

**19 CHURCH STREET, AMPHILL,  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION  
AND RECORDING**

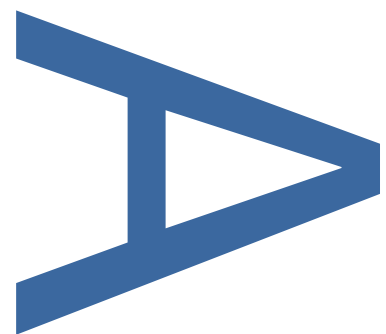
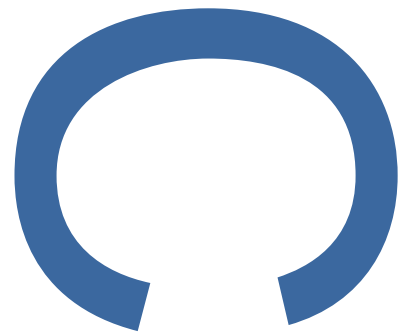
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**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

19 CHURCH STREET, AMPHILL, BEDFORDSHIRE:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND  
RECORDING:

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## **19 Church Street, Ampthill, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Observation and Recording**

**Local Planning Authority:** Central Bedfordshire Council

**Planning Reference:** CB/19/00613/FULL

**Central National Grid Reference:** NGR TL 0355 3813

**Site Code/Accession Number:** BEDFM 2019.84

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## CONTENTS

CONTENTS .....	2
ABSTRACT .....	4
1 INTRODUCTION .....	5
2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY .....	6
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	7
4 METHODOLOGY .....	12
5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE.....	14
6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....	15
7 THE FINDS.....	17
8 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS.....	23
9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	25
10 BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	26
11 APPENDIX 1: PLATES.....	35
12 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX.....	40
13 APPENDIX 3: POTTERY AND CLAY PIPE CATALOGUES .....	41
14 APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM .....	51
15 APPENDIX 5: BEDFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY/ SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY SUMMARY .....	55
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION .....	29
FIGURE 2 DETAILED SITE LOCATION.....	30
FIGURE 3 SELECTED SECTIONS.....	31
FIGURE 4 BEDFORDSHIRE HER MONUMENTS .....	32
FIGURE 5 BEDFORDSHIRE HER LISTED BUILDINGS.....	33
FIGURE 6 BEDFORDSHIRE HER EVENTS AND AREAS.....	34
PLATE 1: THE SITE AREA, PRE-EXCAVATION, VIEW NORTH-EAST .....	35
PLATE 2: THE SITE AREA, MID-EXCAVATION, VIEW EAST.....	35
PLATE 3: LIMIT OF EXCAVATION, S.4, VIEW WEST .....	36
PLATE 4: LIMIT OF EXCAVATION, S.8, VIEW SOUTH.....	36

PLATE 5: LIMIT OF EXCAVATION, S.6, VIEW WEST.....	37
PLATE 6: THE EXTENSION, POST-CONSTRUCTION, VIEW NORTH.....	37
PLATE 7: THE SOAKAWAY, VIEW SOUTH-WEST .....	38
PLATE 8: SELECTED MEDIEVAL POTSHERDS FROM LAYER (104) .....	38
PLATE 9: SELECTED MEDIEVAL POTSHERDS FROM LAYER (104) .....	39
PLATE 10: SELECTED MEDIEVAL POTSHERDS FROM LAYER (104) .....	39

## ABSTRACT

*A programme of archaeological observation and recording was carried out in February, March and November 2020 during groundworks relating to the renovation and extension of the existing Grade II listed building at no. 19 Church Street, Ampthill, Bedfordshire, MK45 2PL (NGR TL 0355 3813).*

*The archaeological monitoring identified a layer of buried soil, underneath modern layers and post-medieval deposits relating to the construction of the extant building. This buried soil was relatively undisturbed and was present across the whole of the extension footprint, deepening to the south, away from Church Street. The buried soil contained large quantities of late medieval (predominantly 15th-century) pottery, much of it in fairly 'fresh' condition, suggesting that it was in a primary depositional context or, at least, that it had not moved far from its original point of deposition. A small number of late-12th-/13th- to 14th-century potsherds were also present, indicating some activity in the 'high' medieval period.*

*The buried soil may be the levelled remains of medieval rubbish heaps/ middens in the back-plot area to the rear of a medieval building fronting onto Church Street, which was the main axis of the early medieval town, linking settlement around St. Andrew's Church, to the east, with the developing focus of settlement at the marketplace, to the west.*

*Two small possible postholes were also identified, one of which was cut into, and one of which was sealed underneath, this layer. The presence of these deposits indicates that the area of the site has not been significantly truncated by later activity, with good preservation of medieval levels evident throughout.*

*The 15th-century pottery assemblage includes fragments of three dripping dishes, used for roasting meat, suggesting that the late medieval inhabitants of this property were moderately prosperous and had some social aspirations.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) on land at no. 19 Church Street, Ampthill, Bedfordshire, MK45 2PL (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 0355 3813) on the 10th, 12th and 26th of February, the 2nd and 3rd of March and the 11th of November, 2020 (Figure 1; Plate 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Permo/ Poplars Construction Ltd. in response to an archaeological planning condition placed on the renovation and rear extension of the Grade II listed building at no. 19 Church Street (Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Planning Reference CB/19/00613/FULL, Condition 3). The condition was placed on planning consent due to the high archaeological potential of the site and surrounding area: the site is located within the historic core of Ampthill, which has been the site of a settlement since at least the late Anglo-Saxon period.
- 1.3 The programme of archaeological observation and recording was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Tom Woolhouse of PCA (Woolhouse 2019), in response to a Brief issued by Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team (CBC, 18th August 2019)
- 1.4 The aim of the programme of archaeological observation and recording was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development on the site's archaeology.
- 1.5 The proposed footprint of the house extension covered a total of c. 31.26m<sup>2</sup>, the soakaway for this extension covered c. 3.23m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 2).
- 1.6 This report describes the results of the programme of observation and recording; the site archive will be deposited at the Higgins Art Gallery and Museum, Bedford.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Geology**

2.2 The geology of the area is sandstone of the Woburn Sands Formation. Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel are recorded in a shallow valley a short distance west of the site, but there is no recorded superficial geology within the site itself (British Geological Survey 2020). The geological deposits were present during the course of the groundworks as (102), a mid-brownish-red coarse sand with occasional sandstone pieces.

2.3 The Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983) identifies soils in the area as belonging to the Moreton Association (554a), described as well- drained, brashy, fine and coarse loamy ferruginous soils over ironstone, with some deep, fine loamy over clayey soils, with slowly permeable subsoils, at risk of slight seasonal waterlogging. As anticipated, overburden deposits present within the curtilage of no. 19 Church Street had been considerably altered by past human habitation and activity.

### **2.4 Topography**

2.5 The site is on the south-facing dip slope of the Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge, at an elevation of c. 98m OD (above Ordnance Datum). Ground within the site is largely flat. In the wider area, land falls slightly towards the Market Place, to the west, then continues to rise north and westwards, to a maximum elevation of around 125m OD in Ampthill Park.

2.6 A stream 400m east of the site flows south and east to join the River Flit.



### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site is located within the relatively compact historic core of the town of Ampthill (Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record no. (HER) 16994; HER Search No. 201920/133) and within the Ampthill Conservation Area (HER DBD3248). The focal point of the present-day town is a natural hollow where the main routes into the town, Church Street, Dunstable Street, Bedford Street and Woburn Street, converge; this is the site of the medieval and later marketplace. At the other end of Church Street, the 'close' in front of St. Andrew's Church forms another well-defined focal area. Church Street is the main route linking these two foci and was the main axis of the medieval town (HER 16994).
- 3.2 Ampthill is recorded in Domesday Book (AD 1086) and is likely to be of at least late Saxon origin. A community archaeology project in Ampthill Park, on the west side of the town, found a series of linear gullies, which produced pottery of early to middle Anglo-Saxon date. While this attests to early occupation of the site, the presence of some late medieval material leaves the precise dating and function of the linear features uncertain (HER 18265; EBD1671; Northamptonshire Archaeology 2011). Further evidence of middle Saxon settlement has recently been recorded in Ampthill Park during another community excavation in 2018. Pits, postholes, enclosure ditches and a sunken-featured building have been investigated (Albion Archaeology 2020).
- 3.3 The later Anglo-Saxon and early medieval settlement was perhaps focused around St. Andrew's Church (HER 859), on the eastern edge of the present town (HER 16994). The extant church is a medieval structure, the earliest surviving parts of which are early-14th-century, but which probably overlies an earlier, Anglo-Saxon, building (Bedfordshire County Council 2005). Substantial stone foundations thought to belong to an earlier, probably Romanesque, building, were observed beneath the church floor during building work in 1975 (HER EBD811). A watching brief on groundworks for an extension to the church offices found some undated foundations/ features and human remains (HER EBD1169). Two ditches, one dating to the 11th or 12th century, the other less securely dated as it contained both medieval (12th–13th-century) pottery

and late medieval to post-medieval (14th–18th-century) peg tile, have been excavated and recorded in St. Andrew's Close, adjacent to the church (HER EBD1020; Archaeological Solutions 2010), providing some archaeological evidence for late Saxon to early medieval occupation in the vicinity of the church.

3.4 During the early medieval period, the focus of the town is thought to have shifted from the parish church towards what was probably then an area of open ground on the edge of the heath known as Ampthill Warren. This area, 50m west of the site, became the site of a market (Coleman 1996, 2). By the early 13th century, Ampthill had been granted the right to hold a weekly market and an annual fair, though this may have been a recognition of existing practice rather than a new foundation (*ibid.*). The marketplace appears to have developed organically rather than being a planned imposition. The success of the market is thought to have been a stimulus for the development of permanent shops and houses along Church Street by the late 12th or early 13th century. The town continued to prosper during the 13th century, leading to piecemeal expansion to the north and south of the marketplace, probably with the establishment of properties fronting directly onto the former Warren, on what is now the east side of Bedford Street and Dunstable Street; the western sides of those routes probably became permanently defined later as buildings gradually encroached on the Warren itself.

