



Archaeological Investigations into Williamson's Grave, St Thomas's Church

Liverpool

Watching Brief Report



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SUMMARY

In July 2005 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) undertook a watching brief on Site LA6A of the Paradise Project located in Liverpool city centre (SJ 3455 8982), on behalf of Grosvenor. Site LA6A is a triangular area located between the southern end of Paradise Street and Park Lane and was formerly the site of St Thomas's Church and graveyard.

The aim of the watching brief was to determine the below ground survival of the graves and specifically to locate and record the Tate family burial, a brick vault tomb containing the remains of Joseph Williamson, a merchant of Liverpool.

The site of excavation was located within the walled sandstone boundaries of the original church yard as seen on the 1803, 1850 and 1893 OS maps. The only surviving element of the boundary wall is the original north/south wall, which is parallel with Park Lane.

Numerous grave stones and Plots were uncovered during a three day excavation period in the north-western part of the site. The intention was only to reveal the slabs not to explore the burials themselves. However, in some instances the slabs were damaged or absent and the vaults had been disturbed, such that excavation down onto the level of the slabs revealed some disarticulated human bone. On the third day of investigation the Tate vault was identified and the slab was found to be *ex situ* and had partly fallen into the vault. At the base of the slab was revealed the sides of a lead-lined coffin, which was that of Joseph Williamson; however, there was no evidence of the coffin lid.

The slabs have been recorded and individually photographed, the locations of the majority of the graves were planned; however, the graves of the Tate Vault and the adjacent Wilson slab were accurately surveyed by total station.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CONTRACT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 A watching brief was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) at the site of the former St Thomas's graveyard, which is at the intersection of Park Lane and Paradise Street in Liverpool City Centre (SJ 3455 8982). The work was undertaken on behalf of Grosvenor. The watching brief took place on the 3rd and 10th of July 2005, and the 23rd October.
- 1.1.2 St Thomas's graveyard was the final resting place for a number of the eminent people of nineteenth century Liverpool, and this included Joseph Williamson, who was famed for the construction of a large and complex tunnel folly under Edge Hill, to the east of the city centre.
- 1.1.3 St Thomas's graveyard was previously in use as a car park and is now in use as a storage area for the Paradise Street Development. Subject to the confirmation that there are intact buried human remains, and in particular those of Joseph Williamson, within the Plot, it is proposed that the site be developed as a memorial garden to commemorate the deceased incumbents. Consequently, it has been recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken to establish the survival of the burials and to locate that of Joseph Williamson.
- 1.1.4 An historic grave plan was provided by the Friends of Williamson Tunnels, which was intended to help locate the grave of Joseph Williamson. In the event this proved to have very little correlation with the identified graves, so after further documentary research a further grave plan was identified by the Friends and this proved to have a considerably better correlation with the observed grave configuration.
- 1.1.5 The watching brief entailed monitoring a 12 ton and/or 5 ton tracked excavator with a 1m or 1.5m ditching bucket to remove concrete hardcore and overburden deposits to expose the extant sandstone grave markers. The purpose of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits exposed or disturbed during this work.
- 1.1.6 A full archive of the watching brief has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (1991). This archive will be lodged with Merseyside County Record Office (Liverpool) and a summary lodged with the National Monuments Record (NMR)

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 THE SITE

- 2.1.1 The St Thomas's Church graveyard lies at the junction with Paradise Street and Park Lane in Liverpool city centre and is now under the jurisdiction of Grosvenor as part of the Paradise Project; it is designated as Site LA6A of the Grosvenor development proposals (Fig 2).

2.2 BRIEF HISTORY OF ST THOMAS CHURCH

- 2.2.1 St Thomas's Church was built by subscription; an extract from records held at Liverpool Records office states that 'a number of gentlemen living principally to the south and east of the Old Dock (Steers Dock)' agreed that if Reverend W Martin, one of the parish curates, 'would become their minister, they would build a church' (Thompson 1905). By 1746 £2,300 had been subscribed towards the construction of the new church and one John Okill (c1687–1773), a timber merchant, had promised a site for the construction, of which the town council granted a reversion in 1747 (*ibid*).
- 2.2.2 In 1748 the Liverpool Corporation Act provided for the building of the new church and stated that patronage of the church should belong to the Town council and that seats and pews within the building should be vested in the subscribers to the building. St Thomas's Church, on Park Lane, was consecrated and opened in July 1750 (Thompson 1905).
- 2.2.3 An extract from the *Picture of Liverpool: Strangers Guide* (Anon 1834) states that:

This structure is situated at the bottom of Park Lane and was consecrated in 1750. It is a handsome stone building, with a rusticated base and has on each side two rows of windows, adorned with Ionic Pilasters, crowned with a cornice and balustrade, and surmounted by vases. The chancel end is of a semi circular form.

The lower part of the steeple is quadrangular, supplied with windows, and ornamented with Corinthian columns, on which rises a neat balustrade. This spire when complete was 258 feet high, and remarkable for it's beautiful symmetry, and was seen to great advantage from the river and the opposite shore: but on the 15th March 1757, a violent gale blew down forty feet, and the interior of the church was much damaged by the stones falling through the roof. Afterwards it was rebuilt to the height of 240 feet; but subsequently in consequence of the apprehensions entertained respecting its stability which were caused by its frequent vibration, particularly during high winds, the common council resolved on the 11th of March 1822 that the whole of the spire should be taken down to the part where it sprung from the tower and since that time it has continued in it's present imperfect state.

The chancel is panelled and decorated with beautiful gilt fluted Corinthian pilasters. The galleries rest on eight pedestals, which support a corresponding number of columns, of the Corinthian order of architecture. The pews are commodious and calculated to seat 1188 persons.

- 2.2.4 In 1871 the church underwent yet more alterations, apparently in an effort to make the church more accessible to the poor, and it is believed that this was because there had been a population shift in the dockland area. The demographic had previously been wealthy Protestants, but this shifted to a poorer catholic population. By 1885 the churchyard was officially closed and the south-eastern half was given over to street improvements, that is the extension of Paradise Street to the south. The remaining portion of the graveyard was laid out as an ornamental garden and later went on to become a private car park (LRO 283 THO/2230).
- 2.2.5 By 1900 it is thought that around sixty five percent of the population in that area were Roman Catholics and, as such, the presence of St Thomas Church was no longer in keeping with the spiritual needs of the Diocese. The church was closed for good on 31st December 1905 (LRO 283 THO/2230; Thompson 1905).

