

**PHILIPS PARK  
HOUSE,  
PRESTWICH  
GREATER  
MANCHESTER**

**Archaeological  
Evaluation**



**Oxford Archaeology North**

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## SUMMARY

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In July and August 2008, Oxford Archaeology North carried out a programme of archaeological evaluation of a nineteenth-century estate house, known as The Park, in Philips Park, Prestwich (centred on SD 7975 0390). The evaluation was commissioned by Bury Metropolitan Borough Council, to establish the presence or absence of any buried remains of the house, to support a plan to restore the park. In particular, the evaluation was intended to inform future proposals for the public interpretation of the site. The evaluation comprised the excavation of 10 targeted trenches, with a combined total length of 117m, in accordance with a project brief devised by the County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester. In addition, an area to the south-west of the house was cleared of undergrowth in an attempt to locate the remains of a former ice house.

The site of The Park lies within an area of known archaeological potential, and occupies part of a medieval estate owned by the Pilkington family, with a deer park being created in the late thirteenth century. Part of the estate was purchased in 1799 by Robert Philips, a wealthy local merchant and manufacturer. In *c* 1818, Philips erected his first estate house, which was subject to a major refurbishment in the early 1830s. The Philips family continued to occupy the house until 1946, and the estate was acquired in 1948 by Prestwich and Whitefield Councils; The Park was demolished shortly afterwards, and the site levelled.

The results obtained from the archaeological evaluation have confirmed that substantial remains of The Park survive buried immediately beneath the modern ground surface. These remains include the foundations of the building, together with a series of connected cellars, the form, layout and extent of which was previously uncertain. The buried remains of The Park were demonstrated to be well-preserved, offering considerable potential for future public interpretation associated with a wider scheme of restoration of Philips Park.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Chris Wilkinson and Mike Dowd of Bury Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) for commissioning and supporting the project. Thanks are also extended to Norman Redhead, the County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester, for his advice and guidance. Special thanks are expressed to Ian Pringle, author and local historian, for sharing his considerable knowledge of the Philips family and local history. Thanks are also due to the staff of the Bury Museums and Library Archive and Prestwich Library, and to the many visitors who afforded their recollections of The Park.

The evaluation was directed by Sean McPhillips, who was assisted by Elizabeth Murray and Will Gardner. The report was compiled by Sean McPhillips, who also examined the finds. Marie Rowland produced the drawings, and the report was edited by Ian Miller, who was also responsible for project management.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In 1948, Prestwich and Whitefield Councils acquired a large estate known as Philips Park. This incorporated a large estate house, known as The Park, and several estate outbuildings, which had been owned by the Philips family since 1799. Shortly after its acquisition by Prestwich and Whitefield Councils, the estate house was demolished, although most of the estate outbuildings survived, including the shippoon of the former farm; this building was converted into The Barn Countryside Centre in 1996.
- 1.1.2 In 1998, a restoration plan for the park was devised, although it was not implemented as the proposals were inconsistent with the use of the main buildings as a nightclub. However, by 2006, when the Heritage Lottery Fund launched its Parks for People programme, Bury Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) had regained possession of these buildings, providing an opportunity to devise an updated restoration plan and a bid for the funding required to restore the park to its former glory. An important element of the updated restoration plan concerned the buried remains of the former estate house.
- 1.1.3 In order to establish the nature and extent of any buried remains of the estate house, and thereby inform proposals for the public interpretation of the site, BMBC commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake an archaeological evaluation. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a project brief (*Appendix 1*), which was devised by the County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester, who provides archaeological planning advice to BMBC. The fieldwork was carried out in July and August 2008, and culminated in a public viewing day.

### 1.2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.2.1 The study area lies within Philips Park, which is situated between Prestwich and Whitefield, Greater Manchester (centred on SD 7975 0390). Philips Park is located some 6km to the south of Bury, and 7km north-west of Manchester, close to Junction 17 on the M60. The motorway forms a modern boundary across the northern part of the park, whilst the River Irwell is a short distance to the south-west of the park.
- 1.2.2 The solid geology of the area comprises Lower Coal Measure sandstone, with overlying glacial clays and gravels of the Quaternary Age forming the predominant drift geology. The deposits generally comprise both cohesive and granular lithologies ranging from sandy-gravels to sandy-gravelly clay. These drift deposits are underlain by Westphalian Coal Measures of the Carboniferous period. They comprise cyclic sequences of sandstone, siltstone, mudstone with ironstones, seat rocks and well-developed coal seams (Countryside Commission 1998).

- 1.2.3 The topography of the area is dominated by the valley of the River Irwell, which forms a broad strip of open ground along the valley floor. The eastern side of the valley consists of an elevated plateau, which rises to a height in excess of 100m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The plateau is incised by cloughs, with Philips Park lying on a promontory formed by Mere Clough and the former North Wood Clough.



*Plate 1: Recent aerial view of Philips Park*



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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 EVALUATION TRENCHES

- 2.1.1 Ten trenches of varying dimensions were excavated across the footprint of The Park (Fig 2). These comprised one trench of 30m length, two of 15m, two of 12m, one of 10m, one of 8m, and three of 5m, providing a combined length of 115m. In addition, an area measuring approximately 10m long by 5m wide along the western side of the site, thought to be the location of an ice house, was cleared of shrubs and undergrowth to establish the presence or absence of any structural remains.
- 2.1.2 The uppermost levels of each trench were excavated by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The same machine was then used to define carefully the extent of any surviving walls, foundations and other remains, after which all excavations were undertaken manually. All deposits were levelled and related to the Ordnance Datum and Ordnance Survey.
- 2.1.3 All information was recorded stratigraphically with accompanying documentation (plans, sections and both colour slide and black and white print photographs, both of individual contexts and overall site shots from standard view points). Photography was undertaken with 35mm cameras on archivable black-and-white print film, as well as colour transparency, all frames including a visible, graduated metric scale. Digital photography was used extensively throughout the course of the fieldwork for presentation purposes. Photographic records were also maintained on special photographic *pro-forma* sheets.

### 2.2 FINDS

- 2.2.1 Finds' recovery and sampling programmes were carried out in accordance with best practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines), and subject to expert advice in order to minimise deterioration. All artefacts recovered from the evaluation trenches were retained.

### 2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 The results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The original record archive of project will be deposited with Bury Museum and Art Gallery.
- 2.3.2 The Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) online database *Online Access to index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) will be completed as part of the archiving phase of the project.

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## 3. BACKGROUND

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### 3.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 **Introduction:** a summary historical background of the area is presented in order to place the results obtained from the archaeological evaluation into a wider context. The background has been compiled largely from secondary sources, including an archaeological assessment report of Prestwich Park conducted in 1993 (North West Archaeological Surveys), although the sequence of available historical maps has also been examined. Other primary sources, including oral recollections of The Park, and the published memoirs of Anna Maria Philips written by her nephew WR Price and sister Mary Moorman (Price and Moorman 1973), have also been consulted.
- 3.1.2 **Prehistoric period:** there are relatively few known prehistoric sites in the vicinity, although general patterns of settlement indicate that the Irwell valley would have been a favourable location for occupation and transport routes, as were the upland areas of the surrounding moors to the north (Nevell and Redhead 1999). A considerable assemblage of artefacts of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic date has been recovered from a prehistoric camp on the E'ses, a level plain of mud flats situated to the north of the River Irwell at Radcliffe (Spencer 1951, 197 *et seq*). In addition, excavations behind the cemetery in Radcliffe in 1951 uncovered a disk barrow, although no associated inhumations were identified (Sunderland 1995). A Bronze Age funeral barrow/cairn (14m diameter) has been located at Whitelow Hill in nearby Ramsbottom, where several ceramic urns were unearthed, and another at Shuttleworth, to the north (Nevell and Redhead 1999). Whilst there is as yet no physical or artefactual evidence for prehistoric activity within Philips Park, the area is located on high ground overlooking the River Irwell, raising the possibility for early occupation of the area (North West Archaeological Surveys 1993).
- 3.1.3 Archaeological sites and remains that can be attributed firmly to the Iron Age are notoriously difficult to identify in the North West, in part due to a lack of a distinctive material culture (Haselgrove 1996, 64). However, there are clear indications that the area around Prestwich was occupied during this period, with a defended settlement found just north of Bury at Castlesteads (Fletcher 1992). The area was likely to have been part of the territory of the Brigantes (Cunliffe 1991). Pollen data from the various wetland areas show widespread forest clearance, which seems to indicate a possible increase in arable activity during this period, and the expansion into wider areas of land, both lowland and upland (Hall *et al* 1995).
- 3.1.4 **Roman period (AD 43-410):** the Romans probably arrived in the Bury area during the AD 70s, building roads from the fort at Manchester, which is known to have been established during that decade (Gregory 2007). One of these roads, known as Watling Street, passed through Prestwich, across the River Irwell at Radcliffe, and continued on through Affetside towards

Ribchester (Margary 1973). It is likely that the road remained in use as a packhorse route in the post-Roman period, with a link down Mere Clough to the Irwell Valley; the origin of 'Mere' usually derives from the Saxon word for boundary (North West Archaeological Surveys 1993).

- 3.1.5 **Medieval:** the area gained prominence in the medieval period as part of Pilkington, a large manor, and later an administrative township. The earliest reference to Pilkington is 1185, although it was not until 1291 that Sir Roger de Pilkington was granted 'Free Warren' over his land by the King (Farrer and Brownbill 1911). It is probable that the establishment of the deer park, known as Pilkington Park and comprising some 560 hectares, was related to this grant. A linear bank and ditch is still visible along the south-west boundary of Philips Park, continuing along the north side of Mere Clough; these earthworks are also visible along the western boundary of Philips Park in woodland adjacent to Waterdale. This represents the remnants of the original 'Park Pale', an earthen bank topped by a wooden fence or 'pale', which enclosed the medieval deer park. The boundary of the deer park is shown in outline on Saxton's *Map of Lancashire*, printed in 1577, and, subsequently, on John Speed's map of 1610.
- 3.1.6 **Early post-medieval:** the Lancashire manors of Thomas Pilkington were confiscated by the crown in the late fifteenth century, and given to the Earl of Derby (Gremson and Winterbotham 2006, 14). Pilkington Park was broken up as part of the Derby estate's business plan to raise revenue, although the land was leased to tenant farmers rather than being sold. The land now occupied by Philips Park, comprising some 70 hectares in the south-west corner of the former Pilkington Estate, survived as a single land holding, and was leased in 1540 to Lawrence Crompton, a yeoman from Clifton. The Crompton freehold of the estate passed down three generations to Thomas Crompton, who tried to sell the estate in 1771, together with its numerous mature and growing timber resources (*Manchester Mercury* 20 November 1771). The estate was evidently not sold at this date, as it was advertised for sale again five years later (*Manchester Mercury* 13 August 1776). In 1799, the estate was eventually purchased by Robert Philips for £2960, and it became known subsequently as The Park.
- 3.1.7 **Estate ownership:** the sale advertisement of the estate in 1776 included its fame for growing fine timber, comprising oaks, ash and alder. The estate for sale was then said to have measured 62 large acres (*Manchester Mercury* 13 August 1776). Edward Hobson, a rich Salford merchant who invested in estates, bought Pilkington Park in 1781 for £2150 and let it, after advertising it as suitable for woollen cheque or fustian manufacture. Hobson bequeathed the estate to one of his daughters Ellen, who married a Liverpool merchant, James Barrow. The Park was rented and mortgaged for £3000; Barrow went bankrupt, and died leaving Ellen to put it up for auction on 28 January 1799. The premises were described in the sale particulars as 'containing 30 acres of land, 30 acres of meadow and 30 acres of pasture.' (DDX/111).
- 3.1.8 Shortly after purchasing the estate, Robert Philips contracted to build a mansion house of late Georgian design (which became known as The Park), with outbuildings and offices to the value of £2,500 within six months. The

Philips family moved to the estate in 1800, prior to the construction of the new mansion and after the birth of Mark Philips. The family lived in a small building that had been occupied previously by Mr Siddall, a former farming agent for the Crompton family; the family were reported to have lived in the 'little house' at least until 1812 (Price and Moorman 1973). The only remnant of this building is thought to be the brick base of the chimney stack, which can still be seen in the shrubbery just to the west of the conservatory.

- 3.1.9 ***The Philips family:*** the Philips family fortune was based on merchanting and textiles, establishing the notable firm of J & N Philips. The family was also involved closely with local politics and, interestingly, had a significant involvement in creating public parks. Robert Philips married Anne Needham in 1798 (Wilson 1979), and they had two sons (Mark and Robert) and nine daughters. Robert took an active role in politics, and was noted as 'a radical in politics, when to be a radical was to incur dislike and hostility'; he died at The Park in 1844, aged 84. His eldest son, Mark Philips, also pursued a career in politics, and became one of the first MPs to represent Manchester after the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832; he represented Manchester in Parliament for the next 15 years. He also played an important part in the development of public parks in Manchester. The younger son, Robert Needham Philips, also became a politician and MP for Bury, and founded the school on Park Lane. He married Anna Maria Yates in 1845, and the couple had two daughters, Caroline and Margaret. However, Anna Maria died in 1850, after just five years of marriage. Robert Needham Philips then married Mary Ellen Yates (Anna's cousin), who gave birth to his third daughter, Anna Maria, in 1857; Anna Maria was the last resident of The Park (Jackson 1991).
- 3.1.10 ***Development of Philips Park during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries:*** Yates' *Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster*, published in 1786, does not show the deer park, suggesting that the original Pilkington Park Pale had fallen into disuse by the late eighteenth century (Plate 2). Philips Park is marked as 'Park', with a building shown on the map, which may have been used as a park lodge during the seventeenth or eighteenth centuries (North West Archaeological Surveys 1993).
- 3.1.11 Greenwood's map, published in 1818 but surveyed at a slightly earlier date (Plate 3), does not depict The Park or any of the associated estate buildings. This omission of detail may reflect the small scale at which Greenwood's map was produced or, more likely, indicates that The Park had not actually been built at the time of Greenwood's survey, and the site chosen was previously undeveloped. It is also of note that Greenwood did not depict Park Lane, which became the main access route into the estate. The map does show steep slopes to the north and east of the site of the house, now occupied by the formal garden and the ancient beech, holly and rhododendron woodland (Chris Burnett Associates 1998)



Plate 2: Extract from Yates' Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster, 1786



Plate 3: Extract from Greenwood's Map of Lancashire, 1818

- 3.1.12 A illustration of the southern elevation of the house, drawn by Hester Philips in 1819, shows The Park as a two-storey building, with a central semi-circular bay containing a row of three windows on the ground floor and three on the first floor (Plate 4). The sketch shows a garden in front of the house, which consists of a lawn with flower beds and small oak trees contained by a curving rustic fence. A two-storey west wing and an eastern wing are shown attached to the main body of the house.

