

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT  
CLOSE COTTAGE & REGENTS CLOSE REST HOME,  
CHURCH LANE, WHITBURN, TYNE AND WEAR**

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**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Close Cottage and Regents Close Rest Home, Church Lane, Whitburn, Tyne and Wear**

**Central National Grid Reference: NZ 4059 6168**

**Site Code: CLW 05**

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## 1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological monitoring and recording exercise undertaken at two properties, Close Cottage and Regents Close Rest Home, Church Lane, Whitburn, Tyne and Wear. The central National Grid Reference of the site is NZ 4059 6168.
- 1.2 The archaeological investigations were commissioned by Cameron Builders (Newcastle) Limited and undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The fieldwork took place June-August 2005.
- 1.3 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission, following a recommendation by the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer. The recommendation was made as the site lies within the presumed extent of Whitburn medieval village and is situated opposite Whitburn Parish Church, which is of medieval origin.
- 1.4 The archaeological work comprised monitoring groundworks associated with development of the two properties, including the excavation of foundation trenches at Close Cottage and the excavation of a trench for a lift shaft at Regents Close Rest Home, formerly a rectory of early 19<sup>th</sup> century origin. In addition, removal of render from the eastern and northern elevations of the former rectory was monitored and the underlying structural fabric recorded.
- 1.5 Natural glacial sands were encountered across the monitored areas. A substantial pit containing sandstone rubble was recorded in the foundation trenches at Close Cottage. This had been truncated by another substantial pit, from which a single sherd of medieval pottery of probable 13<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered. Four large sherds of medieval pottery of 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century date were also recovered at Close Cottage and these may have derived from a later medieval refuse pit in the vicinity.
- 1.6 A former garden soil, of probable post-medieval origin, was recorded across the monitored area. A levelling layer, interpreted as being deposited prior to the construction of the former rectory in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, was recorded during groundworks for the lift shaft within the building.
- 1.7 The removal of areas of render from the former rectory exposed evidence of the original form of the building. The eastern and northern elevations appeared to have originally comprised limestone rubble. A stone sill in the eastern elevation was probably *in situ*, most likely representing the position of an original window. Several areas of crude brickwork infill were exposed adjacent to existing windows, indicating that these were not original features.
- 1.8 In summary, the archaeological work suggests that significant archaeological remains from the medieval period underlie the site. However, the limited area available for investigation means that it is not possible to draw any firm conclusions concerning the nature or scope of the activity.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 General Background**

- 2.1.1 An archaeological monitoring and recording exercise (hereafter 'watching brief') was undertaken at two properties, Close Cottage and Regents Close Rest Home, Church Lane, Whitburn, Tyne and Wear. The central National Grid Reference of the site is NZ 4059 6168 (Figure 1).
- 2.1.2 The archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Cameron Builders (Newcastle) Limited (hereafter the Client). The fieldwork was undertaken June-August 2005 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA).
- 2.1.3 The archaeological watching brief comprised monitoring the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension and conservatory at Close Cottage, along with groundworks for the installation of a lift shaft in the former rectory, now Regents Close Rest Home. The purpose was to record any archaeological remains of note thus exposed. In addition, removal of areas of render from the eastern and northern elevations of the former rectory was monitored so that any historic structural fabric thus exposed could be recorded.
- 2.1.4 At the time of writing, the project archive is housed at the Northern Office of PCA, at Unit N19a Tursdale Business Park, Durham. The written, drawn and photographic records will be ultimately deposited with Tyne and Wear Museums Service, under the site code CLW 05.

### **2.2 Site Location and Description**

- 2.2.1 The site is located along the western side of Church Lane, within the historic core of the village of Whitburn, Tyne and Wear. Whitburn lies on the coast between South Shields and Sunderland, within the administrative Borough of South Tyneside.
- 2.2.2 Close Cottage and Regents Close Rest Home, a residential home for the elderly, occupy an area of land bounded by the grounds of Whitburn Hall to the north, Whitburn cricket ground to the east and Church Lane to the south and west (Figure 2).

### **2.3 Geology and Topography**

- 2.3.1 The solid geology of the area is characterised by Upper and Lower Magnesian strata of Late Permian age, principally comprising dolomite and limestone. The overlying drift geology comprises glacial boulder clays and sands.
- 2.3.2 Present ground level at the site slopes gently down from west to east.

## **2.4 Planning Background**

- 2.4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken as a planning requirement associated with the development of Close Cottage and Regents Close Rest Home.
- 2.4.2 The need for early consultation in the planning process in order to determine the impact of development schemes upon the archaeological resource is identified in the document *'Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: 'Archaeology and Planning'* (PPG 16).<sup>1</sup> The Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer (TWAO), attached to Newcastle City Council (NCC) has responsibility for archaeological development control throughout Tyne and Wear. The TWAO identifies planning proposals that will be subject to archaeological conditions.
- 2.4.3 The site lies within the presumed extent of Whitburn medieval village and a watching brief was considered the appropriate archaeological mitigation given the scale of the development. The purpose of the work was to observe and record any archaeological deposits and finds exposed during the groundworks associated with the development at Close Cottage and Regents Close Rest Home and to monitor and record the removal of areas of render from the former rectory.

## **2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 2.5.1 The early history of the medieval settlement at Whitburn is poorly understood. It was probably originally a two-row green village, of average size. The settlement is first mentioned in the Boldon Book in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Bishop Hatfield's Survey of c. 1382 lists thirty separate holdings together with a windmill and a pond. The Tyne and Wear Historic Environment Record (HER) reference for the medieval settlement is HER No. 108.
- 2.5.2 The parish church of St. Andrew is situated directly opposite the site, to the west, and was probably originally constructed in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, with the upper portion of the west tower being added in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. There were significant post-medieval alterations, including the replacement of the majority of the windows. The County HER reference for the church is HER No. 882.
- 2.5.3 The street pattern of the medieval settlement probably survives in the village core, but the houses have been much rebuilt; 18<sup>th</sup> century houses are located in the western half of the south side of the village and 19<sup>th</sup> century houses are located in the north. Regents Close Rest Home, originally the rectory, is a Grade II listed property, constructed in 1818. It is a three-storeyed mansion with a southern front.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Department of the Environment, 1990.

<sup>2</sup> Pevsner and Williamson, 1983.

