

# *Marches Archaeology*

**Former Antiques Centre  
Pepper Lane  
Ludlow  
Shropshire**

**Report on an archaeological evaluation**

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**This report is produced by**

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**Former Antiques Centre  
Pepper Lane  
Ludlow  
Shropshire**

**A report on an evaluation**

**NGR: SO 512 746**

**Report by  
Jane Kenney**

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**Former Antiques Centre  
Pepper Lane  
Ludlow  
Shropshire**

**A report on an evaluation**

*Summary*

*Three evaluation trenches were dug to assess the proposed development site within the medieval core of Ludlow. A 19<sup>th</sup> century cellar had removed part of the street frontage, and a 19<sup>th</sup> century alleyway or courtyard and brick building were located to the east of the existing warehouse. Towards the back of the property structures dating to the late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century were located, built over medieval made-up ground, which was also seen in the trench to the east. The existence of medieval made-up ground suggests that medieval structural remains may survive elsewhere on the site, although none were found in the evaluation trenches.*

## **1 Introduction**

A proposal was submitted to erect 5 dwellings on land at Pepper Lane, Ludlow. The site is situated at NGR: SO 512 746 (Fig. 1).

As the site lies within the historic core of Ludlow the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor advised that further information was required before the archaeological implications of the application could be adequately assessed and recommended that an archaeological field evaluation be carried out to provide this information. Andrew Cockrell (the client) commissioned Marches Archaeology to provide the archaeological services detailed in the "Brief for an archaeological field evaluation" produced by the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor.

The work was carried out between 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December 2003, inclusive. An interim statement was provided to the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2004 to advise his recommendations to the planning meeting, and the final report was issued on 25th January 2004.

## **2 Aims and objectives**

The Brief stated that the archaeological project would consist of the excavation of three trenches each 6m long and 2m wide and reporting on the results.

An archaeological evaluation aims to “gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality) in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following: the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource; the formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource; the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research” (Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations).

The objectives of this evaluation as defined in the Brief are:

To locate any archaeological features and deposits within the study area.

To assess the survival, quality, conditions and relative significance of such features and deposits.

To identify and recommend options for the management of the archaeological resource, including any further archaeological provisions where necessary.

### **3 Methodology**

#### *Documentary research*

Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record was consulted to identify sites and historic buildings in the immediate area. Available historic maps and secondary sources were consulted to inform an understanding of the historic development of the site.

#### *Fieldwork*

Two trenches measuring 6m by 2m were dug inside the current building with a mini mechanical excavator in locations specified by the Brief. A third trench was dug in the yard to the east of the building. Live electric cables and drainage pipes resulted in this trench being positioned somewhat west of the location indicated in the Brief and shaped so as to best fit the available safe space. This trench measured 6m by 3m, but tapered to a point at its southern end (Fig. 2).

The upper deposits were removed by mini excavator to a depth where significant structures or deposits were visible. These features were then cleaned and investigated by hand. Once they had been recorded the mini excavator was brought in again in trenches 1 and 3 to investigate the lower layers. The depth of this investigation was limited by the length of machine arm and by the need for safe access where there were features that required recording. All artefactual material recovered from hand excavation and from significant machine-dug contexts was retained.

The recording system included written, drawn and photographic data. Context numbers were allocated and context record sheets completed. Plans and sections at the scale of 1:20 were made of all the trenches, the location of which were marked on 1:50 plans. The photographic record was made using black and white negative and colour transparency film.

#### *Office work*

On completion of fieldwork a site archive was prepared. The written, drawn and photographic data was catalogued and cross-referenced and a summary produced (see appendix I for a summary of contexts). The artefactual data was processed, catalogued and cross-referenced and summaries produced. The pottery was sent to Stephanie Rátkai for

specialist analysis (see appendix II for a summary of finds and appendix III for the pottery report). A site matrix was produced and is presented in appendix IV.

#### **4 Site description**

The medieval core of Ludlow is situated on the crest of a spur overlooking a bend in the River Teme to the west and south, with higher land to the north and south-east. Numerous rock types outcrop in the area round Ludlow, making it famous for geological studies. The town itself lies on Silurian rock of the Downton series including red marls. Just to the south-west are marine Silurian rocks including mudstones and limestones. A rough calcareous siltstone from these beds was the main building material in the town, although Old Red Sandstone from outcrops to the east of the town was also used for better quality construction (Lloyd 1999, 11-12, 56). North of the River Teme the soils are argillic brown earths of the Bromyard association, with brown earths of the Munslow association to the south of the river (Dalwood 1996, 2).

The proposed development site lies to the west of Old Street and the south of King Street, on the south side of an alley called Pepper Lane, in the planned twelfth century core of Ludlow (Fig. 1). The site is currently occupied by a former warehouse last used to house an antique shop. There is a small courtyard to the east of the building with access to Pepper Lane through a narrow covered alley (Fig. 2).

#### **5 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 1)**

The castle was built on the end of the ridge overlooking the Teme Gorge, probably in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century. The town was laid out to the east of the castle in the 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries (Lloyd 1999, 19, 21). The heart of the town was the market place, probably the first area to be laid out. It was probably an elongated rectangle running from the castle east to where it met the main north-south route at the Bull Ring. Burgage plots ran off from the market place at right angles. The church (PRN 11080) was located at the north-eastern end of the market place, surrounded by a churchyard that may have abutted the north side of the market place (PRN 6186) (Conzen 1988). The location of Pepper Lane, therefore, defines the south-eastern edge of the 12<sup>th</sup> century market place.

The town probably took this linear form by 1138, but by 1186 it formed a T-shape with development down Corve Street and Old Street (Lloyd 1999, 24). The town walls (PRN 1177) were superimposed over the further expanded town in the later 13<sup>th</sup> century (Lloyd 1999, 24).

The layout of the burgages south of Pepper Lane is a little confused. Conzen (1988, 264) has noted that the burgages running perpendicularly from the market place were particularly long and appear to be the original plots enclosed from agricultural selions in open fields when the town was first laid out in the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century. He (*ibid*, fig 17.1 A) includes the area south of Pepper Lane as part of this first planned unit of the town, although the old burgages were curtailed by early 13<sup>th</sup> century plots running from Broad Street and Old Street. Wood's 1835 map (Fig. 3) shows the burgages running east-west from the east side of Broad Street, and from the west side of Old Street cutting into the Pepper Lane plots. Lloyd (1999, 151) describes the present site as occupying a 12<sup>th</sup> century burgage.

Stalls set in rows along the market place began to be replaced by permanent shops causing parts of the market to be infilled by blocks of shops, later also adapted for residential use. The earliest of these are attested on the Butter Cross site by the late 13<sup>th</sup> century (Lloyd 1999, 60), but the blocks to the west and east of Fish Street are part of this encroachment process probably dating to the late medieval and early post-medieval period (PRN 6296, 6297). A medieval undercroft was discovered under No. 15 King Street (PRN 6163), and this building also has a late medieval timber frame surviving (PRN 11180). This encroachment would have created Fish Street and Pepper Lane as they are today. The name of Pepper Lane dates back in the documentary record to 1650, although it was occasionally subsumed within the name of Fish Street, and in fact Pepper Lane seems originally to have applied only to the short section of lane now called Fish Street (Weyman 1913, 46). This area, and specifically a yard to the south of Pepper Lane, was known as Tailors' Yard from the late 15<sup>th</sup> century until at least 1805, indicating the trade concentrated here (Weyman 1913, 44-45). It is not clear if this specifically refers to the current site.

As the market was infilled it divided into two, the eastern end becoming the Bull Ring (PRN 1793), used for bull baiting as well as a cattle market (Lloyd 1999, 75). In the middle of this was the Tolsey (PRN 11052) or toll house, built in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. A block of buildings also colonising the Bull Ring is dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but could have earlier origins (PRN 6306). Many buildings in the area have a 17<sup>th</sup> century or earlier core, but have been much altered in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The Pepper Lane site seems to have changed quite dramatically in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Fig. 3). Evans' 1832 map shows Pepper Lane but gives no detail of buildings. In 1835 there were two large buildings overlapping onto the site, the southern one part of the eastern end of a Broad Street burghage. By 1862 the property boundaries were running roughly north-south. There were two buildings on the street frontage, presumably shops or residential with various sheds and ancillary buildings behind. The latter were altered in minor ways but the basic layout was maintained until the present warehouse was built in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 6 The evaluation

See Fig. 2 for trench location. A summary of all contexts recorded is included as appendix I, and a site matrix, which may clarify the stratigraphic relationships discussed below, is given as appendix IV.

### *Trench 1* (Figs. 4-6)

Trench 1 was located towards the rear of the present warehouse space, and orientated north-north-west to south-south-east. It was dug to a depth of *c.* 102.50m OD, 1.8m below the surface of the present concrete floor. Several phases of building activity were visible in this trench.

The concrete floor [101] was up to 0.16m thick and below it was a deposit of brick rubble [102], in places up to 0.96m thick, but more generally 0.6m thick. This contained 20<sup>th</sup> and late 19<sup>th</sup> century glass bottles, cattle bones and other rubbish and was deposited to level the area when the present floor was laid. Beneath [102] was a thin (0.12m thick) black layer [103] containing a high proportion of charcoal and ash. This overlay a brick floor [104]. The floor covered the whole trench, except where recent disturbance had caused holes within it, and at the north-western corner of the trench there was a patch of cobbles [124]. The relationship between the cobbles and the bricks was not established due to disturbance by a



later feature [125]. The brick floor undulated significantly due to subsidence, and was removed by machine except for a strip along the eastern side of the trench left in for recording purposes. The bricks were regular, machine-made, unfroged red brick, measuring 240 x 110 x 70mm, and dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The surface of the floor was at *c.* 0.8m below present floor level (103.44m OD).

A hard pinkish gravel [123] formed the make-up layer for the cobbles [124], and a dump of charcoal and ash [115] underlay the brick floor. This contained late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery and sealed a general made-up ground deposit of brown clayey sandy silt [106], which also contained pottery of this period. This deposit proved to be of stratigraphic importance as it sealed some structures while being cut by the foundation trench [118] for a wall [116] in the northern corner of the trench. [116] was constructed of local siltstone slabs bonded with soft greyish clay. Only the south-western corner of the structure appeared in the trench. A late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> century sherd was recovered from the rough stone base [122] for wall [116], and the fill of the foundation cut [117] produced pottery dating to *c.* 1700-1725.

Over and around [116] was built a wall foundation of red bricks and siltstone slabs [114] extending the corner of the building further into the trench. Probably at the same time a ceramic drain [121] was laid against the southern side of [114], presumably to take water from a down pipe at the corner of the building. The drain was covered with a layer of red bricks [113], of the same type as those used in the floor [104] and within structure [114].

As mentioned above, the foundation trench [118] for these structures cut the general deposit [106], which overlaid the foundations of a stone wall [107] at the southern end of the trench and a surface composed of large slabs [112] at the northern end of the trench, both lying just over 1m below the present floor surface at *c.* 103.20m OD. Only a single course of [107] survived and it was composed of siltstone slabs bonded with yellowish friable mortar. The wall foundation ran roughly north-west to south-east and the northern end had been destroyed. The slab surface [112] was composed of large limestone flags up to 0.7 x 0.5 x 0.2m. They were irregular in shape and not worked. There were no neat edges to the surface but it seemed to form the south-eastern corner of a roughly rectangular area. The use of hard limestone, rather than local siltstone, suggests that it was designed for heavy use.

Both [107] and [112] rested on another general made-up ground deposit [109]. This was a dark brown loamy clay containing occasional fragments of charcoal, containing pottery of the late 16<sup>th</sup>-mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. Along the eastern side of the trench ran a wall [108], almost parallel to the trench side. The top of this wall survived at *c.* 0.9m below the surface, *c.* 103.34m OD. [108] was composed of small siltstone slabs bonded with greyish white mortar. The visible western face was very rough and clearly intended to be a buried foundation. The relationship between [109] and the wall was unclear but no trace of a cut through [109] could be seen. There were some voids against the face of [108] as if [109] had been dumped against it, and it is probable that [109] was deposited during or soon after the building of [108] to bury the wall foundations and raise the ground level west of the wall.

The building activity in the northern corner of the trench, in particular drain [121], had cut through wall [108]. When these structures had been removed a fragment of wall foundation [119] was discovered. This was similar to [108] in that it was constructed of siltstone slabs. It had no visible bonding material but this was also absent in the lower levels of [108]. [119] appeared to be running east-north-east to west-south-west at right angles to [108] and could be the return of this wall, but the drain [121] destroyed all relationships between these two structures so this cannot be proven within the present trench.

Below [109] was a stony deposit [120] composed of *c.* 80% fragments of siltstone in a matrix of brown sticky clay, which produced a 14<sup>th</sup> century pot sherd and probably medieval roof tiles. A sondage was hand dug into this deposit in the middle of the trench before a larger area was removed by machine at the northern end. In the hand dug sondage a thin layer [110] with fewer stones was noticed along the top of [120]. This was essentially the disturbed surface of [120], and produced one 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century pot sherd and one mid 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century sherd. Again the relationship between wall [108] and these deposits was unclear, but it appeared that [108] was constructed in a foundation trench [111], which cut [120].

After recording the later structures the deposits were machined down to the limits of safety and the reach of the mini excavator arm at the northern end of the trench. In the base of the machine-dug sondage was a yellow-brown clay with *c.* 80% siltstone fragments [126]. This was similar to [120] but the clay was more yellow in colour and more compact and the stones were generally horizontal rather than arbitrarily orientated as in [120]. In section a thin grey lens could be seen along the surface of [126]. It would have been necessary to dig deeper to definitely prove the nature of [126] but it appeared to be *in situ* degrading bedrock. The grey lens could be a trace of the ground surface preserved by the dumping of [120] on top of it. The surface of [126] was *c.* 1.66m below the current floor level (*c.* 102.60m OD).

#### *Trench 2 (Figs 7-9)*

Trench 2 was orientated east-north-east to west-south-west close to the street frontage. The concrete floor [201] was up to 0.34m thick at the eastern end and was reinforced. Over most of the trench, except the western end, was a dark brown compact sand and gravel containing pieces of reinforced concrete floor and brick rubble [202]. This was over 1.7m deep but was not excavated to the base as the deposit was very loose and unsafe and clearly formed the recent infill of a cellar. The western wall of the cellar [204] ran perpendicularly across the western end of the trench. A flight of steps [203] butted against the eastern face of the wall and descended downwards to the north into the cellar. Each step was 0.88m wide, 0.27m deep and 0.21m high. They were built of machine-made red bricks topped with stone slabs, and 4 steps were exposed, but the floor of the cellar was not reached. The steps were not bonded into the cellar wall so they could date from later than the wall. The base of the cellar was over 2m below the present floor level (102.30m OD).

The cellar wall [204] was built mostly of siltstone pieces up to 0.45m in length with occasional pieces of sandstone and some bricks. No bonding material was visible in the face of the wall but in the top red and yellow clay was used as bonding. The face of the wall was neatly finished although the variable sizes of the stones dictated that the coursing was random. There were no traces of plaster or whitewash. The bricks incorporated within the body of the wall were variable in size. One was 280mm long, while others measured 170 x 100 x 50mm. The top of the wall had been altered and added to. Although some small handmade bricks were included in the top course there were also larger machine-made bricks measuring 240 x 110 x 60mm and a large red sandstone block with a worked face. In the northern end of the wall ventilation holes had been added. These were created by the gaps between machine-made, 19<sup>th</sup> century bricks measuring 230 x 110 x 70mm.

The ventilation holes in the cellar wall led into a brick lined shaft [205] constructed against the western side of the wall. The shaft was built of red machine-made bricks measuring 230 x 120 x 65mm with a pinkish friable mortar. The interior of the shaft measured 0.43m wide by over 0.74m long, and was filled by brick bats and pieces of stone carefully stacked up with some brown gravelly sand between them [209]. In the south-western corner of the trench were

two siltstone slabs [206] placed on top of each other bonded with yellow friable mortar to create a pad measuring 0.6m by over 0.4m and 0.1m high.

[206] rested on a brown sandy silt containing stones and brick pieces [207]. This deposit seems to have built up against the southern side of the brick ventilation shaft [205]. Extending under [205] and [207] was a dark grey brown sandy clay [208] containing charcoal flecks, stones and some pieces of brick. This also contained post-medieval artefacts. There was no cut for the cellar wall [204] visible within [208] and it is possible that it had built up against the top of the wall.

In the western end of the trench the later archaeological features were almost directly below the concrete floor at *c.* 104.15m OD. The need to record these precluded the exploration of earlier deposits in this trench. Although the cellar probably cuts into the natural bedrock and has remove archaeological deposits in this area, it is possible that earlier deposits do survive west of wall [204].

### *Trench 3 (Figs 10 and 11)*

Trench 3 was located in a small yard to the east of the present building. The concrete floor was 0.16m thick [301], and below this was 0.93m of brick and stone rubble containing numerous 20<sup>th</sup> century glass bottles [302]. At *c.* 1.10m below the present surface (*c.* 102.89m OD) was a cobbled surface [303]. This surface covered the entire trench and was composed of natural rounded river cobbles up to 0.23m long laid in fairly random patterns. Two stone slabs were visible at the southern end of the trench embedded as part of the same surface. In the north-eastern corner of the trench a much larger slab was embedded in the surface. This measured 0.84 x 0.6m and was of limestone. Up the middle of the trench ran 3 rows of red bricks [304], measuring 240 x 110 x 70mm, forming the cover of a ceramic storm drain. A line of bricks supported the western side of the drain trench and these were overlaid by the cobbles of [303] so it appeared that the drain was built as an integral part of the surface, rather than being added later.

Along the eastern side of the trench was a brick wall [306]. This was largely built of red bricks measuring 220 x 110 x 65mm with some blocks of sandstone and siltstone, especially towards the top of the surviving section of wall. In the northern part of the wall was a doorway 1.16m wide with 2 sandstone blocks [307] forming the threshold. The wall appeared to end before the southern end of the trench, but sandstone blocks continue the line of the wall and these formed the threshold of another doorway. The large slab within the cobbled surface [303] was positioned to take the extra wear from the use of the northern doorway. This doorway was blocked with a brick wall [305].

Once these features were recorded the mini excavator was used to dig through the cobbled surface at the northern end of the trench. This revealed a layer [308] 0.22m thick of red-brown silty gravel containing brick and stone rubble. This had built up against the foundations of wall [306] and appeared to be the levelling deposit for the cobbled surface. Below [308] was a layer of 80% siltstones in a matrix of brown sticky silty clay [309]. The stones were jumbled, lying at random angles. This layer was dug down to a depth of 2.28m below the present concrete floor surface (101.71m OD). The mini excavator could not dig any deeper than this and the sides of the trench were so unstable that it was unsafe to enter the sondage and dig further by hand. The possible natural, seen in trench 1, could therefore not be reached in this trench. The jumble of stones and occasional voids between them

showed that this deposit [309] was not natural. This was proved when a stone tile was recovered from close to the bottom of the excavation.

