



CENTRAL WINCHESTER REGENERATION ARCHAEOLOGY UPDATE

26th July 2022



AGENDA

- Introduction
- Recap on archaeology work undertaken to date
- Findings so far
- Proposed next stage of work
- Q&A



RECAP ON ARCHAEOLOGY WORK UNDERTAKEN SO FAR



RE-CAP ON WORKS UNDERTAKEN SO FAR

- We have investigated deposits in carefully selected borehole sites and assessed the preservation conditions for areas of highest potential across the CWR site.
- ARCA have undertaken detailed processing, description and analysis of the cores, to understand the deposit sequence across the CWR site.





UPDATE ON FINDINGS SO FAR

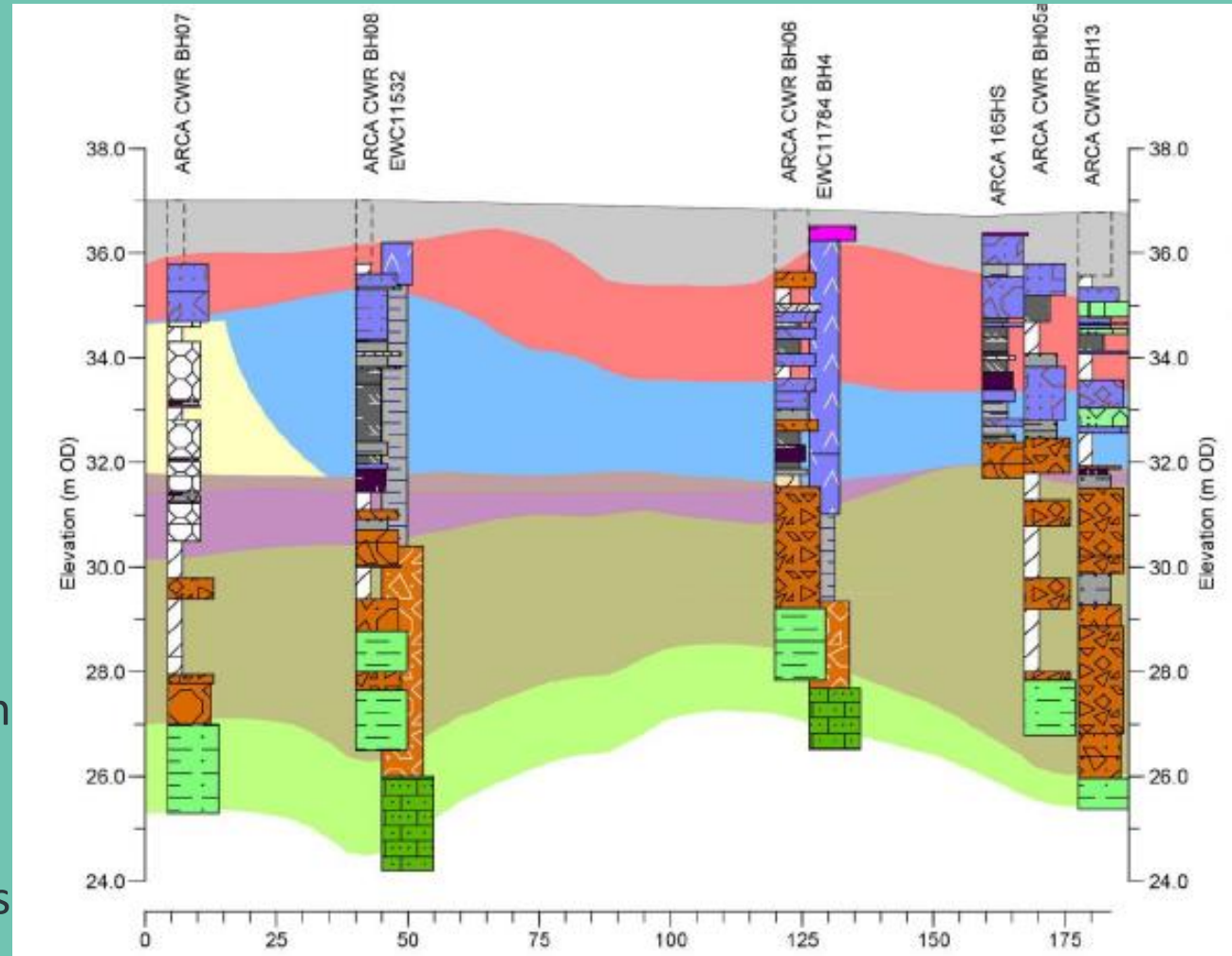


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UPDATE ON FINDINGS SO FAR

- Archaeological strata relating to the last 2000 years of Winchester's history, from the Roman period to the present day, occur across the entirety of the CWR and at <1m from the ground surface;
- The archaeological strata extend down to a minimum of 2.11m (in the west) and a maximum of 5.20m bgl (in the east);
- The archaeological strata contain moderately to well-preserved biological remains;
- Tufa and peats of high palaeoenvironmental significance lie beneath the archaeological strata in the west of the site and extend down to 4.92–6.49m bgl;
- The water table varies within the archaeological strata. However, damage from modern groundworks is the greatest risk to archaeological features and artefacts





PROPOSED NEXT STAGE OF WORKS



