wardell-armstrong.com

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES LAND AND PROPERTY MINING, QUARRYING AND MINERAL ESTATES WASTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



CASTLEBRIDGE HOTELS

GROSVENOR PARK ROAD CHESTER CHESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT

January 2018



your earth our world



DATE ISSUED:January 2018JOB NUMBER:ST15833SITE CODE:GPR-BOASIS REFERENCE:wardella2-303224PLANNING APPLICATION REF:17/01826/FULREPORT VERSION NUMBER:004 (Version 0.2)

CASTLEBRIDGE HOTELS

Grosvenor Park Road, Chester, Cheshire

Archaeological Excavation Report

PREPARED BY:

Kevin Horsley

Project Supervisor

APPROVED BY:

Martin Railton

Associate Director

This report has been prepared by Wardell Armstrong with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, within the terms of the Contract with the Client. The report is confidential to the Client and Wardell Armstrong accepts no responsibility of whatever nature to third parties to whom this report may be made known.

No part of this document may be reproduced without the prior written approval of Wardell Armstrong.



Wardell Armstrong is the trading name of Wardell Armstrong LLP, Registered in England No. OC307138.

Registered office: Sir Henry Doulton House, Forge Lane, Etruria, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 5BD, United Kingdom

UK Offices: Stoke-on-Trent, Cardiff, Carlisle, Edinburgh, Greater Manchester, London, Newcastle upon Tyne, Sheffield, Taunton, Truro, West Bromwich. International Offices: Almaty, Moscow

DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY TOPOGRAPHIC AND LANDSCAPE SURVEY HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING EIA AND HERITAGE CONSULTANCY



CONTENTS

CONTEN	ITS1
SUMMA	.RY4
ACKNOV	VLEDGEMENTS
1. INT	RODUCTION
1.1	Project Circumstances and Planning Background6
1.2	Project Documentation7
2. ME	THODOLOGY8
2.1	Standards and guidance8
2.2	Documentary Research8
2.3	Archaeological Watching Brief8
2.4	Archaeological Excavation9
3. BA	CKGROUND12
3.1	Location and Geological Context12
3.2	Historical and Archaeological Background12
3.3	Previous Archaeological Work13
4. AR	CHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION RESULTS15
4.1	Introduction15
4.2	Results of the Archaeological Watching Brief15
4.3	Results of the Archaeological Excavation16
4.4	Trench 7 and 1417
4.5	Trench 2818
4.6	Unexcavated Trenches18
4.7	Archaeological Finds and Environmental Sampling18
5 FIN	DS19
5.1	Introduction19
5.2	The Pottery20
5.3	Roman Ceramics21
5.4	Medieval Ceramics22
5.5	Post-medieval Ceramics22
5.6	Ceramic Building Material22
5.7	Clay Tobacco Pipe23
5.8	Glass23
5.9	Iron23
5.10	Small Finds24



5	.11	Statement of Potential	24
6	EN۱	VIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	25
6	.1	Introduction	25
6	.2	Methodology	25
6	.3	Results	26
6	.4	Discussion	26
6	.5	Statement of potential and recommendations	27
7	ZOO	OARCHAEOLGICAL ASSESSMENT	31
7.	.1	Introduction	31
7.	.2	Results	31
7.	.3	Statement of Potential	32
8	COI	NCLUSIONS	34
8	.1	Interpretation	34
8	.2	Significance	35
8	.3	Statement of Potential	35
8	.4	Outstanding Work	36
6.	BIB	LIOGRAPHY	37
APP	END	VIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE	40
APP	END	PIX 2: PLATES	51
APP	END	VIX 3: FIGURES	54



PLATES (APPENDIX 1)

- Plate 1: Brick and sandstone block wall {113} to the south of the site, looking SE, 1x1m scale.
- Plate 2: Northeast-facing elevation of brick wall {126} looking west, 2x1m scale.
- Plate 3: Northeast-facing section of pile cap Trench 12, looking southwest, 1x1m scale.
- Plate 4: Southeast-facing section of linear features [7002], [7004] and [7005] in pile cap Trench 7, looking northwest, 1x1m scale
- Plate 5: Walls {14003} and {14004} in extension of pile cap Trench 14, looking southeast, 1x1m scale.
- Plate 6: Northeast-facing section of cut [28002] in pile cap Trench 28, looking southwest, 1x1m scale.

FIGURES (APPENDIX 2)

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Location of pile cap excavations
- Figure 3: Plan of archaeological features encountered during watching brief
- Figure 4: Sample elevations of walls
- Figure 4: Trench 7; plan and section
- Figure 5: Trench 28; plan and section



SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong was commissioned by Castlebridge Hotels, to undertake an archaeological excavation at Grosvenor Park Road, Chester, Cheshire, CH1 1QL, National Grid Reference SJ 41141 66403. The excavation was required as a condition of planning consent. The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced in response to a brief prepared by the Development Planning Archaeology Officer at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (CAPAS) acting as the archaeological planning advisor on behalf of Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The archaeological excavation was undertaken over 30 days between the 24th October and 4th December 2017, and comprised the reduction of the ground level of the site to 19.50m aOD, monitored foremost as an archaeological watching brief, followed by the archaeological excavation and recording of 23 out of 32 individual pile caps and surrounding ground beam trenches.

An archaeologically significant soil horizon was observed in most trenches containing Roman and post-medieval material. A possible Roman linear feature was observed in pile cap Trench 7, truncated by a further post-medieval linear feature. A Roman coin was recovered dating to the mid-late 1st century AD.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong thanks Castlebridge Hotels for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work. Wardell Armstrong also thank Mark Leah, Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service for his assistance.

Wardell Armstrong also thanks Andrew Flannery and Adrian Loke of Bowmer and Kirkland, and to QED Construction Ltd. for their help during this project.

The excavation was supervised by Kevin Horsley, and assisted by Jaime Megan Levell, Jonathan Banasko, Michael Brown and Michael Mann. The report was written by Kevin Horsley and illustrated by Adrian Bailey and Helen Phillips. The finds and zooarchaeological assessments were by Megan Stoakley and the palaeoenvironmental assessment was by Lynne Gardiner. Freddie Sisson processed and sorted the environmental samples. The project was managed by Martin Railton, who also edited the report.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Circumstances and Planning Background**

- 1.1.1 Between October and December 2017, Wardell Armstrong (WA) undertook an archaeological excavation at Grosvenor Park Road, Chester, Cheshire, CH1 1QL National Grid Reference SJ 41141 66403. It was commissioned by Castlebridge Hotels who intends to redevelop the site for the construction of a hotel for which planning consent has been granted by Cheshire West and Chester Council (Planning Reference: 17/01826/FUL, 2017a).
- 1.1.2 The grant of planning permission by Cheshire West and Chester Council, dated 3rd August 2017 stated that, "*No demolition/development shall take place/commence until a written scheme of investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions and*:
 - The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording
 - The programme for post-investigation assessment
 - Provision for analysis of the site investigation and recording
 - Provision for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation
 - Provision for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation
 - Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the Work set out within the written scheme of investigation.

No demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the written scheme of investigation approved".

- 1.1.3 This planning condition was in line with advice provided to Cheshire West and Chester Council by Mark Leah, Development Control Archaeologist, in a letter dated 6th June 2017 (Planning Reference: 17/01826/FUL, 2017b).
- 1.1.4 The proposed development is within a Conservation Area and has been designated as an Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI), defined as being within the Chester & Boughton AAI as Character Zone 25. The site is located immediately outside the eastern extent of the Roman fortress of *Deva* and thought to be within the civilian settlement associated with the fort (Carrington 1994), the heritage significance of which may be affected by the proposed development.



1.2 **Project Documentation**

- 1.2.1 The project conforms to a brief which was prepared in consultation with Mark Leah, Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (CAPAS). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was then produced to provide a specific phased methodology based on the brief, which was to comprise a preliminary watching brief during the removal of overburden across the site, followed by an archaeological excavation within the footprint of new hotel, limited to the formation levels of the proposed development, or to the depth of archaeological features as necessary (WA 2017a). This was approved by CAPAS prior to the fieldwork taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.2.2 An addendum to the WSI became necessary following preliminary excavation work on site, undertaken under the supervision of Wardell Armstrong in November 2017. This work revealed the presence of archaeological features at greater depths than anticipated, thus facilitating a change in the methodology. The work also revealed the unexpected presence of fuel tanks in the northeast corner of the site, associated with a significant area of ground disturbance, requiring a change in methodology in this area. In addition, the site was subject to extreme waterlogging. Changes to the WSI were agreed following a site meeting between Wardell Armstrong and Mark Leah, Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (CAPAS) on 16th November 2017.
- 1.2.3 This report outlines the work undertaken on site, the subsequent programme of postfieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological excavation.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards and guidance

- 2.1.1 The archaeological excavation was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field excavation* (2014a), and in accordance with the WA Excavation Manual (2017b).
- 2.1.2 The fieldwork programme will be followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Standard and Guidance for archaeological field excavation (CIFA 2014a) and the Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIFA 2014b).

2.2 Documentary Research

2.2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared by Wardell Armstrong (2017c), which set out the archaeological and historical background of the site, and provided an assessment of the significance of all known and potential heritage assets up to 250m from the area of investigation.

2.3 Archaeological Watching Brief

- 2.3.1 The investigation comprised the removal of overburden from within the development footprint in two phases as an archaeological watching brief, firstly removing up to 0.50m of modern deposits to reach a level of approximately 19.90m aOD across the site. Following the cleaning and recording of observed archaeological features, the site was reduced again to the level of the development formation base, 19.50m aOD.
- 2.3.2 The general aims of the archaeological watching briefs were:
 - to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
 - to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
 - to accurately tie in the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with and archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
 - to sample environmental or industrial deposits encountered as required, in line with Historic England guidelines;



- to produce a photographic record of all contexts using colour digital and monochrome formats as applicable, each photograph including a graduated metric scale;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that used for dating purposes;
- to produce a site archive in accordance with MoRPH (English Heritage 2006) guidelines.

2.4 Archaeological Excavation

- 2.4.1 Following the machine excavation of the modern overburden and once the first archaeological horizon was encountered, all subsequent excavation was to be undertaken by hand by a team of archaeologists.
- 2.4.2 However, difficulties were encountered relating to the ground conditions within the development area and following on-site discussions with the Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service, an adapted methodology was put in place. The WSI set out the hand-excavation of all beam slots and pile caps within the development area, however, ground water inundated much of the site and it was therefore determined that excavation should be carried out by machine with subsequent hand-cleaning and recording of any archaeological features observed, as agreed with Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader (WA 2017a).
- 2.4.3 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless 1.5m wide ditching bucket (for the pile caps) and a 0.5m trenching bucket (for the beam slots), under close archaeological supervision. All possible features were inspected and deposits were excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples. Once completed all features were recorded according to the WA standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (WA 2017b). Where ground conditions were too poor to excavate, deposits were removed to a maximum height of 19.00m aOD, particularly in the centre of the site, to form a safe working environment. This ground removal was also monitored by the supervising archaeologist.
- 2.4.4 In summary, the main objectives of the excavation were:
 - to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they are observed in detail, in advance of loss through site works;



- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces, in order to more fully understand the nature of archaeological remains within these areas; the period(s) of occupation present across the site, and the relationships between the various periods of occupation and activity;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes, and to help inform understanding of the layout, date, function, phasing to produce a site archive in accordance with MoRPH (English Heritage 2006) guidelines.
- To recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.
- 2.4.5 All finds encountered were retained on site and returned to the Carlisle office where they will be identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* will then be produced for each stratified context under the supervision of the WA Finds Officer, and the dates will be used to help determine the broad date phases for the site. On completion of this project, the finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines (*Ibid*). Please note, the following categories of material will be discarded after a period of six months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):
 - unstratified material;
 - modern pottery;
 - material that has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.
- 2.4.6 On completion, the excavated area was consolidated with a mat of Type 1 limestone,70-170mm, back to the formation level of 19.50m aOD.
- 2.4.7 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project specification, and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). Upon the completion of the final report, the archive will be deposited with Grosvenor Museum, Chester, with copies of the report sent to Cheshire West and Chester Council HER, where viewing will be made available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WA17, GPR-B, ST15833.
- 2.4.8 Wardell Armstrong supports the Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of



developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by WA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: wardela2-303224.



