

Archaeological Evaluation Report

# **RED LION HOTEL MALPAS**

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For The Red Lion at Malpas Ltd.

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R Matthews BSc PCIfA

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report

# RED LION HOTEL MALPAS

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Client: The Red Lion at Malpas Ltd.

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Local Authority: Cheshire West and Cheshire Council

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NGR: 348798, 347225

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Planning App: Pre-Planning

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Author(s): R. Matthews

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## L-P: ARCHAEOLOGY

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# Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at the Red Lion Hotel, Old Hall Street, Malpas, Cheshire. The evaluation was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. The work was carried out by L - P : Archaeology. This report has been prepared by Rachael Matthews of L – P : Archaeology on behalf of The Red Lion at Malpas Ltd.

The site lies within the historic Medieval core of Malpas, falling in both the Malpas Conservation Area and the Malpas Area of Archaeological Potential. A possible Roman road lies to the immediate west of the site and multiple Listed building are within a 500m radius of the site.

The objectives of the evaluation were to establish whether any archaeological remains were present on the site and to appropriately record the deposits and features; collecting palaeo-environmental samples if relevant.

The evaluation identified the remains of Post Medieval activity, including sandstone and red brick buildings, seen on the 1898 Ordnance survey map, multiple pits and post holes and 20<sup>th</sup> century services. Post Medieval ceramics were retrieved from Trenches 1, 2 and 3.

It is suggested that a targeted watching brief during ground works associated with the construction of the proposed development would be required as a condition of planning consent.

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This evaluation report has been prepared by Rachael Matthews of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of The Red Lion at Malpas Ltd, to support a planning application for modification and extension of the existing Red Lion Hotel.
- 1.2. The fieldwork was managed by Dan Garner, and carried out by Chris Matthews and Rachael Matthews of L – P : Archaeology between 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2018; consisting of four evaluation trenches, within the carpark and gardens of the pub.
- 1.3. The site is located in the grounds of the Red Lion, Old Hall Street, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 8NE, at grid reference NGR (SJ) 348798,347225 (FIGURE 1).
- 1.4. The site code allocated by LP2785C.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by L – P : Archaeology (GARNER, 2018) and Cheshire County Council's revised General Conditions for Archaeological Contractors and Consultants (APRIL 2003) in conjunction with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation (CIFA, 2014).

## 2. Site Background

### 2.1.PLANNING

- 2.1.1. A planning application is being submitted for re-development at the Red Lion Hotel, Malpas. In support of this application an archaeological evaluation was required on the site comprising of alterations and extensions to the pub/hotel and curtilage outbuildings, which will include a new bedroom annex for hotel guests.
- 2.1.2. The site falls within the historic Medieval core of Malpas. It is within both the Malpas Conservation Area and the Malpas Area of Archaeological Potential (CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, 2003).
- 2.1.3. A Scheduled Monument, Castle Hill Motte (1012105), a Norman motte and bailey castle, lies c.150m to the west of the site; as does the Grade I Listed Church of St Oswald on Church Street. The Grade II Listed Malpas Cross lies approximately 30m west of the site and on the southwest edge of the site is the Grade II Listed building known as Tudor Cottage.
- 2.1.4. In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DCLG, 2012). Section 12 of this document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment.
- 2.1.5. 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.
- 2.1.6. In considering any planning application for development the Local Planning Authority is Cheshire West and Chester Council, who take advice from the Cheshire Archaeological Planning Advisory Service (CAPAS). Cheshire West and Chester abide by the policies laid out in the Chester District Local Plan, in this case policy ENV 32 and ENV 34. The Local Planning Authority also have to take into account policies held in the Malpas Neighbourhood Plan and in particular Policy BE5. Archaeology.

## **2.2.GEOLOGY**

2.2.1. The site lies along the Mid Cheshire Ridge, a formation of Triassic sandstone bedrock with undifferentiated mudstones and siltstones (BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 2017, SHEET 109).

2.2.2. The area is known for its glacial geology with glacial meltwaters responsible for the formation of much of the current landscape (LEAH ET AL., 1997). The underlying drift geology is a combination of glacial clay and glacial sand and gravel, which overlies the natural bedrock of Malpas Sandstone (BUREK, 2005).

## **2.3.TOPOGRAPHY**

2.3.1. The area is situated on a high ridge overlooking the Cheshire plain, Shropshire and North Wales, 24km to the south of Chester. The site lies at the centre of the village of Malpas within a parcel of land attached to the Red Lion Hotel which sits on the corner of Well Street and Old Hall Street (FIGURE 1).

2.3.2. The site is relatively flat and lies at about 110mOD, covering an area of 915m<sup>2</sup>. The site is currently used as gardens with an area of tarmac car park adjacent to Old Hall Street.

## **2.4.SITE CONDITIONS**

2.4.1. The site was the car park and gardens of a currently empty public house, the site was closed off to the public with no access granted to non-staff.

2.4.2. Weather conditions were generally wet, with trenches waterlogged and moist underfoot.

## **2.5.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY**

2.5.1. A brief summary of the archaeological and historic background relating to the site is outlined below. Cheshire Historic Environment Record events and monuments codes are referenced in brackets i.e. (CHER1163).

2.5.2. There is no known Prehistoric activity located within the site.

2.5.3. A major Roman road, Watling Street (CHER 989), linked Chester and Wroxeter

during this period (MARGARY 1973). This road is believed to lie along an approximate north-west to south-east alignment immediately to the west of the site along the line of Tilston Road and Old Hall Street. Alternative routes for this road have also been proposed but these lie further to the west of the site.

- 2.5.4. A collection of Roman finds were recovered from the Castle Hill Motte, 150m to the west of the site. These are recorded as coins, lamps, brooches and tiles (CHER 1688). However, the identification of these as being Roman in date has been in doubt for a number of years and it is currently thought that these finds are actually Medieval.
- 2.5.5. The site falls within the Medieval core of Malpas. A Scheduled Monument of the 12<sup>th</sup> century Castle Hill Motte (1012105) and Grade I Listed Church of St Oswald, lies c.150m to the west; to the west and south are several Grade II Listed structures. The Medieval Malpas Castle has been completely removed from the town and the Old Hall burnt down in 1768 (ORMEROD 1882).
- 2.5.6. The town is listed in the Domesday book as *Depenbech* and had been held by Earl Edwin before the conquest (MORRIS, 1978). Prior to 1066 the town had been a prosperous settlement, worth £11 4s; the land was taken by Robert, son of the Earl of Chester, Hugh Lupus. The name of Malpas is thought to derive from this period, from the French meaning 'bad passage' (DODGSON, 1971). This is understood to relate to the landscape, where the important main route passed through difficult or unsafe terrain.
- 2.5.7. During the 12<sup>th</sup> century a Motte and Bailey castle, which is now a scheduled monument (1012105), was constructed 150m to the west of the site.
- 2.5.8. By 1281 Philip Burnel of Malpas, including his wife and heirs, had been awarded weekly Monday markets and a yearly fair, on the feast of Oswald the King, in the town. These markets continued into the 16<sup>th</sup> century although it is recorded that in 1536 the market had moved to Sundays (ORMEROD 1882). It is interesting to note that although Malpas was granted at least two burgages, a reference is made to these in 1288, the town was not granted a borough charter (ORMEROD 1882).
- 2.5.9. Malpas suffered from multiple plagues in the early 1600s, with multiple

burials recorded and descriptions from the time (ORMEROD 1882).

2.5.10. In Bagshaws directory of 1850, Malpas is described as irregularly built, with little trade and manufacturing (with butter as the primary product) but surrounded by “a great farming district”. The population rose slightly from 906 in 1801 to 1022 in 1841. The directory refers to a post office and postmaster James Peach, the building is believed to have occupied one of the former plots on the site, now no longer extant. The Primitive methodist chapel located within the site, was also listed in 1874 (MORRIS & CO'S DIRECTORY) on Old Hall street and ministered by Rev. John Clare. The Red lion pub is listed under a John Taylor in 1850, Charles hope in 1874, Frank Foster in 1892, Samuel Bradley in 1914 and captain S.A Hollingsworth in 1939 (KELLY'S DIRECTORY).