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RADIOCARBON DATING



DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED NEXT STAGE OF WORKS: RADIOCARBON DATING

- Archaeological deposits and ‘natural’ strata that are of archaeological relevance are present on the Central Winchester Regeneration (CWR) site
- The age of the relevant deposits is – except in very coarse terms – presently unknown
- The date of the various deposits and their artefacts and structural inclusions is an important consideration in assessing archaeological significance
- It is proposed to provide a chronology for the deposits revealed in the geoarchaeological boreholes and thereby refine prior assessments of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential, and enable a more informed assessment to be made of the CWR site’s archaeological potential

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED NEXT STAGE OF WORKS: RADIOCARBON DATING

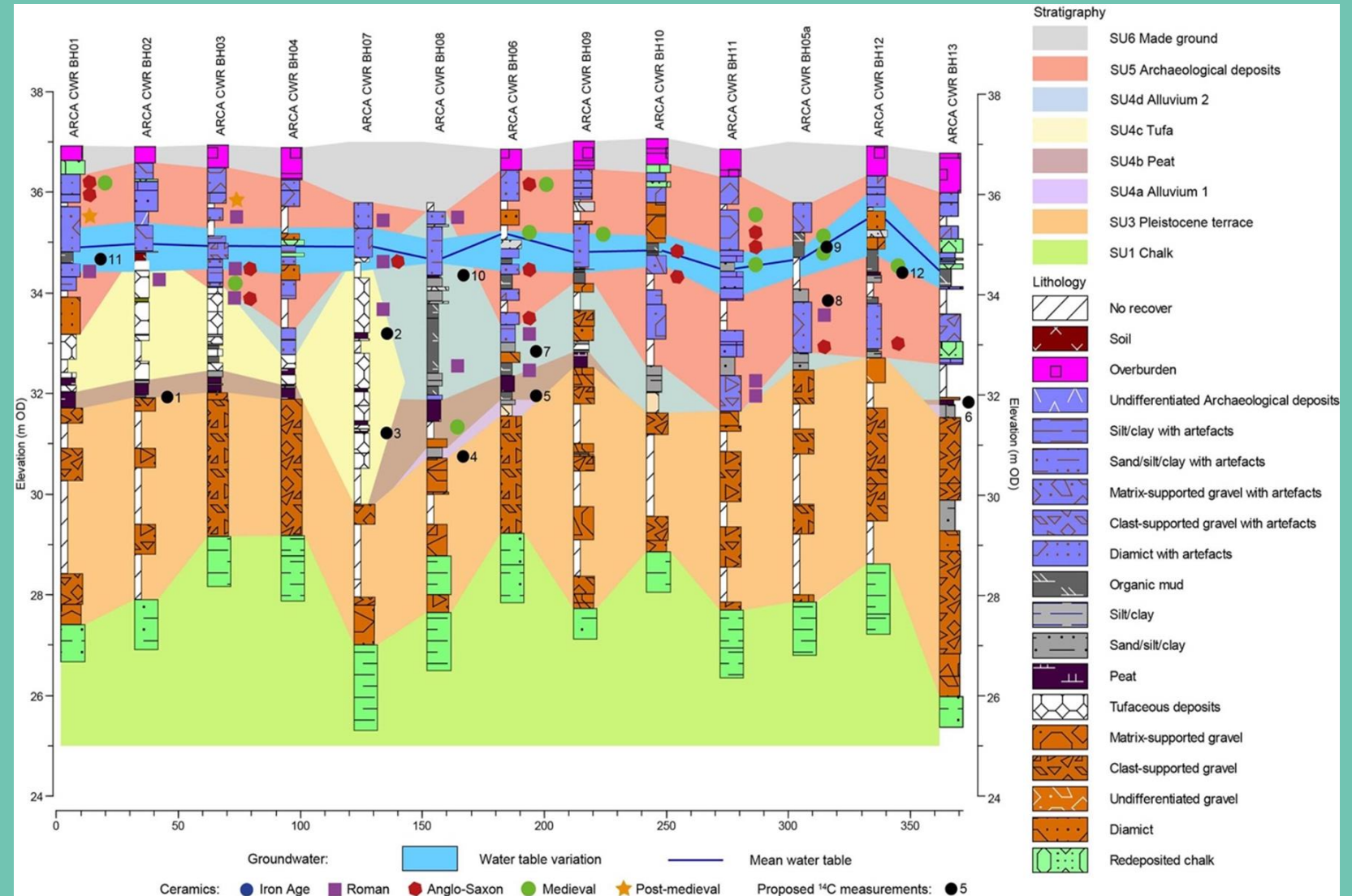
- The basis of the proposal is to:
 - Focus primarily on archaeological strata to better understand the chronology of human activity, its spatial and vertical variation
 - Understand the history of the cutting and infilling of a channel feature sampled by ARCA BH08 within Kings Walk and which possibly once ran along Middle Brook Street
 - Obtain an outline chronology of prehistoric ‘natural’ deposits, in particular to better understand the age of the tufa (SU4c) in the western part of the site

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED NEXT STAGE OF WORKS: RADIOCARBON DATING

A review of the suggested approach has been supported by Historic England.

The samples proposed for dating are as follows:

- SU4b Peat
- SU4c Tufa
- SU4d Alluvium 2
- Channel fill
- SU5 Archaeological strata



DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED NEXT STAGE OF WORKS:

RADIOCARBON DATING

The basis of the selection is as follows:

SU4b Peat:

Peat found at or near the base of the stratigraphic sequence has been carbon dated from various sites in central Winchester as well as on Winnall Moors. These dates suggest development over multiple cycles of the Early and Middle Holocene. In order to determine in which of these episodes SU4b formed, three samples are proposed.

SU4c Tufa

Deposits of tufa have been found beneath various sites in central Winchester, most notably beneath The Brooks shopping centre. Archaeological features were found to be cut into the tufa, but the tufa itself has not previously been investigated nor dated, although it is known that it predates the Roman period.

For the first time in central Winchester the CWR boreholes have penetrated the tufa and demonstrated that it is interbedded with peat. The latter provides source material from which the tufa can be dated and two samples are proposed for dating.

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED NEXT STAGE OF WORKS:

RADIOCARBON DATING

The basis of the selection is as follows:

SU4d Alluvium 2	Silts and clays of likely alluvial origin overlie tufa and peat in the eastern part of the CWR site. In several boreholes ceramic and geochemical evidence suggest these deposits formed following the founding of the Roman town. Organic rich deposits in SU4d are rare and only one sample is available for measurement.
Channel fill	Geochemical and ceramic evidence suggests that the channel may be a man-made feature which includes anthropogenic detritus. Ceramics found towards the base of the feature have been identified as of medieval age. To date the infill history of the channel it is proposed to submit samples from the base and uppermost fills for measurement.

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED NEXT STAGE OF WORKS: RADIOCARBON DATING

The basis of the selection is as follows:

SU5 Archaeological
strata

Various types of archaeological deposits overlie the peat/tufa/alluvium deposits and in broad terms date from the Roman to post-medieval periods. Ceramic evidence suggests that Roman, Saxon and medieval deposits are present in all parts of the site.

However, the same data also suggests reworking of the archaeological deposits (possibly by features cutting through earlier deposits) and as a result there are instances of apparent age inversion.

To aid provision of a firmer chronology for the archaeological deposits, it is proposed to submit five samples for measurement.

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED NEXT STAGE OF WORKS: RADIOCARBON DATING

In reviewing the proposals for C14 dating, Historic England have suggested that Bayesian statistical modelling would be also be useful in helping to construct a chronological framework, which would also have use beyond the CWR site.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRIAL TRENCHING



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DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED NEXT STAGE OF WORKS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION – TRIAL TRENCHING

Following the decision to partner with a developer to help bring forward the redevelopment of the central Winchester area, and under the ‘polluter pays’ principle inherent in the NPPF, Winchester City Council (WCC) are seeking to carry out investigations to further the current understanding of archaeological potential on the site and address some of the key related issues.

It is proposed early stage archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) be commissioned by WCC within parts of the CWR area to help inform and guide the development and allied archaeological mitigation strategies (including further evaluation) as redevelopment proposals move forwards.

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED NEXT STAGE OF WORKS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION – TRIAL TRENCHING

The overall objectives will be to:

- Identify and investigate significant (nineteenth-century or earlier) archaeological remains potentially affected by works connected with the proposed redevelopment
- Gain further information on their extent, date, character, state of preservation and significance at local, regional and national levels
- Allow informed decisions to be taken about mitigation of the impact of redevelopment

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED NEXT STAGE OF WORKS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION – TRIAL TRENCHING

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
- Record any evidence for occupation in the early – mid Anglo-Saxon periods
- Record evidence for the late Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval townscapes
- 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

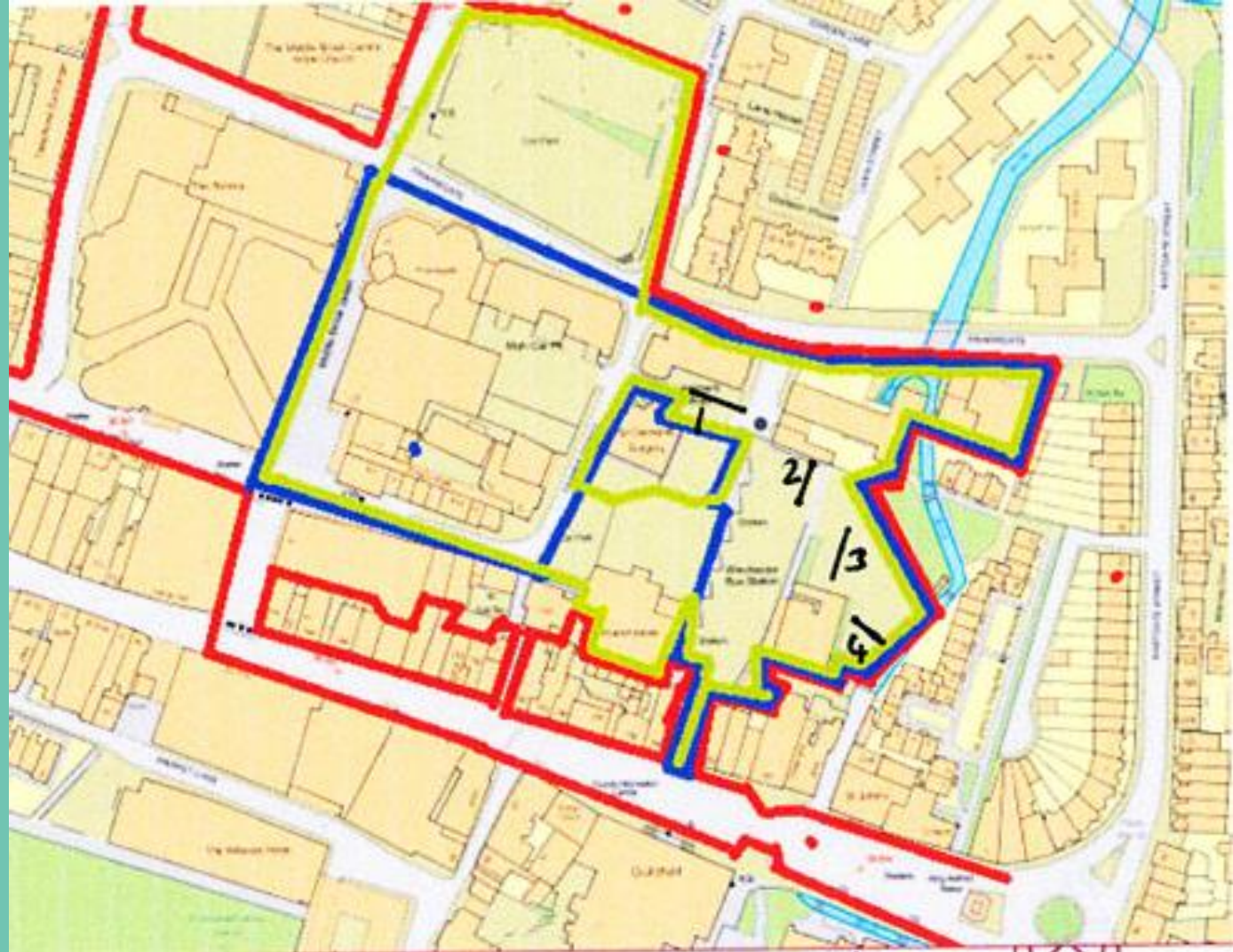
DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED NEXT STAGE OF WORKS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION – TRIAL TRENCHING

Further objectives are to make information about the archaeological resource present within the site publicly available.

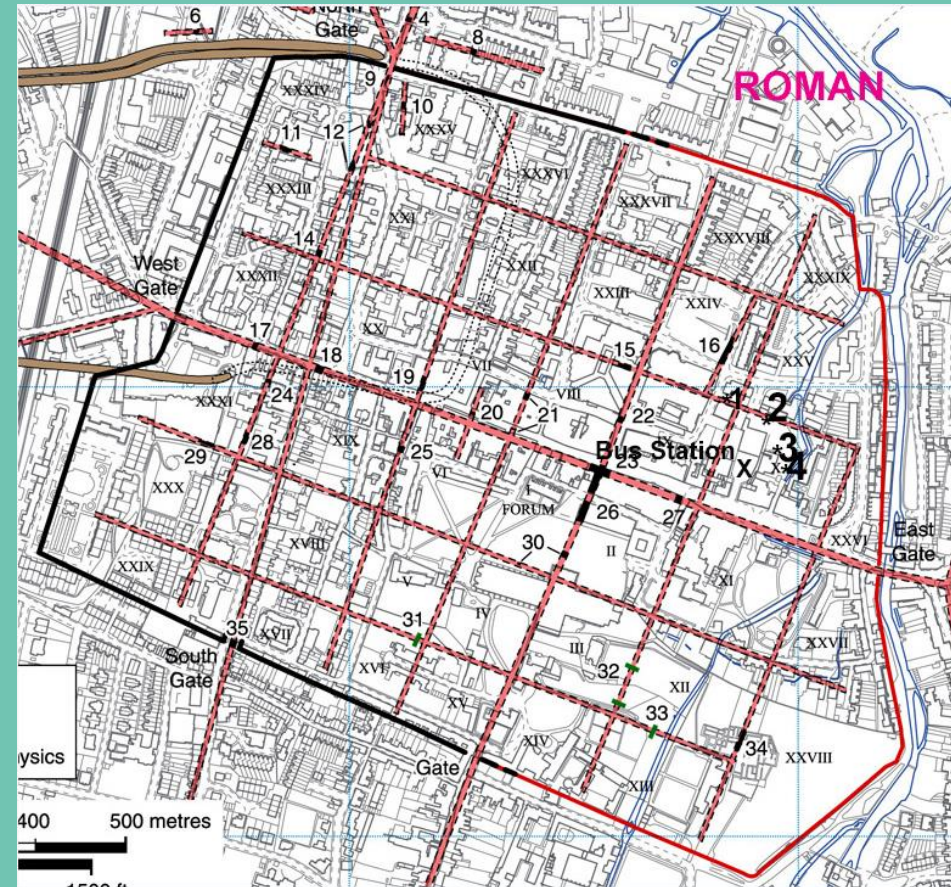
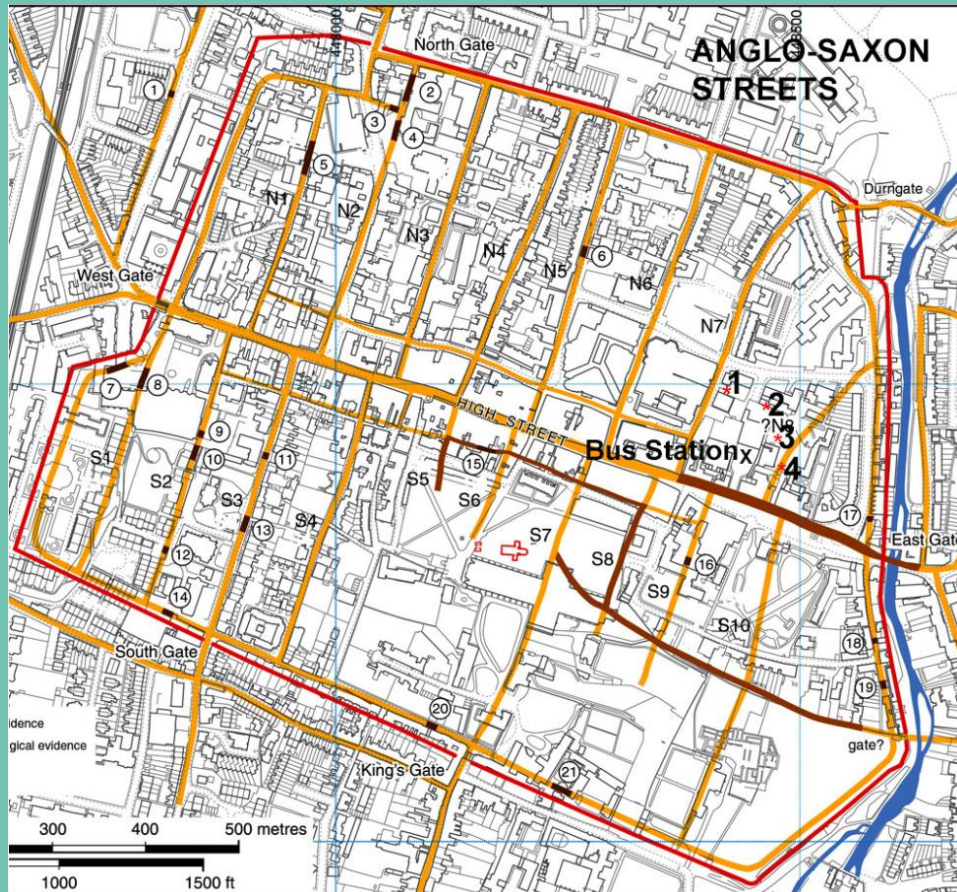
This will take the form of a public engagement strategy and through subsequent assessment and reporting, together with the long term conservation of the project archive in appropriate conditions.

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED NEXT STAGE OF WORKS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION – TRIAL TRENCHING

- Four 8m by 3m trenches are being considered
- These lie in the central and eastern parts of the CWR site, areas where there is currently little information on archaeological remains
- The proposed trench locations have been identified taking into account current access and other logistical issues as well as to address key research objectives and investigate anticipated major topographical features previously outlined



DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED NEXT STAGE OF WORKS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION – TRIAL TRENCHING



DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED NEXT STAGE OF WORKS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION – TRIAL TRENCHING

- WCC is committed to securing access to the historic environment for the benefit of the local and wider community. As such the evaluation will include a strategy for providing publicity and information, both on and off-site, including for example:
 - Temporary display boards
 - Provision of viewing access to the evaluation trenches where possible, or even remotely
 - Press releases
 - Site tours and an open day
 - Talks to local societies / the community
- The council will look to involve students at the University of Winchester's Dept. of Archaeology, Anthropology and Geography and potentially local societies, in helping to deliver a public access strategy and potentially to help with on-site finds / sampling processing



Q&A



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NEXT STEPS



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DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED NEXT STAGE OF WORKS: NEXT STEPS

Subject to endorsement from the CWR Archaeology Advisory Panel:

- Undertake the proposed Carbon Dating in conjunction with ARCA, University of Winchester and explore further allied Bayesian modelling
- Seek approval for a budget to enable the proposed Archaeological Evaluation
- Commission an archaeological contractor to undertake the proposed Archaeological Evaluation



CLOSE



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