

# 54/55 Castle St

Truro, Cornwall

## Archaeological Evaluation

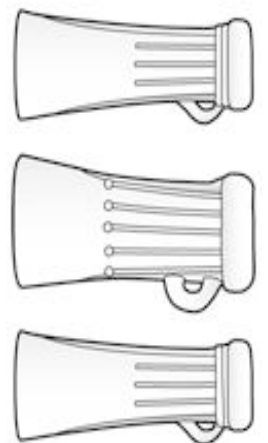
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The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of Archaeological Consultancy Ltd and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

## **Cover illustration**

East elevation of No 55 Castle St.

# **54/55 Castle St**

## **Truro, Cornwall**

### **Archaeological Evaluation**

**Author:** Daniel Billing BSc (Hons) and  
Matt Mossop MA MGSDip MIAI

**Report Date:** October 2010

**Client:** Dan Thompson

**Proposal:** Construction of a shop and two flats

**National Grid Reference:** SW 82348 44884

**Civil parish:** Truro

**District:** Central 1

**County:** Cornwall

**Project Dates:** August 2010

**Licence/Accession No:** N/A

**Project No:** AC10006E

**Planning Reference:** N/A

**Statutory Protection:** Truro Conservation Area, No 55 is  
Grade II Listed, LBS 377350

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Summary</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>6</b>
2.1	Project Background.....	6
2.2	Site Location .....	6
2.3	Topography.....	6
2.4	Geology.....	6
2.5	Archaeological and Historical Background.....	7
2.6	Project Aims and Objectives .....	10
2.7	Methodology .....	10
2.7.1	Desk-based assessment, walk-over and standing building survey 10	
2.7.2	Evaluation trenching .....	10
2.7.3	Site report and archive.....	11
2.7.4	Dissemination .....	11
<b>3</b>	<b>Results</b> .....	<b>11</b>
3.1	54 Castle Street (Figure 4).....	11
3.1.1	Trench 1.....	11
3.1.2	Trench 2 (Plate 2).....	12
3.1.3	Trench 3.....	13
3.2	The boundary wall (Figure 4, 7 and Plate 3) .....	13
3.3	55 Castle Street (Figure 2, 3 and 4, Plate 4).....	14
3.3.1	Outbuilding [9].....	14
3.3.2	Outbuilding [10].....	15
3.3.3	Outbuilding [11].....	15
<b>4</b>	<b>Discussion</b> .....	<b>20</b>
4.1	54 Castle Street .....	20
4.2	The boundary wall.....	20
4.3	55 Castle street outbuildings.....	21
<b>5</b>	<b>Conclusion</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>The Archive</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Recommendations</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>References</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>Appendix 1</b>	<b>Context Register</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>Appendix 2</b>	<b>Brief for Archaeological Assessment</b>	
<b>Appendix 3</b>	<b>54-55 Castle St, Truro, Cornwall. Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation</b>	

## List of Figures

<i>Figure 1</i>	<i>Site Location. Reproduced with kind permission of Cornwall Council. ....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Figure 2</i>	<i>Study area shown on the Tithe Map of 1841. Parish of St. Mary, reproduced with kind permission of Cornwall Record Office. ....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Figure 3</i>	<i>Ordnance Survey, 1880. 25 Inch Map First Edition. Reproduced with kind permission of Cornwall Council. ....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Figure 4</i>	<i>Plan of study area showing Trench 1-3, boundary wall, outbuildings [9-11] and the location of Figures 5, 6 and 7. ....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Figure 5</i>	<i>Section through wall foundation [15] (above) .....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Figure 6</i>	<i>Section through wall foundation [14] (below).....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Figure 7</i>	<i>North elevation of boundary wall .....</i>	<i>19</i>

## List of Plates

<i>Plate 1</i>	<i>(Left) Trench 1 west end wall foundation [14]. ....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Plate 2</i>	<i>(Right) Trench 2 showing from front to back: manhole [16] paving [18], extension wall [17] and concrete flooring [19]. ....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Plate 3</i>	<i>The north elevation of the boundary wall.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Plate 4</i>	<i>Outbuilding [9] centre and outbuilding [10] right, looking northwest. ....</i>	<i>15</i>

## Abbreviations

AC	Archaeological Consultancy Ltd
BGS	British Geological Society
CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit (now the HES)
CC	Cornwall Council (formerly Cornwall County Council)
CRO	Cornwall Record Office
EH	English Heritage
EU	European Union
GIS	Geographical Information System
HEPAO	Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
HES	Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council
NGR	National Grid Reference
NMR	National Monuments Record, Swindon
OD	Ordnance Datum
OS	Ordnance Survey
PRN	Primary Record Number in Cornwall HER
RCM	Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro

## **1 Summary**

AC was commissioned by Dan Thompson to undertake an archaeological evaluation to accompany a planning application for the construction of a shop and two flats at Castle Street, Truro, in line with a brief prepared by the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer (Dan Ratcliffe). The site is part of the Truro conservation area and number 55 is also grade II listed.

The evaluation recorded:

- Nineteenth century foundations and associated extensions at No 54
- Three principal phases of construction of the boundary wall
- The nineteenth century outbuildings at No 55

## **2 Introduction**

### **2.1 Project Background**

Pre-planning advice (Dan Ratcliffe) recommended an archaeological assessment to support a planning application for the construction of a shop and two flats on a vacant plot at 54 Castle St. Given the likely presence of medieval archaeology, a more in depth evaluation was considered to be beneficial, allowing for more informed recommendations. This involved desk based assessment, walk over and standing buildings survey, evaluation trenching and associated archaeological recording.

### **2.2 Site Location**

The site is located at the southern, lower end of Castle St, approximately 200m south of the site of the former castle and approximately 250m west of the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at OS grid reference SW 82348 44884.

### **2.3 Topography**

Truro is positioned at the head of the River Fal ria, or sunken river bed. The course and especially the upper reaches of the Fal and its tributaries have silted up, especially in the later medieval and post-medieval periods.

The site itself slopes gently down from its highest point (50.72m OD) towards the southeast (49.48m OD) and lies just 20m south of the leat which carries the Kenwyn River east to the port of Truro. North of the river, Castle St rises up towards the site of the former castle.

### **2.4 Geology**

The bedrock is recorded as being Middle Devonian Portscatho Beds, part of the Gramscatho Series of Mudstone and Sandstone (Barton, 1964, pp56).



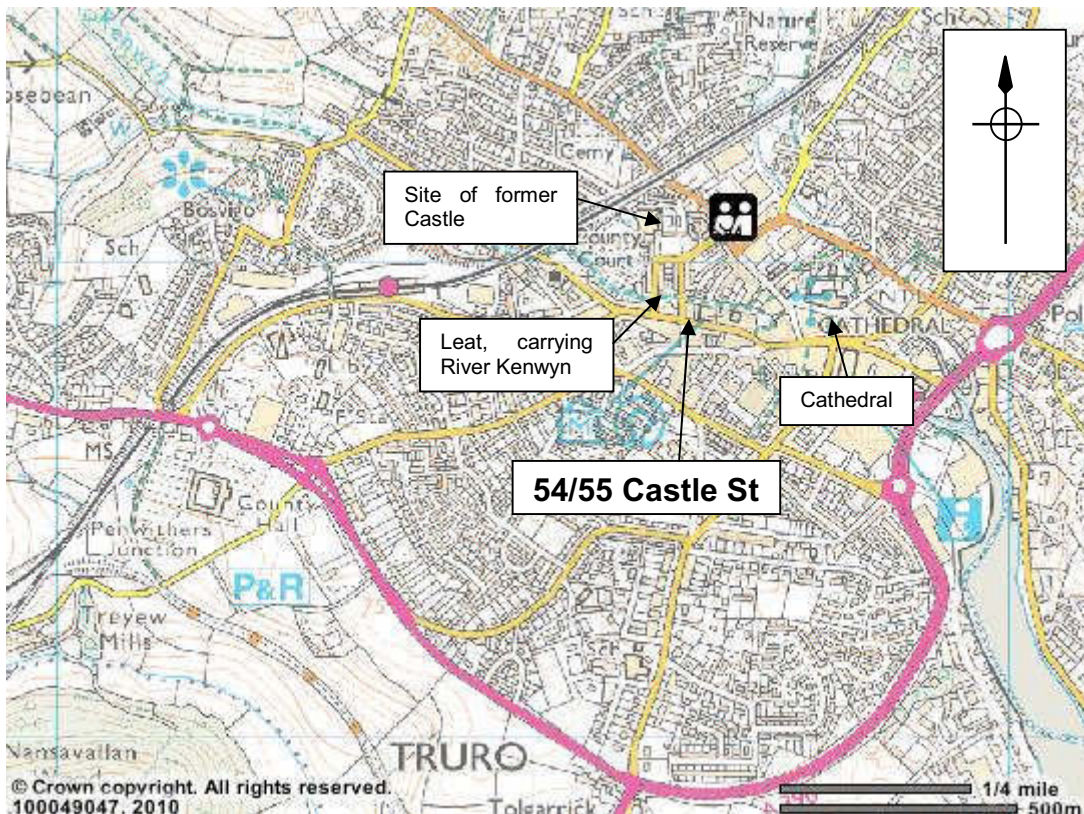


Figure 1 Site Location. Reproduced with kind permission of Cornwall Council.

