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Monument House, St Mary's Square, Gloucester, Gloucestershire

An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

**for Emily Shepherd on behalf of
Dean and Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral**

Chiz Harward BA MifA

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Client:	Emily Shepherd on behalf of Dean and Chapter Gloucester Cathedral
Local Authority:	Gloucester City Council
Planning ref:	17/00937/FUL
LBC consent:	17/00944/LBC
Historic England List no	1245669
NGR:	SO 83013 18873
Project no:	UA181
Author:	Chiz Harward BA MIfA
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Site Code:	MON18
OASIS ref:	urbanarc1- 301647

Front cover: Monument House and St Mary's Gate looking southeast, the northern extension of Community House is visible behind Monument House

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Non Technical Summary

In February and March 2018 Urban Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during the renovation of Monument House, Gloucester, Gloucestershire and during groundworks associated with the construction of a new extension. Archaeological deposits on the site were complex, and deep. Natural ground was not reached, and the earliest deposit was an alluvial-type silt layer.

Observations were made of the north side of the 12–13th century St Mary's Gate; the stone foundations of a cellared building north of the gate probably include the medieval Precinct Wall, and predate the Georgian Monument House. The exposed masonry of Community House at ground floor level suggests that it, or a precursor, was standing before Monument House was built. A truncated brick wall at ground and first floor level of Monument House, axed through to allow construction of the latter, indicates that there were previous brick buildings on the site and suggests that there may be further pre-Georgian fabric encapsulated within the Georgian walls.

A masonry culvert is probably part of the monastic water system infrastructure, and may be medieval in origin. The culvert is likely to be the main Fulbrook Stream channel at the point where it exits the precinct. The culvert appears to have been retained when Monument House was constructed in the mid 18th century.

Minor details of the construction and development of Monument House have been recorded during refurbishment, and add to our understanding of the building and its significance, as well as raising further questions about the development of this and adjoining buildings. The excavation of the courtyard area has added to the observations on the precinct water system, and shed further light on the often neglected back yard and drainage aspects of Georgian housing. Overall the results are of local significance, adding to the existing corpus of observations on the Cathedral precinct.

1 Introduction and planning background

- 1.1 Between February 14th and March 6th 2018 Urban Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief for Emily Shepherd on behalf of the Dean and Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral at Monument House, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, SO 83013 18873 (Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil conditions placed upon planning consent for the refurbishment of the listed Monument House, and the demolition of an existing extension and the construction of a single storey extension to the rear of the present property (Gloucester City Council Planning ref: 17/00937/FUL and listed building consent (17/00944/LBC)):

'5 Before any work is undertaken in pursuance of the consent to demolish any part of the building, details shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority of works to be undertaken during the progress of the development. Should previously unknown historic fabric come to light during works. Provision shall be made for the mitigation and recording of previously unknown features.

Reason: *To minimise the risk of damage to the existing building in accordance with policy BE.22 of the Second Deposit City of Gloucester Local Plan (2002).*

'11 No development or groundworks shall take place within the proposed development site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of historic environment work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The programme will provide for archaeological monitoring, investigation and recording (a 'watching brief') during ground works related to the development proposal, with the provision for appropriate archiving and public dissemination of the findings.'

Reason: *The proposed development site has potential to include significant elements of the historic environment. If present and revealed by development works, the Council requires that these elements will be recorded during development and their record made publicly available. This accords with policy BE.31 of the Second Stage Deposit City of Gloucester Local Plan (2002) and the Interim Adoption SPD of Gloucester City Council's 'Development Affecting Sites of Historic Environment (Archaeological) Interest' (2008). This also is in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework.*

- 1.2 The proposed development is in an area of archaeological interest and lies within the precinct of Gloucester Cathedral. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Urban Archaeology (Harward 2017) and approved by Andrew Armstrong (archaeological advisor to Gloucester City Council and Richard K Morriss (Archaeological Consultant, Gloucester Cathedral).
- 1.3 The fieldwork also followed the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (ClfA 2014), *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006) and the *2016 Brief for an archaeological field evaluation* (GCC).

2 Site background

- 2.1 The site is a Grade II listed private dwelling house of three storeys, with basement, located within the western part of the precinct of Gloucester Cathedral (listing no 1245669; Historic England 2017). The property fronts onto the eastern side of St Mary's Square and St Mary's Street, with St Mary's Gate to the south, Community House to the east, and The Deanery to the north (Fig. 2). The property is currently unoccupied. The area is flat and lies at approximately 11m AOD.
- 2.2 The site lies within the 'Green Line' area of the jurisdiction Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England, and within the Cathedral Precincts Conservation Area (Conservation Area No.7, GCC 2017a), and is immediately north of St Mary's Gate which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM221; GCC 2017b).
- 2.3 The solid geology beneath the site is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation; no superficial deposits are mapped at the site (British Geological Survey 2017).
- 2.4 The Site Code for the archaeological works is MON18.

3 Archaeological and historical background

- 3.1 The site lies in the north-western corner of the Roman administrative centre of *Colonia Nervia Glevensis*; which was founded between AD 96–98. Roman burials are known from the site of St Oswald's Priory to the northwest of the site, with reused Roman masonry -probably from a nearby bath house or temple complex- utilised in St Oswald's Priory (Heighway and Bryant 1999), and there was probably an extra mural suburb to the west of the town walls in the Roman period (Heighway 2003, 13). Excavations in 1916 to underpin the foundations of St Mary's Gate uncovered 1.5m of made ground, whilst south of the gateway walls on a different alignment from the gate are probably Roman. Outside St Mary's Gate to the west there was a substantial Roman building with mosaic floors under St Mary's church (Bryant 1980, Heighway and Bryant 2003).
- 3.2 The layout of the town of Gloucester in the early post-Roman period is very uncertain. The defensive circuit influenced the post-Roman town plan, however an Anglo-Saxon burgh may have extended west of the Roman walls down as far as the river (Heighway 2003, 13). A minster church was founded in the area around AD 679, its precise location is not known but it is probably located within the area of the cathedral cloister. The city was refounded in the early tenth century by King Alfred's daughter Aethelflaeda of Mercia (d. 918), and the minster became a Benedictine Abbey (now Gloucester Cathedral) in 1022 and was rebuilt in 1089 by Abbot Serlo. The abbey lay within a large precinct which was enclosed by a wall and accessed via formal gates (Welandar 1991, 604).
- 3.3 The site of Monument House lies immediately north of the 12th century St Mary's Gate, the original main entrance to the abbey precincts (VCH ii, 281). The street frontage of Monument House follows the line of the abbey's Precinct Wall, with the site lying within the abbey precinct.

- 3.4 Monument House overlies properties known from documentary leases, and over the point where the Fulbrook water supply left the precinct (Heighway 20013, Map 8). The footings of the adjacent Community House are of stone and are likely to be medieval, part of a series of medieval buildings fronting onto the Close.
- 3.5 Paupers were housed close to St Mary's Gate and alms would be distributed from there (Welanders 1991, 306). St Mary's gate includes a complex of blocked doors and windows which could also be related to the distribution of alms; to the south of this gate is a 14th century timber-framed building on a stone base, probably the Almonry (Eward 1985, 33).
- 3.6 Monument House was built in 1770 as a townhouse, one of several built by speculators within the southwest part of the cathedral close in the eighteenth century. The building is essentially L shaped in plan, with three storeys and a basement level and is accessed from outside the Cathedral Close. The building is largely laid in Flemish bond using handmade red bricks. The footings of the St Mary's Street frontage appear to include parts of the medieval Precinct Wall (Morriss 2002, 63–4). Monument House has survived largely unaltered since construction. A single storey extension was constructed in the 1960s.

4 Aims of the watching brief

- 4.1 The objectives of the watching brief were to record, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains that were exposed or destroyed by the proposed development. Attention was given to sites and remains of all periods (including evidence of past environments).

5 Methodology

- 5.1 A watching brief was carried out between February 14th and March 6th. The external groundworks followed the demolition of the 1960s extension to the rear of Monument House. The footprint of the new extension was excavated to formation level, with additional excavation for drainage trenches, external steps, and two foundations at the north and south of the new extension (Fig. 2), excavation for a new soakaway and connection to mains foul water was not required.
- 5.2 The excavation of the northern foundation trench of the new extension revealed a brick and stone culvert running east–west across the site. Investigation by a robotic crawler equipped with close-circuit television showed it had been blocked off or cut through at both ends. Following discussion with Andrew Armstrong (GCC) the culvert was filled with aerated foam concrete to consolidate the structure and prevent collapse, whilst the foundation design was redesigned to avoid further impact.
- 5.3 Refurbishment and renovation works within the standing fabric of Monument House were also monitored and photographed.

- 5.4 All recording was undertaken in accordance with the Museum of London *Archaeological Site Manual* (1994), the Written Scheme of Investigation (Harward 2017), and the methodologies described and referred to in that document.
- 5.5 Levels were linked to a Temporary Benchmark on site calibrated by level traverse from the Ordnance Survey benchmark on St Marys Street, value 11.84m OD.

