



# Land at Croston Hall Estate, Croston, Lancashire

## Archaeological Strip, Map and Record Report



**Oxford Archaeology North**

February 2018

**Mr and Mrs Cauce**

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## SUMMARY

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In February 2017, Oxford Archaeology North were commissioned by Prospect Archaeology, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Caunce, to undertake an archaeological strip map and record exercise on land at Croston Hall Estate, Croston, Lancashire (NGR: SD 34948 41793). Mr and Mrs Caunce had secured planning permission (15/00540/FULMAJ) for the construction of a new private dwelling and creation of a sunken garden, together with other restoration works on the site. Prior to commencement of development on site, Condition 4 attached to the planning permission required a programme of archaeological works to be implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the Local Planning Authority in the area of the proposed sunken garden.

Prospect Archaeology provided the written scheme of investigation, outlining the requirements of the strip, map and record, based on the findings of a Heritage Assessment undertaken by Shaw and Jagger Architects in 2015 and an archaeological desk-based assessment undertaken by Adams and Ahmad, also in 2015. The sunken garden was to be constructed over the remains of cellars associated with the demolished Croston Hall, however, the extent of these was unknown. The strip, map and record aimed to record the extent and nature of the remains.

The fieldwork took place between 25<sup>th</sup> February and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017. An area of approximately 940m<sup>2</sup> was excavated, 195m<sup>2</sup> of which was observed to be cellars under the main part of the hall. A further cellar room, 12, was observed to the east of the main complex of cellars. The walls of this cellar were unstable and due to health and safety concerns, only limited recording could be carried out.

The foundations of the hall show two phases of works. Both brick built, they likely relate to the later stages of building, rather than that of the earliest medieval Hall. The foundations match the plans as seen on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1910.

The excavation showed that no elements of the original medieval hall survived in the cellars. The earliest part of the remains were the cellars to the west, which were built from hand-made bricks, suggesting a date of mid-17th century to 18th century. Window **I23** dated from this period, and remained in the wall, albeit bricked up, into the nineteenth century.

The tiles recovered from the backfill of the cellars indicate how the later house was decorated, in the Gothic revival style. The encaustic floor tiles date from the second half of the 19th century, as do the enamelled tiles. It was likely that the tiles had been removed from the house prior to the demolition for reuse, leaving only a few damaged ones in the backfill.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Nansi Rosenberg of Prospect Archaeology for commissioning the project on behalf of Mr and Mrs Counce. Thanks are also due to Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service for their advice, and Carr Construction and Restoration for providing plant and welfare services.

The archaeological strip, map and record was undertaken by Becky Wegiel, assisted by Debbie Lewis and Steve Clarke. The report was written by Becky Wegiel and the drawings were produced by Mark Tidmarsh. The finds were assessed by Christine Howard-Davies. The project was managed by Karl Taylor, who also edited the report.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In February 2017, Prospect Archaeology, on behalf of their client, Mr and Mrs Caunce, requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) undertake a programme of archaeological works comprising a strip, map and record investigation on land at Croston Hall Estate, Croston, Lancashire. The work was to be carried out in advance of the construction of a new private dwelling and creation of a sunken garden within cellars on the footprint of the former site of Croston Hall, together with other restoration works on the site. Conditional planning permission (Planning application number: 15/00540/FULMAJ) was granted by Chorley Borough Council (the Local Planning Authority (LPA)) subject to the completion of the programme of archaeological investigation on the area of the sunken garden (Condition 4) as recommended to the LPA by Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Services (LAAS). A Heritage Assessment (Shaw and Jagger 2015) and archaeological desk-based assessment (Adams and Ahmad 2015) highlighted the likelihood of good preservation of cellars associated with the demolished hall.
- 1.1.2 Prospect Archaeology produced a written scheme of investigation (WSI) (*Appendix 1*) outlining the methodology of the archaeological strip, map and record. It stated that the strip should be sufficient to trace and map the as yet unquantified cellars, and characterise their extent, as well as recording any other remains of the hall encountered. The WSI was submitted to the LPA who subsequently agreed the methodology outlined.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out the results of the strip, map and record in the form of a short document, outlining the findings and assessing the impact of the proposed development.

### 1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 Croston is a substantial village centred upon Town Road on the north bank of the River Yarrow about 11km to the west of Chorley and 19km to the south-west of Preston. The area to the east of Croston lies mainly within the valley of the River Yarrow, a gently undulating agricultural landscape of scattered farms and enclosed fields given over to a mix of arable and pasture. The Croston Hall estate covers an area of *c* 8.5 ha and lies to the south of the River Yarrow, which forms the northern boundary of the Site Area (NGR: SD 34948 41793; Fig 1). The southern and eastern boundaries of the Site Area are defined by field boundaries and roads.
- 1.2.2 The solid geology consists of Late Permian red, yellow and brown pebbly sandstones of the Sherwood Sandstone Group overlain by deposits of Flandrian alluvium and Devensian glacial till (boulder clay) deposited by glaciers during the last Ice Age (BGS 2018). The soils are characterised as loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater (Farewell *et al* 2011).

### 1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 The following section presents a summary of the historical and archaeological background of Croston Hall. A full description of the outbuildings and the

gardens is included in the Heritage Assessment (Shaw and Jagger 2015). In addition, an archaeological desk-based assessment was also undertaken (Adams and Ahmad 2015). The following summary is based on these two reports and has been taken from the summary provided in the WSI (*Appendix 1*).

- 1.3.2 The medieval history of Croston manor is complex, but from about AD1300, it seems that the estate was divided into two halves that were later sub-divided into a total of four holdings. It is likely that a manor house was established on the site, between *c* AD1300 - 1550. It has not been possible to determine the nature of the medieval house on the site but by the 1680s, evidence from wills and later illustrations, suggests that it was a large dwelling of at least two, probably three storeys with cellars and was located roughly where the later hall was sited. There is some evidence that the 17<sup>th</sup> century hall was demolished or partly rebuilt in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although manorial sites of this type were commonly moated, there is no evidence for a moat at Croston Hall.
- 1.3.3 John Randolphus de Trafford purchased the remaining moiety in the manor of Croston from the Norris Trustees becoming sole Lord and then began the rebuilding of Croston Hall in 1855. In 1857, to the designs of Edward Welby Pugin (the son of Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin), the most recent hall was constructed, although it has not been possible to establish the degree to which this was a remodelling and extension of the earlier hall; photographic evidence suggests that at least part of an eastern wing retained elements of the 17<sup>th</sup> century hall. Given the plan similarities of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the 1855 buildings, this may have involved the substantial demolition of the 17<sup>th</sup> century hall down to cellar level with this being used as the foundation for the new building, or the re-facing of the central core with EW Pugin's Gothic facades.
- 1.3.4 The last of the Traffords was Geoffrey de Trafford and as he and his sister were both childless, they bequeathed the Croston Hall estate to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool in 1958 prior to Geoffrey's death in 1960. The estate was then sold to the Ainscough family in 1963 and the Pugin hall was demolished in 1964, although the church, stables and kennels were left standing. The stable grouping, kennels and chapel have suffered extensively from neglect and in the case of the stables and kennels, from poor historic refurbishment works. Both the lodge building and the Chapel of the Holy Cross are listed Grade II although the lodge does not form part of the current application.

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 A WSI (*Appendix 1*) was compiled by Prospect Archaeology, which was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa) and Historic England guidelines (Cifa 2014a, b, and c; Historic England 2016).

