

INTERIM EXCAVATION REPORT AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW



Excavation proceeds in Trench 4

FOR UTS

AHMS

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HERITAGE
MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS PTY LTD**

**349 Annandale Street
Annandale NSW 2038
T: 02 9555 4000
F: 02 9555 7005
E: info@arksolutions.com.au**

**ABN 45 088 058 388
ACN 088 058 388**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

- In May and June 2010 Archaeological & Heritage Management Solutions Pty Ltd (AHMS Pty Ltd) was commissioned by the University of Technology (UTS) to undertake archaeological test excavations at the “Broadway Site” at 81-117 Broadway, Ultimo.
- The test excavations were designed to “ground-truth” an earlier archaeological assessment of the site which had identified it had potential to contain archaeological remains relating to its previous land uses and occupation.
- The assessment also indicated that the archaeological remains of the nineteenth century occupation of the site, should they survive, would be of high research value and of local heritage significance.
- An interim report has been prepared to provide an initial explanation and account of the test excavations and to review the previous assessment. Further analysis of the outcomes of the testing would be required to complete a final report on the test excavations.

Test Excavations

- Five test trenches were excavated at locations across the site that historical research had indicated may be the location of previous buildings and activities on the site.
- The excavation established the following general conclusions regarding the archaeology of the site:
 - Demolition of the building stock in the 1960s and subsequent activities on the site have resulted in more disturbance at depth than concluded in the archaeological assessment for the site;
 - This disturbance is demonstrated in Trenches 1, 2, and 5 where features and deposits down to the B horizon of the soil profile have been removed;

- Trenches 1, 2 and 5 retain structural elements excavated into the B horizon of the soil profile as well as deeper subsurface features, such as the clay borrow pit that may relate to Encoch Folwer's occupation of the site (Trench 5);
- Trench 1 and 2 contain remains of a probable 1830s structure, reused later, but otherwise unrecorded;
- Trenches 3 and 4 demonstrate that some areas of the site retain intact archaeological features and deposits dated to the 1830/1840s extending into the 20th century occupation of the site.

Conclusions

- The site of the UTS 'Broadway Site' has archaeological potential to varying degrees across the site. There is greater potential at the lower, western part of the site (Trench 3;
- Any archaeological remains from the occupation and use of the site by Enoch Fowler, even if they are in relatively disturbed contexts, are likely to be of high research value and local heritage significance;
- Areas of moderate research value, but still of local heritage significance, include those remains associated with structures from the 1830s in the south-east portion of the site and residences/shops developed across the site from the late 1840s through the 1850s that may survive at the site.
- The general picture of the archaeological potential for the site therefore appears to be a lower potential to the east, where demolition and subsequent work appear to have levelled the natural slope.
- The greater archaeological potential and intactness is at the lower, western part of the site – from the area of Trench 3 and to the west.

Heritage Values

- The archaeological testing identified potential archaeological resources from the Fowler period (1837-1848) and the subsequent development prior to the 1860s.
- The highest archaeological research value and heritage significance at the UTS site is vested in the remains associated with Fowler's occupation and use of the site.

Recommendations

- Archaeological salvage excavation is recommended at the UTS Broadway site;
- The salvage excavation should focus on the Fowler allotment(s) (the western portion of the site) to realize the archaeological research potential of this important resource;
- Additional work is also recommended for areas which contain the footings of otherwise unrecorded 1830s structures in the south-east and the 1840s/1850s structures in the western area of the site.
- A detailed archaeological methodology to identify specific areas, extent and duration of any additional excavation work as well as post excavation reporting, should be completed as part of an Archaeological management Plan for the site.

1. REPORT INTRODUCTION

In May 2010 Archaeological & Heritage Management Solutions Pty Ltd (AHMS Pty Ltd) was commissioned by the University of Technology (UTS) to undertake an archaeological assessment of the “Broadway Site” in Ultimo and develop research design for test excavations at the site in advance of its development. The assessment identified that the site had potential to contain archaeological remains relating to its previous land uses and occupation. The assessment also indicated that surviving remains of the nineteenth century occupation of the site would be of high research value and of local heritage significance. The research design proposed 5 test trenches to determine whether archaeological remains of significance survived at the site (see Figure 3).

The assessment and research design report was completed in June 2010.

Test excavation was conducted between May 24 and June 11, 2010 with a total of 10 days of excavation over that period.¹ This report summarises the findings and outcomes of the test excavation and reviews the June 2010 Assessment in the light of the excavations. It also provides recommendations for any additional archaeological work that may be required prior to site’s development.

As this report has not been informed by any detailed analysis of the findings or results of the test excavation (such as post excavation artefact analysis, further research or comprehensive site phasing), the report remains as an interim explanation and account of the test excavations. A final report would require analysis outside the scope of this document.

1.1 Site Details

The UTS ‘Broadway Site’ is bounded by Broadway to the south, Jones Street to the east and the UTS building CB10 (the former Fairfax Building), to the north (see Figure 1). The street address for the site is 81-117 Broadway, Sydney and the real property description is Lot 1, DP 554602 and Lot 1 89492.

Prior to test excavation, the site consisted of a large bitumen surfaced car park with buildings at its eastern and western extremities, all of which front Broadway. They are

¹ A substantial number of days were lost to rain.

referred to in the UTS Building inventory as CB11 (81 Broadway, the former Bradshaw Building), CB12 (115 Broadway) and CH13 (117 Broadway, the former Regent Hotel).

1.2 Rationale, Scope and Objectives

The aim of the archaeological testing program was to “ground-truth” the June archaeological assessment’s conclusions relating to the archaeological potential of the ‘Broadway Site’. While the assessment had included a review of the historical occupation sequence of the site, an assessment of the heritage/archaeological research significance of its potential archaeological remains and the identification of the events and processes that may have left physical remains or removed or disturbed the remains of previous occupation, test excavation was required to verify the survival, extent, integrity and context of the site’s archaeological resource.

The testing phase, therefore, had two primary roles:

- To determine if the assessment of the site’s archaeological potential was accurate; and to modify that assessment as required; and
- To provide further information which may relate to and inform the archaeological research significance of the site.

In turn, this information would assist to identify if archaeological salvage excavation would be warranted at the site prior to development.

The archaeological research design, set out in some detail in the previous report for the site,² had previously established questions and a field work methodology designed to fulfil the primary roles of the testing.

In brief, the research questions were:

- What features or deposits are present on the site;
- What is their nature and extent;
- What date can be assigned to them;
- How does this information compare to available historical information relating to the site; and
- What is the significance of the “relics”?

² AHMS, May 2010, *UTS Archaeological Assessment and Research Design*.

To identify areas where test trenches would be placed, the historical plans included in the assessment were relatively scaled and overlain with each other on a recent plan of the site. The positions of (likely) remains were then measured from boundaries and existing structures and features and then measured on site to identify areas likely to contain remains from particular historic phase of occupation. The respective test trenches were sited as follows:

- Trenches 1 and 2 (TT1 and 2) were sited in the south-east corner of the site to determine if remains indicated on the 1835 plan, on J.T. Hughes' land had survived;
- Trenches 3 and 5 (TT3 and TT5) were sited in the central area of the site to investigate wall lines of structures first shown in the 1844 plan of the site, which may still remain as in 1865. TT3 would investigate the southern area of this allotment and TT5 the northern portion; and
- Test Trench 4 (TT4) was sited to investigate the potential for survival of structures indicated in the 1865 plan on the western end of the site.

1.3 Excavation Methods

The test trenches were originally planned as 2m x 2m soundings. On site, an area of 3m x 3m was cleared initially by the machine excavator to allow some flexibility in the final position for the hand excavation of each trench.

The excavator removed the bitumen and hardstand material on the site and, as directed by the excavation director, commenced removal of the upper fill layers with a toothless bucket. Once structural features or significant deposits were identified the machine excavation ceased and hand excavation was commenced.

All identified contexts were assigned individual context numbers, preceded by the relevant trench number (i.e. 1.012, 3.014 etc). All levels on the site were assigned using a temporary bench mark keyed into Australian Height datum (AHD). Survey control points (38 in all) were established in the 5 trenches and at selected locations outside the trenches. These points were then surveyed by a commercial surveyor to enable the trenches and the features recorded within them to be consistently geo-referenced.

Artefacts were bagged on site and the relevant context numbers recorded on each bag.

1.4 Limitations

At the request of the client this interim report was provided within 1 week of the completion of the test excavation. Accordingly, it does not include a detailed consideration of the artefacts recovered during the excavation, comparative analysis with other sites or additional historical research, all of which would be required produce a complete (not interim)report.

1.5 Authorship and Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Matthew Kelly AHMS Pty Ltd (AHMS) with input from the trench supervisors for the excavation, Sarah Piesley, James McGuinness and Shaun Mackey.³ The trench plans were drawn on site by the trench supervisors, with the assistance of Sophie Brettell. The plans were digitised by Sophie Brettell and the plans geo-referenced by Laura Matarese, of AHMS. All site photos were taken by Adrian Dryer. Additional material related to Enoch Fowler was provided by Graham Wilson of AHMS.

QA for the final report and some clarification and revision of certain text and sections, was undertaken by Lisa Newell, Associate Director, AHMS.

The author would like to acknowledge the assistance of Greg Graham and Ian Ferguson of the UTS, during the course of the excavation.

³ *The excavation team consisted of Matthew Kelly, Excavation Director, Sarah Piesley, James McGuinness and Shaun Mackey, trench supervisors and Alexandra Thorn, Adrian Dryer, Miles Robb and Sophie Brettell, archaeologists.*



Figure 1. Aerial view of the UTS 'Broadway Site' which is defined by the red broken line.



Figure 2. Aerial photo of the site with principal elements identified.