6 Results

- 6.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and matrices are to be found in Appendices 1–3 respectively.

The external groundworks

- 6.2 Natural substrate was not observed during the watching brief. The earliest observed deposit was an undated alluvial greenish-grey silt (34) which was observed in section at 10.40m OD within the base of the northern foundation trench. The deposit may represent an *in situ* or redeposited flood deposit and probably dates to the medieval or earlier post-medieval period.
- 6.3 The southeast–northwest aligned parallel walls of a stone drain or culvert [34] were recorded in the base of the foundation trench (Figs. 3–7). The culvert appeared to be cut through the alluvial silt (33) but the relationship had been removed by later foundations and the culvert may have been cut from higher up in the sequence. The northern wall of the culvert was 0.5m wide and built of worked Lias and limestone blocks, neatly laid and with a top surface at 10.20–10.25m OD. The channel of the culvert was 1.0m wide, and probing of the backfill suggested that the culvert channel was at least 0.68m deep (9.57m OD).
- 6.4 The culvert walls carried a brick arched vaulted roof [31], which sprang off the top of the stonework and was built in hand-made 17th or 18th century bricks laid in stretcher course. The crown of the arch was at approximately 10.80m OD, the culvert roof was intact for most of the culverts observed length.
- 6.5 The culvert walls and arched roof was observed to extend southeast to the boundary with Community House, where the culvert had been cut through by the construction of the northern extension of Community House, and northwestwards to the street frontage of Monument House where a brick wall had been built across the culvert, blocking it off. The fall of the culvert was not evident; however it is likely to have flowed west towards the River Severn.
- 6.6 A layer of dumped made ground (18) up to 1.05m thick, which contained ceramics dating from the late 17th to 19th century, was laid down to the north of the culvert, raising the ground to 11.45m OD. It is likely that (18), which was largely observed in section only, actually comprises several deposits dating from the 17th century to the 19th century.
- 6.7 Brick structure [30] was built in handmade bricks, and appears to form the north corner of a cesspit or soakaway constructed immediately north of, and adjoining, the culvert (Fig.8). It is possible that the structure may have been an access chamber into the culvert; the brick structure appears to predate the construction of Monument House. On the party wall line

between Monument House and Community House a brick wall [35] may represent an early boundary north of the Monument House plot.

The Georgian development

- 6.8 Following the construction of the culvert, the next major event was the construction of Monument House in the late 18th century (Fig. 9). The main building appears to have reused medieval or early post-medieval foundations within its basement (see below) and was constructed as an 'L' shaped brick building fronting onto St Mary's Square (Fig. 10). Excavation has demonstrated that the courtyard in the northeastern quadrant of the building plot was defined by a masonry wall extending southeastwards from the main building. The foundation of this wall was trench built in Lias and limestone blocks [29] within cut [32] up to a level of at least 10.77m OD, and was also visible in the north wall of Monument House beneath the brick superstructure. Above this foundation brick was used to form the main superstructure [11]. The brick wall bounding the north side of the courtyard was built integral with the rest of the Monument House superstructure to a height of 13.73m OD. Joist sockets in the east wall of Monument House suggest there may have been an external suspended floor at ground level.
- 6.9 The Monument House foundation was built respecting culvert [34]: the foundation trench [32] was dug down to the top of the culvert walls, and the line of the wall was immediately north of the brick vaulted roof (Fig. 4). The culvert was incorporated beneath the new building, and may be the reason there is no northern basement. Cracks in the east wall of Monument House suggest the culvert is causing the wall to break its back.
- 6.10 Square brick structure [14] was built over the culvert (Figs. 5–6); there was no culvert roof beneath [14], and it appears that structure [14] was built as a chamber to access the culvert. The structure had a brick floor at 10.79m OD with a silt trap that probably fed into the culvert below. A brick pier supported the culvert roof immediately below [14], perhaps to strengthen the roof following the construction of the chamber above.
- 6.11 The privy block [4] at the southeast of the courtyard was built separately to the main building. Part of the north wall of basement barrel vault [6] was exposed in a foundation trench, with the external side of vault [27] projecting out from the building line, suggesting that this structure may possibly predate Monument House (Fig. 10). The south wall of the courtyard was repaired in red brick [5].
- 6.12 Following the construction of the Monument House basement barrel vaults, foundations and superstructure, and the access chamber [14], the area within the courtyard was infilled with a made ground deposit (10) to 11.53m OD. 18th century ceramics were recovered from (10) which sealed the brick culvert roof.
- 6.13 To the south of the northern courtyard wall a series of structures were built in brick: brick drainage chamber [12] was built in the northwestern corner of the courtyard, probably to channel rainwater from the roof into the culvert underneath (Fig. 11).
- 6.14 The eastern boundary of the courtyard area was formed by brick wall [2], which abutted the Monument House privy block [4] to the south. This wall also formed the east wall of a north–south brick outhouse within the courtyard area, the gable scar of which is visible on wall [4] to the south (Fig. 12). The fragmentary remains [13] of the west wall of outhouse [2] were recorded, with a further internal wall [22], to the northwest. Two short parallel walls [24, 25] were built against the west face of [2], with a Cotswold Stone slate surface between

them at 11.58m OD, which was then sealed by a thin layer of make up, (21). The walls may have supported a brick structure within the outhouse.

Victorian alterations

- 6.15 At some later point walls [24] and [25] were horizontally truncated and a new floor of Old red Sandstone slabs was laid with a surface at 11.85–11.92m OD (Fig. 13). This floor was later cut through by trench [9] which carried new salt-glazed drainage pipes to a new sewer located immediately north of the culvert. The floor was repaired using unstamped 'Staffordshire Blue' type floor tiles; a brick structure set in the northeastern corner of outhouse [23] is likely to relate to the new drainage system.
- 6.16 To the north of the courtyard north wall, brick floor [19] had a surface at 11.50–11.55m OD; the top of cesspit structure [30] was rebuilt in the 19th century in hard red bricks [20], but had been backfilled by the time modern drains were inserted (Fig. 14).
- 6.17 The Community House northern extension clearly post-dated Monument House and the eastern courtyard wall [2] with whitewash visible on the eastern side of wall [2], and Community House extension [3] built against this face. This west wall of the Community House northern extension was built in poorly lain stone for the lower two metres, with better brickwork above the level at which it was visible above the outhouse wall [2] (Fig. 12).
- 6.18 Culvert [34] had been largely infilled with (36), a mixed 'made ground' type deposit similar to (18), the infilling was piled up to different levels within the culvert, and given the largely intact roof, may have been dumped into the culvert rather than just being silting up, it is not clear when the culvert was filled in, although it is likely to predate the extension of Community House to the north.
- 6.19 Postdating the construction of the Community House extension, brick building [16] was built to the north of Monument House; it was built with cavity walls and consisted of two main rooms, with make-up deposits (37, 17) supporting brick and tile floors [28, 15] which had surfaces at 11.60m OD (Fig. 15); the fragment of a blue and white transfer printed ware bowl from make-up deposit (17) gives a *terminus post quem* of the mid-19th century for the construction of this building.

Internal observations

- 6.20 Under listed building consent (17/00944/LBC) the refurbishment works were monitored. Internally the refurbishment works consisted of the replacement of defective plaster and rewiring and heating works. Externally the slate roof was stripped off and brickwork repaired and repointed locally. No significant additions were made to the known history and development of Monument House, however details were recorded which demonstrate and enhance our knowledge of the fabric and its construction, and these are outlined below.

Basement

- 6.21 The half basement consists of a series of brick barrel vaults; these are largely built on stone masonry foundations which survive to the springer level on the west and north sides of the western bays. The upper surface of the eastern barrel vaults was observed in small trenches dug for drainage at ground floor level. The western, street frontage wall is on the line of the medieval Precinct Wall, which it may once have formed part of. A substantial masonry wall forms the northern wall of the basement, and may be the north wall of an earlier building

(Fig. 16). The lack of basement under the northern part of Monument House appears to be due to the known presence of the brick culvert in this area.

- 6.22 It appears likely that the existing basement reuses an earlier, possibly late medieval, basement which adjoined the Precinct Wall.
- 6.23 The timber beams of the north side of St Mary's Gate are visible above the entrance from Monument House basement into St Mary's Gate (Fig. 17). The north side of St Mary's Gate is probably preserved immediately south of the south wall of Monument House.

