

**Site of St. Aidan's Church,  
South Shields,  
South Tyneside**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**Compiled by:**

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**Commissioned by:**

**Mr H. Watson**

**February 2007**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*This archaeological evaluation was undertaken to inform the Local Planning Authority of the character of surviving archaeological deposits and features on land formerly occupied by St. Aidan's Church, St. Aidan's Road, South Shields, South Tyneside. The evaluation was commissioned by Mr. H Watson ahead of a proposal for a residential development on the site. The archaeological works were carried out by TWM Archaeology in February 2007. It was anticipated that the evaluation could encounter evidence of extra mural Roman activity associated with the fort of Arbeia, 300m to the north-west, such as structural evidence of the vicus, or burials associated with a cemetery. Also, prehistoric activity in the area has been demonstrated by excavations at the fort, and thus there was a possibility that prehistoric deposits or features could be encountered during the evaluation.*

*The results of the evaluation were largely negative. Trench 1, to the north of where the church had stood, demonstrated that terracing had taken place during the construction of the church and the surrounding houses in 1887. In the southern part of the site, a single linear feature of uncertain date was recorded in Trench 3. The layer through which this feature was cut probably represents either a prehistoric or Roman ground level. No other features pre-dating the nineteenth century were recorded. The feature located in Trench 3 was at a depth of 1.50m (13.01m AOD) beneath present ground level and will not be disturbed during the construction of the new houses whose foundations lie at a maximum of 0.90m beneath ground level. In view of the paucity of evidence for archaeological features and as any surviving archaeological features in the southern third of the site are deeply buried and will not be disturbed by the development no further archaeological mitigation is recommended.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Project

- 1.1.1 This project was undertaken in response to a proposal by Mr. H Watson to undertake a residential development of 20 apartments with associated parking and landscaping on the site of St. Aidan's Church, St. Aidan's Road, South Shields.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation, conducted by TWM Archaeology, was required to inform the planning authority of the state of preservation of potential archaeological remains, in advance of the proposed development.

### 1.2 Location and Land Use

- 1.2.1 The development site is situated on land to the south of St. Aidan's Road. (Fig. 1). It is centred on NGR NZ 6760 3680. The site is bounded to the north by St. Aidan's Road, to the west by Henry Nelson Street, and to the south and east by back lanes. The development site as a whole is 1,871m<sup>2</sup> in area.
- 1.2.2 The proposed development area is currently grassed. The site slopes downwards from north-west to south-east.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There is no evidence for prehistoric activity on the proposed development area. However, excavations at Arbeia roman fort, c. 300m to the north-west, revealed evidence for continuous occupation from the Mesolithic period to the Pre-Roman Iron Age. Additionally, a number of flints were recovered from excavations at Morton Walk (Snape, 1994, 43), located 280m to the west of the site. The extent of the prehistoric occupation in the area is not known, although it is likely that the main concentration of activity was centred on the highest point of the Lawe.
- 2.2 The area of proposed development lies 300m from the south-eastern defences of the known Roman fort at South Shields. The history and chronology of the fort has been established from archaeological work undertaken between 1875 and the present day: the most recent summary of this work being Bidwell and Speak 1994. Beyond the fort ditches four main components of the Roman settlement can be expected: the civilian settlement (*vicus*), cemeteries, port and (possibly) a fort or forts earlier than that already known. Remains of the *vicus* and the cemetery are known to lie beneath the streets and houses surrounding the Fort Park. The location and form of the port are unknown

- 2.3 The extent of the civilian settlement adjacent to the fort and its cemeteries appears to have been very considerable. Buildings and chance finds of Roman artefacts have been recorded on all four sides of the fort in the area defined to the west by Mile End Road and to the south by Coston Drive and St. Aidan's Road, amounting to some 25 ha (60 acres).
- 2.4 Evidence of activity dating to the early medieval period has been recorded at Arbeia roman fort, in the form of burials and a possible church on the site of the principia (Bidwell and Speak 1994, 103). Antiquarian and historical accounts suggest that there was a substantial settlement at South Shields during this period.
- 2.5 There seems to have been no occupation on the site of the fort from the early medieval period until after 1875. In the medieval period agriculture was the main land-use in the area of the Lawe Top. There is little mention of activity within the fort or its environs in early histories, the town of South Shields being mainly confined to the riverside.
- 2.6 The foundation stone for St Aidan's Church was laid by Alderman John Readhead on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1887 and the church completed and consecrated the following year. It was built of sandstone by J.H. Morton in the later Early English Style. Hodgson describes it as having a 'chancel, clerestory, nave of five bays, aisles, organ chamber, and narthex at the west end. The chancel is divided from the nave by a moulded arch with clustered columns and carved capitals' (Hodgson 19). Deposited building plans have been recovered for the church dating to 1886, which show its original form and layout (TWAS T229/51/3184). The parish hall was added to the south-eastern part of the church in the early twentieth century.
- 2.7 An archaeological desk-based assessment (McKelvey *et al.*, 2006) of the site was undertaken by TVM Archaeology in May 2006. No other archaeological work has been carried out on the site.

### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The aim of the evaluation was to inform the planning authority of the state of preservation of any archaeological remains on the site. The evaluation assessed the likely impact of the proposed development on buried archaeological features surviving on the site.
- 3.2 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the character, extent, degree of preservation, date and level below the present ground

surface of any buried archaeological features that survive on the site. Specific objectives were:

- To evaluate and record any surviving remains of features and deposits associated with the prehistoric occupation recorded at the site of Arbeia roman fort.
- To evaluate and record any surviving remains of structures, deposits or features associated with the Arbeia roman fort, or an undiscovered earlier fort

#### **4 METHODOLOGY (Fig. 2)**

- 4.1 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer (Appendix 1).
- 4.2 Four trenches were excavated within the proposed development area. One trench was located at the northern edge of the site, adjacent to St. Aidan's Road. The remaining trenches were located in the southern part of the site. All of the trenches measured 15m by 1.5m, and were located outside of the footprint of the demolished church. The trenches were machine excavated, under direct supervision of the on-site archaeologist, down to the first significant archaeological layer and hand cleaned and excavated thereafter.
- 4.3 Photography was undertaken using both digital and 35mm colour transparency and monochrome print formats. Plans and sections were drawn at scales of 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded on *pro forma* context record sheets.
- 4.4 A temporary benchmark (TBM) was established on the site, with a value of 14.19m AOD.

## 5 RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION

### 5.1 Trench 1

- 5.1.1 Natural subsoil **(101)** was recorded at a maximum level of 16.60m AOD (0.12m BGL). The subsoil consisted of firm yellow clay, and was overlain by a 0.12m thick deposit **(100)** of modern turf and topsoil. The height of the subsoil and the lack of overburden suggest that a terrace had been cut into the slope of the hill perhaps during the construction of the church, confirming that archaeological deposits do not survive in the northern part of the site.