3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.3.1 The site is located at National Grid Reference SJ 41147 66397 and was formerly a petrol station in the city of Chester. The site is bounded to the east by Grosvenor Park Road, to the south by St. Werburgh's Roman Catholic Church, and the north and west by rear of properties fronting onto Foregate Street and Bath Street respectively. The area of investigation lies at a height of *c*.20.80m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) with the ground sloping down gently to the south-east.
- 3.1.2 The site is approximately 1200m² in size and is a roughly rectangular parcel of land. At present the site comprises disturbed ground currently used as a car park.
- 3.1.3 The underlying solid geology within the area of investigation is mapped as sandstone and gravelly pebbles of the Chester Pebble Beds Formation deposited during the Triassic Period, 246 to 251 million years ago under a local environment dominated by rivers. This is overlain by superficial deposits of diamicton of Devensian Till deposited up to 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period in ice age conditions (BGS 2017). The natural substrate observed during the current phase of works comprised mid reddish brown clay which is consistent with the mapped geologies above.

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.2.1 A desk-based assessment was produced to assess the known historical and archaeological background of the site and the surrounding landscape to a distance of 250km (WA 2017c). It is not intended to repeat that information here and what follows is a brief overview, for further details please refer to the original document.
- 3.2.2 This report identified that there were no designated or non-designated heritage assets located within the site boundary. See the desk-based assessment for a summary of assets identified within the wider search area of 250m (*ibid.*, Appendix 1).
- 3.2.3 The desk-based assessment concluded that there was a reasonable likelihood that archaeological remains of Roman and post-medieval date may be present within the proposed development site.
- 3.3.4 **Prehistoric to Roman (up to c. AD 410):** No evidence of prehistoric activity has been recorded within the study area or its immediate environs, though finds dating to the Neolithic period have been recorded in the Chester area so it is likely that the landscape was occupied to some extent. Iron Age activity has also been identified at



the site of the Roman amphitheatre, 340m south-west of the site.

- 3.3.5 Chester is well known for its Roman origins. The earliest evidence of Roman activity within the vicinity of the site has been recorded in Grosvenor Park where an early Roman camp is thought to have been established prior to the fortress of Deva (c. AD 70), located c.400m to the west. Foregate Street, to the north of the site, is thought to have been the main east-west street of the Roman civilian settlement located outside the fort, and the line of Grosvenor Park Road is thought to respect the line of a substantial ditch marking the eastern limit of this settlement.
- 3.3.6 **Early Medieval to Medieval (c. AD 410-1540)**: Although the Roman civilian settlement is thought to have outlived the fort, the site was outside of the city walls during the early medieval period, though eventually the defensive eastern gate known as the Bars was constructed approximately 75m north-east of the site. The site may therefore have been on the very edge of the settlement at this time.
- 3.3.7 **Post-Medieval to Modern (AD 1540-present):** By the late 16th century, the land within the boundary of the site appears to have been gardens and orchards to the rear of properties fronting Foregate Street (*ibid.*), with excavations to the north of Union Street and within Grosvenor Park recording evidence for the tanning industry in this area. From the 19th century onwards, there was increased development of the back plots of the properties fronting Foregate Street, with the site becoming a petrol station by the late 20th century.

3.3 Previous Archaeological Work

- 3.3.1 An in-depth assessment of previous archaeological work can be found in the deskbased assessment (WA 2017c), and what follows is a summary of work within the site boundary.
- 3.3.2 An evaluation of the site was undertaken in 2000 to inform on the determination of a planning application (Gifford and Partners Ltd 2000). The evaluation comprised four trenches which were excavated to a depth necessary to determine the survival, nature and extent of archaeological features potentially present within the site.
- 3.3.3 The evaluation determined that modern overburden extended to a depth of 0.4-0.5m below ground level. Post-medieval archaeology, pertaining to the 17th and 18th centuries, being present at a depth of *c*.0.5m below ground level. Evidence of modern intrusions beyond a depth of 0.5m below ground level was recorded in Trench 4 in the form of a petrol tank associated with the former Deva garage, and from a former



inspection pit in Trench 3.

- 3.3.4 A watching brief was undertaken in 2001 during the removal of the petrol tank recorded in Trench 4 and during ground disturbance associated with excavation of 16 hydrocarbon test pits (Gifford and Partners Ltd., 2001). This recorded Roman domestic activity, a possible section of a Civil war defensive ditch, post-Civil war cesspits and late 17th and 18th century cultivation activity.
- 3.3.5 A subsequent archaeological excavation was undertaken, the extent of which was defined by the area of contamination recorded by the test pitting (Gifford and Partners Ltd., 2002). Mechanical excavation was undertaken to a depth of 0.5m below ground level. Excavation by hand was then undertaken to a depth of 1.2m below ground level to reveal archaeology.
 - 3.3.6 The excavation recorded six phases of activity, all of which appear to have related to settlement activity fronting onto Foregate Street to the north, dating to Roman, medieval and later periods. Roman activity comprised a Roman ditch and a possible Roman cultivation layer containing late 1st to 2nd century pottery assemblage. For a full description of these phases, see the desk-based assessment (WA 2017c).
 - 3.37 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in early 2017 (WA 2017d), during geotechnical ground works. Ten hand excavated test-pits were monitored and the although no features could be identified, potentially significant deposits were encountered containing ceramic material form three distinct phases of activity dating to Roman and post-medieval periods, between 0.65 and 0.92m below the current ground level, broadly relating to previous investigations. The possible remains of post-medieval structures were also identified to the north of the site, where survival of significant archaeology was thought to be more likely.



4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken over 14 days between the 24th October and 10th November 2017, with the subsequent excavation phase being undertaken over 16 days between the 13th November and 4th December 2017, covering the footprint of the proposed hotel, comprising a total of 733m² of land (Figure 2). The outline of the hotel footprint and the positions of the individual pile caps were placed by an Engineer and then excavated by machine and subsequently by hand to reveal two distinct phases of archaeology.

4.2 Results of the Archaeological Watching Brief

- 4.2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the reduction of the site to the base of the formation level, 19.50m aOD, as part of the first phase of the groundworks (Figure 3). The reduction was undertaken in two parts, to minimise the impact upon potential archaeology below ground level.
- 4.2.2 The first reduction was to roughly 19.90m aOD which was an average of 0.5m below the ground level at the start of the works. Approximately 0.50m of overburden comprising tarmac, compacted modern rubble and backfill and in some places concrete (100) was removed to reveal a number of ground deposits (101), (102), (103) and (107) across the site which appeared to be backfill deposits around 19th century wall foundations.
- 4.2.3 Wall foundations relating to the former 19th century tenements were observed in two distinct areas of survival, to the north of the site, and to the south-west under what would have been the floor of the former Deva Garage (Figure 3 and Figure 4).
- 4.2.4 The walls in both locations were constructed of handmade red brick, approximately 230mm by 110mm by 75mm in size and typically in English bond. In some instances, large roughly cut (and presumably re-used from elsewhere) sandstone blocks had been incorporated into the foundations of the walls (Plate 1). At the north end of the site, most of the walls appeared to have been constructed directly onto a firm dark greyish brown humic silty clay (108), at first thought to be a levelling layer, though it was likely a buried soil. Walls had been completely removed from the centre of the site in antiquity. The walls in the south end of the site appeared to be constructed onto the natural clay (132), later found to be at approximately 19.00m aOD.



- 4.2.4 In only one place did there appear to have been wall trenches excavated for wall foundations. Wall **{126}** was probably a later extension to the rear of properties on the former Park Terrace, situated parallel and partially covered by the current west boundary wall (Plate 2). It had been constructed in a narrow trench and packed with light pinkish brown fine sandy clay. Like the majority of the 19th century walls on the site, it was handmade red brick in an English bond.
- 4.2.5 Following the recording of the walls, a second reduction of the site was undertaken to the final formation level of 19.50m aOD. The majority of the walls were removed to that level.
- 4.2.6 In the centre of the site the extent of the buried soil **(108)** became more visible, truncated towards the south by the former petrol tanks, and to the north east by a large earlier oil tank and cellar walls. The possible remains of a tanning pit **[127]** within the soil were initially identified, and cow bones were recovered from the fill **(128)**. Although no further investigation could be undertaken on this possible tanning pit due to poor ground conditions, it was agreed with the Development Control Archaeologist that this would be left in situ. The extent of this feature could not be formally recorded, though it was later re-interpreted as being related to the post-medieval feature observed in Trench 7 (see Section 4.3.3).

4.3 **Results of the Archaeological Excavation**

- 4.3.1 The pile caps and surrounding ground beam slots were marked out and excavated as individual trenches, conforming to an adaptation of the methodology under the guidance of the Development Control Archaeologist (Figure 2).
- 4.3.2 Trenches 1-12 were internal pile caps, all of which were excavated 0.425m below the reduced ground level, reaching a height of at least 19.075m aOD, with the exception of Trench 5 which was for a lift shaft reaching a depth of 1.8m below ground level, reaching a height of 17.70m aOD. Trenches 13-32 were external pile caps incorporated into the ground beam footprint of the hotel which were excavated to a depth of 0.725m, a height of 18.775m aOD. Where feasible, the ground beam was also excavated either side of the individual trenches. What follows is a description of the observed archaeology within those individual trenches.
- 4.3.3 **Trenches 1-6 and 17:** Trenches 1-6 were located within the footprint of the hotel and to the south of the site. Trench 17 was also located to the south of the site, along the east ground beam. No archaeology was observed in all seven trenches except for



modern backfill, presumably relating to the installation and eventual removal of the former petrol station fuel tanks.

4.3.4 Trenches 8-10, 12-13, 15-16 and 18-23: Trenches 8-10 and 12 (Plate 3) were located within the footprint of the hotel and to the centre and north of the site. Trenches 13, 15-16 and 18-22 all revealed a layer of dark earth, comprising dark greyish brown silty clay. Although no archaeological features were observed, material dating to the post-medieval and Roman periods were recovered from many of the deposits, and where feasible, environmental samples were taken.