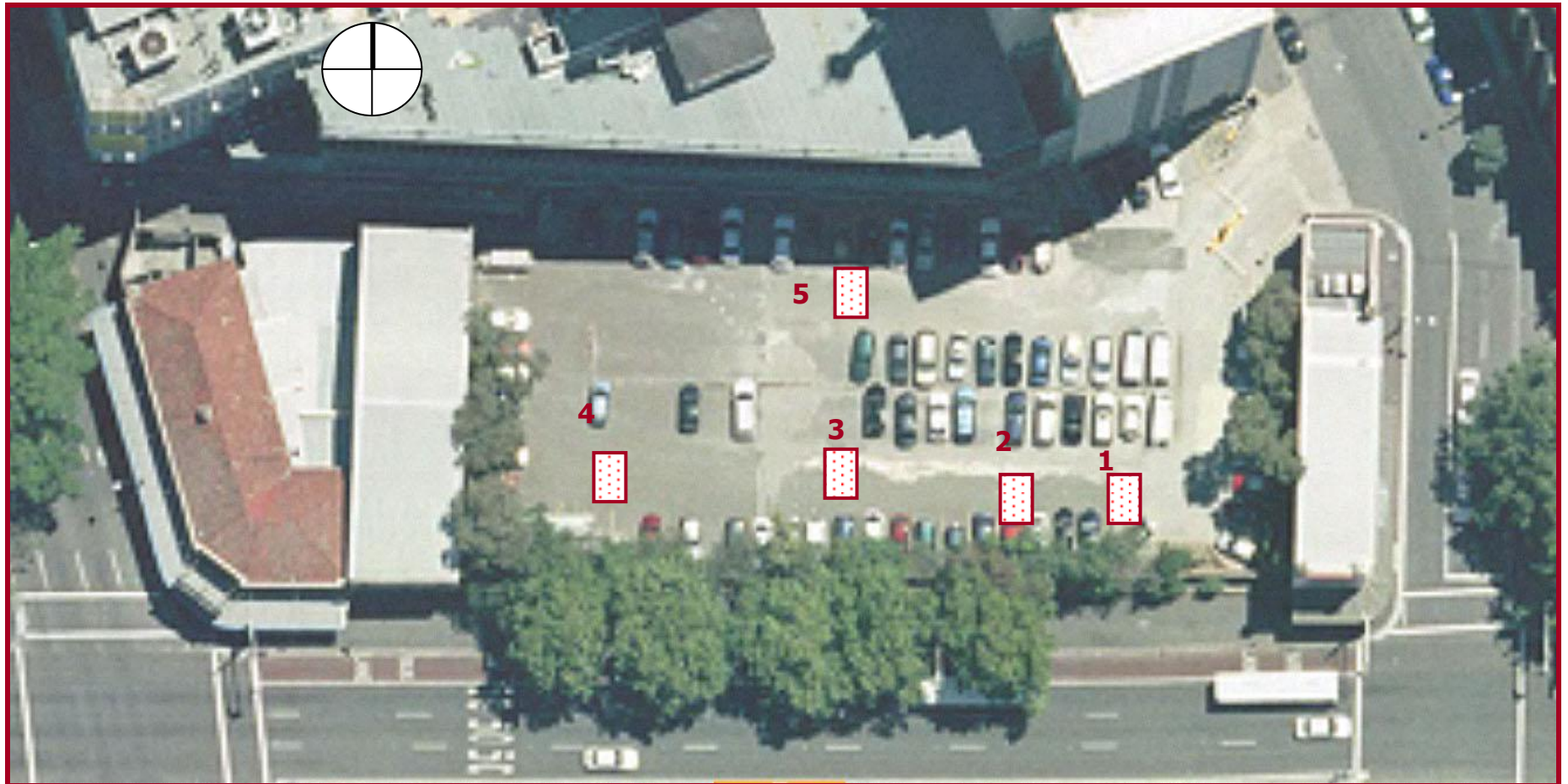


Figure 3. Positions and numbering of test trenches within the study area.



Figure 4. Trenches 1- 4 from the north (Trench 4 is far left).

2. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND INTERPRETATION

2.1 Introduction

The following trench excavation descriptions have been prepared by the trench supervisors Sarah Peisley, James McGuinness and Shaun Mackey. They have been edited by Matthew Kelly and Lisa Newell. The site plans have been digitised by Sophie Brettell and were geo-referenced, through a series of surveyed control points, by Laura Matarese and overlain on the digitised historic plans.

2.2 Trench 1

The excavation of Test Trench 1 initially exposed a series of fills and surfaces which post dated the 1960s demolition of a number of buildings on site (see figures 5-6 and 21). The fills and surfaces included a hard base of pisolitic travertine (1.008) in the south east of the car park, set as a foundation for its bitumen surface (1.009). Excavation beneath the fill immediately revealed a sandstone foundation wall (1.003), roughly squared, and with traces of grey sandy mortar associated with a bedding layer beneath the stones (see Figures 5 and 6). The 50cm wide footings, set in double rows, extended north-south through the length of the trench. A section of the footings was removed (along their northeast side) to investigate the stone's relationship with the natural profile, which proved to be truncated red stiff clay (1.001). Additional machine excavation along the eastern edge of the footings showed the foundations to be the bottom course of a former wall line. Further possible structural remains were visible to the east of the foundation stones as linear wooden stains aligned NE-SW (1.010), but investigation of these features showed them to be burnt tree roots. A construction trench/fill (1.002/1.004) for the footings, 1.003, was identified on their west side. The narrow trench fill, (1.004), was simply repacked excavated red clay from cut (1.002).

To summarise, the excavation of Trench 1 exposed a sandstone footing sitting within the B horizon of the natural soil profile overlain by 20th Century demolition. Artefacts recovered from Trench 1 were associated with the backfilling of the initial construction trench of the

sandstone footing and the 20th Century demolitions. Ten archaeological contexts were identified during the excavation of Trench 1.

The sandstone footings (1.003) in Trench 1 appear to be of an early (pre-1840s) date given:

- The construction technique of large squared, picked and coursed sandstone with weak gray sandy mortar with shell lime (minimal);
- The size and position of the masonry, set directly into the natural clay, indicates they are basal footings for substantial standing walls of brick or stone. The lack of disturbance in the form of later construction cuts or structural foundations supports the suggestion that they are set deeper than all later building activity in this location;
- That the 1.005 demolition deposit contained sandstone and sandstock brick rubble, ascribing a mid-19th century construction phase for the associated walls.
- The alignment of 1.003 approximates the wall line shown in the 1835 Parramatta Road realignment.
- The form, construction and fabric consistency of the Trench 1 sandstone footings with similar footings in Trench 2, which were 'cut' by the remains of an 1850s structure, suggests this was a construction technique associated with early phase walls. Despite the absence of artefacts in association with 1.003, the feature can be tentatively dated to pre 1850, probably 1830s.

The lack of intact stratigraphy associated with the sandstone footings (other than the 20th century demolition fills and its location within the natural profile), make the definitive identification of the sandstone footings as the remains as an early structure problematic. The overlay of the historic remains on the archaeological features, shown as figures 27 and 28, indicates that the excavated wall line sits between the possible position of the 1835 wall and the 1865/1888 boundary wall between 75/77 Parramatta Street. The footings' alignment is slightly splayed when compared to plans of the later allotment boundary wall and this might suggest the footings predate the regularisation of the allotments and thus are the remains of an earlier structure. It is possible that

the sandstone footings wall line exposed was originally part of the 1835 building-reused by 1865 and then added to for the 1888 extension of the building to the north.⁴

2.3 Trench 2

Similarly to Trench 1, the excavation of Trench 2 initially exposed a series of surfaces, travertine, and 20th Century fill immediately overlying earlier structural features (2.009-2.012) (see figures 7-8 and 22). The structural features took the form of intersecting sandstone foundation walls (2.002 and 2.0005) and their respective construction trenches (2.001 and 2.004) cut into a natural red clay B soil horizon, similar to that identified in Trench 1 (1.001). No substantial occupation deposits were associated with the structures.

Further excavation of the fill in the construction trenches (2.003 and 2.006) and the interface of 2.002 and 2.005, was carried out in order to establish any association between the two wall lines. It was apparent that the wall 2.005 cut wall 2.002, the latter exhibiting similar characteristics to the wall line (1.003) found in Trench 1 in terms of the nature and the mass of the stone work and similar gray mortar associated with each. This suggests an earlier phase of occupation, possibly from the 1830s, on the south-east portion of the site, was replaced by structures from the 1850s and later.

Early cultural material was found in all excavated portions of construction trenches for both walls. The demolition fills 2.007 and 2.008 showed a mixture of residual early material and later 20th Century artefacts demonstrating the level of disturbance of early occupation levels by the 20th Century demolitions.

It is clear that the 20th Century demolition of the site in 1964 and possible subsequent activities associated with the use of the car park as a truck loading depot, removed or substantially disturbed artefact deposits associated with the occupation of the two structures exposed in Trench 2.

The overlay of the historic plans indicates that Trench 2 exposed the probable common wall between 79/81 Parramatta Street of 1865 (93/95 in 1888). Sixteen archaeological contexts were identified during the excavation of Trench 2.

⁴ Additional excavation work at the request of UTS identified a machine pressed brick extension to the sandstone wall line in keeping with a later use of the existing structure.

2.4 Trench 3

The excavation of Trench 3 exposed further sandstone footings, consisting of up to three courses, which divided the trench into four quadrants (see figures 9-14 and 23). In addition to the sandstone footings, the remains of a disturbed timber floor were situated in the western two quadrants. The floor was most intact and largely in-situ in the north-west quadrant. Further structural features in the form of an early service drain (SW quadrant) and a crushed sandstone surface (SE quadrant) were identified, in addition to substantial re-deposition of clay fill (3.020) containing early cultural material in the SE, NE and NW quadrants. Thirty six archaeological contexts were identified during the excavation of trench 3.

As the stratigraphy and occupation sequences in Trench 3 were complex, it was divided into phases.

Phase 1 (lower deposits and features):

The redeposited clay through much of Trench 3 predated all structural elements and appeared to be levelling fill on uneven ground. The deposit contains early cultural material and may relate to the first phase of building, i.e. levelling a pad for floor/ yard surfaces. The most likely date for the levelling is the late 1830s to early 1840s, when permanent structures were erected across the site. The 1844 subdivision plan would place Trench 3 in the vicinity of the lower brick grounds around Lot 1 (Fowler's residence?), or Lot 2 of the Fowler complex.