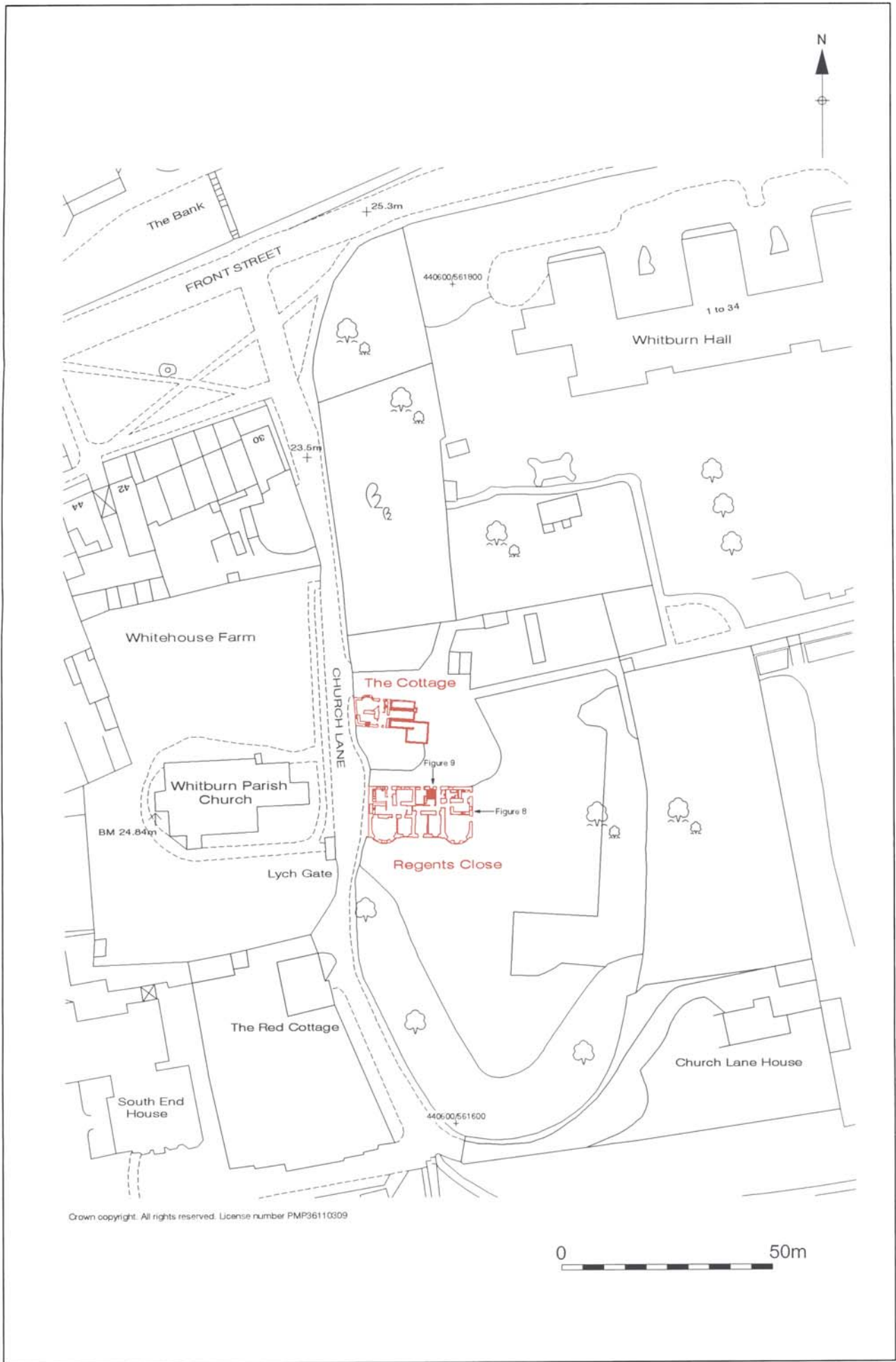
## **2.6 Aims and Objectives**

- 2.6.1 The broad aim of the watching brief was to observe and record any archaeological deposits and finds exposed during the groundworks and record aspects of building construction revealed during the removal of render from the former rectory, Regents Close Rest Home.
- 2.6.2 The specific aim of monitoring of sub-surface groundworks was to determine the degree of survival of deposits or features relating to medieval occupation of the site.



Figure 1. Site location  
Scale 1:25,000





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Figure 2. Areas of investigation  
Scale 1:1250

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The archaeological investigations at the two properties on Church Lane, Whitburn were undertaken on the recommendation of the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer. The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the relevant standard and guidance document of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.<sup>3</sup> PCA is an IFA-Registered Organisation (RAO 23).
- 3.1.2 The groundworks involved the machine excavation of foundation trenches for an extension and conservatory of Close Cottage. The foundation trenches measured 0.70m wide and varied in depth from 1.10m to 2.50m. Two hand-excavated pits, Trenches 1 and 2, were also dug against the east-facing wall of Close Cottage for underpinning purposes (Figure 3). Trench 1 measured 1.20m north-south x 0.50m east-west x 0.90m deep. Trench 2 measured 1.50m east-west x 0.50m north-south x 0.80m deep.
- 3.1.3 A lift shaft (Trench 3) was excavated by machine within the interior of Regents Close Rest Home (Figure 4). This measured c. 2.20m x 2.20m and was excavated to a depth of c. 1.50m.
- 3.1.4 All machine excavation was undertaken using a 360° tracked mechanical 'mini excavator' utilising a 0.50m wide toothed bucket.
- 3.1.5 All excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with recognised archaeological practice and following the methodology set out in PCA's '*Site Recording Manual*'.<sup>4</sup> Archaeological and natural deposits were recorded on *pro forma* sheets. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. A photographic record of the work was compiled using SLR cameras.
- 3.1.6 The removal of areas of render from the eastern and northern elevations of the former rectory was monitored by PCA. The underlying building fabrics were assessed and different fabrics were assigned unique context numbers and recorded on *pro forma* sheets. Areas where render was removed were plotted on existing scaled elevation drawings (Figures 8 and 9).

#### 3.2 Post-excavation

- 3.2.1 The project's stratigraphic data is represented by the written, drawn and photographic records. A total of 28 archaeological contexts were defined in the archaeological investigations (Appendix B). Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, grouping contexts and phasing the stratigraphic data (Appendix A). A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described below in Section 4.
- 3.2.2 A small assemblage of pottery was recovered during the watching brief. This material was washed, dried, marked and packaged as appropriate and according to the relevant guidelines.<sup>5</sup> Specialist assessment of the pottery was undertaken (see Appendix C). No other categories of inorganic artefactual material were represented.

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<sup>3</sup> IFA, 1999.

<sup>4</sup> PCA, 1999.

<sup>5</sup> Watkinson and Neal, 1998; UKIC, 1983

- 3.2.3 No organic material was recovered from the site and it was not necessary to collect bulk sediment samples from any archaeological features or deposits.
- 3.2.4 Survival of all materials from archaeological fieldwork depends upon suitable storage. The complete project archive, comprising written, drawn, and photographic records (including all material generated electronically during post-excavation) will be packaged for long term curation. No material was recovered that required specialist stabilisation or an assessment of potential for conservation research. The depositional requirements of the receiving body, in this case Tyne and Wear Museums Service, will be met in full.
- 3.2.5 The **Online Access** to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) reference number for the project is **preconst1-10524**.