3.5 The Market Place gradually developed into the junction of the four main streets leading into the town: Church Street, Dunstable Street, Woburn Street and Bedford Street; the first three of which were certainly in existence by the 15th century (HER 16994). All were probably quite built-up by the late medieval period, with deeds of 1434, for example, referring to cottages and a messuage in 'Dunstaplestret' (Coleman 1996, 3; HER 16994). A late-18th-century (AD 1785) stone obelisk with an iron handle and spout for use as the town pump, and indicating mileages to major towns, is located in the Market Place, 100m west of the site, and is a Scheduled Monument (HER 990; NHLE 1005406). A mid-18th-century covered market building survives at no. 6 Church Street (HER 6112). The Market Place was also the site, from at least the late 18th century,

- of a stocks and whipping post (HER 7847), and during the first half of the 20th century, a horse trough (HER 7848).
- 3.6 Ampthill Castle (HER 810), a substantial house built in the early 15th century by Sir John Cornwall, was located in Ampthill Park, on the west side of the town (1.2km from the present site). Geophysical (resistivity) survey of the presumed site identified several major features, including a large (15m-wide) ditch or moat with an entrance to the south, a series of dark and light equally spaced lines suggestive of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, and a large rectangle which is likely to be the site of the courtyard manor or palace shown on plans of 1567 (HER EBD594). Targeted trenching of the presumed location of one of the main building ranges found pits and ditches of late medieval and post-medieval date. One trench contained remains of a stone-built range of 15th- to 16th-century date, with remnants of heavily robbed wall foundations and a surviving brick hearth base (HER EBD1671). The castle was surrounded by a deer park, which later became the landscaped grounds of Park House (HER 1369).
- 3.7 A number of medieval buildings exist within Ampthill and these include the Feoffee Almshouses (HER 2825), a Gothic-style jettied building with 16th-century origins, 27–29 Church Street (HER 6135), 113 Dunstable Street (HER 6198) and 115–117 Dunstable Street (HER 6199) (Bedfordshire County Council 2005).
- 3.8 Numerous other buildings of historic/ architectural interest survive along Church Street, close to the present site at no. 19. These include 13 Church Street (HER 4288), a late-17th-century building with a carriage arch, 15 Church Street (HER 4289), also 17th-century, 12–16 Church Street (HER 4362), a group of 18th-century Neoclassical Grade II listed brick and stone buildings, 17 Church Street (HER 4365), a 17th- or 18th-century timber-framed and tile-roofed building with sash windows and a carriage entrance, and 18 Church Street (HER 6113), which was built in 1793 as a stable quarters to no. 20, now a separate property. A short distance east of the site, on the north side of Church Street, a tile and brick kiln, known from documentary references, operated during the 16th and 17th centuries (HER 8833).

- 3.9 A small-scale archaeological investigation to the south of the site, at Katherine House, Dunstable Street, found 12th- to 14th-century pottery and animal bone, thought to derive from rubbish pits located behind former buildings fronting onto the street (HER EBD1168; Bedfordshire County Council 2005). Monitoring of foundations for a single-storey extension at 8 Church Avenue, a short distance east of the present site, did not identify any archaeological features or finds (HER EBD613). Test pits and trial trenches excavated at Swaffield Close, to the north-west of the town centre, in advance of proposed residential development, recorded a sequence of primarily post-medieval and modern deposits and finds, though a small quantity of Mesolithic–Neolithic struck flints and medieval finds were also recovered from residual contexts (HER11868; EBD949). Trial-trenching just south of this, to the rear of 21 Woburn Street (160m west of the present site), found evidence of terracing of the site to form a level platform for buildings, at some time during the 17th or 18th century. Despite the site's location within the medieval core of the town, the only medieval finds were two residual late medieval potsherds, both found in 19th-century deposits (HER EBD1249). An evaluation towards the east end of Church Street, 400m east of the present site, found post-medieval and modern agricultural features and tree hollows, though there was also some residual Roman pottery (HER 15758; 19524; EBD1041). A watching brief on the north side of Church Street, at the corner with St. Andrew's Close, recorded the remains of a 19th-century building (HER 16118; EBD331). Trial-trenching at 14 Dunstable Street, to the south-west of the site, found a Victorian rubbish pit (HER 19559; EBD1167).
- 3.10 The current development site includes no. 19 Church Street, which is a Grade II listed building (NHLE 1311989; HER 6132). The building is an earlier timber-framed structure with the addition of an early-18th-century brick front. Several red brick, apparently 19th-century, outbuildings remained on the site, to the rear of the main house, prior to the current redevelopment. They were in poor condition and not thought to be of any particular historic or architectural significance, so were demolished.
- 3.11 The 1960s and later housing development on the south-east side of the town,

and extending northwards to the rear of properties fronting on to Church Street to the north, occupies what was formerly the grounds of Ampthill House (HER 7025); the only remaining feature of the landscaped park is a fish pond at the junction of Rushbrook Close and Ailesbury Road, 450m south-east of the site.

- 3.12 Perhaps unsurprisingly given the built-up nature of the historic town centre and the consequently limited opportunities for large-scale development or archaeological investigation, little evidence for activity predating the Anglo-Saxon period has so far been recorded within the core of Ampthill itself. In addition to the Mesolithic and Neolithic flints from Swaffield Close, mentioned above (HER HER11868; EBD949), and the residual Roman pottery found further east on Church Street (HER 15758; 19524; EBD1041), fieldwalking of land south of the Rugby Club, c. 1km west of the present site, found six Mesolithic–Early Neolithic worked flints and a small amount of burnt flint (HER 12688; EBD348).

## 4 METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 General

4.2 The archaeological observation in February–March encompassed general site clearance, excavations of the foundation trenches for the rear extension to no. 19 and several underpinning holes along the back (south) wall of the existing building. With the agreement of the CBC Archaeologist, general shallow (0.30m) ground reduction within the extension footprint was not subject to archaeological monitoring as the excavation of the strip foundations had already shown the top of the medieval level to be at least 40cm and generally 60–80cm below modern ground level. The archaeological observation undertaken in November encompassed the excavation of a soakaway for the house extension, with associated drainage trenches.

Date	Groundworks Observed	Comments
10/02/2020	Initial meeting, small trial holes observed	Next visit agreed for 12/02/2020
12/02/2020	Surface machine strip, tree stump removal, NE most underpinning hole viewed.	PCA to be contacted for next visit. Structural issues may require change in plans.
26/02/2020	Finishing underpinning, exc and record of west side strip foundation	Contractor indicates they are hand-digging all strip foundations; will need another 2+ days to monitor.
02/03/2020	Exc and record of central strip foundation	
03/03/2020	Exc and record of east and south strip foundation	
11/12/2020	Exc and record of soakaway and drainage trenches	

Table 1: Log of Monitoring Visits

4.3 Excavation during the groundworks was carried out manually using hand tools, with limited use of a 5-ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator to clear spoil. These methods were used to strip the extension footings to a maximum depth of 1.2m below modern ground level. All deposits were removed in spits down to the level required for the foundations, under archaeological supervision (Plate 2).

4.4 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all

subsequent excavation was carried out by an archaeologist using hand tools (mattock, shovel, trowel).

#### **4.5 Recording and Finds Recovery**

4.6 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts, deposits and groups are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits identified during the monitoring are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during the programme of archaeological observation and recording were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

4.7 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector periodically. Only objects of modern date were found and were not retained for accession.

4.8 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all features and deposits and were used to keep a record of the excavation process. Photographs in 35mm black and white film format were also taken.

#### **4.9 Sampling Strategy**

4.10 Discrete features were photographed and recorded by a cross-section scaled drawing at an appropriate (1:10) scale. Sections of the strip foundations limit of excavations were photographed and recorded at regularly spaced intervals. All exposed portions of the medieval Layer (104) were hand-excavated in order to recover finds assemblages.

## 5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

### 5.1 Paper Archive

Context register sheets	1
Context sheets	9
Plan registers	-
Plans at 1:20	-
Plans at 1:10	-
Section register sheets	1
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	8
Photo register sheets	1
Small finds register sheets	-
Environmental register sheets	-

### 5.2 Digital Archive

Digital photos	109
GPS survey files	-
Digital plans	1
Access database	1

### 5.3 Physical Archive

Pottery	122/2538g
Ceramic building material (CBM)	2/339g
Clay Tobacco Pipe	13



## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 6.1 The programme of archaeological observation and recording identified a sequence of deposits, present across the full area of the strip foundations and soakaway to the rear of the existing building at no. 19 (Figures 2 & 3, Plates 1–7).
- 6.2 The uppermost of these deposits consisted of the 'Topsoil' (100), 'Subsoil' (101) and Made Ground (109), the former two of which had been heavily disturbed and, as a result, contained large quantities of rubble and other modern debris. These deposits contained pottery with a wide date range, spanning the medieval and modern periods. Layer (100) also contained a small group of mid- to late-17th-century clay pipes (Jarrett, Section 7.9). The made ground deposit was composed of compacted gravel and probably related to one or more of the various defunct services that crossed the strip foundation area. These deposits overlaid Made Ground (103), a thin sandy clay layer which was also visible under the building footings of 19 Church Street. This deposit presumably relates to attempts to stabilise or level the ground prior to the construction of this building.
- 6.3 These deposits were in turn underlain by a layer of Buried Soil (104). This buried soil was relatively undisturbed in the building extension footprint, as can be seen from the exclusively medieval date of the associated finds. It was present across the whole of the strip foundation area, deepening to the south, further away from Church Street (0.08m–0.6m thick). The soakaway also contained this deposit, albeit not as thick (0.12–0.32m deep). However, this may simply reflect the greater level of truncation from modern services in this part of the site. This buried soil contained large quantities of late medieval (predominantly 15th-century) pottery, much of it large and 'fresh' sherds, suggesting that it was in a primary depositional context or at least had not moved far from its original point of deposition (Sudds, Section 7.1; Plates 8–10). The presence of some earlier fabrics, including Hertfordshire-type greywares and gritty redwares, indicates some late-12th- or 13th- to 14th-century activity in the vicinity.

