



CHESTER NORTHGATE REDEVELOPMENT: HUNTER STREET AND TRINITY STREET PRE-DETERMINATION EVALUATION

Evaluation Report



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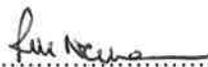
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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by Chester West and Chester Council to carry out a programme of evaluation trenching across an area within the north-western quadrant of the historic city centre of Chester. This programme, comprising the excavation of 13 trenches in two different areas, was undertaken during April/May 2015. It was required to inform the design process of a proposed major scheme of redevelopment within the area, by identifying the presence/absence and representative depth (according to Ordnance Datum), of significant archaeological deposits relating to both the former Roman legionary fortress, and a graveyard associated with a post-medieval chapel, which might have survived in the southern part of the site. This latter area had not been subject to evaluation during earlier stages of the development of the scheme.

The trenching produced important results, identifying probable Roman demolition deposits, at a depth of approximately 0.80-1m below the current ground surface, within four of the six trenches excavated along the southern edge of Hunter Street, and a probable Roman wall within a single trench excavated in the area adjacent to the eastern side of Trinity Street. In addition, deposits relating to probable late Roman/early post-Roman activity were also identified within the same trenches at Hunter Street, overlain by a probable later medieval cultivated soil and post-medieval deposits, capped by modern landscaping material. Within two of the trenches excavated towards the western limit of Hunter Street, at its junction with St Martin's Way, it was conclusively demonstrated that any archaeological deposits had been completely removed by modern activity associated with the construction, and subsequent demolition, of modern buildings fronting St Martin's Way. There, modern demolition and levelling deposits extended to a depth of 2m or more below the current ground surface, at which point they directly overlay natural bedrock.

Within the area of Trinity Street, while it was established that archaeological deposits had been extensively removed by modern activity associated with the construction of the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Chester Market Hall complex in many trenches, elements relating to the graveyard were identified. Several intact burials were seen in two trenches, within a layer of organic soil, which in one trench yielded a small assemblage of disarticulated human bone. The partially disturbed remains of a single, post-medieval, brick-built structure were also recorded. The overall pattern of preservation therefore suggests that, while modern activity has extensively damaged archaeological deposits in this area, in many places entirely removing them, particularly towards the south, burials relating to the post-medieval period were not entirely, if at all, cleared prior to construction, and the potential to encounter further burial deposits remains high. In addition, the presence of a single, probably Roman, wall suggests that islands of earlier archaeology may also be preserved.

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The evaluation was undertaken by Adam Tinsley, assisted by Gary Crawford-Coupe, and Nicola Herring. The mechanical excavator was supplied, maintained and operated by Clive Hurt Plant Hire Ltd, with particular thanks to the driver, Steve Faulkner. The finds were examined by Chris Howard-Davis, Finds Manager for OA North, and Julie Edwards identified the fragment of imported medieval pottery. The report was written by Adam Tinsley, with a contribution by Chris Howard-Davis, and the drawings produced by Mark Tidmarsh. The project was managed by Rachel Newman, who also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by Cheshire West and Chester Council, to undertake an archaeological field evaluation, as part of the development of a proposed scheme to redevelop an area on the western side of the historic core of the city of Chester (Fig 1). A written scheme of investigation established the methodological parameters for a scheme of trial trenching to be conducted at two sites within the proposed development area (OA North 2015). The northernmost of these, a broadly linear, east/west-aligned strip of approximately 840m², was in a landscaped and largely grassed area to the south of Hunter Street, extending between the present bus exchange to the east and St Martin's Way to the west. This was to establish the level at which significant archaeology would be encountered in a proposed service access. The second, a roughly wedge-shaped area of c 1240m², was c 70m further south, on modern Trinity Street, between Princess Street, to the north, and Hamilton Place, to the south. This area was not previously part of the redevelopment scheme and had not been subject to earlier evaluation. This area straddles the modern road, and is oversailed by the Crowne Plaza Hotel, which occupies both sides of Trinity Street. This presented considerable logistical difficulties, as the evaluation area is completely built over, though sufficient 'open' space (*ie* ground unencumbered by buildings or other structures) was available for evaluation trenching to be feasible.
- 1.1.2 Chester is renowned as a place of immense historic importance and is defined as an Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI) under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979). Both of these sites lie within Chester's historic core, and are included within the AAI. The former lies within Character Area 4 (St Martin's Fields), a zone of archaeological and historical significance defined in Chester's Urban Archaeological Database (UAD), whilst the latter lies within Character Area 7 (Princess Street). The UAD states that both Character Areas are key zones within the AAI, with high potential for the survival of significant archaeological remains of at least national importance. Consequently, any proposed development should be particularly sensitive to the archaeological potential within these zones, as defined by the city's Archaeological Plan (Beckley and Campbell 2014).
- 1.1.3 In view of this, the Development Control Archaeologist for the Cheshire Archaeological Planning Advisory Service (CAPAS) requested that a programme of archaeological field evaluation should be undertaken in both areas at an early stage in the compilation of redevelopment plans. The purpose of this work was to assess the character and preservation of buried archaeological remains within these zones, and the extent to which these may be impacted upon by any proposed groundworks. Of particular importance was the need to determine the depth of the uppermost significant archaeological levels below the present-day ground surface, and the extent to which archaeological remains have been damaged or destroyed by earlier works.

- 1.1.4 Proposals for the redevelopment of a large part of Chester's historic city centre, to the west of Northgate (one of the city's most important thoroughfares), have been under consideration for many years, though the precise nature of these has evolved considerably over time. As early as 1989, a series of test-pits was excavated by the former Chester City Council Archaeology Service (CCCAS) at the former bowling green on the south side of Hunter Street (Event 5270; Flynn and Walker 1989). In 1995, an archaeological audit (Event 4854) and further evaluation trenching (Event 3583) were carried out by CCCAS in advance of a proposal, not subsequently pursued, for the redevelopment of the block of land between Hunter Street and Princess Street (Emery 1995a; 1995b). Further proposals some years later led, in 2001-2, to a programme of archaeological works, including a further archaeological audit (Event 4295; Mason 2000), a Ground-penetrating Radar (GPR) survey (Event 4850; Stratascan 2001), and several phases of evaluation trenching (Events 4651, 4843, 4864). Much of the evaluation trenching (Earthworks Archaeology 2001; 2002a; 2002b) was undertaken at sites on both sides of Hunter Street, and also in the carriageway at the western end of the street. However, some were located elsewhere in the wider development area (Earthworks Archaeology 2002c; 2002d), well away from the two evaluation areas on Hunter Street and Trinity Street. Additional archaeological work, including further test-pitting and the monitoring of geotechnical pits and boreholes, was subsequently carried out within the wider development area (Earthworks Archaeology 2006; 2007; L-P Archaeology 2010), most notably, for present purposes, on the east side of Trinity Street and the south side of Hunter Street.
- 1.1.5 In general terms, these works have provided valuable information concerning the likely character and, in the case of the trial trenching, the depth and condition of archaeological remains across parts of the study area. However, in the light of possible changes to the proposed redevelopment scheme, additional, targeted, evaluation work was needed in order to answer specific questions relating to the possible impact of the scheme on Chester's internationally significant archaeology. The resulting data will also be used to assist in the formulation of an appropriate scheme of archaeological mitigation in advance of, and in association with, the proposed development.
- 1.1.6 The present document provides a summary of the results of this scheme of archaeological evaluation. The work undertaken followed the parameters set out in the WSI devised for the scheme (OA North 2015), and all relevant industry standards, as set out by Historic England (English Heritage 1991; 2006) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA 2014a; 2014b; 2014c).

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area forms part of the north-west corner of the historic core of the city of Chester, roughly centred at SJ 4039 6638 (Fig 1). It takes in an area bracketed by Hunter Street to the north, St Martin's Way to the west, Northgate Street to the east, and Watergate Street to the south. It therefore incorporates a variety of topographical areas and features, including

the open and recently landscaped, largely grassed area, immediately east of St Martin's Way (between Hunter Street and Princess Street), a current bus exchange, immediately east of the landscaped area, and numerous modern buildings, including the Crowne Plaza Hotel and car parking facilities on Trinity Street, and the current Chester Market Hall and further car parking facilities along Princess Street.

- 1.2.2 The solid geology of the immediate area is characterised as Triassic sandstone and conglomerate sedimentary bedrock (BGS 2015). The overlying drift geology is characterised as alluvium, comprising a mix of clay, silt and sand, forming slightly acidic loamy clayey soils (Cranfield University 2015).
- 1.2.3 The northernmost area of investigation (Area A; Fig 2) extended east/west along the southern edge of Hunter Street, between the bus exchange and St Martin's Way, roughly centred at SJ 4030 6648. Investigations in this area were entirely conducted within a shrub border, forming the northern boundary to the mixed grassed and surfaced park area to the south. This included the sites of a former bowling green towards the east and a large modern building previously fronting St Martin's Way to the west, demolished only a few years ago. The area has been subject to considerable modification, with the ground level substantially raised in certain parts during a modern programme of landscaping, following the demolition of the buildings.
- 1.2.4 The second area of investigation (Area B) extended north/south along the eastern side of Trinity Street, between Princess Street and Hamilton Place, roughly centred at SJ 4031 6636. The area is bounded to the west by Trinity Street and to the east by structural aspects of the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Chester Market Hall and car park. The area has been subject to significant landscaping, with modern hardcore deposits over the entire area, and the street is oversailed by elements of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, incorporating numerous concrete support columns, particularly towards the south of the area. Towards the south, a subterranean access road is also known to extend below Trinity Street, linking underground car parking facilities on either side of the street. Numerous services are also highlighted, concentrating along the eastern edge of Trinity Street.

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 The proposed development area has been the subject of several previous studies and schemes of fieldwork. The following section is intended to provide a brief archaeological and historical background, sufficient to contextualise the current archaeological works. To facilitate the compilation of this summary, the Chester UAD (*Section 1.1.2*) was consulted by appointment, in order to gather additional information on earlier archaeological interventions ('Events', in UAD parlance, each identified on the UAD by a unique Event Number) undertaken in the vicinity of the evaluation areas. Based on the evidence provided by these investigations, the principal archaeological and historical features ('Monuments', each

referenced by a Monument Number) that are known to be located in these areas are also identified.

- 1.3.2 ***Prehistoric and earliest Roman Activity (to c AD 75)***: there is currently little evidence for prehistoric occupation within the development site, though a stray neolithic stone axe (Monument 6978) is known from Hunter Street. However, the possible existence of prehistoric remains cannot be discounted, since traces of Iron Age roundhouses and ploughing have been found elsewhere in the city (Ward 2009, 5). In view of Chester's strategically important position relative to early Roman campaigning in Wales and northern England, it is likely that a Roman military presence was established before the foundation of the legionary fortress (Shotter 2002). Several features, perhaps representing two phases of early military activity, have been identified at a location towards the centre of the development area (Event 3122; Mason 2012, 35-6), c 100m east of the proposed Trinity Street evaluation site.
- 1.3.3 ***The Roman legionary fortress (c AD 75-410)***: the fortress was probably established in the early/mid-AD 70s (Mason 2012, 49-50), and was occupied more-or-less continuously to the middle of the fourth century AD at least (Mason 2007, 14). As was usual, it was divided into three principal areas: the central range, containing many of the most important buildings; the front, which at Chester lay south of the central range; and the rear (Mason 2012, 55, fig 20a). Each zone was sub-divided into rectilinear plots (*insulae*), for which a modern numbering system (*insula I*, *insula II*, and so on) has been established (*op cit*, 56, fig 20b). A road (often referred to as the '*via sagularis*') ran around the inside of the defences, and this 'intervallum area' also commonly held bread ovens and other structures. With certain exceptions, all the primary buildings were wooden, and the defences were also initially of earth and timber, but reconstruction in stone occurred during the late first- to early second century AD (*op cit*, 138).
- 1.3.4 Both the evaluation sites lie within the central range (Fig 3). That adjacent to Hunter Street is in the north-west corner, in a building plot (*insula XXII*) that is thought to contain the barracks of one of the ten legionary cohorts. Parts of the centurion's quarters (Monument 8162) and associated barrack block (Monument 8391) of the northernmost of these potentially lie within the evaluation site, as does part of the centurion's quarters (Monument 8177) of the block immediately to the south, and the minor road (Monument 8422) between the centurions' quarters. Additionally, the western end of the proposed evaluation area, adjacent to St Martin's Way, extends across the intervallum zone, which there includes a rampart-back building (Monument 8180), ovens (Monument 8318) and part of the intervallum road (Monument 8280). The line of the fortress's western defences, including the primary rampart (Monument 565) and the later stone wall (Monument 18525), also crosses the western end of this zone. The site on Trinity Street occupies the western edge of *insula XVIII*, a large block that may have held the legion's principal workshops (Monument 8321; Mason 2012, 191). As on Hunter Street, the western side also incorporates the intervallum road, though only at the extreme south-west corner might it extend across the road into the area immediately behind the rampart. Several modern streets follow (more-or-less) the line of Roman roads: these include Trinity Street itself, which

follows the intervallum road inside the western fortress defences; and, within the wider development area, Crook Street and Hamilton Place.

- 1.3.5 **Early medieval activity (c AD 410-1066):** there is very little evidence to show what was happening in Chester from the fifth- to the eighth century AD (Mason 2007, 27), though the site is likely to have retained a degree of regional significance. No archaeological remains of this period are currently known within either of the evaluation sites, but such deposits are likely to be ephemeral and difficult to interpret, except where exposed over large areas (*op cit*, 3). Dark soils, possibly formed during this period by cultivation and/or animal husbandry, have, however, been found at a number of sites (*op cit*, 235; Ward 1994, 116), including at Hunter Street School (Event 5857; Mason 2007, 66), east of the Hunter Street evaluation area. The documented history of the Anglo-Saxon town begins in 907, with its refortification as a stronghold (*burh*) by Aethelflaed, Lady of the Mercians, against Viking incursions (Mason 2007, 79-80, figs 19, 20). Much of the modern street plan probably originated at this time (Ward 1994, 7), when Chester seemingly prospered as an administrative and trading centre (Ward 2009, 28). Several excavations have revealed evidence for intensive activity during this period. These include sites at Hunter Street School and Hunter's Walk (Event 2843; Strickland 1982; Ward 1994, 43-53), east of the Hunter Street evaluation site, and at Hamilton Place/Goss Street (Event 5099) and Crook Street (Event 5059), within the wider development area (Mason 1994, 38-40; Ward 1994, 21-7, 32).
- 1.3.6 **Later medieval activity (1066-c 1540):** following the Norman invasion of 1066, Chester suffered severely in the so-called 'Harrying of the North', being described by one chronicler as 'thoroughly devastated' (Mason 2007, 145). However, by 1086 the town appears to have recovered significantly, its rents to the Crown having more than doubled since 1071 (Ward 2009, 43). The basic pre-Norman street plan was retained, but new streets developed and extensive replanning occurred in some areas (Mason 2007, 145). It was at this time that the system of long, narrow burgage plots extending back from the street frontages, which remained largely unchanged into the nineteenth century, probably emerged (*ibid*). With the exception of Hunter Street, which was not created until much later, most of the streets and lanes within the development site were in existence in the later medieval period (Lilley 2011), for example Trinity Street (Monument 10008) and Crook Street (Monument 10011). Most of the frontages would have been densely built up with private houses and shops, whilst the 'backlands' would have contained yards, kitchen gardens, refuse pits, and so on (*op cit*, 85-7). The excavations at Hunter's Walk and Hunter Street School (*Section 1.3.5*) found evidence for occupation on Parson's Lane (modern Princess Street; Monument 10007) from at least the thirteenth century (Emery 1995a, 4), but the land to the north, behind the street frontage, appears to have remained largely open. Indeed, the Chester UAD states that much of the area north of Princess Street, known as St Martin's Fields, remained open and undeveloped for an extended period, probably from Anglo-Saxon times into the twentieth century.

- 1.3.7 Chester reached a peak of prosperity and importance in the late thirteenth/early fourteenth century (Laughton 2008, 17), but declined thereafter (Ward 2009, 55). A modest recovery occurred towards the end of the fifteenth century, and the citizens were rewarded for ‘good and laudable’ service to the new Tudor king, Henry VII (Laughton 2008, 38), by the granting of the town’s ‘Great Charter’ in 1506 (*op cit*, 39).
- 1.3.8 ***Post-medieval activity (c 1540-present)***: Chester continued to develop as a regional centre during the post-medieval period. The earliest surviving maps (Lilley 2011), produced in the 1580s (Braun and Hogenberg c 1580; Smith 1588), show most of the street frontages within the development site as densely built up. However, away from the street frontages, much of the area north of Princess Street (Parson’s Lane) is largely open, being occupied by orchards and formal gardens. Gardens and yards/courts are also a feature of the backlands further south, adjacent to Trinity Street and Crook Street. The first really detailed map of Chester, published in 1745 (Lavaux 1745), is broadly consistent in showing the street as being densely built up, with much of the area to the rear of the properties on Princess Street still occupied by gardens and orchards. One of the few individual buildings shown in any detail within the study area is a Nonconformist chapel (‘Dissenters Chapel’, as marked on the plan) between Trinity Lane and Crook Street (Monument 10055). This was built in 1700 for the Presbyterian minister Matthew Henry (Sharpe 1901, 52), and later became a Unitarian chapel, being modified and restored in 1862 and 1899-1900 (Events 4955, 4956). This, together with an associated burial ground on the west (Monument 10055/1), between the chapel and Trinity Street, and a second (?later) graveyard on the south, remained in use into the twentieth century.
- 1.3.9 Much of the rest of the development area, away from the street frontages, appears to have been open but, by the time Hunter’s map was produced some 45 years later (Hunter 1789), significant infilling was underway. On the evidence of a series of similar maps produced in the late eighteenth-early nineteenth century (*eg* Stockdale 1795; Batenham 1816; Wood 1833), the greater part of the development area saw little substantive change in the following 40-50 years. All show the area south of Princess Street as densely built up, contrasting with the area of St Martin’s Fields, to the north, large parts of which remained open into the late nineteenth/early twentieth century (Ordnance Survey 1872; 1910). There, infilling only really commenced following the construction of Hunter Street around the beginning of the twentieth century. Excavations at Hunter Street School and on Hunter’s Walk found ‘extensive’ remains of post-medieval buildings, with associated yards, pits, and so on. Some were cellared, but by no means all (Emery 1995a, 4). Behind the street frontage, much of the area remained open into the nineteenth century, though several large seventeenth-century rubbish pits were found in these areas.

1.4 DEPTH AND CHARACTER OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS

- 1.4.1 The following section provides a brief summary of the depth and character of archaeological deposits recorded during earlier archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the evaluation sites on Hunter Street and Trinity Street. This information has been obtained both from the deposit model produced as part of the Chester UAD, and from published and unpublished archaeological reports. There is, however, the potential for very considerable variation in the extent, depth, and character of the below-ground disturbance that is routinely to be expected within an urban environment. A modern building also once occupied much of the area of investigation at the extreme west of Hunter Street.
- 1.4.2 **Hunter Street:** the most useful data recovered from earlier archaeological works in the vicinity of Hunter Street were generated by three phases of field evaluation on the south side of the street, towards its western end. The first two phases were undertaken in 1989 and 1995 (Flynn and Walker 1989; Emery 1995b), whilst the third phase was carried out in 2001 (Earthworks Archaeology 2001). In 1989, several test-pits were opened on the site of the bowling green south of Hunter Street (Event 5270), whilst the 1995 work (Event 3583) involved the excavation of three trenches, one to the rear of No 16 Hunter Street (trench I), another on the bowling green site (trench II), and a third (trench III) to the rear of the Mission Hall on St Martin's Way. Two further trenches (trenches 1 and 2) were opened in the former bowling green car park in 2001 (Event 4843; Earthworks Archaeology 2001). Subsequent to these investigations, another small test-pit was excavated in the northern part of the bowling green car park in 2006 (Event 4648; Earthworks Archaeology 2006, t-p 2), and five small evaluation trenches were opened south of Hunter Street in 2010 (Event 4714; L-P Archaeology 2010, trenches 1 and 2). Of the latter, four were placed on the site of the former bowling green, and two of these (trenches 1 and 2) lay within the eastern part of the Hunter Street evaluation area.
- 1.4.3 In 1989, a test pit at the north end of the bowling green car park revealed a Roman floor 1.2m below the modern surface (Flynn and Walker 1989; Mason 2000, 29). Further east, however, on the northern edge of the bowling green itself, additional test-pitting revealed Roman building debris only *c* 0.3m below the modern surface (*ibid*). In the central and southern parts of the bowling green, though, only truncated Roman remains were found (*ibid*). Of the three trenches opened in 1995, the discoveries made in trench I, at the rear of 16 Hunter Street, are most pertinent to the present study, since this trench was situated not far south of the Hunter Street evaluation area. There, a sequence of archaeological deposits, probably in excess of 2m thick, was revealed (Emery 1995b, 19, 25). The uppermost significant deposits, located *c* 0.85m below the modern surface (Table 1), comprised a build-up of medieval cultivated soils, *c* 0.5-0.6m thick (*op cit*, 17). These sealed a complex of features and deposits, including possible shallow postholes and a linear setting of undressed sandstone blocks. The date of some of these remains is unclear, but others may be late Roman. Beneath was an accumulation of Roman demolition debris, *c* 0.75m thick, which overlay a

stone-lined Roman drain. The natural subsoil was reached *c* 2.7m below the surface.

	Tr I (1995)	Tr 1 (2001)	Tr 2 (2001)	T-P 2 (2006)	Tr 18 (2002)
Modern surface	25.62m	25.67m	25.31m	25.46m	23.37m
Top of ?post-medieval garden soil	-	25.13m	-	-	-
Top of medieval archaeology	24.81m	-	-	-	-
Top of ?Roman/early post-Roman archaeology	-	-	24.95m	24.94m	-
Top of ?Roman archaeology	24.40m	24.52m	24.13m	24.24m	22.92m
Base of excavation	22.65m	24.25m	24.13m	24.24m	-
Top of natural/drift geology	22.65m	-	-	-	22.12m

Table 1: Significant heights (metres above Ordnance Datum) in trench I at 16 Hunter Street (Emery 1995b), in trenches 1 and 2 and test-pit 2 in the former bowling green car park, south of Hunter Street (Earthworks Archaeology 2001; 2006), and in trench 18 at the western end of Hunter Street (Earthworks Archaeology 2002b)

1.4.4 Of the two trenches excavated in 2001 (Earthworks Archaeology 2001), the northernmost (trench 2) was located within the evaluation area, whilst trench 1 lay *c* 18m to the south (*c* 22m south of trench 2). In trench 2, the top of the latest (uppermost) archaeological material was only 0.33m beneath the surface (Table 1). This comprised a thick (*c* 0.85m) deposit of mid-brown silty clay and sandstone rubble, which is thought to represent a late Roman/early post-Roman build-up, the rubble perhaps deriving from underlying Roman structures. This layer overlay remains of probable Roman date, but these were only seen at the base of the trench and could not be excavated. They seem, however, to have lain at a similar depth below the modern surface (*c* 1.2m) as the Roman floor seen in a nearby test-pit excavated in 1989 (*Section 1.4.3*). These results were confirmed by the excavation of a small test-pit within the northern part of the car park in 2006 (Earthworks Archaeology 2006, 3-4), which located probable Roman building rubble (or possibly an *in situ* wall) 1.2m below the surface, sealed by *c* 0.7m of red-brown soil (Table 1). However, a very different sequence was recorded in trench 1 of the 2001 evaluation, where modern deposits, approximately 0.6m thick, sealed 0.5m of probable post-medieval garden soil (Table 1). This in turn overlay a layer of mid-brown silty clay in excess of 0.23m thick, at the base of the trench, which is likely to represent the uppermost significant archaeological level, since it yielded a small assemblage of exclusively Roman pottery. The two small trenches opened on the northern edge of the bowling green in 2010 (L-P Archaeology 2010) were only excavated to a depth of 0.5m below the surface. This involved the removal, in both trenches, of a series of modern deposits relating to the construction of the bowling green, down onto the top of a layer of firm, red-brown clay-sand, interpreted as a post-medieval soil deposit.

1.4.5 The only other archaeological work actually within the Hunter Street evaluation zone was undertaken within the carriageway at the extreme western end of Hunter Street in October 2002 (Event 4651; Earthworks

Archaeology 2002b). There, recording of archaeological deposits visible in the sides of a machine-cut trench (trench 18), dug to assess the character of an existing service duct, revealed significant remains beneath modern deposits. The top of the natural drift geology, a yellow clay, was seen 1.25m below the surface (Table 1). Directly above this was 0.33m of buff-yellow sandy clay containing frequent charcoal flecks and sandstone fragments. This was cut by a possible construction trench, 0.2m deep and over 0.55m wide, containing a possible sandstone foundation. Above this, and partly filling the upper part of the cut, was a layer of brown/black 'organic-like' material containing thin lenses of grey/buff sandy clay and charcoal. This yielded a sherd of samian ware and two joining fragments from a Roman roof tile. Above this was 0.15-0.2m of sandstone rubble, interpreted as a bed for 'an earlier road surface of uncertain date', presumably relatively recent in origin, since it was directly cut by the modern service trench itself. Overlying deposits associated with the modern road were up to 0.3m deep. Little in the way of interpretation was offered (*op cit*, 4), but it was suggested that the organic/charcoal deposit might indicate the proximity of bread ovens in the intervallum area inside the western defences of the Roman fortress.

1.4.6 **Trinity Street:** unlike Hunter Street, no modern archaeological interventions have been carried out within the area of the Trinity Street evaluation site. However, in 2006, archaeological monitoring was undertaken of a geotechnical borehole sunk on the east side of Trinity Street, within the northern part of the evaluation site, as part of a wider programme of geotechnical work across the Northgate development zone (Event 5528; Earthworks Archaeology 2006, BH 8). The information recovered from this borehole (Table 2) indicated that a thick deposit of dark brown sand, 0.8m thick, lay *c* 0.3m below the modern surface (*op cit*, 8-9). The interpretation of this layer is uncertain, but it yielded a few small fragments of Roman ceramic building material, which occurred more frequently towards the base of the material, suggesting that it represents the uppermost *in situ* archaeology, and may potentially be Roman. It sealed *c* 0.6m of sandstone fragments and small, rounded pebbles, tentatively interpreted as a possible road surface (presumably of Roman date), the top of which lay *c* 1.1m below the modern surface. This lay directly above the natural geology, which was recorded *c* 1.7m beneath the surface.

	BH 8 (2006)
Modern surface	24.60m
Top of significant archaeology	24.30m
Top of drift geology	22.90m

Table 2: Significant heights (in metres above Ordnance Datum) in borehole 8 (BH 8) on the east side of Trinity Street (Earthworks Archaeology 2006, 14, fig 3)

1.4.7 The potential for the survival of deep and complex archaeological strata in the vicinity of Trinity Street is also clearly highlighted by the Chester UAD, and also by the results of several excavations undertaken at no great distance from the site. On the east side of the junction of Crook Street and Hamilton Place, for example, *c* 60m south-east of the evaluation area, excavations in 1971 (Mason 1994) found the natural drift geology *c* 2.5-3m below the

modern surface, with the top of Roman levels 1.5-1.9m below the surface, and the top of Anglo-Saxon levels *c* 1.5m down. Above this were medieval and post-medieval deposits, but these are not differentiated on the published section drawing (*op cit*, 38-9, fig 6.1), nor is there an Ordnance Survey datum from which absolute heights can be calculated. To the south, on the western side of Trinity Street, excavations on the line of the western fortress defences in 1961-2 (Thompson 1969) found the natural clay 1.35-1.7m below the surface, with up to 1m of archaeological deposits surviving above this.

- 1.4.8 The Trinity Street site is also known to encompass all or part of the site of the Nonconformist chapel (Monument 10055), built in 1700 and modified and used well into the twentieth century (*Section 1.3.8*), which lay on the eastern side of the road. Between the chapel itself and the street frontage was an associated burial ground, which is depicted on historical mapping (*eg* Wood 1833; Ordnance Survey 1872) and in an early twentieth-century illustration (Sharpe 1901, 52). The sites of both the chapel and the cemetery are today occupied by the Crowne Plaza Hotel, but there was some uncertainty as to whether all the human remains within the burial ground were removed when the chapel went out of use (M Leah *pers comm*). An important aim of the evaluation trenching was therefore to determine the presence or absence of human remains within the Trinity Street evaluation area.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; OA North 2015) was submitted by OA North in response to a request by Rivington Land. The WSI was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) and Historic England guidelines (CifA 2014a, 2014b, 2014c; English Heritage 2006).
- 2.1.2 In total, 13 trenches, each measuring approximately 2 x 2m, were excavated. All such excavations extended to a maximum safe depth of 1.2m only, although limited sondages (slit trenches) were occasionally excavated by hand, in order to clarify the stratigraphic sequence, or by machine, in order to establish the level of natural deposits, where a sequence of only modern deposits were encountered (see *Sections 3.2.9-11* and *3.3.10-11*). Six trenches were excavated within the Hunter Street site, arranged along the southern edge of Hunter Street, while a further seven trenches were excavated within the Trinity Street site (Fig 2). Within the Trinity Street site, three trenches were excavated within the area of the former burial ground associated with the Nonconformist chapel, two within the area immediately north of the former burial ground, and a further two trenches within the area immediately to the south.

2.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.2.1 The general aims and objectives of the evaluation scheme were to provide as comprehensive as possible assessment of the stratigraphic sequence of deposition within the two study areas. This was to give a clear indication of the presence/absence, extent, character and composition of all archaeological deposits encountered on the sites, and, in addition, ascertain at what level the uppermost significant archaeological horizon, occurs below the current ground surface, and, more importantly, according to ratified heights above Ordnance Datum. Site-specific objectives were also defined for each area.
- 2.2.2 **Hunter Street:** in addition to the general objectives, work within the Hunter Street site was to ascertain the extent to which modern modification of the area had potentially disturbed or removed archaeological deposits. Such activity includes the modern landscaping of the area but, more importantly, the level to which the modern buildings, known to have occupied the plot immediately adjacent to St Martin's Way and the western end of Hunter Street, had affected archaeological remains. It was not known, for example, if these buildings had been furnished with a cellar, and, if so, to what depth this, or, indeed, subsequent demolition activity, had penetrated.
- 2.2.3 **Trinity Street;** in addition to identifying the presence/absence of significant Roman archaeological remains in the area, the survival of which was tentatively indicated during earlier geotechnical work (*Section 1.4.6*), the

main aim of the evaluation was to ascertain the presence/absence of burial activity and human remains associated with the former Nonconformist chapel (Section 1.4.8). While the position of the chapel is well documented, no record of the exhumation of associated burials has been found (M Leah *pers comm*) and it was uncertain to what extent modern building activity had impacted upon any such remains.

2.3 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

- 2.3.1 Prior to excavation, the positions of all the trenches were surveyed for the potential presence of buried services, using a CAT and genny survey device, operated by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist. This survey was further augmented in the Trinity Street area by a ground-penetrating radar survey (Appendix I), carried out to provide both a comprehensive assessment of the location of potential buried services, prior to establishing trench locations, and also to try to identify any potential archaeological features within the area.
- 2.3.2 All excavations were initially conducted using a three-ton, hydraulically powered, mechanical excavator, equipped with a flat-bladed bucket. All such excavations were conducted under supervision by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist. All deposits were removed in controlled spits of no more than 0.20m, and spoil was stored immediately adjacent to, but at a suitable distance from, the excavation area, to allow rapid and efficient reinstatement upon completion of the works. Upon completion of the excavation of each trench, and during all relevant recording of deposits and features, the area was adequately fenced off using Heras fencing panels, to prevent unsupervised access, until such a time that the trench was backfilled.
- 2.3.3 All deposits were removed in a reverse stratigraphic sequence, down to the uppermost horizon of significant archaeology or the maximum recommended safe depth of 1.2m, without recourse to stepping the excavation or use of shoring. Below this depth, additional limited excavations were occasionally undertaken by hand, only where it was safe to do so, in order to test the character and composition of deposits or identified features encountered, and to provide firm dating evidence. In a number of instances, where only modern deposits were encountered, further limited excavations were undertaken in the form of a sondage, placed at the centre of the trench. Such excavations were undertaken using the mechanical excavator and no attempt was made to enter the trench during or after the excavation. Such additional excavations were conducted in order to expose the level at which natural deposits could be identified, and therefore to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits. Upon completion of such additional excavations, a photographic record was made and the trench immediately backfilled.
- 2.3.4 All trenches were excavated in a stratigraphical manner. Trenches were located by use of a combination of differential Global Positioning System (dGPS), and a Leica 1200 Total Station Survey System, with altitude information established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum.

- 2.3.5 All information identified in the course of the site works was recorded stratigraphically (*Appendix 2*), using a system adapted from that used by the former Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage, with an accompanying pictorial record (plans, sections, and digital photographs). Primary records were available for inspection at all times.
- 2.3.6 Results of all field investigations were recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets. The site archive also includes both a photographic record and accurate large-scale plans and sections executed at an appropriate scale (1:20 and 1:10).
- 2.3.7 Where human remains were identified, all such excavations were suitably screened from public view, in order to allow the discrete exposure and recording of the remains, in accordance with the client's wishes. A full photographic, drawn and written record of all such burials was generated during the evaluation following in-house, industry and ecclesiastical guidelines, including the Church of England and English Heritage guidelines (2005), the British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteology's (BABAO's) code of ethics (BABAO nd), and Oxford Archaeology's policy concerning the treatment of human remains (OA 2008). However, all articulated human remains were left *in situ*, to prevent the partial recovery of individual burials. All such burials were therefore covered with a layer of geotextiles before being reburied, initially by hand in order to protect the remains.

2.3 FINDS

- 2.3.1 The recovery of finds was carried out in strict adherence to the WSI (OA North 2015) and in accordance with best practice (following current Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidelines; CIfA 2014d), and subject to expert advice, to minimise deterioration. All artefacts recovered from the evaluation trenches were retained in suitable packaging, adequately marked to allow identification by site, context and material.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the WSI (OA North 2015), and in accordance with current CIfA (2014b) and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2006). The paper and digital archive, together with finds suitable for retention, will be deposited with the Grosvenor Museum, Chester.

3. FIELDWORK RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 In total, 13, 2 x 2m, trenches were excavated within the areas designated for evaluation, six within Area A and seven within Area B (Fig 2). The trenches within Area A were arranged east/west in a linear, but not sequential, fashion along the southern edge of Hunter Street, largely within a shrub border associated with the landscaped and predominantly grassed park area immediately to the south (bounded by Hunter Street and Princess Street to north and south, and the bus exchange and St Martin's Way to east and west). The trenches were excavated in order to ascertain the point below current ground level at which significant archaeological remains could be identified and also to assess the impact of former modern buildings and landscaping upon those remains, particularly towards the junction of Hunter Street and St Martin's Way. The trenches were excavated between 27th April and 1st May 2015.
- 3.1.2 Trenches within Area B were arranged roughly north/south in a slightly staggered fashion along the eastern side of Trinity Street, in an area that had not previously been subject to archaeological evaluation. They were excavated within a modern landscaped area surfaced with hardcore, between Princess Street and Hamilton Place, and contained by the eastern footpath of Trinity Street and structural elements associated with the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Chester Market Hall and its car parking facilities. The entire area was oversailed by the Crowne Plaza Hotel, supported on numerous concrete columns, particularly towards the southern end. Three trenches were placed within the central area, to establish whether the graveyard of a Nonconformist Chapel had survived in any way. A further two trenches were excavated to the north, and two others to the south, to assess the level of survival of archaeological deposits. The trenches were excavated between 5th and 15th May 2015.
- 3.1.3 The results of the excavations are described, for both areas, according to chronological phasing of the deposits and features recorded. Five broad chronological phases of activity were identified, formulated in relation to the stratigraphic sequence of deposits and features, and the assemblage of cultural material recorded during investigation (Table 3).

Phase	Chronological period of activity
1	Roman activity/demolition layer
2	Probable late Roman/early post-Roman activity
3	Probable medieval activity
4	Post-medieval activity
5	Modern activity

Table 3: Summary of the broad chronological phases of activity

3.2 AREA A: HUNTER STREET

3.2.1 Within Area A (the Hunter Street site), all archaeological deposits had been destroyed by modern buildings to the west, but significant deposits were identified to the east (Table 4). The height relative to Ordnance Datum was taken for the top of each deposit. The height of the modern ground surface has been given as both an up- and down-slope measurement, since the heavily landscaped ground rises considerably from its lowest point in the west to a highest point in the east, and the difference within individual trenches sometimes reached nearly 0.50m.

Stratigraphic sequence/ proposed chronological phasing	Height relative to Ordnance Datum (Trenches (left to right) as from west to east					
	Trench 1	Trench 5	Trench 4	Trench 2	Trench 6	Trench 3
Current ground level (Down slope)	22.28m aoD	23.17m aoD	24.22m aoD	25.08m aoD	25.97m aoD	26.19m aoD
Current ground level (Up slope)	22.55m aoD	23.49m aoD	24.41m aoD	25.21m aoD	26.05m aoD	26.43m aoD
Top of probable medieval deposit. Phase 3	-	-	context 402 23.80m aoD	context 205 24.77m aoD	-	context 304 25.49m aoD
Top of Roman/ possible post-Roman deposit. Phase 2	-	-	context 403 23.44m aoD	context 206 24.32m aoD	-	context 305 25.28m aoD
Top of probable Roman demolition deposit. Phase 1	-	-	context 404 23.26m aoD	context 207 24.23m aoD	Modern and post- medieval deposits extending to top of Roman features at 25.14m aoD	context 306 25.02m aoD
Top of Bedrock	Modern deposits extending to bedrock at 20.51m aoD	Modern deposits extending to bedrock at 20.99m aoD	-	-	-	-

Table 4: Summary of the results from trenches within Area A, the Hunter Street site, showing heights of significant deposits relative to Ordnance Datum

3.2.2 **Phase 1 - Roman activity/probable demolition layer:** deposits relating to a probable Roman demolition layer, deemed the upper significant archaeological horizon, were identified at the limits of excavation within four of the six trenches excavated in Area A (Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 6, see Table 4). This deposit (**207, 306, 404** and **608** respectively) primarily consisted of a distinct horizon of reddish-brown silty sand, containing common fragments and angular blocks of sandstone. It consistently occurred at a depth of 0.80-1m below the modern ground surface.

3.2.3 The layer was most extensively exposed within Trench 2 (**207**; Fig 4; Plate 1), where it was revealed and partially excavated across the entirety of the trench base. In Trench 3, the layer (**306**) was exposed within the north-eastern corner of the trench, where a limited hand-dug sondage was excavated below the depth of machine-excitation, specifically to try and identify the deposit (Fig 5; Plate 2). There elements of a possible post-Roman deposit (**305**) were removed to expose a reddish-brown silty sand, rich in sandstone fragments, at the base of the sondage.



Plate 1: Trench 2, facing north, with the potential Roman demolition layer **207** exposed in the base



Plate 2: Trench 3, facing north, with the hand-dug sondage in the north-eastern corner, where a potential Roman demolition layer (306) was identified

- 3.2.4 Similarly, in Trench 4, two potential Roman deposits (**403** and **404**) were partially exposed and excavated within a hand-dug sondage in the northern part of the trench (Fig 6; Plate 3). While deposit **404** was associated with the potential Roman demolition layer identified elsewhere, the upper deposit (**403**) also produced an exclusively Roman ceramic assemblage. However, variation in the colour and composition of the deposit, from the material immediately below, prompted the suggestion of a potential early post-Roman date for the layer.



Plate 3: Trench 4, facing north, with the hand-dug sondage extending along the northern edge, and the north-western corner, where a potential Roman demolition layer (404) was identified

3.2.5 In Trench 6, the modern ground surface also sloped downwards from south to north, with post-medieval deposits extending to the limit of safe excavation along the southern limit of excavation. As a result, the northern half of the trench was excavated by hand to the safe limit of depth in this direction (Fig 7; Plate 4). This sondage partially revealed a deposit (608) similar to that recorded elsewhere as probable Roman demolition material. In this instance, however, several possible cut features (607 and 605) were observed cutting the surface of the deposit, which contained a slightly darker brown fill of silty sand (606 and 604 respectively). Due to the depth at which these features were exposed, no further excavation was undertaken, but, given the stratigraphic sequence, they were interpreted as probably late Roman or possibly early post-Roman in origin.



Plate 4: Trench 6, facing north, with the hand-dug sondage along the northern edge of the trench, exposing the potential Roman demolition layer (608) and apparent cut features (605 and 607)

- 3.2.6 **Phase 2 - Possible late Roman/early post-Roman activity:** potential deposits associated with a tentative phase of post-Roman activity were identified within four of the six trenches excavated in Area A (Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 6: see Table 4). Several deposits (305 and 403), and several possible cut features (605 and 607), as well as deposit 206 in Trench 2, were identified as possibly relating to this slightly later phase of activity. Only deposits 206 and 403 produced finds, which comprised exclusively Roman ceramic material. On this basis, the deposits cannot conclusively be separated from earlier activity. However, their stratigraphic position above potential demolition deposits, as well as subtle variations in the colour and composition between these and earlier deposits, the later material appearing slightly darker, less vividly reddish-brown in hue, and containing fewer and generally smaller sandstone fragments, makes it likely that these belong to a subsequent phase. This may represent activity towards the end of the Roman occupation of the site, although, if the demolition deposits relate to a final phase in the functional use of the fort as a military centre, perhaps indicative of the natural deterioration or deliberate destruction of its buildings, then this activity may relate to an early post-Roman phase of occupation, which in itself would be significant.
- 3.2.7 **Phase 3 - Probable medieval activity:** deposits potentially indicative of broadly medieval activity were identified in three of the six trenches excavated in Area A (Trenches 2, 3 and 4; see Table 4). A medium brown silty sand (205, 304 and 402 respectively), containing infrequent sandstone fragments, and varying between 0.28m and 0.49m in thickness (Figs 4-6: Plates 1-3), was consistent in all three trenches. This layer occurred 0.60m or more below the modern ground surface, and invariably produced an assemblage of fragments of Roman pottery and ceramic building materials

mixed with medieval to late medieval pottery, with later post-medieval material being entirely absent. The deposit therefore probably represents cultivated soils within this part of the former Roman fort, during the early to late-medieval period. Indeed, within Trench 2 (Fig 4), the undulating upper surface of the layer was interpreted as potentially indicative of ridge and furrow agriculture. However, it is also possible that this may have resulted from a reworking of the surface by subsequent activity.

- 3.2.8 **Phase 4 - Post-medieval activity:** deposits and features associated with post-medieval activity were identified in four out of the six trenches excavated in Area A (Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 6; see Table 4). This phase was generally represented by a distinct layer (**204, 303, 401** and **603** respectively) of dark grey-brown silty sand, that varied in thickness between 0.20m and 0.40m (Figs 4-7; Plates 1-4). Within Trench 6, this layer was slightly thicker, and was observed to overlay the Phase 1/2 deposits directly, since medieval deposits or features were entirely absent from this trench. The layer appears to have derived from a general build-up of cultivated soils. In addition, a single cut feature was identified in section within Trench 2 (cut **203** and fill **202**). This feature potentially extended from the top of the post-medieval layer, although little distinction was observed between the fill of the feature and the surrounding layer.
- 3.2.9 **Phase 5 - Modern activity:** deposits relating to twentieth-century activity were identified in all six trenches excavated in Area A. Such activity primarily related to a single distinct layer of medium brown silty sand (**100, 200, 301, 400, 500** and **600**), between 0.30m and 0.45m thick, forming the uppermost deposit in the stratigraphic sequence of each trench. This material had clearly been imported to form a topsoil across the area, during the relatively recent landscaping of the wider area. Within Trenches 3 and 6, towards the eastern end of Area A, this topsoil layer overlay other modern levelling deposits of crushed sandstone and a geotextile membrane (deposits **302** and **601/602** respectively; see Plates 2 and 4).
- 3.2.10 In addition to the reconstituted topsoil layer identified throughout the trenches, further modern deposits, consisting of limestone hardcore, demolition debris and concrete blocks (deposits **101/102** and **501/502**; Fig 8; Plates 5 and 6), were identified within Trenches 1 and 5. These deposits extended to a depth of 1.90-2.50m below the modern ground level, as established by limited machine-dug slit trenching, and directly overlay natural bedrock. These modern deposits probably derive from the demolition and infilling of the footprint of a modern building, previously fronting onto St Martin's Way, that had removed all archaeological deposits within this area.



Plate 5: Trench 1, facing north, with the machine-cut sondage through modern deposits to expose the natural bedrock



Plate 6: Trench 5, facing west, with the machine-cut sondage through the modern deposits to expose the natural bedrock

3.2.11 The eastern extent of this modern disturbance, and thus the footprint of the building, was apparently identified towards the western limit of excavation in Trench 4. There, a large concrete block was observed protruding from the eastern-facing section of the trench (Plate 3), which may have constituted part of the former building. This interpretation is strengthened by the absence of modern materials (with the exception of the imported topsoil and levelling layers) to the east of this point.

3.3 AREA B: TRINITY STREET

3.3.1 Within Area B, most archaeological deposits had been destroyed by modern development, apart from in the area of the former graveyard (Table 5). The height relative to Ordnance Datum was taken for the top of each deposit. The chronological phases established for Area A are retained for the sake of consistency, although not all phases are represented in the Area B trenches.

Stratigraphic sequence/ proposed chronological phasing	Height relative to Ordnance Datum (Trenches (left to right) as north to south)						
	Trench 7	Trench 8	Trench 10	Trench 9	Trench 11	Trench 13	Trench 12
Current ground level	24.64m aoD	24.77m aoD	24.52m aoD	24.74m aoD	24.51m aoD	24.70m aoD	24.80m aoD
Varied deposits	Phase 5 Modern backfill deposits to bedrock	Phases 4 and 5 Modern and post- medieval deposits Phase 1 Possible Roman wall at 23.80m aoD	Phase 5 Modern and late post- medieval deposits and structures to depth of excavation at 23.64m aoD	Phase 4 Top of grave cut at 24.28m aoD Human remains at 23.66m aoD	Phase 4 Top of grave cut at 23.75m aoD Upper burial at 23.37m aoD Lower burials at 23.22m aoD	Phase 4 Top of probable graveyard soils at 23.99m aoD	Phase 5 Modern backfill deposits, excavated in a slit trench to a depth of 2m below current ground level
Top of Bedrock	Exposed by limited sondage at 22.04m aoD	Not identified	Not identified	Augered at 22.04m aoD	Augered at 22.72m aoD	Augered at 22.19m aoD	Not identified

Table 5: Summary of the results from trenches within Area B, the Trinity Street site, showing heights of significant deposits relative to Ordnance Datum

3.3.2 **Phase 1 - Roman activity:** evidence for Roman of activity was limited within Area B to Trench 8 (Fig 9; Plate 7). There, a short section of wall (**806**), up to 1.35m long, was exposed, extending north from the south-eastern corner of the trench, within the east-facing section only. The wall comprised two-plus courses of roughly faced sandstone blocks, with no clear bonding agent. A dark brown silty sand (**807**) had built up along its eastern edge and this extended south beyond the limit of excavation. This deposit produced a small

assemblage of exclusively Roman ceramic building material and pottery, and therefore probably indicates that the wall and deposit relate to activity of Roman date. The deposit and wall were overlain by a similar deposit of dark brown sandy silt (805), up to 0.70m thick. However, this deposit contained a clay pipe stem. To the north and east, a modern cut (804), containing a backfill and levelling deposit of crushed sandstone (803), occupied the majority of the test pit. This modern activity clearly related to the construction of the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Chester Market Hall complex (as identified in other trenches), and had removed any other archaeological deposits and features.



Plate 7: Trench 8, facing west, showing Roman wall 806 and deposit 807, overlain by post-medieval deposit 805 in the south-western corner, and truncated by modern activity to the north and east

- 3.3.3 **Phases 2 and 3 - Late Roman/early post-Roman and medieval activity:** no deposits or features relating to the two broad phases of early and later medieval activity were identified within any of the trenches excavated in Area B.
- 3.3.4 **Phase 4 - Post-medieval activity:** post-medieval deposits and features were identified in five of the seven trenches excavated in Area B (Trenches 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13). The principal deposits relating to this activity (805, 908, 1007, 1113 and 1301 respectively) essentially comprised a near identical dark grey-brown silty sand, indicative of a developed soil, roughly 1-2m thick. Within Trenches 9 and 11, this layer was clearly associated with the graveyard of the Unitarian Chapel, as several articulated burials remained *in situ*, cut into the layer.
- 3.3.5 In Trench 9, the soil (908) had been partially removed by a modern cut (904) containing a crushed sandstone fill (903), within the north-western corner of the trench. A single grave cut (907) was identified, extending on a roughly

south-west/north-east axis in the north-eastern corner of the trench (Fig 10; Plate 8). Partial excavation of the grave fill (**905**) revealed the head and upper torso of a single, articulated, supine inhumation (**909/SKE01**), with the head positioned towards the western end of the grave. The top of the grave cut was identified in section, extending from the top of the post-medieval soil, approximately 0.55m below the modern ground surface, and directly overlaid by a modern deposit of limestone hardcore (**902**). The skeletal remains of the burial were recorded approximately 0.60m below the top of the cut (see Table 5 for heights relative to Ordnance Datum). The burial was recorded, but, was then covered in terram membrane and left *in situ*.



Plate 8: Trench 9, facing south, showing post-medieval layer **908** truncated by a modern cut (**904**) and fill (**903**) in the north-western corner (bottom right) and grave **907**, with partially exposed skeleton **SKE01**

3.3.6 Within Trench 11, the soil had been removed along the southern edge of the trench by a modern cut (**1104**) containing a fill of crushed sandstone (**1103**), identical to other modern backfills identified elsewhere in the area, and associated with the construction of the Crowne Plaza Hotel and market complex. In this instance, the cut probably related to a concrete support column immediately to the south of the trench. Within the south-facing section of the trench (Fig 11), a large pit (cut **1106**) was visible extending from the top of the post-medieval soil (**1113**). The cut was sub-rectangular in shape, with vertical sides, up to 0.74m deep, and a flat base, and this contained a single fill (**1105**) very similar in character to the surrounding layer. The pit had partially destroyed the northern edge of a grave cut (**1112**), which extended for approximately 1.90m, on a roughly south-west/north-east axis, from the north-eastern corner of the trench (Fig 11; Plate 9). The top of the grave cut seemed to coincide with the top of the post-medieval soil, approximately 0.90m below the modern ground level (see Table 5 for levels relative to Ordnance Datum).



Plate 9: Trench 11, facing west, with the modern cut (1104) and fill (1103; left) and grave 1112 (right), containing SKE02, SKE03 and SKE04, partially disturbed by pit 1106 (far right)

- 3.3.7 Removal of the fill (1107) from grave 1112 revealed a sequence of three inhumations, indicative of the reuse of the same plot, suggesting a possible familial link among the individual burials. The uppermost of the burials (1108/SKE02) occurred approximately 0.40m below the top of the grave cut and was almost fully exposed during excavation, only the bones of the feet extending north-east beyond the limits of the trench. A metallic name plate (Plate 10) was found on the upper torso of SKE02 and, while largely obscured by corrosion, it identified the individual as one James Haleway. The date of his death was also heavily obscured, but may have been the year 1824. The condition of the jaw and dentition probably indicates that the individual was relatively elderly at the time of death. The heavily fragmented and decomposed remains of a wooden coffin (1109) probably contained SKE02, although it was unclear, without removing the remains, if this related to one or other of the earlier burials.



Plate 10: Detail of SKE02 and the associated name plate within grave **1112** of Trench 11, looking north-west

- 3.3.8 Grave **1112** extended for a further 0.50m south-west, beyond the cranium of SKE02 (Fig 11), probably indicating that the grave actually comprised two or more separate cuts. Within this extended area, and 0.15m below SKE02, the remains of two further individuals were partially exposed (**1110**/SKE03 and **1111**/SKE04; Plate 11). SKE03 comprised the fragmented cranium and jaw of a probable juvenile, which had been partially reconstructed around the intact cranium of SKE04. SKE04 was represented by the intact and articulated cranium, jaw and upper spine of an adult individual laid out in a supine position, of which only these elements were exposed below SKE02. None of the burials were removed, being covered in terram and reburied upon completion of the recording of the trench. There was no indication that SKE04 was not intact, but given the fragmentary state of the skull recognised as SKE03, it is likely that the insertion of SKE02 had probably disturbed one or both of the earlier burials. Presumably, the disturbed remains of SKE03 were redeposited with the remains of SKE04 in the base of the grave for SKE02.



Plate 11: Detail of SKE03 and SKE04, partially exposed below SKE02 in Trench 11, looking west

- 3.3.9 The post-medieval soil (**1301**) was also exposed in Trench 13, where the presence of a small quantity of disarticulated human bone may also suggest the deposit relates to the graveyard associated with the former chapel. There, the eastern part of the layer had been completely removed by a large modern cut, again containing a fill of crushed sandstone. This modern feature extended north/south, parallel to the wall of the Crowne Plaza Hotel and market complex, approximately 2.50m to the east (Fig 12; Plate 12). The feature clearly related to a large-scale episode of cut and fill, associated with the construction of the modern buildings, identical to that identified in Trenches 10 and 8, further to the north. Deposit **1301** was overlain by a similar layer (**1300**), distinguished by the presence of a large quantity of sandstone fragments and red brick. It was unclear if this represented a modern deposit associated with the development, or a layer surviving from the demolition of earlier buildings.



Plate 12: Trench 13, looking north, showing the post-medieval graveyard soil (1301) truncated by a modern construction cut for the hotel and market complex, containing a crushed sandstone backfill

- 3.3.10 In Trench 10, the soil (1007) was also likely to relate to the graveyard, although no human remains were recovered from it. This may reflect the fact that a medium-sized, square or rectangular, red-brick structure (structure 1005/1006) occupied the western half of the trench (Fig 13; Plate 13). Several courses of this structure were exposed at the maximum depth of the trench, although it appeared to continue below this level, and comprised unfrosted red brick, bonded with a white lime mortar. The eastern half of the structure, as well as further elements of the soil (1007), had been destroyed by the same modern cut and backfill deposit identified in Trenches 8 and 13, associated with the modern development. Given the nature of the building material, the structure was likely to have been post-medieval rather than modern in date, and may have acted as an inspection chamber for a possible sewer run servicing the Chapel or other nearby buildings.



Plate 13: Trench 10, looking north, showing the post-medieval brick-built structure (1005/1006) and probable graveyard soil (1007; left), truncated by the modern construction cut and backfill deposit for the hotel and market complex

- 3.3.11 Elsewhere, a post-medieval soil was exposed in Trench 8 (805; Fig 9), immediately above the potential Roman wall (806; Section 3.3.2). However, it is unlikely that this is related to the Chapel graveyard, since it was situated north of the northern boundary of the burial ground as shown on historical mapping, including the usually accurate Ordnance Survey mapping of the late nineteenth- and early twentieth centuries (Ordnance Survey 1872; 1899; 1910). It is, however, possible that this deposit is similar to the post-medieval cultivated or 'garden' soils recorded in a broadly analogous stratigraphic position on Hunter Street (Sections 3.2.8, 4.3.7).
- 3.3.12 **Phase 5 - Modern activity:** deposits relating to the twentieth-century construction of the hotel and market complex and associated landscaping were recorded in all trenches excavated in Area B. A layer of limestone hardcore, occasionally incorporating concrete binding layers, formed the uppermost deposit in each of the trenches, extending to a depth of 0.50-0.60m or more below the modern ground level and directly overlying features and deposits relating to the graveyard and other post-medieval activity. The construction cut and backfill for the building had clearly destroyed all earlier deposits within Trenches 10 and 13, extending approximately 2.50m from the current wall of the building which formed the eastern boundary of the study area. In addition, a substantial cut, containing an identical backfill, had removed almost all the deposits within Trench 8, part of the deposits to the south of Trench 11 and a small section of the deposits in Trench 9. In the latter two trenches, the modern disturbance probably related to piling and construction of the supporting concrete

columns that carry the hotel over this area, suggesting similar deposits exist in the immediate vicinity of the other columns.

- 3.3.13 In Trench 7, all deposits had been removed by modern activity, the entirety of the trench consisting of limestone hardcore over crushed sandstone backfill (Fig 14: Plate 14). In Trench 12, modern deposits varied slightly from those encountered elsewhere in the area, comprising mainly demolition material across the entire trench, with a concrete structure along the southern edge, probably relating to the construction of the underground road joining elements of the subterranean car-parking facilities on either side of Trinity Street. Excavation of a machine-cut sondage within the centre of the trench indicated that these deposits extended to a depth of more than 2m below the modern ground surface (Fig 15: Plate 15). The deposits were too unstable to allow further safe excavation below this point, so the relative depth of bedrock was not established. However, given that the modern disturbance extended to a depth of more than 2m below ground level, it is very unlikely that any archaeological deposits survive in this area.



Plate 14: Trench 7, looking south, showing modern deposits of limestone hardcore and crushed sandstone extending throughout the trench



Plate 15: Trench 12, looking south, showing the machine-cut sondage through modern material to a depth of more than 2m below the modern ground level

3.4 THE FINDS

3.4.1 A small assemblage of 191 fragments of artefacts and ecofacts was recovered from the Hunter Street and Trinity Street sites, with 81 coming from trenches excavated on Hunter Street and 80 from those on Trinity Street (*Appendix 3*). Some 30 fragments were unstratified (Table 6). The finds were in generally good condition, although the fragment-size was not large, and there was little abrasion on the ceramics. Only iron, as might be expected, was in poor condition.

Trench	Pottery	Tobacco pipe	Building material	Iron	Glass	Bone	Other	Totals
Hunter street								
1								0
2	6		15					21
3	10		3					13
4	21		16			1	1	39
5								0
6	4		3		1			8
Trinity Street								
7								0
8	2	1	2					5
9								0
10	2	6	2				1	11
11	31	14	1	9	2		1	58
12								0
13		1	1			4		6

Unstratified								
US	11	11	2	6				30
Totals	87	33	45	15	3	5	3	191

Table 6: The distribution of material groups between trenches

3.4.2 **The Hunter Street finds:** the majority of the finds from Hunter Street (Trenches 1-6) are pottery and ceramic building material, comprising 41 and 37 fragments respectively (Table 7). Trenches 1 and 5, which contained only modern deposits, produced no finds. Finds in other material classes were rare (one bone, one glass, one industrial residue), and there is a complete absence of ceramic tobacco pipe. This is slightly surprising on an urban site, and perhaps reflects the early date of the majority of the finds, although there are deposits which produced pottery of an appropriate date-range for it to be expected.

Context	Romano-British	Medieval	Post-medieval	Modern	Not closely datable
202				*	
206	*				
207					
303	*		*	*	
304	*				*
402	*	*	*	*	
403	*				*
602				*	
603	*	*	*		
604	*				*

Table 7: The broad date range of finds, by context, from Hunter Street

3.4.3 The emphasis of the finds from these trenches is on the Roman period, and more specifically from the first to third centuries AD, although it must be remembered that the excavation ceased ‘at the top of significant archaeology’ and the date range of securely stratified material might differ. A range of Romano-British pottery fabrics and types was recovered, including, in Trench 2, oxidised sandy fabrics probably deriving from the legionary potteries at Holt, active from the AD 80s to c AD 165-70, and again briefly in the third century (Swan 2004, 263), and Black-burnished Ware category 1, including a straight-sided dish of mid-late second-century date, sandy greywares (locally made?) with an approximately square burnished lattice pointing towards the second half of the second century on (Tyers 1996, 197). A single fragment of possible Severn Valley ware was also noted, present in Chester from the late first century. Small fragments of amphora were present, as were small fragments of roof tiles from most trenches.

3.4.4 Medieval material, concentrated in Trench 4, included the rim of a mid-twelfth- to mid-fourteenth-century cooking pot, several fragments of incompletely reduced green-glazed wares generally ascribed a thirteenth- to fourteenth-century date, including a bridge-spouted jug, a small body fragment with applied decoration, possibly from the kiln at Ashton Hayes, operating between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries (Rutter 1977), and a fragment, provisionally identified, of imported Saintonge Greenware, the

uneven copper-rich glaze suggesting a thirteenth- to fifteenth-century date. A single fragment from possible cultivation-soil **402** is of particular interest, being seemingly a sherd of a Blue-Grey ware from the Rhineland, and likely to be of eleventh- to twelfth-century date. Indicative of potentially pre-Conquest activity surviving on the site, it is a rare find in Chester (J Edwards *pers comm*).

3.4.5 Post-medieval and modern material was not common in this area, but there was a dark-glazed redware cup of late seventeenth-century date from Trench 3, and modern whiteware came from Trenches 2 and 3, and Trench 6, indicating a continuation of deposition, possibly at a low level, into the late nineteenth century.

3.4.6 **The Trinity Street finds:** pottery comprised the largest component (43 fragments) of the assemblage from Trinity Street (Trenches 7-13), with ceramic tobacco pipe, the next most frequently found material, and only a handful of fragments of ceramic building material. There are, in addition, two fragments of glass, and nine hand-forged iron nails. Trenches 7, 9, and 12 produced no finds.

Context	Romano-British	Medieval	Post-medieval	Modern	Not closely datable
805			*		
807	*				
1004	*				
1007			*	*	*
1107			*		*
1113			*	*	*
1301			*	*	*

Table 8: The broad date range of finds, by context, from Trinity Street

3.4.7 The emphasis of the finds from Trinity Street is on the post-medieval period, with many dating to the later seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Trench 8 produced a single fragment of Romano-British pottery, associated with a wall, a body sherd from a typical oxidised red-bodied flagon with white external slip, again probably of second-century date. Medieval finds are completely absent.

3.4.8 Although found throughout, post-medieval finds concentrated in Trench 11, which produced a large fragment from a Staffordshire slipware candlestick (Plate 16), as well as a range of other early seventeenth- to early eighteenth-century wares, including fine Blackwares, other dark-glazed redwares, amongst them Buckley products, Midlands Yellow ware, and Mottled ware. The date range is confirmed by glass and tobacco pipe from one of the grave fills (**1107**). Material from Trenches 10 and 13 is of similar or more recent date, suggesting low-level activity into the nineteenth century.



Plate 16: Staffordshire-type slip-decorated candlestick (scale in mm)

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 From the results of the fieldwork (*Section 3*) it is evident that the evaluation scheme has been highly successful in achieving all the aims and objectives set out in the WSI (OA North 2015; *Section 2.2*). In terms of the project's general aims (*Section 2.2.1*), the evaluation has succeeded in determining the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains in all of the 13 trenches investigated. Furthermore, in those areas where surviving archaeology was found, the work has provided important information on its character and date, together with the depth, below the modern surface, of the uppermost archaeological levels, and the nature and extent of modern disturbance. More specifically, the evaluation has confirmed the severity of suspected modern disturbance close to the junction of Hunter Street and St Martin's Way (*Section 2.2.2*), but has also shown that modern landscaping further east on Hunter Street has had very little (if any) impact on the buried archaeology. On Trinity Street, the extent of disturbance associated with the construction of the Crowne Plaza Hotel has been demonstrated, though it is clear that at least some Roman remains survived these works. However, the most significant outcome of the work in this area is the proof that the burial ground associated with the Trinity Street Nonconformist chapel, which is known to have existed from the early eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth century (*Section 1.3.8*), was not completely cleared of human remains when the site was redeveloped (*Section 1.4.8*). Overall, therefore, the information generated by the evaluation represents an important addition to the pre-existing body of data from previous archaeological works in the locale (*Section 1.1.4*), which, in the vicinity of Trinity Street in particular, was extremely limited.

4.2 HUNTER STREET

4.2.1 At the western end of Hunter Street, the two evaluation trenches closest to St Martin's Way (Trenches 1 and 5; Fig 2) served to demonstrate, as previously suspected (*Section 1.2.3*), that archaeological deposits in this area had been completely destroyed by the construction and subsequent demolition of a modern building. There, modern levelling and demolition deposits, probably representing the infilling of the building's footprint, extended to a depth of 2m or more below the present-day surface, and directly overlay the sandstone bedrock (*Section 3.2.10*). The work has therefore confirmed that any future groundworks in this area are unlikely to result in the destruction of, or damage to, significant archaeological remains.

4.2.2 The zone of destruction recorded at the western end of Hunter Street seemingly extended east from St Martin's Way for at least 24m (as evidenced by the work in Trench 5; *Section 3.2.10*). What may have been the eastern edge (or lip) of this zone was observed, in the form of a shallow, rubble-filled intrusion, on the extreme western edge of Trench 4, c 13m east of Trench 5 (c 37m east of the St Martin's Way pavement edge). However, this identification

is not completely certain, and it is conceivable that some archaeological levels survive in the area between Trenches 4 and 5, particularly on the east, towards Trench 4.

- 4.2.3 What is clear is that the situation over the greater part of the area investigated is very different from that recorded adjacent to St Martin's Way, with *in situ* archaeology surviving beneath modern deposits and post-medieval soils in Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 6 (Fig 2). In all four trenches, the earliest deposit recorded (Phase 1), some 0.8-1.10m below the modern surface, comprised a layer of mixed, sandy soil and coarse sandstone rubble (*Sections 3.2.2-5*), almost certainly a Roman demolition horizon. Since this was not excavated, the character of the archaeology beneath is not certain, but the fact that it extended, undisturbed, across all four trenches suggests that a complete sequence of Roman stratigraphy survives over much of the area immediately south of Hunter Street. From what is known of the fortress layout (Mason 2012, 56, fig 20b), this area is believed to lie within a plot (*insula XXII*), at the north-west corner of the fortress's central range, which held the barracks of a legionary cohort. In all probability, the recorded rubble spreads derive from (and probably overlie the levelled remains of) one or more of the latest, stone-built, barracks, together with one of the minor streets that ran between them (*op cit*, 171; *Section 1.3.4*). These structures were probably erected in the early third century AD (*ibid*), but may have been in disrepair by the end of the century (*op cit*, 221). However, they replaced a sequence of earlier barracks, extending back to the foundation of the fortress in the AD 70s, the earliest of which were of wholly timber construction (*op cit*, 49-50).
- 4.2.4 The significance of the deposits and possible cut features assigned to Phase 2 (*Section 3.2.6*), which, stratigraphically, immediately post-dated the Phase 1 rubble spreads, is unclear. If, as earlier investigations suggest, the barracks in *insula XXII* were abandoned by the end of the third century (*Section 4.2.3*), Phase 2 could represent limited late Roman activity, though the small pottery assemblage from this area, whilst exclusively Roman (*Section 3.4.3*), contains no late third/fourth-century material. Alternatively, the possibility of an early medieval date cannot be completely discounted, for although no finds of this period were recovered, excavations elsewhere, including further east on Hunter Street itself (Strickland 1982; Ward 1994, 43-53), have found evidence for quite intensive pre-Norman activity (*Section 1.3.5*). Much of this seemingly relates to the establishment and subsequent development of the Saxon *burh* in the tenth century (Mason 2007, 79-80), though the possibility of earlier occupation at some sites has been postulated (Ward 1994). Frequently, the remains of this period comprise features, including structural elements of substantial timber buildings, dug directly into the uppermost Roman levels (*ibid*). With this in mind, the putative cut features in Trench 6 (*Section 3.2.5*) are noteworthy, though, as they remained unexcavated, their significance and chronology are unknown.
- 4.2.5 In Trenches 2, 3 and 4, the Phase 2 remains were sealed by a build-up of brown sandy soils (Phase 3) containing medieval pottery in addition to residual Roman material (*Section 3.2.7*). These were in turn sealed by an accumulation of darker soils (Phase 4) that were also recorded in Trench 6

(Section 3.2.8). Evidence from previous archaeological interventions in the Hunter Street area, and from historical mapping (Sections 1.3.6, 1.3.8-9), indicates that, away from the main medieval and post-medieval street frontages, much of the north-west quadrant of the legionary fortress remained undeveloped from the end of the Roman period into modern times. Indeed, the historical maps clearly show that much of the area north of modern Princess Street, known as St Martin's Fields, was occupied by gardens and orchards from the late sixteenth century (at least) to the early twentieth century. It seems probable, therefore, that the deposits assigned to Phases 3 and 4, which together were up to 0.5m thick, represent cultivated or 'garden' soils associated with these open areas. The presence of a single sherd of pottery, seemingly imported from the Rhineland, and dating to the eleventh/twelfth century, is intriguing but cannot suggest more than casual rubbish disposal.

- 4.2.6 The latest deposits in all six trenches (Phase 5) were clearly formed during landscaping associated with the creation of the modern garden south of Hunter Street (Sections 3.2.9-10). These largely comprised imported topsoils, c 0.3-0.4m thick, overlying a semi-permeable membrane laid directly above the post-medieval 'garden' soils in Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 6 (Section 4.2.5). At the western end of the street, within Trenches 1 and 5, the topsoil sealed the deep deposits of rubble and hardcore used to infill the footprint of the modern building that had formerly fronted onto St Martin's Way (Section 4.2.1).

4.3 TRINITY STREET

- 4.3.1 Of the seven evaluation trenches investigated on the east side of Trinity Street (Trenches 7-13; Fig 2), only one (Trench 8), towards the northern end of the study area, yielded evidence for what was probably *in situ* Roman archaeology (Phase 1). This took the form of a heavily disturbed fragment of sandstone walling, roughly aligned north/south, exposed in the south-west corner of the trench (Fig 9), with a possibly contemporary deposit of dark sandy soil adjacent to its eastern edge (Section 3.3.2). The precise significance of this feature cannot be determined, given the very limited exposure and poor preservation. However, from what is known of the layout of the legionary fortress (Mason 2012, 56, fig 20b), it may have formed part of the west range (possibly even the west wall) of a large building complex within *insula* XVIII (*op cit*, 137, fig 76, 148-9), which may have served as the principal legionary workshops (*fabricae*). In its most developed form, this complex probably dates to the Severan refurbishment of the fortress in the early third century AD (*op cit*, 191). However, limited archaeological investigations in the vicinity suggest that the first stone structures in this *insula* were built in the early second century, replacing even earlier, timber buildings (*ibid*). The recorded wall probably relates to the early third-century phase, but, in the absence of dating evidence, an earlier origin cannot be discounted. Whatever its precise chronology, it is likely to overlie the remains of earlier Roman structures.
- 4.3.2 With the exception of the extreme south-west corner, where the fragment of Roman wall survived (Section 4.3.1), all archaeological levels in Trench 8 had been destroyed by groundworks associated with the construction of the Crowne Plaza Hotel (Section 3.3.2). Any Roman remains that may have

existed within Trenches 7 and 12 had also been destroyed when the hotel was built, and, indeed, the groundworks had completely removed all archaeological deposits of all periods within these trenches. Some destruction had also occurred in Trenches 9, 10, 11 and 13, but some of this may have occurred later, when the hotel was extended over Trinity Street, and some *in situ* archaeology did survive in these areas. However, as investigation did not proceed below the top of the latest archaeological levels, which, in all four trenches, were of post-medieval date (*Section 4.3.4*), no Roman remains were recorded. Given the survival of post-medieval strata, though, it seems likely that some Roman deposits also survived in these trenches, buried beneath later stratigraphy. It is also probable that Roman (and later) archaeology survives on 'islands' of stratigraphy elsewhere in the vicinity, between areas of total destruction resulting from the hotel construction.

- 4.3.3 No evidence for pre-Norman or later medieval activity (Phases 2 and 3) was found on Trinity Street (*Section 3.3.3*). As for the Roman period, however, this was almost certainly due to the extent of modern disturbance and, in those areas where *in situ* archaeology did survive, the fact that excavation did not take place beneath the latest, post-medieval, levels (*Section 4.3.4*). In fact, it seems highly likely that medieval (and, conceivably, pre-Norman) deposits do survive in this area, albeit on 'islands' of stratigraphy (including those represented by the surviving archaeology in Trenches 9, 10, 11 and 13) between zones of modern destruction. Trinity Street itself was certainly in existence during the medieval period (Ward 2009), but may have far earlier origins, since it follows the line of the western intervallum road of the Roman fortress (Ward 1994).
- 4.3.4 Undoubtedly the most significant result of the investigations on Trinity Street was the discovery of *in situ* human burials in Trenches 9 and 11 (*Sections 3.3.5-7*), together with fragments of disarticulated human bone in Trench 13 (*Section 3.3.9*). Historical mapping and other documentary sources leave no doubt that these relate to a burial ground associated with the Nonconformist chapel (later a Unitarian chapel) that stood on the east side of Trinity Street from the early eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth century (Sharpe 1901, 52; *Section 1.3.8*). By the late nineteenth century, this was associated with two burial grounds, one on the west, between the chapel and the street, the other on the south (Ordnance Survey 1872). The date at which these were established, and how long they were in use, and the number of burials within each is not known, though documentary research could shed important light on these questions.
- 4.3.5 Trenches 9, 10, 11 and 13 were positioned specifically to evaluate the westernmost cemetery, and it is clear that the human remains recorded in three of these trenches relate to this graveyard. It is, therefore, of some interest that a grave recorded in Trench 11 appears to have contained three inhumations, one on top of another, the latest provisionally dated to 1824 (*Section 3.3.7*). This suggests not only a possible familial link between these individuals, but also that burial may have occurred over a reasonably prolonged period from at least as early as the 1820s. This of itself represents an important advance in present understanding of the date of the cemetery,

though detailed documentary is required to refine the chronology of burial within the chapel graveyards further.

- 4.3.6 The evaluation has also made plain that the western burial ground was not cleared of human remains when the site was redeveloped in the 1960s, but was simply built over, the boundary walls perhaps having first been ripped out. It seems possible that the cemetery itself was left largely intact (perhaps to avoid perceived complications arising from its clearance?), whilst the surrounding area was stripped to bedrock and consolidated with compacted, crushed sandstone. Whether the burial ground on the south side of the chapel suffered a similar fate is not known, though the presence of an underpass immediately to the south makes destruction likely. Later, the western cemetery was disturbed by the insertion of piles when the hotel was extended over Trinity Street, although this may not have been appreciated at the time.
- 4.3.7 The graves in Trenches 9 and 11 had been dug through a layer of dark, organic soil, in excess of 0.4m thick (*Section 3.3.4*). What was probably the same soil was recorded in Trenches 10 and 13, which were also positioned within the western cemetery (though Trench 10 yielded no human remains). The significance of this deposit is not entirely clear, though it may be a 'cemetery soil', formed and reworked by grave digging over a prolonged period. However, the presence of a seemingly identical deposit, c 0.5m thick, directly overlying the Roman wall in Trench 8 (*Section 4.3.1*) casts doubt on this interpretation, since this trench was positioned some distance north of the area of the cemetery, as depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping (*Section 3.3.11*). Another possibility is that these soils are broadly analogous with the medieval/post-medieval 'garden' soils on Hunter Street (Phases 3 and 4; *Section 4.2.5*), which are (superficially at least) of similar character and thickness, and seemingly occupy a similar stratigraphic position. The problem with such an interpretation, however, is that the trenches on Trinity Street were situated close to the street frontage, which is, perhaps, unlikely to have been occupied by gardens or other open areas for a prolonged period.

4.4 CONCLUSION

- 4.4.1 The scheme of evaluation trenching has been successful in identifying the presence and relative depth of significant archaeological remains relating to the Roman and, possibly, the immediate post-Roman or medieval periods, principally along Hunter Street, but also in isolated pockets adjacent to Trinity Street. The work has also established that intact burials relating to the historically documented Nonconformist chapel remain *in situ* on the east side of Trinity Street, despite considerable modern disturbance that has, in places, completely removed all archaeological deposits.
- 4.4.2 On Hunter Street, it seems probable that a complete stratigraphic sequence relating to the occupation of the Roman legionary fortress survives over a considerable area. This represents a highly significant resource, since it potentially provides future opportunities to refine chronologies and advance understanding of the fortress development, in accordance with Initiative 3.18

of the Roman-period research agenda for north-west England (Philpott and Brennan 2007, 62). Also on Hunter Street, the possible existence of late Roman or early medieval deposits is clearly of considerable importance, since these periods are comparatively poorly understood, both at Chester and elsewhere in the region, as the regional research agenda makes clear (*op cit*, 72; Newman and Brennan 2007, 76-8, 82-3). On Trinity Street, Roman levels appear relatively poorly preserved, and no evidence for pre-Norman or later medieval activity was recorded. However, the work in this area produced highly significant results, in the form of the intact burials associated with the Trinity Street chapel. The need for further investigation of eighteenth- to nineteenth-century skeletal assemblages is highlighted in the industrial and modern period research agenda for the North West (Newman and McNeil 2007, 150; Initiative 7.31), though it is appreciated that this is likely to be possible only when burial grounds of this period are disturbed by redevelopment, as is potentially the case on Trinity Street.

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APPENDIX 1: GROUND PENETRATING RADAR SURVEY
UNDERTAKEN IN TRINITY STREET

1 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey was conducted over approximately 780m² on footways and gravelled areas beneath an overpass on Trinity Street, Chester. The survey has identified a number of anomalies indicative of possible structural remains though it is not possible to determine their origin with any degree of confidence. A number of modern services have also been detected.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 *Background synopsis*

Stratascan were commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey at Trinity Street, Chester. This survey forms part of an archaeological investigation being undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North.

2.2 *Site location*

The site is located beneath the overpass on Trinity Street, Chester at OS ref. SJ 403 663. A gravelled area and footways on both sides of the carriageway were surveyed.

2.3 *Description of site*

The survey area is approximately 780m² including footways and a gravelled area. The area is flat, but contained some obstructions in the form of support pillars and bollards.

2.4 *Geology and soils*

The underlying geology is Chester Pebble Beds Formation – sandstone, pebbly (British Geological Survey website). There is no drift geology recorded (British Geological Survey website).

The overlying soils were unsurveyed due to the urban environment (Soil Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 3, Midland and Western England).

2.5 **Site history and archaeological potential**

Extract from 'Chester Northgate Development Site (Southern Area) Archaeological Audit' (Mason, 2000):

The history of the Northgate area comprises of four main periods. Development starts with the establishment of the Roman Legionary Fortress some of which was initially constructed of timber. Alteration and rebuilding through the third century probably resulted in most buildings being constructed of stone. Occupation is thought to continue to the end of the fourth century.

In the Post-Roman and Saxon period the larger Roman buildings are thought to have remained upstanding for some centuries. Smaller buildings however, probably fell into ruin or were cleared by subsequent occupation. Agriculture, as evidenced by soil deposits overlying Roman remains, possibly took over and probably continued until the end of the period when timber framed buildings appear in the late ninth or tenth centuries. The burh was established in 907 and parts of the street system were laid down at this time, which may have been influenced by the layout of the legionary fortress. The lines of Goss Street, Crook Street and Hamilton Place were laid down and these follow the lines of Roman thoroughfares.

The thirteenth century saw many of the streets lined with buildings. Watergate Street was initially the most intensively occupied but streets such as Goss Street and Crook Street became built up. Open ground remained in the areas behind the frontages with evidence of refuse/cess pits in yards immediately behind the buildings. Further away from the buildings, the operation of corn drying or malting kilns is known.

The open ground continued to be built upon during the post-medieval period mainly in the area defined by the Market Square, Princess Street, Crook Street and Hamilton Place. Much of the area had been developed by the late eighteenth century and the mid-nineteenth century saw most of the remaining open areas filling up with terraced housing. Many of these houses were demolished in the 1930s.

A previous GPR survey in the area (Taylor, 2001) identified a number of anomalies possibly relating to archaeologically significant deposits. Four areas of discrete and broad crested anomalies, indicative of buried surfaces, were identified as being of possible archaeological interest. The features identified in the survey are of similar depths and are reminiscent of walls.

2.6 **Survey objectives**

The objective of the survey was to locate any features of possible archaeological origin, in order that they may be assessed prior to development.

2.7 **Survey methods**

This report and all fieldwork have been conducted in accordance with both the English Heritage guidelines outlined in the document: *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field*

Evaluation, 2008 and with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists document *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey*.

Due to the urban nature of the site, GPR was used as an efficient and effective method of locating archaeological anomalies. More information regarding these techniques is included in Appendix A.

2.8 **Processing, presentation and interpretation of results**

2.8.1 *Processing*

Processing is performed using specialist software (Mala Rslicer). There are a wide range of filters available, the application of which will vary depending on the project. The filters used were:

Gain	Amplification to correct for weakening of signal with depth.
DC-Shift	Re-establishes oscillation of the radar pulse around the zero point)
Dewow / Ringdown Removal	Removes low frequency, down-trace instrument noise
Bandpass Filtering	Suppresses frequencies outside of the antenna's peak bandwidth thus reducing noise
Background Removal	Can remove ringing, instrument noise and minimize the near-surface 'coupling' effect
Migration	Collapses hyperbolic tails back towards the reflection source
Amplitude Envelope	Simplifies pulses for production of time-slice maps by summing peak values, regardless of polarity, over a given time-window.

2.8.2 *Presentation of results and interpretation*

If a number of radargrams are collected over a grid, or in conjunction with GPS data, it is possible to reconstruct the entire dataset into a 3D volume. This can then be resampled to compile 'plan' maps (time slices) of response strength at increasing time offsets (typically converted to show approximate depth), thus simplifying the visualisation of how anomalies vary beneath the surface across a survey area. The close centred traverses of the Mala MIRA make for effective time slices, which are included at a number of depths.

3 RESULTS

The GPR survey conducted at Trinity Street, Chester has identified three clusters of discrete and planar responses. These are shown on the 'GPR Survey – Interpretation with Example Radargrams' drawing (Fig. 03). Anomaly A can be seen at a depth of 170mm in the north of the area, Anomaly B is a group of five responses between depths of 60-80mm in the centre of the site, and Anomaly C is a large response at a depth of 250mm in the south. All of these anomalies are indicative of buried surfaces and may relate to archaeological structural remains. However the complex urban environment of the site means it is not possible to determine whether they are of archaeological or modern origin.

The survey has also identified possible services. These are plotted on the drawing (Fig.03).

4 DATA APPRAISAL & CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT

The GPR survey has identified a number of anomalies possibly related to archaeological structural remains, as well a number of possible services. However, the urban environment of the site means there is likely to be a lot of modern activity in the area, making for a complex data set. The majority of the possible archaeological anomalies that have been identified are at relatively shallow depths (no more than 480mm). This is within the range that modern activity would be expected, therefore making differentiation between modern and archaeological anomalies difficult.

5 CONCLUSION

The survey at Trinity Street, Chester has identified a number of anomalies relating to buried surfaces. These could relate to archaeological structural remains or more modern groundworks. Though it is not possible to determine whether the anomalies are of archaeological or modern origin, the features identified provide similar responses to those produced by buried archaeological surfaces discovered in a previous survey in the area.

Further anomalies identified in the survey are all linear in nature and probably represent services.

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APPENDIX A – METHODOLOGY & SURVEY EQUIPMENT

Radar

Sampling interval

Readings were taken at 0.08m intervals with traverse intervals of 0.08m. All survey traverse positioning was carried out using a Trimble S6 Robotic Total Station.

Depth of scan and resolution

The average velocity of the radar pulse is calculated to be 0.097m/nsec which is typical for the type of sub-soils on the site. With a range setting of 100nsec this equates to a maximum depth of scan of 2m but it must be remembered that this figure could vary by $\pm 10\%$ or more. A further point worth making is that very shallow features are lost in the strong surface response experienced with this technique.

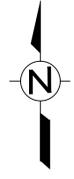
Under ideal circumstances the minimum size of a vertical feature seen by a 200MHz (relatively low frequency) antenna in a damp soil would be 0.1m (i.e. this antenna has a wavelength in damp soil of about 0.4m and the vertical resolution is one quarter of this wavelength). It is interesting to compare this with the 400MHz antenna, which has a wavelength in the same material of 0.2m giving a theoretical resolution of 0.05m. A 900MHz antenna would give 0.09m and 0.02m respectively.

Data capture

Data is displayed on a monitor as well as being recorded onto an internal hard disk. The data is later downloaded into a computer for processing.

Amendments		
Issue No.	Date	Description
-	-	-
-	-	-

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KEY	
	GPR traverses

Job No.	8331	Survey Date	APR 15
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Client
**OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY
NORTH**

Project Title
TRINITY STREET, CHESTER

Subject
**LOCATION OF GPR
TRANSECTS**

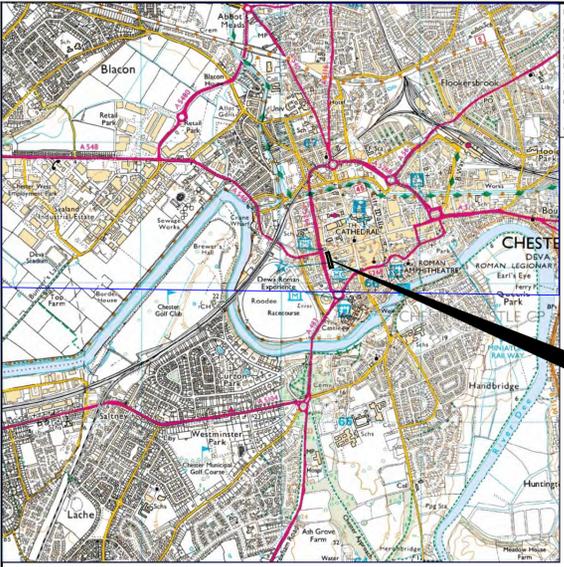
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Scale
1:200
0m 2 4 6 8 10m

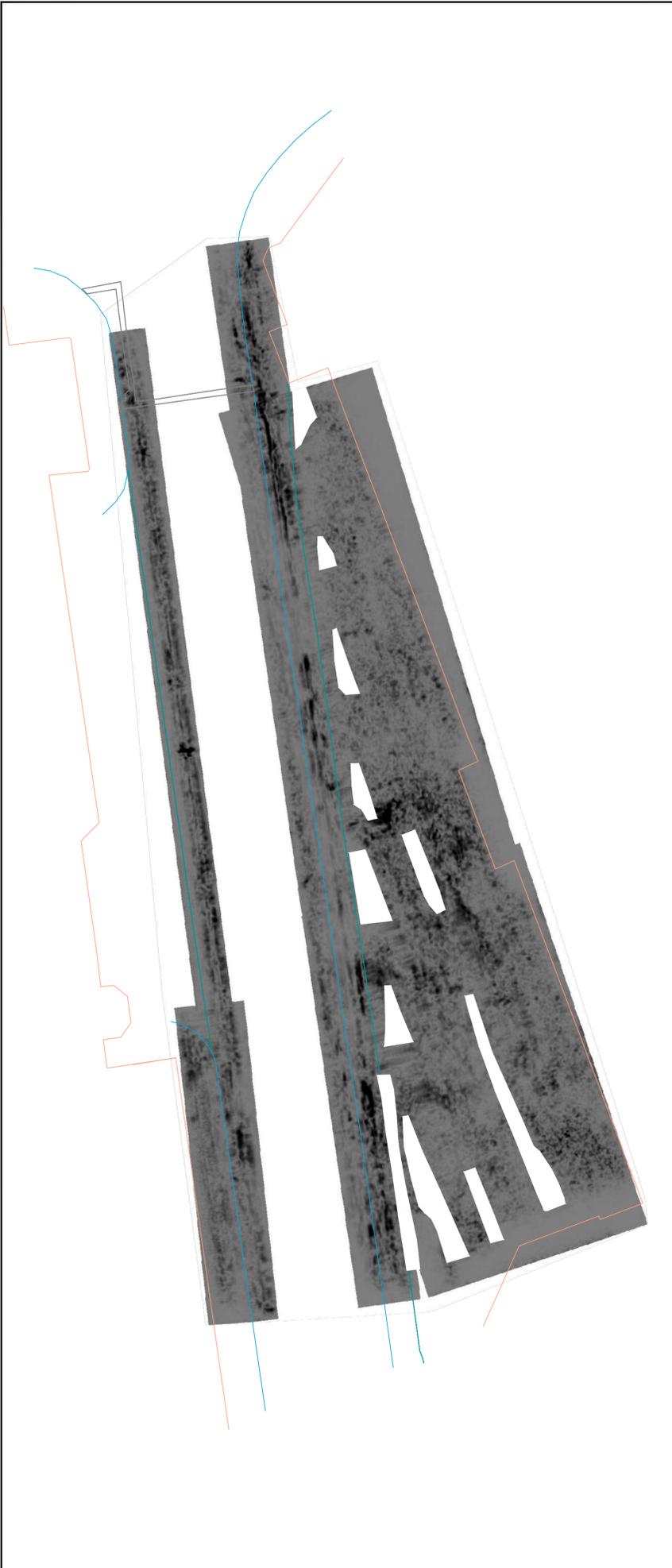
Plot	A1	Checked by	DGE	Issue No.	01
Date	MAY 15	Drawn by	JHS	Figure No.	01

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey's 1:25 000 map of 1998 with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright reserved. Licence No: AL 90125A. Licencees: Stratascan Ltd, Vineyard House, Upper Hook Road, Upton Upon Severn, WR8 0SA. OS 100km square = SJ

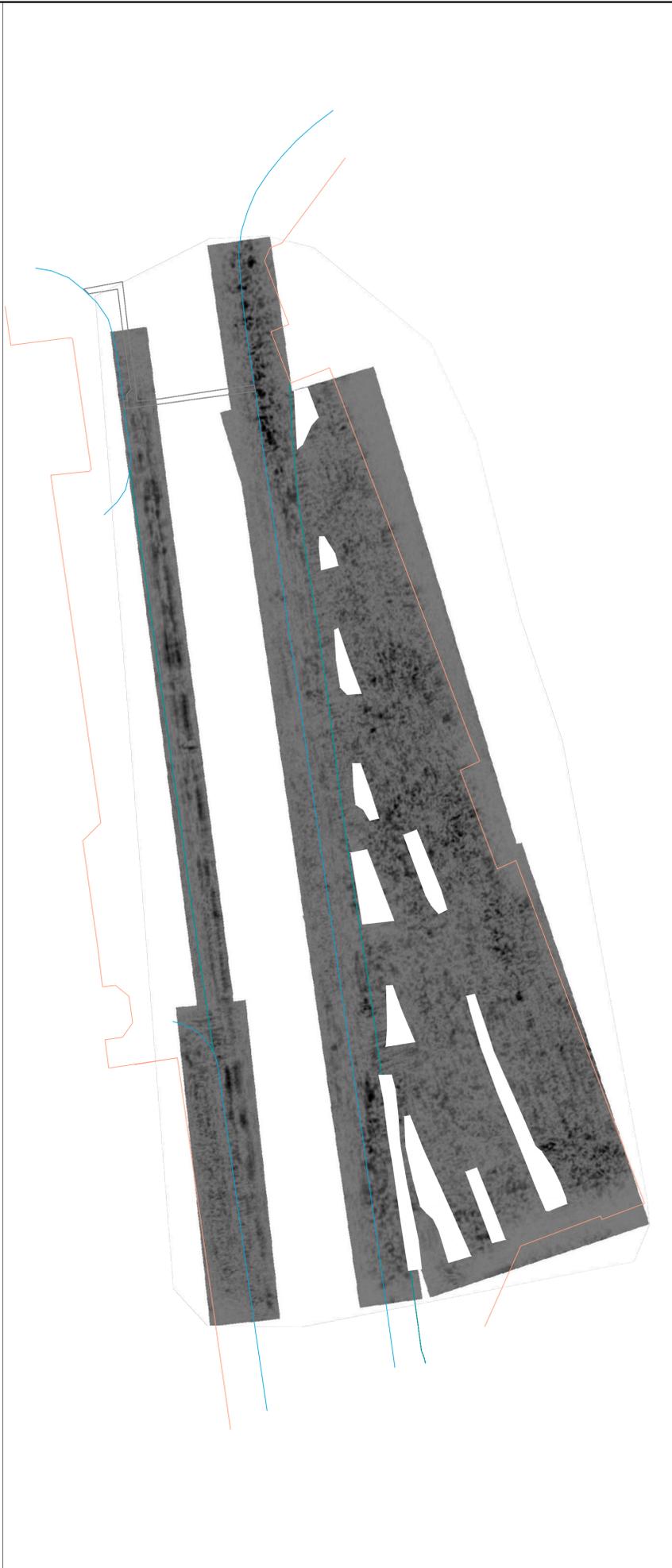


Survey area

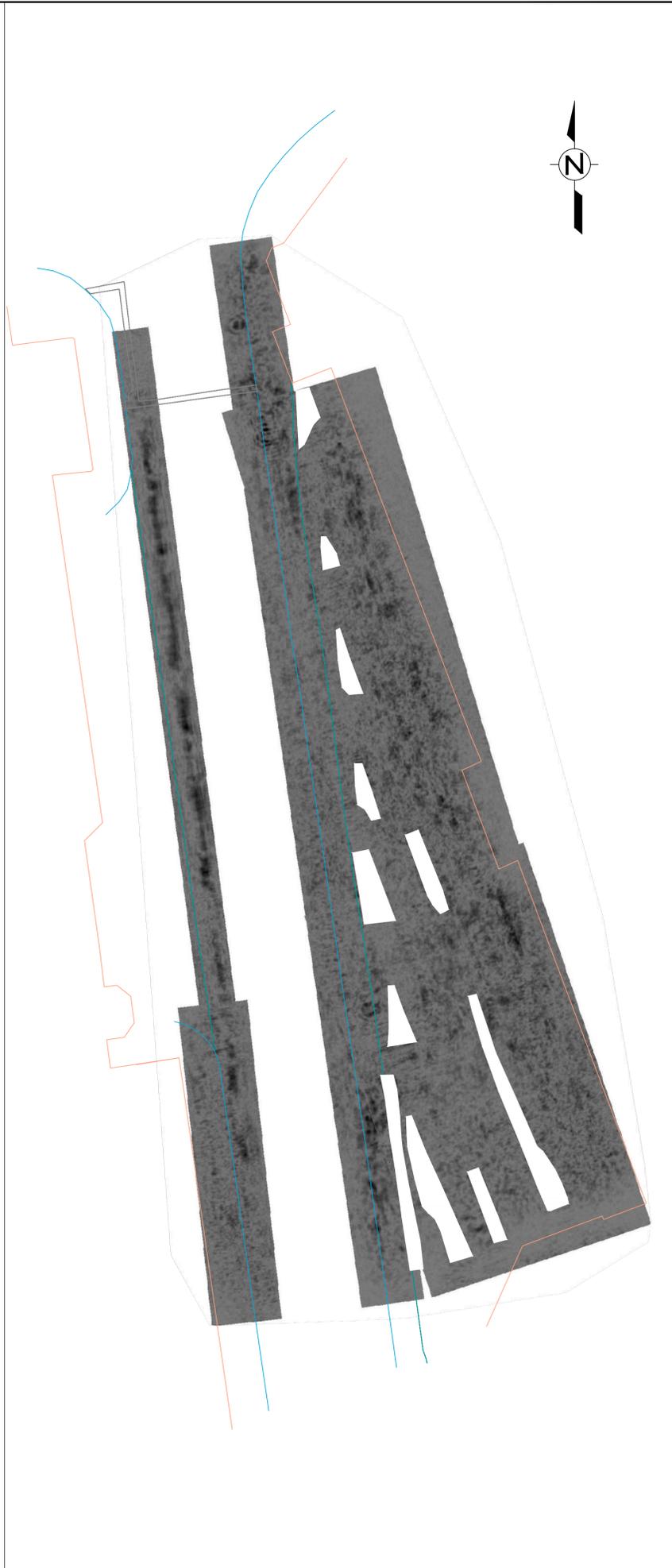




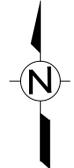
Timeslice 0.48m depth



Timeslice 1.07m depth



Timeslice 2.09m depth

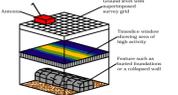


Amendments	
Issue No.	Date
-	-
-	-
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TIMESLICE PLOTS

In addition to a manual abstraction from the radargrams, a computer analysis was carried out. The radar data is interrogated for areas of high activity and the results presented in a plan format known as timeslice plots. In this way it is easy to see if the high activity areas form recognisable patterns.

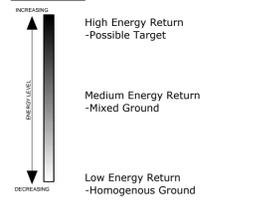


The GPR data is compiled to create a 3D file. This 3D file can be manipulated to view the data from any angle and at any depth within range. The data was then modelled to produce activity plots at various depths. As the radar is actually measuring the time for each of the reflections found, these are called "time slice windows". Plots for various time slices have been included in the report. Calculations, based on an average velocity, have been made to show the equivalent depth into the ground. The data was sampled between different time intervals effectively producing plans at different depths into the ground.

The weaker reflections in the time slice windows are shown as dark colours namely blues. The stronger reflections are represented by brighter colours such as light green, yellow, orange and red.

Reflections within the radar image are generated by a change in velocity of the radar from one medium to another. It is not unreasonable to assume that the higher activity anomalies are related to marked changes in materials within the ground such as buried foundations or surfaces within the soil matrix.

Colour Scale for Timeslice 'Activity' Plots and Simplified Key



Job No. **8331** Survey Date **APR 15**

Client **OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH**

Project Title **TRINITY STREET, CHESTER**

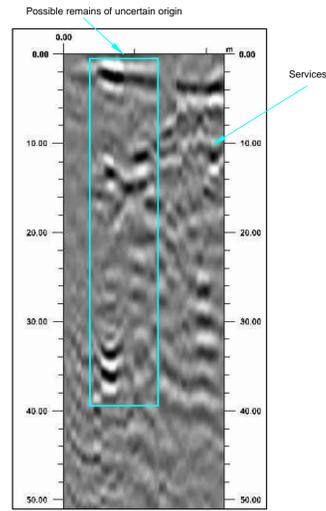
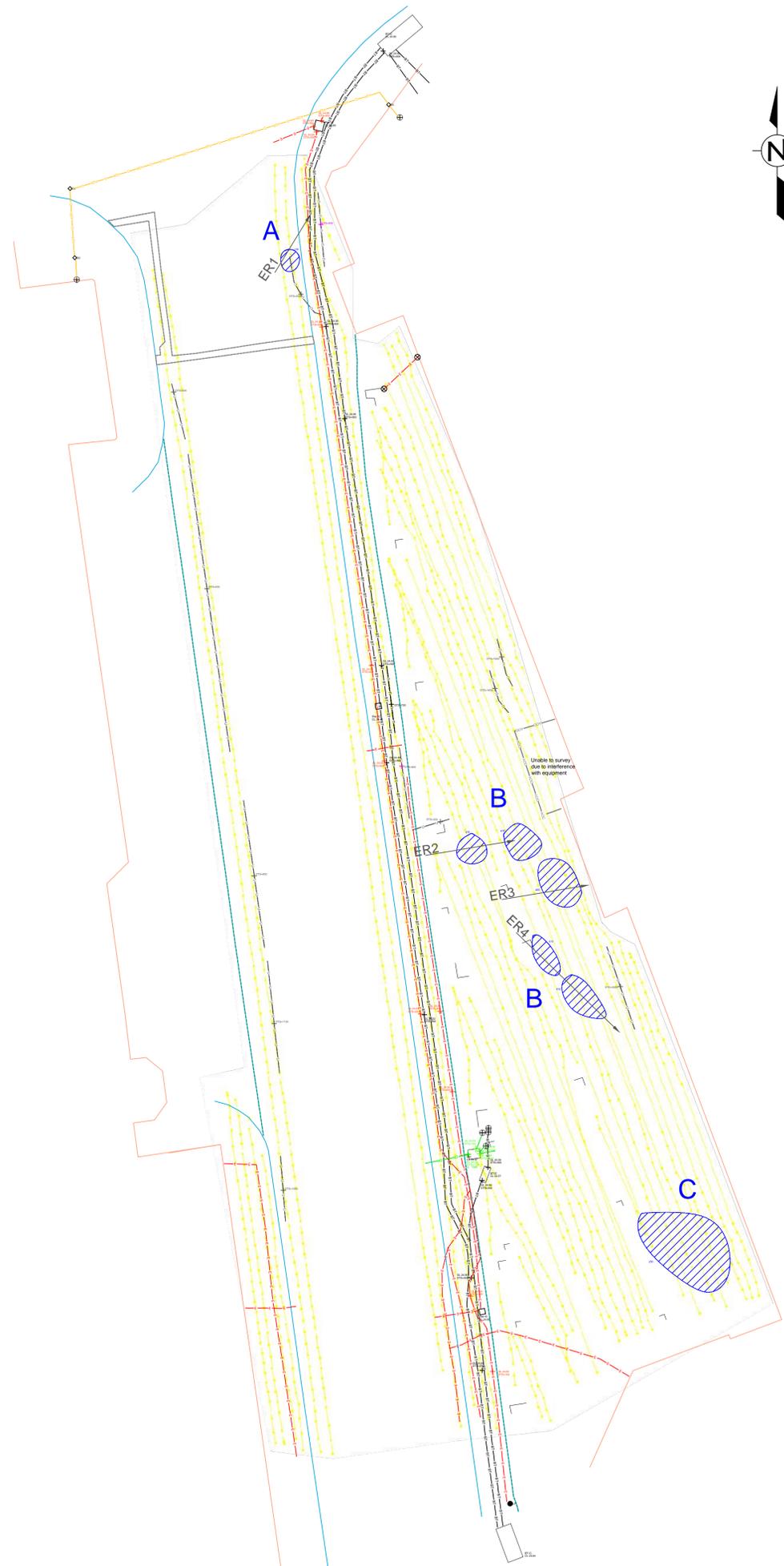
Subject **GPR SURVEY - TIMESLICES (HIGH DENSITY ARRAY)**

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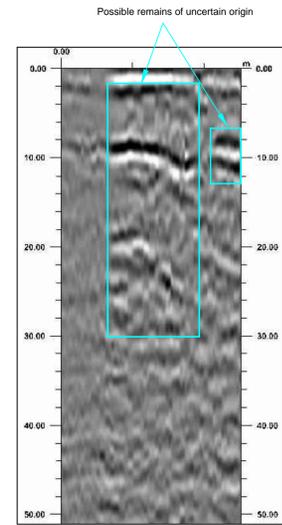


Scale **1:200**
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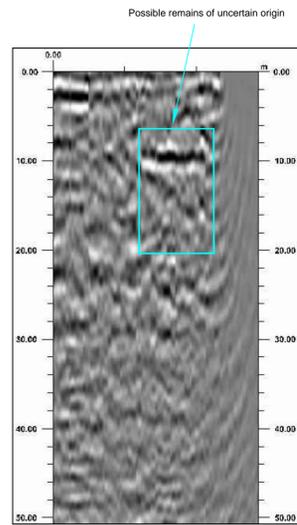
Plot A1	Checked by DGE	Issue No. 01
Date MAY 15	Drawn by JHS	Figure No. 02



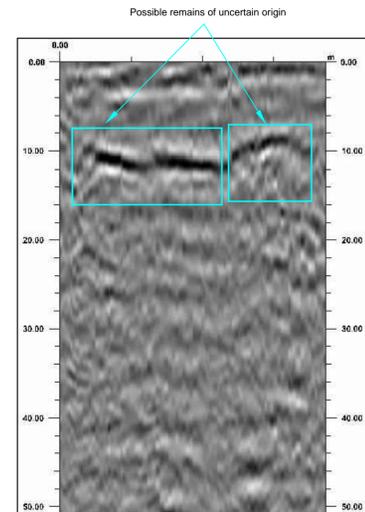
Example Radargram 1.
Possible structural remains of an uncertain origin and services.



Example Radargram 2.
Possible structural remains of an uncertain origin.



Example Radargram 3.
Possible structural remains of an uncertain origin.



Example Radargram 4.
Possible structural remains of an uncertain origin.

Amendments	
Issue No.	Date
-	-
-	-
-	-

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UTILITY LINETYPES		LEGEND	
Gas	Gas	Heating Pipes	High Voltage Cables
Cable Television	Heating Pipes	Street Lighting	High Voltage Cables
Closed Circuit Television	High Voltage Cables	Traffic Signal Loop	High Voltage Cables
Communications	Multiple Services Route	Unknown	High Voltage Cables
Drainage - Combined Water	Drainage - Foul Water	Unknown	High Voltage Cables
Drainage - Storm Water	Drainage - Storm Water	Unknown	High Voltage Cables
Empty Duct	Drainage - Storm Water	Unknown	High Voltage Cables
Electric	Drainage - Storm Water	Unknown	High Voltage Cables
Fire Hydrant Main	Drainage - Storm Water	Unknown	High Voltage Cables
Fibre Optic	Drainage - Storm Water	Unknown	High Voltage Cables
Fuel	Drainage - Storm Water	Unknown	High Voltage Cables

UTILITY SURVEY INFORMATION	
Area of Concern	Unable to Survey
Contacted Survey Area	Unable to LR (cover)
Depth to Top of Service (mm)	DTS-400
End of Trace	Bar
Previous Survey Area	PREVIOUS

UTILITY SURVEY REFERENCE NOTES	
Standard Note -	Refer to the corresponding number located at the base of the page
General Note -	Refer to the corresponding number located at the base of the page

TOPOGRAPHIC & UTILITY DETAILS	
Barrier (symbol - sized)	Post (symbol)
Bollard (symbol)	Rain Water Pipe (symbol)
British Telecoms IC	Road Sign (symbol)
Building (incomplete detail)	Rolling Eye (symbol)
Cable into Ground (symbol)	Sarking (symbol)
Cable TV Box (symbol)	Sign Post (symbol)
CCTV Camera	Skid-way
Cover Level in metres	Spot Light (symbol)
Direction of Flow (Drainage)	Spot Height
Distribution Board (symbol)	Stop Cock (symbol)
Earth Rod (symbol)	Stop Valve (symbol)
Electric Cabinet	Survey Station (symbol)
Electric Pole (symbol)	Telephone Pole (symbol)
Electric Sign (symbol)	Traffic Bollard (symbol)
Embankment	Tree (dimensions in metres - e.g.)
Feeder Pillar	Drainage at 1m level
Fire Hydrant	Drainage at 2m level
Flag Pole (symbol)	Drainage at 3m level
Flat Roof Level in metres	Drainage at 4m level
Flood Light (symbol)	Drainage at 5m level
Gas Valve (symbol)	Drainage at 6m level
Gate	Drainage at 7m level
Ground Level in metres	Drainage at 8m level
Gully	Drainage at 9m level
Inspection Cover	Drainage at 10m level
Invert Level in metres	Drainage at 11m level
Junction Box - BT	Drainage at 12m level
Junction Box - Comm	Drainage at 13m level
Junction Box - Elec	Drainage at 14m level
Lamp Post (symbol - sized)	Drainage at 15m level
Light Bollard (symbol)	Drainage at 16m level
Light in ground (symbol)	Drainage at 17m level
Manhole	Drainage at 18m level
Manhole Capped Port	Drainage at 19m level
Parapet Level in metres	Drainage at 20m level
Pipe Diameter in millimetres	Drainage at 21m level
Pipe into Ground (symbol)	Drainage at 22m level

KEY	
[Symbol]	Anomalies possibly related to structural remains of an uncertain origin
[Symbol]	Example Radargram
650	Depth to the feature [mm]

Job No.	8331	Survey Date	APR 15
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Client
OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

Project Title
TRINITY STREET, CHESTER

Subject
GPR SURVEY - INTERPRETATION WITH EXAMPLE RADARGRAMS

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Scale
1:200

Plot	A1	Checked by	DGE	Issue No.	01
Date	MAY 15	Drawn by	JHS, MU	Figure No.	03

APPENDIX 2: CONCORDANCE OF CONTEXTS

Trench No	Context No	Context Type	Description
1	100	Layer	Modern imported topsoil
	101	Layer	Modern tightly packed limestone hardcore
	102	Layer	Modern coarse limestone hardcore
2	200	Layer	Modern imported topsoil
	201	Layer	Possible post-medieval demolition or levelling layer
	202	Fill	Fill of cut 203
	203	Cut	Cut of a post-medieval pit
	204	Layer	Post-medieval soil
	205	Layer	Possible medieval cultivated soil
	206	Layer	Possible late Roman/early post-Roman deposit
	207	Layer	Probable Roman demolition layer
3	301	Layer	Modern imported topsoil
	302	Layer	Modern crushed sandstone levelling deposit
	303	Layer	Post-medieval soil
	304	Layer	Possible medieval cultivated soil
	305	Layer	Possible late Roman/early post-Roman deposit
	306	Layer	Probable Roman demolition layer
4	400	Layer	Modern imported topsoil
	401	Layer	Post-medieval soil
	402	Layer	Possible medieval cultivated soil
	403	Layer	Possible late Roman/early post-Roman deposit
	404	Layer	Probable Roman demolition layer
5	500	Layer	Modern imported topsoil
	501	Layer	Modern limestone hardcore and demolition deposit
	502	Layer	Modern concrete platform
6	600	Layer	Modern imported topsoil
	601	Layer	Modern crushed sandstone levelling deposit
	602	Layer	Modern or late post-medieval deposit
	603	Layer	Post-medieval soil
	604	Fill	Fill of cut 605
	605	Cut	Cut of a probable late Roman/early post-Roman pit
	606	Fill	Fill of cut 607
	607	Cut	Cut of a probable late Roman/early post-Roman pit
7	700	Layer	Modern concrete surface
	701	Layer	Modern limestone hardcore levelling deposit
	702	Fill	Modern crushed sandstone backfill deposit
8	800	Layer	Modern limestone levelling deposit
	801	Layer	Modern concrete binding layer
	802	Layer	Modern redeposited soil layer
	803	Fill	Modern crushed sandstone backfill deposit
	804	Cut	Modern construction cut
	805	Layer	Probable post-medieval soil layer
	806	Structure	Probable Roman sandstone wall
	807	Layer	Probable Roman soil layer
9	900	Layer	Modern limestone hardcore levelling deposit
	901	Layer	Modern concrete binding layer
	902	Layer	Modern limestone hardcore levelling deposit
	903	Fill	Modern redeposited soil backfill of construction cut 904
	904	Cut	Modern construction cut for concrete column
	905	Fill	Post-medieval backfill of grave 907
906	Structure	Post-medieval decomposed remains of wooden coffin	

Trench No	Context No	Context Type	Description
	907	Cut	Post-medieval grave cut for SKE01/ 909
	908	Layer	Post-medieval graveyard soil
	909	Skeleton	Relating to SKE01
10	1000	Layer	Modern limestone hardcore levelling layer
	1001	Layer	Modern limestone hardcore levelling layer
	1002	Fill	Modern crushed sandstone backfill of construction cut 1003
	1003	Cut	Modern construction cut
	1004	Fill	Post-medieval backfill of structure 1005
	1005	Structure	Probable post-medieval red-brick structure
	1006	Cut	Construction cut for structure 1005
	1007	Layer	Post-medieval graveyard soil
11	1100	Layer	Modern concrete binding layer
	1101	Layer	Modern limestone hardcore levelling deposit
	1102	Layer	Modern mixed limestone hardcore levelling deposit
	1103	Fill	Modern crushed sandstone backfill of construction cut 1104
	1104	Cut	Modern construction cut
	1105	Fill	Probable post-medieval fill of pit 1106
	1106	Cut	Probable post-medieval cut of pit
	1107	Fill	Post-medieval fill of grave cut 1112
	1108	Skeleton	Relating to SKE02
	1109	Structure	Post-medieval decomposed remains of wooden coffin
	1110	Skeleton	Relating to SKE03
	1111	Skeleton	Relating to SKE04
	1112	Cut	Post-medieval grave cut
	1113	Layer	Post-medieval graveyard soil
12	1200	Layer	Modern concrete binding layer
	1201	Layer	Modern limestone hardcore levelling layer
	1202	Fill	Modern backfill of cut 1203
	1203	Cut	Modern construction cut
	1204	Structure	Modern concrete structure, possibly part of underpass
	1205	Fill	Modern demolition backfill of construction cut 1207
	1206	Deposit	Modern demolition deposit
	1207	Cut	Modern construction cut
13	1300	Layer	Modern/Post-medieval demolition/levelling deposit
	1301	Layer	Post-medieval graveyard soil

APPENDIX 3: FINDS CATALOGUE

Hunter Street

Site	Trench	Cxt	OR no	Material	Category	No frags	Description	Period	Century
Hunter Street	2	202	1012	ceramic	vessel	1	Whiteware, late slip-decorated.	Modern	Nineteenth-twentieth century
Hunter Street	2	206	1041	ceramic	building material	6	Six undiagnostic fragments.	Romano-British?	
Hunter Street	2	206	1038	ceramic	building material	5	Three fragments sand-cast tile, two fragments ?tegula.	Romano-British??	
Hunter Street	2	206	1011	ceramic	building material	4	Two fragments sand-cast imbrex, two fragments tegula.	Romano-British?	
Hunter Street	2	206	1035	ceramic	vessel	4	Rim fragment Black-burnished ware 1 straight-sided dish; one fragment greyware jar, square lattice, two fragments gritty orange oxidised fabric, out-turned rim, sooted – Holt?	Romano-British?	Second-third century
Hunter Street	2	207	1020	ceramic	vessel	1	One fragment red oxidised rim, open form, hard-fired.	?	
Hunter Street	3	303	1033	ceramic	vessel	7	One rim, one body fragment sandy greyware; four joining fragments dark-glazed redware cup; one fragment late brown stoneware.	Romano-British?, Post-medieval, Modern	Second-third century; seventeenth-nineteenth century
Hunter Street	3	304	1004	ceramic	vessel	3	One fragment sandy orange oxidised jar; one fragment flanged rim (?) grey fabric with unevenly oxidised surfaces; one base fragment very worn mortarium, pale multicoloured grits; temper includes red ?grog.	Romano-British?	Second-third century
Hunter Street	3	304	1008	ceramic	building material	3	Three undiagnostic fragments.	Not closely datable	
Hunter Street	4	402	1040	ceramic	building material	13	Seven undiagnostic fragments; one ?pantile fragment; five fragments possibly Romano-British.	Romano-British?, Post-medieval	
Hunter Street	4	402	1002	ceramic	vessel	17	Two fragments Black-burnished ware 1 jar; three fragments greyware jar; one fragment greyware bowl, lattice and bead rim; one fragment mortarium, reeded rim; one fragment amphora; one fragment large jug? or amphora; one fragment gritty whiteware, copper green glaze; one fragment cream fabric, yellow glaze, possibly brown decoration; one rim fragment orange gritty fabric, cooking pot; three fragments incompletely reduced green-glazed jug (two rim, one base) bridge spout; one fragment orange oxidised fabric, thick green glaze; one fragment pimply silver-grey ware, possibly Blue-Grey ware from Rhineland.	Romano-British?, Medieval	Second-third century; eleventh-twelfth century; thirteenth-fifteenth century
Hunter Street	4	402	1006	ceramic	vessel	1	One rim fragment, greyware jar.	Romano-British?	Second-third century?
Hunter Street	4	403	1010	ceramic	building material	3	Two fragments sand-cast tile, one fragment ?extruded tile.	Not closely datable	
Hunter Street	4	403	1017	bone	animal	1		Not closely datable	
Hunter Street	4	403	1013	ceramic	vessel	3	One fragment greyware jar, almost square lattice; one fragment oxidised orange, sandy fabric; one burmished?? Severn Valley ware? orange oxidised fabric.	Romano-British?	Second-third century?
Hunter Street	6	602	1007	ceramic	vessel	1	One fragment late white china? with transfer-printed line.	Modern	Late nineteenth-twentieth century
Hunter Street	6	603	1001	glass	vessel	1	One base fragment, dark olive green wine/beer bottle.	Post-medieval	Early eighteenth-century
Hunter Street	6	603	1009	ceramic	vessel	1	One body fragment incompletely reduced fabric, green-glazed, applied strip decoration.	Medieval	Thirteenth-fourteenth century
Hunter Street	6	603	1039	ceramic	building material	3	One fragment tegula; one fragment flat sand-cast roof tile, with nib; one fragment sand-cast tile.	Romano-British?, Post-medieval	

Hunter Street	6	604	1005	ceramic	vessel	2	One fragment amphora; one fragment greyware jar - rouletted decoration?	Romano-British?	First-third century
Hunter Street	6	604	1014	industrial debris		1	One fragment slag.	Not closely datable	
						81			

Trinity Street

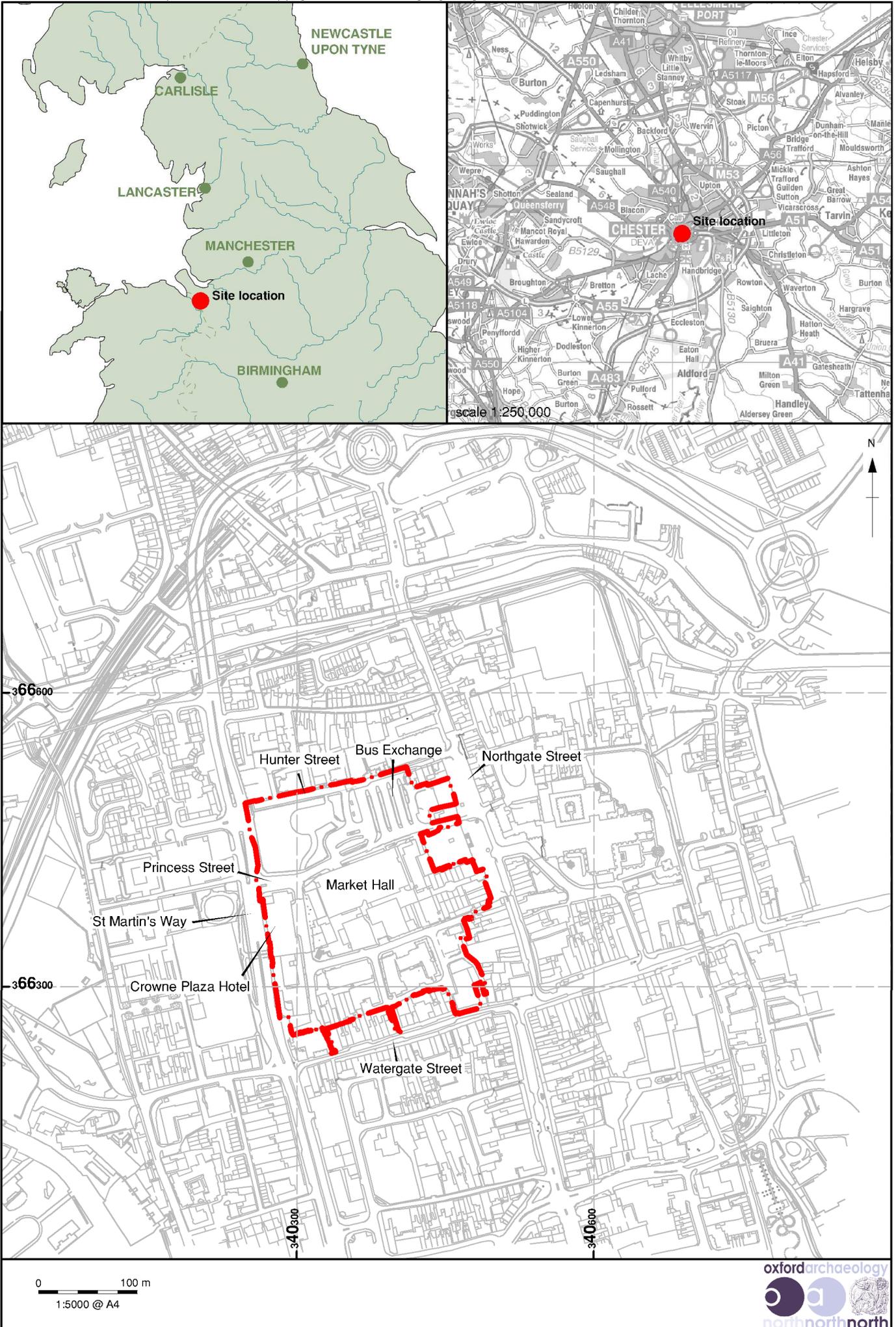
Site	Trench	Cxt	OR no	Material	Category	No frags	Description	Period	Century
Trinity Street	8	805	1023	ceramic	tobacco pipe	1	One fragment plain stem.	Post-medieval	
Trinity Street	8	807	1025	ceramic	vessel; building material	4	Two fragments sand-cast building material; one body fragment fine orange oxidised fabric with white slip – flagon?; one rim fragment grey sandy flat-rimmed dish?	Romano-British?	Second-third century
Trinity Street	10	1004	1015	ceramic	building material	2	Two sand-cast fragments, one possible imbrex.	Romano-British?	
Trinity Street	10	1007	1036	ceramic	tobacco pipe	6	Six fragments plain stem.	Post-medieval	
Trinity Street	10	1007	1000	ceramic	vessel	2	One fragment Chinese porcelain; one fragment self-glazed redware with yellow internal slip.	Post-medieval; modern	Eighteenth century?
Trinity Street	10	1007	1022	organic	wood	1	Unworked, dry fragment.	Not closely datable	
Trinity Street	11	1107	1029	ceramic	vessel	13	Four fragments dark brown redware, gritty laminated fabric; one fragment Metropolitan-type slipware; one fragment dark brown redware, yellow internal slip; seven fragments black-glazed redwares	Post-medieval	Mid-seventeenth-eighteenth century
Trinity Street	11	1107	1025	glass	vessel	2	One body fragment greenish, blown; fragment dark olive green wine bottle.	Post-medieval	
Trinity Street	11	1107	1021	iron	nail	9		Not closely datable	
Trinity Street	11	1107	1018	ceramic	tobacco pipe	5	Five fragments plain stem.	Post-medieval	
Trinity Street	11	1107	1031	ceramic	tobacco pipe	9	Seven fragments plain stem; one bowl fragment with spur; one almost complete bowl with very short spur.	Post-medieval	Mid-seventeenth-eighteenth century
Trinity Street	11	1107	1024	ceramic	building material	1	One fragment sand-cast tile.	Not closely datable	
Trinity Street	11	1107	1028	ceramic	vessel	18	One large fragment Staffordshire slipware candlestick; two fragments Midlands yellow-type ware, one burnt; one fragment Staffordshire-type slipware; one fragment Metropolitan-type slipware; one fragment mottled ware; three fragments undiagnostic building material; one fragment gritty orange oxidised fabric; one fragment hard-fired gritty self-glazed dish; seven fragments black-glazed redwares.	Post-medieval	Late seventeenth century??
Trinity Street	11	1113	1027	Ind debris		1	Melted object?	Not closely datable	
Trinity Street	11	1113	1019	ceramic	vessel	4	One fragment hard-fired redware, streaky fabric, black glaze; one fragment plate/dish rim similar fabric, slip decorated; two fragments building material.	Post-medieval; Modern	Eighteenth-nineteenth century
Trinity Street	13	1301	1037	ceramic	tobacco pipe	1	One fragment plain stem.	Post-medieval	
Trinity Street	13	1301	1016	ceramic	building material	1	Salt-glazed sewer pipe.	Modern	
Trinity Street	13	1301	1034	bone	animal	4		Not closely datable	
						84			

Unstratified

Unstratified	1032	ceramic	tobacco pipe	11	Seven fragments plain stem; one fragment roller stamped stem; one fragment stamped lozenge with fleur de lis; one bowl fragment with spur, one complete bowl, spur.	Post-medieval	Mid-seventeenth-eighteenth century
Unstratified	1030	iron	nail	6		Not closely datable	
Unstratified	1003	ceramic	building material	2	Two undiagnostic fragments.	Not closely datable	
Unstratified	1026	ceramic	vessel	11	Seven fragments black-glazed redwares, includes rim and handle; two fragments gritty orange oxidised fabric with ?self glaze, rim of jug; one fragment press-moulded slip-decorated (feathered) dish; one fragment Metropolitan-type slip-decorated ware.	Post-medieval	Late seventeenth-early eighteenth century
				30			

ILLUSTRATIONS

- Figure 1: Chester Northgate development: site location
- Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches in Hunter Street and Trinity Street
- Figure 3: Location of areas of archaeological evaluation, superimposed on the layout of the Roman fortress
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- Figure 7: Plan and cross-section of Trench 6
- Figure 8: Cross-sections of Trenches 1 and 5
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- Figure 14: Plan and cross-section of Trench 7
- Figure 15: Plan and cross-section of Trench 12



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Figure 1: Chester Northgate development location

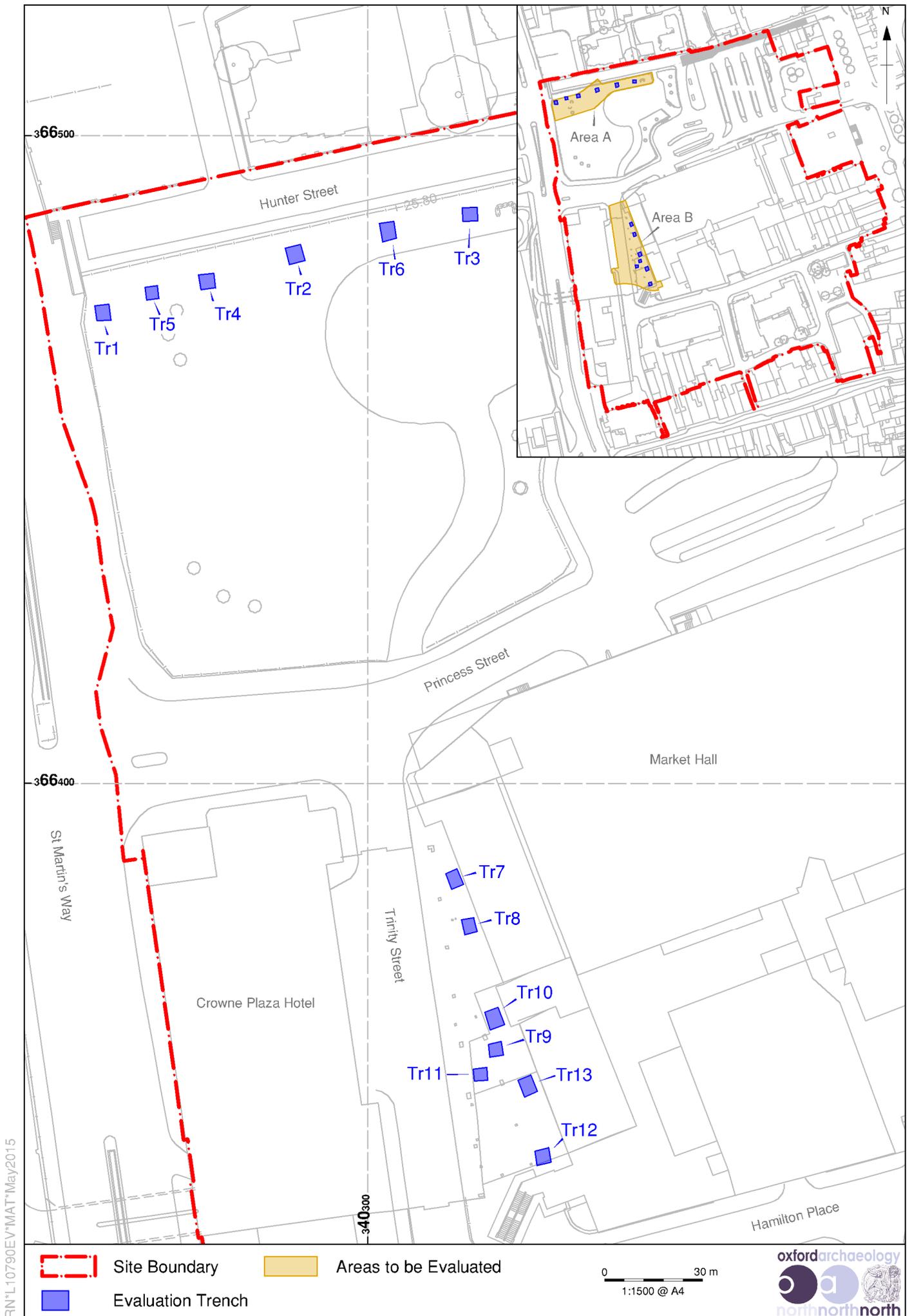


Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches in Hunter Street and Trinity Street

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- Site Boundary
- Areas to be Evaluated
- Evaluation Trench

0 30 m
1:1500 @ A4



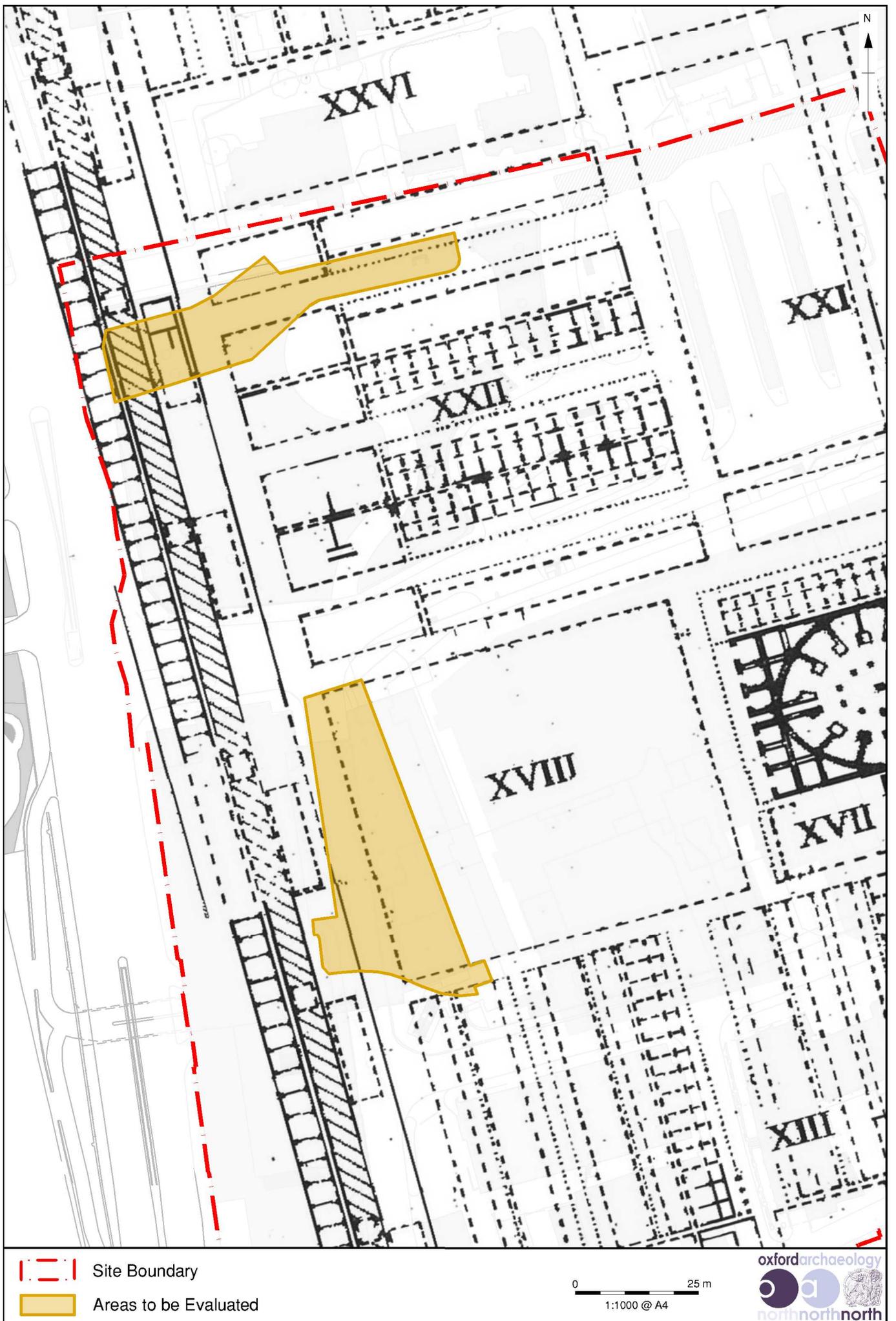
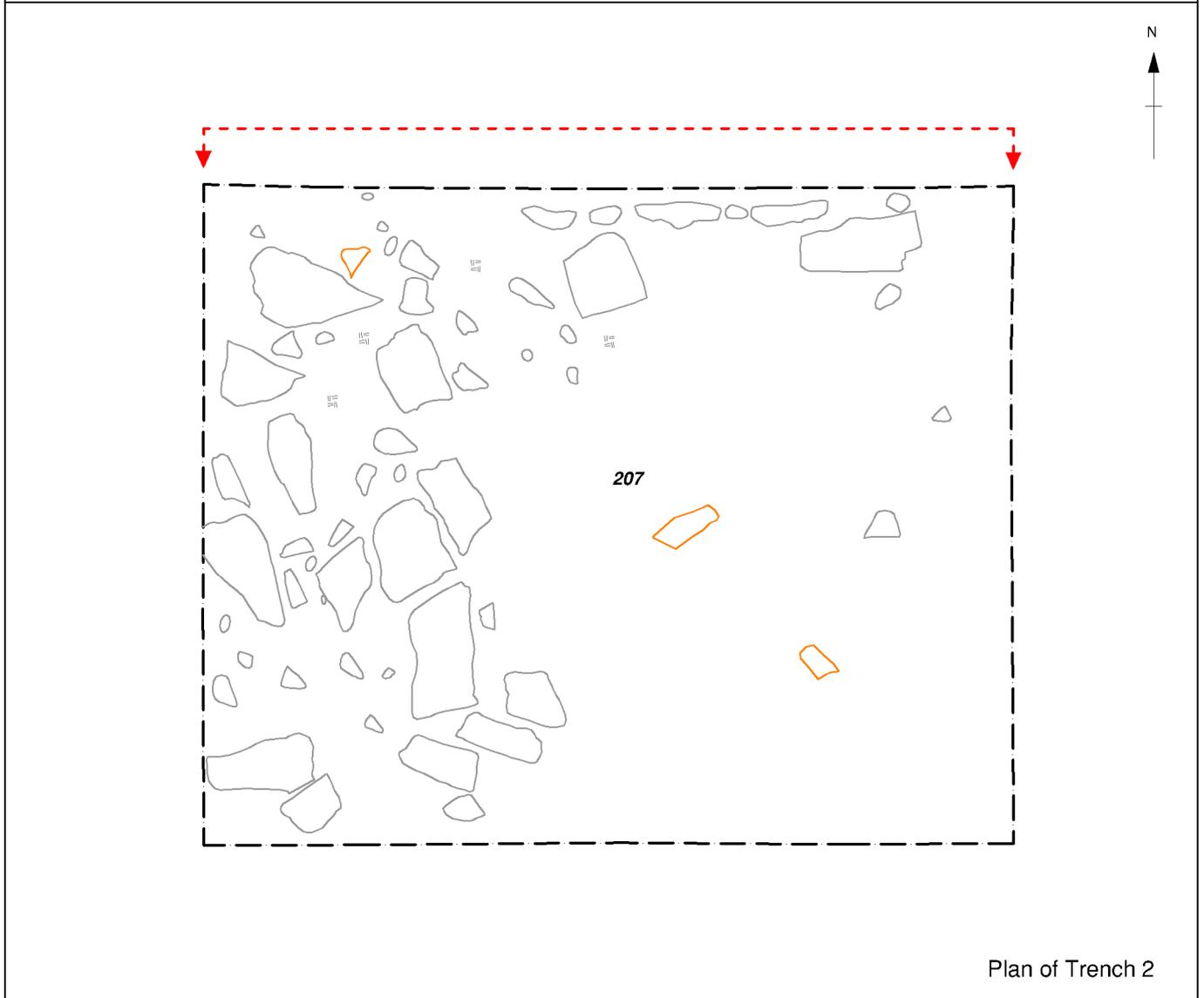
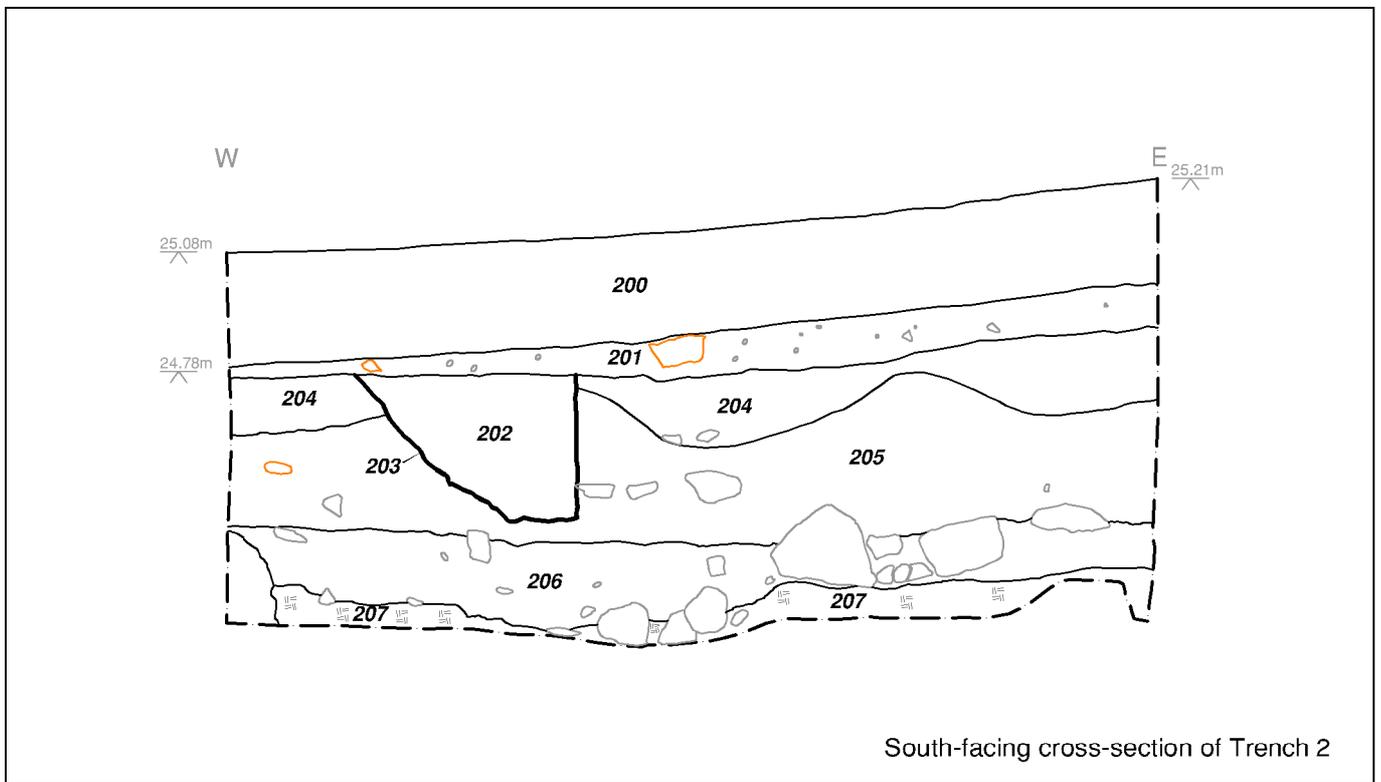


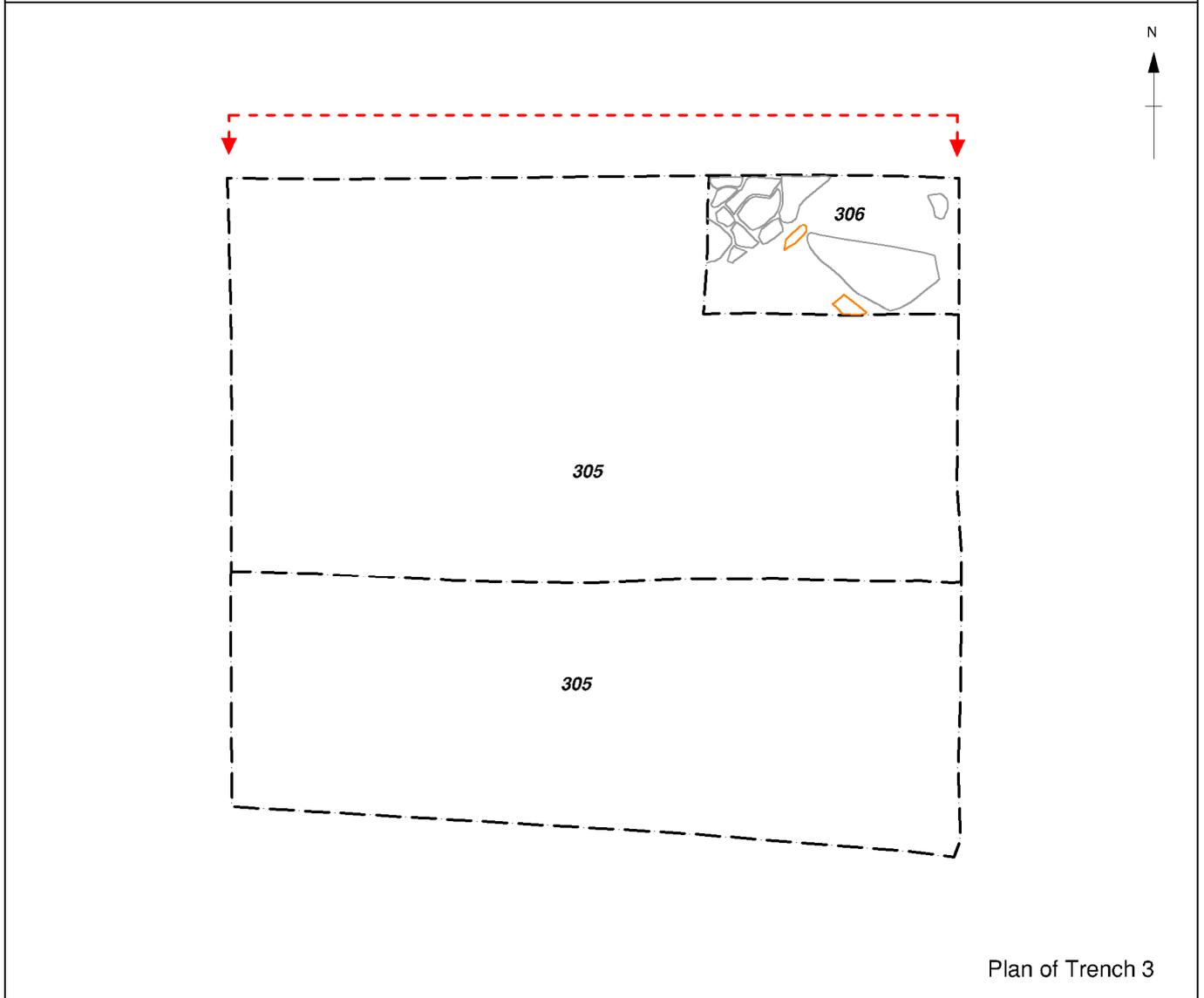
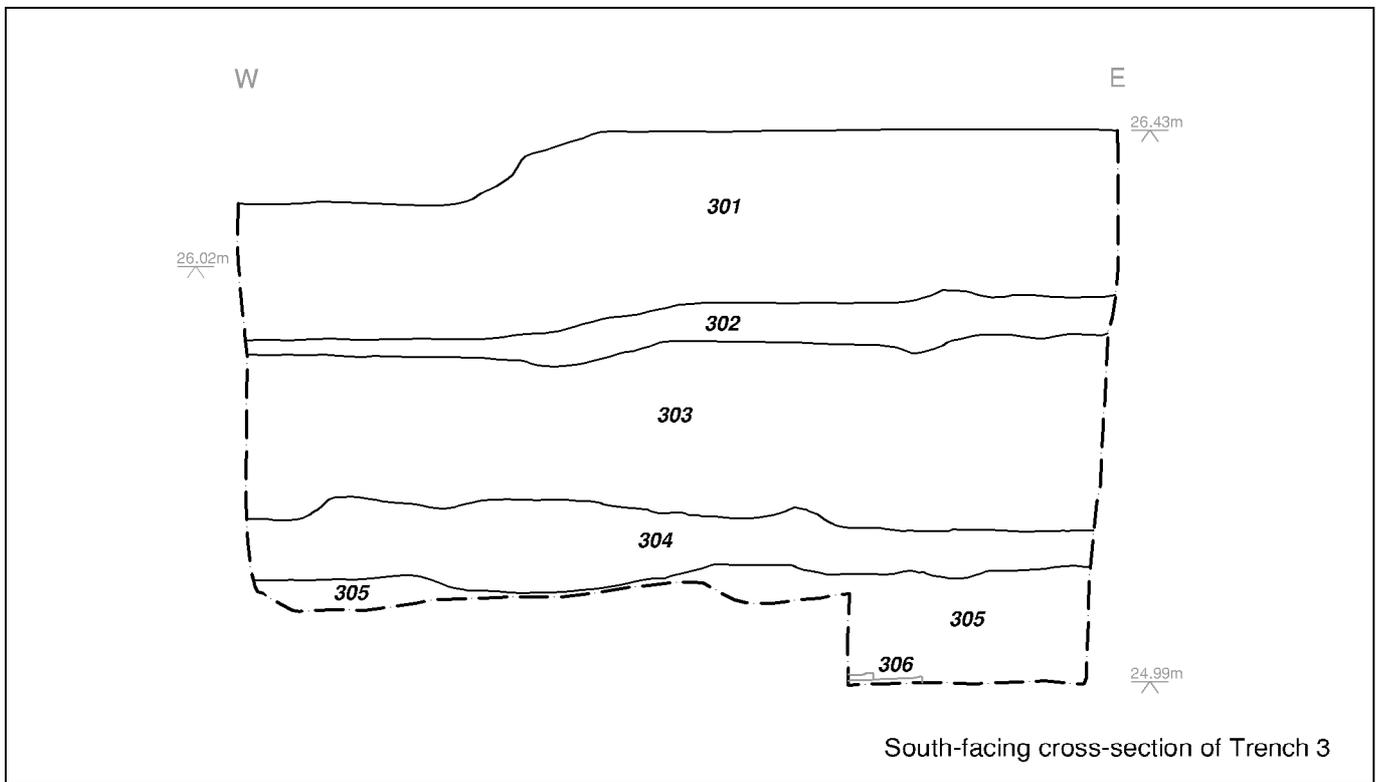
Figure 3: Location of areas of archaeological evaluation, superimposed on the layout of the Roman fort



-  Trench
-  Pottery
-  Stone
-  Section position

0 0.5 m
1:20 @ A4

Figure 4: Plan and cross-section of Trench 2



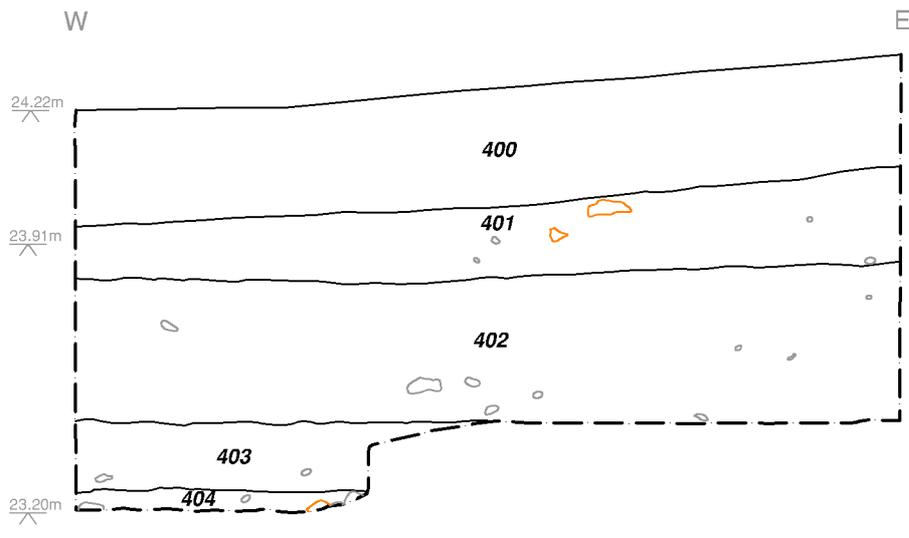
-  Trench
-  Pottery
-  Stone
-  Section position

0 0.5 m
1:20 @ A4

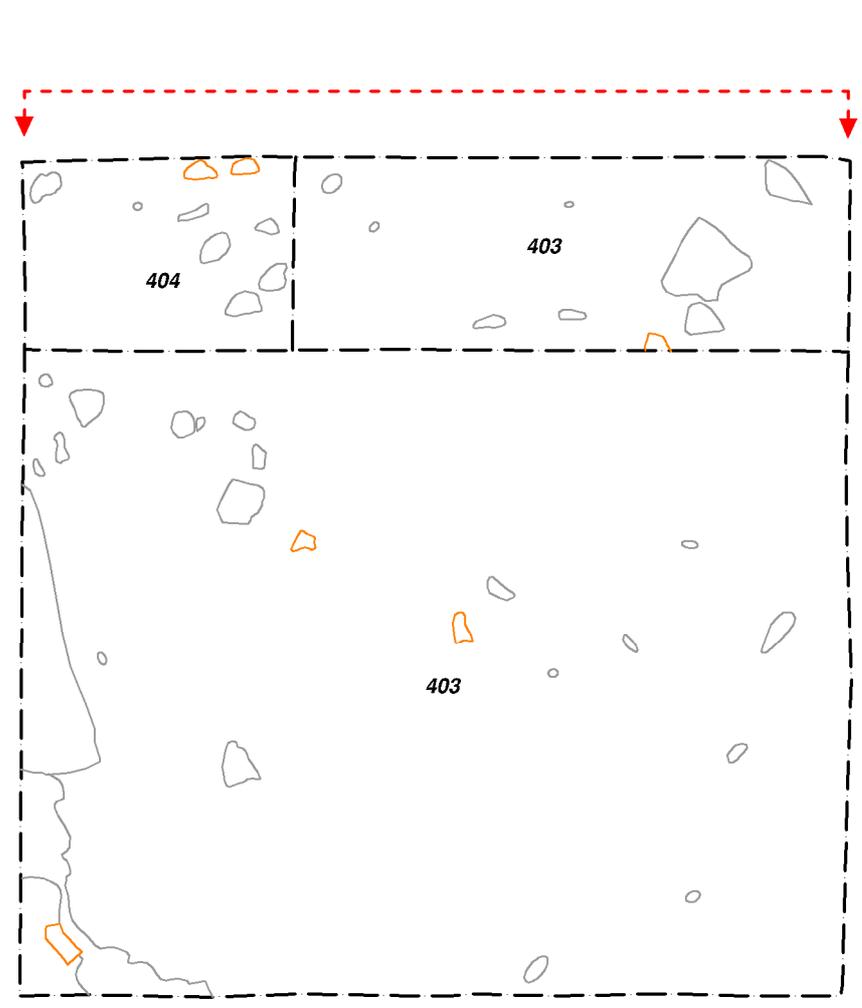


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Figure 5: Plan and cross-section of Trench 3



South-facing cross-section of Trench 4



Plan of Trench 4

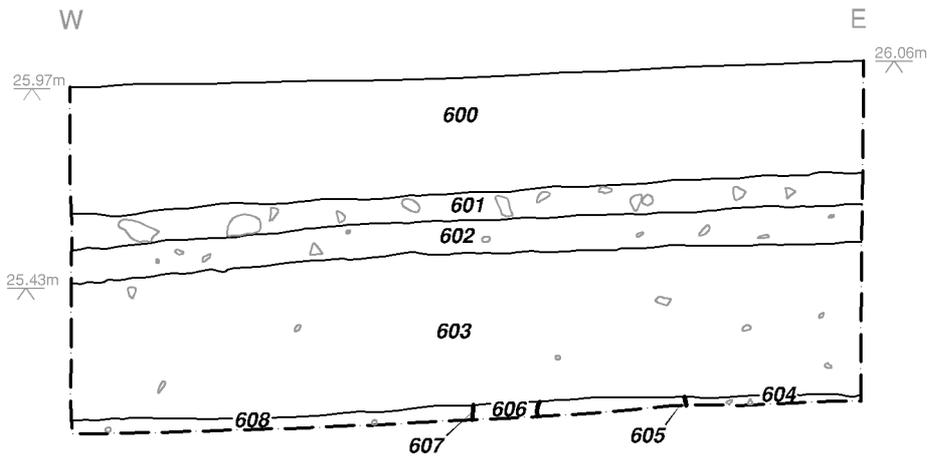


- Trench
- Pottery
- Stone
- Section position

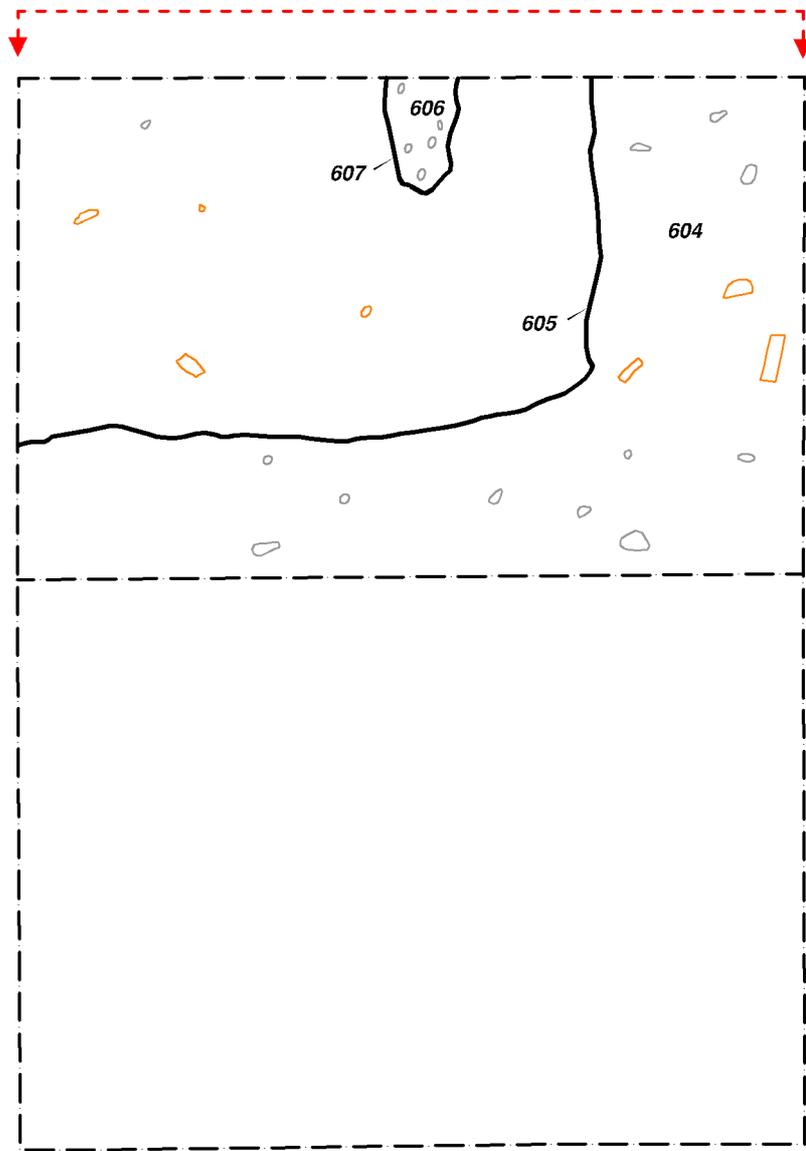


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Figure 6: Plan and cross-section of Trench 4



South-facing cross-section of Trench 6

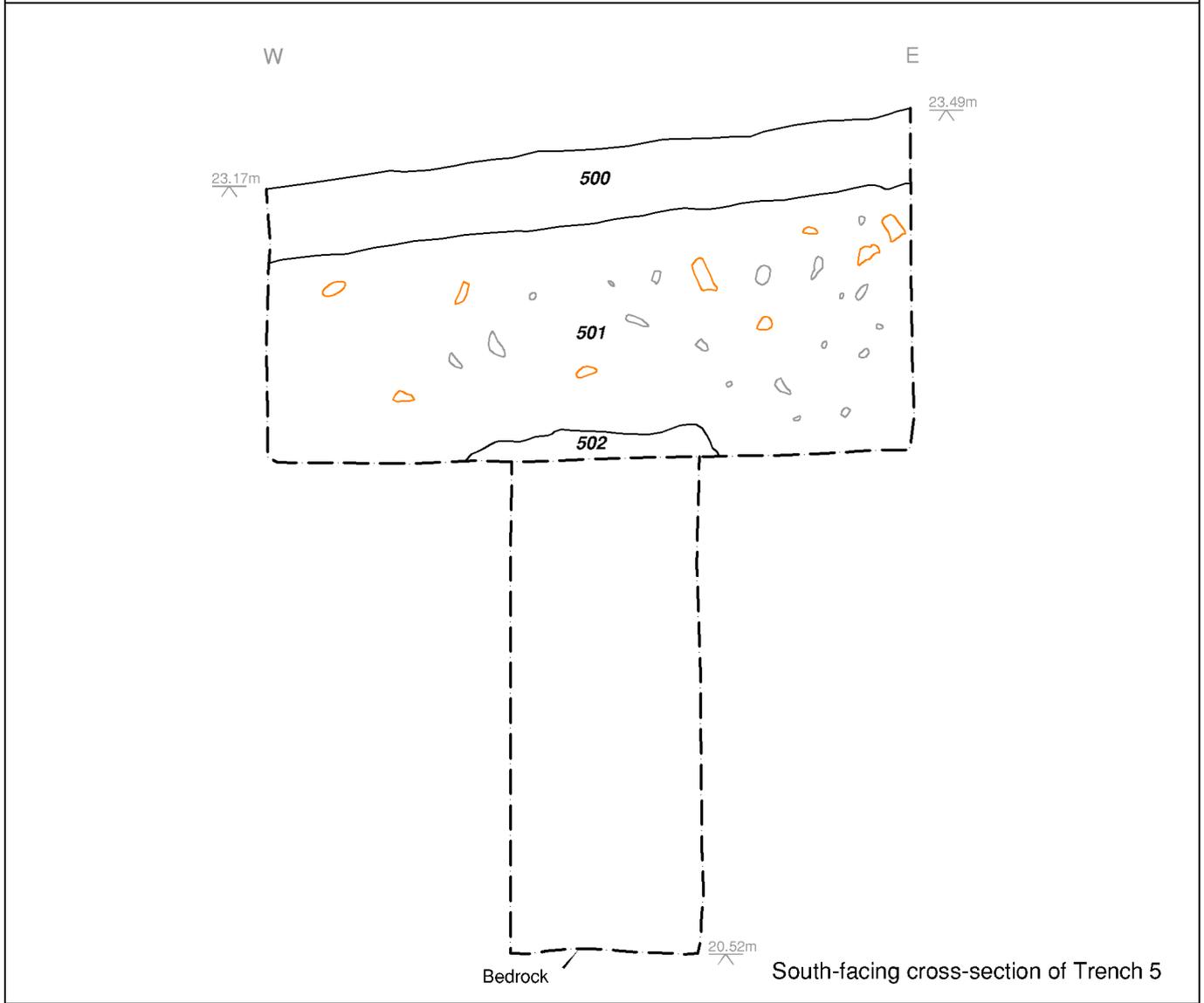
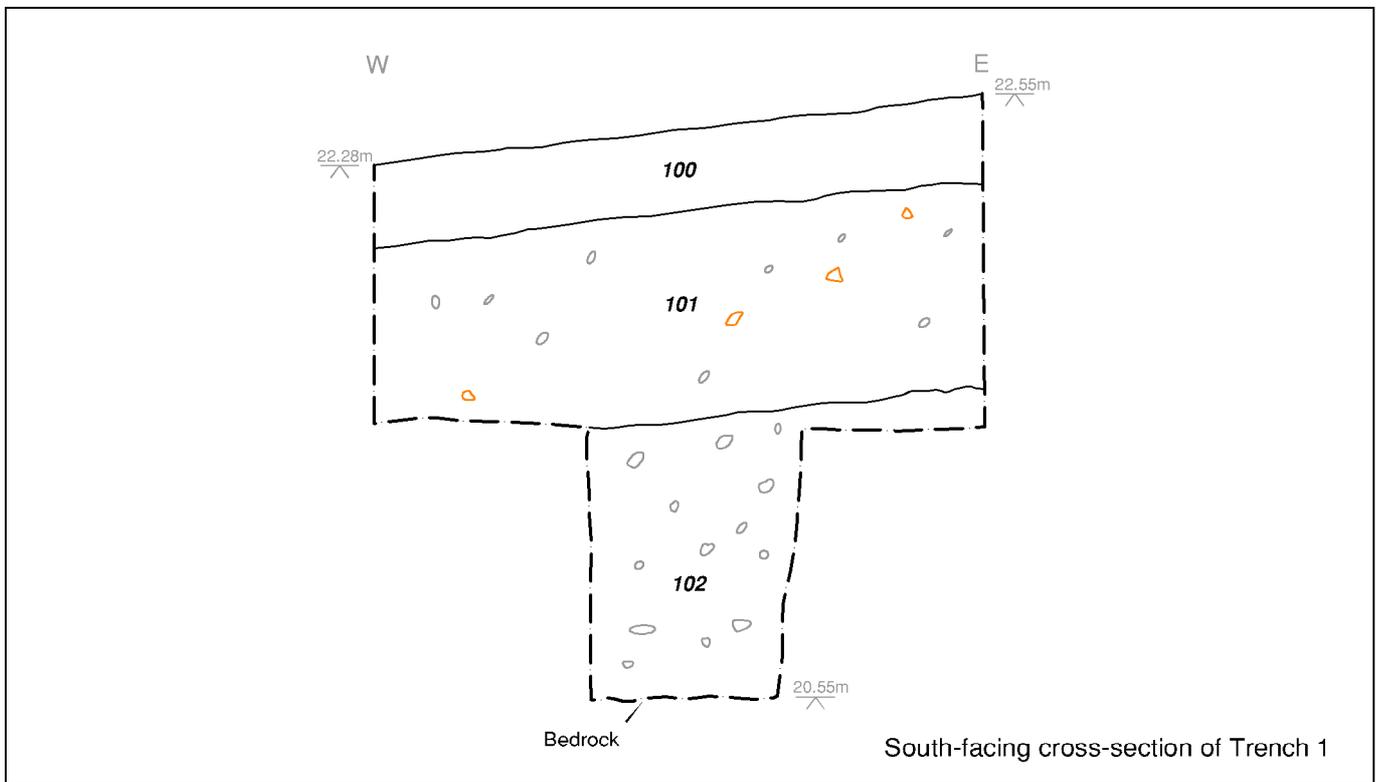


Plan of Trench 6

- | | | | |
|---|--------|---|------------------|
|  | Trench |  | Pottery |
|  | Stone |  | Section position |

0 0.5 m
1:20 @ A4

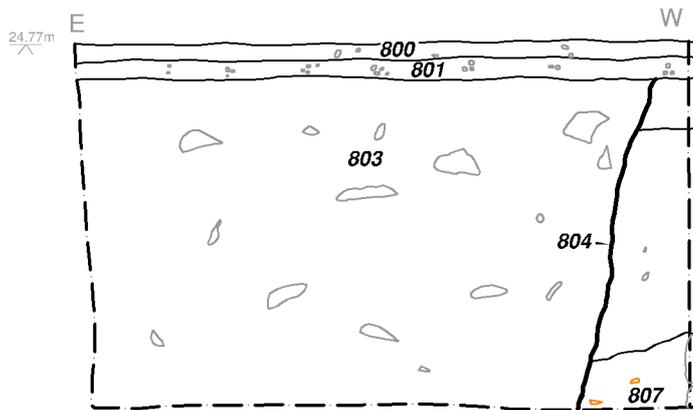
Figure 7: Plan and cross-section of Trench 6



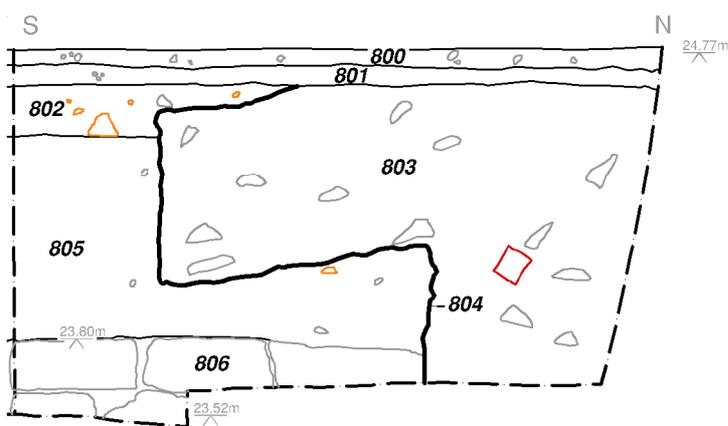
- Trench
- Pottery
- Stone

0 0.5 m
1:25 @ A4

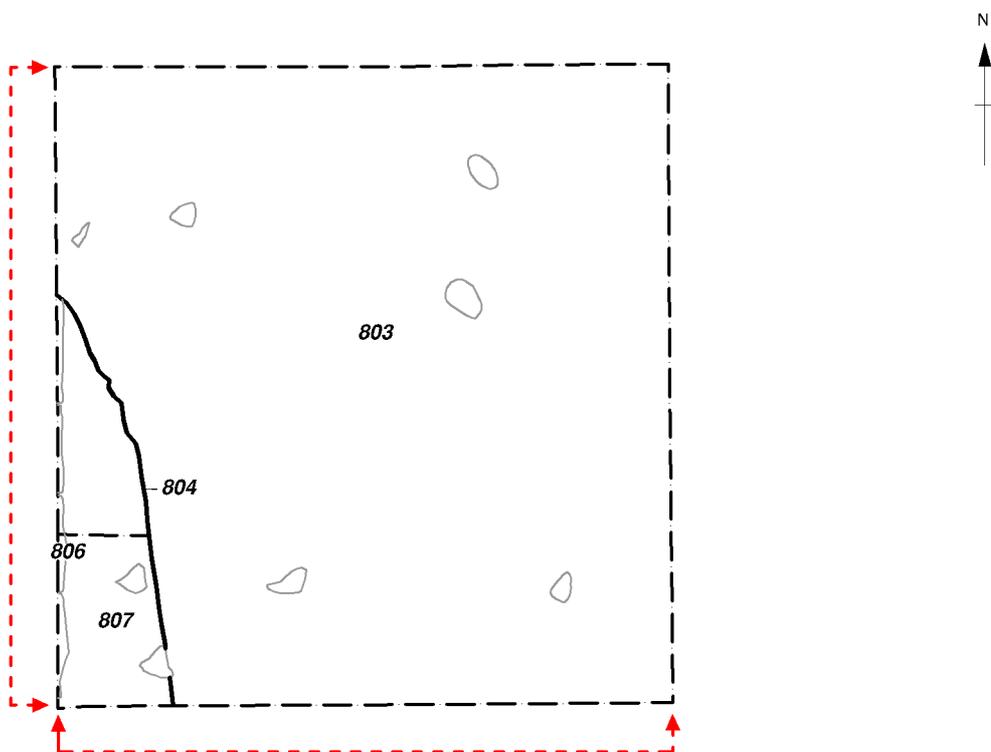
Figure 8: Cross-sections of Trenches 1 and 5



North-facing cross-section of Trench 8



East-facing cross-section of Trench 8

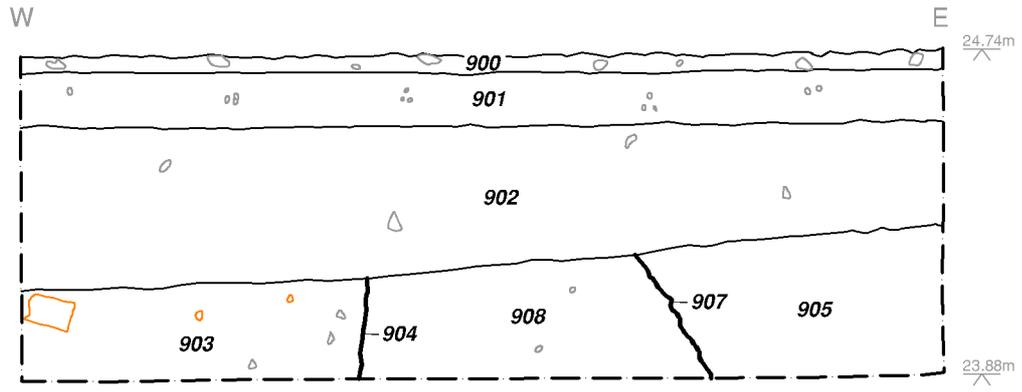


Plan of Trench 8

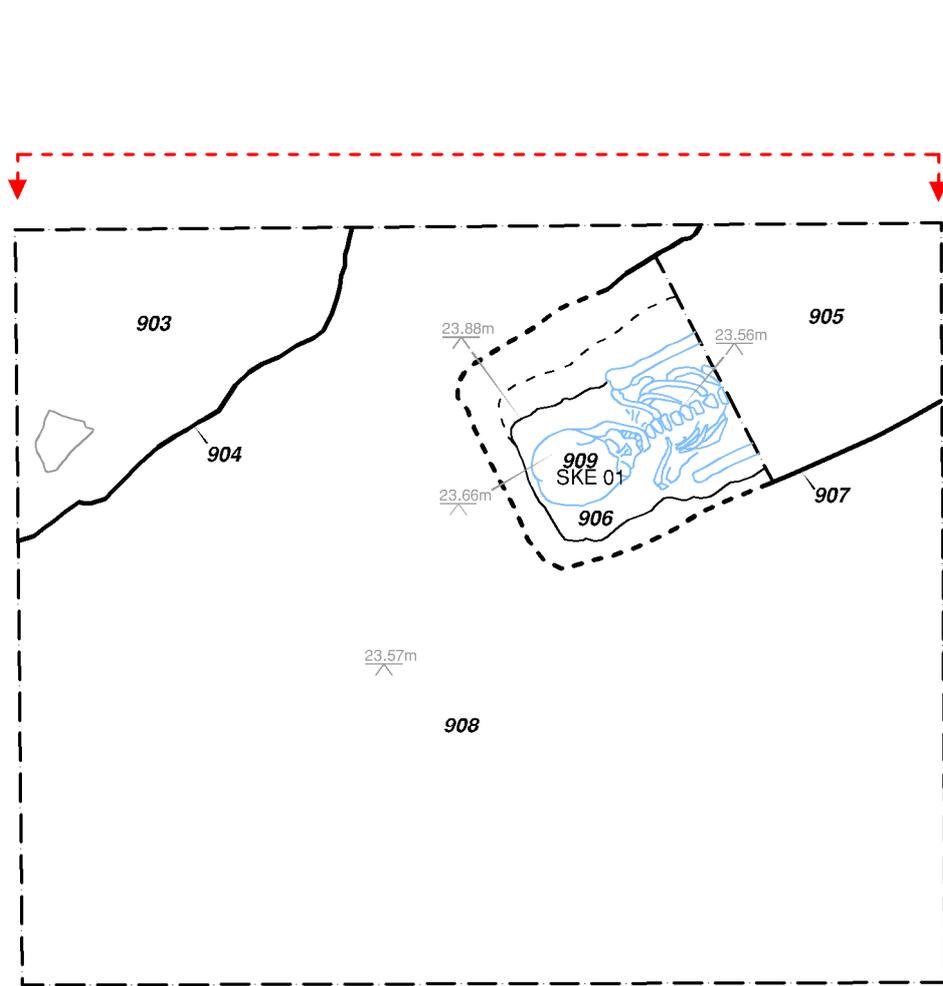
-  Trench
-  Pottery
-  Stone
-  Section position

0 0.5 m
1:25 @ A4

Figure 9: Plan and cross-sections of Trench 8



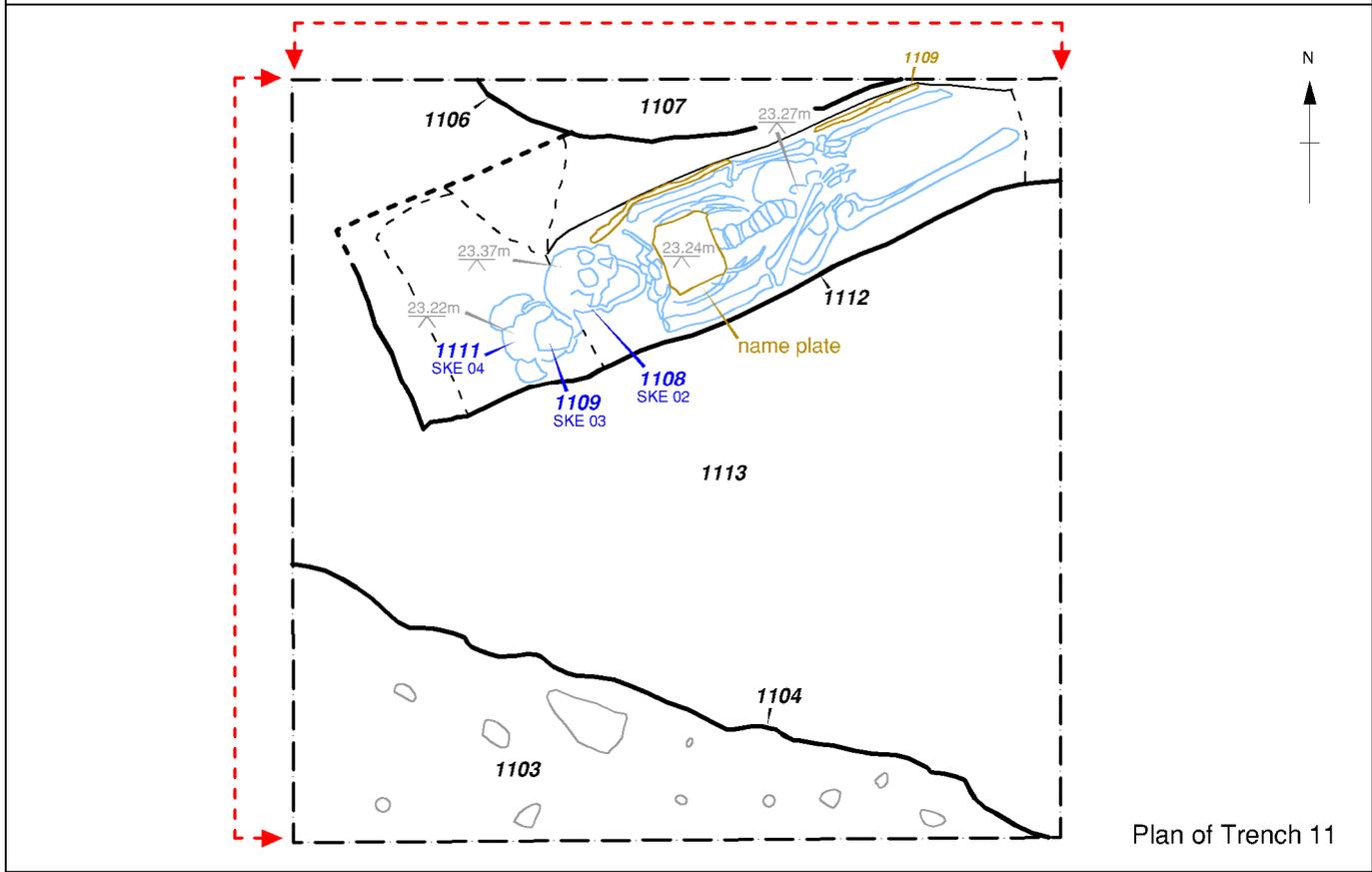
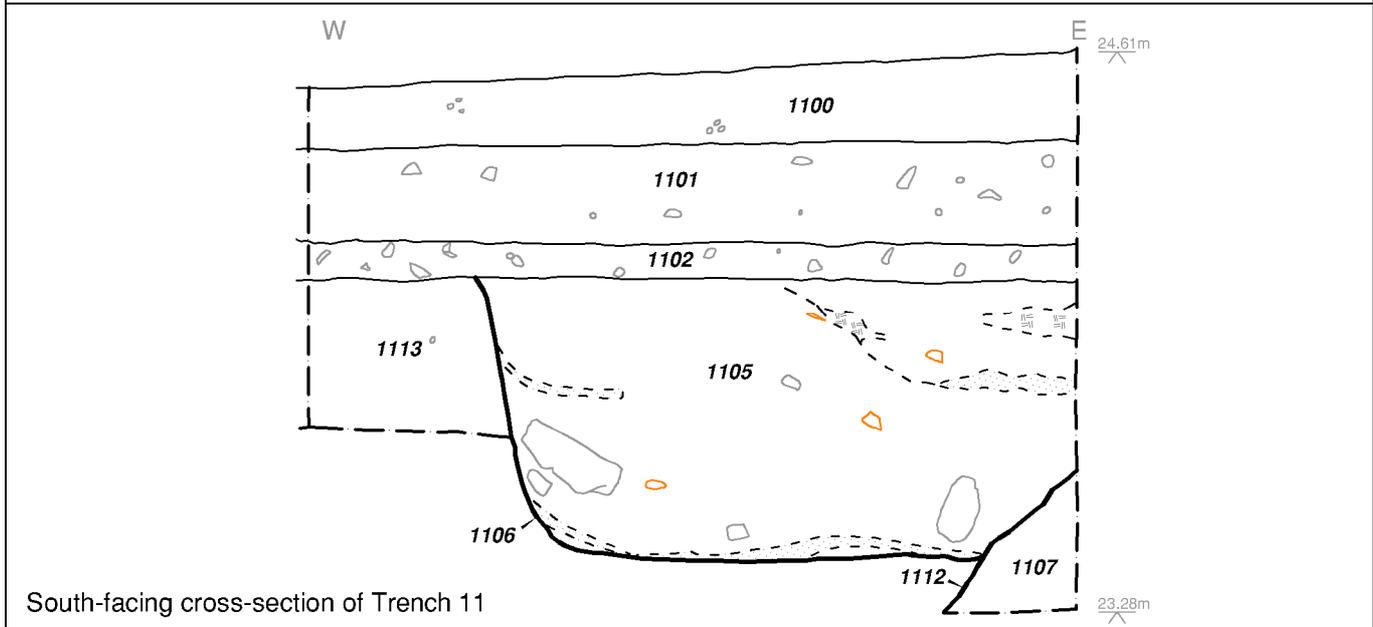
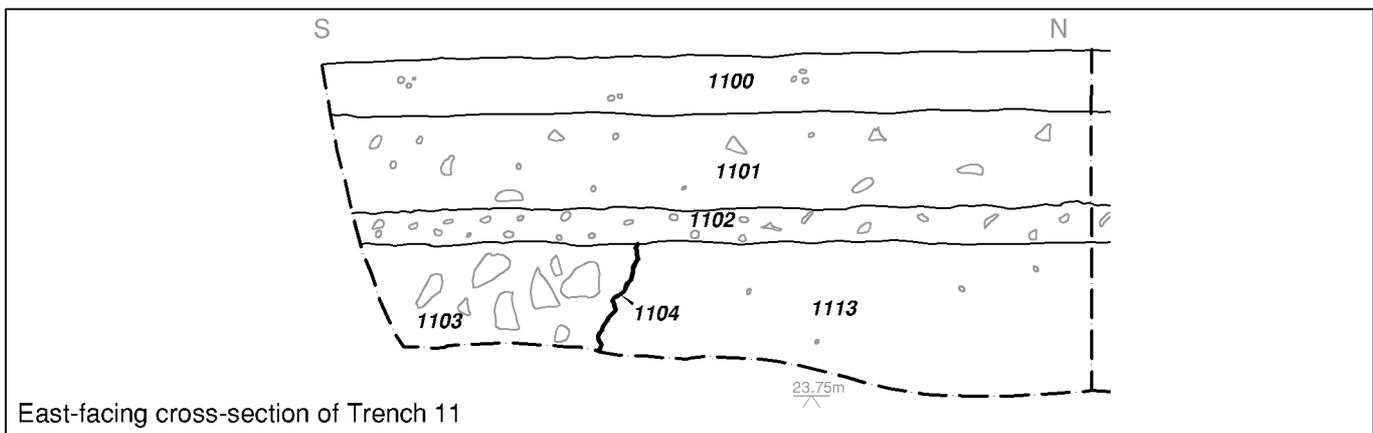
South-facing cross-section of Trench 9



Plan of Trench 9



Figure 10: Plan and cross-section of Trench 9



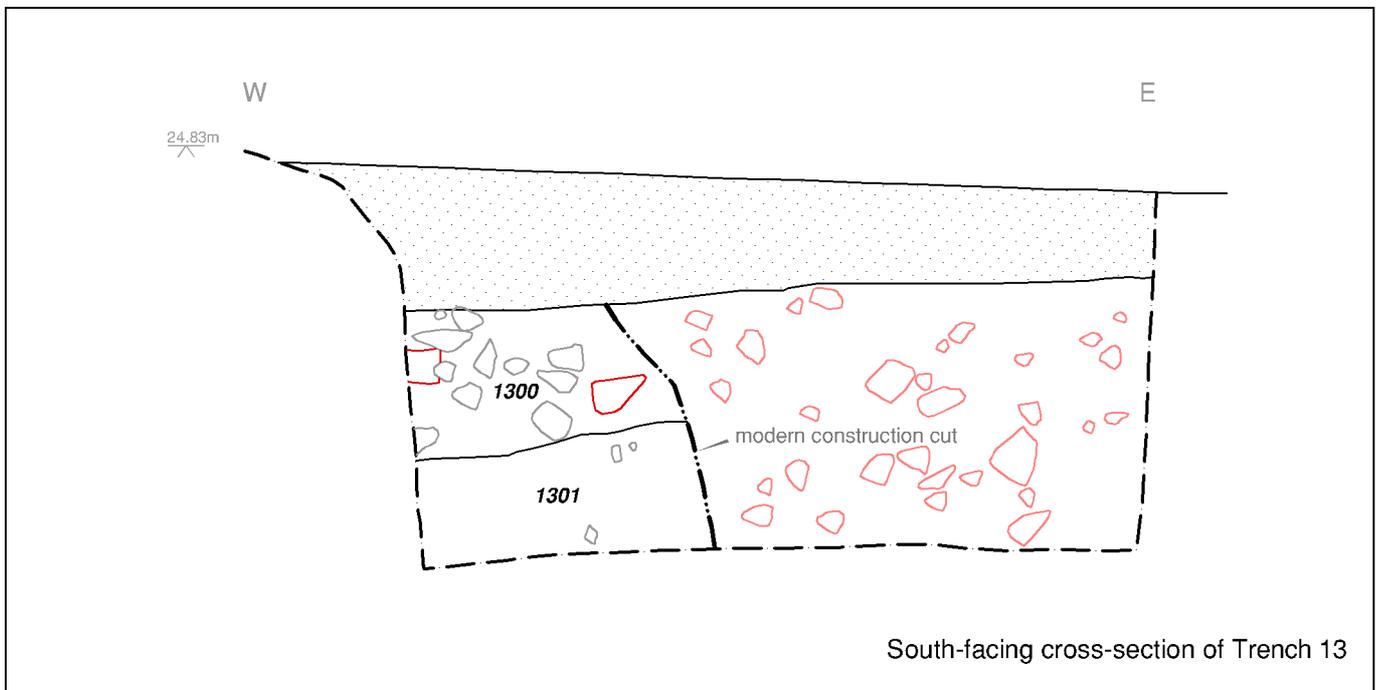
- Trench
- Pottery
- Wood
- Stone
- Bone
- Section position

0 0.5 m
1:20 @ A4



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Figure 11: Plan and cross-sections of Trench 11



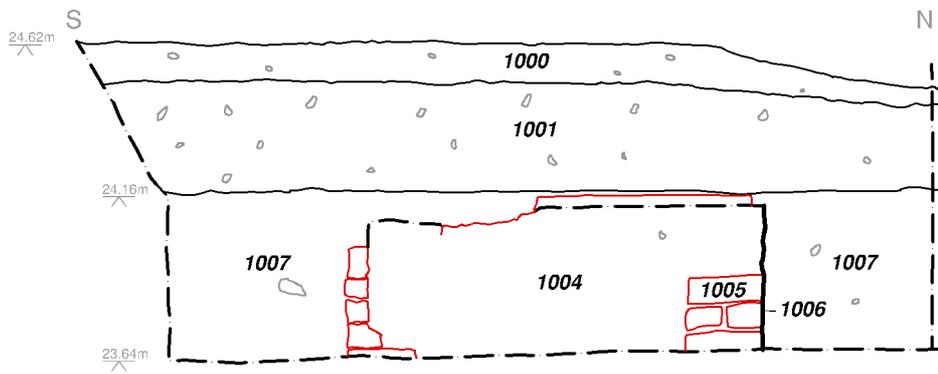
- | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--|-------|--|-----------------|
| | Trench | | Brick | | Modern Hardcore |
| | Stone | | Bone | | Modern Backfill |

0 0.5 m

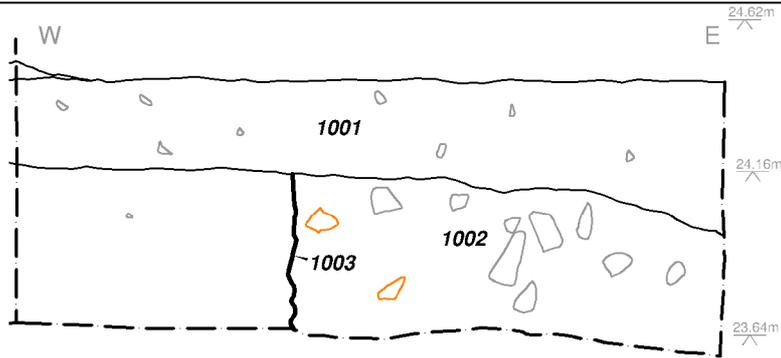
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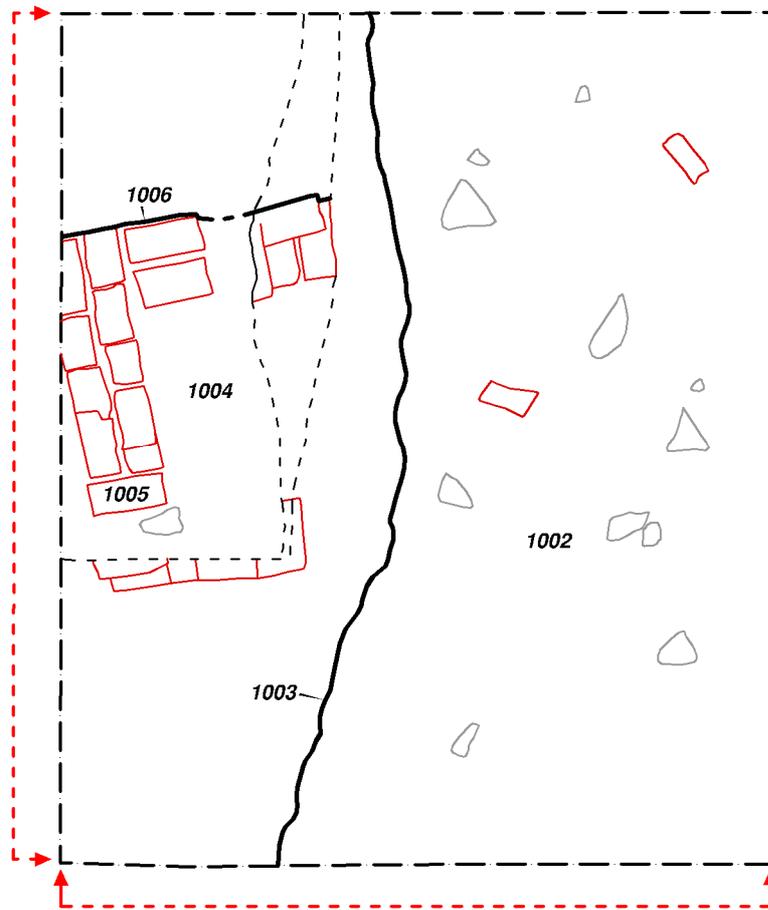
Figure 12: Plan and cross-section of Trench 13



North-facing cross-section of Trench 10



East-facing cross-section of Trench 10

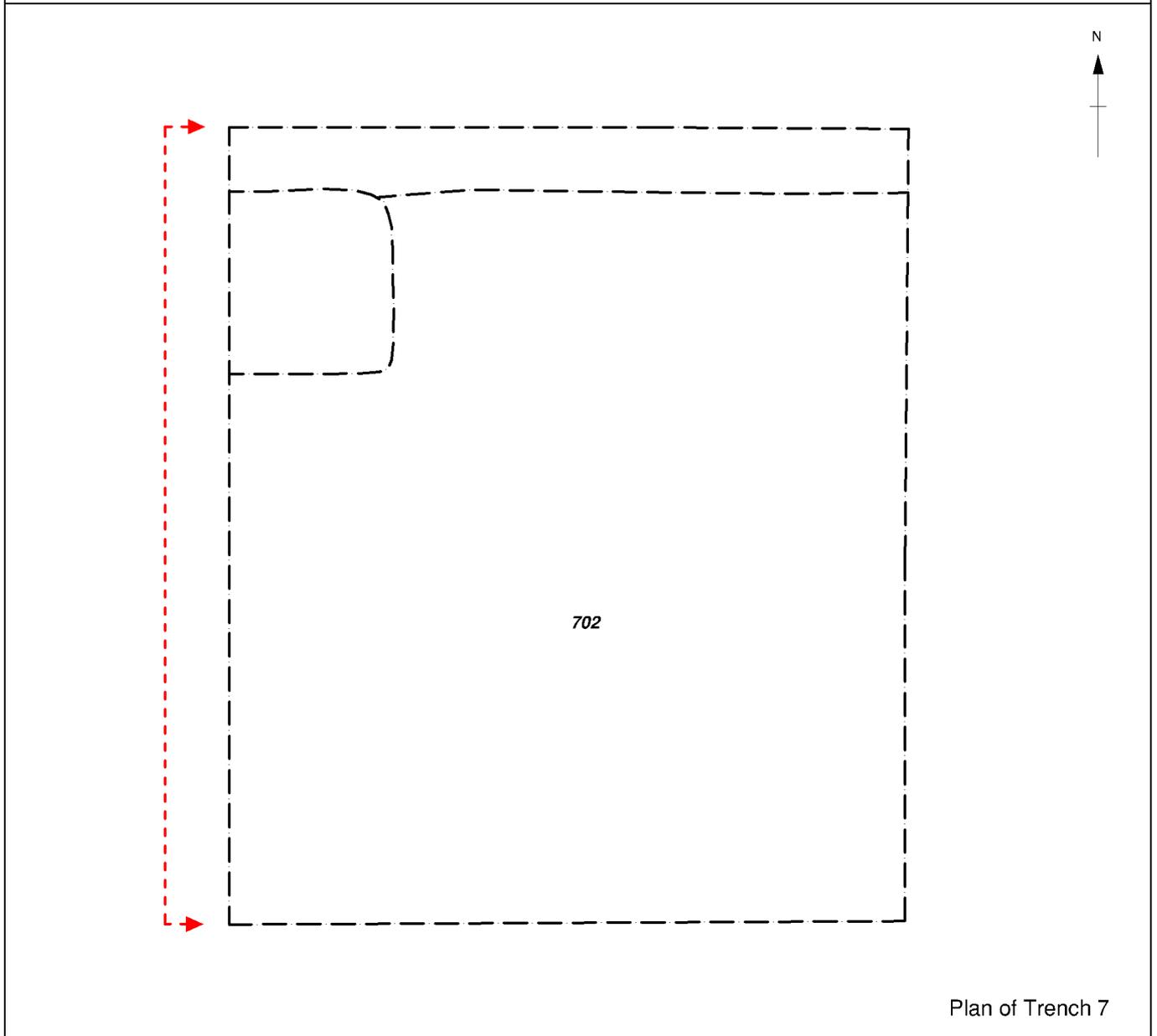
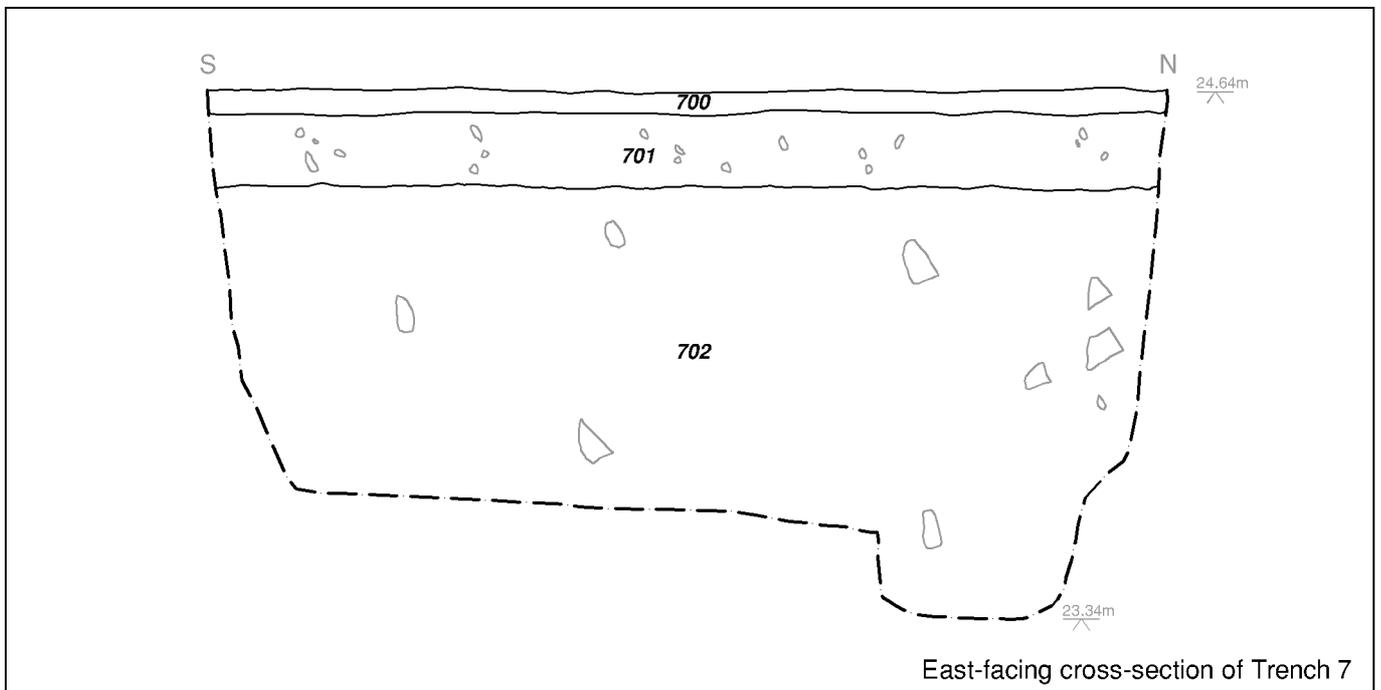


Plan of Trench 10

- | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--|------------------|--|-------|
| | Trench | | Pottery | | Brick |
| | Stone | | Section position | | |

0 0.5 m
1:25 @ A4

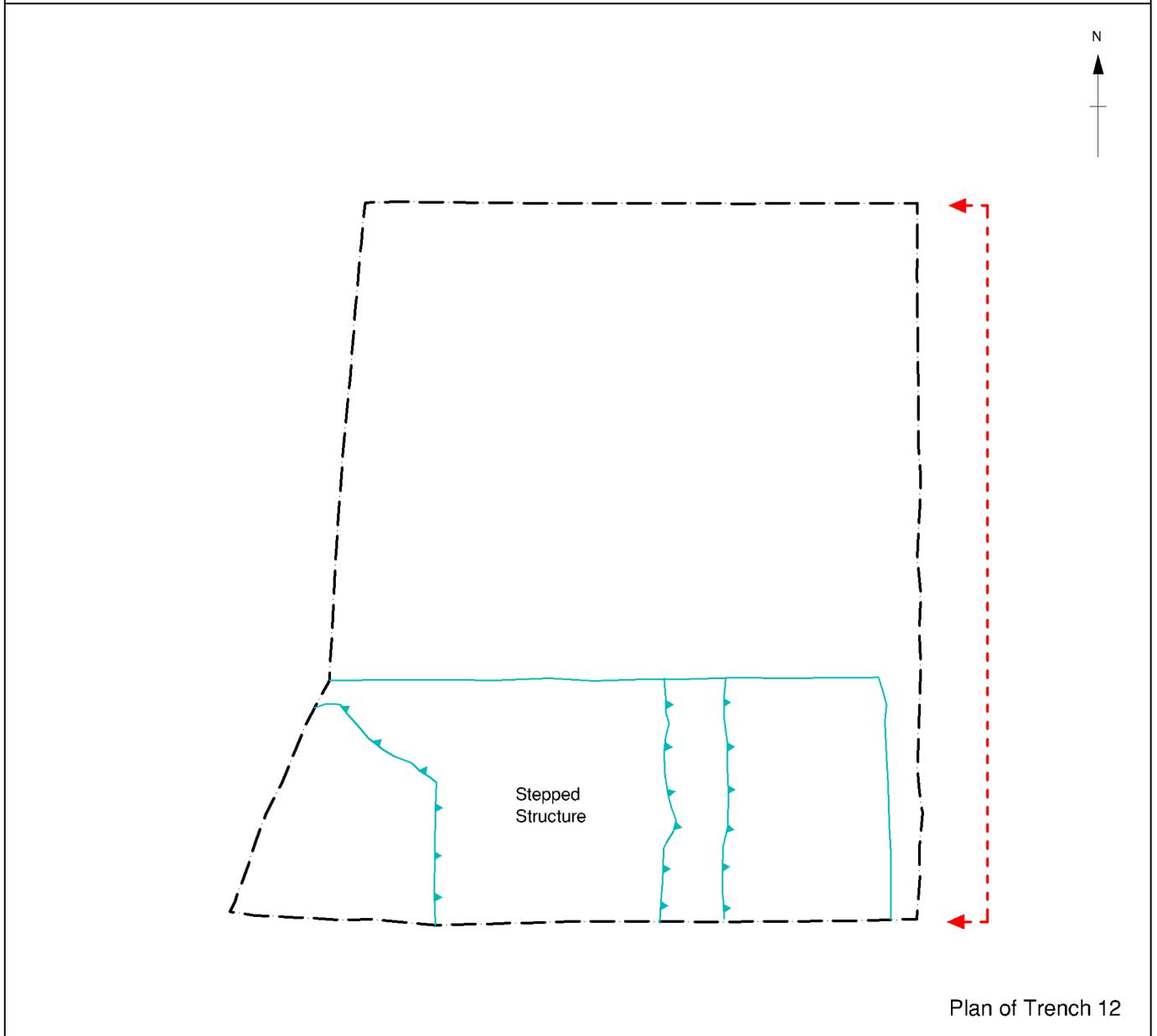
Figure 13: Plan and cross-sections of Trench 10



-  Trench
-  Pottery
-  Stone
-  Section position

0 0.5 m
1:20 @ A4

Figure 14: Plan and cross-section of Trench 7



- Trench
- Wood
- Concrete
- Section position

0 0.5 m
1:20 @ A4



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Figure 15: Plan and cross-section of Trench 12



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