

Backford Hall, Backford, Cheshire: An Archaeological Evaluation



Boundary wall and cobbled surface in *Trench 6*

ARS Ltd Report No. 2013/80
September 2013

OASIS no. archaeol5-160852

Compiled By:

Scott Williams
Archaeological Research Services Ltd
23 Hawthorn Way, Stoke Gifford,
Bristol, South Gloucestershire
BS34 8UP

Checked By:

Chris Scott MifA
Tel: 0117 9792018
Fax: 01629 814657
admin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com



Backford Hall, Backford, Cheshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

ARS Ltd Report 2013/80

September 2013

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Contents

	List of Figures.....	1
	List of Tables.....	3
	Executive Summary.....	4
1.	Introduction.....	5
2.	Location, Land-use and Geology.....	6
3.	Historical and Archaeological Background.....	6
4.	Aims and Objectives.....	7
5.	Methodology.....	7
6.	Evaluation Results.....	7
7.	The Pottery Assemblage.....	42
8.	Ceramic Building Material.....	50
9.	Clay Tobacco Pipe.....	51
10.	Metal Finds.....	52
11.	Glass.....	53
12.	Discussion.....	54
13.	Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright.....	56
14.	Statement of Indemnity.....	56
15.	Acknowledgments.....	57
16.	References.....	58
	Appendix I: Plans and sections	
	Appendix II: Specifications	

List of Figures

Figure 1. Site location.....	5
Figure 2. Stone alignment (3025) along the edge of ditch cut [3027].	8
Figure 3. Wall foundation (3017)	9
Figure 4. Probable pathway of brick construction.....	10
Figure 5. Trench 3, north-eastern end, facing south-west.....	10
Figure 6. Trench 3, north-eastern end, east facing section.....	11
Figure 7. Trench 3, south-western end, facing south-west.....	11
Figure 8. Trench 3, south-western end, east facing section.....	12
Figure 9. Possible wall foundation (4004).....	13
Figure 10. Probable cobbled pathway (4006), leading to the circular stone feature (4008)...	14
Figure 11. Trench 4 plan, facing north-west.....	14
Figure 12. Trench 4, north-eastern facing section	15
Figure 13. Drainage feature (5009).....	16
Figure 14. Drainage feature (5005).....	17
Figure 15. Trench 5 plan, facing south.....	18
Figure 16. Trench 5, west facing section.....	18
Figure 17. Wall (6008), and cobbled surface (6010)	19
Figure 18. Wall (6008) elevation.....	20
Figure 19. Cobbled surface (6010)	20
Figure 20. Alignment of sandstone blocks (6014)	21
Figure 21. Cobbled base deposit (6019) underlying (6014).....	22
Figure 22. Very compact metalled surface (6015).....	22
Figure 23. Discontinuous rubble spread (6021)	23
Figure 24. Trench 6 plan, facing west.....	24
Figure 25. Trench 6, north facing section.....	25
Figure 26. Trench 7 plan.....	26
Figure 27. Trench 7, south-west facing section.....	27
Figure 28. Cobble spread (8006)	28
Figure 29. Probable drain/culvert (8009).....	29
Figure 30. Deposit of cobbles and brick debris (8010).....	29
Figure 31. Trench 8 plan, facing south-west.....	30
Figure 32. Trench 8, south-east facing section.....	30
Figure 33. Metalled surface (9009), part of a trackway.....	31
Figure 34. Metalled surface (9011), part of a trackway.....	32
Figure 35. Feature (9007), post-excavation, detailing construction.....	33
Figure 36. Trench 9, north-western end, facing south-east.....	34
Figure 37. Trench 9, south-eastern end, facing south-east.....	35
Figure 38. Trench 9, south-western facing section.....	36
Figure 39. Remnant of drain (10008).....	37
Figure 40. Wall foundation (10007)	38
Figure 41. Wall foundation (10007) detail.....	39
Figure 42. Wall foundation (10007) elevation	39
Figure 43. Trench 10, plan. Facing south-west	40
Figure 44. Trench 10, north-west facing section	41
Figure 45. Trench 10, extension. Facing west	41
Figure 46. Trench location plan.....	60
Figure 47. Trench location plan over Tithe map, Backford 1842	61
Figure 48. Trench plans and sections (trenches 3, 4, and 5)	62

Figure 49. Trench plans and sections (trenches 6, 8, and 9)63
Figure 50. Trench plans and sections (trench 10)64
Figure 51. Feature plans and sections.....64

List of Tables

Table 1. Backford Hall pottery	45
Table 2. Summary of the Ceramic Building Material	50
Table 3. Spot dates	50
Table 4. Clay tobacco pipe	51
Table 5. Metal finds	52
Table 6. Glass	53

Executive Summary

In July 2013 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by RSK to undertake an archaeological evaluation, at pre-determination stage, at Backford Hall, Backford, Cheshire, in advance of the submission of a planning application for a housing development.

The proposed development site is situated adjacent to Gordon Lane in the village of Backford. The development area consists of relatively level ground including hard standing (access road, car parking and paths) and areas of grass. The site is not in use at present but was, until recently, used as part of Cheshire Council's main offices and thus, besides the Hall, has many associated modern buildings that have been constructed in the grounds. A number of buildings, e.g. barns and a cottage, associated with the Hall and situated within the site, were demolished in 1857.

Evidence of designed gardens and associated features were uncovered during the evaluation, along with a boundary wall and cobbled driveway of the estate bordering Church Lane/Gordon Lane, which probably relates to the current phase of the hall. The foundation wall of a possible post-medieval structure was discovered in the rear garden, close to the current hall, along with a brick built pathway of uncertain date.

1. Introduction

1.1 In July 2013 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by RSK to undertake an archaeological evaluation, at pre-determination stage, at Backford Hall, Backford, Cheshire, in advance of the submission of a planning application for housing development.

1.2 This report details the results of the evaluation.

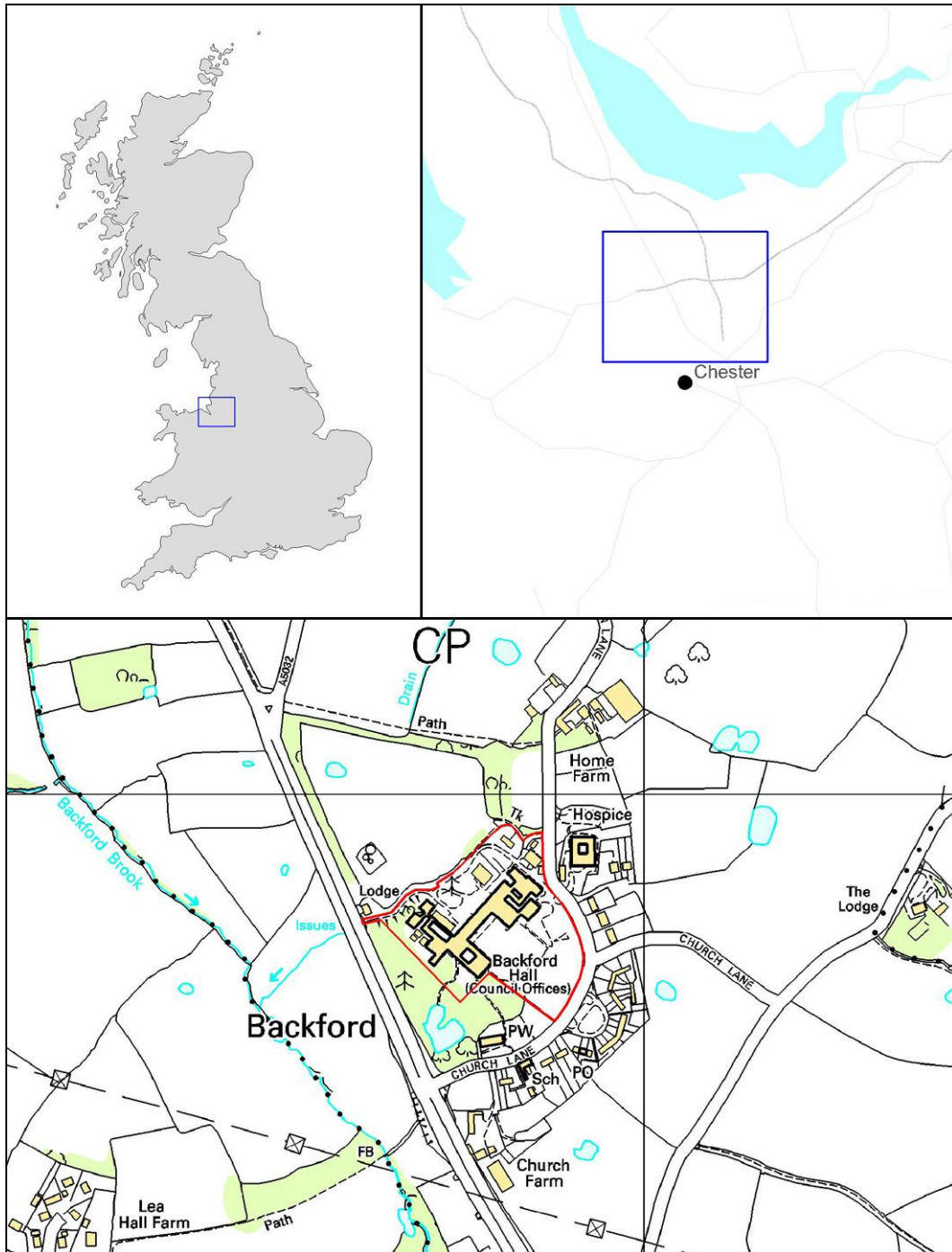


Figure 1. Site location
(Ordnance Survey data copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence no. 100045420)

2. Location, Land-use and Geology

2.1 The proposed development site is situated adjacent to Gordon Lane in the village of Backford. The site measures c.3ha, and is centred on NGR SJ 339833, 371825. The site elevation is c.36m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The development area consists of relatively level ground including hard standing (access road, car parking and paths) and areas of grass. The site is not in use at present but was, until recently, used as part of Cheshire Council's main offices and thus, besides the Hall, has many associated modern buildings that have been constructed in the grounds. A number of buildings, e.g. barns and a cottage, associated with the Hall situated within the site were demolished in 1857.

2.2 The solid geology of the area comprises Chester Pebble Beds formation – Pebbly (gravelly) Sandstone, with overlying superficial deposits of Devensian till (BGS 2013).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1 An in-depth historical and archaeological background has already been detailed in '*Backford Hall, Backford. Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment*' (RSK 2013). A brief synopsis follows here.

3.2 Evidence for human presence in the region dates as far back as the Palaeolithic. Numerous significant Mesolithic occupation sites are known from areas within the Wirral. This occupation continued throughout the Neolithic, into the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods.

3.3 During the Roman occupation, the legionary fortress of Deva (Chester) was constructed around 74 – 75AD, and the greater majority of known heritage assets dating to this period are found within and around Chester, situated to the south of Backford.

3.4 During the 10th century Chester was established as a burh, or fortified settlement, and numerous other burhs were founded within or close to Cheshire.

3.5 The Church of St Oswald, dating to the 13th century indicates a medieval presence in the direct vicinity of the site, and moated manor houses found within the local landscape attest to the prosperity of the area during the 13th and 14th centuries. Chester grew and prospered throughout the medieval period becoming the largest and most important urban centre in the area. During the 16th century Backford was a medieval manor and the 'Old Hall' may have been built around 1565 (RSK 2013, 14).

3.6 With the 18th and 19th centuries came change in the form of increased mechanisation of industry, along with the development of transport networks. During the 18th century, a modified or rebuilt Backford Hall and its outbuildings were set amongst a designed landscape of gardens and plantations. During the 19th century a new hall was constructed, along with remodelled gardens and pleasure grounds (RSK 2013, 14).

4. Aims and Objectives

4.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to identify and assess archaeological features within the proposed development area in order to establish the extent, condition, character and date of any of these features; to assess the potential significance of buried archaeology on the site and the likely impact of proposed development upon such buried archaeological remains; to determine the preservation of the buildings associated with the Hall that have subsequently been demolished and remnants of the 18th-19th centuries designed landscapes; and to record any features or deposits at an appropriate level as described in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix II).

5. Methodology

5.1 The evaluation was carried out by ARS Ltd in accordance with the *Code of Conduct of The Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2012)* and *Standard and Guidance for field evaluation (IfA 2009a)*, along with Cheshire County Council's *General Conditions for Archaeological Contractors and Consultants (Cheshire CC 2003)*.

5.2 In consultation with Julie Edwards, Planning Officer (Archaeology) of Cheshire West and Chester Council, the archaeological evaluation was to comprise ten trenches with the following dimensions: *Trench 1* at 15m x 1.6m, *Trench 2* at 50m x 1.6m, and the remaining trenches were 30m x 1.6m in size. However, *Trenches 1* and *2* were discounted due to their proximity to underground services and overhanging tree canopies.

5.3 The trenches were opened by machine using a toothless ditching bucket in level spits down to the first significant archaeology or natural level, whichever was encountered first, at which point the trenches were examined and cleaned by hand. All machine excavation was carried out under careful archaeological supervision.

5.4 The deposits were recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation. Each context was recorded on pro-forma records which included the following: character and contextual relationships; detailed description (dimensions and shape; soil components, colour, texture and consistency); interpretation and phasing as well as cross-references to the drawn, photographic and finds registers.

5.5 Each trench was planned at 1:40, except where blank. Trench sides were also drawn in section at a scale of 1:40 where required. All deposits and the base of each trench were levelled and heights are expressed in metres above Ordnance Datum.

5.6 A photographic record was maintained including photographs of each trench. All images were taken in digital format, and contain a graduated photographic scale.

6. Evaluation Results

6.1 Trenches 1 and 2 were discounted due to the proximity of numerous underground services and overhanging vegetation, in the form of large tree canopies, which rendered their excavation impossible.

6.2 Trench 3

6.2.1 Trench 3 (see Figure 48) was excavated at the rear lawn of the hall. An exclusion of approximately 7m was left unexcavated north-west of the centre of the trench as a result of the proximity of subsurface services. The trench was excavated through dark-brown silty topsoil (3001), which had a maximum depth of 0.20m (Figures 6 and 8), beneath which a mid-grey-brown sandy silty subsoil (3002) was located, to a depth of c.0.30m. Below the subsoil horizon a level spread of mortar and brick rubble (3003) was encountered throughout the entire trench, which had a maximum depth of 0.48m. This was interpreted as a probable demolition spread, perhaps relating to the removal of an earlier phase of the hall's construction. Immediately below this spread, towards the south-western end of the trench, a steep sided ditch was observed (3019), which was filled with sand and mortar, and was interpreted as a drainage feature, which predated the demolition spread. This ditch was cut through a possible ground make up layer (3004) and the natural substrate (3005).

6.2.3 A probable ditch cut [3027] was observed towards the south-west of the centre of the trench which was bounded by a rough alignment of stones and large pebbles (3025) placed along the edge of the cut (Figure 2). The stones were not bonded and only a single course was extant. The ditch was cut into the natural substratum and showed signs of waterlogging with a sticky clay infill (3026) at the base of the feature. The feature seems to have been filled and levelled by deposit (3018) on top of which large foundation stones (3017) have been laid (Figure 3). These stones measured no greater than 0.86 x 0.46 x 0.10m and had a skimming of mortar on their upper surface. A single course remained, one skin thick, laid end to end. An abraded sherd of late medieval to early post-medieval sandy ware was recovered from context (3018), in addition to other 16th – 18th century sherds.

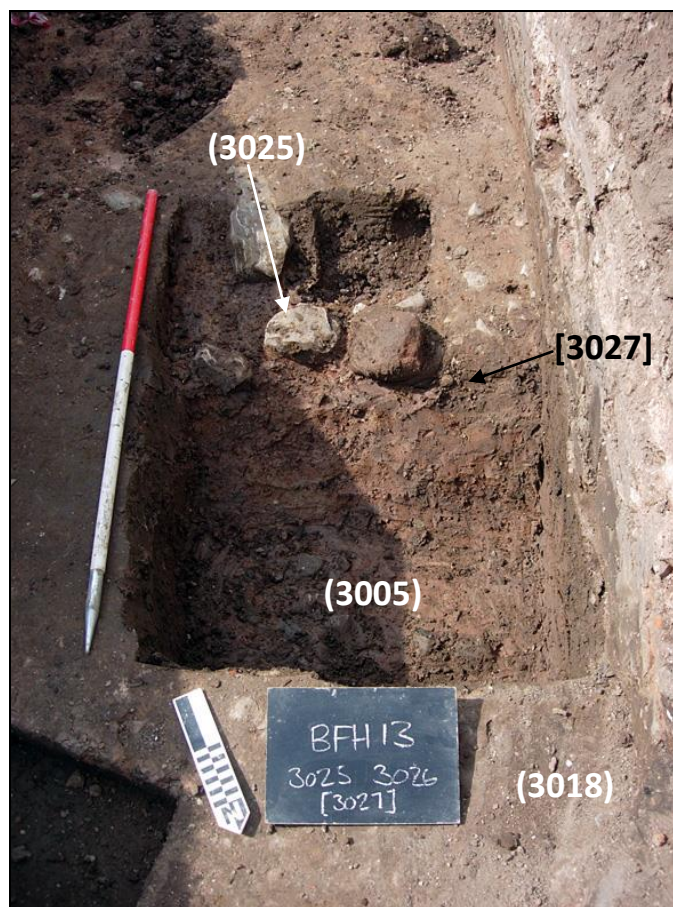


Figure 2. Stone alignment (3025) along the edge of ditch cut [3027]. Scale = 1m



Figure 3. Wall foundation (3017). Scale = 1m

6.2.4 A possible surface deposit (3016/3014) relating to the wall (3017) was observed to the north-eastern side of the foundation blocks, which comprised a redeposited natural clay with coal dust inclusions. This deposit terminated at another rough alignment of stones (3013) similar in form to (3025) which may have related to the opposite side of the ditch cut [3027]. A mixed deposit (3012) comprising fragments of slate, mortar, brick, and pebbles was delimited to the south-west by the stone alignment (3013) and overlaid a pebbly layer (3023). The mixed deposit (3012) may have related to ground levelling, along with a deposit of levelled sand (3011) which overlaid it.