6.4 Two small possible postholes were also identified, one of which [106] cut into this medieval layer and may have related to a post-medieval outbuilding or garden feature. The other posthole [108] was sealed underneath this medieval horizon, in the western strip foundation, and must therefore be of medieval or earlier date, although no finds were present. Posthole [106] was circular in plan with steep to vertical sides, a concave base (0.3m wide x 0.45m deep) and a fill of loose mid-grey silty sand (105) which contained no finds. Posthole [108] was circular in plan with gently sloping sides, a concave base (0.26m wide x 0.07m deep) and a single fill of loose light to mid-grey silty sand (107).

## 7 THE FINDS

### 7.1 Post-Roman Pottery

#### By Berni Sudds

7.2 The post-Roman assemblage recovered during the evaluation amounts to 122 sherds, weighing 2538g. A summary of the pottery types encountered appears below in Table 2. The fabrics were examined under x20 magnification and recorded using a system of alphanumeric fabric codes that conform to the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (held by Albion Archaeology, St Mary's Church, St Mary's Street, Bedford). The pottery was recorded and quantified for each context by fabric, vessel form and decoration, using sherd count, weight, estimated number of vessels (ENV) and estimated vessel equivalent by percentage rim present (REVE). An Access database recording these attributes can be found with the site archive. A summarised catalogue of the pottery by context, with suggested spot dates, is presented in Appendix 1 at the end of the report.

CTS Code	Common Name	Date Range		SC	Wgt.	REVE
C60	Hertfordshire-type greyware	1170	1350	3	17	
C65	Gritty red ware	1200	1400	1	9	
C66	Late medieval Brill	1375	1600	1	20	
C	Miscellaneous whitewares	1300	1500	1	6	
E01	Late medieval reduced ware	1375	1500/50	29	533	0.17
E01D	Late medieval reduced ware (buff-red margins)	1375	1500/50	58	997	0.32
E02	Late medieval oxidised (gritty)	1375	1580	3	159	0.4
E	Miscellaneous unsourced late medieval pottery	1375	1600	2	4	
P01	Glazed red earthenware	1500	1800	4	352	0.19
P25	Frechen stoneware	1550	1700	1	10	
P52	Late Brill	1550	1800	1	105	0.12
P03	Post-medieval black-glazed redware	1580	1700	1	48	
P34	Chinese blue and white porcelain	1590	1900	1	1	
P29	Staffordshire-type redware	1600	1800	1	13	
P30	Staffordshire-type embossed flatware	1650	1750	2	30	
P48	English stoneware	1700	1900	1	125	
P43	Pearlware with underglaze transfer-printed decoration	1770	1840	1	4	
P45	Transfer-printed refined whiteware	1780	1900	4	13	
P55	Coloured glazed refined	1800	1900	1	34	

	whiteware					
P55	Plain refined white earthenware	1805	1900	1	3	
P55	Refined white earthenware with sponged or spattered decoration	1805	1900	2	12	0.13
P57	Yellow ware with industrial slip decoration	1820	1900	2	37	0.4
P57	Plain yellow ware	1820	1900	1	6	

Table 2: Ware types present

SC = Sherd count; Wgt. = Weight in grams. REVE: Estimated vessel equivalent by percentage rim present.

- 7.3 The pottery types recovered range in date from the late 12th to 20th century, although the majority dates to the late medieval and post-medieval period and was retrieved from two layers, buried soil (104) and topsoil (100).
- 7.4 The larger assemblage was recovered from buried soil (104), amounting to 97 sherds, weighing 1710g, the majority of which are late medieval reduced wares (E01 and E01D/ LMRW). These include jars, bowls and jug forms, and possibly one cistern. The jars include examples with simple everted rims (Slowikowski 2011, fig. 21.R14) and distinctive inturned necks/ rims (ibid., fig. 37.R47). The latter appears to be a type associated with the LMRW kiln at Flitwick Water Lane, and the fabric, including sparse calcareous inclusions, would concur with this (Flitwick Water Lane fabric 2; ibid., 15). Other sherds in this fabric are also present in the assemblage. There is also a reduced ware jar with an everted, flat-topped rim with a straight outer edge. In fabric, it is similar to the LMRW material, but the rim is less readily paralleled and more akin to 13th- or 14th-century types. The bowls have everted, expanded rims, some thickened/ beaded to the outer edge above and below (ibid., fig. 21.R42). Jugs are evidenced by plain strap and rod handles, and possibly some of the thumbled bases. A collared rim from a possible cistern was also recovered, although it could also be from a large jug. Decoration is rare but includes horizontal combed or rilled decoration to the shoulder of a few vessels, and one sherd has a notched band high on the shoulder, just below the neck, with spaced diagonal, slightly curved combing extending down from it.
- 7.5 The buried soil also produced a small number of late medieval oxidised wares (E02/ LMROW), including a wide bowl with an everted, expanded flat-topped

rim and a crudely formed knife-trimmed base, from a possible dripping dish. There is also a non-diagnostic late medieval Brill body sherd and a couple of unsourced fine hard-fired sherds that are probably late medieval in date. The remaining pottery includes a small number of sherds of earlier-13th- to 14th-century date (Hertfordshire-type greyware C60; Gritty redware C65), and an early Glazed red earthenware dripping pan (P01), probably of 16th-century date. Late medieval reduced wares are dated in the region from the late 14th to 16th centuries but are most common during 15th century (Slowikowski 2011, 1). The Glazed red earthenware dripping dish could be intrusive but might, just, be contemporary with the late medieval assemblage, particularly if the latter were old when deposited. The condition of the pottery is good, with little sign of abrasion, and an average sherd weight of over 17g. Residue and sooting deposits from their last uses are well-preserved and it is considered unlikely the pottery has been redeposited.

7.6 The topsoil included a mixed assemblage of pottery, dating from the 14th to 20th century. This includes a reduced ware neckless jar, with an everted, expanded internally bevelled rim (Slowikowski 2011, fig. 21.R85), of 14th- or perhaps 15th-century date. There are also some late-16th- and 17th-century vessels, including another Glazed red earthenware dripping dish, a Frechen stoneware jug sherd, a late Brill flanged dish and the base of a black-glazed red earthenware tyg. Sherds from a Staffordshire-type embossed flatware dish with a possible bird motif, dating from the late 17th to early 18th century, and a fragment from an 18th-century Chinese porcelain blue and white painted plate were also recovered. The remaining pottery from this layer is comprised of 19th- and 20th-century industrial refined wares and stonewares.

7.7 Although relatively modest in size, and from just two deposits, the pottery demonstrates continuous activity in the immediate vicinity of site from the 14th to 20th century. There are few sizable contemporary assemblages from Ampthill town for comparison. Earlier medieval pottery has been recovered from St Andrews Close and Dunstable Street, and two residual late medieval sherds from Woburn Street, to the west of site (Thompson 2010; HER EBD1168 and EBD1249, Bedfordshire County Council 2005). The assemblage can, however,

be well-paralleled in the region (Slowikowski 2011 and 2013; Green and Horne 1991). The pottery is of significance at a local level as it includes some well-dated material, in good condition, and provides further information on the nature of late medieval and post-medieval assemblages in Ampthill. It consequently adds to a regional understanding of pottery supply and consumption in this part of Bedfordshire.

- 7.8 The range of forms and presence of residues and sooting is consistent with domestic food storage, preparation and serving. Amongst the forms are a few more functionally specific types, including a wide bowl, often associated with dairying, a possible cistern for the storage of beer, or possibly wine, and three dripping dishes, used for roasting meat. Having three of the latter in a relatively small assemblage is of some note. Earlier in the medieval period such forms are typically associated with high-status sites, but by the late medieval period were being made from inexpensive pottery, and were being acquired by lower levels of society, who desired to adopt high-class eating habits (Slowikowski 2011, 29). They are not all contemporary, however, which could indicate that it was a long-lived culinary practice within the household from which they originated.

## **7.9 Clay Tobacco Pipe**

**By Chris Jarrett**

- 7.10 A total of thirteen fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered, by hand, from the archaeological work. They were found in one deposit: Layer (100). The finds are mostly in good condition, indicating that they had not moved far from their original point of deposition. The clay tobacco pipes consist of three bowls with a date range of c. 1640–1680 and ten stems of a thin or medium thickness that all have a medium-sized bore indicating a 17th-century date. The stems are made in a very fine sandy white fabric with occasional fine linear pale red inclusions. The bowl types were catalogued according to Oswald (1975), suffixed OS, and the data was entered into a spreadsheet format. All the bowls were smoked and have bottered rims, made symmetrical with a disc- or button-like tool with a groove on one surface. None of the bowls or the stems have makers' marks. The earliest bowl type recorded is an OS5 shape, dated c. 1640–

60, and this has three quarters, poor-quality, interrupted milling of the rim, and an average burnish. The bowl is made in a very fine sandy fabric and may be of local production. Two of the bowls are of the later OS6 shape, dated c. 1660–80, and were made in different moulds. One of the bowls has a bulbous shape, full milling of the rim and a good burnish, while the other bowl has a more rounded front (facing away from the smoker), half milling of the rim and an average finish. The latter bowl has a pale red surface, indicating that it may have been subject to a post-firing smoke-free, high-temperature heat source, or was fired in a kiln with an accidentally oxidising environment. This item also has a pock-marked, laminated surface, indicating that the bowl may have been subject to tertiary deposition. One of the stems has very slight, streaky discolouration of this colour, and may possibly belong to the bowl. The two OS6 shapes are made in the same pipe clay as the stems, indicating that these bowls are from a local regional production, i.e. the bowls were not made in ball clay and from another source, such as London. The clay tobacco pipes indicate a deposition date of c. 1660–80 for Layer (100).

