

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

**No. 19 St Thomas Street
Winchester
Hampshire**

NGR SU 4798 2928

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1. Non Technical Summary

The programme of archaeological observation undertaken to the rear of No. 19 St Thomas Street, a house of mid 18th century date, revealed evidence of medieval and post-medieval deposits and structures.

- The earliest evidence of occupation identified was a chalk masonry passage and semicircular chamber that was revealed after the removal of floorboards within the house.*
- The passage and chamber appear to have predated construction of the existing mid to late 18th century house and were subsequently incorporated into the layout of the cellarage beneath the house.*
- An early date for these features is indicated by the fact that the alignment bears no relationship to the layout of the post-medieval cellarage and the nature of its construction and the materials used contrast markedly with the regularly coursed brickwork of the later structure.*
- Documentary records indicate the existence of a tenement or dwelling house on the site of No. 19 St Thomas Street (then known as Calpe Street) in the early 14th century. This tenement was demolished in about 1369 and the site was subsequently converted into a garden.*
- It is possible that the masonry passage and chamber are of medieval date and could represent part of a larger undercroft beneath the medieval tenement known to have occupied the site during the early to mid 14th century.*
- No further building activity is recorded on the site until the mid 18th century, when the present house was built, together with two ranges of outbuildings to the rear which are shown on Godson's plan of 1750.*
- Further demolition activity and new building work took place between c.1790 and 1870 with the addition of an annexe to the rear of the house and the laying-out of landscaped gardens consisting of a raised parterre with extensive lawns to the S.*
- The three trenches excavated to the rear of the house revealed evidence of a considerable accumulation of garden soils, which probably relates to the late 18th-19th century landscaping activity indicated by the cartographic sources.*
- It is likely that the extensive post-medieval landscaping to the rear of No. 19 heavily disturbed earlier deposits and features, which would explain the apparent lack of evidence for Roman and medieval occupation in this area.*

2. Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Nick Mirchandani on behalf of Mr & Mrs Mirchandani to undertake a programme of archaeological observation of groundworks relating to construction of an extension to the rear of No. 19 St Thomas Street, Winchester, Hampshire (NGR SU 4798 2928) in recognition of criteria determined by Ms Tracy Matthews, Historic Environment Officer, Winchester City Council.

Copies of this report will be submitted to Mr & Mrs Mirchandani, Ms Tracy Matthews (WCC) and the WCC Sites and Monuments Record for inclusion in the Urban Archaeology Database (UAD).

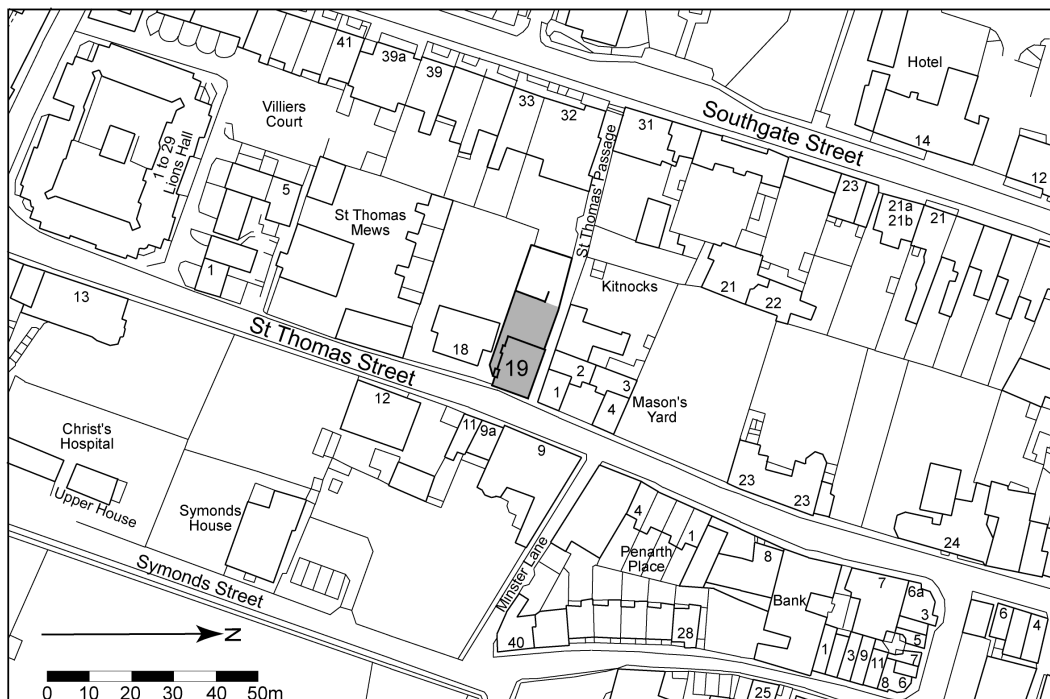


Fig. 1: Site location plan

2.1 Soils & Geology

The site lies within an unsurveyed urban area and there is thus no general description of soils available (Soil Survey of England & Wales, 1983).

3. Historical & Archaeological Background

3.1 Prehistoric

The site itself lies well to the S of the Iron Age earthwork enclosure of Orams Arbour, the earliest permanent settlement on the site of Winchester, constructed at some point during the 1st-2nd century BC. However, it is possible that the site may have been located within an area of significant pre-Roman settlement, in view of the suggestion that an early ford across the River Itchen may have been situated in the locality.

