Land Adjacent to the Former Western Coach House, Frampton Cotterell South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



By Rachel Heaton BSc

Avon Archaeology Limited Bristol: May 2017



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Application Ref. PT16/3466/F

OS NGR ST 66039 82214.



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Abstract

Avon Archaeology Limited were commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording (Archaeological Watching Brief) during groundworks associated with a building development on land adjacent to and associated with the former Western Coach House Inn, in the village of Frampton Cotterell.

The public house closed in 2005/6 and the building was refurbished and spilt into three residential homes. The land was divided into two: a small part remaining with the building to provide garden and car parking for the private residencies; the larger part forms the current project site.

The development consists of the construction of four detached residential properties, each with a garage and garden and includes an access road off the Bristol Road on the east side of the site. A condition for archaeological monitoring was imposed by the County Archaeologist to preserve any archaeological features or artefacts which might be uncovered and lost during the work.

During the watching brief, the remains of a building with associated cobbled driveway were found in a remarkably good condition. The structural remains were located on the north east side of the existing Western Coach House building. Map evidence showed that this part of the site had been occupied by a number of outbuildings which were in use as late as the 1960s, when they appear to have been demolished and replaced with car parking and a new toilet block. There was little indication within the structures and deposits of what the buildings may have been used for. Initial thoughts were that they were the remains of a stable block, and a feature which may be the base of an oven, was initially seen as a small-scale forge. There was though a lack of evidence for either interpretation. Only a single artefact was retrieved during the work in the form of a single clay pipe, was of a type which was prevalent throughout the 19th century.



Research into the site found that the Western Coach House had formerly been known as the Cross Hands Inn, which had been in existence since the late 1830s. The Inn was in the ownership of a Mr George Holder from the 1840s and remained within the family until the death of his granddaughter, Clara Warren, who ran the Inn until 1913. The Cross Hands became the Western Coach House in 1976.

Beneath the built remains, there was evidence of earlier activity on the site. A significant cut feature was seen in various foundation trench sections of House 1. The cut truncated the Pennant sandstone bedrock, up to a depth of 1.8m. The fill was very mixed, showing no regularity or evidence of specific layers suggesting it had been back-filled quickly. Similar evidence was also found during the excavation the foundation trenches for House Plots 2 and 3 also. The pennant sandstone bedrock is a commonly used building material, and in fact is the main material used in the structures found on the site. It is likely that these features are the result of quarrying for the building stone.

The remains of the structures and the evidence of quarrying was confined to the front (south-east side) of the site. The remainder of the site was archaeologically sterile.

The archaeological monitoring took place in March 2017 and was overseen by the writer of this report, Rachel Heaton of Avon Archaeology Limited.



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Notes

Whereas Avon Archaeology Limited has taken all care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

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Abbreviations

AAL Avon Archaeology Limited aOD Above Ordnance Datum HER Historic Environment Record NGR National Grid Reference

OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations

WSI Written Scheme of Investigation



1 Introduction

Avon Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Don Foley of Crossman Homes Ltd on behalf of their client (undisclosed) to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring (Archaeological Watching Brief) on land adjacent to the former Western Coach House Public House on the western edge of Frampton Cotterell in South Gloucestershire.

The development consists of the construction of four new detached residential properties (one 4 bedroomed and three 3 bedroomed homes) each with a garage and gardens, with an associated access road off the main B4058 Bristol Road on the east side. The site is centred on OS NGR ST 66039 82214 (**Figure 1**).

In recent years the site has been left as open wasteland, though it had previously been part of the grounds of the Western Coach House, and was generally used as garden and car parking areas. The public house closed for business in 2005/6 and the southern portion of the grounds which contained the pub building was divided off.

The pub building was renovated and divided into three residential properties with gardens and a shared off-road parking area to the rear, and now it forms the southern boundary of the current development site

The archaeological element arose as the result of a condition of the planning application, Reference 15/04428/FUL set out by the local authority, which required all groundworks associated with the project to be monitored.

A WSI was subsequently written (Heaton 2017), and approved the South Gloucestershire Archaeological Officer, Paul Driscoll.

Archaeological monitoring took place between the 16th and the 30th of March 2017. Rachel Heaton of Avon Archaeology Ltd managed the project and was in attendance during the groundworks.



The archive for this project will be deposited with the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, an accession number is yet to be provided, though one has been requested.



2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

The site is approximately square in shape and covers an area of 0.62 acres (0.251 Ha). It is bounded on the east side by the B4058 Bristol Road, close to the crossroad junction with Perrinpit Road and Church Road. It is bounded to the south by the former Western Coach House building, to the west by a commercial yard and associated buildings and to the north by a residential property and undeveloped land. Situated on the western edge of the village of Frampton Cotterell, it is approximately 12km north-east of the city of Bristol, and just over 3km from Yate.

The site itself stands at about 52m aOD, and is relatively level. The River Frome exists as a narrow channel winding its way through the village, 750m to the east.

Geologically, the site is underlain by the South Wales Upper Coal Measures Formation – Mudstone, Siltstone, Sandstone, Coal, Ironstone, Haematite and Ferricrete; sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 307 to 310 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period when the local environment would have been dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas. A band of more uniform Sandstone and Conglomerate bedrock is located to the west of the project site (BGS).

During the excavation, bedrock was reached in the majority of foundation trenches and found to be sandstone with overlaying sandy silts and clays.



3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The name, Frampton Cotterell, describes a farmstead on the River Frome (itself a generic term for river) belonging at one time to the Cotell family (Smith 1965).

Very little archaeological work has been undertaken in the vicinity of the project site. There are a few listed buildings in the village, the closest being found on Church Road: PRN numbers 12165 and 13651, representing two post-medieval cottages, and at Tanners Farm to the north-west of the site, where a building of circa 17th century date is still standing (PRN 12176). The nearest Scheduled Monument is Acton Court on the outskirts of Iron Acton to the north, which is a known Tudor period building.

Most records indicate that Frampton Cotterell was a settlement of some kind from the Anglo Saxon period onwards. However, Old English names associated with field names in the village could imply settlement as far back as the Roman period. Most notable is the name 'Chessolds', old English 'Ceastel', or "heap of stones", often suggestive of former Roman buildings (Erskine 2003).