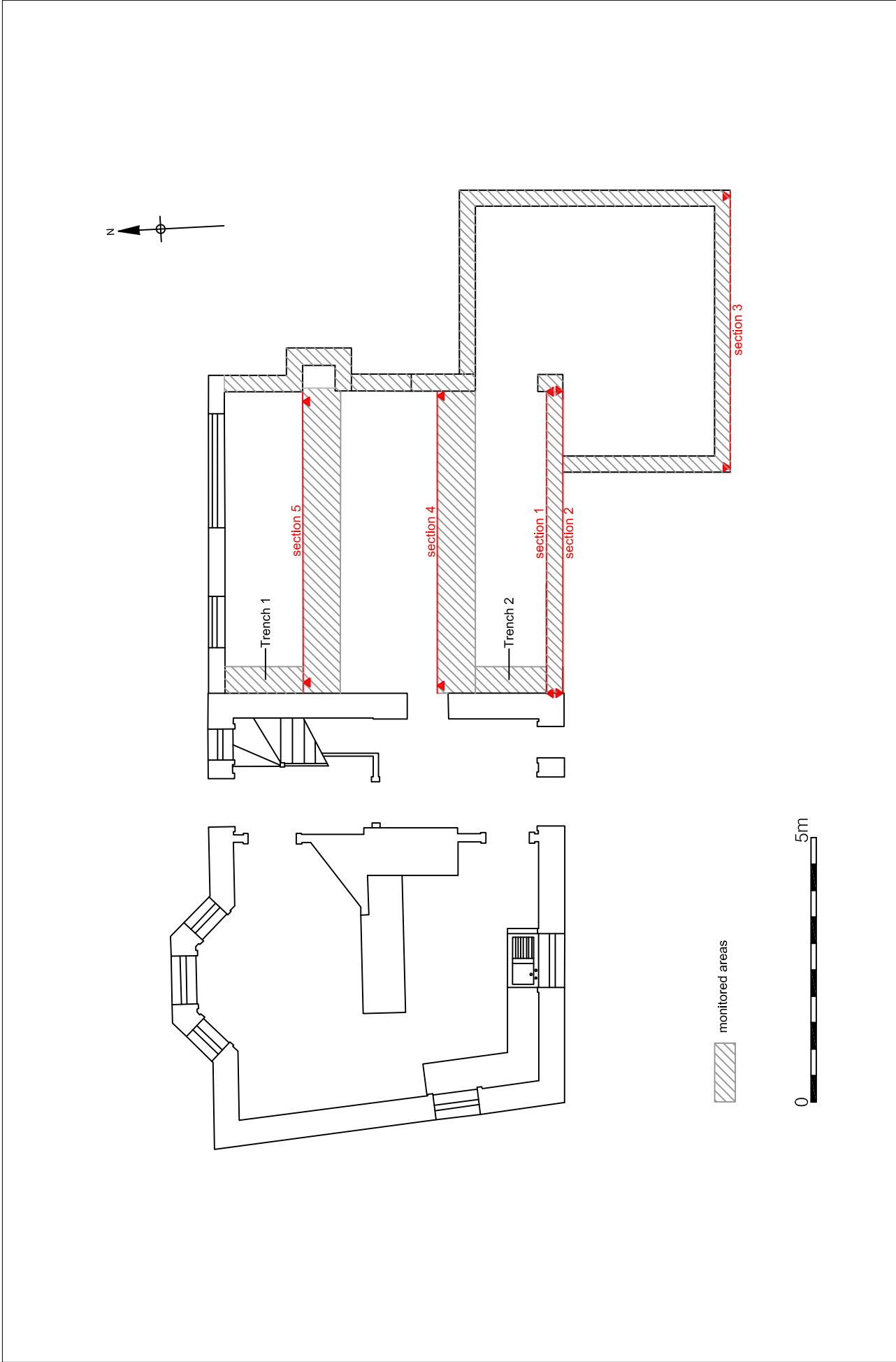


Figure 3. Areas of investigation at Close Cottage  
Scale 1:100

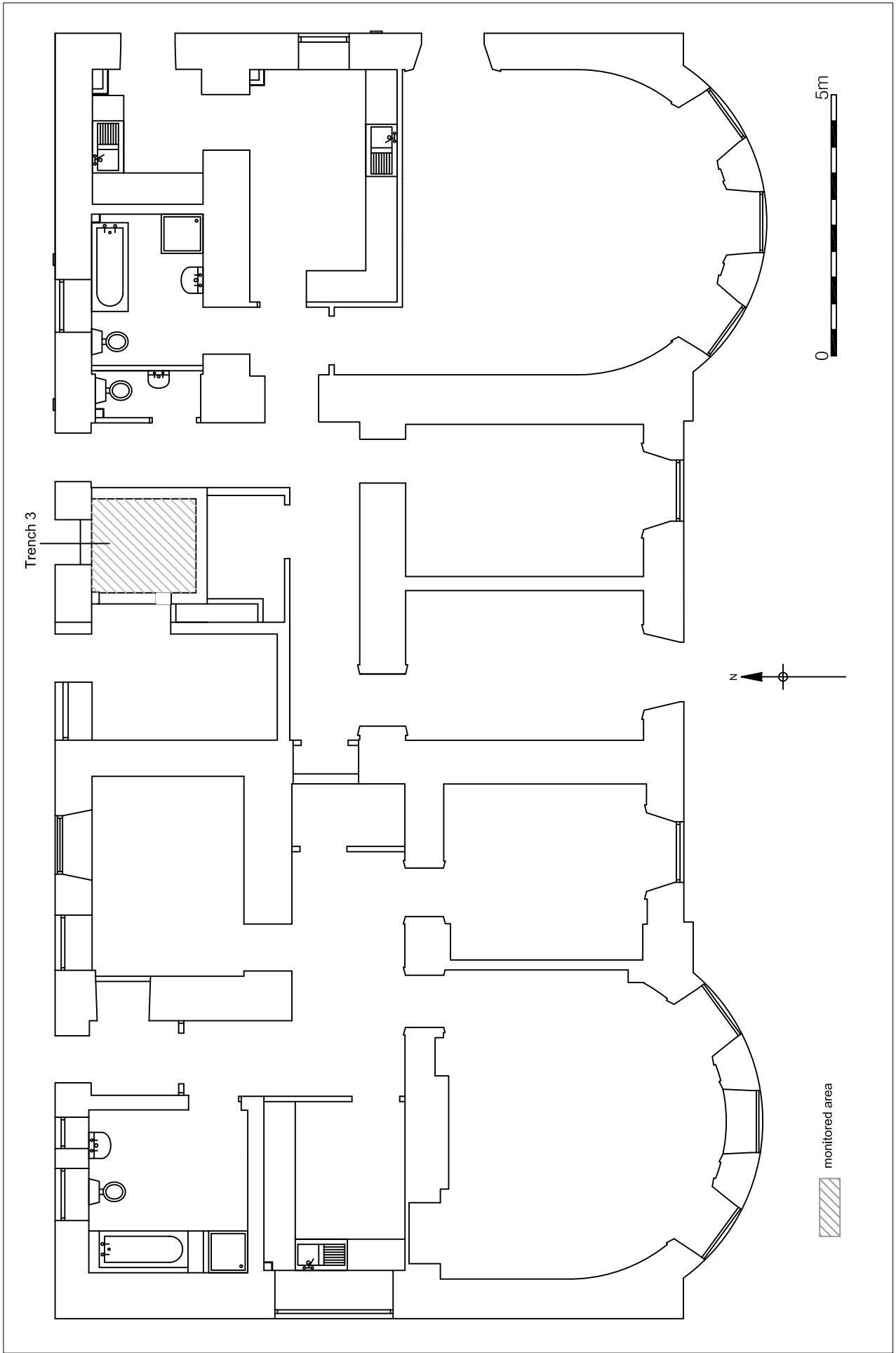


Figure 4. Area of investigation at Regents Close  
Scale 1:50

## **4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **4.1 Trenches 1, 2 & 3 and Foundation Trenches**

#### **4.1.1 Phase 1: Natural Sub-stratum**

4.1.1.1 Natural sub-stratum, [3], was observed within all of the monitored areas at Close Cottage. It comprised compact, light to mid yellowish brown, slightly clayey sand and was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.90m below the current ground level.

4.1.1.2 Natural sub-stratum, [8], observed within Trench 3 at Regents Close, comprised compact mid grey sand, recorded at a depth of c. 0.40m below existing ground level. A thickness of more than 1.0m of the deposit was exposed.