- 7.11 The clay tobacco pipes, because they occur in such a small quantity and are absent of makers' marks, have no wider significance. The finds do have the potential to help date the context these items were recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the pipes, although the finds should be retained for the archive, as the sources of clay that the pipes are made from may be of interest for future research.

## **7.12 Ceramic Building Material**

### **By Amparo Valcarcel**

#### Introduction and Methodology

- 7.13 The application of a 1kg masons' hammer and sharp chisel to each example ensured that a small, fresh fabric surface was exposed. The fabric was examined at x20 magnification using a long-arm stereomicroscope or hand lens (Gowland x10).
- 7.14 As there was no ceramic building material fabric reference collection, consultation of the relevant 1:50,000 geological maps for this area (British

Geological Survey 2020) provided the local geological background. New tile was prefixed by 'ARM', followed by 1.

#### The Assemblage

- 7.15 This small-sized assemblage (2 fragments; 339g) consists of two peg tile fragments made of a well-fired, sandy fabric with abundant white quartz (ARM1). The fine moulding sand indicates an AD 1700–1900 date. Both examples were collected from the upper surface of Layer (104).

#### Summary

- 7.16 The small building material assemblage collected from 19 Church Street, Ampthill is comprised of post-medieval peg tiles, dated to AD 1700–1900. The tiles are of little intrinsic or wider significance and should be discarded.



## 8 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The principal result of the programme of archaeological observation and recording was the identification of a layer of buried soil, sealed underneath modern layers and post-medieval deposits relating to the construction of the extant building at 19 Church Street. This buried soil was relatively undisturbed and was present across the whole of the extension footprint, to the rear of the existing building, at slightly greater thicknesses to the south, away from Church Street. The buried soil contained large quantities of late medieval (mainly 15th-century) pottery, much of it consisting of large sherds, in 'fresh' condition, suggesting that they were in a primary depositional context or at least had not moved far from their original point of deposition. A small quantity (4; 26g) of late-12th- or 13th- to 14th-century sherds are also present, indicating some activity in this area during the 'high' medieval period. The top of the medieval level was typically at a depth of between 0.60 and 0.80m below modern ground level.
- 8.2 The medieval buried soil is likely to represent the levelled remains of surface middens/ rubbish heaps in the back-plots of medieval dwellings and shops on Church Street, which was the main axis of the town during the early medieval period. Permanent shops are suggested to have been present along Church Street by the late 12th or early 13th century, with Church Street believed to have been the link between the two main settlement foci, centred on the marketplace, to the west, and St. Andrew's Church, to the east (HER 16994; Coleman 1996, 2).
- 8.3 The presence of this deposit indicates that the area of the site has not been significantly truncated by later activity, with a good level of preservation of medieval archaeological level(s) evident throughout. The area of the soakaway did have a greater level of truncation than the house footprint, although these impacts appeared to be localised, relating to drains and pre-existing soakaways. Two small possible postholes were also identified, one of which cut into, and one of which was sealed underneath, this layer, in the extension footprint area. The latter hints at the possible survival of medieval or earlier structural evidence at the site.

- 8.4 The presence of the medieval buried soil at 19 Church Street contributes to the currently limited corpus of excavated medieval evidence in Ampthill, which, although known to have been a flourishing settlement since at least the late Anglo-Saxon period, has not seen extensive investigation. Other medieval archaeological remains have been found to the north-east, at St. Andrew's Close (HER EBD1020; Archaeological Solutions 2010), where two ditches were excavated, and to the south, at Katherine House, where evidence of medieval rubbish pits has been recorded (HER EBD1168; Bedfordshire County Council 2005).
- 8.5 Although a layer apparently relating to the construction of the existing building at no. 19 Church Street was observed (103), this did not contain any dating evidence. All that can be said is that it post-dated the medieval buried soil, the latest pottery from which dates to the c. early 16th century. As such, the monitoring has not shed any particular light on the original date of construction of no. 19, the timber-framed core of which is thought to pre-date the building's early-18th-century façade (NHLE 1311989; HER 6132).
- 8.6 The project results are of local interest and significance. They provide support for the current model of Ampthill's development during the medieval period, reflecting occupation along Church Street from the late 12th or 13th century. The medieval pottery assemblage may also reveal something of the character of occupation, at this property at least, by the late medieval period: the dripping dishes for roasting meat are suggestive of moderately prosperous households with social aspirations. The origins and development of small towns, like Ampthill, during the medieval period, have been highlighted as important themes in regional archaeological research agendas (Ayers 2000, 27–32; Oake et al. 2007, 14; Medlycott 2011, 70). The project results reinforce the value of carrying out archaeological monitoring during construction work, even on small-scale developments, in historic town and village centres.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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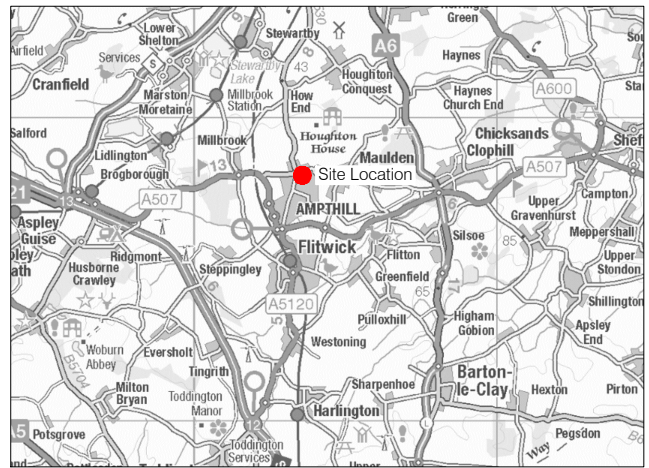
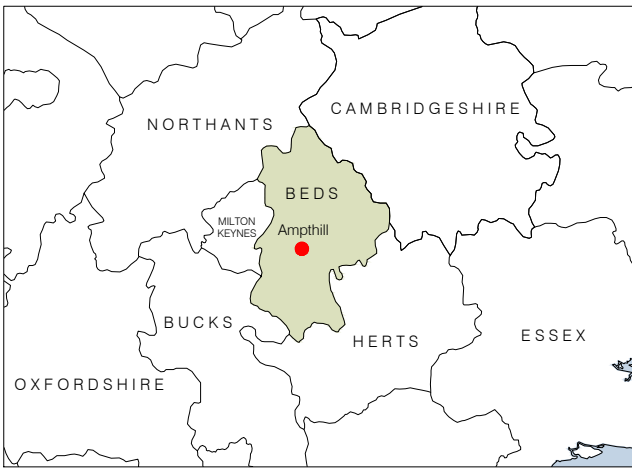
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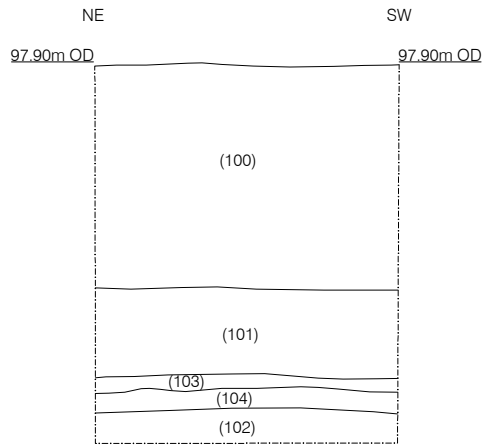
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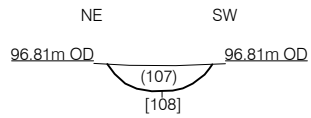




