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An Archaeological Evaluation Report on
**Minchinhampton Market House,
Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire**

for David Newton Associates,
on behalf of Minchinhampton Market House CIO

Chiz Harward BA MCifA

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Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire**

Client: David Newton Associates, on behalf of Minchinhampton Market House CIO
Local Authority: Stroud District Council
Planning ref: S.21/2292/FUL
S.21/2293/LBC
NGR: SO 87256 00749
Project no: UA231
Author: Chiz Harward BA MCIfA
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Front cover, view of the Market House undercroft showing Test Pit 3 looking north; scale 0.5m

Urban Archaeology

A trading name of Chiz Harward BA MCIfA

2 Slad View, Gainey's Well, Stroud, Glos. GL5 1LQ 07881 486837 chiz@urban-archaeology.co.uk

Non-Technical Summary

On January 17th–19th Urban Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation for David Newton Associates, on behalf of Minchinhampton Market House Management CIO, at Minchinhampton Market House, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, GL6 9JW, SO 87256 00749. Four test pits were dug to approximately 0.4m below present ground level.

The evaluation has shown that remains pre-dating the present Market House building survive within the undercroft, the earliest evidence is a limestone wall, the clay bonding suggesting a medieval or possibly Tudor date. The wall was demolished and overlain by a sequence of thin 17th century horizontal occupation layers.

Deposits or structures pre-dating the Market House were not observed in the western two test pits; it is possible that this is due to more extensive truncation caused by perimeter foundations possibly allied to the existence of earlier cellars along the earlier street frontage. The foundations of the Market House itself were exposed and recorded: the foundations are of roughly dressed limestone masonry with a clear change at floor level to well-dressed blocks for the superstructure. Following construction of the Market House superstructure, the area within the footprint of the undercroft was levelled up with a series of make-up dumps to provide a surface for the new floor. Some of these dumps appear to be securely dated to the 1698 construction, whilst others may relate to the 1859 reflooring works.

The perimeter ‘threshold’ stones may have been inserted during the 1859 repaving, when the cattle barriers were also apparently installed. The existing paving has clearly been re-laid several times however the floor level appears to be largely the same as that intended in 1698. It is not certain whether a concrete screed is from Ricardo’s relaying of the floor in 1859, or from a later time, and why only part of the undercroft was concreted is unclear: the southwestern part of the undercroft floor has slumped slightly, possibly due to underlying drainage or ‘soft-spots’, perhaps caused by earlier cellars.

The evaluation has demonstrated the survival of significant stratified remains predating the Market House, possibly including remains of late medieval date; it has also provided evidence for both the construction of the Market Place building and for later repairs and re-floorings, with significant archaeological remains surviving around the perimeter of the undercroft and in the arcade in the form of the existing Market House foundations.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 On January 17th–19th Urban Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation for David Newton Associates, on behalf of Minchinhampton Market House Management CIO, at Minchinhampton Market House, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, GL6 9JW, SO 87256 00749 (Fig. 1).

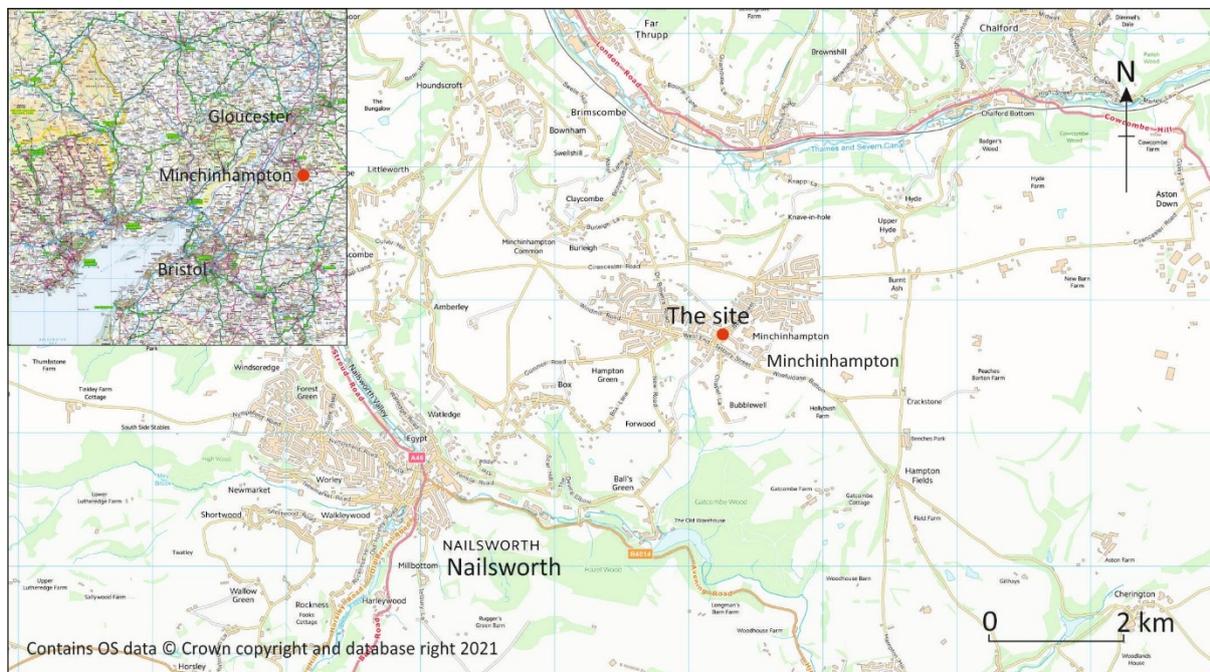


Fig. 1 Site location

- 1.2 The Market House is a Grade 2* Listed building (Historic England List Entry Number 1340484; Appendix 1) situated within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (MAGIC 2021); it is owned and run by the local community.
- 1.3 An archaeological field evaluation was required to define the character and extent of archaeological remains that exist at the site in order to inform the determination of an application for planning permission and Listed Building consent for works to the undercroft of the Market House (S.21/2292/FUL, S.21/2293/LBC).
- 1.4 The proposals comprise the lifting and relaying of the existing stone flags incorporating re-surfaced and new matching stones on a new limecrete base, modification of livestock barriers, replacement of existing seating for new livestock barriers, new seating attached to livestock barriers and new soffit lighting to the undercroft (David Newton Associates 2021).
- 1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation, or Method Statement, was prepared by Chiz Harward, BA MCIfA and approved by Rachel Foster, (Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council), archaeological advisor to Cotswold District Council, as a methodology for the archaeological program of works.
- 1.5 The Site Code for archaeological work was MMH22.

