



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Observation and Recording & Strip, Map and Record Report

The Old Town Hall

Market Place

St Albans

Hertfordshire



Quality Check

<i>Author</i>	David Kaye BA ACIfA	<i>Version</i>	193/SAT/3.1	<i>Date</i>	31.07.2018
---------------	---------------------	----------------	-------------	-------------	------------

<i>Editor</i>	Karin Kaye MA MCIfA	<i>Version</i>	193/SAT/3.1	<i>Date</i>	01.08.2018
---------------	---------------------	----------------	-------------	-------------	------------

<i>Revision</i>		<i>Version</i>		<i>Date</i>	
-----------------	--	----------------	--	-------------	--

© KDK Archaeology Ltd 2018 No part of this document is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort has been made to provide as complete and as accurate a report as possible. However, KDK Archaeology Ltd cannot accept any liability in respect of, or resulting from, errors, inaccuracies, or omissions contained in this document.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
KDK Archaeology Licence No. 100053538

Unit 3 Leighton Road Mews Leighton Buzzard Bedfordshire LU7 1LA

Tel: 01525 385443

Email: office@kdkarchaeology.co.uk

Website: www.kdkarchaeology.co.uk





CONTENTS

Summary	1
1. Introduction	1
2. Aims & Methods	5
3. Archaeological & Historical Background	6
4. Results.....	11
5. Discussion	28
6. Acknowledgements.....	29
7. Archive.....	30
8. References.....	31

Appendices:

1. List of Photographs	33
2. Context Register.....	38
3. Finds Concordance.....	40
4. Specialist Reports.....	41
5. OASIS and Site Data.....	49
6. Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet	50

Figures:

1. General location	2
2. Site location.....	3
3. Proposed development, basement.....	4
4. Medieval remains in town centre	8
5. The Almshouse in 1829	9
6. Town map of 1822	9
7. Annotated 1828 plan	9
8. 1879 OS map showing archaeological features	10
9. Underpinning pits location.....	14
10. Underpinning pits features.....	15
11. Section of Pits [011] & [014]	16
12. Shoe fragments recovered from Pits [011] & [014].....	17
13. Sections of Pits [017] & [026].....	18
14. Ground reduction features.....	20
15. Profile of Stone surface [015] and section of Chalk surface [08]	21
16. Map of 1822 showing location of Almshouses	22
17. Sections of Chalk surface [08] and Pit [06].....	23

Plates:

1. Shoring.....	24
2. Pit [011] 1.2-2.4m below existing, facing northwest	24
3. Shoe 1, post-conservation.....	24
4. Pit [014] 0-1.2m below existing, facing northwest.....	24
5. Shoe 2, pre-conservation	24
6. Pit [017] 0-1.2m below existing, facing east	24
7. Pit [017], facing northeast.....	25
8. Section of brick drain, facing west	25
9. Section of brick drain and footing.....	25
10. Brick structure [021] 0-1.2m below existing footing, facing northeast	25



11. Section of Surface [024], facing southeast	25
12. Drain cutting Surface [08].....	25
13. Stone surface [015], facing northeast	26
14. Stone surface [025], facing northwest.....	26
15. Stone surface [025] detail	26
16. Surface [015] immediately below extant footing, facing northwest	26
17. Wall [09] cutting chalk surface [07], facing northeast.....	26
18. Typical basement pit.....	26
19. Stone surface [015], facing northeast	23
20. Stone surface [025], facing northwest.....	23
21. Stone surface [025] detail	23
22. Surface [015] immediately below extant footing, facing northwest	23



Summary

During the first half of 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd carried out a mixed programme of Observation and Recording and Strip, Map and Record excavation in relation to the construction works at The Old Town Hall, St Albans.

The building is Grade II* listed and described as a “*classical building of 1826 by George Smith. 2 storeys, the upper a piano nobile with central portico of 4 fluted, Ionic columns, entablature and pediment with acroterion. This rests on projecting, ground floor podium, with 3 sash windows with glazing bars framed by flat pilasters. Broader pilasters at angles also support entablature behind which a low pitched, leaded roof ends in a pediment on each return*”. The development comprised the conversion of the current building into a museum including the construction of a basement galley.

The gallery was to be located beneath what was the coffee shop at the front of the building. To achieve this, it was necessary to excavate a series of underpinning pits beneath the perimeter foundations, with each of the 51 pits being 3.5m in depth. Once this was complete the remaining central area was reduced to the same depth. The underpinning pits were recorded with numerous Watching Brief visits, whilst the central area was subject to a Strip, Map and Record excavation.



3 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 St Albans has been an area of prominent settlement from as early as the Iron Age period, and there is evidence for the development and growth of the town through the subsequent Roman, Saxon, medieval and Post medieval periods. During this time, the focus of settlement has shifted several times, eventually concentrating on the area to the north of the abbey as well as the abbey itself in the medieval period. The Old own Hall is located on the medieval marketplace, and is a Grade II* Listed Building.

This section has been compiled with information from readily available sources, including the St Albans City and District Council website, the National Heritage List for England, Heritage Gateway for local Historic Environment Record (HER) data and KDK's own library.

3.2 **Prehistoric** (before 600BC-AD43)

The earliest evidence for human activity in the vicinity of the town of St Albans is represented by flint artefacts, which have been found in the valley of the river Ver. The area went on to become of considerable importance during the late Iron Age and a number of major sites of this period are located in the vicinity. Late Iron Age occupation was dominated by a settlement at Prae Wood, c.3km southwest of the site (Wheeler & Wheeler 1936). Further settlement dating to this period has been found at a variety of locations in this area, for example at Gorhambury (Neal et al 1990). Further evidence of this period has been found north of the river, notably at Folly Lane, where an important Late Iron Age high-status burial has been recorded (Niblett 1999). The Iron Age settlement of Verulamion, the forerunner to the Roman Verulamium, was established to the south west of the present town, on the south side of the River Ver.

3.3 **Roman** (AD43- c.450)

Following the Roman invasion in AD43, the town became known as Verulamium, and was situated on Watling Street, one of the most important roads in Roman Britain (http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/Images/St%20Albans%20Conservation%20Area%20Character%20Statement%20Key%20List%20and%20Map_tcm15-13996.pdf). The Roman settlement was focussed to the south and west of the development site, away from the current town centre. During the Boudiccan revolt of AD61 it was burnt to the ground, but its status as an important administrative town in Roman Britain meant it was subsequently rebuilt, and continued to grow and prosper until the Romans left Britain in c.AD450. It was also during this period that perhaps the most important event in the history of the town took place. In the year AD209, the execution of the first Christian martyr, a man named Alban, took place on a hill to the east of the Roman town (*ibid*). As discussed below, the site of his execution was to have great significance in the birth of the town we know today.

3.4 **Saxon** (c.450-1066)

St Albans Abbey was founded in 793 by King Offa of Mercia, on the site of Alban's execution, and prospered during the Saxon period. A small town was established within the Abbey walls, supplying the needs of the monks and their visitors (<https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/history/monastic-site>). However, during this period, the main settlement was located at Kingsbury, to the north of the former focus of Roman settlement. Kingsbury was of some considerable size, and was protected by significant earthworks. The exact date of its foundation is unknown, but it has been postulated that it was established by King Offa at the same time as the Abbey, an opinion supported by the fact that Kingsbury was governed by officers of the king, independently of the Abbey itself (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/herts/vol2/pp469-477>).



3.5 **Medieval** (1066-1500)

St Albans continued to prosper as the influx of pilgrims to the town necessitated its further development (*ibid*).

The Old Town Hall lies within what was the site of the medieval marketplace, a large triangular space bounded by French Row/Market Place, Chequer Street and High Street. Archaeological evidence suggests that the streets around the market, and therefore by implication the market itself, were not laid out until the end of the 12th century (Niblett & Thompson 2005:275) The burgage plots to the east of the market were 6-7m wide and defined by ditches that were 0.75m wide and extended c.28m from the street. Although these plots extended uniformly from Chequer Street to Tonmen Ditch, some deviation in layout is evident in the plots to the west (Fig 4). Within the Chequer Street plots were footings made either of flint and Roman tile or flint and clunch, as well as several grain processing ovens (HER14598, 14600, 14599). Amongst the usual pits was one dated to the late 15th century that contained 30 pieces of shoe leather (*ibid*: 277-8). The temporary market stalls were gradually replaced by permanent structures, although a number of narrow passages, including that to the immediate south of the Old Town Hall, survive from the original layout (*ibid*: 264).

3.6 **Post-Medieval** (1500-1900)

Documentary evidence indicates that the medieval town hall, the Moot Hall, stood on the same site as the Old Town Hall (McSweeney 2004: 90). However, in 1605 the mayor and burgesses granted a plot of land at the head of the marketplace to John Clarke to allow him to build almshouses for six poor people (HER 16377). A late 19th century copy of an illustration of the almshouses shows them to be a row of timber framed structures under a single roof, aligned east-west and roughly parallel to 1 St Peter's Street. Further buildings can be discerned to the rear of the almshouses (Fig. 5). A town plan drawn up in 1822 and included in Clutterbuck's 1827 History of the County of Hertfordshire clearly shows the almshouses with the pump to the front and a series of buildings to the rear (Fig 6). A later and more detailed plan of the buildings at the head of Market Street defines not only the different buildings but locates the beast or pig market to the west of the buildings, the haymarket to the east and the police station to the south directly opposite what was to become the prisoners' entrance into the Old Town Hall (Fig. 7). On the basis of the available plans and illustrations, McSweeney placed the almshouses beneath the courtroom, but the present investigations clearly demonstrate that it was at the front of the Old Town Hall, beneath the coffee shop (Fig. 8).

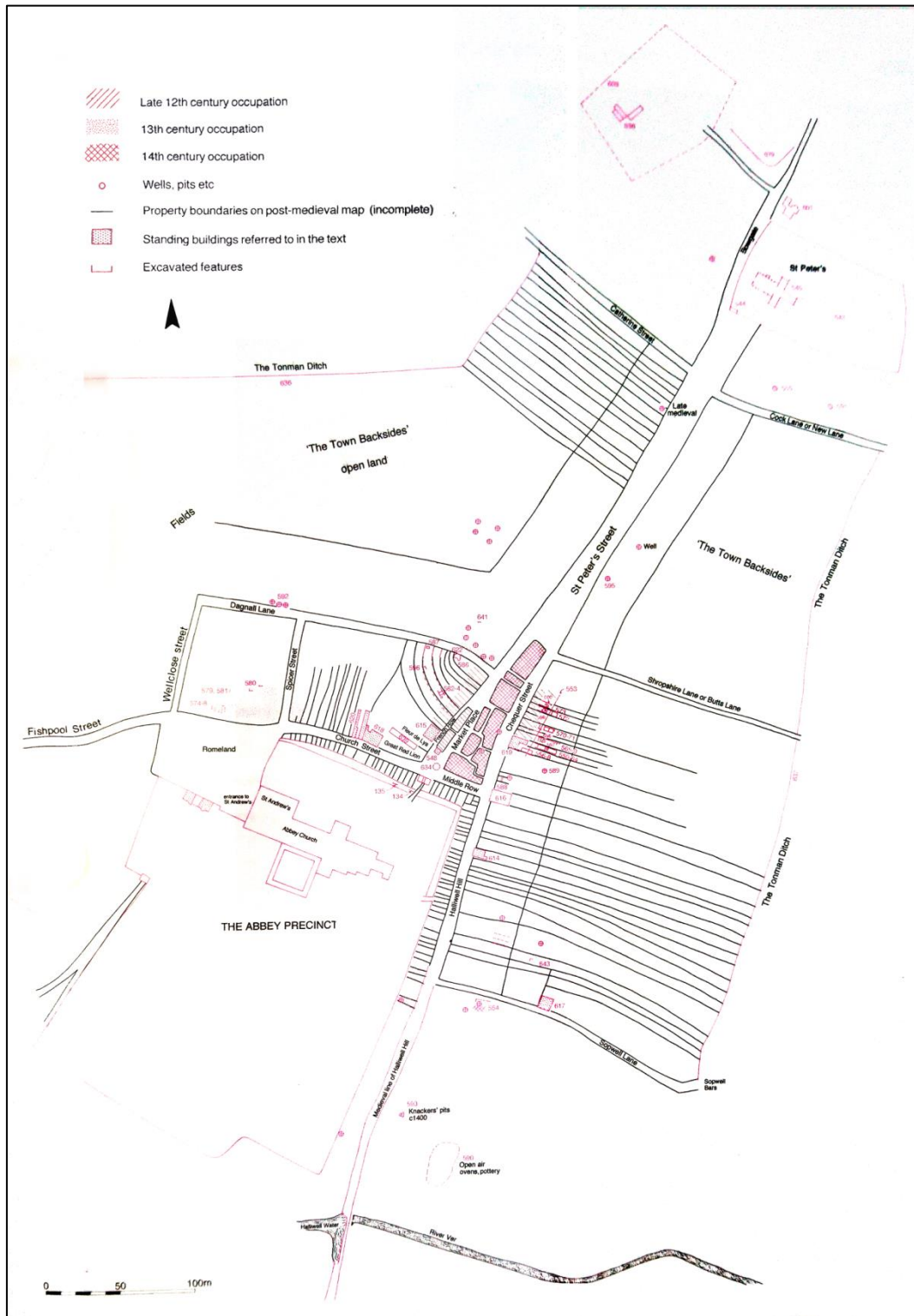


Figure 4: Medieval remains in town centre (Niblett & Thomson)



Figure 5: The Almshouses in 1829 (Reproduced from McSweeney 2004: 91)