### 5.2 Trench 2

- 5.2.1 Natural subsoil **(209)** was recorded at a maximum level of 15.37m AOD (0.60m BGL) at the north end of the trench, sloping down to 13.70m AOD (1.45m BGL) at the south end. The subsoil was overlain by a deposit **(208)**, up to 0.41m thick, of medium orange sand, interpreted as a layer of wind-blown sand. The wind-blown sand was overlain by a 0.39m thick deposit **(207)** of mid greyish brown coarse sand containing fragments of modern wire-cut brick. This layer was probably contemporary with the construction of the church and surrounding housing, and it was cut by a service trench **(211)** for drainage. The remaining deposits recorded in Trench 2 comprised post-medieval layers of dumped material **(206, 202, 205, 204, 203 and 201)** including a substantial deposit **(201)** of re-deposited natural clay, up to 0.68m thick, which may have been associated with the construction of the main driveway of the church. The sandstone foundations of St. Aidan's Church were encountered at the northern limit of the trench.

### 5.3 Trench 3

- 5.3.1 A firm yellow clay layer **(312)** was recorded at a maximum level of 13.30m AOD (BGL). The deposit was investigated in an 0.50m deep sondage in the eastern half of the trench but it was not possible to determine unequivocally whether it represented a naturally deposited layer. It was clear, however that the layer was a former ground surface being cut by a shallow linear feature **(301)**. This north-south linear feature was 1.00m wide and 0.16m deep with concave sides and a flat base. No dating evidence was recovered although a piece of worked flint lay embedded in the upper surface of layer **312** immediately to the east of the feature. The feature was filled by a brownish-yellow sand **(300)** 0.16m thick. A similar deposit of wind blown sand **(309)**, up to 0.74m thick of soft, light brownish yellow, fine to medium sand sealed layer **312** in the eastern half of the trench. In the eastern half of the trench sand layers were interleaved between thin layers of mid greyish brown sand representing turf horizons that had developed between the

depositions of the layers of sand. The wind-blown sand deposit (309) was sealed by a layer (303) of mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of limestone. This deposit was interpreted as a probable remnant of a medieval or post-medieval ploughsoil horizon, the limestone having been added as fertilizer. A sequence of post-medieval layers (304, 313, 307, 314 and 315) and modern topsoil (302) overlay the ploughsoil.

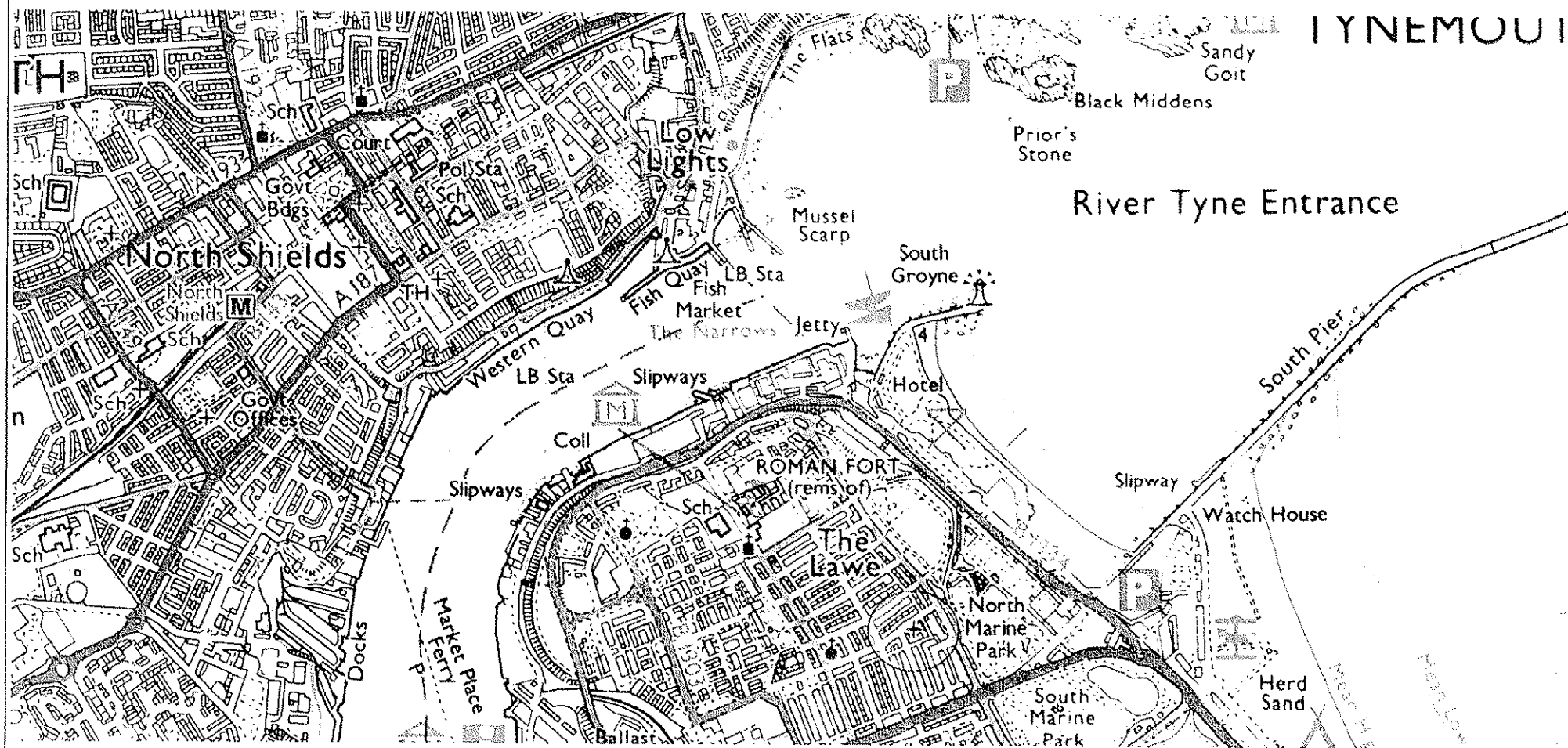
#### 5.4 Trench 4

- 5.4.1 A 0.38m thick clean deposit of mixed orange sand and grey clay was encountered at a depth of 12.75m AOD (1.32m BGL). As it was uncertain whether this represented a natural deposit a sondage was cut through this layer to a depth of 1.26m which demonstrated that layer 407 overlay clean layers of mixed grey and orange sandy clay (408), sub-angular gravel (409) and soft, light grey sand (410). It seems most probable that (407, 408, 409 and 410) represent naturally deposited layers. Layer 407 was sealed by a 0.67m thick layer of orange sand (406) equivalent to the wind-blown sands located in Trenches 2 and 3. The sand layer was sealed by a succession of post-medieval layers (405, 404 and 401) and the present ground surface (400). In the central area of the trench was the brick and concrete foundation of the spine wall (402) from St. Aidan's Church Hall.

