ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT TANNERS' HALL, GOUDA WAY, GLOUCESTER

Jo Wainwright

With contributions by Angus Crawford

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

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Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, Woodbury Building, University of Worcester, Henwick Grove, Worcester WR2 6AJ

Project P3598 Report 1822

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Archaeological evaluation at Tanners' Hall, Gouda Way, Gloucestershire

Jo Wainwright

With contributions by Angus Crawford

Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological evaluation at Tanners' Hall, Gouda Way, Gloucester (NGR SO 8336 1890) was undertaken on behalf of Turnkey Construction Limited, who intends to submit a planning application for residential redevelopment to Gloucester City Council.

This report on an archaeological evaluation describes and assesses the significance of a heritage asset with archaeological interest potentially affected by the application. The impact of the application on the significance is assessed.

This evaluation and the two earlier archaeological interventions have demonstrated that this is a well stratified significant archaeological site. It has identified structural remains dating from the 13^{th} century or before in the form of a surface which is either contemporary with Tanners' Hall or is of an earlier date. A wall, dating from the 15^{th} or 16^{th} century, is probably part of an extension to the hall. A series of clay lined tanning pits, dating from at least the 15^{th} and 16^{th} centuries has demonstrated that the tannery, which was known to exist within Tanners' Hall and to the north, also extended to the south-east. However, as only three small trenches were excavated on the site and the small samples of dateable finds makes secure dating problematic.

Part 2 Detailed report

Planning background

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Tanners' Hall (NGR SO 8336 1890), Gouda Way, Gloucester (Fig 1), on behalf of Turnkey Construction Limited who intends to submit a planning application for residential redevelopment to Gloucester City Council.

The proposed development site includes Tanners' Hall, a 13th century merchant's house and English Heritage designated Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 28814). Archaeological remains associated with the hall and earlier deposits recorded on the site (GCHER 28837) may be affected by the application.

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a).

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by the Heritage Service Manager of Gloucester City Council (GCC 2010) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2010).

2. Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To determine, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving buried archaeological remains present in the site, beyond those areas already investigated;
- Where applicable, to model the relationship of the above-ground structure (Tanners' Hall) to the surviving archaeological deposits below ground;
- To clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbances and intrusions (such as basements, particularly along Worcester Street, services, etc.) and assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits.

3. **Methods**

3.1 **Documentary search**

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of Gloucester City Historic Environment Record (GCHER). Two archaeological investigations were undertaken on the site in the 1980s and 1990s (Heighway 1983 and Vallender 2009). A desk-based assessment was completed for the study area in 2007 (Stratford 2007, GCHER 1727). A summary of the desk-based assessment is provided in Section 4 below.

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2010). Fieldwork was undertaken between 24 and 27 January 2011. The site reference number and Gloucester City Accession number is GLRCM 2011.1.

Three trenches, amounting to just over $12m^2$ in area were excavated over the site (Plates 1 and 2). The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. Trenches 1 and 2 were sited as close as was feasible to Tanners' Hall with the aim of locating any remains associated with the building. Trench 3 was located towards the south-eastern end of the site to determine if this area had been disturbed, primarily by 19^{th} century basements which were known to have existed further east.

The client's engineer specified that the pile cap excavations for the proposed building would not exceed 1m in depth below existing ground levels. It was agreed verbally on 16 January 2011 with the Heritage Service Manager of Gloucester City Council (Jonathan Smith) that unless significant archaeological remains were encountered above 1m then the trenches were to be excavated to no more than 1m below the present ground surface.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked mini excavator. This employed a toothless bucket and was under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995).

No environmental samples were collected as only limited hand excavation was carried out and these deposits were considered as not suitable for sampling. On completion of the evaluation the trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

3.2.2 Structural analysis

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

3.3 Artefact methodology, by Angus Crawford

3.3.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995, appendix 4).

Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A terminus post quem date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992 and <u>www.worcestershireceramics.org</u>; and Hurst 1994 respectively).

3.4 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

4. Topographical and archaeological context

The following is a summary from Stratford (2007, 11)

The assessment has demonstrated that, despite significant truncation in the post-medieval period, there is a high potential for the survival of archaeological features and deposits from the Romano-British and medieval periods within the study area. Deposits of Romano-British date, relating to activity associated with the town, are known to survive at heights of up to 11.39m AOD within the site. Additionally, medieval activity associated with the tanning industry is preserved above ground in the form of the standing remains of Tanners' Hall and elsewhere, below ground, to a height of 12.38m AOD.

Modern development fronting Hare Lane to the south-west and Worcester Street to the southeast, as well as the construction of garages to the east of the hall may have significantly impacted upon the survival of archaeological deposits in these locations. However, evidence from the immediate vicinity of the present site indicates that archaeological deposits may survive at greater depths.

5. **Results**

5.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figs 3-8. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 **Phase 1: Natural deposits**

The geology of the site consists of Third Main Terrace gravel deposits of the River Severn (Stratford 2007). These were not reached in the evaluation trenches.

5.1.2 Phase 2: 12th-14th century deposits

Trench 1(Plate 3)

Part of a surface, consisting of stone flags 121 and mortar patches114 was exposed in the base of a later pit at 11.50m AOD. A stakehole 117 was cut through this surface. However, this may be a later feature which was not recognised whilst machining out. A series of unexcavated deposits 122/118, 115, 116 and 119 which were broadly similar in composition were observed above the floor.

5.1.3 **Phase 3: 15th-16th century deposits**

Trench 1(Plate 3)

A reddish sandstone footing and wall 112 was within a construction cut 120. This was cut through layers 122/118, 115 and 116. Pottery from the mortar and rubble infill 110 of the feature dates from the 15th-16th century. The wall ran roughly east to west and was a minimum 0.80m wide in the west. In the east it widened out to at least 1.55m. This feature was not excavated and was disturbed or robbed out from above. A small post-hole 108 and 109 or area of disturbance was recorded in the top of the wall close to the west facing section. A pit or robbing trench 113 was cut through the western part of the footing and the earlier layers. This was backfilled with a mixed clayey deposit.

Trench 2(Plate 4)

Although many of the features and deposits did not contain dateable artefacts it can be surmised from the stratigraphy of the trench that the following date from at least the 15th or 16th centuries if not earlier. An unexcavated deposit l 216 was seen in the base of the trench at 12.04m AOD and was cut through by a circular tanning pit 215. Only part of this feature was exposed in the trench but an estimate of the diameter at 2.40m can be surmised. This pit was lined with bluish clay 214 and was backfilled with a mid brown grey silty clay 213.

A probable square pit 220 cut into 216 to the east of the tanning pit. This was backfilled with two fills, 218 and 219. Cutting pit 215 in the south was tanning pit 209 which was also lined with clay 208, although this was greyish with beige mottling. This feature would have had a diameter of c 1.40m. The backfill was very a very mixed deposit 207.

Trench 3(Plate5)

As with Trench 2 the absence of dateable artefacts has led to the stratigraphy of the trench being used to assist in the dating of features and deposits. The top of a layer or possibly a fill 320 was seen at 12.19m AOD. Cutting this and only partially exposed in the trench was a sub-circular probable tanning pit 316 which was lined with greyish green and beige clay 315. Another clay, 317, lined possible tanning pit 321 also cut 320 in the east. This was backfilled with 318. A 0.28m thick dark grey brown layer or layers of material 319 was above this pit.

A layer 314, which was only seen in the east facing section, contained a lens of pink clay. This was about 0.15m thick and probably represents a build up or dump of material. A large probable square or rectangular pit 311 at least 0.55m deep cut 314 in the north. This was partially machined out to depth of 11.94m AOD in the north and the east to locate the base. However, due to safety issues the base was not reached.

