

Archaeological Mitigation Report

CHRONICLE HOUSE CHESTER

For Beaumont Morgan Developments Ltd

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

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CHRONICLE HOUSE CHESTER

Client: Beaumont Morgan Developments Ltd

Local Authority: Cheshire West and Chester Council

NGR: 340373, 366184

Planning App: 14/00787/FUL

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Doc Ref: LPI746C-AWB-v1.0

Date: September 15

Site Code: CHE/CH 14

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Abstract

An archaeological excavation was carried out at Chronicle House, Commonhall Street, Chester. The work was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. The work was carried out by Dan Garner, George Lacey, Rachael Matthews, Heidi Archer and James Cook of L - P : Archaeology, between October and November 2014. This report has been prepared by Dan Garner and Rachael Matthews of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Beaumont Morgan Developments Ltd.

Research shows that the site lies within the extents of the Roman walled fort of Deva. Previous excavation at this location have revealed Roman granaries and occupation deposits. Excavation in the 1950s revealed large Saxon waste pits and Medieval structures dating to the 14th and 15th century; waste from a 16th to 17th century apothecary's dwelling was also found off Commonhall Street, 25m to the east of the site.

The results of the excavation revealed a modern build up of concrete and construction layers, under which was a series of Post Medieval fills and north-south aligned brick walls. Several of the walls were constructed with a similar red brick and lime mortar bonding, suggesting a contemporary date. These are likely to be associated to the layout of the site in the 19th century, as seen on the 1871 Ordnance Survey map: with two north-south aligned buildings across the site and open areas in between.

A faced sandstone wall was exposed in Trench 3. This use of a different construction material could represent an earlier phase of activity within the site area relating to buildings shown on Stockdale's map of 1796.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document refers to the proposed redevelopment of Chronicle House, Commonhall Street, Chester. Planning permission (14/00787/FUL) has been granted for the site for the change of use from an office building to 61 self contained student studios. As a condition of approval archaeological excavation of elements of the development were required.
- 1.2. The archaeological works entailed the excavation of a new lift pit and foundations for two structural columns.
- 1.3. This report details the results of the archaeological excavation carried out on between October and November 2014. The fieldwork was carried out on behalf of Beaumont Morgan Developments Ltd by Dan Garner, George Lacey, Rachael Matthews, Heidi Archer and James Cook of L – P : Archaeology between October and November 2014. This report was written by Dan Garner and Rachael Matthews of L - P : Archaeology.
- 1.4. The site is located in at Chronicle House, Commonhall Street, Chester, CH1 2AA (FIGURE 1). The national grid reference is (SJ) 340373, 366184.
- 1.5. The site code allocated by L - P : Archaeology was CHE/CH14.
- 1.6. The work was carried out in accordance with an agreed written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology (POOLE 2014). The work was carried out in accordance with Cheshire County Council's revised General Conditions for Archaeological Contractors and Consultants (CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 2003) in conjunction with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS 2014).

2. Site Background

2.1. PLANNING

- 2.1.1. Planning consent has been granted for the redevelopment of Chronicle House, from an office building into 61 self contained students studios. The application reference is 14/00787/FUL.
- 2.1.2. The site lies within the Chester Area of Archaeological Importance and within the Chester City Conservation Area; as such the site is within a mile radius of over 100 Listed buildings.
- 2.1.3. In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DCLG 2012). This document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment and replaces all previous Planning Policy Guidance, specifically PPS5. Section 12 of the NPPF sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment.
- 2.1.4. Paragraph 128 of the NPPF indicates planning decisions should be made based on the significance of Heritage Assets. These are defined as buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions.
- 2.1.5. In considering any planning application for development the local planning authority, Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC). On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment CWaC take advice from Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (APAS).
- 2.1.6. The site lies within the Zone of Primary Archaeological Character (considered to have the highest potential for significant heritage assets and the highest sensitivity to change) in the Chester Archaeological Plan. At a more detailed level it lies within Character Zone 10 (Carmelite Friary, Commonhall Street) of the Chester Archaeological Characterisation. Both the Archaeological Plan and the Archaeological Characterisation are part of the Chester Urban Archaeological Database Project (CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL 2013), which was funded by English Heritage. The Plan was produced in 2013 and

was endorsed by the Cheshire West and Chester Local Development Framework Panel as a key Evidence Base Document supporting the preparation of the Local Plan.

- 2.1.7. Beaumont Morgan Developments Ltd and L – P : Archaeology agreed the methodology for these works in a WSI which was prepared by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology (POOLE 2014) and was submitted to and agreed by Cheshire Archaeological Planning Advisory Service (APAS).

2.2.GEOLOGY

- 2.2.1. The superficial geology consists of Alluvium - clay, silt, sand and gravel. The Bedrock geology consists of Kinnerton Sandstone (BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 2014).

2.3.TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.3.1. The site is a 675m² 20th century office building located in the centre of the City of Chester, 180m to the southwest of the cross. Chester is located on the River Dee, about 16km from the estuary. The surrounding countryside is low and relatively flat, bounded by the Cheshire Sandstone Ridge 16km to the east and the Ruabon Mountain and Moors about 18km to the south and west.
- 2.3.2. The site is situated on fairly level ground, in the centre of Chester City in a well built up area.
- 2.3.3. The vicinity of the site consists of fairly dense buildings, mainly commercial with some residential properties. The site is bounded by Commonhall Street to the south, Weaver Street to the west and north, and buildings to the east (FIGURE 2).

2.4.SITE CONDITIONS

- 2.4.1. The excavated trenches were all located within the footprint of the upstanding building, the interior of which was being stripped of features and gutted.
- 2.4.2. A total of five trenches were excavated, which were located at the points where depths of excavation were thought to impact buried archaeological deposits. These included the location of a new lift shaft, and the bases for support

stations (FIGURE 2).

2.5.AIMS

2.5.1. The general aims of the archaeological watching brief, were:

- ◇ To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains.
- ◇ To record the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site.

3. Archaeology and History

PERIOD	FROM	TO
PREHISTORIC		
PALAEOLITHIC	450,000	12,000 BC
MESOLITHIC	12,000	4,000 BC
NEOLITHIC	4,000	1,800 BC
BRONZE AGE	1,800	600 BC
IRON AGE	600	43 AD
HISTORIC		
ROMAN	43	410 AD
EARLY MEDIEVAL	410	1066 AD
MEDIEVAL	1066	1485 AD
POST MEDIEVAL	1485	PRESENT

Table 1: Historic periods

3.1. This section aims to give a brief history of the site area and not intended as an entire history of Chester.

3.2. PREHISTORIC

3.2.1. There is a growing body of evidence to suggest early Prehistoric settlement activity in Chester, such as a number of flint artefacts recovered from the Abbey Green site in 1980 (MCPEAKE J C 1980); as well as flint artefacts of Mesolithic and Neolithic date recovered from the site of the Roman Amphitheatre between 2004-06 (GARNER D 2015).

3.2.2. Chester was probably occupied by the tribe of the *Cornovii* during the late Iron Age and it is thought that the area around Chester would have been populated with small farming settlements during this period (CROSBY 1996). Recent finds from Chester Amphitheatre, 350m east of the site, demonstrate a Later Iron Age presence which probably represents one such farming settlement (GARNER D 2015). Prehistoric plough marks, thought to be Iron Age in date, were identified during excavations in the 1970's at Abbey Green, approximately 450m to the northeast of the site (MCPEAKE J C 1980).

3.3.ROMAN

- 3.3.1. The site lies within the defences of the Roman legionary fortress of *Deva*, adjacent to the western gate (*Porta Principalis Dextra*) (MASON 2001). *Deva* was founded at Chester, by Legio II Adiutrix in c.AD 75 and was later garrisoned by Legio XX Valeria Victrix after c.AD 90. The fortress was to serve as a military centre for north-west England until at least the late 3rd century (CROSBY 1996).
- 3.3.2. Archaeological excavations undertaken in the 1950s off Commonhall Street and Weaver Street encountered Roman granaries and occupation deposits within the site area (MASON 1999, 2001 & 2005). These buildings were important food stores for the Roman fortress and would have been long rectangular structures with thick walls and buttresses (PETCH & THOMPSON 1959). The stone granaries are thought to date to c.AD120 and were probably preceded by timber structures (PETCH & THOMPSON 1959).

3.4.EARLY MEDIEVAL

- 3.4.1. During the mid 7th century Chester fell under control of the Mercian king *Penda*. By the late 7th century Saint Werburgh had founded a religious institution on the present site of St John's Church, to the northeast of the site, which later became the first cathedral (CARRINGTON 1994).
- 3.4.2. The church of St Peter, 50m north of the site, is thought to have 10th century foundations. However, it is probable that there was an earlier timber church on the site pre-dating this (LANGTREE S & COMYNS A 2001).
- 3.4.3. The site is thought to fall within an area of intensive Saxon occupation running along Bridge Street and Lower Bridge Street, between the church of St Olave and the church of St Peter (CARRINGTON 1994).
- 3.4.4. Excavations carried out between 1954 and 1959 close to the site uncovered large Saxon waste pits and Medieval structures (PETCH & THOMPSON 1959).

3.5.MEDIEVAL

- 3.5.1. Following the Norman invasion, Williams forces headed north taking control of the country (CROSBY 1996). When the Norman forces reached Chester they are

recorded as thoroughly destroying the settlement. Prior to the Domesday survey of 1086 Chester was recorded as having 431 houses paying tax, with only 282 houses surviving by the Domesday survey (IBID). It has been said that the destruction was not as intensive as suggested, and may relate to a deliberate undervaluing of the area (HIGHAM 2004).

3.5.2. Situated opposite the site area during the Medieval period was a Carmelite friary and associated precinct (CARRINGTON 1994). The Carmelites, or white friars, established themselves in Chester around 1277 although it was not until 1290 that the friary at Commonhall Street was constructed on land donated by Hugh Payne, a local citizen (CARRINGTON 1994).

3.6. POST MEDIEVAL

3.6.1. The hospital of St. Ursula, located at the west Commonhall Street, was formed in 1508 after the will of Roger Smith, a Sheriff of Chester gifted his house in Commonhall Lane to be converted into almshouses, later to become six almshouses under one roof (ELRINGTON & HARRIS 1980).

3.6.2. Braun and Hogenberg's map of Chester dated 1581 (FIGURE 3) clearly shows the Rows in place with Commonhall Street clearly depicted. The monastic precinct to the south of the site is shown along with a row of two storey buildings along the north façade of Commonhall Street. These buildings appear to be timber in form with banding between the ground floor and upper floor, possibly indicating an overhanging upper storey common at this time.

3.6.3. John Speed's map of Cheshire has a detailed inset of Chester shows Commonhall Street being occupied with rows of terraced houses on each side of the road. The buildings on the north side, are shown to back onto an open, possibly shared, yard area.

3.6.4. Lavaux's map of 1745 (FIGURE 22) shows the frontage onto Commonhall Street as a single mass of buildings without distinguishing between individual structures, however Stockdale's map of 1796 (FIGURE 4) does clearly define alleys and individual buildings. By Stockdale's map the site is shown as being to the east of Weavers Street, with a singular structure aligned north to south with an open area to its north and east.

- 3.6.5. Archaeological excavations carried out in the late 20th century around the site area exposed 14th to 15th century structures and waste from a 16th to 17th century apothecary's dwelling (HALL J & POOLE B 2008).
- 3.6.6. In the 18th century Protestant non-conformists grew in numbers in Chester and the area. A meeting place was found in a small room at the Smiths' company on the south side of Commonhall Street (BARROW ET AL 2005). Due to an increase in the congregation by 1772 they moved to a larger building on the north side of Commonhall Street.
- 3.6.7. Neele's maps of Chester dated 1809 and 1817, and Batenham's map of Chester dated 1821, continue to represent the site in the same way as Stockdale. The site area does not appear in detail on the Tithe map of 1841, which suggests that the site was within an area held by an ecclesiastic order. Thomas' map of 1853 shows the site layout as depicted on Stockdale's map of 1796. It is clear that during the 18th and 19th centuries the site area remained unchanged, in use as a large building.
- 3.6.8. It is possible that the building was intended as a merchants house with in built warehouse at this time. It was common for merchants to build warehouses close to or attached to their houses (GILES & HAWKINS 2004). These buildings were often long and thin with several stories, the design allowing for ease of access and security (GILES & HAWKINS 2004).
- 3.6.9. The first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map, dated 1871 (FIGURE 5), shows the site as being a series of small terraced buildings with associated yards. It is likely that the earlier large structure had been demolished to make way for the typical Victorian workers dwellings that became established in Chester during the late 19th century.
- 3.6.10. The following OS maps, dated 1899, 1911 (FIGURE 6), 1947 and 1953 all continue to show the narrow terraced buildings occupying the site area. It is with the construction of Chronicle House in the mid 20th century, by the 1959-60 OS map (FIGURE 7) that the footprint of Chronicle House can be first seen to take shape. Initially the building comprised a large works unit to the north with two smaller structures to the south. These were incorporated into a single

structure, by the 1974 OS survey, which now occupies the whole site (FIGURE 8).

4. Methodology

- 4.1. All groundworks were monitored by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 4.2. Examination and cleaning of all the archaeological deposits were carried out by hand using appropriate tools. All archaeological deposits were examined and recorded in section.
- 4.3. A WSI was submitted by L – P : Archaeology (POOLE 2014) containing a detailed methodology, and had been agreed in advance of works by the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- 4.4. The intended methodology was adhered to at all times during the groundworks as there were no obstacles or constraints which impeded the implementation of the WSI. Therefore the methodological approach to addressing the aims and objectives was satisfactory and the highest confidence can be placed in the data recovered and the report.

5. Results

5.1. This section will outline the results of the archaeological excavations at Chronicle House, Commonhall Street, Chester. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets]. Not all context numbers referred to in the text are illustrated, but all are in the archive.

5.2. Five trenches were excavated within the footprint of the existing building (FIGURE 2), the results of each will be given below trench by trench.

5.3. TRENCH 1 (FIGURE 9 & 10; PLATE 1 & 2)

5.3.1. Trench 1 was 1.7m x 1.8m in size and 1.17m in depth, it was located towards the middle of the southern end, of the ground floor of Chronicle House (FIGURE 2). The purpose of the excavation was to provide a foundation pit for the insertion of a new supporting column within the existing building.

5.3.2. The uppermost layer was a modern concrete floor surface (06), 0.05m thick, overlaying a reinforced concrete floor slab (07) 0.07m – 0.11m thick (FIGURE 10). Below this was a soft loose black sandy, silty, charcoal rich clinker layer (08) 0.02m-0.05m thick, likely used as levelling for the modern floor (07) above. Beneath this was a layer of loose red brown silt (01), with inclusions of brick, crushed brick, mortar, charcoal and slate fragments 0.16m thick.

5.3.3. In the southern half of Trench 1 there were two modern live electric cables within ceramic pipes/conduits (05), sitting on a deposit of clean buff sand; each of the ceramic pipes was 0.20m in diameter, running diagonally northeast-southwest across the trench (FIGURE 9). These services sat under loose red brown silt (01), and the associated trench was cut in to layer (09).

5.3.4. Underneath layer (01) lay a compact grey brown clay silt (09), a possible Post Medieval demolition layer with inclusions of sandstone, with mortar, brick and charcoal flecks, 0.40m-0.5m thick. This overlay another grey brown compact clay silt (02), similar to (09) with sandstone, mortar, charcoal and brick in a less dense concentration; this was again interpreted as a demolition layer and was up to 0.36m thick. Pottery recovered from layer (02) included a mix of 17th and 18th material with the most recent pottery dating to c.1790+. The

lowest deposit encountered was a red brown compact silty clay (03), that was a minimum of 0.25m thick, with charcoal flecks, mortar, brick and sandstone inclusions (PLATE 1). Layer (03) produced pottery of 17th/18th century date.



Plate 1: Trench 1: south facing section, 1m scale

5.3.5. In the southeast corner of Trench 1 was a north-south aligned brick wall (04) (FIGURE 9). The wall was 0.12m thick and bonded with a whitish lime mortar, four courses of brick survived, standing to a height of 0.48m (PLATE 2). Wall (04) could be seen extending from the south section to the point where the modern pipes (05) cut across it, a length of 0.53m. The wall (04) was sealed by grey brown clay silt (02) and was stratigraphically above red brown silty clay (03); suggesting that it represented a structure which had been demolished by the end of the 18th century.



Plate 2: Trench 1: north to south aligned wall, 0.3m scale

5.4. TRENCH 2 (FIGURE 11&12; PLATE 3)

5.4.1. Trench 2 was 1.55m x 1.7m in size and 1.0m in depth, located near the southwest corner of the ground floor of Chronicle House (FIGURE 2). The purpose of the excavation was to provide a foundation pit for the insertion of a new supporting column within the existing building.

5.4.2. The top 0.20m of Trench 2 repeated the stratigraphy of Trench 1, with the modern concrete floor (06), 0.08m thick, overlaying reinforced concrete slab (07) 0.04m thick, above loose black sandy, silty, charcoal layer (08) 0.08m thick (FIGURE 12). Beneath layer (08) was a deposit of modern brick fragments and crushed red brick (10), that was between 0.08m-0.12m thick; interpreted as a levelling layer (possibly the same as (01) in Trench 1). Underlying layer (10) was a compact black brown clay silt (11), up to 0.75m thick with inclusions of brick and mortar fragments. Layer (11) produced pottery dating to the late 17th/early 18th century. The lowest deposit encountered was a firm brown silty clay (12) with brick and charcoal inclusions.

5.4.3. In the western half of Trench 2, was a north-south aligned brick wall (13) with six courses of brick surviving with a hard mortar bonding; 1.30m in length and 0.53m in height. The width of wall (13) varied between 0.23m-0.48m, getting wider at the base where there was a stepped foundation (PLATE 3). Wall

(13) was sealed by rubble brick layer (10) and encased by black brown clay silt (11); suggesting that the wall pre-dated the late 17th/18th century.

5.4.4. A brick stanchion (14) was exposed in the east side of the trench, protruding from the east section. Made of modern red bricks with a modern cement bonding, the base of a vertical iron girder was attached to the top course. Six courses of brick were visible; it measured 0.5m in depth, 0.74m in length and 0.56m in width. Its alignment was different to wall (13) and it was thought to be a fairly modern phase of construction perhaps related to the original Chronicle House. Stanchion (14) was directly under concrete slab (07), and it had been cut on the northern side by a modern service running east-west across the northern edge of Trench 2. This service had been removed and back filled with a blue plastic sheet covering a clean red sand (15) 0.13m thick, which overlay a layer of hardcore (16) 0.26m thick. The stanchion (14) was cut into deposit (11).



Plate 3: Trench 2: elevation of trench, facing south, 1m scale

5.5. TRENCH 3 (FIGURE 13 TO 17; PLATE 4 TO 7)

5.5.1. Trench 3 was 1.9m x 2.1m in size and 1.17m in depth, located towards the centre of the southern end of the ground floor of Chronicle House (FIGURE 2). The purpose of the excavation was to provide a foundation pit for the insertion

of a new lift shaft within the existing building.

- 5.5.2. The upper four deposits within Trench 3 mirrored the same stratigraphic sequence as Trenches 1 and 2 (FIGURE 16). Uppermost was concrete floor (17) 0.05m thick (same as (06)), beneath which was reinforced concrete slab (18) (same as (07)) 0.12m thick. Beneath concrete slab (18) was black clinker deposit (34) (same as (08)), 0.04m thick; and beneath this was red brown silty brick rubble layer (19) 0.1m thick (same as (01)). Layer (19) produced clay tobacco pipe which could be dated c.1720-60; pottery dated c.1760+; and bottle glass dated c.1770-1800 which included part of an apothecary's bottle. The datable material from layer (19) is likely to be residual and to be derived from the underlying stratigraphy associated with pit [28].
- 5.5.3. In the southwest corner of Trench 3, under layer (19), was part of a circular cut for a pit [20]. This was at least 1.0m in diameter and 0.6m in depth; it had gradually sloping sides and concave base (PLATE 4). Pit [20] had a single fill of loose grey brown sand (21), with inclusions of handmade brick and sandstone fragments at 50% and lime mortar and slate at 10%. Pit fill (21) produced pottery of later 18th century date which included a fragment of sugar cone mould; however, this is again likely to be residual and to be derived from underlying pit [28].
- 5.5.4. In the northwest corner of Trench 3 was a square cut pit [25] extending into the west section of the trench, measuring 0.54m wide by a minimum of 0.72m in length and 0.55m in depth. Sealed beneath brick rubble (19), it has vertical edges to a rounded break of slope and a flat base. Pit [25] was filled by a grey brown silt (26) which contained large cobbles (FIGURE 15) up to 0.25m in size and sandstone blocks up to 0.22m (PLATE 7). Pit [25] cut through pit fill (24) and was thought to be roughly contemporary with pit [20]. The structural nature of fill (26) might suggest the pit represents part of a foundation to a demolished structure.
- 5.5.5. Pits [20] and [25] were cut in to a friable grey brown sandy silt (24), with flecks of charcoal and lime mortar as well as fragments of coal, sandstone and brick. Deposit (24) was at least 0.9m thick and formed the upper fill of a large

pit [28]. Beneath fill (24) was a loose light brown silty sand (27)/(29), with lime mortar inclusions at 70% and sandstone and brick fragments 5% , up to 0.35m thick. Upper fill (24) produced clay tobacco pipe dated c. 1760-90, bottle glass dated c.1770-1800 and pottery dated c.1760+; the assemblage included fragments of sugar cone mould and pottery kiln spacers associated with the manufactured of brown stoneware. Deposits (24) and (27)/(29) were the secondary fills of a large rectangular pit [28], which had steep vertical sides to the north, sloping edges to the east and the base was below the limit of excavation (FIGURE 13). The full extent was not exposed but it was a minimum of 1.6m long; 0.9m wide and 0.9m deep. Pit [28] may have been a cess-pit but this could not be confirmed within the confines of the excavation; it was cut into deposit (36).



