

WESTERN QUAYSIDE DEVELOPMENT, HAVERFORDWEST, PEMBROKESHIRE

TECHNICAL NOTE: INTERIM REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Atkins



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

By

Philip Poucher



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PEMBROKESHIRE:**

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INVESTIGATIONS**

Client	Atkins
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Event Record No 125650

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Fieldwork Undertaken By DAT-AS

Illustrated By	Hubert Wilson & Philip Poucher
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Report Approved By Fran Murphy

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Western Quayside, Haverfordwest: Archaeological Excavations and Investigations

Interim Report – Summary of findings

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In 2022 Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Archaeological Services (DAT-AS), were commissioned by Pembrokeshire County Council to undertake a full archaeological excavation in advance of groundworks associated with the Western Quayside Development, Haverfordwest (centred on SM 95478 15763, Figure 1).
- 1.2 Planning permission had been gained for the redevelopment of the former Ocky Whites department store on Bridge Street, Haverfordwest, with a variety of Conditions attached, including archaeological mitigation. During the course of initial below-ground investigations associated with the Phase 1 development significant archaeological features were uncovered, which required full archaeological excavation prior to development works.
- 1.3 The site was known to lie in an archaeologically sensitive area although the exact details of the archaeological resource were unknown. Haverfordwest has medieval origins, with a castle and town founded in the early 12th century. The castle stands on a promontory to the west of the site, overlooking Bridge Street. Prior to the current works it was thought that the medieval town developed first to the north and west of the castle, and then to the south. Some riverside activity was likely, although the location and extent of such activity was unclear. In the mid-13th century a Dominican friary, known as St Saviours, was established in the town, although the known records suggested the focus of that site may have been towards the southern end of Bridge Street. A paucity of archaeological investigations within Haverfordwest meant the medieval development of Bridge Street was little understood, it had been thought to have remained relatively undeveloped until the 15th century. By the 18th century the site had clearly become built up, the exact form of which was unclear, but likely with a mix of mercantile, industrial and domestic activity along the riverside. By the late 18th century an iron foundry, known as the Marychurch Foundry, had been established on part of the site, fronting the riverside. This continued in use until the early 20th century. In the early 20th century 'Ocky' White took over the Bridge Street premises and established a department store. This store closed in the early 21st century.
- 1.4 During the initial stages of development, a series of geotechnical investigations were carried out within and to the rear of the building, undertaken under archaeological watching brief conditions. Human remains were encountered within some of the geotechnical test pits and core samples. A trenched archaeological evaluation was subsequently undertaken on the site, which revealed intact features relating to the 19th century iron foundry and earlier post-medieval activity, along with confirmation of underlying burial deposits that were thought to relate to a medieval cemetery. As a result, a full-scale archaeological excavation was required in order to preserve the archaeological remains through record and allow development to continue.
- 1.5 The development area was subdivided into a series of Zones, see Figure 2. The geotechnical investigations and archaeological evaluation suggested archaeological remains were likely to be spread throughout Zones A1, A2 and A3. Zone B was found to contain asbestos within the buried material and was therefore unsuitable for archaeological excavation, although this area was excavated by appropriate

specialists to remove the asbestos-contaminated material. The archaeological potential of Zone C appeared more limited.

- 1.6 Consequently, the excavation covered an area of some 2521m² across Zones A1, A2 and A3 (Figure 3). Health and safety requirements ensured some restrictions to the excavated area, with the sides stepped in and subsequently shored to avoid destabilising adjacent walls.
- 1.7 Archaeological excavations on the site concluded in September/October 2022, and post-excavation analysis and interpretation is ongoing and being undertaken by DAT-AS along with a variety of external specialists.

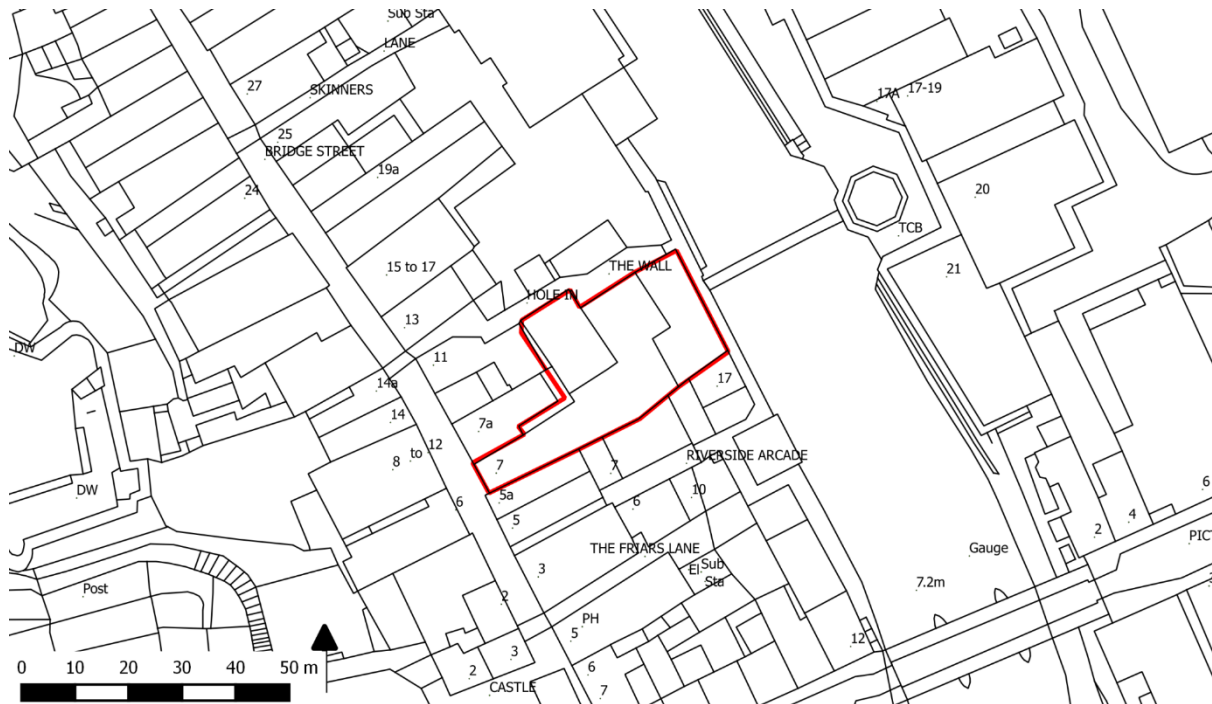


Figure 1: Location map showing the location of the initial development area outlined in red.