The settlement is recorded in the Domesday survey in 1086 and is described as being in the Hundred of Langley and Swineshead. The village of Frantone or Franton ade Cotelli was the land of Walter the Gunner (ballistarius) with five hides taxed, one plough tillage, 10 villeins and 11 bordars with five plough tillages and two mills. Two interesting points are made in the Domesday record:

The first interesting reference is use of the term, 'ballistarius', probably indicating a crossbowman. Interestingly, though, Walter is known to have held land in the Forest of Dean at Bulley, an area rich in coal and iron ore, which may have been used in the manufacture of crossbow components. It is also not inconceivable that he was one of the first to exploit the haematite resources located in the region of Frampton Cotterell (see below).



The second point is in relation to the church at Frampton Cotterell, which is documented in 1086. The record suggests that there was no village church at the time of the Norman Conquest, and it therefore must have been constructed in the intervening 20 years. This is significant, as it reflects the changes being made in ecclesiastical structure across the country. William 1st had hoped that he would be able to govern a united realm but there was so much conflict immediately after the Conquest that after four years he was forced to change tack. Initially, he had been happy to appoint Englishmen in high positions, but, from 1070 onwards, he only appointed newcomers. This almost complete replacement of the top ruling elite had major repercussions, especially within the church. The newcomers had quite different ideas about the way the church should be governed and these changes brought about a period of widespread construction and replacement of the original English churches.

By the 13th century, a weekly market was granted in what had become an established village, rectangular in shape, located on the ridge between (lower) Stone Cross and the River Frome, between Church Road and Rectory Road. The village operated an open field system until the mid 16th century, when the former open fields were enclosed.

Being situated on the fringe of the Bristol coalfield (Kellaway and Welsh 1984), coal, iron and clay have been exploited from at least the Romano-British period in the wider locality as place-name evidence suggests - "Coalpit Heath", "Iron Acton" to name but two.

From the late 16th century onwards, the production of felt and felt hats developed in the villages of north-east Bristol, initially as a cottage industry, but it swiftly became the primary source of employment for people in the area. By the late 18th and early 19th centuries, factories for felt production were established in Frampton Cotterell and at Winterbourne. The industry mostly concentrated on the early stages of hat and hood production, making the felt and shaping it. The hats and hoods would be 'finished' and trimmed elsewhere before being sold. Many of the finished hats went through the port at Bristol, out to the West Indies where the hats were used by slaves working the sugar plantations (WERS & FC&DLH)



With the felt hat industry booming during the 18th and 19th centuries, and population rising steadily, the hamlets of Brockridge, Adams's Land and others joined together with Frampton Cotterell to form the modern village.

Two turnpike routes, both part of the 'Stapleton Turnpike' pass through Frampton Cotterell parish. The first links Bristol to Rangeworthy via Stapleton, Winterbourne, Frampton Cotterell and Iron Acton. The route follows the modern Bristol Road B4058 which passes the east side of the site. The second route links Bristol to Tytherington via Stapleton, Frenchay, Hambrook, Winterbourne, and Froglands Cross which is on the very north-western edge of Frampton Cotterell, This route follows the Old Gloucester Road, B4427. 'The Stapleton Turnpike' was managed by the Bristol Turnpike Trust, established in 1727. Not only was it one of the earliest trusts, but it also grew to manage one of the largest turnpike networks in the country. Use of turnpike routes peaked in the 1830s but these were quickly replaced by the construction of the railway system, which was a much more efficient method of transport (www.turnpikes.org.uk).

3.1 The Development Site

The development site is on land which previously lay within the curtilage of the former Western Coach House public house (closed for business in 2005). The site was divided into two parts when the building was redeveloped for housing. The Western Coach House was formerly known as the Cross Hands Inn, a name which it had retained for well over 100 years. The earliest reference to the Cross Hands is in 1838 and it changed in 1976 (pers comm. Ian Haddrell). There is limited documentary information regarding the history of the Inn and its associated land, but by drawing together map evidence, census data, directory lists, probate and mortgage documents, a basic history could be compiled:

The earliest date for the existence of the Cross Hands Inn comes from www.gloucestershirepubs.co.uk which states that in 1838 it was owned by Joseph Millet, though a Mr William Werratt was employed as the landlord. Unfortunately, the web site does not disclose a reference for this information and my own research has



not been able to support it. It is fairly likely that an inn may have been in existence at this location from an earlier date, but it cannot be proven. The site, as mentioned previously, is located on a cross roads junction on a turnpike route. Places to stop for rest and refreshment were common along routes which were used with some regularity, and inns such as the Cross Hands would have provided this service.

The 1841 census provides the next reference to the Cross Hands and records a Henry Holder living at the Inn along with his young wife and child. His occupation is noted as publican. There is no reference to any 'visitors', which might have indicated that the inn was offering accommodation at that time.

The 1842 tithe map and apportionment book provide the next reference (BRO EP/A/32/191842). The map (Figure 5) shows the Cross Hands building and an adjacent smaller rectangular building in a plot of land with the apportionment number 212. The main building is shaded in pink, identifying it as a dwelling place, while the smaller adjacent building is shaded orange, presumably to differentiate its use from dwelling place to some other use. Plot 212 is recorded in the apportionment as 'Cross Hands Inn; with Garden, Orchard, Yard and Buildings', It was owned by Mr George Holder, and was being rented to Henry Holder; Henry was George's son. George also owned the adjacent plots of land; 209, 210 and 211/211a; all of which were rented out to different people¹.

The apportionment book indicates a number of landowners with the Holder surname in and around the village. Genealogical research by the author, discovered that Mr Samuel Holder Snr, a master felt hatter, was George's father. George had a brother, Samuel Holder Jnr and an uncle, Joseph Holder is also recorded again owning several pieces of land and buildings. Henry Holder (his son) is recorded as owning a large parcel of arable land to the north of the site known as 'part of Vernolas'.²

² The name Vernolas may come from 'Vernola' which has Italian origins often used as a surname but it is impossible to say whether this has any links to the suggested Roman activity within the area.



¹ Plot 209 was often known as Cross Hands Yard and was rented out to up to 6 separate families.

By the time of the following census in 1851, a Mr James Parker is registered as Landlord of the Cross Hands Inn. The census shows that Henry Holder has moved to a cottage nearby, probably in Cross Hands Yard, with his growing family. By that date he was no longer working as a publican, but as a labourer in the hat trade.

