

August 1995

---

# **LANCASTER CASTLE GATEHOUSE**

## **Lancashire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief  
and  
Excavation**

---

Commissioned and funded by:

**HM Prison Service**

---

## CONTENTS

---

**Frontispiece Aerial view of Trench 1**

<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. General Background</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. Methodology</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. The Fieldwork</b>	<b>7</b>
Trench 1	7
Trench 2	9
Trench 3	9
Trench 4	9
Trench 5	9
Trench 6	9
Trenches 7, 8, 10	10
Trench 9	10
Trenches 11, 12	10
<b>5. Conclusions</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6. Recommendations</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>7. Bibliography</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>8. Illustrations</b>	<b>15</b>
Fig 1-Site Location Plan	16
Fig 2-Trench Location Plan	17
Fig 3-Trench 1 Plan	18

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

---

Lancaster University Archaeological Unit wish to thank the staff of H. M. Prison, The Castle, Lancaster, who were most helpful and provided useful information relating to project. Thanks also to the building contractors A. E. Marsden and Son for their support and understanding throughout the project.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Short, Peter Redmayne and Nick Hair. Survey work was carried out by Mick Krupa and David Hodgkinson. Illustrations were completed in CAD by Mick Krupa. The finds were processed by Susan Wieclawska, Stuart Elder and Anna Rieke. Jeremy Ashbee examined the architectural fragments recovered from the site, and a brief study of the artefacts was undertaken by Christine Howard-Davis, who also provided spot-dates. This report was compiled by Nick Hair. Overall project management and editing was undertaken by Jason Wood.

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

---

An archaeological watching brief and excavation at H. M. Prison, The Castle, Lancaster, Lancashire, was undertaken by the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) following discussions with Mr John Beetles (H. M. P. Conservation Officer). This work was carried out during building alterations which involved the construction of a lorry turning area, and the erection of a large cage behind the western elevation of the gatehouse. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken over several days between 28th June and 14th August 1995. The excavation was undertaken in a one week period between 3rd July and 10th July 1995.

The study area lies in close proximity to the site of a succession of Roman forts centred on Castle Hill, and is situated within the medieval curtain walls of the Castle. Because of the proximity of known archaeological remains to the area to be developed, and the potential for surviving in-situ archaeological deposits, it was deemed necessary that a programme of archaeological work should be conducted during the building alterations. Its purpose to identify and where possible rapidly record any below ground archaeological features exposed by the ground works associated with the building alterations

The watching brief identified significant archaeological deposits within trench 1, and a small excavation was undertaken to record these features. The watching brief and excavation demonstrated that significant well stratified archaeological deposits survive intact within Lancaster Castle. These deposits date to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. This programme of archaeological work was designed to record the nature and character of the deposits directly affected by the building alterations, and in most cases these archaeological horizons were left in situ. It was therefore not possible to define the precise depth and character of the deposits.

Recent research has demonstrated that limited areas of intact medieval and Roman archaeological stratigraphy survive within the city, for example Mitchell's Brewery, and the area around Vicarage Fields. However a significant amount of archaeological evidence relating to these periods has been truncated and destroyed by later developments within the city. The deposits identified by the watching brief and excavation within the Castle are thus very significant, and may contribute significantly to our understanding of both the Roman and medieval townscape.

As a first option it is recommended that the deposits should be preserved in-situ. However, should any future developments be undertaken within the Castle involving ground intervention, it is strongly recommended that these works should incorporate a structured programme of archaeological work, which has been approved by the County Archaeological Curator. Its purpose to record the character and extent of the affected deposits.

---

## 1. INTRODUCTION

---

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) during alterations to the gatehouse and lawn/flower bed areas of H. M. Prison, The Castle, Lancaster, following discussions with Mr John Beetles.

The study area lies in close proximity to the site of a succession of Roman forts which were centred on Castle Hill, and is located within the medieval curtain walls of the Castle. Because of the proximity of known archaeological remains to the area affected by the development, it was deemed necessary that an archaeological watching brief should be conducted during the building alterations. These alterations involved the conversion of much of the flower beds and lawn west of the gatehouse into a paved lorry turning area, and the erection of a steel cage to the rear of the gatehouse. The cage was specially designed so that no intervention of the standing fabric occurred, although its erection resulted in disturbance to the stratigraphic levels below the pavement.

This work programme was formulated by LUAU in discussions with Mr John Beetles. It was agreed that an archaeological watching brief would be undertaken during all ground works associated with the alterations. It was also agreed that a one week period of excavation could be undertaken in the lawn/flower bed area should any significant archaeological stratigraphy be encountered, this work was to be funded by H. M. Prisons.

The purpose of the archaeological watching brief was to identify and where possible rapidly record any below ground archaeological features affected by the alteration works. Significant archaeological stratigraphy was encountered at the base of the flower bed excavations and within some of the trenches relating to the gatehouse cage. The stratigraphy affected by the lorry turning area alterations was rapidly recorded during a one week period of excavation. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken over several days between 28th June and 14th August 1995. The excavation was undertaken between 3rd July and 10th July 1995.