Cutting 314 in the south was a small pit 313 which was backfilled with a mixed deposit containing frequent mortar fragments 312.

5.1.4 **Phase 4: 17th-19th century deposits**

Trench 1(Plate 3)

A soil horizon 107 overlay pit fill 111 and wall and footing 112. This was about 0.25m thick. A brick footing and above it a brick wall 106 was cut into this layer. A brick repair 105 or blocked doorway to wall 106 also cut into 107. This wall ran roughly east to west and formed the south facing section of the trench.

Trench 2(Plate 4)

A thin spread of mainly charcoal and coal 212 overlay tanning pit 209. This was only recorded in the east facing section and thinned out to the east. Above this was a mortar spread 211 which was also only seen in the western part of the trench. A brick wall footing 205 and 206 cut through this layer and also tanning pit 209. The wall was aligned east to west and was backfilled with a predominantly ash matrix 217.

Footing 205 was cut in the east of the trench by a sub-circular pit 203 which was backfilled with a mixed deposit 202. Partially overlying 205 and only recorded in the east facing section was a thin layer consisting mainly of charcoal and coal 210. Above this was layer 204, rich in mortar which was a maximum 0.18m thick. Again this layer was only seen in the western part of the trench.

Trench 3(Plate 5)

A probable pit 308 which was only seen in plan at the base of the trench cut into pit 311. The fill contained frequent inclusions which included tile and slate 307. A probable garden soil 309 overlay pit 311. This was cut by two pits. In the south a sub-circular cut 306 also truncated part of the clay lined pits 321 and 316. Pit 306 was filled with a mixed matrix 305. In the north-west part of a probable sub-circular pit 304 was exposed. The fill was again very mixed 303.

5.1.5 **Phase 5: 20th century deposits**

Trench 1

A concrete floor 104 was inserted against walls 105 and 106 probably in the 20th century. A brick wall 103 was built on top of this in the southern part of the trench, presumably to form an internal division to the building. At a later date the top part of the building was demolished and backfilled with this material, 101 and 102. A garden soil 100 overlay this rubble.

Trench 2

Above pit 203 and layer 204 was a 0.45m thick deposit which probably represents a garden soil 201. Above this were a succession of surfaces of scalpings and gravel 200.

Trench 3

Above these pits and seen all over the trench was a garden soil 302 about 0.20m thick. This was cut by a service trench which had gone out of use 301. Above this were several layers of scalpings and gravels that formed modern surfaces 300.

5.2 Artefact analysis, by Angus Crawford

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 2. The pottery assemblage retrieved from the excavated area consisted of 71 sherds of pottery weighing 18 kg. In addition fragments of tile, brick, clay tobacco pipe and vessel glass were recovered. The group came from twenty one stratified contexts and could be dated from the Roman period onwards (see Table 1). Level of preservation was generally good with the majority of sherds displaying only moderate levels of abrasion.

period	material class	count	weight(g)
Roman	ceramic	17	679
Roman to medieval	stone	1	266
Roman to post-medieval	ceramic	1	50
Saxon to medieval	ceramic	7	78
?medieval to post-medieval	ceramic	1	10
medieval	ceramic	8	414
medieval to post medieval	ceramic	1	74
medieval to post-medieval	ceramic	11	525
post-medieval	ceramic	49	5571
post-medieval	glass	14	650
post-medieval to modern	ceramic	3	96
post-medieval to modern	glass	1	178
post-medieval to modern	stone	1	12
modern	glass	2	154
undated	bone	18	188
undated	ceramic	11	96
undated	metal	3	116
undated	organic	39	672
undated	stone	4	2562

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

5.2.1 **The pottery**

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Table 2). Several diagnostic form sherds were present and could be dated accordingly, the remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span. Where mentioned, all specific forms are referenced to the type series within the report for Deansway, Worcester (Bryant 2004) or Webster (1976).

period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight(g)
Roman	12	Severn Valley ware	6	116
Roman	12.1	Reduced Severn Valley ware	1	4
Roman	22	Black-burnished ware, type 1 (BB1)	2	12
Roman	42	Amphorae	2	124
Roman	43	Samian ware	2	8
Roman	98	Miscellaneous Roman wares	2	5
Saxon to medieval	57	Cotswolds unglazed ware	6	66
Saxon to medieval	57.1	Cotswolds unglazed ware	1	12
medieval	56	Malvernian unglazed ware	3	96
medieval	64.1	Worcester-type sandy glazed ware	1	64
medieval	69	Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware	1	128
medieval	99	Miscellaneous medieval wares	1	10
medieval to post-medieval	69	Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware	8	516
post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red wares	3	154
post-medieval	82	Tin-glazed ware	3	44

period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight(g)
post-medieval	84	Creamware	5	44
post-medieval	85	Stone china	15	320
post-medieval	91	Post-medieval buff wares	3	8
post-medieval	100	Miscellaneous post-medieval wares	3	28
post-medieval to modern	85	Stone china	2	24
post-medieval to modern	101	Miscellaneous modern wares	1	72

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by period and fabric-type

Roman

Fifteen residual sherds of Roman pottery were present within the assemblage and accounted for 21% by sherd count. Of these, six sherds were of oxidised Severn Valley ware which could be generally dated from the mid 1^{st} to 4^{th} century. However a partial rim sherd was of similar type to a Webster type 36 bowl and could therefore be dated to a production period of 2^{nd} to 3^{rd} century (context 107).

Two sherds each of Black burnished ware, Amphorae, Samian and miscellaneous Roman wares were also identified. While the Amphorae and miscellaneous Roman ware could only be generally dated to the Roman period, the black burnished ware and Samian could be dated from early 2^{nd} to 4^{th} century and mid 1^{st} to mid 3^{rd} century respectively.

A single undiagnostic sherd of reduced Seven Valley ware was also identified within the assemblage and could only dated to a broad production span of mid 1st to 4th century.

Saxon to early medieval

Seven sherds of pottery were dated to this period. All were identified as Cotswold unglazed ware (Worcester fabric 57, GlousTF41B) with one of these a possible variant (fabric 57.1, TF41A). Both fabrics are part of a tradition of limestone tempered wares produced in the Cotswold region (Bryant 2004). While fabric 57 is found as far north as Droitwich, it appears to be concentrated in the lower Severn valley. Fabric 57.1 appears to have a limited distribution and has only been identified in Gloucester, Wincombe, Frampton-on Severn, Hereford and Worcester. As no diagnostic rim sherds were present the sherds of fabric 57 could only be dated to a production span of 10^{th} to 12^{th} century with that of fabric 57.1 dated from the late 9^{th} to early 12^{th} century.

Medieval

The medieval pottery assemblage was dominated by products of the Malvernian industry with nine sherds of Oxidised glazed Malvernian ware (fabric 69) and three of unglazed Malvernian ware (fabric 56), which is not untypical for Gloucester sites (see Timby 2009). In the late 13th to 14th centuries the distribution of oxidised glazed Malvernian wares was wide but on a small scale (Bryant 2004). And, by the 16th and early 17th centuries distribution extended south of Bristol and as far as the south Wales coast (Vince 1997).

Identifiable Oxidised glazed Malvernian ware forms included two rim 'D' shaped rim sherds from jars/bunghole jars (Deansway type 69.8; context 201) of 15th to 16th century date. A further large sherd was identified as a partial side and handle of a dripping dish of early 15th to 16th century date (Deansway type 69.5). A jug handle with attached rim was tentatively identified as a possible later fabric 69 production. However, as a form parallel has not been identified, it may not be a Malvernian product. All three sherds of the unglazed Malvernian ware could only be identified as cooking pot sherds and therefore broadly dated from the late 12th to 14th century.

