



RIVERWAY, STAFFORD, STAFFORDSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Capita Property and Infrastructure

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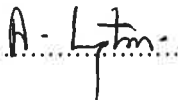
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SUMMARY

Capita Property and Infrastructure commissioned Oxford Archaeology (OA) North to undertake an archaeological watching brief, during groundworks associated with the construction of an office building, on land to the west of Riverway, Stafford, Staffordshire (NGR SJ 92921 23016). The watching brief was requested as a condition of the planning permission agreed as a result of consultation between Capita Property and Infrastructure and Staffordshire County Council (SCC), and was based on previous archaeological investigations conducted in close proximity to the development site.

The watching brief showed that the area comprised a series of made ground deposits overlying natural river gravels, the later resulting from a series of flooding events associated with the River Sow. These in turn overlie a natural boulder clay.

Two twentieth-century walls were recorded in the north-west section of the current watching brief area. These were surrounded by demolition rubble deriving from a former building that occupied the site. Unfortunately, due to the width, depth, and instability of many of the trenches, they were not accessible and, as a result, no environmental samples were recovered. No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered during the watching brief.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology (OA) North would like to thank Capita Property and Infrastructure for commissioning the project and Stephen Dean, the principal archaeologist for Staffordshire County Council. Thanks are also due to Alan Pritchard of Barnfield Construction for assistance on site.

The watching brief was undertaken by Vickie Jamieson, Jon Onraet and Mike Birtles. The report was written by Vickie Jamieson, with the drawings produced by Mark Tidmarsh. The project was managed by Steve Rowland, and the report edited by Adam Tinsley.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Capita Property and Infrastructure commissioned Oxford Archaeology (OA) North to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of an office building on land to the west of Riverway, Stafford, Staffordshire. The watching brief was required as a condition to the planning consent.
- 1.1.2 The fieldwork was undertaken over 16 days during April and May 2014 and February 2015. The following report documents the results of the watching brief and the significance of the findings.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 Stafford is located in the River Sow valley, above its confluence with the River Trent. The site under archaeological investigation lies *c* 50m north of the river Sow, east of the town of Stafford (NGR SJ 92921 23016; Fig 1). It is bounded to the east by Riverway, to the north by the A518, Weston Road, to the west by the site of an ASDA superstore itself bounded in this direction by the A34, Queensway, and to the south by the River Sow.
- 1.2.2 The site is underlain by Mercia Mudstone Group, consisting of Mudstone and Halite-stone. Superficial geology covers the entire site and surrounding area, and is represented by glaciofluvial deposits, consisting of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey Sheet 139, 1974). The topography for the site is relatively flat, with an average height of 76m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 The county of Staffordshire is especially fortunate in terms of the number of monuments that predate the late Bronze Age. A large number of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments, including causewayed enclosures, henges, and ring ditches have been observed in the form of cropmarks on the river terraces in the region of the confluence of the Trent and Tame. Several burnt mounds and hill forts are also present throughout the county (Wardle 2002). However, little evidence for prehistoric activity within the immediate environs of Stafford has been revealed through excavation, though a find spots associated with the recovery of prehistoric flints and antler picks have been recorded from the town (Stafford Borough Council 1997).
- 1.3.2 A report by Carver (1981) suggests that Stafford was a Roman landmark in a road system with a ford over the River Sow. However, the nature of Roman activity in the area has not been defined by excavation, finds being largely restricted to fragments of Roman pottery recovered within Stafford, at Bath Street and Tipping Street (Stafford Borough Council 1997).

- 1.3.3 Anglo-Saxon activity in Stafford has been recorded in the form of a kiln and associated pits, identified during excavations at Eastgate Street (Stafford Borough Council 1997). Stafford is believed to have been founded by Aethelflaeda, the granddaughter of King Alfred, as a defended burgh by 913 AD. Domesday records indicate Stafford was established as the main town of the county in 1086.

1.4 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

- 1.4.1 Excavations have been carried out at various sites within the vicinity of the current watching brief. These have provided an insight into the potential archaeological deposits that may lie beneath the site.
- 1.4.2 Work carried out during the construction of Asda to the west of the site recovered palaeoenvironmental evidence dating back to 10,000 years, along with waterlogged worked timber posts dating to the Iron Age, and thought to be evidence of a possible causeway running along Lammascote Road to the north.
- 1.4.3 Recent archaeological work during the construction of the new leisure centre to the north-west of the site, recorded evidence for medieval flax retting within peat deposits along Lammascote Road.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 The work was carried out in accordance with the method statement (*Appendix 1*), approved by Stephen Dean of Staffordshire County Council, and was consistent with the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and English Heritage guidelines (CIfA 2014a, 2014b, 2014c; English Heritage 2006).