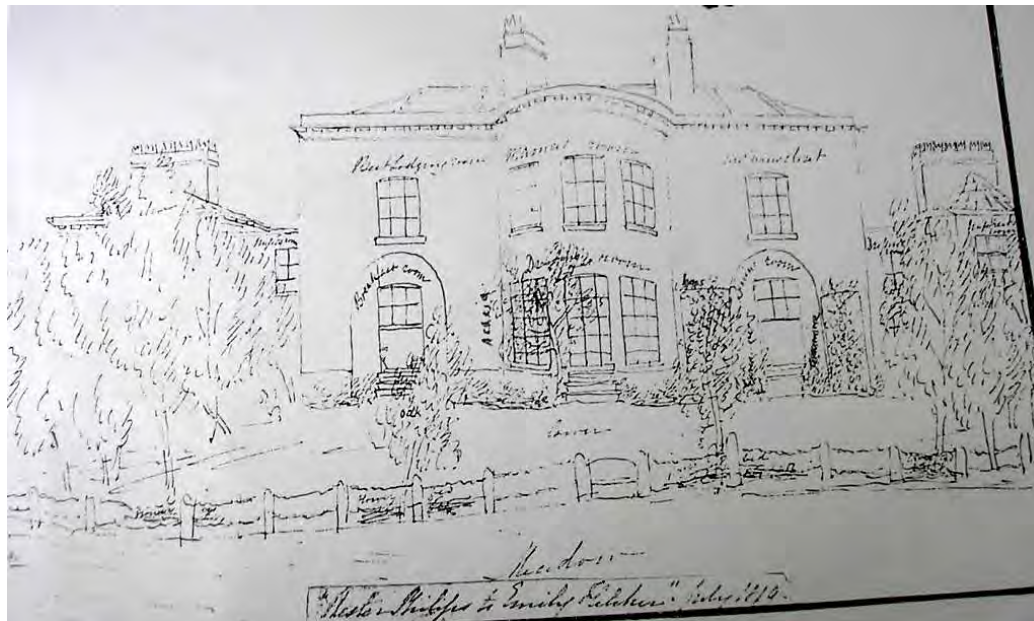


Plate 4: View of the south front of The Park drawn by Hester Philips in 1819

- 3.1.13 During the 1820-30s, several lodges were constructed by Robert Philips in the estate. These included Ox Gap Lodge located along the initial access into the estate, and known subsequently as East Lodge. Other lodges built at this time included the West Lodge (otherwise known as Molyneaux Lodge or Kingfisher), South Lodge (known as Dams Head or Bradley Lodge), and the original thatched North Lodge located on the south side of North Wood. In c 1830, Robert Philips modified The Park in the style of an Italian villa, and added extensive eastern and western wings. The conservatory to the west of The Park was also built in c 1830, and, in the 1840s, Mark Philips constructed Outwood Lodge, to a design drawn up by Johnson of Lichfield. The lodge was sited on the top of the wooded slope to the north of the main house, with its own entrance off the main north drive; it was shielded from The Park by a wooded scarp. Other buildings erected at this time included a brick-built farmhouse and stables enclosing a courtyard, situated adjacent to Outwood Lodge.
- 3.1.14 Hennett's map of 1830 shows the location of Park Lane connecting to a group of buildings within a wooded area named Prestwich Park (Plate 5); this improved access lane replaced the earlier drive from Ox Gap. The outline of The Park is shown on Hennett's map as a T-shaped building, bordered by several tracks; it is not possible to ascertain from the detail of the map whether it is the remodelled house that is depicted. Two rectangular-shaped buildings, located north-west of the house, are also shown, possibly representing the conservatory and quadrangle.



Plate 5: Extract from Hennett's map of 1830

3.1.15 A useful cartographic source of the site is a tithe map for Outwood, Pilkington, which was drawn between 1835 and 1840 (Plate 6). This plan shows the main structure of the park, if not the formal garden area, was in place by 1840. The main elements of the estate at this time included The Park, outbuildings, conservatory, the lodges, kitchen garden, formal garden areas with lawns and shrubbery, woodland, and large pasture fields. By this date, The Park had been remodelled in brick with plaster finish and a stone-decorated facade, with the roof finished with denticulated decorated stone. The house faced north-west, with a five-bay elevation, large Georgian-style windows, and a central doorway with extensive eastern and western wings added; the eastern wing contained the servants' quarters; after the 1890s, Anna Maria Philips retained at least eight indoor servants, who resided in quarters along the eastern side of the house. The southern elevation of The Park was seemingly extended along its eastern side with an additional ground floor circular bay window added, although this did not extend to the upper storey. The western wings contained a labyrinth of cellars, connected by numerous passages, many with dead ends; it has been suggested that two of these cellars contained boilers (Price and Moorman 1973). A small garden area to the south of the house was contained by a curving fence line. Further to the south was a walled kitchen garden with curving walls, which contained a bath and two hot houses. A large lawn is shown to the west of the conservatory, including five irregular-shaped plant beds and a small pond. By this time, a rectangular-shaped building had been erected on the south-western side of the house, which possibly represented an ice house.

- 3.1.16 By 1843, the park was opened occasionally to the public, who were allowed to access parts of the estate grounds; this access was granted initially to school children. It was reported that ‘the Sunday school teachers and scholars walked to the park in procession, in number 81 girls and 96 boys, total 177, besides teachers having viewed the gardens’ (Chris Burnett Associates 1998).



Plate 6: Extract from the tithe map of Outwood, Pilkington dating to 1835-40

- 3.1.17 After the death of Robert Philips in 1844, the estate passed into the hands of his son, Robert Needham Philips, who moved into The Park with his first wife in 1845. This heralded a new phase of development, particularly in the formal gardens; the layout of the gardens is shown on the 1848 Ordnance Survey map (Plate 7). The main drives into the estate were well in place by this time, although a significant improvement in 1852 was the creation of Philips Park Road, jointly funded by the Philips' and the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway to serve Molyneux Brow station. It included a seven-arch viaduct across the small valley to the east of the park, and linked the main drive with the recently opened Bury New Road. This was reported to be a ‘boon to those visiting the park in their carriages’ (Jackson 1991). The map also shows a network of paths through woodland, and avenue planting along the main north drive. A gradual clearance of the site was undertaken to create pasture, leaving some trees which were added to subsequently by new planting (Chris Burnett Associates 1998). By 1852, the conservatory was refitted with a fountain along with a new planting scheme (Price and Moorman 1973). Two statues that belonged to the house were put into the conservatory when the house was



demolished. One of the statues, dated to 1853, was designed by Patric Park, and was of Caroline and Margaret Philips. Other additions included an extension to the formal gardens, the construction of a grassed walk, new greenhouses and forcing tunnels behind the conservatory, and the garden temple.



Plate 7: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map, published in 1848

3.1.18 The Park and gardens were probably at their peak by 1893, when the Ordnance Survey first edition 25": 1 mile was published (Plate 8). After the death of her father in 1890, Anna Maria Philips took over the estate and the task of managing the well-developed landscape. Whilst consolidating her father's and grandfather's work, she also added some of her own features, including the construction of the new North Lodge in 1900, which was possibly constructed from the re-use of material from Outwood Lodge. Philips Park Road, linking Park Lane with Bury New Road, was also completed during this period. However, it became increasingly difficult for Anna Maria Philips to maintain the estate; the putative ice house is absent from the 1890s Ordnance Survey map.

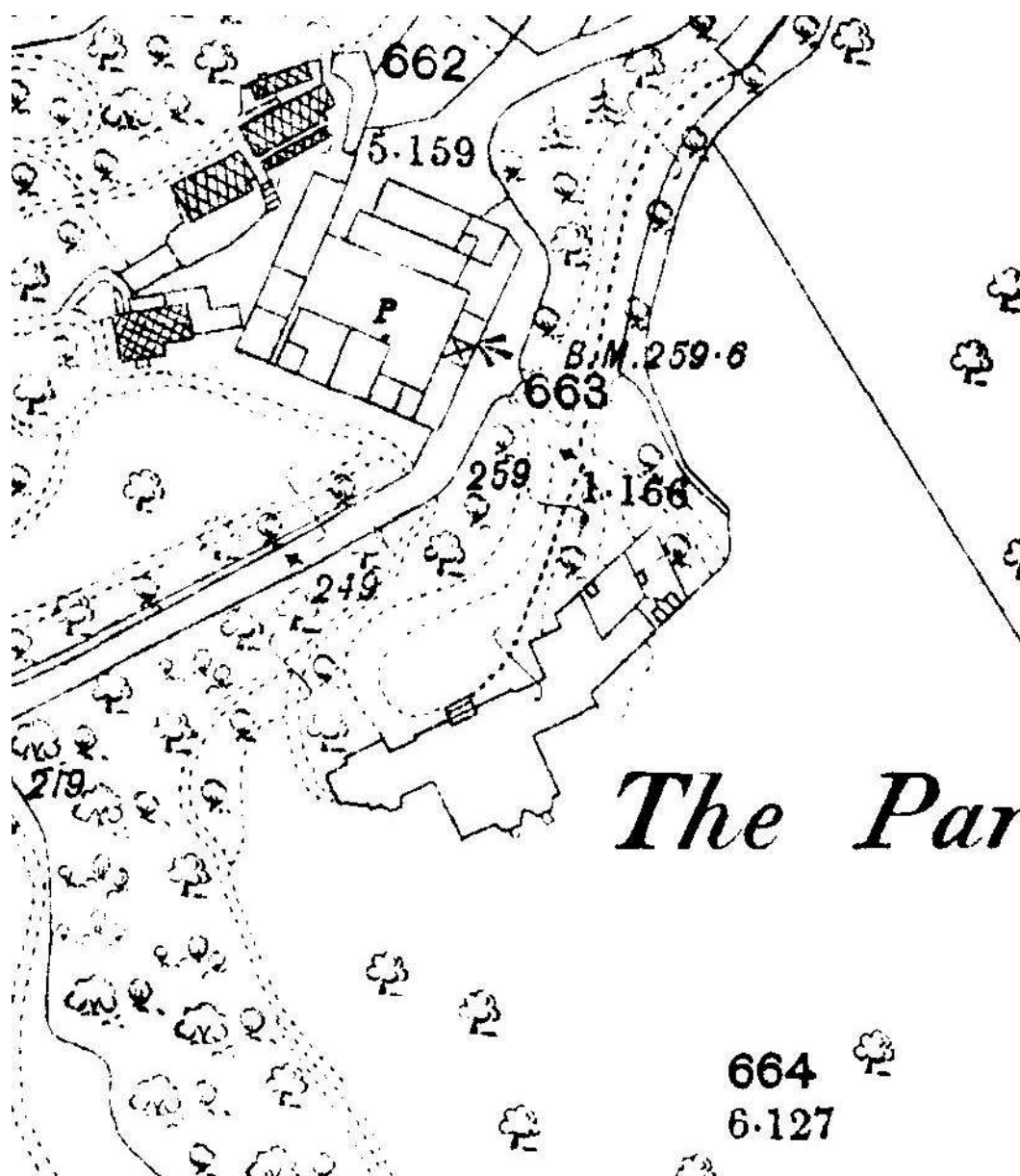


Plate 8: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 25": 1 mile map of 1893

3.1.19 **Twentieth-century development:** by the early twentieth century, it is likely that the neglected nature of the kitchen garden had become prominent in the view from the front of the house (Plate 9). The kitchen garden and the hot houses were eventually closed when pollution from the increasingly industrial valley made growing conditions impossible. New planting was carried out in an attempt to both soften the impact, and to create a more pleasing woodland boundary to the previous straight lines (Chris Burnett Associates 1998). The Ordnance Survey map of 1910 show a slight rearrangement of the paths and boundary surrounding the western side of the house. Subsequent Ordnance Survey mapping, published in 1912 and 1927, show few changes.



Plate 9: South elevation of the house in the early twentieth century

- 3.1.20 **Recollections:** the internal layout of the main part of the house is referred to in Ann Maria Philips's memoirs, written by her nephew WR Price, the son of her sister Margaret and Mary Moorman (Price and Moorman 1973), with additional information provided by Mrs Tania Rose based on her recollections of the house during visits to The Park in the early twentieth century; this valuable body of oral evidence is being collated presently by Ian Pringle, who carried out consultation with Tania Rose in 1996.
- 3.1.21 Mrs Tania Rose recalled: 'The large front hall contained statues of Caesars on pillars. The inner hall (located directly south of the entrance hall) contained the stairs. The stairs were located along three sides of the room accessing two of rooms - drawing and morning rooms - with the bottom tread accessed east of the drawing room wall. They were positioned at right angles running beneath Thorvaldsen reliefs located on the wall above the flight. The stone steps were painted with pipe clay and covered with magnificent carpet. The corridor linking the front hall to the library contained huge and most intimidating ceremonial lances. These had been used on ceremonial occasions by Aunt Anna's uncle, Mark Philips. He went to live in Warwickshire at Welcombe and became High Sheriff of Warwickshire, and these lances were used when he was escorted in and out of Stratford-upon-Avon on ceremonial occasions. Outside the library was a back staircase leading to the upstairs bedrooms and the most amazing downstairs loo very full of polished wood used by the gentlemen of the house.' A third staircase is mentioned by WR Price, although its exact location remains uncertain. WR Price added that 'The dining room was thought to have been the sunniest and most dignified having two outside walls with large windows facing south. Alongside this came the smaller morning room facing the big lawn. The drawing room was the grand double room filled with chandeliers and finely carved furniture' (*ibid*).



*Plate 10: Statue in the stairway hall*



*Plate 11: View of the back drawing room*

3.1.22 **First floor:** WR Price recalled that ‘upstairs, excluding the servants quarters were ten bed and dressing rooms’. Mrs Rose, however, recalled ‘at the top of the main stairs you could go round the other two sides of the hall thus accessing four rooms and the one and only bathroom. The first room was the guest room along the front part of the house overlooking the park. It contained a large double bed and a large collection of Victorian paper weights. Next door along the southern side of the house, was Aunt Anna’s bedroom. The servants’ quarters were located along the windowless upper storey’.

3.1.23 **Basement:** the cellars were accessed via numerous passages many of which had dead-ends. ‘Two of the cellars served two boilers, and it took the gardeners several days to wheel the coke from one room to the other. At one stage the cellar book listed forty dozen bottles of sherry stored’ (Price and Moorman 1973).

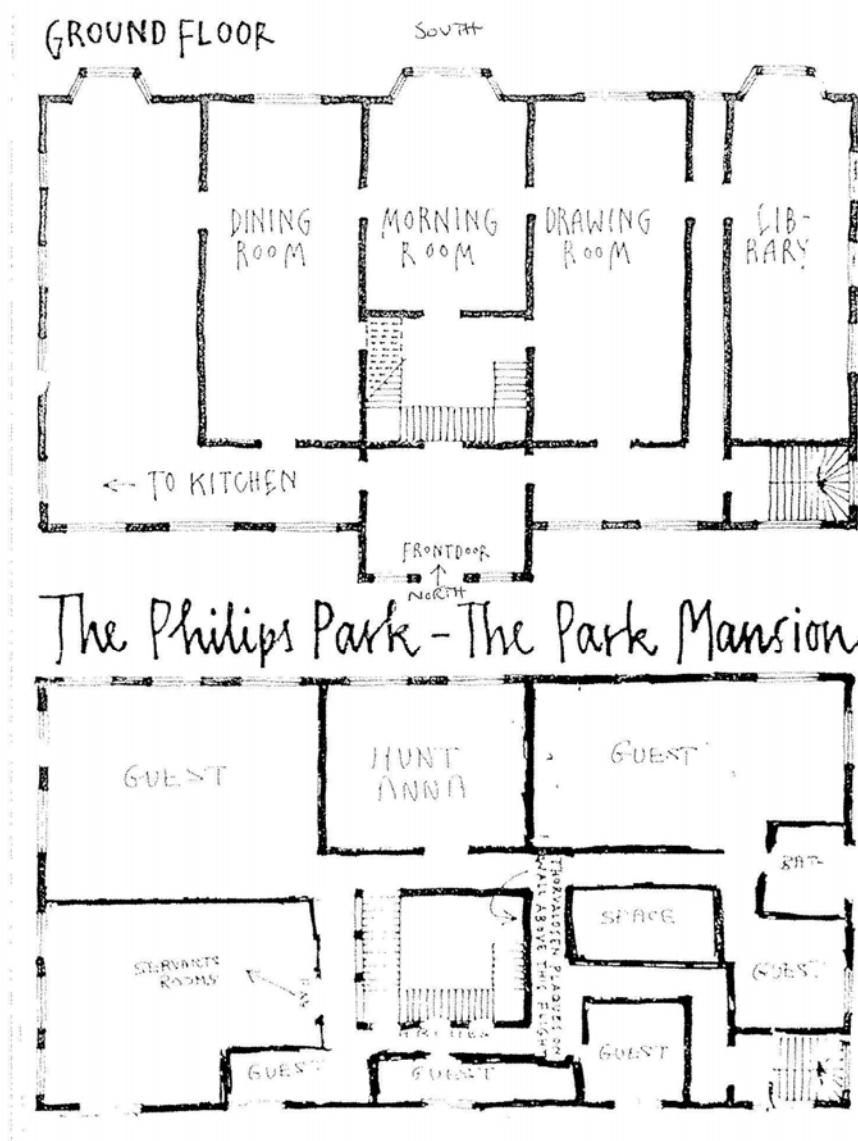


Plate 12: Internal layout within the central core of the house based on recollections by Tania Rose and drawn up for her

- 3.1.24 ***Decline of The Park:*** Anna Maria Philips died in 1946, and the estate was left to a nephew, WR Price. The estate was sold to Whitefield Council in 1948, who opened it as a public park. The contents of The Park, along with fixtures and fittings, were sold by the demolition contractor in 1950, with items such as a Georgian Mahogany dining room sideboard by Robert Gillow being sold for £6. The house was demolished completely in 1950, after a joint management committee of Whitefield and Prestwich Councils took over the estate. Air pollution from the industrial valley had begun to have a significant effect, particularly on the trees. As such, a programme of replanting was carried out with more tolerant species including poplar, sycamore and ash.
- 3.1.25 The main change to affect the park has been the construction of the M62 motorway in 1968. This had a major impact on the northern boundary of the estate, where large sections of the North Wood and several fields were removed to make way for the road corridor. The North Drive has been truncated, leaving the early twentieth-century gate house and Philips Park Road cut off from the rest of the park. In addition, the viaduct and the Thatched Cottage were demolished prior to the construction of the motorway in 1965, and screen planting carried out subsequently has obscured and altered the previous avenue approach to the main house. The most significant impact, however, has been the tipping of spoil from the motorway construction, which has affected the profile of the pasture land in the estate.
- 3.1.26 The estate buildings to the north-west of the main house survive extant, and were used as function suites and a nightclub from the 1970s to 2006. In 1998, a restoration plan was prepared detailing improvement to the park as part of a Heritage Lottery bid, although this was not undertaken due to the use of the estate buildings; these are currently unused.