Two sherds of Hampshire/Surrey border southern white ware (Tudor Green) were from a fine vessel (possibly a cup) and could be dated from the 15^{th} to 16^{th} century. (fabric 70.1, context 110)

One sherd of Worcester-type sandy glazed ware was present within the assemblage which was identified as a partial jug base sherd dating from the 13th to 14th century (Deansway type

64.1.4; context 107). A further sherd of medieval pottery could only be classed as miscellaneous with a general period production date (fabric 99; context 111).

Post-medieval to modern

Pottery dating from the post-medieval to modern periods accounted for 49% of the overall sherd count. The group was dominated by wares produced during the 18th and 19th centuries. However, three sherds of post-medieval red sandy ware (fabric 78; context 201) and three sherds of tin glazed ware (fabric 82, context 201 were produced from the 17th to 18th century.

Three sherds of post-medieval buff ware (fabric 91, contexts 201 and 202) were generally dated to the 18^{th} century and the thinness of the sherds would suggest that they originated from drinking cups.

The dominant fabric type was of stone china (fabric 85) with 15 sherds dating from the 19th century and a further two of late 19th to early 20th century date. All sherds were from forms typical of those dates and included plates, cups, bowls, and a possible tea or coffee pot.

Five sherds of pearlware (fabric 84, context 101) were from a single tea bowl with painted polychrome decoration and dated to the first quarter of the 19th century.

Three flower pot sherds were identified and classified as miscellaneous post-medieval pottery with an approximated date of 19th century (fabric 100; context 305). A large upper body portion of a blue and brown glazed teapot was also generally classified as a miscellaneous modern ware (fabric 101; context 302) but may be of later 19th century date.

5.2.2 **Other artefacts**

Brick and tile

Residual roman roof tile was identified within the assemblage and consisted of a fragment of a tegulae and Imbrex (context 107).

Further notable material included both flat medieval roof tile (context 111) and a small fragment of green glazed ridge cap (context 309).

Two complete brick samples were examined and were morphologically consistent with a production range of c 1600 to 1784. However the sample from context 309 may have an upper date range of early 18th century based on the attached mortar (Shona Robson-Glyde pers. comm.)

Stone

The stone assemblage consisted of six items of general building material. Roofing material included a single, fragmentary, limestone tile with a round peg or nail hole and probably of Roman or medieval date (context 111). Three small fragments of slate and one of sandstone may have also been roofing material but no morphological identifiers remained (contexts 107, 204, 307 and 310).

A further stone object included a small, roughly rectangular, sandstone ashlar weighing approximately 2.5 kg.

Clay tobacco pipes

Nine clay pipe bowls and 15 stem fragments were present within the assemblage. While the stems could only be generally dated from the 17^{th} to 19^{th} century the pipe bowls were of types typically produced from *c* 1660 to 1680 (Oswald 1975), (contexts 201 and 204).

Vessel glass

The assemblage consisted of 17 shards of glass that could be dated from the 18th century onwards. Thirteen shards were identified as originating from a single 'onion' type bottle dated to the 18th century (context 105) with a further base shard from a similar vessel and similar date (context 201). Later material included a green bottle base with raised registration numbers (context 201) and a intact small condiments jar (context 302) were, both of later 19th to early 20th century date. The remaining shard was of clear bottle glass more typical of a general 20th century date of production.

5.2.3 **Overview of artefactual material**

context	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	context <i>terminus</i> <i>post quem</i> date
101	ceramic	pottery	1	34	1800	1850	19 th century
101	ceramic	pottery	3	24	1825	1899	
101	ceramic	pottery	11	262	1825	1899	
101	ceramic	pottery	5	44	1800	1820	
105	ceramic	brick	1	2364	1600	1784	18 th century
105	glass	vessel	13	592	1700	1799	
105	organic		1	4	0	0	
106	ceramic	brick	1	2528	1600	1784	17 th (?e)18 th century
107	bone		11	156	0	0	13 th to 14 th century
107	ceramic	pottery	2	8	43	250	
	organic	various	5	32	0	0	
	ceramic	tegula	1	214	43	399	
	ceramic	imbrex	1	196	43	399	
	stone	?tile	1	50	0	0	
	ceramic	tile	1	10	1200	1799	
	ceramic	pottery	1	4	1200	399	
	ceramic	pottery	2	36	43	399	
	ceramic	pottery	1	16	100	299	
	ceramic	pottery	1	4	43	399	
	ceramic	pottery	1	18	1175	1399	
	ceramic	pottery	2	74	1275	1625	
	ceramic		1	64	1275	1399	
	ceramic	pottery	2	124	43	399	
	ceramic	pottery	2	124	1400	1599	15 th to 16 th century
	1	pottery		102	1400		medieval
	ceramic	roof tile	1			undated	medieval
	stone	roof tile	1	266		undated	
	metal	unidentified	1	2	0	0	
	organic	snail	3	4	0	0	
	bone .		2	6	0		
	ceramic	pottery	1	36	900		
	ceramic	pottery	1	10	1200	1550	
	stone		1	2476			?medieval
	organic		1	4	0	0	Late 12 th to 14 th
	ceramic	pottery	1	20	43	399	century
	ceramic	pottery	1	4	43	399	
	ceramic	pottery	1	8	120	399	
	ceramic	pottery	2	78	1175	1399	
	ceramic	pottery	1	12	875	1225	
	bone		1	2	0	0	
	bone		1	24	0	0	10 th to 12 th century
119	ceramic	pottery	1	6	900	1199	
119	ceramic	brick/tile	1	74	1200	1799	
121	organic		1	8	0	0	10 th to 12 th century
121	ceramic	pottery	1	8	900	1199	

context	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	context <i>terminus</i> <i>post quem</i> date
121	ceramic	pottery	1	8	43	399	
201	organic		11	290	0	0	Late 19 th to 20 th
201	ceramic	clay pipe stems	5	16	1600	1899	century
201	organic		1	16	0	0	
201	ceramic	pottery	3	154	1600	1799	
201	ceramic	pottery	3	44	1600	1799	
201	ceramic	pottery	1	20	1875	1925	
201	ceramic	clay pipe bowls	4	36	1660	1680	
201	glass	vessel	1	178	1884	1909	
201	ceramic	pottery	1	4	1700	1799	
201	ceramic	pottery	1	1	43	399	
201	glass	vessel	1	58	1700	1799	
201	metal	unidentified	1	26	0	0	
201	ceramic	pottery	3	300	1400	1599	
202	ceramic	pottery	2	4	1700	1799	18 th century
202	ceramic	pottery	1	6	900	1199	
204	organic		1	132	0	0	Late 17 th century
204	ceramic	clay pipe stems	5	26	1600	1899	
204	ceramic	clay pipe bowls	5	58	1660	1680	
204	stone	?roofing	1	26			
204	ceramic	pottery	1	128	1275	1499	
207	organic		1	50	0	0	not applicable
	organic		4	74	0	0	Early 15 th to 16 th
	ceramic	pottery	1	36	43	399	century
213	ceramic	pottery	2	130	1410	1599	
213	ceramic	clay pipe stem	1	1	1600	1899	
213	ceramic	?brick	1	8			
216	organic		10	58	0	0	not applicable
	glass	vessel	1	144	1900	1925	20 th century
	ceramic	clay pipe stem	1	2	1600	1899	
302	ceramic	pottery	1	4	1830	1925	
302	glass	vessel	1	10	1900	1999	
302	ceramic	pottery	1	72	1875	1999	
	ceramic	clay pipe stem	1	4	1600	1899	19 th century
	ceramic	pottery	3	28	1800	1899	
	stone	?tile	1	12	1800	1999	? 19 th century
	ceramic		1	12	0	0	18 th to 19 th century
	ceramic	clay pipe stem	1	4	1600	1899	
	ceramic	clay pipe stem	1	2	1600	1899	
	ceramic	brick	1	16	1700	1899	
	ceramic	ridge tile	1	10	1300	1550	
	bone		3		0	0	16^{th} to early 17^{th}

context	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	context <i>terminus</i> <i>post quem</i> date
310	stone		1	10	0	0	century
310	ceramic	tile	1	50	43	1799	
310	metal	unidentified	1	88	0	0	
310	ceramic	pot	1	8	900	1199	ľ
310	ceramic	pot	1	2	900	1199	
310	ceramic	pot	1	12	1500	1625	

