

**Programme of Archaeological work at the Priory Street
Infirmary site, Priory Street, Carmarthen,
Carmarthenshire**

**to include:
Limited Excavation Programme**

NGR SN 4170 2027

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**Border Archaeology
PO Box 36
Leominster
Herefordshire
HR6 0YQ**

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Programme of Archaeological work at the Priory Street Infirmary site, Priory Street, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Border Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Dorian Davies of Plas Cwrt Hir Carmarthen to conduct a limited excavation programme on land formerly the Priory Street Infirmary (NGR SN 4170 2027). Previous archaeological investigations, including a desk-based assessment of the site, have been undertaken by Border Archaeology (Report Nos. BA-051 & BA-052). The agent for the programme of work was Keith R. Pearce, Chartered Quantity Surveyor, Carmarthen. A brief was issued by Cambria Archaeology in respect of the development of the Infirmary site and formed part of an overall design brief for archaeological works issued by Cambria Archaeology in October 2001.
- 1.2 This archaeological programme of work was set within the non-statutory guidelines of 09/96 issued by the Welsh Office. This national legislation sets out guidance from the Secretary of State regarding development-prompted archaeological issues in relation to Local Planning Authority (LPA) procedure. The guidance given to the LPA provides recommendations on how archaeology can be incorporated into the planning procedure. However, it should be noted that the site had been severely impacted by the developer prior to any archaeological investigation. This phase of work should be regarded as rescue archaeology and the procedures set out in 09/96 were not strictly adhered to.
- 1.3 The purpose of this limited programme of work was to assess the nature of any archaeological remains and to indicate any mitigation requirements. It was considered by Cambria Archaeology that this development would have significant archaeological implications and that possible archaeological remains, in particular Roman deposits, features and structures, would be uncovered during ground clearance and civil engineering test-pit operations.
- 1.4 Previous archaeological investigations have included a soil-strip programme and archaeological observation (or watching brief). From both phases, a significant number of deposits and features were uncovered, including a series of CBM rubble spreads and cut features. These features represent domestic and industrial activity that is almost certainly Roman in date (probably late 1st or 2nd century AD).
- 1.5 The archaeological programme as well as two areas of test pits, placed in order to map strategically of eight test pits, a number of Roman deposits and features, the lack of stratigraphy, the two e
- 1.6 This limited archaeological programme complied with standard procedures that SE).
- 1.7 The site was directed and managed by Neil Shurmer Jones (illustrator), The Dr Mark Corney of the University of Bristol, provided a sur
- Why no depths of excavated features >? Heights should have been taken.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 Previous work undertaken by Border Archaeology is incorporated into the appendices of this report. Previous investigations include an archaeological observation and a soil-stripping programme. These were undertaken in Area B, Area C and Area D. An archaeological observation was also undertaken on two bore holes in Area A. Also incorporated into this report is a limited desk-based assessment that includes sites within a 250m radius.
- 2.2 Concerning the limited excavation, a total of eight test pits were located within the proposed development area. Each test pit was tied into existing Ordnance Survey digitised mapping. Recording of the test pits in plan and section was at a scale of 1:20 (including archaeological deposits, features and structures). All deposits, features and structures within all test pits were photographed using monochrome, colour print and colour transparency film.
- 2.3 The excavation of each test pit included a detailed stratigraphic record using a context numbering system. Contexts were numbered as follows: (1000)-(1007) [Test pit 1]; (1100)-(1112) [Test pit 2], (1300)-(1305) [Test pit 3], (1400)-(1401) [Test pit 4], (1500)-(1501) [Test pit 5], (1600)-(1601) [Test pit 6]; (1700)-(1701) [Test pit 7]; (1800)-(1801) [Test pit 8]; Area A (1000)-(1012); and Area B (1100)-(1112). All test pits and open areas were excavated by hand to the level at which natural deposits were encountered - usually within the a few centimetres of existing ground level.
- 2.4 All spoil was scanned for artefacts, recorded as unstratified.
- 2.5 Full written and drawn records of all excavated contexts were made in accordance with archaeological practices set out by the IFA and using the MoLas single-context planning system (where applicable).
- 2.6 Owing to the distribution of the test pits, a number of temporary bench marks (TBMs) were established on the site - Test pit 1 value = 19.76m AOD; Test pit 2 value = 19.76m AOD; Test pit 3 value = 19.76m AOD; Test pit 4 value = 19.48m AOD; Test pit 5 value = 19.48m AOD; Test pit 6 value = 19.51m AOD; Test pit 7 value = 19.51m AOD; Test pit 8 value = 19.73m AOD; Area A value = 19.56m AOD and Area B value = 19.56m AOD. All surveying values were taken from a known bench mark located on an ornamental wall, west of the Old Priory Street Infirmary, close to a war memorial in Priory Street. The value of the bench mark was 22.30m AOD. From the individual TBMs, surveying for all test pits was undertaken.

3.0 BRIEF HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.2 The Roman and Medieval town of Carmarthen stands on a western ridge overlooking the Afon Twyi. The site has been strategically important since Roman times and is regarded by Wachter (1981) as the principal town of Roman south-west Wales. The archaeological investigations undertaken initially by Barri Jones in 1968 and continued by J. H. Little and H. James underscore the significance of this 1st century garrison town.

3.3 Archaeologically, the north-eastern part of Carmarthen may be considered highly sensitive. Discoveries include a number of scheduled Roman buildings and streets. The bulk of recent research has been undertaken by Heather James. A monograph *Excavations in Roman Carmarthen 1978-1992* will be published shortly. Previous intrusive work, supported by limited desk-based assessment, has been undertaken by Border Archaeology.

3.4 The Roman and old Medieval town of Carmarthen are located on a substantial [periglacial] moraine plateau on the northern side of the Afon Tywi. The Roman town, known as *Moridunum Demetarum*, and associated fort are located beneath what is referred to as 'Old Carmarthen' (Grid Ref SN 4120). Within Old Carmarthen town are seven Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs). All are located within the area of the site and include:

Site Name	Street Name	Grid Ref.	SAM No.
Carmarthen Castle	N. of Coracle Way	SN413199	CM008
The Bulwarks	S. of Lammas Street	SN409199	CM009
Roman Amphitheatre	N. of Priory Street	SN419206	CM206
Roman Town	S. of Priory Street	SN415204	CM234
Roman Fort	Spilman Street	SN415204	CM235
Priory of St John	S. of Priory Street	SN419204	CM236
Roman Town Defences	Priory Street	SN418204	CM243

3.5 The main concentration of Roman activity centres upon Old Carmarthen. However, to the south-west of the Roman town defences, around Spilman Street and King Street, is the Roman fort - immediately east of the Medieval castle (SAM CM235 and PRN 39). Constructed around AD77 under Julius Frontinus (Governor AD 74-77), the fort has an internal area of around 2ha(?) (James 1980; James - forthcoming). The fort is believed later to have shrunk to roughly half its original size, while maintaining its southern and eastern flanks. Until recently, the exact location of the fort was unknown. A series of trenches around the Royal Ivy Bush Hotel in 1968 uncovered a substantial ditch section that appeared to belong to the fort defences (Jones 1969; 1970; Little 1971). According to the SMR, finds around this area are meagre. It is likely that the fort represents the first Roman presence, followed shortly by the settlement. Prior to the Roman occupation, the site may have been a *civitas* capital of the *Demetae*, a tribe occupying the whole of south-west Wales. The Romans appear to have settled the area swiftly. This, coupled with the subsequent shrinkage of the fort, suggests the occupation and ongoing relationship between *Demetae* and Romans was relatively peaceful. Concerning the early Roman occupation, there is still debate as to whether or not *Moridunum* was a *vicus* settlement (James - forthcoming).

3.6 The Roman town of *Moridunum* was of a considerable size, encompassing an area of 5.7-6.1ha. It is likely that the town layout is built on a centralised grid system, part of which runs through the Priory Street Infirmary site, between North Parade and Parade Road (see Border Archaeology Report BA/GN/051).

Wacher has suggested that parts of the present Old Town road layout follow Roman thoroughfares (1981:390). However, according to James (forthcoming), and, more importantly, archaeological investigations around SN 4145 2038 (PRN 34) [between Priory Street and Richmond Terrace], the layout differs.

- 3.7 A Roman road surface uncovered in 1923 west of North Parade (PRN 21) and a road referred to as [Roman] Lammas Street ran through the middle of the town and north of the fort. The town's grid system appears to be more symmetrical (see James' plan - forthcoming). Associated with the grid system is the formal layout of civic, domestic buildings. Extensive research on this aspect of the site has been carried out by James. It should be noted that at other Roman towns in western and northern Britain, more prestigious civic buildings were located on the main street and within the confines of the Roman fort. The site is highly sensitive - for example, the remains of the Roman Avenue, Peniel Street, and the remains of the Roman road around Church Street. In the case of the site of the southern slopes of Park Hall, the site of the Roman road is clearly visible.

- 3.8 The Medieval find spots and the castle area (County Hall), the remains of the Guildhall Street, Hall Street and the remains of the Medieval activity exist to the south of the site. The ground at SN 419 204 is the site of the Roman road (PRN 210 and locally referred to as the 'Roman Road') between the football ground and the rear gardens of properties on Priory Street.

3.9 Site specific

- 3.10 Concerning recent archaeological investigations around the site, two projects undertaken by Cambria Archaeology (CA 2000; Crane 2001) have revealed further Roman activity. Roman activity, albeit much disturbed, was found along the frontage of Priory Street, on the site of the Lidl store (NGR SN 4155 2025). The evidence comprised a series of residual and *insitu* finds, including a large quantity of Roman 1st-4th century pottery (both local and imported wares) as well as a small assemblage of Medieval wares. Not surprisingly, recent (19th and 20th century) building activity within the immediate area of the site has removed all trace of any Medieval and Roman buildings/structures.
- 3.11 According to the Sites and Monuments Record, up to 11 sites lie within a 250m radius of Priory Street Infirmary. Included within this inventory are Roman finds from Elm Lodge (NGR SN 4176 2026) - PRN 14; Roman finds (black and red wares, CBM, coin hoard, glass and metal objects) and a Roman road at the Priory Street Infirmary (NGR SN 4170 2027) - PRN 20 and 21; Roman finds (pipe clay statuette fragment) from The Parade (NGR SN 4168 2021) - PRN 24; Roman finds (large red stones) from Priory Street (NGR SN 4166 2034) - PRN 38; the Post-Medieval Carn's War Memorial (NGR SN 4165 2032) - PRN 142; Post-Medieval inscribed stone from the Free Grammar School (NGR SN 4164 2030) - PRN 178; Medieval finds from North Parade (NGR SN 4170 2026) - PRN 202; The Eagle public house in Priory Street (NGR SN 4164 2034) - PRN 338; The Globe public house in Priory Street (NGR SN 4163 2033) - PRN 355; and Roman finds from the Lidl Food store evaluation (NGR SN 4165 2025) - PRN 37673.

- 3.12 The Priory Street Infirmary frontage, which has a plaque bearing the date 1858, may be considered of building recording value (RCHAMW). The semi-classical frontage, with symmetrical window and door openings, is of importance in relation to the 19th century fabric of Carmarthen. Internally, there are several features which enhance the conservation value of the building, including a fine open staircase with associated machine-turned banisters. All buildings to the rear of the main hospital have been demolished.

3.13 Map regression

- 3.14 Four maps have been used to interpret changes affecting the site over the past 200 years. The earliest, produced by John Vaughan, dates to 1786 (Map 1). The map clearly shows the site, the boundaries of which have not changed since its publication. During the late 18th century, a free school was located towards the Priory Street frontage. Immediately south-west of the site boundary was a small elongated plot that belonged to 'Lady Stathnes'. The same plot also appears on the 1906 and 1969 OS maps. The plot was absorbed into the Lidl store site in 2000. To the north-west, a narrow lane, although not named, can be identified as North Parade. Beyond North Parade are several large plots, one of which belonged to Edwyn S. Ford. Interestingly, the shape of Priory Street appears to have remained unchanged since Vaughan's map. Several recesses opposite and in front of the Priory Hospital site also appeared on the 1969 OS.

- 3.15 Priory Street Infirmary 1st Edition OS, published 1861, shows a large square building with a surviving plaque, and several buildings along the street. These probably represent the plot, adjacent to the site. This has since been demolished. Located close to the site boundary is a line which comprises a fully paved garden for convalescence. In the 1930s, a dark brown building was added, with little or no change to the site boundary.

What is the significance of recesses? and there is a copy of the map to illustrate this? Why can't we see copies of all the maps? Where is Map 3?