Plate 4: Trench 3: circular pit feature, facing south, 1m scale

5.5.6. A deposit of a firm mid-yellow brown clay silt (36) with inclusions of lime mortar, charcoal and sandstone fragments had been partly removed by the cutting of pit [28]. The deposit was up to 0.25m thick, and extended to a point 0.80 west of wall (23) (PLATE 6); it did not produce any artefacts for dating purposes. Where deposit (36) survived, it could be seen to lie above the base of sandstone wall (23) on the walls western side. To the east of wall (23) was a deposit of grey brown silt (31), 0.65m thick, which overlay the foundation to wall (23). Deposit (31) produced two sherds of Ewloe-type pottery dating to

the late 14th/15th century and a fragment of Medieval ridge tile.

5.5.7. The north-south aligned sandstone wall (23), was exposed in the east half of the trench (FIGURE 14). Wall (23) was sealed beneath deposit (36) on the western side and deposit (31) on the eastern side. The wall was 2.1m long; 0.3m wide and 0.8m high (FIGURE 17). Five courses of sandstone were surviving, varying between 0.06m-0.34m high and 0.05m-0.5m long, with a pale pink lime mortar and patches of red clay bonding. The wall showed evidence of re-used sandstone blocks, the west facing façade of the upper four courses were faced (PLATE 5), while the east facing showed a roughly hewn face. The lowest course was stepped outwards to the west and is likely to be a foundation course. During the dismantling of wall (23) a rim sherd from a Cistercian ware cup probably dating to the late 15th/16th century was recovered from the clay bonding; this could be a residual artefact but suggests that the wall dates to the late 15th century or later. The foundation for wall (23) was cut into yellow brown clay silt deposit (30).



Plate 5: Trench 3: north to south aligned wall (23), looking east, 1m scale

5.5.8. Beneath deposit (31) was a deposit (32) which only extended in to Trench 3 for a distance of 0.1m; the deposit was really only viewed in section but it produced a relative abundance of Roman roof tile fragments; identifiable

fragments all being derived from roof tile *tegulae*. Below deposit (32) and the foundation of wall (23) was a firm dark yellow brown clay silt deposit (30) up to 0.3m thick; with inclusions of charcoal, coal and large sandstone fragments. Deposit (30) produced four sherds of Ewloe-type pottery dating to the late 14th/15th century as well as fragments of Medieval floor and ridge tile.



Plate 6: Trench 3: south facing section, 1m scale



Plate 7: Trench 3: east facing section, 1m scale

5.5.9. Beneath deposit (30) on the eastern side of Trench 3 was a red brown sandy silt (33) which was not excavated but left preserved *in situ*. To the west of deposit

(33) was structure (35) that was roughly circular in plan 0.5m in diameter (PLATE 6). Structure (35) was a compact yellow grey clay with sandstone fragments and sub round cobbles set within it; the structure had the appearance of being a base or post-pad to support a substantial vertical timber. The structure was not excavated but left preserved *in situ*.

5.6. TRENCH 4 (FIGURE 18 & 19; PLATE 8)

5.6.1. Trench 4 was 1.35m x 1.6m wide in size and, 1.22m in depth, one metre north of trench three on the ground floor of Chronicle House (FIGURE 2). The purpose of the excavation was to provide a foundation pit for the insertion of a new supporting column within the existing building.

5.6.2. The upper three deposits were concurrent with the first three trenches: concrete floor (17) 0.05m; reinforced concrete (18) 0.08m and black clinker (34) 0.06m (FIGURE 18). The southern half the trench was cut by modern service pipes running east to west under the concrete floor (17) and (18) (FIGURE 19). Beneath layer (34) was a 0.15m wide modern ceramic drain that was 0.3m deep and ran across Trench 4 on a north to south axis; this was cut in to deposit (40).

5.6.3. Below layer (34) was a dark brown loam deposit (40) which was 0.5m thick, with rubble and charcoal fleck inclusions, and covered the entire trench. Deposit (40) produced clay tobacco pipe dated c.1740-60 and pottery dated c.1720+; the proximity of Trench 4 to Trench 3 might suggest that deposit (40) was a continuation of pit fill (24). Underlying this was a light brown mortar rich (50%) layer of building debris (41)/(42), 0.2m thick only visible on the southern side of the trench and apparently filling a cut [44] (PLATE 8). Deposit (41)/(42) was broadly similar to deposit (27)/(29) in Trench 3 and this suggests that cut [44] is the northern edge of pit [28] in Trench 3.



Plate 8: Trench 4: north facing section, 1 m scale

5.6.4. Pit cut [44] was cut in to a deposit of mid-brown loam with charcoal fleck inclusions (43), that was at least 0.4m thick and covered the entire trench. Layer (43) produced pottery dated c.1720+ and it possibly represents the backfill of an earlier pit.

5.7. TRENCH 5 (FIGURE 20 & 21; PLATE 9)

5.7.1. Trench 5 was 0.94m x1.1m in size and 1.3m in depth, located a metre northeast of trench four, on the ground floor of Chronicle House (FIGURE 2). The purpose of the excavation was to provide a geotechnical inspection pit to inspect the existing foundation of a supporting column within the existing building.

5.7.2. The upper deposit was the modern concrete surface (17) 0.24m thick, below this were two layers of levelling sand, a dark brown sand (46) and an orange sand (47) (FIGURE 21), 0.07m and 0.03m thick respectively. Underlying (47) was a deposit of modern grey limestone hardcore (48), this was sealing a brick wall (50). To the west side of wall (50) the hardcore (48) reached a minimum thickness of 0.97m; to the west of the wall it was 0.37m. Beneath (48) was a layer of red sandstone hardcore (49) 0.17m thick, which sat directly on top of a concrete base (51).

5.7.3. Wall (50) was a north-south aligned brick wall 0.7m in length and 0.37 in

width (PLATE 9); the east facing surface of the wall had been white washed suggesting that it represented a former cellar. Wall (50) extended into the north facing section of Trench 5 and was cut at the southern end by the construction trench [52] to modern concrete pillar (53); which was supporting a steel column associated with the current office building (FIGURE 20).

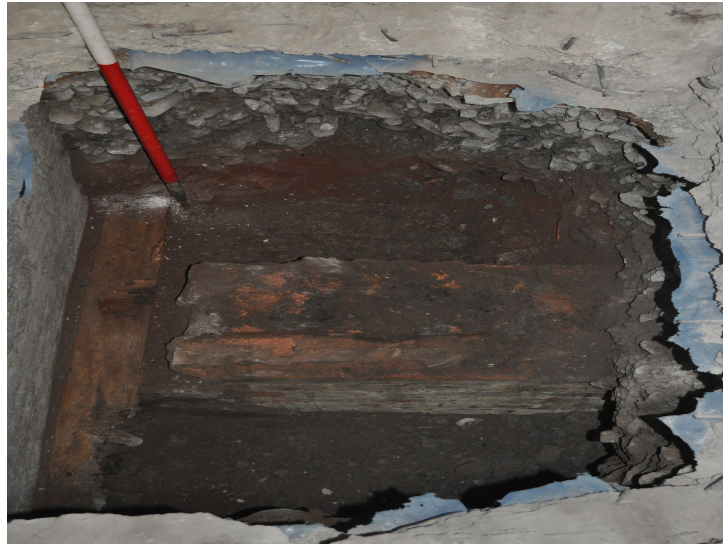


Plate 9: Trench 5: elevation of trench, facing west, 1m scale

6. Finds

6.1. The excavation trenches produced artefacts of pottery, clay tobacco pipe, glass, ceramic building material as well as animal bone and shell. All of these material categories have been subject to specialist assessment and these reports are reproduced in full in the appendices. The following section serves to summarise the information contained in the assessment reports.

THE POTTERY

6.2. *Roman Pottery:*

6.2.1. A total of 4 sherds of Roman pottery with a combined weight of 109 grams were identified in the pottery assemblage; all of these sherds can be considered as occurring residually in post-Roman contexts. The residual assemblage consisted of two body sherds in a local greyware fabric (CHESHGW) from contexts (32) and (43); and a body sherd in an orangeware fabric (HOL OX) from context (2). The remaining sherd is from context (30) and is part of the base to a pedestalled vessel such as a *tazza* in a local orangeware fabric (HOL WS); the external surface has traces of a white slip.

6.3. *Medieval Pottery:*

6.3.1. A total of 13 sherds of Medieval pottery with a combined weight of 189 grams were identified in the ceramic assemblage. Only material from contexts (30) and (31) can be considered to be from *in situ* Medieval deposits; the remainder of the assemblage occurs residually in Post Medieval contexts. The stratified Medieval pottery is represented by 5 sherds weighing 85 grams and consists of 1 handle, 1 base and 3 body sherds in a Ewloe pink/white ware fabric (EWLPW). This fabric is generally dated to the late 14th/15th century in Chester.

6.3.2. Post Medieval contexts (2), (24) and (43) produced sherds of red/grey (EWLRG) and pink/white (EWLPW) gritty wares that are thought to be products of the Ewloe kilns in North Wales; and as such date to between the late 14th and 16th century. Post Medieval contexts (29) and unstratified from a test pit produced sherds of iron-rich sandy ware fabrics (IRSWT); these fabrics are likely to be from a local production site either within Chester or more

widely on the Cheshire Plain and can be broadly dated to the 13th or 14th century.

- 6.3.3. A single body sherd of imported white ware from the Saintonge region of France was recovered from Post Medieval context (43). The exterior surface of this sherd was covered with a bright green glaze and it probably dates broadly to the 14th-16th century.

6.4. Post Medieval Pottery:

- 6.4.1. A total of 510 sherds of Post Medieval pottery with a combined weight of 11.368 kilograms were identified in the ceramic assemblage. The Post Medieval pottery assemblage from the Chronicle House excavations can be seen as typical of material recovered from Post Medieval deposits in Chester. However, much of the earlier 16th and 17th century material occurs residually in 18th and 19th century contexts and as such has little potential for further study in the context of this site. In contrast to this, there appears to be a rather well represented collection of mid/late 18th century material that is primarily from pit [28]. Unfortunately, owing to the nature of the excavation (a lift shaft pit) a significant part of pit [28] was outside the limits of the excavation. As such, the assemblage from pit fills (24) and (27) can only be seen as a sample (perhaps as little as 25%) of the pit as a whole.
- 6.4.2. Unglazed red earthenware was present in small quantities across many of the deposits and fills recorded during the excavations amounting to 24 sherds weighing 837 grams. Where a form could be attributed to sherds in this fabric it was consistently derived from sugar cone moulds with many sherds exhibiting evidence for shaving/smoothing with a blade on the internal surface. The group includes two rim sherds and one pierced base sherd which are comparable to illustrated examples from 25 Bridge Street, Chester dated to the late 17th/early 18th century (EDWARDS, 2008, 221-2). Sugar refining in Chester appears to have begun in the second half of the 17th century and a 'sugar house' is marked on Lavaux's map of 1745 on Weaver's Lane to the south of the site (ibid). In this light the presence of sugar cone mould fragments in the Post Medieval assemblage is not entirely surprising.

6.4.3. Brown stoneware represents a small (14 sherds, weighing 189 grams) but unusual element of the Post Medieval pottery assemblage. This is because aside from undiagnostic body sherds there are 6 fragments of pottery kiln furniture in the group. These fragments were parts of hand-formed, ring-shaped, kiln spacers from pit fills (24) and (27). The lack of any other kiln debris is unusual if the objects were to represent pottery manufacture in the vicinity of the site and it seems more likely that the objects are derived from elsewhere; for example, a short-lived stoneware manufacturer is documented on the southern side of the River Dee in Handbridge during the second half of the 18th century (HILLIS L 1984) (thanks to Julie Edwards for providing the references to this work).

6.5. The Clay Tobacco Pipe

6.5.1. A total of 86 fragments of clay tobacco pipe with a combined weight of 204 grams were identified in the finds assemblage. From the assemblage 81 fragments were pieces of pipe stem; four fragments were from pipe mouthpieces; whilst only one fragment was from an incomplete pipe bowl.

6.5.2. Five stem fragments from contexts (19), (24) and (40) had traces of 18th century border stamps all of which could be matched to the Chester type series; the dating of the border stamps ranged between c.1710 and 1790. There was only one bowl fragment in the assemblage from context (42). This was incomplete and could not be accurately placed in the Chester form typology series and it could only be ascribed a general 18th century date.

6.6. The Glass

6.6.1. A total of 54 fragments of glass with a combined weight of 1.341 kilograms were identified in the finds assemblage. From the total assemblage 30 fragments were pieces of window glass weighing 129 grams. The remaining 24 fragments were incomplete pieces from glass vessels: 22 fragments represented bottles fragments; 1 fragment was from a phial; and 1 fragment was from a stemmed drinking glass. No maker's marks were present in the assemblage and nor were any vessels marked with the product or manufacturers details. Much of the glass assemblage dates to the 18th century and to a large extent

compliments the date of the material in the pottery assemblage.

- 6.6.2. All of the window glass was recovered from contexts (24), (27) and (42). Amongst the window glass the majority of fragments were in clear glass and ranged in thickness between 1.2mm and 4.6mm. Two joining fragments of Medieval window glass (weighing 4 grams) were recovered as residual finds from context (24); these fragments were badly degraded but traces of '*grozing*' were identified along 1 edge indicating the glass had been shaped for insertion in to a lead window came.
- 6.6.3. Amongst the bottle glass fragments there were a group of neck and base fragments from context (19) which were dateable to the second half of the 18th century. This included the base from an apothecary's phial or medicine bottle (dated c.1740-80) and the base to an octagonal bottle that had probably contained spirits such as gin. The remaining fragments in this group were from wine bottles (dated c.1770-1800).
- 6.6.4. Earlier vessel glass in the form of a bottle base in green glass from context (29) and a neck in green glass from context (42) were derived from an onion-shaped wine bottle form that dates to c.1680-1730.

THE CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

6.7. Roman CBM:

- 6.7.1. A total of 47 fragments of Roman CBM with a combined weight of 4.747 kilograms were identified in the CBM assemblage. The Roman CBM assemblage from the Chronicle House site came from 12 stratified contexts from 4 excavation trenches; all of which were considered to be post-Roman in date.
- 6.7.2. The fragments of imbrex/ridge tile which could be identified amounted to a total of 14.9% by count (7 fragments) and 13.7% by weight (651 grams) of the Roman CBM assemblage. In spite of there being plenty of examples of edge, corner and end fragments in the imbrex assemblage there were no examples of signature marks, decoration, stamps or tally marks noted on the imbrex fragments.
- 6.7.3. Tegula fragments amounted to a total of 46.8% by count (22 fragments) and

63.2% by weight (3.002 kilograms) of the Roman CBM assemblage. Amongst the tegula assemblage were 9 flange fragments, of which none had evidence for a lower cut-a- way.

6.7.4. One fragment of Roman CBM from context (19) appeared to be a piece of Opus Spicatum as used in the production of herring-bone flooring. The object had lime mortar adhering to both surfaces which might support this origin.

6.8. Medieval CBM:

6.8.1. A total of 15 fragments of Medieval CBM with a combined weight of 1.159 kilograms were identified in the ceramic assemblage. A total of 5 floor tile fragments were recovered from contexts (30) and (41); the 4 floor tile fragments from context (30) are considered to be from a Medieval deposit. Only 1 fragment, from context (41), was from a decorated floor tile; and this was the upper right-hand corner of a line-impressed design with splashes of olive green glaze still present. The design did not survive well enough to attempt identification.

6.8.2. The other 10 fragments of Medieval CBM were all derived from glazed ridge tiles in a pink-white Ewloe fabric (EWLPW) or a local iron-rich sandy fabric. The Ewloe products are broadly dated to the late 14th to 16th century. Three of the fragments in a local iron-rich sandy fabric were recovered from phased Medieval contexts (30) and (31).

6.9. Post Medieval CBM:

6.9.1. A total of 10 fragments of Post Medieval CBM with a combined weight of 3.702 kilograms were identified in the ceramic assemblage.

6.9.2. There were a total of 4 handmade brick fragments in the Post Medieval CBM assemblage. Three examples from contexts (2), (27) and (29) were complete enough to be able to measure thickness and of these 1 measured 45mm, 1 measured 50mm, and 1 measured 54mm thick. These are relatively thin bricks and may be early examples but are unfortunately residual finds. The brick fragment from context (27) was complete enough to recover full dimensions (Length: 227mm; Width: 110mm; Thickness: 50mm). The brick fragment from

context (2) also had a width of 111mm and a single perforation.

6.9.3. Amongst the remaining Post Medieval material there were 3 fragments of ridge tile from contexts (19) and (29) all of which had an iron-rich glaze on the exterior surface. There was also a single fragment of unglazed flat roof-tile from context (40) which had a shaped nib on one edge to facilitate hanging.

6.9.4. A single fragment of an Anglo-Dutch tin-glazed earthenware wall tile was recovered from context (27). This was hand painted with a decorated scene including the head and shoulders of a human figure; probably 17th or early 18th century in date.

6.10. The Shell

6.10.1. Eighteen shell fragments were recovered, totalling 0.45kg. The shell assemblage for Chronicle House is interesting as it only contained oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shell fragments. Typically sites from Chester also produce freshwater mussel and cockle shell, as all three were common species found and collected from the river Dee. The lack of mussel and cockle in the assemblage may be a result of the acidic soil conditions leading to poor survival.

6.11. The Animal Bone

6.11.1. A total of 235 skeletal fragments were recovered from the site, totalling 3.54kg in weight.

6.11.2. The mammal bones within the assemblage came from four species, cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep (*Ovis aries*), pig (*Sus scrofa domesticus*) and dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*). The first three species, cattle, sheep and pig are all representative of meat bearing animals common as domestic kitchen waste. Butchery marks on many of the bones support this interpretation. Much of the material comes from Post Medieval layers. However, context (30) and (31) are both thought to have Medieval potential.

6.11.3. The dog remains form two distinct types. Context (30) appears to have a redeposited dog burial of a mid sized adult animal. However, context (19) contained burnt dog bones from two small adult dogs. These appear to have been cooked and, as they are thought to be redeposited bones in a later Post

Medieval deposit, potentially represent consumption of dog from an earlier period.

6.11.4. The bird bones were all represented by chicken (*Gallus gallus*) and have been defined as domestic kitchen waste.

7. Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1. As part of redevelopment works of Chronicle House into 61 self contained student studios (14/000787/FUL), five small areas of archaeological excavation were required by Cheshire West and Chester Council the Local Planning Authority.
- 7.2. The site lies within the extents of the Roman legionary fortress of *Deva*. Previous archaeological excavations off Commonhall Street and Weaver Street (MASON 1999, 2001 & 2005) encountered Roman granaries and occupation deposits within the site area. It is likely that this area was occupied during the Medieval period and into the Post Medieval period (WARD 2009). Excavations carried out in the 1950s uncovered large Saxon waste pits and Medieval structures dating to the 14th and 15th centuries; waste from a 16th to 17th century apothecary's dwelling was also found off Commonhall Street.
- 7.3. Trenches 1 and 2 exposed the remains of north-south aligned brick walls (04) and (13) which consisted of handmade bricks bonded in a lime mortar. These walls are likely to be associated with buildings shown on the 1st edition 6" Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1871 (FIGURE 5). The wall (04) in Trench 1 coincides with a north-south wall towards the north-west corner of a building fronting on to Commonhall Street in 1871; whilst wall (13) in Trench 2 coincides with a north-south boundary wall in 1871.
- 7.4. Trench 5 exposed the remains of a north-south aligned brick cellar wall (50) which was covered with lime whitewash on its east facing side. This cellar is likely to be associated with a building shown on the 3rd edition 6" Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1911 and was probably only demolished and backfilled during the construction of Chronicle House during the mid 20th century (FIGURE 6).
- 7.5. The well preserved sandstone wall (23) exposed in Trench 3 appears to respect the line of a wall shown on the 3rd edition 6" Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1911. However, this wall is not shown on earlier editions of the OS map and the dating evidence (Late 15th/16th century) recovered from the sandstone wall excavation would suggest that it belongs to an earlier period than the turn of the 19th century.
- 7.6. The large Post Medieval pit [24] within Trench 3 was backfilled with material dating to the second half of the 18th century. This pit appears to have been excavated up

against property boundary wall (23) and perhaps represents a large cess pit. This type of feature was a common occurrence in the back yards of properties investigated on Bridge Street (GARNER 2008). The fills of pit [24] included typical domestic waste of the later 18th century and debris representative of the local manufacturing industry including waste from a stoneware pottery kiln and fragments of sugar cone mould. The latter could be related to the siting of a 'Sugar House' to the south of the site as shown on Lavaux's map of 1745 (FIGURE 22).

7.7. Sandstone wall (23) may have functioned as a retaining wall; the western face was built to be visible whilst the eastern face was rough and covered by a series of backfill deposits. This might suggest that wall (23) represents a property boundary with the property to the west being on a slightly lower terrace to accommodate the general down-hill slope towards the Watergate. This arrangement has been noted elsewhere in the city centre on Bridge Street where the terraced sandstone property boundary walls were suggested to conform with sub-divisions to the Medieval burgage plot system. On Bridge Street these property boundary walls were broadly dated to the 14th/15th century and were thought to have stayed in use until the back yards of the properties fronting on to Bridge Street were developed during the later 18th century (GARNER 2008, 412). This interpretation would place most of Trench 3 within the back of a property fronting on to Common Hall Street as shown on the Braun & Hogenberg map of 1581 (FIGURE 3).

7.8. The earliest archaeological feature encountered on the site was the sandstone and cobble base (35) which was either of Medieval or earlier date. This feature was enigmatic and showed no evidence for in situ burning; which might have been expected from a function such as a domestic oven. The most likely interpretation is therefore, that it had a structural function; perhaps as a pad for a vertical timber associated with a timber building.

7.9. The excavation has demonstrated the survival of deep and complexed stratigraphy on the Chronicle House site with evidence for activity spanning the Medieval and Post Medieval periods. The nature of the activity appears to be typical of domestic occupation to the rear of street frontage properties as seen elsewhere within the city centre on Bridge Street. The potential for intact Roman archaeology on the site is indicated by the residual ceramic material recovered from later contexts; however, no

archaeology of Roman date was disturbed during the present work.

