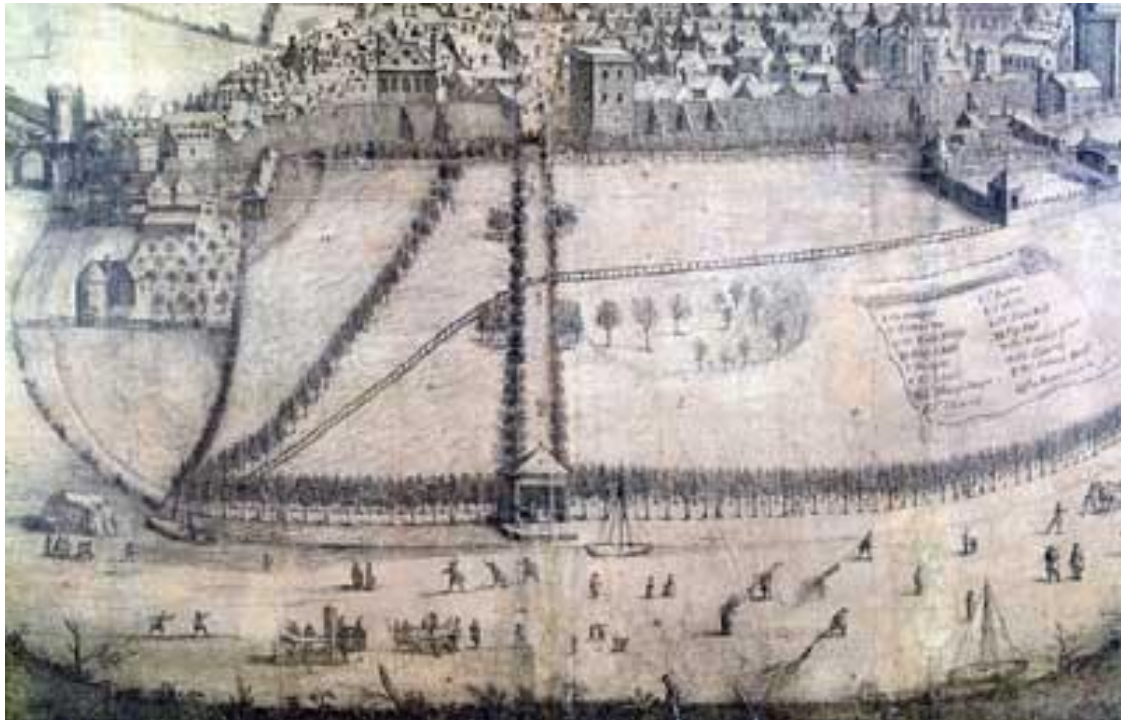


# ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION & LIMITED STRUCTURAL RECORD

St Julian's Friars  
Shrewsbury  
SY1 1UD

NGR: SJ 49387 12246  
JOB N<sup>o</sup>: BA1124SJF



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**Report Specification**

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Approved: Neil Shurety Dip.M. G.M.Inst.M



## 1. Non-Technical Summary

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*Border Archaeology was commissioned at short notice by Fletcher Homes (Shropshire) Ltd to complete the final stage of archaeological work relating to a programme of residential development at St Julian's Friars, situated within the medieval core of Shrewsbury. The work was carried out between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2011.*

*It should be noted that Border Archaeology's involvement relates only to the construction of a new north-south access road and not to any previous phases of development activity.*

*Archaeological observation centred upon an area to the south of Beeches Lane and west of St Julian's Friars, where excavation and piling operations were carried out either side of a surviving east-west section of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Town Wall. The new road crosses the wall at this point and a bridge design has been incorporated into the layout in order to minimise impact on the medieval remains.*

*Additionally, a drawn and photographic record of the wall has been compiled. Examination of the fabric revealed evidence of considerable post-medieval repair and underpinning. The upper section of the masonry also showed evidence of earlier impact, with much of the superstructure damaged or missing.*

*Groundworks observation to the north of the wall revealed evidence of considerable truncation of earlier deposits by 19<sup>th</sup> century cellarage. These cellars appeared to have incorporated the existing medieval fabric of the wall, which in places had been refaced with brick and render along its northern elevation.*

*Groundworks to the south of the wall revealed a very substantial deposit of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century building demolition rubble, extending below the maximum excavation depth. No earlier deposits were attained.*

## 2. Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by William Pritchard Esq. of Fletcher Homes (Shropshire) Ltd 95 Mount Pleasant Road Shrewsbury SY1 3EN to carry out structural recording & archaeological observation of groundworks relating to the final phase of a construction programme at St Julian's Friars Shrewsbury comprising a new road, 53 flats, 39 residential units and two retail units (Ref. 94/0238/063/94).

