
2 INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

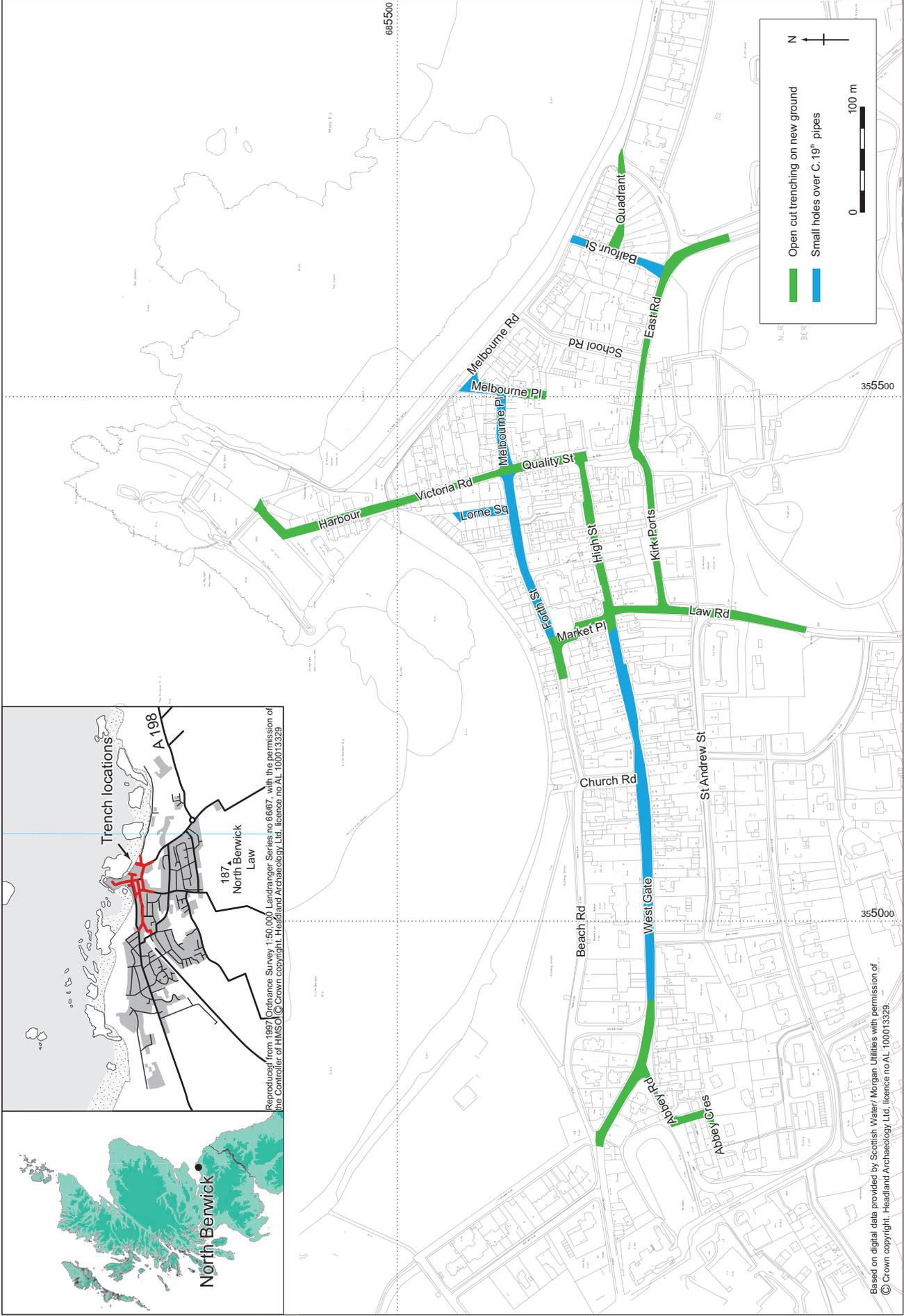
Recent work in North Berwick has identified deeply stratified well-preserved deposits relating to the medieval and post-medieval development of the town, along with elements of structures and surfaces. The scale of the work allowed deposits to be recorded throughout the core of the medieval town, within the harbour, and towards the nunnery to the west, giving a more complete view of the archaeology of the burgh than was previously possible.

The watching brief was undertaken during works to upgrade the mains water supply within the town. Prior to excavation, areas of sensitivity or of unknown potential were identified, using previous work as a guide (Turner Simpson & Stevenson 1981; Hall & Bowler 1997). Excavation within these areas was then monitored. All trenches (illus 1)

were monitored, with the exception of the section of Quality Street between the High Street and Kirk Ports, which was excavated and backfilled without archaeological supervision.

Although the trenches monitored were excavated throughout the core of the burgh, detail of deposits and features were only clearly defined through examination of sections, due to the narrow nature of the trenches. This provided a good picture of the types, range and distribution of deposits in the burgh, but meant that it was more difficult to make an interpretation of individual cut features or structures.

The results of the watching brief are presented here, and the known evidence of the morphology and fortunes of the burgh are then reconsidered in light of these and other recent work in the burgh.



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Illus 1 Trenches monitored during watching brief