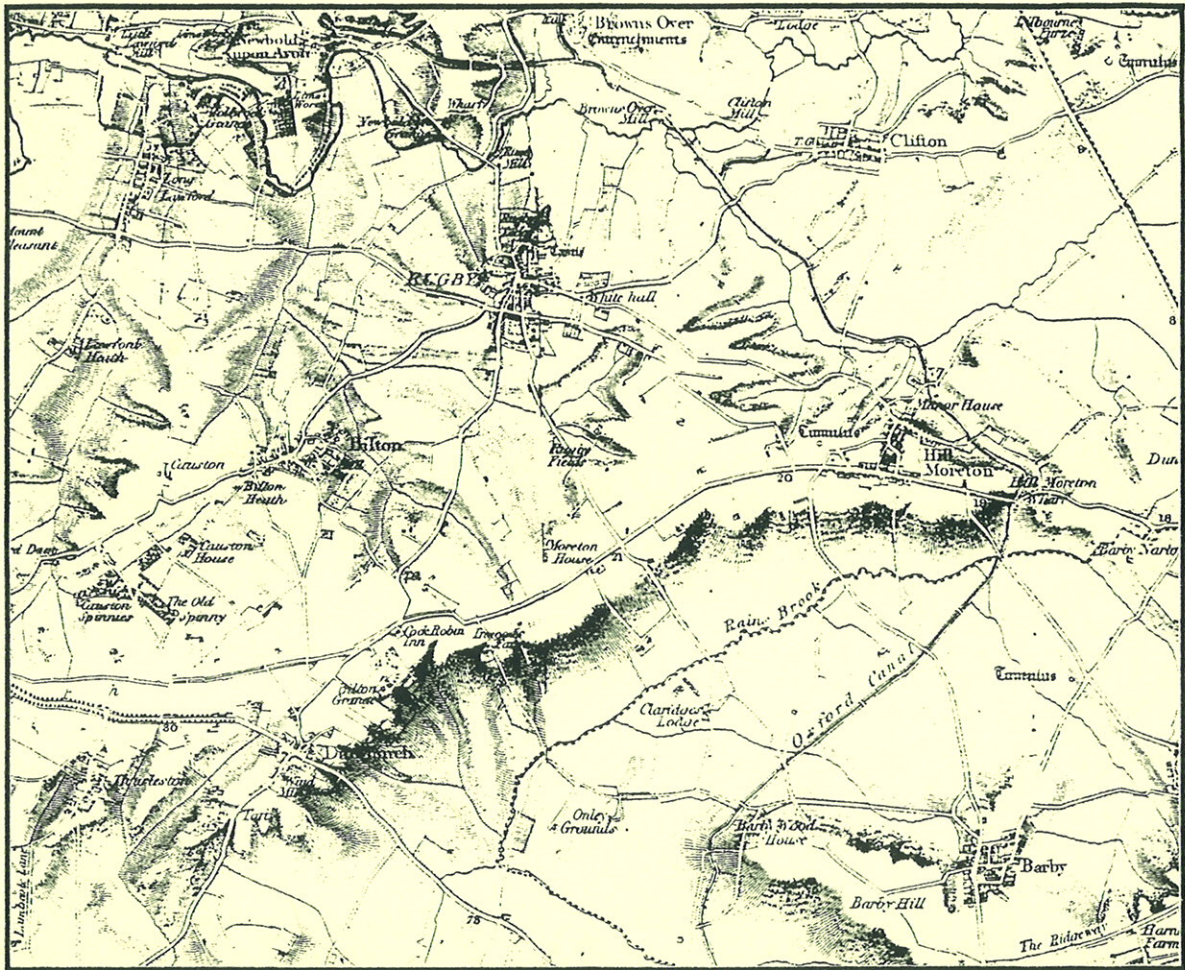


18/19 MARKET PLACE, RUGBY

Archaeological Evaluation

SP 5030 7521



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

December 1994

18/19 MARKET PLACE, RUGBY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT NGR SP 5030 7521

INTRODUCTION

Buildings 18 and 19 in the Market Place, Rugby are being redeveloped (Fig 1.). The buildings were constructed in 1894. The development company undertaking the work is J. Trevor and Webster, chartered surveyors and commercial property agents. The clients are Molins UK Pension Fund Trustee Ltd. The scope of the works involves the demolition of a brick building to the rear of Nos. 18 and 19, and the excavation of foundation trenches for a new building.

