

ROUGEMONT HOUSE, EXETER

(NGR SX 92112 92894)

Results of historic building recording and archaeological monitoring

Exeter City Council planning reference 13/4184/03, condition 5

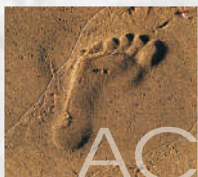
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On behalf of:
Kier Construction

Document No: ACD818/2/1

Date: August 2014



archaeology

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Summary

Historic building recording and archaeological monitoring of groundworks were undertaken at Rougemont House, Exeter (SX 92112 92894) by AC archaeology between February and June 2014 during conversion of the building to a Mathematics School. The house is Grade II Listed, and is located within the ditch of the inner bailey of Exeter Castle. It was constructed in 1770 and extended in 1805-19. An historic building assessment was prepared in 2010.*

Primary blocked openings, mainly windows, blocked when the house was extended were recorded. Repairs undertaken in 1987 were more extensive than previously thought. The excavations in 2014 exposed the upper surviving fill of the castle ditch, as well as the upper courses of the foundations of the house, including a projecting chimney stack, as well as fragments of surfaces and walls associated with greenhouses.

1. INTRODUCTION (Fig. 1)

1.1 This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken between February and June 2014 by AC archaeology at Rougemont House, Exeter. The work was commissioned by Kier Construction, and was required under condition 5 of the grant of Planning Permission (ECC planning reference 13/4184/03) for "Conversion and extension to Mathematics School including stair tower and lift extension". Guidance on the scope of the investigations was provided by the Exeter City Council Archaeology Officer (ECCAO).

1.2 Rougemont House is located in Rougemont Gardens, off Castle Street and adjacent to the entrance to Rougement Castle in the centre of Exeter (NGR SX 92112 92894). The house was constructed in the late 18th century and is a Grade II* listed building (National Heritage List no. 1169610). It is located within the outer bailey of the Norman castle, and – as the results of boreholes show (see section 2.2 below) – is constructed on the upper fills of the ditch surrounding the inner bailey and across the line of approach to the original castle gate. The house sits alongside Castle Street to the east, which has represented the main approach to the castle since the later medieval period. The land immediately to the north and west, including the gatehouse and castle walls, is designated as a Scheduled Monument (National Heritage List no. 1003866). The house is situated at a height of approximately 48.50m (sunken courtyards) and 51m aOD (entrance in Rougemont Gardens). The underlying geology is Permian volcanic trap (British Geological Survey website, confirmed by boreholes).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Appendix 1)

2.1 An historic building assessment of the property was prepared by Exeter Archaeology in 2010 in advance of the sale of the building by Exeter City Council (Allan, Collings and Passmore 2010). The house was constructed in c. 1768-1770 by John Patch, a surgeon at the Devon and Exeter Hospital. It was a square 3-storey structure over a basement (forming the central core of the present building) constructed of brick and Heavitree stone, with timber-framed internal partitions. The house was extended and modernised in 1805-19 by the wine merchant Edmund Granger. On each floor two new rooms were added to the frontage on to Castle Street, with further rooms having bow windows supporting a balcony above added to the opposite elevation facing

Rougemont Gardens. The interior was remodelled with a new entrance from the gardens leading into a new entrance hall with a staircase (i.e. the present entrance). The floor levels were raised. In the late 20th century, during the tenure of Exeter City Council, walls were removed from the basement, and the ground floor layout altered to provide additional accommodation. Major repairs were also undertaken to the ground floor and central roof light.

- 2.2** In July 2013 monitoring of geotechnical investigations around the house was carried out by AC archaeology (Smith 2013; reproduced as Appendix 1). Profiles through and across the inner bailey ditch were recorded and the footings of the primary phase of Rougemont House and some boundary walls were assessed. These observations showed that the footings of Rougemont House and the boundary walls are shallow and constructed into deposits interpreted as ditch fills. A small quantity of human bone was noted, although the context for this is unclear.

3. AIMS

- 3.1** The principal aim of the building recording was to provide a record of the building during the alterations and development, and to record any newly-exposed historic features uncovered during the stripping out phase of works.
- 3.2** The aim of the watching brief was to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1** All monitoring and recording was carried out in line with an approved Written Scheme of Archaeological Work prepared by AC archaeology (Passmore 2013).

4.2 Historic building recording

A record of newly-exposed historic fabric, fittings and features was made during the alterations. The recording methodology comprised annotation and updating of the 2010 Exeter Archaeology plans and a photographic record in colour digital format with written notes cross-referenced to the drawings and photographs.

The work was undertaken with reference to specifications applicable to Level 3 in English Heritage (2006) *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practices*.

4.3 Archaeological monitoring

Monitoring of groundworks within the sunken courtyard was undertaken. All recording was carried out in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2* (August 2012).

5. RESULTS – HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING (Figs 2-3; Plates 1-11)

- 5.1** The historic building recording focused on the interiors of Rougemont House where historic fabric, fittings and fixtures were exposed as a result of the alterations. These are described by storey below, with room references as on Figures 2-3.

5.2 Sub-Basement (Plate 1)

The sub-basement (Room B12) is reached by stairs from the basement corridor (B13). It has a painted brick floor, with a low brick plinth running around two sides (north and east). In the south-east corner is a well and to the west of this arched recesses which are probably wine bins. In the south-west corner, below the stairs, is an arched vault providing access to a cistern.

5.3 Basement (Plates 2-7)

In 1987 rooms B3, B4 and B6 have been opened up to form one large open plan room, and a doorway to B2 blocked up. A wall between B1 and B2 was also removed creating a long, narrow store. Rooms B3, B4 and B6 have a concrete floor and contain large steel beams to support the house structure above. Two blocked windows in the west wall of room B3 have wooden sills and lintels and belong to the primary building. In the ceiling of B4 against the north wall, a brick base for the fireplace in Room G2 and a possible wooden hatch to the west of it were exposed. An opening in the north wall of B6 has exposed a recess containing a window with metal bars opening on to a former light well shaft. There is a pair of grilles at ground level external to the building and adjacent to the main historic entrance.

A strongroom (B5) is constructed of brick walls with a vaulted brick roof, and retains its original metal door.

A narrow wooden staircase for the servants is situated between Rooms B3 and B8 in area B7. The adjacent Room B8 may have been the original kitchen, but has been covered by modern finishes, with the previously-recorded fireplace in the south wall not currently visible.

Room B9 has had its partition walls removed, the joists and bridging beam supporting the upper floor are exposed and there is evidence of modern repairs. In the centre of the east wall is a rectangular recess for the previously-suspected blocked window from the primary building, and matching the position of that converted to a door between rooms B8 and B10. Directly below the blocked window is a brick-arched recess not previously seen and of unknown purpose, but may be related to access to the sub-basement Room B12 below. Exposed masonry in the north wall revealed a mix of brick and sub angular Heavitree breccia blocks bonded with a hard reddish white mortar. This crude construction may indicate that this wall was not designed to be visible externally. Two small recesses with brick arches in the north wall are of unknown purpose and the suspected fireplace was not visible.

Room B10 was formed by the extension of the primary building to the east in the early 19th century. It has a concrete floor and plaster ceiling. In the north wall are two doorways, one contains double wooden doors with glass windows which is modern. The east wall contains a large sash window, the central part is formed of 12 panes and has two smaller windows on each side of 4 panes. The south wall contains two squared recesses linked by a single wooden lintel – one, a former fireplace now containing a fixed wooden bench, and the other a cooking range with a concealed brick arch above containing a flue cavity.

The west wall of Room B10 is the former external wall of the primary building. It is built of sub-rectangular blocks of Heavitree breccia and volcanic trap rubble once again indicating that this was not expected to be visible from the street or gardens; it may have been finished with plaster. The wall has been altered at the location of the former primary building window with the remains of a Beer stone surround visible as described in Allan *et al.* (2010). The infilling is brickwork and a single course of brick

had also been used to level the top of the stone wall at ceiling joist level. In the south end of the west wall is a butt joint where the stone build meets a brick wall which must be the end of the east end of the south wall of the primary building. It is odd that these are not keyed in to one another as they should be contemporary. However, observations of the stripped exterior of the south wall by Andrew Pye (pers. comm. and archive photos) in 1999 showed that it was a complete brick build and that the chimney stacks were only very poorly keyed into the main wall. A further indication of contemporaneity of the abutted walls is that a roof scar at 45° joins the two walls and presumably indicates that an outhouse structure stood in the sunken courtyard prior to the extension.

Room B11 is also part of the 19th extension. The east wall has an identical sash window in the same position as that seen in room B10. The walls were rendered and no other features were visible.

In the corridor, B13, the south wall has exposed a timber frame with brick noggin of the primary building as described by Allan *et al.* (2010).

5.4 Ground floor (Plates 8-9)

The ground floor is the level of the historic formal entrance in the north elevation and contains the main reception rooms. The majority of period features and finishes in this and the first floor is derived from the early 19th century remodelling. Only features previously unreported are described below.

