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## **Brief for Archaeological Evaluation – Trial Trenching** Historic Environment Team, Winchester City Council

**This brief is only valid for 12 months from the date of issue. After this time the Winchester City Council Archaeological Officer should be contacted. Any written scheme of investigation resulting from this brief will only be considered for the same period.**

It is expected that the Project Manager will visit the site and consult relevant grey literature and published sources before completing their written scheme of investigation. The inclusion of all relevant information with the brief cannot be guaranteed.

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 Early stage archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) is being commissioned by Winchester City Council within part of the Central Winchester Redevelopment (CWR) site (Fig 1), to help inform and guide the development and allied archaeological mitigation strategies (including further evaluation) as redevelopment proposals move forward.

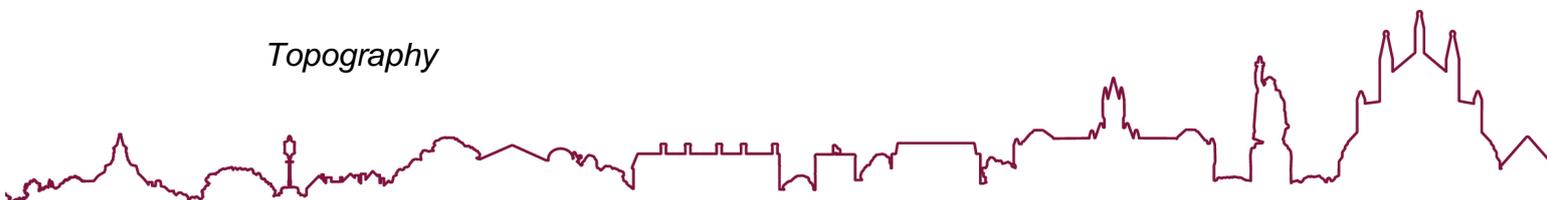
1.2 Further information on the CWR project can be found on the City Council's website: [Central Winchester Regeneration - Winchester City Council](#)

1.3 This Brief forms part of a suite of information for tender purposes and is intended to inform the production of a written scheme of investigation to be produced as part of a quote. The written scheme of investigation should include the number and qualifications of staff provided for the project, including specialist staff, together with proposals for palaeoenvironmental sampling, conservation and other archaeological science, assessment and reporting together with the proposed project timetable.

1.4 The written scheme of investigation must propose a timetable which is wholly compatible with the aims and objectives of the project as stated in this brief. The proposed timetable must also consider the need for contingency such as in the event of adverse weather conditions.

### **2. Topography, geology and site description**

*Topography*



- 2.1 The Central Winchester site lies in the lowest part of the walled area of the city in the flood plain of the River Itchen. It is on fairly level ground, mostly at c. 26.50m – 27m OD. The land falls slightly from the north-west corner to the east and south reaching 36.27m OD on High Street near the opening to Cross Keys Passage. It remains more or less at this level until rising again towards Eastgate Street.
- 2.2 The site is c. 27m from the River Itchen on its eastern edge. A watercourse originating in the Itchen approaches the site from the north and passes under Friarsgate before dividing into two; the eastern arm is open as far south as Busket Lane whilst the western arm is now largely culverted. These watercourses may be of Late Saxon origin although this has not been tested archaeologically.

### *Geology*

- 2.3 The British Geological Survey (BGS 2002) maps the site as lying on bedrock of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, a Late Cretaceous deposit. Bedrock of the New Pit Chalk Formation, a slightly older deposit, is mapped in the south-eastern corner of the site.
- 2.4 The BGS maps the chalk in the centre of Winchester as overlain by Early Holocene drift deposits described as 'alluvium: clay, silt and sand, locally organic with gravel' with, on the western edge, 'river terrace deposits'. The alluvium includes deposits of peat and tufa. A detailed picture of the drift deposits on the Central Winchester site has been gained from a series of 13 geoarchaeological boreholes (Fig 10; Wilkinson et al. 2022).

### *Site description*

- 2.5 The CWR site currently comprises areas occupied by buildings, areas of car parking / hard standing, an active bus station, highways land and a large unoccupied area east of the bus station. Much of this current land-use precludes early stage evaluation trenching.

## **3. Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 3.1 A desk-based assessment (DBA) of the CWR site (Fig. 1) was produced in 2017 (Ottaway, 2017a) based on a search of the City of Winchester Urban Archaeological Database and Historic Environment Record for heritage assets (Events and Monuments) within c. 250m of the site centre, and a review of relevant documents, archaeological reports, historic maps etc. What follows is a summary account of the archaeology and history of the CWR site, with particular reference to the eastern part which is the subject

of the scheme of evaluation set out in this document. For the archaeology of Winchester as a whole reference may be made to the Urban Archaeological Assessment (Ottaway 2017b) and the Winchester Historic Town Atlas (Biddle and Keene 2017).

### *Prehistoric period*

- 3.2 The Palaeolithic period (before c. 9000 BC) in the centre of Winchester is represented by only a few artefacts which have been found either by chance or in deposits of later periods on controlled excavations. The artefacts include at least five handaxes for which find spot details are not always clear, although at least three were within the Itchen floodplain.
- 3.3 Rather more Mesolithic (c. 9000 – c. 4000 BC) than Palaeolithic material has been recognised in Winchester, it too mostly derives from the floodplain of the Itchen valley
- 3.4 Stratified in the alluvium in the bottom of the Itchen valley are layers of peat deposited in the Mesolithic period, probably in abandoned channels of the Itchen and its tributary streams after the rate of water flow in a late Pleistocene braided river system had slowed. There is no cultural material in the peat, but it can be rich in pollen and other plant remains, as well as insects and mollusca. The most recent assessment of the alluvium is to be found in the geoarchaeological survey of the CWR site (Wilkinson, 2022). The sequences have yet to be C14 dated but other boreholes in the CWR area (see DBA) indicate a Mesolithic date for the peat.
- 3.5 Neolithic (c. 4000 – c. 2100 BC) finds in the Winchester area are scarce, especially in the city centre.
- 3.6 Find spots of Bronze Age (c. 2100 – c. 750 BC) material within the walled city are largely confined to the higher ground to the west within what would become a Middle Iron Age enclosure at Oram's Arbour. In an uncertain location in the valley bottom two Middle Bronze Age bronze palstaves were found and a possible rapier was recovered from somewhere on High Street.
- 3.7 Evidence for the Early Iron Age (c. 750 – c. 350 BC) within the walled city is again concentrated on the higher ground within the Oram's Arbour enclosure.
- 3.8 In the Middle Iron Age (c. 350 – c. 100 BC) the local settlement hierarchy was initially dominated by the hillfort on St Catherine's Hill, 1.5 km south-east of the walled city. Subsequently, a new enclosure, known as the Oram's Arbour enclosure, occupying up to c. 20ha, was created on the western side

of the Itchen valley, surrounded by a ditch and bank, perhaps in c. 150 BC. The location of the eastern limit of the enclosure is not known for certain, but it is probably c. 100m to the west of the CWR site, perhaps on a low bluff above the river flood plain. The enclosure appears to have been largely abandoned by the middle of the first century BC - the beginning of the Late Iron Age.

3.9 Little evidence for Late Iron Age activity (c. 100 BC – AD43) has been found within the walled city outside the Oram's Arbour enclosure. However, in the valley bottom, a Late Iron Age coin and coin mould were found residual in later contexts at Cathedral Green (Biddle 1966, 320). It is possible that the valley bottom was unsuitable for settlement at this time because of a high water-table and regular inundation. However, this remains untested to any degree. Finally, it should be noted that a geoarchaeological borehole at 165 High Street (to the south of the Bus Station), dated an alluvial deposit to between 170 cal. BC and cal. AD30 (i.e. spanning the mid-late Iron Age) (Grant and Wilkinson 2019). This is the first record of a deposit of this period in the flood plain.

#### *Roman period (AD 43 – c. 450)*

3.10 The character of any activity and settlement in the city in the first 25 years or so after the Roman Conquest of AD43 is not well understood, although the main Roman approach roads from the south and north-west and probably other directions as well, appear to have been laid out in this period. In addition, there may have been a Conquest period fort at Winchester, possibly represented by a ditch of V-shaped profile found at Lower Brook Street (Biddle 1975, 296-7; Ottaway 2017, 84-5).

3.11 In c. 70 – 75 Winchester was chosen as the site of a Roman regional, or *civitas*, capital known as *Venta Belgarum*. As a result, in the late first to early second century there was substantial investment in urban infrastructure which included creation of a street grid, construction of public buildings and raising of defences around at least part of the town which were subsequently completed in the late second century (Fig 2). The lower lying parts of the town in the Itchen floodplain were probably drained and the river itself may have been canalised, although there is no good evidence for this.

3.12 The Roman street grid as presently understood is shown in Fig 2. The main street joined the east and west gates; it lies south of the CWR site and largely to the south of the present-day High Street and Broadway. The rest of the grid was probably laid out in relation to that street. It will be noted that in the eastern part of the CWR site the presence of the street grid can only be inferred, and one of the research aims of the project is to determine

whether it does indeed exist here. In particular, the proposed Trench 1 (Fig 11) aims to determine whether the first east-west street north of the main street, located at The Brooks 1987-88 (Zant 1993), continues eastwards towards the river.

- 3.13 The public buildings of Roman Winchester are not well understood, although the location of the forum in *Insula I* has been established beyond doubt. The location of other buildings cannot be easily predicted but, by analogy with other Roman *civitas* capitals, it is most likely that they occupied the central bloc of *insulae* which would include *Insula IX* which lies entirely within the CWR site, although largely west of the area for evaluation which encompasses *Insula X*.
- 3.14 Enough is known of the other *insulae* of the Roman town to suggest that in the centre at least there was a gradual process of development from the late first century to the early fourth, the land filling up, if not completely, with buildings of increasing complexity. They were initially constructed entirely of timber, but by the late second century had mortared flint footings. By the early fourth century there was clearly a group of large town houses, some on a courtyard plan, with heating systems and mosaic pavements. One of the aims of the evaluation is to determine whether this pattern is replicated in *Insula X*.
- 3.15 The excavations at The Brooks (1987-8), Lower Brook Street (1965-71) and elsewhere in the Roman town suggest that changes in the urban order began to take place in the middle of the fourth century such that by its end many buildings had either fallen into disrepair or had been completely demolished. In unoccupied areas so-called 'dark earth' was accumulating – a mixture of naturally deposited humic material, animal waste and domestic refuse.

*Early – Middle Anglo-Saxon Period (c. 450 – c. 860)*

- 3.16 Archaeological evidence suggests that the Roman walled town of Winchester in the fifth and sixth centuries was largely, if not completely, depopulated, although the continuing accumulation of dark earth may derive in part from human activity. Material culture of the Early and Middle Anglo-Saxon periods is scarce within the walled town, but two types of hand-made pottery have been identified.
- 3.17 Documentary sources date the foundation of a church in Winchester to 648. Later known as Old Minster, when New Minster was constructed in the early tenth century, this may originally have served a royal establishment and/or a monastic house (Biddle and Kjølbye-Biddle 2007, 189). A bishop's

see was established at Winchester in c. 660. Much of Old Minster and its accompanying cemetery was excavated by Winchester Excavations Committee at Cathedral Green in 1962-70.

3.18 Before the Late Anglo-Saxon period the city's principal street was what would become High Street. The Roman street grid seems to have been largely lost by the end of the Middle Anglo-Saxon period.

3.19 In the late seventh century a sequence of Middle Anglo-Saxon activity began at Lower Brook Street with a small cemetery of four burials (Biddle 1975, 303-10). It is likely that the cemetery belonged to a community of high social status, perhaps living on one of a number of estates within the walls which belonged to the king's thegns. The cemetery was succeeded by a timber building, fence lines and a sequence of other features. Subsequently, the timber building was rebuilt in stone. An annexe was built in timber to the north, following the insertion of a timber-lined well, from which a recalibrated radiocarbon date of  $700 \pm 70$  was obtained (Biddle 1975, 309-10 and n1). A dendrochronological date of c.  $790 \pm 60$  was obtained for the well timbers. One of the research aims of the evaluation is to determine whether any comparable and contemporary evidence for occupation survives in the eastern part of the CWR site.

#### *Late Anglo-Saxon period (c. 860 – 1066)*

3.20 In the second half of the ninth century Winchester re-emerged as an urban place once more. It was probably in the reign of King Alfred (871 – 899) that Winchester became one of a number of fortified places – burhs - in Wessex which were intended to defend the kingdom against further attacks. In addition, a new grid of streets was set out and a network of watercourses created to ensure adequate drainage of the city (Biddle and Keene 1976, 282-4); these include the two north - south flowing channels which impinge on the eastern part of the CWR site one largely beyond the eastern edge and the other (western) now culverted.

3.21 Of earlier origin, as noted above, the principal street of the Late Anglo-Saxon city, today's High Street, ran east to west a little to the north of its Roman predecessor for most of its course. The street connected West Gate with East Gate lying a little to the north of the Roman gate. Other components of what is known of the street grid from a combination of documentary sources, archaeological records and other inferences is shown on Fig 3. The eastern part of the CWR site is flanked to the west by Lower Brook Street / Tanner Street and possibly running along the eastern perimeter is another street, a forerunner of medieval Buck Street. One of the aims of the evaluation is to locate this.

3.22 Archaeological evidence has shown that land between the streets was rapidly divided up into tenements which were occupied by buildings and other facilities, but it is not known whether this was the case in the eastern part of the CWR site. Here, there may have been a large land holding known as Coitbury, recorded as a place-name in the 1148 survey of the city (see below) and described by Biddle and Keene 1976 as an 'undefined area north of High Street lying between Lower Brook Street and Eastgate Street'. They note that the 'bury' suffix is comparable to others attached to place-names in London which describe large Anglo-Saxon urban estates. Another aim of the evaluation is to gain further information about Coitbury and what sort of settlement it represented.

3.23 The Late Anglo-Saxon city was provided with other churches in addition to Old and New Minsters, although how many is not known exactly (Biddle and Keene 1976, 329-30). No churches are known in the eastern part of the CWR site, but this is not to completely exclude the possibility that an early foundation later lost to history survives here.

#### *Medieval Period (1066 – c. 1350)*

3.24 The impact of the Norman Conquest on Winchester was represented most clearly by the Norman cathedral and by the castle in the south-western salient. On the city streets development of the tenements continued as before and the population probably continued to rise until c. 1250 both within the walls and in the suburbs.

3.25 Important evidence for the character of the medieval city has been derived from two surveys which together make up the *Winton Domesday* (Biddle ed. 1976). The first of these, *Survey I*, dates to c. 1110. It is a list of the royal demesne lands in the city which paid the customary charges of landgable and brewgable (licence to brew ale). Some 300 properties are included in the survey along with the names of their owners and most substantial tenants. *Survey II*, which dates to 1148, was carried out by the Bishop of Winchester, by far the largest landlord in the city, who was concerned to ensure he received all the revenues due to him. On Lower Brook Street the tenements belonged largely to the bishop on the west side and the crown on the east side whilst tenements on Buck Street (in the eastern part of the CWR site) belonged largely to the crown.

3.26 Other documentary sources have been studied by Derek Keene (1985) in his *Survey of Medieval Winchester* which provides a detailed topographical and historical background for the whole of the later medieval city. Keene used records of property ownership and their management to

build up a detailed picture of Winchester, primarily for the period 1250 - 1550. Individual tenements were described and mapped for c. 1300, 1417 and 1550. Property owners and occupiers were identified and the evidence for the physical, social and economic fabric of the city was analysed.

3.27 Little is known from archaeology of the topography of the medieval period in the central and eastern parts of the Central Winchester site. However, this has been reconstructed by Keene in his plans based on documentary sources (Fig. 4). They show an L-shaped street, Buck Street, running north from Broadway before turning to run west to Lower Brook Street. Parallel to it a little to the south of the east - west leg is Palmer's Lane. Keene also shows densely packed tenements on Broadway, Lower Brook Street and the west side of the north - south leg of Buck Street. The archaeology of the Lower Brook Street and The Brooks sites both revealed complex sequences of land use and medieval buildings. One of the aims of the evaluation trenches is to determine whether similar sequences survive in the eastern part of the CWR site.

3.28 Although Winchester's population may have recovered fairly quickly after the plague of the mid-fourteenth century, by c. 1400 the city was entering a period of economic difficulty, due to competition in the textile trades from other places, and a declining population. Neither Lower Brook Street nor The Brooks sites produced much archaeological evidence for occupation in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, although the core of the late medieval city around High Street, remained densely settled and well built-up.

3.29 There is little archaeological evidence for the post-medieval period from sites on and around the Central Winchester site. Keene's reconstructed plans of the north-eastern part of the walled city in c. 1550 (1985, figs 56, 78 and 83) show a pattern of tenements similar to that of 1417, but there are rather fewer of them than before as witness to the late medieval decline in population.

3.30 The earliest historic map of Winchester is that by John Speed published in 1611 (Fig. 5). However, it is at a small scale, somewhat schematic, and it should be borne in mind that its accuracy in any detail cannot be vouched for. The Winchester shown by Speed is still, in essence, a late medieval city which, except for its eastern suburb, was largely confined within its walls. Little had changed in the previous century or so, apart from the disappearance of the religious houses. The east side of Lower Brook Street is built up as are both sides of Buck Street in the stretch running north from Broadway. A watercourse, the lower part of which becomes the eastern arm of what survives today, is shown running south from an opening in the city wall to the point where Buck Street changes direction and then runs along

the centre of that street to Broadway.

- 3.31 Godson's map of Winchester of 1750 (Fig. 6) shows the watercourses more accurately. Buildings, possibly of medieval origin, are shown on the west side of Buck Street some remains of which may survive, otherwise the area between Lower Brook Street and Buck Street appears to be given over to gardens.
- 3.32 After Godson, there are no newly surveyed maps of Winchester until the first edition OS maps published in 1871 at 1:500 and 1:2500 (Fig. 7). They show the results of a great increase in the city's population, largely following the arrival of railway in 1839. The centre of Winchester acquired a number of industrial works and was densely built up with housing and facilities for the residents such as public houses and chapels.
- 3.33 On the east side of the Central Winchester site the first edition map shows the two watercourses largely open from point of division. The western arm runs south before going into a culvert just before High Street. The eastern arm has been altered slightly since 1750 to cut off the corner where it had formerly followed the right angle in Buck Street, before resuming the line of a truncated Buck Street, now Busket Lane, before running into an underground culvert at the same point as today. The north-eastern corner of the CWR site is crossed by a new street, Boundary Street, which connected Eastgate Street and Lawn Street. There is terraced housing on the south side of Boundary Street either side of the watercourses.
- 3.34 On either side of the western watercourse the map shows a 'Fellmonger's Yard' (i.e. tannery) with a number of 'pelt pits'. This is presumably the forerunner of Smith's Tannery Yard which was demolished in 1933. At the northern end of Busket Lane is a malt house. Some remains of the tannery and malthouse may still survive on the site.
- 3.35 The 1897 and 1909 revised editions of the OS maps, at 1:2500, show little change in the topography of the Central Winchester site.

*Modern period (c. 1901 – present day)*

- 3.36 The 1939 edition of the OS map (Fig. 8), published immediately before World War II, shows a number of changes to the Central Winchester site had taken place in the previous 30 or so years. On the east side, the western watercourse has been culverted, presumably at the time of construction of the bus station and associated garage in 1935. This required the demolition of buildings on the Broadway frontage and (in 1933) of Smith's Tannery Yard. A photographic record was made of the demolition which reveals

some of the ground level features including pits which may still survive.

3.37 Since World War II there have been substantial changes on the Central Winchester site as can be seen by comparison of the 1939 OS map and the 1:1250 OS edition of 1969 (Fig. 9). This arose as a result of slum clearance in The Brooks area after 1953 and of the creation of Friarsgate in 1964 which replaces Boundary Street and runs westwards from Eastgate Street to Lower Brook Street and Middle Brook Street. Most of the land on the east side of Lower Brook Street and behind the bus garage was cleared and new 1960s buildings, including Coitbury House, St Clement Surgery and the Friarsgate Medical Centre were constructed.

#### *Previous investigations on the CWR site*

3.38 As outlined above, there has been little archaeological investigation undertaken within the CWR site to date (with the exception of excavations undertaken at Lower Brook Street in the north west).

3.39 The recent geoarchaeological boreholes and deposit modelling together with hydrological monitoring have characterized in general terms the stratigraphy and preservation conditions below the CWR site in. This work has identified a potential artificial channel running below Kings Walk, probably parallel with Middle Brook Street (Wilkinson et al, 2022).

## **4. Survival of Archaeological deposits**

4.1 Based primarily on the geoarchaeological boreholes (BH) and shallow test pits (TP) reported on by Wilkinson et al. (2022) it is possible to give some indication of the likely survival of archaeological deposits in the eastern part of the CWR site (Figs 7-8) in relation to the proposed trenches (see para. 6.1 and Fig 11).

#### *Trench 1*

4.2 The nearest BH to Trench 1 was BH9 which was located immediately north-east of St Clement Surgery. Within BH9 over tufa, peat and river terrace deposits there was a thickness of archaeological deposits of c. 3-3.5m (between 33m and 36.50m OD). The upper part of the archaeological sequence (located in TP9 which was dug to a depth of 1.16m bgl) comprised post-medieval demolition or clearance deposits. Above this was c. 0.50m of modern 'made ground'.

#### *Trench 2*

4.3 Trench 2 is located to the south-east of BH 9 (see above) and west of BH 11. BH11, on the eastern edge of the site, indicated that over River Terrace deposits there was a thickness of archaeological deposits of c. 4.50m. TP11 dug to a depth of 1.15m bgl located a post-medieval garden soil below modern 'made ground' and concrete surfacing<sup>1</sup>.

#### *Trench 3*

4.4 Trench 3's location lies between BH6 to the west and BH12 to the east (with BH11 to the north). BH12 appears to indicate that over sand/silt/clay alluvium and gravels there was a thickness of archaeological deposits of c. 3-4m. TP12 was dug to a depth of 1.21m bgl with build-up of post-medieval garden soil below c. 0.60m of modern 'made ground'.

#### *Trench 4*

4.5 The nearest borehole to Trench 4 was BH13 in which, over sand/silt/clay alluvium, there was a thickness of 3.50m of archaeological deposits below c.0.50m of 'made ground'. In TP13 on the south-eastern edge of the site which was dug to a depth of 1.25m there were deposits interpreted as post-medieval below modern material.

4.6 In summary in all the evaluation trenches there are likely to be up to 3 – 4.5m+ of significant (i.e. nineteenth-century or earlier) archaeological deposits over what are interpreted as naturally deposited alluvium, although further information on the period in which it was deposited should be gathered if possible. Below modern ground level the test pits recorded about 1m – 1.20m+ of post-medieval deposits, arising from gardens and rubble from buildings, below modern concrete etc., although more coherent remains of the post-medieval townscape, such as the tannery and malthouse, may also survive.

#### *Preservation of deposits by waterlogging*

4.7 Archaeological excavations in the western part of the CWR site have encountered water ingress at between 33m and 35m OD, equivalent to 2m – 4m bgl, dependent to some extent on the season. Wilkinson et al. (2022, 41) summarise the high, mean and low groundwater levels encountered in the boreholes over the period of water monitoring. For BH6, 9, 11, 12 and 13, the closest to the evaluation trenches, the data are as set out in Table 1

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<sup>1</sup> Information from recent resurfacing works undertaken in the Bus Station indicates that the concrete surface is approx. 200mm thick in close proximity to Tr.2 and a similar depth is assumed across the existing area of concrete surfacing.

below.

Table 1

Borehole	High (m bgl)	Mean (m bgl)	Low (m bgl)
6	1.61	1.99	2.41
9	1.84	2.20	2.55
11	2.04	2.37	2.88
12	0.97	1.47	2.21
13	2.01	2.33	2.67

4.8 The implications of these data are that deposits in the lower parts of the sequences, in particular, are likely to have been waterlogged for a considerable period of time since their original deposition, and organic materials, artefacts and palaeoenvironmental material can be expected to survive well as was demonstrated by analysis of the borehole cores. As far as artefacts are concerned, it may be noted that in BH11 two vertical wooden stakes were found between 2.42m and 2.77m bgl (Wilkinson et al. 2022, 94).

## 5. Aims and Objectives

5.1 The overall objective of the evaluation will be to identify and investigate significant (nineteenth-century or earlier) archaeological remains potentially threatened by works connected with the proposed redevelopment, and gain further information on their extent, date, character, state of preservation and significance at local, regional and national levels. Such information will allow informed decisions to be taken about mitigation of the impact of redevelopment.

5.2 In particular the work should aim to:

- identify and record the date and character of the alluvium and related deposits which underlie the Roman and later deposits and assess their potential to contain or conceal archaeological evidence;
- record evidence of the Roman townscape including streets, the lines of which appear to run into the area (Trenches 1, 2 & 3), and buildings, primarily within *Insula X*;
- record any evidence for occupation in the early – mid Anglo-Saxon periods, hitherto rare in Winchester;
- record evidence for the late Anglo-Saxon townscape including the street which may run close to the eastern periphery of the site (Trench 4);

- record evidence for the medieval townscape including Palmer's Lane (Trench 3) and attempt to relate it to data in Keene's survey of documentary sources (1985);
- to make a summary record of the post-medieval and later townscape relate it to historic mapping and assess impacts;
- recover deposit samples and material culture to allow a study of the changing character of the environment and occupation on the site from the Roman period onwards, which may be compared with other assemblages from elsewhere within the city.

5.3 Further objectives are to make available information about the archaeological resource present within the site publicly available. This will take the form of a public engagement strategy and through subsequent assessment and reporting, together with the long term conservation of the project archive in appropriate conditions.

5.4 The written scheme of investigation should contain a developed research agenda, based on the objectives set out above (and any other questions though appropriate). The research agenda should be reviewed as necessary during the course of the archaeological and post-excavation programme.

## **6 Evaluation methodology**

### *Trenches*

6.1 The evaluation will comprise the excavation, investigation and recording of four trenches as shown on Fig 11 (Tr.1 8m x 3m, Tr. 2 & 3 10m x 3m and Tr. 4 9m x 3m). Trenches 1, 3, & 4 are to be sited 6m from the St Clements Surgery and Bus Station buildings.

6.2 The trenches lie in the central and eastern parts of the CWR site, areas which have seen little previous archaeological investigation and where there is currently a paucity of information on archaeological remains. The trenches have been positioned taking into account current access and other logistical issues as well as to address key research objectives and investigate anticipated major topographical features (see para. 5.2).

6.3 Apart from Tr 1 which is to be excavated to a depth of 2m bgl, the trenches are intended to extend though the entire depth of the archaeological sequence into the top of the underlying alluvial deposits (although not necessarily over the entire trench area, see para. 6.17 – 6.19 below).

### *Soils and ground conditions*

- 6.4 Due to the anticipated trench depths, likely instability of elements of the anticipated archaeological strata and the presence of ground water, a safe method of excavation will be required and appropriate trench support systems should be utilised.
- 6.5 Due to anticipated groundwater levels, a safe system of work for managing water ingress is likely to be required (e.g. submersible pump or intake hose). Appropriate procedures (such as filtration via sediment tanks or other methods) should be used to avoid discharge of silty water to the partly open and buried watercourses in the area. Prior consent should be sought from the relevant statutory authorities for the discharge of groundwater to existing drainage or the open stream at the east side of the site. Further advice should be sought in the event of water collecting over contaminated ground.

### *Excavation Methods*

- 6.6 Trenches should be initially excavated by mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket under the constant supervision and instruction of a suitably qualified archaeologist (see para. 14.1). Use of a toothed bucket or other cutting equipment may be required on modern surfaces / compacted modern made-ground, but should be monitored carefully to ensure no damage to underlying significant archaeological horizons.
- 6.7 Consideration should be given to the use of mechanised aids such as cranes and escalators to aid removal of spoil and samples from the evaluation trenches.
- 6.8 Modern made ground and bulk deposits of low archaeological potential (e.g. 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century demolition deposits and late medieval / post-medieval garden soils) may be excavated by mechanical excavator.
- 6.9 Machine excavation should be undertaken in appropriate level spits until the first significant archaeological horizon is reached. That such deposits may comprise intercutting pits and other cut features as well as structural remains or thin layered deposits should be considered. All archaeological features and deposits revealed should be cleaned and planned prior to the commencement of hand excavation.
- 6.10 Spoil from the trenches should be scanned (including use of a metal detector) to facilitate recovery of artefactual material.
- 6.11 For all areas excavated the contractor will identify, characterise, record

and excavate stratigraphically archaeological / palaeoenvironmental elements. A single context matrix should be constructed of all contexts to aid interpretation during fieldwork and at the post-excavation phase.

- 6.12 Homogenous horizontal deposits (such as 'dark earth' deposits) must be removed in spits, samples sieved (to act as a control) and recorded in spits to allow for vertical separation of artefacts and ecofacts. Specialist samples may also be required.
- 6.13 Pits and other non-structural intrusions should be excavated in a manner that allows for sections to be drawn. The manner of excavation should allow for the identification of post-pipes, post-packing and any related material.
- 6.14 Geoarchaeological and environmental samples should be collected in line with a strategy which should be set out in the written scheme of investigation and in consultation with the relevant specialist.
- 6.15 All artefacts from archaeologically significant contexts will be retained for processing and specialist assessment. Artefacts from unstratified contexts may be noted but not retained unless they are of intrinsic interest. Pottery should be processed, potentially onsite and passed to the relevant specialist at the time of fieldwork to allow for spot dating and aid stratigraphic interpretation during the course of the fieldwork.
- 6.16 Should human remains be revealed then the Archaeological Officer and relevant public authorities should be notified immediately. Human remains should normally be left in situ, however if remains are to be removed, a Ministry of Justice Licence should be applied for prior to the removal of any burials. All Licence conditions should be fully adhered to.

#### *Sampling levels*

- 6.17 As set out in para. 6.3 although the full depth of the archaeological strata, down to and including into the upper alluvial sequence is required in Trenches 2-4, this need not be over the whole of the trench areas.
- 6.18 Strategies to minimise impacts on significant deposits, such as the excavation of pit fills and other intrusive features to reveal earlier stratigraphy should be considered in the first instance. Extensive areas of intact complex remains or particularly significant remains (e.g. mosaics) may need to be left in situ or minimally sampled in order to characterise these and to reach underlying deposits.
- 6.19 Where such deposits / remains are identified the extent of investigation

and recording should be discussed with the Archaeological Officer.

## **7 Recording Methodology**

7.1 A copy of the Recording Manual proposed to be used should be submitted together with the WSI.

7.2 It is expected that digital technology will be used to aid recording of the archaeological deposits during the evaluation. However, this should not replace recording by hand (e.g. use of a planning frame) significant features such as cobbled surface or mosaic pavements.

7.3 Site levels will be recorded for each feature or context with reference to Ordnance Survey datum.

7.4 Appropriate written, drawn and photographic records should be made on site. All plans should be digitised and 3D recording undertaken of artefact groups, single significant finds, features and environmental / other samples.

7.5 The photographic record should comprise both a record of all stratigraphic units and trenches, together with a representative photographic record of the progress of the archaeological work. Both TIFF and RAW formats, should be taken, with images minimally processed or unprocessed for archiving purposes.

7.6 A diary record of the progress of the archaeological work must be kept, including details of liaison and monitoring meetings, visits and a record of staff on site. A suitable location for meetings should be provided.

## **8 Environmental Sampling and Archaeological Science**

8.1 The written scheme of investigation should include a strategy for Archaeological Science (biological analysis, conservation, dating, geoarchaeology, isotope analysis, molluscs, osteology, soil science and analysis of residues, both technological and of processing / consumption) which should be fully integrated into the project.

8.2 The sampling strategy should include a reasoned justification for the selection of deposits for sampling and should be developed in collaboration with appropriate specialists. The strategy should be based on the anticipated deposits (further to fieldwork undertaken to date within the CWR site and previous excavation results in the vicinity) as well as the research objectives. The strategy should be continually reviewed during the course of the evaluation. All specialists should be named in the written scheme of

investigation.

- 8.3 The sampling strategy should include bulk samples, incremental samples and monoliths as appropriate. All sample positions and monoliths should be marked / drawn on section drawings and monoliths photographed in the section before lifting.
- 8.4 The appointed contractor should consult with the Historic England Science Advisor for the South East (Jane Corcoran, National Specialist Services Dept., Historic England, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London, EC4R 2YA) prior to the completion of the strategy.
- 8.5 Where there is evidence for industrial activity, large technological residues should be collected by hand. Soil samples should be taken from contexts containing hammerscale, particularly primary contexts; magnets should be used to identify such contexts. Reference should be made to '*Archaeometallurgy Guidelines for Best Practice*' Historic England, 2015.
- 8.6 Buried soils and sediment sequences should be inspected and recorded on site by a recognised geoarchaeologist as this may provide sufficient data for understanding site formation processes. Samples should be taken for analysis of chemistry, magnetic susceptibility, particle size, micromorphology, together with other techniques as appropriate.
- 8.7 Environmental samples should be processed at the time of the fieldwork, potentially onsite, partly to allow for variation to the sampling strategy if necessary and also to avoid delays at a later stage.
- 8.8 Geoarchaeological and environmental samples and sampling of waterlogged remains should be taken in accordance with the guidelines contained in the Historic England documents '*Geoarchaeology*', 2015; '*Environmental Archaeology*', 2011; '*Waterlogged Wood*', 2010 and '*Waterlogged Organic Artefacts*', 2018.

## **9 Post fieldwork**

- 9.1 Following completion of all excavation, sampling and recording trenches will be signed off by the Archaeological Officer ready for backfilling (see para. 14.13 below).
- 9.2 All site records should be checked and a security copy created (both for hard copy and digital data).
- 9.3 Finds and samples should be processed where this work has not been

undertaken on site. Metal objects (excluding obviously recent objects and objects of gold or lead) should be X-rayed and provision must be made for specialist treatment of finds (including investigative conservation), by an appropriately qualified conservator in preparation for assessment and archiving, thus ensuring their long term stability and availability for future study.

9.4 All finds and ecofacts will be subject to assessment (and where necessary further analysis, including C14 dating and other archaeological science) for integration with the stratigraphic record in order to enable the completion of a detailed evaluation report. The Winchester pottery fabric type series (Hawker & Matthews, 2020; Hawker & Matthews, 2022) together with national fabric series should be used in compiling relevant specialist assessment reports.

## **10 Reporting and publication**

10.1 Within 1 month of the completion of the evaluation, or as otherwise agreed, a preliminary summary of the evaluation results should be submitted to the WCC Archaeological Officer.

10.2 Within 6 months of completion of the evaluation a detailed report on the evaluation results should be prepared and submitted for review and final approval by the Archaeological Officer. The report should include:

- A non-technical summary;
- The aims and methods adopted (or adapted) in the course of the evaluation;
- A detailed description of results, together with interpretation and dating;
- Supporting tabulated data and contextual and artefactual catalogues, together with a 'Harris Matrix' and detailed assessment reports;
- Appropriate illustrative material, including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs;
- A consideration of the significance, state of preservation (Historic England, 2016a) and quality of the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains recovered in the context of the sites broader archaeological, historical and topographic setting;
- The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological remains (and the extent of previous impacts) within the trenches and their immediate vicinity;
- The location and size of the evaluation archive and details of its curation (including details of any conservation work).

- 10.3 The report should be sufficiently detailed to feed into future post-excavation assessment reports within the CWR site and to inform decisions on future planning application(s) within the CWR site.
- 10.4 GIS data (ESRI shapefile preferably, although .dxf format may also be acceptable) of the evaluation trenches, major features and phase plans, together with any unexcavated areas including appropriate height data in attribute fields, should be submitted together with the evaluation report to the Winchester Urban Archaeology Database.
- 10.5 Key information on deposits / features from the evaluation trenches should be submitted to the HER.
- 10.6 A summary of the evaluation should be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.
- 10.7 A short interim report on the results of the evaluation should be submitted for inclusion in the annual round-up of fieldwork projects in Hampshire compiled by the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society and relevant national period journals.
- 10.8 Where warranted, a more detailed academic article should be submitted for publication in the county journal, Hampshire Studies (or potentially a national period journal); however it is anticipated that the evaluation results will be formally published together with the results of future evaluation and mitigation work undertaken within the CWR site. Where this is warranted, this should be discussed and agreed, together with a suitable time-frame with the Archaeological Officer

## **11 Archiving**

- 11.1 Provision should be made for the assembly of a site archive which should be prepared in accordance with the guidelines contained in *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIFA, 2014, updated 2020); *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Archaeological Archives Forum, 2007) and the archive preparation standards of the receiving museum.
- 11.2 The designated receiving museum for this area is the Hampshire Cultural Trust (Winchester collections) from whom an archive accession number should be obtained prior to the commencement of the project.

- 11.3 Borne digital data arising from the evaluation should be deposited with a trusted digital data repository (such as the Archaeology Data Service) in line with CIFA guidance and a copy placed within the archive deposited with the HCT in line with their Archive Preparation Standards. Any data selection should follow the completion of post-excavation work and approval of the evaluation report.
- 11.4 Allowance should be made, where applicable, for archive deposition costs as may be required by the Hampshire Cultural Trust and the trusted digital data repository.
- 11.5 Proposals for retention or disposal of artefacts and a selection strategy should largely be held in abeyance pending further phases of evaluation and mitigation work undertaken across the CWR site. However selective disposal of some categories of material could be agreed with the HCT and the Archaeological Officer following completion of the post-excavation work; this should be clearly set out in the evaluation report or subsequently agreed.

## **12 Monitoring**

- 12.1 Two weeks written notice of the start date together with contact details for the Project Manager and Project Officer should be provided to the Archaeological Officer so that provision for monitoring visits to review progress and the quality of the work can be made. The Archaeological Officer should be also be kept informed of any proposed changes to the timetable and of the completion of fieldwork.
- 12.2 Formal project updates should be provided to the Archaeological Officer ahead of monitoring meetings throughout the evaluation trenching and post-excavation stages of this project (to include an interim report as set out in para. 10.1 above).
- 12.3 A formal project meeting of all relevant parties to discuss progress with the project should be held 6 weeks after the commencement of the trenching.

## **13 Public Engagement**

- 13.1 Winchester City Council is committed to securing access to the historic environment for the benefit of the local and wider community. Archaeological remains uncovered during the course of the evaluation are likely to be of great interest to the local community, local societies and a wider academic and professional audience. Accordingly a strategy for

providing publicity and information, both on and off-site will be required.

- 13.2 The public access strategy should consider provision of the following:
- Temporary display boards (which should be updated on a regular basis and for retention on site following the closure of the evaluation trenches)
  - Provision of viewing access to the evaluation trenches where possible, or remotely (allowing for health and safety and site security considerations)
  - Press releases (in conjunction with the city council)
  - Site tours / an open day with exhibition of finds / artefacts etc.
  - Talks to local societies / the community
- 13.3 The council expects the project will include the involvement of students from the University Of Winchester, School Of History, Archaeology, Anthropology and Classical Studies (and potentially local societies) to help deliver the public access strategy and with on-site finds / sampling processing. This will help to build interest in and maintain sector capacity and expertise with regard to urban archaeology.
- 13.4 The appointed contractor will be required to participate in two formal public project update sessions during the post-excavation phase (likely to occur mid-way through and at the end of the post-excavation work). These will comprise attendance at a formal council meeting, giving of a short presentation and participation in a public Q&A session.

## **14 General requirements**

### *Experience and expertise*

- 14.1 The appointed contractor and specified personnel (Project Manager, Project Officer, as well as the majority of site archaeologists\*) will have demonstrable experience and expertise in excavating deep, complex and waterlogged urban stratigraphy and ideally, the archaeology of Winchester. \*The project staffing may include a proportion of less experienced staff for training purposes, subject to a sufficient ratio of experienced site / supervisory staff.
- 14.2 The appointed contractor should be a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA). The Project Manager and other key personnel should be individual Members of CIFA (or equivalent EU professional body) and have an appropriate level of experience for a project of this nature.
- 14.3 The Archaeological Contractor is expected to work to the CIFA *Standard*

*and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014, updated 2020); and to follow CIFA regulations, including the *Code of Conduct*, 2019 and the *Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advise on archaeology and the historic environment* (2014, updated 2020).

#### *Human remains and Treasure*

14.4 Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation must be followed in the event of the discovery of human remains or of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act, 1996. Where removal of artefacts cannot be undertaken on the same working day of discovery, suitable security measures should be undertaken to protect the artefact(s) and the Archaeological Officer and other WCC Officers informed.

#### *Health and Safety*

14.5 All current Health and Safety Legislation must be followed on site and a Health and Safety Plan and Risk Assessment produced prior to the work commencing for the approval of the City Council / Archaeological Officer.

14.6 Specific issues identified for this evaluation are:

- Deep trenches;
- Groundwater ingress;
- Working at height / excavation of (potentially deep) cut features;
- Provision of a public access strategy / working within a public zone;
- Spoil management,
- Potential contamination – see RPS Desk Study and Preliminary Risk Assessment, Central Winchester Regeneration (Jan 2017. Ref. JER1070) [Technical reports - Winchester City Council](#)

#### *Welfare*

14.7 Appropriate welfare, site office, secure storage and processing (finds / samples) facilities should be provided on site. This should include running water and a supply of potable drinking water and adequate toilet and mess facilities.

#### *Insurance*

14.8 Tendering organisations (including of any sub-contractors) should hold the following Insurance coverage as a minimum for each and every claim:

- Public Liability Insurance = £10m
- Professional Indemnity Insurance = £5m

- Employers (compulsory) Liability Insurance = £10m
- Product Liability Insurance – £2m

### *Services*

- 14.9 Prior to excavation, the appointed contractor should undertake a visual inspection to identify possible above / below ground services and all trenches should be scanned before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT).
- 14.10 Trial holes should be hand dug to confirm the exact location of pipes and cables which should be treated as live unless physically confirmed otherwise by the service owner.
- 14.11 The landowner should be made aware of any services encountered and supported as approved by the landowner.

### *Spoil and backfilling*

- 14.12 Spoil should be stored at a safe distance from the trench edges.
- 14.13 Following completion and sign off, evaluation trenches should be carefully backfilled in appropriate sized spits (with materials replaced in reverse order where possible and devoid of rubbish) and compacted by machine under archaeological supervision to make good. On completion of the backfilling the site should be left in a tidy and safe condition (time and date stamped photographs should be taken prior to excavation and following backfilling) and formally signed off by the Council's Major Project Team. Trenches 1-2 may require formal reinstatement to make good to match, however this will be undertaken by Winchester City Council under separate contract.
- 14.14 Any archaeological remains left in situ within the evaluation trenches should be carefully covered, with any voids carefully backfilled by hand prior to this, following the guidance contained in Historic England's Preservation guidance (2016b).

### *Copyright and confidentiality*

- 14.15 Copyright will be retained by the appointed contractor with full licence to be granted to Winchester City Council for the use of any and all information and reports arising from the project for internal use and planning purposes. This will include the sharing of reports with a developer partner and other third parties.

14.16 A licence should be granted to the Winchester HER for the use of all reports arising from this work for development control purposes and for bona fide research purposes, including the provision of copies of reports to third parties.

*Other*

14.17 Full details of the proposed shoring contractor should be provided.

14.18 Any variation to the approved written scheme of investigation must be approved prior to the implementation.

## 15 References

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## Figures

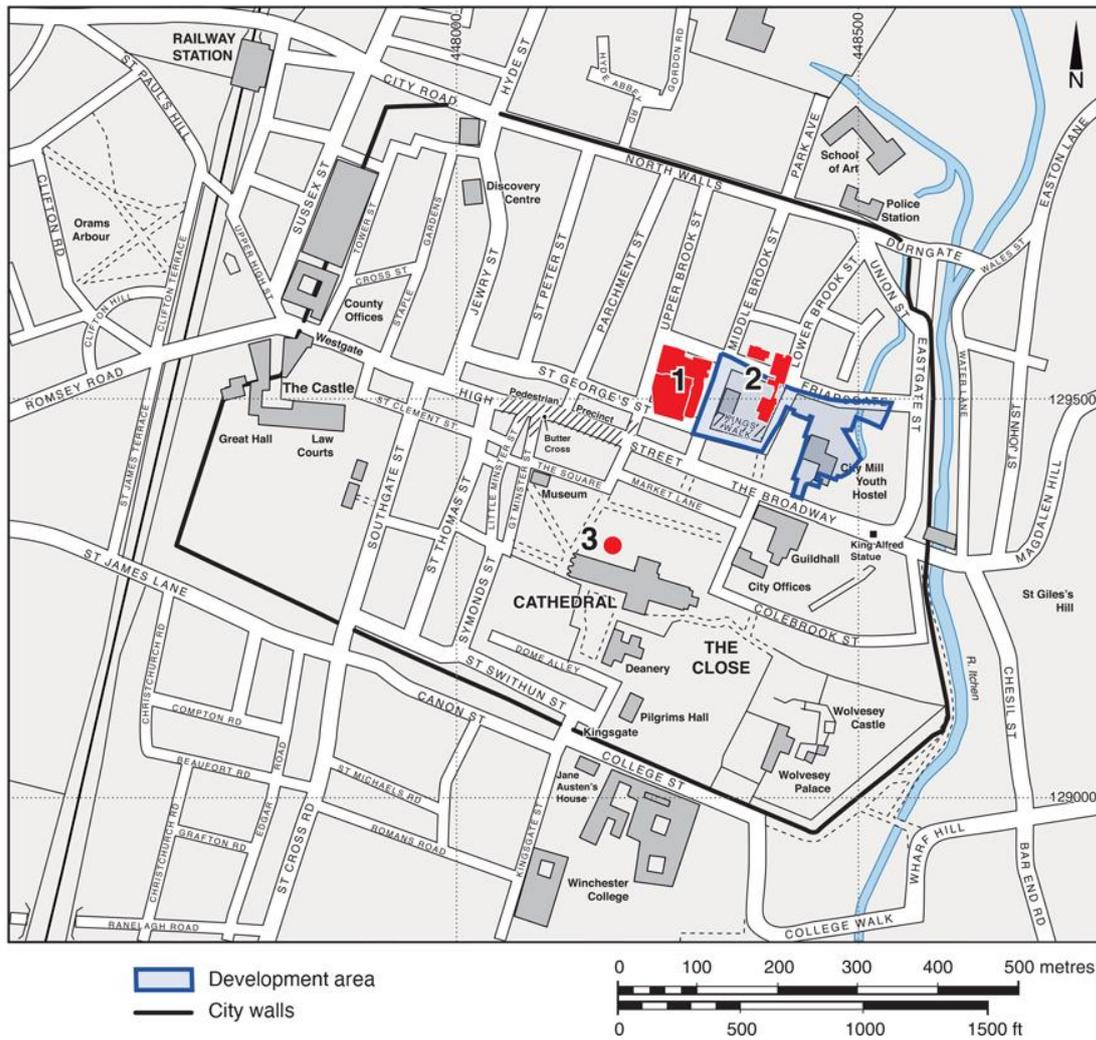


Figure 1 - Site location plan with other sites referred to in the area

1 The Brooks

2 Lower Book Street

3 Cathedral Green

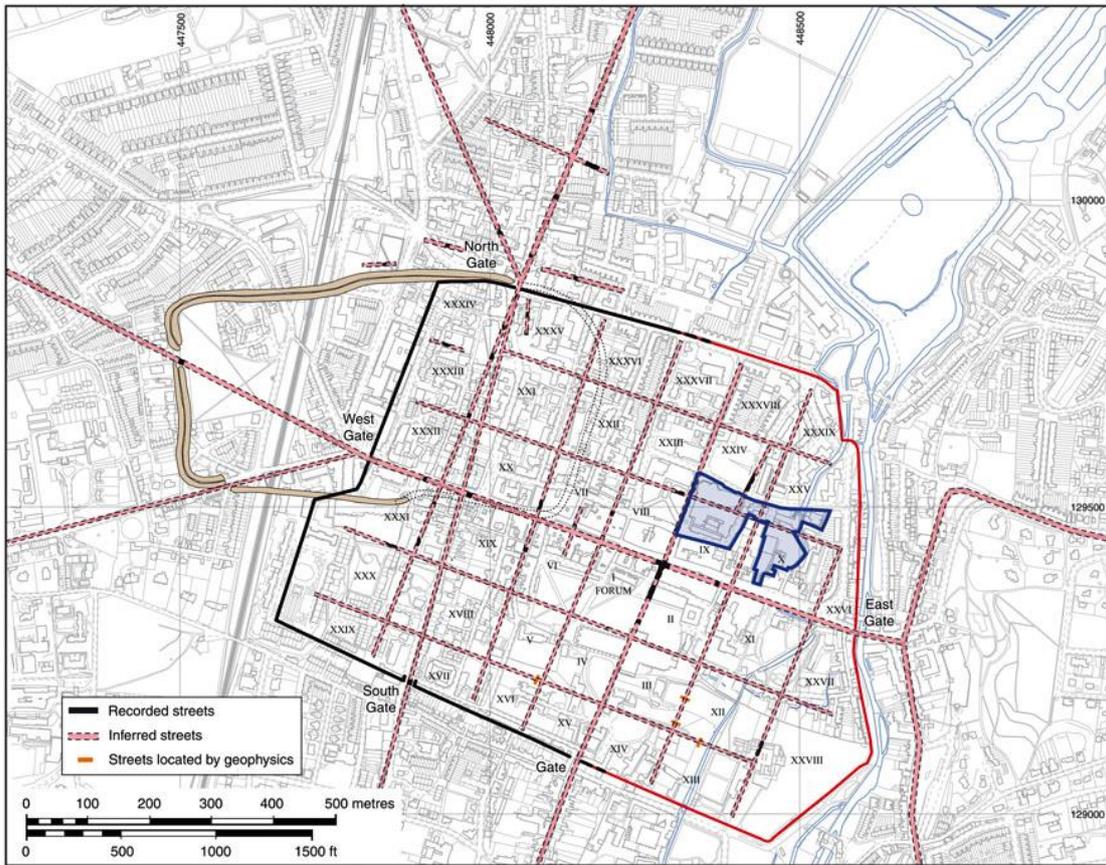


Figure 2 - Roman Winchester

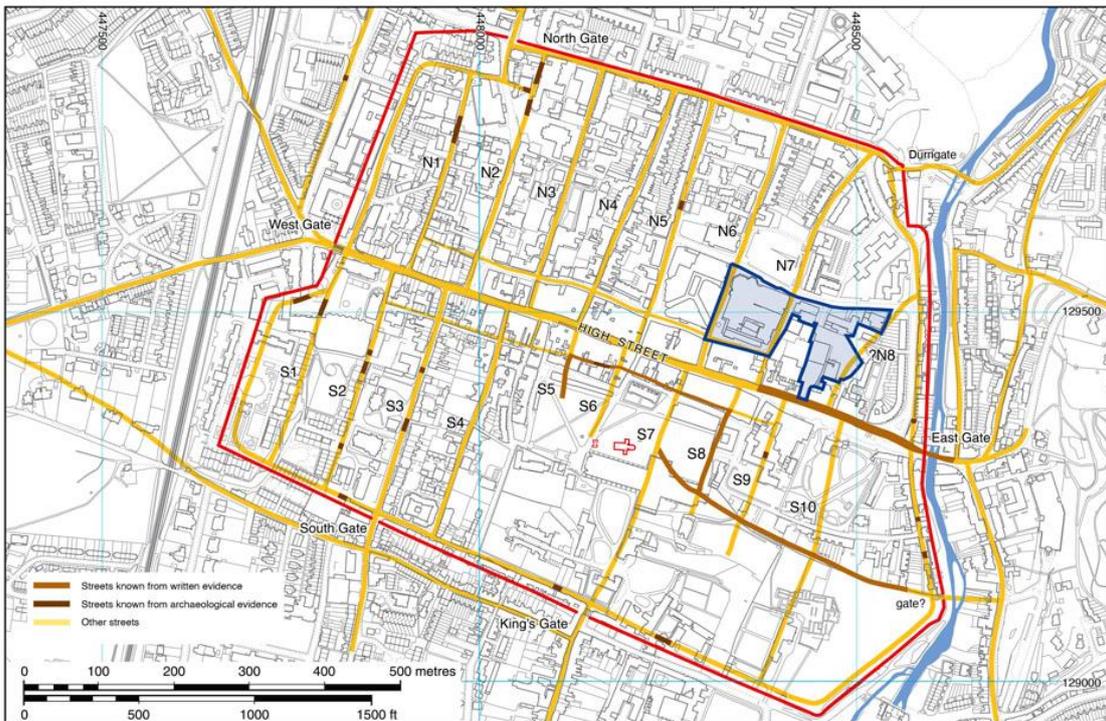


Figure 3 - Anglo-Saxon street plan

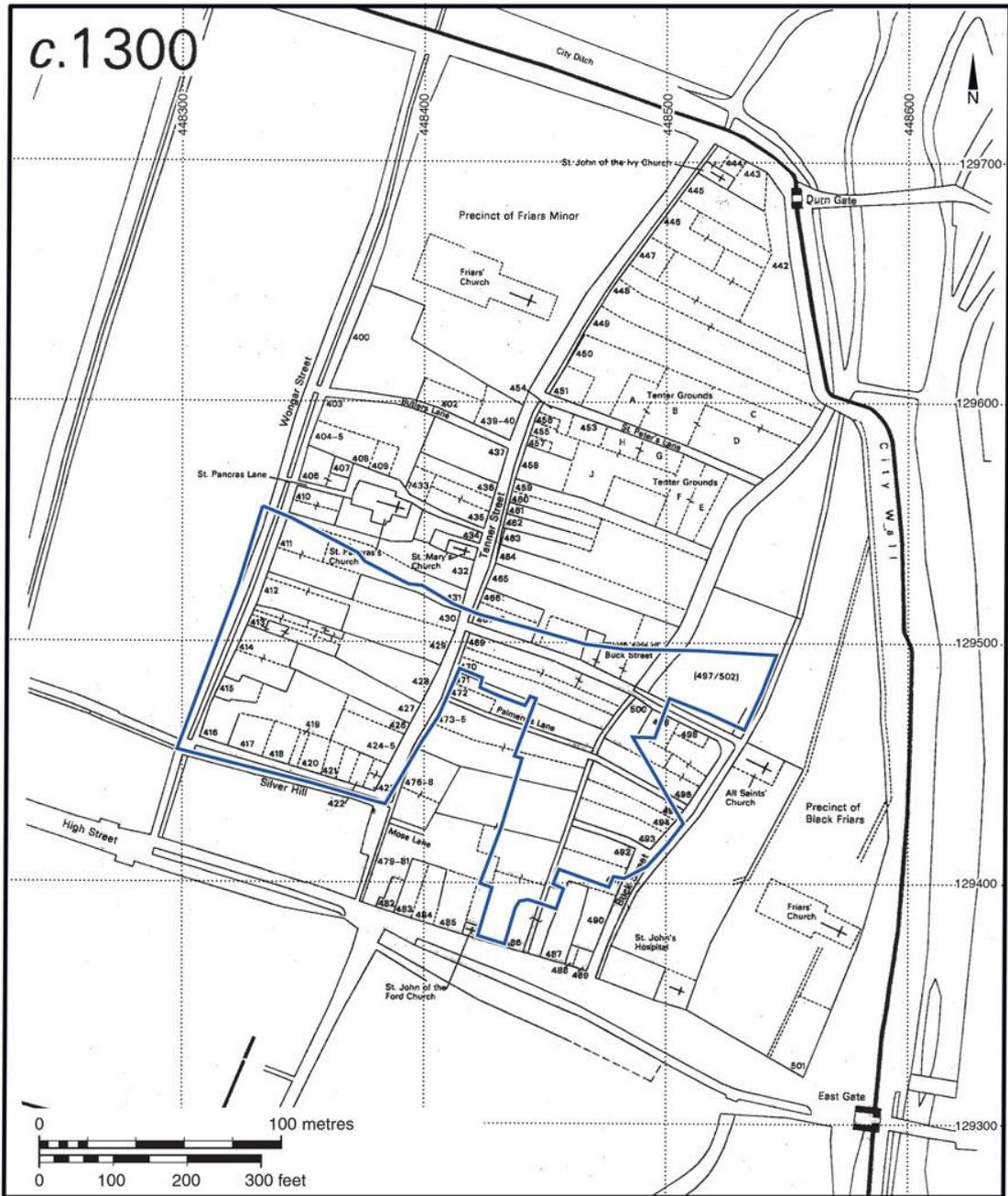


Figure 4 - Keene's plan of c 1300

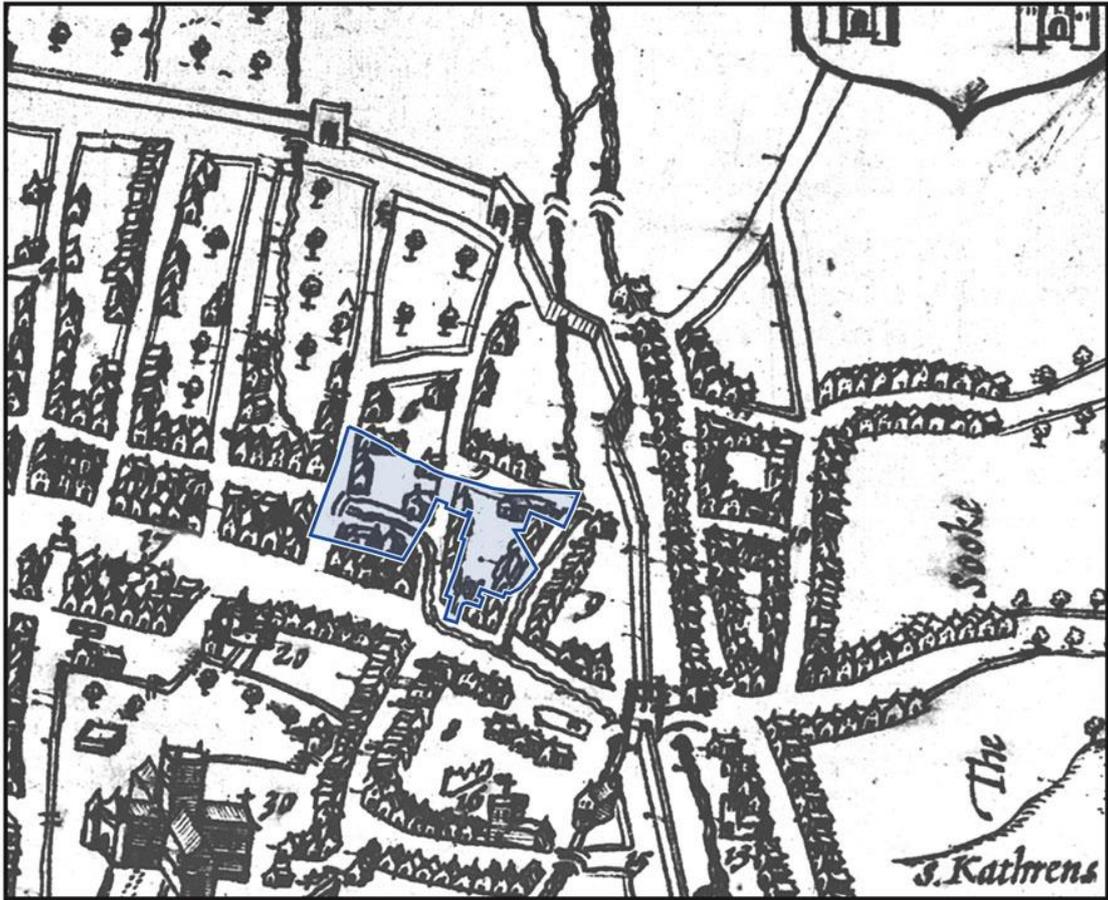


Figure 5 - Speed's map

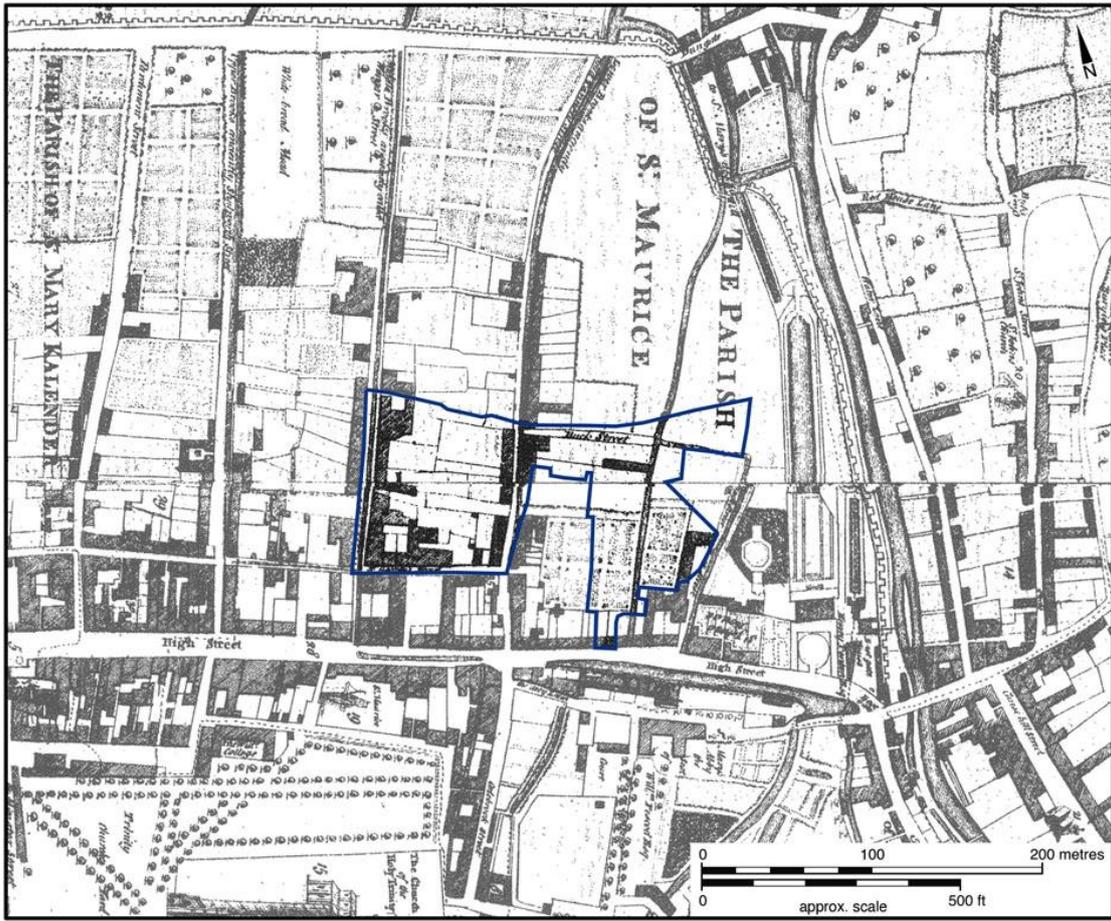


Figure 6 - Godson's map

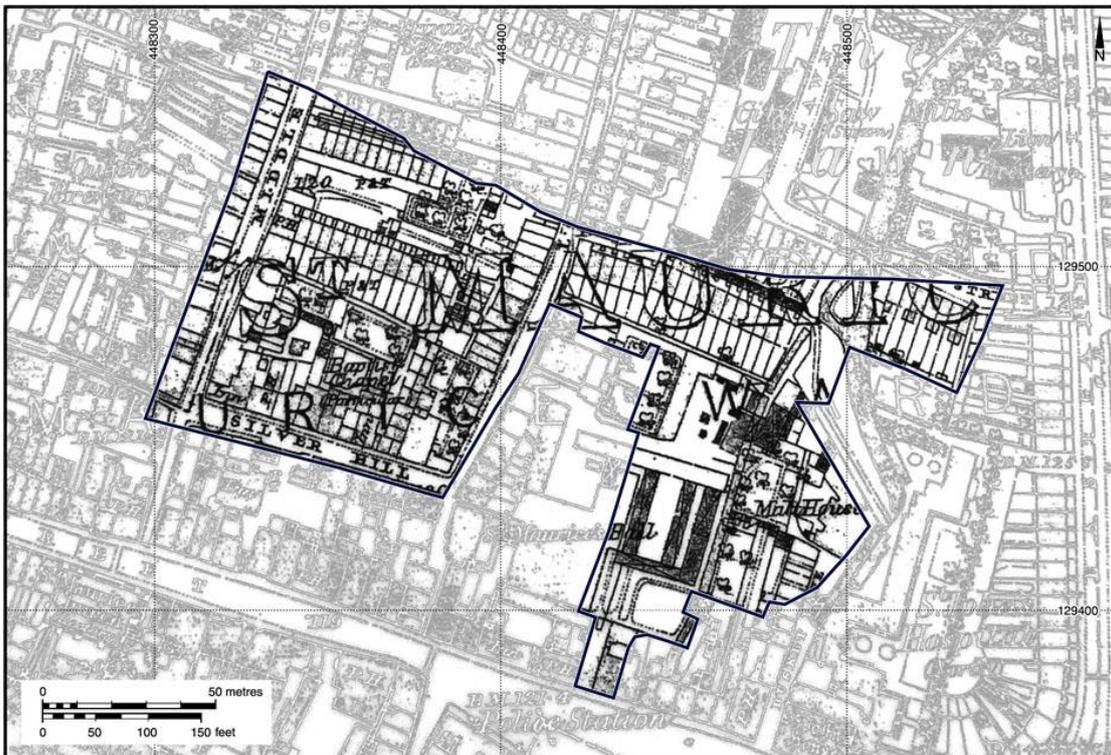


Figure 7 - First edition OS

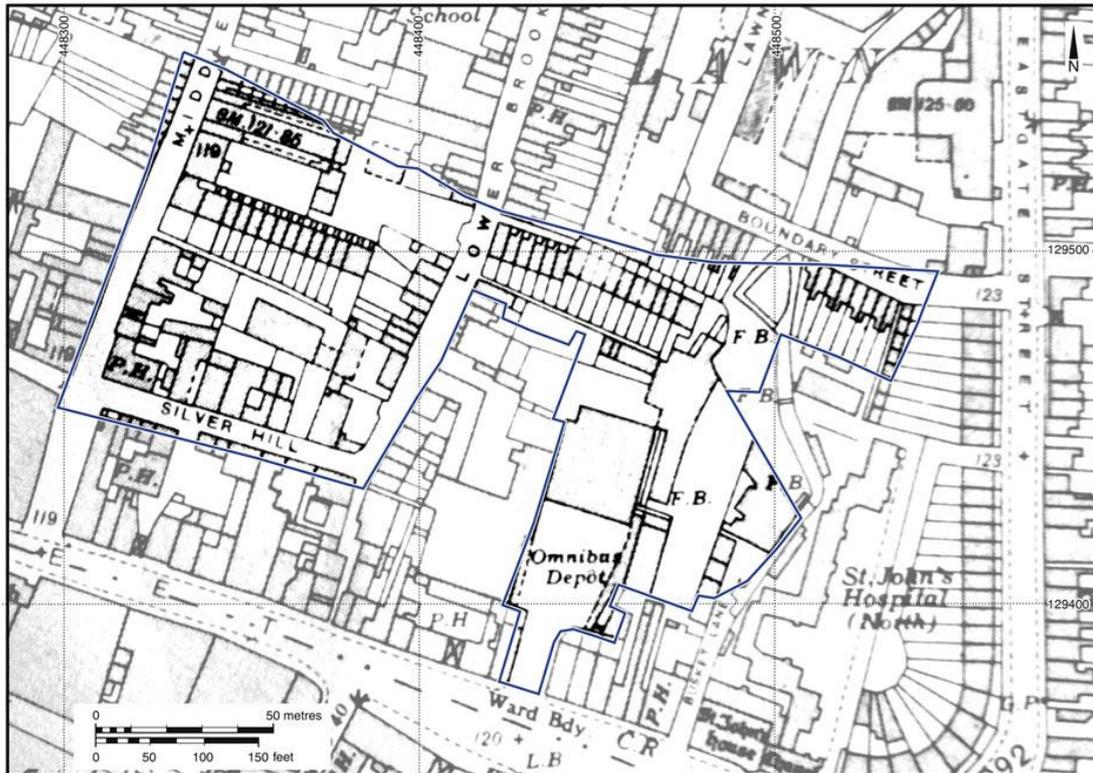


Figure 8 - 1939 OS

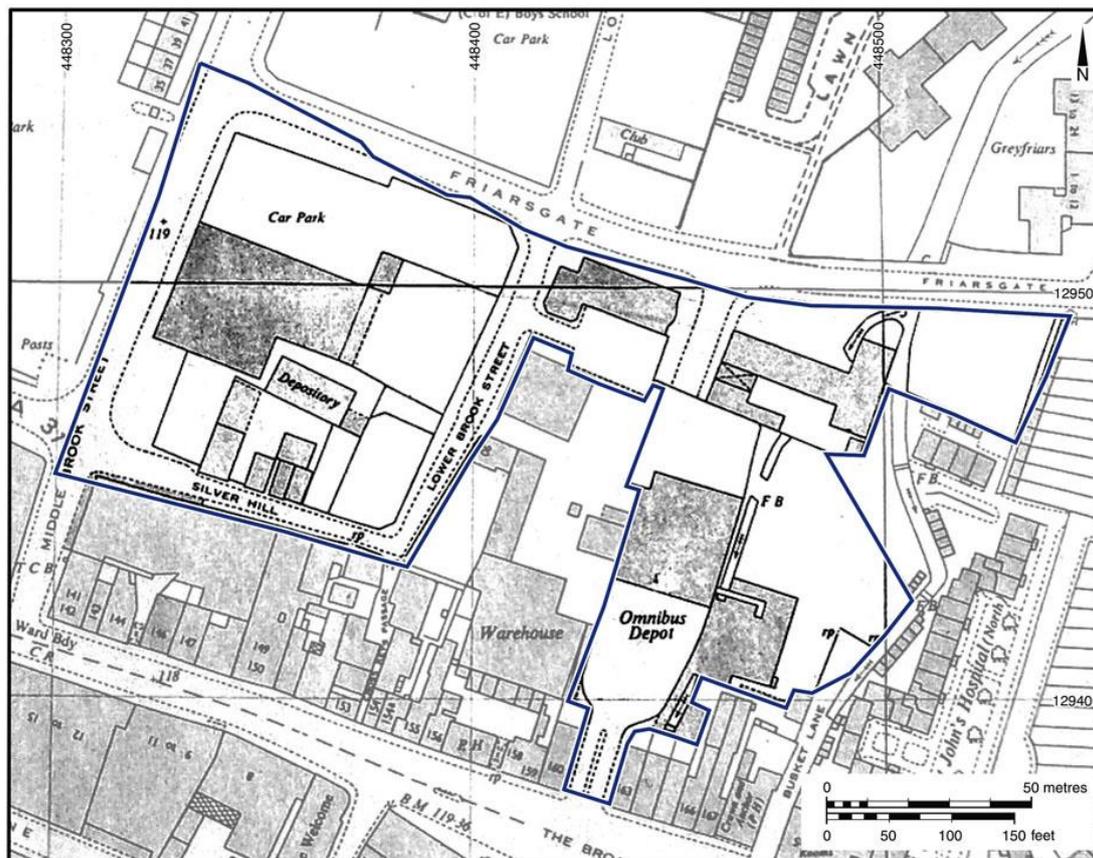


Figure 9 - 1969 OS

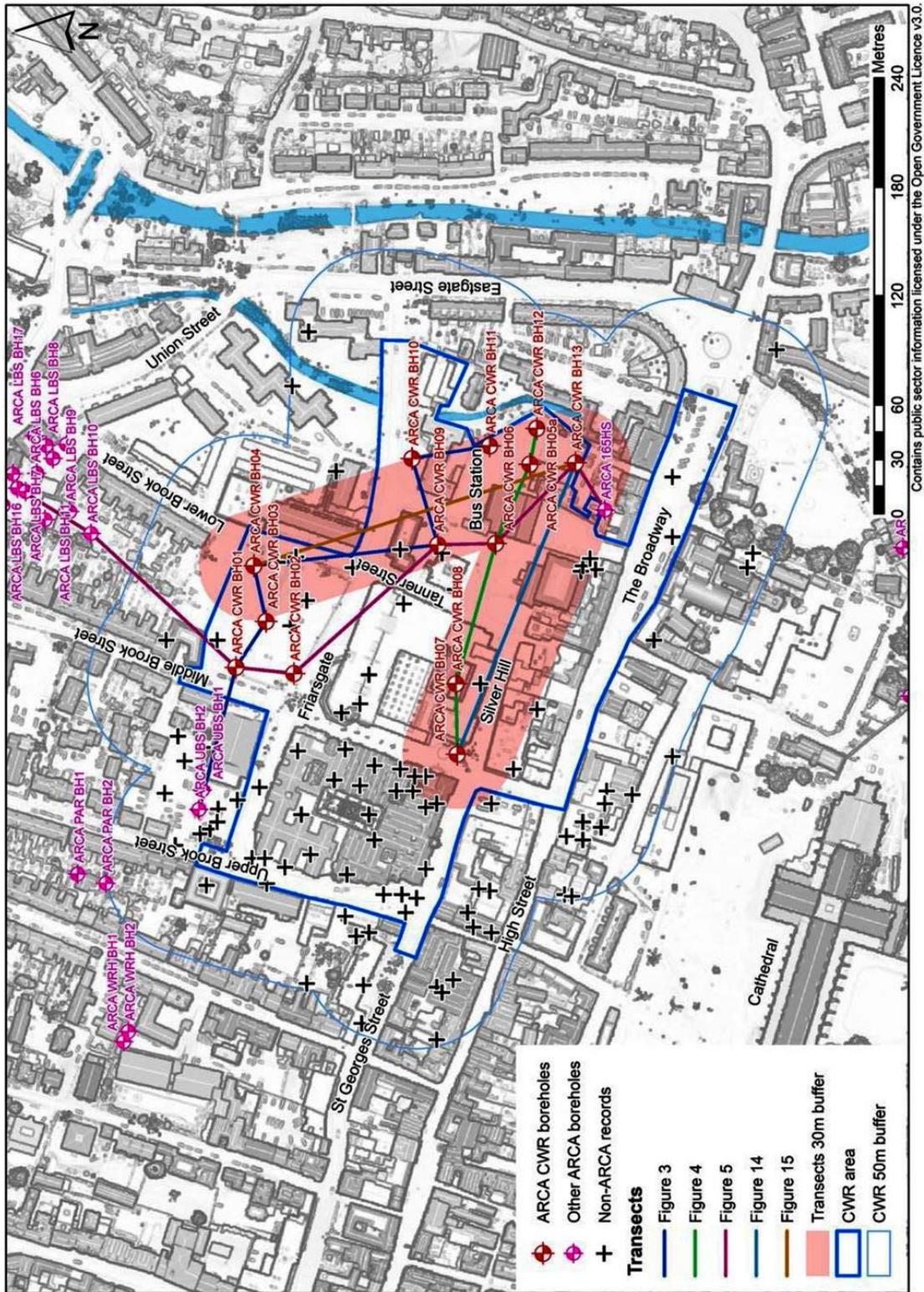


Figure 10 - ARCA boreholes

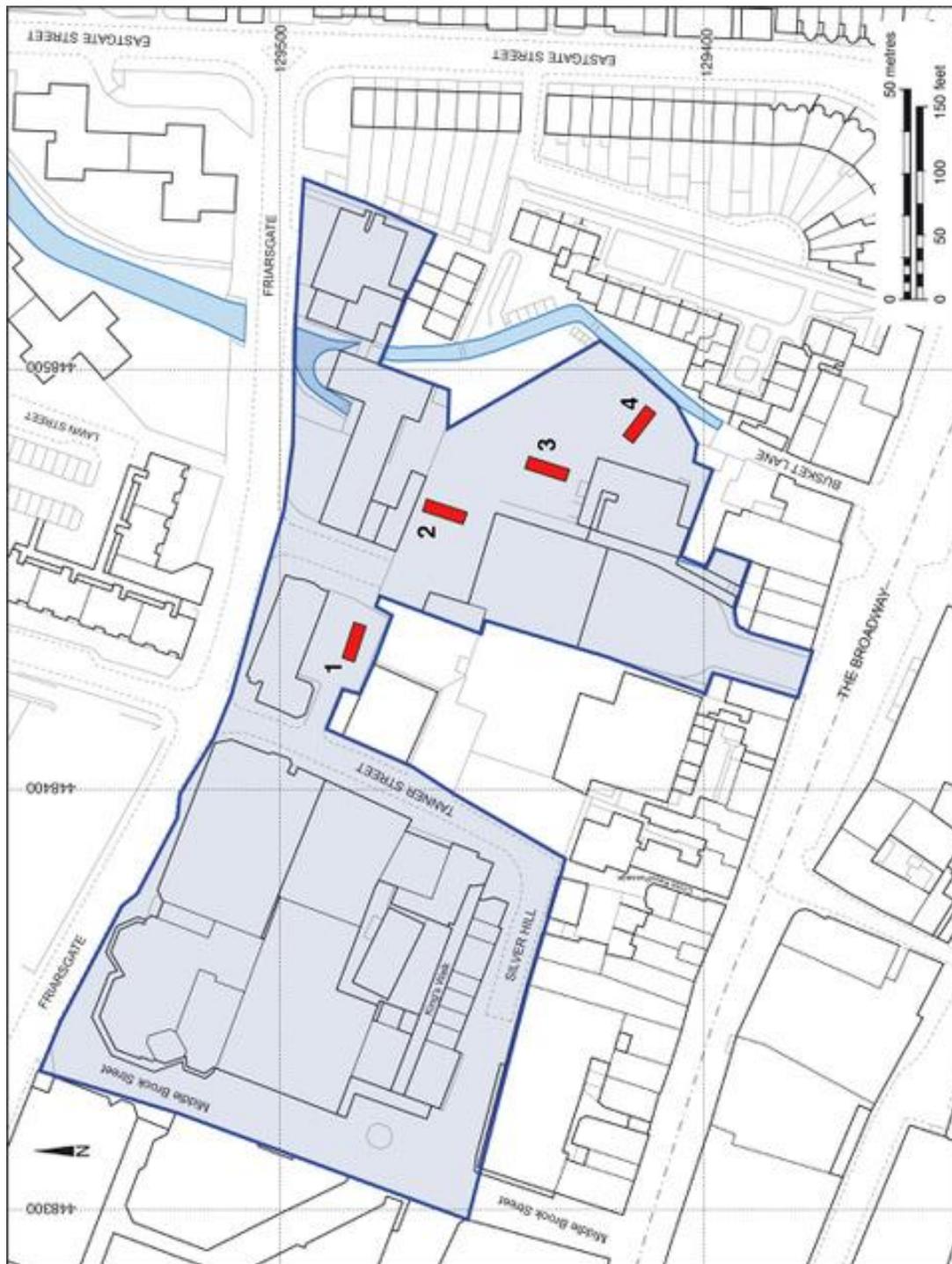


Figure 11 - Trench location plan