# CHICHELEY HALL MILTON KEYNES

# INTERIM REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF TEST-PITS

Project: CH1507 MKC Event No: 1233

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

In May 2009 Albion Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief on 12 geotechnical test pits at Chicheley Hall, Chicheley, Newport Pagnell, District of Milton Keynes (NGR SP 9049 4550). The work was carried out in response to archaeological conditions placed on Planning Consent for redevelopment of Chicheley Hall and was carried out in compliance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (RPS 2009) approved by the archaeological officer at Milton Keynes District Council.

Test pits were located in the Main House basement (Test Pit 11), the Quadrant (Test Pits 9, 10 and 12) and the Coach House (Test Pits 1-8) and were excavated in areas of proposed ground reduction. The test pits were excavated by the site investigation contractor to provide structural and ground conditions information to aid the construction of the development. The test pits were archaeologically monitored to evaluate the site for potential archaeological remains. Albion Archaeology liaised with the site investigation contractor to ensure safe and appropriate access to the test pits.

# 2. COACH HOUSE TEST-PITS (FIGS. 2 AND 3)

### 2.1.1 Test-pit 1

Deposits within Test-pit 1 consisted of the existing brick floor surface (100), above a soil layer containing fragments of limestone (101) which lay directly on top of undisturbed geological deposit (102). The top of (102) lay 250mm below the existing floor surface.

The geological deposit was cut by foundation [104]-(105), for back wall (103) of the coach house. The foundations extended to a depth of 900mm below the existing floor surface.

No archaeological features that predated the existing building were observed within this test-pit.

### 2.1.2 Test-pit 2

Deposits within Test-pit 2 consisted of the existing brick floor surface (200), above two soil layers (201) and (202), over undisturbed geological deposit (203). The top of the geological deposit lay 280mm below the existing floor surface.

The geological deposit was cut by foundation, [205]-(106), for an internal dividing wall (204) within the coach house. The foundations extended to a depth of 300mm below the existing floor surface.

A spot date of 19<sup>th</sup> century has been assigned to the artefactual material recovered from (202) (Section 5, Table 1). No archaeological features that predated the existing building were observed within this test-pit.



### 2.1.3 Test-pit 3

Deposits within Test-pit 3 consisted of the existing brick floor surface (300), above two layers of floor make up, (301) limestone rubble and cement and (302) brick rubble and soil. These make up layers lie directly above undisturbed geological deposit (303). The top of the geological deposit lay 380mm below the existing floor surface.

Geological deposits were cut by foundation [305]-(306), for the front wall of the coach house (204) and by foundation [308]-(309) for an internal dividing wall (307). The foundations extended to a depth of 730mm below the existing floor surface.

No archaeological features that predated the existing building were observed within this test-pit.

# 2.1.4 Test-pit 4

Deposits within Test-pit 4 consisted of the existing brick floor surface (400), above a soil layer that contained limestone rubble (401) which lay directly above undisturbed geological deposit (402). The top of the geological deposit lay 330mm below the existing floor surface.

The geological deposit was cut by the foundation, [404]-(405), for an internal dividing wall (403) and by foundation [407]-(408) for the back wall of the coach house (406). The foundation cut [404] extended to a depth of 500mm below the existing floor surface and foundation cut [4047] extends to a depth of 720mm below the floor level.

A small quantity of residual medieval pottery (Section 5, Table 1) was recovered from layer (401). No archaeological features that predated the existing building were observed within this test-pit.

# 2.1.5 Test-pit 5

Deposits within Test-pit 5 consisted of gravel yard surface (500), above an earlier cobbled yard surface (501) above a dark soil layer (502), possibly a former cultivation soil. This lay above layer (503) which appears to be a subsoil deposit. Directly beneath (503) lay undisturbed geological deposit (504). The top of the geological deposit lay 580mm below the existing floor surface.

Geological deposits were cut by foundation [507]-(508) (509), for wall (506) that forms the front face of the coach house. This foundation cut extended to a depth of 500mm below the existing floor surface and foundation cut [507] extends to a depth of 830mm below the yard surface.

Early medieval pottery sherds were recovered from layer (502), (Section 5, Table 1). No archaeological features that predated the existing building were observed within this test-pit.