### 2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND RECORD

- 2.2.1 The topsoil was removed by a 360° mechanical excavator (fitted with a toothless ditching bucket) under archaeological supervision to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposits. Demolition rubble from Croston Hall was removed by machine, until the extent of the cellars was revealed. All features of archaeological interest were investigated and recorded.
- 2.2.2 The excavated remains were surveyed by use of a *Leica 1205* Real Time Kinematic (RTK) Global Positioning System (GPS), and altitude information has been established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum (aOD).
- 2.2.3 All information identified during the site works was recorded stratigraphically, using a system adapted from that used by the former Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage, with an accompanying pictorial record (plans, sections, and digital photographs). Primary records were available for inspection at all times.
- 2.2.4 Results of all field investigations were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. The site archive includes both a photographic record and accurate large-scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20 and 1:10). All artefacts were recorded using the same system and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute for Archaeologists guidelines).

### 2.3 FINDS

- 2.3.1 The recovery of finds and sampling programmes were carried out in accordance with best practice (following current Cifa guidelines), and subject to expert advice in order to minimise deterioration. A selection of artefacts recovered from the site were retained.

### 2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the WSI (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current Cifa and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2016). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in Lancashire Historic Environment Record on completion of the project.



### 3. FIELDWORK RESULTS

#### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 An area approximately 940m<sup>2</sup> (40m max east/west x 25m max north/south) was excavated during the course of the investigations (Fig 2). Within that area, the footprint of Croston Hall was exposed, together with associated infilled cellars. The turf and topsoil (0.1m – 0.3m thick) directly sealed the demolition deposits within the cellars. A summary of the results is presented below, with a room and context list provided in *Appendix 2*. Those rooms (Rooms 1-4) that were excavated as part of the sunken garden are described in the following section.

#### 3.2 RESULTS

3.2.1 The proposed sunken garden construction area was fairly uneven, and several rooms were visible in plan as earthworks and/or foundations. Cellar 12 (Fig 2) at the eastern end of the site had already been partially excavated and was covered with fencing panels.

3.2.2 The main layout of the hall was exposed (Figs 2, 3 and 4). The majority of those spaces determined to be rooms (Rooms 5-11, 12 and 13-19) were only foundation levels, with no trace of cellars and largely devoid of significant features. All of the floors in the main part of the house had been robbed out, presumably when the house was demolished. The dimensions of these rooms are listed in Table 1.

Room Number	Description	Dimensions (m)
Room 1	Cellar	5.75m x 4.85m
Room 2	Cellar	2.72m x 2.4m
Room 3	Cellar	5.5m x 4.85m
Room 4	Cellar	2.85m x 2.4m
Room 5	Foundations,	7m x 5.8m
Room 6	Foundations	5.55m x 4.3m
Room 7	Foundations	4.3m x 4.25m
Room 8	Foundations	3.3m x 3.3m
Room 9	Foundations	4.5m x 3.5m
Room 10	Foundations	5m x 4m
Room 11	Foundations	5.7m x 3.4m
Room 12	Cellar	6.2m x 5.8m
Room 13	Foundations	4.45m x 5.75m
Room 14	Foundations	3.95m x 5.95m
Room 15	Foundations	8.17m x 2.96m
Room 16	Foundations	6m x 2.66m
Room 17	Foundations	5.95m x 3.09m
Room 18	Foundations	10.16m x 1.94
Room 19	Foundations	1.9m x 3.5m

*Table 1: Rooms and their dimensions*

3.2.3 There were five cellars situated beneath the house, Room 12 being positioned to the east of the main house. Room 12 comprised red brick walls and had the best-preserved stone flag floor (although still very fragmentary) of all the cellars (Plate 1, Fig 3). Recesses were present around each wall, each set with a stone shelf. A dumb waiter was recorded on the southern wall, with slate weights found *in situ*. Amongst the demolition rubble, stone sinks were observed, suggesting

the main function for this cellar was storage, perhaps associated with the kitchen, or a utility room. The room was accessed from stairs located on the eastern side of the room. The walls were unstable, so detailed recording was not carried out.



Plate 1: South-facing view of Room 12

- 3.2.4 **Room 1:** Room 1 was the southernmost cellar room below the main part of the house (Fig 4) and was accessed from a staircase on the eastern side (1.6m x 1.6m), which appeared to descend from within the house (Room 11), and another from the west (1m wide at the door), which had been truncated. Both had been bricked up. A short section of wall had been added to the northern wall of Room 1 to the south, with holes for with east/west-aligned joists. It was unclear how far the joists protruded east, as the structure had been bricked up along the southern end, leaving the eastern end open
- 3.2.5 **Room 2:** Room 2 was built in the south-western corner of Room 3, and had obviously been constructed in several phases. The northern side of the cellar comprised wall **103**, which was extended with the addition of wall **106** (0.9m long) which was not tied in. A further short section of wall, **105** (0.6m long) formed the southern part of the eastern side of cellar 2. A short section of wall was built up against the western wall at the northern end, which had holes for east/west-aligned joists at the base and approximately 1m above (Plate 5). The gap between this and wall stub **106** was eventually bricked up by wall **104**, which was a single skin (2m long).
- 3.2.6 **Room 3:** Room 3 was adjacent to Room 1, to the north (Fig 4), and incorporated Room 2 in the south-west corner. The wall between Rooms 1 and 3 had a bricked-up relieving arch. Two semi-circular brick-built boiler stands (**102**) were observed built into the eastern wall (Plate 2). They were built side by side, one facing north-west, the other south-west. Each measured 2.7m along the back, and 1.6m wide at the deepest point. Each recess was 0.8m wide. It was likely that the two boiler stands were originally on either side of a dividing wall, in different

rooms. Wall **103** probably went all the way across the width of the room, with a doorway situated halfway across. It is not clear if the unconsolidated state of the wall between the two boiler stands was the result of the demolition process or whether the wall was left in this 'rough' state when the eastern part of **103** was demolished, presumably at the time that walls **106**, **105** and later **104** were added to from Room 3.



*Plate 2: East-facing view of boiler stands 102*

3.2.7 On the western wall, mullioned window **123** was observed (Plate 3). The window was 1.2m wide, 0.65m deep, and survived to a height of 0.92m. The central mullion was stone, and vertical iron bars divided the window further, into four panes. The original glass was preserved behind the bricks that had been used to block the window once it had gone out of use.



*Plate 3: West-facing view of window 123*

- 3.2.8 A doorway to Room 4, which lay to the north, was located in the north-western corner of Room 3. As with the wall separating Rooms 1 and 3, the wall between Rooms 3 and 4 (**107**) had a bricked-up relieving arch at the base. Room 4 had the putative remains of a stairwell (1.1m x 1.2m) leading down to the cellar from an outside doorway situated just to the west of the main entrance to the house (Room 8; Fig 4). The stone stairs stopped half way up the wall, indicating that there must have been a stair structure descending to the floor, perhaps made from wood. There was no surviving evidence of this however.
- 3.2.9 Room 4 was further modified, rearranging the space, and presumably how it was used. A north/south-aligned arch was added across the eastern side (2.7m long; Plate 4, Fig 4), perhaps signifying a change to the internal structure of the house above. In order to accommodate the arch, the floor level was dropped (although no evidence of this was visible due to the high water table obscuring the base of the excavation). Additional buttresses were built against wall **112** on the western side of the room, with corresponding buttresses against the eastern wall.



*Plate 4: East-facing view of the arch added to Room 4*



*Plate 5: Room 2, west-facing view*

3.2.10 A floor surface was observed west of Rooms 2 and 3 forming a corridor between Room 6 to the west. Narrow corridor **108** was 1.2m wide, and 5.8m long, and the floor comprised a brick surface (Plate 6, Fig 4). This was in use as part of the later phase of building, as it cut across window **123** in Room 3.