### 6 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The results of the evaluation were largely negative. The central portion of the site has been subject to extensive disturbance during the construction of St. Aidan's Church. To the north of the church evidence of terracing was clear in Trench 1 where the natural subsoil lay at a depth of 0.20m beneath present ground level. In the southern third of the site post-medieval disturbance was less evident with extensive deposits of wind blown sand overlying clean clay and sandy clay deposits. A layer (312) sealed by these wind-blown sands had been cut by a linear feature (301) confirming that it represented a former ground surface. In excavations elsewhere on the Lawe wind blown sands have been located directly overlying Roman and prehistoric layers, typically being sealed in turn by medieval ploughsoils. On the basis of these findings it seems likely that the linear feature in Trench 3 and the ground surface through which it is cut is pre-modern in date and is likely to be of prehistoric or Roman date. The linear feature was located at a depth of 1.50m beneath present ground level and will not be disturbed during the construction of the new houses whose foundations will lie at a maximum of 0.90m beneath ground level. In view of the lack of evidence for archaeological features and as any surviving archaeological features in the southern third of the site are deeply

buried and will not be disturbed by the development no further archaeological mitigation is recommended



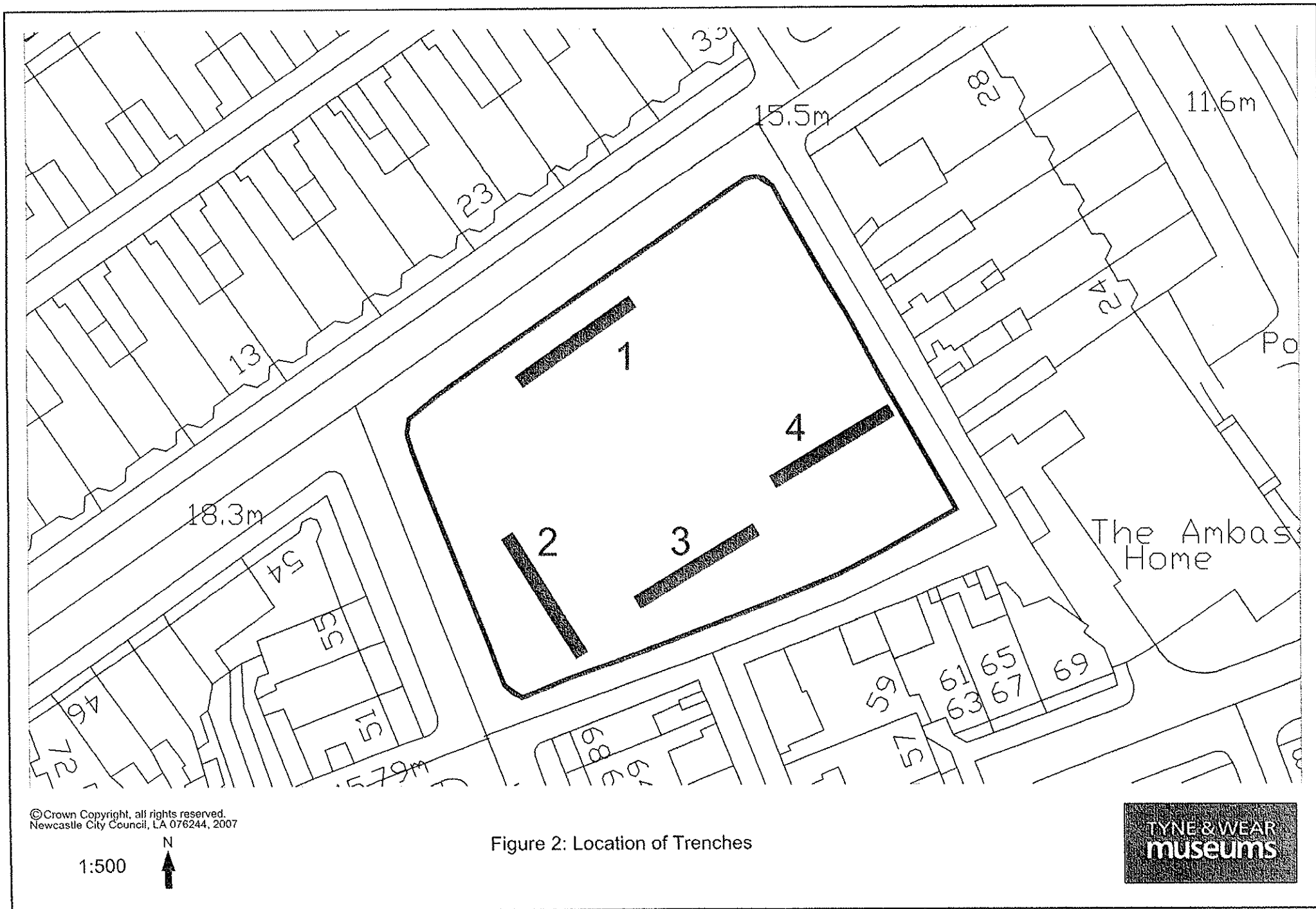
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Figure 1: Location of Site.