Eight test pits excavated by the contractors were monitored by Bryn Gethin of the Warwickshire Museum in July and August, 1994. The pits were dug prior to the demolition of the building. The pits were generally 0.60 m deep, and 0.60 m wide. Late Victorian deposits were identified below make up for the present concrete tiled floor, and Mr Gethin felt that earlier deposits may survive below the Victorian levels. Natural subsoil was thought to lie 1.00-1.20 m below the present ground level. The new development includes provision for foundation trenches to be excavated up to a depth of 1.90 m. The site lies at a general level of 113.20 O.D.

In the light of the proposals, the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) was commissioned to re-excavate a number of the test pits upon the recommendation and under the supervision of Dr. Peter Wardle, an independent archaeological consultant.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Rugby is a post-medieval historic town, although the church of St. Andrew dates to the medieval period. An early photograph of the development shows the presence of a post-medieval C17 building on the development area. A fuller account of the archaeological background is contained in 18/19 Market Place, *Risk Survey*, compiled by Dr. Wardle.

METHOD AND CONDITIONS

Of the 8 pits previously investigated, the OAU was asked to re-examine four (pits 1, 2, 6 and 7) to determine the depth of significant archaeological levels, or to establish the level of the natural geology. In addition two further test pits (9 and 10) were excavated at the W end of the site (Fig. 2). The results are presented below.

Test pit 1

Depth 0.53 m, length 1.00 m

The pit was excavated against demolished wall, 104. The presence of two large modern ceramic drain pipes and a brick built man hole set in a large construction cut hampered excavation. The top of the pipe lay 0.45 m below the current ground level. The depth of the drain cut was not ascertained. Given the depth at which

natural was exposed in test pit 2, it is probable that the drain cut had removed all underlying deposits. Two glazed sherds of N. Staffordshire pottery recovered from the backfill of the drain cut date to the late C19/C20. A sherd of a concrete drain pipe (1930's) was also recovered from the drain backfill.

Test pit 2 (Fig.3)

Depth 0.80 m, length 1.00 m. Natural reddish-brown sandy clay lay 0.69 m below the present ground level.

The pit was excavated against the demolished wall 207=104. The earliest deposit within pit 2 was a layer of grey silty clay (209) which overlay the natural. The layer was 0.06 m deep, and contained no finds. This deposit was cut by the construction trench (205) for a N-S aligned wall (202) of Victorian red-brick build. Wall 202 was abutted by a layer of grey clay silt, 206, which contained frequent charcoal inclusions. An ashy layer, 203, sealed 206, at which point wall 207 was constructed. A layer of make up (201) below concrete tiled floor 200 butted wall 207.

Test pits 3, 4, 5, 8

Backfilled by the contractors and not further investigated.

Test pit 6

Depth 0.64 m, length 0.60 m

Test pit 6 was excavated between the standing wall of No. 19 and a large brick-built manhole, which was at least 2.50 m deep. Given the depth and size of the structure it is probable that its construction had removed all underlying deposits. The excavated deposits were interpreted as backfill of the manhole construction cut. The lack of space between the wall and the manhole prevented further excavation.

Test pit 7

Depth 1.00 m, length 1.02 m

Test pit 7 lay within No. 18 (to the rear of the building) against the S wall. The contractors did not intend to excavate further in the course of their works, and the pit was not further investigated. The foundations of the wall were at least 1.00m+ deep, and were butted internally by successive layers of dumped material.

