

The Octagon Chapel and Moon and Sixpence Yard Broadstreet Bath



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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**The Octagon Chapel and Moon and Sixpence Yard,
Broad Street, Bath,
Bath and North East Somerset**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

Between 1st June 2007 and 28th August 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Octagon Chapel and Environs, Broad Street, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset (NGR: ST750650). The work was commissioned E R Hemmings in advance of the building renovation and redevelopment of the site. The watching brief revealed deep deposits of post-medieval made ground and 18th and 19th century structures.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between 1st June 2007 and 28th July 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at The Octagon Chapel and Moon and Sixpence Yard, Broad Street, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset (NGR: ST750 650).
- 1.1.2 The work was commissioned by E R Hemmings in respect a proposed development to provide mixed retail and eateries on both floors of the Octagon Chapel, and to form a link between the retail street of Milsom Street to the west and the former historical shopping area of Broad Street to the east. A link to the Shires Yard retail centre to the north will also be made via the re-development of the former Moon and Sixpence restaurant.
- 1.1.3 Project requirements were set by Richard Sermon, on behalf of Bath and North East Somerset Council, requesting that a Controlled Archaeological Watching Brief be conducted on the site, in line with PPG15 and PPG16 and Local Plan policies . The work was designed to follow on from previous fieldwork that included a Desk Based Assessment (Bath Archaeological Trust, 2005) and, an earlier Watching Brief (Oxford Archaeology , 2005).
- 1.1.1 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would carry out the watching brief (OA 2006).

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The Octagon Chapel development is located within the centre of Bath, and located between two streets of retail development, the site is bounded by Milsom Street to the west and Broad Street to the east on NGR: ST750 650.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology is 'Bath Stone', which refers to a series of freestones of the Great Oolite, including the Combe Down Oolite and the Bath Oolite. The site lies over interbedded Limestone and the mudrock/siltstone and coarse shelly Limestone. (Geological Survey of Great Britain sheets no.s 265 and 281).

1.3 Acknowledgements

- 1.3.1 Oxford Archaeology would like to acknowledge the help of Stuart Burroughs, curator of The Bath at Work Museum, for his contribution to the project in providing details about the business and history of the Weaver & Son company.
- 1.3.2 Oxford archaeology would also like to acknowledge the help of Paul Thomson and Tim Dennings with the principle contractors E R Hemmings for their contribution of knowledge and resources while monitoring the Octagon Chapel and Moon and Sixpence building renovation.

1.4 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.4.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA 2006) and is summarised below.
- 1.4.2 A series of reports and investigations have been undertaken. These began with a DBA by Bath Archaeological Trust in the spring of 2005 (Davenport 2005). This was followed by a watching brief on engineering test pits in the Moon and Sixpence Courtyard, carried out, as was the rest of the work, by Oxford Archaeology (OA 2005). Short reports and addenda on the standing building and another engineering test pit followed. (OA 2006 a & b)
- 1.4.3 The area of proposed development lies in what, in the middle ages, was the northern suburb of Bath, along Broad Street and Walcot Street and which became in the later 18th century the fashionable shopping area of Bath. No Roman remains are known in the close vicinity, although Walcot Street is an important area of Roman occupation, with remains as close as the junction of Walcot Street and Broad Street.
- 1.4.4 The present buildings are all of 18th and 19th century date, except for the modern structures in Shires Yard and 3 Broad Street, and the rear of 7a Broad Street which are 17th century and possibly older.
- 1.4.5 The watching briefs that have been mounted show that there are deposits earlier than the 18th century on the site, but that these consist almost entirely of dark garden soils in the top metre or so. Observations at the Post Office just south of the site (OA 2006c) show very similar dark soils of 17th and 18th century date to a depth of well over a metre. Recent investigations at 13 Broad Street have shown that medieval remains, in the form of rubbish pits, occur in this area, but are difficult to see unless they cut into the natural clays.
- 1.4.6 Little otherwise is known directly about pre-18th century deposits in this area.

2 PROJECT AIMS

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, quality and date of

archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.

- 2.1.2 To preserve by record any archaeological deposits or features that may be disturbed or destroyed by the work.
- 2.1.3 To provide information to allow a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised for future development work.
- 2.1.4 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The watching brief was conducted as a series of site visits during work likely to impinge upon archaeological deposits. The work comprised the monitoring of one machine excavated trench (Trench 1), and two hand excavated trenches carried out by the principle contractor under archaeological supervision (Trenches 2 and 3).
- 3.1.2 Trench 1 was excavated on the northern edge of the Moon and Sixpence Yard, close to the southern extent of the Moon and Sixpence restaurant and Trenches 2 and 3 were located on the southern edge of the Moon and Sixpence Yard below the foundations of what was the Old Cinema building.
- 3.1.3 The monitoring of several drains slots and the foundations for a new lift shaft within the area of the Moon and Sixpence Yard were also monitored as part of the watching brief. Their impact was on average only 0.3 m below the current ground level and no archaeological features were noted within these works. A layer of mixed dark brown clay silt loam topsoil with no distinct formation layers was noted throughout.
- 3.1.4 The watching brief also included a more general historic building investigation whilst the building restoration works carried out. This included the monitoring of the Octagon Chapel building, The Moon and Sixpence restaurant and No. 3 Broad Street and their environs. A general photographic record of the building renovation work was also made as the works progressed and a more specific record of the Octagon Chapel Basement cellars was undertaken to record features that were revealed as internal surface render was removed during the restoration works.
- 3.1.5 A plan showing the location of the trenches was maintained at a scale of 1:100 (Fig. 2), which was also used to illustrate the location of the principle building features that were recorded during the building restoration works. Any sections that were drawn during the below ground excavation were recorded at a scale of 1:20. All excavations and sections were photographed using colour slide and digital photography.. The Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Field Manual* (ed D Wilkinson 1992).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Description of deposits

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

- 4.1.1 The trench was located to the east of the Octagon Chapel within the Moon and Sixpence Yard, close to the southern extent of the Moon and Sixpence restaurant, and was excavated by the principle contractors to form part of the foundations for the Moon and Sixpence restaurant renovation. The trench measured 12 m in length, had an average width of 0.5 m and an average depth of 1.1 m.
- 4.1.2 The earliest deposit encountered within the trench, with a minimum depth of 0.16 m, was a tenacious light brown silt clay which represented a re-deposited and mixed layer of clay. This was overlain by a 0.80 m deep layer of mixed dark brown clay silt loam topsoil with no distinct formation layers. The layer represented general post-medieval soil formation within the Moon and Sixpence Yard and no finds were recovered to suggest a more specific period. No other features or surfaces were encountered during the monitoring of this trench.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3)

