



Bristol and Region
Archaeological
Services

Archaeological Watching Brief
**OLDBURY HOUSE,
NO. 121 ST MICHAEL'S HILL,
BRISTOL.**

Alistair Byford-Bates



Report No. 2976/2014
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OASIS: bristola1-171936



FAME
Federation of Archaeological Managers & Employers



Archaeological Watching Brief
at
**OLDBURY HOUSE,
NO. 121 ST MICHAEL'S HILL,
BRISTOL.**

Centred on NGR ST 58317 73636

Prepared for **The University of Bristol**

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Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	C	Century
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	CBM	Ceramic Building Material
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	DCLG	Dept. for Communities & Local Government
BC	Before Christ	DCMS	Dept. for Culture Media & Sport
BCC	Bristol City Council	EH	English Heritage
BCL	Bristol Central Library	EHA	English Heritage Archive
BCMAG	Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery	IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
BHER	Bristol Historic Environment Record	Km	Kilometre
BL	British Library	m	Metre
BRO	Bristol Record Office	NGR	National Grid Reference
BTL	Breadth, Thickness, Length	OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations
c	Circa	OS	Ordnance Survey

Adopted Chronology

Prehistoric	Before AD43
Roman	AD43-410
Anglo Saxon/Early Medieval	AD410-1066
Medieval	AD1066-1540
Post-medieval	AD1540-present

NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

June, 2014

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a ground-air heat exchange system in the front garden of Oldbury House, 121 St Michael's Hill, Bristol BS2 8BS.

The foundations of the former bay windows were exposed, overlying a series of inter-cutting, abutting and overlying walls and drains with foundation cuts, a cobbled surface and a ditch through made-up ground and the natural.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) at 121 St Michael's Hill, Bristol BS2 8BS for Ridge & Partners on behalf of the University of Bristol.
- 1.2 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number BRSMG 2014/37. A digital copy of the report will be made available. The project has been entered in the Bristol Historic Environment Record as: 25330 and in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: bristola1-171936.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 Planning permission was granted for the refurbishment of the existing building at 121 St Michael's Hill, Bristol BS2 8BS, known as Oldbury House (Planning Permission No. 13/02665/LA). As part of this work a ground-air heat exchange system was to be installed beneath the northernmost two-thirds of the front garden, beside St Michael's Hill itself (NGR ST 58317 73636; **Fig.1**). The house is located on the western side of the hill, and slightly set back from the main road. It stands on relatively level ground at about 73m aOD.
- 2.2 The property is listed Grade II and within the St Michael's Hill and Christmas Steps Conservation Area. It was built for Marmaduke Bowdler between 1679 and 1689 and sold to Joseph Knight and his wife Lady Phillipa Gore in 1692. It remained a private house until sometime before 1910 when it is listed as a 'Oldbury House Boys' School' in Wright,s Directory. It was then used by the BBC as a staff hostel during the Second World War, finally being purchased by Bristol University. It is dated to the late 17th century (c 1670) in the listed building schedule and is a three storey stone built house with three front gables. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the site or nearby.
- 2.3 The solid geology of the site comprises Quartzitic Sandstone of the Carboniferous period, locally known as Brandon Hill Grit, with no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2014).

3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The building itself has been surveyed by Roger Leech, then of the RCHME (BHER 2085) along with other nearby buildings, including No. 114 (BHER 541 & 4429). The site has not been the subject of any previous intrusive archaeological work, as far as is known. In the property's locality, extensive archaeological work has taken place in the Tyndall Avenue area and on the site of the 17th-century citadel known as the Royal Fort, as well as fieldwork in the Southwell Street area.
- 3.2 The Oldbury House site lies within the medieval parish of St Michael along the ancient route connecting Bristol with the parishes of Henbury and Westbury, and the ferry to South Wales. When Bristol was created a county in 1373, the boundary was fixed a little farther out to the north-west from this site. Leech (2000, 48-49) states that Oldbury House, this being its modern name, was built somewhere between 1679 and 1689. Rocque's 1742 map indicates that what is now the outer part of the front garden may then have been part of the highway, and an old print reproduced by Leech confirms this. The present front boundary has been recorded since 1828: it may have been realigned when the old house next door was demolished and the present terrace erected. Little has changed since 1828 apart from the removal of a small extension to the house forward of the main façade at the northern end, and the removal of the bay windows at some point in the mid-20th century. To the rear of the property is an air raid shelter of mid-20th century construction.

