

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

CHESTER IMAGEMAKERS

For Imagemakers

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Client: Imagemakers

Local Authority: Cheshire West and Chester Council

NGR: 340322,365747 & 340133,366175

Planning App: 11/02333/ADV & 11/02334/ADV

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Doc Ref: LPI276C-AWB-V1.2

Date: May 12

Site Code: CHE/NCS 11 & CHE/GRR 11

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on excavations for trial holes in advance of the erection of new signs at two locations in Chester. The first trial hole was located overlooking the Little Roodee car park. The second trial hole was located to the west of the Watergate.

The groundworks was carried out by Imagemakers under archaeological monitoring conditions on 15th November 2011. All groundworks were monitored by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology on behalf of Chester Renaissance.

The results of the archaeological monitoring at both trial holes revealed that 19th century and later material extend to a depth of 0.75m below ground level.

No archaeological features were identified on the site.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report details the results of an archaeological Watching Brief carried out on trial holes for new signs at the Little Roodee car park and the Watergate, Chester, for Chester Renaissance. The local authority is Cheshire West and Chester Council (FIGURE 1).
- 1.2. Two trial holes were excavated by Imagemakers on behalf of Chester Renaissance. These were monitored by L – P : Archaeology in order to satisfy requirements laid out by the City Archaeologist.
- 1.3. The fieldwork was undertaken on 15th November 2011 and was monitored by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology.
- 1.4. Two site codes have been allocated for the groundwork due to the separate geographic locations of the trial holes. The trial hole at the Little Roodee car park was given the site code CHE/GRR 11 and was located at NGR 340322,365747. The trial hole at the Watergate was given the site code CHE/NCS 11 and was located at NGR 340133,366175.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with the archaeological monitoring method statement prepared by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology.

2. Site Background

2.1.PLANNING

2.1.1. Planning consent has been granted for new signage at seven locations around Chester. Three of these signs are located in archaeologically sensitive areas and as such archaeological monitoring of trial holes has been requested at these locations. This report contains the results of the archaeological monitoring on two of these locations, the Little Roodee car park and Watergate, applications 11/02333/ADV and 11/02334/ADV respectively.

2.1.2. The Local Planning Authority is Cheshire West and Chester, with Mike Morris being the City Archaeologist. The sites lie within Chester's Area of Archaeological Importance.

2.2.GEOLOGY

2.2.1. The British Geological Survey GeoIndex shows the site to be located on bedrock of undifferentiated Triassic sandstone and conglomerate. The superficial deposit on the site is alluvial silts and sand and boulder clay.

2.3.TOPOGRAPHY

2.3.1. The Little Roodee car park is located 600m southwest of the centre of Chester on an area of land at approximately 18m AOD overlooking the river Dee (FIGURE 2). The Watergate is located 400m west of the centre of Chester at approximately 11m AOD.

2.3.2. Both sites are located on public footpaths.

2.4.AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.4.1. The general aims of the archaeological watching brief were to record the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains on site exposed or disturbed during groundworks.

3. Methodology

3.1. The trench was excavated using hand tools by Imagemakers on 15th November 2011.

The excavation was monitored by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology.

3.2. All deposits were recorded stratigraphically.

3.3. A site code was allocated to the site by the Cheshire Historic Environment Team. This code was used to label all elements of the documentary archive. The written recording system used followed the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual. Context sheets included all relevant stratigraphic relationships. Detailed plans were drawn at an appropriate scale, 1:10 or 1:20.

3.4. A photographic record was made of all significant archaeological remains in both plan and section. This included black and white prints and digital images. A register of all photographs taken was kept on standardised forms.

3.5. No environmental samples were collected.

3.6. The standards laid out by English Heritage and the Institute for Archaeologists were adhered to at all times as well as all relevant local standards.

4. Results

4.1. The results have been divided by trial hole below. This section gives an account of the stratigraphic sequence and archaeology present in each. Deposits are shown in (parenthesis).

4.2. CHE/GRR 11 – LITTLE ROODEE CAR PARK TRIAL HOLE

4.2.1. The trial hole was located at the western corner of the Castle car park, overlooking the Little Roodee car park. The trial hole measured 0.28m by 0.32m in plan and was excavated to a depth of 0.78m below ground level.

4.2.2. The upper deposit comprised a york stone and concrete slab surface, 100 (FIGURE 3). This measured 0.06m thick and overlay a 0.12m thick layer of dark brown silt and gravel (101). Below (101) was (102), a 0.06m thick layer of loose light brown silt matrix containing rubble, brick and plastic (PLATE 1).



Plate 1 - CHE/GRR 11, looking northwest. 1m scale

- 4.2.3. Sealed by (102) was a 0.12m thick deposit of loose yellow orange sand and rubble (103). This overlay a 0.2m thick deposit of loose dark brown silt (104). Below (104) was a loose dark brown silty deposit (105) containing stone fragments and 18th to 19th century glass and ceramic sherds. Deposit (105) was not fully excavated as it extended beyond the base of the trial hole.
- 4.2.4. The lower deposits (104) and (105) could be seen to have been dumped over the foundations for the sandstone perimeter wall, 106, of the Castle compound.
- 4.2.5. It is known that this perimeter wall was constructed in the early 19th century as part of the designs Thomas Harrison submitted for the Castle compound. As such, it is clear that all deposits encountered within the trial hole must post date the construction of the perimeter wall and therefore date to the 19th century onwards.

4.3.CHE/NCS 11 –WATERGATE TRIAL HOLE

- 4.3.1. The trial hole was located 4.73m west of the Watergate and 3.9m south New Crane Street and measured 0.2m by 0.28m in plan and was excavated to a depth of 0.75m below ground level (**FIGURE 4**).
- 4.3.2. The uppermost deposit was a 0.04m thick surface of crazy paving 200. Below this paving was a 0.08m thick sub base of loose yellow sand (201). Underlying (201) was a 0.15m thick deposit of loose grey angular gravel (202). Both (201) and (202) can be said represent the construction material for the pavement and date to the 20th century (**PLATE 2**).



Plate 2 - CHE/NCS 11, looking east. 0.5m scale

- 4.3.3. Below (202) was a 0.23m thick deposit of loose light brown silt (203). This silt contained no finds, however the loose nature of the deposit is indicative of recent make up deposits seen in the area.
- 4.3.4. Underlying (203) was a 0.19m thick deposit of loose dark brown silt and ash (204). Deposit (204) contained plastic cable ties and salt glazed drain fragments. It is clear that (204) is a 20th century deposit.
- 4.3.5. A loose dark brown silt (205) was identified below (204) and extended beyond the base of the trial hole. No finds were recovered from (205), however it is thought that this deposits represents an 18th or 19th century build up of material in front of the Watergate.

5. Discussion and Conclusions

- 5.1. An archaeological watching brief was carried out on excavation for trial holes at two locations in Chester. The first trial hole was located overlooking the Little Roodee car park. The second trial hole was located to the west of the Watergate.
- 5.2. The archaeological monitoring was carried out by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology on behalf of Chester Renaissance on 15th November 2011.
- 5.3. The results of the archaeological monitoring in both areas shows that to a depth of 0.75m below ground level only deposits post dating the early 19th century were encountered.
- 5.4. No archaeological features were identified on the site.

FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location General



Scale 1:15,000 @ A4

0 1,000m

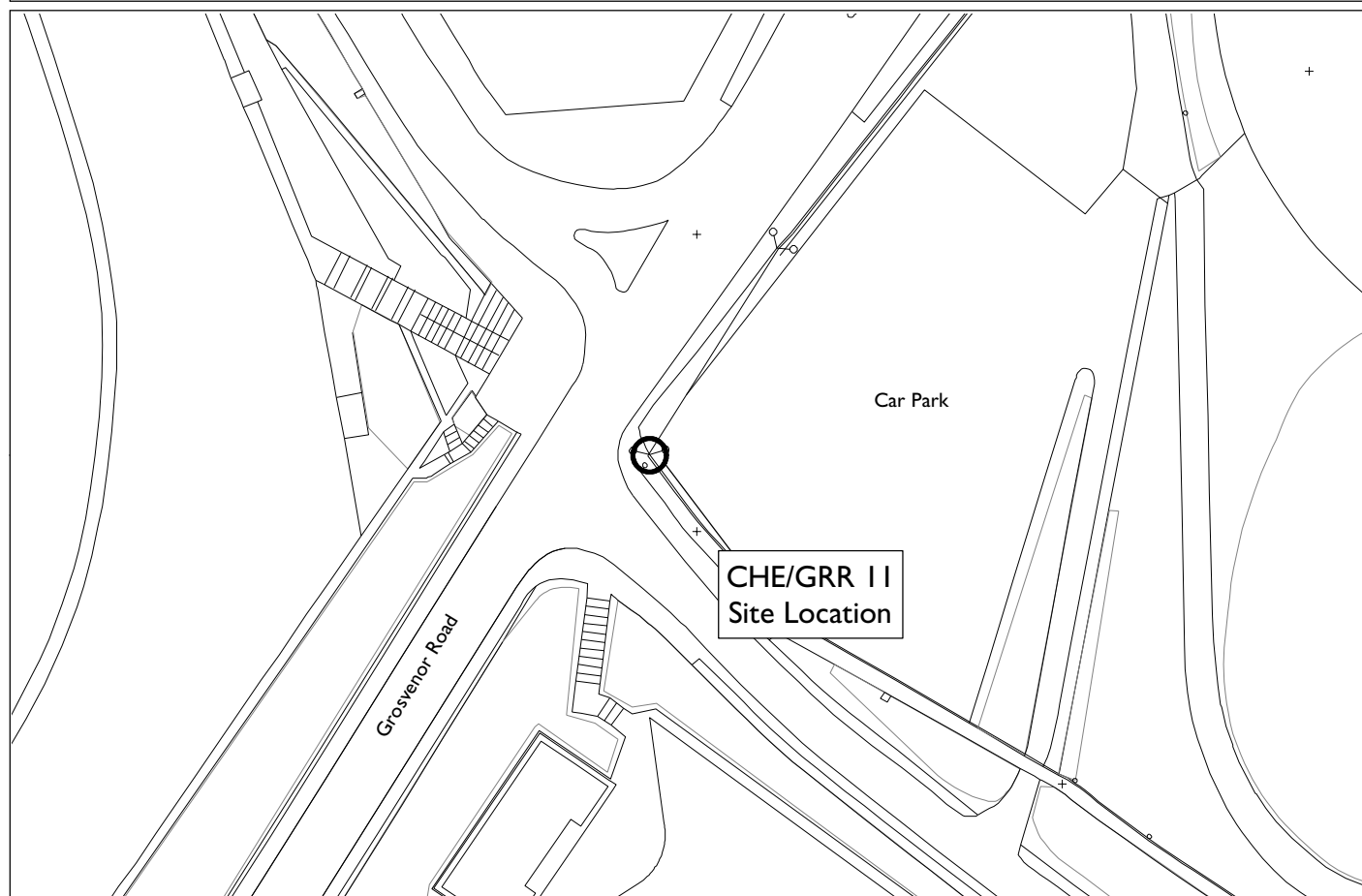
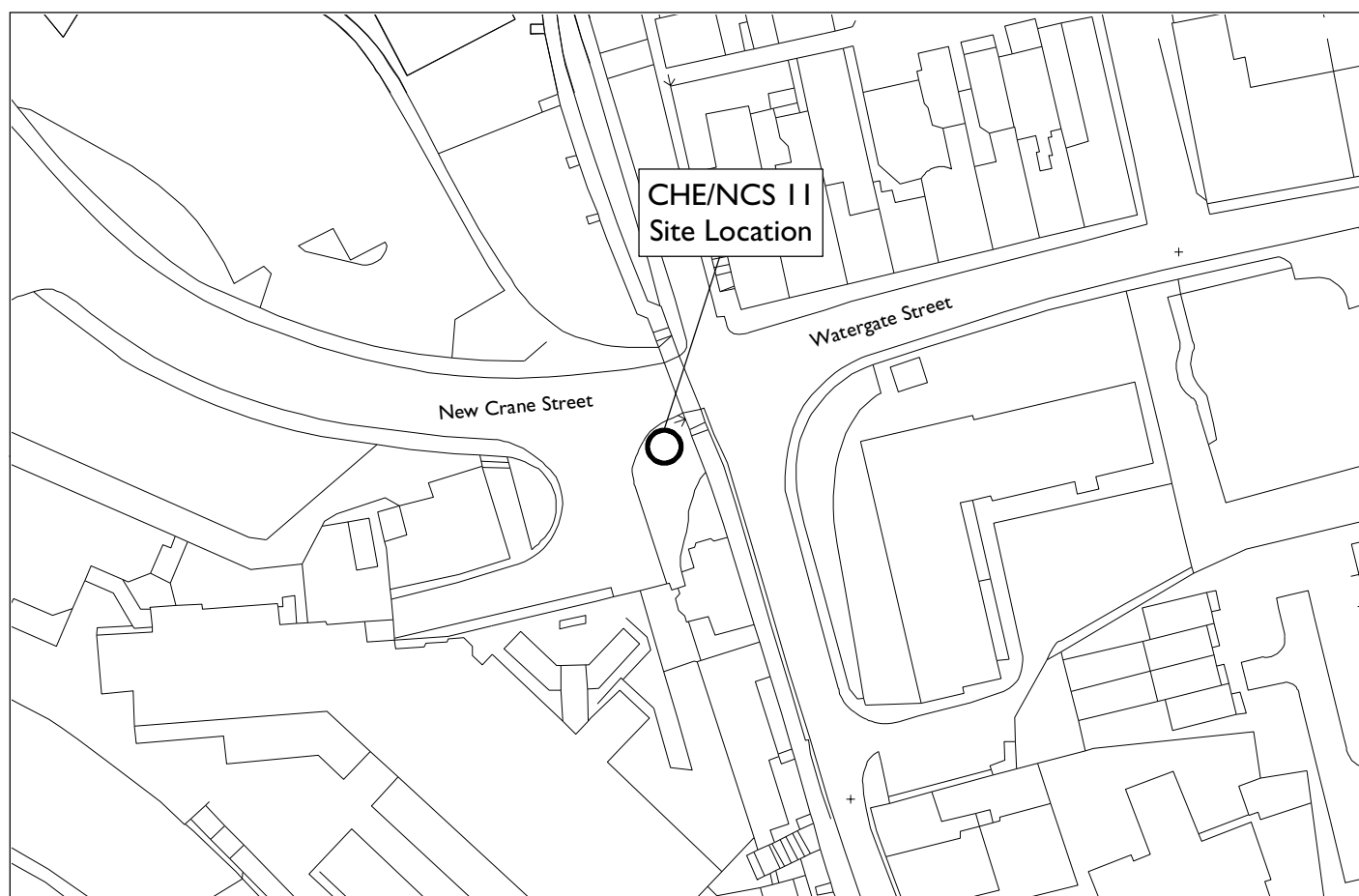
PROJECT // LPI276C - Chester Imagemakers

DESCRIPTION // Site Location General

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FIGURE 2 // Site Locations



Scale 1:1,000 @ A4

0 25m



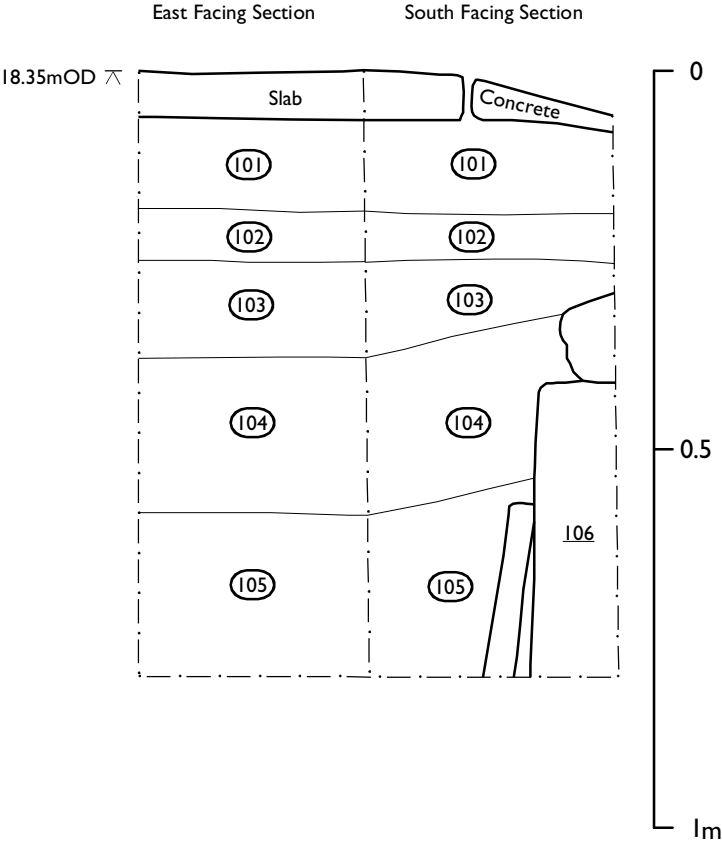
PROJECT // LP1276C - Chester Imagemakers

DESCRIPTION // Site Locations

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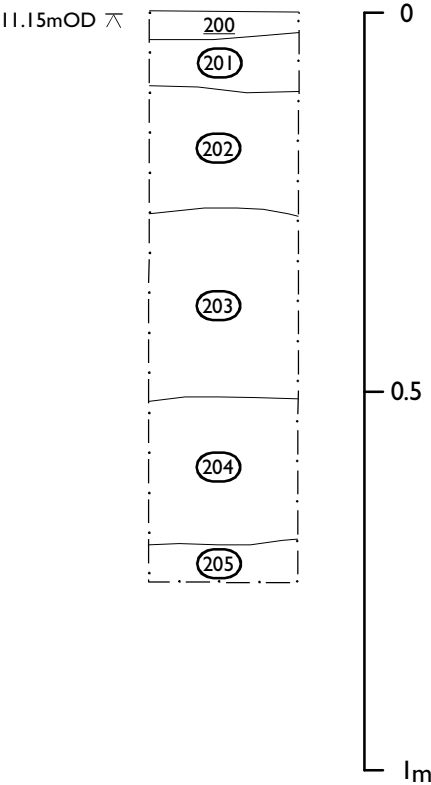


Scale 1:10 @ A4

PROJECT // 1276C - Chester Imagemakers

DESCRIPTION // South and East facing sections of CHE/GRR II

FIGURE 4 // CHE/NCS II Section



Scale 1:10 @ A4

PROJECT // 1276C - Chester Imagemakers

DESCRIPTION // South facing section of CHE/NCS II

OASIS FORM

APPENDIX I

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: Iparchae1-123638

Project details

Project name	Chester Visitors Signs
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring of two trial holes on the outskirts of Chester, Cheshire.
Project dates	Start: 01-11-2011 End: 17-04-2012
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	CHE/GRR 11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	CHE/NCS 11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CHESHIRE CHESTER CHESTER CASTLE Little Roodee and Watergate
Postcode	CH1 2LY
Study area	1.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SJ 40322 65747 53.1851791236 -2.893173577120 53 11 06 N 002 53 35 W Point
Site coordinates	SJ 40133 66175 53.1890050968 -2.896082078120 53 11 20 N 002 53 45 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 11.00m Max: 18.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
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Project brief originator	City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist
Project design originator	L - P : Archaeology
Project director/manager	Matthew Williams
Project supervisor	Blair Poole
Type of sponsor/funding body	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Chester Renaissance

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Grosvenor Museum
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Report for Chester Imagemakers
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Poole, B.
Other bibliographic details	LP1276C
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	L - P : Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Chester
Description	Grey literature report on the results of archaeological monitoring two small trial holes.
Entered by	Blair Poole (b.poole@lparchaeology.com)
Entered on	17 April 2012

OASIS:

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