TYNE & WEAR  
museums



South-west corner of St.Aidan's  
Church foundation

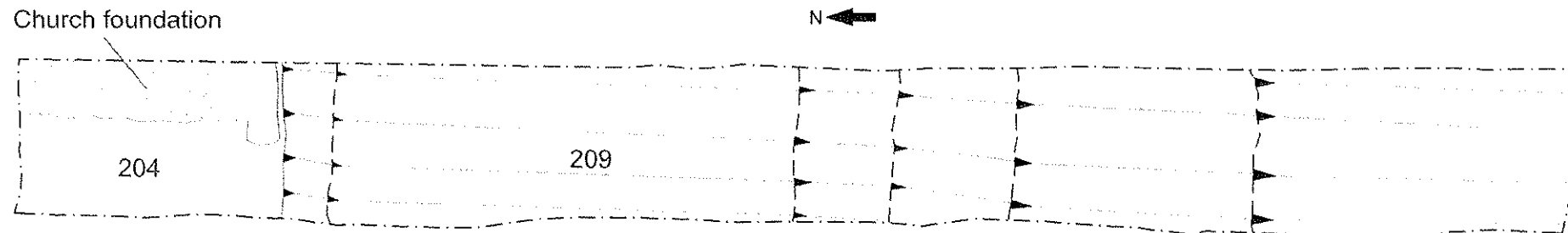


Figure 3



Figure 4

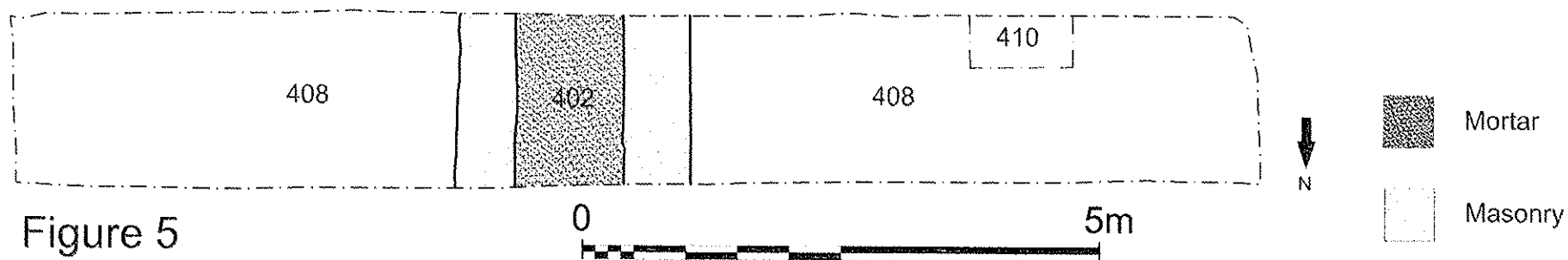


Figure 5

Figure 3: Plan of Trench 2  
Figure 4: Plan of Trench 3  
Figure 5: Plan of Trench 4