2 The site

- 2.1 The Market House is a historic building located at the north end of the east side of the High Street, the historic marketplace of Minchinhampton (Fig. 2). There is a gradual slope from the north of the High Street to the south, from 181.3m OD by the Market House to 176.8m OD at the southern end of the High Street. The site is situated on the Athelstan Oolite Formation, no superficial geological deposits are mapped at the site (British Geological Survey 2021).
- 2.2 The following description is largely taken from the List Entry (Historic England List Entry Number 1340484; Appendix 1); an inscription on the Market House records its construction in 1698; the Market House is a large rectangular building constructed of coursed and squared limestone with an ashlar chimney and a stone slate roof. The building has a large open-sided undercroft of 8 x 2 bays which functioned as the market area, with a meeting room above.
- 2.3 The north-east gable end has two round arches, with keystones and imposts. On the long sides are circular piers with heavy caps and bases, many replaced by square piers. Timber cross-windows to upper floor with leaded casements, some blocked including those to north-east end. The band above the arcade and deep plastered coving are taken across the gable ends; two small attic casements above at the north-east end and a small gable-mounted chimney with plain cap. Attached stone steps to rear of building supported on arched base. North-east end has date stone and panel of charges made by Lord of the Manor.
- 2.4 The open market area has moulded cross-beams with a row of bulbous baluster-shaped timber piers at centre. Later enclosed area at south-west end incorporates war memorial inscription. Market house built by Philip Sheppard, Lord of the Manor, in 1698, intended for sale of wool and yarn, it became one of the 4 chief wool markets of the county in 1702 (Historic England 2021).
- 2.5 The largely Pennant sandstone flag floor is thought to date from 1859, when David Ricardo paved the streets of Minchinhampton to mark his son's wedding; whether any of the flagstones are from an earlier, possibly original paved floor, is unknown.
- 2.6 The undercroft is enclosed by iron livestock barriers with baffle-type stiles, again these are thought to date from Ricardo's 1859 gift but could be earlier.

3 Archaeological and historical background

- 3.1 The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential, with nearby archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic period through to the Second World War. The Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the site lies to the south of the extensive Iron Age and later earthworks known as The Bulwarks (SAM Gloucestershire 13806), and to the west of Iron Age earthworks at Glebe Farm (SAM Gloucestershire 28527). Roman pottery has been found during excavations at Minchinhampton church to the northwest of the site, where recent excavations have also recovered Saxo-Norman pottery (Harward 2021). The site lies within the historic core of medieval Minchinhampton and, depending on later truncation, the remains of buildings pre-dating the Market House should be expected beneath the current structure.
- 3.2 Minchinhampton was called Hampton at Domesday, in 1082, William granted the manor to the Abbaye aux Dames, Caen, which had been founded in 1062 by his wife Matilda of Flanders. Hence the name, Munchen (Nuns') Hampton corrupted to Minchinhampton.

Successive abbesses farmed the manor as absentee landlords – and by at least 1269 the then abbess had obtained a grant to hold a weekly market every Tuesday and an annual fair on the eve of the festival of the Sacred Trinity and on the three following days.

- 3.3 The town lies on important local communication routes and had acquired some urban characteristics by the beginning of the 14th century but was primarily a centre of sheep-farming in the medieval period. Minchinhampton was also a centre of the woollen cloth industry, with mills on many of the streams around the parish fringes. The right to a market passed through several changes of overlordship – to Syon Abbey in 1424, Baron Lord Wyndsor in the 1530s – who had been evicted from his estate (Windsor) by Henry VIII who coveted it – and ultimately Samuel Sheppard in 1656, who had been steward to the Wyndsors, and whose house was on the land now occupied by the school playground; the town developed in the 17th century and in 1698, his son Philip Sheppard decided to build a Market House to house the successful wool and yarn market, and which, 4 years later was regarded as one of the four chief markets in the county (VCH).
- 3.4 The current frontage of the High Street appears to have been established by the 17th century, with numerous 17th and 18th century buildings including the Crown Inn opposite the Market House, with the 16th century Arden House further down the High Street; the rear wing of Minchinhampton Stores may be Tudor; several properties are known to have cellars or underground lock-ups and a cellar with stair was observed when the Market House toilets were altered and cobbled yard and paving surfaces were seen under the Market Store (Nick Hurst *pers. comm.*). The properties of the Upper and Lower Islands stood within the north of the High Street and the south end of Butt Street. The Market House lies to the west of the late 17th century Grade 2 listed Ram Inn, which was first recorded as an inn in 1718 (Historic England List Entry Number 1091073).
- 3.5 In the early 18th century Tetbury took the lead as a wool market and the Minchinhampton fair became first a sheep and cattle fair and then in the 19th century a horse fair. The Market House lost its main function and from then on was used for town activities – entertainment, worship, education, town business and festivities. The Bath Company of Comedians, 1732 visited Minchinhampton in June, taking over the Market House and erecting a stage and benches. They performed three plays, *The London Merchant*, *The Provoked Husband* and *The Beggars Opera*. Local tradition holds that the 18th century actress, Sarah Siddons, trod the boards here; her portrait that hangs in the main hall.
- 3.6 In 1746 the Quakers requested and obtained permission from the Bishop of Gloucester to use the Market House as a place of worship as they had no Meeting House of their own. By the mid-18th century the population was growing, it was a busy bustling town catering not only for local and nearby residents but also for visitors journeying to and from Bath and Cirencester and on north, accommodated in the numerous inns. The Vestry began to consider the provision of a fire engine and it was temporarily housed under the Market House from 1855 but later was provided with a railed lock-up, in the 1860s, also in the under-croft.
- 3.7 In 1816 David Ricardo, the Lord of the Manor, set up and paid for the schooling of poor children, until his death in 1823. The school continued here until 1868 when the new school was built in Bell Lane. The Market House was used for concerts and fetes in the 1850s. Gas arrived in the town in 1850 so events could be more easily held in the evenings.
- 3.8 The Gloucestershire tithe map shows the Market House with the buildings known as the Lower Island and Upper Island in the middle of the High Street and Butt Street; the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows the Market House surrounded by a wide pavement on three sides (Know Your Place 2021; Fig. 2); Upper Island was demolished in 1858 and Lower Island was demolished in 1919 and replaced by the war memorial.