## 2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

Prehistoric evidence of settlement around Castle Street is limited. Carvedras street 300m to the west appears to derive from the Cornish 'Ker' or fort, (otherwise known as the camp of Mordred) and may imply the presence of earlier settlement in the form of a round. Henderson equates Trehaverne (to the northwest), with Tregafran which is included in the Domesday survey of 1086 (Douch, 1977, p11).

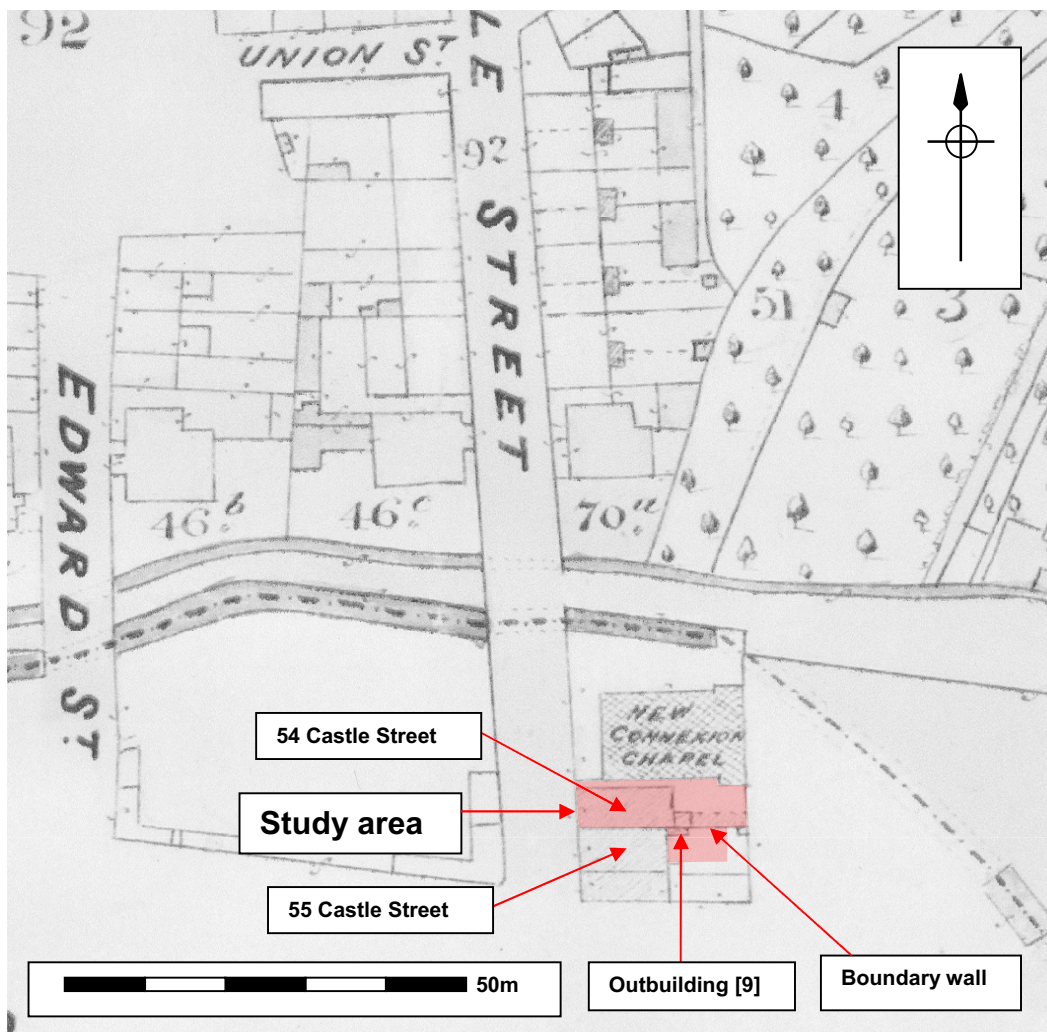
Truro first received a charter in 1153 (Reynolds, 1997, pp7) and Padel (1988, pp174) gives a date of c1173 as the first appearance of the name Triueru with later variations such as Triweru appearing in 1201. The first syllable relates to the Cornish 'tri' or three, but the second part is difficult to interpret. A small adulterine castle, thought to have been constructed by Richard de Lucy between 1135 and 1154 when it was demolished (Douch, 1977), stood a short distance to the north of modern day Castle street. Archaeological excavation has recorded a possible bailey ditch (Perring, 1984).

A Dominican friary established by 1259 once stood to the south of the site and during its lifetime included a church, cemetery, chapter house and Culverhouse. The friary was voluntarily dissolved in 1538 and its site became a meadow known as Friary Meads. Any remains of the friary are said to have been destroyed during the redevelopment of the town during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Sheppard, 1980, pp 23). In 1840 an excavation at the site produced a solitary

capitol and some human bone with the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1880 marking the approximate position (Cornwall and Scilly HER, 2010).

Truro continued developing in terms of size, population and wealth throughout the late medieval and post-medieval periods and by 1575 it had grown to be one of Cornwall's major tin processing towns (Lawson-Jones, 2003). Sturgess (2000) highlights this development throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries with the construction of various quays and a market in the town.

Castle Street itself came into existence after 1830 when landowner, Richard Ferris, agreed plans with Lord Falmouth to develop Burthem Castle meadow. Original plans were for six terraced houses on each side of the street and two villas with lower cost plots towards the northern end of the street (Oates, 1985, p19). Map evidence suggests that 54 and 55 Castle Street were constructed sometime between 1831 (Anon. 1831) and 1835 (Whitley 1835). A chapel on the current site of Elizabeth House is recorded as Ebenezer chapel in 1835 (Whitley, 1835) and later as New Connexion chapel on the 1841 tithe map.



*Figure 2 Study area shown on the Tithe Map of 1841. Parish of St. Mary, reproduced with kind permission of Cornwall Record Office.*



The River Kenwyn was re-routed in the 1840s to the northeast of the site via a culvert to enable the construction of River Street. The Tithe map of 1841 and Symons' map of 1848 clearly show the properties (54/55 Castle Street) with courtyards to the rear (east). Census records (ancestry.com 2010) and trade directories from 1873 onwards show the street was inhabited by a variety of professions. The 1881 census lists No 54 as occupied by T. Barlow a decorator and family and 55 inhabited by L. Ducrow an accountant and family. The 1891 census shows 54 as occupied by J. Hearn a cobbler and family and 55 lived in by W. Nicholls an undertaker and family. The property of 54 Castle Street was demolished in the 1990s. Number 55 was used as a cobbler's shop in the 1970s and 1980s, prior to its establishment as a museum office in 2005.

