



20 Bishophill, York North Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report, Phase 2



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**20 Bishophill, York
North Yorkshire**

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of McCarthy & Stone Retirement Lifestyle Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 20 Bishophill Junior, York, centred on National Grid Reference 459972, 451403. The site is located within a very high density of listed buildings and within a conservation area, 10 m to the east of the scheduled medieval city walls of York.

The watching brief followed on from evaluation trenching, watching brief and geotechnical investigations on the site which identified medieval and possible Romano-British structures and buried deposits.

As a result of the remains identified during the previous phases of work, a revised foundation design was agreed with John Oxley, City Archaeologist for York. This established a protective buffer of at least 250 mm between the identified Romano-British archaeology and the base of significant construction impacts. It was agreed with the developer that significant construction impacts would be kept above 16.66 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

Wessex Archaeology maintained a watching brief on the demolition of the extant structural remains on site which would otherwise impeded construction (comprising upstanding walls, foundations and basement walls), as well as groundworks for foundations, utility services and piling.

The watching brief recorded a series of cellars and drains associated with Oliver House and 19th-century structures identified on the 1852 and 1892 OS maps of the site. A brick sample taken from a well associated with one of these 19th century cellars may have origins dating from the 15th to 16th century. The cellars were removed where necessary with the agreement of the City Archaeologist as they could not be piled through. Construction of the cellars had truncated any earlier archaeological deposits. Areas of site not previously truncated by post-medieval structures were not excavated below the agreed depth of 16.66 m aOD.

No *in situ* Romano-British/medieval deposits or features were identified during the demolition and associated groundworks. However, low levels of residual material were recovered from redeposited material within the site. The most significant finds were a probable Romano-British altar identified amongst the demolition fill of a 19th century cellar. The altar shows signs of extensive weathering and may have been re-used as a Victorian garden feature. The watching brief also identified a disarticulated human skull during the removal of a manhole. The skull was recovered from the fill of the construction cut for the manhole, but its age is uncertain.

The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Sheffield office under project code 107774 and will be deposited with the York Museums Trust in due course under a relevant accession number. An OASIS form, ID number wessexar1-303749 has been provisionally completed and will be submitted at the time of deposition.



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The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of McCarthy & Stone Retirement Lifestyle Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Rachel Morse and Pete Owen in this regard.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Swales. Fieldwork was undertaken by Martina Tenzer, Nick Woodward, Matt Tooke, Andy Swann and Stuart Pierson, between 9th December 2016 and 6th June 2017. This report was written by Martina Tenzer and edited by Chris Swales. Figures and plates were prepared by Bob Davis and Ian Atkins. Reporting on the finds was carried out by Lorraine Mephram, with an assessment of the human remains by Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy.



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of McCarthy & Stone Retirement Lifestyle Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Oliver House, 20 Bishophill, York, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 459972, 451403 (Figure 1, hereafter 'the Site').
- 1.1.2 Planning permission has been granted (subject to Section 106 agreement) for the demolition of Oliver House with associated detached buildings and the redevelopment of the Site (Planning Ref: 15/02645/FULM).
- 1.1.3 The Site is located within a very high density of listed buildings and within a Conservation Area, 10 m to the east of the scheduled medieval City Walls of York. This phase of archaeological works follows on from evaluation trenching (Wessex Archaeology 2015a), watching brief (Wessex Archaeology 2016a) and geotechnical investigations on the site (Wessex Archaeology 2015b; 2016b). The previous phase of evaluation trenching identified possible Romano-British structures and buried deposits as well as medieval structures and deposits.
- 1.1.4 As a result of the archaeological remains identified during the previous phases of work, a revised foundation design was agreed with John Oxley, City Archaeologist for York. This established a protective buffer of at least 250 mm between the identified Romano-British remains (situated at 16.41 m aOD) and the base of significant construction impacts. It was agreed with the developer that significant construction impacts would be kept above 16.66 m.
- 1.1.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; CgMs 2016a) outlining how the archaeological requirements of the work would be met was submitted to John Oxley for approval prior to work commencing. All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the WSI.

1.2 Scope of this document

- 1.2.1 This report provides a brief overview of the archaeological background to the Site, the methodologies employed during fieldwork and the results of the archaeological watching brief. In form and content, this report conforms to national guidelines (Historic England 2015; ClfA 2014a–c).

1.3 Site location and topography

- 1.3.1 The Site is bounded by Lower Priory Street to the south, Fairfax Street to the east, Prospect Terrace to the north and Dewsbury Terrace/Bishophill Junior to the west.



- 1.3.2 At the commencement of the watching brief, the Site was occupied by a former social housing/flats, with the ground surface at 17.5 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on York Moraine Member (sand, clay and gravel) over Sherwood Sandstone (*ibid.*).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following summary is drawn from the desk based assessment (CgMs 2016b) and also outlines the recent fieldwork carried out at the Site by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2015a; 2015b; 2016a; 2016b).

2.2 Recent archaeological investigations

- 2.2.1 Wholesale landscaping associated with the current buildings, and demolition of earlier terrace housing was evident during a recent watching brief on geotechnical boreholes to at least 2 m below existing ground level (Wessex Archaeology 2015b).
- 2.2.2 Three evaluation trenches revealed a possible robbed out wall and a 4th-century buried soil at a depth of 1.6 m below ground level (BGL) (16.23 m aOD) in the south of the Site. Traces of cobble, gravel and mortar surfaces with redeposited fragments of painted plaster were revealed at a depth of 1 m BGL (16.56 m aOD) immediately to the east.
- 2.2.3 In the north, a large deposit of medieval garden soil was identified to a depth of at least 3.4 m BGL (14.87 m aOD), overlain by post-medieval soils and a possible brick and stone garden feature at 1.5 m BGL. The medieval soils appeared to fill a large cut feature, possible a quarry dug for the construction of the nearby Holy Trinity Priory or 10th-century church of St Mary.

2.3 Prehistoric/Roman

- 2.3.1 There are no prehistoric remains recorded within the Site or within the City of York. York was founded by the Ninth Legion in AD 71 as a legionary fortress located on the north bank of the River Ouse. The later Roman *colonia* (civilian settlement), was founded on the south bank of the River Ouse.
- 2.3.2 The buried remnants of the town's defences, initially earthen with timber ramparts and now topped by the medieval city wall (national reference number 1004910), are located 10 m to the south-west of the Site.
- 2.3.3 Archaeological investigation close to the Site revealed Roman occupation deposits 2.5 m BGL and a watching brief along the line of a replacement sewer in Fetter Lane, 180 m to the north of the Site, identified a three-roomed Roman bathhouse or a Roman house with a baths attached.

2.4 Early medieval

- 2.4.1 Roman power in Britain collapsed in the 5th century. York appears to have remained occupied as *Caer Ebrauc*, a royal settlement. Very little is known with regard to the layout of the Saxon (Anglian) settlement and the subsequent Viking layout following the city's capture in AD 781.
- 2.4.2 There are no Saxon (Anglian) or Viking remains recorded close to the Site, which lies away from the bank of the River Ouse, the probable focus of settlement during this period.



2.5 Medieval

- 2.5.1 There are no medieval remains recorded within the Site, but medieval remains/buildings have been recorded a short distance to the north-west, south-west and south-east. Generally, the street plan of medieval York conforms roughly to the street grid previously set out during the Roman period, apart from within this north-western quadrant of the city, possibly as a result of the foundation of Holy Trinity Priory 100 m to the north-west of the Site.
- 2.5.2 Holy Trinity Priory originally covered seven acres and its south-east boundary conforms approximately to the north side of Bishophill Junior. The original Christ Church was constructed in 1086 but destroyed by fire in 1137. The church was rebuilt by 1180 with chancels added between 1459 to 1466.
- 2.5.3 Located 200 m to the south-east of the Site is The Old Baile (part of Scheduled Monument 100910), a motte and bailey castle constructed by William the Conqueror between 1068–69. York was unusual in that two castles were constructed within the city walls, the larger castle on the north bank of the River Ouse and The Old Baile on the south bank. The two castles were destroyed in 1069 but the king ordered their immediate reconstruction. In the late 12th century the Old Baile was passed to the Archbishop of York, and in 1466 the castle and its grounds were given to the city.
- 2.5.4 Approximately 60 m to the north of the Site is the Church of St Mary, which has a 10th-century tower and is a Grade I listed building (national reference number 46272).
- 2.5.5 A map of the city dated 1541 depicts the surrounding streets but shows no details of buildings other than the remnant church of the priory to the north-west. The city walls are depicted in crude 3D and show the gateway at Micklegate Bar and a tunnel at Victor Street, both are extant.