Phase 2: (middle structural features)

The structural footings appear, as in Trench 2, to reflect two building phases with the large footings (2.003 2.007) possibly representing initial walls that have been altered at a later date. Their consistency with the stones in Trench 2 (large stone blocks, grey mortar) suggest these materials were standard for footings and the grey mortar colour may reflect the use of local fine grey clays (as seen in trench 5) for the basic bonding. The yellow sand mortar associated with the upper courses of foundations (3.010, 3.036) may simply represent a standard mortar for masonry foundations above the footings. It is therefore difficult to separate or conjecture the construction phases of the masonry by materials alone.

The irregular alignment of the footings where the three walls meet is suggestive of three separate building phases with 3.007 butting onto 3.003. The most likely scenario is that

3.003 was a rear building wall with a boundary wall return in the location of 3.010. Wall 3.007 was then added to the outside of the boundary wall when the next building to the west was constructed.

Phase 3: (upper structural features)

The final phase of the structure is represented by the construction of a wooden floor over the footings (3.007), denoting the extension of the building to the north. This also involved the extension of wall 3.010 to the north, when a brick footing was laid for the timber floor. At this stage the entire central boundary wall may have been rebuilt given the unusual cut in the 3.007 footing where the three foundations meet. This may have involved the reuse of the missing footing from the western side of 3.007 since these were no longer needed. Alternatively this may have been removed simply to accommodate the level timber flooring. It is interesting to note the installation of an early ceramic drain beneath the timber floor, given drainage problems are mentioned in records for the early buildings.

It appears as though the internal wall on the east (3.036) remained standing subsequent to the northward extension, with a crushed sandstone surface laid directly on the redeposited clay, in contrast with the timber floor on the western side of boundary 3.010.

Phase 4:

At a later date the timber floor was covered with a concrete pad, apparently before the demolition of the existing walls.

Phase 5:

The dry pressed bricks in the demolition fills indicates that the walls in Trench 3 may have undergone sequences of repair and rebuilding. A lens of sandstock brick rubble overlying the truncated 3.010, suggests that this wall was demolished earlier than the overlying 1960s levelling, or that early walls were well constructed and remained standing until the 1960s. The latter assumption is supported by the lack of successive construction evidence, excepting a concrete pier situated in the NW quadrant that may relate to 3.019.

In contrast to Trenches 1 and 2, Trench 3 demonstrated the survival of archaeological features and artefact deposits probably dating between the 1830s and the 1960s. The overlay of the historic plans indicates that Trench 3 exposed an area within Fowler's allotment (1844 sale Plan) and the probable common wall between 83/85 Parramatta Street of 1865 (99/97 in 1888).

2.5 Trench 4

Trench 4 was opened up by machine and measured approximately 4 metres (north-south) by 3.5 metres (east-west) (see Figures 15-16 and 24). The machine was used to excavate the fills overlying the structural remains of a wall (4.003) and overlying a potential yard/occupation deposit (4.006). An additional trench measuring 2400 mm x 550 mm was excavated along the western edge of Trench 4 to understand the soil profile. All further investigations were performed manually by archaeologists. Twenty-eight (28) archaeological contexts were identified during the excavation of Trench 4.

The uppermost deposit was the bitumen surface (4.001) of the car park. Underlying the bitumen was a road base (4.002) of predominately blue-stone chips. This is in contrast to the other test trenches further up-slope and nearer the Broadway frontage which revealed the use of calcrete as a bitumen base. This bitumen and base in Trench 4 were laid over a demolition fill (4.010) comprised primarily of building rubble that included sandstock and dry-pressed bricks as well as smaller fragments of sandstone. Trench 4's southern section face (a section is term used for the interior wall of an archaeological trench) revealed a soil and deposit profile that indicated various tip lines of a single, contemporary event of demolition dumped across the site.

The western section face of Trench 4 showed a number of additional deposits beneath the dumped demolition fill (4.010). Immediately beneath it was a mortar/plaster layer (4.011) up to 160 mm thick. Some of the overlying rubble had impressed itself into the fill. An additional two deposits, (4.012) and (4.013) were recorded. Both were undulating with a slope feathering away to the south. The lower deposit (4.013) lay above an earlier, probably nineteenth century, demolition deposit (4.018). The machine trench mentioned above also exposed a mid-dark black brown, silty clay (4.006) that contained tiny nodules of ironstone within its matrix. The boundary between it and the underlying natural clay (4.014) was diffuse and further indicated that it was a likely remnant A2/B1 horizon. Deposit (4.006) was also an occupation deposit as it was also evident in an underfloor area. The natural B horizon (4.014) was a mid reddish brown clay with numerous ironstone formations throughout its matrix.

The eastern section face of Trench 4 showed the demolition fill (4.010) directly above a north-south axis sandstone wall (4.003). This wall was made from roughly squared yellow sandstone blocks that measured between 950-970 mm long. Smaller, grey sandstone blocks

were located at the southern end of the wall and were later numbered (4.023) and (4.028). Two brick piers, (4.007) and (4.006) were placed along the western edges of the wall (4.003). Both piers were constructed from a mixture of sandstock and dry-pressed bricks bonded with a cement mortar. These piers would have supported the bearers for a timber floor.

‘Sondage A’ was excavated adjacent to the northernmost pier (4.007). Measuring 1500 mm x 500 mm the sondage was placed to examine the depth of the pier and the nature of deposit (4.006). Three (3) buckets of sondage deposit (4.006) were sieved through a 5 mm and 2 mm mesh. The recovered artefacts included small, angular fragments of modern glass as well as various ceramic sherds - some potentially made by Fowler’s pottery further up the hill during the 1830s-1840s. Fragments of decorated, English earthenware, lead, coal slate and burnt shells were also found. The depth of the sondage measured between 20-80 mm before exposing the natural clay (4.014). A piece of timber (4.015) in the deposit was initially believed to be a remnant post fragment as it was located within a posthole cut (4.016) and in association with post-hole packing fill (4.016), however, further investigation demonstrated that this was not so. The excavation of the sondage established that pier (4.007) had cut (4.006) and had been built on top of (4.014).

‘Sondage B’ was placed along the southern part of the trench and measured 2300 mm x 850 mm. The excavation revealed an early demolition deposit (4.018), a robbing-trench fill (4.019) and cut (4.020) and a construction trench fill (4.021) and cut (4.022). The robbing-trench fill (4.019) was fully excavated to expose the remains of an east-west axis sandstone wall (4.023). The wall remains were built from light, whitish grey sandstone. The blocks were smaller than those in wall (4.003) and measured between 240-390 mm long and about 300 mm deep. Each block was scored by diagonal pick marks across the face. Only the east-west wall had been robbed as the upper, second course was still present in the southeast corner of the trench. This remnant, upper-course was the likely location of the southern return towards Broadway. Wall (4.003) was along the same alignment and represented a later addition.

‘Sondage C’ was placed at the eastern end of ‘Sondage B’ and measured 700 mm x 500 mm. The first feature excavated was the construction trench fill (4.021) within cut (4.022). This trench was originally dug for wall (4.023). Artefacts were recovered from the packing fill (4.021) and included items of bone, shell, transfer-print earthenwares and kiln wasters

probably from the Fowler pottery works. These Fowler wasters included vitrified brick, stoneware bottle fragments and slipped terracotta wares.

Pier (4.008) was removed and shown to be built after wall (4.023). In the extension of 'Sondage C' the relationship between walls (4.003) and (4.023) were investigated. The two walls were connected by the sandstone blocks and cindered sandstock brick of (4.028). This sandstone, though identical to that used in (4.023), was built later as it cut the packing fill of the construction trench (4.021)/(4.022). Wall (4.003) also appeared to be a further addition constructed after (4.028) was put into place.

The construction sequence indicated that wall (4.023) was the rear wall to a building fronting what was then Parramatta Street. The Fowler ware wasters contained within the packing fill (4.021) for the construction trench (4.022) established a *terminus post quem* of the 1830s/1840s. The last reference to Enoch Fowler being present on site was in 1848⁵. The significance of wasters appearing in a packing fill suggested that:

- Fowler was dumping material widely across the study area.
- That a large part of the study area was unoccupied or sparsely developed during the Fowler era.
- That the structure in Trench 4 was built close to the period represented by Fowler and either overlaps his occupancy or is built very shortly after his departure in the late 1840s.

The 1854 Woolcott and Clarke map of Sydney adds substance to the last two of these options as it shows a series of buildings along Parramatta Street in the area represented by the site and Trench 4⁶. The wall of (4.023) in Trench 4 was probably one of those structures. The 1865 Trig Survey plan showed all the allotments developed with rear buildings and sheds. The additional walls (4.028) and (4.003) were probably built during the years represented by these two plans. During these eleven years yards were incorporated and transformed into indoor occupation zones.

⁵ *Council of the City of Sydney, Rates Assessment, 1848, Phillip Ward, p.31.*

⁶ *Ashton, P. and Waterson, D. 2000, Sydney Takes Shape. A history in maps. Hema Maps, Brisbane, pp.26-27.*

2.6 Trench 5

The excavation of Trench 5 revealed a series of late demolition fills associated with the removal of wall lines from the mid 20th Century. These structures had partly disturbed, but eventually sealed, a deeper subsurface feature, which has been interpreted as a clay extraction (borrow) pit. Seventeen archaeological contexts were identified during the excavation of trench 5.

As the stratigraphy and occupation sequences in Trench 5 were complex, it was divided into phases.

Phase 1

The earliest phase of archaeology identified in Trench 5 is a possible clay “borrow” pit (5.002). The pit takes the form of a cut into the natural red clay (5.001) sealed beneath the demolition deposit (5.016). Redeposited white clay (5.007) is contained within the cut. This clay is from quite deep in the natural profile and of itself is unsuitable for pottery making.

A number of early pottery forms, potentially part of Fowler’s repertoire of the 1830/40s, were at the interface of (5.007) and (5.016).

