



The Music Hall Shrewsbury Shropshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report and Building Assessment



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The Music Hall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND BUILDING ASSESSMENT REPORT*****CONTENTS**

Summary	1
1 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	1
1.2 Geology and topography.....	2
1.3 Archaeological and historical background	2
2 Evaluation Aims	3
3 Evaluation Methodology	3
3.1 Scope of fieldwork.....	3
3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording	3
3.3 Finds	4
3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence	4
3.5 Presentation of results.....	4
4 Results: General.....	4
4.1 Soils and ground conditions	4
4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits.....	4
5 Results: Descriptions	5
5.1 Description of trench deposits	5
5.2 Description of trial holes	8
5.3 Finds	9
6 Discussion.....	10
6.1 Reliability of field investigation	10
6.2 Overall interpretation.....	10
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory	12
Appendix 2 Pottery.....	13
Appendix 3 Ceramic Building Material	14
Appendix 4 Bibliography and References.....	15
Appendix 5 Summary of Site Details	15

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location
 Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Fig. 3 Trench 1; plan and sections
 Fig. 4 Trench 2; plan and sections
 Fig. 5 Trench 3; plan and section
 Fig. 6 Trench 4; plan and section
 Fig. 7 Trial hole location, 2nd floor
 Fig. 8 Trial hole location, 1st floor

LIST OF PLATES

- Plate 1 Trial hole 1
 Plate 2 Trial hole 2
 Plate 3 Trial hole 3
 Plate 4 Trial hole 4

SUMMARY

In October 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation and building assessment at The Music hall, Shrewsbury (NGR SJ 49071242), on behalf of Shrewsbury And Atcham Borough Council. It is proposed to redevelop the Music Hall to incorporate the Shrewsbury Museums collection, Art Gallery, Tourist Information Centre, café and public toilets. The Music Hall occupies an area of c 0.2 ha and encapsulated within the complex of buildings are extensive well-preserved structural remains of Vaughan's Mansion, a medieval stone built hall dating to c 1300.

The evaluation revealed evidence for a mortar surface and two phases of an associated wall. The wall was constructed from Tudor bricks and red sandstone blocks, and may have been associated with the medieval hall. It is also possible that the wall was constructed from reclaimed material from the 19th century demolition of parts of the hall. The evaluation also revealed a slate lined pit, brick walls and a brick built soak-away. These features were probably associated with the 19th century Music Hall.

The building assessment exposed part of the southern wall of Vaughan's Mansion, where it was constructed from rough hewn sandstone blocks. A timber beam was revealed within the wall fronting College Hill, and areas of the Music Hall's 19th-century brick walls were also seen.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In October 2006, OA carried out a field evaluation and building assessment at the Music Hall, Shrewsbury, on behalf of Shrewsbury And Atcham Borough Council (SABC). The work was in respect of a conservation management plan for the Music Hall. It is proposed to redevelop the Music Hall to incorporate the Shrewsbury Museums collection, Art Gallery, Tourist Information Centre, café and public toilets. In accordance with PPG 16 Michael Watson, Historic Environment Officer for Shropshire, prepared a brief outlining the archaeological requirements of the proposed development, which was supplied by SABC as part of the conservation management plan (SABC 2006). OA produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI - OA 2006) outlining how it would implement the brief. The Music Hall occupies an area of c 0.2 ha and is situated within the historical medieval core of Shrewsbury at NGR SJ 49071242. Within the complex of buildings are extensive well-preserved structural remains of Vaughan's Mansion, a medieval stone built hall dating to c 1300.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is bounded by College Hill to the south, Swan Hill and the site of the former Talbot House to the west and Market Street to the North; Coffee House Passage lies to the east (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 The site lies on the river terrace deposits of the River Severn overlying Westphalian and Stephanian (undivided of Barren Red) deposits (BGS Sheet 152, Solid and Drift 1:50,000). The ground level of the site rises sharply from Market Place to College Hill. The site lies at approximately 63 m OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site has been subject of an archaeological and architectural analysis (Morriss, 2000). No archaeological investigations have been carried out within the area of proposed development. The results of Morriss' work are briefly summarised below.
- 1.3.2 The area to the north of the site, the Square, was originally a peat bog that was drained and settled in the early 13th century; following this reclamation it became the site of the town's annual summer fair. The growth of the town resulted in the transfer of the main market to the Square in the 1260s. The Square became the commercial focus of Shrewsbury and the adjacent parts of the Welsh Marches. The Guild Hall, later Shire Halls and a series of Market Halls were subsequently constructed in the Square.
- 1.3.3 Vaughan's Mansion was constructed in c 1300 and originally comprised a first floor hall with an undercroft. In the 15th century the building was owned by the Mytton family, and a timber framed screen and hammer-beam roof were added.
- 1.3.4 In 1502 Vaughan's Mansion Hall was tenanted to drapers and in 1586, following a fire, the site was divided up into smaller plots of land. A second floor was also added to the Hall in the late 16th century. In the early 17th century the Hall was extended and converted into commercial premises, many windows were partially blocked. By the 1790s much of Vaughan's mansion had been converted into separate dwellings, though the Hall remained intact.
- 1.3.5 The Music Hall and Public Rooms were built in 1838. The eastern part of Vaughan's Mansion, and both wings flanking the north courtyard, were demolished to make room for the main Music Hall auditorium. The remaining hall became the home of the Shropshire and North Wales Natural History and Antiquarian Society's Museum.
- 1.3.6 In 1875 the Music Hall closed and both the Hall and Vaughan's Mansion were purchased by the Shrewsbury Music Hall Company. In 1892 the Salop Fire Office was also acquired. In 1917 a fire damaged much of Vaughan's Mansion's first floor and roof. A replica roof was constructed from oak, and additional dormer windows added; the oak screen was also repaired. The Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council purchased the Music Hall in 1949.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 General aims were to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains within the proposal area and to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains that may affect further need for mitigation during the construction process.
- 2.1.2 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features and to make available the results of the investigation.
- 2.1.3 Specifically the evaluation aimed to identify and recommend options for the management of the archaeological resource, including further archaeological provision where necessary.
- 2.1.4 To determine the age and historic significance of the range of buildings adjacent to College Hill.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of three trenches measuring 7 m long by 1.5 m wide, within the car park of the Music Hall and a smaller trench measuring 7 m long by 1.5 m wide, within a service area within the Music hall buildings (Fig. 2).
- 3.1.2 Trenches 1-3 were designed to evaluate activity to the west of Vaughan's Mansion. Trench 4 was designed to evaluate the footprint of the western wing of Vaughan's Mansion and/or activity within its northern courtyard.
- 3.1.3 The Building Assessment comprised the removal of plaster and wall finishes from the interior and exterior of the building range adjacent to College Hill. Six trial holes were agreed with Ian Kilby, Conservation Officer for SABC, however, only four could be assessed due to the presence of concrete in two of the locations.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The trenches were surveyed in and marked out by Oxford Archaeology's Geomatics department and the overlying concrete and tarmac surfaces were cut out and removed by contractors employed by Shrewsbury County Council.
- 3.2.2 The underlying deposits were removed under close archaeological supervision to the level of the first significant archaeological horizon, using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.
- 3.2.3 A cobbled surface was partly visible within the present car park surface and exposed in the upper levels of the trenches. It was cleaned, photographed and recorded before the trenches were re-excavated to the next significant horizon.

