

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

6 COLLEGE OPE, PENRYN, CORNWALL

NGR SW 7856 3421

On behalf of

Ms C. Davison

SEPTEMBER 2011

REPORT FOR Ms C. Davison
6 College Ope
Penryn
Cornwall TR10 8JS.

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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological evaluation on land next to Alexander House at 6 College Ope, Penryn, Cornwall. One machine-dug trench 6.40m long was excavated. A layer of demolition rubble was identified below the topsoil, along with what was probably the a robber trench overlying the footings of a large stone wall. It is likely that the demolition deposit and the stone footings were associated with the 13th century Collegiate Church of Glasney College which was demolished in the 16th century. These remains currently lie at a depth of between 0.40-0.60m below the modern ground surface.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development area (hereafter referred to as ‘the Site’) is located in an area of lawn and orchard immediately west of the existing property of Alexandra House at 6 College Ope, Penryn, Cornwall (NGR SW 7856 3421) (Figure 1). The property is bordered to the south by the open area of Glasney Playing Field, to the west by College Hill and existing residential buildings and properties, and to the north and east by College Ope and further buildings and properties. The underlying geology of Penryn is Devonian Porthleven Breccia Member and Mylor Slate Formation.

The existing low-lying ground is *circa*. 3.70-3.80 metres above Ordnance Datum and relatively flat, sloping gently to the north and north-west. There is a slight east-west orientated terrace or break in slope 1-2 metres north of the boundary wall separating the property from Glasney Playing Field. The Site consists of Alexandra House with wooden decking on its western side, with a northern outbuilding converted to a small self-contained apartment and garage, with grass lawn and orchard in between.

1.2 Planning Background

The Site lies within the overlapping boundaries of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Glasney College (CO1083) and the Penryn Conservation Area (ECO2114). A planning application proposed the construction of a two-storey extension on the western side of Alexandra House. The Cornwall County Historic Environment Service issued a *Brief* advising that in order to identify the extent and significance of any archaeological remains that might be affected by development, the Site required an evaluation as the first stage in a potentially wider programme of investigation.

As the site lies entirely within the area of a Scheduled Monument (No. CO1083, Glasney College), any works on this site would require Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) in addition to Planning Permission under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act. English Heritage (EH) advised that as SMC is not usually granted to any proposals which would have a harmful impact upon the fabric, archaeology or setting of a Scheduled Monument, “Any ground works within this site including this archaeological evaluation will require confirmation from English Heritage of Scheduled Monument Consent or notification of the granting of the appropriate Class Consent”.

