

4.0

TRENCH 11

4.1

Location and Dimensions

The location of this test trench on George Street has been discussed in Section 2.6.1; it was the only viable location free of services, which could accommodate the width of the excavator bucket between the safety barrier and the garden bed, very close to the proposed test trench site and with the same archaeological potential in the project area. The sample provided from this area was expected to provide evidence of road development and possibly accumulated deposits that would characterise the use of this area as a public thoroughfare from early in the nineteenth century. The excavated trench measured 1000 x 1200 mm.



Plate 9: View south at the intersection of George and Bridge Streets showing the investigation area along George Street indicated by the arrow

The evidence from the principal nineteenth century surveys shows that this area, now a pedestrian area, has been within a road or open space until the later part of the twentieth century.



Plate 10: Survey of 1842 showing the position of Trench 11 in open ground, part of the earlier configuration of George Street (detail of Peninsula Farm Auction 5 February 1842, plan prepared by Surveyor Armstrong: source nla map f187 on line)

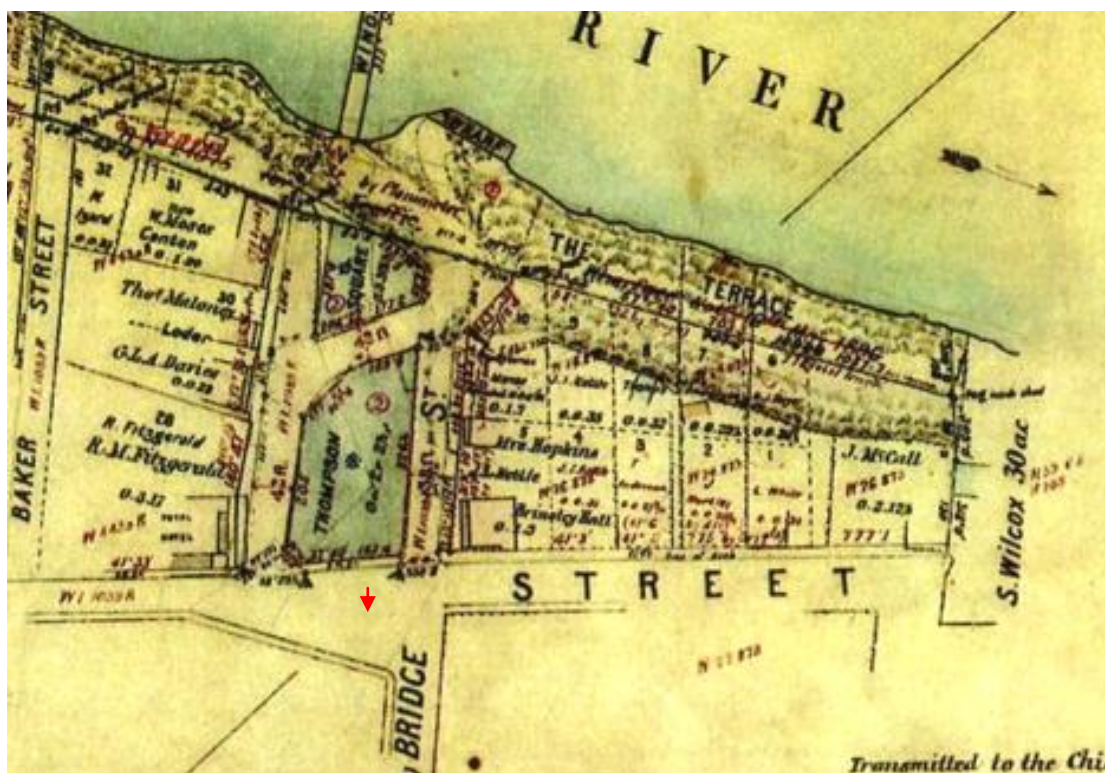


Plate 11: Survey of 1894 showing the wider area of George Street with the approximate position of the test trench (Source LPI 1009-3000)

4.2

Excavation Evidence

The surface of the test trench was covered with fired brick pavers [004]. These were laid over a bedding deposit of sand [005] to a maximum depth of 100 mm. These deposits were lying over compacted road surface [006]. This road surface of blue metal and bitumen and cement is an extension of the present road surface in George Street covered by the extension of the pedestrian area on this southern side of the road. It is possible that there are two layers of road represented by this surface; if so one is completely bonded to the other and this makes it impossible to determine if this represents two phases of work at different times or two components of one phase of work completed at the same time.

Below this road was a thin deposit, a maximum of 50 mm, of silty soil [007]. This covered an underlying surface or feature [008].