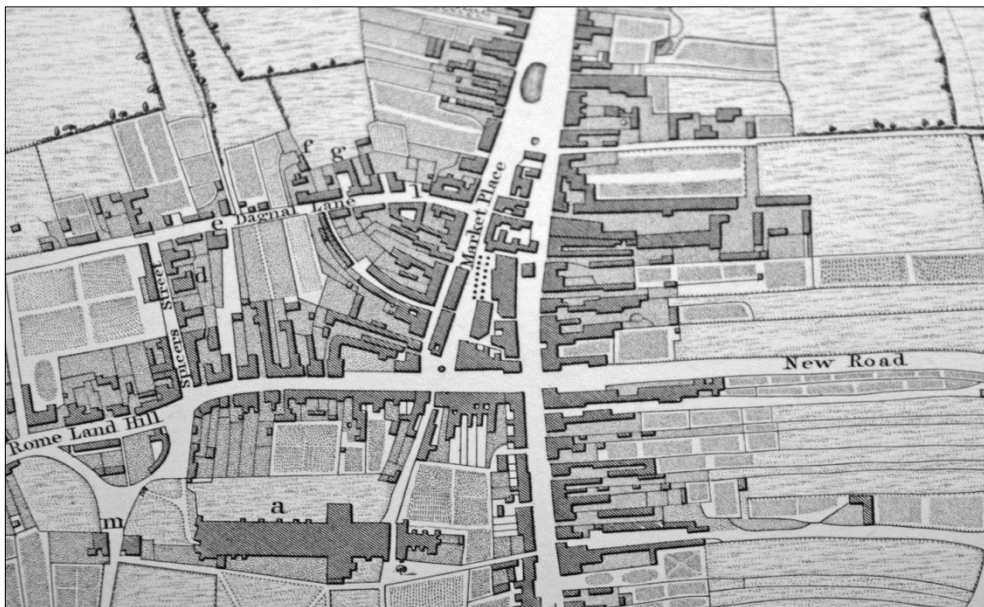


Figure 6: Town map of 1822 (Reproduced from Clutterbuck's County History)

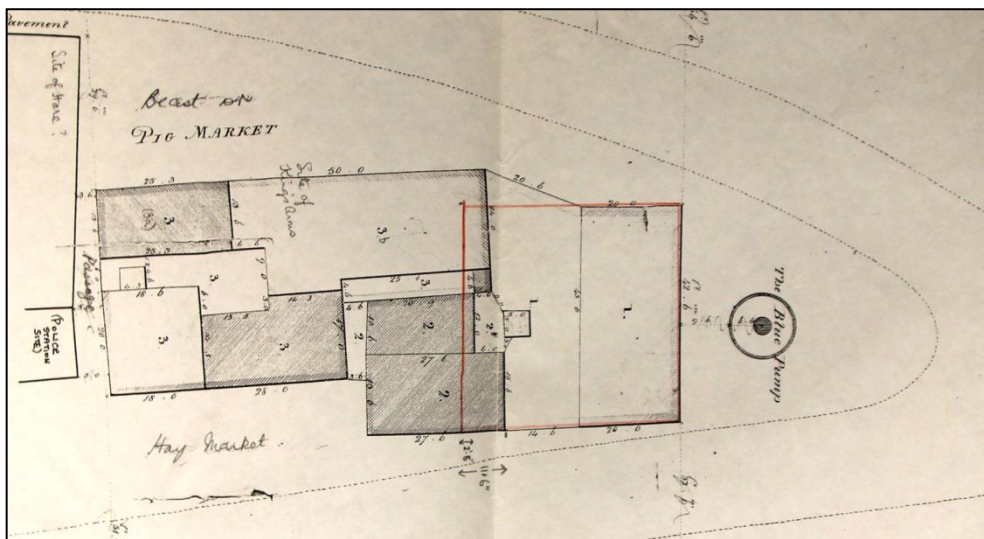


Figure 7: Annotated 1828 plan (Courtesy of SAHAAS)



Figure 8: 1879 OS map showing archaeological features revealed during present investigations. Location of Almshouses shown in yellow (scale 1:750)

The need for a new centre for both civic and judicial proceedings in St Albans became clear by the turn of the 18th century and following several years of discussions and the production of at least two series of architectural drawings, it was agreed to build on the present site. The architect responsible was George Smith, a relatively local man having been born in Aldenham, who had worked under James Wyatt and subsequently established his own practice in London (Caroe & Musson 2015: 13; Green 2017: 9: HER 16380). He received the freedom of the borough for his work on the Old Town Hall (Corbett 1997: 83), which was designated a Grade II* Listed Building in 1950. It is described as follows (NHLE List entry Number: 1296135):

3.2 *Recent Archaeological Works*

In early 2015 a Watching Brief was undertaken during the excavation of five test pits within the northern end of the building and the drilling of two boreholes outside (Summerfield-Hill 2015). The test pits revealed the brick foundations for the town hall, a series of backfill/made-ground deposits and a possible Victorian brick culvert. One of the test pits also revealed a section of medieval clunch walling forming part of the foundations along with two pieces of architectural stone. Whether the stonework may have been associated with the medieval Moot Hall that is thought to have stood on the site before it was granted to John Clarke to construct a row of almshouses in 1605 is uncertain. Despite archaeological and documentary evidence for medieval and post-medieval activity in the area, no archaeological finds, feature or deposits were encountered during the borehole drilling.



4 Results

4.1 Introduction

Prior to the start of the soft strip of the interior of the building and subsequent excavation, a series of test pits was hand dug within the café and immediately adjacent to it, in order to understand the site stratigraphy and construction of the extant footings (Fig. 9). The test pits revealed the brick foundations for the town hall, a series of backfill/made-ground deposits and a possible Victorian brick culvert. Test Pit 4 also revealed a section of medieval clunch walling forming part of the foundations along with two pieces of architectural stone (Summerfield Hill 2015).

The programme of groundworks consisted of a series of underpinning pits within the footprint of the extant café area and the adjacent basement to the southwest, followed by the reduction of the remaining area at the centre of the excavation, to a depth of c.3.5m below the ground level achieved once the café floorboards, joists, supporting dwarf walls and modern ducting had been removed. The underpinning pits were numbered in the order they were excavated (Fig. 10).

The method used to excavate the underpinning pits was to firstly reduce the ground by c.1.2m using a mini digger fitted with a toothless bucket, except where modern materials made this impractical, then excavate the remainder using pneumatic or electric drills fitted with a spade bit. Each pit was shored every 1.2m (Plate 1). Spoil was transferred to the surface via a bucket on a rope.

Due to the nature of the excavation and the methods used, recording could only be carried out immediately before each stage of shoring was installed. The spoil was inspected for each pit and where archaeological features were encountered, each bucket load was sorted for finds and metal detected.

4.2 Underpinning pits

A total of 37 pits of varying size were excavated within the Café area, to a depth of c.3.5m below the existing ground level. Archaeological features were recorded in twenty one of them, principally on the northeast and northwest sides of the site (Fig. 10). With the agreement of the District Archaeologist, only a selection of the pits excavated within the extant basement were monitored as it was evident that the ground had been truncated by at least 2.5m during the construction of Old Town Hall. However, all those pits that were not monitored were inspected prior to the concreting of the pad. No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were noted during this phase of construction. However, during the course of the building works two areas were reduced in the kitchen revealing a 7cm thick concrete floor over an earlier brick one, and an L-shaped slot excavated in the wine store exposed the stepped foundations that were three courses high on a red sand bed (Kaye 2018).

Pits

Four pits were identified underlying the northwest and northeast walls of the café. Each one had to be recorded in multiple stages at 1.2m intervals, as each stage of underpinning pit excavation ended. Both Pits [011] and [014] contained two fills, and extended beyond the limits of excavation. In both cases the primary fills (012) and (015) were a very fine silty cess, overlain by a secondary fill (013) and (016) which were a heavily waterlogged mixture of materials, principally a black silty clay matrix, used as backfill, which contained some notable artefacts, including fragments of leather shoes. Despite the variety of material within these contexts their deposition appears to have been carried out as a single event.



Unfortunately, due to a misunderstanding all of Underpinning Pit 3, and most of Underpinning Pit 4 were excavated without archaeological monitoring. Consequently, the cut and fills associated with those particular pits are only represented as projected lines in the section illustrations (Fig. 11).

Pit [011] was 2.3m deep, 2.4m wide and at least 1.53m long and located under the northwestern wall of the extant building and spread across three underpinning pits (08, 03, 036) (Fig. 11). It contained two fills, one of which was backfill (013) and a basal fill of cess (012). The backfill was a heavily waterlogged mixture of materials containing peg tile, animal bone, pottery, a metal knife and the remains of a leather shoe (Shoe 1) (Fig. 12, Plates 2 & 3). It is likely this is all domestic waste which was included within the backfill of a cess pit. The shoe was subsequently analysed and dated stylistically to the late 14th or 15th century, and the three sherds of pottery also recovered from (013) were all dated to the 15th century.

Pit [014] was 1.4m deep, 3.5m wide and at least 0.6m long, situated adjacent to Pit [011] (Fig 5). It was recorded in three of the underpinning pits (09, 04, 019), and its fills were virtually identical to those of Pit [011] in that there was a layer of basal cess overlain by a large quantity of mixed backfill, which contained a similar array of artefacts, including a leather shoe sole (Shoe 2) and what appears to be a leather off-cut (Fig. 12, Plates 4 & 5).

Pit [017] extended beyond the excavation limits in the northwest corner of the site. It was at least 4.1m in length and over 1.8m wide. The cut was not visible in the upper layer of c. 0.5m of made ground but extended beyond the base of the underpinning pits, over 2.3m below the extant footing. The backfill was a mixture of redeposited natural gravel and clay with some topsoil (Figs. 10 & 13, Plate 6). It was not clear whether this was a single event deposition or occurred over an extended period. It is probable that this was a gravel extraction pit. There were no dateable artefacts recovered.

Pit [026] appeared to be an oval cut located in Underpinning Pit 12 on the northern side of the site (Figs. 10 & 13, Plate 7). It was not observed in either of the neighbouring pits as the ground in that part of the site had been heavily disturbed, not least by the construction of a dwarf wall and subsequently its replacement with a reinforced concrete beam. What remained of the pit was at least 1.38m long by at least 0.89m wide and 2.5m deep, tapering towards the base (Fig. 13). It had been backfilled with a mixture of redeposited natural gravel and clay (027) in such a way that it was impossible to discern whether it had been a single event or carried out over an extended period. No artefactual material was present in the fill. The size and shape of the cut was very similar to Pits [011] and [014] suggesting it may have been a cess pit. However, the fill was completely different with no basal cess present, so it may be that this feature was excavated but never actually utilised for its intended function.

Other features

Brick drain (020) and its associated cut [019] ran from the northeast to the northwest corner of the building, falling in that direction (Plate 8). It was a well-constructed circular pipe 0.55m in diameter, made of unfrosted, hand made red bricks bonded with lime mortar. It appears to have been contemporary to the Town hall itself as the brickwork was tied-in to the footing in the northeast corner (Plate 9).

Brick structure [021] appeared as a result of a minor collapse at the back of Pit 7 in the northeast corner of the site. Due to the instability of the surrounding geology it was not possible to do anything other than take photographs (Plate 10). However, from what was visible, it appeared to be roughly made red brick structure that was possibly cylindrical and domed. It measured at least 1.0m deep by 0.75m wide. It is probable that this was a tank associated with the urinal which was situated on the outside of the building around this location.



Stone structure [022] consisted of two pieces of worked clunch totalling approximately 0.4m square by 0.9m in length, abutting the extant wall, 1.0m below the extant footing in the southeast corner of the site. It coincided with what was described as a possible medieval footing, recorded in Test Pit 4. However, it subsequently transpired that the stone formed part of the backfill of the construction cut for the extant cellar wall.



Figure 9: Underpinning pits location (scale 1:125)

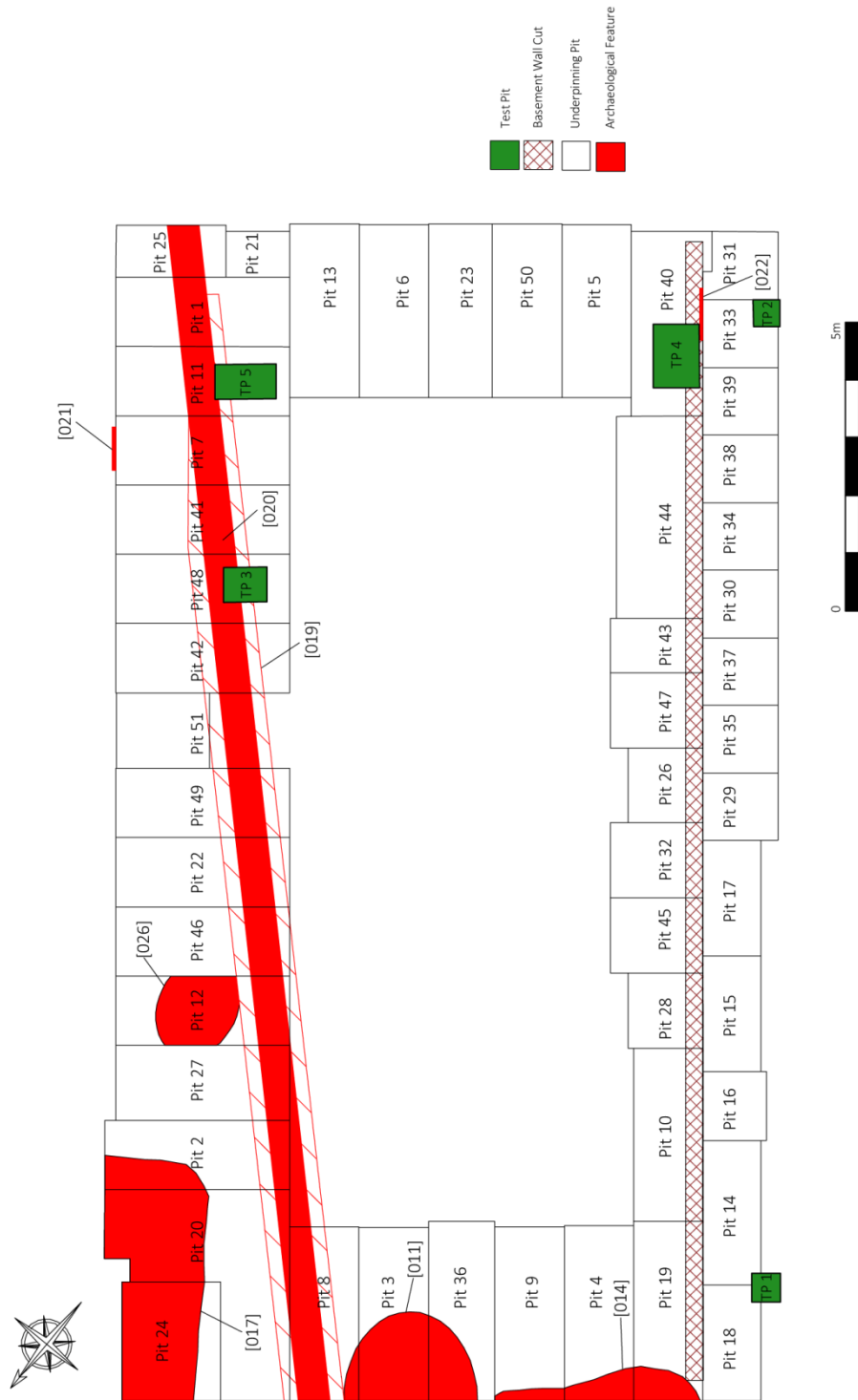


Figure 10: Underpinning pits features (scale 1:125)

