



# Church Hatch, 13 Church Street, Christchurch

Archaeological Observations and Recording during Extension of Garage and Formation of New Car Parking Area and Garden Works



Report No. 53507/3/1

September 2021



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Garage and Formation of New Car Parking Area and Garden  
Works, July 2019 – March 2021

Report No. 53507/3/1

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**Client:** David Slade, Church Hatch, 13 Church Street, Christchurch BH23 1BW,

**Agent:**

**Scheduled Monument:** 1018277 Pre-Conquest monastery, early Christian cemetery, Augustinian priory and a motte and bailey castle at Christchurch

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## Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
<b>OASIS Reference</b>	terraina1-433620		
<b>Project Title</b>	Church Hatch, 13 Church Street, Christchurch, Dorset		
<b>Short Description of Project</b>	Terrain Archaeology carried out archaeological observations and recording during works at Church Hatch, Church Street, Christchurch. The works were small in scale and the archaeological observations only recorded significant archaeology in one trench close to the street frontage. Two pits containing small quantities of medieval pottery, one other cut feature and a possible stone setting were recorded. The location of the pits close to the street frontage (and close to the edge of the Christchurch Castle ditch) may indicate that the frontage of this part of Church Street between the castle and the priory was not built up during the medieval period. In addition the watching brief revealed evidence of the raising of the ground levels to the side and to the rear of the house in the nineteenth century. A WWII air raid shelter in the rear garden was also recorded.		
<b>Project Dates</b>	Start: 17-07-2019	End: 05-03-2021	
<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	No/No		
<b>Project Code</b>	53507		
<b>Monument Type and Period</b>	Pit (medieval), Air Raid Shelter (modern)		
<b>Significant Finds</b>	Sherd (medieval)		
Project Location			
<b>County/District/Parish</b>	Dorset/ Christchurch/ Christchurch		
<b>Site Address</b>	Church Hatch, 13 Church Street, Christchurch BH23 1BW		
<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SZ 1597 9261		
<b>Site Area</b>	c. 83m <sup>2</sup>		
<b>Height OD</b>			
Project Creators			
<b>Organisation</b>	Terrain Archaeology		
<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	Historic England		
<b>Project Design Originator</b>	Terrain Archaeology		
<b>Project Supervisor</b>	Peter Bellamy		
<b>Project Manager</b>	Peter Bellamy		
<b>Sponsor or Funding Body</b>	Landowner		
Project Archive			
<b>Archive Type</b>	<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
<b>Location/Accession No</b>	No physical archive	Archaeological Data Service	No paper archive
<b>Contents</b>		Raster images, vector images, text,	



# Church Hatch, 13 Church Street, Christchurch Archaeological Observations and Recording during Extension of Garage and Formation of New Car Parking Area and Garden Works, July 2019 – March 2021

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Project introduction

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by David Slade to undertake archaeological observations and recording during external alteration works to increase the car parking capacity of Church Hatch, 13 Church Street, Christchurch and during works to the rear garden. The works are partly within the *Pre-Conquest monastery, early Christian cemetery, Augustinian priory and a motte and bailey castle at Christchurch* Scheduled Monument (National Heritage List Entry No: 1018277). The archaeological works were designed to comply with the statutory requirements of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended) regarding the Scheduled Monument. The works were carried out under Scheduled Monument Consent S00213447 issued on 26 March 2019 and S00240626 issued on 9 December 2020.

The fieldwork was carried out between the 17th July 2019 and 5th March 2021 by Peter Bellamy.

### 1.2 Brief

No written brief was issued on behalf of Christchurch Borough Council for the works, but the requirements of the archaeological mitigation were determined in consultation with Historic England and the Dorset Council Senior Archaeologist.

### 1.3 Site Location

The site is located at the south end of Church Street, just outside the churchyard of Christ Church at SZ 1597 9261 (Figure 1). The house is set back from the street frontage behind cast iron railings (Plate 1). To the north there is a high brick wall along the frontage a garage at the north end. To the south the fence terminates in a brick pier with railings returning to the south end of the house frontage. There is a similar brick pier on the corner of the property and a footpath running to the south. The rear garden (Plate 2) is surrounded by high brick walls, with a former return incorporating an arched opening terminating against the south west corner of the house, which was removed as part of the works, prior to archaeological recording.

### 1.4 Geology

The solid geology is mapped as sand of the Branksome Sand Formation. This is covered by Superficial Deposits River Terrace Deposits, 4 sands and gravels (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

### 1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

There appears to have been a settlement on the low gravel ridge formed by the confluence of the rivers Stour and Avon in the middle Saxon period. This is suggested by the discovery of a mid sixth/seventh century cemetery at Bargates (Jarvis 1983), though no trace of the settlement itself has been discovered to date. There may have been an early Minster church administering to a large *parochia*, established in the area of the later Priory by the mid-8th century AD (Hase 1988). However, the first documented mention of a settlement at Christchurch comes in AD 900 when a residence at *Tweoxneam* (Christchurch) was seized by the aetheling Aethelwold (Jarvis 1983, 9).

*Twinham* is listed in the Burghal Hidage, an early 10th century document allocating resources to defended towns or burhs for the maintenance of their defences. The burh was provided with defences in the form of an earthen bank

about 6 m wide with one or more defensive ditches, separated by a berm 4-7 m wide, which were probably built in AD878–9 (Haslam 2009). The main gate was to the north at Bargates and the precise circuit is not known with certainty, except along the north side. A stone wall was added to the front of the bank and the ditches were recut in the 890s (Haslam 2009). The stone wall appears to have been deliberately demolished and the stones spread across the berm and ditch, perhaps in the early 11th century (Haslam 2009). It is probable that High Street was laid out at this time as part of the burh, perhaps with a cross road formed by Wick Lane/Castle Street leading to a bridge over the river Avon in the east (and also over the Stour to the west?) (Haslam 2009). The Minster Church and a Royal residence lay at the southern end of the gravel ridge, with the main settlement focus perhaps on the junction of the High Street and Wick Lane/Castle Street (Bellamy and Davey 2011). There has been virtually no archaeological evidence for Late Saxon activity within the burh, other than a few poorly dated post-holes and a few Late Saxon/Early Medieval pits excavated in the Dolphin development (Site X11) on Church Street and two ditches running parallel to the High Street found on the Town Hall Car Park Site X10. The settlement may have gradually spread slowly northwards along the High Street towards the Bargate during the medieval period (Jarvis 1983, 17-8).