6.2.5 A regular alignment of bricks (3006) was observed at the north-eastern end of the trench (Figure 4). The feature appeared to be a pathway orientated in a roughly east to west direction. The path comprised a single course of square faced bricks, laid side to side lengthways along three rows. The bricks were hand made, and possibly slop moulded, dating to the late 16th to 17th century, and measured approximately 0.11 x 0.23 x 0.06m. The pathway was bedded into a clayey deposit (3010) which appeared to overlay the natural substratum at this location.



Figure 4. Probable pathway of brick construction. Scale = 1m



Figure 5. Trench 3, north-eastern end, facing south-west. Scale = 2m

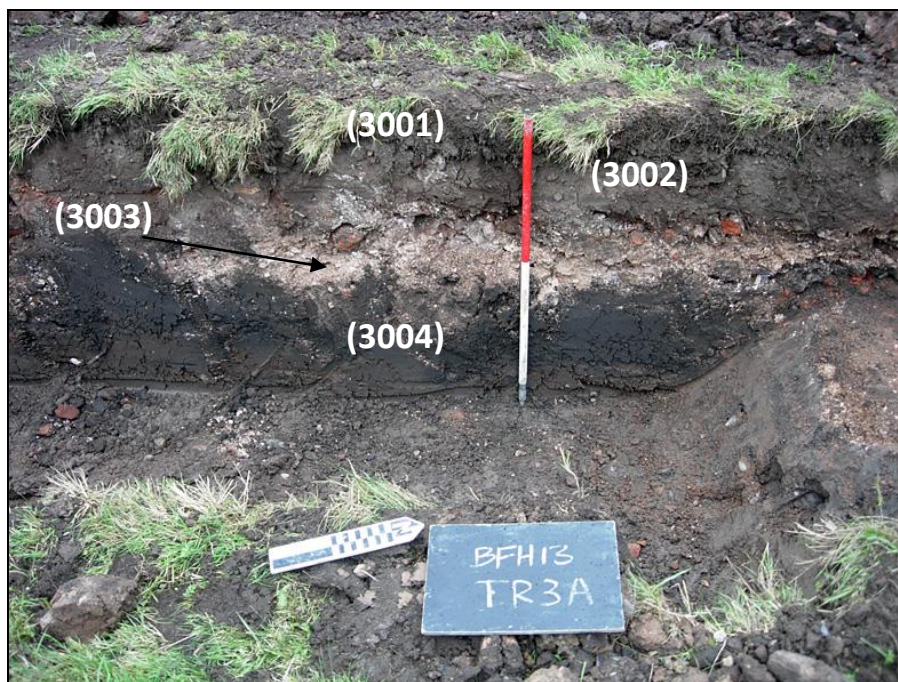


Figure 6. Trench 3, north-eastern end, east facing section. Scale = 1m



Figure 7. Trench 3, south-western end, facing south-west. Scale = 2m x 2m

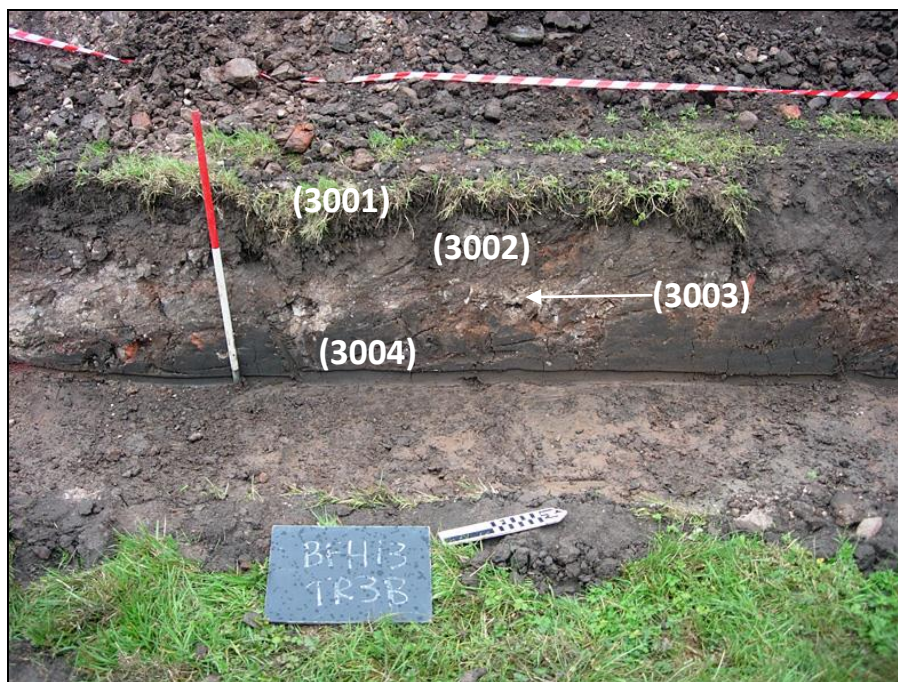


Figure 8. Trench 3, south-western end, east facing section. Scale = 1m

6.3 *Trench 4*

6.3.1 Trench 4 (see Figure 48) was excavated in an area to the south-west of the hall. By necessity, due to the close proximity of overhanging tree canopies and underground services, in addition to ecological concerns, the excavated length of the trench was limited to 15.5m.

6.3.2 The trench was excavated through mid-grey-brown sandy silty topsoil (4001), which had a maximum depth of 0.20m (Figure 12), beneath which a silty subsoil, no more than 0.40m in depth, was located. Towards the south-eastern end of the trench, six red sandstone blocks (4004) were observed (Figure 9), with maximum dimensions of 0.50m x 0.25m. Four of the blocks appeared to be in-situ, with the other two having tumbled from their original position, and may have represented a wall footing, which was set atop a small area of made ground (4005) which extended beyond the limit of excavation. The made ground contained fragments of mortar, brick and probable roof tile. A probable circular arrangement of sandstone blocks (4008), which continued beyond the limits of excavation to the south-west, was observed approximately 2m along the trench from feature (4004) (Figure 10). These blocks were set atop an area of silty clay (4010), creating a defined boundary, which was abutted by a cobbled surface (4006), which was oriented in a north-east to south-west direction. These features were interpreted as being part of an ornamental garden, with a defined bedding area, probably for plants, and a cobbled pathway leading to this area. The remainder of the trench to the north-west was archaeologically sterile down to the natural substrate (4012).

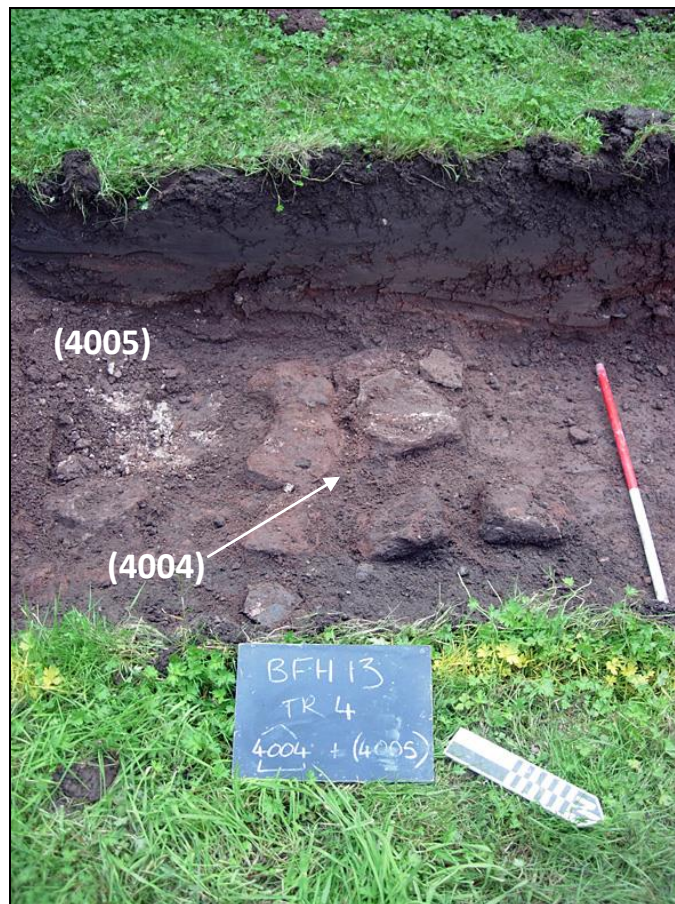


Figure 9. Possible wall foundation (4004). Scale = 1m

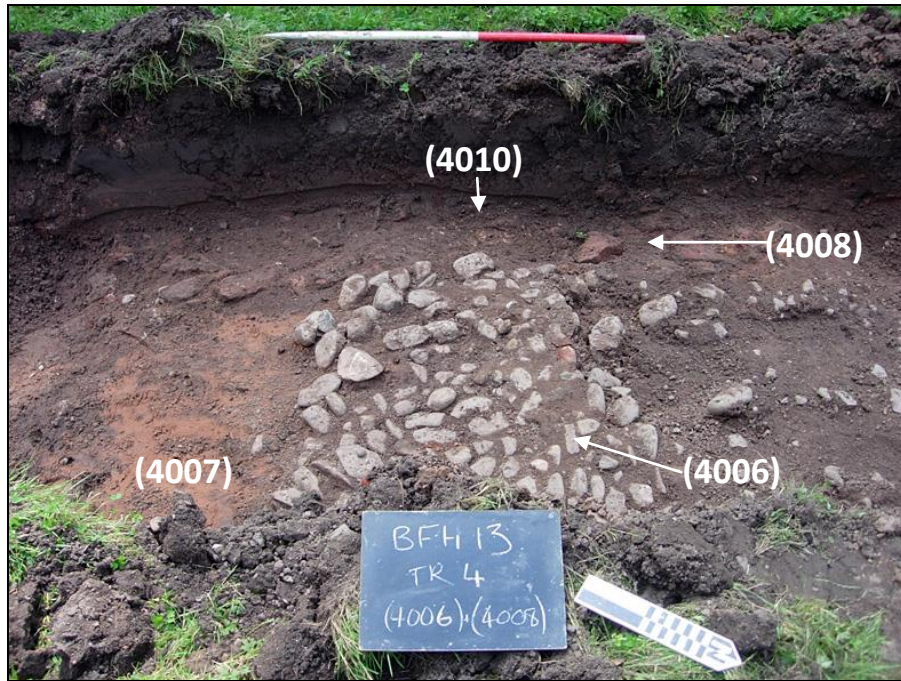


Figure 10. Probable cobbled pathway (4006), leading to the circular stone feature (4008).
Scale = 1m



Figure 11. Trench 4 plan, facing north-west.. Scale = 1m

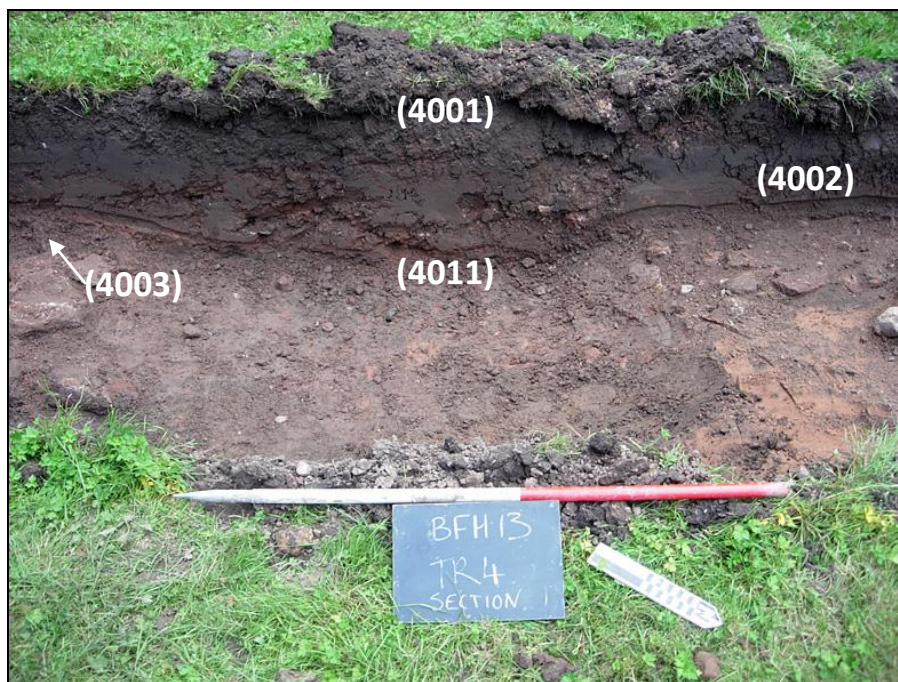


Figure 12. Trench 4, north-eastern facing section. Scale = 1m

6.4 *Trench 5*

6.4.1 This trench (see Figure 48) was excavated through the rear garden of the hall, and its length was limited to 20.50m due to the proximity of subsurface services, which ran across the trench location. The trench was excavated down through dark brown silty topsoil (5001), not greater than 0.17m in depth (Figure 16), below which was situated a silty subsoil of approximately 0.20m in depth. A deposit of red-brown clayey silt containing pebbles, brick, and mortar rubble was observed directly below the subsoil horizon, and was interpreted as a ground make-up event to create level ground for the modern gardens, where the natural substratum (5004) presented an uneven surface. In addition, two earlier ground make-up deposits, (5007) and (5008), were observed, also overlying the natural where it tended to present an uneven surface. Two drainage features were recorded within the trench. Feature (5009) was a simple rubble filled drain comprising fragments of brick and mortar and was located towards the south-western end of the trench (Figure 13). Feature (5005) was a drain of a slightly more robust construction, being composed of whole and broken pieces of brick, probably dated to the late 16th – 17th century, along with inserted pieces of slate (Figure 14). This feature was located towards the north-eastern end of the trench.