Ground and upper floors

- 6.24 Removal of damaged plaster on the ground floor exposed masonry blocks of the chamfered corner of Community house (Fig. 18), and imply that Community House, or a building on its site, was standing prior to the construction of Monument House. There is some evidence for the reuse of an earlier north-south aligned brick wall which survived to first floor level (Fig. 19), the bricks were in a moderately hard orange-red fabric and measured 115 x 65 x 240mm (BTL). The wall is located above brick barrel vaults on the line of the rear of the masonry basement walls. The wall had been axed through (Fig. 20) to allow the staircase to be built, which implies it (and the barrel vaults it is built on) predates the Georgian building, but there was no other evidence for reused brick superstructure above basement level.
- 6.25 Much of the original timber detailing survives in good condition, including panelling, skirting, cupboards with original hinges, and the stairs and banisters (Fig. 21).
- 6.26 Removal of defective plaster showed that generally throughout the house the external shell walls were not tied in to partition walls, which were formed of pegged timber stud work with mortared brick nogging infill (Fig. 22). The studs included reused timbers; the studs were axed to key in the plaster (Fig. 23). Bond timbers were evident in the front and side walls, apparently to tie the walls together, however internally the brickwork of the north wall abutted the western, street frontage, wall (Fig. 24). Generally brickwork in adjacent walls was not tied in, but was butt jointed.
- 6.27 On the ground floor the arched niche in the southwestern room is clearly a later insert (Fig. 25); original arched fireplace openings were also evident once the plaster was removed. A door had been inserted in the northeastern corner of the ground floor, probably when the extension was built in the 1960s. Adjacent to the courtyard the shallow brick arch spanning east-west was backed up by a large oak beam (Fig. 26). Three mortices in the underside of the beam show it was reused from an earlier building.
- 6.28 On the second floor, east elevation, plaster and lathes surviving on the jambs and under the lintel of the window demonstrates that the blocked window was originally open and was blocked in with brick at a later date (Fig. 27). It could not be established whether a further window niche on the second floor north wall was ever an opening. There was clear alteration to the north facing window facing into the courtyard on the second floor (Fig. 28).
- 6.29 There was evidence for decay of the brick walls below the roof plate, and generally there was damage to external brickwork, with spalling, including of the gauged brick voussoirs over the windows, and degradation of the mortar.

7 The Finds

The pottery

Dr Jane Timby

- 7.1 The archaeological work resulted in 18 sherds of pottery weighing 415 g exclusively dating to the post-medieval period. The assemblage was recorded following recommendations outlined in Pottery Standards (2016) and coded to the Gloucester City fabric reference series (TF) (cf Vince 1983, 141). The material can be found catalogued in Table 1.
- 7.2 Pottery was recovered from just three contexts: (10), (17) and (18) which appear to span the 17th through to the 19th centuries. Of note is a large fragment of a Staffordshire white salt-glazed plate (TF 67) with a moulded rim showing the seed or barley design (Jennings 1981, plate 1c) from context (10). These wares were popular in the 18th century. Other wares include industrial white earthenware dating from the mid-19th century, glazed red earthenware with slip or sgraffito decoration and a single sherd of German stoneware (TF68).

Context	Fabric	Glos TF	Form	Weight (g)	No of fragments	Comment	Date
10	Staffs white salt glazed stoneware	67	plate	101	1	moulded rim, seed design	18th
10	Staffs white salt glazed stoneware	67		10	2		18th
10	slip decorated earthenware	54?		36	1		18th
10	brown glazed earthenware	74	?tankard	33	1	basesherd	18th
17	industrial china	71	plate	43	8	blue & white transfer décor; one vessel	mid 19th+
18	industrial china	71		82	2	plain white	19th
18	glazed red earthenware	54?	bowl	56	1		17th+
18	German stoneware	68		17	1		17th+
18	glazed red earthenware	54?	dish	37	1	white-slipped, plain glazed sgraffito décor	17th+
TOTAL				415	18		

Table 1 The pottery

The brick

Chiz Harward

- 7.3 The ceramic building material (CBM) has been assessed in accordance with the guidelines of the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group, (2002).

7.4 The bricks were measured and weighed, and the fabric inspected using a x10 hand lens. Due to the small size of the assemblage it has not been entered into a database. Following assessment all the bricks have been discarded.

7.5 Nine bricks were retained for assessment, these were taken from masonry structures excavated as part of the watching brief (Table 2).

CBM Type	Context	Breadth x Thickness x Length (mm)	Weight (g)	No of fragments	Fabric	Comment	Date
Brick	11	110x76x235	3445	1	Hard homogenous orange-red fabric with pale orange-yellow streaks, air pockets and black iron oxide flecks up to 0.5mm	Hand made in mould, cut marks from removal of excess clay in mould, child's fingerprints on one side	Late 18th c
Brick	12	115x80x228	3888	1	Hard dark orange-red fabric with black pellets 1-4mm, occa quartz sand 0.5-1mm. Coarse sand on base, yellow fireskin locally	Reused; hand made in mould. Mid grey coarse sandy lime mortar with moderate lime frags 1-5mm and coarse sand 1-6mm, occasional charcoal fragments 2-6mm	
Brick	12	115x76x239	3746	1	Hard homogenous orange-red fabric with occasional black iron oxide flecks. Pale white-buff fireskin locally	Hand made in mould, cracked. Sharp arrises	
Brick	14	120x69x>213	2973	1	Hard homogenous sandy red fabric, moderate burnt ash flecks and iron oxide flecks	Hand made in mould. Heavily cracked fabric, evenly fired. Coarse grit impressed on base. Squodge marks on upper bed. Light grey sandy lime mortar with occasional charcoal flecks and moderate lime flecks	18th-19thc
Brick	19	105x75x258	3498	1	Hard purplish red fabric with dark grey slightly vesicular, sintered core; occasional quartz grit impressed on outside	Slop-moulded brick, deep cracks with warping and locally over-fired. Squodge marks	19th c
Brick	20	115x80x235	3839	1	Hard homogenous bright orangish red fabric, moderate clay pellets 2-5mm, moderate black iron oxide and burnt ash 0.5-1mm	Hand made in mould. Cracked fabric, evenly fired. Straw impressions on base. Thumb and finger impressions on two faces	19th c
Brick	30	113x70x242	3273	1	Hard homogenous sandy red fabric, moderate burnt ash flecks	Hand made in mould. Cracked fabric, evenly fired. Coarse grit impressed on base	Late 17th-18th c

Brick	31	105x61x230	2383	1	Hard light buff-purplish red fabric with moderate black iron oxide and burnt ash 2mm, moderate angular sand 1-3mm; buff fireskin locally	Hand made in mould. Cracked fabric, evenly fired. ?Chaff or straw impressions on base. Mid grey sandy lime mortar with occasional charcoal and lime flecks	Mid 17th–late 18thc
Brick	31	103x60x 220	2315	1	Orange-red with variations to yellow from firing. The fabric is hard and has 2-10mm air pockets where organic matter has burned out during firing. Common dark iron oxide and burnt ash 1-3mm, occasional yellow speckles up to 0.5mm	Handmade in mould, cracked; squodge marks	Mid 17th–late 18thc

Table 2 The Ceramic Building Material

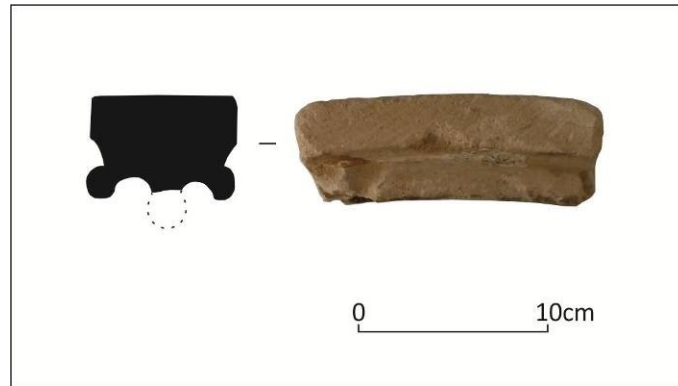
- 7.6 The dating of ceramic building material is based largely upon the form of the materials. The degree of firing and, on some occasions, fabric type can also give an indication of date. All the bricks from MON18 are of post-medieval date; generally post-medieval ceramic building material forms are dated by form, with frogged brick becoming more prominent post 1750AD. No frogged bricks were recovered from the site, with all the sampled bricks being hand made in moulds. Dating such bricks is not without difficulties, and is complicated by the reuse of bricks in later structures. Generally the bricks increase in thickness over time, with the introduction of George III's Brick Tax in 1784 bricks increased in thickness to approximately 3 inches, 76mm, although bricks had been this thickness prior to the tax (Brunskill 1997, 38).
- 7.7 The earliest brick appears to be from [31], the brick arch of the culvert, with bricks in two different fabrics used in this structure. The bricks probably date from the mid 17th to late 18th century, with an earlier date being perhaps more likely. The bricks in the brick cesspit or drain structure [30] are slightly thicker and are probably late 17th to 18th century, underfired bricks were also noted in the structure; underfired bricks are often used for foundations and cesspits and drains.
- 7.8 The bricks used in the construction of Monument House [11], which was built c1770, were 3 inches thick (76mm). The building includes a variety of quality of brick, with better place bricks used on the front elevation, and poorer fired and misshapen bricks included on the side and rear elevations.
- 7.9 Later bricks were used in drain structure [14], floor [19], and in structure [20], although older bricks were also reused in this structure.

The architectural fragment

Chiz Harward

- 7.10 A single fragment of worked limestone was recovered from unstratified demolition rubble on the site. It is carved in a fine grained 'Painswick' type limestone. The fragment weighs 1.633 kg and measures 178mm by 87mm by 61mm. The piece is an almost complete fragment of a carved voussoir with symmetrical 3/4 round mouldings running along the

shoulders of the voussoir on either side of a central moulding which has been broken off. This central moulding may have contained a glazing groove, or a further 3/4 round moulding, the piece being from either a small window, or open tracery. There are traces of lime mortar in the hollows next to the roll mouldings, suggesting reuse. The piece is likely to originally derive from the monastic precinct.



Architectural fragment from unstratified demolition rubble

The clay tobacco pipe

Chiz Harward

- 7.11 One fragment of clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem was recovered from context (18), a post medieval dump. The stem had been burnished, no mouthpiece was present.

The jetton

Chiz Harward

- 7.12 A 15th century struck or hammered French jetton copper alloy was recovered from spoil. Jettons were used to perform sums in accountancy, whereas tokens were used as small change due to a chronic lack of officially minted smaller denomination coins. This example is almost identical to a jetton recorded on the Portable Antiquity Scheme from Dartford, Kent (LON-E80497).
- 7.13 Obverse: Royal crown with a large central fleur de lis and two lateral lis and 6 pellets across the band. 6 further pellets are arranged in pairs in the field around the crown.
- 7.14 Obverse inscription: AIVAVAB(backwards)VAIVAIVAIVACVAIAV. The jetton's legend appears to be nonsense, which suggests it is a 15th century copy of an earlier design.
- 7.15 Reverse: Triple stranded straight cross fleuretty within a four-arched tressure
- 7.16 Dimensions: diameter: 29.0mm; weight: 8.1g.



MON18 coin, Obverse (L), Reverse (R), not to scale

Potential and Significance of the data

- 7.17 The Ceramic Building Material and Clay Tobacco Pipe assemblages have little potential and only local significance, no further work is required on these assemblages. The architectural fragment is from modern unstratified demolition material and although it is likely to derive from the monastic precinct buildings, has little potential or significance given the lack of context.
- 7.18 The ceramic assemblage is very small and entirely typical of a post-medieval rubbish assemblage. It adds no further knowledge to either pottery supply or the archaeological knowledge of Gloucester. No further work is recommended on the pottery assemblage. The jetton has some local significance, adding to the known medieval history of the area.

Retention and discard

- 7.19 The bricks, CTP stem, architectural fragment and pottery can be discarded; the jetton should be retained within the archive.

8 Conclusions and statement of significance

- 8.1 The recent refurbishment and construction work at Monument House has enhanced our understanding of the development of not just the standing Georgian townhouse, but also of the previous land use of the site and its adjacent buildings and structures.
- 8.2 The observation of the corbelled first floor of the north side of St Mary's Gate infers an eastern limit to any contemporary building on the north side of the gate. The Precinct Wall would have continued to the north, with the Fulbrook Stream exiting the precinct north of the Gate, presumably through an arch and iron grille set within the wall.
- 8.3 The stone foundations of a cellared building north of St Mary's Gate probably incorporate the Precinct Wall, and are likely to predate the Georgian Monument House. In 1634 a *'small*

house lay to the north of St Mary's Gate, and a lease 1649 of records an Elizabeth Barber in a *'little House and Tenement with a garden'* which measured 10 yards long, and 3 yards wide (9.15 x 2.75m; Eward 1985, 33; GRO D936/E/1 248). The two front masonry bays of the basement are 5.25m long, and 3.5m wide internally, which does not match the Barber dwelling dimensions, however the longer Barber dimension does closely fit the distance between St Mary's Gate and the culvert channel, which suggests the culvert formed the northern side of the Barber dwelling (Fig. 3).

- 8.4 The discovery of a truncated brick wall at ground and first floor level of Monument House, axed through to allow the latter's construction, indicates that there were previous brick buildings on the site. The wall is built on the top of the barrel vault, and in line with the rear of the masonry basement walls, implying the front barrel vaults are pre-Georgian, and suggesting that there may be further pre-Georgian fabric encapsulated within the walls of Monument House.
- 8.5 The exposed masonry of Community House at ground floor level suggests that it, or a precursor, was standing before Monument House was built, and provides further evidence for the evolution of buildings along the road leading to St Mary's Gate, and bounded by the Fulbrook to the north.
- 8.6 Archaeological deposits on the site were complex, and deep, as would be expected within the northwestern area of Gloucester. Natural ground was not reached, and the earliest deposit was an alluvial-type silt layer.
- 8.7 The monastic precinct water supply was split between clean water which was drawn from wells (and later from a piped supply from Robinswood), and grey water which was used for flushing through the waste water system and utilised the Fulbrook Stream which was diverted into the precinct in the early 12th century. The Fulbrook Stream flowed through a series of stone built channels; the system has been reconstructed and is mapped as leaving the precinct north of St Mary's Gate (Heighway 2003, 22; St John Hope).
- 8.8 The various conduits, channels, tanks and culverts would have been maintained throughout the medieval period; after the Dissolution the water system continued in use with repairs to conduits at the Bishop's Palace in 1604–1607 (Welander 1991, 351) and later repairs are also known (Heighway 2003, 22). By 1761 however the system of channels was not in good order and was recorded as being *'offensive to the inhabitants within the precincts'* and it was ordered that it be cleansed *'and a floodgate or wall erected at the place where the stream had been diverted'* cutting off the Fulbrook at the point where it had previously been diverted into the precinct (Welander 1991, 423).
- 8.9 The masonry culvert recorded at the study site is likely to be part of the monastic water system infrastructure, and may be medieval in origin. The culvert is likely to be the main Fulbrook Stream channel at the point where it exits the precinct. In 1983 a similar culvert was recorded outside Millers Green; it was walled with Lias and Limestone blocks, with a Lias slab roof. The Millers Green culvert was approximately 0.7m wide and 0.8m deep; a similar but smaller culvert was found inside 4 Millers Green in 1983 and there was clearly a hierarchy of interconnected drains throughout the built up areas of the precinct (Heighway 1988, 36–37). The absence of any contemporary ground surfaces makes it hard to establish whether the culvert may have originally been an open channel, the absence of any observed bricks within the channel walls suggests the brick roof is a later addition, perhaps added during a period of ground raising or development.

- 8.10 The culvert appears to have been retained when Monument House was constructed in the mid 18th century. The building is known to have been built by the 1760s when it was occupied by a Mr Keyse, and may therefore predate the apparent abandonment of the old monastic water supply in 1761. It should be noted that parts of the water system were probably retained after the blocking off of the Fulbrook, as channels would have still been needed to carry away the large volumes of water collected on the roofs and hard surfaces of the precinct.
- 8.11 By the Georgian period buildings could have relatively sophisticated systems for the collection and dispersal of waste and roof water, including silt traps, culverts, drains and soakaways, with separate systems of cesspits, often in privy blocks. Monument House appears to have tapped into the culvert to dispose of waste water and water collected from the roof via square silt trap/chamber. It is possible, although perhaps unlikely, that the culvert was used to dispose of faecal material, however it is more likely that there was a cesspit, probably lined with brick, within the courtyard area. It is possible that the brick structure built on the north side of the eastern room of Monument House is a privy or garderobe block, and the Lias-capped brick vault [27] that just extends into the courtyard may be the north side of a cesspit. The brick structure to the north of the culvert may also be a cesspit, but seems unlikely to relate to Monument House.
- 8.12 In the late 18th–mid 19th century a brick building was built over the eastern half of the courtyard area behind Monument House; the building was of a single story, with a gable roof adjoining to the north of Monument House, and predated the construction of the northern extension of Community House. Parallel brick wall foundations within the building may have supported a substantial structure, possibly a water tank if the building was a scullery or wash-house? The building's floor had been replaced, with large sandstone pavers, these were cut through when salt-glazed clay pipes replaced the original brick drains.
- 8.13 The excavations have shown that the courtyard area was bounded to the north by a tall brick wall built integrally with Monument House. The area north of this wall lies at a lower level than the courtyard, and it is a distinct possibility that this was originally part of a separate property as no steps or means of access from the Courtyard were discovered. The northern extension of the Monument House plot was carried out by the mid 19th century when an outhouse was added on the north of the courtyard, following the construction of the northern extension of Community House.
- 8.14 The presence of a substantial void beneath the planned extension had the potential to impact on the proposed design, and therefore on the archaeological mitigation required, the use of aerated foam concrete to fill the void and therefore to support the culvert roof, allowed construction to proceed with limited potential impact on the culvert (Figs. 29–30).
- 8.15 Minor details of the construction and development of Monument House have been recorded during refurbishment, and add to our understanding of the building and its significance, as well as raising further questions about the development of this and adjoining buildings. The excavation of the courtyard area has added to the observations on the precinct water system, and shed further light on the often neglected back yard and drainage aspects of Georgian housing. Overall the results are of local significance, adding to the existing corpus of observations on the Cathedral precinct.

9 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Urban Archaeology would like to thank Emily Shepherd of the Dean and Chapter Gloucester Cathedral for commissioning the project and Andrew Armstrong and Richard K Morriss for their advice throughout the project, and to Carolyn Heighway for discussions on the culvert. The author would like to thank Christian King of St Ann's Gate Architects for providing information on the proposed scheme, Mark Davidson and his team at Town and City, and Dave Badham and his team at Gloucester Cathedral for all their assistance, advice and help during the watching brief. The watching brief was carried out by the author; all illustrations are by the author. The pottery was assessed by Dr Jane Timby, all other finds were assessed by the author.

10 Archive

- 10.1 The site code MON18 has been allocated to the excavation.
- 10.2 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation and watching brief are currently held by Urban Archaeology at their offices in Stroud. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive, which will comprise all retained artefacts and the written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with Gloucester Museum and Art Gallery, Gloucester. Digital data will be deposited on the Archaeology Data Service.
- 10.3 The archive will be prepared in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990), specifically complying with Gloucestershire Museum guidelines (Paul 2017). The archive will be presented to the receiving museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with Andrew Armstrong (GCC) and Richard K Morriss (Gloucester Cathedral)). The archive will then become publicly accessible.
- 10.4 A copy of this report and a summary of information from this project will be submitted to the OASIS online database of archaeological publications (urbanarc1- 301647; Appendix 4). A further copy of the report will be submitted to Gloucestershire HER and the library of Gloucester Cathedral. Shape files of the trench locations will also be submitted to the HER.

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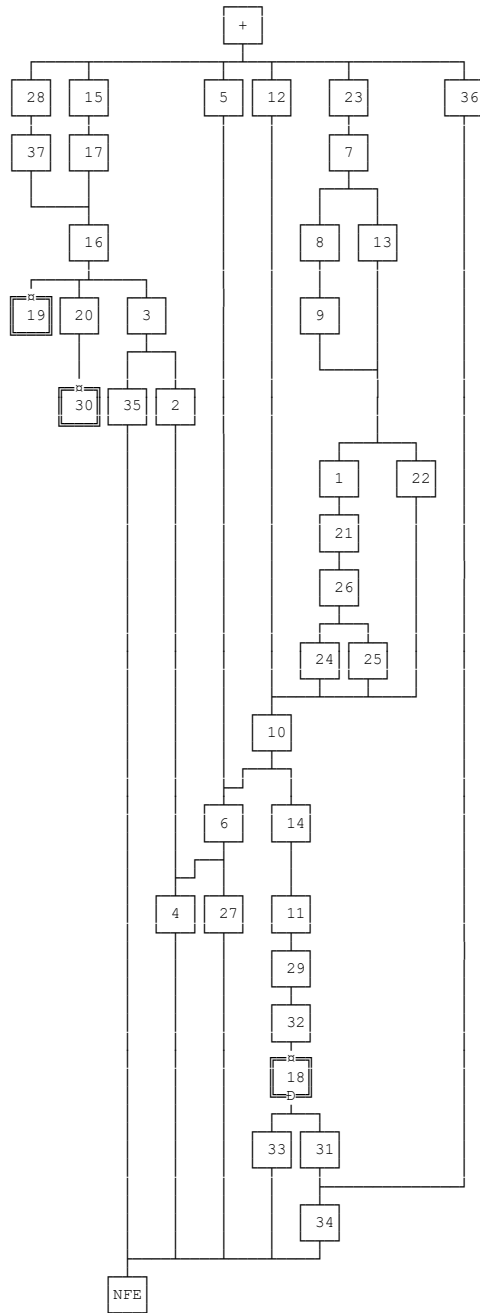
Appendix 1 Context Register

Context no	Type	Description
1	Masonry	Sandstone flagstone floor
2	Masonry	Brick wall on east side of courtyard, east wall of outhouse
3	Masonry	West wall of Community House, northern extension
4	Masonry	North wall of possible privy block, Monument House
5	Masonry	Blocking/repair in SW corner of courtyard above barrel vault
6	Masonry	Brick east-west wall, south side of courtyard
7	Masonry	Repair to flag floor [1] after insertion of drains
8	Deposit	Backfill of drainage trench [9]
9	Cut	Drainage trench for salt-glazed drainage system
10	Deposit	Make up for courtyard
11	Masonry	Main brick superstructure of Monument House
12	Masonry	Chamber adjacent to Monument House
13	Masonry	Brick wall: west side of outhouse in courtyard
14	Masonry	Brick structure: silt trap/chamber above brick culvert roof [31]
15	Masonry	Tile floor in east room of outbuilding [16]
16	Masonry	Brick outbuilding, two rooms. North of courtyard
17	Deposit	Make up levelling for floor [15]
18	Deposit	Made ground beneath building [16], probably multiple layers. General ground raising layer
19	Deposit	Brick floor north of courtyard
20	Masonry	Brick structure, rebuild of cesspit lining [30]
21	Deposit	Make up for flagstone floor [1]
22	Masonry	E-W aligned brick wall, courtyard
23	Masonry	Brick structure in NE corner of courtyard; drain?
24	Masonry	Northern E-W wall, support for tank?
25	Masonry	Southern E-W wall, support for tank?
26	Masonry	Cotswold slate surface between [25] and [26]
27	Masonry	Brick barrel vault exposed in courtyard
28	Masonry	Brick floor in west room of [16]
29	Masonry	E-W masonry foundation of Monument House courtyard retaining wall
30	Masonry	Brick cesspit lining, north of courtyard
31	Masonry	Brick barrel vaulted roof of culvert channel [34]
32	Cut	Cut for wall foundation [29]
33	Deposit	Alluvial greenish silt seen in section
34	Masonry	Parallel masonry walls of culvert channel
35	Masonry	N-S brick wall beneath wall [3]
36	Deposit	Backfill of culvert [34]
37	Deposit	Make up below floor [28]

Table 1 Context register

Appendix 2 Harris matrix

Harris matrix of MON18



List of 2 relations that could not be displayed:
 30 overlies 18
 19 overlies 18

Appendix 3 MON18 Archive contents

Digital archive

Type	Number	Comments
Digital photographs	200	

Table 4 Digital archive

Paper archive

Type	Number	Comments
Context sheets	37	
Registers	4	Photo, context, section and plan registers
Matrices	1	Printed matrix
WSI	1	Written scheme of investigation for watching brief
Report	1	Watching brief report

Table 5 Paper archive

Drawn archive

Type	Number	Comments
Permatrace	7	1 section sheet; 6 plan sheets

Table 6 Drawn archive

Finds archive

Description	Count	Weight	Retain/discard?
Pottery	18	415g	Discard
Brick	9	29.36kg	Discard
Clay Tobacco Pipe	1	2g	Discard
Jetton	1	8.1g	Retain
Architectural fragments	1	1.633kg	Discard

Table 7 Finds archive

Appendix 4 OASIS Form

OASIS ID	urbanarc1- 301647
PROJECT DETAILS	
Project name	Monument House
Short description of the project	In February and March 2018 Urban Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during the renovation of Monument House, Gloucester, Gloucestershire and during groundworks associated with the construction of a new extension. Archaeological deposits on the site were complex, and deep. Natural ground was not reached, and the earliest deposit was an alluvial-type silt layer. Observations were made of the north side of the 12-13th century St Mary's Gate; the stone foundations of a cellared building north of the gate probably include the medieval Precinct Wall. The exposed masonry of Community House at ground floor level suggests that it was standing before Monument House was built. A truncated brick wall at ground and first floor level of Monument House, indicates that there were previous brick buildings on the site and suggests that there may be further pre-Georgian fabric encapsulated within the Georgian walls. The masonry culvert recorded is likely to be part of the monastic water system infrastructure, and may be medieval in origin. It is not clear whether this is the main Fulbrook Stream channel, its narrow width at 1m makes it more likely a small side channel adjacent to the main exit. The culvert appears to have been retained when Monument House was constructed in the mid 18th century. Minor details of the construction and development of Monument House have been recorded during refurbishment, and add to our understanding of the building and its significance, as well as raising further questions about the development of this and adjoining buildings. The excavation of the courtyard area has added to the observations on the precinct water system, and shed further light on the often neglected back yard and drainage aspects of Georgian housing. Overall the results are of local significance, adding to the existing corpus of observations on the Cathedral precinct.
Project dates	Start: 14-02-2018 End: 06-03-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	UA181 - Contracting Unit No. MON18 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	CULVERT Post Medieval; BUILDING Post Medieval
Significant Finds	JETTON Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition
PROJECT LOCATION	
Country	England
Site location	GLOUCESTERSHIRE GLOUCESTER GLOUCESTER Monument House
Postcode	GL1 2LZ
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SO 83013 18873 51.867734481799 -2.246739026493 51 52 03 N 002 14 48 W Point
Height OD/depth	
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of Organisation	Urban Archaeology
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)
Project design originator	Urban Archaeology
Project director/manager	Chiz Harward
Project Supervisor	Chiz Harward
Type of sponsor/funding	Diocese

body	
Name of sponsor/funding body	Diocese of Gloucester
PROJECT ARCHIVES	
Physical Archive Exists?	Gloucester Museum and Art Gallery
Physical Contents	JETTON
Digital Archive recipient	OASIS
Digital Media available	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Archive recipient	Gloucester Museum and Art Gallery
Paper Media available	"Stratigraphic"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Monument House, St Mary's Square, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, An Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Harward, C
Other bibliographic details	
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Urban Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Stroud
Description	Illustrated typescript report