8. Archive

8.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 11 x Drawing Film
- ◆ 2 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 81 x Black and white photographs and negatives
- ◆ 2 x Context Register
- ◆ 31 x Context sheets

8.2. The finds archive consists of:

- ◆ 3 x box artefacts as described in Section 7 (all materials).

8.3. The archive is to be deposited at the Cheshire West and Chester museum service.

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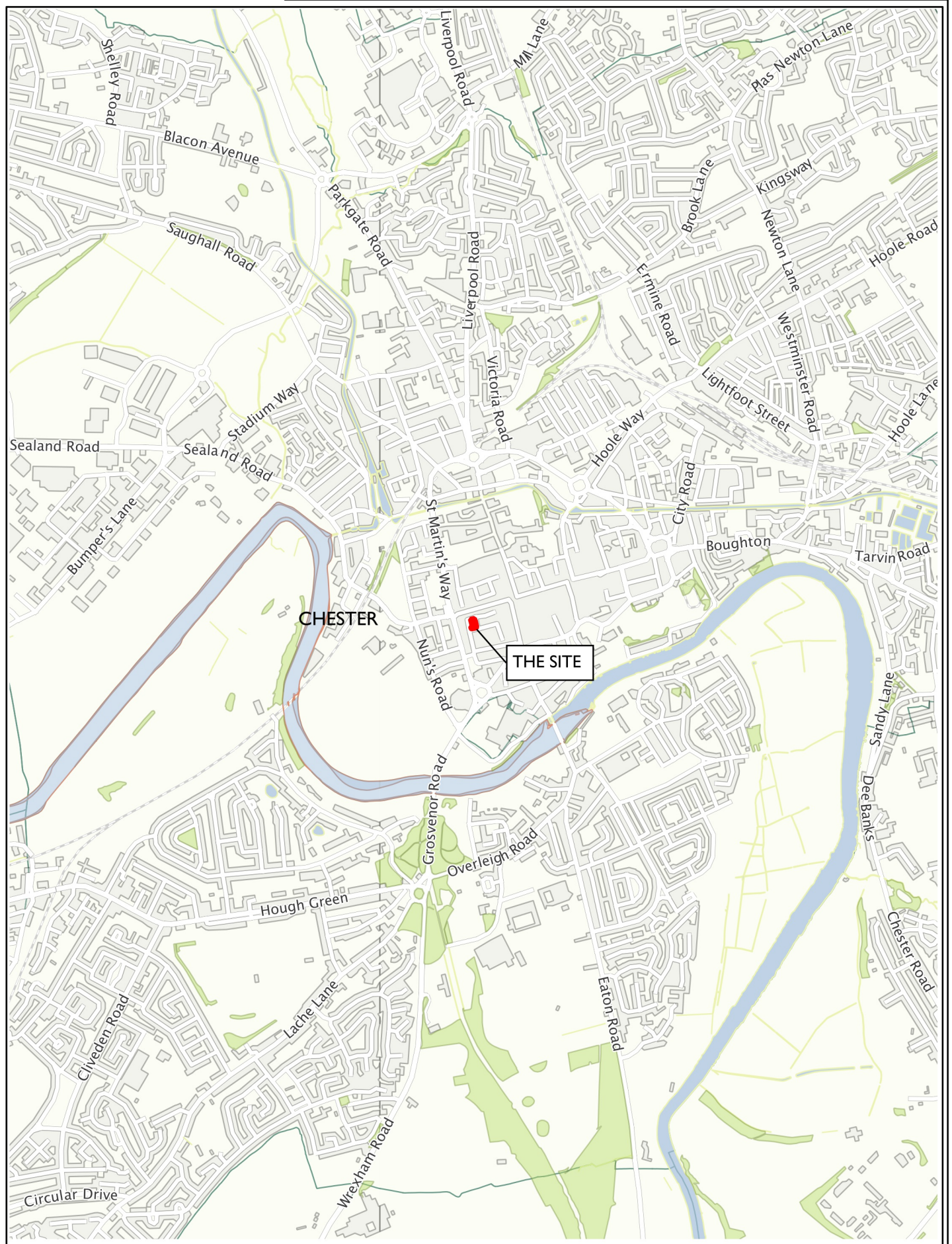
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CARTOGRAPHIC

Braun & Hogenberg, 1581, Map of Chester
Speede, 1610, Map of Chester
Hughes, 1643, Map of Chester
Lavaux, 1745, Map of Chester
Stockdale, 1796, Map of Chester
Cole, 1805, Map of Chester
Neele, 1817, Map of Chester
Batenham, 1821, Map of Chester
Cole, 1836, Map of Chester
Tithe Map, 1841, St Peter's Parish
Thomas, 1853, Map of Chester
Gresty, 1870, Map of Chester
Ordnance Survey, 1871, 25” Scale map of Chester
Ordnance Survey, 1899, 25” Scale map of Chester
Ordnance Survey, 1914, Scale map of Chester
Ordnance Survey, 1953, 1:10,000 Scale map of Chester
Ordnance Survey, 2006, 1:5000 Scale map of Chester

FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location General



0 500 m



PROJECT // 1746C - Chronicle House

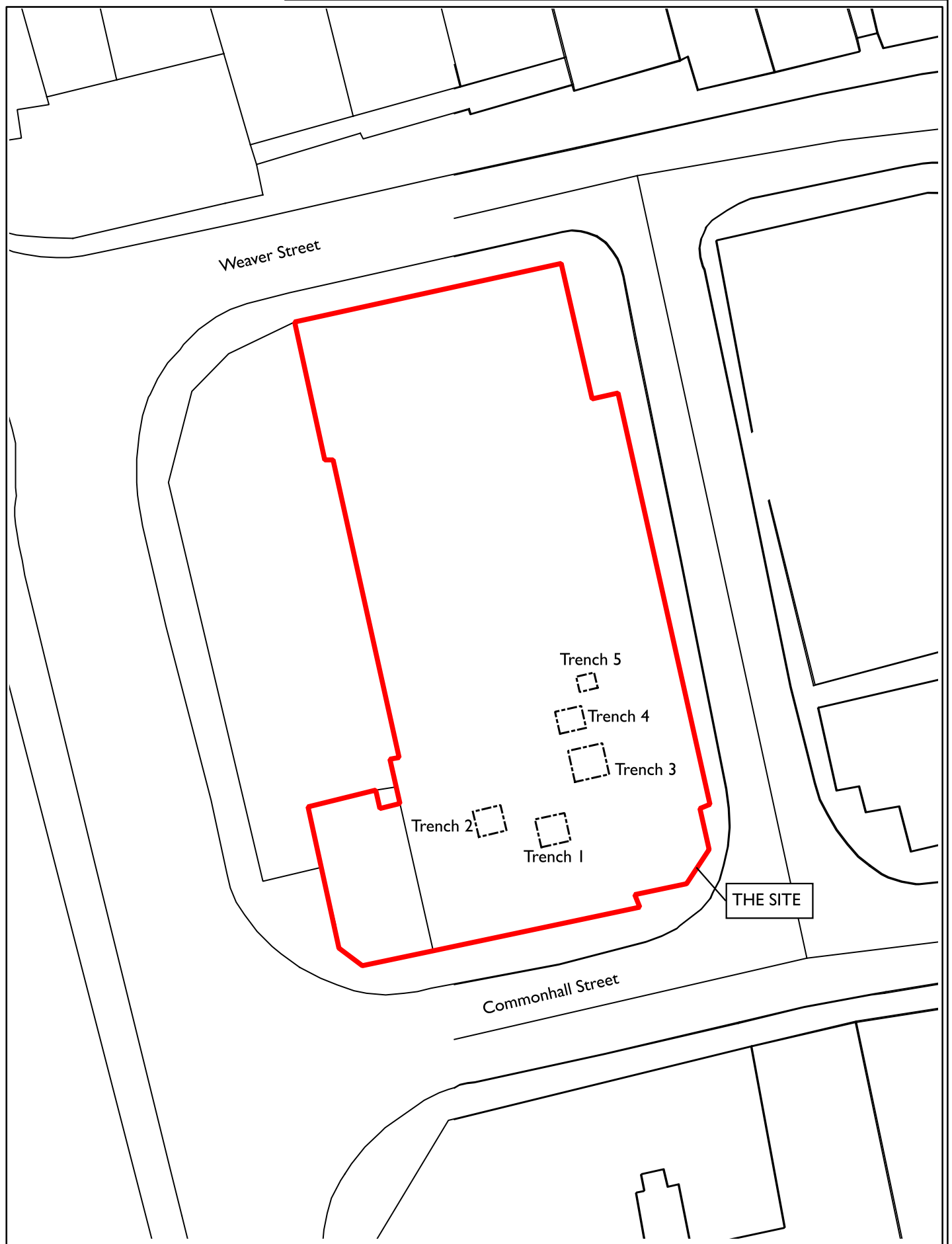
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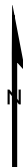
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L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detail



0 10 m



PROJECT // 1746C - Chronicle House

DESCRIPTION // Site Location Detail

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L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 3 // Bruan & Hogenberg, 1581



THE SITE

Commonhall Street

0 50 m



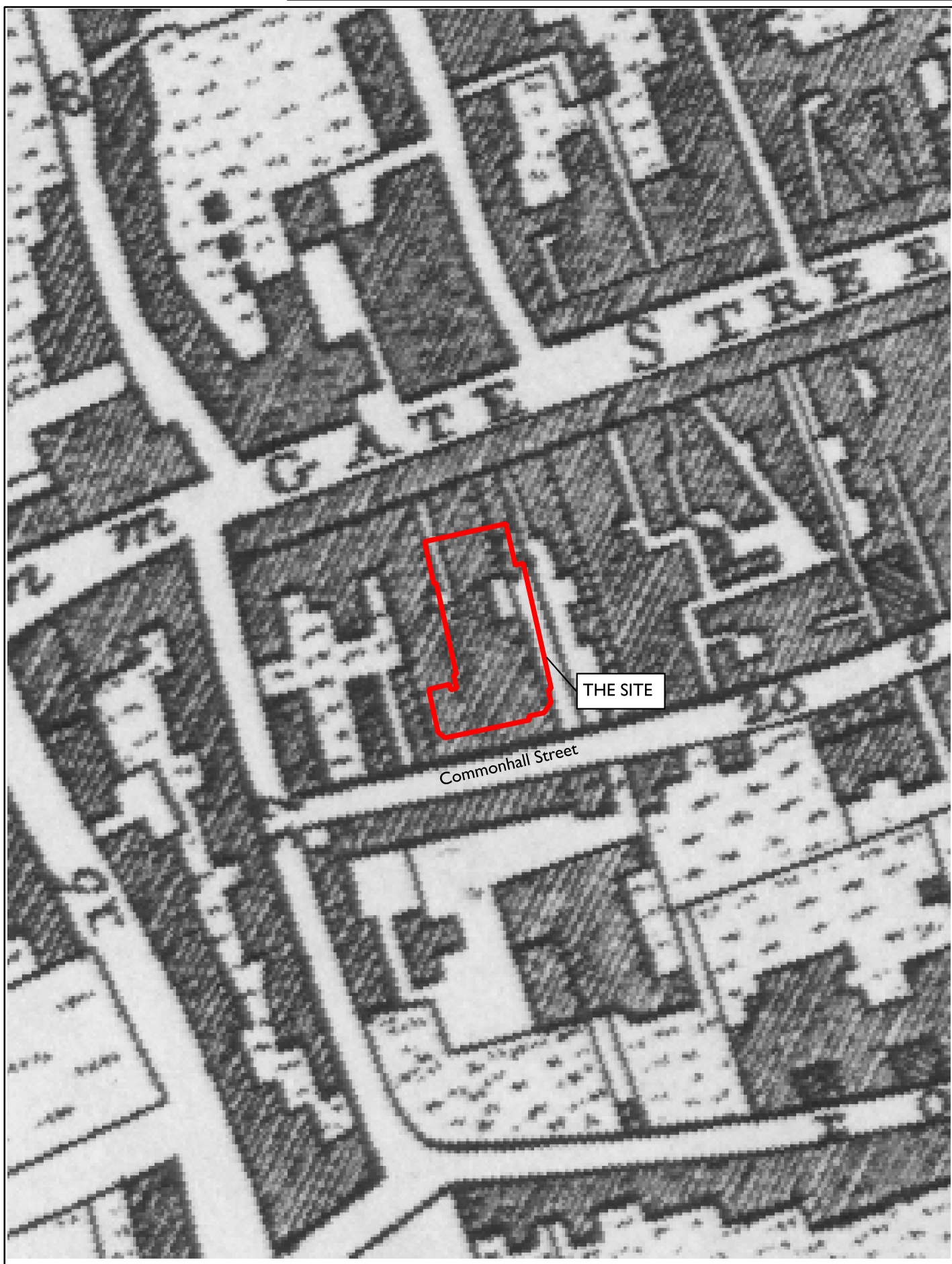
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FIGURE 4 // Stockdale, 1796



THE SITE

Commonhall Street

0 50 m



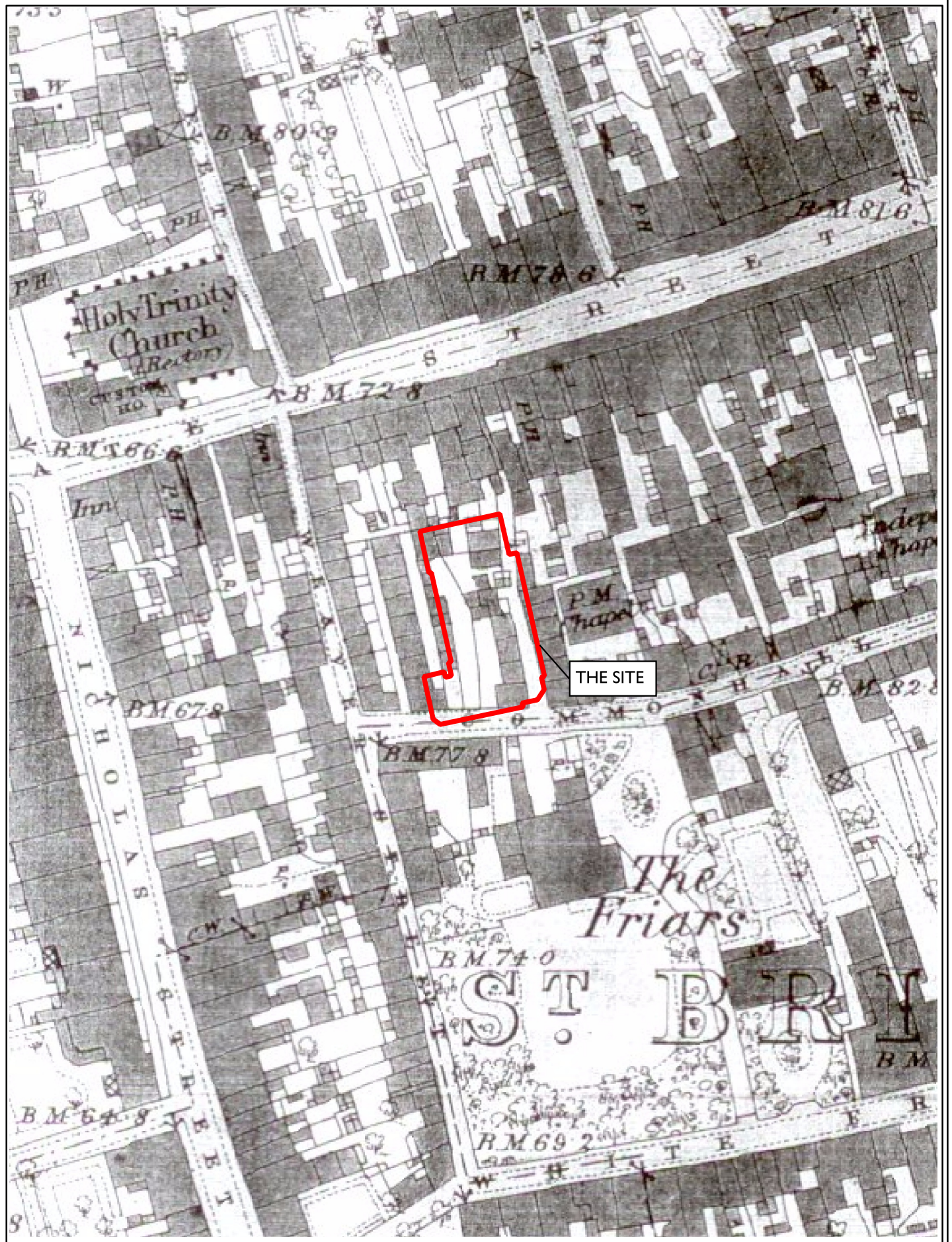
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FIGURE 5 // OS, 1871



THE SITE

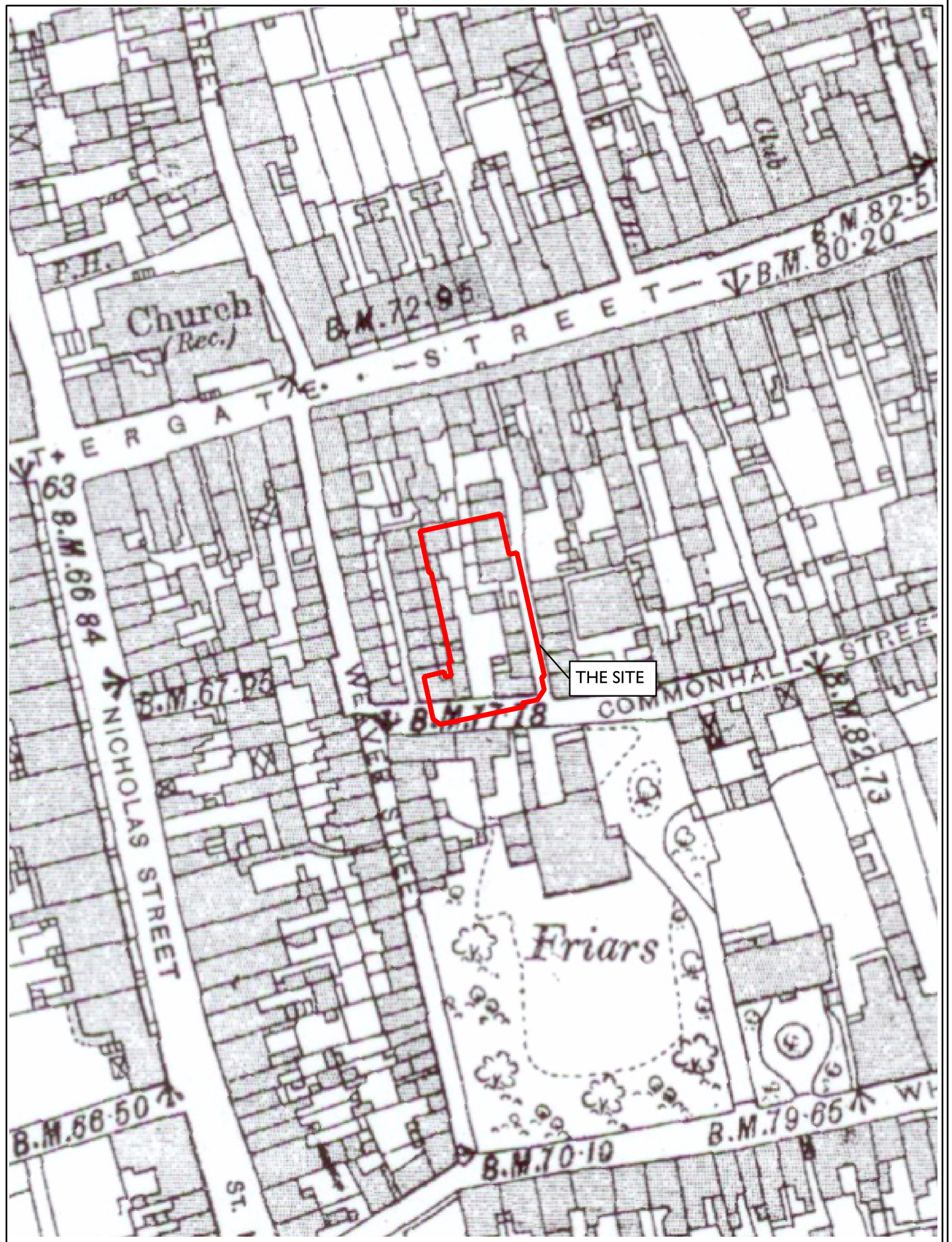
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DOC REF: LPI746C-AMR-v1