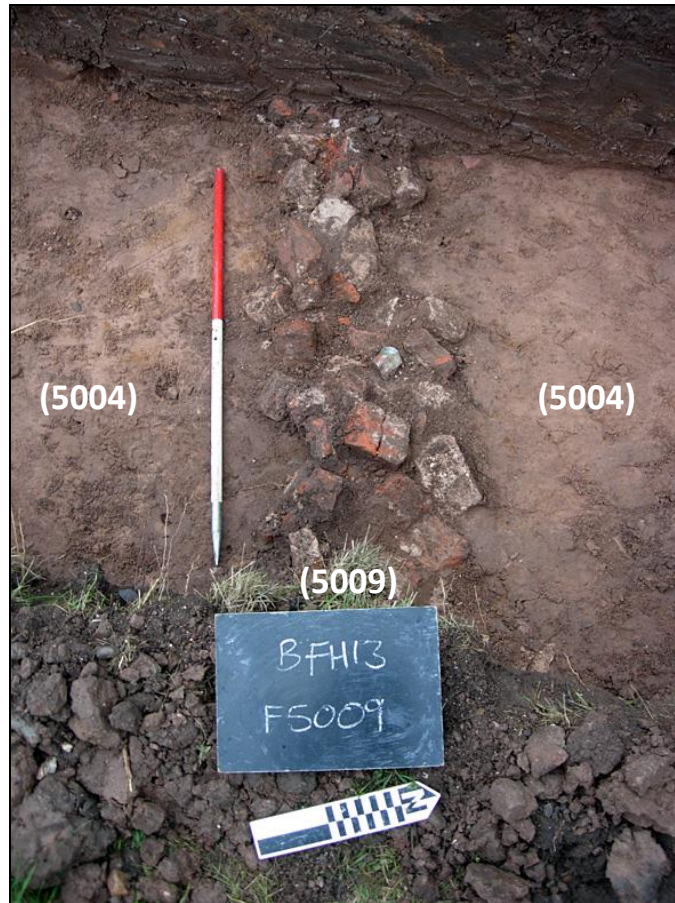


Figure 13. Drainage feature (5009). Scale = 1m

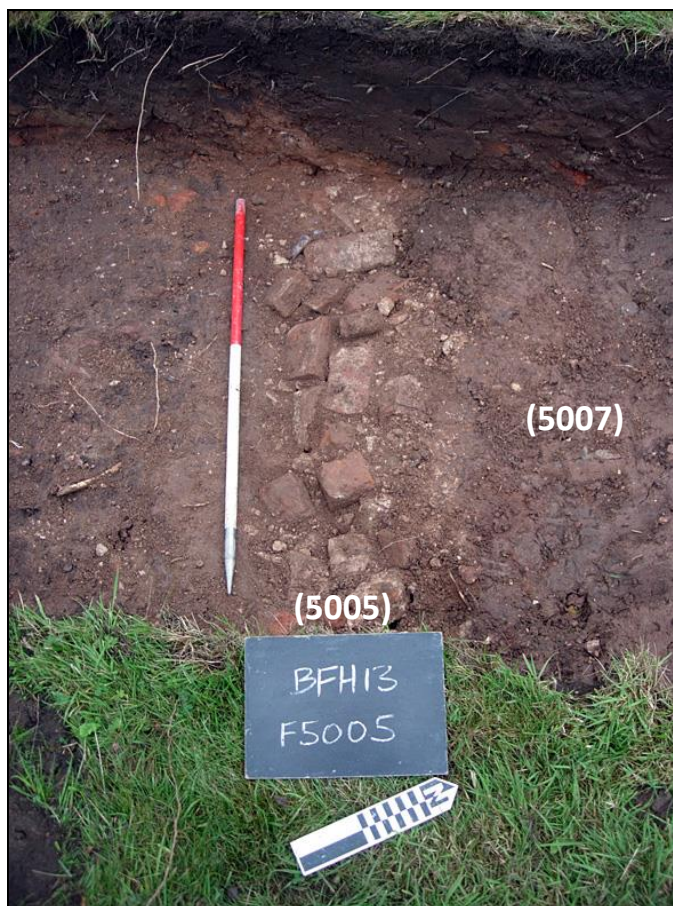


Figure 14. Drainage feature (5005). Scale = 1m



Figure 15. Trench 5 plan, facing south. Scale = 2m

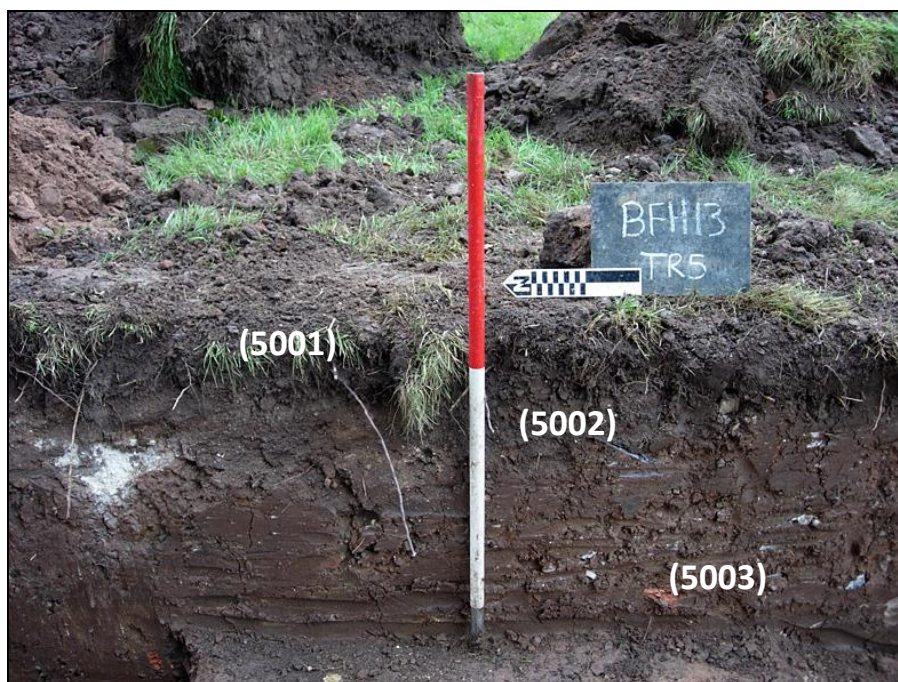


Figure 16. Trench 5, west facing section. Scale = 1m

6.5 *Trench 6*

6.5.1 Trench 6 (see Figure 49) was excavated towards the north-eastern extent of the car park through approximately 0.55m of modern surface deposits (Figure 25). An exclusion of approximately 4.6m was left unexcavated towards the western end of the trench as a result of the proximity of subsurface services. Three distinct areas with archaeological deposits were observed within the trench.

6.5.2 Towards the eastern end of the trench a boundary wall (6008) was observed (Figure 17). The wall survived to four regular courses of square finished brick, which had a bonding pattern similar to English Garden Wall bond (Figure 18). Each brick measured approximately 0.23 x 0.12 x 0.06m in size, when unbroken. Probable demolition rubble ((6007) and (6012)) was observed to either side of the wall. The demolition deposit (6012) partially overlaid a cobbled surface (6010), which was part of a larger cobbled path/roadway (6011), measuring approximately 4m across, which ran alongside the wall. A line of kerb stones were recorded at either edge of the cobbled surface. To the west of the cobbled road was an area of clayey silt which was heavily disturbed by plant roots. This was interpreted as possible garden space bordering the road that may have contained trees.

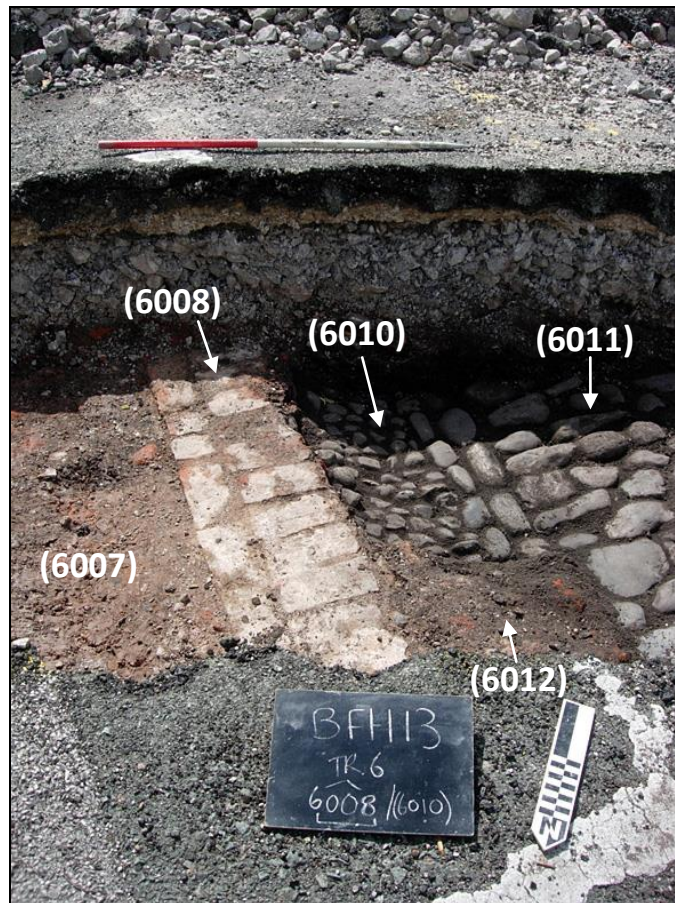


Figure 17. Wall (6008), and cobbled surface (6010). Scale = 1m



Figure 18. Wall (6008) elevation. Scale = 0.25m

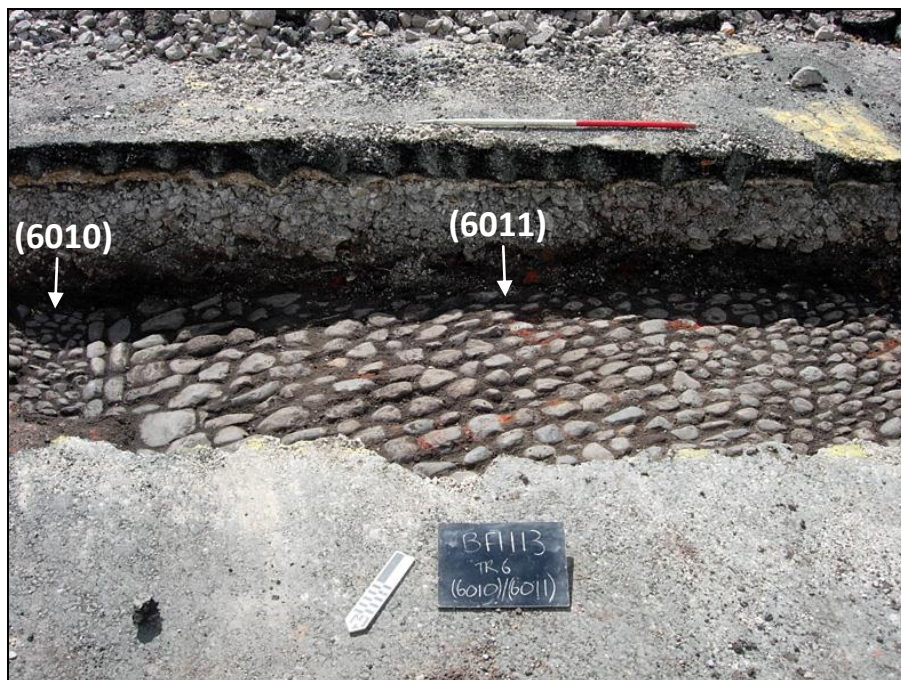


Figure 19. Cobbled surface (6010). Scale = 1m

6.5.3 An alignment of roughly hewn red sandstone blocks (6014) were observed towards the centre of the trench (Figure 20). A single course was extant, with the largest block measuring 0.80 x 0.23 x 0.20m in size. This single course was supported by a pressed cobble base deposit (6019) which was overlain by a probable ground levelling deposit (6018) which abutted (6014) to the west of the feature (Figure 21). To the east of the sandstone blocks was a cut in the natural substrate (6006), which contained a very compacted metallised surface (6015) composed of crushed stone, probably granite, which measured approximately

0.55m in width and was observed to a depth of 0.30m (Figure 22). This feature may have represented a wall foundation, or a metallated pathway running alongside the sandstone blocks, which may have been a kerb.

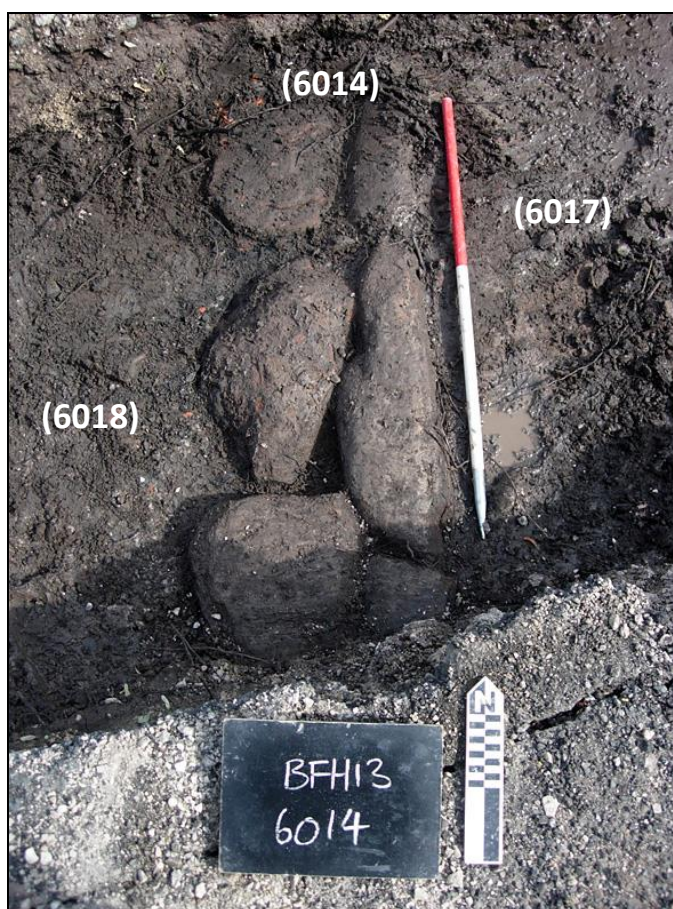


Figure 20. Alignment of sandstone blocks (6014). Scale = 1m

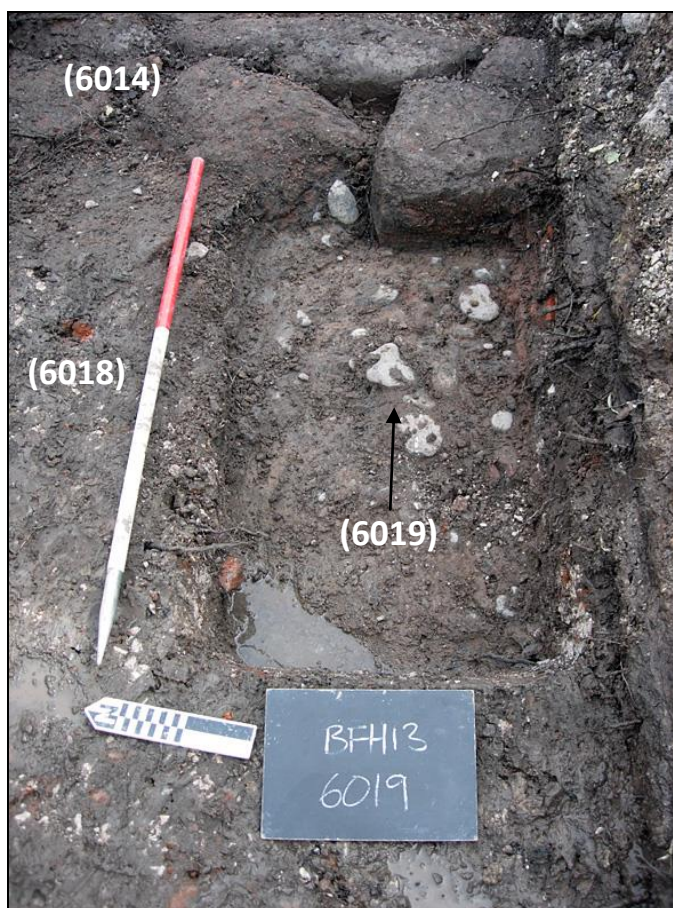


Figure 21. Cobbled base deposit (6019) underlying (6014). Scale = 1m

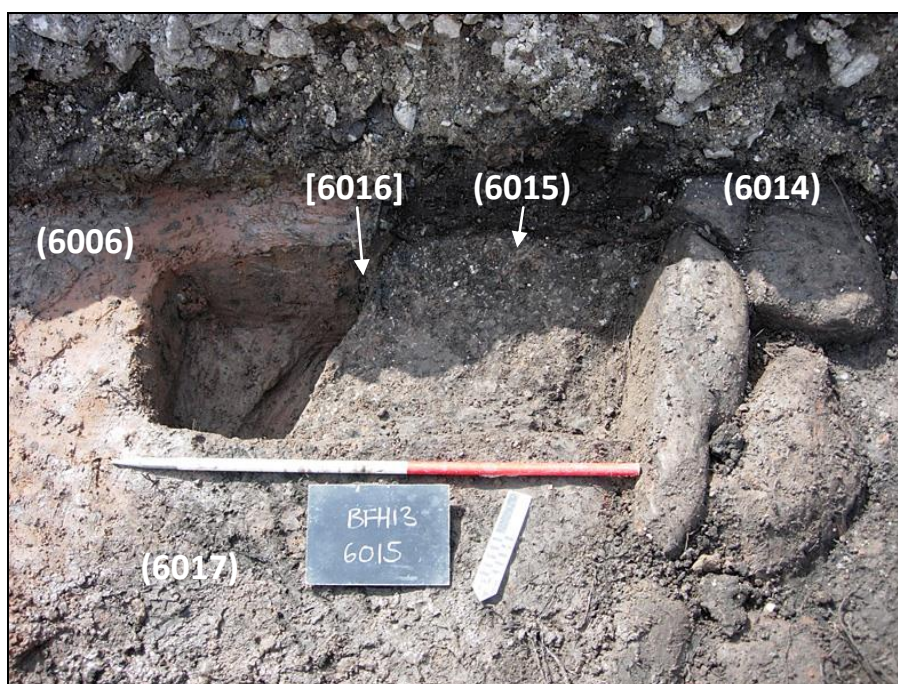


Figure 22. Very compact metallised surface (6015). Scale = 1m

6.5.4 A discontinuous rubble spread (6021) was encountered towards the western end of the trench (Figure 23). The spread comprised very compacted brick and red sandstone rubble, which was less compact towards its eastern extent. The deposit, which had a maximum depth of 0.20m, continued beyond the limits of excavation at this end of the trench. This deposit was interpreted as a possible area of hard standing or a footing for a structure.



Figure 23. Discontinuous rubble spread (6021). Scale = 1m



Figure 24. Trench 6 plan, facing west. Scale = 2m x 2m

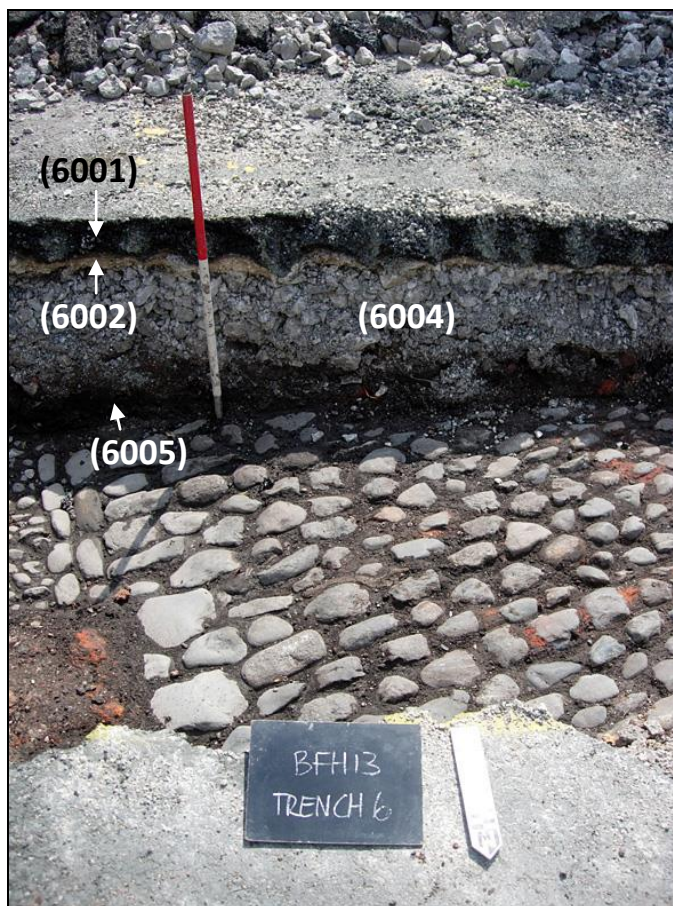


Figure 25. Trench 6, north facing section. Scale = 1m

6.6 *Trench 7*

6.6.1 Trench 7 (Figures 26 and 27) was excavated along the eastern boundary of the car park area, and was only partially excavated due to the proximity of a bank of made up ground in which large well established trees were situated. The excavated area (within the boundary of the car park) was archaeologically sterile.