- 4.1.3 This was located on the southern edge of the Moon and Sixpence Yard, in an area formally occupied by the Old Cinema building on Broad Street. The trench was excavated by hand by the principle contractor to an approximate depth of 2 m and was monitored by OA. The trench was later extended to the south with the extension subsequently recorded by OA.
- 4.1.4 The earliest deposit encountered within the trench was a possibly natural layer of tenacious yellowish white clay (148) which was excavated to a depth of 0.22 m; or an imported very clean deposit of made ground. The deposit was overlain by a 0.08 m deep layer of mid brown silt clay with charcoal fleck inclusions (147) which has been interpreted as the weathered deposit described above. Layer (147) was overlain by a similar 0.22 m deep deposit of mid orange brown silt clay which may represent an alluvial deposit or clean layer of imported made ground (146). Overlying this was a 0.26 m deep layer (145) of dark brown silt clay loam (as seen in Trench 1) with a large part of the matrix consisting of mixed charcoal. The layer probably represents an medieval occupation layer or topsoil although no finds were recovered to date the context. The layer was overlain by a 0.28 m deep layer of mid greyish brown silt clay loam (144) with several lenses of material, suggestive of a gradual formation process.
- 4.1.5 Deposit 144 was overlain by two layers attributable to the same deposit, (139) and (143). The layer was 0.10 m deep throughout and consisted of a tenacious, mottled light and mid brown silty clay with frequent mortar and lime flecking. The layer represents an imported make-up layer. Layers (139) and (143) were both cut by a 0.90 m deep and narrow construction trench for the construction of Structure (140) at their northern limits, and were also cut by the construction cut (150) for Culvert/Drain (151) at their southern limits.
- 4.1.6 Culvert/Drain (151) (Plate 1) was uncovered in the southern extent of Trench 2 when the trench was subsequently extended and was orientated WNW-ESE (Fig 2). Its construction trench was approximately 1.0 m in depth and at most 0.10 m in width

and extended above the level at which the Culvert had been laid; it had been filled with mixed clay and a garden soil deposit (149). The visible part of the Culvert had an internal width of 0.48 m and a height of 0.50 m. The sides of the culvert were constructed in fairly level courses of randomly placed and roughly squared Oolitic Limestone blocks (measuring 4600 mm x 100 mm and 360 mm x 160 mm). The base and top of the culvert were constructed/capped with Pennant sandstone slabs (measuring 740 mm in length and 50 mm in depth). The structure was bonded throughout with a compact mid grey lime mortar with charcoal flecking.

- 4.1.7 The drain had collapsed in several places and had a minimum length of 12 m. It was seen to extend towards the west and noted within Trench 3 (118), and also seen to extend eastwards beyond the limits of excavation in the direction of Broad Street. The culvert has a similar mortar type to that used in Wall (140) and was probably constructed in the 18th century.
- 4.1.8 The structure (140) had four courses of Oolitic Limestone ashlar blocks and survived to a height of 1.22 m, with a width of 1.08 m. The blocks (measuring 370 mm x 290 mm x 380 mm) were laid directly on a natural layer (148) at the base of the construction trench (Plate 2). The blocks had been squared and finished/smoothed with a masons drag and were bonded in thin bedding joints with a compact, light-mid grey lime mortar with charcoal fleck inclusions. The structure has characteristics of 18th century build and may have formed the foundation of a much larger structure that has subsequently been truncated.
- 4.1.9 The construction trench (142) was backfilled with a clay silt loam (141) which in turn was overlain by a 0.28 m deep layer of tenacious, mid brown silt loam. The layer was mixed throughout and represents an imported garden soil also encountered in Trench 3. Deposit 141 was overlain by a 0.16 m deep mixed layer of friable, mid greyish brown silt loam (137) which could be seen to overlie the upper limits of structure (140) at its demolition level, and had also been cut by the construction trench (133), for wall (131), and overlain by Wall (132).
- 4.1.10 Wall 131 was constructed within a 0.26 m deep and 0.06 m wide construction trench (133) and was constructed with a below ground level foundation and upper exposed level. The foundation was 0.48 m high and was 0.38 m wide, and was constructed with randomly placed Pennant sandstone (measuring 220 mm x 120 mm x 190 mm) and Oolitic Limestone rubble (measuring 240 mm x 170 mm x 40 mm). The wall was bonded with a compact, mid grey lime mortar. The upper part of the wall was constructed out of Oolitic Limestone ashlar blocks and survived to a single course, and a height of height of 0.40 m. The wall was orientated east-west and represents the northern wall of the what was the Old Cinema building. The wall probably represents an structure attributable to the early 19th century, which had been re-used as the Old Cinema foundation. The wall could be traced in plan and was seen to butt the external western wall of the Octagon Chapel. The internal, southern face of the wall was rendered and was abutted by Wall (132), with the external northern face respected by later 20th century service drain cut (136).

- 4.1.11 Wall (132) was constructed against the southern rendered face of Wall (131) and was constructed directly onto layer (137). Only the foundation, measuring 0.36 m in height, survived and was constructed with randomly placed Pennant sandstone (measuring 220 mm x 100 mm x 160 mm). The wall is also attributable to the early 19th century, possibly a contemporary build to wall foundation (131), and may also have been re-used as a later internal wall of the Old Cinema.
- 4.1.12 On the external northern face of Wall (131) an early 20th century drain was laid, and was sealed by a 0.20 m deep layer of re-deposited mixed topsoil (134). This was in turn overlain by a 0.12 m layer of aggregate make-up for concrete surface (129). All these deposits are contemporary with the Old Cinema constructed in the 20th century.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2 and Fig. 4)