3.2 Roman

The site lies within the SW quarter of the Roman walled *civitas* of Venta Belgarum, which appears to have been established during the late Flavian period, between c. 80-100 AD (Wacher, 1974, 180). According to the Winchester UAD (Urban Archaeology Database), the alignment of a street running approximately NE-SW towards the S wall of the *civitas* is predicted to pass through the western part of the site. Archaeological evidence of Roman structures has been identified in the immediate vicinity of the site. At No. 23 St Thomas Street, an archaeological watching brief in 1981 identified remains of a tiled or tessellated floor surface below a modern cellar (EWC 7315), which may have been associated with another Roman tessellated floor discovered beneath No. 23A St Thomas Street in the late 19th century (EWC 7314).

3.3 Evidence for Saxon and medieval occupation

Documentary evidence indicates that the site lies within a densely settled area of medieval tenements along the W side of 'Calpe Street' (St Thomas' St). The N side of the property bordered on St Thomas's Passage, which is referred to in medieval documents as 'the lane' (*venella*). It is uncertain whether these tenement plots came into being as part of the Alfredian reorganisation of the city in the late 9th century or were laid out at some point during the 12th-13th centuries; documentary evidence shows that although the pattern of burgage plots had been largely established by c.1300, further reorganisation of property boundaries took place during the 14th-15th centuries. Some of the medieval buildings occupying these tenement plots appear to have been of high status, with substantial cellarage, as attested by the two-bay groin-vaulted stone undercroft of 12th century date surviving beneath No. 24 St Thomas Street, to the N of the site (MWC 6883).

A significant quantity of documentary evidence exists relating to medieval occupation at No.19 Thomas St, spanning the early 14th century through to the second half of the 16th century (Keene, 1985, 877-8). Much of this material is contained in the records of St John's Hospital, founded in 1275, which held the property from the late 13th century through to the first half of the 19th century and leased it out to a succession of tenants. The earliest documented reference to the property (listed as No. 619 in Keene's *Survey of Medieval Winchester*) occurs in a deed of 1311, by which Thomas de Wytneye, mason, and his wife Margery enfeoffed John of Salisbury with a tenement in Calpe Street that had belonged to one Walter le Cornewaleys (Keene, 1985, 877). After John's death, his property appears to have been subdivided into two parts, both of which were subsequently acquired by Walter Wodelock and his wife, who also held the larger burgage plot immediately to the S (listed as No. 618 in Keene's Survey).

It appears that Wodelock's occupation of the property had ceased by the early 1330s, as records show that 3s of rent due to St John's Hospital from his tenement in Calpe Street was in default. The Hospital recovered possession of the tenement and subsequently granted it to Ralph atte Church and his wife Alice in return for a rent of 6s 8d. This rent was still being paid in 1367-8 when Gaylard Tany held the tenement; however, the tenement had probably been demolished by the following year, when the rent was in default and the Hospital spent 10s on fencing Walter Wodelock's garden. The property was described in the Tarrage Survey of 1417 (**Plate 1**) as 'a garden in the custody of St John's Hospital next to the lane [present-day St Thomas's Passage] which John Moyul holds' (Keene, 1985, 878).

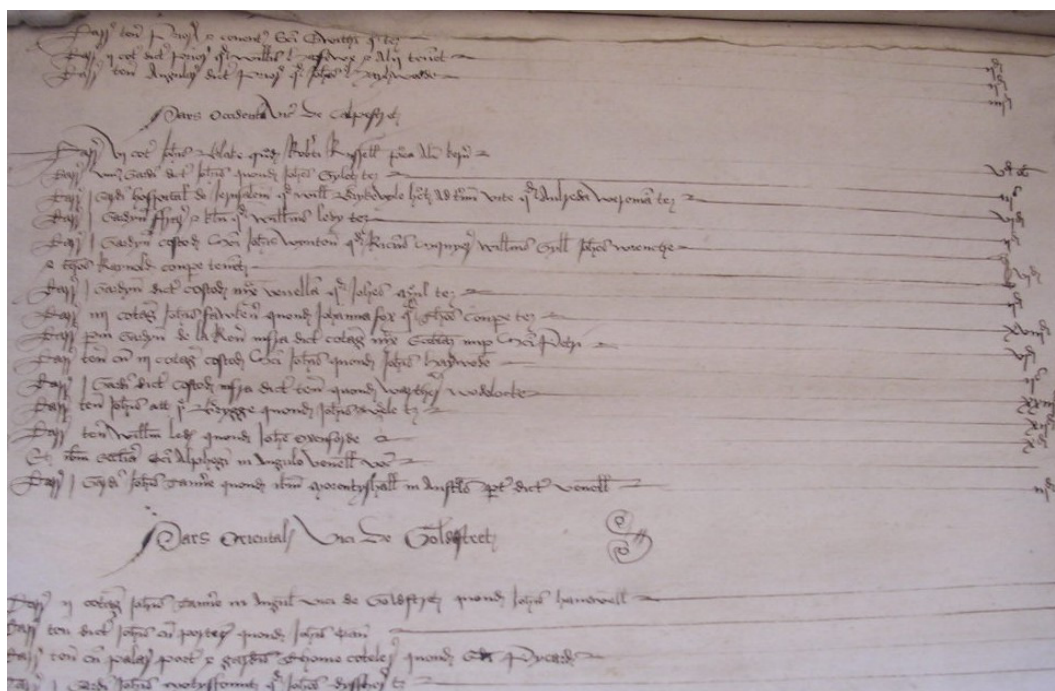


Plate 1: Extract from the Tarrage Survey of 1417 relating to the property described as 'one garden in the custody of St John's Winchester next to the lane which John Moyul holds'
(Reproduced by courtesy of Winchester College Archives)

3.4 Evidence for post-medieval occupation

Documentary evidence shows that the No. 19 remained as a garden throughout the 16th century, with no indication of building activity. Speed's plan of 1611 shows the site as open ground, forming part of a large area of gardens and orcharding extending S from St Thomas's Passage along the W side of St Thomas Street to the line of the town wall. Speed's plan does not depict any of the burgage plot boundaries in this area; however, this probably reflects the schematic nature of the survey and should not be taken to imply that the pattern of medieval burgage plots had broken down.

Godson's plan of Winchester, dated 1750, shows that considerable building activity had occurred on the site by that date, with the construction of a square building adjoining the street frontage and two ranges of outbuildings to the rear, one aligned E-W adjoining the S side of St Thomas's Passage, to the W of which was another range aligned N-S. It is reasonable to assume that the square building shown on the 1750 plan represents the existing house, albeit in a considerably altered form. The property is described in a lease of 1800 from St John's Hospital to one George Chard as 'a tenement with outhouses, garden and appurtenances on the W side of St Thomas Street and on the S side of St Thomas Passage' (HRO Ref. 34M91/W/1556).

Thomas Milne's plan of 1791 shows the layout of the house, garden and outbuildings to have remained essentially unchanged since 1750; however, it appears that considerable alterations and new building work took place between 1791 and 1870, for the OS 1st edition 25 inch map shows that a large rectangular annexe (recently demolished) had been added to the rear of No. 19, resulting in the demolition of the outbuilding range to the S of St Thomas's Passage, although the range immediately to the W appears to have remained intact. The annexe was further altered between 1870 and 1909 and further demolition and new building activity took place during the early 1970s.

4. Methodology

The programme of archaeological observation took place between October 8th and October 11th 2007.

Full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with archaeological practices set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994; revised 2001). A detailed stratigraphic record was made using *pro forma* record sheets and a context numbering system. Any identified archaeological deposits, features or structures were drawn in plan at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate, and in section or elevation at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50. Any significant features or structures were recorded at a 1:10 scale. All features and structures were photographed using a 10.7 MPX digital camera and 35mm SLR camera using colour and monochrome film.

A temporary benchmark was established with a value of 42.94m AOD.

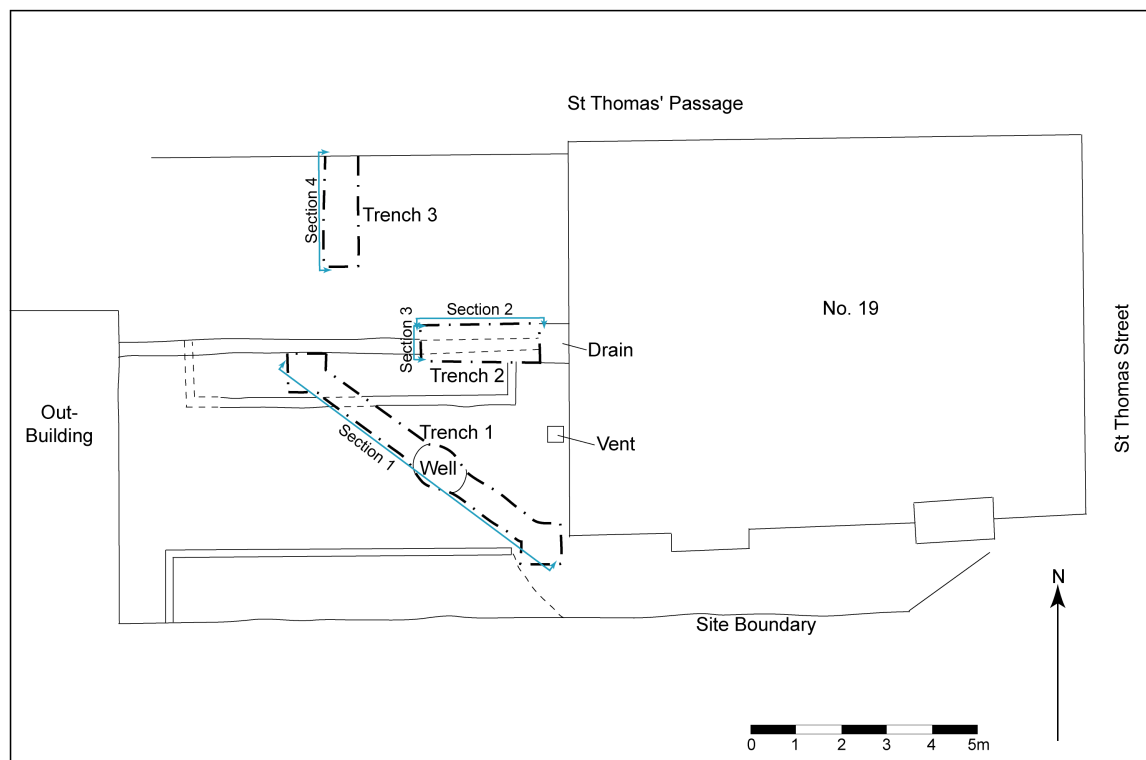


Fig. 2: Plan showing location of trenching to rear of No. 19 St Thomas Street, Winchester

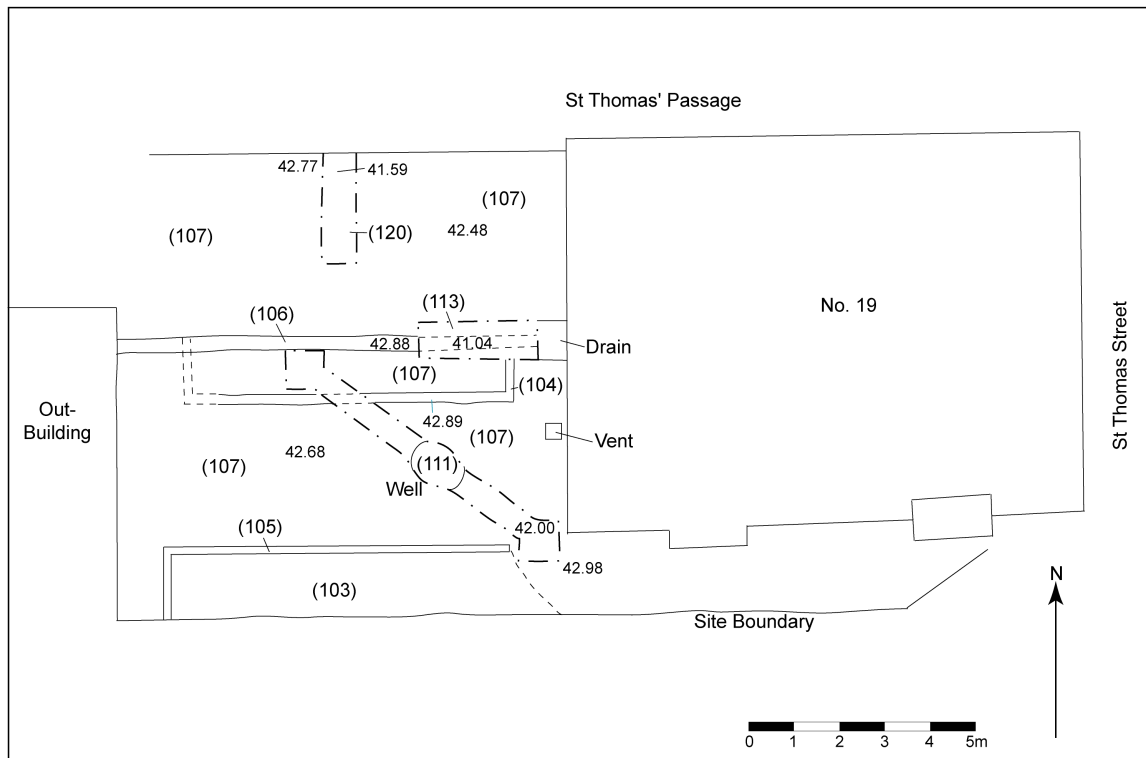


Fig. 3: Plan showing features identified during observation of trenching to rear of No. 19 St Thomas Street, Winchester

5. Archaeological Observation

5.1 Trench 1 – Excavation of Drainage Trench in Garden Area



Plate 2: General view of Trench 1, looking NE

The initial phase of groundworks consisted of the excavation of a trench measuring 10m x 0.6m x 0.5m for the installation of a drainage pipe, which ran in a NW-SE direction from the SW corner of No. 19 to the S side of the proposed new extension. The majority of the trench consisted of a loose dark brown sandy silt with occasional post-medieval brick, charcoal and mortar flecks (107) extending site wide to a depth of 0.4m (**Plate 2; Fig. 4**). Underlying (107) was a thin loose to moderately compacted layer of chalk with small amounts of light brown silty sand within its make-up (114). Underlying (114) was a loose dark brown sandy silt with occasional post-medieval CBM (116), which ran to the base of the trench.

Approximately 3m from the SE end of the trench, was a brick-lined well (111), which had been incorporated as a soak-away for a later, modern drainage pipe, and what appeared to be a domed cap to the well had been mostly removed as part of this process. The well was constructed in irregular Flemish bond and bonded with a cement mortar. The well was more than 1.5m in diameter and over 3m deep, although it appeared to have partially silted up (**Plate 3**).

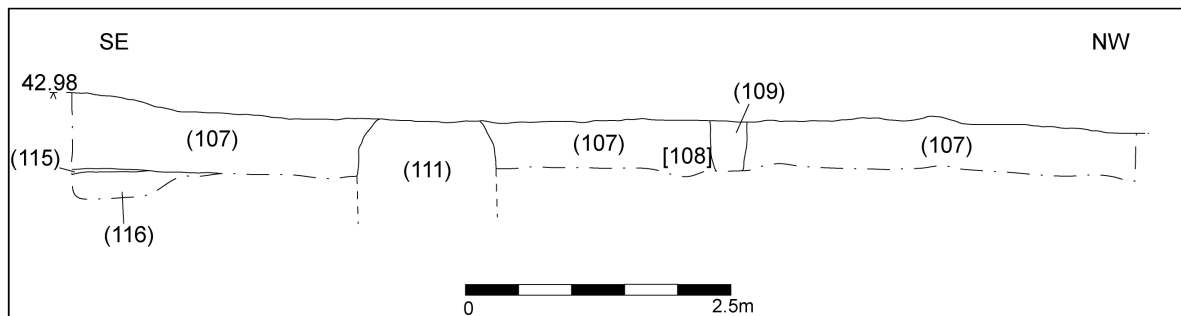


Fig. 4: NE-facing section Trench 1



Plate 3: Post-medieval brick-lined well (111)

No obvious evidence of a construction cut relating to the well was identified, although this might have been due to the interpretative constraints imposed by the narrow

trenching, combined with the homogenous nature of the surrounding post-medieval soils. Unfortunately, the condition of the well was such that no drawn record could be made; however, no further damage occurred during the excavation of the trench and the well was later backfilled with material from the other trenches. The trench also cut through a brick foundation for the post-medieval extension to No. 19 (104).

