

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

CHESTER ROMAN GARDENS

For Cheshire West and Chester Council

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Abstract

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during refurbishment works at the Roman Gardens in Chester. Groundworks, carried out by Horticon ltd, were monitored by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology between 23rd January and 15th March 2012.

The site is thought to have seen activity from at least the Roman period, when it was used for quarrying the local sandstone. During the Medieval period the western boundary of the site was fortified and a defensive ditch was cut. In the 17th century the site was used for cock fighting and at the time of the siege of Chester, in the civil war, the site was once again fortified, however the walls were badly damaged by bombardment.

From at least the 18th century the northern section of the site contained a clay tobacco pipe kiln, which operated until the early 20th century. The site was then landscaped in the late 20th century and converted into an ornamental garden and park.

The majority of deposits encountered during groundworks dated to the Post Medieval period, more specifically to the 20th century, when the site was developed into an ornamental garden.

A linear feature was identified to the east of the garden gate and it is thought that this may represent the Medieval defensive ditch on the site.

Two deposits were identified within the northern garden which are thought to date to the Roman period. These deposits were identified at a depth of 0.6m below ground level and contained Roman ceramics dating to the 1st to 3rd century.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document refers to the archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the refurbishment of Chester's Roman Gardens (11/04930/LBC). The works included landscaping, planting and the movement of stone artefacts to modify the existing display area within the garden.
- 1.2. The site is located within the city of Chester, to the immediate east of the city wall, at grid reference SJ 40785 66075 (FIGURE 1).
- 1.3. This document has been produced in order to satisfy a planning condition determined by Mike Morris, of the Cheshire Historic Environment Team.
- 1.4. Groundworks were carried out by Horticon Ltd. Archaeological monitoring was carried out by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology between 23rd January and 15th March 2012.
- 1.5. All fieldwork adhered to an agreed written scheme of investigation (POOLE 2012). 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.
- 1.6. A site code of CHE/SL 12 and accession number of CHEGM:2012.13 were attributed to the site by the Grosvenor Museum

2. Planning Background

2.1.1. Planning permission has been granted for the refurbishment of the Roman Gardens. The application reference is 11/04930/LBC.

2.1.2. The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Importance and adjacent to the Chester City Conservation Area. Chester City Walls have been designated as a Scheduled Monument (CH7 1006785).

2.2. AIMS OF WORKS

2.2.1. The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to monitor groundworks to ensure that archaeologically sensitive deposits of significance were not penetrated and to record the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains on site exposed or disturbed during groundworks.

3. Geology & Topography

3.1. GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1. Previous archaeological work on the site has identified the natural drift deposit as boulder clay at the northern end of the site, with alluvial silts present to the south associated with the river Dee (DODD 2012).
- 3.1.2. The solid geology of the area is known from previous excavation work on the site to be Permo-Triassic Bunter Sandstone (CONNELLY 2002). This sandstone is exposed in areas forming the foundation for the city walls.

3.2. TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.2.1. The site is located approximately 300m to the southeast of the city centre, just outside the city walls.
- 3.2.2. The site is a narrow plot of land approximately 35m wide by 175m long sandwiched between the city walls to the west and Souters Lane to the east (FIGURE 2). The Newgate marks the northern extent of the site and the Groves forms the southern boundary of the site.
- 3.2.3. The area slopes from the north, at an elevation of approximately 19mOD, towards the south. The southern extent of the site lies at approximately 7mOD.
- 3.2.4. The site has been landscaped in the past to form an ornamental garden walk creating access from the Groves to the city centre allowing views of the City walls and displaying Roman artefacts recovered from within the city.

4. Archaeological & Historic Background

4.1. The following section is an abridged historic background taken from a desk based assessment carried out in the site by L – P : Archaeology (WILLIAMS 2012).

4.2. PREHISTORIC

4.2.1. There is no evidence to suggest any significant Prehistoric settlement within the site area. However, find spots have been recorded for this period in the area including a mesolithic flint point recovered from excavations undertaken at Chester's amphitheatre 900m to the south west of the site (GARNER & WILMOTT 2007).

4.3. ROMAN

4.3.1. The site is situated 85m south of the south east corner of the Roman fortress of *Deva*. During this period the area to the south of the fort on the west side of Lower Bridge Street was built up, but there is no evidence that the same occurred to the east and the area was probably open cultivated land (WARD 1994).

4.3.2. The area of the Roman gardens was quarried during the Roman and later periods, and the edge of the quarrying is visible immediately below the south east section of the wall (WILLIAMS 2012). The sandstone quarry edge below the site is not visible.

4.3.3. Previous archaeological work on the site undertaken by Earthworks archaeology in 2011 indicated that there may be in tact Roman deposits located approximately 0.3 to 0.6m below the current ground level (DODD 2012).

4.4. MEDIEVAL

4.4.1. The section of the City Wall that forms the western boundary of the site is not part of the original Roman fort defences and it is unclear when the walls were extended south and west to the present lines. On the basis of the length of defences given in the Bural Hidage, Mason (1985) suggests it occurred when Chester was refortified as a burgh by Queen Aetheflaed in AD907. LeQuesne (1999,146) argues for a date of the late 12th century for the stone wall

extensions based on early Parish boundary documents and the fact that late 12th century churches were founded in three of the Roman gate towers in the south and west walls, indicating they were still standing at this time.

4.4.2. The site area is not thought to have been occupied during this period, however a ditch surrounding the wall dating to this period is thought to be located on the site (MASON 1985).

4.5. POST MEDIEVAL

4.5.1. Around 1619 the site was known as cock pit hill and it is recorded that a large cock fighting pit was located on the site. This was later re-built closer to the Newgate as a more substantial brick building, known as the little amphitheatre, in 1825, shortly before cock fighting became illegal.

4.5.2. During the Civil War, between 1642 and 1646, a large section of the city wall was badly damaged during parliamentarian bombardment (BARRATT 2003).

4.5.3. From at least 1781 there was a clay tobacco pipe manufacturer located on the northern section of the site. This activity continued until around 1917, when the factory was demolished. It was one of the last pipe manufacturing centres in Cheshire to close as cigarette smoking became more popular.