Plate 12: View east of Trench 11 showing the surface pavers and bedding sand and the George Street road surface [006] in section. The base of the trench is covered with a silty soil deposit [007]; scale 500mm

This earlier feature [008] was made using irregularly shaped sandstone rubble and some shaped pieces, packed together without bonding to form a hard and impervious surface. It was approximately 250 mm in depth. It extended beyond the area of the test trench.



Plate 13: View west showing the surface of the sandstone feature exposed; on the left is the band of paving that provides an edge to the garden at the side of the path; scale 500 mm



Plate 14: View west during the removal of the sandstone feature showing the variation in the cobbles; scale 500 mm

The sandstone [008] had been laid on a compacted deposit of red clay [009]. The clay was between 150 mm and 200 mm deep. It had no inclusions.

Below the clay [009] was the surface of the underlying sandstone bedrock [010]. The bedrock was very smooth and flat except for a raised section on the northern side of the trench. It had a straight edge and was between 20-30mm higher than the lower smooth surface. The edge was caused by it being shaped and the smooth surface adjoining it of the bedrock might also have been polished or levelled. This action or actions demonstrates that the red clay above it was introduced; it had not been cut through and backfilled to allow for the work to be undertaken on the rock. Further it lies over the top of a service trench visible in the section.

This service trench was at the extreme northern edge of the test trench, at the base of the section or edge of the trench. It had been made by excavating a diagonal cut into the bedrock [011]. It is only visible in the base of the trench for a maximum of 70 mm but it certainly extends beyond the limits of this excavation into the road. Within this trench only partly visible was a terracotta or stoneware service pipe [012]. At the base of this service trench was a loose deposit of soil [013]; it contained some clay but it was impossible to investigate due to the danger of destabilising the section of soil above it.

There were no artefacts found in this trench.

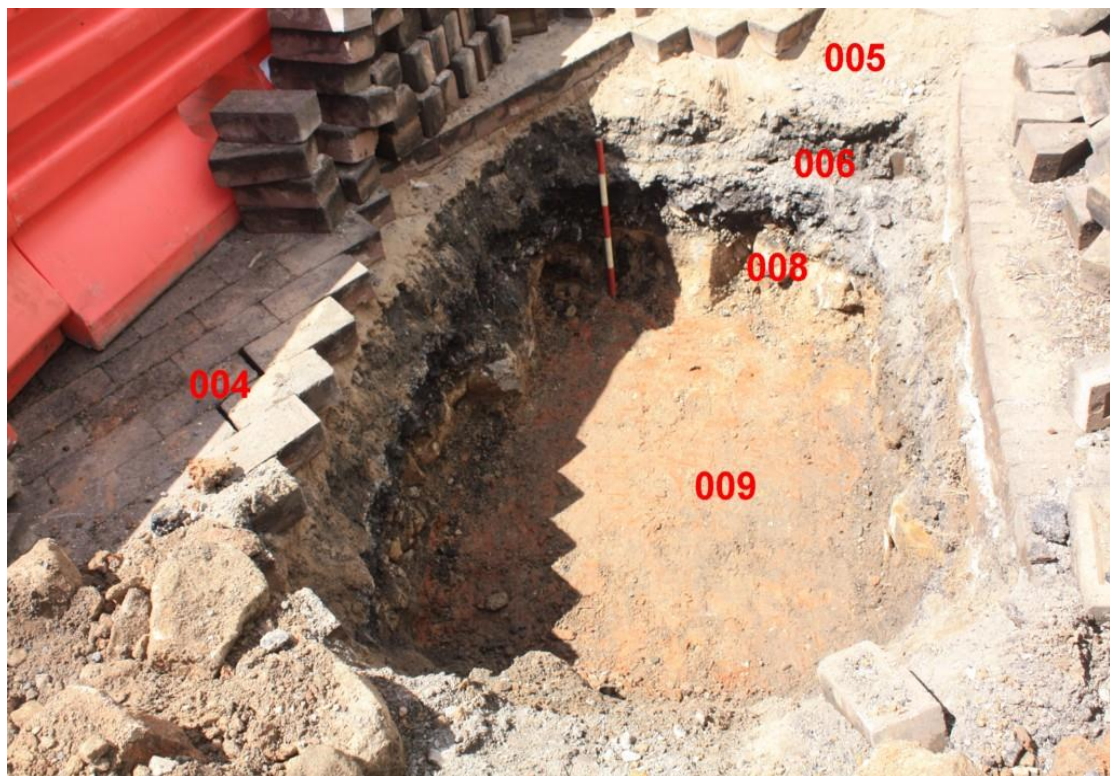


Plate 15: View east showing the surface of the red clay [009] that lies under the sandstone feature; the latter can be seen in the section [008]; scale 500 mm