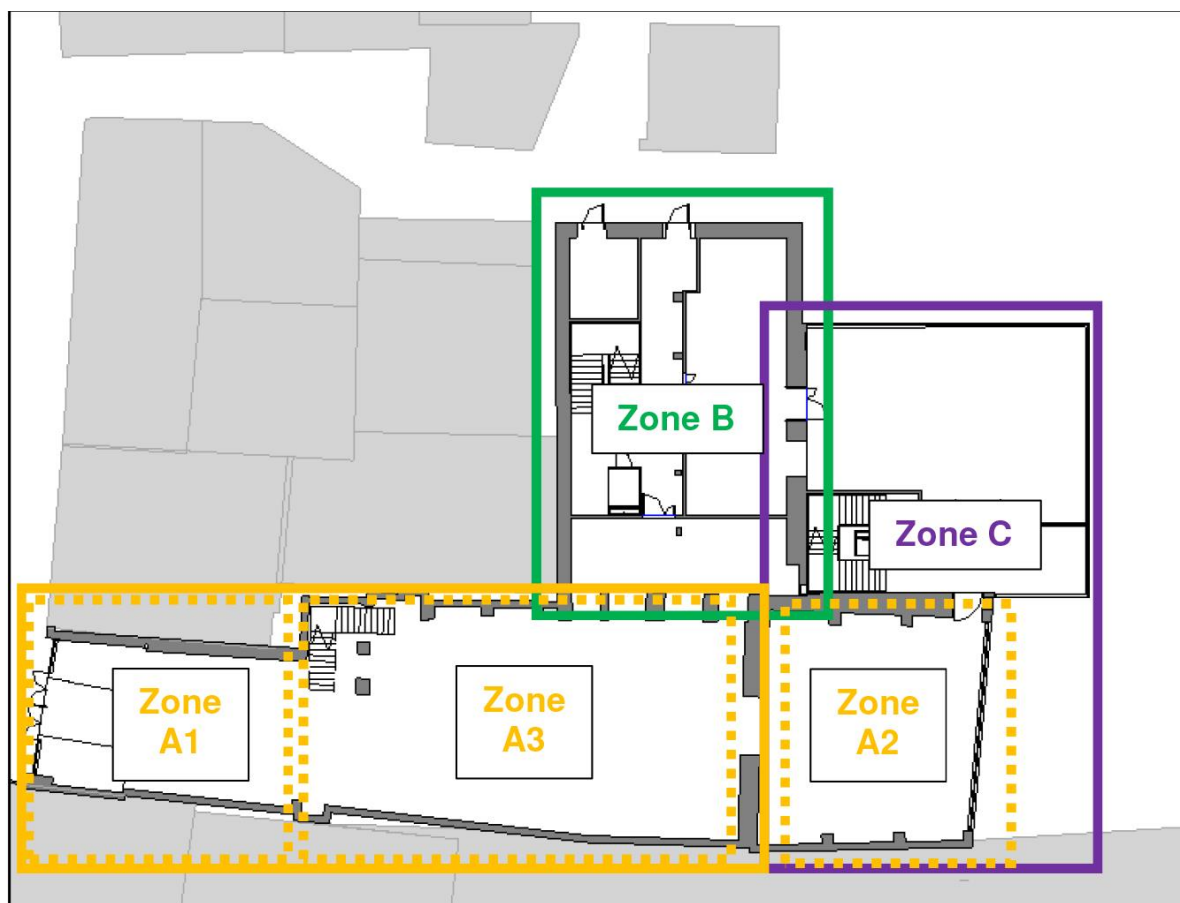


Figure 2: Plan of the former Ocky Whites structure, subdivided into the various Zones referenced throughout the text.

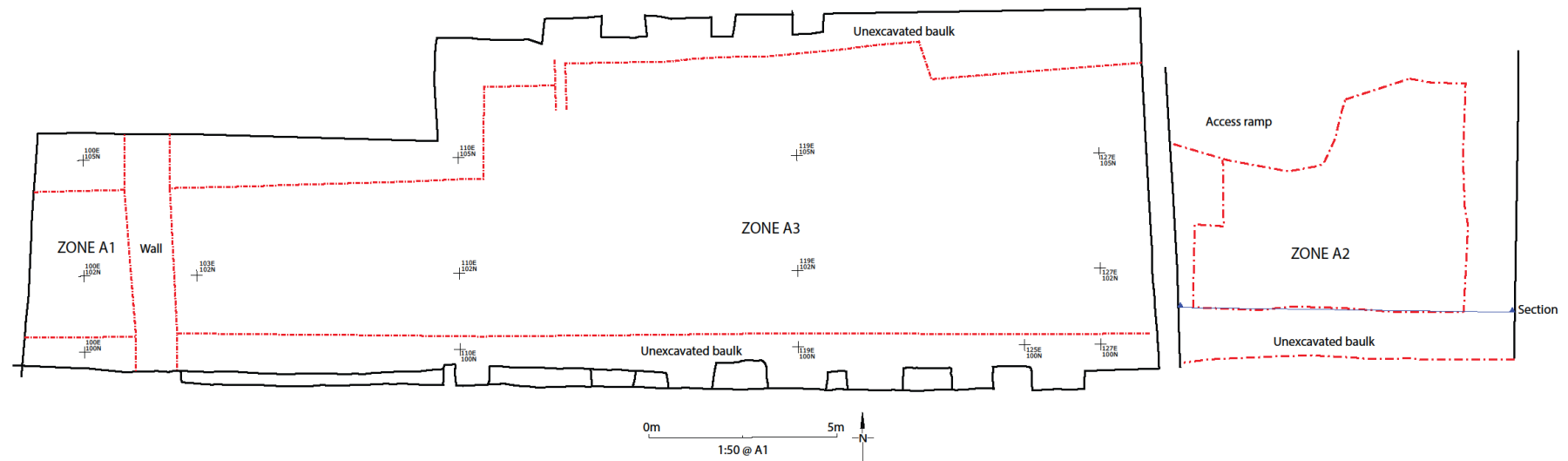


Figure 3: Plan of the main area of excavation (in red) within the footprint of the existing building. Not reproduced to scale, fully scaled plan provided separately.

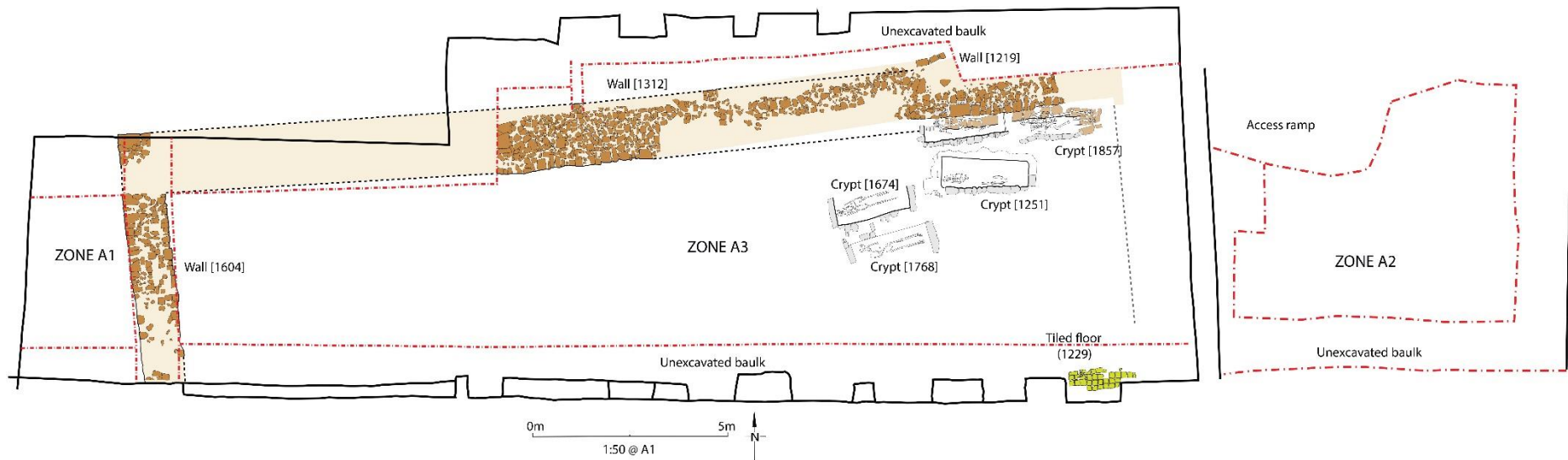


Figure 4: Outline of the early structure, possibly representing an early friary church, with internal crypts to the east. Not reproduced to scale, fully scaled plan provided separately.

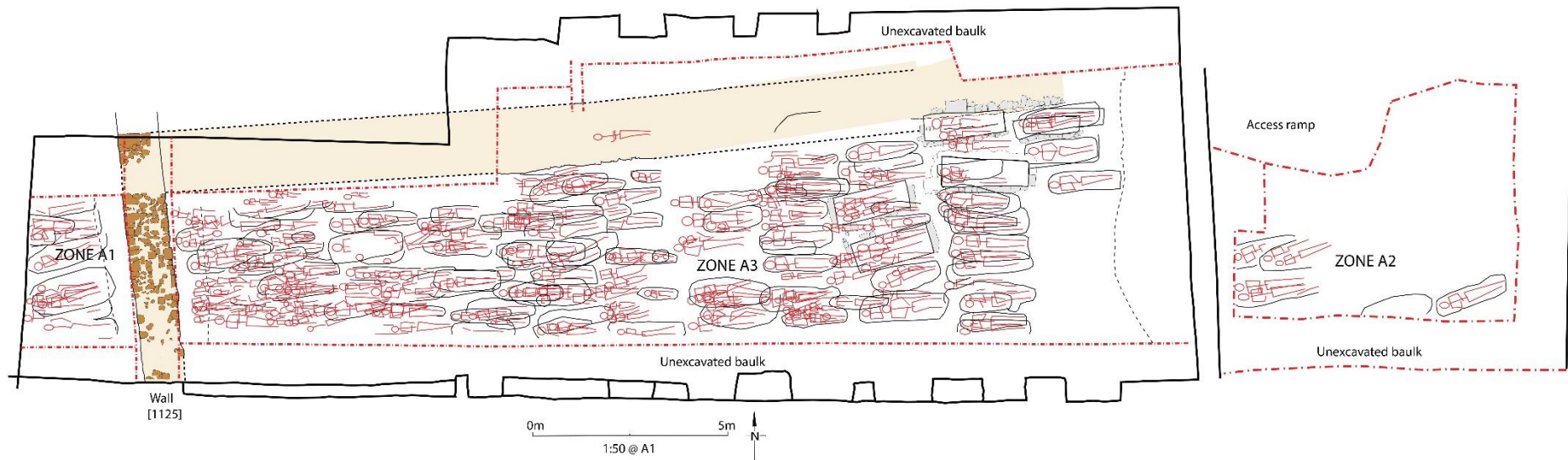


Figure 5: Plan showing excavated burials and grave cuts. Not reproduced to scale, fully scaled plan provided separately.