---

## 2. GENERAL BACKGROUND

---

Limited excavations to the north and the west of the Castle have provided some evidence relating to the occupation of Castle Hill in the Roman period. A fort had been established by AD80 on the hilltop to exploit its strategic position above the lowest fording point of the River Lune. It was part of a chain of military sites in the hinterland between Chester and Hadrian's Wall. The fort was refurbished in the first half of the second century, and an inscription records the rebuilding of a 'bathhouse and basilica' in AD262-6. In the fourth century the site was completely remodelled and a new fort was constructed on a different alignment parallel to the river, this was probably associated with coastal defence. A substantial extra-mural settlement stretched eastward from the fort along both sides of what is now known as Church Street. Excavation work has focused mainly on the north and west fort defences, and it remains to some extent unclear as to how far south the earlier forts extended. The southern defences of the early fort were probably located to the north of the study area, although the later expanded defences associated with this fort may have been positioned close to the study area. The southern defences of the fourth century fort (Way Wall) appear to have been to the north of the study area.

Little is known about Lancaster after the end of Roman occupation until the development of the medieval town, apart from isolated finds on Castle Hill, and some place-name evidence. There is some evidence of later Anglo-Saxon occupation on Castle Hill, and an early church (possibly monastic) was established by the ninth century. King Harold's younger brother, Earl Tostig, was in power in Northern Lancashire in the years immediately prior to the Norman Conquest. It is possible that innovative fortifications were introduced into this area at an early date to guard the river crossing. Medieval Lancaster seems to have developed from two dependent villas of the Manor of Halton, recorded in the Domesday Book; *Chercaloncastre* (Church Lancaster) was probably centred around Castle Hill, and the other *Loncastre*; was perhaps in the Stonewell area to the east of the Castle.

The prestige of the town grew significantly as it became a power base for the early Norman lords and for the later ducal fiefdom of the House of Lancaster. The earliest standing fabric of Lancaster Castle is found in the keep. This large and imposing stone tower is traditionally attributed to Roger of Poitou, before 1102, but if so, the keep would be the third oldest in England. It is more likely that Roger's castle, like almost all the early Norman castles in Britain, was a simple earth and timber construction. The structure resembles keeps built in the middle of the twelfth century, and it has been suggested that its construction was initiated by David I of Scotland who is known to have ordered extensive building at Carlisle, probably on the keep there. The early thirteenth century (1208-11) saw work on the castle ditch, and perhaps a hall and parts of the curtain wall and towers. Other towers and curtain were probably added in Henry III's reign. Shortly after Henry IV's accession, an extensive rebuilding programme was started, culminating in the great twin-towered gatehouse (1403-13). The upper storey of the keep was rebuilt in the reign of Elizabeth (c1585).

From the late eighteenth century, the Castle was substantially modified for use as a court and prison, during which time the medieval curtain wall and several of the towers were demolished. The major construction phases of this later period included various extensions (1776-79); the building of civil and criminal courts, additional debtors' and female accommodation and the gaoler's house (c1790-1810); construction of the remarkable female penitentiary (c1818-21) and the conversion of more rooms to single cells (c1840-60). The moat was finally in-filled in 1850 and the years 1873-76 saw the demolition of cottages around the perimeter wall. Apart from refurbishment and maintenance work, and the addition of service areas there has been no significant late Victorian or modern rebuilding.

---

### 3.METHODOLOGY

---

The purpose of the watching brief was to identify and record any significant archaeological deposits or structures encountered during the ground works.

All of the trenches were initially excavated by the contractors using a small tracked backhoe mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.90m ditching bucket. This work was closely monitored by an archaeological inspector. In areas where significant archaeological stratigraphy was identified, machining was immediately stopped, and these areas were excavated by hand using qualified archaeological personnel. It should be noted that only the stratigraphy directly affected by the ground-works was examined.

On-site recording involved the compilation of context, find, photographic, and survey records, and the manual drawing of scale sections. A site plan of the area was created by EDM tacheometry, using an electronic total station and data logger facility. This instrument was used to transform the raw data into co-ordinates and output to a portable plotter. Detail was drawn in by hand and CAD drawings were then produced.

A full archive of the excavations will be produced to a professional standard in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition 1991*)

---

## 4. THE FIELDWORK

---

### 4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Trench 1 was L shaped, and measured 17m north-south by 14m east-west. It was positioned to the north and west of the present road, on the site of a former garden. The trench was excavated to a depth of c1m below the level of the lawn, and its purpose was to provide foundations for the new lorry turning area.