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FIGURE 6 // OS, 1911



THE SITE

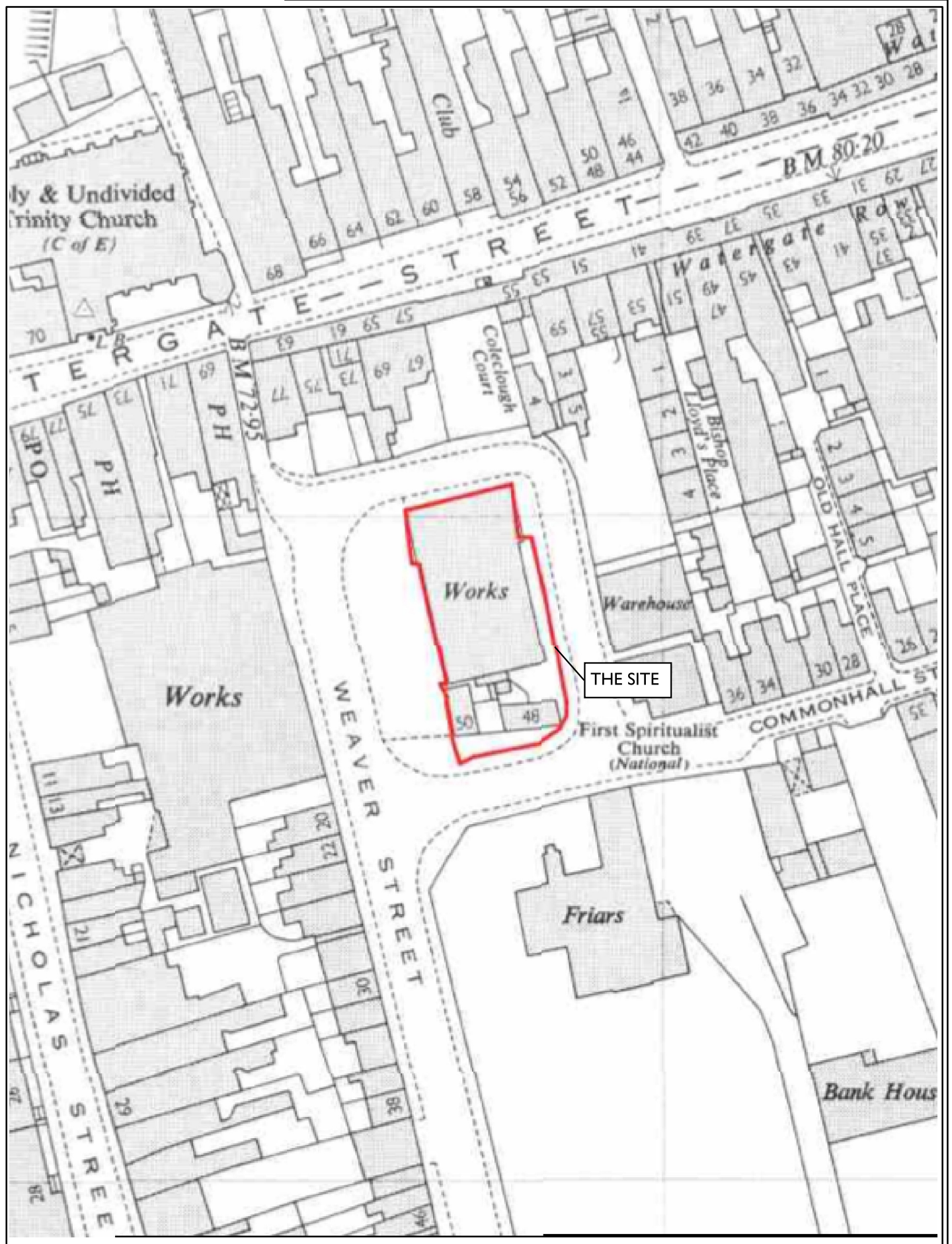
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DOC REF: LPI746C-AMR-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 7 // OS, 1959-60



THE SITE



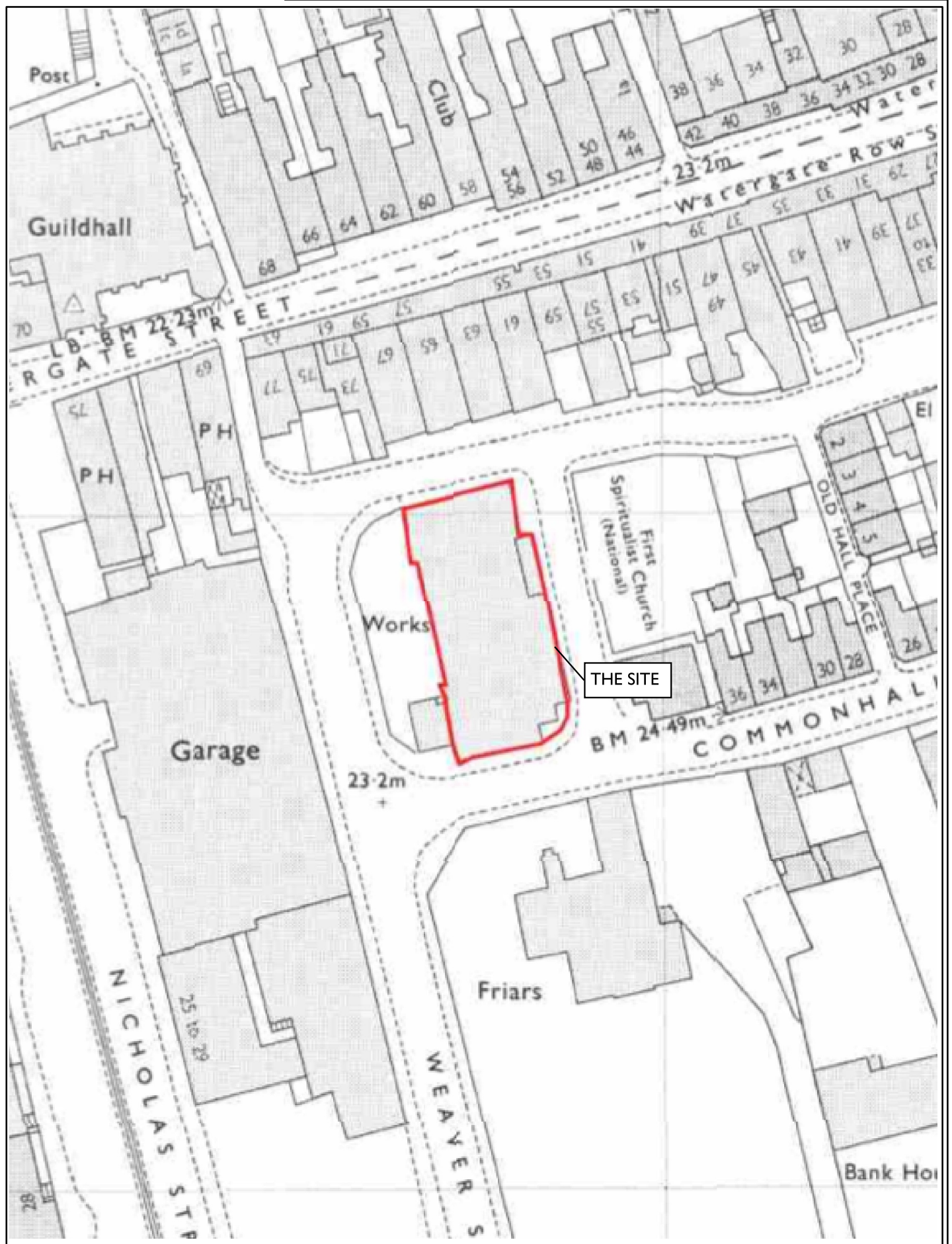
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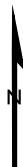
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L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 8 // OS, 1974-77



0 50 m



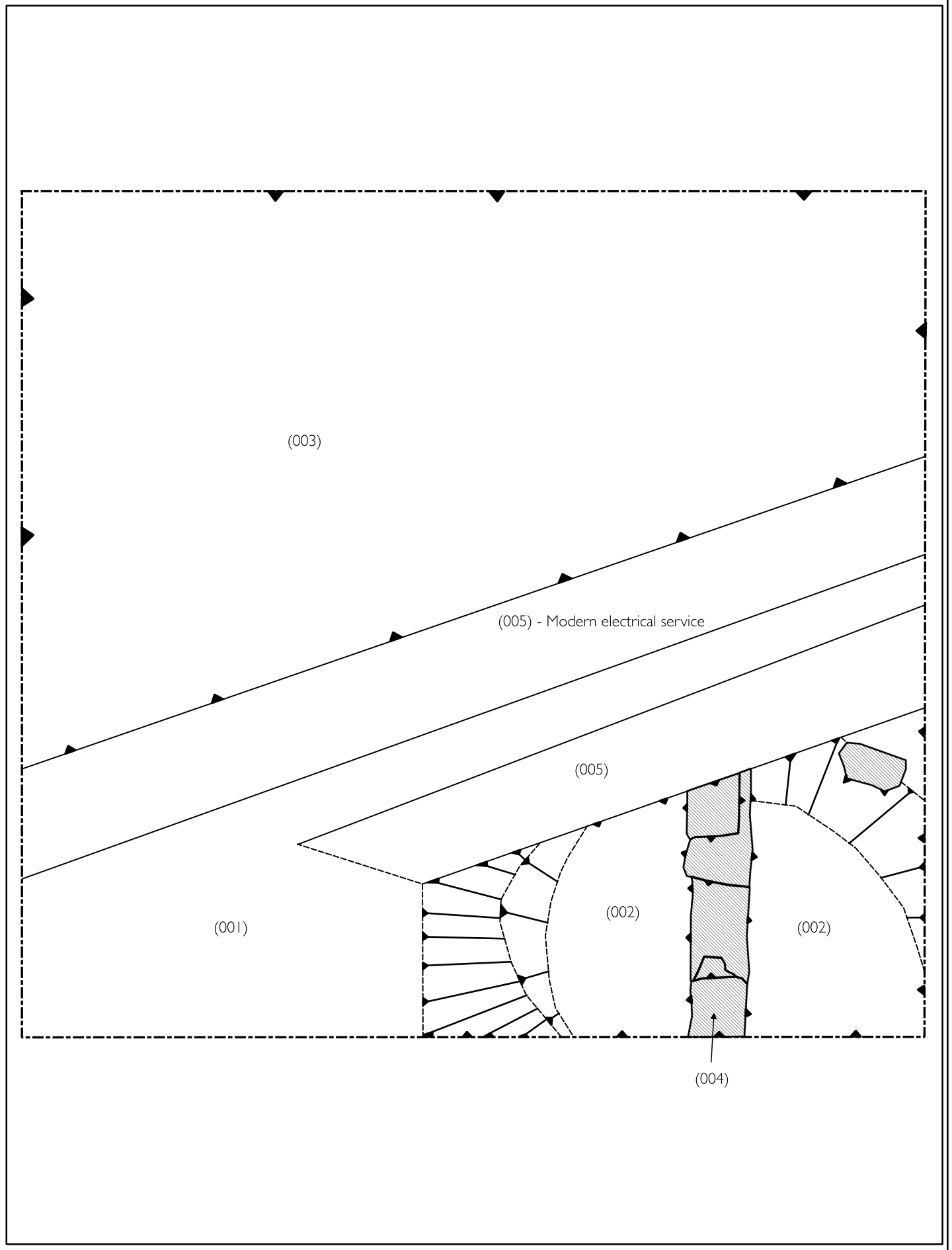
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DESCRIPTION // Ordnance Survey, 1974-77

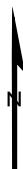
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L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 9 // Trench I, Plan



0 0.5 m



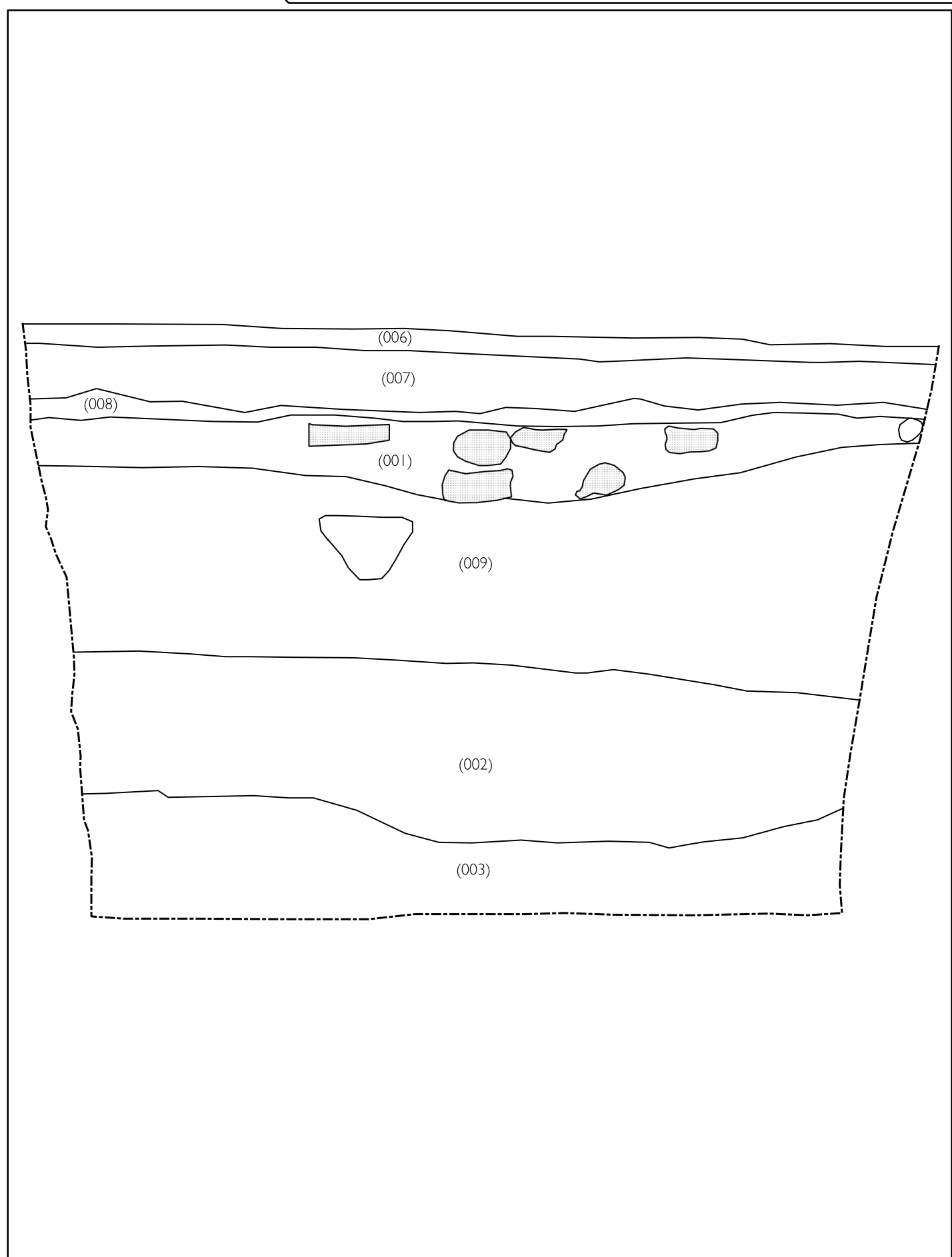
PROJECT // 1746C - Chronicle House

DESCRIPTION // Trench I, Plan

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 10 // Trench I, Section



0 0.5 m

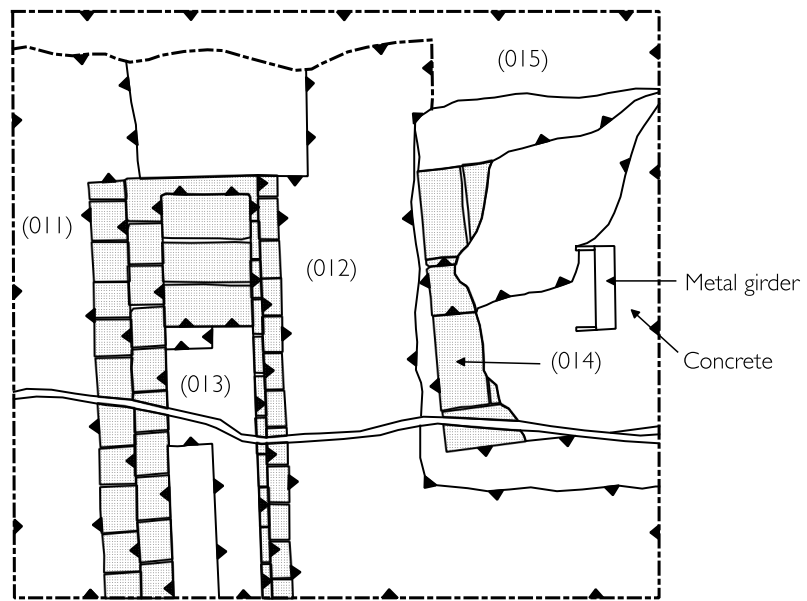
PROJECT // 1746C - Chronicle House

DESCRIPTION // Trench I, South Facing Section

DOC REF: LPI746C-AMR-v1

L~P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 11 // Trench 2, Plan



0 0.5 m



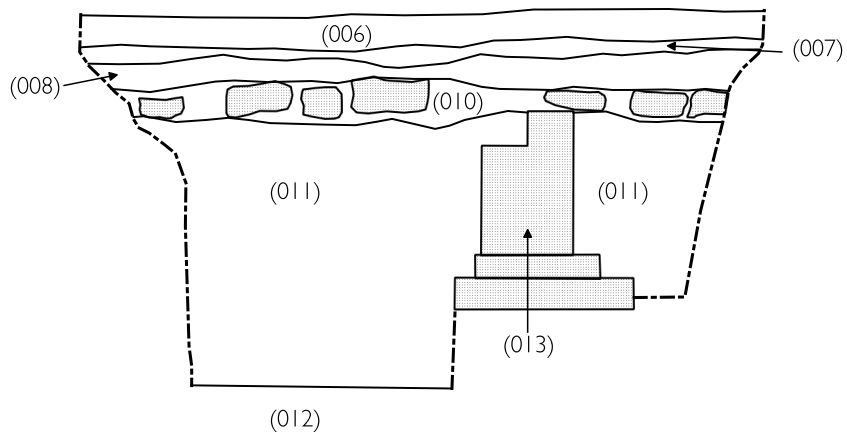
PROJECT // 1746C - Chronicle House

DESCRIPTION // Trench 2, Plan

DOC REF: LPI746C-AMR-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 12 // Trench 2, Section



0 0.5 m

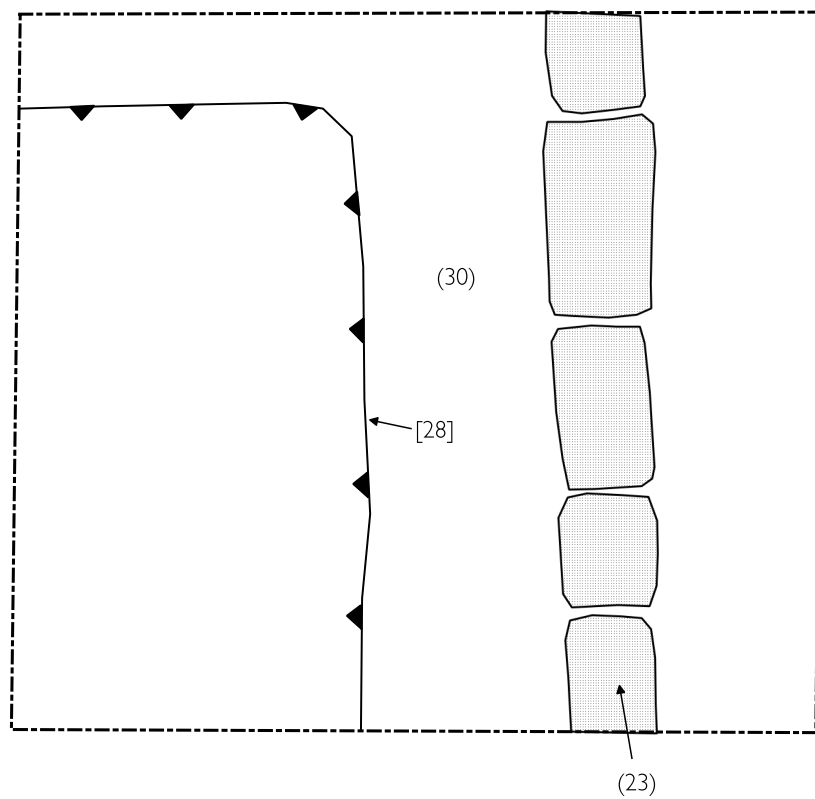
PROJECT // 1746C - Chronicle House

DESCRIPTION // Trench 2, North Facing Section

DOC REF: LPI746C-AMR-v1

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 13 // Trench 3, Plan



0 0.5 m



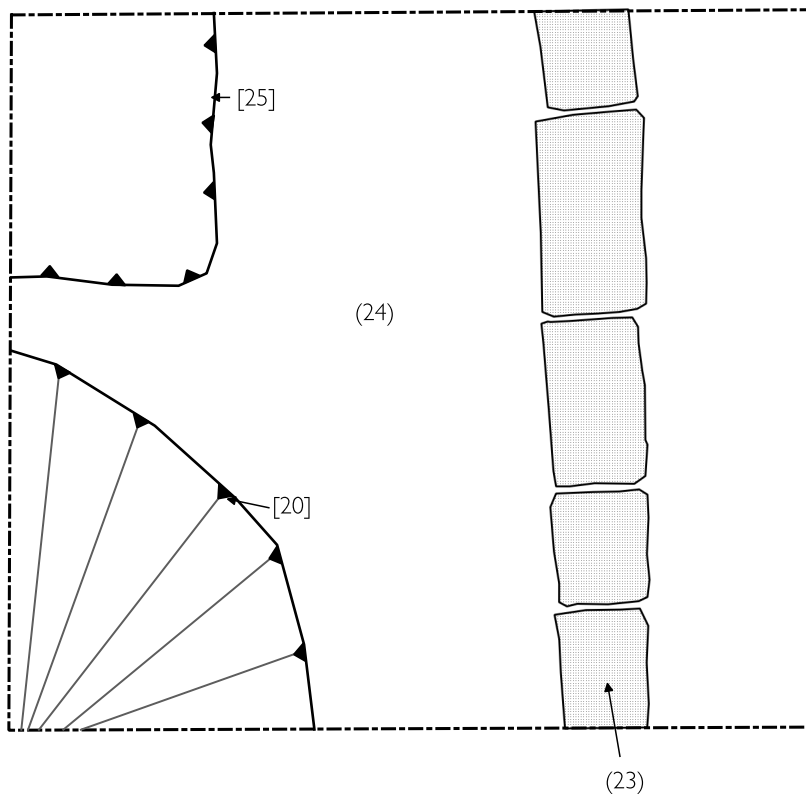
PROJECT // 1746C - Chronicle House

DESCRIPTION // Trench 3, Plan Showing Pit [28]