Table 3 Summary of context dating based on artefacts

5.2.4 Discussion

Roman

As no Roman features were excavated during the evaluation, and as the Roman assemblage consisted of residual material in later contexts, little archaeological significance could be placed on the assemblage dating to this period. However, it is indicative of Roman archaeological deposits, disturbed by medieval occupation.

Saxon/early medieval

While the presence of pottery dating to this period suggests late Saxon to early medieval activity on site the limited excavation and small sample makes secure tpq dating problematic. All of this material may be residual. However there is a strong possibility that, based on stratigraphic comparison with Heighway's excavations, that context 121 (stony surface) may be of 10th to 12th century date (Heighway 1983, 91).

Medieval

The medieval finds assemblage was consistent with the assemblages from previous work (Heighway 1983, 99-107 and Vallender 2007, 149-169) and was indicative of both on-site use and discard during this period.

Post-medieval to modern

Little archaeological significance could be attached to the finds assemblage dating to this period. All artefacts examined were consistent with the discard of a range of consumer products available during the later post-medieval and modern periods.

6. **Synthesis**

6.1 Roman

Residual Roman pottery was recovered from all of the trenches. This is no surprise as Roman deposits and features have been excavated across the site at greater depths in earlier archaeological investigations. Therefore it is highly likely that further significant deposits and features of a probable Roman date exist below the limits of this intervention.

6.2 **Post-Roman to 11th century**

Residual 10th-12th century pottery was recovered from several features and deposits. It has been suggested that a layer of soil had been imported in the post-Roman period and dumped so the area could be cultivated (Heighway 1983, 107).

6.3 **12th-14th century occupation**

Although only a small area of a stone flagged and possible mortar surface was exposed in Trench 1 which was situated to the west of Tanners' Hall, it can be argued that it could be part of a yard surface abutting the west facing wall of the hall. It is thought that the building was built in the 13^{th} century, originally for a merchant. The pottery excavated from on top of the surface has a date range from the $10^{\text{th}}-12^{\text{th}}$ century but there is no reason why the pottery

should not have still been in use in the 13th century or even residual when it was deposited on top of the surface. The internal construction cut for the footings of Tanners' Hall was shown to be about 11.40m AOD (Heighway 1983, 91). No internal floors for the building have survived but these would have been above the level of the construction cut. The flagged floor was uncovered at 11.50m AOD so could be contemporary with Tanners' Hall. However, it cannot be discounted that as the pottery is of an earlier date than the 13th century the surface may predate the hall.

The layers overlying the surface could be the build up of material or lenses of occupation debris on top of the surface to build the ground level up in the 14th century. Presumably the surface had gone out of use, though Tanners' Hall must have been occupied during this period.

6.4 **15th-16th century occupation**

In Trench 1 a sandstone wall was constructed. This wall was located about 4m to the west of Tanners' Hall and at a right angle to the west facing wall of the Hall. It is possible that this wall formed part of an extension to Tanners' Hall in the 15^{th} or 16^{th} century. At a later date a pit or robbing cut truncated the western part of the wall.

In Trenches 2 and 3 a layer in the base of each trench probably dates from the earlier medieval period although no dating evidence was recovered from these deposits. In Trench 2 a roughly square pit and a tanning pit, which was lined with clay, were excavated into this deposit. It is unlikely that they were contemporary as they are situated too close together to be practically used at the same time. It can be suggested that the tanning pit is later as this was backfilled sometime in the 15th or 16th century. This pit had a probable diameter of 2.40m. The tanning pits that were excavated inside Tanners' Hall had a smaller diameter of about 1.40m and were backfilled in the early 18th century (Heighway 1983, 88). This tanning pit was therefore in use at an earlier date than the ones excavated inside the hall. In the excavations to the north along Gouda Way over 40 various sized tanning pits were recorded which were not of a single date (Vallender 2007; 141). As with examples inside Tanners' Hall there were many different types of pits with linings of clay or stone and many were just barrels sunk into the ground (Heighway 1983, 83; Vallender 2007, 140). The only tanning pit that Vallender fully excavated was lined with wood and at a later date with clay. The pit was backfilled in the late 15th-early 16th century (Vallender 2007, 141).

A second clay lined tanning pit, was recorded in Trench 2. This had partially cut through the first pit. No dating evidence was recovered from the backfill but it must have been in use sometime after the backfilling of the first pit in the 15th to 16th century. This tanning pit may be contemporary with the pits excavated inside Tanners' Hall.

In Trench 3 two truncated clay lined pits were exposed cutting the earlier deposit. On balance, it is highly likely these are the remains of tanning pits.

This evaluation has demonstrated that the tannery, which was known to exist within Tanners' Hall and to the north, also extended to the south-east. An 18th century date for the backfilling of the tanning pits inside Tanners' Hall has been suggested but it would appear that these external pits were used and backfilled at an earlier date. Many phases of pitting were observed in excavations to the north so it could be that the tanning pits recorded in this evaluation are from an earlier period of the tannery. Indeed, documentary evidence suggests that the area was occupied by tanners from at least the early 13th century (Stratford 2007; 5).

In Trench 3 a layer or series of layers probably built up over the area or were dumped. These were cut through by pits, one of which produced finds dating from the 16^{th} or early 17^{th} century.

6.5 **17th -19th century occupation**

In Trench 1 a soil deposit was seen over the entire trench. This probably represents imported material that was brought in after the area was levelled and the area was then used as allotments. This layer was identified to the north in the Gouda Way excavations (Vallender 2007, 142). In probably the 18th century the row of tenements was built which extended west

from Tanners' Hall. The east to west aligned wall, seen in the south facing section of the trench represents part of the external north facing wall of this block.

In Trench 2 a wall was constructed which could have been part of a shed adjacent to the eastern side of the tannery which was mentioned in a lease of 1669 (Stratford 2007, 6). This wall was demolished probably in the 19^{th} century.

In Trench 3 a soil deposit was seen all over the trench which was more than likely brought in so that the area could be used as allotments. Several pits were cut into this deposit. Presumably these were excavated in the backplots of properties fronting onto Worcester Street which were built in the 19^{th} century.

6.6 **20th century occupation**

In Trench 1 a division within a tenement took place before these tenements were demolished and a soil formed over the area. In Trenches 2 and 3 a garden soil was excavated. Overlying this were successive surfaces associated with a garage and car lot.

6.7 **Research frameworks**

The results, as identified above, feed into a number of research areas identified within the South West Archaeological Research Framework (Webster 2008, 290-1), most notably:

- To develop an understanding and identification of early medieval technologies (Research Aim 44);
- To broaden our understanding of post-medieval and modern technology and production (Research Aim 45); and
- To assess the archaeological potential for studying medieval economy, trade, technology and production (Research Aim 47).

7. Significance

7.1 Significance of a heritage asset with archaeological interest

The aim of an archaeological evaluation is to provide the client and the planning authority (and its advisors) with sufficient information to assess the significance of a heritage asset with archaeological interest, in line with *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (DCLG 2010: Policy HE6). More detailed guidance on assessing the significance of site with archaeological interest is set out in the associated *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*, which advises that an on-site evaluation should establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological interest in order to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the impact of the proposal (DCLG/DCMS/EH 2010: Section 5, Development Management).

7.2 Assessment of significance

The on-site evaluation has provided new evidence on a site with archaeological interest. As a result, an assessment of the significance of this site can be made in terms of the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological interest.

Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

The monument is known as a 13th century merchant's hall which had been conveyed to the Company of Tanners by at least 1540 (Heighway 1983; Vallender 2009).

This evaluation has identified structural remains dating from the 13^{th} century and possibly earlier in the form of a surface which is either contemporary with Tanners' Hall or of an earlier date. A wall, dating from the 15^{th} or 16^{th} century, is probably part of an extension to the hall. A series of clay lined tanning pits, dating from at least the 15^{th} and 16^{th} centuries has demonstrated that the tannery, which was known to exist within Tanners' Hall and to the north, also extended to the south-east. However, only three small trenches were excavated on the site and the small samples of dateable finds makes secure *tpq* dating problematic. Roman deposits may remain buried beneath the observed archaeology, below the depth of present excavation.

Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

The evaluation has built on the previously published knowledge of the site. The hitherto unknown structural remains, associated with Tanners' Hall, have added to our understanding of the building.

Although tanning pits are relatively common in the archaeological record, part or whole tanneries have rarely been fully excavated (Webster 2008, 235). The evaluation has demonstrated that well stratified features and deposits associated with medieval and post-medieval tanning activities survive in those areas of the site not previously excavated. This area of the site may therefore be argued to contain remains as significant as those areas previously excavated.

Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

The evaluation has built on the existing knowledge of the extent of the known archaeological site. The archaeological deposits are densely spread over the application site. However, in the far east of the site cellars from buildings fronting onto Worcester Street would have removed any archaeological remains, if they existed. Although there is some post-medieval disturbance from pitting and cultivation in Trenches 2 and 3, the levels that the tanning pits survive at is at least 12.04m AOD in Trench 2 and 12.19m AOD in Trench 3. In Trench 1 the height of the wall is at 11.63m AOD. In Trenches 2 and 3 the ground level is higher than in Trench 1 and the significant deposits are about 0.80m below the ground surface. In Trench 1 there is 0.95m of overburden before significant archaeology is reached.

7.3 **Assessment of the impact of the proposal**

The on-site evaluation, and the information provided by the Client, allows an assessment to be made of the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological interest in the site.

Significant archaeology within these excavations is shown to be at a maximum height of 12.19m AOD, about 0.80m below existing ground levels. It is believed that the deepest excavations for the groundworks of the proposed development will be about 1m below existing levels. Therefore the proposed development will have a negative impact on the higher levels of significant deposits. However, in earlier archaeological investigations the medieval deposits were encountered at 12.38m AOD, 11.71m AOD and 12.06m AOD. Inside the furniture shop medieval deposits were only 0.28m below the ground surface of 12.66m AOD (Stratford 2007, 8-9).

8. **Publication summary**

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An archaeological evaluation at Tanners' Hall, Gouda Way, Gloucester (NGR SO 8336 1890) was undertaken on behalf of Turnkey Construction Limited, intends to submit a planning application for residential redevelopment to Gloucester City Council.

This report on an archaeological evaluation describes and assesses the significance of a heritage asset with archaeological interest potentially affected by the application. The impact of the application on the significance is assessed.

This evaluation and the two earlier archaeological interventions have demonstrated that this is a well stratified significant archaeological site. It has identified structural remains dating from the 13^{th} century or before in the form of a surface which is either contemporary with Tanners' Hall or is of an earlier date. A wall, dating from the 15^{th} or 16^{th} century, is probably part of an extension to the hall. A series of clay lined tanning pits, dating from at least the 15^{th} centuries has demonstrated that the tannery, which was known to exist within

Tanners' Hall and to the north, also extended to the south-east. However, only three small trenches were excavated on the site and the small samples of dateable finds makes secure dating problematic.

9. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, the client David Martin (Turnkey Construction Limited), Ruth Nicholls and Nick Henderson (Astam GBC Consultancy), Jonathan Smith (Heritage Service Manager, Gloucester City Council) and Phil Greatorex (HER Officer, Gloucester City Council).

10. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Jo Wainwright. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan. Fieldwork was undertaken by Jo Wainwright and Chris Gibbs, finds analysis by Angus Crawford and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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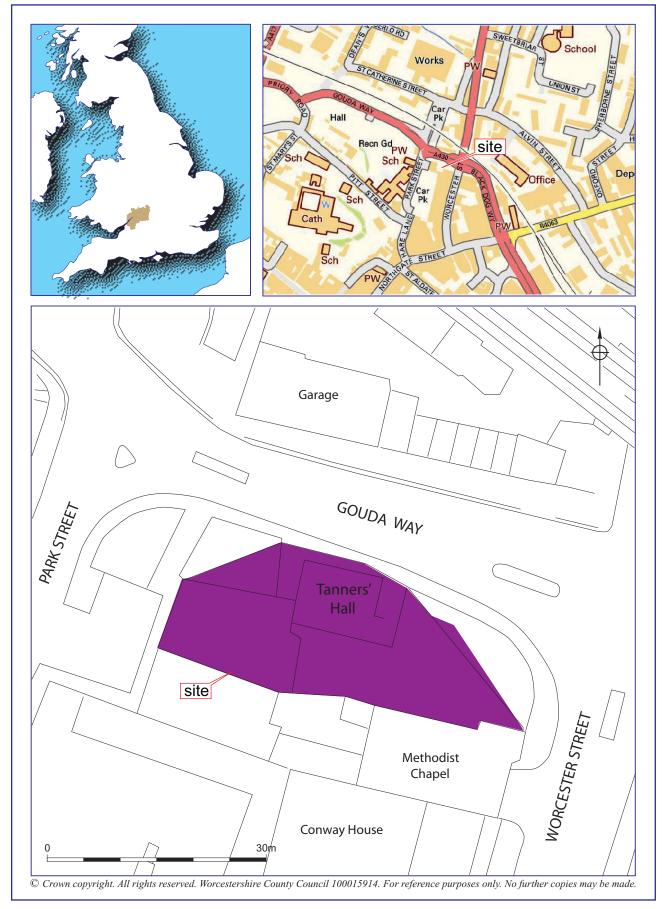
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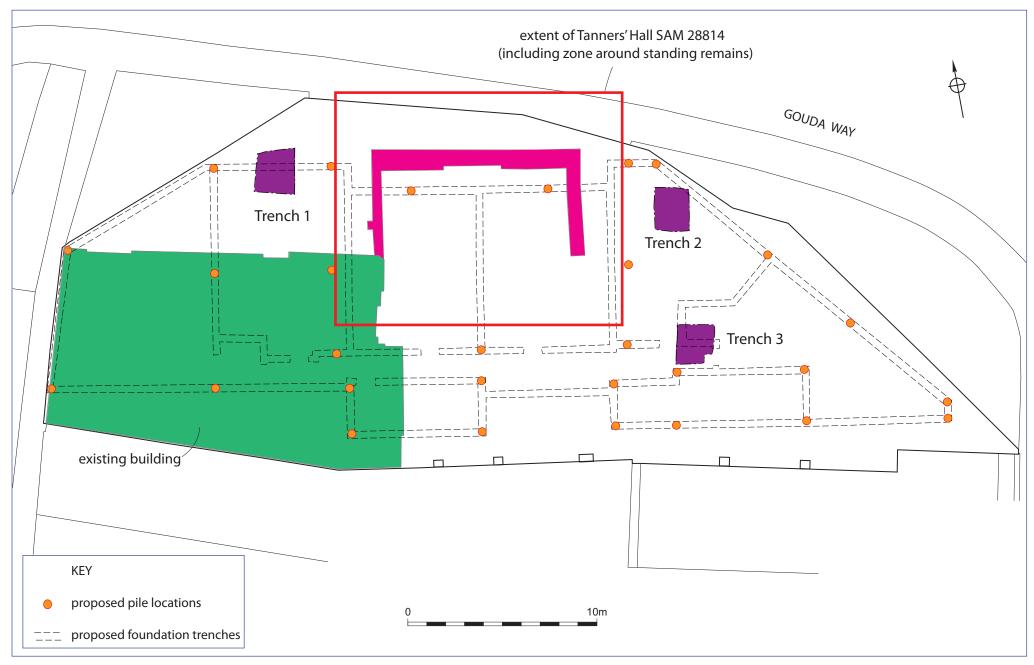
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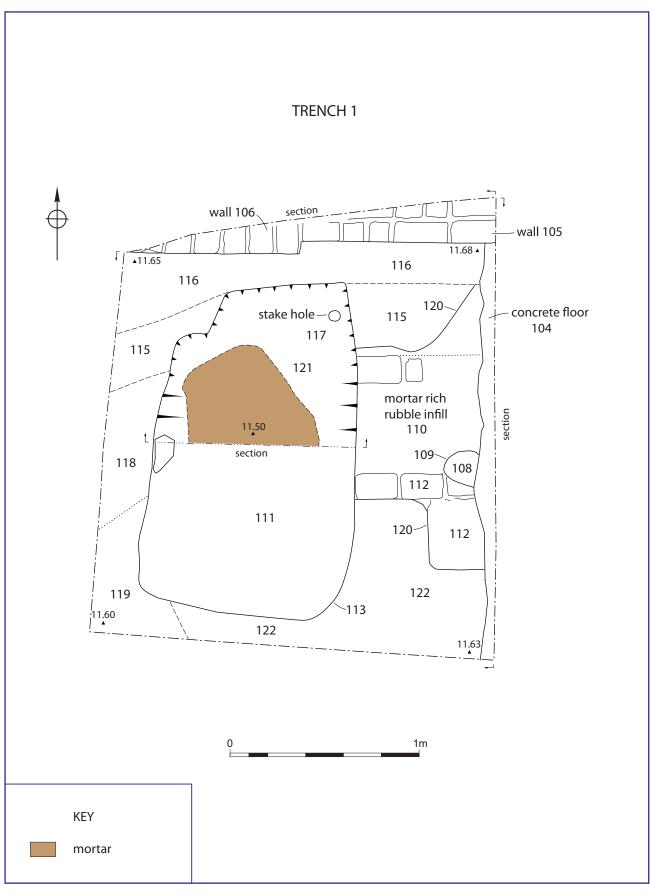
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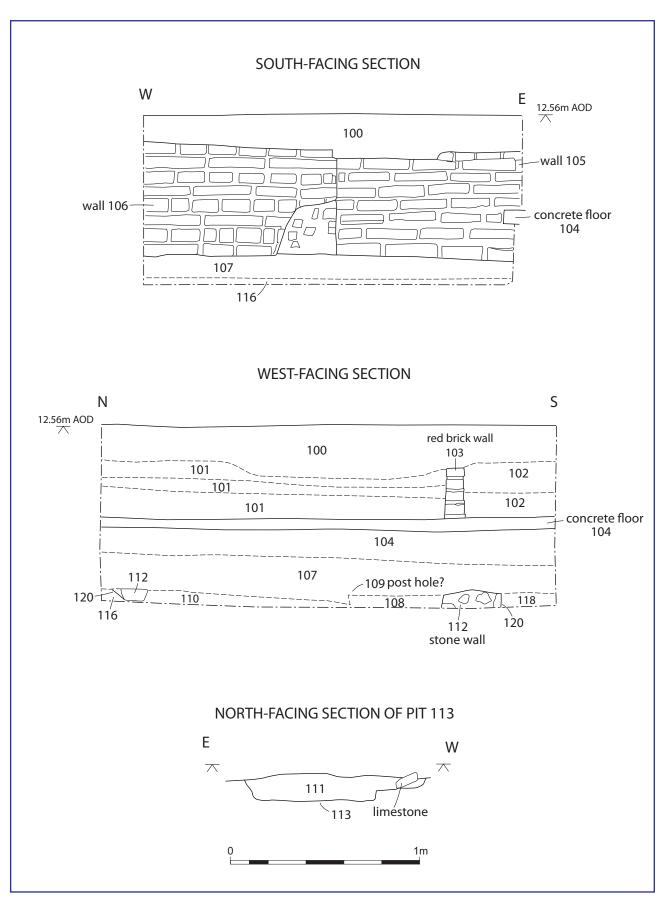
Figures





