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**EXETER CITY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Notes for Committee, 8th March 1996

1. FIELD RECORDING PROJECTS

1.1 No. 2 Broadgate (formerly Tinley's Cafe)

Background

The former Tinley's Cafe (No. 2, Broadgate), in Cathedral Close, is currently undergoing refurbishment prior to being re-opened at Easter as a Pizza Express restaurant. The building works have involved extensive stripping of plaster and modern cladding throughout the three-storey building, as well as limited excavations in the basement for new drains and foundation piers. A number of late medieval features, including a doorway and a fireplace, have for many years been visible in the rear wall of the cafe, and it was anticipated that more early fabric would be exposed in the course of contractor's works. Although the building is cellared throughout, discoveries made in excavations on adjoining sites in 1911 and 1977 suggested that archaeological deposits were likely to be preserved beneath the basement floor. The building is known to overlie the north-west end of the basilica of the Roman town. The south-eastern limit of this great building was exposed during the excavations carried out at the west end of the Cathedral in 1971-4, when the Roman legionary bath-house was also discovered. In view of the importance of the Broadgate site, Pizza Express were requested as a condition of planning consent to make provision within their building programme for archaeological investigations and recording, so as to ensure that no significant information would be lost without record.

Roman bath-house (Figs 1, 2)

Excavations in the basement revealed a series of wall foundations and other features dating from the early Roman period down to the 17th century. Two of these walls are believed to have formed part of the Roman baths erected c. AD 55-60 within the fortress of the Second Augustan Legion. A foundation running SW-NE probably represents the front wall of the *apodyterium* (changing block), which would have lain at the north-western end of the main bathing suite; this block is thought to have taken the form of an aisled hall running SW-NE at right angles to the main axis of the bath-house. This is the first time this element of the baths has been seen in excavation. A gap in the *apodyterium* wall footing probably marks the position of a doorway near the northern corner of the bath-house. A second early Roman foundation discovered 4.5m to the NW of the *apodyterium* is thought to represent a wall at the rear of a portico facing the main street (*via decumana*) at the NW end of the bath-house. A narrow courtyard separated the front wall of the bath-house from the portico wall, which presumably contained one or more openings giving access from the street into the baths. The courtyard would have connected with the *palaestra* (exercise ground) to the SW of the bath-house.

Roman basilica (Fig. 1)

Following the Second Legion's transfer to Caerleon around AD 75, their base at Exeter became the site of the Roman town *Isca Dumnoniorum*. The forum was probably laid out during the 80s or the early 90s. Two very substantial Roman wall foundations which meet at right angles in Tinley's basement can be identified as forming the northern corner of the basilica. Their discovery represents an important addition to our knowledge of the plan of this major public building. The foundation of the north-western end wall of the basilica was almost 1.2m wide and penetrated to a considerable depth into the natural subsoil. A second foundation running on a similar alignment c. 2.5m to the NW of the basilica end wall is thought to represent the rear (SE) wall of a portico or range of shops fronting on the main street to the NW. It is assumed that this wall would have abutted the NE side of a magistrates' tribunal forming a narrower extension to the NW end of the open hall that occupied the SW side of the basilica. This part of the building has not been seen in excavation, so that the full layout remains conjectural.

Early medieval Close

In the later medieval period the north-western boundary of the Cathedral Close ran through the middle of the site now occupied by No. 2 Broadgate, with the SE half of the area originally forming part of the open cathedral cemetery. There may have been many burials in this area, but most would have been removed in the early 19th century when the south-eastern half of Tinley's basement was constructed. A small charnel pit, partially exposed in one of the new drain trenches, contained a collection of bones that had been gathered together for reburial after a number of graves were disturbed in excavation. No dating evidence was recovered from the pit.

Documentary sources indicate that a medieval chapel dedicated to St Simon and St Jude occupied the northern corner of the Tinley's site by c. 1200. This building seems to have been deconsecrated in the 13th century, subsequently being put to secular use. A wall foundation partially uncovered in the basement was thought initially to have belonged to the chapel but is now believed to be later in date. The chapel probably originated in the 11th or 12th century as a private oratory erected within a tenement lying between High Street on the NW, Broadgate on the SW and a lane or path running along the NW side of the Cathedral Close on the SE. The Broadgate formed the principal entrance to the Close from at least the 13th century. The gatehouse demolished in 1825 was probably built in the 15th century. It was an imposing structure flanked by hexagonal turrets facing the Close (Fig. 3). The NE turret seems to have lain partly within the site of No. 2 Broadgate, but it was not located in the recent excavations since no ground disturbance took place in the relevant area.

The substantial Heavitree wall forming the NW side of No. 2 Broadgate was once believed to have been erected as the NW precinct boundary of the Cathedral Close. Medieval and later deeds make it clear, however, that this wall lies well within the limits of the medieval tenement that extended between High Street and the Close. The Heavitree wall was in fact erected in the early 16th century when the original High Street property was sub-divided to create a new tenement fronting on the Close at its rear.