Test pit 9 (Fig.4)

Depth 1.58 m, length 0.90 m

Test pit 9 was dug at the SW corner of the demolished building. The wall (909) foundations were 1.24 m deep and butted by successive layers of backfill material. One modern ceramic drain was observed. Natural clay silt containing quartzite pebbles was seen below the base of the wall foundation, although the top of the natural horizon was probably higher.

Test pit 10 (Fig.5)

Depth 0.88 m, length 0.95 m

Natural clay silt with dense quartzite pebble inclusions lay 0.88 m below present ground level.

Test pit 10 was located between the demolished outer wall 1003 (=207=104) and the corner wall 909, which was not exposed. The earliest deposit observed in the pit was a 0.42 m thick layer of grey clay silt, 1007, which was similar to 209 in pit 2. The deposit contained charcoal flecks, but no finds, and was cut by wall construction trenches 1004 and 1006. Thereafter make up layers underlay the concrete tiled floor.

DISCUSSION AND RELIABILITY OF RESULTS

Natural clay was exposed in 3 of the pits, and lay closer to the present ground level than had been anticipated. Layers 209 and 1007 are the earliest deposits revealed on the site, although they are undated. It is possible that both contexts represent a garden soil/horizon, perhaps related to the C17 building known to have been on the site, or an earlier area of open land.

Wall 202 in pit 2 post-dated layer 209, and was demolished before the main building was erected on the site. It is arguable that this wall relates in some way to the C17 structure, but given the brick type (clearly mass produced red bricks bonded with hard cement/mortar) it is probably a Victorian built external wall. A map dated 1848 shows the C17 building, with associated outhouses and boundary walls. The remainder of the deposits relate to the construction of the buildings in 1894, or are later.

The sampling strategy has determined a reasonably clear stratified sequence on the site. Where possible the excavations revealed the earliest deposits overlying the natural. No medieval or earlier finds were recovered from any of the layers. These results would suggest that medieval horizons, where they occur in Rugby, are likely to be closer to the town centre.