Between 1851 and 1861, the circumstances of the Cross Hands Inn changed significantly. George Holder, who almost certainly continued ownership of the land, decided to build the 'New Cross Hands Inn', which was located somewhere on Frampton Common (exact location unknown). He is recorded on the 1861 census as a publican, living and working in the New Cross Hands. At the same time, his son Henry returned to the original Cross Hands was recorded in the census as 'Old Cross Hands' (project site). It is clear that the inn was not being run as a public house in 1861 and that the business had been moved to the new site on Frampton Common. George Holder passed away in 1869, his assets were given over to Henry. The 'New Cross Hands' is not recorded 1871, but the original Cross Hands Inn was restored as an alehouse, with Henry Holder as landlord. He remained the licence holder until his death in 1892. The pub was run by his daughter Clara Warren in 1891, but she was not recorded as landlady until 1901. Henrys son, Fred, was recorded I as Landlord in 1897; both Fred and Clara were appointed trustees to Henry's business. Clara Warren continued to run the Cross Hands until she passed away in 1913, at which point links to the Holder family cease.

The Cross Hands Inn is listed on the 1st edition 25" OS map of the site (published 18810, which also shows a bench mark on the south face of the building, recorded at 170.9 ft. Detail of the Cross Hands building is shown, with a number of out-buildings and the larger part of the site given over to garden and orchard, as described in the 1842 tithe award. The southern half of plot 210, as seen on the tithe map, was incorporated into the Cross Hands curtilage by this time. There is little change to note from later editions of the available maps until the 1960s, when a small extension (pub toilet block), asphalt driveway and car parking area extended into the garden area, completely replacing the out-buildings recorded on earlier maps.



4 Aims and Methodology

4.1 Aims

The aims of the archaeological Watching Brief were:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological features encountered
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of any archaeological deposits
- To enable the archaeological officer at South Gloucestershire Council to make an informed decision on the basis of the extent and condition of any archaeology revealed and to add any further possible requirements for further work in order to satisfy the planning conditions
- To make available to all interested parties the results of the investigation.

4.2 Methodology

The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Heaton, 2017) previously approved by South Gloucestershire Council Archaeological Officer, Paul Driscoll.

Excavation was carried out by the principle contractor (Capstan), using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator with toothless grading bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist.

The development consisted of four separate building plots. Each plot was reduced by between 0.25m-0.4m to formation level, prior to the foundation trenches being marked out and excavated by machine. The majority of the site was monitored and recorded in accordance with standard watching brief guidelines.

In one area (Plot 1, **Figures 3 & 4**), a significant number of archaeological features were visible as the ground was reduced. Additional staff were drafted in to assist in



the cleaning of the site, which was then planned, photographed, levelled and recorded as a rescue 'Strip and Record' project.

All the information regarding the ground works was recorded in field documents, produced and compiled by Avon Archaeology Limited, in addition to a detailed photographic survey and technical drawings. Each deposit encountered was characterised and given a sequential context number.



5 The Monitoring

In March, the author of this report attended site to monitor groundworks: ground reduction and excavation of foundation trenches for the development of four new detached homes. The location of Plots 1 to 4 are shown in **Figure 2**. The ground was levelled and reduced by approximately 0.35m in the location of the footprint of each house to the formation level of approximately 53.5m aOD. All foundation trenches were 0.8m width and were excavated to the top of the bedrock (0.7m – 1.10m). Foundations for the garages were shallow, 0.4m deep, as walls were not to be load-bearing.

A common stratigraphic sequence was observed across the site where foundation trenches for new buildings were cut. Evidence of quarrying was recorded at the front of the site (east side) in the foundation trenches of Houses 1, 2 and 3, while the remainder of the site was archaeologically sterile. The exception to this was in the location of the footprint of House 1, where initial ground reduction revealed a complex of structures and surfaces. The site of House 1 will be described first as a site in itself. Note: Please refer to Appendix 1 for Table of Contexts for House Plot 1 and to Appendix 2 for Table of Context for the site (House plots 2 to 4).

5.1 House Plot 1 Description

House Plot 1 is located in the south-west corner of the site (**Figure 2**). An area of approximately 13.5m by 14m was reduced by approximately 0.35m prior to laying out the foundation plan for the new house. As mentioned above, a number of structures and surfaces were uncovered during this stage of the works. The site was cleaned and then recorded in plan (**Figure 4**). Below surface archaeology was recorded as the foundation trenches for the house were excavated. The following text specifically describes the archaeology found within the area of Plot 1.

The bedrock (Pennant Sandstone, context 125), was reached at 0.75m below current ground level, towards the north corner of the plot. The depth was surprisingly shallow here; it was reached at greater depth in other parts of the site.



The bedrock was sealed by a natural deposit, context 115, orange sandy clays, interspersed with lighter coloured orangey yellow sands. It was truncated by a large cut feature, context 116. An approximate edge could be followed in the sections of the foundation trenches which, when plotted, divided the site diagonally from the east to west corners, occupying the southern half of the plot (**Figure 4**). The cut edge of 116 did not present a consistent form, with sides ranging from steep to gradual. Depth also varied, from approximately 1m to 1.8m at its deepest in the southern most corner cutting well into the bedrock. This cut was identified as a pit, probably excavated to quarry out the stone for building. An amorphous grey brown sticky sandy, clay filled cut 116, and though described as a single fill, was recorded under three different context numbers; 103, 114 and 117. This activity represents Phase 1. Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered from the feature.

A number of built features, all contemporary, were built on top of the pit described above. The structure and associated features were directly adjacent to the former public house building and are attributed to Phase 2. The primary structure formed the footings of a rectangular building constructed in one phase; 104, 120, 121, 122, 123 and 124. All were constructed from roughly faced Pennant sandstone blocks which had random coursing, bonded with a pale pink mortar containing frequent flecks of lime. They were consistently 0.5m wide, and measured 0.3 – 0.35m in height.

Walls 104 and 124, represented two outer walls of the complex, which was divided into three almost equal parts: the northern third was sub divided by partition walls 120 and 121; the central section, bounded by walls 122 and 123 contained a cobbled driveway, context 101 and path, context 105; and the southern section, adjacent to the site boundary.

Wall 104 extended 9.5m from the baulk aligned south east by north west and formed the north east side of the building. Wall 122 was on the same alignment, 3.8m to the south west. Both 104 and 122 joined Wall 124, at the northwest end. The space between Walls 104 and 122 was divided to provide two or possibly 3 small rooms. Partition walls 120 and 121 were both 2.5m in length and extend from south west from wall 104. They did not join wall 122, but left an opening clearly for access.



The rear 'room' measured 3m by 3.8m. There were no internal features, and no evidence of any floor surface between walls 104, 121, 122 and 124.