Early 16th-century house (Fig. 3)

The earliest part of No. 2 Broadgate dates from the early 16th century. Sufficient fabric was revealed in the refurbishment works to permit the building's original appearance and later development to be reconstructed with some confidence. The rear (NW) Heavitree wall incorporated a projecting spiral staircase (first recorded in 1911) which gave access to each of the four floors in the house. The accommodation comprised a cellar, a ground-floor shop, two first-floor rooms, and three second-floor chambers. Double doors closed the doorways at each level in the house. In the 19th century the original door-leaves from the second-floor opening were re-used to form a lintel at the top of the stair turret. These have been retrieved. A small fireplace was provided in the northern corner of the shop, with larger ones on the upper floors, which were also furnished with garderobes. The remaining walls are mostly formed of close-studded timber-framing, infilled with panels of hard white plaster, decorated in one chamber with a painted floral design. An elaborately moulded early 16th-century timber and stone shop-front originally faced onto the Close but much of it was removed when the building was extended south-eastwards into the cemetery in the late 16th or early 17th century. The remaining fragment of the timber shop window represents a rare survival in Exeter. Several of the newly-discovered features will be visible to Pizza Express customers when the new restaurant opens in a few weeks' time.

1.2 **18 North Street**

Emergency archaeological recording carried out in the aftermath of the fire last year was jointly funded by Exeter City Council and Devon County Council. The building dates from c. 1600 and contains a most unusual rear double gallery. An archive of site records and other material relating to the site has been compiled. It is not known yet what further recording will be required once reconstruction works commence. A project report will be produced when all the archaeological fieldwork has been completed.

1.3 141 Fore Street

Recording took place in this building recently during renovation works. A sizeable early Roman ditch exposed beneath the NE end wall of the adjoining Tuckers Hall is thought to mark the SE limit of an annexe attached to the SW side of the first-century legionary fortress. This would have lain to the NW of the road leading up to the *porta praetoria*.

This tenement formed part of the late 15th-century endowment of Tuckers Hall. Although the buildings are much altered, a previously unknown roof of c. 1500 was identified at the rear of the house. A report has been produced on the results of the watching brief and on the building.

1.4 144 Fore Street

A record of the surviving early fabric in this late 17th-century building, which preserves a very fine decorated plaster ceiling, was made during extensive refurbishment works. A report has been produced on the building.

1.5 153 Fore Street

A record of an unusual late 17th-century warehouse at the rear of this property was compiled prior to major building works taking place. A report has been produced on the results.

1.6 National Westminster Bank, High Street

A watching brief is currently being maintained on groundworks in the basement of the former bank premises on the corner of Castle Street during their conversion to retail units.

1.7 Gas pipe upgrading works, High Street

A number of trenches have been dug over recent weeks in the Eastgate area by contractors working on behalf of British Gas Transco. At several points sections through archaeological deposits have been visible in the sides of trenches dug for the existing pipes, which are being relined.

1.8 St Nicholas Priory

Conservation work on the wall paintings in the first-floor hall and chamber will be carried out later in March by Tom Organ. Tracings have been made of the designs prior to conservation. An archaeological fabric survey of the SW external wall will commence next week in advance of masonry conservation works planned for later this year or next. The elevation to be recorded and analysed includes the surviving end of the 14th-century west front of the priory church.

1.9 Guildhall roof

The interior of the Guildhall was scaffolded throughout its length recently to provide access for redecoration. This gave a rare opportunity to photograph all of the bosses and trusses. In addition, a sample roof bay has been drawn and sufficient measurements taken to permit a long elevation to be reconstructed at a later date. Eddie Sinclair took paint samples for analysis.

1.10 Earl Richards Road

An archaeological assessment and field evaluation was carried out in January on a site within the Plymouth University campus. Features identified in a geophysical survey proved to be relatively recent in date, possibly relating to scouring and alluvial deposition following a major inundation of the Exe in the early 19th century.

1.11 Other fieldwork observations

Watching briefs have been mounted at Digby Hospital, Haven Banks, Alphington Road, Castle Street, Sidwell Street and at various locations where pipelaying has been carried out over recent months.

2. POST-EXCAVATION PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS

2.1 Civil War book

From Deliverance to Destruction: Rebellion and Civil War in an English City, by Mark Stoye, was published last month by Exeter University Press. Much of the book's contents is based on documentary research undertaken under auspices of the AFU.

2.2 City Wall pamphlet

This A5 (folded A4) guide to the wall is expected to appear in the summer in the DAS Field Guides series.

2.3 Primary project reports and archives

Over the current financial year work has been undertaken on a variety of post-excavation projects funded from the Exeter City Council Leisure Committee grant to the unit. Since the October Committee meeting, work has continued on reports for excavation sites at Trinity Green, Cricklepit and in Exe Island and documentary reports have been produced dealing with these areas and also on post-medieval aspects of the Underground Passages and Exeter's early water supply. Work has also continued on indexing and collating pre-1450 property deeds for publication in 1997. The cataloguing of medieval and post-medieval finds from Exeter has continued intermittently over the past six months.

2.4 Historical Atlas

Some further preparation work towards the production of maps for the 'Exeter' section in the forthcoming *Historical Atlas of South West England*, to be published by Exeter University Press, has been accomplished in the past few months. It is hoped to complete work on this project in the first quarter of 1996/7.

2.5 Roman fortress monograph

The Project design for the proposed *Exeter Archaeological Report* monograph is still in preparation. Given the cutbacks announced by English Heritage recently, it is most unlikely a grant-aided project could be started in 1996/7. The proposal will, however, be submitted to EH later this year.