2.3 BRIEF HISTORY OF JOSEPH WILLIAMSON

- 2.3.1 Joseph Williamson was born in Warrington on the 10th March 1769, and came to Liverpool in 1780 to work for Richard Tate, a tobacco manufacturer (Hand 1928, 106; Whittington-Egan 1952, 110). In 1802 he was married to Elizabeth Tate, the daughter of his employer Richard Tate, at the family church St Thomas's on Park Lane. The succeeding employer, Thomas Moss Tate, died in 1803, leaving him the business (Hand 1917, 2; Whittington-Egan 1952, 110).
- 2.3.2 By 1806 he had begun to lease the land around Mason Street (Head 1995, 4). In some sources it states that Williamson bought the land (Hand 1917, 2; Whittington-Egan 1952, 109-10); however, it is recorded that the leases ran out in 1858 when the land reverted to the West Derby Commission (Head 1995, 4; Stonehouse 1863, 185; Stonehouse 1879, 131), therefore he could not have owned it. Williamson retired from business in 1818 (Hand 1917, 2) and concentrated on the construction of the complex of buildings and tunnels within and adjacent to the study area.
- 2.3.3 Williamson's building works continued for many years. He employed large numbers of the poor at a time when the Napoleonic Wars had left many of the returning soldiers without work. His workforce built houses along Mason Street one of which, Number 44, he took for his own home (Hand 1928, 88). Presumably, the houses built by Williamson filled in gaps between the detached houses constructed a few years earlier along Mason Street, since maps from 1817 onwards show a continuous row of houses along the west side of the street (LRO Hf 912 1817/53; Figs 2 and 3). A drawing by Stonehouse of 1846 (LRO 942 570 1/3) shows that the layout of gardens were in existence at this time, and that the rear boundary of the gardens is the same as those shown on later maps. Therefore the land may have already been terraced by this date.
- 2.3.4 In addition to houses, he built an incredible complex of tunnels and caverns which extended right across his land and beneath Mason Street. Many of the houses were built on arches over the tunnels, and underground passageways linked the buildings. Williamson himself was said to live in a cellar beneath his house. The tunnels were multi-layered in places, lying one over another.
- 2.3.5 Work began in 1832 on George Stephenson's railway tunnel, which was to connect Edge Hill station with Lime Street. Williamson's workmen broke through

into the tunnel from beneath. Stephenson was given a conducted tour around Williamson's tunnels, with which he was very impressed (Hand 1917, 15). The railway tunnel, now a cutting, forms the northern boundary to the study area, although Williamson's tunnels extend beyond it to the north and east.

- 2.3.6 Williamson died on the 1st of May 1840 aged 71 years and was buried with his wife and her family in the Tate family vault located within the graveyard of St Thomas church on Park Lane. The inscription on the vault reads:

'To the memory of Richard Tate who departed this life 7th May 1787 in the 51st year of his age.

Also Ann Tate the mother of the above Richard Tate died the 6th day of October 1791 in the 76th year of her age.

Hannah Tate the wife of Rich'd Tate died 29th July 1793 aged 59 years.

Also the remains of Elizabeth, daughter of Richard and Hannah Tate and wife of Joseph Williamson of Edge Hill who departed this life the 3rd day of October 1822 aged 56 years.

Also the remains of Richard, the youngest son of the above Richard and Hannah Tate who died 7th June 1826 aged 56 years.

Also the remains of Joseph Williamson of Edge Hill who died 1st May 1840 aged 71 years.'

- 2.3.7 Williamson died having produced no heir to the Williamson fortune. By 1840 he had amassed lands and businesses to the value of £40,000. There are four codicils attached to his will suggesting that he outlived all but one of the executors.
- 2.3.8 With the death of Williamson work on the tunnels ceased immediately and the lease on the land expired in 1858 (Hand 1917, 23). Many of the tunnels had begun to be filled in with rubbish, even by 1845. The Liverpool Corporation then took over the land and a deliberate policy was adopted of using the tunnels to dump rubbish (Head 1995, 4; The Porcupine 1867, August 31st and November 23rd).

3. WATCHING BRIEF

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 The primary aim of the watching brief was to assess the survival and condition of the underlying graves and specifically to locate and expose the grave marker of the Tate family vault which is the last resting place of Joseph Williamson. It is intended that this will serve to enable the design of a memorial garden dedicated to him, and the other incumbents of the cemetery, upon the completion of development works in the area. Originally an area of excavation was marked out by Laing O'Rourke surveying staff using co-ordinates provided by the Friends of Williamson Tunnels, taken from the original St Thomas church yard burial plan (Fig 1) (CH/TCBP).
- 3.1.2 The mechanical excavation was undertaken using a 5 ton tracked excavator starting from the co-ordinates for Plot 221 which was believed to be the location of the Tate vault. The grave markers were typically found to be uniform horizontal sandstone slabs, 1.66m x 0.97m in size, and orientated east/ west with the inscription at the western end of the stone. These were arranged in uniform rows orientated north/south along the long axis of the grave yard (Fig 3). All inscriptions were recorded as fully as possible in the allotted time; however, not all inscriptions were clearly legible and (...) indicates words, particularly names or dates, that have been omitted. Graves 1 - 12 were located and recorded on the 3rd July 2005, Graves 13-36 on the 10th July 2005, and Graves 37-43 on the 23rd October 2005.
- 3.1.3 Also identified during the watching brief was the brick path which ran around the south side of the church, dividing it from the graveyard. During excavation it was evident that some of the backfill around the graves came from the demolition of the church, as bricks with a green and white intricate floor mosaic were recovered.
- 3.1.4 On the final phase of excavation (23rd October) a substantial yellow sandstone wall was identified; it was one course wide, two courses high and was orientated north-west/south-west. It was set in the north-eastern corner of the grave yard, and was evidently a boundary wall for the church or graveyard. The use of yellow sandstone would suggest that its construction was contemporary with the original construction of the church or, alternatively, that it was a later wall using stone recycled from the demolished church.
- 3.1.5 The graves are numbered in the order that they were identified. In some instances there is a correlation between the graves exposed and those depicted on the undated grave plan (CH/TCBP), and in these instances the original plot number is quoted.