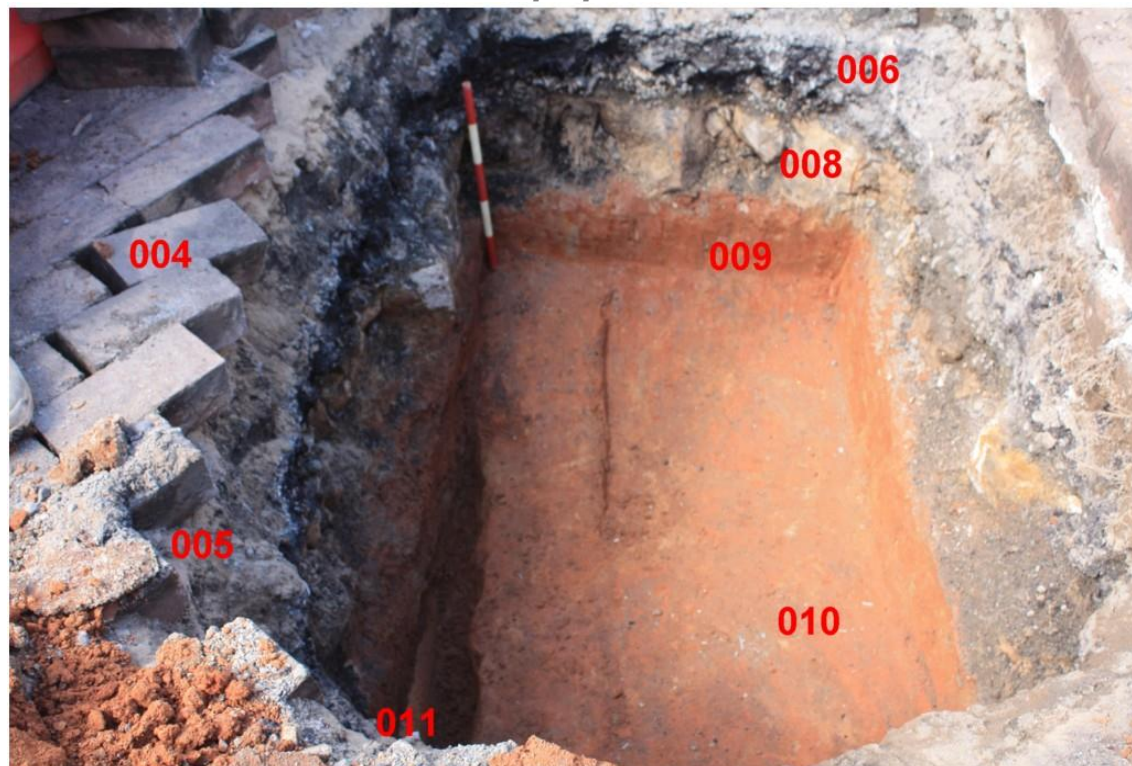


Plate 16: View east showing the sandstone bedrock [010] under the red clay [009]; this image clearly shows the straight edge of the shaped sandstone on the left side of the trench. As well, the trench cut at the base of the section [011] is evident; scale 500 mm

