

birmingham archaeology

New Place,
Stratford Upon Avon

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DESK-BASED
ASSESSMENT
and
EVALUATION

2009

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



New Place, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Evaluation, 2009

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SUMMARY

Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned in October 2009 by The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment and evaluation in respect of the site of New Place, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire (centred on NGR SP 2010 2547). The archaeological work was undertaken in order to increase our understanding of the historic development of the New Place site to help inform proposed future archaeological works.

The archaeological desk-based assessment comprised a documentary search of all readily available published and unpublished sources at the Shakespeare Centre Library and Archive, Stratford upon Avon, and the libraries of the University of Birmingham. Following completion of historic research, a site visit was made in order to assess topography and above-ground archaeology, including standing buildings. The archaeological evaluation consisted of seven test pits strategically placed to answer specific questions on the sites past layout and achieve as much coverage of the site as possible.

The archaeological desk-based assessment has revealed the interesting and varied history of New Place, tracing its development from its original construction in c.1483 as the 'grete house' of Hugh Clopton, a wealthy merchant and future Lord Mayor of the City of London, through to it being the final residence of William Shakespeare from its purchase in 1597 to his death in 1616 and the turbulence of the 18th century, which first saw the original New Place pulled down and rebuilt around 1702 only to be razed to the ground in a dispute over the payment of rates in 1759. The assessment also examines and illustrates cartographic and pictorial evidence which provides us with an understanding of the subsequent development of the site and of the nature and results of antiquarian excavations carried out in the early 1860s.

The archaeological evaluation revealed archaeological deposits in each of the seven test pits. The site was predominantly characterised by levelling layers, some of which were associated with the period of backfilling subsequent to the 1862 excavations. Other significant levelling layers predating the 19th century were present, these may provide undisturbed archaeological deposits. Test pits 1, 3 and 4 all contained structural remains which relate to the structure of New Place. Test pits 5 and 6 also contained the possible remains of foundation trenches, perhaps associated with the outbuildings constructed along Chapel Lane. The artefactual evidence was consistent with the distinctive levelling episodes and the later usage and history of the site.

New Place, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Project

- 1.1.1 Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned in November 2009 by The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment and evaluation in respect of the site of New Place, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, centred on NGR SP 2010 2547 (Figure 1). The archaeological desk-based assessment and evaluation were commissioned in order to increase our understanding of the historic development of the New Place site to help inform proposed future archaeological works.
- 1.1.2 This report outlines the results of the archaeological desk-based assessment, which has been carried out in line with guidance included within *Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG16): Archaeology and Planning*, Section B, paras. 19-20 (DoE, 1990), and has been prepared in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (IFA, 2008a).
- 1.1.3 The report also outlines the results of the archaeological evaluation, which was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA, 2008b).
- 1.1.3 This report has been prepared based upon information current and available as of 10/11/2009. Details of archaeological terms used in this report are given in the glossary appended as **Appendix A**.

2 SITE LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

2.1 Site Location

- 2.1.1 New Place occupies a parcel of land formed by the junction of Chapel Lane and Chapel Street (Figures 2 and 3). To the south of the site is the Guild Chapel and the King Edward IV school buildings, the Falcon Inn is located to the west. The site lies in an area of relatively flat ground except at the west of the site and within the Knott garden, where the ground has been reduced.

2.2 Statutory Designations

- 2.2.1 The study area does not include or form part of any Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs); however it is located within the Stratford upon Avon Conservation Area (CA). Zones 1, 2, 3 and 4 also form part of a Registered Park and Garden; whilst Nash House is a Grade I listed building (LB).

2.3 Geology

- 2.2.1 The underlying geology of New Place comprises bedrock consisting of West Mercian Mudstone which is overlaid by Wasperton sand and gravel of the Warwickshire Avon Valley Formation (British Geological Survey).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The general aim of the archaeological desk-based assessment and evaluation was to collate existing archaeological and historic information relating to New Place and its immediate environs, and to establish their historical context and archaeological potential.
- 3.1.2 More specifically, the principal aim of the evaluation was to determine the character, state of preservation and the potential significance of any buried remains. The results will allow a mitigation strategy for the project work to be completed.

Other specific aims were to:

- Establish the extent to which Halliwell's excavations of 1862 have affected the below ground remains.
- Recover and interpret any re-deposited artefactual material relating to New place from the backfilled excavations of 1862.
- Attempt to confirm the hypothetical notions of the layout of New place which are currently based upon fragmentary documentary sources.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Archaeological desk based assessment

- 4.1.1 A search was made of all relevant and readily available published and unpublished documentary source material, including historic maps and photographs of the study area, held by the Shakespeare Centre Library and Archive, Stratford upon Avon, and the libraries of the University of Birmingham. In addition, a walkover assessment of the site was undertaken in order to assess the topography and any above ground archaeology, including any standing buildings.

4.2 Archaeological Evaluation

- 4.2.1 A total of 7 test pits were excavated across the site totalling 7.7m². All but two of these test pits were 1m x 1m (the other two were 2m x 1m and 0.7m x 0.7m). These test pits were located to provide a sample coverage of the total area and investigate different areas within the hypothetical historical layout of the site.
- 4.2.2 The test pits were excavated to the first archaeological horizon or to a depth that was reasonably practicable within a 1m x 1m test pit. Archaeological deposits were not completely excavated unless it was deemed unavoidable. The depth of archaeological deposits across the site was assessed, although the test pits were not excavated down to natural due to health and safety implications.
- 4.2.3 The test pits were surveyed-in using an EDM total station and located on the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

- 4.2.4 All turf/ topsoil removal and subsequent excavation and cleaning was done by hand. All archaeological features and deposits encountered were manually sample excavated, within the reasonable health and safety restrictions of the test pits. This was done to sufficiently define their character and to obtain suitable dating evidence.
- 4.2.5 All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Features were planned at a scale of 1:20, and sections drawn of all significant vertical stratigraphy and building elevations at a scale of 1:10. A comprehensive written record was maintained using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* cards. Written records and scale plans were supplemented by photographs using black and white monochrome, colour slide and digital photography.
- 4.2.6 Recovered finds were cleaned, marked and remedial conservation work undertaken as necessary. Treatment of all finds conformed to guidance contained within the Birmingham Archaeology Fieldwork Manual and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).
- 4.2.7 The full site archive includes all artefactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive will be prepared according to guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage, 1991), the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC, 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological collections (Museum and Art Galleries Commission, 1992). The paper archive will be deposited with the appropriate repository subject to permission from the landowner.

5 THE HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PLACE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 New Place is best known as the retirement home of William Shakespeare, where he lived from c.1610 until his death in 1616. The site has had quite an interesting history; in addition to its association with Shakespeare, some significant and controversial characters occupied New Place before and after the Bard's residency at the house. This varied and interesting history serves to ameliorate and provide further historic interest and texture to the legacy of Shakespeare at New Place, the house where he spent the last years of his life.

5.2 New Place before William Shakespeare

- 5.2.1 It is understood that New Place was constructed in 1483 by Hugh Clopton, an important benefactor in Stratford upon Avon, who also built the bridge bearing his family name which spans the River Avon in the town (Wood 2003, 214). Hugh Clopton is also believed to have funded the restoration of the nearby Guild Chapel. At the time of its construction New Place is thought to have been the second largest residence in Stratford upon Avon (after the college in Old Town), and the only house to have been built using brick as a significant building material, which was a new innovation not only in Stratford upon Avon but within most of the wider landscape. In 1540, John Leland, the antiquary, described New Place as a "*praty house of bricke and tymbre wherm he (i.e. Hugh Clopton) lived in his latter dayes and dyed*" (q. Halliwell 1864, 3). The use of brick is perhaps indicative of Clopton's status as a wealthy merchant and future Lord Mayor of the City of London (1491-1492). The scale of the New Place is perhaps best understood from an excerpt in Hugh Clopton's will, where he describes it as his

"grete house" (q. Halliwell 1864, 1) upon leaving it to William Clopton, whilst later accounts note that it was half-timbered with brick infilling, that it had, three storeys, five gabled bays and a frontage of c.60 feet (c.18m, Wood 2003, 214). The scale of Hugh Clopton's 'Grete House' is further emphasised by the fact it benefitted from "*a well and ten fireplaces, and most important a garden 180 feet long (c. 55m)*" (Wood 2003, 214). Contemporary accounts note that the property was accessed via a "*front gate which led on to a courtyard, then a rear block and a barn*" (Wood 2003, 214).

- 5.2.2 Hugh Clopton died in 1496 and New Place was retained within the Clopton family until it was sold in 1563 for the then expensive sum of £140, it was later sold to the Underhill family in 1567 for the lesser sum of £110 (Wood 2003, 214). The Underhill family, headed by William Underhill, were a Catholic family with quite an interesting history. William Underhill's son William inherited New Place upon his coming of age in 1575. William Jr was a staunch Romanist which inevitably led to he and his family being accused of recusancy¹ in the fall out from the Somerville Plot in 1583². It would seem that the Underhill family abandoned New Place following this unfortunate period in their history as the New Place that William Shakespeare purchased from them in 1597 has been described as semi-derelict, it had not been lived in for a while, and it was in need of major renovation (Wood 2003, 214).

5.3 William Shakespeare's New Place

- 5.3.1 As noted above, William Shakespeare purchased New Place from the Underhill family in 1597. It is unclear what exact price he paid for New Place, the deed of purchase notes that it sold for £60, however it is more likely to have sold for at least double that figure when considered with the previous purchase prices (see Section §5.22 above, Wood 2003, 214). In addition to the house and gardens, it would seem that he also purchased other land in the vicinity by separate negotiation (Wood 2003, 214). The purchase of New Place followed c.9 months after the death of his son Hamnet, an event which perhaps spurred Shakespeare into planning for his retirement in the town of his birth. However, Shakespeare did not take up residence at New Place immediately, preferring to spend much of his time working in London until his eventual retirement in 1610. The exact status of New Place in the interim period between purchase and Shakespeare's retirement is not entirely clear, however it would seem that renovations and improvement works began almost immediately and took at least a year to complete as there are accounts of the corporation purchasing surplus stone from Shakespeare in 1597-8 (Wood 2003, 214). It is believed that his wife and daughters took New Place as their main residence whilst William was still working in London. However, it would also seem that Shakespeare was renting out part of the house to his relations; this is attested to by the fact that his cousin Thomas Greene was still living at New Place in 1609 (Wood 2003, 214). Letting out part of the property would seem a plausible notion as the house, which contained at least ten rooms, would have catered for far more than Shakespeare's small family and any servants they would have required. In addition, it must have been reassuring to The Bard that trusted members of his own family were in close proximity to his wife and daughters whilst he was away in the capital. By the time he retired Shakespeare had

¹ Recusancy was the term used to describe the statutory offence of not complying with and conforming to the Established Church, i.e. the Church of England.

² On 25th October 1583 John Somerville, the 23 year old Catholic heir of Edstone, five miles north of Stratford, and husband of Margaret Arden whose father Edward Arden was the head of Shakespeare's mothers family, allegedly set out to London with the intention of shooting the Queen, who he described as the bane of the Catholic Church, with a hidden pistol. On his arrest he accused several persons as his co-conspirators including his father-in-law. Despite being clearly out his mind the incident was used to effectively purge Warwickshire of its influential Catholic families including the Underhills.

planted two orchards, one of which contained the famous mulberry tree, two gardens and erected two barns (Shapiro 2006, 267). Whilst in possession of New Place, Shakespeare wrote a number of his most famous and popular works including *The Winters Tale*, *The Tempest* and *Henry VIII*.

- 5.3.2 William Shakespeare died at New Place in 1616 after allegedly taking ill on an evening entertaining Ben Jonson and Michael Drayton (www.onlineshakespeare.com/nash). His wife Anne Hathaway later died at New Place in 1623.

5.4 New Place after William Shakespeare

- 5.4.1 On Shakespeare's death, like much of his estate, New Place came into the possession of his elder daughter Susanna, who had married a local physician John Hall in 1607. It is thought that Susanna entertained Charles I queen at New Place. Upon her death in 1645, Susanna bequeathed New Place to her daughter Elizabeth, born in 1608³, who married Thomas Nash, owner Nash House next-door and member of the Manor and Lordship of Shottery. Thomas Nash died in 1647 leaving Nash House to Elizabeth, who married her second husband Sir John Barnard thus becoming Lady Barnard. Elizabeth died in 1670 leaving New Place to her husband, upon whose death in 1674 New Place was sold to Sir Edward Walker. Upon Sir Edward Walker's death the house was left to his daughter Barbara, the wife of John Clopton meaning that effectively after a period of over one hundred years the ownership of the property had reverted back into the hands of the descendents of its original occupants (Halliwell 1864).

- 5.4.2 New Place, now over one hundred years old would have been seen as old fashioned, and not befitting a well-to-do early 18th century family. Consequently the timber-framed New Place of Shakespeare and Hugh Clopton before him was either radically altered or rebuilt in brick and stone by John Clopton in 1702. Excavations in the 19th century revealed that the *"house was a strong edifice built chiefly of brick"* (Halliwell 1864, 183).

- 5.4.3 There is little surviving documentary evidence as to the nature of the original New Place. Perhaps the most informative source is a pen and ink sketch made by George Vertue in the late 18th century (reproduced in Wood 2003, 215). This sketch (Plate 1), which is based on the memory of others, depicts a two storey-with attic, half-timbered building with close studding and diagonal braces, comprising five gabled bays, characterised by a central ground floor doorway with what appears to be a shouldered arch head, and large mullioned and transomed first floor windows. The sketch is accompanied by a site plan and a description which appears to suggest that this half timbered structure, which faced onto Chapel Street was not the actual dwelling house of New Place, but rather formed more of a gatehouse containing a long gallery and servants quarters.

"This something by memory and is description of Shakespeare's House which was Stratford upon Avon. Where he livd and dyed with his wife after him 1699.

This outward appearance towards the street, the gate and entrance (at the corner of the Chappel Lane/the Chappel founded by 1ST Hu(gh) Clopton who built it and the bridge over Avon.

Besides this front or outward gate there was before the house itself (that Shakespeare lived in) within a little court yard grass growing there, before the

³ Elizabeth was the only grandchild that Shakespeare ever knew, as her cousins were born after his death.

real dwelling house. The outside being only a long gallery for servants” - George Vertue

- 5.4.4 The site plan accompanying this sketch shows the long and thin ‘gatehouse’ running north-south along Chapel Street; this appears to form a courtyard with two east-west running wings and ‘The House’ to the east. Excavations in the 19th century (see Section §7 below) note that Shakespeare’s residence “*occupied a more extensive space than Sir Hugh Clopton’s subsequent edifice*” (Halliwell 1864, 184), which suggests that the later house did not stretch as far eastwards as the original structure.
- 5.4.5 Another account of the layout of the early house was noted by Rev. Joseph Greene and preserved in Halliwell’s text. In this, Greene states that on “*October the 24th, 1767, I visited Richard Grimmit, formerly a shoemaker in Stratford, who was born in the later end of January, 1682-3. This Richard said he in his youth had been a playfellow with Edward Clopton, senior eldest son of Sir John Clopton Knight, and had been often with him in the Great House near the Chapel in Stratford call’d New Place; that to the best of his remembrance there was a brick wall next to the street, with a kind of porch at that end of it next the Chapel, when they cross’d a small kind of green court before they enter’d the house, which was bearing to the left and fronted with brick, with plain windows, consisting of common panes of glass set in lead, as at this time*” (Greene in Halliwell 1864, 181-2).
- 5.4.6 John Clopton appears to have gifted the use of New Place to a relative Hugh Clopton and his new wife in 1702, with the house then being described as “*one new house standing and being in Stratford upon Avon, which house is intended for them the said Hugh Clopton and Elizabeth his intended wife to live in, but the same having been lately built is not finished, or fitted up, and made convenient for them the said Hugh Clopton, his intended wife to inhabit in*” (q. Halliwell 1864, 186). Further contemporary references provide us with an excellent insight into the character and finish of the house, for example Halliwell refers to a covenant with Lady Day to complete the “*finishing both as to glaseing, wainscoating, painteing, laying of flores, making the stercase, doors, walls, and pertitions in and about the said house, brewhouse, stables, coachhouse and other buildings, and alsoe wallinge the garden, and layeing gravell walkes therein, and doing all other things proper and reasonable in and about the said house to make the same inhabitable*” (q. 1864, 190). Halliwell also notes that some of the ancient materials were used in the construction of the new house, however he also notes that John Clopton clearly “*rebuilt the house, substituting underground kitchens in the place of the ancient cellars and erecting the new house on a different ground plan*” (1864, 190). A testimony of 1785 notes that the house was rebuilt in “*a more modern and superb style*” and that “*the top of the roof was flat surrounded with wooden balustrades with seats for company to sit and regale themselves in the summer evenings*” (q. Halliwell 1864, 191, an examination of contemporary and later representations of this house is given in Section §6 below).
- 5.4.7 John Clopton later sold this new manifestation of New Place to Rev. Francis Gastrell, who, to put it mildly, was quite unappreciative of the house’s association with William Shakespeare. Firstly, on becoming tired of the constant Shakespearean pilgrims visiting the house, in a fit of rage “*attacked and destroyed the mulberry tree in the garden*” (www.wikipedia.org/wiki/newplace) which was popularly known to have been planted by Shakespeare himself. In retaliation the townsfolk are said to have

destroyed New Place's windows. In a final act of 'Shakespearean sacrilege'⁴, in 1759 Gastrell, who lived for part of the year in Lichfield, argued with the rate assessors that he was not liable to pay the full rate to the Stratford parish. On failure of this claim Gastrell vowed that New Place should never be assessed again, and set about razing the house to the ground. For this sacrilegious act Gastrell was effectively banished from the town and anybody bearing his surname was barred from owning land in the town again (www.onlineshakespeare.com/nash).