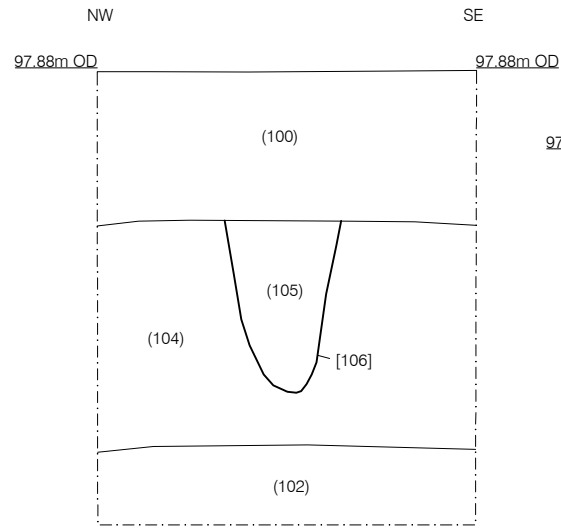




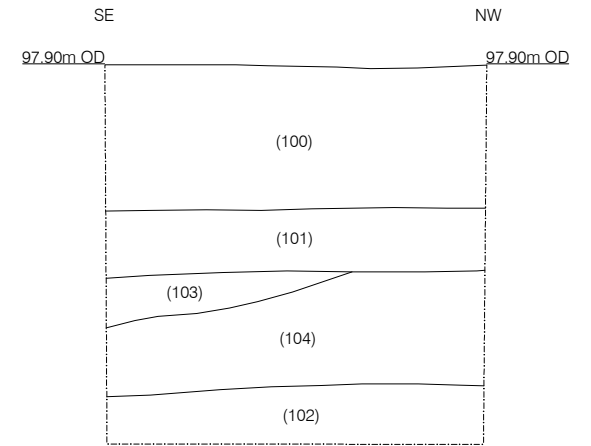
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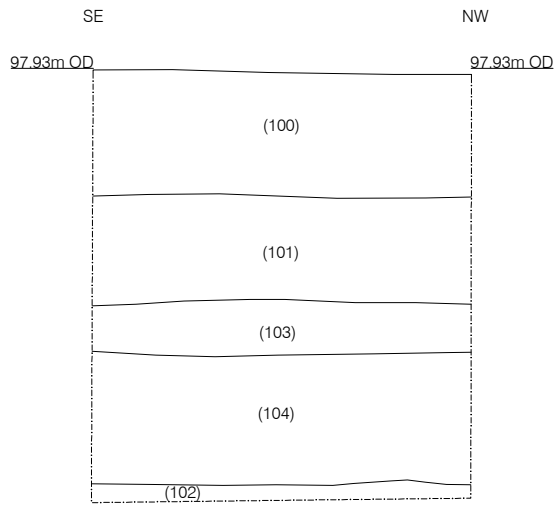
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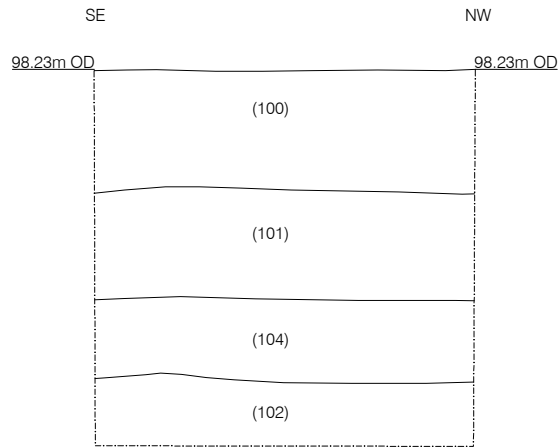
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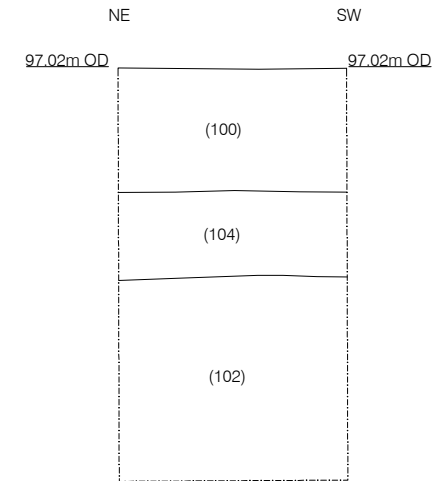
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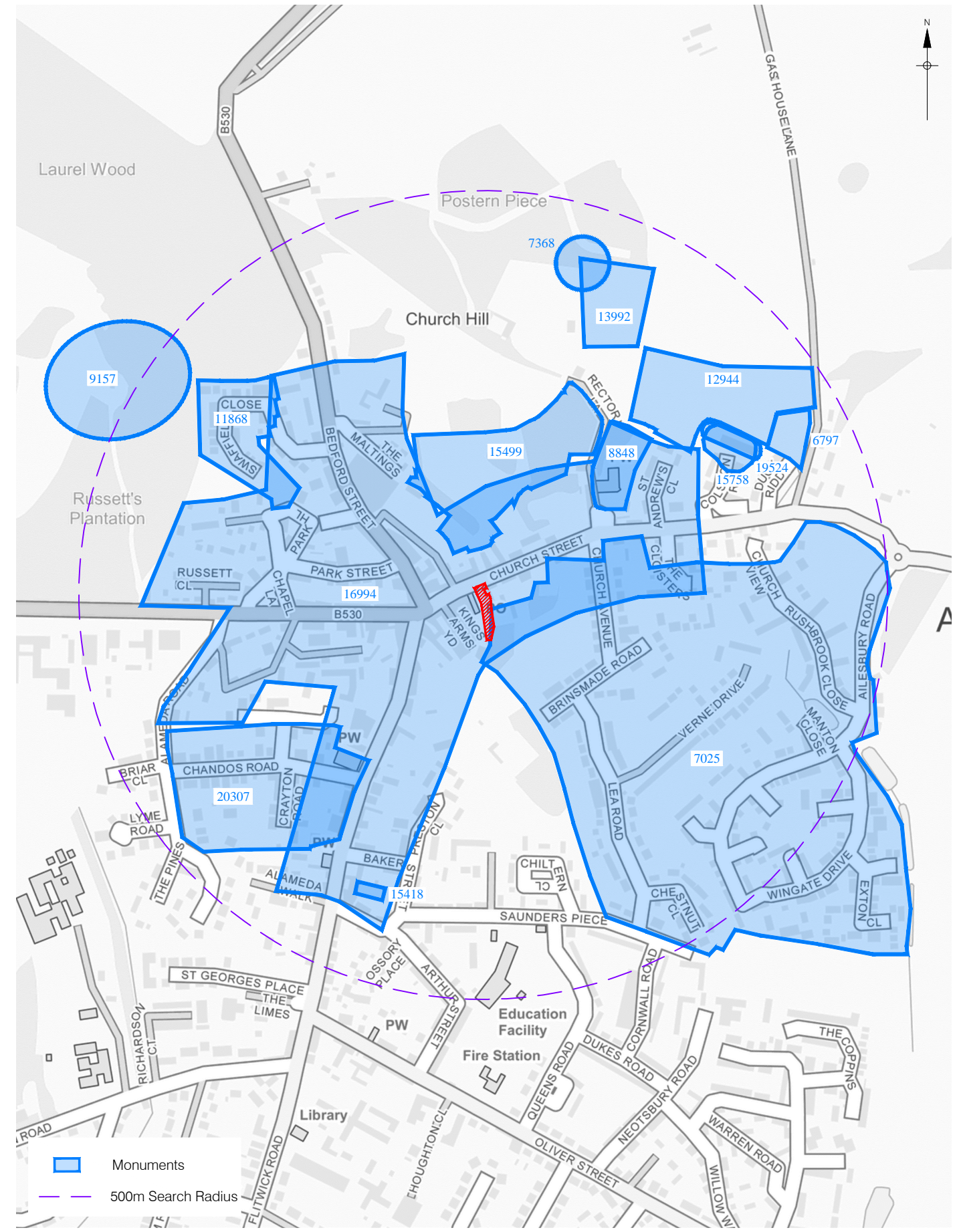
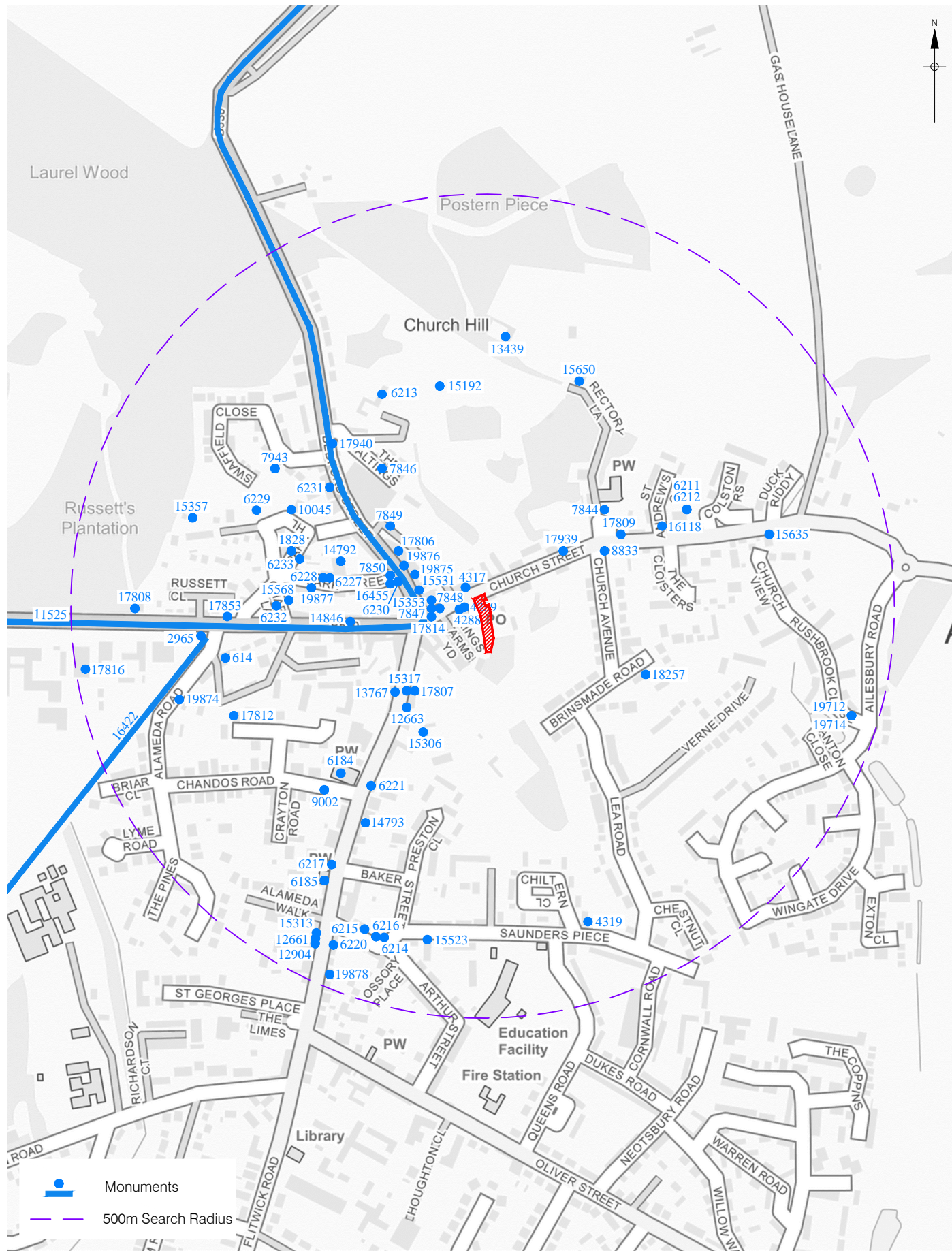