The loamy topsoil [1] was 0.40m thick, and contained occasional fragments of post-medieval pottery and clay pipe. It sealed a substantial, 0.40m deep horizon of very dark grey clay loam [2] which contained a wide range of finds including third and fourth century Roman pottery (Black burnished I, Huntcliffe, and Crambeck wares), medieval pottery dating from the fourteenth century and onwards, and later seventeenth and eighteenth century Cistercian type and fine white glazed wares. Nineteenth and early twentieth century stonewares were also represented. It also contained fragments of butchered pig and cow bones, as well as a copper alloy strip and a hone which remain undated. The garden soil appearance of layer [2] and wide range of artefacts within it, suggest that this horizon has been heavily disturbed. A large modern pipe trench [8], cut layer [2], and extended in an east west direction across the southern part of trench 1

In the north of the trench layer [2] sealed a 0.05m thick horizon of brownish grey clay loam [4]. This contained the same date range of artefacts as layer [2]. A distinctive orange clay horizon [5] was identified below [4] in the north of the trench. This was 0.05m thick and extended a distance of 7m from the north end of the trench. No artefacts were recovered from this layer.

In the southern portion of the trench, layer [2] sealed the corner of a stone structure [11], which extended beyond the western limits of the trench. This structure was formed out of a wall aligned north-west to south-east, which returned in a north-east to south-west direction. The wall was on average 0.50m wide and survived to a depth of c0.50m. It was constructed out of rough stone blocks which were heavily mortared together. A post-medieval pottery sherd and fragment of glass were heavily embedded within the mortar, indicating that the structure probably dates to post-medieval period. No foundation trench was identified associated with the wall, and layers [3] and [7] (see below) appeared to butt up against its outer face. Layer [6] was clearly different from layers [3] and [7] and was located within the structure below layer [2]. It comprised a loose brown sandy clay loam similar to layer [2], and contained post-medieval artefacts. The precise function of structure [11] is at present unclear. Its alignment did not respect any of the existing Castle buildings; and it was not possible to determine its precise size, as the structure extended beyond the western limits of the trench. Further documentary research may be able to identify the function of this building.

Layer [3] was recorded directly below layer [2] in the south of the trench, and extended below layer [5] in the north of the trench. The archaeological inspector noted that this horizon appeared to be much less disturbed than the overlying deposits and machining was stopped at this level, and the surface cleaned manually. Layer [3] consisted of a 0.15m deep deposit of grey brown sandy clay loam. In places its surface was marked by a concentration of small and medium sized angular and rounded stones, into which were embedded decayed bone fragments. A particularly large concentration of stone and bone was noted in the centre of the trench, and this remained unexcavated, it may perhaps represent the extent of a large negative feature, although if this was the case its fill appeared to be identical to the surrounding deposit. Similar features have been excavated at Mitchell's Brewery, Church Street, Lancaster, by LUAU. The finds recovered from [3] suggest that it represents a disturbed medieval horizon. It produced the following types of Roman pottery: Antonine or late samian, late third and fourth century Calcite gritted wares, and late Black burnished I ware. It produced a significant quantity of medieval pottery including green glazed wares which date to the mid-fourteenth century and onwards, and some white medieval fabrics. It also produced small quantities of post-medieval artefacts including clay pipe fragments, glass fragments, and sherds of manganese mottled ware pottery.



In the central portion of the trench layer [3] partially extended over a deposit of very dark brown clay loam [7], this horizon was sealed directly by [2] in the south of the trench. Layer [7] contained mainly Roman pottery, including Calcite gritted wares and late flanged bowl forms. It also contained butchered cow bone fragments and a small number of later artefacts. The finds produced by layer [7] suggest that it represents a contaminated later Roman horizon. Two distinct areas of dark staining [13] were noted in the south of the trench within layer [7], these were not excavated but perhaps represent intrusive features.

The surface of layer [7] contained irregular shaped areas of randomly scattered stones which were set into a dark sandy clay [12], which perhaps represents a destruction level which was located above [7]. The stones within layer [12] ranged in size from between 0.15m and 0.50m in diameter, and many of them had clearly been worked. An architectural fragment was recovered from this horizon, its reasonably complete moulding profile shows it to be part of a capital with an integral abacus and a pilaster shaft of small dimension. Similar fragments are known from the early medieval period, particularly in belfry openings of late Anglo-Saxon churches. A large key stone was also recovered from this layer although its date at present remains uncertain. Layer [12] produced many later Roman pottery types including Huntcliffe rims and late Black burnished I ware dish forms; it also produced not closely dated Roman greywares and possibly earlier Roman amphora fragments, as well as fragments of cow bone. There was also a small number of later artefacts including eighteenth century clay pipe stem fragments and post-medieval pottery sherds, suggesting that the upper levels of this horizon had been contaminated by later activity..

A layer of yellowy brown sandy clay [10] was exposed in the extreme south-west corner of the trench, this was sealed by [2] and was bounded by layer [7] to the north and west. Layer [10] was not excavated as it formed the base of the trench, and therefore its relationship with layer [7] was not established. Its surface produced a small number of finds including iron nails and fragments of oxidised Roman pottery.

A 0.15m thick compact yellow grey sandy clay [14] was encountered directly below [2] in the south west of the trench. This was noted as containing post-medieval pottery sherds and clay pipe fragments, and sealed layer [7].