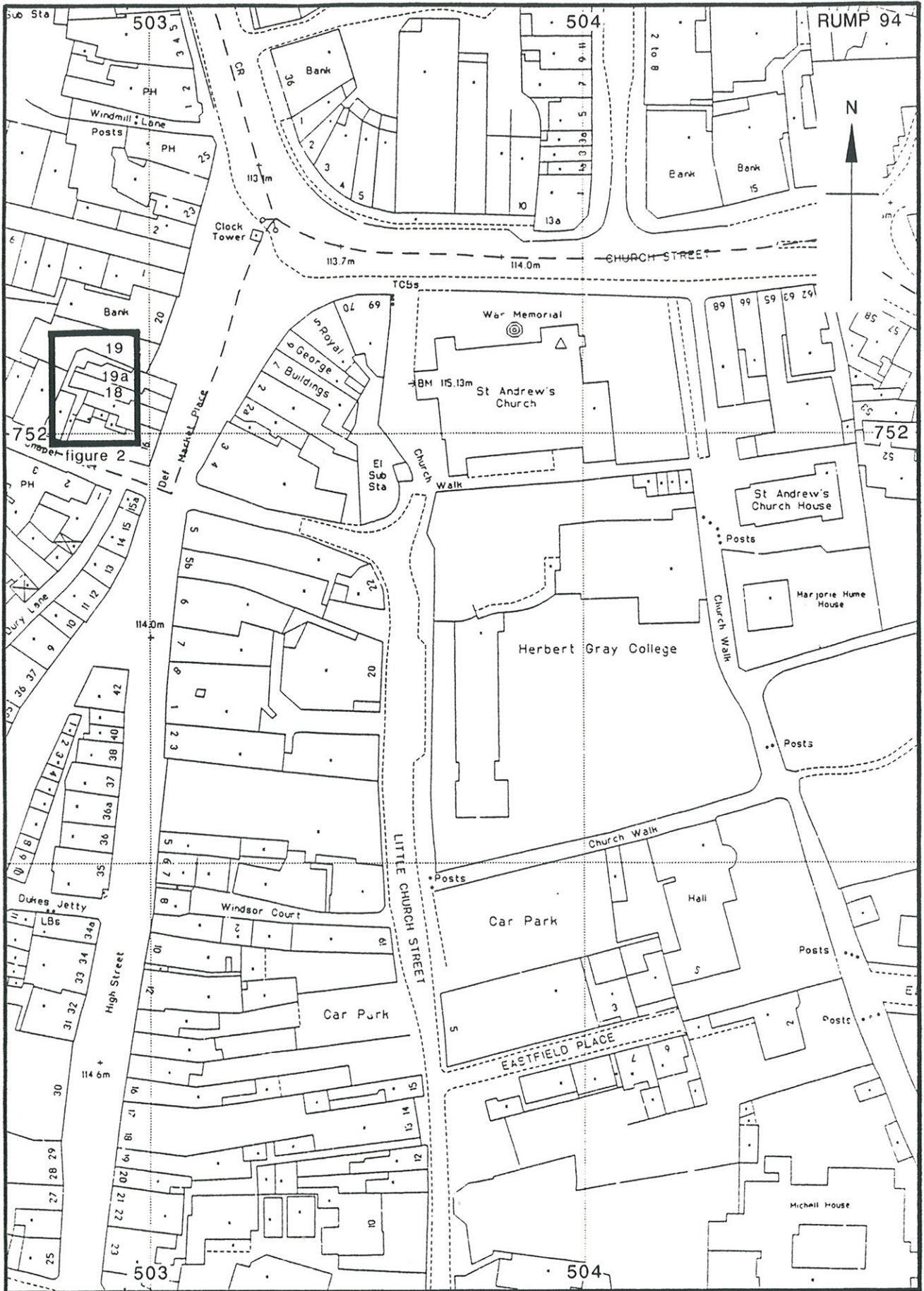
The results from this evaluation correspond broadly with the reports compiled for the Warwickshire Museum. However, a few additions can now be made to those findings. The presence of the ceramic drain in pit 1 and the resulting backfill of the drain were not noted in the initial report-the similarity between the fill and the layer of 'grey silty loam' (in fact a clay silt) perhaps accounting for this omission. In addition no mention of the large brick-built manhole (against which pit 6 was excavated) was made, which clearly had implications for the underlying stratigraphy.

CONCLUSION

The site appears to have been little used prior to the Victorian period, given the results from pits 10 and 2. The depth of activity relating to the construction of the buildings in 1894, and subsequent service intrusions has in all probability removed

earlier horizons relating to the C17 structure on the site.

