

**An Archaeological Evaluation, Land at Former Sittingbourne Mill (Phase 2),
Sittingbourne,
Kent.**

NGR: TQ 90259 64202

Planning Ref: SW/11/0159

**ASE Project No: 170107
Site Code: SIT17**

ASE Report No: 2017194

OASIS ID: archaeol6-283820

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Abstract

This report presents the results of a Phase 2 archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at the Former Sittingbourne Mill, Sittingbourne, between the 20th March 2017 – 7th April 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in advance of the development of the site. Ten trenches were excavated, targeted over Victorian terraces in the north; potential remains of the 18th/19th century paper mills in the east; the former mill pond in the centre of site; and over the potential remains of the 19th century paper mill extension to the south.

The site produced evidence of post-medieval industrial activity comprising of structures, walls and environmental evidence from the mid to late 19th-20th century. Earlier phases of mill development were also encountered including a large plinth and possibly site boundary wall from the mid-18th century. Late Post-Medieval to Modern phases of concrete terracing were also encountered throughout site.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake further archaeological evaluation on the site of the former Sittingbourne Mill, Sittingbourne, Kent, hereafter 'the site' (centred on NGR TQ 90259 64202; Figure 1).

1.1.2 The site is bound to the north-west by Charlotte Street, to the south-west by residential housing, to the north-east by Church Street, to the south-east by a Morrisons supermarket, and to the south by a train line. It measures c. 2.2 hectares in area.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey website, the site is situated on an underlying geology of Seaford Chalk formation. To the north of the site this is overlain by alluvial deposits (BGS 2017). A recent geotechnical survey (see CgMs 2017, appendices) recorded head deposits across the site and shows the thickness of made ground varying between 1m and 4m. The 4m depth of made ground is noted in the transect crossing the middle of the site, and may correspond to the former mill pond (CgMs 2017).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Swale District Council have granted planning permission for a hybrid development, which includes outline permission for 150 residential units within the Phase 2 site (Planning Ref. SW/11/0159). The planning permission contains the following archaeological condition:

Heritage-Condition 32

Prior to the commencement of development hereby approved, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall secure the implementation of:

- 1) Archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and
- 2) Following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

1.3.2 During January 2017 CgMs Consulting Ltd produced an Archaeological Impact Assessment. This concluded that due to the extent of past impacts in the form of landforming, development and redevelopment, that any archaeological remains would only survive in small pockets within the north-eastern part of the site. These remains, if present, were likely to be no more than of local significance. It anticipated a programme of targeted trenching within areas of

the site (CgMs 2017).

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological evaluation carried out between 20/03/17 and 07/04/17. The archaeological work was undertaken by Jake Wilson (Archaeologist) with assistance provided by John Hirst (Archaeologist) and Sophie Austin (Assistant Archaeologist) with survey completed by John Cook and John Hirst. The project was managed by Paul Mason (fieldwork) and by Jim Stevenson and Andy Margetts (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following information is drawn from the CgMs Archaeological Impact Assessment (2017).
- 2.2 A late Mesolithic or early Neolithic blade core was recovered during excavations at Sittingbourne Paper Mill site c.120m south-east of the site (HER Ref: TQ 96 SW 279; TQ 96 SW 279).
- 2.3 The earliest evidence of activity on the neighbouring Phase 1 site (see section 2.13 below) was represented by Bronze Age struck flint implements and flint-working waste recovered from a waterlogged infill of a shallow depression which traversed the site. The deposit is thought to have formed along a spring-line that ran towards the head of Milton Creek (CAT 2012).
- 2.4 Extensive Roman settlement, activity and burial sites are recorded at Sittingbourne which is located on Watling Street, the Roman Road from London to Canterbury (HER Ref: TQ 86 SW 132, TQ 8047 6107). The Roman settlement lay over 1km south-east of the site. Roman burials are recorded over 1km east of the study site at TQ 913 640 (HER Ref: EWX 6567), TQ 9135 6406 (HER Ref: TQ 96 SW16) and TQ 9098 6478 (HER Ref: TQ 96 SW6).
- 2.5 Archaeological investigations on Sittingbourne Mill Phase 1 site (see section 2.13 below) did not identify any remains of Roman date.
- 2.6 An important 7th century Anglo-Saxon cemetery with two clusters of burials was recorded just to the north-east of the site in 1824-1826. The evidence indicates a mixed inhumation and cremation cemetery (though the latter may have been Bronze Age), with the inhumations accompanied by dress fittings and weapon sets (HER Ref: TQ 96 SW27, TQ 9059 6405). A 9th century inscribed knife was discovered immediately east of the study site (HER Ref: TQ 96 SW12, TQ 903 641).
- 2.7 During the late medieval period, the study site is likely to have lain in unremarkable agricultural land between Sittingbourne and Milton, with evidence of land division and agricultural activity likely to have been represented.
- 2.8 Archaeological investigations on the adjacent Phase 1 site (see section 2.13) recorded a medieval field system represented by a series of narrow drainage ditches. During the late medieval period these features were covered in a thick layer of colluvium due to intensive agricultural use of the land (CAT 2012).
- 2.9 The site probably lay within open fields throughout the medieval and Post-medieval periods.
- 2.10 The Andrews, Dury and Herbert's map of 1769 and Old Ordnance Survey map of 1797 show a paper mill and mill pond within the north-eastern part of the study site.
- 2.11 During the 19th century the site straddled the parish boundary between Sittingbourne and Milton-next-Sittingbourne. The Sittingbourne Tithe map of

1840 records the study site as in mixed use containing: Paper Mill, part of houses, offices and garden; Orchard; Paper Mill and Mill Pond; Mile Meadow Pasture; Blind Lane Orchards; Cockle Shell Walk Cottage and Garden.

- 2.12 Between the 19th century and modern day this mixed use continued for a while until the paper mill compound expanded across the majority of the site.

Previous work in the immediate vicinity

- 2.13 Archaeological evaluation trenching was undertaken on the adjacent Sittingbourne Mill Phase 1 site in 2011 and this was swiftly followed by a programme of archaeological excavation in 2012 (CAT 2012). The investigations revealed prehistoric evidence up until the mill's very recent demolition in 2010. The earliest mill buildings on the site were probably depicted on a surveyor's field drawing for the first edition Ordnance Survey. Dating to around 1800.
- 2.14 A history of Sittingbourne Mill is available on the Canterbury Archaeological Trust's website (www.canterburytrust.co.uk) it is repeated here with due acknowledgement:

'Papermen' or paper-makers are recorded in parish records from the early 1700s and on a map of Kent dated 1769 the site appears as 'Papper Mill'. Various paper-making families are documented as owners of the mill during the eighteenth century and in the early nineteenth century new paper-making technology was probably introduced by Edward Smith. This was the system invented by Frenchman, Louis-Nicholas Robert, who had taken out a patent for a continuous paper-making machine in 1799 (previously paper had been manufactured in single sheets). An improved version of this machine was eventually devised in England under the auspices of the stationer Henry Fourdrinier (the machinery was henceforth known as the Fourdrinier Machine) and it is likely that Smith was using such machines in the 1830s. By the late 1850s however, the mill had been closed for some years and fallen into disrepair. The reasons for this decline are unclear. Fire or problems with new paper-making technology may have played some part. The founder of the modern mill was Edward Lloyd, a nineteenth-century newspaper magnate who acquired the Sittingbourne mill to satisfy his business's increasing demand for paper, just after another fire in 1863. He expanded the mill to the south. In addition, plans of the mill suggest that during the 1870s terraced housing was being developed on streets laid out immediately to the east of the works. Probably built by Lloyd for his millworkers, the streets were named Lloyd Street, Westbourne Street and possibly Mill Street. Virtually all of these terraces were demolished in the mid-1960s and the roads concreted over during the final decades of the mill's operation. By 1887, the mill was operating with the latest technology of the time, with four paper-making machines in the No 4 mill (on the site of the 'Old Mill'). Further extensions to the mill occurred during the last decade of the century, particularly a new boiler house with eight boilers and a 110ft high chimney. When Edward died in 1890 his son Frank took over the business. Further mill buildings were constructed (No 2 mill, a power house and the main offices). Devastating fires occurred in 1900 and 1905, but although the damage was great, the mill was speedily repaired and brought back into operation, and further expansion took place between 1906

and 1911 when No 3 mill was built. Sittingbourne Mill was now one of the largest mills in the world, with seventeen paper machines and 1200 employees.

2.3 Project Aims and Objectives

2.3.1 The broad aims of the evaluation, in keeping with previous similar projects were:

- To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any such remains and deposits
- To assess how they might be affected by the development of the site
- To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site
- To assess what options should be considered for mitigation

2.3.2 The site specific aims were:

- To locate and assess historic elements of the paper mill through targeting trenches on historic map features
- To determine whether earlier archaeological features survive given the intensive development of the site in the later post-medieval and modern periods

2.3.3 The evaluation has the potential to address the following research priorities identified by the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF 2007)

- The specialisation of early post-medieval small towns
- Small-scale post-medieval urban industry
- Post-medieval industry 8) Paper; excavation of early paper-making sites

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology (Figure 2)

- 3.1.1 The trial trench evaluation was designed to comprise the excavation of ten trenches, measuring 30m x 2m at base. These were targeted over Victorian terraces in the north; potential remains of the 18th/19th century paper mills in the east; the former mill pond in the centre of site; and over the potential remains of the 19th century paper mill extension to the south.
- 3.1.2 Trench 1 was reduced by 15m to avoid fouling the site entrance and moved 5m to the southwest to avoid interference with Church Street. Trench 2 was also shortened by 10m on its western side and Trench 9 was shortened by 5m on its northwest side due to the volume of concrete present during excavation. Due to uneven surfaces, a 2m gap was left in the centre of Trench 7 to allow the rest of the trench to be excavated safely. All other trenches were excavated as close as possible to their proposed locations.
- 3.1.3 The trench locations were scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) operated by accredited ASE personnel.
- 3.1.4 Trenches were excavated by a tracked machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision, grading in spits of no more than 100mm at a time until the first archaeological horizon or natural geology was reached.
- 3.1.5 A sondage was placed in every trench to accurately determine the correct depths of the geological horizon.
- 3.1.6 All spoil was placed at a minimum of 0.5m away from the trench edge and separated between concrete and made ground.
- 3.1.7 All deposits, both geological and archaeological were recorded using standard ASE context sheets with colours recorded by visual inspection only. A digital photographic record was made of the trenches.
- 3.1.8 Trenches were located and levelled using a GPS and tied into the Ordnance Survey.
- 3.1.9 Samples were taken of appropriate deposits.
- 3.1.10 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned by eye, for unstratified artefacts.
- 3.1.11 All hand excavation, recording and planning was conducted according to the methodology in the approved WSI (ASE 2017). The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the Kent County Council Standard Specification for Archaeological Evaluation (KCC 2007), the ClfA Code of Conduct (2014a) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (ClfA 2014b).

3.3 Archive

- 3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at

a local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	91
Section sheets	2
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	155
Context register	0
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	10

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	1 box
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	1
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	1

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Summary

4.1.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation are outlined below. Archaeologically negative trenches are summarised in Appendix 1.

4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Height mAOD
1/001	Layer	Concrete surface	10	5	0.14-0.25	8.2
1/002	Layer	Made ground	10	5	0.46-0.60	7.6
1/003	Layer	Made ground	10	5	2.00-2.03	6.4
1/004	Masonry or other construction	Wall	2.25+	0.69	0.84	7
1/005	Layer	Natural	10	5	0.57+	5.8
1/006	Masonry or other construction	Footing	2	0.23+	0.19	6.4
1/007	Masonry or other construction	Floor	2	2		6.6
1/008	Masonry or other construction	Construction cut for wall [1/004]	2.25+	0.69	0.84	7
1/009	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [1/008]	2.25+	0.69	0.84	7

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 was located on a northwest-southeast alignment and measured 10m x 5m in length. A single northwest-southeast wall [1/004] was observed beneath two layers of made ground and the concrete slab surface [1/001]. The natural comprised a superficial clay head deposit with fragments of chalk [1/005].
- 4.2.2 Layer [1/002] comprised a made ground consisting of a modern backfill of demolition rubble and concrete slab. The makeup of this layer included brick fragments, cable/wire and contaminated clay. Sealed by this was made ground deposit [1/003], which consisted of yellow-brown clay with building demolition throughout.
- 4.2.3 Concrete floor [1/007] was a surface added against wall [1/004]. It continued westwards into the trench section. It did not fit flush with wall [1/004] and suggests a later stage of development of the mill site.
- 4.2.4 Brick wall [1/004] ran on a northwest-southeast alignment through the trench. It was built within construction cut [1/008] which was backfilled by redeposited natural. Mostly demolished, only four courses of brick remain at the base and dated to around the later 19th to early 20th century. The brickwork was laid out in a header bond with regular courses which stepped down onto concrete

footing [1/006].

4.3 Trench 3 (Figure 4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Height mAOD
3/001	Layer	Concrete surface	30	5	0.23-0.30	8.2
3/002	Layer	Made ground	30	5	0.37-1.39	6.8-7.1
3/003	Masonry or other construction	Wall	5	0.69	32	7.6
3/004	Masonry or other construction	Wall	2.2	0.25	0.72	7.8
3/005	Masonry or other construction	Wall	2.2	0.23	0.26	7.6
3/006	Layer	Made ground	1	1	0.33-0.76	7.3
3/007	Masonry or other construction	Wall	1.13		1.04	8
3/008	Masonry or other construction	Surface	4	5		6.9
3/008	Masonry or other construction	Construction cut for wall [3/007]	1.13		1.04	8
3/009	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [3/008]	1.13		1.04	8
3/010	Masonry or other construction	Construction cut for wall [3/003]	5	0.69	32	7.6
3/011	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [3/010]	5	0.69	32	7.6
3/012	Masonry or other construction	Construction cut for wall [3/004]	2.2	0.25	0.72	7.8
3/013	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [3/012]	2.2	0.25	0.72	7.8
3/014	Masonry or other construction	Construction cut for wall [3/005]	2.2	0.23	0.26	7.6
3/015	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [3/014]	2.2	0.23	0.26	7.6
3/016	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [3/014]	2.2	0.23	0.26	7.6

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Trench 3 was located on a north-south alignment and measured 30m x 5m in length. Multiple walls were observed beneath a single layer of made ground and the concrete slab surface [3/001]. Large concrete foundations covered most of this trench. The natural [3/016] comprised a superficial clay head deposit with fragments of chalk.

