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**Land at Church Street,  
Warrington.  
October 2015  
V 1.0**



Archaeological Watching Brief  
Project Code: A0060.1  
Report no. 0070

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# **Land at Church Street, Warrington. October 2015**

Report no. 0070 v1.0

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Project Code: A0060.1

Date: 23/10/2015

Client: Countryside Properties Ltd

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## 1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Aeon Archaeology in partnership with Nexus Heritage was commissioned by Countryside Properties (UK) Ltd to carry out a programme of archaeological watching brief of a proposed residential development located on land situated off Farrell Street and Church Street, in the eastern part of Warrington, Cheshire.

The archaeological watching brief on land off Church Street, Warrington produced a series of red-brick post-medieval wall foundations relating to the former houses and workshops that fronted on to Church Street and Farrell Street. These foundations were surveyed using a differential GPS and their positions overlaid on to the Warrington map of 1772 and the Ordnance Survey map of 1890. All of the red-brick foundations, including a red-brick drain, cobbled surface, flagstone surface, alleyway, cellar, and outbuilding could all be more or less matched with buildings depicted on one of these two maps.

The cartographic evidence suggests that these buildings developed from being large semi-detached structures with outbuildings and paddocks or gardens at the rear, to the construction of long rows of terraced housing or workshops running north to south through the development area. This phase of development took place between the late 18<sup>th</sup> and late 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

The archaeological watching brief also uncovered six pits which produced sherds of late medieval pottery belonging to the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. The largest of these pits measured greater than 4.6m in length by 4.4m in width and produced 26 sherds of medieval ceramic as well as a well-preserved iron cleaver, that is likely to be of similar date. All of these pits probably represent sand extraction at the site before it became developed or perhaps occurred within the burgage plots of the rental properties belonging to the Legh family in the mid 15th century.

Every attempt was made to address the research topics of the northwest England regional research strategy, and to an extent the archaeological watching brief can be seen as having been successful in contributing to the establishment of closely dated medieval artefact sequences. Indeed, there is a distinct lack of published or excavated medieval artefacts from Warrington and the recovery of these during the watching brief has provided an historical narrative to the development of this part of the town.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology in partnership with Nexus Heritage was commissioned by Countryside Properties (UK) Ltd to carry out a programme of archaeological watching brief of a proposed residential development located on land situated off Farrell Street and Church Street, in the eastern part of Warrington, Cheshire (NGR: SJ 61310 88259) (figure 1). The archaeological watching brief was undertaken as a condition of full planning permission (2014/24613) for the construction of a residential development of 107 dwellings with associated works.

An archaeological planning condition was applied to the consent. The condition (No. 20), recommended by the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (CAPAS), of Cheshire Shared Services, was applied to ensure that an adequate record of any archaeological features revealed by the development can be made in compliance with the relevant policy. The condition states:

*Condition 20.*

*No development shall take place within the area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.*

*Reason*

*In order to provide a reasonable opportunity to record the history of the site and to comply with policy QE8 of the Warrington Core Strategy and NPPF.*

A written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (ref: 3225.RO1) was undertaken by Nexus Heritage in March 2015 which outlined the principle aims of the watching brief and the methods by which they would be met. This formed the basis of a method statement submitted for the work. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with this document and included an area approximately 20.0m in width located at the north of the site and running parallel with Church Street, as shown in figure 2.

An archaeological assessment (ref: 3207/RO1a) was undertaken by Nexus Heritage in January 2015 and provided to Aeon Archaeology. The assessment collated valuable data on remains dating from the early land-use history of the site from the medieval period until the present day.

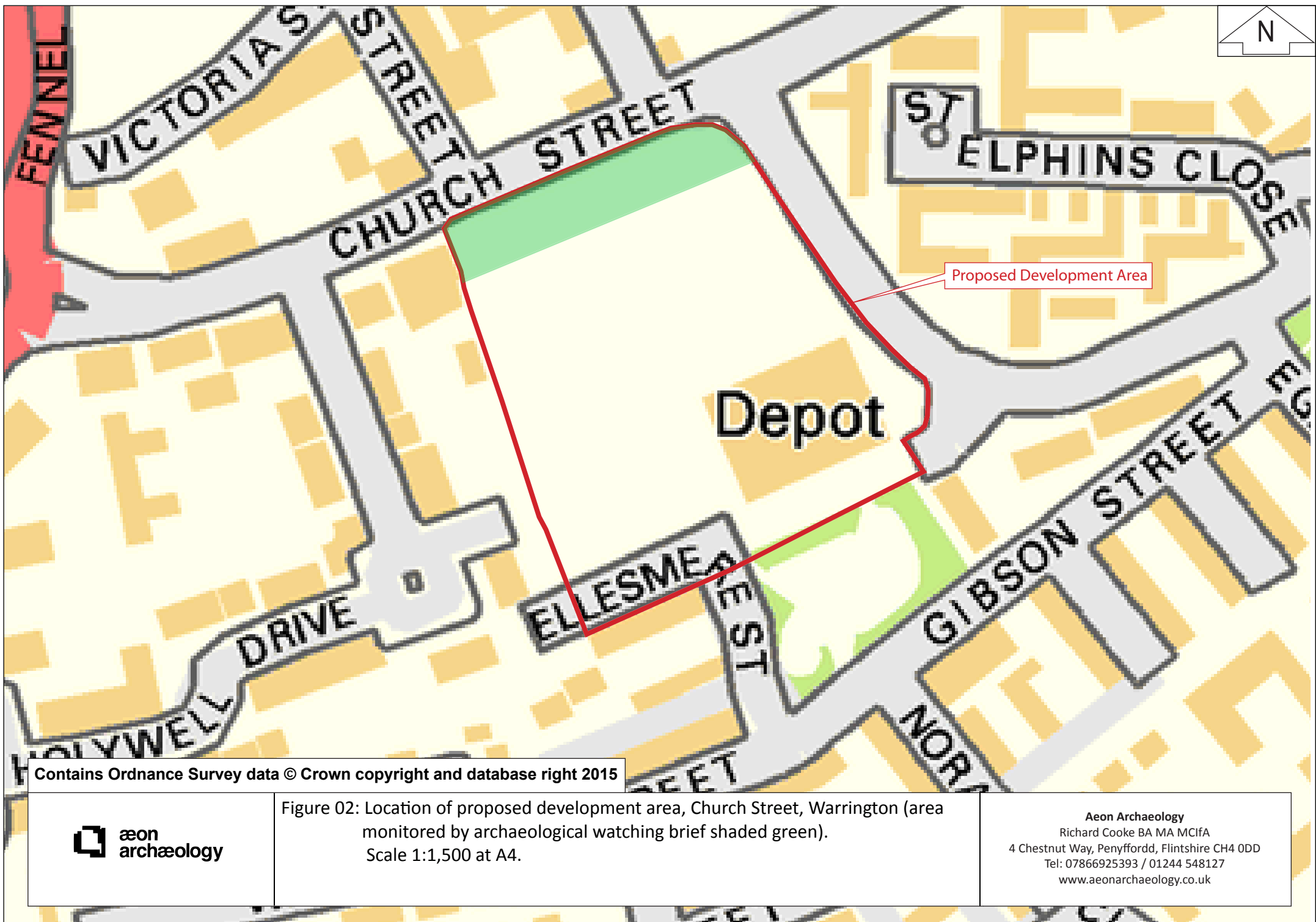
It was agreed with CAPAS that the watching brief would be carried out on an **intensive** basis during the excavation of all groundworks within the northern 20.0m wide corridor of the site.

The work undertaken adhered to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).









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Figure 02: Location of proposed development area, Church Street, Warrington (area monitored by archaeological watching brief shaded green).  
Scale 1:1,500 at A4.

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### 3.0 PROJECT AIMS

The aim of the watching brief works was to characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains uncovered during groundworks associated with the construction of the new residential development at the site.

The broad aims of the archaeological watching brief were to:

- To allow, within the resources available, the opportunity to gain information about and record the presence/absence, nature and date of any archaeological remains on the site affected by excavations and groundworks for the development, the presence and nature of which could not be established with sufficient confidence in advance of works which may disturb them.
- To provide the facility to signal to the relevant authorities, before irreversible impact to remains that an archaeological and/or historic find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to:

- To observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To recover samples of any deposits considered to have potential for analysis for palaeoenvironmental data.
- Where the raw data allows, to construct a model of the depositional processes and stratigraphic sequence for the relevant parts of the site.

The management of this project has followed the procedures laid out in the standard professional guidance *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Archaeological Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014). Five stages are specified:

Phase 1: project planning

Phase 2: fieldwork

Phase 3: assessment of potential for analysis and revised project design

Phase 4: analysis and report preparation

Phase 5: dissemination

The current document reports on the phase 4 analysis and states the means to be used to disseminate the results. The purpose of this phase is to carry out the analysis identified in phase 3 (the assessment of potential phase), to amalgamate the results of the specialist studies, if required, with the detailed site narrative and provide both specific and overall interpretations. The site is to be set in its landscape context so that its full character and importance can be understood. All the information is to be presented in a report that will be held by the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (HER) so that it can be accessible to the public and future researchers. This phase of work also includes archiving the material and documentary records from the project.

## 4.0 METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 4.1 Watching Brief

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) defines an archaeological watching brief as:

*‘A formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.’* (CifA 2014)

The Cheshire Archaeological Planning Service requested that an **intensive** watching brief be maintained along the northern border of the site during the groundworks associated with the construction of the new residential development at the site. This level of watching brief entailed that an appropriately qualified archaeologist was present during all associated ground disturbance.

All soil removal was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. A photographic record was maintained throughout, using a digital SLR camera (Canon 550D) set to maximum resolution and any subsurface remains were to be recorded photographically, with detailed notations and measured drawings being undertaken if required.

In the event of archaeological discovery features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded using Aeon Archaeology pro-formas, digital photographs, and plan and section drawings taken at a suitable scale (usually 1:20 for plan drawings and 1:10 for section drawings).

The archive produced is held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0060.1**.

### 4.2 Data Collection from Site Records

A database of the site photographs was produced to enable active long-term curation of the photographs and easy searching. The site records were checked and cross-referenced and photographs were cross-referenced to contexts. These records were used to write the site narrative and the field drawings and survey data were used to produce an outline plan of the site.

All paper field records were scanned to provide a backup digital copy. The photographs were organised and precisely cross-referenced to the digital photographic record so that the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (HER) can curate them in their active digital storage facility.

### 4.3 Artefact Methodology

All artefacts were to be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. They would be bagged and labelled as well as any preliminary identification taking place on site. After processing, all artefacts would be cleaned and examined in-house at Aeon Archaeology. If required artefacts would be sent to a relevant specialist for conservation and analysis.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds was kept under review throughout the archaeological watching brief. Any changes in recovery priorities would be made under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Client and the Cheshire Archaeological Planning Service. There was a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

#### **4.4 Environmental Samples Methodology**

The sampling strategy and requirement for bulk soil samples was related to the perceived character, interpretational importance and chronological significance of the strata under investigation. This ensured that only significant features would be sampled. The aim of the sampling strategy was to recover carbonised macroscopic plant remains, small artefacts particularly knapping debris and evidence for metalworking.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs would be obtained from Oxford Archaeology if required.