4.5.4. The entire wall circuit was rebuilt in the 18th century with the addition of the walkway on top (LEWIS AND THACKER 2005). The majority of the exterior fabric of the wall around the gate off Park Street dates to this period.

4.5.5. 19th century maps of Chester show buildings against the inner face of the City Wall in the area of the gate and a field or wooded area on the east side of the wall. This is shown on Cole (1809), Thomas (1853) and the 1871 Town Plan and the 1882 OS map.

4.5.6. The 1899 OS map shows the buildings against the wall have been removed and the area east of the wall is cleared. The hachures against the east side of the wall indicate that the area has been lowered and levelled and it is likely that this represents activity for a bowling green that was constructed on the site.

4.5.7. The two small buildings at the top and bottom of the slope are probably the

pavilion and shed.

4.5.8. The 1911 OS shows the same layout with the area to the east of the wall annotated as 'Bowling Green'. The same topography is shown on later OS maps of 1913, 1938 and 1954.

4.5.9. In 1949 the Roman Gardens were constructed on the east side of the wall on the high ground north of the bowling green. The bowling green remained in use until 1972 but was sold soon after and a pub was built near the river and the rest became overgrown. The current park was built in 1999 after the brewery donated the land to Chester Council (WWW.CHESTERWALLS.INFO/RIVER).

5. Methodology

5.1. The archaeological aspect of the project was identified as having three facets. These include;

- ◆ A) Archaeological monitoring on all identified groundworks
- ◆ B) Static protection of upstanding historic fabric on the site
- ◆ C) Mobile protection, where historic fabric was to be relocated

5.2. A detailed methodology for these can be found in the agreed written scheme of investigation (POOLE 2012). This report details the results of item A, the archaeological monitoring. A summary methodology can be found below.

5.3. All groundwork was undertaken by Horticon Ltd utilising a tracked excavator.

5.4. All groundwork within 3m of the City Wall was archaeologically monitored.

5.5. All groundwork extending beyond 0.3m within the western section of the site was archaeologically monitored.

5.6. A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist monitored all relevant machine excavation activities to ensure that appropriate care was taken.

5.7. All machine excavation was undertaken in spits and care was taken to observe all deposits for archaeological significance.

5.8. All features were recorded stratigraphically both in plan and section.

5.9. Hand cleaning by context was undertaken within the trenches to clearly identify the location and extent of any features.

5.10. Examination and cleaning of all archaeological deposits was done by hand using appropriate hand tools.

6. Results

6.1. This section will outline the results of the archaeological monitoring of groundworks on the site. Deposits are shown in (Parenthesis), cuts are shown in [square brackets] and structures are shown underlined. All levels are given as depths below ground level unless otherwise stated.

6.2. Due to the size of the site and the discrete nature of groundworks the site has been divided into five areas from north to south.

- ◆ Area 1 – Service trench in the northern gardens
- ◆ Area 2 – New retaining wall excavation by garden gate
- ◆ Area 3 – New retaining wall in the southern garden
- ◆ Area 4 – New path in southern garden
- ◆ Area 5 – Southern entrance refurbishment

6.3. AREA 1

6.3.1. A new service trench measuring 32m north south by 0.4m wide was excavated 2.4m west of the main path through the northern area of the Roman Gardens (FIGURE 2). The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.45m below ground level (PLATE 1).



Plate 1 - Area 1, looking south

6.3.2. The uppermost deposit was a 0.2m thick layer of loose dark brown silty loam

topsoil (118), which formed the base for the garden lawn (FIGURE 3). This deposit contained 20th century metal and glass fragments.

6.3.3. Underlying (118) was a loose dark brown silty sand (119) which extended beyond the base of the trench at 0.45m below ground level. This deposit contained modern brick, small sandstone fragments <0.3m in size and 18th to 19th century ceramic sherds. It is thought that (119) represents a levelling deposit of the northern section of the garden following the demolition of a clay pipe kiln and factory that stood on the site in the early 20th century.

6.3.4. Cut into (119) were a series of display bases for displaying Roman columns. A 0.2m thick layer of stone aggregate (121) formed the sub-base for these display bases.

6.3.5. All deposits identified within Area 1 were Post Medieval in date and represent make up and levelling of the site in the 20th century.

6.3.6. Identified at the northern extend of Area 1, within a holly bush, was a large sandstone fragment (PLATE 2). This sandstone is thought to be Roman in date and form an architectural fragment, possibly a decorative base.



Plate 2 - Unstratified Roman sandstone in Area 1, 1m scale

6.4.AREA 2

6.4.1. Area 2 was located 5m to the east of the city wall and 10m north of the garden

gate. The excavation in this area was for a new retaining wall to support a path leading to the garden gate and retain the soil forming the planting area against the city wall.

- 6.4.2. The excavated area was L-shaped and measured 5m east west by 4m north south at 0.6m wide. The maximum depth of excavation at the southwest corner was 1m below ground level (FIGURE 4 & FIGURE 5).
- 6.4.3. In the southern section, Below a 0.05m thick layer of tarmac 133, was a 0.15m thick layer of grey stone aggregate (124). This overlay a 0.05m layer of dark brown silt (125), which in turn overlay a 0.38m thick layer of grey stone aggregate (126). It is clear that Deposits (124) to (126) represent the late 20th century base for the tarmac path 133.
- 6.4.4. The southern section of the trench followed the line of the path leading to the garden gate and as such the upper deposits seen in this section represent the construction material for this path. These deposits were only present within this section.
- 6.4.5. The surface of the rest of the trench area was formed by a 50mm thick layer of loose dark brown humic loam (123), which contained a mixed assemblage of finds including clay tobacco pipe and 18th to 20th century ceramic sherds. It is clear that this deposit is the planting surface for the garden flower beds.
- 6.4.6. Underlying (123) was a 0.5m thick layer of loose dark brown silt sand (127). This also overlay the aggregate base (126) for the path noted above (PLATE 3).
- 6.4.7. It is thought that this deposit, (127), represents the turned over soil of the planting bed for the garden and dates to the 20th century.
- 6.4.8. A marked change in deposits was noted below the 20th century make up layers (126) and (127). A loose red brown rubble and silt deposit (134) was encountered measuring 0.35m thick. This contained 18th to 19th century ceramic sherds, brick fragments and sandstone rubble. It is thought that this represents a Post Medieval make up layer associated with raising the ground level to create the path to the garden gate in the city wall.
- 6.4.9. Below (134) was a loose dark brown silt deposit (135) that contained

sandstone fragments, brick rubble and mortar. The deposit was not fully excavated as it was identified at the base of the trench. Deposit (135) was not present in the northern section of the trench and it appears to be wholly related to the raising of the ground level for path 133.