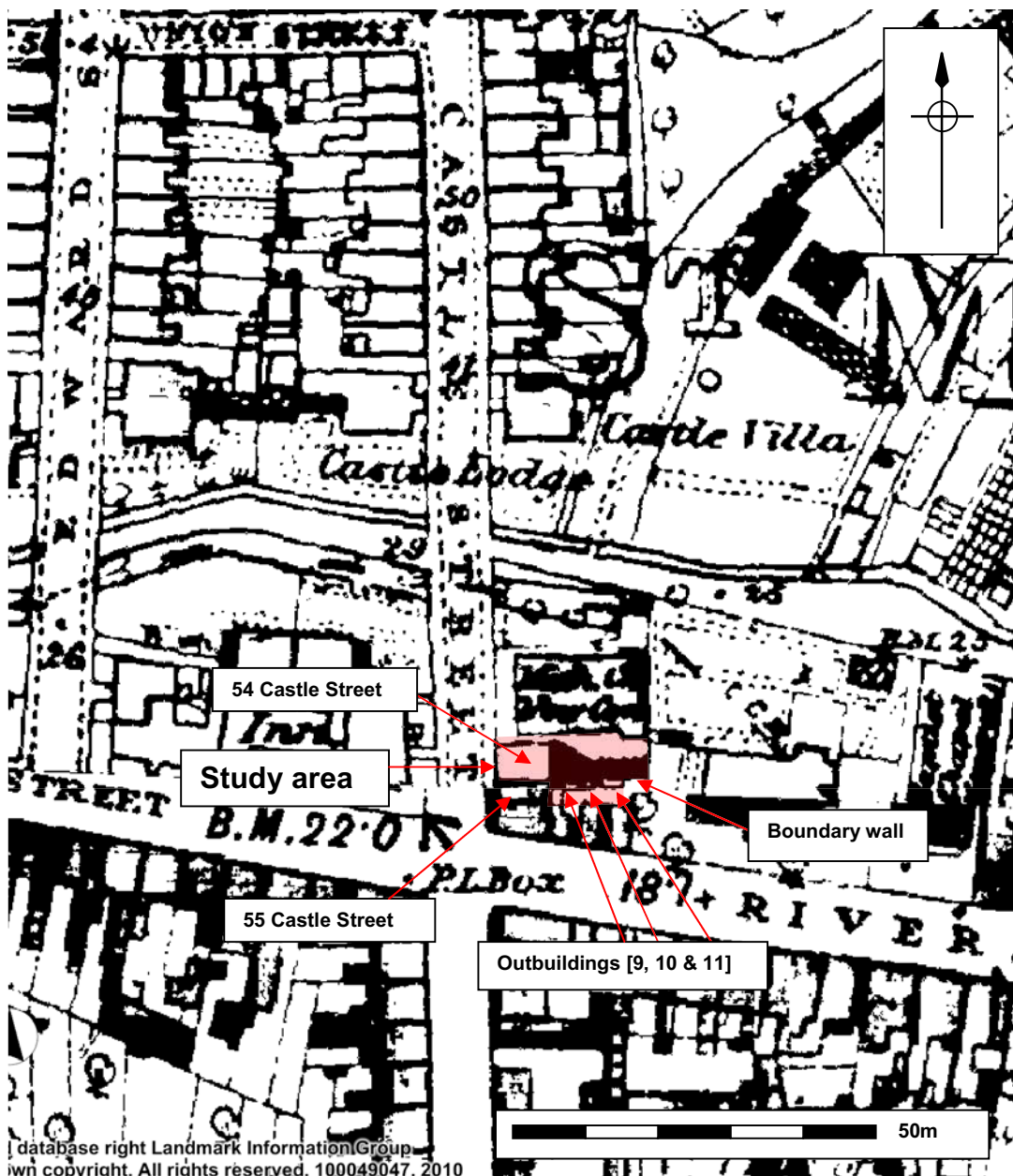


Figure 3 Ordnance Survey, 1880. 25 Inch Map First Edition. Reproduced with kind permission of Cornwall Council.

## **2.6 Project Aims and Objectives**

The principal aims were to:

- Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains
- To record and interpret the nature of the site, and its significance
- Disseminate the findings appropriately.

To achieve these the report aims to:

- Characterise and draw together the historical, architectural and archaeological information about the site and its environs.
- Record and interpret any evidence that may be associated with the post-medieval development of this area of Truro.

## **2.7 Methodology**

AC complies with the guidelines set out in the IfA's Standards and Guidance and follows the IfA code of conduct.

Given the demolition of No 54 Castle St in the 1990s, standing building recording was limited to the boundary wall and outbuildings of No 55 affected by the proposed development.

### **2.7.1 Desk-based assessment, walk-over and standing building survey**

The desk-based assessment concentrated on HER, Heritage Gateway, Cornwall and Scilly Urban Survey, previous archaeological reports, Sheppard's Historic Towns of Cornwall, The Truro Building Recording Groups' publications, census records and a map regression exercise.

A walk-over and standing-building survey recorded the site in advance of evaluation trenching.

Notes and a scaled monochrome photographic survey documented both elevations of the boundary wall, as well as the outbuildings (interiors and exteriors) and eastern elevation of number 55 Castle St. Scaled digital colour photography was used to augment this.

An additional elevation (northern) of the boundary wall was drawn at 1:50 and annotated to show the phasing of the principal builds.

The site drawings, notes, negatives and contact prints are included in the archive accompanied by a photographic register.

### **2.7.2 Evaluation trenching**

A mini-digger with a 1m grading bucket was used to excavate two trenches under archaeological direction along the line of the proposed service routes in number 54. The grading bucket was used to remove the modern rubble (23) and expose the C19th wall foundations and other C19th/20<sup>th</sup> century features.

The exposed archaeology was hand cleaned, photographed, recorded and planned at 1:50. A 450mm bucket was used to test the underlying stratigraphy

to the full depth of the proposed service and footings trenches. 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century wall foundations and floors were photographed and recorded at 1:20 (sections).

A third trench (Trench 3) was excavated with a 450mm bucket to evaluate the stratigraphy in this area with the same methodology.

### **2.7.3 Site report and archive**

The site report and archive were prepared in line with the brief.

Copies of the report will be submitted to: the client; the County Historic Environment Record (HER); Cornwall Record Office; National Monuments Record (NMR) in Swindon and all significant contributors where (with the exception of the client's and contributors' copies) they will be available for public consultation.

The archive will be deposited in a suitable form with the Cornwall Record Office, within two months of the completion of this report and confirmed in writing with the HEPAO. A summary of the contents of the archive is included in this report. The online OASIS record will also be completed.

### **2.7.4 Dissemination**

Following the completion of the archaeological program in line with the written scheme of investigation, no further archaeological dissemination is considered appropriate.

## **3 Results**

### **3.1 54 Castle Street (Figure 4)**

#### **3.1.1 Trench 1**

Trench 1 ran 17.5m east to west along the northern edge of the site parallel to Elizabeth House and averaged 1.1m wide by 1m deep in line with the maximum proposed depth of the service trench. The trench contained the remains of the northern wall of the house which formerly stood on the plot dated to between 1831 and 1835.

The base of the trench exposed an orange-brown sandy-silt (3) with 5% slate/shale fragments averaging 20mm to 50mm maximum dimensions at least 0.70m thick, though the layer continued below the base of the trench. The surface of this layer sloped down towards the eastern end of the site.

A 0.45m wide uncoursed slate/shale wall foundation [14] with dark-grey sandy-silt ran 8m east to west at the western end of the trench (Plate 1), cut into the upper surface of the orange-brown sandy-silt (3). The wall foundation survived to a maximum height of 0.65m at the northeast corner (Figure 6), though it averaged 0.3 to 0.4m height. The northeast cornerstone of the building was cut 0.35m into the underlying orange-brown sandy-silt (3) layer, though the remainder of the foundation cut was considerably shallower, averaging just 0.15m. The horizontally laid slate/shale pieces averaged between 0.2 to 0.45m



in length and were neither obviously dressed nor coursed, except the quoins which were externally dressed. The northeast corner of the wall was in line with a wall identified in Trench 3 and appears to be the northern wall of the building, first depicted in 1835 (Whitley map).

At the eastern end of the trench, a dark organic garden soil (2) was at least 0.6m in depth, overlying the orange-brown sandy-silt (3), though the garden soil continued below the base of the trench.

A modern rubble layer (23) up to 0.47m maximum depth sealed the wall foundation [14] and garden soil (3). A section of 22mm external diameter lead pipe was recorded at the base of this layer immediately to the north of the wall [14].



*Plate 1 (Left) Trench 1 west end wall foundation [14].*

*Plate 2 (Right) Trench 2 showing from front to back: manhole [16] paving [18], extension wall [17] and concrete flooring [19].*

### **3.1.2 Trench 2 (Plate 2)**

Trench 2 ran 5.15m north to south in the middle of the site averaging 1m wide and 1m in line with the proposed service trench.