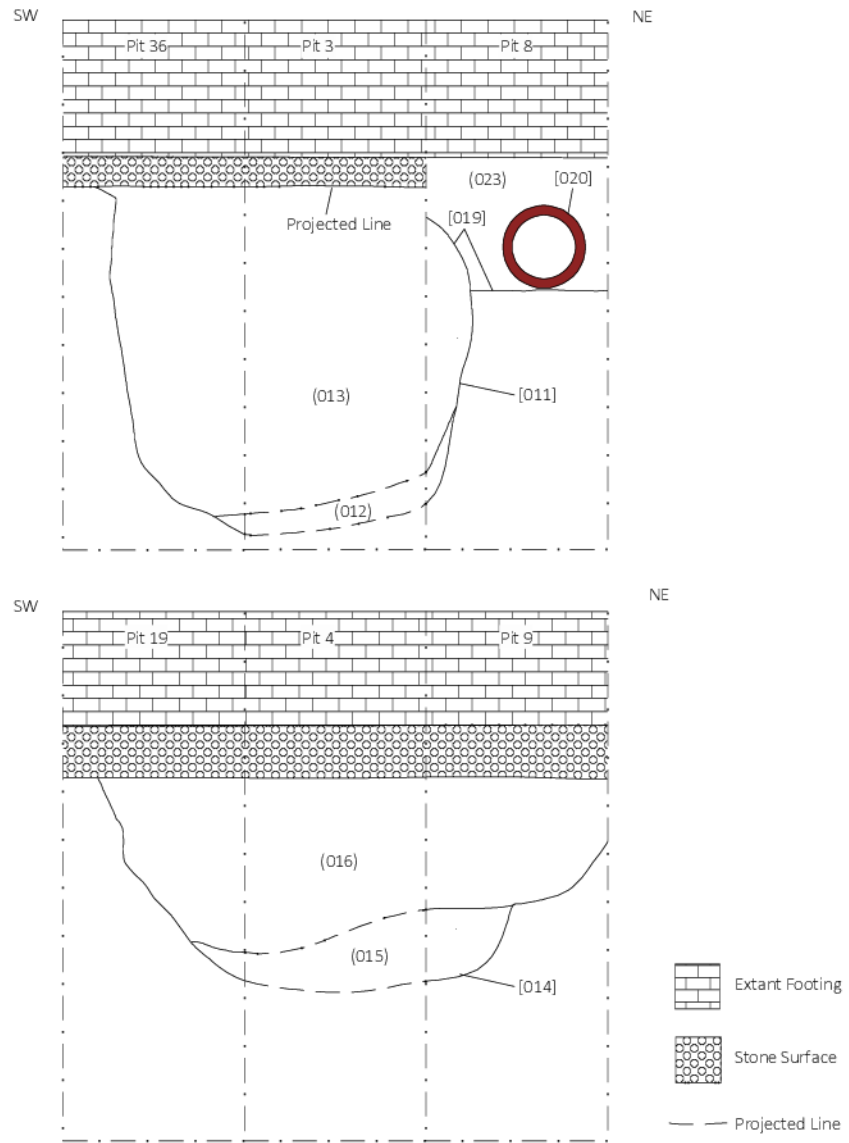
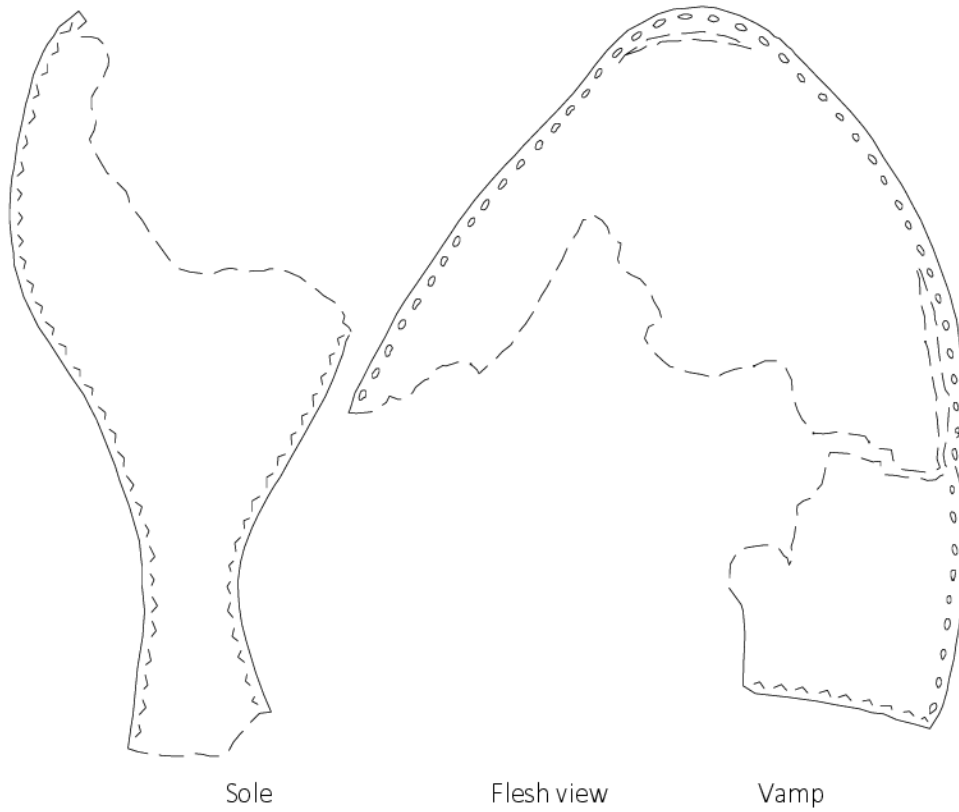
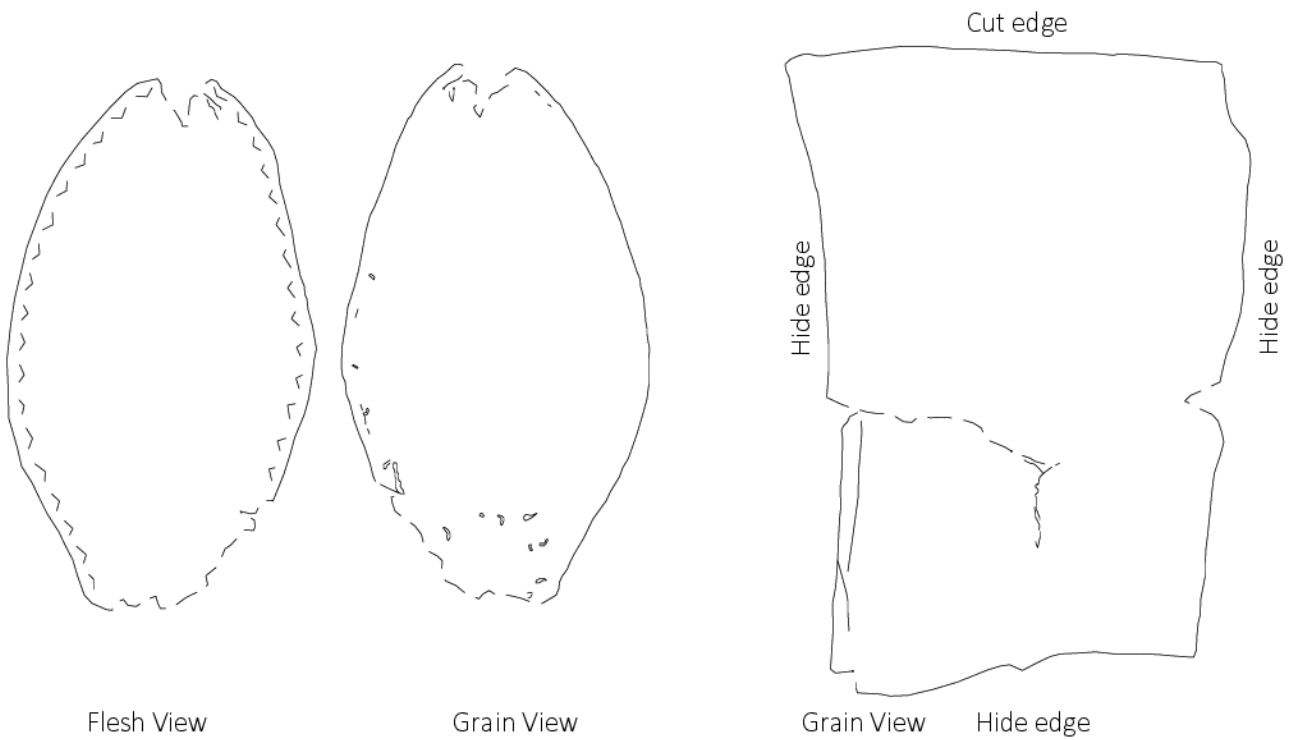


Figure 11: Sections of Pits [011] & [014] (scale 1:50)



Shoe 1



Shoe 2

Primary Waste

Figure 12: Shoe fragments recovered from Pits [011] & [014] (scale 1:1)

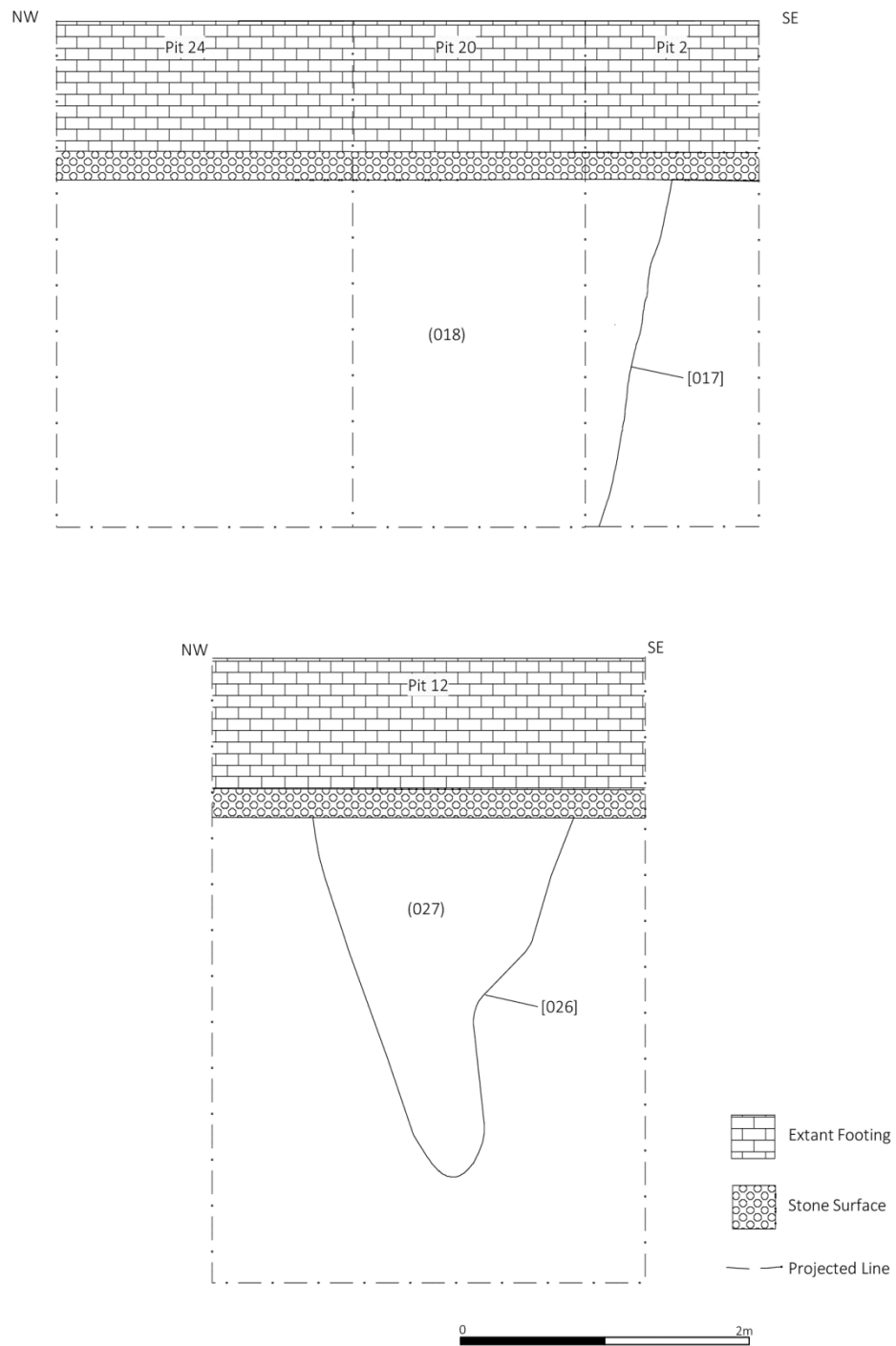


Figure 13: Sections of Pits [017] & [026] (scale 1:50)



4.3 *Ground reduction*

Once the underpinning pits were complete, the central area of the site was reduced under constant archaeological supervision until undisturbed natural geology was reached. An area approximately 14.4m by 5.6m was reduced using a mini digger fitted with a toothless bucket.