Room G1. The previously blocked fireplace in the south wall has been opened and has a wooden fire surround and stone hearth. The north wall was exposed and the partition wall of the primary building has been largely removed and replaced by structural steel framework which had been boxed in by modern work. This probably dates to 1987. At the west end the timber framing and brick noggin bonded with hard pinkish white mortar of the early 19th century extension overlooking the garden had been retained. In the east wall is a central arched opening through to room G4 with doors either side of it, with that to the right providing access to the servants' stairs.

Room G2. The fireplace in the north wall is blocked with only the marble hearth remaining.

Room G4. A previously blocked small fireplace within the south wall has a wooden fire surround. In the north wall is a blocked arched window which faced onto the Entrance Hall (G5).

The Entrance Hall, G5, has a modern glass lobby inserted by the main doorway. In the south wall the blocked window shared with Room G4 has a wooden moulded frame.

Room G6. This is a room formed by the early 19th century extension in the direction of Castle Street. The pair of fireplaces in the south wall has previously recorded have been blocked.

Room G8. In the centre of the north wall a low ornate marble fireplace surround has been inserted below a sash window.

5.5 First floor (Plate 10)

All of the rooms on the first floor, except rooms F2, F3, F5 and F8, conform to the descriptions provided in Allan *et al.* (2010). Exposed brickwork in a shared wall of F5 and F8 exposed evidence of, and alterations to, the primary building.

Rooms F2 and F3. The partition between rooms F2 and F3 was a modern rebuild containing structural steel, presumably relating to the known 1987 alterations.

Room F5. A large squared doorway has been cut in the east wall, presumably the site of a former window, during the early 19th century extension. A small section of brickwork bonded by a hard pinkish white mortar from the primary building was visible, along with the end of the inserted wooden lintel. The external side, the west wall of Room F8, showed brickwork with very fine joints and a hard pink grey mortar, presumably indicating that this wall was expected to be seen at this level.

5.6 Second floor (Plate 11)

The second (or top) floor was provided for servants' accommodation. As part of the early 19th-century remodelling the west wall was re-built and on the east side the extension was continued to this storey, creating two new large rooms, accessed by the re-modelled central stair well. Observations holes cut through the render as part of the renovation process revealed in situ timber and lath and plaster work from the 19th century-works in the west walls of Rooms S1, S2 and S4, and Room S13 (north wall and south wall over stair well). Room S13 also has brickwork exposed in the north wall bonded in sandy pinkish white mortar.

Room S6. In the east wall an original window opening for the primary building has been exposed with good quality brickwork around it bonded in a hard pinkish white mortar. (A small area of this, including a rubbed brick lintel, was also exposed on the opposite side in Room S9.) It is possible that the window recorded in room F5 below room F6 forms part of the same opening. The floor level of the neighbouring room (S9) is c. 0.5m higher than that of Room S6, showing that the proportions of the rooms of the extension were greater than the original building.

Rooms S14 and S15 are a landing area with wooden floorboards, a plaster ceiling and has doorways accessing various rooms. There is a roof light in the western part and below this the floor is constructed of glass tiles. There are decorative corbels on the south east and north east walls.

6. RESULTS – ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING (Figs 4-5; Plates 12-16)

6.1 Prior to the commencement of the watching brief the lean-to 20th century toilet block built against the southern boundary wall and the modern concrete surface of the kitchen yard had been removed. Removal of these features revealed that the upper fill of the inner bailey ditch had been heavily truncated during the installation of services during previous modernisation of the property. Any earlier courtyard surfaces had been almost entirely removed by this activity, although some remnants may have survived around the edges (see below). The exposed ditch fill (101) consisted of purple brown sandy clay with moderately sorted sub-angular gravels and moderate small mortar, slate, CBM and charcoal fragments. Finds included post-medieval pottery and clay tobacco pipe. The excavations associated with the new lift shaft and stairwell were not particularly deep and stopped within this fill (c. 47.80m aOD). None of the human bone identified from the boreholes was discovered; in the

former observations it was encountered over a metre below the depth of the present groundworks.

The reduction of levels within the courtyard exposed more of the foundations and also exposed some of the fabric of the lower courses of the south wall of the house (primary phase).

6.2 The south wall of Rougemont House (Fig. 5; Plates 13 and 14)

The south wall of Rougemont House (primary phase) was constructed in a foundation cut F110. The cut was not fully excavated although it was linear in plan (following the wall of the house) with a sharp upper break of slope and vertical sides. The foundations (F108) consisted of a series irregularly bonded and shaped sandstone, trap and breccia blocks (measuring 120x100x100mm–460x200x250mm) topped with smaller trap blocks (c. 100x100x100mm), river cobbles (c. 120mm) and pieces of slate and tile. The larger blocks formed the lower part of the exposed foundations whilst the smaller blocks, slate and tile were used to create a level horizontal base for the construction of the brick wall F109 (see below). These foundations were not fully exposed and extended below the extent of excavation. The backfill of the foundation cut (111) consisted of a dark purplish brown sandy clay with moderately sorted sub-angular gravels with frequent CBM, slate and mortar fragments, and finds of post-medieval pottery and clay tobacco pipe. The foundations appear to be dipping towards the west with an extra course of brick masonry being exposed before the foundations were truncated below the doorway to Room B3 by modern services. The lower courses of the southern wall F109, exposed by damage to the render during removal of modern yard surfaces, are bricks (210x110x70mm) laid in English bond, bedded in a yellowish sandy lime mortar.

To the west of this two horizontal courses of squared breccia blocks F106 (measuring c. 600x240x210mm) bonded with a brownish grey sandy lime mortar were recorded on the outside wall of Room B3. This section of wall projected south from the main south wall of the building by 0.40m. In association with these blocks a deposit of dark grey to black sandy clay loam (105) was recorded. Remnants of this deposit covered the southern face of F106 and infilled a gap below this. Removal of a section of deposit (105) showed it was in-filling a series of voids below F106 and overlying further structures beneath. It was not possible to remove (105) completely as this would have involved undermining the upstanding structure of the house. Partial removal of (105) revealed that F106 was sat on a layer of irregular sandstone blocks (F116) 0.03-0.07m thick, bonded with a greyish white sandy mortar. F106 projected out from F116 in a southerly direction by approximately 0.25m. F116 in turn lay on a fragment of tile bedded onto a mortared surface 112. The southern edge of 112 was parallel with the southern edge of F106. The join between F116 and 112 was not complete and more voids existed between them. Investigation of these voids revealed traces of a soot like material on the underside of F116. Also recorded in this were other fragmentary structural remains. Surface 104 consisted of remnants of a brick surface bonded with a sandy lime mortar. Above 104 another fragment of tile 114 was recorded. Approximately 1m east of this a small fragment of brick surface (113), very similar to 104, was recorded.

6.3 The southern boundary wall (Plate 15)

On the southern edge of the kitchen yard the reduction of levels exposed the foundation of the southern boundary wall of the property. The foundations of the wall were not as deep as those of the house and were fully exposed by excavation. The foundation course F100 consisted of a single course of roughly shaped breccia and limestone blocks (measuring 0.50x0.40m – 0.38x0.40m) bonded in a yellowish white

sandy mortar. Adjacent to this foundation course at the western end of the boundary was a remnant of tiled floor surface 102. The tiles measured c. 0.05m in thickness and were bedded in a yellowish white sandy mortar. The tiles were not complete and it was therefore not possible to measure their other dimensions. Above F100 and 102 was F103, the south boundary wall of the site. The wall has many phases to it which were not investigated in detail and are largely obscured by modern render. The small portion exposed at the western end consisted of bricks laid in horizontal courses with an irregular bond in a yellowish white sandy mortar. To the east of this, F103 was constructed of sub-angular trap cobbles (c.0.20m across). The brick section of F103, the upper surface of F102 and the upper half of the foundation course F100 showed signs of soot blackening.

At a distance of approximately 1.0m east, beneath the east end of F100, structure F117 consisting of breccia blocks (0.40x0.40x0.40m - 0.40x0.20x0.20m) with a regular bonding in horizontal courses bedded in white grey sandy mortar was recorded beneath F103. F117 followed the line of the south boundary wall before turning N-S and extending below the southern pier of the brick archway separating the east and west halves of the kitchen yard. It was not fully exposed and extended beneath the extent of excavation. The lower courses of the northern pier on the opposite side of the arch were also exposed. These courses consisted of bricks of the same size and laid in English bonding as observed in F109 although it was not possible to view the relationship with this the south wall of the house as it was obscured by modern render and concrete. A brick culvert (measuring c. 0.45m in diameter) was recorded running across the kitchen yard at a height of c. 48m aOD. The culvert appeared to emerge from below the modern NW-SE concrete boundary wall running NE-SW before turning to a more E-W direction. It had been truncated by the installation of modern services at its eastern end.

6.4 Service trench in south and east yards (Fig. 5; Plate 16)

A trench for services approximately 0.4m wide and 0.5m deep was excavated in the eastern half of the southern yard area and continuing through the eastern yard. The surface consisted of a single layer of cobbles set in a dark purple brown sandy silt. Below this, where not already disturbed by modern services, deposit (101) was revealed. There were no features or earlier ditch fills exposed, and no finds were recovered.