3.2 GRAVE SLAB DESCRIPTIONS

- 3.2.1 **Grave 1:** a double inhumation, with a standard headstone, and no decoration. The first headstone encountered was that of Maria Elizabeth Peterson and George Richards and the inscription was recorded as follows:

'Here the interr'd Maria Elizabeth, daughter of John Peterson and Margaret Richards who was born 30th April 1776 and died upon 18th April 1778. Also George Richards who died 20th August 1815 aged 24 years.'

The slab was broken at the eastern end and had partially collapsed into the brick vault beneath. The grave plan (CH/TCBP) shows that these persons were originally interred in Plot 81.

- 3.2.2 **Grave 2:** a single inhumation, with a standard headstone, and no decoration. The inscription is as follows:

'Christian Mattieson, Merchant died on the 14th February 1788 aged 32 years'.

The grave plan (CH/TCBP) shows that he was originally buried in Plot 82.

- 3.2.3 **Grave 3:** a triple inhumation with a decorated headstone. The inscription is partly illegible but the Christian names were recovered from the church records. The inscription is as follows:

'Eleanor Wilkinson. Departed this life 22nd July 1799.

In Memory of Robert Wilkinson who departed this life 17th August 1803 aged 59 years

And of Jane his second wife who died (...) 1830 in the 76th year of her age.'

This grave was the only one which bore any embellishment of decoration; some simple carved scroll work separated the three names. The grave plan (CH/TCBP) shows that they were originally interred in Plot 83.

- 3.2.4 **Grave 4:** a single inhumation, standard stone, no decoration; the sandstone slab is in excellent condition. The inscription is as follows:

'Here lies the body of Eliz' (Elizabeth) Overton who departed this life April 22nd 1771 in the 84th year of her age.'

The grave plan (CH/TCBP) shows that she was originally interred in Plot 84.

- 3.2.5 **Grave 5:** a triple inhumation, with a standard headstone, and no decoration. The inscription is as follows:

'In memory of (...) the wife of John Richardson who died March 27th 1831 aged 40 years and also the body of John Richardson, husband of the above who departed this life 29th January 1833 aged 46 years.

Also Jane Litton Richardson daughter of the above named John and Mary Richardson who departed this life (...) March 1836 aged 19 years'

The grave plan (CH/TCBP) shows that they were originally interred in Plot 79.

- 3.2.6 **Grave 6:** a single inhumation, with a standard slab, and there has been some subsidence into the brick vault. The inscription is as follows:

'In memory of William Richardson son of John and Mary Richardson who departed this life 8th July 1840 aged 26 years'

The grave plan (CH/TCBP) shows that they were originally interred in Plot 80.

- 3.2.7 **Grave 7:** a standard slab, which has been broken and disarticulated; the names are totally illegible.

- 3.2.8 **Grave 8:** a standard slab, which has been broken and disarticulated; the names are totally illegible.

- 3.2.9 **Grave 9:** a badly damaged pink sandstone slab, which is made of a different type of sandstone; it is a pink sandstone of a different thickness and length. The names are now illegible. It was possibly originally an upright headstone moved from a different part of the graveyard. It is now lying horizontally across the slabs of Graves 1 and 7.
- 3.2.10 **Grave 10:** a standard horizontal sandstone marker, which has been badly smashed and overturned; there are pieces missing. It was probably originally from the southern end of the grave yard, and was relocated when graves were moved to allow for the extension of Paradise Street to the south.
- 3.2.11 **Grave 11:** a standard horizontal sandstone marker, which has been badly smashed and overturned. It was probably originally from the southern end of the grave yard, and was relocated when graves were moved to allow for the extension of Paradise Street to the south.
- 3.2.12 **Grave 12:** a grave Plot without a stone marker and there are bone and organic remains visible inside the backfill of the brick vault.
- 3.2.13 **Grave 13:** a single inhumation, with a standard stone slab and which is well preserved. It is a juvenile, aged 2 years and 10 months, but the name and date of death are illegible.
- 3.2.14 **Grave 14:** a triple inhumation, with a standard stone slab comprising all juveniles. The surname is illegible and the inscription is as follows:
'Ann, daughter of Thomas and Mary departed this life May 21st 1783 aged 2 years 3 months and 11 days.
Also Edmond their son departed this life September 25th 1790 aged 7 years 11 months and 2 days.
Also William their son departed this life 19th December 1791 aged three years and 3 days.'
- 3.2.15 **Grave 15:** four inhumations were interred within the vault. It has a standard headstone, and is in a good state of preservation. The inscription is as follows:
'Edward Jones of Liverpool, Merchant died on 10th March 1771.
Elizabeth daughter of Joseph Jones died April 24th 1776 aged 11 months.
Also Joseph Jones departed this life 31st December 1808 aged 50.
Also Martha Jones, Wife of Joseph Jones departed this life 12th March (...) aged 69 years.'
The grave plan shows that they were originally interred in Plot 88.
- 3.2.16 **Grave 16:** a standard sized sandstone slab, but with no inscription.
- 3.2.17 **Grave 17:** a double inhumation, with a standard sandstone slab, which is in a good state of preservation. The inscription is as follows:
'Mary Roberts died April 19th 1768 aged 76 years.
Here also lies the mortal remains of Martha Fryer, Widow, daughter of the above named Mary Roberts died (...) 1786 aged 66 years.'
The grave plan shows that they were originally interred in Plot 120.

- 3.2.18 **Grave 18:** a five inhumation burial with a standard sandstone slab, which is in a good state of preservation. The inscription is as follows:

'William, son of Henry Pennington died 23rd February 1798 aged 7 months.

Also George his son, who departed this life the 3rd day of July 1803 aged 19 months.

Also Bradley his son who died 11th February 1810 aged 3 years and 10 months.

Also the wife of the above named Henry Pennington died 29th day of March 1831 and is deeply lamented.

Also the above named Henry Pennington died January (...) aged 42 years.'