The 'central room', within the area enclosed by walls 104, 120, 121 and 122, was slightly larger, measuring 3.5m by 3.8m; again no floor surface exists. A rectangular stone built structure, context 108, was built up against walls 104 and 121 (**Plate 11**). It was constructed from unworked pennant sandstone pieces not keyed in and was faced only on its outer surfaces. A light cream coloured mortar was used at the face of this structure but to the centre of the wall, stones were simply tightly packed with no bonding material at all. The stones set towards the middle of this feature had a dark purple/pink hue which is indicative of being affected by heat, suggesting that this feature was the base of an oven/fire of some kind.

Abutting all the structures within the rear and central 'rooms' was deposit 107. This deposit consisted of a friable, black grainy material, containing very frequent, tiny pieces of coal. It was 0.15 – 0.30m thick. This deposit contained a single clay pipe bowl (retained, see Finds Section below). Walls 104, 120, 121, structure 108, and deposit 107 all overlay natural 115.

The 'front area' cannot be fully understood, as the front wall of the building remained beyond the edge of the excavation (**Plate 4**). It was bounded by 104, 120 and 123, with a visible area of 2.5m by 3.8m. Within this part of the building were the remains of surface 109, which also extended into the baulk. It was primarily constructed of small narrow cobbles, which abutted both walls 104 and 122. The cobbles were edged with small flat slabs of Pennant sandstone, which abutted wall 120, and appeared to partially overlie the threshold into the 'central room'. It could indicate that a similar floor surface was present throughout this part of the building but had been removed, possibly for re-use somewhere else when the main structure was demolished. Deposit 107 did not really extend into this area and existed only where floor surface 109 was absent. It may be that 107 was purely a bedding material for a floor surface, but could equally have been deposited after a floor surface had been removed. At this end of the building wall 104, and the surface 109, overlay 117, the fill of the large quarry pit described above.



A cobbled driveway, context 101, lay within the centre of the building complex, bounded by walls 122, 123 and rear wall 124 (**Cover**). It was approximately 3m wide, with a slight camber, to allow drainage to the shallow guttering along both sides. A path way, context 105, ran along the south west side of the driveway (**Plate 7**). The pathway was approximately 0.5m wide and was constructed from large squared Pennant sandstone slabs. Both the cobbled driveway and the path are set into a bedding or packing material, deposit 102. Deposit 102 was a firm light orange sandy clay and can be described as redeposited natural. Excavation showed that it sealed deposit 103, which turned out to be the same as deposit 117: the fill of the large quarry pit.

The south-western section of the building complex was bounded by walls 123, 124 and the site boundary, adjacent to the Western Coach House building. They represented the only features of Phase 2 in this section of the site. However there were several later features which truncated this part of the site or had no clear relationship to the main structure.

There were also various features which related to activity later than the initial two phases described above:

Structure 111, formed a partial drainage channel, located in an area assumed to be internal. It hugged the corner formed by wall 123 and 124 (**Plates 9 & 10**). Feature 111, did not extend the full length of wall 123 and only extended from the corner with wall 124 by 4m. This feature was constructed from small rectangular, regularly cut slabs which formed a flat base, with similar sized slabs turned on edge to form the side, which contained a short length of ceramic pipe. It was clear that ceramic pipe had been removed from the majority of the feature and only remained at the south east end of the structure. At the corner and along wall 124, the retaining slabs were replaced with red bricks laid on end. The base does offered a very gradual slope supporting the idea that it formed a drainage channel. It appeared to be an addition to the main building, as it abutted the main structure. It is built on top of the fill of the large quarry pit described above.



Structure 112 can be described as a surface (**Plate 12**). Its relationship to the rest of the site is not understood, as it was an isolated feature and did not seem to follow the general alignment of the rest of the site. Built directly on top of deposit 114 (same as 103 and 117), structure 112 was approximately triangular in shape. It was constructed from several flat Pennant sandstone slabs of irregular shape and size. The slabs are edged along the southern side by long cobble stones which were aligned east by west.

Beyond wall 124, the north-west side of the plot, the ground was very disturbed. Wall 106 abutted wall 104. Continuing on the same alignment, clearly a later extension, 3m length was visible. Built from the same materials and to the same dimensions as wall 104, the mortar was of a fine dark grey, hard material rather than soft light mortar used for the majority of the walls in the complex (**Plate 5**).

Also in this section of the plot, were the remains of a large brick built water/cess tank, structure 118. Constructed from red brick and lined with thick grey render, the main structure was rectangular, 1.5m by 2.5m and was over 1.5m deep. There were two inlet pipes: one represented by a ceramic pipe only, truncated the north-west end of path 105, and cut through wall 124; the other was a pipe within its own brick built structure, which was visible in the section of one of the foundation trenches (**Plates 13 & 14**). The latter part of the structure (also numbered as part of context 118) entered the tank from the south-west side, with the brick built channel containing the pipe was approximately parallel with wall 124. Although the deposit at the surface, 110, was clearly heavily disturbed, part of the edge of the tank fell away during excavation showing that it was primarily cut into natural and bedrock, which in that part of the site appeared to have been quite high, only 0.7m below the current ground surface. The tank itself was covered with a single, large Pennant sandstone slab.

Overlaying the north east side of the site, the majority of structures were sealed by deposit 100, which consisted of a light brown sandy silt which contained frequent pieces of stone building rubble. A heavy concentration of broken pantiles were recorded in the location of walls 104, 120, 121 and 122, overlaying deposit 107 and both structures 108 and surface 109. Deposit 100 did not extend across the entire



building complex but tapered away across the top of cobbled driveway 101, and could be described as a demolition layer.

In the southern corner of the site, and across surface 122, a thin deposit of very hard fine, dark grey material was recorded as context 113. It had the general appearance of a mortar, possibly for a floor surface post-dating the demolition of the stone built structures.

The entire footprint of House Plot 1 was sealed by the remains of an asphalt surface, hard-core rubble, and vegetation mixed with a grey brown sandy soil of up to 0.3m thick.

5.2 General Site Description (House Plots 2 to 4)

The bedrock, context 204, was encountered at between 0.7m – 1.1m below the current ground level and was generally shallow towards the east and centre of the site. It was sealed by context 103, an orange sandy clay, interspersed with lighter coloured orangey yellow sands described as the natural strata. This was sealed in turn by a layer of subsoil, deposit 102, a friable, orangey brown sandy silt, which contained very occasional small pieces of bedrock (Pennant sandstone). Overlaying the subsoil was a layer of buried topsoil, context 201. Context 201 consisted of a soft grey brown sandy silt (**Plate 3**).

Across parts of the site, the topsoil was almost non-existent being replaced with an asphalt surface, context 205 which was laid directly over the subsoil deposit 202. A large area of the site had been used as a car park up until the public house ceased business. In other areas, particularly to the rear and edges of the site, the topsoil was sealed by overburden, context 200, which was up to 0.5m thick in places, though on average, 0.3m thick. The overburden consisted of a mixture of soil vegetation, rubble and general rubbish.