DOC REF: LPI746C-AMR-v1

L~P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 14 // Trench 3, Plan



0 0.5 m



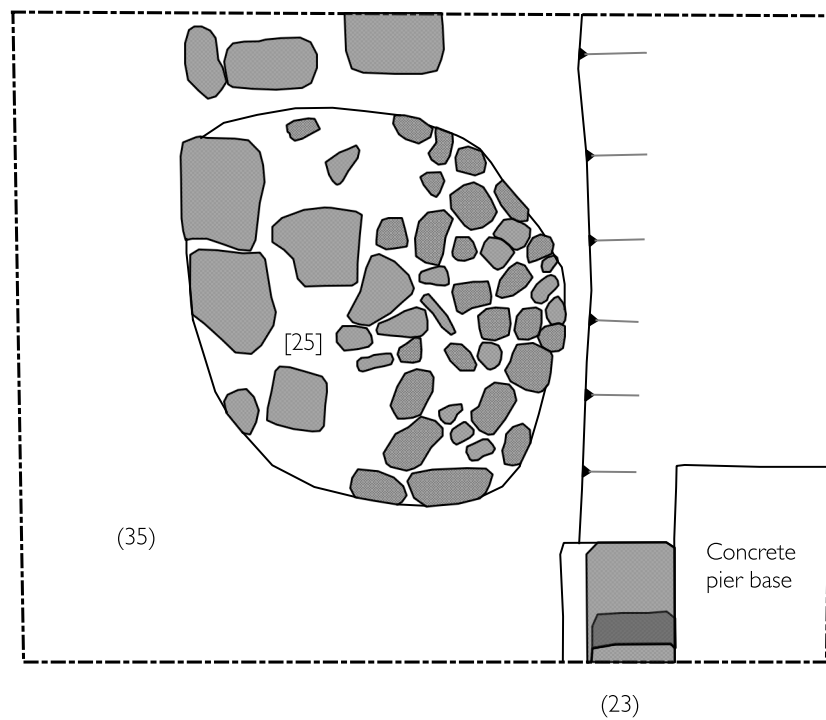
PROJECT // 1746C - Chronicle House

DESCRIPTION // Trench 3, Plan Showing Wall (23)

DOC REF: LPI746C-AMR-v1

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 15 // Trench 3, Plan



0 0.5 m



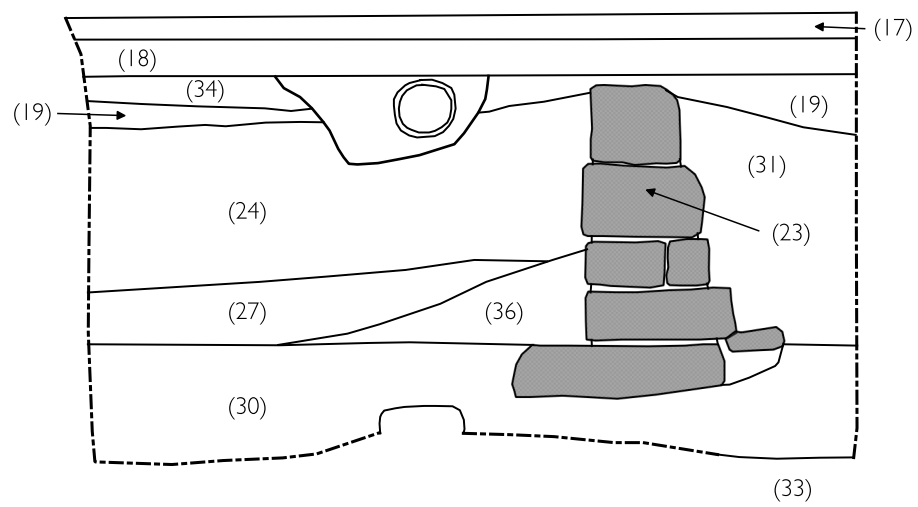
PROJECT // 1746C - Chronicle House

DESCRIPTION // Trench 3, Plan Showing Cobble & Sandstone Pad [25]

DOC REF: LPI746C-AMR-v1

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 16 // Trench 3, Section



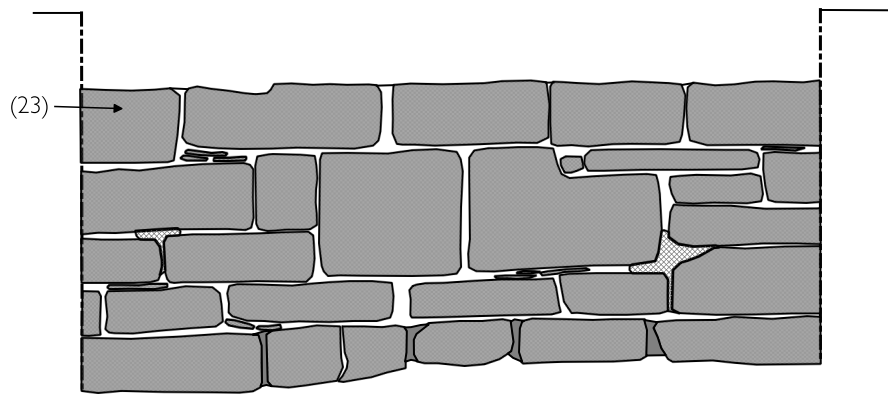
0 0.5 m

PROJECT // 1746C - Chronicle House

DESCRIPTION // Trench 3, South Facing Section

DOC REF: LPI746C-AMR-v1

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY



0 0.5 m

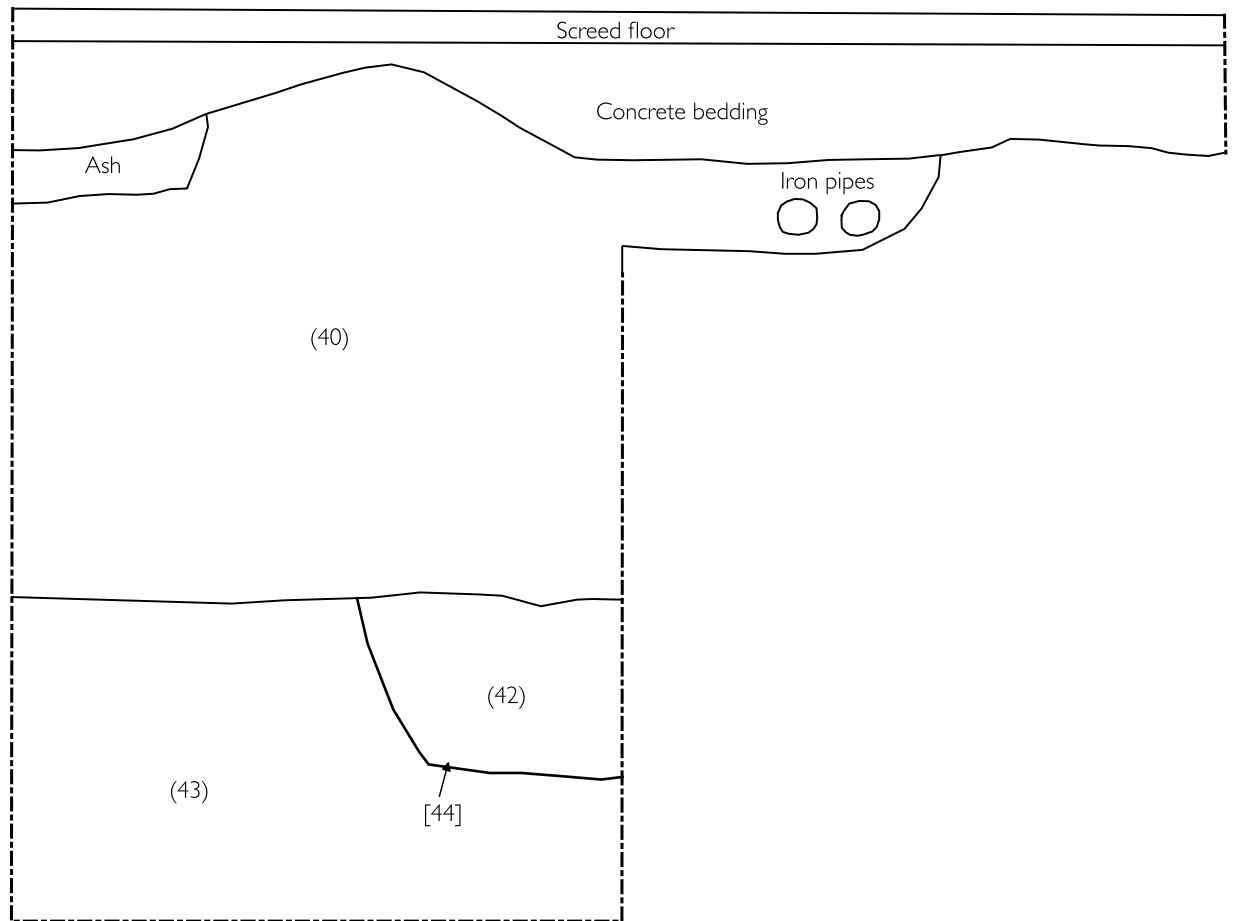
PROJECT // 1746C - Chronicle House

DESCRIPTION // Trench 3, Elevation of Wall (23)

DOC REF: LPI746C-AMR-v1

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 18 // Trench 4, Section



0 0.5 m

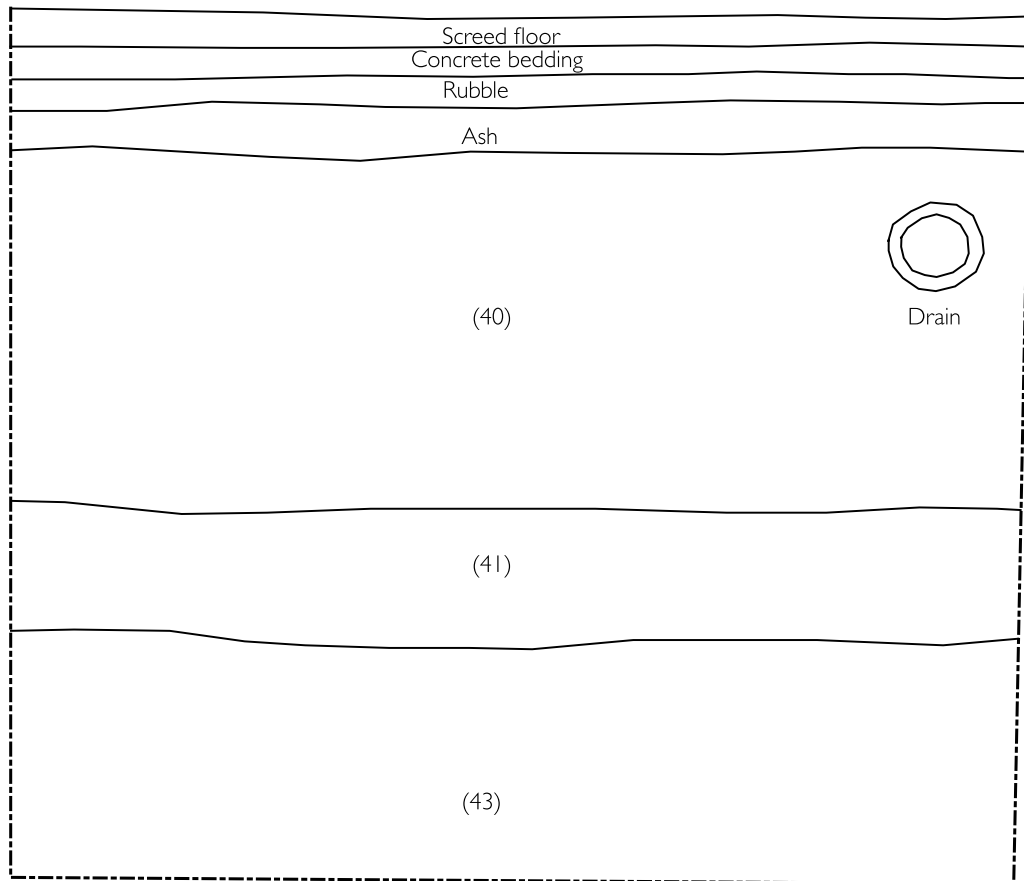
PROJECT // 1746C - Chronicle House

DESCRIPTION // Trench 4, East Facing Section

DOC REF: LPI746C-AMR-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 19 // Trench 4, Section



0 0.5 m

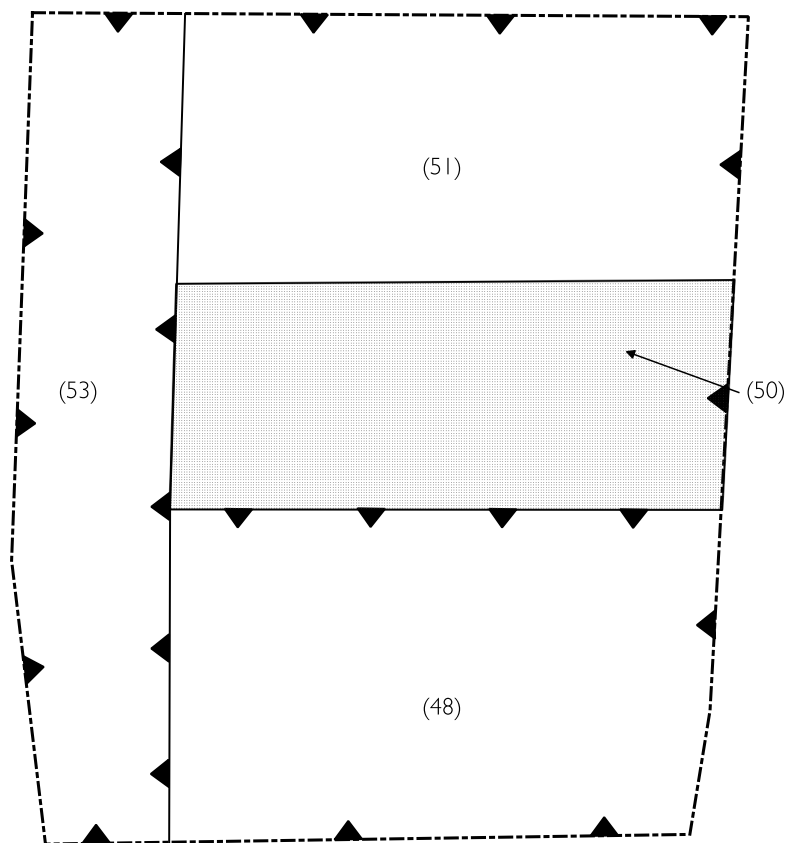
PROJECT // 1746C - Chronicle House

DESCRIPTION // Trench 4, North Facing Section

DOC REF: LPI746C-AMR-v1

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 20 // Trench 5, Plan



0 0.5 m



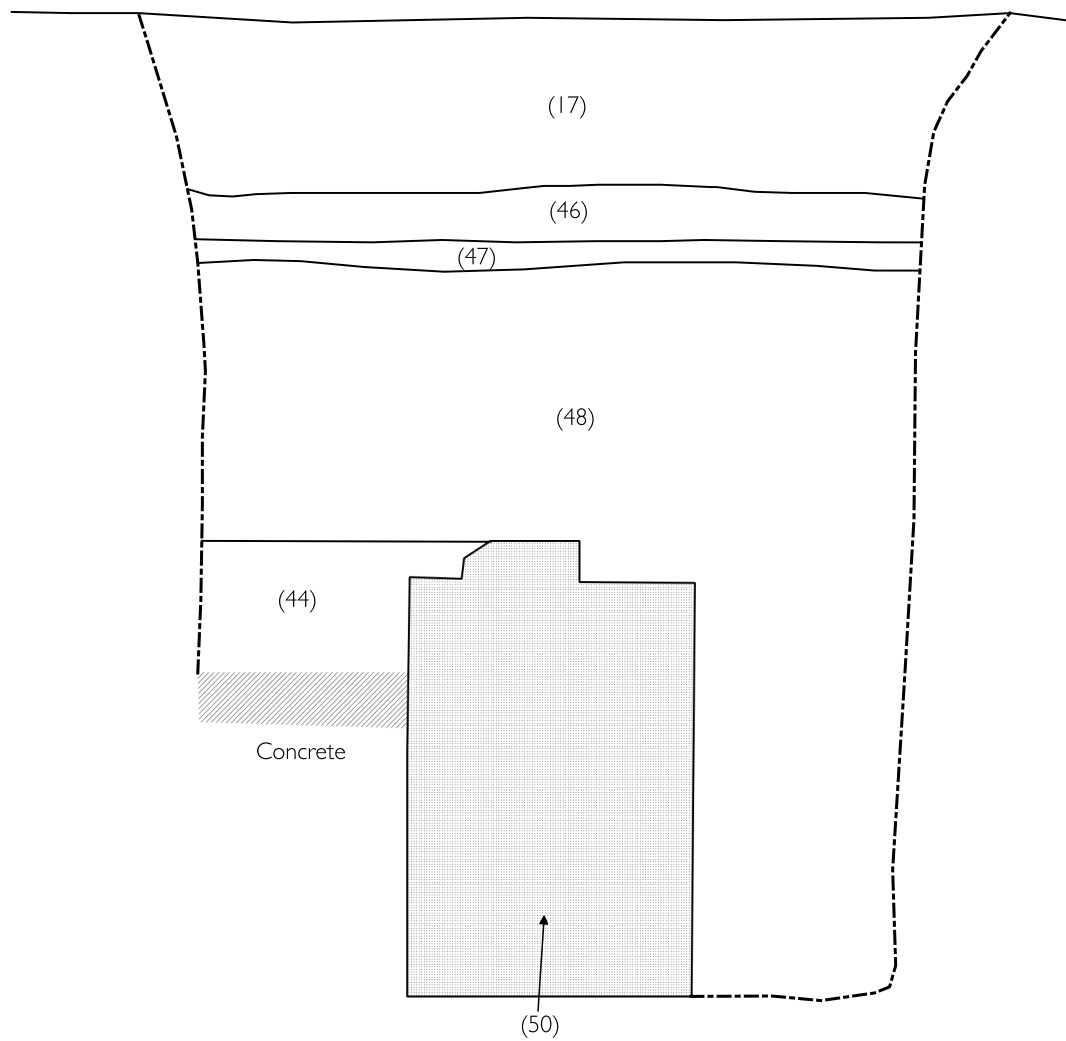
PROJECT // 1746C - Chronicle House

DESCRIPTION // Trench 5, Plan

DOC REF: LPI746C-AMR-v1

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 21 // Trench 5, Section



0 0.5 m

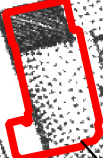
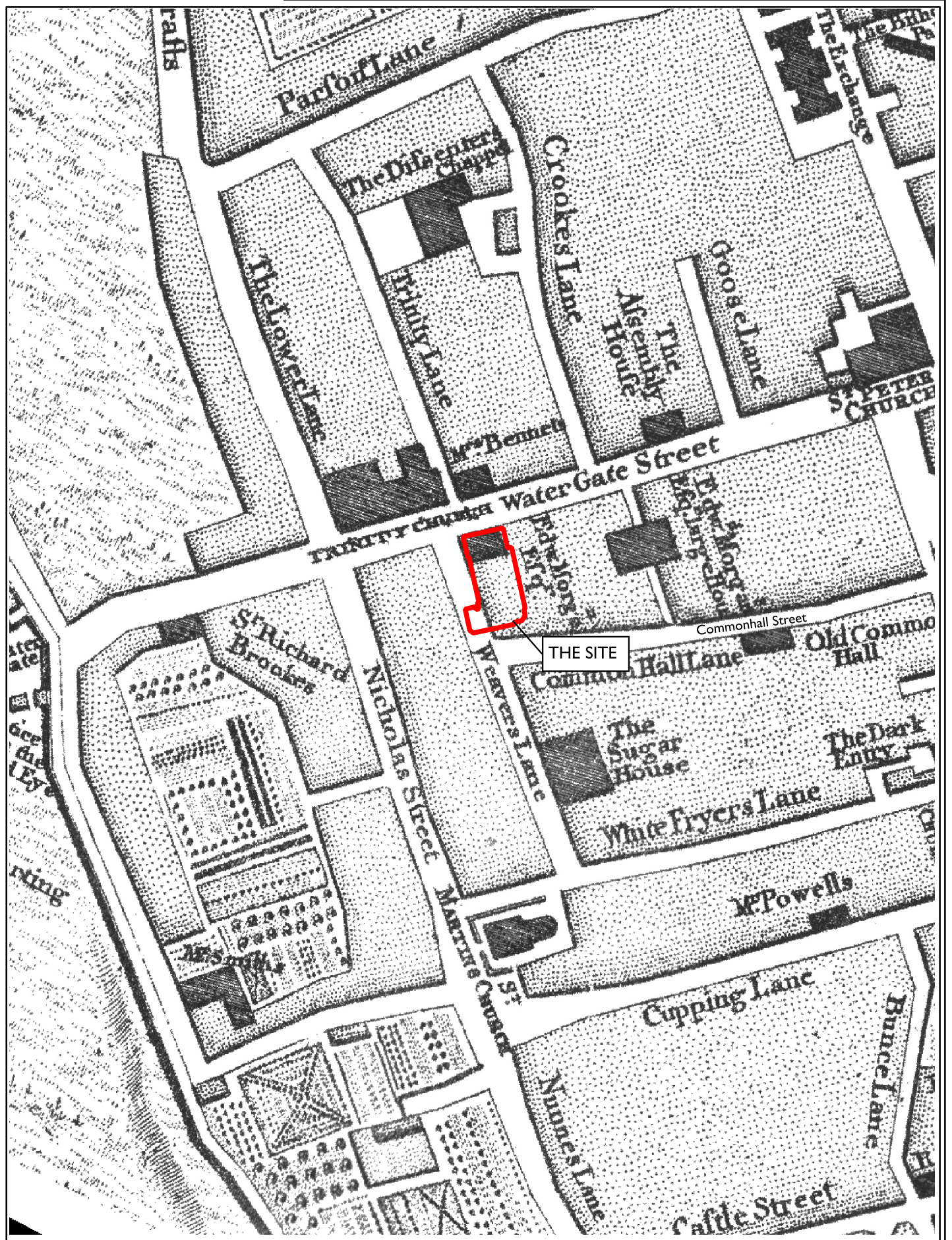
PROJECT // 1746C - Chronicle House

DESCRIPTION // Trench 5, South Facing Section

DOC REF: LPI746C-AMR-v1

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 22 // Lavaux, 1745



THE SITE

0 50 m



PROJECT // 1746C - Chronicle House

DESCRIPTION // Lavaux, 1745

DOC REF: LPI746C-AMR-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

OASIS FORM

APPENDIX I

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: Iparchae1-222620

Project details

Project name	Chronicle House, Chester
Short description of the project	Excavation of five trenches within the footprint of Chronicle House, Commonhall Street, Chester
Project dates	Start: 01-10-2014 End: 04-09-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CHE/CH 14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC VESSEL Roman
Investigation type	"Part Excavation"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CHESHIRE CHESTER CHESTER Chronicle House
Postcode	CH1 2AA
Study area	675 Square metres
Site coordinates	SJ 340373 366184 52.922605157356 -2.981252794613 52 55 21 N 002 58 52 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 19m Max: 20m

Project creators

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

Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	L - P : Archaeology
Project director/manager	Blair Poole
Project supervisor	Dan Garner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Beaumont Morgan Developments Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cheshire Museum Service
Physical Archive ID	CHE/CH 14
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Cheshire Museum Service
Digital Archive ID	CHE/CH 14
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cheshire Museum Service
Paper Archive ID	CHE/CH 14
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Section","Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Mitigation Report, Chronicle House, Chester
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Garner, D.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Matthews, R
Other bibliographic details	LP1746C-AAMR-v1.2
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	L - P : Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Chester
Description	Report on the results of the excavation of five target trenches within the footprint of Chronicle House, Chester.
Entered by	D.Garner (chester@lparchaeology.com)
Entered on	4 September 2015

OASIS:

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POTTERY ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX 2

**AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE POTTERY RECOVERED FROM AN
EXCAVATION ON LAND AT CHRONICLE HOUSE, COMMONHALL STREET,
CHESTER**

BY DAN GARNER BA, FSA, MCIfA

21/04/15

Non-Technical Summary

This report details the assessment of the pottery archive for an excavation on land at Chronicle House, Commonhall Street, Chester, that was undertaken between October and November 2014 by L-P Archaeology. Pottery artefacts of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date have been identified in the archive material.