This grave is exceptional in that it is the only one recorded to express any emotional sentiment in the inscriptions. Pennington is a Wigan name and may be part of the same Pennington family involved in the manufacture of blue and white porcelain and the highly regarded 'Liverpool ware'. The grave plan (CH/TCBP) shows that they were originally interred in Plot 119.

- 3.2.19 **Grave 19:** a standard sandstone horizontal slab of which only the eastern half remains *in situ*; the western half with the inscription is missing.

- 3.2.20 **Grave 20:** a burial with five inhumations, and has a standard stone slab. The inscription is as follows:

'John, son of Joseph Conway died (...) 1768 and also of Henry Conway who died (...) 1772.

It also lists the names Nelly Conway died 1773, Elizabeth Conway died 1774 and Peter Conway died 1774. The grave plan (CH/TCBP) shows that they were originally interred in Plot 117.

- 3.2.21 **Grave 21:** a burial with three inhumations, and has a standard stone slab in a good state of preservation. The inscription is as follows:

'Ann daughter of William and Ann Bickerton died 12th January 1771 aged 13 months.

Also Ann Ball departed this life 23rd November 1815 aged 77 years.

Also Mary Bickerton daughter of the above William and Ann Bickerton departed this life 18th April 1837 aged 58 years.'

There is no record of this family in the St Thomas Church burial records.

- 3.2.22 **Grave 22:** a single inhumation. The inscription is as follows:

'Agness Parkin dy'd November 18th 1770 aged 84 years'

The grave plan shows that she was originally interred in Plot 115.

- 3.2.23 **Grave 23:** a triple inhumation with a standard sandstone slab. The slab is badly subsided and is almost tipping into another stone vault located to the south. The inscription is as follows:

'Here lies Thomas, son of John Winstanley died November 1773.

Also (...) daughter of John Winstanley died (...)

Also John Winstanley (...)

The grave plan shows that they were originally interred in Plot 154.

- 3.2.24 **Grave 24:** a burial with seven inhumations and has a standard sandstone slab. The inscription is as follows:

'John Sharrock son of George Sharrock died 1773 aged (...)

The rest of the stone is illegible however the church records show that also interred were William died 1774, Timothy died 1776, Thomas died 1778, William died 1789, Martha died 1813 and George died 1814. The grave plan (CH/TCBP) shows that they were originally interred in Plot 113.

- 3.2.25 **Grave 25:** a standard sandstone slab, and the number of inhumations within the vault is unknown. The visible part of the inscription is as follows:

'Frances Lupton died (...) 1774 aged 30 years.'

The rest of the inscription is illegible; however, church records show that two further burials were in this Plot: Rebecca who died in 1814 and William in 1816.

- 3.2.26 **Grave 26:** this is the vault of the Rogerson family and has three inhumations. It has a standard sandstone slab, but this is badly weathered.

- 3.2.27 **Grave 27:** the sandstone slab has been removed and the Plot is marked as empty on the grave plan (CH/TCBP); however it is evident that there is still a burial within the open brick vault.

- 3.2.28 **Grave 28:** a brick vault without sandstone slab. Unclear whether this Plot is still occupied.

- 3.2.29 **Grave 29:** a standard sandstone slab which is in a good state of preservation. The inscription only says 'PARRY'.

- 3.2.30 **Grave 30:** a single inhumation with a standard horizontal laid slab which is in good state of preservation. The inscription is as follows:

'The last resting place of William Wallace, Liverpool Merchant.' No dates given

The grave plan (CH/TCBP) shows that he was originally interred in Plot 152.

- 3.2.31 **Grave 31:** a triple inhumation with a standard stone slab. The inscription is as follows:

'Here lies the remains of Elizabeth Currie daughter of (...) Currie who died 19th February 1790.

And also James Currie (...)

And also (...)

The Currie family was related to the famous Liverpool Physician. James Currie was also the biographer and correspondent of Robert Burns, Scottish poet and author. The grave plan (CH/TCBP) shows that they were originally interred in Plot 153.

- 3.2.32 **Grave 32:** a single inhumation, with a standard stone slab. The inscription is as follows:

'William Thomas died (...) 1819 aged 42 years'.

- 3.2.33 **Grave 33:** a double inhumation, with a standard sandstone slab. The inscription is as follows:

'Paul Brideson died 17th May 1773 aged(...)

And also of Paul Brideson who died 8th July 1777 aged 33 years.'

The grave plan (CH/TCBP) shows that they were originally interred in Plot 155.

- 3.2.34 **Grave 34:** the burial vault contains four inhumations; it has a standard stone slab, which has been damaged at the east end.

'In memory of (...) and Martha Hampton (...)

And Nancy Smith (...)

And also (...) Smith (...)'

- 3.2.35 **Grave 35:** a triple inhumation with a standard stone slab. The inscription is as follows:

' Cpt Nicholas ?oulton who died in 1792 in the 70th year of his age.

Thomas Twiss who died December 1800 aged (...) and also of his wife (...) Twiss (..)'

The slab has a more decorative font on this inscription than others around and does not appear to conform to the standardised type. The grave plan shows that they were originally interred in Plot 85.

- 3.2.36 **Grave 36:** a simple slab which is uninscribed and the occupants are unknown.

- 3.2.37 **Grave 37:** this is a multiple inhumation with a standard stone slab, and bears the name of Parry. This stone was unusual in that it was orientated north/south whereas the other grave markers and brick vaults were orientated east/west. There is no obvious reason for this change in orientation, although it may be because the graveyard narrows at this point, following the line of an east / west orientated yellow sandstone wall and the change in orientation allowed for a better use of the space available. The grave marker is clearly still lying within the confines of the original brick vault so there is no reason to believe that orientation can be attributed to later disturbance within the area. There was no evidence of decoration or embellishment.

- 3.2.38 **Grave 38:** this is a double inhumation with a standard stone slab and bears the name of Kidd.

- 3.2.39 **Grave 39:** a burial with an unknown number of inhumations. It has a standard stone slab and bears the name of Twentyman.