The bedrock was heavily truncated along the east side of the site, in particular at the location of House's 2 and 3, where it was quite evident that a large, deep cut had



removed a large quantity of stone. For ease of recording, a single cut number, context 207, and a single fill number, context 206 were assigned, though there could easily have been multiples of both. Where an edge was visible, cut 207 was inconsistent in form, being steep in places and more gradual in others. The depth of the cut was equally variable, excavated to between 1m and nearly 2m, this maximum recorded in the north-east corner of House 3's footprint. The fill, context 206 was a mixture of dark grey brown, generally soft, sandy silt, and lenses of more orange brown sandy silt, containing pieces of stone of varying size and shape. In the area of House 3, the fill was loose, excavation of foundation trenches made the ground unstable and it collapsed rapidly (**Plate 22**). A similar feature was recorded in the footprint of House 1, context 116 which contained comparable fill, context 117 and was again almost certainly the result of quarrying on the site.

5.3 Boundary Wall

The boundary on the northern side of the site has remained a consistent on all the available map evidence. It is a prominent feature of the site and deserves mention. This particular boundary (**Figure 3**) is marked by a high wall measuring a minimum of 2.2m vertically, and 0.5m thick. It is built of unworked Pennant sandstone, with mortar being non-existent due to weathering over time. There are two features within the wall. The first is unusual and its purpose is not fully understood. It is located approximately 6.2m from the north-west corner of the site, where at lower levels there appears to be two separate sections of wall abutting each other to a height of 1.2m. Above 1.2m, the stones are keyed together to the top of the wall. On the east side of the 'butt', there is a squared opening, lined with small flat Pennant sandstone slabs (**Plate 1**). The opening measures 0.24m wide by 0.4m height. It clearly was originally open to the other side of the wall, but a modern red brick block has sealed it.

The second feature appears as a blocked opening 0.95m wide, and is set into the wall 18m east of the first feature. Clear blocked edges are visible to a height of approximately 1m, above this level; the blocking and evidence of repair sprawls out (**Plate 2**) but stone work appears to be generally 'keyed' in. The blocking has been



built from the same material and in the same style as the rest of the wall, but a light grey, hard mortar is visible, bonding the stones.

Looking at the two features together, it is interesting that both features are obvious to a visible height of about 1.1m (the exact base of the wall is concealed behind heavy vegetation) which could suggest that the wall has been built up to its current height at some stage and that there was link between the two sites. There was a link during the mid 19th century, as we know from documentary evidence that George Holder owned both plots of land in 1842, and these probably continued to be owned by him and/or the Holder family in subsequent years.



6 Finds

A complete decorated tobacco pipe bowl of 19th century date was retrieved during the watching brief, from Context 107. The bowl is a common 19th century type, without a spur, decorated with a possible military scene, showing a standing figure aiming a rifle, and a second figure, kneeling, either side of a leafy tree. Similar "novelty" bowls were common throughout the United Kingdom at this date, and it is known that both the Ring family and Thomas John Corcoran of Bristol produced pipes of similar design, although an exact parallel has not been identified (Beckey et al. 2003, fig. 2c; Insole and Jackson 2000, 133 and figs. 4 and 5).





Photographs showing detail of the design visible on both sides of the clay pipe.



7 Conclusions

From the evidence collected from both the archaeological and documentary and form the archaeological watching brief project, a fairly straightforward narrative of the development of the site can be compiled.

The documentary evidence indicates that a building, known as the Cross Hands Inn, latterly the Western Coach House, occupied the corner of the site from the late 1830s. There is no evidence to predate this; however, as mentioned above, the fact that its location at a cross roads, on a turnpike, may suggest that an inn could easily have been established here for some years before. There is no information regarding the age of the surviving building, which has been heavily renovated, but we can infer that it is of early 19th century date.

The tithe map (**Figure 5**) shows the main building located at the corner of a cross roads junction, with a smaller rectangular building on the north east side, separated by a gap. The main building is shaded pink as is normal for a building identified as a dwelling place; the smaller building is shaded more unusually in orange, to differentiate it as a non-dwelling place, and therefore an outbuilding of some kind.

House Plot 1 is situated in the location of the probable outbuilding. During the watching brief, the foundations of a small building, with associated surfaces, including a cobbled driveway, were recorded. These features were laid out next to and in line with the former inn building and were almost certainly associated with it.

It was clear that the majority of the structures (Walls, 104, 120,121, 122, 123, 124, surfaces 101, 105 and 109) were built in as single phase of development; they had the same mortar, and walls tied in at the corners. The structure consisted of a central cobbled driveway, flanked on either side by contained spaces or rooms. There was no apparent access from the cobbled driveway to either side, but it is possible that, as only foundations were found the openings had been completely removed, maybe internal floor level had been at a higher level, and stepped up from the driveway, though clear openings were existent. There were few features that could help understand the space on the south side of the driveway. Those that



existed, surface 112 and a potential drain, 111, seemed to have been added in different phases to the main structure, and are not clearly understood.

On the north side of the driveway, the space was divided up into three small sections or rooms; with only the central and rear 'rooms' marked out in their entirety. Both were small, but the central room was the larger of the two, measuring 3.5m by 3.8m. There were no features or indication of purpose in the rear 'room', but the central one contained an additional rectangular stone structure built into the corner formed by walls 104 and 121. The stone was tightly packed, forming the base of something fairly substantial. At the centre, of the structure, the stones appeared to have been affected by heat, indicating that perhaps the feature was the base of some kind of oven.

The space at the front of the site, which may have been open, had the remains of a floor surface within it. The floor surface, 109, appeared to partially cross the threshold into the central space and may have originally continued all the way to the rear of the building. The current surface, in the other two spaces was made up of a single gritty black coal heavy deposit, 107.

Initial thoughts were that the structures had been some kind of stable. As the Cross Hands was known as an inn it made sense that stable facilities would have existed for travellers, to rest their horses. But it became clear that certainly for the known history of the Cross Hands Inn, there was no evidence of visitors ever staying in the premises to the Inn as would have been likely. Indeed it was not even functioning as an ale house in 1861, and presumably some time either side of this date. The divisions in the north section of the structure may have been used as 'stall's' but seem rather small for accommodation of horses. Passing trade would gradually have reduced throughout the 19th century with advances being made in railway travel which will have impacted such business.