2.6 *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society*

Work has continued on the publication reports for the excavations at Danes Castle, Digby Hospital and Topsham Quay, which are being prepared for submission to PDAS this year.

2.7 Bowhill monograph

Stuart Blaylock has continued work on the monograph publication on this building, funded by English Heritage. The publication will be completed during the coming year.

2.8 Exeter bellfoundries

It is proposed to prepare a Project Design proposal for the preparation of a publication report on the excavations carried out on the three medieval and post-medieval bellfoundries for submission to English Heritage in the coming year.

C.G. Henderson
Director, Archaeological Field Unit

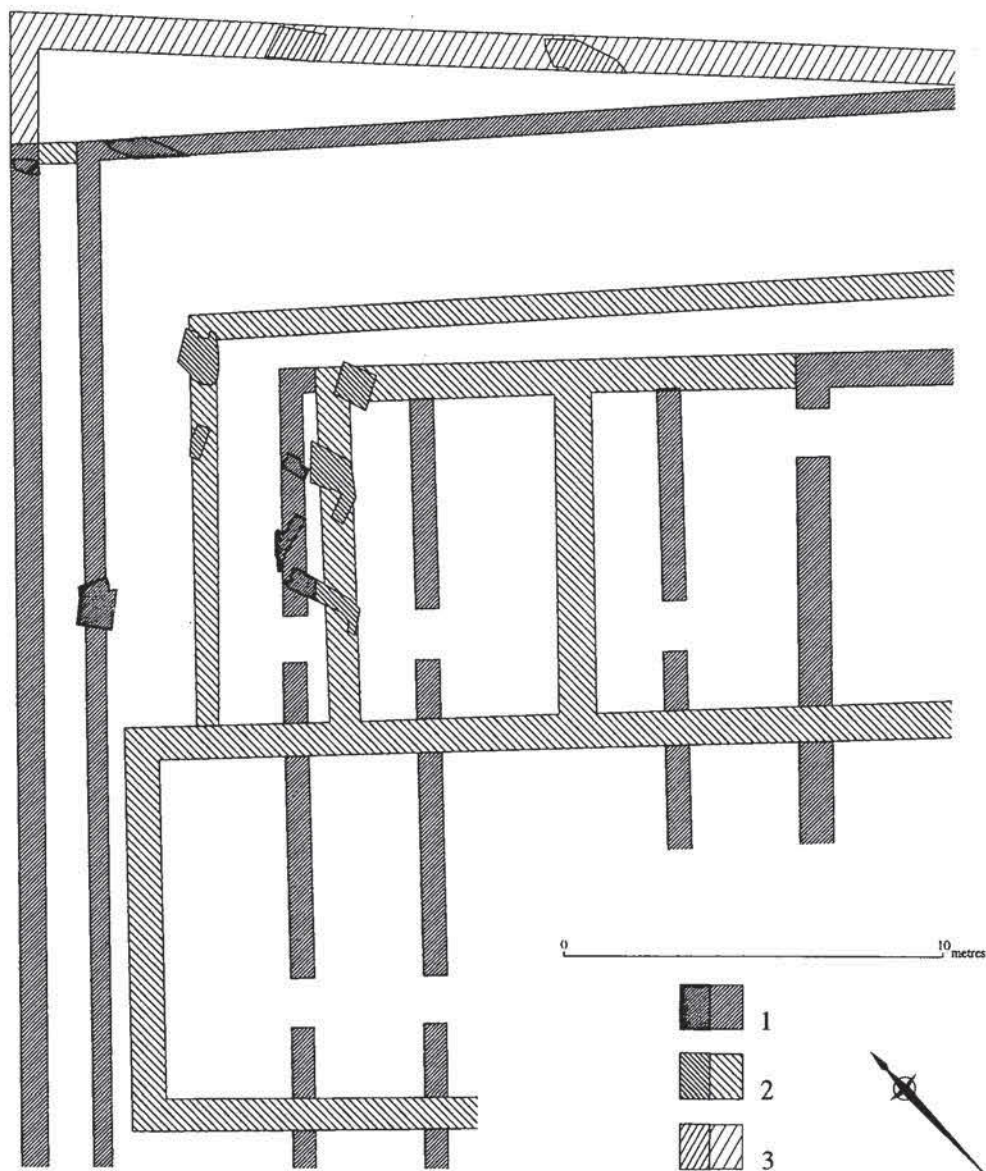


Fig. 1 Roman wall foundations in the Broadgate area recorded in 1911, 1977 and 1995-6.
1= Roman bath-house, c. 55-60; 2= Roman basilica, c. 80-90; 3= mid 4th-century.