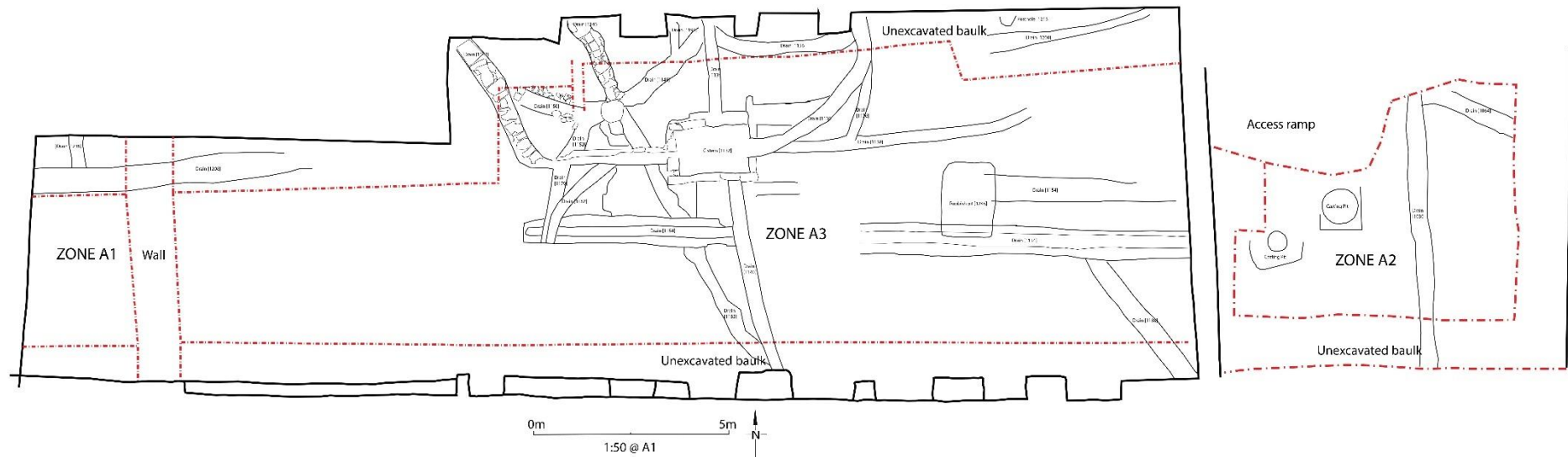


Figure 6: Plan showing some of the initial archaeological remains to be revealed across the site. Not reproduced to scale, fully scaled plan provided separately.

2. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- 2.1 The following is a summary of the initial findings from the archaeological excavation, along with information from other investigations in the area including the geotechnical test pit investigations. The following section details the main features and deposits of archaeological interest and the levels at which they were first encountered.
- 2.2 The results of the archaeological excavation are laid out first, followed by the results of the geotechnical test pitting that lay outside the area of excavation. The results of the test pits that were ultimately located within the footprint of the main excavation area are not included, neither are the results from the trenched archaeological evaluation, as these findings were superseded by those of the full-scale excavation.
- 2.3 These findings are preliminary only, analysis of the excavated material, including human remains, artefacts and environmental analysis is still ongoing, and a full detailed report on these findings will be produced in due course. Therefore, any interpretations of the archaeological material presented below should be viewed as a preliminary assessment only with a minimal of interpretation, and subject to change.
- 2.4 The results are presented in order of deposition, detailing the earliest levels first. Numbers in brackets refer to context numbers, used to identified individual deposits and features recorded during the work.

Natural Superficial Geology

- 2.5 The removal of the archaeological material revealed the natural superficial geology across much of the site. This varied and undulated across the site, and alternated between gravels, shales and mixed clays. The variations likely resulted from the alluvial deposition of material from the river to the east, with the undulation likely to be a result of subsequent activity across the site.
- 2.6 At the western end of the site (Zone A1) the natural superficial geology comprised alternating bands of green-grey to light brown gritty shales (1446), encountered at roughly 3.9m to 4.0mOD, approximately 1.5m below pre-existing ground levels.
- 2.7 Further eastwards (Zone A3) the superficial geology changed to beds of blackish-brown sub-angular shales, encountered at between 3.4mOD to 3.65mOD, approximately 1.9m below pre-existing ground levels.
- 2.8 Towards the east end of the excavated area (Zone A2) the superficial geology changed to light yellowish beds of mixed clays and gravels (1093), encountered at between 3.6mOD to 3.8mOD, approximately 1.6m below pre-existing ground levels.
- 2.9 No solid geology was encountered throughout the excavation.

Earliest archaeological deposits – 12th to early 13th century

- 2.10 Throughout Zones A1 and A3 several features were revealed that appeared to predate deposits that could be related to the subsequent friary, historically associated with the 1240s. These earlier features comprised domestic refuge pits and hearths, and overlay, or were cut directly into the underlying natural superficial geology. Some contained medieval pottery, which given the known history of Haverfordwest would suggest the features date from the 12th to early 13th centuries, but close dating of the artefacts and deposits is awaited. It is suggested

that such features may relate to burgrave plots (property subdivisions) which existed in the Bridge Street area prior to the foundation of the friary.

2.11 Features from this period include;

Pit [1826], containing pottery and truncated by a later crypt;

Pit [1784], containing pottery and truncated by a later grave;

Pit [1632], covered by cemetery soils;

Pit [1634], containing pottery and covered by cemetery soils;

Interconnecting pits [1712] & [1714], containing some animal bone, daub and pottery.

Hearth [1629], containing pottery, fragments of hearth lining, and truncated by a later grave;

Hearth [1561], containing fragments of hearth lining;

Posthole [1636], covered by cemetery soils;

Charcoal spread (1607), containing animal bone, nails, pottery and daub, truncated by later graves;

Initial Friary activity – early 13th century (Figure 4)

- 2.12 A stone built, lime mortar, wall [1219] and [1312], 1.6m wide, ran along the northern edge of the site. Close to the interface between Zone A3 and Zone A2 was a right-angled return to the south, although the full extent of this return appears to have been lost to subsequent activity. The western end of the northern wall was not revealed as it ran partly underneath the unexcavated baulk and partly under existing structures, but it is assumed to meet a substantial stone wall [1604] at the western end of the site, in Zone A1, potentially therefore representing another right-angled return to the south. In the southeast corner of Zone A3 a small section of tiled floor (1229) was recorded, comprising medieval tiles set in a mortar bedding (Photo 1). This small fragment was recorded at a relatively high level (*circa* 4.7mOD), roughly at the same level as the top of the surviving walls, and would appear to represent a small pocket of surviving floor level, the rest presumably removed with subsequent cemetery activity. Further tile fragments were a frequent discovery in the disturbed ground across the cemetery. Together this would suggest a substantial stone-built building, on an ENE-WSW alignment.
- 2.13 Given the known history of the site, and the approximate dating of both underlying and overlying features and deposits, it is likely this structure is part of the initial establishment of the St Saviours Friary, a Dominican friary established in the early to mid-13th century. Such a building may in fact represent the initial church forming the focal point of the friary. The friary was established in Haverfordwest by 1245, and in 1256 they were granted additional money to find a more convenient location. It is possible this church may date to the initial establishment by 1245, which was then abandoned when a new church was built after the 1256 grant. Alternatively, it may have been part of the new establishment following that grant, but it was subsequently abandoned, although this has not been historically recorded. The close dating of artefacts and environmental deposits recovered from the site should provide a more precise timeline in due course.
- 2.14 Within the confines of the structure several stone-built crypts were revealed (Photos 2 and 3). These contained burials, but appeared to respect the boundaries of the structure, and were truncated by subsequent graves, suggesting they may have been some of the initial burials on the site, and may have lain underneath the floor of the church.