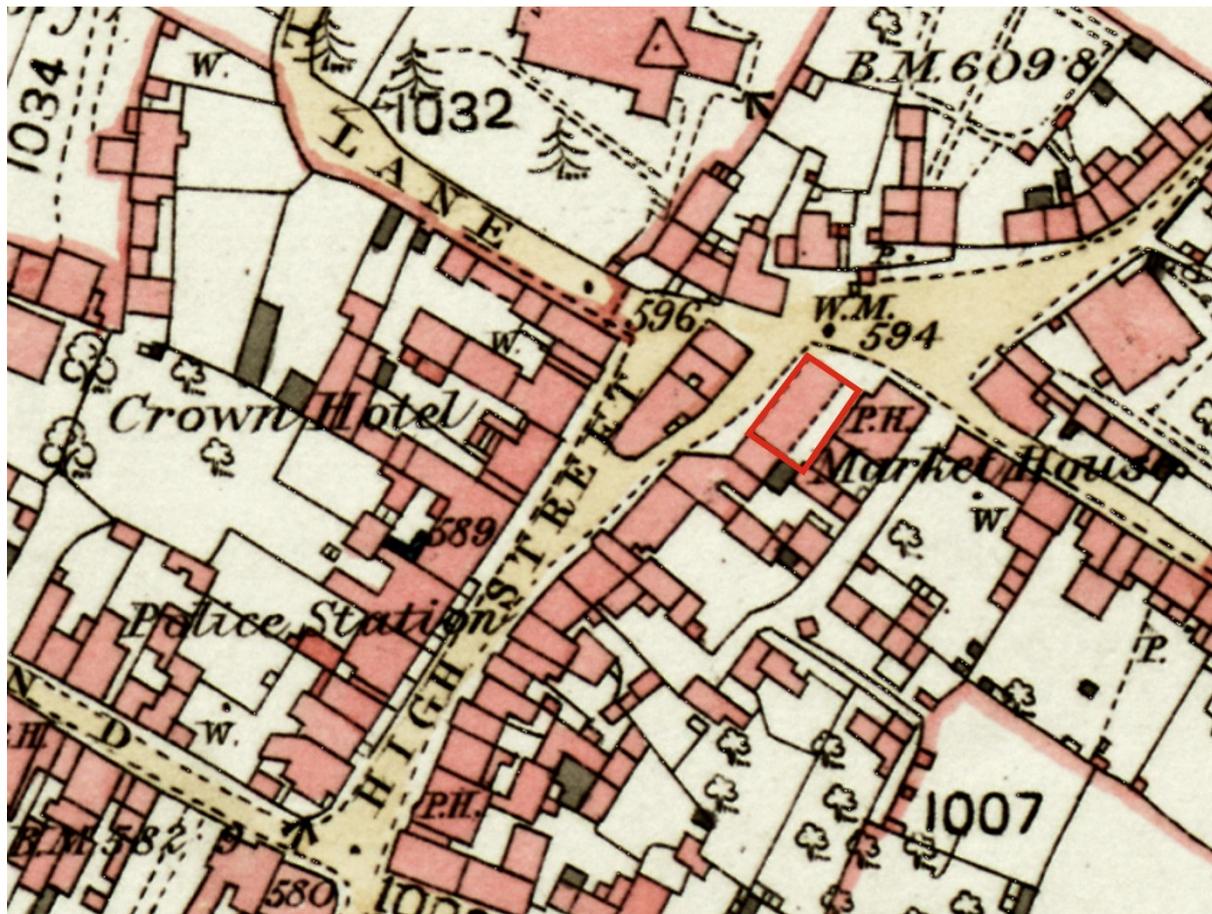


Fig. 2 First edition OS map of Minchinhampton, Market House outlined in red, Lower Island lies to the west in the middle of the High Street

- 3.9 The under-croft and the streets of Minchinhampton were paved at the expense of David Ricardo, Lord of the Manor to celebrate his son's wedding in 1859. Cattle barriers were added to the undercroft. In 1870 dormer windows were removed.
- 3.10 In 1911 the rear staircase was built, and heaters and vents installed in the hall. Ownership of the Market House was transferred to the Parishioners of Minchinhampton by David Ricardo in 1920. In 1921 a memorial panel to the dead of WW1 was added to the ground floor.
- 3.11 The Market House was restored in 1944; in 1950 the stairs were realigned and a memorial panel added to those who fell in WW2. Part of Undercroft was enclosed for toilets. Gas central heating was installed. The stage moved to other end of hall and a new fire-escape added. In 1975 the Market House was renovated, in 1979 a new charity was created with the legal ownership vested in the Parish Council as Custodian Trustee and the running of the building undertaken by a Committee of Management as Managing Trustees. A new floor was installed in 1986 and work was carried out to the toilet block in the 1980s. In September 2018 the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Minchinhampton Market House CIO) was created to take over the management of the Market House, the Trustees being the same as those of the charity. The ownership of the Market House was transferred to the CIO in July 2019.

4 Research aims

- 4.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving

archaeological remains likely to be threatened by the proposed scheme. Attention was given to sites and remains of all periods (including evidence of past environments).

- 4.2 Specific research questions related to dating the current undercroft paving, and whether this dates from 1859, or whether some areas may be earlier, or indeed later. The evaluation also aimed to establish the level of truncation caused by the construction of the Market House, and the survival, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains pre-dating the current Market House; the results of the evaluation were intended to help establish the potential impact on these by the proposed scheme.

5 Methodology

- 5.1 All work were carried out in accordance with the relevant *Standards and Guidance* produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- 5.2 Four test pits, each measuring approximately 1m square were excavated within the undercroft of the Market House. The exact size and location of each test pit was determined by the existing limestone pavers. The locations of the test pits are shown on Fig. 3.

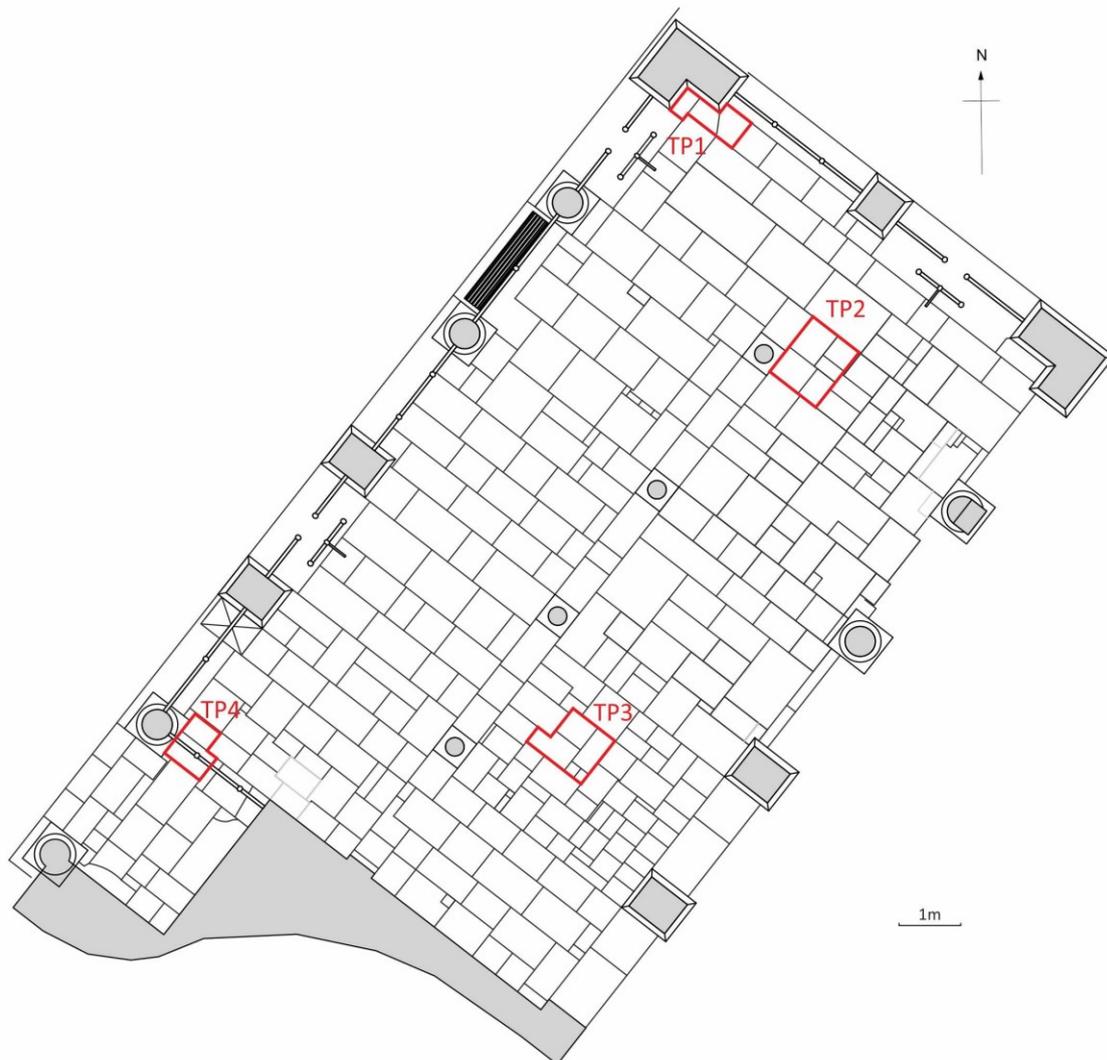


Fig 3 Test pit locations (after David Newton Associates Drg 265 GA02 RevA)

- 5.3 Test pit 1 was intended to investigate the foundations of the outer Market House arcade, and of the perimeter threshold stones, Test pit 2 was located to investigate the central arcade foundations, and any earlier remains, Test pit 3 was located to investigate any general truncation for construction of the Market House, and the survival of any earlier remains, Test pit 4 was designed to look at the foundations of the outer Market House arcade and the survival of any earlier remains.
- 5.4 Pavers were carefully lifted by Nick Miles Building Contractors and set to one side, the bedding was then cleaned back and the test pits archaeologically excavated by hand to 400mm below present ground level (bpgl). Levels were linked by traverse to the benchmark on Holy Trinity church (185.73m OD).

