

**THE FORMER 'CLUTCH CLINIC'
6 COMMERCIAL ROAD
GLOUCESTER**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AND HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING**

For

**FEILDEN CLEGG BRADLEY STUDIOS
LLP**

On behalf on

**SOUTH WEST REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

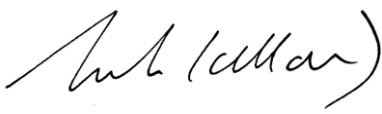
CA PROJECT: 3015
CA REPORT: 10110

JANUARY 2011

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| date | 24 January 2011 |
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SUMMARY

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Project Name: | Former 'Clutch Clinic' |
| Location: | 6 Commercial Road, Gloucester |
| NGR: | SO 8297 1841 |
| Type: | Watching Brief and Historic Building Recording |
| Date: | 28 May, 14-15 June, 2 July, 5 August and 16 August 2010 |
| Location of Archive: | To be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery. |
| Accession no. | GLRCM 2009.14 |
| Site Code: | BFG 10 |

An archaeological watching brief and historic building recording was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between May and August 2010 at the former 'Clutch Clinic', 6 Commercial Road, Gloucester. The watching brief and historic building recording were undertaken during the demolition of the existing buildings and associated groundworks.

The watching brief took place in the front range of the property, and no significant archaeological remains were identified.

The demolition of the 19th and 20th-century buildings was monitored where they abutted the medieval ranges of Blackfriars. The 19th-century north gable of the modern part of the East Range was left *in situ*, meaning that no older structure (on its northern side) was disturbed or revealed. The removal of the north-western corner of the demolished frontage building where it abutted the south-eastern corner of the South Range was monitored, and some details of the alterations to the latter structure since the 17th or 18th centuries were recorded.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between May and August 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief and historic building recording for Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios LLP on behalf of the South West Regional Development Agency at the former 'Clutch Clinic', 6 Commercial Road, Gloucester (centred on NGR: SO 8297 1841, Fig. 2).
- 1.2 The archaeological watching brief and historic building recording were undertaken to fulfil a condition (no. 3) attached to a Conservation Area Consent for demolition of non-listed buildings (Planning ref: Gloucester City Council 09/01329/CON).
- 1.3 Part of the site lies within the area of Scheduled Monument Glos. 116 (Blackfriars) (location shown on Figure 2). In a letter (ref: S00005254 dated 19 January 2010) from Mr Thomas Powell, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), and acting on the advice of Rob Iles, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage, Scheduled Monument Consent was granted for licensed asbestos removal, demolition of a specified range of workshop buildings, a former snooker hall and associated boundary structures, erection of temporary support works and new site boundary hoardings.
- 1.4 The watching brief and historic building recording were carried out in accordance with proposals contained within drawings (reference 1521/P/001-005) and the associated *Historic Impact and Planning Statement* and *Additional Information and Historic Impact Assessment* prepared by Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios (FCB 2010a and b) and separate *Historic Impact Assessment Report* prepared by Kirsty Rodwell, Historic Buildings Consultant (2001a). The works were also carried out with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2009) which accompanied the application for Scheduled Monument Consent. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008); *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (IfA 2008); *Recording Historic Buildings, A Descriptive Specification* (RCHME 1996); *Understanding Historic Buildings; A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006); *Metric Survey Specifications for English Heritage* (English Heritage 2000); *the Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.5 The site is bounded to the south-east by Commercial Road, to the west and north by Blackfriars Priory and to the east by properties fronting Commercial Road (Figs 1 and 2). The site is generally flat and lies at a height of c. 18.0m AOD.
- 1.6 The site consisted of the buildings comprising the former 'Clutch Clinic' and areas of hard standing.
- 1.7 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Lower Lias Clay of the Lower Jurassic era (British Geological Survey 1981). This was not encountered during groundworks.

Archaeological background

- 1.8 The site consists of part of the area of the former 'Clutch Clinic', part of which was demolished previously in 2004 (CA 2004). The site consists of the remaining 19th and 20th-century buildings which comprised the 'Clutch Clinic' and areas of hardstanding.
- 1.9 Detailed information regarding the archaeological background of the site, and previous investigation and knowledge gained, are contained within previous studies of the site to which reference should be made (Rodwell 2001a and b; Donel and Orbasli 2002; Root 2004; Feilden Clegg Bradley 2007; MoLAS 2007 and Scott Wilson 2008). While it is not intended to repeat this information in its entirety, this work indicates that the site is located within an area of high archaeological potential. In particular the western part of the site falls within the area of Scheduled Monument Glos. 116 (Blackfriars), lying close to the area of the central cloister and the East Range of the friary (Fig. 2) and also possibly across the postulated location of the ditch of the Norman castle which pre-dated the construction of the priory. Previous investigations have shown the preservation of the cloister walk in many places along its circuit (Donel and Orbasli 2002, 23-24), and the presence of two medieval arches beneath building 7 (Rodwell 2001a; Root 2004). This indicated the possible presence of previously unrecorded structural remains within the proposed area of works.
- 1.10 Blackfriars was founded c. AD 1239 as a Dominican friary. After its dissolution in 1539 it was purchased by Thomas Bell; he remodelled the church as a domestic property and the claustral buildings as a cloth manufactory. There were subsequent other alterations throughout the post-medieval period but the principal periods of more major alterations affecting the structures were in the late 18th or early 19th centuries, from 1874 onwards for the construction of the Mineral Water Works and

again in the mid 20th century during conversion for the Westgate Motor House. The site was subsequently re-used for garage purposes and in its later years prior to closure was known as the 'Clutch Clinic'.

- 1.11 Archaeological investigations, consisting of building recording, evaluation and a watching brief, were undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in 2004 during groundworks associated with the demolition of some of the structures of the 'Clutch Clinic' which extended into the cloister area of the Blackfriars. Re-deposited clay, possibly associated with the infilling of the outer ditch of the Norman castle, was observed in two areas, overlain in both instances by apparently *in situ* medieval tiles from the floor of the medieval Friary cloister walk. A large amount of re-used medieval masonry was also recovered from the demolition of the buildings (CA 2004).
- 1.12 Trial trench evaluation in 2009 and 2010 between and within the buildings proposed for demolition demonstrated the existence of buried remains relating to the long occupation of the site. These deposits and structures survive inside and outside the Scheduled area. The identified remains included the probable Norman castle ditch, the medieval priory and post-Dissolution Thomas Bell cloth manufactory and later post-medieval and modern domestic and industrial structures (CA 2010).
- 1.13 The remaining standing buildings of the 'Clutch Clinic' were recorded prior to the start of demolition by the Clutch Clinic Project Community Team and The Heritage Service (GCC 2010).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.14 The primary objectives of the programme of archaeological works is to ensure that the all works on site are monitored and supervised by a professional archaeologist and that no damage is caused to significant archaeological structures or deposits, to ensure the investigation and recording of archaeological deposits and structures encountered during the works and ensure the proper treatment of structures and deposits the presence and nature of which could not be fully established in advance of the works commencing.

Methodology

- 1.15 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2009). An archaeologist was present during demolition and intrusive groundworks. Building recording consisting of written, drawn and photographic records of areas of historic

fabric exposed during the demolition works to Level 2 of English Heritage's *Understanding Historic Buildings* (2006).

- 1.16 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.17 The archive from the watching brief and historic building recording is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery under Accession no. GLRCM 2009.14. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-12)

Watching brief (Fig 2)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 The lowest deposits observed were seen at a depth of approximately 1m below present ground floor level (bpgl), but only in a few limited areas when steel stanchions of the Talbot Works/Clutch Clinic were removed. In the watching brief observations the material (context 31002) up to the underside of the concrete slab floor of the Clutch Clinic all appeared to be brick rubble. The layers at this depth were previously sampled here in Trench G in the earlier evaluation (CA 2010) where comparable layers were noted.
- 2.3 This rubble was sealed by the concrete slab (31001) forming the floor of the frontage building to Commercial Road. This proved to be only 0.20m thick on average. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during these groundworks.

Historic building recording (Figs 4-9)

- 2.4 Three specific areas were monitored: The junctions of the rebuilt part of the East Range of the cloister with the surviving medieval building (Areas 1 and 2); and where the rear of the street frontage building of 1874 met the south-eastern corner of the South Range (Area 3). These are shown on Fig. 3.

Areas 1 and 2

- 2.5 The 1874 addition to the south end of the medieval East Range was a traditional brick structure with a timber truss purlin roof (Fig. 4, Areas 1 and 2). Its northern gable acted as the common gable with the stub of the medieval East Range and was left in place, the rest of the structure being divided from it by sawing, its removal thus not directly affecting the older structure at all. It was noted that the east and west walls of the medieval range had been made good when the 1874 gable was built against them and probably tidied up during later conservation work (Figs 5 and 6). It was also noted that the upper part of the gable, closing the steeper roof of the medieval range, had been rebuilt in closely matching, but not identical brick and that the brick wall facing the cloister had been rendered.

Area 3

- 2.6 The other area observed was the junction of the north-west corner of the Commercial Road range of 1874 with the south-east corner of the South Range of the Blackfriars cloister (Figs 3, 8 and 9, Area 3). This revealed a complex series of changes in a small area.
- 2.7 The eastern gable end of the South Range of the Blackfriars cloister is essentially brick-built with a timber and clapboarded upper gable (Fig. 7). It exhibits at least three phases of work, not counting the blocking of the large ground floor opening.
- 2.8 The earliest phase was only noted during demolition of the frontage building at the top of the gable wall at the south end. It consisted of seven courses of thin brick (2" x 9" x 4" (50.8mm x 230mm, 101.6mm) laid in a white lime mortar. The wall was only two bricks wide (c. 9"/230mm) aligned with the *inner* face of the later gable wall. A fragment of white mortar flaunching or flashing at the top of the bricks indicated the gradation to a narrower, possibly timber, gable. It survived to be incorporated in the current grey cement mortar flaunching under the present lead work over this transition. These bricks clearly represented an early rebuild of the east gable end of the medieval South Range. A fragment of render still in place indicated that this early wall had been rendered (Fig. 8).
- 2.9 This wall was masked and thickened by a skin of brick now represented externally only by a narrow vertical strip of brickwork on the southern side of the gable wall at first floor level. These bricks (9" x 4½" x 3", 230mm x 114.3mm x 76.2mm), were also set in a lime mortar but more grey-brown in colour. They trapped the render of the earlier wall, thus preserving it (Fig. 8).

- 2.10 This wall was largely replaced by the present wall which abutted it (Figs 7 and 8). It is built in bricks of the same size and is three bricks thick (c.13½" [0.34m], or more, due to the thickness of the vertical jointing). The bond is rather mixed but appears to be English Bond on the south merging into Flemish bond on the north. This might suggest a two-phase work but no join could be described. A very wide opening on the ground is contemporary with this work, its steel lintel supporting it. The opening has been blocked in more brickwork. This construction all appears to be 19th or early 20th century, the bricks (apart from the blocking, which could not be inspected) being laid in lime mortar.
- 2.11 These structures were abutted and dogged into by the frontage building. Its western wall was also set in lime mortar with bricks 9½" x 4½" x 3" (241.3mm x 114.3mm x 76.2mm). As it was on the same alignment as the gable of the medieval building, but extended northwards beyond its south-east corner, it rode over the gable, cutting away older structure as it rose (Fig. 7). The removal of part of this wall exposed the earlier structures and left an opening into the roof space of the south range. Part of the principal rafter of the easternmost medieval truss was also revealed with modern laths and felting under the replaced stone tiles.
- 2.12 The current upper gable in timber and clap boarding appears to be modern, and was pinned back to the main roof truss as part of the 2010 demolition works (Fig. 7).
- 2.13 The rear or north wall of the frontage building had been rebuilt. The upper floor overhung the ground floor and it was carried on a concrete beam which was set in a pocket in the brickwork of the east range gable end. The brick wall it supported was of hard common bricks in a cement mortar, also set into the pocket or slot in the gable end. Because of the relative slope and angle of roof and wall this only affected the c. 0.35m of the gable above the first floor, but extended down for some distance (Fig. 8). The bottom three courses on the beam and the concrete beam itself were not taken away from the older wall, but sawn away to reduce the disturbance.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The watching brief on the 1874 and later frontage building along Commercial Road has added nothing to the detail seen in Trench G of the evaluation (CA 2010), where several floors and their make-up were seen above the brick rubble make up: these

consisted of the remains of a wood block floor and then a layer of tarmac and refer to the original floor of the Talbot Bottling Works and later changes. The rubble make-up was also seen to have been of a more complex character than was visible in this watching brief. However, it has indicated that Trench G was probably typical of the fills in this area at the depths observed, in that they were late deposits all relating to the construction and use of the bottling plant.

- 3.2 The demolition of the brick, southern end of the East Range built in 1874 revealed no new information on the medieval building, as the gable end of that rebuild was left *in situ* (Figs 4 and 6, Areas 1 and 2). Observation indicated that both wall ends of the original east range had been made good prior to the addition of the now-demolished brick block. On the east, the brick gable extends east of the original gable end and here the northern side of the junction is rendered, presumably over made-good masonry (Fig. 6). On the west side the wall of the medieval range projects slightly further west than the later addition and new quoins appear to have been inserted in the upper part of the wall here (Fig. 5). This is almost certainly the result of “tidying up” during the Ministry of Works programme in the 1960s and 70s, as was the rebuilding of the apex of the gable in matching brickwork (Fig. 4) and the rendering of the Victorian brickwork facing the cloister (Fig. 5).
- 3.3 The removal of the brick work of the frontage building from the South Range of the Blackfriars (Area 3) revealed more of the complexity of the history of the east gable end, indicating two phases of building prior the present configuration, itself of more than one phase (Figs 7, 8 and 9). These phases will be the result of the alterations to the east end consequent upon the building of the probably 18th-century house that pre-dated the bottling works on this site and which seems to have been the occasion for the partial rebuilding of the east end of the South Range (Root 2004, Figs 7 and 9; Rodwell, 2001b). The construction of the bottling plant in 1874 was the occasion for the demolition of this house and the retention of parts of it in the remodelled South Range. The latest phase of brickwork in the east end of the South Range, and the large opening in it, now blocked, are the result of the building works of 1874 and later. The timber gable seems to have been built during the Ministry of Works’ programme in the 1970s.
- 3.4 The rear wall of the frontage building had been heavily altered and largely rebuilt. At this point there was no ground floor structure, the first floor being carried on a large concrete beam pocketed into the brickwork of the eastern gable of the South Range

and spanning via an intermediate column to the far side of the property. This supported a brick wall set in cement mortar. This was evidently all part of the 1954 alterations to convert the bottling plant into the motor garage that became the Clutch Clinic (full details of the 1874 building up to 2010 can be found in GCC 2010).

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

4.1 The below ground watching brief was undertaken by Jamie Wright, the architectural monitoring by Peter Davenport. The report was written by Peter Davenport. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Peter Davenport, and prepared for deposition by Jonathan Hart. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

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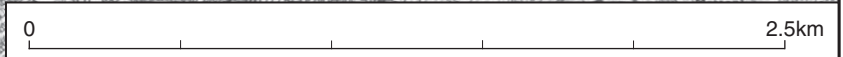
Watching Brier

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Spot-date |
|-------|---------|---------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 31001 | Deposit | Concrete floor slab | | | 0.20 | |
| 31002 | Deposit | Brick rubble | | | 1 | |

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|--|---|---|
| Project Name | The Former 'Clutch Clinic' 6 Commercial Road, Gloucester | |
| Short description | <p>An archaeological watching brief and historic building recording was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between May and August 2010 at the former 'Clutch Clinic' 6 Commercial Road, Gloucester. The watching brief and historic building recording were undertaken during the demolition of the existing buildings and associated groundworks.</p> <p>The watching brief took place in the front range of the property, and no significant archaeological remains were identified.</p> <p>The demolition of the 19th and 20th-century buildings was monitored where they abutted the medieval ranges of Blackfriars. The 19th-century north gable of the modern part of the East Range was left <i>in situ</i>, meaning that no older structure (on its northern side) was disturbed or revealed. The removal of the north-western corner of the demolished frontage building where it abutted the south-eastern corner of the South Range was monitored, and some details of the alterations to the latter structure since the 17th or 18th centuries were recorded.</p> | |
| Project dates | 27th May, 14th and 15th of June and the 2nd of July 2010 | |
| Project type | Watching brief | |
| Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc) | CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010b <i>The Former 'Clutch Clinic' 6 Commercial Road Gloucester, Archaeological Evaluation And Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report 09191 | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site Location | 6 Commercial Road, Gloucester | |
| Study area | 0.1ha | |
| Site co-ordinates | SO 8297 1841 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Brief originator | No brief set | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Laurent Coleman | |
| Project Supervisor | Peter Davenport | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | |
| | Intended final location of archive | Content |
| Physical | Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery | none |
| Paper | Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery | WSI, pro forma registers, recording forms and photographs |
| Digital | Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery | Digital photographs |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| CA 2010 <i>The former "Clutch Clinic", 6, Commercial Road, Gloucester: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 10110 | | |

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 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE
The former 'Clutch Clinic'
6 Commercial Road, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| DRAWN BY | SCALE | PROJECT NO. | FIGURE NO. |
| LG | 1:25,000@A4 | 3015 | 1 |



- site
- area of watching brief
- previous archaeological interventions
- Scheduled Area



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

The former 'Clutch Clinic'
 6 Commercial Road, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench location plan showing
 archaeological interventions**

DRAWN BY

LG

SCALE

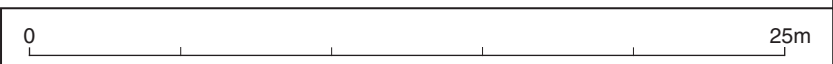
1:500@A4




PROJECT NO.


3015

FIGURE NO.

2



-  direction of photograph
-  scope of demolition
-  area of detailed observation

| | | | |
|---|----------|-------------|------------|
|  COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY | | | |
| PROJECT TITLE The former 'Clutch Clinic' 6 Commercial Road, Gloucester | | | |
| FIGURE TITLE Location of observations and photographs of standing buildings | | | |
| DRAWN BY | SCALE | PROJECT NO. | FIGURE NO. |
| LG | 1:250@A4 | 3015 | 3 |



4

4 Demolition of the 19th-century southern end of the East Range in progress, showing the brick gable, including the rebuild of the higher, steeper gable of the medieval East Range



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

The former 'Clutch Clinic'
6 Commercial Road, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

| <i>DRAWN BY</i> | <i>SCALE</i> | <i>PROJECT NO.</i> | <i>FIGURE NO.</i> |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| LG | n/a | 3015 | 4 |



5

5 The repaired masonry and quoins in the south-western corner of the medieval East Range (Area 1). The rendered wall to the right, butting the quoins, is the western wall of the now-demolished brick part of the East Range. Scale 1m



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

The former 'Clutch Clinic'
6 Commercial Road, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

DRAWN BY

LG

SCALE

n/a

PROJECT NO.

3015

FIGURE NO.

5



6

6 The eastern wall of the East Range, junction of medieval and 19th-century brick sections (Area 2)



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

The former 'Clutch Clinic'
6 Commercial Road, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

| <i>DRAWN BY</i> | <i>SCALE</i> | <i>PROJECT NO.</i> | <i>FIGURE NO.</i> |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| LG | n/a | 3015 | 6 |



7

7 The eastern gable-end wall of the South Range



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

The former 'Clutch Clinic'
6 Commercial Road, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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SCALE

n/a

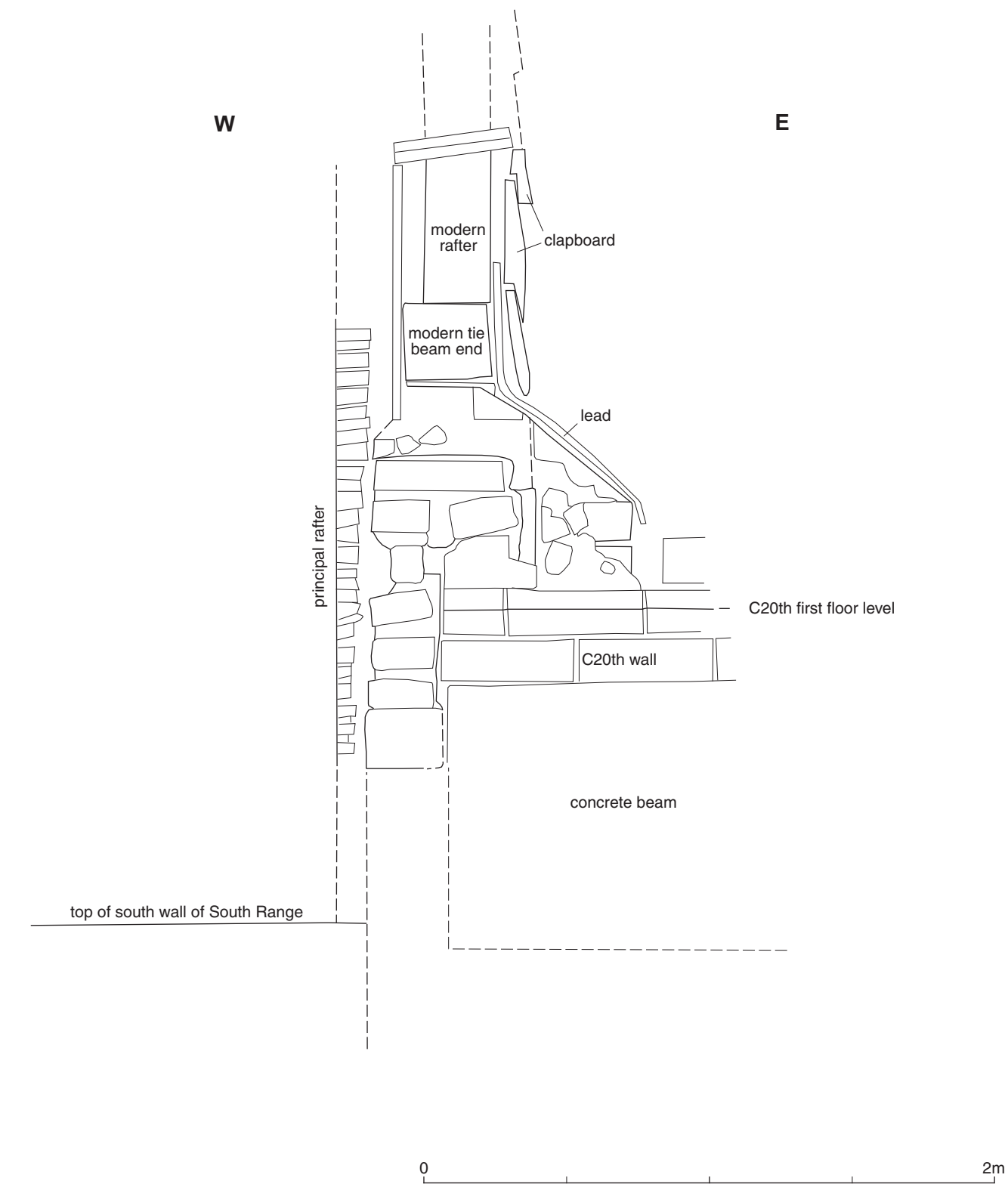
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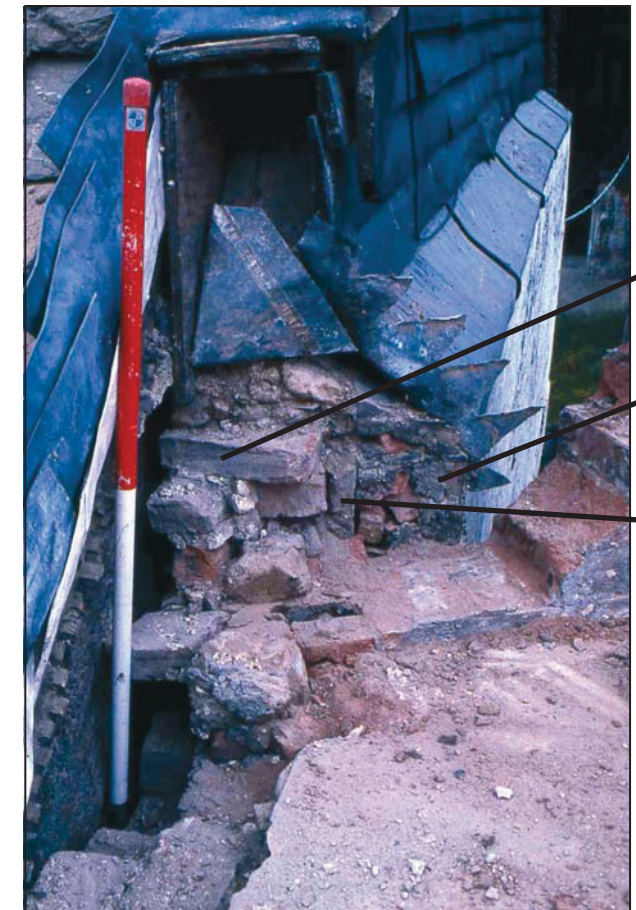
FIGURE NO.

7





Detailed section of south-east corner of cloister South Range at eaves level (Area 3) where revealed by demolition of 19th-century frontage building



Photograph of south-east corner of cloister South Range at eaves level where revealed by demolition of frontage building. Scale 1m.



first phase brick wall
later thickening
lime render

-  earliest phase of wall
-  lime render
-  lime mortar
-  first thickening