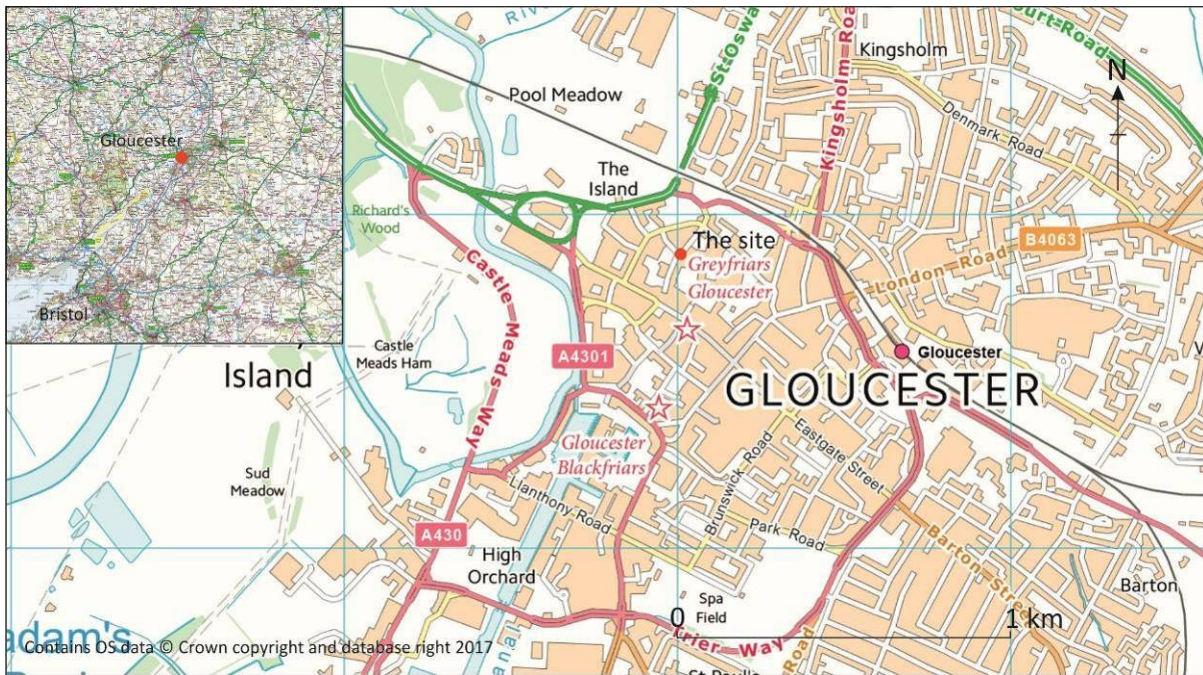


Fig. 1 Site location

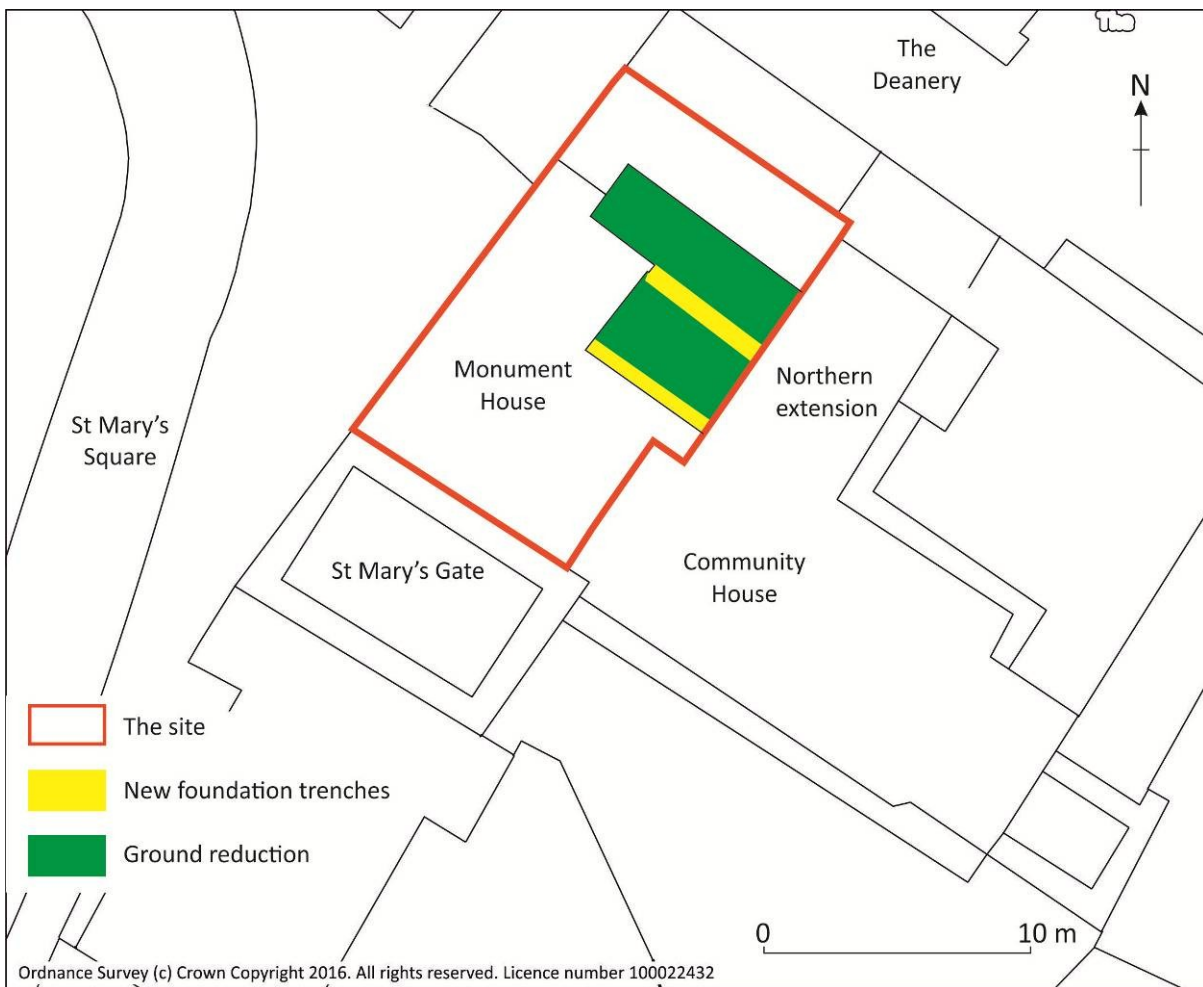


Fig. 2 Trench location plan

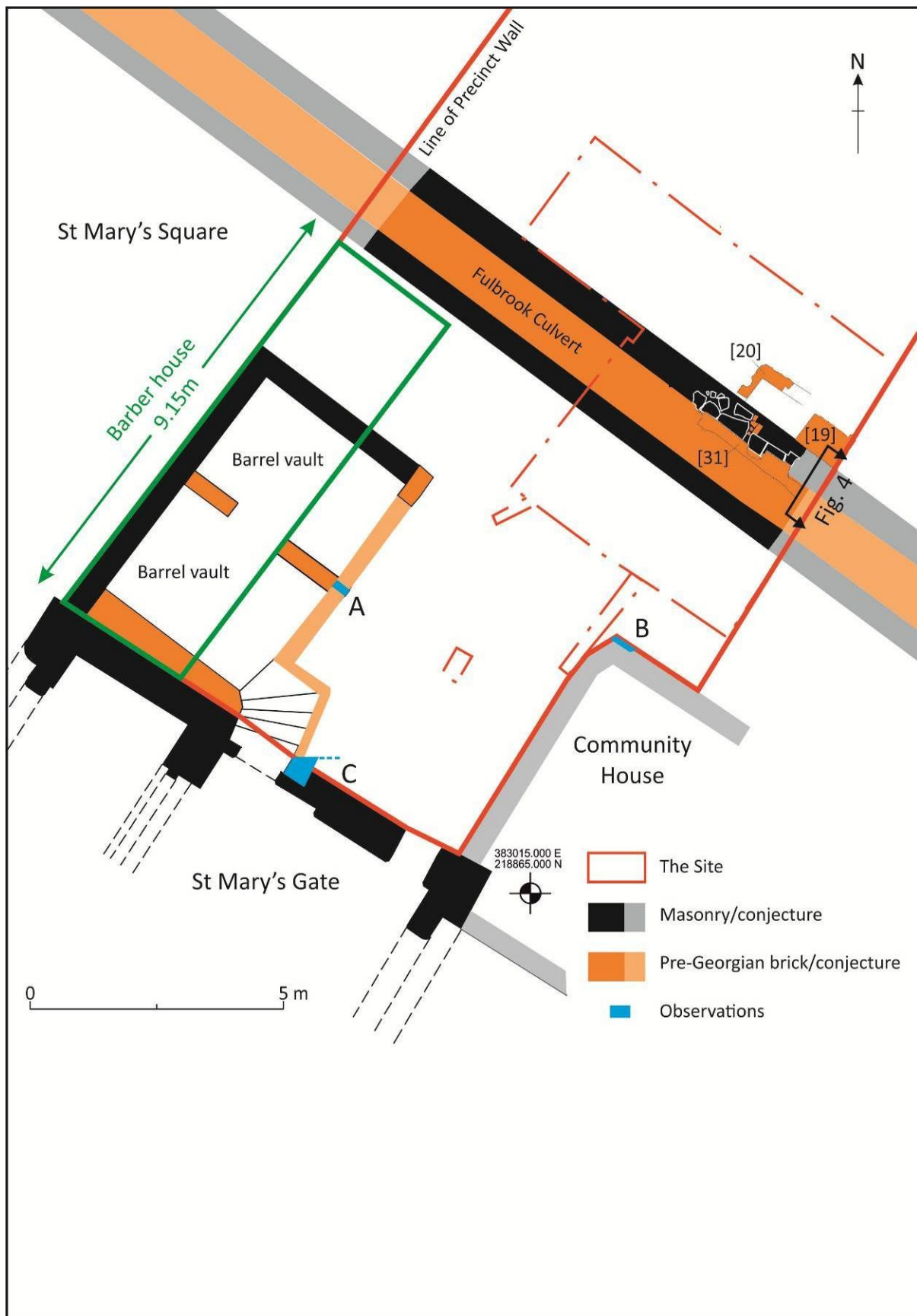


Fig. 3 Pre-Georgian features and observations:
 A: truncated brick wall on ground floor, B: Masonry of Community House, C: North elevation of St Mary's Gate

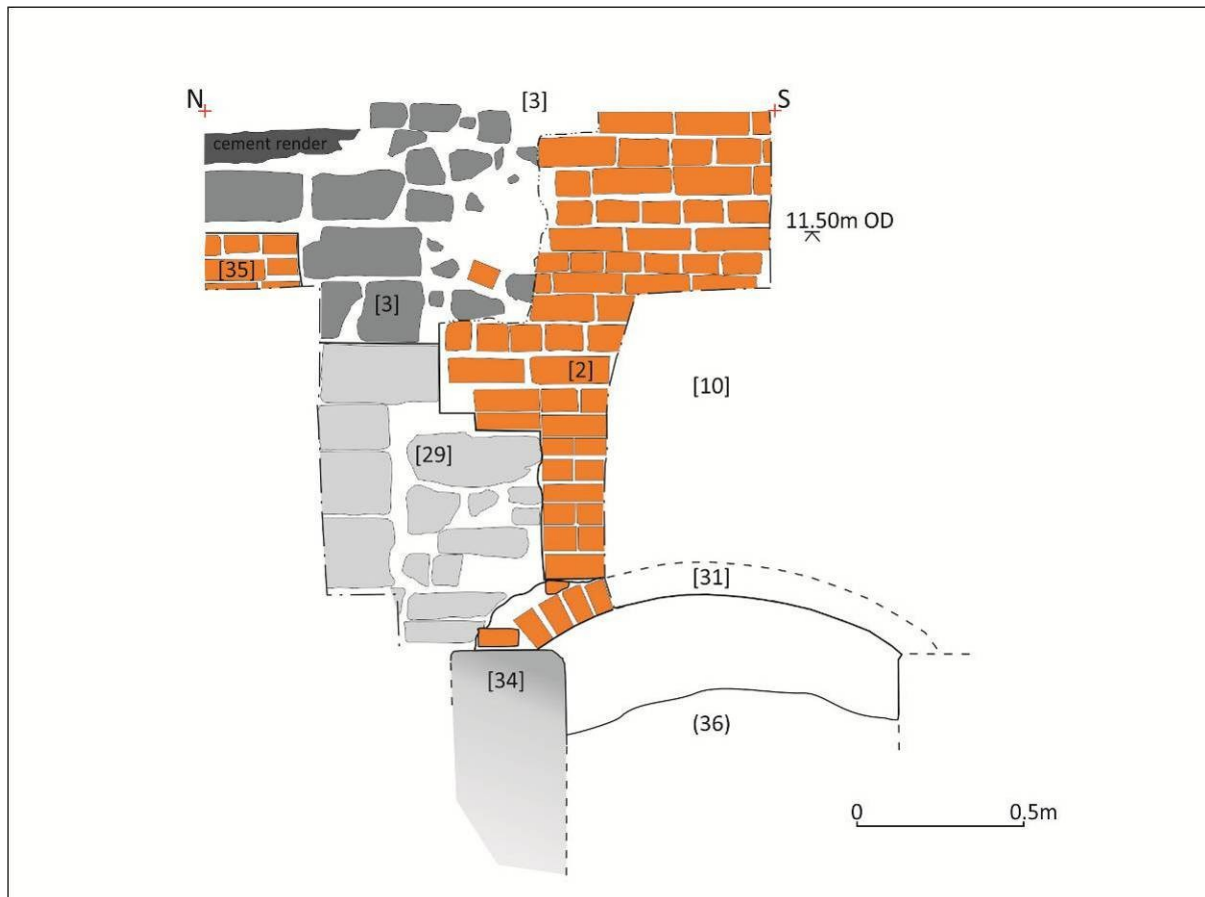


Fig. 4 West facing section along eastern boundary of the site showing culvert



Fig. 5 Brick chamber [14], built against masonry foundation [29] and over brick vaulted culvert roof [31], looking southwest; scale 0.5m



Fig. 6 North wall of stone culvert [34] with brick vaulted roof [31] and brick chamber [14], looking southeast; scale 1m and 0.5m



Fig. 7 View looking along masonry culvert [34] showing brick arched roof [31] with brick support; no scale



Fig. 8 View Cesspit lining [30], looking northeast. Cut through made ground (18); scale 1m