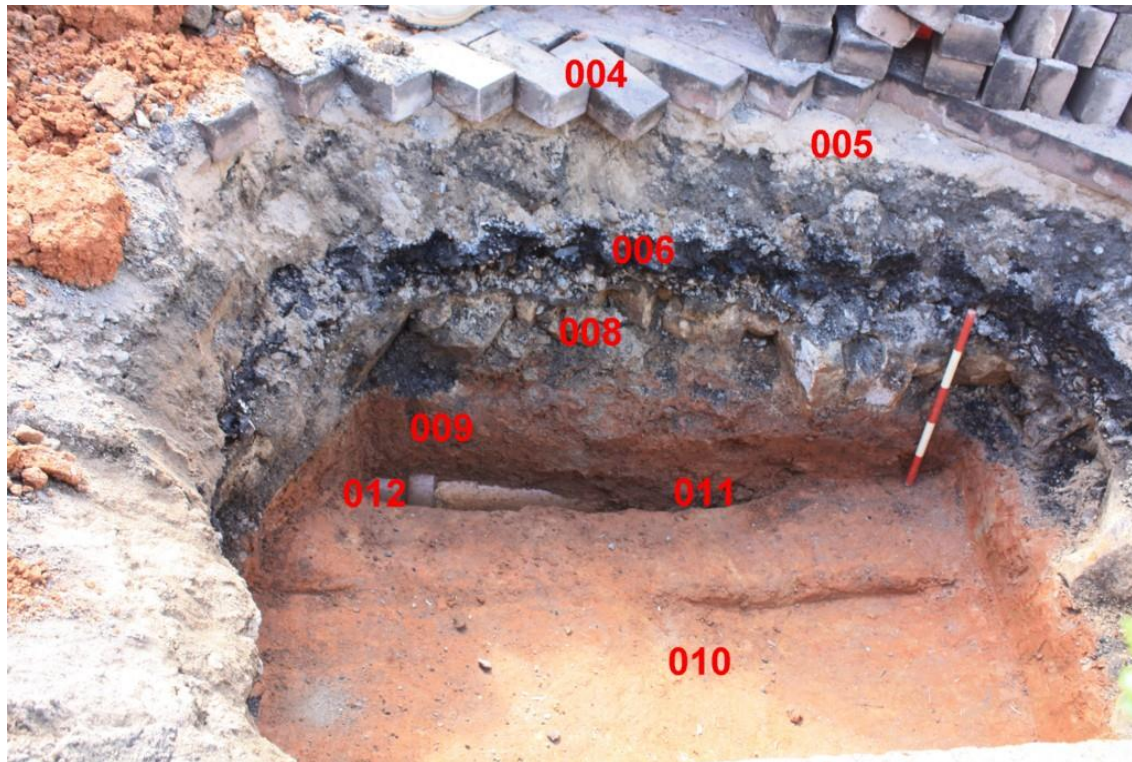


Plate 17: Northern section of Trench 11 highlighting the shaped edge of the sandstone bedrock; the red clay capping the service trench is also visible in this image (scale 500 mm)

5.0 TRENCH 12

5.1 Location and Dimensions

This trench was commenced on the southern side of the hedge abutting the pedestrian footpath; the circumstances of its location are discussed in Section 2.6.1. This area is privately leased and when this was discovered the excavation immediately ceased, the trench back filled and mulch used to make good the appearance of the area.

The trench opened was 3000 x 1000 mm with the long length running from east to west. The site was selected as being close to the proposed test trench site, in an area clear of services and with the potential for a similar generic archaeological profile for the ridge top but with a larger unimpeded sample size possible.



Plate 18: View west of the area on the southern side of the hedge; the trench location is on the right just outside the image field

5.2

Excavation Evidence

The surface of the trench was covered with compacted introduced sterile topsoil [014] to a maximum depth of 100 mm. Below this was 400 mm of sterile introduced topsoil [015]. Immediately below this soil was a hard compacted surface of bitumen and blue metal to a maximum depth of 20 mm [016]. Under this was a bedding deposit for the surface comprised of larger blue metal gravel and clay [017]. This deposit was not removed; the trench was backfilled with the soil removed from it. There were no artefacts recovered from this trench.



Plate 19: View west showing the topsoil [014, 015] above the bitumen surface [016]; scale 500 mm.