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## 4. EVALUATION RESULTS

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 In total, ten trenches of varying sizes were excavated across the site (Fig 2). A single trench across the western side of the site, specified in the Project Brief, was inaccessible at the time of the evaluation, although additional trenches were placed within the core of the building, and to the south-west of the house. These included a single trench within the main body of the house (Trench 2), and a trench across an area thought to contain an ice house (Trench 9). In addition, an area of undergrowth was cleared across the western side of the house in order to investigate and record a stone-built structure built into the western boundary wall (Trench 11).

### 4.2 TRENCH 1

4.2.1 This north/south-aligned trench was placed across the former west wing of the house, and was excavated to a length of 14m (Plate 13). It was placed between the western side of the present car park, and an earthen bank along the south-western side of the site. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.7m to reveal a cellar floor within the central part of the trench. Several cellars and passages were exposed, demonstrating at least two phases of construction. Documentary evidence has indicated that two boilers were located in cellars within this part of the house (*Section 3.1.23 above*), although physical remains of these were not encountered within the excavated trench (Fig 3).



*Plate 13: View of Trench 1, looking north-west*

- 4.2.2 The northernmost cellar (**99**) was aligned north-west/south-east within the western wing, and measured approximately 2.3m x 2m (Fig 3). It comprised four contiguous walls (**72**, **74**, **77**, and **81**), and the remnants of a cobbled floor (**83**), which had been disturbed, presumably during demolition of The Park. Access into the cellar was afforded from the west via a brick-roofed passage.
- 4.2.3 The eastern wall (**81**) was exposed across the eastern side of the trench for a distance of 1.1m, and seemingly continued to the east beyond the edge of the excavated trench. The upper surface of the wall retained pink lime mortar, although the lower section had grey mortar, suggesting an area of repair. The wall stepped out by 0.23m at a depth of 0.5m below the spring of the barrel-vaulted roof, creating a narrow shelf (Plate 14). Wall **81** was bonded to wall **77**, which was aligned north-east/south-west, and was three brick-skins wide, bonded with light grey mortar. The position of the wall corresponds with the northern wall of the western wing shown on historical mapping. Wall **72** formed the southern boundary of the cellar, and also served as a retaining wall for the passageway along its southern side. The wall was aligned north-east/south-west, measured 0.54m wide, and was at least five brick-skins thick. It survived to a height of 1.63m above a flagstone floor. The wall returned to the north-west near the western limit of excavation (Fig 3). Wall **74** formed the northern extent of the cellar, and was situated some 2m north of wall **72**, with which it was parallel. Part of the barrel-vaulted roof (**76**) remained intact along the northern part of the room, bonded to wall **74** with cement-based mortar (Plate 14). Wall **74** returned to the south-east at its western end to form a doorway with the north-western return of wall **72**, thus creating a 0.9m wide entrance. The wall was rendered with lime wash to a height of 0.97m above the floor (**83**). A layer of brick (**76**) set within the upper surface of walls **74** and **77** possibly represented a surface on the ground floor.



Plate 14: View of the northern corner within cellar **99**



- 4.2.4 An east/west-aligned passage afforded access to the cellar from beneath the house. The passage had a width of 1.5m and a barrel-vaulted roof (Plate 15), and seemingly continued beyond the western side of the house.



Plate 15: View of the passage along the southern-eastern wall of cellar 99, looking north

- 4.2.5 The southern cellar (**100**) was a significantly larger than cellar **99**, having been divided originally into two rooms; the dimensions of the cellar as excavated were 4m x 2.85m (Plate 16). A scar visible in the western wall (**78**) represented the former partition, which probably extended east/west across the room. Three of the cellar's external walls (**64**, **71** and **78**) were exposed, whilst the fourth was buried beneath the eastern limit of excavation. No floor survived *in-situ*, although a stone-flagged surface (**69**) within the passage to the north of the cellar provided some indication of the approximate floor level.
- 4.2.6 Wall **64** formed the southern external wall of the western wing, and was three brick-skins wide (0.4m). It retained a corner return along its western edge, heading north/west; this section of the wall (**78**) measured 4m long. Wall **78** measured three brick-skins wide (0.24m), and survived to a height of 1.52m above floor level. It was constructed from mould-thrown bricks, each measuring 240mm by 110mm by 80mm, bonded with light grey lime-based mortar. A blocked doorway (**65**) was located at the northern end of the wall. The doorway measured 1.2m wide and 1.73m high, and had been blocked with bricks mortared with dark grey mortar with ash cement, indicative of a late nineteenth-century date. A hinge was observed projecting from the northern side of the doorway, representing a former gate. It is possible that the doorway had been blocked when the former partition was removed. A sandstone block inserted along top of blocked doorway **65** possibly represented a lintel.

- 4.2.7 Wall **71** was aligned north-east/south-west, and measured 2.26m long, returning to the north-west, with the corner forming one side of another doorway in to the room. The wall was four bricks-thick (0.5m) wide, and survived to height of 1.6m. The north-west return of the wall retained a brick arch overlying the passage between cellar **100** and cellar **99**.
- 4.2.8 Wall **73** was located opposite wall **71**, forming an entrance to the arched passageway that was formed from walls **71** and **72**, as well as the passage formed by walls **72** and **73**. Wall **73** was four-bricks thick, with the remains of a barrel-vaulted ceiling attached to the upper surface of the wall, bridging to wall **72**. This passageway had been blocked at the bottom by a 0.5m high brick wall. An *in-situ* stone-flagged floor (**69**) was partially exposed, and measured 0.8m x 0.58m. The sandstone flags were laid above mid-brown sand (**70**).



*Plate 16: View of cellar 100, looking north-west*

### 4.3 TRENCH 2

4.3.1 Trench 2 was placed across the eastern side of the house, approximately beneath the former kitchen and dining room (Plate 17). The trench was aligned north-west/south-east, measured 8.4m long, and was excavated a maximum depth of 1.7m into a layer mid-brown sand (**21**). The exposed structural remains included a probable toilet located along the southern edge of the cellar (Fig 4). The deposits in the trench comprised a layer of mid-orange-brown sand (**21**), representing the natural geology, which was sealed by demolition rubble (**17** and **20**) within the northern part of the trench. Another horizon of natural origin (**12**), comprising yellow sand, was observed at a depth of 0.5m beneath the modern ground surface at the southern end of the trench. This was located in an area across the southern front of the house, which had seemingly never been disturbed by any development. The sand was partially sealed by a dump of lime (**11**), measuring 0.9m in diameter and up to 0.3m thick, and perhaps represented the mortar that had been used during the construction of the housed.



Plate 18: View of Trench 2, looking south-east

4.3.2 The walls (**14** and **19**) of the exposed cellar were set 5m apart. The northern wall (**19**) also formed the wall of another cellar directly to the north, represented by the remains of a springing course for a stone vault along its northern edge. This northern cellar possibly continued south-west behind the main entrance to the house, as seen in Trench 10. Wall **19** measured three-brick skins wide (0.36m), and was bonded to a 0.37m wide brick buttress, which projected 0.5m north of the wall. The wall, together with partition **18** (Section 4.3.3 below), also formed a north-east/south-west-aligned passage, 0.75m wide. This was located at the southern edge of the wall (Fig 4), and perhaps linked the kitchen to the front hall. The southern wall (**14**) of the

cellar also formed the external wall of part of the eastern wing, reflected in its relatively large width of 0.56m. It survived to a maximum height of 1.6m, above a layer of mid-brown sand (**21**), representing the natural geology. The component bricks were all of an identical size to those used within the other exposed walls, although variations in the fabric of the lime-based mortar were noted. The fabric of the northern face of the wall was obscured by paint and lime wash, although at least 17 courses of brick were identified. Wall **14** incorporated the remnants of a cellar light window (**15**) across the upper surviving surface, which comprised a large limestone lintel measuring 1.05m long by 0.4m wide and 0.1m thick. It contained several square-cut recesses set 0.14m apart, with lead, which marked the position of the bars for a window grill.

4.3.3 The cellar was partitioned by wall **18**, which extended north-east for a distance of 1.35m at the northern end of the room. This wall provided the boundary for the passage between walls **18** and **14**. Wall **18** was two brick-skins wide, increasing to three skins at a terminal formed by a bull-nose brick at the northern end of the wall. This represented the opening of the passage into the cellar. The wall was exposed to a depth of seven courses (0.6m), and was painted along its eastern and western faces.

4.3.4 Evidence for remodelling of the house was provided by a two-skin wide (0.23m) brick wall (**13**), located along the southern part of the trench. Wall **13** was aligned north-east/south-west, approximately parallel with wall **14**, and was exposed to a depth of 0.41m (five courses). The wall comprised mould-thrown bricks, each measuring 230mm x 110mm x 70mm, and bonded with dark grey ash mortar, indicative of a late nineteenth-century date. The gap (**16**) between the walls measured 0.5m, and the space between was filled with broken pieces of a toilet bowl of a type patented by Jennings in 1870; the position of the toilet suggested that it had probably been accessed from the kitchen.

#### 4.4 TRENCH 3

4.4.1 This trench was aligned north-east/south-west, and was excavated to a length of 6m (Plate 18). The trench was intended to establish the presence or absence of the external wall along the western side of the house. However, the western wall was not encountered in the trench, or any other structural remains, except for a land drain. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m onto the surface of red sand (**62**) at the western end of the trench, levelling up to 0.5m throughout the remainder of the trench.

4.4.2 The excavated deposits comprised red saturated sand (**62**), which was sealed beneath a 0.2m thick layer of cream-yellow sand (**61**); these sand deposits represented the natural geology (Plate 19). The sand was overlaid by dark red-brown sandy-clay (**60**), which extending for a length of 3m across the trench and was 0.16m thick. This deposit represented a well-drained and naturally formed subsoil. The clay was in turn sealed by 0.12m thick yellowish-red firm clay (**59**), which was observed beneath the topsoil (**58**).

- 4.4.3 Sand **61** was cut by the north/south-aligned ceramic drain (**63**). The drain had been repaired during the last century, as indicated by a re-cut of the foundation trench.



*Plate 18: View of Trench 3, looking north*



*Plate 19: South-east facing section through Trench 3, looking north*

## 4.5 TRENCH 4

- 4.5.1 Trench 4 was aligned north-west/south-east, and was excavated initially to a length of 27.5m (Plate 20). The trench was extended subsequently by 4.5m at the south-western end and 8m at the north-eastern end (Fig 5). The trench was intended to establish the presence or absence of walls forming the central core of the house, and the main entrance on its north-eastern side, although this was eventually revealed in Trench 10 (*Section 4.11 below*).
- 4.5.2 Trench 4 was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.2m onto the surface of pale brown sand (39), which was exposed along the northern elevation of the southern external wall (48); sand 39 was also observed in the northern part of the trench at a depth of 0.6m beneath the modern ground surface. The northern (41), southern (48) and western (49) external walls of the house were exposed, in addition to a cellar (42) and a passage bordering the southern part of the cellar (Fig 5). These structures lay beneath the drawing room and a passage linking the main entrance to the library, as shown on the internal sketch plan of the house (Plate 12).
- 4.5.3 The earliest deposit encountered in the trench comprised pale brown/red sand (39), representing natural geology. This was cut by the external walls 41, 48 and 49, and a ceramic drain (40), which was contained within a north-east/south-west-aligned cut, and was 0.17m in diameter. Sand 39 was overlain by a layer of gravel, 0.15m thick, and sealed by thick layers of demolition material that had been crushed and compacted to form levelling for the modern ground surface. No *in-situ* floors survived in the trench.



Plate 20: View of the central area of the trench

- 4.5.4 North-east/south-west-aligned wall 41 was not of a uniform width, being wider towards the southern end, where it had a maximum width of 1.35m, including the retaining wall (45) for the cellar. The wall incorporated two cavities, separated by a two-skin wide partition. The cavities were filled with

fuel waste and sand, although it is likely that they had been intended as cavity wall insulation.

4.5.5 Wall **48** was located at the southern end of the trench, and was aligned parallel to wall **41** (Fig 5). At least 15 brick courses were exposed, providing a height of 2m (Plate 21). It measured 0.64m wide, and was generally three brick-skins wide, and bonded with off-white lime-based mortar. The southern side of the wall incorporated a small bay, measuring 2.32m by 0.16m, which may have represented part of the foundations of the window visible on historical photographs of the house (Plate 9). The wall was keyed into the north-west/south-east-aligned section of the western external wall **49**. This was exposed for a length of 1m, and was four bricks thick at the junction of the walls. The foundations exposed in this part of the house lay beneath the library.



*Plate 21: South-western external corner of the main house*

4.5.6 The cellar (**42**) lay directly to the south of the northern wall **41**. The northern edge of the cellar was formed by wall **45**, whilst wall **46**, located 4m to the south, formed the southern edge. No roof of the cellar survived, although the vestiges of stone vaulting were identified along the upper surviving course of wall **41**. The room was subdivided by two short walls (**43** and **44**), each measuring 0.32m wide, and butting walls **45** and **46**. Wall **46** measured was three bricks thick (0.5m), and was exposed to a depth of three courses. A gap between the centres of these walls represented a doorway that provided access to each part of the cellar.

4.5.7 A north-east/south-west-aligned passage between walls **46** and **47** measured 1.5m wide, and was filled entirely with rubble. There were no remains of a floor, suggesting that it had been laid above the level of the foundations. Wall **47** measured 0.3m (two skins) wide, and was rendered with lime wash to a depth of eight courses (1.1m). It is possible that the passage represented the corridor linking the main entrance to the library.

## 4.6 TRENCH 5

4.6.1 Trench 5 was placed within the south-eastern part of the house (Plate 22), and aimed to establish the presence or absence of the eastern external wall. The trench was aligned north-east/south-west, measured 6.6m long, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.8m to the top of natural geology (**57**). Whilst the eastern wall of the house was not encountered within the trench, several internal structures were revealed, including a fireplace (**54**), stone sink (**52**), and internal partitions (**50**, **51**, and **53**). These structures were sealed entirely by rubble backfill (**55** in the western side of the trench, and **56** in the eastern side).