6.4.10.In the southwestern corner of the trench, sealed by (135) was a dump of sandstone rubble (129) within a loose light brown silt matrix (128). This rubble dump measured 0.4m by 0.5m in plan and it is thought that (128) and (129) form discrete elements of the same dumping activity raising the ground level towards the garden gate (PLATE 3).



Plate 3 - Area 2, looking west. 1m scale

6.4.11.Below (128) in the northern area of the trench was a 0.35m thick deposit of loose mid brown silt (131). This deposit produced only Roman finds including coarse building materials and coarse domestic fabric. All finds from this deposit dated to the 1st to 3rd century.

6.4.12.Sealed by (131) was a friable red brown silt (132). This deposit was identified at the base of the trench and was not fully excavated. As with (131) deposit (132) only produced Roman ceramic finds dating to the 1st to 3rd century. It is likely that these deposits represent backfilling during the late 3rd century, after the Roman quarry went out of use.

6.4.13.Cutting (132), 0.8m from the western section, a linear feature [137] was identified (FIGURE 6). This feature, [137], was sealed by the Post Medieval

deposit (135) and was identified at the base of the trench. As such its full extent was not identified. Running north south, parallel to the city wall, the feature had a steep sided cut which contained a loose dark brown silt fill (136).

6.4.14. The finds recovered from (136) were mixed including two sherds of Roman ceramic from the 1st to 3rd century and four clay tobacco pipe stem fragments from the 18th to 20th century. It is thought that this feature may actually represent the Medieval defensive ditch that has been suggested as running north south across the site (Mason 1985). As only the upper deposit of the feature was investigated the presence of mixed dated finds suggests that this represents the latest backfilling of the feature to raise or level the site in the Post Medieval period.

6.4.15. Within Area 2 the upper 0.6m represents Post Medieval make up for the garden gate path and planting beds. At 17.67mOD, 0.8m below ground level, a potential Medieval ditch was identified. This was cut into *in situ* Roman deposits. Roman deposits were encountered at 18mOD, 0.6m below ground level.

6.4.16. Against the city wall, 2m to the west of Area 2, two sandstone fragments were identified buried within (123). These were large items (PLATE 4) approximately 0.6m by 0.5m by 0.5m in size and are thought to be architectural fragments.



Plate 4 - Sandstone fragment from Area 2

6.4.17. It is likely that these represent disturbed wall construction fragments or quarry

waste that were disturbed during 20th century alterations on the site to form the gardens.

6.5.AREA 3

6.5.1. Area 3 was located 10m to the east of the city wall and to the south of the path leading to the garden gate. This area was excavated in order to construct a new sandstone retaining wall to support a soil bank. The trench measured 6m along a northeast southwest alignment by 1m wide. The ground level varied in this area, however the maximum depth of excavation was at the southern end, where the trench extended to a depth of 1.2m below ground level (PLATE 5).



Plate 5 - Area 3, looking west. 1m scale

6.5.2. Only two deposits were identified in this area (FIGURE 7). The upper deposit measured 0.9m thick and was a loose red brown sandy silt (101). This was the planting bed for the garden and contained a great deal of root activity. Below (101) was a friable mid brown to grey silt and (107), which extended beyond the base of the trench. This deposit contained 18th to 19th century ceramic, brick, slate, 19th to 20th century glass and mortar. As such deposit (107) has been dated to the late 19th to 20th century.

6.5.3. As the eastern section of the trench followed the alignment to the existing path, the depth of excavation was significantly shallower here, measuring 0.5m in depth. Within this section the upper 0.5m contained the tarmac surface and its associated sub base and make up deposits (102) to (106) respectively. The path

make up was shown to have been built up from deposit (107) which extends under the path.

6.5.4. All deposits identified within Area 3 were of 19th to 20th century date.

6.6.AREA 4

6.6.1. Excavation for a new path was undertaken 3m to the east of the city wall 15m south of the garden gate (FIGURE 2). The path excavation measured 2m wide by 0.5m deep and curved to form an semi circular path linking the north and south gardens.

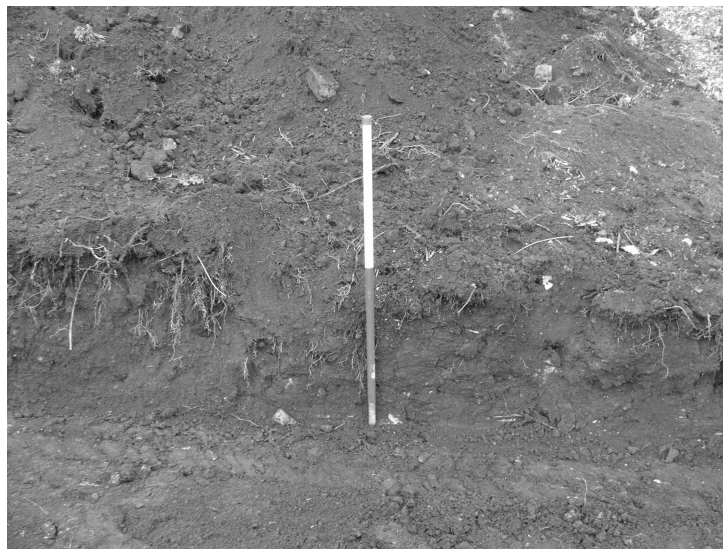


Plate 6 - Area 4, looking east. 1m scale

6.6.2. Two deposits were encountered within this area (PLATE 6). The upper deposit (108) measured 0.1m thick and comprised a loose dark black humic silt loam. This could be seen to be the disturbed topsoil in an area of planting (FIGURE 8). Underlying (108) was a friable dark brown silt (109) that extended beyond the base of the excavation at 0.5m below ground level.

