

# DEVELOPMENT TO THE REAR OF 53 KING STREET, BLACKBURN, LANCASHIRE

## Archaeological Evaluation



**Oxford Archaeology North**

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## SUMMARY

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As part of a planning application by Capita Symonds (reference 10/08/0187) for the construction of a new highway link road, together with associated drainage, lighting and landscaping works at Freckleton Street and Montague Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, Egerton Lea was commissioned to undertake a desk-based assessment of the area. The assessment revealed the possibility that a builders' merchant's yard on Chapel Street, just to the rear of 53 King Street (SD 6792 2778), may formerly have been the site of a late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Roman Catholic burial ground. A programme of further investigation was established in consultation with Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) and accordingly, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by Capita Symonds to undertake an evaluation excavation by trial trenching prior to the development of the site. The following document reports on the results of this work, which was undertaken in November 2008.

The two trial trenches (one 5.9m by 4m at the top and the other 4m by 4m, each stepped to accommodate health and safety constraints) revealed a 0.6 to 1.2m-thick layer of demolition rubble or made ground upon which the current tarmac surface of the yard sat. This material overlay natural sands, which were tested down to a depth of 3m below ground level (bgl) in Trench 1 and 2.4m bgl in Trench 2. No sign of burial or human activity was identified within the investigated areas, although the possibility that other areas of the site were utilised for such activity cannot be entirely discounted.

Much of the made ground identified during the investigation relates to debris from the demolition of older structures on and around the site and there is a possibility that archaeological remains associated with these historic eighteenth- and nineteenth-century buildings, including the Roman Catholic chapel, the chapel cottage, high-status properties on King Street and lower-class buildings on Chapel Street, may survive within and around the present site of investigation, particularly if they had been cellared.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Andrew Conroy and Stuart Edworthy of Capita Symonds for commissioning the works and Trevor Grundy for his provision of advice and information at the beginning of the project. OA North is also grateful to the staff of Byroms Builders' Merchant for clearing the site prior to the investigation and arranging for the removal of excess arisings. Thanks are due to Doug Moir of Lancashire County Archaeology Service, as well as Joyce Walkden and Colin Clark of the Environmental Health Department of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council. The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Gibson, and Mark Oldham, the report was produced by Mark Gibson and illustrated by Alix Sperr. The project was managed by Stephen Rowland, who also edited the report.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 A planning application (10/08/0187) has been submitted by Capita Symonds to Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council for the construction of a new highway link road, together with associated drainage, lighting and landscaping works at Freckleton Street and Montague Street, Blackburn, Lancashire. A desk-based assessment of the proposed development area (Egerton Lea 2007) identified the possibility that part of the proposed development footprint located off Chapel Street to the rear of 53 King Street (SD 6792 2778; Fig 1) may once have been occupied by an eighteenth- to nineteenth-century Roman Catholic burial ground. As there is no documentary evidence of burials on the site, Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) deemed it prudent to undertake a scheme of intrusive archaeological investigation and issued a brief for a trial trench evaluation (*Appendix 1*). Following a submission of costs, and an agreement to operate in accordance with the LCAS brief, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by Capita Symonds to undertake the works.
- 1.1.2 Two archaeological trial trenches were excavated at the site in November 2008 in order to evaluate the extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological features and deposits that may have been present. The trench locations were agreed with LCAS prior to the works, with one square trench placed in the centre of the putative burial ground and another in the northern corner where the graveyard boundary was presumed to lie.

### 1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 Blackburn is located on the very western edge of the Pennines and is one of a number of closely neighbouring towns and large villages which contribute much to the Lancashire Valleys countryside character area (LCC 2005, 8; Countryside Commission 1998, 101). The historic core of Blackburn lies on the west bank of the meandering River Blackwater, and has since expanded along the relatively flat river valley and thence to the base of the surrounding hills (LCC 2005, 8). The proposed development site lies on Chapel Street, to the rear of 53 King Street, on the western edge of Blackburn town centre (NGR SD 6792 2778). It was until recently in use as a builders' merchant's yard, and comprises mainly tarmac/concrete hardstanding with surrounding warehouse buildings. There is a distinct drop in ground level from Chapel Street to King Street and, whilst the area of investigation forms a level terrace retained by old stone walls (potentially forming the mutual boundary between the rear of 53 King Street and the putative burial ground), ground to the immediate rear of 53 King Street would appear to have been dug out.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the area consists primarily of glacially-derived head and till deposits, mainly of the Rimmington Association with fluvio-glacial deposits of the Newport Association along the Blackwater valley floor

(Hall and Folland 1970, 52-4). These deposits seal rocks of the Silesian Upper Carboniferous series with Lower Westphalian coal measures (IGS 1979).