Jonathan Hiller
Oxford Archaeological Unit
December 1994

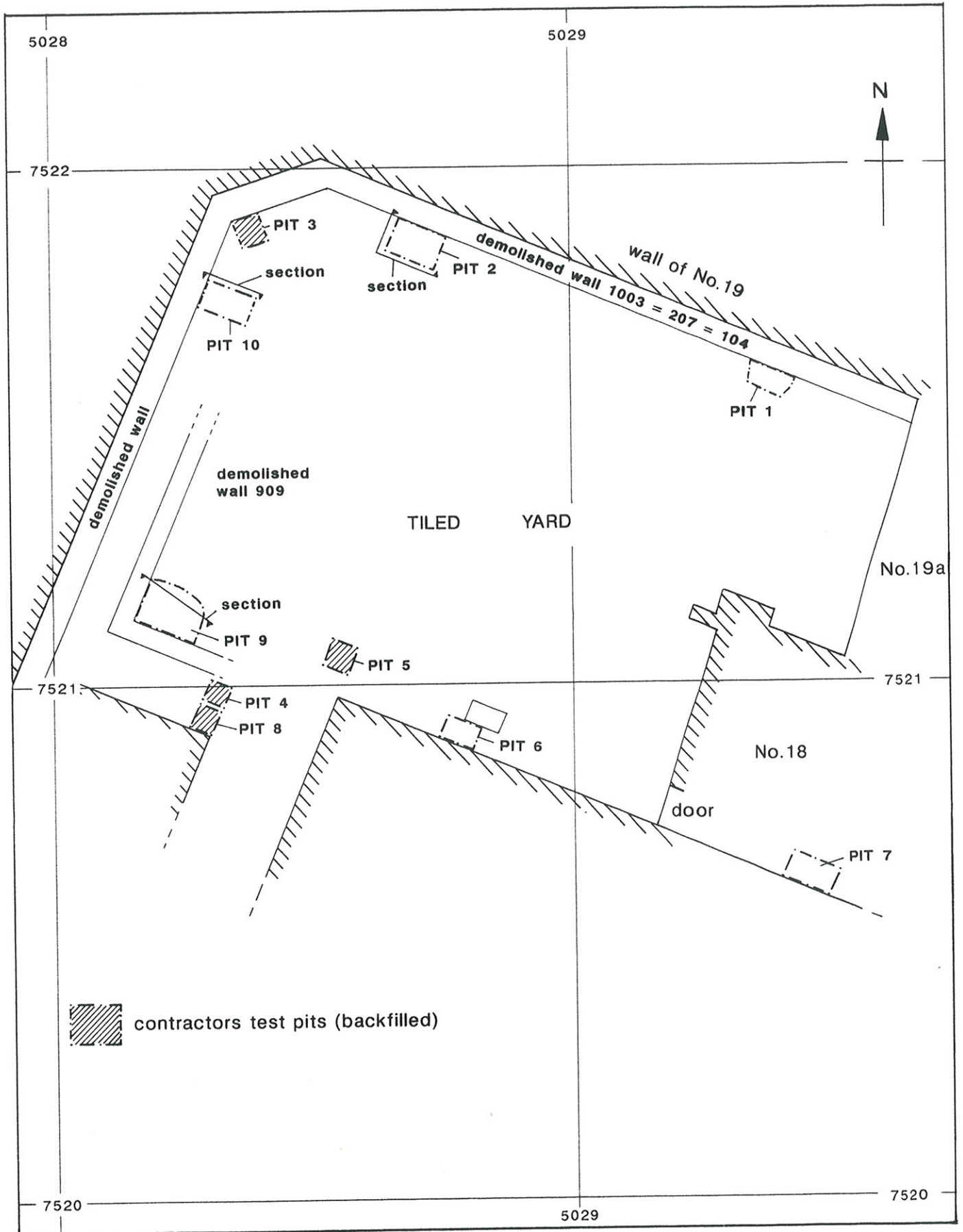


scale 1:1250

site location

Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:1250 map of 1993 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright

figure 1

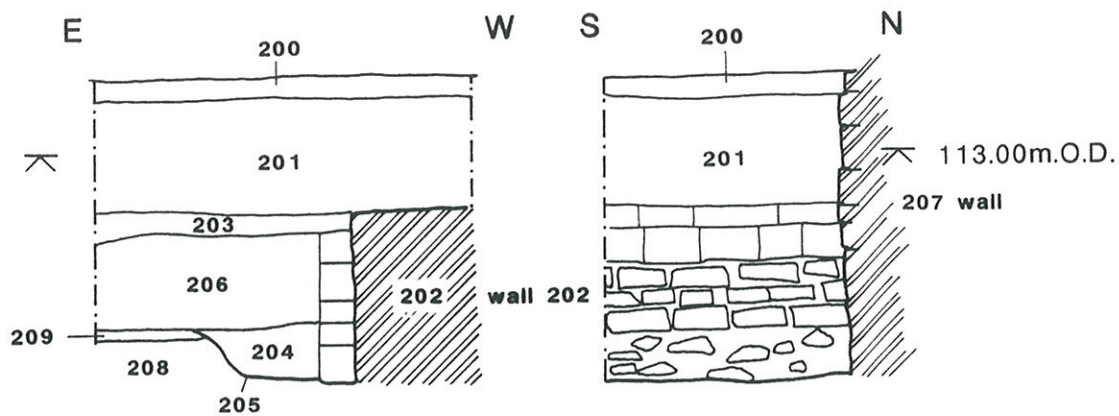


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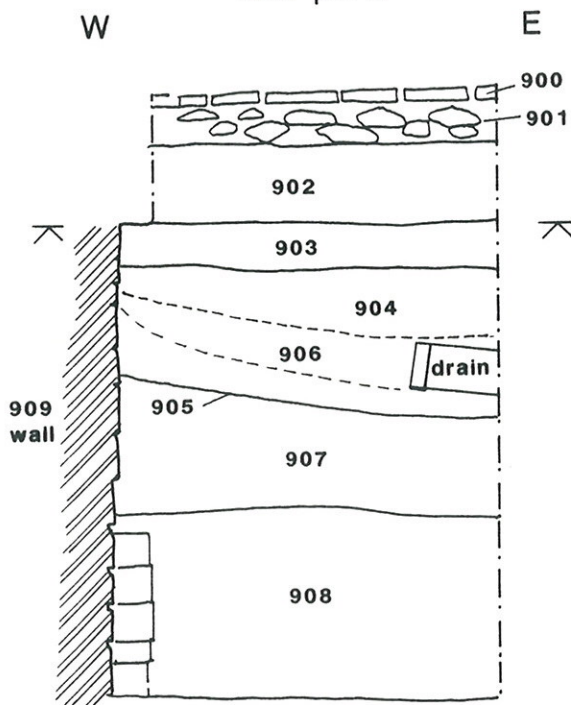
test pit location

figure 2

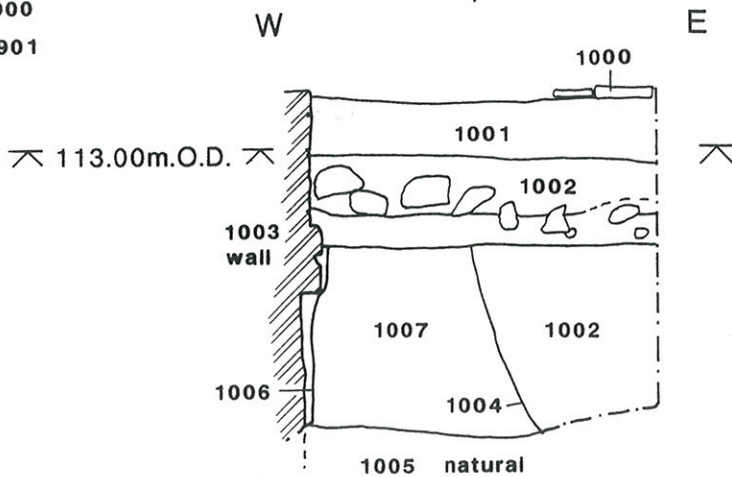
Test pit 2



Test pit 9



Test pit 10



test pit sections

figure 3

TABLE OF CONTEXT INFORMATION

PIT No.	CTX No.	TYPE	DEPTH	WIDTH	COMMENTS
1	100	LAYER	0.04 M	-	CURRENT TILED SURFACE
1	101	LAYER	0.06 M	-	MAKE-UP FOR 100
1	102	FILL	0.12 M	-	FILL OF DRAIN CUT, DK PURPLISH BROWN SANDY SILT
1	103	CUT	0.42 M+	0.60 M	CUT FOR DRAIN PIPES 105, 106
1	104	STRUCTURE	0.40 M	0.28 M	WALL, DEMOLISHED DEC.1994
1	105	SERVICE	0.20 M	0.20 M	CERAMIC DRAIN PIPE, MODERN
1	106	SERVICE	0.20 M	0.20 M	CERAMIC DRAIN PIPE, MODERN
2	200	LAYER	0.04 M	-	TILED FLOOR
2	201	LAYER	0.34 M	-	MAKE-UP FOR 200
2	202	STRUCTURE	0.46 M	0.32 M+	WALL, BRICK TYPE INDICATES VICTORIAN CONSTRUCTION
2	203	LAYER	0.13 M	-	ASH/CHARCOAL/CINDER DEPOSIT BUTTING 202
2	204	FILL	0.31 M	-	BACKFILL OF CONSTRUCTION CUT 205
2	205	CUT	0.16 M	0.62 M+	CONSTRUCTION CUT FOR WALL 202
2	206	LAYER	-	-	NATURAL, REDDISH-BROWN SANDY CLAY
2	207	STRUCTURE	0.35 M	0.36 M	WALL, SAME AS 104
2	208	LAYER	0.12 M	-	SOIL HORIZON, UNDATED, BUT EARLIER THAN WALLS 202 AND 207
2	209	LAYER	0.16 M	-	SOIL HORIZON, SEALS 204 AND BUTTS 202
6	-	TEST PIT	0.64 M	0.60 M	TEST PIT DUG BETWEEN BRICK MANHOLE AND STANDING WALL
7	-	TEST PIT	1.00 M	1.02 M	PIT WITHIN No.19, AGAINST WALL FOUNDATION. FOUNDATION DEPTH 1.00 M +
9	900	LAYER	0.04 M	-	TILED SURFACE, AS 100 etc.
9	901	LAYER	0.10 M	-	MAKE-UP FOR 900
9	902	LAYER	0.20 M	-	MAKE-UP WITHIN BUILDING
9	903	LAYER	0.16 M	-	CONCRETE SEALING DRAIN 906
9	904	FILL	0.36 M	-	FILL OF DRAIN CUT 905
9	905	CUT	0.36 M	0.44 M+	CUT FOR DRAIN 906
9	906	SERVICE	0.12 M	0.14 M	CERAMIC DRAIN PIPE
9	907	LAYER	0.29 M	-	RUBBLE LAYER WITHIN BUILDING
9	908	LAYER	0.50 M	-	SAND/GRAVEL DUMP
9	909	STRUCTURE	1.28 M	0.28 M	WALL, DEMOLISHED DEC. 1994
9	910	LAYER	-	-	NATURAL CLAY SILT WITH QUARTZITE PEBBLE INCLUSIONS

PIT No.	CTX No.	TYPE	DEPTH	WIDTH	COMMENTS
1	100	LAYER	0.04 M	-	CURRENT TILED SURFACE
1	101	LAYER	0.06 M	-	MAKE-UP FOR 100
10	1000	LAYER	0.04 M	-	TILED SURFACE
10	1001	LAYER	0.24 M	-	MAKE-UP FOR 1000
10	1002	FILL	0.47 M+	-	FILL OF CONSTRUCTION CUT 1004
10	1003	STRUCTURE	0.88 M+	0.42 M	WALL, SAME AS 104, 207
10	1004	CUT	0.60 M+	0.60 M+	CONSTRUCTION CUT FOR UNSEEN WALL
10	1005	LAYER	-	-	NATURAL CLAY SILT WITH QUARTZITE PEBBLE INCLUSIONS
10	1006	CUT	0.85 M+	0.40 M+	CONSTRUCTION CUT FOR WALL 1003
10	1007	LAYER	0.35 M	-	SOIL HORIZON PREDATING WALL 1003, UNDATED
10	1008	LAYER	0.25 M	-	LAYER SEALING 1002, 1007 PRIOR TO MAKE UP LAYER 1001

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