6.6.3. Finds from (109) included 20th century pint glass material and modern ceramic sherds. Within Area 4 only modern deposits were encountered to a depth of 0.5m below ground level.

6.7.AREA 5

6.7.1. Area 5 was located at the southern entrance to the site, leading from the Groves to the southern garden area (FIGURE 2). Disturbance in this area was limited to

the removal of existing tarmac and cobbled surfaces in order to lay a new entrance surface. The area measured 3m east west by 13.6m north south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m below ground level (FIGURE 9).

- 6.7.2. Below the existing tarmac surface 114 was a 0.2m thick layer of loose grey stone aggregate (114). This in turn overlay a loose mid brown silty sand (113) which extended beyond the base of the trench at 0.4m below ground level (PLATE 7).



Plate 7 - Area 5, looking north. 1m scale

- 6.7.3. Finds recovered from (113) included modern plastic sheet and oil containers, rubble and brick.
- 6.7.4. It is clear that all deposits encountered in Area 5 are 20th century in date and represent the levelling and construction of the surface for the Groves promenade and garden entrance.

7. Finds

7.1. This section will discuss the finds recovered from site during the watching brief. The finds assemblage is discussed by context below.

7.2. SUMMARY OF FINDS FROM 20TH CENTURY DEPOSITS

CONTEXT	MATERIAL	FORM	DECORATION/NOTES	PERIOD
100	Plastic	Sheet	Tarpaulin	20 th C
100	Glass	Bottle	Brown bottle glass	20 th C
100	Glass	Vessel	Green bottle glass	20 th C
107	Ceramic	Brick	Brick fragment	20 th C
107	Ceramic	Plate	Blue and White Ware	18 th to 19 th C
108	Plastic	Lighter case	Plastic cigarette lighter	20 th C
108	Plastic	Bag	Carrier bag	20 th C
108	Metal	Drinks can	Modern soft drink can	20 th C
109	Plastic	Bag	TESCO carrier bag	20 th C
109	Metal	Drinks can	Modern soft drink can	20 th C
113	Metal	Safety pin	Safety pin	20 th C
113	Metal	Lighter	Plastic and metal cigarette lighter	20 th C
113	Glass	Pint glass sherds	Clear glass fragment	20 th C
113	Glass	Bottle	Clear bottle glass fragment	20 th C
120	Ceramic	Tile	Floor tile	19 th to 20 th C
120	Ceramic	Terracotta pot	Flower pot	19 th to 20 th C
120	Clay tobacco pipe	Bowl fragment	Undecorated	18 th to 20 th C
120	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem	Six stem fragments	18 th to 20 th C
123	Ceramic	Vessel	Base sherd of Buckley ware vessel	18 th to 19 th C
123	Ceramic	Vessel	Blue and White Ware	18 th to 19 th C
123	Ceramic	Plate	Blue and White Ware	18 th to 19 th C
123	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem	Eight stem fragments	18 th to 20 th C
126	Glass	Bottle	Sauce bottle	20 th C
126	Ceramic	Flower pot	Rim sherd	19 th to 20 th C
126	Ceramic	Ink well	Base sherd	18 th to 19 th C
126	Ceramic	Plate	Base sherd of Blue and White Ware	18 th to 19 th C
126	Ceramic	Plate	Base sherd of Blue and White Ware	18 th to 19 th C
126	Ceramic	Vessel	Staffordshire Ware sherd	17 th to 19 th C
126	Clay tobacco pipe	Bowl	Undecorated bowl fragment	18 th to 20 th C
126	Clay tobacco pipe	Bowl	Decorated bowl fragment with chevrons on leading edge	18 th C
126	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem	Forty three stem fragments	18 th to 20 th C
128	Ceramic	Brick	Brick fragment	20 th C
128	Glass	Bottle	Green beer bottle glass	20 th C
134	Metal	Penny	2009 dated modern penny	21 st C
134	Glass	Vessel	Pint glass fragments	20 th C

Table 1- Summary of finds from 20th century deposits

7.3. Finds from deposits dating to the 20th century were discarded on site after initial assessment. Clay tobacco pipe was retained from all deposits due to the association with the pipe kiln located on the site.

7.4. RETAINED MATERIAL

7.4.1. A total of three pre-20th century deposits produced finds (131), (132) and (136). Deposits (131) and (132) are thought to date to the Roman period. Deposit (136) is thought to be a Post Medieval backfill of an earlier linear feature.

7.5. (131)

7.5.1. Six sherds of coarse orange fabric and two sherds of higher quality domestic wares were recovered from (131). Total weight 567g. Context (131) is thought to be a Roman backfill deposit post dating the quarrying activity on the site.

FABRIC	FORM	SIZE (MM) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	PERIOD
Orange coarse fabric	CBM	100 x 60 x 40	Tegula	1 st to 3 rd C
Orange coarse fabric	CBM	70 x 50 x 20	Tegula	1 st to 3 rd C
Orange coarse fabric	CBM	35 x 40 x 9	Body sherd	1 st to 3 rd C
Orange coarse fabric	CBM	45 x 25 x 8	Undiagnostic	1 st to 3 rd C
Orange coarse fabric	CBM	50 x 30 x 10	Undiagnostic	1 st to 3 rd C
Orange coarse fabric	CBM	60 x 25 x 10	Undiagnostic	1 st to 3 rd C
Orange slip	Vessel	40 x 40 x 5	Body sherd, poorly fired	1 st to 3 rd C
Pink coarse fabric	Mortaria	40 x 30 x 7	Body sherd	1 st to 3 rd C

Table 2- Finds from (131)

7.5.2. The ceramic finds recovered from (131) all date to the 1st to 3rd century and represent a mixture of domestic wares and building materials.

7.6. (132)

7.6.1. Context (132) is thought to be a Roman deposit and produced five sherds of CBM and a single sherd of Black Burnished ware. Total weight 493g.

FABRIC	FORM	SIZE (MM) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	PERIOD
Orange coarse fabric	CBM	25 x 11 x 5	Undiagnostic	1 st to 3 rd C
Orange coarse fabric	CBM	45 x 40 x 25	Undiagnostic	1 st to 3 rd C
Orange coarse fabric	CBM	60 x 30 x 15	Undiagnostic	1 st to 3 rd C
Orange coarse fabric	CBM	75 x 60 x 30	Undiagnostic	1 st to 3 rd C
Orange coarse fabric	CBM	40 x 30 x 4	Undiagnostic	1 st to 3 rd C
Black Burnished ware	Vessel	40 x 15 x 5	Rim sherd	1 st to 3 rd C

Table 3- Finds from (132)

7.6.2. The finds recovered from (132) all date to the 1st to 3rd century and are a mixture of domestic ware and building material.

7.7.(136)

7.7.1. Context (136) is thought to be a Post Medieval deposit marking the final stage of backfill of a linear feature. The feature has been suggested as being a Medieval defensive ditch, thought to be located in the area along the same alignment. As the feature was located at the base of the trench full investigation was not carried out. The deposit produced a mixture of Roman and Post Medieval ceramic finds, comprising two sherds of Roman ceramic and four clay tobacco pipe stems. Total weight 17g.

7.7.2. Total weight 30g.

FABRIC	FORM	SIZE (MM) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	PERIOD
Orange coarse fabric	CBM	40 x 15 x 10	Undiagnostic	1 st to 3 rd C
Orange coarse fabric	Vessel	30 x 20 x 10	Undiagnostic	1 st to 3 rd C
Clay tobacco pipe	Stem	30 x 7	Stem	18 th to 20 th C
Clay tobacco pipe	Stem	25 x 4	Stem	18 th to 20 th C
Clay tobacco pipe	Stem	35 x 6	Stem	18 th to 20 th C
Clay tobacco pipe	Stem	36 x 5	Stem	18 th to 20 th C

Table 4- Finds from (136)

7.7.3. Deposit (136) contained two sherds of domestic ware dating to the 1st to 3rd century. The deposit also contained clay tobacco pipe stems which are thought to be associated with the pipe kiln located on the site from the 18th century, which closed in the early 20th century.

7.7.4. As this deposit is thought to be the latest backfill of feature [137] it does not date the feature itself, rather the last activity undertaken to backfill the feature to level the ground. This is likely a Post Medieval activity utilising material excavated from elsewhere on the site.

8. Summary & Conclusions

- 8.1. The Roman Gardens in Chester underwent a phase of refurbishment involving landscaping, planting and the movement of existing stone artefacts to modify the existing display area within the garden. The groundworks associated with this refurbishment were archaeologically monitored in order to satisfy a planning condition. Groundworks, carried out by Horticon Ltd, were monitored by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology.
- 8.2. The site shows evidence of activity from at least the Roman period. During the Roman period the site lay outside of the fortress and was used for quarrying the local sandstone. In the Medieval period it is thought that the western boundary of the site was fortified and a defensive ditch was cut running north south across the site. By the 17th century the site was used for cock fighting. During the civil war the walls adjacent to the site were once again fortified.
- 8.3. From the 18th century the northern section of the site contained a clay tobacco pipe kiln. This factory continued to operate until the early 20th century, when cigarette smoking became more popular. The site was landscaped in the late 20th century and converted into an ornamental garden and park.
- 8.4. Groundworks were carried out in five distinct areas. Area 1 was situated in the northern garden, Area 2 and 3 were located close to the garden gate leading to Park Street. Area 4 was located in the southern garden. Area 5 was situated at the southern entrance from the Groves.
- 8.5. The majority of deposits encountered dated to the Post Medieval period, more specifically to the 20th century, when the site was developed into an ornamental garden.
- 8.6. A linear feature was identified within Area 2 running north south through the trench at a depth of 0.8m below ground level. The feature was identified at the base of the trench as such was not fully excavated. The feature had steep sides and although only the latest backfill material, dating to the Post Medieval period, was excavated it is thought that this feature may represent the Medieval defensive ditch on the site.
- 8.7. Two deposits were encountered in Area 2, to the north of the garden gate, which are

thought to date to the Roman period. These deposits were identified at a depth of 0.6m below ground level and contained only Roman ceramics dating to the 1st to 3rd century. It is likely that these deposits relate to backfilling of the site following the closure of the quarrying activity. No features were identified within these deposits.

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FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location General



Scale 1:10,000 @ A4

0 500m



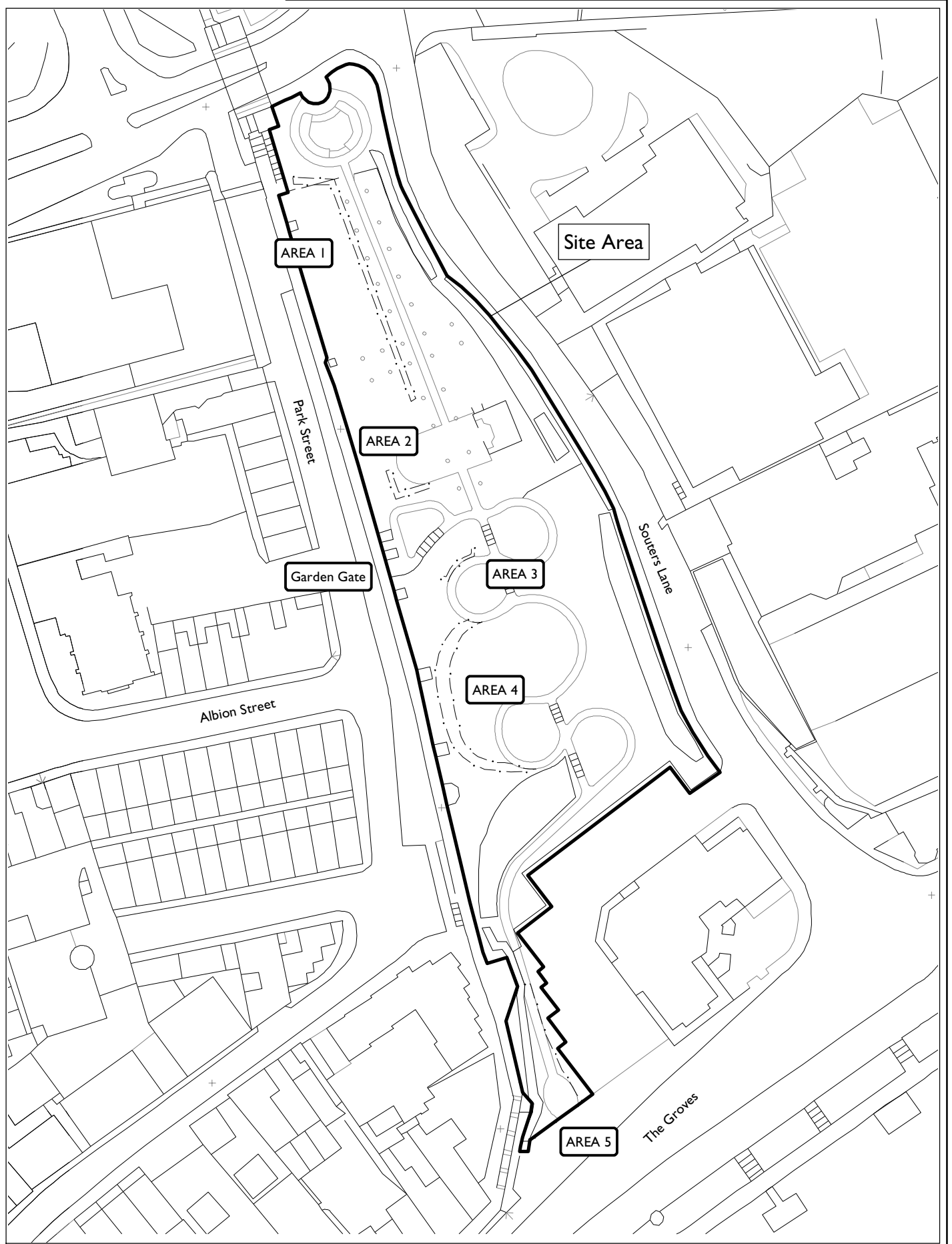
PROJECT // LPI278C - Roman Gardens, Chester