4.4 Trench 7 and 14

- 4.4.1 These two trenches were located to the west of the centre of the site.
- 4.4.2 Trench 7 was excavated 2.64m by 1.96m and excavated to a height of approximately 18.96m aOD (Plate 4). A sub-linear feature [7002] was observed aligned roughly north-northwest to south-southeast, with near vertical sides and containing a single fill (7000) which was a dark greyish brown silty clay, very similar to the soil horizon observed elsewhere across the site (see Section 4.3.2). This contained Roman through to post-medieval material. Only a portion of this linear feature could be observed within the trench, but it was at least 2m in length, 0.65m wide and over 1m deep. The feature truncated what appeared to be an earlier linear feature. A sub-linear ditch [7005] was observed measuring over 2m in length, 0.54m wide and 0.32m deep and had gradual concave sides. It contained a single fill (7001), comprising moderately compact mid greyish brown silty clay from which Roman material was recovered. A subsequent re-cut [7004], again with a single fill (7003), was also visible with a similar profile. This earlier feature had been cut into a soil layer (7006), measuring 0.06m deep, which was overlying the natural clay (7007). Environmental samples were taken of deposits (7000) and (7001).
- 4.4.3 **Trench 14** initially measured 1.90m by 0.65m with a north-east to south west alignment, located against the western boundary wall corner, to a maximum depth of 0.78m below ground level. A buried soil layer **(14002)**, containing Roman material was observed with a possible cut feature aligned south-west to north-east. It was therefore decided that the trench should be extended to the south, in part to combat the rising ground water in this area, and an environmental sample taken of the deposit. The continuation of 19th century brick wall foundations were observed, **{14003}** and **{14004}** (Plate 5), relating to the walls observed in the south end of the site during the watching brief phase (see Section 4.2.3).



4.4.4 Following the collapse and unsafe working conditions in this part of the site, no further archaeology was observed and Trench 14 was abandoned.

4.5 Trench 28

4.5.1 This trench was excavated to the north of the site for a pile cap in the ground beam footprint. It was excavated 2.10m by 2.10m to a maximum depth of 0.73m below ground level (Plate 6). A post-medieval cut **[28002]** was observed at a height of 18.82m aOD, which had shallow gradual sides to a depth of 0.36m and contained a single dark greyish brown silty clay **(28001)** which was sampled. No artefactual material was recovered, though the fill was very similar to the post-medieval deposits encountered elsewhere. The feature was irregular in shape, running SW-NE and then seeming to turn sharply to the south-east. Its position roughly underlying the walls **{118}** within the backplot of the former tenement suggests the cut is related to a former wall trench.

4.6 Unexcavated Trenches

4.6.1 Trenches 11 and 24-27 could not be excavated during the current phase of works due to extant drains/sewers to the north-west of the site. Trenches 29-31 were excavated as part of the removal of contaminated ground to the north-east of the site. This removal was monitored as a watching brief, where deposits were removed to a height of up to 17.87m aOD which therefore removed any potential archaeology in this area. Trench 32 and parts of the adjoining ground beam in the far south-west corner also could not be excavated due to an extant boundary encroaching onto the site from an adjacent property.

4.7 Archaeological Finds and Environmental Sampling

4.7.1 A selection of archaeological finds were recovered, and 5 environmental samples were taken during the groundworks. A narrative of the finds and the environmental samples follow in Sections 5 and 6. Animal bone was also recovered from the site and is discussed in the zooarchaeological assessment in Section 7.



5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A total of 157 artefacts, weighing 8,282g, were recovered from 16 contexts during the archaeological investigation.
- 5.1.2 A small selection of finds were also recovered from the following environmental samples, <1> <2> <3> <4> and <5> and are listed in Table 6. This report focusses on the hand-collected material.
- 5.1.3 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) Standard & Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIFA 2014b). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011), EAC (2014) and Grosvenor Museum (Cheshire West Museums Service 2011). The project has the unique identifier WA 2017 / GRP-B / ST15833.
- 5.1.4 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and further work has been recommended on the potential for the material archive to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.

5.1.5	Quantification of bulk finds by material and context is visible in Table 1.
-------	---

Context	SF No	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Period	Refined Date	Comments
120		CBM	1	1950	PM	C18	Handmade brick
					RB-		
131		CBM	8	1090	PM	LC1-C19	
1000		CBM	2	242	RB	C1-C4	1 x tegula, 1 x imbrex (roof tiles)
7000		CBM	7	746	RB	C1-C4	
7001		CBM	2	99	RB	C1-C4	Miscellaneous fragments
14002		CBM	6	82	RB?	C1-C4	Miscellaneous fragments
107		Ceramic	5	323	РМ	C18-C19	Transfer print, Buckley-type CRE, Staffordshire slipware (loaf dish or plate?)
108		Ceramic	7	372	RB- PM	C1-C18/19	
130		Ceramic	6	133	PM	C18	6 sherds of a single plate, 'Dagger Border D' stamp on base, Porcelain
131		Ceramic	38	913	RB	C1-C2	
1400		Ceramic	1	86	RB	LC1	Samian
1901		Ceramic	1	6	PM	C18-C19	Staffordshire slipware
7000		Ceramic	24	709	RB- PM	LC1-C18	
7001		Ceramic	10	130	RB	C1-EC3	



TOTAL			157	8282			
7000		Glass	1	7	RB	C1-C4	Light blue shard from a possible prismatic bottle (?)
7001		Fe	1	6	RB	C1-C2	Highly corroded iron nail, with flecks of azurite on exterior
14002	2	Copper Alloy	1	31	RB- PM?	C1-C4 – C19	Undiagnostic bent/misshapen lead strip, no decoration
14002	1	Copper Alloy	1	7	RB	LC1 / EC2	As; Domitian; AD 81-96; corroded
107		Clay Tobacco Pipe	2	10	PM	1720-1800	2.80mm, 1.99mm internal stem diameters, undecorated
U/S		Ceramic	2	31	RB	LC1	Samian
18001		Ceramic	7	586	PM	C19-C20	Buckley-type CRE; RWE
14002		Ceramic	18	367	RB	LC1-C3	
14000		Ceramic	1	15	PM	C19	Transfer print plate sherd
10000		Ceramic	2	28	Med	C13-C15	Body sherds
9000		Ceramic	3	313	PM	C18-C19	Buckley-type CRE; minimum 2 vessels

Table 1: Finds by Material and Context	Table 1	l: Finds	bv	Material	and	Context
--	---------	----------	----	----------	-----	---------

5.2 The Pottery

5.2.1 A total of 125 sherds of pottery, weighing 3984g, were recovered from 14 contexts (Table 1). The sherds are generally in good condition. Pottery of Romano-British date dominates the assemblage at 70.4%, followed by post-medieval pottery (24%) and finally medieval pottery (5.6%). Body sherds account for 52.8% of the assemblage, followed by rim sherds (32%) and base sherds (15.2%). Quantification of the ceramic assemblage is visible in Table 2 and is quantified by date, fabric type and context.

Context	Date	Fabric Type	Qty	Wgt (g)	Rim	Base	Body
108	Med	Not classified	1	4			1
7000	Med	Not classified	3	24		1	2
108	Med	Reduced greenware	1	4			1
10000	Med	Reduced greenware	2	30			2
107	PM	CRE	2	124	1		1
18001	PM	CRE	6	573	2		4
130	PM	Porcelain??	6	130	4		2
108	PM	RRE	2	112			2
7000	PM	RRE	2	165	1	1	
9000	PM	RRE	3	314		2	1
107	PM	RWE	1	18	1		
18001	PM	RWE	1	9		1	
107	PM	Staf. Slip	1	79		1	
108	PM	Staf. Slip	2	23	2		
1901	PM	Staf. Slip	1	6			1
107	PM	ТР	1	99	1		
14000	PM	ТР	1	15	1		



14002	PM?	?	1	4			1
108	RB	BAT AM 1/2	1	225			1
7000	RB	BAT AM 1/2	1	160		1	
14002	RB	BAT AM 1/2	1	219			1
131	RB	CO OX WS	3	22			3
14002	RB	CO OX WS	1	12	1		
7000	RB	CSA WS?	1	80		1	
7000	RB	DOR BB1	2	63	1		1
7001	RB	DOR BB1	3	65		2	1
14002	RB	DOR BB1	2	47	1	1	
131	RB	Not classified	6	152	1		5
7000	RB	Not classified	10	194	2	1	7
7001	RB	Not classified	3	15			3
14002	RB	Not classified	5	39	1	1	3
131	RB	SAM	29	733	14	5	10
1400	RB	SAM	1	86		1	
7000	RB	SAM	5	18	3		2
7001	RB	SAM	4	47	1		3
14002	RB	SAM	6	21	1		5
U/S	RB	SAM	2	30	1		1
14002	RB	NOI EG	2	23			2
TOTAL			125	3984	40	19	66

Table 2: Detailed Quantification of Pottery, by Date and Fabric Type

5.3 Roman Ceramics

- 5.3.1 A total of 88 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 2,251g, were recovered during the archaeological investigation (Tables 1 and 2). The sherds are in good condition in the main. Roughly 54.5% of the Roman pottery assemblage comprises rim sherds (n = 48), c.30.6% comprises rim sherds (n = 27) and c.14.7% comprises base sherds (n = 13).
- 5.3.2 Where possible, fabric types were identified and coded using national guidelines (Tomber & Dore 1998; RPA online 2017).
- 5.3.3 Central and Eastern Gaulish *Terra sigillata* (Samian ware) comprised the largest fabric type (SAM; n = 47, 53.4%), followed by unclassified fabrics (n = 24, 27.2%; this includes a sherd of possible *Terra Rubra* GAB TR 1A-3), Dorset Type 1 Black-burnished ware (DOR BB1; n = 7, 7.9%), locally produced oxidised white-slip ware (CO OX WS; n = 4, 4.5%), Southern Spanish (Baetician) amphora (BAT AM 1 / 2; n = 3, 3.4%), Northern Italian eggshell ware (NOI EG; n = 2, 2.27%) and a sherd of possibly Carlisle / Scalesceugh ware (CSA WS; n = 1, 1.1%).



- 5.3.4 Vessel types include large wine / olive storage jars (amphora), mixing bowls (mortaria), cooking jars and dishes (Black-burnished ware), bowls and cups (*Terra sigillata*) and beakers (Northern Italian eggshell ware (?)).
- 5.3.5 A broad date of late 1^{st} to late 2^{nd} / early 3^{rd} century is suitable for this assemblage.
- 5.3.6 Should the project proceed to publication, further analyses are certainly warranted on the assemblage, including detailed fabric analysis (particularly of the unclassified material) and comparative studies as well as illustration of diagnostic and decorated sherds.

5.4 Medieval Ceramics

- 5.4.1 A total of seven sherds of medieval pottery, weighing 62g, were recovered from three contexts (Tables 1 and 2). The sherds are in good condition in the main.
- 5.4.2 Three sherds of fully reduced greenware, weighing 34g, were recovered from two deposits and four sherds of unclassified medieval pottery, weighing 28g were recovered from two deposits. Glaze was evident on two sherds; no decoration was evident.
- 5.4.3 A date range of 13th to 15th century is suitable for these sherds.
- 5.4.4 No further analysis is warranted.

5.5 Post-medieval Ceramics

- 5.5.1 A total of 30 sherds of post-medieval ceramics, weighing 1,671g, were recovered from nine contexts (Tables 1 and 2). The sherds are in good condition.
- 5.5.2 Fabric types comprise Transfer Print, refined red earthenware, refined white earthenware, Porcelain (?), Buckley-type coarse red earthenware and Staffordshire slipware.
- 5.5.3 Vessel types comprise plates, large mixing bowls (pancheons), medium to large-sized jars and a possible loaf dish.
- 5.5.4 A broad date of 18th to 19th century is suitable for this assemblage.
- 5.5.5 No further analysis is warranted.

5.6 Ceramic Building Material

5.6.1 A total of 26 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 4,209g, were recovered from six deposits (Table 1). The fragments are in good condition.



- 5.6.2 Ceramic building material of Roman date (1st to 4th century) was recovered from five deposits and comprised miscellaneous fragments and fragments of roof tile (tegula and imbrex). An 18th century handmade brick **{120}** was also recovered (weighing 1,950g) as well as miscellaneous brick fragments of 19th century date from context **(131)**.
- 5.6.3 No further analysis is warranted.

5.7 Clay Tobacco Pipe

- 5.7.1 Two fragments of undecorated and unstamped clay tobacco pipe stems, weighing 10g, were recovered from context **(107)** (Table 1). The artefacts are in good condition.
- 5.7.2 Internal stem diameter measurements comprised 2.80mm and 1.99mm, indicating a possible date range of 1720-1800 (Table 3).

Stem-Hole Ø (in/XX)	Conversion (mm); 1 inch = 25.4mm 1/64 (inch) = 0.4mm	Dates
9/64	9 x 0.4mm = 3.6	1590 – 1620
8/64	8 x 0.4mm = 3.2	1620 – 1650
7/64	7 x 0.4mm = 2.8	1650 – 1680
6/64	6 x 0.4mm = 2.4	1680 – 1720
5/64	5 x 0.4mm = 2	1720 – 1750
4/64	4 x 0.4mm = 1.6	1750 - 1800

Table 3: Binford's Pipestem Chronology (Kipfer 2008, 8)

5.7.3 No further analysis is warranted.

5.8 Glass

- 5.8.1 A single shard of light-blue Roman glass, weighing 7g, was recovered from context (7000) (Table 1). The shard is in good condition and possibly originates from a prismatic bottle.
- 5.8.2 Further analysis may be warranted should the project proceed to publication.

5.9 Iron

- 5.9.1 A single iron nail of potentially Roman date, weighing 6g, was recovered from deposit (7001) (Table 1). The nail is in poor condition and displays heavy rust corrosion. Flecks of mid-blue azurite are visible on the exterior of the nail shaft and head.
- 5.9.2 No further analysis is warranted.



5.10 Small Finds

- 5.10.1 Small Find **1**, weighing 7g, was recovered from deposit **(14002)** and comprises a corroded, copper alloy as dating to the rule of Domitian (AD 81-96) (*Pers. Comm.* Giecco 2017).
- 5.10.2 Small Find **2**, weighing 31g, was recovered from deposit **(14002)** and comprises a miscellaneous, undecorated misshapen lead strip. It could be of Roman to post-medieval date.
- 5.10.3 Further analysis may be warranted should the project proceed to publication.

5.11 Statement of Potential

- 5.11.1 Should the project proceed to publication, further analyses are warranted on the Roman artefacts.
- 5.11.2 No further analyses are required on the artefacts of medieval and post-medieval date.



6 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Five bulk environmental samples were taken during the course of the archaeological excavation (Table 4).
- 6.1.2 Combined, they weighed 143kg (106 l).
- 6.1.2 This report presents the results of the assessment of the environmental samples and the resulting palaeoenvironmental remains in accordance with Campbell et al. (2011) and English Heritage (2008).

<>	Description
1	Fill of possible feature in Trench 14
2	Fill of Trench 18
3	Fill of [7002] in Trench 7
4	Fill of [7002] in Trench 7
5	Fill of feature in Trench 28
	1 2 3 4

Key: C= context, <>= sample number

Table 4: Sampled Contexts

6.2 Methodology

- 6.2.1 The bulk environmental samples (sampled contexts are listed in Table 4) were processed at Wardell Armstrong Ltd. The colour, lithology, weight and volume of each sample was recorded using standard Wardell Armstrong pro forma recording sheets. cf. Table 5. The samples were processed with 500-micron retention and flotation meshes using the Siraf method of flotation (Williams 1973). Once dried, the residues from the retention mesh were sieved to 4mm and the artefacts and ecofacts removed from the larger fraction and forwarded to the finds department (finds from samples are listed in Table 6). The smaller fraction was scanned with a magnet for microslags such as hammerscales. This fraction was then examined for smaller artefacts such as beads. The flot data is presented in Table 7.
- 6.2.2 The flots were retained and scanned using a stereo microscope (up to x45 magnification). Any non-palaeobotanical finds were noted on the flot pro forma recording sheet.
- 6.2.3 Marine molluscs were identified using Hayward and Ryland (1998) and Winder (2011). Nomenclature for marine molluscs followed Hayward and Ryland (1998).



6.3 Results

- 6.3.1 **Magnetic matter**: small quantities of plate hammerscale were observed in all but one of the samples (**<2>** was void of any microslags).
- 6.3.2 **Fishbone**: circa 20 fishbones were recovered from the flot of sample **<5>**. These were mostly very small vertebrae from small fish; some of the vertebrae could be identified as Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus*) and showed evidence of distortion. Overall preservation was poor.
- 6.3.3. Animal bone: bone was recovered from two flots. Part of an indeterminate mid-shaft long bone fragment from <4> and a very small, indeterminate calcined bone fragment from <1>.
- 6.3.4 **Charred plant remains**: the only plant material observed was a very small hazelnut shell fragment from the flot of **<4>**.
- 6.3.5 Charcoal: This material was observed in all the samples, albeit in varying amounts. The least yielding was <2> with the most ubiquitous presence in <4>. All the charcoals were a very small size, with comminuted charcoal in <2>. For the requirements of the assessment none of the charcoals were identified to species.
- 6.3.6 **Molluscs**: The only molluscs examined were those that had been hand-collected during the excavation. A single, thick, oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) left valve from (7000) showed significant evidence of *Cliona celata* borings. No evidence of cut marks or notches were presented. Two valves of possible common cockle (cf. *Cerastoderma edule*) were also hand-collected, but were from (18002).

6.4 Discussion

- 6.4.1 The plate hammerscales observed in the samples were of limited interpretative quantity and were more likely to be present due to bioturbation and not from past industry.
- 6.4.2 The fishbone showed some evidence of maceration, or having been passed through the body. The very small assemblage is very limited in scope for discussion of past fishing strategies or fish processing.
- 6.4.3 The charred plant material and marine molluscs assemblages were of too small a size to be of any interpretive value.
- 6.4.4 The small size of the charcoal fragments was more likely to be indicative of general house-keeping strategies rather than any conflagration. Charcoal assemblages from



<2> and <3> may be present due to aeolian deposition whilst those from the remainder were likely to have been placed there, however, not in a primary deposition capacity i.e. bonfire, clamp kiln etc.

6.5 Statement of potential and recommendations

- 6.5.1 No further work is required on the molluscs, magnetic matter, plant remains and animal bone (from the flots) and may be discarded. However, further work may be undertaken on the charcoal. By identification to species and examining ring counts and curvature it may be possible to indicate past fuel procurement practices. However, the assemblage presented from this excavation is probably too small to derive any meaningful data but, nonetheless, may provide useful if incorporated into a future corpus for the area. For this to progress, assured dating for the features from which they derived must be established. If this dating element is not a requirement for the archaeological features, then the charcoal may be discarded.
- 6.5.2 No plant remains were suitable for radiocarbon AMS dating. Some charcoal may be suitable (especially from <1>, <4> and <5>) but selected fragments must be identified to species prior to submission. Any long-lived species, such as oak, would not be considered suitable for submission, hence the requirement for identification to species.



Context	<>	TN	рН	СР	TP	MP	PW	PV	CS	Components (sorting)	Α	SA	SR	R	SW	SV
14002	1	4	7.63	very dark	soft	silty clay	40	30	pale grey	stone>1cm 30%: stone<1cm	-	yes	-	-	5940	3300
				brown						50%: sand 20%						
18002	2	2	6.81	very dark	soft	silty clay	19	12	pale yellowish	stone>1cm 20%: stone<1cm	-	-	yes	-	980	500
				brown					brown	20%: sand 60%						
7000	3	4	6.27	very dark	soft	silty clay	41	31	mid grey	stone>1cm 30%: stone<1cm	-	yes	-	-	6714	4200
				brown						30%: sand 40%						
7001	4	2	7.03	very dark	soft	silty clay	25	16	mid grey	stone>1cm 30%: stone<1cm	-	-	yes	-	5168	3000
				brown						20%: sand 50%						
28001	5	2	6.52	very dark	soft	silty clay	18	17	mid grey	stone>1cm 20%: stone<1cm	yes	-	-	-	2782	1800
				brown						30%: sand 50%						

Key: C= context, <>= sample number, TQ= quantity of tubs in sample, CP=colour of pre-processed sediment, TP=texture of pre-processed sediment, MP=matrix of preprocessed sediment, PW= weight (kg) of pre-processed sediment, PV=volume (I) of pre-processed sediment, CS=colour of dried retent, description of stone A=angular, SA=sub-angular, SR=sub-rounded, R=rounded, SW=weight (g) of retent residues, SV=volume (ml) of retent residues

Table 5: Sample Data



Context	<>	Material	Actual qty	Qty 1-10	Qty 11-50	Qty 51-150	Weight (g)	Weight <1g	>4mm	<4mm
14002	1	Magnetic matter		-	yes	-	6	-	-	yes
14002	1	Fe iron	3	-	-	-	23	-	yes	-
14002	1	Animal bone		-	yes	-	88	-	yes	-
14002	1	Fired clay		-	yes	-	50	-	yes	-
14002	1	Pottery	28	-	-	-	70	-	yes	-
18002	2	Magnetic matter		yes	-	-		yes	-	yes
18002	2	Animal bone		yes	-	-		yes	yes	-
18002	2	Charcoal		yes	-	-		yes	yes	-
7000	3	Magnetic matter		-	-	yes	9	-	-	yes
7000	3	Fe iron	3	-	-	-	7	-	yes	-
7000	3	Animal bone		-	yes	-	42	yes	yes	-
7000	3	Charcoal		-	yes	-		-	yes	-
7000	3	Pottery	10	-	-	-	36	-	yes	-
7000	3	Fired clay		-	yes	-	153	-	yes	-
7001	4	Magnetic matter		-	yes	-	3	-	-	yes
7001	4	Charcoal		-	yes	-	5	-	yes	-
7001	4	Fe iron	3	-	-	-	10	-	yes	-
7001	4	Fired clay		-	yes	-	24	-	yes	-
7001	4	Animal bone		-	-	yes	84	-	yes	-
7001	4	Pottery	12	-	-	-	40	-	yes	-
28001	5	Magnetic matter		-	yes	-	5	-	-	yes
28001	5	Animal bone		yes	-	-	6	-	yes	-
28001	5	Pottery	4	-	-	-	19	-	yes	-
28001	5	Fired clay		-	yes	-	15	-	yes	-
28001	5	Charcoal		-	yes	-	4	-	yes	-

Key: c= context, <>= sample number,>/<4mm denote from fraction it came

Table 6: Finds from Samples



Context	<>	WF	VF	PR	AMS?	Charcoal (g)	Components	EWC	Comments	
14005	1	27.9	35	-		0.01	sand 20%: coal chips 20%: comminuted charcoal 50%: industrial	-	-	
							waste 5%			
18002	2	31	5	-		<0.01	sand 90%: coal chips 10%	-	-	
7000	3	75.1	205	-		0.58	very fine rootlets 90%: twigs 10%	1	possibly waterlogged	
7001	4	91	135	hzn 1		6.65	comminuted charcoal 40%: coal chips 40%: sand 20%	-	bone 0.1g	
28001	5	42.2	80	-		0.15	sand 20%: comminuted charcoal 30%: very fine rootlets 50%	1	fishbone 20	
									elements/fragments, un-	
									charred Rubus sp. c50	

Key: C= context, <>= sample number, WF= weight (g) of flot, VF= volume (ml) of flot, PR= plant remains present, hzn= hazelnut shell fragment (quantity), AMS?= any material suitable for radiocarbon dating?, EWC= earthworm capsules

Table 7: Flot Data

7

ZOOARCHAEOLGICAL ASSESSMENT

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 A total of 65 animal bones, weighing 3,193g, were recovered from seven contexts during an archaeological investigation on land at Grosvenor Park, Chester, Cheshire.
- 7.1.2 Animal bone was also recovered from all of the environmental samples, <1> <2> <3>
 <4> and <5>. This report focusses on the hand-collected material.
- 7.1.3 All of the animal bone was recorded and analysed using guidelines published by English Heritage (2014), now Historic England.
- 7.1.4 Quantification of the zooarchaeological material is available in Table 9.

7.2 Results

7.2.1 Subsequent analyses revealed a MNI (minimum number of individuals) count of 18 animals represented in this assemblage (Table 8).

Species	Count
Bos sp.	5
Bos/Equus sp.	4
Equus sp.	1
Ovid/Caprid sp.	4
Sus sp.	1
Gallus sp.	1
UNID	2

Table 8: Minimum number of individuals

- 7.2.2 Cattle (Bos sp.) bones dominate the assemblage, closely followed cow / horse bones (Bos sp. / Equus sp.) and sheep / goat bones (Ovid sp. / Caprid sp.), unidentified, horse bones (Equus sp.), chicken bones (Gallus sp.) and pig bones (Sus sp.).
- 7.2.3 The vast majority of the faunal remains comprise adult animals; juvenile ungulates were observed and recorded in contexts **(14002)** and **(10000)**.
- 7.2.3 Gnawing and pathological conditions were not observed, although butchery marks (chop-marks) were recorded on cattle bones from **(14002)** and on the distal femur of a pig from context **(108)**.
- 7.2.4 Preservation of the bone was very good in the main; concretions of azurite were visible on some of the bones, indicating either waterlogged conditions or cessy deposits.
- 7.2.5 The faunal assemblage could have originated from a number of chronological periods;

Romano-British to post-medieval pottery was retrieved from deposits (108) (7000), Romano-British pottery was recovered from deposits (7001) and (14002) and medieval pottery was recovered from deposit (10000).

7.3 Statement of Potential

- 7.3.1 This is a small faunal assemblage with a broad date range of Roman to post-medieval; a minimum of 16 ungulate mammals are represented, with the greatest percentage comprising cattle (*Bos sp.*).
- 7.3.2 No further work is required.



Context	Count	Wgt (g)	Species	Element - Notes	Butchery	Gnawing	Pathology	Age
108	1	875	Bos sp.	Cranium	-	-	-	А
108	1	34	Sus sp.	Distal femur	Y	-	-	А
128	1	257	Bos sp.	Cranium	-	-	-	А
128	1	245	Bos sp.	Metatarsel	-	-	-	А
128	1	334	Equus sp.	Metacarpal	-	-	-	А
128	1	14	Bos/Equus sp.	Limb	-	-	-	А
128	1	12	Bos sp.	Rib	-	-	-	Α
128	2	14	?	Miscellaneous fragments	-	-	-	Α
7000	2	24	Ovid/Caprid sp.	Scapula & Metatarsel	-	-	-	Α
7000	1	5	Bos sp.	Rib	-	-	-	Α
7000	3	49	Bos/Equus sp.	Miscellaneous fragments	-	-	-	Α
7000	4	53	Ovid/Caprid sp.	Humerus x 2, scapula, mandible	-	-	-	А
7000	9	254	Bos sp.	Teeth x 2, proximal phalanx, 2 x vertebrae, metatarsel, cranium fragment, limb fragment, ox coxae fragment	-	-	-	A
7001	3	28	Bos/Equus sp.	Ribs	_	-	-	А
7001	3	10	Ovid/Caprid sp.	Ribs	-	-	-	А
7001	1	7	Bos/Equus sp.	Vertebrae	-	-	-	А
10000	1	2	Ovid/Caprid sp.	Metapodial	-	-	-	J
10000	2	269	Bos sp.	Horn core, Metacarpal	-	-	-	А
14002	6	21	Ovid/Caprid sp.	Ribs	-	-	-	А
14002	3	27	Ovid/Caprid sp.	Limb	-	-	-	А
14002	1	27	Ovid/Caprid sp.	Metacarpal	-	-	-	А
14002	11	608	Bos sp.	Premolar, distal tibia, femur, 3 x horn cores, scapula, mandible, rib, vertebrae, proximal humerus	Y	-	-	A & J
14002	5	21	UNID	Fragments	-	-	-	А
14003	1	3	Gallus sp.	Limb	-	-	-	А
TOTAL	65	3193					1	

Table 9: Quantification of Faunal Species



8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Interpretation

- 8.1.1 The archaeological investigation comprised two phases, including a watching brief and subsequent excavation, reducing the ground level within the hotel footprint to 19.50m aOD followed by the archaeological excavation of 23 out of the 32 individual piles and most of the adjoining ground beams.
- 8.1.2 The watching brief revealed the surviving severely truncated remains of 19th century brick and sandstone wall foundations in two locations, to the north and to the southwest. The remains of the foundations appear to broadly reflect the 1873 and 1898 Ordnance Survey layout of former Bateman's Court tenements (see WA 2017c, Appendix 2).
- 8.1.3 Archaeological features were found in trenches 7, 14 and 28 during the excavation.
- 8.1.4 Trench 7 contained a possible Roman ditch aligned roughly north-northwest to southsoutheast and running through the centre of the site, later truncated by another possible post-medieval linear feature on a similar alignment. A possible Roman deposit was also observed in Trench 14 immediately south of Trench 7, from which a number of Roman artefacts were recovered. The deposit was similar to the buried soil deposit in Trench 7 into which the ditch was cut. Trench 14 was subsequently inundated with ground water and further detailed investigation could not be carried out, though it seems likely that a Roman horizon representing a single phase has survived to some extent in this central part of the site with a range of ceramic material dating to between the late 1st and early 3rd century. Overall, the assemblage broadly confirms the date range provided by the excavation in 2002 (Gifford and Partners Ltd. 2002).
- 8.1.7 A layer of dark earth appears to survive across much of the central, northern, and in places, around the southern edges of the site, between the heights of 19.00m and 18.50m aOD. This dark greyish brown humic silty clay was fairly consistent across the site and represents a mixture of cultivated and accumulated soils probably relating to when this plot of land functioned as gardens and orchards to the rear of properties on Foregate Street. It has previously been recorded that such use may have occurred here in the 17th century. A mixture of Roman and post-medieval material was recovered from this layer, as well as numerous cow horns, supporting previous evidence of a tanning industry within this part of the town, though no distinct tanning pits were conclusively identified. Subsequently, buildings were erected here in the late post-



medieval period to which foundations survived in the south-west and to the north of the site.

- 8.1.6 Trench 28 to the north contained a post-medieval cut feature which probably related to the erection of structures in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 8.1.7 The survival of the archaeological features was poor, having been heavily influenced by later phases of development and difficult waterlogged ground conditions.

8.2 Significance

- 8.2.1 Documentary evidence combined with the various archaeological interventions that have been undertaken at the site collectively indicates domestic activity within the known civilian settlement outside of the Roman fort of Deva, up to and perhaps no later than the 3rd century AD.
- 8.2.2 Establishing the nature of the relationship between the fort, the port, the civilian settlement and the surrounding rural environment through detailed examination of the archaeological evidence has been previously highlighted (Philpott *et al* 2005), though the sparsity of data recovered from the current work may not contribute greatly to further analysis of this subject.
- 8.2.3 The coin recovered from the site represents the emperor Domitian and dates to AD 81-96. A propensity of coins dating to between the late 1st and late 2nd century have been recovered from contexts outside of the Roman fort in what would have been civilian settlement (eg, to the north of Chester, off Delamere Street (Birmingham Archaeology 2006). During the ill-fated reign of Domitian, the Second 'Assistant' Legion were withdrawn from Chester to fight in the Dacian Wars, being replaced by the Twentieth Legion (Roman Britain 2017), who soon refurbished the fort at Chester, (White 2007) and to which the civilian settlement was also involved (Birmingham Archaeology 2006).

8.3 Statement of Potential

- 8.3.1 The current investigation has revealed little significant archaeology. However, the phasing of the site broadly reflects the known phasing identified in previous investigations and elsewhere in the city.
- 8.3.2 A relatively large assemblage of Roman pottery and two metallic objects were recovered from the site, to which further work may be warranted should the project proceed to publication. Palaeoenvironmental assessment of the soil samples has revealed charcoal which may be suitable for further scientific analysis.



8.4 Outstanding Work

- 8.4.1 Only 23 of the 32 pile caps and surrounding ground beams were excavated as part of the current programme of archaeological works. Due to active combined drains revealed in the north-west corner of the site and an extant boundary wall to the southwest, a number of pile caps could not be excavated.
- 8.4.2 It is thought that a new phase of groundworks may be undertaken in early 2018 relating to the clearance of surface water and combined foul water/sewer drainage. The ground works would include further reduction of a large portion of the site. It is assumed that the divergence of the current drains to the north-west would also be part of these new works allowing the remaining pile caps and ground beams to be excavated.
- 8.4.3 Following discussions with the Development Control Archaeologist, should any archaeology be revealed during the proposed drainage works, archaeological excavation would need to be undertaken, particularly along the eastern boundary of the site immediately bounding Grosvenor Park Road where no ground reduction has yet taken place.



6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Birmingham Archaeology (2006), *Excavations at Delamere Street, Chester: Post Excavation* Assessment and Research Design, Birmingham Archaeology, Project No. 1410

Brown, D H (2011), Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation, Archaeological Archives Forum

Campbell, G, Moffett, L and Straker, V (2011) *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (second edition), English Heritage, Portsmouth

Carrington P (1994), Book of Chester. London.

Cheshire West Museums Service (2011), *Guidelines for the Preparation and Presentation of Archaeological Archives,* Cheshire West Museums Service unpublished document

CIFA (2014a), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*, Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists, Reading

CIFA (2014b), Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials. Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

English Heritage (2006) *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPH), London, English Heritage.

English Heritage (2008) MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavations

English Heritage (2014), *Animal Bones and Archaeology: guidelines for best practice,* Swindon: English Heritage

Europae Archaeologia Consilium (EAC) (2014), A Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe, EAC Guidelines 1: Belgium

Gifford and Partners Ltd. (2000), *Report on an Archaeological Evaluation at Deva Garage, Grosvenor Park Road, Chester*. Report No. B3471A.01

Gifford and Partners Ltd. (2001), *Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at Deva Garage,* 27 Grosvenor Park Road, Chester. Report No. B3471A.R03

Gifford and Partners Ltd. (2002), *Report on an Archaeological Excavation at Deva Garage, 27 Grosvenor Park Road, Chester* (CHE/GPR'00). Report No. B3471A.R05

Hayward P.J. and Ryland J.S. (1998) *Handbook of the Marine Fauna of North-West Europe*, Oxford University Press, Oxford



Kipfer, BA (2008), The Archaeologist's Fieldwork Companion. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing

NPPF (2012), *National Planning Policy Framework: Archaeology and Planning*. Department for Communities and Local Government

Philpott R, Brennard M, Carrington P, Shottor D and Stallibrass S (2005), North West Regional Research Framework

RPA (2017), *Roman Potsherd Atlas online*, <u>http://potsherd.net/atlas/potsherd</u> [Accessed on 13-12-2017]

Tomber, R and Dore, J (1998) The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection, English Heritage

WA (2017a), Grosvenor Park Road, Chester, Cheshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Investigation and Addendum (November 2017), Unpublished Report, Wardell Armstrong

WA (2017b), Excavation Manual. Unpublished internal document, Wardell Armstrong

WA (2017c), Grosvenor Park Road, Chester: Archaeological desk-based assessment, Unpublished Report, Wardell Armstrong

WA (2017d), *Grosvenor Park Road, Chester, Cheshire: Archaeological watching brief report,* Unpublished Report, Wardell Armstrong

Watkinson, DE & Neal, V (1998), *First Aid for Finds*, RESCUE: The British Archaeological Trust (London)

White R (2007), Britannia Prima. Tempus

Williams D. (1973) 'Flotation at Siraf', Antiquity, 47: 198-202

Winder J. M. (2011) Oyster Shells from Archaeological Sites (PDF copy)

Websites

BGS 2017, Geology of Britain Viewer,

http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html, British Geological Survey (last accessed 6th December 2017)

Planning Reference: 17/01826/FUL (2017a), Cheshire West and Chester Council,

https://pa.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/online-applications# (last accessed 6th December 2017)



Planning Reference: 17/01826/FUL (2017b), Cheshire West and Chester Council, Comments of the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service,

https://pa.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/online-

applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=consulteeComments&keyVal=OOO48GTEJWP

00 (last accessed 6th December 2017)

Roman Britain (2017), <u>www.roman-britain.co.uk</u> (last accessed 6th December 2017)

Other

Pers. Comm. Giecco, F (2017), *Consultation of specialist on Roman coin identification*, Wardell Armstrong, Carlisle



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(100)	Deposit	Topsoil/ concrete/ overburden	0.2m	Modern over burden including garage foundations and demolition
(101)	Deposit	Moderately compacted mixed deposit with building demolition	0.8m	Modern backfill (upper)
(102)	Deposit	Moderately compacted dark greyish brown mixed silty clay with CBM inclusions	1.1m	Modern backfill (lower)
(103)	Deposit	Firm mid orange clay	1.1m+	Packing clay for Victorian building foundations
{104}	Wall	Foundation wall on NE-SW alignment constructed of randomly coursed unconsolidated brick constructed on bed of broken slate and mortar	0.87m	19-20 th Century foundation wall abutted by {105} and {106}
{105}	Wall	NW-SE aligned foundation wall, stepped along NE facing section, constructed of brick in 2:1 consolidated English bond	0.62m	19-20 th Century wall abuts {104}
{106}	Wall	Buttress aligned NW-SE Constructed of brick and sandstone in stretcher coursing	0.68	19-20 th century buttress abuts {104}
(107)	Deposit	Moderately compact dark greyish brown mixed clayey silt with frequent brick slate and sandstone fragments and flecks and fragments of charcoal	-	Backfill around wall foundations {104} {105} {106}
(108)	Deposit	Moderately compact, soft, dark greyish clayey silt with frequent fragment dog brick, slate, CBM and charcoal	-	Levelling layer immediately below wall foundation {104}
{109}	Wall	NW-SE aligned foundation wall constructed of red/mixed brick and glazed ceramic in stretcher coursing	0.4m	19-20 th Century foundation wall abuts {105} and {110}- later segment of wall added to accommodate ceramic glazed pipe- bricks appeared reused
{110}	Wall	NE-SW aligned wall constructed of mid	0.49m	19-20 th century wall contemporary in {105}- damaged at NE end by



		yellowish red mixed brick in a 1:1 stretcher		modern disturbance. A brick buttress {111} was added at a later date on the south east elevation
{111}	Wall	Buttress aligned NE-SW Constructed of brick in stretcher coursing	0.2m	19-20 th century buttress abuts {104}
{112}	Wall	NE-SW aligned foundation wall constructed of red brick in 2:1 English bond coursing	0.49m	19-20 th century wall appears contemporary with {105} and {110} Abutted by {113} on NW facing elevation
{113}	Wall	NW-SE aligned foundation wall constructed of red sandstone and occasional red brick in random coursing	0.32m	19-20 th century wall, abutting {112}. It is likel some of the red sandstone blocks are former Roman sandston masonry re-incorporate into a 19 th century settin
{114}	Wall	NE-SW aligned foundation wall constructed of red brick in 2:1 English bond coursing	0.38m	19-20th century foundation wall on slightly different alignment to {104} opposite
{115}	Wall	NW-SE aligned brick and render cellar wall.	0.56m	19-20 th century walls belonging to properties between Grosvenor par road
{116}	Wall	NE-SW aligned foundation wall constructed of unconsolidated red sandstone and bricks in English bond.	0.5m	19-20 th century foundation wall
{117}	Wall	Right angled walled, NW-SE turning NE constructed of handmade brick in 2:1 English bond	0.24m	19-20 th century wall attached to SE of wall {118} possibly an ancilla building to the rear of a property of Grosvenor Park Road
{118}	Wall	NE- SW aligned wall and small room/WC constructed of brick in a 2:1 English bond	0.27m	19-20 th century wall abutting {115} and {119 and is abutted by two lesser walls forming a small room, interpreted as a WC although no pipes or drains are visibl
{119}	Wall	NW-SE aligned wall constructed off red handmade brick in English bond	0.33m	19-20 th century wall severely truncated at both ends and abutted k {118}. Probably forms a external wall for proper on Grosvenor Park Roa
{120}	Wall	Floor/ yard surface constructed of roughly squared dark grey cobbles,	0.07m	19-20 th century poorly surviving floor surface



		red sandstone and		bounded by wall {119}
		handmade red brick		{115} {116}
		NW-SE aligned wall	0.4m	19-20 th century wall
(4.2.4.)	Mall	constructed of red brick		contemporary with wall
{121}	Wall	and roughly squared		{122} and floor surface
		sandstone in English bond.		{125}
		NW-SE aligned wall	0.35m	19-20 th century wall
(4.2.2.)	\A/~	constructed of handmade		contemporary with wall
{122}	Wall	red brick in English garden		[121]. Ceramic drain
		wall bond		visible in elevation
		NW-SE aligned foundation	0.15m	19-20 th century sandstone
(122)	\A/~!!	wall constructed of a		block observed in situ.
{123}	Wall	roughly squared red		
		sandstone block		
		NW-SE aligned foundation	0.13m	19-20 th sandstone block
(4.2.4)		wall constructed of a		observed in situ
{124}	Wall	roughly squared red		
		sandstone block		
			0.08m	19-20th century 'L'
		Internal floor surface constructed of handmade		shaped surviving floor
{125}	Wall			surface bounded by wall
		red brick with stretcher		{121} {122}. Possibly a
		bond		surface in a WC
(126)	Wall	NE elevation of brick wall	-	19-20 th century wall
{126}	vvali	exposed		
	Cut	Cut of pit edges undefined	-	Cut of possible tanning pi
[127]		and not possible to		
[12/]		excavate due to poor		
		ground conditions		
		Moderately compacted	-	Fill of possible post med
		dark grey brown silty clay		tanning pit, contained
(128)	Deposit	with very occasional small		animal bone.
		sub angular stones. No		
		excavations		
		NW-SE aligned wall	0.68m	19-20 th century wall,
{129}	Wall	foundation constructed of		possibly forming part of
(120)		red brick in 1:1 English		cellar in terrace housing
		bond. Not fully visible		
		Moderately compact mid	0.58m	Demolition backfill
(130)	Deposit	greyish brown silty clay		
	Deposit	with frequent CBM and		
		demolition remains.		
(131)		Friable greyish brown silty	0.38	Probable Roman buried
	Deposit	clay visible across the west		soil horizon
		of site		
		Firm mottled bluish grey-	-	Natural Geology- Glacia
(132)	Natural	light orangey grey clay with		till
(132)	Substrate	very occasional sub-		
	1	rounded pebble inclusions		



Length: 2m V	Width: 1.9m
Minimum Depth: 0.43m N	Maximum Depth: 0.46m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Deposit	Loose dark greyish brown demolition deposit	0-0.46m+	Modern Overburden

Pile Cap 2

Length: 2.3m W	idth: 2m
----------------	----------

Minimum Depth: 0.43m Maximum Depth: 0.45m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(2000)	Deposit	Loose dark reddish brown mixed silty sand	0-0.43m	Modern Overburden
		demolition deposit		
(2001)	Deposit	Moderately compacted brownish grey silty clay	0.43-0.45m+	Modern deposit

Pile Cap 3

	Context	Context		Description	ł
ſ	Minimum De	epth: 0.42m	ſ	Maximum Depth: 0.43m	
Length: 1.9m			۱	Vidth: 1.9m	

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(3000)	Deposit	Loose dark greyish brown silty sand demolition deposit	0-0.43m+	Modern Overburden

Pile Cap 4

Length: 3m

Width: 1.6m

Minimum Depth: 0.44m Maximum Depth: 0.60m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(4000)	Deposit	Loose dark greyish brown silty sand demolition deposit	0-0.60m+	Modern Overburden

Pile Cap 5

Length: 6m

Width: 3.6m

Minimum Depth: 1.2m Maximum Depth: 1.8m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(5000)	Deposit	Loose dark greyish brown demolition deposit	0-1.8m+	Modern Overburden



Length: 2.2m	Width: 2m
Minimum Depth: 0.43m	Maximum Depth: 0.46m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(6000)	Deposit	Loose dark greyish brown silty sand demolition	0-0.46m+	Modern Overburden
	·	, deposit		

Pile Cap 7

Length: 2.64m Width: 1.96m

Minimum Depth: 0.04m Maximum Depth: 0.21m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
			1m+	Fill of possible ditch
		Moderately compacted		[7002], containing pose-
(7000)	Denesit	dark greyish brown silty		medieval and Roman
(7000)	Deposit	clay with very occasional		pottery. Possibly backfill
		sub angular stones		derived from the buried
				soil observed elsewhere
			0.53	Fill of possible ditch
(7001)	Deposit	Moderately compact mid		[7005] containing bone,
		greyish brown silty clay		Roman pottery and CBM
		Linear cut on NE-SW	1m+	Cut for possible post-
[7002]	Cut	alignment with steep		medieval ditch
	Cut	sloped sides. Not fully		
		excavated	0.20	
		Moderately compact mid orange brown silty clay	0.29m	Fill of possible ditch re-
(7003)	Deposit	with occasional sub-		cut [7004]
		angular small stones		
		Linear cut on a NE-SW	0.31m	Re-cut for possible ditch,
[7004]	Cut	alignment with gradual		containing fill (7003)
	Cut	concave sides. Base not		
		visible		
		Linear cut on a NE-SW	0.55m	Cut for possible ditch,
[7005]	Cut	alignment with gently stepped sides. Base not		containing fill (7001)
		visible		
(7006)		Moderately dark grey	0.06m	Buried soil layer
(7000)	Deposit	brown silty clay		,
		Firm mottled bluish grey	-	Natural geology - glacial
(7007)	Natural	and light yellowish grey		till
(7007)	Substrate	clay with very occasional		
		sub-rounded pebble		
		inclusions		

Pile Cap 8



Length: 2.60m

Width: 2.10m

Minimum Depth: 0.60m Maximum Depth: 0.68m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(8000)	Deposit	Sticky, soft, dark greyish brown silty clay	0-0.68m+	Buried soil layer

Pile Cap 9

Length: 2.40m Width: 2.20m

Minimum Depth: 0.50m Maximum Depth: 0.60m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(9000)	Deposit	Sticky, soft, dark greyish brown silty clay	0-0.60m+	Buried soil layer

Pile Cap 10

Length: 1.92m

Width: 1.90m Minimum Depth: 0.50m Maximum Depth: 0.52m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(10000)	Deposit	Moderately compact dark	0-0.50m	Buried soil layer
		greyish brown silty clay		
		Firm mottled, mid reddish	0.50-0.52m+	Natural geology - glacial
		brown clay with		till
(10001)	Natural	occasional sub-rounded		
. ,	Substrate	pebble inclusions,		
		observed at a height of		
		18.92m aOD		

Pile Cap 12

Length: 2.15m	Width: 1.95m
Minimum Depth: 0.50m	Maximum Depth: 0.72m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(12000)	Deposit	Moderately compact, dark greyish brown silty clay	0.60m+	Buried soil layer

Pile Cap 13

Length: 2.27m

Width: 1.26m

Minimum Depth: 0.62m Maximum Depth: 0.83m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(13000)	Deposit	Sticky, soft, mid greyish brown silty clay	0-0.83m+	Mixed demolition backfill with former buried soil layer



Length: 1	1.90m
-----------	-------

Width: 0.68m

Minimum Depth: 0.75m Maximum Depth: 0.78m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(14000)	Doposit	Soft, dark greyish brown	-	Backfill, product of
(11000)	Deposit	silty clay		current works
(14001)	Deposit	Loose, mixed reddish	-	Modern demolition layer
(1.001)	Deposit	brown silty sand		
		Moderately compact dark	-	Buried soil layer,
(14002)	Deposit	greyish brown silty clay		underlying walls {14003}
(11002)	Deposit	containing occasional		and {14004}
		small sub-angular stones		
		NW-SE aligned wall	0.52m	Post-medieval
	Wall	constructed of red		foundation wall for
		handmade brick and		former tenements
{14003}		roughly cut sandstone		
		blocks in random coursing,		
		bonded with fine grained		
		sandy lime mortar.		
		NE-SW aligned wall	0.08m	Post-medieval
		constructed of red		foundation wall for
	Wall	handmade brick and		former tenements,
{14004}		roughly cut sandstone		butting wall {14003} at
		blocks in random coursing,		its NE end. Traces of a
		bonded with fine grained		concrete surface visible
		sandy lime mortar.		on the SW elevation
			-	Re-deposited natural
(14005)	Deposit	Firm, mottled yellowish		substrate, overlying
(1.000)	Deposit	grey clay		(14002) in places. Similar
				to (18002)

Pile Cap 15

Length: 1.90m Minimum Depth: 0.80m Maximum Depth: 1.02m

Width: 1.50m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(15000)	Deposit	Moderately compact dark	0-0.50m	Modern demolition
	-	greyish brown silty clay		backfill
(15001)	Natural Substrate	Firm mottled, mid reddish brown clay with occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions, observed at a height of 18.88m aOD	0.80-1.02m+	Natural geology - glacial till
(15002)	Deposit	Soft, sticky dark greyish brown silty clay	0.30-0.80m	Buried soil layer



Length: 2.20m	Width: 0.60m

ſ	Ainimum De	pth: 0.94m	Maximum Depth: 1.69m				
	Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion		
	(16000)	Deposit	Loose dark reddish brown mixed silty sand and demolition material	0-0.43m+	Modern overburden		
	(16001)	Deposit	Soft greyish brown silty	0.43-0.45m+	Buried soil layer		

clay

Pile Cap 17

Length: 1.90m Width: 0.70m

Minimum Depth: 0.83m Maximum Depth: 1.00m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(17000)	Deposit	Loose, mid reddish brown mixed sand and demolition material	0-1.00m+	Modern overburden

Pile Cap 18

Length: 1.90m

Width: 0.66m

Minimum Depth: 0.82m Maximum Depth: 0.90m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(18000)	Deposit	Loose, mid reddish brown mixed sand and demolition material	0-0.20m	Modern overburden
(18001)	Deposit	Moderately compact, dark greyish brown silty clay	0.20-0.80m	Buried soil layer containing post- medieval material
(18002)	Deposit	Firm, mid yellowish grey fine sandy clay	0.30-0.80m+	Redeposited natural. Similar to (14005)

Pile Cap 19

Length: 2.20m

Width: 0.75m

Minimum Depth: 0.90m Maximum Depth: 1.15m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(19000)	Deposit	Loose mid reddish brown mixed sand and	0-0.40m	Modern overburden
		demolition material		
(19001)	Deposit	Soft dark greyish brown silty clay	0.40-1.15m+	Buried soil layer

Pile Cap 20



Length: 1.92m W	idth: 0.72m
-----------------	-------------

Minimum Depth: 0.76m Maximum Depth: 0.80m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(20000)	Deposit	Loose mid reddish brown mixed sand and demolition material	0-0.12m	Modern overburden
(20001)	Deposit	Soft dark greyish brown silty clay	0.12-0.80m+	Buried soil layer

Pile Cap 21

Length: 2.02m Width: 0.65m

Minimum Depth: 0.82m Maximum Depth: 0.90m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(21000)	Deposit	Loose mid reddish brown mixed sand and demolition material	0-0.12m	Modern overburden
(21001)	Deposit	Soft dark greyish brown silty clay	0.12-0.90m+	Buried soil layer

Pile Cap 22

Length: 1.90m

Width: 1.85m Minimum Depth: 0.74m Maximum Depth: 0.76m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(22000)	Deposit	Soft dark greyish brown silty clay	0-0.76m	Buried soil layer

Pile Cap 23

Length: 2.10m Width: 1.92m

Minimum Depth: 0.55m Maximum Depth: 0.58m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(23000)	Deposit	Loose mid reddish brown mixed sand and demolition material	0-0.12m	Modern overburden
(23001)	Natural Substrate	Firm mottled, light bluish grey clay with occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions, observed at a height of 18.88m aOD	0.38-0.58m+	Natural geology - glacial till
(23002)	Deposit	Firm, friable dark greyish brown very silty clay	0.12-0.38m	Buried soil layer

Pile Cap 24

Length: -Width: -



Minimum Depth: - Maximum Depth: -

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
-	_	_	-	Unexcavated during
	_	_		current phase

Pile Cap 25

Length: - Width: -

Minimum Depth: - Maximum Depth: -

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
-			-	Unexcavated during
	-	-		current phase

Pile Cap 26

Length: - Width: -

Minimum Depth: - Maximum Depth: -

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
-	-	-	-	Unexcavated during
				current phase

Pile Cap 27

Length: - Width: -

Minimum Depth: - Maximum Depth: -

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
-			-	Unexcavated during
	-	-		current phase

Pile Cap 28

Length: 2.10m

Width: 2.10m

Minimum Depth: 0.64m Maximum Depth: 0.73m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(28000)	Deposit	Soft, dark greyish brown silty clay	0-0.73m	Levelling layer, possibly derived from and similar to buried soil observed elsewhere
(28001)	Deposit	Moderately compact dark greyish brown silty clay	0.34-0.54m	Fill of cut [28002]
[28002]	Cut	Polygon-shaped cut with a single visible sharp corner and shallow concave sides and flat base	0.34-0.54m	Cut of probably post- medieval feature. Filled by (28001)



[28003]	Cut	Linear cut running NW-SE, as part of earlier groundworks	0.89m	Cut for Sample Trench#4 (ST4)
(28004)	Deposit	Loose mixed mid greyish brown silty clay and demolition material.	0.89m	Backfill relating to Sample Trench #4 (ST4)
(28005)	Deposit	Firm, mottled yellowish grey clay	-	Natural substrate

Length: - Width: -

Minimum Depth: - Maximum Depth: -

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
-	_	_	-	Unexcavated during
	-	-		current phase

Pile Cap 30

Length: - Width: -

Minimum Depth: - Maximum Depth: -

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
_	_	_	- Unexcavated during	
	-	-		current phase

Pile Cap 31

Length: - Width: -

Minimum Depth: - Maximum Depth: -

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
_	_	_	-	Unexcavated during
	-	-		current phase

Pile Cap 32

Length: - Width: -

Minimum Depth: - Maximum Depth: -

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
_	_	_	-	Unexcavated during
	-	-		current phase



APPENDIX 2: PLATES



Plate 1; Brick and sandstone block wall {113} to the south of the site, looking southeast, 1x1m scale.



Plate 2; Northeast-facing elevation of brick wall {126} looking west, 2x1m scale.





Plate 3; Northeast-facing section of pile cap Trench 12, looking southwest, 1x1m scale.



Plate 4; Southeast-facing section of linear features [7002], [7004] and [7005] in pile cap Trench 7, looking northwest, 1x1m scale.





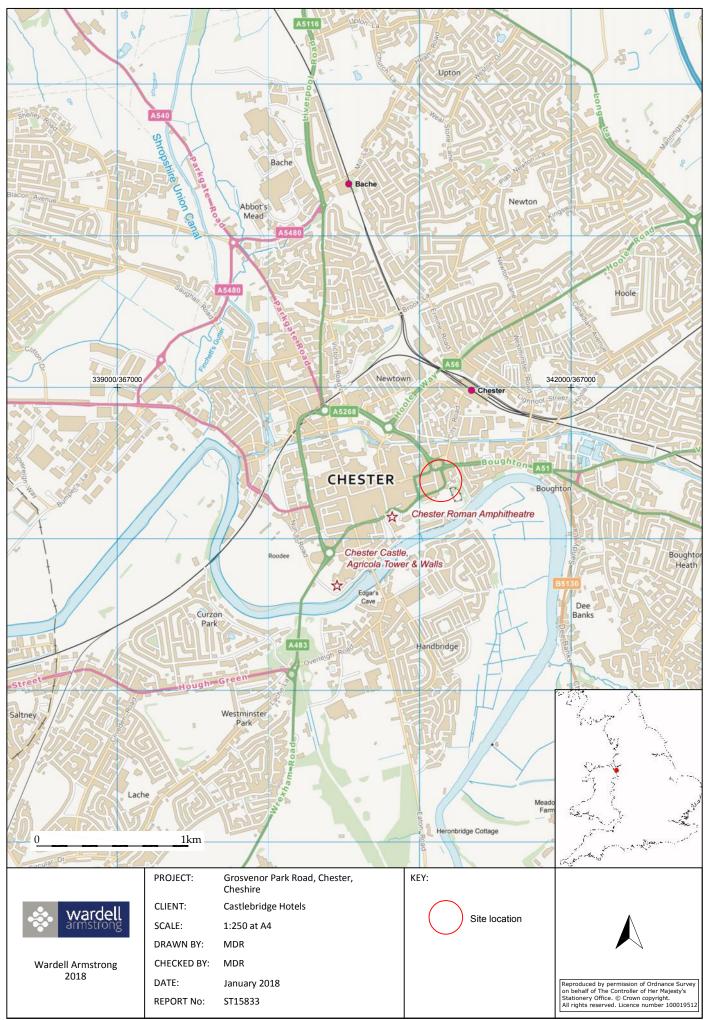
Plate 5; Walls {14003} and {14004} in extension of pile cap Trench 14, looking southeast, 1x1m scale.



Plate 6; Northeast-facing section of cut [28002] in pile cap Trench 28, looking southwest, 1x1m scale.



APPENDIX 3: FIGURES



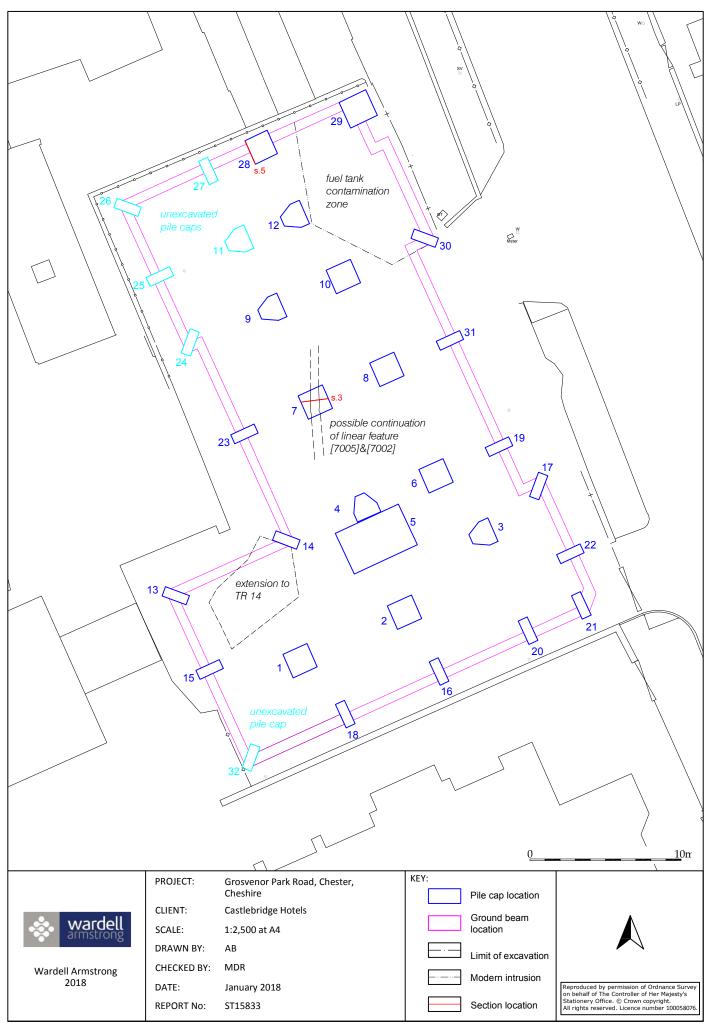


Figure 2: Location of pile cap excavations.

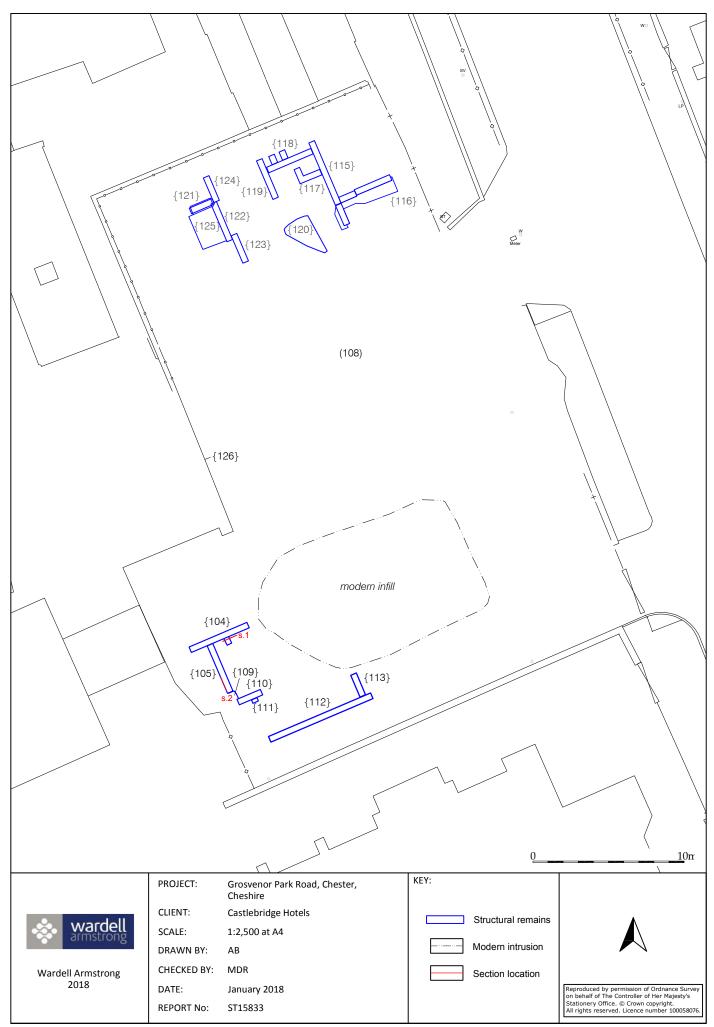


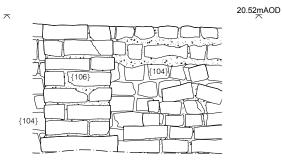
Figure 3: Location of archaeological features encountered during watching brief.

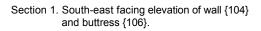
NW

 $\overline{}$

NE

SE

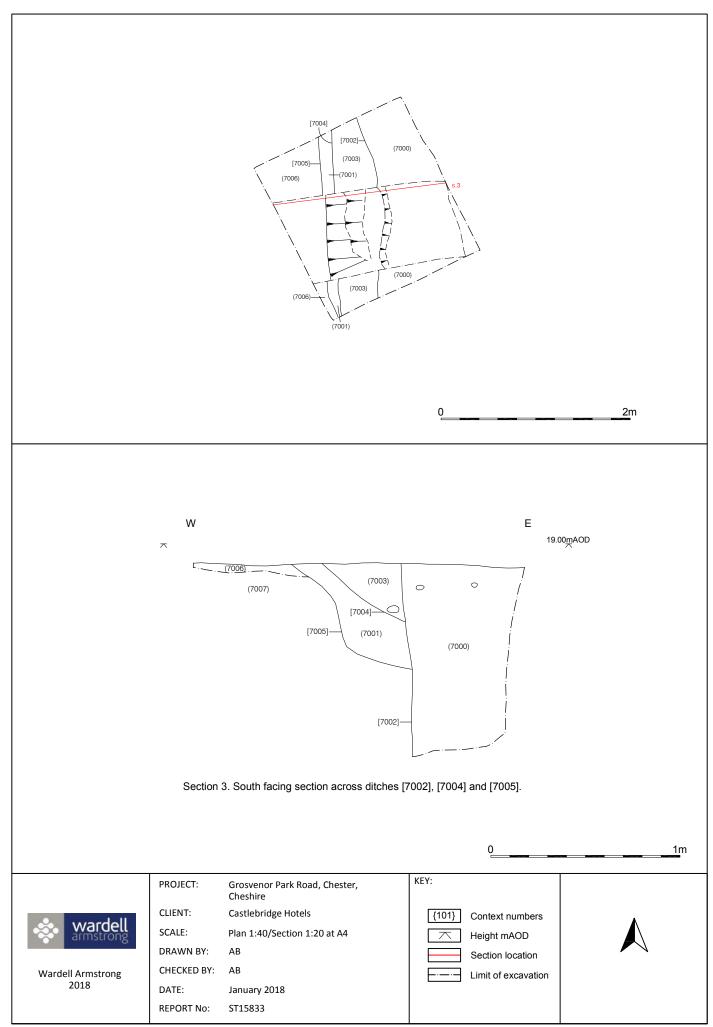


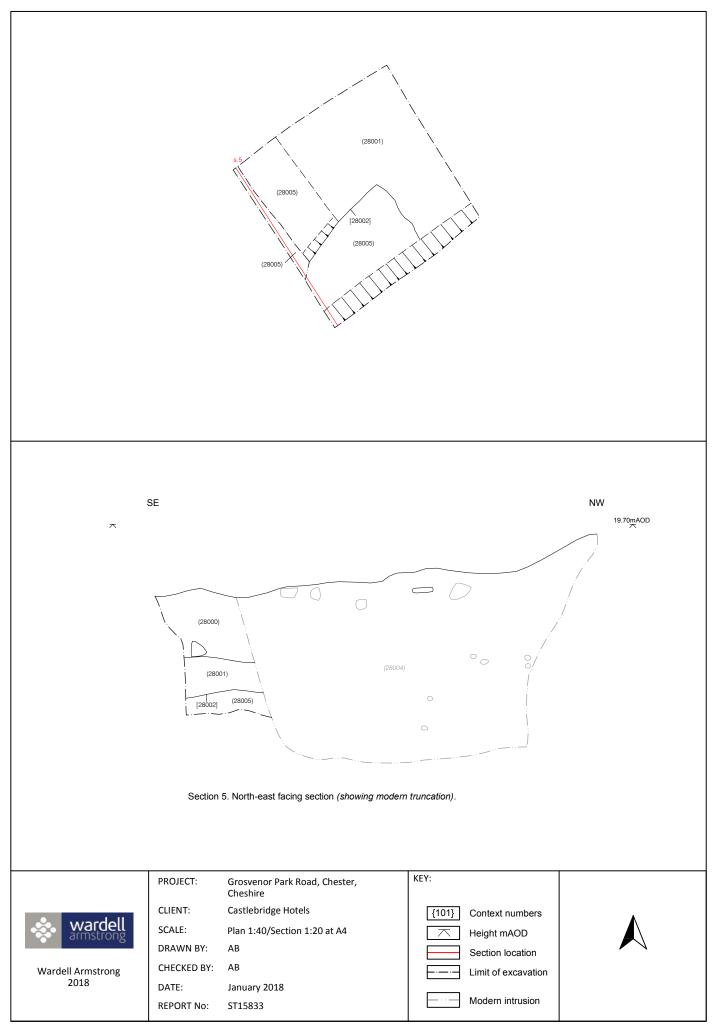


20.59mAOD

Section 2. South-west facing elevation of {105}.

<u>1</u>m Õ KEY: PROJECT: Grosvenor Park Road, Chester, Cheshire CLIENT: Castlebridge Hotels Context numbers {101} wardell SCALE: 1:20 at A4 Height mAOD DRAWN BY: ΗP Limit of excavation CHECKED BY: AB Wardell Armstrong 2018 DATE: January 2018 **REPORT No:** ST15833





wardell-armstrong.com

STOKE-ON-TRENT Sir Henry Doulton House Forge Lane Etruria Stoke-on-Trent ST1 SBD Tel: +44 (0)178 227 6700

BIRMINGHAM Two Devon Way Longbridge Technology Park Longbridge Birmingham B31 2TS Tel: +44 (0)121 580 0909

CARDIFF 22 Windsor Place Cardiff CF10 3BY Tel: +44 (0)292 072 9191

CROYDON Suite 8 Suffolk House College Road Croydon Surrey CR0 1PE Tel: +44 (0)208 680 7600 EDINBURGH Suite 3/1 Great Michael House 14 Links Place Edinburgh EH6 7EZ Tel: +44 (0)131 555 3311

GREATER MANCHESTER 2 The Avenue Leigh Greater Manchester WN7 1ES Tel: +44 (0)194 226 0101

LONDON Third Floor 46 Chancery Lane London WC2A 1JE Tel: +44 (0)207 242 3243

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE City Quadrant 11 Waterloo Square Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4DP Tel: +44 (0)191 232 0943 SHEFFIELD Unit 5 Newton Business Centre Newton Chambers Road Thorncliffe Park Chapeltown Sheffield S35 2PH Tel: +44 (0)114 245 6244

TAUNTON Suite E1 Victoria House Victoria Street Taunton Somerset TA1 3JA Tel: +44 (0)182 370 3100

TRURO Baldhu House Wheal Jane Earth Science Park Baldhu Truro TR3 6EH Tel: +44 (0)187 256 0738

International offices:

ALMATY 29/6 Satpaev Avenue Hyatt Regency Hotel Office Tower, 7th Floor Almaty Kazakhstan 050040 Tel : +7(727) 334 1310

MOSCOW Office 4014 Entrance 2 21/5 Kuznetskiy Most St. Moscow Russia Tel: (495)626-07-67

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology:

CUMBRIA Cocklakes Yard Carlisle Cumbria CA4 0BQ Tel: +44 (0)122 856 4820