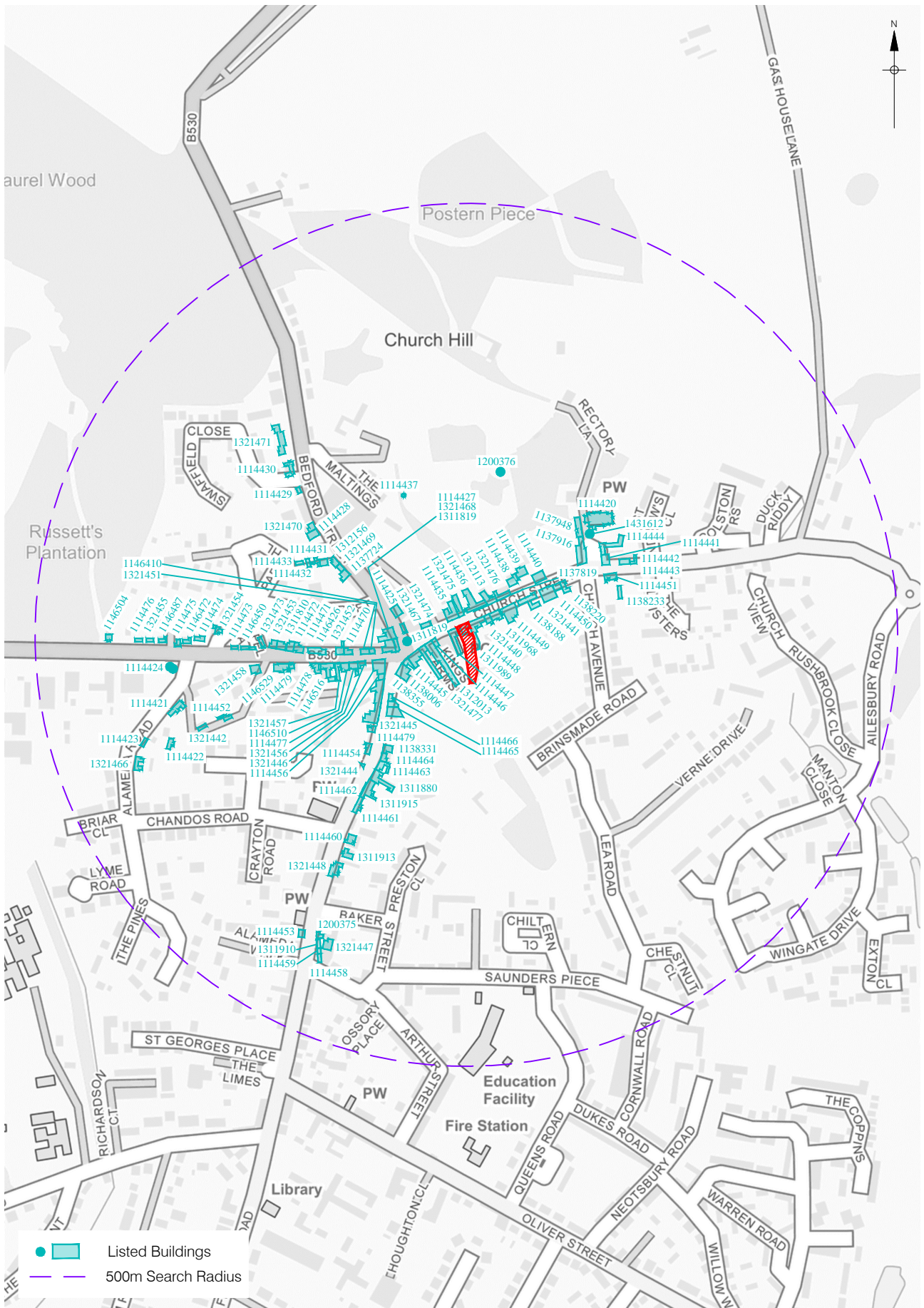
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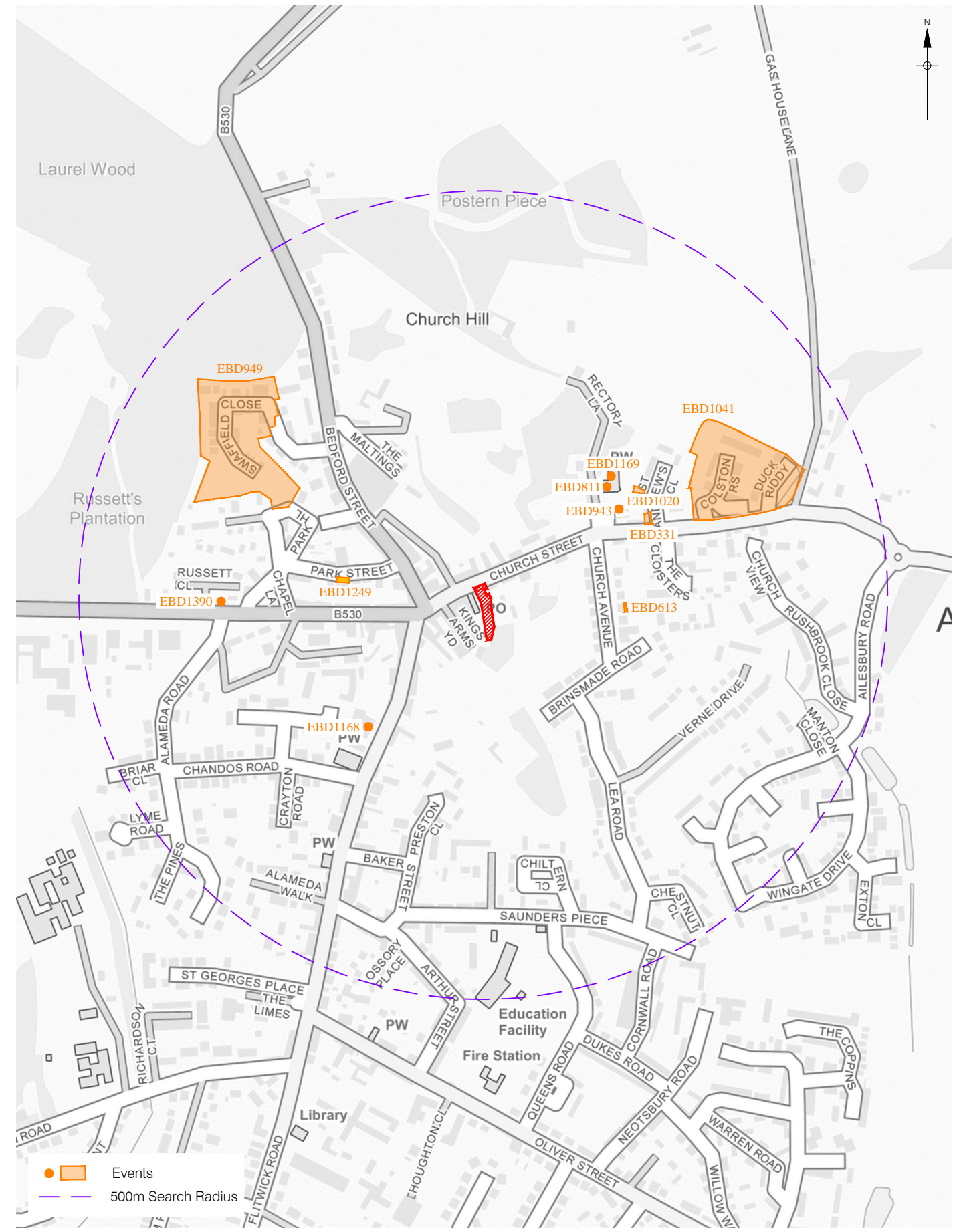
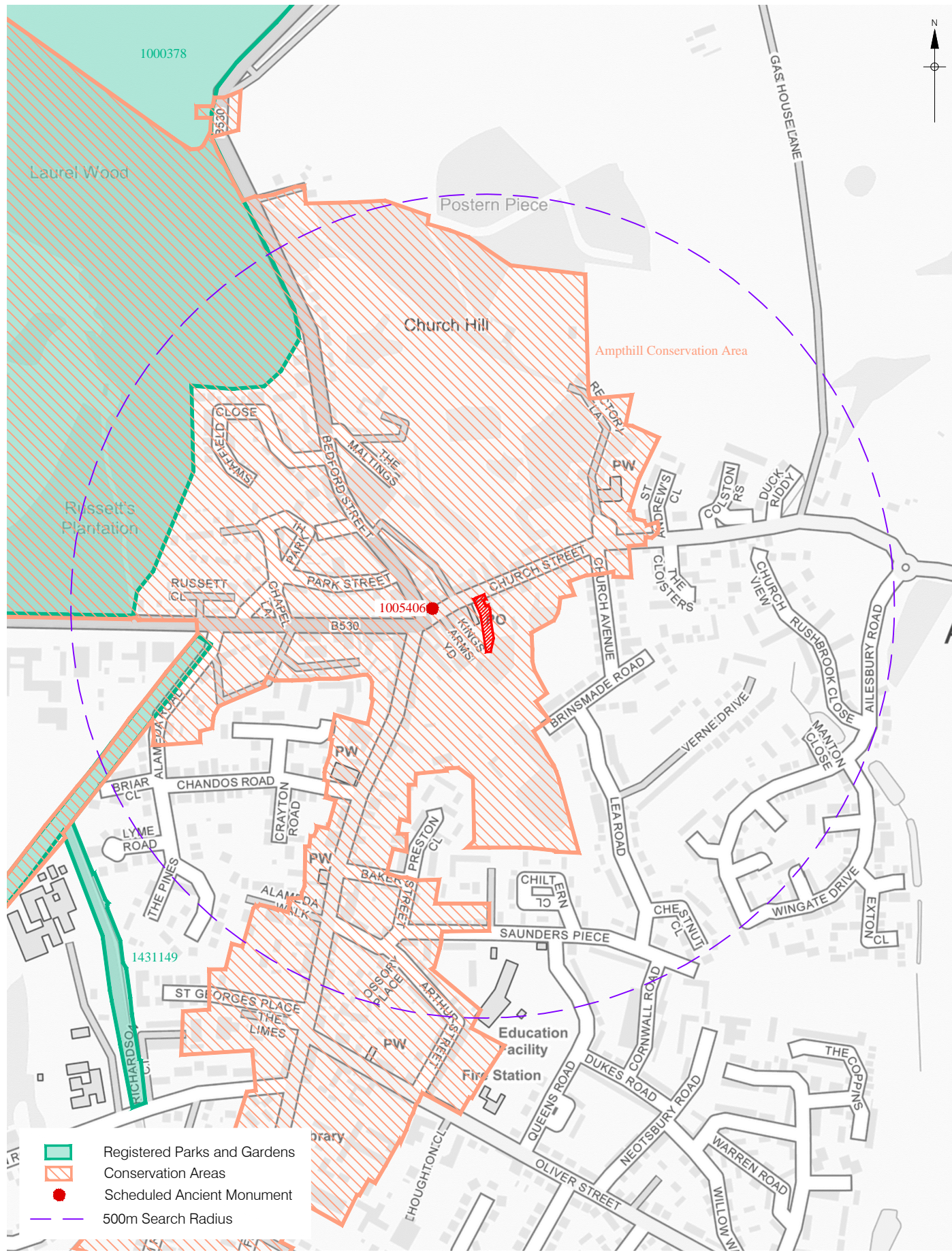
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Figure 5  
BHER Locations  
1:6,250 at A4