S

15.39m AOD



202  
206

208

207

200  
201

208

209

203

210 211

204

207

209

205

208

N

15.39m AOD



0



5m

Figure 6: East Facing Section of Trench 2

1:50

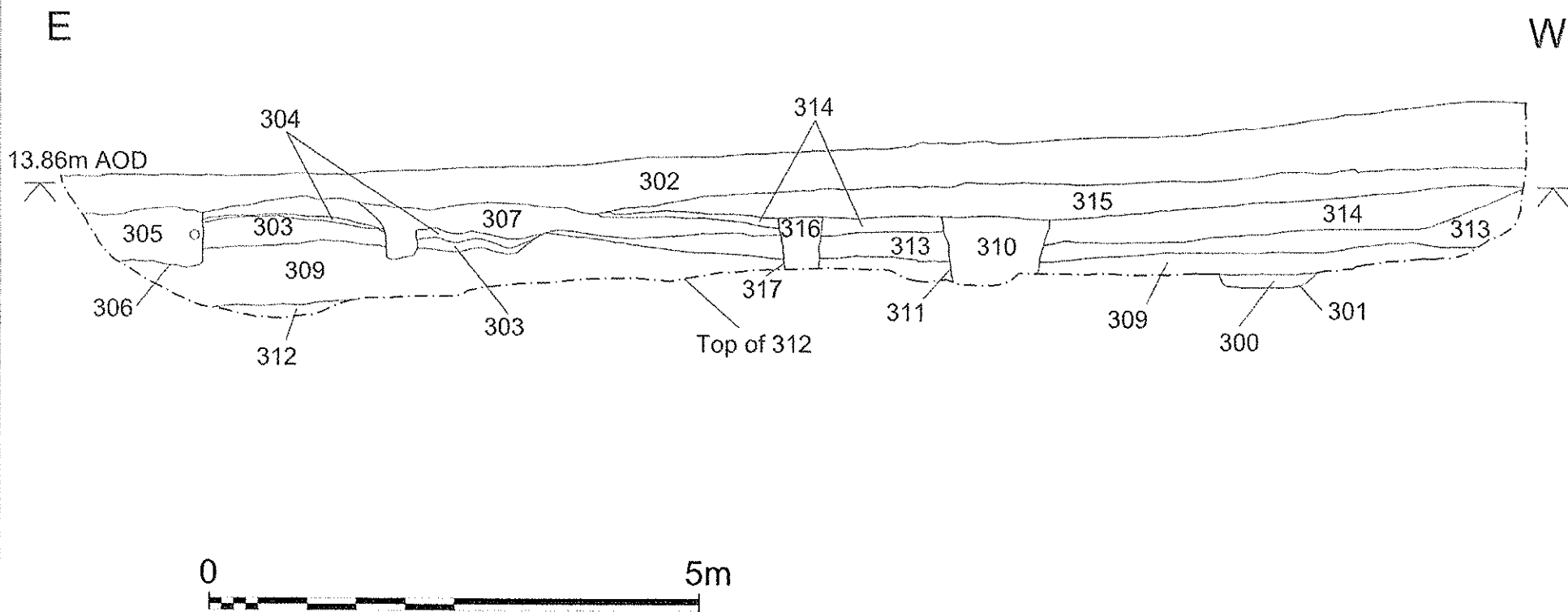


Figure 7: North Facing Section of Trench 3

1:60

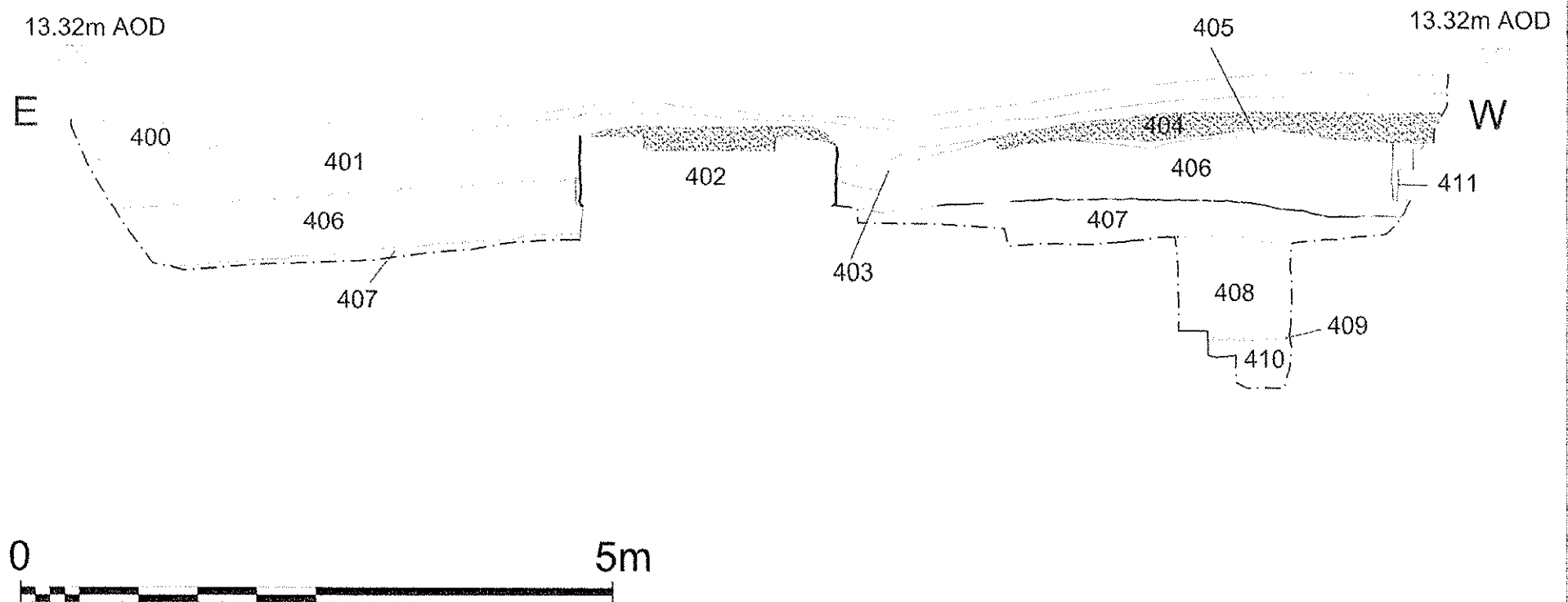


Figure 8: North Facing Section of Trench 4

1:50

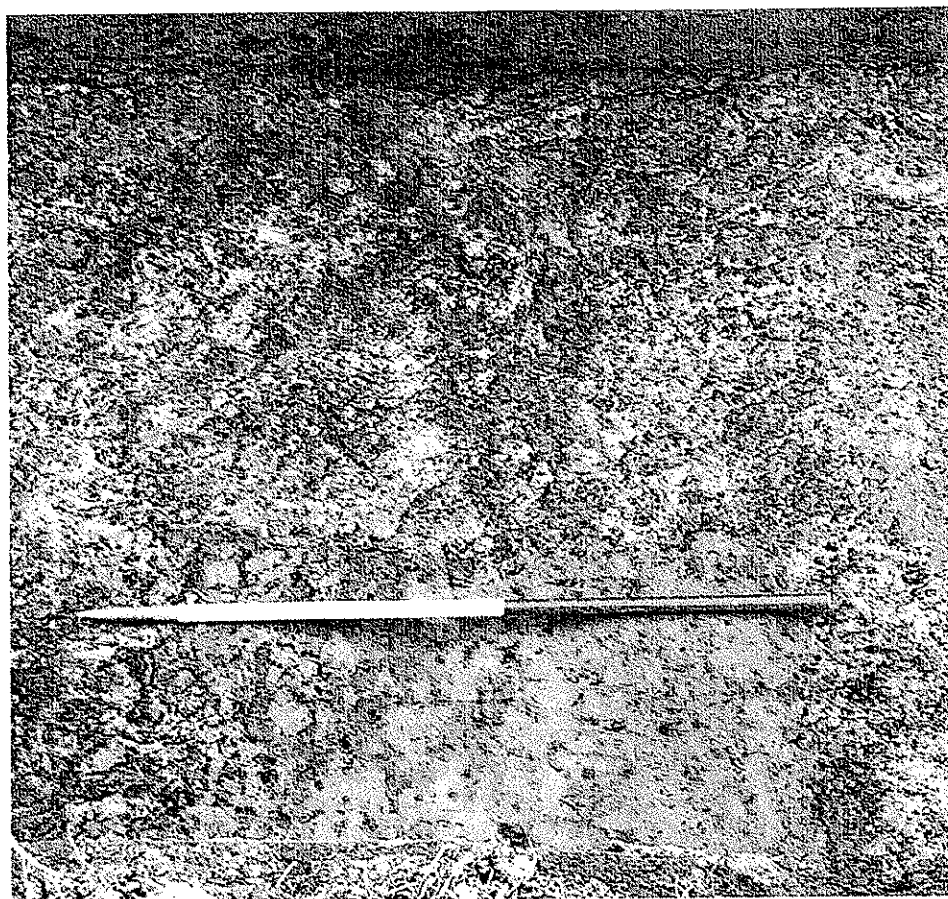


Plate 1: Feature 301, North-South Aligned Linear Feature Recorded in Trench 3.  
Looking South

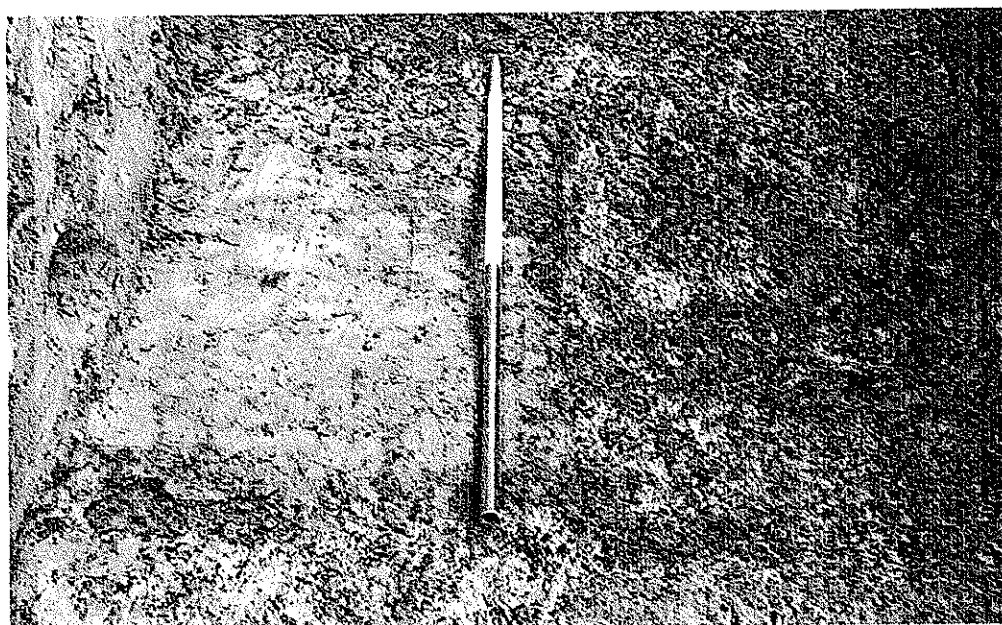


Plate 2: Feature 301, Looking East

## **SPECIFICATION FOR PRELIMINARY EVALUATION WORK TO RECORD SUSPECTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS AT SITE OF FORMER ST AIDAN'S CHURCH, ST AIDAN'S ROAD, SOUTH SHIELDS**

### *INTRODUCTION*

A planning application has been submitted for 20 apartments with associated car parking, new vehicular access and hard and soft landscaping.