- 5.4.8 When Gastrell died his widow sold the remains of his estate, including the site of New Place to a Mr William Hunt, who eventually sold the plot to a firm of bankers. In 1827 a Miss Smith purchased the site of New Place and the adjacent Nash House. Miss Smith later sold the plot to a Mr Edward Leyton and his daughter Mrs Loggin (Bensusan, in Project Gutenberg Ebook), who in turn, in 1861 sold it to Mr J O Halliwell, an enthusiastic student of Shakespeare, who established a Trust by raising the money for the purchase by public subscription (www.presscom.co.uk.nationfd).
- 5.4.9 Halliwell conducted excavations at New Place in 1862 in an attempt to reveal Shakespeare's house. He also purchased the nearby theatre in 1872, demolished it and "threw the site into New Place Gardens" (www.britishhistoryonline.org). In 1891 The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust purchased New Place and Nash's House.
- 5.4.10 Soon after World War One the New Place Gardens were redesigned into a geometrical knott garden immediately to the rear of New Place.

6 HISTORIC MAP REGRESSION AND PICTORIAL HISTORY

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The wealth of historic cartographic evidence provides an excellent insight into the development of New Place from the early 19th century. In the same way, the survival of a number of etchings and sketches aids our interpretation of the post-1700 house at New Place, whilst photographic and drawn records of the 1860s excavations contribute to our understanding of the extent of survival.

6.2 Early Maps

- 6.2.1 The earliest available detailed map of the area is the 1834 Board of Health map (Figure 4). This depicts that much of the study area (i.e. zones 1, 2, 3 and 4) was left over for use as gardens or as a leisure area. The area is marked 'Site of New Place the Home of William Shakespeare'. It would appear that a circular/oval shaped walk had been laid out within zones 1, 2 and 3; this was accessed via a path from Chapel Lane, and appears to have contained some elements of formal planting. The northern portion of zone 1 and part of the northern portion of zone 2, i.e. adjacent to Nash House, was occupied at this time by a building which has since been removed. The shape and aspect of this structure would suggest that it was an annex to Nash House containing a viewing window over the gardens. Zone 4 also appears to have been formally planted at this time and was characterised by a number of pathways running both east-west and north-south. A portion of the southeast corner of this zone was

⁴ It is quite interesting to note that Halliwell observes that it was Sir John Clopton in 1700, and not Gastrell in 1759, who pulled down Shakespeare's New Place, and that we ought to be glad that the later Clopton structure has been removed as we now have the opportunity to reveal the remains of the "poets own house" (1864, 220).

occupied by a building which formed the western terminal of a row buildings running along Chapel Lane.

- 6.2.2 A block plan of the area produced by Captain Saunders in 1850 (Figure 5) is not very detailed; however, it does show the then extents of the New Place site, depicting that the area now occupied by zones 1 to 4 was owned by a Miss Smith. Incidentally, it also shows the theatre further to the east along Chapel Lane to the north of which is a bowling green and an area marked 'mulberry tree', which was assumedly an inn or public house.
- 6.2.3 A more detailed map of 1864 (Figure 6) shows that the annex to Nash's House was still present at this time as was the building in the southeast corner of zone 4, whilst zone 1 is marked 'Site of New Place'. A more detailed plan of antiquarian excavations of New Place carried out at this time will be discussed in more detail in Section §7 below.

6.3 Ordnance Survey Maps

- 6.3.1 The 1886 1:500 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 7) provides an excellent insight into the character and nature of New Place following the excavations of the 1860s. The site is now marked 'New Place' (Remains of) and it is quite clear that remains uncovered during the excavations have been left exposed, presumably as a public attraction. Zone 1 contains a number of features, including a number of walls abutting the boundary walls to Chapel Street and Chapel Lane. This map also shows a clear slope along these boundaries and to the south of Nash House. Other items in this zone include a square-shaped feature of an unknown nature. The annex to the south of Nash House also appears to have been truncated by this time and an ephemeral structure (possibly a covered viewing platform) has been constructed to the east.
- 6.3.2 Zone 2 contains the remains of a well which is set in the middle of a pathway which provides access via steps to Nash House and to the gardens to the east. The southeast corner of this zone contains what appear to be exposed foundations which straddle both this zone and zone 3 to the east. These remains appear to consist of at least two individual cells or rooms and appear to be at the summit of a slope which sweeps down westwards towards Chapel Street. In addition to these, there are other remains in this zone including a section of walling which runs from northwest to southeast (unlike any other of delineated remains) and an 'L' shaped section of wall abutting the boundary to Chapel Lane.
- 6.3.3 Zone 3 contains further excavated remains. These include the continuation of foundations from zone 2, a 'C'-shaped exposed section towards the centre of the zone, and a long east-west running rectangular section towards the north of the zone. The northeast corner of this zone is characterised by planting and a small rectangular section of exposed remains. The centre of this zone is occupied by what is or may have been the precursor of the present mulberry tree.
- 6.3.4 Zone 4 does not appear to contain any exposed archaeology and appears to be occupied by gardens.
- 6.3.5 The 1889 1st Edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 8) is far less detailed than the preceding map. This marks the site as New Place (Remains of) and does not provide any further information than seen on the previous map; in fact it does not

provide any clue or insight into the fact that there were exposed remains present at that time.

- 6.3.6 However, the 1st revision of this map in 1905 (Figure 9) does show a rough outline of the nature of these remains. Incidentally, this map also shows an exposed area on the western boundary of Zone 4 which is not seen on the 1886 map. The presence of which corroborates the information currently displayed at this point noting that this was the well and foundations of the eastern wall of "The Great House" built by Hugh Clopton and discovered in November 1900.
- 6.3.7 The 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1914 (Figure 10) is similar in detail to the previous map.
- 6.3.8 By the time of the next detailed survey of the site in 1938 (Figure 11) major places had taken place within the study area. Firstly, the remains of the annex to Nash House, first seen on the 1834 map had been removed; in addition the covered area to the east of this first seen on the 1886 map had also been taken away. Nash House was now marked as 'Museum' and some of the previously exposed remains appear to have been covered over. The two wells on the site are marked 'W', and garden pathways and the current knott garden had been laid out.
- 6.3.9 The next available map, which was published in 1967 (Figure 12), provides little insight to any changes (if any) to the site in the intervening years.

6.4 Pictorial History

- 6.4.1 A number of historic etchings provide us with an excellent idea of the outward appearance of the second house at New Place. Interestingly, two early, *i.e.* late 18th century, representations of the house appear to depict a completely different structure to the rest (Plates 2 and 3). It is likely that the first of these is depicting a completely different house, perhaps another New Place or another of the Clopton homes such as an early manifestation of Clopton House, or may simply be an incorrect artists impression of Shakespeare's New Place based on contemporary or later descriptions. This depiction, which has two storeys with attic set in three gables, has five bay windows and a central porch, which may be a misinterpretation of the five bays of Shakespeare's house. The later use of this image, which shows the house in its context with the Guild Chapel, is perhaps a copy of this earlier work.
- 6.4.2 The numerous more accurate representations (Plates 4 to 8) of the second house at New Place depict a very fine residence, which in outward appearance seems to be very much of its time, in the pre Queen Anne and Georgian William and Mary style which was partly inspired by French Baroque architecture and the architecture of the Netherlands. It appears to be of brick with stone quoins, it had two storeys-with attic and basement, seven bays with the central three incorporating a dentilled pediment containing a coat of arms consisting of a bird displayed *affronté* standing on a scrolling bearing a motto which appears to say "Loyarte Mon Honneur" the Clopton family motto. The window heads consisted of gauged brickwork with stone keystones, whilst the roof appears to have been mansard-*esque* in conception with balustrading around a flat platform summit. The house was accessed from Chapel Street via a large doorway up number of steps which were flanked by elegant but imposing iron railings.

- 6.4.3 A later illustration (Plate 9) shows a mid 19th century street scene. This shows Nash House in its pre-restoration stone clad state, and it also shows the site of New Place which is surrounded by a high wall which incorporates what appears to be the annex to Nash House seen on the 1834 Board of Health map (Figure 4).
- 6.4.4 In addition to historic illustrations illuminating the appearance and character of John Clopton's New Place, a number of photographs and sketches have shed some light upon the extent and nature of Halliwell's excavations in the 1860s. Firstly a photograph shows the site prior to the excavations shows the area as gardens surrounded by a hedge border (Plate 10). Various other photographs/illustrations (Plates 11 to 31) show the comprehensive nature of the excavations and the extent of archaeological survival (a more detailed analysis of these excavations is provided in Section §7 below).

7 VICTORIAN EXCAVATIONS

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 Excavations on the site of New Place were undertaken during the years 1862 and 1863 by J.O. Halliwell principal member of the trust and an enthusiastic student of Shakespeare's history. The main purpose of Halliwell's excavations was to expose the layout of New Place and recover any significant finds relating to the period of Shakespeare's occupancy.
- 7.1.2 These antiquarian excavations and subsequent publication (published in 1864) succeeded in revealing and interpreting both the 15th and 18th century phases of New Place. Halliwell's interpretations were however based upon 19th century knowledge and the archaeological techniques employed were very different from today. It is likely that many of the more subtle interpretative features would have been missed and it is known that artefactual evidence such as broken sherds of pottery, bone, and building materials would have been neglected and little mention is made of these in Halliwell Phillip's report.
- 7.1.3 Halliwell wrote his report making reference to the sources available to him in his day and he combined these with his excavation results to create a comprehensive discussion of the history of New Place. More emphasis was placed upon the historical sources than to the archaeological results and is often unclear as to the extent and nature of these excavations. He included various perspective drawings and plans of the archaeological areas within his plans. A phased plan based upon Halliwell's plans and descriptions is included within this report (Figure 16). Halliwell exposed, what he interpreted as, three phases of construction, these are as follows;

7.2 New Place Phase 1 c.1483

- 7.2.1 The primary phase of New Place, constructed in c.1483 and the house that Shakespeare would have known was identified at several locations across the site however;

"With the exception of a considerable number of bricks, pieces of brickwork, small portions of the foundations, and the ancient quoining of the well, hardly any relics of the old structure have yet been discovered. Three ancient mullions have been found, and there is a bit of leaden piping apparently of considerable antiquity, as also a plate to a lock" Halliwell, 164.

- 7.2.2 What was clear though was that the house of this period occupied a larger area than the subsequent building erected in 1702 by John Clopton.
- 7.2.3 Part of a groined cellar arch and cellar walls were identified at the corner of Chapel Street and Chapel Lane. The south west corner of the building went beneath the present footpath as Chapel Lane was once narrower than at present. These foundations were constructed of roughly cut 'Wilmecote stone' laid in clay or dirt, without mortar. A well belonging to this period was located to the north of the area along the boundary of Nash's house, the stone quoining of which was seven feet deep.
- 7.2.4 There were structures to the east of these cellars, including a possible bay window (constructed of rough stones and clay, without mortar) a structure with stone flooring interpreted as a 'brewhouse' and a sunken feature interpreted as a pantry.
- 7.2.5 A lone wall orientated north to south in the central southern part of site was considered to be a partition wall between New Place and its gardens. A wall running approximately east to west at the eastern end of site was interpreted as the boundary wall between the gardens of Nash's house and New place.
- 7.2.6 Excavations in 1900 in the central part of site exposed a further wall oriented north to south and a third well. This wall was interpreted by the excavators as the eastern wall on New Place.
- 7.2.7 The only find which Halliwell attributes to the Shakespearean period is a knife;

'The only personal relic of any description possessing strong claims to have belonged to the house in the poet's time is a knife found on July 21st, 1862, amongst the rubbish' Halliwell, 165

7.3 New Place Phase 2 c.1702

- 7.3.1 Sir John Clopton pulled down the original buildings and completely rebuilt a new residence in its place in a William III style. Some of the materials of the original building were used in the construction of the new one. The cellars were substituted with underground kitchens and the new house was erected on a different ground-plan. The foundations of the parts of the house not containing cellars were levelled to a depth of about fifteen inches.
- 7.3.2 The remains of the foundations of the cellars with its room divisions, fire-places ash-pits, dust-bin and indications of former windows were all exposed. When these were first exposed the whitewashings and black streaks representing the washboards were still preserved. A well found within the one of these cellar rooms was interpreted for the use of an indoor pump for the kitchens of this period. Several walls and structures dating to this period and interpreted as outbuildings, were exposed along Chapel Lane.
- 7.3.3 The bricks of this phase differed from that of the earlier phase being larger, sharper edged and more regularly-fashioned. Many tiles, plaster and stone ornaments were found in the backfilled cellars. The rooms would have been adorned with stuccoed ornaments. Stone pilasters, vases and other relics were also found.

7.3.4 There were also numerous finds of tobacco pipes of the later seventeenth century, these bore the names of their manufacturers (William Legg, Richard Legg and Ralph Harper).

7.4 New Place Phase 3 19th century ('modern date')

7.4.1 It is likely that not much emphasis would have been placed upon the buildings apparently modern in date, i.e. 19th century. However, fragments of walls along Chapel Lane and a loop of brickwork along the northern edge of site were interpreted as belonging to this period as was a northeast to southwest orientated boundary wall at the far eastern edge of site.

8 EVALUATION RESULTS

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 Full details of the individual test pits are available in the project archive. The following section is arranged in trench order and both feature (cut) and context numbers are highlighted in bold. A representative selection of test pit plans and sections are illustrated. For a location of the test pits please refer to Figure 1. Full details of the finds are included as an Appendix (Appendix B) and tables of quantified finds are included at the end of each test pit description. For the purposes of report completion, further specialist identification of the finds was not necessary during this phase of works.

8.2 Test Pit 1 (Figure 13, Plate 25)

8.2.1 Test pit 1 was 2m x 1m and excavated to a depth of 1.05m below ground level. It was located within zone 1, to the east of site near to Chapel Street and was orientated east to west. The natural subsoil was not reached.

8.2.2 At the base of the test pit was a brick wall (**108**), orientated northeast to southwest. The wall was constructed of orangey-red, handmade, unfrogged, 9? x 4 x 2 inch bricks set in a random bond. The wall had been capped with limestone (lias) slabs and appeared to have been re-pointed with a cement- based mortar. The location of the wall corresponds to one of the central cellar dividing walls of the New Place of 1702, identified in Halliwell's excavations of 1862. It is likely that subsequent to these excavations, this wall was conserved, to preserve its structural stability during a period of public viewing.

8.2.3 The test pit was characterised by backfill layers, imported to cover and landscape the excavations post- 1862. Overlying and surrounding wall **108** was an orangey brown sandy-silt deposit (**103**), overlain by a light- brownish grey, silty- sand (**101**) which contained frequent inclusions of broken mortar and building rubble. These backfill layers are probably consistent with the spoil from the original excavations being placed back in.

8.2.4 In the northwest corner of the trench, layer **101** had been cut by a shallow feature (**104**) into which a large quantity of building rubble had been deposited (**105**). A further vertical cut for a removed tree was identified in the centre of the trench (**106**). This cut layers **101** and **103** and was filled with loose silty- sand and tree roots (**107**).

8.2.5 A ceramic foul water drain (**102**) ran diagonally northwest to southeast through the trench just beneath the topsoil.

8.2.6 The test pit was sealed by a 0.15m thick layer of topsoil/ turf (**100**).

Cntxt	Material	Wght/cnt	Spot date	Comments
101	Bone	19.5g		animal
101	Clay pipe	15.1g		Stem & bowl frag
101	Fe	37.6g		
101	Glass	187.5g	18thC-19thC	Vessel & window
101	Mortar	33.6g		
101	Pottery	682g / 36	Late18thC-Early19thC	
101	Vitrified brick/slag	216.7g		
101	Brick	49Kg		
101	Tile	10kg		
102	Bone	4.5g		
102	Clay pipe	1.5g		Stem
102	Fe nail	7.6g		
102	Pottery	25g / 6	Early 19thC	
102	Shell	16.5g		

Finds quantification table- test pit 1

8.3 Test Pit 2 (Figure 13, Plate 26)

8.3.1 Test pit 2 was 1m x 1m and excavated to a depth of 0.9m below ground level. It was located within zone 2, in the centre of site close to Nash's House. The natural subsoil was not reached.

8.3.2 At the base of the test pit was a compact dark reddish- brown, silty- sand layer (**204**). This layer was mottled and contained inclusions of charcoal flecks but no finds. A sondage excavated in the southwestern corner failed to identify the extent of this layer.

8.3.3 Cutting this layer were two features. A steep sided circular post- hole (**205**) 0.21 in diameter and 0.27m in depth, was identified in the northeast corner of the test pit. This was filled with mid reddish- brown silt (**206**) and a dark organic lense which may have been degraded wood. This post-hole was partially cut on its southern edge by a shallow bowl shaped feature (**207**). This was 0.75m in width and 0.3m in depth and was filled with red sand and gravel (**208**). No dating evidence was identified in either of these features.

8.3.4 The test pit was sealed with successive build up/ levelling layers. Features **205** and **207** were overlain by a thin dark brown, silty- soil (**203**), a light brown/ grey, sandy- silt (**202**) and a black/ brown silt layer (**201**). Layers **202** and **203** were very similar to those identified in test pit 1 (**102**, **103**), suggesting that Halliwell's excavations had reached this part of site.