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the methodology outlined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Bryant 2014), *BaRAS Site Manual* (2009) and complied with the *Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2013).
- 4.2 The aim of the archaeological work was to provide data on the date, character, degree of survival, extent and location of archaeological deposits, features and finds within the area disturbed by the groundworks associated with the new development. These involved some ground reduction, the excavation of strip foundations, service trenches, and an attenuation tank.
- 4.3 Archaeological recording of the site included a photographic record of all features using digital colour photography, along with relevant notes, site plans and sections.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 The initial excavation comprised of five exploratory trial trenches to identify services and answer structural queries, followed by the overall reduction of the site, referred to as Trench 6. Full context descriptions and stratigraphic matrix are provided in the context summary (**Appendix 2**). Major features are shown on the site plan (**Fig. 2**) and section drawings (**Fig. 3**).
- 5.2 The solid geology of the site comprises Quartzitic Sandstone of the Carboniferous period, locally known as Brandon Hill Grit, with no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2014). The fragmentary upper surface of the natural (608) was approx. 1.60m below existing ground level.
- 5.3 Trench 1 covered 3.60 x 0.80m and was comprised of topsoil (100) overlaying a flagstone-capped, stone built drain (103), lying over a mortar subfloor (107) and truncated at a pennant rubble wall (106). This is probably part of the former bay windows shown on the 19th century façade. This machine-dug trench showed an absence of modern underpinning for the present foundations on the eastern elevation of the house.
- 5.4 Trench 2 was hand-dug 1.10 x 0.23m in size and 0.30m at its deepest. Beneath the topsoil (200) was a layer of crushed mortar and plaster (201), identical to context (105), sealing the remains of a wall (202), possibly the same context as (106).
- 5.5 Trench 3 was hand-dug 1.30 x 0.32 x 0.40m. No services or archaeological features were seen.
- 5.6 Trench 4 was hand-dug, 1.40 x 1.10 x 0.40m, through the tarmac footpath (400) and underlying sand layer (401), probably used as bedding material for a previous flagstone path, the remnants of which are present by the front door of the house.
- 5.7 Trench 5 was hand-dug, 0.85 x 0.30 x 0.30m, through the topsoil (500), exposing the concrete capping of a storm water drain (501). No significant archaeological features were seen.
- 5.8 The foundations of the former southern (117) and the northern (106) bay windows were exposed 200mm below the existing ground surface as trench six was opened. A brick-capped lead water pipe (113), a drain (114) and wall foundation (116) were also exposed at this level (**Plate 1**) in Trench 6. Up to 0.7m of made ground lay beneath these in the area of the front door (603).
- 5.9 The northern end of the site revealed a series of inter-cutting, abutting and overlaying walls and drains (601, 602, 611, 612, 613, 614, 617) (**Plate 2**), with foundation cuts and a ditch (607) through made up ground (618 & 621) and the natural (608). A cobble surface (604), underlying (603), was present at the southern end of the site overlying ditch (607), and cut by/abutting a truncated wall (609) (**Plate 3**).

6. THE FINDS by Cai Mason

A total of 43 finds were recovered during the watching brief at Oldbury House. The finds comprise 20 potsherds, 16 fragments of clay tobacco pipe, five animal bones, a lump of mortar and a flint flake. Apart from the flint flake all of the finds are medieval or post-medieval.

The finds were cleaned, identified, catalogued, and are discussed separately by type below. None of the finds are of more than site importance and no further work is recommended. The clay tobacco pipe stems were discarded after assessment; all other finds will be retained and marked with an accession number issued by Bristol Museum & Art Gallery and a context number.

Pottery

Introduction

The ceramic assemblage comprises 20 potsherds (392g), 60% of which is medieval; the remaining 40% is post-medieval. The ceramics were examined with reference to the Bristol Pottery Type (BPT) Series and other published sources, using the widely accepted name codes based on the system adopted by the Museum of London (LAARC 2007). The ceramics are quantified by ware type in **Table 1** and by ware type, context and form in **Appendix 3**. Full descriptions are available in the site archive. The sherds have a mean weight of 19.2g and are relatively unabraded, which suggests there has been relatively little post-depositional disturbance of the deposits.