*Plate 6: South-facing view of Corridor 108 with window 123 to the left of the shot*

- 3.2.11 The remaining house foundations demonstrated two main phases of construction (Fig 5). The first was characterised by hand-made brick with a light yellowish-grey mortar. The later additions and modifications were machine-cut bricks with a harder greyish-white mortar. The earlier elements were mostly confined to the cellars described above, but two other east/west-aligned walls were observed continuing from the eastern wall of Rooms 3 and 4.

### 3.3 FINDS

- 3.3.1 A range of artefacts and ecofacts was recovered during the excavation. The assemblage was dominated by wall and floor tiles, with some blown window glass and associated lead came, with only a few fragments of domestic ceramic and glass vessels.
- 3.3.2 **Glass:** the sheet glass from window **123** is of interest, as it is likely to pre-date the Victorian house. The relatively thin greenish sheet glass is typical of that produced in the later seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries and is likely to be muff-blown. Two fragments retain grozed edges and one of these is an almost complete triangular window quarry (Plate 7), differential weathering indicates that it was set within lead came, and several fragments of came were recovered from the same context. The deep H-section of the came, and the wide spacing of the internal milling, suggest an eighteenth or nineteenth-century date, and considered alongside the window quarries, might suggest a window light with eighteenth-century origins, presumably deriving from an earlier incarnation of Croston Hall, built in the seventeenth century.



Plate 7: a) almost complete triangular quarry; b) milled H-sectioned lead came

- 3.3.3 Thin sheet glass from Room 4 could be of a date commensurate with the Gothic manor house, but its thinness seems to suggest that it does not derive from window lights. Other sheet glass, from Room 7 is badly distorted by heat, but appears recent in date.
- 3.3.4 **Tiles:** the remainder of the architectural material recovered pertains, without doubt, to the Gothic revival house built in 1855 and attributed to EW Pugin, who completed many of his father, Augustus Pugin's, commissions after the latter's untimely death in 1852. The material comprises mainly tiles, with, in addition, one fragment of a carved slate architectural detail, presumably from an architrave or similar.
- 3.3.5 The tiles can be divided into two groups, plain and encaustic floor tiles, and enamelled wall tiles, none are from stratified contexts. The encaustic floor tiles are a small group (three tiles), with only two designs represented. Two (both

bearing a Gothic letter-T) remain set in mortar or cement, so that the maker cannot be identified, although Minton seems most likely. The third (Plate 8), made using the ‘plastic clay sandwich’ technique (Durbin 2014, 47), bears the legend ‘Minton & Co - Patent - Stoke upon Trent’, suggesting it to have been produced after 1845. There were also much thinner plain tiles, in buff and dark brown, again made by Minton, but using a slightly later technique (Prosser’s dust-pressing technique, invented *c* 1840, but probably not in significant use by Minton until *c* 1854). Of the four buff tiles, three are marked ‘Minton, Hollins & Co – Patent tile Works – Stoke upon Trent – No 2 Buff’ and one is just marked ‘Minton & Co - Stoke upon Trent’; all six of the brown tiles are marked ‘Minton & Co’. Both variations on the company name were in contemporary use for some time during the second half of the nineteenth century.



Plate 8: Encaustic floor tile, showing the ‘sandwich’ of different-coloured clays from which they were produced

- 3.3.6 The remainder of the decorative tiles are enamelled dust-pressed tiles, their cream-coloured bodies suggesting the use of a kaolin-based clay dust. All are printed using ‘Reynold’s process’ adopted by Minton in 1848 (Mintons Tiles *c* 1885), and all bear Gothic Revival patterns designed by the architect Augustus Pugin for the Minton company, and remaining in production long after his death in 1852. In all, there are fragments of at least thirteen 6”x 6” or 8” x 8” tiles, and a further eight narrower 3”-wide border tiles. All bear the legend ‘Minton, Hollins & Co’, but in no case, does this survive complete. Six patterns are represented, most of which can be linked directly to examples of Pugin’s designs and appear in the Mintons tile catalogue for *c* 1885, although it is clear that the designs appeared in a variety of colour combinations. The tiles were largely intended as decoration for walls and for hearths, but were also used as inlay in furniture, or made into jardinières, and importantly, all those recovered from the investigations were clearly still in production in 1885 and may not represent the original décor of Croston Hall.
- 3.3.7 The best represented design (Mintons Tiles *c* 1885, sheet 2, No 797 G), with fragments from five polychrome tiles, is shown in Plate 9, and seven border tiles (similar to *ibid*, sheet 13, No 580 G) show a similar arrangement and can probably be regarded as being used together to create larger tiled panels.



Plate 9: fragmentary tile from Croston, alongside an illustration of the complete tile (colours differ) and two of the associated border tiles, also from Croston

- 3.3.8 The next most frequent tile design is shown in Plate 10, although in this case, only two tiles were identified (*ibid*, sheet 11, No 602 G), and a single closely related border was also present, which appears to be a variation of that seen, above, but in blue, brown and yellow. A second broadly related border tile (*ibid*, sheet 13 No 809 G) was also recorded.



Plate 10: fragmentary tile and the associated border from Croston, alongside a second, broadly similar, border tile

- 3.3.9 The remainder of the tiles are monochrome: two are again in Gothic style (Plate 11), whilst two more are less obviously in this oeuvre. That seen at Croston in brown (a) appears in blue in Minton's 1885 catalogue (Sheet 4, as No 1091 X, that in green (b), appears in the catalogue as design No 416, G.





Plate 11: Fragmentary tiles from Croston, both set alongside an illustration of the complete tile (colours differ)

3.3.10 A border tile with a green and pink quasi-floral design can be identified as a border for full-sized tiles with the same design (*ibid*, sheet 11 No 753 G), and a small fragment in blue and white, reminiscent of some of the simple designs seen on earlier tin-glazed (Delft) tiles, can be identified as pattern No 545 G (*ibid*, sheet 11) (Plate 12).



Plate 12: A fragmentary border tile from Croston, set alongside an illustration of full-sized tiles in the same pattern), and a small fragment of blue and white tile, set alongside a group of four complete tiles

- 3.3.11 There were, in addition, two plain white glazed tiles, of a kind likely to have been used in kitchens, bathrooms, or other utility rooms.
- 3.3.12 **Pottery:** very little domestic pottery was recovered, only six fragments in total. Two (a straight-sided cup and a small bowl) are underglaze blue transfer-printed refined white earthenware, the decorative technique being in common use throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. A small fragment of lustre ware from Room 4 can be dated broadly to the nineteenth century, the technique being developed around 1810. There are three fragments of brown and self-glazed redwares, two unstratified and one from Room 7. These redwares were common kitchen use over an extended period from the later seventeenth to the early twentieth century, although the depth of glaze and the fabric of one fragment might suggest a date in the earlier eighteenth century. Two small fragments of dark green bottle glass from Room 4 could well predate the Gothic house, their form hinting at a late eighteenth or early nineteenth-century date. There is, in addition, a single fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem from Room 7, and an unstratified fragment of modern 'clay pigeon'.