- 4.3.2 Layer [3/002] was a made ground that consisted of a backfill of demolition rubble and broken concrete. The makeup of this layer included brick fragments, steel rebar and contaminated clay.
- 4.3.3 A northeast-southwest red brick wall, [3/007] was observed in the south of Trench 3. It was situated within construction cut [3/008] with imperceptible backfill [3/009]. It was built in English bond with irregular courses and was dated no earlier than 1927. This is the same brick type as wall [5/009], suggesting a phase of development in the early part of the 20th century. At its base was concrete floor [3/008], a raised platform built adjacent to wall [3/007].
- 4.3.4 Between walls [3/003], [3/004] and [3/005] another made ground deposit was observed which was composed of a firm black-brown silt clay with frequent brick inclusion throughout [3/006].
- 4.3.5 Walls [3/003] and [3/004] were most likely the same structure with the relationship obscured by the trench edge. Forming a right angle, with the inner walls facing southwest and northwest it is possible they form a corner of a room on the eastern side of the trench. Both were comprised of yellow brick with regular coursing in an English bond and could be dated to the later 19th-early 20th century. The walls construction cuts and associated backfills (contexts [3/010]-[3/013]) were imperceptible
- 4.3.6 A smaller course of bricks [3/005] also ran parallel to [3/004] though it was truncated by a large modern concrete foundation block at its southern end. It was made up of the same brick, coursing and bond as [3/003] and [3/004] which suggests a contemporary date. The wall's construction cut and associated backfill (contexts [3/014] and [3/015]) were imperceptible

4.4 Trench 4 (Figure 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Height mAOD
4/001	Layer	Concrete surface	30	5	0.22-0.60	8.1-8.3
4/002	Layer	Natural	30	5	0.69	6.5-7.2
4/003	Masonry or other construction	Wall	5	1.26	0.54	7.9
4/004	Masonry or other construction	Footing	2	0.19	0.09	7.36
4/005	Masonry or other construction	Wall	5	0.06	0.27	7.7
4/006	Masonry or other construction	Footing	5	2	0.05	7.43
4/007	Masonry or other construction	Construction cut for wall [4/003]	5	1.26	0.54	7.9
4/008	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [4/007]	5	1.26	0.54	7.9
4/009	Masonry or other construction	Construction cut for wall [4/005]	5	0.06	0.27	7.7

4/010	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [4/009]	5	0.06	0.27	7.7
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Table 5: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 Trench 4 was located on a northwest-southeast alignment and measured 30m x 5m in length. Two parallel walls were observed beneath a single layer of concrete slab [4/001]. Large concrete and steel foundations were also present in the northeast end of the trench. The natural geology encountered within this trench comprised Seaford Chalk [4/002].
- 4.4.2 Wall [4/003] was a northeast-southwest running wall within the centre of Trench 4 and parallel to wall [4/005]. Comprised of a yellow brick with regular courses in a header bond, truncation was visible, as the brickwork had been reduced. The base of the wall was stepped down onto concrete footing [4/004]. The wall's construction cut and associated backfill (contexts [4/007] and [4/008]) were imperceptible.
- 4.4.3 Wall [4/005] was also a northeast-southwest running wall within the centre of Trench 4 and parallel to wall [4/003]. Identical to [4/003], it was most likely part of the same structure though no direct relationship was observed. The base of the wall was stepped down onto concrete footing [4/006]. Its construction cut and associated backfill (contexts [4/009] and [4/010]) were imperceptible.

4.5 Trench 5 (Figure 6)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Height mAOD
5/001	Layer	Made ground	30	5	0.12-0.40	8.3-8.5
5/002	Layer	Concrete surface	30	5	0.50-0.85	8.2-8.3
5/003	Masonry or other construction	Wall	1.73	0.63	0.4	7.9
5/004	Masonry or other construction	Wall	7	0.71	0.3+	7.7
5/005	Masonry or other construction	Foundation	-	-	-	-
5/006	Layer	Natural	30	5	1.5	5.9
5/007	Masonry or other construction	Wall	1.73	0.49	0.55+	7.7
5/008	Masonry or other construction	Wall	2	0.22	0.29+	7.6
5/009	Masonry or other construction	Wall	1.5	0.34	0.12+	7.5
5/010	Masonry or other construction	Wall	1.23	0.23	0.16	7.8
5/011	Masonry or other construction	Footing	1.73	2	0.09	7.5
5/012	Masonry or other construction	Construction cut for wall [5/008]	2	0.22	0.29+	7.6

5/013	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [5/012]	2	0.22	0.29+	7.6
5/014	Masonry or other construction	Construction cut for wall [5/009]	1.5	0.34	0.12+	7.5
5/015	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [5/014]	1.5	0.34	0.12+	7.5
5/016	Masonry or other construction	Construction cut for wall [5/003]	1.73	0.63	0.4	7.9
5/017	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [5/016]	1.73	0.63	0.4	7.9
5/018	Masonry or other construction	Construction cut for wall [5/004]	7	0.71	0.3+	7.7
5/019	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [5/018]	7	0.71	0.3+	7.7
5/020	Masonry or other construction	Construction cut for wall [5/010]	1.23	0.23	0.16	7.8
5/021	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [5/020]	1.23	0.23	0.16	7.8
5/022	Masonry or other construction	Construction cut for wall [5/007]	1.73	0.49	0.55+	7.7
5/023	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [5/022]	1.73	0.49	0.55+	7.7

Table 6: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

- 4.5.1 Trench 5 was located on a northwest-southeast alignment and measured 30m x 5m in length. Multiple walls were observed beneath two layers; a mixed building debris [5/001] and concrete slab [5/002]. Large modern concrete and steel foundations [5/005] were present in the majority of the trench. The natural [5/006] comprised a superficial clay head deposit with fragments of chalk.
- 4.5.2 Two small parallel red brick walls [5/008] and [5/009] were observed in the south of Trench 5 joining onto the northeast facing side of wall [5/004]. Both walls ran on a northwest-southeast alignment with regular coursing and an English bond, samples taken from [5/009] dated the brickwork to no earlier than 1927 and were in the same fabric as wall [3/007]. The walls construction cuts and associated backfills (contexts [5/012]-[5/015]) were imperceptible.
- 4.5.3 Wall [5/003] ran on a west northwest-east southeast alignment and was heavily truncated by two large concrete foundation blocks [5/005]. Comprised of yellow brick with regular coursing in an English bond the wall was stepped at its base leading down to concrete footing [5/011]. Its construction cut [5/016] and associated backfill [5/017] were imperceptible.
- 4.5.4 Wall [5/004] was a large northeast-southwest aligned wall within the south trench, comprised of yellow brick in regular coursing in an English bond it is similar to the majority of walls excavated. Samples taken date the wall to

around the mid 19-20th century. Its construction cut [5/018] and associated backfill [5/019] were imperceptible.

4.5.5 Wall [5/010] was a small northeast-southwest aligned wall, with clear visible truncation at its top. Comprised of yellow bricks in an English bond with regular courses it was dated to around the mid 19-20th century and was therefore probably contemporary with walls [5/004] and [5/003]. Its construction cut [5/020] and associated backfill [5/021] were imperceptible.

4.5.6 Another large wall [5/007] ran on a northeast-southwest alignment and parallel to [5/004]. Unlike the other brickwork in the trench [5/007] was built with dark red/brown bricks in an English bond with regular coursing. Possible scorch marks were also observed on the northern brick face. Samples taken date the bricks to the 18th century making it one of the earliest structures on site. Its slightly L-shaped construction cut [5/022] was backfilled by redeposited natural [5/023].

4.6 Trench 6 (Figure 7)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Height mAOD
6/001	Layer	Concrete surface	10	5	0.17-0.41	8.1-8.3
6/002	Layer	demolition rubble	30	5	0.83-2.20	8.1-8.3
6/003	Masonry or other construction	Wall	5	0.84	1.08	7.6
6/004	Masonry or other construction	Render	-	-	-	-
6/005	Masonry or other construction	Floor	30	1.2		7.3-7.4

Table 7: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

4.6.1 Trench 6 was located on a northwest-southeast alignment and measured 30m x 5m in length. A single external wall was observed beneath two layers; a concrete slab [6/001] in the southern end of the trench and a layer of demolition rubble [6/002].

4.6.2 The base of Trench 6 was a floor surface of modern concrete [6/005], which ran across the entirety of the trench at a depth of 2.4m. This floor ran up to, but did not sit flush with, wall [6/003].

4.6.3 Wall [6/003] was a large northeast-southwest running external wall comprised of yellow brick in an English bond with regular courses. The northwest facing side of the wall was covered in a cement render [6/004] and extended below the depth of excavation and beneath the modern floor surface [6/005]. Its construction cut and associated backfill was not seen.

4.7 Trench 7 (Figure 8)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Height mAOD
7/001	Layer	Concrete surface	30	5	0.19-0.22	6.5-8.2
7/002	Layer	Made ground	30	5	0.57-0.90	6.4
7/003	Layer	Made ground	1.2	1.2	1	6.4
7/004	Deposit	Destruction debris	10	5	1.1	6.4
7/005	Masonry or other construction	Wall	1.9	0.47	0.37	6.7
7/006	Masonry or other construction	Wall	4	0.5	0.72	7.3
7/007	Masonry or other construction	Render	-	-	-	-
7/008	Masonry or other construction	Wall	2.26	-	0.35	7.3
7/009	Masonry or other construction	Render	-	-	-	-
7/010	Masonry or other construction	Wall	5+	0.67	0.95	7.4
7/011	Masonry or other construction	Wall	1.63	0.73	0.49	7.2
7/012	Masonry or other construction	Wall	2.31	0.56	0.63	7.3
7/013	Masonry or other construction	Floor	5+	0.67+	0.10+	6.4
7/014	Masonry or other construction	Wall	1.1	0.4	0.34	5.8
7/015	Deposit	Backfill	3.4	1.5	0.06	7.3
7/016	Masonry or other construction	Wall	1.7	-	1.2	-
7/017	Masonry or other construction	Construction cut for wall [7/006]	4	0.5	0.72	7.3
7/018	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [7/017]	4	0.5	0.72	7.3

Table 8: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

- 4.7.1 Trench 7 was located on an east-west alignment and measured 30m x 5m in length, however, a break in the trench was necessary due to obstructions. Multiple walls and a possible flue were observed beneath two layers; a concrete slab [7/001] and a made ground layer of building rubble and concrete blocks [7/002] and [7/003]. [7/003] produced finds of post mid-19th century date.
- 4.7.2 At the western end of the trench a long chambered structure, possibly a flue or the base of a large chimney, was observed running on a northwest-southeast alignment. Consisting of three firebrick structures. [7/010] and [7/012] ran parallel with each other while stepping inwards to form a 'V' shape. Both were constructed with red brick in regular courses in an English bond.

- 4.7.3 Inner structure [7/011] connected both parallel walls together and formed a partition separating [7/011] and [7/012] into two chambers. A similar red brick fabric to the rest of the structure it had regular coursing but an irregular bond with small brick pieces that were used to fill the 'V' profile. Sampling of [7/011] and [7/010] provided a date between the mid-late 19th century until the early-mid 20th century.
- 4.7.4 The material within this chamber or flue was comprised of a friable black ash material or pumice stone mixed with demolition rubble and concrete [7/015]. Sampling of this deposit revealed a large amount of mixed industrial material including a considerable amount of hammerscale, an iron bolt with screw thread, two general-purpose nail shank fragments, mussel shell, glass and pottery with an 1850-1910 date range. No further details of fuel or of the industrial process was produced. The construction cut and associated backfill for the chambered structure was not seen.
- 4.7.5 Wall [7/006] was a large northeast-southwest running (possibly) external wall which formed a sub-square structure in the centre of the trench. Comprised of yellow brick in regular courses with an English bond it was similar to a large amount of brick structures on site, a layer of dark grey cement render [7/0007] was also observed coating the wall. Brick sampling of [7/006] provided a date between the mid-late 19th century until the early-mid 20th century. Its construction cut [7/017] and associated backfill [7/018] were imperceptible.
- 4.7.6 Wall [7/008] was a northwest-southeast aligned internal wall that was near identical to [7/006]. Comprised of yellow brick with regular bonding it was also covered in a layer of dark grey cement render [7/009] across its visible surface. Joining onto [7/006] against its southeast facing side it formed a partition creating a small square chamber in the centre of the trench and just east of [7/010]. The construction cut for [7/008] was not seen.
- 4.7.7 Wall [7/005] ran on a northeast-southwest alignment and joined up against wall [7/006]. It was comprised of a different style of brick than [7/006] but still had regular courses and an English bond. It was most likely a later addition to wall structure [7/006]. The construction cut for [7/005] was not seen.
- 4.7.8 In the west of Trench 7 a possible floor surface [7/013] was observed covering the majority of the trench which lead into [7/010] and [7/006]. Comprised of a hard black, demolition material it is possible that it was a later phase of construction within the mill complex.
- 4.7.9 A heavily obscured wall on a northeast-southwest alignment was also observed in the section to the west of the break within the trench. [7/016] comprised of yellow and red brick in regular courses with an English bond. Sampling of [7/011] and [7/010] provided a date between the mid-late 19th century until the early-mid 20th century. The construction cut for [7/016] was not seen.
- 4.7.10 Within the eastern end of the trench a small fragment of heavily truncated brick wall was observed. [7/014] was orientated on a northwest-southeast alignment. It was a mix of both red and yellow brick in an English bond with regular

courses. Its associated construction cut was not seen.

4.7.11 Beneath the layer of made ground [7/002], past the depth of 2.4m, another a demolition layer was observed [7/004]. This comprised a compact red/brown clay silt with frequent brick fragments.

4.8 Trench 8 (Figure 9)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Height mAOD
8/001	Layer	Concrete surface	30	5	0.22-0.30	8.2
8/002	Layer	Made ground	30	5	0.37-0.62	7.9
8/003	Deposit	Backfill	1.2	5	2	7.1
8/004	Masonry or other construction	Wall	3.5	0.44	3	7.8
8/005	Masonry or other construction	Wall	4.12	1.12	3	7.4
8/006	Layer	Surface	3	1.2		
8/007	Masonry or other construction	Plinth	0.9	0.9+	0.84	6.9
8/009	Masonry or other construction	Footing	1	1.2	-	6.1
8/010	Masonry or other construction	Wall	2.6	0.6	0.18	7
8/011	VOID					
8/012	Masonry or other construction	Footing	5	5	-	-
8/013	Masonry or other construction	Construction cut for walls [8/004] and [8/005]	7.62	1.12	3	7.8
8/014	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [8/010]	7.62	1.12	3	7.8

Table 9: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

4.8.1 Trench 8 was located on a northwest-southeast alignment and measured 30m x 5m in length. Multiple walls and a plinth were observed beneath a concrete slab [8/001] and a mix of rubble, building debris and concrete [8/002]. Large modern concrete and steel foundations were present in the centre of the trench.

4.8.2 Wall [8/004] was a very large east-west running wall comprised of yellow brick in an English bond with regular courses. Connected onto this was brick structure [8/005]; a large wedge shaped wall on a rough north-south alignment, its narrow end joins to form a sharp corner with [8/004] and is most likely part of the mill's water management system. Also comprised of yellow brick in an English bond with regular course it is likely that both of these features are contemporary with each other and brick sampling of [8/004] and [8/005] has

provided a date between the mid-late 19th century until the early-mid 20th century. They likely shared a construction cut [8/013] and associated backfill [8/014], although these were imperceptible.

4.8.3 The deposit between walls [8/004] and [8/005] differ from the rest of the trench and made ground [8/002]. This was comprised of dark silty clay demolition rubble [8/003] with frequent inclusion of brick throughout. At the bottom of this deposit, a hard surface [8/006] was observed though no further work was taken to investigate it due to the depth the feature was encountered at.

4.8.4 [8/007] was the base of a large plinth or pillar in the centre of Trench 8. It is possible that it was freestanding, though due to concrete foundations it was not possible to see the back of the plinth to confirm this. Constructed out of a mix of both yellow and red bricks it had an irregular coursing, which was most likely to accommodate the predetermined dimensions of the plinth. Brick sampling of [8/007] provided a date firmly in the mid-18th century marking it out as one of the earlier structures on the site. The base of [8/007] stepped down onto a large concrete footing [8/009].