2.5.11. The site of the Red Lion itself is first marked on Bryant's map of Cheshire dated 1831.

2.5.12. The tithe map of 1841 shows the site over several plots, including the extant Red Lion public house (plot 144); plots 145 and 145a are noted as house building and yards. The current carpark and beer gardens lie over Plot 146 which is named as 'Calvin' (EDT 257/2) and plot 147 seen as a long stretch of ground and associated building recorded as a bowling green. Plots 148 and 149 are both occupied by the same individual and are listed as building, yard and gardens.

2.5.13. The later 1878 6 inch first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map, shows a Primitive Methodist Chapel on the site, with a larger Wesleyan Methodist Chapel built to the south, outside of the site. Minor modifications have been undertaken to multiple structures within the site, no change was observed on the 1881 OS.

2.5.14. The 1898 25 inch OS shows the area to the south of the Red Lion Hotel containing multiple small structures and property divisions within the present car park and garden areas in the southern half of the site.

2.5.15. Little change is identified on the 1911 25 inch OS mapping, a structure which aligns with an extant corrugated tin prefabricated shed has been built.



2.5.16. The 1938 Aerial photograph (BRITAIN FROM ABOVE EPW058016) shows many of the structures are still present and the bowling green appears to be adjacent to a formal garden area. By 1962 an oblique image held by Cambridge Air Photos (CUCAP NO.: AEI67) shows that many of the buildings to the south of the Red Lion Hotel have been removed along with a house fronting Old Hall Street, a larger open carpark is now in their place.

### 3. Aims

3.1. The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were to

- ◆ Determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or features on the site and the need and extent of further investigation and reporting
- ◆ Establish the date, character, location, and condition of any below ground deposits or features,
- ◆ Recover palaeo-environmental samples of relevant deposits for assessment in order to better understand the environmental conditions at the time of deposition.

3.1.1. The objective of this report is to provide enough information for a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised.

## 4. Methodology

- 4.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to section 5 of the Written Scheme of Investigation (GARNER, 2018).
- 4.2. Four 12m by 2m trenches were excavated in areas of anticipated ground disturbance within the proposed development. All trench locations were agreed with CAPAS in advance and located with a GPS to a 20mm accuracy (FIGURE 2).
- 4.3. Trenches were excavated using a JCB 3CX excavator with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. The two trenches within the carpark were first cut with a circular saw to break through the tarmac surface.
- 4.4. Two trenches were moved approximately one metre to the southwest, Trench four was moved to avoid a mulberry tree and trench three, so not to undermine a historic garden wall.
- 4.5. A monitoring visit was made by Mark Leah (CAPAS) on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April to inspect the open trenches. The visit was combined with an open invitation to Malpas Parish councillors to visit and view the trenches; on the day three Parish councillors visited site including the chair Mr Chris Whitehurst.

## 5. Results

5.1. Results are given below trench by trench with four trenches in total. Not all context numbers referred to in the text are illustrated, but all are in the archive. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets].

5.2. Four trenches were excavated (FIGURE 2), trenches 1 and 2 revealed masonry evidence identified in the historic mapping, Trench three a series of post holes, pits and drains, with trench four representing garden soils.

### 5.3. TRENCH ONE

5.3.1. Trench one was located to the west boundary of the site, set perpendicular to Old Hall Street. It was 12 x 2m in size running parallel to the Red Lion structure within the associated carpark (FIGURE 4), situated in the entrance of the site. This trench became very water logged during the evaluation.

5.3.2. The upper deposit was tarmac and hardcore (100) up to 0.2m thick which made up the surface of the carpark. Below this was an orangey grey sandy silt deposit (104) with inclusions of charcoal flecks, a few small fragments of brick and Post Medieval pottery; with a maximum depth of 0.4m. At the southwest end of the trench this deposit seemingly stepped up, to a depth of 0.1m. This is believed to be a Post Medieval layer sat above the natural pinky orange clay sands (105) seen across the entire site (FIGURE 5).

5.3.3. Running parallel to the section, below (100) is a large roughly hewn red sandstone wall (101), 5.4m in length, 0.45m in with a minimum depth of 0.5m in a northeast to southwest alignment (PLATE 1). Three courses were partially visible with a pinky white soft lime mortar, the southern end appeared to be truncated or removed stopping abruptly midway through the trench (FIGURE 4). This is believed to correlate to a boundary wall identified on the 1898 OS map (FIGURE 3). The cut [106] for this and backfill (107) were seen to the immediate northwest of the wall at 0.2m wide and a minimum depth of 0.2m.



Plate 1 - Trench one Red sandstone wall (101), with concrete block (103) and pits along the north side of the wall. Facing southwest, 1m scale.

- 5.3.4. Two possible post holes were identified cut into the northwestern edge of wall (101), the first was the cut of a square post hole [122] 0.24m in width and minimum of 0.24m in length, which held the remains of a dark brown organic post slot [124] 0.1 x 0.1m square and dark brown loose silty fill (123). The remains of this were very ephemeral and once uncovered were washed away in the rain (PLATE 1). The second post hole was a circular cut [112] partially seen towards the middle of the trench with the concrete structure (103) built overlying this feature. It had a single orange-brown clay silty fill (113), seen in plan as a minimum of 0.36m long and 0.32m wide.
- 5.3.5. To the south of the wall was a compact yellow sand deposit (102), with a minimum width of of 0.2m extending into the section, this deposit was not fully excavated. Potentially a backfill or older surface associated with the sandstone wall (101) it produced a single sherd of Post Medieval pottery.



Plate 2 - Pit [108] possible tree-bole in southeast facing section, 1m scale.

- 5.3.6. A large sub-circular pit feature [108] was identified in the northern part of the trench (PLATE 2). It was below deposit (104) and cut into the natural (105), with an irregular profile. The southern side had a steep stilted curve with a gentle brake of slope to a small flat base. The northern side was a 45 degree slope from top to base. It was 1.30m wide with a minimum length of 1m extending into the section, it had a total depth of 0.56m. It had a single soft orange brown sandy fill (109); this feature is thought to be the remnant of a Medieval or earlier tree-bole.
- 5.3.7. Two ceramic field drains (119) and (121) were seen in the southeast facing section, adjacent to each other, both northwest to southeast aligned below tarmac (100) and cut into deposit (104). Both service cuts [118] and [120] are 0.2m wide with the former 0.2m deep and the latter 0.3m deep.
- 5.3.8. In the centre of the trench was a large concrete block (103), 1m long, up to 0.9m wide and with a visible depth of 0.4m, however, the full extent was not excavated (PLATE 1). It cut into sandstone wall (101), with the concrete overflowing over it in this area. The concrete was thought to be associated with a gas pipe (111), which cut through deposit (104) running through the centre of the trench in a southwest to northeast alignment parallel to (101). The cut [110] for this was 0.2m in width, over 12m in length and 0.3m high.

5.3.9. A large sub-rectangular pit [116] was seen to the east of the end of wall (101) and concrete block (103). The feature was seen in plan at 1.4m wide with a minimum of 1.05m in length, it appeared to be extending beneath wall (101) however, due to the damp nature of the trench this was not concluded. The pit had a single fill (117) which was not fully excavated.

5.3.10. To the southwest of the concrete block was a small potential pit or linear feature [114]. Identified within the section it was below tarmac surface (100) and cut deposit (104), it had vertical sides with a rounded break of slope and flat base 0.6m in depth, 0.3m in width and extending 0.6m in length into the trench, however, its full extent is unknown.

#### 5.4. TRENCH TWO

5.4.1. Trench two was located in the central area of the site abutting the kerb which formed the division between the carpark and gardens. It was 12 x 2m in size (FIGURE 6) to the west of a temporary corrugated iron structure (FIGURE 2).

5.4.2. The tarmac and hardcore surface (200) was the same as (100) in trench one, measuring up to 0.25m. The general stratigraphy (FIGURE 7) seen in the southwestern end of the trench showed deposit (232) a firm mid brown silty sandy clay below the tarmac, up to 0.35m thick and 5.4m in length. Below this deposit was a firm yellow brown mottled sandy clay (204), 0.25m thick and 3.0m in length, which sat above the natural clay sands (205).

5.4.3. A linear feature was identified c3.0m from the southwest end of trench, seen only in the southeast facing section. The cut [213] was gently sloped on the west side changing to a steep curved edge and break of slope, it had a flat base with a curved east side (PLATE 3). It was 0.7m wide and 0.22m thick, with a firm single dark brown sandy silty fill (214); inclusions of small rounded pebbles up to 40mm were also noted at 2%. This is thought to be the end of a pit or potential boundary.





Plate 3 - Trench two, possible boundary or ditch [213]. Southeast facing section, 1m scale.

- 5.4.4. Towards the centre of the trench a red sandy deposit (216) was identified below (200) and above (232). Seen across the eastern end of the trench at 0.1-0.16m in thickness, this clean sand is likely a bedding layer for the tarmac surface, required at this end of the site which is notably sloped from the site entrance.
- 5.4.5. In the northeast end of the trench a red brick wall [201] was revealed below (200) consisting of two perpendicular walls forming the corner of a building seen on the 1898 historic mapping (FIGURE 3). Three courses of red unfrogged brick were visible 0.37 wide; the southwest-northeast aligned wall was 2m in length and the northwest to southeast 1.6m in length. Below this was 3 courses of footings recorded at 0.48m wide with a minimum depth of 0.3m. The cut [225] was barely visible on the southwest-northeast wall indicated by small fragments of slate, but was visible at 0.15m wide, 1.10m in length and a minimum of 0.3m in depth on the northwest-southeast wall (FIGURE 6).
- 5.4.6. Within the wall cut [225] associated with the northwest-southeast wall was a compacted dump of brick fragments above lenses of sands (226). The bricks are thought to be remnants from the destruction of the building compressed into the sands. 3 sherds of Post Medieval pottery and fragments of clay tobacco



pipe were recovered from this deposit. The wall was cut [225] into deposit (204) on this side, its true depth is unknown.



Plate 4 - Trench two structure [201] with cobble (202) and slab (203) surface. Facing southwest, 1m scale.

5.4.7. Within the structure below (200) was the remains of a cobbled surface (202), measuring 0.12m thick in an area 1.2 x 1.2m in plan. The cobbles were packed within a dark brown silty clay deposit with inclusions of charcoal flecks. This surface appeared to be associated with york slab surface (203), several slabs 0.5m wide and 1.2m in length, packed in the same dark silty deposit (PLATE 4). This was possibly part of a cupboard or base of an interior element. Below these were a bedding layer of clean red sand (206) seen at varying depths up to 0.12m across the interior. Beneath this was deposit (207) a compact orange brown clay silt, visible across the whole interior, depth unknown, it had inclusions of red brick fragments and charcoal flecks. This is thought to be impacted fragments from the demolition of the structure seen in areas where the cobbles had not survived, rather than an earlier surface.

5.4.8. To the northeast of the structure the wall cut [225] through a soft beige mottled sand (218) which had evidence of charcoal flecks and staining 0.21m thick and the natural (205). This, and the footings, were sealed by a very compacted deposit (217) 0.07m thick which had the same make up as (218) but with CBM fragments and a sherd of Post Medieval pottery; which in turn

was sealed by a red levelling sand (216) and the tarmac (200).

5.4.9. At the west corner of structure [210] a potential drain or culvert was identified, with several slabs of sandstone (223) 0.35m wide appeared to be capping a dirty grey clay sand deposit (231); a single fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recovered from this fill. The full extent of this feature is unknown as it continued past the trench extents (PLATE 5 & PLATE 6).

5.4.10. In the area to the immediate west of the building, was a series of cuts thought to be multiple pits and services (PLATE 5). The most recent a large ceramic pipe (209) 0.70m deep and 0.45m wide, cut [208] from below the tarmac (200) extending in a north-south alignment across the trench; this feature cut most of the other features removing many of the stratigraphic relationships and also creating islands of earlier surviving deposits. The pipe itself had two different elements, perhaps suggesting that some of the pits were actually associated with the service and possible associated repair work.



Plate 5 - Trench two area to the west of [201] with pits and services [208]. Facing southeast, 1m scale.

5.4.11. To the west of this was a stone slab 0.25 x 0.30m in size and brick fragments located within a mixed deposit (230). This is thought to be a drainage pad with a cut [229] 0.5m wide, measuring a minimum of 0.8m long and cut by [208]. A dark stain was visible which led to a smashed hole in the ceramic

pipe (209), and noticed continuing below the pipe, thought to be residue or silting from water drainage (PLATE 5).

5.4.12. The terminus of a possible pit was identified below the pipe [208] and cut into the natural (205), which was identified with a shallow scooped base [222] 0.7m wide with a presumed depth of 0.95m, although 0.40m survives. A single soft mottled beige sandy fill (227) was identified with inclusions of CBM fragments up to 30mm (PLATE 6). This fill appeared to extend below the pipe towards the structure, and deposit (228) is likely part of the same fill, a single clay tobacco pipe fragment was recovered; it is unclear whether it extended below the building.



Plate 6 - Trench two pipe (209) and earlier pit [222].  
Facing northeast, 1m scale.

5.4.13. A large pit was recorded c3.0m from the northern end of the trench, located below red sand deposit (216) cut into (323) and cut by the pipe trench [208]. The cut [219] was 0.84m deep and varied from bottom to top at 0.5-0.9m wide. With vertical side, stepped on one side towards the base, which was flat, the top of the west side has slumped in. Two fills were evident, the upper fill (220) a compact mottled beige and pink sandy silt 0.74m thick with inclusion of charcoal flecks, CBM and glass; the lower fill (224) was a compact beige sand 0.10m thick (PLATE 7). It is thought that this pit cut feature [222] however the relation was not clear (FIGURE 7).



Plate 7 - Trench two cut of pit [219]. Southeast facing section, 1m scale.

### 5.5.TRENCH THREE

- 5.5.1. Trench three was located in the garden/yard area of two associated buildings (FIGURE 2), in an area believed to have been the old post office building in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was 12m x 2m in size and was higher than the surrounding trenches, which had been used as a dumping area (FIGURE 8).
- 5.5.2. A turf and topsoil (300) covered the entire trench, identified as a dark soft garden soil at 0.12m in depth (FIGURE 9). Below this in the northern half of the trench was a demolition layer, a soft clay silt (331) with inclusions of cobbles, brick and building debris 0.38m thick and extending 4.9m in length. Beneath this was a grey brown silty sand (330) up to 0.60m thick, identified as a relic plough soil sitting above the natural pinky orange clay sands (341).
- 5.5.3. Two features were seen in the southeast facing section (PLATE 8) cut into (330) and sealed by (331), the cut of pit [301] had step straight sides with a flat base, 0.5m deep and 0.73m wide. It had a single fill of a loose dark brown grey silty sand (302) with charcoal fleck inclusions at 5%; within this were two sherds of early Post Medieval pottery. Next to this was the cut for a posthole [303] 0.5m thick, in a funnel shape 0.35m wide at the base growing to 0.65m at the top. The west side was steep but sloped and the east side was



vertical, at the base was a flat stone post pad [305] partly dressed extending 0.3m from the section and 0.22m in width. Above this was a single fill of compact yellow clay (304).

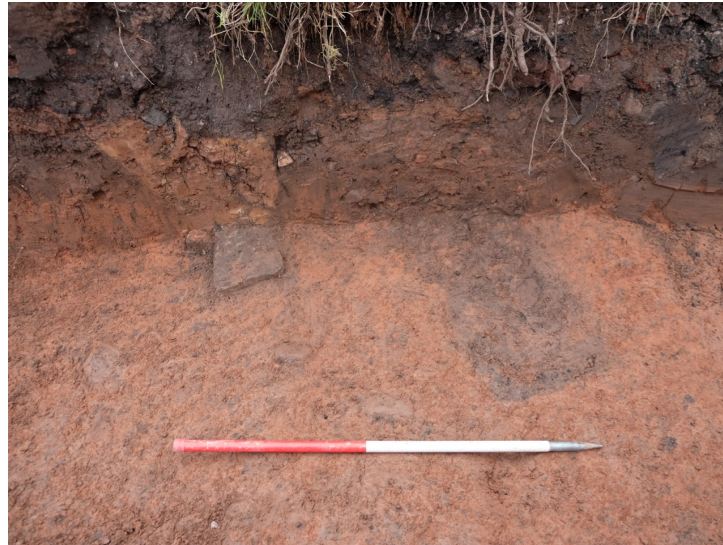


Plate 8 - Trench three pits [301] to the right and [303] with stone post pad [305] to the left. Southwest facing section, 1m scale.

- 5.5.4. Four meters into the trench below topsoil (300) and above (331) were the remains of a heavily disturbed earlier cobbled surface (326) and bedding layer (327), recorded at 0.1m thick and a minimum of 5.5m in length continuing south out the trench.
- 5.5.5. In the centre of the trench in the southeast facing section was a deep pit feature sealed below (331) it was cut [306] in deposit (330). It had almost vertical sides with a flat base, 0.9m deep and up to 0.6m wide; with a loose mixed grey brown silty sand fill (307), lenses of orange clay and inclusions of charcoal flecking at 5%, 2 sherds of Post Medieval pottery were retrieved from this deposit.
- 5.5.6. In the southern half of the trench the stratigraphy varied slightly, with the topsoil at the most southern end of the trench replaced by a tarmac surface (325) 0.10m thick which was directly on top of the cobble surface (326) and (327). Below these a compact dark clinker deposit (328), potentially an earlier surface, was identified at 0.25m thick and 4.2m in length; this sat above (330)

and the natural (341).

5.5.7. Towards the southern end of the trench in the southeast facing section were the remains of a brick [322] manhole chamber (PLATE 9). It was 0.5m in height and 0.8m wide constructed of red un-frogged bricks, stacked seven high and there was no discernible mortar. It was cut [320] from the topsoil, with a loose grey brown fill (323) 0.7m thick and 0.84m wide, capped with a concrete plinth. This feature was associated with late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century terracotta sewer pipe (324), seen in the northeast facing section (PLATE 9). Cut into clinker deposit (328) 0.1m thick and the remains of a brick deposit (329) which constructed of single rowlock course, no bonding was present, the layer was 0.1m thick and 0.8m in length. These sat above deposit (330) and the natural (341).



Plate 9 - Trench three southern end showing Brick manhole [322], associated pipe (324) and multiple pits and postholes.

5.5.8. Multiple circular and oblong pits or post holes were identified (FIGURE 10) cut into the natural (341) along the bottom of the trench (PLATE 9). Four circular pits [308] [314] [318] and [336] each averaging 0.4m in diameter and 0.1-0.2m deep with a single fill (309) (315) (319) and (337) respectively were recorded. Pit [308] was slightly different with sloped edges which turned vertical and a flat base, identified as a post hole, filled by a loose brown sandy

clay (309) with packed angular stones at 50% and a flat stone in the base (PLATE 10). The remaining three pits were all curved in profile with loose brown sandy clay fills in (315) and (337); fill (319) held a burnt red clay. A further smaller circular post hole [338] was present at 0.2m in diameter, with a square post slot (340) and single fill of the same brown sandy clay (339) with a stone pad at the base.

5.5.9. Five oblong pits were also recorded (PLATE 9), however the full extent of these were not recorded as they extended into the sections, four [306] [310] [332] and [316] appeared to be of a similar size 0.6m in length and 0.4m in width, orientated east to west. Pit [310] was cut by pit [332] (PLATE 11). Each was shallow, up to 0.1m deep with straight cut sides and a flat base; all had a single fill (307) (311) (333) and (317) respectively, of loose dark grey silty sand with charcoal flecks. Fill (317) also showed evidence of lime mortar flecking and CBM fragments. A smaller oblong pit [312] was 0.3m long and 0.2m wide with a dark organic silty material (313). 7 sherds of Post Medieval pottery were retrieved from fills (311), (333) and (339), clay tobacco pipe from (311) and (333) and bottle glass from fill (311).



Plate 10 - Trench three circular post hole [308] and fill (309). Northwest facing section, 0.5m scale.



Plate 11 - Trench three pits [310] and [332]. Northeast facing section, 0.5m scale.

## 5.6. TRENCH FOUR

- 5.6.1. Trench four was located to the east of the site, within the pub garden and was 12 x 2m in size (FIGURE 2).
- 5.6.2. The trench consisted of a turf and topsoil (400) deposit of friable dark grey brown loam, with a depth of 0.4m. This was consistent across the excavation area, with a 5% inclusion of small rounded pebbles up to 50mm in size, identified as a Post Medieval garden soil (FIGURE 11). 19 sherds of Post Medieval Pottery, a sherd of late Medieval pottery, a piece of shaped CBM and 9 fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from this deposit. Below this was a friable mid yellow brown sandy silt deposit (401) thought to be a relic plough layer, 0.52m in thickness with similar small rounded pebbles up to 40mm in size. This sat above the natural pinking orange clay sands (402) seen across the site (PLATE 12).
- 5.6.3. A linear feature [404] was seen in the northeast and southwest facing sections towards the southern end of the trench (PLATE 13). This was cut into deposit (401), seen in a northeast to southwest alignment, it was 0.48m in width and 0.48m in width, it extended across the 2m width of the trench. It's sides were steep with a gradual break of slope to a flat base. It had a single fill of friable



dark grey brown loam (405), with a 2% inclusion of coal fragments up to 50mm in size. This was thought to be a Post Medieval feature, most likely a drainage gully.



Plate 12 - Trench four overview, facing southeast, 1m scale.



Plate 13 - Trench four drainage gully or linear [404]. Southwest facing section, 1m scale.

## 6. Finds

6.1. A small assemblage of artefacts were recovered from the archaeological evaluation.

The objects recovered are summarised below:

### 6.2. POTTERY

6.2.1. A total of 48 sherds of pottery weighing 747g were recovered from the evaluation, with items recovered from all four trenches. The pottery consisted of small assemblages of material which do not lend themselves to detailed statistical analysis. The primary function of the pottery is in providing a chronological framework to the structural narrative. As such the wares and suggested dating of the pottery are summarised by context below:

CONTEXT/ WARE TYPE	102	202	209	217	226	300	302	307	311	333	339	400
BBG					1	2	1	2	1	2		1
CREAM		1	1						1			
EWLPW												1
GRE											1	
MIDP	1						1		1			
MIDY												2
MOCHA						1						2
MOTW					1							2
PEARL			1			1						8
PORCBW												2
SLIPW				1	1				1			
WSGST												2
TOTAL	1	1	2	1	3	4	2	2	4	2	1	20

Table 1- Stratified Pottery by sherd count

6.2.2. Trench one: context (102) produced a single jar rim sherd of Midland Purple type ware dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> /17<sup>th</sup> century.

6.2.3. Trench two: context (202) produced a single Creamware body sherd dating to c.1750+; context (209) produced a Pearl ware handle decorated with a blue transfer printed design and dating c.1790+; context (217) produced a base sherd from a slipware dish with trailed slip decoration dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> /early 18<sup>th</sup> century; and context (226) produced a sherd of mottled ware dated c.1680+, a sherd of black glazed earthenware and a body sherd from a

slipware dish with trailed slip decoration dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> /early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

6.2.4. Trench three: context (300) produced 4 base and body sherds of black glazed earthenware, a base sherd of Mocha ware and a body sherd of Pearlware both dating to c.1790+; context (302) produced body sherds of Midland Purple type ware and black glazed earthenware dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> /18<sup>th</sup> century; context (307) produced 2 body sherds of black glazed earthenware of 18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> century date; context (311) produced a body sherd of Creamware dating to c.1750+, a sherd from a press-moulded slipware dish dated c.1700+ and body sherds of black glazed earthenware and Midland Purple type ware; context (333) produced 2 sherds of black glazed earthenware dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> /19<sup>th</sup> century; and context (339) produced a body sherd of dark-glazed red earthenware dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> /17<sup>th</sup> century.

6.2.5. Trench four: context (400) produced 8 sherds of Pearlware dating to c.1790+, 2 sherds of porcellaneous bodied ware of 18<sup>th</sup>/ 19<sup>th</sup> century date, 2 sherds of white salt-glazed stoneware dated c.1720+, 2 sherds of mottled ware dated c.1680+, 2 sherds of Midland Yellow of 17<sup>th</sup> /18<sup>th</sup> century date, and a base sherd in a late Medieval Ewloe-type pink/white ware dating to the late 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century.

### **6.3. CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL**

6.3.1. A total of 12 fragments of CBM weighing 2.466kg were recovered during the evaluation, from all four trenches. Six fragments retrieved from (102) (220) and (230) were identified as handmade bricks, the only measurable dimension was the width of 110mm on one fragment. There was a modern fragment from context (400) which was shaped, possibly part of a structural or decorative element.

6.3.2. A fragment of unglazed ridge tile from context (307) had an external nib. Context (307) also produced an unglazed fragment of field drain which had been mechanically manufactured by the extrusion technique and dated to c.1850+.

#### **6.4. CLAY TOBACCO PIPE**

6.4.1. 17 fragments of Clay tobacco pipe weighing 30g were recovered from contexts (209), (226), (228), (231) in Trench two, and from (311) and (333) in Trench three, as well as from topsoil (400) in Trench four. All fragments were stems with no sign of stamp or decoration.

#### **6.5. GLASS**

6.5.1. Three fragments of green Post Medieval bottle glass from contexts (220), (226) and (311) weighing 61g, were recovered during the evaluation from Trenches 2 and 3. Two of the glass fragments came from the neck and base of bottles, with the third small fragment being a body fragment.

#### **6.6. IRON**

6.6.1. A single piece of corroded iron weighing 102g was recovered from context (311).

## 7. Environmental Sampling

7.1. Two bulk samples of 10 litres of sediment from archaeological fieldwork at The Red Lion, Malpas were processed for assessment.

7.2. The samples were processed using bucket flotation. The heavy fractions ('residues') were caught on a 1mm nylon mesh, while the washovers ('flots') were caught in a 250µm nylon mesh bag. The residue was air dried and weighed prior to being sorted. The flot was scanned for organics under a low power binocular microscope. It was then air dried and sorted.

7.3. Biological remains were extracted under low power microscope at 10X magnification.

### RESULTS

7.3.1. Results of the sample assessment are presented in TABLE 2. Only coal was recovered from the sample.

	CONTEXT	(302)	(302)	(313)	(313)
	SAMPLE	1	1	2	2
		FLOT	RESIDUE	FLOT	RESIDUE
WEIGHT AFTER PROCESSING		31g	380g	38g	282g
% MODERN ROOTS		10		10	
%COAL <2MM		40		40	
%COAL 2-4MM		40		40	
%COAL >4MM		10		10	
POTTERY					3
BURNT BONE					2

Table 2- Sample assessment

### DISCUSSION

7.3.2. The only class of biological remains within the sample flots was coal. This was especially numerous in the flots and residues, and is present in large enough quantities to suggest that it is derived from domestic hearth sweepings.

7.3.3. The residue from context (313) produced 3 small sherds of Post Medieval pottery and 2 small fragments of burnt bone.

## 8. Summary and Conclusions

- 8.1. Planning permission is being sought for the re-development of the Red Lion Hotel, Old Hall Street, Malpas. Comprising of alterations and extensions to the pub/hotel and curtilage outbuildings, which will include a new bedroom annex for hotel guests.
- 8.2. The site falls within the historic Medieval core of Malpas. It is within both the Malpas Conservation Area and the Malpas Area of Archaeological Potential (CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, 2003). There are no Scheduled monuments within the site; however, on the southwest edge of the site is the Grade II Listed building known as Tudor Cottage.
- 8.3. No Prehistoric, Roman or Medieval activity was identified within the site during the evaluation.
- 8.4. Trench one revealed a roughly hewn sandstone wall, aligned southwest to northeast throughout the eastern part of the trench. It is thought to be the outer boundary wall of a house structure identified on the 1898 OS map (FIGURE 3), with evidence of post holes and pit abutting the wall. Further pits and services pipes cut through the trench, including a large concrete block associated with a gas pipe within the trench. A large pit was identified in the southeast facing section, after further exploration it was considered to be a tree-bole of uncertain date.
- 8.5. Within the eastern half of Trench two, the remains of the corner of a structure first identified on the 1841 tithe map continuing on the 1898 OS were seen (FIGURE 3) and thought to be the end of the building associated with the bowling green. Recorded as bonded red handmade brick wall with footings, the interior of the building had the remains of a cobbled surface with an area of york stone slabs, potentially a doorway or more likely the internal floor surface to the building. To the immediate west of the building was evidence of drains and services with multiple pits and cuts (FIGURE 6). The remains of a likely linear boundary was also identified in the western area of the trench, potentially associated within one of the buildings on the 1898 OS map.
- 8.6. Trench three contained multiple pits and postholes below layers of garden soils, demolition rubble and remnant cobbles. The features were seen throughout the

trench and appeared to form a linear pattern (FIGURE 8), many with stone pads or packing suggesting a use as post holes. Dating evidence for some of these features would suggest that they are not all contemporary and they may span the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The historic mapping shows this area changed frequently with both small and large structures, with a yard areas between, these are most likely part of the changing boundaries or construction phases associated with the structures. A large red brick manhole chamber was identified in the southwest facing section which was connected to a service trench and ceramic foul pipe noted in the northeast facing section.

- 8.7. Trench four showed little activity with the exception of a probable field boundary or drainage gully aligned northeast to southwest across the trench. Garden soils and a plough layer were seen across the trench, which support its use as a bowling green in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and then as an allotment and garden during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.
- 8.8. The *in situ* remains of archaeological deposits, features and structures dating to the Post Medieval period have been identified across the site. These remains have been impacted by a mixture of landscaping/grading for the present car park and the cutting of modern service trenches. The proposed development is likely to have further impact upon these remains during the excavation of wall foundations, service trenches and landscaping.
- 8.9. The archaeological remains encountered are not of sufficient importance or rarity to merit preservation *in situ* and would not be an impediment to the proposed development of the site.
- 8.10. It is suggested that a targeted watching brief during ground works associated with the construction of the proposed development will be required as a condition of planning consent.



## 9. Archive

9.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 13 x Drawing Film
- ◆ 3 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 166 x Digital photographs and negatives
- ◆ 3 x Context Register
- ◆ 46 x Context sheets
- ◆ 1 x Sample Register

9.2. The finds archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x box artefacts as described in Section 6 (all materials).

9.3. The archive is to be deposited at the Cheshire West and Chester Museum Services.

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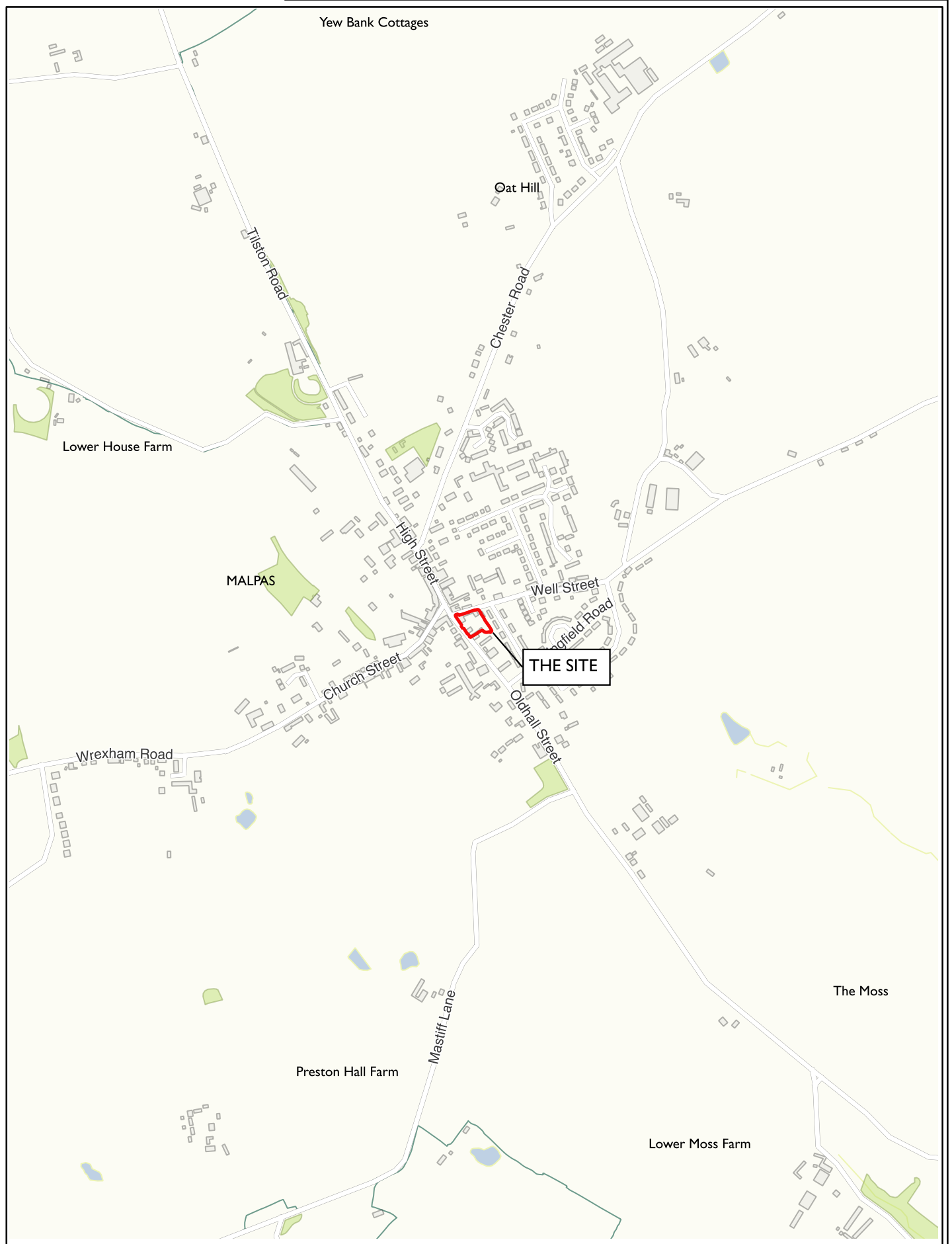
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<https://www.cambridgeairphotos.com/location/aei68/> accessed 15.05.2018

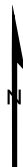
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# FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site Location - General



0 500 m



PROJECT // 2785C - Red Lion, old Hall Street, Malpas

DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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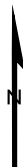
DOC REF: LP2785C-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 2 // Site Location and Trenches



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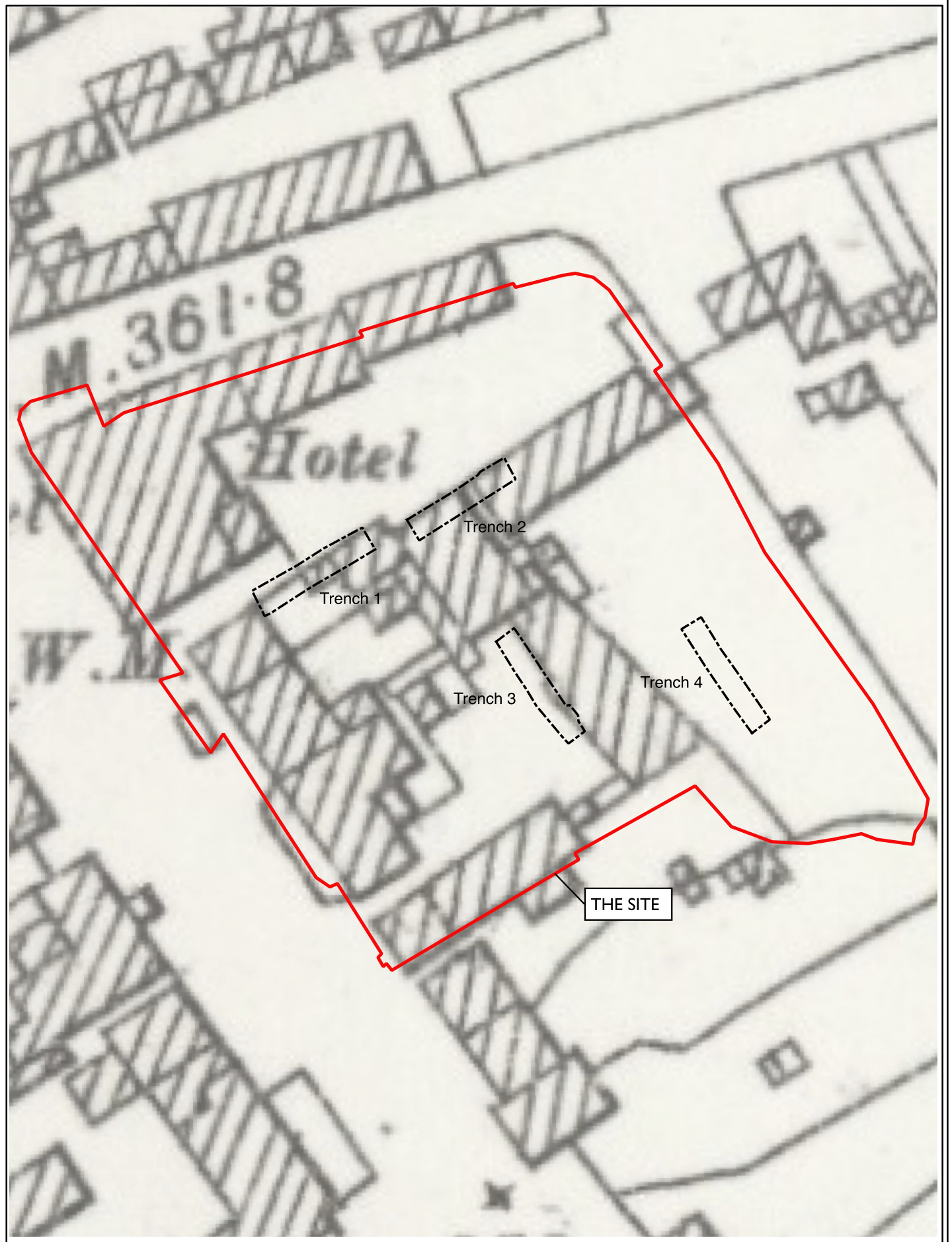
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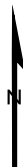
DOC REF: LP2785C-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 3 // 1898 OS map and Trenches



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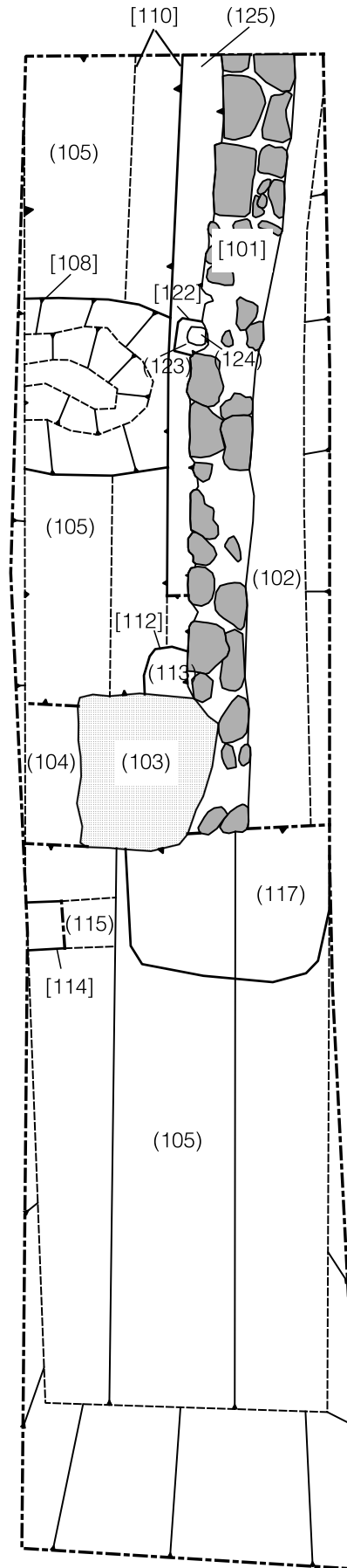
DESCRIPTION // 1898 ordnance Survey Map and Trenches

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FIGURE 4 // Trench I Plan



0 1 m



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DESCRIPTION // Trench I Plan

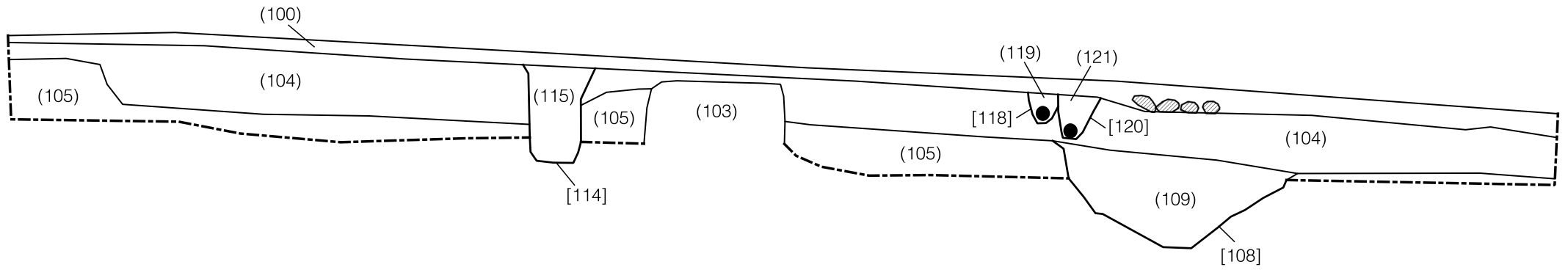
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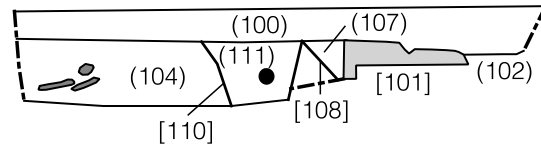


FIGURE 5 // Trench I Sections

Southeast Facing Section



Southwest Facing Section



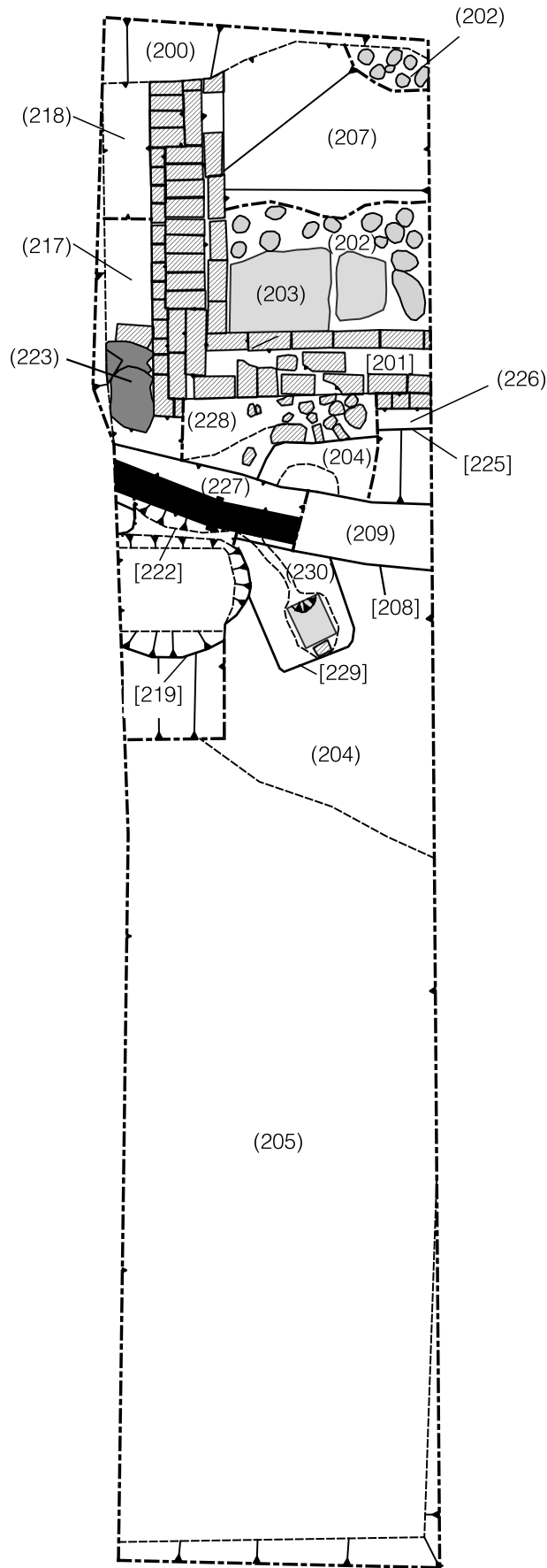
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DESCRIPTION // Trench I Sections

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FIGURE 6 // Trench 2 Plan



0 1 m



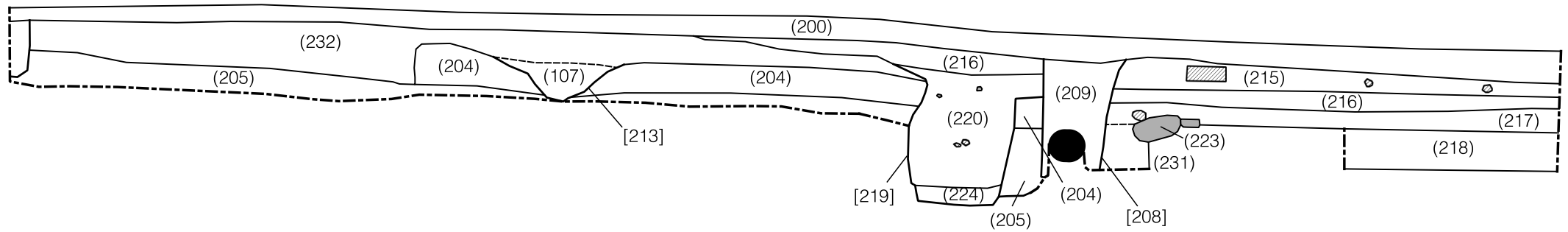
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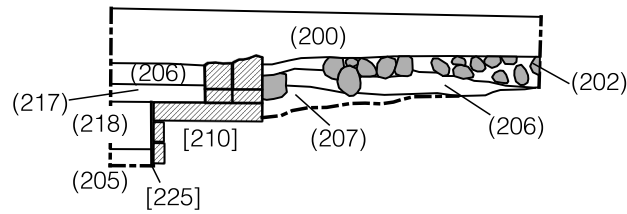
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Southeast Facing Section



Southwest Facing Section



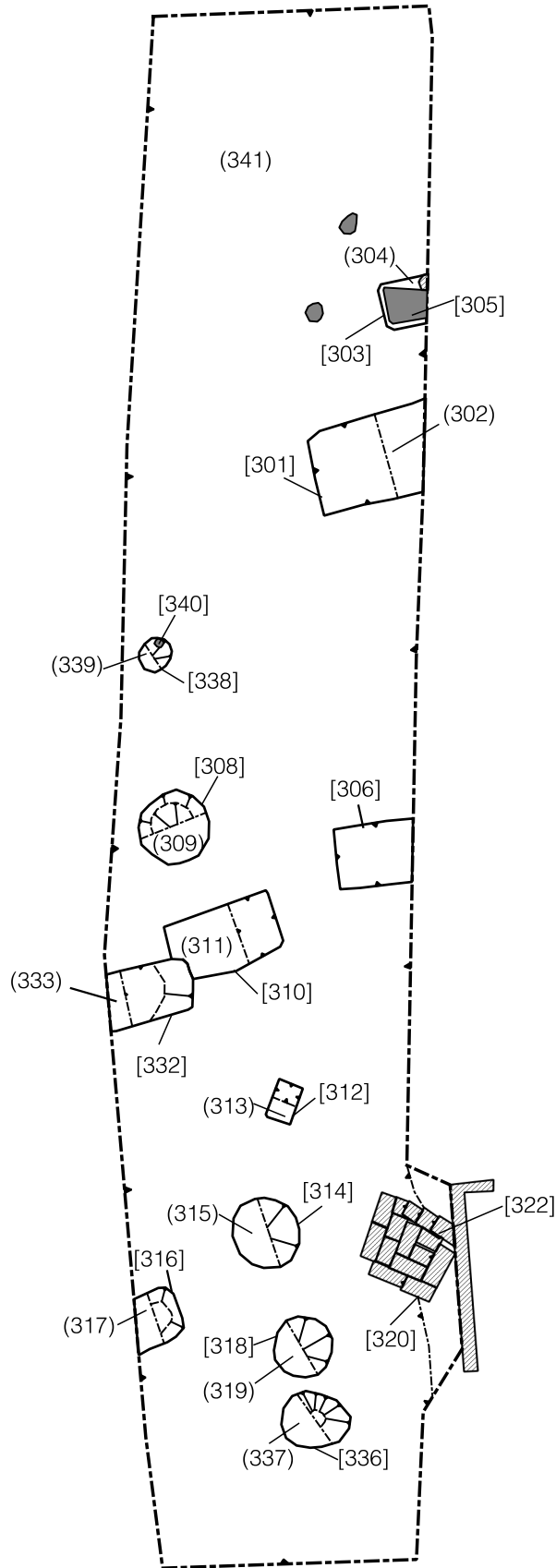
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FIGURE 8 // Trench 3 Plan



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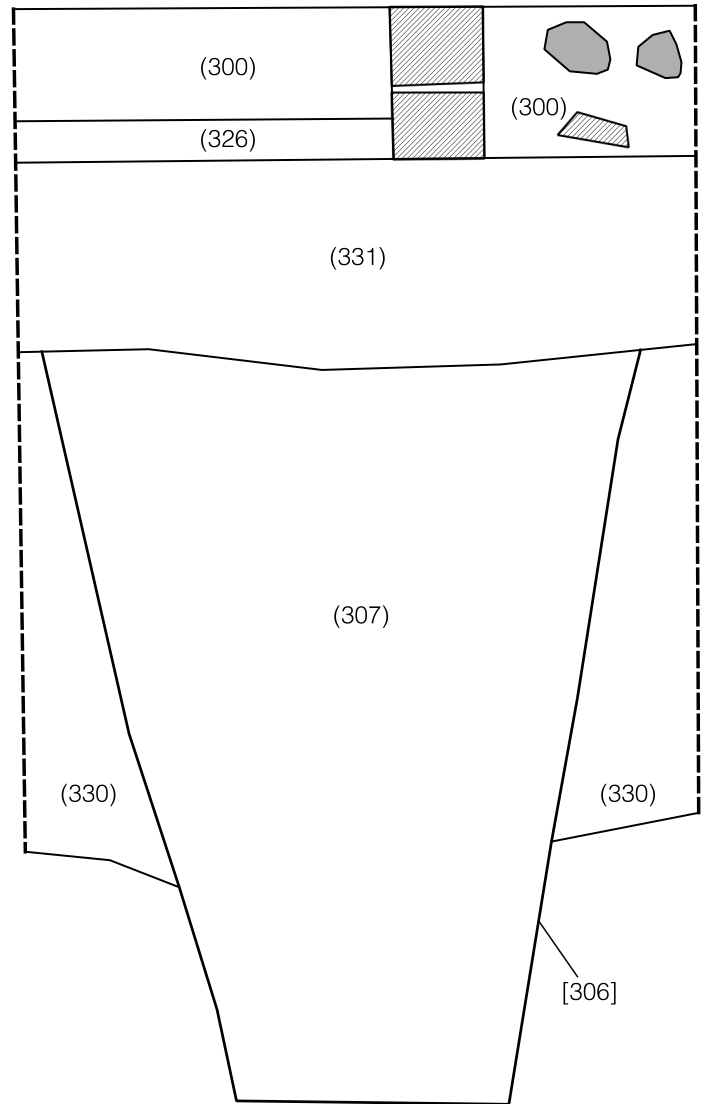
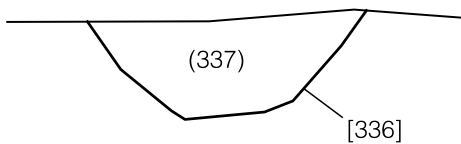
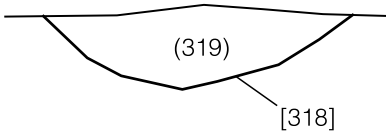
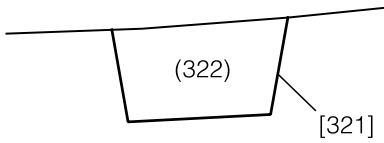
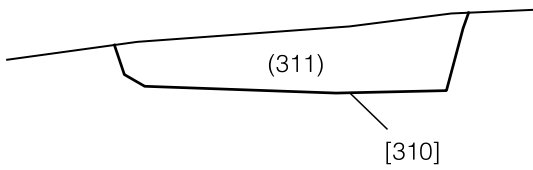
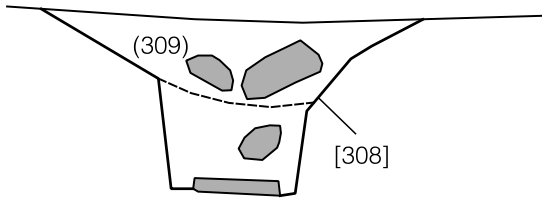
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DESCRIPTION // Trench 3 Plan

DOC REF: LP2785C-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 10 // Trench 3 Pits & Post hole Sections



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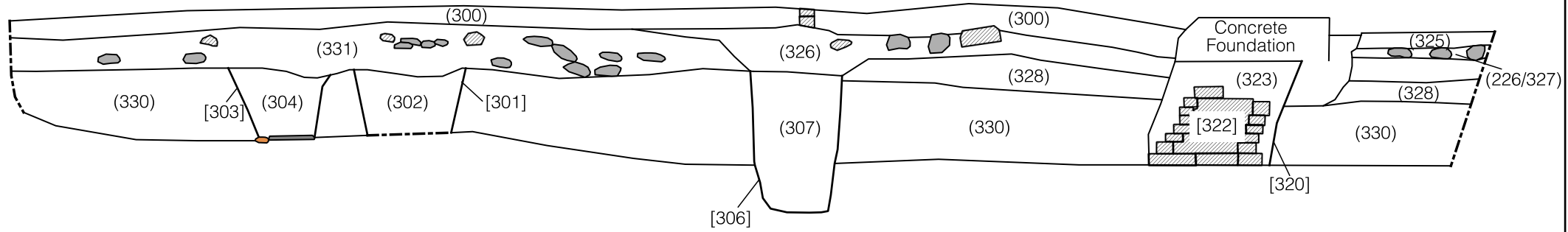
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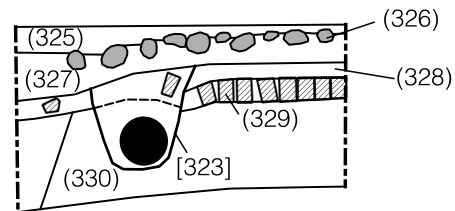
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FIGURE 9 // Trench 3 Sections

Southwest Facing Section



Northwest Facing Section



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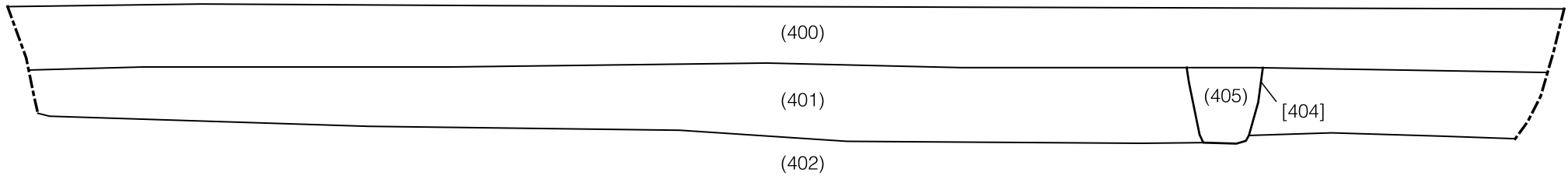
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DESCRIPTION // Trench 3 Sections

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West Facing Section



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PROJECT // 2785C - Red Lion, Old Hall Street, Malpas

DESCRIPTION // Trench 4 Section

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# OASIS FORM

## APPENDIX I