An archaeological desk based assessment has been completed (Tyne and Wear Museums, May 2006) which concludes that the site lies 300m south-east of Arbeia Roman Fort, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and part of the Unesco Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. This report **must** be consulted by the appointed archaeological consultant before the evaluation begins.

The site may lie within the former extent of the vicus (civilian settlement) which surrounded the Roman Fort. The vicus is classed as being within the setting of the Hadrian's Wall WHS in English Heritage's Hadrian's Wall Management Plan 2002-2007. The nearest remains found to the site thus far have been from Coston Drive and St Aidan's Road.

Roman remains could potentially be present on the site, although it is acknowledged that the construction of the church may well have truncated archaeological deposits. Such remains could include buildings, midden deposits, roads or tracks leading to the fort or even an aqueduct (Arbeia was served by two aqueducts).

The site probably returned to agricultural use during the medieval period.

The report recommends the excavation of five evaluation trenches. However it is felt by the County Archaeology Officer that four trenches would be a more appropriate number for this preliminary stage of evaluation.

Four evaluation trenches are needed to inform the Planning Authority of the nature, character, date and degree of survival of archaeological deposits on this site. The evaluation must be carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeological organisation. The work will record and environmentally sample any archaeological deposits of importance found on the plot. The purpose of this brief is to obtain tenders for this work. The report must be the definitive record for deposition in the Tyne and Wear HER, and it must contain recommendations for any further work needed on this site before development destroys any archaeological remains.

### *ARCHAEOLOGICAL BRIEF*

The work can be split into two sections;

- 1) evaluation of archaeologically sensitive deposits
- 2) post-evaluation analysis and report production including recommendations for further work on the site, if appropriate

#### 1) Archaeological evaluation

The trenches are shown on figure 15 in the desk based assessment. Only four of these five trenches are required – one to the north of the church as shown on figure 15, and three to the south of the church.

The dimensions of each of the four trenches are 1.5m x 15m in plan **at base**. Trench positions should be accurately surveyed prior to excavation and tied in to the national grid. The trenches should be excavated to the depth of natural subsoil if this can be reached safely, by widening the trenches and stepping the sides in order to reach depths of over 1.2m if necessary. The trenches can be adjusted to avoid services etc.

## Tasks

Hand excavation, recording and environmental sampling (as stipulated below) of deposits down to the depth specified above. Any modern overburden or levelling material can be machined-off under strict archaeological supervision and the remaining deposits are to be excavated by hand. Excavation is to be carried out with a view to avoid damage to any archaeological features which appear to worthy of preservation in-situ. Excavation is to be carried out by single context planning and recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. Features over 0.5 m in diameter can be half sectioned.

The spoil can be kept close-by and rapidly backfilled into the trenches at the conclusion of this work.

## Fieldwork - General Conditions

1. The Archaeological Contractor will provide an outline methodology of excavation and provide details of recording procedures employed. Stratigraphy shall be recorded even when no archaeological features have been recognised.
2. Environmental samples (bulk soil samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected by the excavator from suitable (i.e. uncontaminated) deposits. It is suggested that a large number of samples be collected during evaluation from which a selection of the most suitable (uncontaminated) can be processed. All tenders will quote for the full analysis, report production and publication of 8 samples.

The following information should be provided with the environmental samples to be processed – brief account of nature and history of the site, aims and objectives of the project, summary of archaeological results, context types and stratigraphic relationships, phase and dating information, sampling and processing methods, sample locations, preservation conditions, residuality/contamination etc.

Laboratory processing of samples shall only be undertaken if deposits are found to be reasonably well dated, or linked to recognisable features and from contexts the derivation of which can be understood with a degree of confidence.

Advice on the sampling strategy for environmental samples and samples for scientific dating etc. must be sought from Jacqui Huntley, English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (0191 3341137) **before** the evaluation begins.

Scientific investigations should be undertaken in a manner consistent with "The Management of Archaeological Projects", English Heritage 1991 and with "Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions: Best Practice for Curators and Commissioning Archaeologists", English Heritage, 2003.

A range of features, and all phases of activity, need to be sampled for charred plant remains and charcoal. Aceraemic features should not be avoided as the plant remains from these features may help to date them. Deep features should be sampled in spits to pick up changes over time. Part, or all of each of the contexts should be processed. In general samples should be processed in their entirety. All flots should be scanned, and some of the residues.

Aims of environmental sampling – to determine the abundance/concentration of the material within the features and how well the material is preserved, to characterise the resource (the site) and each phase, to determine the significance of the material and its group value, what crop processing activities took place on the site? What does this tell us about the nature of the site? Is there any evidence for changes in the farming practice through time? How did people use this landscape? Can we place certain activities at certain locations within the site? Function and date of individual features such as pits, hearths etc. Are the charred assemblages the result of ritual deposition or rubbish? Is the charcoal the result of domestic or industrial fuel?

Pollen samples can be taken from features such as lakes, ponds, palaeochannels, estuaries, saltmarshes, mires, alluvium and colluvium, and from waterlogged layers in wells, ditches and latrines etc. Substances such as honey, beer or food residues can be detected in vessels. Activities such as threshing, crop processing and the retting of flax can be identified. When taken on site, pollen samples should overlap. Your regional science advisor can advise on the type of corer or auger which would be most appropriate for your site. Samples need to be wrapped in clingfilm and kept dark and cool. Make a description of the sediments in which the pollen was found, and send this with the sample to be assessed.

Coastal or estuary sites (even those which are now well drained) are suitable for sampling for foraminifera. Diatoms can also be found on marine sites, but also in urban settings (sewers, wells, drains, ditches etc). They only survive in waterlogged conditions. These aquatic microfossils are used as proxy indicators of the former aquatic ecological conditions on site, changes in sea levels and temperature, salinity, PH and pollution. Forams are taken from cores, monolith tins or bulk samples. Diatoms are cut from monolith tins or cores or taken as spot samples.

Insects, which are useful as palaeoenvironmental indicators, survive best in waterlogged deposits such as palaeochannels and wells. They can provide information on climate change and landscape reconstruction as some species are adapted to particular temperatures, habitats or even particular trees. Certain insects can indicate the function of a feature or building (eg. Weevils, which were introduced by the Romans, often indicate granary sites, parasites will indicate the presence of particular animals such as sheep or horse, latrine flies survive in the mineral deposits in latrines, or in the daub of medieval buildings etc). Samples need to be sealed (eg. in a plastic box).