- 4.1.13 This was located on the southern edge of the Moon and Sixpence Yard, in an area formally occupied by the Old Cinema building on Broad Street. The trench was excavated by hand by the principle contractor to an approximate depth of 2.30 m and was monitored and recorded by OA.
- 4.1.14 The earliest features that were encountered within the trench were a well (121) and culvert (118), both the structures have been largely truncated by the 20th century service drain cut (128); which is the same feature as (136) located in Trench 2.
- 4.1.15 Well structure (121) was located within the northern and eastern corner of the trench and was constructed in at least seven visible level courses of randomly placed Pennant Sandstone (measuring 300 mm in length and 230 mm in width and 170 mm depth). The sandstone does not appear to have been bonded with any conventional mortar and has been packed with clay throughout the exposed structure. The well was filled with at least two layers. The lowest fill (120) had a minimal depth of 0.16 m and was a friable, light grey clayey silt with mortar flecking throughout. This was overlain by the uppermost fill (121) which was a loose dark grey clayey silt and sandstone rubble, derived from the demolished upper section the well. Fill (121) was subsequently overlain by a 0.12 m deep layer of limestone aggregate make-up (125), representing the same deposit as layer (130) in Trench 2. This was the make-up layer for concrete surface (124).
- 4.1.16 The concrete floor may have formed the foundation for or be contemporary with a set of tramway rails (123) that had been set in the top of the layer. The tramway rails were 0.025 m (one inch) wide with a gauge of 0.40m (16 inches) and ran the length of the Corridor in the Octagon Chapel basement (Fig. 2). The rails remain exposed within the Octagon Chapel basement and have been overlain by modern concrete to the east of Trench 3 towards Broad Street.
- 4.1.17 Culvert/Drain (151) was orientated WNW-ESE and was discovered in the south eastern corner of the trench. Its construction consists of randomly placed and roughly squared Oolitic Limestone blocks, the top and the base of the culvert were

constructed/capped with Pennant sandstone slabs. The structure is the same as structure (151), located within Trench 2, and extends to south-west of Trench 3 and beyond the limits of the excavation. The drain was filled with a brown humic fill (137).

- 4.1.18 The culvert/drain construction cut was not visible within the trench and was overlain by a 0.42 m deep layer of tenacious, mid brown mixed clay and garden soil deposit (116), similar to that noted within the construction trench noted within Trench 2. This was overlain by a 0.22 m deep layer of friable, mid greyish brown clay silt loam which was a re-deposited garden soil 114.
- 4.1.19 Soil layer 114 had been cut by the construction trench (111) for Wall (110) and probably by the construction of Wall (115) although the actual construction cut was not visible. Wall (110) represented the foundation of a previously demolished wall and survives to a height of 0.64 m, with a width of 0.34 m. It was constructed of randomly placed Pennant sandstone (measuring 180 mm x 90 mm x 80 mm) and Oolitic Limestone rubble (measuring 170 mm x 110 mm x 70 mm) and bonded with a compact, mid grey lime mortar. The wall is attributable to the early 19th century and probably a contemporary build to Wall foundation (115).
- 4.1.20 Wall (115) comprised a buried foundation and upper exposed level. The foundation survived to a height of 0.54 m with a width of 0.38 m, and was constructed with randomly placed Pennant sandstone and Oolitic Limestone rubble and was bonded with a compact, mid grey lime mortar. The upper part of the wall was constructed of Oolitic Limestone ashlar blocks and survived to a single course, and a height of 0.40 m. The wall was orientated east-west and represents the same build as wall (131) within Trench 2.
- 4.1.21 Walls (110) and (115) were abutted by a compact, mid grey mortar containing small limestone inclusions. It is believed to have been the construction debris from either or both walls (110) and (115). Overlying the deposit was a 0.16 m deep layer of friable, mid-dark greyish brown silt loam garden soil. This layer was subsequently overlain by a modern aggregate and hardcore layer for the current floor of the former Old Cinema building.

Octagon Chapel - Room 105 (Fig. 5 & Fig. 6)

- 4.1.22 Room 105 was located in the north-eastern corner of the Octagon Chapel in a range of cellars located beneath the ground floor of the chapel, and adjacent to Vault Room 4 (see Fig. 2).
- 4.1.23 Room 105 was uncovered when a bank of topsoil, rubbish and vegetation was removed from against the north-western face of the Octagon Chapel, on the western side of the Moon and Sixpence Yard. It revealed a doorway (104), (Plate 3), that had been blocked with squared Oolitic Limestone blocks.

- 4.1.24 The room measures 4.8 m in length along its principle wall, measures 2.6 m in width, and the north-western wall has a rounded profile. The room would have originally been accessible through an internal doorway to Vault Room 4, which has subsequently been blocked, and by an external doorway (104) opening onto the Moon and Sixpence Yard. Room 105 was located beneath a side room on the Octagon Chapel ground floor with a single fireplace. The floor plan of Room 105 mirrors the plan of Vault Room 7 on the south-eastern side of the chapel building and both appear to have been linked to the floor above by flues.
- 4.1.25 The earliest feature located in the room was a 0.20 m wide and 0.26 m deep drain constructed with and lined with roughly hewn limestone. A Pennant sandstone drain inspection cover, measuring 0.50 m by 0.30 m, was also located (Fig. 6). The drain was located beneath the external doorway (104) and fed into an east-west orientated length of drain which was discovered 15 m to the east within the Moon and Sixpence Yard. Overlying the drain was a well constructed flagstone floor of Pennant sandstone, bonded with a mixture of mid grey lime mortar and brown clay. The flagstones had an average size of 0.76 m by 0.30 m. An area of the flagstone floor in the entrance to the room had subsequently been removed prior to the investigation and revealed the floor make-up layer of mixed grey lime mortar and brown clay. The Pennant sandstone floor and drain are thought to be original features attributable to the primary Octagon Chapel construction.
- 4.1.26 A semi-circular structure (107), located in the north-eastern corner of Room 105, was constructed upon the flagstone floor. The structure measured 1.60 m in length, 0.80 m in width and had a height of 0.82 m. The structure was constructed in five courses of roughly hewn and squared Pennant sandstone (measuring 220mm x 110 mm x 70 mm) bonded with a compact mid grey lime mortar containing large flecks of charcoal and lime throughout. A single red brick (measuring 225mm x 105 mm x 70 mm) and an associated iron strip were also noted within the upper surviving course of the structure, but are thought to have no specific function as it was clear that the upper part of the structure has been truncated.
- 4.1.27 The structure is thought to be associated with a secondary use for Room 105, possibly by a farrier, in the 19th century and is thought to be a farrier's working bench.
- 4.1.28 Structure 107 was abutted by several layers of mixed sand, clinker and rubble that were all deposited throughout the limits of Room 105. The earliest of these was a 0.22 m deep layer of loose light grey ash and clinker waste (103), possibly attributable to farriers waste associated with the structure 107. Overlying this was a 0.18 m deep layer of light brownish grey silt clay and mortar (102). This was sealed by a 0.32 m to 0.46 m deep layer of dark brown and black clay sand (101). Layers 101 and 102 are probably attributable to farrier's waste. Several iron farriers tools were recovered from either layer 101 or layer 102, and included three individual tongs, one for holding round, one for forming or bending and the third of a more general type. Also recovered were a rasp file and part of what could be part of an iron

railing (Plate 4).