The rectangular oven base was a later addition, and may have represented a change of use. With the abundance of a coal-heavy deposit, and thinking along the lines of the stable, it was thought possible that the oven could represent a small forge. Such features are commonly associated with inn's where a farrier may have established a



business to catch passing trade (in repairing and shoeing horses). For this site there is no supporting evidence; there is indeed no evidence of a farrier, or ironmonger recorded within the vicinity of the site. In addition to this was a striking lack of small iron finds such as nails and horseshoes, which you might expect in associated deposits. Perhaps the oven was used for something as simple as making bread, the question remains unanswered.

The south side of the driveway as mentioned previously was not understood. This side of the site was affected by later activity, most notably the insertion of the drainage system, of pipes, channels and a large water tank. The pipes and drainage truncate the west end of path 105, and through the wall 124.

These out buildings appear to have been in use for a considerable length of time and are shown on successive OS maps into the 1960s. They were demolished and a new smaller extension was added to the main building, forming a modern toilet block. It is possible that the brick drainage channel and the water tank were associated with this development on the site.

Beneath the built features, in the location of House Plot 1, an earlier phase of activity was recorded. A steep sided cut was clearly visible in several of the foundation trenches, and, although it was not seen in plan, an idea of its form could be inferred, and it has been interpreted as a fairly large pit. Indeed, the feature truncated approximately half of the site of House 1, with a projected diameter of up to 18m. Generally the bedrock was recorded at varying depths, from 0.7m to 1.1m, but in the south eastern most corner, was cut to 1.8m. The pit is recorded as having a single fill which presented as an irregular mix of dark gritty silts and lenses of orange sandy natural. The lack of clear individual deposits suggests that the pits were backfilled rapidly after excavation, probably with the soil that had been removed to reach the bedrock in the first place.

Identical features were also recorded in the foundation trenches excavated for both House Plots 2 and 3. In the location of House Plot 3, the fill contained higher quantity of sands and grits, which led the foundation trenches to become unstable when excavated.



The bedrock on the site is Pennant sandstone, which fractures easily at the surface. It is a common building material in the area, and many examples are visible in the older building round about. Pennant sandstone was the main material used for the construction of the remains of the building recorded above. It is highly possible that the pits were the result of quarrying for the building stone.

Away from the front (east side) of the site, the land was archaeologically sterile. The documentary evidence, in particular coming from earlier maps of the site, show that from the 1840's onwards, it was mainly set aside for gardens and orchards, only becoming a car parking area, and latterly waste ground in modern times. No development is recorded on the site other than at the south eastern corner where the remains of the building were found. There was the potential that unexpected archaeological remains would be discovered during the watching brief, but the result was negative.



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APPENDIX 1

Table of Contexts for House Plot 1

Context	Туре	Description	Dimensions
100	Deposit	Thickest over the north side of the site, consisted of a light brown silt containing frequent pieces of demolition rubble; mostly stone, but also broken pan tiles, mortar and charcoal. There were noticeably a greater number of pan-tiles within the deposit overlaying 104, 120, 121 and 108. It was sealed by deposit 126.	Covered 2/3 of the site in differing thicknesses of up to 0.2m.
101	Surface	Cambered cobbled driveway surface edged with flat stones, providing a gutter set in a packing deposit, 102. Associated with path 105 on south side. Would have extended up to butt wall 124.	2.8m wide by 7.7m length, up to 0.15m average depth. Cobble shape, varies in size but majority roughly squared
102	Deposit	Redeposited sandy clay, used as packing for road surface 101 and also 105. Likely that both 101 and 105 were laid at the same time.	Up to 0.1m thick
103	Fill	Grey brown sticky sandy clay, fill of large quarry cut site vast cut. Sealed by 102 and same as 114 and 117	Up to 1.2m
104	Structure	Wall, built of unworked Pennant sandstone pieces, roughly faced, random coursing, bonded with pale pink mortar containing frequent flecks of lime. Aligned south east by north west, it forms the northern side of a larger structure; continues as wall 124 in a south west direction, with walls 120 and 121 keyed in to form internal room partitions. Built on top of 115 natural and 103/114/117	9.5m long, 0.5m wide, 0.3-0.35m height
105	Structure	Path which edges south side of 101, has been partially removed and re-laid at south east end where it is cut by drainages 118. Built onto (102)	9.5m long, 0.6m wide, 0.3m deep including footing stones
106	Structure	Stone built extension, abuts 104 at north west corner. Constructed from Pennant sandstone, bonded with dark grey, hard, fine mortar.	3.2m length into bulk, 0.5m wide. Approximately 0.3m height in situ including foundation.
107	Deposit	Black grainy friable to soft deposit, sealed by 100, abuts walls 104, 120, 121, 122 and 124 and structures 108 and 109. Contains	Up to 0.3m deep.



		frequent charged pieces of iron and corre	
		frequent charcoal, pieces of iron and some	
		slag. Could be waste material resulting from	
		activities within this building.	
108	Structure	Rectangular structure built up against 104	0.3-0.35m height.
		and east side of 121 out of tightly packed	2.4 length by 1.3m
		Pennant sandstone, outer edges faced and	width
		with mortar bonding. Stones at the centre	
		are clearly heat affected. The base of some	
		kind of oven/fire.	
109	Surface	Cobbled surface, small cobbles edged with	2.30m width by 3.8m
		small Pennant sandstone flagstones, which	length.
		partially spreads across a threshold.	
		Flagstones may have continued inside the	
		building. Confined by 104, 120 and 122.	
		Overlies quarry fill 103/114/117	
110	Deposit	Mixed disturbed layer, sticky grey brown	Depth not recorded
	2 0 2 2 3 1 1	clays, contains some building rubble, stone	fills area to west of
		and brick. Overlies natural, and is probably	the main structures
		cut by 118	3m by 12.5m
111	Structure	Drainage built on internal corner of	4m by 0.3m with
' ' '	Structure	structures 123 and 124. Base is constructed	4III by 0.3III with
		with regular cut Pennant sandstone slabs	
		edged in part with similar sized stones in part	
		and in part with red bricks set on end. Cuts	
		deposit 114. Sealed with 126.	
112	Surface	Small triangular shaped area of Pennant	1.5m by 1.5m, by
		sandstone slabs, partially edged with long	2m
		cobbles. Has no direct relationship with any	
		other feature on the site, laid into the top of	
		114. Purpose not clear.	
113	Deposit	Narrow band on incredibly hard compact	0.1m thick, spread
		grainy deposit, spreads across 114, and	up to 5m from south
		partially seals surface 112. Possibly the	corner of the site.
		base of a modern surface	
114	Fill	Grey brown sticky sandy clay, fill of large	Up to 1.2m
		quarry cut. Same as 103 and 117. Fills 116.	
115	Natural	Orange sandy clays, interspersed with lighter	Top of natural, found
		coloured orangey yellow sands. Directly	approximately 0.5m
		overlies the bedrock	below current
			ground level in this
			area of the site
			0.25m thick
116	Cut	Large irregular shaped cut, not seen in plan	Full dimensions not
		and may be more than one cut. Deep in	known, up to 1.2m
			•
		places, more shallow in others see in	deep, but it is
		foundation trench sections A steep cut edge	irregular.
		is visible in one foundation trench. Contains	
		essentially one fill 103/114/117.	