DESCRIPTION // Site Location General

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FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detail



0 10m



PROJECT // LP1278C - Roman Gardens, Chester

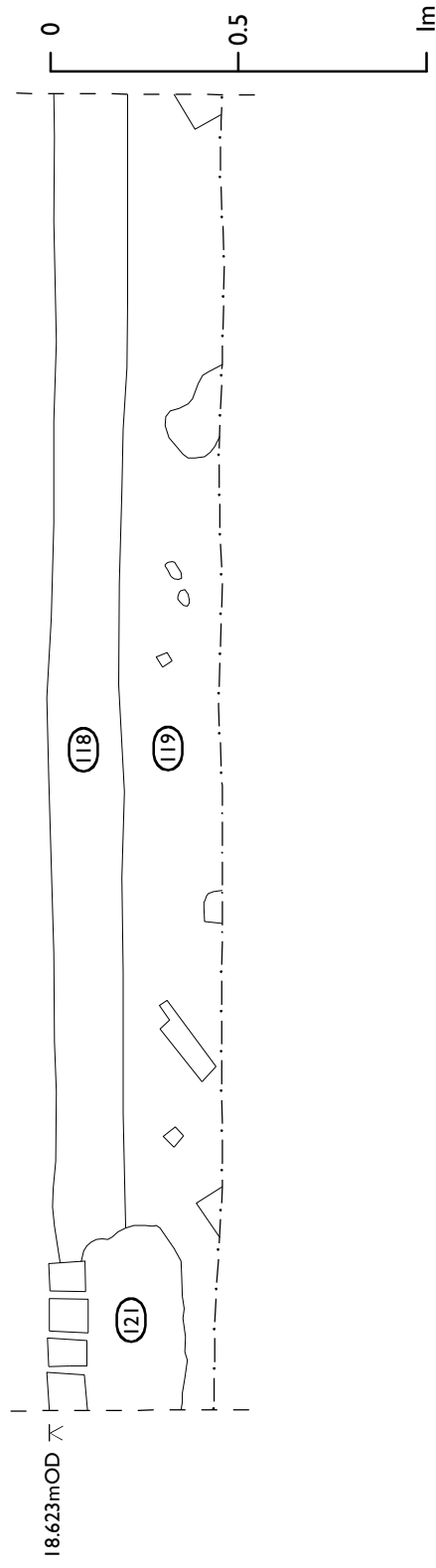
DESCRIPTION // Site Location Detail

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FIGURE 3 // West Facing Section of Area 1