4.6.2 Wall **50** was four bricks thick (0.5m), and extended north-west for a length of 0.9m, seemingly continuing south-east beyond the limit of excavation. A further section of a wall on the same alignment was exposed beneath the north-western limit of the trench, leaving a 1m wide gap, which may have represented a doorway or passage within the northern part of the western cellar (Fig 4). At least part of wall **50** had been whitewashed. Wall **51** was slightly narrower than wall **50**, comprising two brick skins (0.23m), and was aligned north-west/south-east across the trench. The wall was exposed to a depth of 0.95m, and was keyed into wall **53**. Partition **53** was aligned north-east/south-west, and was located in the southern part of the trench. It was keyed into wall **51**, and formed the rear wall of a fireplace (**54**).

4.6.3 The eastern cellar contained a fireplace (**54**) and a stone sink (**52**). The fireplace was located in the eastern corner of the trench, projecting 0.53m from wall **53**, and facing to the north (Fig 4). It measured 2.08m long with a centrally positioned internal flue measuring 0.64m by 0.4m (Plate 23). The northern face of the fireplace was intact, with at least six brick courses beneath a thick lime-washed render.

4.6.4 Sink **52** comprised a single piece of rectangular-shaped limestone, measuring 0.78m wide and at least 1.6m long, aligned along the eastern side of wall **51**. It was 0.12m thick, and contained a chamfered edge, forming an internal recess thus providing an internal width of 0.67m and 40mm deep, with a centrally positioned hole measuring 25mm in diameter. Its proximity to the fireplace (less than 1m east) suggested that room was used as a washroom, or for the preparation of food.





Plate 22: View of Trench 5, looking south-east



Plate 23: Fireplace 54 and sink 52, Trench 5

## 4.7 TRENCH 6

- 4.7.1 Trench was aligned north-west/south-east, and was placed across the eastern part of the main house (Plate 24). It measured 12m long, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.38m. The trench was intended to establish the presence or absence of the northern external wall (33) of the house, and any surviving internal features. The natural geology (38) was exposed at the northern end of the trench. Several well-preserved structural remains were exposed, including two cellars (35 and 36), separated by a partition wall (32), which were situated beneath the dining room. An east/west-aligned pipe (34), located to the north of wall 33, had presumably been intended as a drain. No flooring survived in either of the cellars, which had been backfilled with demolition debris.



Plate 24: View of the trench, looking north-west

- 4.7.2 The northernmost cellar (36) measured c 3.5m long, and was defined by wall 33 to the north and wall 32 to the south (Fig 4). The full extent of cellar 35 was not exposed, although excavation demonstrated it to be of a similar length to cellar 36. Wall 33 was aligned north-east/south-west across the northern part of the trench, and survived to a height of 2.4m. It comprised mould-thrown bricks, each measuring 230mm x 110mm x 70mm and bonded with lime-based mortar. The wall incorporated some stone components, representing elements of a vaulted ceiling for the adjoining cellar (36). The wall also incorporated a 0.4m wide cavity, similar to those in Trench 4.
- 4.7.3 Wall 32 was approximately parallel with wall 33, forming a north-east/south-west-aligned partition between the two cellars. The wall was exposed to an overall depth of 1.7m, and was whitewashed on both elevations. The vestiges of stone vaulting survived along the northern edge of the wall, forming the southern part of the ceiling for cellar 36.

## 4.8 TRENCH 7

4.8.1 The trench was aligned north-west/south-east across the footprint of the eastern wing of the house, and adjoined the western end of Trench 8 (Fig 2). It was intended to locate the external walls of the building, and any internal structures. It was excavated for a length of 14.5m, and to a maximum depth of 2.20m (Plate 25). The natural geology was represented by pale brownish-red sand (22), which was exposed at a depth of 0.5m beneath dark grey-brown sandy-clay topsoil (31) at the north-western end of the trench. In total, three external walls (23, 24, and 27) and a cellar (28) were encountered (Fig 6), which demonstrated at least two phases of construction pertaining to the development of the eastern wing during the mid- to late nineteenth century.



*Plate 25: View of the trench, looking north-west*

4.8.2 Wall 23 was located along the eastern side of the trench, cutting sand 22. The wall was aligned north-west/south-east, and was exposed for a length of 6.5m. It measured three bricks thick, and survived to a height of nine courses (0.6m), with a single stepped footing along its foundation. The south-eastern section of the wall was constructed entirely from hand-made, mould-thrown bricks

bonded with lime-based mortar. However, the northern section (2.3m) of the wall clearly represented a later building phase, demonstrated by the type of brick used in its construction. The wall was keyed into a north-east/south-west-aligned wall (**24**) of identical width, which extended across the trench. Wall **24** measured 1.58m long by 0.56m wide, and was seven courses high (0.52), laid in English Garden Wall bond. Each wall was composed of a mixture of hand-made, mould-thrown bricks and some deep red, partially reduced frogged bricks, bonded with pale red cement. A single fragment of sandstone bridged a gap between the northern and southern sections of wall **23**. The western face of wall **23** was rendered with plaster, indicating that it had formed an internal cellar wall. Plaster rendering was also present along the eastern face of wall **25**, which extended north-east from the northern end of wall **23**. Wall **25** was seemingly aligned north-east/south-west, although much of it was obscured by the eastern limit of excavation. The southern end of wall **23** was butted by a 1.4m long wall (**30**), which measured two bricks thick (0.32m), and continued on the same alignment. The wall formed part of the north-eastern boundary of a cellar (**28**), located at the southern end of the trench.

4.8.3 Cellar **28** was formed by at least three walls (**27**, **29** and **30**), and was accessed via a passage along its eastern side, between walls **29** and **30** (Plate 26). The cellar measured at least 4m long, although its width was difficult to determine as the remainder of the room was obscured beneath the western edge of the excavated trench. Wall **27** was aligned north-east/south-west, and formed the northern side of the cellar. It measured 0.5m wide, and incorporated a stepped footing along its northern face. It survived to a height of at least 25 courses, and was keyed into wall **30**. The upper section of wall **27** incorporated elements of a vaulted ceiling, which projected 0.3m from the wall face. Wall **29** was aligned north-west/south-east, forming the eastern side of the cellar, and continuing beyond the eastern limit of excavation. It was 0.4m wide, and was exposed to a depth of seven courses at the entrance to the passage between it and wall **30**. The southern wall of the cellar was not exposed in the trench, although several brick arches forming part of the vaulted ceiling survived at the southern end of the trench.

4.8.4 The floor of the cellar was exposed at a depth of 1.7m beneath the uppermost brick arch, although the projected profile of the cellar ceiling suggests a probable floor depth beneath the roof exceeding 2m. The floor was composed of large rectangular flags, each measuring at least 1m by 0.5m, which were exposed along the western side of the cellar. The entrance measured 1.35m wide bordered by a 0.5m long by 0.4m wide wall (**26**), which was keyed into the eastern end of wall **30**. The wall represented the northern boundary of a passage which continued north-east beneath the eastern limit of excavation, probably connecting to a passage revealed in Trench 8 (*Section 4.9.5 below*). The southern wall of the passage was not fully exposed.



Plate 26: Doorway within the northern wall (29 and 30) of cellar 28

4.8.5 Other features that were exposed within the trench included two north-east/south-west-aligned drains (ceramic and lead pipes), cutting sand 22 within the northern part of the trench. These were presumably installed to service rooms within the eastern side of the house.

## 4.9 TRENCH 8

4.9.1 The trench was placed approximately north-east/south-west across the footprint of the eastern wing of the house, and aimed to establish the presence or absence of its eastern external wall. The trench measured 12.8m long and 1.6m wide (Fig 6), and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.2m to the surface of a floor in a roofed passageway (08). For the most part, however, the trench was excavated to the surface of a layer of yellow sand (02), representing natural geology, which was exposed at an average depth of 0.5m below the modern ground surface (Plate 27).

4.9.2 The natural geology was sealed by a layer of sand (09), which contained frequent inclusions of brick rubble, presumably representing the demolition of the eastern wing, but was otherwise very similar to the underlying natural geology. Layer 09 was 0.2m thick, and was overlain by a 0.10m thick deposit of topsoil. The natural geology was cut by three structures (01, 08 and 10). These comprised a possible toilet (01), a roofed passage (08), and a man-hole (10).



*Plate 27: View of Trench 8, looking west*

- 4.9.3 Feature **01** was a rectangular-shaped structure, measuring 2.6m long by 1.35m wide, and comprising four contiguous brick walls that were all two brick-skins thick (Fig 6). The walls all survived to a height of at least 0.4m, with five courses exposed at the eastern end. The component bricks were all mould-thrown, and were bonded by a lime-based mortar.
- 4.9.4 The structure had been sub-divided by a one-skin wide partition, thus creating two chambers of equal size (Plate 28). No floor was present in the western chamber, although the eastern chamber contained a sloping flagged floor at its base. Both chambers were filled with brick rubble, which was overlain by a row of four sandstone blocks. However, these were unlikely to have formed part of the structure, and probably derived from the demolition of the façade surrounding the eastern wing. The intended function of structure **01** remains uncertain, although it seems possible that it might have been a water closet for use by the servants.



Plate 28: Remains of a possible toilet foundation (01), looking west

- 4.9.5 Structure **08** comprised a north/south-aligned passage, which was exposed across the eastern part of the trench. It comprised two parallel walls (**04** and **07**), which were exposed at a depth of 0.5m beneath the modern ground surface (Plate 29). The passage had originally incorporated a brick vaulted roof, and whilst only fragmentary elements of this survived within the confines of the excavated trench, it appeared to be intact beyond the southern limit of excavation. The entire structure measured 1.84m wide, although the gap between the walls, forming the passage, was 1.1m wide. The internal elevation of both walls had been lime-washed, and also retained traces of blue paint. Wall **07** was exposed to a depth of 2.1m, comprising at least 10 courses above a stone-flagged floor. The component bricks were all mould-thrown, and bonded with off-white lime-based mortar. The floor (**06**) comprised slightly blackened Yorkstone slabs, and lay at a depth of 2.3m from the apex of the vaulted roof.
- 4.9.6 It is possible that the passage connected an entrance for servants and tradesmen along the eastern side of the wing to the cellars within the southern part of the house. The orientation of the passage suggested that it would lead to cellar 28 in Trench 7, passing beneath part of the east wing and, as such, may have been constructed prior to the alterations of the east wing undertaken some time after the mid-nineteenth century.



*Plate 29: Passage 08*

- 4.9.7 Structure **10** was rectangular in shape, and lay along the eastern edge of the trench, and continued beneath the southern limit of excavation. The corner of two walls measuring 1.03m east/west and 0.5m long north/south, was also exposed in the trench. The walls survived to a height of two courses of brick, bonded with pale reddish-yellow mortar. The gap between the walls was filled with loose silt and fragments of stone flags, suggestive of a capped drain.



#### 4.10 TRENCH 9

4.10.1 The trench was aligned east/west across a hollow located in a wooded area to west of the house (Fig 2). The hollow was thought to have been a possible location for an ice house, although firm evidence was lacking. The trench measured 10m long by 2m wide, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m (Plate 30). The earliest deposits encountered were a light grey sand (85), which was exposed at the northern end of the trench, and a mid-brown clay (89) that was present to the south; both deposits represented the natural geology. Structural remains of the putative ice house were not present within the excavated trench.

4.10.2 The natural geology was sealed by a deposit humic, dark grey silty-clay (86), which was exposed in the base of the hollow at the southern end of the trench. Deposit 86 had a maximum depth of 0.20m, and contained fragments of nineteenth- and twentieth-century pottery. Also within the southern part of the trench was a layer of dumped material (88), which contained fragments of dressed stone, brick, glass, plastic, and roofing slate. Deposit 88 extended for a distance of some 2m along the trench, and had a maximum depth of 0.8m. Deposits 86 and 88 were both likely to represent debris from the demolition of The Park, and were sealed by a layer (87) of topsoil.



Plate 30: View of Trench 9, looking south-west

## 4.11 TRENCH 10

4.11.1 The trench was aligned north-east/south-west, extending from the northern end of Trench 4 (Fig 5). It was excavated to a length of 8.3m, and to a maximum depth of 0.30m, onto the surface of natural geology. The trench was intended to establish the precise location of the porch and main entrance to The Park, shown on historical photographs (Plate 31).



*Plate 31: The main entrance to The Park*

4.11.2 Potentially, the earliest remains encountered in the trench were fragmentary elements of a stone wall (97) exposed in the northern part of the trench (Plate 32). Wall 97 was aligned north-east/south-west, and comprised irregularly laid, roughly hewn stone blocks. These were laid above a layer of compacted clay (98), which contained numerous small stones, and overlay the natural sand geology. The intended function of the wall remains uncertain.



*Plate 32: Wall 97, looking north-west*

4.11.3 Remains of the northern wall (**41**) of The Park were exposed along the entire trench, together with the foundations for a porch (Plate 33). Wall **41** had a maximum width of 1.5m across the entrance of the house, although it incorporated a large cavity (**93**), measuring 3m by 0.7m, immediately beneath the entrance. Three other cavities were exposed in different parts of the northern wall. The western cavity (**92**), measuring 3.5m long and 0.36m wide, lay beneath the foundation for a window. The eastern cavity (**94**) was also located beneath a window foundation, and measured at least 1.2m long by 0.4m wide. The porch comprised a low stone wall (**90**) aligned north-east/south-west, with two north/south-aligned returns abutting wall **41** at each end. The stone wall (**90**) survived to a height of 0.23m, and incorporated chamfered sandstone blocks, each measuring up to 0.48m long by 0.12m wide and 0.12m deep. They overlay thin slabs of sandstone, which served as an interface with a brick foundation. Remains of iron strips on the upper surface of wall **90** were noted, representing masonry ties for the corner stones of the porch. The eastern face of wall **90** was butted by a brick surface, which had seemingly provided a foundation for a floor within the porch. The wall was also butted by two north-west/south-east aligned walls (**91**), set 1.7m apart, representing the foundations for low walls flanking the entrance steps. Each foundation survived to a height of 0.16m comprising two brick courses laid above a thin stone slab.



Plate 33: View of Trench 10, looking west

4.11.4 Excavation immediately to the south of the entrance exposed a cellar (Plate 34), which was popularly believed to have contained statues from the staircase hall (Ian Pringle pers comm). However, no such statues were present in the excavated part of the cellar.

4.11.5 The northern edge of the cellar was formed by wall **41**. The southern elevation of wall **41** incorporated a narrow step (**95**), which supported a large stone block. This provided the foundation for a row of angled bricks, which formed the springing course for the brick-vault of the cellar ceiling.



*Plate 34: South-facing elevation of wall 41 to the rear of the main entrance into the house*

#### **4.12 GARDEN FEATURE (TRENCH 11)**

- 4.12.1 In addition to the targeted evaluation trenches, an area lying some 10m to the west of The Park was cleared of undergrowth (Plate 35) in order to establish the presence or absence of the square-shaped building shown on the parish plan of 1835-40, and to determine whether this represented the ice house.



*Plate 35: Area of clearance surrounding the garden feature*

- 4.12.2 Part of the area had been landscaped in recent years to create a playground, which incorporated a tarmac surface. Mechanical removal of the tarmac revealed a layer of light red sand, which had presumably been deposited as levelling material for the modern surface. This sealed a dark grey sandy-clay subsoil, which represented the natural geology. The subsoil had been cut by an uneven spread of bricks, which was exposed across an area measuring some 4m x 0.5m. Limited investigation revealed that the brick spread capped a large ceramic sewer pipe, which was aligned north-east/south-west, and seemingly connected with the western wing of The Park.
- 4.12.3 A semi-circular-shaped stone structure, built into a stone boundary wall that circumnavigated the western side of the house, formed the eastern edge of the cleared area (Fig 7). The rear of this stone structure was cut into an earthen bank, which separated the western wing of the house and the boundary wall. The structure had a diameter of 2.15m, and survived to a height of 1.2m (Plate 36). It was composed of roughly shaped sandstone blocks of varying sizes. The floor of the structure comprised a thick layer of concrete, although an indication of an earlier surface was represented by a single block of sandstone that abutted the internal elevation of the structure. This was not investigated further during the course of the evaluation, as the removal of the concrete floor would have wrought irreparable damage to the structure.