3.2.4 All trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were excavated as appropriate, in order to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and assess their environmental potential. All trenches and features were planned and where excavated sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. An additional digital archive was also kept. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3.3 Finds

3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.

3.3.2 At the request of the Shrewsbury Museum Service, a sample of oyster shell was taken from an oyster rich pit fill, with a view to forming part of a proposed display on the story of the site.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 The deposits encountered were considered to be of a relatively late date and were not environmentally significant.

3.5 Presentation of results

3.5.1 A general description of the soils encountered and ground conditions is given in Section 4, and detailed descriptions of the archaeological deposits given in Section 5.

3.5.2 Each trench is described according to the stratigraphical sequence, with the earliest deposits being described first. This is followed by a description of the finds and a discussion and interpretation of the results.

3.5.3 Details of deposits and layers within individual trenches are given within the table of context (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 The revealed underlying natural consisted of orange sand, which was overlain by a clean orange brown sandy silt.

4.1.2 In generally the ground conditions were good and archaeological excavation was not impeded. However, heavy rains during the evaluation caused localised flooding and some partial collapse of excavated sections.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 Three phases of north-south walls were revealed within the west of Trench 1. A large slate lined pit was found within the east of the trench (Fig. 3).

- 4.2.2 Mortar surfaces were found extending across Trench 2. The southern end of a north-south aligned wall and a probable east-west aligned robber trench were also found within the north western corner of the trench (Fig. 4).
- 4.2.3 A small brick and sandstone culvert was found within the middle of Trench 3. Modern pits and services were found in the north and south of the trench (Fig. 5).
- 4.2.4 The south western corner of a modern brick lined pit, cellar or soak-away was found within Trench 4 (Fig. 6).

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of trench deposits

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

- 5.1.1 The underlying natural comprised an orange sand (104), which was overlain by up to 0.42 m of clean orange brown silty loam (103). The top of the silty loam was found at a depth of 63.00 m OD or 0.2 m below ground level (BGL).
- 5.1.2 The natural geology was cut by a north-south aligned wall robber trench (120), which lay within the west of the trench. The trench had a flat base and vertical sides, with a broad concave step on its western side, and measured 0.52 m deep by 0.9 m wide. It was filled by a reddish brown sandy silt (119) which contained occasional powdery grey-white mortar and broken slate.
- 5.1.3 The trench appeared to be truncated by the construction cut (118) for a north-south aligned wall (111), though this relationship was not certain. Wall 111 was constructed from two courses of faced red sandstone blocks, overlaying three courses of red brick base-work, laid in stretcher courses. The bricks themselves were handmade, measuring 0.24 m long, 0.06 m high and were of an unknown width.
- 5.1.4 The stone build overlying the brickwork was faced on its western side and consisted of sandstone blocks measuring up to 0.44 m long by 0.18 m high. Traces of a hard grey mortar bonding were also seen. At the southern end of the wall the construction cut was shallower, and the base of the cut was filled by a lumpy grey mortar; the wall may not have extended as far as the southern wall of the car-parking area.
- 5.1.5 Construction cut 116 was seen to the east of wall 111, and may form the eastern continuation of construction cut 118. The cuts were both of rounded profile, and together they measured 0.92 m deep and over 2 m wide. Cut 116 was filled with a possible stone and brick wall or rubble dump (109), which abutted wall 111. Possible wall 109 consisted of a single course of sub-angular, unworked red sandstone blocks, in part overlain by a course of red bricks, and measured 0.35 m wide by 0.25 m high. The bricks used were the same size and type as those used in the lower construction of wall 111. They were handmade and showed signs of stacking and impressed grass or hay; they dated from the early 16th century.

- 5.1.6 The rough construction of 109 indicates that this is more likely to be a deliberate infilling of the construction cut behind wall 111. The cuts were backfilled by reddish brown sandy silts (115 and 117).
- 5.1.7 These fills were truncated by the construction cut (114) of a later brick wall (110), constructed directly over wall 111. Wall 110 consisted of two courses of plain red bricks laid as alternate header and stretcher courses. The bricks were machine made and measured 0.25 m long, 0.12 m wide and 0.08 m high. They were bonded by a hard pale grey mortar. The wall measured 0.26 m wide by 0.16 m high and was abutted by an orange brown silty sand backfill (113). The upper two or three courses of wall 110 had been removed and the void was filled by a powdery grey mortar containing brick fragments (112).
- 5.1.8 Backfill 113 had been cut by a trench for a modern drainage pipe and by a modern pit (122 - fill 121).
- 5.1.9 A large square pit (108), measuring at least 1.5 m long, 1.4 m wide and over 0.95 m deep, was revealed within the east of the trench. The bottom of the pit extended beneath the level of safe excavation and was therefore not fully excavated. The upper sides of the pit were supported to the east and west by vertically placed slate slabs, the largest of which measured up to 1.1 m long by 0.58 m wide. Beneath these slabs the sides of the pit curved inwards. The lowest pit fill revealed was a brown-to-orange brown sandy silt (107) containing over 100 oyster shells, and occasional brick, sandstone and slate fragments.
- 5.1.10 This fill was overlain by an orange-brown silty sand (106) that contained occasional broken slate as well as a sherd of 19th century decorated white glazed pottery. The upper fill of the pit was a grey brown sandy silt (105), which contained powdery greyish white mortar and broken slate, and occasional broken tile and brick fragments.
- 5.1.11 The deposits were overlain by a levelling up deposit of dark brown silty sand (102). The eastern end of Trench 1 was overlain by a cobbled surface (101) below the modern concrete surface (100).

Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

- 5.1.12 Natural orange sand (217) was revealed below a pale brown clayey silt (216). The top of 216 was found at a depth of 0.6 m BGL or 62.45 m OD. It was overlain by a 0.12 m thick layer of grey brown sandy silt (215), a disturbed natural deposit. This deposit was overlain by a broad reddish brown, mortary clay surface (209), that was c. 0.8 m thick and extended for 5 m from the western end of the Trench. A paler white mortar surface (213) was found within the eastern end of the trench. Both surfaces were relatively firm, if a little uneven, and it is likely that they were a base for probable floor surfaces, which have since been removed. Surface 213 was 0.1 m lower than surface 209 at a depth of at 0.36 m BGL (62.58 m OD). Surface 209 was

overlain by a spread of sandstone rubble and sandy silt (210) below a 0.15 m thick layer of redeposited natural (204).

- 5.1.13 Within the north-western corner of the trench, layer 204 was cut by a probable wall robber trench (206). Cut 206 measured 0.6 m wide by 0.5 m deep, and was at least 0.55 m long. It had vertical sides, a flat base, and was filled by a brown clayey sand (205) that contained abundant brick and sandstone fragments, approximately 40% of the total fill.
- 5.1.14 The construction cut (214) for a brick wall (208) was located against the north western edge of the trench, its relationship with trench 206 was unclear. The wall was nine courses high (0.95 m) and 0.6 m wide. It was constructed of hand-made red bricks, each measuring *c* 0.22 by 0.12 by 0.07 m. The footings of the wall slightly stepped to the east and the wall stepped to the west. The wall was bonded with a firm pale grey mortar and extended northwards beyond the trench. The construction cut had been back-filled with a grey brown sandy clay (207) that contained glass and a 19th century pot sherd.
- 5.1.15 Rubble spread 210 (to the east of the trench) was cut by the insertion of a NNE-SSW aligned trench (212) for a brick and tile drain (211). The drain consisted of two parallel courses of red brick with a tile capping. The bricks measured 0.23 m by 0.13 m by 0.07 m, and the capping tiles measured up to 0.28 m square. The drain was bonded by a firm white mortar. A lead water pipe ran across the top of the drain and the surrounding rubble spread.
- 5.1.16 Deposit 204 was overlain by up to 0.2 m of orange brown sandy silt (203), below an area of cobbling (202). The cobbling was absent to the east, where a modern electricity cable had been inserted, and to the south, where a new concrete slab had been laid. The modern car park surface (201) sealed the trench.

Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

- 5.1.17 A hand-dug sondage was excavated within the northern end of the trench to reveal natural orange sand (313) at a depth of 1.32 m BGL (61.62 m OD). The sand was overlain by a 1.23 m thick layer of orange brown sandy silt (312). This had a partially laminated texture and also appears to be a natural deposit. Deposit 312 was overlain by a thin lens of yellow clay (311) and by a 0.2 m thick layer of reddish brown silty silty clay (310). These deposits were likely to have comprised dumps of re-deposited natural silts.
- 5.1.18 A cobbled surface (302) overlaid layer 310. Within the northern end of the culvert, cobbling 302 was entirely absent, and was probably removed during the insertion of a modern electricity cable that ran across the trench. Two modern rubble filled pits (304 and 306 filled by 303 and 305) were also seen cutting from a high level within the north of Trench 2, and a foul water pipe was seen within the south of the trench.

5.1.19 A small NW-SE aligned trench (309) for a culvert (308) was revealed within the middle of the trench. The culvert comprised a tile base, parallel brick walls and a brick and sandstone arched roof, and measured 1 m wide and up to 0.45 m high. Plain un-frogged bricks measuring 0.25 m by 0.2 m by 0.07 m were used in the construction, and they were bonded with a hard white mortar and rendered on their inner faces. The vaulting was fragmented and the culvert had been back filled with a grey silty clay (307) that contained stone, brick and fragments of 19th century drainpipe, as well as two sherds of 19th century pottery. The backfill was overlain by a re-laid section of cobbled surface (302). The upper deposits were overlain by the current car-park surface (301).

Trench 4 (Fig. 6)

5.1.20 A probable natural deposit of orange brown silty clay (406) was revealed at 61 m OD (0.1 m BGL). In the east of the trench the deposit was cut by the construction cut (405) for the south-western corner of a modern brick structure, probably a soak-away (404). The soakaway was constructed from red unfrogged bricks, measuring 0.24 m by 0.115 m by 0.06 m; the bricks were bonded with a white mortar. The structure measured 1.3 m from north to south, 0.6 m from east to west and was at least 0.8 m deep. It was filled by a grey brown sandy clay (403), containing brick and cement rubble and 19th-century pottery.

5.1.21 The backfill was overlain by a small patch of cobbling (402), and the structure was truncated to the north by the insertion of a ceramic drainage pipe and a modern electricity cable. The deposits were overlain by the present concrete surface (401).

5.2 Description of trial holes

Trial hole 1 (Fig. 7 and Plate 1)

5.2.1 Trial hole 1 was located in the corner of the changing room 2 on the second floor and was *c* 2 m above floor height. The main hole measured 0.3 m wide and 0.35 m long and it was continued *c* 0.05 m around the corner to expose the construction of the adjacent wall. The main feature revealed was what appears to be the end of a tie-beam, with a stop-chamfered underside, which is tenoned into what appears to be a wall plate in the adjacent wall. The tie and the wall plate appear to be of oak. The tie beam was painted and the stop chamfer (0.07 m) was plain. Beneath the tie-beam is 19th-century brickwork with sandy cement bond and presumably the whole wall is of this date having been added beneath the older roof truss. The bricks measured 0.23 m x 0.12 m x 0.07 m and the uppermost course is a soldier course. Two laths (probably contemporary with the brickwork) have been nailed to the tie to hold the 0.03 m thick layer of plaster which now covers the wall. There is no mortar between the upper course of brickwork and the tie-beam.

Trial hole 2 (Fig. 7 and Plate 2)

5.2.2 Trial hole 2 was also located in changing room 2, on the outer face of the southern wall of Vaughan's Mansion, measuring 1.45 m long and 0.6 m wide. The lower part

of the wall was seen to be constructed from rough hewn sandstone blocks with a light mortar bond but the upper part, which was offset 0.1 m to the south, comprised a 19th-century brick wall constructed from bricks measuring 0.23 m x 0.12 m x 0.07 m. These are contemporary with the bricks in Trial hole 1 and they were laid in a rough English bond, with a light sand cement and a flush pointed finish. The point where the stonework and brickwork joined was covered in a 0.03 m skim of modern hard waterproof cement. Above the bricks a small section of what appears to be a wall plate was exposed and this supports a tie-beam spanning the room. Roof tiles were laid against the wall plate to bring the surface flush with the rest of the wall face and allow a continuous line of plaster. The bricks were presumably added to strengthen or consolidate the wall and they may have replaced a timber framed upper section.

Trial hole 3 (Fig. 7 and Plate 3)

- 5.2.3 Trial hole 3 was also located in changing room 2, above the inside edge of the window looking out onto College Hill Street. The hole was 0.40 m long and 0.35 m wide and it was placed to investigate the point at which the stop-chamfered tie-beam enters the wall. The hole confirmed that the wall plate remains in-situ at this point and that the tie-beam rests on it. Laths supporting the 19th-century plaster which now covers the area have been nailed to the wall plate. The wall plate measured 0.24 m wide by 0.17 m in depth but there is another timber immediately beneath it. This may be a later packing piece.

Trial hole 4 (Fig. 8 and Plate 4)

- 5.2.4 Trial hole 4 was located in the stairwell on the first floor, and measured 0.6 m long and 0.4 m wide. At this point there is a 0.06 m offset in the wall, at street level. The trial hole revealed that this whole area now comprises 19th-century brickwork. The lower part was covered in modern grey sand cement with scoring to fix the 0.02 m thick plaster.

5.3 Finds

General

- 5.3.1 Summaries of the pottery and ceramic building material assemblages can be found below. For full reports see Appendices 2 and 3.

Pottery

- 5.3.2 A total of 9 sherds of pottery weighing 105g was recovered. All of this is of 18th- or 19th-century date; ordinary domestic pottery types are represented. The finds were recovered from the fill of a pit, soakaway, construction cut and culvert.
- 5.3.3 The assemblage largely comprises mass-produced tablewares of 19th-century date including Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (transfer-printed etc.) and an ornamental colour-bodied stoneware jug. These have a possible mid 19th-century dating emphasis. A sherd from a brown ?Midlands salt-glazed stoneware jug may be of 18th- or early 19th-century date.

Ceramic building material

- 5.3.4 A total of 8 fragments of CBM weighing 3992g were recovered from a wall robber trench and two construction cuts. The assemblage comprises two 'Tudor' bricks and six fragments of 19th- or early 20th-century roof tile and drainpipe.
- 5.3.5 The bricks comprise two large fragments from two separate unfrogged bricks (one almost complete, one half-complete). These are orange or red in colour and have the handmade appearance and characteristic thickness of 'Tudor' bricks. They probably date to the 16th or first half of the 17th century. Both show evidence of sooting or scorching along one or more faces suggesting they may have come from fireplaces or were exposed to intense heat at some point after manufacture. The half brick is quite worn and clearly residual in its context.
- 5.3.6 The 19th- or early 20th-century pieces of roof tile and drainpipe are unremarkable. The assemblage may indicate the existence of a Tudor building with evidence for 19th-century repairs or modernisation, or simply rubble derived from nearby buildings of these dates.