### 1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 The following section is not intended to be an exhaustive account of the archaeology of Blackburn, or the wider development area, but merely to provide a brief outline of the history of the Freckleton Chapel. The information derives largely from the desk-based assessment of the site (Egerton Lea 2007), which contains further details of the history and archaeology of the wider development area.
- 1.3.2 There is a limited amount of historical evidence for early medieval settlement in Blackburn, which is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 (LCC 2005, 17). The town takes its name from the stream running through the settlement, which is still known as the Blakewater or Blackwater, and it is likely that this would have formed the focus of any early occupation (*ibid*). As the centre of a hundred and a bishopric, the town was of some importance in the medieval period, but associated activity appears to have remained focused around the historic core of Church Street, Darwen Street, the Market Place and the lower reaches of Northgate; it was not until the later seventeenth and eighteenth centuries that concentrated settlement extended into the area of King Street (OA North 2008).
- 1.3.3 The site of the investigation would appear to first have been developed as a Roman Catholic chapel and associated burial ground in the late eighteenth century, although the exact chronology of events and location of the structures is slightly unclear from the historical sources (provided in Egerton Lea 2007). Blackburn's Catholics had met first in Wensley Fold, and from 1773, in a house on Old Chapel Street, near Penny Street (Duckworth 1999, 124-5). From 1781 (Child 1999, 125) a chapel to the rear of King Street was in use until it became too small for the congregation over 40 years later, but it would appear that these functions were served by two separate structures. The earliest building (referred to as a cottage in 1831, when it had become an office of the Overseers of the Poor and the Surveyors of the Highways (Egerton Lea 2008, 5)) may have combined the function of priest's house on one floor, and religious observance on the other. The cottage is said to have stood adjacent to Chapel Street (Egerton Lea 2008, 4) and may be an L-shaped structure shown to the east of the putative burial ground on Gillies' map of 1824 and the Ordnance Survey (OS) first edition of 1848. As such, any archaeological remains of this building are likely to lie beneath the twentieth-century buildings on Chapel Street to the east of the investigation area. The purpose-built Roman Catholic chapel was constructed on land to the rear of numbers 45-47 King Street (Egerton Lea 2008), and next to the cottage, and may be a structure shown to the east of the present site of investigation on historic maps (Gillies 1824; OS 1848). Along Chapel Street (and within the south-eastern corner of the present investigation site) these maps also show the development of late eighteenth- early nineteenth-century structures, which are far less grand than the King Street edifices.

1.3.4 By 1826, the expanded congregation had moved to a new church, St Albans, at Larkhill and the King Street chapel appears to be used as a place of residence for the priest, who was registered as living at the old chapel in 1826 (LRO QDL/1826/B/10 in Egerton Lea 2008); by 1877 the old chapel was being used as workshops (*ibid*). The 1894 OS map would indicate that the chapel, the cottage and the modest dwellings within the present site of investigation had been demolished, with the site labelled as the County Police Station. By the time of the survey for the 1939 OS map, further buildings were constructed around the margins of the site, seemingly corresponding with the extant warehouses and storage sheds. Some credence is lent to the interpretation of the present area of investigation as a putative burial ground, as the area so adjudged has remained an open space throughout its history.



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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

- 2.1.1 The LCAS brief (*Appendix 1*) and agreed trench location plan was adhered to as fully as possible, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), and generally accepted best practice. Any divergence from the established programme of work was undertaken in agreement with LCAS.
- 2.1.2 **Trench configuration:** in total, two trial trenches were excavated (Fig 2). Trench 1 was located within the southern part of the site to establish the presence, depth, density and state of preservation of any human remains, associated funerary artefacts or any other archaeological remains. Trench 1 measured 5.9m north-east/south-west by 4m north-west/south-east. It was initially excavated to a depth of 1.2m where a step of 1m was left on each side and the central portion was taken down to a maximum depth of 3m below ground level. Trench 2 was placed to the north-east of Trench 1 to establish the north-western extent of the putative burial ground. It was, however, moved *c* 4m southward from its original proposed location in order to avoid a deep modern drainage sump. Trench 2 measured 4m north-east/south-west by 4m north-west/south-east and was excavated initially to a depth of 1.2m before being stepped and the central portion excavated to a depth of 2.4m below ground level.
- 2.1.3 **Excavation:** prior to OA North arriving on site, concrete from the area of the trenches was broken-out with a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a pecker and was then removed from the site. Both trenches were scanned with a cable avoidance tool and then the excavation of the trenches proceeded with an 8-ton 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless bucket; the same plant was used for backfilling. The machine operated under archaeological supervision, down to either the first archaeological deposits or until it was clear that no archaeological deposits were located within the trench. Given that grave cuts can be very difficult to observe in many types of sediment, especially sand, deposits of sand within the trenches were test-excavated in order to observe if they did contain human remains or not. All spoil was scanned for artefacts. The depth of Trenches 1 and 2 and the nature of the deposits within them meant that they could not be entered for health and safety reasons, and were recorded from the surface.
- 2.1.4 Recording comprised a full description and preliminary classification of the deposits and materials revealed on OA North *pro-forma* sheets. An indexed photographic record using monochrome, colour slide and digital formats was maintained throughout. The trenches were located with a GPS and tied into the Ordnance Survey grid and the field survey data was incorporated with digital map data in a CAD system to create the figures used in this report.

## **2.2 ARCHIVE**

- 2.2.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project brief (*Appendix 1*), and with current IFA (2001), English Heritage (2006) and UKIC guidelines (1990). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office on completion of the project and a copy of this report will be lodged with the Lancashire Historic Environmental Record, Preston.

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## 3. EVALUATION RESULTS

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### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 Two trial trenches were excavated as detailed in the methodology (*Section 2.1*). An overview of the results is given below, with detailed descriptions of each deposit provided in *Appendix 2*.

### 3.2 TRENCH 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 measured 5.9m by 4m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 3m. Following the removal of the modern tarmac yard surface (**101**), a deposit of sand, stone chippings and building rubble (**102**) was located within the entirety of the investigated trench area. The base of this material dipped from 0.6m below ground level (bgl) at the north-western side of the trench, to 1.2m bgl on the south-eastern side. It is likely that this deposit relates to the demolition of previous buildings/structures on site and the levelling of the ground to make it usable as a yard.