6 Results

- 6.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation; summaries of the recorded contexts and a Harris matrix are to be found in Appendices 1 and 2.

Test pit 1

- 6.2 Test Pit 1 was located in the north-western internal corner of the undercroft and excavated to a depth of 0.4m bpgl (180.41m OD). The foundations [18] were exposed and consisted of roughly dressed limestone blocks extending beyond the limit of excavation, the lower two course of the northern foundation offset slightly to the south (Fig. 4). An iron pipe (16) lay in a narrow gap between the north–south and east–west foundations, it was unclear whether this had been inserted later, or was contemporary with the foundations.



Fig. 4 Test Pit 1 looking northwest, showing foundations of the Market House, the iron pipe is immediately left of the west end of the scale; scale 0.5m

- 6.3 A series of levelling dumps had been laid against the foundations (Fig. 5), context (15) had a trampled surface and was not excavated, it was sealed by brashy dump (14) which contained a clay tobacco pipe stem dating from 1620–1700. A separate levelling dump (13) contained a mother-of-pearl button, sherds of Yellow Ware suggest it may date to the later 19th century.

- 6.4 Large threshold stones [17] were laid on (13) between the foundation piers; iron pipe (16) ran beneath the western threshold, although it may have been inserted beneath it from the side.
- 6.5 A thin layer of orange clay-mortar bedding (12) was sealed by bedding layer (11) which carried the current floor of pavers. Context (11) contained late 19th century clay tobacco pipe stems, 19th century pottery and a fragment of 19th century glass bottle.
- 6.6 The existing floor of sandstone pavers [10] were 30–80mm thick with a surface at 180.81m OD and respected the bed joint between the Market House foundation and superstructure suggesting that the current floor is at the original level.

Test Pit 1

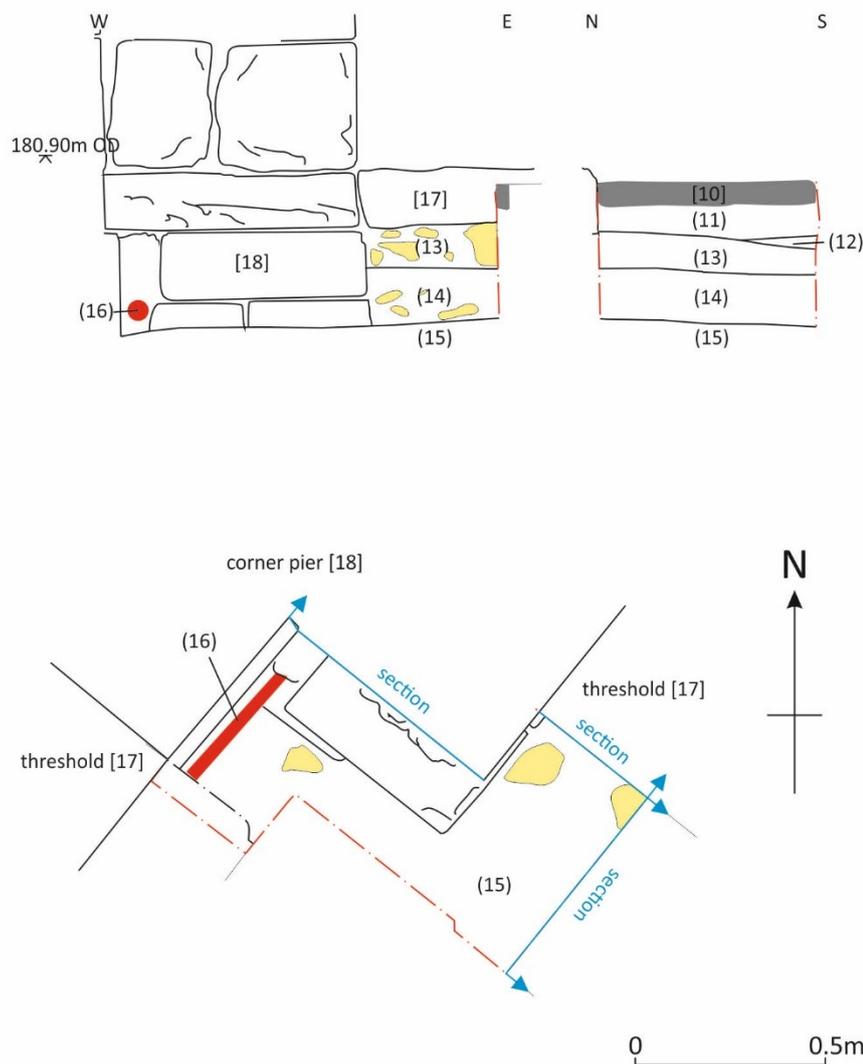


Fig. 5 Test Pit 1 sections and plan

Test Pit 2

- 6.7 Test Pit 2 was excavated adjacent to the northern of the central pier bases, it was excavated to a depth of 0.46m bpgl (180.43m OD). The foundations [31] of the pier base were exposed

and consisted of three courses of roughly dressed limestone blocks extending below the limit of excavation, the lower two courses offset to the east and west (Figs 6 and 7). The base of the superstructure of the pier was a large monolithic limestone block reducing from a square to circular plan via an ovolo moulding.