8.3.5 The test pit was sealed by a 0.15m thick layer of topsoil/ turf (**200**).

Cntxt	Material	Wght/cnt	Spot date	Comments
201	Bone	1g		
201	Charcoal	-		
201	Fe nail	12.9g		

201	Painted Plaster/mortar	174.2g		
201	Pottery	7g / 1	13thC- early 14thC	
202	Bone	22.5g		Animal
202	Clay pipe	2.6g		
202	Glass	5.1g		Vessel
202	Plaster/mortar	5g		
202	Pottery	73g / 7	18thC	
202	Shell	17.7g		
202	Brick	3kg		

Finds quantification table- test pit 2

8.4 Test Pit 3 (Figure 14, Plate 27)

- 8.4.1 Test pit 3 was 1m x 1m and excavated to a depth of 0.6m below the surface. It was located within zone 3, towards the east of site, close to the rear of Nash's house. The natural subsoil was not reached.
- 8.4.2 At the base of the test pit was a brick structure (**304**), which was likely to have been a surface. This surface was constructed of worn dark orangey-red, handmade, unfrogged, 9 x 4 x 2 inch bricks. The bricks around the outside of the structure were laid on bed and those within the core were laid on edge. The bricks were un-mortared and the structure continued into the western and southern sections. Based upon the type of bricks used this structure probably dated to the 17th/ 18th century.
- 8.4.3 This surface was set into a dark reddish- brown, silty- sand layer (**307**). This layer was similar to that identified in test pit 2 (**204**). As it was devoid of artefactual evidence but was mottled and contained flecks of charcoal.
- 8.4.4 Cutting this layer in the northern half of the test pit was a linear cut (**305**) probably representing a foundation/ robber trench. This was in line with one of Halliwell's exposed foundations which can also be identified in the documentary sources. It is likely that this cut is a buried example of Halliwell chasing foundation walls. The cut had been backfilled with a mixed yellow/ brown, silty- sand with inclusions of mortar and building rubble (**306**).
- 8.4.5 These features were sealed by a mixed mid greyish- brown, silty- sand layer (**301**). This layer was likely to have been a levelling or build up layer associated with the reconstructions of new place during the 18th century. The finds were primarily 18th century in nature, there were however intrusive 19th century finds. This is explained by the mixed nature of the deposit, on the northern side of the test pit, where there was later truncation.
- 8.4.6 A shallow linear cut (**302**) and fill (**303**) for an electricity cable ran through the northeast corner of the test pit. This electricity supply fed the garden lights.
- 8.4.7 The test pit was sealed by a 0.2m thick layer of topsoil/ turf (**300**).

Cntxt	Material	Wght/cnt	Spot date	Comments
300	Bone	10.6g		
300	Clay pipe	3.7g		
300	Glass	37.5g		

300	Pottery	19g / 9	Late 18thC	
300	Slag	27.5g		
301	Bone	176.7g		
301	Clay pipe	61.9g	Late 17thC-Early 18thC	Stems & complete bowls, Markers stamp IP
301	Fe nail	11.6g		
301	Glass	11.6g		Vessel & window
301	Mortar	2.5g		
301	Pottery	125g / 16	18thC	
301	Shell	33.2g		
301	Brick	1.5kg		
301	Tile	1kg		

Finds quantification table- test pit 3

8.5 Test Pit 4 (Figure 14, Plate 28)

- 8.5.1 Test pit 2 was 1m x 1m and excavated to a depth of 0.9m below ground level. It was located within zone 3, in the centre of site close to Nash's House. The natural subsoil was not reached.
- 8.5.2 At the base of the test pit was a reddish- brown, sandy- silt layer (**403**) similar to the basal layers identified in trenches 2 and 3 (**204 & 307**). Again no artefactual evidence was found within this layer.
- 8.5.3 Set into this layer was the corner of a brick structure (**404**). This was constructed of orange, hand-made, unfrogged, 8 ¼ x 4 ¼ x 2 ¾ inch bricks bonded with lime based mortar. This structure continued into the southern and western sections and was heavily truncated. It probably dated to the 18th century.
- 8.5.4 This was overlain by a mixed red/ orange- brown, sandy- silt with inclusions of gravel and numerous finds, predominantly building rubble (**402**) and a dark brown, sandy-silt layer (**401**).
- 8.5.5 The test pit was sealed by a 0.15m thick layer of topsoil/ turf (**400**).

Cntxt	Material	Wght/cnt	Spot date	Comments
400	Pottery	33g / 1	17thC	
401	Bone	37.6g		
401	Charcoal	-		
401	Clay pipe	1.5g		
401	Fe nail	10.5g		
401	Glass	5.5g		
401	Mortar	2.6g		
401	Pottery	6g / 2	18thC	
401	Shell	6.6g		
401	Brick	3kg		
401	Tile	-		

Finds quantification table- test pit 4

8.6 Test Pit 5 (Figure 15, Plate 29)

- 8.6.1 Test pit 5 was 1m x 1m and excavated to a depth of 1m below the surface. It was located within zone 4, towards the east of site close to Chapel Lane. The natural subsoil was not reached.
- 8.6.2 At the base of the test pit was a mid orangey-brown, silty- sand layer (**502**). This contained flecks of charcoal and ceramic building material, its thickness was not identified
- 8.6.3 Along the southern side of the trench and parallel with chapel lane was a linear cut (**503**). This had been cut vertically from a high level and could be associated with the construction of the terracing and hedge planting along Chapel Street or may represent the remains of a removed structure. It had been backfilled with large fragments of building and architectural rubble (**504**).
- 8.6.4 Overlying the base layer was a light greyish- brown, mixed levelling layer (**502**). It was unclear whether **503** had cut this layer.
- 8.6.5 The test pit was sealed by a 0.2m thick layer of topsoil/ turf (**500**).

Cntxt	Material	Wght/cnt	Spot date	Comments
500	Bone	0.5g		
500	Fe nail	20.7g		
500	Glass	12.2g		Vessel
500	Pottery	42g / 12	Late 18thC-Mid 19thC	
501	Bone	79.5g		
501	Ceramic drain pipe	49.5g		
501	Clay pipe	8.6g		Stems
501	Fe	158.6g		Nails & object
501	Glass	167.3g	Late 18thC-early 19thC	Vessel, bottle & window
501	Pottery	675g / 61	18thC	
501	Shell	4.5g		
501	Slag	67.2g		
501	Brick	3kg		
501	Tile	3.5kg		
504	Bone	34.7g		
504	Glass	-		
504	Pottery	95g / 7	18thC	
504	Shell	33.7g		
504	Slag	44.5g		Clinker
504	Vitrified Brick	11kg		
504	Brick	-		
504	Tile	1kg		
504	Architectural stone	-		

Finds quantification table- test pit 5

8.7 Test Pit 6 (Figure 15, Plate 30)

- 8.7.1 Test pit 6 was 1m x 1m and excavated to a depth of 1.15m below the surface. It was located within zone 4, at the far east of site close to Chapel Lane. The natural subsoil was not reached.
- 8.7.2 At the base of the test pit was a mid brown, sandy silt layer (**605**). This was similar to the levelling layers found elsewhere on site, as it was mottled in appearance and contained flecks of charcoal.
- 8.7.3 A further thin greyish-brown, sandy- silt levelling layer (**602**) overlay this deposit. This deposit again contained charcoal flecks and ceramic building material.
- 8.7.4 A linear cut (**603**) orientated north to south truncated these deposits. This cut was vertical with a u-shaped base and was likely to have been a robber trench and the foundation cut for a structure. The backfill of this cut contained large quantities of fragmented mortar and building rubble (**604**).
- 8.7.5 A dark grey, sandy- silt layer (**601**) containing a large quantity of fragmented building rubble sealed these underlying deposits. This was similar in composition to the levelling layer identified in test pit 5 (**502**).
- 8.7.6 The test pit was sealed by a 0.2m thick layer of topsoil/turf (**600**).

Cntxt	Material	Wght/cnt	Spot date	Comments
600	Glass	5.5g		Vessel
600	Pottery	20g / 7	19thC	
601	Clay pipe	11.6g	19thC	3 stems, 1 stamped with W.SOUTHORN BROSELEY
601	Fe nails	31g		
601	Glass	0.3g		
601	Mortar	23.1g		
601	Pottery	55g / 11	Late 18thC-Mid 19thC	
601	Brick	5kg		
601	Tile	1.5kg		
601	Architectural stone	-		
603	Fe nails	8.1g		
604	Bone	4.5g		
604	Pottery	11g / 1	18thC	
604	Brick	-		

Finds quantification table- test pit 6

8.8 Test Pit 7 (Figure 15, Plate 31)

- 8.8.1 Test pit 7 was 0.7m x 0.7 and excavated to a depth of 0.7m below the surface. It was located within zone 4, in the southwest corner of the Knott garden at the east of site. The natural subsoil was not reached.

- 8.8.2 At the base of the test pit was a reddish- brown, sandy deposit (**702**), which contained inclusions of fragmented building rubble. It was unclear if this was a build up or deliberately levelled layer.
- 8.8.3 Overlying this was a brownish-grey, sandy- silt deposit (**701**), containing numerous 19th century finds and inclusions of fragmented building rubble.
- 8.8.4 The test pit was sealed by a 0.2m thick layer of topsoil (**700**).

Cntxt	Material	Wght/cnt	Spot date	Comments
700	Pottery	26g / 8	Late 18thC-Mid 19thC	
700	Slag	2g		
701	Charcoal	-		
701	Clay pipe	0.5g		Stem
701	Glass	26.5g		Vessel
701	Pottery	39g / 10	17thC-18thC	
701	Slag	7.5g		
701	Brick	1.5kg		
701	Slate	-		
702	Brick	3.5kg		

Finds quantification table- test pit 7

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Archaeological Potential of New Place

- **Can we be sure of the location and layout of Shakespeare's house?**

9.1.1 The layout of the house Shakespeare owned is unclear, and the sources upon which historical (Plates 1, 2 and 3) and modern (Plate 32) reconstructions are based are contradictory, incomplete and non-contemporary. Some of the details of the house are very likely to be accurate. It is undisputed that it was a grand timber- framed, brick courtyard house with barns and gardens, however the locations of these features is, at present, only speculative. George Vertue's plan and description (Section §5.4) is similar but not identical to the description of the site by Joseph Greene (Section §5.4), neither of which are contemporary, being compiled after its demolition.

9.1.2 Parts of the house were exposed by Halliwell, however much had been destroyed during the construction of the new house in 1702. The research has highlighted the possibility that the house occupied a larger area than Halliwell's interpretation and the discovery of the further substantial wall during 1900 suggests there are structures further east than Halliwell had excavated.

- **Does the site have other historic/archaeological potential outside of the Shakespearean period?**

9.1.3 New Place is best known for its association with Shakespeare; however the site has further potential to reveal archaeological evidence of other periods. Stratford upon Avon's history can be traced as far back as the Bronze Age (Palmer 1997) however the first known proper settlement was is believed to be Iron Age in date (Palmer 1997). Sporadic Roman settlement is known (Palmer 1997), and there was a large Anglo Saxon presence. The name Stratford comes from an Anglo-Saxon word for Roman paved road 'Streat'. This combined with ford becomes 'Streatford' or 'where the Roman road crosses the river' (Palmer 1997). A large Anglo-Saxon cemetery at nearby Alveston Manor confirms their presence (Fox 1953).

9.1.4 Stratford became a significant market town during the medieval period and it is well documented from the period of the 12th century onwards. The town developed during the medieval period on a grid plan system conceived around 1196 (Slater 1997). Significant secular and religious buildings were constructed at this time such as the stone bridge over the River Avon (1492) the Guildhall (15th century) and the Holy Trinity Church and Guild Chapel (13th century, both rebuilt 15th century).

9.1.5 Stratford continued to develop during the post-medieval period and the history of New Place during this period is well documented here. Further extensive fieldwork may provide evidence relating to any of these periods.

- **What remains of Halliwell's excavations? Can we be sure about how much was excavated at the time?**

9.1.6 According to Halliwell's book, the frontage cellars were fully excavated revealing their construction and phasing. Away from the frontage, Halliwell engaged in further excavation, but was he chasing walls, or did he excavate a larger area? It is not clear from his text or the other surviving evidence as to what extent he continued with the excavations. He certainly exposed some of the foundations to the rear of the frontage

and along Chapel lane, but it appears from the 18th century levelling layers in test-pit 3 that he stopped short of completely stripping the entire area. It is very unlikely that he fully excavated in the areas highlighted as the garden backplots at the very rear of the property. See Figure 16 for a phased plan of the New Place buildings adapted from Halliwell's plans of 1864.

- 9.1.7 The buried levelling layers observed in test pits 2, 3 and 4 confirm non-disturbed levels remain extent across the central part of the site.
- 9.1.8 Despite the fact that the cellar foundations that Halliwell exposed were left on display until only 1864, the remainder of the excavated foundations have remained in situ and are still partially exposed (Figures 7-12). Shallow brick walls were constructed around them and grills were placed upon these so they could be viewed by the public. The cellars were backfilled and landscaped. A feature was made of the central well, which was built back up to ground level and the part of the cellar arch identified as 15th century in date. Contemporary photographs and the Ordnance Survey mapping from onwards confirm this.
- 9.1.9 These foundations are still present on the site. Today they are covered by planting which has been allowed to grow over them since the 1950's.
- 9.1.10 Further structures were exposed at the rear of garden in during 1900. A well and sandstone foundations were exposed. These may represent the furthestmost eastern extent of New Place. The excavation of these foundations may have coincided with the reduction of ground in preparation for the planting of the Knott garden in the early 1900s.

- **Would a re-excavation of Halliwell's backfill layers be productive?**

- 9.1.11 As mentioned above, the frontage buildings and cellars of New Place were comprehensively excavated and three phases including the primary construction were identified. The excavation report concentrated on the background history of New Place and not the results of these excavations. Drawings and brief descriptions of the exposed foundations give an idea as to the extent of preservation. Test pit 1 confirmed that these foundations are still in situ and that these cellars had been backfilled with material containing artefactual evidence. This backfilled material will provide a large assemblage of material, which, once analysed, will provide significant information relating to a long period in the sites history.
- 9.1.12 It appears that Halliwell's work concentrated on exposing the layout of the buildings and on the recovery of significant artefacts, neglecting broken sherds of pottery, bone, tile, glass etc. Modern archaeological techniques such as analysis of stratigraphy, pottery dating and reconstruction, scale drawing and the excavation of negative features (such as pits and post holes) were neglected. Re-excavation would compensate for these inadequacies and allow for modern reinterpretation.

- **What are the main results of the evaluation test pits?**

- 9.1.13 The results of the test pits combined with an advanced knowledge of the extent of Halliwells' excavations have enabled a clearer characterisation of the sites buried archaeology.

- 9.1.14 Structural evidence was identified in test pits 1, 3 and 4. The wall identified in test pit 1 (**108**), was exposed during Halliwell's excavations and subsequently reburied. The structures identified in test pits 3 and 4 (**304** and **404**) are likely to be previously unexcavated.
- 9.1.15 Layers dating to the period of backfilling post- 1864 were present in test pits 1 and 2 (**102**, **103**, **202** and **203**). These layers confirmed the extent to which the western end of the site, have previously been excavated.
- 9.1.16 A levelling layer dating to the 18th century was exposed in test pit 3 (**301**). This appeared to be an undisturbed layer from the rebuilding of New Place during 1702. The raising to the ground of 'Shakespeare's' New Place and construction of John Clopton's New Place meant contemporary levelling at the rear of his house.
- 9.1.17 Buried levelling layers were observed in test pits 2, 3 and 4 (**204**, **307** and **403**; these were undated but not natural). It appears that there may have been a period of significant ground levelling prior to the construction of the New Place of 1702.
- 9.1.18 Cut features were identified within layer **204** (post-hole **205** and bowl- shaped feature **207**). Although these were undated, they were good evidence of the presence and preservation of this type of archaeological feature, which may exist elsewhere on site.
- 9.1.19 There were significant levelling layers (**401**, **402**, **502** and **601**) and possible structural evidence (**503** and **603**) within the test pits 5 and 6 located along Chapel Lane. It is very likely that there were structures along this southern part of site covering a long period in the sites history. There were also layers of levelled material within the sunken Knott garden (**701** and **702**).
- 9.1.20 The artefactual evidence covered a long period in the sites history. One residual sherd of 13th/14th century pottery was found within a 19th century deposit (**301**) and sherds from the period immediately following Shakespeare's occupation were present (late 17th century). Other finds included large quantities of building rubble (brick, tile and glass), animal bone and clay pipe.
- **What are the areas of the most undisturbed nature and therefore the most archaeological potential?**
- 9.1.21 The site can be split into different areas of potential; structural potential and deposit/ artefact potential. These areas are highlighted in figures 17 and 18. The highlighted areas are based upon the results of the desk based research and fieldwork.
- 9.1.22 A complete re-excavation of Halliwells' excavations would;
- enable a thorough re-interpretation of the buried remains and expose substantial structural features
 - recover any material re-deposited in the backfill layers for modern analysis
 - expose any features not picked out at the time (eg non- structural features such as pits and post-holes).

An excavation of the deposits outside of Halliwells' excavations is likely to;

-provide undisturbed archaeological deposits

-recover stratified material, to enable greater understanding of the development of site including the period of Shakespeare's occupation

9.1.23 The main areas of interest for the recovery of undisturbed deposits and artefacts are those areas that have not received any intervention from any previous excavation or landscaping.

• **What are the key proposals for the first season of archaeological excavation?**

9.1.24 The historic and archaeological research has highlighted the areas of potential and the significance of these areas. The first season of work would consist of further hand-dug trenches located at key positions across the site. These trenches would be larger than those of the evaluation and strategically placed to avoid removing the extant vegetation as far as possible, whilst further extensively evaluating each of the highlighted areas. The proposed areas of excavation are highlighted in figure 19.

9.1.25 The work would involve volunteers, groups and societies from the local community and students from the University of Birmingham during their fieldwork training module.