*Plate 36: View of the stone-built garden feature, looking north*

## 5. FINDS

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 In total, 126 artefacts were recovered from the evaluation trenches. The assemblage was dominated by fragments of decorated wall plaster (10 pieces), marble (6), ceramic and glass floor tiles (13), and ceramic drawer knobs (2), all dating to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Other material categories present in the assemblage were glass bottles (6) and vessels (3), sherds of Victorian flower pot (10), fragments of animal bone (15), and a single fragment of clay tobacco pipe (1). A variety of metal household fixtures and fittings was also recovered, including an iron fire surround, buckets (2), a copper gas light fitting, cloak hooks (2), a bell push, meat hooks (2), masonry ties (2), and nails (2). Several large fragments of architectural masonry were also recovered, although these were recorded and backfilled in the northern end of Trench 1. Quantification of the artefacts is given in Table 1, and summary finds catalogue is presented in *Appendix 3*.

5.1.2 The material was largely recovered from demolition material and, as such, was essentially unstratified. The paucity of finds suggests that The Park had been comprehensively stripped of its contents prior to demolition. Similarly, the paucity of roofing material in the excavated demolition debris implies that it was also removed prior to demolition.

Material	Description	Totals
Clay tobacco pipe	Undecorated stem	1
Bricks	Complete wire-cut types	3
Glass	Bottles	6
	Vessels	3
	Window	2
Metalwork	Floor tiles	2
	Iron	7
	Cu Alloy	12
Animal bone	Brass	2
	Sheep	15
Ceramic	Wall tile	2
	Floor tile	16
	Vessels	10
Stone	Furnishing	7
	Architectural	5
	Marble tiles	5
Plaster	Marble furnishing	8
	Decorated wall	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>126</b>

Table 1: Quantification of the finds

## 5.2 PLASTER

5.2.1 In total, ten small fragments of decorated wall plaster were recovered from Trench 6. Many of the fragments retained impressions of scroll-decorated orange wallpaper; the decoration bears close similarity to the type of design commonly styled by William Morris in the late nineteenth century (Ian Pringle pers comm). The location of the trench suggests that the fragments of wall plaster were derived from the dining room.

## 5.3 STONE

5.3.1 In total, five fragments of ornamental architectural masonry, five thin black and white marble tiles, and eight fragments of black marble furnishing was recovered from Trenches 1, 4, 5, 6 and 10. In addition, an architectural fragment of intricately carved pipe clay, with scroll-type decoration resembling a crown, was recovered from behind the main entrance within Trench 10. This had possibly derived from the top of a staircase upright.

5.3.2 Several large fragments of ornamental stonework were also recovered from the evaluation trenches, particularly fragments of dentilled cornice (Plate 37); these were not retained, but recorded on site and backfilled in the northern end of Trench 7. These fragments of ornamental stonework were all sandstone, and were probably quarried from a local source. The fragments are likely to have derived from the north elevation of the house, and formed surrounds for the windows.



*Plate 37: Fragments of dentilled cornice ornamental stonework*

- 5.3.3 Two fragments of thin white floor tiles were recovered from Trench 4. These may have originated from an inlay on the drawing room floor, or perhaps formed part of the mantelpiece. Thicker fragments of black tiles were found overlying the stone sink in Trench 5.
- 5.3.4 The remainder of the stone artefacts comprised fragments of black marble, which may have derived from fire surrounds and mantelpieces (Plate 38). These were recovered from Trenches 1, 6, 10, and perhaps derived from the library, dining room, and the main entrance.



Plate 38: Fragments of marble from Trench 6 and 10

## 5.4 CERAMIC

- 5.4.1 In total, ten sherds of pottery vessels, 16 fragments of glazed wall tiles, and fragments of seven ceramic objects were recovered from Trenches 2, 4, 8, 9 and 10. The group of pottery vessels included seven sherds of Victorian flower pots, recovered from a dump layer in Trench 9, and a dark brown glazed red earthenware storage jar, a glazed white earthenware bowl, and a marmalade jar, all recovered from Trench 8. All of the pottery was utilitarian-type wares.
- 5.4.2 Fragments of wall tiles were recovered from Trenches 2, 4 and 10 (Plate 39). A well-preserved section of green-glazed tile attached to plaster was recovered from Trench 10. In total, 11 of these tiles were recovered, each measuring 100mm by 50mm. A variety of other coloured glazed tiles were found, including dark red and blue. All of the wall tiles were likely to have been manufactured by Pilkington, indicated by a manufacturers stamp noted on the rear of one tile (Plate 40). Pilkington's works was based at Clifton Junction, which produced tiles of this type from the late nineteenth century. The



company was noted for attracting enterprising artists, who produced a variety of novel and beautiful glazes, although the expense of firing such glazes was reflected in the high retail cost (Cross 1980).



*Plate 39: Selection of Pilkington wall tiles recovered from the evaluation*



*Plate 40: Reverse view of a tile with a faintly legible P stamp and a firing scar*

- 5.4.3 Other ceramic items included two white-glazed door and drawer knobs, and the fragmentary remains of a water closet, which was recovered from Trench 6. The fragments were reminiscent of the type of closet designed by George Jennings in the latter half of the nineteenth century (Palmer 1973; Plate 41).



Plate 41: Fragments of a water closet designed by George Jennings (left), and an example of the type of closet patented by Jennings in 1875 (right)

- 5.4.4 **Clay Pipe:** the clay tobacco pipe comprised an undecorated stem with a medium-sized bore. The fragment cannot be closely dated, although the general diameter of the bore is consistent with a nineteenth-century date of manufacture.
- 5.4.5 **Bricks:** two hand-made, mould-thrown bricks of unusual dimensions were recovered from the backfill of the excavated cellars. Each brick measured at least 300mm long, and weighed no more than 0.36kg. Both bricks were partially vitrified, consistent with having been exposed to intense heat, perhaps indicating that they derived from a fireplace or a chimney flue.
- 5.4.6 During the course of the evaluation, it was noted that the vast majority of the bricks within the demolition rubble were hand-made, mould-thrown variants. A large proportion of these, however, had not been fired evenly, many having a reduced grey core, and numerous examples being distorted. This raises the possibility that at least a proportion of the bricks had been fired in a clamp kiln, and perhaps on the site. The manufacture of bricks on building sites by itinerant brick makers was not an uncommon practice in the early nineteenth century, although the physical remains of this transient industry are rarely identified. Firm evidence that the bricks for The Park were made in this way, however, is lacking.

## 5.5 METALWORK

- 5.5.1 The assemblage of metalwork included structural and household objects in a variety of materials, including iron, copper alloy, and lead. All of the objects were recovered from demolition material, although their general provenance provided some indication as to the type of fixtures and fittings used in

different parts of the house. Most of the objects were broken or crushed with varying degrees of surface corrosion.

5.5.2 **Iron:** seven iron objects were recovered from Trenches 2, 4, 6, 9 and 10, these generally derived from demolition rubble beneath the kitchen, dining room, drawing room, the main entrance, and from the dump to the south-west of the house (Trench 9). The iron objects included part of a decorated Victorian fire surround, recovered from the southern part of Trench 4, a banister rope hook, several meat hooks, masonry ties, and hand-forged, square-shafted nails.

5.5.3 A single fragment of a cast-iron, T-section beam with an integral wall anchor plate at one end was recovered from the demolition material. This provided rare evidence for cast iron having been used in the structure of The Park, although it seems likely that this beam may have been inserted during modifications to the building, and was perhaps intended to strengthen a cellar ceiling.



Plate 42: Fragment of a cast-iron beam recovered from demolition material

5.5.4 **Copper alloy:** in total, 12 copper alloy objects were recovered from Trenches 4, 5, 8, and 10. These largely comprised household fittings and domestic objects, including a bell-push, a decorated gas light fitting, a candle snuffer, a coat hook, and two buckets. In addition, eight fragments of a single decorative wall mount for a rope pull was recovered from Trench 6. This comprised thin-sectioned, curvi-linear strips fashioned from a mould. The surface retained traces of cream-coloured paint, providing some indication of the latter period of internal decoration of the room.

## 5.6 GLASS

- 5.6.1 The assemblage of glass objects included several complete bottles, vessels and fragments of window glass, which were recovered from Trenches 2, 4, 5, 7 and 9; these all dated to the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The glass bottles included those for mineral water, gin, medicine, and ink. The group of glass vessels also included two complete clear jars, recovered from Trench 1, and a fragment of a thin-walled green beaker. The remainder of the glass assemblage included fragments of window glass. It is of note that the glass assemblage is predominantly utilitarian, with no fine table ware being present.
- 5.6.2 The mineral water vessel was torpedo, or Hamilton, bottle that was stamped with 'R Ellis & Son' of Ruthin, North Wales (Plate 43). This firm was established in 1825, and for several years supplied water to the Royal Family (*Daily Post* 2007); the firm had ceased trading by 1924. Another glass bottle had the manufacturer's mark of 'Slack & Cox Ltd', a firm based at Pott Street in the Ancoats area of Manchester, who was producing mineral water between 1895 and 1914 (Slater 1895; 1914).



Plate 43: Nineteenth-century mineral water bottle manufactured in Ruthin

## 5.7 CONCLUSION

- 5.7.1 The small finds assemblage is of limited archaeological interest, although it does provide some indication of Philips' choice of furnishing, consumption and practical conveniences. In particular, the presence of the Jennings water closet, black and white marble, Pilkington tiles, William Morris wallpaper, gas lighting, and bell pulls, is consistent with the decor described by Miss Anna Rose and in the memoirs of Anna Maria Philips. The remaining material was represented by items that were used essentially by the servants, such as the utilitarian pottery, buckets, and meat hooks.

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## 6. DISCUSSION

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### 6.1 INTRODUCTION

6.1.1 The archaeological evaluation has provided a rare opportunity to examine the fabric of a nineteenth-century estate house in the Bury area erected and occupied by a local family of wealthy textile manufacturers. The evaluation has also confirmed that substantial remains of The Park survive buried immediately beneath the modern ground surface, and comprise the foundations of the building, together with a series of connected cellars. Whilst the presence of the cellars beneath The Park is referred to in documentary accounts, there is little, or no, information on their form, layout and extent. The buried remains, moreover, were revealed to be well-preserved, offering considerable potential for future public interpretation associated with a wider scheme of restoration of Philips Park. Furthermore, public attendance at the viewing day that was held towards the end of the archaeological evaluation highlighted the considerable local interest in the history of The Park and the former Philips' estate.

6.1.2 The evaluation did not produce any evidence for occupation of the site prior to the nineteenth century. However, the trenches were targeted firmly on the remains of The Park, and were largely confined to the footprint of the building; the possibility that buried remains of earlier periods survive in the immediate vicinity cannot be discounted on the basis of the results obtained from the evaluation.

### 6.2 PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT

6.2.1 The detail provided by the sequence of available historical maps allows three main developmental phases of The Park to be identified, ranging from the early nineteenth century to its demolition in 1950, whilst other documentary sources elucidate the evolution of the wider landscape from the thirteenth century.

6.2.2 The results obtained from the evaluation have indicated that the surviving fabric of The Park offer some potential to inform the developmental sequence and use of individual parts of the building, adding to the documentary record of the house. Whilst the published memoirs of Anna Maria Philips, and Tania Rose's recollections, provide an invaluable insight into the internal layout of The Park, these accounts focus on the ground and first floor of the house, and yield little detail of the life 'below stairs'.

### 6.3 PHASE 1 (1799-1830)

- 6.3.1 This period pertains to the early development of the estate under the ownership of Robert Philips, and the construction of the first estate house. The original size and form of this house remains uncertain, with current knowledge being based largely on a sketch of the building by Hester Philips in 1819; whilst it is depicted on several contemporary maps, such as that by Greenwood (Plate 3), the scale of these maps is too small to be relied upon.
- 6.3.2 It is assumed that the house was originally constructed with east and west wings, although the eastern wing shown on Hester Philips' sketch appears to be shorter than that depicted on historical maps. It seems likely, however, that the main body of the house was not completely remodelled subsequently.
- 6.3.3 Physical remains from this period that were exposed during the evaluation included the southern (**48**) and northern (**33** and **41**) walls, recorded in Trenches 4, 6 and 10; the fabric of these walls did not provide any evidence for remodelling. Internal structures pertaining to this initial period seemingly included several partitions (**46**, **47**, **49** and **50**), cellars (**27**, **28**, **36**, **42** and **96**), and a connecting passage (**08**) to cellar **96**.
- 6.3.4 The origin and function of the crude east/west-aligned wall (**97**) to the north-west of the main entrance into the house remains uncertain. It seems possible, however, that it represented a foundation for an earlier porch, perhaps of timber-framed construction, although supporting evidence is lacking. Conversely, it may have represented a wall around a large flower bed, or similar garden feature; its position does not correspond with any structures shown on historical mapping, suggesting that the wall may be of an early date, as the first detailed map of the site was not produced until 1835-40.

### 6.4 PHASE 2 (1830-93)

- 6.4.1 The layout of The Park following its documented remodelling in *c* 1830 (*Section 3.1.13 above*) is shown on the detail parish plan of 1835-40 and the Ordnance Survey map of 1848. By that date, The Park had been remodelled to an Italianate design, incorporating an elaborate, denticulated stone façade; large fragments of the masonry used in this facade were exposed during the evaluation.
- 6.4.2 The bulk of the archaeological remains exposed in the excavated trenches derived mainly from this period. These included alterations and modifications to walls within the eastern (**29** and **30**) and western (**66**, **77** **78** and **81**) wings in Trenches 1, 7 and 8. Other modifications included the widening and partitioning of cellars, such as walls **18** and **19** (cellar **96**), wall **30** (cellar **28**), wall **32** (cellar **36**), and walls **43** and **44** (cellar **42**). The cellars were seemingly interconnected, although some of these passages and doorways had been blocked (doorway **65** in wall **64**). Evidence of domestic activity was represented by the fireplace (**54**) and sink (**52**) within a cellar in Trench 5; this was located beneath the former dining room. Other exposed structures included the foundations of a small toilet chamber (**01**) and drains (**63** and **67**) in Trenches 1, 3 and 8.

## 6.5 PHASE 3 (1890-1950)

- 6.5.1 The layout of The Park during the twentieth century is shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1910, and on several contemporary photographs. The archaeological remains from this period are represented by the insertion of a toilet along the south-eastern corner of the house in Trench 2. The garden wall boundary along the western limit of the site was also probably built during this period, together the garden feature in Trench 11.
- 6.5.2 The archaeological remains from this period included a probable water closet (**I6**) that was situated between the original external wall of the house (**I4**) and a wall (**I3**) that comprised a combination of mould-thrown and frogged bricks, indicative of a late nineteenth- or twentieth-century date. The room contained the fragmentary remains of a water closet similar to the flushing type designed and patented by George Jennings in 1875. The dump of lime (**I1**), located to the south of the water closet, and outside the southern external wall of the house, may have been associated with this late phase of construction.
- 6.5.3 A precise date for the construction of the semi-circular garden feature is unknown. The concrete floor of the structure suggests that the bottom of the feature was either capped at a later date, or may represent its original base. A path is shown on the 1893 Ordnance Survey map extending north-west from the western side of the house paths surrounding the western side of the house. Part of this path was exposed during undergrowth clearance of the area. By 1910, however, the path is not shown on the Ordnance Survey map of this date, although it is possible that the boundary wall exposed near the garden feature represents the boundary depicted on this map.

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## APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

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### **BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AT PHILIPS PARK HOUSE, PRESTWICH**

#### Background

This site lies within Philips Park Local Nature Reserve just north of Prestwich in Bury MBC. Philips Park House is entered on the Greater Manchester Sites and Monuments Record as No.3576 and is located at SD 7975 0390. Philips Park once formed part of the estate of the Pilkington family, with a deer park being created here sometime after 1291 when Sir Roger de Pilkington was granted Free Warren over his estates by Edward 1. A substantial length of the medieval bank and ditch forming the park pale still survives. From the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the park was being partly used for industrial purposes, particularly for textile finishing works. Robert Philips, a Manchester Merchant, bought what then became known as Philips Park in 1799. He built a large house, 'The Park', in 1818, but this was rebuilt in 1830 in Italianate style with a 5 bay north-west facing front elevation with wings on either side. The park was acquired by Prestwich and Whitefield Councils in 1948 and the house demolished in 1950. Today the site of the main body of the house is under car park with the site of the wings lying under grass.