2.6 Post-medieval and modern

- 2.6.1 Rocque's Plan of the City of York, dated 1750, indicates that the Site lay within open gardens with residential areas located north-west, north and north-east of the Site. Rocque's Plan depicts Trinity Church Micklegate, the remnants of the priory, and St Mary's Bishophill Junior.
- 2.6.2 The Ordnance Survey map dated 1852 (Figure 2) shows the south-west part of the Site as developed. A line of terraced houses passes along the Site's southern boundary and Grays Buildings passes east-west through the Site's centre. The immediate environs remain relatively open and undeveloped.
- 2.6.3 The 1892 Ordnance Survey (Figure 2) shows the whole Site developed with terraced houses and their associated backyards/gardens. Significant development in the form of 'open terraces' has occurred to the south-east of the Site (Fairfax Street, Hampden Street and Victor Street). The Site remains unchanged on the 1931 Ordnance Survey. The Site and the block of land between Prospect Terrace (to the north-east) and Lower Priory Street (to the south-west) is shown to have been completely cleared on the 1961 Ordnance Survey. The Ordnance Survey 1985 shows Oliver House and associated outbuildings on the Site.



3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 Wessex Archaeology maintained a watching brief on the demolition of the remaining structures, which comprised upstanding walls, foundations and basement walls, as well as groundworks for foundations, utility services and piling. As outlined in the WSI (CgMS 2016a), the general aims of the archaeological monitoring were:

- *to record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed;*
- *to provide sufficient information to enable an informed decision to be made about the need for additional archaeological mitigation; and*
- *to make available the results of the work.*

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Machine excavation

4.1.1 Machine removal of structures and deposits was monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist.

4.1.2 All spoil was scanned for artefacts, recorded and retained unless of clearly modern (ie, late 20th or early 21st-century) origin.

4.2 Hand excavation and recording

4.2.1 Surfaces and structures were cleaned to allow inspection and to define their extent. The complete excavation of features was not necessary during the watching brief.

4.2.2 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system with features either planned using a GPS accurate to 30 mm in three dimensions or hand planned at an appropriate scale.

4.2.3 Exact location and heights of the areas monitored and structures identified were established in metres relative to the Ordnance Survey Data (OD) by using a Leica GPS.

4.2.4 A photographic record was maintained using digital images and 35 mm monochrome prints where appropriate.

4.3 Specialist strategies

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (CgMs 2016a). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.3.2 No environmental samples were taken due to the nature of the archaeological remains identified during the watching brief.



Human remains

- 4.3.3 A disarticulated human skull was recovered from the construction cut of a Victorian red brick manhole. A Ministry of Justice Licence for the removal of human remains was obtained (Licence No. 17-0053). The skull was removed from Site and the post-excavation assessment carried out in accordance with national guidelines (McKinley and Roberts 1993; McKinley 2004).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 For ease of discussion in this report the watching brief area has been divided into areas 1-6 (Figures 1 and 3). A summary of the archaeological results is presented below with a comprehensive list of all deposits and structures listed within Appendix 1. The average depth of ground reduction within each area is recorded within Table 1 below.

Table 1: Depths of ground reduction

Watching Brief area	Ground level prior to demolition	Maximum reduced ground level
Area 1	17.95 -17.54 m aOD	16.66 m. Up to 15.3 m aOD in areas with cellars
Area 2	18.5 m aOD	17.3 m aOD
Area 3	17.54 m aOD	16.66 m aOD
Area 4	17.44 m aOD	16.66 m. Up to 15.71 m aOD in areas with cellars
Area 5	17.76 m AOD	16.66 m. Up to 15.71 m aOD in areas with cellars
Area 6	18.27 m aOD	17.00 m aOD

5.2 Slab removal and overburden

- 5.2.1 Following demolition of the above ground structure of Oliver House the removal of foundations and the associated concrete slab to the south of Oliver House was monitored under watching brief. Three separate areas of concrete slab were monitored during removal (Figure 1). These slabs were associated with the kitchen of Oliver House (slab 3), the garages (slab 2) and a detached building (slab 1). The concrete slab was 0.30 m thick and overlay a 0.15 m thick layer of made ground containing crushed brick, breeze block and concrete. Beneath this layer of made ground a buried garden soil was recorded under slab 1 at a depth of 0.45 m below ground level. Excavation was halted at this level.

5.3 Structures associated with the demolished Oliver House

- 5.3.1 Areas 1, 3 and 6 contained the foundation of the demolished Oliver House (Figure 3, Plate 1). Concrete foundation beams 402 were broken out and removed without exceeding the agreed 16.66 m impact depth. However Concrete piles exceeding this depth were surveyed and left *in situ*. The concrete foundation beams were 0.6 m wide and 0.65 m deep and spaced at a distance of 2.5 m.



5.3.2 At the western limit of area 2 the modern cellar of the demolished Oliver House was recorded. The cellar consisted of brick walls (401), a concrete floor and concrete ring beam foundations (402). The size of this structure made piling through it impossible and as such the foundations were broken out and removed. The impact depth of these groundworks reached 15.3 m aOD, with natural clay substrate identified at this depth.

5.3.3 Within areas 4 and 5, at the southern end of the Site, concrete foundations of the recently demolished detached building were exposed and removed beneath the footprint of slab 1.

5.4 Nineteenth century structures

5.4.1 The cutting of a gas trench was monitored beneath the pavement to the north of the Site (area 2). The trench was 0.5 m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2 m below ground level (17.3 m aOD). Three red brick walls were identified within the trench; 203, 204 and 205 (Figure 3, Plate 2). The walls were identified at a depth of 0.8 m below ground level and their foundations were not reached. These walls were all two skins thick and made of unfrogged red brick. Walls 203 and 204 correlate with structures first depicted on the 1852 OS map. Wall 202 correlates with a structure first depicted on the 1892 OS map.

5.4.2 As part of the preparatory groundworks for the piling mat 19th century structures were identified within areas 1, 3, 4 and 5 (Figures 3-5).

5.4.3 Within area 3 a sandstone structure was recorded at 16.90m aOD, with the structure, comprising of stone walls 304-307. The walls formed a rectangular structure on a northwest – southeast alignment and measuring 2.7 m by 1.2 m. Only a single course of the structure survived with walls 0.30 m wide and made of sandstone blocks bonded with a sandy white lime mortar (Figure 3, Plate 3). The structure correlates with standing buildings identified on the 1852 OS map and may form the badly truncated remains of a drain.

5.4.4 Also within area 3 were structures 308 and 309. Red brick wall 308 was aligned northeast–southwest, with a 1.5 m long segment surviving. The wall was two skins thick, with the foundation not being reached. The wall corresponds to a structure depicted on the 1852 OS map as an extension to the main northwest – southeast row of terraced buildings. Structure 309 was constructed of 20th century frogged brick and represents a drain associated with Oliver House.

5.4.5 Located within area 1 were a series of structures surviving beneath and between the modern concrete foundations of Oliver House at 17.3 to 16.9 m aOD (Figure 3, Plates 4-5).

5.4.6 Structures 120, 121, 123-127, 606-609, and 614-616 all sit within the footprint of a northwest–southeast aligned terraced building recorded on the 1852 OS map. The walls were constructed from unfrogged red brick and were two skins thick, and recorded to a maximum depth of five courses without the foundations being reached. Tiled floor 613 was bounded by walls 606, 608 and 609 and had a black and red checked pattern (Plate 6). Structure 126 formed a brick lined drain for the dwelling and would presumably have been situated within the footprint of a kitchen.

5.4.7 Structures 109–117, 604–605 and 610-611 are situated immediately to the east of the terraced building described above and correlate with structures first depicted on the 1892 OS map (Plate 7). The walls were constructed from unfrogged red brick and were two skins thick, and recorded to a maximum depth of five courses without the foundations being reached. These structures abut the terraced building and likely served as outbuildings. Structure 611 represents the remains of a red brick floor. Structures 112, 115 and 610 all



- functioned as drains. The number of drains recorded within these structures suggests washing and toilet amenities.
- 5.4.8 Within areas 4 and 5 a group of structures were recorded at c. 17.15 m aOD which correlate with a range of north-west to south-east aligned terraced buildings first depicted on the 1852 OS map (Figures 4 and 5).
- 5.4.9 Structure 421 correlates with the outer wall of terraced buildings fronting on to Bishophill Junior/Lower Priory Street. The unfrogged red brick wall was recorded running on a north west to south-east alignment for 20.50 m before turning 90 degrees to the north-east. The wall was two skins thick and the foundation was not reached. Within the footprint of this terraced building cellars 409 and 420 were recorded (Plate 8). Demolition material was removed from the cellars with machine assistance. Fill 410 of cellar 420 was found to contain the badly weathered remains of a probable Roman altar within the mixed demolition material (Plate 9).
- 5.4.10 Situated to the south of external terrace wall 421, and abutting it, structures 503 and 505-509 were recorded (Plate 10). Structure 503 formed the upper courses of a well (Plate 11). This upper 17 courses of the rectangular structure were a later addition to a circular red brick well below (Plate 12). A brick sample taken from the lower circular structure of well 503 may have been manufactured in the late 15th or 16th century.
- 5.4.11 Structures 505-509 were constructed of unfrogged red brick, were two skins thick and extended to a depth of some 14 courses. The structure was divided centrally by wall 508 and capped by sandstone block 507. The exact function of this structure is not certain but it may have served as a water tank, making use of the associated well 503. These structures were cut into a yellow brown clay (504) which may represent the natural sub strata.
- 5.4.12 To the north of cellars 409/420 two red brick manholes were recorded (411 and 412). Manhole 412 was removed as part of the preparatory works for the pile mat. Removal of the structure uncovered a human cranium (SK001) from the backfill of the construction cut of the manhole (Plate 13).
- 5.4.13 Cellars 409 and 420 as well as structures 505-509 were removed as part of the groundworks. These groundworks reached a maximum depth of 15.71 m aOD with patches of yellow clay natural identified at this depth.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered; these are quantified by material type and by context in Table 2. The majority of the assemblage is of post-medieval/modern date, with one medieval pottery sherd, and a few Romano-British items; the recovery of a small Romano-British stone altar is of particular interest. All finds came from post-medieval/modern contexts, with the majority from made ground deposits.

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The pottery assemblage amounts to 50 sherds (2506 g), of which two sherds are Romano-British, one is medieval, and the remainder are post-medieval/modern.

Romano-British

- 6.2.2 The two Romano-British sherds comprise one of Spanish Dressel 20 amphora (made ground 106), and one of oxidised ware (made ground 404). Both are body sherds.



Medieval

- 6.2.3 One body sherd of York Glazed ware was found in the tarmac layer (501) in area 5.

Post-medieval/modern

- 6.2.4 The remaining 47 sherds are of more recent date. They include some glazed redwares which are not particularly closely datable, but the majority of wares present date to the 18th century or later, and include stonewares (all from containers of various kinds - jars and bottles), and refined wares (tea- and tablewares, and kitchen wares).

6.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 6.3.1 This category consists largely of modern brick and wall tile, but one small undiagnostic fragment from made ground 603 could be Romano-British.
- 6.3.2 Brick samples were retained from walls 111 and 503. Both are handmade, unfroged forms. The brick from wall 503 is relatively crudely made, measures 222 x 110 x 45 mm, and is mortared on all sides. Manufacture and dimensions would be consistent with a date in the late 15th or 16th century. The brick from wall 111 is larger (240 x 110 x 70 mm) and is mortared on the ends and faces, but not on the sides; the dimensions suggest a date no earlier than the 18th century.
- 6.3.3 The remaining CBM comprises fragments of glazed wall tile, of late 19th to 20th century date. This was recovered from made ground in areas 2 and 1.

6.4 Stone

- 6.4.1 A complete Romano-British stone altar was recovered from amongst demolition rubble in one of the 19th century cellars. The altar is made of Millstone Grit, and stands 390 mm high. It is heavily abraded, and shows some recent damage in the form of chips and scrapes. There are traces of carving on one face, which appears fairly crudely executed. Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) has shown this to comprise a patera and a jug or flagon, but there is no sign of any lettering on the front of the altar. The top has been hollowed out (the tool marks are visible) to form a dished surface. Whether this was integral to the original altar, or represents some later re-use, is uncertain. Given the object's provenance, in cellar backfill, a re-use as (for example) a garden ornament could be possible (Figure 6).

6.5 Glass

- 6.5.1 Glass was recovered from made ground in areas 2 and 1. All is vessel glass of 19th to 20th century date. One small fragment from area 2 (layer 202) is from the neck of a green wine bottle of early 19th century date. Three complete bottles were recovered from area 1 (layer 612), all of 20th century date; these comprise a small subrectangular ink bottle (Parker), and two small beverage bottles, also with screw tops. One carries the mark of Forster Coverdale & Co Ltd of York.

6.6 Metalwork

- 6.6.1 Two metal objects were recovered, both from made ground: a dessertspoon of fiddle pattern from area 3, and an enamelled iron candle-holder from area 1. Both are likely to date to the 20th century.

6.7 Human bone

- 6.7.1 A near complete human skull, found redeposited in the construction cut for a brick manhole, was subject to analysis. The skull may have derived from any of the underlying deeply stratified deposits, through which the feature was cut; it is therefore of uncertain date.



- 6.7.2 The condition of the bone surface was recorded using McKinley's system of grading (2004, fig. 6.1–7) and standard methodologies were employed to estimate age and sex (Bass 1987; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). Measurements were taken for the calculation of cranial indices (Bass 1987; Brothwell and Zakrzewski 2004) and non-metric traits were recorded in accordance with Berry and Berry (1967).

Results

- 6.7.3 A summary is presented here, details are in the archive. The near complete skull is in very good condition (Grade 0–1), though it is missing the maxilla, part of the base and the mandible. There is some dry-bone fragmentation and localised erosion, most of which is likely to have occurred as a result of disturbance and redeposition. Iron-rich calcareous precipitate 'tide-marks' are present on the internal and external surfaces.

- 6.7.4 The cranium is that of an adult, at least 35 years of age and probably female. It has a cranial index of 78.9, which puts it into the mesocranic, or 'medium' category of skull shape. Pitting seen on the roof of the left orbit (*cribra orbitalia*) is a characteristic indicator of physiological stress, particularly in archaeological remains. The condition has been linked to anaemia resulting from a deficiency in iron and/or Vitamin B12, which may be associated with dietary lack, certain diseases/conditions (particularly gastrointestinal), severe blood loss and heavy parasitic load (Lewis 2010, 408; Molleson 1993; Roberts and Manchester 1997, 163–9; Walker *et al* 2009).

Further recommendations

- 6.7.5 The bone has been fully recorded and no further osteological analysis will be required. However, in order to set the remains within their temporal context and to allow meaningful comment, it is strongly recommended that a sample of the bone be submitted for radiocarbon dating.
- 6.7.6 Dating and appropriate reporting will enhance the existing corpus of archaeological and historical data for the City of York and will aid future research.

6.8 Animal bone

- 6.8.1 Animal bone (amounting to 28 fragments, deriving from 22 bones once conjoins are taken into consideration) was recovered from areas 2, 5 and 1. The bone is in good condition. Most of the bone belongs to either cattle or sheep; body parts represented include long bones, metapodials, skull and jaw, ribs and vertebrae, i.e. there is no apparent focus on particular parts of the carcass. At least one bone shows butchery marks (a cattle rib sawn at both ends). There are also two bones from domestic fowl.

6.9 Other finds

- 6.9.1 Other finds comprise a clay pipe bowl (c. 1650–70) and stem, and four shells (3 oyster, 1 mussel).



Table 2: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

		Animal Bone	CBM	Pottery	Other Finds
106	mg			1/260	2 shell
111	wall		1/3650		
202	mg	6/230	7/101	31/978	1 glass; 2 shell
203	wall	1/6			
302	mg			1/115	1 metal
404	mg			1/20	
413				1/18	
501	tarmac	7/79		1/6	2 clay pipe
503	wall		1/2459		
603	mg	14/426	1/18	14/1109	
612	mg		1/145		3 glass; 1 metal
SK001					1 human skull
Total		28/741	11/6373	50/2506	

CBM = ceramic building material

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 No *in situ* Romano-British/medieval deposits or features were identified during the demolition and associated groundworks. However, low levels of residual material were recovered from redeposited material within the Site. The most significant finds were a probable Romano-British altar identified amongst the demolition fill of a 19th century cellar. The altar shows signs of extensive weathering and may have been re-used as a Victorian garden feature. The watching brief also identified a disarticulated human skull during the removal of a manhole. The skull was recovered from the fill of the construction cut for the manhole, but its age is uncertain although presumably originating from deposits disturbed during the construction of the red brick manhole it was recovered from.

7.1.2 The watching brief identified the badly truncated remains of 19th century terraced housing. The structures identified correlate to buildings depicted on the 1852 and 1892 OS maps of the Site. The level of truncation largely restricted survival of the structures to cellars and drains. A brick sample taken from a well associated with one of these nineteenth century cellars may have origins dating from the 15th to 16th century.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 The foundation design for the development has been largely successful in avoiding impacting on the known archaeological deposits below 16.66 m aOD. Groundworks exceeding this depth were restricted to the footprint of 19th and 20th century structures, whose construction had already truncated any archaeological remains at a greater depth.

7.2.2 The watching brief has succeeded in assessing the condition of the 19th century remains surviving within the development area and produced a record detailing their location and character.



- 7.2.3 A limited number of residual finds from medieval and Romano-British deposits were recovered, with the recovery of a Roman altar particularly important in shedding some further light on the beliefs of the inhabitants of York during this period.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with York Museums Trust. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the accession code to be confirmed. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 Preparation of archive

- 8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by York Museums Trust, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared.

8.3 Discard policy

- 8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

8.4 Security copy

- 8.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



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10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions

Slab 1					
Context	Type	Deposit description	Fill of	Category	Depth
01	Structure	Concrete foundations		Foundation	0.00 – 0.30
02	Layer	Mixed brick rubble, brick fragments, stone, broken concrete, possible demolition debris from earlier buildings		Made ground	0.30 – 0.45
03	Layer	Dark brown loam		Garden soil	0.45+

Slab 2					
Context	Type	Deposit description	Fill of	Category	Depth
04	Structure	Concrete foundations, not reinforced		Foundation	0.00 – 0.30
05	Layer	Rubble hard core, red brick fragments, stone, slate, mid to dark brown sandy loam		Made ground	0.30+

Slab 3					
Context	Type	Deposit description	Fill of	Category	Depth
06	Structure	Concrete foundations, excavation halted when unexpected depth was identified		Foundation	n/a

Area 1					
Context	Type	Deposit description	Fill of	Category	Depth
401	Structure	Modern wall of cellar		Wall	0.00 – 0.55+
402	Structure	Concrete ring beam		Foundation	0.00 – 0.60+
403	Layer	Dark brown sandy loam, small stone inclusions		Garden soil	0.00 – 0.20
404	Layer	Light greyish brown sandy clay, possible imported soil for access road		Made ground	0.00 – 0.20
405	Layer	Dark brown sandy clay, debris and rubble inclusions		Made ground	0.20 – 0.40
406	Fill	Fill of modern drain		Fill	0.20 – 0.50
407	Fill	Back fill of construction cut for modern cellar wall, medium orangey brown silty clay, stone inclusions		Fill	0.20 – 0.50+
408	Fill	Back fill of construction cut for modern cellar wall, dark black brown sandy silt, debris and rubble inclusions		Fill	0.20 – 0.45
101-108	Extant structures	Red brick and concrete structures associated with Oliver House		Walls and foundations	0.00 -1.30 m
109	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick 2 skins, investigated down to 6 courses, exceeding depth of buffer zone, 1.30 m long, 0.12 m wide		Wall	1.05+
110	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick 2 skins, only one course visible, exceeding depth of buffer zone, 2.00 m long, 0.12 – 0.24 m wide		Wall	1.05+
111	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick 2 skins, only one course visible, exceeding depth of buffer zone, 0.39 m long, 0.12 m wide		Wall	1.05+
112	Structure	Drainage opening formed of 3 bricks, adjacent 111, 1.20 m long, 0.12 m wide		Drain	1.05+
113	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick 2 skins, only one course visible, exceeding depth of buffer zone, gap to 114 is possible entrance, 0.60 m long, 0.24 m wide		Wall	1.05+



114	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick 2 skins, only one course visible, exceeding depth of buffer zone, 1.15 m long, 0.24 m wide		Wall	1.05+
115	Structure	Drainage opening formed of 3 bricks, adjacent 114, 0.35 m long, 0.12 m wide		Drain	1.05+
116	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick 1 skins, only one course seen in trench, exceeding depth of buffer zone, 1.10 m long, 0.12 m wide, 1.10 m long, 0.12 m wide		Wall	1.05+
117	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick 2 skins, only one course visible, exceeding depth of buffer zone, gap to 109 is possible entrance, 1.20 m long, 0.24 m wide		Wall	1.05+
118		void			
119		void			
120	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick 1 skins, only one course seen in trench, exceeding depth of buffer zone, 1.20 m long, 0.25 m wide		Wall	1.05+
121	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick 2 skins, only one course visible, exceeding depth of buffer zone, 4.50 m long, 0.24 m wide		Wall	1.05+
122	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick 1 skins, only one course seen in trench, exceeding depth of buffer zone, 1.20 m long, 0.12 m wide		Wall	1.05+
123	Structure	Concrete surface, adjacent to 121, extent observed 2.00 m long, 0.80 m wide, 0.05 m deep.		Surface	1.05+
124	Structure	Sand stone wall, 1 course, 1 skin, butted by 125 and 127, 1.50 m long, 0.25 m wide, 0.45 m wide.		Wall	
125	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick, 1 skin, 1 course observed, butts 124, butted by 126, 1.10 m long, 0.24 m wide		Wall	
126	Structure	Drain formed by red, unfrogged brick, only 2 bricks observed, butts 125, 0.39 m long, 0.39 m wide		Drain	
127	Structure	Sand stone wall, 1 course, 1 skin, butts 124, 1.00 m long, 0.25 m wide.		Wall	
604	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick wall, 2 skins, 5 courses visible in trench, 1.30 m long, 0.24 m wide, 0.35 m depth.		Wall	0.50+
605	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick wall, 2 skins, 5 courses visible in trench, 1.30 m long, 0.24 m wide, 0.35 m depth.		Wall	0.50+
606	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick wall, 2 skins, 5 courses visible in trench, 5.00 m long, 0.24 m wide, 0.35 m depth		Wall	0.50+
607	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick wall, 2 skins, 2 courses visible in trench. 0.40 m long, 0.24 m wide, 0.14 m depth		Wall	0.50+
608	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick wall, 2 skins, 5 courses visible in trench, 5.00 m long, 0.24 m wide, 0.35 m depth		Wall	0.50+
609	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick wall, 2 skins, 5 courses visible in trench, 13.00 m long, 0.24 m wide, 0.35 m depth		Wall	0.50+
610	Structure	Floor/pavement, red unfrogged brick, 1 course, 0.50 m wide, 1.00 m long, 0.12 m depth.		Pavement	0.50+
611	Structure	Floor/pavement, red unfrogged brick, 1 course, 0.50 m wide, 1.00 m long, 0.12 m depth		Pavement	0.50+
612	Layer	Mid yellowish grey silty sand, abundant building debris, finds		Made ground	0.40 – 0.75
613	Structure	Tiled floor of former cellar, black and red chequer board pattern		Floor	0.50+
614	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick wall, 2 skins, 2 courses visible in trench. 2.00 m long, 0.24 m wide, 0.14 m depth		Wall	0.50+