9.1.26 Outside of the immediate grounds on New Place, the commissioning of topographical and geophysical surveys within the grounds of the Great Garden, would identify any surviving outbuildings and the 19th century theatre, highlighted in the cartographic evidence. This site would provide the ideal training location for the student excavations.

9.1.27 The key archaeological aims of the 2010 excavations would be to;

-expose more of the structural remains

-increase artefact typology (in particular, to recover additional artefacts associated with the period of Shakespeare)

-exceed the depths of the evaluation test pits to confirm the presence of underlying deposits and the natural ground.

- mitigate the large scale excavation proposed for 2011 and provide a more detailed archaeological coverage.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1 The project was commissioned by The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust; thanks are due to Mr Richard Kemp for help and cooperation throughout the course of the project. Thanks are also to the staff of the Shakespeare Centre Library and Archive. The help and cooperation of the staff at Nash House is gratefully acknowledged.

10.2 Historical research and site investigation were undertaken by Mr William Mitchell AIFA and Mr Shane Kelleher AIFA who also wrote, collated and illustrated (in collaboration with Miss Helen Moulden and Nigel Dodds) the current report.

10.3 The evaluation was undertaken by Mr William Mitchell, Miss Laura Whitehouse and Mr Dave McNicol. Thanks also go to Mr Shane Kelleher.

10.4 The final report was reviewed and edited for Birmingham Archaeology by Mr Kevin Colls MIFA (Project Manager) who also managed the project.

11 SOURCES

(a) Cartographic Sources (in chronological order)

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- 1850 Captain Saunder's Plan of New Place.
- 1864 Halliwell's Map of New Place and its Surroundings.
- 1886 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1:500 map.
- 1889 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map.
- 1904 1st Edition Revision Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map.
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(b) Primary Sources

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(c) Pictorial Sources (in plate order, majority available at the Shakespeare Centre Library and Archives)

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- 1780 J. Jordan's New Place 1780 from a drawing in the margin of an ancient survey
- 1792 Samuel Ireland's New Place and Gild Chapel (from R. Faulder's Picturesque Views of the Avon)
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- 1856 New Place before the recent excavations
- 1864 Excavations at New Place Shakespeare's Residence in Stratford-on-Avon, (Published by Rook & co, London).
- 1890 Willis's Pencilling of New Place No. 409
- 1864 Josiah Whymper's engraving of The Foundations of New Place, The Guild Chapel, and Falcon Tavern
- 1862 Photograph of excavations at New Place
- 1864 Photograph of excavations at New Place
- 1864 Photograph of excavations at New Place
- 1870 New Place following excavation
- 1874 New Place following excavation
- 1877 New Place following excavation

- 1882 New Place following excavation
- 1904 New Place following excavation
- 1864 Engraving of New Place prior to excavation (Halliwell 1864).
- 1864 Foundations of 'bay window' discovered during excavations (Halliwell 1864)
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- Recent Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Reconstruction of New Place at the time of Shakespeare.

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APPENDIX A: Glossary of Terms

Archaeological Periods and Date Ranges

Period	Date Range
Prehistoric	
Paleolithic	500,000 BC – 10,000 BC
Mesolithic	10,000 BC – 4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000 BC – 2,400 BC
Bronze Age	2,400 BC – 700 BC
Iron Age	700 BC – AD 43
Historic	
Roman	AD 43 – AD410
Early Medieval	AD410 – AD 1066
Medieval	AD 1066 – AD1539
Post Medieval	AD 1540 – AD 1900
Modern	AD 1901 - present

Statutory Designations

Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)

'Scheduling' is the process through which nationally important sites and monuments are given legal protection. A schedule has been kept since 1882 of monuments whose preservation is given priority over other land uses.

Conservation Area (CA)

Conservation Areas are any areas of '*special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance*' and are designated by Local Authorities. Designation introduces a general control over the demolition of unlisted buildings and provides the basis for policies designed to preserve or enhance all the aspects of character or appearance that define an area's special interest.

Listed Building (LB)

A 'Listed Building' is a structure that has been placed on the statutory lists of buildings of '*special architectural or historic interest*'. When a building is listed, it is listed in its entirety, which means that both the exterior and the interior are protected. In addition, any object or structure fixed to the building, and any object or structure within the curtilage of the building, which although not fixed to the building, forms part of the land and has done so since before 1 July 1948, are treated as part of the listed building.

Locally Listed Building (LLB)

A Locally Listed Building is a building, structure or feature which, whilst not Statutorily listed by the Secretary of State, a local authority feels makes a significant contribution to the local environment and an important part of an area's heritage due to its architectural, archaeological significance or historical associations. Inclusion on a Local List does not extend any statutory protection to a building.

The Archaeological Process

The Principle Stages for handling archaeology within the planning process are as follows:

- **Pre-determination:** desk-based assessment, archaeological evaluation
- **Post-determination:** preservation *in situ*, preservation by record (excavation)

Stages of Archaeological Work

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)

Any programme of archaeological work will normally be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), clearly stating the scope and extent of work, the aims and objectives, and the methodology to be employed during the course of work. The WSI will be prepared by the contracted archaeological organisation and approved in advance of work by the archaeological officer of the relevant LPA.

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA)

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) constitutes a first stage, non-invasive assessment of the archaeological potential of a site, undertaken in advance of any development. Research will normally comprise a search of all readily available documentary and archival sources pertaining to a site combined with an on-site 'walkover' survey to assess surviving archaeological remains / built heritage of the area.

Archaeological Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is a limited programme of intrusive or non-intrusive fieldwork undertaken to establish the extent of survival of archaeological deposits within a site and to determine the character, date, state of preservation and potential significance of any buried remains. An evaluation is often required prior to the determination of a planning application for development and will normally be undertaken subsequent to a desk-based assessment. A variety of techniques may be employed including geophysical survey, fieldwalking, trial trenching and test pitting. The results of evaluation will be used to establish the necessity for and determine the requirements of any further stage of archaeological work.

Archaeological Excavation

An archaeological excavation is a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork, normally undertaken by means of open area excavation, with the purpose of examining and recording archaeological deposits, features and structures identified by documentary research and/or archaeological evaluation. Archaeological excavation will normally lead on to a programme of post-excavation analysis and publication.

Archaeological Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within an area or site where there is a possibility of archaeological deposits being disturbed or destroyed. Groundworks will normally be undertaken by a principal contractor under the supervision of an attending archaeologist.

Preservation *in-situ*

Foundation design to avoid or minimise impact on archaeology may be sought. This might include locating buildings to avoid archaeology; display of remains; sympathetic location of piled foundations and piling techniques; raising floor or ground beam levels; the routing of services; management of ground water. Landscaping and planting may also be constrained. Monitoring over a number of years after completion may be needed to assess if the preservation techniques have been successful.

Historic Building Recording (HBR)

A Historic Building Record (HBR) is a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, structure or complex and its setting. A programme of historic building recording will often be required as a condition of planning consent / listed building consent, to be taken in advance of (pre-determination) and/or during building refurbishment / alterations / demolitions (post determination). HBR can be undertaken to a range of different levels dependent upon the significance of the building under consideration and the extent of the proposed works.

APPENDIX B: The Finds

Context	Midlands Purple	Yellowware	Blackware	Coarseware	Mottled-ware	Slip-decorated ware	Slip-coated ware	Mottledware	White salt-glazed stoneware	Brown salt-glazed stoneware	Lustrous brown salt-glazed stoneware	Grey salt-glazed stoneware	Creamware	Pearlware	Blue+ White transfer print	white glazed earthenware	Yellow glazed earthenware	Porcelain typeware	Industrial Slipware	Flowerpot	Date Range			
																					Earliest	Latest		
101		1		2							2			1		1					29	17thC	19thC-20thC	
102			1	1							1		2						1				17thC-18thC	Early 19thC
201	1																						15thC-16thC	-
202			1	1									1		1							3	17thC-18thC	Late 18thC-Mid 19thC
300			1	1											1							6	17thC-18thC	Late 18thC-Mid 19thC
301			8				1		1			1	1									4	Mid 17thC - Early 18thC	Mid 18thC - Early 19thC
400		1																					17thC	-
401			1						1														17thC-18thC	18thC
500			2												1	2	1					6	17thC-18thC	Late 18thC-Mid 19thC
501					3				15	1			6	4	5				3			24	17thC-18thC	19thC
504			1	1					2				1		1							1	17thC-18thC	Late 18thC-Mid 19thC
600							1							1		1	1		1			2	17thC-18thC	19thC-20thC
601		1		3		1					1			1	2				1			1	17thC	Late 18thC-Mid 19thC
604									1														18thC	-
700															2	1						5	Late 18thC-Mid 19thC	19thC-20thC
701			2																			8	17thC-18thC	-
Total	1	3	17	9	3	1	1	1	20	1	4	1	11	7	13	5	2	4	2	89				

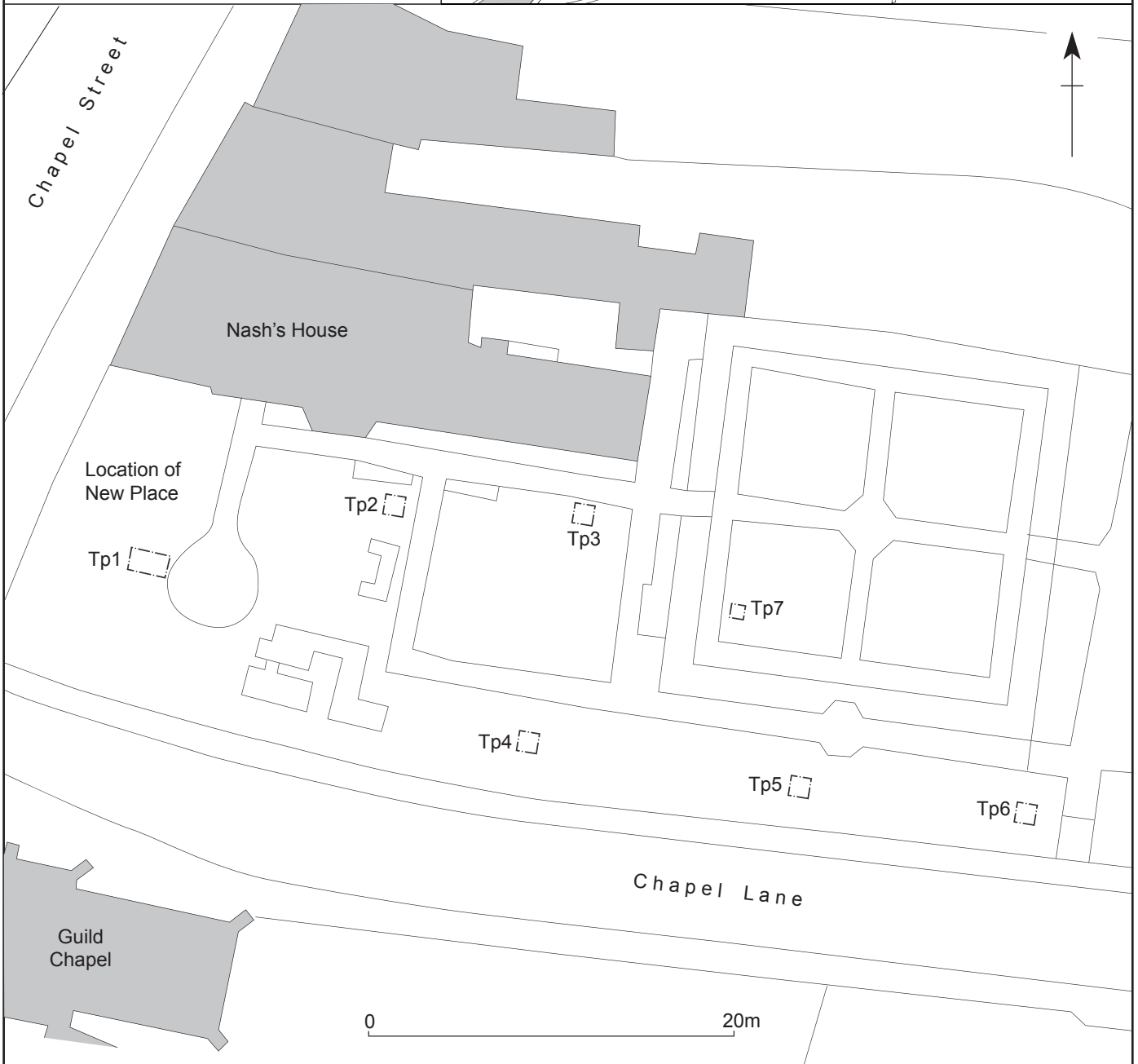
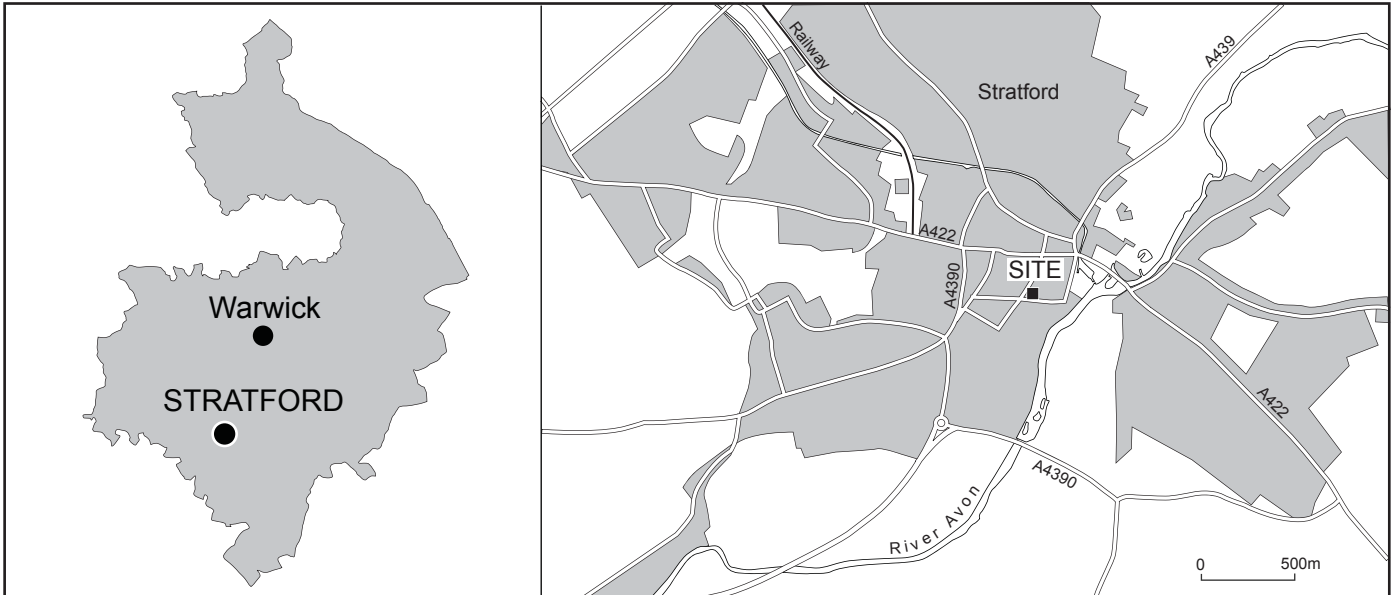
Pottery Types and date range

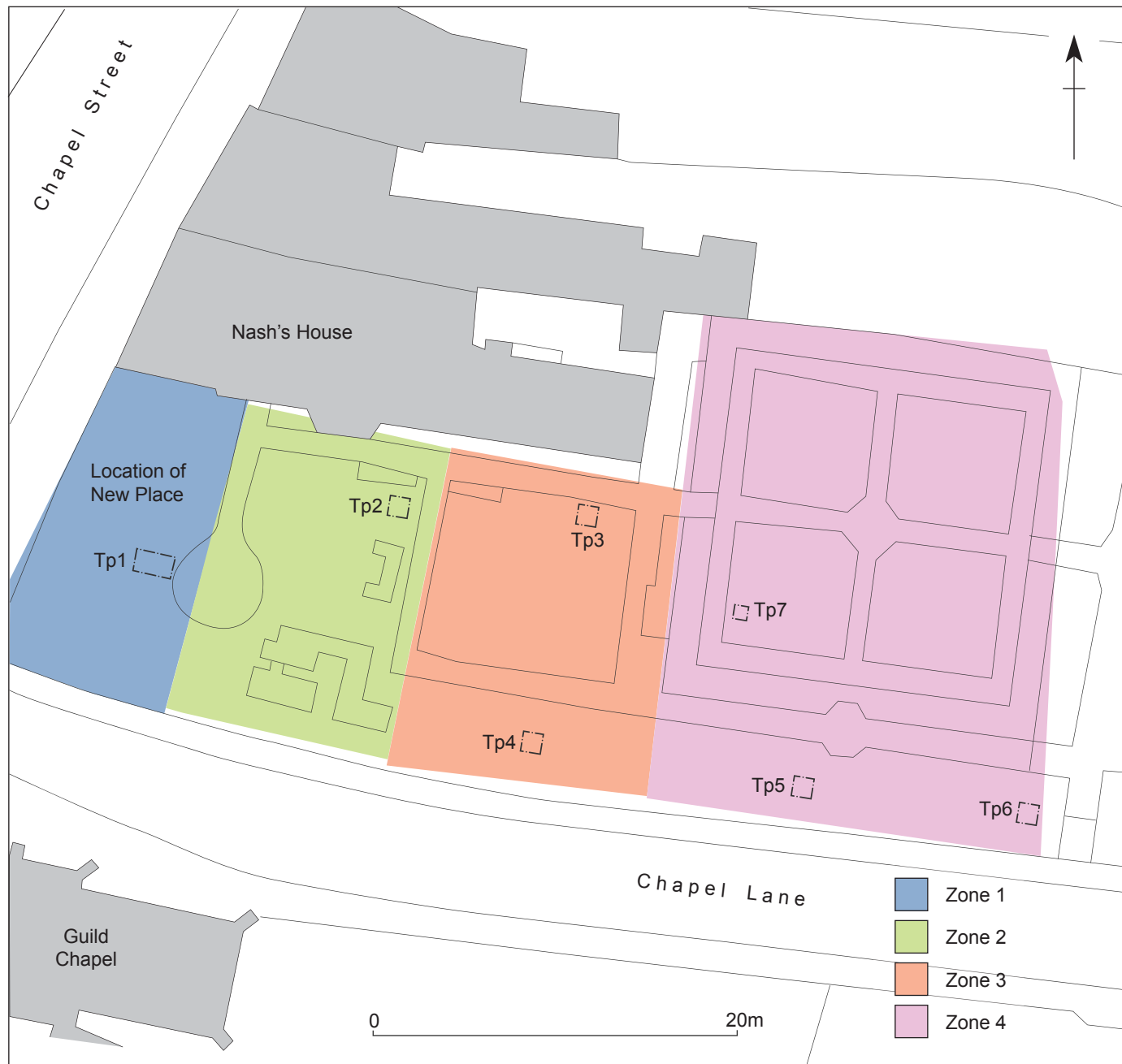
Context number	Weight	Description	Brick size
101	49kg	1 x complete, unfrosted red-brown brick with moulded line along centre of one edge	9" long, 4¼" wide, 2¾" thick
202	3kg	1 x dark orange brick fragment	2 7/16" thick
301	1.5kg		
401	3kg	1 x red brick fragment	4" wide, 2½" thick
501	1.5kg	1 x redbrick fragment, unfrosted	1 7/8" thick
504	11kg	3 x vitrified brick fragments	3¾" thick – only one fragment complete enough to measure dimensions
504		1 x grey-brown brick fragment, unfrosted. Mortar adhering on one side.	3 7/8" wide, 2" thick
601	5kg	1 x vitrified brick fragment, pale orange-brown in centre, but vitrified to dark brown on outer surface	2¾" thick, 4 5/16 wide
604		1 x orange brick fragment	2½" thick
701	1.5kg	7 x fragments, all unfrosted	One fragment is 2" thick, other fragments not complete enough to measure
702	3.5kg	3 x fragments, all unfrosted	Fragment 1: 4" wide x 2½" thick. Fragment 2: 3¾" wide x 2½" thick. Fragment 3: 4" wide x 2¾" thick

Description and total weight of brick assemblages

Context number	Weight	Description	Tile size
101	10kg	2 x flat tile	1 fragment 20mm thick, 1 fragment 17mm thick
301	1kg	1 x flat tile	13mm thick
401		1 x flat tile	17mm thick
501	3.5kg	2 x flat tile, 1 fragment has a nib	Both fragments 16mm thick
504	1kg	1 x flat tile fragment	15mm thick
601	1.5kg	2 x flat tile fragments, 1 fragment has mortar attached	Both fragments 16mm thick

Description and total weight of tile assemblages



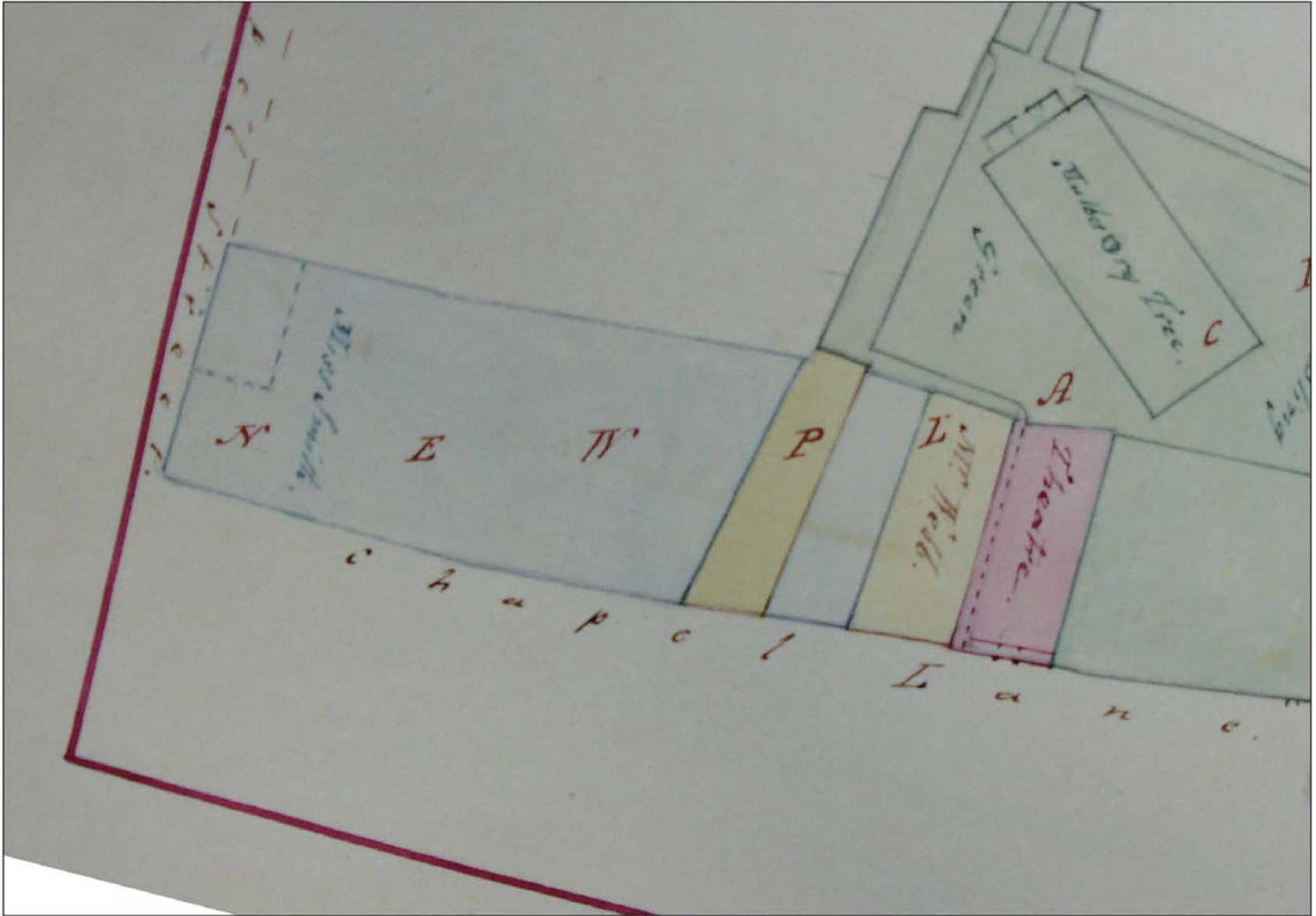


- Zone 1
- Zone 2
- Zone 3
- Zone 4

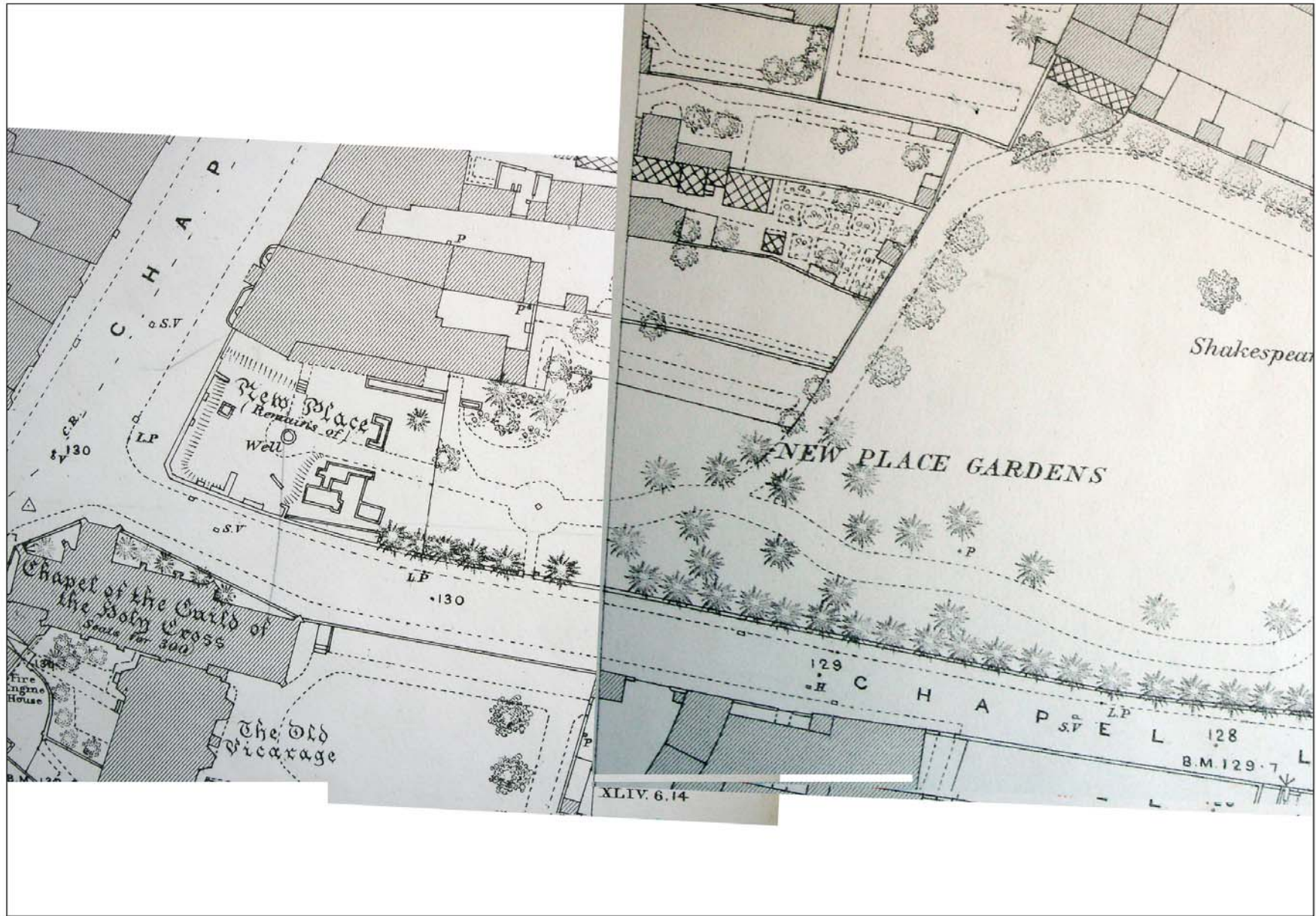
Figure 2: Location and zone plan

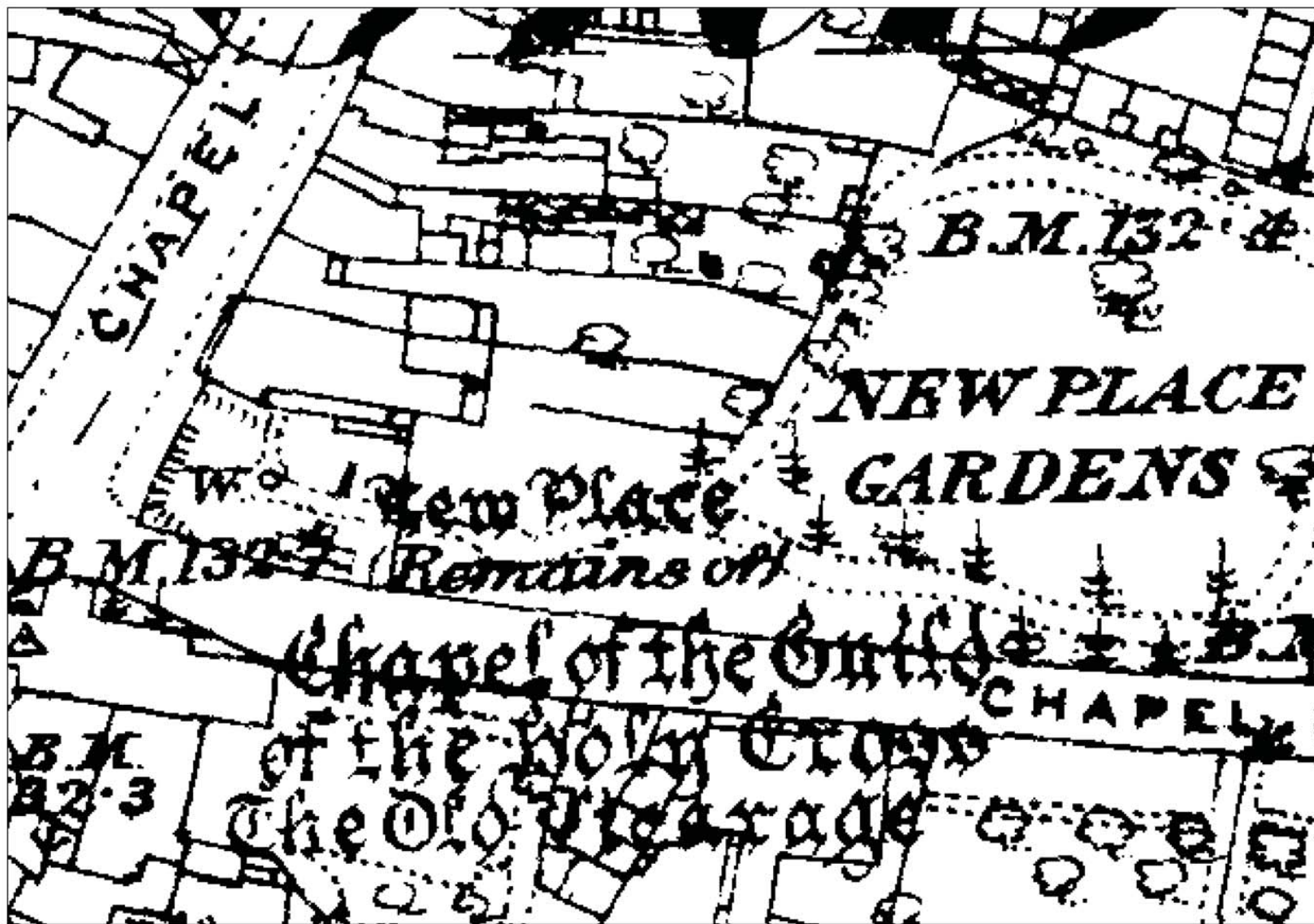


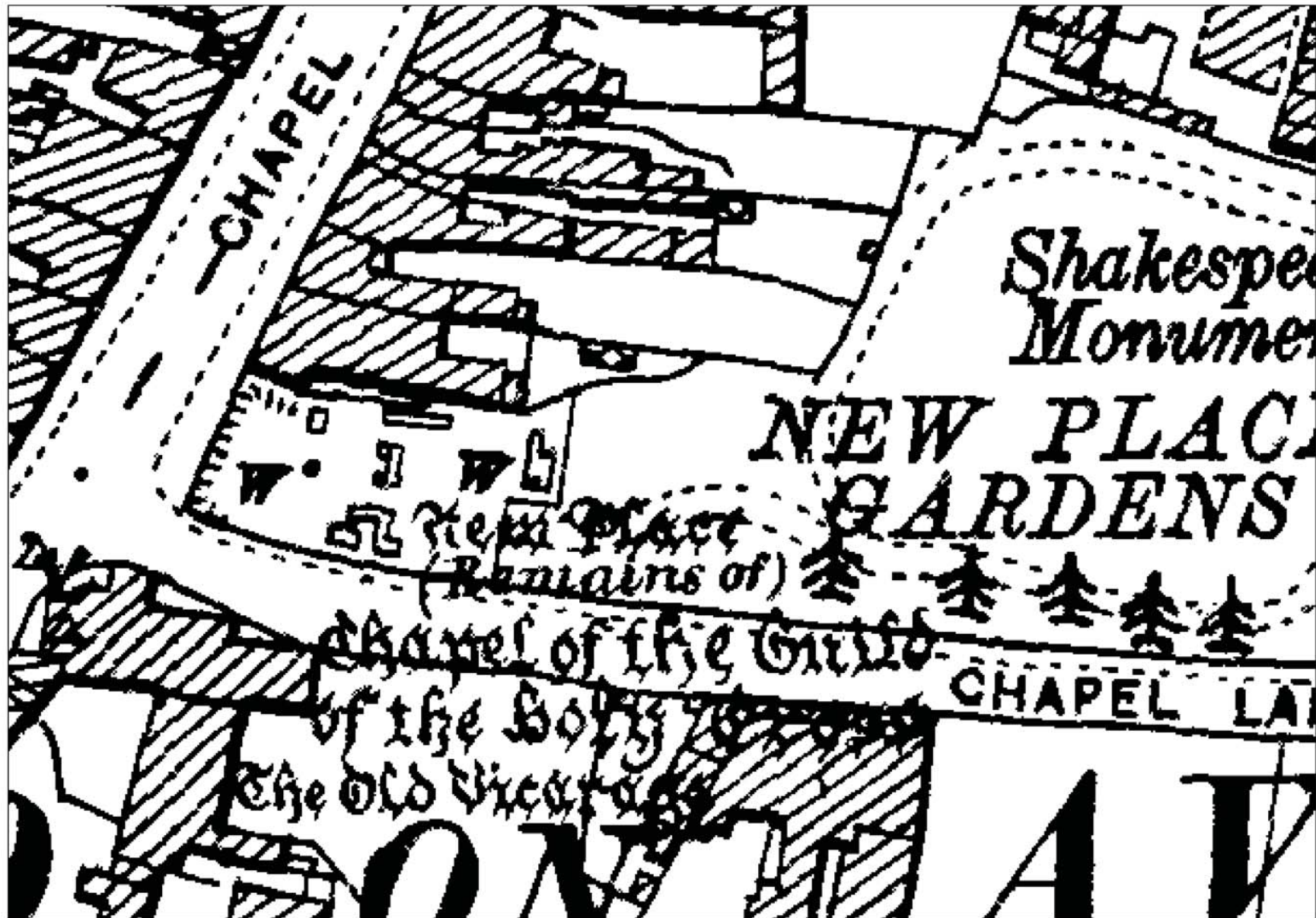


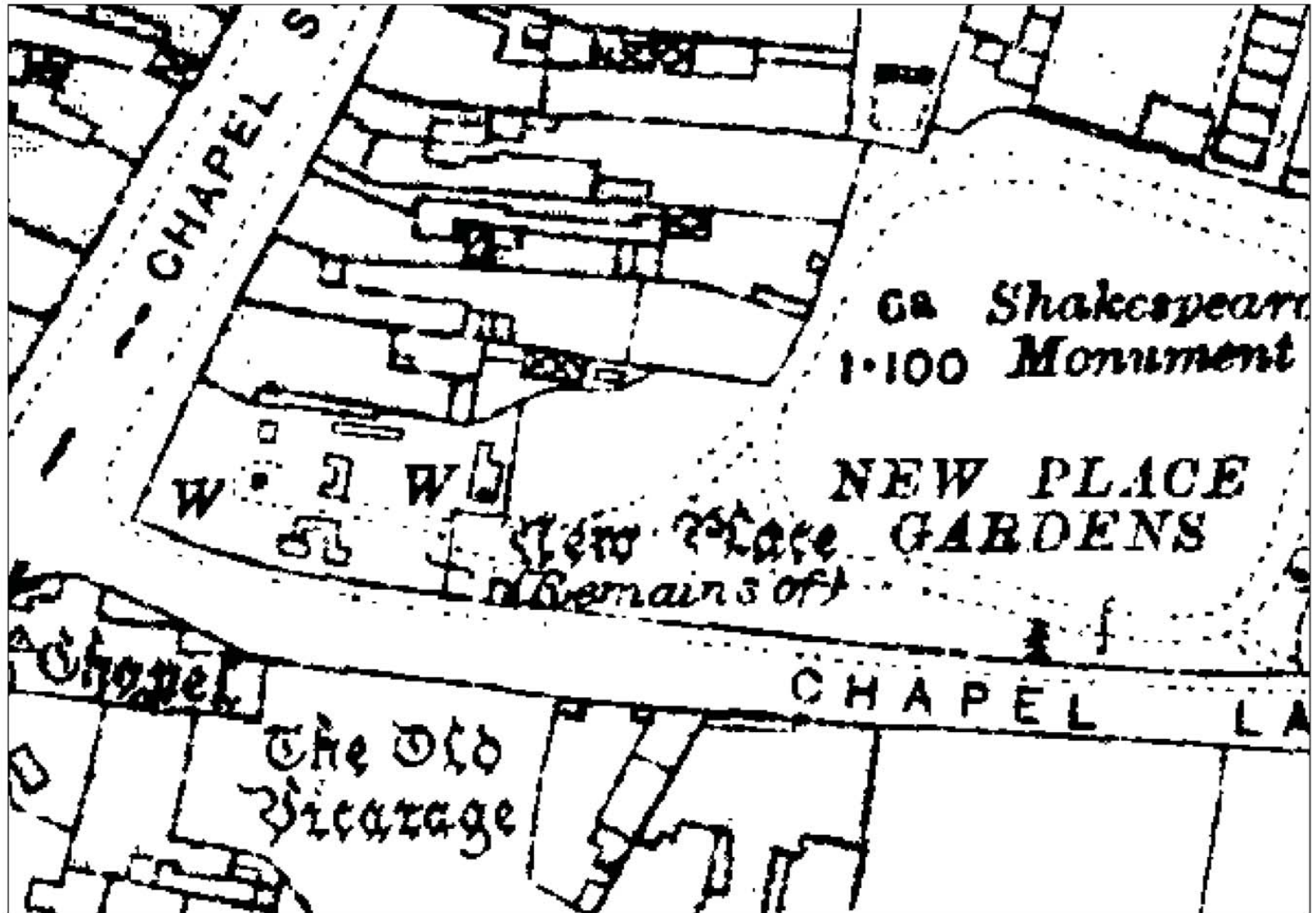


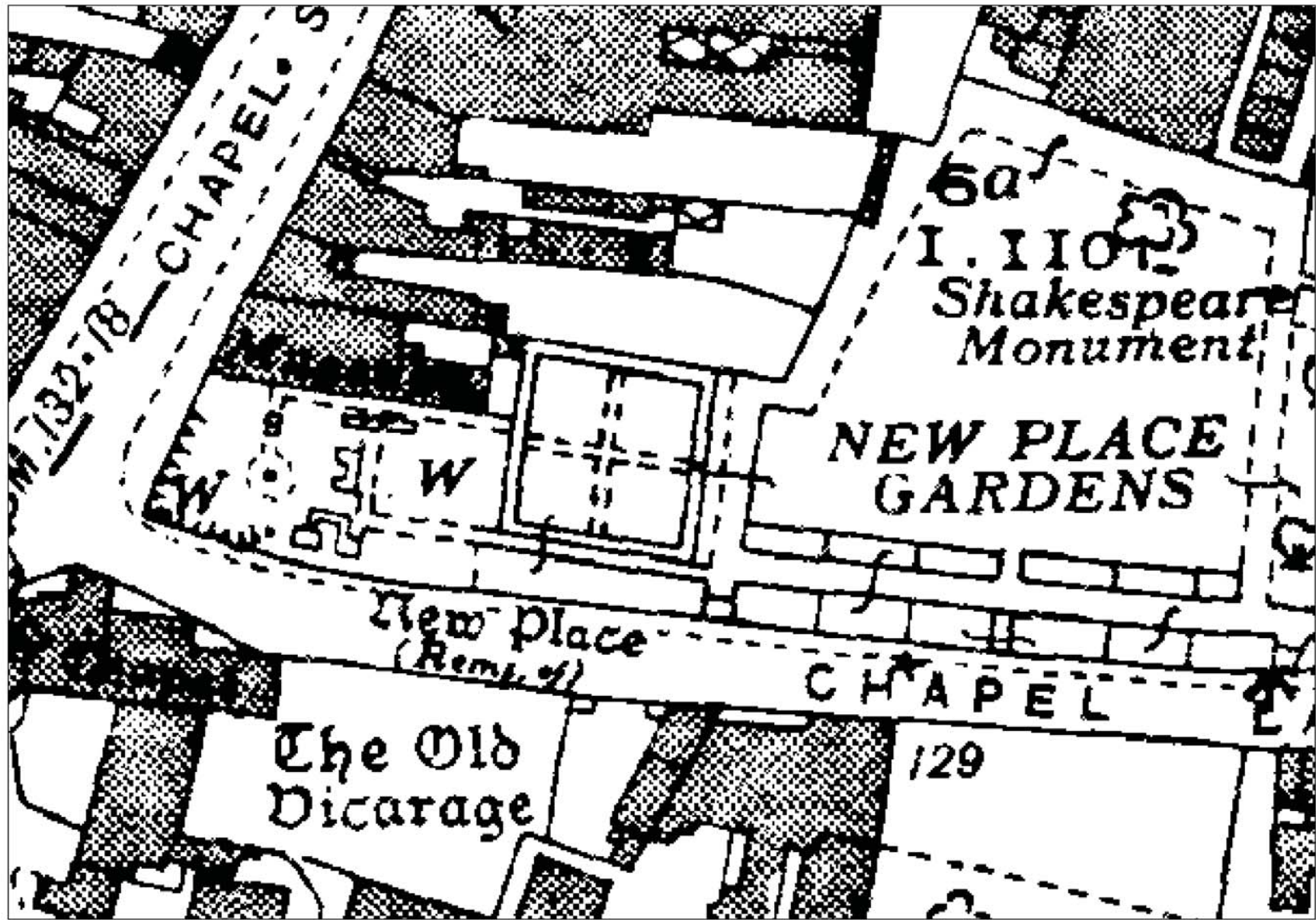


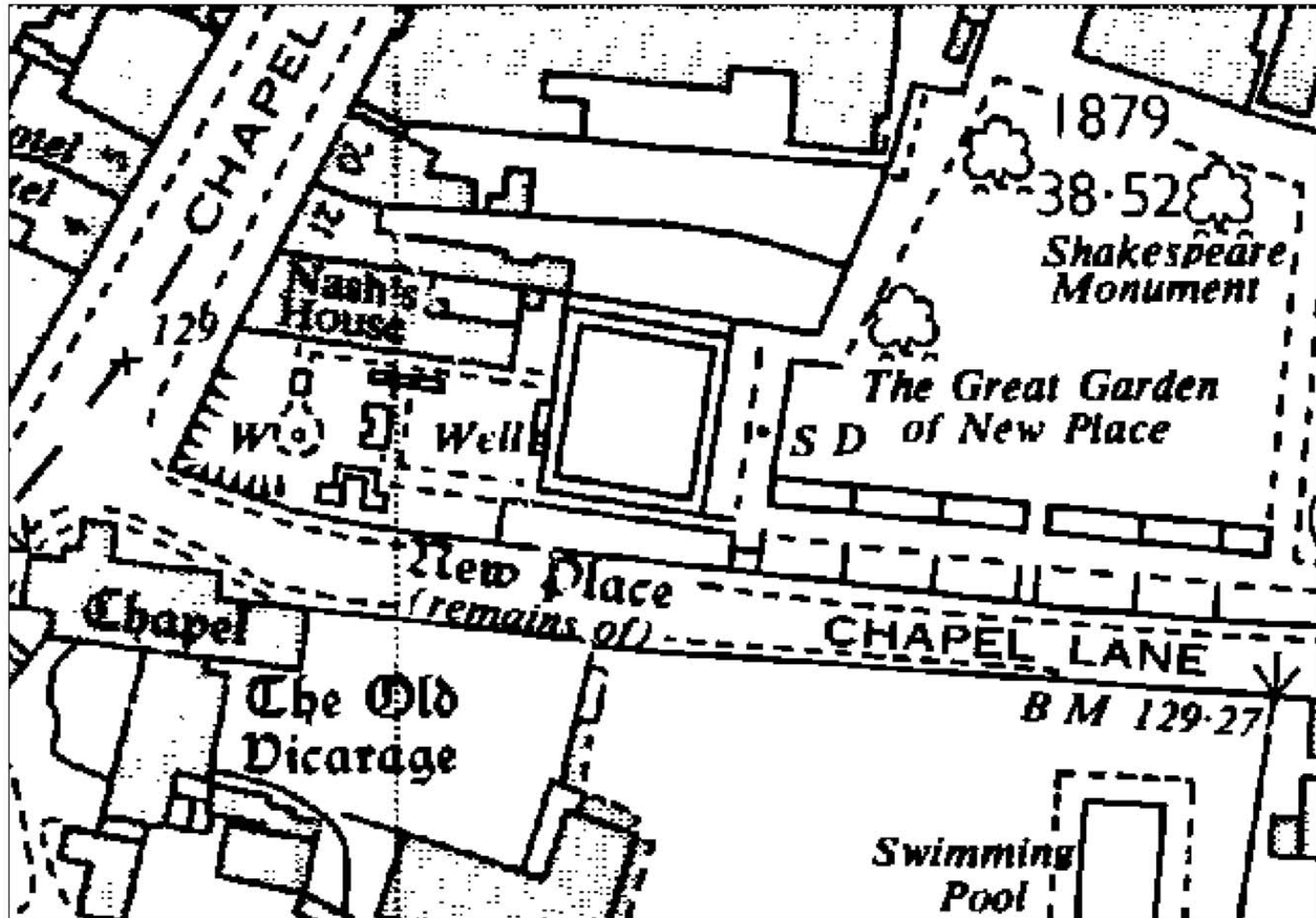


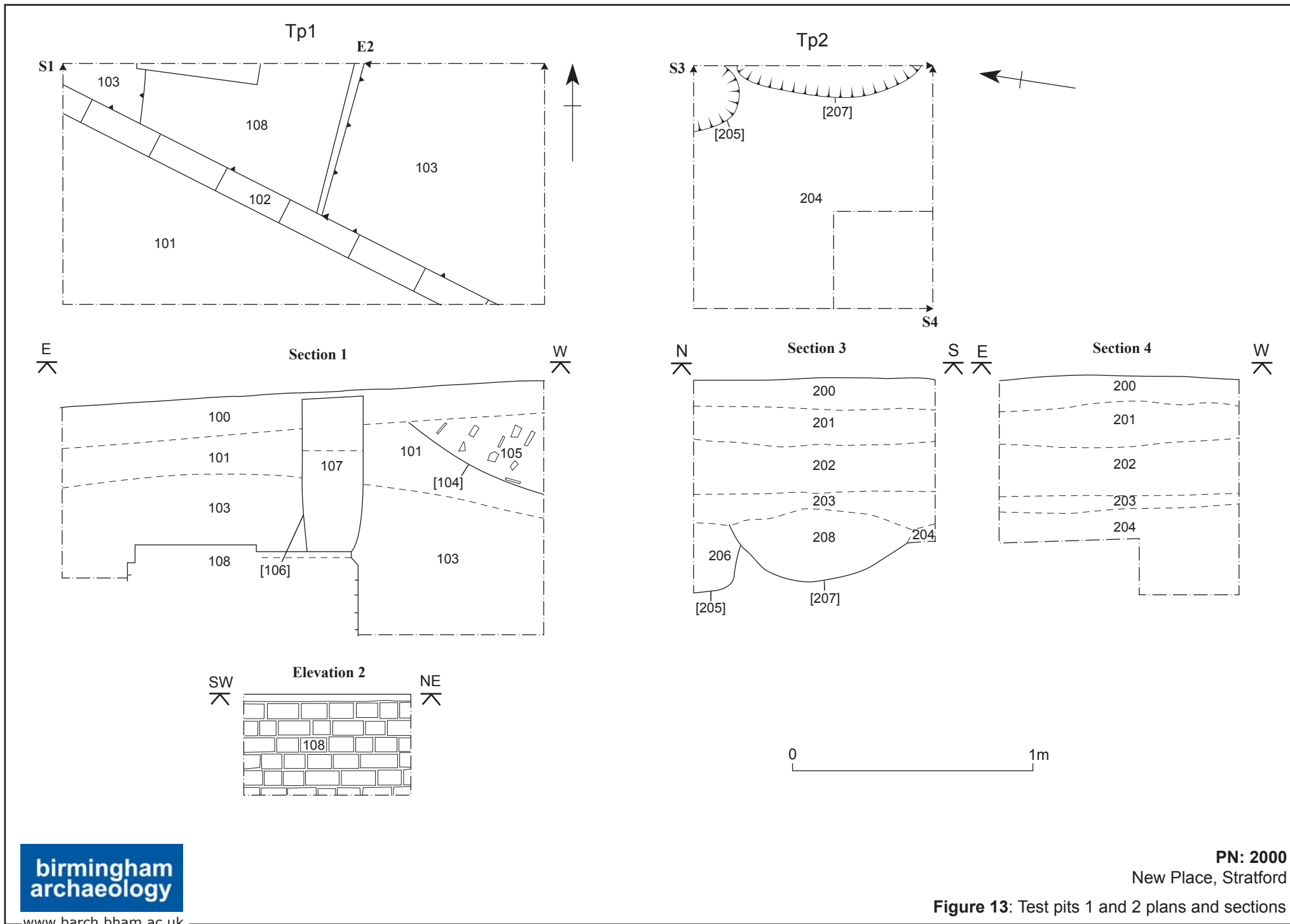


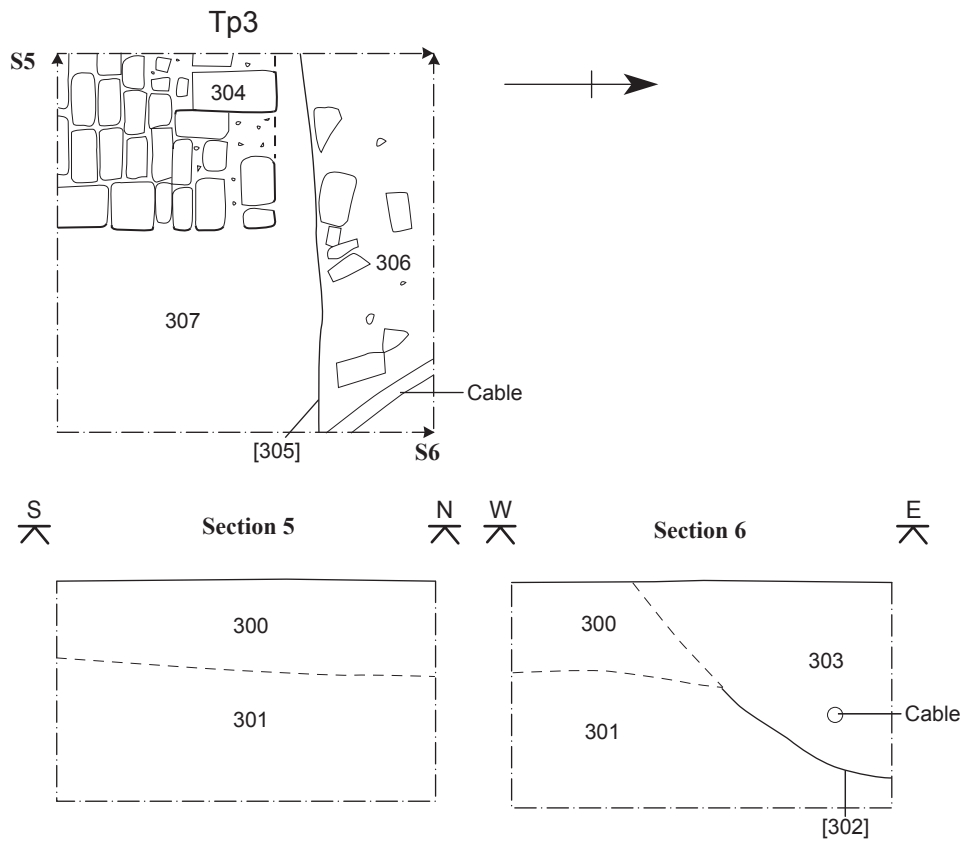












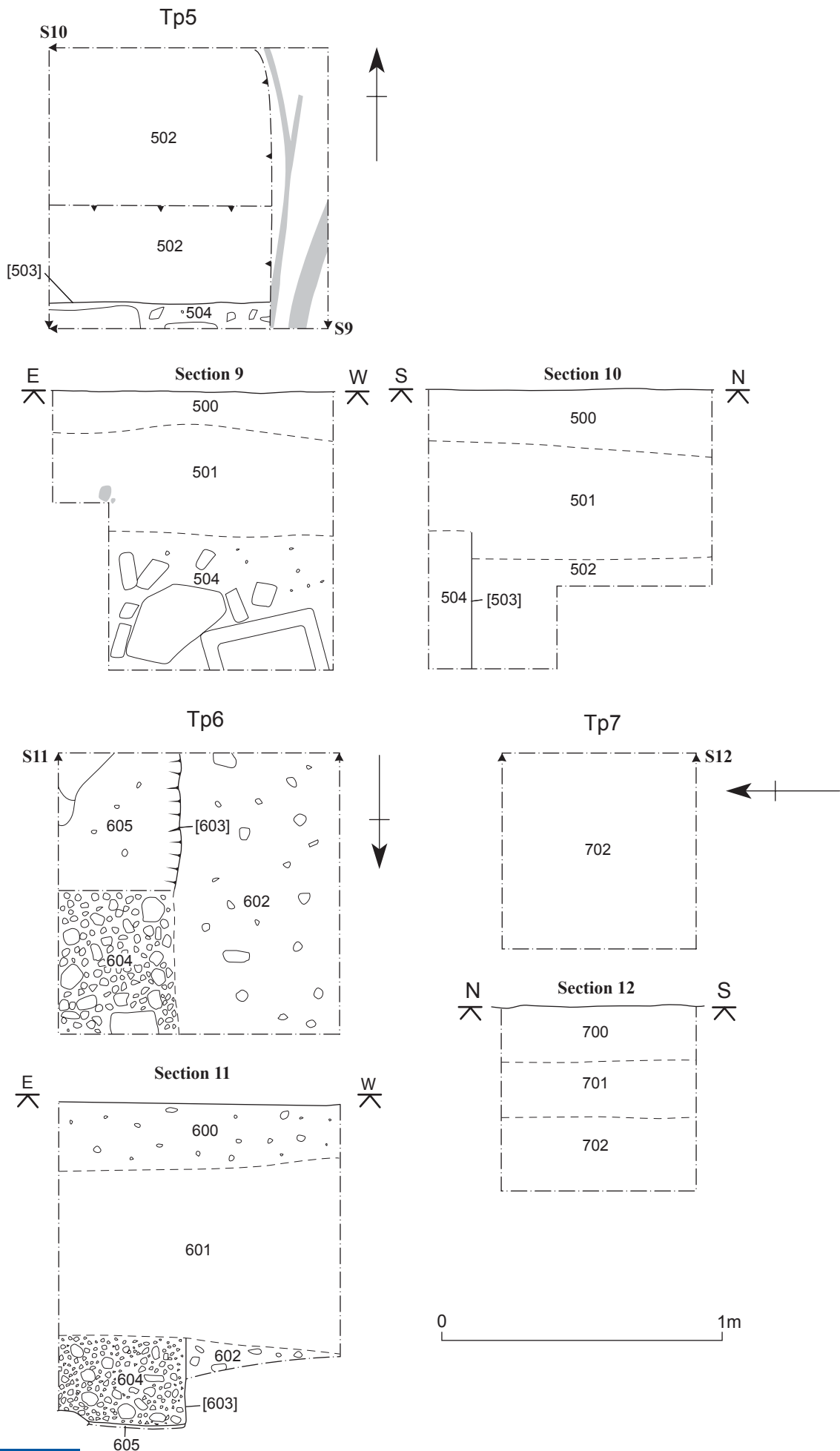
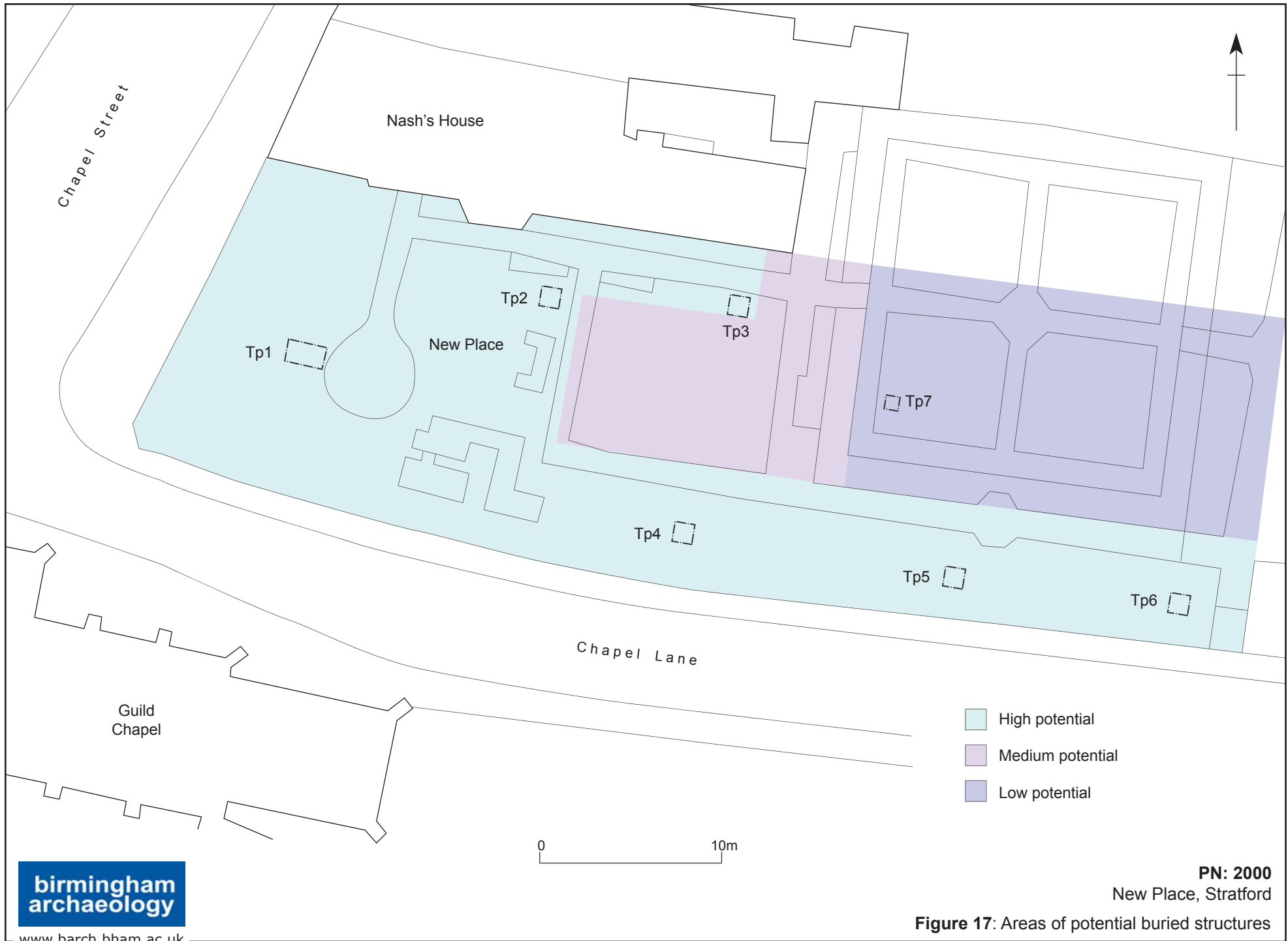
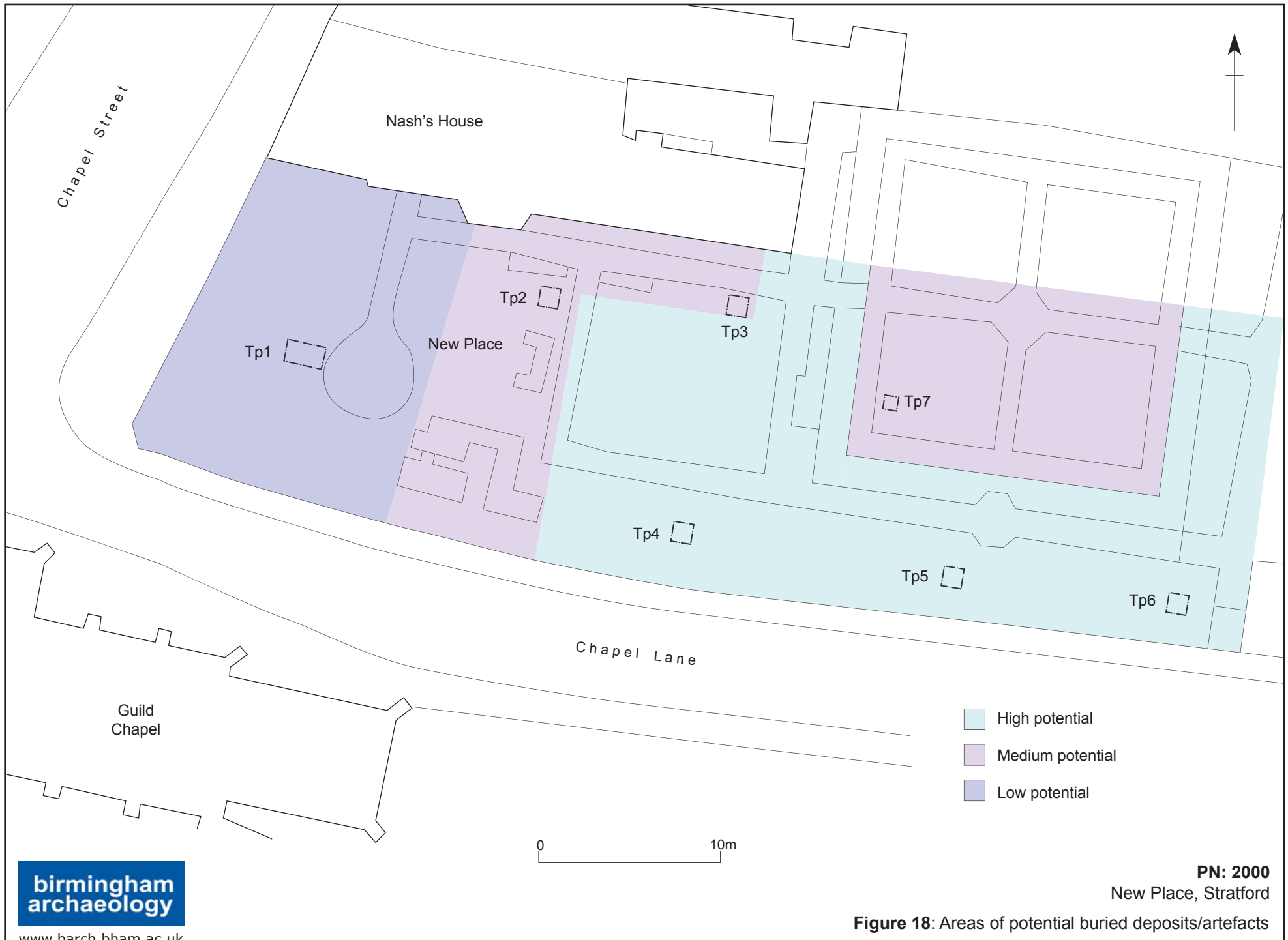
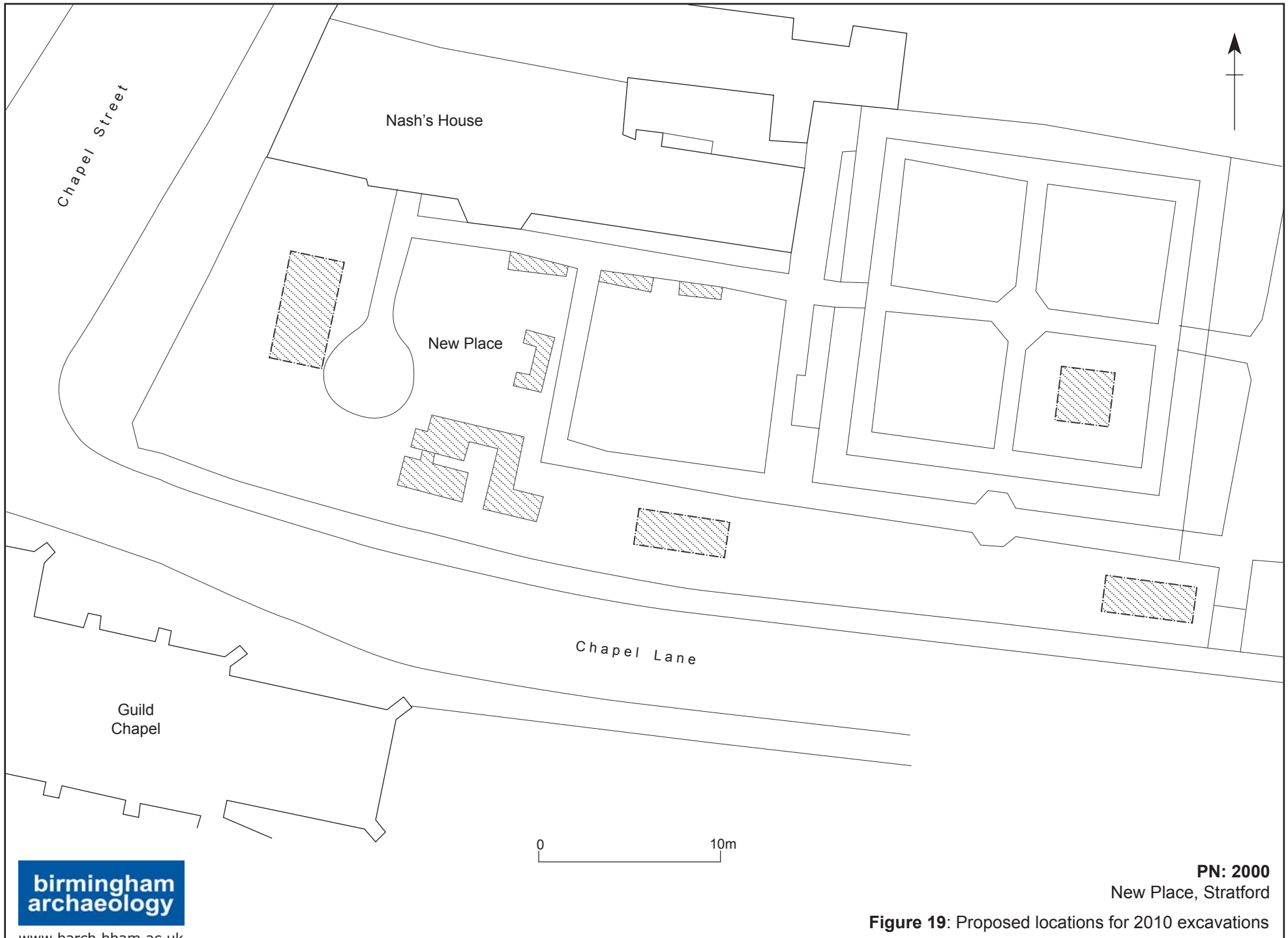




Figure 16: Phased plan of New Place buildings taken from Halliwell Phillips' plans of 1864 & excavations of 1900 superimposed over current mapping







PN: 2000

New Place, Stratford

Figure 19: Proposed locations for 2010 excavations

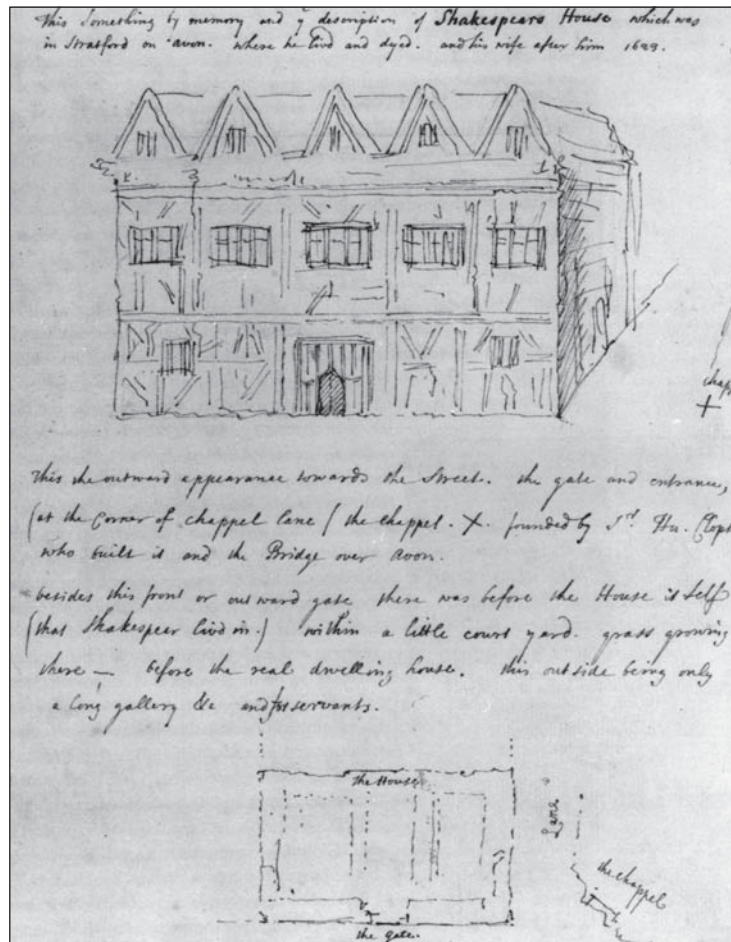


Plate 1: Vertue's New Place (Late 18th century)



Plate 2: J. Jordan's New Place 1780 from a drawing in the margin of an ancient survey



Plate 3: Samuel Ireland's New Place and Guild Chapel c.1792



Plate 4: Wheeler's view of New Place and Guild Chapel c.1806



Plate 5: J. Sharp's sketch of New Place c.1784



Plate 6: J. Jordan's New Place c.1790



Plate 7: Captain Saunder's drawing of New Place 1850



Plate 8: New Place c.1860 Rook & co. London



Plate 9: Graf's View of New Place and the Guild Chapel 1851



Plate 10: New Place before the excavations 1856



Plate 11: Excavations at New Place Shakespeare's Residence in Stratford-on-Avon, Rook and Co. 1864



Plate 12: Willis's Pencilling of New Place 1890

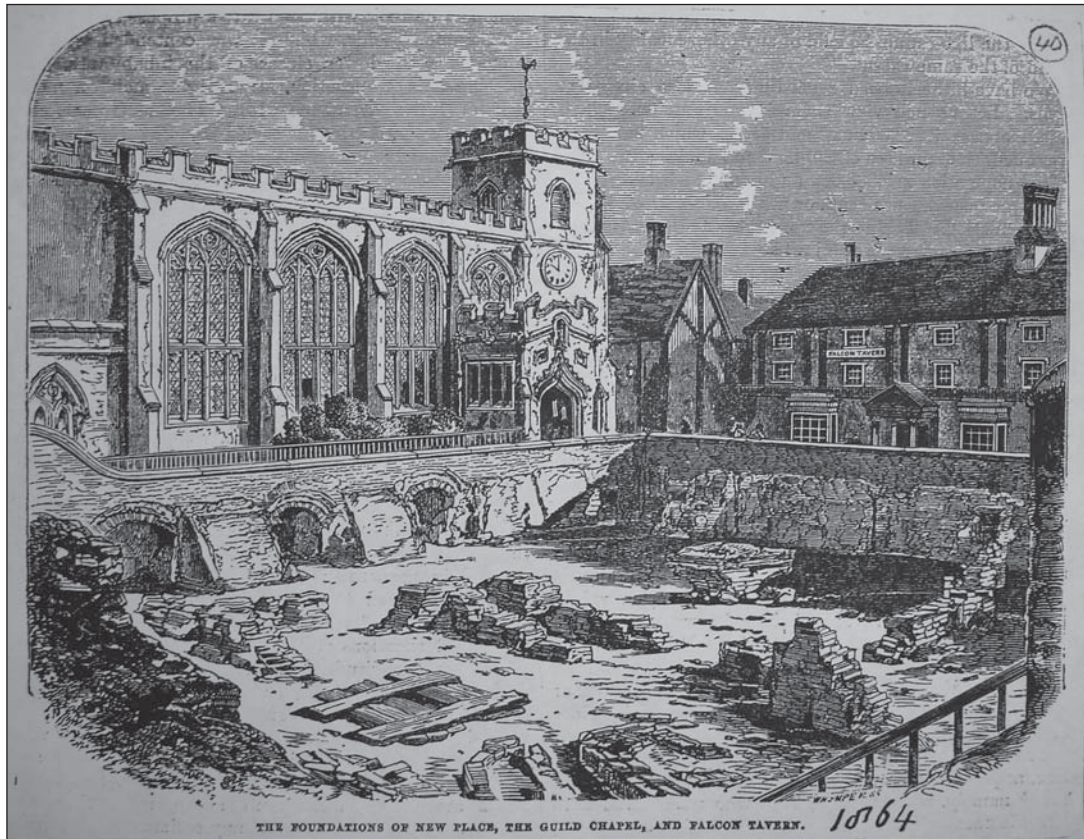


Plate 13: Josiah Whympers engraving of The Foundations of New Place, The Guild Chapel, and Falcon Tavern 1864



Plate 14: Photograph of excavations at New Place 1862



Plate 15: Photograph of excavations at New Place 1864



Plate 16: Photograph of excavations at New Place 1864



Plate 17: New Place following excavation 1870



Plate 18: New Place following excavation 1874



Plate 19: New Place following excavation 1877



Plate 20: New Place following excavation 1882

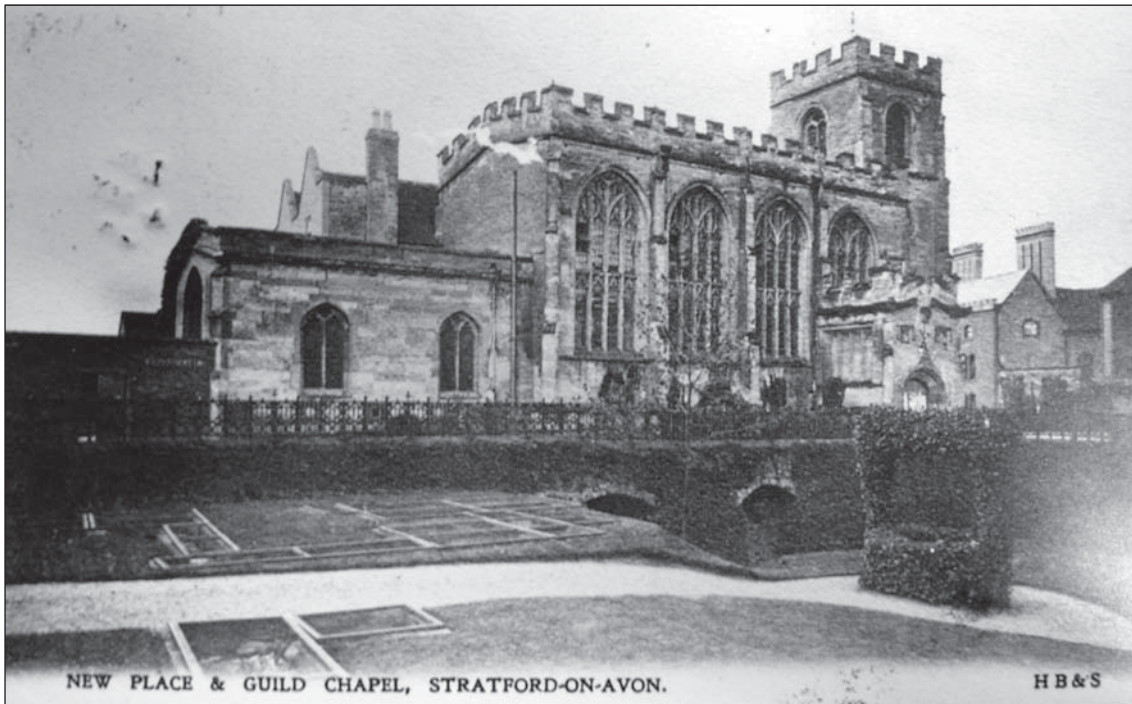


Plate 21: New Place following excavation 1904

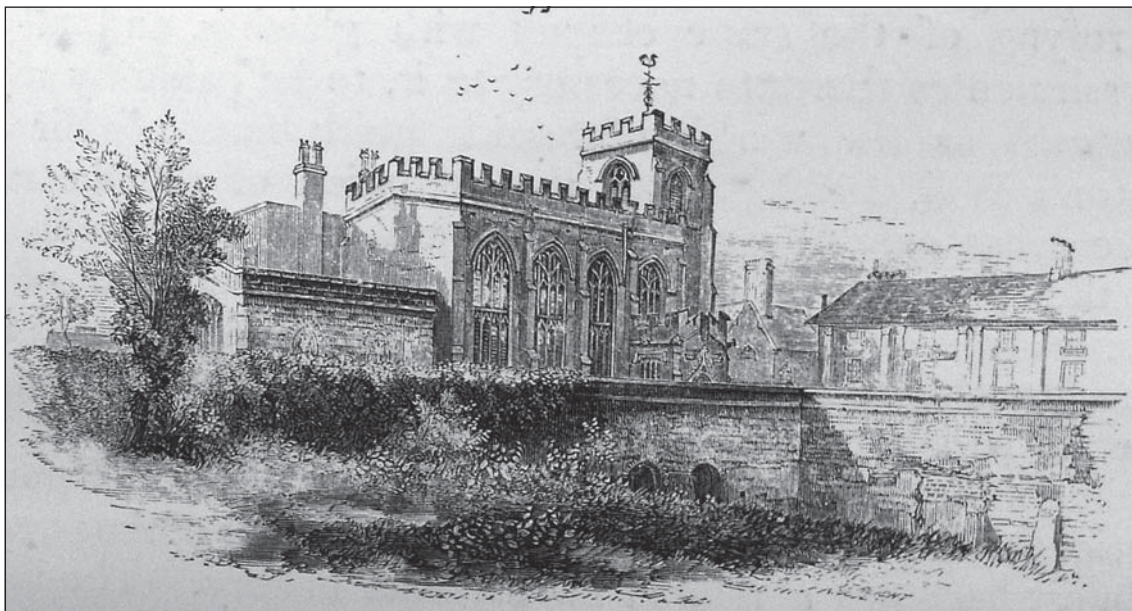


Plate 22: Engraving of New Place following excavation 1864

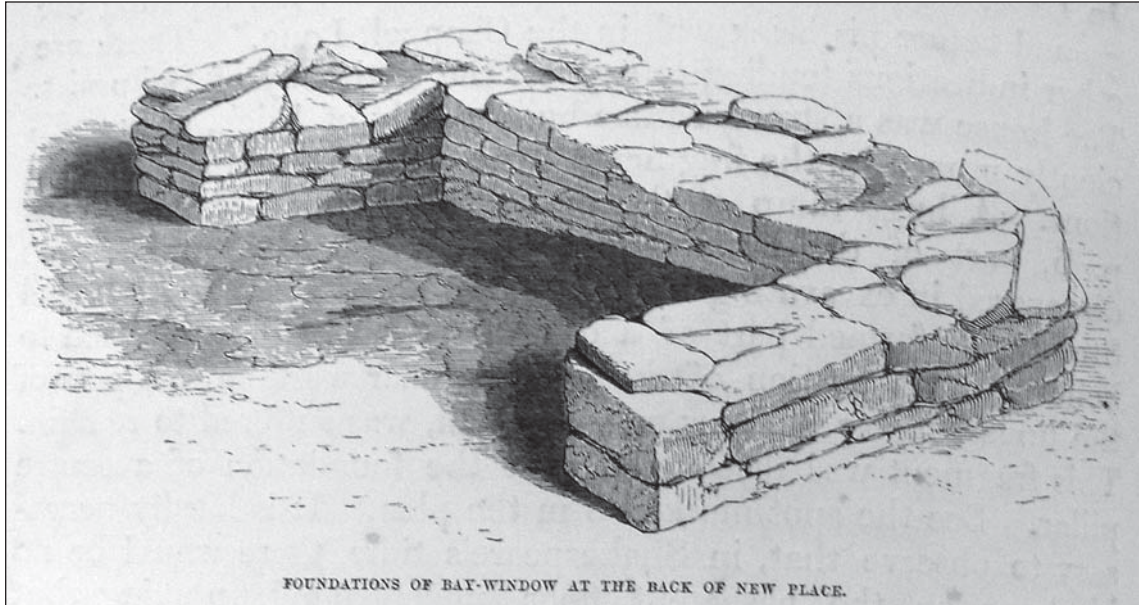


Plate 23: Foundations of 'bay window' discovered during excavations 1864

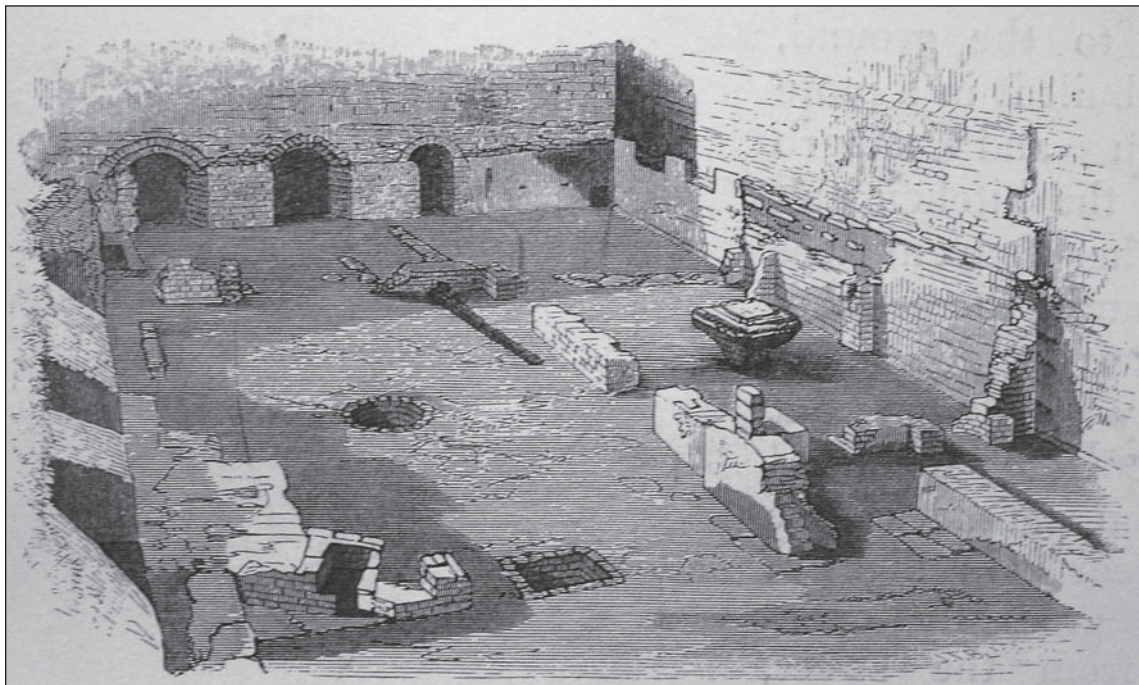


Plate 24: Engraving of New Place post-excavation 1864



Plate 25: Test pit 1, looking west

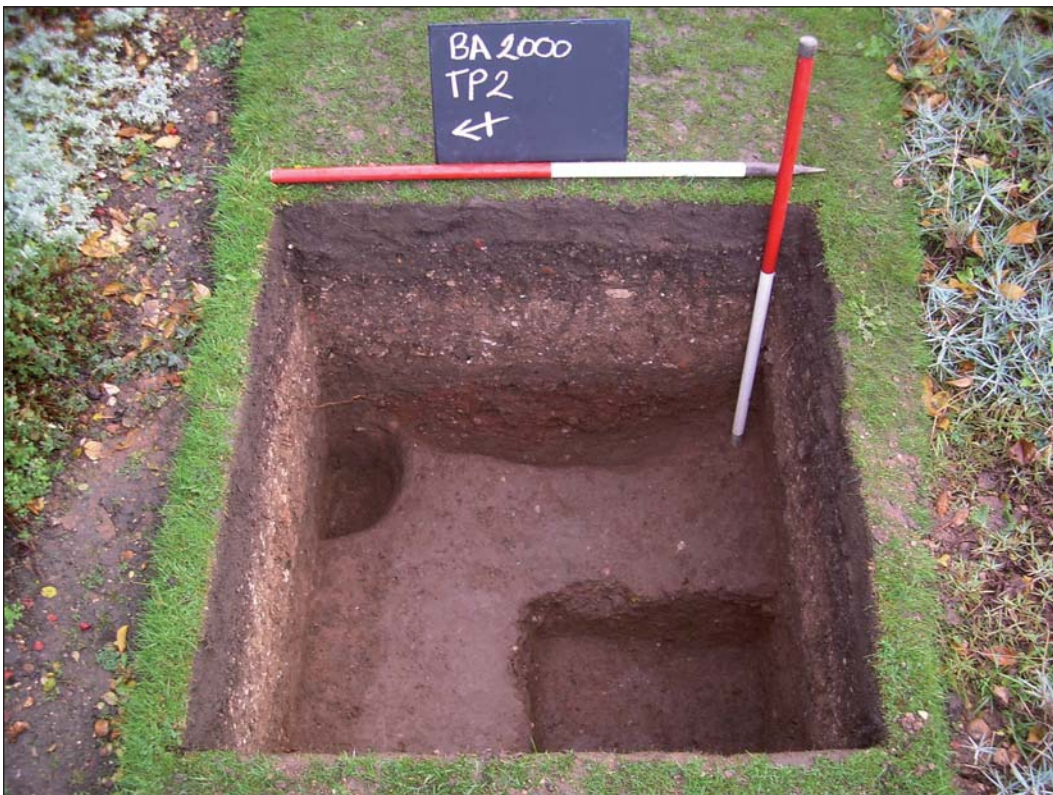


Plate 26: Test pit 2, looking east



Plate 27: Test pit 3, looking west



Plate 28: Test pit 4, looking west



Plate 29: Test pit 5, looking south



Plate 30: Test pit 6, looking south



Plate 31: Test pit 7, looking east



Plate 32: Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Reconstruction of New Place at the time of Shakespeare