	NA	NA	NA	Cross Street
CS10	2	0.5	1	Cross Street
CS11	NA	NA	NA	Cross Street
CS12	NA	NA	NA	Cross Street
CS13	1.95	1.05	1.1	Guildhall Street
CS14	1.05	0.65	1.1	Guildhall Street
CS15	2	0.8	0.85	Guildhall Street
CS16	1.2	0.8	0.9	Guildhall Street
CS17	1.2	0.7	0.8	Guildhall Street
CS18	0.7	0.7	0.85	Guildhall Street
CS19	1	1	0.85	Guildhall Street

CS20	2	1.2	0.9	Guildhall Street
MS1	0.85	1.1	1	Mount Street
MS2	1	1.2	1.1	Mount Street
MS3	0.9	1.1	1	Mount Street
MS4	0.8	0.95	1.1	Mount Street
MS5	1	1.2	1	Mount Street
MS6	0.9	1.1	1.05	Mount Street
MS7	0.95	1.05	1.1	Mount Street
MS8	1	0.95	1.1	Mount Street
MS9	0.8	1.1	1.1	Mount Street
MS10	0.9	1.2	1	Mount Street
MS11	0.8	1.1	1.1	Mount Street
MS12	1	1.1	1	Mount Street
MS13	0.8	0.95	1.05	Mount Street
MS14	2.1	0.85	1.1	Mount Street
MS15	2.3	1	1.1	Mount Street
MS16	1.1	1.2	1.1	Mount Street
MS17	0.8	0.8	1.1	Mount Street
MS18	3	0.7	1.3	Mount Street
MS19	1	0.7	1.1	Mount Street
MS20	0.6	0.3	0.5	Mount Street
MS21	0.6	0.3	0.5	Mount Street
MS22	3.3	1	0.6	Chapel Street
MS23	1	0.9	1.1	Chapel Street
MS24	1	0.9	1.1	Chapel Street
MS25	1	1	0.6	Chapel Street
MS26	1	1	1.2	Chapel Street
MS27	1.2	0.9	0.5	Chapel Street
MS28	1.2	0.9	1.1	Chapel Street

MS29	1.5	0.95	1.1	Chapel Street
MS30	1.1	1	1	Chapel Street
MS31	1	1	1.1	Chapel Street
MS32	3.3	1	1.1	Chapel Street
MS33	1.9	0.7	1.3	Winckley Square

APPENDIX 3: FINDS LIST

Trench	Material	Category	No. of fragments	Description	Date
MS 1-5	Ceramic	Crockery	10	White earthenware sherds (two base sherds, one rim sherd, six body sherds, one handle sherd) from bowls, plates and unidentified vessels	Late 18th century – 20th century
MS 1-5	Ceramic	Dinnerware	1	White earthenware Willow body sherd	Late 18th century – 20th century
MS 1-5	Ceramic	Dinnerware	2	Blue shell-edge white earthenware rim sherds from plates, one is pearlware	Late 18th century – 20th century
MS 1-5	Ceramic	Dinnerware?	1	White earthenware blue flat-press transfer printed base sherd	Late 18th century – early 19th century
MS 1-5	Ceramic	Breakfast or teaware	1	White porcelain relief-moulded tea cup body sherd with enamelled decoration	19th century – 20th century
MS 1-5	Ceramic	Kitchenware vessel	1	Brown glazed red earthenware base sherd from faceted drinking vessel	? 18th century
MS 2	Ceramic	Hollowware	1	Ridged black glazed red earthenware body sherd	17th century – 19th century
MS 4	Bone		3	Cow femur	-
MS 4	Glass	Bottles	3	Green glass body sherds	Post-medieval
MS 6	Ceramic	Dinnerware	1	White-glazed stoneware plate rim sherd	Late 18th century
MS 6	Ceramic	Kitchenware vessel?	2	Brown glazed stoneware body sherd and base sherd	18th century – 20th century
MS 6	Ceramic	Kitchenware vessel?	1	North-west purple ware-type body sherd	mid 16th century – mid 17th century?
MS 6	Ceramic	Dinnerware	3	Blue shell-edge white earthenware plate sherds, two rim sherds and one base sherd	Late 18th century – 20th century

MS 6	Ceramic	Hollowware	1	Cream bodied marbled slipware body sherd	18th century – early 19th century
MS 6	Ceramic	Kitchenware vessel?	1	Cream bodied golden glazed base sherd	18th century – 19th century
MS 6	Ceramic	Hollowware	2	White earthenware body sherds, one with blue underglaze decoration	Late 18th century – 20th century
MS 6	Tooth		1	Horse mandibular tooth	
MS 9	Bone		1	Horse rib	
MS 9	Ceramic	Kitchenware vessel	1	Brown glazed red earthenware base sherd	18th century – 20th century
MS 9	Ceramic building material?	Drain pipe?	1	Brown glazed body sherd	
MS 13	Bone		2 fragments +	Cow mandible	
MS 13	Glass	Bottle	1	Green body sherd, iridescent	Post-medieval
MS 13	Ceramic	Crockery	5	White earthenware body sherds from plates and bowls	Late 18th century – 20th century
MS 13	Ceramic	Kitchenware vessel	1	Red earthenware body sherd with black glazed interior	18th century – 20th century
MS 13	Ceramic	Kitchenware vessel	1	Brown glazed red earthenware body sherd white slip trailing	18th century – 20th century
MS 13	Ceramic	Kitchenware vessel	1	Stoneware body sherd with brown glazed exterior	18th century – 20th century
MS 13	Clay pipe	Clay pipe	1	Plain bowl with large bore	17th century – 19th century
MS 16	Ceramic	Kitchenware vessel	1	Brown glazed red earthenware body sherd	18th century – 20th century
MS 16	Ceramic	Kitchenware vessel	1	Red bodied unglazed rim sherd	Possibly 18th century, no later
MS 16	Ceramic	Dinnerware (?)	1	Blue flat-press transfer printed base sherd, probably Asiatic Pheasant	19th century – 20th century

MS 16	Ceramic	Jug?	1	Stoneware-type body sherd with handle terminal	19th century – 20th century
MS 16	Ceramic	Crockery	1	Industrial slipware/Cornish ware body sherd	19th century – 20th century
MS 16	Glass	Bottle	1	Light turquoise body sherd	Post-medieval
MS 17	Bone		1	Cow or red deer rib fragment	
MS 17	Metal		1	Cu alloy coin, surfaces hidden under corrosion	
MS 17	Clay pipe	Clay pipe	1	Stem sherd with narrow bore	
MS 17	Ceramic	Crockery?	1	White earthenware body sherd	Late 18th century – 20th century
MS 19	Bone		1	Unidentifiable large mammal	
MS 19	Ceramic	Kitchenware vessels?	4	Red earthenware sherds (two base sherds, two body sherds), brown glazed, unglazed, and greenish golden glazed	18th century – 20th century

Key: Cu alloy - Copper alloy



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850 500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCifA
*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*