The Domesday survey records only 39 messuages at Christchurch, making it by far the poorest of the Dorset boroughs (Penn, 1980, 38). William Rufus gave the Church and town to Ranulf Flambard, before 1095. However, Flambard was exiled after the murder of William Rufus, and the manor, town and church passed to Richard de Redvers. Baldwin De Redvers began the construction of the castle c. 1100, inserting it into the existing settlement to the north of the Priory. The course of Castle Street and Church Street appear to have been altered at this time to accommodate the castle and any Saxon buildings along the east side of Church Lane would have been demolished. It became the seat of the manor (Penn, 1980, 39).

Baldwin de Redvers granted a charter to the town in 1149, but it appears to have developed only slowly as a medieval market town. The medieval town comprised one major street, High Street, running from the Bargate in the north towards the Priory in the south, with a series of burgage plots along its length on both sides. Castle Street ran eastwards across East Bridge and Wick Lane ran westwards. Church Street continued the line of the High Street south of the junction with Castle Street/Wick Lane. There were also several other small side and back lanes.

Christchurch was a relatively poor town during the medieval period and remained so during the post-medieval period. The Priory was dissolved in 1539 and the Castle was slighted in the 1650s after the Civil War. The population of the town began to rise rapidly during the nineteenth century. The railway arrived in 1862 and a series of suburbs developed during the later nineteenth and twentieth century to the north and east of the historic town centre (Bellamy and Davey 2011).

Church Hatch was built in the early/mid eighteenth century at the end of Church Street, adjacent to the Priory churchyard. It is unclear what was on the site before the construction of the present house. The rear elevation of the house was rebuilt in the early nineteenth century (Webb 2018). There was a large semi-formal garden behind the house which originally extended all the way to the Mill Stream and is depicted on the 1870 Ordnance Survey map. The grounds were later truncated to their current extent in the 1960s or 1970s.

## 1.6 Previous Archaeological fieldwork

There have been two areas of archaeological investigation along Church Street (the Dolphin development site X11 and the New Vicarage site). There has also been a campaign of geophysical investigation of the castle and the area of the bailey by The Christchurch Antiquarians.

In late 1974/early 1975 a rescue excavation and watching brief was undertaken on the site of the Dolphin development between Church Street, Wick Lane and Church Lane (Jarvis 1983, 37–42). The excavated area is likely to lie behind the frontage of the original route of Church Street prior to the construction of the castle. A small number of Late Saxon and early medieval pits and a possible timber posthole structure were found. There was fragmentary later medieval structural evidence in the form of postholes and some fragmentary stone structures and robbing trenches. A large number of thirteenth to sixteenth century pits and other features were discovered, generally sited away from the frontage area. These contained mostly domestic refuse, but there was also some evidence for small

scale ironworking and horn working. There was very little surviving trace of post-medieval buildings surviving on the site, other than a cellar on the frontage. There was a series of post-medieval pits in the rear part of the site.

An evaluation excavation in 2011 and subsequent watching brief in 2013 of the site of the new Vicarage on Church Street directly opposite Church Hatch (Heaton 2012, 2015), revealed a series of large quarry pits some of which were being used up until the early eighteenth century and a single undated human burial close to the southern boundary of the property, adjacent to the Priory grounds. The backfill of the quarry pits contained building rubble, twelfth- to eighteenth-century pottery and large quantities of architectural stone fragments probably from the priory.

The Christchurch Antiquarians (TCA) undertook a series of geophysical surveys of the Castle, the Castle Gardens, Church Hatch Public Gardens and transects along Castle Street in 2003, 2004 and 2010 (TCA 2004, 2006, 2011). The results showed that the former castle ditch survives as a substantial sub-surface feature between 4 and 8 metres in width and 2 to 4 metres in depth, surrounding the motte and running along the north and south side of the bailey towards the Mill Stream (Figure 2). There is also evidence for a second ditch on the north side under Castle Street, which may indicate multiple ditch phases or possibly a double moat along this side of the castle. The remains of two rectangular buildings were found to the south and south west of the Constable's House. The survey also provided information on the possible structure of the motte and keep. The keep may have been originally sited on a much smaller mound, which was then built up around it and the keep itself may be cellared (TCA 2004). Later survey suggested that there was some modification of the motte in the 17th century during the Civil War (TCA 2011). The survey of Church Hatch Public Gardens suggested that some elements of the earlier garden layout survive below ground (TCA 2006).

## 1.7 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the Archaeological Observations and Recording was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

Its objectives were:

- To observe and record all the *in situ* archaeological deposits and features revealed during the groundworks to an appropriate professional standard.
- To record recovered artefacts and other materials to an appropriate standard.
- To present the results in a report to the appropriate standard.

## 1.8 Groundworks

The groundworks comprise a number of small scale interventions adjacent to the house and in the garden (Figure 2). The existing garage was extended by the creation of a small extension on the south side, which entailed the digging of a foundation trench 0.5 m wide and 0.9 m deep (Trench 5). A new external car parking area was formed at the south end of the house, with the existing two brick piers and walls removed and two new piers built in a new position (Trenches 1 and 2), which required footings 1.0 m wide and 0.6m deep. A blocked and broken drain behind the house was replaced, with a trench 0.2 m wide and up to 0.55 m deep, along the existing drain (Trench 3). A new replacement drain round the southeast corner of the house was inserted to replace a failed soakaway and was built in a trench 0.2 m wide and 0.3 m deep (Trench 4).

Within the garden, a new rectangular patio in the north west part of the garden immediately behind the house was constructed with a footings trench 0.5 m wide and up to 0.5 m deep (Trench 6). Another patio area in the centre of the garden incorporated the roof of a WWII air raid shelter and required the removal of the topsoil over an area 7 m by 6 m (Trench 7). A new greenhouse base required the removal of the topsoil in the south east corner of the garden over an area of about 6 m by 4.5 m (Trench 8). New resin bonded paths running from the driveway and the back door to the patio over the air raid shelter required the removal of the upper part of the topsoil only.

## 1.9 Methods

The methodology, scope, aims and objectives of the works was set out in Written Schemes of Investigation (WSI) for the building and drainage works (Terrain Archaeology document no. 3507/0/1, August 2018) and for the garden works (Terrain Archaeology document no. 3507/0/2, October 2020).

All works outlined above in Section 1.8 were observed, other than the stripping of the topsoil for the garden paths, as the depth required did not penetrate the base of the topsoil. Photographs taken by the client during the path works confirmed this was the case. In addition, the air raid shelter in the garden was recorded.