3. Where there is evidence for industrial activity, macroscopic technological residues should be collected by hand. Separate samples should be collected for micro-slugs (hammer-scale and spherical droplets). Guidance is available in the English Heritage "Archaeometallurgy" guidelines, 2001.

4. Buried soils and sediment sequences should be inspected and recorded on site by a recognised geoarchaeologist. Procedures and techniques in the English Heritage document "Environmental Archaeology", 2002 should be followed.

5. Sampling strategies for wooden structures should follow the methodologies presented in "Waterlogged wood. Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood" R. Brunning, 1996. If timbers are likely to be present on your site, contact a wood specialist beforehand. Pre-excavation planning – determine questions to ask, agree on a sampling strategy, allocate reasonable time and budget. Soil samples should be taken of the sediments surrounding the timber. Keep the timbers wet! Record them asap on-site – plan, photograph, record the size and orientation of the wood (radial, tangential, transverse), any toolmarks, joints, presence of bark, insect damage, recent breaks, and if another piece of wood was on top of or below the piece sampled. Both vertical and horizontal positioning of wattling must be recorded. Wood samples can provide information on woodland management such as medieval coppicing, type of taxa (native or foreign), conversion technology (how the wood was turned into planks), building techniques and type of tools used.

6. Waterlogged organic materials should be dealt with following recommendations in "Guidelines for the care of waterlogged archaeological leather", English Heritage and Archaeological Leather Group 1995.

7. Animal bone assemblages should be assessed by a recognised specialist.

8. Human remains must be treated with care and respect. Excavators must comply with the relevant legislation (essentially the Burial Act 1857) and local environmental health concerns. If found, human remains must be left in-situ, covered and protected. The archaeological contractor will be responsible for informing the police, coroner and County Archaeologist. If it is agreed that removal of the remains is essential, the

archaeological contractor will apply for a licence from the Home Office and their regulations must be complied with. The final placing of the remains after scientific study and analysis will be agreed beforehand. The remains will be recorded in-situ and subsequently lifted, washed in water (without additives). They will be marked and packed to standards compatible with "Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains", McKinley and Roberts, 1993. Site inspection by a recognised specialist is desirable for isolated burials and essential for cemeteries. Further guidance is available in "Church Archaeology: its care and management", Council for the Care of Churches, 1999 and in "Human Remains from Archaeological Sites...", English Heritage, 2002.

9. Should gold or silver objects or coin hoards etc be found, then the Archaeological Contractor must comply with the procedures set out in The Treasure Act 1996. Any treasure must be reported to The Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer, Rob Collins (0191 2225076 or [robert.collins@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:robert.collins@ncl.ac.uk)) who can provide guidance on the Treasure Act procedures.

10. The Archaeological Contractor must detail measures taken to ensure the safe conduct of excavations, and must consult with the client's structural engineers concerning working in close proximity to the foundations of the surrounding buildings. The Client may wish to see copies of the Archaeological Contractor's Health and Safety Policies.

11. The Archaeological Contractor must be able to provide written proof that the necessary levels of Insurance Cover are in place.

12. The Archaeological Contractor must maintain a Site Diary for the benefit of the Client, detailing the nature of work undertaken on a day by day basis, with full details of Site Staff present, duration of time on site, etc. and contact with third parties.

13. All staff employed by the Archaeological Contractor shall be professional field archaeologists with appropriate skills and experience to undertake work to the highest professional standards.

#### *Finds Storage*

The Archaeological Contractor will process and catalogue the finds in accordance with Museum and Galleries Commissions Guidelines (1992) and the UKIC Conservation Guidelines, and arrange for the long term disposal of the objects on behalf of the Client. A catalogue of finds and a record of discard policies, will be lodged with the finds for ease of curation.

Finds processing, storage and conservation methods must be broadly in line with current practice, as exemplified by the IFA "Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials", 2001. Finds should be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication "First Aid for Finds" (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Proposals for ultimate storage of finds should follow the UKIC publication "Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage" (Walker 1990). Details of methodologies may be requested from the Archaeological Contractor.

#### 2) Post-excavation and report production

1. The Archaeological Contractor must produce an interim report of 200 words minimum, two weeks after the completion of the field-work, for the Client and the Planning Authority, with a copy for information to the County Archaeologist. This will contain the recommendations for any further work needed on site.

2. The production of Site Archives and Finds Analysis will be undertaken according to English Heritage Guidelines (Managing Archaeological Projects 2nd Edition).

3. A full report with the following features should be produced within six months of the completion of the field-work. All drawn work should be to publication standard.

- \* Location plans of trenches and grid reference of site
- \* Plans showing major features and deposit spreads, by phase, and section locations
- \* Sections of the two main trench axes and through excavated features
- \* Tables and matrices summarising feature and artefact sequences.
- \* Archive descriptions of contexts, grouped by phase (not for publication)
- \* Deposit sequence summary (for publication/deposition)
- \* Descriptions and illustrations of artefacts
- \* Colour photographs of trenches and any archaeological features
- \* Laboratory reports and summaries of environmental data, with collection methodology.
- \* A consideration of the results of the field-work within the wider research context.

4. Four bound and collated copies of the report need to be submitted, one for the commissioning Client, one for South Tyneside planning authority, one for Mike Collins of English Heritage and one for deposition in the County HER at the address below. A digital copy of the report on CD is also required by the HER.

5. If significant archaeological features are found during the evaluation, the results may also warrant publication in a suitable archaeological journal. The tender should therefore include an estimated figure for the production of a short report of, for example 12 pages, in a journal such as *Archaeologia Aeliana*. This is merely to give the commissioning client an indication of potential costs.

#### OASIS

The Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index/access to the large and growing body of archaeological grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded fieldwork.

The archaeological contractor is therefore required to register with OASIS and to complete the online OASIS form for their evaluation at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Please ensure that tenders for this work takes into account the time needed to complete the form.

Once the OASIS record has been completed (in full as per the OASIS handbook) and signed off by the HER and NMR the information will be incorporated into the English Heritage Excavation Index, hosted online by the Archaeology Data Service.

The ultimate aim of OASIS is for an online virtual library of grey literature to be built up, linked to the index. The unit therefore has the option of uploading their grey literature report as part of their OASIS record, as a Microsoft Word document, rich text format, pdf or html format. The grey literature report will only be mounted by the ADS if both the unit and the HER give their agreement. The grey literature report will be made available through a library catalogue facility.

Please ensure that you and your client understand this procedure. If you choose to upload your grey literature report please ensure that your client agrees to this in writing to the HER at the address below.