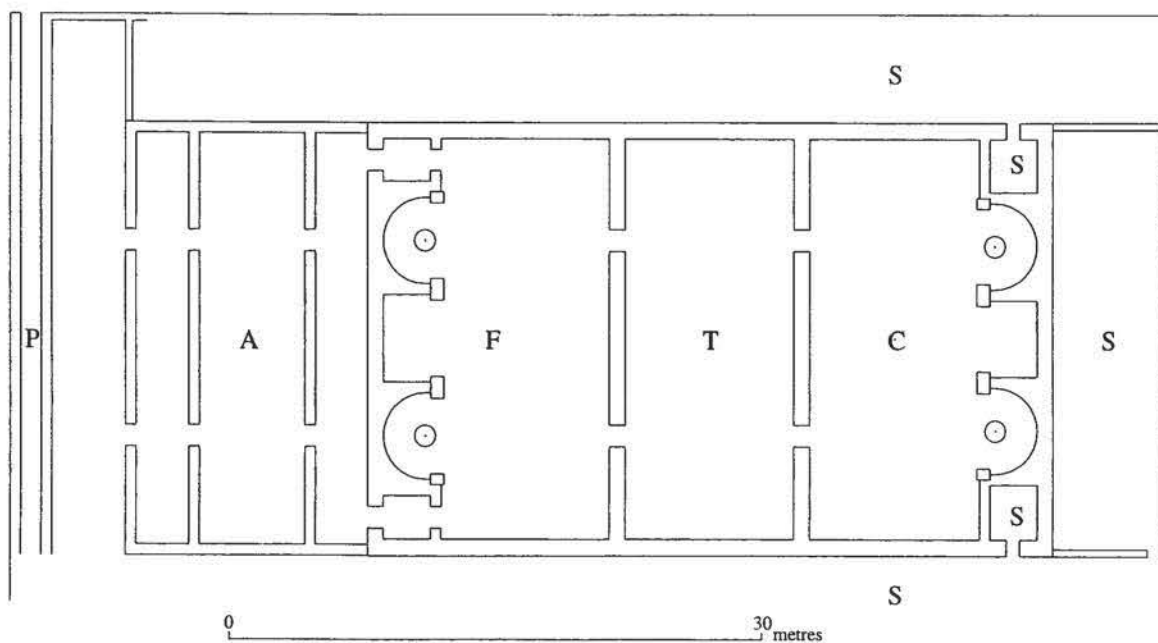
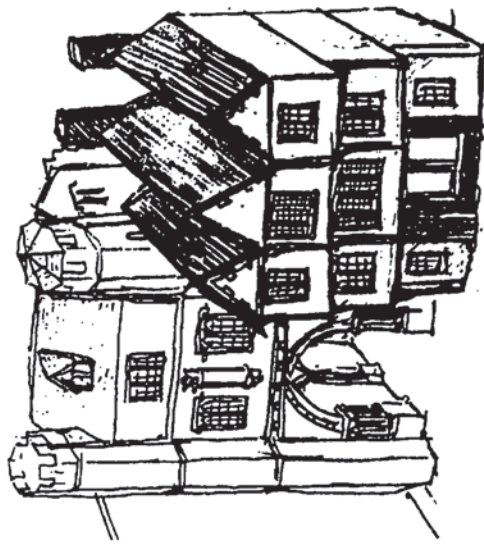
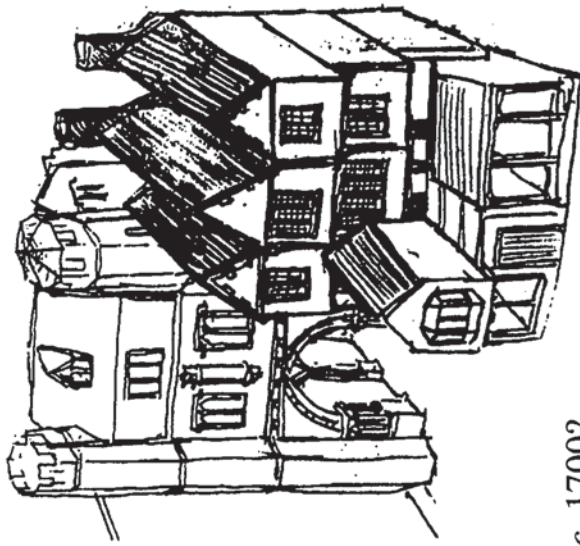


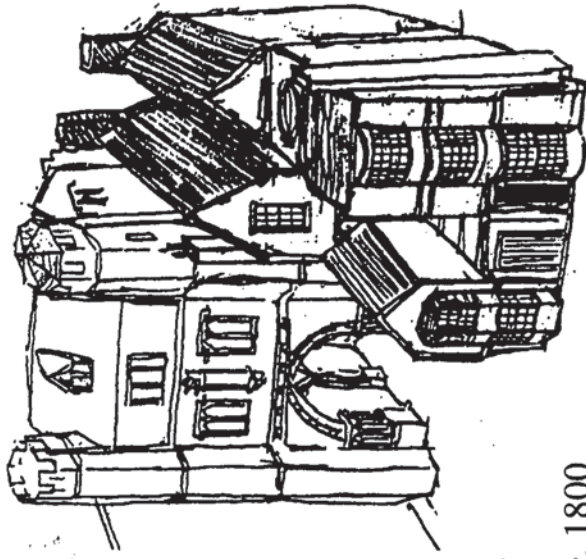
Fig. 2 Conjectural restored plan of the first-century Exeter legionary bath-house.
A= apodyterium; C= caldarium; F= frigidarium; P= portico; S= service rooms; T= tepidarium