Test Pit 2

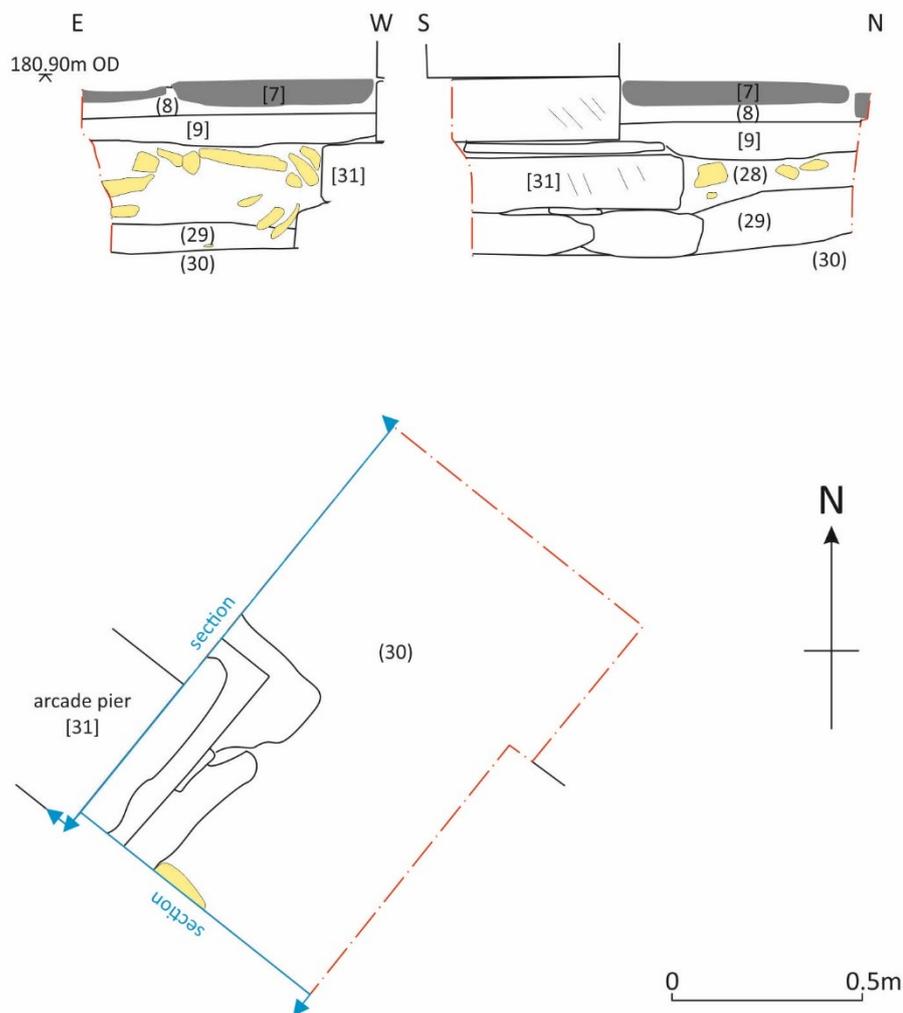


Fig. 6 Test Pit 2 plan and sections

- 6.8 At the base of the excavation a trampled surface (30) rose slightly to the north, it is possible that the pier base is founded at this level, although this could not be established with certainty. Ground raising dumps were laid against the pier foundation, the lowest was (29) a sandy infill, in turn sealed by (28) a rubble layer containing four clay tobacco pipe stems dating 1620–1700. A 60–120mm thick concrete screed [9] was seen across the test pit, overlain by a thin bedding mortar (8) and then pavers.
- 6.9 The existing floor of sandstone pavers [7] were 50–70mm thick with a surface at 180.89m OD and respected the bed joint between the pier foundation and superstructure suggesting that the current floor is at the original level.



Fig. 7 Test Pit 2 looking southwest showing the arcade foundation [31] with trampled surface (30) at the base of the test pit. Yellow sandy layer (29) is clearly visible in section; scale 0.5m

Test Pit 3

6.10 Test Pit 3 was excavated east of the central arcade; it was excavated to a depth of 0.45m bpgl (180.45m OD). The earliest observed context was a northeast–southwest aligned wall [38] of limestone rubble, at least 0.33m wide with a fair face to the west (Figs 8–10). The wall was clay bonded and well-built with three courses exposed. The wall had been demolished and levelled off, the highest observed point on the wall was at 180.64m OD.



Fig 8 East facing elevation of wall [38] with trampled occupation layers visible overlying it in north facing section; scale 0.5m

6.11 On the west side of the wall stony levelling dump (37) may include demolition material from the wall, it contained two sherds of Ashton Keynes-type Earthenware dating to the 17th

century. Sealing the infill, and the wall, was (36) a trampled mid orange-grey sandy clay forming an uneven surface across the area of the test pit. This was sealed by a 2–15mm thick layer of loose sandy lime mortar (35) which was sealed by a thin layer of mid brownish grey sandy clay silt soil (34) with a surface at between 180.67 and 180.64m OD. Above this was a very compacted trampled mid orange-brown sandy clay (33) with a surface at 180.66–69m OD and which contained clay tobacco pipe stems dating from the 17th into 18th centuries. A layer of thin broken sandstone slabs (32) lay flat on this surface with no evidence for lime bedding, the top of the slabs was at 180.70–72m OD (Fig. 11).

Test Pit 3

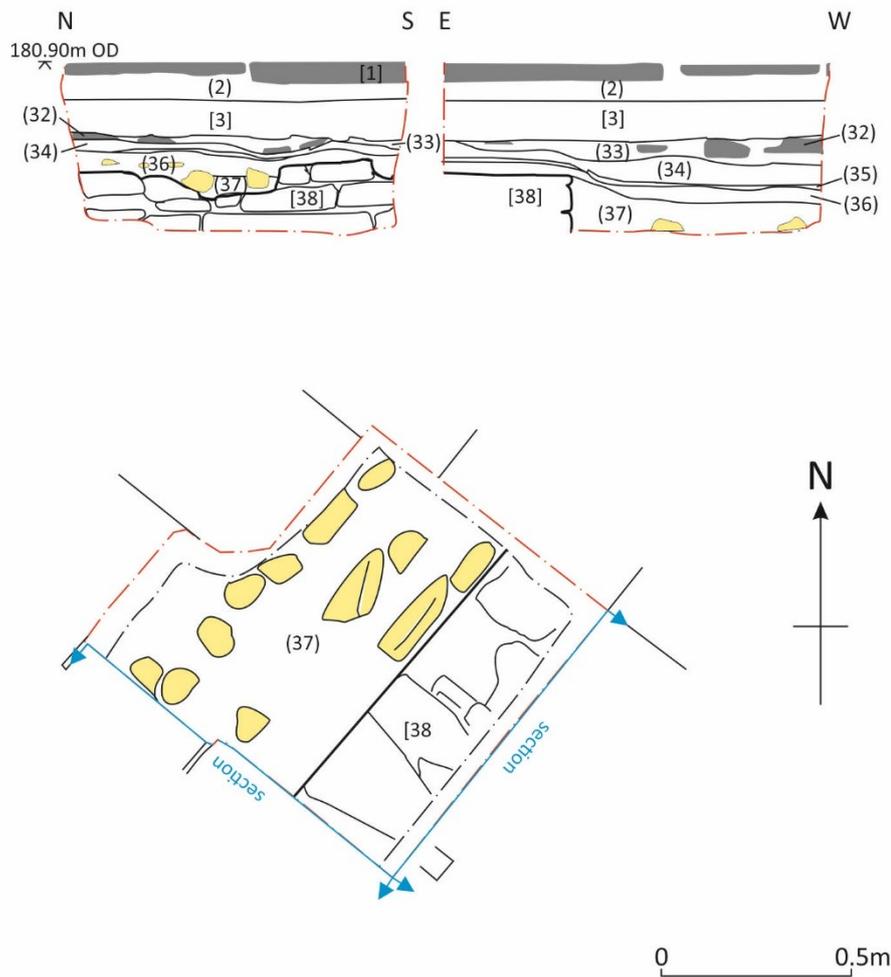


Fig. 9 Test Pit 3 plan and sections

6.12 A 100mm concrete screed [3] was laid over the broken slabs, it was sealed by a thin mortar bedding (2) bearing the existing floor of sandstone pavers [1] which were 50–60mm thick with a surface at 180.90m OD. A quarry wedge mark is visible in a paver at the southeastern corner of the test pit (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10 Test Pit 3 looking south with wall [38] overlain by trampled occupation deposits visible in section; scale 0.5m



Fig. 11 Test Pit 3 looking northeast with broken sandstone pavers [32] lying beneath concrete slab [3] above; scale 0.5m

Test Pit 4

- 6.13 Test Pit 4 was excavated in the south-western corner of the undercroft to a depth of 0.44m bpgl (180.32m OD). The area of the undercroft to the north of the test pit appears to have slumped and there are metal drainage grilles present to the north.
- 6.14 The foundations of the perimeter arcade [27] were exposed and consisted of three courses of roughly dressed limestone blocks extending below the limit of excavation, the lowest course offset to the north beyond the limit of excavation and it is possible that it continues to the adjacent arcade base (Figs 12 and 13).