#### **4.5 Report and dissemination**

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project was prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions were labelled, and cross-referenced, and will be lodged within a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report has been sent to the client and upon written approval from them paper and digital copies of the report will be sent to the regional HER, the Cheshire Archaeological Planning Service, and will be logged with the online OASIS database. Copies of all notes, plans, and photographs arising from the watching brief will be stored at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0060.1** with the originals being lodged in a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator.



## 5.0 SITE LOCATION

The Site is located on the eastern side of Warrington, in Howley, (centre point NGR: SJ 61310 88259) Warrington, Cheshire (Fig. 1), *c.* 0.5km to the east of the town centre on the southern side of Church Street, north of Ellesmere Street and west of Farrell Street.

The site is partially occupied by a semi-derelict industrial building (though to have been erected during the mid-1980s), the remainder being open land. Historically, there has been a significant amount of built development on the Site, but the northern and western portions of the Site have been cleared of structures, but hardstanding, slabs, and foundations are present. There is a stockpile of construction aggregate / soil towards the centre of the Site and a long linear grass covered bund, extending east-west. There is a declivity within the Site expressed as a slope to the south, descending approximately 2.0m, from a high point of *c.* 9.69m OD at the north to *c.* 7.81m OD at the south. The compound of an old electricity substation is present in the south-west corner of the Site.

A geotechnical ground investigation (E3P 2014, 3) summarised the ground conditions as a variable layer (circa 1.0 to 2.0m) of granular Made Ground overlying inter bedded sand and gravels.

The British Geological Survey (BGS) 1:50,000 scale map Sheet 97(Runcorn) characterises the solid geology of the Site as upper mottled sandstone of the Triassic Sandstone Sherwood Group. This is overlain by Quaternary deposits of wind-blown sand (Shirdley Hill Sand).

## 6.0 HISTORY OF THE SITE

There are no registered World Heritage Sites, Archaeological Areas, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields wholly or partly within the Site. There are no specific archaeological assets recorded in the Assessment Area within the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). However, the CHER does identify the northern half of the Site as an Area of Archaeological Potential.

There are no confirmed archaeological remains from the medieval period recorded in the Site. However, Warrington was established as a borough c. 1230 and in broad terms the focus of settlement at Warrington appears to have moved westward from the early 14th century in response to a new bridge over the Mersey built in 1305. Attempts have been made to establish the general arrangement, and some fine detail, of the late medieval town (Beaumont 1849 and Fothergill & Fothergill 2011), based on surveys of the rental properties of the Legh family in Warrington dating to the mid 15th century. Church Street (Kyrke Strete) is mentioned several times and a recent analysis of the survey has resulted in the projection of individual plots.

Several properties have been plotted on the south side of Church Street and the ones most likely to coincide with the Site are:

Richard Bruche holds from Sir Peter Legh in chief by knight-service two burgages lying in Le Kyrkestrete in the township of Weryngton .... of which one burgage with a yard lies and is situated between a burgage and a yard of Roger Arosmythe to the west and a burgage and yard of Henry Garnet now held by Richard Ryder on the east. It extends the length from a croft of Richard Bruche on the south as far as the king's highway of Kyrkestrete to the north.

And the other burgage lies and is situated between the burgage and yard of Henry Garnet and a messuage and yard of Randal Rixton on the east. It extends in length from the king's highway north as far as Richard Bruche's land on the south.

Richard Torfote holds from the said Peter, in chief by the same service, two burgages lying together under one roof. With two gardens in the street of Kyrkestrete with an acre of land in Hollay. These burgages lie and are situated, the gardens in breadth and the burgages in length, between the dilapidated burgage of Randal Rixton on the west and a messuage of the heir of Roger Arosmythe gled by Ralph Fawkenor on the east. They extend, the gardens in length and the burgages in breadth, from Kyrkestrete on the north as far as Richard Bruche's land in Hollay held by Roger Jamesson on the south.

This confirms that the Site at least by the mid 15th century was occupied by structures and that landscaping in the form of gardens and crofts had also been undertaken.

The expansion and development of Warrington during the post-medieval period, especially its emergence as an industrial centre is well documented in published sources and the production of leather, pins, copper and glass is well attested.

The CHER records no known archaeological remains within the Site dated to the post-medieval period, but the plots of land and built structures within them which had their origins in the medieval period were further developed within the Site throughout the post-medieval period.

The Site, as shown in the map sequence provided in the assessment (Nexus Heritage 2014), once contained numerous built structures, mostly associated with residential development spanning the late medieval period through to the 19th century and the complex of buildings which once occupied the Site is also likely to have been utilised for small-scale craft enterprises and there was also a short lived

wire works on the Site. The map sequence allows a detailed model of the Site's development through the later post-medieval period to be confidently charted, as detailed in the assessment (Nexus Heritage 2014).

The research topics for the medieval and post-medieval periods in north-west England, as detailed in the regional research strategy (Brennand, 2006) include the origins, growth and development of urban centres and the nature and character of urban life. The opportunity afforded at the Site to address any of the initiatives detailed in the relevant research agendas (Newman and Newman, 2007 and Newman and McNeil 2007) will be taken and initiatives which may be capable of addressing include:

- Contributing to the establishment of closely dated medieval artefact sequences.
- The recovery of post-medieval material culture related to an individual household.

## **7.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

### **7.1 The Documentary Archive**

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological watching brief:

Watching brief day record sheets	6
Digital photographs	80
Context Sheets	34
Drawings	9 on 5 sheets

### **7.2 Environmental Samples**

No environmental samples were taken as part of the archaeological watching brief as no suitable deposits or fills were encountered.

### **7.3 Artefacts**

A reasonably large quantity of medieval and post-medieval ceramics were recovered during the archaeological watching brief, both from secure and unstratified contexts. These were sent to a ceramics specialist for further analysis, the results of which are presented in section 8.0.

In addition an iron cleaver was also found within a medieval context but was not sent to a specialist for analysis.



## 8.0 SPECIALIST ANALYSIS – ARTEFACTS

### Summary

The Church Street finds assemblage comprised the following range of artefacts: 48 sherds of late medieval pottery, a medieval ferrous cleaver, 24 sherds of post-medieval pottery, 9 fragments of clay tobacco pipe, one fragment of ceramic drain pipe, one fragment of post-medieval bottle glass, and an incomplete post-medieval ferrous metal knife with bone handle.

The finds span the approximately a 600 year period between the later medieval period through to the 19th century.

Artefact Category	Medieval Pottery		Post-Medieval Pottery		Clay Tobacco Pipe		Other Ceramic		Glass		Other Finds
Context	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	
(1012)			9	587	8	30	1	73			Knife
(1014)	15	499									Cleaver 80g
(1016)	3	73	4	52							
(1023)			6	568					1	33	
(1025)	3	43									
(1027)	2	9									
(1031)	2	45									
(1033)	4	159									
(1034)	18	866	3	178							
Unstrat.	1	3	2	817	1	18					
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1697</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2202</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>

Table 1: Quantification of all finds by category and context

### Medieval Pottery

Four broad ware groups were identified, these comprised: red/grey-firing wares, pink/white-firing wares, gritty ware, early Midlands Purple-type ware. In Cheshire and the North West and West Midlands in general, Red/grey-firing wares were made from local clays from at least c. 1250 whilst pink/white wares were made from the so called Coal Measure clays and were produced in the 14th and 15th centuries. The pink/white wares – a classification which can often be somewhat misleading as vessels can often have surfaces ranging from buff to orange (with light grey reduced cores); this is the case with many sherds in this particular assemblage – were produced in the Ewloe/Buckley area of Flintshire and in the West Midlands. Midlands Purple-type ware, as the name suggests, was produced in the West Midlands and elsewhere towards the end of the medieval period and continued in a developed form into the 17th century. The gritty quartz-tempered ware may be a product of North Devon, where such wares are known from Dissolution sites in Exeter, but may have been in circulation earlier (Allen 1984, 129–30). However, an alternative source for this ware may be the Malvern Hills, West Midlands, where the ware has a long currency from the 12th through to the 15th century (McCarthy & Brooks 1988, 352).

Ware Groups	Red/Grey		Pink/White		Gritty		Midlands Purple	
Context	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
(1014)	2	86	10	242	2	71	1	100
(1016)			3	73				
(1025)	3	43						
(1027)			2	9				

(1031)	2	45						
(1033)			4	159				
(1034)	10	485	8	381				
Unstrat.	1	3						

Table 2: Quantification of medieval pottery by ware group and context

#### Context (1014)

This context produced base sherds from two jars in red/grey fabrics with splashes/patches of green glaze. A minimum of four vessels in pink/white fabrics comprised at least one jug and one jar; the jug with splashes of purple-brown glaze at the neck/shoulder junction. Two sherds of gritty ware represent a minimum of one jar with a rounded clubbed-rim with internal lid-seating. A single large sherd from the base/wall to a Midlands-Purple type jar completes the pottery from this context. A 15th century date is suggested for this group.

#### Context (1016)

Three sherds of pink/white ware representing at least one jar and one jug were recovered alongside sherds of 19th century pottery.

#### Context (1025)

Three small sherds of red/grey ware representing a minimum of three vessels, including one jug, were recovered from this context. The sherds from this context showed signs of abrasion and may be residual.

#### Context (1027)

Two very abraded but joining sherds of pink/white ware from the floor of a base to an indeterminate vessel form were recovered. The worn appearance of the sherds suggests that these were residual.

#### Context (1031)

Two sherds from a single jar in a red/grey fabric with a sooted exterior surface were recovered from this context. The sooted exterior implies that this vessels was used for cooking over a fire.

#### Context (1033)

This context produced four sherds of pink/white ware representing a minimum of three vessels comprising at least one jar and one jug.

#### Context (1034)

This context produced 18 sherds, many large and fresh with little signs of wear and roundness to the broken edges. Of the nine sherds of red/grey ware the more notable included: a large rim sherd from a jug complete with thumbled handle terminal, the remaining length of handle with stabbed decoration; one jar, and a small jug/drinking jug or bottle in a hard, red fabric and of squat, baluster form. The eight sherds of pink/white ware included one large sherd from the rim/shoulder to a jar with clubbed lid-seated rim and decorated with a thumbled strip of clay applied along the underside of the rim; small splashes of yellow-green glaze were present. The form of this particular vessel, along with the decorative thumbled strip, are characteristics that compare closely to the large jars from the postulated production site at Ewloe, Flintshire, for which a 15th century date has been suggested (Harrison & Davey 1977, 98).

Three sherds of late post-medieval blackware were recovered from this context also but, considering the size and freshness of the earlier sherds, it is probable that these are in some way intrusive.

#### Unstratified

A single small, abraded sherd of red/grey ware was recovered.

## Post-Medieval Pottery

The post-medieval pottery comprised a rather limited range of wares, largely products of the 19th century, comprising: blackware, copper lustreware, pearlware, and brown stoneware. The forms were primarily those for the table along with utilitarian jars and bottles.