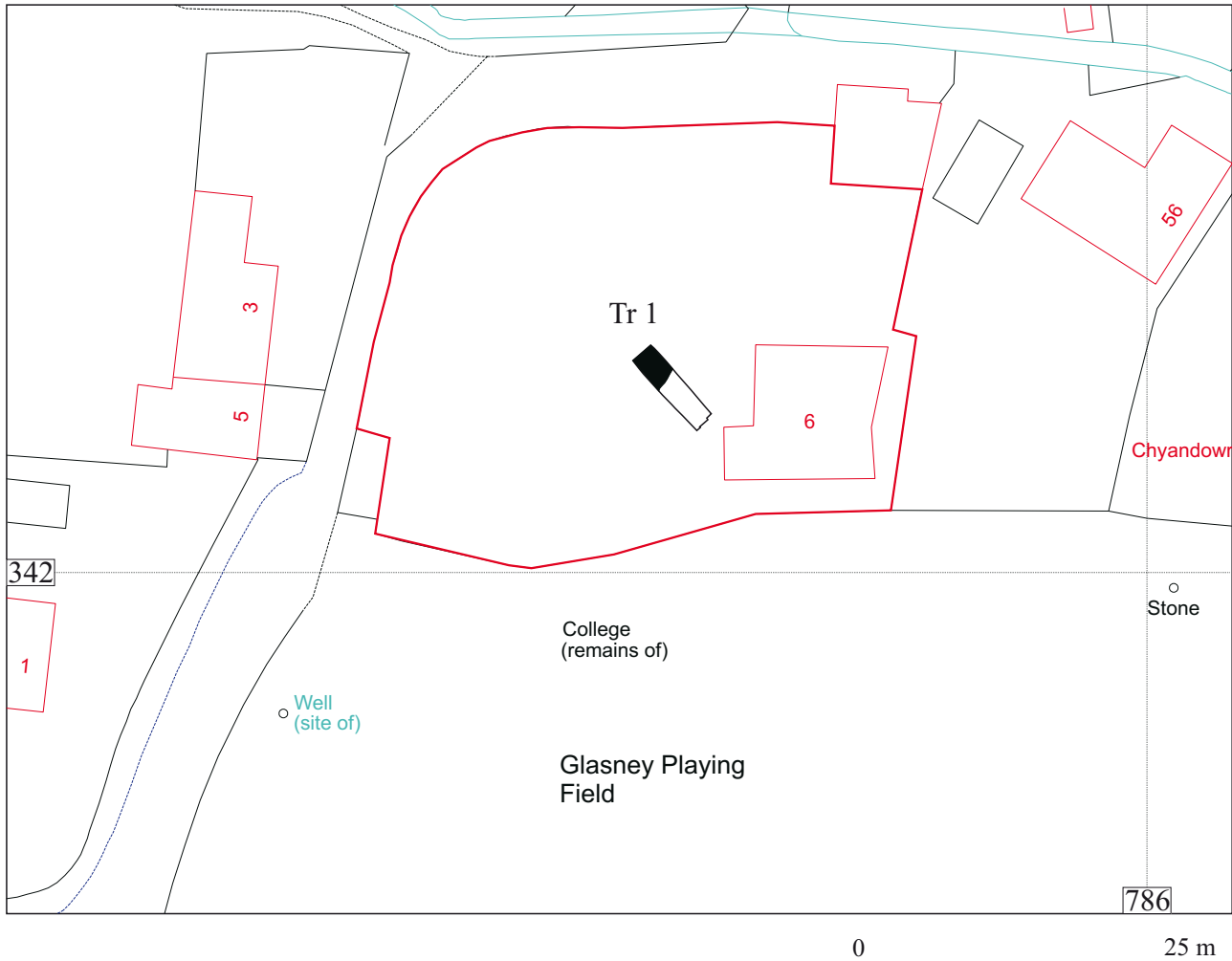
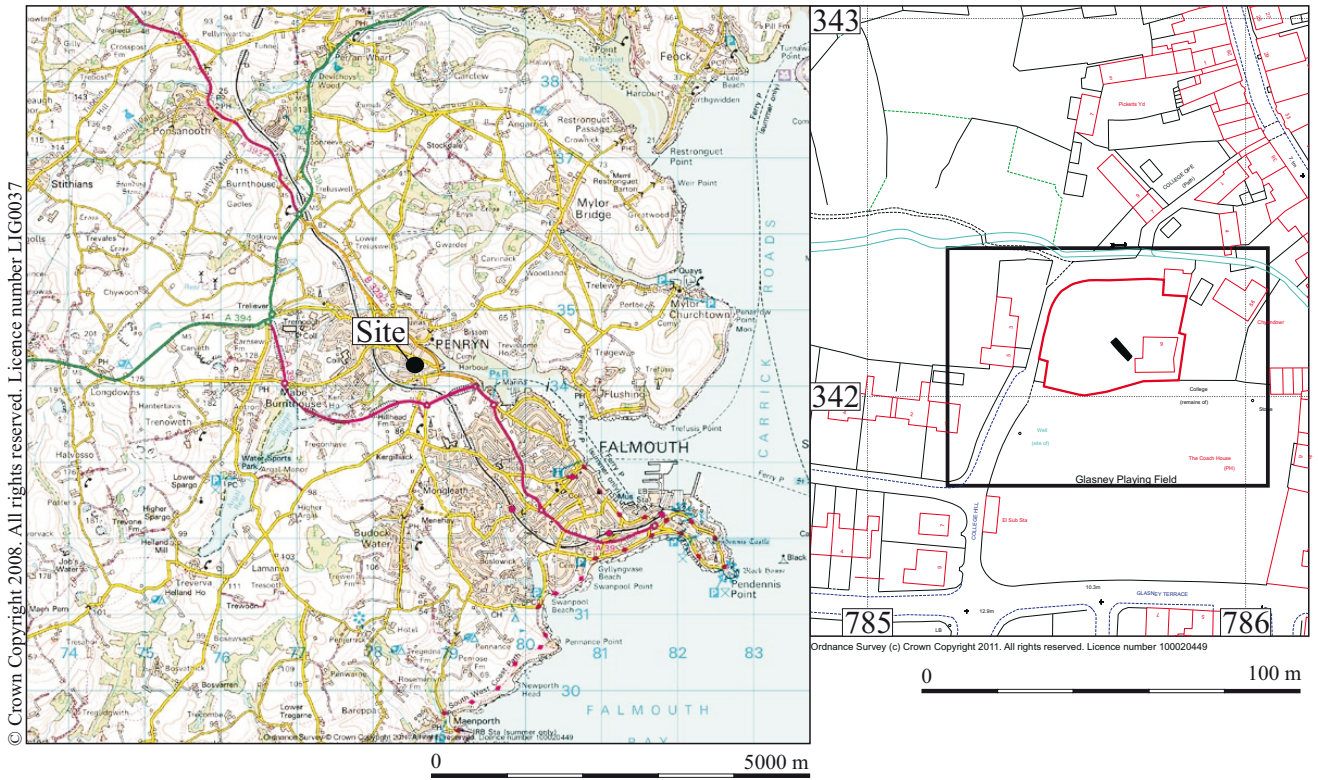


Figure 1. Site and trench location

John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS) was commissioned to undertake this work, and a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was prepared by John Moore Heritage Services to satisfy the requirements of the Brief (JMHS 2420/01). This WSI proposed the methodology by which the archaeological evaluation was to be carried out. The archaeological evaluation took place on 10th August 2011, with additional map and documentary research undertaken on 11th August.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

No prehistoric or Romano-British finds are listed as having been found on or near the Site. Penryn may have been part of the manor of Treliever/Trelivel prior to the Norman Conquest (Roddis 1964, 46; Sowell 1865, 32). It is mentioned as belonging to the Bishop of Exeter in the Domesday Book of 1086 (Williams 1992, 342), but had been since the reign of Edward the Confessor in 1042-66. In 1230 Henry III granted a charter for Penryn to Bishop Brewer who was the lord of the manor at that time.

The Collegiate College was founded by Walter Bronescombe, Bishop of Exeter Cathedral in *c.* AD 1265, purportedly after he had been directed to the locale in a vision. The place was marshy and overgrown, and indeed the place-name of Glasney, first recorded in 1284, may be derived from the Cornish *Glasmeth* possibly meaning 'verdure' or 'quagmire'. The river in the valley bottom was canalised and re-routed, and the area drained and levelled with soil brought from elsewhere (Whetter 1988, 2-3). The Church and churchyard were consecrated in 1267 and dedicated to St Thomas the Martyr (Thomas à Becket) and the Virgin Mary.

Over time a sizeable complex of buildings and enclosures developed at St Thomas College, including a church (MCO6320), an associated cemetery (MCO250330), a detached infirmary (MCO25034), a school (MCO25035), gardens and various other buildings, all protected by a fortified enclosure (MCO25032). These fortifications had an important wider role in the defence of Penryn and the tidal creek. They were described in John Leland's Itinerary of 1535-43 as being 'wel walled and dyked' and 'incastellid, having 3 strong towers and gunnes at the but of the creke' (Toulmin-Smith 1907, 197). Even in the mid-16th century, a survey during the reign of Edward VI noted the 'walls of the said Colledge on the Southe-syde well fortified w^t Towers and Ordinaunce in the same for the Defence of the said towne and the ryver' (quoted in Peter 1903, 101). A pictorial view of the College produced in *c.* 1580 by Sir Ferdinand Georges (Fig. 2), though not entirely accurate, nonetheless provides an impression of the scale of this complex that covered up to 4³/₄ acres or 1.92 hectares.

The Collegiate Church was cruciform in plan and modelled on Exeter Cathedral. It was very large, with previous estimates for its length of at least *c.* 61 metres and its full width at the transepts of *c.* 31m (Sowell 1895, 30-31; Whetter 1988, 36). Aligned east-west, it had a large central tower at the junction with the transepts but also additional towers, with a total of up to five bells in all. It may have been built in two major phases – from 1265 to 1316, with additional works in 1368-1445. There was a large hall-like structure extending northwards from the eastern end of the church, another sizeable building on the southern and northern sides of the western end, and there were ambulatories along the northern and southern sides of the choir (Whetter 1988, 36-37). The College was intended to be a house for secular canons under the direction of a provost, and was not a monastic institution (*contra* Sowell 1895, 22).

In addition to the main College complex, there was probably a residence built for the provost outside the College grounds often referred to as the Bishop's Palace or the Bishop's Summer House, which was probably at the bottom of Hill Head where the later Manor and Borough Prison was established (Roddis 1964, 139). In 1275 Bishop Bronescombe established the de Ponte Chantry chapel on the bridge that linked St Thomas Street with Budock Hill to the south (Whetter 1988, 36), and over time the College also appropriated the parish churches (and their tithes as income) of Colan, Feock, Kea, Manaccan, Meragissey, Mylor, St Allen, St Enoder, St Goran, St Just, Sithney, Zennor and St Gluvias (Olivey 1907, 90-91; Roddis 1964, 139-140). There was a close connection between St Gluvias and the College, with three of its vicars becoming Provosts of the College during 1491-1507. There were also sundry grants of other areas of land to the College over the centuries by various monarchs, bishops of Exeter and wealthy nobles in order to provide additional income.



Not to scale

Figure 2. Part of the view of the College complex produced by Sir Ferdinand Georges in c. 1580, looking south (from Peter 1903). The Site lies just to the north of the Collegiate Church tower and transept in the foreground.

By the 15th century the institution was known as St Mary's of Glasney, and there are records of repairs and bequests for repairs in 1404 and 1500 (Sowell 1895, 26; Whetter 1988, 29). It nevertheless seems to have been in a state of disrepair and decline by the time of an official visit by royal commissioners in 1542. The demise of the College was linked not only to the wider political and economic factors behind the Reformation, however, but also to regional politics. There were uprisings in Cornwall in 1497 and in 1548, the latter part of the considerable opposition in Cornwall to the 1549 Act of Uniformity and the Book of Common Prayer. Traditionally Catholic and conservative, most people also spoke Cornish rather than English, and although services and bibles were in Latin, much of the other business of the Church and College would have been in Cornish. The Cornish clergy were also linked to this

opposition. In 1545 Glasney College was given to Henry VIII by Act of Parliament (Act of Parliament 37 Henry VIII cap. 4), and it was thereafter referred to as a chantry. In 1546 Henry VIII ordered a valuation of the ornaments, jewels and other assets of his chantries including Glasney, which was valued at £153 0s 8d, a not inconsiderable sum for the time (Peter 1903, Whetter 1988, 29).

Several efforts to acquire the property off the Crown and to have the College converted into a grammar school and/or a parish church were to no avail. Following the death of Henry VII in 1547, the College was passed to his son Edward VI (Act I Edward VI cap. 14) (Peter 1903, 100; Roddis 1964, 45). In the winter of 1548-9 Sir William Godolphin, John Grenville and Henry Chiverton made a tour of Cornwall's chantries and colleges, in order to further evaluate their condition and value. By this time the ornaments at Glasney amounted to only £26, and some had probably been sold off by this date. Some lead on the church roof had already been stripped off and sent to the Scilly Isles for use in the construction of new forts, and part of the church had been dismantled. The provost, canons, chantry priests and other staff were pensioned off, and in December 1549 Giles Kelwaye purchased the bells, stone, timber and other materials for £3810 0s 11¾d (Peter 1903, 103-104; Roddis 1964, 45-46), and this was probably when much of the church and college buildings were largely demolished. One specific grievance behind the Prayer Book Rebellion of 1549 may have been the stripping and destruction of Glasney College.

The land of the Church and College seems to have passed to John Pendarves of Crowan, who died on the 16th July 1616 and left in his will 'the site and ruined walls of this church, besides half an acre of land formerly the cemetery' (Peter 1903, 104). Although much of the complex was probably dismantled in a relatively short space of time, some masonry was incorporated into later buildings and boundary walls, and at least some upstanding remains may have survived for longer. Sowell (1895) and Peter (1903) both record a surviving wall with the remains of a pillar and vaulting from the former College complex in Glasney Playing Field. Interestingly, an account written sometime between 1602-1654 mentions 'the ruins of the famous Colledge of Glasney; the ruins of the Church and Steeple yet to be seen; many strong towers remaining yet entire' (Munday 1602-54, quoted in Peter 1903, 104). An early 19th century history of Cornwall notes that although the 'collegiate church is now entirely demolished... Since the beginning of this century there was one of its towers standing, but it is lately pulled down, and a dwelling-house built in the place where it stood' (Polwhele 1803-08, 79). This might be a reference to a building that was constructed on the Site, and which may be depicted on the 1843 Tithe Map (see below).

Much of the post-medieval history of the immediate area and the Site appears to be unknown or at least unpublished, though more detailed documentary research might be able to establish the names of some of the owners of the property.

The first clear early modern evidence for the Site is where it is depicted on the 1843 Tithe Map for the parish of Budock (CRO), separate to the 1841 Tithe Map for the majority of the parish of Penryn. These two tithe maps and their respective apportionments are available for consultation in the Cornwall Record Office as scanned digital copies. Unfortunately, the original scan of the Penryn Tithe Map is of slightly higher resolution and quality than that for Budock which makes some of the numbers on the Budock Tithe Map somewhat equivocal, creating difficulties in trying to cross-reference these numbers with the relevant Apportionments.

The 1843 Budock Tithe Map (Fig. 3) clearly shows College Hill, and the lines of the lanes that became Glasney Terrace and Brook Place. The bulk of what is now Glasney Playing Field is numbered as 1239 and in the Apportionments is described as 'Orchard', owned and 'occupied' by John Austin. There is a small building and a sub-triangular yard space depicted at the western edge of Glasney Playing Field near where the modern entrance into the field is located.

The sinuous southern boundary of the Site is also clearly depicted, and the Site itself is shown divided into two parts – the larger western area has no buildings shown and is numbered as 1241, owned by Elizabeth Harris and 'occupied' by Thomas Buzzicont, and is again described as 'Orchard'. The eastern part of the Site is shown as a broadly north-south orientated narrow strip with two buildings at the southern and northern boundaries. The southern building could be that described as having been built in the early 19th century. The number of the strip on the Tithe Map is unfortunately unclear, but is most likely to be 1236, in which case the owner and occupier was a woman named Tamasine Harvey, with the property described as 'Part of dwelling-house, Cottage, Backlet, and Yard', 14 perches (354m²) in extent. To the east of the Site was an irregular area of land numbered as 1237 and also owned by Tamasine Harvey; and described as 'Orchard'.

It is possible albeit less likely that the number on the narrow strip on the eastern side of the Site was actually 1230 rather than 1236, in which case the owner was Francis Pender and the lessee William Scur Hill, with the property described as 'Dwelling-house, Garden, Orchard, and Outhouses'. At 34 perches (c. 860m²), however, the area of this apportionment seems too great to have been the eastern part of the Site.

The 1st Edition 25" 1: 25000 Ordnance Survey map of 1888 (CRO WH/1/6505) shows much of the area of Glasney Playing Field as orchard, with two conjoined or abutting buildings near the location of the modern entrance (Fig. 4). A well is shown near the north-western corner of the field. The location of the College is marked and the larger western portion of the Site is depicted as gardens and/or orchard, but the map also provides more details of the buildings on the narrow eastern part of the Site. On the southern side of the Site, what was depicted as one building on the 1843 Tithe Map is clearly two conjoined or abutting structures, with one L-shaped structure and another smaller rectangular structure to the north of it. The L-shaped structure may well be the building mentioned in Polwhele's 1803-1808 description. The 1st Edition 6" 1: 10560 map of 1888 (CRO 055 71 NE/1) is much less detailed, but does depict the same buildings on and near the Site (Fig. 6).

In some respects the 2nd Edition 1: 2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1903 (CRO OSP/1/406) is also less detailed, and does not depict the large numbers of orchards in the southern and western parts of Penryn for example. Some changes near the Site are evident – the original buildings in the extreme north-west corner of Glasney Playing Field at the south-west corner of the Site appear to have been demolished, whilst a new linear range of buildings orientated north-east to south-west has been constructed just to the south of the previous structures along the eastern side of College Hill. Two wells are now shown in Glasney Playing Field – one seemingly as the location of an earlier well, marked with a cross normally used to depict antiquities on early Ordnance Survey maps, with another second separate well to the south. On the 1908



Not to scale

 Site Outline

Figure 3. The Budock Tithe Map of 1843 (CRO)



Figure 4. Part of the 1st Edition 25" OS map of 1888 (CRO WH/1/6505)





0 m 1000 m

 Site Outline

Figure 5. Part of the 2nd edition 25" OS map of 1888 (CRO OSP/1/406)



 Approximate Site Location

Figure 6. Part of the 1st Edition 6" 1: 10560 map of 1888 (CRO 055 71 NE/1)

2nd Edition 6" 1: 10560 map (CRO 055 71 NE/1) there are no buildings marked in the north-west corner of Glasney Playing Field. They may have been demolished by this time, although given the lack of detail on this map this must be treated with caution.

In the Land Valuation Records resulting from the Finance Act of 1909/10 (CRO DV(1)/127), the central band of property at the Site is numbered 718 with its owner listed as John Reynolds, and its occupier as A. Reynolds. The property is described as a house and garden 7 rods and 4 perches in size, with an original value of £15 and an assessable value still at £15. Its location is listed as 'College' and it is named as Alexander House in the Land Valuation Records (rather than Alexandra House). It is thus possible that the name of the house has changed slightly over time, though this may equally be a simple misspelling or a mistake made during transcription.

More recent archaeological work has provided some further insights into the extent and layout of the former collegiate complex. A small excavation was undertaken by the Cornwall Archaeological Unit in 1987 prior to the erection of a commemorative stone monument and plaque within the former area of the College (ECO1500) in Glasney Playing Field, and this revealed a thick layer of demolition rubble including dressed limestone fragments that was at least 0.50m deep. This was followed by a geophysical survey in 1990, though the results of this were unsuccessful. The Cornwall Historic Environment Service carried out repair work on a collapsed section of walling along the southern side of Glasney Playing Field, and this suggested that although the wall was of post-medieval construction (ECO1102), it probably followed the line of one of the boundary walls depicted on the 1580 Georges view.

A desk-based assessment of the area (Cole 2005) established the likely position of the Collegiate Church in the north-west corner of Glasney Playing Field, and a subsequent research-led evaluation across this area found surviving remains of the church in four out of five small trenches (ECO1962). These trenches identified what were probably the parts of the southern and eastern walls, the chapter house, part of the Lady Chapel, the corner of the south transept and a series of internal floor surfaces. Six grave cuts were also recorded in one of the trenches, all orientated east-west with one inside the church and the other five outside of it. This work allowed the approximate extent and ground plan of the Church to be suggested (Fig. 8), indicating a structure at least 75m long and up to 35m wide at the transepts.

A geophysical survey was undertaken within the area of the Site itself in 2006, but the results were inconclusive.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the Site;
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered;
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits;
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present;

And in particular:

- To identify and characterize any evidence for medieval activity;
- To identify any remains of the known monuments in the area.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

In response to the Brief issued by Cornwall County Archaeology Service, JMHS carried out the work, and this entailed the machine excavation of a single trench within the footprint of the proposed building extension. Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in JMHS's WSI and agreed with Cornwall County Archaeology Service. Due to the Site being situated within a Scheduled Ancient Monument, it was noted at the outset that archaeological features or deposits that might be better excavated in any second stage work, or which could be preserved *in situ*, should not be compromised, although discrete features such as pits and postholes could be half-sectioned.

3.2 Methodology

A 1.5-tonne tracked 360-degree mini-digger fitted with a toothless 0.4m wide ditching bucket was used to excavate the trench. Any archaeological deposits and features revealed were then cleaned by hand and recorded in plan before being excavated and recorded at an appropriate level. Archaeological features had written, drawn and photographic records made of them, and all deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in brackets () show feature fills or deposits of material. All context numbers are preceded by trench number and /. Details of individual trenches are presented in Appendix 1 – the context inventory – at the rear of this report.

Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material. All artefacts were collected and retained. The trenches without archaeology had record photographs taken of their stripped areas, whilst photographs and drawings recorded representative sections of the deposits above the undisturbed natural subsoil. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008) and the principles of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

4 RESULTS

4.1 The Recorded Archaeology (Figure 7)

The excavated trench (Trench 1) was slightly smaller than that originally proposed, and was 6.45m long and 1.40m wide. It was orientated north-west to south-east and located just to the north-east of the existing kitchen door of Alexandra House, immediately adjacent to the wooden decking currently in place. The trench was also positioned to the north of a the slight break in slope north of the existing walled boundary with Glasney Playing Field, where there is also now an apple tree. The ground surface at the south-eastern end of the trench was 3.82m above Ordnance Datum (OD), and at the north-western end it was 3.75m OD.

Once the turf had been stripped off, the topsoil (1/1) was revealed to be a very dark grey brown or black silty loam between 0.50-0.60m thick, containing slate and mortar fragments, early modern brick or tile and pottery fragments, and a piece of clay pipe. The marked depth of this rich topsoil may reflect the location of the trench within a former orchard area.

Underneath the topsoil was a mottled light yellow brown, orange brown and off-white silty sand deposit (1/2), with slate and stone fragments, and some pockets of topsoil remaining in shallow undulations within the surface caused by root disturbance. This deposit was initially thought to be a natural subsoil slightly disturbed by the roots of trees within the orchard, but subsequent investigation revealed that it was in fact a mixture of redeposited natural subsoil and demolition debris, the off-white material within layer (1/2) actually being degraded lime mortar. The top of this deposit was situated at a height of 3.30-3.41m OD, between 0.50m and 0.60m below the modern ground surface (Fig. 7). It was not excavated any further, so its depth and full extent could not be determined, though in places undisturbed natural subsoil was present just 0.002-0.05m below the surface of this layer.

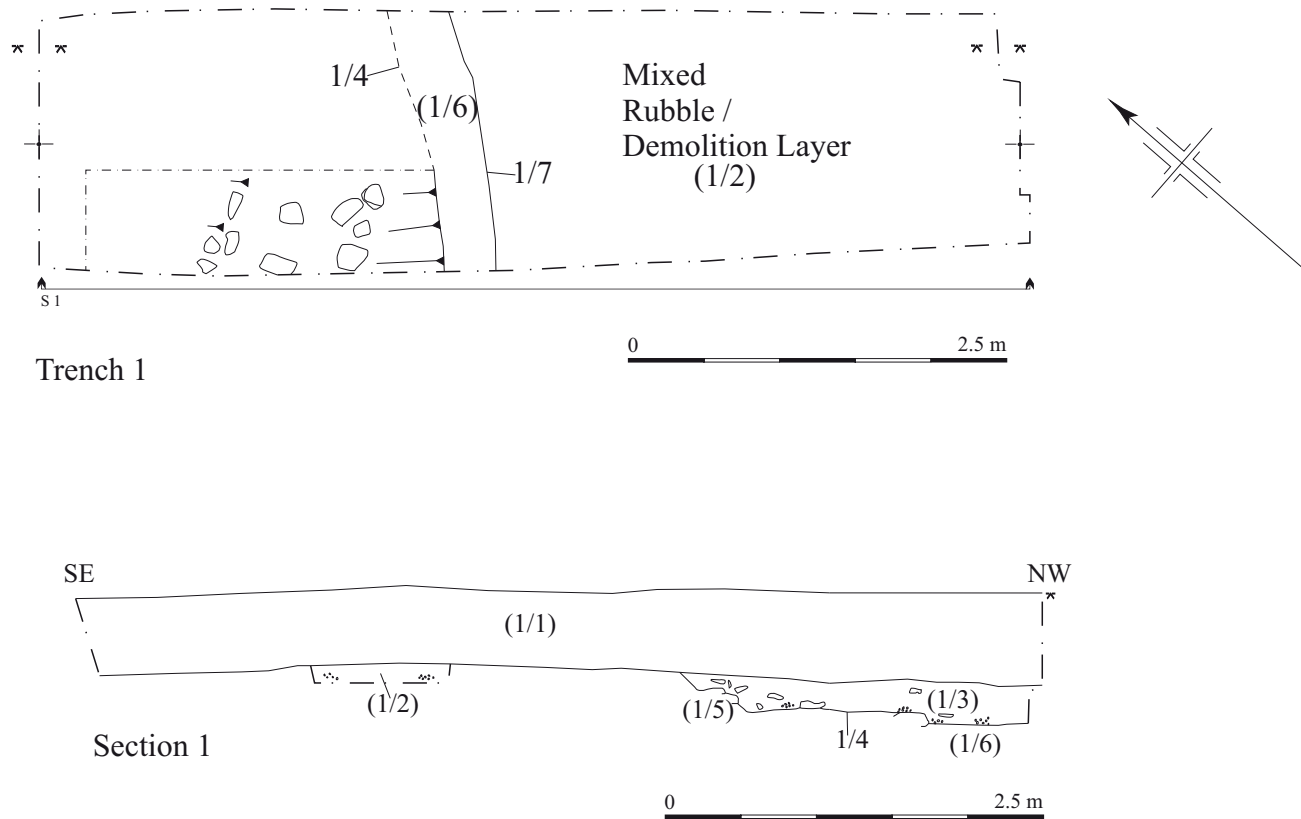


Figure 7. Plan and section of trench



Figure 8. Trench 1 looking north-west, showing the extent of demolition layer (1/2) with cut 1/4 visible in the background



Figure 9. North-east facing section cut 1/4 showing fill 1/3 and the top of footings 1/5

At the north-western end of Trench 1, deposit (1/2) was cut by the edge of a broadly linear feature 1/4 that was at least 2.40m wide and 0.40m deep and continuing beyond the north-western end of the trench. Only one edge was exposed, and this was somewhat irregular and not very well defined, sloping at approximately 30 degrees. The fill of this cut was layer (1/3), consisting of mottled dark grey brown and mid-grey brown sandy silt with stone and roof slate fragments, medieval brick or tile fragments, several small fragments of painted wall plaster lumps and lenses of mortar, oyster shells and two corroded iron objects. In the base of the cut there were large irregular and sub-rounded red sandstone fragments exposed up to 0.20m long, 0.15m wide and 0.10m thick, bonded with off white mortar and grey brown clay. Portions of potentially large blocks of stone were visible in places beneath. The clay and mortar bonded stones were interpreted as wall footings (structure 1/5), and although exposed in the bottom of cut 1/4 they extended to the south-east beyond the cut edge. This suggested that 1/4 was the later robber cut of an earlier masonry structure, although the original orientation of the footings was not clear. The top of the wall footings was situated at approximately 3.08m OD, or 0.70m below the modern ground surface.

The full width of the earlier wall footings 1/5 was not clear, though the possible edge of an earlier construction cut 1/7 was noted in plan as a darker stain just visible beneath part of the spread of demolition rubble. This would make the presumed footings very substantial and at least 3.00m wide, and the north-western edge of them was beyond the end of Trench 1. One fill of construction cut 1/7 was exposed in the base of later robber cut 1/4, and consisted of dark grey brown clayey silt with slate and stone fragments, and fragments of chalk and mortar (1/6). The top of this deposit was situated at 3.01m OD, or 0.86m below the modern ground surface.

Apart from the fill (1/3) of robber cut 1/4, none of the other archaeology was excavated to reveal its depth and extent. The nature, potential date and significance of the archaeology is interpreted and discussed below in section 6. The Site was visited by Phil McMahon of English Heritage on Wednesday 10th August, and he confirmed that it would not be necessary in an evaluation to undertake any further intrusive excavation of exposed deposits and features within a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The reliability of results is considered to be good. The archaeological evaluation took place in clement, dry conditions with good light and visibility.

5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

5.1 The Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 8 sherds with a total weight of 102 grams. Three were recovered from the topsoil and all early modern or modern in date. Two of the sherds (weight 19g) are in a very fine, light reddish-brown earthenware, including a rimsherd, and are probably derived from flowerpots of fairly recent date. The third is a small fragment (3g) of blue transfer-printed mass produced refined white earthenware, and is likely to be of later 19th or early 20th century date.

The other five sherds (80g) occurred in context (1/3). They are all coarse but quite hard, and pale orange-brown in colour with plentiful flakes of mica and moderate igneous rock fragments up to 3mm. One sherd has numerous spots of dull green glaze which has pitted the inner surface, and another shows signs of wheel-throwing.

Such pottery is typical of Cornwall (O'Mahoney 1989, 2-4), and these sherds have some similarities with Lostwithiel-type ware, which is thought to date to the 15th-16th centuries (ibid., 3). This date is supported by the presence of the glazed sherd – glazing on pottery of this type is thought to be a 15th or 16th century development (ibid.), and as this vessel has the glaze on the inner surface, it is likely to be a bowl, a vessel form which did not appear until the 16th century (Preston-Jones and Rose 1986, 177). It would appear therefore that this group of pottery dates to that time.

5.2 The Ceramic and Stone Building Material *by Gwilym Williams*

5.2.1 Introduction

The tile recovered during the evaluation at Alexandra House 6 College Ope, Penryn comprised two distinct bodies of material: slate roof tiles and ceramic floor tiles. These can be associated with the demolition of the Collegiate Church and sale of materials in 1549; floor tile and particularly roof tile necessarily being removed in advance of timbers and wall stone. The roof tile recovered reflects the range of stone, although does not fully reflect the range of fragment-size, as small slate fragments were not retained (A. Chadwick pers. comm.).

5.2.2 The roof slates

The roof slates comprise four fragments of differing sizes and petrological sources. Only a single piece has clear evidence for nail holes of which there are five, arranged in a formation that is not readily apparent. The three other fragments have edges present, and of these two are clearly not sawn, but rather have scored and broken edges. The third is not clear.

Given the variety of roof slate, in a context which appeared to represent a range of demolition materials, it is very possible that these fragments of tile come from more than one building and represent discarded material which could not be recycled. The limited data-set, however, means that any such conclusion is suppositional.

5.2.3 The floor tile

The floor tile comprises four fragments, two of which are clearly encaustic or glazed, and none of which can be associated with any specific design or other dating sequence. None of the fabrics indicate that the tiles are necessarily coeval.

One fragment is a green-glazed edging fragment; this piece has been cut down from a full-sized tile, which possibly measured *c.* 120mm by 120mm. The score-mark is clearly visible. The second, encaustic tile is the worn chip from the upper face of a floor tile, showing part of a rectilinear motif in pipe-clay; the glaze is entirely worn away. The third fragment appears to represent a tile, which was used as kiln furniture, before being laid as a floor tile. It has been heavily reduced on what appears to be the

upper face with glaze splashing on the edges and underside, which also have mortar adhering. The upper face is very smooth. The fourth fragment is a small knob of tile with a reddish slip on the upper face; it is heavily worn with no evidence for glazing present, and indeed has traces of mortar adhering, which may indicate that it was already from a secondary context when it was deposited in (1/3).

The floor tiles are largely undiagnostic, which is largely due to their small size and lack of clear relationship with one another.

5.2.4 Conclusions

The floor tile assemblage is medieval in date, but given the lack of good diagnostic pieces a more refined date is impossible. By association, it is more than likely that the slate roof-tiles is also medieval, although this cannot be asserted unequivocally.

	Context	Weight (g)	Frag.	Dims (L×B×T)	Description	Date
Roof slate	(1/3)	657	1	L×B×12	Dark grey with red/orange patination; occasional mica; single good edge present, which is not apparently sawn	Late/post-medieval?
	(1/3)	162	1	L×B×7	Pale grey with orange/red patination; traces of mortar	Late/post-medieval?
	(1/3)	497	1	L×116×16	Pale green grey, fine grained stone	Late/post-medieval?
	(1/3)	479	1	L×B×13	Dark grey with red/orange patination, finer-grained than above; at least five nail holes; quite small, probably for iron nails	Late/post-medieval?
Floor tile	(1/3)	119	1	L×B×18	Red orange very slightly gritty fabric with occasional haematite	Medieval
	(1/3)	150	4	L×B×18	Buff to reduced grey fabric, upper face worn smooth, lower face has glaze splashing; occasional mortar; possibly used as kiln furniture?	Medieval
	(1/3)	24	1	L×B×19	Mid orange slightly sandy fabric occasional gravel inclusions; red slip?	Medieval
	(1/3)	24	1	L×B×20	Mid red very slightly gritty fabric; rectilinear decoration	Medieval

5.3 Other Finds by *Adrian M. Chadwick*

5.3.1 Clay pipe

One small fragment of clay pipe stem was recovered from the topsoil (1/1). This was in a fine white fabric, and was 32mm long and 7.5mm in diameter, with a relatively central bore 2mm in diameter. It is thought to be a relatively recent early modern type. Weight: 2g.

5.3.2 Iron objects

Two corroded iron objects were found in context (1/3), the fill of robber cut 1/4. One is 95mm in length and originally up to 9-10mm at its maximum width, though this has been distorted by corrosion products, and it tapers at both ends, to a narrow point at

one end but to a more rounded end at the other. The central part of this object was probably once sub-square in cross-section. It seems unlikely to have been a nail, and may represent a form of metal fitting or tool, possibly even a punch. Weight: 19g.

The second iron object is 78mm long and up to 43mm wide and 21mm thick. It is more heavily corroded, but part of it is visible in cross-section and appears to have been flat in cross-section and originally 6-7mm thick. Part of it may be folded over at the other end, or this may have had a different shaped section extending out from it. It is possible that this iron object was once some sort of structural fitting or part of a door or window hinge. Weight: 100g.

5.3.3 Painted wall plaster

Two small fragments of painted wall plaster were recovered from context (1/3), the fill of robber cut 1/4.

One fragment is roughly trapezoidal in shape and 34mm long, and up to 26mm wide and 13mm thick. The plaster is off-white to very pale grey in colour with inclusions of small white sub-rounded stones up to 4mm long, and small angular grey slate chips up to 3mm in length. The flat exterior surface is painted with mid orange-brown paint, with a narrow (3-4mm wide) slightly curving line of white paint or plaster slip trailed across it, presumably once part of a decorative motive. A small part of another white line is just visible 11-12mm apart from the previous line. Weight: 10g.

The second fragment is irregular and smaller at 28mm long, 27mm wide and up to 10mm thick. This plaster is again off-white or very pale in colour but without the sub-rounded stones, with small angular chips of mid and dark grey stones instead, and tiny flecks of brick or tile. Its flat exterior surface is more heavily weathered or eroded, but approximately one third of it is covered in mid orange-brown paint with one small patch of white paint or plaster slip 6mm long and 2mm wide also visible. Weight: 6g.

5.3.4 Oyster shell

Four small oyster shells were retrieved from fill (1/3), comprising a total weight of 27g. The largest shell was 54mm long and 47mm wide; and the smallest partial shell was 36mm long and 41mm wide. Two shells have signs of pronounced parasitic marine worm infection on their upper surfaces.

5.4 Environmental Remains

No environmental samples were taken.