#### 2.1.6 Test-pit 6

Deposits within Test-pit 6 consisted of a brick floor surface (600), above a floor make-up layer (601) of limestone rubble and mortar. Below the floor layers were two soil layers (602) and (603) above geological deposit (604), the top of which lay 400mm below the existing floor surface.



The geological deposit was cut by two grave cuts [605] and [607] (Fig. 3). These were both steep sided cuts aligned east-west. The top of the graves, cut into undisturbed geological deposit, were visible at a height of 77.20m OD in section (current ground level is 77.60m OD). The deepest grave [605] contained a well preserved adult inhumation burial (616) of which the lower legs were uncovered and recorded. The uppermost part of this skeleton was situated at height of 76.67m OD. The base of the shallower grave lay at 77m OD. Bones from a neonatal burial (long bones and ribs) are almost certainly derived from this grave. These bones also include part of a larger rib, suggesting the possibility of some mixing or charnel deposits.

Geological deposits and graves [605] and [607] were cut by the foundations [610]-(611) for a wall (609) that forms the rear wall of the coach house and foundations [613]-(614) for an internal dividing wall (612). The two foundations extended to a depth of 580mm and 500mm below the existing floor surface respectively.

### 2.1.7 Test-pit 7

Deposits within Test-pit 7 consisted of a concrete floor surface (700), above a make-up layer (701) of brick rubble in a soil matrix above undisturbed geological deposit. The upper part of the geological deposit (702) lay only 160mm below the ground surface at this point.

The geological deposit was cut by foundation [704]-(705) for a wall (703) that forms the front wall of the coach house. The foundation extended to a depth of 380mm below the existing yard surface.

No archaeological features that predated the existing building were observed within this test-pit.

## 2.1.8 Test-pit 8

Deposits within Test-pit 8 consisted of a brick floor surface (800), above a floor make-up layer (801) of brick rubble and mortar above a deeper rubble layer (802) of brick rubble and soil (803).

A small quantity of modern pottery was recovered from layer (801).

These layers lay above a deep deposit of yellow brown sandy silt with limestone rubble which may represent a construction deposit associated with the adjacent wall (804). The natural stratum was not observed in this test-pit. No archaeological features that predated the existing building were observed within this test-pit.

# 3. QUADRANT TEST-PIT (FIG. 5)

#### 3.1.1 Test-pit 9

Deposits within Test-pit 9 consisted of topsoil (900) above undisturbed geological deposit (901), the top of which was 300mm below the existing ground surface.

The geological deposit was cut by the foundation, [903]-(904) for the corner of the north wing (902) and by foundation [906]-(907) for the inner wall of the quadrant corridor (905). Foundation cut [903] extended to a maximum depth of 1250mm below



the existing ground surface and foundation cut [906] extended to a depth of 400mm below the floor level.

No archaeological features that predated the existing building were observed within this test-pit.

## 3.1.2 Test-pit 10

Deposits within Test-pit 10 consisted of a brick floor surface (1000) above a floor make up layer containing brick rubble (1001) above a layer of re-deposited natural sand (1002) over a layer of soil containing brick and limestone fragments (1003). Layer (1003) lay directly above undisturbed geological deposit, the top of which was 480mm below the existing floor surface. The geological deposit consist of sandy deposits (1004) and (1012) separated by a thin bed of pebbles (1011).

The geological deposit was cut by the foundation, [1009]-(1010), for a wall (1008) that forms the northern end of the quadrant buildings. This foundation extends to a depth of 1220mm below the existing floor surface. A smaller foundation, [1006]-(1007), for a brick pier (1005) supports the lean-to roof. This appears to be cut into the build-up layers (1003) and (1002) and extended to a depth of only 400mm below the floor level.

No archaeological features predating the existing building were observed within this test-pit.

## 3.1.3 Test-pit 12

Deposits within Test-pit 12 consisted of a cobbled floor surface (1200), sealing a service trench that contained pipes for the house [1201]-(1202). The service trench was cut through a soil layer (1203) that lies above undisturbed geological deposit. The top of the geological deposit lay 370mm below the existing floor surface. The geological deposit consist of sand deposits (1208) and (1210) separated by a thin bed of pebbles (1209).

The geological deposit was cut by the foundation, [1205]-(1206), for a wall (103) forming part of the quadrant buildings. The foundations extended to a depth of 1350mm below the existing floor surface.