4.8.5 A small heavily truncated east-west wall [8/010] south of [8/007] was observed higher than the plinth, [8/010]. It was comprised of yellow brick in regular courses in a Header bond. It appeared to be related to either [8/009] or [8/004] being roughly the same date. The base of [8/010] stepped down onto a large concrete footing [8/012] and sampling of the bricks has produced a date of late 19th-early 20th century. Its construction cut and associated backfill was not seen.

4.9 Trench 9 (Figure 10)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Height mAOD
9/001	Layer	Concrete surface	27	5	0.20-0.22	7.7-8
9/002	Deposit	Destruction debris	27	5	0.20-0.33	7.5
9/003	Masonry or other construction	Footing	15	0.48	0.11	6.4
9/004	Layer	Made ground	27	5	1.2	7.4
9/005	Masonry or other construction	Wall	15	0.48	0.96	7.4
9/006	Masonry or other construction	Wall	15	0.48	0.96	7.4
9/007	Masonry or other construction	Render	-	-	-	-
9/008	Masonry or other construction	Floor	7	2.2	0.24	-
9/009	Masonry or other construction	Render	-	-	-	-
9/011	Masonry or other construction	Footing	15	0.48	0.11	6.4
9/012	Masonry or other construction	Construction cut for wall [9/005]	15	0.48	0.96	7.4

9/013	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [9/012]	15	0.48	0.96	7.4
9/014	Masonry or other construction	Construction cut for wall [9/006]	15	0.48	0.96	7.4
9/015	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [9/014]	15	0.48	0.96	7.4

Table 10: Trench 9 list of recorded contexts

- 4.9.1 Trench 9 was located on a northwest-southeast alignment and measured 25m x 5m in length. Two parallel walls were observed beneath a layer of concrete slab [9/001] and a mixed layer of hardcore and crushed building material [9/002]. Large modern concrete and steel foundations were present in the northwest end of the trench.
- 4.9.2 Concrete floor [9/008] was a later addition to the possible building, slightly curved upwards it was laid down between walls [9/005] and [9/006] above their concrete footings but below the modern truncation and suggests a possible repurpose/redevelopment of the space in the late post medieval period. Beneath this concrete was a layer of redeposited dark grey/brown clay [9/004] with occasional brick inclusions.
- 4.9.3 Wall [9/005] was a large northeast-southwest aligned wall and most likely formed part of a structure with wall [9/006]. Comprised of yellow bricks in an English bond with regular coursing, a render was also applied to its northern face [9/007]. The wall had multiple courses, despite clear truncation and stepped down at its base to sit on concrete footing [9/003]. Sampling of the bricks produced a date of late 19th-early 20th century. Identical to this and running parallel was wall [9/006]. With the exact same bonding, coursing, height, render [9/009] and level of truncation it also stepped down at its base to sit on concrete footing [9/011]. Again it was rendered [9/009]. The walls and concrete footings were situated within construction cuts [9/012] and [9/014] these were backfilled by crushed building material in a dark grey clay silt matrix (contexts [9/013] and [9/015]).

4.9 Trench 10 (Figure 11)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Height mAOD
10/001	Layer	Concrete surface	30	4.15	0.25-0.61	7.8-8.0
10/002	Deposit	Destruction debris	30	4.15	0.12-0.89	7.2
10/003	Deposit	Made ground	2	2	0.15	7.3
10/004	Layer	Natural	30	4.15	0.4	5.9
10/005	Masonry or other construction	Foundation	-	-	-	-
10/006	Masonry or other construction	Wall	3.6	0.68	0.14	7.2
10/007	Layer	Surface	3.4	4	-	-

10/008	Masonry or other construction	Wall	1.83	0.46	0.14	7.3
10/009	Masonry or other construction	Wall	1.55	0.55	0.25	7.2
10/010	Masonry or other construction	Wall	2.14	0.52	0.07	7.2
10/011	Masonry or other construction	Wall	1.3	0.31	0.14	7.3
10/012	Masonry or other construction	Wall	1.84	0.8	0.42	7.2
10/013	Masonry or other construction	Wall	2.9	9.5	0.4	7.2
10/014	Cut	Construction cut of wall [10/013]	2.9	9.5	0.4	7.2
10/015	Masonry or other construction	Render	-	-	-	-
10/016	Masonry or other construction	Render	-	-	-	-
10/017	Masonry or other construction	Footing	1.83	0.68	0.21	7
10/018	Cut	Construction cut for wall [10/009]	1.55	0.55	0.25	7.2
10/019	Masonry or other construction	Render	-	-	-	-
10/020	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [10/014]	2.9	9.5	0.4	7.2
10/021	Masonry or other construction	Backfill of [10/018]	1.55	0.55	0.25	7.2

Table 11: Trench 10 list of recorded contexts

- 4.10.1 Trench 10 was located on a north-south alignment and measured 30m x 5m in length. Multiple walls were observed beneath two layers; a concrete slab [10/001] and a made ground layer of building rubble and concrete blocks [10/002]. The natural comprised a superficial clay head deposit with fragments of chalk [10/004].
- 4.10.2 Two concrete floor surfaces [10/005] and [10/007] were observed within the centre of the trench, both were at the same level and are most likely contemporary with each other. Slightly raised in the centre, they were also similar to [9/008] and were probably part of the same phase of mill development.
- 4.10.3 Wall [10/006] was a heavily truncated northwest-southeast aligned wall comprised of yellow brick in a Flemish bond with regular courses, a light grey concrete render [10/015] was also observed on its south facing side. At its base was concrete footing [10/005]. Sampling of the bricks has produced a date of late 19th-early 20th century. There was no sign of a construction cut or an associated backfill.

- 4.10.4 Four truncated and distinct walls were observed within the centre of the trench: [10/008] on a north-south alignment, [10/009] on a northwest-southeast alignment, [10/010] on a north-south alignment and [10/011] on a northeast-southwest alignment. Formed into a sub square structure it is possible all were contemporary with each other with sampling suggesting a date of late 19th-early 20th century. No concrete footings or construction cuts for these walls were observed due to the later inclusion of concrete surfaces [10/005] and [10/007]. All other walls were bare brick face except for [10/011], which was covered in a hard grey cement render [10/016]. All walls were built of either red or yellow brick with regular courses in a Flemish bond (where visible).
- 4.10.5 The inner space between walls [10/008], [10/009], [10/010] and [10/011] contained a re-deposited light brown clay [10/003] with infrequent inclusions of brick and concrete, a piece of oyster shell, a wine bottle neck fragment and a sherd of a Sunderland-type slipware bowl. The construction cut [10/018] for wall [10/009] was also backfilled with this material [10/021].
- 4.10.6 Wall [10/012] was a small, truncated wall on a north-south alignment observed in the trench section. Comprised of a red brick in regular courses in an English bond it is likely it relates to walls [10/008], [10/009], [10/01] and [10/011] or possibly an earlier phase of development in the south of the mill site. Brick sampling produced an earlier date of around the mid-18th century that suggests the latter option is more likely. No construction cut was observed.
- 4.10.7 An east-west wall [10/013] at the north of Trench 10 was observed at the same level as the rest of the brick structures in the trench. Comprised of yellow brick in an English bond with regular courses it was partially covered in a grey cement render [10/019] and at its base stepped down onto concrete footing [10/017]. A sondage was placed by this wall revealing the construction cut [10/014] cut into made ground layer [10/003]. Its backfill comprised redistribution of this material (context [10/020]).

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at the Former Sittingbourne Mill. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 12). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014c).

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	Iron	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)
1/004			1	2765								
3/003			1	2348								
3/004			1	2766								
3/005			1	2805								
3/007			1	2438								
4/003			1	2319								
4/005			1	3782								
5/003			2	1697								
5/004			1	2900								
5/007			1	2155								
5/009			1	2442								
6/003			1	2483								
7/003	5	99			1	84						
7/006			1	2848								
7/010			1	3240								
7/011			1	3298								
7/015	4	305					1	338				
7/016			1	2463								
8/004			1	2324								
8/005			2	3471								
8/006			1	2646								
8/007			1	1462								
8/010			2	1773								
9/006			1	4808								
10/003	1	141							1	66	1	57
10/006			1	2301								
10/008			1	1508								
10/012			1	1684								
10/013			2	1678								
Total	10	545	30	66404	1	84	1	338	1	66	1	57

Table 12: Finds quantification

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological evaluation recovered just 10 sherds of pottery, weighing 544g, from three individually numbered contexts. The material has been fully listed in Table 13 as part of the visible archive. In addition each context was spot dated to help site phasing.

Context	Fabric	No	Weight	Comments (including estimated number of different vessels represented)
7/003	English stoneware	1	38g	Large bottle x1 (tan topped, Bristol glaze)
7/003	Blue transfer-printed whiteware	2	38g	Plates x2 (x1 willow pattern, x1 uncertain)
7/003	Black transfer-printed whiteware	1	8g	Plate x1 (uncertain sheet pattern)
7/003	Refined whiteware (plain)	1	14g	Plate x1 (blue rim-edge line)
7/015	English stoneware	1	92g	Large bottle x1 (grey, Bristol glaze)
7/015	Blue transfer-printed whiteware	1	8g	Mug x1 (foliage sheet pattern). Cylindrical
7/015	Refined whiteware (plain)	2	206g	Pot lid x1 (plain) 97mm di; door knob x1 (plain) 55mm di
10/003	Sunderland-type slipware	1	140g	Bowl x1 (white slip and clear glaze internally)

Table 13: The late post-medieval assemblage

5.2.2 All of the pottery is of the late Post-medieval period and all could easily be placed after the mid-19th century. There are no definite pieces that have to pre-date this point. Overall the ceramics are in quite good condition – of a relatively large average size with no/little signs of having repeated reworking. Too little is present to reliably comment on the function and status of the assemblage, however, from what there is a range of domestic kitchen and serving vessels are present suggesting household refuse. The presence of two large stoneware bottles (often used for spirits) is notable but this may simply be due to the small assemblage size. There is nothing to suggest anything other than a lower/middle class household.

5.2.3 The pottery assemblage is small and consists of industrial types well known of in the south-east. It is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report and has been discarded.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.3.1 Thirty brick samples, collectively weighing 66,404g, were collected from twenty-six contexts, some of which were standing structures. The bricks were overwhelmingly of the same form and fabric, both of which strongly indicate a date of the later 19th-early 20th century, although the thick layer of cement mortar present on a large number of these bricks place their use firmly into the 20th century. Also present were bricks that cannot date before 1927, establishing a fairly recent, early modern time-range for the assemblage as whole.

- 5.3.2 The most prevalent fabric type across the assemblage was Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) fabric 3035 (see Table 14), which is a very common post-Fire fabric, reaching the height of use in the later 18th and 19th century. All the 3035 were sharply formed, frogged, and of very similar dimensions: 220-235 x 102-110 x 65mm. In many instances the frog was obscured by thick cement, but in two instances there was a maker's stamp within the frog. The brick sampled from structure [10/006] showed a fairly clear 'S C', and the partial 'S...' stamp on the brick from [10/013] most likely is the same letters, indicating a common source for these and potentially many of the other 3035 bricks from site. This lettering could not be associated firmly with any known brickworks.
- 5.3.3 A range of mortars were present on the 3035 bricks, including a hard, granular grey cement, a similar cement with fragments of coal in the matrix, an orangey-beige cement mortar, and a yellow-coloured lime mortar. These may either indicate more than one building phases, or the different mortar types that were used for different rendering and mortaring purposes.
- 5.3.4 Three examples of bricks in MOLA fabric 3032 were also recovered from non-structural contexts [5/007], [8/007] and [10/012]. 3032 is a slightly earlier brick fabric than 3035, reaching the height off its popularity in the century immediately following the Great Fire of 1666. The form and range of inclusions does vary approximately according to date. The 3032 brick pieces from [8/007] and [10/012] are both frogged, suggesting a later date, circa the mid-18th century.
- 5.3.5 Two dry-compressed bricks (MOLA 3038), each with a stamp from the Eastwood Fletton brickworks within a sharply defined triangular frog were collected from [3/007] and [5/009]. A number of brickworks, most prolifically the London Brick Company, utilised this fabric and compression method, but as Eastwood Fletton was only established in 1927 a firm terminus post quem can at least be assigned to these bricks.
- 5.3.6 Two very dense and heavy bricks in refractory brick fabric MOLA 3261 were also found, one from context [07/010], the other from standing structure [7/011]. These were unfrogged but both stamped with lettering arranged across two rows, the uppermost of which was not clearly visible, although the manufacturing location of 'STOURBRIDGE' was on the line below. Stourbridge was a centre for fire clay production due to the natural deposits of fireclay available, and so the bricks could be from any one of multiple manufacturers, most of which were in production from the mid-late 19th century until the early-mid 20th century. The first visible letters of the first row, before the stamp becomes illegible due to residual cement, are 'HAR...', which could indicate the brickworks of Harris and Pearson, although without a fully legible stamp this is purely speculative. Firebricks were made to be heatproof and non-porous, and are generally only found at sites with an industrial purpose.
- 5.3.7 Due to the homogeneity of the assemblage, and the commonplace nature of all the fabrics represented, the bulk of the bricks have been discarded. Samples of fabrics, forms and stamps have been retained for the archive.

MOL	Description
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A code	
3032	Dark red-purple fabric; parts of the surface are often discoloured by fine yellow speckling. Common burnt black ash and flint inclusions (up to 6mm) with varying amounts of quartz (up to 0.8mm). Clay pipe stems in some bricks.
3035	Generally yellow fabric with common burnt black ash and chalk inclusions (up to 4mm). Scatter of quartz (up to 0.6mm). The fabric is hard and riddled with tiny air pockets where organic matter has burned out during firing
3038	Very hard and distinctive granular fabric with numerous small white inclusions
3261	Refractory brick. Hard fabric with common large quartz (up to 2mm), Scatter of very small red iron oxide spots in clay matrix

Table 14: Brick fabric descriptions

5.4 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber and Elena Baldi

- 5.4.1 Context [7/003] produced a fresh piece (84g) of fuel ash slag, almost certainly derived from burning coal. The piece would be in keeping with the mid-19th- to early 20th- century date suggested by the pottery.
- 5.4.2 A considerable amount of hammerscale was recovered from the flotation of sample <1>, from context [7/015], from the <2 mm and <2 mm sieves, totalling to 25 g. The sample was analysed using a binocular microscope (x40).
- 5.4.3 The recovered finds from the <2 mm sieve contained a mixture of +500 fragments of irregularly shaped material that were collected using a magnet. Most are undiagnostic tiny granules of ferruginous natural stone. Also ca. 20 fragments of hammerscale were recovered.
- 5.4.4 The higher grade sieve recovered, instead, 100+ fragments of hammerscale, which measure from 2.5 mm to 25 mm in length. Hammerscale flakes are formed during the smithing process, in which the iron object is repeatedly heated and hammered to remove impurities.
- 5.4.5 The quantity recovered, along with a fragment of slag from the same trench, from context [7/003], could be indicative of smithing activities carried out on site or in close vicinity. The recovery of modern pottery from the same context, [7/015], dates the activity to the mid-19th- early 20th century.

5.5 The Ironwork by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 A large iron bolt with screw thread (weight 338g) was recovered from [7/015]. The object, with fragments of mineralised wood adhering, is of late post-medieval date. The bolt measures 108mm long, with its octagonal head measuring 38mm across. Large bolts such as this were used for machinery but are also typical for building construction, particularly for industrial buildings.
- 5.5.2 In addition, environmental sample <1> ([7/015]) contained two general purpose nail shank fragments. Nails are hand wrought and undiagnostic of date.

