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MANCHESTER

## Archaeological Excavation Report

Hoghton Tower,  
Hoghton,  
Lancashire

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Hoghton Tower  
Preservation Trust

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Sarah Cattell &  
Mike Nevell

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**Author:** Sarah Cattell

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**Contact:** Salford Archaeology, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Peel Building,  
University of Salford, Salford, M5 4WT  
Telephone: 0161 295 4467  
Email: i.f.miller@salford.ac.uk

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## Summary

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Salford Archaeology was commissioned by the Hoghton Tower Preservation Trust to provide a range of archaeological survey and excavation activities working with community and local groups as part of the Hoghton Tower Community Survey and Excavation Project in order to explore the origins of the site. Between April and July 2019, a range of volunteer training workshops, geophysical surveys and excavation were carried out.

Hoghton Tower, a Grade 1 listed building, is the ancestral home of the de Hoghton family who were descended directly from Harvey de Walter, one of the companions of William the Conqueror. The site is first mentioned in the 12<sup>th</sup> century but was rebuilt as a fortified hilltop manor house in the years 1560 to 1565 by Thomas Hoghton. Later the site played a part in the Civil War when it was besieged in 1642, resulting in the destruction of the Great Keep which was blown up with the loss of one hundred people. Although the house was extended and repaired in the 1690s, it had been abandoned by 1768 and rented to weavers and other craftsmen. The house was reoccupied and extensively rebuilt in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and has remained the family residence until the present.

As part of the project, a week-long test pit excavation was carried out on an area of raised ground to the north of the Banqueting Hall range. The aim of the excavation was to investigate and advance our knowledge of the pre-1560 site and to specifically target the northern side of the site as a potential location for the earliest structures at Hoghton Tower, and to assess the nature and survival of these remains. A total of eight test pits were excavated across the platform which targeted anomalies seen on the results of the geophysical survey as well as areas relating to existing visible features.

A stone rubble layer was revealed in most of the test pits which was thought to be a demolition deposit and overlay all of the features on the site. Below this layer, further evidence of occupation was identified in the form of large dressed stone blocks, a possible rubble wall core and a 19<sup>th</sup> century cobbled surface. This suggested the presence of a stone structure or structures. The artefactual evidence uncovered comprised 14<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds, heat affected glass, animal bone and occasional items of metalwork.

The style of the structural remains revealed and date of the artefacts combined suggests that this part of the site was occupied by a stone building during the late medieval and early post-medieval periods.

Survey work on the outer gatehouse was also undertaken revealing three phases of building work. The earliest fabric was no later than the mid-16<sup>th</sup> and might be earlier.

# 1. Introduction

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## 1.1 Project Background

In June 2019 the Hoghton Tower Preservation Trust was awarded a grant by the Castle Studies Trust to enable research and public engagement activities to be carried out at the Tower. The Centre for Applied Archaeology was commissioned to provide a range of archaeological survey and excavation activities working with community and local groups as part of the Hoghton Tower Community Survey Project working with and through the Hoghton Tower Preservation Trust.

The project aims to investigate and advance our knowledge of the pre-1560 site and to specifically target the northern side of the site as a potential location for the earliest structures at Hoghton Tower. This work will involve volunteers and students to encourage a community of people enthusiastic about Hoghton Tower's history through a programme of research, architectural survey and analysis of the buildings, geophysical survey and excavation.

This report represents the findings of the community test pit excavation which was carried out from the 17<sup>th</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 and pulls together the outcomes of the other training and research undertaken on the site by Salford Archaeology and the Hoghton Tower volunteers as part of the project.



**Plate 1.** Hoghton Tower as seen from the east.

## 2. Research Priorities and Objectives

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### 2.1 Research Aims

Currently, it is unclear exactly what structures were standing at Hoghton Tower prior to 1560, although historic references suggest that some form of fortification was located here as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The location on the northern, and highest, part of the escarpment of the Tudor well house and a raised platform, along with internal and external architectural features suggests that this side of the site may contain evidence of the earliest structures on the site.

The principal aims of the project were firstly, to investigate and advance our knowledge of the pre-1560 site and specifically try to test the hypothesis that the North side building may form part of the 'original' Hoghton Tower. Secondly, to develop a volunteer-driven programme of work to engage them in the main research work and develop parallel but complementary work packages deliverable within the project timetable. In addition, the project aimed to develop an educational package based on the current work to involve schools, visitors and students in engagement events and hands-on activities. This would support the Trusts wider educational objectives.

### 2.2 Objectives

The principal objectives of the archaeological investigation were:

- to carry out volunteer training workshops in buildings survey, historic research, finds analysis and to lead an investigation into selected standing structures on the site.
- to direct and supervise the excavation and recording of test pits by community participants and schools / youth groups, providing training and guidance where necessary.
- to facilitate participation by the community in various public open events including Open days on 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June and a school's day following the excavation.
- to undertake any post-excavation works required and create an appropriate site archive.
- to produce a full excavation report that can be passed on in digital format to all stakeholders at the end of the project.
- to make the results of the work publicly available.

## 3. Methodology

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### 3.1 Excavation Methodology

The excavation of all test pits was carried out by hand by local volunteers under the supervision of Salford Archaeology staff. Spoil and turf were separated and placed next to each test pit and was then backfilled on completion of the works. All work was carried out in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.

A total of eight test pits were excavated across the raised platform to the north of Tower's banqueting hall (Fig. 3). The location of the test pits was informed by both the results of the geophysical survey of the area and by alignment with the position of the extant retaining walls of the platform.

- **TP 1:** measured approximately 1.25m x 2m and was placed at right angles to the platform retaining wall to investigate the potential for walls linking the platform retaining wall and the northern wall of the banqueting hall.
- **TP2:** measured approximately 1.50m x 2.00m and lay parallel to the platform retaining wall to assess the thickness of this wall and the potential for features abutting it.
- **TP3:** measured 1.50m x 2.00m and was placed to investigate a linear anomaly seen on the geophysical survey results.
- **TP4:** measured 2.00m x 2.00m and was placed further south along the same geophysical anomaly as TP3.
- **TP5:** measured 1.50m x 2.00m and was located to investigate the potential for features at the eastern end of the platform.
- **TP6:** measured 1.00m x 2.00m and was placed to investigate the northern end of the return of the platform retaining wall, seen on historic sketches (Plate 2).
- **TP7:** measured 1.00m x 1.25m and was located to investigate the potential geophysical anomaly against the dividing wall of the platform.
- **TP8:** measured 1.00m x 2.00m and was placed on the lower level to the west of the platform dividing wall to investigate the potential for features in this area.

### 3.2 Recording Methodology

Separate contexts were recorded individually on Salford Archaeology *pro-forma* trench sheets. The excavation area was located and planned using GPS.

Photography of all relevant phases and features were undertaken in digital format using a digital SLR camera. General working photographs were taken during the archaeological works, to provide illustrative material covering the wider aspects of the archaeological work undertaken.

All fieldwork and recording of archaeological features, deposits and artefacts were carried out to acceptable archaeological standards. All archaeological works carried out by Salford Archaeology are carried out to the standards set out in the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).



**Plate 2.** 18<sup>th</sup> century watercolour painting showing the northern side of Hoghton Tower. ©Private Collection - de Hoghton Family (photographed by Thomas de Hoghton) This image may be copied for personal and classroom educational use as part of this report only. Any other reproduction whether in print or digitally requires specific permission from the de Hoghton Family.



## 4. The Setting

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### 4.1 Location, Topography and Land use

Hoghton Tower (SD 622 623), is a Grade 1 listed building and lies c.1km east of the village of Hoghton. The Tower lies on a hill which rises to 175m above sea level and is the highest point in the immediate area enjoying long views in all directions and forming a prominent local landmark. The Blackburn & Preston Railway, built in the years following 1844, runs to the north of the site and the River Darwen to the east. The site remains the ancestral home of the de Hoghton family but most of the Tower is now leased to the Preservation Trust and open to the public for tours, educational visits and events.



*Plate 3: Recent aerial view across Hoghton Tower.*

### 4.2 Geology

Hoghton Tower sits on a hilltop on the edge of a natural ridge lying roughly centrally between Blackburn and Preston. The underlying solid geology is Sandstone of the Millstone Grit Group. The drift cover consists of Diamicton (British Geological Survey, 2019).

## 5. *Historical Background*

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### 5.1 *Early Development*

The de Hoghtons were descended directly from Harvey de Walter, one of the companions of William the Conqueror. His descendants had been granted land in Lancashire in the early 12th Century in the area that later became Hoghton (Farrer & Brownbill 1908, 207; Farrer & Brownbill 1911, 36-37 Hoghton & Lumby 1936).

A charter of 1337 enclosed 500 acres of land for a park at Hoghton and a licence for the enlargement of the park was granted to Richard de Hoghton in 1386 (Farrer & Brownbill, 1911, 36; Hoghton & Lumby 1936; Singleton 1999, 10). The site was re-created over a five-year period between 1560 and 1565 by Thomas Hoghton as a fortified, hilltop manor house. Thomas's construction was substantial and unique for its time. It was described as being built around two courtyards and referred to a 'Great Keep' and chapel. King James I stayed at Hoghton Tower for three days in 1617 during which time he hunted in the park.

The house was damaged during a short siege in 1642, during which references refer to the 'great tower or keep' which was blown up with the loss of one hundred people (Farrer & Brownbill 1911, 36; Gratton 2010, 128; Singleton 1999, 10-11).

These two references to a 'Great Keep' and 'Great tower' have been used to suggest that the site had some form of fortification built on the present hall site, perhaps as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> century (Miller 1948). Whether this was a castle or Peel tower (a small fortified keep or tower, built along the English and Scottish borders in the Scottish Marches and North of England from the 14<sup>th</sup> century to the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century), is unclear, as is the history and archaeology of the Hoghton Tower site before 1560. The terminology is oddly antique for a house supposedly completely rebuilt in the 1560s, hinting at earlier surviving fabric on the site.

The house was extended and repaired in 1692-1702 by Sir Charles Hoghton. Abandoned by the Hoghton family as a residence in 1768, the complex was rented to weavers and other craftsmen for over 80 years (Hoghton & Lumby 1936; Pevsner & Hartwell, 2009, 339-343). The site was then restored and extensively rebuilt between 1863 and the 1880s to designs by the architects Paley and Austin. It was completed by the 11th baronet in the years 1897-1901 using the architect R D Oliver (Brandwood, Austin, Hughes & Price 2012; Champness 1989, 36-7).