No archaeological features that predated the existing building were observed within this test-pit.

# 4. BASEMENT TEST-PIT IN MAIN HOUSE (FIG. 4)

### 4.1.1 Test-pit 11

Deposits within Test-pit 11 consisted of a tile floor surface (1100), above a floor make up layer (1101) that contained brick rubble. The make up layer for the floor lies above undisturbed geological deposit (1102), the top of which was 270mm below the existing floor surface. The geological deposit consisted of coarse sand with some calcareous gravel.

The geological deposit was cut by the foundation, [1104]-(1105) for a cross-wall in the basement (1103) and by foundation [1106]-(1107), beneath the southern side of



the central basement corridor. Foundation cut [1104] extended to a depth of 730mm below the existing floor surface and foundation cut [1106] extends to a depth of 560mm below the floor level.

No archaeological features that predated the existing building were observed within this test-pit.

# 5. FINDS SUMMARY

Artefacts were recovered from seven test-pit within the evaluation area (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

Tr.	Feature	Feature	Context	Spot date*	Finds Summary	
		type				
2	202	Layer	202	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Brown stoneware sherds (166g) including a beer bottle base	
					Incomplete egg-shaped Hamilton mineral-water bottle	
					(273g)	
					Stone floor tile fragment (521g); polished and worn	
4	401	Layer	401	Modern	Carpenter's pencil fragments (4g)	
					Residual early medieval sand tempered pottery sherd (1g)	
5	502	Layer	502	11 <sup>th</sup> -late	Shell tempered pottery sherds (3g); fabric MC1**	
				13 <sup>th</sup> century		
6	605	Grave	606	Undated	Animal bone (3g)	
8	801	Make-up	801	Modern	Transfer-printed ware plate or saucer rim sherd (5g)	
		layer				
8	802	Make-up	802	Undated	Animal bone (42g)	
		layer				
9	900	Topsoil	900	Modern	Moulded bottle glass fragment (28g)	
					Animal bone (38g)	
10	1001	Layer	1001	Undated	Animal bone (46g); including cow metacarpal	

<sup>\* -</sup> spot date based on date of latest artefact in context
\*\* - correlation with Milton Keynes fabric series (Mynard 1992)

**Table 1:** Artefact summary by test-pit and feature

### 6. REFERENCES

Mynard, D.C. 1992. 'The Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery' in DC., Mynard, D.C. and RJ., Zeepvat, *Excavations at Great Linford 1974-80*, Bucks. Arch. Soc. Monograph Series No.3, 245-372.

RPS 2009, Kavli Royal Society International Centre for the Advancement of Science. Chicheley Hall. Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation



# 7. APPENDIX 1 – TEST-PIT SUMMARIES



Max Dimensions: Length: 0.90 m. Width: 0.80 m.

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
100	Internal surface	Brick floor laid on bed of cement	<b>✓</b>	
101	Layer	Loose dark grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-mediustones Occasional fragments of limestone	ım 🗸	
102	Natural	Loose light red brown sand	<b>✓</b>	
103	Wall	Limestone wall of garage/coach-house		
104	Foundation trench			
105	Foundation	Limestone masonry forming foundation of wall (103)		



Max Dimensions: Length: 0.80 m. Width: 0.70 m.

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	Present:
200	Internal surface	Brick floor laid on thin bed of cement	✓	
201	Layer	Loose dark grey sandy silt frequent small stones Stones concentrated in laye towards base of deposit	r	
202	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown clay sand occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>
203	Natural	Friable mid red brown sand	✓	
204	Wall	Internal brick wall in coach-house		
205	Foundation trench			
206	Foundation	Limestone foundation for wall (204)		



Max Dimensions: Length: 0.80 m. Width: 0.75 m.

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
300	Internal surface	Brick floor laid on thin bed of cement	<b>✓</b>	
301	Make up layer	Light grey Mixture of limestone rubble and cement	<b>✓</b>	
302	Make up layer	Mid grey brown sandy silt frequent medium ceramic building material Lay composed of brick rubble and soil	er 🗸	
303	Natural	Loose mid red brown sand Which grades to yellow sand in base of trench	✓	
304	Wall	Brick wall		
305	Foundation trench			
306	Foundation	Limestone foundation		
307	Wall	Limestone wall. Inserted cross-wall in coach-house		
308	Foundation trench			
309	Foundation	Limestone foundation for wall (307)		



Max Dimensions: Length: 0.70 m. Width: 0.60 m.