5.6 The Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.6.1 A single wine bottle neck fragment (wt 66g) was found in [10/003]. The piece is of late 18th- to 19th-century date.
- 5.6.2 In addition, four fragments (wt 4g) of glass were recovered from environmental residue <1> [7/015]. Included are two fragments of window glass dating to the mid-19th to early 20th century as well as a clear glass bottle fragment of undiagnostic form or date. A tiny fragment from a thin-walled bottle of 19th- to early 20th-century date was also found.

5.7 The Marine Shell by Elke Raemen

- 5.7.1 A single left valve from an oyster (weight 57g) was recovered from [10/003]. The piece exhibits traces of parasitic activity and is distorted, perhaps signifying growth in overcrowded conditions.
- 5.7.2 In addition, environmental sample <1> ([7/015]) contained three common mussel umbos as well as three small, undiagnostic shell fragments.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Stacey Adams

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 One bulk sample was taken during excavations at Sittingbourne Former Mill from flue deposit [7/015] for the recovery of industrial debris as well as environmental remains such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and Mollusca. The following report details and discusses the material recovered from the bulk sample.

6.2 Methods

6.2.1 The 20L flotation sample was processed by flotation tank with a 250µm mesh for retention of the flot and a 500µm mesh for the heavy residue, before being air dried. The heavy residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 15). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. A 100ml subsample of the flot was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and its contents recorded (Table 16).

6.3 Results

Sample <1> [7/015].

6.3.1 The heavy residue of the flue deposit contained fire-brick, metal, glass, tile and magnetic material. A small amount of marine mollusc shell equated the only environmental material within the residue.

6.3.2 The flot consisted of 99% sediment of ashy pumice stone and several small (<2mm) fragments of charcoal. No other archaeological material was identified and modern worm capsules were occasional within the flot.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 The almost complete absence of environmental material within the bulk sample is likely attributed to the industrial nature of the site. It is possible that future sampling may recover charcoal related to the industrial activities of the site but it is unlikely that charred plant macrofossils associated with cereal production and food consumption would be recovered.

Table 25: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams.

Sample Number	Context	Context / Deposit Type	Sample Volume (L)	Sub-Sample Volume (L)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Other (eg. pot, cbm, etc.) (quantity/ weight)
1	7/015	Flue deposit	20	20	*	<1	Fire Brick (*163g) Metal (*2g) Glass (*1g) Tile (*2g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (***/13g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (****/11g)

Table 16: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250).

Sample Number	Context	Weight (g)	Flot volume (ml)	Volume Scanned (ml)	Sediment (%)	Charcoal <2mm	Insects, Fly Pupae etc.	Notes
1	7/015	67	190	100	99	*	**	Ashy/ pumice deposit with occasional modern worm capsules.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 7.1.1 Almost every trench excavated on site exhibited the same stratigraphic sequence of a layer of concrete slab overlaying a layer of building demolition/mixed clay made ground onto either another demolition deposit or the archaeological horizon. Trench 4 did not exhibit any made ground below the concrete slab, while Trench 6 only contained a small amount of concrete on its southern edge and was almost entirely comprised of demolition rubble.
- 7.1.2 The natural geology comprised of superficial chalk/clay head with an isolated area of Seaford Chalk formation observed in Trench 4.
- 7.1.3 The archaeology encountered within the site appears to be broadly concentrated in the eastern area and follows closely the mill complex as represented on historic 19th and 20th century OS maps. Features excavated in the eastern area had more substantial walls and standing structures with generally darker, industrial fills between them while the structures in the south and west of the site had a higher level of truncation and were often less substantial. The structures excavated and the finds recovered all date from the post-medieval period onwards. No evidence of archaeology prior to this was observed.
- 7.1.4 The methodology as set out in the WSI (ASE 2017) was successfully employed during the evaluation. The conditions on site were conducive to confident and efficient identification and recording of archaeological features and as such, it is considered that this evaluation and report has successfully achieved its general objective.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 The entire site had been substantially affected by late post-medieval/modern truncation with evidence of large concrete foundation blocks, concrete floor surfaces and concrete building footings truncating the walls and structures dated to the 18th and later 19th-early 20th century. Very few walls remained intact while most displayed clear signs of reduction down to a final few runs of brick. The best surviving structures and walls were present in the eastern end of the site and correspond to where the former mill building once stood.
- 7.2.2 Several differences of made ground depths were noted across site all of which can be attributed to modern activity, probably related to a levelling process. The same natural chalk/clay was observed within the sondage placed in every trench except for Trench 4, which contained Seaford chalk formation.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

- 7.3.1 The current phase of evaluation produced a large amount of evidence for post-medieval industrial activity dating from between c.19th-20th which was mainly focused within Trenches 5, 6, 7 and 8 (see Figures 2 and 13). Trenches 1, 3, 4, 9 and 10 produced less substantial structures, consisting of truncated walls and later post-medieval/modern floor surfaces.

- 7.3.2 It is clear from various tithe and Ordnance Survey maps that the layout of the former mill did not change dramatically over 150 years. The main mill building always occupied a space in the east of site while the mill pond was constructed directly to the south. Smaller outlying buildings were not clear on any map and despite excavated evidence for their existence they may not have been substantial enough to be recorded or were the product of short periods of construction that fell between map editions.
- 7.3.3 The east of site contained the most intensive area of archaeology and revealed a large, linear chambered structure, possibly a flue [7/010] and several large walls [6/003], [7/006], and [7/106]. Flue [7/010] was filled with an industrial residue [7/015] containing a considerable amount of hammerscale and ash/'pumice stone' indicating that there may have been a small-scale forge on site. This was not unusual in the late 19th century and prior excavations of the mill area produced evidence of furnace bases to the east of site (CAT 2012). The flue alignment most likely joins onto large wall [7/006], which has clear alignment with wall [6/003] from Trench 6. This could form a large external wall and possibly one side of a post-medieval mill structure.
- 7.3.4 The alignment of wall [6/003] is possibly shown on the OS map from 1897 (see Figures 14 and 17). This corresponds with the date given to the sampled bricks and [6/003] could represent a small extension to a southern building recorded on the 1865 OS map (at the base of Trench 6), the remains of which are no longer standing.
- 7.3.5 The tithe map of 1840 possibly shows the outline of [7/010] and [7/006] and [7/106] which appear to form part of the main structure of the mill (Figure 12). Smaller, internal walls were also present in Trench 7 ([7/005] and [7/008]) and are most likely inner partition walls related to the industrial workings of the mill and were never recorded on any map.
- 7.3.6 It is clear by the preservation of the flue and the large standing walls that a good amount of the 19th century mill is still present and intact in Trench 6 and 7 and that there is a high likelihood of the flue structure, external and internal walls continuing beneath floor level [7/013].
- 7.3.7 The extent of the structures and detailed OS maps shows that in the eastern area there is good evidence for concentrated industrial activity on site in the mid-19th-20 century. Environmental sampling and finds recovery of this area also revealed evidence associated with the mill industry and possible associated 'support' industry such as forges. The finds recovered included domestic ware, hammerscale, nails, construction bolts for either machinery or industrial buildings and building glass.
- 7.3.8 The other significant area of the mill was in Trench 8 and the location of the millpond. The area of the pond has been well documented from 1865 onwards to 1974 on the OS maps and upon excavation, a large retaining wall [8/004] and wedge shaped wall [8/006] were observed in the northern area of the trench. Both structures were likely part of a water channelling system that can be seen clearly on the 1938 OS map moving water from the southeast into the mill site (see Figures 16 and 19).

- 7.3.9 Earlier brickwork was uncovered in the centre of the trench from the base of a plinth dated to around the mid-18th century. Plinth [8/007] appeared to be free standing, most likely relating to an earlier phase of the millpond and could have been a support for a retaining wall that is no longer standing. A heavily truncated wall [8/010] was just south of [8/007] of a later date and possibly part of a later mill expansion phase.
- 7.3.10 Ordnance Survey maps from 1865 show the outline of the 'old mill pond' in the south funnelling into a smaller pond in the centre of site, once in 1865 and again in 1897 (see Figures 13 and 14). This location was unexcavated due to the depth of concrete and steel footings in the centre of Trench 8 and was likely part of a series of deliberate backfills in order to stabilise the ground in that area. Developments of the millpond changed in the next decade and it is clear from the following 1908 Ordnance Survey map that the pond has been removed/backfilled completely and replaced by the water channelling system to the southeast of site (Figure 15).
- 7.3.11 The south and west of the site show a much less intensive area of industry both upon excavation and in the tithe/OS maps. The surrounding areas were likely to house smaller buildings, possibly related to the support industries previously mentioned and even occupational residencies for mill workers and their families, the start of which first shows up in the 1865 Ordnance Survey map but grows dramatically by 1897 (See Figures 13 and 14).
- 7.3.12 Excavation of Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5, 9 and 10 all revealed walls with various levels of truncation apparent, which often took the form of a reduction down to near their base with the majority reduced down to fewer than five runs of brick.
- 7.3.13 Walls [9/005] and [9/006] and [4/003] and [4/005] shared a similar layout of two parallel walls possibly forming a long but narrow structure in the south and west of site. Walls in Trench 1, 6 and 9 were then repurposed in either the late post-medieval or modern period with an addition of a concrete floor [1/007], [6/005] and [9/008] placed at a raised artificial level between the walls. [4/003] and [4/005] probably relate to yards represented to the rear of Victorian terraced houses on the 1938 OS map (Figure 16).
- 7.3.14 Walls in Trench 1, 5 and 10 were so heavily truncated that a clear alignment or purpose was not always clear. It is possible that the less substantial brickwork represents smaller internal walls or buildings that no longer stand and had been removed as part of later phases of mill development.
- 7.3.15 Two exceptions to this are [5/004] and [5/007] which appear to be large external walls that ran on the same northeast-southwest alignment at the south end of Trench 5. Dating has revealed that wall [5/007] is the earliest structure on site (mid-18th century) and roughly corresponds to the 1840 tithe map (see Figures 12 and 20) forming part of what looks to be a large external wall, possibly the early mill boundary or the northern wall of the courtyard. Wall [5/004] does not show on any maps despite a date of mid-late 19th-20th century but it is likely, given its proximity to [5/007], that it was a later phase of a boundary wall or outer wall of the mill complex.

7.4 Consideration of research aims

- 7.4.1 The evaluation has established that there are significant amounts of archaeological remains present within the site dating from the mid-18th to 20th century, the majority of which correspond to Ordnance Survey maps dating from 1840 onwards. The depth of overburden ranges from between 0.76m and 2.8m across the site and, as such (depending on construction methods); groundworks are likely to have an impact on the archaeological remains. The archaeological evidence can be discussed in three areas; the mill structure, the mill pond and the outer mill structures.
- 7.4.2 The east of site contained several large external walls, internal walls, a possible flue and floor surfaces, which likely make up part of the 19th century mill structure. Pottery was recovered from the made ground deposits [7/003]/[7/015] which dated to the mid-late 19th century with brick sampling confirming this and it is probable that nearby structures are contemporary with this date.
- 7.4.3 The mill pond area (specifically Trench 8) contained archaeology similar to the eastern area with two large walls, a plinth and a smaller truncated wall that are likely related to water management on site. Dated brickwork and OS map correlation suggest a range of dates from mid-18th century to late 19-20th century and are suggestive of multiple phases of development of the mill pond.
- 7.4.4 The outer areas of the mill complex revealed a less intensive area of occupation/industrialisation with only a few building foundations left standing and the majority of walls reduced down to a few runs of bricks and their footings. Dated brickwork ranged between the mid-19th-20th century with only a small 18th century truncated wall in Trench 10 suggesting anything earlier.
- 7.4.5 The 18th century activity may relate to the 'Papper Mill', recorded on a map of Kent dated 1769 (www.canterburytrust.co.uk). The possible scorch marks noted on wall [5/007] which dates to this phase may be indicative of the reasons for some of the mill buildings abandonment/decline.

7.5 Updated Research Agenda

- 7.5.1 Currently, a detailed plan of the mill layout is unknown and while the main structure was recorded on various OS maps it is clear that smaller outlying buildings were not identified or that the full industrial workings of the mill were not recorded. Future research agendas should include an attempt to reconstruct the mill complex in its entirety over time. This will aid research priorities identified by SERF (2007), specifically furthering understanding of urban industry and post-medieval paper-making sites.
- 7.5.2 The depth of the mill structures suggests that earlier phases may still be present beneath made ground deposits especially around the eastern area of the site over the main mill complex. This could help identify the formation of the mill and the early paper working industry as addressed in the WSI research aims and in the South Eastern Research Framework (SERF 2007).

- 7.5.3 Sittingbourne became a thriving centre of production in the late post-medieval period. Industry was centred around brick and paper-making. The presence of structures and deposits related to the latter has potential to aid our understanding of the specialisation of early post-medieval small towns as highlighted by the South Eastern Research Framework (SERF 2007). The presence of 18th century activity on-site may have the potential to aid understanding of the origins of this industrial heritage.
- 7.5.4 In the event of any further mitigation the results of this evaluation and the subsequent fieldwork should be considered alongside the work of Canterbury Archaeological Trust's, Phase 1 investigations to the east (CAT 2012).

7.6 Conclusions

- 7.6.1 Despite the truncation and significant amount of site levelling identified in the preceding impact assessment (CgMs 2017) the evaluation has succeeded in establishing the presence of earlier mill activity from the mid-18th century up to the modern period. Industrial evidence other than paper production (i.e. smithing) was also recorded from features of a post-medieval date and it is likely that this related to the earlier 19th-20th century phase of mill activity.
- 7.6.2 Multiple features and deposits of archaeological interest were encountered in the majority of the excavated trenches. These mainly concentrated in the east of site in accordance with the Archaeological Impact Assessment (CgMs 2017). Archaeological features were also encountered in the west (Trench 4), however, suggesting that truncated remains survive beyond the areas of greater potential within the site.