Table 1: Ceramics quantified by ware type

Ware type	BPT No.	Name code	Date range	Source	Quantity
Bath A ware	46	BATH A	1050 – 1350	Avon Valley	4
Bristol Redcliffe ware	72	BR	1250 – 1500	Bristol	8
Somerset redware	96	SSOM	1550 – 1900	Somerset	2
Tin-glazed ware	99	TGW	1640 – 1800	Mostly Bristol	2
North Devon fineware	108	NDFW	1650 – 1900	North Devon	1
Staffordshire redware	109	STRE	1630 - 1750	Staffordshire	1
North Devon gravel-tempered ware	112	NDGT	1600 – 1900	North Devon	1
Merida-type ware	283	SPAM	1250 – 1650	Lisbon area, Portugal	1
Total					20

Medieval

All of the medieval pottery was recovered as residual finds in post-medieval contexts. The medieval pottery includes Bath A ware and Bristol Redcliffe ware.

Bath A ware is a handmade, unglazed coarseware, which is common in mid-11th–13th century contexts in Bristol, but has a production range that extends into the early 14th century (Vince 1979, 31; Vince 2004, 5). Bath A ware has been found in the Avon Valley, Somerset and West Wiltshire (Gutierrez 2014, 15; Vince 1988, 254-270), and appears to represent an extended regional tradition rather than the product of single workshop (Gutierrez 2014, 15; Vince 1979, 31).

Bristol Redcliffe ware is a wheel-thrown glazed ware, which was produced between c 1250 and 1500. One of the sherds from context 621 is highly decorated with bands of turned horizontal lines and vertical notching, which is characteristic of vessels predating c 1350.

Two of the Bristol Redcliffe ware sherds can be identified as jugs; the other Bristol Redcliffe sherds are also likely to be jugs by they are too small to confirm this identification. Most if not all of the Bath A ware sherds are likely to be fragments of cooking pots, but again the sherds are too small to confirm this.

Post-medieval

The post-medieval wares comprise red earthenwares from North Devon, Somerset and Staffordshire, English tin-glazed ware and Portuguese Merida-type ware.

The North Devon wares include gravel-tempered and fine wares, both of which were exported to coastal towns around the Irish Sea and to English colonies in the West Indies and North America. Gravel-tempered ware was produced between c 1600 and 1900, whereas the fineware dates from the period c 1650–1900; both are common in 17th and 18th-century contexts in Bristol. The fineware sherd is a white-slipped plate with an amber glaze and a wet sgraffito geometric design. Similar plates have been recovered from c 1665 context at Bristol Castle (Grant 1983, 84, plate 26) and from the Royal Fort, Bristol (King 2012, 48, fig. 21 no. 7). The sherd from Oldbury House probably dates from the second half of the 17th century.

Somerset redware was produced at a number of sites in the county between the mid-16th and 19th centuries. Both of the sherds from Oldbury House are fragments of jugs. The sherd from layer 621 has white slip on its lower half, which was applied by dipping the vessel in a slip-filled container. The jug is decorated with a wet sgraffito design that incorporates a tulip motif. Tulips were being cultivated in Holland by 1634 (Evans 1931, 78; Longworth 2004) and became widely known during a speculative financial bubble known as 'tulip mania' in 1636-7. Tulips were a popular decorative motif that was widely used on late 17th and early 18th-century ceramics. Excavations at the Somerset redware pottery in Donyatt uncovered numerous examples of sgraffito-decorated vessels with tulip motifs (Coleman & Pearson 1988, 391), but there are no direct parallels for the example from Oldbury House, which is closer in appearance to the designs on tin-glazed ware chargers dating from the period c 1655–1740 (Archer 1997, 86-94).

Merida-type ware was produced between the mid-13th and mid-17th centuries and is common in late 16th–early 17th-century contexts in Bristol.

Tin-glazed ware was being produced in London by c 1570, but the earliest production in the West Country (Brislington) dates from c 1640. The tin-glazed ware sherds from Oldbury House are very thin and finely made, with no evidence of surface crazing, which suggests that they probably produced in the 18th century.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

Twelve undiagnostic clay tobacco pipe stems, two pipe bowl fragments and a pipe bowl were recovered from drain fill 619. A pipe bowl was also recovered from made ground layer 621. The pipe bowls were examined with reference to the Bristol Tobacco Pipe Bowl Typology, and are identified by the prefix BRST after Jarrett (2013, 215-37). The pipe bowl from drain fill 619 is a BRST 15 type dating from the period c 1690–1740; the bowl from layer 621 is a BRST 8 type that was produced c 1650–90. None of the pipes are marked.

Animal bone

The animal bones comprise two unidentified mammal bones, a pig tooth, a sheep/goat rib, and a worked bone point. The point is 44mm long by up to 11mm wide, and has a blunt point; the wide end has been cut at an oblique angle. It is unclear if this object is a tool (an awl?) or a bone working offcut.