0 250m

Figure 6  
 BHER Locations  
 1:6,250 at A3

## 11 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: The site area, pre-excitation, view north-east



Plate 2: The site area, mid-excitation, view east



Plate 3: Limit of excavation, S.4, view west



Plate 4: Limit of excavation, S.8, view south



Plate 5: Limit of excavation, S.6, view west



Plate 6: The completed extension, view north



Plate 7: The soakaway, view south-west



Plate 8: Selected medieval potsherds from Layer (104)





Plate 9: Selected medieval potsherds from Layer (104)



Plate 10: Selected medieval potsherds from Layer (104)

## 12 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Plan	Description	Period
100	0	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.6	0	Loose to moderate, mid-brownish-grey silty sand with abundant rubble	modern
101	0	Layer	Subsoil	0	0	0.27	0	Loose to moderate, light to mid-brownish-grey silty sand with abundant rubble	modern
102	0	Layer	Natural	0	0	1.22	0	Loose, mid-brownish-red coarse sand with occasional sandstone	
103	0	Layer	Made Ground	0	0	0.12	0	Moderate, mid-yellow sandy clay	post-medieval to modern
104	0	Layer	Buried Soil	0	0	0.5	0	Loose, mid-grey sand with very rare charcoal	medieval
105	106	Fill	Posthole	0.3	0.3	0.45	0	Loose, mid-grey silty sand	post-medieval
106	106	Cut	Posthole	0.3	0.3	0.45	0	Circular in plan, vertical to steep sides, concave base	post-medieval
107	108	Fill	Posthole	0.26	0.25	0.07	0	Loose, light to mid-grey silty sand	medieval
108	108	Cut	Posthole	0.26	0.25	0.07	0	Circular in plan, gentle sides, concave base	medieval
109	0	Layer	Made Ground	0	0	0.11	0	Stiff, mid-orange gravel	post-medieval

### 13 APPENDIX 3: POTTERY AND CLAY PIPE CATALOGUES

#### 13.1 Pottery Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Dec	Comments	SC	ENV	RIMD	EVE	Weight	Context ED	Context LD	Spotdate	Beds CTS CODE
100	YELL SLIP	BOWL	BAND	Simple rim from a rounded bowl. Thin white-slip bands to the shoulder.	1	1			35	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P57
100	YELL SLIP		SLIP	Body sherd. Edge of blue slip band.	1	1			2	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P57
100	YELL		GLIE	Base sherd, flat.	1	1			6	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P57
100	FREC	JUG	GLE	Body sherd. External mottled brown glaze.	1	1			10	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P25
100	PMBL	TYG	GLIE	Thickened base and lower body from a tyg. External ribbing. Internal and external black glaze.	1	1			48	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P03
100	GRE		GLIE	Body sherd from a large vessel. Internal and external clear glaze. Internal and external wear to glaze (pitted) and internal white residue (limescale?).	1	1			80	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P01
100	GRE	DISH DRIP	GLI	Short strap-handle and thickened rim of a dripping dish. Handle folded over at end. Internal clear/ green glaze (depending on surface reduction/ oxidisation).	1	1			120	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P01

100	GRE	CAULPIP	GLI	Rounded form, everted neck and thickened rim. Internal clear glaze to neck. Cauldron/pipkin, or possibly from a large jug.	1	1			80	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P01
100	ENGS		GLIE	Flat base. Internal clear glaze, external dark brown glaze nr NOTTS/DERBS. Wear to underside of base. Internal white residue.	1	1			125	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P48
100	STRE		GLIE	Body sherd, rounded form. External rilling to top of shoulder. Internal and external clear glaze.	1	1			13	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P29
100	STEM	DISH	ANTH	Base sherds from the same dish. Embossed bird?	2	1			30	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P30
100	REFW		SPRIG	Body sherd. Very edge of rised 'sprig' decoration? Blue tinted.	1	1			3	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P55
100	REFW SPON	CUP CARN	SPON	Rim and body sherd from a cup or sugar bowl with a low carination, flaring upper body and simple rim. Pink and green fine sponged vertical bands/stripes.	2	1			12	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P55
100	TPW	PLATE	WILL	Base sherd. Chinese landscape, probably willow.	1	1			4	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P45
100	TPW		FLOR	Body sherd. Cup or bowl? Floral transfer.	1	1			2	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P45
100	TPW		LAND	Body sherd. External lanscape transfer.	1	1			2	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P45
100	TPW	TURN	TREL	Thickened base from a tureen. Trellis print.	1	1			5	1820	1900	1820 -	P45

												1900 +	
100	PEAR TR	PLATE	GEO	Scalloped rim, geometric border. Too small to measure accurately.	1	1			4	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P43
100	CHPO BW	PLATE	PNTD	Small base sherd. Too little to determine subject matter of painted decoration. Landscape?	1	1			1	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P34
100	COLGE	DISH	MARB	Square or rectangular dish. Slab-built. Thin-walled, slightly flaring wall and simple rim. White earthenware with brown glaze and white mottling/ marbling to rim/ upper body. 20th century.	1	1			34	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P55
100	BRILL	DISH FLNG	RL	Flanged dish. 16th or 17th century? Rim thickened above and below. Internal dark mottled green glaze and small zig-zag rouletting to outer rim, inner flange and upper body (either side of change of angle).	1	1			105	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	P52
100	LMRW	JAR	UNGL	Jar. Neckless, with everted expanded rim. Internally beveled top and tapering on underside to outside edge. Nr Fig.21.R85 Slowikowski 2011. Possibly slightly earlier 14th century expanded type? 14th to 15th century?	2	1			107	1820	1900	1820 - 1900 +	E01D
104	GRE	DISH DRIP	GLI	Simple, slightly thickened rim of a rectangular dripping dish. External burnt	1	1			72	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	P01

				residue (also to break in one area, fissure?). Internal clear/ green glaze. 16th century?									
104	LMOW	DISH DRIP	GLI	Fairly crudely formed knife trimmed base. Dripping dish form? Grey core, pale buff inner margin, oxidised outer margin and surfaces. Patchy clear/green glaze to internal base. External sooting. Possibly an oxidised LMRW but glazed.	1	1			96	1500	1800	1500 1550	- E02
104	LMOW	BOWL	UNGL	Very wide bowl. Dairying pan? Everted, expanded flat-topped rim. Thickened to underside, rounded outside edge. Flared body. Oxidised throughout. Rough feel.	1	1			56	1500	1800	1500 1550	- E02
104		JUG	GLE	Body sherd. C65? Possibly E02 but patchy external clear glaze.	1	1			9	1500	1800	1500 1550	- C65
104	MISC WW		UNGL	Whiteware body sherd. Moderate quartz (mostly up to 0.5mm, occ larger), occasionally iron-stained. Occasional IO. Near CBW but not quite right for Surrey Whitewares.	1	1			6	1500	1800	1500 1550	- C
104	LMRW	BOWL	UNGL	Everted, expanded bowl rim. Nr. Flat-topped, slight internal bevel. Flat outside edge. Mid grey core, light grey margins, dark grey surfaces. Fabric sample retained	2	1			26	1500	1800	1500 1550	- E01

				for type series.									
104	LMRW		UNGL	Body sherds. Sample retained for type series.	6	6			83	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01
104	LMRW		UNGL	Body sherds. External wear.	2	2			46	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01D
104	LMRW		UNGL	Body sherds. Sample retained for type series.	17	12			159	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01D
104	LMRW		UNGL	Body sherds. Oxidised cores, dark grey surfaces.	2	2			7	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01
104	LMRW		COMB	Body sherd. Shoulder. Horizontal combing. X4 teeth.	1	1			16	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01D
104	LMRW		UNGL	Sagging base.	1	1			16	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01
104	LMRW		UNGL	Sagging base sherds.	8	5			231	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01D
104	LMRW	JUG	UNGL	Plain strap handle. Luted to body (which missing). Slowikowski 2011, Fig 22.H1 type.	1	1			67	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01
104	LMRW	BOWL	UNGL	Everted, expanded rim, thickened/ beaded to outer edge above and below. Nr Slowikowski 2011, Fig 21.R42.	1	1			27	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01D
104	LMRW	JUG	UNGL	Rod-handle. Socketed, possibly earlier, 13th/14th C, but similar body to other	1	1			35	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01

