



Archaeological Recording of a chimney at No. 6 King Street, Central Bristol.

NGR ST 58859 72704

Archaeological Standing Building Survey Report

David Etheridge BA M.Phil FSA Scot

HER/Planning Reference no. BHER 24771

Abstract

This report sets out the methodology and results of a programme of archaeological recording (Standing Building Survey) on a rooftop chimney to No. 6 King Street, central Bristol, BS1 4EQ. The study area lies within the City and Queen Square Conservation Area and is a Grade II* listed building (see **Figures 1** and **2**).

The survey was undertaken for Sunlife Pensions Management Limited to record all features likely to be affected by proposed demolition of the chimney for health and safety reasons, and place them in their proper context. Archaeological recording took place on the 3rd March 2009, during which written notes, a surveyed plan and elevation, and digital still photographs were taken.

Introduction

A programme of Archaeological Recording has been requested by the City Archaeologist of Bristol City Council, in accordance with the guidelines set out in PPG 15 (DoE 1994. *Planning and the Historic Environment*). The study area (see **Figure 2**) is a three storey brick fronted timber-framed building situated on the south side of King Street, central Bristol. The survey was required to create a permanent record of all features of a chimneystack to the rear of the building likely to be disturbed or destroyed by dismantling of the stack to roof level.

Avon Archaeological Unit Limited (The Unit) were commissioned by James McAllister of CS2 Limited on behalf of Sunlife Pensions Management Limited to carry out the work as above and in accordance with the Relevant Guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects (2)*, English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings* and the standard procedures of Avon Archaeological Unit Limited.

Historical Background

No. 6 King Street is a timber-framed building dated to c. 1665 with a brick front built c. 1720 (BHER 23M and Images of England). The building has three storeys, with a basement and an attic. It has been suggested the original roof (gable ended front and back) was cut back and hipped to the front when the building was re-fronted. The building, and the attached frontage railings are Grade II* listed. They also lie within the City and Queen Square Conservation Area. The original building is thought to be contemporary in date with adjoining Nos. 7 and 8 King Street.

Geology and Topography

The underlying geology of the Study Area is comprised of made ground over tidal flat deposits (BGS 2004). The Study Area is located on the south side of King Street on the corner of Queen Charlotte Street. A spot height of 9.4 m aOD at the junction of King Street with Queen Charlotte Street is shown on the accompanying Ordnance Survey map (see **Figure 2**). The Study Area and surrounding land is generally flat.

The Recording (see **Figure 3** and **Plates**)

Recording at site was undertaken on the 3rd March 2009. Access to the study area was gained via the front door on King Street. Access to the chimney was gained via external scaffolding. Weather conditions at the time of recording were clear and dry. Survey was undertaken using a combination of hand tapes and a *Leica Disto* laser-measuring instrument; a Fuji digital SLR was used for all photography. Rectification targets spaced at 1 m intervals were used for scale in the photographs.

The subject of the recording exercise is a chimney located towards the rear of the building on the east side fronting Queen Charlotte Street, specifically that part of the chimney stack projecting above the internal guttering of the roof over the second floor. The southeast corner of the study area is not as tall as the rest of the building.

As exposed the chimney is a rectangular structure measuring 1.47 m north to south and 570 mm wide. The height of the chimneystack from the internal guttering to the top of the brickwork measured 3.30 m. Two plain cylindrical ceramic chimney pots surmounted the brickwork, mounted in a modern sand cement mix, but it was not possible to measure these.

A coat of modern rendering material had formerly encased all but the top four courses of brickwork. At the time of inspection this had been removed by hand from most of the west face of the stack and parts of the narrower north and south faces. The east face remained completely rendered. Therefore recording was concentrated on the west face, where the majority of the brick and stonework was exposed.

Some phasing of the chimney structure was evident during this recording exercise. As exposed the bulk of the fabric beneath the rendering appeared to belong to the initial phase of construction. This appeared to represent a single flue 980 mm long north to south, 570 mm wide and exposed to a height of 2.60 m above the level of the internal guttering. This flue appears to have been built in two stages. Above the metal flashing of the guttering, 12 courses of white lime mortared hand made brick were exposed. A sample brick measured 235 by 110 by 65 mm, while a sample four courses measured 300 mm in height. There was no discernable bond pattern employed, though stretchers predominated on the west face.

Surmounting this was a second stage, of bath stone masonry c. 1.50 m high by 980 mm long. This phase was principally constructed of Bath stone ashlar. On the west face three ashlar predominated with an average face size of 490 mm wide by 370 mm high. The fragmentary remains of a fourth of similar size had been patched with lime mortar and reused hand made house bricks. The depth of these ashlar could not be ascertained.

There was a basal string of brick shaped ashlar of varying length, of which the longest was 207 mm by 71 mm high. Two tall narrow quoins sprung from this basal string, one on the northwest corner and the other on the southeast corner. These measured 99 mm wide by up to 357 mm high (the northwest example was slightly shorter). The depth of the northwestern quoin was also 99 mm. Between the two quoins was one large ashlar and a row of five lime mortared hand made bricks, possibly infilling the former location of a further ashlar.

The course above this was constructed of one large ashlar and the remains of a further one patched with brick. Above this were two fragmentary courses of ashlar, in places cracked or with blocks completely missing. The lower course was c. 100 mm high and the upper was c. 145 mm high, with a single tile course between them. Above these two courses the last large ashlar block was exposed, together with a hole indicating where masonry had been lost. Some of the render around this point was the colour of bath stone, suggesting an attempt had been made to colour or disguise this point in the past. There were hints beneath the partially removed render of a further course or courses of brickwork and ashlar masonry up to 390 mm high. Glimpses through the missing portions of masonry suggest the eastern face of the chimney was in parts constructed of brick, and therefore not necessarily of the same phase as this part of the western face.

The second major phase of construction appears to be the addition of a second flue, built entirely of lime-mortared hand made bricks, butted onto the southern face of the earlier phase. Glimpses inside the earlier flue through the broken masonry suggest there was no crossover between the two flues. The bricks appeared to be of similar size and shape to those used in the earlier phase, but were clearly laid in a stretcher bond. As exposed this flue measured c. 2.90 m high by c. 480 mm north to south and 570 mm east to west.

The whole chimney was capped with four courses of sand/cement bonded machine cut bricks that appear to be no later than 20th century in date. The lower two courses projected out slightly above the chimney, while the upper two courses were recessed in narrower than the width and length of the main stack. These four courses in total measured between c. 300 and 400 mm high, the recessed step at height made it difficult to obtain a more accurate measurement. Sand cement mortar had been used to cap the upper faces of these bricks, and formed the setting for the two ceramic chimney pots.

As recorded the chimney is flanked on the north and south sides by north-south aligned parapets. The western face of the northern parapet shows construction of lime-mortared hand made bricks with slabs of pennant limestone. The capstones are 20th century moulded concrete slabs. As surveyed this parapet measures 2.33 m long, running from the south wall of the third storey to the north face of the chimney. The southern parapet is completely rendered on both sides, and measures 1.96 m long from the chimney to the southern edge of the building. A measurement from the top of this parapet to the pavement below on Queen Charlotte Street gave a reading of 7.71 m, making the top of this parapet c. 17.21 m aOD.

Summary and Conclusions

A brick and stone built chimney stack towards the rear of No. 6 King Street, central Bristol has been surveyed and recorded prior to proposed dismantling to roof level for health and safety reasons. This project was undertaken in response to a request from the City Archaeological Officer as No. 6 King Street is a Grade II* listed building.

Located on the Queen Charlotte Street frontage, the chimney was found to be a rectangular structure of more than one phase, with two separate adjoining flues represented. The earlier flue consists of 12 courses of brick surmounted by at least six courses of Bath stone ashlar. The construction and materials of this flue are commensurate with a 17th or 18th century date for construction. The later flue was entirely brick built, bonded onto the southern side of the first flue, but again constructed in materials that would not be out of place in a 17th or 18th century context. The chimneystack was topped with four courses of machine cut bricks of 20th century date and two contemporary cylindrical ceramic pots. Below the upper four courses of brick all external faces of the chimney had been rendered with a modern render mix, but this has been recently removed from most of the western face and parts of the northern and southern faces.

Where practicable and safe all pertinent features were recorded in context.

The project archive will in due course be deposited with the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery. The OASIS entry for this project will be updated and completed.

General References

Bristol Historic Environment Record (BHER)

Unpublished database of archaeological and architectural sites and events related to them, held by the City Archaeologist of Bristol City Council.

British Geological Survey 2004

Bristol. England and Wales Sheet 264, 1:50,000. Nottingham.