- 3.2.40 **Grave 40:** a burial vault with five inhumations and overlain by a standard stone slab, bearing the name of Tristram. The slab is still *in situ* within the confines of brick vault and the grave marker in a generally good condition, but partially subsiding. This grave is noteworthy as it contains a whole generation of one family. William and Margaret Tristram lost five children within a short space of time; none of the children survived to see their third birthday. The inscription is as follows:

'Thomas Athiston Tristram son of William and Margaret Tristram died November 12th 1778 aged two years ten months and nineteen days. Anthony their second son died November 22nd 1778 aged one year eight months and 3 days. Thomas their son died August 7th 1781 aged 3 months and eighteen days. Elizabeth their

daughter died the 18th of October 1784 aged 11 days. Martha their daughter died the 14th May 1788 aged nine months and nine days.'

- 3.2.41 **Grave 41:** a double inhumation with a standard stone slab, which was the Wilson family grave. The grave slab is in a generally poor condition, especially at the eastern end; it has fractured into four pieces, of which only three remain. The inscription is as follows:

'Elizth wife of Edwd Wilson Mercht died 22nd Jan 1769 aged 25 years.

Martha Daughter of Edward and Elizabeth Wilson and wife of Richard Walker died 23rd October 1788 aged 20 years and 10 months.'

Edward Wilson was Joseph Williamson's business partner and his family were buried in the grave adjacent to that of the Tate family vault.

- 3.2.42 **Grave 42:** a burial vault containing six inhumations and is overlain by a standard stone slab, without embellishment or decoration. This is the grave of the Tate family, which also contains the remains of Joseph Williamson, the mole of Edge Hill. The inscription is as follows:

'To the memory of Richard Tate who departed this life 7th May 1787 in the 51st year of his age. Also Ann Tate the mother of the above Richard Tate died 6th day of October 1791 in the 76th year of her age. Hannah Tate the wife of Richard Tate died 29th July 1793 aged 59 years. Also the remains of Elizabeth daughter of Richard and Hannah Tate and the wife of Joseph Williamson of Edgehill who departed this life the 3rd day of October 1822 aged 56 years.

Also the remains of Richard the youngest son of the above Richard and Hannah Tate who died 7th June 1826 aged 56 years.

Also the remains of Joseph Williamson of Edgehill who died the 1st May 1840 aged 71 years.'

- 3.2.43 The grave was uncovered and found to be badly damaged. In its original state it was situated parallel to that of Edward Wilson, lying horizontal and set on the top of the brick vault which contained the remains. However, its present condition indicates a considerable amount of disturbance. The grave stone now lies at a 45 degree angle, and has fallen into the vault. The stone has been fractured through the centre and three of the four corners are missing; although one of these corners was located within the spoil removed from around the grave. At the base of the excavation cut, at the lower edge of the slab, was revealed the outline of the sides of the lead-lined coffin. There was limited survival of the woodwork on the outside of the lead sheet. Despite the complete survival of the lead sides, there was no evidence for a coffin lid, which would be expected if the slab had fallen down onto the top of an intact coffin.

- 3.2.44 The inscription is clearly legible and tallies with the inscription recorded in 1886 in a hand written record produced for the council (Hf 352 CEM 1/17/2). The Tate grave stone is the only one uncovered so far which has been engraved with the original Plot number along the base. Plot 260 was the designated Tate family Plot, however the graves were re-numbered after many of the graves were exhumed and re-located in order to facilitate the extension of Paradise Street in the late 1900's. It is unclear how the grave stone came to be so damaged; however, many of the grave stones uncovered in this row, including that of Edward Wilson, seem to be in a poorer state of preservation than those previously uncovered further to

the west. Given that the grave-yard has shrunk considerably in size over the years due to alterations to the city plan and the demolition of the church to the north, it is perhaps not surprising that many of the grave stones on the eastern side, where most of the changes have taken place, are in worse condition than those on the western side.

- 3.2.45 The exceptionally disturbed nature of the Tate grave stone could also be attributed to Williamson's fame, combined with legends of lost maps and untold wealth buried in the tunnels at Edgehill. It is not out of the question that the grave stone was deliberately moved by someone with the sinister agenda of checking the grave for clues as to the purpose and locations of the tunnels or any rumoured treasure there-in.
- 3.2.46 **Grave 43:** this grave stone was not fully exposed but lies directly to the east of the Tate vault and appears to be still *in situ*. Based on this evidence it is likely that this grave belonged to the Noble family as marked on the grave plan (Fig 6).

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 CONCLUSION

- 4.1.1 The intention of the investigation was to establish the survival and condition of the underlying graves in St Thomas' graveyard and to determine whether the grave of Joseph Williamson was *in situ*. In general, the graves appear to survive intact, although, that of Williamson (perhaps significantly), is one of the relatively few that has been severely disturbed. The exposure of the slab revealed the *in situ* sides of Williamson's lead-lined coffin (Williamson was the last to be buried, so his coffin was on top), but there was no trace of the lead-lined lid of the coffin. While it is possible that, as a result of general disturbance to the grave yard resulting from its truncation for the construction of Park Road, the slab was disturbed and fell into the grave, the apparent absence of the coffin lid would suggest that it had been removed prior to the collapse of the slab. This would lead to the conclusion that the grave had been robbed, and the fact that his was one of the few graves with this level of disturbance may reflect that he was a man with a reputation of having considerable wealth. As such, his grave may have been the target for opportunistic grave robbers,
- 4.1.2 Upon completion of the investigation all graves were left *in situ* and the slabs were backfilled, which will enable the site to be used as a temporary storage area for the Paradise Street development. The successful discovery of the remains of Joseph Williamson's grave, and the other incumbents of the graveyard, will facilitate the design and construction of a memorial garden that will be dedicated to some of the leading players that contributed to Liverpool's heyday in the nineteenth century.