7 FINDS by Kerry Kerr-Peterson

7.1 Introduction

All finds recovered on site have been retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate, then quantified according to material type within each context. The assemblage has been scanned by context to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented, with this information briefly discussed below. Finds totals by material type are given in Tables 1 and 2 below.

7.2 The pottery

The assemblage contains 26 pieces of pottery (1,260grams), one of which is late medieval in date. This is a residual handle sherd from an Exeter Fabric 43 jug that dates to the late 14th or 15th century. This was recovered from the upper fill (101) of the castle ditch. There are also three residual sherds of a German stoneware jar, with stamped oak leaf decoration from Cologne, which were recovered from the backfill of a modern service trench (107). These are likely to date to the 15th to 16th century.

The majority of pottery however, dates to the 18th century and includes a tankard rim and body sherd of Westerwald stoneware from the upper fill (101) of the castle ditch. The body sherd has cobalt blue and manganese purple painted and moulded decoration and dates to c. 1650-1775. There are 14 pieces of South Somerset courseware, with a variety of jar and dish forms represented, including two conjoining sherds from the same open form vessel, recovered from the backfill (107) of a modern service trench, which have interior thumbed decoration around the rim. Fill (111) of foundation trench F110, produced three sherds of South Somerset sgraffito dishes, also dating to the 18th century. The fill of the castle ditch (101) also produced a sherd from a hand painted tin glazed dish with a blue floral design. Several pieces of flower pot were also recovered from fill 101.

Context	Context Description	Medieval Pottery		Post-medieval pottery		Worked stone		Clay tobacco pipe	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
101	Upper fill of castle ditch	1	81	13	441	1	8800	3	31
107	Backfill of modern service			9	598				
111	Fill of foundation F110			4	221			2	18
Totals		1	81	26	1260	1	8800	5	49

Table 1: Finds quantified by material type

7.3 Clay tobacco pipe

A total of five fragments of clay tobacco pipe (49g) were recovered from the upper fill (101) of the castle ditch and the fill (111) of foundation trench F110. The majority of these are plain stem fragments which are generally undiagnostic, although one bowl was recovered from 101. This has a short foot with a flat base and rouletting decoration around the rim. It is comparable with forms produced in Barnstaple and is likely to date to c. 1660-1710.

7.4 Ceramic building material (CBM)

The assemblage contains five pieces of ceramic building material (2,953g). These include a fragment of lead-glazed ridge tile with a low crest from the fill (111) of foundation F110. This is likely to have been produced in South Somerset and dates to the 17th or 18th century. There are also two fragments of red earthenware, glazed floor tile of a similar fabric from 111 and the backfill (107) of a modern service trench. The example from 107 appears to be a waster as the shape of the tile is slightly distorted. Two brick fragments were recovered from contexts 102 and 111. They are both hand-made in two different fabrics. The piece from 102 is a red, sandy earthenware fabric with poorly sorted, sub rounded inclusions of iron stone. The example from 107 is virtually complete with a streaky fabric which is also poorly sorted and contains large quartz and sandstone pebble inclusions. Both of these bricks have a width of around 4-5cm and are likely to date to the late 18th or early 19th century.

7.5 Animal bone and shell

A total of eight pieces of animal bone (283g) were recovered with six pieces from the upper fill (101) of the castle ditch and the remainder from backfill (107) of a modern service trench. The majority of the bone is fairly fragmentary and includes a piece of

scapula, foot bone and two long bone fragments from domestic animals such as sheep. One of the bones has evidence of butchery in the form of cut marks. One piece of shell was recovered from context 107; this is one valve from a common oyster.

Context	Context Description	CBM		Animal bone		Shell	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
101	Upper fill of castle ditch			6	229		
102	Tiled floor	1	370				
107	Backfill of modern service	1	37				
111	Fill of foundation F110	3	2546	2	54	1	42
Totals		5	2953	8	283	1	42

Table 2: Finds quantified by material type, cont'd
CBM = Ceramic Building Material

7.6 Worked stone

One piece of worked stone (8,800g) was recovered from upper fill (101) of the castle ditch. This is a large piece of volcanic trap which has been faced on five sides and tapers slightly at one end. This is certainly a piece of building stone, which may have originated from an arch or other similar architectural feature. It seems likely that this fragment originated from the castle adjacent to the site.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The historic building recording noted the presence of several primary (1770) openings, mainly windows, blocked when the building was extended in c. 1810. Alterations made in 1987 to the west end of the building had previously been recorded in the basement, and further evidence for removal and replacement of partitions at this end of the building was noted on the ground and first floor.

8.2 Features F106 and F116 are likely to relate to a chimney stack. Inside room B3 (Allan *et al.* 2010) opposite the point where these features were recorded a blocked fireplace is postulated. In the rooms on the floors above this there are a series of blocked fireplaces. The presence of deposit 105 on the southern face of F106 and infilling a series of voids beneath hint at the presence of some sort of flue system (possibly linked to the courtyard by a grate) aimed to increase the draw of the fireplace inside. It is likely that this system was allowed to clog up after the removal of the internal fireplaces. The breccia blocks previously interpreted as foundations for the primary phase of Rougemont House (Smith 2013) are actually F106.

8.2 The foundations of the primary phase of the southern wall of Rougemont House F108 were also exposed. These appear to be getting deeper in an E-W direction (falling from 48.10-48.03m aOD). The similarity in height of F108 to F104, 112 and 113 (48.00m aOD, 47.98m aOD and 47.96m aOD respectively) indicate that these features may be a continuation of the foundation levels below the chimney breast.

8.3 Breccia masonry structure F117 (48.00 – 48.22m aOD) observed below the foundation of the southern boundary wall F100 may relate to glasshouses located to

the south of the property that are depicted on early maps (Allan *et al.* 2010, Figs 5 and 6).

9. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

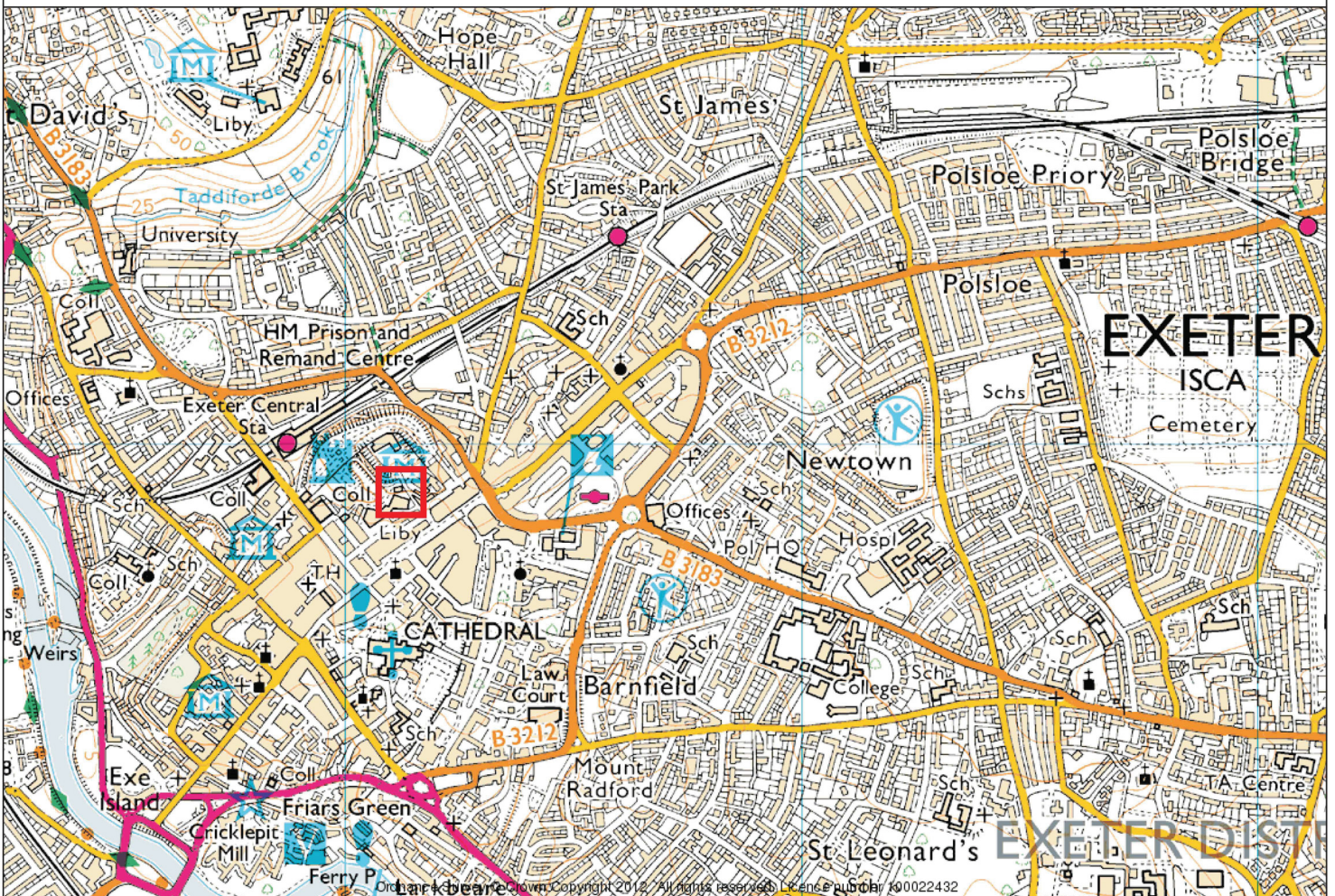
- 9.1 The finds, paper and digital archive is currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ, and will be offered to the RAMM, Exeter under their current acceptance policy. A temporary reference number has been allocated of RAMM 14/43. The site records will be digitised and archived at the ADS.
- 9.2 The OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS) number for this project is 176680.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 This report was commissioned by Kier construction. The project was managed for AC archaeology by Andrew Passmore. Historic building recording was carried out by Stella De-Villiers and monitoring of groundworks by William Smith and Stella De-Villiers. The illustrations for the report were prepared by Elisabeth Patkai.