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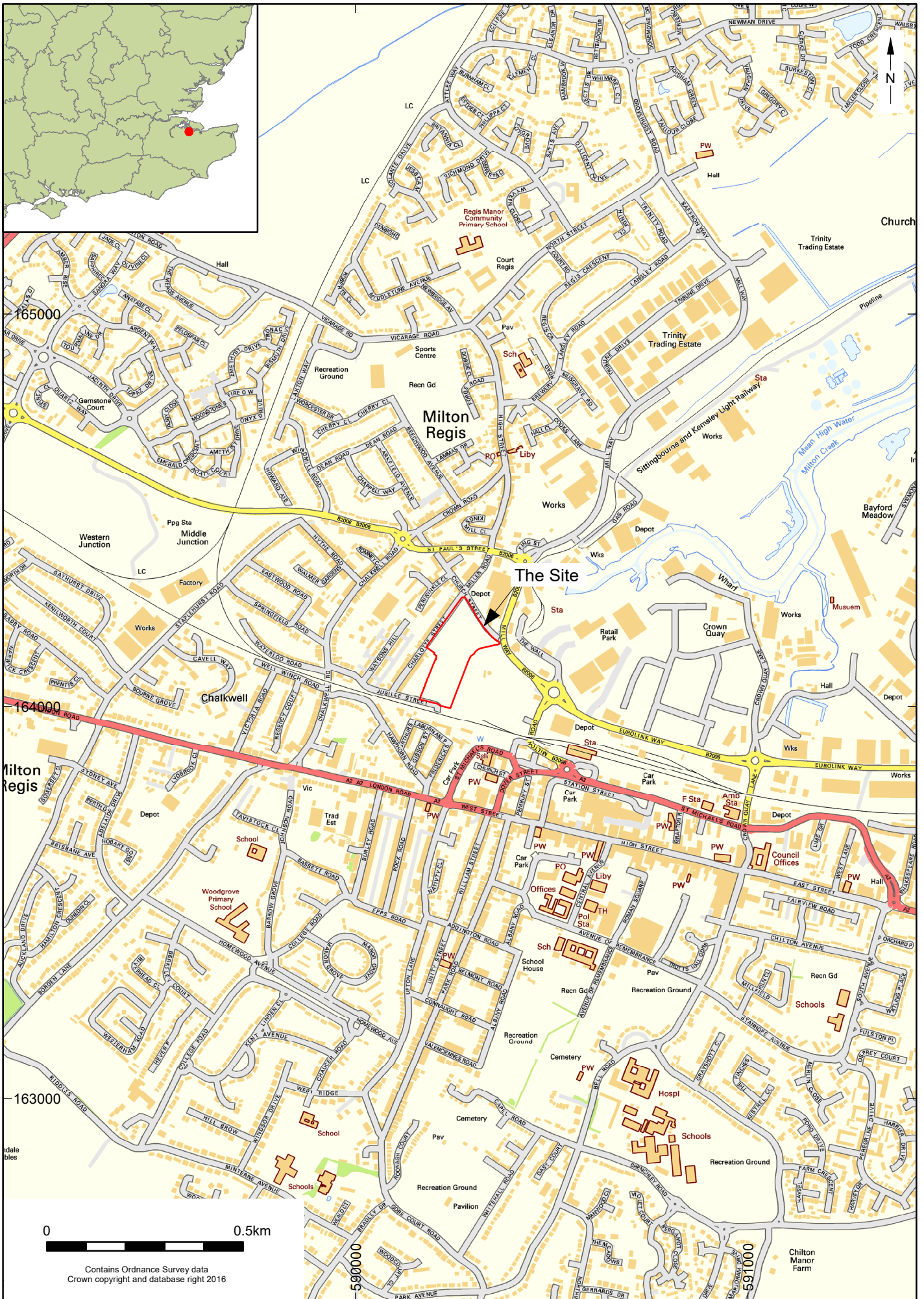
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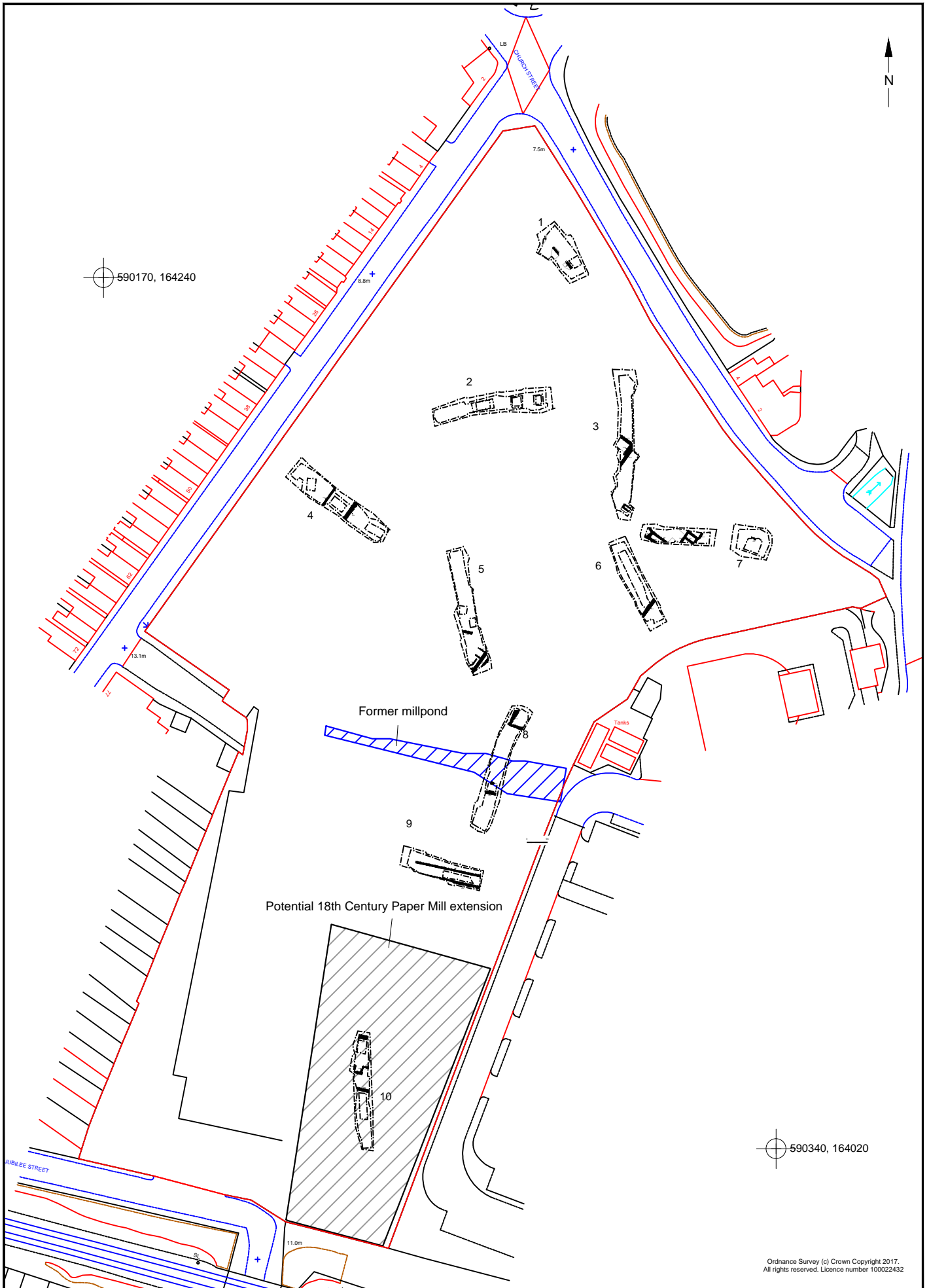
ASE would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Kent County Archaeologist Simon Mason for his guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Jake Wilson. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations; John Cook who produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason who project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Andy Margetts who project managed the post-excavation process.



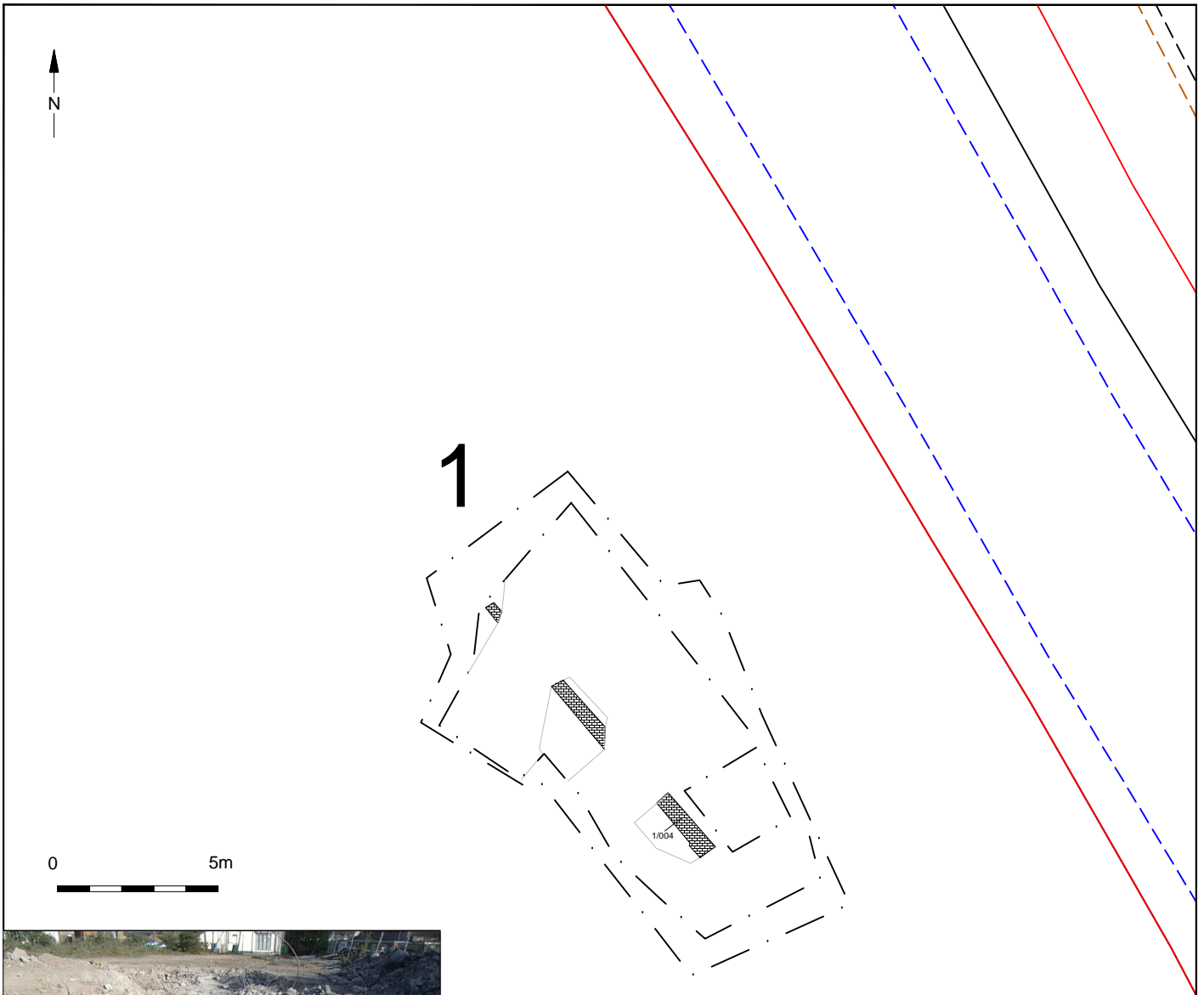
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Fig. 1



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Trench 1 looking north



Wall [1/004] looking west

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Trench 3 looking north



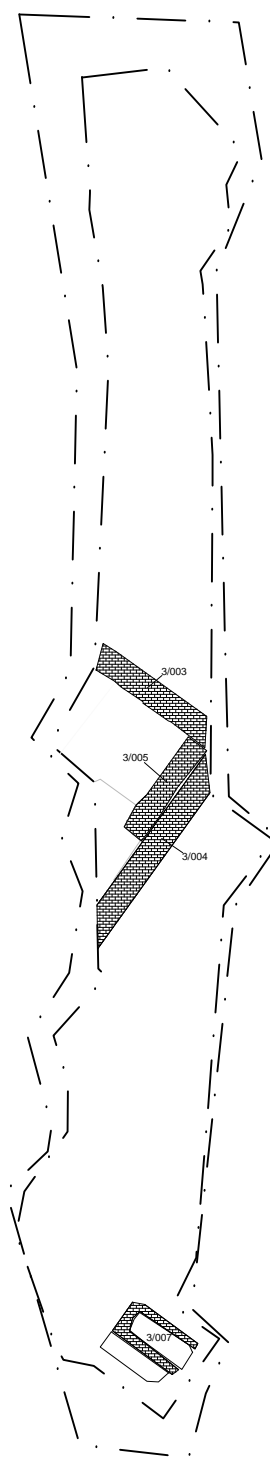
Feature [3/003], [3/004] and [3/005] looking east



Feature [3/007] looking east

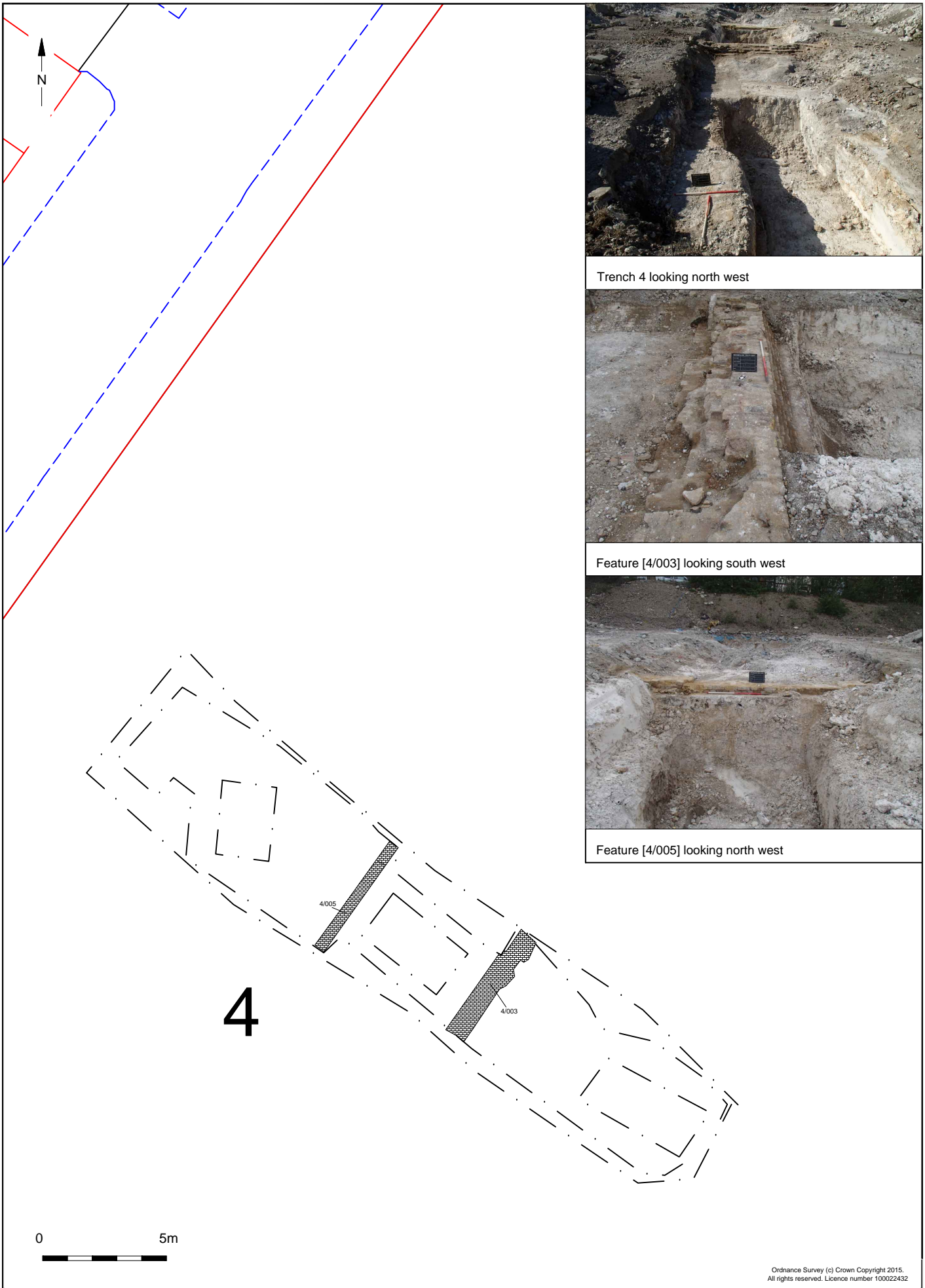


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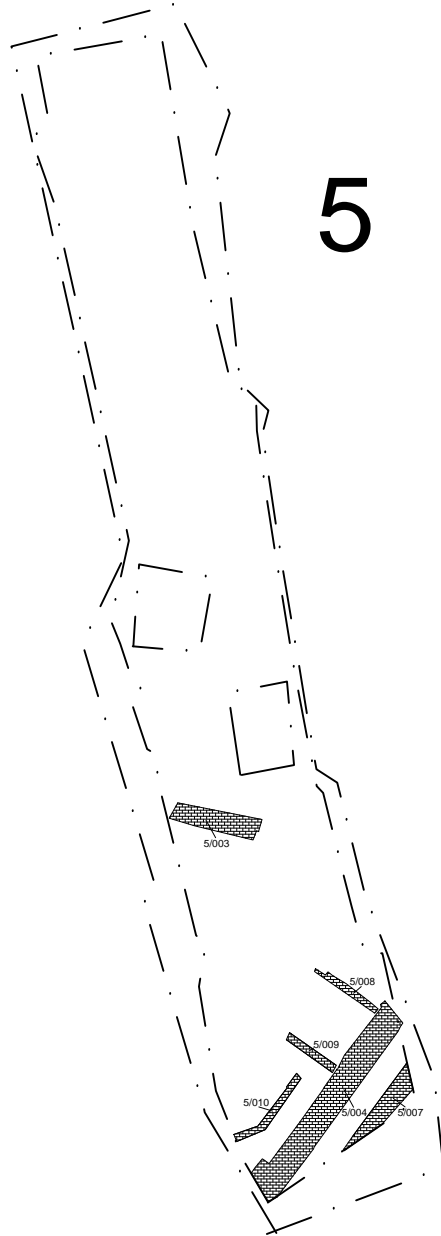
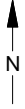
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Trench 5 looking north