Figure 26. Trench 7 plan. Scale = 2m x 1m

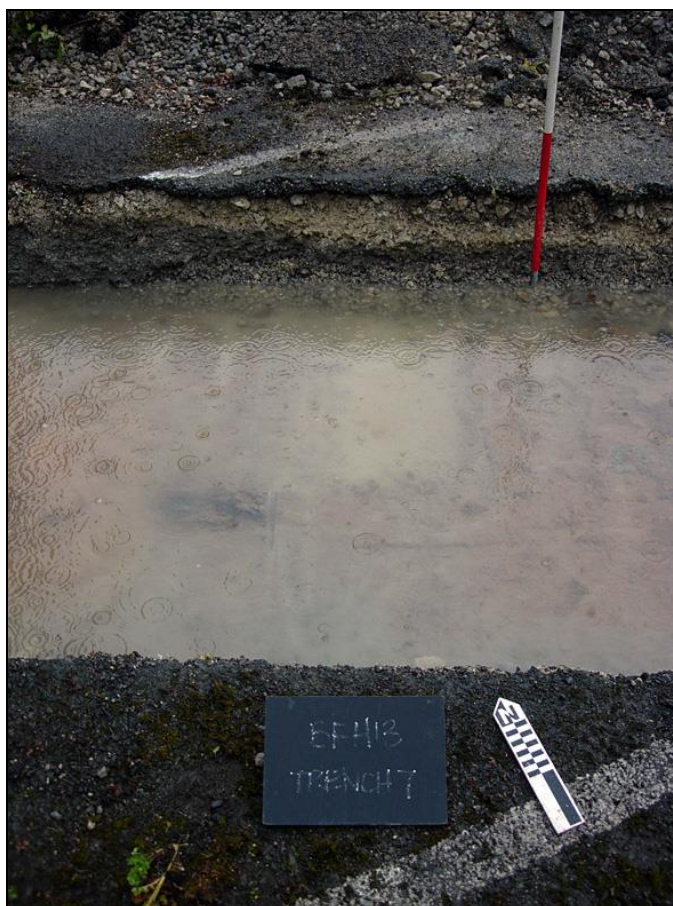


Figure 27. Trench 7, south-west facing section. Scale = 1m

6.7 *Trench 8*

6.7.1 Trench 8 (see Figure 49), whose length was limited to approximately 20m due to the proximity of subsurface services, was excavated towards the south-central area of the car park through approximately 0.37m of modern surface deposits (Figure 32). A spread of cobbles (8006) measuring approximately 1.8m across was observed towards the centre of the excavated area (Figure 28). This spread was bedded into a sandy deposit (8007) which overlaid the natural substratum (8005). Adjacent to this feature was a culvert or drain (8009) which was within a clayey sandy deposit (8008) in which no cut was observable (Figure 29). The feature was of simple construction, and comprised red sandstone blocks measuring approximately 0.40 x 0.20 x 0.10m in size, which were arranged in two parallel lines that appeared to have a return at their northern extent.



Figure 28. Cobble spread (8006). Scale = 1m



Figure 29. Probable drain/culvert (8009). Scale = 0.25m

6.7.2 A deposit of cobbles and brick debris (8010) was observed at the eastern end of the trench (Figure 30) but was not investigated beyond visual examination due to some form of probable hydrocarbon contamination.



Figure 30. Deposit of cobbles and brick debris (8010). Scale = 1m



Figure 31. Trench 8 plan, facing south-west. Scale = 2m x 2m

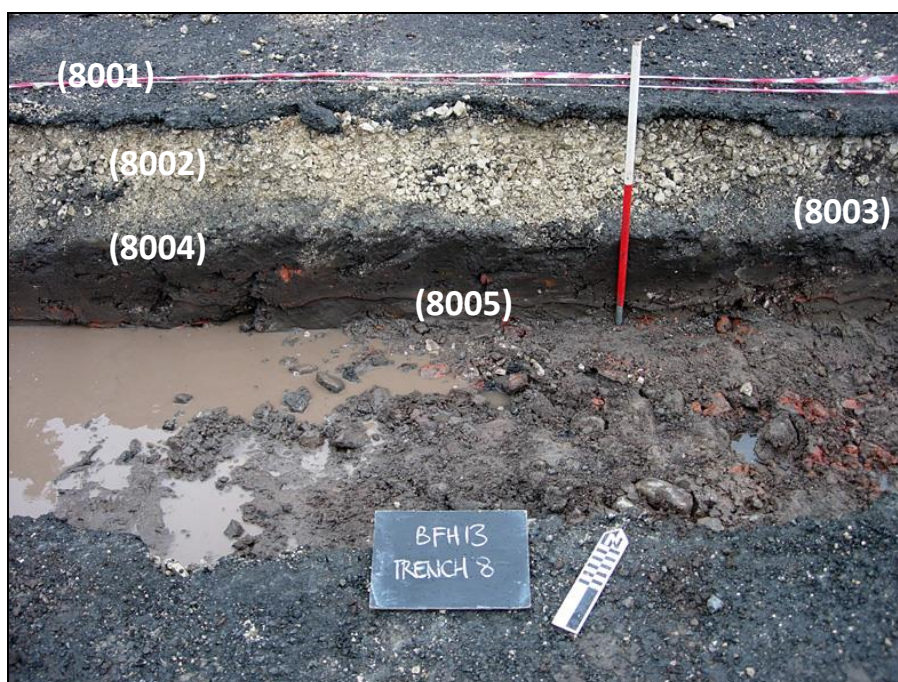


Figure 32. Trench 8, south-east facing section. Scale = 1m

6.8 Trench 9

6.8.1 Trench 9 (see Figure 49) was excavated around the central area of the car park, and due to its position in relation to a lighting stanchion, was limited in length to 26m, with the exclusion being located in the central portion of the trench. The trench was excavated through approximately 0.40m of modern surface deposits (Figure 38). A homogeneous clayey deposit (9005) was observed beneath the modern surface deposits, which was interpreted as a probable ground make-up layer. The interpretation of this deposit was informed by the depth of the natural substratum (9006) at the south-eastern extent of the trench, which was recorded at 1.4m at maximum below the modern surface level. The greater depth to the natural at this location had been posited as being a possible hollow way (*pers. comm.* Mark Leah), which could be observed to the south of the site, beyond Church lane, on a north-west to south-east orientation. However, no evidence was found to support this theory.

6.8.2 Towards the north-western end of the trench, and situated beneath deposit (9005) was a probable trackway, comprising two parallel linear metalled surfaces (Figures 33 and 34). These surfaces (9009 and 9011) comprised various materials, including brick waste, pebbles, and crushed lime mortar, which were packed down into the natural clay substrate. This trackway feature was overlain by a deposit of fine clay (9010) which was probably deposited as part of a ground levelling process.

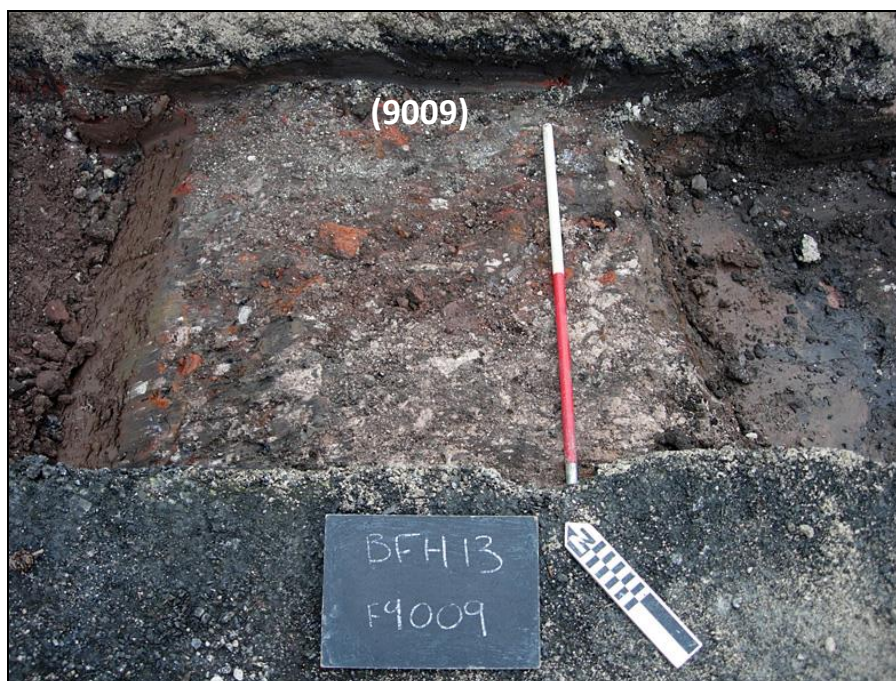


Figure 33. Metalled surface (9009), part of a trackway. Scale = 1m



Figure 34. Metalled surface (9011), part of a trackway. Scale = 1m

6.8.3 A well-constructed drain (9007) was recorded towards the north-western extent of the trench (Figure 35), comprising a slate base, on top of which was located a U-shaped drainage pipe, dated to the 17th – 18th century, which was revetted by two courses of roughly hewn red sandstone blocks. The orientation of this drainage feature was the same as that of the trackway



Figure 35. Feature (9007), post-excitation, detailing construction.
Scale = 0.25m



Figure 36. Trench 9, north-western end, facing south-east.

Scale = 2m x 2m



Figure 37. Trench 9, south-eastern end, facing south-east.

Scale = 2m x 2m

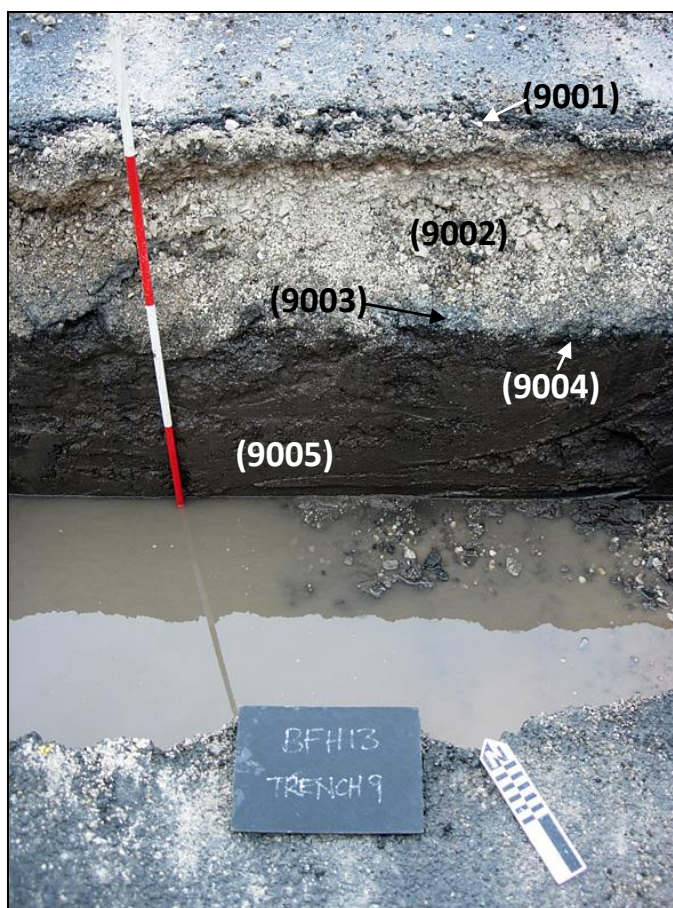


Figure 38. Trench 9, south-western facing section. Scale = 1m

6.9 Trench 10

6.9.1 Trench 10 (see Figure 50) was excavated towards the southern extent of the car park, through approximately 0.83m of modern surface deposits (Figure 44). The trench was mainly devoid of archaeology except for two features.

6.9.2 A partial remnant of a drainage culvert (10008) was observed (Figure 39), which may have been a continuation of the culvert observed in Trench 8 (8009), as their alignments matched.

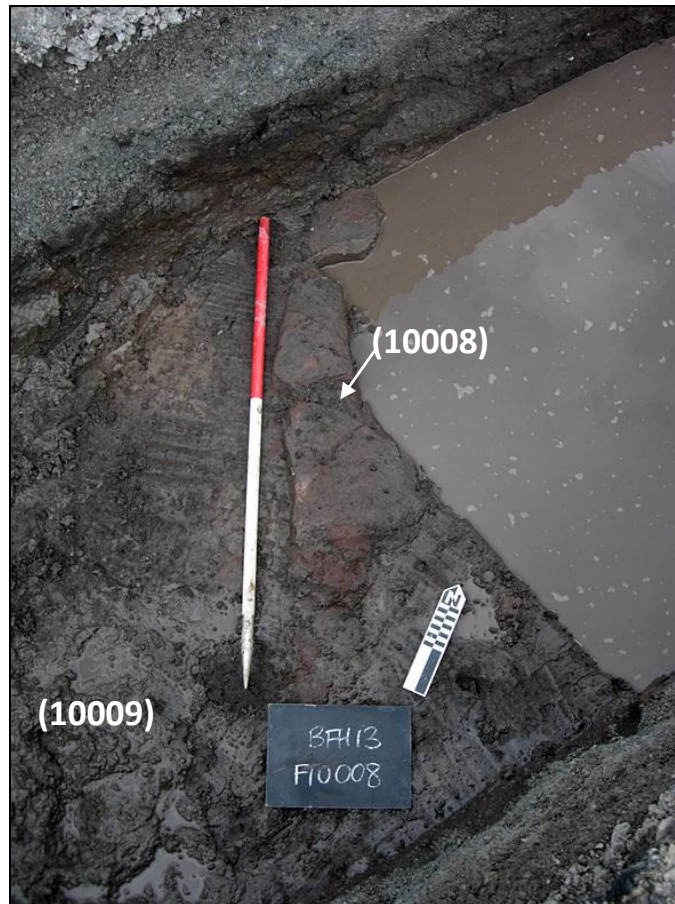


Figure 39. Remnant of drain (10008). Scale = 1m

6.9.3 A substantial wall foundation (10007) was recorded, orientated along an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment (Figures 40 and 41). The trench was extended by approximately 3m at this location, along the line of the wall, in order to better understand the feature (Figure 45). The wall comprised two uneven courses (Figure 42). The lower course was composed of roughly hewn red sandstone blocks, measuring no greater than 0.36 x 0.46 x 0.12m, situated directly on top of the natural substrate (10006). The blocks were poorly bonded but of a solid construction. The secondary/upper course was of a poorer construction, comprising broken pieces of squared brick and roughly hewn sandstone. The wall displayed no discernible bond pattern. A pipe stem dating to the 17th to 18th centuries was recovered from between the two courses and the bricks of the upper course have been dated variously between the 16th and 18th centuries. A dark clayey silt deposit abutted the wall at either side, and was interpreted as a buried soil horizon, probably relating to a garden through which the wall likely ran. The termination of the wall observed

within the trench, in conjunction with a small deposit of rubble debris opposite, was interpreted as a possible gateway, or entrance through the wall feature.

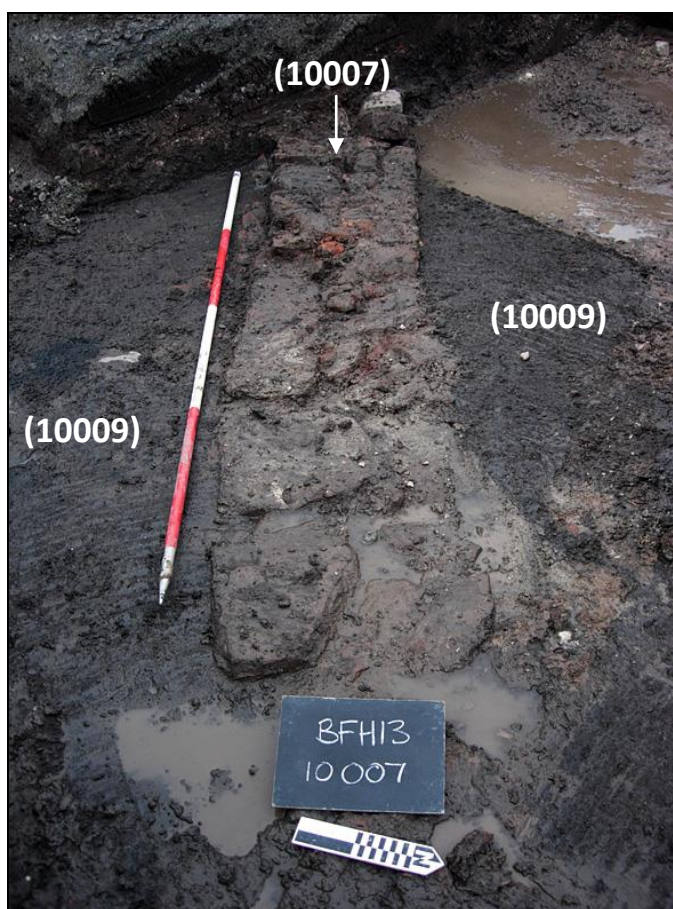


Figure 40. Wall foundation (10007). Scale = 2m



Figure 41. Wall foundation (10007) detail. Scale = 2m



Figure 42. Wall foundation (10007) elevation. Scale = 0.25m

6.9.4 A deposit of reddish-brown clayey silt was observed below the modern surface deposits and overlaying the features discussed above, which was interpreted as a mix of redeposited natural substrate and a silty sediment in order to level the ground surface post demolition of the wall (10007).