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
400	Internal surface	Brick floor laid on thin bed of cement	<b>✓</b>	
401	Layer	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Frequent small to medium sized fragments of limestone rubble	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>
402	Natural	Firm dark grey silty sand occasional small stones Deposit augered to 1.25m below floor level. Lower deposit mid red brown clay sand with bands of dark grey clay silt	<b>✓</b>	
403	Wall	Brick wall. Constructed with a mixture of re-used bricks in an irregular bone	il 🗌	
-02				
404	Foundation trench			
	<b>Foundation trench</b> Foundation	Foundation of wall (403)		
404		Foundation of wall (403)  Limestone wall		
<b>404</b> 405	Foundation			



Max Dimensions: Length: 1.00 m. Width: 0.65 m.

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	<b>Finds Present:</b>
500	External surface	Loose light grey gravel Modern surface of carpark area	<b>✓</b>	
501	External surface	Loose dark grey clay loam moderate small stones And medium large sub-roor rounded cobbles. Former cobbled yard surface	ınd 🗸	
502	Layer	Loose dark grey sandy loam occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stor And occasional mortar fragments	es	<b>✓</b>
503	Layer	Loose mid brown silty sand occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	
504	Natural	Loose mid red brown sand		
505	Concrete	Concrete 'plinth' cast on external base of wall		
506	Wall	Brick wall		
507	Foundation trench		<b>✓</b>	
508	Foundation	Loose dark brown silty sand occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	
509	Foundation	Limestone foundation for wall (506)		



Max Dimensions: Length: 0.90 m. Width: 0.70 m.

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
600	Internal surface	Brick floor laid on thin bed of cement	<b>✓</b>	
601	Make up layer	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt With c. 50% limestone rubble and mortar		
602	Layer	Loose mid brown sandy silt moderate small stones And occasional limestone fragments	e 🗸	
603	Layer	Loose mid yellow brown silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional smastones	all 🗸	
604	Natural	Loose mid yellow sand Coarse gritty calcareous sand		
605	Grave	Sub-rectangular E-W profile: steep base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.6m Lower legs of what appears to be an adult inhumation visible in the base of the excavated segment. Left in situ	<b>✓</b> he	
606	Fill	Loose mid yellow brown silty sand occasional small stones Grave fill banded wi darker silty component, probably remnant subsoil.	th 🗸	$\checkmark$
616	Human skeleton	Lower legs of inhumation uncovered in small excavated segment of grave cut [60 Size suggests adult inhumation.	5]	
607	Grave	E-W profile: steep base: flat Not fully exposed in plan	<b>✓</b>	
608	Fill	Loose mid yellow brown silty sand	<b>✓</b>	
615	Human skeleton	Neonate burial - position and depth bones recovered from suggest that it was from grave cut [607]	n 🗸	
609	Wall	Limestone wall		
610	Foundation trench	Cut for foundation (611)		
611	Foundation	Limestone foundation		
612	Wall	Brick wall		
613	Foundation trench	Cut for foundation (614)		
614		Limestone foundation		



Max Dimensions: Length: 1.00 m. Width: 0.60 m.

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated: Finds</b>	<b>Present:</b>
700	Concrete	Concrete floor surface in threshold area of stable floor	<b>✓</b>	
701	Make up layer	Loose dark yellow brown silty rubble Brick and tile rubble with soil matrix	<b>V</b>	
702	Natural	Loose mid yellow brown sand occasional small stones That occur in discrete band or bed of stones		
703	Wall	Brick wall		
704	Foundation trench			
705	Foundation	Limestone foundation		



Max Dimensions: Length: 0.80 m. Width: 0.70 m.

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
800	Internal surface	Brick floor on thin bed of cement	<b>✓</b>	
801	Make up layer	Mixture of mortar and brick rubble with small stones	✓	<b>✓</b>
802	Make up layer	Loose mid yellow brown sandy silt frequent medium-large ceramic building material Rubble make-up layer	<b>✓</b>	✓
803	Make up layer	Loose light yellow silty sand frequent small-large stones Limestone rubble layer in sandy matrix forming possible construction deposit	<b>✓</b>	
804	Wall	Brick wall		
805	Foundation trench			
806	Foundation	Limestone foundation consisting of roughly		
807	Wall	Brick wall		



Max Dimensions: Length: 1.02 m. Width: 0.58 m.