#### **4.1.2 Phase 2.1: Medieval**

4.1.2.1 A substantial feature, [5], truncated the natural sub-stratum within the southernmost foundation trenches at Close Cottage. This had moderately steep sloping sides, a flat to sloping base and measured at least 3.50m north-south x at least 6.80m east-west and was up to 1.46m deep (Sections 1 and 2, Figure 5 and Section 3, Figure 6). Its single fill, [4], comprised compact, mid grey clayey sand, and it contained a large quantity of medium and large sized roughly hewn, sub-rounded and occasionally squared sandstone fragments. This feature is interpreted as a substantial pit and its rubble fill suggests that it may have been for the disposal of demolition material. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature, however its stratigraphic position suggests it was medieval in date.

#### **4.1.3 Phase 2.2: Medieval**

4.1.3.1 The northern edge of feature [5] was truncated by another substantial feature, [9], recorded across the northern portion of the monitored area at Close Cottage. This feature had moderately steep to steep sloping sides, a flat to sloping base and measured 5.50m east-west x at least 4.70m north-south and was up to 1.50m deep (Section 1, Figure 5, Sections 3 and 4, Figure 6 and Section 5, Figure 7). Three grey or brown silty clay fills, [6], [11] and [7], were recorded within the feature. A single sherd of medieval pottery of likely 13<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from the primary fill, [6]. Interpretation of this feature cannot be certain, given the limited extent to which it was exposed in the narrow foundation trenches, however its dimensions and general form suggest that it was probably a refuse pit.

#### **4.1.4 Phase 3: Post-Medieval**

4.1.4.1 Developed soil, [2], was recorded within all of the monitored areas at Close Cottage. This comprised soft, brownish grey sandy clay and was up to 0.80m thick. This deposit is likely to represent a former garden soil.

4.1.4.2 In Trench 3 at Regents Close, a layer, [10], comprising dark grey silty sand (40%) and small and medium sized sandstone rubble and brick and mortar fragments (60%), was recorded overlying natural sub-stratum. This is interpreted as a dumped levelling layer associated with the construction of the former rectory, Regents Close, in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **4.1.5 Phase 4: Modern**

- 4.1.5.1 A layer of 'hardcore', [1], comprising crushed and fragmented sandstone and brick (40%) with greyish brown silty sand (60%) formed the uppermost deposit recorded across all areas monitored at Close Cottage.

## **4.2 Removal of Render at Regents Close**

### **4.2.1 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

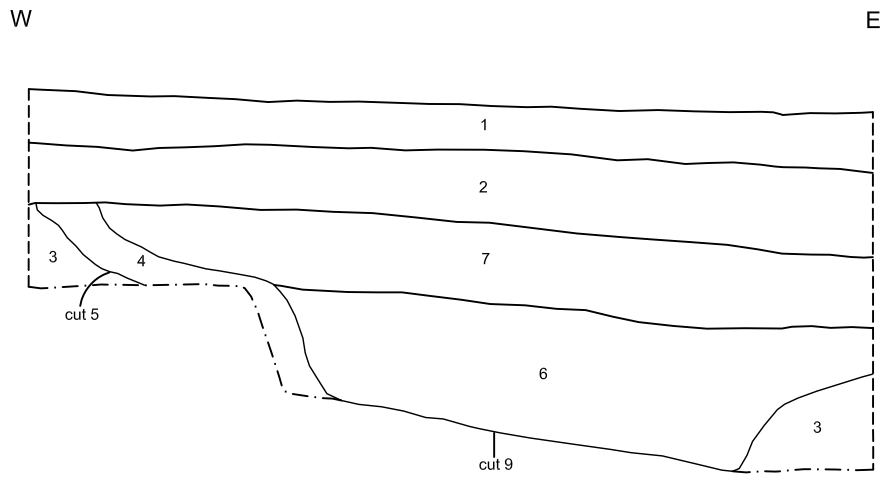
- 4.2.1.1 Render was removed from several areas of the eastern elevation of the former rectory, now Regents Close Rest Home, and this revealed areas of similar building fabric; [20], [25], [26], [30], [32] and [36] (Figure 8). This fabric comprised irregular limestone blocks of varying sizes and with maximum dimensions of 400mm x 400mm. No regular courses were observed and the blocks were bonded with a coarse light grey chalky mortar. The areas of limestone exposed continued under the *in situ* render and are interpreted as representing the same structure, a single phase of wall, forming the original build of the eastern elevation.
- 4.2.1.2 A fragment of wooden beam was partially revealed within masonry [25], located towards the upper central part of the eastern elevation (Figure 8). It measured 70mm x 90mm, continuing beneath *in situ* render. The timber appeared to form part of the structural fabric, although, given the limited extent to which it was exposed, further interpretation is not possible.
- 4.2.1.3 Part of a limestone sill, [22], was revealed in the upper part of the eastern elevation, masonry [20], on the second floor (Figure 8). It was set horizontally, exposed for a distance of 690mm long and was 130mm high. The stone was dressed square and continued beneath *in situ* render to the north. Approximately c. 0.30m to the north, a second length of limestone sill, [23], was partially exposed. The sill was set into the area of wall recorded as masonry [25] and measured 670mm in length x 130mm high. It was also dressed square and continued beneath *in situ* render to the south. The two partially exposed portions of sill, [22] and [23], are likely to be parts of one sill, probably representing the position of an original window in the second floor of the eastern elevation.
- 4.2.1.4 An area of masonry, [34], comprising irregular limestone blocks was revealed on the northern elevation of the building after the removal of render (Figure 9). The blocks were bonded with coarse, light grey chalky mortar and no regular coursing was visible. The masonry was exposed over an area measuring 0.50m x 1.20m and was located in the eastern half of the northern elevation. The similarity in composition with the areas of limestone wall revealed in the eastern elevation suggests that masonry [34] was also part of the original build, and that the limestone masonry in both elevations were contemporary.