3.2.2 Below **102** was a deposit of soft light brownish-orange sand (**103**) which contained the occasional band of clay (less than 5mm thick) of a similar hue. This deposit continued beyond the final depth of the trench (3m) showing no signs of disturbance or human influence and appears to be a natural fluvial deposit.

### 3.3 TRENCH 2

3.3.1 Trench 2 measured 4m by 4m in size, excavated to a maximum depth of 2.4m. The excavation revealed similar stratigraphy to Trench 1 except that the made ground (**202**) petered-out before reaching the northern extent of the trench.

### 3.4 FINDS

3.4.1 No finds were recovered from either trench.

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## 4. CONCLUSIONS

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### 4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The excavation of the trial trenches revealed no evidence for burial or any other archaeological remains. Although the uppermost deposits of sterile sand appeared to have been disturbed by the events which created the demolition rubble/made ground layer and the laying of the hardstanding for the builders' merchant's yard, it seems highly unlikely that any such truncation was sufficient to remove individual burials let alone every trace of grave cuts, disarticulated bone or loose coffin fittings. It thus seems more likely that the evaluated parts of the site were never used for inhumation, rather than that any burials had been exhumed when the chapel had fallen out of use and the congregation had moved on.
- 4.1.2 It is known that buildings had formerly stood within and around the edges of the site of investigation, and it seems most likely that the demolition of these structures and the redistribution of the resultant material has given rise to made ground layer **102/202**, which petered-out away from the sites of known former buildings on Chapel Street. The base of this layer was irregular, and it is possible that it had been pressed into voids created by the grubbing-out of earlier features and structures, but, given the lack of activity shown by the cartographic sources, any irregularities might be explained just as easily by the softness of the underlying sandy natural substrate. Certainly, the depth of undisturbed natural sand apparently surviving within the terrace retained by the 53 King Street back yard wall demonstrates the volume of material that is likely to have been dug out when that building was constructed in the late eighteenth century.
- 4.1.3 Although placed along the interpolated line of the proposed boundary wall for the putative burial ground, Trench 2 showed no trace of such a structure. Given the fact that the terrace lies at a level thought to be close to that of the original ground surface, traces of any such wall might be expected to be visible at shallow depth. It is thus possible that any such wall could have been completely levelled and robbed-out during subsequent reorganisation of the site, particularly if it had shallow foundations.

### 4.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE

- 4.2.1 The results of the present scheme of evaluation would indicate that it is unlikely that the current site of the builders' merchant's yard, was ever used as a burial ground. However, the intensity and location of usage of burial grounds can be variable and there is a small possibility that parts of the site outside of the evaluation trenches were utilised for inhumation. Overall, the potential for the discovery of human remains during any redevelopment of this area is low.
- 4.2.2 There is a greater possibility of the preservation of structural remains and associated features within and around the edges of the yard, including the

chapel cottage, which stood on Chapel Street and, to its north, the Catholic chapel itself. Remains of both may lie within the eastern part of the yard and beneath existing warehouse buildings and have the potential to survive as well-preserved below-ground remains, particularly if they were cellared. Similarly, there is good potential for the preservation of remains associated with the modest houses that formerly occupied the north side of Chapel Street within and around the extant builders' merchant's yard, and also, of now demolished higher-status buildings on King Street (which were highly likely to have been semi-basemented, if not completely cellared).

4.2.3 Thus, there is a good chance that any programme of further archaeological works on and around the site will encounter archaeological remains of local and regional significance. Any human remains identified on the site would have enormous potential to provide a time-specific 'snapshot' of the demography, religious practices, funerary observances and material culture, as well as the everyday lives, of a specific section of Blackburn's population at a key period in the economic expansion of a town at the heart of the industrial revolution. The value of such an assemblage is recognised within the *North West Region Research Framework for the Industrial Period* (Newman and McNeil 2007, 150), and would gain further significance if it could be comparatively analysed with other material from churchyard excavations in Blackburn, Darwen and the surrounding area.

4.2.4 Any identifiable remains of the chapel would be of considerable significance, given that little work has been undertaken on the region's extant Non-Conformist chapels, let alone their archaeological remains (*ibid*). As such, the archaeological remains of the chapel have enormous potential to inform about the physical display and portrayal of pre-Emancipation Catholicism as well as the status and aspirations of its congregation and subscribers, especially when any such data could be integrated with that gained from the study of any human remains. By the same token, any remains of the cottage could provide important information for the development of these themes. Any remains of eighteenth-century and early nineteenth-century vernacular secular structures that may survive within the development area can also be considered of great value. They have the potential to provide a rare (considering the wholesale eradication of such properties throughout Blackburn over the course of the later nineteenth and twentieth centuries) glimpse of the construction, appearance and usage of early development low quality, low class buildings, and of the lifestyles and occupations of those who lived and worked therein. Given the enormous social- and economic-historical significance for Blackburn of the eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century mercantile development of King Street, any remains of the town houses, warehouses or associated structures that lie within the northern part of the development site could yield important archaeological information. Such themes are again addressed as initiatives within the *North West Region Research Framework for the Industrial Period* (Newman and McNeil 2007, 146).