Test Pit 4

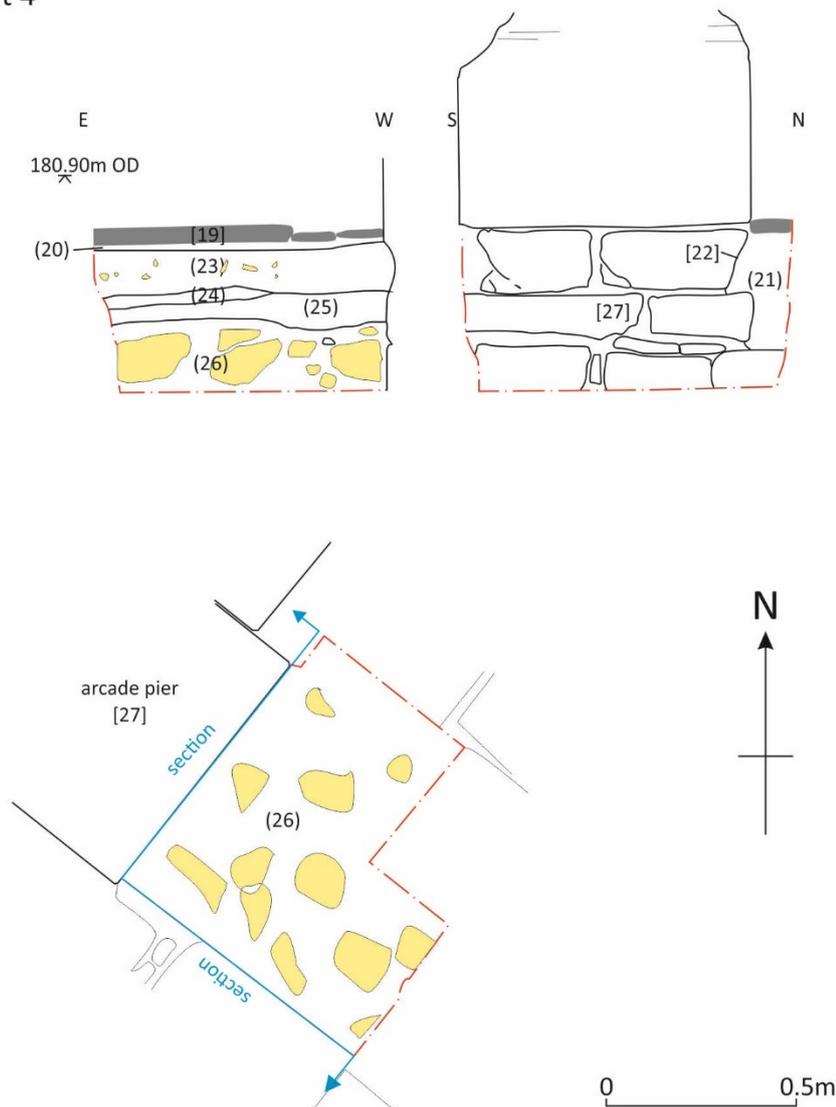


Fig. 12 Test Pit 4 plan and sections

- 6.15 Rubble infilling (26) was laid against the foundation, this contained a fragment of Minety type unglazed roof tile of the 15th–16th centuries (Fig. 14). The rubble was sealed by a loose dark grey sandy silt levelling dump containing frequent limestone fragments (25) and containing a spurred clay tobacco pipe bowl dating 1685–1720 and two stems dating 1620–1700, this was sealed by a 20mm thick trampled mid orange-grey sandy mortar silt (24) with a surface at 180.58m OD.
- 6.16 Trample (24) was sealed by a compact layer of mid-dark grey sandy silt (23) with frequent sandstone and limestone fragments and containing 19th century ceramics; it was cut by a vertical sided cut [22] which was infilled with (21) which contained fragments of modern soil pipe and plastic.
- 6.17 The sandstone pavers [19] were set on modern sharp sand bedding (20), probably re-laid when cut [22] was made. The surface of the slabs was at 180.76m OD.



Fig. 13 Test Pit 4 looking southeast with levelling layers visible in section against the arcade pier footing [27]; scale 0.5m



Fig. 14 Test Pit 4 looking southeast with rubble layer (26) laid against the arcade pier footing.; scale 0.5m

7 Finds

The pottery

Paul Blinkhorn

7.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 22 sherds with a total weight of 261g. It was all post-medieval and modern, and was classified using the coding system of the Gloucester City type-series (e.g. Vince 1984), as follows:

TF71: White Earthenware, 19th – 20th century. 17 sherds, 141g.

TF74: Staffs/Bristol Manganese Glazed Ware, late 17th – 18th century. 1 sherd, 3g.

TF80: Ashton Keynes-type Earthenware, 17th – 18th century. 4 sherds, 117g.

7.2 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region. The sherds of TF80 are all from large internally glazed bowls, a typical product of the tradition.

Context	TF74		TF80		TF71		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
11					6	54	Modern
13			2	51	10	85	Modern
23	1	3			1	2	Modern
37			2	66			17thC
Total	1	3	4	117	17	141	

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

The ceramic building material

Paul Blinkhorn

7.3 Context (26) produced a single sherd of unglazed roof-tile weighing 30g. It is in a Minety-type fabric, 12mm thick, and most likely of 15th – 16th century date (Vince 1984, 264). They are a common find in the region.

The clay tobacco pipe

Marek Lewcun

Introduction

7.4 The Minchinhampton excavation produced a very small number of clay tobacco pipes. Due regard has been given to the needs of site interpretation, with reference to work already published on similar material both regionally and nationally. The method of study and results are the subject of this report.

Methodology

7.5 The pipes were examined, and dates were assigned to each item, based on currently available information, but in the absence of any maker's marks only wide date brackets were applicable and were based on borehole diameter.

Quantification

7.6 The assemblage comprises a total of 13 fragments of pipe. Any fragment of bowl, however small, has been quantified as a bowl.

Date ranges

- 7.7 The earliest pipes in the assemblage date from somewhere during the period 1620-1700, based on larger diameter boreholes, and the latest pipe can be dated to the period 1850-1920. The 1920 cut-off date is based on the fact that most of the regional factories closed down during or very soon after the 1914-1918 war.

Catalogue

Context	Date	Quantity	Description
11	1700-1920	1	Stem
	1850-1920	1	Stem
	1850-1920	1	Bowl. Fragment of back only, with raised ridge on seam
14	1620-1700	1	Stem
25	1620-1700	2	Stems
	1685-1720	1	Spurred bowl
28	1620-1700	4	Stems
33	1620-1700	1	Stem
	1670-1750	1	Stem

Table 2 Catalogue of clay tobacco pipe

The sources of the pipes and makers

- 7.8 No maker's marks are present on any of the pipes, and thus it is not possible to identify any of the makers. The bowl in context (25) is probably from either Gloucestershire or north-west Wiltshire, as it is not from any of the moulds used by the north-east Somerset pipemakers whose products reached as far as the Stroud valleys. The bowl fragment is a recognizable later 19th century, and near-identical moulds for this design were used throughout the country, and in the case of the Minchinhampton example it was most probably made in Gloucester.