DoE 1994

Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 *Planning and the Historic Environment*
Department of the Environment. London.

English Heritage 1991

Management of Archaeological Projects (2). HMSO London.

English Heritage 2006

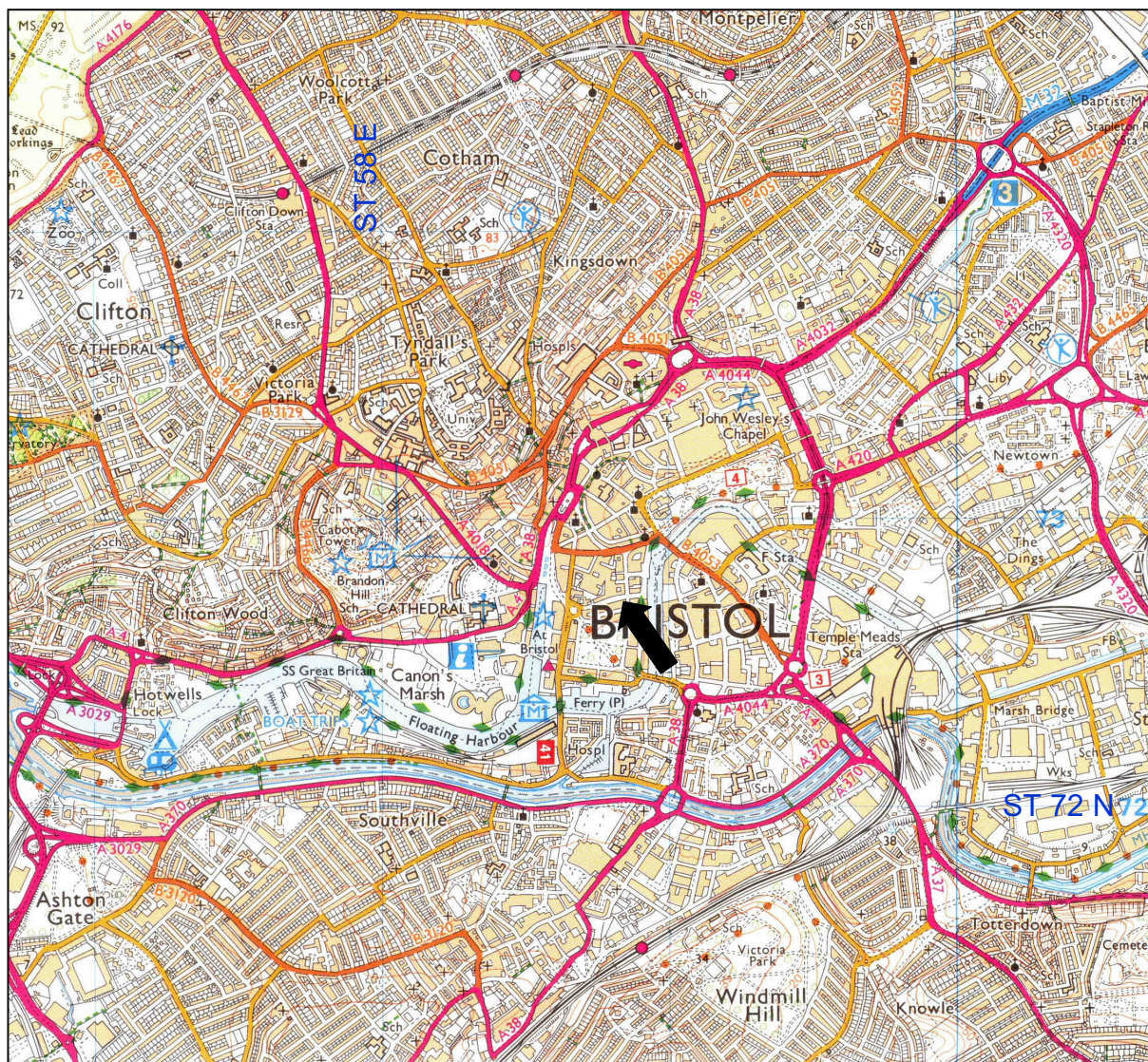
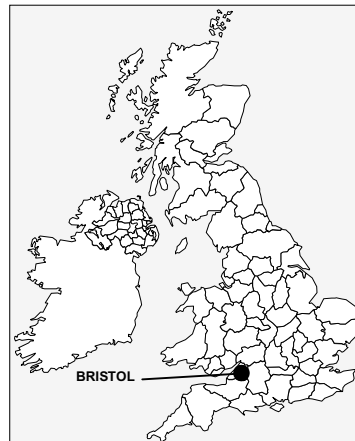
Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice. Swindon.

Images of England 2009

Images of England.org.uk.

Figure 1

Location of the Study Area ←



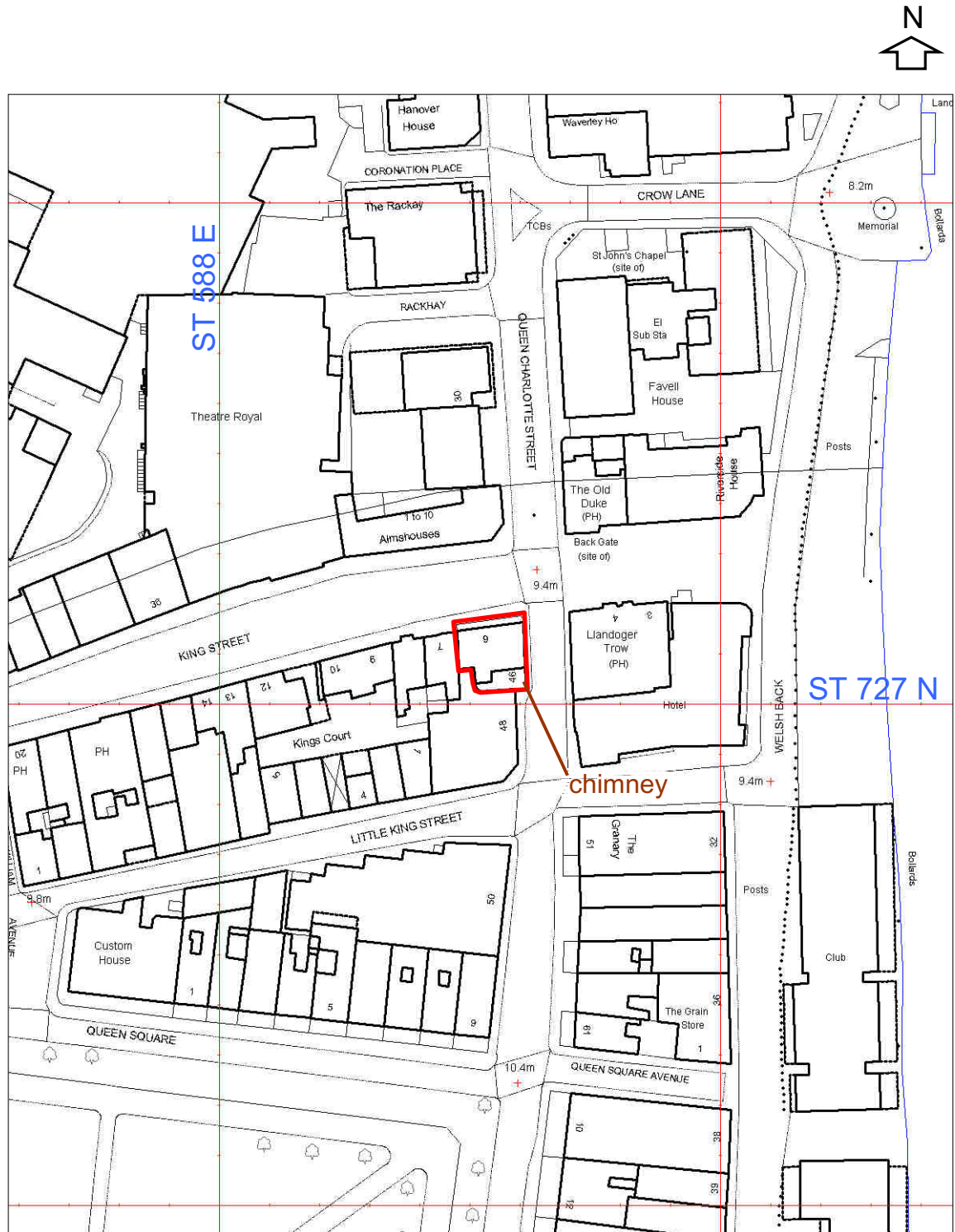
Scale 1:25,000

Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2005 All rights reserved. Licence Number AL 10005802

Avon Archaeological Unit Limited – March 2009
BHER 24771

Figure 2

Boundary of the Study Area (outlined in Red)



Scale 1:1250

Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2009 All rights reserved. Licence Number AL 10005802

Avon Archaeological Unit Limited – March 2009
BHER 24771

Figure 3

Location plan of the chimney (scale 1:50)

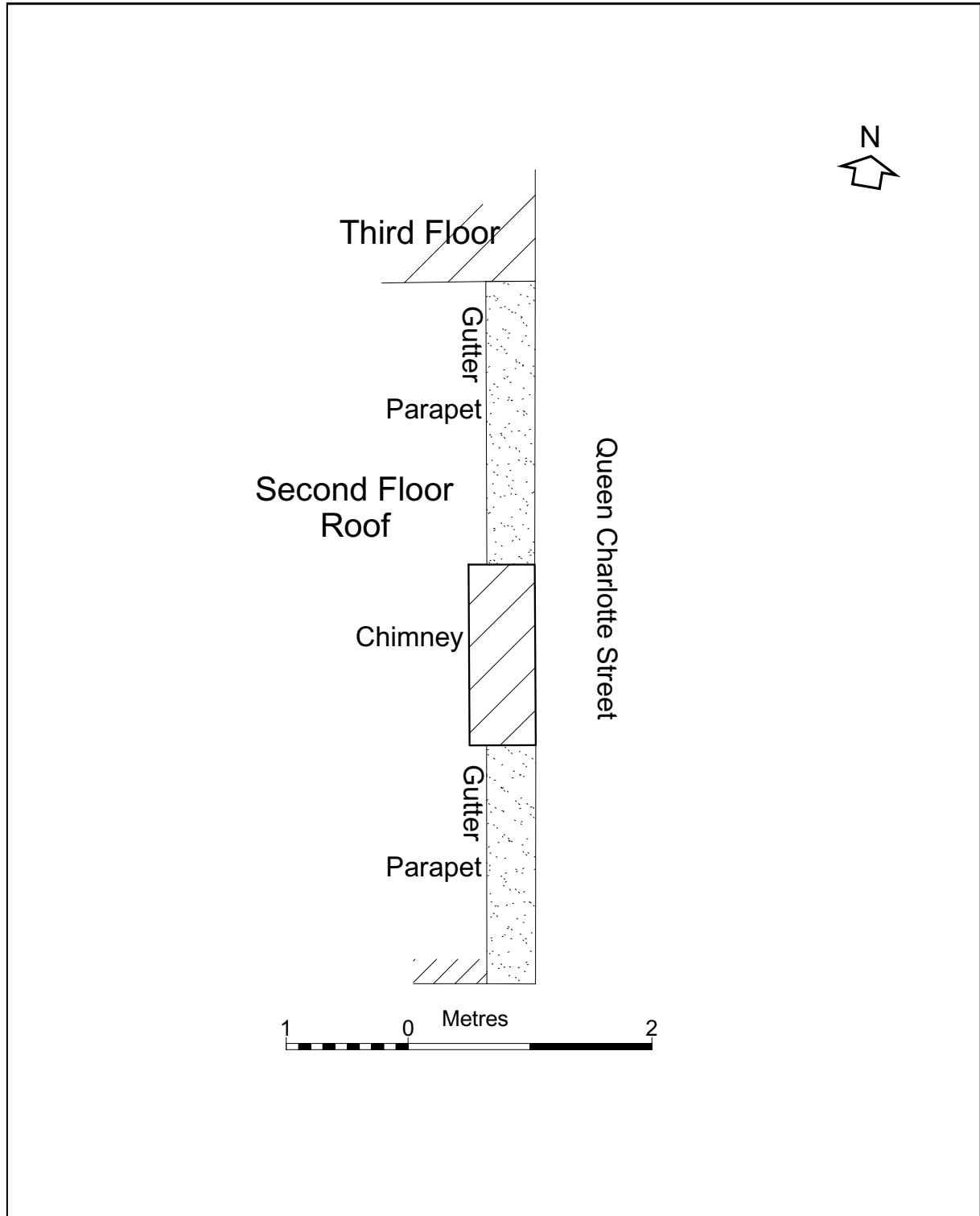
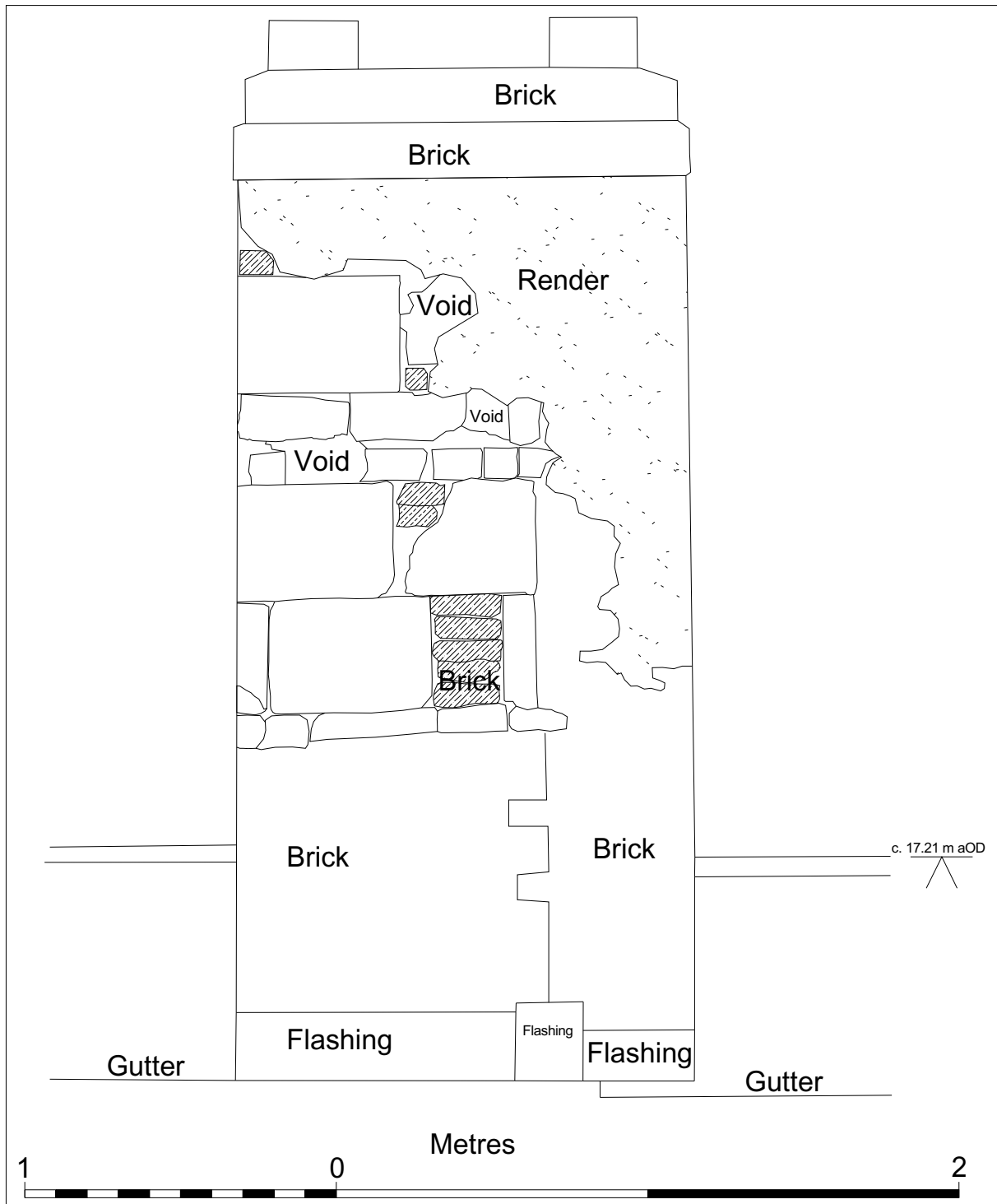


Figure 4

West Facing Elevation of the chimney (scale 1:20)



Plates



a. The rear of No. 6 King Street, looking north from Queen Charlotte Street. No scale.



b. The south and east faces of the chimney, looking northwest. Targets 1 m apart.



c. The south face of the chimney, looking north. Targets 1 m apart.



d. The west face of the chimney, looking east. Targets 1 m apart.



e. North and west faces of the chimney, looking southeast. Targets on north face 1 m apart.



f. Detail from the interior of the earlier flue, seen through a void on the west face, looking southeast. No scale.