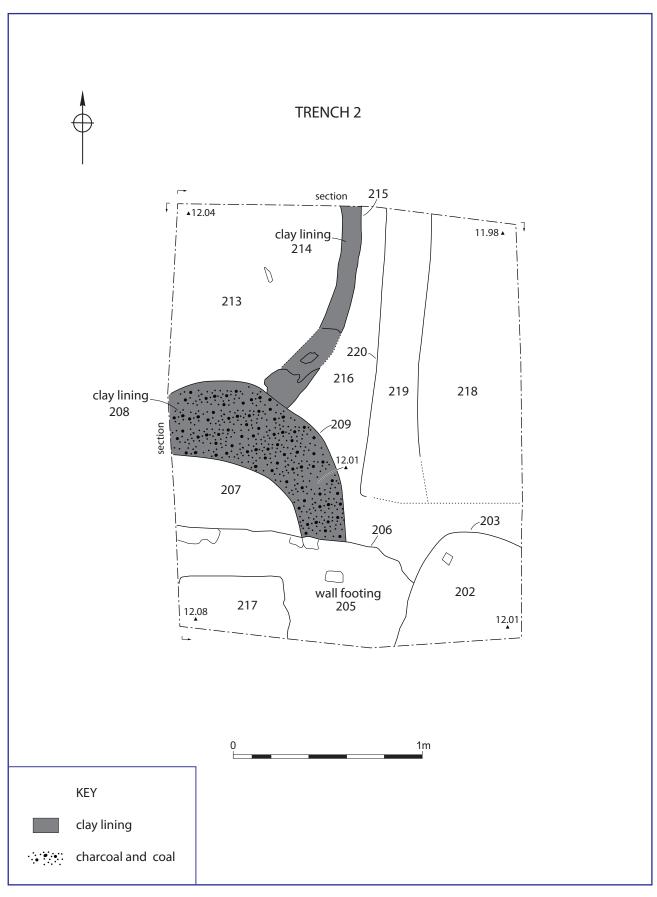


Trench 1 plan



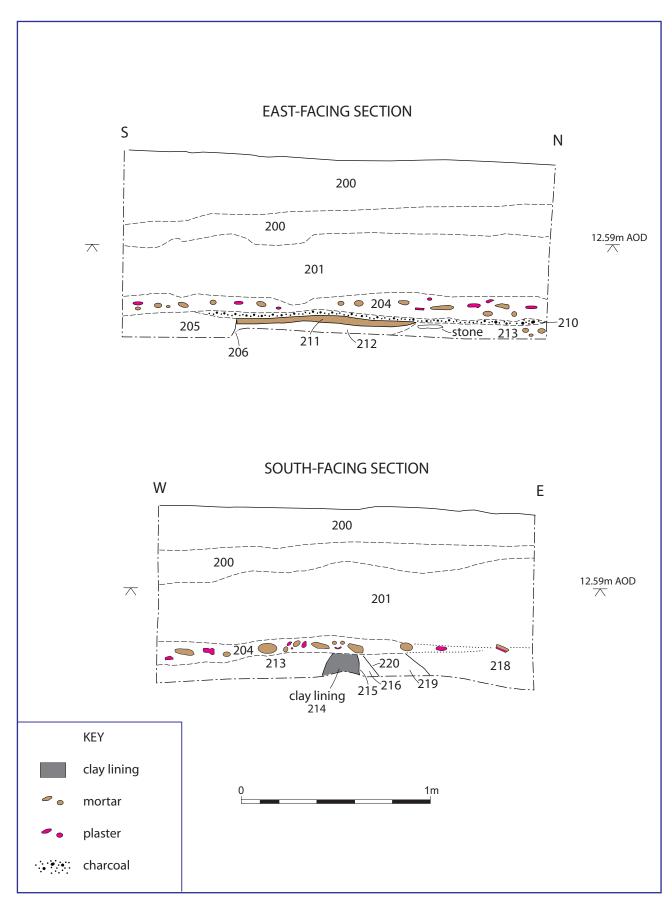
Trench 1 sections

Figure 4



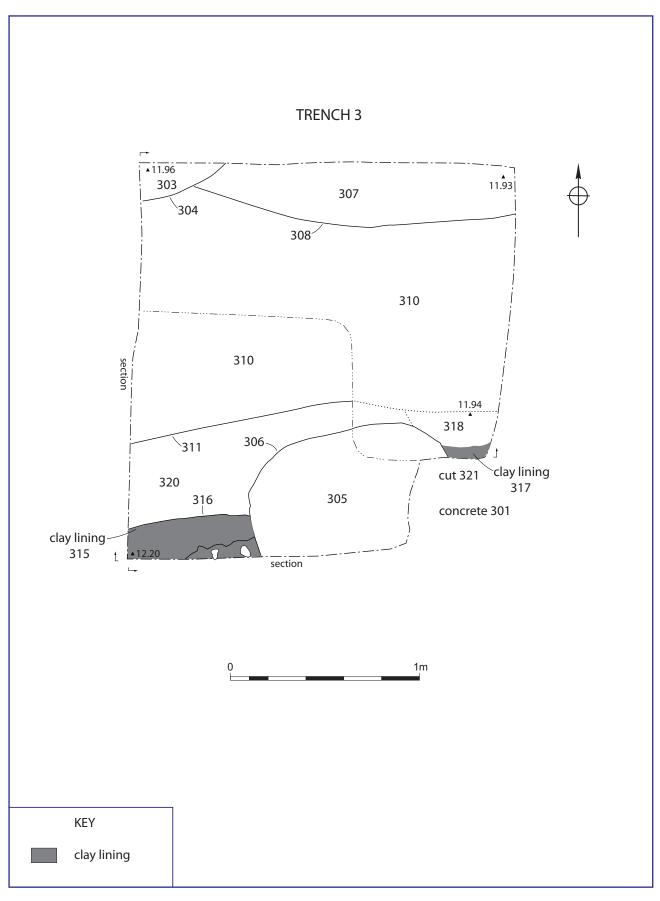
Trench 2 plan

Figure 5



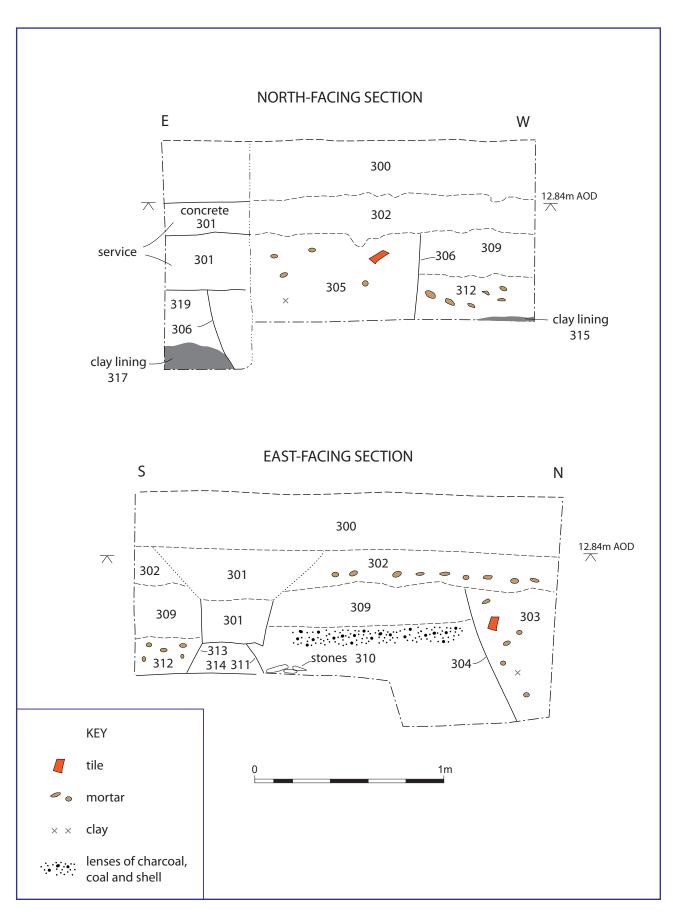
Trench 2 sections

Figure 6



Trench 3 plan

Figure 7



Trench 3 sections

Figure 8

Plates



Plate 1 The western part of the site with Tanners' Hall in the background. Location of Trench 1 behind excavator. View from the west.



Plate 2 The eastern part of the site with Tanners' Hall in the background. Location of Trench 2 is centre right and the location of Trench 3 is centre. View from the east.



Plate 3 Trench 1 post-excavation with wall 112 centre right. View north.

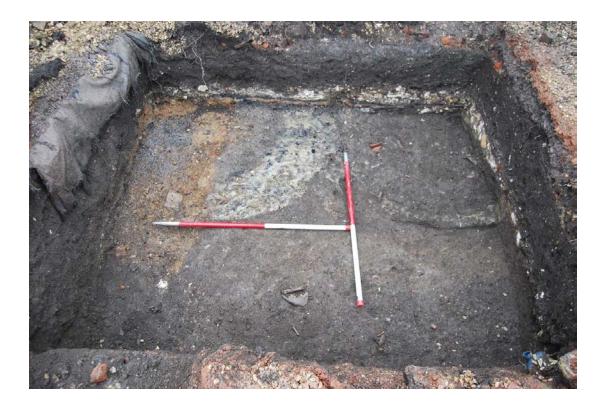


Plate 4 Trench 2 post-excavation with Tanning pit 215 on right and tanning pit 209 in the centre. View west.



Plate 5 Trench 3 post-excavation with probable tanning pit 316 top right and probable tanning pit 321 top left. View south.