11. REFERENCES

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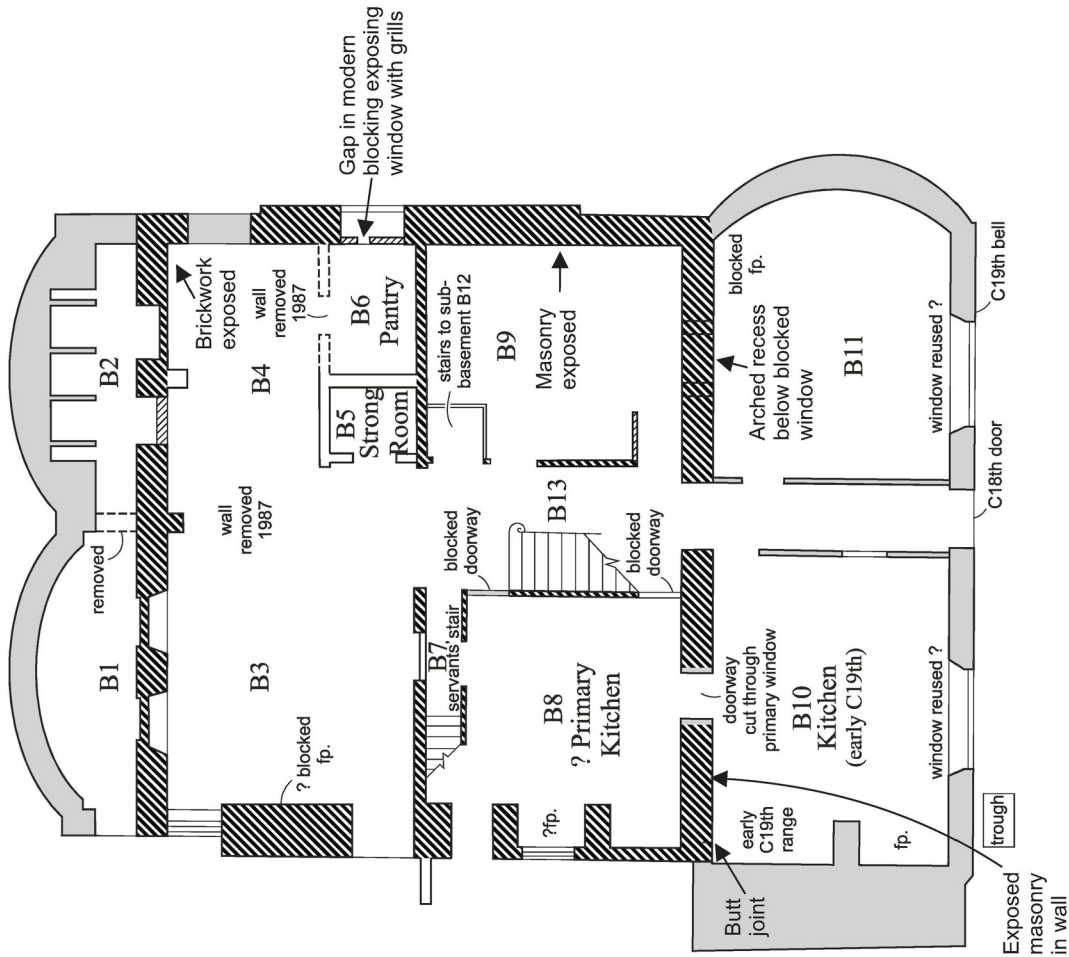
PROJECT

Rougemont House, Exeter

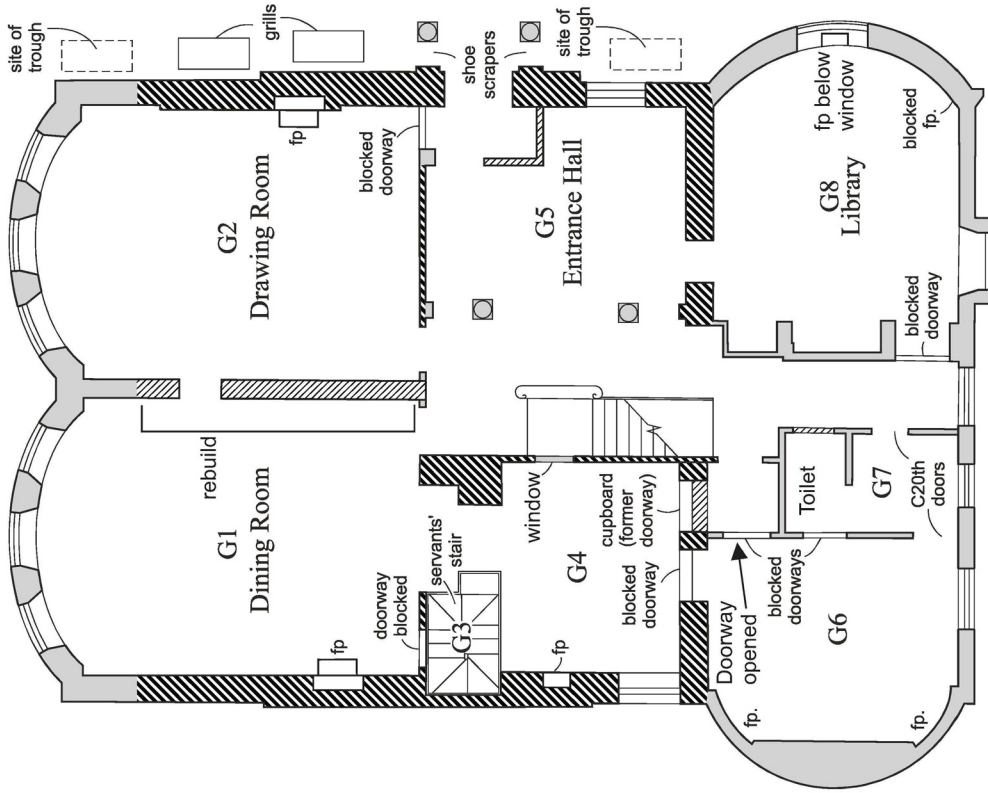
TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site

Basement



Ground floor



	primary
	c.1810
	late C20th
	unassigned phase



Scale 1:150@A4

PROJECT

**Rougemont House,
Exeter**

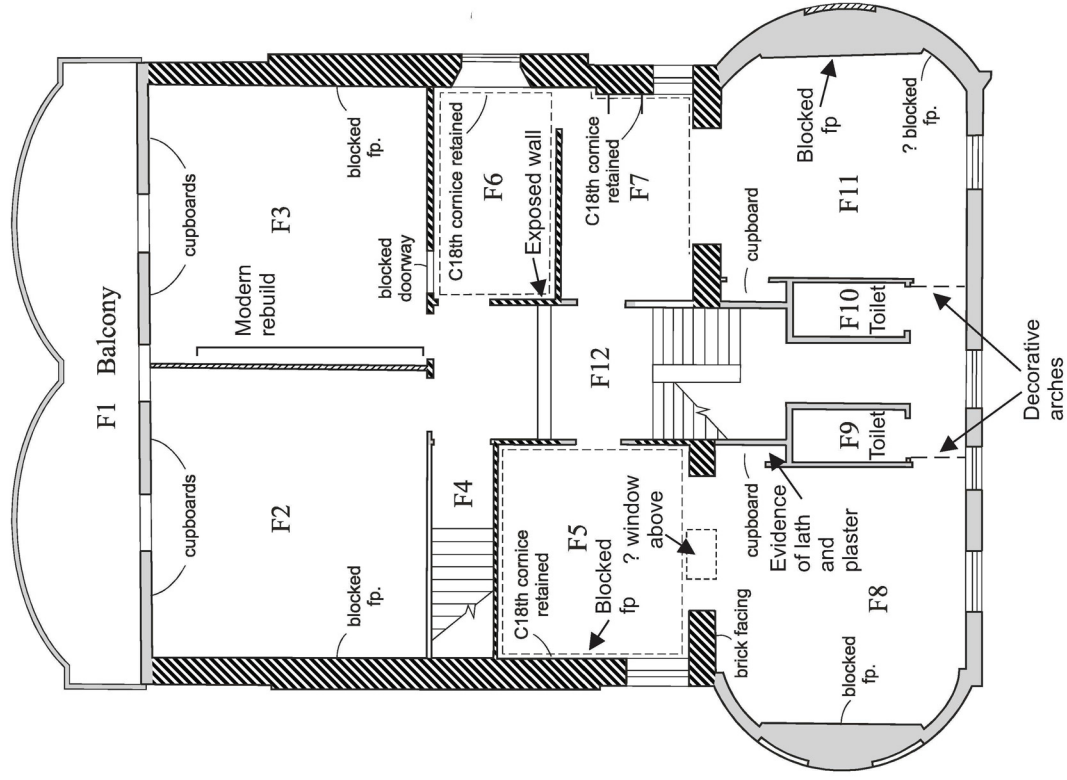
TITLE

**Fig. 2: Phase plan –
Basement and Ground
Floors**

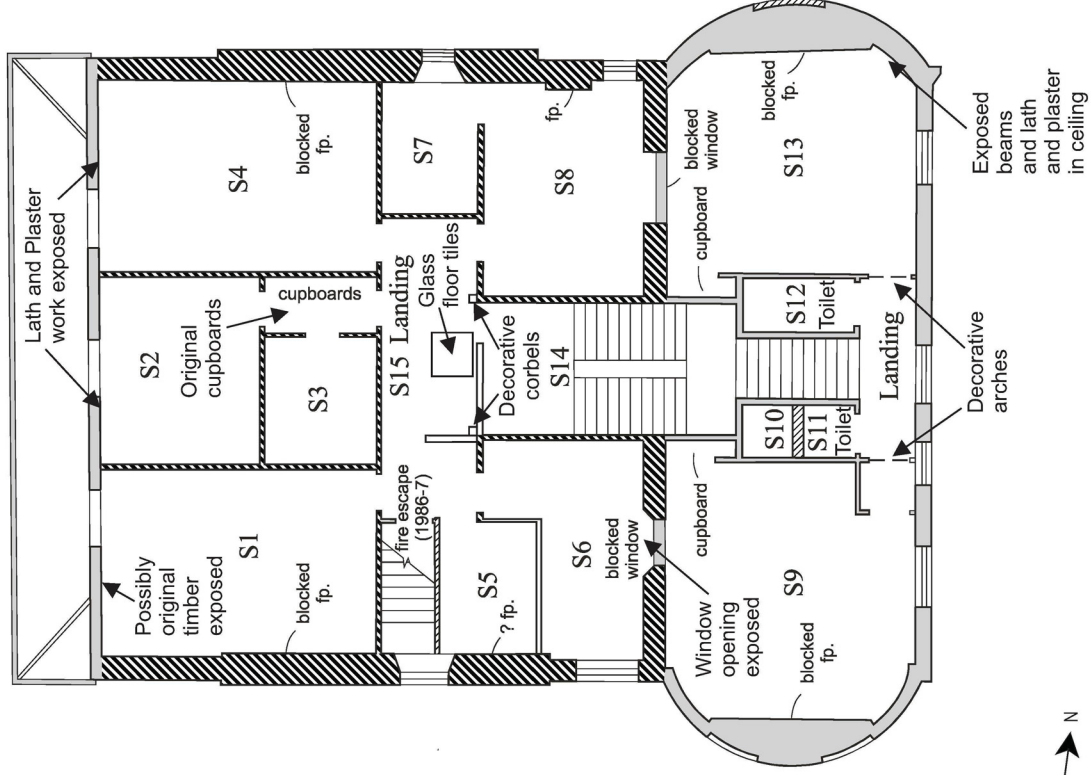


AC archaeology

First floor



Second floor



	primary
	c.1810
	late C20th
	unassigned phase

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Rougmont House,
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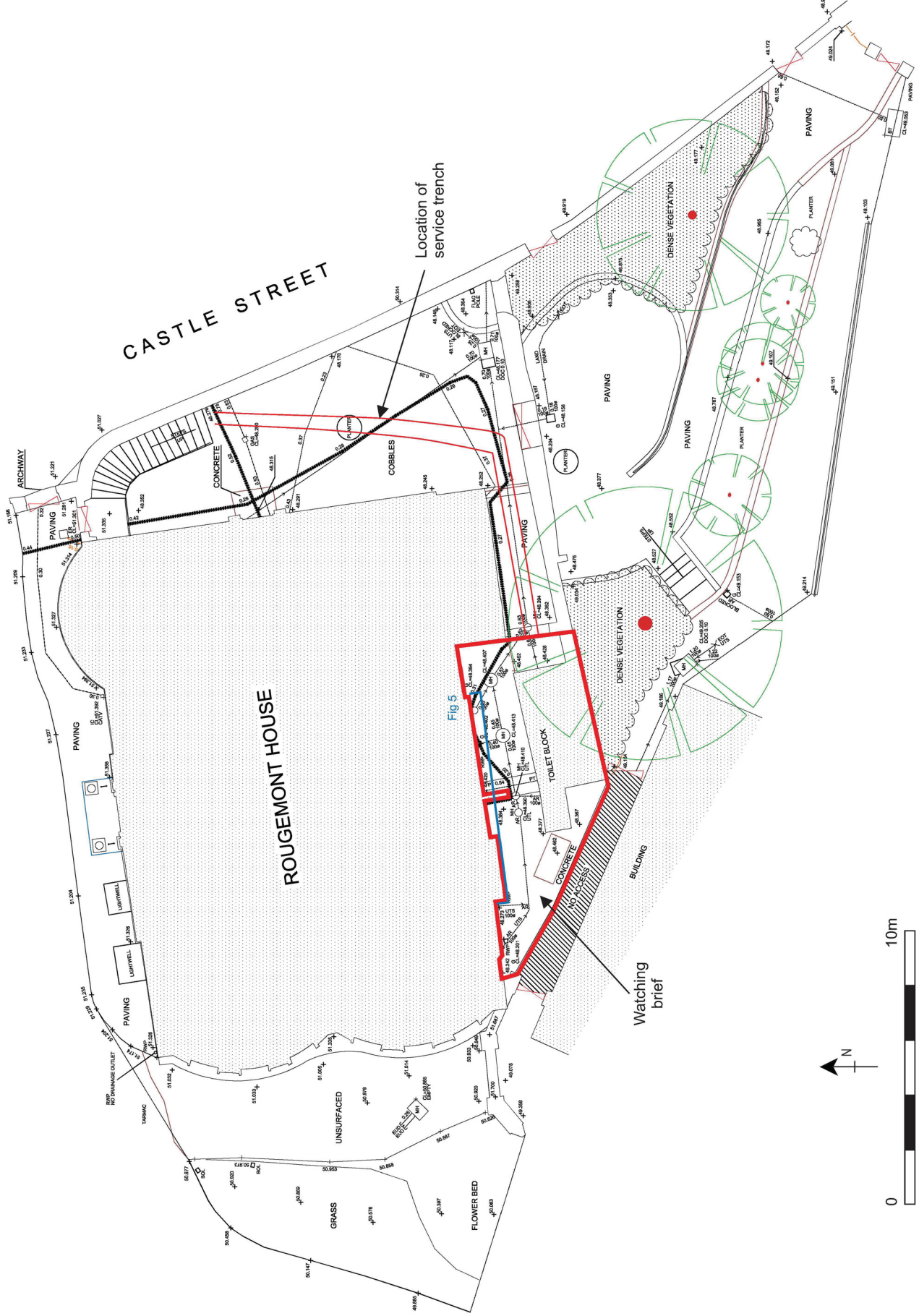
Fig. 3: Phase plan –
First and Second
Floors



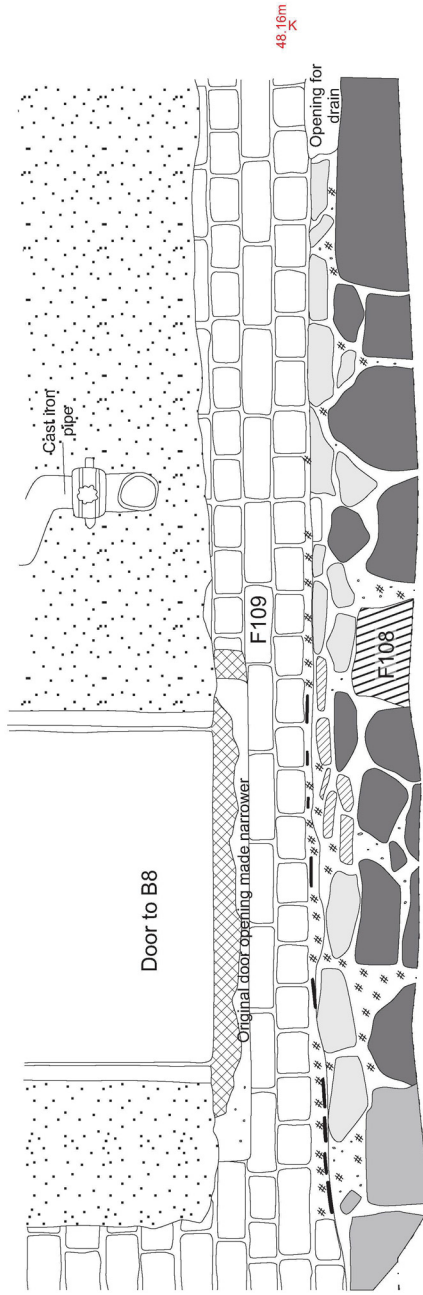
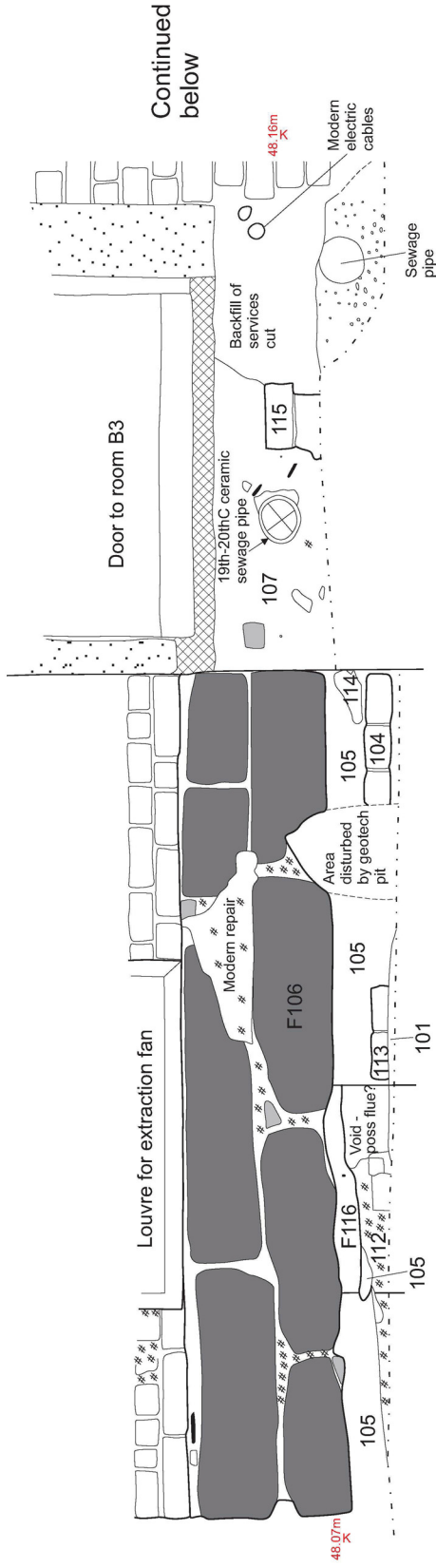
10m

0

Scale 1:150@A4



Scale 1:200@A4



PROJECT
Rougmont House,
Exeter

TITLE
Fig. 5: Elevation of the
base of the south wall



ACI archaeology

- Breccia
- Brick
- Trap
- Slate
- Cobble
- Sandstone
- Mortar
- Modern render
- Concrete

5m



Scale 1:100@A4

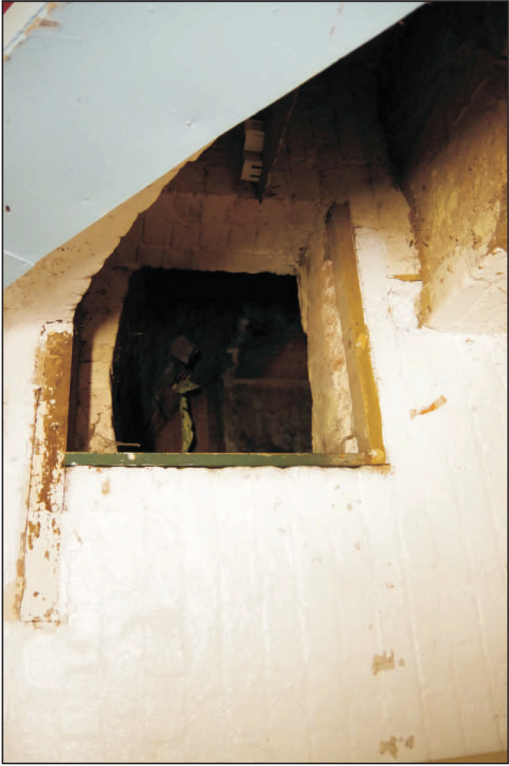


Plate 1: Sub-basement (B12), access to cistern



Plate 2: Basement (B3), blocked windows of primary phase west-facing wall (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Basement (B4), ceiling with ?hatch and brick fireplace base



Plate 4: Basement, door to Strongroom B5 (scale 1m)



Plate 5: Basement, arched recess, east wall of Room B9 (scale 1m)



Plate 6: Basement, fireplace and range, south wall of Room B10 (scale 1m)

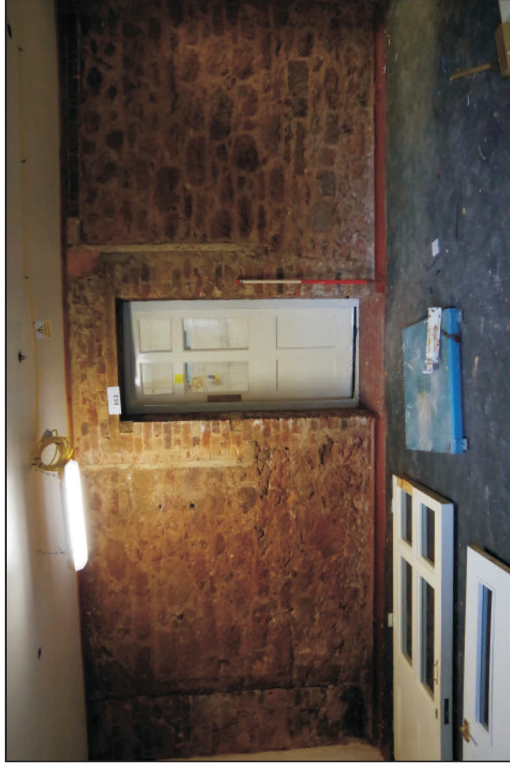


Plate 7: Basement, west wall of Room B10 (scale 1m)



Plate 8: Ground floor, north wall of Room G1 (scale 1m)



Plate 9: Ground floor, south wall of Entrance Hall G5 (scale 1m)



Plate 10: First floor, east wall of Room F5, primary building brickwork (scale 1m)



Plate 11: Second floor, east wall of Room S6, primary building window (scale 1m)



Plate 12: South yard works in progress, view from the east



Plate 13: South wall foundations F108 and F109, view from the south (scale 2m)



Plate 14: Detail of the relationship between F106, 112, F116 and 105, view from the south (scale 0.25m)



Plate 15: Foundation course F100 with soot blackening, view from the north (scale 1m)



Plate 16: View of the east yard service trench, view from the south (scale 1m)

Appendix 1

The 2013 watching brief report

ROUGEMONT HOUSE TEST PITS, EXETER

(NGR SX 92112 92894)

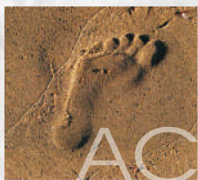
Results of an archaeological watching brief

Prepared by:
Will Smith

On behalf of:
Kier Construction

Document No: ACD728/1/0

Date: August 2013



AC archaeology

Exeter UAD – Recognition Event Data Sheet

Area (m2) **3**

NGR Easting **292112** NGR Northing **92894**

NGR Qualifier **LO** Event Type **WB** Event Start **29/07/13** Event End **29/07/13**

Site Name **Rougemont House Test Pits, Exeter**

Fieldworker Name **Will Smith**

Associated Organisation **AC archaeology**

Parish **St Lawrence**

Postal Address

Event Description (continue over if necessary)

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by AC archaeology on behalf of Keir construction during geotechnical works prior to the redevelopment of Rougemont House. The site lies within the Exeter Area of Archaeological Importance work and the watching brief was required in accordance with Section 35 of the Ancient monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Rougemont House is a Grade II* Listed Building that was constructed within Rougemont Gardens in the 18th century. It is located within the outer bailey of the Norman castle, and lies on the outer edge of the ditch surrounding the inner bailey, across the line of approach to the original castle gate. It lies alongside Castle Street to the east, which has represented the main approach to the castle since the later medieval period (Fig. 1). The land to the north and west, including the gatehouse and castle walls, is protected as a scheduled monument (Allan *et. al.* 2010).

Method

Three hand dug test pits were excavated in the kitchen yard in order to establish the nature of the foundations of Rougemont House, and the depth of foundations of two boundary walls. A series of five boreholes was excavated using windowless sampling in order to establish the nature of the buried deposits surrounding the building (Fig. 2).

Results

Test pit A was dug adjacent to the southwest boundary wall in the kitchen yard. The concrete boundary wall was built directly onto the modern concrete surface of the yard (100). Below this was approximately 0.1m of modern hardcore (101) laid onto a purplish-red sandy clay with common breccia angular and sub-angular gravels (102), possibly the upper fill of the inner bailey ditch.

Test pit B was excavated adjacent to the southern wall of Rougemont House in the kitchen yard (behind a fireplace within primary (1768-c.1770) fabric of the building). The brick wall of the house was sat on a foundation comprising a single course of roughly squared mortar-bonded breccia blocks, measuring approximately 0.2m deep (200). These blocks in turn were laid directly onto purplish-red sandy clay with

common breccia angular and sub angular gravels (201). Two sherds of pottery, including a base fragment of a flower pot were recovered from 201, together with a clay pipe bowl dating from c. 1610-1640 which has the letters WRIGHT stamped into the base of the foot. This clay pipe was likely to have been manufactured in the South West region, although the exact location of its production is uncertain.

Test pit C was excavated adjacent to the southern boundary wall that separates the kitchen yard from the courtyard of the neighbouring Exeter library. The wall (300) was supported on a foundation of 5 to 6 courses of mortar-bonded brickwork (301), which in turn were laid onto the same purplish red sandy clay fill observed elsewhere (302).

Borehole numbers 1, 2 and 3 were excavated in the kitchen yard and the courtyard adjacent to Castle Street. All three boreholes displayed a similar series of deposits. The upper layers consisted of between 0.08-0.15m of modern concrete followed by 0.3-0.7m of light reddish brown sandy silty clay with angular and sub angular gravels including fragments of tuff and slate. At a depth of c.0.8 -1.0m below ground level borehole 1 encountered a layer of brick material with coarse angular gravels and sands. At a depth of c.0.5m below ground level borehole 2 encountered a layer of light orange sand and pea gravel. These features encountered by these boreholes may relate to buried services surrounding the building. Boreholes 1 and 2 both encountered layers of purplish-red to light purplish-brown sandy silty clays with common angular and subangular gravels at 1.0-3.0m below ground level before encountering solid volcanic geology at a depth of 3.0m. Borehole 3 encountered a layer of light reddish-brown silty clay with angular and subangular gravels at a depth of 1.5-2.0m before encountering the same series of sandy silty clays as boreholes 1 and 2 before encountering the same volcanic geology at a depth of 3.0m. Around 12 fragments of probable human bone, possibly pelvic fragments, were recovered from borehole 2 at a depth of 1.75m below ground level. Around another 12 fragments of human bone including fragments of vertebrae were recovered from the reddish brown sandy silty clay in borehole 3 at a depth of 1.75m below ground level. Two fragments of human long bone were uncovered within Test pit C. All of the pieces of human bone were re-buried within borehole 6.

Boreholes 5 and 6 were excavated in the grounds of Rougemont Gardens in order to characterise the deposits surrounding the house. Borehole 5, located outside the modern entrance to Rougemont House, hit the volcanic bedrock at a depth of 8.2m below modern ground level. Between 0-2.75m the core showed various layers of made ground before encountering purplish-red sandy silty clay deposits similar to those from boreholes 1- 3. Borehole 6, located to the west of the property, encountered a series of light yellow-grey/light orange to light brown silty sandy clays with mixed angular and sub angular gravel before encountering the purplish red silty clays with gravels at a depth of 2.35m below ground level. It hit solid volcanic geology at a depth of 8.8m below ground level.

Comments

The results of this watching brief have provided an idea of the nature of the foundations of the walls of the primary phase of Rougemont House and some of its

boundary walls. In general, the historic walls are shallow, and constructed onto deposits interpreted as the fills the castle's inner bailey ditch.

The information recovered from the boreholes gives some indication of the nature of the inner bailey ditch and its fills that survive beneath the building (Fig. 3). The depths at which the boreholes encountered bedrock geology indicates that the ditch is at its deepest below boreholes 5 and 6 (between 8.2-8.8m the surface of Rougemont Gardens or around 5-6m below the level of the courtyard). In general, a consistent series of lower fills was recorded, with different later fills reflecting the construction and use of Rougemont House and landscaping of Rougemont Gardens.

The context for the human remains recorded in the boreholes is unclear, in part to the limited nature of the observations. They may represent burials within the partially infilled castle ditch, perhaps interred during the English Civil War. Another less likely possibility is that they are residual, and relate to the cemetery pre-dating the castle, having been incorporated into medieval rampart material that has been backfilled into the castle ditch.

Reference

Allan, J.P., Collings A.G. and Passmore A.J., 2010, *Historic Building Assessment of Rougemont House, Exeter - Part 1: The Assessment*, Exeter Archaeology Report Number **10.50**.

Sample Deposit Column (Borehole 5)

NGR Easting 292114

NGR Northing 92889

Surface Level (m AOD) **c.51.00** Intervention to (m AOD) **c.42.80**

Water Level (m AOD) **n/a**

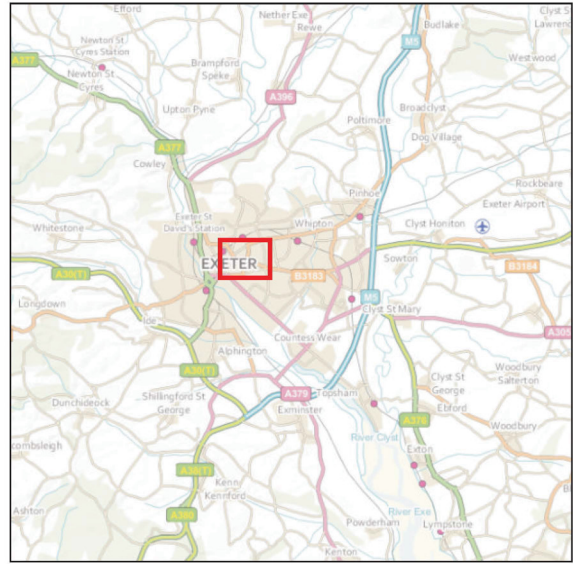
Principal Deposit Top (m AOD) **c.49**

Principal Deposit Base (m AOD) **c.42.80**

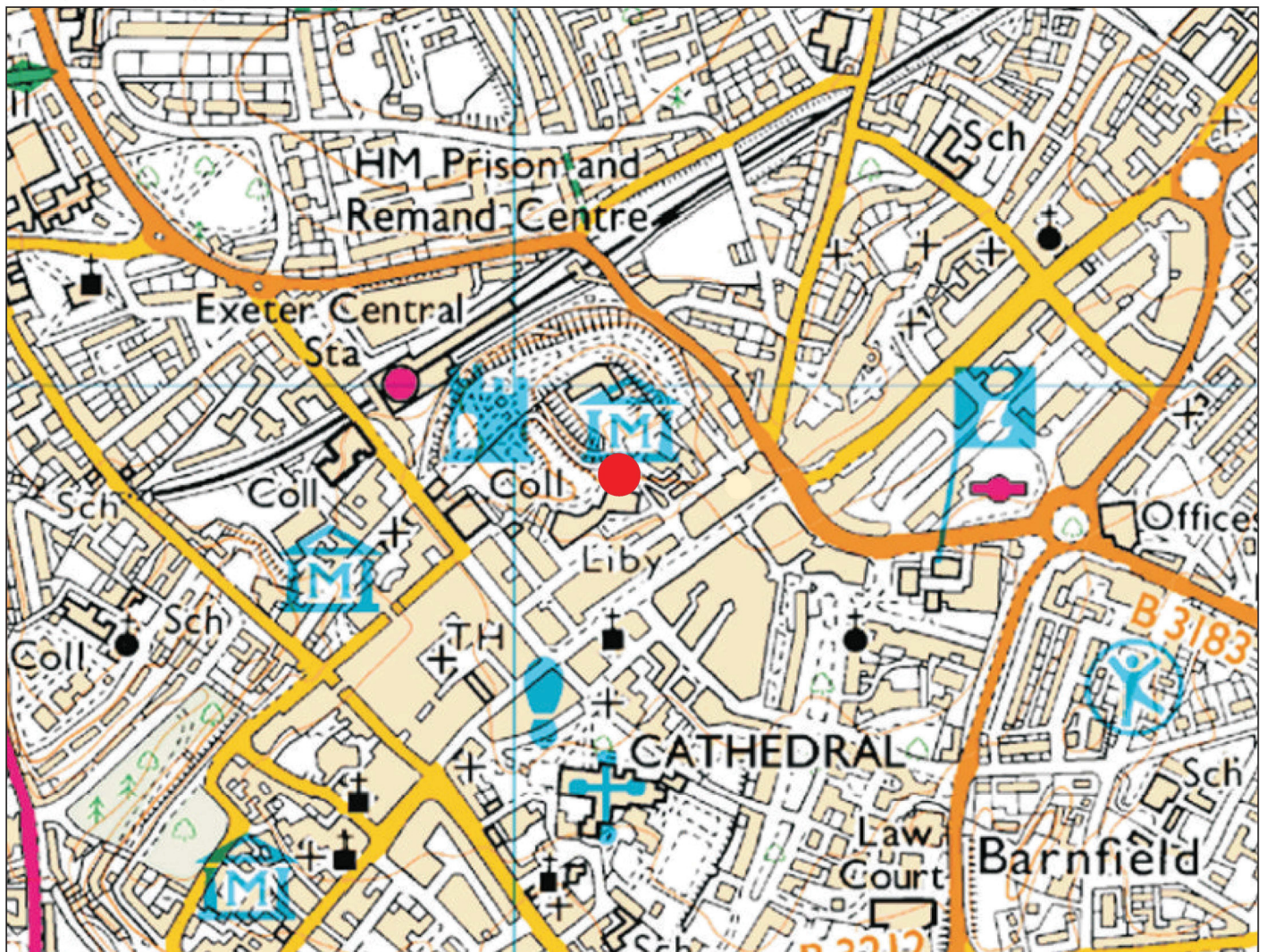
Geology **Volcanic Trap**

Listed Building PRN National heritage List No. 1169610 Listed Building Grade II*

Additional/Synthetic Information



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● Site location

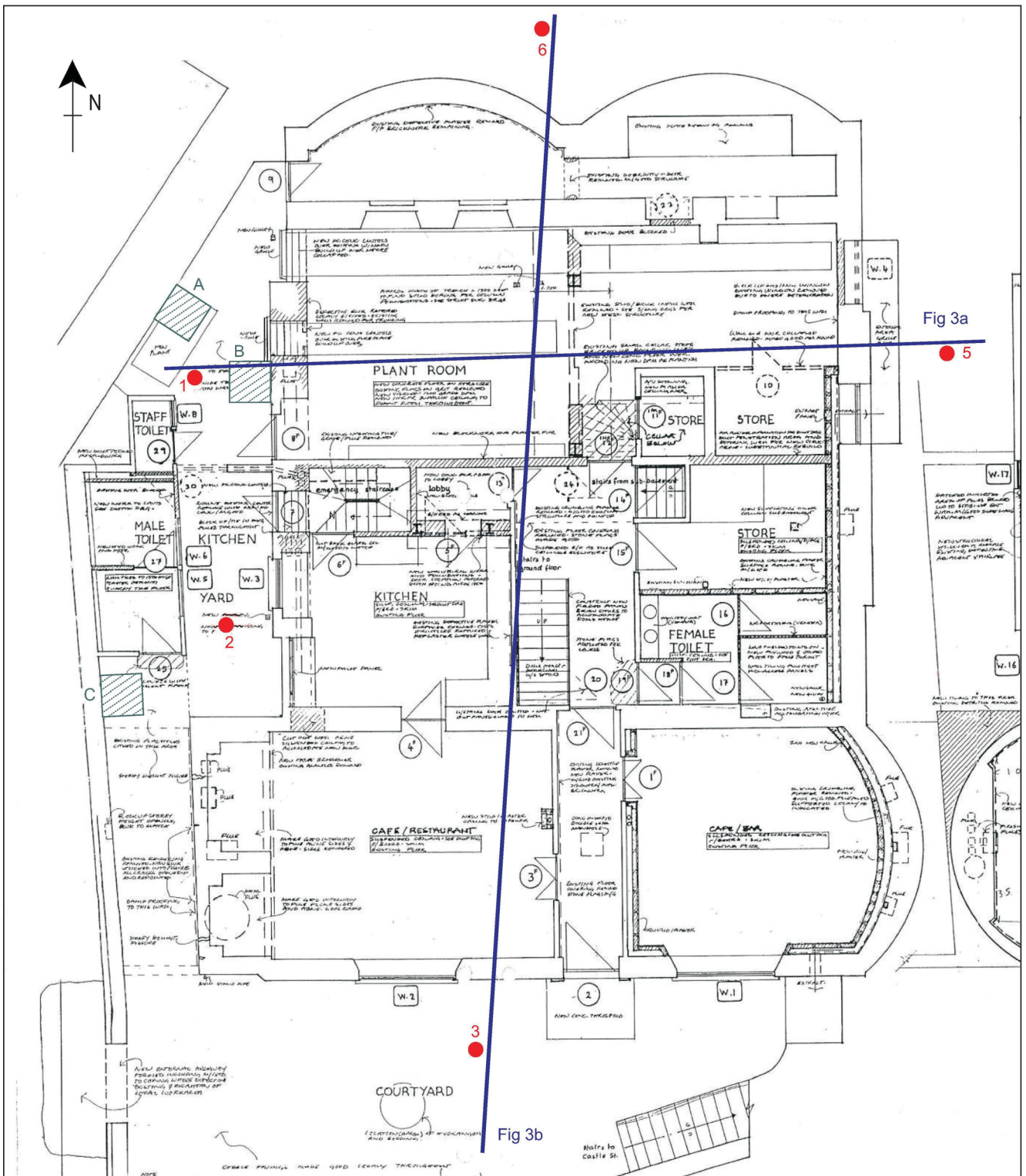
PROJECT

Rougemont House Test Pits

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site





0 5m
Scale 1:125@A4

- 1 Borehole locations
- A Hand dug pits

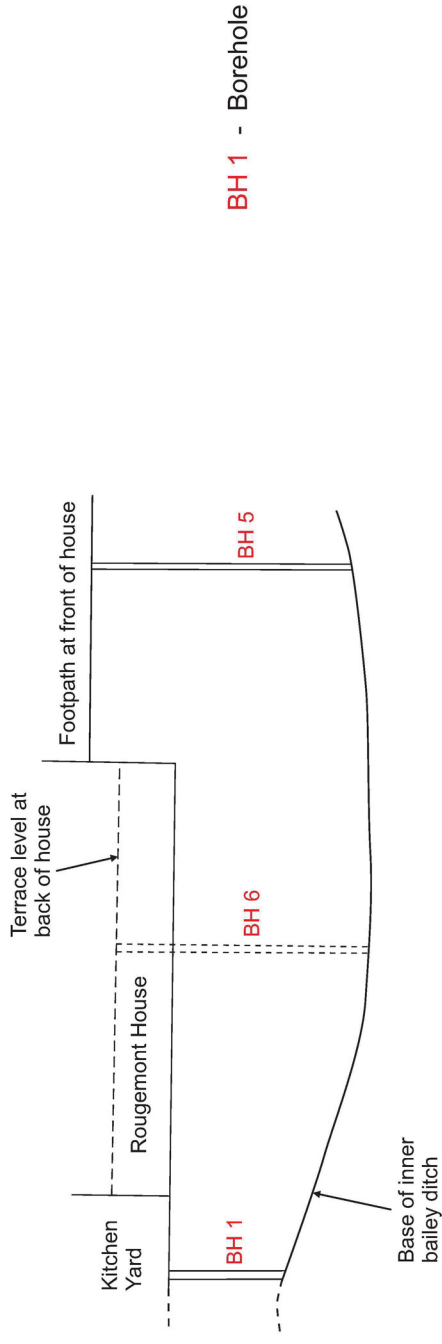
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Rougemont House Test Pits

TITLE

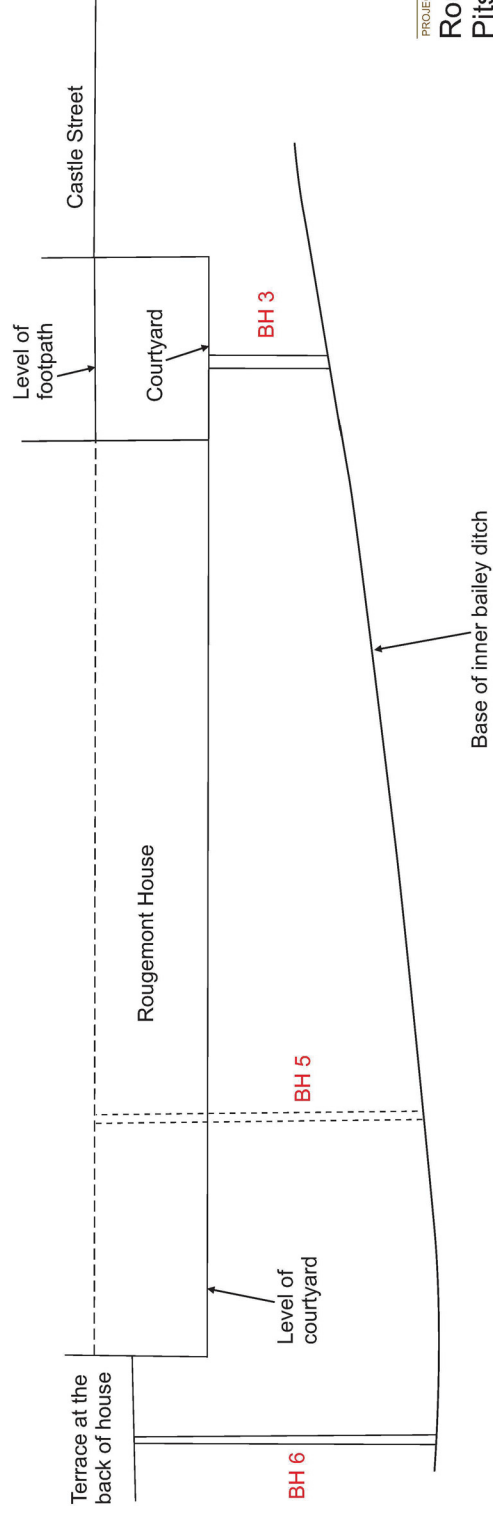
Fig. 2: Location of observations



a) Profile 1



b) Profile 2



PROJECT

Rougemont House Test Pits

TITLE

Fig. 3: Profiles through the inner bailey ditch



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