

LAND AT CITY ROAD, CHESTER Cheshire



Archaeological Evaluation



Oxford Archaeology North

November 2002

Joseph Finney Plc

Issue No.: 2002-03/047

OAN Job No.: L9060

NGR: SJ 3405 3665

Document Title: LAND AT CITY ROAD, CHESTER, CHESHIRE

Document Type: Archaeological Evaluation Report

Client Name: Joseph Finney Plc

Issue Number: 2002-2003/047

OA Job Number: L9060

National Grid Reference: SJ 3405 3665

Prepared by: Sean McPhilips
Position: Project Supervisor
Date: November 2002

Checked by: Alison Plummer Signed.....
Position: Project Manager
Date: November 2002

Approved by: Carol Allen Signed.....
Position: Project Manager
Date: November 2002

Document File Location Alison/Projects/L9060city/L9060rep

Oxford Archaeology North

Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1TF
t: (0044) 01524 848666
f: (0044) 01524 848606

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2002

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0EA
t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	1
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	4
1.1 Circumstances of Project.....	5
1.2 Site Location, Geology, and Topography	5
1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background	5
2. METHODOLOGY	7
2.1 Project Design	7
2.3 Evaluation Trenching and Test Pits	7
2.4 Finds Strategy.....	8
2.5 Archive	8
3. EVALUATION RESULTS	9
3.1 Introduction	9
3.2 Trench 1	9
3.3 Trench 2	10
3.4 Trench 3	10
3.5 Test Pit 1	11
3.6 Test Pit 2	12
3.7 Test Pit 3	12
4. PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS	18
4.1 Introduction	18
5. FINDS REPORT.....	19
5.1 Introduction	19
5.3 Ceramic Building Material.....	22
5.4 Stone Building Material	22
5.5 Metalwork	22

6. SYNTHESIS	24
6.1 Introduction	24
6.2 Roman	24
6.5 Eighteenth Century Workers Cottages	25
APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF	28
APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN	29
APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT LIST	30
APPENDIX 4: SUMMARY FINDS LIST	35
APPENDIX 5: PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL LIST	42
ILLUSTRATIONS.....	44
List of Figures	44
List of Plates.....	44

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) at the site of the Royalty Theatre, between City Road and Russell Street, Chester (SJ 3405 3665), in May 2002. The work was commissioned by Joseph Finney Plc and took place in advance of ground disturbance over an area of c 1500 square metres. The aim of the evaluation was to investigate and characterise the extent and survival of archaeological deposits across the designated area. The work comprised the excavation of three linear trenches and six test pits.

Documentary evidence indicated that during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Russell Street frontage was occupied by working class housing associated with the first phase of industrialisation of Chester. The evaluation trenches and test pits revealed the following:

- **ROMAN** – no features, but redeposited 2nd century pottery indicating some Roman presence nearby.
- **MEDIEVAL** – remains of structures indicated by walling and rubbish pits, showing the presence of medieval buildings and occupation in this area.
- **POST-MEDIEVAL** – industrial remains, probable tanning pits, and possible kiln/furnace debris, all with good dating evidence.
- **EIGHTEENTH CENTURY COTTAGES** – remains of 18th and 19th century structures.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North would like to thank Joseph Finney Plc for commissioning the project, and Wilsons demolition company for their help and support. Thanks also go to Simon Ward, the Assistant City Archaeologist of Chester Archaeology Service, for advice on the positioning of trenches and for kindly providing information upon sites in the locality. OA North are grateful to Julie Edwards of the Chester Archaeology Service for sharing her knowledge and expertise of post-medieval pottery fabrics, and to George Luke, a local archaeologist, for his invaluable assistance. The programme was monitored by Simon Ward.

The evaluation was conducted by Sean McPhillips, Chris Healey, Gunnar Hellstrom and Pete Schofield. Kat Hopwood compiled the drawings. The pottery analysis was carried out by Sean McPhillips, the animal bone was analysed by Andrew Bates and the plant macrofossils were analysed by Elizabeth Huckerby. The report was written by Sean McPhillips and edited by Alison Plummer and Alan Lupton. The project was managed by Alison Plummer.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the land at City Road and Russell Street, Chester (SJ 3405 3665), recently the site of the Royalty Theatre. The work was commissioned by Joseph Finney Plc and took place in advance of a proposed programme of ground disturbance over an area of *c* 1500 square metres. The objective of the evaluation was to record and identify the below-ground deposits across the whole site down to a depth of 1.2m.
- 1.1.2 The Royalty Theatre was a nineteenth century building which was constructed in four phases (OA North 2001). The building had an extensive basement, which was investigated by a series of test pits. The Russell Street frontage was occupied by a row of nineteenth century cottages, which were investigated by the excavation of three trenches. The trenches were positioned at right angles to Russell Street and were placed in order to characterise the fabric and extent of the foundations.

1.2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY, AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.2.1 The site was located approximately a quarter of a mile east of Northgate street, on the south side of the Shropshire Union canal in Chester, Cheshire. It was centred at SJ 3405 3665 (Fig 1). The area lies between City Road and Russell Street, within the eastern suburb of the Roman, medieval and post-medieval town.
- 1.2.2 The solid geology of low-lying parts of Cheshire is frequently obscured by drift deposits up to 90m thick (Higham 1993). In Chester, a narrow ridge of Permo-Triassic sandstone known as the Chester Pebble Beds has been cut by the River Dee. The ridge is bounded on both sides by deposits of drift, to the west is the broad flat alluvium of the former estuary, and to the east a mixture of till and glacial sands and gravels (*ibid*). The city of Chester sits on top of a sandstone ridge rising gradually from the gorge of the River Dee at the Bridgegate, to a point just outside the Northgate. There is a marked change in gradient to the north as the land rises quite steeply, before levelling out in the vicinity of Music Hall Passage, and dipping slightly in proximity to Frodsham Street and Hoole Way.

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 No previous archaeological work has taken place on this site, and until recently nothing was known about the archaeology of the area. However, in 2001, two evaluations were carried out in the area east of Russell Street by Earthworks Archaeological Services and LP Archaeology. These provided an insight into the archaeological potential of the site, as summarised below.

- 1.3.2 **Roman:** Roman activity was found in the form of a boundary/field ditch, rich in organic remains including plants and insects. Roman deposits were also found towards the Boughton street frontage.
- 1.3.3 **Medieval:** Evidence for medieval industrial activity was present along City Road.
- 1.3.4 **Post-medieval:** In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Russell Street frontage was occupied by early working class housing associated with the first phase of industrialisation in Chester. The foundations and floors of these structures were still in good condition, and these buildings were also seen on the 1875 town plan (Fig 2).

1.4 PREVIOUS WORK

- 1.4.1 An archaeological assessment and building investigation of the Royalty Theatre was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North in December 2001 (OA North 2001). The assessment produced a record of the existing building prior to its demolition, and the subsequent redevelopment of the site. A rapid desk-based assessment was also carried out in order to relate the research findings with the results of the building assessment, and to ascertain whether any original features were still present.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 2*), which was written in accordance with the project brief (*Appendix 1*). The work was designed to evaluate the archaeological deposits affected by the proposed development of the site. The aims were to identify the presence or absence of Roman organic deposits, to assess the general nature and quality of the post-Roman deposits and to assess the degree of preservation of the early working class housing.
- 2.1.2 The test pit positions defined in the project design were altered slightly due to the incomplete demolition of the south portion of the theatre. Two excavated test pits in the vicinity of the theatre were abandoned in accordance with a request issued by the Chester City Council Building Control Officer. The final layout of the trenches and test pits (including the abandoned test pits) is shown in Figure 3. In all other respects the work was undertaken in accordance with the project design.

2.2 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

- 2.2.1 Environmental samples were taken from a variety of deposits from all phases on the site (*Appendix 5*). The samples appeared to contain preserved plant remains, and therefore their potential for further analysis was assessed by an environmental specialist.
- 2.2.2 Nine samples from different contexts (Contexts **7, 19, 21, 39, 41, 51, 71, 95, and 107**) were processed for palaeoenvironmental remains. Ten litres of each sample were hand floated, and the flots were collected on a 500 µm mesh and air-dried. The residues greater than 500 µm were retained. The flots were examined with a Leitz/Wild stereozoom microscope, and all identifiable plant material was recorded. The matrix components were also noted. Representative samples of the residues were checked for small finds, and for plant material that failed to float. The results are presented in *Appendix 5*.

2.3 EVALUATION TRENCHING AND TEST PITS

- 2.3.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of three trenches and six test pits, of varied size, in locations agreed by OA North and Chester Archaeological Service (CAS) (Fig 3). A mechanical excavator was used to remove the topsoil down to the surface of the natural subsoil, or to the top of significant archaeological deposits. The trenches were then cleaned by hand, and manual excavation was carried out where appropriate. The manual excavation was undertaken in a stratigraphic manner, and features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* context sheets based on those designed by MoLAS and English Heritage's Centre for Archaeology (CFA); a list of contexts appears in *Appendix 3*. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20, and a photographic record was created in digital, colour slide, colour and black and white print formats.

Planning was carried out manually, and the plans were superimposed onto a digital topographic plan of the site.

2.4 FINDS STRATEGY

- 2.4.1 All artefacts and ecofacts were recorded using the same system as the contextual information, and were handled and stored according to standard practice, following current Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidelines. The assemblage was subject to analysis by the OA North in-house finds specialist and the results are presented in *Section 5*.

2.5 ARCHIVE

- 2.5.1 A full archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design, following professional standards and the current English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The project archive contains indices of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project, and includes the *pro forma* recording sheets, the photographic archive, and accurate digital plans and sections.
- 2.5.2 Following discussion with the client, both the paper archive and the material archive will be deposited with the Grosvenor Museum, Chester. A copy of the paper archive will also be deposited with the Cheshire County Record Office. A synthesis of the archive will also be available for deposition in the National Monuments Record.

3. EVALUATION RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 Summary results of the evaluation trenching and test pits are presented below. The context list is presented in *Appendix 3*, and the trench locations and features are shown graphically as Figure 3.

3.2 TRENCH 1

- 3.2.1 Trench 1 was positioned in the north-east corner of the site, adjacent to the front of Russell Street. It was aligned east/west and was excavated in order to characterise the width of the cottage foundations. The trench measured 4.10m long x 2.50m wide, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m (Fig 4).
- 3.2.2 The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was a dark brown silty clay **119** seen at the base of a one metre square sondage cut in the western area of the trench. The character of this deposit was not ascertained, however it contained residual pottery from the Roman period mixed with eighteenth century material, and could possibly be interpreted as a backfilling event to create a level surface.
- 3.2.3 Cutting **119**, at a depth of at least 1.20m, was a north/south-aligned red sandstone mortared wall, **89**. This 0.20m wide wall was interpreted as an exterior curtain wall for a cottage fronting on to Russell Street, and was observed to continue south into the north facing section. Its upper surface was exposed to a depth of 0.33m below the tarmac ground surface, extending to a depth of 0.60m. Two red sandstone walls of a similar width were observed butting **89** on east/west alignments. These included a 2m long dividing wall, **90** in the eastern area of the trench, representing the north wall of the cottage, and a further wall, **118**, in the west area superimposed by a single course of bricks, **88**. Wall **118/88** consisted of at least two courses of sandstone surviving at the same depth as **89**. Wall **118** could have been built to house a privy, as a layer of cess stained yellowish green clay, **120**, was pressed against it within the base of the sondage.
- 3.2.4 The internal room of the cottage formed by walls **89** and **90** contained the remnants of a brick-built structure, **93**, spread over an area of 0.40m², close to the eastern limit of the trench at the street frontage. Although the deposit surrounding it comprised demolition material, **93** was interpreted as either a floor surface or levelled collapse.
- 3.2.5 Overlying **119** to the west was an uneven spread of charcoal grey coloured bricks, **91**, set in a herringbone style, measuring 2m in width, and aligned with wall **88**. A drain set within the bricks against wall **89** suggested that bricks **91** represented a yard area at the rear of the cottage in the twentieth century.

3.3 TRENCH 2

- 3.3.1 Trench 2 was positioned in order to establish a profile of the structural elements through the length of a potential nineteenth century cottage. The trench measured 9.0m long x 2.0m wide, and was aligned east/west. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m.
- 3.3.2 The earliest structural features encountered were a series of brick walls built at the initial construction phase of the cottage (Fig 5). They comprised two intact walls aligned north/south, **81** and **82**, (Plate 1) set 1.70m apart with the space between them filled by demolition material, and the remnants of two east/west parallel walls, **83** and **84**, which survived in the western area of the trench. Wall **83** had a slight return to the north for a distance of 0.60m, butting **84**. Wall **84** continued further west for a distance of 0.20m but was truncated by modern disturbance. The structure created by these walls was probably a coal store.
- 3.3.3 Apart from the walls there was evidence of a cobbled and flagged surface **79**, surviving in small patches at the western edge of the trench. This was probably part of the original make up for the street frontage. A sondage was excavated through the cobbles in an attempt to identify and recover dating evidence for the possible road construction. This exercise revealed a succession of three slumping layers **85**, **86**, and **87**, sloping downwards from east to west underlying the cobbles, used to create a level surface. The dating evidence from these layers was mixed, comprising Black Burnished ware and Samian ware from the second century, amongst material from the post-medieval period, which included nineteenth century glazes and Victorian bottles.
- 3.3.4 The deposits in the eastern area of the trench comprised demolition and levelling layers, which removed further evidence of the cottage foundations. The demolition debris, **78**, produced pottery from the Roman period and large quantities of material from the nineteenth century. This debris lay above the levelling layer, which comprised a thick deposit of redeposited clay, **80**, containing material from the same period. This sequence of events perhaps represents a later phase of development.

3.4 TRENCH 3

- 3.4.1 This was positioned in order to trace possible post-medieval structural remains along the eastern edge of the site. It was on a north/south alignment and it was located 4.05m south of Trench 2. Its dimensions were 2.58m x 1.90m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.70m. The structural features found in the trench include three contemporaneous internal brick walls (Fig 6).
- 3.4.2 The earliest deposit encountered was a sandy layer, **20**, observed at the base of a one metre square exploratory sondage in the central area of the trench. Running on an angled slope to the west, this deposit yielded a single sherd of refined, decorated pottery dating to the nineteenth century. This layer could possibly represent floor make up.

- 3.4.3 Overlying **20** was a thick deposit of light brown sandy silt, **14**, containing crushed mortar, fractured ceramic building material, and an eighteenth century partial lead glazed pottery rim. This layer was interpreted as one of two phases of demolition and levelling events seen below the later brick walls. The second phase consisted of a 0.15m thick deposit of mortar and crushed sandstone, **23**, seen in the east and west sections above **14**, containing pottery dating no earlier than the nineteenth century.
- 3.4.4 Layer **14** was cut by a large foundation trench, **15** for two walls, **11** and **10**, running north/south and east/west respectively. The cut extended across the interior of the structure toward a third wall, **12** which ran north/south on the opposite side. The dating for this extension was uncertain as the fills varied in composition. The eastern and northern fills comprised a medium brown sandy clay, **29**, whereas the western fills were of a sandy silt texture, **14**. The suspicion of an original floor level, within the north-west area of the structure, is represented by a level surface made up of a medium to dark brown sandy clay silt **13**. The wall foundation cut through this surface would explain the coarser texture and disturbed fill in the west. The walls comprised two strings with up to ten courses of brick extant. The most intact face was wall **11**, which survived to a depth of 0.80m below the hardcore and demolition debris.

3.5 TEST PIT 1

- 3.5.1 This was positioned within the central area of the basement level along the City Road street frontage. It measured 2.80m x 1.80m and was aligned north/south; it was excavated to a depth of 1.20m. The test pit exposed two walls and buried soil horizons.
- 3.5.2 The earliest deposits encountered were a layer of redeposited natural clay of unknown function, **42**, seen in the south-east corner, a possible medieval soil horizon, **47**, and a layer of cess material, **48**. The latter two layers were located beneath a wall, **45**, which was aligned north/south: the layers were exposed within a small sondage (0.70m x 0.40m) cut around the wall. Layer **48** consisted of a dark green stained sticky clay, and although the layer was not fully excavated, it did produce a single sherd of Roman amphorae. Overlying **48** was a 0.35m thick deposit, **47**, of mid brown sandy clay. This layer yielded a small assemblage of Roman and medieval pottery, which hints at a disturbed Roman soil horizon.
- 3.5.3 Overlying **42** was a consistent level spread of dark brown sandy clay, **43**, with few inclusions. Interpreted as a build-up layer, it was cut by the construction of a possible Tudor wall, **44**. A remnant of the wall observed in the east facing section was exposed from the west end of the trench for 0.26m, and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment. The wall was up to four courses high and the hand-made bricks were bonded by a lime based mortar. **43** was also cut by a substantial sandstone wall, **45**, located in the north-east corner and aligned north-south. The wall was exposed for 1.20m running into the south facing section, and could represent a curtain wall.

- 3.5.4 In addition to the cut for the construction of wall **45**, layer **43** was cut by a large demolition pit, **58**, located in the south-west corner. The pit also truncated the foundation of wall **44**. It contained tipped fills of rubble and mortar, which were probably associated with the theatre construction.

3.6 TEST PIT 2

- 3.6.1 This was positioned 6.50m south of Test Pit 1. The excavation of the test pit was abandoned due to the unsafe proximity of the extant south section of the theatre. The pit measured two metres square, and was excavated to a depth of 0.35m prior to abandonment.
- 3.6.2 The principal feature in this test pit was a 1.05m wide wall, **2**, running into the north section. Two courses were visible, composed of 0.11m thick square cut sandstone blocks, which were faced on three sides and bonded by a light yellowish red sandy mortar. The hardcore rubble infill remained intact. The wall terminated in the middle of the pit. Surrounding the wall (for which there was no obvious construction trench) was a mixed mortar/rubble deposit representing a demolition event, **1**. The wall was on a similar alignment to wall **45** in Test Pit 1, and may be a continuation of this structure.

3.7 TEST PIT 3

- 3.7.1 This was positioned to the east of Test Pit 2, with identical except that the maximum depth excavated was 1.50m. This test pit was also abandoned for safety reasons.
- 3.7.2 The test pit revealed two deposits including a 0.35m thick band of demolition debris and a 0.90m thick sloping deposit of light grey sticky clay which contained several sherds of Victorian black glazed red earthenware, glass bottles and clay pipe stems. Cutting this deposit in the southern half of the pit was a ruptured ceramic land drain orientated east-west. The deposits in this test pit have not proved to be significant, and have not aided the interpretation of the site.

3.8 TEST PIT 4

- 3.8.1 This was positioned in the central northern area of the site, 3m south of the north perimeter curtain wall. The dimensions of the test pit were 1.80m x 1.60m, and it was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m. Full sample excavation was abandoned due to diesel contamination encountered in the lower levels. Structural features included two phases of sandstone wall with an associated flagged floor, and a deep pit overlaid by timber beams.
- 3.8.2 The earliest feature was an east-west aligned sandstone wall, **4**. The northern face comprised three courses of 0.30m square cut blocks, with 0.40m of the width exposed before it ran into the south section. The eastern edge of the wall had been truncated by brick theatre/cellar foundations. The core of the wall was made up of fragmented sandstone and crushed brick, bonded by a yellow

sandy lime mortar. The wall represents an early phase of construction and probably served as a curtain wall for a large building. A second phase of wall rebuild was revealed in the north facing section, 0.22m below the demolition debris and partially overlying **4**. This second wall, **126**, directly overlaid wall **4** on a similar east/west alignment. Wall **126** had two courses of roughly hewn sandstone, but did not appear to be mortar bonded or very well constructed. The function of **126** was unclear due to the limited nature of the investigation.

- 3.8.3 Butting wall **4** at 0.36m below the first course was a sandstone flagged surface, **8**. This extended for up to 0.50m across the test pit, and was evenly laid before slumping to the north. It was made up of 0.15m thick square cut sandstone, the largest measuring 0.35m in width; the edges of the surfaces were broken in the northern extent. The surface was almost certainly contemporary with wall **4** and probably functioned as an internal floor. The slumping was caused by the underlying pit, **9**, in the north-east corner.
- 3.8.4 The upper part of pit **9** comprised a timber beam construction, with individual beams measuring up to 0.40m thick. Its function may have been either as a foundation to support a cover for the pit, or to provide a foundation for the installation of a later floor surface. Its upper fills were immersed beneath water contaminated by diesel, which hindered a profile of the feature. The upper fill, **7**, consisted of a mixture of orange and grey silty clay, with a slightly organic texture. The finds included eighteenth century pottery, a residual sherd of a Roman grey ware jar, and large fragments of cow bone and horn cores. This assemblage suggests an interpretation of the feature as a possible post-medieval tanning pit or a well.
- 3.8.5 Overlying **7** in the north east corner was a 0.36m thick deposit of yellow/grey sand, **6**, which was spread over a distance of 0.60m before it ran into the south facing section. This layer yielded sherds of eighteenth/nineteenth century pottery and was interpreted as a levelling deposit.
- 3.8.6 Another levelling deposit, **5**, was encountered to the south, overlying the flagstone surface. Comprised of redeposited orange clay, it probably related to an event contemporary to the brick foundations. A small collection of nineteenth century bottles, clay pipe and nails were recovered from this layer.

3.9 TEST PIT 5

- 3.9.1 This was positioned on an east-west alignment on the west side of the site at basement level along the City Road street frontage. The test pit measured 2.86m x 1.94m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.46m. Rubbish and possible tanning pits were represented.
- 3.9.2 The earliest deposit encountered was, **100**, which was recorded at a depth of 0.84m below the ground surface. Interpreted as a cultivated soil, it comprised a mid yellowish/brown silty clay with infrequent charcoal inclusions: it was seen throughout the test pit and was cut by five features. It contained sherds of Roman pottery and seventeenth century bottle glass.

- 3.9.3 The soil horizon, **100**, was cut by a rubbish/cess pit, **73**, which measured 1.60m x 0.80m with a depth of 0.64m. Positioned near the north facing section, the cut was oval with gradual sloping sides, and a flat base. It contained a fibrous mid yellow cess-type material, **71**, with a lens of iron panning in the lower part of the fill.
- 3.9.4 Overlying **73** in the east area of the test pit was a deposit of dark yellowish brown silty clay, **69**, containing subangular and rounded pebbles. This could have been a disturbed upper fill of pit **73**.
- 3.9.5 Layer **100** was cut by the construction trench for a north-south aligned sandstone wall, **76**. Seen in the north facing section the sandstone was partially robbed out by later phases of construction. The fabric and extent of the wall were possibly associated with wall **45** in Test Pit 1, as it followed similar alignment and depth.
- 3.9.6 The construction of a brick vaulted structure, **98** (Plate 2), associated with cellar conversions in the nineteenth century, cut through the eastern edge of the test pit. The bricks were bonded by a hard pale brown concrete mortar, with four courses exposed. Following a northerly alignment for 0.70m the bricks arched into a three-course vault, continuing beyond the test pit.
- 3.9.7 A small modern pit, **22**, cut layer **100** in the north area of the test pit. Measuring 0.60m in depth, the steep-sided pit contained a very dark brown sandy silt fill, **21**, with clay lenses. The fill yielded twentieth century slate and plastic items.

3.10 TEST PIT 6

- 3.10.1 This was positioned in the central area of the site. The dimensions of the test pit were 2.20m x 1.80m, with a maximum depth of 2.00m. The significant element of this test pit was a sequence of four, deep intercutting square shaped pits, which contained large amounts of cattle bone, particularly horn cores, and a range of pottery dating between the second century to the nineteenth century (Fig 7). Other features include a late post-medieval rubbish pit and a drain.
- 3.10.2 Four pits were cut into a yellow silty clay, **31**, 0.80m below the ground surface. All the features were lined with this clay. The pits varied in dimensions, with evidence for three pits being re-used. The largest was **38** (Plate 3), which had one straight edge running between the south and west corner for a distance of 1.60m, with no return. The re-cut within this was formed 0.26m below the primary cut, and was oval in shape, with a sharply angled edge. The overall maximum depth of **38** was 0.52m. The upper fill of **38** comprised a dark grey clay, **39** with crushed brick, a Roman iron blade, lead came, smithing slag, seventeenth century pottery, and twelve horn skulls. The lower fill, **41**, comprised a similar dark clay but yielded sherds of oxidised Roman pottery, daub, flint and large cow bones.
- 3.10.3 Pit **57** was aligned north-east to south-west, and was located in the north-east corner of Test Pit 6. The gradual sloping profile of the pit was evident in the

west facing section. The re-cut of pit **57** was 0.40m below the original cut, and was of a similar shape but with steeper and more vertical sides (Plate 4). The overall depth was 1.11m. There were two fills in **57**; the upper fill comprised a light brown silty clay, **56**, which contained small fragments of cow bones, seventeenth century pottery, and slag. The lower fill, **107**, was a dark grey sticky clay, which yielded several lumps of iron smithing slag and seventeenth century Staffordshire pottery. Natural clay, **127**, was encountered in the north-east corner of the trench, sloping to the north from 1.70m to 2.00m. This consisted of a soft mid grey/orange sticky clay within a 0.15m wide strip.

3.10.4 Pit **30** was significantly smaller than pit **57**, with two edges exposed, assuming a size no bigger than 0.40m^2 , to a depth of 0.48m. Located in the south-east corner, the form of this feature resembled a square post hole. The fill of **30** was a dark grey sticky clay, **40**, which contained seventeenth century pottery and lumps of charcoal.

3.10.5 Lining the upper area of pit **63**, was a shallow clay wall, **16**, running across the centre of the feature from the east section with a return running into the south section. The pit measured approximately 1.40m^2 , with concave sides and a depth of 0.15m. The fill of **63** comprised a light reddish brown silty clay, **19** with frequent charcoal flecks and a sherd of residual Roman Black Burnished Ware. Clay wall **16** contained several fragments of iron nails and dog bones.

3.10.6 Overlying **63** was a 0.30m thick band of light reddish brown silty clay, **18**, interpreted as a late medieval soil horizon, similar to the horizon recorded in Test Pit 1. Spread throughout the trench in a flat horizon, the deposit contained a range of material including Roman pottery dating to the second century, late medieval glazed pottery, eighteenth century black wares, and ceramic building material.

3.10.7 Above **18** lay a buried topsoil deposit, **17**. This varied in thickness from 0.40m in the northern area to 0.20m in the southern horizon. The layer contained large quantities of small horn cores, and a few sherds of eighteenth century Staffordshire feather-trailed slipware, within a dark brown silty matrix. The deposit was also streaked with frequent lumps of mortar and building debris, indicating a levelling event in the late post-medieval period. It is of note that there were more cattle horn cores in this layer than there were in the pit fills.

3.11 TEST PIT 7

3.11.1 This was located at the south-eastern end of the site. It measured 2.59m x 1.82m on an east-west alignment, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m. There were three elements of note in this test pit, a collapsed culvert, a brick filled linear cut, and a sealed, potentially organic rich, dark humic layer.

3.11.2 The earliest deposit was a natural clay subsoil, **104**, encountered at 0.75m below the ground surface and spreading over an area 0.60m x 0.40m in the northern part of the test pit. It consisted of a pale grey and orange silty clay, and sloped gently downwards to the north.

- 3.11.3 Cutting **104**, in the same area, was a badly truncated pit, **121** with one surviving edge. Measuring approximately 0.80m², the feature had a vertical side to the south which reached a depth of 0.10m. The vestiges of the clay fill, **102**, contained horn cores, eighteenth century slipwares and press moulded pottery, and glass at the base.
- 3.11.4 Overlying **121** was a thin band of organic grey silt, **95**. Measuring 0.10m in thickness, and spread over a distance of 0.95m. The deposit possibly represents a disturbed soil horizon.
- 3.11.5 Above **95** was a grey clay layer, **101**, which was observed in the north facing section and measured 0.10m in thickness. It contained seventeenth century lead glazed pottery and clay pipe. Lying above **101** was a collapsed culvert, **96** (Plate 5), consisting of broken sandstone capping. The culvert was on a north-south alignment in the eastern half of the test pit; it measured 0.90m across, but only 0.20m was visible from the south section. Nineteenth century pottery was recovered from amongst the sandstone.
- 3.11.6 An east-west aligned linear feature, **103**, cut layer **101** in the north-west corner. Its northern edge was obscured by the section edge, but 0.25m was exposed to the south, running the width of the trench. It lay 0.74m below the ground surface. The feature was filled by heat affected brick fragments, and could be a waste channel from a kiln. The only dating evidence aside from the bricks was provided by an eighteenth century clay pipe stem.

3.12 TEST PIT 8

- 3.12.1 This was located within the eastern half of the site, north of Test Pit 7. The test pit measured 2.60m x 2.04m on a north-south alignment, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.03m. The dominant feature of this test pit was a linear area of fire reddened brick, which may be the residue of a kiln structure.
- 3.12.2 A cultivation soil, **115** comprised a mid yellowish brown silty clay, with streaks of mineralised yellow cess, was encountered 0.63m below demolition debris **125**. Measuring at least 0.25m in thickness, the deposit gently sloped down toward the west, covering a distance of 1.40m across the test pit.
- 3.12.3 Cutting **115** was an extensive linear feature, **114** (Plate 6), running north-south along the east facing section. The feature was composed of a line of soft overfired bricks with maximum dimensions of 210 x 95 x 55mm. The bricks were sealed in a fill, **113**, comprising a mixture of crushed brick fragments within a reddish brown clay matrix. The character of this deposit resembles the back edge of an abandoned kiln structure, with a maximum width of 0.20 m of bricks exposed. Upon partial removal of the fill, the cut revealed a slumping 0.25m profile to the west, with the debris from the possible kiln spreading to 0.35m beyond the structure to the east. This created an overall cross section of a saucer shape.
- 3.12.4 Overlying **113** was a coal and cinder rich deposit, **112**, 0.09m thick with white mortar flecks. This layer was probably associated with the kiln structure,

representing a component of the debris material. Above **112** was a later cultivation soil, **111**, possibly dating from the eighteenth century. Measuring up to 0.30m thick, this deposit was sealed by a thin line of buried turf, **110**, which contained nineteenth century china. Associated with this sequence of deposits was a layer of mid reddish brown clay, **116**, which contained bricks and rubble and pottery of an eighteenth/nineteenth century date. This horizon probably related to the period of theatre construction.

4. PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The palaeoenvironmental samples were collected from all sealed deposits thought to have the potential for the preservation of plant and animal remains. Nine samples were selected, processed and assessed for plant and invertebrate remains (table 1 in *Appendix 5*). All the flots (floatated material) were small, less than 20ml, and contained both charred and waterlogged plant remains.

4.2 RESULTS

- 4.2.1 Only three flots contained any significant plant remains and all were from post-medieval contexts. They were from context **7** (test pit 4, sample **1**), context **21** (test pit 5, sample **2**) and context **95** (test pit 7, sample **10**). The former was thought to be either a tanning pit or a well. The plant and insect remains suggest that it is more likely that the area had been used as a rubbish dump for plant and some animal debris. The presence of fly puparia suggest that the deposit had been uncovered allowing flies to colonise it. The remains of food plants included a few charred cereal grains, mostly undifferentiated but including a wheat grain, blackberry and elderberry pips. The remaining seeds were from arable or ruderal (disturbed ground) communities. The plant assemblage from the fill of pit **22** (context **21**, test pit 5, sample **2**) was rich in waterlogged weed seeds including high concentrations of common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), which suggests that the surrounding ground was nitrogen rich. The plant and animal remains from the third sample (context **95** sample **10**), which was thought to be associated with a collapsed culvert, suggest that the sample originated from domestic rubbish disposal.
- 4.2.2 The remaining samples were from pit fills. Context **71** (test pit 5, sample **9**) appeared on site to be somewhat cess-like in character but the only data to support this was the abundance of bone fragments and the presence of fish bone. The two fills, contexts **56** and **107** (test pit 6) from pit **57** contained occasional weed seeds and some elderberry pips (*Sambucus nigra*). The other three fills came from pits **63** and **38** (test pit 6, samples **3**, **4**, and **6**), which were thought to be tanning pits. The plant data from these were inconclusive, and although some bone fragments were recorded there is no direct evidence of tanning.
- 4.2.3 In conclusion, the palaeoenvironmental data was very limited and there is no potential for any further analysis of the samples.

5. FINDS REPORT

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 The finds assemblage was collected from stratified and unstratified deposits across the excavated area and from the demolition spoil heaps. The collection was made up largely of material representing a time scale between the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The materials included pottery, ceramic, clay and stone building material, metal objects, flint, smithing slag, glass vessels, clay tobacco pipe and animal bone. The full catalogue can be referred to in *Appendix 4*.

5.2 POTTERY

- 5.2.1 The pottery was subdivided into period groups; Roman, medieval, and post-medieval.
- 5.2.2 **Quantification:** 228 fragments of pottery, which included material of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date, dominated the finds assemblage. Analysis of the pottery was based solely on visual inspection of individual sherds, and has been described using the terminology developed by Orton et al (1993).
- 5.2.3 **Roman:** some 24 pottery sherds were recovered from the evaluation and were almost certainly residual in context. The pottery occurred in conjunction with post-medieval material, indicating that it had been redeposited during the eighteenth century development. Although no Roman features were identified, the ceramic evidence indicates a Roman presence in the vicinity. The bulk of the material dates to the second century, with a smaller component dating to the mid third century. The assemblage is in poor condition, with several sherds showing surface erosion and worn edges. Amphora, Samian Ware, and coarsewares are represented within the collection. The Samian Ware accounts for five sherds, two of which (the rim of a shallow dish and a bowl base) had abraded decoration. The fabric and form are mainly a derivative of the Central Gaulish products in the second century. A body sherd measuring 20mm in diameter showed evidence of re-use, probably as a small gaming counter. There were two small body sherds of Spanish amphora, of which the fabric is attributed to type Dressel 20, which dates between the first to third century. Amongst the 17 coarsewares are seven red oxidised fabrics, which had a clean matrix and some translucent quartz temper. These were probably produced locally in the style of the Cheshire Plains tradition of the second century. A Black Burnished Ware Category 1 (BB1) cooking pot rim, dating to the early to mid third century, was recovered from a charcoal rich deposit in Trench 2 (86/1063). Nine sherds of fully reduced locally made grey wares were recovered from disturbed post-medieval deposits in Trenches 1 and 2 and Test Pits 4 and 6. Two of these grey wares are BB1 copies in their comparative style of surface decoration, and have a general date of between the later second to early third century. Except for the rims and bases mentioned, the absence of diagnostic sherds precluded the identification of other vessel forms.

- 5.2.4 **Medieval:** a total of 16 sherds represents the medieval assemblage from the evaluation. Typologically, the earliest fragments were those produced from pit fills and cultivation deposits. From one of these pit fills within Test Pit 5, an early medieval sherd of what could be Chester Ware was recovered (21/102). The soft oxidised fabric was composed of fine and coarse grits, with traces of feldspar and shell. The body was badly abraded with no surviving surface decoration. Seven green glazed sherds with a fully reduced grey fabric were recovered within truncated deposits from three Test Pits (1, 6, and 7), and Trench 2. These are dated to between the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and are comparable with material recovered from Barton Rose Farm in 1977. Two partially reduced fabrics with a lead based brown glaze were yielded from cultivation soils within Test Pit 1 and Trench 2. These are probably a product of the Brereton Park kiln and date from the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Later medieval fabrics are represented by six pale white, gritty bodied wares, with varying degrees of glazing. Collected from Test Pits 1, 6 and 7, they are mainly of the 'Ewloe' type and are common to the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The identifiable forms were a skillet handle and a shallow dish base
- 5.2.5 **Post-medieval:** in total, 188 sherds of post-medieval pottery were retrieved from the evaluation, of which 114 sherds (60% of the group) were derived from stratified contexts. In general terms, the stratified material was in good condition; it was neither abraded nor rolled, and included substantial parts of individual vessels, suggesting that it had not been disturbed subsequent to deposition. The bulk of the assemblage broadly dates to the eighteenth century, with smaller proportions dating to the seventeenth. The nineteenth century material was mainly recovered from demolition layers. A range of fabric types and vessel forms was represented, and several contexts yielded interesting and closely dated material, which is described within the area subdivision.
- 5.2.6 **Trench 1** produced 12 sherds from two contexts. These include a feather trailed slipware plate from Staffordshire, recovered from below a brick yard surface, and coarse black glazed earthenwares product of the Buckley kiln. The date range is eighteenth/nineteenth century.
- 5.2.7 **Trench 2** yielded 17 sherds from five contexts, including an unglazed body sherd of the Midland Purple type, Transfer Printed Wares, brown stonewares which include a Derbyshire derivative teapot lid, and black glazed earthenwares. Date range: seventeenth to nineteenth century.
- 5.2.8 **Trench 3** unearthed nine sherds from three contexts including a refined unglazed stoneware, black glazed earthenwares and English decorated bone china. All have a nineteenth century date.
- 5.2.9 **Test Pit 1** produced two sherds from a medieval soil horizon 47: a Midland Purple strap handle from a pitcher, and a nineteenth century brown stoneware bottle.

- 5.2.10 **Test Pit 3** yielded a single sherd of Midlands Yellow type plate from the seventeenth century.
- 5.2.11 **Test Pit 4** provided the largest group of post-medieval pottery, with 34 sherds from three contexts, two of which were from the fills of pit **9**. The assemblage is dominated by nineteenth century black glazed earthenwares, with several sherds from a large storage jar, a Mottled ware cup rim, a sherd of Black ware development of Cistercian types, and a German stoneware tankard from the early eighteenth century. The rest of the collection is represented by English china and brown stonewares from the nineteenth century period.
- 5.2.12 **Test Pit 5** produced a single sherd of nineteenth century black glazed earthenware.
- 5.2.13 **Test Pit 6** yielded 12 sherds from six contexts, four of which were tanning pit fills. The sherds include Metropolitan type slip trailed plate and feather trailed slipware from fill **56**, Blackware from fill 40, Midland Yellow fragment from fill **107**, and black glazed earthenwares from levelling layers **17** and **18**. The date range of this material is between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries.
- 5.2.14 **Test Pit 7** produced 24 sherds from four contexts associated with stone culvert **96**. These seventeenth/eighteenth century ceramics include yellow press moulded plate of Staffordshire origin, thin bodied Blackwares, trail slipware, and Mottled ware. Layers above **96** yielded black glazed earthenwares and late nineteenth century stoneware bottles.
- 5.2.15 **Test Pit 8** produced 12 sherds from modern deposits and demolition layers, including a fragment of a Midland Purple handle, eighteenth century Creamware and white salt glazed stoneware, and nineteenth century English bone china.
- 5.2.16 A large number of sherds were collected across unstratified areas of the site. Amongst the largely nineteenth century material was a group of unglazed pottery and wasters recovered from demolition spoil heaps. These were identified as unfinished Transfer Printed ware, which could have been shipped up from Staffordshire and discarded on this plot of land. There was no evidence of a pottery kiln in the proximity.
- 5.2.17 The occurrence of Staffordshire slipware within the group indicates trading with the Midlands. Whilst slipware was produced at a number of centres, the Staffordshire products dominated the market during the late seventeenth/early eighteenth centuries. The group also contained several fragments of mottled or manganese speckled ware, a buff-bodied earthenware covered with a streaked, mottled brown lead glaze. The forms present within the group included at least one tankard and a bowl with roulette decorated rim. It is conceivable that the mottled ware was manufactured at Prescot, Merseyside, where such wares were produced from the early eighteenth century (Davey 1987). The remainder of the group comprised dark-glazed earthenwares, predominantly storage jars. Some were undoubtedly produced at the nearby potteries at Buckley, which flourished throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, although the

kitchenware forms are very difficult to distinguish from the products of the kilns recently identified at Bilsborrow (White 1998), thought to have been in production by the 1720s.

5.3 CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

- 5.3.1 In total 21 fragments were collected from stratified contexts in Trenches 1 and 2, and from Test Pits 1, 4, 5, 6, and 8. The Roman material is represented by four flat tile fragments and a lump of daub from Test Pit 6. Test Pit 1 produced an imbrex and two flat tiles from backfill and levelling deposits. Trench 2 provided a broken fragment of a tegula. Other ceramic material was composed of a collection of complete moulded and wire cut bricks. The earliest was from a wall in Test Pit 1 which could date to the seventeenth century. The bricks from the other test pits have a broad date range between the eighteenth and nineteenth century.

5.4 STONE BUILDING MATERIAL

- 5.4.1 Three fragments of 50mm thick sandstone floor tiles were recovered from Test Pit 8.

5.5 METALWORK

- 5.5.1 14 pieces of iron, one lead object, and a copper alloy coin were recovered from stratified deposits. The iron is in an encrusted condition, and the artefacts included 11 nails, a knife blade (**17/1094**), a riveted strap hinge (**17/1073**), and an unidentifiable object. The blade is of a second century riveted type (Manning 1985, 109). The hinge is post-medieval. The lead object is identified as a piece of twisted window came, from the fill of a tanning pit in Test Pit 6 (**39/1095**); it probably dates to the eighteenth century. The nineteenth century halfpenny coin was found within a drain contemporary with a yard surface in Trench 1; it has surface patina with barely legible detail.

5.6 FLINT

- 5.6.1 Three struck flakes were recovered from Test Pit 6 (**41/1132**).

5.7 SLAG

- 5.7.1 Twelve pieces of industrial debris were recovered from medieval soil horizons and tanning pits. Concentrated mainly in Test Pit 6, the residue is a form of smithing slag with ferrous content.

5.8 GLASS

- 5.8.1 32 fragments of vessel and window glass were collected from 10 contexts within Trench 2 and Test Pits 4, 5, 6, and 7. The assemblage comprises mainly beer and wine bottle glass from the eighteenth and nineteenth century, although one base fragment from a levelling deposit in Test Pit 5 dates to 1650. A single piece of iridescent window pane was unearthed from Test Pit 6, which probably relates to the theatre demolition.

5.9 CLAY PIPE

- 5.9.1 17 fragments were unearthed, of which two were undecorated bowls, and the rest broken stems. Found across the excavated area, all but two date to the nineteenth century. Bowl **47/1047** has a date of 1600, found within a medieval soil horizon in Test Pit 1. Bowl **18/1085** is roughly dated to the eighteenth century.

5.10 ANIMAL BONE

- 5.10.1 A very rapid scan of the animal bone was completed in order to describe its character. Of the identified bone fragments (81), 54 were of cattle, 9 sheep/goat, 1 pig, 13 horse, and 4 dog. This does not include the total amount of bone recovered from the site. Butchery marks were observed on cattle, horse and dog, although not all fragments were scanned for butchery. Of particular interest are the identified cattle fragments, 37 of which were horncores recovered from pits, and approximately half of which had cranial fragments attached. 12 of these cranial fragments showed evidence of the animal having been skinned. These included long horn specimens, which at this late date probably derive from the Longhorn breed which were frequently used between 1720-1750 (Harvey 1980), and one short horned animal. A number of these were identified as ox, although cows and bulls also may be present in the assemblage.
- 5.10.2 This assemblage could be associated with tanning and, possibly, horn working, although there was no evidence of the horncores being separate from the skull (Rackham 1994). There was also no evidence for the supra-abundance of phalanges and metapodials in the recovered assemblage, in fact these occurred in very low numbers, hinting at a lower scale of production. The sample may not be representative, however, as very little of the site was excavated during the evaluation.
- 5.10.3 **Other notes:** the long horn specimens are visually comparable to improved breeds, in that they are very large. Dog and horse also have butchery marks, but not all bones were scanned properly for butchery. The analysis concentrated on horn core cranial fragments. One fragment of human cranium was also recovered from context **23**.

6. SYNTHESIS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

- 6.1.1 This evaluation has provided detailed information about the depth, character, and date of archaeological deposits below the demolition levels of the Royalty Theatre. The excavations have demonstrated a pattern of activity that can be roughly subdivided into five phases: Roman activity, medieval occupation, including industrial activity with evidence of a kiln structure and tanning processes, the construction of substantial late medieval buildings with evidence of sandstone wall foundations, and the erection of eighteenth century cottages. The trenches and test pits have highlighted development throughout the site, and have served to pinpoint specific areas of interest. However, due to the dispersed nature of the test pits and trenches across the site it is not possible to offer a cohesive interpretation of the site.

6.2 ROMAN

- 6.2.1 Although no Roman features were identified in the course of the evaluation, some 24 sherds of pottery were recovered. It is likely that these were redeposited during the eighteenth century development of the site. The bulk of the assemblage dates to the second century, with a smaller component dating the third. Amphora, Samian Ware and coarsewares were represented throughout the assemblage.

6.3 MEDIEVAL TO LATE MEDIEVAL

- 6.3.1 **Test Pit 1:** the results of this test pit represent the south-western extent of the site, and was seen to contain evidence for two lengths of wall, **44** and **45**. In the east facing section were the remains of a possible Tudor brick wall **44**, heading in a westerly direction. Wall **45** was of substantial mortared sandstone construction, observed in the north-east corner. This wall is probably late medieval in date, and it is possible that it was associated with the wall in the abandoned Test Pit 2.
- 6.3.2 **Test Pit 4:** evidence was recorded in the northern area of the site two phases of medieval sandstone wall, one of which being a rebuild, and evidence of an internal floor area represented by sandstone flags. These walls were probably constructed and rebuilt in the seventeenth or eighteenth century, based on the pottery evidence. These structural remains provide a small insight into the expansion of urban Chester beyond the city walls.
- 6.3.3 The waterlogged pit that cut through the flagged floor has been tentatively interpreted as a well. A local enthusiast of theatre history passed on information about a production of “Little Bo Peep” which allegedly was performed at the theatre; a witness saw one of its sheep meet a fateful end, when it was ‘thrown into a well beneath the stage’. A thorough archaeological

investigation of this story was unfortunately prevented, due to diesel contamination of the feature but the palaeoenvironmental results suggest that this feature was more likely to have functioned as a rubbish dump.

- 6.3.4 **Test Pit 5:** the north-western area of the site revealed evidence of a late medieval rubbish pit, and scant remains of a sandstone wall that could possibly be contemporary with the wall found in Test Pit 1. Later features included a nineteenth century brick vaulted arch from a cellar (Plate 2), which truncated the test pit in the east.

6.4 POST-MEDIEVAL/INDUSTRIAL

- 6.4.1 **Test Pit 6:** this represents the central area of the site being close to the shell of the theatre ruins. It contained evidence of what appeared to be late medieval or early post-medieval industry. Deep pits were observed cut into an imported local yellow clay, the pits were situated in close proximity to each other, and had very similar waterlogged fills. Large numbers of cow horns and leg bones were recovered, but no feet bones. The presence of the animal bone would tentatively suggest that the pits were tanning pits, although the results of the environmental sampling offered no direct evidence of tanning. A small collection of sixteenth to eighteenth century pottery was also recovered.
- 6.4.2 It is of note that this was the only area of the site in which a natural subsoil was encountered, in the form of a reddish grey clay. This was observed at the base of a pit, two metres below the ground surface, in the north-east corner.
- 6.4.3 **Test Pit 7:** this was located in the south-east corner of the site and had three features of interest. These include a collapsed, possibly medieval culvert (Plate 5), a sealed humic layer, and a possible waste channel associated with kiln/furnace debris. The culvert and the humic layer were probably associated, but as the culvert was badly damaged, any link between the two is tenuous. The waste channel could be associated with the possible kiln structure in Test Pit 8.
- 6.4.4 **Test Pit 8:** this was positioned in the eastern area of the site, between Test Pit 7 and Test Pit 4. The significant feature in this test pit was a line of overfired bricks and burnt baked clay debris **114**, which resembled a kiln structure (Plate 6). Unfortunately, no dating evidence was recovered from the fill, but both the finds and stratigraphy above and below the structure, suggest a date no earlier than the 1700s, but no later than the 1850s.

6.5 EIGHTEENTH CENTURY WORKERS COTTAGES

- 6.5.1 **Trench 1:** the trench was positioned at right angles to Russell Street. The earliest feature was the east-west aligned wall **89**. This wall served as a rear dividing wall with a north-south sub-dividing wall butting it from the east. The sondage revealed a similar sandstone wall beneath a line of bricks running north-south. These bricks represent a rebuild upon the original stone foundations in the nineteenth century. The later phase of walls to the rear of **89**

indicate evidence of a toilet area at the rear of the cottage. The herringbone patterned bricks were a twentieth century addition to the yard.

- 6.5.2 **Trench 2:** this was positioned to form an archaeological profile throughout the entire east-west length of a cottage. Unfortunately, a large section of the archaeological deposits had been truncated by cellaring and levelling events, leaving only scant information about the structure. The trench contained four contemporary brick walls running north-south. Two of these walls, **81** and **82** had a deep face of over two metres and are interpreted as a cellar (Plate 1). The two remaining walls, **83** and **84**, situated in the west were badly disturbed, and no interpretation was possible.
- 6.5.3 **Trench 3:** the trench exposed a single room within a nineteenth century cottage, and evidence of a sandy make-up base for floor levels within three brick walls.

7: BIBLIOGRAPHY

7.1 PUBLISHED CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES (CRO, CHESTER)

OS, 1875 *Town Plan of Chester*, 38.11.24, Southampton

OS, 1875 *Town Plan of Chester*, 38.11.19, Southampton

7.2 SECONDARY SOURCES

Davey, P J, 1987 Post-Roman Pottery, *J Merseyside Archaeol Soc*, **7**, 121-50

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, London

Harvey, N 1980 *The Industrial Archaeology of Farming in England and Wales*,
London

Higham, NJ 1993 *The Origins of Cheshire*, Manchester

Manning, WH, 1985 *Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fittings and
Weapons in the British Museum*, London

OA North 2001 *Royalty Theatre, Chester: Archaeological Assessment*, unpub rep

Orton, C, Tyers, P, Vince, A, 1993 *Pottery in Archaeology*, London

Rackham, J, 1994 *Interpreting The Past, Animal Bones*, London

White, A, 1998 An Eighteenth Century pottery Kiln at Bilsborrow, Lancs, *Contrebis*,
23, 40

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT LIST

context	subdiv	description
1	Test pit 2	mortar/rubble deposit
2	Test pit 2	wall
3	Test pit 2	mortar bonding
4	Test pit 4	sandstone wall
5	Test pit 4	redeposited clay levelling
6	Test pit 4	yellow/grey sand
7	Test pit 4	dark grey silty clay fill of 9
8	Test pit 4	flagged floor
9	Test pit 4	pit
10	Trench 3	east west wall
11	Trench 3	north south wall
12	Trench 3	north south wall
13	Trench 3	sandy silt fill of 15
14	Trench 3	sandy silt layer
15	Trench 3	cut
16	Test pit 6	linear clay band
17	Test pit 6	mixed silty clay levelling
18	Test pit 6	mortar rich silty clay above 17
19	Test pit 6	silty clay layer below 18
20	Trench 3	sand deposit below 14
21	Test pit 5	fill of 22=67
22	Test pit 5	pit= 66
23	Trench 3	demolition layer
24	Test pit 5	demolition layer
25	Trench 3	sandy clay below hard core

26	Trench 3	clay layer below 25
27	Trench 3	sand layer below 26
28	Trench 3	charcoal layer below 27
29	Trench 3	fill of 15
30	Test pit 6	circular cut
31	Test pit 6	yellow clay
32	Test pit 8	overburden= 117
33	Test pit 8	dark brown sandy clay= 111
34	Test pit 8	brown sandy clay= 112
35	Test pit 8	crushed brick
36	Test pit 8	structure= 114
37	Test pit 8	medieval soil horizon= 115
38	Test pit 6	tanning pit
39	Test pit 6	fill of 38
40	Test pit 6	fill of 30
41	Test pit 6	lower fill of 38
42	Test pit 1	redeposited natural
43	Test pit 1	dark brown sandy clay
44	Test pit 1	wall
45	Test pit 1	wall
46	Test pit 1	mortar within 45
47	Test pit 1	medieval soil horizon
48	Test pit 1	cess layer below 45
49	Test pit 1	overburden
50	Test pit 1	rubble
51	Test pit 1	mixed clay dump
52	Test pit 1	clay silt dump
53	Test pit 1	dumping layer

54	Test pit 1	clay silt fill of 55
55	Test pit 1	foundation trench for wall 44
56	Test pit 6	fill of 57
57	Test pit 6	tanning pit
58	Test pit 1	demolition pit
59	Test pit 1	demolition pit
60	Test pit 1	fill of 59
61	Test pit 1	demolition material
62	Test pit 1	sand layer below 61
63	Test pit 6	tanning pit
64	Test pit 1	demolition pit
65	Test pit 1	mortar within 44
66	Test pit 5	Pit= 22
67	Test pit 5	fill of 66=21
68	Test pit 5	layer
69	Test pit 5	Layer of clay
70	Test pit 5	upper mortar fill of 74
71	Test pit 5	pit fill in cut 73 below 69
72	Test pit 5	cut for 76
73	Test pit 5	pit
74	Test pit 5	cut
75	Test pit 5	lower clay fill of 74
76	Test pit 5	sandstone structure
77	-	Not allocated
78	Trench 2	mortar rich demolition deposit
79	Trench 2	cobbled/flagged surface
80	Trench 2	redeposited clay layer
81	Trench 2	brick wall north-south

82	Trench 2	brick wall north-south
83	Trench 2	brick wall north-south
84	Trench 2	brick wall east-west
85	Trench 2	grey clay below 79
86	Trench 2	charcoal rich clay below 85
87	Trench 2	clay rich in building material
88	Trench 1	brick wall east-west
89	Trench 1	sandstone wall north-south
90	Trench 1	sandstone wall east-west
91	Trench 1	brick yard surface
92	Trench 1	demolition rubble
93	Trench 1	brick structure
94	Trench 1	structure
95	Test pit 7	grey silty clay below 101
96	Test pit 7	stone culvert
97	Test pit 7	heat affected brick structure
98	Test pit 5	vaulted brick structure
99	Test pit 5	deposit cut by 67
100	Test pit 5	deposit cut by 73
101	Test pit 7	grey clay below 96
102	Test pit 7	pale grey clay below 95
103	Test pit 7	linear cut filled by 97
104	Test pit 7	orange/grey clay below 102
105	Test pit 7	dark grey clay above 106
106	Test pit 7	mid brown clay above 96
107	Test pit 6	lower fill of 57
108	Test pit 8	modern clay and brown soil
109	Test pit 8	cut containing 108

110	Test pit 8	humic layer/cultivation soil
111	Test pit 8	cultivation soil below 110=33
112	Test pit 8	coal rich deposit below 111
113	Test pit 8	reddish brown clay= 36
114	Test pit 8	fire reddened brick structure
115	Test pit 8	cultivation soil below 114=37
116	Test pit 8	brick and clay layer below 117
117	Test pit 8	topsoil= 32
118	Trench 1	sandstone wall below 88
119	Trench 1	silty clay deposit below 91
120	Trench 1	green clay below 88
121	Test pit 7	cut filled by 102
122	Test pit 3	crushed brick deposit
123	All areas	surface demolition
124	Test pit 8	unstratified
125	Test pit 7	demolition debris
126	Test pit 4	wall above 4
127	Test pit 6	natural clay below 107

APPENDIX 4: SUMMARY FINDS LIST

Context	Object No	Area	Material	Category	Quantity	Description	Comment	Period
1	1071	Test pit 2	iron	nails	3			-
5	1035	Test pit 4	ceramic	clay pipe	2	stem		-
5	1036	Test pit 4	glass	vessel	4	bottle		Eighteenth/ Nineteenth Century
5	1075	Test pit 4	iron	nail	1			-
6	1033	Test pit 4	ceramic	vessel	3			Eighteenth/ Nineteenth Century
7	1031	Test pit 4	ceramic	vessel	15	black glazes		Nineteenth Century
7	1031	Test pit 4	ceramic	vessel	2	mottled ware		Eighteenth Century
7	1031	Test pit 4	ceramic	vessel	3	stoneware	tankard	Nineteenth Century
7	1032	Test pit 4	glass	vessel	11	bottle and cut glass		Eighteenth/ Nineteenth Century
7	1065	Test pit 4	ceramic	vessel	1	grey ware		Roman
7	1090	Test pit 4	ceramic	build mat	1	brick		Eighteenth/ Nineteenth Century
7	1100	Test pit 4	ceramic	clay pipe	1	stem		-
7	1128	Test pit 4	bone	animal	2	bovine	horn	-
7	1129	Test pit 4	shell	cockle	1			-
9	1064	Test pit 4	ceramic	vessel	3	mottled ware		Seventeenth/ Eighteenth Century
9	1080	Test pit 4	glass	vessel	7	bottles		Eighteenth Century
9	1081	Test pit 4	shell	oyster	1			-
9	1082	Test pit 4	ceramic	clay pipe	3	stems		Nineteenth Century
9	1110	Test pit 4	bone	animal	7	dog		-
14	1034	Trench 3	ceramic	vessel	5	stoneware/china/black glazes		Nineteenth Century

16	1067	Test pit 6	ceramic	vessel	1	gritty oxidised ware	abraded	Roman
16	1074	Test pit 6	iron	nail	1			Roman
16	1111	Test pit 6	bone	animal	1	bovine	horn	-
17	1059	Test pit 6	ceramic	vessel	4	green glaze/lead/slipware	abraded	Fourteenth/ Eighteenth Century
17	1069	Test pit 6	iron	ind res	1	slag	smithing	-
17	1073	Test pit 6	iron	hinge	1	riveted		-
17	1101	Test pit 6	ceramic	vessel	1	oxidised		Roman
17	1102	Test pit 6	ceramic	clay pipe	1	stem		-
17	1103	Test pit 6	glass	window	1	iridescent		Eighteenth/ Nineteenth Century
17	1104	Test pit 6	glass	vessel	1	bottle		Eighteenth/ Nineteenth Century
17	1112	Test pit 6	bone	animal	2	bovine	horn	-
17	1113	Test pit 6	bone	animal	1	bovine	horn	-
17	1114	Test pit 6	bone	animal	4	bovine	skull	-
17	1115	Test pit 6	bone	animal	2	bovine	skull and horn	-
17	1116	Test pit 6	bone	animal	1	bovine	skull	-
17	1117	Test pit 6	bone	animal	3	bovine	skull and rib	-
18	1028	Test pit 6	ceramic	build mat	2			-
18	1029	Test pit 6	ceramic	vessel	2	green glaze and stoneware		Sixteenth/ Seventeenth Century
18	1042	Test pit 6	ceramic	vessel	3	black glaze		Nineteenth Century
18	1044	Test pit 6	ceramic	vessel	1	grey ware		Roman
18	1084	Test pit 6	glass	vessel	1	bottle		Nineteenth Century
18	1085	Test pit 6	ceramic	clay pipe	4	stems and bowl		Eighteenth Century
18	1118	Test pit 6	bone	animal	2	bovine		-
19	1155	Test pit 6	ceramic	vessel	1	BB1	sample 3	Second/ Third Century
20	1051	Trench 3	ceramic	vessel	1	refined		Nineteenth Century?

21	1025	Test pit 5	ceramic	vessel	3			Sixteenth/ Nineteenth Century
21	1026	Test pit 5	ceramic	build mat	5		degraded	-
21	1027	Test pit 5	iron	object	1			-
21	1046	Test pit 5	ceramic	vessel	2	amphora	abraded	Roman
21	1119	Test pit 5	bone	animal	3	bovine		-
21	1120	Test pit 5	bone	animal	6	bovine		-
21	1121	Test pit 5	bone	animal	8	bovine	skull and horn	-
21	1122	Test pit 5	bone	animal	2	bovine		-
21	1123	Test pit 5	bone	animal	5	bovine		-
21	1124	Test pit 5	bone	animal	7	bovine		-
21	1125	Test pit 5	bone	animal	10	bovine		-
21	1126	Test pit 5	bone	animal	11	bovine	skull	-
21	1127	Test pit 5	bone	animal	7	bovine	skull and horn	-
23	1024	Trench 3	ceramic	vessel	3	black glazes		Eighteenth/ Nineteenth Century
23	1130	Trench 3	bone	animal	3	bovine	skull	-
39	1094	Test pit 6	iron	blade	1			Roman
39	1095	Test pit 6	lead	came	1	window		Eighteenth/ Nineteenth Century
39	1096	Test pit 6	ceramic	build mat	2	brick		-
39	1097	Test pit 6	ind deb	industrial debris	2	?lime waste/slag		-
39	1098	Test pit 6	ceramic	vessel	1	oxidised		Roman
39	1099	Test pit 6	ceramic	vessel	1	lead glaze		Seventeenth Century?
39	1134	Test pit 6	bone	animal	12	bovine	skull and horn	-
40	1093	Test pit 6	ceramic	vessel	1	black ware	lead glaze	Seventeenth Century
41	1106	Test pit 6	ceramic	vessel	2	oxidised		Roman
41	1107	Test pit 6	ceramic	build mat	1	daub		Roman
41	1131	Test pit 6	bone	animal	2	dog		-

41	1132	Test pit 6	stone	flint	3	struck flakes		-
41	1152	Test pit 6	ceramic	vessel	1	Midland Purple	sample 1	Seventeenth Century
43	1137	Test pit 1	bone	animal	2	bovine		-
44	1088	Test pit 1	ceramic	build mat	2	bricks		Seventeenth Century?
47	1045	Test pit 1	ceramic	vessel	1	oxidised	orange	Roman
47	1047	Test pit 1	ceramic	clay pipe	1	bowl		1600
47	1056	Test pit 1	ceramic	vessel	10	medieval glazes	unglazed china	Thirteenth/ Nineteenth Century
47	1057	Test pit 1	ceramic	vessel	2	Samian and oxidised	?east Gaul	Roman
47	1076	Test pit 1	iron	ind res	3	slag		-
47	1077	Test pit 1	iron	nails	2			-
47	1079	Test pit 1	shell	oyster	4			-
47	1087	Test pit 1	ceramic	build mat	2	flat tile		Roman
47	1133	Test pit 1	bone	animal	2	bovine		-
47	1135	Test pit 1	bone	animal	15	bovine	skull and horn	-
47	1136	Test pit 1	bone	animal	3	bovine	horn	-
48	1049	Test pit 1	ceramic	vessel	1	?amphora	abraded	Roman
54	1108	Test pit 1	shell	cockle	1			-
54	1109	Test pit 1	ceramic	build mat	1	imbrex		Roman
54	1139	Test pit 1	bone	animal	4	bovine		
54	1140	Test pit 1	bone	animal	4	bovine	skull	-
54	1149	Test pit 1	bone	animal	8	bovine		-
56	1022	Test pit 6	iron	ind res	2	slag	smithing	-
56	1023	Test pit 6	ceramic	vessel	5	staffs/metropol ware		Seventeenth Century
56	1138	Test pit 6	bone	animal	2			-
71	1083	Test pit 5	shell	oyster	1			-
78	1019	Trench 2	ceramic	vessel	9	black glazes		Nineteenth Century
78	1020	Trench 2	glass	vessel	2	green bottle		Eighteenth Century
78	1021	Trench 2	ceramic	clay pipe	1	clay pipe	stem	-

78	1058	Trench 2	ceramic	vessel	1	Samian	plain	Roman
78	1086	Trench 2	ceramic	build mat	1	tegula		Roman
78	1148	Trench 2	bone	animal	5	bovine		-
80	1050	Trench 2	ceramic	vessel	1	white slipped	flagon	First/Second Century
80	1050	Trench 2	ceramic	vessel	5	Chester products		Fourteenth/ Seventeenth Century
83	1018	Trench 2	ceramic	vessel	1	stoneware teapot lid	Derbyshire	Nineteenth Century
85	1017	Trench 2	stone	build mat	2			-
85	1142	Trench 2	bone	animal	1	bovine		-
86	1016	Trench 2	ceramic	vessel	1	unglazed post med		Nineteenth Century?
86	1063	Trench 2	ceramic	vessel	3	Samian and BB1		Roman
86	1141	Trench 2	bone	animal	2	bovine		-
87	1015	Trench 2	ceramic	vessel	2	oxidised and reduced	jar+flagon	Second Century
87	1061	Trench 2	ceramic	vessel	1	Samian	re-use as a counter	Roman
87	1062	Trench 2	ceramic	vessel	1	late medieval	lead glaze	Sixteenth Century
91	1011	Trench 1	ceramic	build mat	1	brick		-
91	1012	Trench 1	cu alloy	coin	1		half penny	Nineteenth Century
91	1013	Trench 1	ceramic	clay pipe	1			-
91	1014	Trench 1	ceramic	vessel	11	black glazes		Nineteenth Century
91	1060	Trench 1	ceramic	vessel	1	grey ware		Roman
91	1089	Trench 1	ceramic	build mat	1	brick		Nineteenth Century
92	1092	Trench 1	ceramic	build mat	1	brick		Eighteenth/ Nineteenth Century
95	1154	Test pit 7	ceramic	vessel	1	Black ware	sample 10	Seventeenth Century
96	1009	Test pit 7	ceramic	vessel	6	black glazes		Nineteenth Century
96	1010	Test pit 7	ceramic	vessel	1	orange gritty		Sixteenth Century?

97	1008	Test pit 7	ceramic	clay pipe	1	stem		-
100	1038	Test pit 5	glass	vessel	2	bottle		Seventeenth Century
100	1048	Test pit 5	ceramic	vessel	1	oxidised	abraded	Roman
101	1007	Test pit 7	ceramic	vessel	8	medieval glazes		Fourteenth/ Seventeenth Century
101	1052	Test pit 7	ceramic	clay pipe	1			-
101	1150	Test pit 7	bone	animal	26	bovine	skull and horn	-
102	1006	Test pit 7	glass	vessel	1	clear bottle		Nineteenth Century
102	1053	Test pit 7	ceramic	vessel	2	press moulded plate	Staffs	Eighteenth Century
102	1151	Test pit 7	bone	animal	2	bovine	skull and horn	-
107	1005	Test pit 6	ceramic	vessel	2	glazes	Staffs yellow	Seventeenth Century
107	1070	Test pit 6	iron	ind res	3	slag	smithing	-
107	1153	Test pit 6	ceramic	vessel	1	Black ware	sample 11	Seventeenth Century
107	1153	Test pit 6	ceramic	vessel	1	Ewloe type	sample 11	Sixteenth/ Seventeenth Century
108	1003	Test pit 8	stone	build.mat	1	floor tile		-
108	1055	Test pit 8	ceramic	vessel	6	wasters/slipware		-
110	1004	Test pit 8	ceramic	vessel	3	bone china		Nineteenth/ Twentieth Century
114	1091	Test pit 8	ceramic	build mat	1	brick		Eighteenth Century
117	1002	Test pit 8	ceramic	vessel	2	stoneware		Nineteenth Century
119	1001	Trench 1	ceramic	vessel	1	grey ware		Roman
119	1054	Trench 1	ceramic	vessel	1	staffs yellow	feather trailed slip ware	Eighteenth Century
119	1072	Trench 1	iron	nails	3			-
119	1105	Trench 1	ind deb	ind res	1	slag	smithing	-
119	1143	Trench 1	bone	animal	4	bovine	skull	-
122	1030	Test pit 3	ceramic	clay pipe	1			-

122	1043	Test pit 3	ceramic	vessel	3	medieval splash glaze	+staffs yellow	Seventeenth Century
122	1144	Test pit 3	bone	animal	1	bovine		-
123	1041		ceramic	vessel	50	unfinished pottery wasters		1750-1850
123	1066		ceramic	vessel	18	post medieval	unstratified	Seventeenth/ Eighteenth Century
123	1145		bone	animal	1	bovine	horn	-
123	1146		bone	animal	5	bovine		-
123	1147		shell	oyster and cockles	7			-
124	1039	Test pit 8	ceramic	vessel	1	Midlands purple	strap handle	Seventeenth Century
125	1040	Test pit 7	ceramic	vessel	16		1 unglazed med	Nineteenth Century
125	1068	Test pit 7	iron	nail	1	square shaft		-
125	1078	Test pit 7	glass	vessel	3	bottles		Nineteenth Century
-	1037	Spoil heap	ceramic	vessel		black glazed storage jar		Nineteenth Century

APPENDIX 5: PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL LIST

Context		7	19	21	39	56+107	41	71	95
Deposit type		Deposit	Pit fill	Pit fill	Pit fill	Pit fill	Pit fill	Pit fill	Deposit
Sample		1	3	2	4	7+11	6	9	10
Amorph plant frags		+		+++++	+			+	+
Wood		+		+		+			+++++
Charcoal		+	++++	+	+	+	+	+	+
Fly puparia		++++							
Insect		+							
Mammal bone		+	+	+		+	+	+++++	+
Calcined bone		+	+		+		+	+	+
Fish bone			+		+		+	+	+
Small mammal bone							+	+	
Sand/gravel		+	+	+	+	++++	+	+	+
Coal		+	+	+	+++++	++	+	+	+
Clinker/cinder			+			++++	+		
Industrial waste						++++			+
Charred cereals		+wheat	+barley		+				+
Hazel nut			+						
<i>Carex trig</i>	Sedge								+
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat-hen	+++++				+			
<i>Chenopodium</i> <i>/Atriplex</i>	Goosefoot orache	+++++		+		+			
<i>Cirsium</i>	Thistle	+							
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock			+	+		+	+	+
<i>Euphorbia</i>	Spurge			+		+			
<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Common hemp Nettle			+		+			+
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort			+					
<i>Leontodon</i> -type	Hawkbits			+++++					

<i>Montia fontanalis</i>	Blinks								
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass			+					
<i>Ranunculus repens</i> - Type	Creeping buttercup	+		+					+
<i>Ranunculus scleratus</i>	Celery-leaved buttercup	+							
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's sorrel	+							
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Blackberry	+			+				
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elderberry	+	+		+++++	+	+	+	+
<i>Sonchus</i> sp	Sow thistle			+					
<i>Stellari media</i>	Lesser stitchwort	+							
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common nettle	+		+++++	+	+	+		+

Key: + - ++++ = rare to very abundant

ILLUSTRATIONS

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Location Map

Figure 2: OS Town Plan of Chester 1875, Showing Location of Theatre

Figure 3: Trench and Test Pit Location Plan

Figure 4: Post-Excavation Plan of Trench 1

Figure 5: Post-Excavation Plan of Trench 2

Figure 6: Post-Excavation Plan of Trench 3

Figure 7: Post-Excavation Plan of Test Pit 6

LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: General view of walls **81** and **82**, Trench 2, looking east

Plate 2: Test Pit 5, showing detail of brick-vaulted arch **98**

Plate 3: North facing section of Test Pit 6, showing tanning pit **38**

Plate 4: West facing section of Test Pit 6, showing tanning pit **57**

Plate 5: Test Pit 7, showing culvert 96 fully excavated and deposit **104**

Plate 6: Test Pit 8, showing degraded brick structure **114**

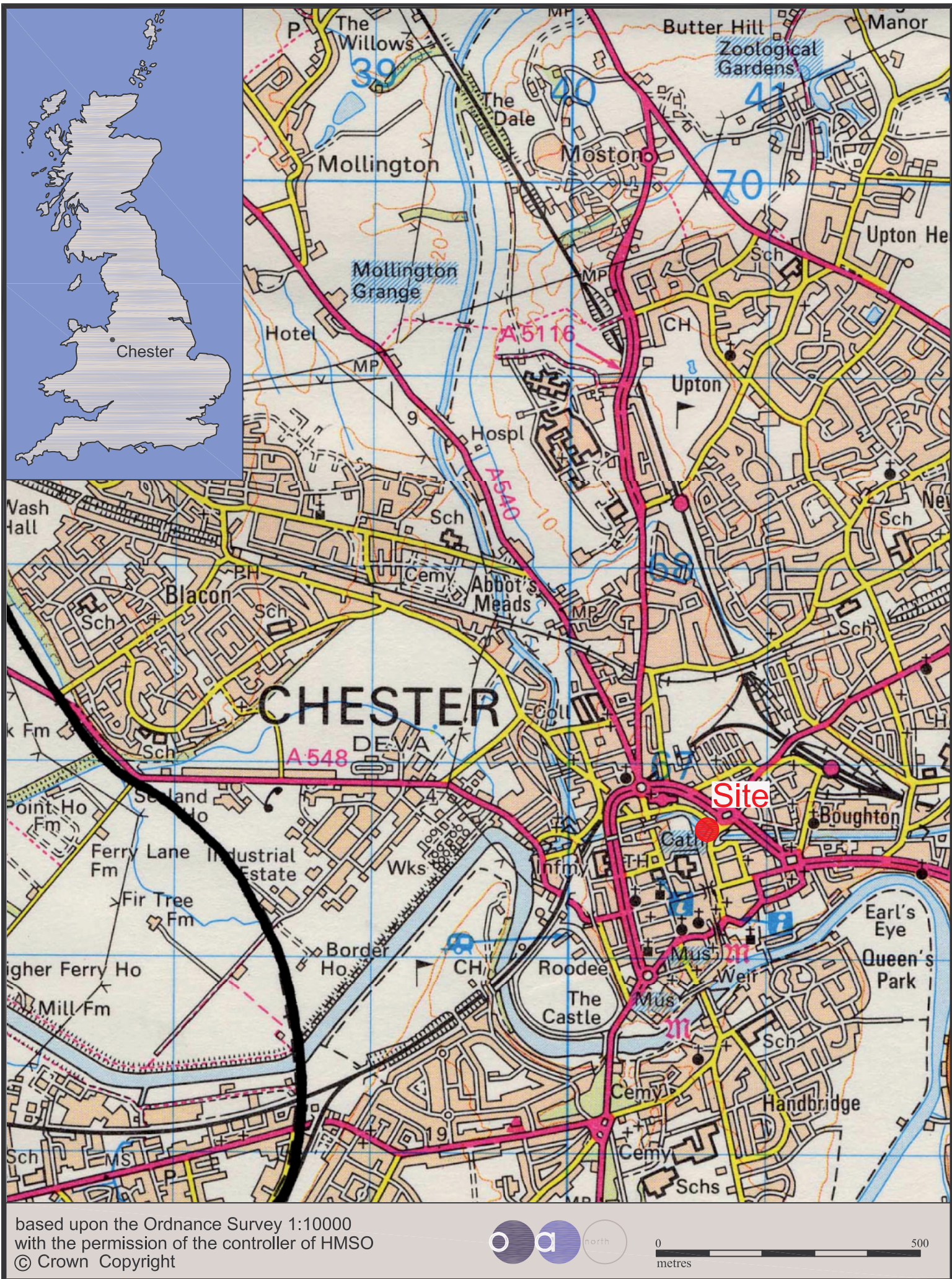
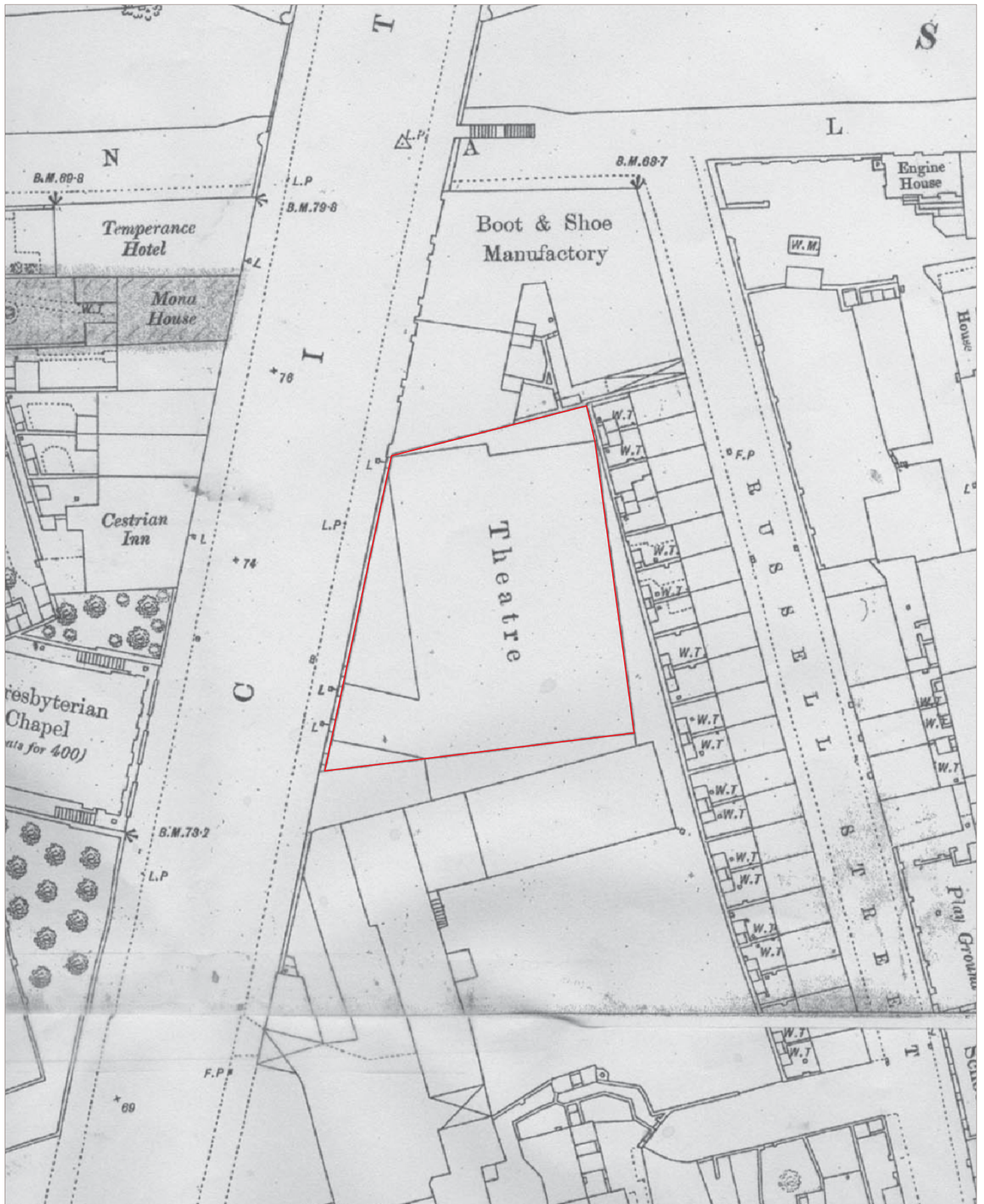


Figure 1: Location Map



Oxford Archaeology North
Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1TF

Tel 01524 848666
Fax 01524 848606

PROJECT: City Road, Chester
DRAWING No: 2
SCALE: 1:500
TITLE: OS Town Plan of Chester 1875,
Showing Location of Theatre
CLIENT: Joseph Finney Plc
DRAWN BY: CEH
DATE: May 2002

LOCATION:

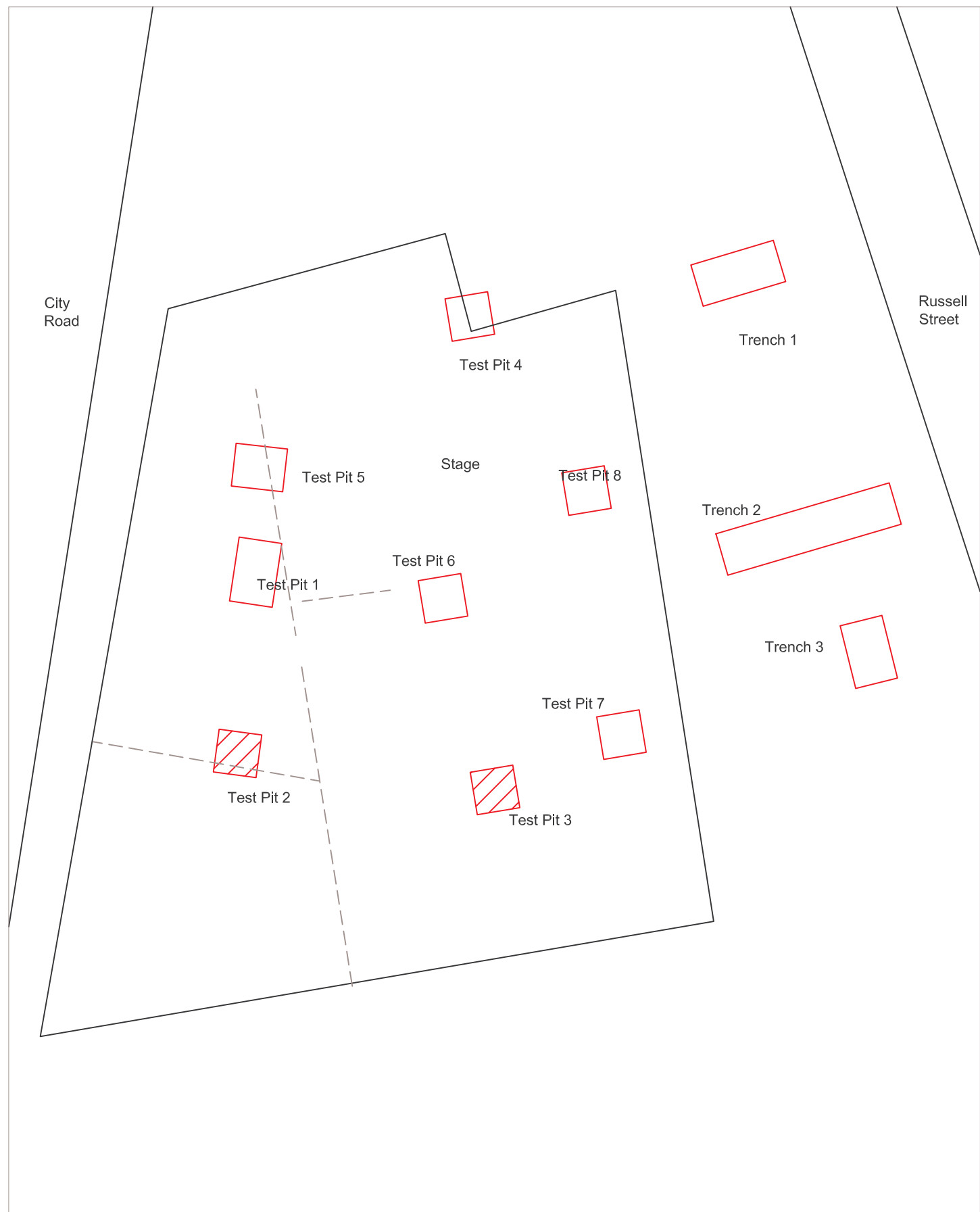


KEY



Site

Figure 2 : OS Town Plan of Chester 1875, Showing Location of Theatre



Oxford Archaeology North
 Storey Institute
 Meeting House Lane
 Lancaster
 LA1 1TF

Tel 01524 848666
 Fax 01524 848606

PROJECT: City Road, Chester
 DRAWING No: 3
 SCALE: 1:250
 TITLE: Trench and Test Pit Location Plan
 CLIENT: Joseph Finney Plc
 DRAWN BY: CEH
 DATE: May 2002

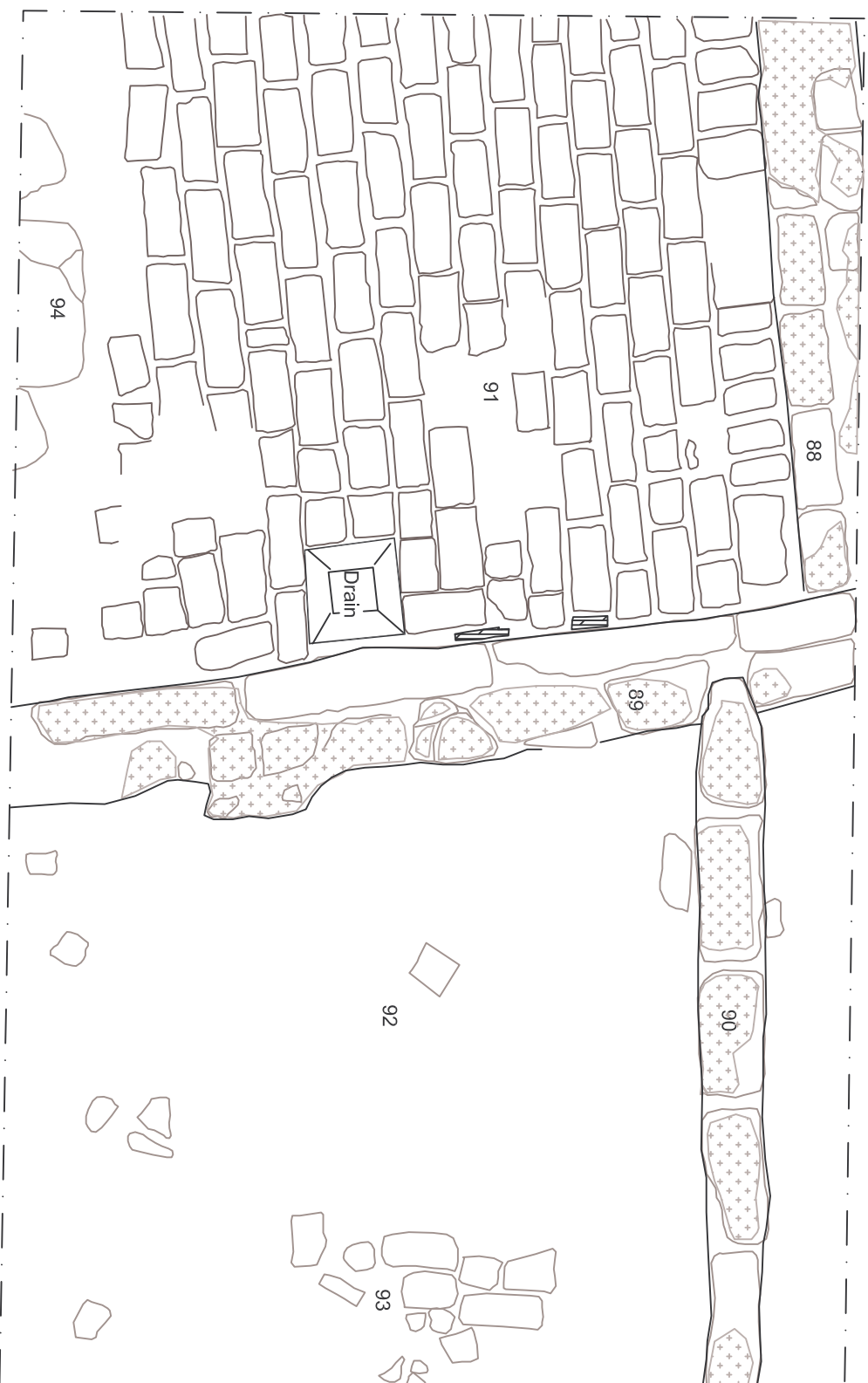
LOCATION:



KEY

- Area of theatre
- - - Line of former internal walls
- [Red rectangle] Trench/Test Pit
- [Hatched red rectangle] Abandoned Test Pit

Figure 3 : Trench and Test Pit Location Plan



Oxford Archaeology North
 Storey Institute
 Meeting House Lane
 Lancaster
 LA1 1TF
 Tel 01524 848666
 Fax 01524 848606

PROJECT:

City Road, Chester

DRAWING No:

4



Scale 1:20

DRAWN BY: CEH

DATE: June 2002

LOCATION:



KEY



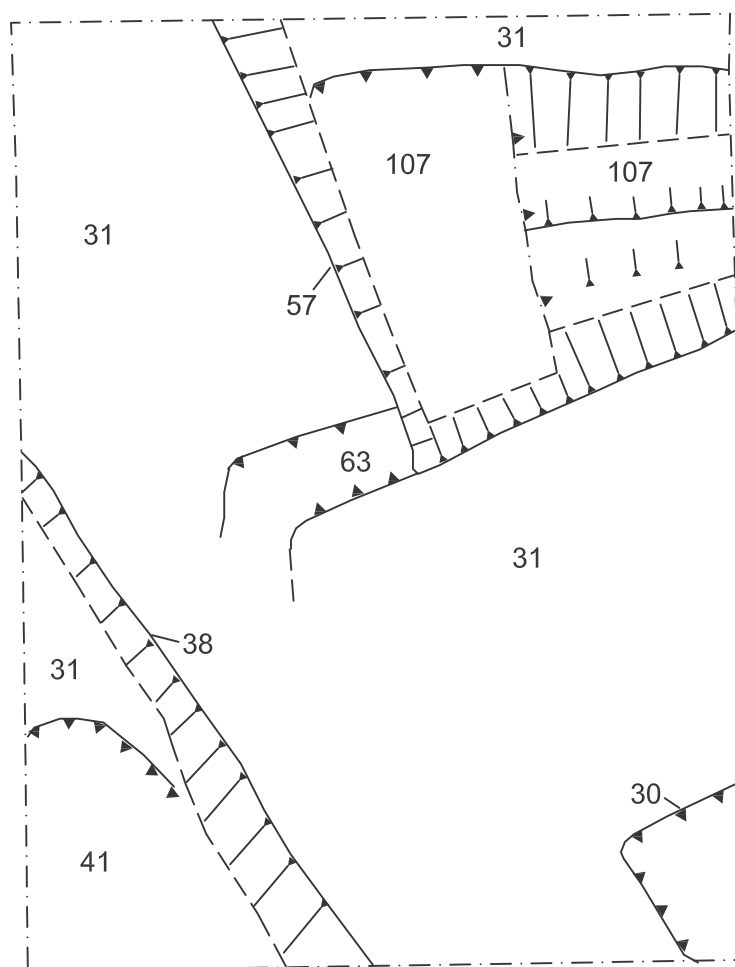
TITLE:

Post-Excavation Plan of Trench 1

COMMISSIONED BY:

Joseph Finney Plc.

Figure 4 : Post-Excavation Plan of Trench 1



Oxford Archaeology North
 Storey Institute
 Meeting House Lane
 Lancaster
 LA1 1TF

Tel 01524 848666
 Fax 01524 848606

PROJECT: City Road, Chester
 DRAWING No: 5
 SCALE: 1:20
 TITLE: Post-Excavation Plan of Test Pit 6
 CLIENT: Joseph Finney Plc.
 DRAWN BY: CEH
 DATE: June 2002

LOCATION:

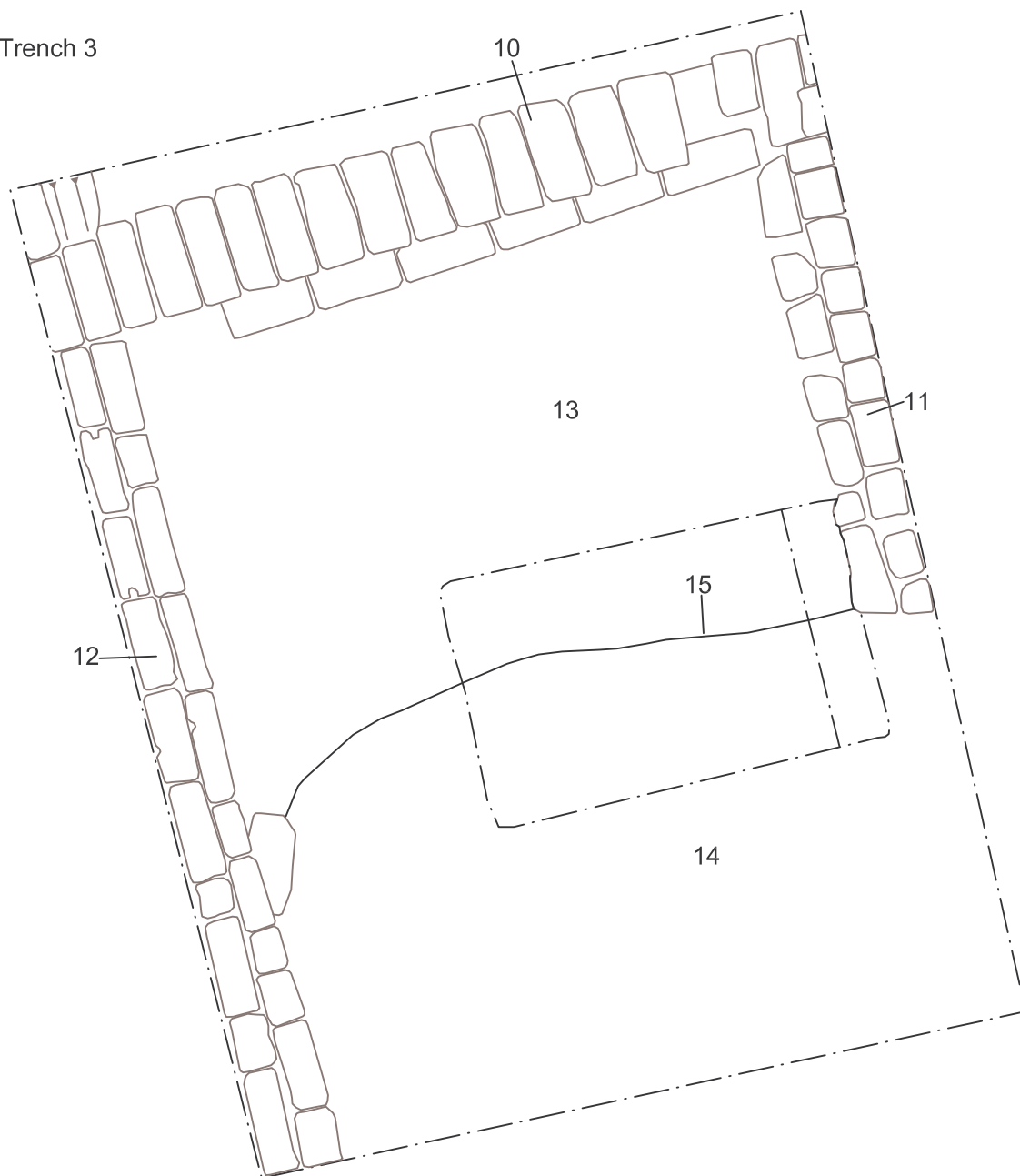


0 0.5m

KEY

Figure 7 : Post-Excavation Plan of Test Pit 6

Trench 3



0 0.5m



Oxford Archaeology North
Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1TF

Tel 01524 848666
Fax 01524 848606

PROJECT: City Road, Chester
DRAWING No: 06
SCALE: 1:20
TITLE: Post-Excavation Plan of Trench 3
CLIENT: Joseph Finney Plc
DRAWN BY: CEH
DATE: May 2002

LOCATION:



KEY



Figure 6 : Post-Excavation Plan of Trench 3



Oxford Archaeology North
Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1TF
Tel 01524 848666
Fax 01524 848606

PROJECT:

City Road, Chester

DRAWING No:

05



Scale 1:50

DRAWN BY: ELC

DATE: October 2002

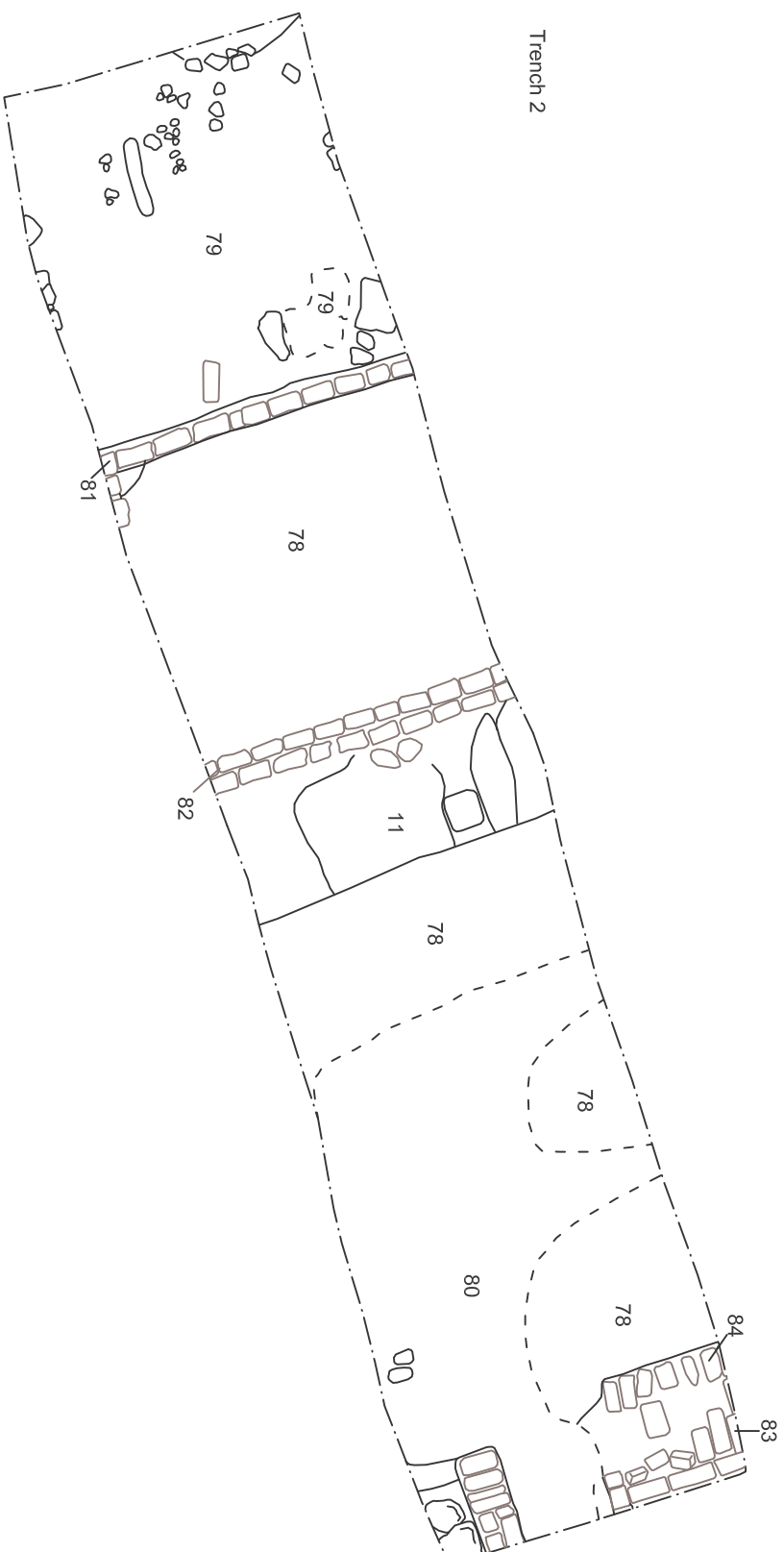
LOCATION:



KEY



brick



TITLE:

Post-Excavation Plan of Trench 2

COMMISSIONED BY:

Joseph Finney Plc

Figure 5 : Post-Excavation Plan of Trench 2

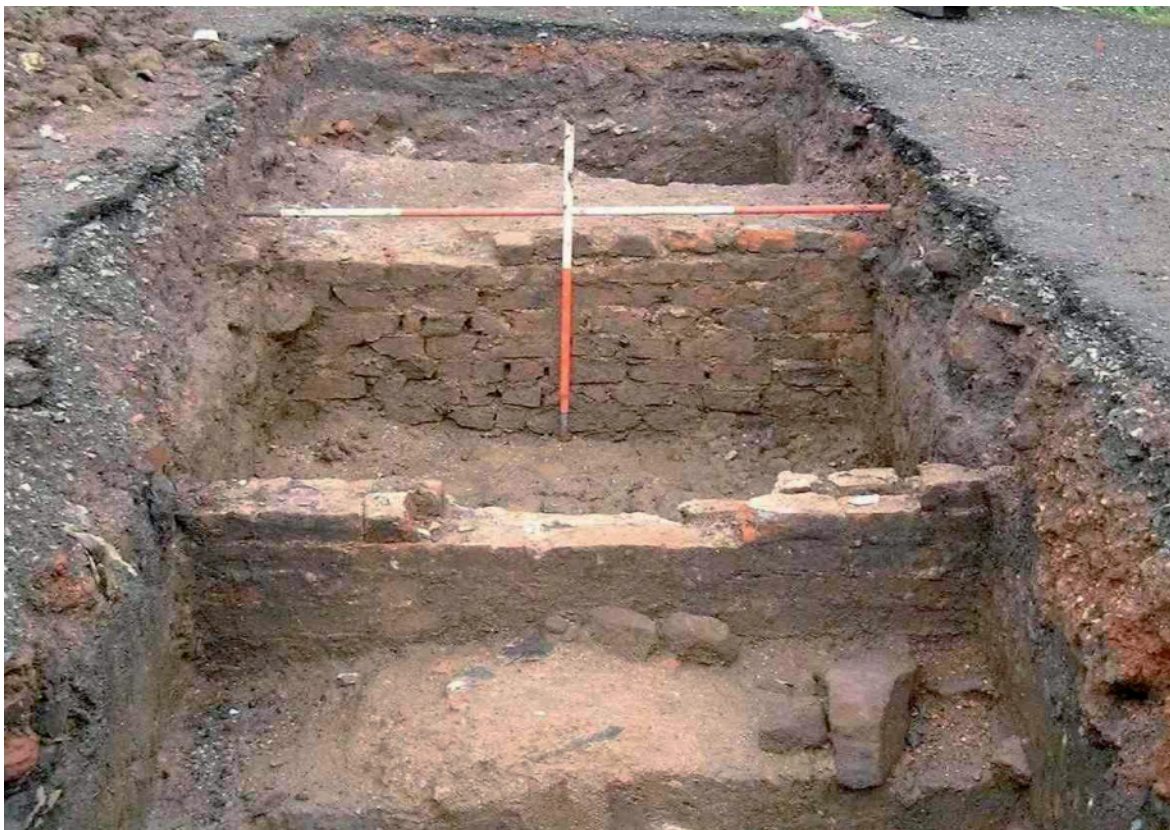


Plate 1: General view of walls **81** and **82**, Trench 2, looking east

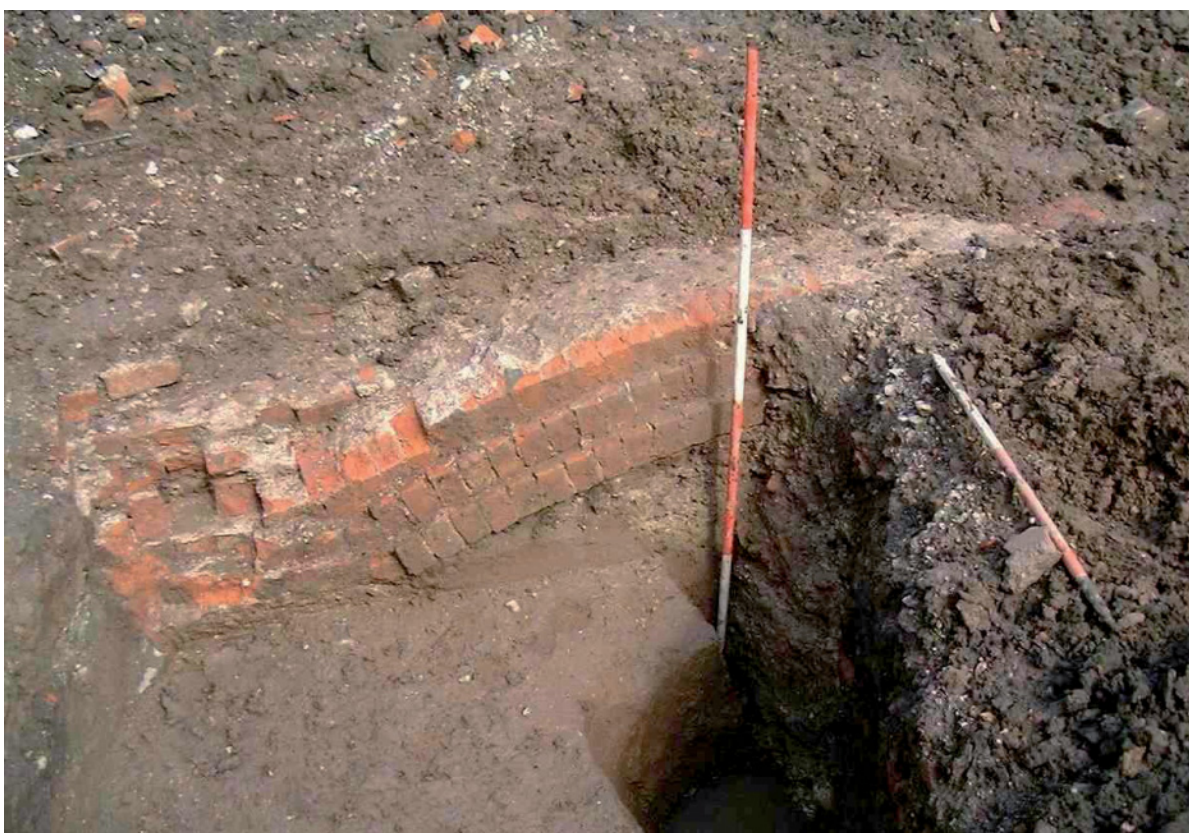


Plate 2: Test Pit 5, showing detail of brick-vaulted arch **98**



Plate 3: North facing section of Test Pit 6, showing tanning pit 38



Plate 4: West facing section of Test Pit 6, showing tanning pit 57



Plate 5: Test Pit 7, showing culvert *96* fully excavated and deposit *104*



Plate 6: Test Pit 8, showing degraded brick structure *114*