Layers [3], [4], [5], [6], [7], [8], [10], [12], [13], [14] and structure [11] formed the base of the contractors trench and their upper surfaces were therefore cleaned, planned, and in almost every case left in situ for possible future analysis. However, it was deemed necessary to excavate a 0.30m deep, 1m wide, trench along the southern edge of trench 1, its purpose to accommodate the foundations of a stone earth retaining wall for the new lorry turning area. This trench was excavated stratigraphically by LUAU.

Layer [14] was removed in the south west of the trench and layer [7] exposed below it. Because only the upper disturbed surface of layer [7] was exposed in the majority of trench 1, there was a high probability that this level was contaminated, i.e. contained finds of a later date. Layer [7] was thus renumbered [18] within the foundation trench so that the finds recovered from within this horizon could be separated. A possible ditch feature [17] was identified cut into [18]. This appeared to be orientated north south, was 0.80m wide, and 0.25m deep, and had relatively steep east and west sides, and a rounded base. Its north and south sides were not visible as they extended beyond the limits of the trench. It was filled with a yellow grey sandy clay [16], which contained a small number of bone fragments.

Layer [18] was between 0.10m and 0.20m thick and contained a number of Roman pottery types including third and fourth century Huntcliffe ware, not closely datable greywares, and Central Gaulish and globular amphora sherds which probably date to the second century. It also produced fragments of cow bones and a small number of *tegula* (Roman roof tiles) which suggest that there must have been a substantial building within the environs of the study area. Layer [18] appears to represent an intact later Roman horizon.

In the central part of the trench, south of structure [11], a 0.05m deep stony horizon [15] was encountered below [18]. The stones were mainly subrectangular in shape and ranged from between 0.05m and 0.25m in diameter. A fine cobble surface [19] was identified below [15] in the central part of the trench, and directly below [18] in the south part of the trench. The cobbles were

either rounded or subrounded and ranged in size from between 0.05m and 0.35m in diameter. They were tightly packed together giving the appearance of a uniform area of metalling. The cobbles appeared to be set into a yellowy grey gritty clay [20] which formed the base of much of the trench. This was not excavated however its surface produced a small assemblage of nails and globular amphora fragments which have been provisionally dated to the second and third centuries.

### **Trenches 2-12 (Figure 2)**

Trenches 2-12 were excavated directly west of the gatehouse, their purpose to accommodate the foundations for the new cage which was to be constructed within this area. The trenches measured between 0.75m and 1m wide, and between 1m and 2.30m long, all were excavated mechanically to a depth of between 1m and 1.20m below the present ground surface.

A similar stratigraphic sequence was identified within all of the trenches. The uppermost horizon comprised modern road make-up or paving below which there was a substantial deposit of sandy loam. This deposit had the appearance of a garden soil, ranged from between 0.45m and 0.65m thick, and contained no artefacts. The above horizon sealed the natural subsoil which comprised a very stony compact clay.

### **Trench 2**

Trench 2 was located directly west of the gatehouse and its eastern section exposed the foundations of this building. The gatehouse foundations were annotated on to a 1:20 scale copy of the photogrammetric plot undertaken by Photarc Surveys in April 1995. The foundations of the gatehouse extended to a depth of 0.80m below the present ground level, and were formed out of angular sandstone fragments. In general terms the stratigraphy encountered within the trench conformed to that outlined above, although a 0.20m thick stony grey clay layer separated the garden soil from the subsoil, and extended below the foundations of the gatehouse.

### **Trench 3**

Trench 3 was located immediately west of trench 2. A substantial east-west aligned stone culvert of indeterminate date was identified below a 0.60m thick deposit of garden soil. The culvert was cut into the natural subsoil and substantial sandstone blocks were used to line its base and cap it.

### **Trench 4**

Trench 4 was positioned to the west of trench 3, and its stratigraphy was almost identical to that encountered within trench 3, except that the stone culvert was only evident within the southern portion of the trench.

### **Trench 5**

Trench 5 was located immediately west of trench 4. There was no stratigraphy to record within this trench as it had been completely obliterated by later service trenches.

### **Trench 6**

Trench 6 was positioned directly west of the gatehouse, on the south side of the gate. Its eastern section exposed the foundations of the gatehouse. The stratigraphy within this trench varied slightly from that outlined above. The foundations of the gatehouse extended to a depth of 0.80m below the level of the road, and were formed out of medium and large angular fragments of sandstone. The previously described garden soil extended down to just above the base of the foundations, and sealed a 0.21m thick clay horizon which was only detected in the south of the trench. A thin, 0.04m thick, black organic layer was identified within this layer at the same level as the base of the foundations. This perhaps represents a buried soil. No artefacts were recovered from within this deposit. In the east of the trench the gatehouse foundations appeared to have been constructed directly above the natural yellowy orange stony clay subsoil. However three, equally spaced, well preserved timbers, had been inserted vertically into the natural subsoil directly below

the wall foundations. These timbers were subrectangular in cross-section and measured up to 0.10m x 0.10m, they were at least 0.40m in length. They appeared to represent wooden piles on which the gatehouse was resting. The timbers and gatehouse foundation details were annotated onto a 1:20 copy of the photogrammetric survey.

### **Trenches 7, 8 and 10**

Trenches 7 and 8 were located to the west of trench 6, trench 10 was positioned to the south of trench 7. Trenches 7, 8 and 10 all conformed to the standard stratigraphic description outlined above.

### **Trench 9**

Trench 9 was positioned to the west of trench 8. A substantial north south aligned stone culvert, aligned north south, was identified within its base. The culvert was located below a 0.60m deep garden soil horizon. It measured 0.32m wide and appeared to have been cut into the natural subsoil. The sides of the culvert were formed out of two courses of medium sized regular stone blocks, its capping stones and base were constructed out of large stone blocks.

### **Trenches 11 and 12**

Trenches 11 and 12 were positioned on a raised area located in the south east corner of the Castle. Both trenches revealed a substantial deposit, over 1m thick of garden soil, the natural subsoil was not recorded within these trenches.

---

## 5.CONCLUSIONS

---

The ground works associated with the construction of the lorry turning area, and gatehouse cage, have allowed for the first time an opportunity to examine the archaeological stratigraphy within the Castle.

Trench 1 contained a number of significant archaeological discoveries and these are briefly summarised below. Their descriptions are based upon a provisional stratigraphic study, and spot dates provided by Christine Howard-Davis. The uppermost horizons within the trench, layers [1] and [2], were as expected very disturbed, and contained mainly post-medieval artefacts, although a small yet significant assemblage of medieval and Roman finds was recovered from layer [2]. Stone structure [11] located below [2] was securely dated to the post-medieval period, although its precise function remains at present unclear. A documentary search of illustrations relating to the Castle may throw some light onto its function. Layer [3], was sealed by [2], and almost certainly represents a disturbed medieval horizon. Layer [12] was positioned stratigraphically below [3] and probably represents a destruction horizon dating to the later Roman/early medieval period. This layer contained architectural fragments, including a capital whose form is similar to examples known to date to the early medieval period. If the capital can be proven to date to the early medieval period the fragment would be of considerable importance as one of the only examples of Anglo-Saxon architecture in Lancashire. Layer [7], also described as [18] within the foundation trench, probably represents a contaminated later Roman horizon dating to the third and fourth centuries. It contained some eroded *tegula* (Roman roof tiles) suggesting that some reasonably substantial Roman buildings were sited within the environs of trench 1. Clay layer [10] positioned in the south east corner of the trench probably also represents a later Roman horizon, although its precise relationship with [7] was not established. In the foundation trench Roman cobble surface [19] was sealed by layer [18] and the cobbles appeared to have been set into layer [20], which has been very provisionally dated to the second and third centuries. The confines of the trench, and limited amount of excavation, made it impossible at present to determine whether the Roman stratigraphy was of a military or civilian nature.

Most of the archaeological horizons and features described above with the exception of layers [1] and [2] have been left in situ, except in the foundation trench area along the western edge of the trench, where they were excavated to a depth of 0.30m, below the base of the trench. Layer [20] represents the lowest archaeological horizon exposed within the excavation, although it should be noted that significant archaeological stratigraphy almost certainly exists below this deposit. This stratigraphy was not affected by the present alterations and was therefore not examined.

A study of the stratigraphy within trench 1 suggests that the deposits in the south of the trench below layer [2] have been truncated; layers [3], [4], and [5] located below layer [2] appear to taper from north to south prior to terminating within the limits of the trench. This would suggest that the uppermost archaeological deposits to the north of trench 1 (i.e. those dating to the medieval and later Roman periods), probably survive more intact in this area of the site, than those to the south of the trench, although it should be stressed that further research needs to be carried out before this theory can be confirmed.

Trenches 2-12 positioned around the west elevation of the gatehouse revealed the same general stratigraphic sequence of deposits. A substantial deposit of garden soil was recorded below the modern road surface. Unfortunately no artefacts were recovered from within this material making it impossible to date securely, although, it probably equates with layers [1] and [2] in trench 1. The garden soil appeared in most of the trenches to seal the natural orangy yellow stony clay subsoil, which suggests that the archaeological horizons encountered within trench 1, do not survive within the area to the immediate west of the gatehouse.

It was possible to examine the foundations of the gatehouse in trenches 2 and 6. Trench 6 was of particular interest as it demonstrated that the gatehouse foundations were resting upon well preserved wooden piling which had been set into the natural subsoil. It would seem most likely that this piling was carried out when the gatehouse was built (1403-1413), although it is possible that it dates to a later period when the wall was underpinned, although there is no obvious evidence of such work.

Two stone culverts were recorded below the garden soil horizon. One was aligned roughly east-west and extended through trenches 3 and 4, the other was aligned roughly north-south and extended through trench 9. The culverts may connect with one another. Their precise date remains uncertain, although they probably date to the later medieval or post-medieval periods.

---

## 6.RECOMMENDATIONS

---

The watching brief and excavation have demonstrated that significant well stratified archaeological deposits survive intact within Lancaster Castle. These deposits date to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. This programme of archaeological work was designed to record the nature and character of the deposits directly affected by the building alterations, and in most cases these archaeological horizons were left in situ. The precise nature and depth of the archaeological stratigraphy below the base of trench 1 was not established, as this stratigraphy was not affected by the alterations, although any future ground works within the Castle should also take this stratigraphy into consideration.

A large proportion of the archaeological stratigraphy relating to the medieval and Roman occupation of Lancaster has been truncated and destroyed by later development; and only limited areas of intact archaeological stratigraphy survive within the city, for example Mitchell's Brewery, and the area around Vicarage Fields. The deposits identified by the watching brief and excavation within the Castle are thus very significant, and may contribute significantly to our understanding of both the Roman and medieval townscape.

As a first option it is recommended that the significant archaeological deposits should be preserved in-situ. However, should any future developments be undertaken within the Castle involving ground intervention, it is strongly recommended that these works should incorporate a structured programme of archaeological work, which has been approved by the County Archaeological Curator, its purpose to record the character and extent of any affected archaeological deposits.

---

## 7.BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

Champness, J, 1993 *Lancaster Castle, A Brief History*

English Heritage, 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd edition)

Jones, G D B, Shotter, D C A, 1988 *Roman Lancaster, Rescue Archaeology in an Historic City 1970-75*

Newman, R, Howard-Davis, C, Hair, N J, 1995, *Mitchell's Brewery Lancaster: Assessment Report*, unpubl

Penny, S H, 1981 *Lancaster: The Evolution of its Townscape to 1800*

Shotter, D, 1984 *Roman North-West England*

## ILLUSTRATIONS

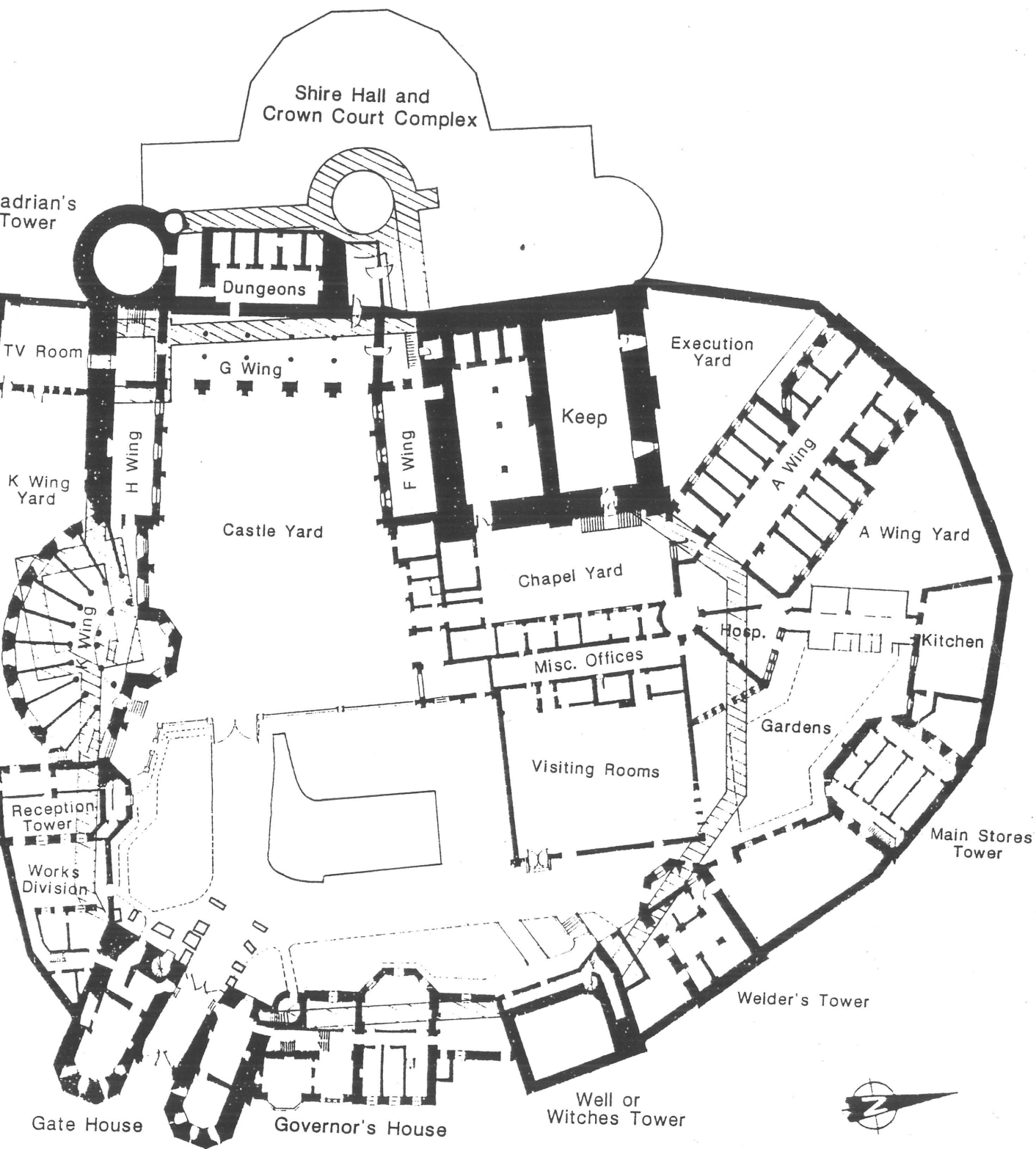
---

Figure 1-Site Location Plan


Figure 2-Trench Location Plan

Figure 3-Trench 1 Plan





# LANCASTER CASTLE : The Medieval and Later Period

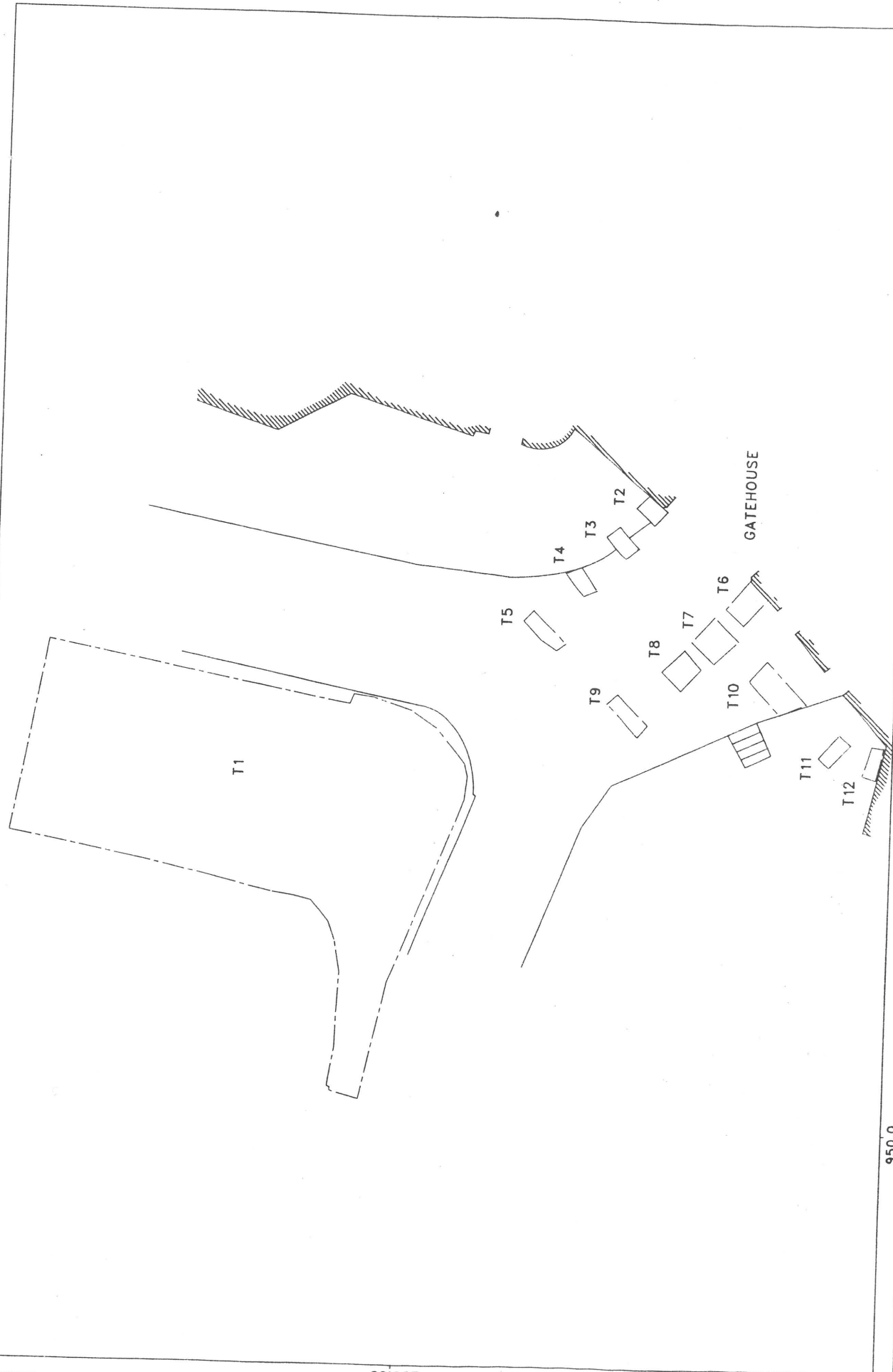
 Known Medieval fabric removed in late 18th/early 19th centuries.

 Extant Medieval and later fabric.

 Trench location

The position and layout of the first earth and timber castle is unknown.

Fig.1 Site location plan



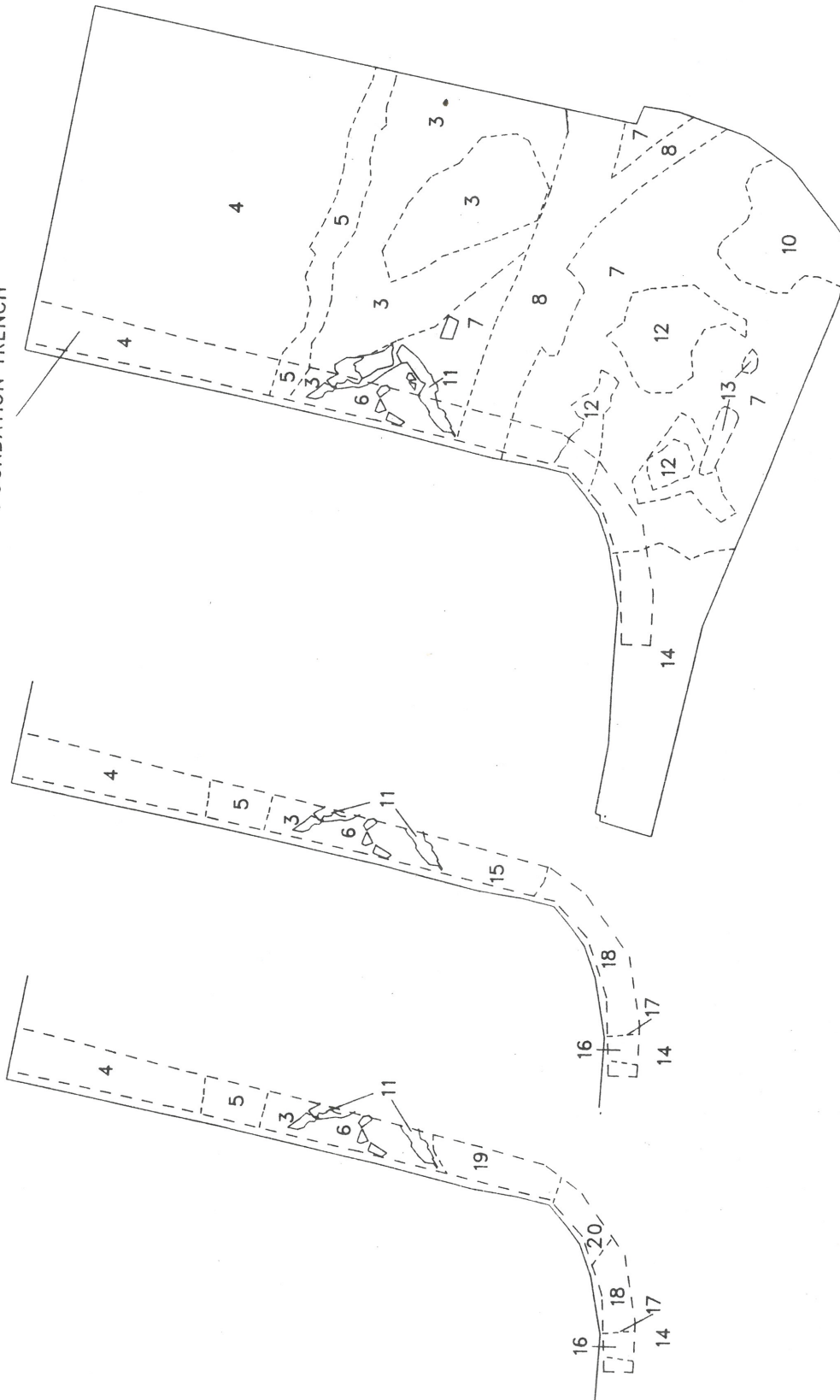
LANCASTER CASTLE EXCAVATION AND WATCHING BRIEF		PLAN NAME TRENCH LOCATION PLAN		975.00		
		Fig.2		CAD PRODUCTION		MCK
				DATE		08:95
				3.0mm		
LANCASTER UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT						SHEET NO.

250.00

BASE OF FOUNDATION  
TRENCH

FOUNDATION TRENCH  
PARTIALLY EXCAVATED

POSITION OF  
FOUNDATION TRENCH



940.00

LANCASTER CASTLE  
EXCAVATION AND WATCHING BRIEF

PLAN NAME

TRENCH 1

Fig.3

960.00



CAD PRODUCTION

MCK

DATE

80:95

SCALE 1:100

SHEET NO.

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

# Lancaster Castle Gatehouse

Lancashire

---

## Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation

Checked by Project Manager.	
.....	Date
Passed for submission to client.	
.....	Date

© Lancaster University Archaeological Unit  
Storey Institute  
Meeting House Lane  
Lancaster  
LA1 1TH

August 1995