### 5.3 *Archaeological Background*

There has been no previous formal archaeological work at Hoghton Tower, although the hall is a Grade I listed building and is described in Pevsner's architectural guide to Lancashire (Pevsner & Hartwell, 2009, 339-43) and in John Champness' Lancashire's Architectural Heritage (Champness 1989, 36-7) The surrounding park land is a registered garden.

The listed building description for the site is as follows;

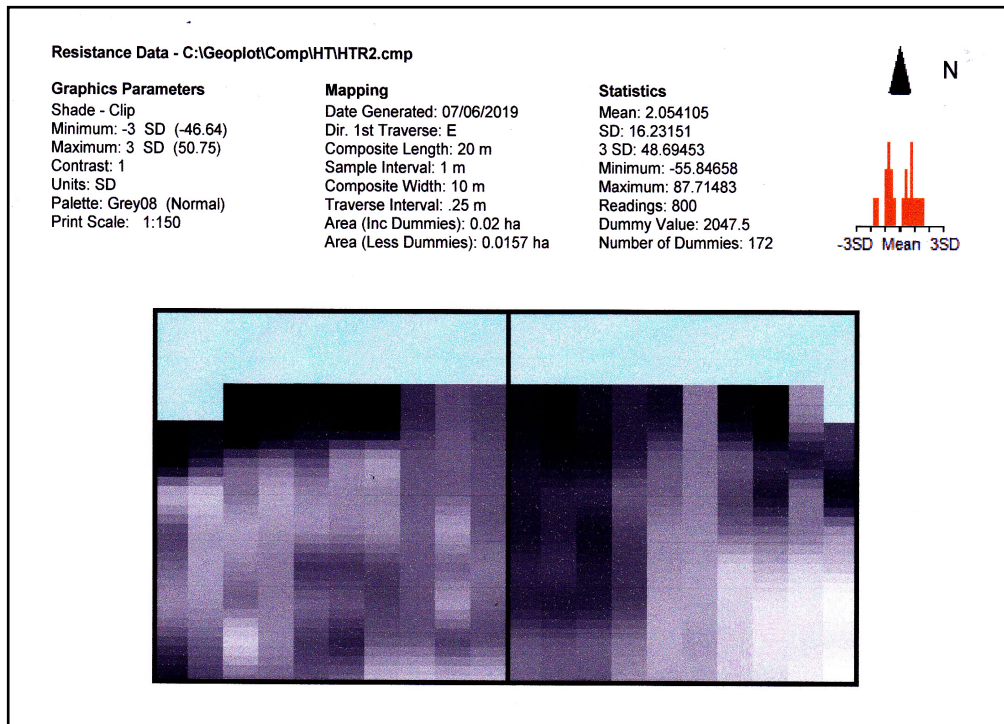
'Mansion house of de Hoghton family. Begun by Thomas Hoghton 1562-3; dated 1565 in upper courtyard and 1700 on south wing of lower courtyard; probably mostly sequential building from the earlier date, with parts of mid- to later C17, and additions of c.1700 and c.1900; derelict by mid C19, but restored from 1862 (ex situ datestones of 1673 in south-west turret of ramparts). Sandstone, with stone slate roofs. Dramatically sited on crown of Hoghton Hill escarpment, on a conservative double courtyard plan, mostly 2 storeys, and employing some similarly conservative features, probably deliberately. Lower courtyard enclosed by screen wall with embattled gate tower and corner towers facing down westward slope, added ranges on north and south sides of this courtyard; upper courtyard with gateway on same axis (tower destroyed 1642), Great hall and kitchen on north side, state rooms on east side and living rooms on south and west sides; former chapel attached at north east corner decayed by mid C19 and replaced with porch; most of these elements apparently of different builds. Gateways of lower and upper courtyards have 4-centred double chamfered arches which have semi-octagonal responds with moulded caps; over the outer arch of the lower gate a carved plaque representing a man wrestling with a beast and lettered T H, in Renaissance architrave; over the upper gateway on its outer side a carved plaque with shield of arms (2 bulls as bearers) and helm in heavily foliated surround lettered TH, and on its inner side another with Hoghton arms and date 1565. Windows throughout have slightly-recessed mullions (some moulded, some cavetto) but no hoodmoulds, and are variously of 2,3, or 4 lights, except those to the principal rooms of the upper courtyard, which have transoms. These rooms are all above ground floor: the Great Hall raised over a basement has a full-height semi-octagonal bay to the inner and outer sides of the upper (east) end, fenestrated all round with 3 transoms, gable corbelled out over the corners bearing ball finials on the kneelers and the apex, on the courtyard side a high-set tripartite window with 2 transoms (12, 15 and 15 lights) and opposite this on the outer side an external chimney stack to a sidewall fireplace, and at the lower (west) end a moulded 4-centred arched doorway up 9 semi-circular steps, a similar doorway at the north end of the screens covered by a short outer wing or porch decorated at ground floor with remains of good Renaissance detailing, including pilasters, strapwork, and entablature, a moulded cornice carrying a slightly-oversailing upper floor. The east range of this courtyard has transomed windows at 1st floor of 8+8, 8, and 10+10 lights, and the south range has similar windows of 4, 6+6, 6+6 and 6+6 lights. Interior: principal features of interest include late C17 screen and minstrels' gallery in hall with turned balusters in both parts; staircase in east range with twisted balusters; well-house in north-east corner of outer courtyard, with wooden winding gear; and ovolo-moulded beams, panelling, Renaissance-style fireplaces and overmantels variously restored or copied. For full description see VCH Lancs VI 36-47; Pevsner, G.C. *Miller Hoghton Tower* (1948).'

## 5.4 Geophysical Survey

In May 2019, prior to the start of the excavation, a geophysical survey of two areas within the Hoghton Tower site was carried out by the Tameside Archaeology Society. This work was designed to assess the archaeological potential of the platform to the north of the Banqueting Hall and the grassed area to the east of the site, referred to as the Wilderness Garden. Surveys were carried out using both resistivity and magnetometry to produce a comprehensive picture of the possible features present.

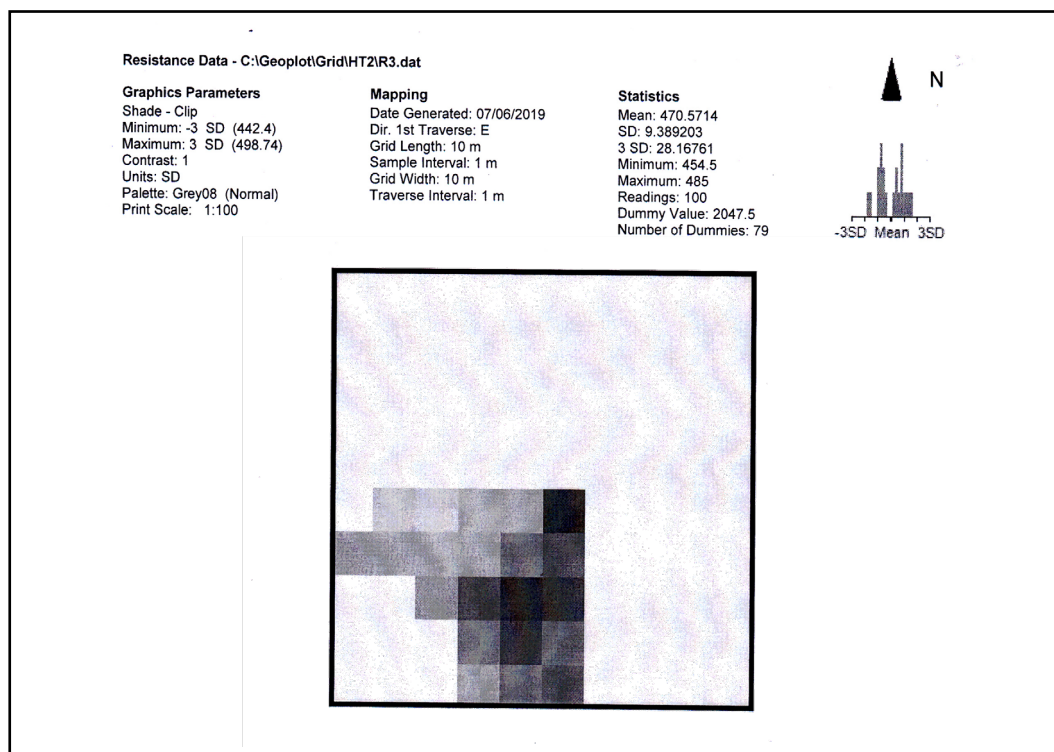
The resistance data results of the survey of the northern platform indicated two main anomalies in the centre and northern edge of the platform running at right angles to each

other. This was interpreted as having the potential to represent structural material and as a result, several of the 2019 test pits were targeted to investigate these anomalies.