Other finds

The other finds comprise a lump of pink lime mortar and a small chip of grey flint debitage. The nearest geological source of flint are the chalk downs of Wiltshire, approximately 40km to the east of the site. Chert and flint gravels are however found in river gravel and terrace deposits in the Avon Valley, which provides a potential local source for the worked flint.

Discussion

Previous archaeological work at Nos 78–100 St Michael's Hill, uncovered a number of pieces of worked flint (Brett 1994), and the stuck flint from Oldbury House provides further tentative evidence for prehistoric activity on the brow of St Michael's Hill.

Medieval documents record properties on St Michael's Hill from the 13th century onwards (King 2012, 1; Bettey 1997, 1-4; Veale 1951, 58). Cartographic evidence for early occupation along St Michael's Hill includes Smith's plan of 1568, which show houses lining the road near St Michael's Church, and Millerd's plan of 1673, which shows dense occupation near the church and clusters of detached houses within the Royal Fort and along St Michael's Hill road frontage.

Archaeological investigations to the south of Oldbury House have uncovered medieval pottery in a number of locations near the St Michael's Hill road frontage, the closest of which are Nos. 78–100 St Michael's Hill (Brett 1994), and the Royal Fort site on the corner of St Michael's Hill and Tyndall Avenue (King 2012); both sites have produced pottery dating from the 12th century onwards.

The pottery from Oldbury House dates from the mid-11th–13th century onwards, but there is a notable absence of any ceramics post-dating the 18th century. The Oldbury House site is, to date, the most northerly point at which medieval pottery has been found on St Michael's Hill. Although this may simply reflect the paucity of archaeological investigations further to the north, it should be noted that Rocque's plan of 1742 shows that the site then lay near the northern edge of occupation, which could reflect the pattern of development in the medieval period.

The quantity of finds from individual features at Oldbury House is small, so any dating of the features must remain tentative; however the absence of 19th-century ceramics and the relative paucity of 18th-century material do suggest that many of the deposits at Oldbury House are of early post-medieval date.

Ditch fill 606 contained residual medieval pottery and a single sherd of Somerset redware. Although the latter ware has a production range that spans the late 16th to 19th centuries, the absence of later post-medieval wares suggests that the ditch fill probably dates from the late 16th or 17th century. Ditch fill 606 pre-dates walls 604 and 609, which indicates that they are all post-medieval features.

The backfill (616) of wall-cut 615 contained a single sherd of mid-11th–13th-century pottery, but given the ubiquity of residual medieval ceramics, it is not considered to be good dating evidence for the wall's construction.

Stone-lined drain 614 was filled with a deposit of silt (619) that contained finds that are indicative of an 18th-century deposition date.

Made ground layer 621 contained finds that suggest that it was probably deposited in the late 17th century.

7. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The watching brief at Oldbury House during the groundwork exposed remnants of the original house façade, structure and related features, overlying an earlier ditch of unknown date.
- 7.2 Apart from the struck flint, there is no evidence of significant activity on the site prior to the mid-11th-13th century; the relative lack of finds, however, makes the dating of specific features tentative.
- 7.3 The earliest feature recorded is the ditch (607), it is not shown on the earliest maps of the site, and its lower fill contains medieval pottery pointing to a late 16/17th century deposition date, then recut/truncating in the construction of (609). However, whether this is the ditch referred to by Leech (2000:50) as being backfilled in or about 1667 is not known.
- 7.4 The flint debitage found in the backfill of the foundation trench (615) for wall (610) cannot be used to date the feature in question as it is redeposited.
- 7.5 The finds, paucity as they are, point to an early post-medieval date for many of the deposits on the site. All of the medieval pottery can be viewed as residual finds in post-medieval contexts.
- 7.6 The walls and drains (601, 602, 611, 612, 613, 614, and 617) most likely relate to the part of the house's structure shown on the 1828 Ashmead map, built against or as part of the adjoining house or the terrace that replaced it. That house, now the site of Nos 123-131 was probably demolished in 1823 (Leech, 2000). These features may, therefore, be part of a truncated and backfilled sub-surface chamber/cellar. Based on the historic maps and images this part of Oldbury House was demolished or modified during the same time period as the bay windows, *i.e.* the early to mid-20th century, separating the house from the terrace.

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9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local-authority policies.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY (ENGLAND)

The *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) for England published by the UK Government in March 2012 states that the historic environment, which includes designated and non-designated heritage assets, is an irreplaceable resource and, as such, should be taken into account by Local Planning Authorities when considering and determining planning applications. This is taken to form part of a positive strategy set out in the respective Local Plan (i.e. *Bristol Core Strategy*) to ensure the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. The assigned significance of heritage assets will be key factor in terms of their conservation.

Given their irreplaceable nature, any harm to, or loss of, a heritage asset, or heritage assets, should be clearly and convincingly justified as part of a planning application. As part of this, applicants are required to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected by a proposal, including any contribution made by their setting. Where a heritage asset, or assets, are to be harmed or lost as the result of a proposal, the applicant will be required to record and advance the understanding of the significance of that asset or assets, to include making the evidence arising publicly accessible, but this will be in proportion to the significance of the asset/assets in question. While the NPPF takes into account the historic environment as a whole, additional protection is afforded to designated heritage assets under current English Law. Any proposal that would result in harm or loss of a designated heritage asset is also required to be justified by the applicant in meeting strict criteria set out in the NPPF.

LOCAL POLICY

Bristol City Council Supplementary Planning Document 7 *Archaeology and Development* (SPD 7, adopted 2006) has been carried forward for use under the present *Bristol Core Strategy* (adopted 2011). SPD 7, page 4 states that:

- (i) There will be a presumption in favour of preserving any archaeological features or sites of national importance, whether scheduled or not;
- (ii) Development which could adversely affect sites, structures, landscapes or buildings of archaeological interest and their settings will require an assessment of the archaeological resource through a desk-top study, and where appropriate a field evaluation. Where there is evidence of archaeological remains, development will not be permitted except where it can be demonstrated that the archaeological features of the site will be satisfactorily preserved in situ, or a suitable strategy has been put forward to mitigate the impact of development proposals upon important archaeological remains and their settings; or, if this is not possible and the sites are not scheduled or of national importance, provision for adequately recording the site prior to destruction is made, preferably by negotiating a planning agreement to ensure that access, time and financial resources are available to allow essential recording and publication to take place.

The *Bristol Core Strategy* (2011) retains some policies from the 1997 *Bristol Local Plan* including for the protection of the historic environment as Policy BCS22 which states that development proposals will safeguard or enhance heritage assets and the character and setting of areas of acknowledged importance including:

- Scheduled ancient monuments;
- Historic buildings both nationally and locally listed;
- Historic parks and gardens both nationally and locally listed;
- Conservation areas;
- Archaeological remains.

APPENDIX 2: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Type	Description	Stratigraphic relationships	Date
Test Pit 1				
100	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark brown. 0.20m thick.	Overlies 101 Same as 200, 300, 500 & 600	
101	Deposit	Type 1 stone chippings. 0.07m thick.	Overlies 102 Underlies 100	
102	Deposit	Rubble layer. Brownish grey mortar spread. 0.12m thick.	Overlies 104 Underlies 101	
103	Structure	Stone Drain. Constructed from Brandon Hill Grit (upper carboniferous quartzite) and Pennant Sandstone rubble masonry. 1.50m long, 0.60m wide and 0.30m deep.	Overlies 107 Underlies 105	
104	Deposit	Redeposited, stiff, orange-red clay. 0.30m thick.	Overlies 105 Underlies 102	
105	Deposit	Greyish white mortar and white plaster fragments. 0.30m thick.	Overlies 103 Underlies 104	
106	Structure	Wall. Pennant Sandstone rubble wall, bonded with pale grey mortar (Bay window). 0.80m wide, 0.82m thick and 0.40m high.	Overlies 112 Underlies 107	
107	Deposit	Mortar floor (Grey, with lime and charcoal flecks). 0.10m thick.	Overlies 106 Underlies 103	
108	Deposit	Subsoil. Orange brown. 0.40m thick. Possible same as 618 seen during watching brief.	Overlies 101 Abuts 106	
109	Deposit	Natural. Stiff, brownish red clay.	Underlies 111 & 112 Same as 618.	
110	Structure	Wall. Rubble stone wall (predominantly Brandon Hill Grit) of Oldbury House.	Overlies 111 Abutted by 107	
111	Cut	Construction cut for wall 110.	Overlies 109 Underlies 110	
112	Cut	Construction cut for wall 106.	Overlies 109 Underlies 106	
113	Structure	Drain. Brick capping and sides over lead water pipe, open base. Between 0.48m -0.63m from 106.	Underlies 100	
114	Structure	Drain. Internal width 0.16m, external width 0.42m.	Underlies 100 Same as 601	
115	Structure	Brick Wall. BTL 240x110x60mm, wall 0.24m wide.	Underlies 100	
116	Structure	Wall Foundation. Constructed from Pennant Sandstone and Brandon Hill Grit bonded with hard brownish grey mortar with charcoal flecks. 0.48m thick, 7.00m long, 3.10m east of northern bay window.	Underlies 100	
117	Structure	Wall Foundation. Brick foundation of bay window, BTL 220x110x60mm, bonded with pale grey lime mortar, with occ. Charcoal flecks. Brandon Hill Grit footing on outside edge, bonded with brownish grey lime and charcoal flecked mortar.	Underlies 100	
118	Deposit	Redeposited topsoil, 0.60m thick.	Underlies 100 Overlies 119	
119		Grey mortar layer, 0.20m thick. Possible sub floor.	Underlies 118 Overlies 120	
120	Deposit	Reddish brown clay. 0.90 m deep.	Underlies 119	
Test Pit 2				
200	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark brown. 0.20m thick.	Overlies 201	
201	Deposit	Greyish white mortar and white plaster fragments. 0.10m thick.	Overlies 202 & 203 Underlies 200 Same as 100, 300, 500 & 600	

Context No.	Type	Description	Stratigraphic relationships	Date
202	Structure	Wall. Brick and Pennant Sandstone masonry. 0.30+m wide. Relationship to 203 not clarified.	Underlies 201 (?) Cuts/abutted by 203	
203	Deposit	Reddish brown stoney clay. Not bottomed. Relationship to 202 not clarified.	Underlies 201 (?) Cut by/abuts 202	
Test Pit 3				
301	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark brown. 0.26m thick.	Overlies 301 Same as 100, 200, 500 & 600	
302	Deposit	Subsoil. Reddish brown clayey. Not bottomed.	Underlies 300	
Test Pit 4				
400	Deposit	Tarmac. 0.35m thick.	Overlies 401	
401	Deposit	Pale grey sand.	Underlies 400	
Test Pit 5				
500	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark brown. Not bottomed.	Overlies 501 Same as 100, 200, 300 & 600	
501	Structure	Drain. Concrete capping over ceramic drainpipe. Not fully exposed.	Underlies 500	

Context No.	Type	Description	Stratigraphic relationships	Date
Trench 6				
600	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark brown silt. 0.20m thick covering entire site.	Overlies 602 & 603 Same as 100, 200, 300 & 500	
601	Structure	Drain. Pennant Sandstone base and capping stones with undressed sandstone and brick walls, bonded with off white mortar with coarse black and white inclusions. 0.75-0.85m wide and 0.45m high with a channel width of 0.24m.	Underlies 602 & 603 Abuts 612 Same as 114	
602	Structure	Wall. Dark pink/off-white sandstone and red brick rubble wall, bonded with lime mortar, containing occ. small black and white inclusions. 0.40m wide.	Overlies 601 Underlies 600 Abutted by 603 Abuts 612	
603	Deposit.	Rubble layer. Heterogeneous mix of mortar crumb and lumps with sandstone and brick fragment throughout the matrix.	Overlies 604, 609, 602, 611 & 612 Underlies 600 Abuts 602	
604	Structure	Cobble surface. 0.10m thick, small, undressed, angular/sub-angular stones with dark brownish pink silty infill and no significant bedding layer.	Overlies 605, 607 & 621 Underlies 603	
605	Fill	Fill of 607. Heterogeneous mix of pinkish brown silty clay/clayey silt with angular chunks of pink and yellow sandstone and yellow sandstone crumb.	Overlies 606 Underlies 604 & 609 & 116 Fill of 607 Abuts/Cut by 609	
606	Fill	Fill of 607. Dark brown pink fine textured silt with clay/sand components and occ. charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions. Some pottery inclusions. Heavy root bioturbation.	Underlies 605 & 609 Fill of 607	
607	Cut	Linear ditch. 2.60m wide at top and 1.50m deep (est.). Not fully excavated.	Underlies 604 Cuts 608, 618 & 621 Filled by 605 & 606	
608	Deposit	Natural? Heterogeneously mixed degraded bedrock and clays of dark pink to brownish in colour.	Underlies 618 Cut by 607 Same as 109	
609	Structure	Wall. Lime mortared wall of varying sized undressed sandstone. 0.60-0.65m wide, 0.70m high remaining, truncated/reduced at unknown date.	Overlies 605 Underlies 603	
610	Structure	Wall. Sandstone rubble wall with brick cladding on its north wall, resting on wide base plinth.	Underlies 600 Abutted by 616 Fills 615	
611	Structure	Brickwork. Mid grey mortar bonded red bricks, 230x110x60mm, and possibly yellow sandstone blocks, 0.40m long and undressed.	Underlies 603 Abuts 612 (?)	
612	Structure	Wall. Yellow/occ. pink undressed, angular/irregular limestone block wall with off-white and dark brown/pinkish mortar.	Underlies 603 Abutted by 602, 601 & 613	
613	Structure	Wall. Rubble built; predominantly pink with yellow and grey sandstone and occ. CBM fragments, bonded with pale brownish pink mortar with white and black inclusions.	Underlies 603 Abuts 612 Contemporary with 602?	
614	Structure	Drain. Capped drain with Pennant Sandstone capping and base stones, 20-50mm thick, with walls of yellow sandstone rubble, less than 0.20m ² , with off white mortar bonding. Internal dimensions 0.26 x 0.25m.	Underlies 612, 613, & 601 Filled by 619	
615	Cut	Wall cut. Only visible in section, c.0.70m wide and c.0.70m deep. Truncated in antiquity. Wall cut for 610.	Underlies 603 Cuts 618 Filled by 610 & 616	
616	Fill	Backfill of 615. Pinkish brown-brownish pink silty clays and clayey silts with fragments of pink limestone and occ. charcoal flecks. Backfill after construction of 610.	Underlies 603 Abuts 610 Fills 615	

Context No.	Type	Description	Stratigraphic relationships	Date
617	Structure	Wall. Rubble wall; comprising pink and yellow sandstone, ≤0.20m long x 0.10m thick, undressed variable sized blocks, bonded with off white/pale pink mortar, with a few black flake and numerous medium to coarse white inclusions.	Underlies 603 Abuts 612 & wall of No. 123	
618	Deposit	Made ground. Pinkish brown-brownish pink silty clays and clayey silts with fragments of pink sandstone. Possible same as 108 seen during test trenching.	Underlies 621 Overlies 608 Cut by 607, 615, 614, & 601 Same as 120?	
619	Deposit	Fill of 614. Dark pinkish brown silty sand.	Fill of 614.	
620	Structure	Wall. Rubble wall of pale yellow and dark pink undressed sandstone blocks, largest 0.25 x 0.11m with greyish pink mortar with coarse white and small to medium coarse black inclusions.	Abutted by 107 Contemporary with 106?	
621	Deposit	Made ground. Dark brown-pink silty soil with small angular stones and charcoal flecks. Partially infilling 607?	Underlies 604 Overlies 618 Cut by 607 & 609	

APPENDIX 3: Pottery quantified by context

Context	No.	BPT	Fabric	Form	Date range
606	3	46	BATH A	-	1050 – 1350
	2	72	BR	-	1250 – 1500
	1	96	SSOM	Jug	1550 – 1900
616	1	46	BATH A	-	1050 – 1350
619	2	99	TGW	-	1700 – 1800
	1	108	NDFW	Plate with sgraffito decoration	1650 – 1700
	1	109	STRE	-	1630 – 1750
	1	112	NDGT	-	1600 – 1900
621	4	72	BR	-	1250 – 1500
	1	72	BR	Jug	1250 – 1350
	1	72	BR	Jug	1250 – 1500
	1	96	SSOM	Jug with sgraffito decoration	1650 – 1750
	1	282	SPAM	-	1250 – 1650
Total	20				