615	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick wall, 2 skins, 2 courses visible in trench. 1.00 m long, 0.24 m wide, 0.14 m depth		Wall	0.50+
616	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick wall, 2 skins, 2 courses visible in trench. 1.00 m long, 0.24 m wide, 0.14 m depth		Wall	0.50+

Area 2					
Context	Type	Deposit description	Fill of	Category	Depth
201	Layer	Tarmac		Pavement	0.00 – 0.10
202	Layer	Dark brown silty sand, building debris, broken brick, mortar and concrete, pottery and animal bone		Made ground	0.10 – 1.20+
203	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick wall, 2 skins, 4 courses visible in trench section, depth exceeding excavation depth		Wall	0.10 – 1.20+
204	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick wall, 2 skins, 4 courses visible in trench section, depth exceeding excavation depth		Wall	0.10 – 1.20+
205	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick wall, 2 skins, 4 courses visible in trench section, depth exceeding excavation depth		Wall	0.10 – 1.20+

Area 3 3					
Context	Type	Deposit description	Fill of	Category	Depth
301	Structure	Concrete ring beam foundation of former building, 0.60 m wide, 0.65 m deep, steel re-bar		Foundation	0.00 – 0.60
302	Layer	Greyish brown silty sand		Made ground	0.60+
303		void			
304	Structure	Sand stone, 1 course, 1 skin observed in trench, 1.10 m long, 0.30 m wide, 0.35 m deep.		Wall	0.60+
305	Structure	Sand stone, 1 course, 1 skin observed in trench, 1.50 m long, 0.30 m wide, 0.35 m deep.		Wall	0.60+
306	Structure	Sand stone, 1 course, 1 skin observed in trench, 0.60 m long, 0.30 m wide, 0.35 m deep.		Wall	0.60+
307	Structure	Sand stone, 1 course, 1 skin observed in trench, 1.30 m long, 0.30 m wide, 0.35 m deep.		Wall	0.60+
308	Structure	Red brick wall 308 was aligned northeast–southwest, with a 1.5 m long segment surviving. The wall was 0.30 m thick, with the foundation not being reached.		Wall	0.60+
309	Structure	Modern manhole		Manhole	0.60+

Area 4					
Context	Type	Deposit description	Fill of	Category	Depth
409	Structure	Wall of nineteenth century cellar		Wall	0.90 +
410	Fill	Demolition material. Fill of 409	409	Fill	0.90 +
411	Structure	Red brick manhole		Manhole	0.90 +
412	Structure	Red brick manhole		Manhole	0.90 +
413	Fill	Fill of construction cut for 412	412	Fill	0.90 +
414	Fill	Fill of construction cut for 411	411	Fill	0.90 +
415	Layer	Tarmac surface		Layer	0.00-0.10
416	Layer	Hardcore		Layer	0.10–0.40
417	Layer	Made ground		Layer	0.40-0.90
418	Layer	Made ground		Layer	0.90-1.20
419	Layer	Made ground		Layer	1.20 +
420	Structure	Wall of nineteenth century cellar		Wall	0.90 +
421	Structure	Red brick outer wall of terrace house		Wall	0.90 +



Area 5					
Context	Type	Deposit description	Fill of	Category	Depth
501	Layer	Tarmac		Pavement	0.00 – 0.10
502	Layer	Dark brown silty sand, building debris, broken brick, mortar and concrete, pottery and animal bone		Made ground	0.10 – 1.20+
503	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick wall, 2 skins, 4 courses visible in trench section, depth exceeding excavation depth		Wall	0.10 – 1.20+
504	Layer	Yellow sandy clay. Possible natural clays		Layer	1.20+
505	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick wall, 2 skins, 4 courses visible in trench section, depth exceeding excavation depth		Wall	0.10 – 1.20+
506	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick wall, 2 skins, 4 courses visible in trench section, depth exceeding excavation depth		Wall	0.10 – 1.20+
507	Structure	Sandstone capping stone		Capping Stone	n/a
508	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick wall, 2 skins, 4 courses visible in trench section, depth exceeding excavation depth		Wall	0.10 – 1.20+
509	Structure	Red, unfrogged brick wall, 2 skins, 4 courses visible in trench section, depth exceeding excavation depth		Wall	0.10 – 1.20+

Area 6					
Context	Type	Deposit description	Fill of	Category	Depth
601	Layer	Tarmac		Pavement	0.00 – 0.10
602	Layer	Grey gravel, level layer for modern tarmac surface		Made ground	0.10 – 0.40
603	Layer	Dark brown silty sand, building debris, broken brick, mortar and concrete		Made ground	0.40+



10.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-303749

Project details

Project name	20 Bishophill, York, North Yorkshire. Archaeological Watching Brief Report, Phase 2
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyle Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 20 Bishophill Junior, York. The site is located within a very high density of listed buildings and within a conservation area, 10 m to the east of the scheduled medieval city walls of York. The watching brief followed on from evaluation trenching, watching brief and geotechnical investigations on the site which identified medieval and possible Romano-British structures and buried deposits. It was agreed with the developer that significant construction impacts would be kept above 16.66 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Wessex Archaeology maintained a watching brief on the demolition of the extant structural remains on site which would otherwise impeded construction, as well as groundworks for foundations, utility services and piling. The watching brief recorded a series of cellars and drains associated with Oliver House and 19th-century structures identified on the 1852 and 1892 OS maps of the site. A brick sample taken from a well associated with one of these nineteenth century cellars may have origins dating from the fifteen to sixteenth century. Construction of the cellars had truncated any earlier archaeological deposits. Areas of site not previously truncated by post-medieval structures were not excavated below the agreed depth of 16.66 m aOD. No in situ Romano-British/medieval deposits or features were identified. The most significant finds were a probable Romano-British altar identified amongst the demolition fill of a nineteenth century cellar. The altar shows signs of extensive weathering and may have been re-used as a Victorian garden feature. The watching brief also identified a disarticulated human skull during the removal of a manhole. The skull was recovered from the fill of the construction cut for the manhole, but its age is uncertain.</p>
Project dates	Start: 09-12-2016 End: 06-06-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	107770 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	107771 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	107772 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	107773 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	107774 - Sitecode



Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 2 - Institutional and communal accommodation
Significant Finds	ALTAR Roman
Significant Finds	HUMAN SKULL Uncertain

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTH YORKSHIRE YORK YORK 20 Bishophill, York, North Yorkshire
Postcode	YO1 6ES
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	SE 59974 51417 53.955167587556 -1.085940046693 53 57 18 N 001 05 09 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 17.5m Max: 17.5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyle Ltd
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd.
Project design originator	CgMS Consulting Ltd
Project director/manager	Chris Swales
Project supervisor	Nick Woodward
Project supervisor	Andy Swann
Project supervisor	Martina Tenzer
Project supervisor	Matthew Tooke
Project supervisor	Pierson, S.
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Project archives

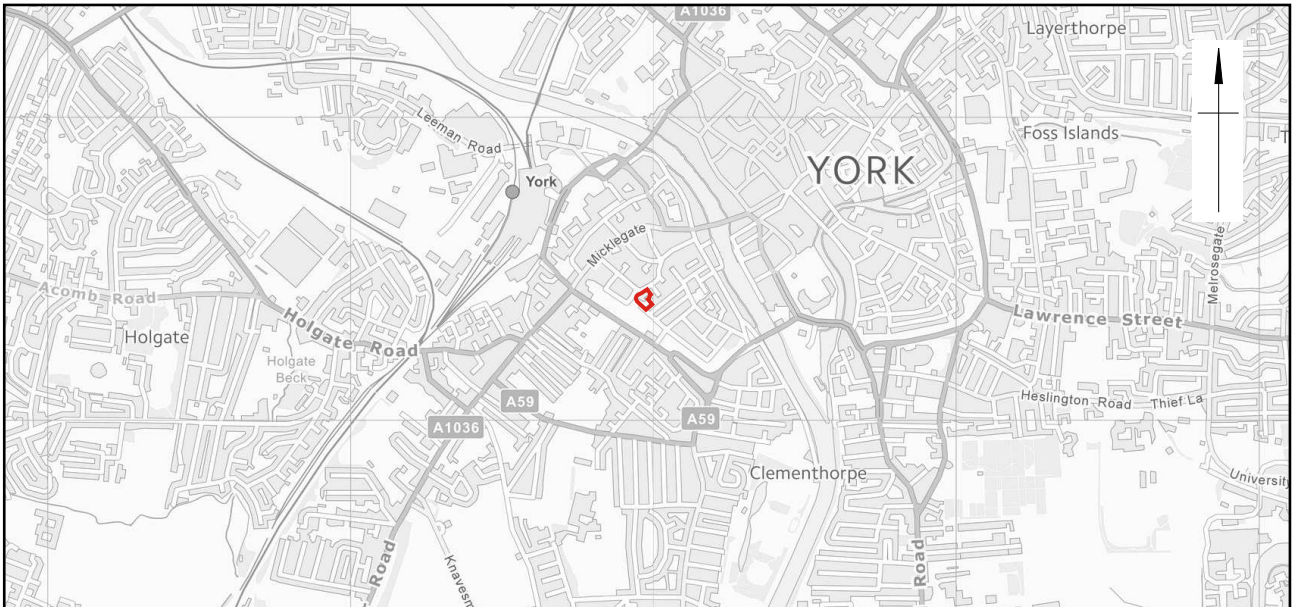



Physical Archive recipient	York Museums Trust
Physical Archive ID	YORYM:2017.408
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Human Bones"
Digital Archive recipient	York Museums Trust
Digital Archive ID	YORYM:2017.408
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	York Museums Trust
Paper Archive ID	YORYM:2017.408
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Map","Plan","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	20 Bishophill, York, North Yorkshire. Archaeological Watching Brief Report, Phase 2
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Tenzer, M.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Swales, C.
Other bibliographic details	107774.01
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Sheffield
Description	A4 laser printed report

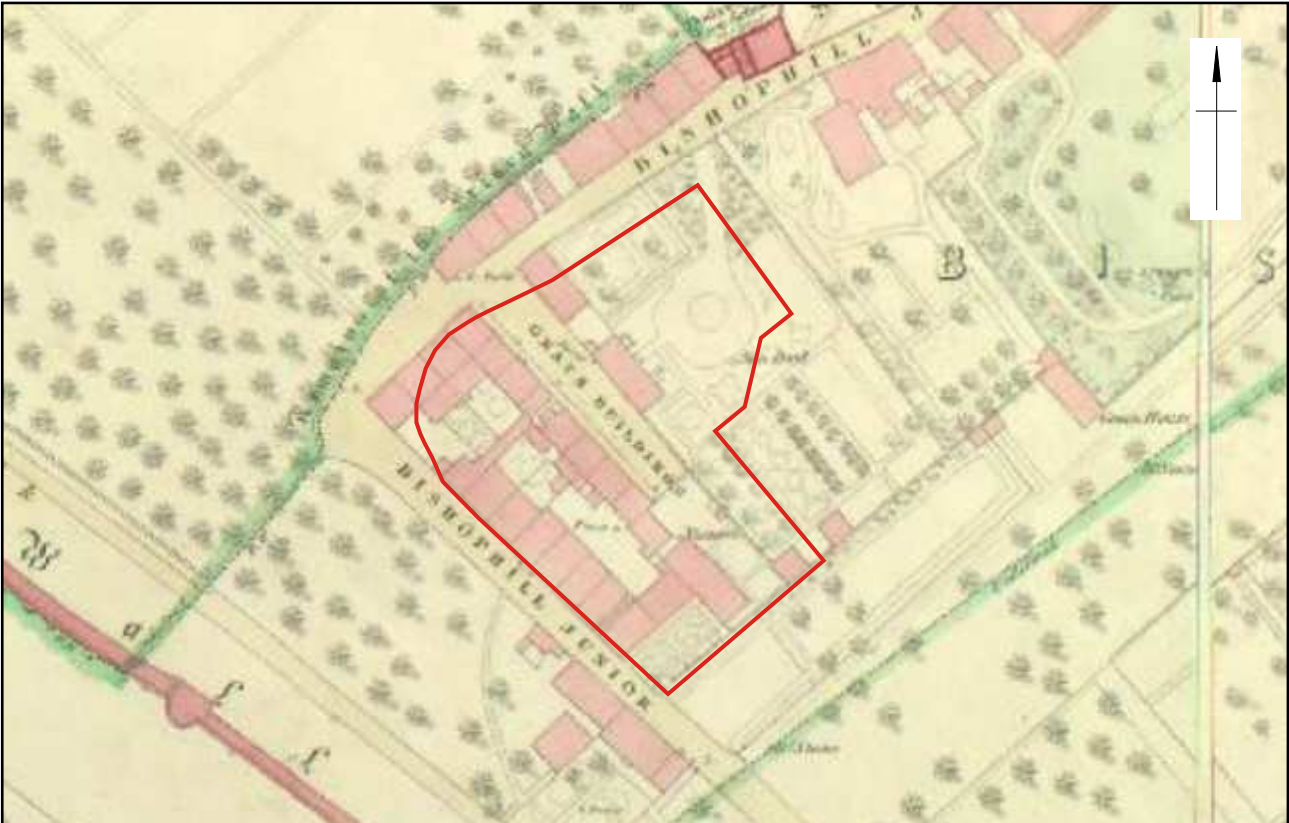
Entered by	Martina Tenzer (j.tibber@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	13 December 2017



 Coordinate system: OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)	Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2017 All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100022432. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2017. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	11/12/2017	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	1:25000 and 1:500 at A4	Illustrator:	IA
	Path:	S:\PROJECTS\107774\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2017_12_11		

Site location and plan

Figure 2



A: Site location overlying the 1852 Ordnance Survey map



B: Site location overlying the 1892 Ordnance Survey map

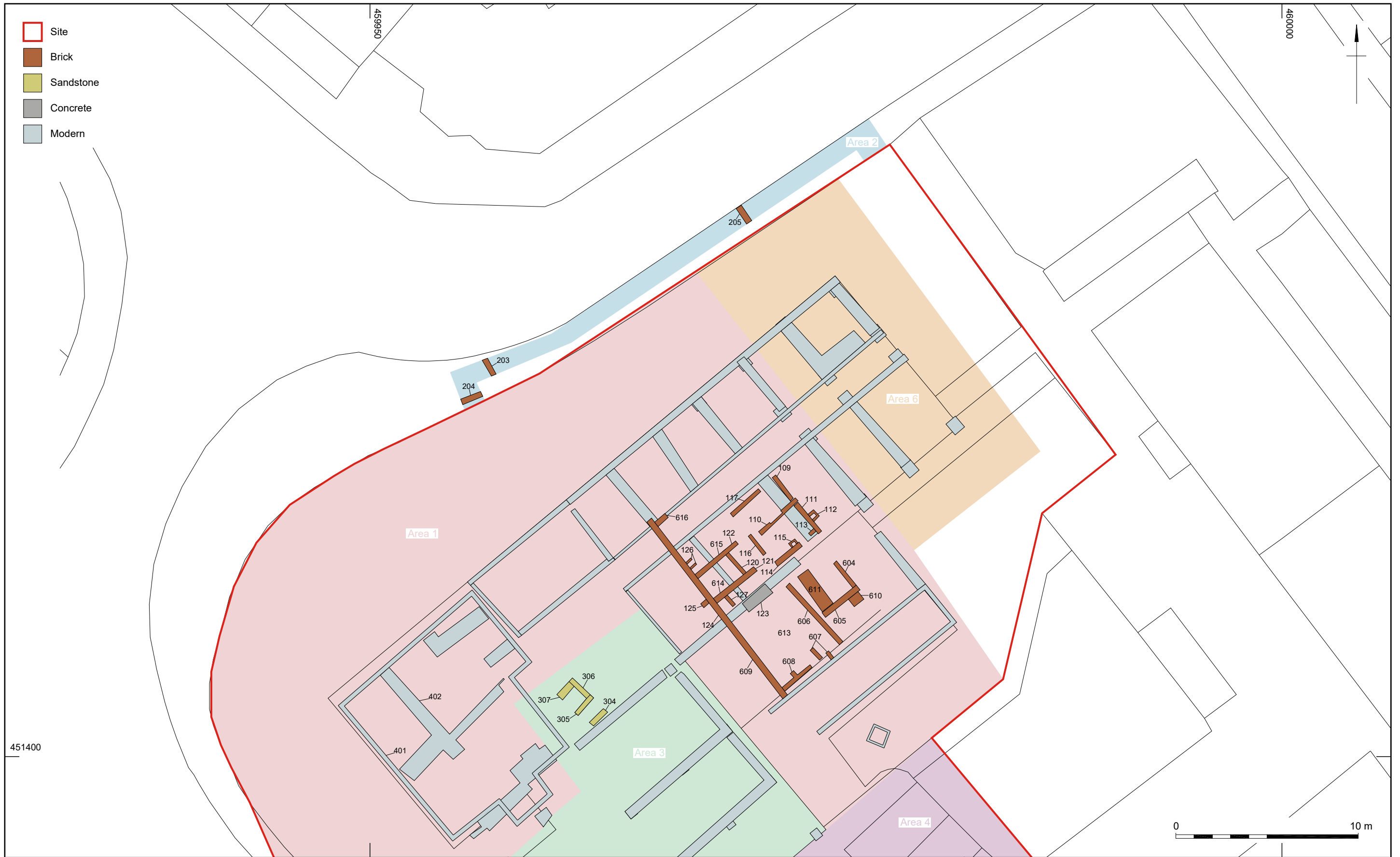
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Coordinate system:
 OSGB36
 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

Date:	11/12/2017	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:1000 at A4 (approx.)	Illustrator:	IA
Path:	S:\PROJECTS\107774\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2017_12_11		

Figure 2



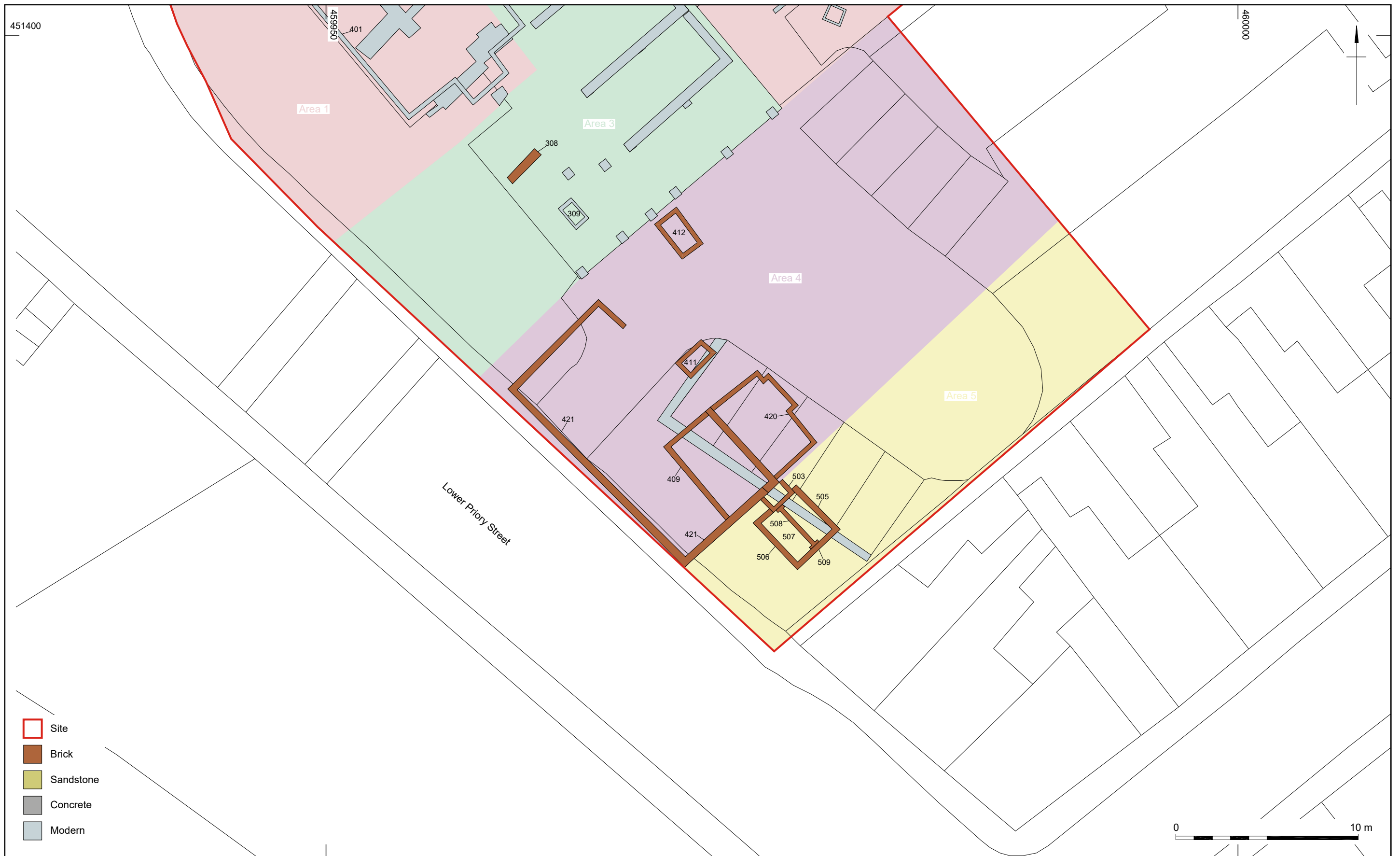

 Coordinate system:
 OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

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Site plan: Areas 1, 2, 3 and 6