Glass by Ian Scott

- 5.3.7 A single sherd of olive green bottle was recovered from the fill of a wall construction cut (207). The sherd is not diagnostic.

Shell

- 5.3.8 A total of 134 oyster shells were recovered from a fill (107) of pit 108.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 The evaluation trenches were predominantly located to the south of the courtyard. As such it is unlikely that significant medieval archaeological remains survive between the trenches. It is possible that medieval remains do survive in the northern part of the courtyard and in the area around Trench 4. However, the absence of any residual medieval material remains makes this unlikely.
- 6.1.2 Very few datable artefacts were recovered from the site and it is possible that the single sherds of post-medieval pottery were intrusive. However, as stated before, the lack of any medieval dating evidence would suggest otherwise.

6.2 Overall interpretation

- 6.2.1 The earliest archaeological evidence was a wall robber trench and a north-south aligned limestone and brick wall (111) revealed in Trench 1. A brick sample taken from the probable backfill of the construction trench of the wall may have dated from the early 16th century. However, the demolition of much of Vaughan's Mansion in

the early 19th century would have generated a lot of surplus building material. It is likely that any contemporary structures, yard walls or outbuildings may have been constructed from this material. The dump of surplus building material in the construction trench also indicates that the wall was more recently constructed than the 16th century, when surplus bricks would have been re-used.

- 6.2.2 The mortar surfaces revealed within Trench 2 were probably associated with brick or tile floor surfaces, since removed. The differences in colour, composition and level of the two surfaces indicates that they may have lain within different rooms of a building, possibly partially formed by the wall in Trench 1.
- 6.2.3 Although the surfaces were undated, their proximity to the present car-park surface indicates that they are not particularly old, and that they may have formed part of the make-up beneath a late 18th-century stabling area, constructed in the 1770s during the remodelling of the frontage along Market Street (Morriss 2000). If the wall to the south was associated with these surfaces, the 'Tudor' bricks may have derived from elsewhere.
- 6.2.4 The base of a later brick overlay wall 111, which dates from the 19th/20th century. Traces of a corresponding brick build could be seen at approximately head height within the southern car-park wall.
- 6.2.5 The other features revealed in the evaluation (pits, drains and soakaway) were all 19th century in date and probably associated with the Music Hall.
- 6.2.6 No evidence of the western wing of Vaughan's Mansion was found, nor any evidence of yard activities/structures. It is likely that when the Music Hall was constructed in the early 19th century the entire site was landscaped and terraced, destroying any evidence of earlier activity. The medieval buildings were constructed in this manner due to the topography of the site. It is logical that 19th-century builders would take the same approach.
- 6.2.7 The building assessment revealed that the exterior part of the southern wall of Vaughan's Mansion is likely to be relatively intact. The investigation of the wall at 2nd floor level revealed that substantial 19th-century alterations were undertaken but the wall plates and trusses from an older building at least partially survive.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 1							
100	Layer	Concrete surface	0.09				Modern
101	Layer	Cobbled surface	0.18				
102	Layer	Levelling up deposit	0.24				Modern
103	Layer	Colluvium	0.42				
104	Layer	Natural orange sand					
105	Fill	Upper pit fill	0.4				19th/20th C
106	Fill	Mid pit fill	0.58			Pottery	19th/20th C
107	Fill	Lower pit fill					
108	Cut	Large pit	0.95	1.4	>1.5		
109	?Structure	Stone and brick 'wall'	0.25	0.35	>1.5	Brick sample	16th C
110	Structure	Brick wall	0.16	0.26	>1.5		19th/20th C
111	Structure	Sandstone and brick wall	0.36	0.25	>1.5		16th C?
112	Fill	Mortar fill above 110	0.22				
113	Fill	Backfill of cut 114	0.4	1.45			
114	Cut	Construction cut	0.4	1.45			
115	Fill	Backfill of cut 116	>0.66	1.1			
116	Cut	Construction cut	>0.66	1.1			
117	Fill	Backfill of cut 118	0.35				
118	Cut	Construction cut	0.35	>0.45			
119	Fill	Backfill of cut 120	0.62				
120	Cut	Robber trench?	0.62	0.9			
121	Fill	Modern backfill/dump	0.55	0.9			
122	Cut	Modern pit/ disturbance	0.55	0.9			
123	Fill	Slate sides to pit 108	0.58	1.1	0.02		
Trench 2							
201	Surface	Concrete/ tarmac surface	0.07				Modern
202	Surface	Cobbled surface	0.2	>0.85	>5.00		
203	Layer	'Dirty' colluvium	0.2				
204	Layer	Sand layer over 209	0.23				
205	Fill	Fill of robber trench 206	0.5				
206	Cut	Robber trench	0.5	0.55	>0.6		
207	Fill	Backfill of cut 214	0.8			Pottery	18th-19th
208	Structure	North-south wall	0.95	0.6			
209	Surface	Mortary surface	0.06	>1.5	>4.6		
210	Layer	Stone rubble	0.1	>1.5	>2		
211	Structure	Brick and tile drain	0.2	0.3			
212	Cut	Drain cut	0.36	0.42			
213	Surface	Mortar surface		>1.5	>2.5		
214	Cut	Construction cut	0.76	1.2	0.2		
215	Layer	'Dirty natural'	0.12				
216	Layer	Clay lense	0.08				

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
217	Layer	Natural sand					
Trench 3							
301	Surface	Concrete/ tarmac surface	0.05				
302	Surface	Cobbled surface	0.08	>1.45	>4		
303	Fill	Fill of 304	0.4				
304	Cut	Modern pit	0.4	0.7			
305	Fill	Fill of 306	0.25				
306	Cut	Modern pit	0.25	0.5			
307	Fill	Fill of 309	0.6			Pottery	19th
308	Structure	Culvert	0.45	1			
309	Cut	Cut of culvert	0.6	1.3			
310	Layer	Sandy clay	0.2				
311	Layer	Clay lense	0.05				
312	Layer	Silty loam	0.9				
313	Layer	Natural sand					
Trench 4							
401	Surface	Concrete surface	0.08				
402	Fill	Concrete fill	0.025				
403	Fill	Fill of brick structure	0.8			Pottery	19th
404	Structure	Brick structure	0.85	>0.26	>1.3		
405	Cut	Cut for Brick structure	0.85	>0.26	>1.3		
406	Layer	Colluvium?					

APPENDIX 2 POTTERY

by John Cotter

Introduction and Methodology

A total of 9 sherds of pottery weighing 105g was recovered. All of this is of 18th- or 19th-century date. All the pottery was examined and spot-dated, for each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation (Table A2.1). Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.).

Date and Nature of the Assemblage

Overall the pottery assemblage is in a very fragmentary condition, although the sherds themselves are quite fresh. Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented.

The assemblage largely comprises mass-produced tablewares of 19th-century date including Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (transfer-printed etc.) and an ornamental colour-bodied stoneware jug. These have a possible mid 19th-century dating emphasis. A sherd from a brown ?Midlands salt-glazed stoneware jug may be of 18th- or early 19th-century date.

Table A2.1 Incidence of pottery by context

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
106	c1840-1900	1	6	Bs Staffs whiteware with sponged blue decoration. Jug?
207	18-19C	1	13	Bs globular jug or mug with trace cylindrical neck, grey sandy stoneware (prob Midlands) with pale brown salt glaze int/ext. Poss 18-E19C?
307	c1800-1850	2	23	Rim fine English white porcelain teacup w low relief moulded dec. Rim Creamware dish/plate
403	c1840-1900	5	63	Prob 5 vessels. Incl bss 2x Staffs whiteware dishes with blue transfer-printed dec. 2x plain white bss, poss Pearlware, incl poss chamberpot. 1x pale grey colour-bodied ornamental stoneware ?jug base w gothic-style fleur de lys moulded dec and trace of handle (Doulton etc), mid 19C
TOTAL		9	105	

APPENDIX 3 CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL*By John Cotter****Introduction and Methodology***

A total of 8 fragments of CBM weighing 3992g were recovered. For each context the fragment count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the estimated date. Comments on condition, fabric, surviving dimensions etc. were also recorded where appropriate.

Date and Nature of the Assemblage

Overall the CBM assemblage is in a fragmentary condition, although some of the fragments are quite large and fresh. Basically the assemblage comprises two 'Tudor' bricks and six fragments of 19th- or early 20th-century roof tile and drainpipe.

The bricks comprise two large fragments from two separate unfrosted bricks (one almost complete, one half-complete). These are orange or red in colour and have the handmade appearance and characteristic thickness of 'Tudor' bricks. They probably date to the 16th or first half of the 17th century. Both show evidence of sooting or scorching along one or more faces suggesting they may have come from fireplaces or were exposed to intense heat at some point after manufacture. The half brick is quite worn and clearly residual in its context.

Four sherds of drainpipe weighing 582g were recovered from context (307). These are in a brown salt-glazed stoneware and include the flanges or rims of two separate drainpipes. Drainpipes in this material were produced from around 1820 onwards. These examples date to the 19th or 20th century.

The 19th- or early 20th-century pieces of roof tile are unremarkable. The assemblage may indicate the existence of a Tudor building with evidence for 19th-century repairs or modernisation, or simply rubble derived from nearby buildings of these dates.

Table A3.1 Incidence of CBM

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
109	16-17C?	1	2091	Near complete red brick. One end missing/damaged and the end probably re-fired or heat-scorched. Surviving max length 208mm x 110mm x 63mm. Fine red-brown sandy fabric. Crude manufacture with abundant organic impressions on one of largest faces. Limey mortar patches
119	19-E20C	2	1236	Roof tile corner frag - late industrial-looking orange-brown fabric. 1x frag (c. 50%) pale orange 'Tudor' brick (prob 16C). Surviving length 125mm x 116 x 62mm. Organic impressions on one face. Bold central crease or stacking impression down one side. Heavily sooted especially across broken end and creased side - poss from a fireplace? Also fairly worn/abraded.
207	19-E20C	1	83	Edge frag poss pantile or ridge tile? Late industrial-looking fabric, hard, dark red-brown
307	19-E20C	4	582	Brown salt-glazed stoneware drainpipe. Min 2 pipes incl rim flanges
TOTAL		8	3992	

APPENDIX 4 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Morriss, R, K, 2000, *The Music Hall, Shrewsbury: an Archaeological and Architectural Analysis*, Mercian Heritage Series **No. 104**

OA, 2006, The Music Hall, Shrewsbury, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Field Evaluation and a Building Assessment

OA, 1992, *OA Fieldwork Manual (1st Edition, ed. D Wilkinson)*

Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, 2006, Music Hall Redevelopment: Conservation Management Plan

APPENDIX 5 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: The Music Hall, Shrewsbury

Site code: SHTMH 06

Grid reference: NGR SJ 49071242

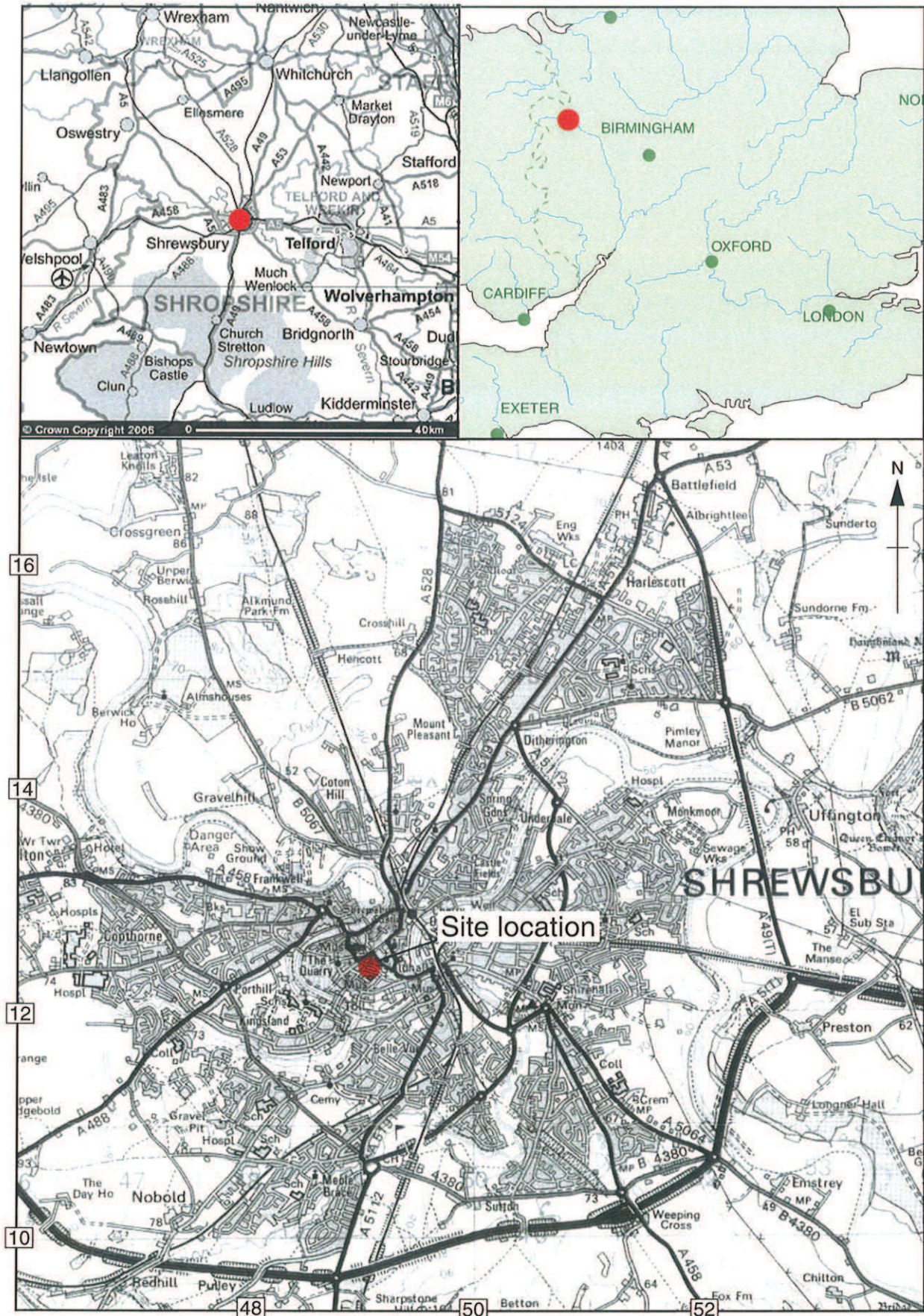
Type of evaluation: Four trenches; three within a car-park area and one within a services area within the Music Hall buildings.

Date and duration of project: One week ; 18th - 26th October 2006

Area of site: 0.2ha

Summary of results: Probable post-medieval walls and surfaces, 19th-century pits and a soakaway

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Shropshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: tba



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Figure 1: Site location

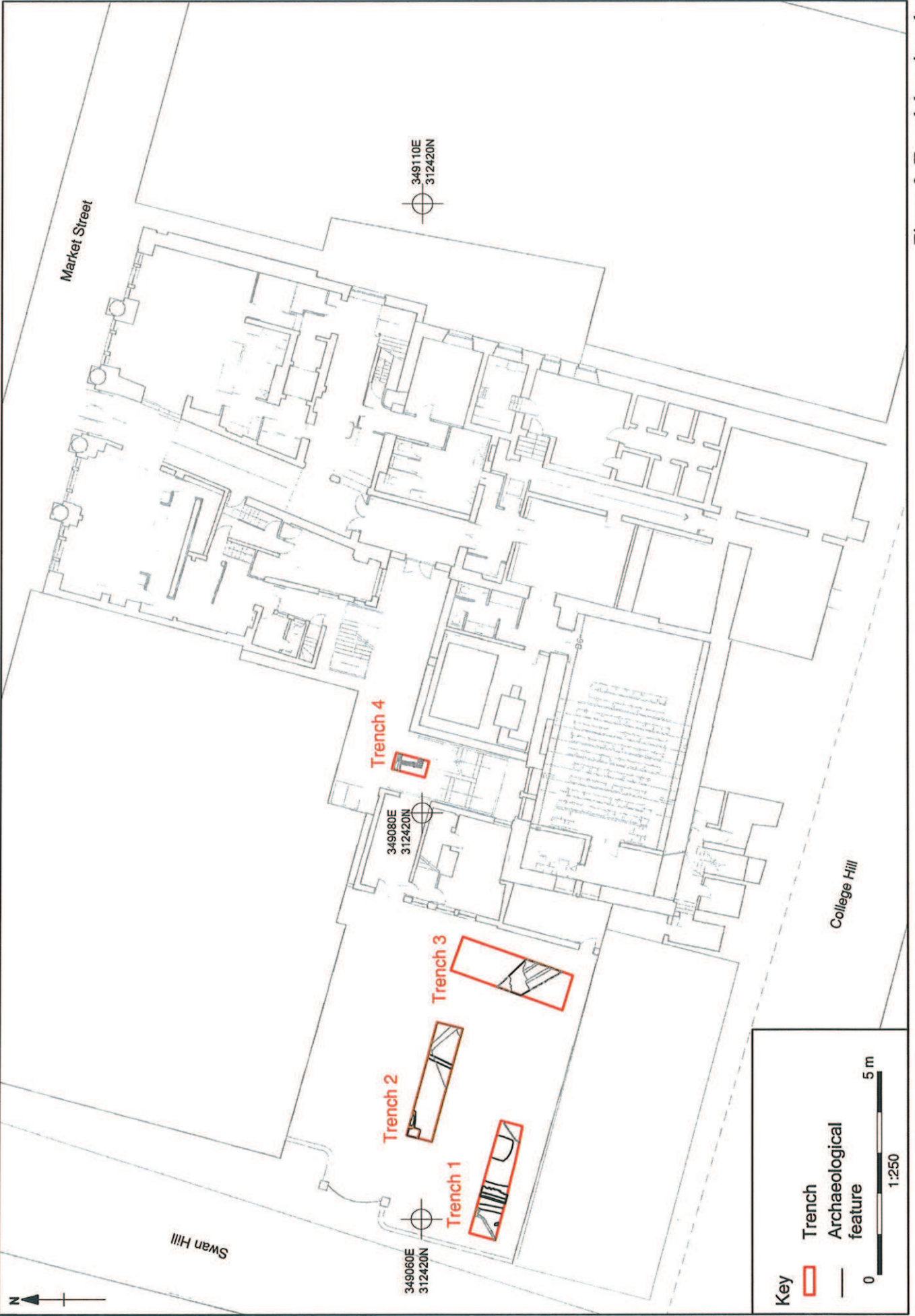
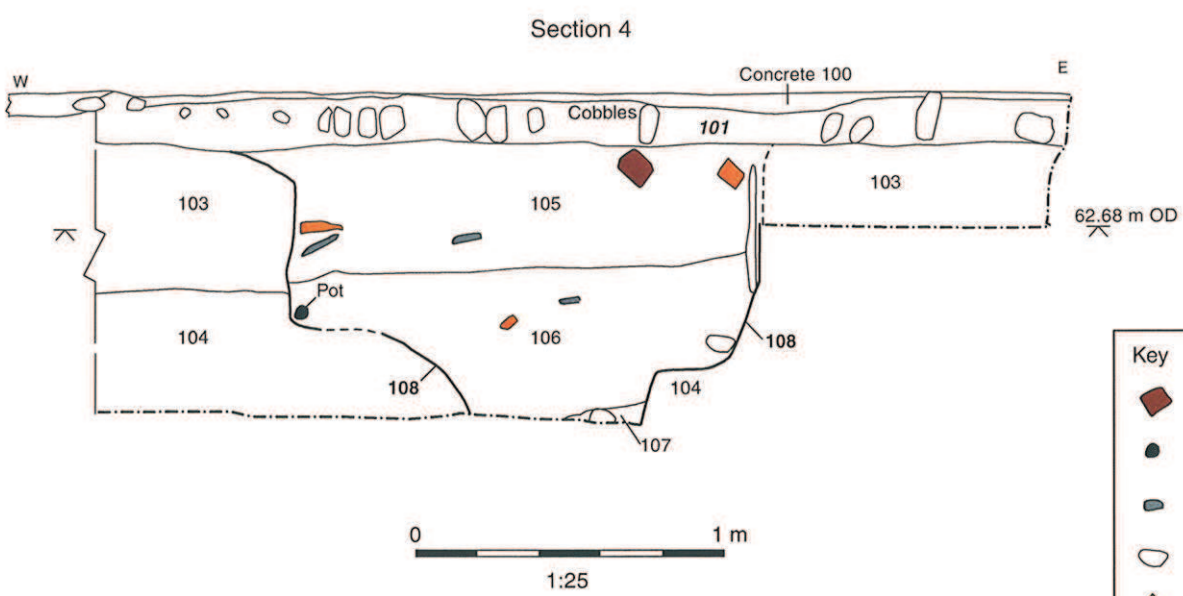
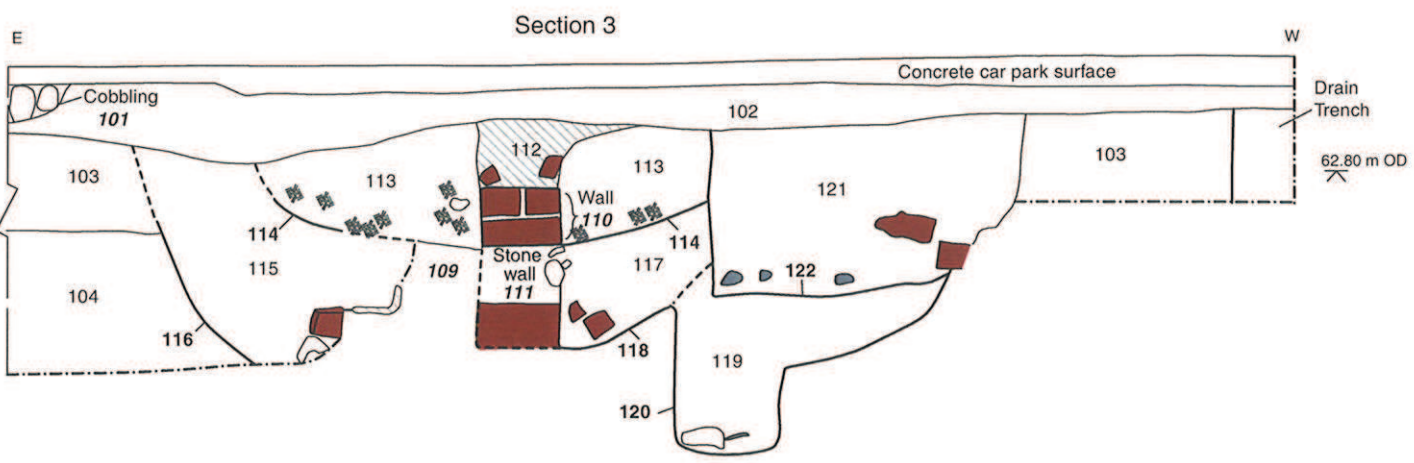
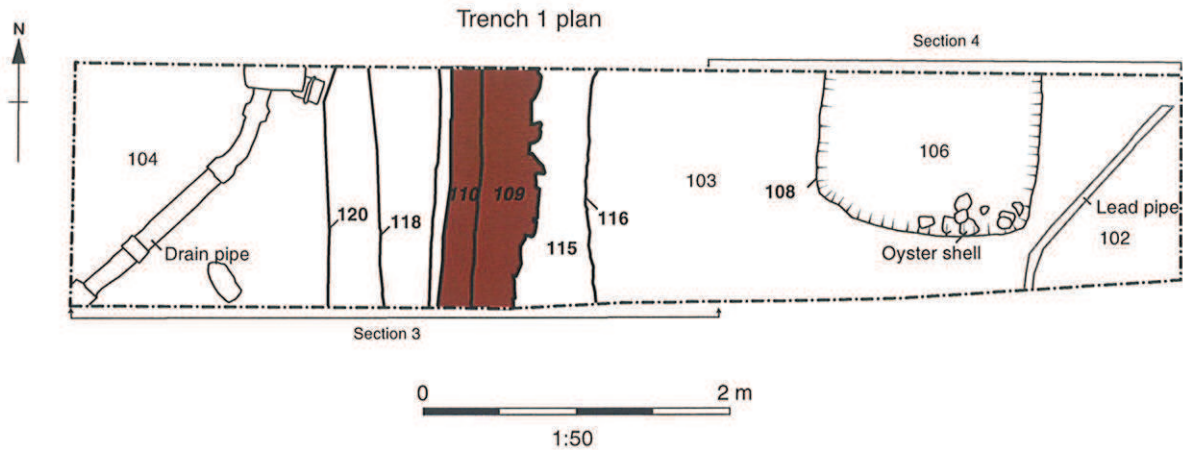


Figure 2: Trench location plan



Key	
	Brick
	Pot
	Slate
	Stone
	Tile
	Clay
	Degraded mortar

Figure 3: Trench 1; plan and sections

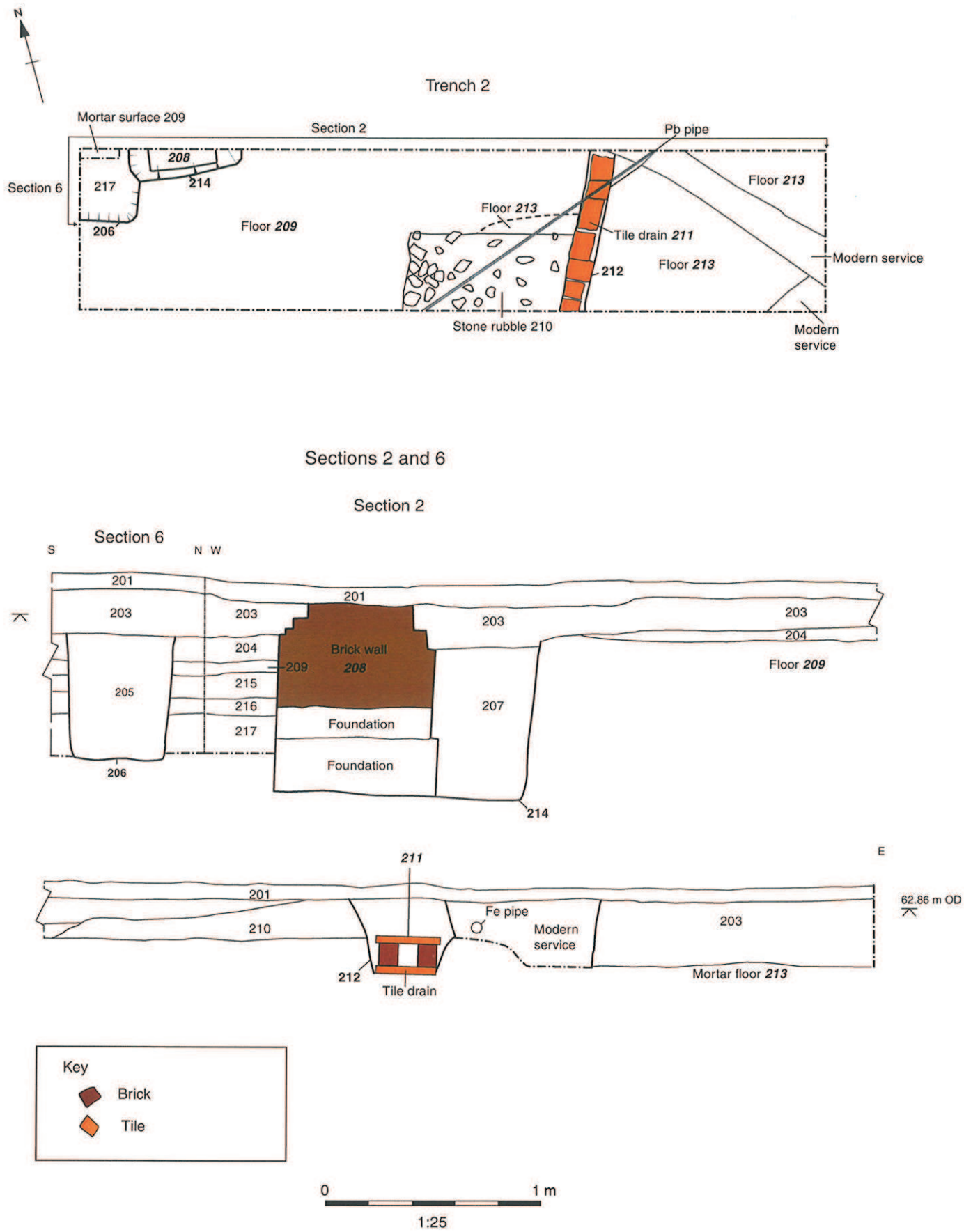
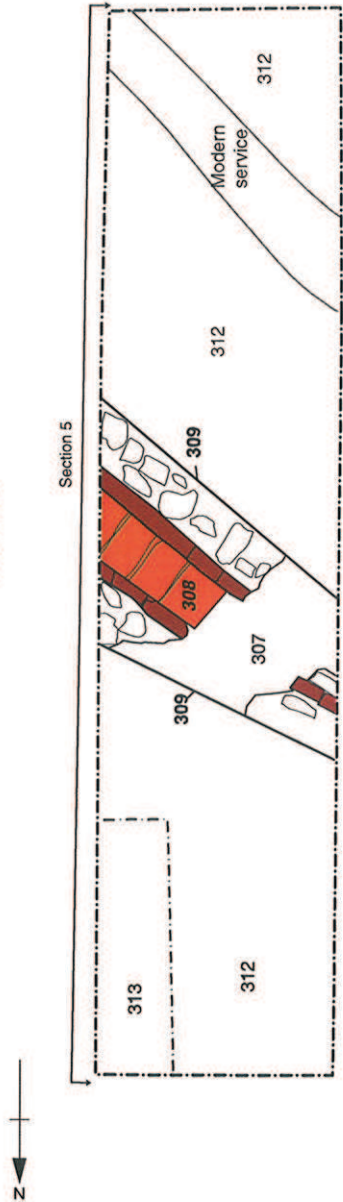


Figure 4: Trench 2 plan and section

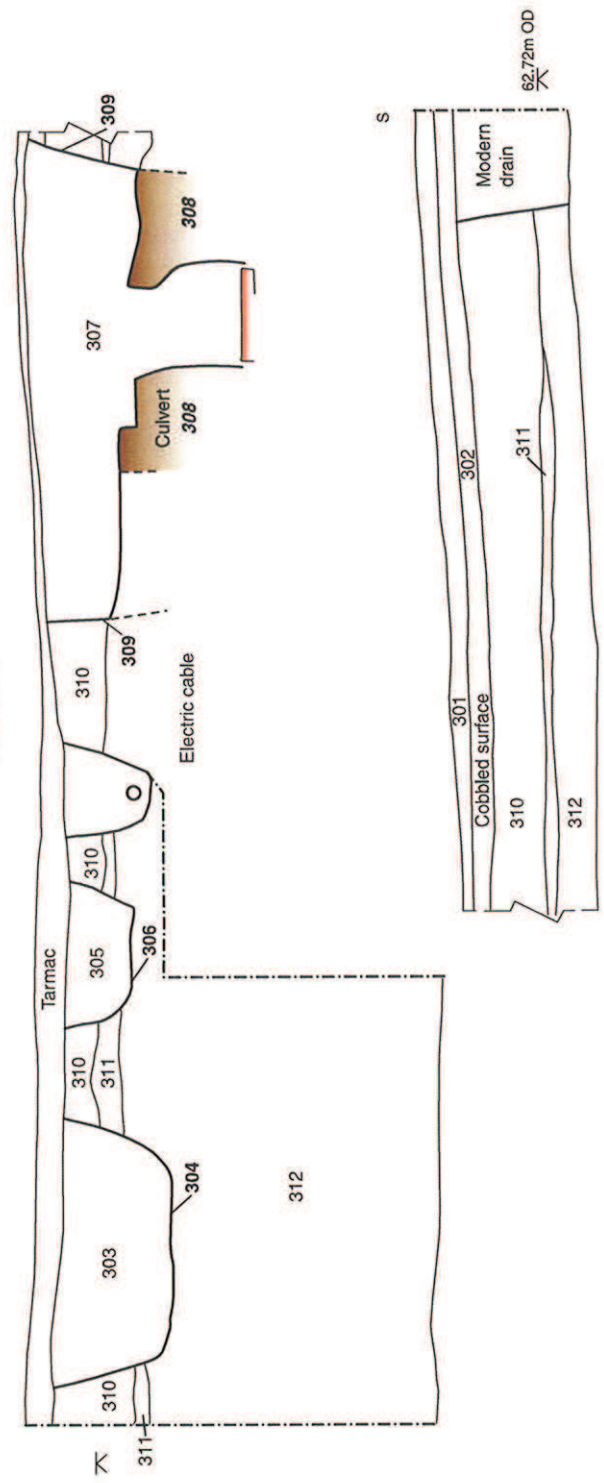


Trench 3



0 2 m
1:50

Section 5



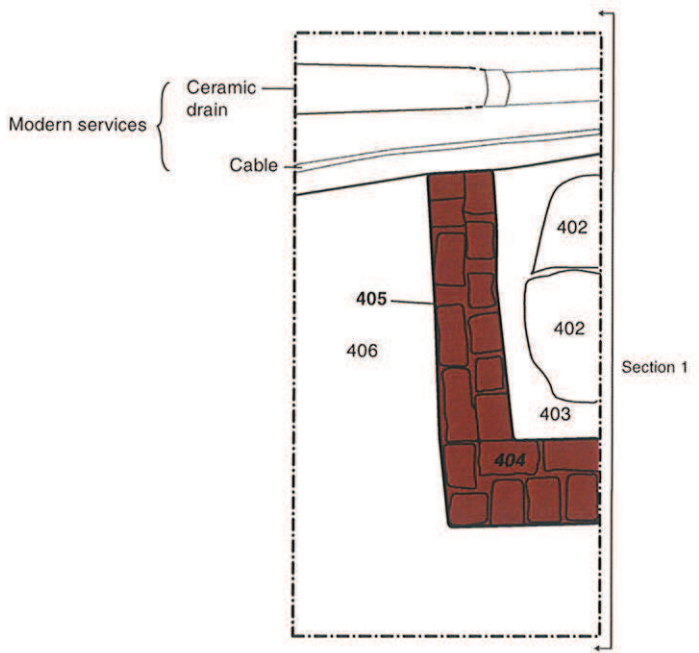
0 1 m
1:25

Key	
	Brick
	Tile

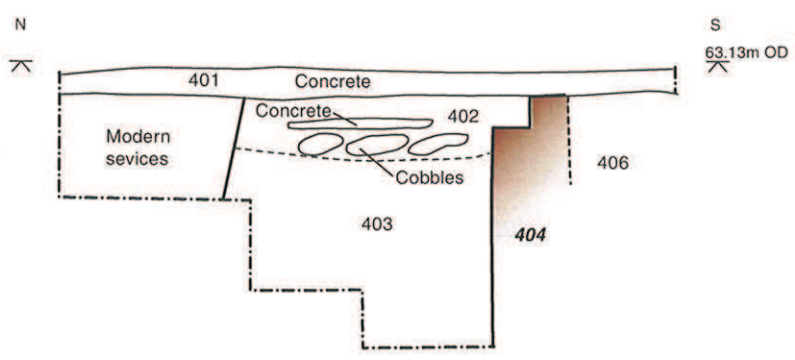
Figure 5: Trench 3; plan and section



Trench 4



Section 1



Key

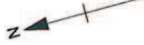
- Brick
- Tile



Figure 6: Trench 4; plan and section



Market Street



Swan Hill

College Hill

Figure 8: Trial hole location, 1st floor



Plate 1: Trial hole 1



Plate 2: Trial hole 2



Plate 3: Trial hole 3



Plate 4: Trial hole 4



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