### **4.3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 4.3.1 Surviving elements of any of the structures and features outlined within *Section 4.2* as lying within and around the present builders' merchant's yard would be extremely vulnerable to negative groundworks on the site. It is likely that any development may be proceeded by the removal of material down to the natural geology (which would include any subsoil features) and possibly even of the soft underlying natural sand where this is deemed an unsuitable substrate (or, indeed, a valuable resource). Preparatory works are also likely to involve the removal of any remaining structural elements, which might form undesirable 'hard spots.'

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## 6. ILLUSTRATIONS

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### 6.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location Map

Figure 2: Plan of Site showing Trench 1 and Trench 2

### 6.2 PLATES

Plate 1: Trench 1 looking north-east

Plate 2: Trench 2 looking north-west

Plate 3: Base of Trench 2 showing natural sands **203**

Plate 4: The excavation of Trench 1, looking north

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## APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

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# SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND AT FRECKLETON STREET, BLACKBURN (SD 6792 2778)

**Specification prepared at the request of the Mr Andrew Conroy on behalf of Capita Symonds**

## **1. Summary**

1.1 A recent desk-based assessment by Egerton Lea of the proposed Freckleton Street Link Road area has indicated a number of sites of archaeological interest, one of which is the possible site of a late 18<sup>th</sup> century Roman Catholic burial ground.

1.2 A limited amount of archaeological work consisting of trial trenching is proposed to help establish the extent of any surviving buried archaeological deposits associated with the burial ground. This specification has been written by Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS), the holders of the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER). Depending upon the results obtained, LCAS may recommend that archaeological deposits be preserved in situ, or that additional archaeological work may need to be carried out. Any additional work will be governed by separate specifications.

## **2. Planning Background**

2.1 A planning application (10/08/0187) has been submitted to Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council for the construction of a new highway link road together with associated drainage, lighting and landscaping works at Freckleton Street and Montague Street, Blackburn. Comments from both LCAS and English Heritage have highlighted the need for substantial works to assess the significance of the archaeological resource and the potential impact of the proposed road.

2.2 The evaluation of the possible Roman Catholic burial ground forms a part of the overall strategy of evaluation of the route of the road, which has to date involved a desk-based assessment, as well as some as yet incomplete assessment of the significance and state of preservation of 53 King Street, a Grade II Listed Building.

## **3. Site Location**

3.1 The site lies off Chapel Street (SD 6792 2778), to the rear of 53 King Street, Blackburn on the western edge of the town centre. The site is currently in use as a Builders' Merchants Yard, and comprises mainly tarmac/concrete hardstanding.

## **4. Archaeological Interest**

4.1 Egerton Lea's *Freckleton Street Link Road, A Desk-based Assessment* (2007) has identified the area to the rear of 53 King Street as being the site of a Roman Catholic burial ground, associated with a nearby Chapel in use from c.1783-c.1826. No documentation has been forthcoming to indicate the likely number of burials that may be encountered, or if the site was cleared of human remains after the site went out of use. The proposed route of the Link Road will pass through the site, and it is

likely that construction works would require the removal of any surviving human remains.

## 5. Aim of the Evaluation

5.1 The aim of the evaluation is to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits within the application area. The information gained will allow the Planning Authority to make a reasonable and informed decision on the planning application with regard to whether archaeological deposits should be preserved in-situ, or may more appropriately be recorded archaeologically prior to destruction (whether this be a summary record from a salvage excavation or watching brief, or a detailed record from full open area excavation).

## 6. Evaluation Methodology

### 6.1 General Instructions

#### 6.1.1 Health and Safety

The archaeologists on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations, and the contractor must ensure that all relevant requirements are met with regard both to site personnel and to members of the public. This work may require the preparation of a Risk Assessment of the site, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations prior to submission of the tender. **LCAS and its officers cannot be held responsible for any accidents that may occur to outside contractors engaged to undertake this work while attempting to conform to this specification.**

#### 6.1.2 Confirmation of Adherence to Specification

Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the archaeological contractor must confirm adherence to this specification in writing to LCAS, or state (with reasons) any proposals to vary the specification. Should the contractor wish to vary the specification, then written confirmation of the agreement of LCAS to any variations is required prior to work commencing. Unauthorised variations are made at the sole risk of the contractor (see para. 13.2, below). **Modifications presented in the form of a re-written project brief will not be considered by LCAS.**

#### 6.1.3 Confirmation of Timetable and Contractors' Qualifications

Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the archaeological contractor should provide LCAS **in writing** with a projected timetable for the site work, and with details regarding staff structure and numbers. The names and *curriculum vitae* of key project members (the project manager, site supervisor, any proposed specialists *etc.*), along with details of any specialist sub-contractors, should also be supplied to LCAS (if *C.V.s* have not previously been supplied). All project staff provided by the archaeological contractor must be suitably qualified and experienced for their roles. The timetable should be adequate to allow the work to be undertaken to the appropriate professional standard, subject to the ultimate judgement of LCAS.

#### 6.1.4 Documentary research

Contractors are in this instance directed to consult the Egerton Lea report *Freckleton Street Link Road, Blackburn, Desk-based Assessment* (December 2007) and *Addenda 1 & 2* (March 2008).

As Blackburn lies within Salford Diocese, LCAS has made initial contact with the Secretary of the Historic Church Committee, John Cowdall, who has indicated that although he does not hold any information concerning the site, that the Diocesan Archivist, Fr. Lannon or the Finance Director, Noel Loughrey might do so. LCAS is currently awaiting a response to an e-mail request to Mr Loughrey for such information he may hold.