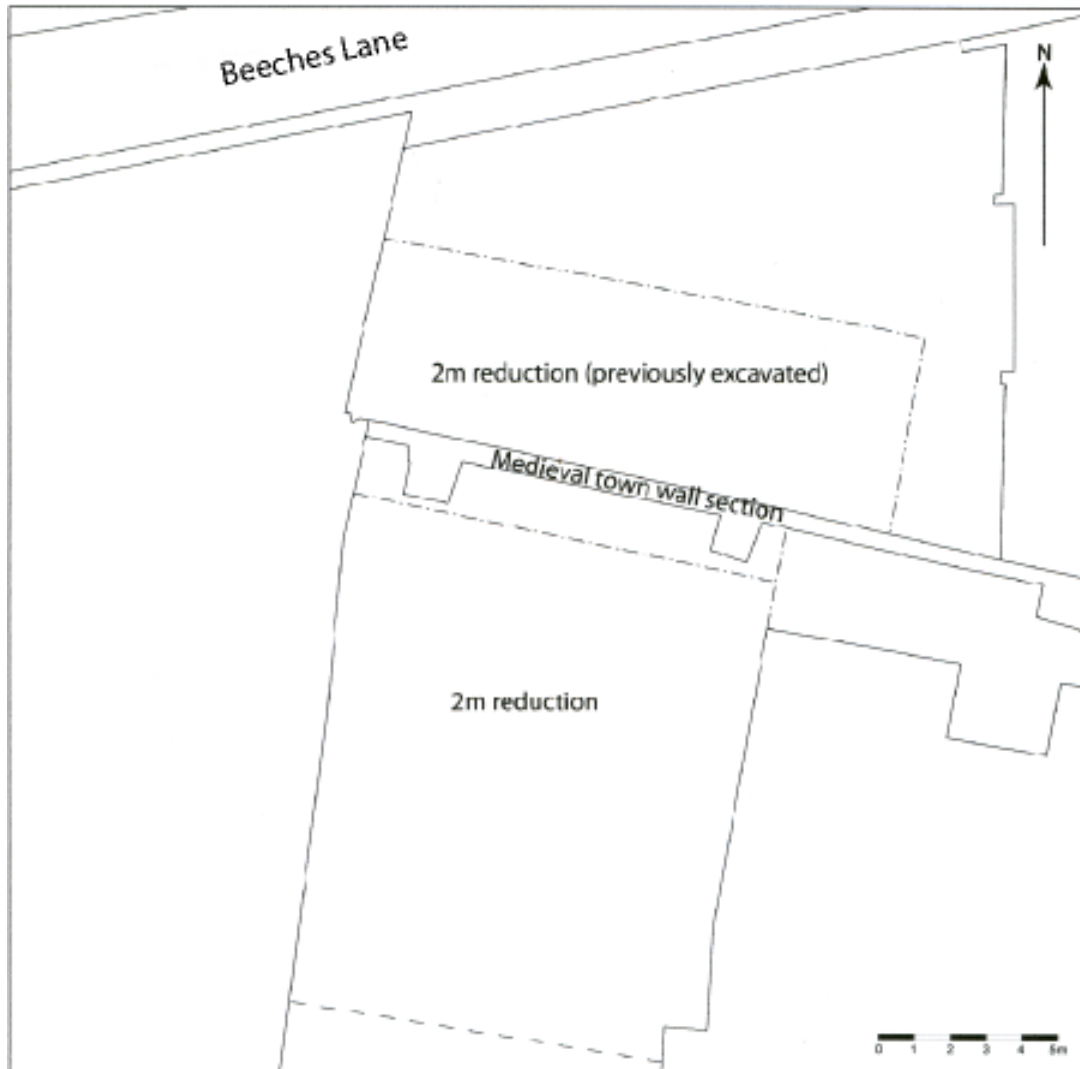


Fig. 1: Site location plan

It should be noted that the Company's involvement related only to construction of the new access road to Beeches Lane (*fig. 1*), part of which necessitated the bridging of a section of the town wall, as detailed in email correspondence between Mr Pritchard and Neil Shurety of Border Archaeology dated 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011, in which Mr Pritchard stated that piling works had already been carried out and that preparations were underway for the casting of reinforced concrete buttresses.

### 3. Historical & Archaeological Background

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No additional research has been undertaken in respect of the programme of work detailed herein as it is understood that the results of the work constitute a supplementary component of the project and will thus be viewed in the context of an existing archive.

### 4. Methodology

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The programme of archaeological work carried out within the specified area was in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008), *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (IfA 2008) & *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008). Border Archaeology adheres to the *IfA Code of conduct* (2010) and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology* (2008).

All groundworks were carried out by machine and toothless bucket under archaeological supervision and associated spoil was scanned for artefacts (*plate 1*).



*Plate 1: View NW showing groundworks in progress to S of Town Wall*



## 4.1 Recording

Full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with Border Archaeology's *Field Recording Manual*. The written record comprised detailed stratigraphic recording using a context numbering system.

Plans, sections and elevations at scales of 1:50 or 1:20, as appropriate, were produced. Representative measured sections will be prepared as appropriate showing the sequence and depths of deposits. A temporary benchmark (TBM) was established on the site and plans, elevations and sections contained grid and level information relative to OS data. All drawings were numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records.

A photographic record was made using a high-resolution 10.3MPX digital camera, comprising photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. Included in each photograph was an appropriate scale. All photographic records were indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view were maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.

A scaled photographic record of the town wall was produced as an integral component of the recording methodology. This again used a high-resolution digital format to record details of the surviving fabric, including any evidence of damage, repair or alteration.

## 5. Results

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The area to the N of the wall was excavated and piled in preparation for the roadway and bridge pillars. The uppermost deposit across this area (001) comprised a loose light brown sandy rubble extending trenchwide to a depth of 0.75m overlying a post-medieval cellar wall (002) in the S-facing section. This was 1.1m in thickness. Underlying (002) was (003), comprising a dark greyish-brown sandy silt clay.

The town wall structure also appeared to have been cut from (003). The foundation material (005) filling [006] comprised a firm light reddish-brown sandy silt & stone rubble extending >18m × 1m × 1m. Post-medieval brickwork was also visible within the foundations (*plate 7, fig. 2*) on the S elevation. A number of regular indentations visible in the masonry at the W end of the south elevation (*plates 5 & 6, fig. 2*) are interpreted as evidence for the use of lifting irons or as putlog holes.

The wall (004) is of sandstone ashlar construction and 11 courses were revealed. The N elevation was faced in 19<sup>th</sup> century brickwork and render. The wall section was supported by two chamfered buttresses along its S elevation. A substantial tie-bar had also been used to retain the wall.

Excavation of the area to the S of the wall section revealed a substantial deposit of modern scalplings (009), beneath which was (010), a cohesive dark brown gritty clay containing post-medieval building rubble and extending across the entire area to a depth of >2m.



*Plate 2: View N of piling for access-road construction*



*Plate 3: View NE showing deposits revealed adjacent to the southern elevation of the Town Wall*



*Plate 4: View S showing deposits revealed during excavations to the S of the Town Wall*



*Plate 5: Detail of Town Wall showing squared indentations in the masonry, possibly putlog holes*





*Plate 6: Regular indentations on S elevation of the Town Wall*



*Plate 7: Post-medieval brickwork visible within the foundations on the S elevation*



## 6. Conclusion

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The deposits in the area to the N of the wall had been heavily impacted by 19<sup>th</sup> century cellarage adjacent to the wall itself. It seems likely that the N elevation of the wall was refaced in brick and render at this time to form the S wall of the cellarage.

The wall revealed evidence of repair in several places and may even have been rebuilt; its present form appeared at variance with descriptions of exposures elsewhere (Barker 1958), lacking the chamfer along its external face, as observed at Roushill. This may be due to differences in construction methodology along the length of the wall or, alternatively, the chamfer may have been removed for reuse (at the base of the wall) subsequent to the defences falling out of use.

A section of the foundation had been replaced with brick, although this seemed to have constituted a localised repair; the block-work above this appeared to have slumped slightly (see *fig. 2*). Several masonry blocks in the S elevation revealed square depressions for lifting irons and there were several beam slots present, presumably either to accommodate scaffolding during construction (putlog holes) or associated with later building activity abutting the wall (see *fig. 2*).

The buttresses appear to have been a later addition, although of similar sandstone construction. Some of the masonry in the buttresses seemed finely worked and possibly ecclesiastical in character; its provenance is unknown but it may have been removed from the site of St Julian's Friary, originally situated immediately to the SE, which is thought to have been extensively robbed following the Dissolution.

## 7. Copyright

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Border Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client and the Council for the use of the report by the client and the Council in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification to use the documentation for their statutory functions and to provide copies of it to third parties as an incidental to such functions.

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## 9. Appendix 1: Context Register

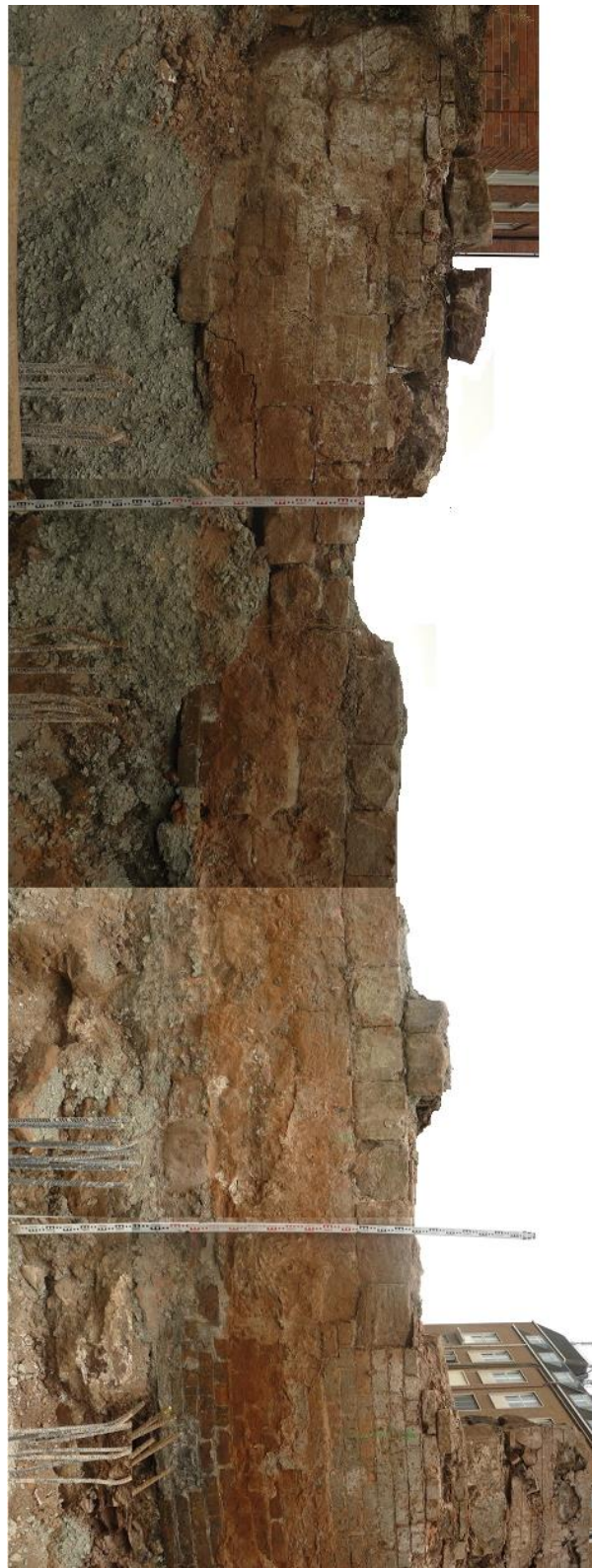
Context	Description
(001)	Loosely compacted light brown sand, brick and rubble. Extends trenchwide by 0.75m. Overlies (007)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Modern construction deposit across the area to the N of the town wall</i>
(002)	Wall, oriented E-W, brick construction, materials 110mm × 70mm × 210mm, stretcher bond, 14 courses, cement mortared. Extends >2m × 0.11m by 1.1m. Underlies [008]. Overlies (004)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>C 19<sup>th</sup> cellar wall, probably contemporary with brickwork facing on N elevation of the town wall section (004)</i>
(003)	Firm dark greyish-brown sandy silty clay; occasional small rounded stones. Extends trenchwide by >1m. Cut by (006)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Thick wide ranging soil deposit across area N of town wall, appears to be cut by the construction cut for the wall [006]</i>
(004)	Materials: masonry & brick; Size of materials (masonry) 500mm × 300mm × 280mm (brick) 110mm × 70mm × 210mm; Finish of stones: Squared; Coursing/bond: Regular coursed/ashlar; Form: wall; Orientation: E-W; Bonding material: lime mortar & cement repairs, render evident on N elevation; Dimensions of masonry as found: >18m × 0.5m × 3.5m. Underlies (002). Overlies (005)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Section of the medieval town wall</i>
(005)	Firm light reddish-brown sandy silt; large stone rubble inclusions; brick coursing in S-facing elevation. Extends >18m × 1m × 1m. Underlies (004). Fills [006]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Foundation for wall (004) incorporating later repairs</i>
[006]	Cut; linear in form; oriented E-W; sides and base not visible; extends >18m × >1m × 1m. Filled by (004) & (005). Cuts (003)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Construction cut for wall (004)</i>
(007)	Materials: steel-reinforced concrete; Form: piles; Dimensions (individual) 0.5m × 0.5m × 17m. Extends approximately 80m × 12.5m. Underlies (001) Fills [008]
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Group context representing piles excavated across the entire site</i>
[008]	Cuts; circular in form; measuring 0.5m × 0.5m × 17m. Extends approximately 80m × 12.5m. Filled by (007). Overlies (002)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Group context for cuts for piling excavated across the entire site</i>
(009)	Loose, predominantly greyish-brown scalplings/gravel; extends >68m × >12.5m × 1m. Overlies (010)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Made up ground across area to S of town wall</i>
(010)	Cohesive/moderately compact dark brown gritty silt clay; frequent CBM, slate, pottery, bone, metal, wood and glass. Extends >40m × >12.5m × >2m. Underlies (009) Overlies (004)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>C 19<sup>th</sup> or C 20<sup>th</sup> demolition rubble, possibly made ground to S of town wall</i>