Photo 1: *Fragment of medieval tiled floor. 1m scale.*

2.15 The crypts comprise:

Crypt [1673], heavily truncated with no associated burial remains recovered;

Crypt [1674], internally rendered, contained one burial;

Crypt [1768], internally rendered, contained one burial;

Crypt [1251], contained one burial, partly disturbs an earlier crypt;

Crypt [1937], built against north wall, no render, no associated burial remains, potentially removed.

Crypt [1312], built against the north wall, no render, contained one burial;

Crypt [1857], built against the corner wall, contained one burial with lead object, suggesting a significant burial.



Photo 2: *Crypt [1857], with skeleton holding a lead container. 1m scale.*



Photo 3: West facing shot of east end of Zone A3 showing some of the numerous burials under excavation. 1m scale.

St Saviours Friary Cloister – late 13th century.

- 2.16 The west wall of what has initially been interpreted as the early friary church appears to have been reused as the base for a substantial masonry wall [1125] (Photo 4) that continued in use when the rest of the church appears to have been demolished and levelled. Service works undertaken along the Hole in the Wall Lane to the north revealed the masonry remains of a buried wall, constructed in the same style, and on the same alignment. This would suggest the wall continues for at least another 25m to the NNW.
- 2.17 This wall survived quite high in the sequence of deposits, encountered initially at between 4.6mOD and 5.14mOD, which was just below the modern surface deposits in this area. The was also true for the section revealed in the service trench, visible just below the modern surface deposits of the lane.
- 2.18 An initial working hypothesis suggests this may have formed part of an enlarged friary complex post-dating the 1256 grant and may relate to a cloistral range of buildings that may have been built to the northwest of a new church.



Photo 4: The medieval wall [1125] at the western end of the site, showing possible different phases of use, including the initial church and subsequent possible cloister. 1m scale.

St Saviours Friary Cemetery - 13th-15th century (Figure 5)

- 2.19 During the course of the excavation a total of 309 burials were revealed across the excavation area, these burials were found in three broadly visible layers.
- 2.20 The earliest layer comprised graves that had been cut down into the underlying superficial geological layers. The remaining two layers were contained within well-mixed dark brown cemetery soils. The majority of the burials had been buried in shrouds, with a small number of casket burials, and represented a mixed population of adult and juvenile burials. Those to the west of the possible cloister wall [1125], at the western end of the site (within Zone A1), appeared to be all adult burials, predominantly within caskets, possibly denoting a special status. If this does represent part of the cloistral range, then these burials may represent resident monks.
- 2.21 The burials lying east of wall [1125] were broadly laid out in rows, suggesting an organised cemetery (Photo 5). Some graves contained multiple burials, of differing ages, possibly representing family burials. All burials were orientated east – west, as would be expected in a Christian burial site, with some slight variations in alignment, and clear intercutting of graves, suggesting a popular cemetery in use over some time. Other than shroud pins and coffin fastenings, artefacts are rare from such burials. However, artefacts from the surrounding soils indicate this is a medieval cemetery, the historical context clearly suggesting the cemetery was part of the St Saviours Friary complex. Age, sex and other pathological details regarding the burials is currently awaited from osteological specialists at Cardiff University.

- 2.22 No definitive boundary to the cemetery was revealed. As stated, there was a change in burials to the west of wall [1125] in Zone A1, but they clearly continued beyond the western boundary of the site. It would appear likely the burials also continued beyond the southern boundary. Cemeteries often extend to the south of the associated church, and old newspaper reports confirm that at least one articulated skeleton has been found during previous development works on a neighbouring property. At least one burial was recorded cutting into the north wall of the former church, and a grave cut and cemetery soils extended across it, indicating the wall had been removed and burials continued northward. Excavations in Zone B could not be closely archaeologically monitored, but some human bones were recovered from these excavations, although they did not appear to be from articulated skeletons and may therefore have come from disturbed cemetery deposits.
- 2.23 There was a thinning out of burials to the east, with distinctly fewer within Zone A2, which likely lay to the east of the primary church, which may be an indicator that the cemetery boundary is close by, or that the ground was becoming unsuitable for burial in this area due to the proximity of the river.
- 2.24 The highest skeletal remains began to appear at around 4.25mOD, but generally they began to appear at a relatively consistent height of around 4.0mOD across all areas, although intact cemetery soils overlie the skeletal remains.



Photo 5: *Overlying and intercutting burials at west end of Zone A3.*

Demolition layers - post 1538 Dissolution

- 2.25 The cemetery deposits were overlaid by a layer of demolition material recorded in all Zones, although more prevalent in Zones A1 and A3. Numerous overlying and intermixed layers were identified at this level, characterised by high concentrations of stone, mortar and slate, the latter presumably roofing material. Some layers contained elements of worked stonework, including a decorated carved stone capital and part of a window surround, along with medieval pottery, animal bone and broken medieval floor tiles.
- 2.26 These demolition layers comprised deposits (1160), (1223), (1252), (1204), (1234), (1265), (1217), (1247).
- 2.27 The friary came to end with the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538, and it is assumed therefore that these demolition deposits represent the collapse and/or demolition of a friary structure at some point after this date. This may not necessarily have been an immediate occurrence. The cemetery may have continued in use until the early 17th century, suggested by historical research into the Catholic cemeteries of Haverfordwest. Remains of the friary structures had gone by the early 18th century, as evidenced in historical written and pictorial sources.

Site redevelopment - 17th – 18th century

- 2.28 Several features have been identified overlying, or cutting into the post-friary demolition deposits, but underlying 19th century activity. These include rubbish pits, a midden, a substantial stone-lined drain, and some building remains.
- 2.29 The earliest of these features comprised a midden [1161] containing a large amount of cattle bone and horn, and two large pits [1933] & [1245].
- 2.30 A large stone-lined drain [1208] was revealed running from the Bridge Street frontage towards the river. A second smaller stone-lined drain [1185] discharged into drain [1208] from the south, via an inserted chamber [1144].
- 2.31 A series of smaller, and presumably slightly later stone-built drains [1146], [1148], [1150], [1152] and [1194], also discharged into the main drain [1208] via the discharge chamber. Although many were subsequently re-used by 19th century industrial activity, it is thought that many of these drains may have originated as domestic drainage features.
- 2.32 Within Zone A2 the west and north walls of a masonry building were revealed, walls [1104] and [1005]. These walls appeared to depict a building visible on 19th century illustrations, but as an earlier structure re-used as part of a foundry complex in the 19th century. The remains of a mortar floor (1011) is thought to relate to this building, heavily truncated by later 19th century industrial activity.
- 2.33 Given the date of underlying and overlying deposits, these features are assumed to broadly date to the 17th and 18th centuries. Many of the features are thought to be domestic in appearance, although it is clear from contemporary depictions that this area was intensely developed with commercial and industrial structures as well during this period.

Marychurch Foundry - late 18th century – early 20th century (Figure 6)

- 2.34 Historical records have indicated that much of the riverfront area was occupied by an iron foundry, known as the Marychurch Foundry for much of its operating life. The foundry was reputedly founded in the mid-18th century, although this is a relatively early date for such a site. It does appear to have operated throughout much of the 19th century however and continued into the early 20th century.

- 2.35 As well as utilising many of the pre-existing drains on the site, a series of brick-lined drains were built across Zone A3. The drains were largely open, but some iron plate capping survived. The brick and iron indicated these were likely to be 19th century in date, and they appear to have been collecting rainwater from the surrounding roofs, possibly as fresh, non-saline water for use in the iron casting process. The drains comprised contexts [1142], [1134], [1138], [1140], [1176], [1179] and [1182]. A large stone-built cistern [1132] was built towards the northern end of Zone A3, as part of this water collection system (Photo 6). A large stone-lined drain [1154] was built through the centre of the site, capped with slates, running towards the river. The culvert was fed by iron pipes along its length, but in places appeared to pre-date some of the brick-built drains.
- 2.36 Close to the cistern fragmentary remains of floor surfaces (1198) and (1197) were revealed, comprising simple compacted mortar and earth surfaces.
- 2.37 A large and irregular hollow [1006] covered much of Zone A2. It is assumed that this hollow may represent a series of casting pits cut into the ground during the operating life of the foundry (Photo 7). A number of individual casting pits were revealed [1027], [1028], [1039] and [1044] in this area, with an outlying pit in Zone A3 [1224].
- 2.38 These features became apparent at differing levels throughout the site, from around 3.8mOD up to approximately 5.1mOD. At the east end of the site, within Zone A2 these features were generally apparent at around 4.3mOD. Across much of the central area of the site within Zone A3 these features were generally apparent at around 4.8m to 5mOD. Towards the western end of Zone A3 the features appeared somewhat deeper, at around 3.8mOD, possibly as this area may have lain outside the iron foundry and relate to different activity focused on the Bridge Street frontage.