2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 A permanent archaeological presence was maintained during groundworks. These were conducted using a hydraulically-powered, 360°, mechanical excavator, equipped with various sized toothless buckets. Such excavations were under the direction of the client, but monitored at all times by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist at all times. The purpose of the watching brief was to identify, investigate, and record any archaeological remains encountered.
- 2.2.2 The watching brief consisted of observing the excavation of 48 pile trenches, each of varying sizes, but no more than 1.5m by 1.5m, with a depth of between 1.1m to 1.6m. In addition, 29 interconnecting beam slots, each measuring 0.8m in width, with a depth of 1m to 1.3m, were also monitored. A drainage trench to the north-west of the site was also excavated, and measured 50m by 0.7m with a depth of 1.45m. A series of service trenches were also excavated, with one to the north-east of the site, measuring 45m by 0.8m and at a depth of 0.7m to 0.85m, one to the east of the new construction measuring 80m by 1m and 1m deep, and one to the south measuring 10m by 1m and at a depth of 0.8m. The largest section of the site to be excavated was in the location of the proposed lift shaft. This involved excavating around *in situ* piles, creating an open area measuring 8m by 5m, in which a depth of 2.3m was attained.
- 2.2.3 A daily record of the nature, extent, and depths of groundworks was maintained throughout the duration of the project. All archaeological contexts were recorded on OA North's *pro-forma* sheets, using a system based on that of the English Heritage former Centre for Archaeology. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout.

2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the method statement (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current CIfA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2006). The paper and digital archive for the project will be deposited with Staffordshire Historic Environment Records Office.

3. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The excavation of a series of pile trenches, beam slots, and proposed lift shaft within the centre of the area of development was archaeologically monitored, over an area measuring approximately 55m x 50m (Fig ??), along with a drainage trench to the north west of site measuring 50m x 0.7m and a service trench to the north east of site measuring 45m x 0.8m with another to the east measuring 80m x 1m (Fig 2). A list of contexts used has been provided in *Appendix 2*.

3.2 RESULTS

3.2.1 *Site Stratigraphy*: the majority of the site consisted of a stratigraphy of six principal layers consisting of **100**, **101**, **102**, **103**, **106** and **107**, down to natural gravels and boulder clay (Plates 1 and 4). The uppermost deposit was layer **100**, consisting of tarmac creating what was the council car park.

3.2.2 Beneath **100** was deposit **101**, a layer of cream angular stone aggregate used as levelling material for the building of the former car park. It had a maximum depth of 0.2m. This deposit overlay layers **102** to the south of the site and **106** to the north of the site. Layer **102** consists of dark grey brown sandy river gravels, while layer **106** consists of dark brown black clayey silty river gravels. Both layers appear to be of made ground. During the monitoring works these deposits were recorded as having a depth of 0.4m.

3.2.3 Layers **103** and **107** are the same and form another level of made ground underneath deposits **102** and **106**. It comprised mid-grey brown river gravels and sands with darker lenses containing coal fragments. A single sherd of nineteenth-century pottery was found within layer **103**. The depth of this deposit measured between 0.3m and 0.55m.

3.2.4 Deposits **108**, **109** and **114** formed slightly different layers of brown sandy natural river gravels deposited through flooding of the River Sow, changing at the southern end of the site to a light brownish yellow sand, **104**. All of these deposits overlie layer **105**, the natural geology of the site, was recorded in various trenches at a minimum depth of 0.15m to 0.3m. It consisted of a dark pink boulder clay.

3.2.5 Two further layers were observed in the service trench to the north-east of the site, deposits **112** and **113**. Layer **112** consisted of demolition material from the building formerly situated on site. It has a minimum depth of 0.5m and is situated underneath layer **100**, and had formed around structures **110** and **111**. Deposit **113** was recorded within the eastern end of the service trench and consisted of a mid-brown sandy silt forming a subsoil layer. It had a depth of 0.4m and overlay deposit **103**.