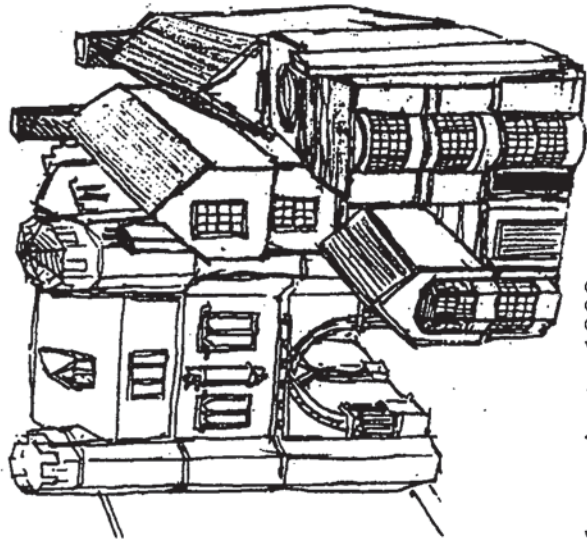
c. 1600



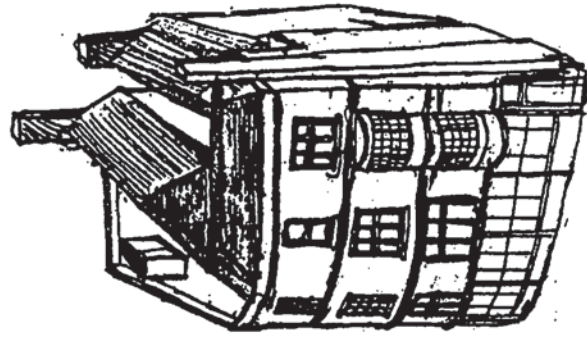
c. 1700?



c. 1800



alternative c. 1800



after 1825

Fig. 3 Sketch reconstruction showing the development of buildings on the Broadgate site between c. 1600 and 1825 (Richard Parker).

**EXETER CITY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Notes for Committee, 11th October 1996

1. EXETER URBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATABASE

The Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) currently being compiled for Exeter is intended as a management and research tool that will contain summary information on deposits and monuments in the core historic area. It will be held in the Planning Department as the primary source of information for use in the assessment of the archaeological potential of development sites. The UAD will form the first stage of an Urban Archaeological Study as described in *Managing the Urban Archaeological Resource* (English Heritage 1991).

In a pilot project for the Exeter UAD, funded by English Heritage, data was assembled for a sample area centred on the Cathedral Close and extending up to the frontages of South Street, High Street and Chapel Street. This area was selected as being representative of the central zone within the walls. It contains 21 excavated sites (12 of them excavated before the establishment of Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit in 1971) and 21 buildings in which archaeological recording has taken place. A range of monument types likely to be encountered in Exeter was defined in preparation for the main phase of the project. Records for a sample of three monuments have been partially completed, although more have been identified within the area for eventual inclusion.

The boundary of the full UAD will embrace a considerably wider area than that covered by the pilot project. The historic core of Exeter is contained within a two kilometre square (fig. 1). This contains the Roman and medieval walled city and most of the early suburbs of St Thomas, St Sidwells, St Davids and Holy Trinity. The statutory Area of Archaeological Importance is included in the area, and most of the antiquarian observations concerning to the city and its environs, and 95% of modern archaeological records, relate to this area. Topsham is excluded.

The database is designed to be compatible with the Devon Sites and Monuments Register (SMR) and with the RCHM(E) / English Heritage UAD Data Standards. The database structure is shown diagrammatically in Figure 2.

The UAD will provide a georeferenced index to archaeological, historical, cartographic and pictorial records for the core historic area. All archaeological interventions will be included; a more selective approach will be taken towards the inclusion of object findspots and records of casual observations. The data will be retrieved and displayed on OS digital base-maps through the use of a GIS programme. It will be possible to view the archaeological sites and monuments in conjunction with planning constraint overlays and period maps and plans.

Upon its completion, probably in 1998, the UAD will be transferred to the Planning Department, who will be responsible thereafter for updating the record and making it available for public consultation.

There will then follow the production of an Urban Archaeological Assessment for Exeter, which will be published. Finally, it is intended that an Urban Archaeological Strategy will be formulated in which the Local Planning Authority's policies on archaeological conservation will be set out.

2. ASSESSMENT AND FIELDWORK PROJECTS

2.1 St Nicholas Priory North Range (21 The Mint)

An archaeological assessment of the standing north range of the Benedictine priory of St Nicholas was prepared for the Exeter Historic Buildings Trust by Richard Parker, with a contribution on the post-Dissolution documentary history of the property from Tony Collings. The priory was founded c. 1087 as a cell of Battle Abbey, and the earliest fabric in the two surviving ranges is thought to date from the late 11th or early 12th century. The north range contained the monastic refectory. There is little evidence for the form of the Norman north range, which was extensively rebuilt in the mid to late 15th century as a large open hall lit by tall windows in the north wall and covered by an arch-braced roof. At the north-east corner of the range there is a double-gabled extension of the late 15th or early 16th century. An oriel window was probably added at this time at the high end of the hall, which possibly contained a stair leading to the chambers upstairs.

After the Reformation the refectory was apparently occupied with the west range as part of a large mansion. New windows were inserted in the former hall and chambers, and the hall was divided horizontally into two or possibly three storeys. The church, east range and cloisters were probably demolished by the early 17th century. By the late 17th century the property had become subdivided; the west range became a separate tenement, and the north range was altered to form an independent dwelling. It is likely the present layout dates from this time, with a central spine wall, a new fireplace, and ovolo-moulded door frames being introduced. In the 18th century the house appears to have suffered a further subdivision into two properties, with many additional alterations taking place. In the 19th century the long tenure of the Reverend Doctor Oliver seems to have protected the building from further alteration. After his death in the 1860s the house was truncated by the demolition of the archway over The Mint, and the west end of the range was rebuilt. The two parts of the house were now reunited and the present layout of rooms established.