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Plate 6: Close-up of Williamson's Grave



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Figure 2: St Thomas's Graveyard on the OS 1850 First Edition map prior to its truncation

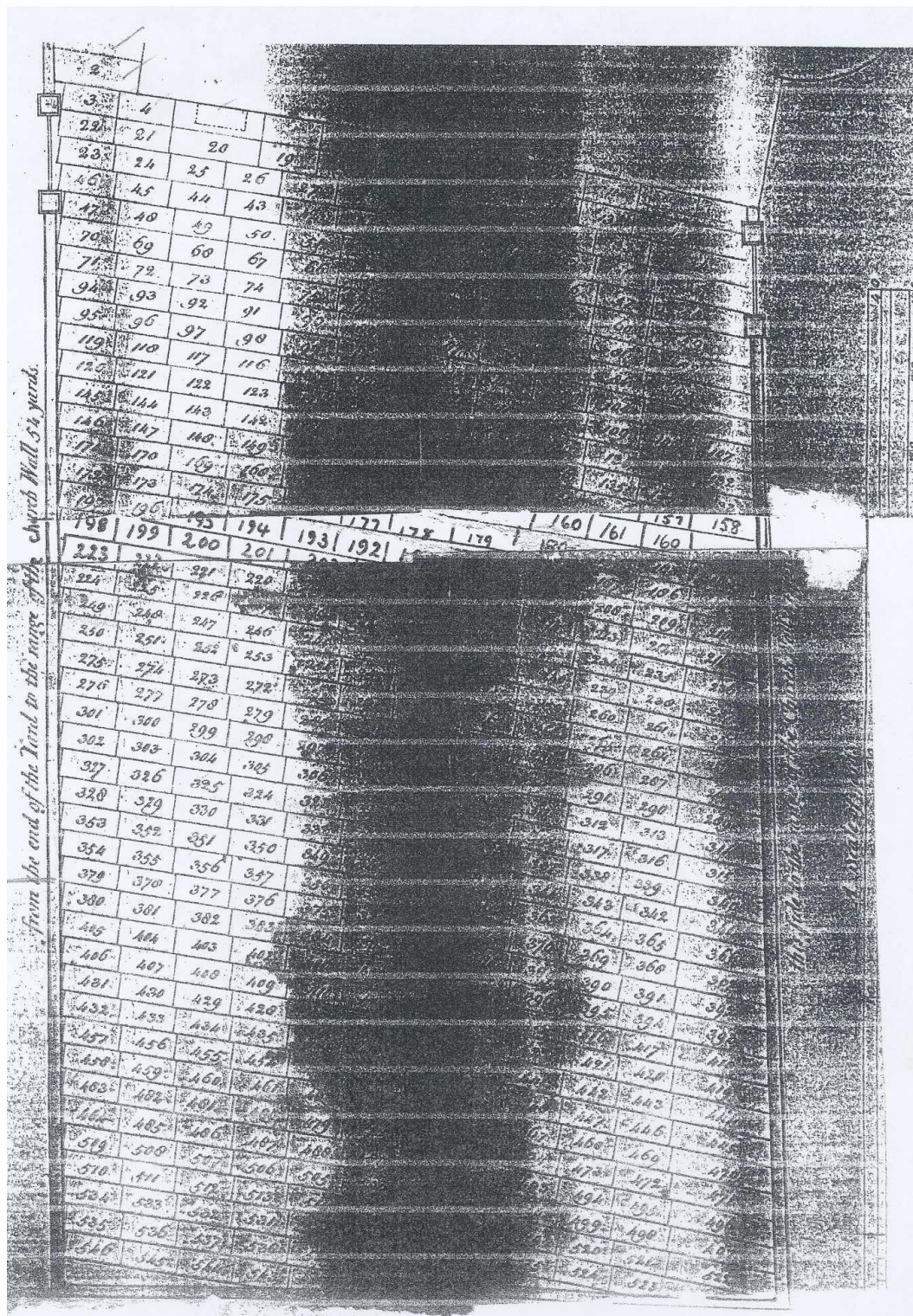


Figure 3: St Thomas's Graveyard Plan

St Thomas Churchyard - modified map after finding of Row Indications in Memorial Inscriptions book at L.R.O. this row represents path by church. Park Lane is to left of page. Paradise Street to right beginning from about Row 11 running diagonally chart by Friends of Williamson's Tunnels July 2005													
Row 1	Row 2	Row 3	Row 4	Row 5	Row 6	Row 7	Row 8	Row 9	Row 10	Row 11	Row 12	Row 13	Row 14
38. N. I. *	63 & 63a. Blackburn*	91. Wagner*	125. Beckwith*	162. Leather*	193&193a. Kent*	226. Parr*	261. Parry*	295. Blomfield*	325. Daulby*	354. Williams	382&382a. Hulme	383. Cross	430. Yates
37. Holland*	62. Clark *	90. Brown*	124. Beckwith*	161. Leather*	192. Plaistow*	225. Johnson*	260. Kidd*	294. Twentymann*	324. Daulby*	353. N.I.	381. Mason	384. Mayers	429. Sutton
36. Holland*	61. Clark *	89. Clay*	123. Beckwith*	160. Leather*	191. Wyedille*	224. Tristram*	259. Sloane*	293. Bowker*	323. Gregson*	352. Finch	380. Barlow	385. Longworth	428. Ashbrook
35. Pownall*	60. Danson*	88. Jones*	122. Shaw *	159. Brown*	190&190a. Galleff*	223. N.I.*	258. Kirkpatrick*	292. Keel*	322. Evans*	351. Raynes	371. Hughes	386. Douglas	427. Rawson
34. N.I. *	59. Joynson*	87. Gardner*	121. Shaw*	158. & 158a. Thompson*	189. Ha'sall*	222. Wilson*	257. Madden*	291. McKintie*	321. Hargreaves	350. Price	379. Dafford	387. Rawlinson	426. Cherry
33. Cobham *	58. Wicksted*	86. Gardner*	120. Roberts*	157. N. I.*	188. N.I.*	221. Tate*	256. Noble*	290. Shallcross*	320. Mercer	349. Lloyd	378. Dafford	388. Greenwood	425. Walnwright
32. Gardner *	57. Darwin*	85. Twiss*	119. Pennington*	156. Hampston*	187. Bold*	220. Towers*	255. N.I.	289. Leay	319. Mercer	348. Fairclough	377. Hampson	389. Greenwood	424. Lloyd
31. Pearson *	56. Darwin*	84. Overton*	117. Conway*	165. Bridson*	186. N.I.*	219. Hill	254. Steinbock	288. N.I.	317. Eccleston	347. Maginlis	376. Rodgers	390. Hughes	423. Sacherevell
30. Taylor*	55. Kirby*	83. Wilkinson*	116. Bickerstaffe*	154. Winstanley*	185&185a. Naylor*	218. N.I.	253. Fuhrer	287. Woodman	316. Lee	346. Woods	375. Bird	391. Beynon	422. Richardson
29. W. B. *	54. Parr*	82. Mathieson*	115. Parkin*	153. Currie*	184. Woods*	217. Hardwar	252. Bramwell	286. Naylor	315. Eccles	345. Crozier	374. Harrison	392. Lindsay	421. Blease
28. Briggs*	53. Ball*	81. Richard*	114. Winstanley*	152. Wallace*	183. Boulton*	216. Corlett	251. Farthing	285. Hind	314. Morris	344. Troughton	373. Wilson	393. Lewis	420. Alanson
27. N. I. *	52. Rogers*	80. Richardson*	113. Sharrock*	151. Parry*	182. N.I.	215. Benson	250. N.I.	284. Heydoman	313. Lunt	343. Bourne	372. Highfield	394. Wilson	418. Huddleson
26. Kilchen*	51. Burgess*	79. Richardson*	112. Lupton*	148. N.I.	181. N.I.	214. Watson	249. N.I.	283. Taylor	312. Garner	342. Bourne	371. Smith	395. Wilson	417. Huddleson
25. Pownall*	50. Kenary*	78. Harrison	111. Rogerson*	147. Bold	180. N. I.	213. Tilton	248. N.I.	282. Schultzy	311. Dutery	341. Watkinson	369. N.I.	396. Gibbons	416. Spencer
24. Pownall*	49. Galloway*	77. Jones	110. N.I.*	146. N.I.	179. Openshaw	212. Allens	247. Warren	281. Wagner	310. Stock	340. Barbon	368. N.I.	397. Speers	415. Sanderson
23. Holmes*	48. Wadkin	76. Briggs	118. Owen*	145. Sherriff	178. Fisher	211. Benson	246. Miller	280. Payne	309. Howard	339. Cowburne	367. N.I.	398. W. S.	419. Shirwood
22. Downs*	47. Kirkham	75. Barrington	109. Parry*	144. Dieas	177. Mercer	210. Benson	245. Bell	279. N.I.	308. Ducas	338. Wilton	366. Cross	399. Grayson	
21. Swarbrick*	46. Ainsworth	74. Bower	108. Black*	143. Welsh	176. Postlethwaite	209. Abbott	244. Clarkson	278. N.I.	307&307a. Henderson	337. Wood	365. Latham	400. Grayson	
20. Morris*	45. Hunter	73. Clarkon	107. Bickerstaffe	142. Summers	175. Maggiffin	208. Longton	243. Edwards	277&277a. Whitfield	306. Roughsedge	336. Johnston	364. Frodshaw	401. Sutton	
19. Milner*	44. Perry	72. Dobson	106. Barker	141 & 141 a. Davidson	174. N.I.	207. Roberts	242. Berry	276. Coman	305&305a. Cope	335. Wilson	363. Jones	402 & 402a. Lake	
18. Robson*	43. Brownrigg	71. Langsdale	105. Robinson	140. Travers	173. Glading	206. Ball	241. Christopherson	275. Cummins	304. Waring	334. Clarke	362. Cor	403. Bennett	
17. McKish*	42. W. G.	70. Drumbold	104. Clemiston	139. Rathbone	172. Perkins	205. Thomas	240. Bradstock	274. Clegg	303&303a. Chesshyre	333. Rideing	361. Lloyd	404. White	
16. Burrell*	41. Lloyd	69. Johnson	103. Boote	138. Rathbone	171. Hind	204. Trotter	239. Hutchinson	273. Lowe	302. Rydeing	332. Davenport	360. Marsh	405. N.I.	
15. Brand	40. N. I.	68. Simcock	102. Williamson	137. Dean	170. Welsh	203. Aspinall	238. Ward	272. Rayden	301 & 301a. Johnson	331. Forrest	359. Cooper	406. Green	
14. Caddick	39. Ainsdale	67. Turner	101. Duckworth	136. Bleasdel	169. Welsh	202. Aspinall	237. Simmons	271. Duke	300. Stewart	330&330a. Gardner	358. Stewart	407. W.C. Jnr	
13. Haigh		66. Atkinson	100. Molyneux	135. Sanderson	168. Silber*	201. Cooper	236. Barrowdale	270. Walker	318. Sandys	329. Gardner	357. Barrowdale	408. Crosbie	
12. Wright			99. Fearnley	134. Forshaw	167. Wainwright	200. Oldfield	235. Grew	269. Goore	299. Biggs	328. Broster	356. Costin	409. W. S.	
11. Bloor		64. Purfield	98. Folds	133. Postlethwaite	166. Munty	199. Telfair	234. Gregson	268. N.I.	298. Millar	327. Wordsworth	355. Rao	410. Siddle	
10. Caddick			97. Allen	132. Underwood	165. Marsden	198. Gray	233. Ridings	267. N.I.	297. Moss	326. Beard		411. Abbott	
9. Hieghton			96. Lowe	131. Oakes	164. Jones	197. Jennris	232. Hamer	266. Bradley	296. Gledhill			412. Abbott	
8. Finn (Roberts)			95. Marsden	130. Heckle	163 & 163a. Woods	196. Eccleston	231. Holland	265. Roberts				413. Corlett	
7. Ditchburn			94. Lomax	129. Greenhough		195. Battle	230. Curphy	264. Rigg				414. Simmons	
6. Dobson			93. Forsyth	128. Johnson		194. Stanley	229. N. I.	263. Fletcher					
			92. N. I.	127. Johnson			228. Edwards	262. N.I.					
				126. Ansell			227. N. I.						
				150. Matthews*									
				149. Matthews*									

Figure 4: Transcribed graveyard plan after Friends of Williamson's Tunnels



Figure 5: General plan of graves exposed during the watching brief

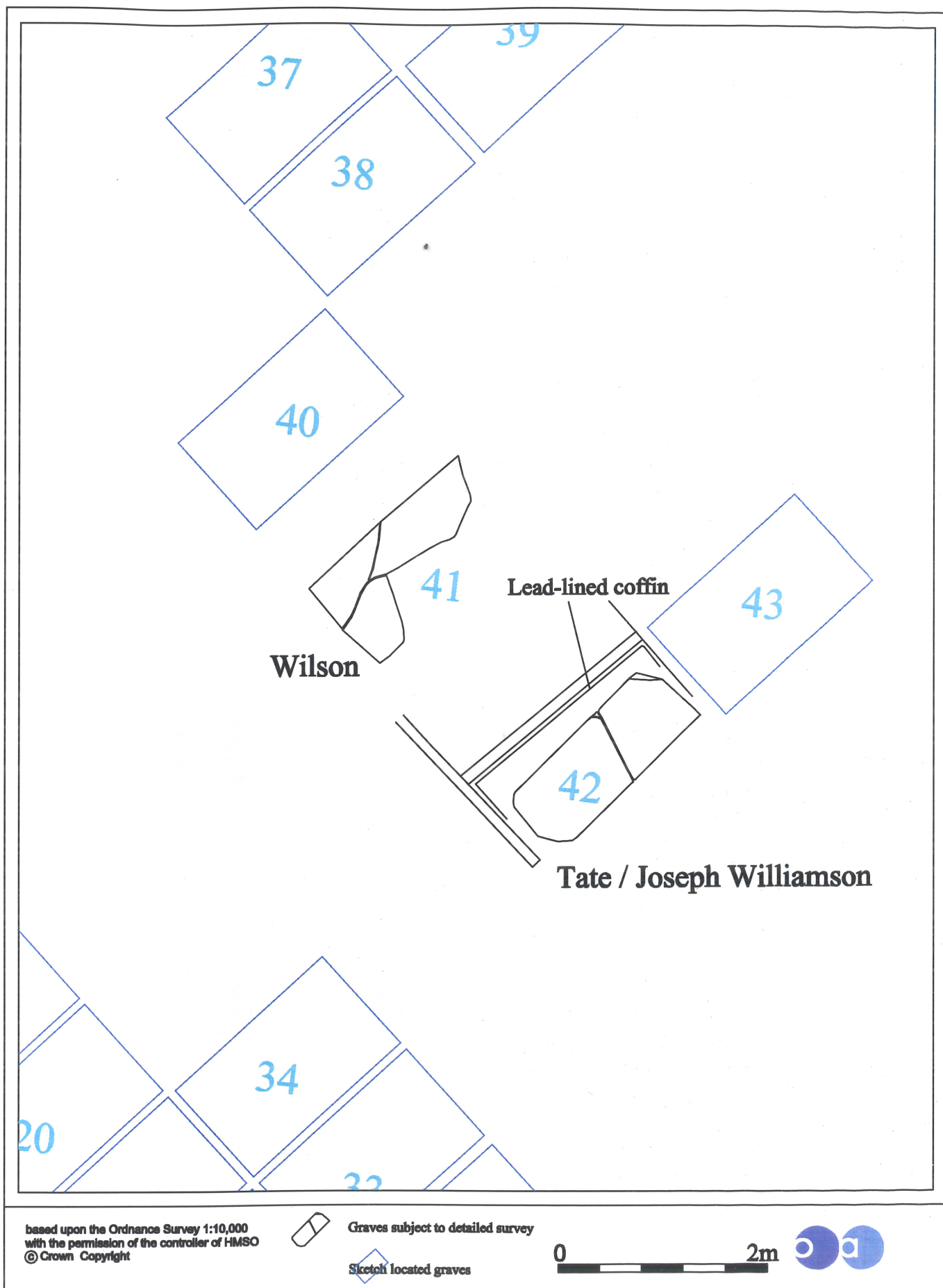


Figure 6: Detailed plan of graves exposed during the watching brief



Plate 1: Working shot of excavation taking place in St Thomas Graveyard, looking south.



Plate 2: Working shot of cleaning of Williamson's Grave



Plate 3: Detail of Edward Wilson's Grave (Grave 41)



Plate 4: Friends of Williamson's Tunnels inspecting the grave of Joseph Williamson



Plate 5: Tate Family vault including the inscription of Joseph Williamson (Grave 42)

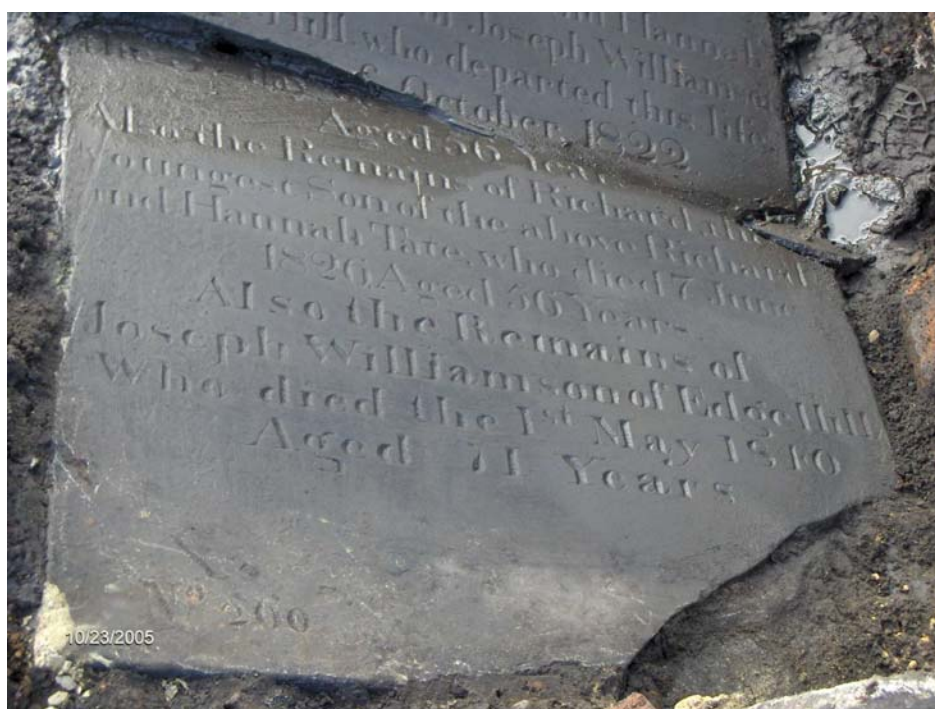


Plate 6: Close-up of Williamson's Grave