### *The finds*

Appendix II gives a list of all finds and appendix III has the specialist report on the pottery.

Most of the finds came from trench 1. Both the dark layer [115] below the brick floor [104] and the general layer below it [106] produced late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The fill [117] of the foundation trench for wall [116] produced pottery dating to *c.* 1700-1725. A sherd dating to the late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from [122], the rough stones forming the base for wall [116]. Fill [117] also produced an interesting worked bone artefact (small find 1, Fig. 12). This is a narrow scoop carved from a sheep metatarsal with decorative incised lines on the handle. Several of these objects were found in the Cathedral Close, Hereford (Stone and Appleton-Fox 1996, 56, fig 44) and they were described as apple corers. However, they could have been used for various functions. The scoop found on the present site has some red mineral material wedged into the hollow of the handle, which might relate to its last use.

The general made-up ground layer [109] below structures [107] and [112] contained late 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Deposit [109] was probably roughly contemporary with wall [108], and it is likely the structures [107] and [112] were built in the same construction phase, so the pottery suggests that these all date to the early post-medieval period. This is of considerable interest as there are relatively few excavated archaeological contexts of this date in Ludlow. [110], the upper part of the earlier made-up ground [120], produced one 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century pot sherd and 3 pieces of roof tile with some glaze on them suggesting that they are also medieval. It also included a mid 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century sherd but this was small and might have worked its way through the loose deposits. Layer [120] itself contained a 14<sup>th</sup> century pot sherd and a stone roof tile, so it appears that this lower made-up ground deposit was medieval in date.

Rátkai (appendix III) notes that the assemblage consisted primarily of tablewares, with little coarseware. She also points out the absence of stoneware, which may indicate that most contexts pre-date the appearance of this ware in *c.* 1720.

The modern material from the fill [202] of the cellar in trench 2 was not retained. The only finds kept from trench 2 were a piece of clay pipe stem and a sherd of vessel glass from context [208].

In trench 3 the recent finds from the rubble [302] were not retained, and no finds were recovered from other layers with the exception of a stone tile from within layer [309].

## **7 Discussion**

The significance and date of some of the features seen in the evaluation trenches can be established by comparing the excavated plans with the early maps (Fig. 13). The most difficult map to overlay is that for 1835 as it is the least accurate and has fewest features in common with the modern map. However, it is possible to say that the alleyway between the development site and its neighbour to the east existed in 1835, but it did not continue as far south as trench 3. However, by 1862 there was a narrow courtyard in this location and, although not perfectly overlaid, it is possible to identify the wall [306] on this map. The

building above the cellar in trench 2 was also built between 1835 and 1862, the wall of this building coinciding quite accurately with wall [204]. There is a partition wall shown running approximately along the line of wall [108] in trench 1. This would seem to be too slight to account for the substantial stone wall seen in the trench, so [108] could be much earlier. This is very likely as the south-western corner of a building represented on the 1862 map and more clearly defined on the 1886 map may account for the walls [114] seen in the trench. Stratigraphically [108] is much earlier than this.

The 1886 map shows the building over trench 2 to still be there. The building to the east of trench 3 seems to be a little further away from the trench, but it is unclear whether this is due to map error or rebuilding. There was little change in the buildings of this area between 1886 and 1936, the latest alteration being the building of the present warehouse, which occurred before the survey for the modern 1:2500 OS map, published in 1988.

From the maps it can be suggested that the alleyway and brick wall in trench 3 were constructed between 1835 and 1862. The cellar in trench 2 and possibly the structure related to wall [114] in trench 1 were also built in this period; the brick floor [104] being even later. All the other features in trench 1 are earlier, and can be dated by artefactual evidence.

The bricks used in [114] and [113] and the ceramic drain [121] support the theory that these are 19<sup>th</sup> century structures, but the artefactual evidence suggests that wall [116] is considerably older. Pottery from the foundation trench fill [117] suggests a date of *c.* 1700-1725 for the construction of this wall. This is supported by an early 18<sup>th</sup> century sherd from the base of the wall foundation [122].

Layer [106], cut by foundation trench [118], is dated to the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century by the pottery within it, the date of [116] suggests that late 17<sup>th</sup> century may be more likely for this general layer. It is odd that layer [105/115] below the 19<sup>th</sup> century brick floor [104] also contains only late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery, when stratigraphically it must be later. Perhaps this charcoal rich layer originated from an old midden deposit, reused as a levelling layer.

[107] and [112] lay at just over 1m below the present floor surface at *c.* 103.20m OD, with the top of wall [108] at *c.* 0.9m below the surface, *c.* 103.34m OD. Pottery from layer [109] dates to the late 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> century, and as wall [108] seems to be roughly contemporary with [109] this date can be applied to the wall as well. [107] and [112] are stratigraphically later than [109] but considering the later 17<sup>th</sup> century date of the layer above it seems likely that they were built fairly soon after [109] was deposited. This represents considerable activity in the period covering the late 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> century, activity that extends beyond the trench, possibly over much of the proposed development site.

The made-up ground below the structures as seen in trenches 1 and 3, [120] and [309], seems to belong to the same layer. The deposits in both trenches appear very similar, although that in trench 1 is not as deep in trench 3. The pottery from [110] and [120] suggests a 14<sup>th</sup> century date for these deposits. It is odd that there was no trace of the large building shown on the 1835 map over this area and it is possible that the made-up ground was dumped to level the natural slope for the construction of this building. The natural slope is down towards the south and terracing of land can be seen in adjacent plots. However, the artefacts from both this layer and the layers above suggest an early date for this deposit. Layers [120] and [309] are undoubtedly designed to level the area for building, so it is likely that elsewhere under the present property there may survive the foundations of late medieval structures built on this

made-up ground. The surface of [120] was *c.* 1.30m below the current floor level (*c.* 102.94m OD), and that of [309] was 1.32m below the surface (102.67m OD). It is likely that it is at this level and below that medieval remains will be found. As stone roof tiles were recovered from both [120] and [309] it is possible that the earlier deposits include remains of buildings, although the roof tiles could have been imported with the rest of the stone from elsewhere.

In trench 2 it is likely that the cellar has removed earlier, medieval layers. However, it is conceivable that the base of deep features might survive even here.

The natural subsoil was only found in trench 1, where it was *c.* 1.66m below the current floor level (*c.* 102.60m OD). This suggests that there was a natural slope to the east as well as to the site over this site.

## **8 Conclusions**

Originally Pepper Lane marked the southern edge of the eastern end of the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century market place, the buildings on the north side of the lane being late medieval encroachment on the market. It is, therefore, highly likely that there were medieval buildings along the southern frontage of Pepper Lane. The present evaluation failed to detect these as at least part of this frontage was proven to have been destroyed by 19<sup>th</sup> century cellaring, but some remains may survive to the west and rear of the cellar.

The medieval burgrave plots in this area were probably orientated north-north-west to south-south-east, and the orientation of the early post-medieval wall foundations seen in trench 1 supports this.

The present evaluation has demonstrated that there are late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century structural remains surviving under the proposed development area. This is a period for which there are no detailed maps and little excavated archaeological evidence of this date has so far been recovered from Ludlow. The current site could, therefore, provide important evidence for the development of the town in this period and of the economic use of this area in the heart of the town.

No medieval structures were identified but considerable levelling activity was undertaken apparently in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. This activity represents a considerable investment of effort and resources and is unlikely to have been undertaken unless specifically needed, i.e. immediately prior to constructing buildings on the site. This suggests that traces of late medieval structures may remain somewhere under the development site.

The depth of the deposits prevented an extensive exploration of any archaeology below the medieval levelling, but it is highly likely that earlier medieval features and deposits do survive, with the possibility of even earlier archaeology. However, these early deposits are buried so deeply that the proposed development may not represent a threat to them.

## **9 Recommendations**

The evaluation has demonstrated that while much of the street frontage has been lost to cellaring some earlier deposits should survive in the north-western corner of the site. South of the cellar 19<sup>th</sup> century and earlier structures were found to survive at foundation level. Some of these structures dated to the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century, a period for which there has been

very little archaeological evidence discovered so far in Ludlow. The presence of medieval made-up ground below these structures suggests that foundations of medieval buildings might also survive on the site.

The identification and preservation of medieval and early post-medieval remains on the street frontage to the west and to the rear of the 19<sup>th</sup> century cellar is a high priority. The evaluation could not establish the depth of these remains, but as the natural ground level rises towards the north it is probable that they are at a higher level than those located in trench 1. Where any groundworks represent a threat to the buried pre-19<sup>th</sup> century archaeology further archaeological work is recommended to ensure that the archaeology is adequately recorded.

Depending on the details of the development plan it may be possible that archaeological work could be limited to an archaeologist being present to observe the groundworks, with contingencies in place for the investigation and recording of any significant archaeological deposits found. If substantial deposits are under threat this contingency could be extended to include a full excavation of the area.