Photo 6: View southwest of cistern [1132], and remains of mortar floor [1198] to the southeast. 1x 1m scale.



Photo 7: View south across Zone A2 as the casting pits of the iron foundry became apparent. 1m scale.



Photo 8: View west across Zone A3 as the initial archaeological layers became apparent.

Modern activity - 20th century

- 2.39 Within the area of the former iron foundry the working levels of the foundry were overlaid by thick deposits of black sandy clays and gritty layers, varying in depth from between 0.2m to 1m thick (Photo 7). These are considered to be foundry waste deposits. Iron objects from within this material included remnants of failed castings and iron plugs from the casting moulds. The failed castings included an inspection chamber rim, a pressure release valve, a steam belt drive wheel and an iron train carriage wheel.
- 2.40 These deposits, and the remainder of the site, were overlaid by a series of modern demolition and levelling deposits, and ultimately reinforced concrete floors. It is assumed that these deposits relate to the initial redevelopment of the Ocky White's department store from the early 20th century onward, including more recent expansion of the store in the 1960s and 1970s. These deposits varied in depth between 0.20m and 0.40m deep.

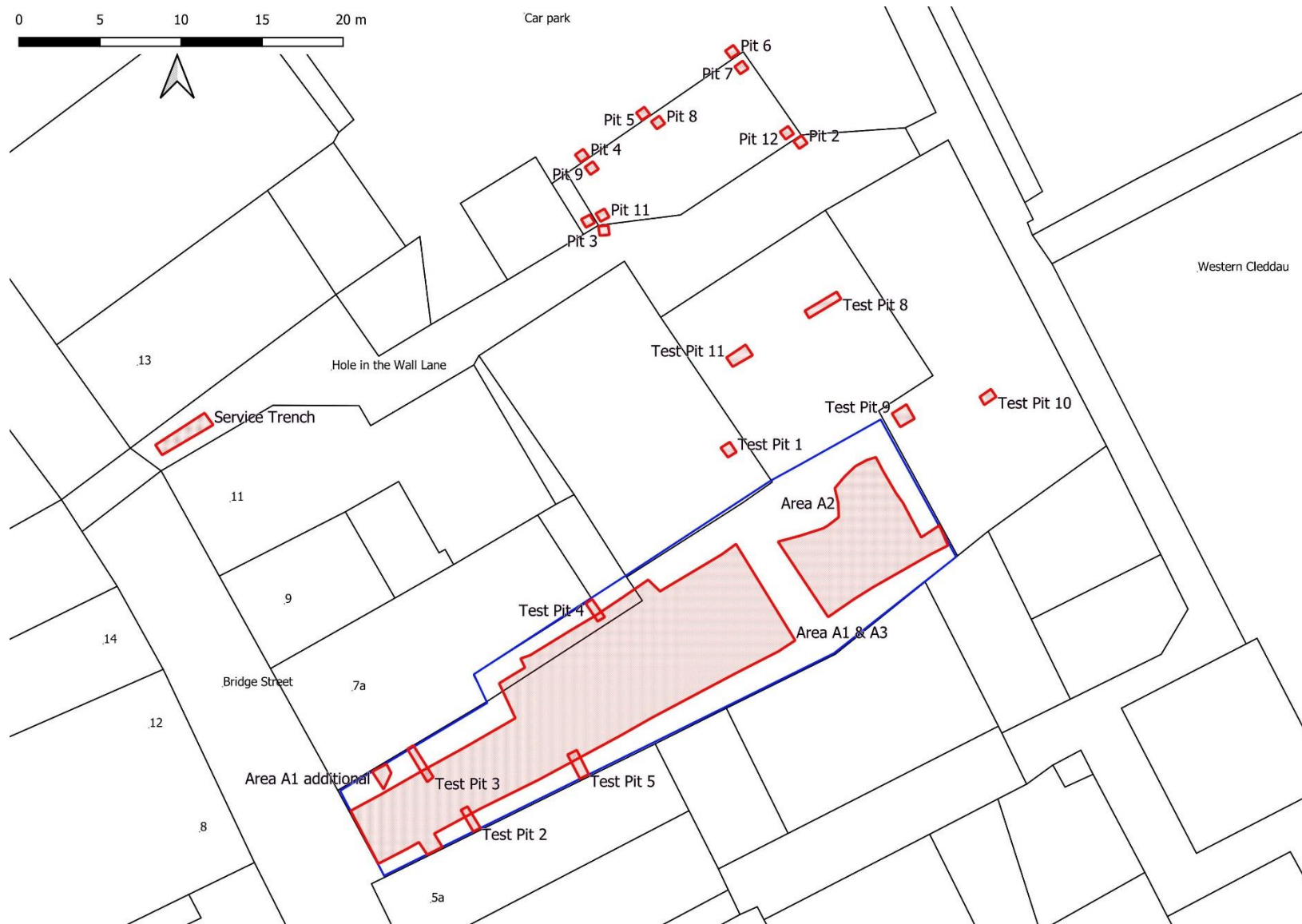


Figure 7: Plan showing the locations of the archaeological investigations described throughout.

3 ADDITIONAL EXCAVATIONS

- 3.1 The archaeological excavation was preceded by an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical investigations within and around the former building, and an archaeological trenched evaluation within Zone A3 and A2. The archaeological evaluation and many of the geotechnical investigations were undertaken within the footprint of the subsequent excavation with the results superseded by those of the excavation. Several geotechnical investigations were however undertaken outside the excavated area, and these are illustrated in Figure 7 and described below (as 'Test Pits').

Test Pit 1 (Photo 9)

- 3.2 This small test pit was excavated against the internal face of the northeast wall within Zone B. Due to the subsequent discovery of asbestos this area was not archaeologically excavated, but material from Zone B was removed by disposal specialists.
- 3.3 The test pit was excavated to a depth of 0.8m, to a foundation step for the adjacent wall which was encountered at a depth of 0.6m. This was overlaid by a modern dark grey mortar rubble backfill of little archaeological interest. Archaeological layers were not reached within this test pit.



Photo 9: View northwest of Test Pit 1. 1 x 1 m scale

Test Pit 2 (Photo 10)

- 3.4 Located against the inner face of the south wall of the former Ocky White building, which places it within the unexcavated baulk adjacent to excavation Zone A3. The pit was excavated to a depth of 1.4m.
- 3.5 The lower 1.05m comprised a mid to dark gritty silt, with frequent mortar inclusions, and some stone. It is unclear what this layer relates to and may represent a mix of post-medieval demolition material and cemetery soils.
- 3.6 This was overlaid by an upper 0.35m of dark brown gritty clay, containing 19th century pottery and other waste, possibly relating to more recent 20th century levelling deposits.



Photo 10: View northwest of Test Pit 2. 1 x 2 m scale

Test Pit 3 (Photo 11)

- 3.7 This was located against the inner face of the opposing wall to Test Pit 2, therefore also in the unexcavated baulk adjacent to Zone A3. The pit was excavated to a depth of 1.2m.
- 3.8 The lower 1m of deposits comprised what appeared to be a thick deposit of solidified mortar. This was initially considered to be a potential foundation deposit for the adjacent wall, but subsequent to the excavation it may be related to the possibly friary church wall which is projected to run through this area.
- 3.9 The upper 0.2m comprised a mixed black-brown silty grit with fragments of brick, mortar and stonework, potentially a demolition deposit, or disturbed material from the underlying wall.



Photo 11: View northwest of Test Pit 3. 1 x 2 m scale

Test Pit 4 (Photo 12)

- 3.10 This pit was also placed on the inner face of the north wall, further to the east of Test Pit 3, and also in the unexcavated baulk on the northern side of excavation Zone A3. This area lay to the north of the possible friary church wall. The pit was excavated to a depth of 1.28m.
- 3.11 The lower 0.7m of the pit comprises a mid to dark brown clay, with occasional flecks of mortar and charcoal. This was overlain by 0.2m of light brown-grey mortar with the occasional stone. The date and significance of these deposits is unclear, but they could represent *in situ* archaeological levels.
- 3.12 The upper 0.4m comprised a mixed dark grey gritty silt, likely to be relatively modern in date.



Photo 12: View north of Test Pit 4. 1 x 2 m scale

Test Pit 5 (Photo 13)

- 3.13 As with Test Pit 2 this pit was dug against the south wall within Zone A2, into what was subsequently the unexcavated baulk along the southern side. The pit was excavated to a depth of 1.73m.
- 3.14 The lower *circa* 1.2m comprised a light brownish-grey silty-clay which contained disarticulated human bones. This deposit was first encountered at a depth of 0.5m, and further bone, potentially part of *in situ* burials, were visible in the section at a depth of 0.65m. This deposit would appear to represent medieval cemetery soils, indicating (as suspected from the excavation results) that the cemetery burials continue under the current property to the south.
- 3.15 This deposit was overlaid by 0.5m of black-grey grit with coal fragments, likely related to the waste foundry deposits, and of limited archaeological interest.



Photo 13: View southeast of Test Pit 5. 1 x 2 m scale

Test Pit 8 (Photo 14)

- 3.16 This test pit was excavated in the main room of Zone C, an area outside the subsequent excavation. The test pit was excavated to a depth of 2m.
- 3.17 The lower 1.4m of the test pit comprised a thick deposit of black-red foundry waste, containing loose fragments of red brick, metal slag and coal. This likely represents a 19th to early 20th century deposit of waste material from the former iron foundry, as indicated by the material within it. It is possible, given the depth of this deposit and the fact that it could not be examined closely, that *in situ* foundry levels survive within it, but no evidence of pre-foundry (i.e. pre-19th century) deposits were revealed.
- 3.18 This was overlaid by 0.4m of modern hardcore, with a 0.18m thick reinforced concrete floor on top, of no archaeological interest.

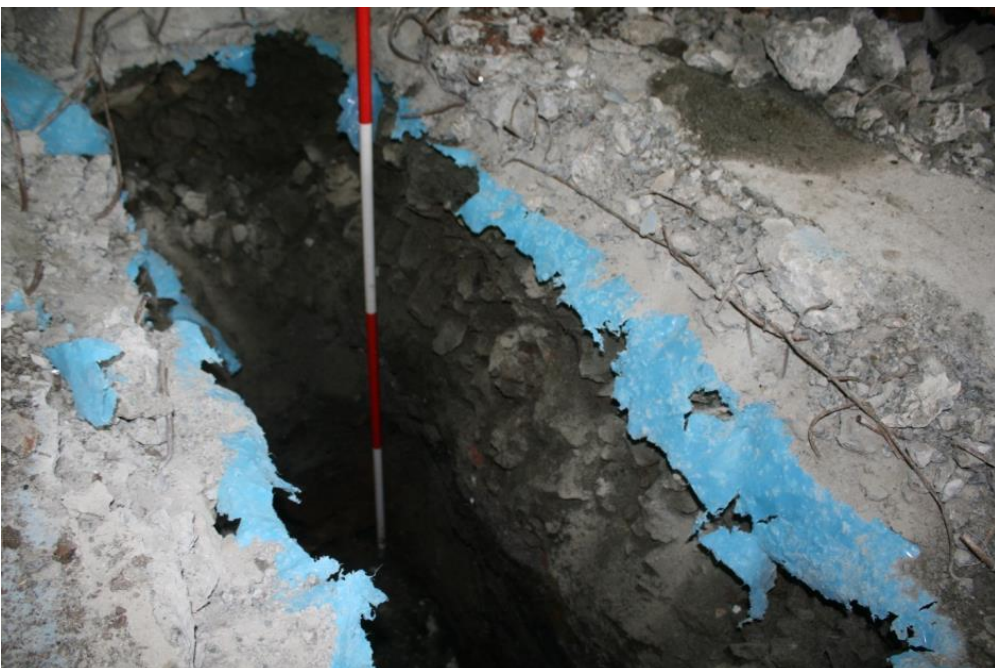


Photo 14: View northwest of Test Pit 8. 1 x 2m scale.

Test Pit 9 (Photo 15)

- 3.19 This pit was located in the exterior patio area. It was excavated to a depth of approximately 1m, through a reinforced concrete floor. The potential presence of asbestos within the underlying material prevented further excavation or recording.



Photo 15: View southwest of Test Pit 9.

Test Pit 10 (Photo 16)

- 3.20 This test pit was located further out into the external patio area. It was excavated to a depth of 0.93m.
- 3.21 Underlying the 0.17m reinforced concrete floor was a consistent deposit of black-grey foundry waste, including brick and coal fragments. This deposit is associated with the 19th century iron foundry, possibly deposited when the site was no longer in use (i.e. the 20th century). There was no indication in this deposit of *in situ* foundry levels.



Photo 16: View southwest of Test Pit 10. 1 x 1m scale.

Test Pit 11 (Photo 17)

- 3.22 As with Test Pit 8, this pit was placed within Zone C. It was excavated to a depth of 1.1m.
- 3.23 The lower 0.8m of the pit contained a stony deposit that appeared to represent modern hardcore. A modern service pipe was also revealed within this deposit. This was overlaid by a reinforced concrete floor 0.28m thick. These deposits suggest modern excavation and infill in this area to the depth of the excavated area.



Photo 17: View southwest of Test Pit 11 showing modern made up ground and modern service. 1 x 2m scale.

Service Trench

- 3.24 During the course of the excavation a utilities trench was opened up within the Hole in the Wall Lane to the north. These excavations were observed by an archaeologist, but the results have yet to be processed, therefore the location on Figure 7 and descriptions of these excavations are at present only approximate.
- 3.25 The excavation did reveal a mortared masonry wall running on a WSW-ENE alignment along the line of the Hole in the Wall Lane. The wall was built of lime-mortared roughly worked masonry and shared a visual similarity to the large medieval masonry wall uncovered at the western end of the excavation area (wall 1125, see section 2.14), although no artefacts were recovered in association with the structure. It is possible that this wall represents further remains of the medieval Friary complex, although clearly only a small section of walling was uncovered. These wall remains were uncovered immediately below the modern lane surface and foundation deposits.

Zone B (Photo 18)

- 3.26 Zone B was hand-excavated by specialists in the removal of asbestos-contaminated material. As such the material could not be removed under archaeological conditions or the work monitored but some general observations were noted.
- 3.27 The area was excavated by the asbestos removal team to a depth of approximately 1m below pre-existing ground levels in this area. During the course of the excavations skeletal material was recovered which was shown to the archaeologists. This largely comprised animal bone, but some human bone was present. Given the seemingly unconnected nature of the human bone that was presented it is possible that it came from disarticulated (i.e. disturbed) burial deposits, rather than in situ burials, however only general assumptions can be made.
- 3.28 The area was examined once excavation had ceased and the site had been decontaminated (Photo 18). The ground was heavily disturbed and trampled, making the identification of any archaeological features or deposits very difficult. However, no clear evidence of archaeological deposits was noted, but it is possible in situ deposits may exist at lower levels.



Photo 18: View north of Zone B after excavation.

Foundry Building Investigations

- 3.29 A series of hand-excavated test pits have recently (as of 31/03/23) been placed around the internal and external face of the surviving foundry building, in order to investigate the structure of the wall foundations. This work has been undertaken under archaeological watching brief conditions, and a report on the findings of these results will be produced in due course. The following however is a brief summary of the results from a select number of pits that help to illustrate the findings at this stage. The location of the test pits, labelled as 'Pits' to distinguish them from the

initial geotechnical investigations, are illustrated on figure 7 (please note, there is no Pit 1). All test pits measured approximately 0.5m square.

Pit 2 (Photo 19)

- 3.30 This test pit was excavated to a depth of 1.13m against the external face of the wall on the south side of the building, close to the southeast corner. The pit revealed a vertical external face to the wall to the depth of excavation. The lower 0.68m comprised an almost black ashy deposit with grey-mortar inclusions, similar to the foundry waste material revealed elsewhere on site. This was deposited against the face of the wall.
- 3.31 Overlying the probable foundry waste was a 0.16m thick sandy layer that appeared to have been a bedding layer for an overlying 0.15m thick floor of fire bricks. This in turn was overlaid with the current 0.14m thick concrete floor.



Photo 19: West facing photo showing the deposits revealed within Pit 2. The external wall face is on the right. 1m scale.

Pit 3 (Photo 20-21)

- 3.32 This test pit was excavated to a depth of 0.65m, located against the external face of the wall at the southwest end of the building. At a depth of 0.62m the pit revealed a layer of solid lime-mortared masonry which appeared to underlie the foundations of the adjacent wall. This would appear therefore to represent remains of a masonry structure pre-dating the existing foundry building, and it is possible it represents a continuation of the walling revealed in the service trench excavations along the

Hole in the Wall Lane (see section 3.24). No orientation could be ascertained, and no dating material was present, but this could potentially represent part of the medieval friary complex.