Wares	Blackware		Lustreware		Pearlware		Stoneware	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
(1012)	2	175			1	92	6	320
(1016)	3	47					1	5
(1023)	3	53	2	53	1	33		
(1034)	3	178						
Unstrat.	2	817						

Table 3: Quantification of post-medieval pottery by ware group and context

### Context (1012)

This context produced single sherds each from a blackware jar and a blackware bowl; a large sherd from a pearlware plate with a wavy, shell-edge rim; and two bottles, a probable cup, and a lid all in brown stoneware. The components of this assemblage – along with the clay tobacco pipe bowl fragment – suggest a date within the first half of the 19th century.

### Context (1016)

This context produced three sherds of blackware from jars and/or bowls, and a single sherd of brown stoneware from a vessel of indeterminate form. Sherds of residual medieval pottery were recovered also.

### Context (1023)

This context produced sherds from a bowl and two jars in blackware; two sherds from a copper lustreware jug, and a large sherd from the rim and body of a pearlware bowl with beaded and blue-painted rim. As with the pottery from context (1012), a date within the first half of the 19th century is suggested.

### Unstratified

Unstratified pottery comprised a base from a possible candlestick, salt or chalice-like cup in early blackware (or Cistercian ware), and a large rim from a blackware bowl of 19th century date.

The early blackware or, more likely, Cistercian ware base was particularly ornate being multi-faceted and having a rounded knop; the centre of the base and knop both hollow. Cup-salts and chalices with both faceted bases and rounded knops were included in Brears' Cistercian ware type-series, although the bases of both were more drawn upwards in a long stem towards the knop (Brears 1971, 20) unlike the Church Street example which is much more squat with barely any stem separating the foot from the knop. Although the date of the vessel is likely to be within the 16th century, the place of manufacture for this vessel remains at present uncertain. Facetted cup stems (together with facetted knops) are known from Ticknall, Derbyshire, (Spavold & Brown 2005, 94) and Wrenthorpe, West Yorkshire, (Moorhouse & Roberts 1992, 118) but the form does not appear in Barker's Cistercian ware type-series for North Staffordshire (Barker 1986, 57). The excavated but as yet unpublished production material from Rainford, Merseyside, may yet provide a parallel from a source much closer to Warrington than those otherwise cited above.

## Clay Tobacco Pipe

### Context (1012)

Along with the post-medieval pottery, this context produced seven fragments of stem and a single fragment from a bowl with leaf-moulded seam. The spurred and leaf-decorated bowl, although not closely datable, suggests a date c. 1800–50.

#### **Unstratified**

The single unstratified find comprised a pipe with a spurless bowl and almost complete length of stem missing only the mouthpiece. The pipe was made during the later decades of the 19th century.

#### **Other Ceramics**

##### **Context (1012)**

A single fragment of drainpipe (weighing 73g) was recovered from this context.

#### **Post-Medieval Bottle Glass**

##### **Context (1023)**

A single fragment from the base of a dark green bottle was recovered from this context.

#### **Other Finds**

##### **Context (1012)**

A scale-tang ferrous metal knife was recovered from this context. The blade was incomplete but the remains of the bone handle remained attached. In light of the pottery and clay tobacco pipe recovered from this context, a 19th century date is implied for this object.

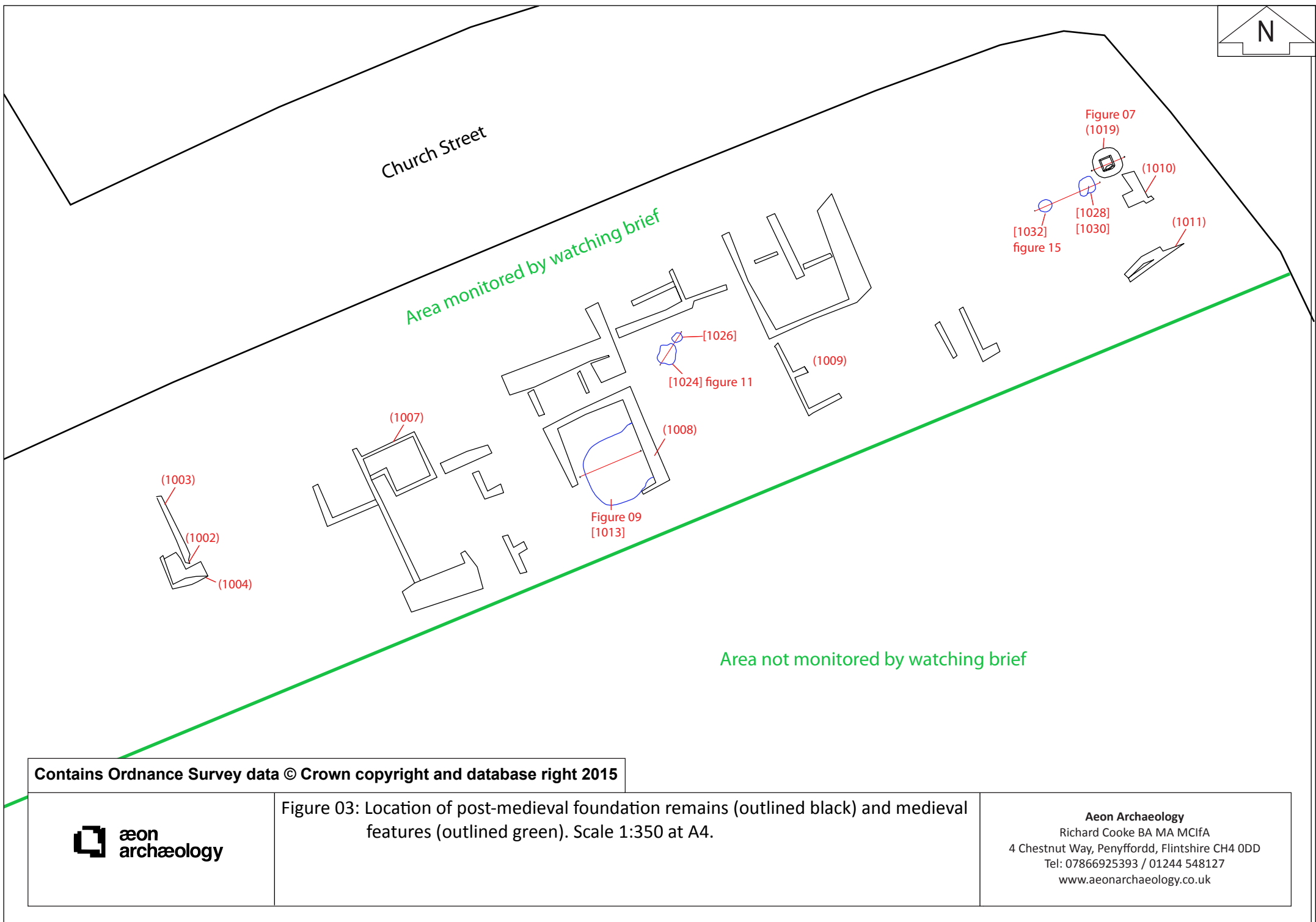
##### **Context (1014)**

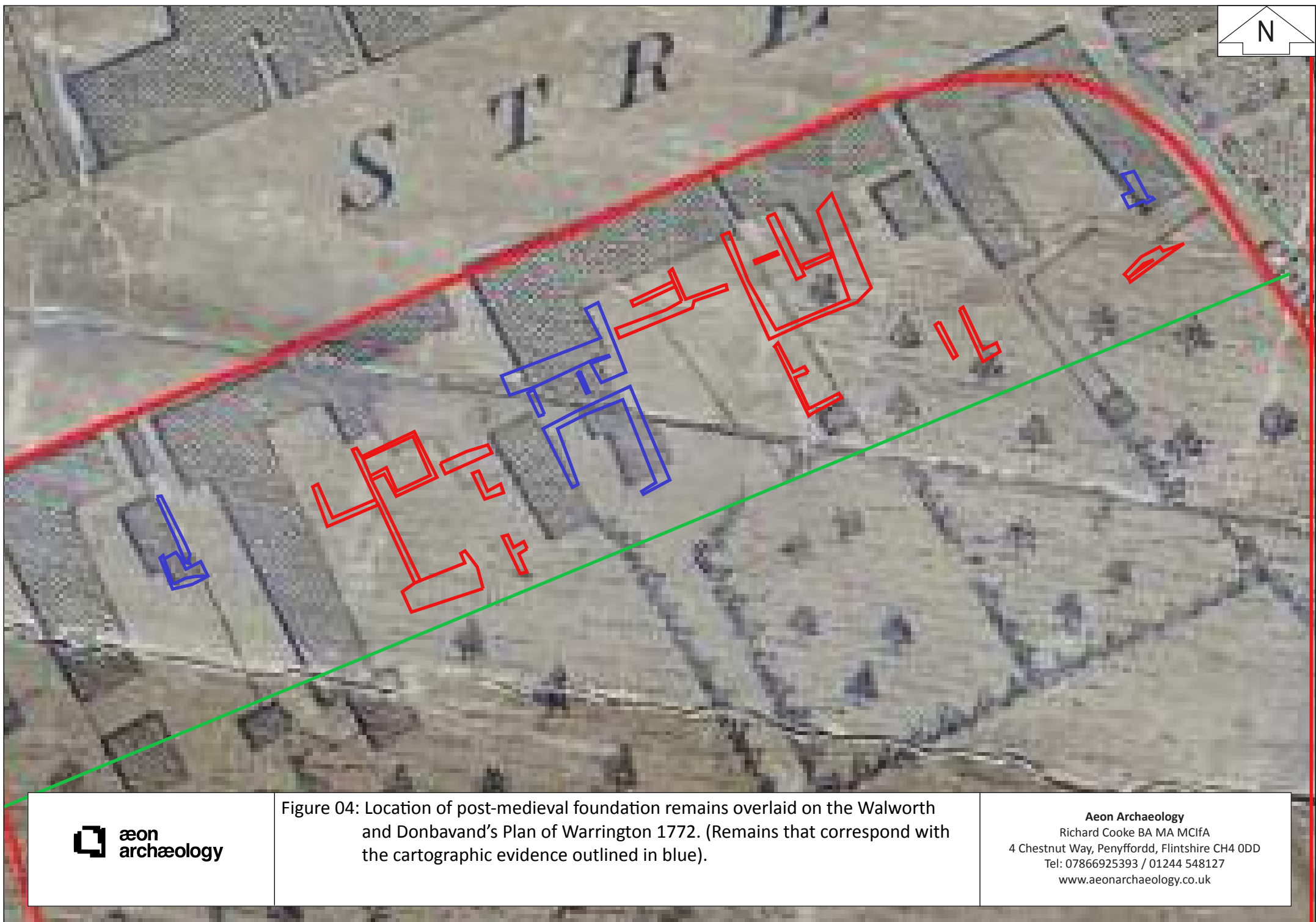
A full tang ferrous cleaver measuring 15.5cm in length by 6.0cm in width by 1.0cm in thickness and weighing 80.0g was recovered from this context. The preservation was particularly good with very little corrosion or scaling, although no sign of the handle was present. The blade and tang appear to have been forged from a single piece of iron and have both a straight back and blade. The cleaver blade is relatively short in length and is likely to have been utilised as a butchering tool rather than a weapon. In light of the pottery recovered from this context, a 15<sup>th</sup> Century date is implied for this object.