### **7. Trenching Methodology**

#### **7.1 Trench Size and Placement**

The work is will involve the excavation of two areas 4m x 4m which can be machine-opened. The contractor should also allow for a contingency allowance of a further 10 sq m of the site. The use of the contingency will depend upon the results obtained in the initial trial trenching. The use of the contingency will be at the decision of LCAS, whose decision will be issued in writing, if necessary in retrospect after site discussions. It is expected that one of the two trenches will be located with the aim of also determining the eastern extent of the cemetery. Should this not be located within the excavated area, then consideration should be given to the use of the contingency as a means of doing so.

#### **7.2 Method of Excavation**

The trial trenches may be opened and the topsoil and recent overburden removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits of a **maximum** 0.2m. thickness, by the use of an appropriate machine using a wide toothless ditching blade. **Under no circumstances should the machine be used to cut arbitrary trenches down to natural deposits.** Any machine work must be carried out under direct archaeological supervision and the machine halted if significant archaeological deposits are encountered. The top of the first significant archaeological horizon may be exposed by the machine, but must then be cleaned by hand and inspected for features and then dug by hand.

#### **7.3 Method of Recording**

The trenches are to be recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation. The stratigraphy of each trial trench is to be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. No archaeological deposits should be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable in achieving the objectives of this evaluation, although generally a 50% sample of any features identified is expected to be half-sectioned and the depth of archaeological deposits must be assessed. Modern artefacts are to be noted but not retained (19<sup>th</sup>-century material and earlier should be retained.)

#### **7.4 Use of Metal Detectors on Site**

7.4.1 Spoil heaps are to be scanned for non-ferrous metal artefacts using a metal detector capable of making this discrimination, operated by an experienced metal detector user (if necessary, operating under the supervision of the contracting

archaeologist). Modern artefacts are to be noted but not retained (19<sup>th</sup>-century material and earlier should be retained.)

**7.4.2** If a non-professional archaeologist is to be used to carry out the metal-detecting, a formal agreement of their position as a sub-contractor working under direction must be agreed in advance of their use on site. This formal agreement will apply whether they are paid or not.

**7.4.3** To avoid financial claims under the Treasure Act a suggested wording for this formal agreement with the metal detectorist is: "In the process of working on the archaeological investigation at [*location of site*] between the dates of [*insert dates*], [*name of person contributing to project*] is working under direction or permission of [*name of archaeological organisation*] and hereby waives all rights to rewards for objects discovered that could otherwise be payable under the Treasure Act 1996."

### **7.5 Environmental Sampling Strategy**

Deposits must be sampled for retrieval and assessment of the preservation conditions and potential for analysis of all bioarchaeological remains. A sampling strategy must be agreed with a recognised bioarchaeologist, and the sampling methods should follow the procedures outlined by the English Heritage's Centre for Archaeology Guidelines, *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2002/01). Provision should also be made for the specialist to visit the site and discuss the sampling strategy, if necessary.

### **7.6 Conservation Strategy**

A conservation strategy must be developed in collaboration with a recognised laboratory. All finds must be assessed in order to recover information that will contribute to an understanding of their deterioration and hence preservation potential, as well as identifying potential for further investigation. Furthermore, all finds must be stabilised and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the receiving museum. As a guiding principle only artefacts of a "displayable" quality would warrant full conservation, but metalwork and coinage from stratified contexts would be expected to be X-rayed if necessary, and conservation costs should also be included as a contingency.

### **7.7 Documentation**

The actual areas of trenching and any features of possible archaeological concern noted within the trenches, should be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, summary scale drawings and written descriptions sufficient to permit the preparation of a report on the material. The site grid is to be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on the largest scale map available of the area (either 1:2500 or 1:1250).

### **7.8 Location of Services, etc.**

The archaeological contractors will be responsible for locating any drainage pipes, service pipes, cables *etc.* which may cross any of the trench lines, and for taking the necessary measures to avoid disturbing such services.

## 7.9 Human Remains

Any human remains that are discovered must initially be left in-situ, covered and protected. If removal is necessary, this must comply with the relevant legislation, any Home Office and local environmental health regulations and English Heritage's and The Church of England's *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England* (2005) where relevant. Ethical guidance for burial grounds of non-Christian faiths should be sought from the appropriate religious authorities.

## 7.10 Treasure Act

The terms of the Treasure Act 1996 must be followed with regard to any finds that might fall within its purview. Any finds must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures as laid down in the "Code of Practice". Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.

## 8. Notification of the commencement of work

8.1 The project will be monitored as necessary and practicable by LCAS, in its role as "curator" of the county's archaeology. LCAS should receive as much notice as possible and certainly one week of the intention to start fieldwork. This notification is to be supplied in writing, and copied to the relevant Museum (see para. 10.1 below). A copy of the contractor's risk assessment should accompany notification of intention to commence work.

## 9. Access/Monitoring Methodology

9.1 The representative of LCAS will be afforded access to the site at any reasonable time. It is usual practice that the visit is arranged in advance, but this is not always feasible. LCAS' representative will be provided with a site tour and an overview of the site by the senior archaeologist present and should be afforded the opportunity to view all trenches, any finds made that are still on site, and any records not in immediate use. It is anticipated that the records of an exemplar context that has previously been fully recorded will be examined. Any observed deficiencies during the site visit are to be made good to the satisfaction of LCAS' representative, by the next agreed site meeting.