The base of the trench cut through the orange-brown sandy-silt (3), which continued below the base of the trench. Above this a 0.4m wide wall foundation [17] ran east to west across the width of the trench (1m), of similar build to wall foundation [14], though slightly more narrow. This appears to be the northern wall of an extension to the east of the house, first shown in 1841 (Tithe map).

North of this an area of granite and probable Newham stone paving [18] measuring at least 2.15 north to south, by 1m wide, consolidated the ground to provide access between the house and garden or yard.

Butting up to the south of the wall [17] a 0.2m thick layer of grey-brown sandy-silt levelling (24) had been provided with a 0.06m thick concrete floor [19] with lino still adhering to the upper surface.

At the north end of the trench a modern manhole [16] and associated drainage, truncated the paving [18].

The features described above were sealed by the modern rubble layer (23).

### 3.1.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 ran 15m east to west along the southern end of the site averaging 0.5m wide and 0.6 m deep in line with the proposed maximum depth of the floor slab.

The orange-brown sandy-silt (3) was cut by a north to south running 0.6m wide slate/shale wall foundation [15], surviving to a depth of at least 0.56m. A sherd of blue and white glazed earthen ware was recorded within the wall fabric (Figure 5). This was in line with the northeast corner of the wall identified in Trench 1 and appears to be the eastern (rear) wall of the building, first depicted in 1835 (Whitley map).

To the east of wall [15], the concrete floor [19] and associated levelling (24) surfaced the extension defined to the north by wall [17] and measuring internally 4.9m east to west by 1.75m north to south. To the east deposits of modern sharp sand (20), hardcore (21) and a concrete block wall defined the end of building with garden soil east of this.

The features described above were sealed by the modern rubble layer (23).

## 3.2 The boundary wall (Figure 4, 7 and Plate 3)

The boundary wall separates the properties of 54 and 55 Castle Street running 13.4m east to west at an average height of 2.35m rising to 3.05 metres at the western end with an average thickness of 0.30m (Figure 4).

At the eastern end a taller section of clay bonded slate/shale walling [4] formed part of an outbuilding in the courtyard behind No 55, shown on the tithe map of 1841 (Figure 2), but removed by 1880 (Figure 3). This is interrupted by a concrete block wall [5] which ends at a section of clay bonded sandstone (probable Newham stone) walling [6] on top of which a later clay bonded slate/shale section of walling [12]. These two sections of wall [6 and 12] project up to 0.08m to the north of the northern face of the adjoining walling and may have formed a support at the approximate halfway point of the boundary wall. To the west of the support [6/12] two phases of walling appear to match, with a lower sandstone (probably Newham stone) section [7] beneath a slate/shale build with occasional bricks [13]. The upper section [13] included modern concrete block and Portland cement repairs.



To the west of these Portland cement render covers the rear wall of the largest outbuilding of number 55 [9] which seems to be a continuation of build [7].



*Plate 3 The north elevation of the boundary wall.*

### **3.3 55 Castle Street (Figure 2, 3 and 4, Plate 4)**

#### **3.3.1 Outbuilding [9]**

Outbuilding [9] runs west to east with a length of 3.55m, width of 2.26m and a maximum height of 3m with a concrete floor.

The northern wall [8] consists of a clay bonded sandstone (probably Newham stone) partly covered by a lime plaster with white wash and an area of Portland cement render. This wall also contains a 0.45m wide brick repair 1.83m east of the rear wall of number 55, which runs the full height of the wall.

The eastern wall is built using single skin brick with a Portland cement render, painted white externally.

The similarly constructed south wall contains a wooden framed plate glass window measuring 1.18m in height and 2.35m in length, with a concrete sill. To the north of the window, the door is constructed from bead edged tongue and groove with a screwed rim lock of probable late nineteenth century date. This wall also contains a lead pipe connected to a tap.

The western wall is rendered with Portland cement with a small area of older lime plaster evident and modern electrics running on the surface.

The lean-to replacement roof uses a mixture of timbers, covered with corrugated asbestos or fibre-cement sheeting and orange ceramic roof ridge tiles. Iron guttering and down-pipe run along the exterior of the south wall.



*Plate 4 Outbuilding [9] centre and outbuilding [10] right, looking northwest.*

### **3.3.2 Outbuilding [10]**

Outbuilding [10] runs north to south with a length of 1.84m, a width of 1.60m and rises to a maximum height of 2.07m with a concrete floor.

Walling [7 and 13] of the boundary wall (described above) make up its north wall.

The eastern wall consists of bead-edged tongue and groove with modern repairs and guttering and a small two pane window.

The southern wall is timber built with modern plywood repairs. The door is situated on this wall and is of bead-edged tongue and groove construction with metal strap hinges and a thumb latch.

The eastern brick built wall of outbuilding [9] forms the western wall of outbuilding [10].

The lean-to roof is constructed of corrugated asbestos or fibre-cement, which slopes down from the eastern wall of outbuilding [9].

### **3.3.3 Outbuilding [11]**

Outbuilding [11] runs west to east with a length of 2.29m, width of 0.95m and a maximum height of 2.07m. This building is divided by a Portland cement

bonded single skin brick wall into two toilet cubicles each with a concrete floor. The sandstone [6 and 7] and slate/shale [12 and 13] builds of the boundary wall (described above) form the northern wall of the building and clearly pre-date it. These have been lime-plastered internally.

The east, south and west walls are of single-skinned brick construction with bead-edged tongue and groove doors at either end with a mixture of modern and original metal fittings. A small timber framed window with opaque glass lights each cubicle from the south. The lean-to slate roof has Portland cement pointing and felt and timber repairs. The metal guttering and down pipe lie on the southern wall.