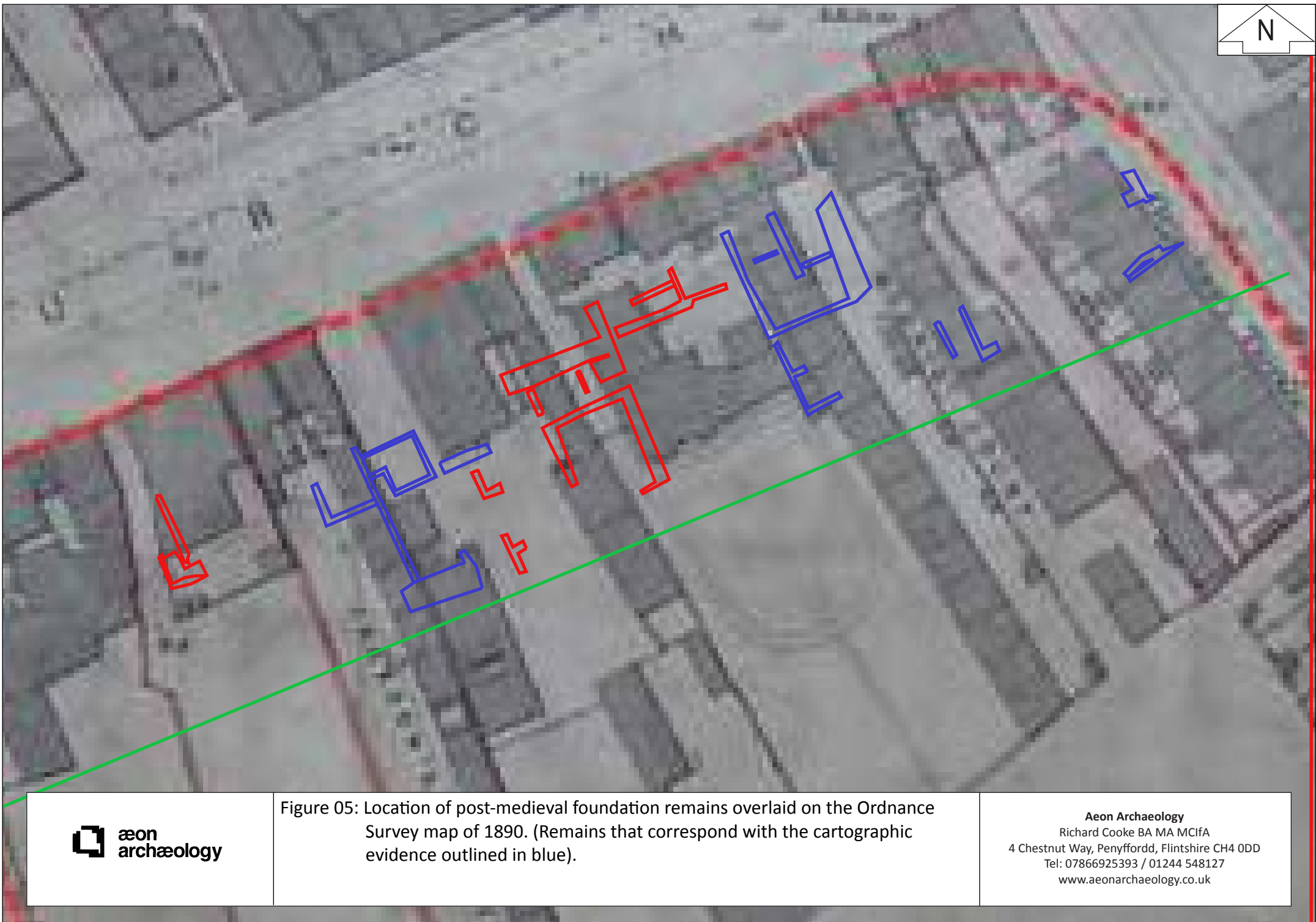




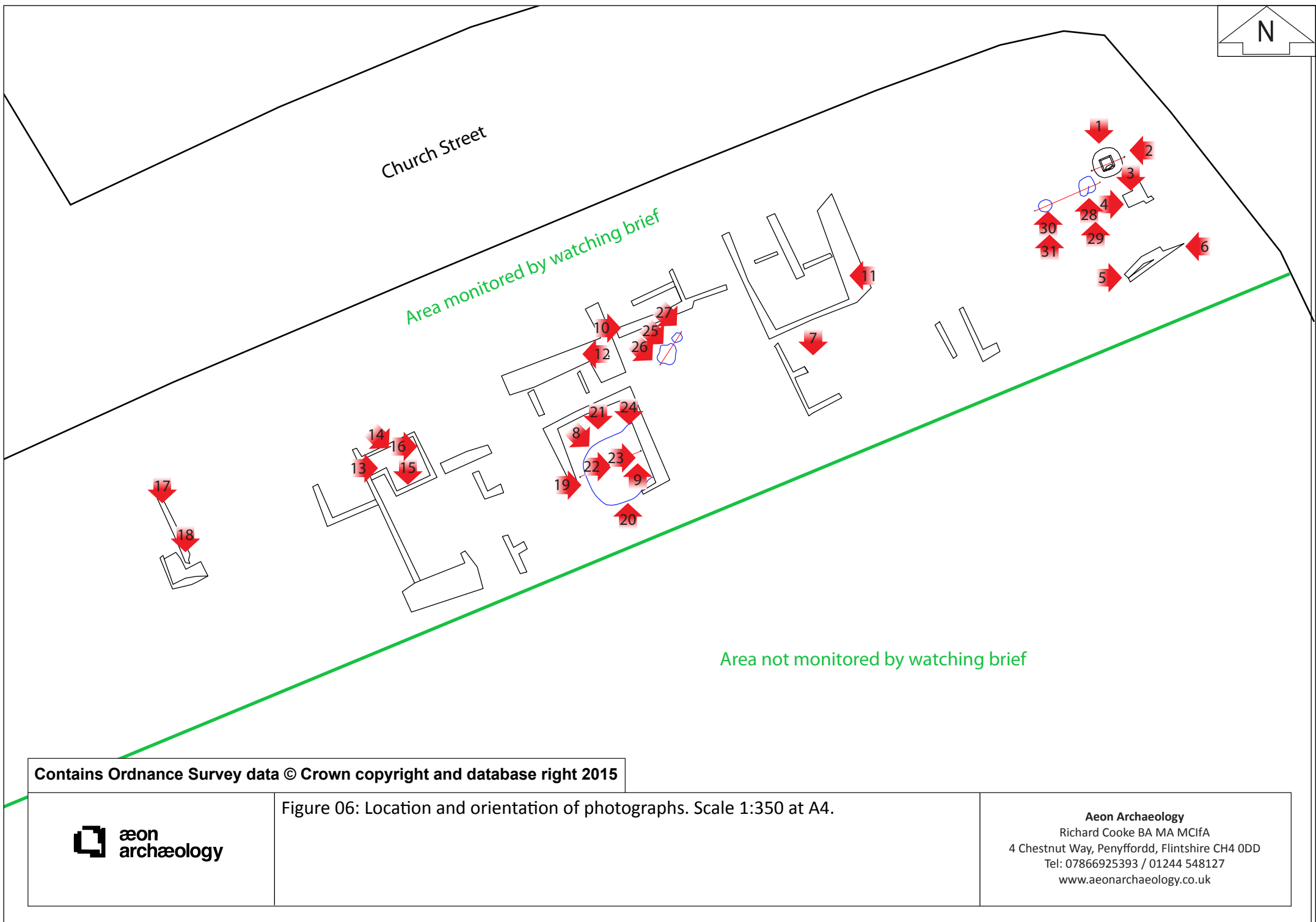
**Plate I:** Medieval cleaver from context (1014). Scale 5.0cm.











## 9.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

The archaeological watching was maintained between 21<sup>st</sup> May and 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and uncovered both post-medieval and medieval remains at the site. Each archaeological feature is described and interpreted separately below.

The location of all archaeological features can be found on figure 3 and are overlain on the Walworth and Donbavand's 1772 map on figure 4 and the Ordnance Survey 25" 1890 map on figure 5. The location and orientation of photographs is shown on figure 6.

Where relevant context numbers have been assigned and are shown enclosed within brackets. Details of all contexts used can be found in appendix I

### **Post-medieval period**

#### **Shaft / well (1019)** (Plates 1 and 2, figures 3, 4, 7 and 8)

##### *Discussion*

A shaft or well measuring 0.8m square internally was uncovered at the north-eastern corner of the site, centred on NGR SJ 61323 88318. The shaft was constructed from large, flat unbonded sandstone blocks averaging 0.8m in length by 0.1m in width by 0.4m in depth and coated with a hard concreted material resembling bitumen.

The shaft was constructed within a circular foundation cut [1020] measuring 2.2m in diameter and cut into the natural light-yellow sand substrata (1017). It was backfilled with a reasonably soft, mottled mid grey-brown and light orange silt-sand with occasional small pebble inclusions (1021).

The internal part of the shaft had been deliberately in-filled with a mixed, loose mid/dark red-brown and orange silt-sand with very frequent post-medieval red-brick and coal fragments (1023). This context produced sherds from a bowl and two jars in blackware; two sherds from a copper lustreware jug, and a large sherd from the rim and body of a pearlware bowl with beaded and blue-painted rim suggesting a date within the first half of the 19th century.

Two large sandstone fragments retrieved from infill (1023) suggested that the shaft had originally had a capstone and a bevelled erosion to the southernmost sandstone block of the shaft structure suggested that it had been accessed from this side.

A mechanical excavator was used to excavate the shaft in order to determine its depth and it was found to peter out after 2.5m with no apparent base or in-situ deposits.

##### *Interpretation*

The sandstone shaft was of substantial construction and the concreted bitumen suggested that it had once held water, perhaps operating as a well. However upon dismantling using the mechanical excavator the shaft was found to be relatively shallow (2.5m) and within a sand natural substrata making it entirely unsuitable to hold water.

It may be that the concreted bitumen like deposits were the result of whatever the shaft had held, perhaps coal, a theory supported by the high amount of coal inclusions within the infill (1023). This fill produced ceramic sherds dating to the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century suggesting that it had gone out of use by this point in time. This date fits well with the cartographic evidence that suggests that a long rectangular building orientated north-south laid over the feature on the map of 1772, and it appears probable that this shaft lay within the building itself perhaps forming part of a craft industry at the site.

Spot Heights (reduced level OD)

1 = 8.40m	6 = 8.41m
2 = 8.36m	7 = 7.84m
3 = 8.05m	8 = 8.44m
4 = 7.74m	9 = 8.40m
5 = 7.81m	

Figure 08  
361323.2 /  
388318.9

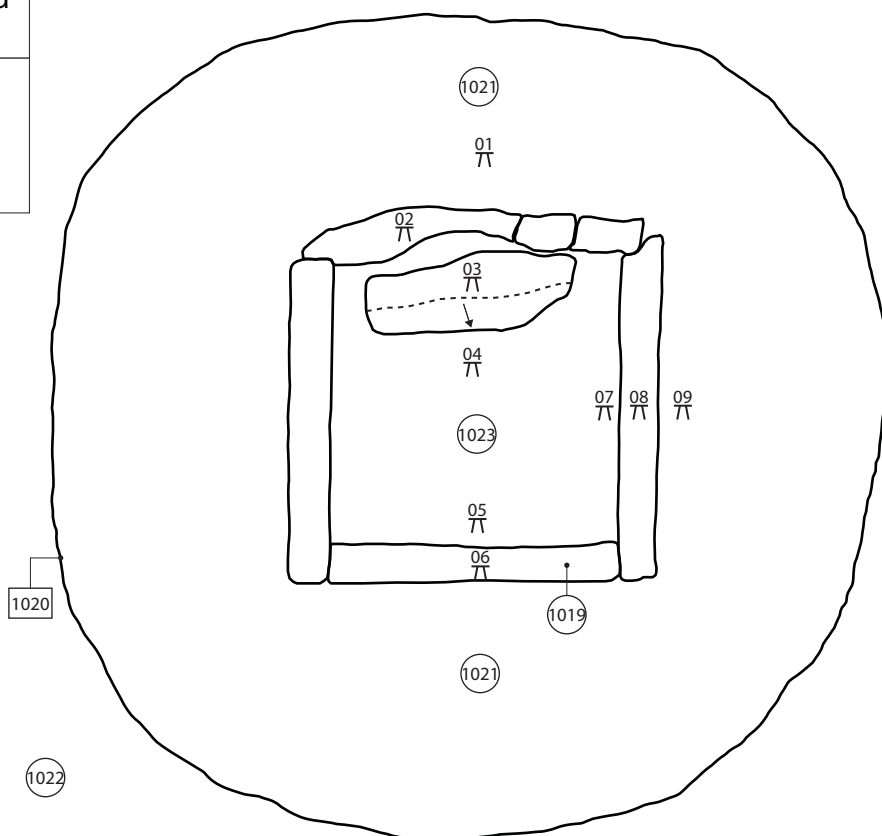


Figure 08  
361320.8 /  
388317.9

1:20 at A4



Scale 0.5m.

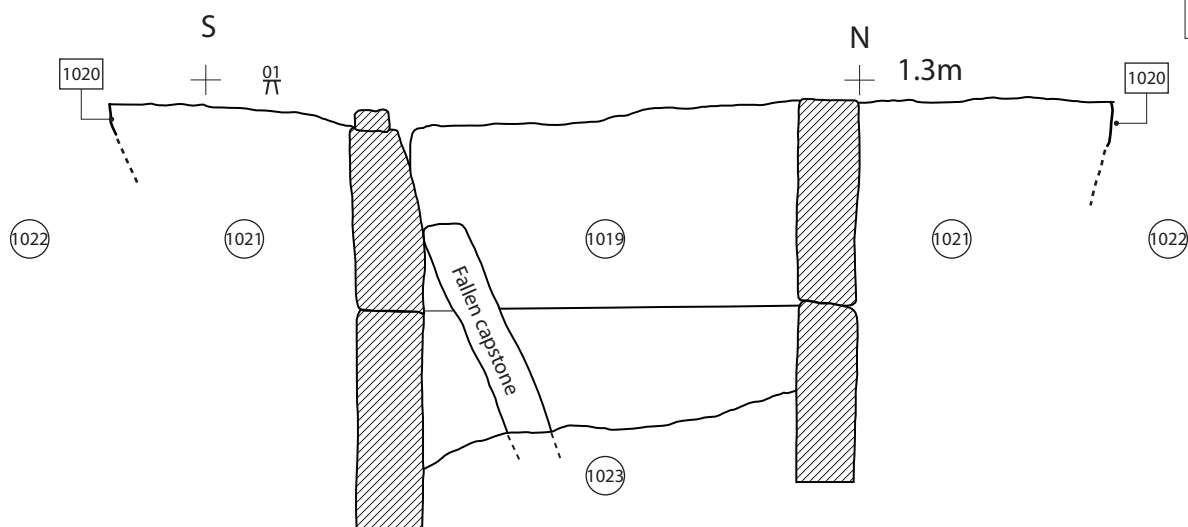


Figure 07 and Plate 01: Post-medieval shaft / well (1019), from the north.

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Spot Heights  
(reduced  
level OD)

1 = 56.34m



1:15 at A4

0 Located on figure 09. 2m



Scale 0.5m.

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Figure 08 and Plate 02: Post-medieval shaft / well (1019), from the east.

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### **Red-brick drain (1010)** (Plates 3 and 4, figures 3 and 5)

#### *Discussion*

A red-brick drain measuring 2.6m in length by 0.8m ran north-south before turning and widening to 1.3m in width by 1.85m in length. The feature measured 0.14m in depth and was located in the north-eastern corner of the site centred on NGR SJ 61324 88316.

The drain was constructed from unfrogged red-bricks bonded by mortar, with kerbing around the edge of the drain standing to 0.14m (two courses) in height and the base being of laid red-bricks. The bricks measured 0.24m in length by 0.11m in width by 0.07m in depth.

#### *Interpretation*

The feature was almost certainly a red-brick drain of mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> Century in date. The location of the drain appears undeveloped on the map of 1772 but appears to lie within an area of terraced housing running north-south on the Ordnance Survey map of 1890 and most likely formed a drain at the front of the property fronting on to Farrell Street.

### **Red-brick house foundations (1011)** (Plates 5 and 6, figures 3 and 5)

#### *Discussion*

A wall of unfrogged red-brick bonded by mortar and standing two courses high and wide was found running from east to west at the north-eastern part of the site, centred on NGR SJ 61324 88311. The wall measured 4.4m in length by 0.26m in width and had been constructed from bricks measuring 0.24m in length by 0.11m in width by 0.07m in depth.

The wall was butted on its northern face by a laid surface of medium sized sub-rounded cobbles measuring 4.0m in length by 1.0m in width and running parallel with the red-brick wall. On the southern side the wall was butted by a surface of laid mid-grey bricks of the same dimensions.

#### *Interpretation*

The feature was almost certainly the red-brick wall foundations of a house with a probable yard or alleyway running along its northern edge. The grey bricks found on the southern side of the wall are likely to have been fire resistant bricks and formed part of the former hearth within the property.

The location of the foundation remains appears undeveloped on the map of 1772 but lies within an area of terraced housing running north-south on the Ordnance Survey map of 1890.



**Plate 03:** Post-medieval red-brick drain (1010), from the north. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 04:** Post-medieval red-brick drain (1010), from the west. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 05:** Post-medieval house (1011), from the west. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 06:** Post-medieval house (1011), from the east. Scale 0.5m.

### **Flagstone surface (1009)** (Plate 7, figures 3 and 5)

#### *Discussion*

An area of light-grey York flagstones was located towards the northeast of the site centred on NGR SJ 61299 88307. The flags averaged 0.49m in length by 0.28m in width by 0.03m in depth and formed two distinct surfaces separated by a red-brick wall orientated east to west. The combined surface measured 4.9m in length by 2.8m in width orientated north-south and butted up against the northern and southern faces of the red-brick wall.

The wall stood one course high and wide, and had been constructed from unfrogged brick bonded by mortar with bricks measuring 0.24m in length by 0.11m in width by 0.07m in depth.

#### *Interpretation*

This feature was almost certainly an internal stone flagged surface of a house or possibly a workshop. The location of the foundation remains appears undeveloped on the map of 1772 but lies within an area of terraced buildings running north-south on the Ordnance Survey map of 1890. These buildings appear relatively small in size and front westward on to an enclosed paddock suggesting that they are possibly workshops rather than areas of housing. The red-brick wall appears to be an internal division between two properties.

### **Sandstone and red-brick wall (1008)** (Plates 8 and 9, figures 3, 4 and 10)

#### *Discussion*

A sandstone block and red-brick wall forming a square in plan was located towards the centre of the site at NGR SJ 61286 88297. The wall was primarily constructed from unbonded dressed red sandstone blocks averaging 0.48m in length by 0.35m in width by 0.15m in depth enclosing an area measuring 5.5m internally. The sandstone wall lay directly above an unfrogged red-brick foundation standing two courses in height and utilising bricks of dimensions 0.24m in length by 0.11m in width by 0.07m in depth, of which formed a wall measuring 0.9m in width by 0.4m in height.

The red-brick wall foundations had been built directly on to relict topsoil deposit of moderate/soft dark black-brown sandy silt-clay (1018).

#### *Interpretation*

The red-brick and sandstone wall appeared to be part of a former post-medieval building that roughly matches up with a square structure, possibly an outbuilding shown on the map of 1772. This area is also shown as being occupied by a row of terraced buildings on the 1890 map, but the structural remains more closely match those of the earlier map suggesting that the foundation remains are those of a late 18<sup>th</sup> Century structure. This building lies to the rear of a property fronting northward on to Castle Street and it is therefore likely that it functioned as a store, workshop or barn.



**Plate 07:** Post-medieval flagstones (1009), from the north. Scale 1.0m.





**Plate 08:** Post-medieval sandstone wall (1008), from the northwest. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 09:** Post-medieval sandstone wall (1008), from the south. Scale 0.5m.

### **Red-brick wall foundations** (Plates 10, 11 and 12, figures 3, 4 and 5)

#### *Discussion*

A whole range of red-brick wall foundations were located across the entirety of the area monitored by archaeological watching brief. All of the foundations uncovered utilised unfrogged red-brick bonded by mortar and occasionally incorporated sandstone blocks into their construction, possibly as repair work. The bricks measured 0.24m in length by 0.11m in width by 0.07m in depth and formed walls sometimes only one course wide, probably representing garden and internal walls, and two courses wide representing the outer walls of buildings.

An area to the centre of the site measured 1.0m in width and appeared to be a surface of crushed red-brick, suggesting an alleyway running east to west between the buildings. All of the revealed red-brick foundations were surveyed using a differential GPS, the results of which were used to produce the plan in figure 3.

#### *Interpretation*

The red-brick wall foundation remains were overlaid on both the 1772 map of Warrington and the Ordnance Survey map of 1890 to see if parallels could be drawn between the archaeological evidence and the cartographic sources. It was found that all of the foundations could be matched up with one of these maps representing a change in the development of properties along Church Street between these dates. An apparent shift appears to have occurred between the late 18<sup>th</sup> and late 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries with an influx of development southward away from Church Street into areas previously undeveloped and which formed the rear gardens and paddocks of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century housing stock fronting the road.





**Plate 10:** Post-medieval red-brick wall foundations, from the west. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 11:** Post-medieval red-brick wall foundations, from the east. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 12:** Post-medieval red-brick wall foundations and alleyway, from the east. Scale 0.5m.

### **Cellar foundations (1007)** (Plates 13-16, figures 3 and 5)

#### *Discussion*

A red-brick cellar measuring 4.1m in length by 3.2m in width orientated east to west was located towards the west of the site, centred on NGR SJ 61269 38299. The walls stood to 0.85m in height (10 courses) and were constructed from unfrogged red-brick bonded by mortar, with bricks measuring 0.24m in length by 0.11m in width by 0.07m in depth. A single entranceway measuring 0.8m in width was located in the eastern corner and the floor was of laid flagstones of light-grey York stone measuring on average 0.63m square and butting up against the red-brick walls.

#### *Interpretation*

The red-brick cellar had shown a level of preservation not seen elsewhere at the site due to its very nature of having been a sub-level. There were no other remains found at the site that were from a cellar and as such this feature appeared to be somewhat unique to the post-medieval houses situated along Church Street.

The cellar remains do not precisely match up with any buildings depicted on the 1775 or 1890 maps, however it is probable that there is a reasonable margin of error between the historic maps and the GPS survey and it is likely that the cellar belongs to a building shown slightly further to the south on the 1890 map. This building appears to form a central part of a range of terraced buildings running north to south, possibly houses or workshops.

### **Sandstone surface (1004)** (Plates 17 and 18, figures 3 and 4)

#### *Discussion*

A surface of sandstone rubble (1004) laid upon a bedding material of dark-grey silt-sand was located towards the northwest of the site, centred on NGR SJ 61253 38290. The compressed rubble was of dry-bonded, small and medium sized sub-angular cobbles of red sandstone averaging 0.15m in length by 0.08m in width by 0.04m in depth forming a surface layer measuring 1.9m in length by 1.6m in width orientated east to west. The surface was cut through along its centre by a modern sewer utility.

The surface layer butted up against three sandstone blocks (1003) averaging 0.5m in length by 0.28m in width by 0.15m in depth and forming a wall running north-south. These blocks butted up against a foundation course of unfrogged red-bricks bonded by mortar (1002) and measuring 0.24m in length by 0.11m in width by 0.07m in depth which continued the north-south wall. This formed an L-shaped structure measuring 2.8m in length north-south by 1.7m east-west. Both the sandstone and red-brick wall foundations ran directly beneath sandstone surface (1004) thus predating it.

#### *Interpretation*

The sandstone surface was quite uneven and undulating in form and can be matched with an outbuilding depicted on the map of 1772, lying to the rear of an L-shaped property fronting on to Church Street. The stratigraphical relationship of the red-brick wall foundations beneath the surface shows that it was post-medieval in date and it appears likely that these remains were of an animal shelter rather than a house or workshop.





**Plate 13:** Post-medieval red-brick wall foundations and cellar (1007), from the west. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 14:** Post-medieval red-brick wall foundations and cellar (1007), from the northwest. Scale 1.0m.





**Plate 15:** Post-medieval red-brick wall foundations and cellar (1007), from the north. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 16:** Post-medieval red-brick wall foundations and cellar (1007) showing doorway, from the west. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 17:** Post-medieval red-brick (1002) and sandstone (1003) wall foundations, and sandstone surface (1004) from the north. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 18:** Post-medieval red-brick (1002) and sandstone (1003) wall foundations, and sandstone surface (1004) from the north. Scale 0.5m.



## **Medieval Period**

### **Large medieval pit [1013]** (Plates 19-24, figures 3, 9 and 10)

#### *Discussion*

Towards the centre of the area monitored by archaeological watching brief and enclosed by post-medieval wall remains (1008) was located a large medieval pit, centred on NGR SJ 61286 88297. The pit was ovoid in plan measuring >4.6m in length by 4.4m in width by 0.78m in depth (maximum) orientated east to west, and was cut into a soft, light-yellow natural sand substrata (1017).

A 1.0m wide exploratory sondage was excavated across the eastern limit of the pit showing that it had concaved and smooth sides and a concaved base. The pit appeared to have two deliberate in-filling episodes with an organic lens in between. The primary fill (1014) was of a 0.4m deep soft, mottled light orange-yellow and dark red-brown silt-sand with occasional charcoal flecks that produced base sherds from two jars in red/grey fabrics with splashes/patches of green glaze. A minimum of four vessels in pink/white fabrics comprised at least one jug and one jar; the jug with splashes of purple-brown glaze at the neck/shoulder junction. Two sherds of gritty ware represented a minimum of one jar with a rounded clubbed-rim with internal lid-seating. In addition a single large sherd from the base/wall of a Midlands-Purple type jar was found, all dating to the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. The primary fill also produced a full-tang ferrous cleaver, with an associated date of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century.

Above this fill a secondary lens fill had formed of soft, dark brown-black silt with small woody organic fleck inclusions (1015). This had then been overlaid by a tertiary fill of soft, mid/light orange-brown and mottled dark-brown silt-sand with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions (1016) which filled the remainder of the pit cut. This fill produced three sherds of 15<sup>th</sup> Century medieval pink/white ware representing at least one jar and one jug alongside three sherds of post-medieval blackware from jars and/or bowls, and a single sherd of brown stoneware from a vessel of indeterminate form. This fill was sealed by relict topsoil deposit (1018).

Once recording of the pit was complete a mechanical excavator was used to empty the remaining part of the pit to recover as many associated artefacts as possible. These were given a separate context number of (1034) to account for not knowing which fill the artefacts originated from. This context produced 18 sherds, many large and fresh with little signs of wear and roundness to the broken edges. Of the nine sherds of red/grey ware the more notable included: a large rim sherd from a jug complete with thumbled handle terminal, the remaining length of handle with stabbed decoration; one jar, and a small jug/drinking jug or bottle in a hard, red fabric and of squat, baluster form. The eight sherds of pink/white ware included one large sherd from the rim/shoulder to a jar with clubbed lid-seated rim and decorated with a thumbled strip of clay applied along the underside of the rim; small splashes of yellow-green glaze were present. The form of this particular vessel, along with the decorative thumbled strip, are characteristics that compare closely to the large jars from the postulated production site at Ewloe, Flintshire, for which a 15th century date has been suggested (Harrison & Davey 1977, 98).

Three sherds of late post-medieval blackware were recovered from this context also but, considering the size and freshness of the earlier sherds, it is probable that these are in some way intrusive.

#### *Interpretation*

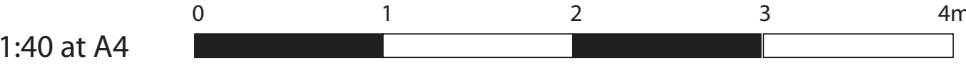
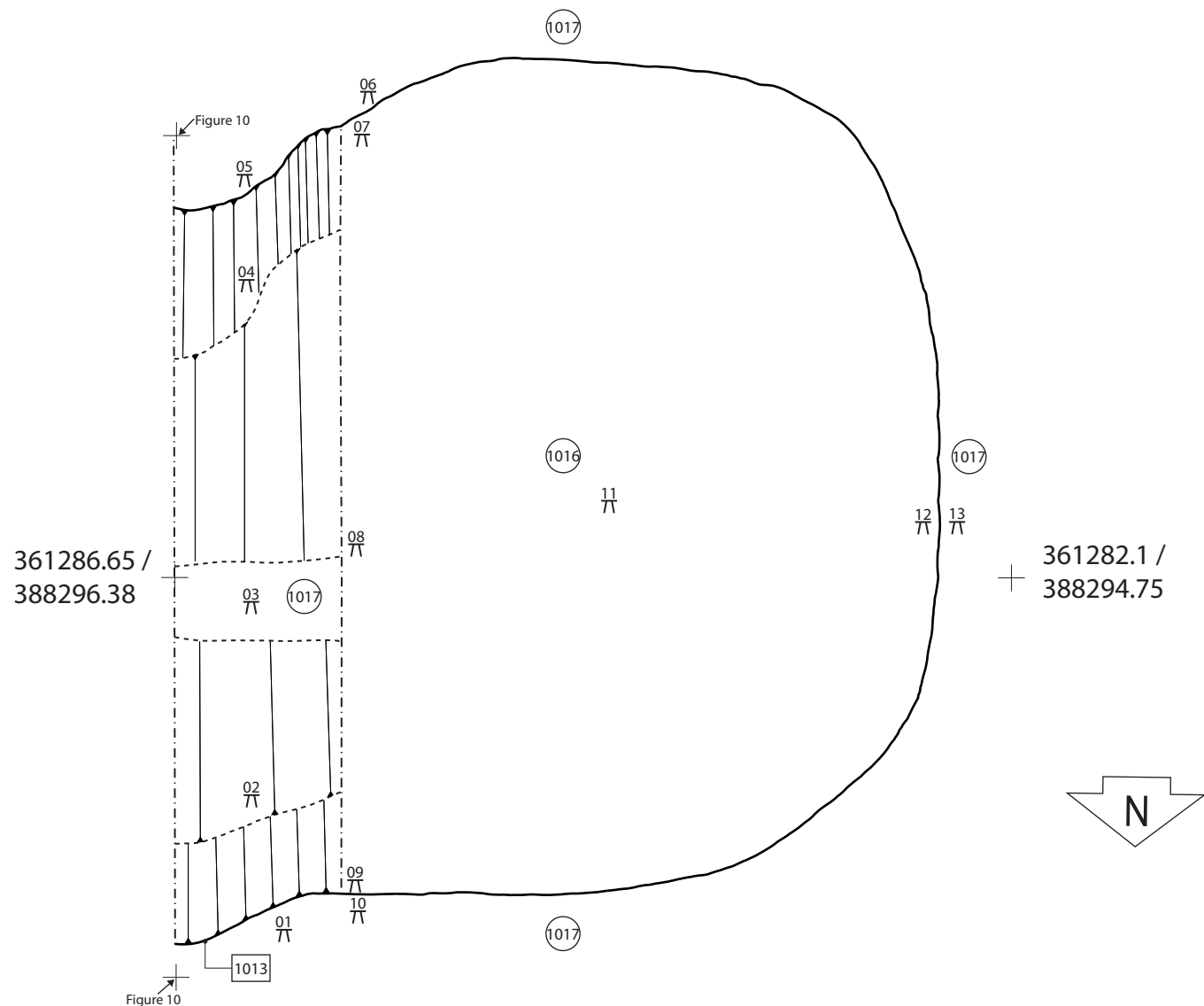
The large pit is not represented on any historical maps and appears to have been deliberately and partially in-filled once it had gone out of use, rather than having remained open and silted over time. This primary fill produced ceramic sherds dating to the 15<sup>th</sup> Century along with an iron cleaver, all of which are likely to have been discarded either within the pit while it was open or within the backfill material. The pit then appears to have remained partially in-filled for enough time for a thin organic-

rich silty lens to have formed, most likely through the degrading of plant material within the pit. After this had formed the pit was then deliberately in-filled with its third and final fill which produced ceramics also of 15<sup>th</sup> Century date as well as post-medieval ceramic sherds which are likely to be residual through phases of demolition at the site.

The pit is by association with the artefacts it produced of medieval date and is likely to be a sand extraction pit rather than a pond or general rubbish pit.

Spot Heights (reduced level OD)

1 = 8.81m	8 = 8.83m
2 = 8.35m	9 = 8.70m
3 = 8.19m	10 = 8.67m
4 = 8.28m	11 = 8.70m
5 = 8.64m	12 = 8.74m
6 = 8.75m	13 = 8.73m
7 = 8.77m	



Spot Heights (reduced  
level OD)

1 = 9.11m

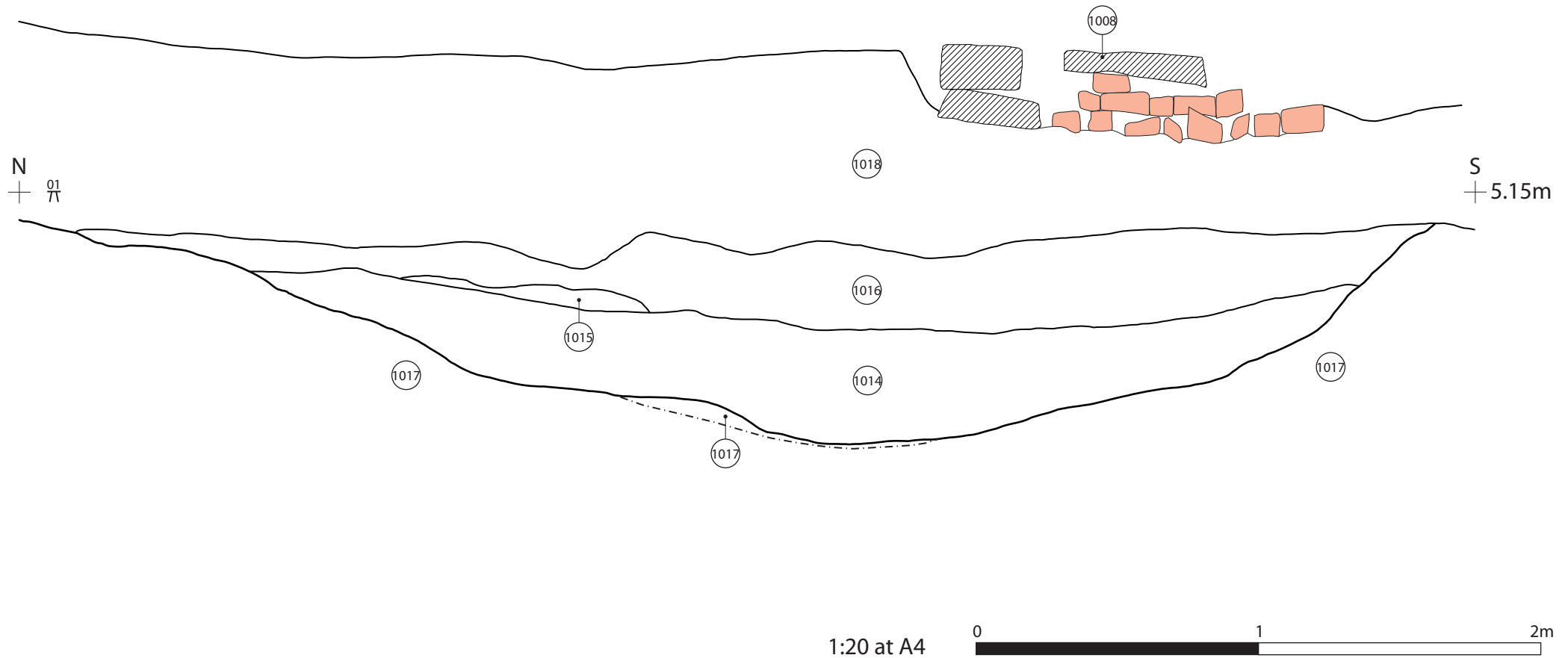


Figure 10: West facing section of medieval pit [1013]. Scale 1:20 at A4  
(located on figure 09).

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**Plate 19:** Medieval pit [1013], from the west. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 20:** Medieval pit [1013], from the south. Scale 1.0m.





**Plate 21:** Medieval pit [1013], from the north. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 22:** West facing section of medieval pit [1013], from the west. Scale 1.0m.





**Plate 23:** West facing section of medieval pit [1013], from the west. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 24:** Medieval pit [1013], from the north. Scale 0.5m.

### **Medieval pits [1024] and [1026]** (Plates 25-27, figures 3, 11 and 12)

#### *Discussion*

Towards the centre of the area monitored by archaeological watching brief and to the east of large medieval pit [1013], two further medieval pits were located at NGR SJ 61289 88305. Pit [1024] was ovoid in plan with concaved sides and a slightly concaved base, measuring 1.7m in length by 1.3m in width by 0.33m in depth orientated northeast to southwest. The pit had a single fill of soft, mid red-brown silt-sand (1025) with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions that produced three small sherds of red/grey ware representing a minimum of three vessels, including one jug, all of 15<sup>th</sup> Century date.

Lying approximately 0.1m to the northeast a smaller pit was located. This was also ovoid in plan with concaved sides and base, measuring 0.9m in length by 0.61m in width by 0.24m in depth orientated northeast to southwest. This pit also had a single fill of soft, mid red-brown silt-sand (1027) that produced two very abraded but joining sherds of pink/white ware from the floor of a base to an indeterminate vessel also dating to the 15<sup>th</sup> Century.

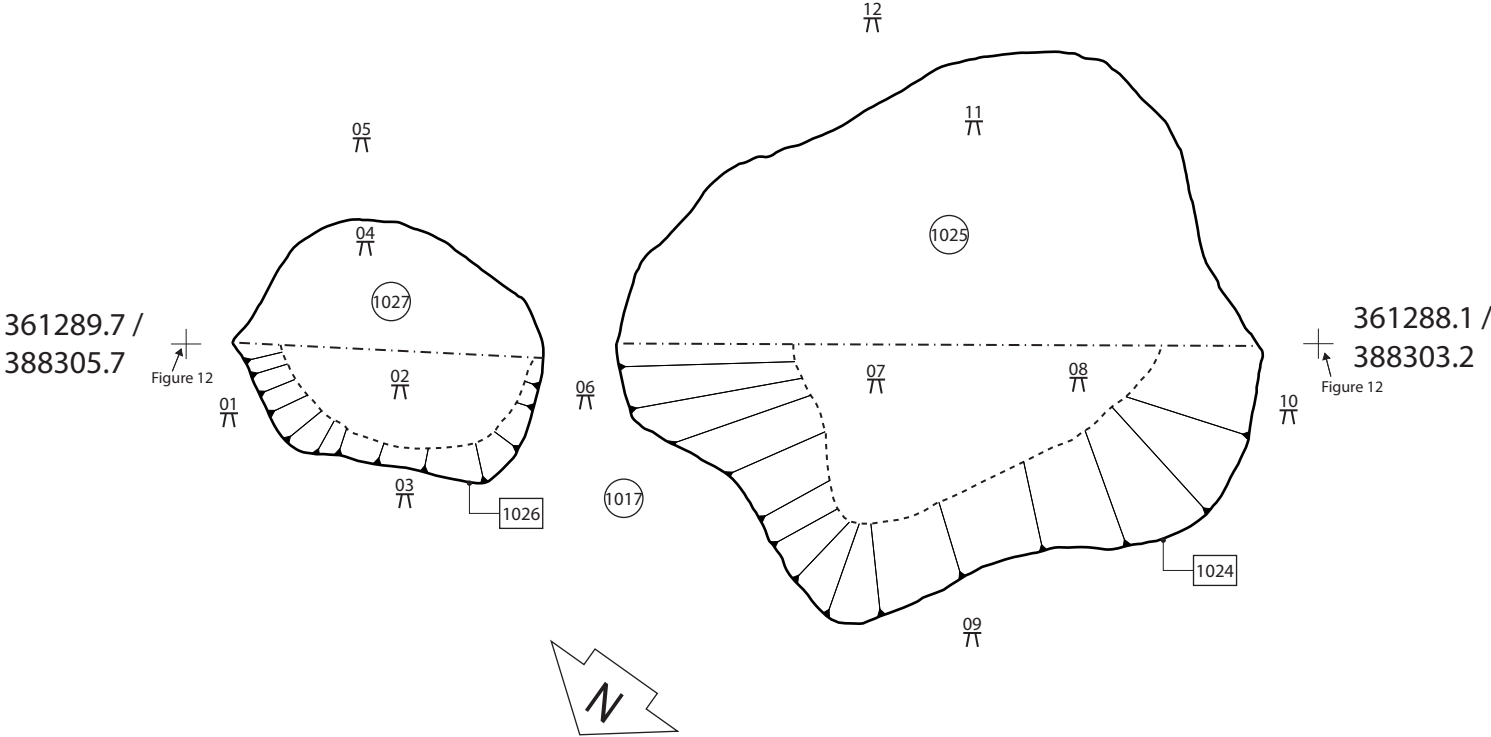
Both pits had been cut into a soft, light-yellow natural sand substrata (1017).

#### *Interpretation*

Both of these pits appeared to be quite ephemeral in form with a single fill each with no evidence of silting, suggesting that they had been in-filled almost immediately. The recovered ceramic sherds from both pits were particularly worn suggesting that they may in fact be residual in nature, although only one medieval ceramic sherd was recovered unstratified from the site suggesting that it is likely these pits have an origin in the late medieval period. The function is however unknown and they may have been excavated as very localised sand extraction pits.

Spot Heights (reduced level OD)

1 = 9.06m	7 = 8.68m
2 = 8.82m	8 = 8.75m
3 = 9.01m	9 = 8.97m
4 = 9.04m	10 = 8.96m
5 = 9.02m	11 = 9.01m
6 = 9.02m	12 = 9.00m



1:20 at A4 0 1 2m

Figure 11: Plan of medieval pits [1024] and [1026]. Scale 1:20 at A4.



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**Plate 26:** Northwest facing section of medieval pit [1024], from the northwest. Scale 0.5m.



**Plate 27:** Northwest facing section of medieval pit [1026], from the northwest. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 28:** Medieval pits [1028] and [1030], from the south. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 29:** South facing sections of medieval pits [1028] and [1030], from the south. Scale 0.5m.



### **Medieval pits [1028] and [1030]** (Plates 28-29, figures 3, 13 and 15)

#### *Discussion*

Towards the northeast of the area monitored by archaeological watching brief two further medieval pits were located at NGR SJ 61321 88317. Pit [1028] was circular/ovoid in plan with concaved sides and a concaved base, measuring >1.3m in length by 0.44m in width by 0.23m in depth orientated north to south. The pit had a single fill of soft, mid grey-brown clay-silt (1029) with infrequent charcoal fleck inclusions.

Pit [1028] was cut on its western side by a second pit [1030] which was ovoid in plan with concaved sides and a slightly concaved base. The pit measured 1.2m in length by 0.68m in width by 0.14m in depth orientated north to south. It had a single fill of soft, mid grey-brown clay-silt (1031) with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions that produced two sherds from a single jar in a red/grey fabric with a sooted exterior surface of 15<sup>th</sup> Century date. The sooted exterior implies that this vessels was used for cooking over a fire.

Both pits had been cut into a soft, light-yellow natural sand substrata (1017).

#### *Interpretation*

Both of these pits appeared to be quite ephemeral in form with a single fill each with no evidence of silting, suggesting that they had been in-filled almost immediately. The earlier pit did not produce any artefacts but was cut by the second pit that produced 15<sup>th</sup> Century ceramic sherds, suggesting that they were both late medieval in date. The function of these pits is unknown and they may represent very localised sand extraction pits.

### **Medieval pit [1032]** (Plates 30-31, figures 3, 14 and 15)

#### *Discussion*

Towards the northeast of the area monitored by archaeological watching brief one further medieval pit was located at NGR SJ 61316 88314. Pit [1032] was ovoid in plan with concaved sides and a flat/slightly undulating base, measuring 1.0m in length by 0.89m in width by 0.12m in depth orientated east to west. The pit had a single fill of soft, mid yellow-brown silt-sand (1033) with infrequent charcoal fleck inclusions that produced four sherds of pink/white ware representing a minimum of three vessels comprising at least one jar and one jug dating to the 15<sup>th</sup> Century.

The pit had been cut into a soft, light-yellow natural sand substrata (1017).