No 21 The Mint is probably the only standing medieval refectory in the city, following the destruction of the Hall of the Vicars Choral in 1942. The roof remains substantially intact, and fragmentary architectural details survive, such as parts of the windows in the north and east elevations. Subsequent alterations and refurbishments of the building have added a wide variety of high quality domestic fixtures of various periods which are potentially vulnerable to removal and replacement. Such survivals are now increasingly rare.

2.2 Cricklepit Mill and Dryhouse

A survey has recently been made of the archaeological and historical context of the buildings and other early structures preserved within the Cricklepit Mill site in Commercial Road, near Exeter Quay. Detailed architectural descriptions and fabric analyses of the two principal surviving buildings were prepared by Richard Parker, documentary sources were studied by

Tony Collings and the results of excavations carried out on the site in the 1980s were assessed by Mark Hall. The survey was commissioned by the owners of the site, Lismore Investments Ltd. It will form one element in a wider study, organised in partnership with English Heritage and Exeter City Council, into possible future uses for the site and its buildings. A separate report on the three waterwheels and the working parts of the mill has been produced by Martin Watts.

The first mill on the site was erected in the 1220s. Nothing is known of the medieval mill, since there has been no excavation within the standing structure. We may assume however that the original millhouse stood on the north side of the Higher Leat, and that in the medieval period a single undershot wheel drove one set of millstones. The north-eastern edge of a medieval bypass channel, infilled in the early 16th century, was located in excavation on the south side of the later mill building. In the first half of the 16th century, the mill was enlarged to accommodate two wheels driving two pairs of stones in opposed millhouses, one on each side of the leat. By 1589 a third wheel, located in an extension to the southern millhouse, had been added to power a malt mill. Further alterations were made in the early 17th century which apparently involved the construction of a second storey incorporating a cantilevered covered loading bay.

The mill was substantially rebuilt in the late 17th century. The majority of the surviving fabric dates from this period.

2.3 No 67 South Street

An archaeological and historical assessment of this mid to late 17th-century house was prepared recently on behalf of the White Hart Hotel, in connection with a planning application to carry out remedial structural works. The purpose of the assessment is to provide sufficient information to enable the impact of the proposals on the historic fabric to be gauged. The building represents an important survival. It is constructed in brick with a timber-framed front containing a sixteen-light mullioned and transomed window at first-floor level. A plaster ceiling in the hall is decorated with floral angle sprays representing a wide variety of plants, including the tulip, artichoke, rose, thistle, vine and honeysuckle or pea, enriched in places with the heads of dogs and birds. Few early houses in Exeter did not suffer the insertion of wooden sash or casement windows in the 18th or 19th century, and many have been entirely disguised by refronting or over-restoration. Most such buildings have had their interiors radically altered, so that the original plan is difficult to recover.

2.4 Freemasons' Hall, Gandy Street

A watching brief was maintained on trenches excavated for the foundation trenches of a series of new walls erected in the Freemasons' premises during the summer. A sequence of auger samples was obtained that located the ditch of the Roman legionary fortress and early Roman town.

2.5 Arts Centre, Bradninch Place

An archaeological assessment has been prepared on the proposed extension scheme for the Exeter and Devon Arts Centre. The site lies entirely within the outer bailey of Exeter Castle.

Auger sampling enabled the line of the curving defensive ditch to be traced at the south-east edge of the site.

2.6 No. 18 North Street

An assessment of the extent and quality of the surviving early 17th-century decorative paintwork in 18 North Street is currently being produced, funded by English Heritage and Exeter City Council. The building was badly damaged by fire in 1995 and awaits restoration. The building contains a rich assemblage of paintwork and other early features. At the rear of the building there stands a three-storey gallery which linked the front block to a back block destroyed in the war. This is the only example of this type of structure known to survive in the South West.

2.7 Friars Gate

A watching brief conducted on the site of an extension to the New Theatre indicates that the building overlies a deep medieval or early post-medieval feature which may be a quarry pit. The origin of similar pits observed in the 1970s on sites nearby is uncertain. They may have been dug to obtain clay for brick-making.

2.8 Guy's Hylton Allotments, St Thomas

An archaeological evaluation was recently carried out on a site occupying former allotments to the north of Okehampton Road. The William Sutton Trust will erect houses there later in the year. The site lies against the edge of the Exe floodplain. Trenching and augering located an early river channel running through the site. Samples have been taken for radiocarbon dating and other analyses. Further observations will be made during construction works.

2.9 Water Lane, St Thomas

A watching brief is currently being maintained on groundworks for a large Midas Homes housing scheme on the site of the former Exeter Castings factory in St Thomas. An early river channel has been traced across the end of the site nearest the river and canal. It should eventually be possible to date the channel by radiocarbon determination.

2.10 Matford Business Park

Observation of contractors' excavations for new roads and sewers in the latest extension to the Marsh Barton Industrial Estate at Bad Homburg Way has located an early river channel which will be traced through other areas nearby as opportunity allows.