117	Fill	Grey brown sticky sandy clay, fill of large quarry cut.	Up to 1.2m deep
118	Structure	Drainage (ceramic pipes) and brick built/lined Tank filled by 119, probably cuts 110. It has cut 105 the slabs have been removed to place pipes then re-laid.	Pipe approximately 3 m in length to tank. 0.25m wide Tank dimensions 1.8m by 2.8m by 1.5m deep.
119	Fill	Fill of 118, dark grey, wet, rubbly fill of the tank associated with drainage system 118, was sealed with a large Pennant sandstone slab.	1.8m by 2.8m by 1.5m deep.
120	Structure	Wall, built of unworked Pennant sandstone pieces, roughly faced, random coursing, bonded with pale pink mortar containing frequent flecks of lime. Aligned north east by south west, it forms a partition wall keyed in to wall 104. Built on top of 115, natural.	0.5m width, 0.35m height, 2.5m length
121	Structure	Wall, built of unworked Pennant sandstone pieces, roughly faced, random coursing, bonded with pale pink mortar containing frequent flecks of lime. Parallel with 120, separated by a distance of 3.5m and clearly has the same function, to provide a partition. Keyed into 104. 108 is built up against south east face. Built on top of 115, natural.	0.5m width, 0.35m height, 2.5m length
122	Structure	Wall, built of unworked Pennant sandstone pieces, roughly faced, random coursing, bonded with pale pink mortar containing frequent flecks of lime. Wall is parallel to wall 104, divided by 4m, and is directly adjacent to surface 101 on the north east side of 101. Keyed into back wall 124.	9.5m long, 0.5m wide, 0.3-0.35m height
123	Structure	Wall, built of unworked Pennant sandstone pieces, roughly faced, random coursing, bonded with pale pink mortar containing frequent flecks of lime. Wall is parallel with both 104 and 122, but is located on the south west side of surface 101. Keyed into back wall 124.	9.5m long, 0.5m wide, 0.3-0.35m height
124	Structure	Wall, built of unworked Pennant sandstone pieces, roughly faced, random coursing, bonded with pale pink mortar containing frequent flecks of lime. Forms the rear wall of the main structure, contemporary with 104, 120, 121, 122and 123. Wall is aligned north east by south west.	13m length, 0.5m wide 0.3-0.35m height



125	Bedrock	Pennant sandstone, fractures easily into	Found between
		pieces	0.7m and 1.1m from
			current ground
			surface
126	Surface	Remains of asphalt surface, rubble and	0.1-0.2m thick
		vegetation mixed with a grey brown soil.	
		Sealed the top of the archaeology.	



APPENDIX 2

Table of Contexts for Site (House Plots 2 to 4)

Context	Туре	Description	Dimensions
200	Deposit	Overburden, a mixture of soil, vegetation, rubble and general rubbish (plastic, bricks, crockery, tins) varies in thickness across the site	From 0-0.5m thick.
201	Topsoil	Dark grey brown, soft sandy silt, in some places this deposit is found at the surface, and in other parts of the site is buried beneath deposit 201	0.1-0.25m thick
202	Subsoil	Orangey brown sandy silty, friable, with no inclusions	0.15-0.3m thick
203	Natural	Orange sandy clays, interspersed with lighter coloured orangey yellow sands. Directly overlies the bedrock.	0.15-0.3m thick
204	Bedrock	Pennant sandstone, fractures easily into pieces	Reached between 0.7m and 1.1m below reduced ground level
205	Surface	Remains of asphalt car park area, with associated hardcore base.	0.1-0.2m thick
206	Fill	Mixture of dark grey brown/grey orange sandy silt deposit, contains pieces of natural stone, soft, trench sides crumbled easily where this deposit was located (plot 3)	Fills cut 207, up to 2m deep
207	Cut	Broad deep cut, edges not clear but cuts the bedrock often to a greater depth, filled with 206. Seen specifically in the location of House Plot 3	Up to 2m deep, dimensions and shape unknown, seen only in multiple sections.



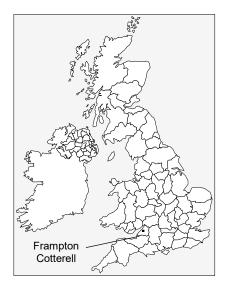
Figure 1

Location of Study Area

The study area



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Scale 1:25,00 Ordnance Survey © Crown Copy 1998 All rights reserved. Licence Number AL 100005802



Figure 2

Site Plan with Location of Monitored Development Foundations



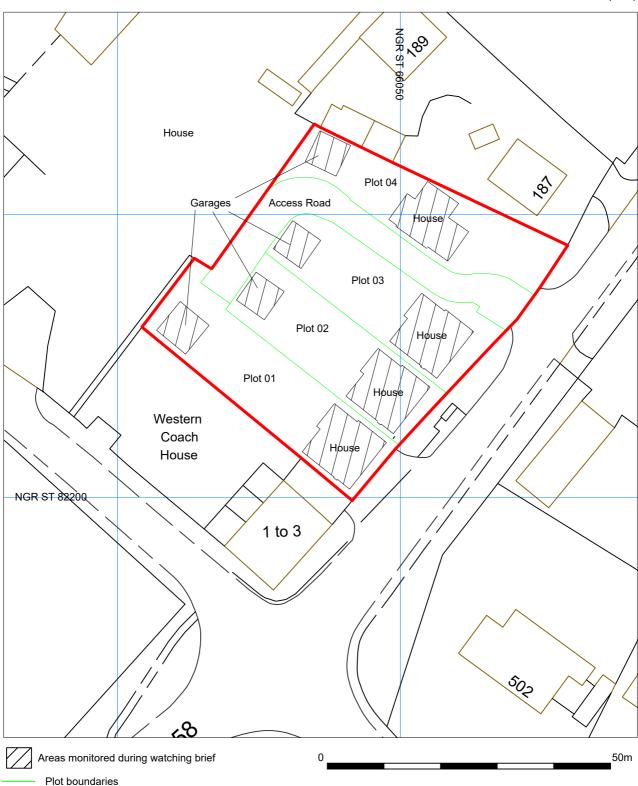




Figure 3

Site Plan with Location of Archaeological Features







Figure 4

Plan of Archaeological Features. Context Numbers in Red

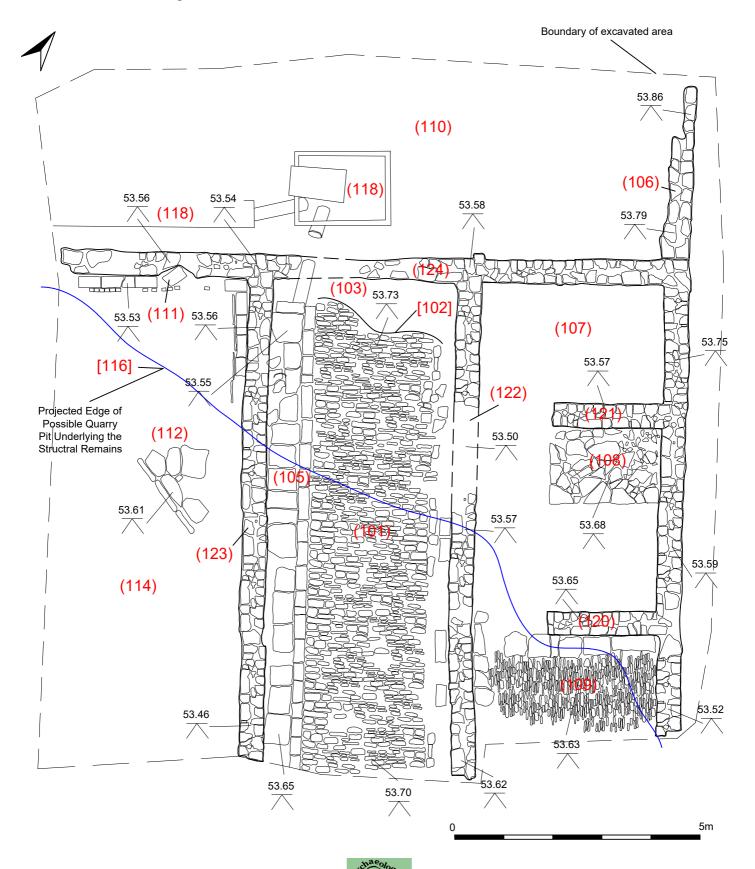




Figure 5

Extract from 1842 Tithe Map (BRO EP/A/32/191842)



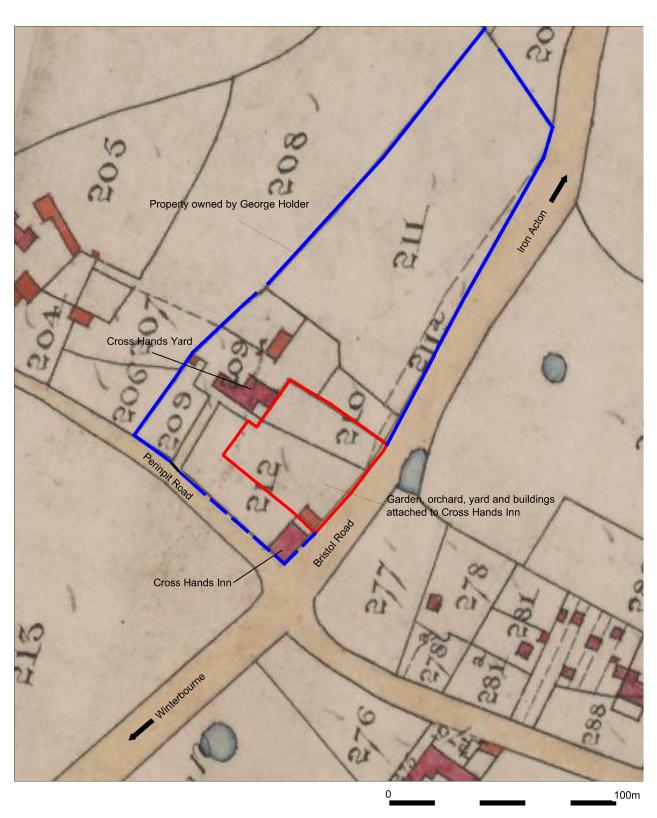




Plate 1 Possible blocked doorway in boundary wall, view north east. See Figure 3 for location.



Plate 2 Feature set into boundary wall, view north east. See Figure 3 for location.



Plate 3 Foundation trench for house 4, view north east.



Plate 4 Working view of Walls104, 120 and surface 109, with cobble driveway to the rear of the shot. Looking south west.



Plate 5 Walls, 104 forming corner with return/rear wall 124, with extension wall 106 on the right. View west.



Plate 6 'Room formed by Walls, 121, 104 and 124, also shows deposit 107. View north.



Plate 7 View south east showing cobble surface 101, path 105, wall 123 and drain feature 111.





Plate 8 Wall 122, looking east.



Plate 9 Rear wall 124, with abutting drain feature, 111, this section is edged with red bricks set on end. View north east.



Plate 10 Corner of drain feature 111, this section is edged with upright slabs, view south east.



Plate 11 Built feature 108, possible base for a no oven, built up against walls 121 and 104, looking north.



Plate 12 Surface feature 112, looking east.



Plate 13 Brick built structure associated with tank and drainage system 118, seen in section of a foundation trench, looking south west.



Plate 14 Stone built tank on the western side of the house 1 site, view east.





Plate 15 House 1 footings trench, view shows cut 116, looking south.



Plate 16 House 1 footings trench, view shows cut 116, also section through wall 120, looking north.



Plate 17 House 1 footings trench, cut 116 is visible in the south west facing section



Plate 18 House 1 footings trench, bedrock is visibly high here. View south west.



Plate 19 Foundation for house 1 garage, showing only sterile natural deposits, looking west.



Plate 20 Foundation trench for house 2 view west.





Plate 21 Foundation trench for house 3, view north east.



Plate 22 Foundation trench for house 3, unstable deposits collapsing into t he open trenches as they were dug.



Plate 23 Foundation trench for house 3 view north east.



Plate 24 Foundation trench for house 3 garage view west.



Plate 25 Foundation trench for House 2, just clips the edge of the building recorded in House Plot 1 excavation. View south west.



Plate 26 Foundation trench for House 2 where bedrock rises naturally. View west.