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.10m

m Width: 2.40m

0m Depth: Max 1.05m

Context number	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
100	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid black silty sand	0.30m	Topsoil
101	Layer	Layer	Moderately Compact mixed material	c. 0.30m	Series of demolition layers on top of floor 104
102	Layer	Layer	Moderately Compact mixed material	c. 0.30m	As 101
103	Wall	Structure		0.28m	Brick wall. Probably a later division within tenement block.
104	Floor	Layer	Concrete		Concrete floor within tenement. A later insertion associated with wall 103
105	Wall	Structure		0.60m	Brick repair or blocking to wall 106. Part of pre-1780 tenements
106	Wall	Structure		0.61m	Brick wall and construction cut of tenement pre 1780.
107	Layer	Layer	Moderately Compact dark grey black silty sand	max 0.25m	Pre tenement soil horizon. Probably a garden soil.
108	Post Hole	Fill	Loose dark greenish black silty sand		Fill of post-med post/ or disturbance
109	Post Hole	Cut			Post hole or disturbance in top of wall 110/112
110	Layer	Structure	Loose dark brownish yellow sand		Mortar and sandstone rubble infill to wall 112. The top part of the context, where the pottery was recovered from, could be disturbance from when the wall was demolished and is later than the actual wall? Pottery dates from 15th to 16th centuries.
111	Pit	Fill	Moderately Compact dark pinky brown silty clay		Fill of rectangular pit.
112	Wall	Structure			Substantial sandstone wall/footing with rubble and creamy yellow mortar infill 110. Aligned roughly east to west. Truncated in west by pit 113 and it is possible this feature continued westwards. Possible 15th or 16th century extension to Tanners' Hall.
113	Pit	Cut		0.12m	Sub-rectangular pit. Cuts wall 112. Produced med pot but probable early post-med?
114	Layer	Layer	Moderately Compact dark brownish yellow		Either mortar surface or repair. Overlies stone surface 121or could be part of the surface
115	Layer	Layer	Compact dark greenish black silty sand		Layer which could possibly be in a cut to rob wall 112? However, more than likely occupation debris
116	Layer	Layer	Compact dark greenish black silty sand		Occupation debris
117	Stakehole	Cut			Stakehole seen as void when pit 113 excavated. Cuts floor 121
118	Layer	Layer	Compact dark greenish black silty sand		Occupation debris equates to 122
119	Layer	Layer	Moderately Compact mid greyish brown silty sand		Occupation debris
117 118 119	Stakehole	Cut Layer Layer	sand Compact dark greenish black silty sand Compact dark greenish black silty sand Moderately Compact mid greyish brown silty		Occupation debris Stakehole seen as void when pit 113 ex floor 121 Occupation debris equates to 122

	Cut			early post-med.
121	Surface	Structure		Stone surface not fully exposed unsure of extent of it or it just consists of stone. Mortar 114 could be part of th surface or repair. Associated with Tanners'Hall?
122	Layer		Moderately Compact greenish black silty sand	Layer equivalent to 118

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.20m

m Width: 1.90m

00m Depth: 0.96m

Context number	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
200	Layer	Layer		0.51m	Modern gravel and scalpings of ground surface to car park lot in 20th century
201	Layer	Layer	Moderately Compact dark brownish grey sandy silty clay	0.39m	Garden or allotment soil.
202	Pit	Fill	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silty clay		Fill of cut 203.
203	Pit	Cut		Min 0.40m	Probable sub-circular pit. 18th century?
204	Layer	Layer	Moderately Compact	0.13m	Mixed demo spread (30% plaster, 305 mortar and 40% sandy silty clay) probably associated with demolition of wall 205. Appears to be confined mainly to western pa of the trench
205	Wall	Structure			Brick wall within footing 206
	Construction Cut	Cut			Construction cut for brick wall 205. Truncated in east b pit 203
207	backfill	Fill	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay		Backfill of probable tanning pit 209.
208	Pit	Fill	Firm light grey clay		Clay lining of tanning pit cut 209
209	Pit	Cut		Dia c 1.40m	Sub-circular cut for tanning pit with clay lining 208.
210	Layer	Layer	Friable greyish black	30mm	Mixture of coal, ash and charcoal. Lenses out to east. Possible trample on top of surface 211
211	Surface	Layer	Moderately Compact mid brown	40mm	Mortar surface. Seems to overlie area of tanning pit 20 in general. Possibly associated with wall 205 and not c by it-perhaps general trample of mortar for building of 205
212	Layer	Layer	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	60mm	Area of trample? Also consists of 40% coal and charce Seems to directly overlie tanning pit 209
213	Pit	Fill	Friable mid brownish grey silty clay		Backfill of clay lined tanning pit 215. 16th century backfill
214	Pit	Fill	Compact mid grey clay		Clay lining of tanning pit 215. Medieval?
215	Pit	Cut		Dia c 2.40m	Probable sub-circular cut for clay lined 214 tanning pit Medieval?
216	Layer	Layer	Friable brownish grey silty clay		Probable med soil horizon. Tanning pit 215 cutting int this layer
	Construction Cut	Fill	Loose light grey ash		Backfill around wall 205. Within construction cut 206
218	Pit	Fill	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay		Fill of 220. Medieval?
219	Pit	Fill	Friable greenish brown silty clay		Earliest fill of pit 220. However, this feature was not excavated. Probably medieval
220	Pit	Cut			Probable sub-square or rectangular pit. Filled with 218 and 219. Probably medieval

Context number	Feature type	Context type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation
300	Layer	Layer		Min 0.30m	Surfaces of former car lot. As Trench 2, 200
	service trench	Cut			Probable 20th century service trench and concrete pad
302	Layer	Layer	mid greyish brown silty clay	c 0.20m	20th century garden/allotment soil
303	Pit	Fill	Friable mid brown silty sand		Fill of pit 304. 19th/20th century
304	Pit	Cut		Min 0.69m	19th or 20th century probable rubbish pit
305	Pit	Fill	Friable dark greyish brown silty sand		Fill of pit 306
306	Pit	Cut		Min 0.71m	Sub-circular pit cut probably 19th or 20th century
307	Pit	Fill	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay		Fill of pit 308. Only seen in base of trench and one section
308	Pit	Cut			Probable sub-circular? Cut into earlier pit fill 310. Only seen in base of trench
309	Layer	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay	0.28m	Garden or allotment soil.
310	Pit	Fill	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay		Fill of large pit. Dates from the 16th/17th century
311	Pit	Cut		Min 0.54m	Large, probable sub square or sub rectangular pit backfilled in the 16th/17th century
312	Pit	Fill	Moderately Compact mid greyish brown sandy silty clay		Fill of pit 313
313	Pit	Cut		0.19m	Pit cut into top of pit 316
314	Layer	Layer	Moderately Compact mid brownish grey silty clay	0.18m	Probably a series of layers or one layer. Garden soil? Possibly equates to 319
315	Pit	Fill	Firm greyish green clay		Clay lining of tanning pit 316
316	Pit	Cut			Construction cut for probable clay lined tanning pit.
317	Pit	Fill	Firm greenish grey clay		Clay lining of probable tanning pit cut 321
318	Cut	Fill	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay		Backfill of probable tanning pit 321
319	Layer	Layer	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay	0.28m	Probable garden soil. Possibly equates to 314
320	Layer	Layer	Moderately Compact dark greyish brown silty clay		Probable medieval garden soil/cultivation layer seen in base of trench
321	Pit	Cut			Cut for clay lined probable tanning pit. Probably early post-med?

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

- 51 Context records AS1
- 4 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 91 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 11 Scale drawings
- 1 Levels records AS19
- 4 Trench record sheets AS41
- 2 Box of finds
- 1 Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Gloucester City Museum & Art Gallery Brunswick Road Gloucester GL1 1HP Tel. 01452 396 131 Fax. 01452 410 898 Email city museum@gloucester.gov.uk www.Gloucester.gov.uk www.livinggloucester.co.uk