Trench 1 showed that early post-medieval structures extended to the rear of the site and medieval structures and features might also be found here. From the present limited evaluation it is not possible to rule out any part of the site as devoid of significant archaeology, except under the cellar. The policy of a watching brief with contingency for detail recording or even full excavation might be extended to the whole development site. However, in trench 1 the surviving pre-19<sup>th</sup> century archaeology was found at c. 0.65m below the current floor surface and in both trenches 1 and 3 medieval deposits were not encountered above 1.3m below the surface. This may give sufficient latitude for the new foundations to be designed so as to cause no damage to significant archaeological deposits. With a 0.15m buffer above significant archaeology this would allow a 0.5m deep disturbance zone without any impact on the archaeological resource, possibly sufficient for concrete raft foundations. This would be the recommended alternative if it is possible, but any such proposal must meet building regulations and the Historic Environment Officer should be informed of any changes to the agreed plans occurring during development that could threaten the archaeology. The depth and nature of service trenches, especially the possible use of soak-aways should also be considered.

## 10 References

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- Lloyd, D, 1999, *The Concise History of Ludlow*. Merlin Unwin Books, Ludlow.
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- Weyman, HT, 1913, *Ludlow in Bye-gone Days*, Austen and Sons, Ludlow

### Maps

1835 Map of Ludlow, Wood

1862, Map of Ludlow, Curley

Ordnance Survey County Series 25 inch map sheet Shropshire LXXVIII.8, 1886, 1903, 1926, 1936

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map SO5074-5174, 1988

## **11 Archive**

The site code is PLL03A. The archive consists of:

- 39 context sheets
- 3 trench sheets
- 1 drawing index sheet
- 11 field drawings on 6 sheets
- 2 level sheets
- 1 sheet of site diary
- 10 finds record sheets
- 1 small finds index
- 1 small finds recording sheet
- 6 photo record sheets
- 3 film of black and white photographic negatives
- 3 film of colour photographic transparencies

Finds (see Appendix II).

The archive is currently held by Marches Archaeology awaiting transfer to Shropshire Museum Service.



## Appendix I

### List of contexts

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
101	T1	Modern concrete floor	Concrete floor
102	T1	Brown silty sand with bricks, stones and recent rubbish	Modern made-up ground
103	T1	Dark grey loamy clay with high proportion of charcoal and ash	Dark ashy layer above 104
104	T1	Brick floor covering almost entire trench, except northern end	19 <sup>th</sup> century brick floor
105	T1	Same as 115	Dark ashy layer under 104
106	T1	Brown clayey sandy silt with some stones and brick fragments	Made-up ground
107	T1	Length of wall foundation 1.1m long made of siltstone slabs with yellowish friable mortar	Remains of stone wall foundation
108	T1	Siltstone wall at foundation level bonded with greyish white mortar	Stone wall
109	T1	Dark brown loamy clay	Made-up ground, 17 <sup>th</sup> century?
110	T1	Thin layer of sticky brown clay and pieces of siltstone	Upper part of 120
111	T1	Presumed foundation cut for 108 into 120, but not clearly seen	Foundation trench
112	T1	Surface composed of irregular large limestone slabs	Surface
113	T1	Unbonded bricks covering drain	Drain cover
114	T1	Corner of structure formed by siltstone and bricks	Structure
115	T1	Dark brown loamy clay with high proportion of charcoal and ash	Dark ashy layer under 104
116	T1	Corner of wall built of siltstone slabs bonded by soft brown clay	Structure
117	T1	Dark grey loamy soil	Fill of 118
118	T1	Cut with gently sloping sides at top but steep towards the base. Flat base.	Foundation cut for wall 116
119	T1	Short section of wall composed of siltstone slabs with no visible bonding material	Wall, possibly part of 108
120	T1	c.80% siltstone pieces in sticky brown clay	Medieval made-up ground
121	T1	Steep sided cut	Trench for ceramic drain
122	T1	Raft of brick fragments and stones	Rubble base for foundation of wall 116
123	T1	Pinkish brown gravel	Levelling deposit for cobbles 124
124	T1	Surface formed by small rounded cobbles. Includes some bricks over wall 116	Cobbled surface
125	T1	Steep sided flat bottomed cut filled with modern rubbish	Modern cut
126	T1	c.80% siltstone pieces in yellow-brown clay	Probably natural degrading bedrock
201	T2	Modern concrete floor	Concrete floor
202	T2	Dark brown compact sand and gravel with pieces of concrete floor and rubble	Recent fill of cellar
203	T2	Brick steps with stone treads leading into cellar	Flight of steps
204	T2	Wall built of siltstones with some bricks	Cellar wall
205	T2	Brick built shaft	Ventilation shaft
206	T2	2 mudstone slabs	Pad or start of wall foundation

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
207	T2	Brown sandy silt with stone and brick. Under 206 but built up against 205	Made-up ground
208	T2	Dark grey-brown sandy clay with stone and pieces of machine made brick	Made-up ground
209	T2	Brickbats and pieces of stone carefully stacked up to fill shaft. Voids and brown gravely sand between the stones.	Fill of shaft 205
210	T2	Lenses of red-brown sand and gravel, limey clay and brick rubble.	Levelling deposits under concrete floor
301	T3	Concrete floor	Concrete floor
302	T3	Brick and stone rubble with numerous 20 <sup>th</sup> century glass bottles	Made-up ground
303	T3	Surface composed of natural river pebbles laid in random patterns. Includes some stone slabs and a large slab in front of the northern doorway in wall 306	Cobbled surface of alley/courtyard
304	T3	Brick covering to ceramic drain pipe	Drain along middle of alley
305	T3	Brick blocking of doorway	Blocking
306	T3	Wall built largely of red brick but with some stone. Most of the bricks are hand-made and very worn	Wall of building with 2 doorways
307	T3	2 sandstone blocks set in northern doorway at same level as cobbled surface	Threshold
308	T3	Red-brown gravely sand with brick and stone rubble	Levelling layer under cobbles 303
309	T3	80% siltstone pieces in brown sticky clay	Medieval made-up ground

## Appendix II

### List of finds

Context 102	1 stoneware ginger beer bottle	late 19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
Context 105 (115)	16 pot sherds	late 17 <sup>th</sup> -early 18 <sup>th</sup> century
	6 clay pipe fragments	post-medieval
	2 sherds of glass vessels	post-medieval
	1 nail	post-medieval
Context 106	2 pot sherds	late 17 <sup>th</sup> -early 18 <sup>th</sup> century
	1 clay pipe stem	post-medieval
	1 ring of animal bone	post-medieval
Context 109	10 pot sherds	late 16 <sup>th</sup> -mid 17 <sup>th</sup> century
	4 floor tiles (1 glazed)	medieval?
	1 piece of brick	post-medieval
	5 clay pipe fragments (1 early bowl)	post-medieval
	1 sherd vessel glass	post-medieval
	1 oyster shell	post-medieval
	28 animal bones	post-medieval
Context 110	1 pot sherd	mid 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century
	1 pot sherd	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century
	3 roof tiles	medieval?
	5 animal bones	medieval?
Context 117	13 pot sherds	early 18 <sup>th</sup> century (c. 1700-1725)
	2 clay pipe fragments	post-medieval
	2 sherds of vessel glass	post-medieval
	4 animal bones	post-medieval
	1 carved bone apple corer?	post-medieval
Context 120	1 pot sherd	14 <sup>th</sup> century
	1 ceramic roof tile	medieval?
	1 stone roof tile	medieval?
	2 animal bones	medieval?
Context 122	1 pot sherd	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> -early 18 <sup>th</sup> century
Context 208	1 clay pipe stem	post-medieval
	1 sherd vessel glass	post-medieval
Context 309	1 stone roof tile	medieval?

## Appendix III

### Spot Dating and Catalogue of pottery from Pepper Lane, Ludlow

By Stephanie Rátkai

**102                      late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> c**

1 x complete stoneware ginger beer bottle

**105                      late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> c**

1 x blackware jug or jar base (late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> c)

1 mottled ware ?cup base (later 17<sup>th</sup>-mid 18<sup>th</sup> c)

1 x feathered slipware sherd, buff-pale brown fabric. (late 17<sup>th</sup>-mid 18<sup>th</sup> c)

2 x slip-coated ware (one vessel). Odd form, possibly a candlestick or salt.

1 x ?slip-coated ware base sherd, external burning (late 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> c)

3 x brown stoneware handle (one handle sherd similar to the one on the cup from (117)). All three sherds are probably from drinking vessels (18<sup>th</sup> c).

1 x tin-glazed earthenware albarello base, internal and external glaze, heavy abrasion on base. (17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> c)

1 x tin-glazed earthenware, albarello rim, heavy abrasion on top of rim (mid 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> c)

4 x tin-glazed earthenware sherds (two or three vessels represented (17<sup>th</sup>-mid 18<sup>th</sup> c)

1 x yellow ware albarello base. Buff-pale orange fabric, internal and external glaze, white underglaze slip. (17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> c)

**106                      Late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> c**

1 x slipware mug base. Cream fabric. Iron rich underglaze slip, uneven white and dark brown bands on a tan ground (late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> c)

1 x tin-glazed albarello, external blue decoration, heavily encrusted on interior surface. (mid 17<sup>th</sup>-mid 18<sup>th</sup> c)

1 x clay pipe fragment.

**109                      Late 16<sup>th</sup>-mid 17<sup>th</sup> c**

3 x blackware sherds from a small, cylindrical, corrugated mug (one vessel) (mid 16<sup>th</sup> –mid 17<sup>th</sup> c)

1 x blackware mug base (mid 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> c)

- 1 x blackware sherd from corrugated mug (mid 16<sup>th</sup>-mid 17<sup>th</sup> c)
- 1 x blackware small body sherd probably from a mug or cup (mid 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> c)
- 1 x coarseware-type sherd. Fine orange brown fabric, internal tan glaze (16<sup>th</sup>-?17<sup>th</sup> c)
- 1 x coarseware ? jar, internal and external purplish slip (late 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> c)
- 1 x yellow ware ?bowl base, internal and external glaze, buff fabric (late 16<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> c)
- 1 x yellow ware internal and external glaze, buff fabric. (late 16<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> c)

**110                      17<sup>th</sup> c**

- 1 x blackware mug sherd (mid 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> c)
- 1 x medieval glazed sherd, pimply tan glaze (13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> c)

**117                      Early 18<sup>th</sup> c (c 1700-1725)**

- 1 x blackware cup. Rounded form (18<sup>th</sup> century)
- 4 x mottled ware sherds. Three sherds from mugs, one sherd may be from a large mug or bowl (later 17<sup>th</sup>-mid 19<sup>th</sup> c)
- 1 x slipware flange-rim, dish or platter. Tan and dark brown trellis pattern on rim. Overall white underglaze slip, pinkish orange fabric (late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> c)
- 1 x feathered slipware, pale cream fabric (late 17<sup>th</sup>-mid 18<sup>th</sup> c)
- 1 x light-on-dark, trailed slipware. Orange-pink fabric (mid 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> c)
- 1 x slipware dish with pie-crust rim. Three curving trails of brown slip on yellow ground. Cream fabric (late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> c)
- 1 x light bodied stoneware mug, iron wash along rim (early 18<sup>th</sup> c)
- 1 x brown stoneware cup (early 18<sup>th</sup> century form)
- 1 x tin-glazed earthenware dish. Internal and external white glaze internal blue decoration (later 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> c)
- 1 x yellow ware flange rim dish. Internal glaze, white underglaze slip, orange-red fabric (17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> c)

**120                      14<sup>th</sup> c?**

- 1 x medieval glazed sherd, wheel-thrown, yellow glaze with dark green (copper) mottles.

**122                      Late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> c**

- 1 x blackware cup base-body sherd

## **Comment**

The small assemblage was of interest for several reasons. With the exception of (102) and (120) and possibly (110), most of the pottery was very consistent and seemed to fit within a 50 year span of c 1675-1725. Exceptions to this were medieval ground surfaces (110) and (120), ?topsoil (102) and (109) make-up under wall (107). Context (109) was the earliest post-medieval context and could date as early as the late 16<sup>th</sup> century.

It was noticeable that range of post-medieval vessel forms consisted primarily of table wares i.e. drinking vessels and dishes, plates and platters. There were only two utilitarian coarseware sherds, both of which came from (109). The near absence of coarseware bowl and jar sherds is unusual. The absence of white salt-glazed stoneware dated to c 1720-1760/70 is also unusual in an urban context such as this. This may indicate that all of the pottery was deposited before the widespread use of the stoneware or may indicate that the pottery came from a less fashionable and less prosperous household. The balance of probability favours the former.

## **Appendix IV**

### **Phased site matrix**

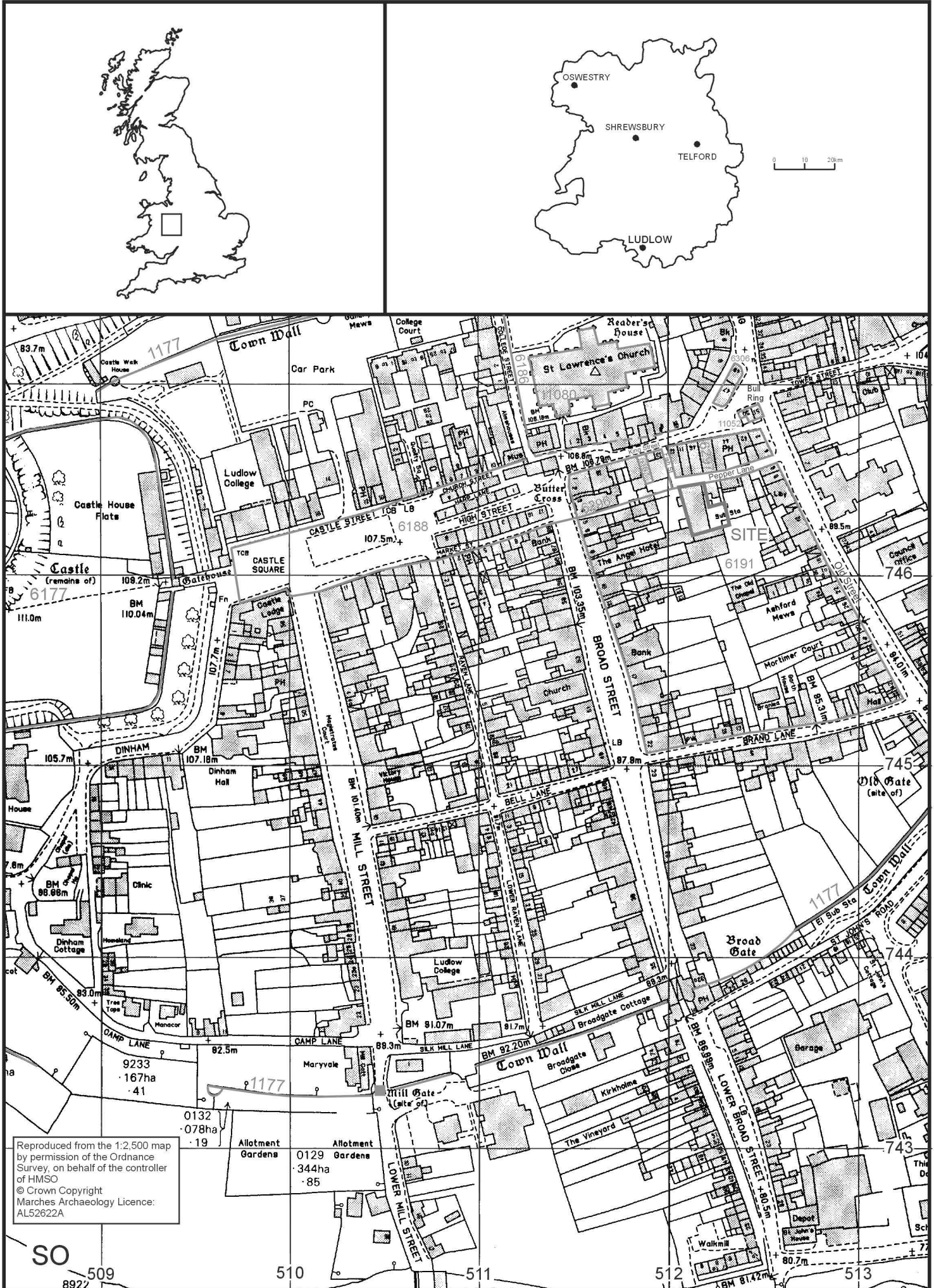


Fig. 1: Location of proposed development site (red) and neighbouring SMR sites (blue).



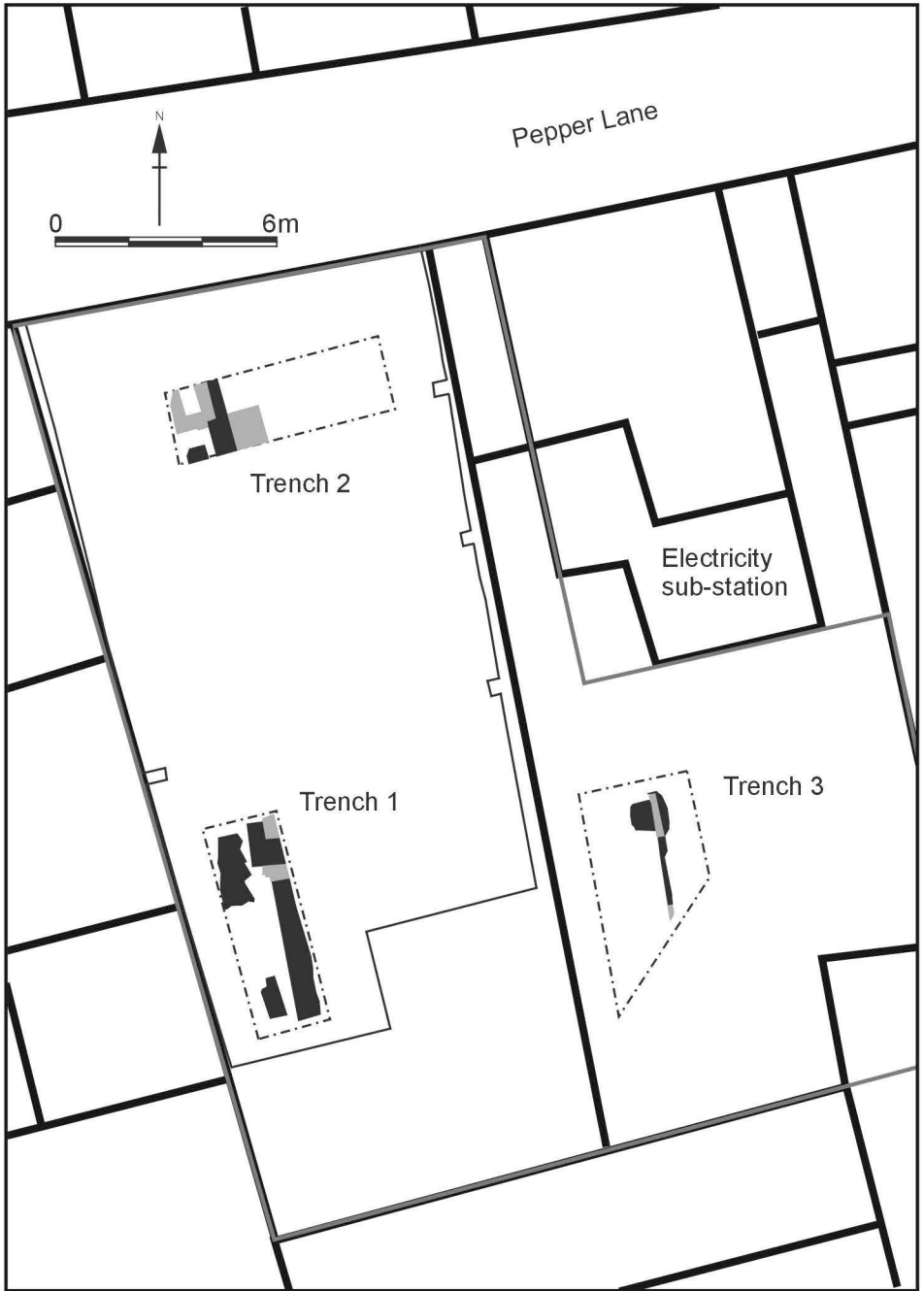
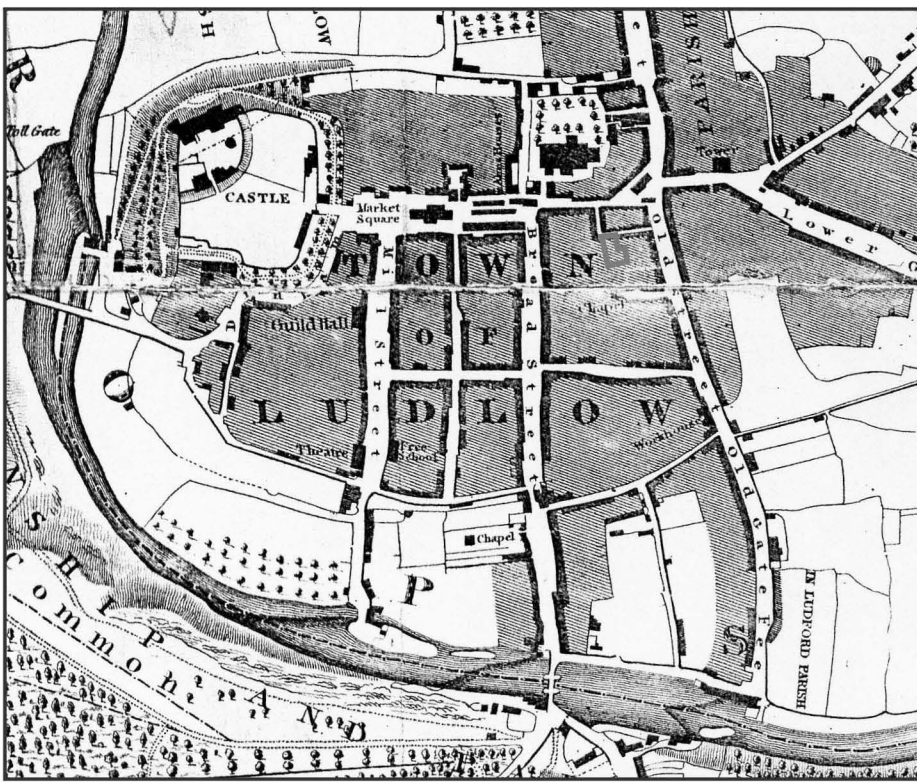
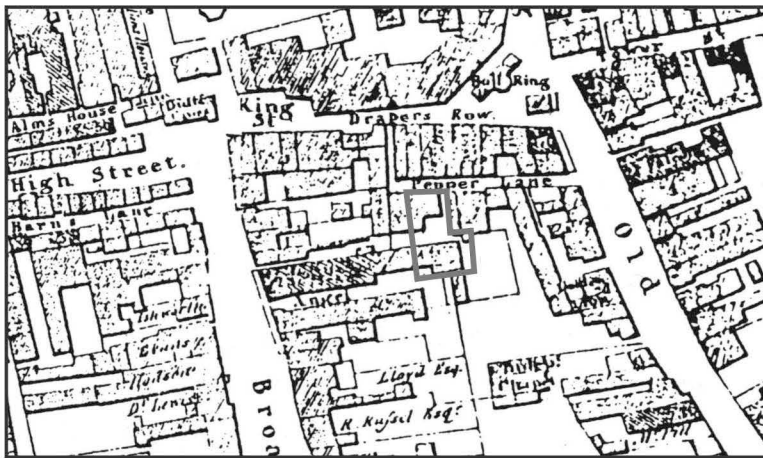


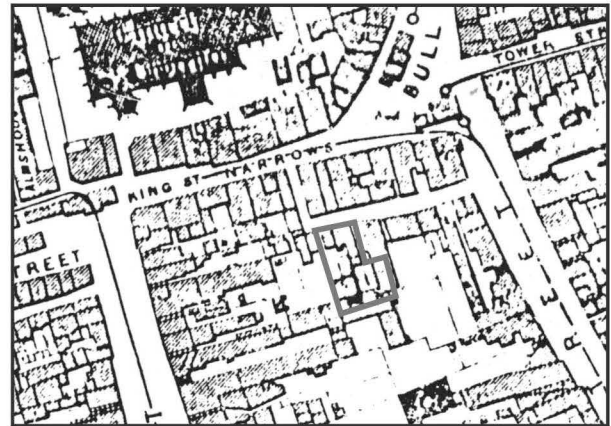
Fig. 2: Location of trenches within development site (boundary of site shown in red)



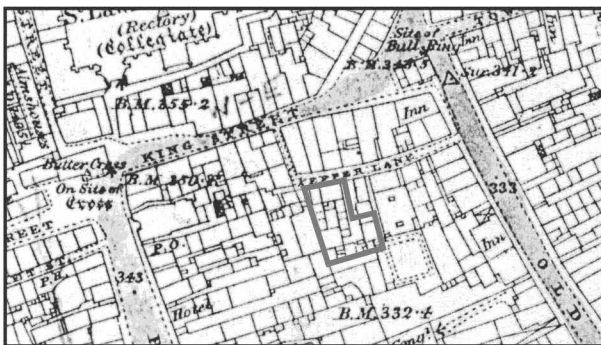
1832, map of the Borough of Ludlow, Evans



1835, map of Ludlow, Wood



1862, map of Ludlow, Curley



1886, OS 25 inch sheet LXXVII.8



1926, OS 25 inch sheet LXXVII.8

Fig. 3: Selection of maps showing the development of the Pepper Lane area (site shown in red)

