

NUMBER 24 CHURCH STREET, RIBCHESTER, LANCASHIRE



Archaeological Watching Brief



Oxford Archaeology North

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Mrs L Jubb

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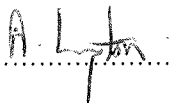
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SUMMARY

In 2008 Mrs Linda Jubb submitted proposals for the construction of a new kitchen extending into the rear garden of her property at number 24 Church Street, Ribchester, Lancashire (SD 6490 3520). The town of Ribchester lies within an area of archaeological potential, much standing within the bounds of the Scheduled Ancient Monument for a Roman fort and parts of its extramural settlement. Accordingly, Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS), the County Council's body responsible for advising local planning authorities on heritage matters, issued a verbal brief that a programme of archaeological works should form a condition of any planning permission for the development. Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) subsequently produced a project design for an archaeological watching brief and, following approval of the document by LCAS, was commissioned by Mrs Jubb to undertake the works on 6th August 2008.

Groundworks comprised the manual reduction by 0.3m of an area some 4.7m square, in the corner of which a footing, 0.9m x 0.9m, was excavated to a depth of 0.73m below ground level. Beneath a levelling layer for the kitchen floor, the groundworks revealed another levelling layer, or possibly a buried soil horizon, containing an assemblage of well-preserved post-medieval refuse, and a single unabraded sherd of Roman pottery dating to the second century AD. The development has had little significant impact upon the archaeological resource, although the Roman pottery indicates the possibility of the preservation of *in situ* Roman deposits below the present level of impact.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Mrs Linda Jubb for commissioning the project. OA North is also grateful to Doug Moir and Peter Iles of Lancashire County Archaeology Service, for their advice and liaison. Mark Oldham undertook the fieldwork and wrote the report, which was illustrated by Alix Sperr. The finds were examined by Christine Howard-Davis and the animal bones by Andrew Bates. The project was managed by Stephen Rowland, who also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 In 2008 Mrs Linda Jubb submitted proposals for the construction of a new kitchen extending into the rear garden of her property at Number 24 Church Street, Ribchester, Lancashire (SD 6490 3520; Fig 1). The town of Ribchester lies within an area of archaeological potential, much standing within the bounds of the Scheduled Ancient Monument for a Roman fort and parts of its extramural settlement. Accordingly, Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS), the County Council's body responsible for advising local planning authorities on heritage matters, issued a verbal brief that a programme of archaeological works should form a condition of any planning permission for the development. Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) subsequently produced a project design (*Appendix 1*) for an archaeological watching brief and, following approval of the document by LCAS, was commissioned by Mrs Jubb to undertake the works. The following report documents the results of the archaeological watching brief, which was undertaken on 6th August 2008.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.2.1 Number 24 Church Street is located towards the southern end of the small town of Ribchester, which is situated on the northern bank of the River Ribble, seven miles to the north-west of Blackburn. The landscape is generally flat at c 30m OD but rises gently northwards to Pendle Hill and Bowland, and more sharply southward from Clayton-le-Dale to Blackburn (Countryside Commission 1998).

1.2.2 The solid geology around Ribchester is dominated by Sabden shales of the Millstone Grit Group masked by thick (up to 50m to rock head) boulder clay deposits (Aitkenhead *et al* 1992). Ribchester town and its Roman fort are thought to stand on deposits of a second terrace of the Ribble (*ibid*), which rises to c 3-4m above the floodplain. This terrace formation is being actively eroded, with about one third of the area of the fort lost to fluvial processes to date. Soils of the second terrace comprise 0.6-0.8m of unmottled sandy loams overlying slightly mottled sandy clay loams (Ordnance Survey 1983).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1.3.1 **Introduction:** the following section is intended to provide only a brief context for the present programme of works, rather than an exhaustive account of the history and archaeology of Ribchester, examples of which are readily available elsewhere.

1.3.2 **Prehistoric period:** little is known of prehistoric activity in the Ribchester area, although Bronze Age activity was recorded by Olivier and Turner (1987) who excavated a circular ditch enclosing an arc of five cremation burials in collared urns at Parsonage Avenue, to the north of the site. The discovery of a

Late Bronze Age triple-headed bracelet mount indicates a definite later prehistoric presence (LCC 2006), as does the discovery of a bent rapier likely to have been ritually deposited within the Ribble (Barrowclough 2008). Soil analysis has indicated some agricultural disturbance on the banks of the Ribble during the Bronze Age, but also implied that the site had been abandoned some hundreds of years before the arrival of the Romans (Buxton and Howard Davis 2000). Although there is increasing evidence for Iron Age activity in the south of the county (Nevell 1999), only very occasional finds of Iron Age date have been made in central or northern Lancashire. However, previous watching briefs carried out at Ribchester Primary School and on Church Street have recovered fragments of possible Iron Age pottery (LCC 2006).

- 1.3.3 **Roman period:** the presence of extensive Roman remains at Ribchester is well known and its identification as *Bremetenacum* is secure, based on a third-century dedication to Apollo Maponus (RIB 583) from the town (Rivet and Smith 1981, 277). The site was strategically well placed at the western end of one of the few major trans-Pennine routes, leading to York, and the route's intersection with a major north/south road between Manchester, Chester and, eventually, Hadrian's Wall (Margary 1973, 370; Buxton and Howard-Davis 2000). In addition, the settlement also lies at, or close to, a crossing point of the River Ribble at the approximate point where it becomes navigable.
- 1.3.4 Evidence from recent excavations (1989-1990) suggests a timber fort was established in the early AD 70s, during the governorship of Petilius Cerialis (AD 71-73/74), and modified c AD 82-86. Subsequent demolition of this fort, and its rebuilding in stone, probably occurred around AD 125-135, possibly as a result of activity in the area of Hadrian's Wall (Buxton and Howard-Davis 2000). The headquarters were then rebuilt twice, in AD 161-9 and AD 198-209. The main stone buildings comprised the headquarters, the commander's house, granaries and a building of unknown function, possibly an armoury or hospital. Ribchester also has one of the few examples of a cavalry drill hall in Britain. It has also been suggested that the majority of the fort, except for the administration centre, was covered in gravel and used as a display ground (*ibid*). The identity of the Ribchester garrisons is uncertain for the first two centuries AD, although Legion VI and Legion XX are attested epigraphically (*ibid*). From the early third century AD, the fort was garrisoned by several units of Sarmation auxiliary cavalry (descendants of nomadic steppe warriors who had settled in parts of modern Hungary), including the *numerus equitum Sarmatarum Bremmetennacensium* recorded from a stamped tile, and later, the *cuneus Sarmatarum, Bremetenraco*, recorded in the fourth-century Notitia Dignitatum. Upon retirement, these soldiers were granted land outside of the fort, founding the extramural settlement (or *vicus*) of *Bremetannacum Veteranorum*, the limits of which extend up to 500m north of the fort (LCC 2006), and thus encompass the present development area.
- 1.3.5 The fort, and parts of the extramural settlement are of national importance and accordingly have been designated a scheduled monument (Lancashire Monument No 55). Church Street corresponds with one of the main roads from the fort through the *vicus*, and has been the focus of concentrated archaeological deposition, including the only known *in-situ* Roman cremation

burials from the town (LCC 2006). Of particular relevance to the present development was the discovery of a Roman midden deposit at Number 21 Church Street (OA North 2009), and a probable Roman square hearth at Number 20 Church Street (OA North 2004). Although this latter feature produced no finds, several very similar second-century hearths with layered clay and sandstone construction indicative of multiple use, have been excavated within a building in the area of the Roman fort's extramural annexe (Buxton and Howard-Davis 2000, 114). The hearth, and the domestic refuse and building materials (burnt daub), imply the presence of Roman buildings very close to the present development site. The duration of the Roman settlement is unclear at Ribchester as evidence for continued settlement beyond AD 200 is inconclusive (LCC 2006). It is thought that the bath house may post-date the third century, and a Gratian coin dating to AD 367 has been recovered and, though the fort is mentioned in the later fourth-century *Notitia Dignitatum*, archaeological evidence for later activity is scarce (*ibid*).

- 1.3.6 **Medieval period:** the circumstances of Ribchester in the early post-Roman period are uncertain, although artefacts in the museum or described by antiquaries suggest the site continued as a focus of activity in the early medieval period (Buxton and Howard-Davis 2000). Whether indicative of continuity or the resettlement of an abandoned installation, the establishment, c 596, of the Church of St Wilfrid within the bounds of the ruinous fortifications is the most obvious indication of early medieval activity (Farrer and Brownbill 1912). Ribchester is listed in the Domesday Survey as *Ribelcastre*, a dependent vill of Preston, the principal manor of Amounderness (Hinde 1985, 154). It is described only briefly in 1086, and was possibly uninhabited wasteland at that time. It may well have undergone 'sweeping desolation' as a result of the rebellions of 1069-70 (*ibid*), a fate which appears to have befallen the community again around 1320 'by the great incursion of the Scots' (Whitaker 1823).
- 1.3.7 Post-Conquest, Ribchester was held by Roger de Poitou, and became part of the Blackburn hundred in the twelfth century. It was later granted to the de Lacy family, from whom it subsequently descended to the Earls and Dukes of Lancaster before finally falling into the hands of the Crown (LCC 2006). The town did not become a borough and remained a small rural settlement well into the post-medieval period. There is possible evidence for a medieval market, perhaps within the triangular space in front of the White Bull Pub and close to the village cross, which was not pulled down until the nineteenth century (*ibid*). Medieval pottery and a charcoal-rich buried soil horizon identified during works to the rear of Number 21 Church Street (OA North 2009) would indicate that, much as today, a series of medieval burgage plots lined the ancient thoroughfare of Church Street. Although the medieval buildings are likely to lie beneath more recent houses on the street frontage, the potential for identifying significant evidence for contemporary activity within the rear plots remains high.
- 1.3.8 **Post-medieval period:** it seems unlikely that there was much significant change in the layout or status of the settlement until the Industrial Revolution. In the seventeenth century Ribchester was described as impoverished, with a

lawsuit of 1634 citing the poor road connection, whilst a lack of a market contributed to the poverty of the village (LCC 2006). During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the economy was based on agriculture supported by small-scale flax and linen production. By the mid-eighteenth century, with the improvements in weaving technology, Ribchester's fortunes increased, which was reflected in the investment put into the contemporary architecture (*ibid*). By the 1820s the majority of people in the town were involved in manufacturing, craft and trading industries, although seasonal farm work was probably undertaken by many of the villagers (*ibid*). Several textile mills were built on the outskirts of the settlement, which affected both the layout and economic focus of the town. Corry (1825) notes that in 1821 Ribchester had 300 houses, 303 families, and was inhabited by 1760 persons. The population of Ribchester peaked during the mid-nineteenth century at the time of the weaving boom; however, it then steadily decreased as people went to search for work in the larger towns of Blackburn and Burnley (OA North 2004).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 The LCAS-approved OA North project design (*Appendix 1*) was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 WATCHING BRIEF FIELDWORK

- 2.2.1 The development groundworks, to the rear of the property, comprised the hand-excavation of an area 4.7m-square by 0.3m deep. Within the south-west corner of that area, a trench 0.9m square was dug to a depth of 0.73m (Fig 2). All excavations were under constant observation by an archaeologist. All significant horizons and the base of the trench were hand-cleaned by the archaeologist using a trowel, and all significant deposits were investigated and recorded as appropriate.
- 2.2.2 All information identified in the course of the site works was recorded stratigraphically, using a system, adapted from that used by the Centre for Archaeology Service of English Heritage (EH), with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Written notes were made on *pro-forma* recording sheets and accurate plans and sections were produced at an appropriate scale. A full, detailed and indexed photographic record was maintained of individual contexts, features, general views and working shots from standard view points using 35mm cameras on archivable monochrome print film and colour transparency. All frames included a visible, graduated metric scale and digital photographs were taken for presentation purposes. Primary records were available for inspection at all times.

2.3 FINDS

- 2.3.1 All finds recovered were exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid for Finds* (1998, new edition), and the guidelines of the Ribchester Museum and the Museum of Lancashire.
- 2.3.2 **Zooarchaeological remains:** a small assemblage of animal bones was recovered from the watching brief, and was identified using reference skeletons held by the author and with the aid of Cohen and Serjeantson (1996). Fragments that could not be identified to species level were classified as medium mammal, large mammal, unidentified mammal, or bird. The assemblage was recorded using a zoning method following Serjeantson (1996), recorded as over 50% of the zone present or less than 50% of the zone present. No bone or tooth fragments were present from which an age of death could be estimated. The type and position of butchery marks were recorded and interpreted.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 The results of the archaeological work undertaken forms the basis of a full archive (*Appendix 4*), in accordance with current EH guidelines (1991). The archive will be provided in the EH Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis, together with a copy of this report, will be submitted to the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER) in Preston. The original archive, including paper, magnetic and plastic media, will be deposited in the Lancashire County Record Office, also in Preston. With the consent of the Client, the finds will be deposited with the Ribchester Museum.

3. RESULTS

3.1 FIELDWORK

- 3.1.1 **Introduction:** the following section presents a brief narrative of the results of the fieldwork. For the sake of brevity and clarity, detailed descriptions of the observed features and deposits can be found in *Appendix 2*. Natural deposits were not reached during the works.
- 3.1.2 **Results:** groundworks revealed a simple stratigraphic sequence, with an upper 0.2m-thick layer of rubble, **100**, sealing soft, dark brown/grey silty clay, **101**, which was at least 0.6m thick. Both contained fragments of pottery, clay pipe, glass, and animal bone.

3.2 FINDS ASSESSMENT

- 3.2.1 A small group of artefacts, comprising a total of 94 fragments of pottery, clay tobacco pipe, and glass, was recovered partly from rubble **100**, but mostly from clay deposit **101**. All the finds are catalogued and described in *Appendix 3*.
- 3.2.2 With the exception of one fragment, the pottery was typical of late eighteenth-century to twentieth-century domestic waste, and comprised a range of kitchen and finer tablewares. Many of the former were black-glazed bowls, storage vessels, and other kitchenwares, which are typical of the period, but cannot be dated with precision, being, for the most part, made relatively locally. Finer white earthenwares, including Pearlwares, again point to a broad nineteenth- to early twentieth-century date.
- 3.2.3 Among the pottery, only one fragment stands out, a relatively large and only slightly abraded fragment of a globular vessel, probably a flagon, in a slightly sandy oxidised fabric. This is without doubt of Roman date, and seems most likely to have been produced at the Wilderspool kilns, near Chester, allowing it to be dated to the second century AD. Its presence is not surprising in this area of Ribchester.
- 3.2.4 There were, in addition, three fragments of late clay tobacco pipe. Although largely undiagnostic, the short spur seen on one fragment points to a late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century date. Only five fragments of glass were noted, two from (probably) a single late nineteenth- to early twentieth-century machine-blown bottle, and three of colourless sheet glass, presumably originally a window.

3.3 ZOOARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

- 3.3.1 **Introduction:** the animal bone assemblage, summarised in Table 1, was recovered from post-medieval layers **100** and **101**, and weighed c 8.5kg.

3.3.2 **Quantification and preservation:** the material was generally in good condition, with identified bones being fairly robust, over 50% complete, and showing little surface erosion. Of the 41 bones present, 16 were identified to species (Table 1), and represented typical domesticated mammals and birds. Knife marks from butchery were observed on single cervical and thoracic vertebrae, both likely to be those of sheep (although those of goats and roe deer are of a similar size and difficult to differentiate) and probably represent the removal of the neck and tenderloin respectively. In addition, the thoracic vertebra had been chopped from above through its caudal aspect, dividing the vertebral column in two. This latter feature may represent the splitting of the whole carcass into sides, before the enactment of more specific dismemberment.

Taxon	Layer 100	Layer 101	Total
Horse		2	2
Cattle	1	5	6
Pig	1		1
Sheep/Goat		6	6
Sheep/Goat/Roe Deer	1	1	2
Medium Mammal	1	6	7
Large Mammal		1	1
Unidentified Mammal	2	9	11
Domestic Fowl		1	1
Galliform	1	1	2
Greylag/Pinkfooted Goose	1		1
Greylag/Pinkfooted Goose Sized		1	1
Total	8	33	41
NISP identified to a species level	2	14	16

Table 1: Number of Individual Specimens (NISP) by species and deposit

3.3.3 **Potential and recommendations:** the small size of the assemblage means that it has no further potential for analysis. During the assessment, the material was recorded in sufficient detail for the purposes of archiving.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 DISCUSSION

4.1.1 No significant archaeological features were encountered during the watching brief, and those layers that were encountered seem to contain material redeposited from elsewhere. Certainly, layer **100** seems to have been used for levelling during the construction and later modification of the kitchen, and the same may be true of layer **101**. However, at more than 0.6m deep, this deposit was quite thick and, together with its silty texture and high refuse content, may represent a buried garden soil that accumulated prior to the construction of the kitchen. Whether a buried soil or a levelling layer, the origin of the domestic refuse within such material is likely to have been a rubbish midden of the sort that villagers would have allowed to develop in their backplots, and which could then be used for fertilising gardens and infields.

4.1.2 Of interest is the single sherd of Roman pottery, the second-century date for which is similar to that of the Romano-British midden at No 21 Church Street (OA North 2009), and the hearth, dated by analogy, identified at No 20 Church Street (OA North 2004). Although not unexpected within Ribchester, this well-preserved and unabraded sherd must have derived from the disturbance of a nearby Roman feature during the construction of the house. As such, this may imply that *in situ* Roman deposits survive beneath the present level of impact, or within the near vicinity.

4.2 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.2.1 The present scheme of development has not had a particularly severe impact on the buried archaeological deposits. It has, however, provided indirect evidence for the possibility of *in situ* Roman features within the environs.

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6. ILLUSTRATIONS

6.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Location Map

Figure 2: Plan of Excavated Area and Sections of Foundation Trench

6.2 PLATES

Plate 1: Area of excavation, prior to work

Plate 2: Section showing foundations of the original exterior wall of the building

Plate 3: Section showing layers *100* and *101*

Plate 4: Working shot



Figure 1: Site Location

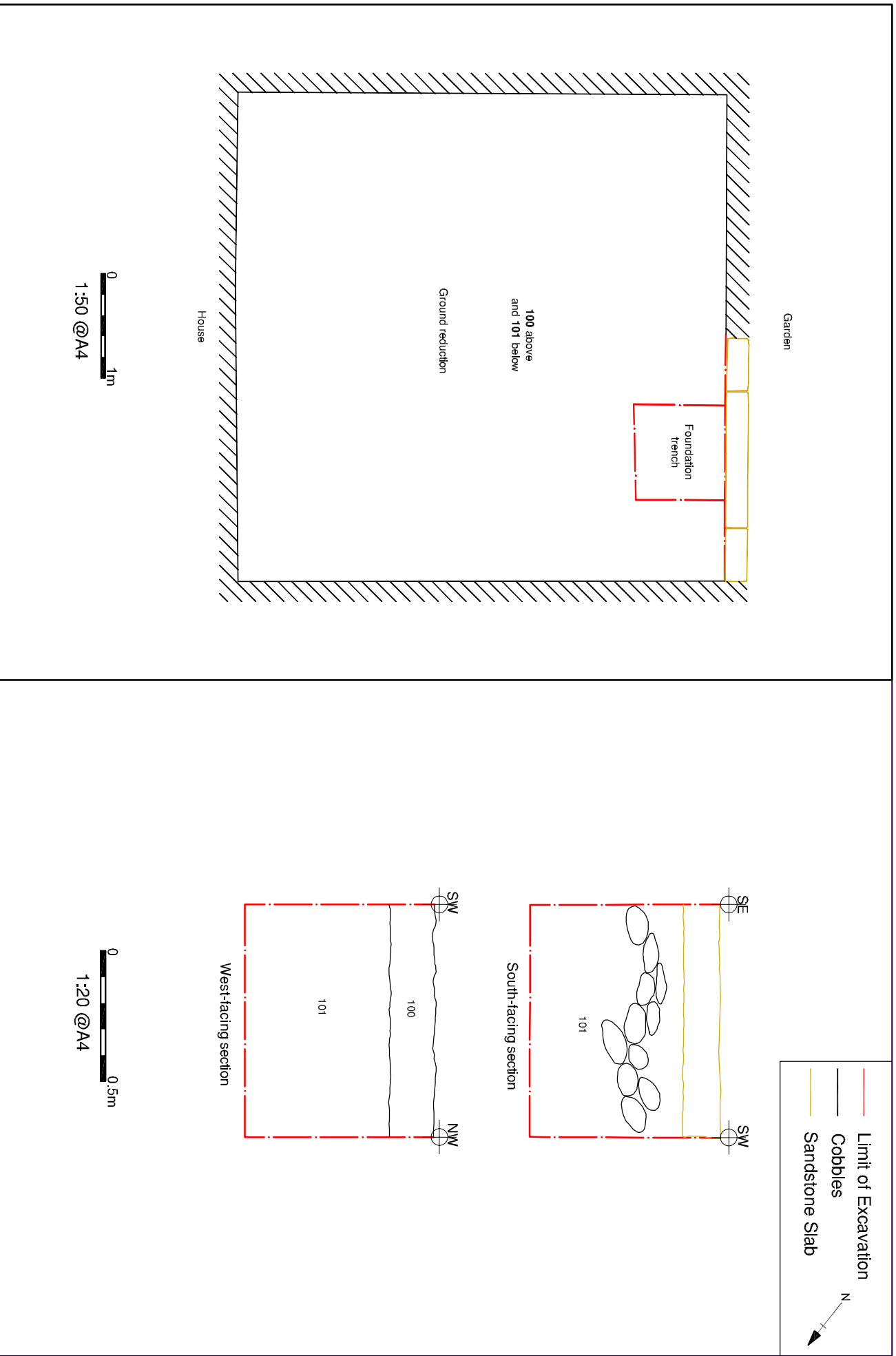


Figure 2: Plan of Excavated Area and Sections of Foundation Trench



Plate 1: Area of excavation, prior to work



Plate 2: Section showing foundations of original exterior wall of the building



Plate 3: Section showing layers *100* and *101*



Plate 4: Working shot

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

**NUMBER 24
CHURCH STREET,
RIBCHESTER,
LANCASHIRE**

**Archaeological
Watching Brief
Project Design**



Oxford Archaeology North

March 2007

Ms L Jubb

OA North Reference No: L10065

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Ms L Jubb (hereafter ‘the Client’) has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit a project design and cost to undertake an archaeological watching brief in accordance with a verbal brief from Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS), during groundworks associated with the construction of a single-storey extension at number 24 Church Street Ribchester (NGR SD 649 352). The development area comprises a yard to the rear of the property. Planning permission has been granted on the condition of the completion of the following scheme of work.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1 There is limited evidence for prehistoric activity in Ribchester, but this does include a small Bronze age cremation cemetery which lay around 200m to the west of the proposed development and comprised five collared urns arranged in an arc and surrounded by a circular ditch. During the Iron Age, Ribchester lay within the territory of the Brigantes, whose tribal seat, at least by the time of the Roman conquest, was the oppidum at Stanwick, North Yorkshire. The strategic importance of the site of Ribchester was recognised by the Romans: it lay at the confluence of several important communication routes, including that running between Carlisle in the north and Chester and Manchester to the south as well as that along one of the few major trans-Pennine routes, running eastwards to York from the fort at Kirkham in the west. Its position on the Ribble is close both to a crossing point, but also marks the limit of navigability. During the early AD70s, under the governorship of Petilius Cerealis, a wooden fort had been built on the site, replaced in stone some time between AD 125-135, and potentially occupied up to, and beyond, the end of Roman authority in AD 410. Epigraphic evidence indicates that this installation, named *Bremetanacum*, was garrisoned by elements of the II, VI and XX legions until their replacement in the early third century AD by several units of Sarmation auxiliary cavalry (descendants of nomadic steppe warriors who had settled in parts of modern Hungary), including the *numerus equitum Sarmatarum Bremmetennacensium* recorded from a stamped tile, and later, the *cuneus Sarmatarum, Bremetenraco*, recorded in the Notitia Dignitatum. Upon retirement, these soldiers were granted land outside of the fort, founding the extramural settlement (or vicus) of *Bremetannacum Veteranorum*, the limits of which extend up to 500m north of the fort. The fort, and parts of the extramural settlement are of national importance and accordingly have been designated a scheduled monument (Lancashire Monument No. 55). Church Street corresponds with one of the main roads from the fort through the vicus, and has been the focus of concentrated archaeological deposition, including the only known *in-situ* cremation burials from the town.
- 1.2.2 The church of St Wilfrid, constructed within the site of the fort in c596, is mentioned in the Domesday Book, but the medieval village is likely to have been far smaller and less significant than its Roman predecessor, suffering at the hands of the Normans during their Harrying of the North and at the hands of Scots invaders during the fourteenth century.
- 1.2.3 Numerous archaeological investigations in Ribchester have uncovered extensive and deeply stratified deposits of Roman material, revealing evidence of the fort, the civilian settlement and of public and military buildings such as the two bath houses. A number of these excavations have uncovered the waterlogged remains of organic materials such as leather, and environmental remains, such as plants and insects that can provide vital information about the daily lives of Ribchester’s past inhabitants.

1.3 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.3.1 Oxford Archaeology North has considerable experience of excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past 25 years. Evaluations, assessments, watching briefs and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.

- 1.3.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (**IFA**) **registered organisation, registration number 17**, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to identify any surviving archaeological deposits and provide for accurate recording of any archaeological remains that are disturbed by groundworks for the proposed development.
- 2.2 **Watching brief:** to carry out a watching brief during associated ground disturbance, to determine and record the location, quality, extent and importance of any archaeological remains on the site; to add to an understanding of the history and development of the site and its surroundings; to provide information to further inform planning decisions within the area.
- 2.3 **Report and Archive:** a report will be produced for the client within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.1.1 **Methodology:** a programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the whole area of the proposed ground disturbance. This work will comprise observation during the excavation for these works, including building foundations and service trenches, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation.
- 3.1.2 The watching brief will cover the whole of the area to be disturbed by the development including, topsoil stripping, foundation trenches and other earthmoving activities.
- 3.1.3 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified during groundworks, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions and, where appropriate, sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated (ie. selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal).
- 3.1.4 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid co-ordinates where appropriate). Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a **large-scale plan provided by the Client**. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 3.1.5 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more dimensioned sections will be produced. The height of features above OD will be established from architects plans.
- 3.1.6 **Treatment of finds:** all finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines.

- 3.1.7 **Treasure:** any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.
- 3.1.8 All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained on advice from the recipient museum's archive curator. Where appropriate, basic conservation and consolidation will be undertaken of organic and metal finds in order to stabilise them. Since it is not possible to predict whether many, if indeed, any, such finds will be made, the costs for conservation would need to be agreed with the Client as a variation.
- 3.1.9 **Human Remains:** any human remains uncovered will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial. LCAS and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential, the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Department of Constitutional Affairs license, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. An application will be made by OA North for the study area on discovery of any such remains and the removal will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations.
- 3.1.10 **Environmental sampling:** bulk samples of 60 litres would be taken from any appropriate sealed and uncontaminated archaeological features that would have potential for preservation of organic remains suitable for palaeoenvironmental and dietary reconstruction, for faunal remains, or for technological residues. The requirement for laboratory processing and assessment of such remains would be established with LCAS, contingency costs for which are included in *Section 9*, and would be agreed with the Client prior to processing.
- 3.1.11 **Contingency plan:** in the event of significant archaeological features being encountered during the watching brief, discussions will take place with the Planning Archaeologist or his representative, as to the extent of further works to be carried out. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design, and would be agreed with the Client prior to taking place. In the event of environmental/organic deposits being present on site, it would be necessary to discuss and agree a programme of palaeoenvironmental sampling and or dating with the Planning Archaeologist.

3.2 ARCHIVE/REPORT

- 3.2.1 **Archive:** 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). This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Lancashire SMR (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the County Record Office, and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche) together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with an appropriate museum.
- 3.2.2 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client. One bound copy and a digital copy (.pdf version) will submitted to the Lancashire SMR within eight weeks of completion of fieldwork. Any finds recovered will be assessed with reference to other local material and any particular or unusual features of the assemblage will be highlighted. The report will detail the results of the fieldwork and of any post-excavation assessment of finds and environmental samples, with a suitably brief historical introduction. The report will include a copy of this project design, a non-technical summary, a summary of the archive, and a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived. Illustrations within the report will include a plan of the location of the groundworks and, where appropriate, of archaeological features, which may also be illustrated through sections or photographically. A brief summary report of the fieldwork will be produced for the Council for British Archaeology North West *Archaeology North West* within one year of the completion of the fieldwork.

- 3.2.3 **Confidentiality:** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

4 PROJECT MONITORING

- 4.1 Monitoring of this project will be undertaken through the auspices of the LCAS, who will be informed of the start and end dates of the work.

5 WORK TIMETABLE

- 5.1 The duration of the archaeological presence for the watching brief is as yet unknown, being dictated by the schedule of works.

6 STAFFING

- 6.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Stephen Rowland** (OA North Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 6.2 The watching brief and any subsequent excavation will be supervised in the field by an OA North project supervisor. All OA North project supervisors are experienced field archaeologists and are capable of independently undertaking small to medium-sized projects.
- 6.3 Assessment of the finds from the evaluation will be undertaken under the auspices of OA North's in-house finds specialist **Chris Howard-Davis** (OA North Finds Manager). Chris acts as OA North's in-house finds specialist and has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England.

7 INSURANCE

- 7.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edn, London

Buxton, K and Howard-Davis, C, 2000, *Bremetenacum: Excavations at Roman Ribchester 1980, 1989-1990*, Lancaster University Archaeological Unit

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC), 1990 Guidelines for the preparation of archives for long-term storage

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Description
100	Rubble layer; 0.2m thick Dark grey rubble with high quantity of cobbles and yellow sandstone fragments. Finds included post-medieval ceramics, glass, metal and animal bone
101	Clay layer; 0.6m thick Dark brown soft silty clay with negligible coarse component; made ground. Finds included post-medieval ceramics, glass, and animal bone

APPENDIX 3: FINDS CATALOGUE

Context	ORN	Material	Category	No frags	Description	Period
100	1001	Ceramic	Vessel	5	Joining fragments of a shallow dish in self-glazed redware.	Nineteenth century
100	1001	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Base fragment jug or jar in black-glazed redware.	Late eighteenth century?
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Small body fragment blue fabric	Late nineteenth-twentieth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Base fragment white earthenware with dark red underglaze painting.	Nineteenth-twentieth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	2	Joining base fragments plate, white earthenware.	Nineteenth-twentieth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	7	Joining fragments ?bone china plate with painted gold decoration. Maker's stamp.	Nineteenth-twentieth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Small fragment under-glaze transfer-printed white earthenware.	Nineteenth-twentieth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Small fragment plain white earthenware	Nineteenth-twentieth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Small body fragment late Industrial slipware.	Late nineteenth-twentieth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	2	Body fragments, plain white earthenware, ?teacups	Nineteenth-twentieth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Small body fragment sponge-decorated white earthenware.	Early nineteenth century?
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Rim and shoulder fragment Chinese-style ginger jar in ?Pearlware	Late eighteenth-early nineteenth century?
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	2	Rim and base fragment Chinese-style saucer in ?Pearlware	Late eighteenth-early nineteenth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Rim fragment plate with blue feathered edge. Pearlware.	Late eighteenth-early nineteenth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	2	Small body fragments blue and white painted white earthenware.	Nineteenth-twentieth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Rim fragment dish in cream-yellow fabric. Pie dish?	Nineteenth-twentieth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	2	Joining fragments self-glazed redware dish.	Nineteenth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment. Self-glazed redware with slip decoration.	Late eighteenth-early nineteenth century?
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Rim fragment, cup? Self-glazed redware with slip decoration.	Late eighteenth-early nineteenth century?
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Rim, redware dish with marbled white and brown internal slip.	Nineteenth-early twentieth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	2	?Creamware teacup.	Early nineteenth century?
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Rim, moulded, probably white	Nineteenth-early twentieth

Context	ORN	Material	Category	No frags	Description	Period
					earthenware.	century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Large body fragment fine, sandy, orange oxidised fabric. Flagon?	Second – early third century?
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	22	Undiagnostic body fragments, black-glazed redwares.	Nineteenth-early twentieth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Dish or bowl fragment in black-glazed redware, with slip-trailed yellow lines.	Nineteenth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Rim fragment , black-glazed redware. Small bowl with flat rim.	Nineteenth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Small handle fragment, black-glazed redware.	Nineteenth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	2	Body fragments black-glazed redware bowl.	Nineteenth-early twentieth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	2	Rim fragments small black-glazed redware vessels	Nineteenth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Base fragment black-glazed redware jar.	Nineteenth-twentieth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	5	Joining fragments black-glazed redware dish.	Nineteenth-early twentieth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	10	Body fragments large vessel in black-glazed redware.	Nineteenth-early twentieth century
101	1002	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Rim fragment, brown-purple stoneware.	Nineteenth century
101	1004	Ceramic	Tobacco pipe	3	Three undiagnostic fragments stem, one retaining a small spur.	Nineteenth century
101	1005	Glass	Window	3	Small mid-pane fragments colourless sheet.	Twentieth century?
101	1005	Glass	Vessel	2	Two body fragments dark green bottle.	Twentieth century?
101	1006	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Body fragment black-glazed redware.	Late eighteenth century?

APPENDIX 4: ARCHIVE INDEX

Record group	Contents	Comments	Box/File Number
	Introduction Project Design		1
A	Report Final Report		1
B	Primary Fieldwork Records Context Records & Indices Watching Brief Records		1
C	Primary Drawings Developers Plans Annotated Plans Plans/Sections		1
D	Finds Box and Bag Lists		1
E	Environmental Records		1
F	Photographic Record Photographic Indices Monochrome Colour Slides Digital		1
G	Electronic Media		1