- 3.33 The current foundry building wall had a stepped foundation base at a depth of around 0.65m. Overlying the earlier masonry remains, and built up against the foundry building wall, was a mid-grey ashy rubble deposit up to 0.5m thick, with fragmentary remains of a possible brick surface at the top, set approximate 0.5m away from the foundry building wall. Above this lay 0.15m of modern concrete and tarmac.



Photo 20: West facing shot of Pit 3, showing the masonry surface at the base. 1m scale.



Photo 21: North facing shot of Pit 3, showing the masonry surface and overlying foundry building wall foundations. 1m scale.

Pit 6 (Photo 22)

- 3.34 Excavated to a depth of 1.12m on the external face of the north wall of the building. At the base of the pit the wall stepped out slightly (circa 0.08m), presumably as part of the foundation of the wall. The lower 0.3m of material comprised a black silty-clay, typical of the foundry waste material seen elsewhere on site. This had built up against the lower foundations of the wall.
- 3.35 Above this sat 0.6m of modern sub-angular stone backfill, topped by around 0.2m of sandy clay and bedding sand layers overlaid by the current paving bricks. In total the upper 0.85m comprised modern material.



Photo 22: West facing photo of Pit 6. 1m scale.

Pit 9 (Photo 23)

- 3.36 This pit was excavated to a depth of 0.8m in the interior of the building, against the face of the northern wall, and towards the western end of the building. At the base of the pit lay a mixed light grey and dark brown silty-clay, with a line of stones revealed that may represent a buried wall line. The size of the pit meant that this could not be confirmed, and a potential alignment also remains uncertain.
- 3.36 Above the potential wall line was 0.52m of dark grey ashy-rubble waste, with the occasional coal and fire brick inclusions, this was built up against the face of the foundry building wall. This was topped by a brick floor 0.16m thick, presumably a working surface for the building, with levelling deposits below. The current 0.12m thick concrete floor was laid directly over the brick surface.



Photo 23: West facing photo of Pit 9. 1m scale.

Pit 11 (Photo 24)

- 3.37 This pit was excavated to a depth of 0.9m in the interior of the building, within the southwest corner of the main room at the junction with a cross wall. At a depth of 0.67m both walls stepped out by around 0.2m to 0.25m, presumably as part of the foundations of the walls.
- 3.38 The lower 0.5m comprised a light grey mixed ash and rubble deposit, built up against the face of the wall. This was overlaid by a 0.17m thick brick floor, presumably part of a working surface within the building. A 0.11m thick modern bedding layer overlay this, topped by the current 0.13m thick concrete floor.



Photo 24: East facing photo showing the layers revealed within Pit 11. 1m scale.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF THE DEVELOPMENT AREA

- 4.1 Research and archaeological work associated with this development site has identified sites of archaeological interest that may be directly affected by proposed developments associated with the Phase 2 development (Figure 8).
- 4.2 The archaeological excavations associated with the Phase 1 development have uncovered evidence of possible burgage plot developments in the Bridge Street area of 12th to early 13th century date. This may indicate this area of Haverfordwest was more developed at an earlier date than had previously been understood. Such activity could well have extended north and eastward into the Phase 2 development area.
- 4.3 This was subsequently overlaid by remains associated with St Saviour's Friary, a Dominican friary that was located in this general area between 1256 and 1538-9 (PRN 3323). These include a possible early church, located mostly within the footprint of the Phase 1 development. This was replaced at some time, but the location of the replacement church is unclear. The probable west wall of the early church [1125] close to the Bridge Street frontage visible as a substantial masonry wall continued in use. This wall appears to extend to the north of Phase 1 development. Further, potentially associated structural remains have been uncovered under the Hole in the Wall Lane and adjacent to the remaining foundry building. An initial suggestion is that this may represent part of the cloistral range and other Friary buildings. This would suggest structural remains associated with the friary extended north of the Phase 1 development area and may therefore extend into the Phase 2 area. The west wall also survived high in the sequence of deposits in this area, with further walling and a pocket of tiled floor also surviving at relatively high levels, with the suggestion that medieval structural remains associated with the friary may also survive at high levels within the Phase 2 area. A recent test pit excavated against the southern wall of the surviving foundry building highlights the potential for earlier structural remains in this area, in this case lying 0.6m below current ground levels.
- 4.4 A substantial and well-used medieval cemetery developed within the Phase 1 area. This clearly extended both west and south but may have extended north and east into the Phase 2 area as well. No definitive cemetery boundary was revealed, although there is a suggestion that burials were beginning to thin out towards the river (to the east), and test pits also suggest thicker overlying deposits to the east of the Phase 1 area, possibly as the natural ground fell as it approached the river. This also appears to have been the case to the north, with few clear remains identified within Zone B. It is possible therefore that burials began to thin out and were overlaid with thicker deposits of subsequent overburden within the Phase 2 area, although the potential for burials to extend into this area remains.
- 4.5 Medieval remains were overlaid by demolition deposits and some features relating to the post-medieval redevelopment of the area. Written and pictorial historical sources indicate the whole Bridge Street area became an area of bustling industrial, mercantile, maritime and domestic activity by the 18th century, although the exact nature of this activity in the Phase 2 area is unclear. The excavated evidence would suggest however that associated archaeological remains of this date are likely to survive throughout the Phase 2 area.
- 4.6 Mapping and pictorial evidence indicates the southern half of the Phase 2 area encompassed the Marychurch Foundry, a late 18th to early 20th century iron foundry. In situ remains associated with these works have been uncovered, and standing remains are still present on the site. This evidence would suggest further structural remains are likely to survive within the Phase 2 area. This was overlaid

by waste material, which test pit evidence suggests increased in thickness towards the river. This waste material contains artefacts of archaeological interest, but generally would be considered a deposit of lesser interest than the intact deposits which it conceals, although recent work around the surviving foundry building suggest working floors associated with the building, largely of brick, were laid down over this waste material.

- 4.7 Lying to the north of the foundry was the site of an extensive 19th century malthouse and brewery complex, with the malthouse and outbuildings lying within the Phase 2 development boundaries (Figure 9). There are no above ground remains of this complex, the site having been redeveloped, and now largely occupied by a car park. Details of the removal of these buildings and subsequent development are not known, but as with the foundry there is the potential for below ground in situ remains to survive.
- 4.8 Following the results of all the investigations a very simplified estimation, starting at ground level, of the depths that the main phases of identified archaeology were encountered is given in Table 1 below. The depths are indicative only.
- 4.9 The excavated evidence would suggest modern development and levelling deposits, and post-foundry waste deposits, may provide a buffer to intact archaeological levels potentially in the southern half of the Phase 2 area, although the potential for medieval structural remains to protrude into these upper deposits is highlighted. Archaeological investigations within the Phase 2 area are also limited to small test pits which may not be truly indicative, and no areas to the north of the foundry site have been investigated. The east and north sections of Zone A2 area of excavation, closest to the Phase 2 development area, largely comprised later post-medieval and modern walling (Photo 25) and therefore revealed little about deposits within the Phase 2 areas, although the east section did subsequently suggest the dark post-foundry waste deposits did indeed extend for some depth below current ground levels (Photo 26).

Table 1: Simplified representation, starting at ground level, of the main archaeological phases identified, their date, and the levels at which they were encountered within the Phase 1 excavation area.

Phase	Date	Levels guide
Finished floor level with the Phase 1 development	Current	5.63mOD
Post foundry waste, demolition & levelling	20 th century	Current ground levels to approximately 5.1mOD - 4.9mOD
Marychurch iron foundry	Late 18 th – 19 th century	5.1mOD to as deep as 3.8mOD in places
Post medieval site redevelopment	17 th – 18 th century	-
Friary demolition	Mid-16 th – early 17 th century	-
Friary cemetery	13 th - 16 th century	Typically, between 4.25mOD to 4.0mOD.
Cloister wall	Mid-13 th century	5.14mOD to 4.6mOD*
Friary establishment	Early – mid 13 th century	4.7mOD* to 3.7mOD
Earliest archaeological deposits	12 th - early 13 th century	4mOD to 3.6mOD
Natural Superficial Geology	Geological	4mOD to 3.4mOD

*protrudes through subsequent deposits.