2.11 Clapperbrook Lane, Alphington

An archaeological evaluation was recently carried out for ADP & E Farmers on a proposed redevelopment site in Alphington. The site lies on the floodplain and terrace on the west side of the Alphin Brook. Geophysical survey by Oxford Archaeotechnics Ltd was followed by evaluation excavation of selected areas. A small palaeochannel was identified in one area.

2.12 Digby Hospital site

A watching brief is currently being maintained on a Tay Homes housing site near the Tesco Supermarket site in which prehistoric ring ditches and other features were excavated in 1994. Some early features have been investigated, but activity in this area appears to be more sparse than in the Tesco site.

3. POST-EXCAVATION PROJECTS

3.1 No. 2 Broadgate

The detailed primary project reports dealing with the results of the excavation and fabric recording carried out in the Pizza Express restaurant are likely to be completed in the next few weeks. The discoveries relating to our understanding of the layout of the Roman fortress baths have now been fully assimilated and are presented in Figure 3. The *apodyterium* (changing block), two walls of which were found in the excavation, is thought to have taken the form of an 'aisled' basilica.

3.2 Bowhill House

The full publication report on the excavation and survey work conducted on the site since the late 1970s is due for completion by Stuart Blaylock early in 1997. It is hoped that the volume will be published in the English Heritage monograph series.

3.3 Fortress baths paper

An extended version of the paper on the reconstruction of the baths produced for the 1st International Roman Baths Symposium proceedings has now been completed. This incorporates the new finds from the Broadgate site (Fig. 3).

3.4 Historical Atlas

Work on the 'Exeter' section in the forthcoming *Historical Atlas of South West England* is nearing completion.

3.5 Exeter Bellfoundries

The project design for a publication project on the medieval and post-medieval bellfoundries is being prepared by Stuart Blaylock for submission to English Heritage.

3.6 Medieval deeds monograph

Jannine Juddery's work on indexing and editing all the pre-1450 Exeter property deeds is now almost complete. It is hoped the monograph will be ready to go to press by the end of 1997.

3.7 City Walls booklet

An A5 booklet on the City Walls, by Stuart Blaylock ,should be published in 1997.

3.8 Primary project reports and archives

Work has continued in the current financial year on a variety of post-excavation projects funded from the ECC Leisure Committee grant to the unit. The reports on excavations and documentary research at Cricklepit Mill, Cricklepit Street, Magdalen Street and Trinity Green are now well advanced, and further work is also planned this year on the Quay and Canal, Cathedral Close, St Nicholas Priory, the gates, and on medieval and post-medieval finds inventories. A programme of work has been initiated to upgrade the site archives for sites excavated since 1971.

3.9 Exeter Archaeology Review

A review of the results of the unit's work over the past few years is in preparation for publication in 1997.