Surfaces

Three separate surfaces were identified during the ground reduction. The two higher deposits were chalk overlying made ground, and lower one was stone overlying the natural geology.

Surfaces [08] and [024] were both constructed of rammed chalk and stratigraphically at the same level but not physically connected, though it is conceivable that they may once have been (Fig. 14). Surface [08] was located on the northern side of the site close to the main door to the High Street. The remnant measured 2.93m long by 1.39m wide and was 0.37m thick. It appeared to have been truncated by the brick drain cut, but continued into at least Underpinning Pits 22, 49 and 51. Surface [025] was more extensive, being present in Pit 12 on the northern side of the site and extending 7.7m to the south, though becoming increasingly less coherent and eventually petering out (Fig. 15, Plate 11). At its widest point it was 2.3m and had a maximum depth of c.0.25m. It was not noted in any of the other underpinning pits, but the ground in the vicinity had been greatly disturbed, not least by the cut of the brick drain (Plate 12).

The largest and most significant feature recorded during the ground reduction was a rough but densely compacted cobbled stone surface [025] (Plates 13, 14 & 15). Its full extent was not recorded as it underlay the extant brick footings of the northwestern wall (9.6m), and 3/4 of the northeastern wall (15.8m), continuing beyond the site limits. To the southwest it extended along approximate 1/3 of the extant basement wall (6.5m) which had truncated the surface at that point. Its depth was at its maximum immediately beneath the brick footings where it measured up to 0.35m (Plate 16). However, its thickness appeared to taper towards the southeast and it had a slight camber in the same direction. The edge of the cobbling coincided with that of chalk surface [024], though this may have been coincidental as the construction of a modern concrete beam had truncated the chalk at that point. Further fragments of what was almost certainly the same stone surface were recorded in Underpinning Pits 13, 21, and 23 on the southeastern side of the site, also underlying the extant footing. It was probably present in Pit 6 as well but the first 2m were excavated without archaeological supervision. The extent of this surface appears to coincide with the edges of the Almshouses depicted in the map of 1822 (Fig. 16)

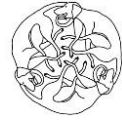
Other features

Two other features of note were recorded during the ground reduction. Wall [09] consisted of two courses of red brick 0.4m wide by at least 1.35m long and 0.14m high, located close to the main entrance (Fig. 17, Plate 17). It cut chalk surface [08] and may have the remnant of a one of the dwarf wall which supported the floor of the Old Town Hall, or possibly part of an internal wall from the Almshouses that preceded it.

Pit [06] underlay chalk surface [04] cutting into the natural geology by at least 0.53m (Fig. 17). It had been backfilled with a series of dump deposits of mixed material containing brick, tile, bone, a metal thimble and a few sherds of late medieval pottery which included part of the handle of a skillet or pipkin and handle terminal of a jug. It is unclear what the full extent or purpose of this pit was, but it may have been a local gravel or clay extraction pit.

4.4 *Basement pits*

As the floor of the building's basement was already cut at least 2.5m into the natural geology, with the agreement of the District Archaeologist, only a selection of the underpinning pits were monitored during excavation. However, all of them were inspected prior to the addition



of the steelwork and concrete (Plate 18). No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were noted during this stage of the development.

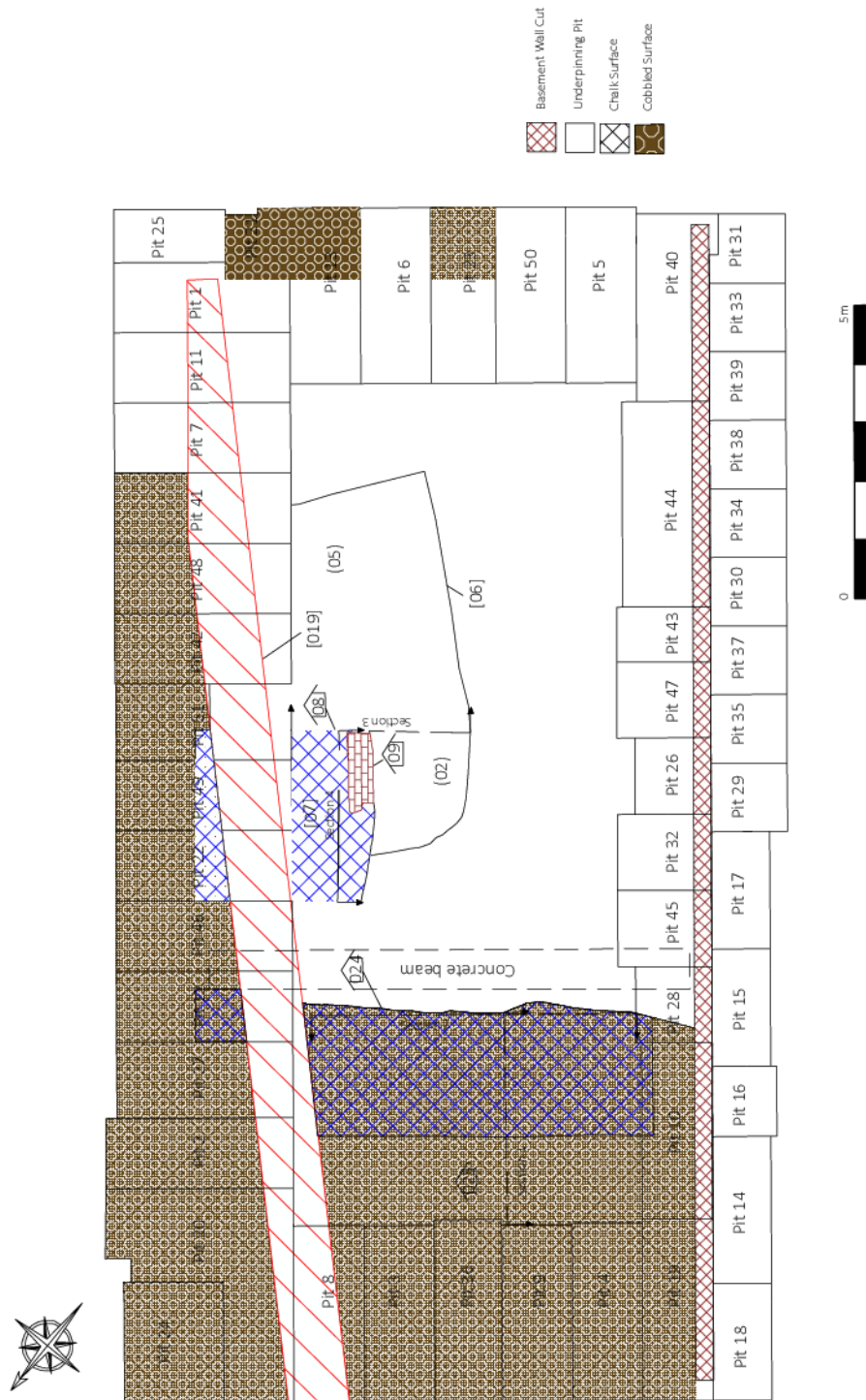


Figure 14: Ground reduction features (scale 1:125)

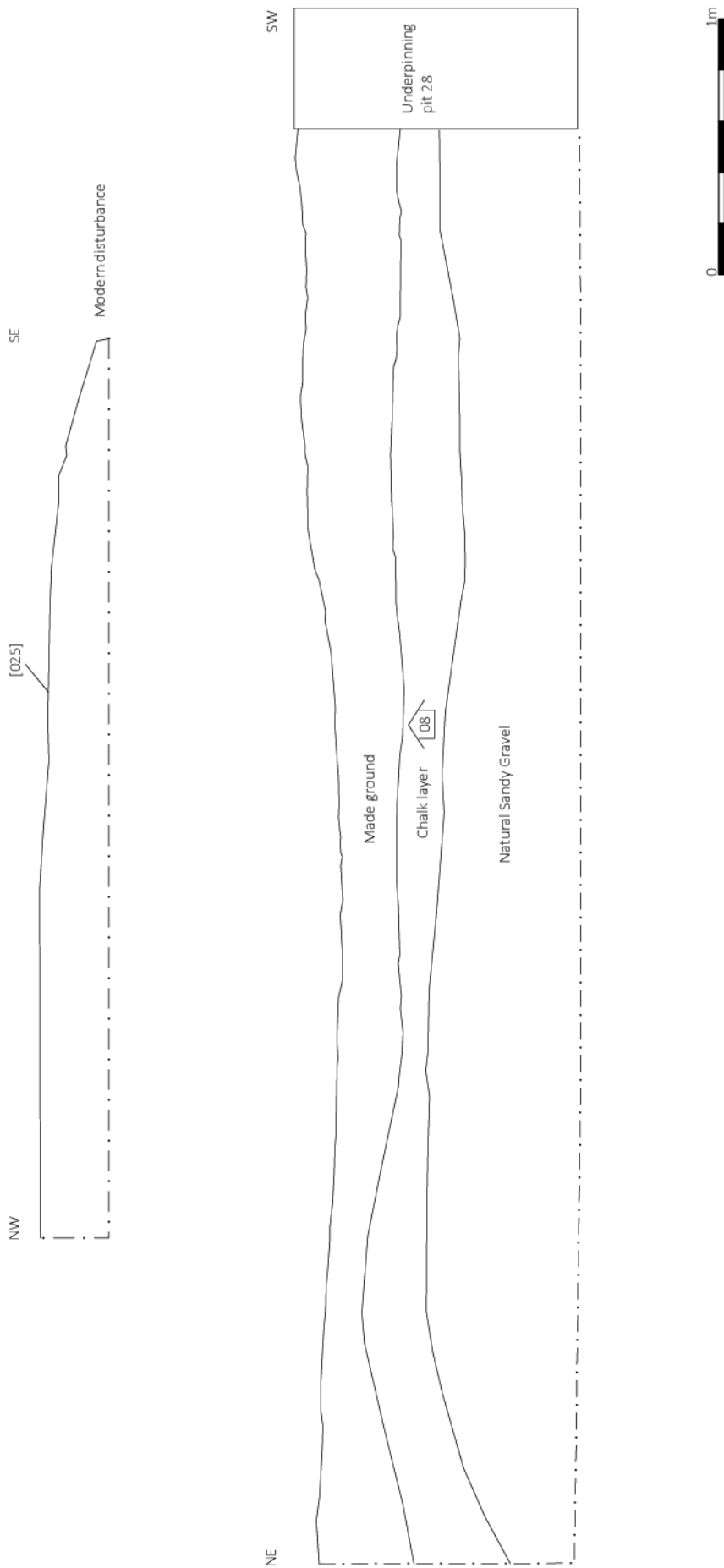


Figure 15: Section 1: Profile of Stone surface [015] and Section 2: Chalk surface [08] (scale 1:25)

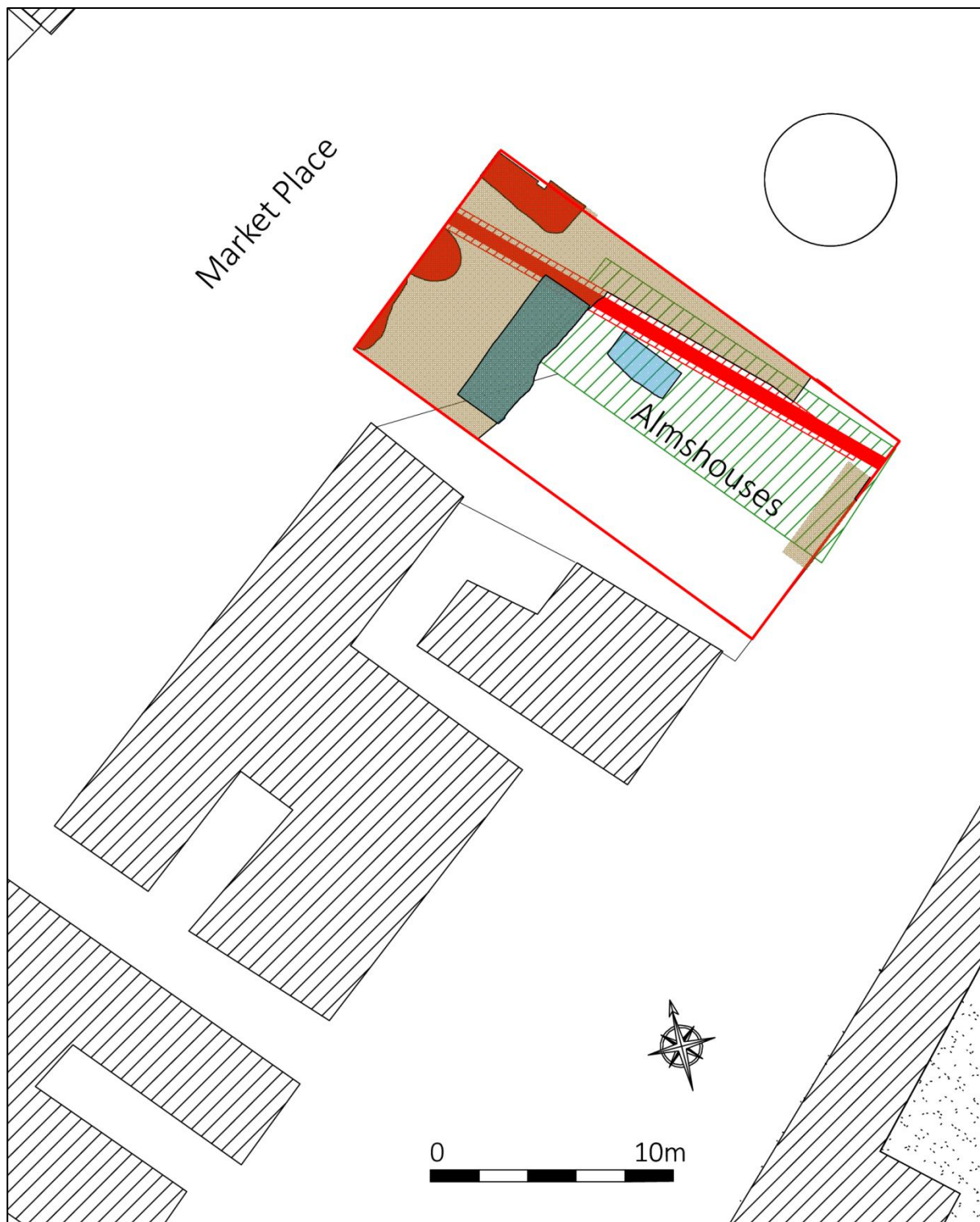


Figure 16: Map of 1822 showing location of Almshouses (scale 1:250)