The observation and recording of the groundworks was undertaken to the standards of the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), with an archaeologist in attendance during all groundworks that possibly may have exposed pre-modern deposits.

All deposits revealed, irrespective of their apparent archaeological significance, were recorded using components of the Terrain Archaeology recording system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records. The photographic record of the work was maintained in digital format, and included aspects of its setting, conduct and technical detail.

## 1.10 Archive and Dissemination

### 1.10.1 Paper Archive

The drawn and written archive will be scanned and submitted together with the born-digital archive to the Archaeology Data Service, at the earliest opportunity following the completion of the project.

### 1.10.2 Artefacts

No finds will be retained by Terrain Archaeology beyond the end of the project. The finds will be offered to the landowner.

### 1.10.3 Report

A copy of this report will be lodged with Historic England and with Dorset Council's Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER is a publicly funded and accessible resource, and deposition of the report will place it, and the project results, in the public domain.

A digital summary of the archive will be placed with the OASIS project ([www.oasis.ac.uk](http://www.oasis.ac.uk)) under the reference code *terrains1-433620*. A digital copy of this report will be uploaded for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) online 'grey literature' library.

## 2. Results

### 2.1 Introduction

A total of eight small trenches adjacent to the house and in the rear garden were observed and recorded (Figures 2-3; Plates 3-10). The features and deposits revealed in each trench are described in Appendix 1.

### 2.2 Natural Deposits

Natural sand was only exposed in Trench 5. This was a mid yellowish-brown sand (504) at a depth of 0.55 m below present ground level.

### 2.3 Archaeological Features

Three features (505, 507, 510) were found cut into the natural sand in Trench 5. No significant features were revealed in any other trench.

Pit 507 was a circular or oval pit about 1.0 m across, with steeply sloping sides and a slightly dished flat bottom 0.45 m deep that cut into the natural sand 504 (Figures 3-4; Plate 11). At the base of the pit was a layer of mid

brown sandy clay mixed with lumps of grey clay and yellowish-brown sand patches, with occasional charcoal flecks (509). Above this was a layer of dark greyish-brown clayey sand (508) with moderate flint gravel and pebbles and with patches of grey clay and redeposited natural sand and moderate charcoal flecks. The fill of the pit produced a small quantity of building stone, medieval pottery, animal bone, and oyster shell.

About one metre west of Pit 507 was Pit 505, which was only partially exposed in the trench and it continued beneath the garage (Figure 3). It was probably circular in plan, with an estimated diameter of about 1.0 m, with vertical sides. It was not bottomed (Figure 4; Plate 12). It was filled with mid brown clayey sand (506) with moderate small stone and occasional charcoal flecks. It produced a single sherd of medieval pottery, together with some oyster shell, roofing slate and a lump of chalk.

About 0.9 m north east of Pit 507 was another feature (510) that was only partially exposed in the trench (Figure 3; Plate 13). It had a straight edge with a vertical side and flat bottom 0.37 m deep and continued beyond the edge of the trench to the south east, north east and north west. It was filled with dark yellowish-brown clayey sand (511) with frequent small flint gravel. No finds were recovered. It is unclear whether this was a rectangular pit, or, perhaps, a linear feature.

## 2.4 Structural Remains

### 2.4.1 Church Hatch

Trench 1 exposed part of the south wall of the house. There was a 0.08 m wide plinth at 0.15 m below ground level and the wall continued down below the base of the Trench at 0.65 m depth (Figure 4; Plate 3). The buried part of the wall was similar in character to that above ground.

### 2.4.2 Garden Wall

The existing garden wall along the south side of the garden had a return north to meet the south side of the house, which was removed in order to undertake the new works. This wall ran along the south and west side of Trench 2 and across the west end of Trench 1 (102) (Figure 3). In Trench 2 there was a projecting plinth at a depth of about 0.15 m with over five courses visible below, continuing below the base of the trench at a depth of 0.6 m (Plate 3). The wall was partially disturbed by the insertion of a water pipe with one tap above ground and another buried at a depth of 0.45 m. In Trench 1 it was built over a layer of large stone rubble within context 101.

Two courses of red brick walling (104) butt against the south wall of the house and survived for a distance of 0.45 m to the south (Plate 3). This stub of brick walling was sealed beneath topsoil 100 and lay to the west of garden wall 102 and may be the remains of an earlier garden wall.

### 2.4.3 Steps to Rear of Service Range

Trench 6 revealed a further step (602) at a depth of 0.25 m below ground level continuing the two steps above ground from the door in the rear of the former service range (Figure 3; Plate 14). This step consisted of a limestone slab similar to those forming the treads of the two existing steps (which have brick risers).

## 2.5 Post-medieval and Modern Deposits

### 2.5.1 Post-medieval Soils and Deposits

In the rear garden was a layer of humic very dark greyish-brown loam garden soil (402, 701, 801) of unknown depth. In Trench 8 this included a patch of flint gravels (802).

Closer to the house was a layer of dark greyish-brown loam that contained large quantities of building rubble and finds of possible late eighteenth century date (101, 200, 601). This soil was over 0.6 m thick and appears to have been used to level up the ground around the house. The existence of another step (602) below ground level to the rear of the service range and the presence of a further buried semi-circular step visible to the rear of the main house suggest that this is a later raising of the ground level some time after the house had been built. The presence of an

exterior water tap buried at a depth of 0.45 m in Trench 2 suggests it may have been in the later nineteenth or twentieth century.

In the courtyard in front of the service range, there were two layers of mixed dark greyish-brown clayey sand (501, 502) raising the ground level about 0.45 m above the level of the natural sand. The finds incorporated in these layers suggest they may be of nineteenth century date.

### 2.5.2 Garden Path

Beneath the topsoil (400) in Trench 4 was a hard-packed orange/yellow flint gravel layer (401), 0.15 m thick. This may be part of the gravelled area behind the house depicted on the 1870 Ordnance Survey map.

### 2.5.3 Topsoil

Topsoil was present in Trenches 1, 3–4 and 6–9. This was a dark greyish-brown humic loam between 0.1 – 0.25 m thick (100, 300, 400, 600, 700, 800).