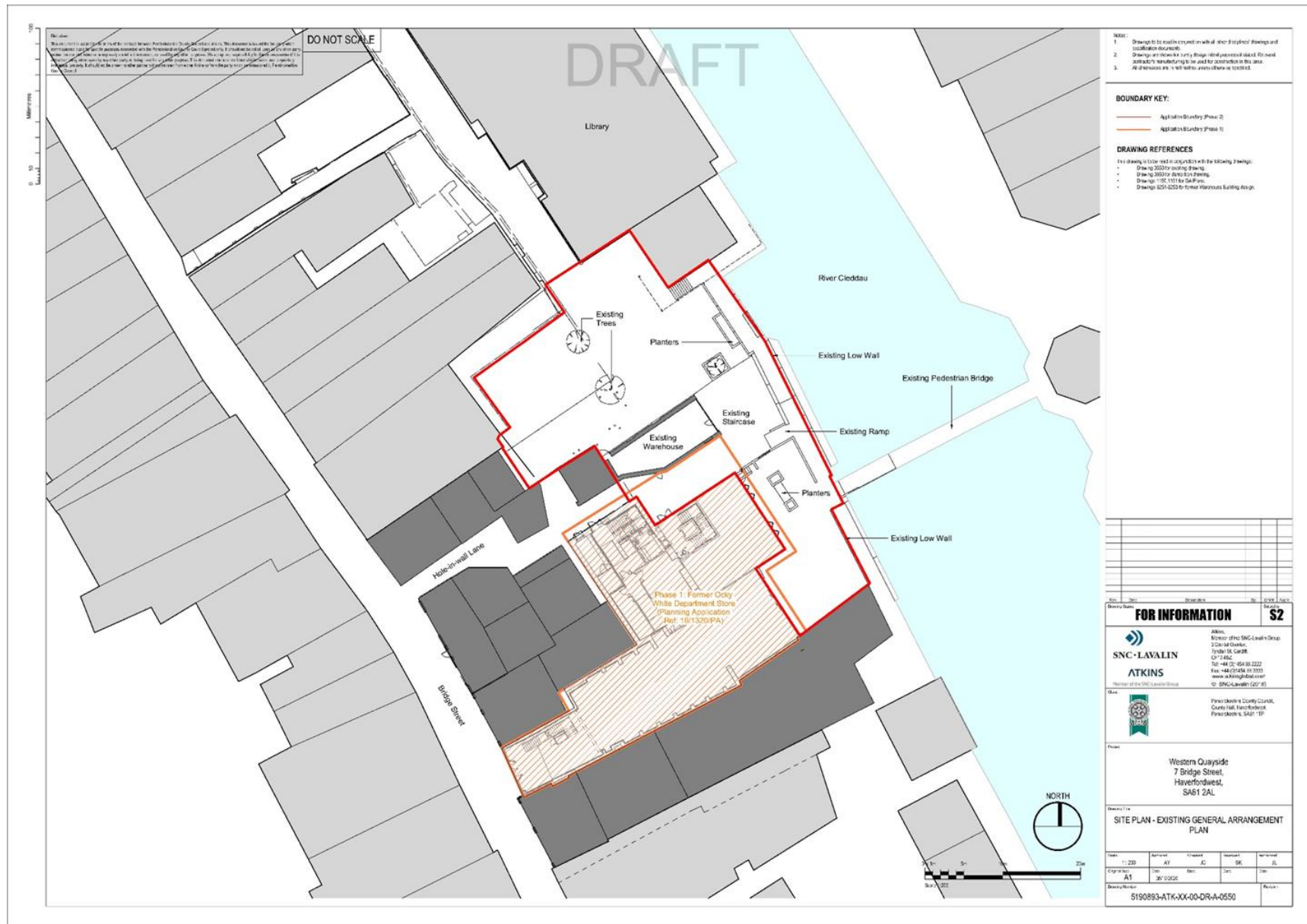


Figure 8: Plan showing the outline (in red) of the Phase 2 development area.

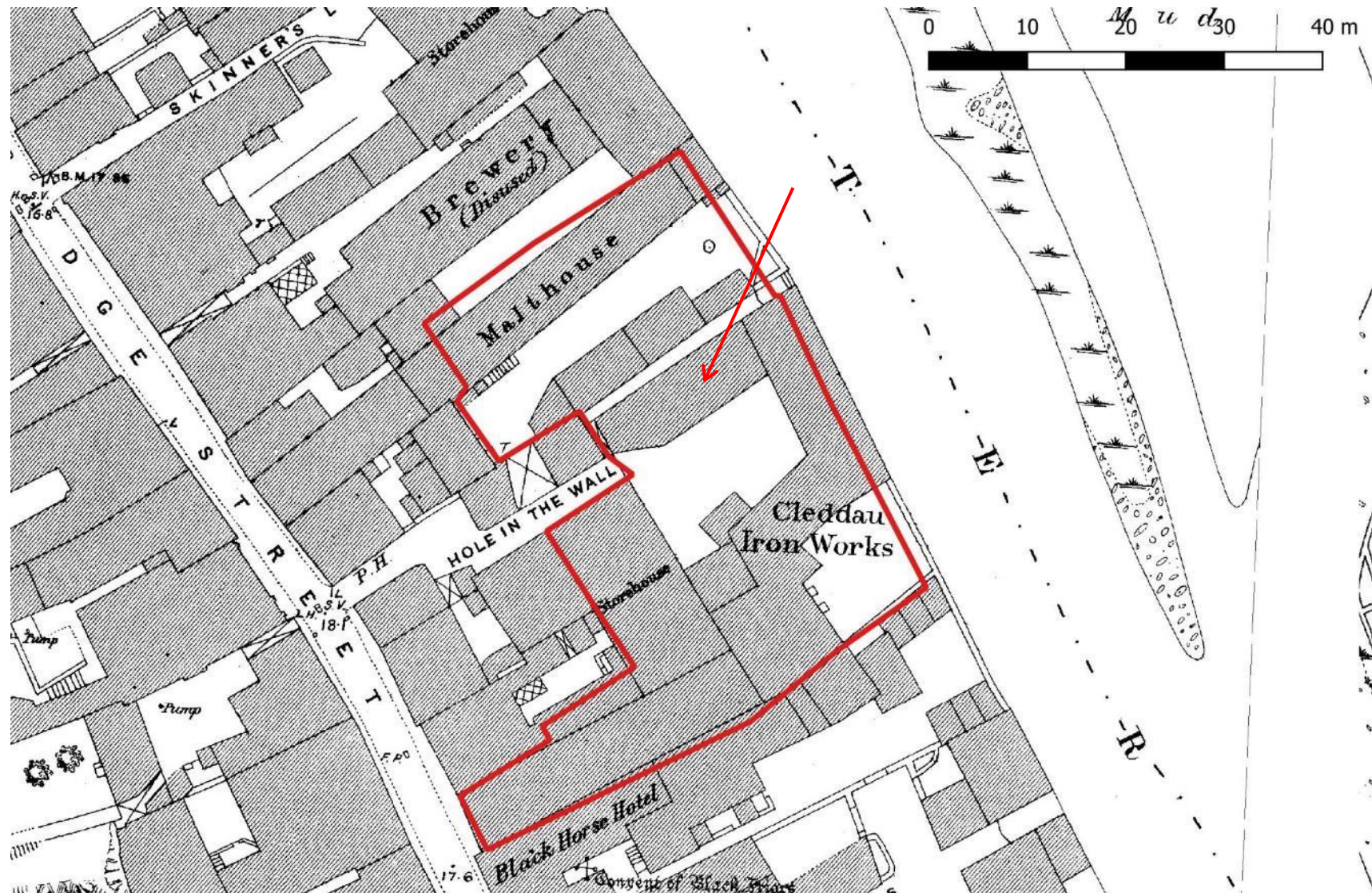


Figure 9: Development area in red (including Phase 1 and 2) overlaid on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889, illustrating the extent of late post-medieval development and potential buried structural remains on the site. Standing foundry building marked by arrow.



Photo 25: View northeast across the Zone A2 excavations, looking towards the Phase 2 development area. The upper archaeological layers are being revealed, relating to the 19th century foundry, overlaid by the dark foundry waste material. The sections to the Phase 2 area are both formed by walling.



Photo 26: The eastern section of the Zone A2 excavation area, adjoining the Phase 2 development area. The modern brick wall sits on top of the dark deposit of post-foundry waste material. The dark material sits on lighter soils containing intact archaeological features and deposits, including burials. 1m scale.