- 4.1.29 The Cotterell and Sparkman survey of 1853 notes the presence of stables, the Moon and Sixpence Building now occupies the site. It is possible that Room 105 was adapted as a small farriers workshop within this period.
- 4.1.30 Overlying the farriers waste deposits was a 1.10 m deep layer (100) of mid-dark greyish brown ash, clinker waste and mixed rubble. Fragments of brick and limestone rubble and squared blocks of Oolitic limestone blocks were noted throughout. An incomplete newspaper published by the 'Wilts Chronicle & Herald', and dated to May 17th 1926 was recovered from on top of the layer.
- 4.1.31 A notebook was also recovered, attributable to the business of 'Weaver & Son', a firm of furniture and carpet makers. It lists various furniture and household items for delivery to Bath addresses and includes a date of 1912 (SF No.1). Two 'Weaver & Son 38 Broad Street, Bath', company Rondles (SF2&3) were also recovered from this context, (Plate 5).

Octagon Chapel - Vaults (Fig. 5)

- 4.1.32 The Octagon Vault consists of ten individual cellar rooms, accessed from a central corridor which is accessed from Broad Street. Many of the vaults are shown on the current development plan to have been blocked off from the central corridor. The vaults were blocked off from an early date, and subsequent blocking also occurred when the Royal Photographic Society occupied the Octagon Chapel.
- 4.1.33 The cellars were known to have been employed for the storage of wines and spirits from the late 18th century and were used as storage areas in the early 20th century to store valuable furniture (BAT 2005, 5).
- 4.1.34 The corridor was marked out on various lease plans, with access from the northern side of No.2 Broad Street. It is shown as a dog-leg access on the Cotterell and Sparkman survey of 1853, and would appear to have been straightened out by the 1886, as noted on the OS map of that year (BAT 2005, Fig 10 & 11). The narrow and straight tramway (123) was probably introduced after this period. (Plate 6).

The Octagon Chapel Vault Room 1

- 4.1.35 Vault Room 1 is located on the northern side of the central corridor and has a single blocked doorway on the northern wall face. The blocked doorway (156) measured 1.20 m high with a width of 0.97 and had been blocked with squared Oolitic Limestone blocks and with general rubble stone.
- 4.1.36 It is linked to Vault room 2 by an open doorway on the eastern side. The doorway lintels were replaced during the present phase of renovation and four timbers were removed during these works. These had been re-used and lay in a secondary context

within the Octagon Doorway (157). Two timbers of merit have chamfered mortice holes (measuring 11 inches in length and four inches in width), with each of them fixed by a wooden peg.

The Octagon Chapel Vault Room 2

- 4.1.37 Vault Room 2 is located on the northern side of the central corridor and would have been walled off from the corridor except by a central doorway. It is also linked to Vault Room 1 by an open doorway on the at the rear of the room on the western side. No architectural features of note were noted within this room, see Doorway (157) in Vault Room 1.

The Octagon Chapel Vault Room 3

- 4.1.38 Vault Room 3 (Plate 7) is located on the northern side of the central corridor and would have been walled off from the corridor except by a central doorway. It is linked to Vault Room 4 by an open doorway at the eastern side. No architectural features of note were noted within this room.

The Octagon Chapel Vault Room 4

- 4.1.39 Vault Room 4 (Plate 8) is located on the northern side of the central corridor and would have been walled off from the corridor except by a central doorway. The room is linked to Vault Room 5 by an open doorway on the western side. A possible blocked doorway to Room 105 in the eastern wall face is noted and the room arrangement would have duplicated that of Vault Rooms 6 and 7 on the southern side of the Octagon Chapel. No other features of merit were noted within this room.

The Octagon Chapel Vault Room 5

- 4.1.40 Vault Room 5 is located on the northern side of the central corridor and is linked by a single open doorway on the southern side. A blocked window (153) is noted within the eastern wall which would have opened onto the Moon and Sixpence Yard , it measured 1.04 m in height and was 0.55 m in width. It had been blocked with Oolitic Limestone blocks.
- 4.1.41 A blocked Fireplace (155) was also noted in the northern wall and measured 0.50 m in height and had a width of 0.48 m. The blocking consisted of what look like 19th century bricks held in a compact, mid grey lime mortar (Plate 9).

The Octagon Chapel Vault Room 6

- 4.1.42 Vault Room 6 is located on the southern side of the central corridor and is linked by a single open doorway on the northern side. A blocked window (152) is noted within

the eastern wall which would have opened onto the Moon and Sixpence Yard, it measured 1.20 m in height and was 0.97 m in width. It had been blocked with Oolitic Limestone (Plate 10).

- 4.1.43 A blocked Fireplace (154) was also noted in the northern wall and measured 1.20 m in height and had a width of 0.81 m. The blocking consisted of Oolitic Limestone blocks which had been finished/smoothed with a masons drag and had had a modern water or heating pump installed in the recess (Plate 11).

The Octagon Chapel Vault Room 7

- 4.1.44 Vault Room 7 is located on the southern side of the central corridor and is linked to the rear of Vault Room 8 by a single open doorway on the western side. No other features of merit were noted within this room.

The Octagon Chapel Vault Room 8

- 4.1.45 Vault Room 8 is located on the southern side of the central corridor and would have been walled off from the corridor except by a central doorway. It is also linked to Vault Room 7 by an open doorway at the rear of the room on the eastern side. No architectural features of note were noted within this room.

The Octagon Chapel Vault Room 9

- 4.1.46 Vault Room 9 is located on the southern side of the central corridor and would have been walled off from the corridor except by a central doorway. It is also linked to Vault Room 10, but the doorway is now blocked with modern concrete blocks. No architectural features of note were noted within this room.

The Octagon Chapel Vault Room 10

- 4.1.47 Vault Room 10 is located on the southern side of the central corridor and has a single blocked doorway on the eastern wall face, linking to Vault Room 9. This Vault Room is the only room with an *in-situ* internal wall, blocking it from the central corridor. It had a centrally positioned doorway leading onto the corridor, the date of the wall is not determinable.

No. 3 Broad Street (Fig. 2)

- 4.1.48 Renovation works to the southern face of No.3 Broad Street (Plates 15 and 16) were monitored during the watching brief. Formally the internal wall division between properties No.2 and No.3 Broad Street, the wall was exposed and re-pointed during the renovation.

- 4.1.49 The wall elevation was recorded by a photographic mosaic survey along the length of

the wall face using a series of numbered survey tag reference points in each of the photographs. An accompanying 1:50 scale section drawing illustrating the position of each survey reference point was also made so that the elevation could be rubber matted at a later date. The methodology was to mitigate against the potential loss of historic building features and mortar fabric, which may have alterations to the dwelling since construction.

- 4.1.50 The survey was carried out in advance of the renovation work and re-pointing so as not to delay the subsequent major renovation works. During the works the face was monitored for historic features and mortar analysis but no significant details were noted or change of mortar types. Two main types were noted, one was a compact, black mortar attributable to the 20th century and noted on the western rear extension to No.3 Broad Street, and the second was a soft, light brown lime mortar that appeared throughout the majority of the joints beneath the later black mortar. The photographic mosaic and section drawing have been retained within the archive but were not thought to be of great significance in the overall recording strategy given the lack of historical building detail.

4.2 Finds

- 4.2.1 Layer (100) produced fragments of a newspaper published by the 'Wilts Chronicle & Herald', dated to May 17th 1926 but was not retained. The layer also produced a notebook attributable to the business of 'Weaver & Son', a firm of furniture and carpet makers, listing various furniture and household items for delivery to Bath addresses and two 'Weaver & Son 38 Broad Street, Bath', company Rondles. A collection of 20th century ceramic pottery was also recovered but not retained within the archive.
- 4.2.2 Layer (101/102) produced four farriers tools and a single iron object which has been identified as part of a railing.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The watching brief revealed that former soil formation possibly dating from the medieval period had survived below the Moon and Sixpence Yard. Early accumulation of garden soil and a single occupation layer were located but unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered. These reflect the gradual formation of garden soils as shown on the map of Bath by Saville at around 1600 showing the area was taken up by market gardens or open spaces.
- 5.1.2 By 1694 the Gilmore map of Bath shows the area occupied by the Octagon Chapel was a bowling green, with the area of the Moon and Sixpence Yard having been developed along the eastern and western sides of Broad Street. Land divisions between No.2 and No.6 Broad Street show gardens and orchards extending as far as Milsom Street. Wood's map of Bath in 1734, also illustrates that the area of the Octagon was occupied by market gardens but it does not depict individual buildings on Broad Street (Davenport 2005, Fig.6, 7 & 8).

- 5.1.3 The Moon and Sixpence Yard on the eastern limits was probably developed by the early 18th century and this would appear to be correct with the identification of two probable structures relating to this period. Well structure (121) and Structure (140) both have build characteristics of the 18th century, especially significant is the coursing noted within Structure (140) and the narrow bedding bonds. There is also evidence for drains and culverts in this period. Culvert (118/151) located at the southern extent of the Moon and Sixpence Yard is typical of the early structures associated with the Bath Sewer system, that was developed from the 1720s onwards and the culvert could well date to this period of infrastructure development.
- 5.1.4 There is the potential for surviving pockets of archaeology dating to the post-medieval period, which have not been discovered within the Moon and Sixpence Yard because of the minimal impact levels within the current development area. The Moon and Sixpence Yard in the later 19th century was filled with small workshops and huts, that may have caused only slight to moderate damage to underlying deposits.
- 5.1.5 There is good evidence of late 19th century and early 20th century tenancy and occupation of the Octagon Chapel environs. The Weaver & Son Rondles and notebook recovered from Room 105 within the vaults of the Octagon Chapel refer to local business within Bath.
- 5.1.6 The Weaver and Son company began as bedding manufacturers in 1880 (Chronicle article, 1968), and were not thought to have been tenants on the site (having premises at No.39 Broad Street). However the Octagon Chapel Vaults were used to store valuable furniture in the early 20th century (Davenport 2005, 5) and their notebook could refer to their tenancy.
- 5.1.7 George Weaver founded the firm of Weaver & Son in December 1880 when a lease was signed for a business making beds, mattresses and carpet cleaning at 38 Broad Street. In 1881 property at 5 & 6 Broad Street was also acquired. By 1890 the firm had expanded its range of services to include supplying domestic cleaning machinery (such as early vacuum cleaners and carpet sweepers), sewing machines and mangles.
- 5.1.8 In 1883 a large carpet cleaning machine was installed at 5 & 6 Broad Street by the Patent Steam Carpet Beating Company. Operating a manufactory in the city centre created its own problems. The business was surrounded by dwellings, above shops in Milsom and Broad Street. Complaints about the noise from the machinery began almost as soon as the company was established and relations with manager of Lloyds Bank in Milsom Street became so strained that Mr Hare, the bank manager, threatened Weaver & Son with a writ. The complaints from Hare and others revolved around firstly the noise from the machinery (which was run during the night) and the 'dust & filth' which poured from the ventilator of the carpet cleaner. In 1903 a legal agreement was signed between Weaver and Lloyds Bank over the use of the machinery.
- 5.1.9 In 1913 a dry cleaning department was opened and in 1917 the Bath Chair making

business of D W Dillon & Co was acquired by Weaver.

- 5.1.10 In 1946 a joint partnership agreement was signed with Bath Chair, Pram and Baby Carriage makers Monk & Co at 4 & 5 Broad Street. In 1976 the firm was wound up partly as a result of high business rents charged by Bath City Council.
- 5.1.11 The business records and items were acquired by the Bath Industrial Heritage Trust and can be viewed at the Museum of Bath at Work, by appointment (Stuart Burroughs, The Bath at Work Museum).

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Room 105</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
	100	Layer	1.10 m	Rubble Backfill	Rondles and note book	C20th
	101	Layer	0.46 m	Layer of Farriers waste	-	C19th
	102	Layer	0.18 m	Layer of Farriers waste	Farriers tools	C19th
	103	Layer	0.22 m	Layer of Farriers waste	Farriers tools	C19th
	104	Doorway	Height 2.0 m Width 0.88 m	Doorway to Room 105)	-	C18th
	105	Room	Length 4.8 m Width 2.6 m	Room part of the Octagon Chapel	-	C18th
	106	Void				
	107	Structure	Length 1.6 0 m Width 0.80 m Height 0.82 m	Farriers Bench	-	C19th
	108	Floor	-	Pennant Sandstone floor	-	C18th/C19th