Bury MBC propose to mark out the remains of the house as part of remedial works for the park. To aid remediation and to inform a better understanding of the character and layout of the house, it is proposed to carry out an archaeological evaluation through trial trenching. Furthermore, it is hoped that this evaluation might be the precursor to a wider programme of archaeological investigations and public participation within Philips Park, and possibly at the House site itself.

#### Brief for Archaeological Works

1) *Methodology.* The attached plan shows the approximate location of the hall plotted onto the modern plan of the car park. Trenches are located together with their length with the idea of identifying the precise location of the hall remains, their depth, character, evidence for phasing, level of survival and relative significance. Minor changes to the configuration and extent of the evaluation trenches can be made following agreement with the GMAU Assistant County Archaeologist and Bury MBC.

2) Trenches will be dug by machine using a toothless ditching bucket, followed by hand cleaning and recording. Walls will be exposed down to floor level and floors will be cleaned. Selective excavation will be undertaken to determine depth and character of other features and deposits; this will include slots against external wall faces to determine depth of foundations. If backfilled cellars are encountered then these will be left in situ, with the exception of excavating one slot to the cellar floor so that we have an understanding of depth and character.

3) The exposed remains will be recorded in line with recognized archaeological standards. A detailed measured plan of the site will be produced. Measured survey elevations will be produced where walls contain significant features and evidence for phasing.

4) Interested parties will be invited towards the end of the scheme to view the trenches

and this may be extended to the wider local community to engage their interest in the heritage of the park. Prestwich Heritage Society will be invited to participate in the evaluation. Bury MBC will help with advertising the event and be responsible for press releases. Ian Pringle at PHS will be consulted on further historic information concerning the hall.

5) At a later stage, an archaeologist from the archaeological contracting unit will be available, on a half day rate, to advise building contractors when laying out the hall site and to provide advice for the revised information board to be placed alongside the consolidated remains of the hall.

6) A programme of post excavation will be undertaken in accordance with IFA standards.

7) A report on the excavation will be produced which will include the following:

- a non-technical summary
- the site's historical and archaeological background
- an outline of the methodology of the evaluation
- summary of results, to include: the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits (to include reduced plans, sections and photographs where appropriate)
- assessment of the finds with dating evidence
- an assessment of the significance of the remains and finds
- a plan showing areas of archaeological sensitivity as defined by the evaluation.

8) A site archive will be completed in accordance with the specifications given in MAP 2, Appendix 3. Arrangements should be made for depositing the archive with an appropriate museum. A copy of the list of archive items should be sent to GMAU.

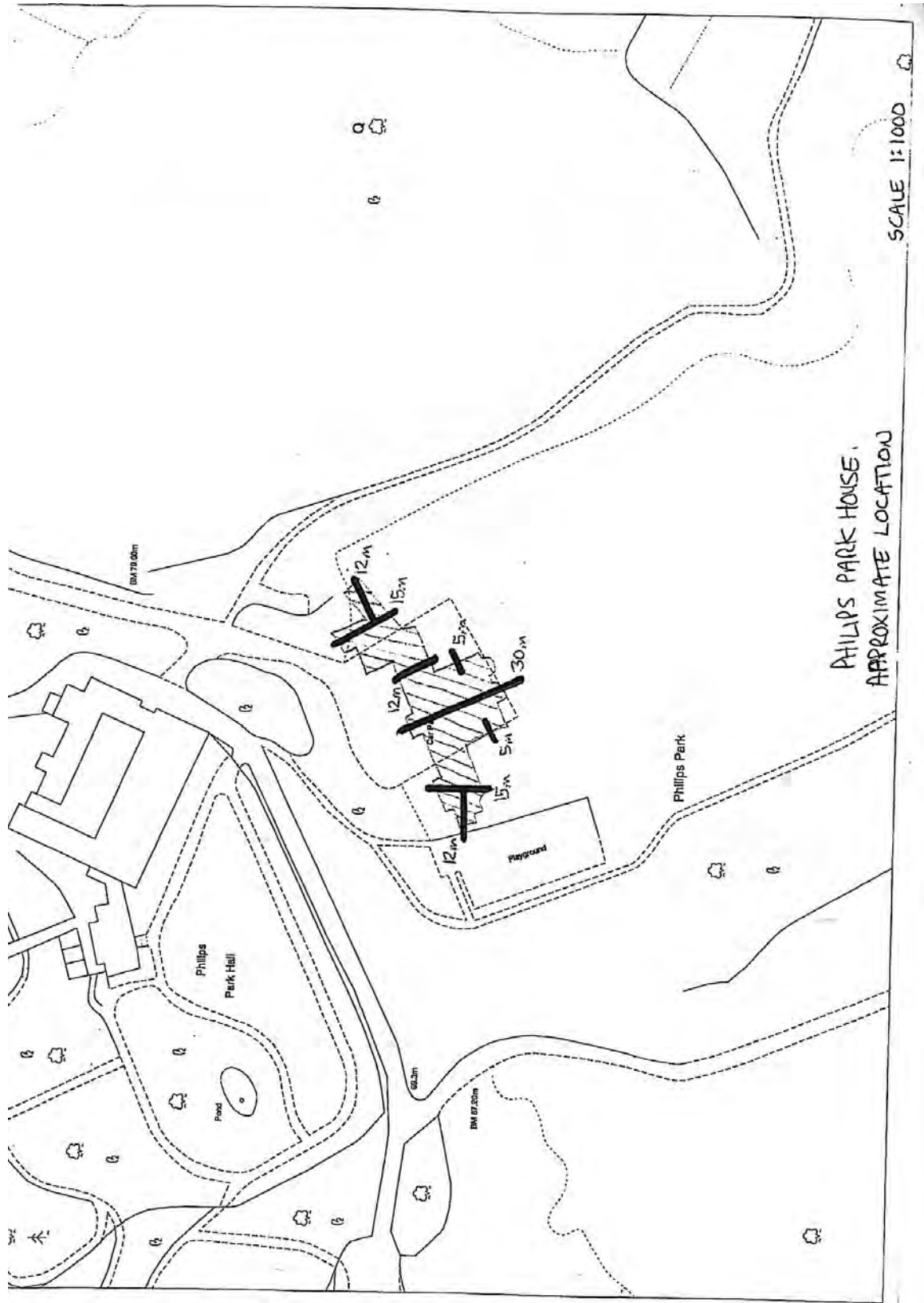
9) The Greater Manchester Sites and Monuments Record supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork. The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Contractors are advised to contact the Greater Manchester Sites and Monuments Record prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, the Greater Manchester Sites and Monuments Record may place the information on a website. Please ensure that you and your client agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to the case officer at Greater Manchester Sites and Monuments Record.

### Other Considerations

- Arrangements will be made by the contractor for the archaeological curator (GMAU) and Bury MBC to make monitoring visits to the site during excavation. There will be a site meeting between all interested parties to review the archaeological work.
- The curator will be consulted on the excavation report before it is sent out to the client.
- The archaeological contractor will abide by the Institute of Field Archaeologists Bye-Laws of Approved Practice.
- Contractors shall comply with the requirements of all relevant Health & Safety legislation and adopt procedures according to guidance set out in the Health & Safety Manual of the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers.
- The practical requirements of the evaluation, including access arrangements, the safety and security requirements of the site, the presence of services, on-site facilities, and the re-instatement of the site, should be discussed in advance with the client.
- Publicity and relevant contacts should be agreed between the archaeological contractor and client prior to commencement of the excavation.
- Copies of the excavation report will be sent to: the client (x5), The Assistant County Archaeologist, GMAU (to enter on to the Greater Manchester Sites and Monuments Record), Prestwich Heritage Society, Bury Archives, the National Monuments Record.

Prepared by:

Norman Redhead  
Assistant County Archaeologist (GMAU)  
12<sup>th</sup> September 2006



## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT LIST

Context	Trench	Description	Phase
01	8	Brick structure (toilet?).	2
02	8	Sandy layer beneath demolition rubble.	2
03	8	Rubble fill of structure 01.	3
04	8	Western retaining wall of tunnel 08.	1/2
05	8	Roof of tunnel 08.	1/2
06	8	Stone floor of tunnel 08.	1/2
07	8	Eastern retaining wall of tunnel 08.	1/2
08	8	North/south-aligned tunnel.	1/2
09	8	Sand containing rubble.	3
10	8	Sandy-clay deposit representing natural geology.	1
11	2	Lime dump across the southern corner of the trench.	2/3
12	2	Mid-brown sandy deposit.	1
13	2	North-east/south-west-aligned brick wall. Probably representing a late nineteenth-century partition.	3
14	2	North-east/south-west-aligned external brick wall of cellar associated with eastern wing extension.	2
15	2	Stone lintel window light within wall 14.	2
16	2	Small cavity within the gap between walls 13 and 14, possibly used to contain a toilet.	3
17	2	Rubble backfill within cellar 96.	3
18	2	North-east/south-west-aligned brick wall south of wall 19.	2
19	2	North-east/south-west-aligned brick partition wall within cellar 96.	2
20	2	Rubble north of wall 19.	3
21	2	Mid-orange-brown sand deposit representing natural geology.	1
22	7	Sand representing natural geology.	1
23	7	North-west/south-east-aligned wall along the eastern side of the trench representing part of the external wall surrounding the east wing.	1
24	7	East/west-aligned brick wall keyed into wall 23, representing part of the external wall surrounding the east wing.	1
25	7	North/south-aligned brick wall butting the north-eastern edge of wall 23.	1
26	7	North/south-aligned brick wall butting wall 30 forming the northern wall of the passage entering the eastern side of cellar 28.	1/2
27	7	East/west-aligned brick wall forming the northern retaining wall of the cellar.	1
28	7	Cellar.	1
29	7	North-west/south-east-aligned wall forming the eastern extent of cellar 28.	1
30	7	North-west/south-east-aligned wall butting the southern edge of wall 27 within cellar 28.	2
31	7	Topsoil above sand 22.	3
32	6	North-east/south-west-aligned brick a partition within cellar 36.	2
33	6	North-east/south-west-aligned external brick wall forming the northern extent of the house.	1

34	6	Ceramic drain pipe.	2
35	6	Rubble backfill of cellar <b>36</b> .	3
36	6	Cellar.	1
37	6	Mid-brown sandy deposit possibly forming a levelling layer beneath a former floor of cellar <b>36</b> ?	1/2
38	6	Mid-brown clay sand north of wall <b>33</b> .	1
39	4	Natural sand.	1
40	4	North-east/south-west-aligned ceramic drain.	2
41	4	Northern external brick wall of house.	1
42	4	Cellar.	1
43	4	North/south-aligned partition butting wall <b>46</b> within cellar <b>42</b> .	2
44	4	North/south-aligned partition butting wall <b>41</b> within cellar <b>42</b> .	2
45	4	Retaining wall for vaulted roof of cellar <b>42</b> .	1
46	4	East/west-aligned brick wall measuring three-skins wide.	1
47	4	East/west-aligned brick wall measuring two-skins wide.	1
48	4	East/west-aligned brick wall forming the southern external wall of the house.	1
49	4	North/south-aligned return keyed into the western side of wall <b>47</b> .	1
50	5	North-west/south-east-aligned wall forming the southern half of a doorway.	1
51	5	North-west/south-east-aligned brick partition.	2
52	5	Stone drip tray/sink.	2
53	5	North-east/south-west-aligned brick wall.	2
54	5	Fireplace extending north-west from wall <b>53</b> .	2
55	6	Rubble within rooms to the west of wall <b>51</b> .	3
56	6	Rubble within the room containing the fireplace.	3
57	6	Sand deposit beneath rubble <b>56</b> .	1
58	3	Topsoil.	3
59	3	Yellow-red sandy-clay beneath <b>58</b> .	1
60	3	Dark red sandy-clay/subsoil.	2
61	3	Off white/light grey sand forming a natural geological horizon.	1
62	3	Saturated red natural sand.	1
63	3	Drain.	2
64	1	Brick wall forming the rear and south wall of the west wing.	1
65	1	Blocked doorway at the north-eastern end of wall <b>64</b> .	2
66	1	Brick wall with a chamfered corner abutting wall <b>64</b> .	2
67	1	Stone culvert.	2
68	1	Demolition rubble back fill of cellars.	3
69	1	Stone flagged floor.	1
70	1	Mid-brown sand beneath floor <b>69</b> .	1
71	1	North-east/southwest-aligned brick wall extending from wall <b>79</b> with a north-west return to an arch??	1
72	1	North-east/south-west-aligned brick partition forming the western doorway within wall <b>71</b> .	1
73	1	North-east/south-west-aligned brick wall parallel to wall <b>72</b> with arched ceiling.	1
74	1	North-east/south-west-aligned brick wall parallel to wall <b>72</b> .	1
75	1	North-west/south-east-aligned brick wall forming the eastern wall of the northern most cellar in the trench.	1

<b>76</b>	1	Brick surface (floor) across the upper surviving course of walls <b>74</b> and <b>77</b> .	2
<b>77</b>	1	North-east/south-west-aligned brick wall parallel with wall <b>74</b> , possibly forming the external wall of the west wing.	1
<b>78</b>	1	North-east/south-west-aligned brick wall projecting from the external face of wall <b>64</b> .	2
<b>79</b>	1	North-west/south-east-aligned brick wall positioned to the north-east of doorway <b>65</b> .	2
<b>80</b>	1	Mid-brown sand and clay levelling deposit?	1
<b>81</b>	1	Wall parallel to and abutted by wall <b>74</b> , possibly the return of wall <b>77</b> .	1
<b>82</b>	1	Rubble back fill within the northern cellar.	3
<b>83</b>	1	Stone-flagged floor below <b>82</b> .	1
<b>84</b>	1	Mid-brown sand beneath <b>83</b> .	1
<b>85</b>	9	Light grey sand representing natural geology.	1
<b>86</b>	9	Dark grey sand overlying <b>85</b> .	1
<b>87</b>	9	Topsoil.	3
<b>88</b>	9	Stone and brick dump located at the western end of the trench.	3
<b>89</b>	9	Dark orange sandy-clay beneath dump <b>88</b> , representing natural geology.	1
<b>90</b>	10	Stone wall surrounding the porch around the front entrance of the house.	2
<b>91</b>	10	Two parallel east/west-aligned wall which provided foundations for a flight of steps into the front entrance of the house.	2
<b>92</b>	4/10	Cavity within the northern external wall <b>41</b> .	2
<b>93</b>	10	Large east/west-aligned cavity (damp proofing?) within the brick foundation across the southern part of the entrance.	2
<b>94</b>	10	East/west-aligned cavity (damp proofing?) within the brick foundation across the eastern side of the entrance.	2
<b>95</b>	10	East/west-aligned cavity (damp proofing?) within the brick foundation across the eastern side of the entrance, parallel with <b>94</b> .	2
<b>96</b>	2	Cellar.	1
<b>97</b>	10	Row of north/south-aligned stone blocks possibly representing hardcore foundation of an earlier wall predating the house.	2
<b>98</b>	10	Compacted gravel with a firm sandy-clay matrix beneath <b>97</b> .	1
<b>99</b>	1	Cellar at the northern end of the trench.	1
<b>100</b>	1	Cellar at the southern end of the trench.	1
<b>101</b>	10	Cellar backfill to the south of the main entrance.	3
<b>102</b>	4	Rubble backfill.	3
<b>103</b>	7	Back fill of cellar <b>28</b> .	3
<b>104</b>	5	Rubble.	3



