DEAN STREET CAR PARK, BANGOR.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

GAT Project no. G1880

Report No. 661

Prepared for Shepherd Gilmour Environment Ltd
February 2007

By G..H. Smith

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Cover: Early photograph of Dean's Court from the west

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of a proposed development on the site of the car park at the west side of Dean Street, Bangor. The work was requested by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) because the area of the development was within the historic town of Bangor and because the area f the development was formerly occupied by an area of early 19th century terraced housing. This was an early example of an area of very small urban houses, a type of housing that is no linger extant because of slum clearance in the 20th century. Six trial trenches were excavated showing that the ground floors and lower parts of the walls, along with all minor features of the houses were well preserved because they were buried under demolition debris about 1930 and had remained under a car park to the present day. Excavation beneath the houses showed the buried topsoil of the field that preceded the house construction but no evidence of earlier activity apart from field drains.

1 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was asked by Shepherd Gilmour Environmental to carry out an archaeological evaluation in advance of construction of a multi-storey car park on the site of a former ground level car park at the west side of Dean Street, Bangor (NGR SH58257237).The evaluation was requested by and monitored by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) as part of the planning development control process. The work was part of the development of the former Wellfield shopping centre, for which an earlier desktop archaeological assessment has been carried out (Page 2003).

The area affected comprises about 2600 sq. m (0.26ha) on a gentle north-facing slope immediately south-east of the former line of the Afon Adda, which now runs in a culvert just west of the development area (Fig. 2). The area is restricted by the presence of two extant sewers, one running diagonally across the site to join the other, which runs parallel to the culverted river at the west side of the site. The adjoining areas to the west and north formerly held a gas works, first constructed in the 19th century. The area of the evaluation formerly contained three streets of 19th century terraced housing. Prior to the construction of this housing the area was a field.

2 SPECIFICATION AND PROJECT DESIGN

The work was carried out in accordance with a design agreed with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (Appendix 1). This comprised a minimum 4% sample strip of the development area with the aim of identifying any archaeological features that might be present. If areas of archaeological potential were uncovered then a further stage of targeted evaluation might be needed and possibly recommendations might be made for further excavation and recording or by preservation *in situ*.

The project design conformed to the specifications of the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994, rev. 1999) and the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1995, rev. 1999).

3 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

The evaluation was carried out from Tuesday 30th January to Tuesday 6th February 2007 (Six working days).

The work comprised the excavation of six trenches, each approximately 10m by 1.8m. The original design for the trench layout had to be altered because of the presence of sewers that had not previously been taken into account and because of the need for a separate easement area at one side of the site for the construction of a new sewer. The layout of the trenches was designed to sample the various former houses based on the record of them provided by the 1889 Ordnance Survey 1:500 map (Fig. 3).

The trenches were cut by the machine available, which was larger than normally used for such work being a 24 ton tracked excavator. It was also necessary to use a toothed bucket because of the need to dig through hard surfaces and because the trench width had to be kept within the track width of the excavator to allow the excavation to be carried out in two stages, which necessitated tracking back over the trench. The first stage comprised excavation to the level of the former houses, followed by cleaning and recording. The second stage comprised excavating though these surfaces down into the natural subsoil to look for evidence of any earlier activity.

The archive is held by GAT under the project number **G1880**.

4.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The general historical and archaeological background was studied as part of the desktop work for the assessment report (Page 2003). Detailed study of the Dean Street area was completed and included as part of the report on a watching brief carried out during trial trenching at the adjoining car park, the site of Bangor's first gas works (Smith 2007) and is repeated here with the addition of further historical research and description by Andrew Davidson.

Medieval Origins

Bangor as a settlement has its origins in the ecclesiastical community founded around the middle of the 6th century AD by Deiniol, reputed to be a descendant of the royal family of Rheged, the ancient British kingdom around the Solway Firth (Roberts 1994, 20). The site had no previous historic significance because it was not a strategic location for communication or defence. The community established in the 6th century occupied a small enclosed valley with a stream, the Afon Adda, and this land was probably a gift of Maelgwn, the ruler of Gwynedd. The earliest settlement would have been monastic and there is a note in the Irish Annals of the sack of the monastery in AD 634. This original settlement would have been focussed on a chapel within an enclosure, from which the town takes its name – Bangor, meaning 'Wattle fence', and other settlements have derived their name similarly at Bangor-on-Dee, Cheshire and Bangor, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. White (1984) and Longley (1994) have argued that this early enclosure (Fig. 1) may have been the same as the oval area that was still the focus of the town as recorded by Speed in his map of the town in 1610. However, it is recorded that Edward 1 erected some town defences in 1283-4 and these may have had some effect on the subsequent development of the town plan (Annales Cambriae, 108). None the less, excavations in this same area, north of the High Street and east of the cathedral between 1981-9 (Longley 1995) identified several early boundaries, the earliest a curvilinear 'slot' dated to between the 6th to 8th centuries AD (*ibid* 56) just east of the cathedral. Numerous early graves were also recorded further east, some of which predated a rectilinear boundary ditch dated to around the mid 10th century (*ibid* 65).

There is good evidence then that this area was a centre of ecclesiastical activity prior to the establishment of the present cathedral in the early 12th century by Bishop David, who was consecrated in 1120 (Carr 1994, 28). However, some pre-12th century buildings are recorded as having survived until at least the late 13th century before falling into decay (Soulsby 1983, 76). It had previously been thought that the early monastic community was located on the north side of the Afon Adda, on the terrace at the foot of the slopes below the main university building (RCAHMW 1960, Fig. 17), where buildings and burials had been found in 1924 (Hughes 1924). Excavations were carried out prior to the construction of the university students' union building and on the hillside close to the 1924 discoveries (Alcock 1964) and prior to the construction of the theatre (White 1971) but no medieval remains, or other burials were found. It has been suggested therefore that the principal monastic community must

have been on the south other side of the Adda Valley, in the vicinity of the present cathedral and that the remains found in 1924 were those of a subsidiary parish church, Llanfair Garth Brannan, mentioned in 1291.

There were other ecclesiastical buildings in the valley, including another chapel, Capel Gorfyw, a friary and several houses for the clergy such as the dean, canons, vicars choral, which were clustered around the cathedral, where the High Street is now. The friary was of the Dominican order and was established about 1250. Its original site was by the mouth of the Afon Adda, close to Seiriol Road. It later moved to a new site in Hirael and after its dissolution in 1538 its buildings became a school by private bequest.

The secular settlement of Bangor was subsidiary to the ecclesiastical, both in terms of function and importance, and probably had its origins in the employment deriving from the services required by the ecclesiastical community. The houses of the city in fact developed on the fringes of the ecclesiastical community because the majority of the land around the cathedral belonged to one or other of the diocesan incumbents. Never the less, there were 53 burgesses or tenants named in a survey of the Bishop's lands in Bangor of 1306, although eleven of these were clerics (Carr 1994, 29).

Bangor was not a centre of secular authority, although a motte was built in the late 11th century, possibly on the Aethwy ridge north of the present town and above Garth (Soulsby 1983, 76). Even so the town suffered during many hostilities, probably because of the varying loyalties of the bishop. It flourished under the Welsh princes but was burned by King John in 1211. It was later damaged during Edward's campaign, possibly by the Welsh because the bishop had supported the English. It was attacked by Glyndwr in 1402 and 'the cathedral had been partly destroyed and probably the houses of the cathedral clergy had been laid waste' (Pryce 1923). The cathedral was supposed to have remained in ruins for nearly 90 years until the end of the fifteenth century when restoration was begun.

Post medieval development

The area later to be occupied by the Dean Street car park and earlier by the first Bangor gas works and workers' housing lay between the medieval centre of Bangor, around the cathedral and a secondary centre around the Friary (Fig. 1). It adjoined the Afon Adda, which was prone to seasonal flooding and so was avoided by settlement. It was still an area of fields in the early 17th century, as shown on Speed's map of Bangor of 1610 and in the mid 18th century as shown on Lewis's view of Bangor of 1740. The area that was to become the site of the Dean Street community was a large field called Cae Sgybor (Barn Field). It was bought by the Dean of Bangor in 1808 who subdivided it into plots and so was clearly designed for resale for development.