Figure 3



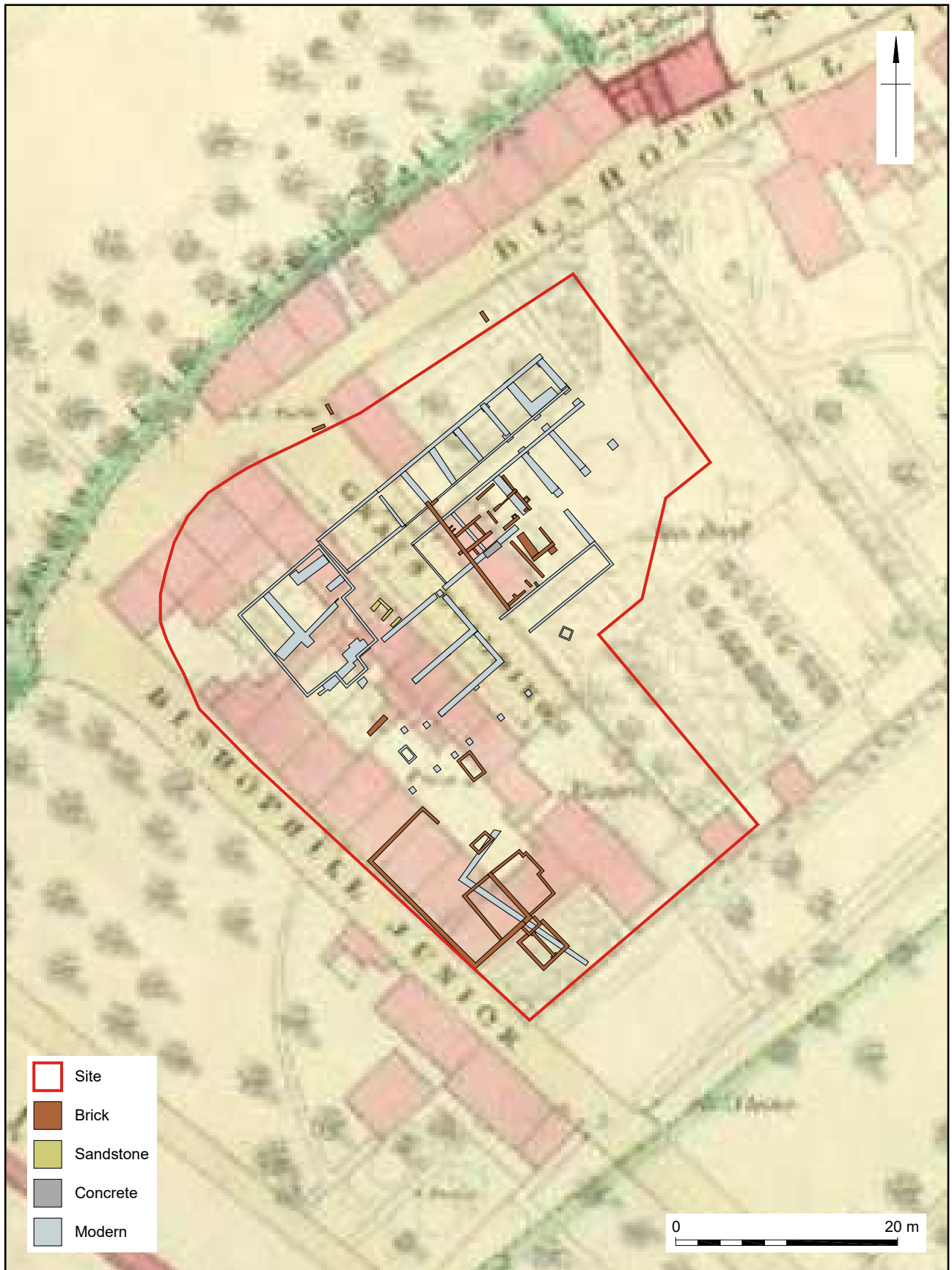
Coordinate system:
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Site plan: Areas 4 and 5

Figure 4



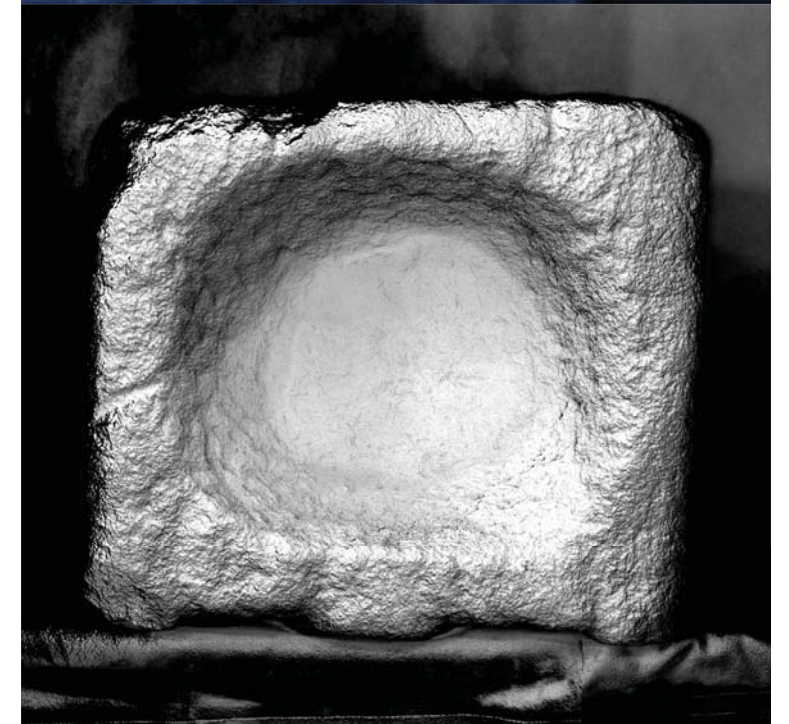
- Site
- Brick
- Sandstone
- Concrete
- Modern

0 20 m

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Site plan overlain on 1852 OS

Figure 5



0 100 mm

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RTI recording of Romano-British Altar - diffuse colour at top with specular enhancement below

Figure 6



Plate 1: Concrete foundations of Oliver House within areas 1, 3 and 6 and cellar walls 401



Plate 2: Red brick walls identified within area 2


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Plate 3: Stone walls 304-307 within area 3



Plate 4: Structures 606-609 within area 1


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Plate 5: Wall 609 within area 1



Plate 6: Tiled floor 613 within area 1


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Plate 7: Structures 109-117, 604-605 and 610-611 within area 1



Plate 8: Cellars 409 and 420 within area 4


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Plate 9: Roman altar recovered from site



Plate 10: Structures 503 and 505-509 within area 5


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Plate 11: Upper courses of well 503 within area 5

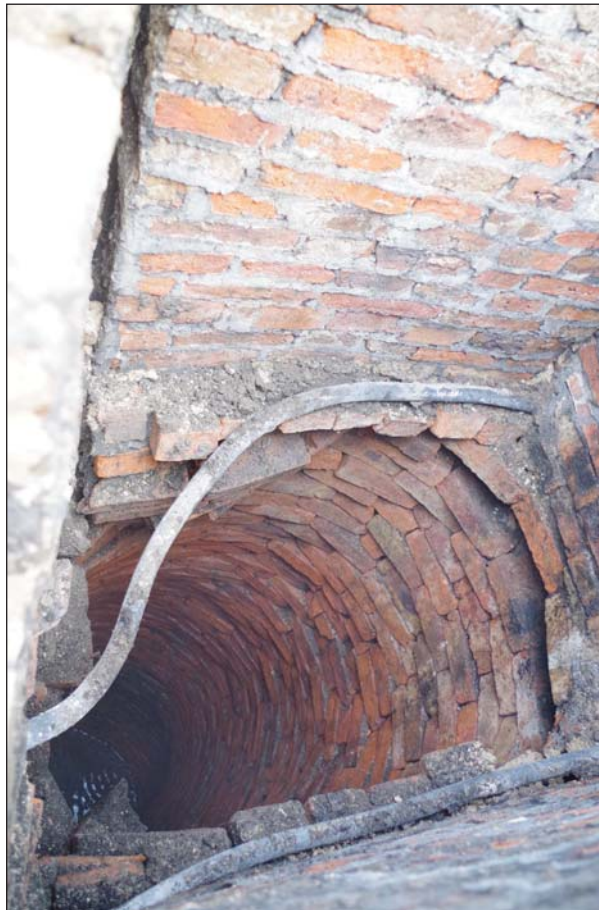


Plate 12: Lower courses of well 503 within area 5



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Plate 13: Human skull recovered during removal of manhole 412

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