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
900	Topsoil	Loose dark grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stone	s 🗸	<b>✓</b>
901	Natural	Loose mid yellow brown sand Which grades to light yellow sand in base of trench	<b>✓</b>	
902	Wall	Brick wall with gauged brick quoining set on limstone ashlar masonry base		
903	Foundation trench			
904	Foundation	Foundation for wall 902 consisting of massive limestone blocks supporting corne and limestone rubble foundation for remainder of wall	r	
905	Wall	Brick wall		
906	Foundation trench			
907	Foundation	Foundation for wall 905 consisting of four courses of brickwork		



Max Dimensions: Length: 1.02 m. Width: 0.85 m.

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	<b>Finds Present:</b>
1000	Internal surface	Brick floor laid on bed of mortar	<b>✓</b>	
1001	Make up layer	Loose dark grey sandy silt moderate small-medium ceramic building materia occasional small stones	l,	<b>✓</b>
1002	Layer	Loose light yellow brown sand Redeposited natural sand	<b>✓</b>	
1003	Construction horizon	Loose mid yellow brown sandy loam occasional small-medium ceramic buildi material Frequent small to medium fragments of limestone	ing	
1004	Natural	Loose mid yellow brown sand	<b>✓</b>	
1005	Wall	Brick pier forming support for open side of lean-to roof structure		
1006	Foundation trench			
1007	Foundation	Limestone foundation for brick pier 1005		
1008	Wall	Brick wall		
1009	Foundation trench			
1010	Foundation	Foundation for wall 1008 made of limestone rubble with one leveling course at the	top $\Box$	
1011	Natural	Gravel Thin bed, c.30mm thick, of small pebbles including some calcareous pebbles	<b>V</b>	
1012	Natural	Loose mid brown silty sand	<b>✓</b>	



Max Dimensions: Length: 1.38 m. Width: 0.92 m.

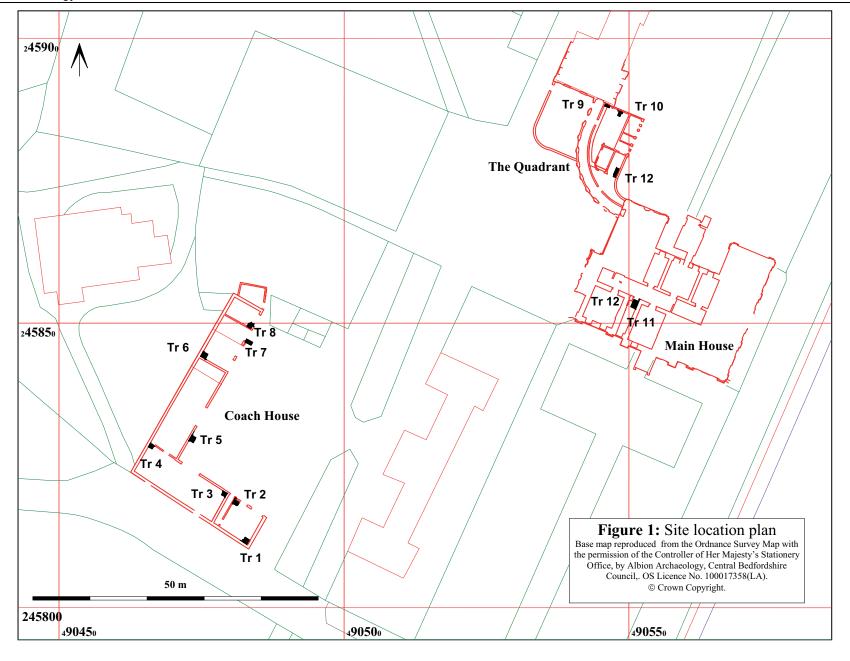
<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
1100	Internal surface	Tile floor consisting of hand-made clay tiles 230mm square	<b>✓</b>	
1101	Make up layer	Loose mid grey sandy silt frequent small-medium ceramic building material Layered deposit with rubble in a sandy silt matrix and a mortar layer	<b>✓</b>	
1102	Natural	Loose light yellow sand With gritty inclusions including fine flint and calcareous pebbles	<b>✓</b>	
1103	Wall	Brick internal cross-wall		
1104	Foundation trench			
1105	Foundation	Foundation for wall 1103 consisting of roughly coursed limestone masonry		
1106	Foundation trench			
1107	Foundation	Foundation for wall consisting of roughly coursed limestone blocks		



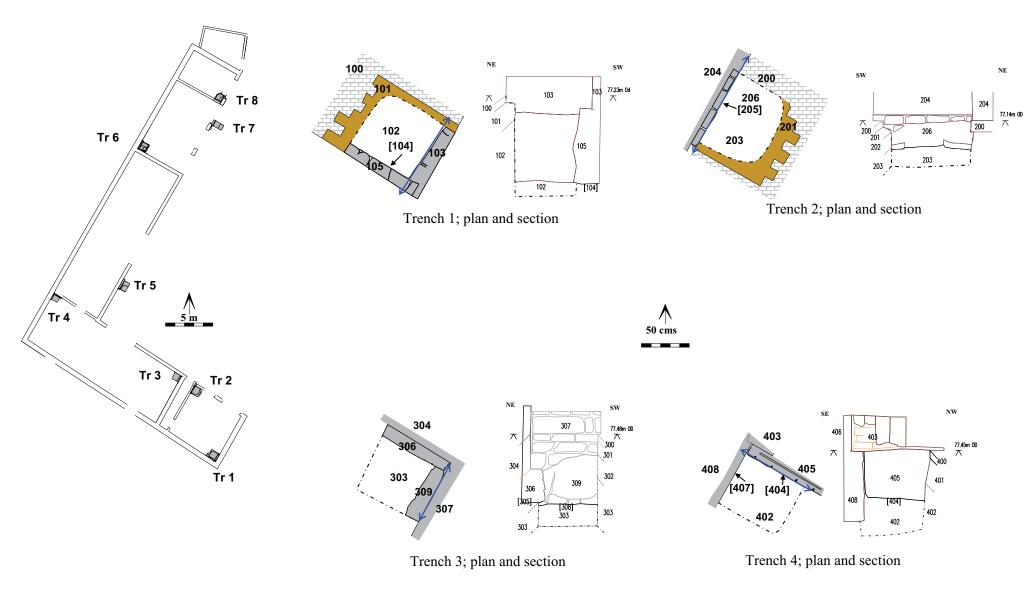
Max Dimensions: Length: 1.10 m. Width: 0.65 m.

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	<b>Description:</b>	Excavated:	<b>Finds Present:</b>
1200	External surface	Surface consisting of central concrete and stone slab path bordered by cobbles	s 🗸	
1201	Modern intrusion	Linear profile: steep base: concave Service trench containing lead and iron pipes.	<b>✓</b>	
1202	Fill	Loose mid brown sandy silt occasional small ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Includes limestone fragments	ıl	
1203	Layer	Loose mid yellow brown sandy silt occasional small ceramic building materia occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	ı,	
1204	Wall	Brick wall		
1205	Foundation trench			
1206	Foundation	Foundation of wall 1204 consisting of limestone rubble with two leveling courses climestone blocks at the top	of $\Box$	
1207	Fill	Loose dark grey sandy loam occasional small stones Fill in top of foundation cut	<b>✓</b>	
1208	Natural	Loose mid yellow brown clay sand	<b>✓</b>	
1209	Natural	Loose gravel Pebble bed, c.100mm thick, consisting of medium sized pebbles and occasional thin slabs of limestone.	· •	
1210	Natural	Loose mid brown silty sand Which grades to yellow sand in base of trench	<b>V</b>	



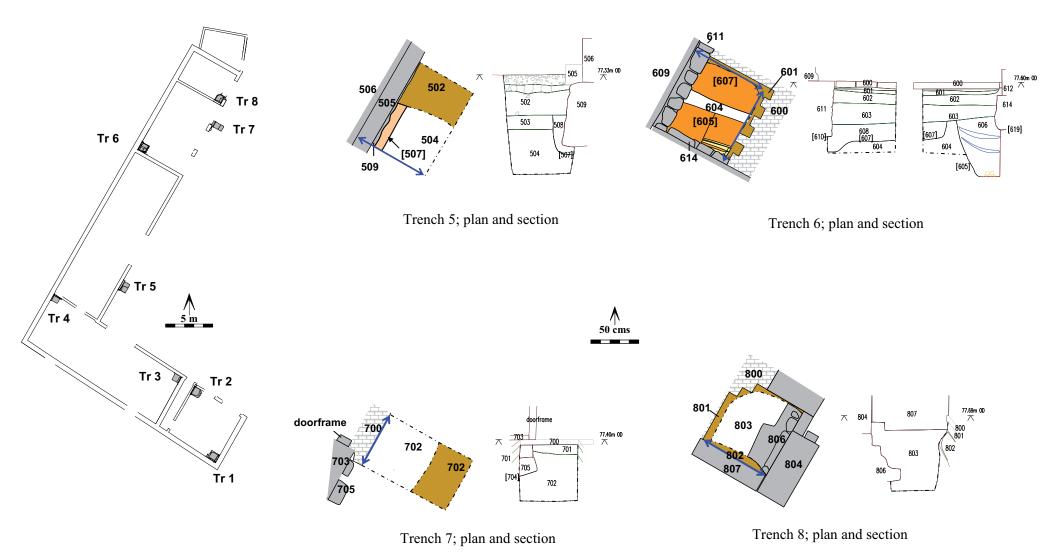






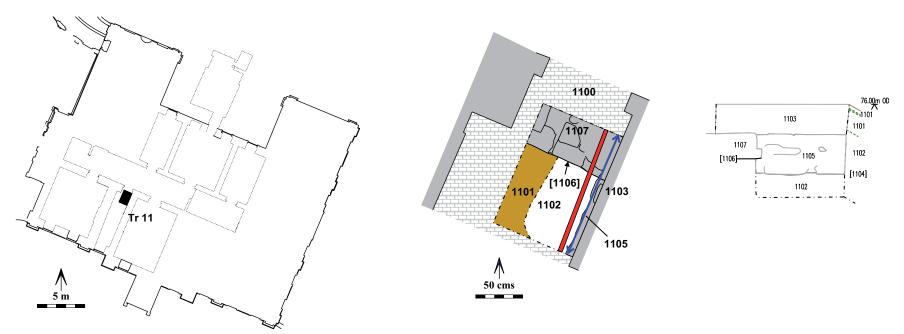
**Figure 2:** Coach house; trenches 1-4 Base plan from documents supplied by client





**Figure 3:** Coach house; trenches 5-8 Base plan from documents supplied by client

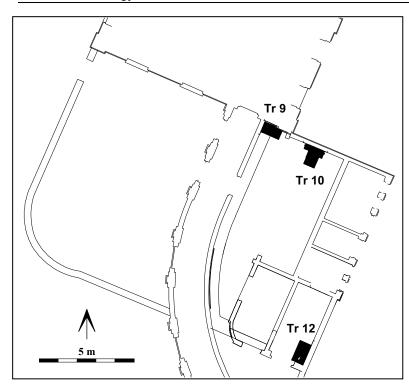


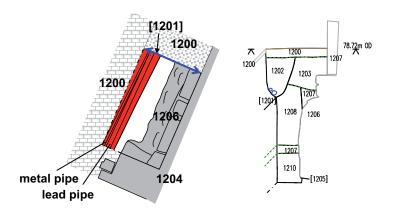


Trench 11; plan and section

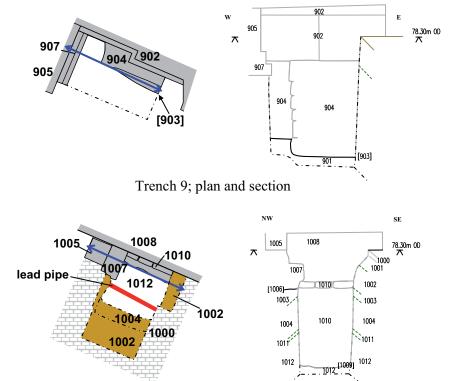
**Figure 4:** Main house, basement; trench 11 Base plan from documents supplied by client







Trench 12; plan and section



Trench 10; plan and section



**Figure 5:** Quadrant; trenches 9, 10, and 12. Base plan from documents supplied by client