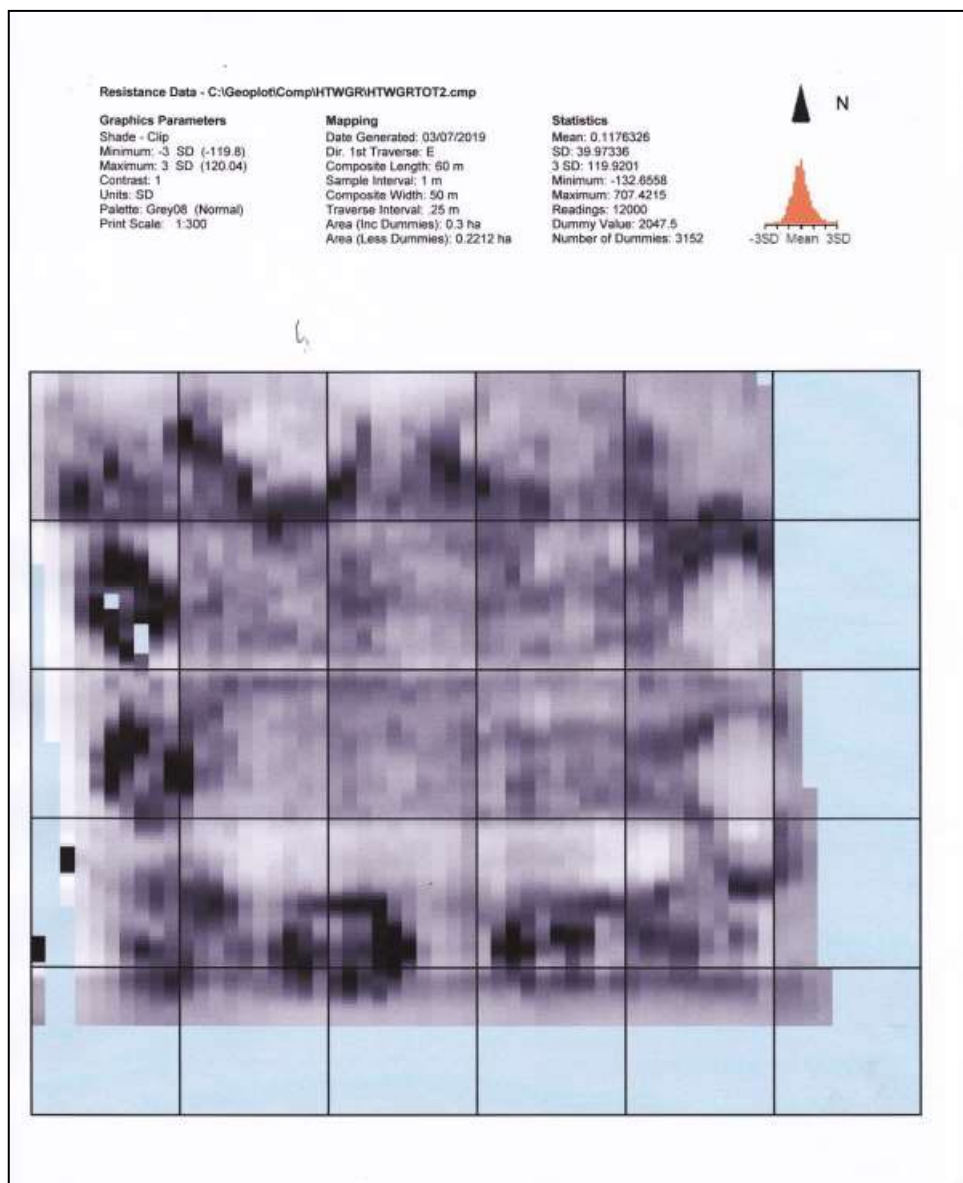
**Plate**

**4.** Resistance data results for the eastern end of the excavation area. Image supplied courtesy of the Tameside Archaeology Society.



**Plate 5.** Resistance data results for the western end of the excavation area. Image supplied courtesy of the Tameside Archaeology Society.

The Wilderness Garden area was targeted for survey as a result of below ground conditions observed when trying to erect an event marquee on the site. Additionally, this area has previously been suggested as a possible location for the chapel thought to have occupied the site and would therefore benefit from non-intrusive investigation. Again, the resistance data gave the clearest results which indicated the presence of several anomalies around the periphery of the lawn area which corresponded to garden features seen on the 1930s Ordnance Survey mapping. In addition to this, two weaker linear anomalies were identified running east-west across the lawn which appeared to correspond with parch marks seen on aerial photography of the area. As this area had not been targeted for excavation as part of the current project, it was earmarked for future investigation work.



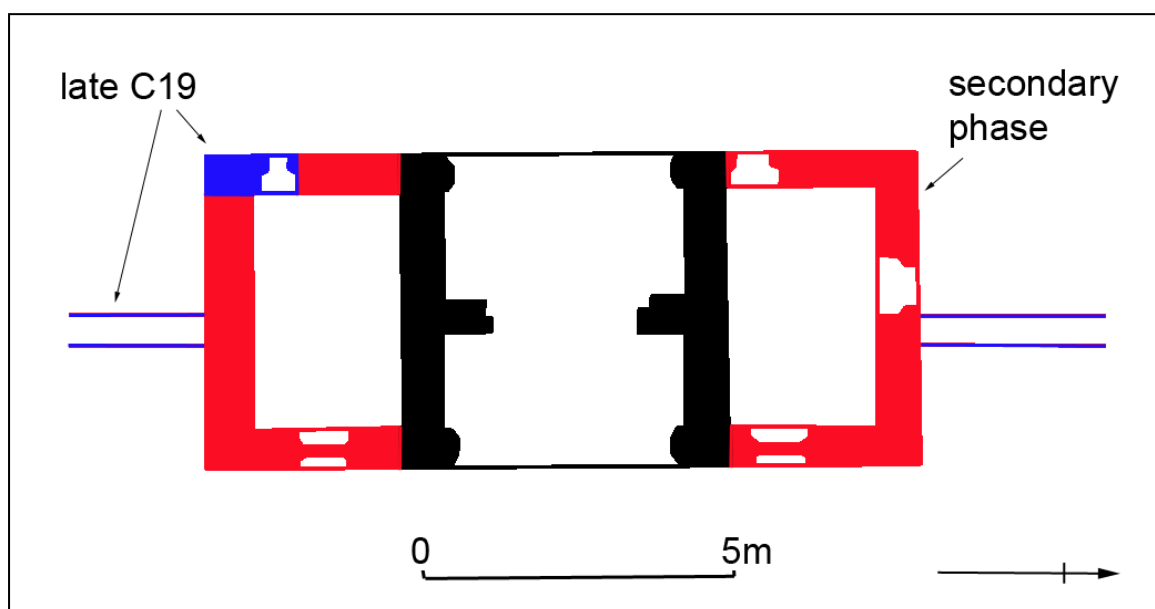
**Plate 6.** Resistance data results for the Wilderness Garden. Image supplied courtesy of the Tameside Archaeology Society.

## 5.5 Buildings Survey

### Hoghton Building Survey Seminars

A series of six building survey training sessions and three public tours were held for Hoghton Tower volunteers, and tours for the public, as part of the project in 2019. These were held on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 8 April, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 25 July, 30 July, 21 September, 30 September and 12<sup>th</sup> November. Volunteer numbers at each session varied from 7 to 17 people. The tours attracted between 12 and 20 people each. The training sessions covered an introduction to documentary sources for buildings history; the vernacular architecture of Lancashire and north West England; an introduction to level 1 and level 2 Historic England style building recording and some practical building recording sessions, using the Great Hall and the gatehouse as training case studies for the volunteers, which the volunteer work continuing into 2020 on these.

### Hoghton Tower Outer Gatehouse Description



**Plate 7.** Plan of the gatehouse at Hoghton Tower.

Hoghton Tower outer gatehouse was surveyed in two sessions, 30<sup>th</sup> and September and 12<sup>th</sup> November as an example of studying the development phases of part of the hall complex.

The outer gatehouse lies on the western side of the lower courtyard and controls access to the main hall complex. A stone-built structure of three storeys, it has a central arched gateway flanked by two, two-storey stone wings, crenelated, as is the taller three storey central tower.

The eastern, courtyard elevation has on the ground floor a central two-centred arch with chamfering, supporting by chamfered half-columns. Flanking the entrance are two doorways with stone surrounds and chamfered lintels. The first floor has a central, three-

light, mullioned with chamfered surrounds and two chamfered mullions. A horizontal string course separates the first floor of the two from the upper storey and also marks the base of the crenelations to the flanking two-storey wings. The upper storey of the central tower has second, three-light, mullioned with chamfered surrounds and two chamfered mullions. Above this is a second string course from which rises the crenelated top of the gateway tower. The whole elevation has quoining to the northern and southern corners. Two lead downspouts flank the arched entrance and are topped with a crest of the hall. There are clear vertical building breaks between the two flanking wings and the central tower. The crenelations are built from machine-cut stone, whilst the north-eastern corner of the northern wing appears to have been rebuilt with machine-cut stone.

The exterior elevation to the northern flanking tower has quoining to the north and is topped by a string course above which is a crenelated parapet. There is a vertical lead downspout at the eastern edge topped with a crest of the hall. Parts of this elevation have been re-surfaced in machine-cut stone. The ground floor of the elevation is bisected by a stone curtain wall c.1m wide.



**Plate 8.** *Western elevation of the gatehouse as seen from the north.*

The western, external, elevation has on the ground floor a central two-centred arch with chamfering, supported by chamfered half-columns. The first floor has a central, three-light, mullioned with chamfered surrounds and two chamfered mullions. Below this is a carved frieze. Flanking this window are two, two-light openings each with a central chamfered mullion. A horizontal string course separates the first floor of the two from the upper storey and also marks the base of the crenelations to the flanking two-storey wings. The upper storey of the central tower has second, three-light, mullioned with chamfered

surrounds and two chamfered mullions. Above this is a second string course from which rises the crenelated top of the gateway tower. The whole elevation has quoining to the northern and southern corners. There is a clear vertical building break between the eastern flanking wing and the central tower. The crenelations are built from machine-cut stone, whilst much of the ground and first floor of this elevation has been re-surfaced in machine-cut stone.



**Plate 9.** *Eastern elevation of the gatehouse.*

The exterior elevation to the southern flanking tower has quoining to the north and is topped by a string course above which is a crenelated parapet. There is a vertical lead downspout at the eastern edge topped with a crest of the hall. Parts of this elevation have been re-surfaced in machine-cut stone. The ground floor of the elevation is bisected by a stone curtain wall c. 1m wide. A set of stone steps inside the curtain wall leads to a doorway, with stone surrounds at first floor level.

### **Gatehouse Development**

Three broad phases are visible in this fabric. The earliest is the central three-storey tower which traditionally has been dated to the 1560-65 rebuild, the chamfered half columns being repeated in the inner gatehouse archway. The second phase is represented by the addition of the two flanking towers to the north and south, perhaps a 17<sup>th</sup> century addition,



although their date is unclear. The third major phase is represented by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century restoration work which includes re-surfacing parts of the exterior elevations of the gatehouse, replacing some of the mullions in the windows, replacing the crenellations, adding the lead downspouts, and rebuilding the curtain wall.