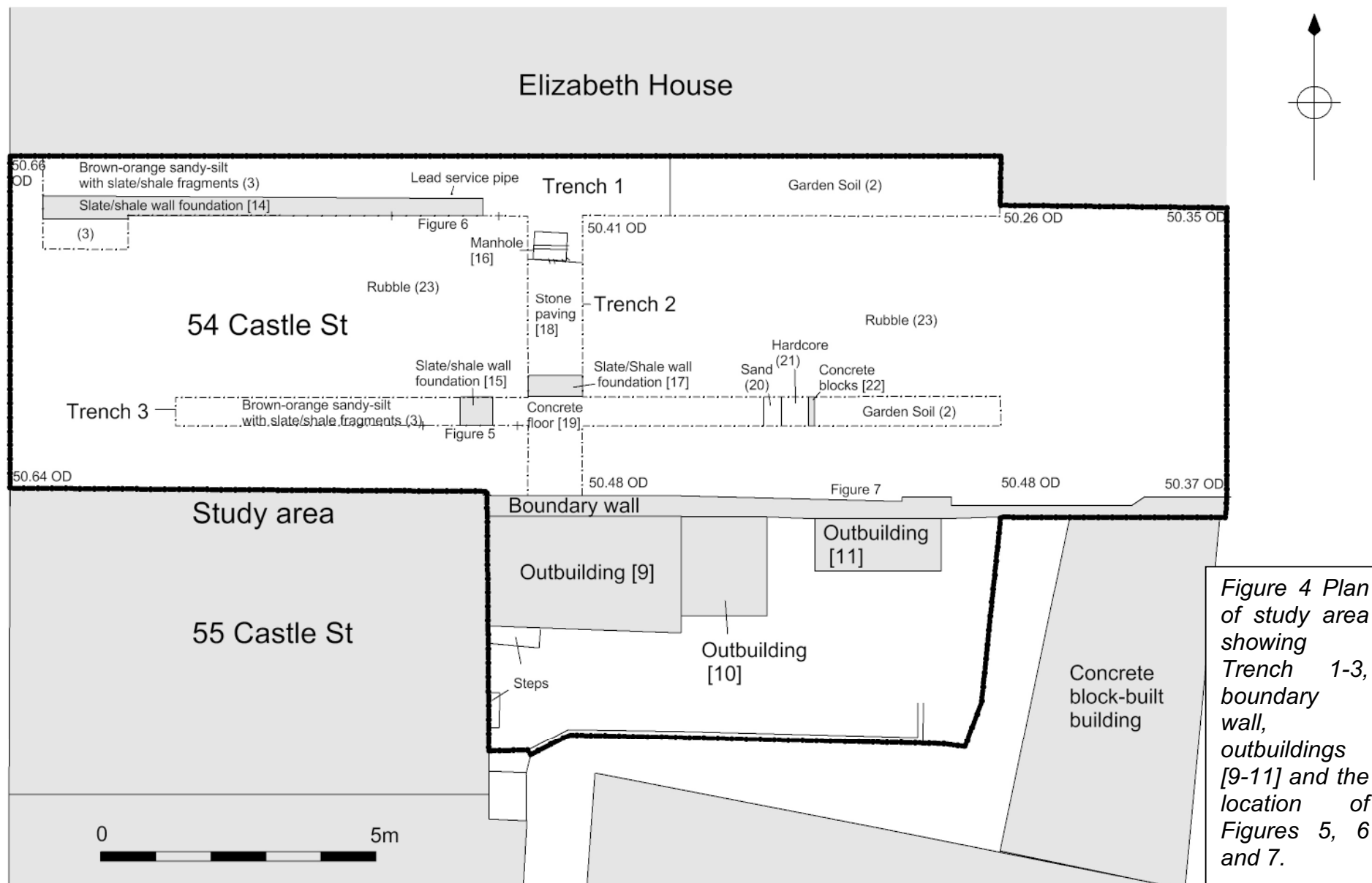
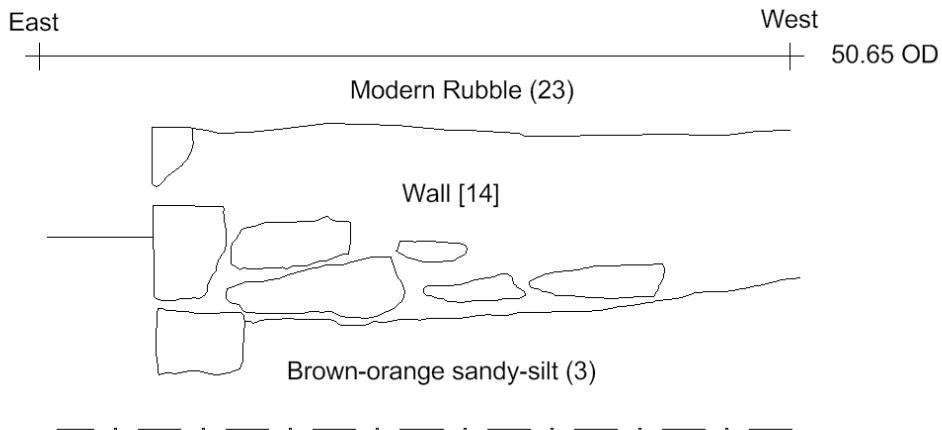
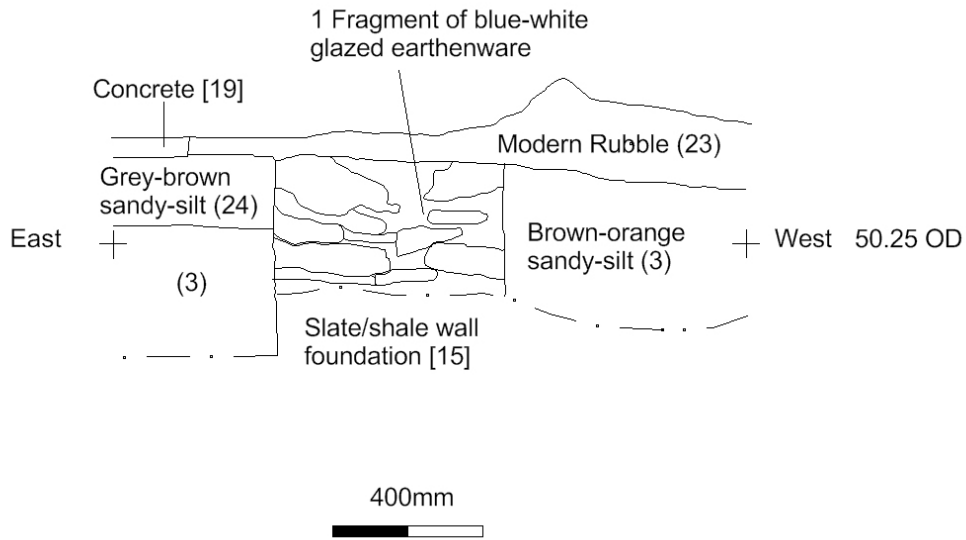


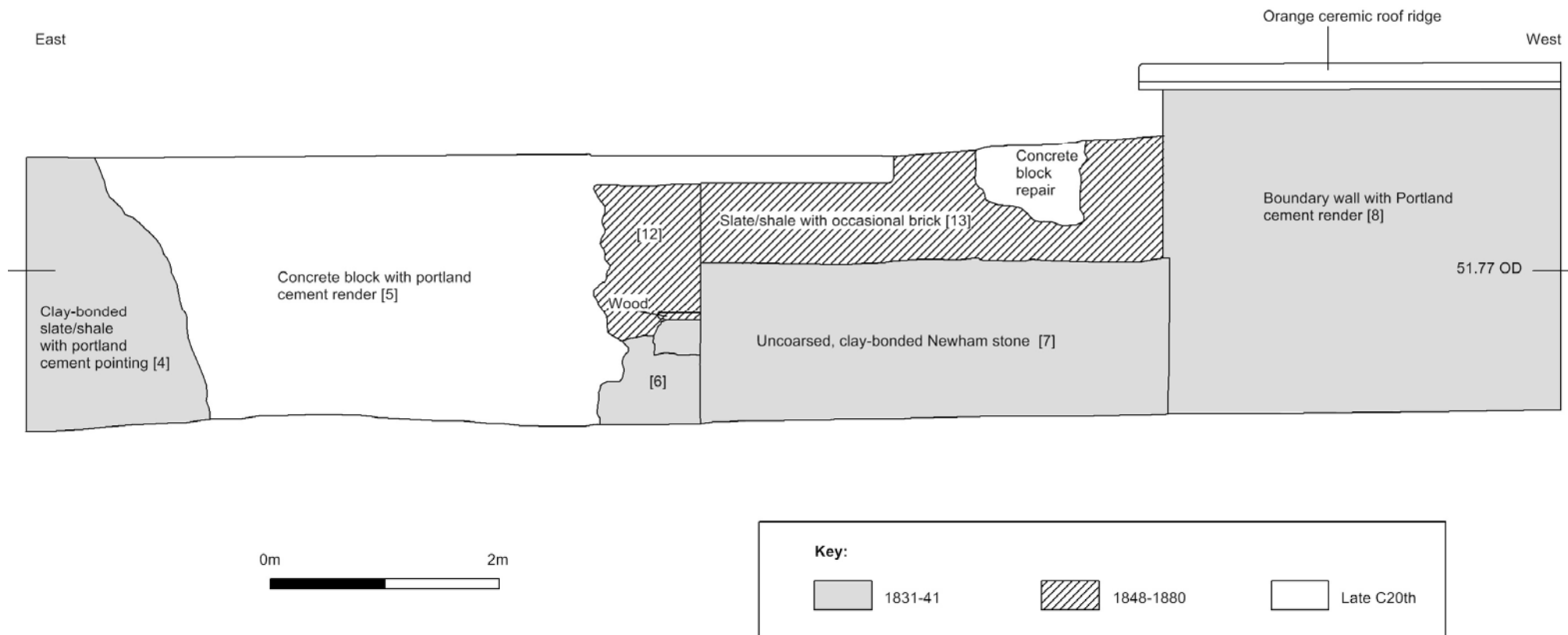
Figure 4 Plan of study area showing Trench 1-3, boundary wall, outbuildings [9-11] and the location of Figures 5, 6 and 7.



*Figure 5 Section through wall foundation [15] (above)*

*Figure 6 Section through wall foundation [14] (below)*





*Figure 7 North elevation of boundary wall*

## 4 Discussion

### 4.1 54 Castle Street

The relative compaction, sterility and consistency of the orange-brown sandy silt (3) and comparison with similar layers identified at Kenwyn St (Lawson-Jones, 2003) suggest that this is a natural layer probably deposited in the years immediately following the last ice age, with the fragments of slate/shale eroded from the underlying bedrock.