## 4.2.2 20<sup>th</sup> Century

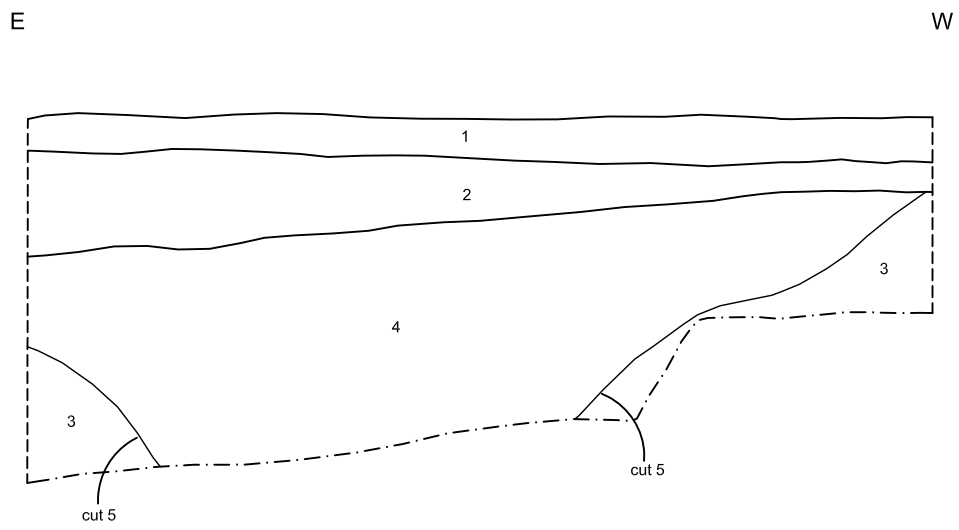
- 4.2.2.1 An area of brickwork, [21], was revealed directly above limestone sill [22] in the eastern elevation of the building (Figure 8). The brickwork comprised red bricks measuring 220mm x 70mm and was exposed for a distance of 0.60m x 0.25m. The bricks were bonded with light greyish brown mortar and were all laid on their beds with their stretchers visible. An insufficient area was exposed to allow the precise bonding pattern to be revealed.
- 4.2.2.2 Approximately 0.30m to the north, a second area of brickwork, [24], had also been constructed upon limestone sill [23]. The bricks were also laid on their beds with their stretchers visible – the bonding pattern appeared to be irregular - and were of the same dimensions as those in brickwork [21] and bonded with the same mortar. This portion of brickwork was exposed for a distance of 0.77m x 0.70m.
- 4.2.2.3 The location and composition of brickwork [21] and [24] suggest that they are part of the same wider area of brickwork, partially exposed during the removal of render. Both areas were located adjacent to existing windows on the second floor of the house and had been constructed upon a limestone sill probably representing an earlier window. This area of brickwork is interpreted as being associated with the insertion of the present windows; the original windows appear to have been replaced by smaller windows with the brickwork being used to infill the resultant gaps in the wall.
- 4.2.2.4 At the northern end of the second floor on the eastern elevation, a further area of brickwork, [33], was revealed (Figure 8). It comprised two courses of red bricks of the same dimensions as those described above and bonded with the same mortar, and was exposed over an area measuring 0.20m x 0.20m. All of the bricks were laid on their beds with their stretchers visible, however an insufficient area was revealed to allow the bonding pattern to be identified. The brickwork had been constructed upon limestone masonry [32], adjacent to an existing window. Again, it is likely that the brickwork was associated with the insertion of this window, which may have replaced an earlier, larger opening.
- 4.2.2.5 In the central portion of the first floor of the eastern elevation, three small areas of brickwork, [27], [28] and [29], were exposed adjacent to an existing first floor window (Figure 8). Each area comprised red bricks measuring 220mm x 70mm. It was not possible to ascertain the coursing of any of the areas as insufficient brickwork was revealed. Brickwork [29] had been constructed upon part of limestone masonry [30] and was located between that structure and an existing first floor window. These areas of brickwork are likely to have been associated with the insertion of the window, suggesting that the existing window replaced a larger earlier opening.
- 4.2.2.6 A small area of brickwork, [31], was exposed on the ground floor of the eastern elevation (Figure 8). It was exposed over an area that measured 0.30m x 0.80m and comprised red bricks measuring 220mm x 70mm. The bricks were bonded with light greyish brown mortar and continued beneath *in situ* render. The brickwork was exposed in a vertical strip between an existing ground floor window and earlier limestone masonry [30]. As with the other areas of brickwork described above, this is likely to be brick infill associated with the insertion of a smaller window.



- 4.2.2.7 On the northern elevation, an area of brickwork, [35], was revealed between limestone masonry [34] and an existing first floor window (Figure 9). The brickwork comprised red bricks measuring 220mm x 70mm bonded with light greyish brown mortar. The bricks were set on their beds with only their stretchers visible, with an area measuring 0.50m x 0.20m being exposed. Again this is likely to have been infill brickwork around a former window position following the insertion of a smaller window.
- 4.2.2.8 The similarity in form, brick dimensions and mortar of all the areas of brickwork described above, and the fact that all the brickwork appeared to serve the same function of infilling areas following the insertion of windows, indicates that these areas of brickwork were probably contemporary.



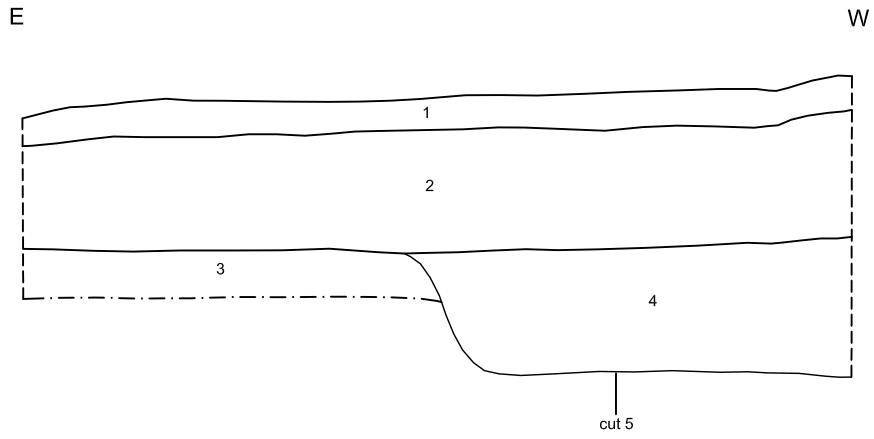
Section 1. South facing.



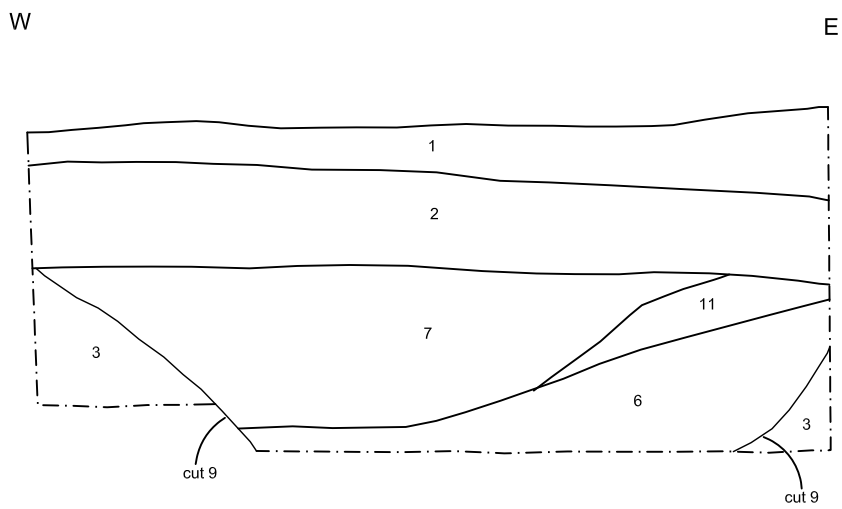
Section 2. North facing.



Figure 5. Sections 1 and 2  
Scale 1:50



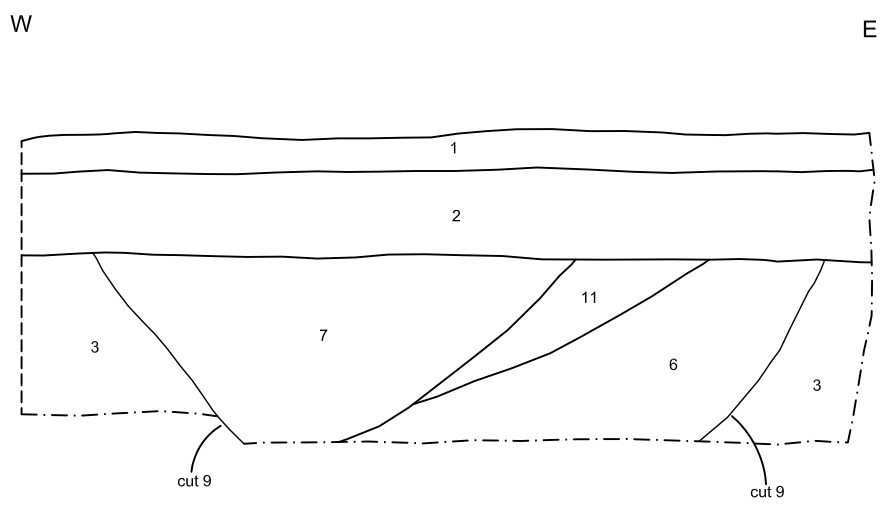
Section 3. North facing.