These early archaeological contexts may date from the 1830s Harris subdivision when the area was identified as a “brick grounds”. Alternatively, (5.002) and (5.007) may date to the Fowler pottery phase beginning in 1839 when Enoch Fowler leased the property. Fowler pottery manufacture continued in the subject allotment until 1848.

Any clay utilisation in the area is likely to have occurred in the early years of Fowlers occupation, before any permanent buildings were established.

Phase 2

Boundary wall (5.004) is the second phase of archaeological remains identified in Trench 5. Constructed of dry pressed bricks, which weren’t available in Sydney until the latter half of the 19th century, the boundary wall most likely dates to the 1880s or 1890s.

Phase 3

(5.016) is a demolition deposit that dates prior to the destruction of boundary wall (5.004). As it abuts the lower courses of the wall, it probably dates to the years immediately

following the construction of 5.004. It was possibly used to create a level yard/internal surface. Service trench (5.012) may also date to the same phase.

Phase 4

Concrete footing (5.003) was constructed as a level foundation for brick wall addition (5.005). The makers mark identified on the bricks of (5.005) date the period of construction to post 1931.⁷ The sand levelling fill (5.008) and concrete slab (5.009) would be contemporary with (5.003) and (5.005), forming a floor surface for the newly constructed structure.

Phase 5

Excavation in Trench 5 of the bitumen surface and 20th Century levelling fill for the car park (5.013 and 5.014) revealed late 20th Century demolition fills (5.011 and 5.016) associated with the demolition of two brick structures, represented by wall lines (5.004 and 5.005). The demolition of the two structures across the trench is represented by (5.011) with a later levelling fill (5.016) sealing this deposit.

Cutting through the surface, (5.014), and the demolition fill, is the stanchion (5.010) which represents the final phase of activity Trench 5. This dates to the post 1960s construction of a ramp for a truck depot.

2.7 Conclusions

The excavation of the five trenches described in detail above has established the following general conclusions regarding the archaeology of the site:

- Demolition of the building stock in the 1960s and subsequent activities on the site have resulted in more disturbance at depth than concluded in the archaeological assessment for the site;
- This disturbance is demonstrated in Trenches 1, 2, and 5 where features and deposits down to the B horizon of the soil profile have been removed;

⁷ The impressed mark indicates the brick was produced at Austral Bedford works, post 1931, see Ringer, R, 2008, *The Brickmasters: 1788-2008*, Dry Press, p.165. .

- Trenches 1, 2 and 5 retain structural elements excavated into the B horizon of the soil profile as well as deeper subsurface features, such as the clay borrow pit (trench 5);
- Trench 1 and 2 contain remains of a probable 1830s structure, reused later, but otherwise unrecorded;
- Trenches 3 and 4 demonstrate that some areas of the site retain intact archaeological features and deposits dated to the 1830/1840s extending into the 20th century occupation of the site.



Figure 5. Trench 1 from the north after initial hand cleaning.



Figure 6. Trench 1 - (1.003) shown in the west section (from the east).



Figure 7. Trench 2 from the north showing (2.002) to left and (2.005) running the length of trench to its right.



Figure 8. Detail of (2.002) from the west. Note the displacement of stone and grey mortar evident.



Figure 9. Trench 3 in the course of excavation.



Figure 10. Final short of Trench 3 from the north.



Figure 11. Brick alignment (3.032) and drain (3.034) below collapsed timber floor (3.018)



Figure 12. Concrete floor (3.019) over collapsed timber floor(3.018) in the N-W quadrant.



Figure 13. Trench 3 final shot from north.



Figure 14. Trench 3 final shot from the west.



Figure 15. Trench 4 from north.



Figure 16. 'Sondage B' and 'Sondage C' (top of picture) adjacent to wall (4.023) and its associated construction trench cut (4.022) and packing fill (4.021). This fill contained wasters of vitrified brick and ceramic from Enoch Fowler's pottery further up the slope (looking east).



Figure 17. Foreground of photo shows (5.008) sitting on(5.007).



Figure 18. Stanchion (5.010) cutting demolition (5.016) and clay deposit(5.001).



Figure 19. Photo shows (from bottom to top) demolitions (5.016) and (5.011), road base (5.013) and car park surface (5.014). The white clay backfill, (5.007), of pit(5.002) is shown at right.



Figure 20. Trench 5, south section, showing the interface of demolition, (5.016), and pit backfill,(5.007). It the interface of the two deposits are fragments of early pottery and brick (indicated).

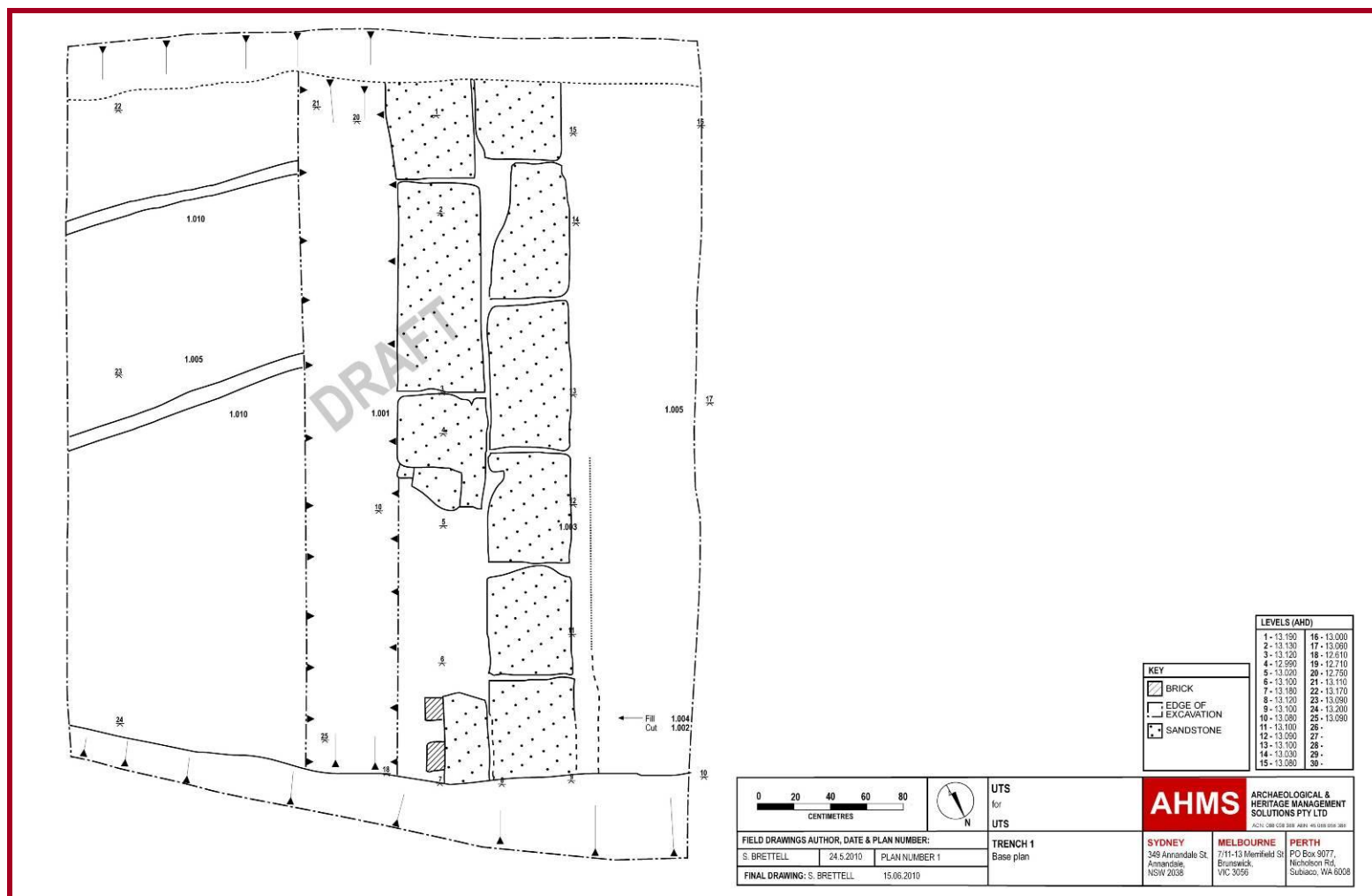


Figure 21. Plan of features in Trench 1.

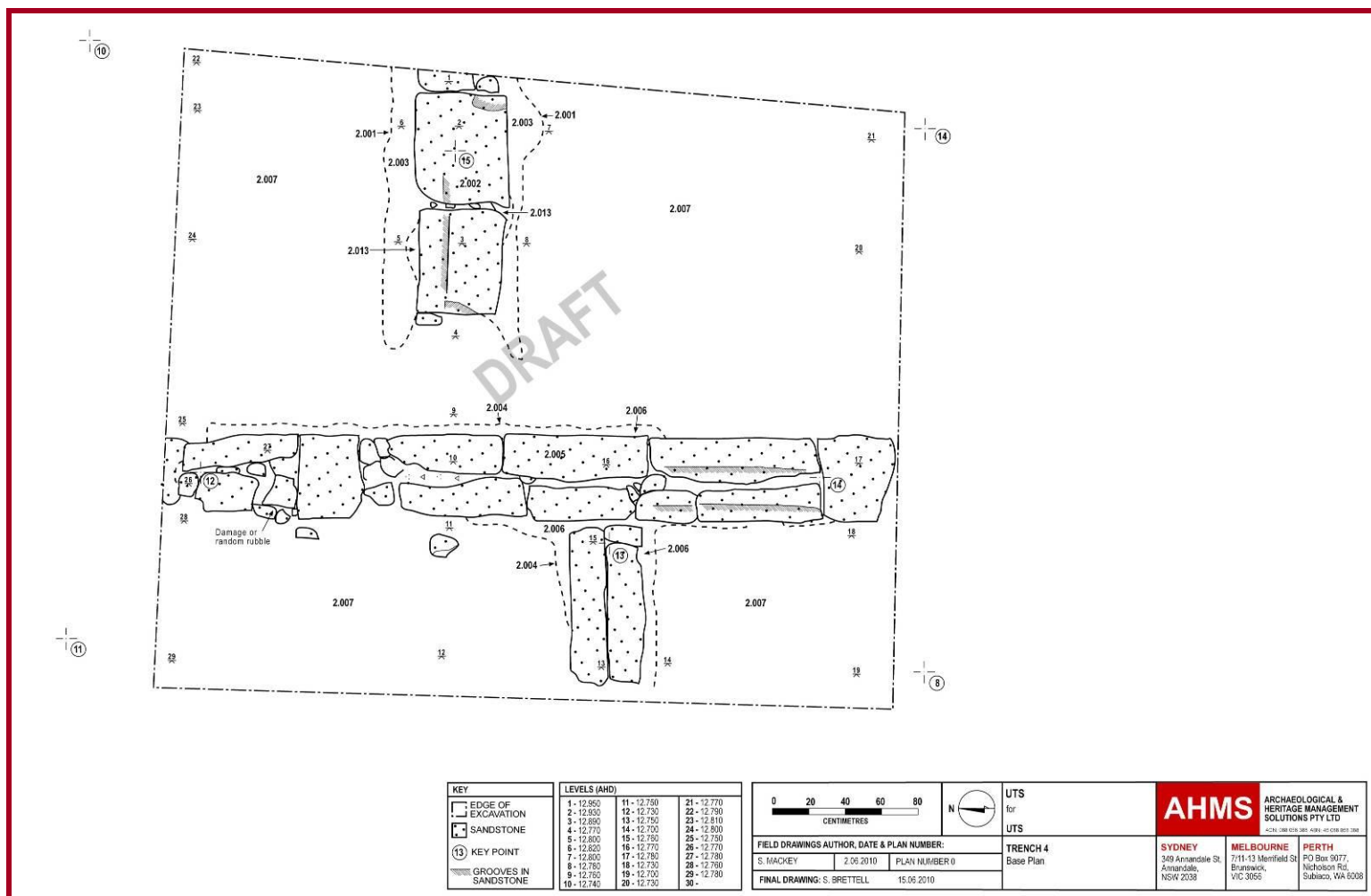


Figure 22. Plan of features in Trench 2.

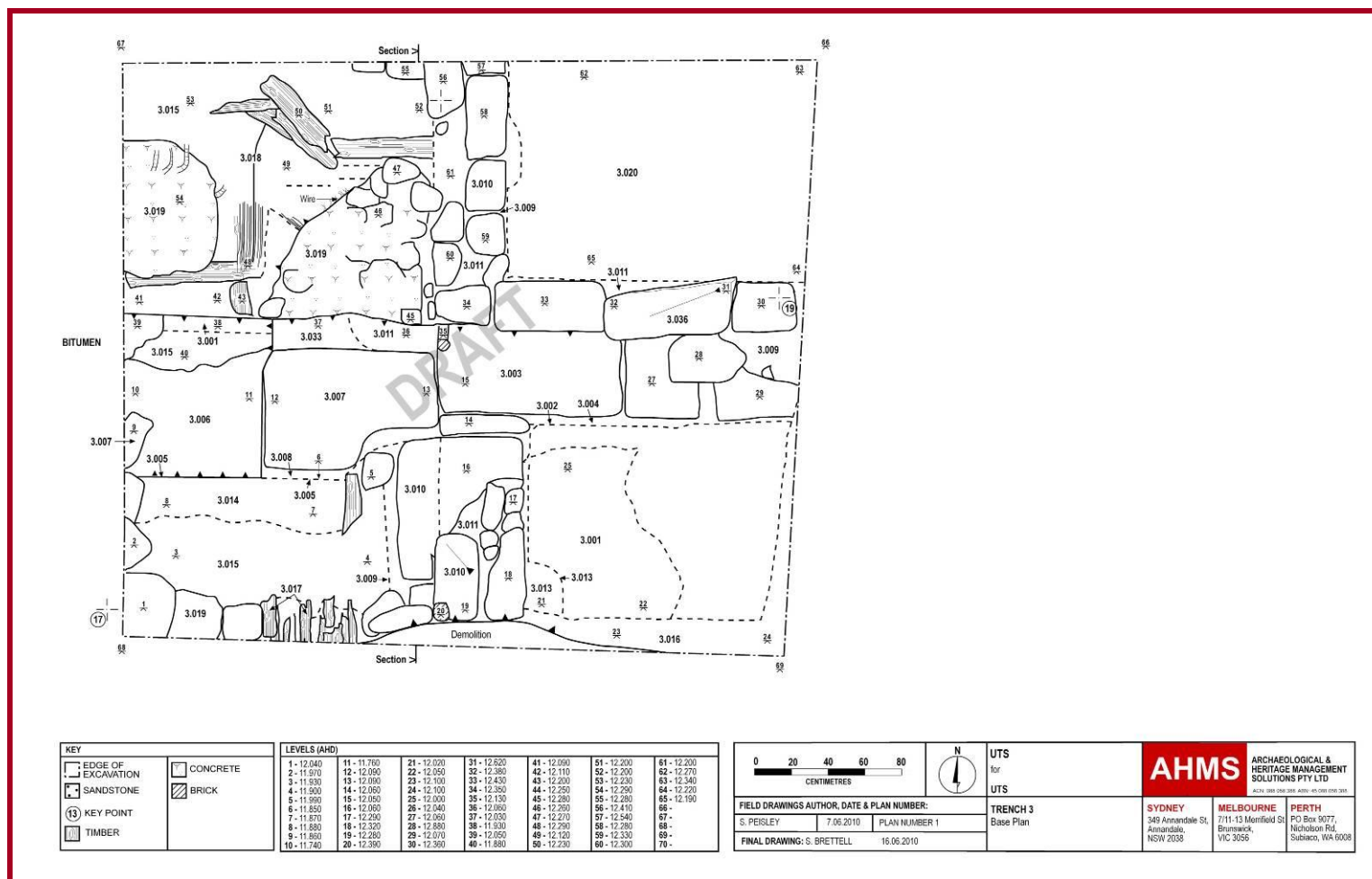


Figure 23. Plan of features in Trench 3.

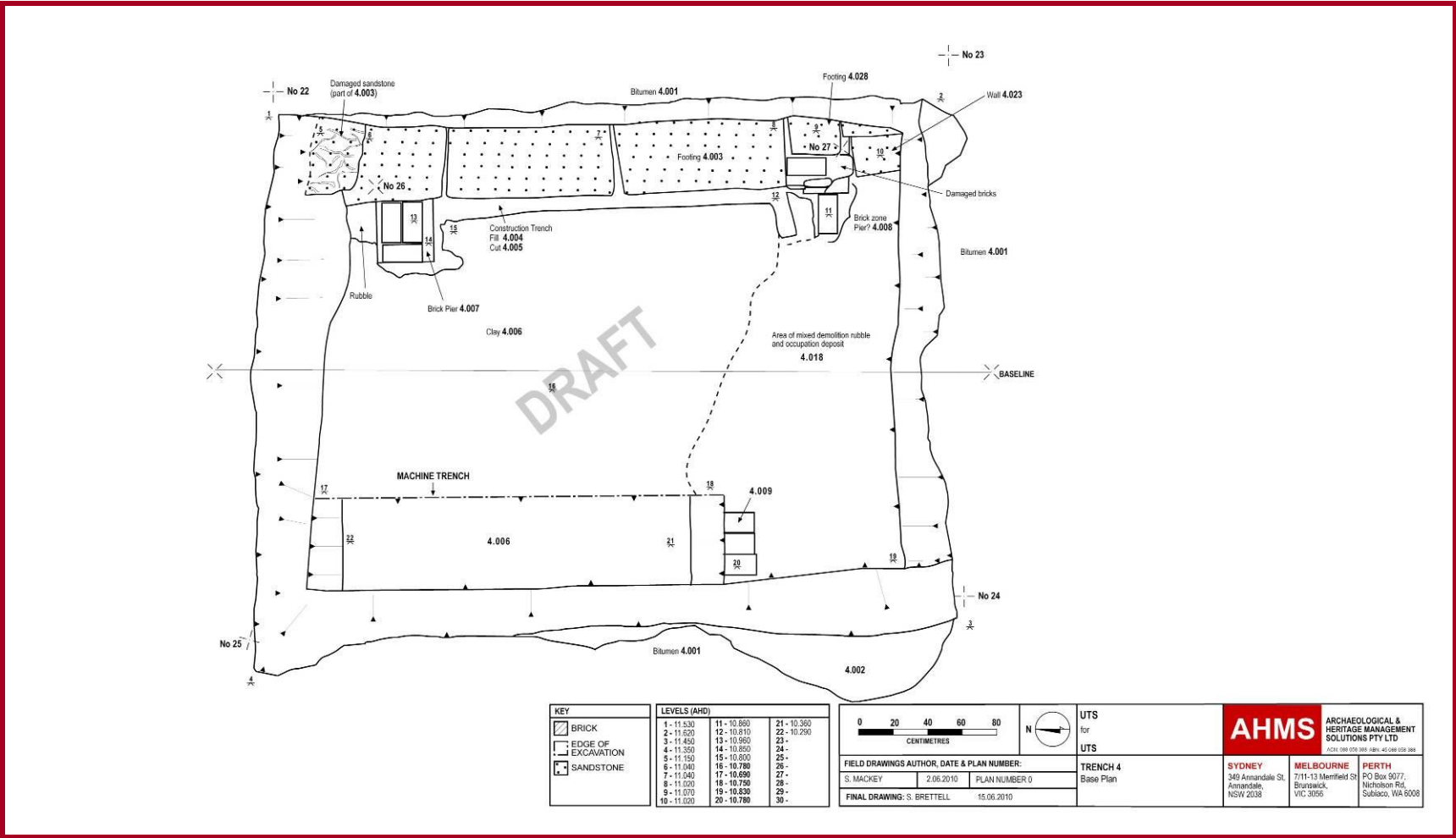


Figure 24. Plan of features in Trench 4

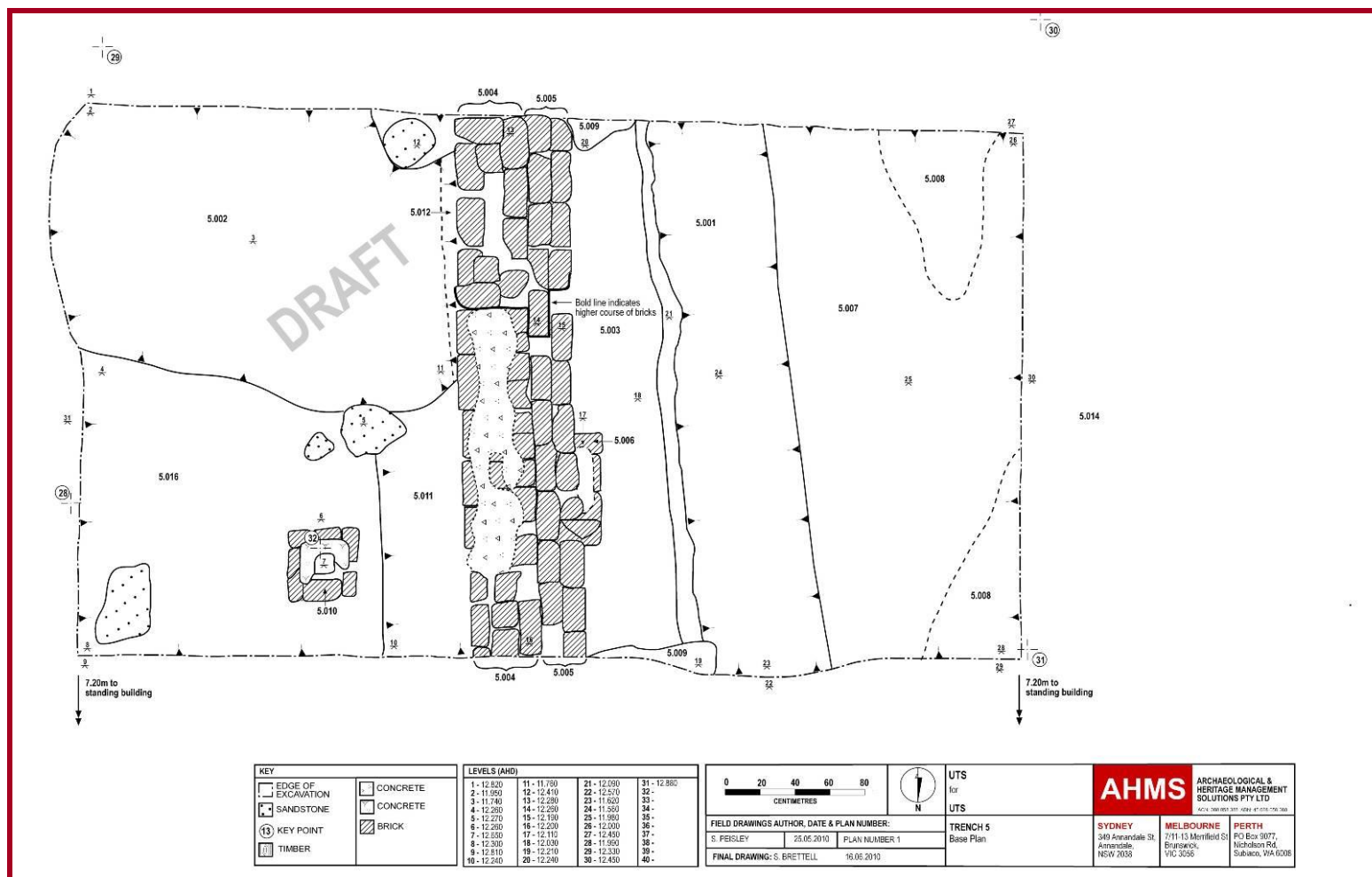


Figure 25. Plan of features in trench 5.

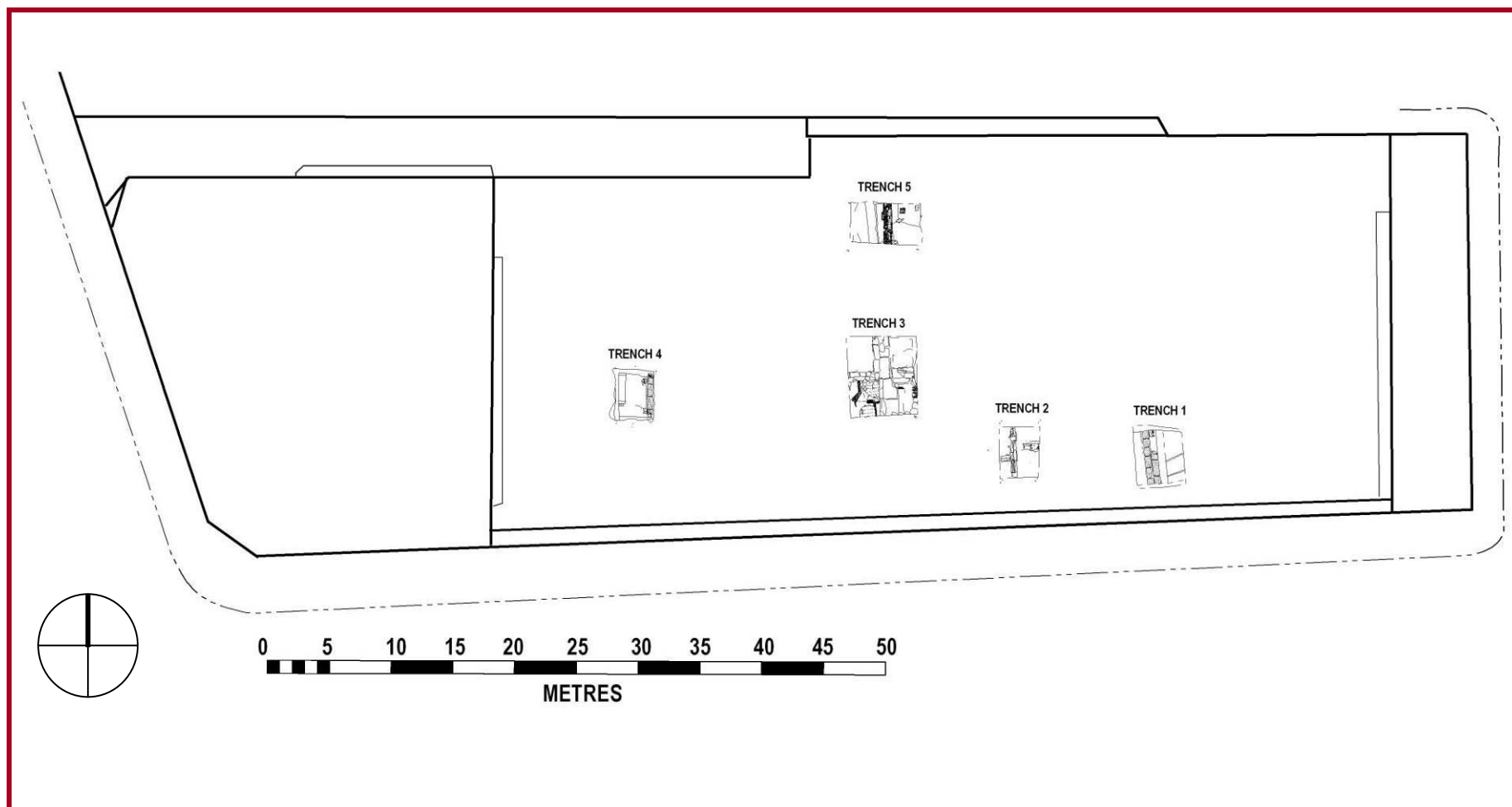


Figure 26. Site plan with excavated features within the current site boundary

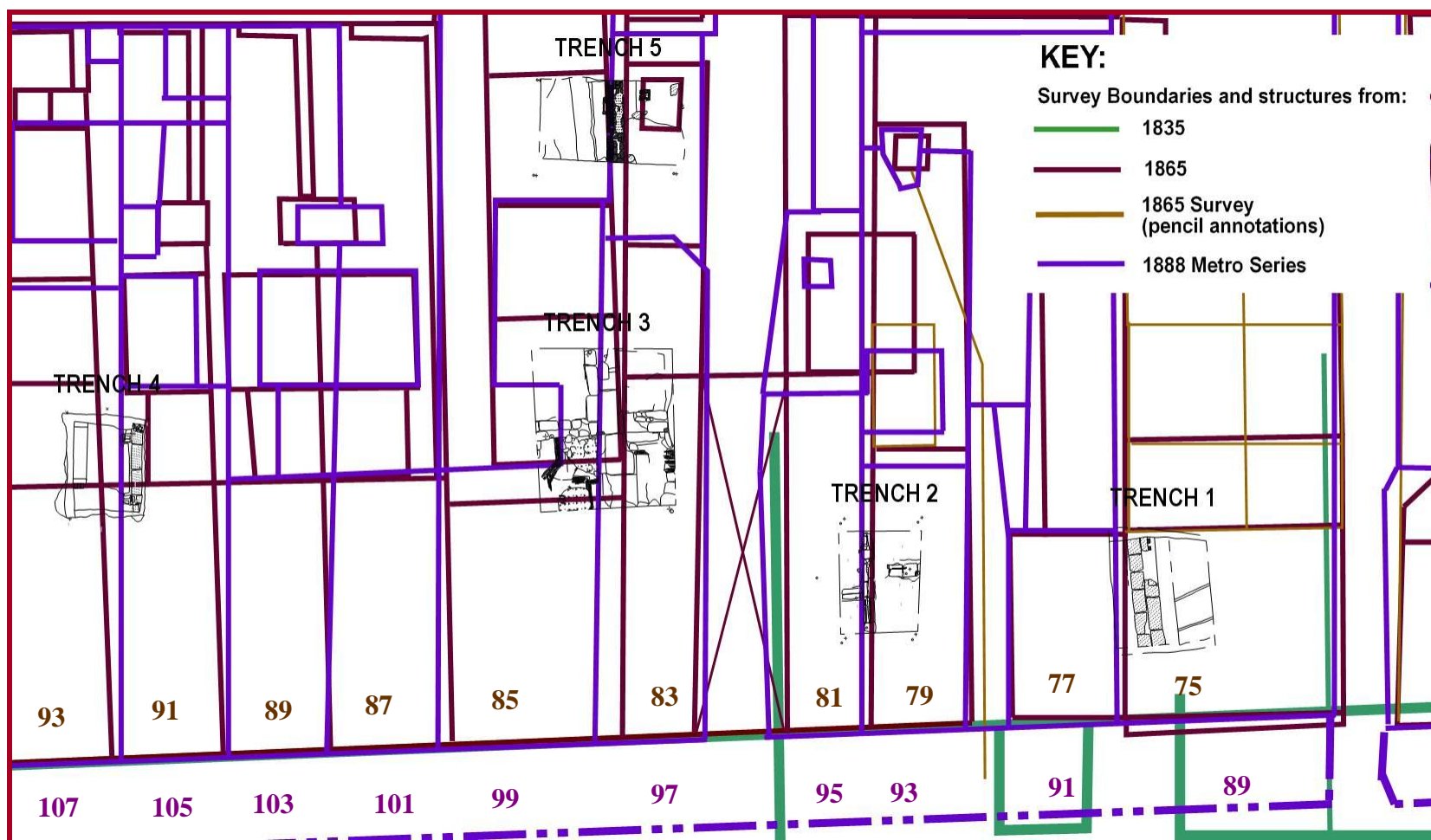


Figure 27. Excavated features with digitised historic plans overlain. The address numbers for the 1860s (brown) and the 1880s (purple) are shown.



Figure 28. Excavated features of Trench 1 with digitised historic features overlain.

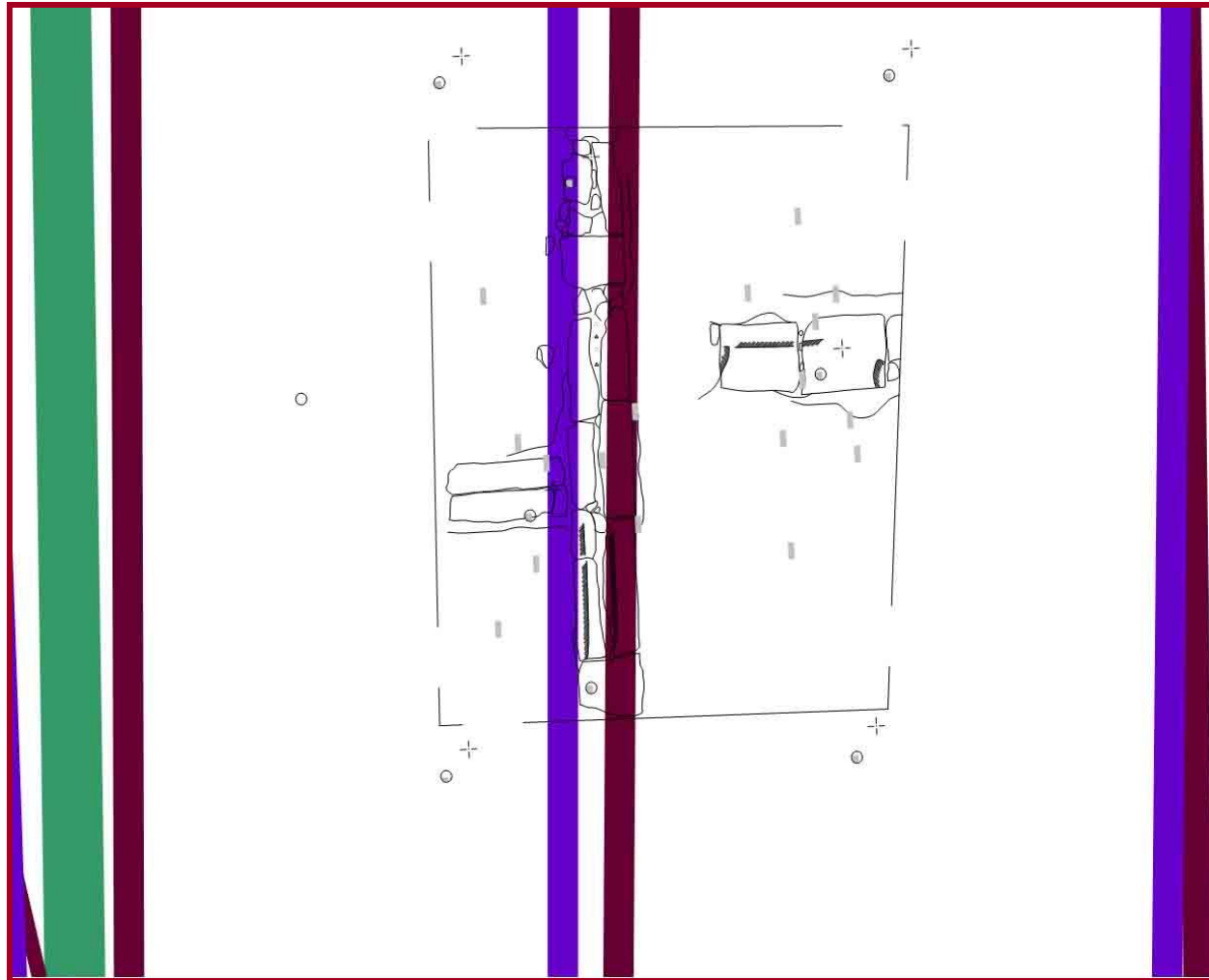


Figure 29. Excavated features of Trench 2 with digitised historic features overlain.



Figure 30. Excavated features of Trench 3 with digitised historic features overlain.

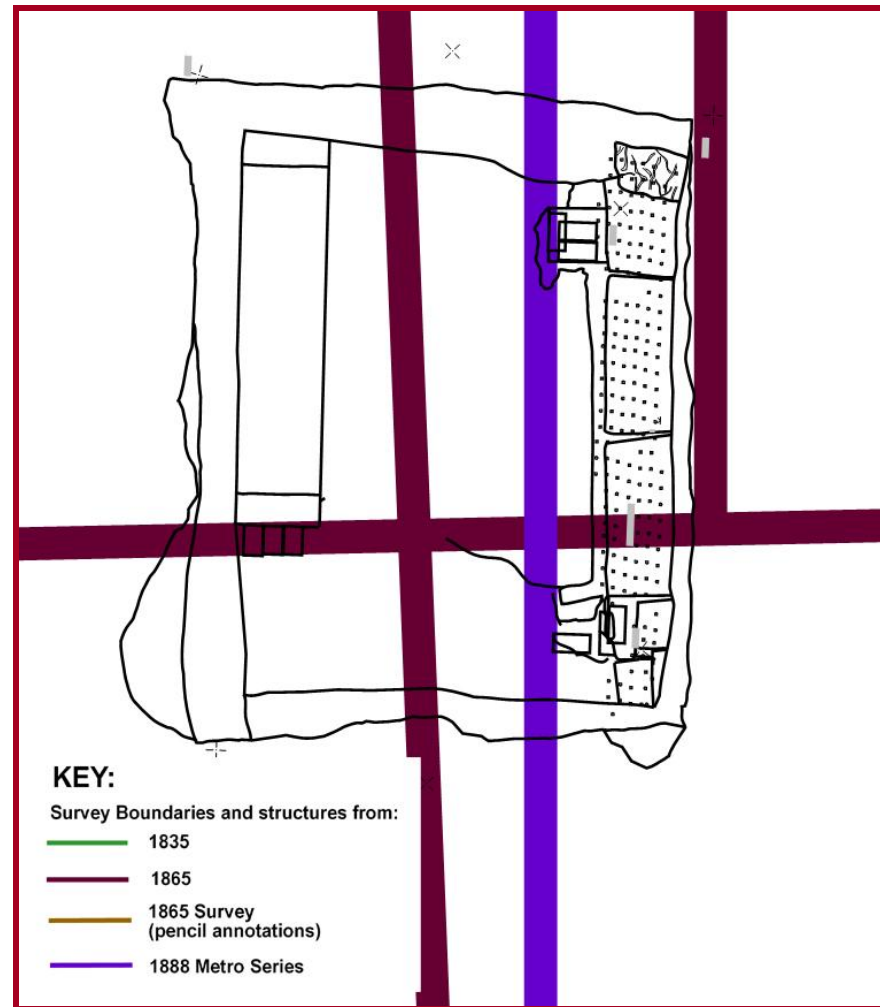


Figure 31. Excavated features of Trench 4 with digitised historic features overlain.

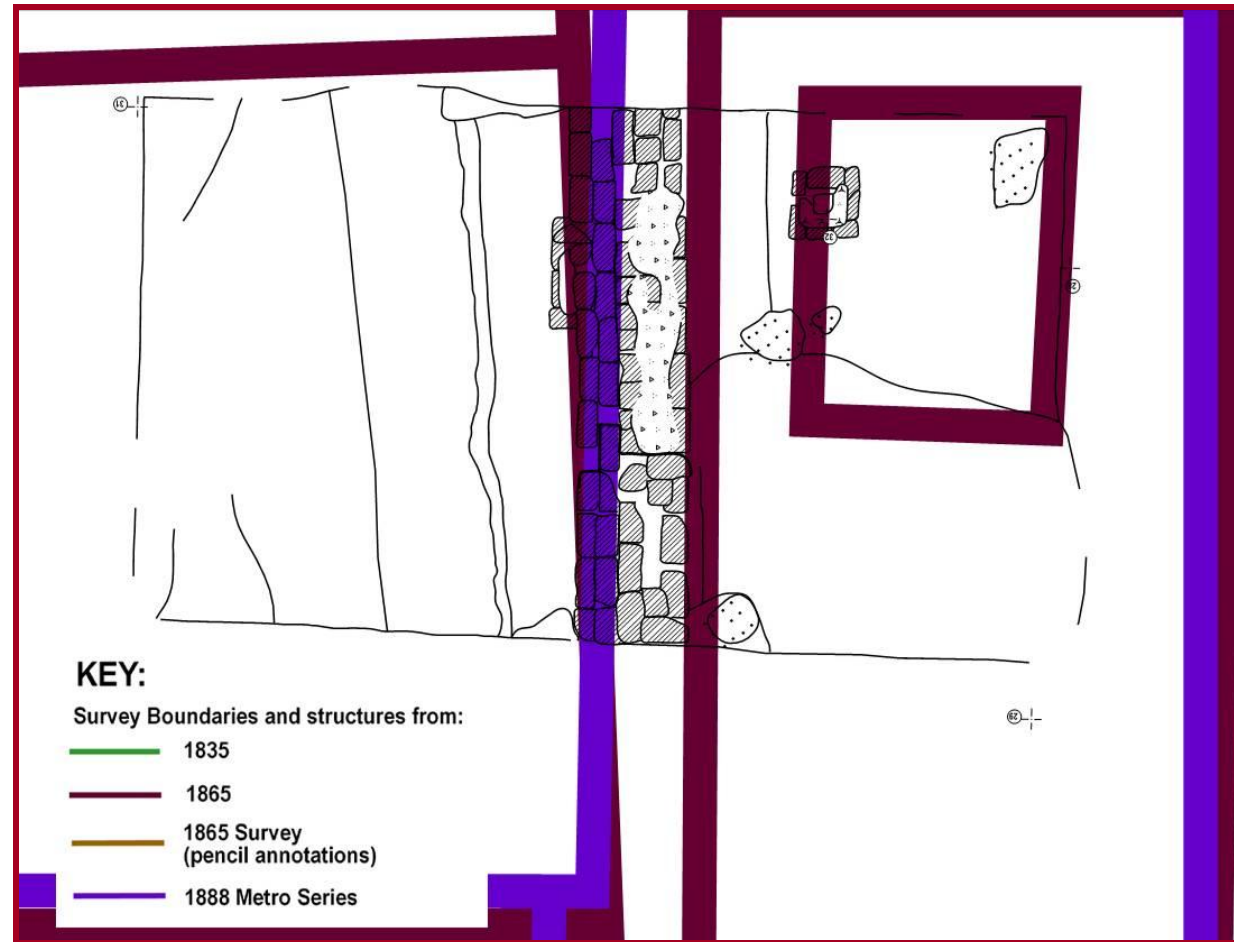


Figure 32. Excavated features of Trench 5 with digitised historic features overlain.

3. REVISED ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The archaeological assessment of the site completed in June 2010 identified the site as having archaeological potential across the entire site apart from substantial impacts that were identified as:

- The cellar of the Regent Hotel at the corner of Wattle Street and Broadway;
- The underground diesel tank at the eastern end of the site;
- The deep piles associated with the truck loading depot of the 1980s.

The excavation has identified additional impacts on the archaeological sensitivity of the site that are most likely to be the result of the 1964 demolitions. These demolitions appear to have been more substantial than first envisaged and it is clear that they reached deeper below the surface than originally thought. This is demonstrated most clearly in Trenches 1 and 2 where the 20th Century demolition layer lies directly over the top of footings, probably dating to the 1830s to 1850s which are cut directly into the natural profile. There is little remaining of any associated artefact deposits.

Trench 5 demonstrates similar features but with construction impacts of the early to mid 20th Century impacting upon earlier features (rather than the 20th Century demolition). Trench 5 does, however, point to the potential survival of deeper subsurface features surviving across the site through the presence of the possible clay borrow pit, (5.002). Features such as wells, cess pits and the lower portions of kilns may therefore survive as deeper features sealed beneath 20th Century demolition/construction deposits.

Trenches 3, and to a lesser extent 4, have demonstrated the survival of more detailed structural information, associated with substantial artefact deposits. Trench 3, especially, revealed a deep intact stratigraphy derived from occupation of the site from its earliest historical phase through to the 1960s, combined with successive structural phases. The stratigraphy incorporates deposits with material, including kiln furniture and discarded 'wasters', doubtless from Fowler's occupation. In addition, occupation deposits from the later phases (1850s-1960s) of occupation are also present.

Trench 4 similarly demonstrates the survival of structural information from the 1860s and 50s with some potential to yield information related to earlier occupation.

The sites at 81 and 115 Broadway are also likely to be archaeologically sensitive with the current buildings protecting the (earlier) subsurface areas from disturbance during the 1960s and later demolitions and construction activities. These sites have a high potential to contain intact material from as early as the 1830s and 1840s through to the latter 19th Century – though there may be some localised disturbance from footings and services for these two buildings.

The general picture of the archaeological potential for the site therefore appears to be a lower potential to the east, where demolition and subsequent work appear to have shaved off part of the slope here. This was perhaps to level the area for the car park or work associated with the underground storage tanks. The area of the greatest disturbance may be directly associated with the presence of the pisolitic stone in this area.

The greater archaeological potential and intactness is at the lower, western part of the site – from the area of Trench 3 and to the west.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 Introduction

The June 2010 archaeological assessment determined that the site had potential to contain archaeological resources with high archaeological research value and local heritage significance associated with the potential remains of the Fowler pottery works on site (1837-48). It also identified research significance associated with the 1850s structures on the site.

The archaeological testing has identified potential archaeological resources from both of these phases of occupation—the Fowler period (1837-1848) and the subsequent development prior to the 1860s. The highest archaeological research value and heritage significance at the UTS site is vested in the remains associated with Fowler’s occupation and use of the site.

Enoch Fowler established his first pottery on the site soon after his arrival in Australia in 1837. This was to be the beginnings of one of Australia's most enduring manufacturing companies. Despite 30 years investigation of the documentary record by a number of researchers we know little of Fowler's wares, manufacturing techniques and use of raw materials for the first 10 years of the firm's existence. In fact no wares by Fowler have been reliably dated to his first 10 years of operation.

Fowler’s place in the history of pottery manufacturing, and Australian manufacturing in general is an important one. The firm was recognised for the introduction of new technologies, particularly mechanisation and mass-production on a significant scale. The introduction of these techniques, however, took place after Fowler left the UTS site. His post-1848 wares are well recognized but it is unclear what was being produced prior to this date. Whatever was being produced was sufficiently marketable for Fowler to weather the economic depression of the early 1840s and to provide him with sufficient capital to expand the business to the point of dominating the local market by the 1870s. Fowler's first 10 years of operation were significant in that they laid the foundation for the company's survival and later expansion.

Fowler arrived at a time when there were only two local potters Jonathan Leak and John Moreton. James King of Irrawang in the Hunter Valley had also produced pottery in the 1830s but became insolvent in late 1837 and did not recommence pottery production until 1843. Jonathan Leak died in December 1838 so that by 1839 Moreton and Fowler were the only local manufacturers.

The search for documentary material relating to the early phase of Fowler's operation has been exhausted in regard to details associated with manufacturing. Further investigation of the Fowler papers held by the National Library of Australia is unlikely to reveal any pertinent information regarding his early period of work. These papers commence in 1867 and are unlikely to be about the UTS site. The collection covers the later period in which Fowler's was operating as a leading producer of sanitary and drainage wares.

Because there are few documentary records of Fowler's use and occupation of the 'Broadway Site', any surviving archaeological resources that may survive there that can be provenanced to his tenancy and his manufactory, would be considered to be of research value and of local heritage significance. The archaeological resources (should they survive) could provide useful information about the pottery and the items manufactured, including:

- The range of wares;
- The range of raw materials;
- Manufacturing techniques (such as fuel types, kiln types);
- Wastage rates; and
- Clay extraction techniques.

Comparative sites that retain archaeological resources that can reflect or which can demonstrate details about similar early pottery uses and occupation are very rare. Recently, part of a pottery site was excavated along the slope of Brickfield Hill, but was found to be substantially disturbed.⁸ The potential resource at the Fowler site, because it is only partially disturbed represents a significant archaeological research opportunity on an important industry in early Sydney.

Development of the UTS site from the 1840s through to the 1860s was an early example of strip development within the early Victorian township. The site consisted of mixed use –

⁸ Casey, M, 1999, 'Local Pottery and Dairying at the DMR site, Brickfield Hill, Sydney, New South Wales', *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 17:1-37.

domestic houses and shops— with some sites used for specialist purposes such as smithies. The archaeological remains of this period at the nearby Carlton United Brewery site, which are arguably comparable to the UTS Broadway site, were found to be substantially disturbed by later development of the Brewery complex.⁹ The potential resource at the Fowler site, because it is only partially disturbed, represents a significant archaeological research opportunity to explore the details of this phase of land use and occupation in the Ultimo area.

⁹ *A Yousif pers comm..*



Figure 33. Examples of early pottery wasters probably from Fowler's works. Note the vitrified sagger (kiln furniture) at top right.



Figure 34. Examples of early pottery wasters probably from Fowler's works. Note the biscuit fired ginger beer bottle base at top left.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

This interim report on the June 2010 test excavation concludes that:

- The site of the UTS 'Broadway Site' has archaeological potential to varying degrees across the site;
- Any archaeological remains from the occupation and use of the site by Enoch Fowler, even if they are in relatively disturbed contexts, are likely to be of high research value and local heritage significance;
- Areas of moderate research value, but still of local heritage significance, include those remains associated with structures from the 1830s in the south-east portion of the site and residences/shops developed across the site from the late 1840s through the 1850s that may survive at the site.

5.2 Recommendations

The following measures to appropriately manage the UTS 'Broadway Site's' archaeological values are recommended:

- Archaeological salvage excavation is recommended at the UTS Broadway site;
- The salvage excavation should focus on the Fowler allotment(s) to realize the archaeological research potential of this important resource;
- Additional work is also recommended for areas which contain the footings of otherwise unrecorded 1830s structures in the south-east and the 1840s/1850s structures in the western area of the site.
- A detailed archaeological methodology to identify specific areas, extent and duration of any additional excavation work as well as post excavation reporting, should be completed as part of an Archaeological management Plan for the site.