Feature [5/003] looking south



Feature [5/007] looking south east

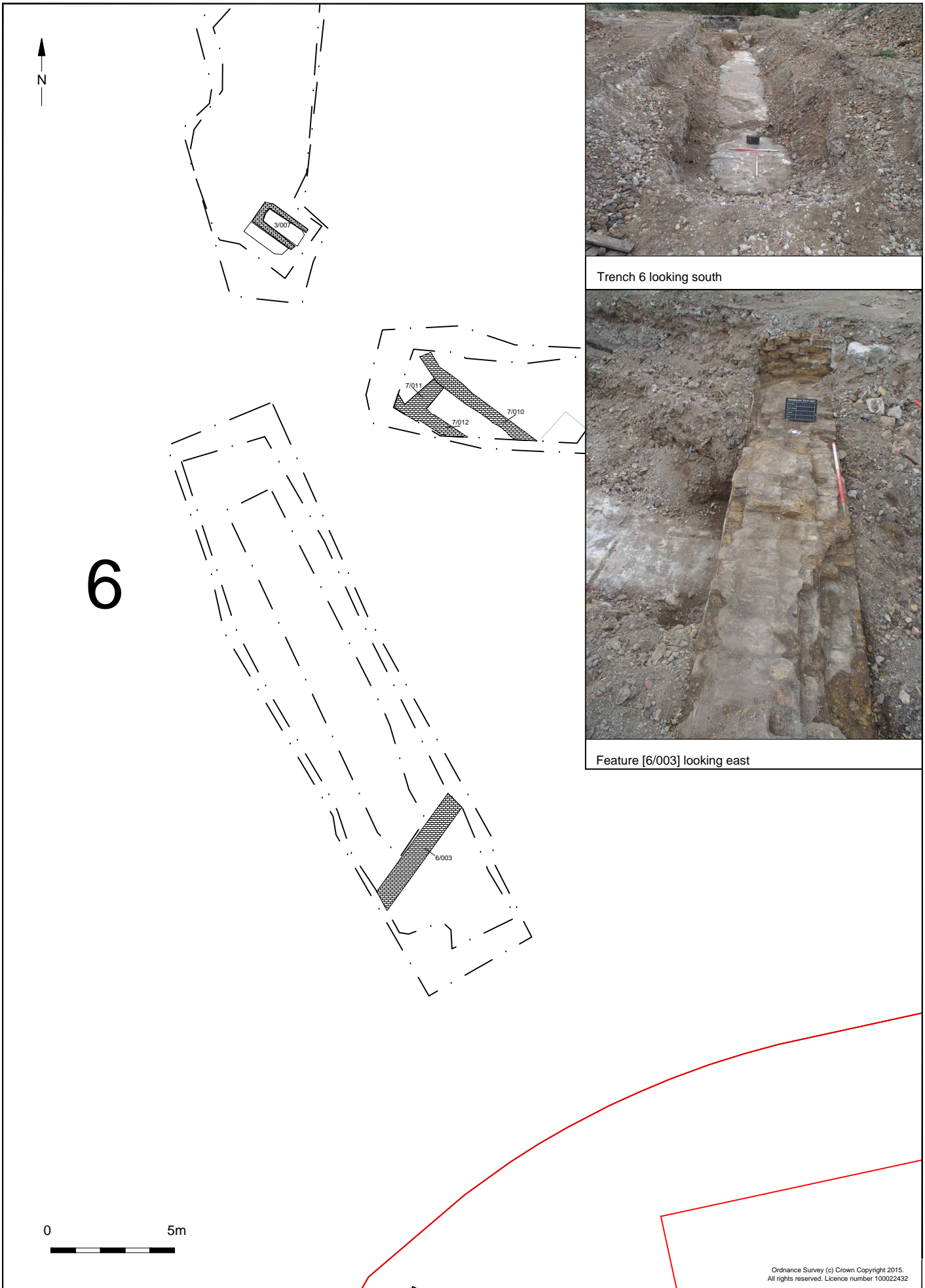


Feature [5/010] looking north west



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Trench 6 looking south

Feature [6/003] looking east

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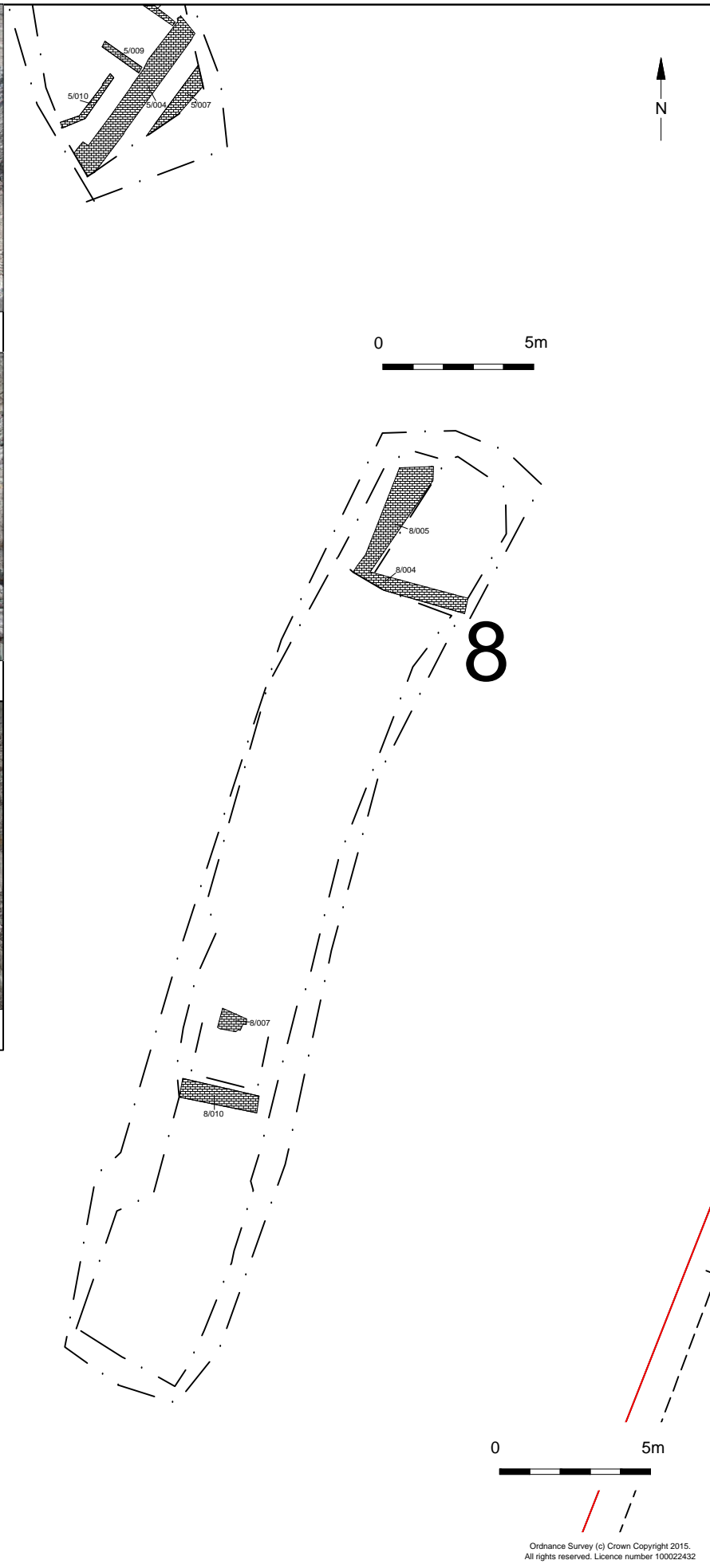
Trench 8 looking south



Feature [8/005] looking south west

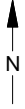


Features [8/007] and [8/010] looking north



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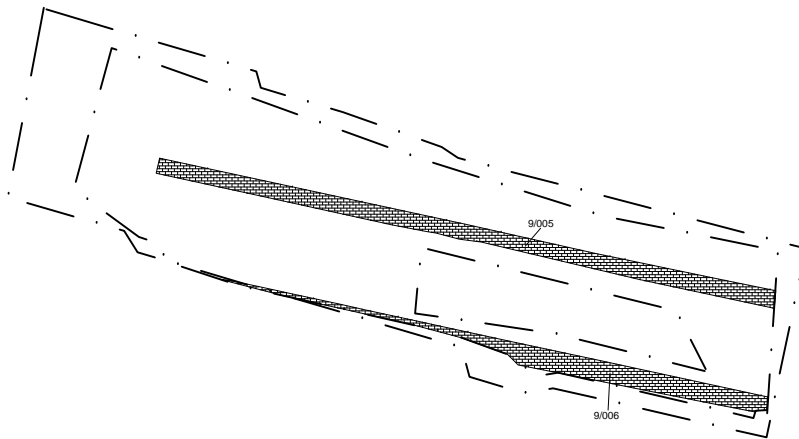
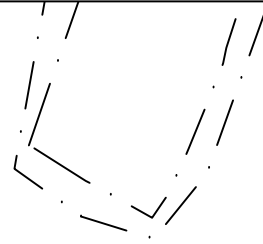
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Trench 9 looking east

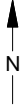


Feature [9/006] looking north



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Feature [10/006] looking west



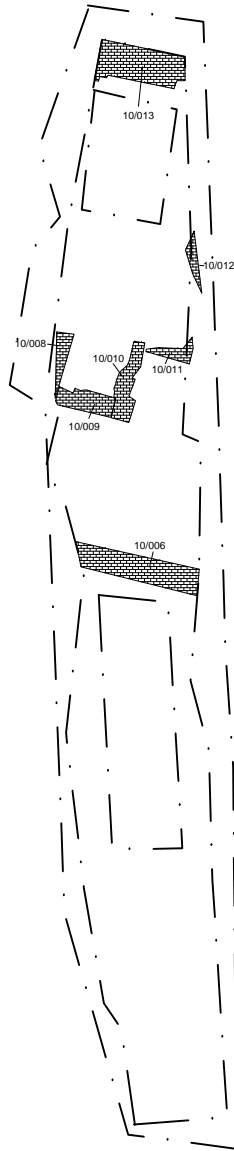
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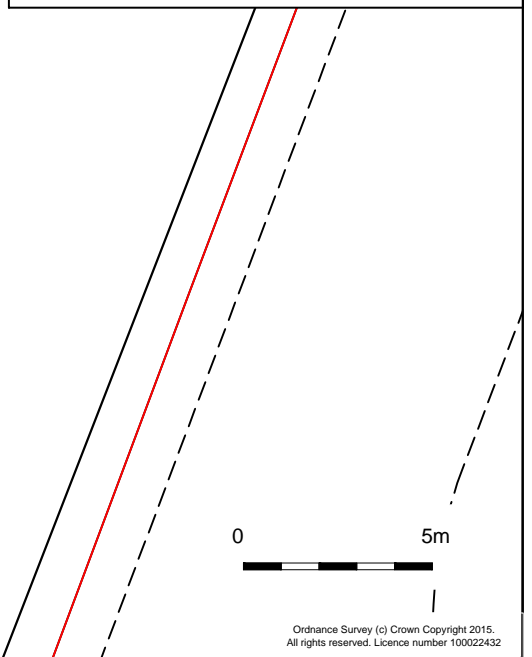
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Feature [10/012] looking east