The assessment has provided a chronology for the structural narrative of the site, however, the assemblage is not considered to be of a high enough quality to lend itself to more than basic statistical scrutiny. A full catalogue of the material submitted for assessment is contained within the digital site archive.

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1. Introduction and Methodology

- 1.1 This report details an assessment of the pottery archive for an excavation on land at Chronicle House, Commonhall Street, Chester, CH1 2AA (NGR 340373 366184) that was undertaken between October and November 2014 by L-P Archaeology. Pottery artefacts of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date have been identified in the assemblage.
- 1.2 The pottery has been fully catalogued to a level and standard that is in keeping with recommendations made by both the Study Group for Roman Pottery and The Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski, Nenck & Pearce, 2001); and assessed in accordance with recommendations by English Heritage (1991).
- 1.3 All the pottery was examined macroscopically and where necessary using a binocular microscope (x20) and was also separated by fabric type within each context. Sherds from each different vessel were then recorded individually by sherd count and weight on an Excel spreadsheet. The finds were briefly considered in relation to the stratigraphy, as understood from the site matrices, and with reference to other sites in the general area.
- 1.4 The Roman pottery has been identified to fabric using the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection published by Roberta Tomber and John Dore in 1998 unless a fabric has been identified that does not occur in that publication.
- 1.5 Where possible the medieval and post-medieval pottery has been identified to ware.

2. Roman Pottery

2.1 A full catalogue of the Roman pottery has been created on an Excel spreadsheet and will form part of the digital site archive. A key to the fabric type series is in Section 8.1.

2.2 A total of 4 sherds of Roman pottery with a combined weight of 109 grams were identified in the pottery assemblage and details of this are summarised in Tables 1 and 2 (below); this represents less than 1% by count and weight of the total pottery assemblage from the excavation. Nearly all of the Roman assemblage can be considered as residual as Roman levels were generally left *in situ* during the excavation process. The post-Roman contexts include: medieval context (30); and post-medieval contexts (2) and (43).

Fabric Context	CHESHGW	HOL OX	Total
2		1	1
30		1	1
32	1		1
43	1		1
Total	2	2	4

Table 1: Roman Pottery by context, fabric and sherd count

Fabric Context	CHESHGW	HOL OX	Total
2		8	8
30		36	36
32	7		7
43	58		58
Total	65	44	109

Table 2: Roman Pottery by context, fabric and weight (grams)

2.3 Stratified Roman contexts which produced Roman pottery are limited to context (32); which produced a single body sherd in a local greyware fabric (CHESHGW) probably dating to the late 1st or 2nd century.

2.4 The residual assemblage consists of a body sherd in a greyware fabric (CHESHGW) from context (43) and a body sherd in an orangeware fabric (HOL OX) from context (2). The remaining sherd is from context (30) and is part of the base to a pedestalled vessel such as a *tazza* in a local orangeware fabric (HOL WS); the external surface has traces of a white slip.

2.5 The Roman pottery assemblage from the Chronicle House excavation can be seen as typical of material recovered from Roman deposits in Chester. However, it is a

***AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE POTTERY RECOVERED FROM AN EXCAVATION
ON LAND AT CHRONICLE HOUSE, COMMONHALL STREET, CHESTER***

small and fragmentary group and as such warrants no further study in the context of this excavation. It should be retained as part of the permanent site archive.

3. Post-Roman Pottery

3.1 A full catalogue of the Roman pottery has been created on an Excel spreadsheet and will form part of the digital site archive. A key to the fabric type series is in Section 8.2.

3.2 The Medieval Pottery (11th to 15th century)

3.2.1 A total of 13 sherds of medieval pottery with a combined weight of 189 grams were identified in the ceramic assemblage and details of this are summarised in Tables 3 and 4; this represents 2.5% by count and 1.6% by weight of the total pottery assemblage. Only material from contexts (30) and (31) can be considered to be from *in situ* Medieval deposits; the remainder of the assemblage occurs residually in post-medieval contexts.

Context \ Fabric	2	24	29	30	31	43	Test Pit	Total
EWLPW	1	2		3	2	1		9
EWL RG						1		1
IRSWT			1				1	2
SAINTONGE						1		1
Total	1	2	1	3	2	3	1	13

Table 3: Medieval Pottery by context, fabric and sherd count

Context \ Fabric	2	24	29	30	31	43	Test Pit	Total
EWLPW	16	7		41	43	23		130
EWL RG						9		9
IRSWT			15				25	40
SAINTONGE						10		10
Total	16	7	15	41	43	42	25	189

Table 4: Medieval Pottery by context, fabric and weight (grams)

3.2.2 The stratified medieval pottery is represented by 5 sherds weighing 85 grams and consists of 1 handle, 1 base and 3 body sherds in a Ewloe pink/white ware fabric (EWLPW). This fabric is generally dated to the late 14th/15th century in Chester.

3.2.3 Post-medieval contexts (2), (24) and (43) produced sherds of red/grey (EWL RG) and pink/white (EWLPW) gritty wares that are thought to be products of the Ewloe kilns in North Wales; and as such date to between the late 14th and 16th century. Post-medieval contexts (29) and unstratified from a test pit produced sherds of iron-rich sandy ware fabrics (IRSWT); these fabrics are likely to be from a local production site either within Chester or more widely on the Cheshire Plain and can be broadly dated to the 13th or 14th century.

AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE POTTERY RECOVERED FROM AN EXCAVATION ON LAND AT CHRONICLE HOUSE, COMMONHALL STREET, CHESTER

3.2.4 A single body sherd of imported white ware from the Saintonge region of France was recovered from post-medieval context (43). The exterior surface of this sherd was covered with a bright green glaze and it probably dates broadly to the 14th-16th century.

3.2.5 The medieval pottery assemblage from the Chronicle House excavation can be seen as typical of material recovered from medieval deposits in Chester. However, it is a small and fragmentary group and as such warrants no further study in the context of this excavation. It should be retained as part of the permanent site archive.

3.3 The Post-Medieval Pottery (16th to 19th century)

3.3.1 A total of 510 sherds of post-medieval pottery with a combined weight of 11.368 kilograms were identified in the ceramic assemblage and details of this are summarised in tables 5 and 6; this represents 96.8% by count and 97.5% by weight of the total pottery assemblage. The primary function of the material is in being able to suggest a chronology for the structural narrative of the site as it is too small to lend itself to other statistical analysis.

Context Fabric	2	3	11	19	21	23	24	27	29	40	41	42	43	60	Test Pit	Total
AGATE	1			1				3		2						7
BBG	24		2	7	2		68	29	4	22	5	17	1	1		182
BRWST	1			2			8	1			2					14
CHINPORC				1			3	2								6
CISTW	2					1										3
CREAM	9			8			3	3								23
JACKFIELD								1								1
MIDP	1															1
MIDY	5	4		1			2			1						13
MOTTW			3				4	4				4				15
PEARL	3				1		1		1					1		7
SCBW	1						10	20	1	1	1	2				36
SLIPW	5		3	3	2		25	3		7	1	10				59
SPECKLED	1									1						2
TGEW				2			27	15		7		6	1		1	59
TUDG							1									1
UNGRE	5	1		1	1		3	4	1	2	5	1				24
WESTER											2					2
WSGST							20	7	1	13	5	7	1		1	55
Total	58	5	8	26	6	1	175	92	8	56	21	47	3	2	2	510

Table 5: Post-medieval Pottery by context, fabric and sherd count

**AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE POTTERY RECOVERED FROM AN EXCAVATION
ON LAND AT CHRONICLE HOUSE, COMMONHALL STREET, CHESTER**

Context Fabric	2	3	11	19	21	23	24	27	29	40	41	42	43	60	Test Pit	Total
AGATE	15			2				30		71						118
BBG	1089		52	165	83		1746	658	70	995	58	1262	47	24		6249
BRWST	8			31			115	15			20					189
CHINPORC				8			10	31								49
CISTW	32					15										47
CREAM	64			35			36	33								168
JACKFIELD								17								17
MIDP	14															14
MIDY	117	214		2			31			3						367
MOTTW			4				19	34				176				233
PEARL	22				10		3		6					2		43
SCBW	6						163	355	15	8	38	11				596
SLIPW	174		24	46	97		538	42		103	36	262				1322
SPECKLED	25									11						36
TGEW				26			248	336		50		32	3		4	699
TUDG							11									11
UNGRE	154	17		4	53		133	250	20	59	138	9				837
WESTER											20					20
WSGST							113	63	3	59	33	66	8		8	353
Total	1720	231	80	319	243	15	3166	1864	114	1359	343	1818	58	26	12	11368

Table 6: Post-medieval Pottery by context, fabric and weight (grams)

3.3.3 Decorating pottery with transfer printed designs is a technique that was introduced to large scale pottery production c.1790+ and contexts containing pottery decorated in this way included (2) and (24). The pottery decorated with transfer printing was exclusively blue designs imitating Chinese porcelain. A marginally earlier date of c. 1780+ can be ascribed to the introduction of pearl-glazed earthenwares (**PEARL**) and 'mocha' or industrial slipwares which were present in contexts (2), (21), (29) and (60). Amongst these sherds was the rim to a dish decorated with dark blue feathering and a handle covered in a dark brown slip. The fore-runner to this pottery is a cream ware fabric (**CREAM**) which can be dated c.1730-60+ and was recovered from contexts (2), (19), (24) and (27). The Cream ware assemblage included the rim to a dish with a relief formed border from pit fill context (24); and the lid to a tea/coffee pot with raised leaf motifs and a brown "Tortoiseshell" glaze from pit fill context (27) (Plate 1).

3.3.4 White salt-glazed stoneware (**WSGST**) came in to large scale production c.1720 and 55 sherds (weighing 353 grams) in this fabric were recovered from contexts (24), (27), (29), (40), (41), (42) and (43). Amongst the white salt-glazed stoneware were several sherds that had been decorated with "Scratch Blue" designs from contexts (24), (29), (40) and unstratified in test pit 5. This material included dish rim sherds with a scalloped edge and basket-style moulding from pit fill context (24); and a coffee or tea-pot lid from context (40).



**Plate 1: Creamware lid to a tea/coffee pot with raised leaf motifs and a brown
"Tortoiseshell" glaze from context (27) c.1750-60**

3.3.5 Tin-glazed earthenware (**TGEW**) is quite dominant in the assemblage with 59 sherds weighing 699 grams being recovered from contexts (19), (24), (27), (40), (42) and (43). The ware is often referred to as 'Delft' but much of this material was manufactured in England during the 17th and 18th century. English tin-glazed earthenware potteries declined in the second half of the 18th century when Creamware was introduced. In the assemblage there are a number of sherds possibly from a single dish (Plate 2) in pit fill context (24). The design is comparable to a published example from Norwich which is attributed to the Bristol area c.1720 (Jennings, 1981, pp210, Fig.94.1487). Context (24) also produced a number of sherds from the base to a bowl decorated with a scene of two figures in a small fishing boat; the decoration is imitating Chinese porcelain and the underside of the base has an oriental style cartouche (Plate 3).



AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE POTTERY RECOVERED FROM AN EXCAVATION ON LAND AT CHRONICLE HOUSE, COMMONHALL STREET, CHESTER

Plate 2: Tin-glazed earthenware dish from context (24). Possibly manufactured in the Bristol potteries c.1720



Plate 3: Tin-glazed earthenware bowl from context (24). The interior is decorated with the scene of two figures in a small fishing boat (left) whilst the exterior has a maker's mark on the base (right).

- 3.3.6 Amongst the sherds of tin-glazed earthenware was one example weighing 3 grams from context (42) which had been modified in to a circular gaming counter.
- 3.3.7 Black wares (**BBG**) were the largest component of the post-medieval pottery assemblage amounting to 182 sherds weighing 6.249 kilograms. From this assemblage 97 sherds, weighing 2.404 kilograms were recovered from contexts (24) and (27) which were successive fills within pit [28]; dating from the other ware types (see above) would suggest a mid/late 18th century context for this pit. Many of the sherds from contexts (24) and (27) were undiagnostic body sherds; however, enough base and rim sherds were present to indicate a minimum of 4 tankards/drinking vessels, 2 jars, 2 dishes and a bowl. Context (41) was the only other context to produce sherds from a tankard/drinking vessel and the relatively high occurrence of this form in pit [28] does appear to be unusual for the site in general. The presence of the Harp and Crown Inn on Watergate Street 'next to Common-Hall Lane' is referred to in 1751 and the rear of this property would have been in the vicinity of the site.
- 3.3.8 Slipwares (**SLIPW**) were another large component of the assemblage with 59 sherds weighing 1.322 kilograms. As with other ware types, a significant part of this group was recovered from pit fills (24) and (27) amounting to 28 sherds weighing 580 grams. The group was dominated by press-moulded dishes with combed red and white slip decoration which are likely to date to after c.1700. A smaller component within the slipwares was represented by 5 examples of bowl forms from contexts (2), (24), (40) and (42) with trailed white slip decoration on the internal surfaces.
- 3.3.9 Unglazed red earthenware (**UNGRE**) was present in small quantities across many of the deposits and fills recorded during the excavations amounting to 24 sherds weighing 837 grams. Where a form could be attributed to sherds in this fabric it was consistently derived from sugar cone moulds with many sherds exhibiting evidence for shaving/smoothing with a blade on the internal surface. The group includes two

AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE POTTERY RECOVERED FROM AN EXCAVATION ON LAND AT CHRONICLE HOUSE, COMMONHALL STREET, CHESTER

rim sherds and one pierced base sherd (Plate 4) which are comparable to illustrated examples from 25 Bridge Street, Chester dated to the late 17th/early 18th century (Edwards, 2008, 221-2). Sugar refining in Chester appears to have begun in the second half of the 17th century and a 'sugar house' is marked on Lavaux's map of 1745 on Weaver's Lane in the vicinity of the site (ibid). In this light the presence of sugar cone mould fragments in the post-medieval assemblage is not entirely surprising.



Plate 4: Rim and base sherds from sugar cone moulds, recovered from contexts (27) and (41) respectively. Exterior view (left) interior view (right).

- 3.3.10 Brown stoneware (**BRWST**) represents a small (14 sherds, weighing 189 grams) but unusual element of the post-medieval pottery assemblage. This is because aside from undiagnostic body sherds there are 6 fragments of pottery kiln furniture in the group. These fragments were parts of hand-formed, ring-shaped, kiln spacers from pit fills (24) and (27) (Plate 5). The lack of any other kiln debris is unusual if the objects were to represent pottery manufacture in the vicinity of the site and it seems more likely that the objects are derived from elsewhere; for example, a short-lived stoneware manufacturer is documented on the southern side of the River Dee in Handbridge during the 18th century (Julie Edwards pers comm).
- 3.3.11 Slip-coated buff ware (**SCBW**) was developed from earlier mottled wares during the mid 18th century combining a fine buff coloured body with an iron-rich slip to produce a rich dark brown/black glaze. The excavation produced 36 sherds in this fabric weighing 596 grams; 30 of these sherds were recovered from pit fills (24) and (27). The identifiable vessel forms were of two tankards/drinking vessels and this perhaps compliments the vessels represented amongst the coarser black wares in pit [28].



Plate 5: Brown stoneware kiln spacer fragments recovered from mid/late 18th century pit fill (24)

3.3.12 Small quantities of other English mid 18th century finewares were present in the assemblage: Agate (**AGATE**) wares from contexts (2), (19), (27) and (40) included the base and handle sherds from a tankard/drinking vessel in pit fill (27); one handle sherd from a tea or coffee pot lid in Jackfield ware (**JACKFIELD**) was also recovered from context (27).



Plate 6: Westerwald German stoneware lid from context (41)

3.3.13 Imported material of a probable 18th century date was represented by a lid in a Westerwald (**WESTER**) German stoneware fabric with an external cobalt blue glaze

**AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE POTTERY RECOVERED FROM AN EXCAVATION
ON LAND AT CHRONICLE HOUSE, COMMONHALL STREET, CHESTER**

(Plate 6) from context (41); this might have been derived from either a tankard or a coffee/tea pot. Imported Chinese porcelain (**CHINPORC**) was also present (6 sherds weighing 49 grams) in context (19) and pit fills (24) and (27). The identifiable vessels in Chinese porcelain included a plate and two tea-bowls/cups all of which were embellished with hand-painted blue decoration (Plate 7). The rim to one tea-bowl/cup has an internal hatched band of decoration which is often referred to as '*café au lait*'; at Norwich tea-bowls with this style of decoration are attributed to c.1700-70 (Jennings, 1981, pp217-8); examples from 25 Bridge Street, Chester are dated late 17th/early 18th century (Edwards, 2008, 235-242).



Plate 7: Sherds of Chinese porcelain tea-bowls/cups (top left and right) and a dish (bottom left) recovered from pit fills (24) and (27).

- 3.3.14 Amongst the remaining post-medieval pottery was a small collection of earlier material which is likely to date to the 17th or very early 18th century. This included Midlands Yellow ware from contexts (2), (3), (19), (24) and (40) of which the only recognisable forms were two bowls from contexts (2) and (3) and a drug jar from context (40). Mottled wares dating to c.1680 onwards were recovered from contexts (11), (24), (27) and (42); these included sherds from at least one tankard in pit fill (27). A single body sherd of Midlands Purple was recovered from context (2).
- 3.3.15 Pottery dating to the 16th or early 17th century included a rim sherd in a Tudor Green fabric (**TUDG**) which is probably from a small jug from pit fill (24). Sherds of Cistercian ware (**CISTW**) were also recovered from contexts (2) and (23) and are probably all from drinking cups. One body sherd with a handle scar from context (2) was externally decorated with an elaborate trailed white slip design of dots and lines which had been stamped whilst the clay was still wet prior to firing (Plate 8).
- 3.3.16 The post-medieval pottery assemblage from the Chronicle House excavations can be seen as typical of material recovered from post-medieval deposits in Chester. However, much of the earlier 16th and 17th century material occurs residually in 18th and 19th century contexts and as such has little potential for further study in the context of this site. In contrast to this, there appears to be a rather well represented collection of mid/late 18th century material that is primarily from pit [28]. Unfortunately, owing to the nature of the excavation (a lift shaft pit) a significant part of pit [28] was outside the limits of the excavation. As such the assemblage from pit fills (24) and

**AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE POTTERY RECOVERED FROM AN EXCAVATION
ON LAND AT CHRONICLE HOUSE, COMMONHALL STREET, CHESTER**

(27) can only be seen as a sample (perhaps as little as 25%) of the pit as a whole. Whilst the 18th century group has produced some interesting insights in to the local manufacturing industry (such as the sugar cone mould fragments and the pottery kiln spacers) the assemblage is not large enough to warrant further statistical analysis. It should be retained as part of the permanent site archive.



Plate 8: Body sherd from a decorated 'Cistercian Ware' cup from context (2)

4. Potential

- 4.1 In general the pottery assemblage has limited potential for further analysis. The Roman pottery assemblage is of some interest as it suggests the potential for further Roman archaeology on the site. However, the small, fragmentary and largely residual nature of the material means that it has no potential for further study.
- 4.2 The medieval pottery assemblage is of some interest as it suggests the potential for further medieval archaeology on the site. However, the small and fragmentary nature of the material generally renders the potential for further analysis as very low and therefore it has no potential for further study.
- 4.3 The post-medieval pottery assemblage is also of some interest. One potentially closed pit assemblage from contexts (24) and (27) was identified but the potential for further analysis is limited owing to a sizeable portion of the pit being beyond the limits of the excavation and therefore it has low potential for further study at present. The pit group is comparable to larger 18th century assemblages from elsewhere in Chester (such as 25 Bridge Street) and could form a small but useful parallel group in the context of a larger city-wide study in the future.

5. Significance of the data

5.1 Roman

- 5.1.1 The 4 sherds of Roman pottery from the Chronicle House excavations are of local significance and indicate that the area was subject to some level of Roman occupation probably spanning the late 1st to late 4th century AD. This is unsurprising given the location of the site within the known legionary fortress plan.

5.2 Medieval

- 5.2.1 The 13 sherds of medieval pottery from the Chronicle House excavations are of local significance and can be seen as typical of material recovered from medieval deposits in the Chester area. It is a small and fragmentary group; however, it does indicate some level of occupation in the area during the medieval period.

5.3 Post-medieval

- 5.3.1 The post-medieval assemblage is generally of local significance with most of the material being fragmentary with a high level of residuality detected in many contexts. The exception being the potentially closed 18th century group from contexts (24) and (27); which may indicate the potential to recover good assemblages of post-medieval pottery during any larger scale excavation work in the vicinity. The range of forms and fabrics can be seen as typical of material recovered from post-medieval deposits in Chester. Nevertheless, the pit group is comparable to larger 18th century assemblages from elsewhere in Chester (such as 25 Bridge Street) and could form a small but useful parallel group in the context of a larger city-wide study in the future.

6. Revised Research Aims

6.1 Roman: None

6.2 Medieval: None.

6.3 Post-medieval: None.

7. Bibliography

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<http://www.eng-h.gov.uk/guidance/map2/>

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8. Key to Pottery Fabric codes

8.1 Key to Roman Pottery Fabric codes

Fabric Code	Fabric	Date
CESH GW	Cheshire Plains Grey ware	Late 1 st /2 nd century
HOL OX	Holt Orange ware	c. AD 90/100-130
HOL WS	Holt White-slipped Orange ware	c. AD 90/100-130

8.2 Key to Post-Roman Pottery Fabric codes

Fabric Code	Fabric	Date
AGATE	Agate ware	c.AD 1740+
BBG	Black & brown glazed ware	16 th to 19 th century
BRWST	Brown stoneware	17 th to 19 th century
CHINPORC	Chinese Porcelain	17 th to 19 th century
CISTW	Cistercian ware	16 th /17 th century
CREAM	Cream ware	c.AD 1760+
EWL PW	Ewloe pink/white ware	Late 14 th /16 th century
EWL RG	Ewloe red/grey ware	Late 14 th /16 th century
IRSWT	Iron-rich sandy ware - Table	13 th to 14 th century
JACKFIELD	Jackfield ware	c.AD 1740+
MIDP	Midlands Purple	16 th to 18 th century
MIDY	Midlands Yellow	17 th to 18 th century
MOTTW	Mottled ware	c.AD 1680+
PEARL	Pearl glazed earthenware	c.AD 1780+
SAINTONGE	Saintonge ware	14 th to 18 th century
SCBW	Slip-coated buff ware	c.AD 1740+
SLIPW	Slip ware	17 th to 19 th century
SPECKLED	Speckled ware	17 th century
TGEW	Tin-glazed earthenware	17 th to 18 th century
TUDG	Tudor Green Ware	16 th /17 th century
UNGRE	Unglazed red earthenware	18 th to 19 th century
WESTER	Westerwald stoneware	17 th /18 th century
WSGST	White salt-glazed stoneware	c.AD 1720+

AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE POTTERY RECOVERED FROM AN EXCAVATION ON LAND AT CHRONICLE HOUSE, COMMONHALL STREET, CHESTER

Context Fabric	2	3	11	19	21	23	24	27	29	40	41	42	43	60	Test Pit	Total
AGATE	1			1				3		2						7
BBG	24		2	7	2		68	29	4	22	5	17	1	1		182
BRWST	1			2			8	1			2					14
CHINPORC				1			3	2								6
CISTW	2					1										3
CREAM	9			8			3	3								23
JACKFIELD								1								1
MIDP	1															1
MIDY	5	4		1			2			1						13
MOTTW			3				4	4				4				15
PEARL	3				1		1		1					1		7
SCBW	1						10	20	1	1	1	2				36
SLIPW	5		3	3	2		25	3		7	1	10				59
SPECKLED	1									1						2
TGEW				2			27	15		7		6	1		1	59
TUDG							1									1
UNGRE	5	1		1	1		3	4	1	2	5	1				24
WESTER											2					2
WSGST							20	7	1	13	5	7	1		1	55
Total	58	5	8	26	6	1	175	92	8	56	21	47	3	2	2	510

Table 5: Post-medieval Pottery Fabrics by count

AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE POTTERY RECOVERED FROM AN EXCAVATION ON LAND AT CHRONICLE HOUSE, COMMONHALL STREET, CHESTER

Context	2	3	11	19	21	23	24	27	29	40	41	42	43	60	Test Pit	Total
Fabric																
AGATE	15			2				30		71						118
BBG	1089		52	165	83		1746	658	70	995	58	1262	47	24		6249
BRWST	8			31			115	15			20					189
CHINPORC				8			10	31								49
CISTW	32					15										47
CREAM	64			35			36	33								168
JACKFIELD								17								17
MIDP	14															14
MIDY	117	214		2			31			3						367
MOTTW			4				19	34				176				233
PEARL	22				10		3		6					2		43
SCBW	6						163	355	15	8	38	11				596
SLIPW	174		24	46	97		538	42		103	36	262				1322
SPECKLED	25									11						36
TGEW				26			248	336		50		32	3		4	699
TUDG							11									11
UNGRE	154	17		4	53		133	250	20	59	138	9				837
WESTER											20					20
WSGST							113	63	3	59	33	66	8		8	353
Total	1720	231	80	319	243	15	3166	1864	114	1359	343	1818	58	26	12	11368

Table 6: Post-medieval Pottery Fabrics by weight (in grams)

CLAY TOBACCO PIPE ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX 3

**AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE CLAY TOBACCO PIPE RECOVERED FROM
AN EXCAVATION ON LAND AT CHRONICLE HOUSE, COMMONHALL
STREET, CHESTER**

BY DAN GARNER BA, FSA, MCifA

21/04/15

Non-Technical Summary

This report details the assessment of the clay tobacco pipe archive for an excavation on land at Chronicle House, Commonhall Street, Chester, that was undertaken between October and November 2014 by L-P Archaeology.

The assessment has provided a chronology for the structural narrative of the site, however, the assemblage is not considered to be of a high enough quality to lend itself to more than basic statistical scrutiny. A full catalogue of the material submitted for assessment is contained within the digital site archive.

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2. The Clay Tobacco Pipe	2
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6. Revised Research Aims.....	4
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1. Introduction and Methodology

- 1.1 This report details an assessment of the clay tobacco pipe archive for an excavation on land at Chronicle House, Commonhall Street, Chester, CH1 2AA (NGR 340373 366184) that was undertaken between October and November 2014 by L-P Archaeology.
 - 1.2 The clay tobacco pipe has been fully catalogued to a level and standard that is in accordance with recommendations by English Heritage (1991).
 - 1.3 All the clay tobacco pipe was examined macroscopically and where necessary using a binocular microscope (x20) and was also separated by element within each context. Fragments were then recorded individually by count and weight on an Excel spreadsheet. The finds were briefly considered in relation to the stratigraphy, as understood from the site matrices, and with reference to other sites in the general area.
 - 1.4 Where possible any maker's stamps or bowl forms have been compared to the Chester type series published by Rutter and Davey in 1980.
-

2. The Clay Tobacco Pipe

- 2.1 A full catalogue of the clay tobacco pipe has been created on an Excel spreadsheet and will form part of the digital site archive.
- 2.2 A total of 86 fragments of clay tobacco pipe with a combined weight of 204 grams were identified in the finds assemblage and details of this are summarised in Tables 1 and 2 (below). The primary function of the material is in being able to suggest a chronology for the structural narrative of the site as it is too small to lend itself to other statistical analysis.

Context No.	Number of Fragments	Weight (grams)
2	6	14
11	4	11
19	11	29
24	28	65
26	1	3
27	10	23
29	2	5
40	10	22
41	5	8
42	8	20
60	1	4
Total	86	204

Table 1: Clay tobacco pipe fragments by context, count and weight

Context No.	Mouth piece Fragments	Stem Fragments	Bowl Fragments
2		6	
11		4	
19	1	10	
24	2	26	
26		1	
27	1	9	
29		2	
40		10	
41		5	
42		7	1
60		1	
Total	4	81	1

Table 2: Clay tobacco pipe fragments by context and element

- 2.3 From the total assemblage 81 fragments were pieces of pipe stem; four fragments were from pipe mouthpieces; whilst only one fragment was from an incomplete pipe bowl.
- 2.4 Five stem fragments from contexts (19), (24) and (40) had traces of 18th century border stamps all of which could be matched to the Chester type series during the assessment; these are detailed below in the Table 3.

Context No.	Stem Stamp	Date
19	Border stamp Fig. 61.101 Floral motif; and Oval 'Chester' stamp Fig. 56.42 (Rutter & Davey, 1980)	c.1740-60
19	Border stamp Fig. 58.33 Pinnacle and dot motif (Rutter & Davey, 1980)	c.1720-60
24	Border stamp Fig. 60.76 Tulip and Tendril motif; and Oval stamp 'crossed swords' (unidentified) (Rutter & Davey, 1980)	c.1710-30
24	Border stamp Fig. 62.107&108 Broad zoned decoration (Rutter & Davey, 1980)	c.1760-90
40	Border stamp Fig. 61.89 Floral and Tendril motif (Rutter & Davey, 1980)	c.1740-60

Table 3: Clay tobacco pipe border stamps

- 2.5 There was only one bowl fragment in the assemblage from context (42). This was incomplete and could not be accurately placed in the Chester form typology series and it could only be ascribed a general 18th century date.
- 2.8 The clay tobacco pipe assemblage from the Chronicle House excavation can be seen as typical of material recovered from post-medieval deposits in Chester. It is mainly an 18th century group with little or no earlier 17th century material occurring residually and no material from 19th century contexts; as such, the assemblage appears to be well stratified. Unfortunately, it is a relatively small group and is almost exclusively comprising of stem fragments; as a result it has little potential for further study in the context of this site. It should be retained as part of the permanent site archive.

4. Potential

- 4.1 The clay tobacco pipe assemblage is of some interest. It is potentially an entirely 18th century assemblage but the potential for further analysis is very low and therefore it has no potential for further study at present.

5. Significance of the data

- 5.1 The clay tobacco pipe assemblage is generally of local significance with most of the material being fragmentary. The range of forms and stamps can be seen as typical of material recovered from post-medieval deposits in Chester.

6. Revised Research Aims

- 6.1 Further excavation in the vicinity of the excavation is likely to yield a large assemblage of 18th century clay tobacco pipe. Analysis of a larger group might help to more accurately date the deposition of the assemblage and raise more significant trends in the range of forms present and the likely status of the material culture present.

7. Bibliography

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GLASS ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX 4

**AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE GLASS RECOVERED FROM AN EXCAVATION
ON LAND AT CHRONICLE HOUSE, COMMONHALL STREET, CHESTER**

BY DAN GARNER BA, FSA, MCIfA

21/04/15

Non-Technical Summary

This report details the assessment of the glass archive for an excavation on land at Chronicle House, Commonhall Street, Chester, that was undertaken between October and November 2014 by L – P : Archaeology.

The assessment has provided a chronology for the structural narrative of the site, however, the assemblage is not considered to be of a high enough quality to lend itself to more than basic statistical scrutiny. A full catalogue of the material submitted for assessment is contained within the digital site archive.

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2. The Glass	2
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1. Introduction and Methodology

- 1.1 This report details an assessment of the glass archive from an excavation on land at Chronicle House, Commonhall Street, Chester, CH1 2AA (NGR 340373 366184) that was undertaken between October and November 2014 by L – P : Archaeology.
 - 1.2 All of the material was marked with the generic site code CHE/CH'14.
 - 1.3 The glass has been fully catalogued to a level and standard that is in accordance recommendations by English Heritage (1991).
 - 1.4 All the glass was examined macroscopically and was also separated by element within each context. Fragments were then recorded individually by count and weight on an Excel spreadsheet. The finds were briefly considered in relation to the stratigraphy, as understood from the site matrices, and with reference to other sites in the general area.
 - 1.5 Where possible any maker's stamps or bottle forms have been compared to known and dated examples.
-

2. The Glass

- 2.1 A full catalogue of the glass has been created on an Excel spreadsheet and will form part of the digital site archive.
- 2.2 A total of 54 fragments of glass with a combined weight of 1.341 kilograms were identified in the finds assemblage and details of this are summarised in Table 1 (below). The primary function of the material is in being able to suggest a chronology for the structural narrative of the site as it is too small to lend itself to other statistical analysis.

Context No.	Number of Fragments	Weight (grams)
2	1	5
19	12	695
21	1	26
24	14	58
27	20	192
29	2	234
42	4	131
Total	54	1341

Table 1: Glass fragments by context, count and weight

- 2.3 From the total assemblage 30 fragments were pieces of window glass weighing 129 grams. The remaining 24 fragments were incomplete pieces from glass vessels: 22 fragments represented bottles fragments; 1 fragment was from a phial; and 1 fragment was from a stemmed drinking glass. No maker's marks were present in the assemblage and nor were any vessels marked with the product or manufacturers details. Much of the glass assemblage dates to the 18th century and to a large extent compliments the date of the material in the pottery assemblage (discussed separately).
- 2.4 All of the window glass was recovered from contexts (24), (27) and (42). Amongst the window glass the majority of fragments were in clear glass and ranged in thickness between 1.2mm and 4.6mm. Two joining fragments of medieval window glass (weighing 4 grams) were recovered as residual finds from context (24); these fragments were badly degraded but traces of 'grozing' were identified along 1 edge indicating the glass had been shaped for insertion in to a lead window came (the fragments were 2.6mm thick).
- 2.5 Amongst the bottle glass fragments there were a group of neck and base fragments from context (19) which were dateable to the second half of the 18th century. This included the base from an apothecary's phial or medicine bottle (dated c.1740-80) and the base to an octagonal bottle that had probably contained spirits such as gin. The remaining fragments in this group were from wine bottles (dated c.1770-1800): one neck fragment had a down-tooled lip and string; and eight base fragments were from two bottles with push-up bases. Another wine bottle neck fragment (dated c.1770-1800) was recovered from context (27); this also had a down-tooled lip and string.
-

- 2.6 Earlier vessel glass in the form of a bottle base in green glass from context (29) and a neck in green glass from context (42) were derived from an onion-shaped wine bottle form that dates to c.1680-1730.
- 2.7 A single fragment of leaded glass weighing 18 grams was recovered from context (27). This represented the stem from a drinking goblet and is likely to date to the 18th century.
- 2.8 The glass assemblage from the excavation can be seen as typical of material recovered from post-medieval deposits in Chester. However, it is mainly derived from a group of contexts which appear to be mid/late 18th century in date; perhaps indicating debris from domestic occupation on the site. The earlier wine bottle forms and fragments of medieval window glass being residual artefacts.

3. Potential

- 3.1 The glass assemblage has little potential for further study in the context of this site. However, if further excavation was undertaken in this area it can be anticipated that a significant assemblage of 18th glass might be recovered.

4. Significance of the data

- 4.1 The glass assemblage is generally of local significance with most of the material being fragmentary with some residuality in most contexts. However, the bulk of the group appears to date to the second half of the 18th century and might represent debris from domestic occupation on the site. As such, the assemblage can be seen to contribute to the story of the site. The range of forms and decoration can be seen as typical of material recovered from post-medieval deposits in Cheshire.

5. Revised Research Aims

- 5.1 None.

6. Bibliography

English Heritage (1991). *Management of Archaeological Projects 2*. Available at: <http://www.eng-h.gov.uk/guidance/map2/>

Willmott H (2008). *Medieval and Post-medieval Glass*. In Garner D et al (2008), *Excavations at Chester: 25 Bridge Street 2001. Two Thousand Years of Urban Life in Microcosm*. Archaeological Service Excavation & Survey Report No.14. Chester City Council.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX 5

**AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL RECOVERED
FROM AN EXCAVATION ON LAND AT CHRONICLE HOUSE, COMMONHALL
STREET, CHESTER**

BY DAN GARNER BA, FSA, MCIfA

21/04/15

Non-Technical Summary

This report details the assessment of the ceramic building material archive for an excavation on land at Chronicle House, Commonhall Street, Chester, that was undertaken between October and November 2014 by L-P Archaeology. Ceramic building materials of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date have been identified in the archive material.

The assessment has provided a chronology for the structural narrative of the site, however, the assemblage is not considered to be of a high enough quality to lend itself to more than basic statistical scrutiny. A full catalogue of the material submitted for assessment is contained within the digital site archive.

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1. Introduction and Methodology

- 1.1 This report details an assessment of the ceramic building material archive for an from an excavation on land at Chronicle House, Commonhall Street, Chester, CH1 2AA (NGR 340373 366184) that was undertaken between October and November 2014 by L – P : Archaeology.. Ceramic building material (CBM) of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date has been identified in the assemblage.
- 1.2 The CBM was assessed in terms of quantity, range, condition, source and date range and was recorded to the level set out in section 2.6 of the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG) minimum standards draft document for the recovery, curation, analysis and publication of CBM (Hunter Mann, 2001).
- 1.3 All the ceramic building material was examined macroscopically and was also separated by fabric type within each context and quantified by the form. Fragments were then recorded individually by fragment count and weight on an Excel spreadsheet. The finds were briefly considered in relation to the stratigraphy, as understood from the site matrices, and with reference to other sites in the general area.

2. Roman Ceramic Building Material

- 2.1 A full catalogue of the Roman ceramic building material (CBM) has been created on an Excel spreadsheet and will form part of the digital site archive. All of the Roman CBM was in a local Holt fabric and no further fabric analysis has been attempted as part of the assessment.
- 2.2 A total of 47 fragments of Roman CBM with a combined weight of 4.747 kilograms were identified in the CBM assemblage and details of this are summarised in Table 1 (below); this represents 65.3% by count and 49.4% by weight of the total CBM assemblage from the site. In terms of size, the Roman CBM assemblage is rather small to lend itself to more detailed statistical analysis.

Form Context	Imbrex	Tegula	Opus Spicatum	Indet	Total
2	1	2			3
3		1			1
19			1		1
23		2			2
24	2	1		1	4
27	1				1
29		2			2
30	1	2		4	7
31	1				1
32		10		11	21
33		1		1	2
42	1	1			2
Total	7	22	1	17	47

Table 1: Roman CBM by context, form and fragment count

- 2.3 The Roman CBM assemblage from the Chronicle House site came from 12 stratified contexts from 4 excavation trenches; all of which were considered to be post-Roman in date. Therefore the Roman assemblage from the excavation is completely residual.
- 2.4 The CBM has no potential to add to the suggested chronology provided by the pottery for the structural narrative of the site; in particular there were no examples of the classification of the lower cut-a-way type on fragments of *tegula* which can now be broadly dated.
- 2.5 The fragments of *imbrex*/ridge tile which could be identified amounted to a total of 14.9% by count (7 fragments) and 13.7% by weight (651 grams) of the Roman CBM assemblage. In spite of there being plenty of examples of edge, corner and end fragments in the *imbrex* assemblage there were no examples of signature marks, decoration, stamps or tally marks noted on the *imbrex* fragments.

AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE CBM RECOVERED FROM AN EXCAVATION ON LAND AT CHRONICLE HOUSE, COMMONHALL STREET, CHESTER

- 2.6 *Tegula* fragments amounted to a total of 46.8% by count (22 fragments) and 63.2% by weight (3.002 kilograms) of the Roman CBM assemblage. Amongst the *tegula* assemblage were 9 flange fragments, of which none had evidence for a lower cut-away.
- 2.7 Amongst the *tegula* fragments there were no examples bearing signature marks or legionary stamps. One fragment of *tegula* from context (30) had an upper surface that was pock-marked as the result of exposure to rain prior to firing.
- 2.8 One fragment of Roman CBM from context (19) appeared to be a piece of *Opus Spicatum* as used in the production of herring-bone flooring. The object had lime mortar adhering to both surfaces which might support this origin.
- 2.9 When considered as a whole the Roman CBM assemblage can only be broadly dated from the late 1st century to the late 3rd/4th century AD. The assemblage can be seen as a small but significant group for the western part of the Roman legionary fortress at Chester. Further statistical or spatial analysis of the material is unlikely to enhance the understanding of the assemblage in terms of this site.
- 2.10 After consultation with Alison Heke from the Chester Historic Environment Team it is suggested that any recognisable forms or marked fragments from the residual Roman assemblage should be retained as part of the permanent site archive. Therefore, it is recommended to only discard indeterminate fragments recovered from non-Roman contexts or found unstratified.

3. Post-Roman Ceramic Building Material

3.1 A full catalogue of the post-Roman pottery has been created on an Excel spreadsheet and will form part of the digital site archive.

3.2 The Medieval CBM (11th to 15th century)

3.2.1 A total of 15 fragments of medieval CBM with a combined weight of 1.159 kilograms were identified in the ceramic assemblage and details of this are summarised in Table 2 (below); this represents 20.8% by count and 12.1% by weight of the total CBM assemblage. A total of 5 floor tile fragments were recovered from contexts (30) and (41); the 4 floor tile fragments from context (30) are considered to be from a medieval deposit. Only 1 fragment, from context (41), was from a decorated floor tile; and this was the upper right-hand corner of a line-impressed design with splashes of olive green glaze still present. The design did not survive well enough to attempt identification.

Context \ Form	Floor tile	Ridge tile	Total
27		5	5
29		1	1
30	4	3	7
31		1	1
41	1		1
Total	5	10	15

Table 2: Medieval CBM by context, form and fragment count

3.2.2 The other 10 fragments of medieval CBM were all derived from glazed ridge tiles in a pink-white Ewloe fabric (EWLPW) or a local iron-rich sandy fabric. The Ewloe products are broadly dated to the late 14th to 16th century. Three of the fragments in a local iron-rich sandy fabric were recovered from phased medieval contexts (30) and (31).

3.2.3 The medieval CBM assemblage from the Chronicle House excavation can be seen as typical of material recovered from medieval deposits in Chester. However, it is a small and fragmentary group and as such warrants no further study in the context of this site. It should be retained as part of the permanent site archive.