Figure 43. Trench 10, plan. Facing south-west. Scale = 2m

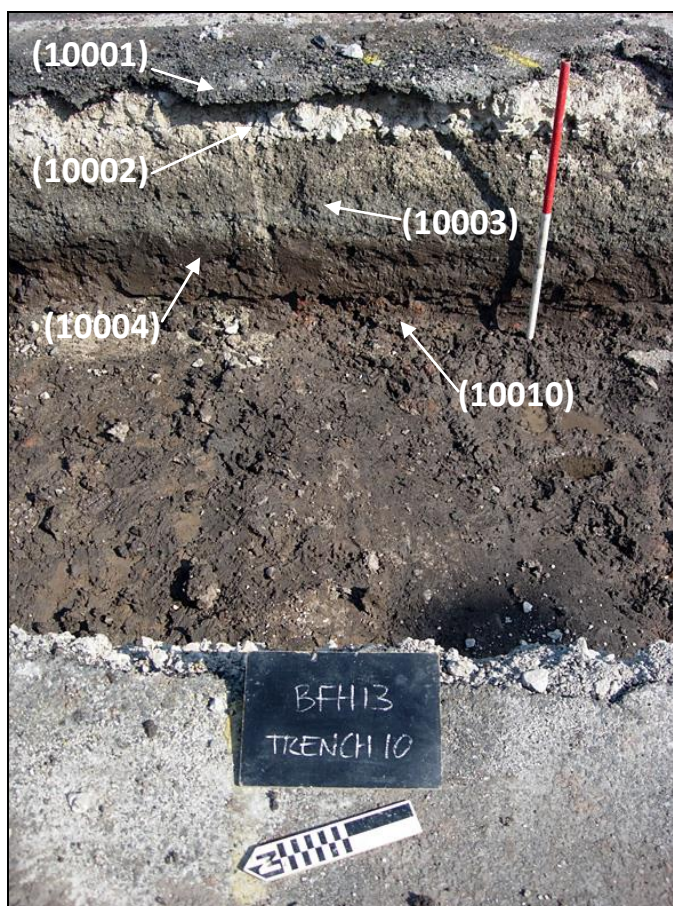


Figure 44. Trench 10, north-west facing section. Scale = 1m



Figure 45. Trench 10, extension. Facing west. Scale = 2m

7. The Pottery Assemblage

C.G. Cumberpatch BA PhD, with contributions from Julie Edwards

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The pottery assemblage from Backford Hall, Chester was examined by the authors on the 4th and 5th September 2013. It consisted of 142 sherds of pottery weighing 3098 grams and represented a maximum of 126 vessels. The data are summarised in Table 1. A small quantity of ceramic building material, stone and glass was included with the pottery and has been listed in Table 2.

7.2 The pottery

7.2.1 The earliest sherd of pottery identified in the assemblage was a small abraded fragment of a late medieval to early post-medieval sandy ware from context 3018. This proved to be a fragment of a Ewloe-type pink/white ware made from Coal Measures clay and comparable to wares found in a dump of kiln waste near Ewloe, Flintshire (Harrison and Davey 1977). The range of forms, stratigraphic evidence from Chester and North Wales and a hoard pot with a *terminus post quem* of c.1361 (Rutter 1977) all suggest that these wares were being produced in the 14th to 15th centuries and there is some tentative evidence to suggest that production may have continued into the 16th century. These wares are common in Chester and the surrounding region.

7.2.2 Post-medieval pottery (c.1450 – c.1720) was represented by two sherds of Cistercian ware from context 4006, a sherd of Blackware from context 5003, a sherd of Yellow ware from context 3013 and a sherd of Midlands Purple-type ware from context 3018. This class of pottery occurs in a range of sub-types (four in Chester alone) and, based on comparison with wares in the Staffordshire Potteries Museum and published vessel forms, it seems likely that there are a variety of sources including Staffordshire, North Wales, Rainford and other as-yet unidentified sources in north-west England (the situation is similar east of the Pennines as well). The fabrics vary in hardness/vitrification and colour: brownish purple, greyish purple, purple, reddish brown are all common and there seems to be some correlation of forms with these variations. The date range spans the 16th century to the mid to late 17th century.

7.2.3 Two small sherds of Slipware type 1 (Redware with trailed white slip decoration; contexts 4006 and 9008) may also be of post-medieval date but could equally belong to the early part of the early modern period (c.1720 – c.1840). The small size of the medieval and post-medieval assemblages suggests that activity on the site up to the 18th century had either not been very intense or that the evidence had been removed by later activity on the site. The greater part of the assemblage belonged to the 18th and 19th centuries and included examples of all three of the principal classes of pottery dating to the 18th century as well as utilitarian wares and tablewares of 19th century date. The tri-partite division of 18th century pottery (utilitarian ware, formal tableware and vernacular tableware), well represented in this assemblage, has been discussed in more detail elsewhere (Cumberpatch, in prep).

7.2.4 The utilitarian wares (Brown Glazed Coarseware, Brown Glazed Fineware and Unglazed Earthenware) appeared to span the whole of the 18th and 19th centuries although the precise dating of these wares is as yet poorly understood. The striking feature of the Brown Glazed Coarsewares was the apparent similarity in the fabrics (an orange to red body with prominent white streaks and white non-crystalline inclusions as detailed in the data table) which suggests production within a limited area and possibly manufacture in the same

pottery. The range of dates proposed in the data table reflects differences between individual sherds and should be treated as indicative rather than definite.

7.2.5 Vernacular tablewares of 18th century date (Late Blackware, Slip Coated Black Glazed ware, Mottled ware and Slipware) form a very distinctive component of most 18th century pottery assemblages and the examples identified here may well be of local manufacture although this suggestion requires further work on the 18th century pottery industry in Cheshire and neighbouring areas. To the best of the author's knowledge, no detailed account of the vernacular pottery industry in Cheshire has yet been written but there is no reason to suppose that it differs in broad outline from the industry in Yorkshire (Cumberpatch, in prep).

7.2.6 Formal tablewares of 18th and early to mid 19th century date were well represented (White Salt Glazed Stoneware, Creamware, Pearlware and Edged ware). The development of the fine stoneware and refined earthenware bodies represents a major transformation of the British pottery industry and distinguishes the early modern period (c.1720 – c.1840) from earlier periods as well as establishing a recognisably 'modern' range of wares. These changes were closely connected with the transformation of British society in the 18th century and the establishment of the 'Georgian Order' which was widely reflected in a range of new social and economic structures and their material correlates (Cumberpatch, in prep). Unfortunately none of the sherds identified bore any indication of their origin in the form of stamped or impressed maker's marks. Without such data, speculation on the source of the wares (Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Liverpool etc) is largely pointless given the anonymous nature of fine stoneware and refined earthenware bodies.

7.2.7 Recent pottery (c.1840 to 1950) was notable by its scarcity in comparison to the 18th century wares but the small quantity present included examples of many of the common types found in larger assemblages. The transfer printed Whitewares bore two common designs; Willow and Fibre, the latter distinguished from the similar 'Sea Grass' by the presence of a maker's mark incorporating the pattern name and the initial 'T' (context 9005). A sherd of transfer printed Bone China from context 6012 appeared to be part of a child's cup or mug. The surviving overglaze transfer design showed children dancing and part of a caption 'Ring o' Roses'. Such nursery wares became popular during the 19th century and production continues today although at a much reduced level in the face of competition from plastic wares.

7.2.8 Mid 19th to early 20th century utilitarian wares included some of the Brown Glazed Coarsewares but was also represented by two sherds of stoneware (unstratified), one from a jam jar and one from a small bottle. Banded wares (context 9005 and unstratified) and Cane Coloured ware (unstratified) represented the large class of wares that replaced the vernacular tablewares in the early 19th century.

7.3 *Discussion*

7.3.1 Given the small size of the assemblage it would be over optimistic to expect definite patterns to emerge from the data but there are indications of some patterning that might relate to the history of the site.

7.3.2 Trench 3 produced a wide range of material dating to the 18th century and later with the single medieval sherd and an early post-medieval sherd in context 3018. The presence of a sherd of early modern date in the same context suggests that the earlier material is residual in nature. Utilitarian and vernacular tablewares were well represented with a

smaller quantity of formal tablewares, including White Salt Glazed Stoneware from contexts 3007 and 3014.

7.3.3 The assemblage from Trench 4 was very small in size but of a relatively early date with two sherds of Cistercian ware and a small piece of Slipware type 1.

7.3.4 Brown Glazed Coarseware was predominant in the assemblage from Trench 5 with a smaller quantity of vernacular tableware and single sherds of Pearlware and Blue Banded ware.

7.3.5 The assemblage from Trench 6 was, with the exception of a single sherd of Late Blackware (context 6018) of a late date and included bone china of probable early 20th century date.

7.3.6 All of the pottery from Trench 7 was unstratified but included a range of later 18th and early 19th century material.

7.3.7 Context 8010 in Trench 8 produced a distinctive and relatively homogenous group of 18th century wares, principally Creamware and Late Blackware with a single sherd of transfer printed Pearlware and two sherds of Brown Glazed Coarseware. The unstratified pottery from the trench consisted of both 18th century pottery and two sherds of transfer printed Whiteware of a much later date.

7.3.8 Two contexts in Trench 9, 9005 and 9008, contained sherds of pottery. Although quantities were low there seemed to be a chronological distinction between the two with a single sherd of Slipware type 1 from context 908 and a later group (predominantly 19th century) from context 9005.

7.3.9 All of the pottery from Trench 10 was recovered from a single context, 10009. With the exception of a single sherd of Pearlware, all the pottery was of utilitarian or vernacular tableware type (Brown Glazed Coarseware and Late Blackware).

7.3.10 In general terms the assemblages from Trenches 8 and 10 can be considered to be of similar date range (early modern) and character together with the groups from contexts 3012, 3014, 5009 and possibly 5003.

Table 1. Backford Hall pottery

Tr	Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
3	3004	Brown Glazed Coarseware	2	221	1	Rim	Pancheon	Patchy brown glaze on rim	LC18th – C19th	Hard, dense red fabric
3	3004	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	110	1	Rim	Pancheon	Brown glaze int only	C18th – C19th	Wide flat sharply everted rim w/ groove around ext edge; red fabric w/ thin white streaks
3	3004	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	29	1	Rim	Pancheon	Red slip ext	C18th – C19th	Dark orange fabric w/ quartz & white grit w/ white streaks
3	3004	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	85	1	Rim	Pancheon	Brown glaze int only	C18th – C19th	Wide flat everted rim w/ groove around ext edge; orange fabric w/ abundant white incs
3	3004	Brown Glazed Coarseware	2	78	2	BS	Pancheon	Brown glaze int only; rilled ext	C18th – C19th	Red fabric w/ abundant white incs & white streaks
3	3004	Brown Glazed Coarseware	2	149	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th – C19th	Orange fabric w/ white streaks
3	3004	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	61	1	BS	Hollow ware	Thin patchy brown glaze int & ext	MC17th – C18th	Red fabric w/ abundant white incs & white streaks
3	3004	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	38	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & partially ext	C18th – C19th	Red fabric w/ white streaks
3	3004	Brown Glazed Coarseware type	6	55	6	BS	Pancheon/bowl	Brown glaze int	C18th – C19th	Some variation in orange fabrics w/ white incs
3	3004	Brown Glazed Fineware	7	42	7	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th – EC19th	Finer red fabric
3	3004	Late Blackware	1	8	1	Rim	Bowl	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	Fine orange fabric
3	3004	Slip Coated ware	1	3	1	Base	Hollow ware	Red slip int under brown glaze	C18th	Fine buff fabric
3	3004	Slipware	1	11	1	BS	Dish	Trailed white slip int under glaze	C18th	
3	3004	TP Whiteware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/ID black printed design int & ext	M – LC19th	
3	3007	White Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	4	1	BS	Hollow ware	Scratch blue floral design & rouletted band	c.1720 – c.1780	
3	3012	Brown Glazed Coarseware	2	16	2	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int only	C18th – C19th	Buff/orange fabric
3	3012	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	6	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	Orange fabric w/ fine white streaks w/ red & white incs
3	3012	Brown Glazed	2	7	2	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int only	C18th – EC19th	

		Fineware								
3	3012	Late Blackware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	
3	3013	Yellow ware	1	7	1	Base/BS	Dish	Yellow glaze int only; knife trimmed ext	C17th	Dense white fabric w/ elongated vesicles 7 white incs
3	3014	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	42	1	Rim	Pancheon	Brown glaze int only	C18th – C19th	Elaborate square-sectioned rim w/ prominent ext angle
3	3014	Brown Glazed Coarseware	4	85	4	BS	Pancheon	Brown glaze int only; red slip ext	C18th – C19th	
3	3014	Brown Glazed Coarseware type	2	34	2	BS	Hollow ware	Sparse brown glaze ext	C19th	Much finer, harder and denser than is typical for BGCW
3	3014	Brown Glazed Coarseware type	1	3	1	BS	U/ID	Red slip ext	C18th – C19th	Soft fabric, heavily abraded fragment
3	3014	Brown Glazed Fineware	4	25	4	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th – EC19th	
3	3014	Late Blackware	1	29	1	Base	Hollow ware	Black glaze int only	C18th	Small footed base; bright dense orange fabric w/ fine white incs
3	3014	Slipware	1	22	1	Rim	Dish	Pie crust rim; red & white banded slip int	C18th	Press-moulded dish
3	3014	Slipware	1	15	1	BS	Dish	Banded red & white slip int	C18th	Press-moulded dish
3	3014	Unglazed Red Earthenware	2	16	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC19th – C20th	
3	3014	White Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	3	1	BS	Plate	U/Dec	c.1720 – c.1780	
3	3014	White Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	1	1	BS	Cup/bowl?	U/Dec	c.1720 – c.1780	
3	3014	White Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	2	1	BS	Flatware	U/Dec	c.1720 – c.1780	
3	3018	Ewloe type ware	1	5	1	BS	Hollow ware	Patchy flaky clear glaze ext	Medieval	Buff to white sandy fabric
3	3018	Midlands Purple-type ware	1	29	1	BS	Hollow ware	Spots of purple glaze ext	LC16th – M/LC17th	Hard, dense semi-vitrified purple fabric
3	3018	Slip Coated Black Glazed ware	1	19	1	Ring foot base	Bowl	Red slip internally	LC17th - C18th	Turned ring foot base; distinctive white fabric with red slip internally
3	3019	Unglazed Red Earthenware	1	31	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th – C19th	Dark orange fabric w/ quartz & dark red grit
3	U/S	Brown Glazed	1	4	1	Flake	U/ID	Black glaze on surviving	C18th – C19th	

		Coarseware						surface		
3	U/S	Cane Coloured ware	1	4	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C19th	
3	U/S	Creamware?	1	9	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	?c.1740 – c.1820	Crazed & discoloured
3	U/S	Stoneware	1	51	1	Base	Bottle	U/Dec	C19th – EC20th	
3	U/S	Whiteware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	M – LC19th	
4	4006	Cistercian ware	1	10	1	BS	Cup/tyg	U/Dec	c.1450 – c.1600	Slight blistering ext
4	4006	Cistercian ware	1	4	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1450 – c.1600	Could be Blackware
4	4006	Slipware type 1	1	1	1	BS	Dish	Trailed white slip int	C17th – EC18th	
4	4010	White Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	7	1	Base	Plate	U/Dec	c.1720 – c.1780	
5	5003	Blackware	1	7	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C17th	
5	5003	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	34	1	Base	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int only	C18th – C19th	Buff fabric w/ abundant fine rock frags
5	5003	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	134	1	Base	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th – C19th	Buff fabric w/ abundant fine inclusions
5	5003	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	122	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int only; red slip ext	C18th – C19th	Orange fabric w/ white streaks
5	5003	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	54	1	Rim	Jar	Thin brown glaze int only	C18th – C19th	Rounded everted rim; orange fabric w/ white streaks & abundant white incs
5	5003	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	26	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext; rilled ext	C18th	Dark red fabric w/ white streaks & inclusions
5	5003	Late Blackware type	1	20	1	BS	Hollow ware	Red slip ext; partial brown glaze int	C18th	Red fabric w/ white incs
5	5003	Unglazed Red Earthenware	1	5	1	Rim	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C19th	
5	5009	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	65	1	Rim	Pancheon	Brown glaze int & partially ext	C18th – C19th	Prominent white streaks in an orange fabric; abundant white inclusions
5	5009	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	34	1	Base	Pancheon	Black glaze int only	C18th – C19th	Prominent white inclusions in an orange fabric
5	5009	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	19	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th – C19th	Prominent white streaks in an orange fabric; abundant white inclusions
5	5009	Late Blackware	1	18	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int; red slip ext	C18th	
5	5009	Late Blackware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	
5	5009	Pearlware	1	7	1	Rim	Dish/bowl	U/Dec	c.1780 – c.1840	

5	U/S	Blue Banded ware	1	2	1	Rim	Bowl	Blue band on body below rim	C19th	
5	U/S	Stoneware	1	13	1	BS	Jam jar	Wide fluting ext	MC19th – EC20th	
6	6007	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	42	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th – C19th	
6	6011	Bone China	1	4	1	Footring base	Plate	U/Dec	C19th+	Heavily burnt
6	6012	Bone China	1	4	1	Rim	Cup/bowl	U/Dec	C19th – C20th	Burnt
6	6012	TP Bone China	1	6	1	Rim	Cup/mug	Overglaze transfer 'Ring o Roses'	LC19th – C20th	Child's mug or cup
6	6018	Late Blackware	1	7	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	
6	6018	TP Whiteware	1	4	1	BS	Plate	Willow	M – LC19th	Flaked
7	U/S	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	16	1	BS	Hollow ware	Rilled ext; black glaze int & ext	C18th – C19th	
7	U/S	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	19	1	BS	Pancheon	Brown glaze over red slip int, red slip ext	C18th – EC19th	Red fabric w/ white streaks; quartz, red & white grit
7	U/S	Creamware	1	1	1	Rim	Cup/bowl	U/Dec	c.1740 – c.1820	
7	U/S	Late Blackware	1	4	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int only	C18th	Thin black deposit ext
7	U/S	Pearlware	1	3	1	BS	U/ID	U/Dec	c.1780 – c.1840	
8	8010	Brown Glazed Coarseware	2	95	1	BS	Pancheon	Black glaze int; rilled ext	C18th – C19th	Brick red body w/ thin white streaks; quartz, red & white grit
8	8010	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	111	1	Base	Jar	Black glaze int & red slip ext	C18th – C19th	Brick red body w/ thin white streaks; quartz, red & white grit
8	8010	Creamware	1	9	1	Rim	Pie dish	U/Dec	c.1740 – c.1820	Pale Creamware; probably EC19th
8	8010	Creamware	2	8	1	Flat base	Dish/bowl	U/Dec	c.1740 – c.1820	Flaked & spalled
8	8010	Creamware	4	54	1	Ring foot base	Bowl	U/Dec	c.1740 – c.1820	Angular ring foot
8	8010	Creamware	4	8	3	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1740 – c.1820	
8	8010	Late Blackware	4	41	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & partially ext	C18th	
8	8010	Late Blackware	2	14	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & partially ext	C18th	Sooted ext where not glazed
8	8010	Late Blackware	1	16	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	
8	8010	Late Blackware	1	66	1	Base	Hollow ware	Black glaze int only	C18th	Small footed base

8	8010	Late Blackware	2	17	1	Base	Hollow ware	Black glaze int; thin red slip ext	C18th	Red fabric w/ sparse fine quartz & red grit
8	8010	Late Blackware	1	41	1	Base	Hollow ware	Black glaze int only	C18th	Dense red fabric w/ sparse fine quartz & black grit
8	8010	TP Pearlware	1	3	1	BS	Bowl	Floral design int & ext	c.1780 – c.1840	
8	U/S	Mottled ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	
8	U/S	Slip Coated ware	1	7	1	BS	Hollow ware	Thin red slip under glaze int & ext	C18th	
8	U/S	TP Whiteware	1	6	1	Rim	Plate	Willow	M – LC19th	Crazed & discoloured
8	U/S	TP Whiteware	1	2	1	BS	Plate	Willow	M – LC19th	
9	9005	Banded ware	1	2	1	Rim	Bowl	Thin brown lines & blue band	C19th	
9	9005	Edged ware	2	61	1	Profile	Pie dish	Moulded rim w/ blue paint	LC18th - EC19th	
9	9005	TP Whiteware	1	5	1	BS	Plate	Willow	M – LC19th	
9	9005	TP Whiteware	1	2	1	Base	Plate/bowl	Fibre	M – LC19th	Blue pattern int w/ printed pattern name and letter "T" on underside
9	9008	Slipware type 1	1	9	1	Rim	Dish/bowl	Trailed white slip line around rim	C17th – EC18th	
10	10009	Brown Glazed Coarseware	2	252	1	Rim	Pantheon	Black glaze int only	C18th – C19th	Hard, dense red fabric; angular rim w/ small internal flange
10	10009	Brown Glazed Coarseware	2	35	2	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int only; rilled ext	C18th – C19th	
10	10009	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	53	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th – C19th	Hard, dense red fabric w/ thin white streaks
10	10009	Late Blackware	1	4	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze ext	C18th	
10	10009	Late Blackware	1	9	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & partially ext	C18th	Orange fabric w/ red & white incs
10	10009	Late Blackware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	
10	10009	Late Blackware type	1	63	1	BS	Hollow ware	Hard, thin purple glaze int & ext	C18th – C19th	Very hard, dense semi-vitrified red fabric
10	10009	Pearlware	1	44	1	Flat base	U/ID	U/Dec	c.1780 – c.1840	
		Total	142	3098	126					

8. Ceramic Building Material

Dr Anne Irving

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001). A total of six fragments of post-medieval tile, weighing 18,968 grams, was recovered from the site.

8.2 Methodology

8.2.1 The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2.

8.3 Results

Table 2. Summary of the Ceramic Building Material

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Description	date
3006	BRK	Brick	Calcareous	1	3574	Handmade; slightly bloated/clinkered; complete; 64 x 110 x 235mm; slop moulded?	Late 16th to 17th
5005	BRK	Brick	Soft oxidised sandy	1	2590	Handmade; mortar; 55 x 108 x 237mm; strike marks; slop moulded?; complete	Late 16th to 17th
6008	BRK	Brick	Soft oxidised sandy	1	3414	Handmade; mortar; 64 x 112 x 230 mm; coarse bedded stretcher; complete	17th to 18th
9007	MODDRAIN	Modern Drain		1	2315	U shaped land drain; handmade	17th to 18th
10007	BRK	Brick	Soft oxidised sandy	1	3428	Handmade; mortar; 57 x108 x 230mm; slop moulded?; complete	18th
10007	BRK	Brick	Vitrified	1	3647	Handmade; over-fired and bloated; ca 60 x 127 x 245 mm; clinkered in areas; complete	16th

8.4 Potential

8.4.1 All the material is stable and poses no problems for long-term storage. No further work is required on the assemblage.

8.5 Discussion

8.5.1 A single late post-medieval modern drain is present, along with bricks of the same date. A single vitrified brick may date to the 16th century, although the example is over-fired and bloated as a result making identification difficult.

8.6 Context Dates

8.6.1 The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3. Spot dates

Cxt	Date
3006	Late 16th to 17th
5005	Late 16th to 17th
6008	17th to 18th

Cxt	Date
9007	17th to 18th
10007	18th

8.7 Abbreviations

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

9. Clay Tobacco Pipe

Mike Wood BA Hons MLitt MIFA

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 Seven fragments of clay tobacco pipe weighing 278g were recovered during archaeological work on land at Backford Hall in Chester. The finds date from the mid-17th to 19th century.

9.2 Methodology

9.2.1 The material was counted and weighed in grams, then examined visually to identify any diagnostic pieces and the overall condition of the assemblage. Reference was made to published guidelines (Higgins & Davey 2004) and regional publications (Higgins 2008). Where no other identification has been possible, stems have been dated by established stem bore guidelines (Oswald 1975). It should be noted that dates provided by stem-bore size can have an appreciable margin for error and are intended only as a general guide. A summary of the material is recorded in Table 4.

9.3 Assemblage

Table 4. Clay tobacco pipe

Context	Date range	Stems	Bowls	Weight (g)	Stem bore	Comments
3012	c.1767-1787	1		2	4/64"	Abraded stem
4006	17 th -18 th		1	2	-	Bowl fragment. No design, light milling visible.
4006	1640-70		1	9	6/64"	Spur bowl bottered and milled. Cf Higgins 2008, 270, fig 60
6018	c.1767-1787	1		5	4/64"	Plain stem
9005	C1800-1850		1	1	-	Bowl fragment. Decorated with leaves climbing up the front seam.
10007	c.1682-1757	1		1	5/64"	Plain stem
Unstrat	c.1767-1787	1		4	4/64"	Plain stem

9.4 Discussion

9.4.1 The assemblage contained a mix of pipe stems and bowls spanning the 17th-19th century. Of most significance is the complete mid-17th century spurred bowl recovered from context 4006. Similar examples have been recovered from a proposed kiln group in Chester (Higgins 2008, 253) and indicate that pipe production was occurring in the area at that time. This example and stems of likely 17th-18th century date suggest a relatively low level of tobacco consumption within the site predating the current Backford Hall building. A single 19th century bowl fragment could conceivably relate to activity when the current building was in use.

9.5 Recommendations for further work

9.5.1 The complete bowl could be photographed for reference purposes and should be retained. No further work is recommended for any of the artefacts. All of the material apart from the bowl from 4006 could be returned to the landowner, passed to a teaching collection or be discarded.

10. Metal finds

Mike Wood BA Hons MLitt MIFA

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 A single button of 18th to 19th century date was recovered from an unstratified context from Backford Hall, Cheshire.

10.2 Methodology

10.2.1 The material was counted and weighed in grams, then examined visually to identify any diagnostic pieces and the overall condition of the assemblage. Reference was made to published guidelines (Read 2010). A summary of the material is recorded in Table 5.

10.3 Assemblage

Table 5. Metal finds

Context	Object	Date range	Measurements	Weight (g)	Comments
Unstrat	Copper alloy button	18 th to early 19 th century	20mm diameter by 0.5m thick	1	Cast slightly domed round button with a flat back. The eye is missing, but appears to have been of the cone and wire type soldered on. 'MALDEN' is stamped into the front of the piece.

10.4 Discussion

10.4.1 A single copper alloy button, possibly discoloured brass, was recovered from an unstratified context. This item is typical of those produced in the 18th or early 19th century and as an unstratified find is of limited value for further study.

10.5 Recommendations for further work

10.5.1 No further work is recommended.

11. Glass

Mike Wood BA (hons) MLitt MIFA

11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 Twenty-six pieces of bottle and window glass weighing 318g were recovered during archaeological work at Backford Hall, Chester. The glass dates from the post-medieval to modern periods.

11.2 Methodology

11.2.1 The material was counted and weighed in grams, then examined visually to identify any diagnostic pieces and the overall condition of the assemblage. Reference was made to published sources (Davis 1973, Dumbrell 1983). A summary of the material is recorded in Table 6.

11.3 Assemblage

Table 6. Glass

Context	Form	Colour	Date	Shds	Wt (g)	Comments
3012	window glass	clear greenish tint	post-medieval	1	1	fragment of window glass probably from a lead light
3014	window glass	clear greenish tint	post-medieval	5	3	Fragments of window quarries. Slight curve suggests crown glass
3016	window glass	clear greenish tint	post-medieval	1	6	complete diamond shaped quarry
3016	window glass	clear-stained	post-medieval	1	2	stained glass fragment
60	bottle	clear	20th	8	29	soda water bottle
6012	bottle	clear	19th-20th	2	7	
6017	window glass	clear	20th	1	11	c.2mm thick.
6018	window glass	clear greenish tint	post-medieval	3	8	c.1.5mm thick. Iridescent. Probably from lead lights
6018	bottle	green	18th-19th	1	7	iridescent shard from a cylindrical bottle
6018	bottle	green	19th-20th	2	8	
6018	wine bottle	black glass	c.1790	4	191	Includes a distinctive string rim
8010	wine bottle	green	18th-19th	1	29	Iridescent part of a curved base. Suggestion of a high kick.
8010	bottle	green	19th-20th	2	15	abraded bottle shards
9005	window glass	clear	e20th	1	1	probably flat sheet rather than float glass

11.4 Discussion

11.4.1 The assemblage contained a mix of window and bottle glass spanning the post-medieval to modern periods. Window glass included several pieces of probable lead lights from Trenches 3 and 6 including a complete quarry typical of those held in lead comes in post-medieval casement windows. It is unlikely this will have travelled far from the original

deposition given the intact quarry and may indicate the former presence of a post-medieval building in the vicinity.

11.4.2 Within the bottle glass, there is a distinctive 'black glass' wine bottle typical of the very late 18th century. The remainder of the bottle assemblage is of more recent date, suggesting this is perhaps an isolated find.

11.5 *Recommendations for further work*

11.5.1 No further work is recommended. All of the artefacts could be passed to suitable teaching collections, returned to the landowner or be discarded.

12. Discussion

12.1 Each trench was excavated to specifically target known heritage assets that may have been preserved at a subsurface level at specific locations (Figures 46 and 47), with the exception of *Trenches 3* and *5* which were placed in open ground in order to determine the potential for survival of prehistoric features. As discussed previously *Trenches 1* and *2* could not be excavated due to subsurface services and overhanging tree canopies, and therefore the area was further investigated with the intention of excavating another trench elsewhere. This was not to be the case for the same reasons. Poor weather throughout the period of excavation caused trench flooding and some section collapse. That having been said, the results were archaeologically informative.

12.2 Previous activity close to the current hall was greater than had been expected. *Trench 3* produced evidence for a ditch feature that was bordered on at least one of its edges by an alignment of stones, which likely provided a raised edge to the ditch. The sticky clay infill, at the base of the ditch, probably due to waterlogging, may suggest that the feature was open for a reasonable period of time. A single sherd of late medieval to early post-medieval sandy ware recovered from the upper fill of the ditch was considered residual, due to the presence of later 16th – 18th century pottery sherds within the same context.

12.3 The ditch appears to have been filled and levelled, probably in order to construct the foundation for a structure. This structure may relate to an earlier phase of the hall as it does not respect the alignment of the current Backford Hall. The sandstone blocks were substantial, and would have provided a good solid foundation for an upstanding structure. That a skim of mortar remained on the upper surface appears to attest to at least one further course of masonry having been present in the past. A complete glass window quarry which was recovered from the context abutting the wall foundation would appear to suggest a relationship to a post-medieval structure.

12.4 The brick built pathway also observed within this trench proved to be intriguing. Its relationship, if any, to the wall foundation, remains unknown. However, it was situated at roughly the same depth below the topsoil, although it was orientated along a different alignment. A brick which was examined from the path, dated to the late 16th – 17th century, which may provide a date for the feature. However, the bricks could easily have been re-used in a later feature.

12.5 All of the features observed within *Trench 3* were sealed by a demolition deposit of crushed brick and mortar which was observed throughout the trench, but did not extend as far as *Trench 5* to the south-east. What this deposit relates to is unclear, it may be the result of an exercise in ground levelling, or may relate to the destruction of an earlier phase of the hall or associated buildings.

12.6 Evidence of designed garden features were encountered in *Trench 4*, which was expected at this location. The cobbled pathway, that was orientated north-west to south-east, terminated at a presumed circular 'raised bed' area, possibly used for floral plantation. A single sherd of White Salt Glazed Stoneware dating between c.1720 – c.1780 was recovered from the soil within the 'raised bed' feature. A bottered and milled clay pipe spur bowl, dating between 1640 – 1670, was recovered from the cobbled pathway which may suggest a *terminus post quem* (TPQ) for the feature, along with a 17th – 18th century clay pipe bowl fragment. Two fragments of Cistercian ware pottery dating between c.1450 – 1600, and a single fragment of c.17th – 18th century slipware were also recovered from this feature. The pathway appears to correspond with a feature displayed on the Backford Tithe map of 1842 (see Figure 47).

12.7 The possible stone foundation encountered to the south-east of the pathway and circular feature, could not be accounted for on with the 1842 Tithe Map, or the 1873 OS map, and so may relate to an earlier structure or garden feature.

12.8 *Trench 5* was largely devoid of archaeological features, except for two drains of differing construction. Both of the drains followed a similar alignment, and were situated either side of a depression in the natural substratum, which appeared to have been filled in order to make level ground. It is probable that both drains were external features. The depression in the natural may relate to a pond that is visible on the 1842 tithe map of Backford (RSK ID 45, RSK 2013) and as such may have been prone to water retention, which may have accounted for the location of the drainage features. A brick examined from drain (5005) appears to date to the 17th – 18th centuries, and is handmade and possibly slop moulded.

12.9 The well-constructed wall foundation and its associated cobbled drive-way observed in *Trench 6* appear to have formed the boundary limit of the estate at this location. The cobbled drive was possibly the main route in and out of the estate served by a no longer extant entrance from Church Lane/Gordon Lane, and may possibly continue under the current car park and follow the current route around to the front of the hall, following the still extant portions of garden wall. Pottery recovered from this context dates to the 19th century, suggesting an association with the current phase of the hall. The soil deposit to the west of the driveway was heavily disturbed by substantial plant/tree roots, and is likely to have been part of the ornamental gardens.

12.10 The large sandstone blocks and metalled surface that were observed towards the centre of the trench may have formed a foundation for a wall, or could have been an upstanding kerb situated alongside a metalled pathway. Neither of these features respected the alignment of the cobbled driveway and so are unlikely to relate to the same period. The tithe map of 1842 (see Figure 47) shows a building and possible yard (HER No: 4549/0/4) at this location, and if the sandstone blocks and metalled surface were foundation features then they may relate to this structure. Pottery recovered from the context that abutted the sandstone alignment dated to the 18th – 19th centuries.

12.11 An area of compact rubble which was observed towards the western end of the trench may have possibly related to the footing or foundation of a structure or a yard surface. The spread was discontinuous and its boundary ill-defined, but continued past the exclusion to the limit of excavation of the trench, covering an area of approximately 15sqm. This feature may relate to the known buildings presumed near this location, which were demolished in 1857 (HER No: 4549/0/4).

12.12 The cobbled spread recorded within *Trench 8* may have been a degraded or poorly constructed pathway or part of a yard surface that had a drain or culvert system running alongside it. The drain appears to have a continuation which was observed in *Trench 10*. These features may relate to a barn and stackyard (HER No: 4549/0/1) near this location (see Figure 47), which were demolished in 1857. The contaminated rubble spread observed towards the eastern end of the trench produced various sherds of pottery dating from between the 18th to 19th centuries, and visual inspection suggests that it represents a demolition or waste dump which may have related to the cottage (HER No: 4549/0/2) visible on the 1842 tithe map (see Figure 47).

12.13 A compact metalled trackway observed in *Trench 9* appears to be in-keeping with this area having been gardens or open space, and would have provided access across this ground, perhaps towards the possible barn or stackyard, or the cottage in the location of *Trench 8*. A drain running roughly parallel to the trackway alongside a depression in the natural substrate may have related to the same period of use.

12.14 The large wall foundation recorded in *Trench 10* may have been a garden wall, either internal or exterior. The lower course comprising the larger roughly hewn sandstone blocks was more substantial and of different character to the poorly constructed second course. This perhaps suggests a re-use of an earlier already extant foundation. A clay pipe stem dating to c.1682 – 1757 was recovered from between the upper and lower courses, and could suggest a *terminus ante quem* (TAQ) for the construction of the lower course. The wall terminated within the boundaries of the trench, and although a continuation was not observed, a small deposit of brick rubble suggested that perhaps another portion of wall existed beyond the limit of excavation to the east. This space may have formed a gateway or entrance through the wall, which was abutted at either side by a buried soil horizon, helping to inform the interpretation that this was part of the gardens.

13. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

13.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.

13.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

14. Statement of Indemnity

14.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising

from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

15. Acknowledgements

15.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved with this work. In particular we would like to thank Julie Edwards and Mark Leah of Cheshire County Council Archaeological Service for their advice and Owen Raybould of RSK.

16. References

ACBMG. 2001. *Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, third version [internet]. Available from
<<http://www.geocities.com/acbm1/CBMGDE3.htm>>

British Geological Survey. 'Geologyviewer'. Available: www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer.
Accessed: 24.09.13.

Cheshire County Council. 2003. *General Conditions for Archaeological Contractors and Consultants*. Chester, Cheshire County Council.

Cumberpatch, C.G. in prep. Tradition and change: The production and consumption of early modern pottery in Yorkshire In: P.W. Blinkhorn and C.G. Cumberpatch (Eds) *The Chiming of Crack'd Bells: Recent approaches to artefacts in archaeology*.

Davis, Derek. C., 1972, *English Bottles and Decanters 1650-1900*. Charles Letts and Company Ltd.

Dumbrell, R., 1983, *Understanding Antique Wine Bottles*. Baron Publishing Suffolk.

Harrison, H and Davey, P. 1977 *Enloe Kiln* In: P.J. Davey (ed.) *Medieval pottery from excavations in the north west*. University of Liverpool, 92-99.

Higgins, D A & Davey, P J, 2004, 'Appendix 4: Draft guidelines for using the clay tobacco pipe record sheets' in S D White, *The Dynamics of Regionalisation and Trade: Yorkshire Clay Tobacco Pipes c1600-1800, The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe*, XVIII, British Archaeological Reports (British Series 374), Oxford, 487-490 (567pp).

Higgins, D A 'Clay Tobacco Pipes and Other Pipeclay Objects' in Garner *et al* 2008 *Excavations at Chester 25 Bridge Street 2001 Two Thousand Years of Urban Life in Microcosm*. Chester City Council Archaeological Service Excavation and Survey Report No 14.

Institute for Archaeologists. 2009a. *Standard and Guidance for field evaluation*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

Institute of Field Archaeologists. 2012. *Code of Conduct*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

Oswald, A, 1975 *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist* BAR 14, Oxford.

Read, B 2010, *Metal Buttons c.900 BC - c. AD 1700*, 2nd Ed, Portculis publishing.

RSK. 2013. *Backford Hall, Backford. Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment*. Unpublished archaeological report.

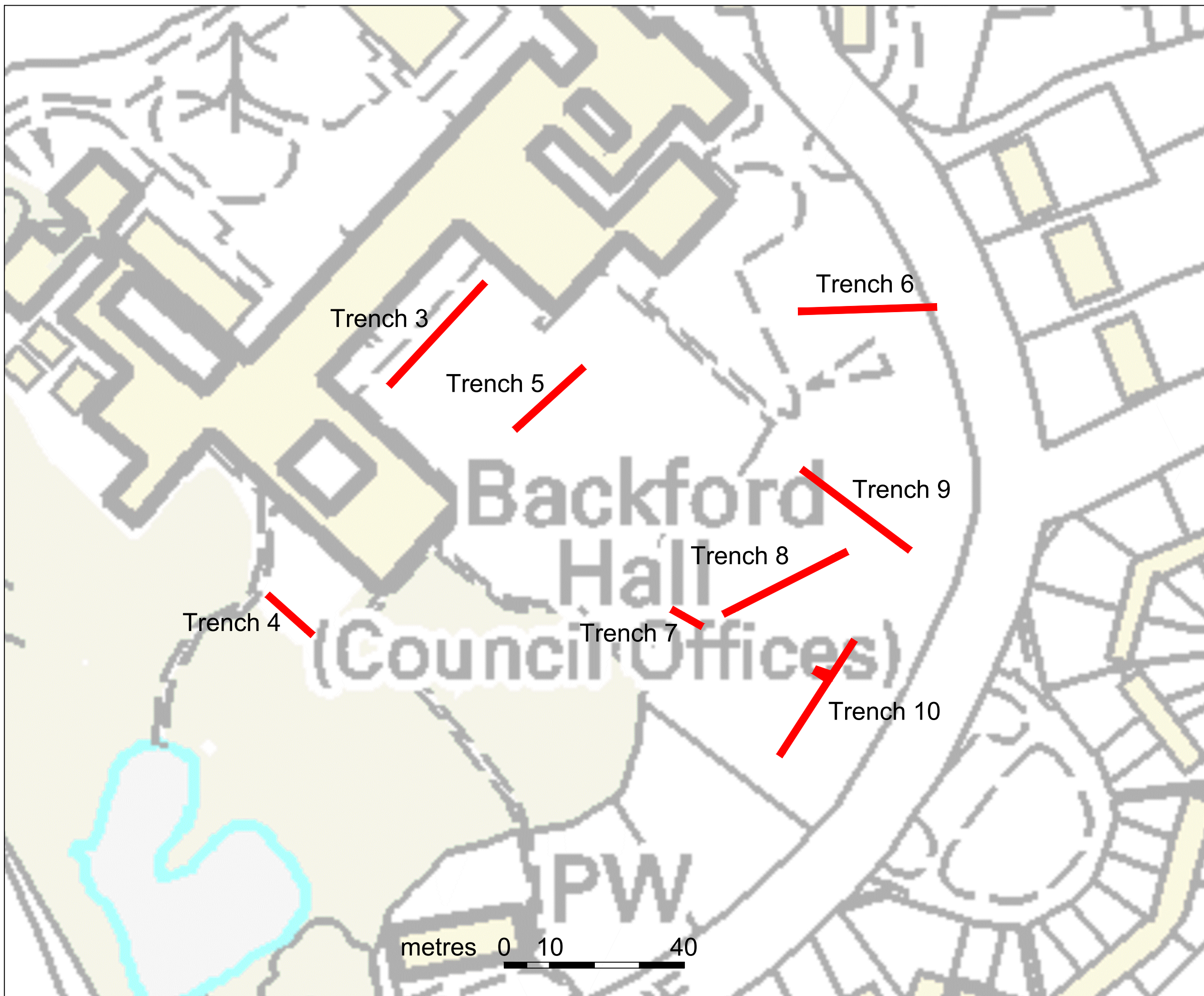
Rutter, J. A. 1977 Chester: Upper Northgate Street hoard pot. In: P.J. Davey (ed.) *Medieval pottery from excavations in the north west*. University of Liverpool, 22-23.

Rutter, J A & Davey P J, 1980 'Clay pipes from Chester' in Davey P J (ed) *The archaeology of the clay tobacco pipe III*. BAR British series 78.

Appendix 1 – Plans and sections

Figure 46. Trench location plan

Scale: 1/800 at A3

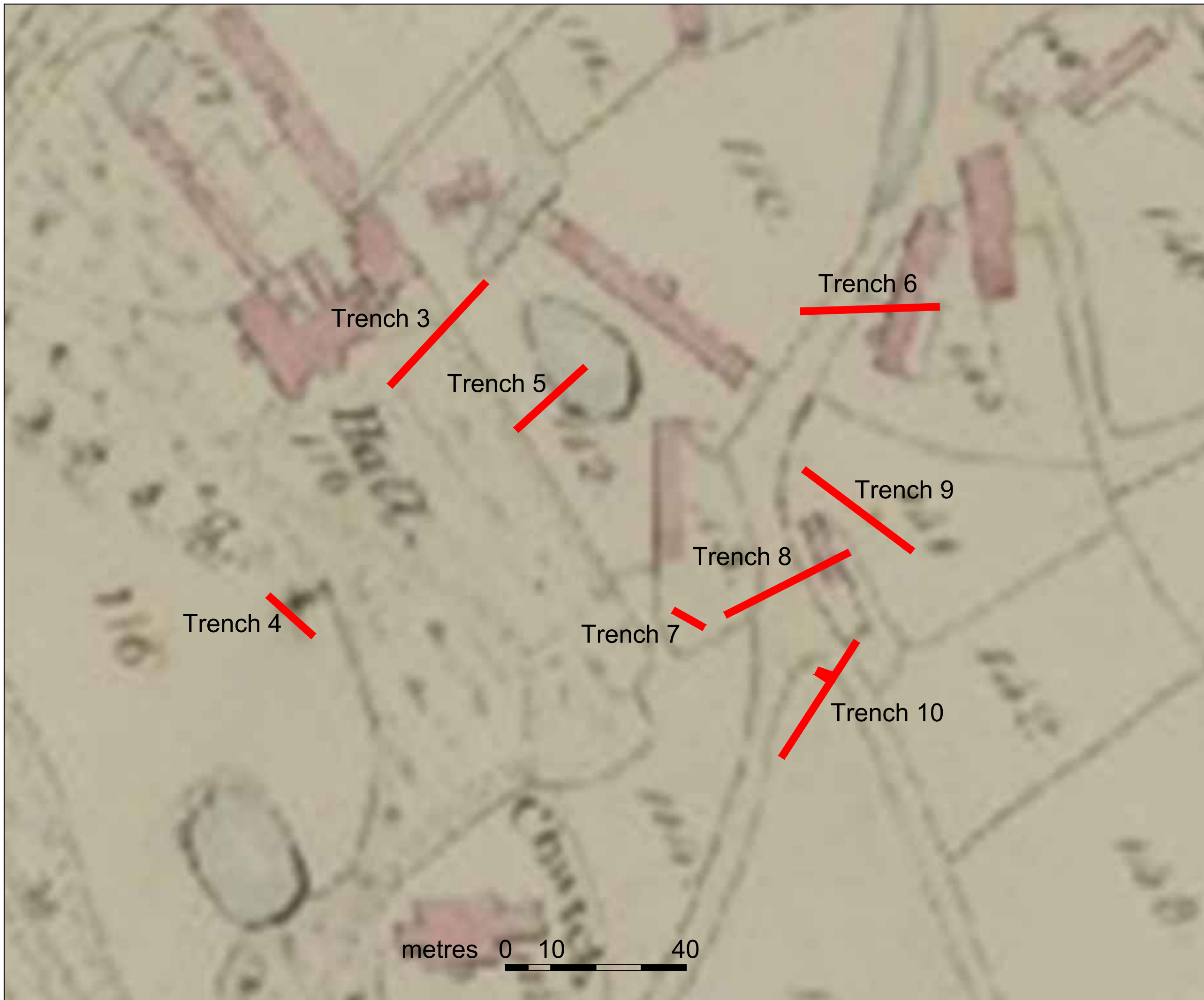


Copyright/ Licencing
This Drawing
© A.R.S. Ltd
Ordnance Survey data if applicable
© Crown Copyright, all rights reserved
reproduction with permission. Licence No. 100045420

Figure 47. Trench location plan with historic mapping. Backford Tithe Map 1842.

Tithe map georeferenced to best fit.

Scale: 1/800 at A3



Copyright/ Licencing
This Drawing
© A.R.S. Ltd

Ordnance Survey data if applicable
© Crown Copyright, all rights reserved
reproduction with permission. Licence No. 100045420

Trench 3

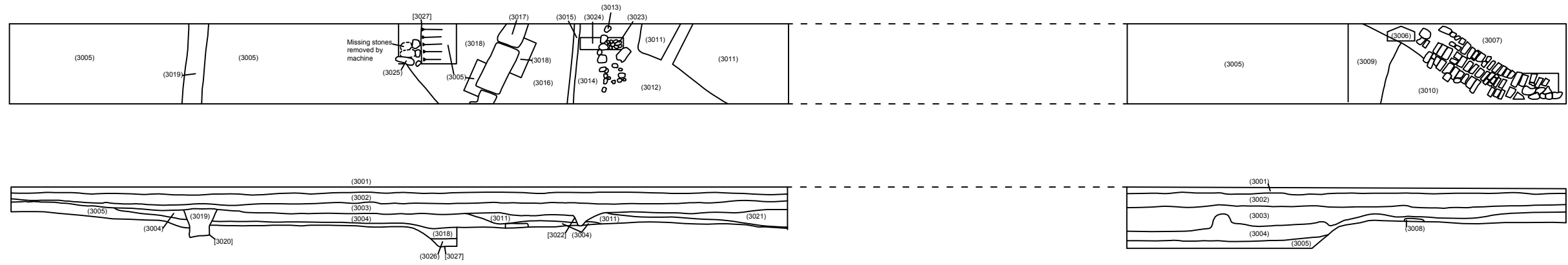
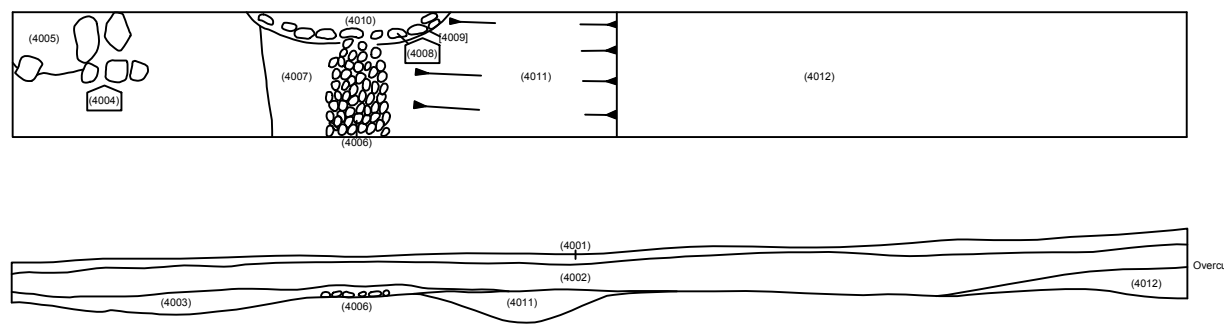
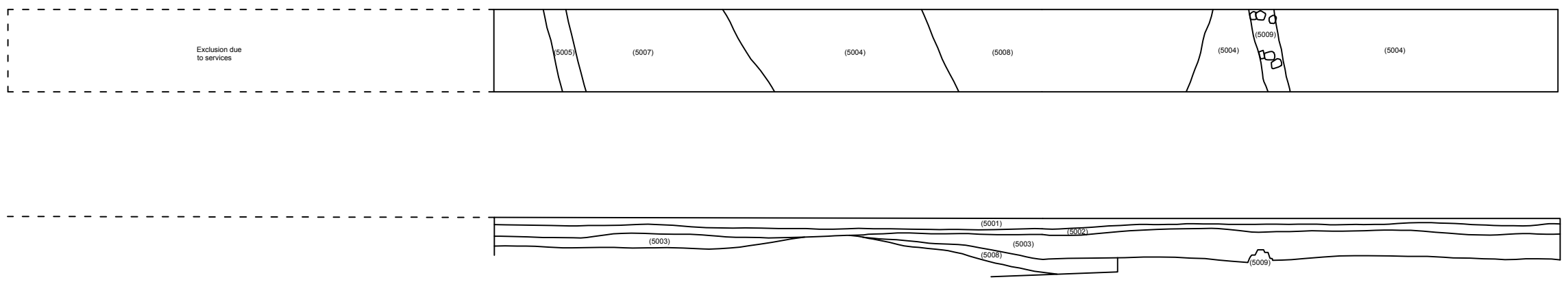


Figure 48. Trench plans and sections.
Scale: 1:100 at A3

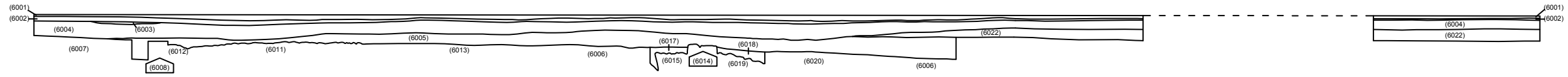
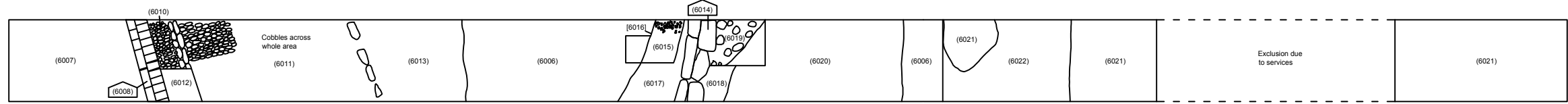
Trench 4



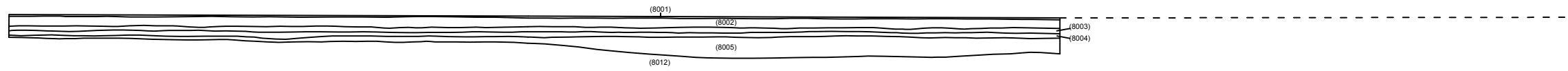
Trench 5



Trench 6



Trench 8



Trench 9

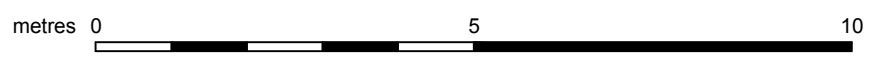
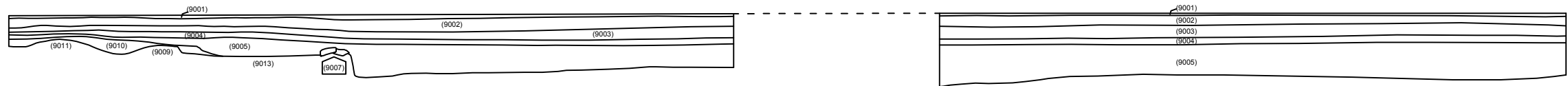
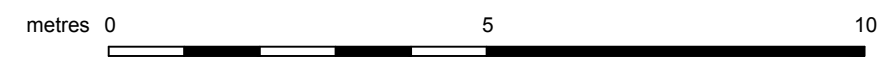
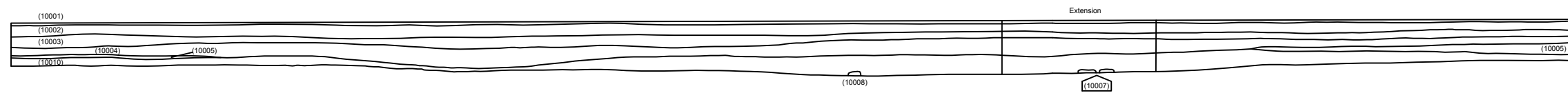
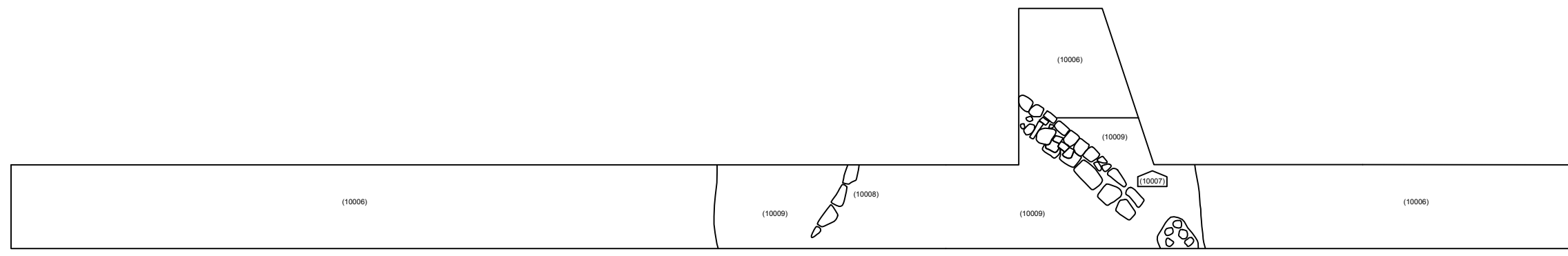


Figure 49. Trench plans and sections.
Scale: 1:100 at A3

Trench 10

Figure 50. Trench plans and sections.
Scale: 1:100 at A3

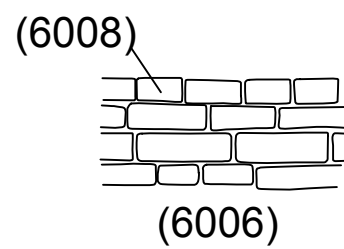
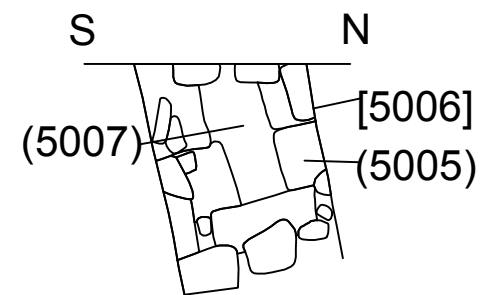
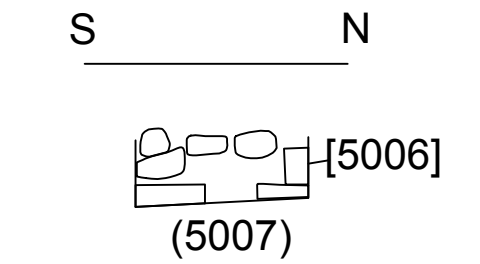


F5007

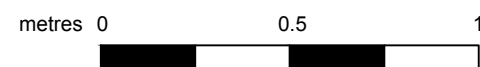
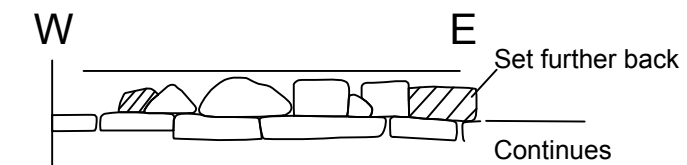
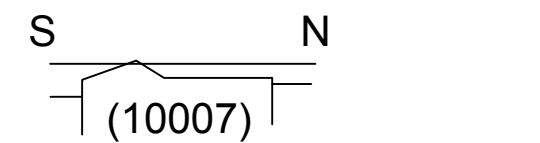
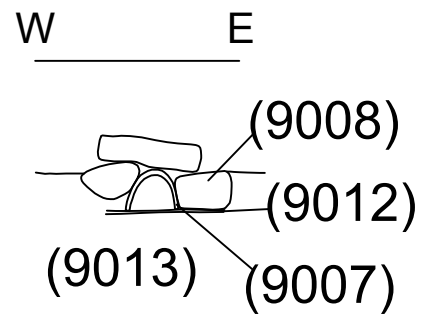
F6008

F10007

Figure 51. Feature plans and sections.
Scale 1:20 at A3



F9007



Appendix 2 – Specifications

Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological evaluation trenching at Backford Hall, Backford, Chester



1. Introduction

1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation has been prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) on behalf of RSK Environment Ltd. It relates to an archaeological evaluation for a potential development at Backford Hall, Backford, Chester, CH1 6PX.

1.2 This evaluation involves excavating and reporting on ten trenches to assess any surviving archaeological remains.

2. Site location and description

2.1 The site is located to the north of Chester (centred on NGR SJ 339833 371825) and covers an area of c.3 hectares. The development area consists of relatively level ground including hard standing (access road, car parking and paths) and areas of grass.

2.2 The site is not in use at present but was, until recently, used as part of Cheshire Council's main offices and thus, besides the Hall, has many associated modern buildings that have been constructed in the grounds. A number of buildings, e.g. barns and a cottage, associated with the Hall situated within the site were demolished in 1857.

2.3 Geological information represented on the 1:50,000 scale BGS Geological Mapping Sheet No. 109 shows the bedrock/solid geology of the site as Chester Pebble Beds Formation – Pebbly (gravely) Sandstone. Superficial deposits are shown to be Devensian Till.

3. Aim of the work

3.1 The work is required to determine the possible presence/absence, location, nature, extent, survival, quality, significance and date of prehistoric and earlier historic archaeological deposits that may exist on the proposed development site and determine the preservation the buildings associated with the Hall that have subsequently been demolished and remnants of the 18th-19th centuries designed landscapes. The purpose of the work is to:

- gather sufficient evidence to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about the archaeological resource existing within the areas of investigation;
- to assist the formulation of any strategies for the future treatment of archaeological deposits in relation to development proposals.

3.2 The key objectives of the work are:

- machine stripping down to the surface of any archaeological deposits and investigation of these deposits in order to ascertain their nature and date (following standard excavation methodologies);
- appropriate post-excavation assessment, analysis, reporting, archiving and dissemination.

4. Fieldwork methodology

4.1 The evaluation will be carried out by ARS Ltd in accordance with the *Code of Conduct* of The Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA 2012) and *Standard and Guidance for field evaluation*. (IfA 2009a), along with Cheshire County Council's *General Conditions for Archaeological Contractors and Consultants* (Cheshire CC 2003).

4.2 The evaluation programme comprises the excavation of ten trenches in total (see accompanying plan). Trench 1 will be 15m long by 1.6m wide, trench 2 will be 50m long by 1.6m wide and the remaining trenches will be 30m long by 1.6m wide.

4.3 Excavation by machine

Topsoil and unstratified modern material will be removed mechanically by a machine equipped with a smooth (or toothless) ditching blade under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist. The topsoil or recent overburden will be removed down to the first significant *in situ* archaeological horizon or the natural horizon, whichever is encountered first. The exposed surface would be cleaned using appropriate hand tools for the purpose of identifying any archaeological remains. The trenches and all exposed features and deposits will be drawn in plan and located on a general site plan compiled at an appropriate scale.

4.4 Excavation by hand

Archaeological features will generally only be sample-excavated sufficiently to characterise and date them.

4.5 The site will be recorded using in accordance with the ARS Ltd field recording manual. A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using a single context planning system with pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work in accordance with the ARS Ltd field recording manual. Accurate scale plans and section drawings will be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate. A photographic record of all contexts will be taken in colour high resolution digital format and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept.

4.6 ARS Ltd will be responsible for locating any service pipes, cables etc., which may cross any of the trench lines, and for taking the necessary measures to avoid disturbing such services.

4.7 **Treatment of finds**

All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds* (1990), The Institute for Field Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008) and the recipient museum's guidelines. All artefacts and ecofacts will be collected with consideration of what material should be retained or discarded being made after post-excavation assessment and following the advice from relevant specialist(s), Cheshire West Museums Service and the Development Control Archaeologist.

4.7.1 Any finds of human remains will be left *in situ*, covered and protected and the appropriate authorities, including the Development Control Archaeologist, informed. If removal is essential it can only take place under appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations, and if appropriate, in compliance with the 'Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981.

4.7.2 All finds which may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act 1997 will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

4.8 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and Cheshire West Museums Service prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner

4.9 **Re-instatement of the land**

All trenches will be backfilled once they have been excavated and recorded by mechanical excavator.

5. **Report**

5.1 Following the fieldwork ARS Ltd will prepare a report in accordance with The Institute for Field Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008b; 2009b) that will include the following.

- A digital location plan showing all the excavated areas, tied into the Ordnance Survey Data
- Section drawings at a scale of 1:10 showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- A stratigraphical description of features and deposits.
- A summary of the artefacts recovered by trench together with their interpretation.
- Photographic record of the site and detail of archaeological features.

- Any specialist assessments. This will include a report on all pottery, glass and clay tobacco pipes discovered during the evaluation as well as all other artefacts that may be discovered. A specialist report on all animal or human bone discovered during the excavation will also be included. Pottery and ceramic building material will be recorded by sherd count and weight by ware type and, if appropriate, form within context groups.
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

5.2 The report will assess the following.

- The archaeological significance and potential of the development site and any archaeological deposits encountered during evaluation, including assessment of the finds and environmental evidence with regard to presence, absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation/condition and quality.
- An indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development.
- The evidence in its setting and regional context.
- Any research priorities where applicable.

5.4 A summary statement of the evaluation results and an interim report will be submitted to the Cheshire Archaeological Planning Advisory Service within four weeks of the completion of the fieldwork in order to facilitate any required early decision on possible mitigation strategies.

5.5 A bound hard copy and digital copy of the final report will be deposited with the Cheshire Historic Environment Record no later than two months after completion of the project.

5.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded pdf version of the entire report. Should any archaeological remains uncovered through this work be deemed to be of special significance, discussions will be held involving the client and the Cheshire Archaeological Planning Advisory Service about a suitable means of further dissemination or publication.

6. Archive

6.1 An archive, consisting of all written records and materials recovered, drawn and photographic records will be prepared. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It will contain a site matrix, site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data. The archive will also be prepared in line with UKIC Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (1990), The Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (IfA 2009c) and the Cheshire West Museums Service's guidelines.

6.2 Arrangements for the deposition of the full site archive will be made with the Cheshire West Museums Service curator.

6.3 The archive will be presented to the archive curator within six months of completion of the fieldwork, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the Cheshire Archaeological Planning Advisory Service and the Cheshire West Museums Service curator.

7. Standards and project management

7.1 ARS Ltd is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). Registered Organisations are continuously assessed to ensure that the highest standards of work are carried out, in line with the *Code of Conduct* of the IfA (2012) and will follow the IfA *Standard and Guidance for field evaluation* (2009). In addition to our key management staff, who have achieved the highest grade of corporate IfA membership, many of our field staff also hold corporate grade membership.

7.2 All staff employed on the project will be suitably qualified and experienced for their respective project roles and have practical experience of archaeological excavation and recording. All staff will be made aware of the archaeological importance of the area surrounding the site and will be fully briefed on the work required by this specification. Each member of staff will be fully conversant with the aims and methodologies and will be given a copy of this WSI to read. All members of staff employed by ARS Ltd are fully qualified and experienced archaeologists, this will ensure that appropriate decisions regarding excavation and sampling will be made in the field.

7.3 *Project Team*

Project management:	Chris Scott MifA (ARS Ltd)
Fieldwork supervisor:	Scott Williams MifA (ARS Ltd)
Post-fieldwork and reporting:	Scott Williams MifA (ARS Ltd)
Flint specialist	Dr Robin Holgate MifA (ARS Ltd)
Ceramic specialists:	Dr. Clive Waddington MifA (ARS Ltd), Dr Jane Timby, Dr Chris Cumberpatch, Mike Wood MifA
Metalwork specialist:	Dr Jenny Price (Durham University Conservation Laboratory)
Plant macrofossils and charcoals:	Laura Strafford AifA (ARS Ltd)
Human remains:	Kate Mapplethorpe (ARS Ltd)
Faunal remains:	Kate Mapplethorpe (ARS Ltd)

8. Monitoring

8.1 This WSI has been approved for use by the Cheshire Archaeological Planning Advisory Service.

8.2 Notification of fieldwork commencement will be given to the Cheshire Archaeological Planning Advisory Service in advance of the work.

8.3 Reasonable access to the site will be allowed to the Cheshire Archaeological Planning Advisory Service or their nominee for the purpose of monitoring the archaeological evaluation.

9. General items

9.1 Health and Safety

All work will be carried out in accordance with The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Specific health and safety policies exist for all our workplaces and all staff employed will be made aware of the policy and any relevant issues. The particular risks involved with this project have been assessed, recorded and relevant mitigation measures put in place as part of a full risk assessment. ARS Ltd retains Peninsula as their expert health and safety consultants.

9.2 Timetable

It is intended to undertake the evaluation within a two-week period commencing 29th July 2013.

9.3 Insurance Cover

ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability, public liability, professional indemnity and all-risks cover.

9.4 Adjustments to the Written Scheme of Investigation

Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made after discussion and with prior written approval of the Cheshire Archaeological Planning Advisory Service.

10. Bibliography

Cheshire County Council. 2003. *General Conditions for Archaeological Contractors and Consultants*. Chester, Cheshire County Council.

Institute for Archaeologists. 2008. *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

Institute for Archaeologists. 2009a. *Standard and Guidance for field evaluation*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

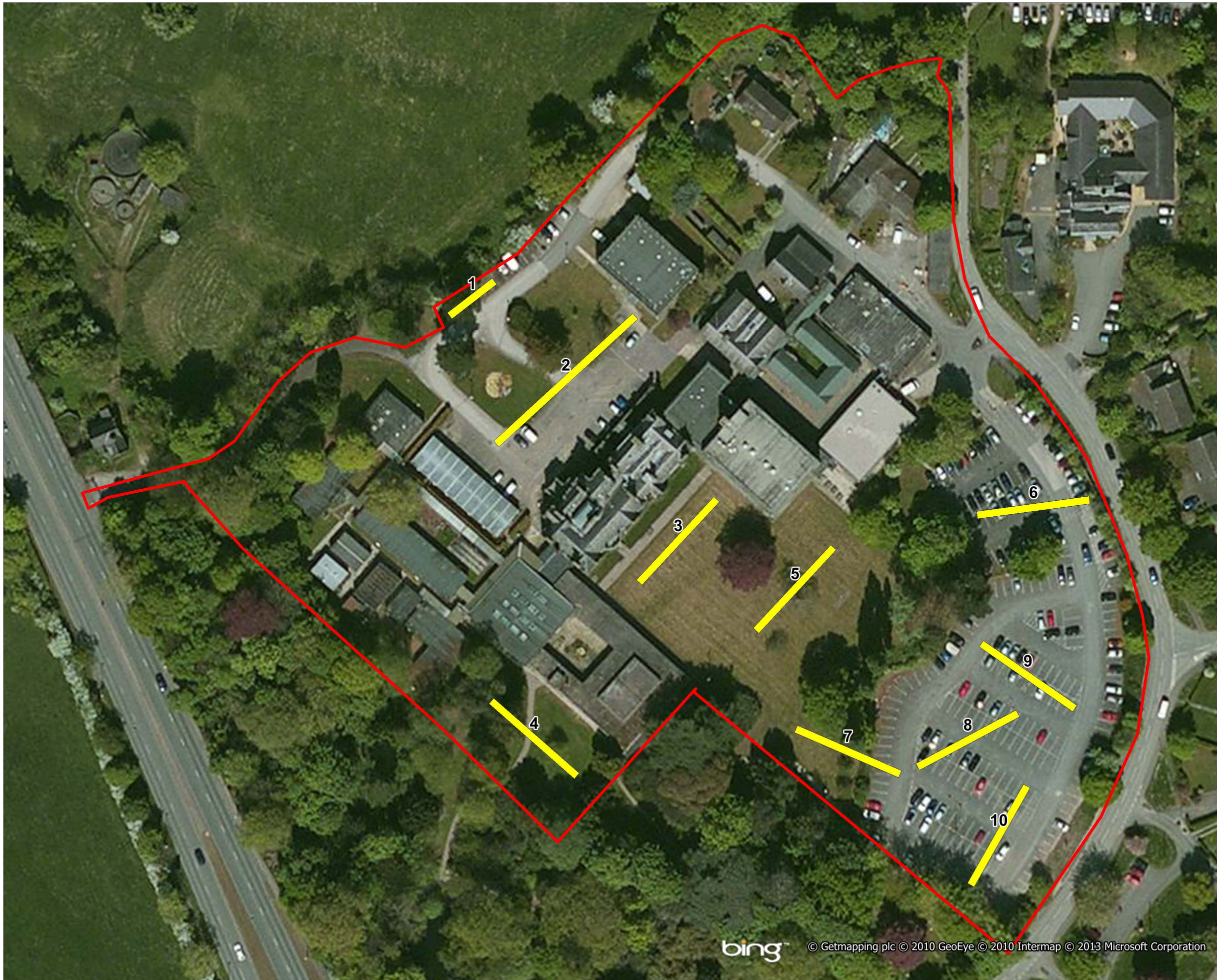
Institute for Archaeologists. 2009b. *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

Institute for Archaeologists. 2009c. *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

Institute of Field Archaeologists. 2012. *Code of Conduct*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

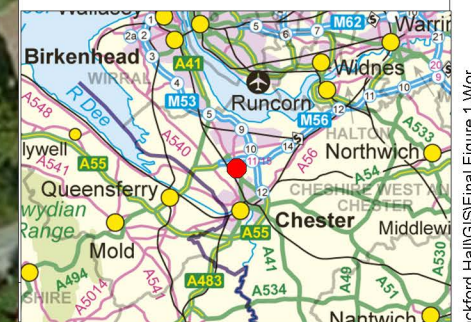
RSK Environment Ltd 2013. *Backford Hall, Backford, Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment*. Unpublished report for Jones Homes.

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation. 1990. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.



Legend:

- Site Boundary
- Trial Trench



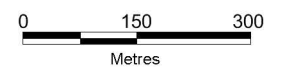
Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
00	27.02.12	First Draft	AJ	OR	WH

Backford Hall



Title:

Figure 4 -
Trial Trenches



Scale = 1:10,000 @ A3



REV 00