				LMRW. Oxidised core, pale grey margins and dark grey surfaces.								
104	SHER	JAR	UNGL	Expanded rim. Flat-topped, or slight internal bevel? Too small to measure. Different fabric to rest of LMRW but possibly later. L.13th - Mid 14th C?	1	1		4	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	- C60
104	LMRW	JAR	UNGL	Simple, everted rim. Nr Slowikowski 2011 Fig.21.R14. Too small to measure.	1	1		6	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	- E01D
104	BRILL LMT		UNGL	Body sherd. Nr. LMHG.	1	1		20	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	- C66
104	LMRW	CIST	UNGL	Collared rim with a simple top. Cistern or large jug.	1	1		58	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	- E01
104	LMRW		UNGL	Body sherds from the same vessel. Fabric includes sparse calcareous inclusions. Nr Flitwick Water Lane Fabric 2? External surface pitted.	2	1		61	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	- E01D
104	LMRW		UNGL	Body sherds.	3	3		34	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	- E01
104	LMRW		UNGL	Body sherd with thick internal grey deposit - lime based with organic inclusions. Mortar?	1	1		13	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	- E01
104	LMRW		THB	Sagging base with regularly spaced thumbing. Pulled, not pinched. Find parallel. Internal burnt residue. Wear to	1	1		73	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	- E01



				bottom of thumb impressions.									
104	LMRW		COMB	Shoulder sherd. Notched band high on shoulder, just below neck with spaced diagonal, slightly curved combing extending down from it (x6 fine toothed comb). Black inclusions (possibly glauconite) and some organics in fabric. Flitwick Church End product?	1	1			50	1500	1800	1500 1550	- E01
104	LMRW		THB	Sagging base with grouped intermittent thumbing. Pulled, not pinched. Find parallel. Wear to bottom of thumb impressions and basal angle.	1	1			59	1500	1800	1500 1550	- E01D
104	LMRW		UNGL	Sagging base. External sooting.	1	1			29	1500	1800	1500 1550	- E01D
104	LMRW		UNGL	Body sherd.	1	1			15	1500	1800	1500 1550	- E01D
104	LMRW		UNGL	Sagging bases. External sooting.	2	2			58	1500	1800	1500 1550	- E01D
104	LMRW		UNGL	Sagging base.	1	1			16	1500	1800	1500 1550	- E01D
104	LMRW		UNGL	Sagging base. Sparse calc. Possibly Flitwick Water Lane product.	1	1			44	1500	1800	1500 1550	- E01D
104	LMRW		UNGL	Body sherds. Oxidised cores and dark-grey surfaces. X1 semi-vitrified.	2	2			8	1500	1800	1500 1550	- E01

104	LMRW		UNGL	Body sherd/ base? Distinct change of angle/ carination but thin-walled. External sooting.	1	1			8	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01
104	LMRW		UNGL	Sagging base sherd.	1	1			10	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01
104	LMRW		UNGL	Body sherds.	6	5			36	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01D
104	SHER		UNGL	Body sherds from shoulder. Coarser sand-tempering to rest of LMRW assemblage. Earlier MCW or C60, or different LMRW source. External sooting.	2	1			13	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	C60
104	MISC		INCH	Small thin-walled body sherd. High-fired, hard. Fine fabric with sparse quartzes. Grey core, oxidised surfaces. External rilling/ horizontal incised lines. Too hard for E03?	1	1			2	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E
104	LMRW		UNGL	Sagging base sherds.	3	2			21	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01D
104	LMRW		UNGL	Body sherd. External surface pitting. Fabric includes sparse calcareous inclusions. Nr Flitwick Water Lane Fabric 2?	1	1			22	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01D
104	LMRW	JAR	UNGL	Shoulder/ rim (rim-top missing). Jar with distinctive inturned neck/ rim. Nr. Slowikowski 2011, Fig 37.R47 from Flitwick Water Lane. Fabric includes sparse	1	1			13	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01D

				calcareous inclusions. Nr Flitwick Water Lane Fabric 2? External surface pitted.									
104	LMRW		UNGL	Body sherd. Internal limescale? Possibly post-depositional.	1	1			3	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01D
104	LMOW		UNGL	Body/ base sherd. Abraded/ worn surfaces.	1	1			7	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E02
104	LMRW		UNGL	Body sherds.	3	2			18	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01D
104	LMRW		UNGL	Body sherd. External sooting.	1	1			4	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01D
104	LMRW		UNGL	Body sherds.	3	3			13	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01
104	LMRW		RIL	Body sherd. Light external rilling. External sooting.	1	1			11	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01
104	LMRW		RIL	Body sherd. Light external rilling.	1	1			21	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01
104	MISC		UNGL	Small body sherd. Fine, virtually untempered fabric. Sparse fine calc, and very sparse quartz. Grey core and oxidised surfaces.	1	1			2	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E
104	LMRW	JAR	UNGL	Everted, flat-topped rim. Straight outer edge. LMRW body but rim nr earlier Rivenhall H1 type and Dunstable M2 types. 13th/14th c.	1	1			6	1500	1800	1500 - 1550	E01D

### 13.2 Clay Pipe Catalogue

Context	Part	Type (Atkinson and Oswald 1969)	Type (Oswald 1975)	FC	MILLING	Finish	State	Rim	Comments	Spot Date
100	S			10					Medium to thin, fine bores, very fine sandy white fabric with fine linear pale red inclusions	1660–1680
100	B	AO13V	OS6	1	2	A	S	B	Rounded profile, pale red ?heated surfaces. Fine sandy fabric with pale red linear inclusions	1660–1680
100	B	AO13	OS6	1	4	G	S	B	Rounded/bulbous profile, chipped rim, but complete milling survives, sandy white fabric. Fine sandy fabric with pale red linear inclusions	1660–1680
100	B	AO10	OS5	1	3	A	S	B	Rounded profile, more so on the front of the bowl (facing away from the smoker). Poor quality interrupted milling. Fine sandy white fabric	1660–1680

## 14 APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-368213

Project details

Project name 19 Church St., Ampthill Monitoring

A programme of archaeological observation and recording of groundworks relating to the extension of an existing Grade II listed building was carried out on land at 19 Church Street, Ampthill, Bedfordshire, MK45 2PL. The archaeological monitoring identified a layer of buried soil, under modern and post-medieval deposits relating to the construction of the extant building. This buried soil was relatively undisturbed and was present across the whole of the building and soakaway footprint, at slightly greater thicknesses to the south, away from Church Street. This buried soil contained large quantities of medieval pot, suggesting that it may relate to middening, rather than casual discard or loss. This middening may have taken place in the back-garden plots of properties off Church Street, itself the main axis of the medieval town in this period. Two small possible postholes were also identified, one of which cut into and one of which was sealed underneath this layer. The presence of these deposits indicates that the area of the site has not been significantly truncated by later activity, with a good level of preservation evident throughout.

Project dates Start: 12-02-2020 End: 03-03-2020

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference BEDFM 2019.84 - Museum accession ID codes

Any associated project reference BEDFM 2019.84 - Sitecode codes

Any associated project reference CB/19/00613/FULL - Planning Application No. codes

Type of project Recording project

Site status Listed Building

Site status Conservation Area

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Other 5 - Garden

Monument type BURIED SOIL Medieval

Monument type POSTHOLE Uncertain

Monument type POSTHOLE Medieval

Monument type STRUCK FLINT Late Prehistoric

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

Significant Finds CLAY PIPE Post Medieval

Significant Finds CBM Medieval

Significant Finds CBM Post Medieval

Investigation type ""Watching Brief""

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE AMPHILL 19 Church Street,  
Ampthill, Bedfordshire

Postcode MK45 2PL

Site coordinates TL 0355 3813 52.031471340702 -0.490389590072 52 01 53 N 000 29 25  
W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 0.74m Max: 1.2m

Project creators

Name of Organisation PCA

Project brief originator Central Bedfordshire Council

Project design originator Tom Woolhouse

Project director/manager Tom Woolhouse

Project supervisor Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne/John House

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Permo/ Poplars Construction Ltd.

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient The Higgins Art Galley and Museum

Physical Contents "Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Archive recipient The Higgins Art Galley and Museum

Digital Contents "Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Media available "Database","Text"

Paper Archive recipient The Higgins Art Galley and Museum

Paper Contents "Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

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Entered on             6 March 2020



## 15 APPENDIX 5: BEDFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY/ SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological observation and recording was carried out in February, March and November 2020 during groundworks relating to the renovation and extension of the existing Grade II listed building at no. 19 Church Street, Ampthill, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 0355 3813). The archaeological monitoring identified a layer of buried soil, underneath modern layers and post-medieval deposits relating to the construction of the extant building. This buried soil was relatively undisturbed and was present across the whole of the extension footprint, deepening to the south, away from Church Street. The buried soil contained large quantities of late medieval (predominantly 15th-century) pottery, much of it in fairly 'fresh' condition, suggesting that it was in a primary depositional context or, at least, that it had not moved far from its original point of deposition. A small number of late-12th-/13th- to 14th-century potsherds were also present, indicating some activity in the 'high' medieval period. The buried soil may be the levelled remains of medieval rubbish heaps/ middens in the back-plot area to the rear of a medieval building fronting onto Church Street, which was the main axis of the early medieval town, linking settlement around St. Andrew's Church, to the east, with the developing focus of settlement at the marketplace, to the west. Two small possible postholes were also identified, one of which was cut into, and one of which was sealed underneath, this layer. The presence of these deposits indicates that the area of the site has not been significantly truncated by later activity, with good preservation of medieval levels evident throughout. The 15th-century pottery assemblage includes fragments of three dripping dishes, used for roasting meat, suggesting that the late medieval inhabitants of the property were moderately prosperous and had some social aspirations. A report describing the full project results is available on the Archaeology Data Service website under OASIS ID preconst1-368213, or from Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record, under Site Code/ Accession Number BEDFM 2019.84. The site archive has been deposited at the Higgins Art Gallery and Museum, Bedford.

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