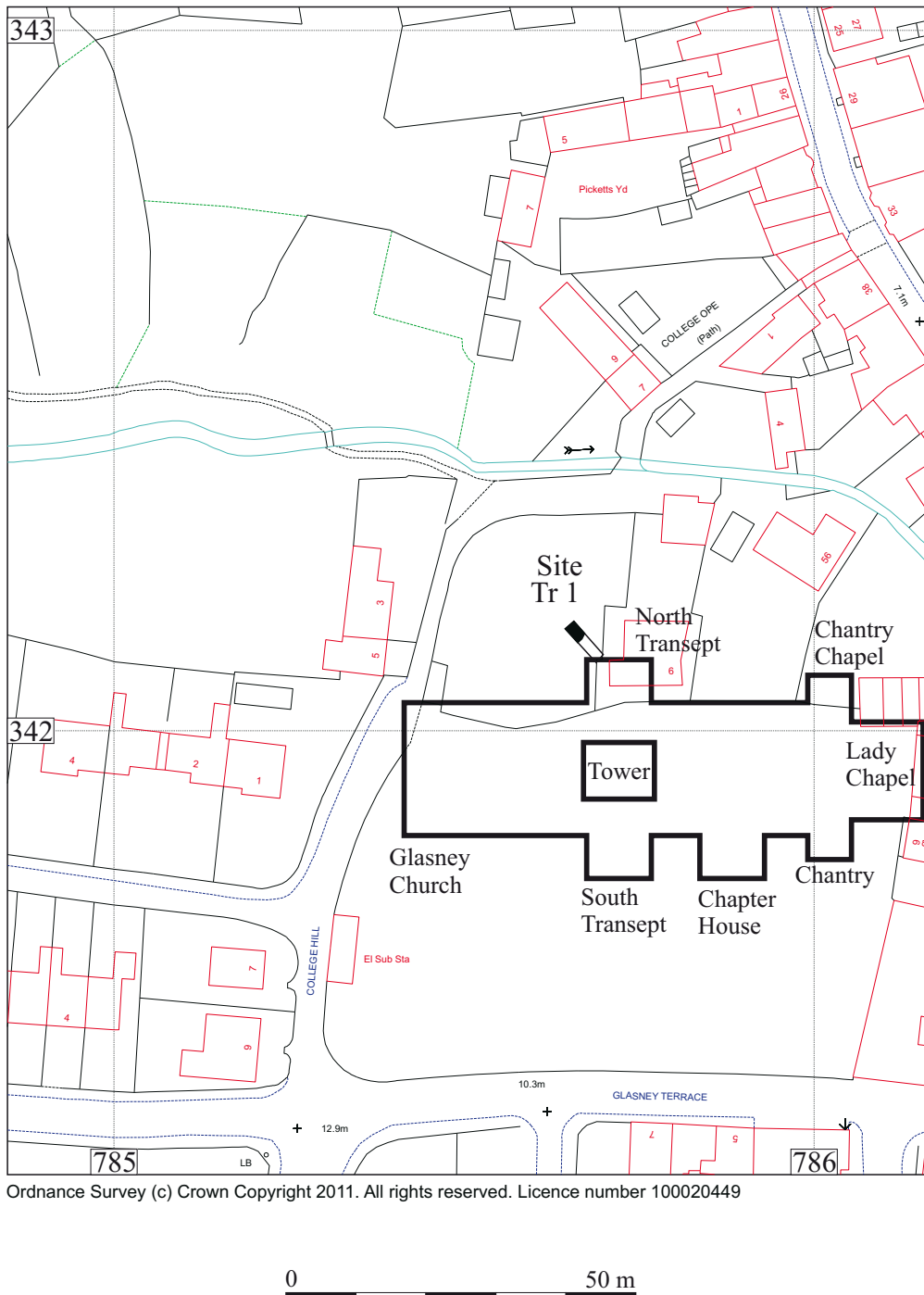


Figure 10. Approximate plan of the Colledgeate Church in relation to the site

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The deposit of demolition material (1/2) found within Trench 1 was not dated, but the fill (1/3) of robber cut 1/4 contained medieval brick and tile, and is thus medieval or later in date. The finds and the building material within these two layers were almost certainly derived from the demolition of College buildings during the mid-16th century. A more precise date for robber cut 1/4 cannot be established, and in theory this could have been dug at any time between the mid-16th and 19th century. The cut seems to have predated the use of this part of the Site as an orchard, as it was not dug through the topsoil layer (1/1) which sealed its fill (1/3), which may suggest a post-medieval rather than an early modern date.

The original orientation and width of the original construction cut 1/7 and wall footings 1/5 could not be established, as their north-western boundaries lay beyond the excavation area of Trench 1. Nevertheless, it is likely that they reflect a substantial structure belonging to the College complex, perhaps one on a broadly north-south or NNE-SSW alignment. Although the depth of demolition layer (1/2) was not established, this layer would seem to have been derived from once significant upstanding masonry remains.

The desk-based assessment and the small-scale trial trenches undertaken as part of previous work led to the production of a suggested ground plan of the Collegiate Church, shown in relation to the Site in Figure 10. Although probably not exactly accurate, this suggests that the wall footings found in Trench 1 could have been part of the north transept of the medieval Church, which may have extended several metres further north than previously thought. This in turn might also mean that the break of slope visible along the southern boundary of the Site, just to the north of the wall dividing it from Glasney College Field, may reflect the east-west line of the northern wall of the Church. This boundary wall itself, although probably post-medieval in construction, may therefore have been built along footings that are medieval in date. The southern part of Alexandra House, once the L-shaped structure visible on the 1st Edition 1: 25000 map, would thus appear to have been built partly on top of the north transept of the Church, and it is probably the building mentioned in Polwhele's early 19th century description (Polwhele 1803-08, 79). Much of the stone used in the construction of Alexandra House was probably reused masonry from the Church or other buildings belonging to Glasney College.

If construction groundwork associated with the proposed extension to Alexandra House goes deeper than 3.30-3.40m OD, or 0.50-0.60 below the modern ground level, it may impact upon buried archaeological remains associated with the medieval Church and College. At a site meeting, however, the architect Steve Peglau suggested to Phil McMahon of English Heritage that instead of dug footing trenches the proposed extension could be built on a concrete raft instead, and that the foundations for this raft would not exceed a depth of 0.50m from the modern ground surface. Although service trenches for the new extension would be required and may have to be dug to a greater depth, these would cause the minimum of impact and an archaeological watching brief would ensure that this work could be monitored. Any archaeological remains encountered during this work could thus be recorded, and further mitigation strategies agreed should any significant remains be found.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Appendix 1: Trench and Archaeological Context Inventory

	Context	Type	Description and finds	L (m)	B (m)	D(m)	Levels	Date	Interpretation
Trench 1									
	(1/1)	Layer	Very dark grey-brown/black silty loam topsoil with slate & CBM frags., mortar frags. , clay pipe & pot.	Across trench	Across trench	0.50-0.60m	3.82m OD	Modern	Topsoil
	(1/2)	Layer	Very mixed light yellow brown, orange brown & off white silty sand with slate, stone frags. & charcoal.	3.5m+	Across trench	-	3.30m OD	Post-med.?	Demolition debris?
	(1/3)	Fill	Dark grey brown & mid-grey brown sandy silt with stone & slate frags., CBM, mortar, oyster shells & Fe obj.	2.40m+	Across trench	0.40m	3.32m OD	Post-med.?	Fill of robber cut
	(1/4)	Cut	Only SE edge exposed. Slightly irregular edge, slopes at approx. 30 degrees. Base irregular.	2.40m+	Across trench	0.40m	3.00m OD	Post-med.?	Robber cut of wall
	(1/5)	Struct	Red sandstone fragments (<0.20m long) bonded with grey-brown clay & off-white mortar.	2.40m+	Across trench	0.20m+	3.20m OD	Med.?	Wall footings
	(1/6)	Fill	Dark grey-brown clayey silt with slate & stone frags., chalk & mortar frags.	3.00m+	Across trench	0.50m+	3.02m OD	Med.?	Fill of construction cut
	(1/7)	Cut	Size & shape unknown – not excavated.	3.00m+	Across trench	0.50m+	3.01m OD	Med.?	Construction cut of wall