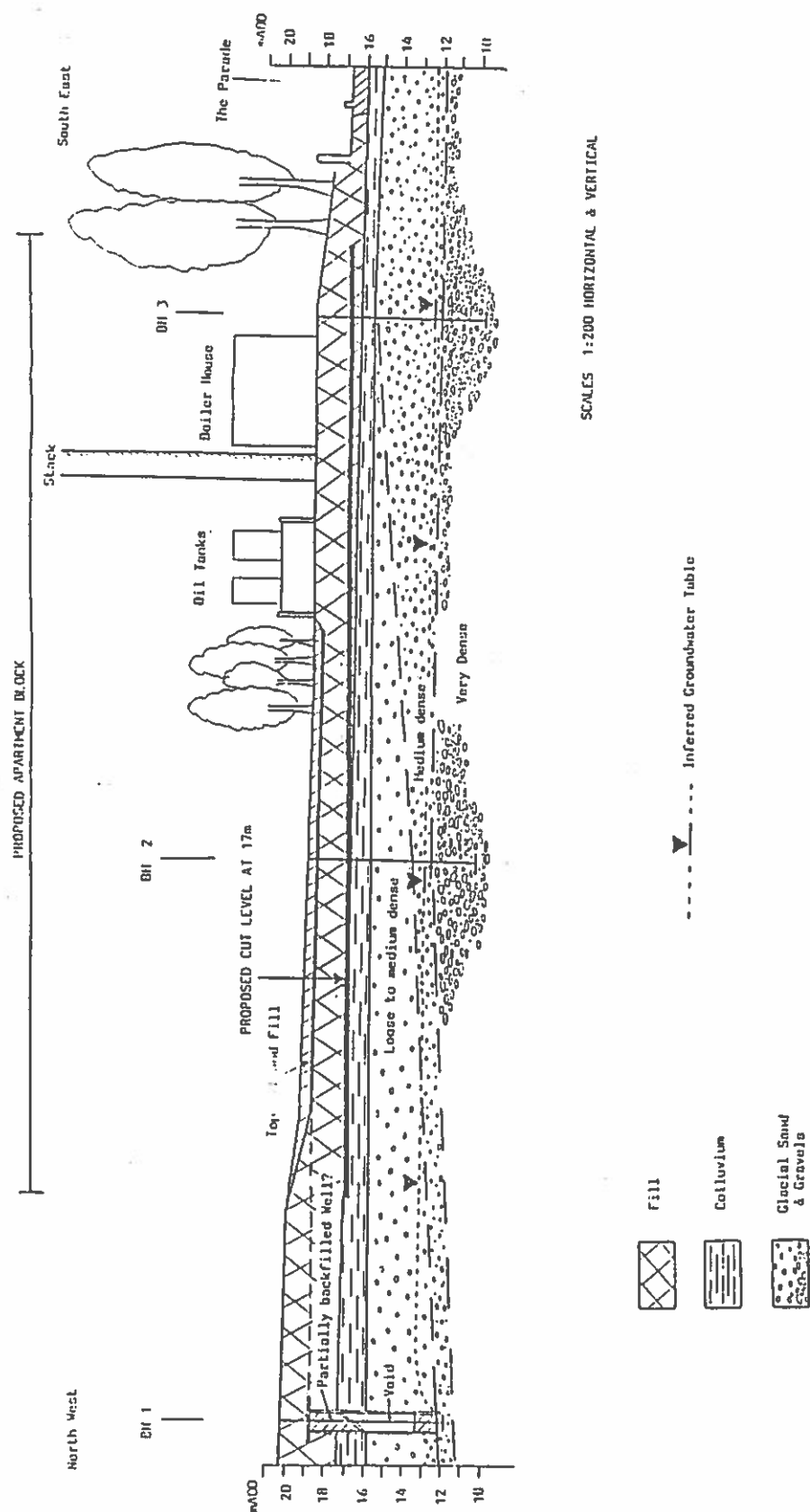
changed on the 1st Edition OS, occupied by a large square building according to a surviving plaque. The plot are several boundaries. These in the eastern corner of the site (D) is recorded. 1" AOD) was the central area of the site. The northern area was occupied by a building dating to the 1906 OS shows

- 3.16 The main hospital building (Map 3). In addition, a number of buildings to the rear were constructed which extended into Area A, Area B and Area D. Area C served as a garden and, later, a tennis court. It was noticed during demolition that these buildings had extensive reinforced concrete foundations which cut through the surrounding Roman archaeology into natural deposits. All buildings appear to be interconnected. The bench mark values recognised on previous maps have been changed. That on the south-western corner of the site is 59' 4" AOD, whilst the value on the Priory Street frontage is 75' 6" AOD.

4.0 GEOLOGY

- 4.1 The drift geology in the southern and eastern parts of Carmarthen relate to riverine deposition referred to by the Soil Survey of England & Wales (1983) as TME 561b. Generally, this consists of light yellow-brown, deep, stoneless, permeable, silty soils (referred to within the report as (004)). Some soils are variably affected by ground water. Naturally laid gravelly sub-soils provide a sub-base for, particularly, Roman and Medieval urban deposits.
- 4.2 Concerning the site, bore-hole surveys were undertaken in 1996 and 2001. The first of these was carried out by Intégral Géotechnique Ltd (Bristol), who drilled three bore-holes within the south-eastern part of the site (**Figure 1**). These were sunk to a depth of around 13m below (then) existing ground level. According to the subsequent report, three contexts were identified, the first being 'fill' relating to hospital activity. Medieval and Roman remains were probably incorporated into this fill. According to site observations, these lay directly beneath the 1930s buildings. Underlying this was colluvium (recorded by Border Archaeology as context (004)). This deposit was 3-4m thick. The inferred groundwater table lay at around 4m below existing ground level and marked the interface between colluvium and glacial sands and gravels. A similar stratigraphic sequence was observed during the 2001 bore-hole survey.

FIGURE 1 CROSS SECTION OF THE PRIORY INFIRMARY SITE
(produced by Intégral Géotechnique Ltd.)



5.0 LIMITED EXCAVATION

- 5.1 The monitoring authority stipulated that up to eight test pits of varying size should be excavated in Area B (**Figure 3**). In addition to the test pits, two open areas, each measuring 5m square, were to be excavated. These test pits were located over features that had been exposed during a soil-stripping programme (Border Archaeology report No. 2001-11-05). Due to the severity of civil engineering operations during the initial investigation, most of the features consisted of rubble spreads.
- 5.2 **Open Area 1 (clean-back area South) (Plate 3).**¹ This area measured 5m x 5m and was located over features 5, 6, 7, and 8 (**Figure 4**). Surface features uncovered during this phase were previously encountered during the initial soil-stripping programme. The four features all appeared to be associated and are probably contemporary. The first of these, feature 5, was located to the north of feature 2 and measured 1.45m x 0.45m (rectilinear in plan - context [013]). The fill consisted of a tightly compacted, grey, coarse clay with occasional stone inclusions (014). Incorporated into this feature were fragments of burnt daub, Roman ceramic tile and occasional slate and charcoal flecking. Feature 6 [015], located north of the main rubble spread, measured 1.15m x 0.65m (sub-circular in plan). The fill of this feature consisted of a large quantity of sub-angular stone embedded into a tightly compacted, brown silty clay (016). This feature formed part of a substantial wall, probably Roman, associated with feature 7. Feature 7 consisted of a tightly compacted rubble spread [018] which was embedded into a tightly compacted, brown silty clay soil (004). This feature was located in the western part of the site and measured approximately 4m x 0.60m. The structure appeared to form part of a substantial wall (oriented north-west/south-east), probably Roman in date and partially destroyed by mechanical excavator. Feature 8 [019] was located to the east of feature 7 and measured 1.5m x 1m (sub-circular in plan). The fill [020] consisted of a moderately compacted, mid-brown, silty clay soil containing charcoal flecking, plaster, Roman CBM, slate and sub-angular stones.
- 5.3 The open excavation revealed more information concerning each of the features discussed above. Up to 12 contexts were recorded within the open area of excavation. Each context immediately overlay a tightly compacted, orange-to-brown silty clay soil [10YR6/8]. This was regarded as a natural deposit referred to in the Intégral Géotechnique Ltd bore-hole survey report as colluvium, probably glacially induced (1006).² The largest feature within the open area was the remains of a collapsed wall (1011). This feature extended across the excavation, oriented approximately east-west. The stones were rounded and sub-angular. There appeared to be no evidence of bonding. The main concentration was located in the north and east.
- 5.4 An elongated feature in the southern and western part of the excavation appeared to be the remains of a pit [1001]-[1005]; [1009]-(1010) (**Plate 6**). In order to gauge the depth of this feature, a small test pit was excavated within the south-western corner, measuring 2m x 1m. The depth of this test pit was 0.50m. As well as the test pit, a series of slots were excavated across the feature. It appears that features 5 and 8, uncovered during the initial soil strip, are represented by this pit. The pit contexts uncovered during this phase of work were shallow and did not exceed 0.25m below existing ground level. Context [1001], also located within the pit, consisted of a small semi-circular cut of unknown provenance. This feature cut into (1002) which extended across the majority of the pit and was the same as (1010). This context

¹ No sections drawings are published from Open Area 1 and 2 due to the shallowness of the stratigraphy.

² referred to in previous reports by Border Archaeology as context (004).

consisted of an orange-to-brown burnt soil with frequent traces of charcoal [2.5YR5/8]. The pit was delineated by a shallow cut [1003] which measured approximately 4.2m x 0.60m (this was the same as [1005] and [1009]). The pit extended southwards, outside the open area of excavation. Located within the south-western part of the pit was a small rubble spread (1004). This may be the remains of a wall extending along the shallow pit. Cutting into the pit, and regarded as a later feature, was a shallow depression [1007] with associated fill (1008). The cut of this feature petered out towards the wall (1011).

- 5.5 It is clear that significant remains of a building and associated features exist within this area of open excavation (**Plate 4**). It is also clear that the form of the building [(1011) and (1012)] would have been better defined had it not been for the removal of overlying soils during the initial phases of development. The features recorded within this area can be regarded as the base of a building and a probable construction test pit.
- 5.6 **Open Area 2** (clean-back area North). This area measured 5m x 5m (**Figure 5**). Owing to waterlogging, it was virtually impossible to clean back within this area. Three surface features uncovered during this phase were encountered during the initial soil strip. All appeared to be associated and contemporary. All features directly overlay or cut into (1104), a tightly compacted, orange-to-brown silty clay soil [10YR6/8] also extending across Area B. The first feature encountered (referred to as feature 9), delineated by cut [021], measured 1.05m x 1.15m and was circular in plan. The fill consisted of a tightly compacted, mid-brown, silty clay soil (022) [2.5YR4/4] with frequent large stones and moderate amounts of charcoal flecking and Roman CBM. Feature 10, possibly directly associated with feature 9, measured 3.5m x 2.8m [023]. The fill consisted of a tightly compacted, mid-brown, silty clay soil (024) with frequent Roman CBM and charcoal flecking. The feature was extremely shallow and its extent was not fully determined. Feature 11 [025] was located east of features 9 and 10. This feature, measuring 2.7m x 0.70m, may represent a construction pit and was thought to merge with feature 10 (Report No. BA 2001-11-05). The fill of the pit(?) consisted of a tightly compacted, coarse, brown clay soil (026) with frequent charcoal flecks and Roman CBM.
- 5.7 The open excavation programme revealed 13 contexts. Located along the south-eastern extent of the excavation area were three irregular pits, each truncating another. The pits were shallow and appeared to extend beyond the southern limits of the open area. Two further pits with rubble fill were also present, located in the north-eastern part of the open area ([1107] and [1109]). Both features were shallow, measuring around 0.07m deep.
- 5.8 **Test Pit 1** measured 1.3m by 0.55m and was excavated to a depth of 0.80m below the existing ground level of Open Area 1. The pit was filled with a dark brown-to-yellow clayey soil [7.5YR4/4]. At the base of this, the deepest pit, was a large stone rubble deposit (1113) underlying context (1112). Recovered from this pit were several sherds of 2nd century pottery, including Severn-Valley ware and black burnished ware, found within context (1112). Cutting this pit at the western-end was pit 2 [1106]. This pit was filled by a dark brown clayey soil (1111) [7.5YR4/3]. The pit (or depression) appeared to be oriented north-south and was cut by an ephemeral feature - possibly the base of another pit (1110). The cut line for this feature could not be fully traced. This fill consisted of a dark brown clayey soil (1111) [7.5YR4/3], identical to the fill found in pit 2.
- 5.9 **Test Pit 2** measured 2m x 1m x 0.50m and was excavated within the north-western corner of Open Area 2. This test pit was excavated in order to ascertain the depth of the archaeology. However, no archaeological deposits,

features or structures were encountered. Only one context was recorded; a tightly compacted orange-to-brown silty clay soil (1104) -[10YR6/8].

- 5.10 **Test Pit 3 (Plate 5)** was located close to the intersection of Area A and Area B and measured 2m x 2m, with a maximum depth of 0.80m (extended at the request of the monitoring authority) (**Figure 6**). Within this test pit, five contexts were encountered. Extending across the test pit, and incorporated into the western section, was a substantial rubble spread forming part of a previously discovered feature (Feature 13). The spread consisted of a large quantity of burnt CBM (ceramic building material) intermixed with context (1302).³ There was no form to the structure. The remains appeared to have already been substantially removed by civil engineering activity. This spread measured approximately 0.10m in section. Identified in plan and (south-facing) section was a small pit measuring 0.40m below existing ground level [1305]. Within the pit was a medium-to-dark brown clayey soil with occasional charcoal flecking (1304) [10YR6/7]. Both features overlay natural deposits (1302). It is likely that the features recorded within this test pit belonged to a substantial structure, possibly some form of kiln (based on the large quantity of burnt CBM). The pit [1305] may represent an earlier phase.
- 5.11 **Test Pit 4**, located close to the boundary of the site and North Parade, measured 2m x 1m, with a maximum depth of 0.80m (**Figure 7**). The test pit was sondaged in order to record in section any potential archaeology. Two contexts were recorded within the test pit. The first was a tightly compacted, orange-to-brown silty clay soil (1400) [10YR6/8] - which also extended across the site. Traces of [Roman] CBM were found on the surface of this context, which was probably the result of contamination from nearby civil engineering disturbance. Underlying this deposit, and extending below the base of the test pit, was a naturally laid light yellow-to-orange coarse gravel deposit (1401) [10YR6/8]. No archaeology was present.
- 5.12 **Test Pit 5** was located close to the intersection of Area B and Area D and measured 2m x 1m, with a maximum depth of 0.80m (**Figure 8**). Recent sewage seepage at the north-western end had stained the natural soils (as seen in section). Two contexts were recorded, revealing a stratigraphy similar to that within test pit 4. The first of these was a tightly compacted, orange-to-brown silty clay soil (1500) [10YR6/8], which also extended across the site. Underlying this deposit and extending below the base of the test pit was a naturally laid, coarse gravel deposit (1501). This deposit contained a light grey stain [10YR6/1] which ran through the northern extent of the test pit and was the result of sewage contamination. No archaeology was present.
- 5.13 **Test Pit 6**, located close to the intersection of Area B and Area C, measured 4m x 4m x 0.30m (**Figure 9**). The full excavation of this test pit was halted by the monitoring authority when natural deposits were encountered at around 0.85m below existing ground level. Within the east-facing section was a shallow pit, probably modern in date. Two contexts were recorded, both of which were naturally laid soils. The first was a tightly compacted, orange-to-brown silty clay soil (1600) (10YR6/8). Underlying this and extending beyond the base of the test pit was a light yellow-to-orange coarse gravel deposit [10YR6/8], similar to (1401) in test pit 4. No archaeology was present.
- 5.14 **Test Pit 7**, located close to the intersection of Area B and Area C, measured 2m x 2m x 0.75m (**Figure 10**). This test pit, marking the position of a lift shaft, contained natural deposits. The base of the pit was 19.47m AOD. Two contexts were identified, both natural in origin. The first of these was a tightly

³ same as context (004).

compacted, orange-to-brown silty clay soil (1700) [10YR6/8], similar to contexts (1400), (1500) and (1600). This deposit was 0.20m thick and extended across the area of the test pit. On top of this deposit were several fragments of modern CBM, which can be regarded as contamination from subsequent demolition. Underlying this deposit was a dark, orange-yellow coarse clayey soil (1701) [10YR5/8]. This natural deposit extended into all sections of the test pit. No archaeology was present.