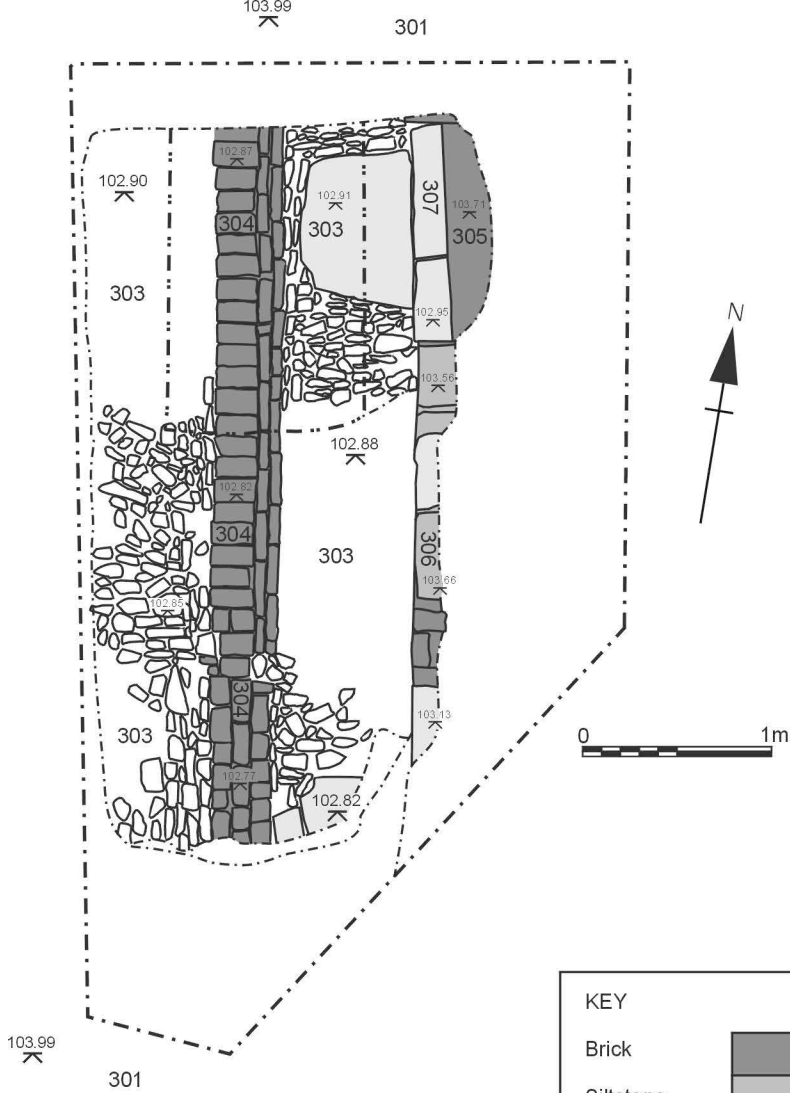


Fig. 10: Plan of trench 3

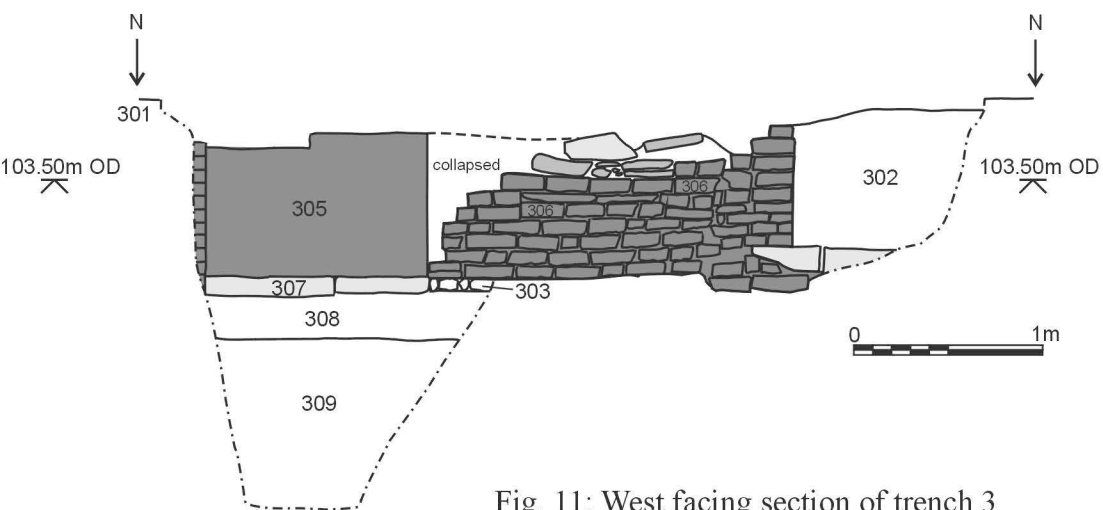
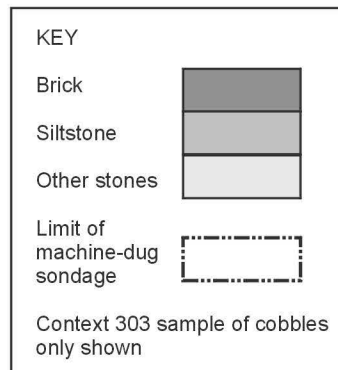