#### *Interpretation*

This pit appeared to be quite ephemeral in form with a single fill with no evidence of silting, suggesting that it had been in-filled almost immediately. The pit produced 15<sup>th</sup> Century ceramic sherds, suggesting that it was late medieval in date. The function of the pit is unknown and it may represent a very localised sand extraction pit.

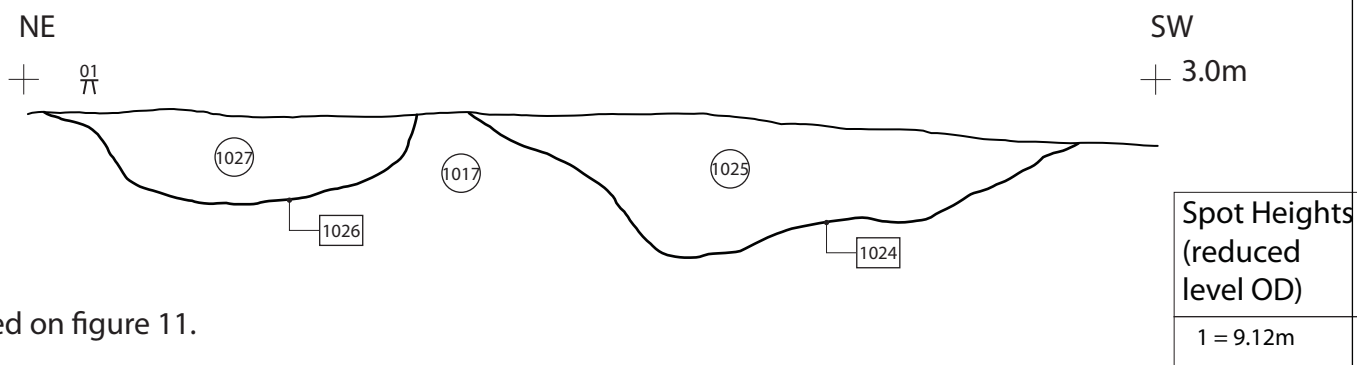


Figure 13: North facing sections of medieval pits [1028] and [1030].

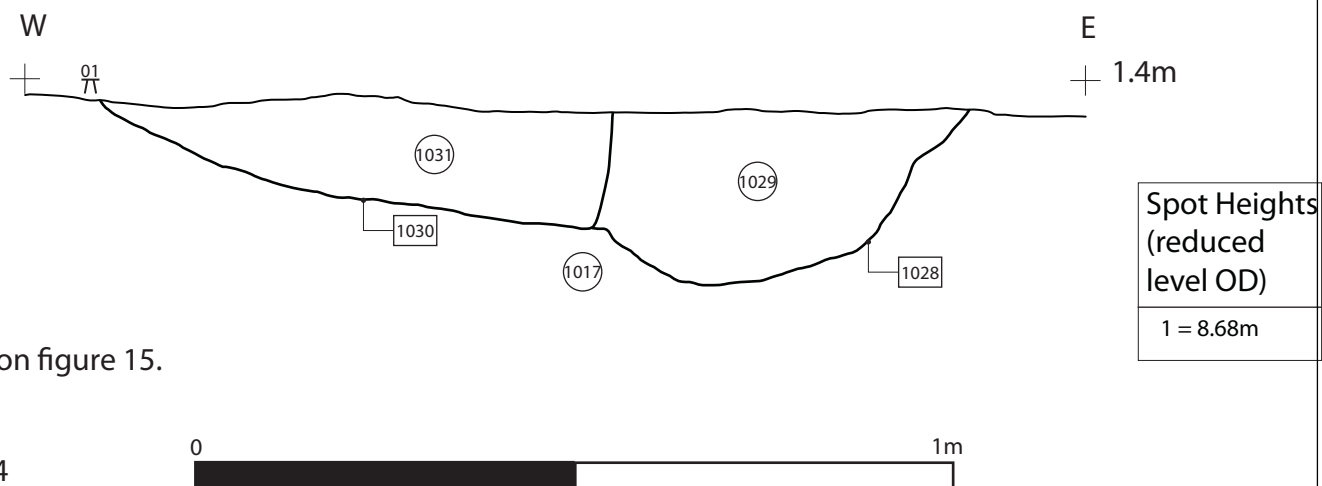
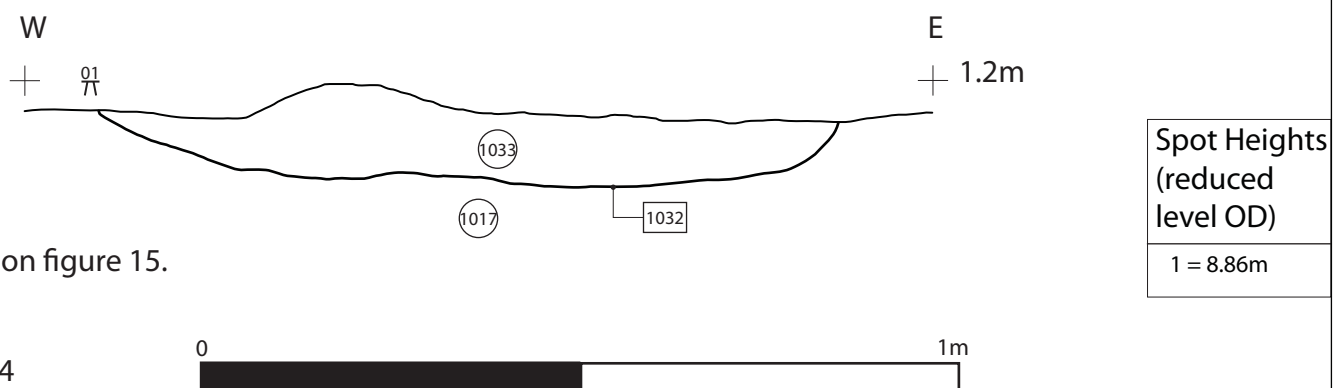
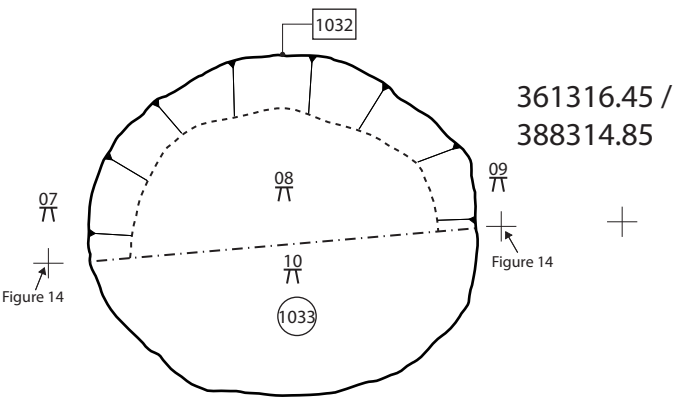
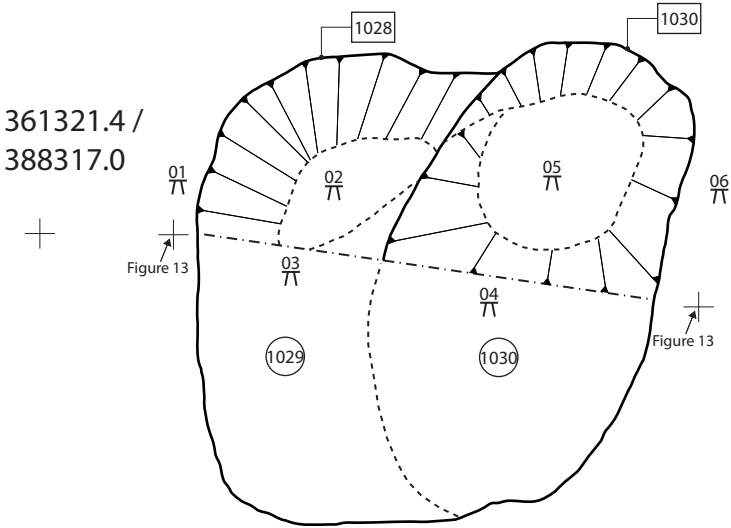


Figure 14: North facing section of medieval pit [1032].



Spot Heights (reduced level OD)

1 = 8.62m	6 = 8.65m
2 = 8.40m	7 = 8.80m
3 = 8.67m	8 = 8.73m
4 = 8.68m	9 = 8.82m
5 = 8.43m	10 = 8.83m





**Plate 30:** Medieval pit [1032], from the south. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 31:** South facing section of medieval pit [1032], from the south. Scale 0.5m.

## 10.0 CONCLUSION

The archaeological watching brief on land off Church Street, Warrington produced a series of red-brick post-medieval wall foundations relating to the former houses and workshops that fronted on to Church Street and Farrell Street. These foundations were surveyed using a differential GPS and their positions overlaid on to the Warrington map of 1772 and the Ordnance Survey map of 1890. All of the red-brick foundations, including a red-brick drain, cobbled surface, flagstone surface, alleyway, cellar, and outbuilding could all be more or less matched with buildings depicted on one of these two maps.

The cartographic evidence suggests that these buildings developed from being large semi-detached structures with outbuildings and paddocks or gardens at the rear, to the construction of long rows of terraced housing or workshops running north to south through the development area. This phase of development took place between the late 18<sup>th</sup> and late 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

The archaeological watching brief also uncovered six pits which produced sherds of late medieval pottery belonging to the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. The largest of these pits measured greater than 4.6m in length by 4.4m in width and produced 26 sherds of medieval ceramic as well as a well-preserved iron cleaver, that is likely to be of similar date. All of these pits probably represent sand extraction at the site before it became developed or perhaps occurred within the burgage plots of the rental properties belonging to the Legh family in the mid 15th century.

Every attempt was made to address the research topics of the northwest England regional research strategy, and to an extent the archaeological watching brief can be seen as having been successful in contributing to the establishment of closely dated medieval artefact sequences. Indeed, there is a distinct lack of published or excavated medieval artefacts from Warrington and the recovery of these during the watching brief has provided an historical narrative to the development of this part of the town.

## 11.0 SOURCES

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## APPENDIX I – DETAILS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS

Context	Description
1001	Natural at west end of site
1002	Red-brick wall
1003	Sandstone wall
1004	Sandstone surface
1005	Cut of sewer drain
1006	Fill of [1005]
1007	Red-brick cellar
1008	Sandstone and brick wall
1009	Flagstone floor
1010	Red-brick drain
1011	Cobbled surface
1012	Overburden at location (1002)
1013	Cut of medieval pit
1014	Primary fill of [1013]
1015	Secondary fill lens of pit [1013]
1016	Tertiary fill of pit [1013]
1017	Natural sand
1018	Relict topsoil at [1013]
1019	Sandstone shaft
1020	Cut for (1019)
1021	Backfill of [1020]
1022	Natural sand
1023	Modern backfill in shaft (1019)
1024	Cut of medieval pit
1025	Fill of [1024]
1026	Cut of medieval pit
1027	Fill of [1026]
1028	Cut of medieval pit
1029	Fill of [1028]
1030	Cut of medieval pit
1031	Fill of [1030]
1032	Cut of medieval pit
1033	Fill of [1032]
1034	General number for spoil removed from pit [1013]