## 2.6 Air Raid Shelter

Within the rear garden is a former World War II air raid shelter (Figure 2). The roof was exposed in Trench 7 (Plate 9), but much of the roof was already visible at ground level within a rise in the ground levels of the garden (Plate 15). The shelter was constructed of concrete. The walls were of poured concrete within a formwork of vertical planks (Plates 16–20). The poured concrete slab roof was made in three parts. The shelter consisted of a main rectangular room 3.7 m by 1.75 m across (Figure 5; Plate 17). Two steel beams incorporated into the roof structure were visible internally (Plate 18). Ventilation was provided by two 4-inch diameter ceramic drain pipes set vertically within the roof slab (Plate 20). These had been subsequently blocked with concrete. The shelter was accessed by two cranked corridors to the north and south. The northern entrance was via an opening in the side of the slope of the former Christchurch Castle ditch which runs through the northern part of the garden (Figure 2; Plate 15). The access from the south was by a door in the west wall at the south end of the corridor. This doorway is now blocked with brick (Plate 19), but the presence of a concrete step suggests there were formerly steps leading out towards the house, which are now buried beneath the garden.

## 3. Finds

### 3.1 Finds Assemblage

The finds recovered from the site are tabulated by context below in Table 1. No systematic sampling for finds was undertaken.

Context	Medieval Pot	Post-med. Pot	Clay Tobacco Pipe	Ceramic Building Material	Stone Building Material	Plaster	Glass	Animal Bone	Shell
101	--	2/27	1/1	5/1495	1/752	1/17	7/793	5/72	2/108
200	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4/131	3/43
301	--	5/277	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
502	--	1/37	1/5	2/361	3/407	1/23	--	4/292	13/163
503	--	--	--	--	1/27	--	--	--	--
506	1/3	--	--	--	5/76	--	--	--	6/72
508	1/21	--	--	--	1/928	--	--	3/43	5/95
509	2/15	--	--	--	1/10	--	--	--	6/3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4/39g</b>	<b>8/341g</b>	<b>2/6g</b>	<b>7/1856g</b>	<b>12/2200g</b>	<b>2/40g</b>	<b>7/793g</b>	<b>16/538g</b>	<b>35/484g</b>

Table 1: Quantification of finds by context (count/weight in grams)

### 3.2 Pottery

#### 3.2.1 Introduction

The pottery assemblage amounts to 12 sherds (341g), of which four are medieval and eight are post-medieval or modern. The condition of the material is generally fair to good.

### 3.2.2 Medieval Pottery

Four sherds are medieval in date and all are coarsewares. They include three sherds of South Wiltshire/East Dorset coarsewares (from contexts 506, 508, 509), two with partial green glaze (508, 509) and one sherd of East Dorset sandy ware (from context 509). None of the sherds are closely datable, but fall within a date range between the eleventh and fourteenth century.

### 3.2.3 Post-medieval Pottery

The post-medieval/modern pottery consists of eight sherds of local earthenwares and industrial whitewares. Four sherds were from local earthenware vessels, probably products from the Verwood kilns, from contexts 101, 301 and 502. All are probably eighteenth or nineteenth century in date. One sherd of a large plain industrial whiteware plate was recovered from context 301, together with three sherds of a redware faceted teapot with reddish-brown glaze of late nineteenth or twentieth century date.

### 3.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe

Two clay tobacco pipe stem fragments were recovered, one each from contexts 101 and 503.

### 3.4 Ceramic Building Material

One piece of glazed unfrosted brick was recovered from context 101, together with three pieces of clay roof tile, all probably of late eighteenth century date.

A single fragment of burnt green-glazed floor tile and one fragment of clay roof tile were recovered from context 502.

### 3.5 Stone Building Material

Three pieces of limestone building material were recovered. A large flat piece of Purbeck Limestone 20 mm thick was recovered from context 101, possibly part of a stone roof tile. A broken flake from a Portland Limestone block was recovered from context 502 and a small fragment of oolitic limestone with one smoothed surface was found in context 503.

A broken fragment of an ironstone block or cobble was recovered from context 508.

Six fragments of roofing slate were recovered, all possibly of Cornish origin, with four small fragments from context 506, one fragment each from contexts 502 and 509.

In addition, a single piece of eroded chalk was recovered from context 506. It is unclear whether it had been used as a building material, but is not native to the site.

### 3.6 Mortar/Plaster

A piece of lime mortar was recovered from context 101 and a piece of soft white plaster was recovered from context 502.

### 3.7 Glass

Seven sherds of dark green glass wine bottle were recovered from context 101. These included two bases with domed push ups and basal sag, and one other push up fragment with a pontil mark. These bottle sherds probably date to the later eighteenth century.

### 3.8 Animal Bone

Sixteen pieces of animal bone were recovered from four contexts (101, 200, 502, 508). These included five pieces of cattle long bone and rib from contexts 200, 502 and 508 with fragments of probable sheep/goat scapula, rib and long bones. A number of knife cuts and saw marks were present on the bones.

### 3.9 Marine Shell

Thirty-five oyster shells and fragments were recovered from six contexts (101, 200, 502, 506, 508, 509).

## 4. Discussion and Conclusions

### 4.1 Discussion

Overall, the groundwork interventions, both within and outside the Scheduled Monument, were small in scale and did not disturb significant archaeological features or deposits. No significant damage was done to the Scheduled Monument. However, this means that very little new information was obtained that adds to our understanding of the Scheduled Monument.

Trench 5, which lay outside the Scheduled area, was the only trench to reveal any archaeological features. The remains of at least two pits (505, 507) and two other features (503, 510) were recorded. The very small areas exposed means that it is difficult to interpret the features in any meaningful way or determine what they can tell us about the character and development of this part of Christchurch. Trench 5 lay close to the projected original line of Church Street before it was diverted to allow for the construction of the castle c. 1100 (Penn 1980, 39) (Figure 6). No trace of the road was found in Trench 5, nor was any evidence for Saxon activity found in this trench or elsewhere on the site. The presence of nineteenth century deposits (501, 502) immediately overlying the natural sand (504) in Trench 5 and the seemingly truncated nature of the pits cut into the natural suggests that any earlier deposits in this area had been removed during the construction of the house or during later alterations.

The pits contained very little material – only a small quantity of medieval pottery, stone building material, animal bone, and oyster shell. None of the material can be closely dated within the medieval period. The purpose why the pits were dug is unclear and they contained very little domestic refuse. They lay near the edge of the castle ditch and within a couple of metres of the street frontage. Their location close to Church Street suggests there was no building along the street frontage at this time. Perhaps this area between the castle ditch and the Priory remained as open space during the medieval period, though it is possible that the stone setting 503 is part of a structure of some sort. However, without further investigation it is impossible to interpret this setting in any meaningful way and its significance remains unknown.