3.2.6 *Walls*: two walls were recorded on the site, **110** and **111**. They consisted of red frogged bricks with pink cement mortar. Wall **110** was a minimum of 0.8m in length and 0.35m in width, running on a north-east/south-west alignment, and survived up to eight courses in height. Wall **111** was a minimum of 0.8m in length and 0.5m in

width, running on an east/west alignment and survived up to four courses in height. Both walls would appear to be twentieth-century in origin and were surrounded by deposit **112**. They most likely form part of the same structure that was demolished before the car park was constructed.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The lack of any observable archaeological features within the excavated areas may be in part due to the narrow width of the beam slot trenches, and the underlying geology in the pile trenches and proposed lift shaft location. The various layers of river gravels made for loose sides in the sections, which kept collapsing, hindering observation of potential features. The drainage and service trenches to the northern and eastern sides of the excavation area were predominantly cut through modern demolition rubble, building up the ground level leaving any potential archaeology undisturbed below it.
- 4.1.2 Apart from the two walls and the layer of building rubble in the northern section of the excavation area, no features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered during the watching brief.
- 4.1.3 **Recommendations:** due to the presence of archaeological evidence from previous excavations during the construction of the new leisure centre and along Lammascote Road, it is recommended that a further watching brief be conducted when works commence to the far north of site.

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APPENDIX 1: METHOD STATEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Capita Property and Infrastructure, on behalf of their client, has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with the construction of an office building on land to the west of Riverway, Stafford, Staffordshire (NGR SJ 92921 23016). The Local Planning Authority (LPA), during initial consultation, has been advised by the Principal Archaeologist for Staffordshire County Council (SCC) that a watching brief will be required as a condition to the anticipated planning approval (S.13/18).
- 1.1.2 The site is positioned to the east of the medieval core of Stafford, on the road to Weston and Uttoxeter. The Principal Archaeologist (SCC) has advised that there are no designated or undesignated heritage assets within the outlined development site boundary or on the periphery, but in the surrounding area archaeological investigations have uncovered remains that suggests there is a potential for, as yet, unknown remains or deposits to be encountered or impacted upon during the development. Generally, deep waterlogged deposits are known to be present in and around Stafford (Bartley and Morgan 1990, Leah *et al* 1998). Late eighteenth and nineteenth century water meadows have been recorded in the low-lying area to the south of the proposed development and on the southern side of the River Sow. Work on the Asda site to the west recovered palaeoenvironmental evidence dating back to 10,000 years, including waterlogged worked timber posts thought to date to the Iron Age, and possibly the evidence for a causeway along Lammascote Road to the north. Recent archaeological work during the construction of the new leisure centre recovered evidence for medieval flax retting within peat deposits along Lammascote Road, whilst results from the most recent Tipping Street excavation has revealed possible evidence for Iron Age settlement on higher land within Stafford. Consequently, the evidence suggests that this area was a focus of activity during the late prehistoric period, with potential for good survival of palaeoenvironmental remains, particularly in waterlogged and peat deposits, as well as the potential for evidence of the medieval industrial production.
- 1.1.3 It is intended that the archaeological monitoring will also be informed by the results of forthcoming SI boreholing/intrusive works, and by the proposed construction details to assess the level of impact. The following project design has been prepared in accordance with an informal brief issued by the Principal Archaeologist (SCC).

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology North has considerable experience of excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past 30 years. Evaluations, assessments, watching briefs and excavations have taken place within the planning process and according to any statutory constraints, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.2.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) registered organisation, registration number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IfA *Code of Conduct* (2012).

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to identify any surviving archaeological deposits or features, and provide for accurate recording of any archaeological remains that are disturbed during the groundworks. The work will be carried out in accordance with best practice guidelines, including English Heritage (2006) and IfA (2008a, b and 2012), and in line with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), paragraph 141 (DCLG 2012).

- 2.2 **Watching brief:** to carry out a permanent presence watching brief during the groundworks, to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains. In particular, the watching brief will seek:
- 1) To determine the presence/absence of a 'causeway' along Lamascotte Road allowing access to the island of Stafford during the late prehistoric period from the east.
 - 2) To recover evidence for industrial activity during particularly the late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods.
 - 3) To recover evidence from archaeological deposits to inform further on the environmental and landscape conditions of the area.

- 2.3 **Report and Archive:** a draft report will be produced for approval by the client within six to eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (2006) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 3.1.1 OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Company Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). OA North will liaise with the client to ensure all health and safety regulations are met. A risk assessment will be completed in advance of any on-site works.
- 3.1.2 Any known contamination issues or any specific health and safety requirements on site should be made known to OA North by the client or Site Contractor ahead of the fieldwork commencing to ensure all procedures can be met, and that the risk is dealt with appropriately. Should any presently unknown contamination be discovered during excavation, it may be necessary to halt the works and reassess the risk assessment. Should it be necessary to supply additional PPE or other contamination avoidance equipment this will be costed as a variation.
- 3.1.3 OA North staff will be wearing appropriate PPE, including steel toe-capped boots, hi-visibility vest or coat, and a hard hat. All project staff will be CSCS qualified, proof of which can be provided in the form of CSCS cards.
- 3.1.4 It is assumed that the client or Site Contractor will provide all necessary welfare facilities.

3.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.2.1 **Methodology:** a programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the proposed ground disturbance, which includes topsoil stripping, excavation of foundation or service trenches and any other earth moving activities. Excavation of any ground surfaces should be carried out using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision (toothed buckets inhibit observation of archaeological features and their recording). Any approach to the excavator will be made from the front of the machine (i.e. facing the driver) after signalling to the driver and being acknowledged.
- 3.2.2 The work will comprise observation during the groundworks, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation. The excavation area will only be entered by OA North staff if it is considered safe to do so.
- 3.2.3 Discovery of archaeological remains will require stoppage of the excavation. Areas of potential archaeological remains will require fencing-off from any construction works, preferably with netlon-type fencing, to allow OA North archaeologists sufficient time to undertake adequate recording under safe conditions. This will be carried out as efficiently as possible in order to minimise disruption. Depending on the deposits revealed, it is anticipated that the average time for the suspension of works

will be approximately 2-4 hours. Clearance will be given for excavation to proceed once the archaeologist is satisfied that either no remains are present, or that they have been adequately recorded, or that the level of impact will not disturb any deeper remains that can be preserved *in situ*.

- 3.2.4 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, will be cleaned by hand using trowels and, where appropriate, sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated (i.e. selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal).
- 3.2.5 Recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid co-ordinates where appropriate), with a plan produced of the areas of groundworks showing the position and extent of the ground disturbance. Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large-scale plan provided by the client.
- 3.2.6 A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously of features and finds, and of general working shots. This will entail high resolution digital SLR photographs.
- 3.2.7 **Contingency plan:** in the event of significant archaeological features being encountered during the watching brief, discussions will take place with the client and the Principal Archaeologist (SCC), as to the extent of further works to be carried out. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design.

3.3 GENERAL PROCEDURES

- 3.3.1 **Environmental Sampling:** bulk samples of 40 litres volume (or 100%, if smaller), will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits, and will particularly target negative features (gullies, pits and ditches), for the assessment and potential analysis of charred and waterlogged plant remains and other biological indicators. If peat or other waterlogged deposits, such as palaeochannels, are encountered during the groundworks these will be sampled either by coring or monolith samples taken from an exposed section, and recorded and assessed following the Geoarchaeology and Environmental Archaeology Guidelines (Ayala *et al* 2007; IfA 2008; Campbell *et al* 2011). The location of all samples will be recorded on drawings and sections with heights OD etc. These will be returned to OA North's offices for processing.
- 3.3.2 Deposits of particular interest may incur additional sampling, on advice from the appropriate in-house specialist.
- 3.3.3 Between 50%-100% of bulk samples shall be selected for processing, based on the advice from OA North's in-house environmental manager. These will be processed and assessed following the English Heritage Environmental Archaeology Guidelines and IfA guidelines (IfA 2008; Campbell *et al* 2011), specifically processing for charred plant remains, charcoal, molluscs and the selection of material suitable for scientific dating. If conditions are anoxic, leading to preservation by waterlogging, the samples will be processed for waterlogged plant remains and insects. All processed samples will be assessed as to their potential for the further analysis of the remains and the results included in the site report.
- 3.3.4 The cores or monolith samples will be processed and assessed for a number of different biological indicators, including pollen, fungal spores and other indicators depending on the type of deposits identified. The sampling of such deposits and their assessment will follow consultation with the client, the Principal Archaeologist (SCC), and possibly the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor. Such work may require a separate environmental project design outlining methodologies and a variation will be agreed.
- 3.3.5 It may be required to obtain dating evidence through radiocarbon dating, dendrochronological or other such techniques. This would only be undertaken in consultation with the client and , the Principal Archaeologist (SCC).

- 3.3.6 **Human remains:** should evidence of burials be identified, the Principal Archaeologist (SCC) and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. All work will cease until the proper authorities were satisfied before the burials are able to be removed. In normal circumstances, field recording will also include a continual process of analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of the data, in order to establish the necessity for any further more detailed recording that may prove essential. The grave cut and/or coffin and contents will be recorded in plan at 1:20. Significant details of any grave goods, should they be discovered, will be planned at 1:10. Photography will be used to provide a further detailed record of the skeleton. The removal of such remains will be carried out with due care and sensitivity.
- 3.3.7 **Finds:** all finds recovered during the watching brief will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) guidelines.
- 3.3.8 Finds recovery and sampling programmes will be in accordance with best practice (current IfA guidelines) and subject to expert advice. Neither artefacts nor ecofacts will be collected systematically during the mechanical excavation of the topsoil unless significant deposits are encountered. In such an eventuality, material will be sampled in such a manner as to provide data to enhance present knowledge of the production and dating of such artefacts. Other finds recovered during the removal of overburden will be retained only if of significance to the dating and/or interpretation of the site. It is not anticipated that ecofacts (e.g. unmodified animal bone) will be collected during this procedure.
- 3.3.9 All finds will be treated in accordance with OA standard practice, which is cognisant of IfA and UKIC Guidelines. In general this will mean that (where appropriate or safe to do so) finds are washed, dried, marked, bagged and packed in stable conditions; no attempt at conservation will be made unless special circumstances require prompt action. In such case guidance will be sought from OA North's consultant conservator.
- 3.3.10 All waterlogged finds will be treated as appropriate. In the case of large deposits of waterlogged environmental material (e.g. unmodified wood), advice will be sought with the OA North consultant with regard to an appropriate sampling strategy.
- 3.3.11 Where possible, spot dates will be obtained on pottery and other finds recovered from the site. Artefacts will be examined and commented upon by OA North in-house specialists. Initial artefact dating shall be integrated into the site matrix.
- 3.3.12 Any gold and silver artefacts (and any objects associated with them) recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer and the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.

3.4 REPORT

- 3.4.1 The results of the fieldwork will culminate in a draft report to be submitted to the client for approval within four to six weeks of completion of the fieldwork (subject to any specialist reports outstanding). Once comments have been received these will be incorporated into the finalised version of the report which will be issued as a pdf (hard copies can be made available on request). The information will be finally disseminated through the deposition of the archive with the relevant museum in due course, and a copy of the report to the County Historic Environment Record (HER) Office. The report will include:
- a site location plan related to the national grid;
 - a front cover to include the planning application number and the NGR;
 - the dates on which the work was undertaken;
 - a concise, non-technical summary of the results;
 - an explanation to any agreed variations to this project design, including any justification for any analyses not undertaken;
 - a description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and results obtained;
 - plans and sections at an appropriate scale showing the location and position of deposits and finds located;

- photographs as appropriate;
- a list of and dates for any finds recovered and a description and interpretation of the deposits identified;
- a description of any environmental or other specialist work undertaken and the results obtained;
- a summary of the impact of the development on any archaeological remains and, where possible, a model of potential archaeological deposits within as-yet unexplored areas of the development site;
- the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived;
- a summary of the archive.

3.5 ARCHIVE

- 3.5.1 The results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive will include summary processing and analysis of all features, finds, or palaeoenvironmental data recovered during fieldwork, which will be catalogued by context.
- 3.5.2 The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is essential and archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Staffordshire Historic Environment Records (HER; the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects with the appropriate Record Office (in this instance, that at Stafford).
- 3.5.3 All artefacts will be processed to MAP2 standards and will be assessed by our in-house finds specialists. The deposition and disposal of any artefacts recovered in the evaluation will be agreed with the legal owner and an appropriate recipient museum, in this case the Potteries Museum, Stoke-on-Trent. Discussion regarding the museum's requirement for the transfer and storage of finds will be conducted prior to the commencement of the project, and SCC will be notified of the arrangements made.
- 3.5.4 **OASIS:** an OASIS form will be completed as part of the works.
- 3.5.5 **Confidentiality:** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

4 OTHER MATTERS

4.1 PROJECT MONITORING

- 4.1.1 Whilst the work is undertaken for the client, monitoring of this project will be undertaken by the Principal Archaeologist (SCC) as advisor to the LPA.

4.2 WORK TIMETABLE

- 4.2.1 The duration of the archaeological presence for the watching brief will be dictated by the client's schedule of groundworks.
- 4.2.2 The client report will be completed within approximately six to eight weeks following completion of the fieldwork.

4.3 STAFFING

- 4.3.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Stephen Rowland** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

- 4.3.2 The watching brief and any subsequent excavation will be supervised in the field by an OA North member of staff experienced in this type of work.
- 4.3.3 Assessment of the finds from the evaluation will be undertaken under the auspices of OA North's in-house finds specialist **Chris Howard-Davis** (OA North project officer). Chris acts as OA North's in-house finds specialist and has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England.
- 4.3.4 The processing, assessment and analysis of any environmental samples would be undertaken under the auspices of **Elizabeth Huckerby** (OA North Environmental Manager), who has unparalleled experience of the environmental archaeology of the North and West, and by **Denise Druce** (OA North Environmental Project Officer) who analysed the charred plant remains and charcoal for the Tipping Street excavation site, Stafford (see *para 1.1.2*, above) on behalf of OA South.

4.4 INSURANCE

- 4.4.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

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APPENDIX 2: SUMMARY CONTEXT LIST

CONTEXT NUMBER	INTERPRETATION
100	Tarmac. Current car park surface
101	Loose, sub-angular stone aggregate. Levelling layer for car park
102	Dark-grey brown friable sandy gravels forming a made ground surface
103	Mid-grey brown friable sandy gravels with lenses of black charcoal. Made ground surface
104	Light-brown yellow and orange sandy river deposits
105	Dark-pink firm clay. Natural boulder clay
106	Dark-brown black firm clayey silt with frequent stone inclusions. Levelling layer for tarmac 100
107	Mid-brown friable sandy silt forming a made ground surface.
108	Dark-orange sandy gravels. Natural layer
109	Mid-orange brown sandy gravels. River deposit
110	Red 'frogged' brick with pink mortar structure. Runs on a NE-SW alignment forming a foundation wall. Part of the same building as wall 111
111	Red 'frogged' brick with pink mortar structure. Runs on an E-W alignment forming a foundation wall. Part of the same building as wall 110
112	Mid-brown silt with abundant stone and crushed brick forming a demolition layer
113	Mid-brown friable sandy silt topsoil
114	Dark-brown black sandy silt alluvial deposit

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: Location of pile and beam trenches

Figure 3: Plan of pile and beam trenches

PLATES

Plate 1: South-west-facing section of pile trench F3

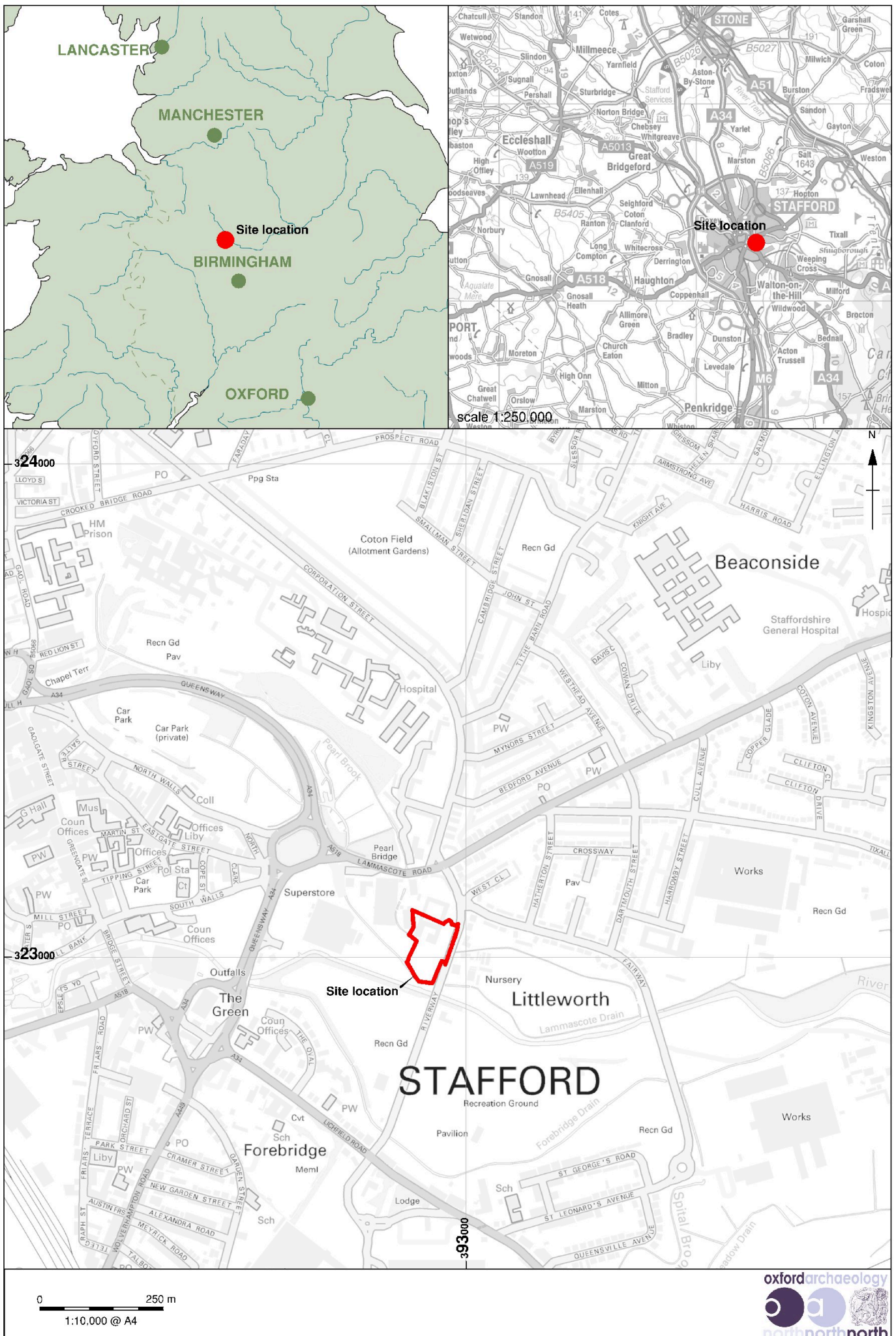
Plate 2: North-facing view of pile trench B3 to A3

Plate 3: Oblique shot of east-facing section of pile trench A1

Plate 4: East-facing sample section of drainage trench to the north-west of site

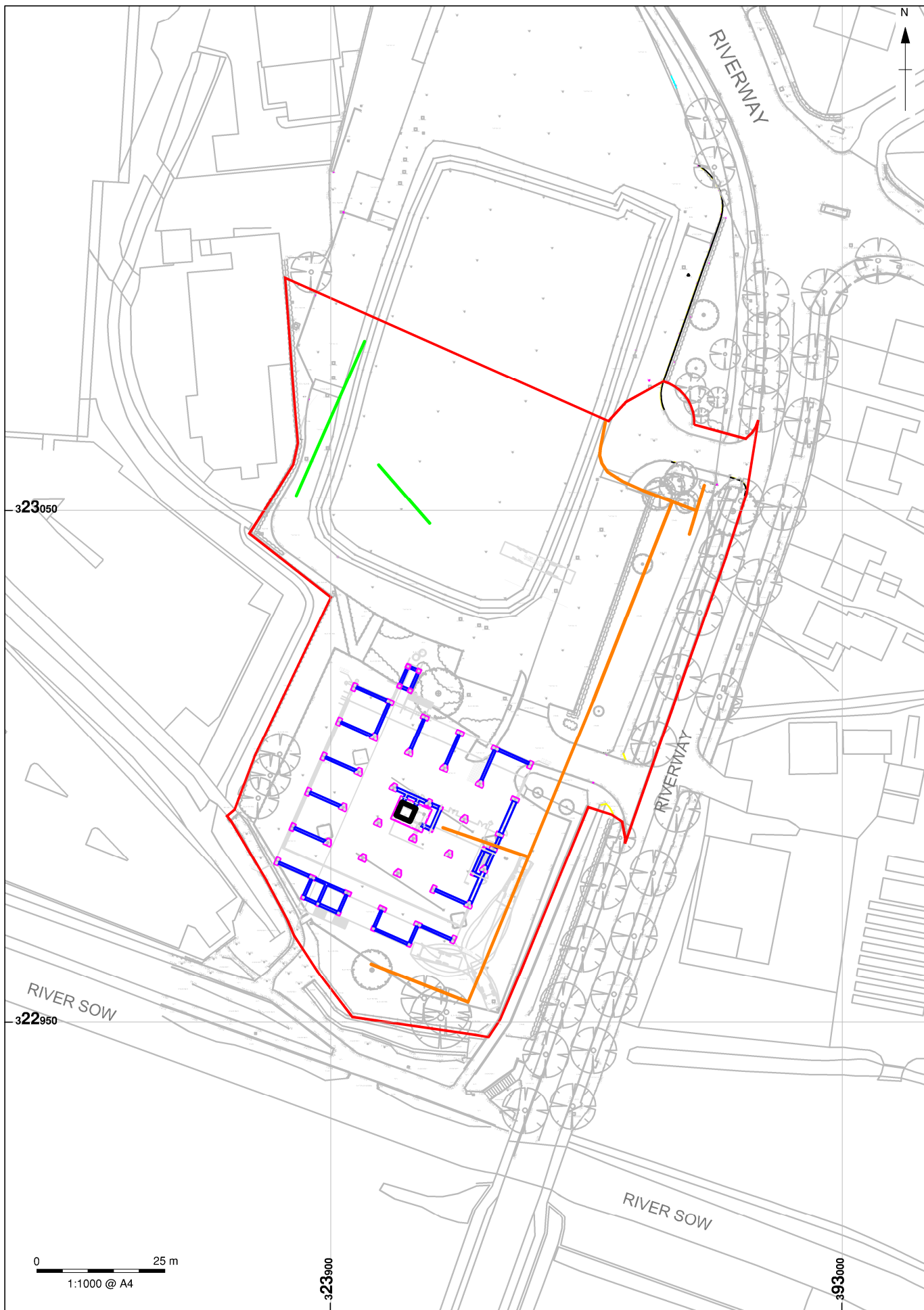
Plate 5: North-facing view of service trench situated to the north-east of site