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## 4. CONCLUSION

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### 4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 Croston Hall is reasonably well documented. The initial house was built between AD1300 and AD1550, then rebuilt in the post-medieval period, roughly over the footprint of the original hall. The original hall, according to wills and illustrations, was a two or three-story building, with cellars. However, it was not clear how much of the original hall survived.
- 4.1.2 The foundations of the hall show two phases of works. Both brick built, they likely relate to the later stages of building, rather than that of the earliest medieval Hall. The foundations match the plans as seen on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1910 (Fig 2).
- 4.1.3 The excavation showed that no elements of the original hall survived in the cellars. The earliest part of the remains were the cellars to the west, which were built from hand-made bricks, suggesting a mid-17<sup>th</sup> century to 18<sup>th</sup> century date. Window *I23* dated from this period, and remained in the wall, albeit bricked up, into the nineteenth century.
- 4.1.4 The first phase of cellars comprised Room 1 to the south, which was separate from Rooms 3 and 4 to the north. The addition of the more diminutive walls creating smaller spaces indicate a change in use of the cellars, perhaps associated with changes to the house above, both architecturally or socially.
- 4.1.5 The tiles recovered from the backfill of the cellars indicate how the final house was decorated, in the Gothic revival style. The encaustic floor tiles date from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as do the enamelled tiles. It was likely that the tiles had been removed from the house prior to the demolition for reuse, leaving only a few damaged ones in the backfill.

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## 6. ILLUSTRATIONS

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### 6.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Results of strip, map and record superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 25":1-mile map of 1910

Figure 3: Plan of Room 12

Figure 4: Plan of Rooms 1 – 19

Figure 5: Phased plan of the strip, map and record results

### 6.2 PLATES

Plate 1: South-facing view of Room 12

Plate 2: East-facing view of boiler stands **102**

Plate 3: West-facing view of window **123**

Plate 4: East-facing view of the arch added to Room 4

Plate 5: Room 2, west-facing view

Plate 6: South-facing view of Corridor **108** with window **123** to the left of the shot

Plate 7: a) Almost complete triangular quarry; b) Milled H-sectioned lead came

Plate 8: Encaustic floor tile, showing the 'sandwich' of different-coloured clays from which they were produced

Plate 9: fragmentary tile from Croston, alongside an illustration of the complete tile (colours differ) and two of the associated border tiles, also from Croston

Plate 10: Fragmentary tile and the associated border from Croston, alongside a second, broadly similar, border tile

Plate 11: Fragmentary tiles from Croston, both set alongside an illustration of the complete tile (colours differ)

Plate 12: A fragmentary border tile from Croston, set alongside an illustration of full-sized tiles in the same pattern), and a small fragment of blue and white tile, set alongside a group of four complete tiles

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## APPENDIX 1: WSI

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## Land at Croston Hall Estate, Croston, Lancs.

NGR: SD 34948 41793

Planning application number: 15/00540/FULMAJ

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Mr and Mrs Counce have secured planning permission for the construction of a new private dwelling and creation of a sunken garden together with other restoration works on the site at Croston Hall, Croston. Prior to commencement of development on site, Condition 4 attached to planning permission requires a programme of archaeological works to be implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development must be carried out in accordance with the agreed scheme.
- 1.2 This document sets out the scheme of investigation for a programme of strip map and record to be undertaken in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). The archaeological contractor will also follow the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct and the relevant CIfA standard and guidance (revised 2014). All stages of the project will be carried out in accordance with the requirements established in the Historic England volume entitled the *Management of Research Projects for the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE).

#### Site Description and Topography

- 1.3 Croston is a substantial village (population c. 2700) centred upon Town Road on the north bank of the River Yarrow about 7 miles west of Chorley and 12 miles southwest of Preston. The area to the east lies mainly within the valley of the River Yarrow, a gently undulating agricultural landscape of scattered farms and enclosed fields given over to a mix of arable and pasture. The Croston Hall estate covers an area of c. 8.5 ha and lies to the south of the River Yarrow, which forms the northern site boundary and flows from south-east to north-west. The southern and eastern site boundaries are defined by field boundaries and roads.
- 1.4 The solid geology consists of Late Permian red, yellow and brown pebbly sandstones of the Sherwood Sandstone Group obscured by deposits of Flandrian alluvium and Devensian glacial till (Boulder Clay) deposited by glaciers during the last Ice Age

(<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The soils are ground water gley soils and clays of the Downholland, Salwick and Salop series (Hall & Folland 1970). These soils are generally used for agriculture and are commonly devoted to arable farming.

### **Planning Background**

- 1.5 Planning permission was granted in June 2015 by Chorley District Council for the erection of a large single private dwelling including the conversion of the existing stable block, conversion of a barn to create a swimming pool with link to the main house, creation of sunken garden on the former site of Croston Hall, repair and restoration of the Church of the Holy Cross, completion of the kennels conversion and the repair of the fishponds, gardens, main gates and Hall Bridge. Planning permission was granted subject to a number of conditions including condition 4 which states:

*4. No development to the part of the proposal referred to as the 'sunken garden' on the site of the former Croston Hall shall commence and the dwelling hereby permitted shall not be occupied unless and until the applicant has submitted to and received written approval for:*

*A formal scheme of archaeological investigation on the former hall site before;*

*A detailed scheme for the creation of the garden features on the hall site which takes the results of the investigation into account; and*

*A scheme of archaeological recording or other works deemed to be necessary to mitigate the impact of the proposals.*

*Reason: To safeguard the historic site and ensure that appropriate records of any investigations are correctly catalogued.*

- 1.6 This document outlines the scheme of archaeological recording covering the area of the sunken garden.

## **2.0 Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 A full description of the outbuildings and the gardens is included in the Heritage Assessment (Shaw and Jagger 2015). In addition an archaeological desk based assessment was also undertaken (Adams and Ahmad 2015). The following summary is based on these two reports



- 2.2 The medieval history of Croston manor is complex, but from about AD1300 it seems that the estate was split into two halves and that these were later split again into a total of four holdings and it is likely that a manor house was established on the site during this period, i.e. about AD1300-1550. It has not been possible to determine the nature of the medieval house on the site but by the 1680s evidence from wills and later illustrations suggests that it was a large dwelling of at least two, probably three, storeys and cellars was located roughly where the later hall was sited. There is some evidence that the 17th century hall was demolished or partly rebuilt in the late 18th or early 19th century. Although manorial sites of this type were commonly moated there is presently no evidence for a moat at Croston Hall.
- 2.3 The most recent hall was built in 1857 to the designs of EW Pugin, though it has not been possible to establish the degree to which this was a remodelling and extension of the earlier hall, photographic evidence suggest that at least part of an eastern wing retained elements of the 17th century hall. The Pugin hall was demolished in 1964 although the church, stables and kennels were left standing. There is extensive below ground evidence for the 19th century hall including cellars. Whilst the construction of the 19th century cellars may have removed evidence for the earlier building/s on site, analogy with similar sites suggest it is also likely that at least some evidence for earlier buildings survives below ground.
- 2.4 John Randolphus de Trafford purchased the remaining moiety in the manor of Croston from the Norris Trustees becoming sole lord and then began the rebuilding of Croston Hall in 1855. The last of the line was Geoffrey de Trafford and as he and his sister were both childless bequeathed the Croston Hall estate to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool in 1958 prior to his death in 1960. the estate was sold to the Ainscough family in 1963 and the hall was demolished in 1964 although the lodge, church, stables and kennels were not pulled down. The stable grouping, kennels and chapel have suffered extensively from neglect and in the case of the stables and kennels, from poor historic refurbishment works. The stable grouping, kennels and chapel have suffered extensively from neglect and in the case of the stables and kennels, from poor historic refurbishment works. Both the lodge building and the Chapel of the Holy Cross are listed Grade II although the lodge does not form part of the current application.

- 2.5 It is possible that Pugin's hall, in its construction if not its design, comprised a modification of the earlier hall. Given the plan similarities of the two buildings this may have involved the substantial demolition of the existing hall down to cellar level with this being used as the foundation for the new building, or the re-facing of the central core with Pugin's Gothic facades.

### **3.0 Scope of Work**

- 3.1 A sunken garden will be created in the area situated by the cellars of the demolished hall but their full extent is not yet known. Archaeological remains revealed during stripping of the site for the garden will be recorded.
- 3.2 The site of the new house in the walled garden is excluded from the archaeological condition as are the other renovations and alterations.

### **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

- 4.1 The aim of the archaeological investigation is to preserve by record significant archaeological remains that will be disturbed or destroyed by the proposed development.
- 4.2 Specific objectives relating to this site to examine the extent of the cellars and record any other remains of the Hall that are encountered

### **5.0 Method**

- 5.1 Supervision of all groundworks within the specified area will be undertaken by an experienced archaeologist. Following the identification of archaeological deposits, all further excavation will be by hand, by experienced/qualified archaeologists, to natural undisturbed deposits. Sufficient of each feature will be excavated to determine its date and function.
- 5.2 The following excavation methodology will be employed:
- a) A 100% sample of all stake-holes.
  - b) A 50% sample of all post-holes, and pits with a diameter of up to 1.5m except where part of a building, these should then be 100% excavated.

- c) A minimum 25% sample of pits with a diameter of over 1.5m; but to include a complete section across the pit to recover its full profile.
- d) A minimum 20% sample of all linear features, up to 5m in length; and a 10% sample for features greater than 5m in length.
- 5.3 Where justified, these features will be 100% emptied. All junctions / intersections and corners of linear features will be investigated, and their stratigraphic relationships determined – if necessary, using box-sections – and all ditch terminals will be examined.
- 5.4 All industrial features, including "domestic" ovens and hearths, will be 100% excavated and sampled for analysis. Where there is evidence for industrial activity, large technological residues will be collected by hand. Separate samples will be collected for micro-slugs (hammer-scale and spherical droplets) in accordance with recommendations of [Archaeometallurgy. A Guide to Best Practice](#) (HE, 2015).
- 5.5 All archaeological contexts will be recorded using pro-forma context/feature sheets. All context, drawing and photographic registers will be cross-referenced.
- 5.6 A drawn record will be maintained, comprising a site plan showing the locations of the area excavations within the site, an overall site plan, feature plans and section drawings as appropriate. These will be produced at appropriate scales, normally 1:100, 1:50, 1:20 and/or 1:10, as the complexity of the drawing requires. Detailed plans will be made of key features and section or elevation drawings provided of cut features and upstanding structures as appropriate. All drawings will be referenced to the overall site plan.
- 5.7 A photographic record of the project and of each feature will be made and photographs illustrating the relationships between groups of features and general progress will also be taken. Colour digital images of no less than 10 million pixel resolution will be taken with an SLR camera (Historic England 2015 *Digital Image Capture and File Storage*).
- 5.8 Finds will be bagged and labelled according to their context of origin. All finds will be treated in accordance with the recommendations contained in First Aid for Finds

(Watkinson & Neale 1998, 3rd edition). Advice will be taken on any finds requiring immediate specialist treatment. 'Special' finds will be 3-D recorded.

### **Environmental Remains**

- 5.9 An appropriate level of environmental samples will be taken from deposits that can be securely dated and/or placed in the site's stratigraphic sequence and in accordance with the English Heritage guidance on *Environmental Archaeology* (2011). Samples will be no less than 40 litres (where possible). If samples are required from discrete features that are not proposed for 100% excavation they will be taken from the unexcavated 50%. Sampling of stake-holes or small features will require the excavation of 100% of the feature. No waterlogged remains are expected but any such remains will be sampled and excavated in accordance with specialist advice.
- 5.10 Sampling will focus on deposits that have the potential to assist with the research objectives. If suitable deposits are encountered samples for radiocarbon, archaeomagnetic dating will be taken as appropriate (if associated with identifiable man-made features).

### **Industrial Remains**

- 5.11 Where there is evidence for industrial activity, large technological residues e.g. slag, will be collected by hand. All environmental samples will be screened for micro-slugs (hammer-scale and spherical droplets) or separately collected, if appropriate, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Archaeometallurgy in Archaeological Projects* published by English Heritage/Historical Metallurgy Society 2001.

### **Human Remains**

- 5.12 Should human remains be encountered the consultant, curator and coroner should be informed. Removal of human remains will only take place in accordance with a Ministry of Justice licence (which may be required under the 1857 Burials Act).
- 5.13 A Licence, as required under the current requirements of the Ministry of Justice Statement on the exhumation of human remains for archaeological purposes (2011) will be obtained. Where a licence is issued, all human skeletal remains will be properly removed in accordance with the terms of that licence. The remains will be adequately recorded in situ before lifting in accordance with ClfA Technical Paper 13, *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains, Guidance*

*for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* (English Heritage 2005) and *Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports* (English Heritage 2004).

## 6.0 Post Excavation

6.1 Finds and records will be returned to the contracted unit for processing. Records will be checked and entered into a computerised database. All finds will be treated in accordance with current HE best practice, including 'Investigative Conservation'. Finds will be cleaned (where appropriate) and marked and boxed for transfer to the relevant specialists according to accepted principles and in line with appropriate period/material guidelines. Environmental samples will be washed and assessed by an environmental archaeologist.

6.2 For all categories of material recovered, including finds, palaeo-environmental, industrial and other specialist samples – including material suitable for scientific dating, an assessment by an appropriately experienced specialist will be undertaken.

6.3 Environmental samples will be processed and sorted, and any artefacts recovered provided to the appropriate specialist(s) to be considered alongside the hand-recovered material. Basic stratigraphic information will be supplied to the project specialists.

## 7.0 Reporting

7.1 The report will include

- a non-technical summary of the results of the work
- Site Code/project number, planning reference and HER casework number
- NGR
- Dates when fieldwork was undertaken
- location and trench plans showing the position of archaeological remains with at least one section showing the sequence of deposits. Additional plans and/or section drawings of specific features will be included as appropriate.
- a descriptive account of the recording methods used and the results, together with an assessment of their archaeological importance, their possible relationship to relevant

- known features adjacent to the Development Site and estimated reliability of the results
- specialists' reports on all categories of artefacts recovered (except modern items) to include a full list / lists of identifications and quantification,
  - specialists' reports on environmental samples taken (if taken) to include a full list / lists of identifications and quantification
  - the archaeological significance of the development site and any archaeological deposits encountered during evaluation
  - the evidence in its setting, regional context
  - a complete context list with short description
  - a photographic record of selected general views and key features
  - References
  - Index to and location of Site Archive
  - OASIS summary sheet

#### **Dissemination**

- 7.2 A digital copy of the report will be supplied to the client, a copy of which should be forwarded to the local planning authority. A copy of the report will also be deposited with the Lancashire Historic Environment Record.

#### **Site Archive**

- 7.3 After completion of the site analysis and subject to agreement with the landowner it is proposed that the site paper archive and any archaeological finds and Archive should be deposited with an appropriated registered museum and/or Lancashire Archives if there are no finds.
- 7.4 Preparation of the archive will be in accordance with the specifications outlined in Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (Walker 1990; UKIC) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (Museums and Galleries Commission).
- 7.5 On completion of the archive an electronic data submission form will be completed for the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS), to enable information about the site to be accessible to the wider archaeological community and the public.

### **Copyright**

- 7.6 OA and its sub-contractors shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports or other project documents, including all data, text and graphics, (in accordance with CIFA guidelines) under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification. The HER will be given a licence to make all reasonable professional use of this material, granted that the OA copyright is acknowledged.

## **8.0 Monitoring**

- 8.1 Monitoring of the project on behalf of the client will be carried out by Prospect Archaeology Ltd

### **Health and Safety**

- 8.2 All site work will be carried out in accordance with the relevant current Health and Safety legislation. A copy of the Health and Safety Document is available on request and a Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to commencement of work on site. All contractors and sub-contractors will hold the necessary public liability insurances.

### **Insurance**

- 8.3 PA and its sub-contractors are fully covered by Employers and Public Liability and Professional Indemnity insurances, copies of which are available for inspection on request.

## **9.0 Programme & Staffing**

- 9.1 Fieldwork will be undertaken by Oxford Archaeology. It is anticipated that this will take 2-3 weeks with a team comprising one supervisor and up to 2 additional staff, depending upon the quantity of archaeological remains that are revealed. This will be followed by 2-4 months for reporting depending on the quantity of material and the need for specialist assessments.

### **Specialists**

- 9.2 Oxford Archaeology's in-house specialists will be used subject to availability, although external specialists will be used as necessary.

## 10.0 References

- Adams, M. and Ahmad, C. 2015 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Land at Croston Hall, Croston, Lancashire*. Archaeological Services National Museums Liverpool
- CIfA 2014 *Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists
- CIfA 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*, Institute for Archaeologists
- DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government
- Shaw& Jagger Architects 2015 *Proposed New House at Croston Hall Estate, Croston, Lancashire. Heritage Statement*
- UKIC 1998 *First Aid for Finds*, United Kingdom Institute for Conservation



## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT LIST

Context Number	Room Numbers	Description	Height/ thickness	Width
<b>100</b>	Room 3/2/1	East/west-aligned red brick wall	1.1m	0.46m
<b>101</b>	Room 3/1	North/south-aligned red brick wall	1.3m	0.75m
<b>102</b>	Room 3	Red brick recesses for copper boilers	1.25m	1.2m
<b>103</b>	Room 3/2	East/west-aligned red brick wall	1.27m	0.5m
<b>104</b>	Room 11/1	Stone slab steps leading down from Room 11 to Room 1	0.8m	1.1m
<b>105</b>	Room 3/2	Base of a possible late buttress off wall <b>100</b> , north/south-aligned	1.3m	0.45m
<b>106</b>	Room 3/2	East/west-aligned red brick wall, extension of wall <b>103</b>	1.2m	0.4m
<b>107</b>	Room 3	East/west-aligned red brick wall	1.3m	0.35m
<b>108</b>		North/south-aligned red brick surface between Rooms 3 and 6	0.1m	0.9m
<b>109</b>	Room 1	North/south-aligned red brick wall, southern continuation of wall <b>101</b>	1.3m	0.46m
<b>110</b>	Room 1	East/west-aligned red brick wall	1.2m	0.6m
<b>111</b>		Putative drain/soakaway, reused sandstone blocks	0.15m	1.7m x 0.7m
<b>112</b>	Room 3/2	North/south-aligned red brick wall	1.4m	0.6m
<b>113</b>	Room 1	North/south-aligned red brick wall	1.4m	0.6m
<b>114</b>		Blocked up recess in wall <b>113</b> , possible steps	0.5m	1.05m x 0.55m
<b>115</b>		North/south-aligned red brick wall, blocking stairs <b>104</b>	0.82m	0.25m
<b>116</b>	Room 4	North/south-aligned red brick archway	1.2m	0.4m
<b>117</b>	Room 4	North/south-aligned red brick wall, northern continuation of wall <b>101</b>	1.3m	0.46m
<b>118</b>	Room 4	East/west-aligned red brick wall with sandstone quoins	1.5m	0.6m
<b>119</b>		Drain, contemporary with wall <b>112</b>	0.2m	0.4m
<b>120</b>	Room 2	North/south-aligned red brick wall, partition between rooms 2 and 3	1.12m	0.11m
<b>121</b>	Room 1	East/west-aligned red brick wall, dividing part of Room 1	0.9m	0.25m
<b>122</b>	Room 14	Large stone		
<b>123</b>	Room 3	Bricked-up 2-light window with sandstone surround and mullion		

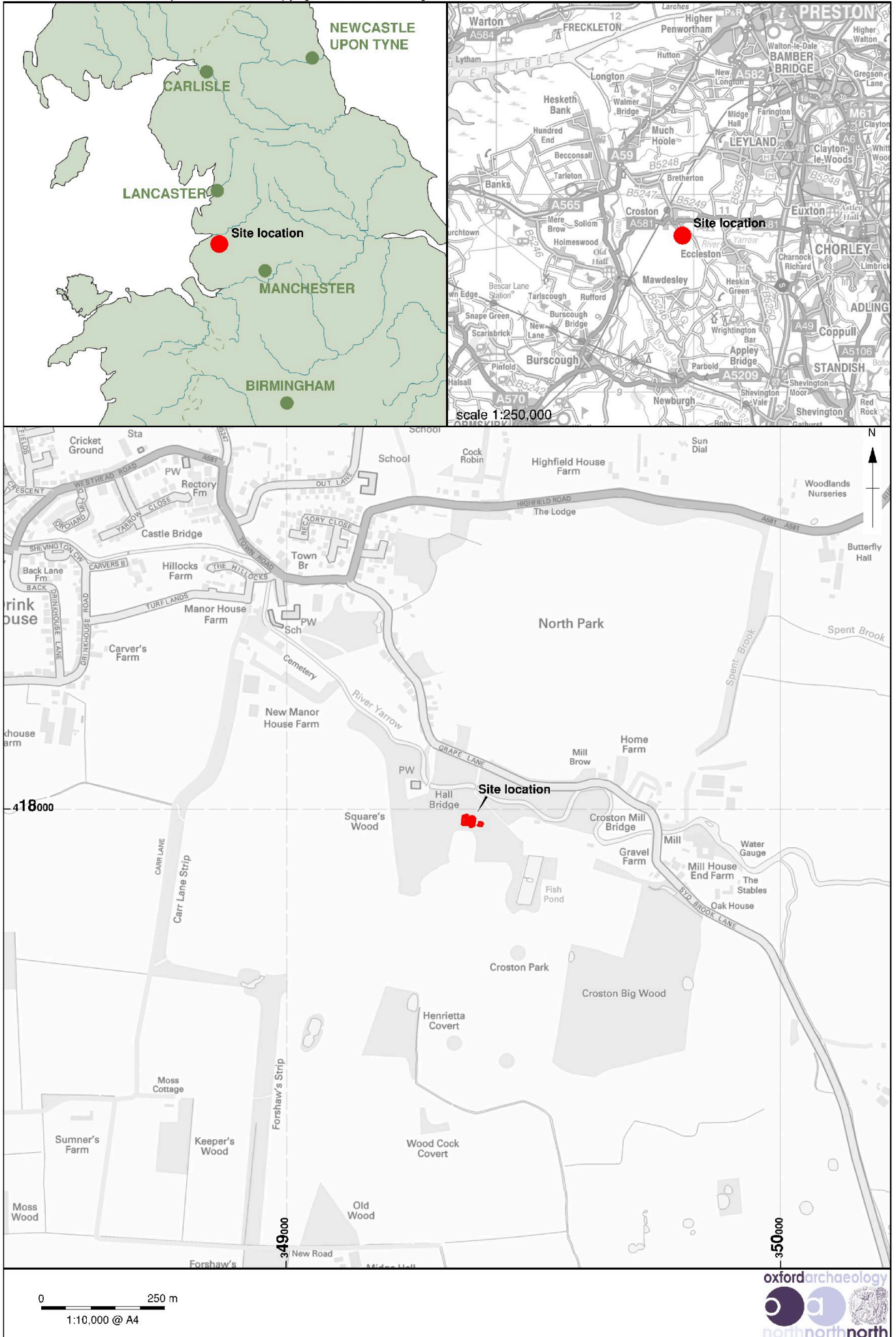


Figure 1: Site location

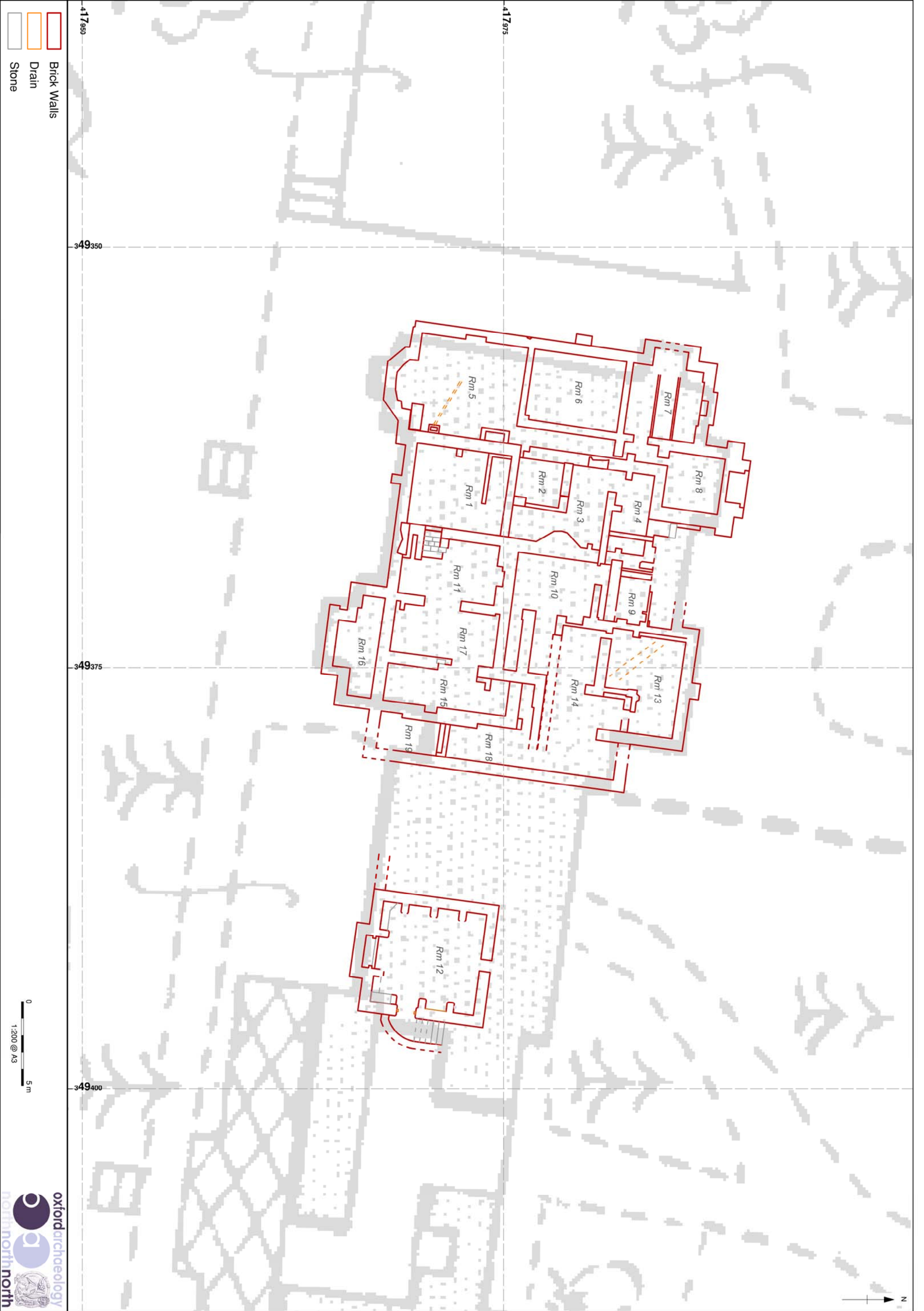
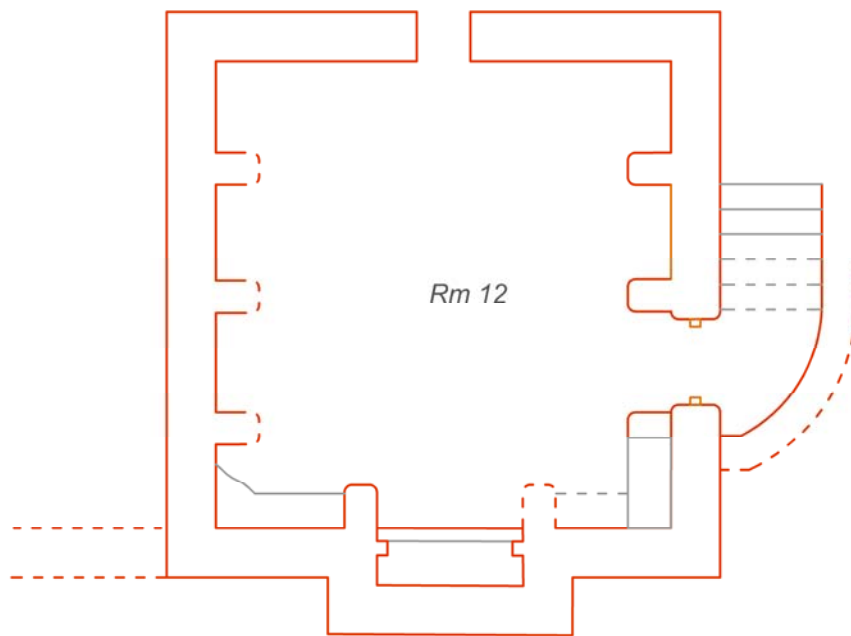


Figure 2: Results of strip map and record superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 25":1 mile map of 1910



-  Brick Walls
-  Stone
-  Drain

0 25 m  
1:1000 @ A4



Figure 3: Plan of Room 12

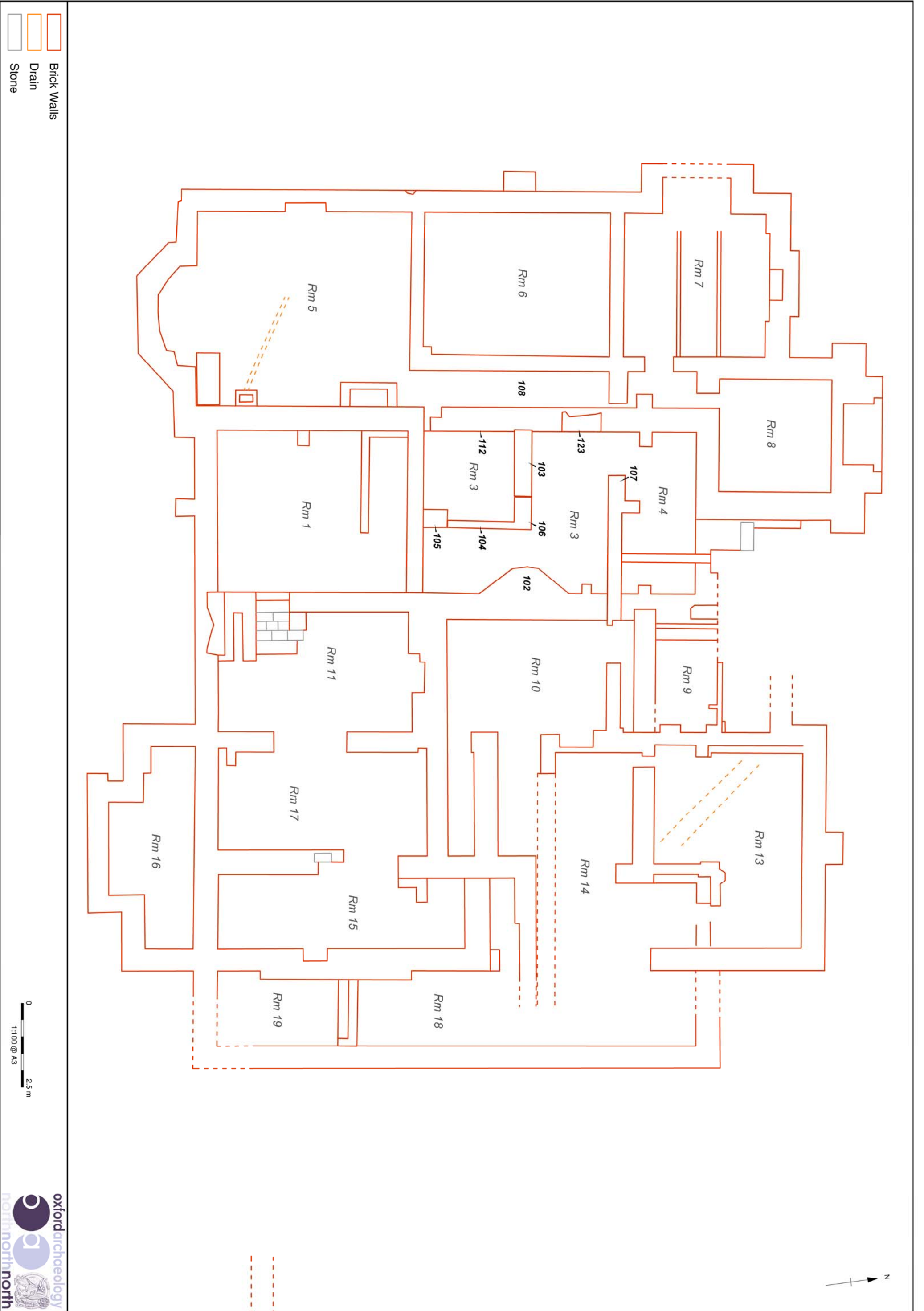
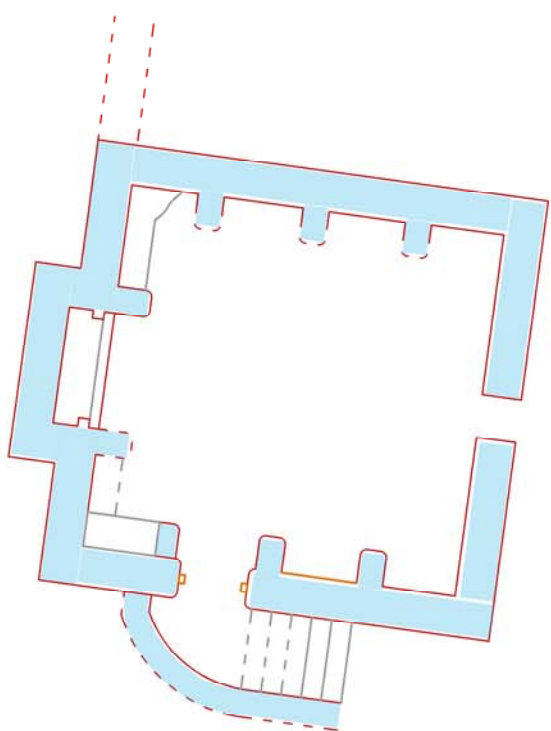
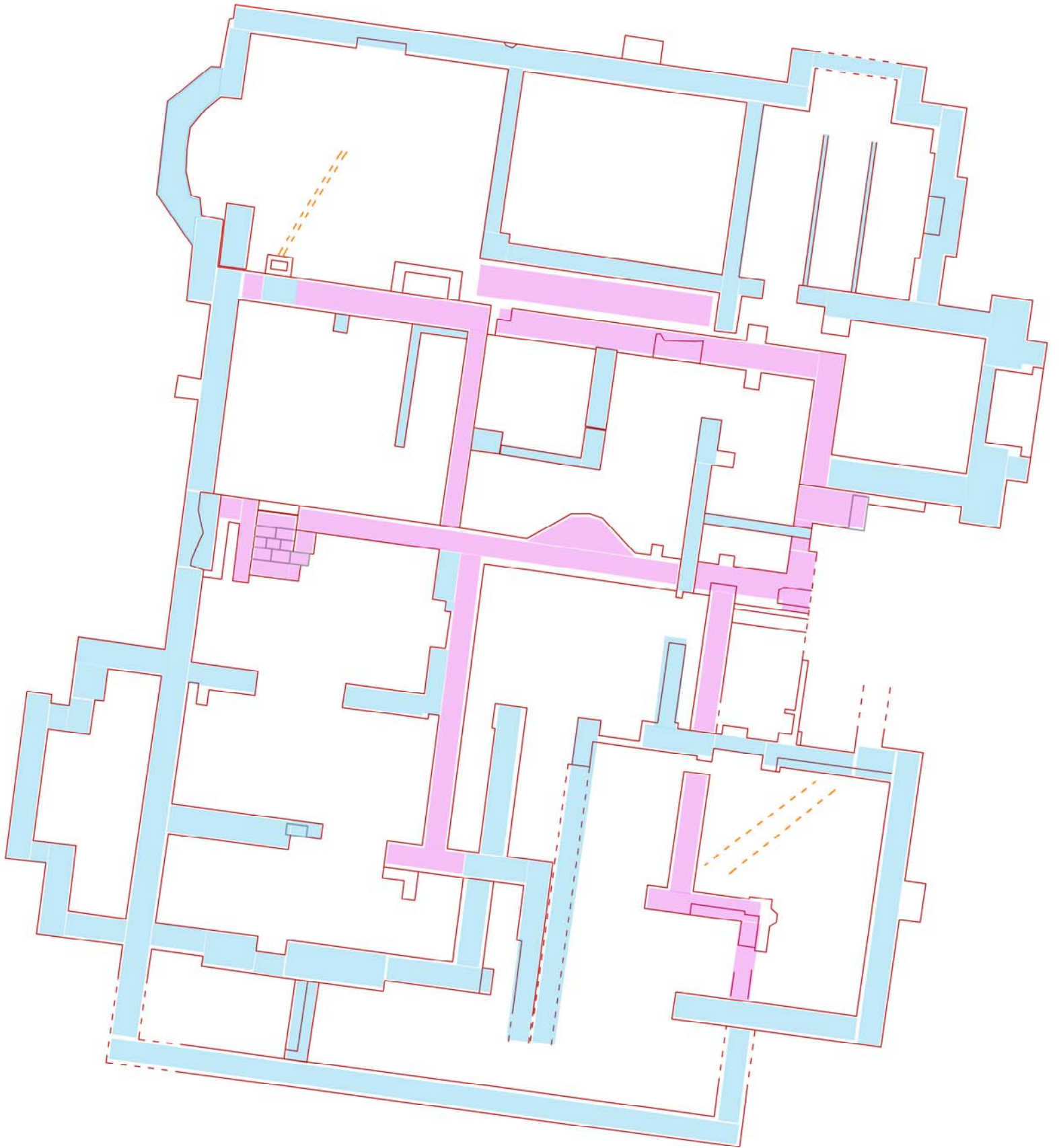


Figure 4: Plan of Rooms 1-19

Early  
Late



Not to Scale

Figure 5: Phased plan of the strip map and record results



Mill 3  
Moor Lane Mills  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster  
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