<i>Trench 3</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
	110	Wall	Width 0.34 m Height 0.64 m	Old Cinema internal Wall	-	C19th/C20th
	111	Cut	0.18 m	Construction Cut for Wall (110)	-	C19th/C20th
	112	Layer	0.2 m	Former ground surface	-	C19th/C20th
	113	Layer	0.16 m	Garden soil	-	C19th/C20th
	114	Layer	0.22 m	Re-deposited Garden soil	-	C19th/C20th

<i>Trench 3</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
	115	Wall	Width 0.30 m Height 0.86 m	Old Cinema external Wall	-	C20th
	116	Layer	0.42 m	Re-deposited Garden soil	-	C18th/C19th
	117	Fill	0.30 m	Fill of Culvert (118)	-	C18th/C19th
	118	Culvert	Length > 12 m Width 0.48 m Height 0.50 m	Culvert/Drain	-	C18th/C19th
	119	Fill	0.90 m	Uppermost fill of Well (121)	-	C18th/C19th
	120	Fill	0.46 m	Fill of Well (121)	-	C18th/C19th
	121	Well	> 1.0 m	Circular Well	-	C17th/C18th
	122	Layer	0.02 m	Concrete screed floor for Tramway (123)	-	C19th/C20th
	123	Tram way Rails	0.3 m	Tramway Rails	-	C19th
	124	Layer	0.20 m	Concrete aggregate floor layer	-	C19th
	125	Layer	0.12 m	Limestone aggregate make-up layer for (124)	-	C19th
	126	Fill	1.0 m	Fill of Service trench (128)	-	C20th
	127	Service Pipe	0.37 m	Service Pipe	-	C20th
	128	Service Cut	>1.0 m	Construction trench for Service (127)	-	C20th
<i>Trench 2</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
	129	Surface	0.23 m	Concrete aggregate floor layer	-	C19th
	130	Layer	0.12 m	Limestone aggregate make-up layer for Surface (129)	-	C19th
	131	Wall	Width 0.38 m Height 0.88 m	Old Cinema external Wall	-	C19th/C20th
<i>Trench 3</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
	132	Wall	Width 0.48 m	Old Cinema internal Wall	-	C19th/C20th

			Height 0.50 m			
	133	Fill	0.26 m	Construction trench for Wall (131)	-	C19th/C20th
	134	Layer	0.20 m	Garden soil	-	C19th/C20th
	135	Fill	>0.48 m	Fill of Service trench (136)	-	C20th
	136	Cut	>0.48 m	Construction trench for Service	-	C20th
	137	Layer	0.16 m	Garden soil	-	C18th/C19th
	138	Layer	0.28 m	Layer of mixed Garden soil	-	C18th
	139	Layer	0.10 m	Mixed clay and lime flecking construction debris for Wall (140)	-	C18th
	140	Wall	Height 1.22 m Width 1.08 m	Oolitic Limestone Wall	-	C18th
	141	Fill	0.56 m	Fill of construction trench (142)	-	C18th
	142	Cut	0.56 m	Construction trench for Wall (140)	-	C18th
	143	Layer	0.10 m	Mixed clay and lime flecking construction debris for Wall (140)	-	C18th
	144	Layer	0.28 m	Mixed Garden soil	-	C17th/C18th
	145	Layer	> 0.26 m	Occupation layer with charcoal horizon	-	C16th/C17th?
	146	Layer	0.22 m	Alluvial or imported clay layer	-	C16th/C17th?
	147	Layer	0.08 m	Disturbed Natural Geology clay?	-	-
	148	Layer	>0.22 m	Disturbed Natural Geological clay?	-	-
	149	Fill	0.28 m	Fill of Construction cut (150)	-	C18th
	150	Cut		Construction cut for Culvert/Drain (151)	-	C18th
	151	Culvert/Drain	Length > 12 m Width 0.48 m Height 0.50 m	Culvert/Drain	-	C18th
Octagon Chapel	Ctxt No	Type	Depth (m)	Comments	Finds	Date

	152	Blocked window	Width 0.97 m Height 1.20 m	Blocked Window in Vault Room 6	-	C19th/C20th
	153	Blocked window	Width 0.55 m Height 1.04 m	Blocked Window in Vault Room 5	-	C19th/C20th
	154	Blocked Fireplace	Width 0.81 m	Blocked Fireplace in Vault Room 6	-	C19th/C20th
	155	Blocked Fireplace	Width 0.48 m Height 0.50 m	Blocked Fireplace in Vault Room 5	-	C19th/C20th
	156	Blocked Doorway	Width 0.97 m Height 1.20 m	Blocked Doorway in Vault Room 1	-	C19th/C20th
	157	Doorway Lintels	-	Doorway lintels in Vault Rooms 1 and 2	-	C18th

6 APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Davenport, Peter, 2005 *An assessment of proposals to develop the site of the Octagon Chapel, Bath and its Environs*. Unpublished client report by Bath Archaeology.

IFA, 2001 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

OAU, 1992 *Field Manual (ed. D. Wilkinson, First edition)*

7 APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Octagon Chapel and Moon and Sixpence Yard

Site code: BAOCTWB2

Grid reference: ST 750650

Type of watching brief: Monitoring of building restoration

Date and duration of project: 1st June 2007 to 28th July 2008

Summary of results: Post-medieval made ground, 18th and 19th Century buildings.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with an appropriate agreed body