Plate 6: North-west-facing view of wall **110** and service trench



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Figure 1: Site location

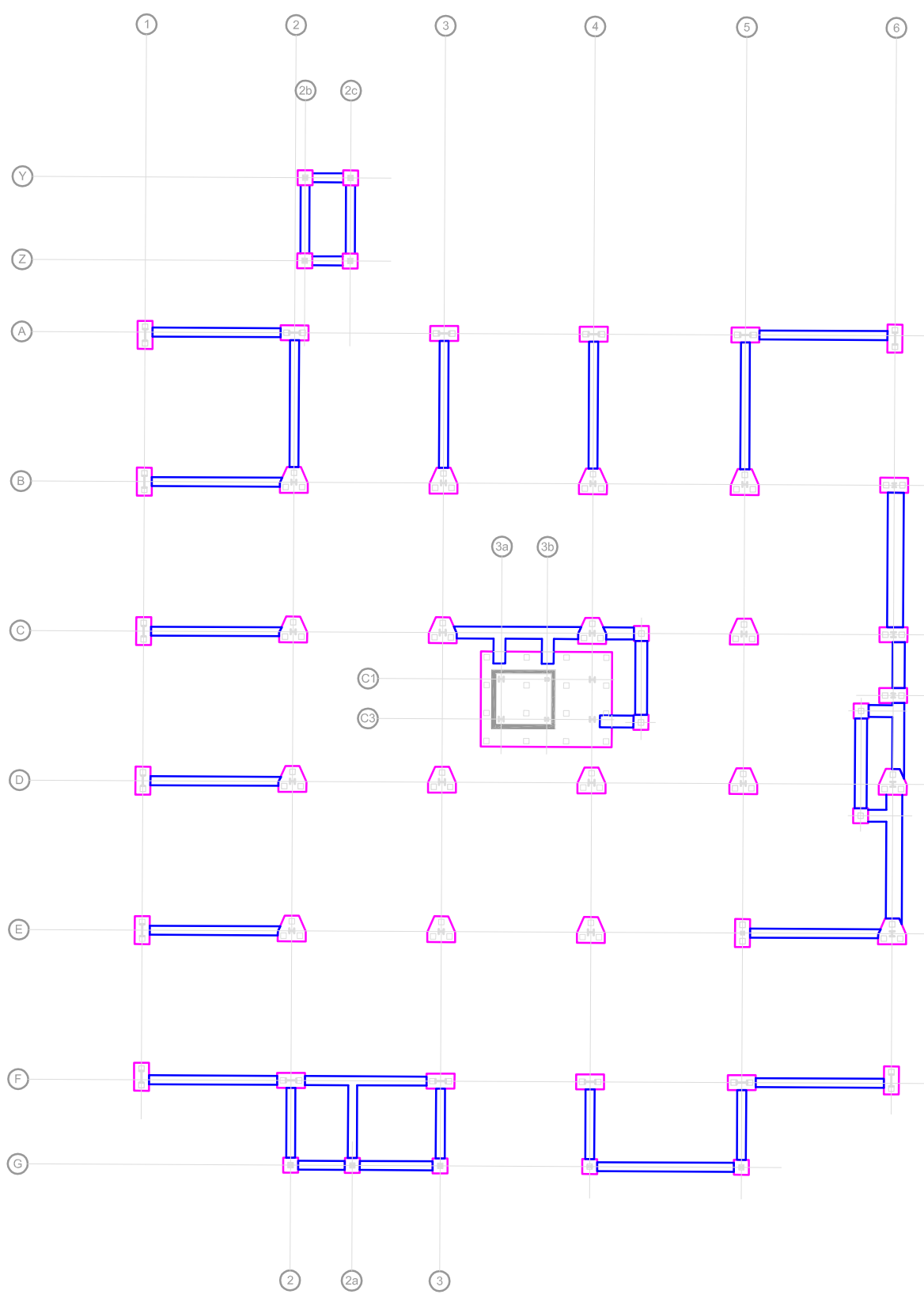


- Development Boundary
- Pile Trenches
- Beam Trenches
- Lift Shaft
- Drainage Trenches
- Service Trenches



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Figure 2: Trench location plan



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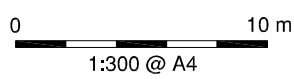


Figure 3: Plan of pile and beam trenches



Plate 1: South-west-facing section of pile trench F3



Plate 2: North-facing view of pile trench B3 to A3



Plate 3: Oblique shot of east-facing section of pile trench A1



Plate 4: East-facing sample section of drainage trench to the north-west of site



Plate 5: North-facing view of service trench situated to the north-east of site



Plate 6: North-west-facing view of wall **110** and service trench.



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