## APPENDIX 3: FINDS CATALOGUE

OR No	Ctx	Trench	Material	No	Description	Date
1039	02	8	Pottery	1	Dark glazed red earthenware	Eighteenth or nineteenth century
1040	03	8	Pottery	1	Glazed white earthenware jar	Nineteenth century
	03	8	Ceramic	1	White glazed wall tile	Nineteenth or twentieth century
	03	8	Ceramic	1	Drawer finish	Nineteenth or twentieth century
1041	03	8	Animal Bone	15	Sheep fragments	Not easily datable
1015	16	2	Ceramic	1	Glazed white fragment from a water closet designed by George Jennings, the innovator of the flush toilet	Mid-late nineteenth century
1016	16	2	Ceramic	2	Pilkington type tile blue	Early twentieth century
	16	2	Stone	1	Marble (thin) floor tile	Nineteenth or twentieth century
1017	16	2	Glass	1	Torpedo-shaped clear mineral water bottle labelled ROYAL; FAMILY, R. ELLIS AND SON, RUTHIN	Nineteenth or twentieth century
1018	16	2	Ceramic	6	Broken glazed white earthenware fragments of a water closet, probably part of 1015	Mid-late nineteenth century
1019	17	2	Iron	6	Objects, nails; hook, meat hook, masonry ties and two square-shafted nails	Nineteenth or twentieth century
1020	17	2	Glass	2	Grooved window glass, possibly associated with the toilet	Nineteenth century
1002	35	6	Stone	1	Marble (black) fire surround	Victorian
1009	35	6	Plaster	5	Wall plaster with traces of William Morris type wallpaper impressed into the surface	Late nineteenth century
1010	35	6	Clay Tobacco Pipe	1	Undecorated stem	Nineteenth century
1024	35	6	Copper	1	Rope pull wall mount	Victorian
1025	35	6	Iron	1	Hook fitted into a wooden spike. Domestic	Victorian
1034	52	5	Stone	1	Marble tile	Victorian
1026	56	6	Plaster	5	Wall plaster with traces of William Morris type wallpaper impressed into the surface	Late nineteenth century
1011	68	1	Ceramic building material	2	Complete brick samples from the western wing	Nineteenth century
1032	82	1	Glass	3	Vessels; jars and an ink bottle	Nineteenth or twentieth century
1033	82	1	Pottery	1	Glazed white earthenware bowl	Nineteenth or twentieth century
1006	86	9	Pottery	7	Unglazed red earthenware pot	Victorian or later

1007	<b>86</b>	9	Glass	1	Green thin walled vessel	Nineteenth century?
1008	<b>86</b>	9	Copper alloy/ceramic	1	Cloak hook	Victorian
1004	<b>101</b>	10	Ceramic	11	Broken fragments of green Pilkington type tile attached to plaster	Early twentieth century
1005	<b>101</b>	10	Stone/pipe clay	4	Ornamental architectural fragment, possibly part of the interior such as capping for the staircase upright	Nineteenth century
1035	<b>101</b>	10	Copper alloy/brass /ceramic	1	Curved cloak hook comprising a copper stem with glazed white ceramic terminals fastened to the stem with brass ferrules	Nineteenth or twentieth century
1013	<b>102</b>	4	Iron	2	Fire surround	Victorian
1014	<b>102</b>	4	Glass	2	Bottles; ink and medicine	Nineteenth or twentieth century
1023	<b>102</b>	4	Copper Alloy	1	Decorative gas jet light	Victorian
1027	<b>102</b>	4	Stone	2	Marble floor tiles (white)	Nineteenth century
1028	<b>102</b>	4	Ceramic	1	Pilkington type tile (blue)	Early twentieth century
1029	<b>102</b>	4	Glass	1	Thick flat clear floor tile	Nineteenth or twentieth century
1021	<b>103</b>	7	Glass	2	Bottles; clear gin and a brown beer bottle labelled SLACK & COX LTD MANCHESTER	Nineteenth or twentieth century
1030	<b>104</b>	5	Stone	1	Black marble tile	Nineteenth or twentieth century
1031	<b>104</b>	5	Glass	1	Flat thick probable floor tile	Nineteenth or twentieth century
1000	<b>U/s</b>	8	Copper alloy/tin	1	Flattened water bucket recovered from spoil heap	Nineteenth or twentieth century
1001	<b>U/s</b>	5	Copper alloy/tin	1	Flattened coal bucket recovered from the spoil heap	Nineteenth or twentieth century
1003	<b>U/s</b>	6	Stone	1	Black marble fire surround	Nineteenth or twentieth century
1012	<b>U/s</b>	-	Ceramic building material	1	Complete brick sample removed from the chimney stack remnant of the building next to the conservatory	Seventeenth or eighteenth century
1022	<b>U/s</b>	5	Copper alloy/tin	5	Household objects; bell-push, wire fitting, copper wire casing, rubber and copper chair leg fitting, and a fragment of wall mount	Nineteenth or twentieth century
1036	<b>U/s</b>	-	Stone	6	Black marble mantel piece fragments recovered from the spoil heap	Nineteenth or twentieth century
1037	<b>U/s</b>	-	Ceramic	2	Pilkington type tiles (red and blue) recovered from the spoil heap	Early twentieth century
1038	<b>U/s</b>	-	Copper alloy	1	Gas snuffer	Nineteenth century

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

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### **LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Trench location plan, superimposed on the 1910 Ordnance Survey map

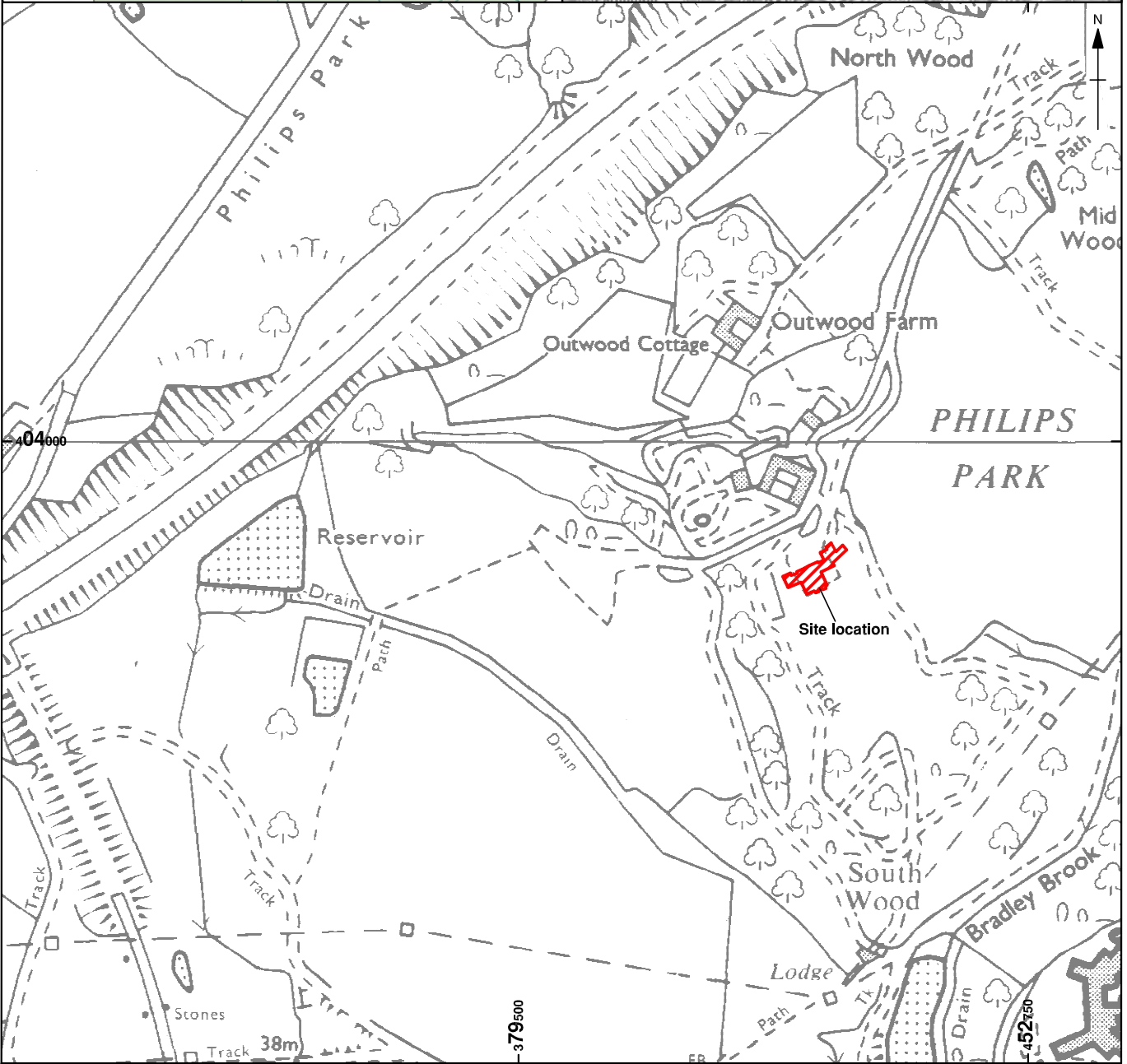
Figure 3: Detailed plan of Trench 1

Figure 4: Detailed plan of Trenches 2, 5 and 6

Figure 5: Detailed plan of Trenches 4 and 10

Figure 6: Detailed plan of Trenches 7 and 8

Figure 7: Detailed plan of stone structure in Trench 11



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0 125 m  
1:5000 @ A4



Figure 1: Site location

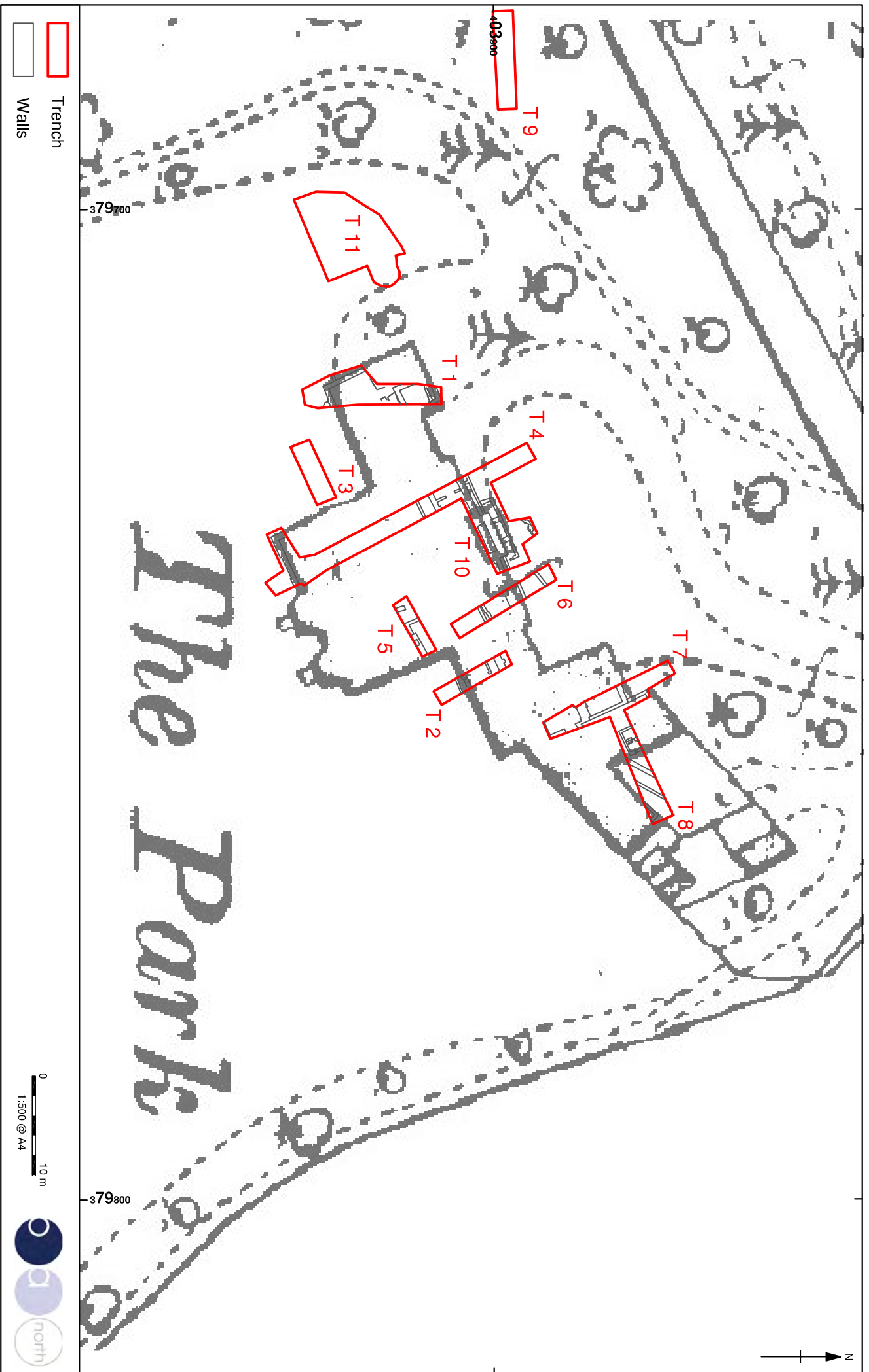
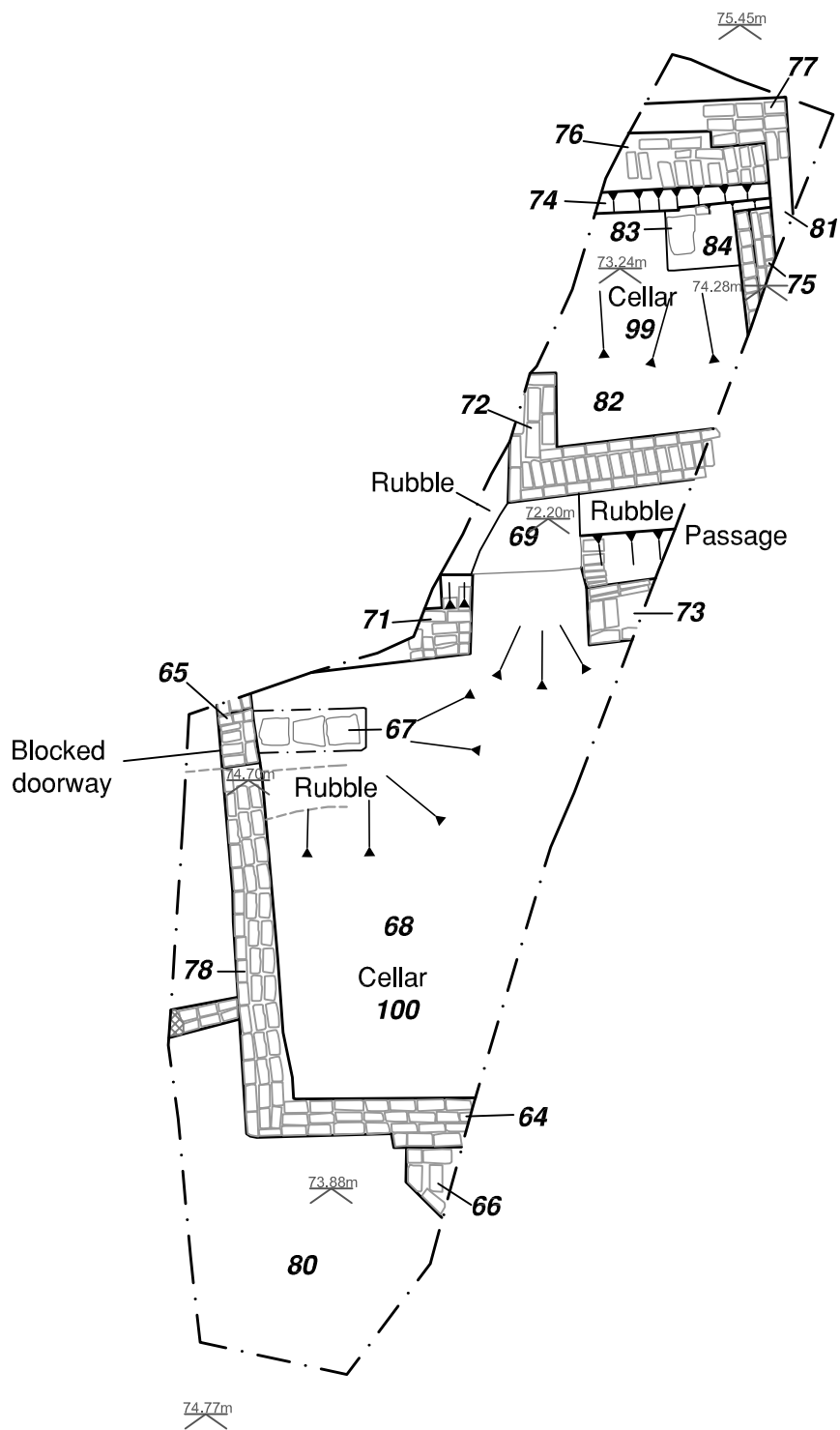