## 10. Excavation Archives Deposition.

10.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the archaeological contractor must contact the relevant District museum archaeological curator in writing (copied to LCAS) to determine the museum's requirements for the deposition of an excavation archive. In this case the contact is Edmund Southworth, Curator, Museum of Lancashire, Stanley Street, Preston, PR1 4YP; telephone 01772 534075, fax: 01772 534079.

10.2 It is the policy of the Museum of Lancashire to accept complete excavation archives, including primary site records and research archives and finds, from all excavations carried out in the County, which it serves.

10.3 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to endeavour to obtain consent of the landowner, in writing, to the deposition of finds with the Museum of Lancashire.

10.4 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to meet the Museum of Lancashire's requirements with regard to the preparation of fieldwork archives for deposition.

10.5 The museums officer named in 10.1 above should be notified in writing of the commencement of fieldwork at the same time as the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record.

## **11. Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries**

11.1 Should there be unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, more detailed recording than is appropriate within the terms of this specification, then the archaeological contractor should urgently contact LCAS with the relevant information to enable them to resolve the matter with the developer.

## **12. Post-Excavation Work**

### **12.1 After Completion of Fieldwork**

On completion of the fieldwork, any samples taken shall be processed and any finds shall be cleaned, identified, assessed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. A fully indexed field archive shall be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographic negatives and a complete set of labelled photographic prints. An index to the field archive is to be deposited with LCAS (preferably as an appendix in the report). The original archive is to accompany the deposition of any finds, providing the landowner agrees to the deposition of finds in a publicly accessible archive (see para. 10.1 above). In the absence of this agreement the field archive (less finds) is to be deposited with LCAS.

### **12.2 Report Format and Content**

A report should be produced, which should include background information on the need for the project, a description of the methodology employed, and a full description and interpretation of results produced. It is not envisaged that the report is likely to be published, but it should be produced with sufficient care and attention to detail to be of academic use to future researchers. Location plans should be produced at a scale which enables easy site identification and which depicts the full extent of the site investigated (a scale of 1:50,000 is not regarded as appropriate unless accompanied by a more detailed plan or plans). Site plans should be at an appropriate scale showing trench layout (as dug), features located and, where possible, predicted archaeological deposits. Upon completion of each evaluation trench all sections containing archaeological features will be drawn. Section drawings (at a minimum scale of 1:20) must include heights O.D. Plans (at a minimum scale of 1:50) must include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features. Where no archaeological deposits are encountered at least one long section of each trench will be drawn. Artefact analysis is to include the production of



a descriptive catalogue with finds critical for dating and interpretation illustrated. Details of the style and format of the report are to be determined by the archaeological contractor, but should include a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive, and as an appendix, a copy of this specification.

### **12.3 Publicity**

If the project is to be publicised in any way (including media releases, publications etc.), then it is expected that LCAS will be given the opportunity to consider whether it wishes its collaborative role to be acknowledged, and if so, the form of words used will be at LCAS' discretion.

### **12.4 Consideration of Appropriate Mitigation Strategy**

The report should not give a judgement on whether preservation or further investigation is considered appropriate, but should provide an interpretation of results, placing them in a local and regional, and if appropriate, national context. However, a client may wish to separately commission the contractor's view as to an appropriate treatment of the resource identified.

### **12.5 Report Deposition**

An 'Adobe Acrobat pdf' copy of the report on CD-ROM is to be supplied to the HER held by LCAS within a period of two months following completion of fieldwork unless specialist reports are awaited. In the latter case a revised date should be agreed with LCAS. The report will be supplied on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time (generally not exceeding six months, unless otherwise agreed). Copies should also be supplied to the relevant Local Planning Authority Planning Officer.

### **12.6 OASIS**

Archaeological contractors must complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Contractors are advised to contact Lancashire HER prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, Lancashire HER may place the information on a web-site. Please ensure that you and your client agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to the case officer (Ken Davies) at Lancashire HER

## **13. General considerations**

### **13.1 Authorised alterations to specification by contractor**

It should be noted that this specification is based upon records available in the HER and on a brief examination of the site by LCAS. Archaeological contractors submitting tenders should carry out an inspection of the site prior to submission. If, on first visiting the site or at any time during the course of the recording exercise, it appears in the archaeologist's professional judgement that

- i) a part or the whole of the site is not amenable to recording as detailed above, and/or
- ii) an alternative approach may be more appropriate or likely to produce more informative results, and/or

iii) any features which should be recorded, as having a bearing on the interpretation of the structure, have been omitted from the specification,

then it is expected that the archaeologist will contact LCAS as a matter of urgency. If contractors have not yet been appointed, any variations which LCAS considers to be justifiable on archaeological grounds will be incorporated into a revised specification, which will then be re-issued to the developer for redistribution to the tendering contractors.

### **13. 2 Unauthorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor**

It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that they have obtained LCAS's consent in writing to any variation of the specification prior to the commencement of on-site work or (where applicable) prior to the finalisation of the tender. Unauthorised variations may result in LCAS being unable to recommend determination of the planning application and are therefore made solely at the risk of the contractor.