C.G. Henderson
Head
Archaeological Field Unit

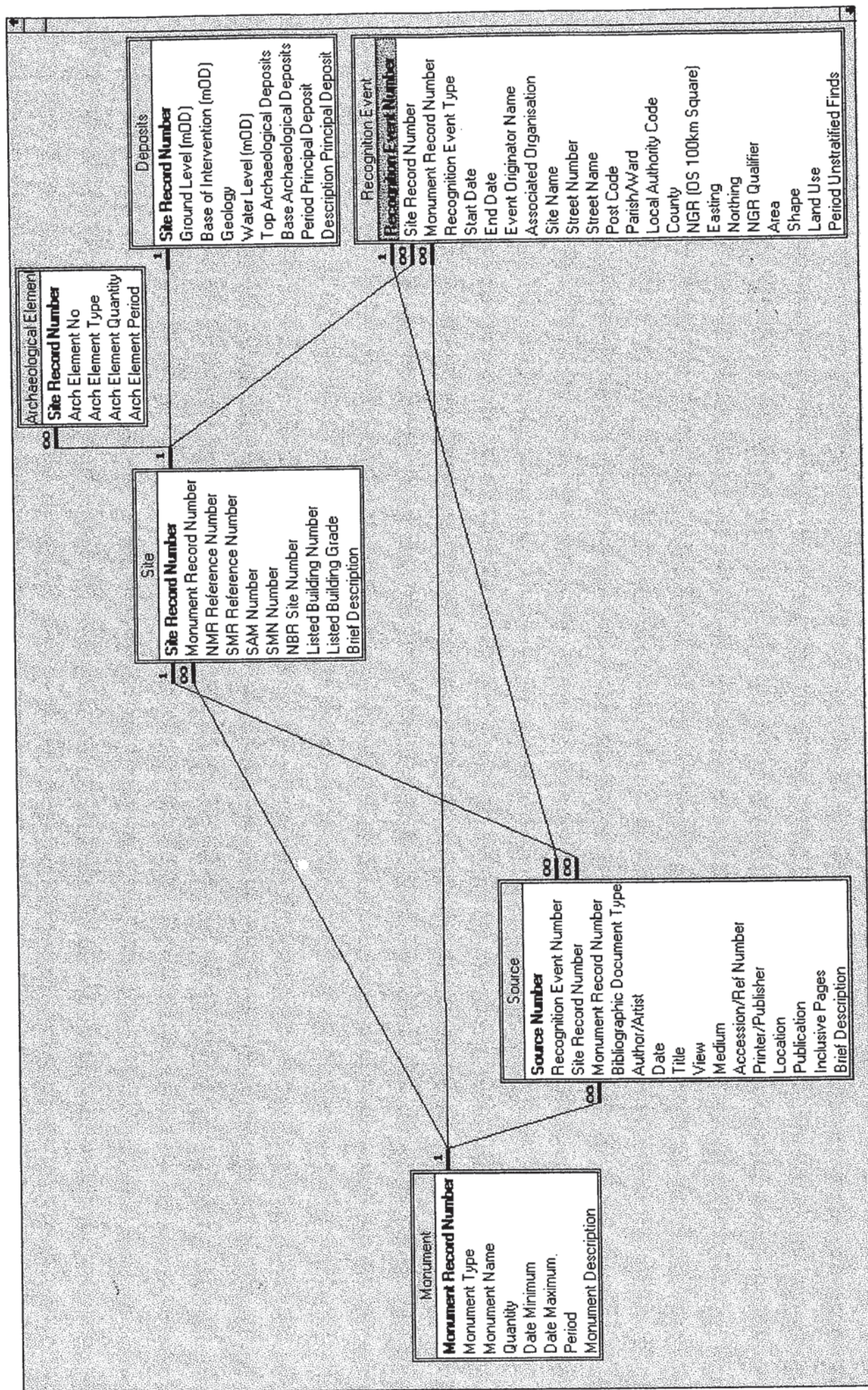


Fig. 2 Structure of the database showing tables and the fields within them.

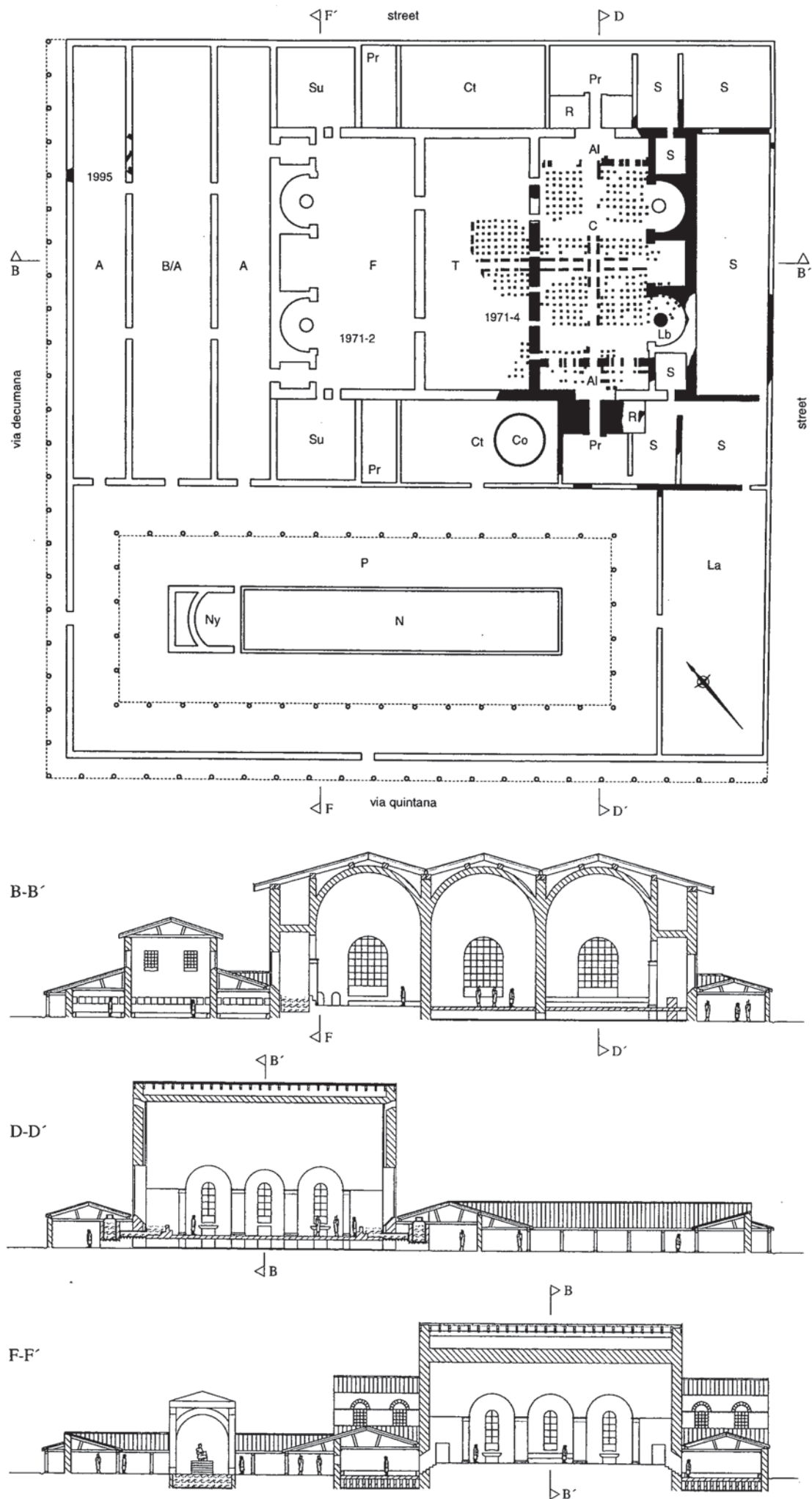


Fig. 3 Exeter fortress baths: restored plan and sections.

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