## **Discussion**

Stone-built late medieval and 16<sup>th</sup> century manor houses are not uncommon in historic Lancashire but few are as imposing or as large as Hoghton Tower. Warton Old Rectory, with its Great Hall, cross-passage and service range, is the oldest surviving and dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Courtyard plan halls, such as Hoghton Tower, are much rarer. The North West has a number of fine surviving late medieval and 16<sup>th</sup> century examples; Arden Hall (Stockport), Bramall Hall (Stockport), Little Moreton Hall (Cheshire), Ordsall Hall (Salford), Rufford Old Hall, Salmsbury Hall (Preston), Smithills Hall (Bolton), Speke Hall (Merseyside), Wardley Hall (Salford), and Worsley Old Hall. Except for Arden Hall these are timber-framed properties and just a handful have surviving gate houses, these being Wardley and Worsley, both of which have been heavily restored. Thus, these do not provide a direct parallel for the outer, nor the inner, gatehouse at Hoghton Tower.

There is a grouping of late medieval defended manor houses, with Peel towers, within Historic Lancashire. The examples now in Greater Manchester survive in only a fragmentary state (Radcliffe Tower) if at all (Ashton Hall and Bury Castle are now both demolished). Within modern Lancashire surviving examples can be seen at Turton near Blackburn and in the Lune Valley at Ashton, Borwick, Hornby, and Thurland. Borwick has a separate two storey stone-built gatehouse built around 1650, whilst Thurland Castle has an arched entrance into the main courtyard, although this is late 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. There are thus no direct parallels for the outer stone-built gatehouse at Hoghton Tower.

The Gothic architectural style of the primary phase of the outer gatehouse at Hoghton can be paralleled in the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> century religious architecture of Lancashire, particularly the chamfered columns which occur in the aisled naves of several medieval parish churches in the area such as Heysham, Middleton, Prestwich, Ribchester, and Whalley. This provides a possible date-range for the outer gatehouse at Hoghton Tower, and hints that the fabric of the outer gatehouse might contain earlier material and was no later than 1560/65 and might well be earlier.



*Plate 10. Eastern elevation of the gatehouse as seen from the north.*

## 6. Fieldwork Results

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### 6.1 Introduction

The location of the test pits excavated at Hoghton Tower were based on several factors, in particular the results of the geophysical survey (Fig. 2) and historic images of this side of the house from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. The pits were located on a platform to the north of the great hall, on an area with support from a stone retaining wall to the north and east. The excavation area was divided into two parts, to either side of a standing wall extending north from the main house. The area to the west of this wall lay at a lower level than that to the east and was sited to investigate the reasons for this.

In total ten test pits were excavated across the area, all of which, except Test Pit 8, lay to the east of the wall and were covered with a loose dark brown loamy topsoil with a stone rubble layer directly below.

#### Test Pit 1

This pit was located on the northern side of the platform to investigate the possibility of remains associated with the retaining wall of the platform and any related structure lying between this and the northern wall of the banqueting hall. The geophysical survey also indicated a wide anomaly running east-west along the northern edge of the platform, suggesting the retaining wall was a substantial structure. The test pit lay 1.25m from the northern edge of the platform.

*Plate 11 Test pit 1 following excavation, showing the possible wall 007. Looking north.*



The pit initially measured 1m x 1m but was extended to 1.25m x 2.00m. Following the removal of the turf and topsoil, the demolition layer 002 was identified at a depth of c.0.15m and

comprised small fragments of sandstone and gritstone (< 0.15m) and occasional pieces of mortar. Below this, an alignment of larger stones (>0.15m) 007 was identified running north-south along the western side of the test pit with an area of rubble to the east. Although not formally coursed, 007 appeared to comprise at least two layers of stone to a depth of 0.35m, where it was abutted to the west by an alignment of flagstones, 012. This measured 0.50m x 0.60m and continued westwards beyond the edge of the test pit. The layer surrounding 007 was 003 which comprised small stone fragments in a mid-brown sandy silt.

It was thought that the alignment 007 may have been the remains of the rubble core of a larger wall running north-south across the platform. The row of flags is similar to those found in Test Pits 2 and 4 and may represent a larger surface.

## Test Pit 2

This test pit was also excavated to investigate the platform retaining wall and east-west linear anomaly seen on the geophysical survey and lay 1.75m from the edge of the platform. The pit measured 1.50m x 2.00m and was orientated east-west.



**Plate 12.** Test Pit 2 showing flagstones 014. Looking north.

Like Test Pit 1, this pit was also enlarged to further investigate the feature revealed below the rubble layer 002. This was an alignment of narrow flagstones, 014, which ran across the pit from east to west at a depth of 0.50m. The flags measured between 0.20m-0.30m in width and 0.60m-0.70m in length and were set within a pinkish-brown sandy silt deposit 015. To the east, there was a considerable amount of degraded yellow mortar lying over the flag stones, which thinned and disappeared to the west.

As mentioned above, it is possible that these flags may be related to those in other test pits and represent the robbed out remains of a floor surface.

### Test Pit 3

Test Pit 3 was located towards the eastern end of the platform, to investigate the large north-south anomaly seen on the geophysical survey. The test pit measured 1.50m x 2.00m orientated east-west and lay 2.95m from the edge of the platform.



**Plate 13.** Rubble layer 002 in Test Pit 3, during excavation. Looking north.

Again, the rubble layer 002 was encountered at a depth of 0.51m and contained fragments of medieval-19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. This layer was excavated to a depth of c.0.55m, whereupon more, larger blocks of stone were revealed, including a broken flagstone, similar to those uncovered in Test Pits 1, 2 and 5. Although the pit was extended to the east by 0.50m to ascertain if other flags were present, no features were revealed.



**Plate 14.** Test Pit 3 showing the broken remains of flagstones in the base of 002. Looking west.

## Test Pit 4

Test Pit 4 was located 3m south of Test Pit 3 and was also excavated to investigate the north-south linear anomaly seen on the geophysical survey. The pit initially measured 1m x 1m but was extended to 2m x 2m due to features uncovered.



**Plate 15.** Test Pit 4 showing flag stones 016 surrounded by deposit 017. Looking south.

Again, the rubble layer 002 was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.50m and overlay the subsequent features revealed. Directly below this layer lay a mid-reddish brown silt 017, similar to 015, seen in Test Pit 2, which was 0.10m thick. It was below this silty layer that another alignment of stone flags 016, were identified, again running in an east-west orientation. Three flags were revealed, measuring between 0.40-0.50m square, which appeared to continue both east and westwards beyond the trench edges.

Although there was no evidence of flag stones to the north or south, it is possible that these may have been robbed out and that this may be part of the same floor surface as the flags in Test Pits 1 and 2.

## Test Pit 5

Test Pit 5 lay at the eastern end of the platform and was located to investigate the possibility of remains associated with the southern return of the retaining wall to ascertain its nature and size. The pit measured 2m x 1m and was orientated north-south.

During the excavation of the rubble layer 002, it was discovered that the deposit was far more compacted to the north and west with larger stone blocks. This material was also more deeply buried with the smaller (< 0.15m), looser stone fragments to the east lying within a horizon only 0.15m thick. Below this, the mid-brown silt deposit 017 was again encountered. This test

pit also contained considerable areas of mortar, clinker, charcoal and heat affected 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century glass within the rubble layers.

It was initially thought that the more compacted material may represent another rubble wall core, however no evidence of structures was revealed. Further investigation suggested that this was merely a mixed deposit of rubble and refuse, however the high concentration of heat affected material indicates the possibility of a fire setting of some sort nearby.

### Test Pit 6

Test Pit 6 was located at the sloping far eastern end of the platform, in line with the southern return of the retaining wall and was excavated to investigate the continuation of the retaining wall to the south as seen in one of the Hoghton archives images (Plate 2). The test pit measured 2.00m x 1.00m and was aligned east-west.



**Plate 16.** Test Pit 6 showing rubble deposit 013 and mortar layer 008 in section. Looking east.

This test pit was initially opened as a 1m square and revealed a concentration of undressed stone fragments 013 to the west, with evidence of a pinkish-grey mortar on many of the stones. This was abutted to the east by a light brown mortar layer 008, with lenses and inclusions of charcoal and clinker. Two larger stone blocks were identified along the eastern edge of 013 and so it was decided to extend the pit to the west to locate and assess the western side of this deposit. The western edge of 013 had been heavily truncated and disturbed, however two large stones were revealed that lay at the same level and in line with those to the east. The stones to both the east and west were set within a dark brown silty deposit similar to 003.



**Plate 17.** Test Pit 6 before extension, showing 013 to the west with the two larger stones at the base of the pit to the east. Looking south.

Due to the alignment and location of the rubble deposit 013, this was interpreted as a fragmentary remnant of the southern return of the retaining wall, probably destroyed some time during the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Test Pit 7

Test Pit 7 was located at the western end of the platform, next to the existing stone dividing wall. This test pit was excavated to investigate another geophysical anomaly lying close to the dividing wall. The pit measured 1.50m x 1.00m orientated north-south and was excavated to the depth of 1.20m.



**Plate 18.** Test Pit 7 showing the depth of deposit 002 and some of the larger stone blocks identified. Looking south.



Following the removal of the turf and topsoil, the rubble layer 002 was again encountered at a depth of approximately 0.45m. In this test pit, this layer was comprised of a much wider variety of stone fragment sizes between 0.10m-0.45m, with a higher concentration of larger blocks than any of the other test pits. In particular, a dressed block was identified at the base of the deposit which measured c.0.50m x 0.38m, which lay on top of a second stone could not be excavated. Layer 002 was also considerably deeper than in other test pits, lying at a maximum depth of 0.80m, where it overlay a pinkish-red sandy silt 010, with a high moisture content.

Although no *in situ* structural remains were revealed in this test pit, the nature of the rubble deposit does suggest that the platform required greater foundations in this area, possibly due to a slope in the natural ground beneath. The large blocks also suggest the presence of more substantial structures in this area, such as external, load bearing walls or foundation deposits.

### Test Pit 8

Test Pit 8 lay to the west of the platform's dividing wall on an area of ground which lay c.0.60m lower than the rest of the platform to the east. The test pit was excavated to assess the potential for features at this lower level and measured 1.00m x 2.00m, orientated east-west.