Significance and scope of further study

- 7.9 No significance can be attached to the pipes, and such there is no scope for further study.

Retention and discard statement

- 7.10 None of the pipe stems are marked, and it is therefore recommended that only the bowl in context (25) is worthy of retention.

The small finds

Chiz Harward

- 7.11 A fragment of green bottle glass weighing 25.7g was recovered from context (11), it is probably 19th century in date. A circular Mother of Pearl button was recovered from 90, it is a flat disc 24.3mm diameter and 3.1mm thick, weighing 3.21g, with two holes for sewing onto the fabric item. It is probably 19th century in date.
- 7.12 The finds will be retained pending the main phase of works and then discarded or retained as appropriate.

8 Archive

- 8.1 The site code MMH22 was allocated to the evaluation.
- 8.2 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by Urban Archaeology at their offices in Stroud.

- 8.3 The site archive will comprise all written, drawn and photographic records and, subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, the digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service with the physical archive held at Stroud Museum in the Park.
- 8.4 The archive will be prepared in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990), specifically complying with Stroud Museum in the Park guidelines.
- 8.5 A copy of this report and a summary of information from this project will be submitted to the OASIS database of archaeological publications (Appendix 4). A further copy of the report will be submitted to Gloucestershire. Shape files of the evaluation test pit locations will also be submitted to the HER.

9 Conclusions

- 9.1 The evaluation has shown that remains pre-dating the present Market House building survive within the undercroft. Within Test Pit 3 these are of at least two phases: the earliest evidence is for the construction of a well-built limestone wall, depending on ground level this may be the eastern or internal wall of a cellar, or ground floor superstructure; the clay bonding of the wall suggests a medieval or possibly Tudor date. The wall was subsequently demolished and the space to the west infilled before a sequence of thin 17th century horizontal occupation layers built up over the area to a height of 0.2m bpgl. The occupation layers could conceivably relate to the construction of the Market House, but this is not considered likely, and it is more probable that these are the remains of occupation prior to construction of the Market House. Further north in Test Pit 2 it appears that the central arcade may have been built on a trampled surface at c0.4m bpgl; this trampled surface may relate to earlier occupation of the site or be related to demolition/construction of the Market House.
- 9.2 Deposits or structures pre-dating the Market House were not observed in the western two test pits; it is possible that this is due to more extensive truncation caused by digging trenches for the foundations for the perimeter foundations (and that such truncation will continue around all the perimeter), possibly allied to the existence of earlier cellars along the earlier street frontage. A cellar was seen during the construction of the Market House toilets in the 1980s with the top of the cellar stair also seen (the cellar had been infilled with Victorian rubbish, it is possible that a cellar was retained for the Market House and was infilled at a later date, or that this was later levelling infill from 1859), and there is a cellar to the Market Store to the south of the House (Nick Hurst *pers. comm.*). It is probably that the site of the proposed Market House was occupied by several medieval or Tudor buildings, some of which had cellars, and that these buildings were demolished, and any cellars infilled before the Market House was built.
- 9.3 During works at the Market Store immediately south of the House a cobbled surface of vertically set limestone setts was observed at approximately 600mm below floor level (Nick Hurst *pers. comm.*), this may relate to earlier phases of occupation on the site and 'back yard' occupation is considered likely to survive behind any buildings fronting the High Street. The ground level within houses, back yards and passageways may have varied between rooms and properties.
- 9.4 The foundations of the Market House itself were exposed and recorded: the foundations are of roughly dressed limestone masonry with a clear change at floor level to well-dressed blocks for the superstructure. The base of the perimeter arcade was not reached within Test Pits 1 or 4 and it is likely that the foundations will have been built off solid bedrock. It appears that the central row of pier bases may have slighter foundations than the external perimeter arcade, this may be as the central arcade carries only the floor joists, rather than the superstructure, or that bedrock is less deep due to lesser truncation or a possible lack of cellaring at Test Pit 2.
- 9.5 Following construction of the Market House superstructure, the area within the footprint of the undercroft was levelled up with a series of make-up dumps to provide a surface for the new floor. Some of these dumps appear to be securely dated to the 1698 construction, both stratigraphically and from the finds recovered, whilst others contain later finds and may relate to the 1859 reflooring works.

- 9.6 The perimeter 'threshold' stones are very tightly fitted between the perimeter arcade piers however at least one appears to be lain over a deposit containing 19th century ceramics, suggesting that they may have been inserted during the 1859 repaving, when the cattle barriers were also apparently installed. The 1859 works appear to have been more extensive than a simple lifting, re-bedding and relaying of the pavers, with a concrete screed possibly laid over the eastern half of the undercroft at this date and deeper excavation around the perimeter that would fit with insertion of the threshold stones. It is possible that the iron pipe seen in Test Pit 1 is of this date and may relate to the water or gas supply within the town that was installed in the mid-19th century as part of Ricardo's improvements.
- 9.7 The existing paving has clearly been re-laid several times, with modern machine saw cut edges seen on some pavers and modern sand bedding in places, however the floor *level* appears to be largely the same as that intended in 1698, and slopes from north to south but also from east down to the west. It is considered unlikely that any of the current pavers are *in situ* from the 1698 paving. It is not certain whether the concrete screed is from Ricardo's relaying of the floor in 1859, or from a later time, and the reason only part of the undercroft was concreted is unclear: the southwestern part of the undercroft floor has slumped slightly, possibly due to underlying drainage or 'soft-spots', perhaps caused by earlier cellars.
- 9.8 The evaluation has demonstrated the survival of significant stratified remains predating the Market House, possibly including remains of late medieval date; it has also provided evidence for both the construction of the Market Place building and for later repairs and re-floorings, with significant archaeological remains surviving around the perimeter of the undercroft and in the arcade in the form of the existing Market House foundations.
- 9.9 The current proposals include for ground reduction within the undercroft to allow for the existing flooring to be re-laid; this will expose the perimeter foundations and the arcade bases and it will also impact on both 1698 levelling dumps within the undercroft, and on deposits associated with the 1859 re-flooring. The most significant impact however would be on any remains predating the 1698 Market House which survive above the formation level.
- 9.10 Extrapolating the precise spatial extent and levels of survival of archaeological deposits is not possible from the evaluation test pits, however the underlying archaeological remains have been characterised. It has been shown that the earlier phases of archaeological deposits include structural walls, and horizontal stratigraphy which survives to 0.2m bpgl; these remains were seen in the central and eastern area of the undercroft. It is considered probable that earlier cellars occupy at least some of the western part of the undercroft, a hypothesis supported by observations within the Market House and adjacent buildings, these cellars are likely to have been infilled with low grade dumped fill, however internal and party walls, and possibly internal features such as stairs, may survive to a higher level. In areas where there were no cellars there may be survival of horizontal and structural stratigraphy associated with internal spaces and back yard areas and passageways. Truncation from construction of the Market House is likely to be limited to the perimeter foundations. Later truncation may occur from Ricardo's 1859 works, and from later drainage, especially in the southwestern corner of the undercroft.

10 Acknowledgements

- 10.1 The author would like to thank David Newton of David Newton Associates for commissioning the evaluation on behalf of Minchinhampton Market House Management CIO and for providing details of the proposed scheme, the author would also like to thank Justin Hodges, Tim Mowat, Dr David Thackray and Nick Hurst for their advice and information, and Nick Miles and John for their assistance on site.

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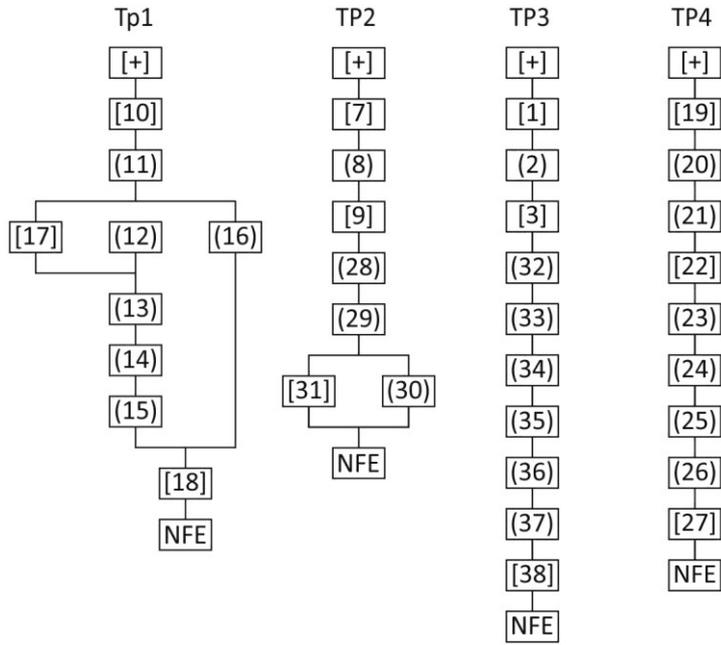
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Appendix 1 Harris matrix

Context matrix for MMH22



Appendix 2 Context register

Context No	Type	Location	Description	Period
1	Masonry	TP3	Limestone and sandstone pavers	1859–present
2	Masonry	TP3	Mortar bedding for slabs	1859–present
3	Masonry	TP3	Concrete slab	1859–present
4	VOID			
5	VOID			
6	VOID			
7	Masonry	TP2	Limestone and sandstone pavers	1859–present
8	Masonry	TP2	Mortar bedding for slabs	1859–present
9	Masonry	TP2	Concrete slab	1859–present
10	Masonry	TP1	Sandstone pavers	1859–present
11	Deposit	TP1	Mortar bedding for slabs	1859–present
12	Deposit	TP1	Orange clay mortar bedding	1859?
13	Deposit	TP1	Make up levelling	1859?
14	Deposit	TP1	Make up levelling	1698
15	Deposit	TP1	Trampled surface of make up	1698
16	Deposit	TP1	Iron pipe	1859?
17	Masonry	TP1	Threshold stones	1859?
18	Deposit	TP1	Market House	1698
19	Deposit	TP4	Sandstone pavers	Modern
20	Deposit	TP4	Sharp sand bedding	Modern
21	Deposit	TP4	Backfill of modern trench	Modern
22	Deposit	TP4	Modern trench, drainage?	Modern
23	Deposit	TP4	Mixed levelling dump	1859
24	Deposit	TP4	Sandy mortar trampled surface	1698
25	Deposit	TP4	Soil dump	1698
26	Deposit	TP4	Rubble infilling/levelling	1698
27	Deposit	TP4	Market House	1698
28	Deposit	TP2	Rubble infill and levelling	1698
29	Deposit	TP2	Sandy infill levelling	1698
30	Deposit	TP2	Trampled surface	1698
31	Masonry	TP2	Market House pier base	1698
32	Deposit	TP3	Broken sandstone pavers	17th century
33	Deposit	TP3	Trampled clay sand	17th century
34	Deposit	TP3	Trampled soil	17th century
35	Deposit	TP3	Crushed mortar	17th century
36	Deposit	TP3	Trampled clay occupation	17th century
37	Deposit	TP3	Backfill/infilling and demolition	17th century
38	Masonry	TP3	N–S limestone wall	Medieval/Tudor

Table 3 Context register MMH22 evaluation

Appendix 3 Archive contents

Digital archive

Type	Number	Comments
Digital photographs	24	To be archived with ADS

Table 4 Digital archive MMH22 evaluation

Paper archive

Type	Number	Comments
Trench record sheet	4	
Context sheet	35	
Report	1	

Table 5 Paper archive MMH22 evaluation

Drawn archive

Type	Number	Comments
Section sheets	2	
Plan sheets	1	

Table 6 Drawn archive MMH22 evaluation

Finds archive

Type	Number	Comments
Clay tobacco pipe	22 sherds; 261g	Retain for main phase
Pottery	13 fragments	Retain for main phase
CBM	1 fragment; 30g	Retain for main phase
Small finds	Glass frag, button	Retain for main phase

Table 7 Finds archive MMH22 evaluation

Appendix 4 OASIS record

OASIS ID (UID)	urbanarc1-433906
Project Name	Minchinhampton Market House
Activity type	TEST PIT
Project Identifier(s)	UA230, MMH22
Planning Id	S21/2292/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Urban Archaeology
Project Dates	17-Jan-2022 - 19-Jan-2022
Location	Minchinhampton Market House NGR : SO 87256 00749 LL : 51.7053328116075, -2.18582157048705 12 Fig : 387256,200749
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Gloucestershire District : Stroud Parish : Minchinhampton
Project Methodology	Four evaluation test pits within the undercroft were hand excavated to c0.4m bpgl
Project Results	<p>On January 17th–19th Urban Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation for David Newton Associates, on behalf of Minchinhampton Market House Management CIO, at Minchinhampton Market House, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, GL6 9JW, SO 87256 00749. Four test pits were dug to approximately 0.4m below present ground level. The evaluation has shown that remains pre-dating the present Market House building survive within the undercroft, the earliest evidence is a limestone wall, the clay bonding suggesting a medieval or possibly Tudor date. The wall was demolished and overlain by a sequence of thin 17th century horizontal occupation layers.</p> <p>Deposits or structures pre-dating the Market House were not observed in the western two test pits; it is possible that this is due to more extensive truncation caused by perimeter foundations possibly allied to the existence of earlier cellars along the earlier street frontage. The foundations of the Market House itself were exposed and recorded: the foundations are of roughly dressed limestone masonry with a clear change at floor level to well-dressed blocks for the superstructure. Following construction of the Market House superstructure, the area within the footprint of the undercroft was levelled up with a series of make-up dumps to provide a surface for the new floor. Some of these dumps appear to be securely dated to the 1698 construction, whilst others may relate to the 1859 reflooring works. The perimeter 'threshold' stones may have been inserted during the 1859 repaving, when the cattle barriers were also apparently installed. The existing paving has clearly been re-laid several times however the floor level appears to be largely the same as that intended in 1698. It is not certain whether a concrete screed is from Ricardo's relaying of the floor in 1859, or from a later time, and why only part of the undercroft was concreted is unclear: the southwestern part of the undercroft floor has slumped slightly, possibly due to underlying drainage or 'soft-spots', perhaps caused by earlier cellars.</p> <p>The evaluation has demonstrated the survival of significant stratified remains predating the Market House, possibly including remains of late medieval date; it has also provided evidence for both the construction of the Market Place building and for later repairs and re-floorings, with</p>

	significant archaeological remains surviving around the perimeter of the undercroft and in the arcade in the form of the existing Market House foundations.
Keywords	MARKET HOUSE - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Cellar - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
HER	City of Gloucester and Gloucestershire HER - unRev - LITE
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Digital Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Archives: