

Archaeological Evaluation Report

ST MARTIN'S WAY CHESTER

For Cheshire West and Chester Council

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report

ST MARTIN'S WAY CHESTER

Client: Cheshire West and Chester Council

Local Authority: Cheshire West and Chester Council

NGR: 340303,366458

Planning App: 10/11464/FUL

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Figures

Table of Plates

Table of Appendices

Abstract

1. Introduction
2. Site Background
3. Aims
4. Methodology
5. Results
6. Finds
7. Summary and Conclusions
8. Archive

Sources Consulted

Figures

Appendices

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1 - Site Location General

Figure 2 - Site Location Detail

Figure 3 - South Facing Section of Trench 1

Figure 4 - South Facing Section of Trench 2

Figure 5 - Plan of Trench 3

Figure 6 - Trench 3 Sections

Figure 7 - Plan of Trench 4

Figure 8 - North Facing Section of Trench 4

Figure 9 - Site Matrix

Figure 10 - Archaeological Zones

TABLE OF PLATES

Plate 1 - South facing section of Trench 1, 1m scale

Plate 2 - South facing section of Trench 2, 1m scale

Plate 3 - Trench 3 looking south, 1m scale

Plate 4 - West facing section of Trench 3, 1m scale

Plate 5 - North facing section of Trench 4, 1m scale

Plate 6 - Southeastern corner of Trench 4, 1m scale

Plate 7 - South facing section of Trench 5, 1m scale

TABLE OF TABLES

Table 1 - Ceramic Assemblage

TABLE OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - OASIS Record

Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at land off St Martin's Way, Chester. 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 Claire Statter & Blair Poole of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The site is known to be the location of Roman barracks dating from the 1st century to the 4th century. Following the decline of Roman Chester the site was not developed until the 19th century when a series of terraced buildings were built at the road frontages of Princess Street and subsequently off St Martin's Way. A Masonic Lodge was built on the site in the early 20th century and by the mid 20th century the site had a Mission Hall and bowling green. A clinical centre was built on the site in the late 20th century.

The specific objective of the evaluation was to provide information to create a suitable mitigation strategy for development of the site.

The evaluation identified the presence of infilled cellars in the east of the site at the location of the Masonic Lodge. Across the extent of the bowling green a defined stratigraphy was identified showing that Roman deposits exist below the bowling green make up. To the east of site, outside the footprint of the Masonic Lodge, in situ Roman deposits were identified.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This evaluation report has been prepared by Claire Statter and Blair Poole of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- 1.2. The fieldwork was carried out by Blair Poole, Claire Statter and Kate Pack of L – P : Archaeology between 21st and 23rd September 2010.
- 1.3. The site is located at land off St Martin's Way, Chester (FIGURE 1). The NGR is 340303,366458 .
- 1.4. The site code allocated by Cheshire West and Chester Council is CHE/SMW 10.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with agreement from Mike Morris, Chester City Archaeologist.

2. Site Background

2.1.PLANNING

- 2.1.1. This archaeological evaluation was carried out in response to a planning condition placed on the site. The application reference is 10/11464/FUL.
- 2.1.2. The site is located within the Chester City Conservation Area and within Chester's Area of Archaeological Importance.
- 2.1.3. When considering an application, Cheshire West and Chester Council is bound by local policy ENV 32 regarding archaeology and planning. As such, the following condition was attached to the development;

Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the local planning authority, prior to commencement of development the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall first have been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.

2.2.GEOLOGY

- 2.2.1. The British Geological Survey for the site records the superficial (drift) deposits as clay, silt and sand and the solid deposits as undifferentiated sandstone and conglomerate (BGS SHEET 109).

2.3.TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.3.1. The site is located within the centre of Chester, 280m to the north of The Cross.
- 2.3.2. The site is bounded to the north by Hunter Street, to the east by Hunter's Walk, to the south by Princess Street and to the west by St Martin's Way (FIGURE 2).
- 2.3.3. The site slopes from an elevation of 28.52mOD in the east to 23.23mOD in the west. The area containing the evaluation trenches, the site of the earlier bowling green, was relatively flat at approximately 27mOD.

2.3.4. The site is currently vacant land and devoid of any buildings.

2.4.SITE CONDITIONS

2.4.1. The site had been previously developed and once housed a Masonic Lodge, a bowling green and a school building. All buildings have now been demolished.

2.5.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

2.5.1. Previous archaeological work has been carried out on the site in the 20th century and more recently in 2006. In 1914 Professor Robert Newstead carried out an excavation on the site, to the west of the Masonic Lodge. In 2006 Earthworks Archaeology carried out an evaluation on the site, on the bowling green. Both pieces of work confirmed the high potential for significant archaeological remains in this area. The results of this work will be discussed in more detail below.

PREHISTORIC

2.5.2. There is no evidence of Prehistoric activity on the site. However at Abbey Green, 250m to the east of the site, evidence of Iron Age activity has been identified (WARD 2009).

ROMAN

2.5.3. The Romans established a legionary fortress at Chester in 79AD known as Deva. The fortress was occupied by the Twentieth Legion in the area now forming the centre of Chester. The site itself lay within the walled fortress of Deva and was occupied by barracks buildings (CARRINGTON 1994).

2.5.4. Barracks were numerous around Deva as they were throughout the empire. It is thought that in Chester all the barracks were originally constructed in timber during the establishment of the fortress. They are thought to have undergone various repairs between 100AD and 120AD. However by 120AD it is thought that they were beginning to be reconstructed in stone. Not all of the buildings may have been constructed in stone but they are thought to at least have had stone foundations (MASON 2001).

- 2.5.5. There also seems to have been reconstruction of the barracks in the 3rd century and further modification in the 4th century (CARRINGTON 2002). Evaluation results from Earthworks Archaeology revealed standing Roman masonry from the barrack buildings in good condition (DODD 2006). The depth of these remains are relatively shallow at approximately 0.6m to 0.67m below ground level. The evaluation also revealed that certain Roman walls may have been robbed out in the Medieval or early Post Medieval periods (IBID).
- 2.5.6. Professor Newstead excavated this site in 1914 and recorded the presence of a double roomed barracks block. Newstead also recorded the discovery of iron scale armour, thought to be the finest ever found in Britain up until that time (NEWSTEAD ND).
- 2.5.7. It is of interest to note that Newstead records that excavation also took place on the site in the summer of 1909, with excavation down to the natural sandstone. He records that at this time traces of buildings were found on the site towards the street frontage; however they were removed before being recorded (NEWSTEAD 1928).

EARLY MEDIEVAL

- 2.5.8. There is no evidence for Early Medieval activity on the site, although there is evidence of intensive Saxon occupation 150m to the south and to the east (CARRINGTON 1994, MASON 2007).

MEDIEVAL

- 2.5.9. During the Medieval period Chester was a thriving ecclesiastical and trading area with a prosperous port. The City Walls encompassed the old Roman fortress as well as Chester Castle and areas towards the River Dee to the south and west by this time.
- 2.5.10. It is thought that at this time the site was unoccupied and therefore probably would have been open ground or used for agricultural purposes. This is also evidenced in the results from the works carried out by Earthworks in 2006. No features dating to the Medieval period were recorded, however all the Medieval finds were located within the same context (6). This context sealed the Roman

deposits on the site. Also within this context ceramics dating to the Roman period were recovered. This would indicate that the site during this time was open and may have been ploughed or turned over during the course of farming leading to the mix of both Roman and Medieval finds.

POST MEDIEVAL

2.5.11. During the early Post Medieval period it is thought that the site remained unoccupied. This is seen in historic maps with the site area having no buildings on it until Thomas' map dated 1853. This map depicts a row of terrace buildings located along Princess Street which bounds the site. These buildings do not appear on Cole's map of 1851 and therefore must date to between these years.

2.5.12. Gresty's map of 1870 shows the same occupation of the site. However by the first edition Ordnance Survey map dated 1872 further terrace buildings have been erected to the west of the site along the western end of Princess Street and along St Martin's Fields. These buildings are outside the site area, with their eastern boundaries abutting the site, however it does show that the area surrounding the site was beginning to be developed.

2.5.13. With the introduction of Ordnance Survey maps we also see an increase in the information being depicted; for example more labels are added to the drawings. In this case we can now see that a school was on the site fronting Princess Street. It is thought that this building may have been erected along with the surrounding buildings between 1851 and 1853, however it was unclear until the 1872 map that a school was located here.

2.5.14. The site remains unchanged until 1913-14 when it is thought that the Masonic Lodge was erected. This information has been deduced from a number of sources. We know from writing by Professor Newstead, who excavated extensively in Chester, that in 1914 he was given permission to excavate within the garden to the west side of the Masonic Lodge (NEWSTEAD 1928). Cartographic evidence shows that the Lodge had not been built on the site by the third edition Ordnance Survey map dated to 1911.

2.5.15. The site again remains largely unchanged up until the 1958 Ordnance Survey

map. This map depicts that the site was occupied by not only the Masonic Lodge but also a Mission Hall. It is thought that by this time the school had gone out of use and the building had been modified and extended in order to be occupied by Mission Hall. To the west of the Masonic Lodge, bounding Hunter Street, a bowling green had been created.

2.5.16.By the 1977 Ordnance Survey map the area surrounding the site had changed dramatically. St Martin in the Field had been completely remodelled in order to create St Martin's Way. The road had been widened towards the east. As a result the terraced buildings that bounded the site to the east were no longer there and the space had been taken up by the new road. This road now bounds the site to the east.

2.5.17.It is interesting to note that the original alignment of Hunter's Walk ran north to south and was located 60m to the east. It is in the 1980s with the development of the bus station that Hunter's Walk was moved to its current location.

2.5.18.Also occupying the site to the east was a clinic building presumably related to the Chester Royal Infirmary on the opposite side of St Martin's Way, built in the late 20th century. The site remained unchanged from this layout until the 1990s when all buildings on the site were demolished.

3. Aims

3.1. The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were to assess the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains on site.

3.2. The specific aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- ◆ To identify the extent of previously defined archaeological deposits across the site
- ◆ To identify relative depths of archaeological deposits on the site

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

4. Methodology

- 4.1. A series of five 2m by 1.5m trenches were excavated on the site at locations previously agreed by Mike Morris, City Archaeologist (FIGURE 2). The trench locations were accurately surveyed by Total Station prior to excavation and related to the National Grid.
- 4.2. The topsoil was removed by 1.5 tonne tracked excavator under supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist. All underlying deposits were hand excavated using appropriate tools. Deposits were hand cleaned and recorded prior to removal.
- 4.3. Excavated material was examined in order to retrieve information to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.
- 4.4. All finds, artefacts, industrial and faunal remains were collected and retained. Modern building material was discarded after recording. Finds were placed in clear, self sealing, plastic bags and labelled with the appropriate information, including site code, trench number and context number. The finds assemblage has been retained for deposition with the site archive in the recipient museum.
- 4.5. The site code CHE/SMW 10 has been allocated by Chester Archaeology. This code was used to label all sheets, plans and other drawings; all context and recording sheets; all photographs (but not negatives); all other elements of the documentary archive.
- 4.6. The recording system used followed the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (SPENCE 1994). Context sheets included all relevant stratigraphic relationships and for complex stratigraphy a separate matrix diagram was employed.
- 4.7. The extent of any visible archaeological deposits were recorded in plan. Sections showing layers and any cut features were drawn at 1:10.
- 4.8. A full photographic record was made of all archaeological remains, including photographs of sections and plans where relevant. This record includes black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film) as well as digital photographs.

4.9. Prior to backfilling geotextile was laid to protect the exposed surfaces and mark the extents of the trenches.

4.10. All works were carried out in accordance with the Code of Approved Practice as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2002).

5. Results

5.1. Results are given below trench by trench. Trench is abbreviated below to Tr. 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]. All elevations are given as mOD. To aid in forming an accurate mitigation strategy for the site the base of each trench has been given below ground level in addition to its mOD.

5.2. TRENCH 1 (FIGURE 3)

5.2.1. Trench 1 was located 50m from the northeast corner of the site. The trench measured 1.5m by 2.5m in plan and was excavated to a maximum depth of 26.22mOD, 0.5m below present ground level.

5.2.2. The upper deposit was a 0.18m thick layer of loose topsoil (1). This was quite a coarse sand topsoil that was unusually clear of any artefacts (PLATE 1). This may be due to the fact that it had been laid in the 20th century to act as a bowling green and would have regularly been cleared to keep a level green.



Plate 1 - South facing section of Trench 1, 1m scale

5.2.3. Underlying the topsoil were a series of four distinct deposits, (2) to (5). These deposits made up the sub base for the bowling green, forming a well drained, level plot. The upper deposit was a 0.04m thick layer of fine yellow sand (2). No finds were recovered from this deposit.

- 5.2.4. A 0.09m thick layer of crushed black clinker (3) lay below the yellow sand. This in turn sealed a 0.09m thick layer of soft brown clay sand (4). A second layer of black clinker (5) underlay (4). This second layer of clinker measured 0.11m thick.
- 5.2.5. A range of finds were recovered from (5), which will be discussed in more detail in Section 6. These finds ranged from 1st to 2nd century Roman ceramics to a 20th century porcelain soap dish. Within (5) was a 0.13m diameter ceramic pipe that acted as drainage for the bowling green. There was no cut for this pipe as it lay within the clinker material. It is likely that the pipe and clinker are contemporary and relate to the construction of the bowling green in the 20th century.
- 5.2.6. The base of the trench was marked by the transition to a firm mid red to brown clay sand (6).

5.3. TRENCH 2 (FIGURE 4)

- 5.3.1. Trench 2 was located 40m from the northeast corner of the site and measured 1.5m by 2.5m in plan. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 26.20mOD, 0.5m below ground level.



Plate 2 - South facing section of Trench 2, 1m scale

- 5.3.2. The stratigraphy of Trench 2 matched that of Trench 1. The topsoil (1) covering the trench measured 0.17m thick layer (PLATE 2). This was the same coarse sand topsoil seen in Trench 1. No finds were recovered from this

deposit.

5.3.3. Underlying the topsoil was a 0.03m thick layer of fine yellow sand (2). No finds were recovered from this deposit.

5.3.4. A deposit of crushed black clinker (3) underlay (2), measuring 0.06m thick. Sealed in by the clinker was a 0.10m thick layer of soft brown clay sand (4). The secondary layer of black clinker (5), 0.14m thick, was also present in Trench 2 underlying (4). As with Trench 1 a clay drainage pipe was identified at the base of the clinker material. Finds from (5) included coarse Roman ceramic and 16th century brown glazed ceramic.

5.3.5. A firm mid red to brown clay sand (6) was identified at the base of the trench.

5.4. TRENCH 3 (FIGURES 5 & 6)

5.4.1. Trench 3 was located 18m from northeast corner of the site. The trench measured 1.5m by 2.5m in plan and was excavated to a maximum depth of 26.24 mOD, 0.7m below ground level.



Plate 3 - Trench 3 looking south, 1m scale

5.4.2. The trench was located at the eastern limit of the bowling green and the deposits within the trench could be seen to form two distinct areas (PLATE 3).

- 5.4.3. The western half of the trench contained the bowling green deposits identified in Trenches 1 and 2, whereas the eastern half of the trench comprised 20th century truncation to the south and *in situ* Roman deposits to the north. These areas were clearly defined being located either side of a 0.13m diameter drainage pipe.
- 5.4.4. A 0.2m thick deposit of topsoil (1) covered the trench. However, this deposit differed slightly from the topsoil elsewhere containing 20th century plastic and ceramic finds as well as a number of hypodermic needles. It is thought that this area of the site was built up slightly during the demolition of the Masonic Lodge, hence the thicker deposit of topsoil compared to elsewhere on the site.



Plate 4 - West facing section of Trench 3, 1m scale

- 5.4.5. Sealed by the topsoil was a 0.6m thick deposit of loose brown sandy silt (13). This silt overlay a brick drain 12, which was made up of orange 20th century frogged brick with a hard grey mortar (PLATE 4). The structure measured 0.7m by 0.7m in plan by 0.6m high and sat on a foundation of rough grey concrete. The concrete was located at the base of the trench and was not excavated. The location of this structure matches a small 20th century extension to the Masonic Lodge, shown on the 2000 Ordnance Survey map.
- 5.4.6. The cut for the structure [11] had a shallow, almost 45°, slope from west to east. To the north this cut a 0.3m thick mid brown sandy silt (15). This silt is thought to be a Post Medieval deposit containing charcoal flecks, sandstone

fragments and two fragments of CBM.

- 5.4.7. To the west [11] cut the bowling green deposits (2) to (5). As with Trenches 1 and 2 the the upper deposit for the bowling green make up was a 0.2m thick layer of loose yellow sand (2). Underlying the sand was a 0.12m thick layer or black clinker (3). This in turn overlay a 0.1m thick layer of brown soft brown clay sand (4). The lowest deposit associated with the bowling green was a 0.12m thick layer of black clinker (5). Within this lower clinker layer a 0.13m diameter clay drainage pipe was identified. This ran north south and marked the eastern extent of the bowling green.
- 5.4.8. The base of the pipe, and of (5), sat directly on top of a firm mid red to brown clay sand (6). This deposit was not excavated.
- 5.4.9. To the east of the pipe an area of 20th century truncation was apparent. This contained a steel re-enforced concreted post which sat within a small cut, also containing 20th century brick rubble. This post is thought to be associated with a 20th century fence line.
- 5.4.10. Also identified to the east of the clay drainage pipe were two distinct deposits (16) and (17). Deposit (16) measured 0.2m in thickness and comprised a firm light brown sandy silt matrix. The relationship between this deposit and those to the west of the drainage pipe had been obscured by the 20th century truncation, however at the northern end of the trench it appeared that (5) overlay it. Due to the nature of the truncation this was not clearly defined.
- 5.4.11. Underlying (16) at 26.39mOD, 0.55m below ground level, was a firm light brown sandy silt layer (17). This contained a great deal of irregularly shaped yellow sandstone fragments approximately 0.1m by 0.05m by 0.1m in size. These sandstone fragments were not bonded together, however they did form a rough surface. It should be noted that in his excavation at Hunter Street in 1914 Professor Newstead indicated that small Roman paths in the area could have been formed by broken sandstone and soil (NEWSTEAD 1928)
- 5.4.12. Deposit (17) produced exclusively Roman ceramic sherds and it is thought that this may have been a Roman pathway associated with the barracks structure.

5.5.TRENCH 4 (FIGURES 7 & 8)

- 5.5.1. Trench 4 was located 38m from the northeast corner of the site and measured 1.5m by 2.5m in plan. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 25.67mOD, 1.04m below ground level.
- 5.5.2. The upper stratigraphy of Trench 4 matched that of Trenches 1 and 2. The topsoil (1) covering the trench measured 0.15m thick. No finds were recovered from this deposit. The topsoil overlay a 0.03m thick layer of yellow sand (2).



Plate 5 - North facing section of Trench 4, 1m scale

- 5.5.3. Underlying the sand was a 0.11m thick deposit of black rough clinker (3). This clinker overlay a 0.12m thick deposit of soft brown clay sand (4). No finds were recovered from these deposits.
- 5.5.4. A lower deposit of black clinker (5), measuring 0.2m thick, underlay the clay sand (4). Finds from (5) included coarse Roman ceramic and 18th century black glazed ceramic. A firm mid red to brown clay sand (6) was identified at the base of the trench underlying (5).
- 5.5.5. To further investigate this lower deposit a 1m by 1m sondage was excavated in the southeast corner of the trench (PLATE 5). The clay sand (6) measured 0.45m thick and produced a single fragment of undiagnostic Roman ceramic.



Plate 6 - Southeastern corner of Trench 4, 1m scale

5.5.6. At the base of the trench the remnants of a robbed out wall were identified, running north to south across the trench (PLATE 6). The fragments of the wall remaining comprised of small angular sandstone pieces under 0.1m by 0.1m in size. The cut [19] was clearly visible and had been sealed by (6). The cut extended beyond the edge of the trench, however 0.6m of the cut was exposed at the northern end of the sondage.

5.5.7. Within [19] was a loose red silty clay fill (18) which contained fragments of sandstone, charcoal and exclusively Roman ceramic sherds. Only 0.2m of the deposit was excavated.

5.5.8. Cut [19] could be seen to be cut into a friable dark brown silty clay (20). This deposit was not excavated.

5.6. TRENCH 5

5.6.1. Trench 5 was situated 17m from the northeast corner of the site over the location of the demolished Masonic Lodge. The trench measured 1.5m by 2.5m in plan and was excavated to a maximum depth of 25.85mOD, 1.3m below ground level.



Plate 7 - South facing section of Trench 5, 1m scale

- 5.6.2. A fine layer of topsoil (1) measuring 0.02m thick sealed in a rubble cellar fill, (7). This fill extended beyond the base of the trench and is thought to be a graded backfill within a cellar associated with the Masonic Lodge (PLATE 7).
- 5.6.3. The extents of the cellar were not identified within the limits of the trench. All finds recovered from this deposit were late 20th century in date including rubber boot soles, electrical cable and plastic rulers.
- 5.6.4. The graded nature of the rubble is thought to indicate that when the Masonic Lodge was demolished the resulting rubble was crushed on site and backfilled into the cellar.

6. Finds

- 6.1. Finds were collected from all deposits below the topsoil and stored in plastic zip-lock bags, which were labelled with context number, trench number and site code. These finds were washed by hand and allowed to thoroughly dry prior to assessment.
- 6.2. Although the site produced a quantity of ceramics it is interesting to note that no faunal remains or metal artefacts were recovered from the site. This could be due to the acidic nature of the sandy deposits.
- 6.3. The full assemblage weighs 6.3kg and contains a total of 38 sherds (TABLE 1).
- 6.4. Context (5), the lowest deposit associated with the bowling green, contained a mixed assemblage of ceramic. These finds ranged from 1st to 3rd century Roman ceramic, 16th century glazed ware and 20th century domestic wares. This indicates that the bowling green was constructed in the 20th century, potentially using materials brought in from the local area.
- 6.5. The deposit underlying (5) produced a single sherd of ceramic. This deposit, (6), can be seen to match a deposit identified during the Earthworks evaluation in 2006. Comparing the assemblage from both evaluations indicates that this deposit has produced a combination of Roman and 16th century ceramics.
- 6.6. Although (15) only produced Roman ceramics, the stratigraphy identified within Trench 3 shows this deposit to be 20th century in date. It is thought that the two sherds recovered from (15) are intrusive/redeposited.
- 6.7. Deposit (16) contained a mixed assemblage of Roman to Post Medieval ceramics. This is thought to be a late Post Medieval make up deposit.
- 6.8. Both deposits (17) and (18) produced exclusively Roman ceramic sherds including building materials as well as domestic wares. Both of these deposits represent *in situ* Roman archaeology.

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SIZE (MM) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	PERIOD
5	Coarse Yellow	Mortaria	55 x 25 x 28	None	1 st - 3 rd century
5	Orange Ware	Tile	82 x 40 x 20	None	1 st - 3 rd century
5	Brown Glazed Ware	Base	36 x 48 x 7	Glazed on inner and outer surface, flared base	16 th century
5	Coarse Ceramic	CBM	36 x 30 x 12	None	Post Medieval
5	Clay pipe	Pipe stem	7 diameter x 40, 3 bore	None	Post Medieval
5	Black/Brown Glazed Ware	Dish	58 x 26 x 17	Glaze on inner surface	18 th - 19 th century
5	Black/Brown Glazed Ware	Rim	143 x 52 x 11	Glaze on inner surface, rough handle on outer surface	18 th - 19 th century
5	Blue & White Ware	Plate	19 x 18 x 2	Floral design	18 th - 19 th century
5	Porcelain	Rim	800 diameter x 6 thick	None	18 th - 19 th Century
5	Porcelain	Base	87 diameter x 5 thick	None	18 th - 19 th century
5	Porcelain	Soap dish	153 x 100 x 35	None	20 th century
5	Terracotta	Flower pot	115 x 55 x 14	None	20 th century
6	Coarse Ceramic	Mortaria	60 x 33 x 19	None	1 st - 3 rd century
15	Coarse Ceramic	Tegula	85 x 67 x 28	None	1 st - 3 rd century
15	Coarse Ceramic	CBM	65 x 70 x 43	None	1 st - 3 rd century
16	Coarse Ceramic	Imbrex	120 x 151 x 33	Roof ridge tile	1 st - 3 rd century
16	Coarse Ceramic	Tegula	125 x 100 x 38	Roof tile	1 st - 3 rd century
16	Orange Ware	Sherd	65 x 40 x 22	None	1 st - 3 rd century
16	Orange Ware	Sherd	48 x 32 x 20	None	1 st - 3 rd century
16	Orange Ware	Rim	56 x 42 x 16	None	1 st - 3 rd century
16	Black/Brown Glazed Ware	Rim	54 x 34 x 9	Glazed at upper section of rim	18 th - 19 th century
17	Coarse Ceramic	Tegula	172 x 160 x 35	Roof tile	1 st - 3 rd century
17	Orange Ware	Sherd	74 x 66 x 20	None	1 st - 3 rd century
17	Coarse Yellow Ceramic	Mortaria	94 x 80 x 14	None	1 st - 3 rd century
17	Orange Ware	Sherd	29 x 26 x 10	None	1 st - 3 rd century
17	Orange Ware	Sherd	50 x 29 x 6	None	1 st - 3 rd century
18	Orange Ware	Sherd	38 x 36 x 12	None	1 st - 3 rd century
18	Orange Ware	Sherd	58 x 75 x 26	None	1 st - 3 rd century
18	Orange Ware	Sherd	91 x 46 x 22	None	1 st - 3 rd century
18	Orange Ware	Sherd	95 x 46 x 14	None	1 st - 3 rd century
18	Orange Ware	Sherd	48 x 38 x 25	None	1 st - 3 rd century
18	Orange Ware	Sherd	80 x 45 x 11	None	1 st - 3 rd century
18	Samian	Rim	55 x 43 x 5	Lipped rim and single relief band at base	1 st - 3 rd century
18	Orange Ware	Neck/Rim	122 x 80 x 20	Yellow slip on outer surface	1 st - 3 rd century

18	Orange Ware	Tegula	118 x 109 x 18	Stamp of 'LEG' visible	1 st - 3 rd century
18	Orange Ware	Tegula	112 x 77 x 24	None	1 st - 3 rd century
18	Orange Ware	Tegula	116 x 100 x 26	None	1 st - 3 rd century
18	Orange Ware	Tegula	141 x 59 x 24	None	1 st - 3 rd century

Table 1 - Ceramic Assemblage

7. Summary and Conclusions

- 7.1. Land off St Martin's Way, Chester, is proposed for redevelopment. The proposed redevelopment involves the landscaping of a vacant lot to create a grassed and planted park space.
- 7.2. Examination of the available data indicates that the site does not contain any scheduled ancient monuments or listed buildings.
- 7.3. The site has been identified from previous archaeological work as containing highly significant archaeological remains. The site contains the remains of the Roman barracks that served the fortress of Deva from the 1st century. It is thought that once the barracks went out of use the site was not developed until the late Post Medieval period. This has allowed a build up of protective deposits to form over the barracks during the Medieval and Early Post Medieval periods.
- 7.4. This evaluation revealed three distinct areas. Trenches 1 to 4 all contained the 20th century construction deposits for the bowling green. These deposits underlay the topsoil and seal in a Post Medieval deposit at approximately 0.5m below ground level. This Post Medieval deposit was investigated in Trench 4 and was shown to seal *in situ* Roman deposits at a depth of 0.9m below ground level. The Roman deposits contained evidence of a robbed out wall, potentially relating to the barracks structure.
- 7.5. Trench 3 straddled the edge of the bowling green and this was represented in the stratigraphy recorded. To the southeast of the trench a brick structure was identified which was clearly 20th century in date. Observations from Ordnance Survey maps of the site show that this is likely the northwestern edge of a 20th century extension to the Masonic Lodge. To the north of this extension *in situ* Roman deposits were identified at a depth of 0.6m below ground level.
- 7.6. Trench 5 was located within the footprint of the Masonic Lodge and contained backfilled rubble relating to the demolition of the Lodge building. It is thought that this backfill has been graded and pushed into an existing cellar. This deposit was not fully excavated for safety reasons, as it exceeded 1.2m below ground level.
- 7.7. These results have been used to determine a series of archaeological zones on the site

(FIGURE 10).

- 7.8. It is in the 19th century that the site is developed to contain terraced buildings, initially along the road frontages of Princess Street to the south. Following this the western area of the site, off St Martin's Way, was developed. In the early 20th century a Masonic Lodge was built at the eastern end of the site. By the mid 20th century the site housed a Mission Hall and bowling green. The site becomes fully developed in the late 20th century with the addition of a clinical centre at its western end.
- 7.9. Previous development will have disturbed the archaeological deposits across the majority of the site. However, within the area defined by the bowling green and outside of the footprints of the previous buildings, archaeological deposits are thought to survive, protected by the Medieval and Post Medieval deposits.
- 7.10. Any development of the site would need to be monitored and no excavation should take place in the high priority areas defined on FIGURE 10 below depths agreed with the City Archaeologist.

8. Archive

8.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 7 x Drawing Film
- ◆ 1 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 26 x Black and white photographs and negatives
- ◆ 1 x Context Register
- ◆ 20 x Context sheets
- ◆ 1 x Level register

8.2. The finds archive consists of:

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

8.3. The archive is to be deposited at the Grosvenor Museum, Chester.

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CARTOGRAPHIC

COLE, 1851. *Map of Chester*

THOMAS, 1853. *Map of Chester*

GRESTY, 1870. *Map of Chester*

ORDNANCE SURVEY, 1872. *Map of Chester*

ORDNANCE SURVEY, 1911. *Map of Chester*

ORDNANCE SURVEY, 1958. *Map of Chester*

ORDNANCE SURVEY, 1977. *Map of Chester*

ORDNANCE SURVEY, 2000. *Map of Chester*

FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site Location General



Scale 1:25,000 @ A4

0 1,000m



PROJECT // 1052C - St Martin's Way

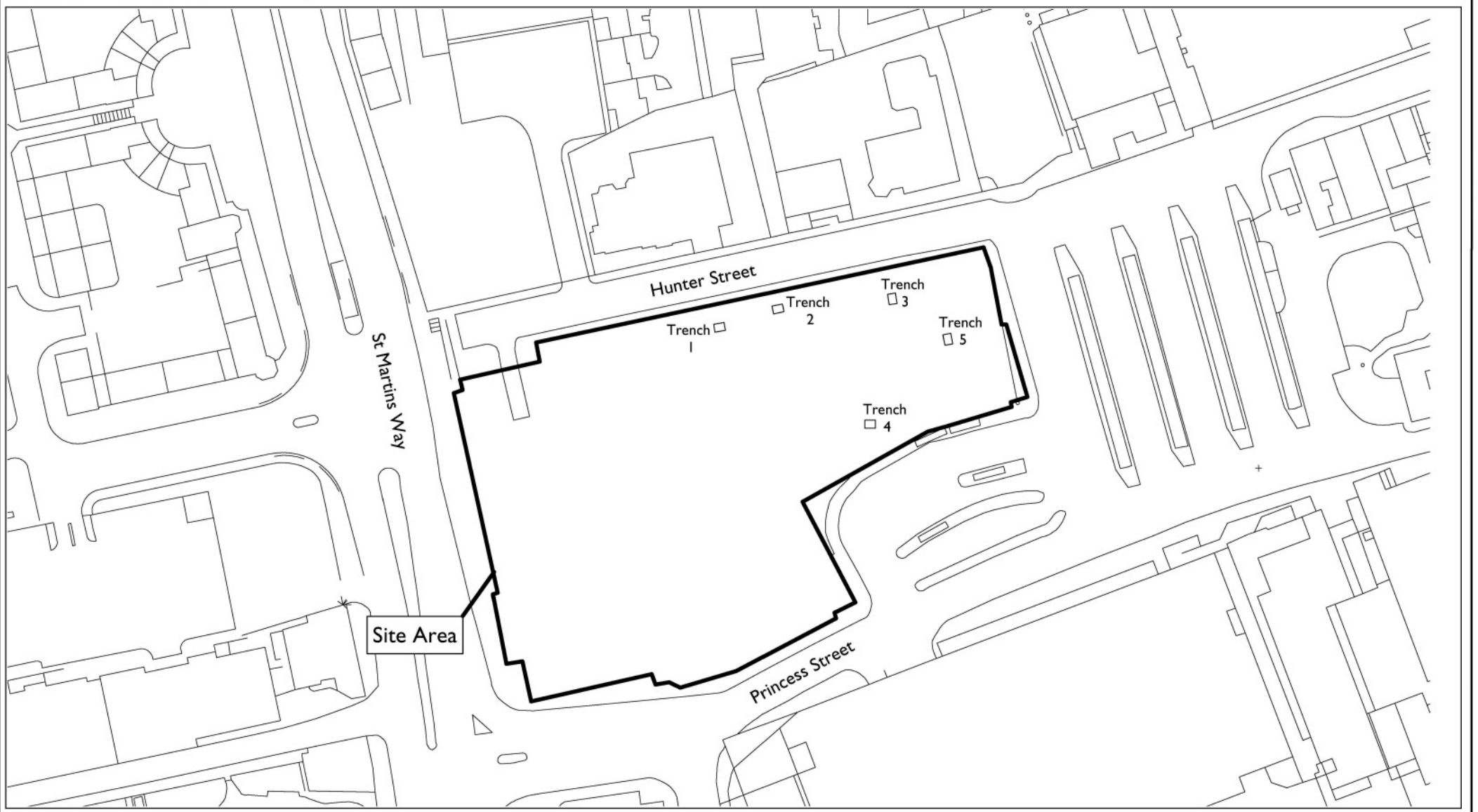
DESCRIPTION // Site location general

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DOC REF: LPI052-AER-v1

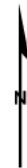
L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detail



Scale 1:1,000 @ A4

0 50m



PROJECT // 1052C - St Martin's Way

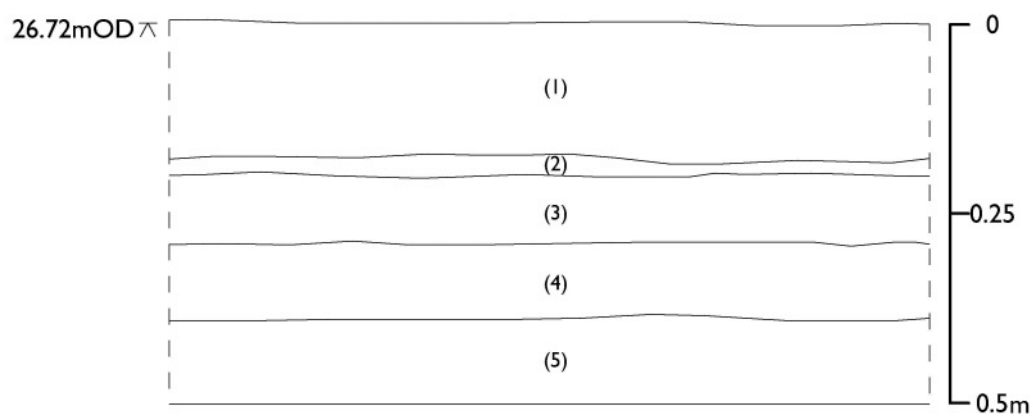
DESCRIPTION // Site location detail

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L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 3 // South Facing Section of Trench I



Scale 1:10 @ A4

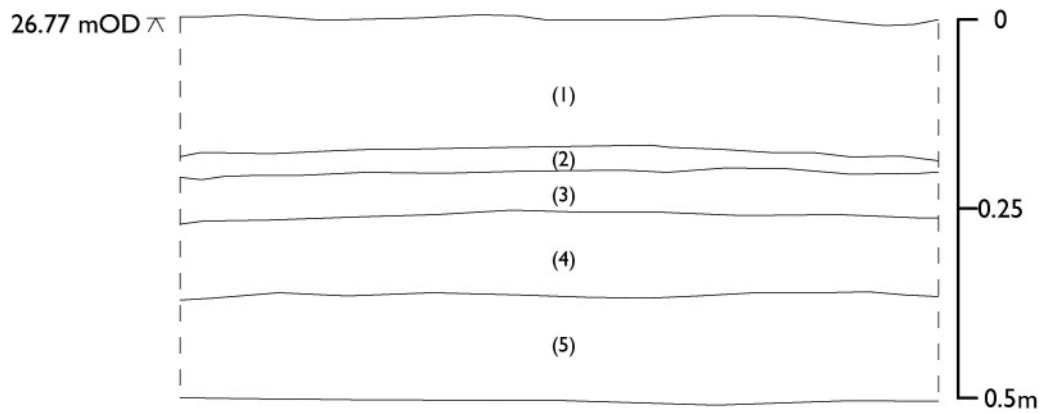
PROJECT // 1052C - St Martin's Way

DESCRIPTION // South facing section of trench I

DOC REF: LPI052-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 4 // South Facing Section of Trench 2



Scale 1:10 @ A4

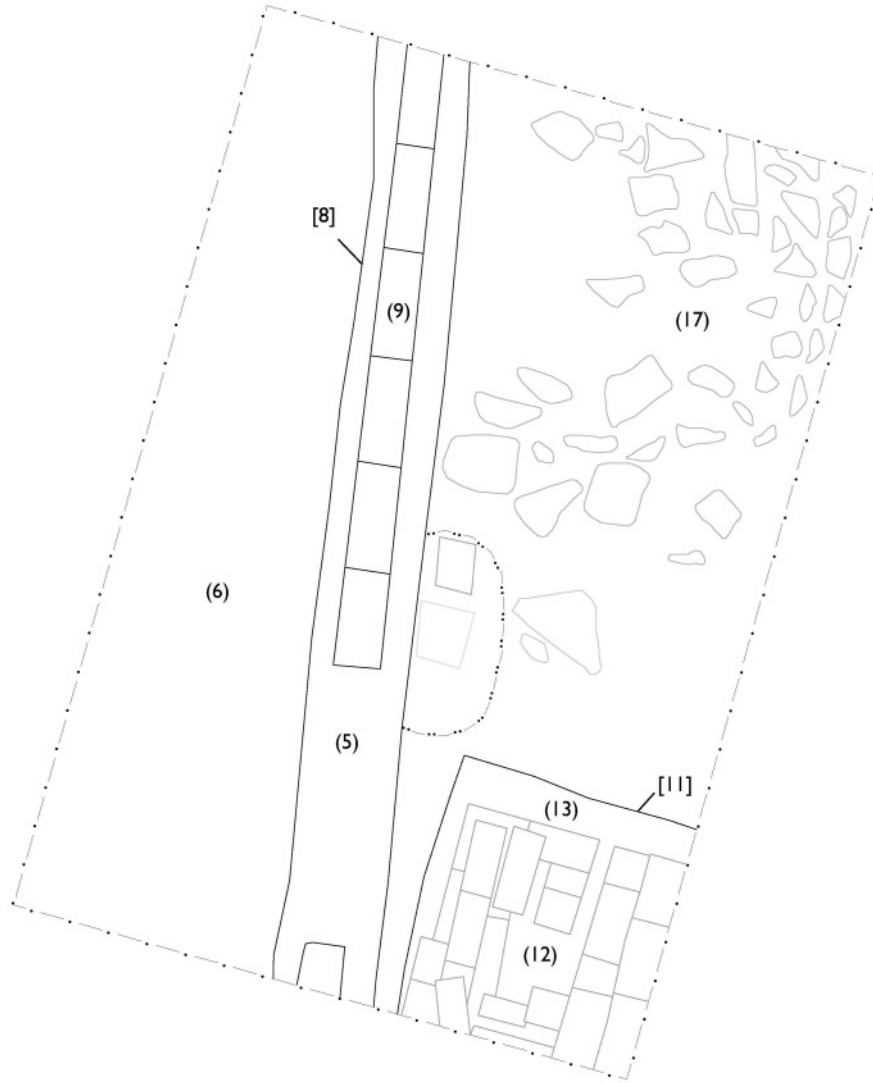
PROJECT // 1052C - St Martin's Way

DESCRIPTION // South facing section of trench 2

DOC REF: LPI052-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 5 // Plan of Trench 3



Scale 1:20 @ A4

0 1m



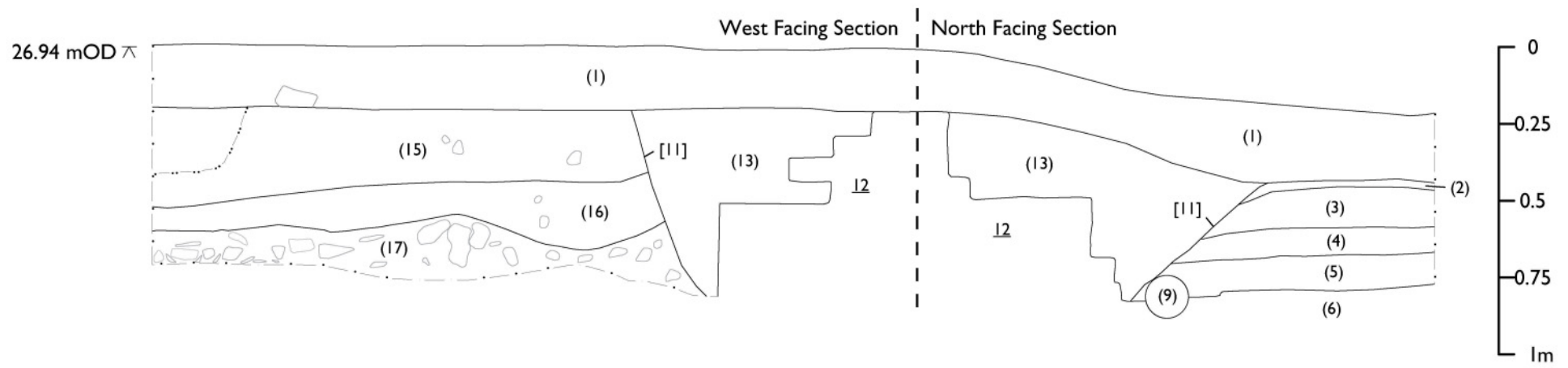
PROJECT // 1052C - St Martin's Way

DESCRIPTION // Plan of trench 3

DOC REF: LPI052-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 6 // Trench 3 Sections



Scale 1:20 @ A4

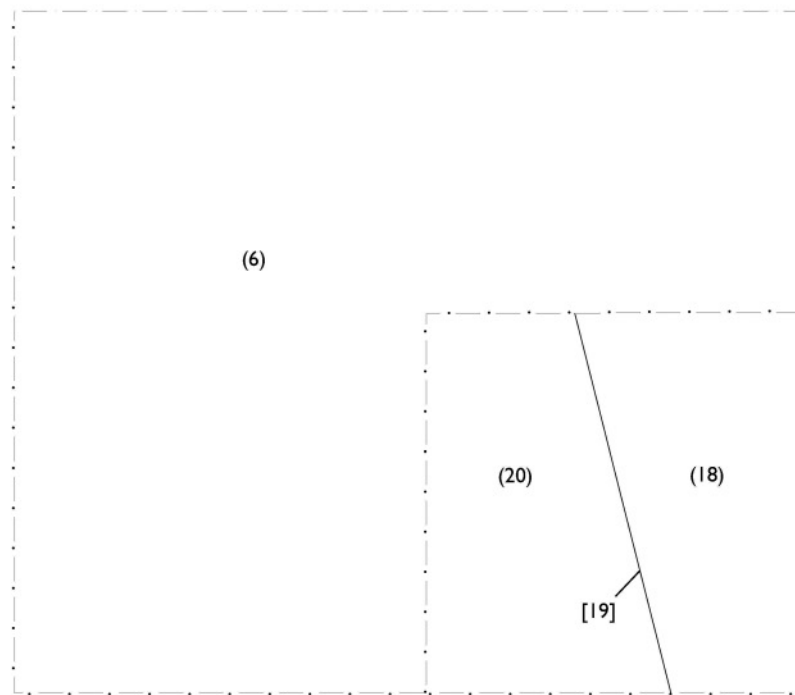
PROJECT // 1052C - St Martin's Way

DESCRIPTION // Trench 3 sections

DOC REF: LPI052C-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 7 // Plan of Trench 4



Scale 1:20 @ A4

0 1m



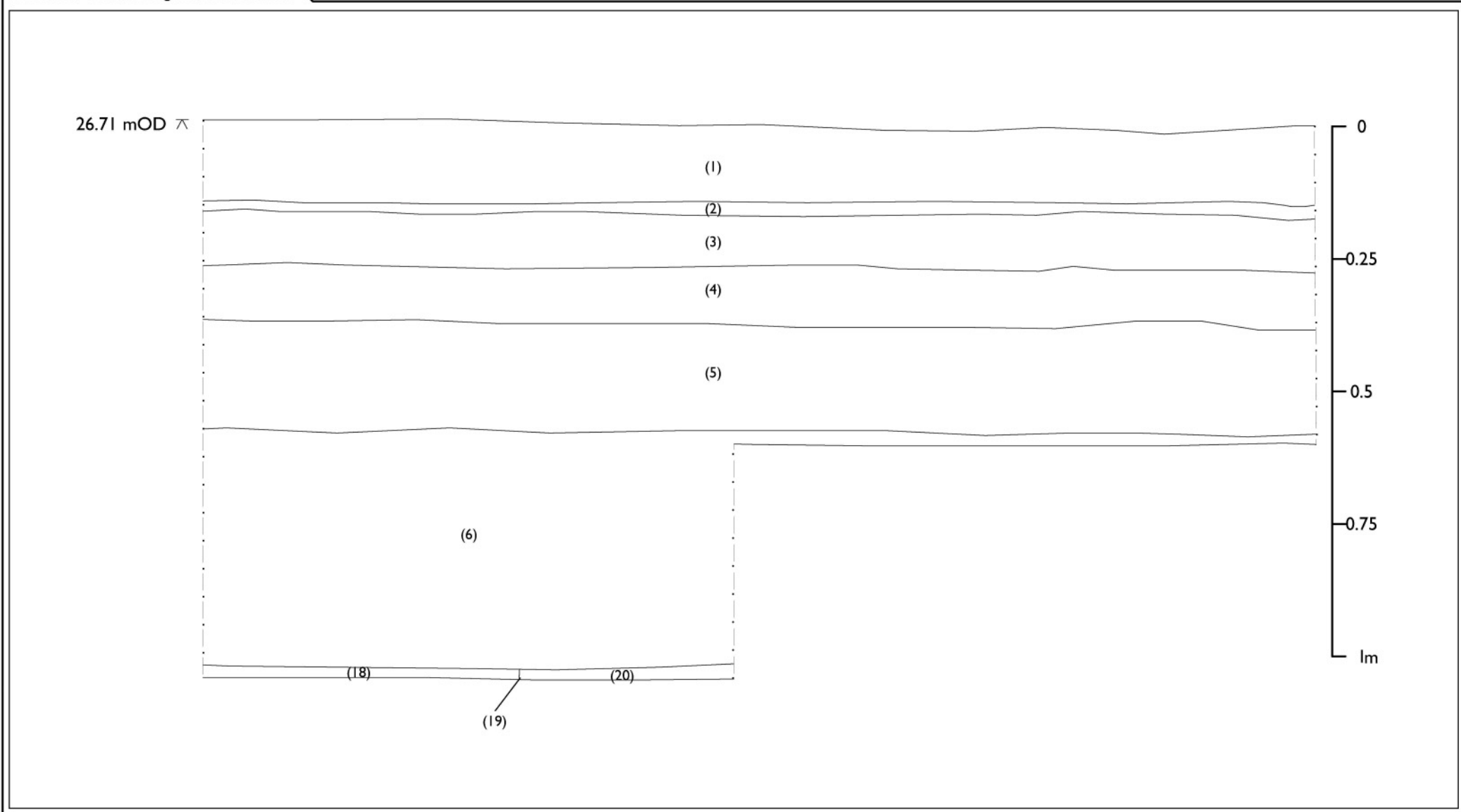
PROJECT // 1052C - St Martin's Way

DESCRIPTION // Plan of trench 4

DOC REF: LPI052-AER-v1

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FIGURE 8 // North Facing Section of Trench 4



Scale 1:10 @ A4

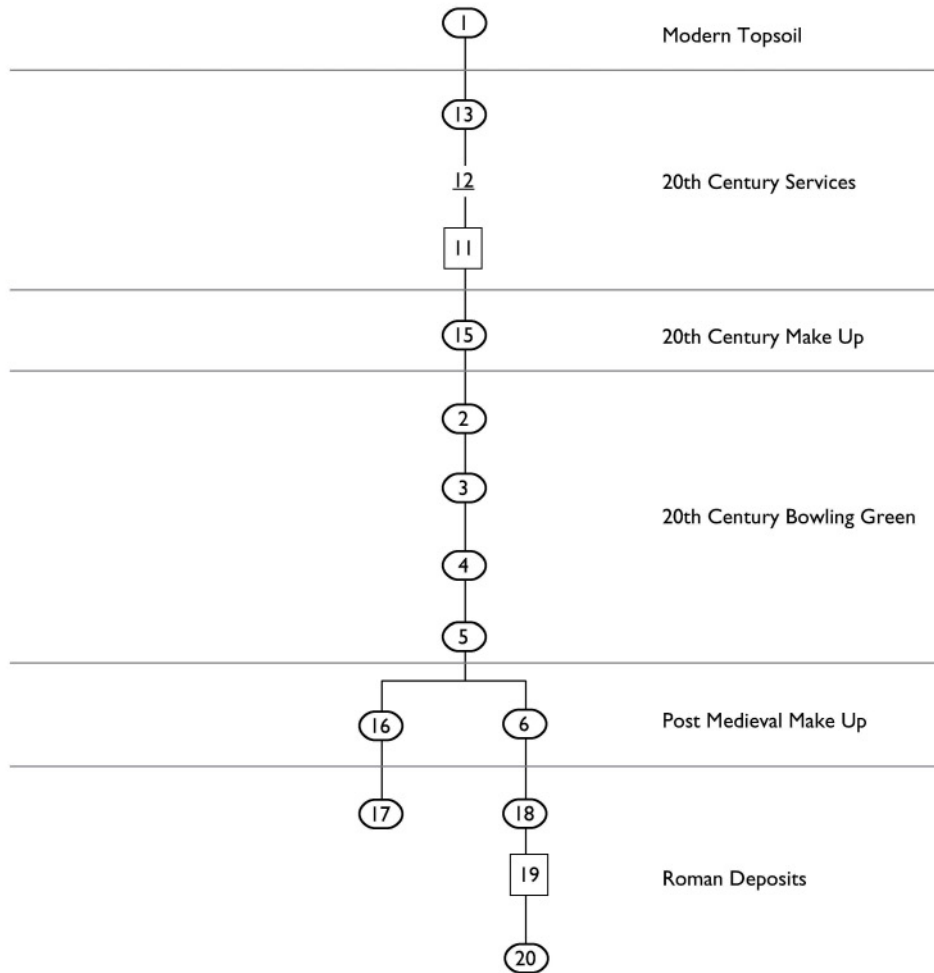
PROJECT // 1052C - St Martin's Way

DESCRIPTION // North facing section of trench 4

DOC REF: LPI052C-AER-v1

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FIGURE 9 // Site Matrix



PROJECT // 1052C - St Martin's Way





DESCRIPTION // Site Matrix

DOC REF: LPI052-AER-v1

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FIGURE 10 // Archaeological Zones



- Not to scale. Dashed lines represent demolished structures
-  Masonic Lodge Archaeological monitoring required to expose footprint
 -  High impact area Archaeological monitoring required on all groundworks in this area
 -  Bowling green Archaeological monitoring required to ensure excavations do not penetrate set levels
 -  Low impact area Archaeological monitoring required at outset to determine deposits

PROJECT // 1052C - St Martin's Way

DESCRIPTION // Archaeological zones

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OASIS FORM

APPENDIX I

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: Iparchae1-84111

Project details

Project name	St Martin's Way
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation at land off St Martin's Way, Chester.
Project dates	Start: 27-09-2010 End: 08-10-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	CHE/SMW 10 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	CHEGM.2010.27 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	WALL Roman
Significant Finds	TEGULA Roman
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Amenity area (e.g. public open space)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CHESHIRE CHESTER CHESTER St Martin's Way
Postcode	CH1 2HH
Study area	5459.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SJ 340303 366458 52.9228505960 -2.981362478620 52 55 22 N 002 58 52 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 26.00m Max: 27.00m

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	Claire Statter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Cheshire West and Chester Council

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Grosvenor Museum
Physical Archive ID	CHEGM.2010.27
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Grosvenor Museum
Paper Archive ID	CHEGM.2010.27
Paper Contents	'Ceramics'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Drawing', 'Map', 'Matrices', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report, St Martin's Way, Chester
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Statter, c.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Poole, B.
Other bibliographic details	LP1052C-AER-v1.4
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	L - P : Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Chester
Description	Grey literature report on the results of the field evaluation.
Entered by	Blair Poole (b.poole@lparchaeology.com)
Entered on	8 October 2010

OASIS:

Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice

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