**Plate 19.** Test Pit 8 showing surfaces 004 and 005. Looking east.

The segregated nature of the area to the west of the dividing wall meant that the soil horizons identified to the east were not present in this test pit. The topsoil lay at a depth of 0.15m and

directly overlay a cobbled surface 004 to the east and a compacted pinkish-brown sandy silt 005 to the west. Surface 004 was composed of stone setts running east-west which were relatively uniform in size, measuring 0.17m x 0.13m, with one larger stone measuring 0.41m x 0.14m. The surface measured 1.00m x 1.50m overall and abutted 005 to the west. This was found to lie 0.03m deep with frequent inclusions of chipped stone fragments and burnt stones. A second compacted deposit, 006, lay below 005 and was composed of a very dark blackish-brown silt with a high volume of clinker, which again lay only 0.03m thick. This in turn lay over a very compacted layer of stone rubble, 011, similar to 002 but containing much smaller stone fragments, between 0.05m-0.10m. This deposit was too heavily compacted to excavate further.



**Plate 20.** Detail of sondage excavated through 005, showing 006 to the left and the rubble layer 011 to the right. Looking west.

The style of the cobbled surface and its association with the later building addition to the south indicated that it was likely to have been laid down as part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century restoration work at the Tower. Conversations with Sir Bernard de Hoghton confirmed that the surface had only been covered within the last 50 years and had previously had dog kennels constructed on it.

## 7. The Finds

### 7.1 Aims and objectives

The aim of the finds assessment is to evaluate all classes of archaeological material from the excavation to assess its research potential and regional significance.

The objectives of the assessment are to:

- Assess the quantity, provenance, condition and date of all artefactual evidence from the site
- Comment on the range and variety of material in the assemblage
- Assess the potential of material for future research purposes

### 7.2 Methodology

Finds were collected from site using a pre-determined sampling procedure during the evaluation test pitting. All finds were returned to the Salford Archaeology finds lab. Finds were washed and catalogued by material and sealed in labelled polyethylene bags. A finds catalogue was produced for the assemblage, providing details on each artefact's context, description, quantification, weight and date.

### 7.3 Overview

The archaeological work undertaken at Hoghton Tower resulted in the recovery of 424 artefacts, weighing 5.4kg. All finds were collected from topsoil and subsoil levels from the test pits within the grounds. The finds were catalogued, counted and weighed (see table 1). The main classes of material present are 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century pottery, 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century glass, clay tobacco pipes and animal bone. The majority of the pottery dates to the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, though there are three sherds which appear to be 15<sup>th</sup> century in date. Four fragments of late medieval glazed roof tile were also retrieved from the excavations which represent the earliest material retrieved from the test pits.

Material	Number of contexts	Count	Weight (g)	Period (century)
Animal bone	10	108	1040	Unknown
Briquette (smokeless fuel)	1	1	32	Modern
Clay tobacco pipe	10	35	129	17 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>
Ceramic (other)	1	1	83	20 <sup>th</sup>
Charcoal	1	6	24	Unknown
Coal	1	1	57	Unknown
Copper	2	2	2	17 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>
Glass	11	103	898	17 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>
Iron	1	1	130	18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>
Lead	2	2	19	17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
Mortar	2	4	225	15 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
Pottery	15	155	2144	15 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>
Stone	1	1	75	Unknown
Tile	3	4	75	14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>424</b>	<b>5402g</b>	

Table 1: Table of all materials from Hoghton Tower

## 7.4 The pottery

The pottery assemblage is fragmentary and consists of 155 sherds ranging in date from the 15<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> century. The majority are dark-glazed wares and 18<sup>th</sup> century mottled wares. The assemblage also includes imported 17<sup>th</sup> century Westerwald German stoneware. A list of all ware types present in the assemblage is given in table 2.

Pottery class	Count	Weight (g)	Period
Agate ware	2	9	19 <sup>th</sup> century
Blue and white china	4	26	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
Brown-glazed coarseware	2	31	18 <sup>th</sup> century
Dark-glazed coarseware	63	1460	17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century
Dark-glazed fineware	20	97	17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century
Creamware	5	22	19 <sup>th</sup> century
Industrial slipware	12	146	19 <sup>th</sup> century
Mottled ware	25	131	18 <sup>th</sup> century
Oxidised glazed earthenware	3	63	15 <sup>th</sup> century
Pearlware	5	23	19 <sup>th</sup> century
Slip coated buff ware	2	6	19 <sup>th</sup> century
Stoneware	6	89	17 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> century
Tin-glazed earthenware	2	17	18 <sup>th</sup> century
Yellow ware	4	24	17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century

Table 2: All pottery types from the site of Hoghton Tower

### Medieval pottery

A total of three sherds of late medieval pottery was retrieved from test pit 4 (002). These are an oxidised earthenware with patchy orange glaze (figure 1). They are likely to date to the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

### Post-Medieval pottery

#### Dark-glazed ware

65 sherds of dark-glazed or brown-glazed coarsewares was retrieved from the test pits. This includes fragments of storage jars with oxidised fabrics. Dark-glazed coarsewares were ubiquitous in the North West of England and largely consist of kitchen or dairy wares. They are inherently difficult to date and are continued to be produced into the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Notable groups have been recovered from Wigan, Lancaster and Liverpool, and more recently in Manchester and Salford including sites at Chapel Wharf and Greengate Towers (Philpott 1985, OA North 2008, OA North 2014, Mottershead and Garrett 2008).

A total of 20 sherds of dark-glazed fineware were recovered from the test pits, including 17<sup>th</sup> century Blackware sherds and 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century finewares. Test pit 2 (002) included a small fragment of mid-17<sup>th</sup> century faceted tyg or drinking cup (figure 2). This type of vessel is a distinctive product of Rainford potters and seem to have been an uncommon form from potters elsewhere. Other examples have been found in Prescott, Warrington, Liverpool, Bury and Burslem (Philpott *et al* 2015, 136).

### **Mottled ware**

A total of 25 sherds of mottled ware was retrieved from the test pits. This includes fragments of drinking cups and possible jugs. Mottled ware is regularly found on sites in the North West of England and was produced at the latter end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century into the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Production centres include Buckley in North Wales, as well as Yorkshire, Derby, and Prescot in Merseyside.

### **Stoneware**

Six sherds of stoneware were recorded from the test pits. This includes three sherds of brown salt-glazed stoneware including a sherd with wavy incised decoration (figure 3). Test pits 5 and 6 also included sherds of a blue and purple stoneware which is likely to be a Westerwald German import dating to the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. This stoneware involved the application of manganese dioxide and cobalt oxide to produce a purple and blue glaze effect. The sherds from the site are likely to have come from an imported jug and are decorated in a geometric pattern including an acorn motif (figure 4).

### **Yellow ware**

Four small sherds of yellow ware were identified in the assemblage. These are parts of dishes and date from the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century but are too small to be of further research potential.

### **Tin-glazed earthenware**

Two small sherds of tin-glazed were recovered from test pit 3 (002). Tin-glazed earthenware was produced in Liverpool from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and is typically referenced as the production centre for tin-glazed products in the North West. However, a production site has recently been discovered in Lancaster at Pothouse, which could equally be the source of the fragmentary material from Hoghton Tower (Davey and McNeil 1984; NPA 2009). Tin-glazed earthenware reached its popularity in the 1720s-1740s before the industry was overtaken by whitewares in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Slip-coated/buff bodied wares**

Two sherds of slip-coated/buff bodied ware was identified. This ware has a buff fabric with a shiny brown to black slipped glaze and is known to have been produced in Staffordshire from the early to late 1700s (Barker 2008).

### **Industrial slipwares**

12 sherds of industrial slipware were identified. Most sherds comprise decorated mugs with banding and striped decoration. These probably date to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Creamwares**

The late 18<sup>th</sup> century saw an increase in demand for creamware products. A total of five creamware sherds were collected from the test pits.

### **Pearlware**

Five sherds of pearlware were recorded which were very fragmentary. This includes blue and white frilled rims from plates, dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century shell-edged pearlwares had become the most widely used table wares (Barker 2010, 15).

## Blue and white china

Four sherds of plain china, blue and white china and transfer-printed wares were also recorded, including willow pattern. The majority of sherds are fragmentary from dishes and cups and are typical of a 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery assemblage.

## Agate ware

Two sherds of agate ware were recorded from test pit 3 (002). This is identified by its marbled appearance and dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 7.5 Ceramic Building Material

### Roof tile

Fragments of four medieval roof tiles were retrieved from test pits 1, 4, and 7. These exhibit a reduced grey soft core and oxidised interior surface with a patchy olive-green external glaze. Though the tiles are fragmentary, the curvature suggests they may be curved or hip roof tiles from an earlier building on the site (figure 5). They are likely to date to the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

A fragment of a drainpipe was recovered from test pit 7 indicating modern disturbance. Four fragments of lime mortar were also recovered from test pits 1 and 5 which may be related to previous buildings on the site.



Figure 1: Oxidised glazed earthenware, test pit 4 (002), 15<sup>th</sup> century (fn 51)



Figure 2: Facetted cup sherd, test pit 2 (002), mid-17<sup>th</sup> century (fn 48)



Figure 3: Brown stoneware with wavy decoration, U/S (fn 114)



Figure 4: Jug sherd of Westerwald German stoneware import, test pit 6 (002), mid-17<sup>th</sup> century (fn 79)



Figure 5: Medieval roof tile, test pit 4 (002)

## 7.6 The clay pipes

A total of 35 clay pipe fragments were retrieved from the test pits at Hoghton Tower. This includes six complete or almost complete pipe bowls and 29 pipe stem fragments. Three makers' marks were identified on the bowls, all of which read 'IB'. This is a common 17<sup>th</sup> century makers' mark and originates from pipe makers in Rainford, probably from the family of Birch or Birstall (Higgins 2008, 134). Only one bowl is decorated, portraying winged angels with a three-leaf clover border (fn 88). A catalogue of the pipe bowls is presented in table 3.

Context	Identification	Date	Description
TP 1 (002) Fn 3	Complete pipe bowl (figure 6)	AD 1640-1680	Bulbous bowl with spur, stamped 'IB'
TP 2 (003) Fn 21	Almost complete pipe bowl (figure 7)	AD 1640-1680	Bowl with spur, stamped 'IB'
TP 4 (002) Fn 57	Plain bowl	AD 1880-1940	
TP 7 (002) Fn 88	Partial bowl (figure 8)	AD 1850-1920	Decorated bowl with winged angels on both sides and three leaf clover border
TP 9 (001) Fn 104	Partial pipe bowl	AD 1690-1750	Plain bowl
TP 10 (001) Fn 110	Partial bowl	AD 1620-1660	'IB' heel stamp

Table 3: list of diagnostic clay tobacco pipes from Hoghton Tower



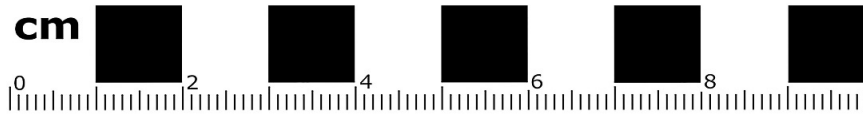


Figure 6: Complete pipe bowl, AD1640-1680 (fn 3)

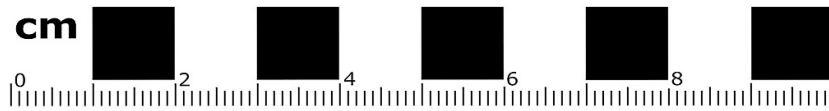


Figure 7: Clay pipe bowl with 'IB' makers' stamp, AD1640-1680 (fn 21)

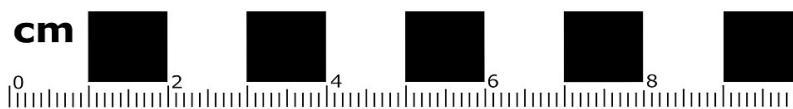


Figure 8: Clay pipe bowl depicting winged angels and a three-leaf clover border, AD1850-1920 (fn 88)

## 7.7 Glass

The glass retrieved from the site was very fragmentary and consists of 103 sherds. This includes 40 small sherds of window glass and 63 sherds of bottle glass. Of the bottle glass, 16 sherds are 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> in date and 47 are 17<sup>th</sup> century in date. The 17<sup>th</sup> century glass includes fragments of onion bottles which are in poor condition and exhibit corrosion leaving them in a degraded state (figure 9). Most of this glass appears to date to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. A small black glass bead was also recovered from test pit 7 and is post-medieval in date.



Figure 9: Top of onion bottle from test pit 6 (002), late 17<sup>th</sup> century (fn 76)

## 7.8 Metalwork

A small quantity of metal finds was retrieved from the test pits. This includes two copper objects; a copper loop, probably from a chain or fitting, and an incomplete sewing thimble which exhibits a foot ring and machine stamped pits arranged in horizontal rows, likely to date to AD1850-1900 (figure 10). A corroded piece of ironwork was recovered from test pit 7 which may have been part of modern agricultural machinery. A waste lead strip and a musket ball with a possible impact scar was also recovered from test pit 5 which is likely to date to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century (figure 11).



Figure 10: Partial thimble from test pit 2 (002), AD1850-1900 (fn 22)



Figure 11: Lead musket ball from test pit 5, 17<sup>th</sup> century (fn 62)

## 7.9 Organics

A total of 108 animal bones were retrieved from 10 contexts on the site. These mainly consist of domesticated breeds including sheep and pig. The bones have been fully catalogued but further identification has not been carried out. The bones provide little research potential.

Other organics were recovered including six pieces of charcoal, a lump of coal, and a briquette/modern smokeless fuel.

## 7.10 Worked stone

A single piece of limestone was recovered from test pit four which exhibited a perforation hole. This could have been part of a flooring or door/gatepost.

## 7.11 Potential and recommendations

The assemblage from Houghton Tower is relatively small as only small evaluation trenches were excavated. The earliest material from the site includes a small amount of 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery, medieval roof tiles, as well as 17<sup>th</sup> century imported German stoneware, late 17<sup>th</sup> century glass and late 17<sup>th</sup> century stamped clay pipes. This material is worth retaining and provides evidence for activity on the site from at least the 14<sup>th</sup> century up to the modern period. The organic material, modern pottery and modern glass should be discarded with permission from the landowner.

## 7.12 References

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## 8. Community Participation

### 8.1 Introduction

The ability for local people and interest groups to participate in the archaeological excavation was coupled with a range of opportunities for volunteers and school children to be involved in the study of Hoghton Tower. In addition to the excavation, a programme of workshops, open days and school sessions took place at the Tower and aimed to develop skills and knowledge of the site as a whole.

### 8.2 Excavation

The archaeological investigation at Hoghton Tower elicited considerable interest and support from the local community. A core of Hoghton Tower volunteers attended the excavation during the week-long period of the fieldwork, along with adult volunteers and students from further afield in Lancashire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester. During the course of the excavation, two open days were held for members of the public to take part in a guided tour of the site and view the artefacts discovered. In total, 25 adult volunteers and 15 Young Archaeologists Club members took part in the excavation with a further 100 visitors to the public open days.



**Plates 21 and 22.** Community volunteers during the excavation.

### 8.3 Workshops

A total of five volunteer workshops took place before and after the excavation, with the intention of expanding the practical skills of the Hoghton Tower volunteers. The main objective was to give the volunteers the knowledge and ability needed for them to be able to carry out their own surveys and historical investigations of the Tower. The themes of the workshops sought to cover techniques most likely to be useful to the ongoing study and preservation of the Tower. Workshops were held on the following subjects; building survey, historical research, archaeological site techniques, finds processing and historic graffiti survey. Each

workshop was run over the course of a day with a mix of teaching and practical activities and all were well attended by up to 10 Hoghton Tower volunteers. All workshops were delivered by staff from Salford Archaeology, with the exception on the graffiti survey which was run by the North West Graffiti Survey team.

#### ***8.4 School Participation***

Two local schools, Manor Road Primary School, Chorley and Westwood Primary School, Chorley, took part in an educational workshop day. This consisted of sessions on historic building study and finds analysis to enable the children to look at and learn how to use primary source material and record their findings. Over 60 children and their teachers participated in the workshops which involved detailed study of both the buildings of the Tower and the finds from the test pit excavation. The day not only contributed to National Curriculum requirements for understanding source material, local history and the Tudor period but also enabled the children, many of whom had not visited the site before, to engage with their own local heritage.

## 9. Discussion

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### 9.1 The Excavation

The excavation of eight test pits on a rectangular platform on the northern side of the hilltop at Hoghton Tower has indicated that human activity has been almost continuous on this part of the site from the 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The work was able to reveal potential structural remains along with significant quantities of stone demolition debris and artefacts from the 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The locations of the test pits were intended to take in both the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey and existing historic and topographic features visible on the platform to enable the investigation of as many areas with the highest archaeological potential as possible. As a result of this, several differing features were identified across the site.

To the west, Test Pit 1 contained *007*, a potential wall running north-south across the platform and formed from the same material as the overlying demolition deposit. The position of this wall may be relevant to the eastern retaining wall of the platform which lies 14.00m to the east along a corresponding alignment, a heavily truncated part of which may have been uncovered in Test Pit 6 as *013*. It was thought that the high volume of mortar surrounding *013*, along with its linear shape in plan, was indicative of the rubble core of a more substantial wall, with the two larger stones to the east, possibly representing the remains of the outer coursing. The presence of this retaining wall, seen in a ruinous state on an 18<sup>th</sup> century painting of the north wing, may suggest the possibility that the platform lies over the remains of a stone-built structure. If this is the case, it is possible that the wall discovered in Test Pit 1 may form part of such a structure, however as the width of this wall was not revealed, further investigation would be necessary to ascertain its nature and size.

The other feature in Test Pit 1 was *012*, a line of stone flags seen running westwards from the western side of the wall. Although only a small portion of this feature was revealed, it appeared to be very similar to the east-west flagged surface in Test Pit 4. Both were formed from stones of a similar size and shape and lay along the same alignment, albeit with a 4.00m gap between the northern alignment in Test Pit 1 and the southern in Test Pit 4. Another flagged surface in Test Pit 2 was also found along the same alignment as *012*, although the difference in the size of the flag stones may indicate that these were part of a different surface. The position of these surfaces in relation to the wall *007* shows the larger, square flags lying around peripheral areas, while the narrower flags lay towards the centre of the platform. This may indicate a differentiation between internal and external floor surfaces.

The remaining three test pits excavated on the main area of the platform contained only the stone demolition deposit *002* with its underlying silting deposits visible in some areas. The depth and small fragment sizes of the demolition material would suggest that any larger, good quality blocks left from the removal of a structure in this area are likely to have been utilised for construction or repair elsewhere on the site. Indeed, many of the blocks which form the platform's main retaining wall show signs of wear and reuse, supporting this theory further. The only change in the nature of the demolition deposit was identified in Test Pit 7, where it was revealed to lie at a considerably deeper level and contain much larger blocks. As this test pit lay at the edge of the platform before its reduction in height to the west, it is possible that

this stone was used as a levelling or foundation layer, either to support any early structures in this area or as part of the creation of the platform as it is today.

Further west, on the far side of the platforms dividing wall, the presence of the cobbled floor 004 illustrates that the dividing wall was necessary for the creation of a yard area adjacent to the building extension added to the northwest of the kitchen in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is likely that the cobble setts represent the latest floor laid down in this area, probably also as part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century remodelling and restoration works, with a possibly earlier, compacted stone surface 011, which could be seen below.

## 9.2 Context

Hoghton Tower has stood as a highly visible statement of the status of the Hoghton Family for over 450 years, however the site has been a part of the family estates for considerably longer, giving rise to the question of their residence prior to 1560. The royal charter allowing the enclosure of 500 acres of the Hoghton estate in 1337 would suggest that Sir Richard Hoghton had plans to create some sort of residence with surrounding parkland on his land in this area (Farrer and Brownbill, 1911). If this was indeed the case, the hilltop where Hoghton Tower now stands would have been an obvious choice to not only offer a defensible position in times of unrest, but also make a clear statement in the surrounding landscape. It is likely, therefore, that a reasonably substantial pre-1560 residence was constructed on the hilltop around this time.

It has been suggested that this early residence at Hoghton Tower may have been a Pele tower, a freestanding defensible stone tower with accommodation over 2 or 3 storeys. Whilst there is no standard design for Pele Towers, many follow a similar basic layout and size, generally rectangular, measuring between 10m and 14m in length with walls up to 1.50m thick. The lower floor was usually self-contained and used as storage space with living quarters on the floors above, many would also have an outer barmkin to accommodate people and animals in the event of a threat to the estate. These structures were largely built as a response to unrest and incursions across the Scottish border in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, with the added bonus of being a clear symbol of wealth and power. As a result, considerable numbers of Pele towers were constructed across the north of England throughout the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century with several still surviving today. Very few have been identified further south than Lancashire and the most southerly of these has been found at Radcliffe in Bury. The distribution of these Pele towers, or Tower Houses, seems to mirror the spread of moated sites in the more southerly parts of the region, suggesting that both housing types served the same purpose but in different ways. Many Tower houses were added to over the following centuries to form larger manorial complexes, with the most common additions being an upper floor and a great hall, often abutting the tower. Examples of this can be seen at Borwick Hall, constructed in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, where two large ranges were added to the northwest and northeast in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and at Turton Tower, also built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and modified in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, where a third floor was added to the tower. It seems to have been common for those houses which survived the Civil War to continue to be modified and extended right through to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, much as was the case at Hoghton Tower.



## 10. Conclusion

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### 10.1 Introduction

The excavation of test pits at Hoghton Tower has provided significant evidence of previously unrecorded one or more stone structures on the northern side of the house. Whilst the archaeological remains uncovered were not able to provide definitive building details, the artefactual evidence was able to confirm that this part of the hilltop was occupied during the late medieval/early post-medieval periods. The artefacts from the test pits suggest that these stone structures may have been in use from as early as the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, the rubble from later demolition made it difficult to locate the earliest ground levels, and further work will be needed to confirm this suggestion. The widespread stone demolition layer does, however, infer that any building present in this location would have been a substantial construction and the lack of dressed stonework in this deposit would suggest that this material has been reused elsewhere.

The work undertaken by the volunteers has provided a unique insight into this unassuming part of the Hoghton Tower site and has taken one step closer in establishing the location of previously unknown activity from before 1560 and suggesting a possible location for the pre-1560 buildings, the 'Great Keep', destroyed during the Civil War.

The survey of the outer gateway has demonstrated that this was a multi-phased building, the core of which stylistically appeared to pre-date the traditional construction date of 1560-1565.

Along with the geophysical surveys carried out by the Tameside Archaeological Society, the excavation has also demonstrated that the site has considerable potential for further archaeological investigation and public dissemination events.

### 10.2 Archive

The results of the archaeological investigation will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current Historic England guidelines (*The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2015) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (Walker 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project.

Salford Archaeology conforms to best practice in the preparation of project archives for long-term storage. The archive and the excavated material will be deposited with the Hoghton Tower Preservation Trust. The Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) online database project *Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) will be completed as part of the archiving phase of the project. The material and paper archive generated from the excavation will be transferred in accordance with the guidelines provided by *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Brown 2007).

The archive generated from the project is for the most part in a digital format, and comprises digital drawings, survey data and digital photographs. This archive is currently held by the Centre for Applied Archaeology and will be transferred to Hoghton Tower on completion of the project.

A copy of the archive will be held by Salford Archaeology within the University of Salford, and a copy of the report will be deposited with the Hoghton Tower Preservation Trust.

# Sources

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### Map Sources

Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile map of 1848

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## *Acknowledgements*

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Research and historical information were provided on site by Sir Bernard de Hoghton and Stephen Spencer and Eric Spilman, members of the Hoghton Tower volunteers group.

The on-site excavations were directed by Sarah Cattell. The report was compiled by Sarah Cattell, the finds were examined by Samantha Rowe, and the illustrations were produced by Sarah Mottershead. The report was edited by Dr Mike Nevell, who was also responsible for project management.

## *Appendix 1: Figures*

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- Figure 1: Site location map
- Figure 2: Trench location plan
- Figure 3: Excavation area superimposed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1892
- Figure 4: Excavation area superimposed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1931
- Figure 5: Plan of the excavated trenches

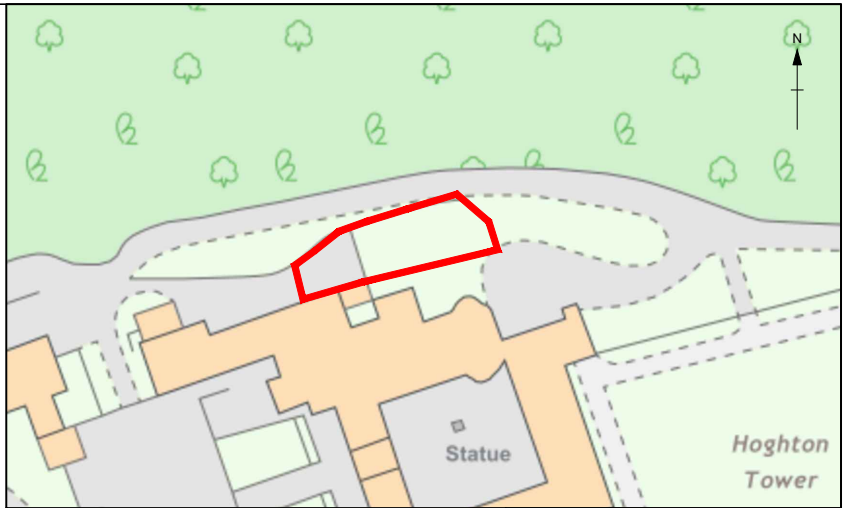
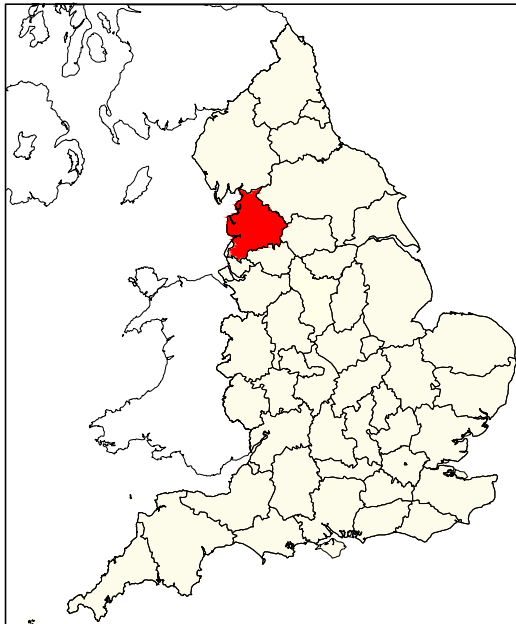


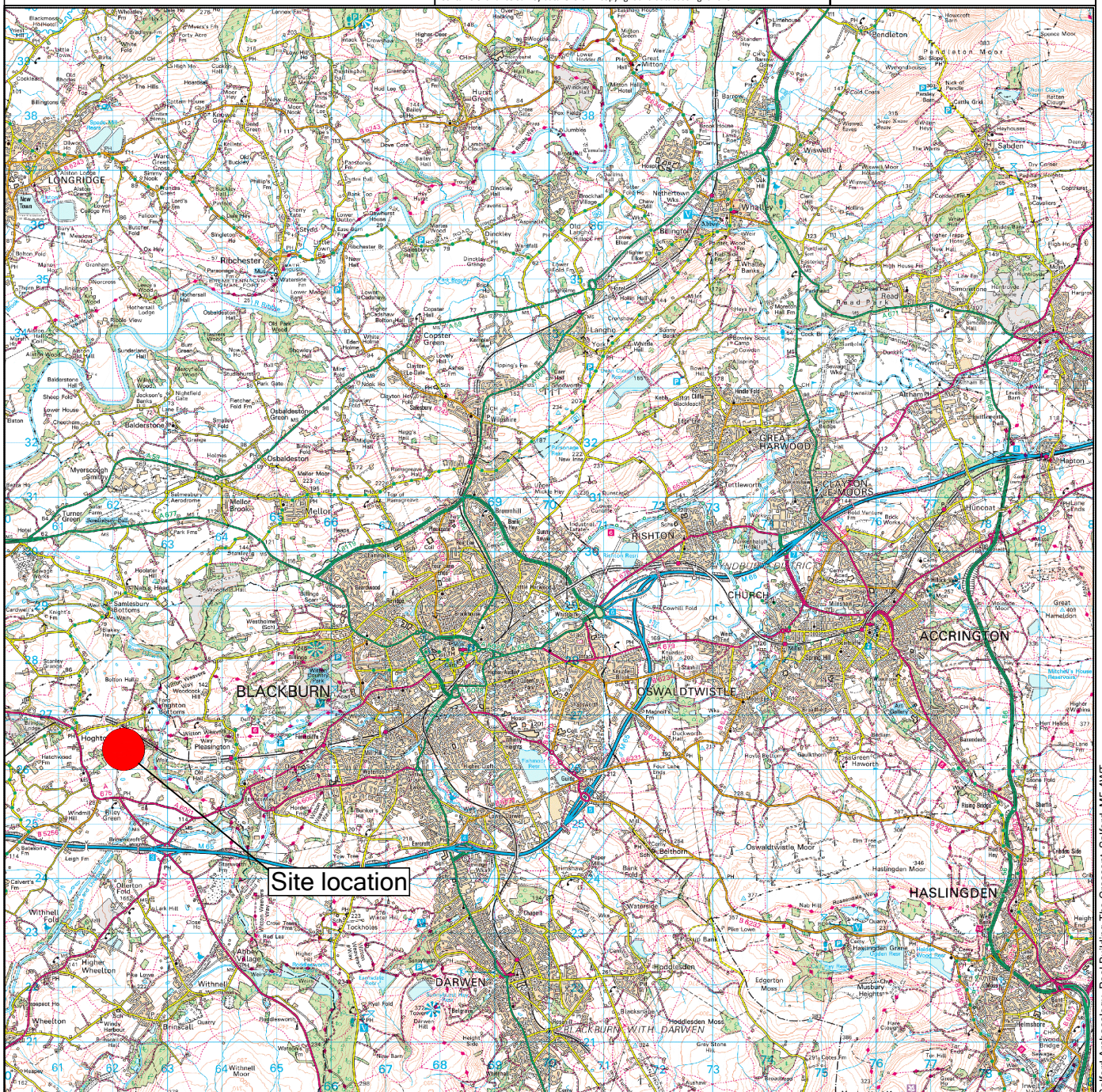
Figure 1:

Site Location



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Site location

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Salford Archaeology, Peel Building, The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT

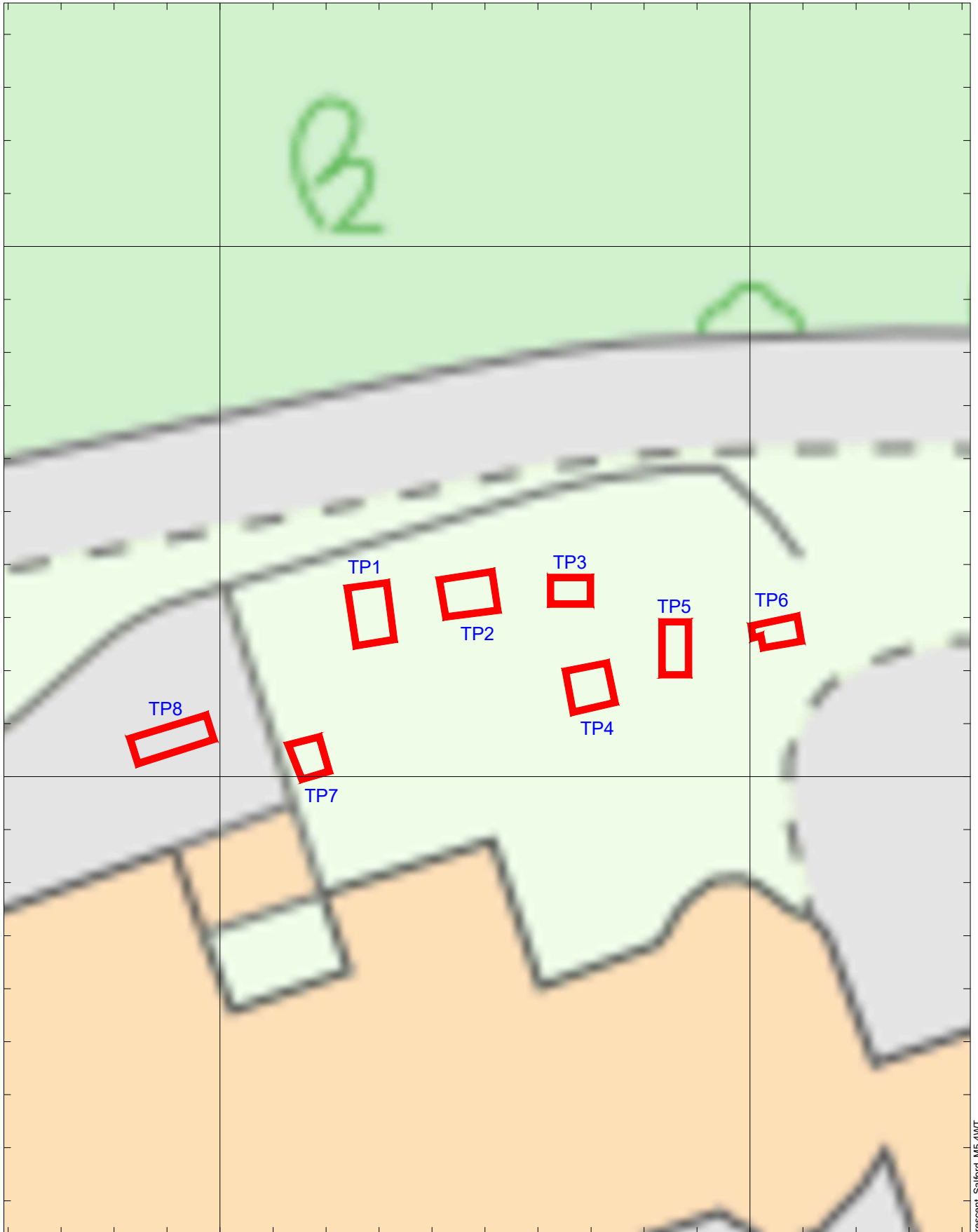


Figure 2:

Trench Location

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Key:

█ Trench Location



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0 10 m



Scale at A4 1:200








Figure 3:  
Trenches Superimposed onto the 1:2500 County Series Map of 1892

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Key:

-  Cobbles
-  Flags
-  Stone
-  Stone Wall
-  Rubble



**SALFORD**  
**ARCHAEOLOGY**

0 10 m



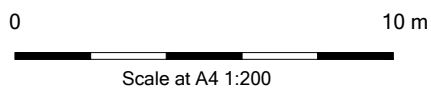
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Figure 4:  
Trenches Superimposed onto the 1:2500 County Series Map of 1931

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Key:

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-  Flags
-  Stone
-  Stone Wall
-  Rubble

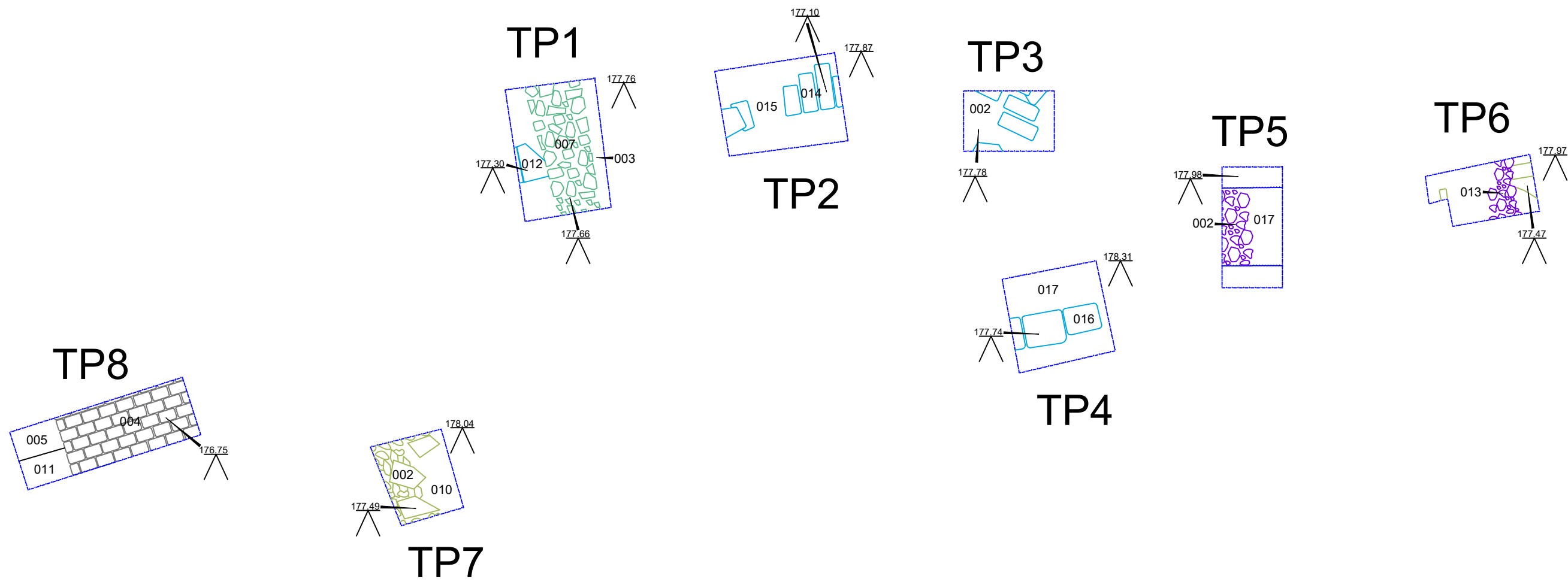
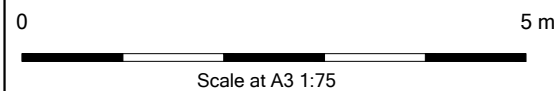


Figure 5:  
Trench Plans



Key:	
	Cobbles
	Flags
	Stone
	Stone Wall
	Rubble

## Appendix 2: Context List

Context No.	Test Pit	Description
001	All	Turf and topsoil
002	All	Rubble layer found in all test pits comprising dressed and undressed stone blocks and fragments and between 0.10m - 0.50m. Inclusions of mortar, very occasional brick fragments, occasional small pebbles. Glass, ceramic, stone & bone finds from medieval period-19 <sup>th</sup> century.
003	1, 2, 3	Mid-brown friable silty loam directly below 002. Occasional fragments of stone, mostly 0.05m - 0.15m but very occasional larger fragments up to 0.50m. Infrequent inclusions of mortar pieces and ceramics.
004	8	Cobbled surface c.0.15m below ground surface. Composed of setts measuring c.0.17m x 0.13m and one 0.14m x 0.41m. Undamaged and well laid.
005	8	Pinkish-brown compacted sandy silt abutting west of 004. Lay 0.03m deep and contained very small (0.02m) stone fragments and pieces of burnt stone.
006	8	Thin layer of compacted black clinker below 005. 0.03m thick.
007	1	Alignment of large stone blocks between 0.10m and 0.40m in size. Some dressed but all uncoursed, possible rubble core. Lies 2 layers of stone deep with lower course abutted by 012 to the west. No evidence of in situ mortar but occasional fragments within overlying deposits. Finds included medieval - 19 <sup>th</sup> century ceramics, glass, stone and bone.
008	6	Creamy-brown mortar layer abutting and overlying 013. Contained moderate stone fragments (<0.05m) and a thin lens of charcoal and coal to the south.
009	6	Mid-brown layer similar to 008 and below 008, no charcoal and inclusions of stone fragments 0.10m - 0.20m.
010	7	Very wet sandy silt surrounding larger stone blocks at a depth of 1.20m in south-eastern corner of TP7.
011	8	Compacted stone rubble below 006 set within a black gritty silt. Stones 0.05m - 0.10m.
012	1	Alignment stone flags abutting western side of 007 with remnants of mortar. Continues west beyond trench edge.
013	6	Deposit of rubble on western side of TP6 covered by 008 with occasional larger stones to either side, runs north- south.
014	2	Alignment of narrow flagstones running E-W at 0.60m depth. 6 flags visible measuring c.0.20m-0.30m x 0.60m-0.70m.
015	2	Pinkish brown sandy silt surrounding 014 at the base of TP2. Grainy with small-med inclusions of sandstone fragments.

016	4	Alignment of stone flags running east-west. Three flags revealed, measuring between 0.40-0.50m square, continuing east and westwards beyond the trench edges.
017	4	mid-reddish brown silt similar to 015, 0.10m thick.