## 10. Appendix 2: Scale drawings and photomontage images



*Plate 8: South elevation of Town Wall (004)*



*Plate 9: North elevation of Town Wall (004)*

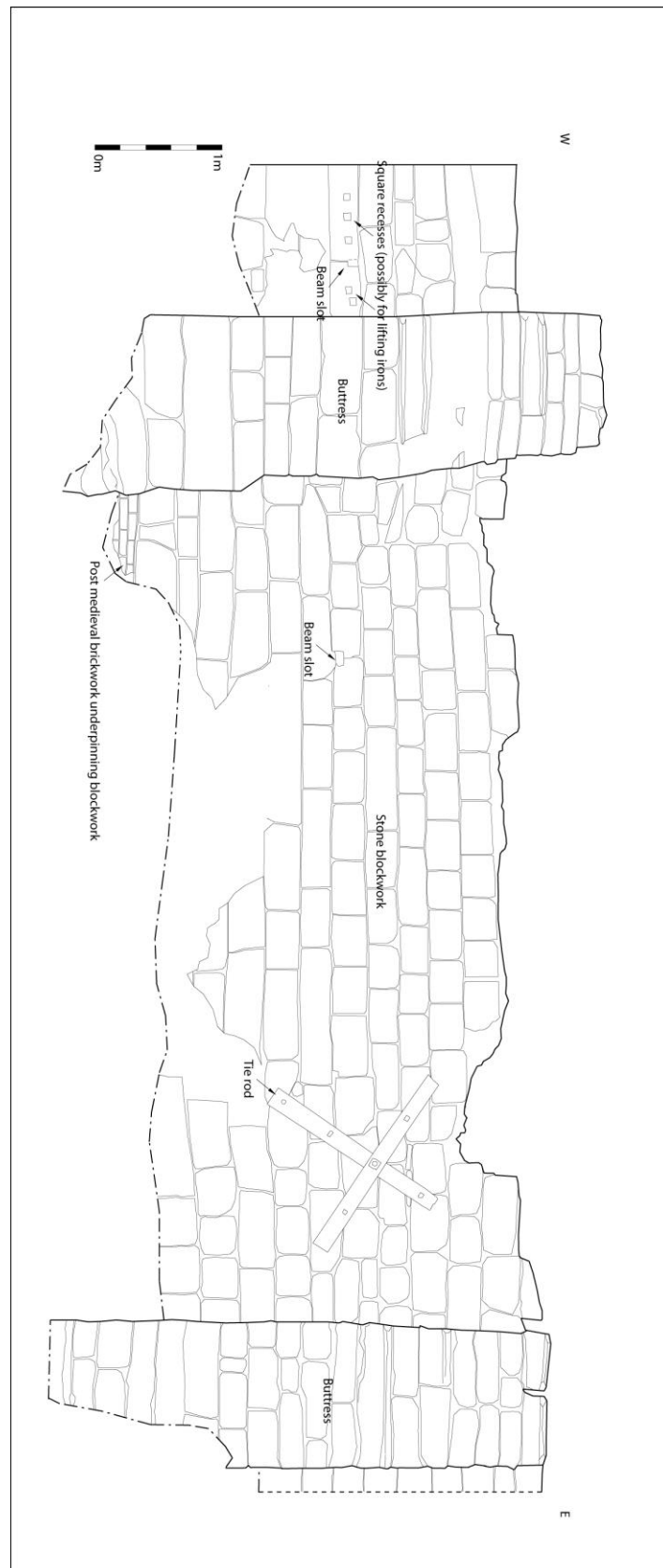


Fig 2: S elevation of Town Wall (004)

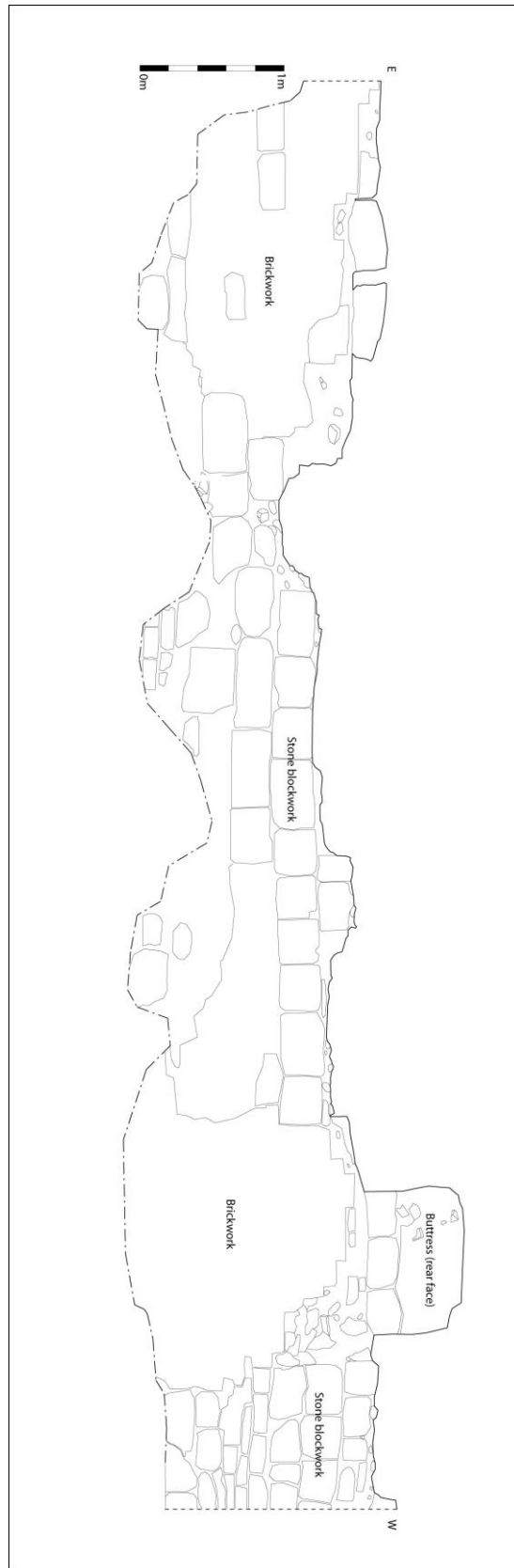


Fig 3: N elevation of Town Wall (004)