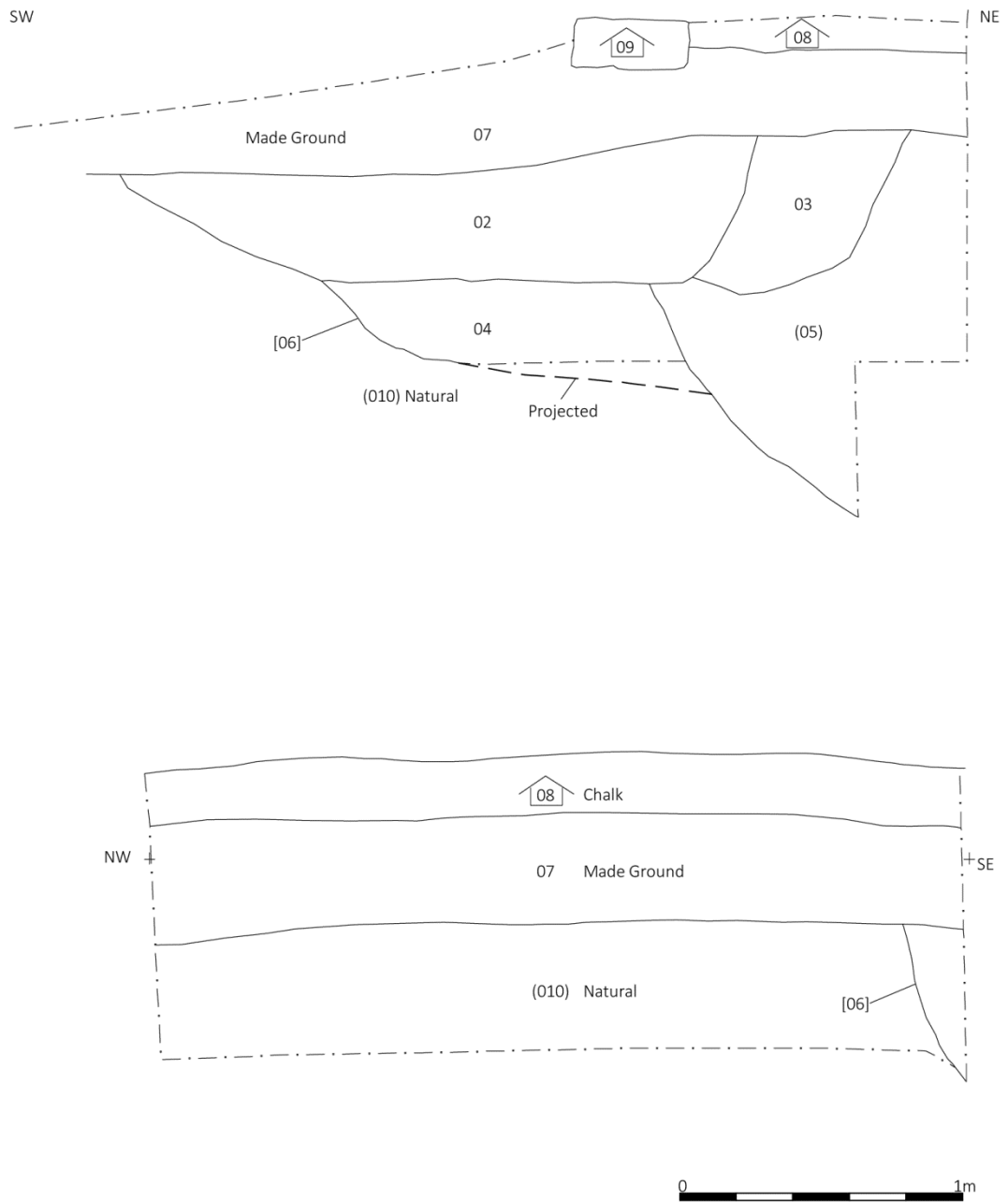


Figure 17: Section 3: Chalk surface [08] and Section 4: Pit [06] (scale 1:25)



Plate 1: Shoring



Plate 2: Pit [011] 1.2-2.4m below existing, facing northwest



Plate 3: Shoe 1, post-conservation



Plate 4: Pit [014] 0-1.2m below existing, facing northwest



Plate 5: Shoe 2, pre-conservation



Plate 6: Pit [017] 0-1.2m below existing, facing east



Plate 7: Pit [017], facing northeast



Plate 8: Section of brick drain, facing west



Plate 9: Section of brick drain and footing



Plate 10: Brick structure [021] 0-1.2m below existing footing, facing northeast



Plate 11: Section of Surface [024], facing southeast



Plate 12: Drain cutting Surface [08]



Plate 13: Stone surface [015], facing northeast



Plate 14: Stone surface [025], facing northwest

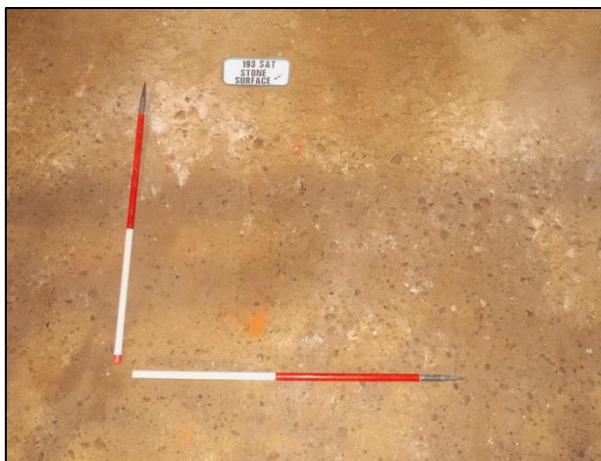


Plate 15: Stone surface [025] detail



Plate 16: Surface [015] immediately below extant footing, facing northwest



Plate 17: Wall [09] cutting chalk surface [07], facing northeast



Plate 18: Typical basement pit



4.5 *Artefactual Assessment*

Pottery

The pottery assemblage was small, comprising only 9 sherds weighing 518g, but it was also notable.

Within the unstratified material was the rim and handle of a Sandy Shelly Ware jug dating from the 12th – 14th century and a fragment from the rim of a Glazed Red Earthenware colander from 16th – 19th century.

A sherd of Surrey White Ware was from the rim of a mid 13th – mid 15th century jar, and was recovered from cess Pit [014], and the two pieces of mid 12th – 14th century Hertfordshire Grey Ware from the handle of a jug and another from the handle of a skillet or pipkin was recovered from the possible extraction Pit [06]. Also, from the same pit, was a sherd of Late Medieval Transition Ware (15th – 16th century) which was an almost complete rim and handle terminal of a jug.

Ceramic Building Material

A total of 242 fragments of fired clay building material, weighing 19,242g, were recovered mainly from cess Pits [011] and [014], and were mostly in the form of hard, red, sandy fabric flat roof tiles. None of the tiles were glazed, but many had traces of mortar adhering to them, showing that they had been used, and appear to all be of later medieval date.

Animal Bone

The animal bone assemblage was recovered largely from the cess pits and was typical of a medieval diet, consisting of mainly cattle, sheep/goat, pig and oyster. The assemblage was too small to draw any firm conclusions relating to animal husbandry or population demographics.

Leather

Parts from two turnshoes and a piece of primary waste leather were recovered from cess Pits [011] and [014]. Turnshoes are so called because they were constructed inside out then turn right side out once finished.

One turnshoe (1) had a sole with a narrow waist suggesting a date in the second half of the 14th century or the 15th century. The remainder of the shoe lacks any diagnostic features, and the quarters are also missing, so that it is not possible to date it more closely.

Turnshoe sole (2), was for a left foot, and had been heavily worn and repaired before it was eventually thrown away. It is likely this is also of 14th – 15th century date.



5 Discussion

The archaeological features revealed during this project were significant in both their size and probable dates. However, it was unfortunate that there was a paucity of artefacts, notably pottery, that could have resulted in a tighter chronology for the site.

The earliest building on the site is thought to be the Moot Hall which preceded the Almshouses, which were built in 1605. It is probable that prior to that the area formed part of the market square was located within the triangle formed by the merging of Market Street and Chequer Street to the north, and the High Street to the south.

Pits [011] and [014] were almost certainly cess pits, possibly associated with the Moot Hall, which were backfilled during the late 14th or 15th century. The quantity of roof tile present within the fill suggests that one or more buildings of some stature had been demolished in the vicinity at that time, though there was a notable absence of brick, stone and structural timber.

Pit [026] did not have any artefacts within its fill. Its shape and size in plan suggests that it might have been intended for the same purpose as [011] and [014], but the single backfill was a mixture of natural geology and topsoil. It was also less deep and more conical in shape perhaps suggesting it had not been fully excavated. It may be that this pit was quickly backfilled and never used as intended.

The other two pits recorded during the excavation, [06] and [017], appeared to be the result of earlier quarrying. Pit [06] underlay the made ground associated with the construction or alteration of the extant building. It cut into the natural geology but its full extent in any direction was not determined. The few pottery fragments that were recovered from the fills were dated to the later medieval period.

Pit [017] was cut well into the natural geology and like Pit [06] its extent was not reached in any direction. As this was such an extensive feature it seems unlikely that it would have coexisted with the medieval market or associated buildings. It almost certainly had been backfilled prior the development encroachment from the neighbouring streets. However, no dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill.

The next phase of development on this site appears to be the construction of the Almshouses in 1605. The stone surface [025] appears to coincide with the outline of the building as represented in on the map of 1822. Whilst the match is not exact, this may be due to mapping errors. The surface itself seals the medieval cess pits and the quarry pits and is of a depth which suggests it was a longstanding structure that had probably undergone multiple repairs in its lifetime. The stone itself is probably local though the geology in the immediate vicinity is mainly clay, chalk and fairly fine gravel, not the mix of cobbles up to around 60mm that the surface was constructed of.

The purpose of the two chalk surfaces [08] and [024] is unclear. They are not connected though stratigraphically at the same level. The eastern edge of [024] appears to coincide with the edge of the underlying stone surface [025], perhaps suggesting this was an external floor, predating the construction of the Almshouses.

The final phase of building is the extant Old Town Hall. Its footprint appears to have subsumed most, if not all of that of the Almshouses, and its brick footings were constructed directly onto the stone surface [025], which in turn overlay the natural geology or capped the earlier pits. The brick drain was constructed at the same time and tied into the footings in the northeast corner. It is unclear what the origin, destination and purpose of the drain is, but the water content within the fills of Pits [011] and [014] suggests there has been a historically high flow of probable surface water in the vicinity and therefore it may have been constructed partly to alleviate that.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Robbie Hazlehurst for commissioning this report on behalf of St Albans City and District Council. Thanks are also due to Isobel Thompson of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents; the staff of Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies Library and Jon Mein of the St Albans and Hertfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society for their assistance in the historic research and to Simon West, District Archaeologist for SADC for monitoring the project.

Thanks are also due to Tom Lusby of SADC and John Allworth and Ian Denman of Willmot Dixon, Tom Morl and Lee Bowen of Abbey Pynford for their assistance during the course of the project.

The fieldwork was carried out by David Kaye BA ACIfA and Carin Summerfield-Hill MSc, ACIfA. The report was written and illustrated by David Kaye, and edited by Karin Kaye MA MCIfA.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

- Brief
- Written Scheme of Investigation
- Initial report
- Monitoring sheets
- Site drawings
- Client's site plans
- List of photographs
- B/W prints & negatives
- Specialist reports
- CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with St Albans Museum (Accession Number OTH/17).



8 References

Standards & Specifications

ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.

Allen J. L. & Holt A. St J. 1986 (with later updates) *Health & Safety in Field Archaeology*. London: Federation of Archaeological Managers & Employers

Brickley M. & McKinley J. I. 2004 *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Technical Paper.

CIfA 2014 *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds, Archiving)*

CIfA 2014 *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2014 *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2014 *Standards & Guidance for Archiving Archaeological Projects*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

EH 2008 *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. PPN3: Archaeological Excavation*. London: English Heritage

EH 2011 *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*. London: English Heritage

Ferguson L. M. & Murray D. M. 1997 *Archaeological Documentary Archives: Preparation, Curation and Storage*. Manchester: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Paper 1

Gurney D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14

HE 2015 *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. London: Historic England

SMA 1995 *Towards an accessible archaeological archive - the transfer of archaeological archives to museums: guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales*. London: Society for Museum Archaeologists

Walker K. 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Archaeology Section (London).