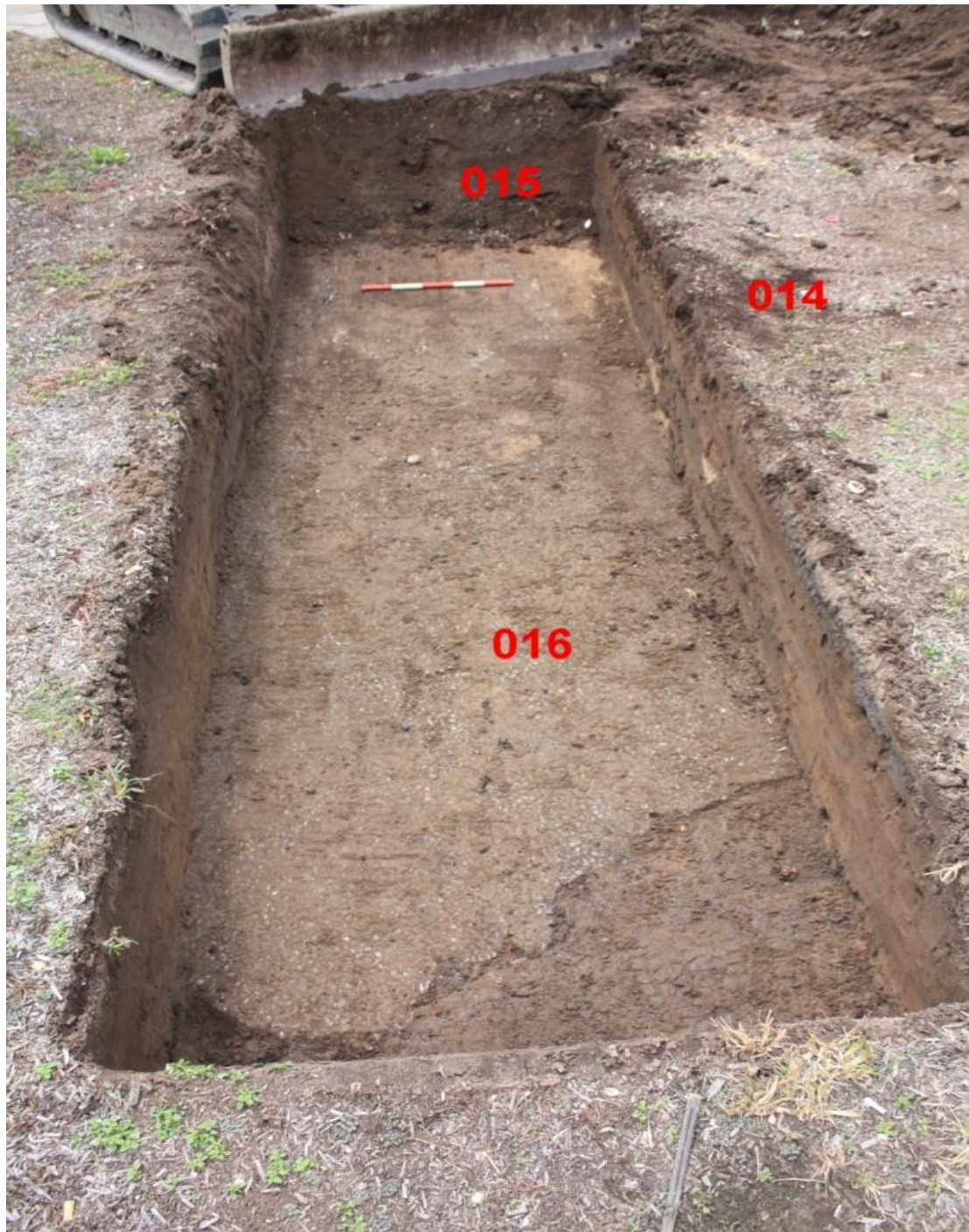


Plate 20: View east showing the bitumen surface [016]; the cut in the surface in the foreground was made in the past prior to the introduction of the garden soil above it; scale 500 mm.



Plate 21: View west showing the bitumen surface [016] removed to reveal the bedding deposit [017] below it.

6.0

THE NORTHERN SIDE OF GEORGE STREET

Test trenches were not excavated on the northern side of George Street for this program due to excavations having already been made there in the earlier program of archaeological investigation. Sufficient evidence had been retrieved from these works to inform the present issues and thus avoid more disturbances to the archaeological resource.

The most relevant pit and closest to the north-western corner of the intersection was a test pit dug to evaluate the profile for indigenous archaeology (ATP A or Indigenous Test Pit 057E 560N). A second test pit further north in Bridge Street was also used to inform the present investigation (ATP B or Indigenous Test Pit 050E 591N). Some evidence has also been used to interpret results from historic period trenches 1 and 2; this evidence is discussed in Section 9.



Plate 22: Location of indigenous test pits; Test Pits A and B are closest to the Bridge Street and George Street intersection.

6.1

ATP A (Indigenous Test Pit 057E 560N)

This test excavation revealed that the top 300 mm of the deposit in the parkland is comprised of dark grey-brown humic loam considerably disturbed by tree roots and including a small sample of European artefacts. The latter have a wide chronological spread including a fragment of a later nineteenth century clay smoking pipe and c. 1950s tiles. Below this material from 300 mm downwards was the upper portion of an ancient sand body including substantial quantities of Aboriginal artefacts. The pit was excavated to a depth of one metre; at this point naturally occurring red clay was exposed.



Plate 23: North section of ATP A showing the small European horizon above the remnant sand dune; the top of the red clay is at the base of the pit (scale one metre)¹.

¹ Image from Kelleher Nightingale Consulting Pty Ltd (2012); Windsor Bridge Replacement Project Cultural Heritage Assessment Report: 23

6.2

ATP B (Indigenous Test Pit 050E 591N)

This pit was located in the traffic island between Old Bridge Street and Bridge Street. The surface was covered with paving bricks to reveal 80mm of bedding sand, above 230mm of blue metal. Below this was 250mm of concrete and at the base of the excavation was sticky red clay.



Plate 24: Section in ATP B; scale 1 metre