### **14. Further details**

14.1 Further information about the building and proposed development can be obtained from Andrew Conroy, Capita Blackburn Business Centre, Castle Way House, 17 Preston New Road, Blackburn, BB2 1AU, Tel: 01254 273306, Fax: 01254 273429, Mob: 07717 003828, e-mail: [Andrew.conroy@capita.co.uk](mailto:Andrew.conroy@capita.co.uk).

14.2 Any technical queries arising from the specification detailed above, should be addressed to LCAS without delay.

### **15. Valid period of specification**

15.1 This specification is valid for a period of one year from date of issue. After that time it may need to be revised to take into account new discoveries, changes in policy or the introduction of new working practices or techniques.

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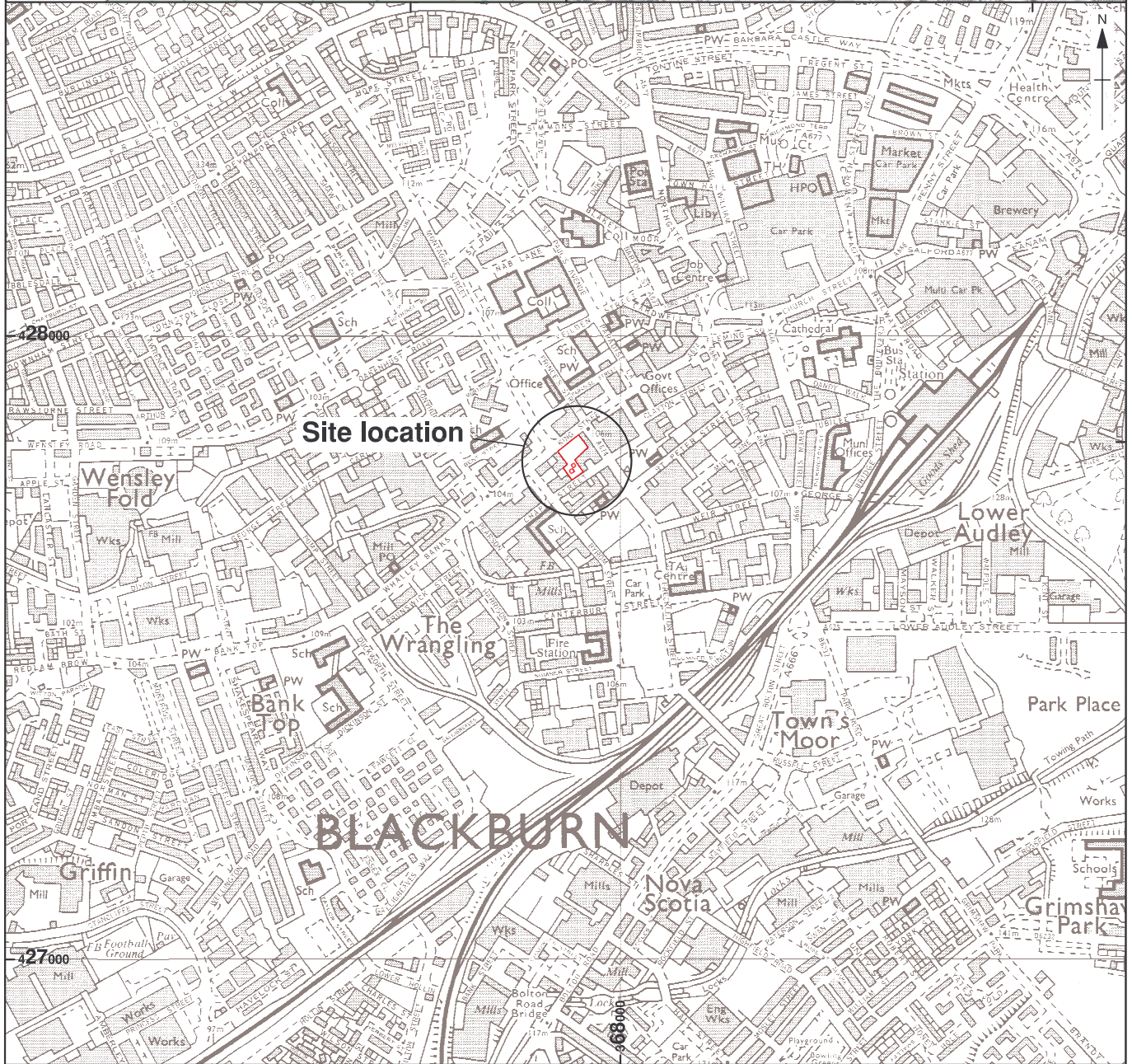
June 2008

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No	Trial Trench No	Maximum Depth (m)	Category	Description
<b>101</b>	Trench 1	0.2m	Layer	Modern tarmac and concrete hardstanding of builders' merchants yard. Same deposit as <b>201</b> .
<b>102</b>	Trench 2	1.2m	Layer	Post-medieval demolition debris and made-ground. A mixture of sand, stone chippings and building rubble. Varies from a depth of 1.2m at deepest on the south-east side of the trench to 0.6m at the north-west side. Potentially same deposit as <b>202</b> .
<b>103</b>	Trench 2	>3m	Layer	Soft light brownish-orange sand with occasional clays bands. Completely sterile and undisturbed. Natural deposit. Same as <b>203</b> .
<b>201</b>	Trench 2	0.2m	Layer	Modern tarmac and concrete hardstanding of builders' merchants yard. Same deposit as <b>101</b> .
<b>202</b>	Trench 2	1.2m	Layer	Post-medieval demolition debris and made ground. A mixture of sand, stone chippings and building rubble. Only appears for 1.5m at the south-eastern side of the trench. Potentially same deposit as <b>102</b> .
<b>203</b>	Trench 2	>2.4m	Layer	Soft light brownish orange sand with occasional clays bands. Completely sterile and undisturbed. Natural deposit. Same as <b>103</b> .

## APPENDIX 3: ARCHIVE INDEX

Record group	Contents	Comments	Box/File Number
	<b>Introduction</b> Project Brief		1
A	<b>Report</b> Final Report		1
B	<b>Primary Fieldwork Records</b> Trench Records Context Records & Indices		1
C	<b>Primary Drawings</b> Annotated Plans Drawing Indices Plans/Sections		1
D	<b>Finds Box and Bag Lists</b>	N/A	
E	<b>Environmental Records</b>	N/A	
F	<b>Photographic Record</b> Photographic Indices Monochrome Colour Slides Digital		1
G	<b>Electronic Media</b>		1



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Figure 1: Site location

SR\*L10050\*APS\*13.11.08

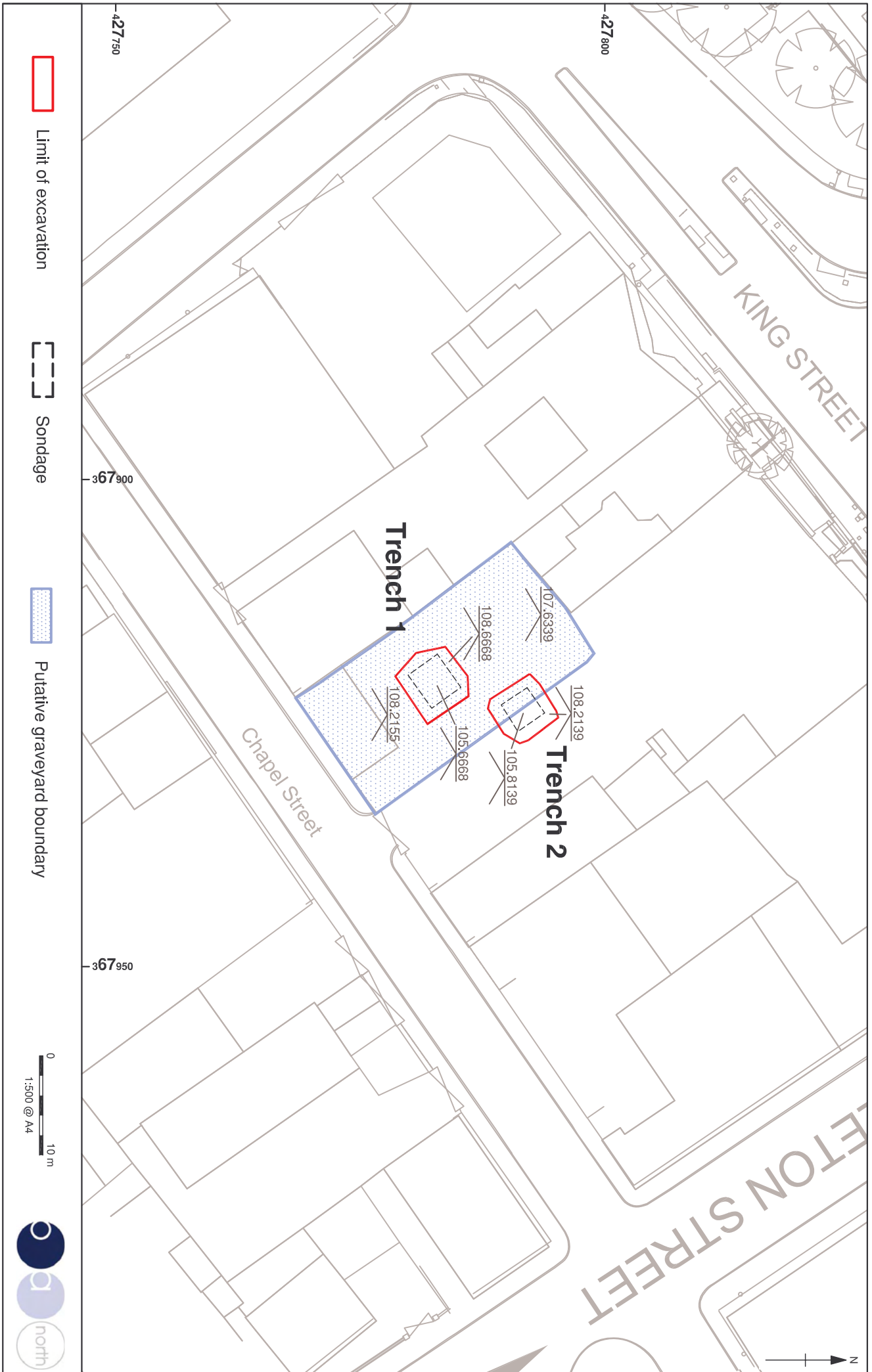


Figure 2: Plan of site showing Trench 1 and Trench 2

## PLATES

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*Plate 1: Trench 1 looking north-east*



*Plate 2: Trench 2 looking north-west*



*Plate 3: Base of Trench 2 showing natural sands 203*



*Plate 4: The excavation of Trench 1, looking north*