5.2 Trench 2 – Excavation of Foundation Trench



Plate 4: Trench 2 section with pit [112], view N.

Trench 2 measured 2.6m × 0.8m × 2m and was initially intended to connect with Trench 3; however, it was subsequently abandoned as no deposits of the required solidity were encountered within the trench (**Plate 4**).

Running along the length of the trench were the foundations for the now-demolished extension to No. 19 (106). These consisted of chalkstone with limited evidence of working and shaping within a concrete matrix. Underlying this foundation was a linear cut [108] and associated fill (109), the cut being orientated on the same line as (106). The fill was a loosely light brown mixture of CBM, chalk and silty sand with occasional pieces of slate (**Fig. 6**). The relationship of this cut and fill with (106) was unclear and it appeared that [108] may, in fact, have represented a robber trench relating to a foundation predating the laying of (106). This raises the possibility that the current building project would be the third extension to the rear of No. 19 to have been built on virtually the same footprint.

Truncated by [108] was a deep circular post-medieval pit [112] filled with loose brown organic sandy silt containing occasional fragments of post-medieval CBM (113) (**Fig. 4**). [108] cut into (107), which, in turn, overlay a loose mixture of off-white chalk and light brown silty sand (115), which appeared to be part of the same deposition as (114). Underlying (114) was (119), a loose dark brown sandy silt with occasional post-medieval CBM, which overlay a loose light brown and white mixture of clayey sand, chalk flecking and grit (117). Context (119) was the same as (116). Context (117) overlay (118), a moderately compacted white and light brown mixture of chalk and silt. It was unclear whether this, in fact, represented the beginning of natural material, as, at this point, the

0.8m-wide trench exceeded 2m in depth and could not be safely investigated; however, the off-white coloration of the deposit suggested that this was probably not the case.

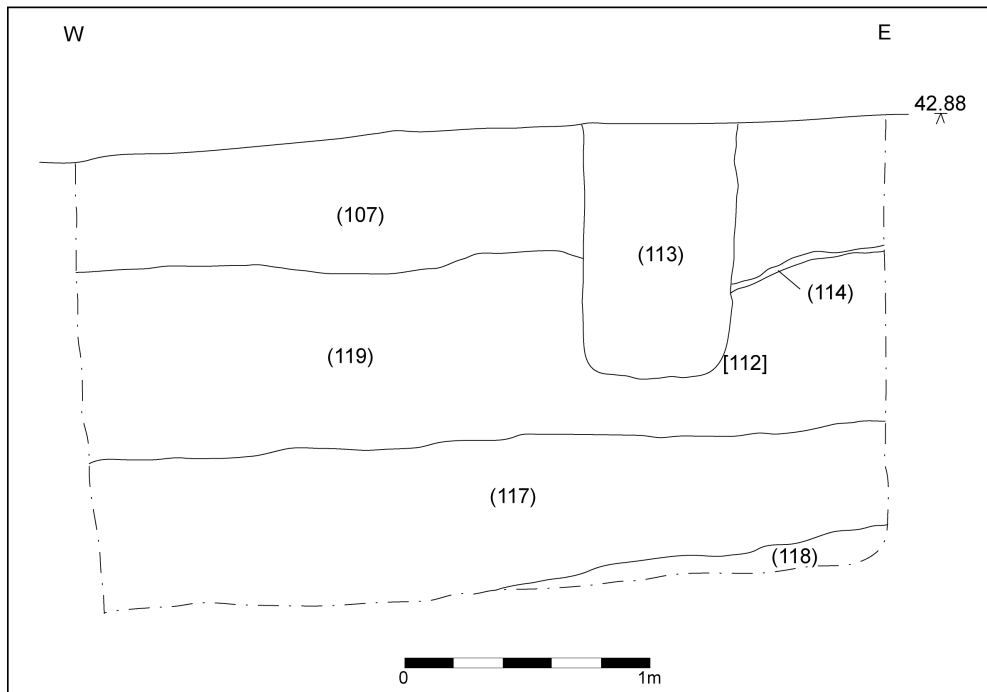


Fig. 5: S-facing section of Trench 2

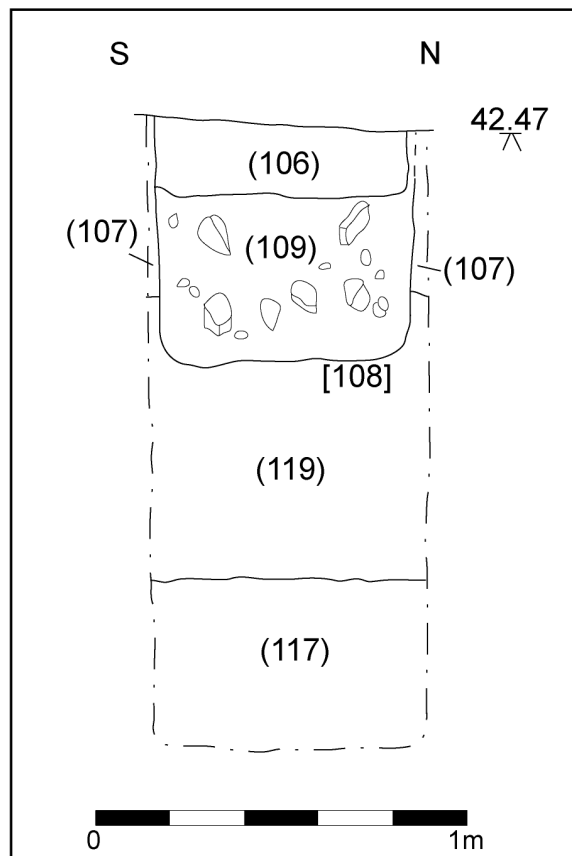


Fig. 6: E-facing section of Trench 2

5.3 Trench 3 – Excavation of Foundation Trench



Plate 5: Trench 3 - View looking W.

Trench 3 was orientated N-S and measured 2.3m x 0.8m x 1.14m (**Plate 5; Fig. 7**). Again, this trench was partially excavated but abandoned after Trench 2 failed to locate any suitably stable deposits. Three layers of deposition were revealed, the first of which was (107). This overlay (121), a loose mixture of off-white chalk and light brown silty sand, beneath which was (120), a loose dark brown sandy silt with occasional post-medieval CBM. Context (120) was the same as (116). A single fragment of salt-glazed ware of probable 15th-16th century date was recovered from context (107); no other finds or features were revealed.

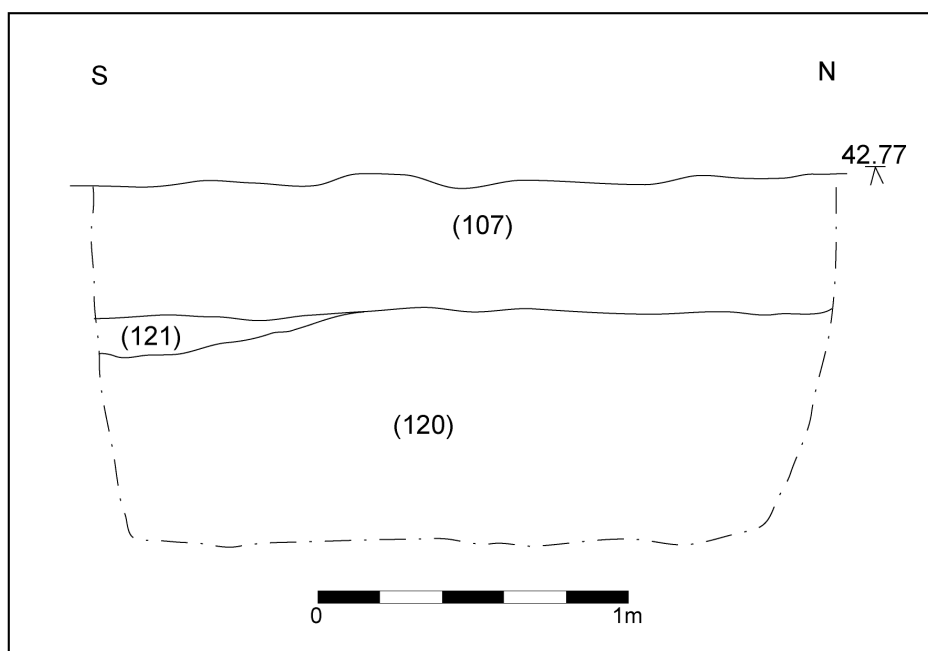


Fig. 7: Trench 3 – E-facing Section

5.4 Investigation of cellarge beneath No. 19 St Thomas Street

An unusual chalk masonry passage and semicircular chamber were revealed beneath the floorboards of No. 19 (**Fig. 8**). Both structures were incorporated within the later post-medieval cellarge but appeared to predate it. The passage consisted of two chalkstone walls and a later raised brick floor that appeared to have elevated the floor level by at least 0.5m (**Plate 6**).

The exposed masonry of the passage consisted of five courses of rough-hewn chalk blocks, which were bonded with a lime mortar and bore clear evidence of chisel marks (**Plates 6 & 7**). The stones varied in size but were generally quite large with some being more than 0.5m in length; traces of coarse render / plaster were also noted. The passage ran diagonally NE-SW off the cellar, in the SW corner of which was the entrance.

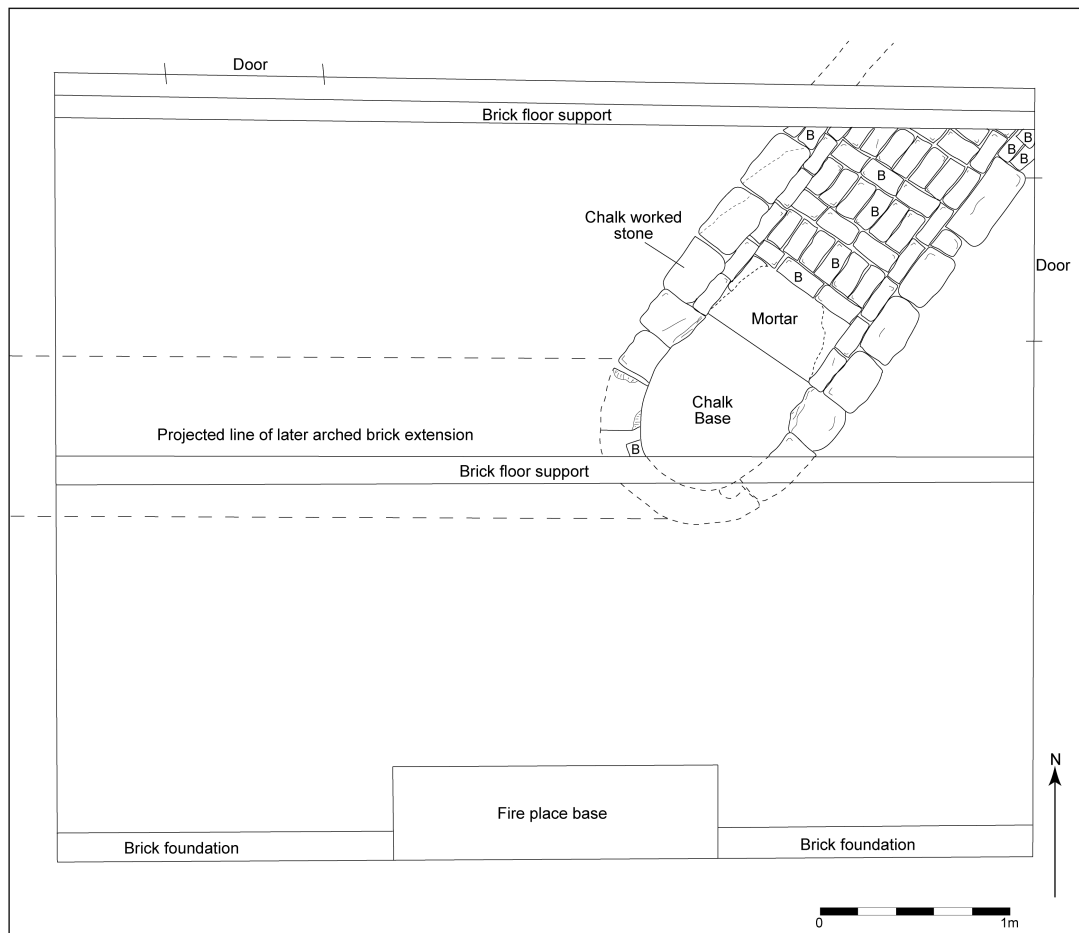


Fig. 8: Plan showing masonry passage and chamber revealed in No. 19 St Thomas Street



Plate 6: View SW showing entrance from cellarage into passage

At the SW terminus of the passage was a semicircular chamber of similar rough-hewn blocks, although one side had been modified to incorporate a brick-lined tunnel leading to the western end of the house (**Plate 8**), at the W end of which was a ventilation shaft leading up to ground level. A slight curvature at the top of the chamber suggests that this may have once supported a domed roof. The entrance from the passage into the chamber was slightly recessed and two slots were noted in the walls adjacent to this, which may have held a beam or a door-bar (**Plate 9**).



Plate 7: View looking SW along passage from cellarage entrance



Plate 8: View looking NW showing brick tunnel from chamber to western side of No. 19.



Plate 9: Detail showing slots within masonry wall of passage adjacent to chamber entrance, looking SW

6. Conclusion

The programme of archaeological observation undertaken to the rear of No. 19 St Thomas Street revealed evidence of deposits and structures of medieval and post-medieval date. The earliest evidence of occupation was represented by the chalk masonry passage and semicircular chamber located following removal of the floorboards within the house.

The passage and chamber appear to predate construction of the existing mid-late 18th century house, at which point they were incorporated into the cellarage layout. An early date for the passage is suggested by its alignment, which bears no relationship to this layout. Moreover, the passage differs markedly in terms of construction method and materials.

Due to a complete the lack of finds associated with these features, it is not possible to assign a construction date; however, the masonry certainly appears to be medieval in character and may be compared with other surviving medieval undercrofts in Winchester and nearby towns such as Southampton. The precise function of the passage and chamber are difficult to establish with certainty but it seems reasonable to assume that they formed part of a large vaulted undercroft beneath the tenement documented as having occupied the site from c.1300 to 1369, when the building appears to have been demolished.

The remainder of the features identified are of post-medieval date and relate to the mid-late 18th century house and later 19th century extensions. These include the brick-lined well identified in Trench 1 and the foundations of the S wall of the rectangular annexe extending to the W of the house, which is shown on the OS 1st edition 25-inch map of 1870.

A considerable accumulation of post-medieval garden soil was evident across the site. This appears to relate to landscaping or levelling activity contemporary with or postdating the construction of the existing house. The OS map of 1870 shows that a raised *parterre* had been laid out to the rear of the property overlooking extensive lawns immediately to the S and it may well be that the accumulation of garden soils observed in the trenching relates to this. It is likely that this activity heavily disturbed earlier deposits and features, which would explain the apparent lack of evidence for Roman and medieval occupation.

7. Copyright

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8. Bibliography

8.1 Primary Sources

Winchester College Archives: Tarrage Survey of 1417

Hampshire Record Office: Records of St John's Hospital Charity



8.2 Secondary Sources

Winchester City Council: Urban Archaeological Database (UAD): UAD Printout

National Monuments Record, Swindon: Register of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest

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Keene, D.J., 1985, *Survey of Medieval Winchester*, Oxford

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Wacher, J., 1976, *The Towns of Roman Britain*, London

9. Cartography

1611 - John Speed's Map of Winchester

1750 - Godson's Plan of the City of Winchester

1791 - T. Milne's Plan of the City of Winchester

1870 - OS 1st edition 25-inch map, Hampshire 41.13

1909 - OS 2nd edition 25-inch map Hampshire 41.13

1939 - OS 4th edition 25-inch map Hampshire 41.13

10. Appendix 1: Context Register

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
(101)	Grey indurated concrete, measuring 9 x 3 x 0.1m.
INTERPRETATION	<i>Concrete yardage.</i>
(102)	Firm orangey-red brick with concrete inclusions, measuring 9 x 3 x 0.08m.
INTERPRETATION	<i>Brick hardcore for (101).</i>
(103)	Loose dark brown sandy silt with frequent brick, measuring 7 x 2.5 x 0.85m.
INTERPRETATION	<i>Part of garden bed.</i>
(104)	Cement-bonded coursed brickwork, standard gauge, >2 courses, direction of faces N, S, dimensions 6 x 0.24 x >0.2m.
INTERPRETATION	<i>Wall foundation for extension to No. 19.</i>
(105)	Cement-bonded coursed brickwork, standard gauge, 5 courses, direction of faces N, S, dimensions 7 x 0.12 x 0.5m
INTERPRETATION	<i>Post-medieval retaining / revetment wall.</i>
(106)	Unworked cement-bonded chalkstone masonry, maximum size of materials 0.1 x 0.1 x 0.1m, no discernible coursing or bond, direction of faces N, S, dimensions 9 x 0.5 x 0.45m. Overlies (109).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Rough chalkstone foundation.</i>
(107)	Loose dark brown sandy silt, occasional post-medieval brick, charcoal & mortar flecks, appears to be present in all trenching to a depth of 0.4m.
INTERPRETATION	<i>Post-medieval garden soil.</i>
[108]	Rectilinear cut measuring 9 x 0.5 x 0.6m. Break of slope top sharp, sides steeply sloping near vertical, break of slope base sharp, base undulating, orientation E- W. Cuts (107). Filled by (109).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Cut of foundation trench</i>
(109)	Loose light brown mixture of brick, chalk & silty sand, occasional slate measuring 9 x 0.5 x 0.6m. Underlies (106). Fills [108].
INTERPRETATION	<i>Fill of [108].</i>
[110]	Rectilinear cut measuring 6 x 0.24 x >0.2m. Break of slope top sharp, sides steep to vertical, break of slope base and base not excavated, orientation E-W. Cuts (107). Filled by (104).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Cut of foundation for brick extension (104).</i>
(111)	Cement- or mortar-bonded brickwork measuring >1.5m in diameter & 3.5m in depth, irregular Flemish bond. Note: Due to the unsafe nature of this feature some elements of recording could not be completed.
INTERPRETATION	<i>Post-medieval well.</i>
[112]	Semicircular cut measuring 0.6 x 0.2 x 1m. Break of slope top sharp, sides steeply sloping, break of slope base sharp, base concave. Truncated by [108]. Filled by (113).
INTERPRETATION	<i>Cut of post-medieval pit of unknown provenance.</i>
(113)	Loose brown organic sandy silt, occasional post-medieval brick; measures 0.6 x 0.2 (heavily truncated) x 1m.
INTERPRETATION	<i>Fill of [112].</i>
(114)	Loose dirty / off-white chalk lumps with some light brown silty sand within makeup; measures 2 x 0.5 x 0.05m.
INTERPRETATION	<i>Chalk lense.</i>
(115)	Loose dirty / off-white chalk lumps with some light brown silty sand within makeup; measures 1.2 x 0.5 x 0.05m.
INTERPRETATION	<i>Chalk lense</i>
(116)	Loose dark brown sandy silt, occasional post-medieval brick, extending over Trench 1 to a depth of < 0.6m.
INTERPRETATION	<i>Post-medieval levelling deposit.</i>
(117)	Loose light brown & white clay sand and grit (chalk), occasional charcoal flecking extending over Trench 2 to a depth of 0.9m.
INTERPRETATION	<i>Post-medieval deposit.</i>



(118)	Moderately compacted white and light brown compacted chalk and silt measuring 0.9 x 0.5, depth not established as not excavated.
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Compacted chalk deposit.</i>
(119)	Loose dark brown sandy silt, occasional post-medieval brick, extending over Trench 2 to a depth of < 0.6m.
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Post-medieval levelling deposit</i>
(120)	Loose dark brown sandy silt, occasional post-medieval brick, extending over Trench 2 to a depth of < 0.6m.
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Post-medieval levelling deposit</i>
(121)	Loose dirty / off-white chalk lumps, some light brown silty sand within makeup; measures 0.3 x 0.5 x 0.05m.
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Chalk lense.</i>
Details of passage / semicircular chamber construction	Coursed rough-hewn chalk blocks measuring < 0.5 x 0.35 x 0.32m forming walls of NW-SE passage & chamber, five courses visible in passage area with potentially more beneath later brick floor level, 11 courses observed in chamber, lime mortar bonding. Masonry appears to have been rendered, although it is not clear whether this was contemporary with the construction phase or relates to post-medieval alterations.