Fig. 11: West facing section of trench 3



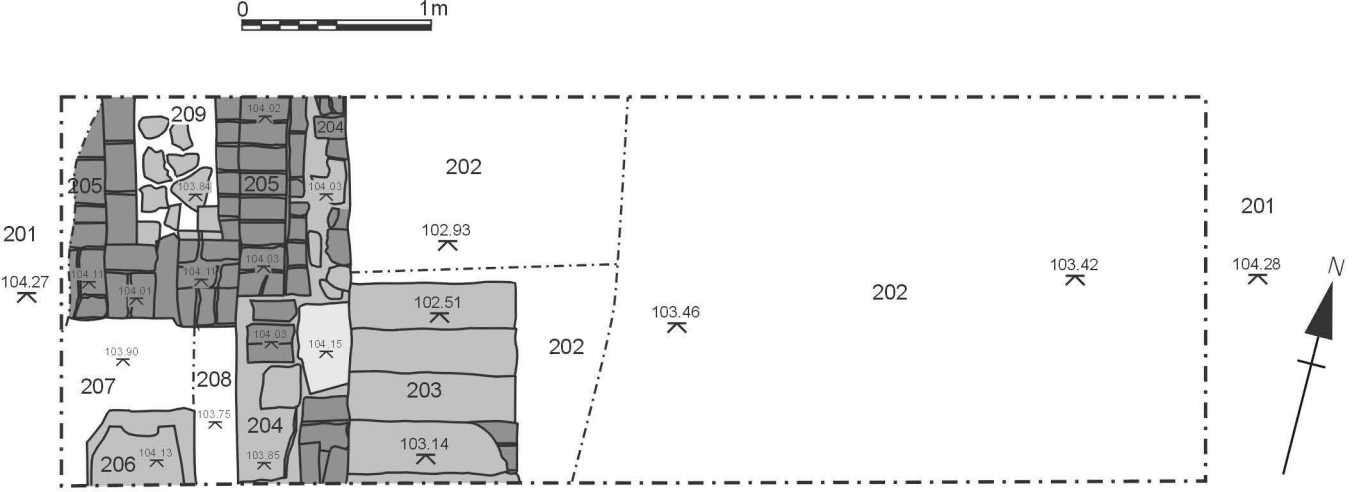


Fig. 7: Plan of trench 2

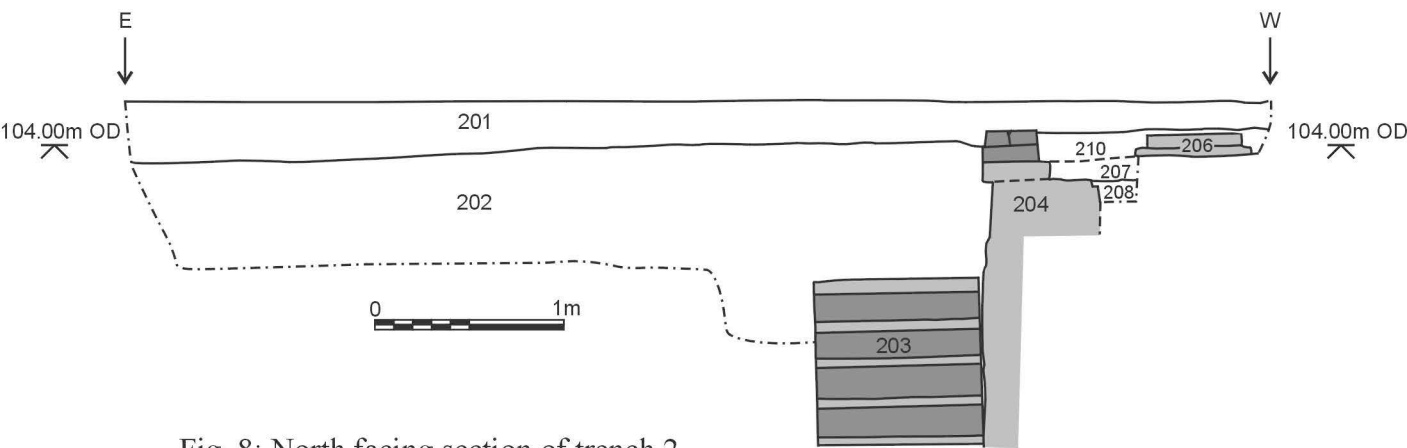


Fig. 8: North facing section of trench 2

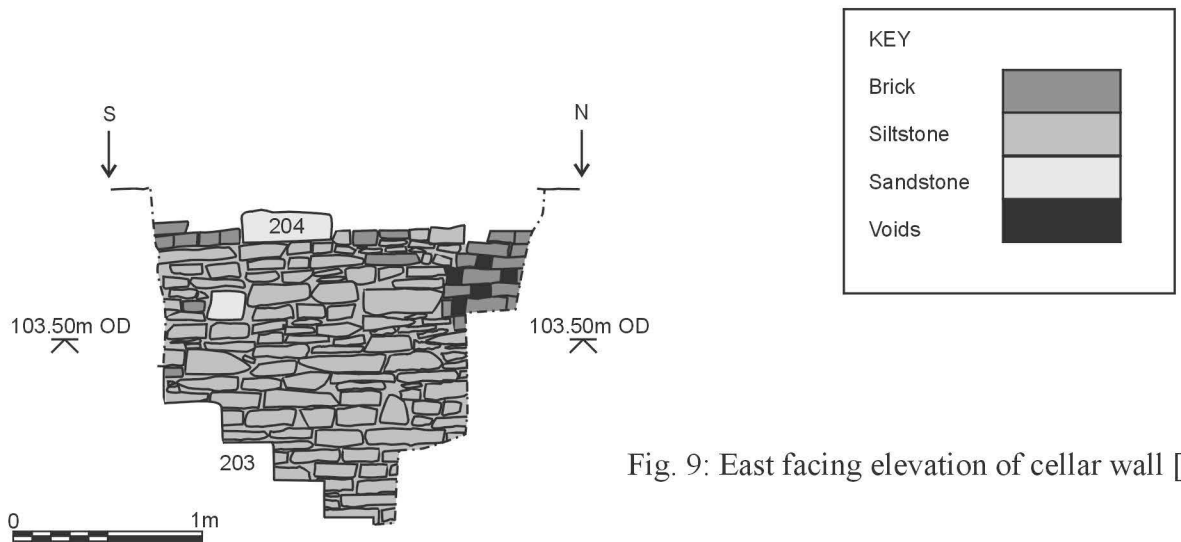
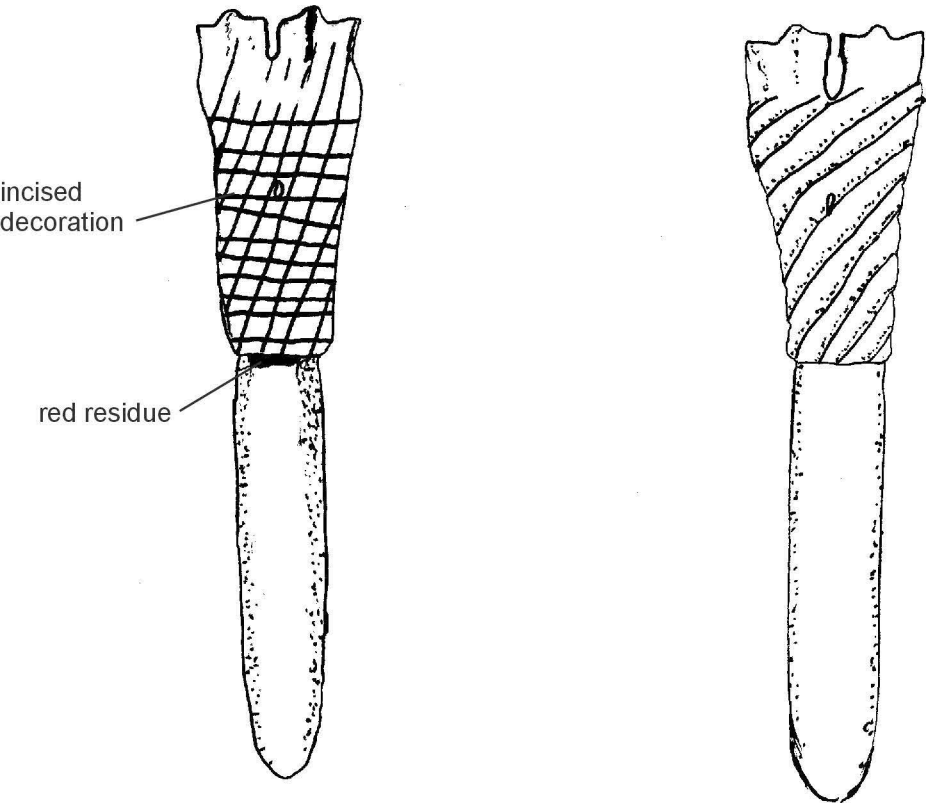


Fig. 9: East facing elevation of cellar wall [204]



Small find 1  
context 117  
Carved bone 'apple corer'

Reverse

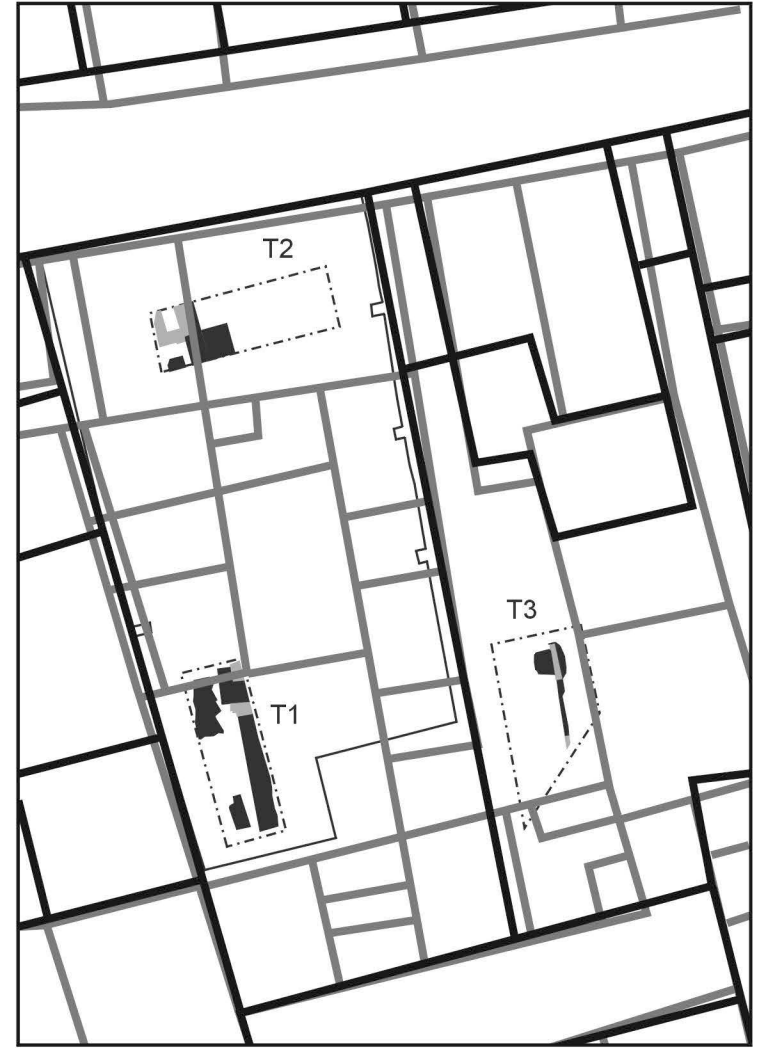
Fig. 12: Sketch of small find 01 at approx. scale 1:1



Modern map detail and evaluation trenches overlaid on 1835 map (scale 1:250)

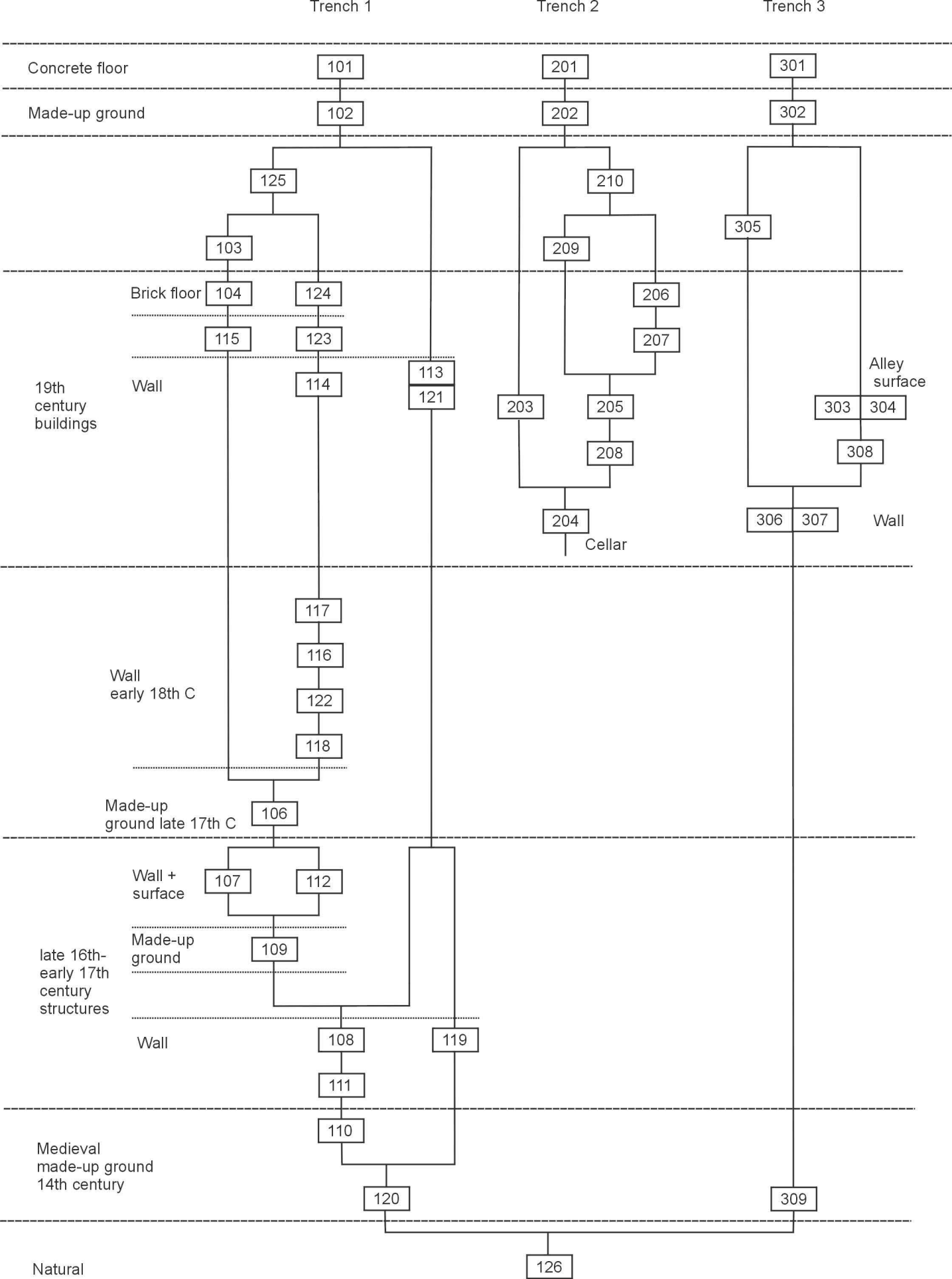


Modern map detail and evaluation trenches overlaid on 1862 map (scale 1:250)



Modern map detail and evaluation trenches overlaid on 1886 map (scale 1:250)

Fig. 13: Comparison of features in evaluation trenches with 19th century maps



Phased site matrix