3.3 The Post-Medieval CBM (16th to 19th century)

3.3.1 A total of 10 fragments of post-medieval CBM with a combined weight of 3.702 kilograms were identified in the ceramic assemblage and details of this are summarised in Table 3 (below); this represents 13.8% by count and 38.5% by weight of the total CBM assemblage from the Chronicle House site. This material came from contexts 2, 19, 27, 29, 40 and 41. The assemblage seems somewhat small

AN ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE CBM RECOVERED FROM AN EXCAVATION ON LAND AT CHRONICLE HOUSE, COMMONHALL STREET, CHESTER

considering the amount of post-medieval pottery recovered from the site and this would suggest that the collection strategy for the post-medieval CBM was deliberately selective.

Form Context	Brick	Ridge tile	Roof tile (Flat)	Wall tile	Indet	Total
2	1					1
19		2				2
27	1			1	1	3
29	1	1				2
40			1			1
41	1					1
Total	4	3	1	1	1	10

Table 3: Post-medieval CBM by context, form and fragment count

- 3.3.2 There were a total of 4 handmade brick fragments in the post-medieval CBM assemblage. Three examples from contexts (2), (27) and (29) were complete enough to be able to measure thickness and of these 1 measured 45mm, 1 measured 50mm, and 1 measured 54mm thick. These are relatively thin bricks and may be early examples but are unfortunately residual finds. The brick fragment from context (27) was complete enough to recover full dimensions (Length: 227mm; Width: 110mm; Thickness: 50mm). The brick fragment from context (2) also had a width of 111mm and a single perforation.
- 3.3.3 Amongst the remaining post-medieval material there were 3 fragments of ridge tile from contexts (19) and (29) all of which had an iron-rich glaze on the exterior surface. There was also a single fragment of unglazed flat roof-tile from context (40) which had a shaped nib on one edge to facilitate hanging.
- 3.3.4 A single fragment of an Anglo-Dutch tin-glazed earthenware wall tile was recovered from context (27). This was hand painted with a decorated scene including the head and shoulders of a human figure (see Plate 1); probably 17th or early 18th century in date.
- 3.3.5 The post-medieval CBM assemblage from the Chronicle House excavation can be seen as typical of material recovered from post-medieval deposits in Chester. However, it is a rather small group and as such has little potential for further study in the context of this site.

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Plate 1: Tin-glazed wall tile from context (27)

4. Potential

- 4.1 In general, the CBM assemblage has limited potential for further analysis. The Roman CBM assemblage recovered from the excavation shows a high proportion of roof-tile components and this is not surprising as Roman buildings with tiled roofs are known to have stood in the vicinity of the site. The single fragment of *Opus Spicatum* is of potential interest as it implies the presence of a Roman building with herring-bone flooring in the vicinity.
- 4.2 The medieval CBM assemblage is of some interest, however, the potential for further analysis is very low owing to the small size of the assemblage; therefore it has no potential for further study at present.
- 4.3 The post-medieval CBM assemblage is of some interest. The presence of early handmade brick (perhaps dating to as early as the 16th century) is becoming increasingly well evidenced in Chester at sites such as 25 Bridge Street (Edwards, 2008, 158-162). It is unclear at present whether this debris is associated with entirely brick-built structures or represents early use of brick for the construction of fire-places and chimney stacks within otherwise timber-framed buildings. The brick fragments from the Chronicle House excavation can be seen as residual artefacts as they were all recovered from demonstrably 18th century contexts.
- 4.4 The fragment of unglazed flat roof tile with evidence for a hanging nib is unusual for Chester as by the post-medieval period (post 1671) it is thought that most buildings would have been covered by slate roofs; with ceramic tiles only being used on the ridge (Edwards, 2008, 162-3).
- 4.5 The tin-glazed wall tile is an unusual find and perhaps derives from a decorated panel in a fire-place surround. A parallel for the design could not be found during the assessment but the object should be illustrated if the excavation was to be published at a future date.

5. Significance of the data

5.1 Roman

5.1.1 The fragments of Roman CBM from the Chronicle House site are of local/regional significance and indicate the presence of buildings roofed with ceramic tiles in the vicinity; probably spanning the late 1st to late 4th century AD. It is recommended that any recognisable forms or marked fragments from the residual Roman assemblage should be retained as part of the permanent site archive.

5.2 Medieval

5.2.1 The 15 fragments of medieval CBM from the Chronicle House excavation are of local significance. It can be seen as typical of material recovered from medieval deposits in Chester and indicates occupation in the area during the medieval period. It is recommended that all of the medieval assemblage should be retained as part of the permanent site archive.

5.3 Post-medieval

5.3.1 The post-medieval assemblage is generally of local significance with most of the material being fragmentary with a high level of residuality detected in most contexts. The range of forms and fabrics can be seen as typical of material recovered from post-medieval deposits in Chester with the exception of the flat roof tile and decorated wall tile fragments. The decorated tin-glazed wall tile is a slightly more unusual find and perhaps derives from a decorated panel in a fire-place surround. It is recommended that any recognisable forms or decorated fragments from the post-medieval assemblage should be retained as part of the permanent site archive.

6. Revised Research Aims

6.1 Roman: None.

6.2 Medieval: None.

6.3 Post-medieval: None.

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FAUNAL REMAINS ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX 6

**An Assessment Report on the Faunal Remains and Shell
Recovered from the Site of Chronicle House**

Non Technical Summary

This document is an assessment on the faunal assemblage recovered during excavations carried out at Chronicle House, Commonhall Street, Chester (NGR 340373,366184).

Four mammal species were identified: cow, pig, sheep and dog. Chicken and oyster were also present in the assemblage. It is clear that this assemblage represents domestic kitchen waste from the Medieval period and Post Medieval period.

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Introduction and Methodology

This document forms an assessment on the faunal assemblage recovered during excavations carried out at Chronicle House, Commonhall Street, Chester (NGR 340373,366184) during October and November 2014 by L – P : Archaeology.

The assemblage contains marine shell, mammal and bird bone and has been catalogued in line with English Heritage recommendations (2014).

The assemblage was examined macroscopically and entered into a catalogue spreadsheet, attached as an appendix to this assessment. The catalogue is organised by context. Where multiple skeletal elements are present within a context, such as a number of femur fragments of the same species, these have been recorded by count and total weight. Otherwise skeletal elements have been recorded individually.

A total of 235 skeletal fragments were recovered from the site, totalling 3.54kg in weight. Eighteen shell fragments were also recovered, totalling 0.45kg.

Four mammal species were identified: cow, pig, sheep and dog. Chicken and oyster were also present in the assemblage.

The Assemblage

The assemblage will be discussed by context below, with a summary by species at the end of this section.

Context (02) contained pig (*Sus scrofa domesticus*) rib, femur and phalange, sheep (*Ovis aries*) tibia and humerus, cattle (*Bos taurus*) phalange and vertebrae, and chicken (*Gallus gallus*) tibia as well as oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shell. These are all common kitchen waste materials from meat producing animals. The ceramic finds from the deposit suggest a Post Medieval date of around the 19th to 20th century. This would tally with the type of saw marks present on the larger bone material.

Context (03) contained cattle tibia and chicken tibia and humerus, typical of Post Medieval kitchen waste.

Context (11) included cattle tibia, pig metacarpal and chicken pelvis. There

were limited finds present, but clear signs of butchery were present suggesting Post Medieval to modern kitchen waste.

Context (19) produced oyster shell, pig rib, scapula and a fragment of humerus. Of note 2 incomplete dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*) skeletons were also present. The canid bones recovered included mandible, scapula, humerus, radius, ulna, vertebrae, pelvis, femur, tibia, tail, metatarsals, calcaneus, phalanges. The dogs were clearly adult, but of a small breed, such as terriers. The layer has been interpreted as a layer of builder's rubble from the construction of Chronicle house. This would indicate that the bones are more than likely redeposited.

Context (21) only contained two oyster incomplete valves. This is thought to be a late Post Medieval or modern (18th to 19th century) pit fill.

Context (23) contained a single fragment of chicken vertebrae. The deposit has been suggested as being of 16th to 17th century in date.

Context (24) contained badly degraded and fragmented pig rib, radius, scapula, vertebrae, humerus and talus as well as chicken wings, fragments of cattle rib and leg and oyster shell. This is clearly a Post Medieval kitchen waste assemblage, possibly late 18th century.

Context (27) is thought to be a late 18th century deposit, which produced oyster shell, sheep mandible, pig humerus and cattle mandible, pelvis, rib, vertebrae and tibia. This form of assemblage is more indicative of butchery waste than kitchen waste. The deposit is thought to be 18th century in date.

Context (29) contained small fragments of pig mandible and a single pig phalange indicative of Post Medieval butchery waste.

Context (30) produced oyster shell, pig humerus, dog radius/ulna, femur and metatarsal, sheep teeth, humerus and metatarsal, cattle tibia fragments and rib fragments. It is thought that this may be a Medieval deposit and much of the faunal assemblage is typical of Medieval kitchen waste. The dog skeleton from this deposit was of a larger breed of dog, more akin to a collie in size. It is likely that this represents a redeposited dog burial as part of a wider activity

dating to the Medieval period.

Context (31) contained oyster shell, chicken ribs, cattle ribs, metacarpals, intermediate phalange and femur, along with sheep tibia. These are common kitchen waste elements. The deposit has been postulated as Medieval in date or redeposited Medieval material.

Context (32) had a small assemblage of two cattle bones, tibia and vertebrae as well as oyster shell.

Context (33) also contained only two bones, a cattle phalange and chicken radius. These are likely kitchen waste remains.

Context (40) is thought to be a 17th to 18th century layer, which contained a high quantity of faunal remains. Much of this was from cattle, including 26 fragments of rib, one phalange, two humerus, two vertebrae, a tarsal and calcaneus, scapula, metacarpal and metatarsal, as well as a tooth with part of mandible attached. Also present was pig humerus fragments, pig tibia and scapula, sheep mandible, humerus and tibia. All of the animals identified within this deposits were meat bearing, and showing evidence of butchery. It is clear that this represents kitchen waste.

Context (41) contained oyster shell, cattle ulna, scapula and cranial fragments.

Context (42) produced seven fragments of undiagnostic long bone, possibly from pig, pig femur, pelvis, cervical vertebrae, cattle rib, vertebrae and scapula, chicken rib and femur and a sheep mandible with teeth. This context contains domestic species of animal, which are typical of Post Medieval kitchen table remains including: pig, cattle, lamb and chicken. The cuts derived from this type of assemblage would be ham and shank of pig, neck, flank and leg.

Context (43) contains cattle tibia and teeth as well as sheep rib, teeth, mandible and tibia fragments. Saw marks present on the bones suggest Post Medieval butchery.

Context (60) produced a single butchered cattle tibia.

Assessment & Summary

The shell assemblage for Chronicle House is interesting as it only contained oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shell fragments; a total of 18. Typically sites from Chester also produce freshwater mussel and cockle shell, as all three were common species found and collected from the river Dee. The lack of mussel and cockle in the assemblage may be a result of the acidic soil conditions leading to poor survival.

The bird bones were all represented by chicken (*Gallus gallus*) and have been defined as domestic kitchen waste.

The mammal bones within the assemblage came from four species, cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep (*Ovis aries*), pig (*Sus scrofa domesticus*) and dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*). The first three species, cattle, sheep and pig are all representative of meat bearing animals common as domestic kitchen waste. Butchery marks on many of the bones support this interpretation. Much of the material comes from Post Medieval layers. However, context (30) and (31) are both thought to have Medieval potential.

The dog remains form two distinct types. Context (30) appears to have a redeposited dog burial of a mid sized adult animal. However, context (19) contained burnt dog bones from two small adult dogs. These appear to have been cooked and, as they are thought to be redeposited bones in a later Post Medieval deposit, potentially represent consumption of dog from an earlier period.

Conclusions

It is clear that this assemblage represents domestic kitchen waste from the Medieval period and Post Medieval period. The majority of the faunal remains come from cattle, pig and sheep with chicken and oyster also present.

Butchery marks on the bones are typically saw cuts common from the Post Medieval period onwards. Only two deposits, (30) and (31) are thought to be Medieval in date. The presence of domestic kitchen remains such as cattle, pig and sheep from these contexts would not be out of place for a Medieval

deposit. However, other game species, such as deer and boar are often encountered. The fact that these are absent may be due to the small investigative nature of the archaeological works and/or the social status of the Medieval resident. Lower status individuals would not have access to game meats.

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Catalogue

Faunal Assemblage catalogue

Context	Count	Subfamily	Genus	Species/subspecies	Item	Description	Weight (g)
(02)	4	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Rib	Four fragments of pig rib	35
(02)	1	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Femur	Portion of distal end of pig femur	25
(02)	1	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Phalange	3 rd 4 th phalange	2
(02)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Phalange	3 rd 4 th phalange fragment	13
(02)	2	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Vertebrae	fragments of cattle vertebrae	22
(02)	2	Caprinae	Ovis	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Tibia	Sheep tibia fragments	22
(02)	2	Caprinae	Ovis	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Humerus	Sheep humerus fragments	29
(02)	4	Phasianinae	Gallus	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Tibia	Four chicken tibia fragments	5
(03)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Tibia	Proximal end of cattle tibia, saw marks	97
(03)	1	Phasianinae	Gallus	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Humerus	Chicken humerus	2
(03)	1	Phasianinae	Gallus	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Tibia	Chicken tibia, fragmented	4
(11)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Tibia	Fragment of proximal end of cattle tibia, deep butchery cuts present	47
(11)	1	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Humerus	Fragment of pig humerus, deep butchery cuts present	9
(11)	1	Phasianinae	Gallus	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Pelvis	Fragment of chicken pelvis	1
(19)	2	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Rib	Two fragments of pig rib	14
(19)	2	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Scapula	Two fragments of pig scapula	8
(19)	1	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Humerus	Fragment of pig humerus	23
(19)	5	Canidae	Canis	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Mandible	Fragments of dog mandible with teeth in place	4
(19)	1	Canidae	Canis	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Scapula	Small fragment of dog scapula	1
(19)	3	Canidae	Canis	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Humerus	Fragments of dog humerus	4
(19)	3	Canidae	Canis	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Radius	Fragments of dog radius	4
(19)	3	Canidae	Canis	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Ulna	Fragments of dog ulna	3
(19)	1	Canidae	Canis	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Pelvis	Small fragment of dog pelvis	1
(19)	1	Canidae	Canis	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Femur	Fragments of dog femur	2
(19)	4	Canidae	Canis	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Tibia	Fragments of dog tibia	8
(19)	2	Canidae	Canis	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Calcaneus	Two dog calcanei	1
(19)	2	Canidae	Canis	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Vertebrae	Thoracic vertebrae	1
(19)	1	Canidae	Canis	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Vertebrae	Caudal vertebrae	1
(19)	4	Canidae	Canis	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Metatarsal	Four dog metatarsals	2
(19)	2	Canidae	Canis	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Phalange	Two dog phalanges	1
(19)	5	Canidae	Canis	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Ribs	Five fragments of dog ribs	1
(23)	1	Phasianinae	Gallus	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Vertebrae	Fragment of chicken vertebrae	3
(24)	3	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Rib	Fragments of pig rib	8
(24)	1	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Radius	Fragment of pig radius, proximal end	10
(24)	1	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Scapula	Fragment of pig scapula, proximal end	4
(24)	2	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Vertebrae	Fragment of pig vertebrae	10
(24)	1	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Humerus	Fragment of pig humerus shaft	8
(24)	1	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Talus	Pig talus	7

Faunal Assemblage catalogue

(24)	5	Phasianinae	Gallus	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Humerus	Fragments of chicken wing	2
(24)	1	Phasianinae	Gallus	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Pelvis	Fragment of chicken pelvis	1
(24)	2	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Humerus	Fragments of butchered cattle humerus	204
(24)	3	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Rib	Partial cattle ribs	84
(24)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Pelvis	Small fragment of iliac crest of cattle pelvis	23
(27)	1	Caprinae	Ovis	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Mandible	Fragment of sheep mandible	3
(27)	2	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Mandible	Two fragments of bovine mandible	106
(27)	2	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Pelvis	Two fragments of bovine pelvis	58
(27)	6	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Rib	Five fragments of bovine rib	60
(27)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Vertebrae	Partial bovine vertebrae	61
(27)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Tibia	Fragment of bovine tibia, distal end	38
(27)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Metatarsal	Fragments of bovine metatarsal	58
(27)	2	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Humerus	Two fragments of pig humerus	28
(29)	1	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Phalange	Pig phalange	1
(29)	2	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Mandible	Two fragments of pig mandible	14
(30)	1	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Humerus	One fragment of degraded pig humerus	2
(30)	1	Canidae	Canis	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Radius/Ulna	Fused radius ulna of dog	3
(30)	1	Canidae	Canis	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Metatarsal	One dog metatarsal	1
(30)	1	Canidae	Canis	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	Femur	Fragment of dog femur	3
(30)	2	Caprinae	Ovis	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Teeth	Two sheep tooth, one molar one incisor	6
(30)	1	Caprinae	Ovis	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Metatarsal	One sheep metatarsal, distal end only	15
(30)	2	Caprinae	Ovis	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Humerus	Two fragments of sheep humerus, distal end	28
(30)	6	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Tibia	Six fragments of cattle tibia	143
(30)	2	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Rib	Two fragments of cattle rib	31
(31)	2	Phasianinae	Gallus	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Rib	Two chicken ribs	2
(31)	6	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Rib	Six fragments of bovine rib	53
(31)	3	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Metacarpal	Three fragments of bovine metacarpals, distal ends only	194
(31)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Intermediate Phalange	Bovine intermediate phalange	18
(31)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Femur	Badly degraded bovine femur, Proximal end only	40
(31)	3	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Femur	Fragments of femur shaft, badly degraded	73
(31)	1	Caprinae	Ovis	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Tibia	Sheep tibia	21
(32)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Tibia	Fragment of cattle tibia	26
(32)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Vertebrae	Fragment of cattle vertebrae	8
(33)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Phalange	Bovine phalange	15
(33)	1	Phasianinae	Gallus	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Radius	Chicken radius	1
(40)	26	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Rib	Twenty six cattle rib fragments	297
(40)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Phalange	A single cattle phalange	16

Faunal Assemblage catalogue

(40)	2	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Humerus	Two cattle humerus fragments	9
(40)	2	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Vertebrae	Two fragments of cattle vertebrae	39
(40)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Tarsal	Cattle 4 th tarsal	27
(40)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Calcaneus	Cattle calcaneus	34
(40)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Scapula	Cattle scapula	199
(40)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Metacarpal	Cattle metacarpal fragment	20
(40)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Tooth	Cattle tooth with part of mandible attached	21
(40)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Metatarsal	Fragment of cattle metatarsal, saw marks present	31
(40)	3	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Humerus	Three pig humerus fragments with saw marks	37
(40)	1	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Tibia	Fragment of distal end of pig tibia	1
(40)	1	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Scapula	Fragment of pig scapula, proximal end	10
(40)	3	Caprinae	Ovis	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Tibia	Three partial sheep tibia	61
(40)	2	Caprinae	Ovis	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Humerus	Two partial sheep humerus	22
(40)	1	Caprinae	Ovis	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Mandible	Fragment of young sheep mandible with teeth (lamb)	8
(41)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Ulna	Fragment of cattle ulna	74
(41)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Scapula	Fragment of cattle scapula	13
(41)	2	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Cranium	Two cattle cranial fragments	48
(42)	7	Undiagnostic	Undiagnostic	<i>Undiagnostic</i>	Long bone	Seven fragments of undiagnostic long bones	12
(42)	7	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Rib	Seven fragments of bovine rib	99
(42)	1	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Femur	Proximal end of pig femur. Saw marks present on shaft	15
(42)	2	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Vertebrae	Two fragments of bovine vertebrae, with saw marks	50
(42)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Scapula	Fragment of bovine scapula, sawn	39
(42)	5	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Pelvis	Fragments of pig pelvis	66
(42)	1	Suinae	Sus	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Cervical vertebrae	Pig cervical vertebrae fragment	7
(42)	1	Caprinae	Ovis	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Mandible	Fragment of mandibular ramus of sheep	7
(42)	2	Caprinae	Ovis	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Teeth	Two sheep molars	14
(42)	2	Phasianinae	Gallus	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Rib	Two fragments of chicken rib	2
(42)	2	Phasianinae	Gallus	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Femur	Two fragments of chicken femur	2
(43)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Tibia	Fragment of cattle tibia, saw marks present	211
(43)	2	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Teeth	Two cattle teeth	19
(43)	1	Caprinae	Ovis	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Rib	Sheep rib fragment	8
(43)	1	Caprinae	Ovis	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Teeth	Sheep's tooth	2
(43)	1	Caprinae	Ovis	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Mandible	Fragment of sheep mandible	4
(43)	1	Caprinae	Ovis	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Tibia	Fragment of sheep tibia	2
(60)	1	Bovinae	Bos	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Tibia	Cattle tibia, saw marks present on shaft	147
Total count:	235					Total weight:	3539

Shell Assemblage Catalogue

Context	Count	Subfamily	Genus	Species	Item	Description	Weight (g)
(02)	4	Ostreidae	Ostrea	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Left valve	Two halves of separate oyster shells	132
(19)	1	Ostreidae	Ostrea	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Left valve	Half of oyster shell	19
(21)	2	Ostreidae	Ostrea	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Two valves	Both right and left valves, incomplete	54
(24)	3	Ostreidae	Ostrea	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Two valves	Two fragments of left valve, one fragment of right valve	93
(27)	3	Ostreidae	Ostrea	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Two valves	Two fragments of right valve, one fragment of left valve	99
(30)	1	Ostreidae	Ostrea	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Right valve	Fragment of Oyster shell	3
(31)	1	Ostreidae	Ostrea	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Left valve	Fragment of Oyster shell	14
(32)	1	Ostreidae	Ostrea	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Right valve	Fragment of Oyster shell	4
(41)	2	Ostreidae	Ostrea	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Right valve	Fragment of Oyster shell	37
Total count:	18					Total weight:	455