The town developed first alongside the main highways, towards Conway to the east and towards Caernarfon in the west. Rapid expansion in the 19th century concentrated around three foci – first around the cathedral and market cross, secondly around Dean Street and thirdly around Hirael to the east. The first houses in Dean Street and Well Street were built about 1814. 'During the following fifteen years upwards of eight hundred houses were erected in the town (Ingman 1952, 38). By the time of the first proper survey of the town carried out by John Wood in 1834, much of the Dean Street area was already built up with terraced housing. The area of the present development was still largely an open field at that time although two streets had been built - Garden Street and Brook Row, the first with two terraces, the second with one row backing onto the Afon Adda. These terraces were some of the earliest speculative workers' housing in Bangor, constructed about 1825, and described as '10 dwellings along Garden Street and six dwellings fronting Brook Row (Jones 1989, Table 1). Not long after, in 1832, part of the field to the west, belonging to John Jones, was sold to Robert Roberts, builder, who constructed 34 similar small houses around the edges of the field and called Garden Square, leaving a paddock at the rear. However, these houses were not shown on the Tithe map of 1841, which had probably been surveyed before the houses had been constructed. The name Garden Square became unfortunate when in 1843 the remaining paddock was sold to James Smyth Scott as a site to build the first Bangor gas works (*ibid*). The houses were stone-built and the L-plan wall that forms the boundary between the east and west parts of the present car-park (Fig. 2) incorporates the remains of the front wall and one of the party walls of the eastern Garden Square terrace.

The houses built in this area, such as Brook Row, Garden Street (later to be re-named Dean's Court) and Garden Square, were the smallest possible houses that could be built to house a family and were built at the highest possible density (Fig. 3). They consisted of one living room with one bedroom over.

The gaps between the fronts of the terraces were no more than 12-17ft and 80% of each plot was built over, leaving outside only a small yard with an ash-pit and midden. There was no sanitation, no wash-house and no water supply. The Afon Adda was used for the dumping of rubbish, excrement and waste from slaughterhouses etc. Most of the river remained open until the mid 19th century (Map of Bangor 1854) although the small part across the present development was culverted underground by the time of the 1889 Ordnance Survey map. The housing became disease-prone in the 19th century and was regarded as a 'slum' and eventually demolished by the town council in the 1930's, when new estates were built on higher ground on the fringes of the city. The first was at Maes Tryfan to the west and, perhaps not surprisingly, the first people to be moved there in 1935 were the occupants of Brook Row (Jones 1986, 159).

5.0 EVALUATION RESULTS

The six trenches were excavated during the setting-up phase of the decontamination works programme because the evaluation area was required for storage of soil. The trenches were therefore excavated and numbered in the order of priority that would ensure least disruption to the decontamination programme. All features were recorded in plan and a one general section was recorded for each trench. The lower parts of each trench could not be recorded in detail because the depth was beyond that allowed for safe working. The trench depths are described in relation to depth below the modern car park surface although the drawings were levelled in to Ordnance datum, the levels recorded in the archive.

Trench 1 (Figs 4-6)

The highest layers encountered were a series of thin former surfaces of the car park, the earlier being simply crushed hardcore, immediately below which the tops of several partly demolished walls were found.

The trench crossed the floor plan of three separate houses of the former Brook Row as shown on the 1889 Ordnance Survey map . The ground plan of these houses indicated that they were of two downstairs and two upstairs rooms and the trench revealed the two party walls between the front rooms of the three houses and the north face of the rear wall of these rooms. At the north side of the trench the short spur wall of the chimney breast of two houses was exposed.

The room of the eastern house was different in that there was no partition wall on the expected line although there were the brick footings of a probable partition wall on a slightly different line. This room had a floor of stony clay with a surface of crushed brick which had then been buried by demolition debris.

The room of the central house had a similar clay floor but at a later phase, probably at the time of demolition a slate slab culvert had been built into the floor surface, which had then been covered in about 0.35m of make-up rubble. This culvert was laid so as to run through the doorway of the room of the central house. It was possibly was laid to improve drainage from the houses of Dean's Court, while they were still standing after the demolition of Brook Row. This was supported by the finding of pieces of pottery and animal bone in the culvert silts, suggesting domestic activity close by, rather than that it was simply draining the car park area.

The walls of all the houses survived to a height of 0.45m above their floor level and had wall plaster still *in situ*. The face of the chimney breast of the central house had traces of an ochre wash. The wall plaster continued to about 0.25m below the floor level and as there was no sign of renewal of the floors the walls must have been first plastered after construction at footings level before the floor sub-bases were laid and the walls were never re-plastered. This was confirmed in all the other houses excavated in other trenches.

The clay floors of the two western houses were clean and unmodified but the eastern house had a thin layer of crushed brick and mortar fragments over the clay suggesting some internal changes.

The house walls were quite narrow at only 0.25m wide but of stone in a strong mortar. Unexpectedly, some of the lower part of the walls was built of orthostatic slabs. Machining through the house walls showed that they rested on large horizontal foundation slabs. The footing slabs had been laid in shallow

trenches cut through a dark humic silty clay and set on top of a lighter coloured clay at a depth of 1.6m below the modern surface. The darker humic clay was taken to be the former topsoil and the grey-brown clay the natural alluvium. This layer was still continuing to the eventual base of the excavation at -2.3m. No features were found that pre-dated the houses apart from the buried earlier topsoil.

Trench 2 (Figs 7-9)

This trench to the west of but on the same line as Trench 1 and so again cut through the wall line of two houses of Brook Row although these houses, at the end of the row, were smaller and of single room floor plan. The trench extended beyond the end of the terrace into a yard area at the west.

A similar sequence of car park surfaces and demolition rubble was found, again overlying a stony clay floor within the houses, with no re-surfacing. The house walls were preserved to about 0.5m above the floor surface, and retained plaster facing and the room of the central house had a doorway at the south side. The floor surface dipped towards the doorway indicating considerable wear but lack of resurfacing. The western wall was the end wall of the terrace and was wider at 0.45m than the house party wall, which was 0.25m wide.

The west end of the trench extended into an external yard area and this had a humic topsoil but the majority of this had been removed during construction of large modern (but defunct) drain or sewer.

Excavation through the walls and floors of the houses again revealed large horizontal footing slabs for the walls, set on a layer of grey silty clay at -1.7m which overlay a deeper layer of mid-brown silty clay that still continued at the limit of the excavation at -2.5m max. There were no features pre-dating the 19th century houses.

Trench 3 (Figs 10-12)

This trench cut across the line of one house on Garden Square and partly into its back yard and into the street in front of it. The houses in this street were of small single room ground-floor plan.

The floor of this house had been re-laid on at least one occasion and the latest floor was only 0.35 below the modern car park surface. This floor was of thin slates laid in a mortar bed set on a clean sand base. The earlier floor was of mid-brown unsurfaced clay in a deep bed as in the previous houses.

Most of the rear yard of the house had been destroyed by the 20th century sewer trench first discovered in Trench 2. This drain or sewer had clearly been laid along the gap between the ends of the terraces of Brook Row and Dean's Court and the back of Garden Terrace and so was contemporary with their occupation (Fig. 3). When the houses were first constructed there was no public sewage system so this sewer is probably post-1900.

The part of the back yard of the house that did survive included the area of a small outbuilding or porch seen on the 1889 map, shown to be about 1.3m (4ft) square. Most of its floor, consisting of two large slate slabs was exposed but not its walls.

The trench was close to the party wall between two houses but did not encounter a chimney breast so the fireplace must have been on the opposite side of the room although neither did it encounter a front doorway and one would expect the doorway to be on the end of the front wall away from the fireplace wall.

The walls of the house were of stone. The front wall was 0.5m wide and the rear wall 0.20m wide. Excavation through the house walls showed that they were set on large horizontal foundation slabs resting at 1.0m below the modern surface. The slabs were set on a layer of mid-grey clay that was initially taken to be natural alluvium. However, further excavation showed that the clay lay over dark humic clay which covered two linear features that were exposed at the base of the trench. One was 0.35m wide and gravel-filled. The other was 1.0m wide and cobble-filled. Both were interpreted as drains for the field that existed prior to construction of houses in the Dean Street area. The dark clay was therefore the old field topsoil and the higher lighter clay must therefore be a redeposited layer, laid down to level up the area prior to house construction. The limit of excavation was at -1.75m, a depth that made it unsafe to investigate the linear features in detail. The fill of both was also contaminated

with liquid tar which must have entered the drains from further upslope, from the base of the gas-holder to the south-east.

Trench 4 (Figs 13-15)

This trench provided a section across the road of Dean's Court and the front of the two facing houses. Most of the trench therefore consisted of the road surface, which in its latest phase was at 0.70m below the modern car park surface and consisted of a gently cambered surface of roughly tarred hardcore. An undated early photograph of Dean's Court shows the road with a stony surface, prior to the tar surfacing (cover - Bangor 1935 a). This photograph also show raised footpaths on either side of the road although what remained of this was just a strip of fine dark silty gravel, probably to allow drainage from the road. It is possible that there had been a slate slab paving that had been robbed during demolition and one slate kerb piece did survive on the south side of the road (Fig. 13).
The trench was aligned on the party wall between houses so as to cross the doorway marked on the map on the north (down slope) side by a projecting 'stoop'. The floor on this house was therefore raised up above street level to prevent flooding from the street. The trench also crossed a directly opposing door on the house on the south side of the street, the floor of which, of stony clay, was at about street level.

Beneath the front steps and raised floor of the house on the north side of the street was a slate slab-built drain which originated under the footpath at the edge of the road and drained under the floor of the house (Fig. 15).

Excavation through the road and house walls and floors showed the walls to be built on horizontal foundation slabs at a depth of –1.5m. These slabs were set on a layer of mid-grey clay, which overlay a layer of dark humic peaty clay. The peaty layer overlay a pure light grey clay at the limit of excavation at –2.30m. Following the information from Trench 3 the mid-grey clay was interpreted as a redeposited levelling up layer and the peaty layer as the topsoil of the pre-19th century field.

Trench 5 (Figs 16-18)

This trench provided a complete cross-section of one of the houses on the south-east side of Dean's Court, including part of its rear yard, the footpath and part of the street.

The house was of single room floor plan, 3.9m (12.8ft) front to back internally and 4.8m (15.7ft) externally with walls 0.45m (1ft 6ins) wide. The floor, at a depth of –0.8m, was of stony clay with no surface treatment and no evidence of resurfacing. The walls were, as in other houses, plastered to below floor level and set on large horizontal foundation blocks at a depth of –1.3m. The back yard had no surfacing, with a topsoil of dark loam but beneath which was a layer of stony clay, as used for the sub-base of the internal floor.

Excavation through the floors and walls again showed that the wall footings were set on a layer of redeposited mid-grey clay as in trenches 3 and 4. In this trench the clay overlay a much deeper layer of peaty clay which again overlay light grey clay at a maximum depth of –2.6m. The surface of the peaty clay and underlying clay here had a much more pronounced slope to the north-west, towards the river. The peaty layer included some preserved wood fragments including small sections of twigs and branches with bark (probably of birch). This shows that there is potential for preservation of waterlogged organic remains, should significant archaeological remains be found in future.

Trench 6 (Figs 19-21)

This trench provided a section across a house at the west side of Dean's Court including the party wall between two adjoining houses and part of the rear yard and street.

These two houses were of single room floor-plan, like that in Trench 5 and of a similar size, front to back. The top of the demolished walls were encountered at -0.45m. All the walls were of stone and both front and back walls were 0.45m wide, and plaster facing survived on all internal wall faces. The party wall between the houses was narrower at 0.27m wide.

As in other trenches the house walls had been demolished to a little above floor level and the upstanding room area had then been backfilled with shale providing good preservation of the floors. Along the south side of the party wall were found the walls of a chimney breast enclosing a fire opening 1.0m wide internally. Despite the narrow party wall the chimney had been recessed into it leaving a dividing wall at the fire-back of only 0.18m thick. The fireplace enclosed a small hearth 0.34m wide with a slate slab floor and a brick-faced clay surround suggesting it had held a simple trivet although it is possible that it held a small cast iron range that was later removed.

The rear yard of the house comprised a deep layer of dark humic loam below which were traces of a rough slate slab surface that dipped to the north-west, possibly into an infilled midden pit.

At the east the trench exposed the front door of the house on the north side of the party wall. Removal of part of the shale infill of the room revealed a rough slate-laid floor continuing through the doorway. Outside the doorway, under the footpath was a collapsed stone-lined drain, haphazardly filled with broken floor tiles. This drain ran along the street under the footpath towards Dean Street.

Trench 6 was not excavated through the house floors and walls because of the good preservation that was found and the possibility that it might be chosen as an area for further work. The exposed floors and features were protected with polythene sheet before backfilling.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Subsoil

The trenches were excavated until it was thought that natural horizons had been encountered. The deepest excavation was at -2.6m. The deeper layers were all clayey alluvial silts within the valley floor so no harder natural glacial deposits or bedrock were reached. Observation during excavation of the gas holder in the western car park shows that the alluvial silty clays sloped up abruptly to meet the sloping valley side, of orange-brown fluvio-glacial till, approximately along the eastern boundary of the car park area. It is possible that there could be earlier post-glacial land surfaces within the alluvial silts, but these might be at a considerable depth. Only one organic-rich horizon was encountered and this was interpreted as the pre-19th century soil.

6.2 Features possibly earlier than 19th Century

Excavation below the house floors identified soil levels of the field that pre-dated the early 19th century house construction and two field drains but no structural or artefactual evidence of any earlier activity. The field seems to have been marshy pasture and had a deep peaty soil with preserved woody remains in its lower levels, showing that it had remained partly waterlogged. The field adjoined the Afon Adda and would have been subject to occasional flooding. The ends of some of the small branch wood could have been axe-cut and so could derive from clearance or hedge-trimming. The surface of the field was quite gently sloping at the west but in Trench 5 had a stronger slope, as did the underlying clay, indicating that the line of the river had originally meandered further to the north-west in the area of Dean Street.

6.3 19th Century Features

The trial trenching showed that there was good preservation of the 19th century housing beneath the existing car park surface. This was better than had been found during the watching brief for remediation trenching of the western car park area. The better preservation resulted from the greater depth of demolition rubble left in the eastern car park, probably designed to raise the surface above the valley bottom, which was still prone to flooding.

All internal and external floors were preserved as well as substantial parts of upstanding walls and internal and external features including drains, doorways and hearths. All exposed walls and features were recorded in plan and section providing much information about the layout and construction of the houses although this did not allow the reconstruction of any complete house floor plan.

The interiors of the houses were clean with no rubbish deposits although some crocks had been dumped in with the demolition material.

The topsoil of the rear yards of the houses was generally humic and included fragments of pottery etc that would have accumulated during the hundred years of the houses' existence. The back yards were not targeted for trial trenching and exposed only partially so the presence of middens, ash-pits, privies or drains were not determined.

6.4 20th Century Features

The houses continued in existence until about 1935. Road surfaces were maintained and resurfaced up to this time and additional services were inserted during these later years, including piped gas and water and additional drains. This included the insertion of a major drain or sewer along the back of Garden Square.

The area remained open from the time of the demolition about 1935 until the present day, with several episodes of resurfacings and the insertion of a renewed sewer diagonally across the area, from south-west to north-east from Ashley Road. Some electric cabling was also inserted to provide power to lighting for the car park.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The pre-19th century levels consisted only of the marshy pasture field and field drains with no evidence of earlier structures or activity. The preserved woody remains could have derived from clearance, perhaps in the medieval period but may be much older. The presence of preserved wood shows there is potential for the survival of organic evidence if significant archaeological remains are found in future.

The houses of most interest are the single room floor plan houses of Dean's Court and Garden Square, a type that no longer survives. Complete exposure of one of these houses, together with its back yard would provide a more adequate record and example of this type of urban housing. The most suitable house would be that found at the south side of Trench 6, where good preservation is proven and which lies in an area outside that required for soil storage, truck movement or sewer construction.

Retrieval of an assemblage of pottery and other finds from the yard and midden deposits of this house could provide an interesting picture of the economic status and lifestyle of the occupants.

Detailed study of the 1851 and 1901 censuses needs to be carried out to inform a better assessment of the occupants of these houses. It might also be possible to identify the occupants of one individual house that might be chosen for study and so provide a more meaningful study of the house in relation to its structural and artefactual remains.

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APPENDIX 1

DEAN STREET CAR PARK REDEVELOPMENT, BANGOR

PROJECT DESIGN FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING AND EVALUATION (G1880)

Prepared for Gardiner and Theobold, 23rd November 2006

1. INTRODUCTION

This project design outlines the archaeological mitigation to be undertaken in advance of the construction of a multi-storey car park on the site of the existing car park at Dean Street, Bangor. The design has been requested by Gardiner and Theobold and has been drawn up by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

2. BACKGROUND

An initial assessment has been undertaken of the Centre by Cambria Archaeology (Report No. 2003/126). A brief for archaeological mitigation has been prepared by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (D961), requiring trial excavation. The previous desktop assessment showed that the area now occupied by the car park contained a dense complex of small terraced houses constructed in the early 19th century (Fig. 3). This type of house was not compatible with modern standards and all were demolished as part of a housing improvement programme in the 1930's and 1940's. The possibility that there may be well-preserved remains may be an unusual survival of evidence of this type of housing. The area lay close to the course of the Afon Adda prior to its culverting *c.* 1900 and it is possible that there are buried soil horizons and possibly waterlogged deposits with material that may date as far as the Medieval period.

3. REQUIREMENTS OF THE BRIEF

The requirements specified within the brief are for evaluation excavation to a minimum sample of 4%.

The excavated trenches will evaluate the preservation of the 19th century housing and of the survival and potential of any deeper and earlier deposits taking into account the likely depth of disturbance by the proposed development, if it has a subterranean level.

4. METHOD STATEMENT

4.1 Trial trenching

The excavations will conform to the guidelines specified in IFA Standards and Guidance: Field Evaluation (1994, rev. 1999), where field evaluation is defined as "a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate".

If archaeological remains or deposits are found, then a decision based on the nature and status of the findings will determine the next phase of the project.

This phase of the work will involve the excavation of six trenches, each measuring approximately 18 square metres. These will total 108 square metres, which equates to just over 4% of the 2608 square metres total area of the development. The exact location of the trenches will need to be varied to suit conditions on site, including the location of services or concrete pads that are to remain *in situ*. A suggested layout is appended to this design (Fig. 2).

The work will be undertaken according to the following specification.

A visual inspection of the entire site will be undertaken. This will include the examination of any available exposures (e.g. geological test pits).

For the machine excavated trenches an appropriate machine will be used. This will normally be a JCB 3CX type excavator or a 360º tracked excavator with a 1.5m or 1.8m wide toothless bucket. All machining will be undertaken under direct archaeological supervision.

All undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon, in successive, level spits. Following machine clearance, all faces of the trench that require examination or recording will be cleaned using hand tools. All investigation of archaeological levels will be by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and section. Spoil heaps will be monitored to recover artefacts to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts. Modern artefacts will be noted but not retained.

Within significant archaeological levels a minimum number of features required to meet the aims will be hand excavated. Occasional pits and postholes will be subject to a 50% sample by volume. Complex clusters of pits will be sampled more selectively. Linear features will be sectioned as appropriate. Features not suited to excavation within narrow trenches will not be samples. No archaeological deposits will be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable. It is not necessarily the intention that all trial trenches will be full excavated to natural stratigraphy, but the depth of archaeological deposits across the site will be assessed. The stratigraphy of all evaluation trenches will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

4.3 Processing data, illustration, report and archiving

The level of post-excavation analysis and reporting for the purposes of the evaluation will be sufficient to establish the character, scale, date range, artefactual and palaeo-environmental potential and overall significance of the remains.

The level of artefact analysis will be sufficient to establish date ranges of archaeological deposits, a general assessment of the types of pottery and other artefacts to assist in characterising the archaeology, and to establish the potential for all categories of artefacts should further archaeological work be necessary.

Palaeo-environmental samples, if appropriate, will be processed and scanned to establish the site's potential for yielding valuable information of this type. The scanning will be performed by specialists with appropriate experience of assessing the significance and potential of such material on the basis of limited analysis. Samples will be retained for possible future detailed analysis.

The significance of any archaeology will be judged by general reference to the non-statutory criteria for scheduled monuments. The report on the evaluation will provide an assessment of the impact of the scheme and an outline of mitigation measures proposed. The findings will be discussed with the Development Control archaeologist.

Following the completion of the field work, the data will be processed, final illustrations will be compiled and a report will be produced which will detail and synthesise the results. Survey drawings and a sample of relevant photographs will be used to illustrate the reports.

The report will include:

a) details of the agreed project design
b) a scale plan showing the route and location of the sites
c) the results of any geophysical surveys
d) plans and sections of all trial excavations
e) survey results, including plans and elevations of relevant structures
f) detailed survey results of relevant structures, including the crane and bridges
g) other illustrations as appropriate

i) a bibliography of all sources consulted
j) all specialist reports.

4.8 Archive

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled and cross-referenced, and lodged in an appropriate place (to be decided in consultation with the regional Sites and Monuments Record) within six months of the completion of the project. All digital data will be written to CD-ROM and stored with the paper archive.

5. STAFF

The project will be supervised by Andrew Davidson, Principal Archaeologist at the Trust, who has worked in various aspects of British archaeology for 18 years, and who has been responsible for managing all contract work at the Trust for the past five years, including archaeological programmes for major road contracts, pipeline construction and new development sites. The work will be carried out by fully trained Project Archaeologists who are experienced in conducting watching briefs and working with contractors and earth moving machinery. (Full cv's are available upon request).

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The development area will be enclosed within 2m high steel mesh fencing prior to work commencing and for the duration of the work or until specified by the client. Notice of closure will be given one week in advance in the local press and in the car park itself.

The work planned may be constrained or altered if toxic contaminated layers deriving from the adjoining gas works site are encountered.

The Trust subscribes to the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) Health and Safety Policy as defined in **Health and Safety in Field Archaeology** (1999) and carries out a risk assessment for each work assignment.

7. INSURANCE

The Trust holds public liability insurance with an indemnity limit of £2,500,000 through Russell, Scanlon Limited Insurance Brokers, Wellington Circus, Nottingham NG1 5AJ (policy 01 1017386 COM), and Professional Indemnity Insurance for £2,000,000 per claim (policy No. 59A/SA11818791).

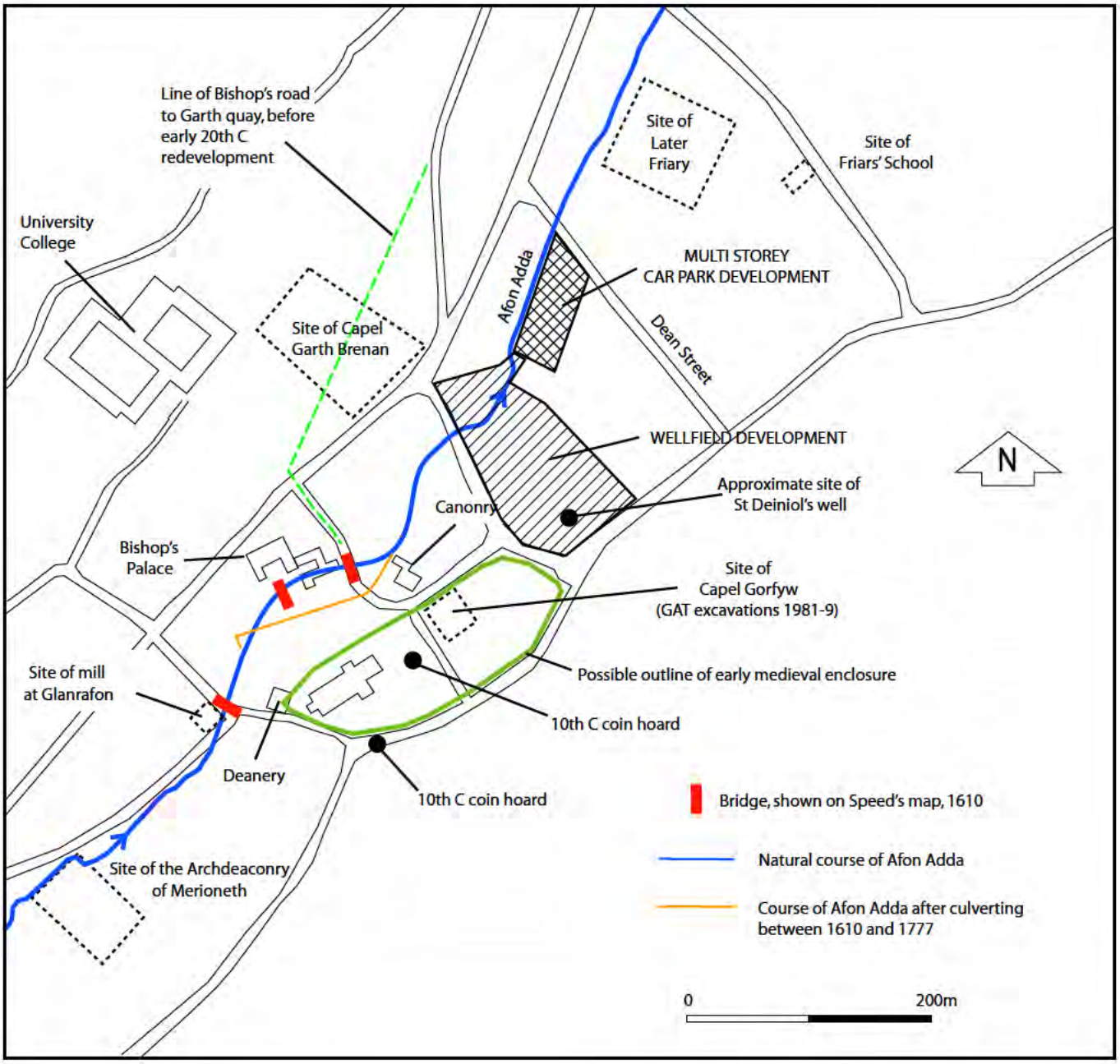


Fig. 1 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation.
Location of the development area in relation to historical features and finds in Bangor

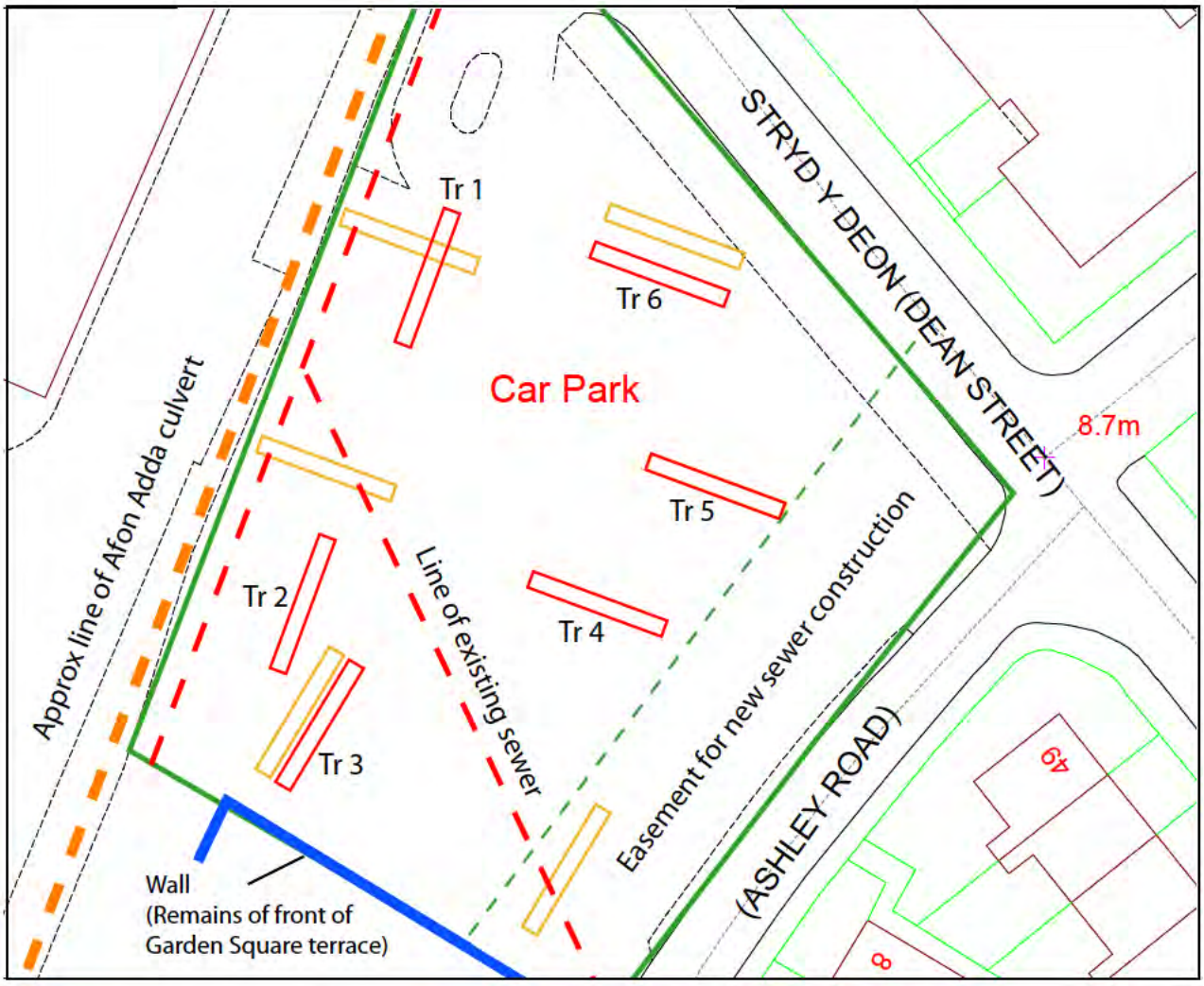


Fig. 2 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation, Bangor. Scale 1:500. Green: outline of proposed development area. Yellow: Proposed archaeological evaluation trenches. Red: Excavated archaeological evaluation trenches.

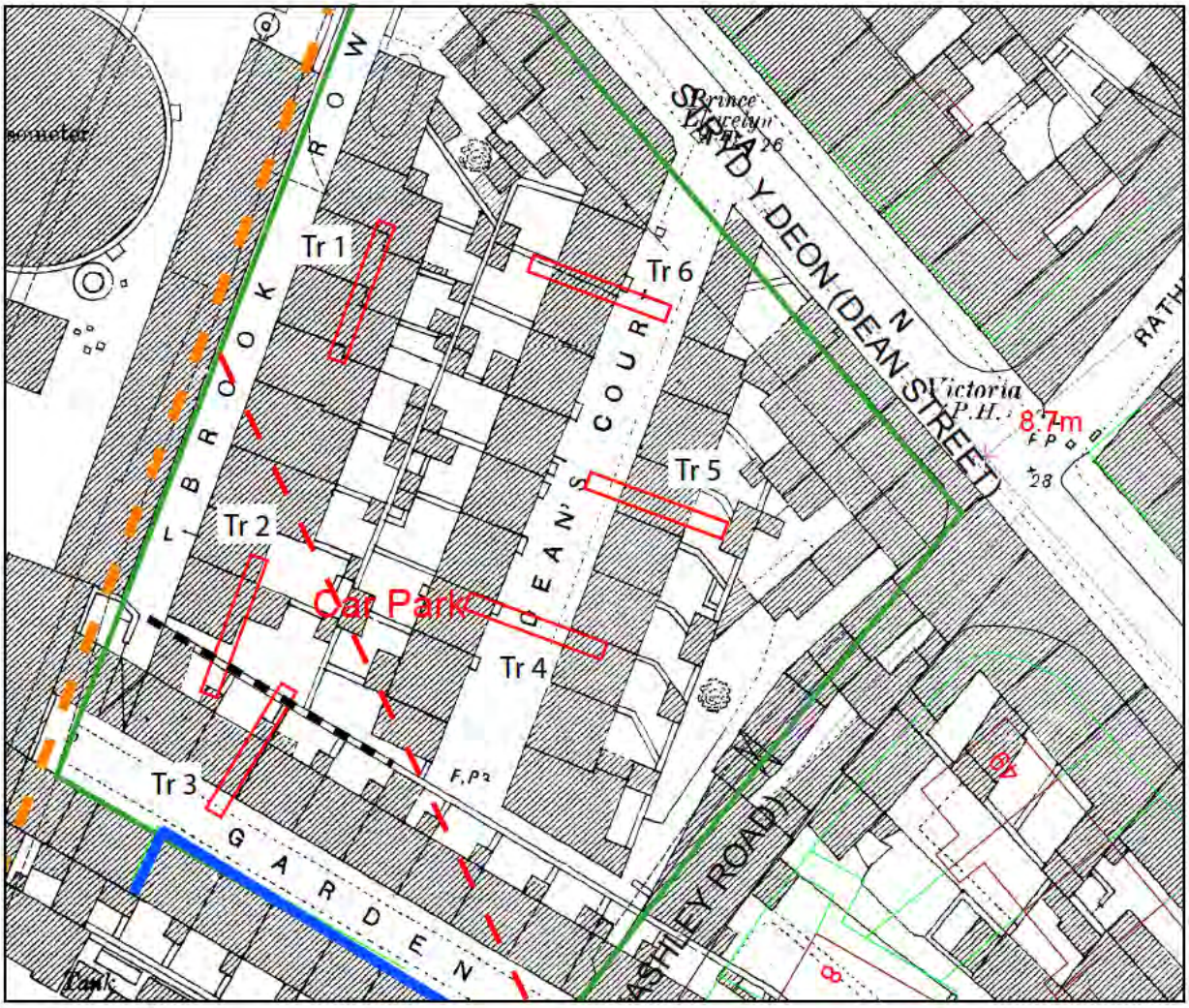
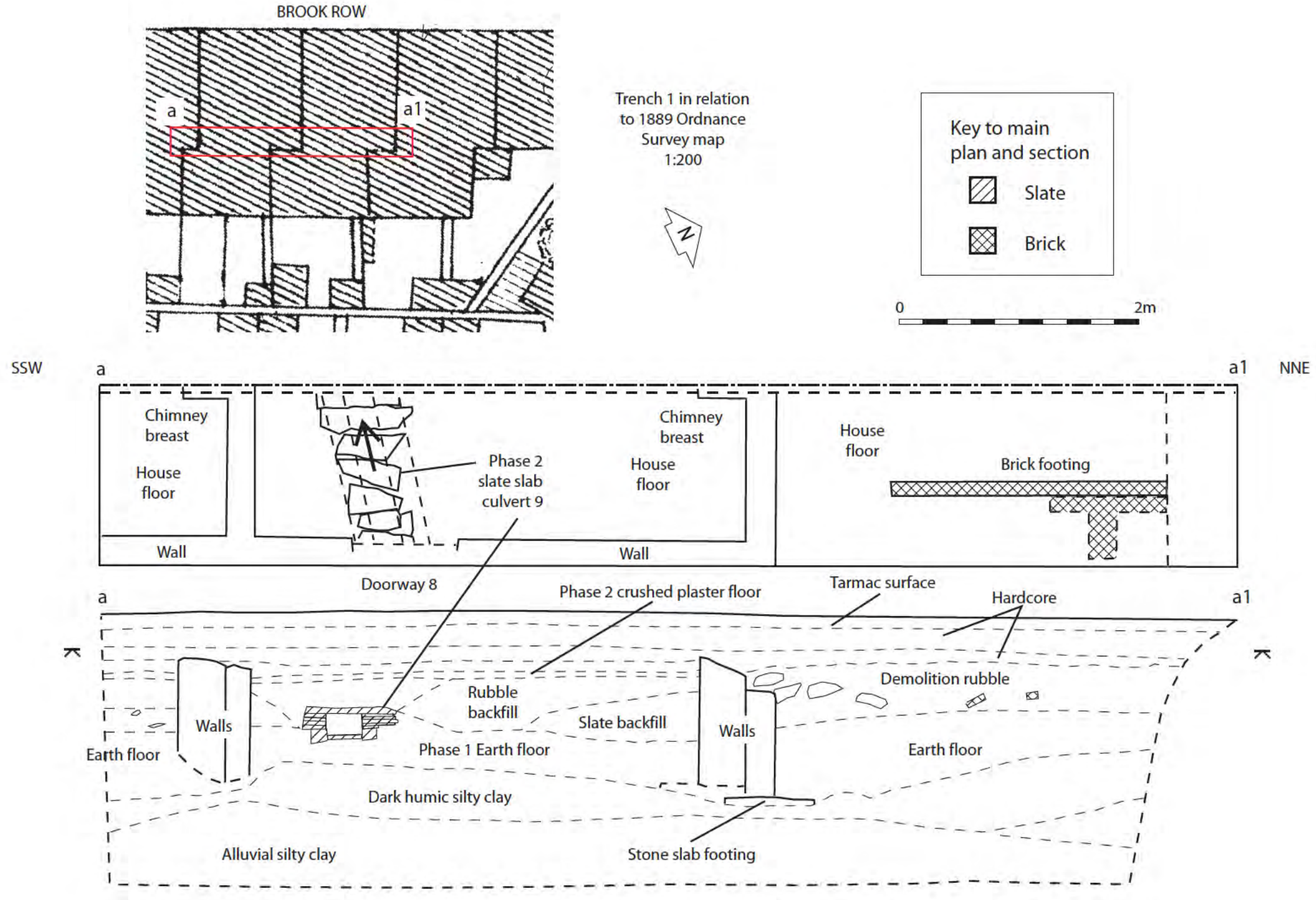


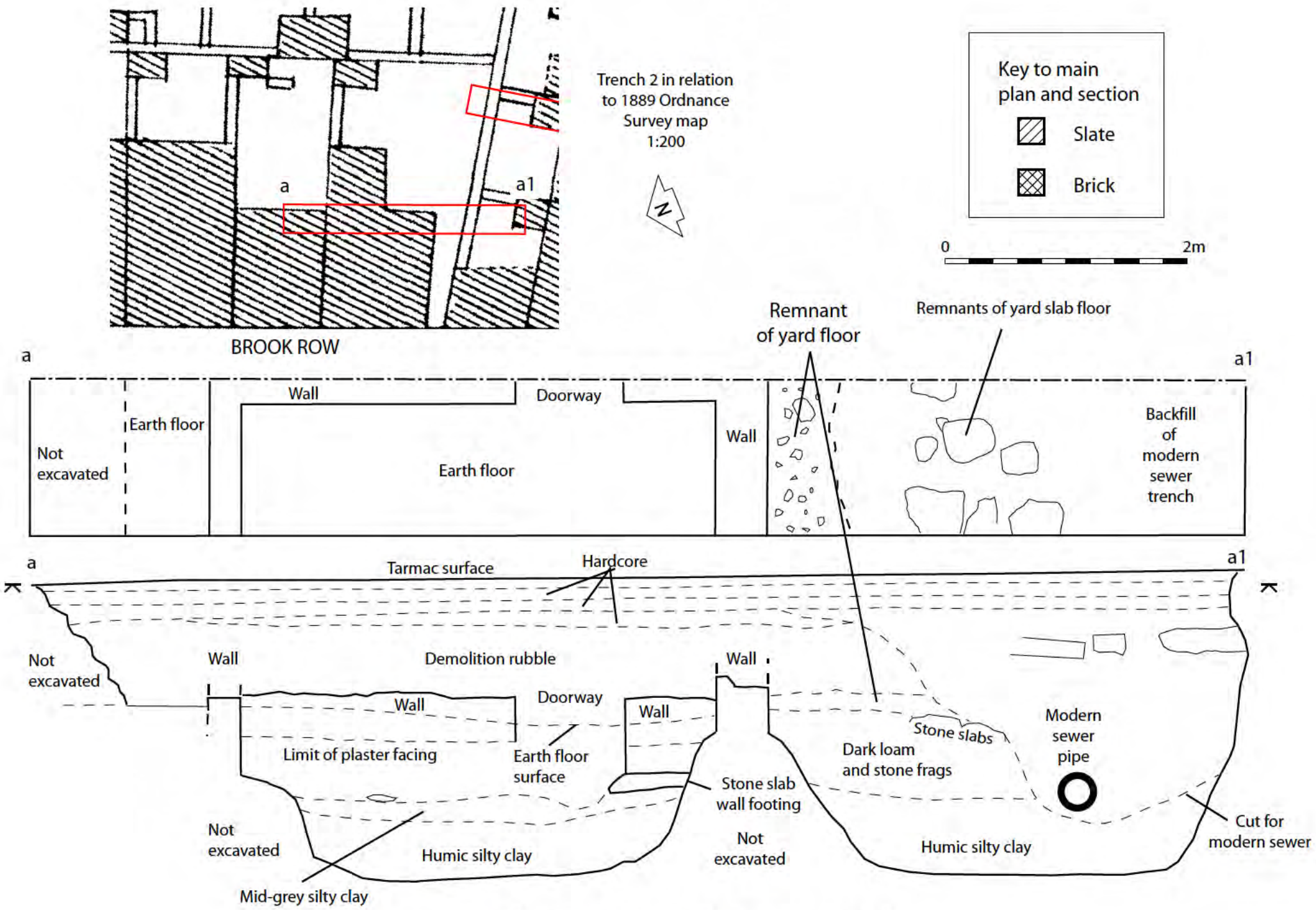
Fig. 3 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Area in relation to the Ordnance Survey map of 1889. Scale 1:500. Green: Proposed development area. Orange broken line: Approximate course of the Afon Adda prior to 1900. Red broken line: Existing sewer. Red: Excavated archaeological evaluation trenches. Blue: front wall of Garden Square terrace surviving in the modern car park. Black broken line: Line of late 19th/early 20th century sewer inserted through back yards of Garden Square and identified in Ttrenches 2 and 3.



Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Fig. 4 Trench 1 Plan and section. Scale 1:40

G1880 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Fig. 5
Trench 1 House floor levels exposed. From east. 1m scale

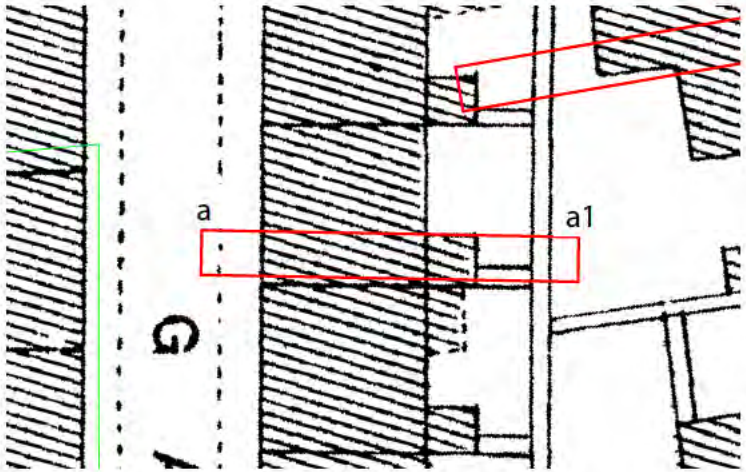
G1880 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Fig. 6
Trench 1 Plastered wall faces and slate slab culvert beneath demolition rubble at west end of trench.
Scales with 50cm divisions



G1880 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Fig. 7 Trench 2 Plan and section. Scale 1:40

G1880 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Fig. 8
Trench 2 House floor level and stubs of demolished walls exposed. From the south-east.
Scales with 50cm divisions

G1880 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Fig. 9
Trench 2 Excavated into natural alluvial clay.
From the north-west.
Scales with 50cm divisions



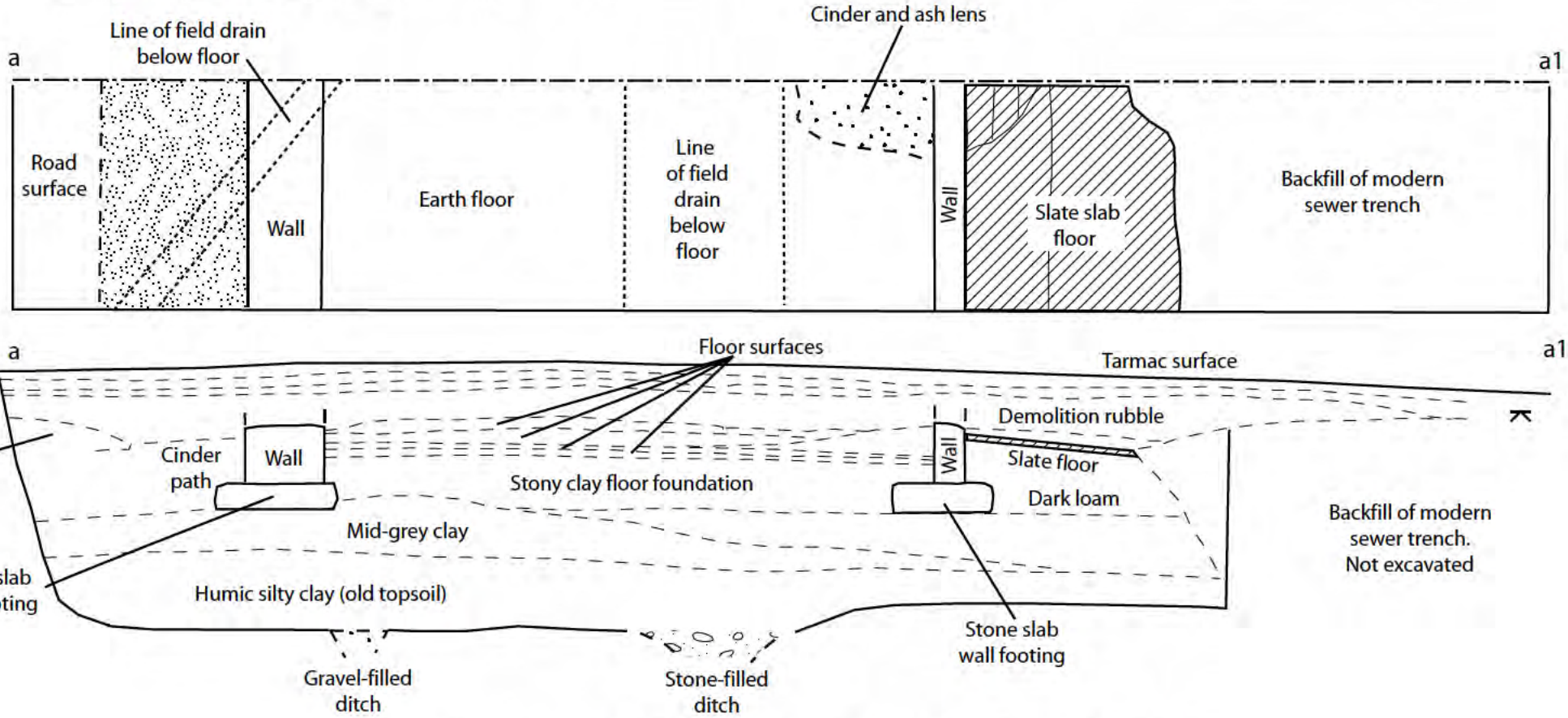
Trench 3 in relation to 1889 Ordnance Survey map 1:200

Key to main plan and section

Slate

Brick

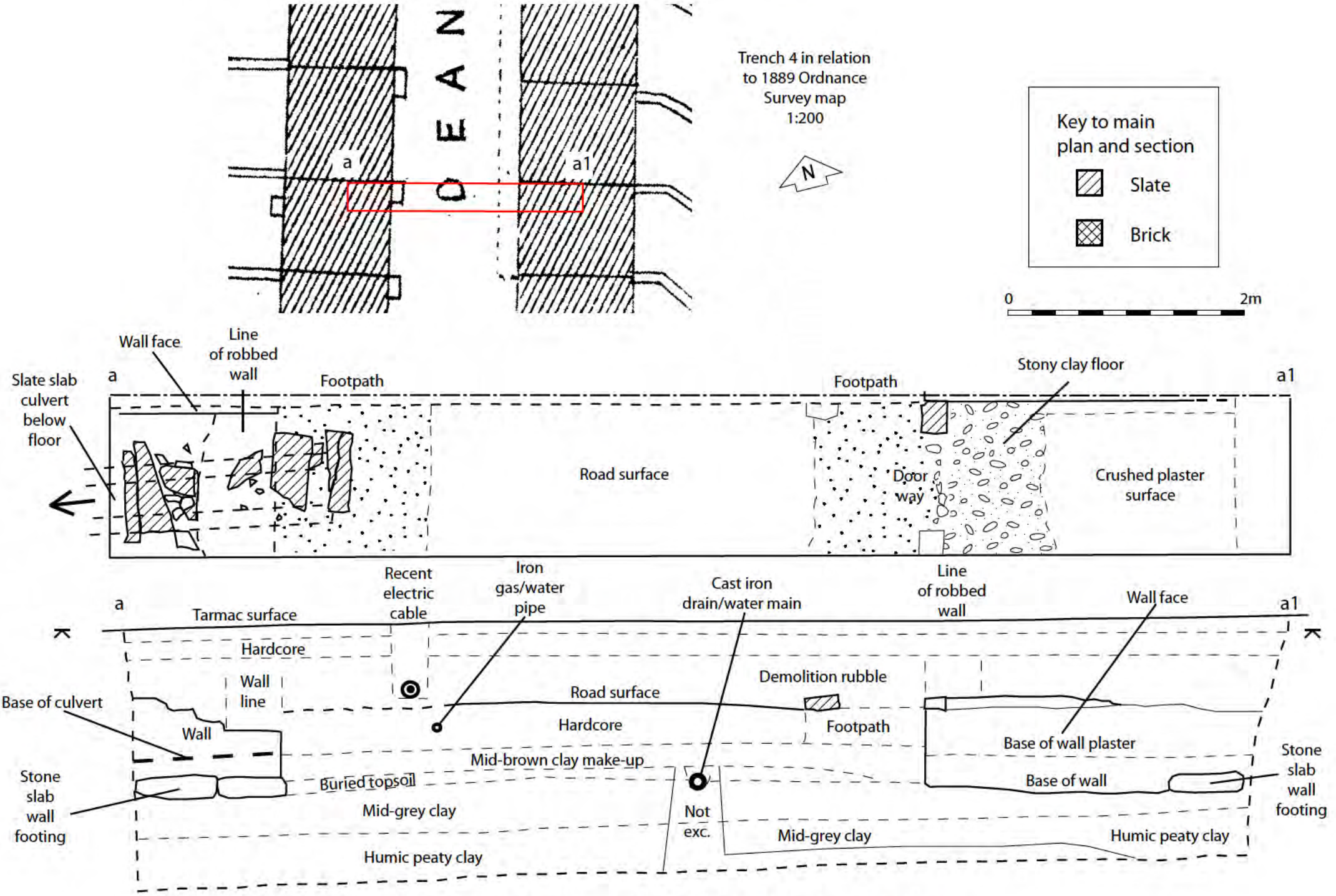
0 2m



G1880 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Fig. 10 Trench 3 Plan and section. Scale 1:40

G1880 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Fig. 11
Trench 3 House floor and stubs of demolished walls exposed. From the west
Scales with 50cm divisions

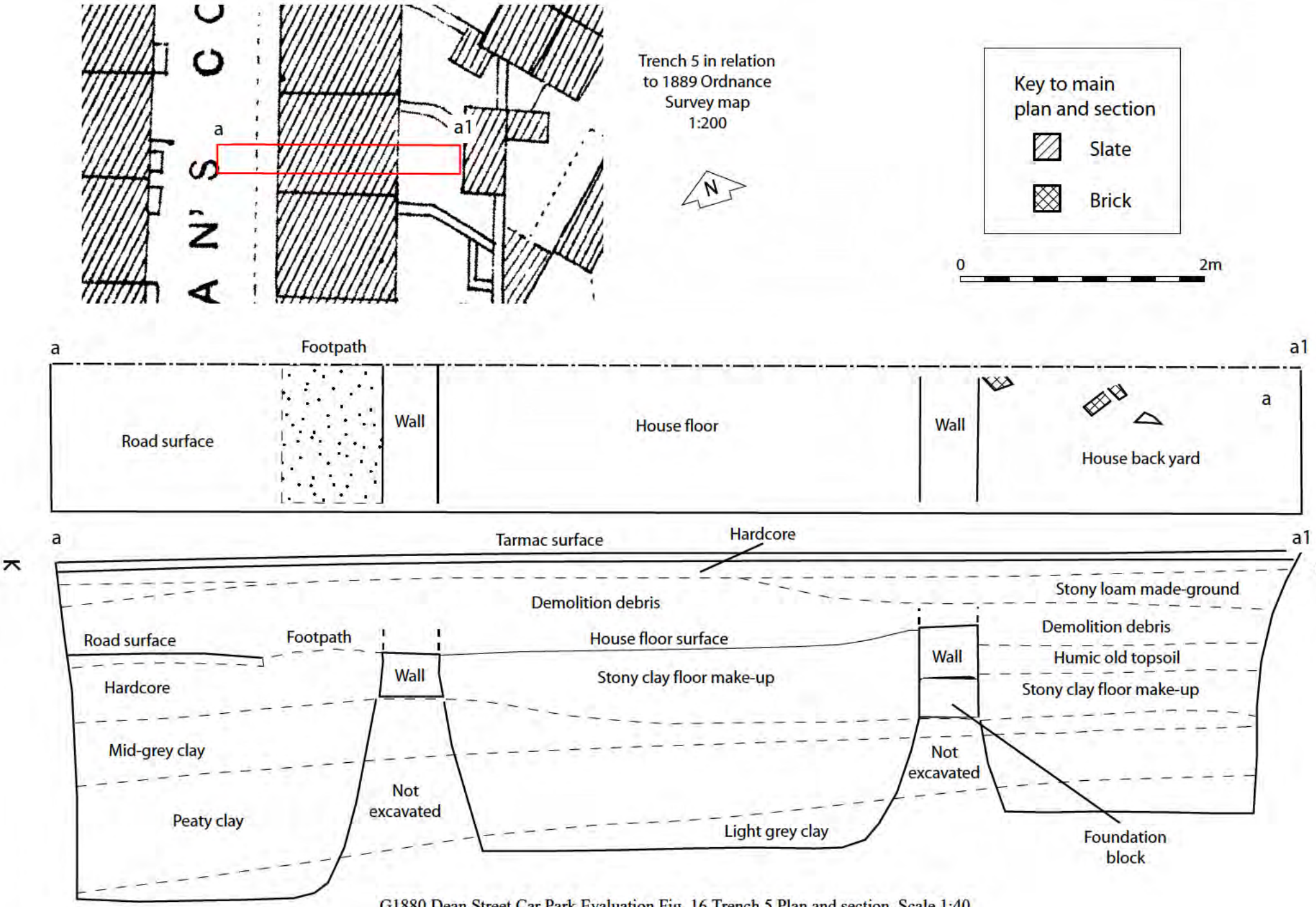
G1880 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Fig. 12
Trench 3 Slate slab floor of outhouse/privy at east side of house.
From the north. Scale with 50cm divisions



G1880 Dean Street Car park Evaluation Fig. 13 Trench 4 Plan and section. Scale 1:40

G1880 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Fig. 14
Trench 4 House floor (foreground) and former road (background).
From the south. Scales with 50cm divisions

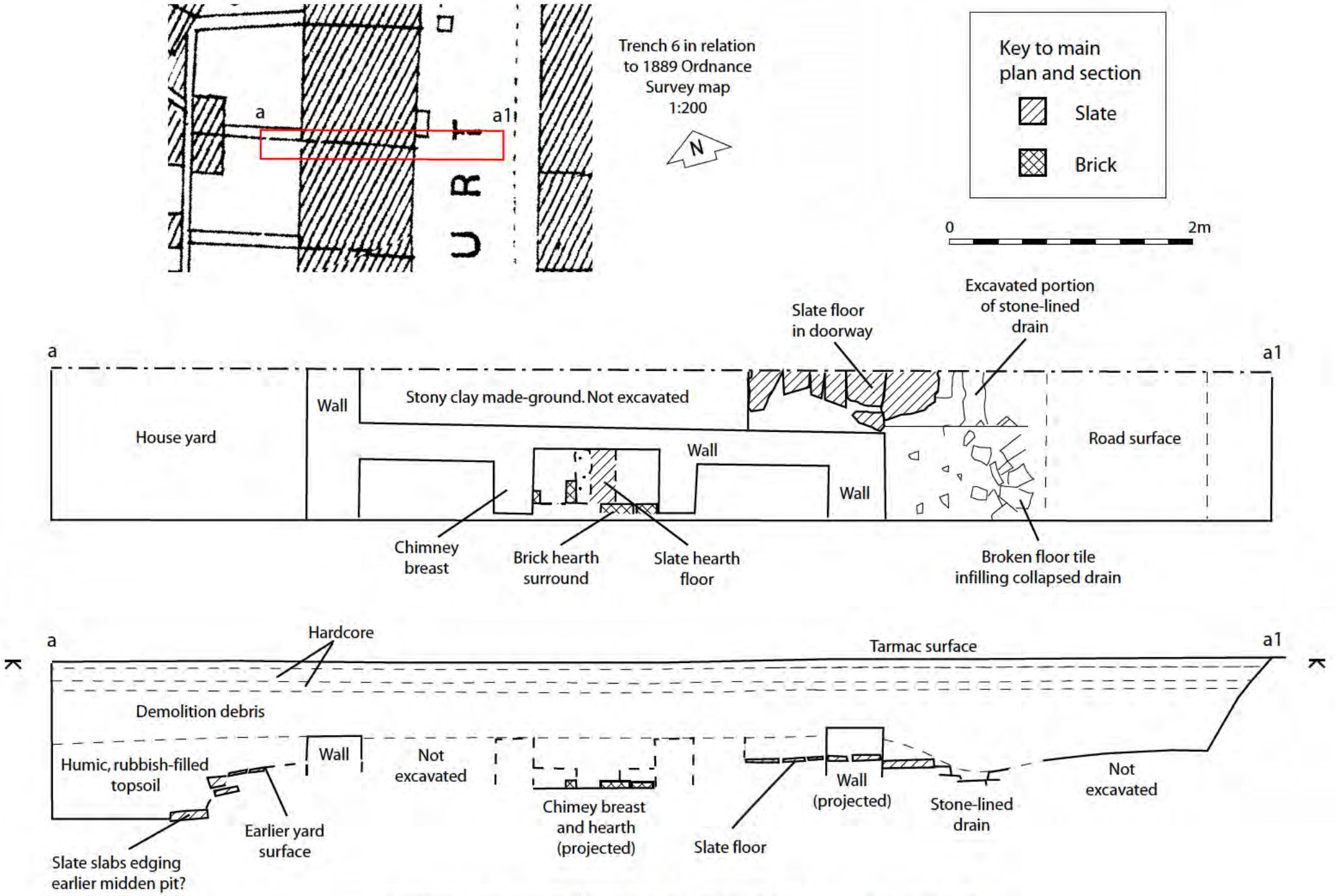
G1880 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Fig. 15
Trench 4 Slate slab-covered drain beneath doorway of house at north end
of trench. From the east. Scale with 50cm divisions



G1880 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Fig. 16 Trench 5 Plan and section. Scale 1:40

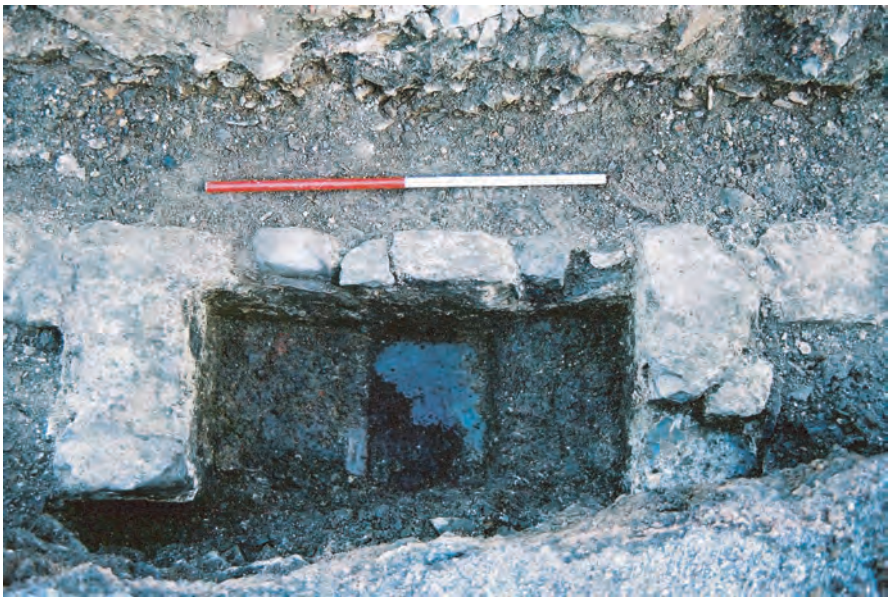
G1880 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Fig. 17
Trench 5 Former road (foreground) and house floor (background).
From north. Scale with 50cm divisions

G1880 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Fig. 18
Trench 5 Excavated into natural alluvial clay.
Scales with 50cm divisions



G1880 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Fig. 19 Trench 6 Plan and section. Scale 1:40

G1880 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Fig. 20
Trench 6 Exposed stubs of demolished walls.
From the north. Scales with 50cm divisions



G1880 Dean Street Car Park Evaluation Fig. 21
Trench 6 Detail of fireplace. From the south. Scale with 50cm divisions