Wall foundations [14 and 15] appear to be the north and east walls of the building first shown on the 1835 map (Whitley). Though notably Whitley's (1835), the Tithe (1841) and Symonds' (1848) maps all appear to have inaccurate measurements for the widths of the buildings. The listed building description for 55 Castle Street specifies three shops with accommodation above c1830s, which appears to refer to No 54, 55 and 22 River St (on the corner of Castle St and River St).

Wall foundation [17] appears to be the northern wall of an extension or outbuilding to the east (rear) of No 54, shown on the Tithe and later maps. The eastern wall of this building appears to have been entirely removed sometime after 1907 (OS map) to allow for a further extension, when the concrete floor [19] was laid. The manhole [16] may be contemporary with this extension or post-date it, providing two points of drainage within the extension, probably allowing for a bathroom and water closet.

The paving [18] is shown on the 1907 OS map probably facilitating access from a rear door to the path along the north of the property and the garden.

### 4.2 The boundary wall

The boundary wall, or at least the property division, first appears on the 1841 Tithe map, though it may be contemporary with the construction of No 54 and 55 sometime between 1831 and 1835, given that Whitley's map of 1835 does not generally record either boundary walls or outbuildings. Its positioning, materials and relatively thin profile make any earlier date improbable and nothing is shown in the vicinity on earlier maps.

Clay-bonded slate/shale walling [4] extends to a height of 2.4m which is considerably taller than associated builds [6 & 7] indicating that this formed part of a small square outbuilding at the east end of number 55 shown in the 1841 tithe map (Figure 2). This may have been a toilet predating the existing toilet block. The building itself appears to have been demolished sometime between 1848 (Symonds map) and 1880 (OS map), by which time the toilet block [11] appears to have been constructed.

Walling [6, 7 and 8] appear to be contemporary, with build [6] reinforcing the central part of the boundary wall. Render obscures the relationship between build [8] and No 55, though [8] must have been built by 1841 when outbuilding [9] is first depicted.

The use of slate/shale and occasional brick rather than sandstone or Newham stone indicate a second phase of construction [12 and 13] heightening the boundary wall to match build [4] sometime between 1848 (Symonds map) and 1880 (Figure 3) when outbuilding [10] is shown.

Concrete block-work and Portland cement repairs [5] appear to be contemporary with the construction of the concrete block-built building at the extreme eastern end of No 55 outside the study area sometime in the latter part of the twentieth century.

#### **4.3 55 Castle street outbuildings**

A building appears in the position of outbuilding [9] on the 1841 map though (see above) it may be contemporary with the original build (1831-35). The brick repair to its northern wall may indicate an original division in this building, whilst the bead-edged tongue and grooved door appears to be a later 19<sup>th</sup> century replacement. The window and roof are both 20<sup>th</sup> century replacements, with the original roof probably being of slate. The provision of a tap indicates its use as a utility room, though it is also likely to have been used for storage.

Outbuildings [10 and 11] are built between 1848 (Symons map) and 1880 (OS map), probably in the later part of this period at the same time as the new door to outbuilding [9]. The first sanitation act of 1848 stipulated the provision of a water closet or ash-pit privy for each new house. The provision of two toilets with separate entrances may indicate that the building served its immediate River St neighbours who also backed onto the courtyard.

### **5 Conclusion**

The proposed development is unlikely to affect medieval or early post-medieval archaeological remains as no evidence for pre-nineteenth century activity was found on site.

Number 54 and 55 Castle Street appear to have been constructed as shops with accommodation over, sometime between 1831 and 1835. The boundary wall was built to separate the plots sometime between 1831 and 1841 with the outbuildings of No 55 constructed between 1831 and 1880.

The wall foundations, boundary wall and outbuildings recorded at 54 and 55 Castle Street are of local significance, adding to our understanding of the 19<sup>th</sup> century developments in this part of Truro.

### **6 The Archive**

The AC Ltd project number is **AC10006E**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archives are housed at the offices of Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, Goodagrane, Halvasso, Penryn, Cornwall, TR10 9BX pending transferral to the Cornwall Record Office. The contents of this archive are quantified below:

### Written and Photographic Records

Record	A5*	A4*	A3*	A2*	A1*	≥ A0*	No.	Comment	Location
Drawing sheets				1			1	Site plan, sections and elevation of boundary wall	CRO
Desk-based assessment notes		10					10		CRO
Primary record sheets		7					7	Context register, outbuilding notes, matrix, photo register	CRO
(Rolls) B&W Negatives							1	35mm	CRO
Contact sheets		1					1		CRO

\* = Number of sheets

## 7 Recommendations

Following the completion of the program of archaeological work outlined in the written scheme of investigation no further archaeological work is recommended.

## 8 References

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*Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1841. Parish of St. Mary.*

Whitley, N, 1835. *Plan of Truro*.



## Appendix 1 Context Register

Context	Area	Description
1	No. 54, Trenches 1,2 & 3	Unstratified.
2	No. 54, Trenches 1 & 2	Garden soil – Mid/dark grey brown sandy silt.
3	No. 54, Trenches 1, 2 & 3	Natural – Orange-brown sandy silt with 5% slate/shale fragments of 20-50mm.
4	Boundary Wall	Boundary wall between properties – Build 1. A potential outbuilding wall for a toilet, Double height other original walling.
5	Boundary Wall	Boundary wall – build 2. Modern extension/repair containing concrete blocks.
6	Boundary Wall	Boundary wall – build 3. Part of an original wall support.
7	Boundary Wall	Boundary wall – build 4. Original walling consisting of uncoarsed, clay-bonded stone (possibly Newham).
8	Boundary Wall	Boundary wall – build 5. Part of original boundary wall and outbuildings/extension now covered in Portland cement render.
9	No. 55	Outbuilding to the rear of 55 Castle st.
10	No. 55	Outbuilding to the rear of 55 Castle st.
11	No. 55	Outbuilding to the rear of 55 Castle st. (toilet).
12	Boundary Wall	Boundary wall – build 6. Later extension to original wall support.
13	Boundary Wall	Boundary wall – build 7. Later extension to the boundary wall.
14	No. 54, Trench 1	North wall of No. 54 Castle st.
15	No. 54, Trench 3	East wall of No. 54 Castle st.
16	No. 54, Trench 2	Modern manhole.
17	No. 54, Trench 2	Slate/shale wall.
18	No. 54, Trench 2	Granite/mixed paving.
19	No. 54, Trench 1, 2 & 3	Concrete floor.
20	No. 54, Trench 3	Modern Sharp sand.
21	No. 54, Trench 3	Hardcore.
22	No. 54, Trench 3	Concrete block wall.
23	No. 54, Trench 1, 2 & 3	Modern rubble.
24	No. 54, Trench 2 & 3	Rubble layer

## Appendix 2

### BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

**Date:** 09/03/2010  
**Address:** 54/55 Castle Street, Truro  
**Applicant:** Dan Thompson  
**Agent:**

**Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer:** Dan Ratcliffe Cornwall Council, Historic Environment Service, 39 Penwinnick Road, Truro. Tel. 01726 223463 E-mail. [dratcliffe@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:dratcliffe@cornwall.gov.uk)

#### Local Planning Authority Officer:

This brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer (HEPAO) should be contacted. The contractor is strongly advised to visit the site as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.

#### Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)

No ground works are to be undertaken until the HEPAO and the Local Planning Authority (LPA) have approved the archaeological contractor's WSI.

#### 1 Introduction

This brief has been written by the HEPAO and sets out the scope of archaeological assessment works which Historic Environment advises is undertaken in order to supply information in support of a planning application for the above site.

#### 2 Site Location and Description

The site is located on Castle Street in Truro, on previously developed land. The site is an 'infill plot' between standing buildings, having been cleared of its own buildings in the 1990s.

#### 3 Planning Background

Development proposals and a planning application are currently being prepared for this site. This work has been advised following pre-application discussions with the Historic Environment Advice Team.

#### 4 Archaeological Background

This part of Truro has been identified as being within the probable area of medieval settlement by the Cornwall and Scilly Urban Survey. A religious friary is known to have been sited in the vicinity from 1259 until the 16th century dissolution of monastic foundations. Whilst its extent is unknown, remains are reported to have been unearthed during the construction of River St and Frances Street in the 19th century, and in 1988 building works on the corner of Little Castle Street and Frances Street uncovered probable medieval walling and a variety of medieval finds.