Figure 2: Trench location plan, superimposed on the 1910 Ordnance Survey map



- |  |         |  |       |  |           |
|--|---------|--|-------|--|-----------|
|  | LOE     |  | Brick |  | Mortar    |
|  | Feature |  | Stone |  | Uncertain |

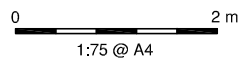


Figure 3: Detailed plan of Trench 1

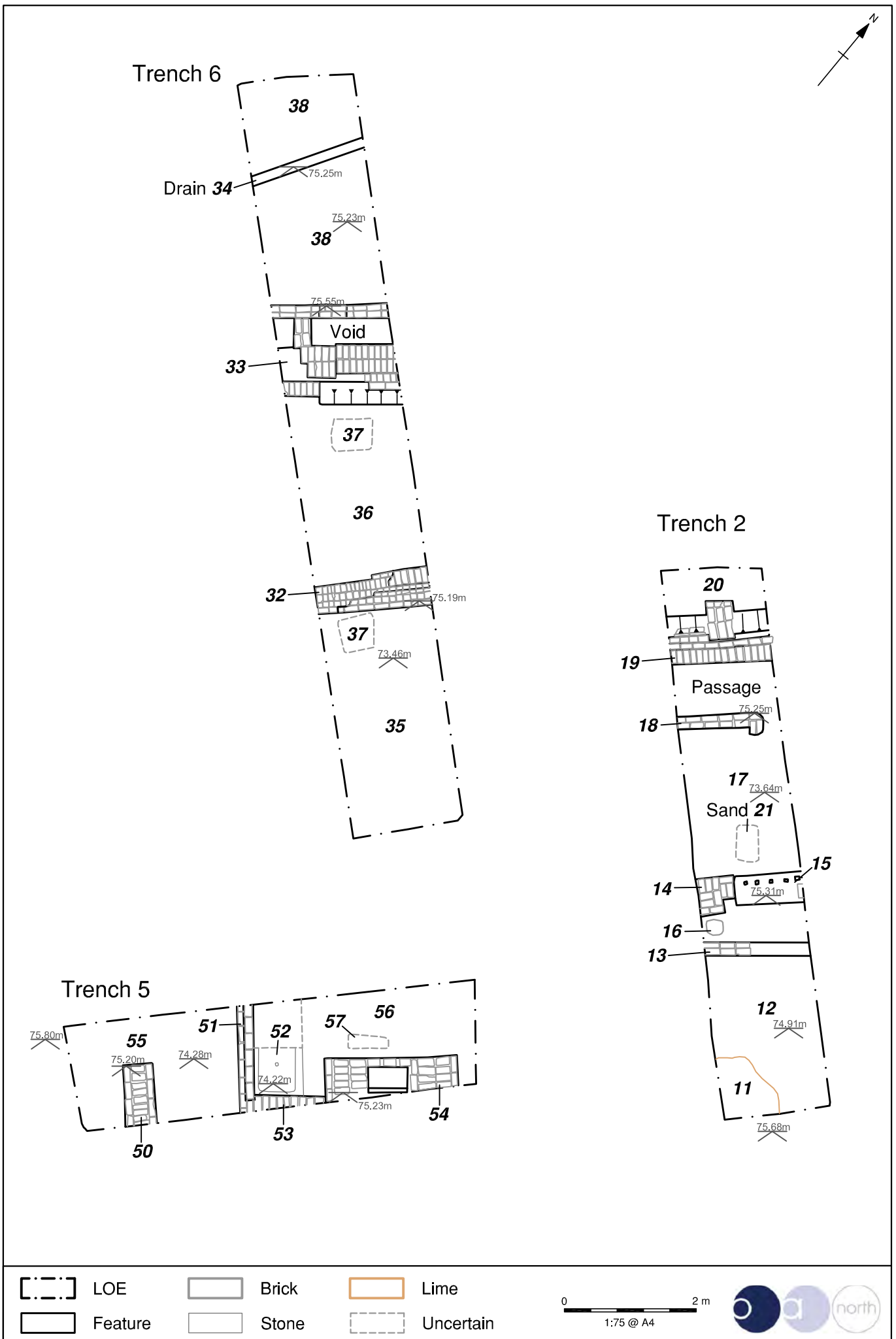


Figure 4: Detailed plan of Trenches 2, 5, and 6

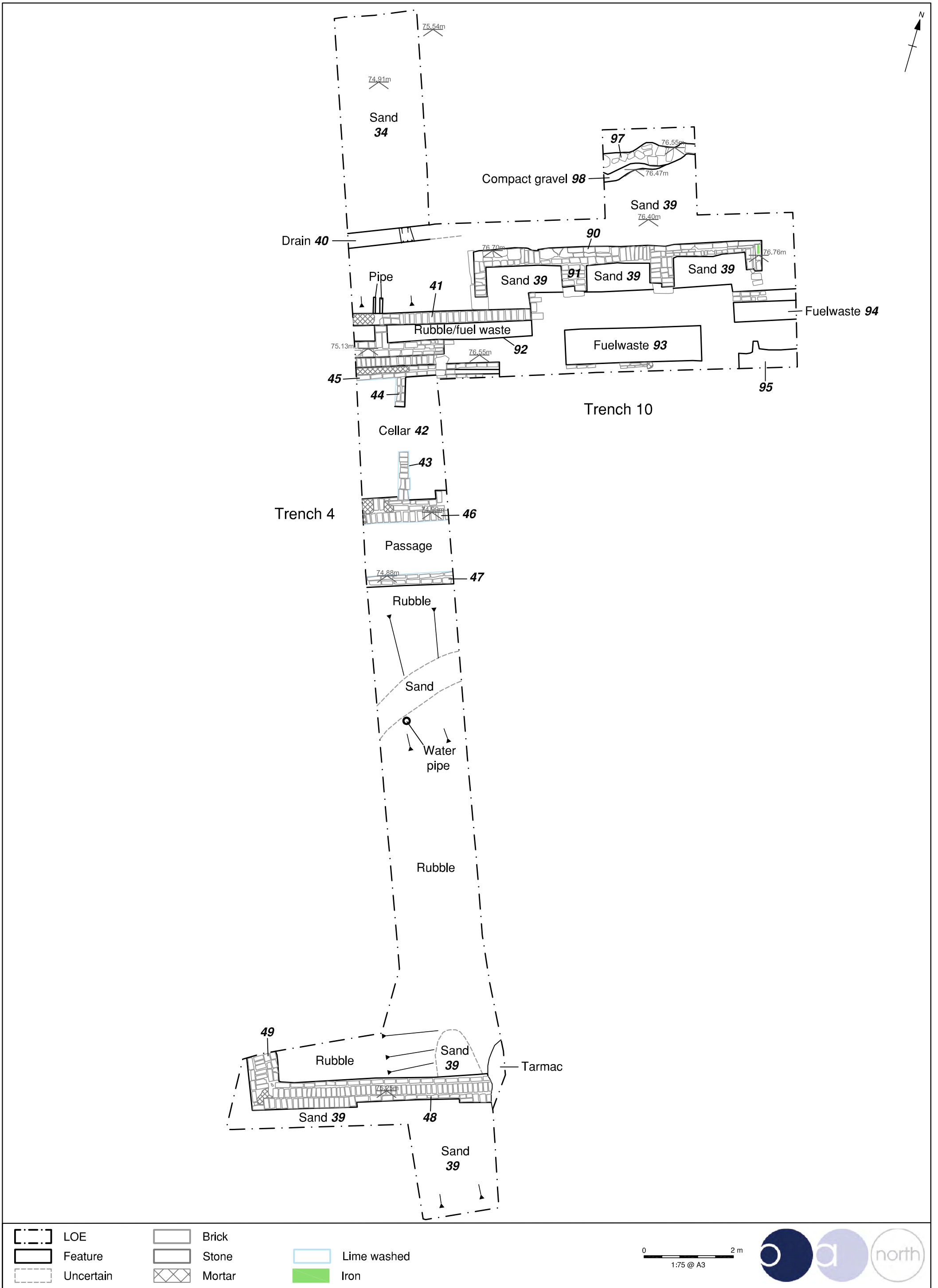
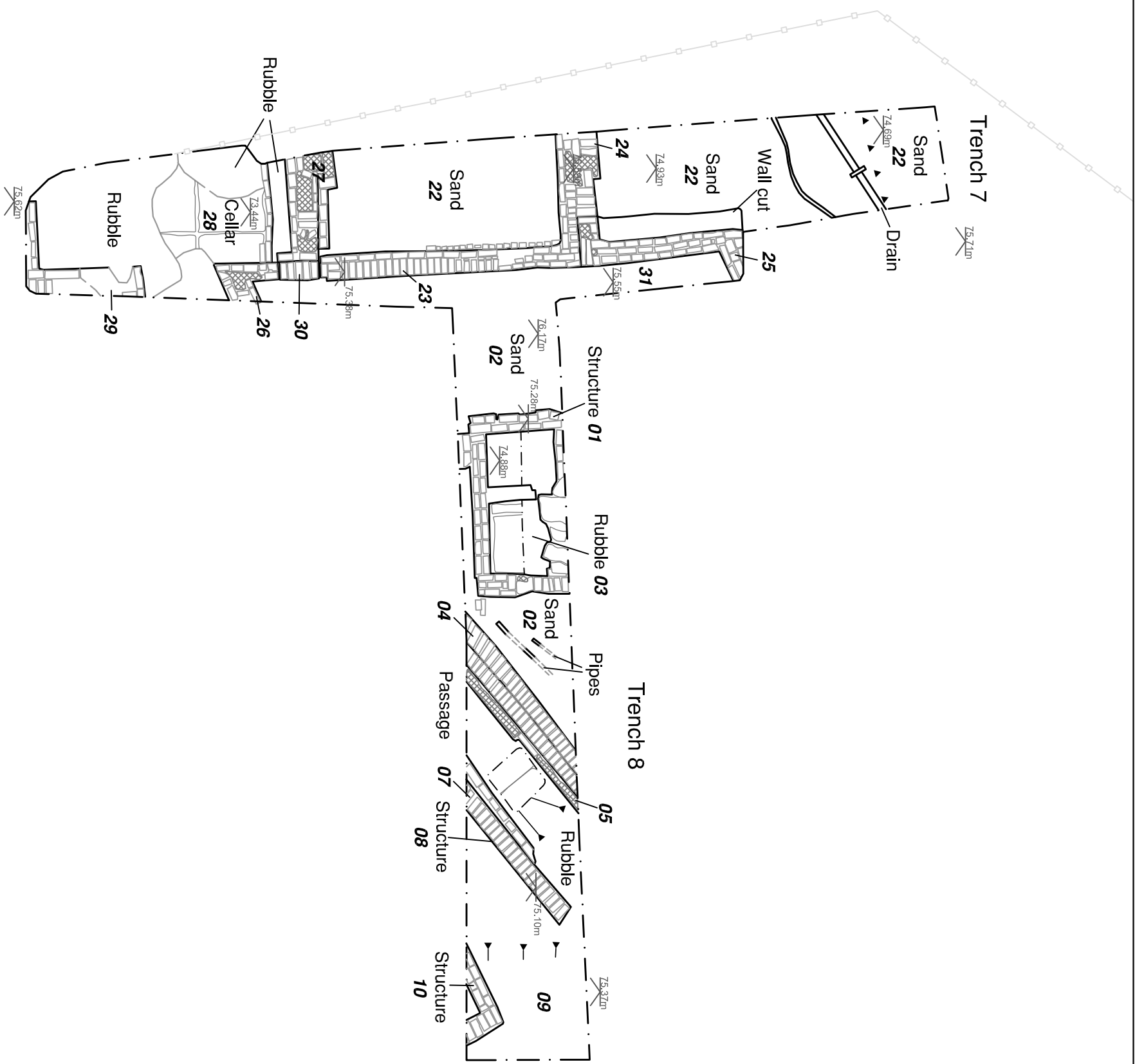
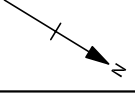


Figure 5: Detailed plan of Trenches 4 and 10



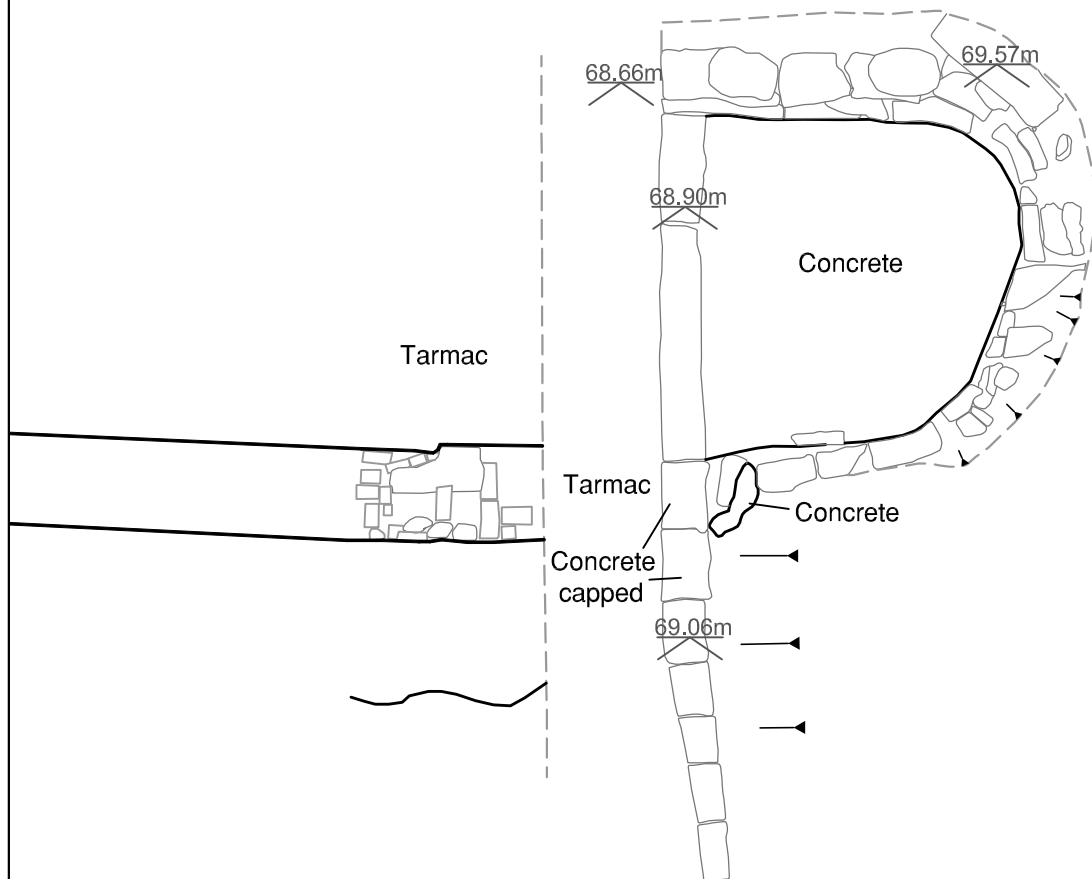


	LOE		Brick
	Feature		Stone
	Uncertain		Mortar
			Fence line

0 2 m  
1:75 @ A3



Figure 6: Detailed plan of Trenches 7 and 8



LOE



Brick



Feature



Stone



Uncertain

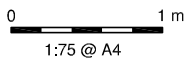


Figure 7: Detailed plan of stone structure in Trench 11