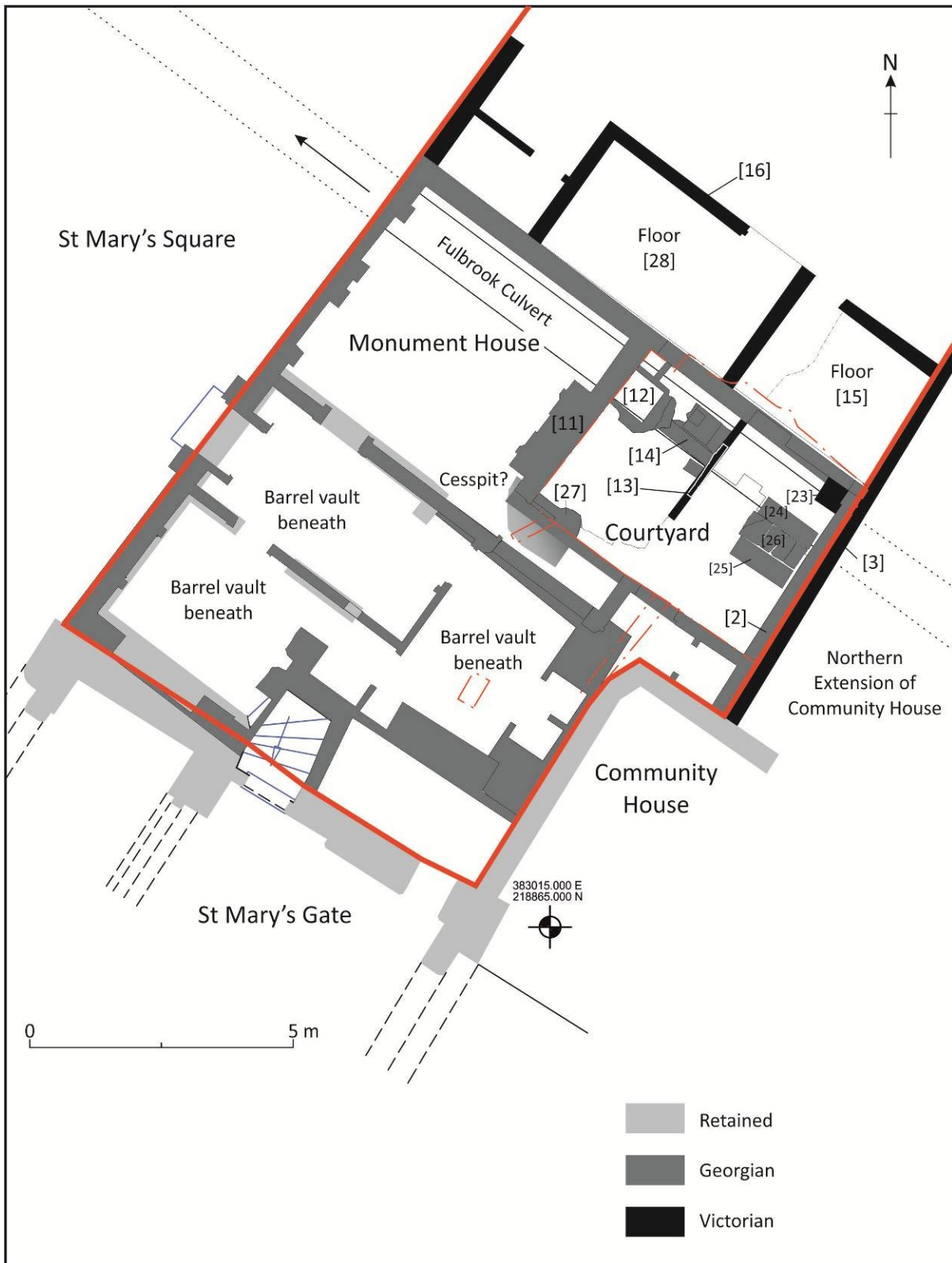


Fig. 9 Plan of Georgian and Victorian structures at Monument House



Fig. 10 Southwestern corner of courtyard with external face of projecting brick vault [27] overlain by Monument House external wall [11] with joist holes; looking northwest; scale 0.5m



Fig. 11 Brick drainage structure [12] built against northwestern corner of Monument House courtyard, with main wall [11] to west and north, looking northwest; scale 0.5m



Fig. 12 Courtyard area looking southeast, with brick wall [11] forming northern boundary of courtyard, brick wall [2] forming the east wall and parallel walls [24] and [25]; note gable roof scar on north wall of Monument House and poorly built lower section of Community House extension [3]; scale 1m



Fig. 13 Overhead view of last phase of Monument House courtyard, looking southeast; scale 1m and 0.5m



Fig. 14 Brick floor [19] and rebuild [20] of cesspit [30], both built against northern courtyard wall [11], looking south; scale 0.5m



Fig. 15 Outbuilding to north of Monument House, with cavity brick wall [16], and brick floor [28], note stone foundation to Monument House superstructure [11], and superstructure extending east of building, looking southwest; scale 1m



Fig. 16 West and north walls of Monument House basement, showing masonry basement walls with brick barrel vaults; looking northwest, scale 0.5m



Fig.17 Masonry north wall, projecting corbel and beams of St Mary's Gate, with abutting brickwork of Monument House built around the existing masonry; looking east upwards from the doorway in north side of St Mary's Gate



Fig. 18 Masonry corner of Community House (or predecessor) encapsulated within ground floor of Monument House; looking southeast, scale 0.5m

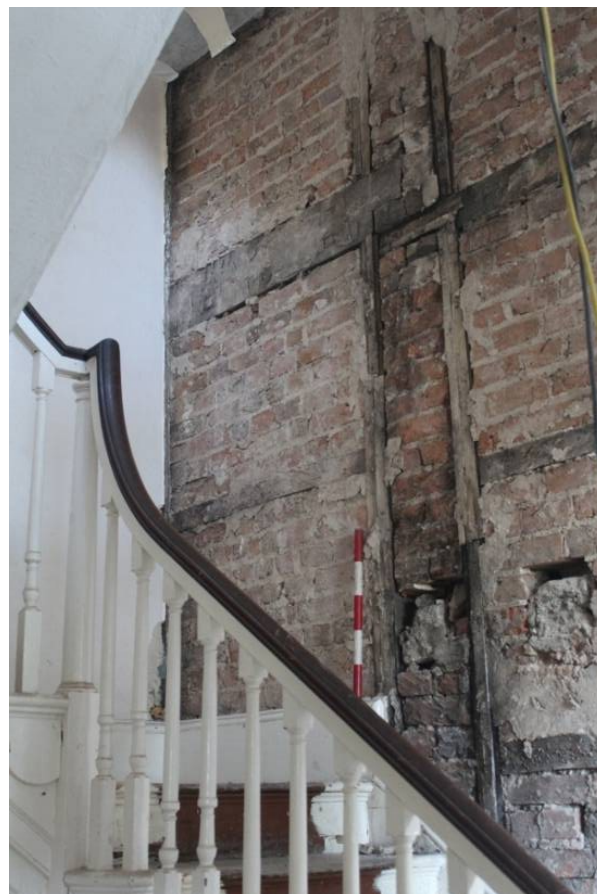


Fig. 19 Brick wall truncated and encapsulated within internal wall of Monument House, ground floor. The wall has been axed through, but survives to the first floor; looking southeast, scale 0.5m



Fig.20 Axe marks on encapsulated brick wall within Monument House, ground floor.



Fig. 21 Original panelling, doors, stair and banisters on ground floor stairwell of Monument House; looking east.



Fig. 22 Pegged timber studwork with mortared brick infill, second floor of Monument House, looking southeast, 0.5m scale.

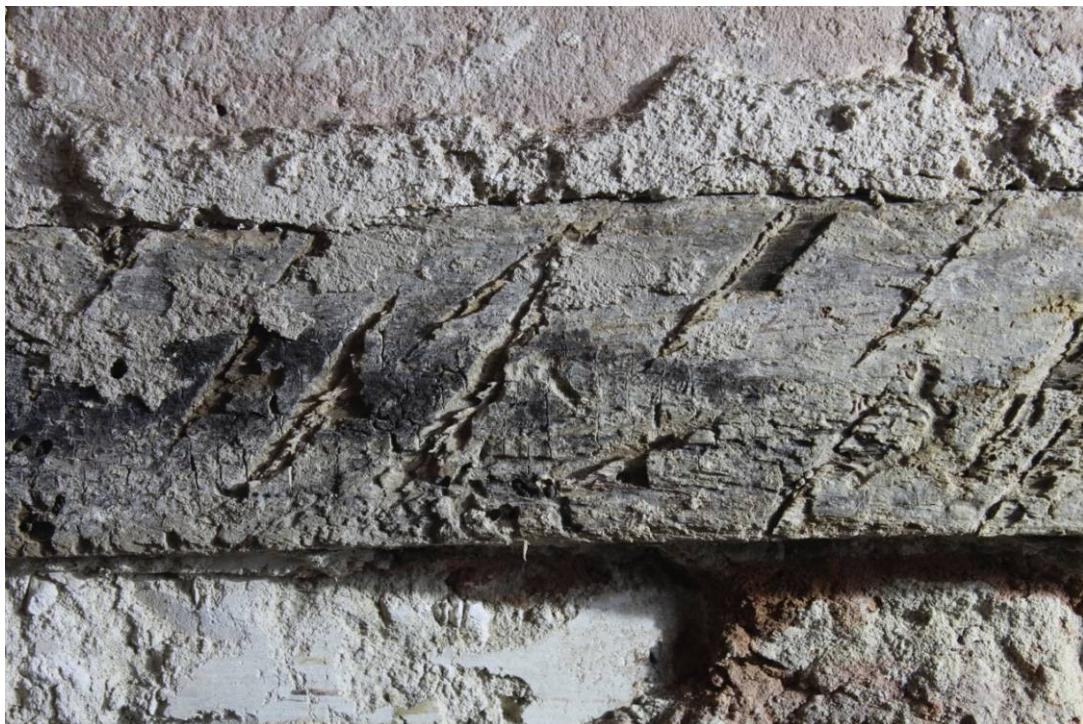


Fig. 23 Axe marks on timber studwork for keying to plaster



Fig. 24 Junction of western and northern walls of Monument House, first floor, showing bond timbers within brickwork, and butt joints between the walls, looking northwest, 0.5m scale



Fig. 25 South wall of Monument House, ground floor, showing inserted arched niche; looking south, scale 0.5m



Fig. 26 Brick arch backed up by a reused oak timber with mortices; looking south, scale 0.5m



Fig.27 Blocked window in east wall of Monument House, second floor, showing mortar and lathe and plaster demonstrating the window was originally open; looking north, scale 0.5m



Fig. 28 Window alteration in north wall of Monument House, second floor, showing partial blocking of original window with insertion of enlarged window; looking north, scale 0.5m



Fig. 29 Use of pumped aerated foam concrete to fill the culvert, the concrete is pumped along a pipe inserted through an existing hole in the culvert to fill the void and support the roof of the culvert.



Fig. 30 Pumping of aerated foam concrete into the northern foundation trench, with Terram separation to the surviving archaeological deposits