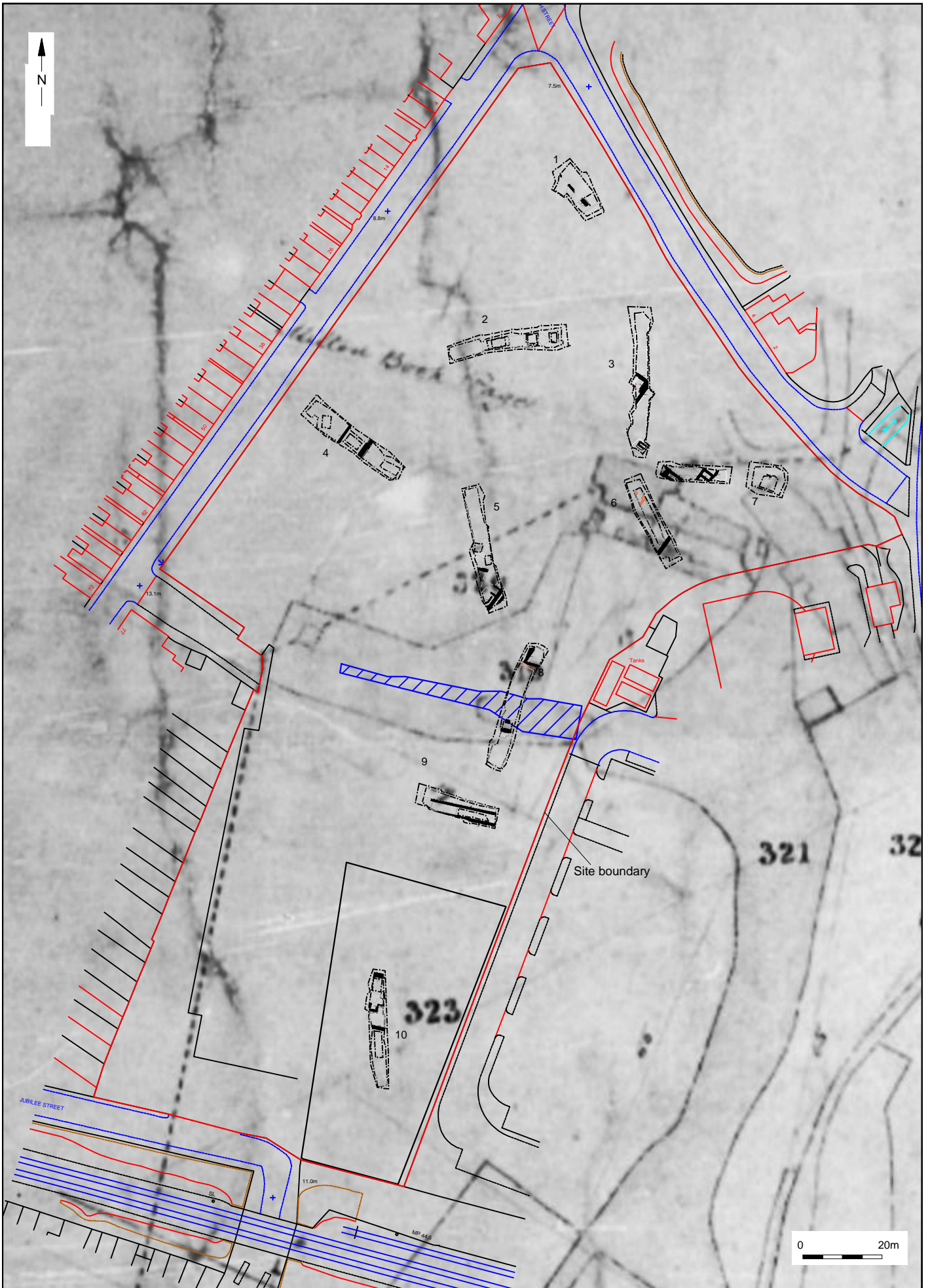


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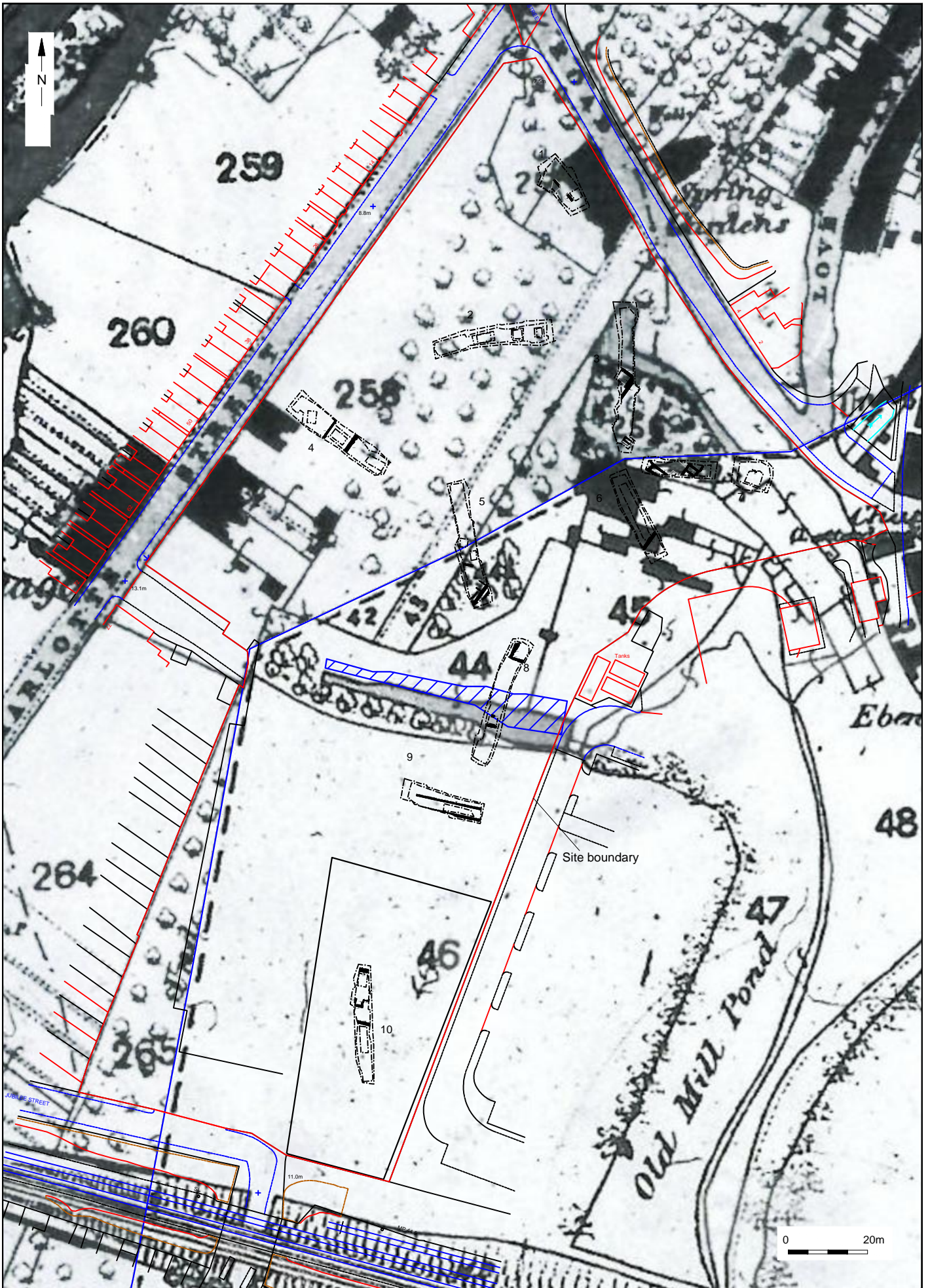


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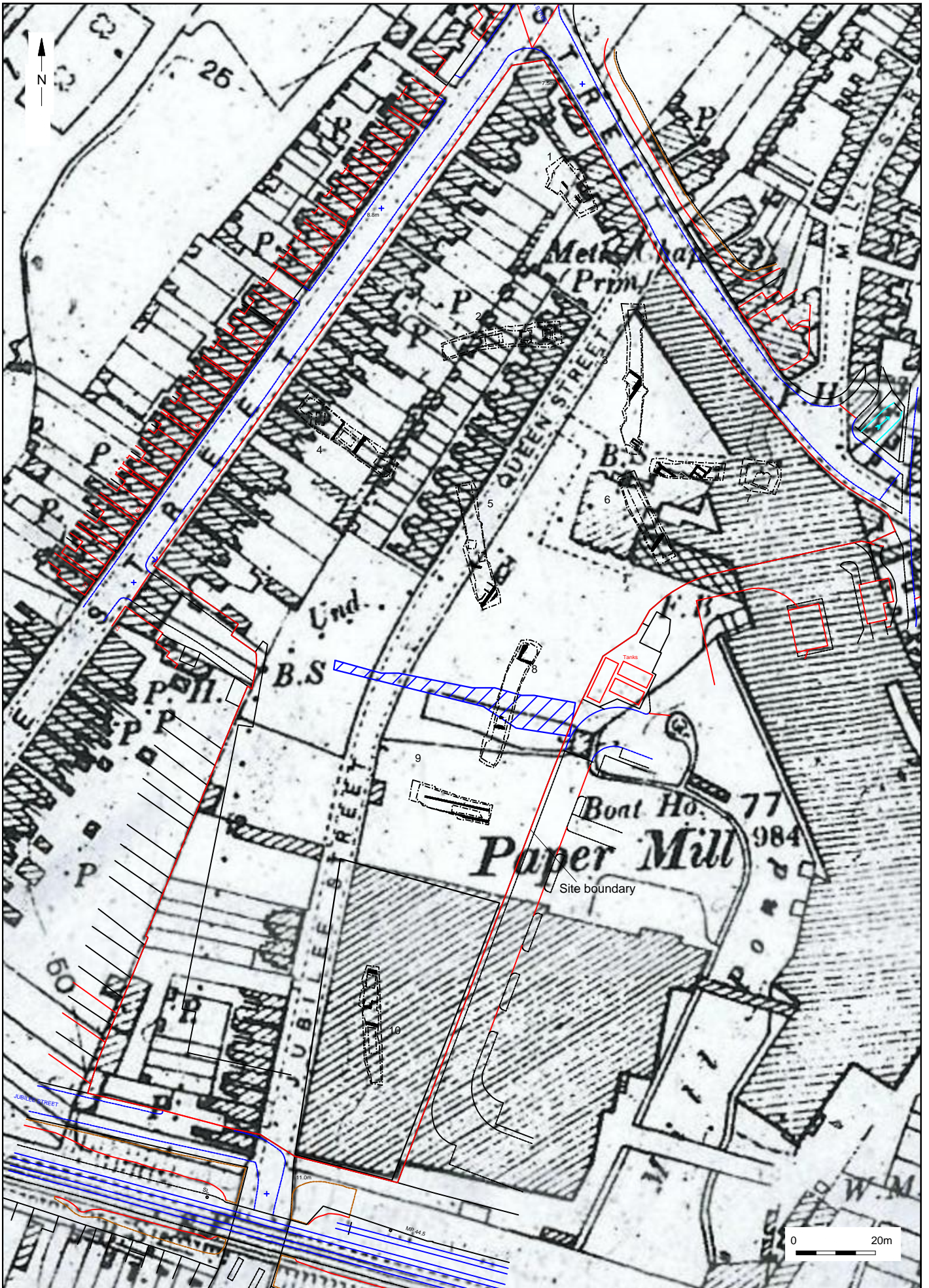
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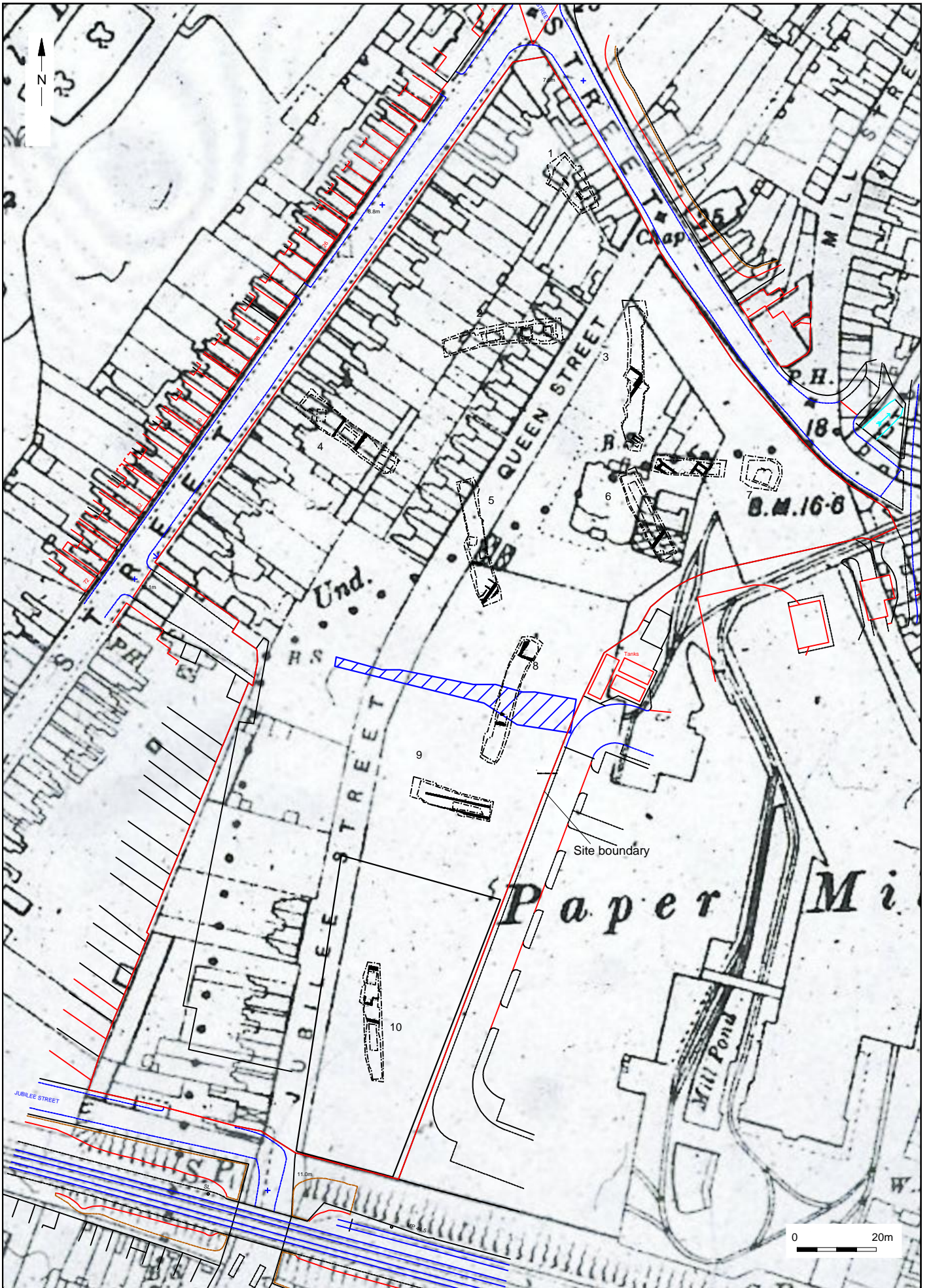
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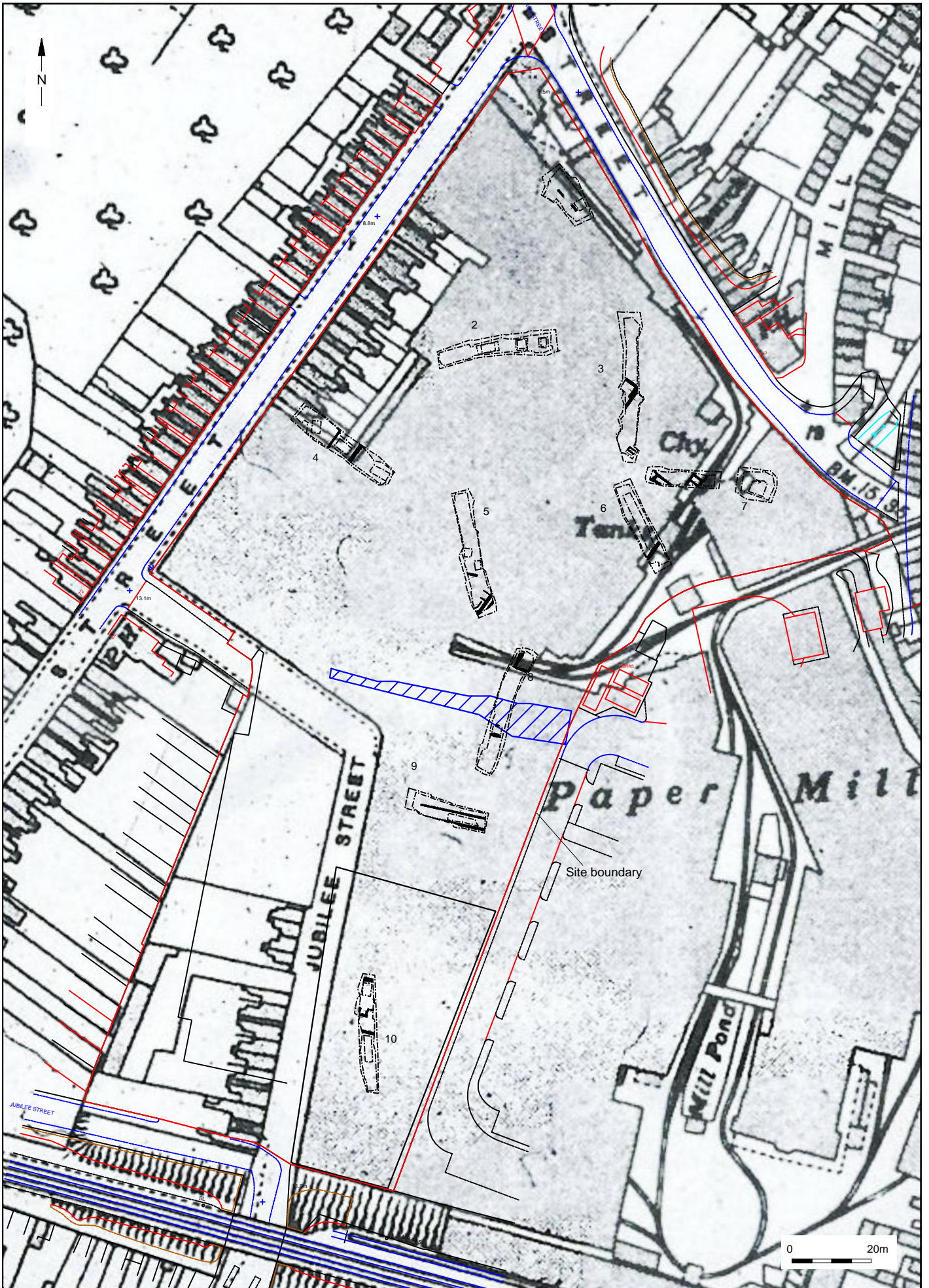
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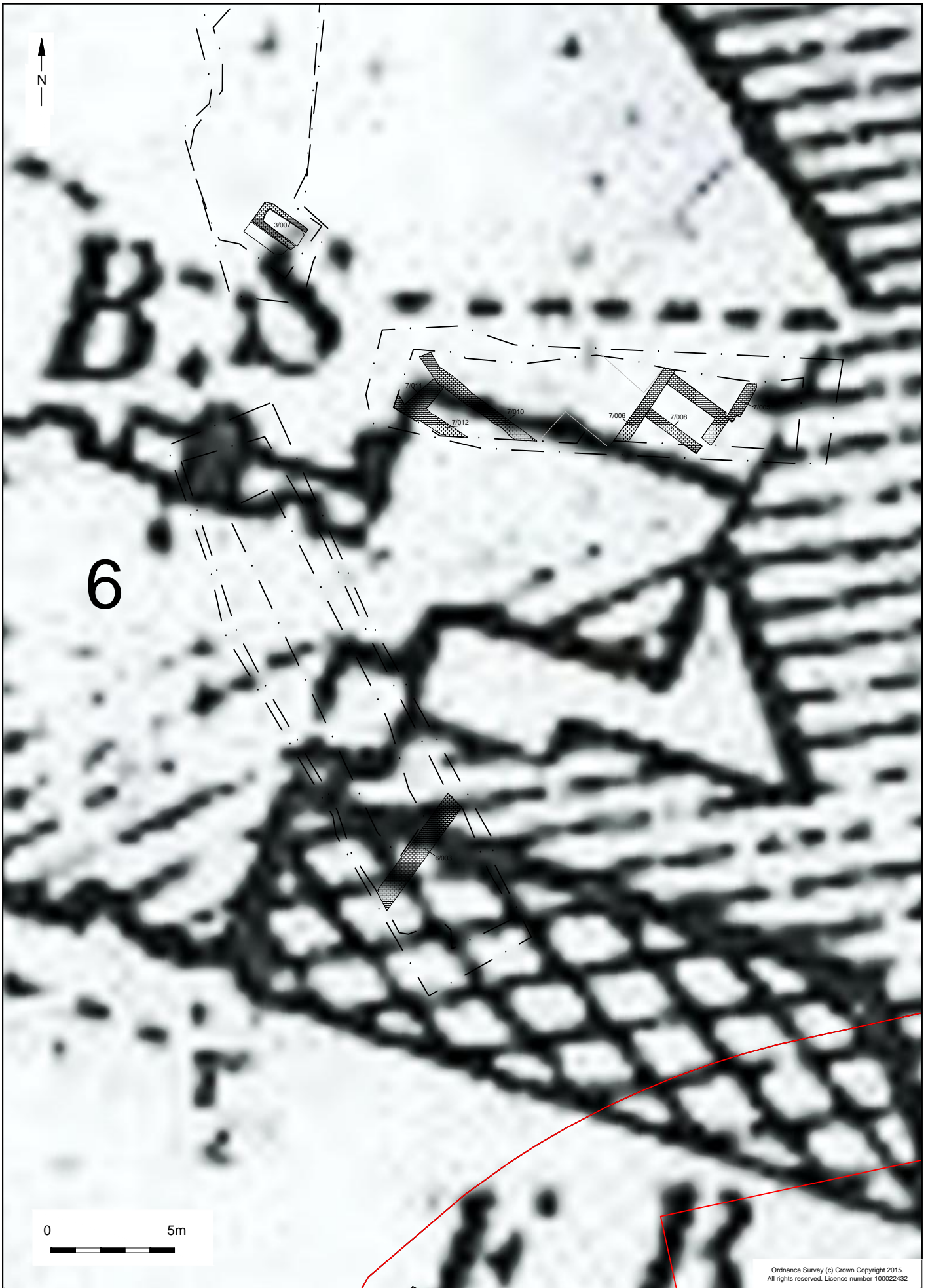
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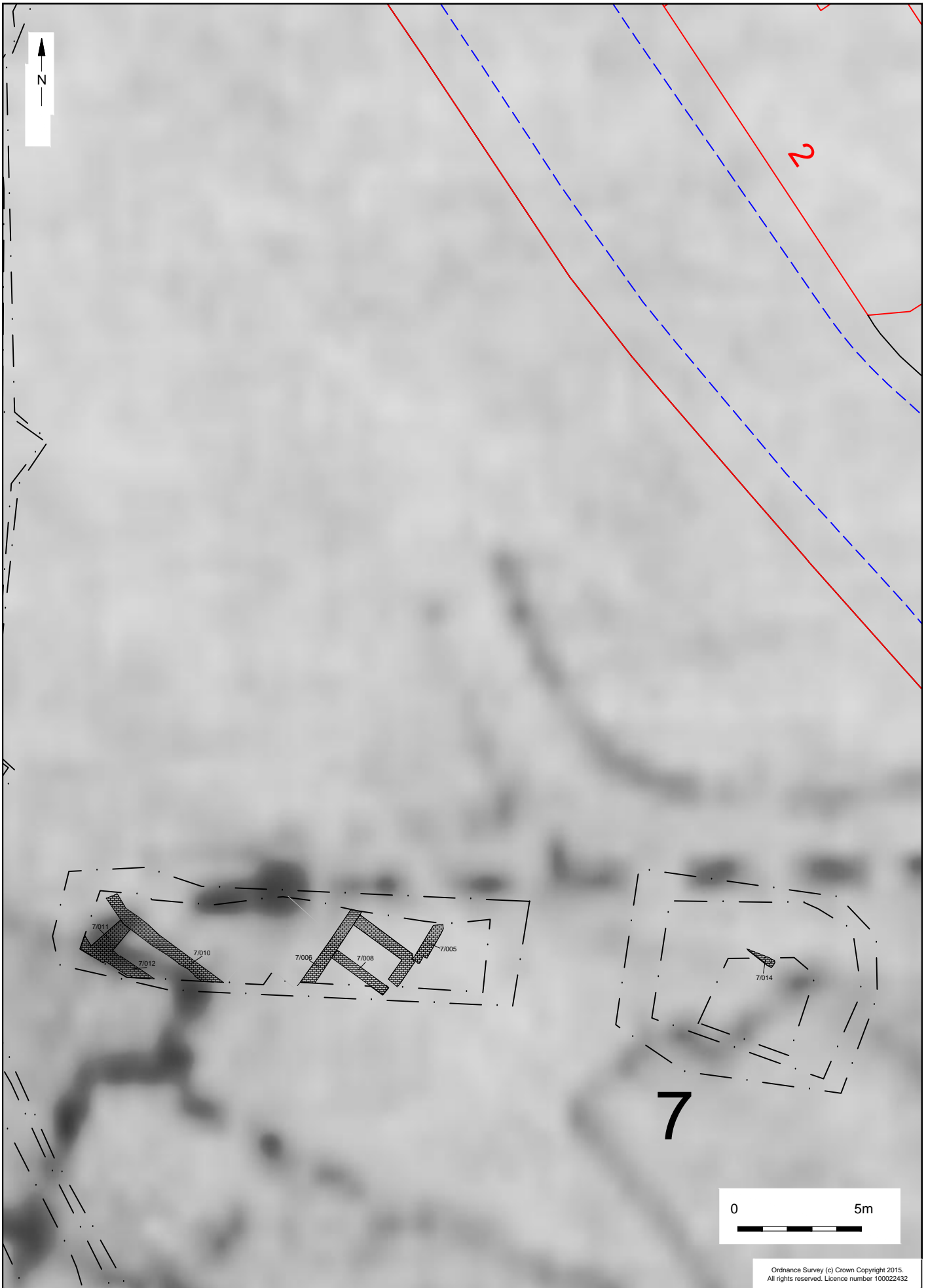
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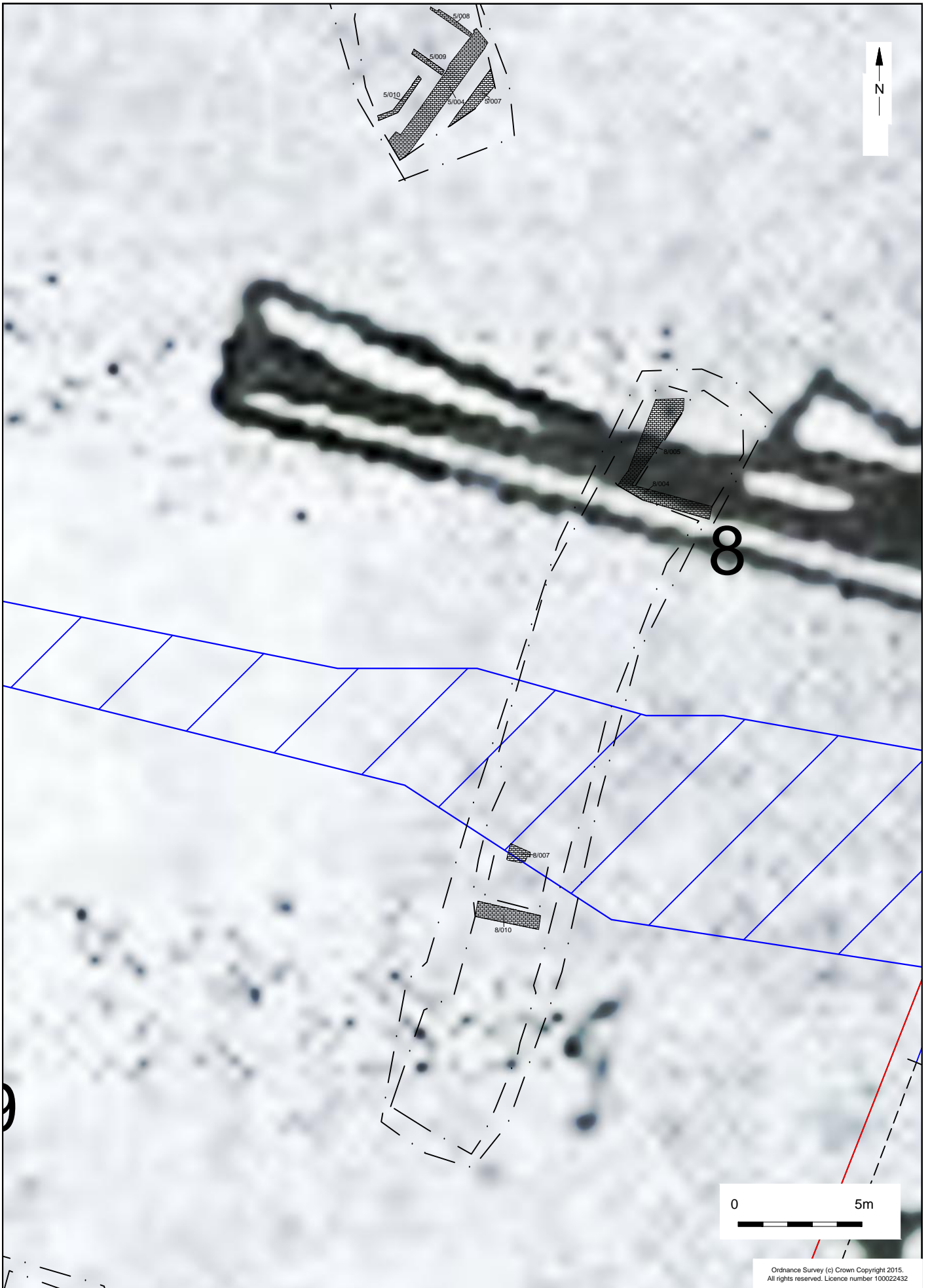
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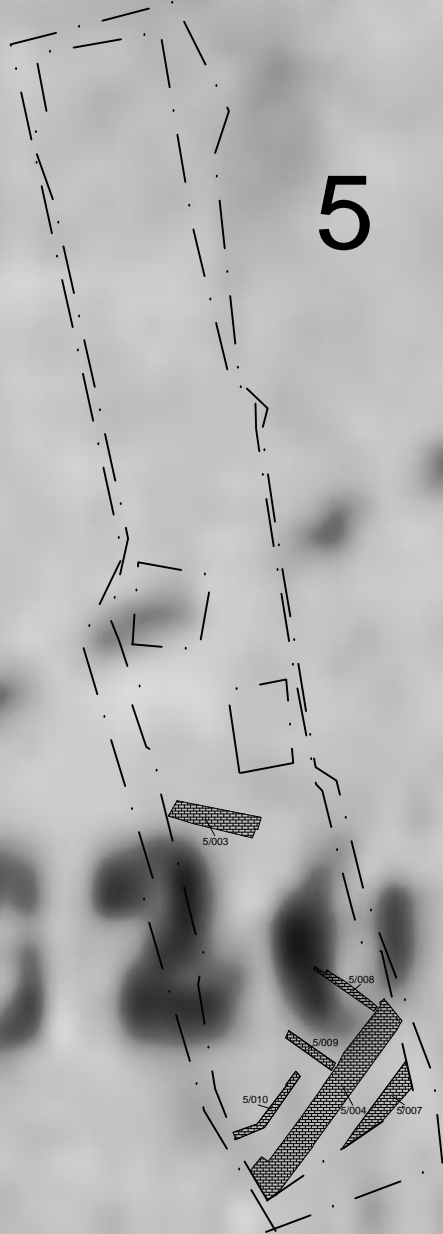


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OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-283820

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Former Sittingbourne Mill, Sittingbourne, Kent.
Short description of the project	This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Former Sittingbourne Mill, Sittingbourne, between the 20th March 2017 - 7th April 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in advance of the development of the site. Ten trenches were excavated, positioned in relation to where former mill buildings once stood. The site produced evidence of Post-medieval industrial activity comprising of structures, walls and environmental evidence from the mid to late 19th-20th century. Earlier phases of mill development were also encountered including a large plinth and possibly site boundary wall. Late Post-Medieval to Modern phases of concrete terracing were also encountered throughout site.
Project dates	Start: 20-03-2017 End: 07-04-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SIT17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	SW/11/0159 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	- None
Significant Finds	- None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SWALE SITTINGBOURNE Former Sittingbourne Mill
Postcode	ME10 3ET

Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth
2/001	Layer	Made ground	25	5	0.15-0.65
2/002	Layer	Concrete surface	25	5	0.11-0.24
2/003	Masonry or other construction	Foundation	5	5	0.77-1.11
2/004	Layer	Made ground	25	5	0.56-1.07
2/005	Layer	Natural	25	5	0.38

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