- 5.15 **Test Pit 8**, located within the south-eastern section of Area B, close to the interface between Area B and Area C, measured 2.0m x 2.0m x 0.75m (**Figure 11**). The base of the test pit was 17.62m AOD and marked the position of a lift shaft. Two contexts were identified. The upper deposit was the result of recent disturbance and consisted of a loosely compacted, dark brown-to-black earth (1800) [7.5YR2.5/1], probably imported from nearby Area C. Underlying this was an orange-to-yellow coarse clayey soil (1701) [10YR6/5]. This natural deposit extended into all sections of the test pit and beyond the base of the pit. No archaeology was present.
- 5.16 **Exposed section on the interface of Area B and Area C (Figure 12)**. The section was exposed during civil engineering activity and is probably the only significant stratigraphic record of the site. Much of this area was impacted during the mid-to-late 20th century phases of hospital development and by recent activity. Up to 29 contexts, including the underlying natural deposits, were recorded in this section. Extending for approximately 14m, the section revealed a series of deposits and features of Roman date. Several *in situ* sherds of burnt black burnished pottery were recovered. The lower stratigraphy suggested burning, possibly during the mid-to-late Roman period. A piece of unstratified, wheel-made amphora (2nd - 4th century), with a light ochre fabric, possibly of Iberian origin, was recovered from the central area of the section.
- 5.17 Within the north-western corner of the section was a large pit measuring approximately 1m in diameter and 0.95m in height [1213] (**Plate 1**). Inside the pit were six fills. The uppermost fill consisted of a moderately compacted, dark brown-to-yellow soil (1207) [7.5YR6/6] with moderate quantities of charcoal flecking and CBM fragments (and flecking). Although affected by modern disturbance, the deposit is Roman in date. Immediately underlying this deposit was a moderately compacted, mottled orange-to-brown soil with frequent CBM flecking and daub (1208) [5YR4/5]. The flecking and daub appear to have been burnt. Underlying this was a moderately compacted, dark brown-to-yellow soil (1209) [7.5YR6/5] with moderate quantities of charcoal flecking and CBM fragments, similar to context (1207). Associated with this deposit and similar to context (1209) was a moderately compacted, dark brown-to-grey soil (1210) [5YR5/2] with small quantities of charcoal flecking and CBM fragments. Underlying context (1210) was a tightly compacted, dark grey-to-brown soil (1211) [5YR3/1] which contained two sherds of black-burnished Roman pottery (2nd to 4th century). This deposit, forming part of the base of the pit, also contained burnt daub flecking. Underlying context (1211) was a tightly compacted, light orange-to-brown soil (1212) [10YR6/5].
- 5.18 Capping the pit was a modern (20th century) deposit (1200) which contained large quantities of building rubble, including frogged and unfrogged brick. The soil was a loosely compacted, orange-to-brown silty clay [10YR6/7]. This deposit is probably the result of landscaping and the construction of tennis courts during the 1930s.
- 5.19 Either side of the pit section was a series of 17 accumulated deposits. Recorded in section on the northern side of the pit were seven deposits

measuring 1.05m in thickness. The upper deposit consisted of a loosely compacted, dark brown-to-yellow soil (1201) [7.5YR5/6] with a moderate amount of charcoal flecking and CBM fragments (and flecking). This deposit may be a continuation of the upper fill of the pit (1207). Context (1227) was similar in form. Underlying (1227) was a moderately compacted, orange-to-brown mottled soil (1203) [7.5YR5/8] with frequent quantities of burnt daub, similar to (1217). Underlying (1203) was a moderately compacted light orange-yellow-to-brown soil with frequent quantities of pea-grit gravel (1204) [7.5YR6/6], similar to (1208). Underlying this deposit and overlying natural deposits (1206) was a tightly compacted, stony, bright orange-to-brown soil (1207) [10YR6/8]. This deposit contained a moderate amount of burnt daub. The underlying natural deposit consisted of a tightly compacted, colluvial orange-to-brown silty clayey soil [10YR6/8], identical to natural soils across the site.

- 5.20 On the southern side of the pit was the remaining exposed section which measured around 12m long and contained 12 Roman contexts sandwiched between natural deposits (contexts 1226 and 1228) and a modern building deposit (1200) (Plates 2 and 4). The modern building debris probably derived from the construction of hospital buildings during the 1930s. The building deposit appears to have cut the upper stratigraphy of the Roman deposits. It is likely that these deposits were once more substantial. Underlying context (1200) was a thin lense consisting of a coarse, dark-grey-to-black soil that contained small quantities of Roman CBM and burnt daub (1214) [10YR3/1]. Underlying (1214) were two further lenses; contexts (1215) and (1217). These were similar and consisted of a dark-grey-to-black soil [2.5YR3/1]. Context (1217) contained a few fragments of burnt daub. A thin lense (1216) underlay context (1215) and was cut by the pit. Context 1216 consisted of a light brown coarse sandy soil with no inclusions [10YR5/2]. Underlying (1217), extending along the section and cut by the pit was context (1222). The base of a large sandstone slab lay within this context and extended into (1200). Context (1222) consisted of a tightly compacted, orange-brown mottled soil with frequent burnt daub and charcoal flecking [2.5YR5/8], similar to context (1219). Underlying (1222) and extending along most of the section was a thin lense (1223) consisting of a tightly compacted, grey-creamy soil with no inclusions [2.5YR5/1]. Underlying this lense, extending across the section and forming the interface with the natural soils was a tightly compacted, orange-to-grey clayey soil (1225) [2.5YR5/3]. This deposit contained frequent sandstone fragments possibly forming a demolition deposit. The base of this context was roughly at the same level as the archaeology found within the two open areas (1 and 2) and may, therefore, be contemporary. Contexts (1226) and (1228) formed natural deposits and were identical to soils extending across the site, i.e. [10YR6/8].

6.0 SUMMARY

- 6.1** It is the view of Border Archaeology that the site once contained significant Roman industrial (workshop) remains. To the south-east, between the site and The Parade, the early Post-Medieval stone wall probably follows the line of a boundary rampart and ditch enclosing the Roman town - a common feature of early towns in Roman Britain. To the north-west of Area B and Area C, the remains of a road surface oriented NE/SW were discovered in the 1920s (approximately 5m NW of Area B). Beyond this, probably underlying the 19th century hospital building, are (or were) the remains of substantial Roman buildings fronting onto Priory Street. It should be noted that the Priory Hospital is placed centrally within the Roman town and the immediate area is therefore extremely sensitive.
- 6.2** The features uncovered in the previous archaeological programme cut into naturally formed (till) deposits. Due to highly intrusive civil engineering work within Area B (and elsewhere) much of the evidence of Roman activity has been lost. This can be clearly seen in the section recorded at the intersection of Area B and Area C. It appears that up to 0.70m of [significant] archaeology has been removed and that naturally accumulated soils (004) are exposed within the lower part of the section. This being the case, only the base of the features uncovered in Area B have been recorded.
- 6.3** It is important to note that, although much of the archaeological heritage of the site has been lost, a significant series of deposits is probably present in Area C. These deposits extend to a depth of 1.4m below present ground level, their survival being more the result of luck than design. This area of the site was occupied by tennis courts during the 1930s and by formal gardens from the 1970s onwards. Subsequently, disturbance resulting from recent civil engineering activity has revealed several Roman surfaces, including a cobblestone surface (feature 14 - BA 2002-1-5). The monitoring authority has instructed the client to lay a protective membrane over this and other parts of the site in order to offer some protection to this extremely sensitive area.

FIGURE 2 SITE LOCATION

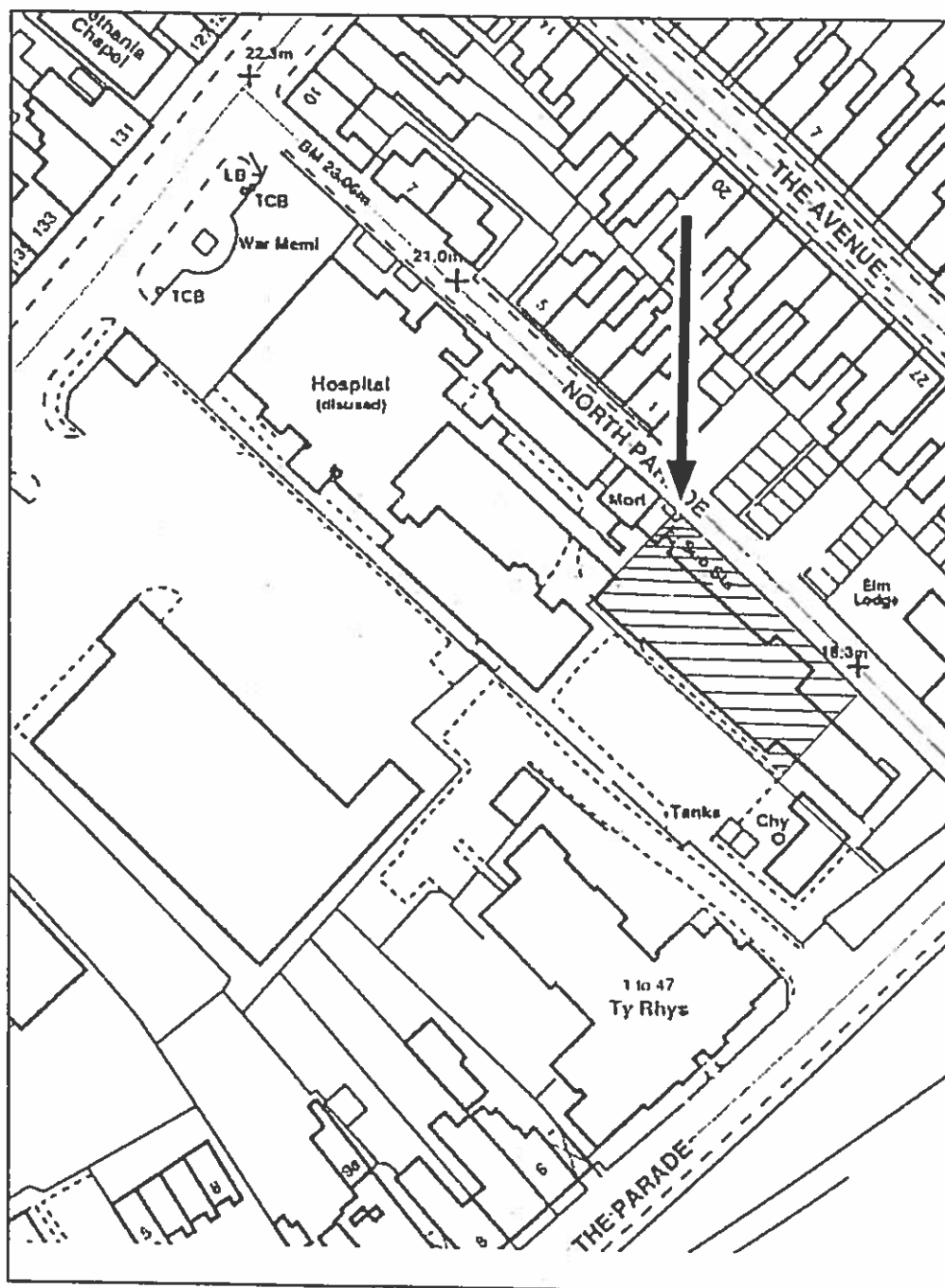


FIGURE 3 TEST PIT AND OPEN AREA LOCATION

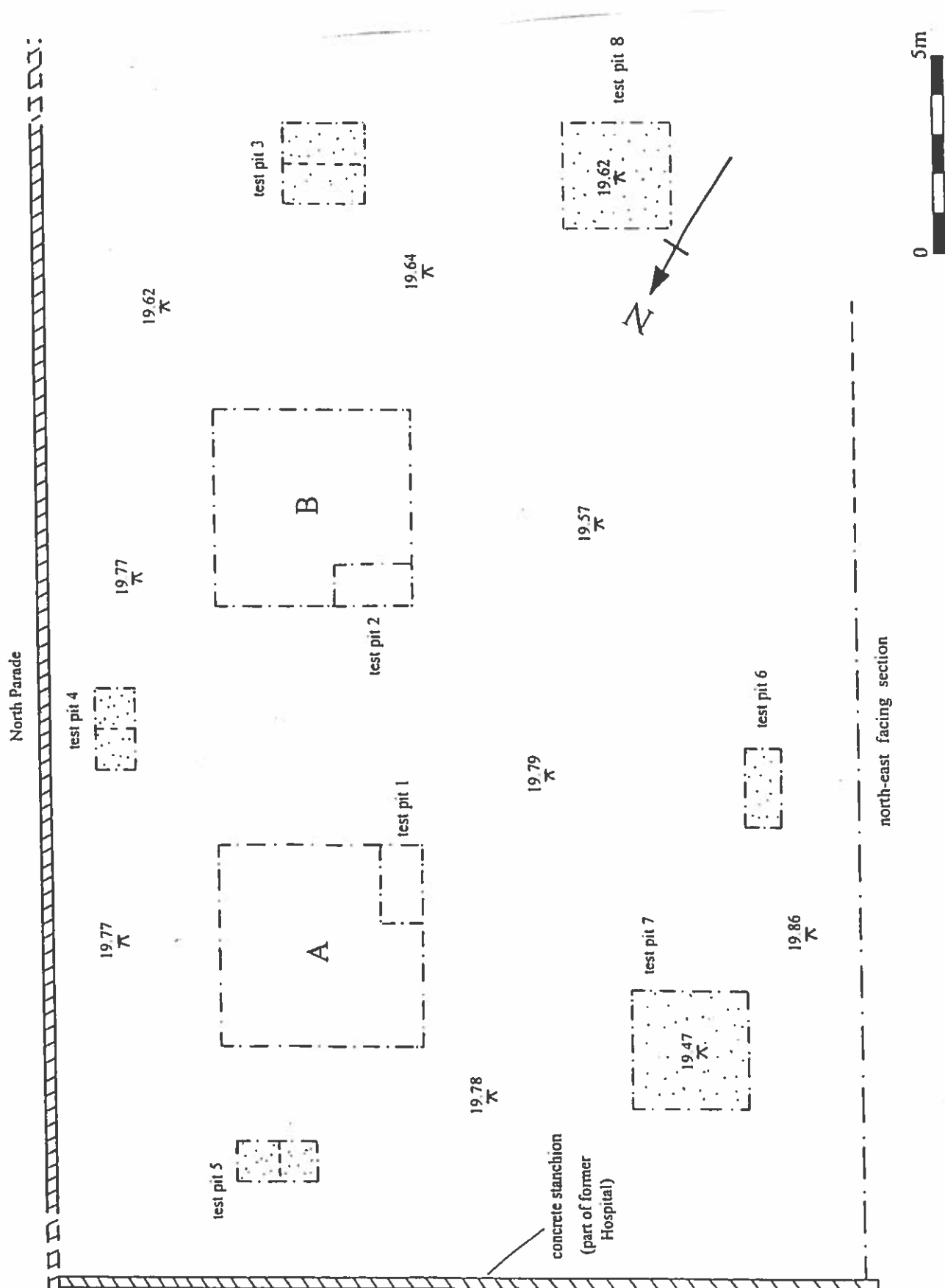


FIGURE 4 AREA 1 (PLAN)

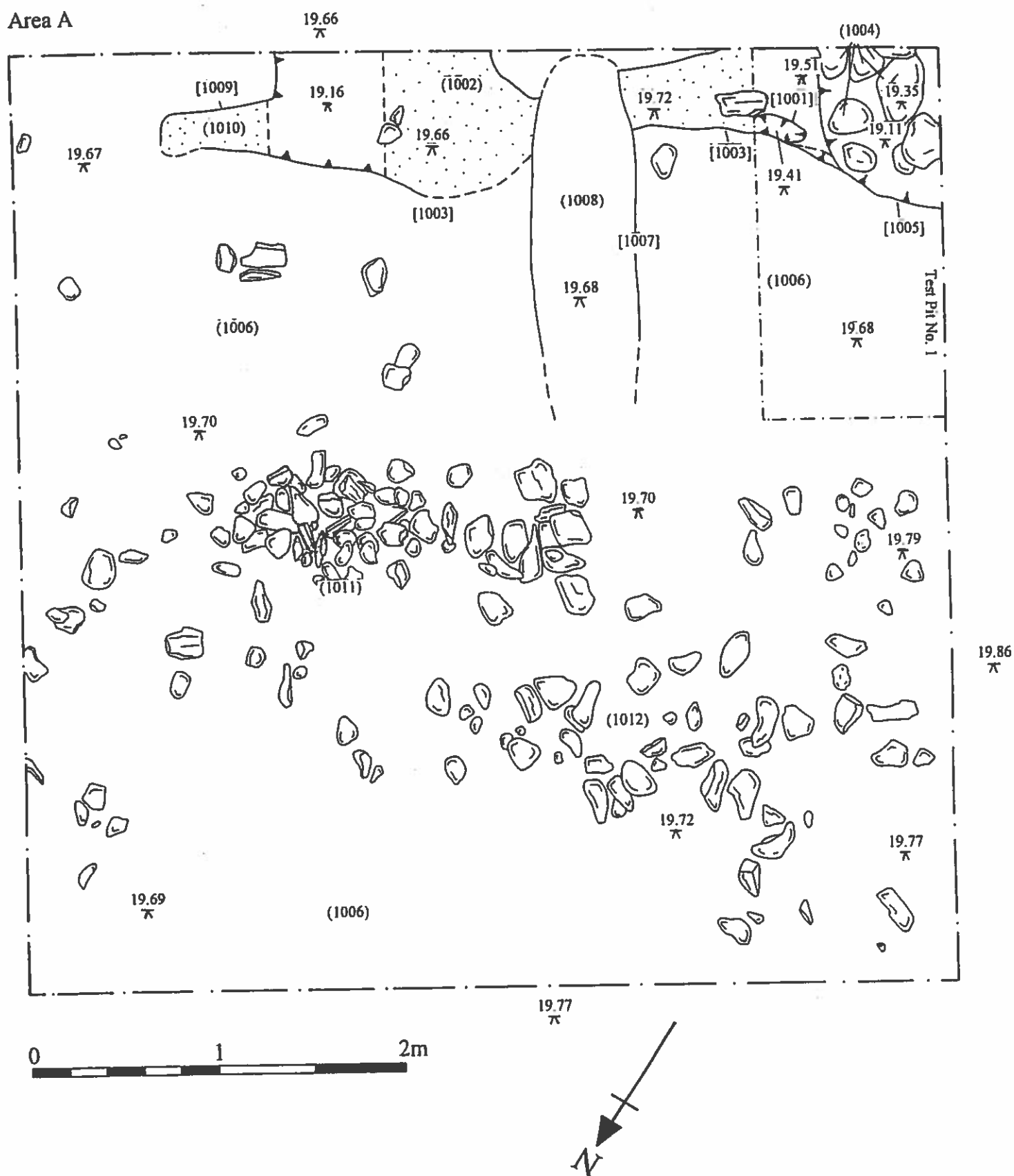


FIGURE 5 AREA 2 (PLAN)

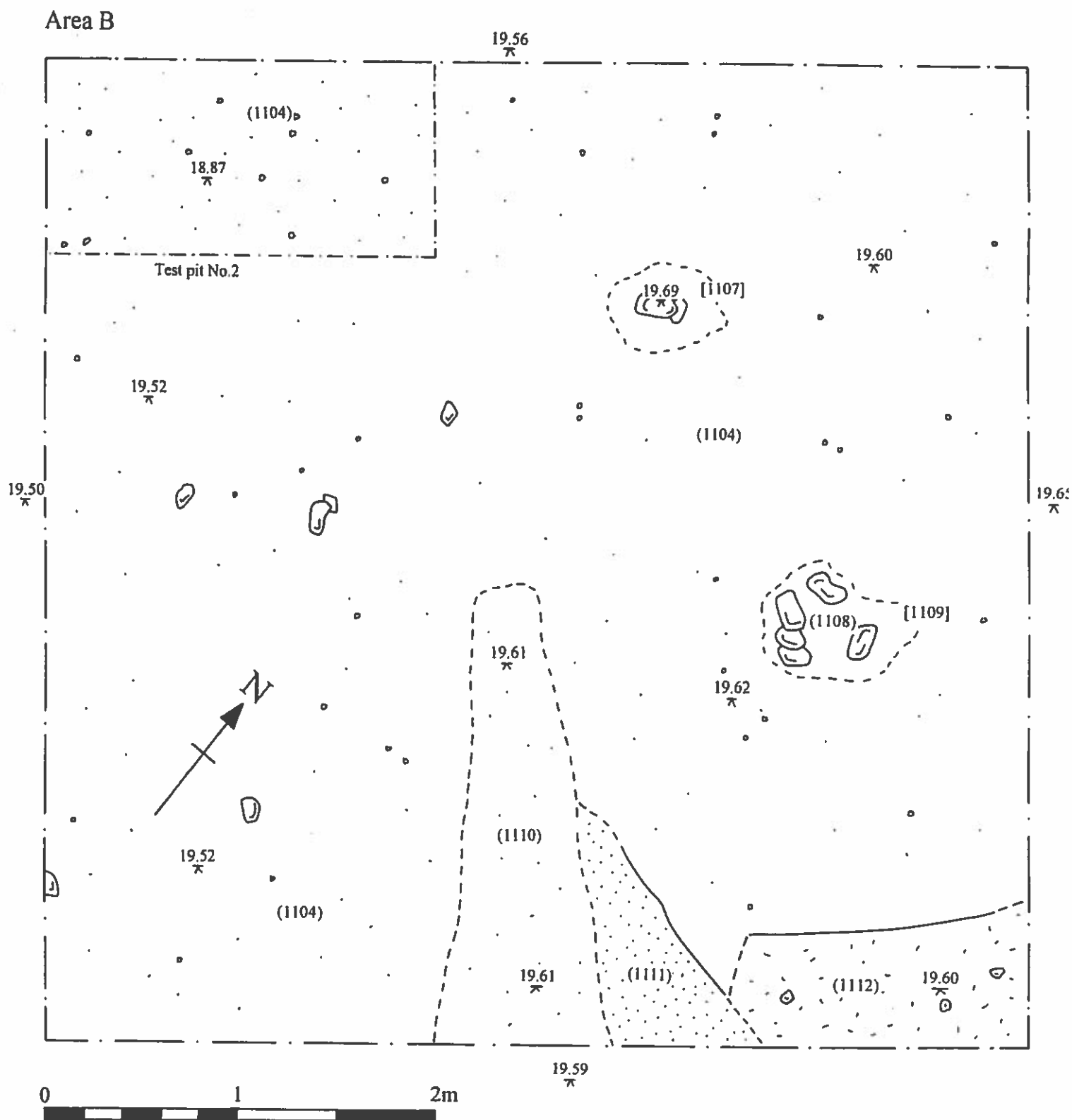


FIGURE 6 TEST PIT 3 (PLAN AND SECTION)

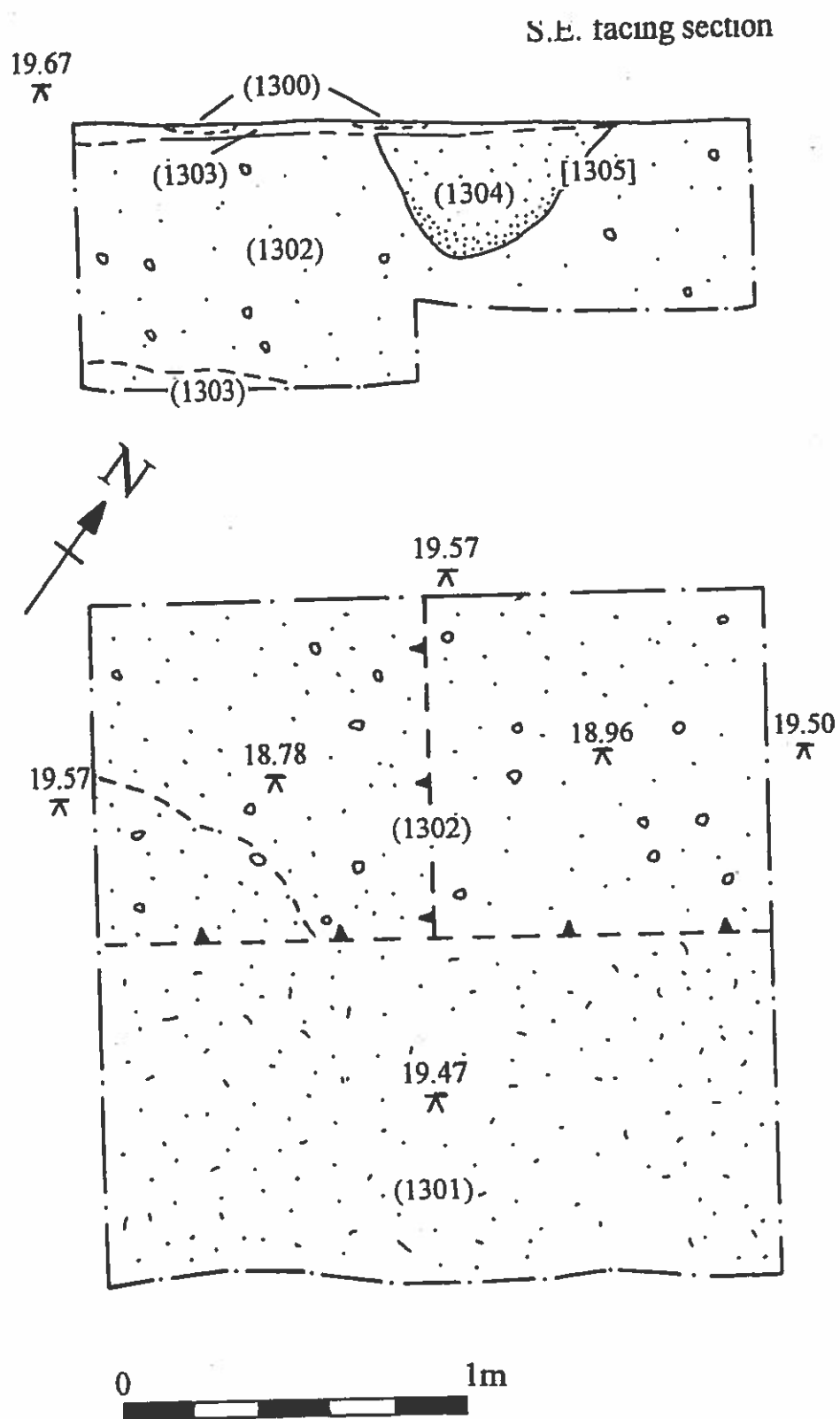


FIGURE 7 TEST PIT 4 (PLAN AND SECTION)

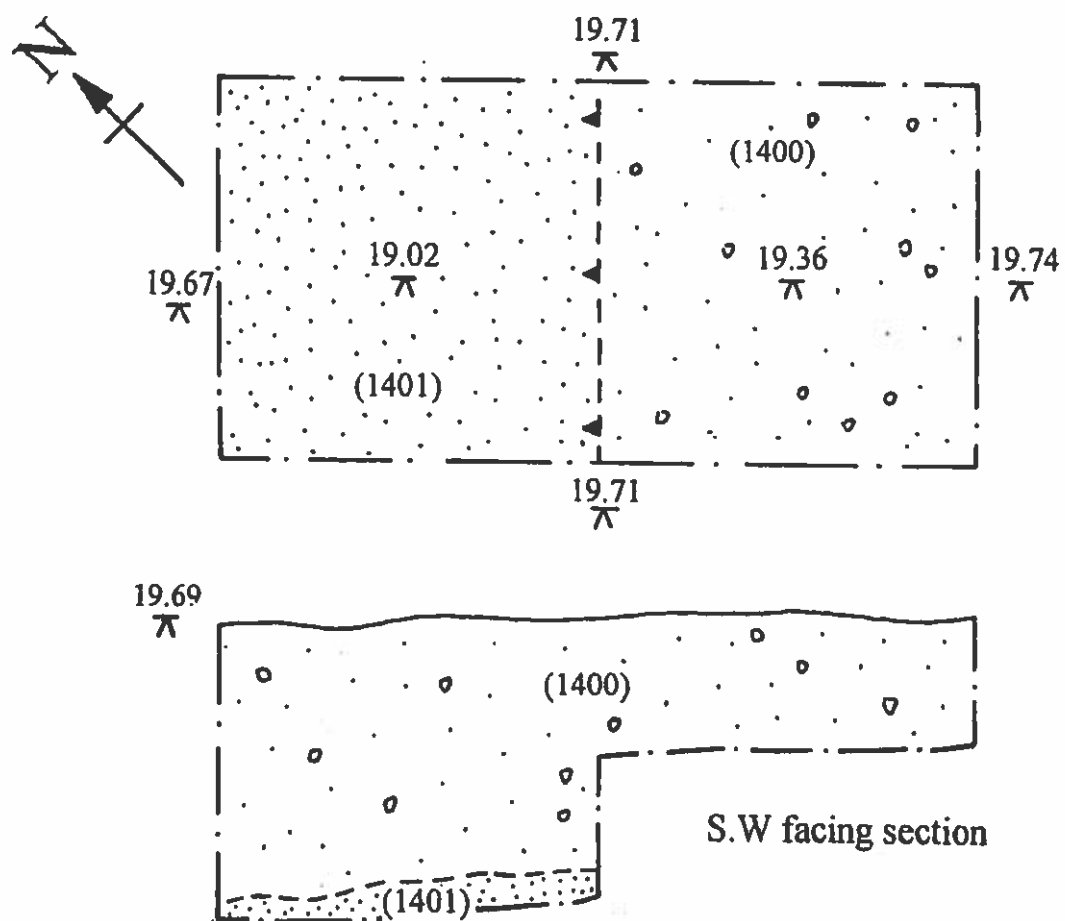


FIGURE 8 TEST PIT 5 (PLAN AND SECTION)

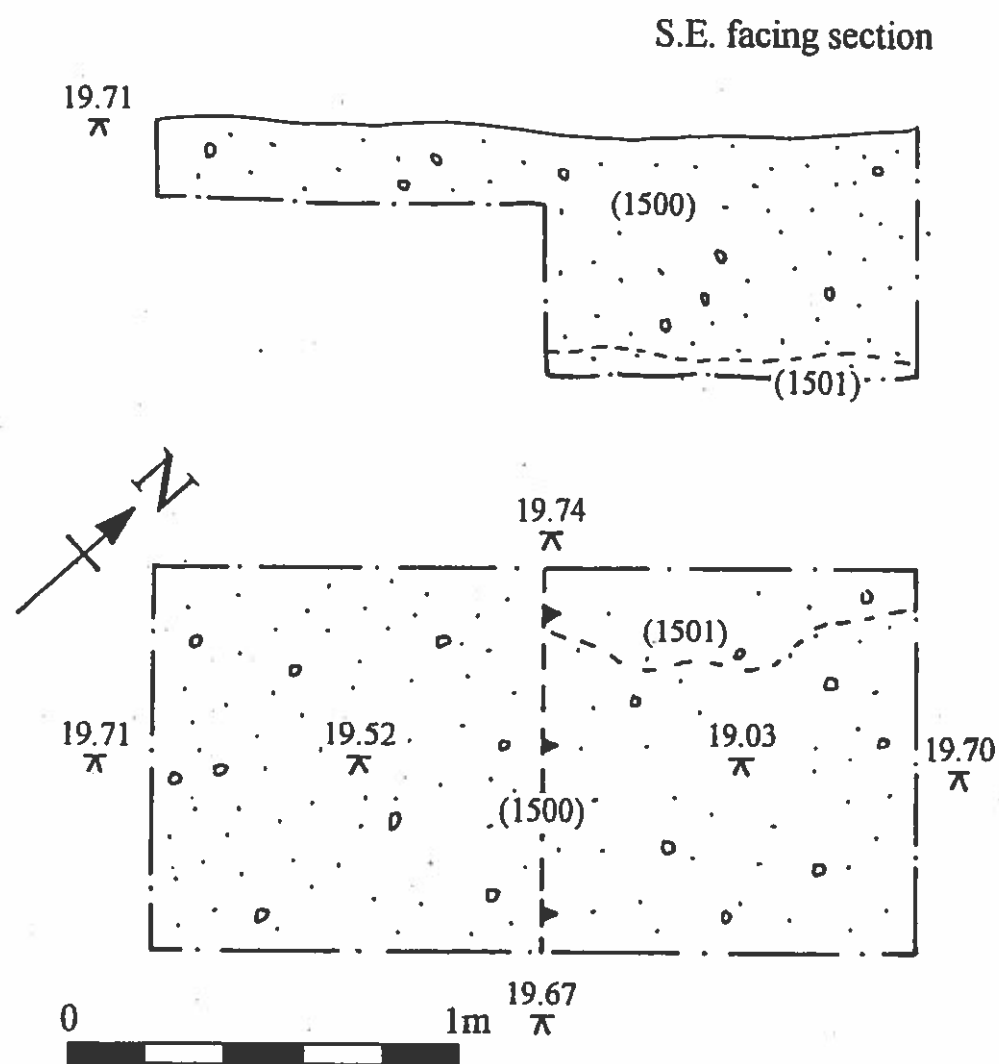


FIGURE 9 TEST PIT 6 (PLAN AND SECTION)

N.E. facing section

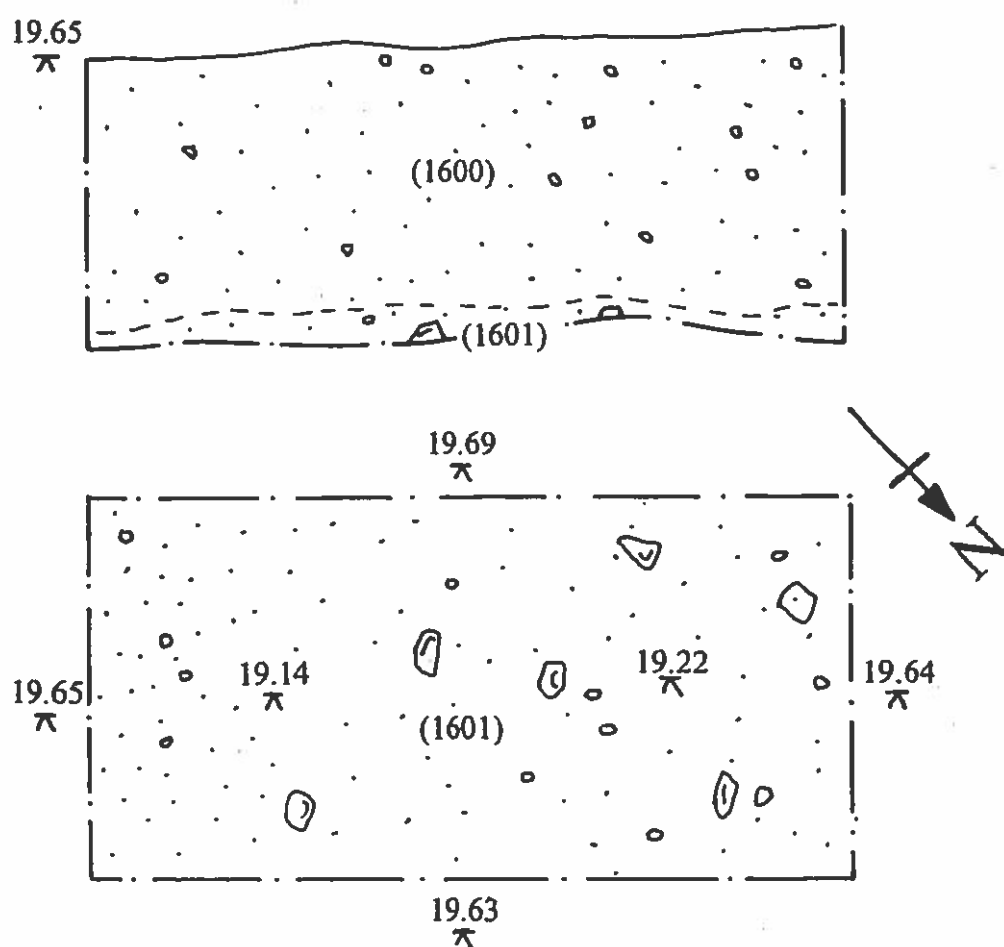


FIGURE 10 TEST PIT 7 (PLAN AND SECTION)

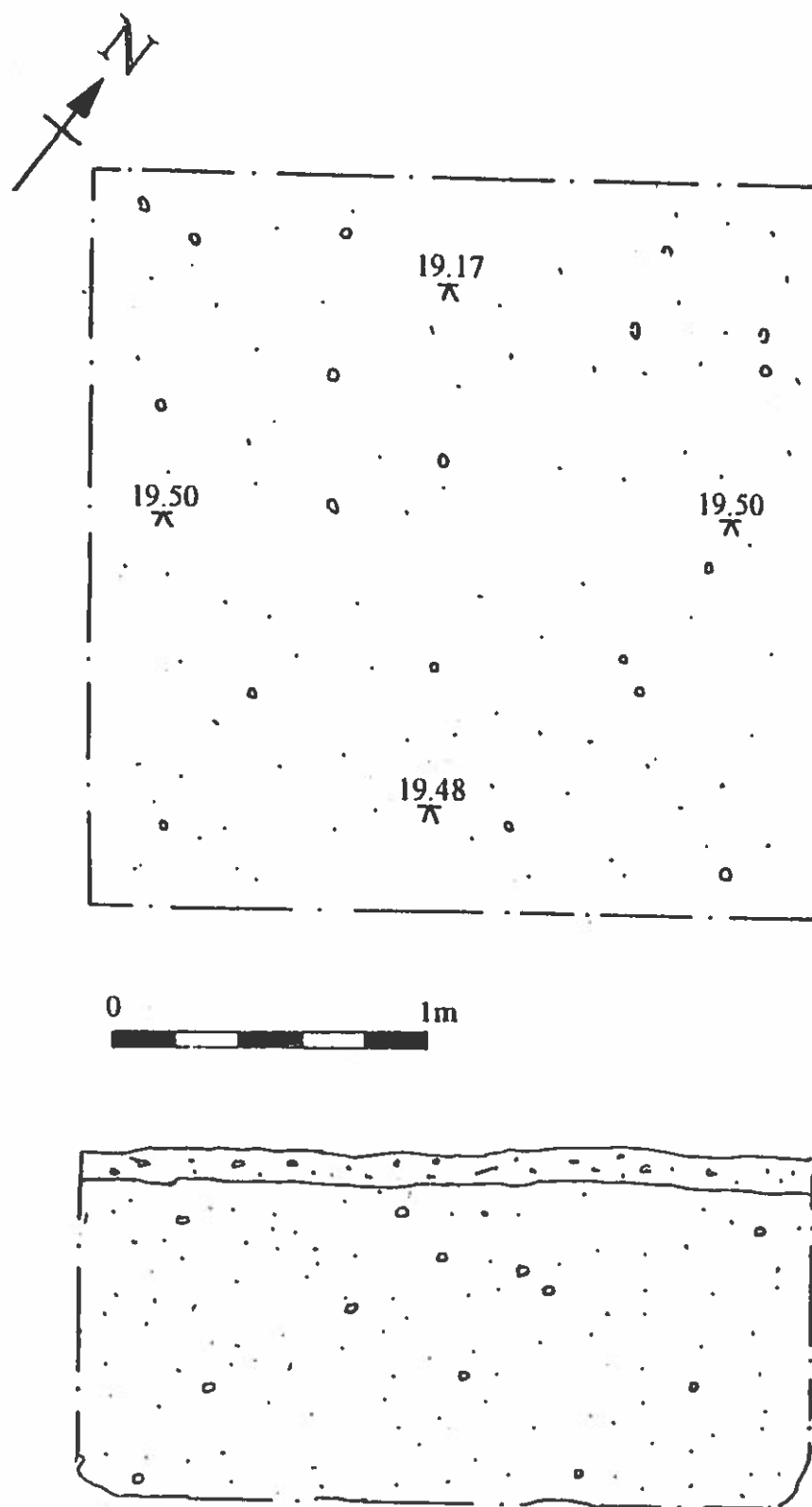
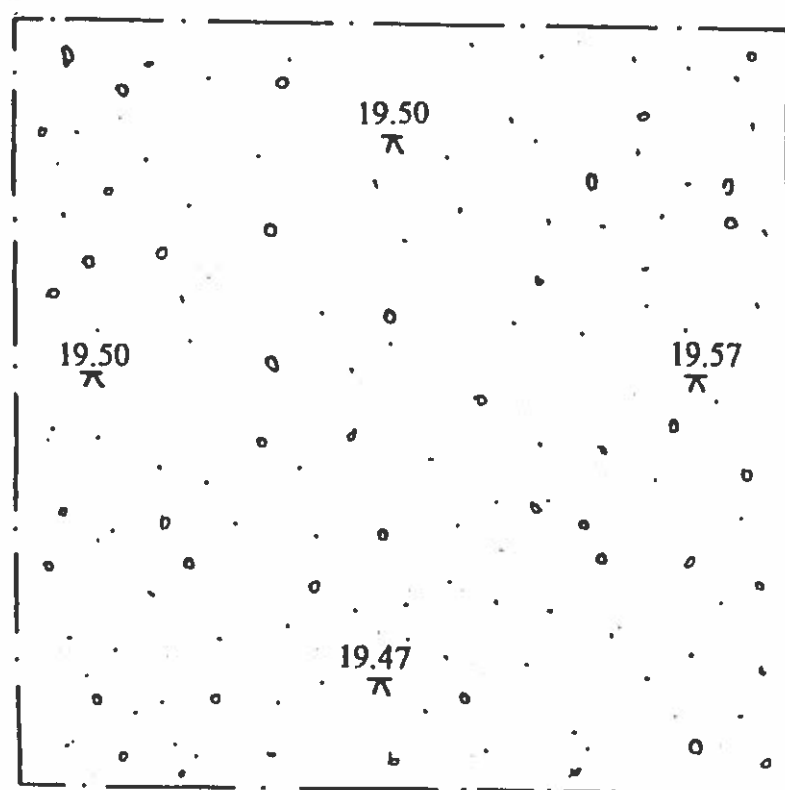
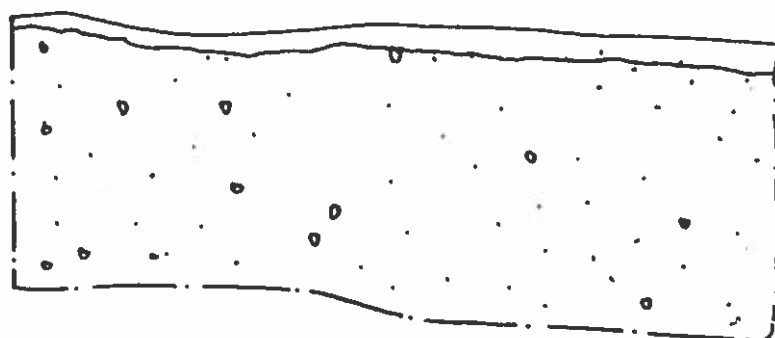


FIGURE 11 TEST PIT 8 (PLAN AND SECTION)



0 1m

A scale bar indicating a distance of 1 meter, with a 0 mark at the left end.



N.W. facing section

FIGURE 12 NORTH-EASTERN FACING SECTION

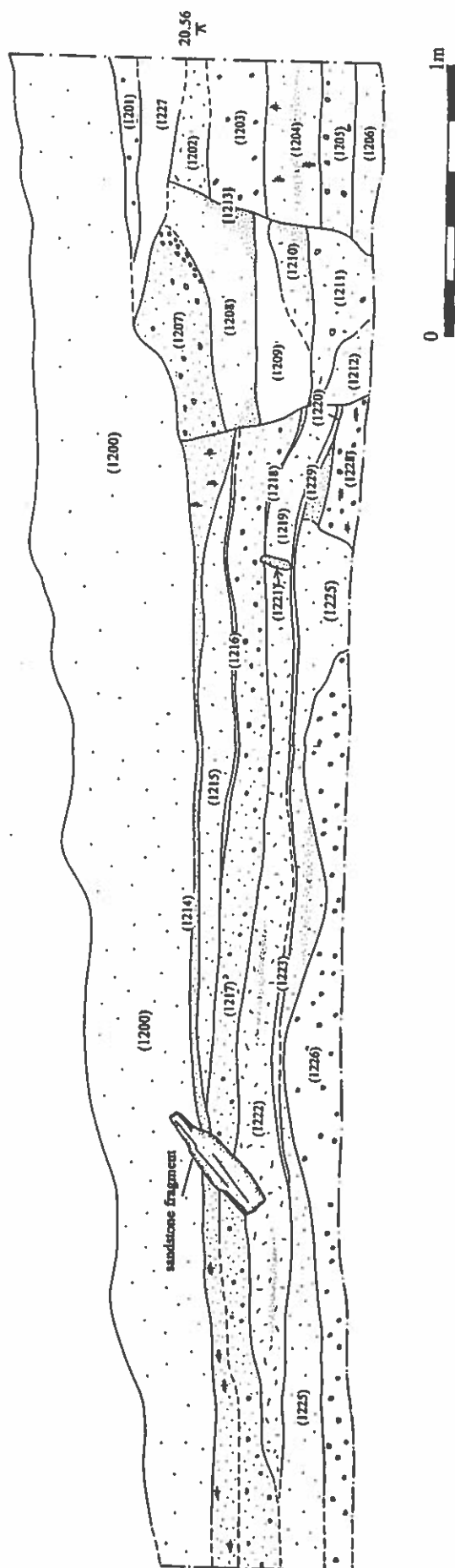
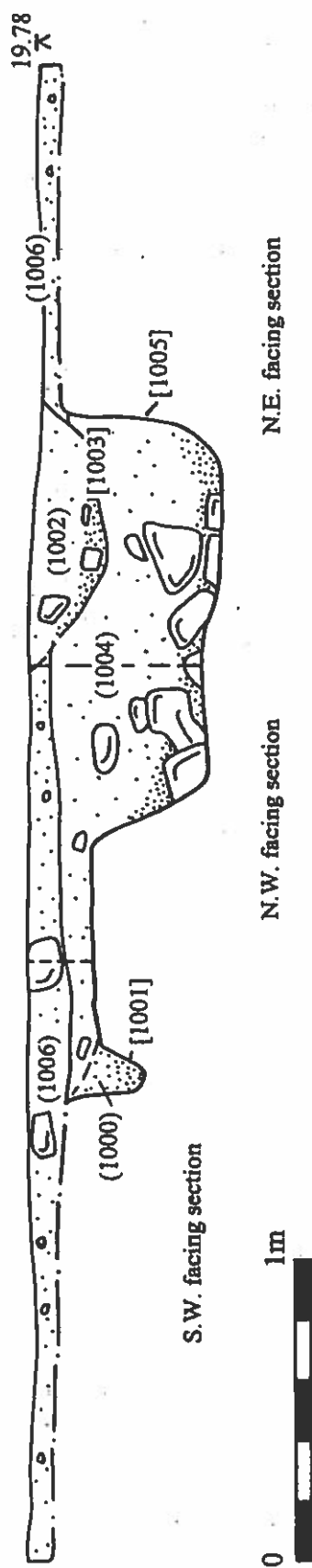
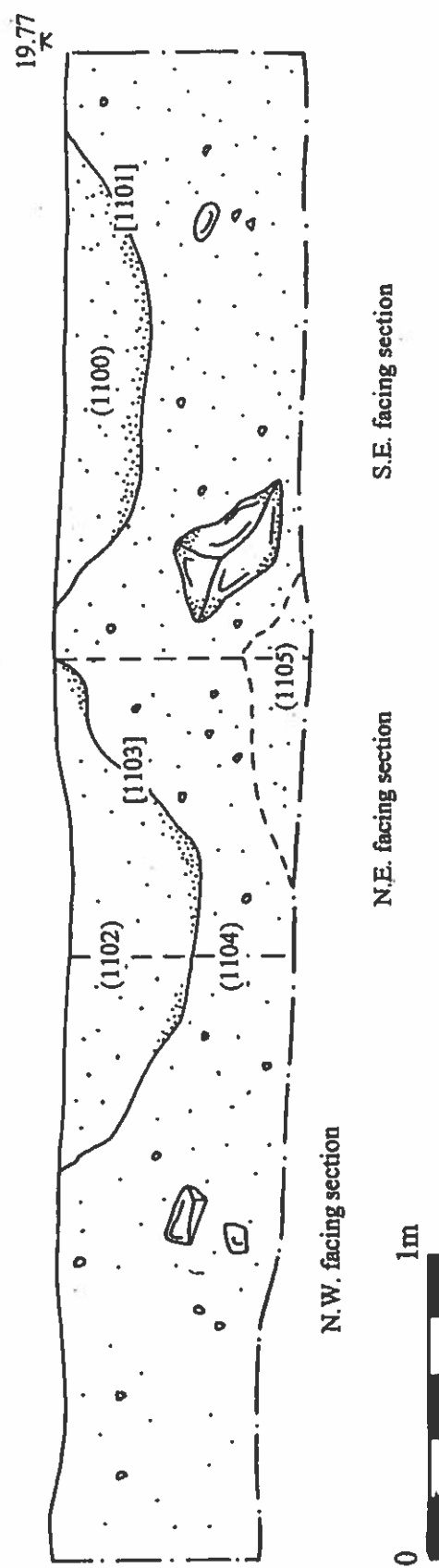


FIGURE 13 TEST PITS WITH OPEN AREAS 1 AND 2

Test Pit No. 1



Test Pit No. 2



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PLATE 1 SECTION BETWEEN AREAS B AND C SHOWING PIT



PLATE 2 SECTION BETWEEN AREAS B & C



PLATE 3 5m SQUARE 'A' SHOWING REMNANTS OF A BUILDING



PLATE 4 EXCAVATED AREA SHOWING BUILDING FOUNDATIONS



PLATE 5 SECTION OF TEST PIT 3 LOOKING NORTH-EAST



PLATE 6 DETAIL IN AREA 'A' SHOWING SMALL RECTILINEAR DITCH



PLATE 7 AREA B - NORTH-EASTERN AREA OF THE SITE



PLATE 8 AREA C SHOWING EXPOSED COBBLE SURFACE



PLATE 9 'ISLANDS OF ARCHAEOLOGY' - EASTERN AREA OF THE SITE



PLATE 10 HALF-SECTIONED ISLAND No. 9 - EASTERN AREA OF THE SITE



APPENDICES⁴

Appendix 1 - List of Prehistoric and Dark Age Sites (Below Ground) from the SMR (Cambria Archaeology)

Appendix 2 - Archaeological Watching Brief and Topsoil Stripping Programme for Priory Street Infirmary, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire

Appendix 3 - Archaeological Programme of Work undertaken at Priory Street Hospital, Carmarthen - Area C

Appendix 4 - Archaeological Programme of Work undertaken at Priory Street Hospital, Carmarthen - Area A

Appendix 5 - Finds Analysis

⁴ Note that these appendices provide an outline to the archaeological events prior to this report. The individual reports are now filed within the SMR at Cambria Archaeology. Further copies can be obtained from Border Archaeology.

APPENDIX I⁵

LIST OF PREHISTORIC AND DARK AGE SITES (BELOW GROUND) FROM THE SMR⁶ (CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY)

Neolithic/Bronze Age/Iron Age

<i>PRN</i>	<i>Grid Ref</i>	<i>Site Name</i>	<i>Generic Type</i>	<i>Period</i>
204	SN40751985	Gasworks	finds	Bronze Age?
209	SN41742045	No. 105 Priory Street	finds	Iron Age/Roman?
224	SN41402130	Penlan	ring barrow	Bronze Age
226	SN41402140	Penlan	henge?	Neolithic
227	SN41502150	Penlan	ring barrow?	Bronze Age
8947	SN414222	Par y Gaer	hillfort?	Iron Age
9868	SN403203	Castle Crispin	hillfort?	Iron Age
11634	SN42692183	Ty Nant	finds	Neolithic
14300	SN41052120	Penlan	open settlement	Iron Age?

Dark Age

<i>PRN</i>	<i>Grid Ref</i>	<i>Site Name</i>	<i>Generic Type</i>	<i>Period</i>
71	SN41902045	Llandeulyddog	clas	Dark Age (D) ⁷

⁵ This list of appendices is concerned essentially with mainly sub-surface archaeology.

⁶ Border Archaeology would like to thank Richard Jones of Cambria Archaeology for supplying this information.

⁷ through documentary sources.

LIST OF ROMAN SITES (SMR, CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY)

<i>PRN</i>	<i>Grid Ref</i>	<i>Site Name</i>	<i>Generic Type</i>	<i>Period</i>
11	SN41802030	Bryn Roma	Bath house	Roman (D)
12	SN41712038	St John's Church	building	Roman (D)
13	SN41712038	St John's Church	finds	Roman
14	SN41762026	Elm Lodge	finds	Roman
15	SN4121	Red Cross	Town defences	Roman
16	SN41572022	St Peter's Churchyard	finds	Roman
17	SN41542025	St Peter's Churchyard	finds	Roman
18	SN41351995	County Gaol	finds	Roman
19	SN41782043	No. 21 Priory St.	finds	Roman
20	SN41702027	Infirmery, Priory St	finds	Roman
21	SN41722024	Infirmery, Priory St	road	Roman (D)
22	SN41792029	Dyffryn House	finds	Roman (D)
23	SN41552045	Richmond House	finds	Roman
24	SN41682021	The Parade	finds	Roman
25	SN41632019	Vicarage Garden	finds	Roman
27	SN41252004	Commerce House	finds	Roman/Medieval?
28	SN41152025	John Street	finds	Roman
29	SN41722035	Priory Street	finds	Roman
30	SN415202	Vicar's House	inscribed stone	Roman
31	SN41952065	<i>Moridunum</i> Amphith.	Amphitheatre	Roman [SAM]
33	SN4120	Richmond Terrace	Town Defences	Roman
34	SN41452038	Football Ground	road	Roman (D)
35	SN41452040	St Peter's St. car park	furnace	Roman (D)
36	SN41472037	St Peter's St. car park	dwelling	Roman (D)
37	SN41652048	Priory Street	building	Roman (D)
38	SN41662034	Priory Street	finds	Roman (D)
39	SN414200	<i>Moridunum</i> -Carmarthen	fort	Roman (D)
40	SN412242029	Cambrian Place	finds	Roman
69	SN42SW	<i>Moridunum Demetarum</i>	town	Roman (D)
203	SN41642035	Priory Street	finds	Roman
211	SN41402014	No. 17 King Street	finds	Roman
214	SN4120	Priory Street	finds	Roman
215	SN41582016	Church Street	excavation	Roman (D)
216	SN41422011	Carmarthen Journal	finds	Roman
222	SN41412041	St Peter's St. car park	finds	Roman (D)
223	SN41462033	St Peter's St. car park	finds	Roman (D)
8508	SN41582034	No. 136 Priory Street	tessellated floor and wall	Roman (D)
8509	SN41852044	Penuel Street	finds	Roman
9869	SN4221	Carmarthen	aqueduct as earthworks?	Roman
11090	SN41822048	Priory St. allotments	finds/hoard?	Roman
11611	SN416201	Vicarage Gardens	finds	Roman
11947	SN4120	The Parade	finds	Roman
11949	SN42SW	The Avenue	finds	Roman
11950	SN42SW	Carmarthen	finds	Roman
11951	SN42SW	Carmarthen	finds	Roman
11960	SN42SW	The Avenue	finds	Roman
12913	SN42SW	Don Stores	finds	Roman
12914	SN42SW	Carmarthen Roman Fort	finds	Roman

LIST OF MEDIEVAL SITES (THE SMR, CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY)

<i>PRN</i>	<i>Grid Ref</i>	<i>Site Name</i>	<i>Generic Type</i>	<i>Period</i>
41	SN42202081	Priory watercourse	mill stream	Medieval (D)
42	SN42062053	Priory Mills	grist mill	Medieval
43	SN41872050	Priory Gatehouse	gatehouse	Medieval
44	SN41892046	Priory of St John	priory	Medieval (D)
45	SN4020	Tawlan mill stream	mill stream	Medieval (D)
46	SN40502035	Redcourse mill	water mill	Medieval (D)
47	SN40982035	St Catherine's Chapel	chapel	Medieval (D)
49	SN41142027	Bog Mill/Cock Mill	water mill	Medieval (D)
50	SN41522022	St Peter's Church	church	Medieval
51	SN41442010	White Gate/East Gate	town gate	Medieval (D)
52	SN41472015	Spilman Gate	town gate	Medieval (D)
53	SN41172006	Wynveth gate/dark gate	town gate	Medieval (D)
54	SN41282004	Prisoner's Gate	town gate	Medieval (D)
55	SN41251992	Bridge Gate	town gate	Medieval (D)
56	SN41232001	St Mary's Church	church	Medieval (D)
57	SN413199	Carmarthen Castle	castle	Medieval
58	SN13811986	Carmarthen Bridge	bridge	Medieval
59	SN41262004	Prince Edward's Chapel	chapel	Medieval (D)
60	SN41141990	Towy Gate	town gate	Medieval (D)
61	SN41061992	Mill on Afon Towy	water mill	Medieval (D)
62	SN40961994	Grey Friars	friary	Medieval (D)
63	SN41142006	Dam Mill	water mill	Medieval (D)
65	SN41192008	Littlewoods Store	well	Medieval
66	SN41532060	Chapel Evan, St John's	chapel	Medieval (D)
67	SN41262000	Market Cross	cross	Medieval
68	SN41241994	Ex-Serviceman's club	vaulted cellar	Medieval
72	SN40982006	High Cross	cross	Medieval (D)
73	SN41252010	West Gate?	town gate	Medieval (D)
74	SN4020	Carmarthen town walls	town defences	Medieval
146	SN41291992	No. 9 Bridge Street	dwelling	Medieval
198	SN40401905	Rhyd-y-Gors	dwelling	Medieval?
202	SN41702026	North Parade	finds	Medieval
210	SN41902055	Nun's Walk	finds	Medieval
213	SN41271996	Buffalo Inn	finds	Medieval
220	SN4120	Carmarthen Benedictine	priory	Medieval (D)
221	SN41171998	Wyrriot's Tower	mural tower	Medieval
228	SN41242007	Woolworth's Store	occupation site	Medieval
230	SN41972042	St John's Priory	prior's house	Medieval
7759	SN41282007	Blue Street	finds	Medieval
8372	SN410199	No. 8 Friars Park	cemetery	Medieval
9743	SN41122003	Mill Street	dwelling?	Medieval?
10600	SN411199	Carmarthen	fulling mill	Medieval (D)
10601	SN411199	Carmarthen	fulling mill	Medieval (D)
10546	SN4020	Carmarthen	The Town	Medieval/Post-Med. (D)
10597	SN420205	Sowther Tucying Mill	fulling mill	Medieval (D)
10598	SN420205	Northern Mill	fulling mill	Medieval (D)
10599	SN420205	Carmarthen	fulling mill	Medieval (D)
10611	SN400214	Tre-Fechan	settlement	Medieval (D)
11604	SN41612057	No.64 Richmond Terrace	finds	Medieval
12283	SN4019	K. Henry VIII Grammar	School	Medieval (D)
12757	SN410202	Carmarthen	fulling mill	Medieval (D)
12788	SN41251997	Angel Vaults	dwelling	Medieval/Post-Med
12905	SN4019	Carmarthen Port	Port	Medieval/Post-Med. (D)
12927	SN432212	Carmarthen Priory	fulling mill	Medieval (D)

APPENDIX 2 - Archaeological Watching Brief and Topsoil Stripping Programme for Priory Street Infirmary, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire

- A2.1 The area of the watching brief/topsoil stripping programme was located around the eastern part of the site, to the south of North Parade and the west of The Parade (Plate 7). The frontage of Priory Street Infirmary, and much of the [old] 19th century fabric of the building, will be incorporated into the proposed new building.
- A2.2 Approximately 0.30m-0.40m of soils were removed from the area of the watching brief, due to contamination by overlying rubble deposits, which the mechanical excavator had driven into the soils during demolition. Three soil contexts were removed prior to topsoil stripping. All Roman and Post-Medieval deposits, features and structures cut into the fourth deposit (004). It should be noted that, as deposits, features and structures cutting into (004) were not excavated, their full extent (including depth) could not be assessed.
- A2.3 The first context encountered, (001), extended across the site and consisted of a coarse rubble spread, forming part of the recent demolition of 20th century infirmary buildings. The spread included much concrete rubble, modern ceramic building material (CBM) and occasional Post-Medieval pottery (tin-glazed earthenwares, cream wares [incl. blue transfer wares] and Staffordshire Brown and Black wares). Underlying (001) was a loosely compacted, dark brown-to-black humic [garden] soil (002). This deposit extended across the site. A single Medieval galena green-glazed pottery sherd was recovered from this deposit, close to a Roman cobblestone surface (Feature 14). Underlying (002) was a moderately compacted, yellow-to-ochre coarse clayey soil (003) with occasional quantities of Post-Medieval pottery (including 19th century glazed white and cream wares). This deposit extended across the site and provided the interface between the modern accumulated soils and underlying Roman deposits, features and structures. Context (004) consisted of a tightly compacted, orange-to-brown silty clay. A small (but significant) assemblage of Roman and Post-Medieval artefacts, including pottery and CBM, was exposed on the surface of this deposit.
- A2.4 Feature 1 [005] was located in the south-west corner of the site and measured, in plan, 3.45m x 0.85 (rectangular in plan). The fill (006) consisted of a moderately compacted, dark-brown, silty clay soil with occasional rounded stones, burnt daub, Roman CBM and modern slate. This feature appeared to be Post-Medieval and possibly associated with 19th century [hospital] building activity.
- A2.5 Feature 2 [007] occurred in the south-west corner of the site, next to feature 3, and measured, in plan, 2.2m x 1.3m (rectangular in plan). The fill (008) comprised a moderately compacted, grey-to-brown, coarse clay soil with occasional large rounded pebble inclusions, bone, burnt daub and Roman pottery. This feature, which cut into feature 3, again appeared to be associated with 19th century [hospital] building activity.
- A2.6 Feature 3 [009] was immediately next to feature 2 and measured 2.8m x 1m (rectangular in plan). The fill (010) was a moderately compacted, brown, silty clay soil with occasional large rounded and sub-angular stones, burnt daub and Roman CBM. The date of this feature is unknown.
- A2.7 Feature 4. East of feature 2 and 3 was feature 4 [011], measuring 0.95m x 0.60m (sub-circular in plan). The fill (012) consisted of a moderately compacted, mid-brown, silty clay soil with bone, CBM, concrete and an iron bolt. The finds suggest a Post-Medieval date.

- A2.8 Feature 5 [013] was located to the north of feature 2 and measured 1.45m x 0.45m (rectilinear in plan). The fill (014) consisted of a tightly compacted, grey, coarse clay with occasional stone inclusions. The feature included burnt daub, Roman ceramic tile and occasional slate and charcoal flecking. Finds from this feature suggest a Roman date.
- A2.9 Feature 6 [015] was encountered to the north of feature 8 and adjacent to feature 7. It measured 1.15m x 0.65m (sub-circular in plan). The fill (016) consisted of a high quantity, sub-angular stone embedded into a tightly compacted, brown silty clay. The feature formed part of a substantial wall, probably Roman.
- A2.10 Feature 7 (structure) (017), a tightly compacted rubble spread (018) embedded into a tightly compacted, brown silty clay, was located in the western part of the site and measured approximately 4m x 0.60m. The structure formed part of a substantial wall (oriented north-west/south-east), probably Roman in date, and partially destroyed by mechanical excavator.
- A2.11 Feature 8 [019] was located to the east of the wall (feature 7) and measured 1.5m x 1m (sub-circular in plan). The fill (020) consisted of a moderately compacted, mid-brown, silty clay soil which contained charcoal flecking, plaster, Roman CBM, slate and sub-angular stones. This feature was probably Roman in date.
- A2.12 Feature 9 [021] was located within the central area of the site, and measured 1.05m x 1.15m (circular in plan). The fill (022) consisted of a tightly compacted, mid-brown, silty clay soil with frequent large stones and moderate quantities of charcoal flecking and Roman CBM. This feature was probably Roman in date.
- A2.13 Feature 10 [023] occurred within the central area of the site and was possibly cut by feature 9. The feature measured 3.5m x 2.8m (D-shaped in plan). The fill (024) was a tightly compacted, mid-brown, silty clay with frequent Roman CBM and charcoal flecking. The extent of the feature was not fully defined. The feature may have been part of a Roman kiln.
- A2.14 Feature 11 [025] was located within the central area of the site, east of features 9 and 10. The feature, which measured 2.7m x 0.70m, may cut into feature 10. The fill (026) consisted of a tightly compacted, coarse, brown clay with frequent charcoal flecking and Roman CBM. This feature, which was not fully defined, was probably Roman in date.
- A2.15 Feature 12 [027] was located east of feature 11 and north of feature 13. This feature measured 3.2m x 0.45m (sub-rectangular in plan). The fill (028) consisted of a tightly compacted, black-to-brown, coarse, clayey soil with frequent charcoal flecks and Roman CBM. The feature, which was not fully defined, was probably Roman in date.
- A2.16 Feature 13 [029] was located immediately south of feature 12 and measured 3m x 1.95m (rectangular in plan). The fill (030) consisted of a tightly compacted, mid-brown, silty clay with frequent quantities of charcoal flecking and Roman CBM. The feature was possibly cut by feature 12 and was probably Roman in date.
- A2.17 Feature 14 (structure) (031) was located to the south of all of the above features and was exposed due to excessive machine activity within that area of the site. The structure, a cobblestone surface, measured 2.1m x 1.3m. The surface was not fully exposed, but, in our opinion, was extensive. Several black and grey burnished Roman sherds were found *insitu* on the surface.

A2.18 Summary

- A2.19 The soil stripping programme revealed a number of features that date to the Roman period, referred to as *Romano-British* when discussing this part of the Roman world. The 14 features varied in size and form. The majority appeared to form the base of buildings, kilns, ovens and pits. It is likely that this phase of civil engineering, rather than construction work during the 1930s, removed substantial archaeological deposits from this area of the site.
- A2.20 It is an unfortunate, but inescapable, fact that no adequate provision, in terms of budget and time, was made with respect to archaeology. Furthermore, the client informed Border Archaeology from the outset that no funds were available for any future archaeological programme of work (including full excavation, as proposed by Cambria Archaeology). As a result of this information, Border Archaeology limited its involvement on site to the exposure and recording of significant archaeological deposits, features and structures.
- A2.21 Context (004) marks the upper extent of the significant archaeology. A number of Roman features appeared within this context, which may be considered industrial in nature. The cobblestone surface (feature 14) may extend across the site, forming a thoroughfare between (Roman) buildings.
- A2.22 Border Archaeology suggests that the integrity of the known deposits can only be adequately protected by redesigning the foundations of the development.

APPENDIX 3 Archaeological Programme of Work undertaken at Priory Street Hospital, Carmarthen - Area C (Plate 8)

- B3.1 Border Archaeology was commissioned by E.N.S.D. Ltd (Carmarthen) to conduct an archaeological watching brief and topsoil strip on land formerly the Priory Street Infirmary (NGR SN 4170 2027). The agents for the programme of works was Keith R. Pearce Chartered Quantity Surveyor. A brief outlining a programme of archaeological works was issued by Cambria Archaeology on October 22nd 2001.
- B3.2 During the first phase of work, Border Archaeology cleaned back Area A and Area B. These areas revealed 14 features/structures which were recorded and assessed. Within Area C, a section of topsoil including context (001) and (002) had revealed one feature; forming part of a cobblestone surface. This surface, labelled Feature 14, was exposed and finally recorded on December 19th 2001.
- B3.3 A series of significant archaeological deposits, features and structures were located within Area A, Area B, and Area C during a top soil stripping and recording programme in November 2001. Only one feature was recorded in Area C. Due to health and safety implications, Feature 14 could not be fully recorded by the November 16th 2001 when, due to financial constraints, all archaeological investigations ceased. The recording of this feature, therefore, took place on the November 19th 2001.
- B3.4 Within Area C, Feature 14 was located 10.05m north-east of the southern boundary wall and 23.5m from the south-east wall (adjacent to The Parade). This feature, described as a cobblestone surface, measured roughly 2.1m (NW-SE) x 1.15m.
- B3.5 The feature, including overlying soils, consisted of five contexts. Context (001) consisted of a coarse 20th century rubble spread. This deposit formed part of the recent demolition of infirmary buildings and included within this spread was extensive concrete rubble, modern ceramic building material and occasional Post-Medieval pottery. Underlying (001) was a loosely compacted dark brown-to-black humic [garden] soil (002) [2.5Y/3]. This deposit extended across Area C. It was within Area C, close to the cobblestone surface, that a single Medieval galena green glazed pottery sherd was recovered. However, due to later material being found within underlying deposits, this sherd was clearly residual. Underlying context [002] was a cobblestone surface. This feature lay immediately above context (004) at 19.09m AOD. Context (004), also found in Area A and Area B, consisted of tightly compacted, orange-to-brown silty clay [10YR6/7].⁸ The cobbles, which appeared to be incorporated into (004), measured up to 0.10m.
- B3.6 Within the central area of this feature were found *in situ* two unbraded sherds of Roman black burnished ware which date from the 1st century (Corney pers. comm.). The two sherds, belonging to a cooking pot, appeared to be hand-thrown and may be associated with the military presence within the town.
- B3.7 It should be noted that this feature was not fully exposed and that a further cobblestone surface may exist immediately north of the exposure (extending towards Priory Street). A road surface was identified a few metres north of the cobblestone surface in 1923; later reproduced within the Royal Commission's Inventory of 1925.⁹ The road running through the site appears

⁸ also numbered in Areas A and B in previous reports as (004).

⁹ following research by George Eyre Evans.

to be continuous, aligned south-west/north-east, approximately 50m parallel to the Esplanade.

B3.8 SUMMARY

- B3.9 Area C, which was partially excavated by machine, contained one feature - a loosely-set cobblestone surface (Feature 14). This surface appears to immediately overlie context (004) and dates from the Roman period. Two BB1 (black burnished) sherds were located on top of the cobblestone surface. No later finds were recorded. Similar to other features and structures in Area A and Area B, this feature can be considered archaeologically significant. The cobblestone surface may represent a courtyard or pavement associated with the a nearby Roman road. It is this road that bisects the site (roughly between Area B, Area C and Area D).
- B3.10 Following the recording of this feature, Area C was covered over with topsoil. It should be stressed that prior to, and following, the recording of Feature 14, no soils north of the cobblestone surface appear to have been impacted, suggesting that archaeological remains (if any) survive *in situ* between the cobblestone surface and the probable Roman street observed in 1923.

APPENDIX 4 - Archaeological Programme of Work undertaken at Priory Street Hospital, Carmarthen - Area A (Plate 9)

- C.1 Border Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Dorian Davies of Plas Cwrt Hir Carmarthen to conduct a further programme of archaeological works on land formerly the Priory Street Infirmary (NGR SN 4170 2027). The agents for the programme of works were Keith R. Pearce Chartered Quantity Surveyors.
- C.2 This programme follows on from previous work undertaken on the site. The site, having been divided into four sections, this programme is concerned with Area A which is located at the far eastern end of the site. The programme follows civil engineering impact by the developer, in the form of footing trenches, on potentially significant remains within this area.
- C.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRAMME OF WORK**
- C.4 Archaeological deposits on the site had been heavily impacted by the laying of concrete foundation trenches within the southern-end of the site (Context [110]). The concrete foundations were up to 0.40m in thickness, with most of this impacting below the level that had been observed during the programme of work by Border Archaeology in late 2001. The site plan details the area of the foundation trenches (Figure 14). Several areas of the site had been badly damaged by the excavation and laying of these trench footings. This included the south-eastern part of the site, where up to 0.60m of deposits had been removed below the level of archaeological deposits uncovered during the earlier watching brief by Border Archaeology (observed 14th November 2001). Several features recorded during this work had been badly damaged (Features 12 and 13). Also in the south-western and southern area of the site two potential stone features had been totally excavated without archaeological supervision. The area at the southern-end of the site had been unexcavated (lying south-east of Features 12 and 13). However, building debris had been dumped onto this area and then compacted into the ground.
- C.5 Located between the newly-laid foundation footings were areas or baulks of undisturbed archaeological deposits upon which were dumped spoil and building debris from elsewhere on the site [100]. For the purposes of this report, each baulk of spoil and undisturbed deposits was numbered. Descriptions of each baulk and NGR number are given below.
- C.6 Baulk 1 (NGR SN 41727 20242).
Up to 0.40m of undisturbed deposits remained in this baulk, beneath up to 0.50m of spoil and building debris. Two deposits were visible within this undisturbed baulk: Context [101], a yellowy orange clayey soil overlying a dark brown silty clay loam [102]. No archaeological features were visible in these contexts.
- C.7 Baulk 2 (NGR SN 41731 20236)
Undisturbed deposits were only visible in the west-facing section. The remaining part of the baulk had been stripped to the layer of the concrete trenching. Between 0.05 – 0.30m of undisturbed deposits were visible underlying up to 0.50m of backfill. Within this, only one context was visible, a brown silty clay loam [102]. No archaeological remains were visible within this context.
- C.8 Baulk 3 (NGR SN 41734 20235)
Between 0.02 – 0.05m of undisturbed deposits were visible within this baulk. Lying above these deposits was up to 0.45m of spoil and building debris that were left by the building contractor. One context was visible within the

undisturbed deposits, a brown silty clay loam [102]. No archaeological remains were visible in this context.

- C.9 Baulk 4 (NGR SN 41731 20238)
Undisturbed deposits were only visible in the south-facing section, of which up to 0.80m of re-deposited building debris and spoil overlay 0.10 – 0.20m of undisturbed material. This material consisted of one context, a brown silty clay loam [102]. The north-facing section consisted entirely of the concrete foundation remnants of the old hospital building [109]. No significant archaeology was visible within Context [102].
- C.10 Baulk 5 (NGR SN 41736 20239)
The majority of deposits within this baulk were composed of concrete foundations from the old hospital building [109]. These foundations underlie up to 0.30m of spoil and building debris. Only the south-facing section of the baulk had any undisturbed deposits, with 0.15 – 0.25m of a brown silty clay loam deposit [102] visible beneath the spoil. No archaeology was visible within this context.
- C.11 Baulk 6 (NGR SN 41741 20242)
In the south facing section, hospital foundations [109] were still visible extending below the line of concrete foundations installed by the contractor [110]. In the east- and north- facing sections there were deposits that had already been heavily impacted by the construction of the hospital, featuring loosely-compacted brown silty clay loam with large quantities of Post-Medieval frogged and unfrogged brick, tile and metal [102]. No significant archaeology was visible within these heavily disturbed deposits.
- C.12 Baulk 7 (NGR SN 41747 20243)
The north- and west-facing sections contained up to 0.30m of undisturbed deposits (above the height of the new concrete foundations). Two contexts were visible within this undisturbed material. Context [102], a brown silty clay loam overlay [103] (recorded previously as [004]), an orangey-brown colluvial clay loam. Context [102] contained frequent occurrences of Roman ceramic building material (CBM) towards the northern-end of the baulk. This material appears to have been severely disturbed at the edge of the baulk, where mechanical excavators have stripped back the soil to lay the foundation trench. A small percentage of undisturbed material remains in the eastern-facing section of the baulk, comprising entirely of context [102]. At the southern end of the baulk, the ground seems to have been impacted less in terms of depth, than at the northern-end. Up to 0.50m of spoil and building debris had been heaped onto the undisturbed deposits.
- C.13 Baulk 8 (NGR SN 41745 20259)
In the northern-facing section between 0.20 – 0.40m of undisturbed deposits were visible. These comprised two separate contexts, [102] a dark brown silty clay loam and [103]-(004), an orangey-brown colluvial clay loam. In Context [102] frequent occurrences of Roman ceramic building material (CBM) were visible. As with Baulk 7 these appear to have been severely disturbed at the edge of the baulk where mechanical excavators have stripped back the soil to lay the foundation trench. Along the east-, south- and west-facing sections, the remains of previously identified hospital cellarge were clearly visible [108], and it is unlikely that undisturbed deposits were damaged any further. Overlying these deposits was 0.30 – 0.40m of spoil and building debris.
- C.14 Baulk 9 (NGR SN 41751 20249)
The north-facing section contained 0.30 – 0.40m of undisturbed deposits underlying 0.40 – 0.50m of spoil and building debris (Plate 10). The undisturbed deposits consisted entirely of one context, a brown silty clay loam

[102]. This context contained frequent occurrences of Roman CBM that had been disturbed by the excavation of a concrete foundation trench. The other sections within this baulk were on top of original hospital cellarge [108].

- C.15 Baulk 10 (NGR SN 41753 20245)
This baulk did not extend above the layer of the concrete foundations laid down by the contractor.
- C.16 Three other features were located within the area of the brief. At NGR SN 41744 20255 was a potential pit feature containing a single context of brown silty clay loam [106] (within Cut [107]) with frequent inclusions of Roman CBM. This feature had been interpreted during earlier work as potentially related to kiln activity. The second feature was located at NGR SN 41743 20253. This feature was a concentration of scatters of Roman CBM. Both this and the former feature were visible at ground level during the earlier watching brief and were interpreted as being related to kiln activity. Finally, at NGR SN 41738 20247 was a potential pit feature [111]. Two contexts were visible within this feature; Context [112] a light brown silty clay loam overlay [113], a dark brown silty soil. Located within [109] were frequent occurrences of Roman CBM; also in [110] were charcoal flecking and flecks of degraded CBM material, some of which was potentially Roman.

C.17 SUMMARY

- C.18 Area A contained deposits, features and structures which date from the Roman period and can be considered as archaeologically significant. This archaeology probably represents one of the industrial areas of Roman Carmarthen. Located within adjacent Area B was evidence of a kiln and associated foundations of a building.
- C.19 The foundation/footings installed by E.N.S.D. Ltd. have impacted on a number of the archaeological features uncovered during the course of previous archaeological work on the site, particularly two features that were visible during the December 2001 watching brief/soil stripping. Examination of the work undertaken by E.N.S.D. Ltd. revealed that this phase of civil engineering exposed several potentially important archaeological features.

APPENDIX 5 - FINDS ANALYSIS

by

Sturat Whatley¹⁰ & Mark Corney¹¹

Investigation of Area B and Area D from Priory Street Hospital, Carmarthen, by Border Archaeology in February and March 2002 led to the retrieval of Romano-British and Post-Medieval finds. A total of 19 pieces of pottery, 57 pieces of CBM (Ceramic Building Material), one piece of slate roof-tile, one piece of slag and one shard of modern glass was recovered. The finds revealed that the site in Area B and Area D represented two periods of occupation: Romano-British occupation from the late first century to the early fifth century AD and re-occupation in the later Post-Medieval period (late 18th century onwards). The report will feature the ceramic register, location data and a discussion of the CBM and other finds.

CERAMIC REGISTER

The register features a collection of Romano-British wares, local and continental, and British-made Post-Medieval vessels. This register also features the CBM

1 Samian ware. Base of an hemispherical bowl with a plain hooked flange. Drag Form 38. Pink fabric with infrequent shell inclusions. A red slip on the exterior and interior. Wheel thrown. Late Hadrianic period (Webster 1996:51). High-class tableware mainly produced in Gaul from the first to the late third century AD.

2 Grey ware. Grey fabric with shell and mica inclusions. Voids are also found in the fabric break. Coarse domestic earthenware vessels. Wheel thrown. Romano-British.

3 Black Burnished ware 1. Black burnishing on interior and exterior of vessels. Grey and pink centre revealed in the fabric break with pebble and mica inclusions. Hand made, coarse domestic wares with lattice decorations on the exterior. Romano-British. Made in Southern Dorset and found more commonly after AD120 outside the production area.

4 Severn-Valley type ware. Generally an orange fabric, sometimes slightly red or brown. Fabric break points reveal a grey centre with mica, pebble and grog inclusions. Lattice decoration on some pieces. Coarse domestic wheel thrown vessels made in the Severn Valley region in the Romano-British period.

5 Orange-pinkish red earthenware. Coarse earthenware consisting of an orange/pink fabric with mica and shell inclusions. Wheel thrown storage or garden vessels. Late Post-Medieval period (probably late 18th century onwards).

6 Black glazed earthenware. Buff fabric with black glaze. Coarse domestic vessels. Wheel thrown. Late Post-Medieval period (late 18th century onwards). Probably from Staffordshire.

7 Romano-British CBM. Orange to pink fabric with shell and mica inclusions and voids. In the form of *Imbrices* and *tegulae* roof-tiles, floor-tiles, building tiles and *pilae* hypocaust tiles. Over half of the tiles were degraded, probably a result of bad firing and acidic soil reaction.

8 Post-Medieval CBM. Orange and Pink fabric with pebble inclusions. Curved roof-tiles with mortar on the exterior. Probably from the hospital roof.

CERAMIC LOCATION REGISTER

¹⁰ Border Archaeology

¹¹ Centre for the Historic Environment, Department of Archaeology, University of Bristol

Due to the nature of the excavation, involving the investigation of test pits and the cleaning of areas and sections, the finds are listed within their contexts in the various locations. Each artefact will be briefly mentioned with regard to number, form and weight.

AREA B

CLEANED AREA 1, CONTAINING TEST PIT 1

Context (1000). Two very degraded pieces of Romano-British CBM. Weighs 18gm

Context (1002). 16 pieces of Romano-British CBM. Weighs 1693gm. The assemblage was generally degraded but contained probable pieces of *Imbrices* and *tegulae* roof tiles and floor tiles. Also included were four body sherds of Severn-Valley ware weighing 29gm.

Context (1004). One degraded piece of Romano-British CBM. Weighing 21gm.

Context (1006). Four pieces of Romano-British CBM. The context contained three degraded fragments and one possible *tegula* roof tile. Weighs 103gm.

CLEANED AREA 2, CONTAINING TEST PIT 2

Context (1100). One Romano-British *tegula* roof tile weighing 141gm.

Context (1102)

Three sherds of pottery. Included were one rim and one body shard of Black Burnished ware weighing 17gm, and one body shard of grey ware weighing 3gm. One large Romano-British floor tile/building tile weighing 172gm.

Context (1104). (Natural layer in Test Pit 2. Found on the surface, arguably Un-stratified).

Three pieces of Romano-British CBM, weighing 454gm. Included were two pieces of *tegulae*. Also retrieved was one piece of red Post-Medieval coarse earthenware weighing 10gm.

U/S IN CLEANED AREA

Two pieces of degraded Romano-British CBM fragments weighing 90gm.

TEST PIT 3

Context (1301). Contained 14 pieces of crumbling Romano-British CBM within the sub-rounded burnt daub spread. The destruction layer (of the probable Romano-British kiln) contained identifiable pieces such as *Imbrices* and *tegulae* roof tiles and either floor or *pilae* tiles. The assemblage weighed 2671gm.

Context (1304). One *pila* hypocaust tile was recovered weighing 29gm.

TEST PIT 7

Context (1700) Natural layer. One body shard of Severn-Valley ware weighing 4gm. Found on the surface.

EAST FACING SECTION ALONG AREA B.

Context (214). Two body sherds of grey ware weighing 11gm. Retrieved from the section. U/S (Cleaning the section).

Three sherds of Severn-Valley ware consisting of one rim and two body sherds, weighing 19gm. Also recovered was one shard of a base from a red coarse earthenware vessel weighing 5gm. Collected also were 11 pieces of Romano-British CBM of which six pieces were degraded. Of the pieces that could be identified were possible *pilae* hypocaust tiles and *tegulae* roof tiles. The CBM assemblage weighed 1867gm.

MACHINED AREA [SE of Area B].

U/S Recovered from the surface.

Base of a hemispherical Samian bowl. Probably Drag. Form 38. Weighs 30gm. Also recovered was a Post-Medieval roof tile weighing 426gm, which probably belonged to the roof of the hospital.

NON CERAMIC FINDS

Listed below are the three non-ceramic finds from Area B.

1 Slate roof-tile. Romano-British slate roof-tile with a nail hole. Very weathered.

Found in Test pit 3, context (1301). Weighs 231gm.

2 Slag. Small buff coloured piece of slag containing a fused piece of stone. U/S.

Cleaned Area 2. Near Test Pit 2. Weighs 51gm.

3 Glass. Translucent window shard. Probably modern from the hospital building. U/S. Cleaned Area 2. Weighs 4gm.

DISCUSSION

The assemblage clearly shows that Area B and Area D had two clear periods of occupation in the Romano-British (AD43-410) and later Post Medieval periods (late 18th century onwards). The construction and later destruction of Priory Street Hospital has removed evidence of site use between these two periods. The finds were relatively sparse due to the investigated features being stratigraphically below the main archaeological horizon, as shown in the east-facing section. A total of 16 pieces of pottery were recovered, weighing 128gm; 14 sherds were Romano-British and 13 were from stratified contexts. The two Post-Medieval sherds were un-stratified and found on the natural silty clay deposit. The few sherds represent a general domestic Romano-British assemblage, except for one piece of Samian ware, which may have belonged to a wealthy individual.

The large amount of Romano-British CBM, in conjunction with the burnt daub spreads and the evidence from the east-facing section, suggests that Area B and Area D were occupied by substantial buildings during the Romano-British period. A total of 56 fragments were retrieved weighing 7268gm. The tile assemblage consisted of the *tegulae* and *imbrices* roof tiles, floor tiles and hypocaust tiles such as the box or *pilae* tiles. The presence of these tiles suggests Roman-style buildings rather than native structures. The hypocaust tiles, in particular, may represent either wealthy inhabitants or the presence of a public building(s) previously on site. It should be noted that at least 33 tiles were very degraded. This suggests that they were either poorly fired or that they had been subjected to destructive weathering processes (or a combination of both).

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