Fig.1 Site location plan, scale 1:1000

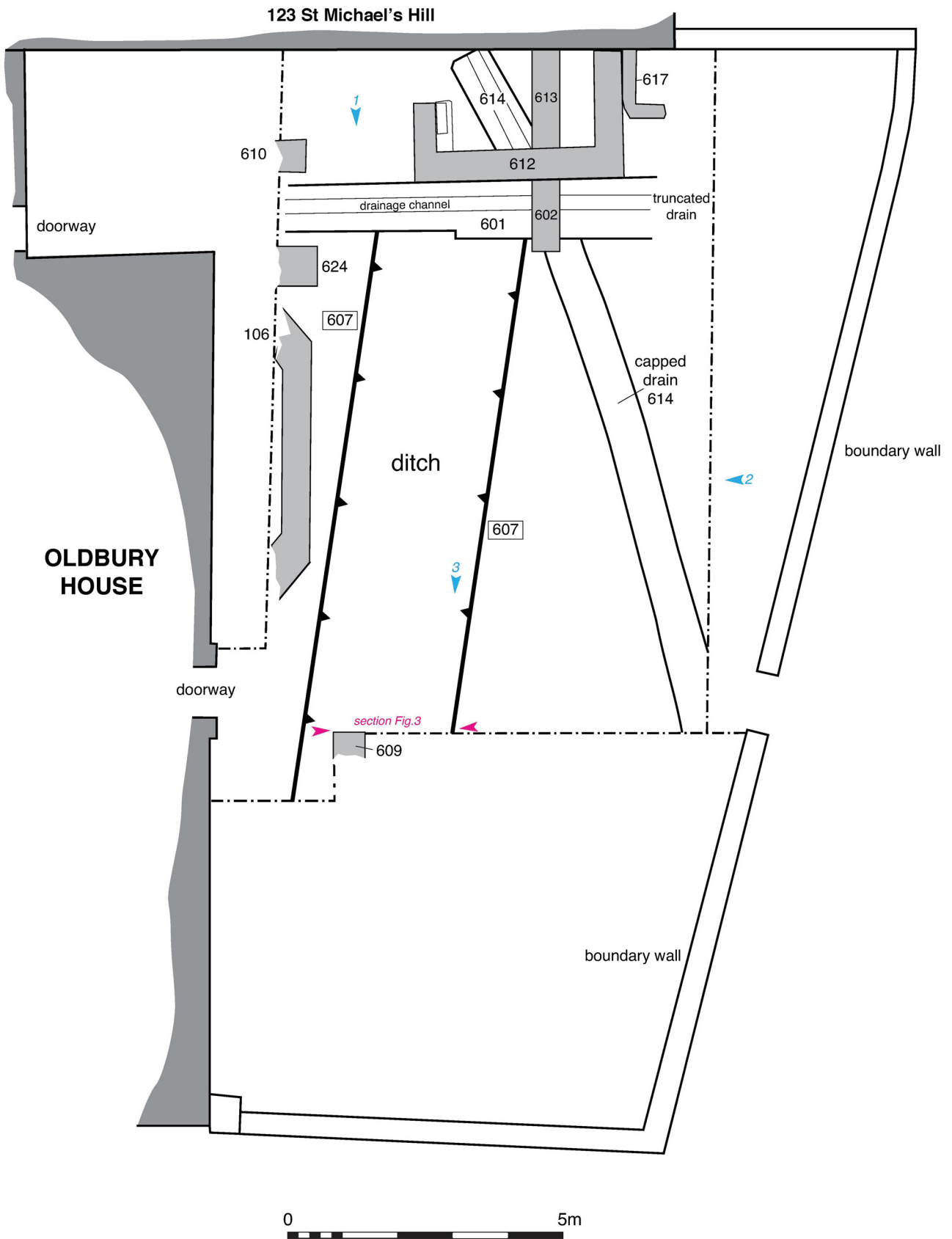


Fig.2 Site plan, scale 1:100, showing plate directions

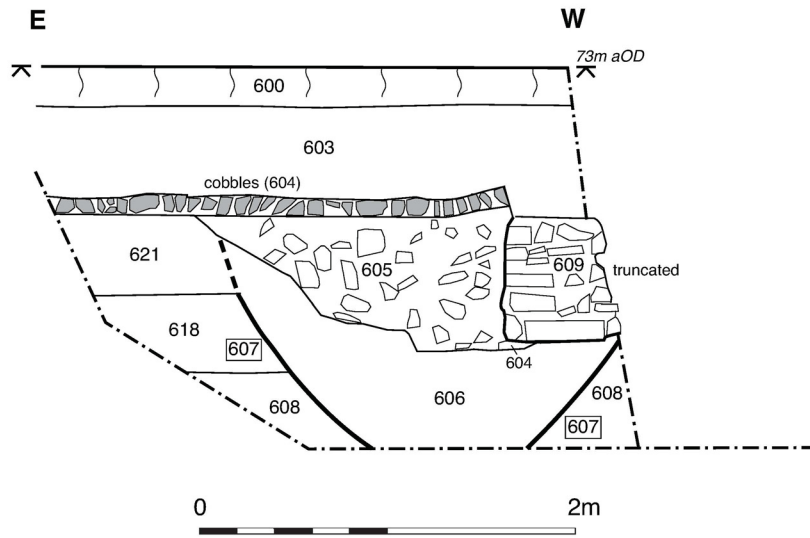


Fig.3 Section, scale 1:40



Plate 1
Bay window 106, drain
601/114 & brick-covered
water pipe 113,
looking south



Plate 2
Oldbury House, looking east,
showing features in west-facing
section



Plate 3
Ditch 607, wall 609 & cobbles
604, looking south