It is possible that some parts of the boundary walling to the plot may be of historic value.

## **5 Requirement for Work**

Ground works may disturb extant and buried archaeological remains. In order to understand the site and its potential for recording archaeological remains an assessment is required. This would involve a desk based assessment including a map regression plus a walk over survey of the extant remains of the site. This would provide evidence for any recommendations for archaeological recording.

The site specific aims are to:

- Draw together the historical and archaeological information about the site and the known archaeological resources of the surrounding area.
- Inform whether archaeological recording of any extant remains is required.
- Inform whether an archaeological evaluation or further archaeological recording of any potential buried remains is required.
- Inform whether palaeo-environmental sampling would be required.

## **6 General Guidance**

- 6.1 The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the code of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).
- 6.2 All of the latest Health and Safety guidelines shall be followed on site.
- 6.3 Terminology will be consistent with the English Heritage Thesaurus.

## **7 Results**

- 7.1 The full report including all specialist assessments of artefact assemblages shall be submitted within a length of time (but not exceeding six months) to be agreed between the applicant and the archaeological contractor, Cornwall County Council Historic Environment Service and the Cornwall Record Office or Royal Cornwall Museum. A further digital copy shall be supplied on CD-ROM preferably in 'Adobe Acrobat' PDF format.
- 7.2 The archaeological contractor will undertake the English Heritage/ads online access to the index of archaeological investigations (OASIS).
- 7.3 This report will be held by the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER) and made available for public consultation.
- 7.4 The report must contain:
  - A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
  - The aims and methods adopted in the course of the investigation.
  - A discussion of the archaeological findings in terms of both the site specific aims and the desk based research.

- A location map, a drawing showing those areas examined as part of the archaeological recording, and copies of any archaeological plans and sections. All plans shall be tied to the national grid.
- All specialist reports and assessments.
- A summary of the archive contents and date of deposition.
- A context register with brief descriptions shall be included as an appendix.
- A copy of the brief and the approved WSI will be included as an appendix.

## **8 Archive Deposition**

- 8.1 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) English Heritage 2006* upon completion of the project. The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum.
- 8.2 If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the documentary archive shall be housed with the Cornwall County Record Office and with the Courtenay Library of the Royal Institution of Cornwall.
- 8.3 The archive including a copy of the written report shall be deposited with the Royal Cornwall Museum within two months of the completion of the full report and confirmed in writing with the HEPAO.
- 8.4 Where there is only a documentary archive this will be deposited with the Cornwall Record Office as well as the Courtenay Library of the Royal Institution of Cornwall.
- 8.5 A copy of the report will be supplied to the National Monuments Record (NMR) Swindon.
- 8.6 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the HEPAO.
- 8.7 Only on completion of 8.1 to 8.5 (inclusive) will there be a recommendation for the discharge of any archaeological recording condition.

## **9 Monitoring**

- 9.1 The HEPAO will monitor the work and should be kept regularly informed of progress.
- 9.2 Notification of the start of work shall be given preferably in writing to the HEPAO at least one week in advance of its commencement.
- 9.3 Any variations to the WSI shall be agreed with the HEPAO, preferably in writing, prior to them being carried out.

## Appendix 3

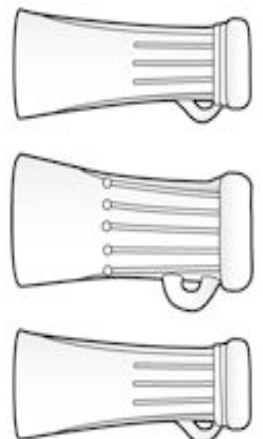
# 54-55 Castle St, Truro, Cornwall.

## Archaeological Evaluation: Written Scheme of Investigation.

**Author:** Matt Mossop MA MGSDip MIAI  
**Report Date:** 17.06.2010  
**Client:** Dan Thompson  
**Project No:** AC10006E  
**Planning Reference:** Pre-Planning  
**Statutory Protection:** Truro Conservation Area, No 55 is  
Grade II Listed, LBS 377350  
**Proposal:** Construction of a shop and two flats  
**Civil Parish:** Truro  
**District:** Central 1  
**County:** Cornwall  
**Country:** England  
**National Grid Reference:** SW 82348 44884

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**Archaeological**  
Consultancy Ltd.





## 1 Summary

The site at 54/55 Castle St., Truro, is designated as part of the Truro Conservation Area, in an area of likely medieval archaeology. No 55 is also a grade II listed building (LBS 377350).

Archaeological Consultancy Limited (AC) have been commissioned by Dan Thompson, to provide a Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation, to support a planning application for the construction of a shop and two flats. The methodology for the evaluation has been prepared following a brief provided by Dan Ratcliffe, Historic Environment Advisor (Archaeology), Cornwall Council, in consultation with Dan Ratcliffe and Jenny Gale (Conservation Officer, Central 1, Cornwall Council).

## 2 Site location

### 2.1 Location

The site is located at the southern, lower end of Castle St, approximately 200m south of the site of the former castle and approximately 250m west of the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at OS grid reference SW 82348 44884.

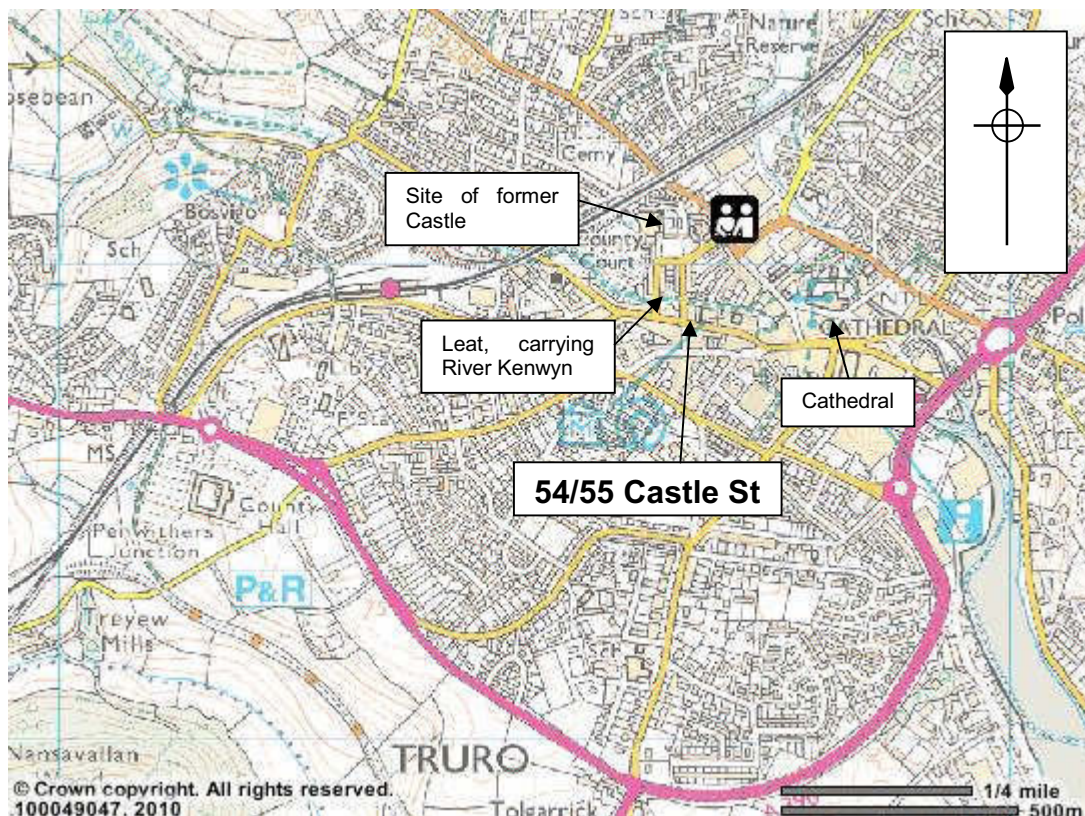


Figure 1: Site Location. Courtesy of Cornwall County Council.

### 2.2 Topography

Truro is positioned at the head of the River Fal ria, or sunken river bed. The course and especially the upper reaches of the Fal and its tributaries have silted up, especially in the later medieval and post-medieval periods.