Trenches 1–4 and 6 have provided some evidence for the raising of the ground level around the house at some time in the nineteenth century or later. The ground levels on the south side of the house appear to have been raised by over 0.65 m. The depth of the levelling deposits to the rear of the house is not known, nor is it clear why the ground levels were raised.

The air raid shelter is of Second World War vintage and is a sunken structure dug into the ground with the concrete walls apparently cast in situ. The roof was at ground level. The (now blocked) entrance to the south faced towards the back door of Church Hatch for quick access. The north entrance would be more easily accessible from the service wing. The provision of two entrances (exits) reduced the likelihood of becoming trapped in the shelter should a bomb explode in the near vicinity. The angled corridors protected against blast waves directly entering the main part of the shelter in the event of an explosion. The shelter is quite large, but appears to have been constructed for the private use of the inhabitants of Church Hatch.

### 4.2 Conclusions

The works at Church Hatch were small in scale and the archaeological observations only recorded significant archaeology in one trench (Trench 5) close to the Church Street frontage and outside the area of the Scheduled Monument. Two pits containing small quantities of medieval pottery, one other cut feature, and a possible stone setting were recorded. The location of these pits just behind the street frontage (and close to the edge of the Christchurch Castle ditch) may indicate that the frontage of this part of Church Street between the castle and the priory was not built up during the medieval period. In addition the watching brief revealed evidence of the raising of the ground levels to the side and to the rear of the house in the nineteenth century. A WWII air raid shelter in the rear garden was also recorded.



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Figure 1: Site Location.

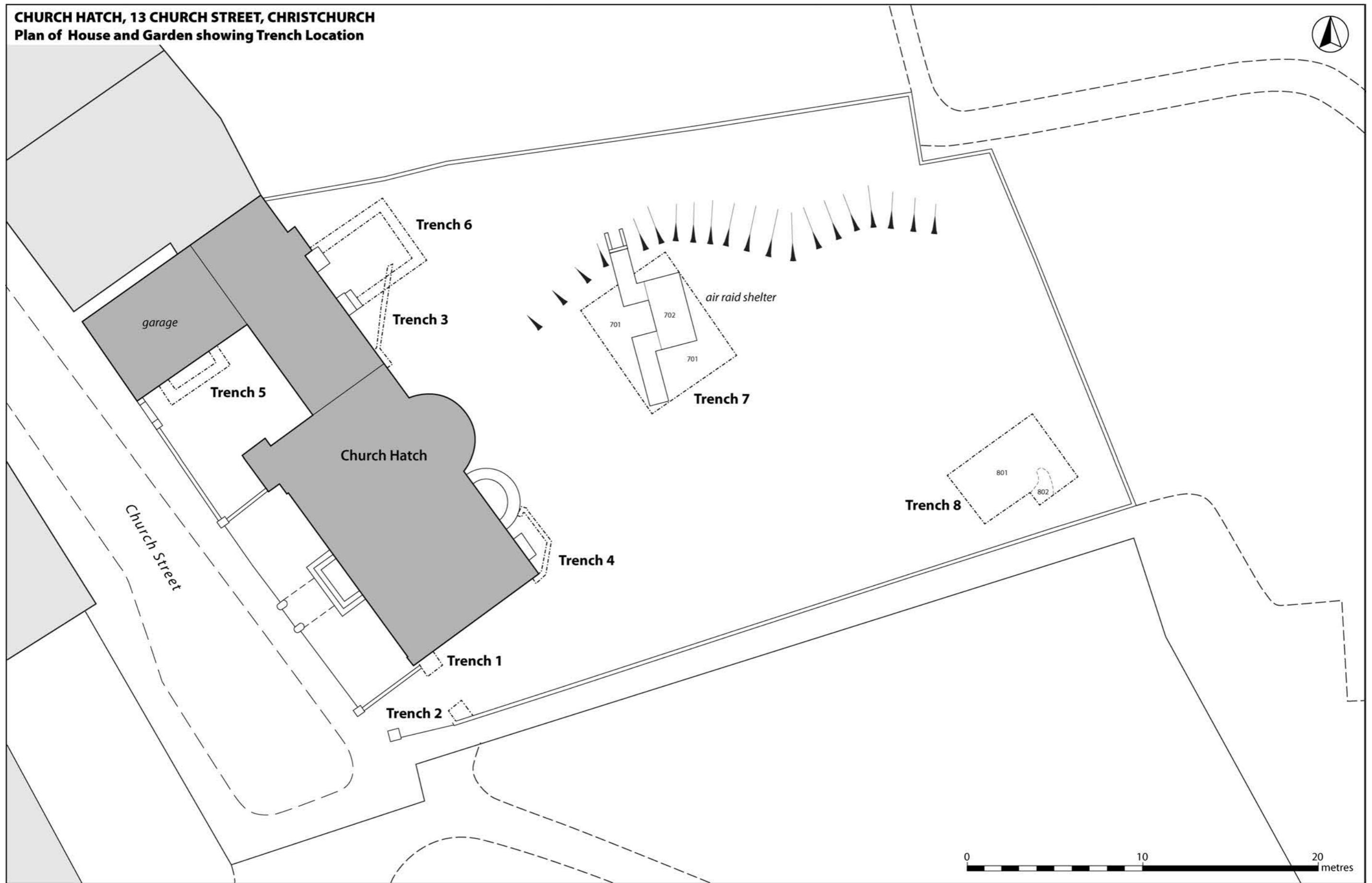


Figure 2: Plan of Site showing trench locations

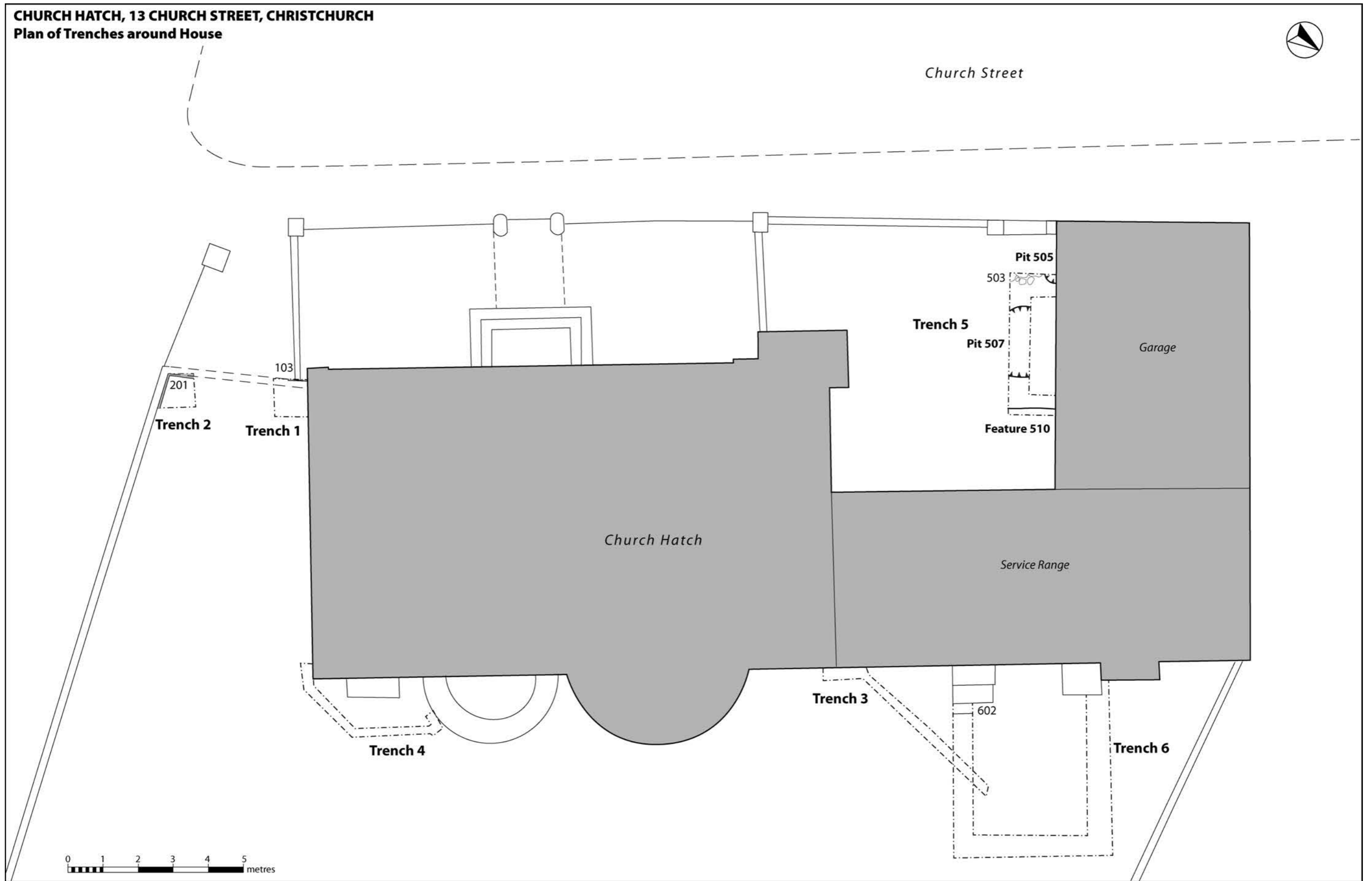
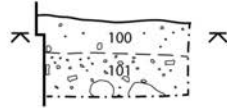


Figure 3: Plan of Trenches adjacent to the house.

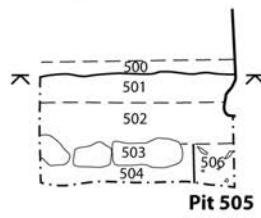
# CHURCH HATCH, 13 CHURCH STREET, CHRISTCHURCH

## Sections

### Northwest-facing Section of Trench 1



### Southeast facing Section of Trench 5



### Southwest facing Section of Trench 5

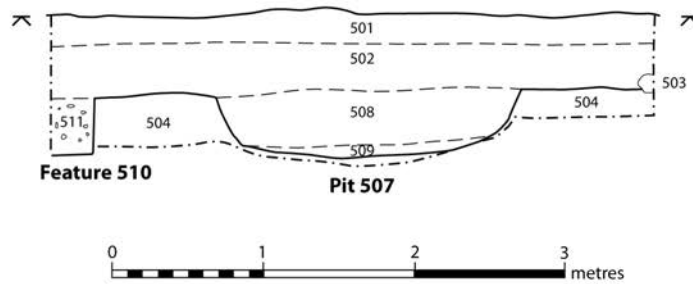


Figure 4: Selected Sections.

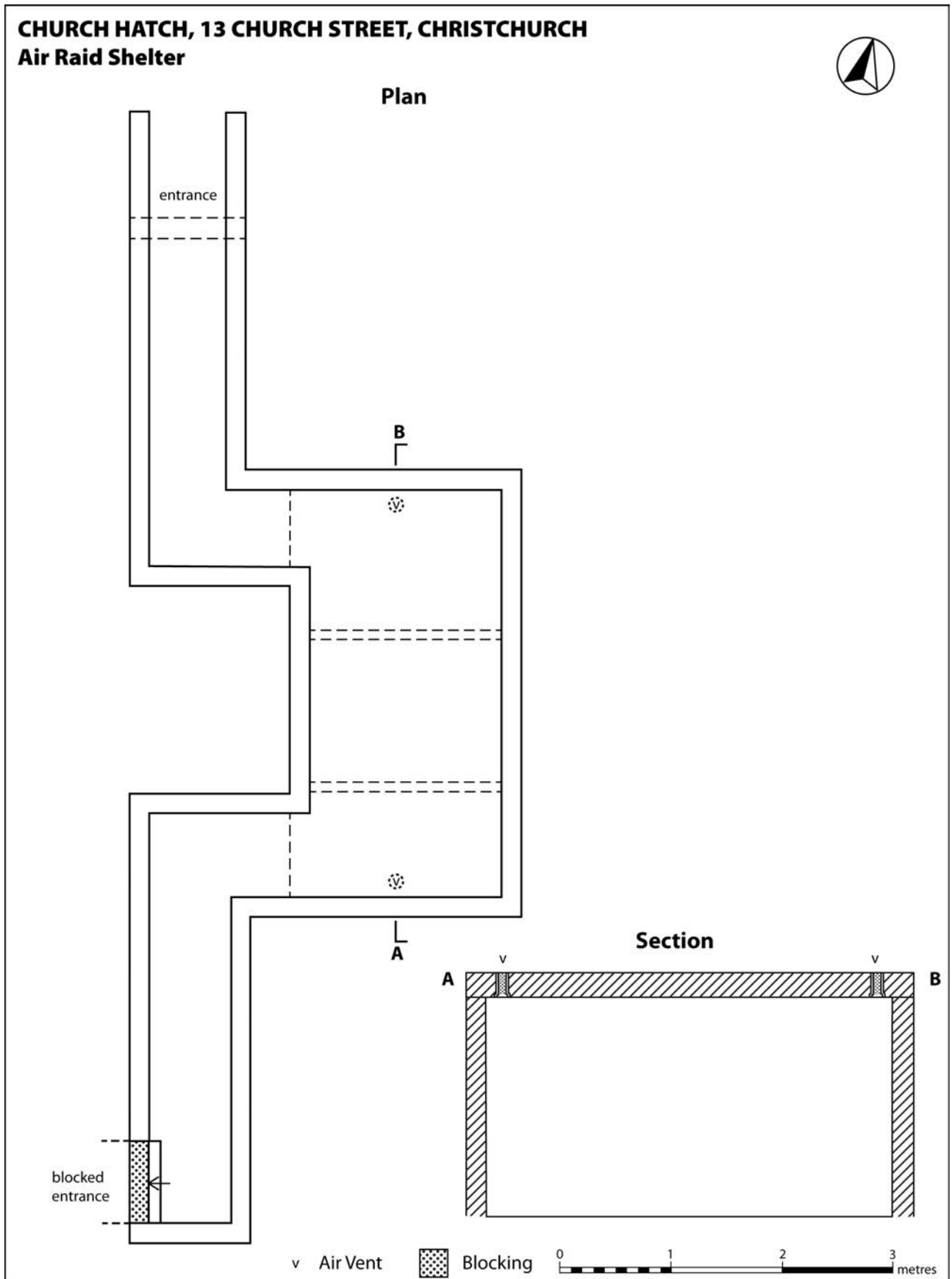


Figure 5: Plan and Section of Air Raid Shelter.

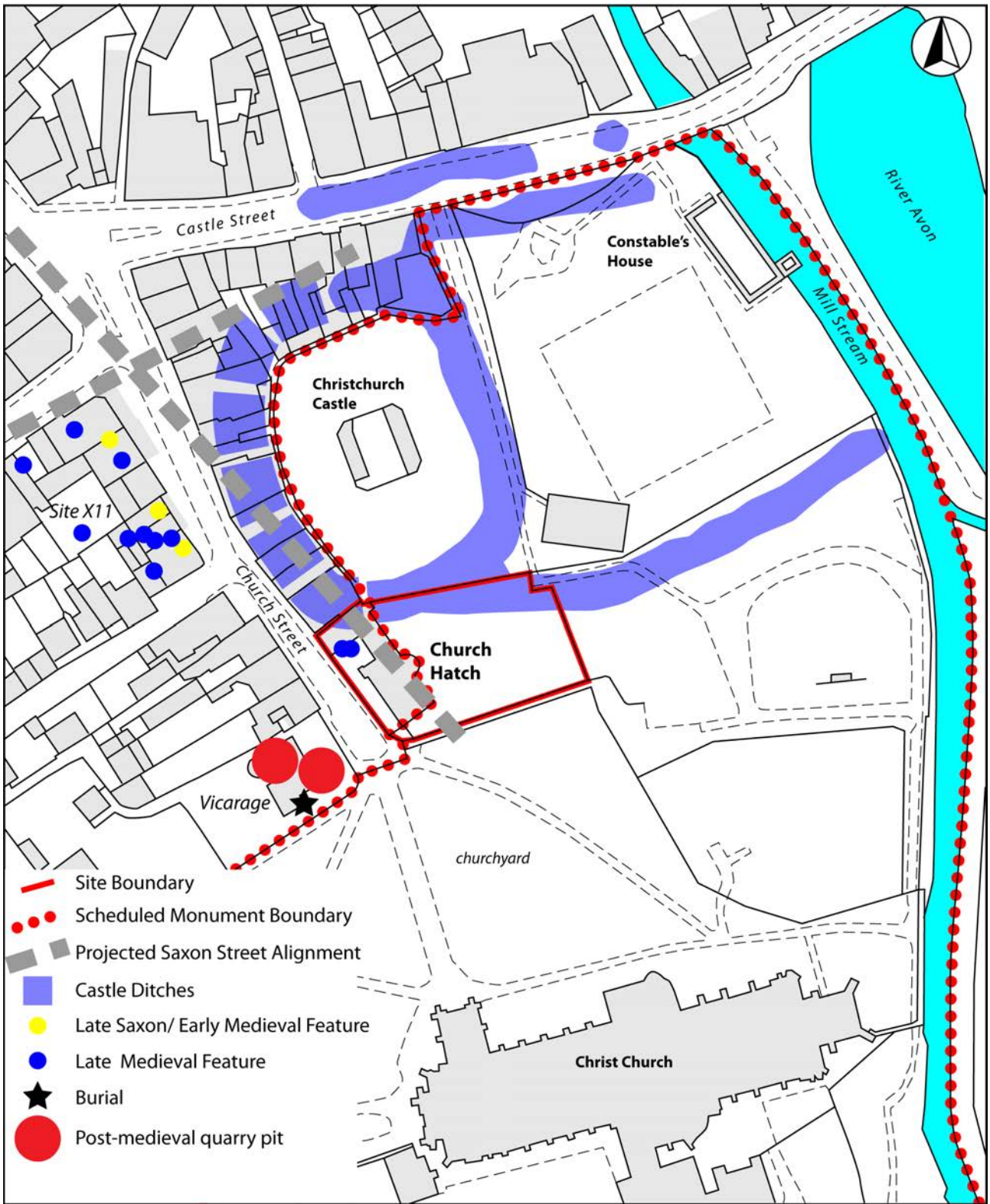


Figure 6: Recorded and Projected Archaeology in environs of the site.



Plate 1: General view front of house and area of Trenches 1 and 2 (behind heras fencing), looking east.



Plate 2: General view of rear garden looking north west, with Trench 8 in foreground.



Plate 3: Trench 1, looking west with wall 104 visible in baulk. 1m scale.





*Plate 4: Trench 2, looking south west. 1m scale.*



*Plate 5: Trench 3 during excavation, looking south west.*



*Plate 6: Trench 4 looking south. 1m scale.*



*Plate 7: Trench 5, looking west. 1m scale.*



*Plate 8: Trench 6, looking north. 1m scales.*



*Plate 9: Trench 7 looking east, showing roof of air raid shelter. 1m scales.*



*Plate 10: Trench 8, looking east.  
1m scale.*



*Plate 11: Pit 507 in Trench 5,  
looking north east. 1m scales.*



*Plate 12: Stone setting 503 and pit  
505 to right. 1m scales.*



Plate 13: Feature 510 in Trench 5, looking east. 1m scales.



Plate 14: Step 602 in Trench 6, looking west. 1m scale.



Plate 15: North entrance to air raid shelter, built into side of former castle ditch, looking SE.



*Plate 16: View along corridor from north entrance of air raid shelter.*



*Plate 17: Interior of air raid shelter, looking south.*



*Plate 18: View of roof in interior of air raid shelter, looking south.*



*Plate 19: View of blocked doorway in south end of air raid shelter.*



*Plate 20: Detail of blocked vent in roof of air raid shelter.*

## Appendix 1: Context Descriptions

### Trench 1

Length: 1.0 m; Width 0.95 m; maximum depth 0.65 m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
100	<b>Topsoil:</b> Friable dark greyish-brown loam with moderate flint gravel, occasional flecks of mortar and clinker, and frequent roots.	0.00 – 0.20m
101	<b>Levelling Layer:</b> Friable dark greyish-brown loam with frequent large stone rubble including pieces up to 500mm long, frequent brick rubble, mortar rubble, and flint gravel. Contains post-medieval pottery, glass and clay tobacco pipe.	0.20 – 0.65m +
102	<b>Brick Wall of House:</b> Red brick wall with brick plinth at 0.15m below ground level	0.00 – 0.65m +
103	<b>Garden Wall:</b> Brick wall 0.35m wide founded on large stone rubble of context 101. Upper part of wall removed prior to recording.	0.00 – 0.45m +
104	<b>Garden Wall:</b> Small area of brick footing adjacent to house wall 102. Two courses survived, extending out 0.45m from house wall.	0.30 – 0.45m

### Trench 2

Length: 1.0 m; Width 0.9 m; maximum depth 0.60 m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
200	<b>Levelling Layer:</b> Moderately firm dark greyish-brown sandy loam with moderate flint gravel, frequent brick rubble, including whole bricks with shallow frogs of early nineteenth century type, patches of reddish clay, occasional clinker and mortar fragments, and oyster shell.	0.00 – 0.60m +
201	<b>Garden Wall:</b> Brick wall with at least seven courses below present ground level. Plinth at about 0.15m below ground level. Partly disturbed by insertion of water pipe and taps, including one at 0.45m below ground level.	0.00 – 0.60m +

### Trench 3

Length: 5.1 m; Width 0.2 m; maximum depth 0.55 m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
300	<b>Turf and Topsoil:</b> Friable dark greyish-brown sandy loam.	0.00 – 0.08m
301	<b>Drain Trench Backfill:</b> Dark greyish-brown sandy loam with moderate flint gravel, occasional brick rubble, coal, clinker and oyster shell.	0.08 – 0.55m +

### Trench 4

Length: 5.4 m; Width 0.2 m; maximum depth 0.3 m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
400	<b>Turf and Topsoil:</b> Dark brown sandy loam.	0.00 – 0.10m
401	<b>Garden Path:</b> Hard packed orange/yellow flint gravel in orange sand and brown sandy loam matrix.	0.10 – 0.26m
402	<b>Garden Soil:</b> Soft dark greyish-brown sandy loam with oyster shell.	0.26m +

### Trench 5

Length: 6.5 m; Width 0.5 m; maximum depth 0.8 m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
500	<b>Yard Surface:</b> Stone flag surface (removed before recording).	0.00 – 0.10m
501	<b>Levelling Layer:</b> Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with frequent flint gravel with an intermittent layer of sticky mixed grey clay, 50mm thick, at the base of the layer.	0.10 – 0.27m
502	<b>Levelling Layer:</b> Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with moderate small stone rubble.	0.27 – 0.55m
503	<b>Stone Setting:</b> An area of close-packed rounded ironstone boulders up to 400mm across, set on top of the natural 504 in NW corner of trench.	0.50 – 0.65m
504	<b>Natural Deposits:</b> Mid yellowish-brown sand.	0.55m +
505	<b>Pit:</b> Vertical sided pit, possibly circular or oval, in NE corner of trench. Not bottomed. Cuts 504. Filled with 506.	0.55 – 0.80m +

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
506	<b>Fill of Pit 505:</b> Mid brown clayey sand with moderate small stone and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.55 – 0.80m +
507	<b>Pit:</b> Large circular or oval pit about 1.0m across, with steeply sloping sides and slightly dished flat bottom 0.45m deep. Cuts 504. Filled with 508 and 509.	0.55 – 1.00m
508	<b>Upper Fill of Pit 507:</b> Dark greyish-brown clayey sand with moderate flint gravel and pebbles, with occasional stone cobble, occasional building stone, moderate charcoal flecks, and with patches of grey clay and redeposited natural sand.	0.55 – 0.90m
509	<b>Lower Fill of Pit 507:</b> Mixed layer of mid brown sandy clay with lumps of grey clay and yellowish-brown sand patches, and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.90 – 1.00m
510	<b>Feature:</b> Straight-edged cut with vertical sides and flat bottom 0.37m deep, cut into the natural sand 504 along the south edge of the trench. Full plan shape not exposed. Filled with 511.	0.55 – 1.02m
511	<b>Fill of Feature 510:</b> Dark yellowish-brown clayey sand with frequent small flint gravel.	0.55 – 1.02m

### Trench 6

Length: 12.5 m; Width 0.5 m; maximum depth 0.5 m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
600	<b>Turf and Topsoil:</b> Humic very dark greyish-brown loam.	0.00 – 0.15m
601	<b>Levelling Layer:</b> Very dark greyish-brown loam with frequent brick rubble, moderate stone rubble, cast iron grate fragments and modern finds.	0.15m +
602	<b>Step:</b> Flat stone forming next step down from existing two steps above ground, which have stone flag treads and brick risers.	0.15m +

### Trench 7

Length: 7.1 m; Width 6.05 m; maximum depth 0.1 m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
700	<b>Turf and Topsoil:</b> Humic very dark greyish-brown loam.	0.00 – 0.10m
701	<b>Garden Soil:</b> Humic very dark greyish-brown loam with moderate flint gravel.	0.10m+
702	<b>Air Raid Shelter:</b> Concrete roof of air raid shelter.	0.00m +

### Trench 8

Length: 6 m; Width 4.5 m; maximum depth 0.1 m.

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
800	<b>Turf and Topsoil:</b> Humic very dark greyish-brown loam.	0.00 – 0.10m
801	<b>Garden Soil:</b> Humic very dark greyish-brown loam with moderate flint gravel.	0.10m+
802	<b>Gravel Patch:</b> Irregular patch of flint gravel.	0.10m+