Scale 1:20 @ A4

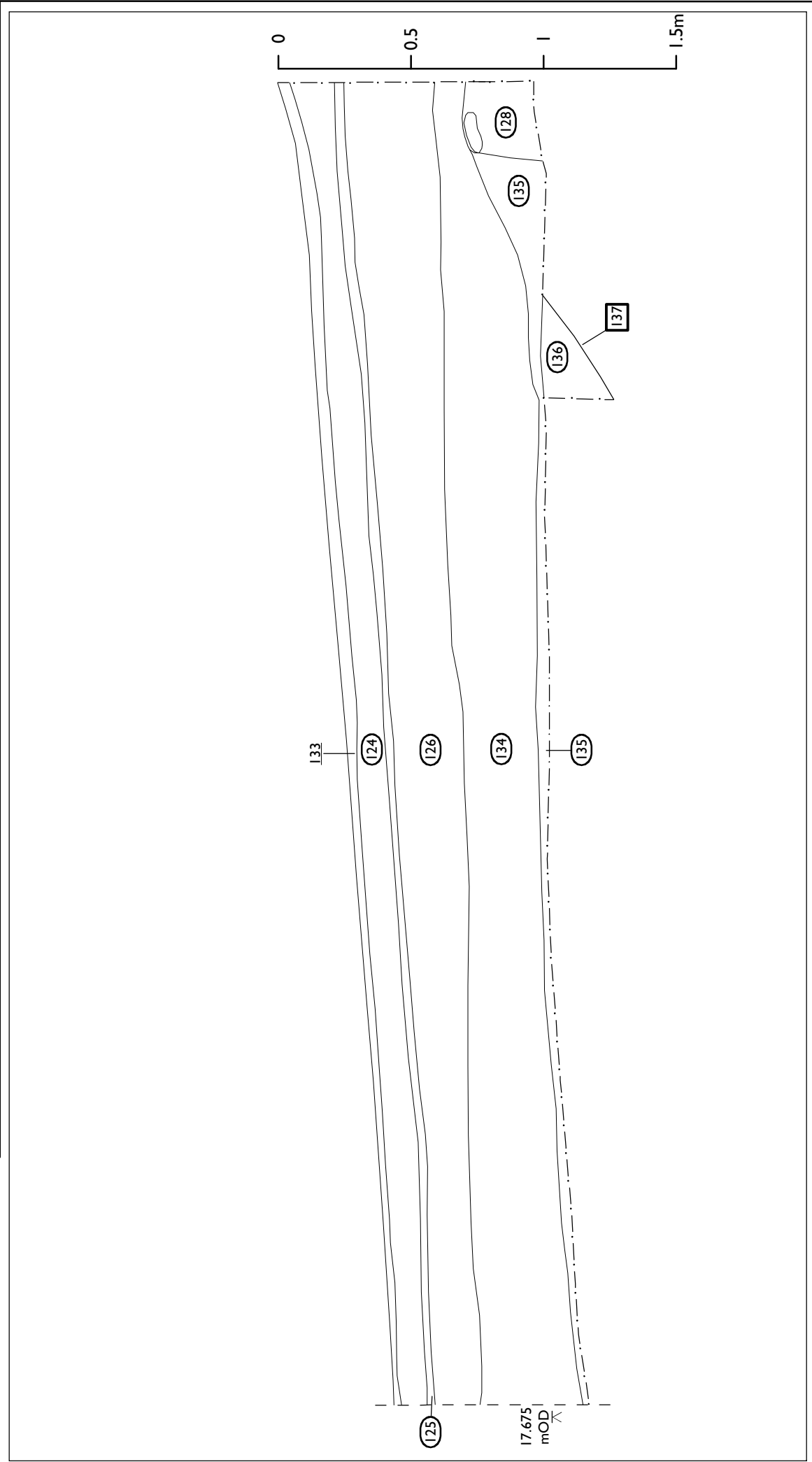
PROJECT // 1279C - Chester Roman Gardens

DESCRIPTION // West facing section of Area 1

DOC REF: LP1279C-AWB-v1

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FIGURE 4 // North Facing Section of Area 2



Scale 1:20 @ A4

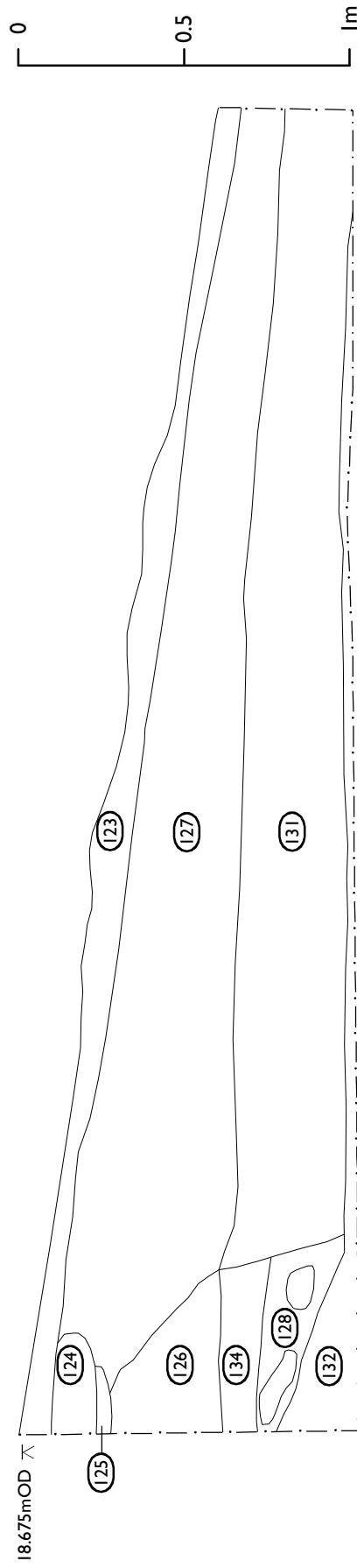
PROJECT // 1279C - Chester Roman Gardens

DESCRIPTION // North facing section of Area 2

DOC REF: LP1279C-AWB-v1

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FIGURE 5 // East Facing Section of Area 2



Scale 1:20 @ A4

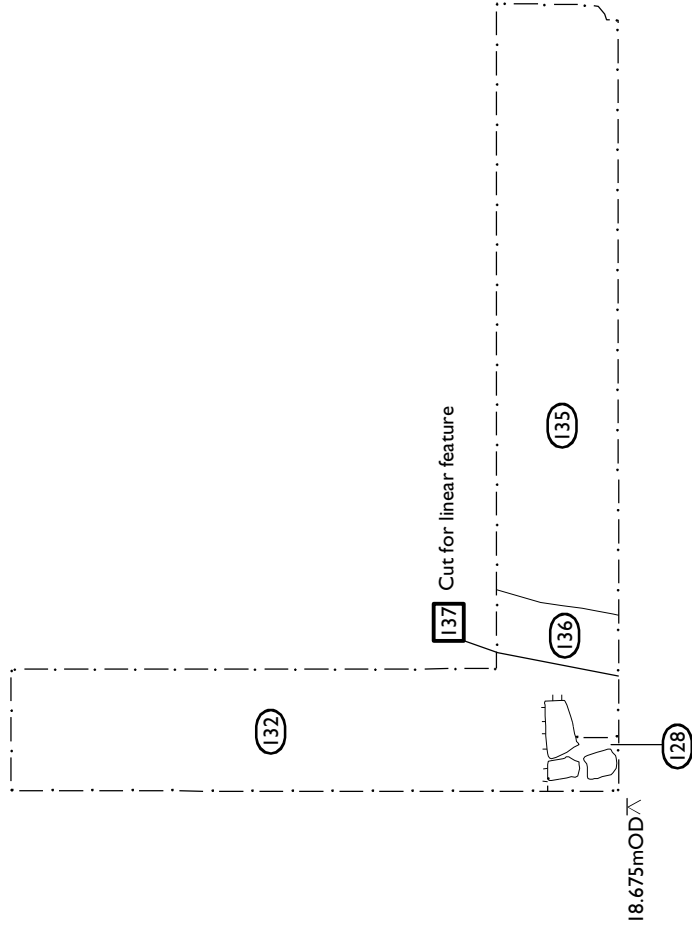
PROJECT // 1279C - Chester Roman Gardens