Section 4. South facing.



Figure 6. Sections 3 and 4  
Scale 1:50



Section 5. South facing.



Figure 7. Section 5  
Scale 1:50

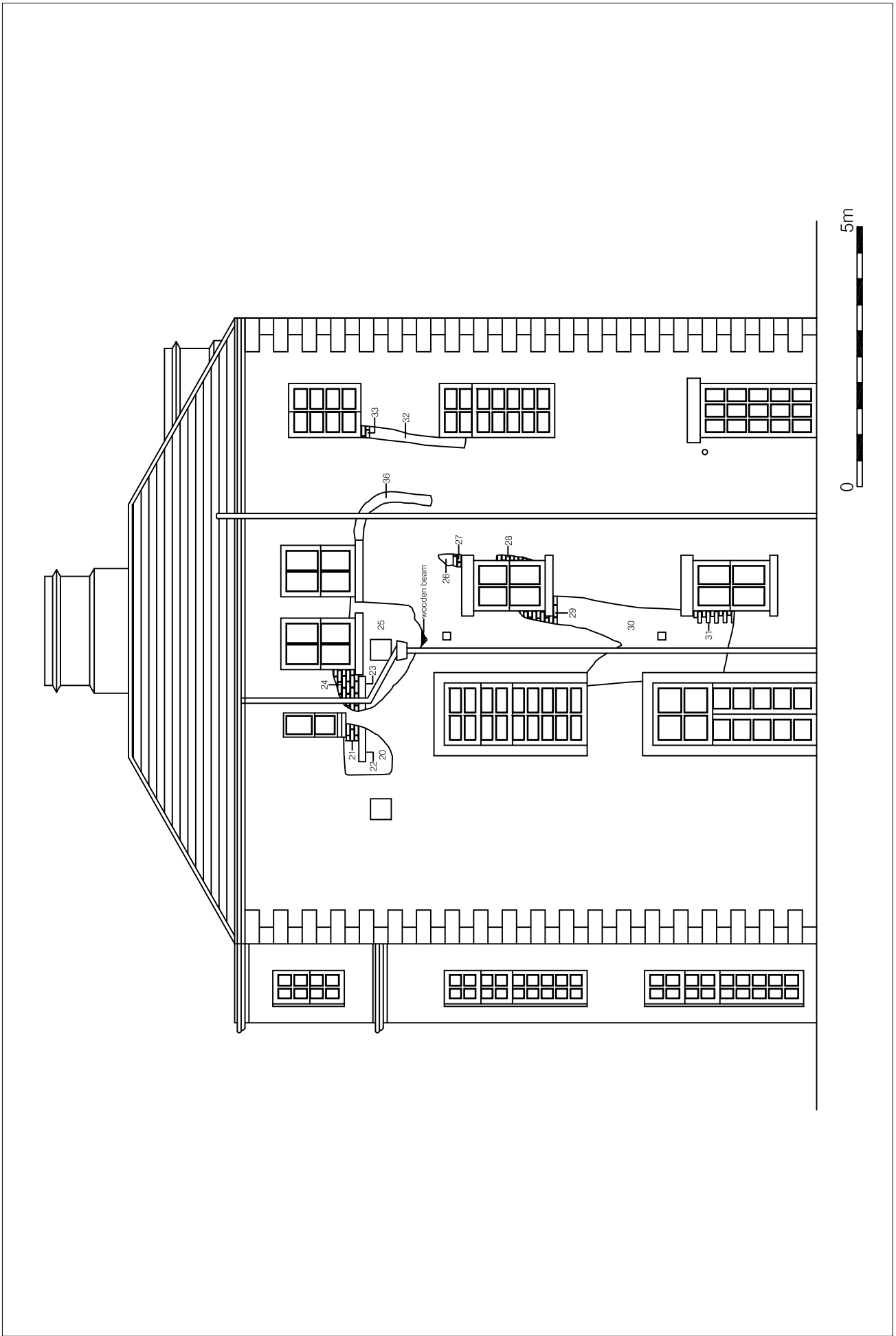


Figure 8. Eastern elevation of Regents Close Rest Home,  
 showing areas of removed render  
 Scale 1:100

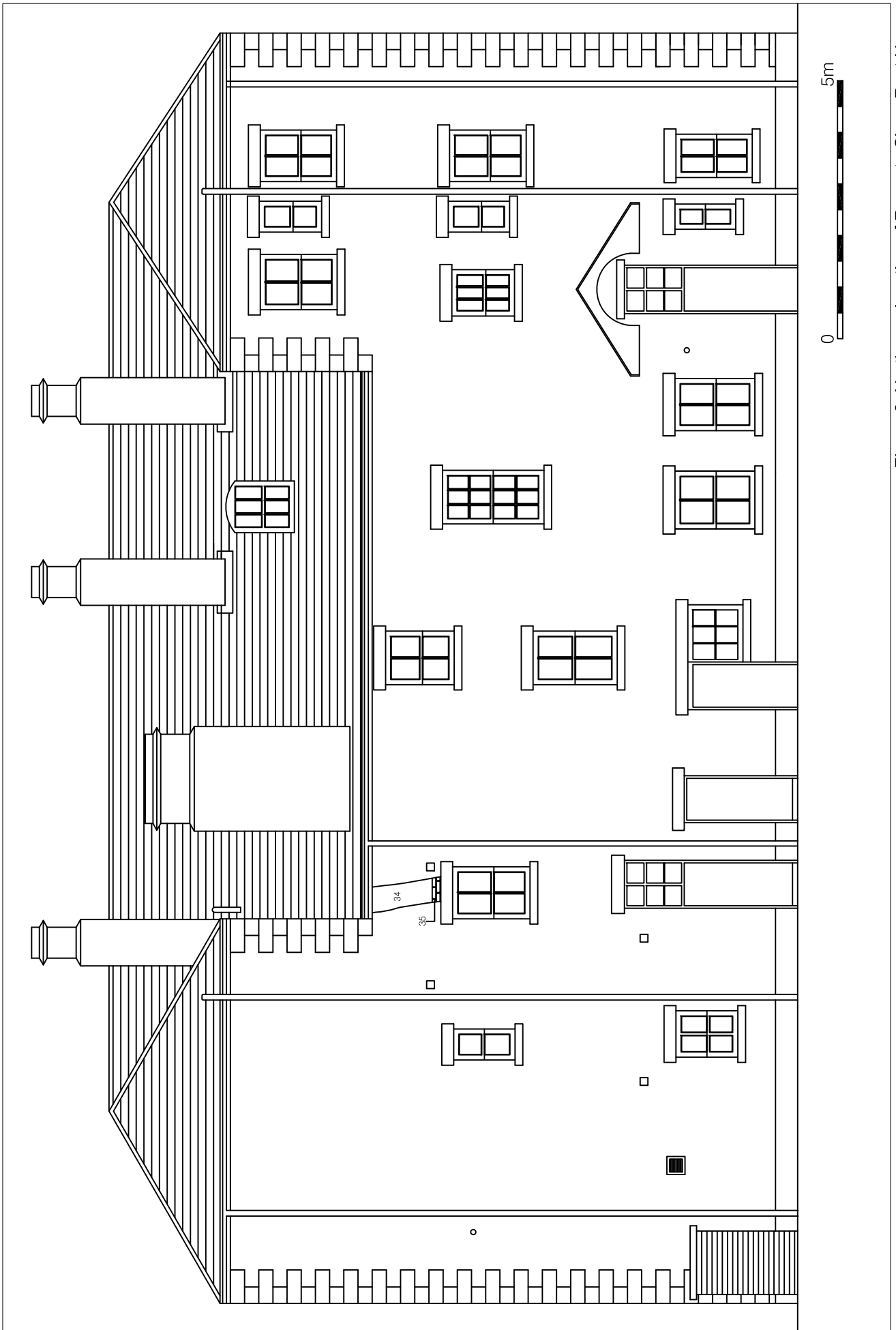


Figure 9. Northern elevation of Regents Close Rest Home,  
 showing area of removed render  
 Scale 1:100

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Archaeological remains of significance were encountered during the watching brief undertaken on groundworks associated with the extension to Close Cottage and with the insertion of a lift shaft at the former rectory on Church Lane, Whitburn. Sub-surface deposits encountered have been assigned to four broad phases of activity.
- Phase 1: Natural geological deposits were encountered across the monitored area. These were recorded at a depth of c. 0.90m below existing ground level in the areas monitored at Close Cottage and c. 0.40m below existing ground level at Regents Close Rest Home.
  - Phase 2.1: A substantial feature, interpreted as a large pit, was recorded in the southern portion of the foundation trenches in Close Cottage, truncating natural sub-stratum. This contained sandstone rubble, suggesting that it may have been excavated for the purpose of dumping demolition debris. No dating evidence was recovered, although its stratigraphic position suggests a medieval origin
  - Phase 2.2: A substantial feature was recorded truncating the northern edge of the Phase 2.1 pit. Its primary fill contained a single sherd of pottery 13<sup>th</sup> century date. This feature may represent part of a refuse pit.
  - Phase 3: A developed soil, probably representing a former garden soil of post-medieval origin, was recorded across the monitored areas at Close Cottage. In Trench 3, a levelling layer probably associated with the construction of the former rectory in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century was recorded.
  - Phase 4 was represented by a modern dump layer which formed the existing ground surface in the monitored areas at Close Cottage.
- 5.2 The very narrow width of the foundation trenches at Close Cottage meant that only limited investigation of archaeological features was possible. However, the evidence that was recovered suggests that significant archaeological remains of medieval date underlie the site. Small portions of substantial probable refuse pits of likely medieval date were exposed and the limited dating evidence recovered suggests that these date from the 13<sup>th</sup> century or later. Several large fragments of later medieval - 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century - pottery were recovered, as unstratified material, during the groundworks at Close Cottage. The large size and fresh condition of these sherds indicate that they represent primary rubbish disposal, also suggesting the presence of later medieval refuse pits or rubbish dumps at the site.
- 5.3 In summary, the archaeological evidence recovered from the investigations suggests the presence of significant medieval settlement remains in the vicinity of the site, which is located directly opposite the 13<sup>th</sup> century church. The data recorded broadly suggests that the site probably lay within a medieval property. Although there was no evidence to indicate where the associated dwelling was located, the artefactual and stratigraphic data suggest that the area now occupied by the building at Close Cottage may have been utilised for refuse disposal.

- 5.4 Although the investigations did indicate that significant medieval remains underlie the site, the limited areas available for investigation severely limited the extent to which it was possible to expose archaeological remains. Accordingly, it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions about the nature of medieval occupation of the site. It is therefore recommended that no further analysis be carried out on the data recorded by the archaeological watching brief.
- 5.5 The watching brief undertaken on the removal of render from Regents Close Rest Home revealed building fabric associated with the original walls of the eastern and northern elevations. This comprised limestone rubble masonry and a substantial stone sill in the eastern elevation, which indicated the position of an earlier, probably original, window. The former rectory was constructed around 1818.
- 5.6 A number of areas of brickwork infill were revealed around existing windows in both the eastern and northern elevations. These windows are relatively recent additions to the house and the brickwork has been used to block gaps following their insertion. All recorded areas of brickwork were similar, indicating that insertion of the existing windows was undertaken during a single episode of refurbishment.
- 5.7 The watching brief on the structural alterations to Regents Close Rest Home recorded evidence of what was probably the original build of the former rectory. The project archive contains a permanent record of the structural remains exposed and it is therefore recommended that no further analysis be carried out on the recovered data.



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## 7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

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### **PCA Credits**

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*Project Management (Post-Excavation):* Jennifer Proctor

*CAD:* Adrian Bailey

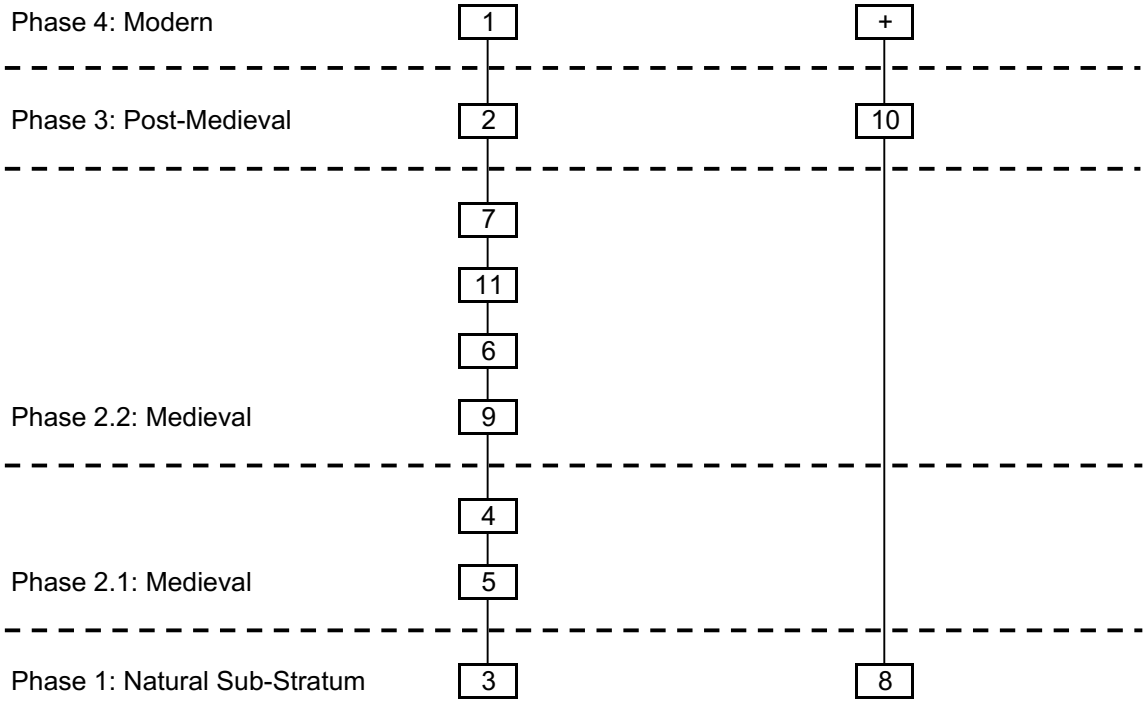
### **Other Credits**

*Pottery Assessment:* Jenny Vaughan (NCAS)

**APPENDIX A**  
**STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX**

CLOSE COTTAGE

REGENTS CLOSE



**APPENDIX B**  
**CONTEXT INDEX**

Context	Trench	Phase	Type	Type	Description	Interpretation
1	1, 2 and foundation trenches	4	Deposit	Layer	Small and medium sized sub-angular sandstone fragments; modern brick and cbm frags (40%) mixed in a loose; dark greyish brown; silty sand (60%); frequent mortar flecks; extends across Trenches 1, 2 and foundation trenches; up to 0.60m thick	Modern levelling layer
2	1, 2 and foundation trenches	3	Deposit	Layer	Soft; dark brownish grey; sandy clay; occ small sub-angular sandstone and charcoal frags; occ charcoal flecks; extends across Trenches 1, 2 and foundation trenches; up to 0.80m thick	Developed soil
3	1, 2 and foundation trenches	1	Deposit	Layer	Loose; light to mid yellowish brown; slightly clayey sand; occ small sub-rounded pebble; extends across Trenches 1, 2 and foundation trenches; seen c. 0.70m below existing ground level	Natural sub-stratum
4	Foundation trenches	2.1	Deposit	Fill	Compact; mid grey; clayey sand (30%) and large and medium sized roughly hewn, sub-rounded, occ squared sandstone frags sandstone blocks (70%); ave. dimension 200mm x 200mm x 150mm; up to 1.46m thick	Fill of pit [5]
5	Foundation trenches	2.1	Cut	Pit	?Sub-circular; moderately steep sloping sides; flat-sloping base; measures at least 3.50m N-S x at least 6.80m E-W; up to 1.46m deep	Large ?refuse pit
6	Foundation trenches	2.2	Deposit	Fill	Soft; dark greyish black; sandy silty clay; occ-mod rootlets; up to 0.94m thick	Primary fill of pit [9]
7	Foundation trenches	2.2	Deposit	Fill	Loose; mid greyish brown; silty clay; moderate med sized sub-rounded sandstone; up to 1.04m thick	Upper fill of pit [9]
8	3	1	Deposit	Layer	Compact; mid grey; sand; occ. rootlets; seen c. 0.40m below existing ground level	Natural sub-stratum
9	Foundation trenches	2.2	Cut	Pit	?Sub-circular; mod steep-steep sloping sides; flat-sloping base; measures 5.50m E-W x at least 4.70m N-S; up to 1.50m deep	Large pit
10	3	3	Deposit	Layer	Loose; dark grey; silty sand (40%) and small and med sized sandstone rubble; cbm frags; mortar frags and flecks (60%); occ small sub-angular coal frags; up to 0.80m thick	Levelling layer
11	Foundation trenches	2.2	Deposit	Fill	Firm; mid greyish brown; silty clay; up to 0.50m thick	Secondary fill of pit [9]
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	East Elevation	19th Century	Masonry	Wall	Irregular limestone blocks; 400mm x 400mm (max); irregular coursing; east facing; hard, coarse, light grey chalky mortar; 0.92m x 0.94m as found	Original 19th century build
21	East Elevation	20th Century	Masonry	Repair	Red brick; 220mm x 70mm; uncertain coursing; east facing; light greyish brown mortar; 0.60m x 0.25m as seen	Infill around window
22	East Elevation	19th Century	Masonry	Sill	Limestone block; 690mm x 130mm; squared, dressed block	Original window sill
23	East Elevation	19th Century	Masonry	Sill	Limestone block; 670mm x 130mm; squared, dressed block	Original window sill
24	East Elevation	20th Century	Masonry	Repair	Red brick; 220mm x 70mm; uncertain coursing; east facing; light greyish brown mortar; 0.77m x 0.70m as seen	Infill around window
25	East Elevation	19th Century	Masonry	Wall	Irregular limestone blocks; 400mm x 400mm (max); irregular coursing; east facing; hard, coarse, light grey chalky mortar; 1.48m x 2.20m as found	Original 19th century build
26	East Elevation	19th Century	Masonry	Wall	Irregular limestone blocks; irregular coursing; east facing; hard, coarse, light grey chalky mortar; 0.22m x 0.30m as found	Original 19th century build

Context	Trench	Phase	Type	Type	Description	Interpretation
27	East Elevation	20th Century	Masonry	Repair	Red brick; 220mm x 70mm; uncertain coursing; east facing; light greyish brown mortar; 0.22m x 0.15m as seen	Infill around window
28	East Elevation	20th Century	Masonry	Repair	Red brick; 220mm x 70mm; uncertain coursing; east facing; light greyish brown mortar; 0.10m x 0.66m as seen	Infill around window
29	East Elevation	20th Century	Masonry	Repair	Red brick; 220mm x 70mm; uncertain coursing; east facing; light greyish brown mortar; 0.45m x 1.15m as seen	Infill around window
30	East Elevation	19th Century	Masonry	Wall	Irregular limestone blocks; 400mm x 400mm (max); irregular coursing; east facing; hard, coarse, light grey chalky mortar; 1.50m x 3.00m as found	Original 19th century build
31	East Elevation	19th Century	Masonry	Wall	Irregular limestone blocks; 400mm x 400mm (max); irregular coursing; east facing; hard, coarse, light grey chalky mortar; 0.30m x 0.80m as found	Original 19th century build
32	East Elevation	19th Century	Masonry	Wall	Irregular limestone blocks; irregular coursing; east facing; hard, coarse, light grey chalky mortar; 0.20m x 1.80m as found	Original 19th century build
33	East Elevation	20th Century	Masonry	Repair	Red brick; 220mm x 70mm; uncertain coursing; east facing; light greyish brown mortar; 0.20m x 0.20m as seen	Infill around window
34	North Elevation	19th Century	Masonry	Wall	Irregular limestone blocks; 400mm x 400mm (max); irregular coursing; north facing; hard, coarse, light grey chalky mortar; 0.50m x 1.20m as found	Original 19th century build
35	North Elevation	20th Century	Masonry	Repair	Red brick; 220mm x 70mm; uncertain coursing; north facing; light greyish brown mortar; 0.50m x 0.20m as seen	Infill around window
36	East Elevation	19th Century	Masonry	Wall	Irregular limestone blocks; 400mm x 400mm (max); irregular coursing; east facing; hard, coarse, light grey chalky mortar; 1.30m x 0.20m as found	Original 19th century build

**APPENDIX C**  
**CERAMIC ASSESSMENT**



## **CERAMIC ASSESSMENT**

*By: Jenny Vaughan (NCAS)*

Five fragments of pottery were recovered during the course of the watching brief, four were unstratified and one was from the fill, [6], of pit [9].

The stratified sherd from [6] (10 grms in weight) was in a sandy buff coloured fabric with sooted exterior, probably of 13<sup>th</sup> century date.

The unstratified material consisted of two reduced (grey) green glazed fragments (86 grms) and two large joining pieces of a base in a similar fabric (261 grms), but with red brown oxidised surfaces with patches and small spots of glaze. The wall of this vessel had a large bloated cavity. These sherds are of later 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century date. This type of pottery is found in large quantities in later medieval assemblages on Tyneside.

The large size and fresh condition of the pottery, particularly the unstratified sherds, indicate primary deposition/rubbish disposal. It is, therefore, unfortunate that the excavations were not on a larger scale as medieval pottery assemblages from this part of the county are uncommon.

# PCA

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