Watkinson D. & Neal V. 1998 *First Aid for Finds*. Hertford & London: Rescue

Books and Historical Sources

Caroe, O. & Musson, J. 2015 *Building and Collections Conservation Plan: St Albans Town Hall* Caroe Architecture

Chauncy, H. 1826 *The Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire* London: BJ Holdsworth

Clutterbuck, R. 1827 *The History and Antiquities of the County of Hertford Vol 3* London: Nichols, Son, and Bentley

Corbett, J. 1997 *A History of St Albans* Chichester: Phillimore



Green, C. 2017 *The Old Town Hall St Albans* St Albans: SAHAAS

McSweeney G. P. 2004 The Moot Hall and Early Topography of St Albans in *Hertfordshire Archaeology* Vol. 13 1997-2003: 89-92

Niblett, R. & Thompson, I. 2005 *Alban's Buried Towns : an assessment of St Albans archaeology up to AD1600* Oxford: Oxbow

Saunders, C & Havercroft, A B. 1978. Excavations in the City & District of St Albans 1974-76; in *Hertfordshire Archaeology* Vol. 6, 1-77.

Saunders, Chris. 1995. *A guide to the topography, buildings and people of medieval St Albans*. Unpublished document

Youngs, S. M, Clarke, J. & Barry T.B. 1983 Medieval Britain & Ireland in 1982 in *Medieval Archaeology* Vol. 27 , 181 -183

Maps

Goodman's map of 1822 (In Clutterbuck 1827)

1828 Annotated Town Plan (SAHAAS)

Ordnance Survey 1:500 map of 1879 OSXXXIV.15



Appendix 1: Photograph List

Shot	DSLR	B&W	View	Subject
1	X		SE	Pit 1, facing southeast (1m scale)
2	X		SE	Pit 1, facing southeast (1m scale)
3	X		SE	Pit 1, facing southeast (1m scale)
4	X		N/A	Pit 1, brick ring (1m scale)
5	X		N/A	Pit 1, brick ring (1m scale)
6	X		N/A	Pit 1, brick ring (1m scale)
7	X		N/A	Pit 1, brick ring (1m scale)
8	X		NW	Pit 2, facing northwest (1m scale)
9	X		NW	Pit 2, facing northwest (1m scale)
10	X		ESE	Pit 2, brick culvert (1m scale)
11	X		ESE	Pit 2, brick culvert (1m scale)
12	X		ENE	Pit 3, facing northeast (1m scale)
13	X		ENE	Pit 3, facing northeast (1m scale)
14	X		ENE	Pit 3, facing northeast (1m scale)
15	X		N/A	Pit 3 (1m scale)
16	X		N/A	Pit 3 (1m scale)
17	X		N/A	Pit 3 (1m scale)
18	X		N/A	Pit 3 (1m scale)
19	X		N/A	Pit 3 (1m scale)
20	X		N/A	Pit 3 (1m scale)
21	X		N/A	Pit 3 (1m scale)
22	X		N/A	Pit 3 (1m scale)
23	X		N/A	Pit 3 (1m scale)
24	X		SW	Pit 4, facing southwest (1m scale)
25	X		SW	Pit 4, facing southwest (1m scale)
26	X		SE	Pit 5, facing southeast (1m scale)
27	X		SE	Pit 5, facing southeast (1m scale)
28	X		N/A	Pit 6 (1m scale)
29	X		N/A	Pit 6 (1m scale)
30	X		SW	Pit 7, facing southwest (1m scale)
31	X		SW	Pit 7, facing southwest (1m scale)
32	X		SW	Pit 7, facing southwest (1m scale)
33	X		SW	Pit 7, facing southwest (1m scale)
34	X		SW	Pit 7, facing southwest (1m scale)
35	X		SW	Pit 7, facing southwest (1m scale)
36	X		SW	Pit 7, facing southwest (1m scale)
37	X		NE	Pit 7, facing northeast (1m scale)
38	X		NE	Pit 7, facing northeast (1m scale)
39	X		NE	Pit 7, facing northeast (1m scale)
40	X		NE	Pit 7, facing northeast (1m scale)
41	X		NE	Pit 7, facing northeast (1m scale)
42	X		NE	Pit 7, facing northeast (1m scale)



Shot	DSLR	B&W	View	Subject
43	X		N/A	Pit 7 (1m scale)
44	X		N/A	Pit 7 (1m scale)
45	X		SE	Pit 8, facing southeast (1m scale)
46	X		SE	Pit 8, facing southeast (1m scale)
47	X		SE	Pit 8, facing southeast (1m scale)
48	X		SE	Pit 8, facing southeast (1m scale)
49	X		SE	Pit 8, facing southeast (1m scale)
50	X		NW	Pit 8, facing northwest (1m scale)
51	X		NW	Pit 8, facing northwest (1m scale)
52	X		N	Pit 8, facing north (1m scale)
53	X		N	Pit 8, facing north (1m scale)
54	X		N	Pit 8, facing north (1m scale)
55	X		N	Pit 8, facing north (1m scale)
56	X		N	Pit 8, facing north (1m scale)
57	X		SE	Pit 9, facing southeast (1m scale)
58	X		SE	Pit 9, facing southeast (1m scale)
59	X		SE	Pit 9, facing southeast (1m scale)
60	X		NW	Pit 9, facing northwest (1m scale)
61	X		NW	Pit 9, facing northwest (1m scale)
62	X		NW	Pit 9, facing northwest (1m scale)
63	X		NE	Pit 10, facing northeast (1m scale)
64	X		NE	Pit 10, facing northeast (1m scale)
65	X		NE	Pit 10, facing northeast (1m scale)
66	X		NE	Pit 10, facing northeast (1m scale)
67	X		NE	Pit 10, facing northeast (1m scale)
68	X		NE	Pit 10, facing northeast (1m scale)
69	X		NE	Pit 10, facing northeast (1m scale)
70	X		S	Pit 10, facing south (1m scale)
71	X		S	Pit 10, facing south (1m scale)
72	X		S	Pit 10, facing south (1m scale)
73	X		ENE	Pit 11, facing northeast (1m scale)
74	X		ENE	Pit 11, facing northeast (1m scale)
75	X		SW	Pit 12, facing southwest (1m scale)
76	X		SW	Pit 12, facing southwest (1m scale)
77	X		SW	Pit 12, facing southwest (1m scale)
78	X		SW	Pit 12, facing southwest (1m scale)
79	X		E	Pit 12, facing east (2x 1m scale)
80	X		E	Pit 12, facing east (2x 1m scale)
81	X		E	Pit 12, facing east (2x 1m scale)
82	X		SE	Pit 13, facing southeast (1m scale)
83	X		SE	Pit 13, facing southeast (1m scale)
84	X		SE	Pit 13, facing southeast (1m scale)
85	X		NW	Pit 13, facing northwest (1m scale)
86	X		NW	Pit 13, facing northwest (1m scale)



Shot	DSLR	B&W	View	Subject
87	X		NW	Pit 13, facing northwest (1m scale)
88	X		NW	Pit 13, facing northwest (1m scale)
89	X		NE	Pit 14, facing northeast (2m scale)
90	X		NE	Pit 14, facing northeast (2m scale)
91	X		NE	Pit 14, facing northeast (2m scale)
92	X		NE	Pit 14, facing northeast (2m scale)
93	X		NE	Pit 14, facing northeast (2m scale)
94	X		NE	Pit 14, facing northeast (2m scale)
95	X		NE	Pit 14, facing northeast (2m scale)
96	X		NE	Pit 14, facing northeast (2m scale)
97	X		NE	Pit 14, facing northeast (2m scale)
98	X		ENE	Pit 15, facing east (2m scale)
99	X		ENE	Pit 15, facing east (2m scale)
100	X		NE	Pit 16, facing northeast (1m scale)
101	X		NE	Pit 16, facing northeast (1m scale)
102	X		NE	Pit 16, facing northeast (1m scale)
103	X		NE	Pit 16, facing northeast (1m scale)
104	X		N	Pit 17, facing north (1m scale)
105	X		N	Pit 17, facing north (1m scale)
106	X		N	Pit 17, facing north (1m scale)
107	X		N	Pit 17, facing north (1m scale)
108	X		N	Pit 17, facing north (1m scale)
109	X		N	Pit 17, facing north (1m scale)
110	X		NNW	Pit 20, facing northwest (1m scale)
111	X		NE	Pit 20, facing northeast (1m scale)
112	X		NE	Pit 20, facing northeast (1m scale)
113	X		NE	Pit 20, facing northeast (1m scale)
114	X		NE	Pit 20, facing northeast (1m scale)
115	X		NNE	Pit 20, facing northeast (1m scale)
116	X		NNE	Pit 20, facing northeast (1m scale)
117	X		NNE	Pit 20, facing northeast (1m scale)
118	X		NNE	Pit 20, facing northeast (1m scale)
119	X		E	Pit 24, facing east (1m scale)
120	X		E	Pit 24, facing east (1m scale)
121	X		E	Pit 24, facing east (1m scale)
122	X		E	Pit 24, facing east (1m scale)
123	X		E	Pit 24, facing east (1m scale)
124	X		E	Pit 24, facing east (1m scale)
125	X		ENE	Pit 25, facing northeast (1m scale)
126	X		ENE	Pit 25, facing northeast (1m scale)
127	X		ENE	Pit 25, facing northeast (1m scale)
128	X		ENE	Pit 25, facing northeast (1m scale)
129	X		ENE	Pit 25, facing northeast (1m scale)
130	X		NNE	Pit 26, facing north (1m scale)



Shot	DSLR	B&W	View	Subject
131	X		NNE	Pit 26, facing north (1m scale)
132	X		N	Pit 26, facing north (1m scale)
133	X		N	Pit 26, facing north (1m scale)
134	X		ENE	Pit 26, facing east (1m scale)
135	X		ENE	Pit 26, facing east (1m scale)
136	X		ESE	Pit 27, facing east (1m scale)
137	X		ESE	Pit 27, facing east (1m scale)
138	X		ESE	Pit 27, facing east (1m scale)
139	X		ESE	Pit 27, facing east (1m scale)
140	X		NNE	Pit 28, facing northeast (1m scale)
141	X		NNE	Pit 28, facing northeast (1m scale)
142	X		NNE	Pit 28, facing northeast (1m scale)
143	X		NNE	Pit 28, facing northeast (1m scale)
144	X		SE	Pit 32, facing southeast (1m scale)
145	X		SE	Pit 32, facing southeast (1m scale)
146	X		SE	Pit 32, facing southeast (1m scale)
147	X		SE	Pit 32, facing southeast (1m scale)
148	X		SE	Pit 32, facing southeast (1m scale)
149	X		ESE	Pit 32, facing east (1m scale)
150	X		ESE	Pit 32, facing east (1m scale)
151	X		ESE	Pit 32, facing east (1m scale)
152	X		ESE	Pit 32, facing east (1m scale)
153	X		NW	Pit 36, facing northwest (1m scale)
154	X		NW	Pit 36, facing northwest (1m scale)
155	X		NW	Pit 36, facing northwest (1m scale)
156	X		NW	Pit 36, facing northwest (1m scale)
157	X		NW	Pit 36, facing northwest (1m scale)
158	X		SE	Pit 36, facing southeast (1m scale)
159	X		SE	Pit 36, facing southeast (1m scale)
160	X		SE	Pit 36, facing southeast (1m scale)
161	X		SE	Pit 36, facing southeast (1m scale)
162	X		NNW	Pit 36, facing northwest (2x 1m scale)
163	X		NNW	Pit 36, facing northwest (2x 1m scale)
164	X		NNW	Pit 36, facing northwest (2x 1m scale)
165	X		NNW	Pit 36, facing northwest (2x 1m scale)
166	X		NW	Pit 36, facing northwest (1m scale)
167	X		NW	Pit 36, facing northwest (1m scale)
168	X		NW	Pit 36, facing northwest (1m scale)
169	X		NW	Pit 36, facing northwest (1m scale)
170	X		SW	Pit 40, facing southwest (1m scale)
171	X		SW	Pit 40, facing southwest (1m scale)
172	X		SW	Pit 40, facing southwest (1m scale)
173	X		NNW	Pit 40, facing north (1m scale)
174	X		NNW	Pit 40, facing north (1m scale)



Shot	DSLR	B&W	View	Subject
175	X		NNW	Pit 40, facing north (1m scale)
176	X	X	NNE	Quarry pit [6], chalk deposit, wall [7] (1m scale)
177	X	X	NE	Quarry pit [6], chalk deposit, wall [7] (1m scale)
178	X	X	SE	Wall [7] (1m scale)
179	X	X	NE	Wall [7] (1m scale)
180	X	X	SE	Chalk deposit, wall [7] (1m scale)
181	X	X	SE	Chalk deposit, wall [7] (1m scale)
182	X	X	N	Quarry pit [6] chalk, wall [7] (1m scale)
183	X	X	NE	Bulk strat shot, central access area (2x 1m scale)
184	X	X	NW	Quarry pit [6] (1m scale)
185	X	X	NW	Quarry pit [6] (1m scale)
186	X	X	N	Quarry pit [6] (1m scale)
187	X	X	N	Quarry pit [6] (1m scale)
188	X	X	NE	Underpinning pit 51 (1m scale)
189	X	X	NE	Underpinning pit 51 (1m scale)
190	X	X	NE	Underpinning pit 51 (1m scale)
191	X	X	N	View north across central area
192	X		E	Pit 1, facing east
193	X		NNE	Pit 27 and Pit 3, facing north
194	X		NW	Pit 3 and pit 4, facing northwest
195	X		E	View east across central area towards pit 1



Appendix 2: Context Register

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
01	Deposit	Mid orangey brown Friable Silty sand	Uppermost made-ground found throughout area.
02	Fill	Dark brown/black Friable Clayey silt	Deliberate backfill of cut [6], thought to be a quarry pit found towards the central northern part of the area. Contained animal bone, pottery and during further ground reduction in this area a corroded metal thimble was found.
03	Fill	Mid orange brown and grey brown Friable Silty clay	Deliberate backfill of cut [6] thought to be a quarry pit. Containing fragments of CBM.
04	Fill	Mid orange brown & grey brown Friable Silty clay	Deliberate backfill of cut [6] thought to be a quarry pit. Containing fragments of CBM.
05	Fill	Dark grey brown/black Friable Clayey silt	Deliberate backfill of cut [6] thought to be a quarry pit. Containing fragments of CBM.
06	Cut	Cut of pit. Sub-rectangular <45 degree angle, steps down to a sharper slope. Stepped & flattish	Sub-rectangular cut found in the central north-eastern part of the area. Had stepped sides and had been deliberately backfilled by a series of dumped deposits containing post-medieval pottery, brick, tile, animal bone and a metal thimble was also recovered. Chalk surface (8) overlay the pit.
07	Deposit	Mid orangey brown Friable Silty sand	Made-ground found in central part of the area. Covered by a chalk floor [8] and cut by wall [9]. Containing pottery, bone and CBM.
08	Structure	Compacted chalk layer	Compacted chalk layer may have formed a surface found along the north eastern part of the area. Cut by wall [9].
09	Structure	Broken red unfroged bricks, 110mm (w) & 55mm (D). bonded with a white/creamy lime mortar.	Brick wall, with two courses surviving, bricks resemble those used to construct the old town hall. Wall cuts chalk surface [8] and made-ground (7). Wall could have been used to support a wooden floor-dwarf wall.
010	Deposit	Light-mid coppery orange Loose Sandy gravel	Natural geology
011	Cut	Cut of large pit	Probable cess pit
012	Fill	Primary fill of [011]. Greenish grey, very fine silty sand	Cess
013	Fill	Secondary fil of [011] Very waterlogged, black silty clay with large quantity of tile	Backfill of cess pit
014	Cut	Cut of large pit	Probable cess pit
015	Fill	Primary fill of [014]. Greenish grey, very fine silty sand	Cess
016	Fill	Secondary fil of [014] Very waterlogged, black silty clay with large quantity of tile	Backfill of cess pit
017	Cut	Cut of very large pit	Probable quarry pit
018	Fill	Sole fill of [018]	Quarry pit backfill
019	Cut	Straight, sheer-sided cut	Cut of brick drain
020	Structure	Circular, single skin, brick tube	Brick drain
021	Structure	Roughly made, red brick, tank	Probable urinal
022	Structure	3 or 4 clunch blocks within the construction cut of the café's southern wall	Possible clunch footing discarded within the construction cut backfill
023	Fill	Mainly redeposited natural sand and gravel	Backfill of brick drain cut [019]
024	Structure	Compacted chalk	Probable floor surface
025	Structure	Compacted flint cobbles	Cobbled stone surface

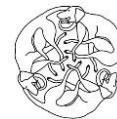


Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
026	Cut	Large tapering cut	Possible unused cess pit
027	Fill	Redeposited natural sand and flints. Sole fill [026]	Backfill of [026]



Appendix 3: Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		Animal Bone		CBM		Fe objects		Shell		Other		
	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	
Fill			11	428			1	341	1	24			
01													
02	4	179	5	152	8	713	1	7					
04			1	23	6	447							
05			3	525									
013	3	53	33	1307	138	10197			8	149	1	22	Flint
											3	137	Wood
											1	63	Flint
016			13	633	95	8543	1	65	11	190	3	17	Wood
											1	35	Slag
											1	308	Flint
09											1	6	Pipe
Unstratified	2	133											
Total	9	365	66	3068	247	19900	3	413	19	339	11	588	



Appendix 3: Specialist Reports

Leather from St Albans Old Town Hall (Project 193/SAT)

Quita Mould

Methodology

This report is based on an examination of the leather on 8/02/2017 and 11/05/2017. A basic record of the material has been made, noting all the diagnostic features present, measurement of relevant dimensions and species identification where possible. Scans of working drawings have been provided. The material is summarised below incorporating the contextual information currently available.

All measurements are in millimetres (mm). + indicates an incomplete measurement. No allowance for shrinkage has been made. Leather species were identified by hair follicle pattern using a low-powered magnification. Shoe bottom components and repairs are assumed to be of cattle hide unless stated otherwise. The shoe terms and drawing conventions employed are those in common use in the archaeological literature, for example Goubitz 1984.

Condition of the material

The leather has been now been conserved.

Summary

Parts from two turnshoes (1, 2) and a piece of primary waste leather (3) were found in a fill of a deep pit, thought to be a cesspit, at the Old Town Hall excavations, St. Albans. The turnshoe parts (1,2) are of medieval date. One turnshoe (1) for the left foot, has a sole with a narrow waist suggesting a date in the second half of the fourteenth century or the fifteenth century. Its oval-toed vamp of cattle hide is broken and lacks any diagnostic features, the quarters are also missing, so that it is not possible to date the shoe (1) more closely. The forepart broken from a second turnshoe sole (2), also for a left foot, had been heavily worn and repaired before it was eventually thrown away.

The leg area cut from a bovine hide (3) cannot be independently dated but may be considered of medieval date because of its association with the turnshoe parts (1,2). The hide is likely to be from a mature animal rather than a calf, the term bovine, rather than cow, is used because the sex of the animal is unknown.

References

English Heritage 1995, Guidelines for the care of waterlogged archaeological leather. Scientific and Technical Publications Guideline 4.

English Heritage 2012, Waterlogged Organic Artefacts Guidelines on the Recovery, Analysis and Conservation.

Goubitz, O. 1984, The drawing and registration of archaeological footwear, *Studies in Conservation* 29 no 4, 187-196

Catalogue description

1 Leather turnshoe, left foot, adult size

Turnshoe sole, with toe, much of the tread area and lower part of the seat now missing. The sole has a wide, petal-shaped tread, very narrow waist and the upper part of a narrow seat present. Edge/flesh



seam, stitch length 7mm. The sole has been worn but shows no excessive wear and has no indication of repair. Difficult to know for which foot from what remains. Surviving length 199+mm; width tread 86+mm, waist 24mm, seat 33+mm. Matching **vamp** for left foot with an oval toe and left side seam present but the right side and the throat area torn away. The left side seam is butted edge/flesh, stitch length 4.5mm, and 45mm high with a very small area of a plain cut concave throat present. The vamp is worn and broken directly above the lasting margin, stitch length 7mm, at the toe and at the little toe joint. Vamp leather 2.62mm thick cattle hide. Length toe to side seam 180mm. Condition: conserved.

2 Leather turnshoe sole, left foot, adult size.

Forepart of turnshoe sole with oval toe, torn away obliquely across the upper waist area. Worn away at the oval toe, with petal-shaped tread, waist and seat areas now missing. Edge/flesh seam, stitch length 6mm. Worn tunnel stitching on grain side running across the upper waist area and up the lateral side (outer edge) marking the position of a former clump repair, now missing. Leather worn cattle hide. Surviving length 141+mm, tread width 80mm. Condition: conserved.

3 Leather primary waste

Rectangular piece of primary waste cut from the leg area of a bovine hide. Tapering sides with hide edges, lower edge with hide edge, upper edge is knife cut. A scored line is present along one side edge on the grain side. Now torn on left side. Leather cattle hide c. 3.5mm thick. Length 169mm, max width 120mm, min width 97mm. Condition: conserved.



Pottery and CBM from the Old Town Hall, St Albans, Herts (Site 193/SAT)

Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 9 sherds with a total weight of 518g. The following fabric types were noted:

GRE: **Glazed Red Earthenware**, 16th – 19th century (Brears 1969). 1 sherd, 39g.

HG: **Hertfordshire Grey Ware**, mid 12th–14th century (Turner-Rugg 1993). 1 sherd, 30g,

HGW: **Hertfordshire Glazed Ware**, mid 14th – mid 15th century (Jenner and Vince 1983). 2 sherds, 211g.

LMT: **Late Medieval Transitional Ware**, 15th – 16th century. 3 sherds, 135g.

SS: **Sandy Shelly Ware**, 12th – 14th century. 1 sherd, 93g

SSW: **Surrey White Ware**, mid 13th – mid 15th century (Pearce and Vince 1988). 1 sherd, 24g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. Most of the sherds are fairly large and in good condition, and appear reliably stratified. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region.

Despite the small size of the assemblage, a number of feature sherds were noted. The unstratified material consisted of the rim and handle of an SS jug and a fragment from the rim of a GRE colander. The sherd of SSW is from the rim of a jar, and the single piece of HGW is the handle of a jug with a slashed thumb-groove. Another handle, from a skillet or, more likely, a pipkin (Jenner and Vince 1983 fig. 6 no. 30) in HGW, occurred in context 4. A The sherd of LMT from context 2 is the near-complete rim and handle terminal of a jug.

The sandy shelly ware has a fabric with large quantities of sub-rounded quartz up to 0.5mm, and a lesser fraction of fine shell and other calcareous material, along with sparse red iron. Similar fabrics are known from other sites in Hertfordshire, such as Hertford Castle (Pieksma 1996, 31). The LMT ware is probably an Essex type (eg. Cotter 2000, 108).

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	SS		HG		SSW		HGW		LMT		GRE		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
U/S	1	93									1	39	U/S
2							1	60	1	8			15thC
4							1	151					M14thC
6									1	111			15thC
13			1	13	1	24			1	16			15thC
Total	1	93	1	13	1	24	2	211	3	135	1	39	

CBM

A fairly large assemblage of fired clay building material occurred (242 fragments, 19,242g), mostly in the form of flat roof tiles, and mainly from two contexts, 13 and 16. Their occurrence by number and weight of fragments by type is shown in Table X2.

The tiles are in a hard, red sandy fabric with sparse red iron and occasional calcareous and calcined flint fragments. None of the original dimensions survived other than thickness, which was generally



between 11mm and 15mm. Many had round peg holes between 12mm – 15mm in diameter, with just one example, from context 16, having two surviving. They were placed in the centre of one end, and were 60mm apart. The fragment of ridge-tile from context 16 was 16mm thick. Many of the flat tiles had one unusually rough side, suggesting that a very coarse sand had been used in the mould, with one example, from context 13, having a large amount of angular calcined flint adhering to the mould side of it. None of the tiles were glazed, but many had traces of mortar adhering to them, showing that they had been used. They appear to all be of later medieval date, which corresponds with the dating of the pottery from the same features. They are similar to tiles of broadly the same date from Hertford Castle (Zeervat 1995), which were also all unglazed and had peg-hoes rather than nibs.

The fragment of brick from context 16 was in a similar fabric. None of its original dimensions survived.

Table 1: CBM occurrence by number and weight (in g) of fragments per context by type

Cntxt	Flat Tile		Ridge Tile		Brick	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
2	8	710				
4	5	293				
13	132	9587	2	218		
16	93	8214	1	115	1	105
Total	238	18804	3	333	1	105

Bibliography

Brears, P C D 1969 *The English country pottery: its history and techniques*. Newton Abbot: David & Charles

Cotter, J. 2000 *Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85* Colchester Archaeological Report **7**

Jenner, A and Vince, AG. 1983 A dated type-series of London medieval pottery 3: late medieval Hertfordshire glazed ware *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society* **34**, 151-169

Pearce, J and Vince, A. 1988 *A Dated Type-Series of London Medieval Pottery. Part 4: Surrey Whitewares* London and Middlesex Archaeol Soc Special Paper **10**

Pieksma, E, 1996 Pottery in Zeervat, RJ and Cooper-Reade, H. Excavations within the Outer Bailey of Hertford Castle *Hertfordshire Archaeology* **12**, 30-32

Turner-Rugg, A. 1993 Medieval Pottery in Hertfordshire: a gazetteer of the principle collections *Hertfordshire Archaeology* **11**, 30 – 53

Zeervat, RJ. 1995 Brick and roof tile in Zeervat RJ and Cooper-Reade, H. Excavations within the Outer Bailey of Hertford Castle *Hertfordshire Archaeology* **12**, 32



Animal remains from the Old Town Hall, St Albans, Hertfordshire (193/SAT)

Derek Watson, PhD

Introduction

A programme of archaeological observation and recording of the Grade II* Old Town Hall, St Albans, generated an animal bone assemblage comprising 84 specimens (Table 1). The bird and mammal bone, and bivalve shells were recovered from made ground (1), and fills ((2), (4/5), (13) and (16)) of three pits ([6], [11] and [14]), and were generally well preserved, though the assemblage was highly fragmented. Available evidence suggests that the assemblage dates from the late 14th or 15th century.

Methodology: Taxonomic identification and Quantification

All specimens were identified to species (Table 1) using published criteria and quantified by a fragment count (i.e. Number of Identified Specimens/Skeletal Parts, NISP; i.e. 84 specimens). Differentiation between sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goat (*Capra hircus*) was not possible as none of the requisite diagnostic features were preserved in the assemblage. Consequently, sheep/goat will be referred to by the general term 'ovicaprine'.

Estimation of age-at-death was based on dental eruption and tooth wear of mandibles with *in situ* teeth (Grant 1982; Payne 1973), and the stage of epiphyseal fusion (Habermehl 1975; Silver 1969) for elements identified to species (Table 2). No gnawing (e.g. by human, dogs etc.) or burning was observed on any of the elements in the assemblage. Butchery marks were recorded, if present. Ribs, vertebrae, and unidentifiable specimens were assigned to size classes (small/medium/large; Table 1). The Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) was calculated from the greater number of left or right complete bones, or epiphyseal ends, and/or mandibles with *in situ* teeth, or from the specific shell forms of molluscan remains. Measurements of the elements were taken in accordance with von den Driesch (1976; Table 3).

Results

The species identified in the assemblage comprise cattle (*Bos taurus*), pig (*Sus scrofa*), ovicaprines (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), chicken (*Gallus gallus*), the European flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), and the Blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*; Table 1). European flat oyster remains constitute the largest component of the assemblage at 21.4% of the total, with most concentrated in the lower part of the uppermost fill (16) of cess pit [14] (Table 1). These molluscs also formed a significant component of the material recovered from the upper fill (13) of cess pit [11]. Cattle remains are next in frequency at 14.3% of the assemblage total, though they are thinly distributed. However, as many of specimens were not identifiable to species and have been assigned to broad size classes, it is probable that many of the remains in the Small to Medium categories derive from, for example, sheep/goat and pig, while a sizable fraction, if not all, of those from the Large Mammal class are liable to be the remains of cattle. The MNI for avian/mammalian remains constitutes no more than 1-2 individuals per context, whereas the shellfish probably comprised as many as 6 from fill (16).

The mammalian body parts represented within assemblage are predominantly primary butchery waste i.e. the parts of the carcass that are generally removed during the initial stages of butchery (e.g. skull, metapodials, etc.). While other remains probably represent the constituents of individual meals e.g. chicken. Butchery marks, in the form of 'chop marks' were recorded on cattle remains from fill (4/5) of quarry pit [6] and the topmost part of fill (16) from cess pit [14]; on a fragmentary Large Mammal pelvis from fill (13) of cess pit [11]; and on an ovicaprid humerus also from the upper part of



fill (16). On the long bone specimens these chop marks cut cleanly through the distal articular ends of the elements, a pattern consistent with the coarse dismemberment of an animal carcass.

The ageing and sexing of animal remains is an essential step in reconstructing past animal husbandry/exploitation methods. The small sample from which age-at-death estimations (Table 2) could be generated, based on dental eruption, tooth wear, and epiphyseal fusion, provide broad age determinations that suggest the majority of cattle remains were from mature individuals, while those from ovicaprine demonstrate a wider range of individual animal maturity. The high fragmentation of specific elements (e.g. pelves) precludes the reconstruction of the assemblage sex profile, though a pig maxillary canine from the uppermost part of fill (16) is morphologically female.

Conclusion

The animal bone assemblage is small though it does enable the formulation of some tentative conclusions concerning human activities and animal exploitation. The species represented in the bone assemblage appear to be quite typical for medieval England (Gidney 2018) with a predominance of oyster and cattle remains. The cattle remains appear to have all been from mature individuals, a pattern that is relatively consistent with the dating of the site as it was only from the 15-16th century that adult and juvenile individuals frequently co-occur in animal bone assemblages (Albarella 1997: 22). Beef formed a minor component of the medieval upper-class diet as it was the cheapest and coarsest meat, thought fit only for consumption by those engaged in heavy physical labour (Adamson 2004: 31). The age range of ovicaprid remains does not demonstrate any clear husbandry pattern, suggesting the selection of the most convenient individual animal for consumption and/or other resources. Meat from older sheep (i.e. mutton) was favoured by the medieval palate, and was often the most expensive fresh meat available in a market (Adamson 2004: 31-33). It is likely that all of the individual animals in the assemblage were eaten, though the disposal of a rotting carcass in, for example, a cess pit cannot be excluded. Shellfish were part of the diet of both the upper and lower classes during the middle ages, and oysters were consumed in large quantities, followed in popularity by mussels (Adamson 2004: 44). The data from the assemblage adumbrates the consumption/exploitation of a few animals, perhaps related to activities associated with the market square.

Context	1		2		4/5		13		16 (Top)		16 (Bottom)		Total	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
Humerus					1	(1.2)	1	(1.2)					2	(2.4)
Carpal									1	(1.2)			1	(1.2)
Pelvis	1	(1.2)					1	(1.2)					2	(2.4)
Femur					1	(1.2)	2	(2.4)	1	(1.2)			4	(4.8)
Tibia	1	(1.2)	1	(1.2)									2	(2.4)
Metatarsal					1	(1.2)							1	(1.2)
Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	2	(2.4)	1	(1.2)	3	(3.6)	4	(4.8)	2	(2.4)			12	(14.3)
Clavicula									1	(1.2)			1	(1.2)
Radius							1	(1.2)					1	(1.2)
Chicken (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)							1	(1.2)	1	(1.2)			2	(2.4)
Mandible+M1-2							1	(1.2)					1	(1.2)
Maxilla+P2-3+C									1	(1.2)			1	(1.2)
Pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)							1	(1.2)	1	(1.2)			2	(2.4)
Bivalve shell							1	(1.2)			1	(1.2)	2	(2.4)



Context	1		2		4/5		13		16 (Top)		16 (Bottom)		Total	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
Blue mussel <i>(Mytilus edulis)</i>							1	(1.2)			1	(1.2)	2	(2.4)
Bivalve shell	1	(1.2)					7	(8.3)			10	(11.9)	18	(21.4)
European flat oyster <i>(Ostrea edulis)</i>	1	(1.2)					7	(8.3)			10	(11.9)	18	(21.4)
Mandible+P2-3							1	(1.2)					1	(1.2)
Mandible+P2-M3	1	(1.2)											1	(1.2)
Mandible+P3-M3	1	(1.2)											1	(1.2)
Humerus									1	(1.2)			1	(1.2)
Radius	1	(1.2)											1	(1.2)
Ulna									1	(1.2)			1	(1.2)
Metatarsal			1	(1.2)			1	(1.2)					2	(2.4)
Ovicaprine <i>(Sheep/Goat)</i>	3	(3.6)	1	(1.2)			2	(2.4)	2	(2.4)			8	(9.5)
Indeterminate frag.	4	(4.8)					5	(6.0)	2	(2.4)			11	(13.1)
Skull fragment							1	(1.2)					1	(1.2)
Mandible hinge	2	(2.4)											2	(2.4)
Scapula							1	(1.2)					1	(1.2)
Rib	1	(1.2)	1	(1.2)			7	(8.3)	1	(1.2)			10	(11.9)
Thoracic vertebra							1	(1.2)					1	(1.2)
Lumbar vertebra							1	(1.2)	1	(1.2)			2	(2.4)
Pelvis							1	(1.2)					1	(1.2)
Large mammal	7	(8.3)	1	(1.2)			17	(20.2)	4	(4.8)			29	(34.5)
Indeterminate frag.									1	(1.2)			1	(1.2)
Skull fragment							1	(1.2)					1	(1.2)
Rib	1	(1.2)	1	(1.2)									2	(2.4)
Tibia							1	(1.2)					1	(1.2)
Medium mammal	1	(1.2)	1	(1.2)			2	(2.4)	1	(1.2)			5	(6.0)
Indeterminate frag.							2	(2.4)					2	(2.4)
Rib	2	(2.4)											2	(2.4)
Small-Medium Mammal	2	(2.4)					2	(2.4)					4	(4.8)
Rib									1	(1.2)			1	(1.2)
Femur (fragment)			1	(1.2)									1	(1.2)
Small mammal			1	(1.2)					1	(1.2)			2	(2.4)
Assemblage Totals	16	(19)	5	(6)	3	(3.6)	37	(44)	12	(14.3)	11	(13.1)	84	(100)

Table 1: Animal bone from the Old Town Hall, St Albans, Hertfordshire (193/SAT)

Context	1		2		4/5		13		16 (Top)		Total	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
<3.5-4yrs									1	(1.2)	1	(1.2)
>3.5yrs					1	(1.2)					1	(1.2)
>2-2.5yrs	1	(1.2)	1	(1.2)							2	(2.4)



Context	1		2		4/5		13		16 (Top)		Total	
Species/Age group	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
Cattle (Bos taurus)	1	(1.2)	1	(1.2)	1	(1.2)	0		1	(1.2)	4	(4.8)
6-8yrs	1	(1.2)									1	(1.2)
>3yrs	1	(1.2)							1	(1.2)	2	(2.4)
>20-28mths			1	(1.2)							1	(1.2)
>10mths									1	(1.2)	1	(1.2)
0-2mths	1	(1.2)									1	(1.2)
Ovicaprine (Sheep/Goat)	3	(3.6)	1	(1.2)					2	(2.4)	6	(7.1)
Age data as % of Total	4	(5)	2	(2.4)	1	(1.2)	0		4	(4.8)	84	(100)

Table 2: Age data from the animal bone assemblage

Cont	Species	Element	GL	Bp	SD	Bd	BFd	7	8	9	SDO	DPA
1	Ovicap	Radius	150.08	30.93	16.60	29.19	22.69					
1	Ovicap	Mandible						63.80	41.97	21.77		
2	Ovicap	MTarsal	131.13	19.31	11.57	23.82						
4/5	Cattle	MTarsal		46.34								
16(T)	Ovicap	Ulna									21.36	27.45
16(T)	Chicken	Radius		68.58	3.27	6.61						

Table 3: Animal bone measurements.

Abbreviations: Cont=context; Ovicap=ovicaprine; MTarsal=metatarsal; GL=greatest length; Bp=breadth of proximal end; SD=smallest depth of diaphysis; Bd=breadth of distal end; BFd=breadth of the Facies articularis distalis; 7=length of cheek tooth row; 8= length of molar row; 9=length of premolar row; SDO= ; DPA=depth across Processus anconaeus.

Bibliography

Adamson, M. W. (2004). *Food in medieval times*. London: Greenwood Press.

Albarella, U. (1997). Size, power, wool and veal: zooarchaeological evidence for late medieval innovations. In De Bow, G. and F. Verhaeghe (eds.), *Environment and subsistence in medieval Europe*, pp. 19-30, Brugge: Instituut voor het Archeologisch Patrimonium

Grant, A. (1982). The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates. In B. Wilson, C. Grigson and S. Payne (eds.) *Ageing and sexing animal bones from archaeological sites*, pp. 91–108. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports.

Gidney, L. (2004). The animal in late medieval Britain. In Gerrard, C. and A. Gutierrez (eds.) *The Oxford handbook of later medieval archaeology in Britain*, pp. 102-115. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Habermehl, K.-H. (1975). *Die Altersbestimmung bei Haus- und Labortieren*. Berlin: Parey.

Payne, S. (1973). Kill-Off Patterns in Sheep and Goats: The Mandibles from Asvan Kale. *Anatolian Studies*.: *J. Brit. Inst. Archaeol. Ankara* 23, 281–303.

Silver, I. A. (1969). 'The ageing of domestic animals'. In D. R. Brothwell and E. S. Higgs (eds.) *Science in archaeology: A comprehensive survey of progress and research*, pp. 283–302. London: Thames & Hudson.

von den Driesch, A. (1976). *A guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites*. Harvard: Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology/Harvard University.



Appendix 4: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Old Town Hall, St Albans, Hertfordshire	Project Site Code	193/SAT
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-241443	Event/Accession no	OTH/17
OS reference	TL 14754 07247	Study area size	c. 130 sq. m
Project Type	Observation and Recording / Strip, Map and Record	Height (mAOD)	c. 115mAOD
Short Description	Between January and June 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd carried out a mixed programme of Observation and Recording and Strip, Map and Record excavation in relation to the construction of a basement gallery at The Old Town Hall, St Albans. During the excavation of more than 40 underpinning pits medieval and post-medieval features were recorded including cess pits which were probably backfilled in the late 14th or 15th century, and an early 17th century stone surface. The cess pits also contained a large quantity of roof tile, possibly associated with the demolition of a nearby building of some status, though no brick or structural timbers was present. The stone surface overlay the pits and appeared to demarcate the northern and western sides of the almshouses built within the footprint of the excavated area in 1605.		
Previous work	Yes	Site status	Grade II Listed
Planning proposal	Construction of a new museum and gallery, ancillary cafe and retail facilities, including the extension of the basement, first floor glazed link extensions, replacement plant, improvement to services and associated internal and external works	Current land use	Coffee Shop, Tourist Information Centre and offices
Local Planning Authority	St Albans City and District Council	Planning application ref.	5/2015/2208 & 5/2015/2212/LB
Monument type	Civic building	Monument period	Industrial era
Significant finds	Medieval cess pits, stone and flint surfaces	Future work	No
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	St Albans District Council	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye BA ACIfA	Director/Supervisor	David Kaye BA ACIfA
Sponsor/funding body	St Albans District Council		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	January 2017	End date	June 2017
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	St Albans Museum	Pottery, Animal bone, Leather, CBM	
Paper		Record sheets, plans, Report	
Digital		CD of photos	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Observation and Recording / Strip, Map and Record Report. The Old Town Hall, Market Place, St Albans, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume	193SAT/3.1		
Author(s)	David Kaye BA ACIfA		
Page no's	46	Date	01.08.2018



Appendix 5: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site name and address: Old Town Hall, St Albans, Hertfordshire	
County: Hertfordshire	District: St Albans City & District
Village/Town: St Albans	Parish: St Albans
Planning application reference: 5/2015/2208 & 5/2015/2212/LB	
Client's name, address, & tel. no: St Albans City & District Council St Albans, Hertfordshire 01727 864511	
Nature of application:	Construction of a new museum and gallery, ancillary cafe and retail facilities, including the extension of the basement, first floor glazed link extensions, replacement plant, improvement to services and associated internal and external works
Present land use:	Coffee Shop, Tourist Information Centre and offices
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated:
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 14754 07247	Site code: 193/SAT
Site director: Karin Kaye	Organization: KDK Archaeology Ltd
Type of work:	
Date of work:	Start: January 2017 End: June 2017
Curating museum: St Albans	
Related HER numbers: 6175; 16377; 16380	Periods represented:
Relevant previous summaries/reports: Historic Building Recording Old Town Hall, St Albans, Hertfordshire K. Kaye 2018	
Summary of fieldwork results: Between January and June 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd carried out a mixed programme of Observation and Recording and Strip, Map and Record excavation in relation to the construction of a basement gallery at The Old Town Hall, St Albans. During the excavation of more than 40 underpinning pits medieval and post-medieval features were recorded including cess pits which were probably backfilled in the late 14th or 15th century, and an early 17th century stone surface. The cess pits also contained a large quantity of roof tile, possibly associated with the demolition of a nearby building of some status, though no brick or structural timbers was present. The stone surface overlay the pits and appeared to demarcate the northern and western sides of the almshouses built within the footprint of the excavated area in 1605.	
Author: David Kaye BA ACIfA	Date: 01.08.2018