For general enquiries about the OASIS project aims and the use of the form please contact: Mark Barratt at the National Monuments Record (tel. 01793 414600 or [oasis@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:oasis@english-heritage.org.uk)). For enquiries of a technical nature please contact: Catherine Hardman at the Archaeology Data Service (tel. 01904 433954 or

[oasis@ads.ahds.ac.uk](mailto:oasis@ads.ahds.ac.uk)). Or contact the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer at the address below.

### THE TENDER

Tenders for the work should contain the following:-

1. Brief details of the staff employed and their relevant experience
2. Details of any sub-contractors employed
3. A quotation of cost, broken down into the following categories:-
  - \* Costs for the excavation, incl. sub-headings of staff costs on a person-day basis, transport, materials, and plant etc.
  - \* Post-excavation costs, incl. storage materials
  - \* Cost of Environmental analysis of 8 samples
  - \* Estimated cost for full publication of results in an archaeological journal
  - \* Overheads
4. An indication of the required notification period (from agreement to start date) for the field-work; the duration of fieldwork and the expected date for completion of the post-excavation work (a maximum of 6 months after completion of the fieldwork)

### MONITORING

*The Archaeological Contractor will inform the County Archaeologist and Mike Collins of the start and end dates of the evaluation to enable the CA and EH to monitor the work in progress.*

*Should important archaeological deposits be encountered, the County Archaeologist must be informed. If further archaeological evaluation is required on this site, then the archaeological contractor must submit a written scheme of investigation for approval by the CA before extending the size of the trenches.*

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# APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

| Context No. | Description                                                                                                                                                                          | Trench No. | Depth/height | Figure Nos. |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| 100         | Topsoil and turf                                                                                                                                                                     | 1          | 0.12m        | n/a         |
| 101         | Natural sub-soil                                                                                                                                                                     | 1          | 16.60m AOD   | n/a         |
| 200         | Topsoil and turf                                                                                                                                                                     | 2          | 0.42m        | 6           |
| 201         | Dumped deposit of light brownish yellow silty clay                                                                                                                                   | 2          | 0.62m        | 6           |
| 202         | Dumped deposit of sandstone chippings                                                                                                                                                | 2          | 0.49m        | 6           |
| 203         | Dumped deposit of sandstone chippings                                                                                                                                                | 2          | 0.17m        | 6           |
| 204         | Mixed dark grey silt/ash                                                                                                                                                             | 2          | 0.30m        | 6           |
| 205         | Mixed orange and grey clay                                                                                                                                                           | 2          | 53mm         | 6           |
| 206         | Dumped deposit of angular coal fragments                                                                                                                                             | 2          | 0.23m        | 6           |
| 207         | Mid greyish brown silty coarse sand; occasional inclusions of brick and coal                                                                                                         | 2          | 0.40m        | 6           |
| 208         | Medium-coarse, orange windblown sand deposit                                                                                                                                         | 2          | 0.29m        | 6           |
| 209         | Natural sub-soil                                                                                                                                                                     | 2          | 15.37m AOD   | 3,6         |
| 210         | Fill of 211                                                                                                                                                                          | 2          | 0.86m        | 6           |
| 211         | Cut of service trench                                                                                                                                                                | 2          | 0.86m        | 6           |
| 300         | Fill of 301; mid brownish-yellow medium sand                                                                                                                                         | 3          | 0.16m        | 4,7         |
| 301         | Cut of north-south aligned linear feature                                                                                                                                            | 3          | 0.16m        | 4,7         |
| 302         | Topsoil and turf                                                                                                                                                                     | 3          | 0.64m        | 7           |
| 303         | Mid greyish-brown silty sand, frequent limestone inclusions                                                                                                                          | 3          | 0.30m        | 7           |
| 304         | Dark brown sandy silt                                                                                                                                                                | 3          | 0.10m        | 7           |
| 305         | Fill of 306                                                                                                                                                                          | 3          | 0.58m        | 7           |
| 306         | Cut for service pipe                                                                                                                                                                 | 3          | 0.58m        | 7           |
| 307         | Mid reddish-brown clayey silt, frequent rounded pebbles, occasional fragments of brick                                                                                               | 3          | 0.53m        | 7           |
| 308         | VOID                                                                                                                                                                                 | VOID       | VOID         | VOID        |
| 309         | Light brownish-yellow medium windblown sand, mid grey lenses                                                                                                                         | 3          | 0.63m        | 7           |
| 310         | Fill of 311                                                                                                                                                                          | 3          | 0.70m        | 7           |
| 311         | Cut for service pipe                                                                                                                                                                 | 3          | 0.70m        | 7           |
| 312         | ?Natural sub-soil                                                                                                                                                                    | 3          | 12.75m AOD   | 4,7         |
| 313         | Dark grey sandy silt, brick inclusions                                                                                                                                               | 3          | 0.40m        | 7           |
| 314         | Mid brown silty sand, brick inclusions                                                                                                                                               | 3          | 0.40m        | 7           |
| 315         | Demolition spread; dark grey sandy silt, frequent brick and sandstone inclusions                                                                                                     | 3          | 0.35m        | 7           |
| 316         | Fill of 317                                                                                                                                                                          | 3          | 0.53m        | 7           |
| 317         | Cut for service pipe                                                                                                                                                                 | 3          | 0.53m        | 7           |
| 400         | Topsoil and turf                                                                                                                                                                     | 4          | 0.35m        | 8           |
| 401         | Demolition spread; mid grey clayey sand, frequent brick and sandstone inclusions                                                                                                     | 4          | 0.50m        | 8           |
| 402         | Spine wall of Church Hall comprising two north south walls of wire-cut brick, one brick thick, English Garden Wall bond; 1.10m between internal faces, concrete infill between walls | 4          | 0.59m        | 8           |
| 403         | Dark brown coarse sand                                                                                                                                                               | 4          | 0.23m        | 8           |
| 404         | Concrete floor of Church Hall                                                                                                                                                        | 4          | 0.23m        | 8           |
| 405         | Dark brown coarse sand                                                                                                                                                               | 4          | 60mm         | 8           |
| 406         | Mid orange windblown sand                                                                                                                                                            | 4          | 0.67m        | 8           |
| 407         | Mixed orange/grey sandy clay                                                                                                                                                         | 4          | 0.38m        | 8           |
| 408         | Mixed grey/brownish yellow silty clay                                                                                                                                                | 4          | 0.86m        | 8           |
| 409         | Coarse gravel                                                                                                                                                                        | 4          | 29mm         | 8           |
| 410         | Light-mid grey fine sand                                                                                                                                                             | 4          | 10.87m AOD   | 8           |
| 411         | Western wall of Church Hall; wire-cut brick, English Garden Wall bond                                                                                                                | 4          | 0.49m        | 8           |