The site itself slopes gently down from its highest point (50.72m OD) towards the southeast (49.48m OD) and lies just 20m south of the leat which carries the Kenwyn River east to the port of Truro. North of the River, Castle St rises up towards the site of the former castle.

### **2.3 Geology**

The bedrock is recorded as being Middle Devonian Portscatho Beds, part of the Gramscatho Series (Mudstone & Sandstone) (Barton 1964, pp56).

## **3 Project background**

### **3.1 Development background**

Pre-planning advice (Dan Ratcliffe) recommended an archaeological assessment to support a planning application for the construction of a shop and two flats on a vacant plot beside 55 Castle St. Given the likely presence of Medieval archaeology, a more in depth evaluation was considered to be beneficial, allowing more informed recommendations.

### **3.2 Archaeological and Historical background**

This part of Truro has been identified as being within the probable area of medieval settlement by the Cornwall and Scilly Urban Survey. A religious friary is known to have been sited in the vicinity from 1259 until the 16th century dissolution of monastic foundations. Whilst its extent is unknown, remains are reported to have been unearthed during the construction of River Street and Frances Street in the 19th century, and in 1988 building works on the corner of Little Castle Street and Frances Street uncovered probable medieval walling and a variety of medieval finds.

The party wall dividing No 54 from No 55 may be on the line of a Medieval or Post-medieval boundary. Much of this structure is rendered, though exposed walling reveals probable Newham stone with lime pointing with parts earth-bonded. A number of phases seem likely.

Number 55 Castle St is described as c1830s stuccoed, fronted shop with accommodation over. The lean-to at the rear of the property appears to post-date this substantially and may date from the early C20th.

## **4 Project aims and objectives**

The principal aims will be to:

- Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains
- To record and interpret the nature of the site, and its significance
- Disseminate the findings appropriately.

To achieve these aims the report will:

- Characterise and draw together the historical, architectural and archaeological information about the site and its environs.
- Record and interpret any evidence that may be associated with the Medieval and later development of this area of Truro.

## **5 Method statement**

### **5.1 General methodology**

AC complies with the guidelines set out in the IfA's Standards and Guidance and follows the IfA code of conduct.

Given the demolition of No 54 Castle St in the 1990s, standing building recording will be limited to the party wall and outbuildings of No 55 affected by the development.

### **5.2 Stage 1: Desk-based assessment (DBA), walk over and standing building survey**

An initial DBA will concentrate on SMR, Heritage Gateway, Cornwall and Scilly Urban Survey, previous archaeological reports, Sheppard's Historic Towns of Cornwall, The Truro Building Recording Groups publications, photographic records at the Cornwall Studies Library and a map regression exercise.

Further research will be undertaken as necessitated by the findings.

A walk over and comprehensive standing building survey will record any extant visible remains on the site. Existed architectural plans and elevations will be checked and annotated with architectural and archaeological detail. A scaled monochrome photographic survey will document the Party Wall and No 55 east exterior wall and outbuildings in advance of development. Scaled digital colour photography may augment this to provide general and detailed shots and may be used within the report. All negatives contact prints and where appropriate, Cd's will be included in the archive accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum, feature number, location and direction of shot.

### **5.3 Stage 2: Evaluation trenching and associated archaeological recording**

A mini-digger equipped with a 450mm bucket will excavate a series of trenches under archaeological direction along the line of the proposed service route, along the north edge of No 54 and at 5-10m intervals, diagonally across the site. These will be excavated with the back of the bucket where possible to facilitate the recognition of archaeological deposits.

Soil will be removed by machine with a grading bucket, under archaeological supervision down to the bedrock, the top of any archaeological deposits, walling or to the base of the trench, as appropriate. The trenches will match the depth of required footings (approx 600mm for the footprint slab).

Any significant archaeological remains shall be excavated by hand, photographed (see above) and recorded at 1:10 (sections) and 1:20 (plans) as standard, though other scales may be used.

The 1990s demolition layer is likely to include considerable quantities of unstratified late C20th debris which will not be recorded, unless it is of particular significance. Significant C20th and earlier material will be bagged where practical and labelled by context. Significant finds will be cleaned, stabilised and marked with accession and context number and packed in accordance to RCM's guidelines.

Finds will be described and illustrated as appropriate in advance of any necessary specialist analysis, conservation, or discard. Any discard follows



guidance from RCM and will be more specifically advised on at post-excavation stage.

The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed in outline with the RCM prior to the start of work, though detailed requirements will be re-assessed following completion of fieldwork and confirmed in writing to the HEPAO.

Due to the afore-mentioned C20th disturbance and minimal depth of excavations, paleo-environmental sampling is not likely to be necessary, though this will be assessed on site.

Any human remains which are encountered will initially be left *in-situ* and reported to the HEPAO and Coroner, as appropriate, and accorded appropriate respect.

If very significant archaeological deposits are exposed, or objects with very significant conservation costs, all work will cease and a meeting will be convened with AC staff, the client, the HEPAO and relevant RCM staff member if appropriate, to discuss the most appropriate way forwards.

## **5.4 Report and Archive**

### **5.4.1 Interim statement**

A brief interim statement will be prepared following the completion of the fieldwork (as discussed with Dan Ratcliffe and Dan Mitchell (Planning Officer, Central 1, Cornwall Council) and provided for the client, Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer, Conservation Officer and Planning Officer, to support the planning application within one month of the completion of the fieldwork.

This will present interim results, recommendations and identify on-going work and present a timescale for report completion.

### **5.4.2 Report**

A single archive report will be prepared to describe the results of the archaeological work. A digital version will also be supplied on CD-ROM. The final report will contain: summary, aims and methods, discussion, conclusions, recommendations, location and other relevant plans tied in to the OS grid.

Copies of the archive report will be submitted to: the client; the County Historic Environment Record (HER); Cornwall Record Office; National Monuments Record (NMR) in Swindon and all significant contributors where (with the exception of the client's and contributors' copies) they will be available for public consultation.

### **5.4.3 Archive**

The site archive will be prepared in line with the brief.

The archive will be deposited in a suitable form with the Cornwall Record Office (documentary only) or Royal Cornwall Museum, within two months of the completion of the final report and confirmed in writing with the HEAA. A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the HEPAO.

### **5.4.4 Web-based publications**

The online OASIS record will be completed when the report is submitted.

#### **5.4.5 Dissemination**

Contingency has been allowed to present a powerpoint presentation and brief paper for The Royal Institute of Cornwall Journal or other appropriate journal if significant archaeological deposits are encountered, though further fieldwork, specialist assessment or publications may be recommended on completion of the evaluation.

## **6 Project management and structure**

### **6.1 Staff**

The project will be undertaken predominantly by Matt Mossop (AC) who will undertake the desk-based assessment, walk-over survey and direct the evaluation trenching, photographic survey and compile the report.

#### **Matt Mossop MA MGSDip MIAI Project Manager**

Matt has extensive archaeological experience in England, France and Ireland from 1992 onwards, becoming a licensed director in Ireland (2001). He has directed numerous excavations and presented papers for the World Archaeological Congress, Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, universities and local groups in Ireland and the UK.

Whilst we endeavour to avoid changes to senior project staff, AC reserve the right to change the nominated personnel if necessary.

### **6.2 Project facilities and infrastructure**

The project will be based at the AC office in Halvasso, Penryn. AC has a computer network running Windows XP Professional and Vista. Report texts are generated in Word 2007.

### **6.3 Timetable**

The fieldwork is anticipated to commence as soon as we have approval from the Historic Environment Advisor. The fieldwork stage of the project, is expected to take one to three days.

An archive report will be completed within 6 months of the end of the fieldwork. If the site proves complex or specialist reports are required, an interim statement will be produced in the same time-frame. The deposition of the archive will be completed within 2 months of the completion of the report.

### **6.2 Health and safety**

AC complies to all relevant health and safety guidelines and legislation. A risk assessment will be prepared for the site work and all staff will be briefed on the contents of the final version. PPE will be issued and used as required.

### **6.3 Insurance**

AC has adequate insurance for employer's liability, public liability and professional indemnity. Further details are available on request.

## **7 Bibliography**

Barton, R.M. 1964. *An Introduction to the Geology of Cornwall*. D.Bradford Barton Ltd, Truro.