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Figure 1: Site location

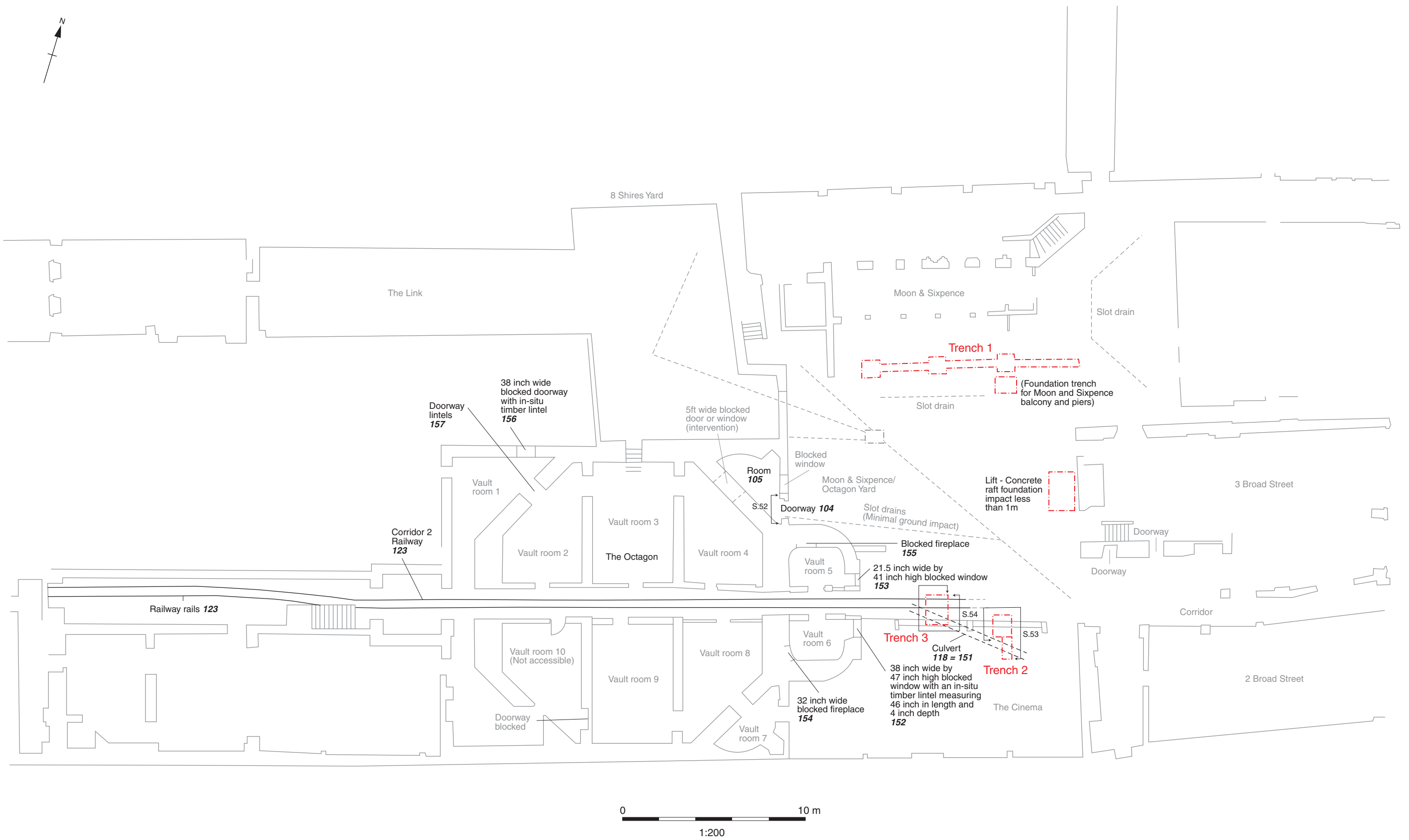


Figure 2: The Octagon chapel building and trench plan

Trench 2 Section 53

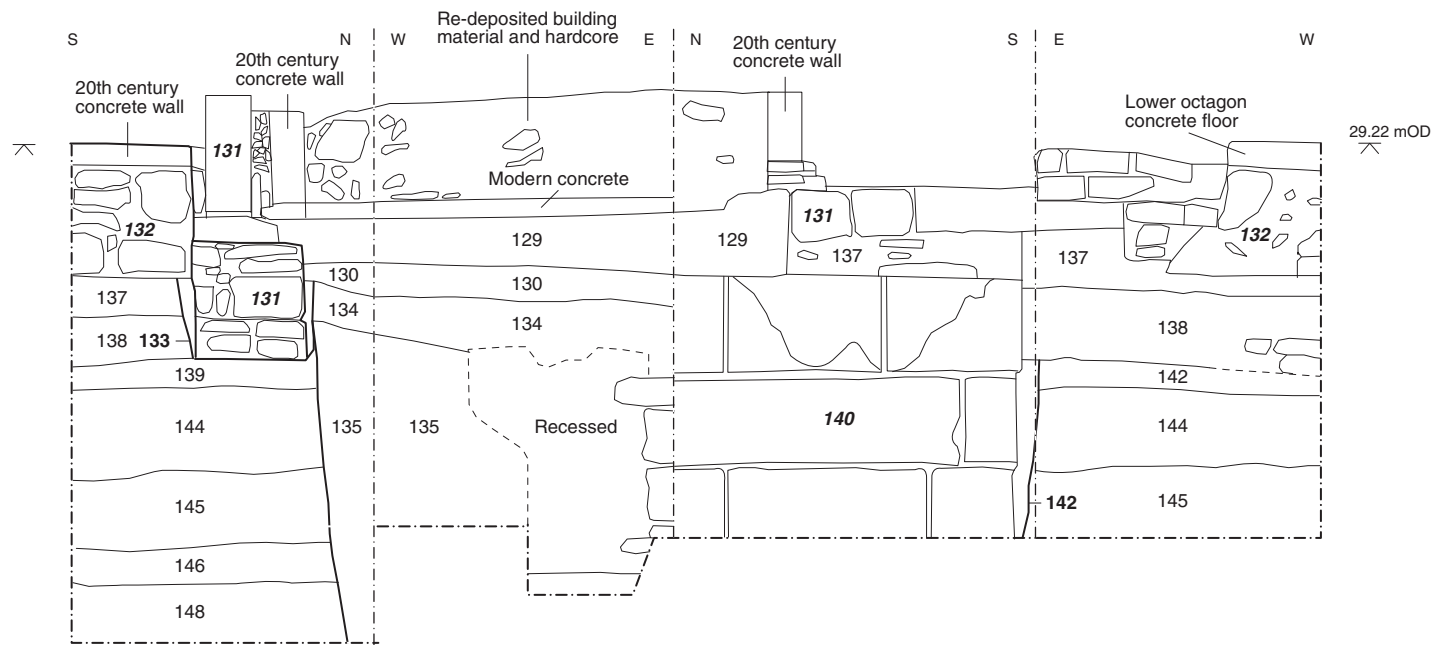


Figure 3: Trench 2, Section 53

Trench 3 Section 54

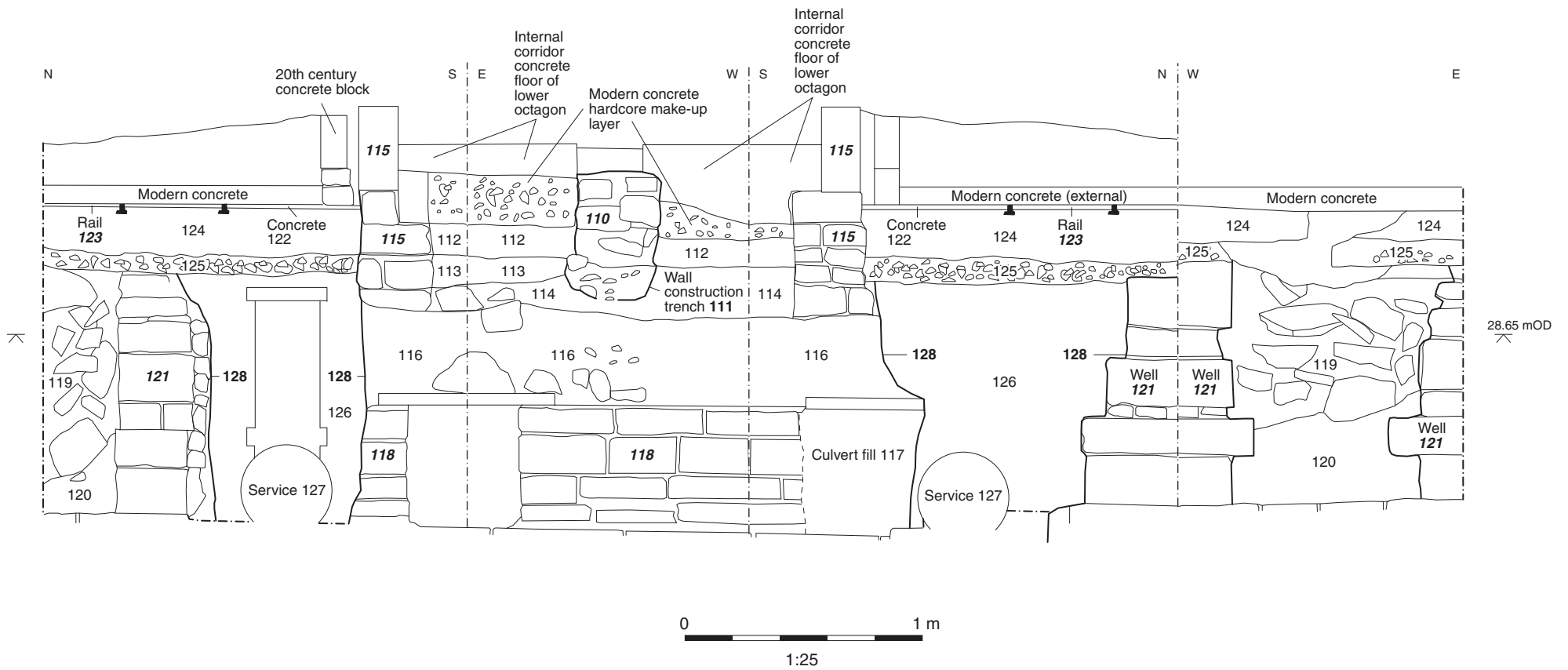


Figure 4: Trench 3, Section 54

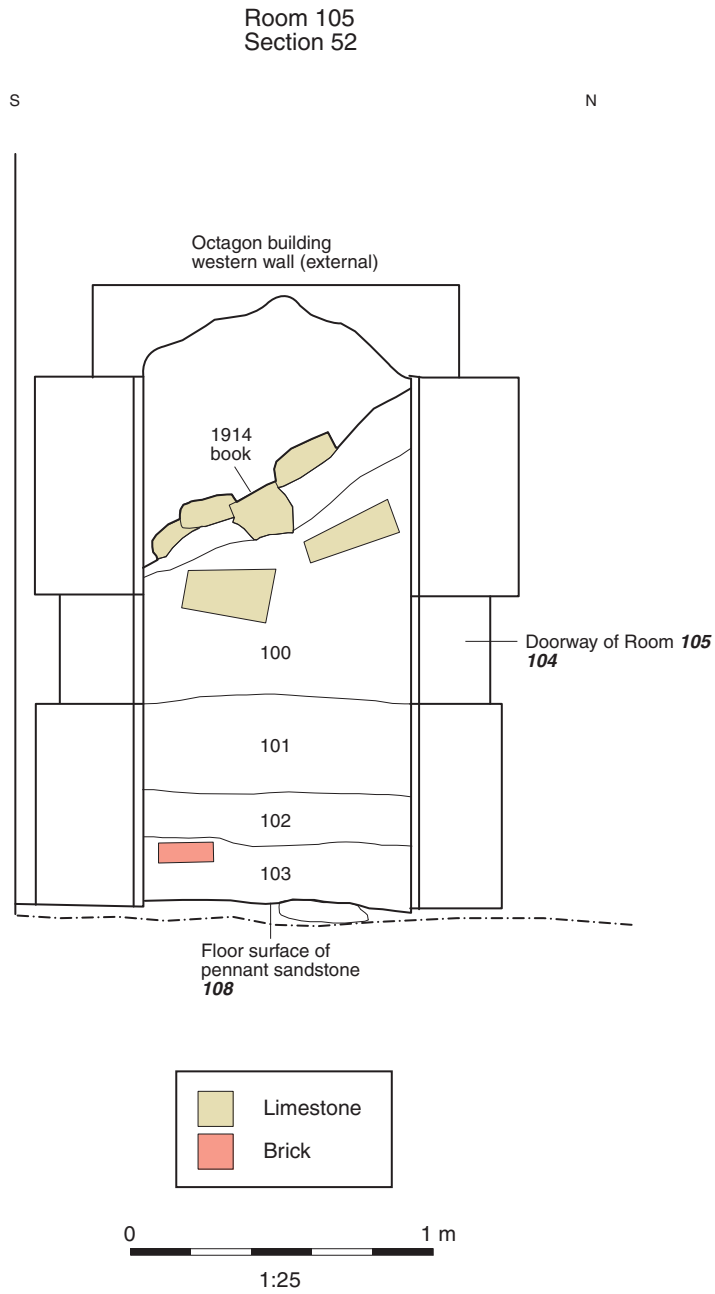


Figure 5: Room 105, Section 52



Figure 6: Room 105, Plan 50



Plate 3: Western wall of Octagon Chapel and blocked Doorway (104) looking north-west



Plate 4: Collection of Farriers tools recovered from contexts 101 and 102



Plate 5: Weaver & Son 38
Broad Street, Bath, company
Rondle



Plate 6: Octagon Vaults corridor and Tramway (123)
looking towards Milsom Street



Plate 7: Octagon Vault Room 3 looking north-west



Plate 8: Octagon Vault Room 4 looking north-west



Plate 9: Octagon Vault Room 5 Blocked Fireplace (155)



Plate 10: Octagon Vault Room 5 Blocked Window (152)



Plate 11: Octagon Vault Room 6 Blocked Fireplace (154)



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