DESCRIPTION // East facing section of Area 1

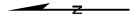
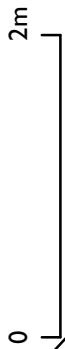
DOC REF: LP1279C-AWB-v1

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FIGURE 6 // Plan of Area 2



Scale 1:50 @ A4



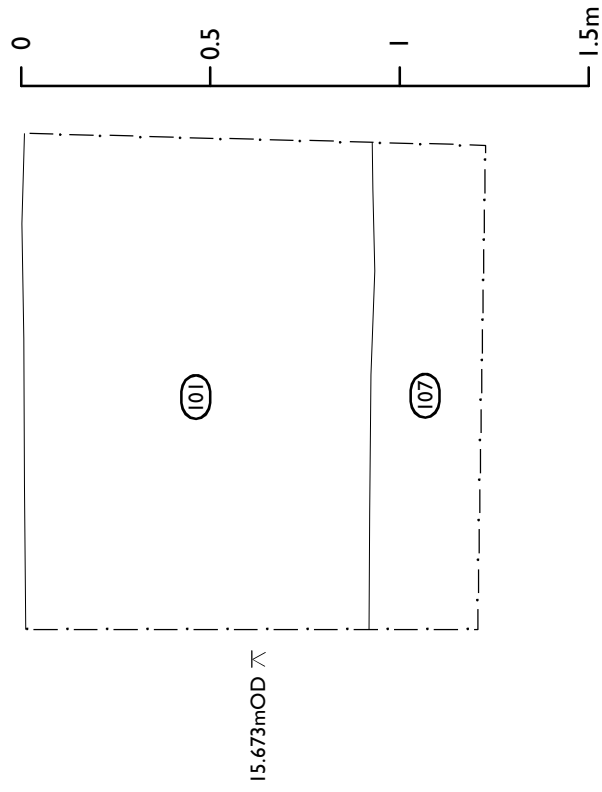
PROJECT // 1279C - Chester Roman Gardens

DESCRIPTION // Plan of Area 2

DOC REF: LP1279C-AWB-v1

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FIGURE 7 // East Facing Section of Area 3



Scale 1:20 @ A4

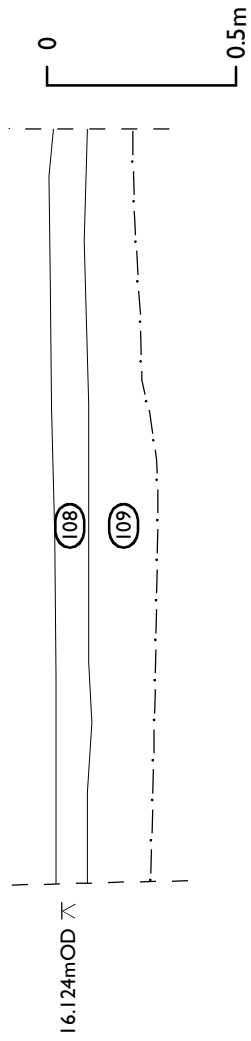
PROJECT // I279C - Chester Roman Gardens

DESCRIPTION // East facing section of Area 3

DOC REF: LP1279C-AWB-v1

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FIGURE 8 // East Facing Section of Area 4



Scale 1:20 @ A4

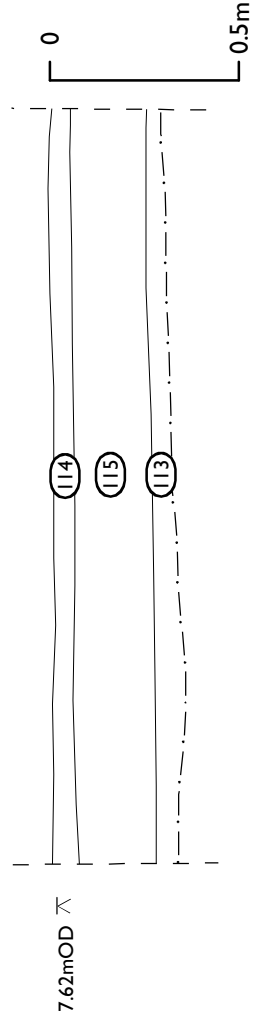
PROJECT // 1279C - Chester Roman Gardens

DESCRIPTION // East facing section of Area 4

DOC REF: LP1279C-AWB-v1

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FIGURE 9 // West Facing Section of Area 5



Scale 1:20 @ A4

PROJECT // I279C - Chester Roman Gardens

DESCRIPTION // West facing section of Area 5

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OASIS ID: Iparchae1-124155

Project details

Project name	Chester Roman Gardens
Short description of the project	Archaeological watching brief on refurbishment to Chester's Roman gardens by the city walls.
Project dates	Start: 23-01-2012 End: 15-03-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CHEGM:2012.13 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	CHE/SL 12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	DITCH Early Medieval
Significant Finds	VESSEL Roman
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CHESHIRE CHESTER CHESTER Roman Gardens
Postcode	CH1 1RQ
Study area	0.40 Hectares
Site coordinates	SJ 340785 366075 52.9225122391 -2.980637792560 52 55 21 N 002 58 50 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 7.00m Max: 19.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
----------------------	---------------------

Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	L - P : Archaeology
Project director/manager	Blair Poole
Project supervisor	Matthew Williams
Type of sponsor/funding body	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Cheshire West & Chester Council

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Grosvenor Museum
Physical Archive ID	CHEGM:2012.13
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Grosvenor Museum
Paper Archive ID	CHEGM:2012.13
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Drawing', 'Map', 'Matrices', 'Photograph', 'Report', 'Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Report for Chester Roman Gardens
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Poole, B.
Other bibliographic details	LP1279C-AWB-v1
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	L - P : Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Chester
Description	Grey literature report on the results of archaeological monitoring at Chester's Roman Gardens during refurbishment works.
Entered by	B Poole (b.poole@lparchaeology.com)
Entered on	24 April 2012

OASIS: