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Minchinhampton Market House, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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

Chiz Harward BA MClfA

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report: Minchinhampton Market House, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire

Client: David Newton Associates, on behalf of Minchinhampton Market House CIO

Local Authority: Stroud District Council

Planning ref: S.21/2292/FUL

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Front cover: view looking south of the eastern half of the Market House undercroft showing pre-1698 walls and foundations of 1698 building; scale 0.5m

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Non-Technical Summary

Between September 6th and 21st 2022 Urban Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief for David Newton Associates, on behalf of Minchinhampton Market House Management CIO, at Minchinhampton Market House, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, GL6 9JW, SO 87256 00749.

The watching brief revealed evidence for buildings pre-dating the construction of the 1698 Market House, these comprised substantial limestone walls at the rear of a property or properties fronting onto the market. The buildings had cellars, with plastered walls. The buildings were demolished, and the cellars infilled and levelled prior to the construction of a new Market House for the trade in wool and cloth by Lord of the Manor Philip Sheppard in 1698.

The new building was Minchinhampton's third market house, the others being in the middle of the High Street at Upper and Lower Island. The new building was typical of 17th century market houses, with a ground floor undercroft of eight pairs of bays, and a first-floor trading and meeting hall. The Market House closely resembles the Tetbury market house, built nearly 50 years earlier.

The initial undercroft floor appears to have been removed and replacement limestone floors installed at a slightly lower level than the original floor in the 18th century. David Ricardo, Lord of the Manor funded major works in 1858 to celebrate his son's marriage, with new threshold stones added around the perimeter, iron railings, and a new floor of Pennant sandstone pavers across the undercroft. Further work was carried out to the floor in the mid 20th century, with a concrete slab laid to take a relaid floor.

The watching brief has demonstrated that significant and complex archaeological remains survive beneath the Market House but are also likely to survive elsewhere within the historic core of the town where later development has not disturbed them: for example the remains of Upper and Lower Islands are probably relatively undisturbed beneath the present High Street and War Memorial.

1 Introduction and planning background

1.1 Between September 6th and 21st 2022 Urban Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief 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 watching brief was undertaken to fulfil conditions placed upon planning consent for works on the Grade 2* listed Market House including the lifting, re-setting, resurfacing & replacement of stone flags within the undercroft area (David Newton Associates 2021, S.21/2292/FUL, S.21/2293/LBC). An archaeological watching brief was required to accompany these works and a Written Scheme of Investigation, or Method Statement (Harward 2022a), was approved by Rachel Foster (Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council), archaeological advisor to Cotswold District Council, as a methodology for the required archaeological program of works.

1.3 The fieldwork also followed the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CifA 2014), *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006) and the *2016 Brief for an archaeological field evaluation* (GCC).

1.4 The Site Code for archaeological work is MMH22.

2 Site background

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 1858, when David Ricardo paved the streets of Minchinhampton to mark his son's wedding (Glos. R.O., P 217/CL 1, p47); 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 1858 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. 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 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 undercroft.

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. Naptha gas for lighting arrived in the town in 1850 (Glos. R.O., P 217/CL 1, p47) with gas in 1859, 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.

3.9 The under-croft and the streets of Minchinhampton were paved at the expense of the Lord of the Manor to celebrate his son's marriage in 1858 (Glos. R.O., P 217/CL 1, p47). 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 constitution set up as a Trust, with the legal ownership vested in the Parish Council as Custodial Trustees and the running of the building undertaken by a Committee of Management as Managing Trustees. A new floor was installed in 1986.



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, upper island was to the north of the Market House, in the triangular area marked 594

4 The evaluation

4.1 On January 17th–19th Urban Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Minchinhampton Market House. Four test pits were dug to approximately 0.4m below present ground level (Harward 2022b; Fig.3).

4.2 The evaluation showed 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.

4.3 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 1858 re-flooring works.

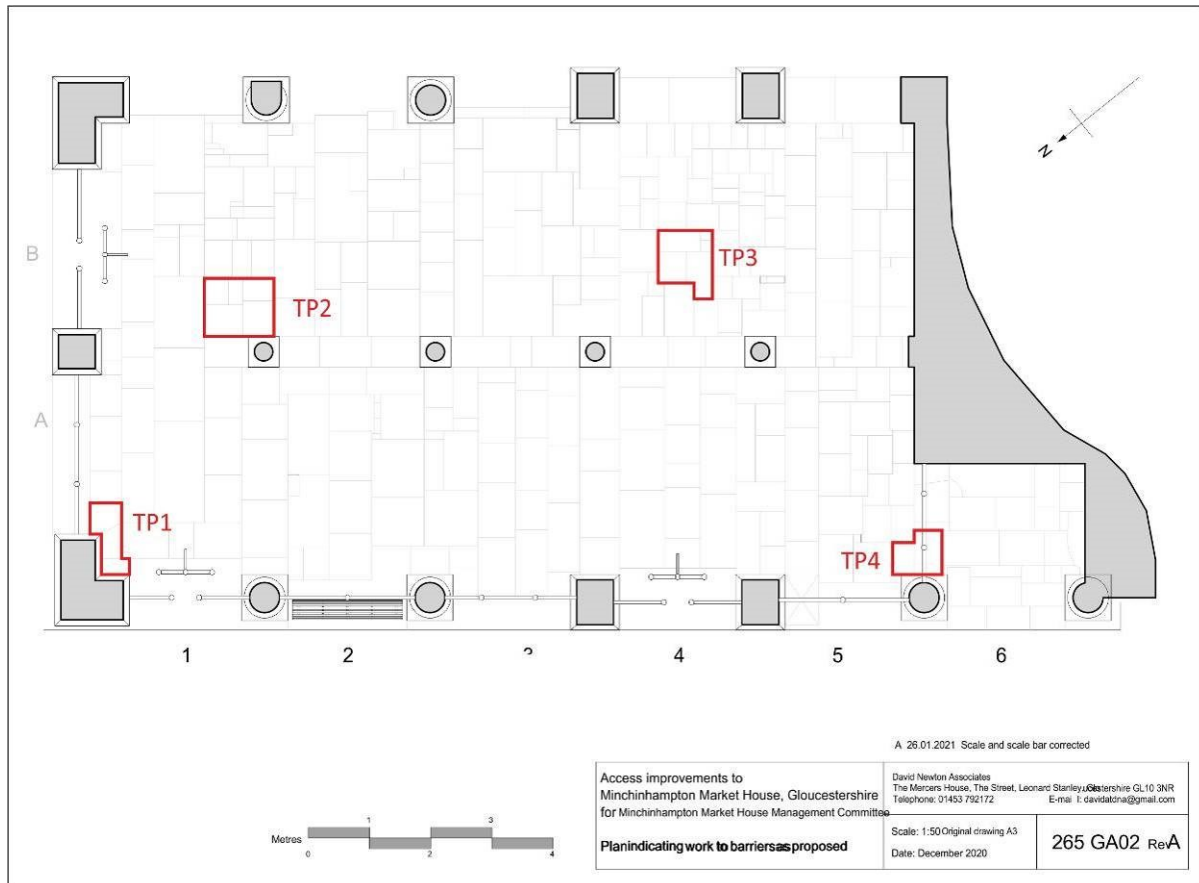


Fig. 3 The evaluation test pit locations (after David Newton Associates Drg 265 GA02 RevA)

4.4 The perimeter 'threshold' stones may have been inserted during the 1858 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 1858, 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.

4.5 The evaluation demonstrated the survival of significant stratified remains predating the Market House, possibly including remains of late medieval date; it 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.

5 Research aims

5.1 The objectives of the watching brief were primarily to minimise impact on significant archaeological deposits and structures, and to record any that were impacted by the scheme.

5.2 Specific research questions relate to dating the current undercroft paving, and whether this dates from 1858, or whether some areas may be earlier, or indeed later. The watching brief also aims to further establish the level of truncation caused by the construction of the Market House, and the survival, date, character, condition, significance and quality of surviving archaeological remains pre-dating the current Market House.

6 Methodology

6.1 The pavers were numbered, located on a scale plan of the undercroft, and lifted by masons from Rowland Stone and taken offsite. An archaeological watching brief was maintained on all subsequent works.

6.2 Ground reduction commenced in the southwest corner of the undercroft, where it was present the concrete slab was broken out by hand. Layers were cleaned, assessed, recorded and excavated to a general depth of c0.3m below floor level. All excavation was carried out by hand, with the archaeologist present at all times directing and leading the excavation. All historic (pre-20th century) deposits were archaeologically excavated by the archaeologist with the assistance of the groundworkers for spoil removal.

6.3 Following consultation with Rachel Foster significant archaeological remains were preserved *in situ*.

6.4 Limited excavation was carried out around the drain in the south-western corner in order to allow repairs to the drain and adjacent masonry footings.

7 Results

7.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, matrix and archive contents are to be found in Appendices 1–3 respectively.

Pre-1698 buildings

7.2 The earliest archaeological contexts exposed in the watching brief were horizontally truncated stone walls [62], [66] and [68], parts of demolished buildings that pre-date the construction of the Market House in 1698 (Fig. 4). The walls were all constructed from limestone rubble bonded with reddish sandy clay. The southernmost wall [62] was aligned north–south, with fair faces to the east and west, it was previously recorded in the evaluation as [38] where the western face was exposed to a height of 0.15m. The wall was well built using limestone rubble, some of which appears to have been roughly squared up; facing stones tail off into the centre of the 0.7m wide wall, with poor quality rubble in the centre of the wall (Fig. 5). The wall was observed over a length of 2.4m, a sandy lime plaster [76] was recorded on the western face at the southern end.

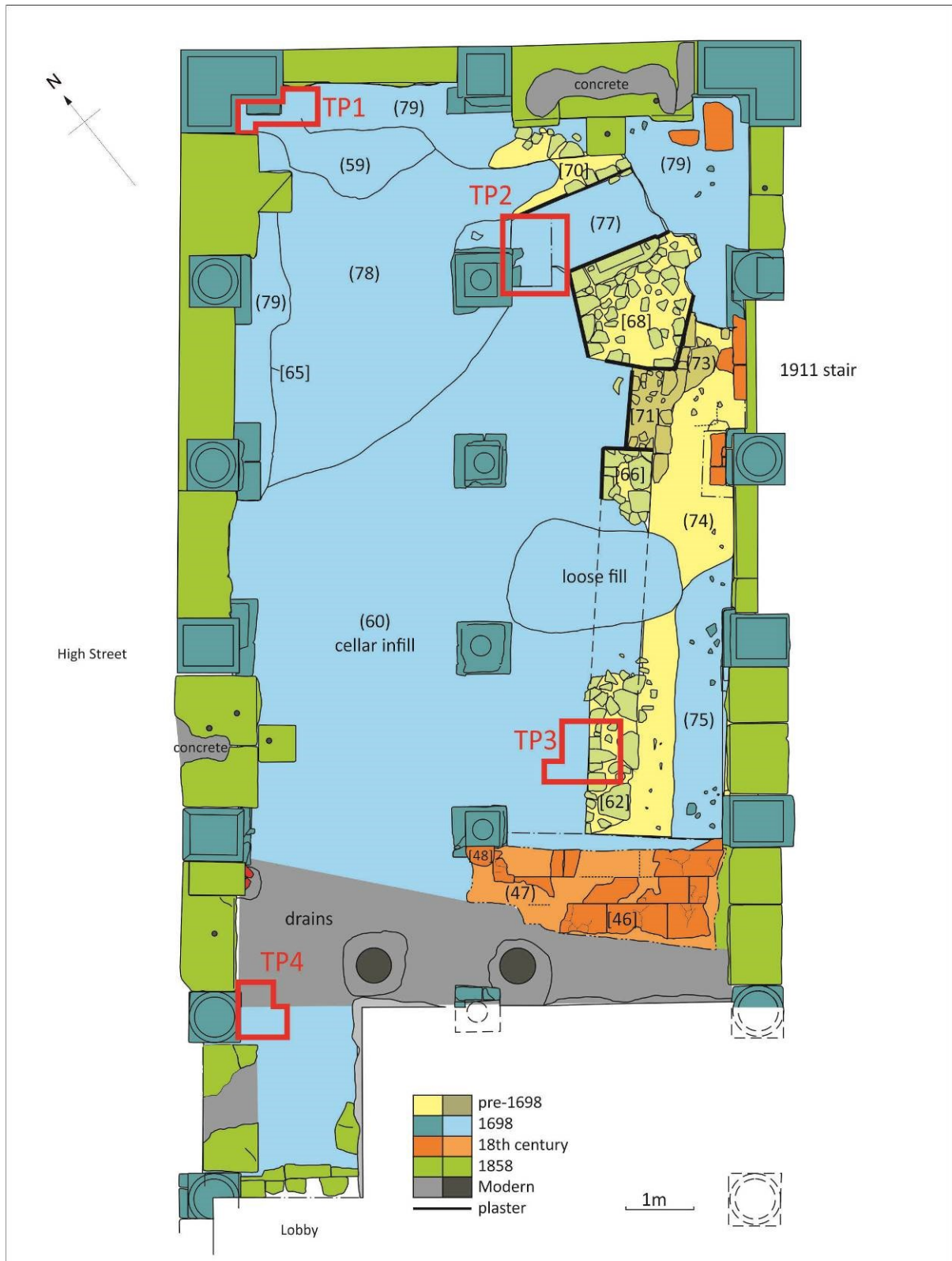


Fig. 4 Phase plan of undercroft showing final plan at formation level

7.3 To the north, wall [66] is of similar width and construction to [62] and on the same alignment, it is almost certainly the northern continuation of the same wall. The wall was observed for a length of 1.13m, with a square terminal at the north end. Wall [66] was coated with a sandy lime plaster with limewash [67].



Fig. 5 View looking north showing wall [62] sealed by clay slab (47) and pavers [46] above; scale 0.5m



Fig. 6 Walls [66], [68], [70] and [71] looking north, with yard deposits to east; scale 0.5m

7.4 A further limestone wall [68] was recorded 1.2m to the north (Figs 6–7). The wall was polygonal, its south face was parallel to the north terminal of [66], however the other sides were not orthogonal to the north–south wall; the wall was exposed over a length of 2m north–south, and 1.85m east–west. The wall was a very similar build to [62] and [66] with the face stones tying back into the rubble wall core.

7.5 A carved limestone block was set in the north face of wall [68] (Fig. 8). The block was 1.14m wide and 0.33m deep, it was set horizontally and its front, west and top faces were dressed. A 0.7m wide, 0.18m deep recess was carved to a depth of 70mm below the top face, this recess is worn smooth from wear, dishing slightly to the centre, and to the front lip. Chiselled in either side of the recess, or probable step, are 90mm wide holes, most probably joggle holes to fix an upper block, or blocks, above the step. The western faces of wall [68] were coated in a lime plaster with limewash [69], similar to plaster [67].

7.6 Parallel to, and 1.06m from, to the north face of [68] was the front face of a further limestone rubble wall [70].

7.7 The gap between walls [66] and [68] was infilled with wall [71]. The wall was built from limestone rubble blocks bonded with a dark grey silty sand, the west face of the wall was plastered with a white lime plaster [72], whilst the exact line of the east face was not observed (Fig. 9).

7.8 Immediately east of the walls a series of flat limestone pavers and blocks [73] maybe the remains of a paved backyard surface abutting the rear of the walls. The pavers were sealed by trampled dark grey sandy silt occupation layer (74).



Fig. 7 Walls [68] and [70] looking south with yellow sand and plaster deposit (77) in between; scale 0.5m



Fig. 8 Carved limestone step, set in wall [68], looking south; scale 0.5m



Fig. 9 Infill [71] between walls [66] and [68], with plaster [72] on west face; looking east, 0.5m

1698 demolition

7.9 The construction of the Market House required the clearance of the existing buildings from the site. These buildings would have been dismantled and then demolished, with the cellars infilled with material discarded during demolition, principally the rubble and silty sand (37), (53), (60) and (63). A layer of fine yellow sand with plaster fragments (29), (77) exposed between walls [68] and [70] is likely to derive from stripping plaster from ground and upper floors.

7.10 Following the infilling of the cellars, a layer of compact orange-brown silty clay (14), (78) was laid over the rubble, presumably as a levelling layer. At the east of the site a trampled stone and mortar layer (75) overlay the external trample (74) and the northern end of walls [68] and [70].

The Market House 1698

7.11 The Market House foundations consist of a perimeter and central arcade of masonry piers; no evidence was found that the perimeter piers are linked by a foundation, although this is possible beneath the excavation level. At the west and centre of the site the foundations would likely have been founded on the natural limestone at the base of the earlier cellar cuts, whilst at the east (where there appear to be no cellars) the foundations could have been shallower. It appears that the cellars were infilled and the site levelled, and then foundation trenches were dug: cut [65] was observed at the west of the site and a stone and clay deposit (79) was observed around the perimeter of the site and is probably the backfill of the foundation trenches, as is limestone rubble (26) and dump (25).

7.12 The foundations were constructed of clay-bonded roughly dressed limestone blocks and rubble laid to form L-shaped corners [18] and square pier bases [27], [31] and [50] (front cover). The perimeter pier bases measured approximately 0.75–0.80m wide, with the central arcade piers 0.75–0.85m square. Following construction of the foundations the superstructure was built, using dressed limestone blocks, including Minchinhampton Weatherstone, of up to 0.75x 0.6m by 0.42m.

7.13 The north end of the Market House is formed of two open round-headed arches with keystones and imposts, the south end is embedded in the Market Stores to the south. The undercroft is of eight bays with three rows of piers or columns carrying the upper floor. From north to south, the northern two supports on the east and west are heavy set Minchinhampton Weatherstone columns, then two squared piers, with the southern three supports are columns. The internal arcade is constructed with square limestone bases with chamfered tops, carrying turned elm baluster type columns.

7.14 The superstructure is carried on the external perimeter wall and moulded crossbeams spanning from side to side of the undercroft. It is of dressed limestone blocks with quoins only at the corners. The first floor has eight leaded cross-windows on the west side (the northern and southern were later blocked) and two, later blocked, windows on the northern gable with two small leaded casement windows at attic level. A date stone recording the construction in 1698 is fixed in the north gable, with a plaque bearing a series of market fees beneath. The gable roof has a small catslide that extends around the north side above a deep coving, the south end is hipped. The roof is covered in Cotswold slates.

7.15 A thin layer of trampled compacted lime mortar (59) accumulated across the undercroft during the construction process and sealed the underlying walls and infill. A layer of trampled dark grey sandy clay silt soil (54) had accumulated within the south-eastern corner of the undercroft.

Limestone paver floor

7.16 A 0.9m thick layer of rammed orange sandy clay (33), (47) was laid over the undercroft (Figs 10–13), overlying the foundations of the central arcade and forming a solid base for a paved floor of fine 50mm thick Painswick Stone pavers [46] with a surface at c180.74m OD. The pavers are 0.4–0.5m wide and up to 0.9m long and laid in straight courses. The pavers only survive at the southeast of the undercroft, where they are fragmentary and extremely worn and dished. The top of the

pavers is below the level of the base of the superstructure, indicating that this is not the original floor.

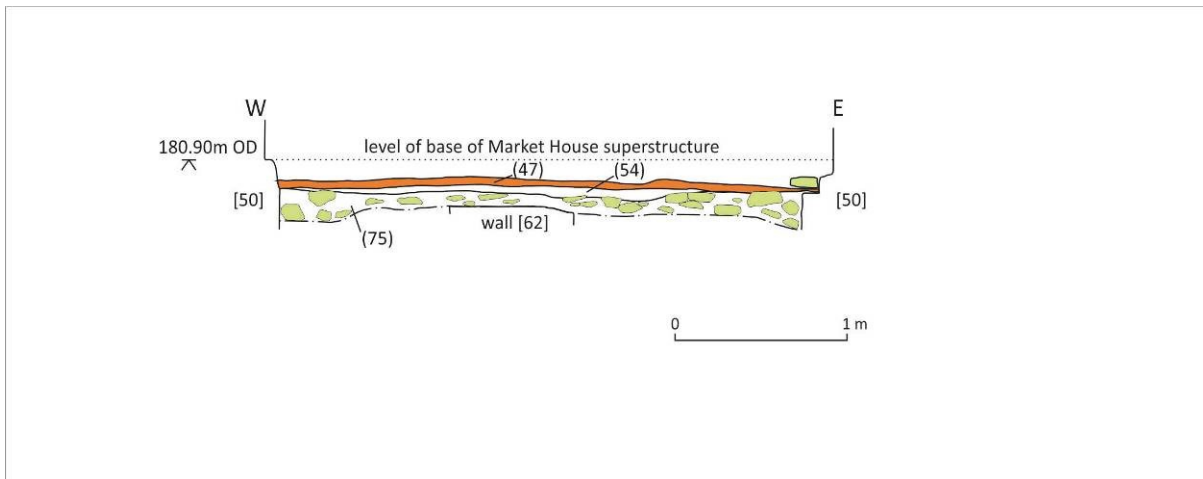


Fig. 10 North facing section through clay slab (47) showing relationship to Market House foundations, planned floor level, and underlying wall [62]



Fig. 11 The undercroft with exposed foundations, showing horizontally truncated clay slab (47) and limestone block pavers [58] looking south, with untruncated slab and pavers [46] beyond; scale 0.5m



Fig. 12 Limestone paver floor [46] laid on orange clay slab (47), with localised patching (48) to the north. Note truncation by [44], the insertion of threshold slabs at bottom of image; looking west, scale 0.5m

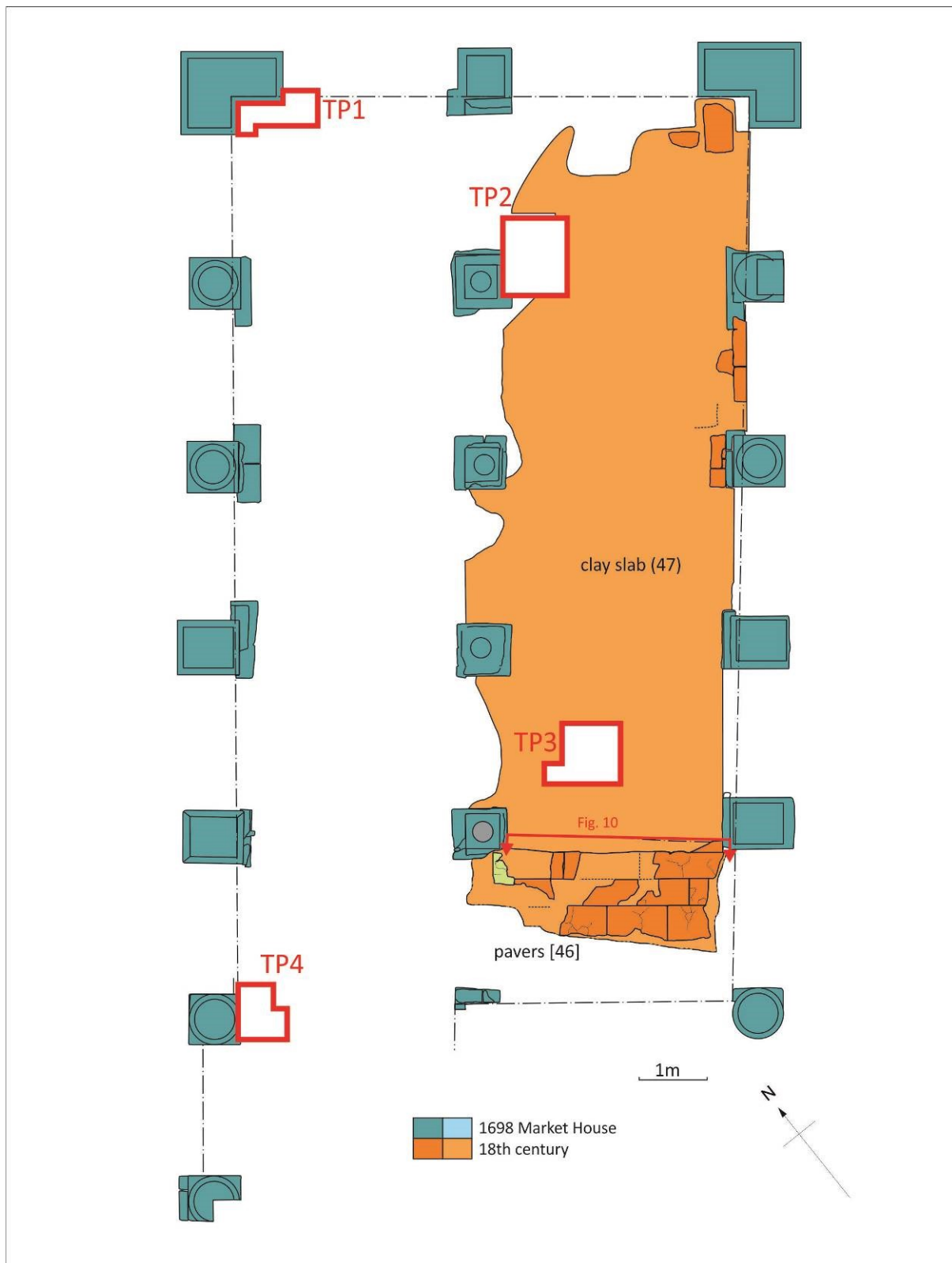


Fig. 13 Plan of undercroft showing surviving extent of clay slab (47) and Painswick Stone pavers [46]

7.17 A further fragment of differing flooring [58] survived at the east edge of the undercroft (Fig. 14). The roughly dressed limestone blocks were also laid on clay slab (47) and had a surface at 180.88m OD, again below the level of the superstructure.



Fig. 14 Limestone block paving [58] laid on clay slab (47) and set against trimmed pier base; looking east, scale 0.5m

7.18 The upper parts of the bases of the central arcade had been roughly hewn down, in a crude attempt to square up the upper foundation, presumably to match the lower floor level which would have exposed the foundation (Figs 15–16). On the south side of the southern base, localised cut [49] was made against the base, the base cut back, and the hollow infilled with a hard light grey sandy mortar silt (48) to match the adjacent paved floor [46].



Fig. 15 View of southern central arcade pier looking east, showing localised floor patch [48] cut into the clay bedding (47). Note the floor surfaces are all below the base of the pier, which has been crudely trimmed down to meet the new floor; scale 0.5m



Fig. 16 Southern central arcade pier with floor patch (48) removed showing clay slab (47) overlying arcade foundation which has been cut back to match the new floor level. Looking east, scale 0.5m

1858 Re-flooring

7.19 New threshold slabs were inserted between the piers: a series of trenches [44] were dug, these cut through the limestone pavers [46] and [58] and clay slab (46), and large limestone blocks [17] and [45] placed were set within them around the perimeter of the undercroft (Fig. 17). The slabs were up to 0.9x1.0m by 0.32m thick with diagonal toolmarks. The upper surfaces of the slabs were set flush with the base of the superstructure suggesting that the floor was relaid at the originally intended level.

7.20 Iron pipes (16) were laid against the northern foundations, related to the provision of gas lighting in the town c1859. A drain [22] was inserted at the west of the undercroft, taking surface and roof water. The drain was covered with a perforated iron grille that was set in a recess carved out of the threshold slab, and haunched up with Portland cement (Fig. 18).

7.21 Sandy silt (43) was backfilled around the slabs within cut [44], and clinker-rich layers (11), (12), (41), (42), (56), (57), and (61) were used to level up the interior of the undercroft. Within the perimeter of the new threshold slabs the floor was relaid with Pennant sandstone slabs [10], [40] and [55], the level respecting the base of the undercroft superstructure.

7.22 Round iron bars were set into the threshold slabs and piers, forming a series of cattle barriers around the perimeter of the undercroft (Fig. 19).



Fig. 17 View of paver floor [46] on clay slab (47) truncated by cut [44] for threshold slabs. Note the pavers are beneath the base of the pier superstructure, and the clay slab abutting the foundation; looking south, scale 0.5m



Fig. 18 View of drain in Southwestern corner of undercroft showing undermining of pier base (looking west, scale 0.5m)



Fig. 19 View of north-western corner showing original foundations, threshold slabs and iron baffle gate; scale 0.5m

20th century

7.23 The paving was taken up over 70% of the undercroft and the level reduced [52]. Broken Pennant slabs (32) and (51) were scattered over the base of the cut (Fig. 20) and concrete slab [3], [9], [39] poured (Fig. 21). The remaining Pennant sandstone pavers [7], [64] were relaid over the concrete on a mortar bedding (2), (8) with presumably new additions to replace the broken slabs. An external stair was added at the north-eastern corner of the undercroft. The southern bays of the undercroft were enclosed with construction of toilets. The drainage from the toilets was later upgraded with a new clay pipe connecting to two inspection chambers and a new pipe [22] running from the drain. The pipe trench was backfilled with (21) and the pavers [19] reset on sand bedding (20).



Fig. 20 Broken Pennant sandstone slabs (51) discarded prior to laying of concrete slab [39] (at right of image), the loose rubble is the backfilled Test Pit 3; looking west, scale 0.5m

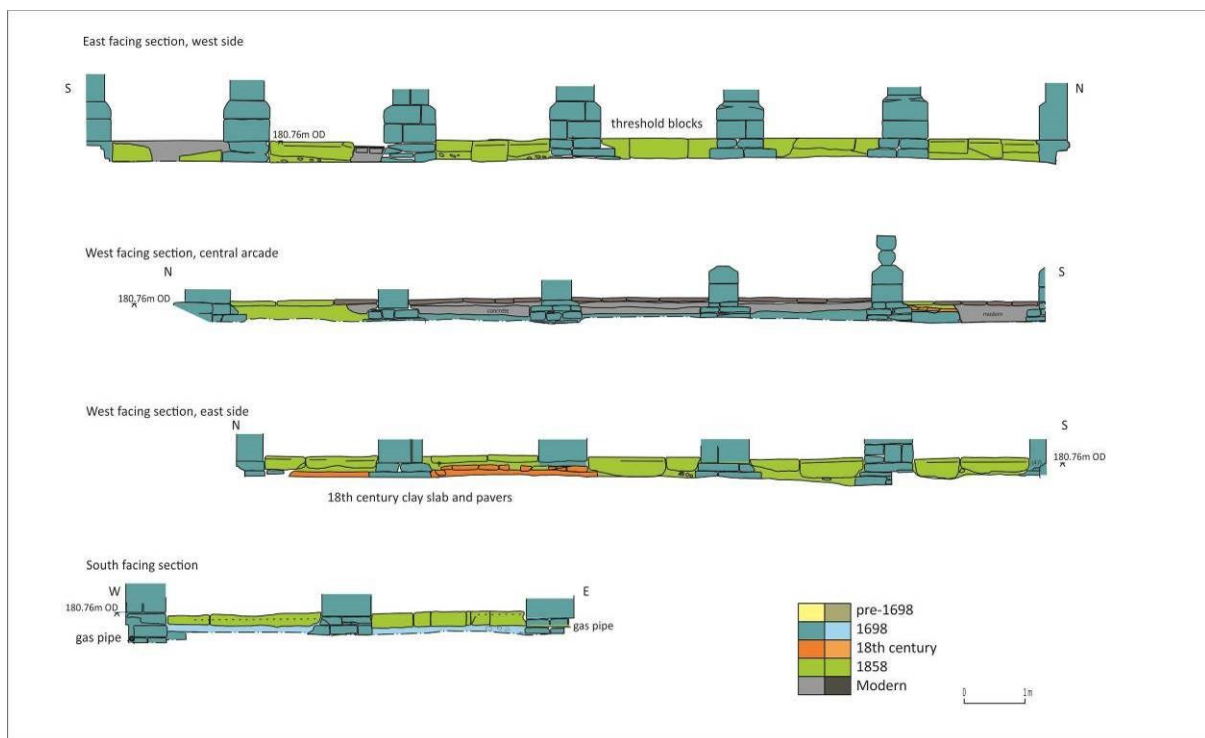


Fig. 21 Phased longitudinal cross-sections of Market House

8 The Finds

8.1 The Pottery

Paul Blinkhorn

8.1.1 The pottery assemblage from the main excavation comprised 102 sherds with a total weight of 896g in addition to 22 sherds weighing 261g from the evaluation excavations. It was all medieval or later, with all the context-specific groups being of post-medieval date, and most modern. It was recorded using the conventions of the Gloucester City type-series (e.g. Vince 1984). The following fabric types were noted:

TF40:	Unglazed Malvernian Ware , late 12 th – 15 th century. 1 sherd, 18g.
TF44:	Minety-type Ware , early/mid 12 th - 16 th century. 1 sherd, 6g.
TF52:	Oxidized glazed Malvernian Ware , 14 th – early 17 th century. 10 sherds, 171g.
TF55:	Yellow Ware , 19 th – 20 th century. 3 sherds, 50g.
TF63:	Flower Pots , 18 th – 20 th century. 1 sherd, 30g.
TF66:	Porcelain , mid 18 th – 19 th century. 3 sherds, 5g.
TF68C:	Frechen Stoneware , AD1550 – 1750. 1 sherd, 1g.
TF69:	Creamware , AD1740-1850. 5 sherds, 8g.
TF71:	Transfer-printed White Earthenware, 19 th – 20 th century. 76 sherds, 430g.
TF72:	Staffs/Bristol Slipware, AD1650 – 1780. 1 sherd, 4g.
TF74:	Staffs/Bristol Manganese Glazed Ware , late 17 th – 18 th century. 2 sherds, 34g.
TF80:	Ashton Keynes-type Earthenware , 17 th – 18 th century. 16 sherds, 340g.
TF96:	Modern Stoneware , mid 18 th – 19 th century. 2 sherds, 26g.
TF97:	Stroat Ware , late 16 th - 17 th century. 1 sherds, 8g.
TF120:	Black Basalt Ware , 18 th – 19 th century. 1 sherd, 26g.

8.1.2 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*.

8.1.3 The overall range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region, and indicates that there was activity at the site from around the 12th or 13th century onwards, although most of the pottery was late medieval or later, and the bulk of it of late 17th century or later date. The assemblage is generally fairly unremarkable. The TF52 material includes material from across the life of the industry, with late medieval jugs and post-medieval large bowls or pancheons. The fragment of TF74 from context 54 is from a cup with the handle still attached. The sherd from a flower-pot in context 56 exhibited a few glaze-splashes and had a band of white slip painted on and under the rim. Such pots were first used in the 18th century, and were manufactured in fairly large quantities at Brill in Buckinghamshire in the 19th century (Currie 1993, 239).

8.1.4 None of the modern pottery had any maker's marks or date stamps. The sherd of TF120 is glazed and therefore of 19th century date. All the pottery appears to be of domestic origin.

Context	TF40		TF44		TF52		F68C		TF97		TF80		TF66		TF72		TF74		TF120		TF69		TF63		TF96		TF55		TF71		Date	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt		
11																														6	54	MOD
13											2	51																	10	85	MOD	
23																	1	3											1	2	MOD	
37											2	66																			17thC	
39																										1	46				MOD	
43											1	2																			17thC	
47											2	34	1	1																	M18thC	
53																												1	5		MOD	
54	1	18					1	1			2	71					1	31													L17thC	
56													2	4							1	3	1	30							M18thC	
57					4	69					6	51									4	5				1	1	30	129		MOD	
60			1	6	5	42			1	8	1	65			1	4												3	22		MOD	
61					1	60													1	26					2	26	1	3	25	133		MOD
Total	1	18	1	6	10	171	1	1	1	8	16	340	3	5	1	4	2	34	1	26	5	8	1	30	2	26	3	50	76	430		

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

8.2 The Ceramic Building Material

Paul Blinkhorn

8.2.1 After re-fitting, a total of 19 fragments of fired clay building material were noted from the main excavation. In addition, the evaluation excavation yielded a single fragment. The occurrence by number and weight of fragments per context by type is shown in Table 2.

Context	Minety Flat		Minety Ridge		Malvernian Ridge		Malvernian Flat	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
26	1	30						
47					3	107	1	90
53					1	69	1	5
60			4	776	9	688		
Total	1	30	4	776	13	864	2	95

Table 2 CBM occurrence by number and weight of fragments (g) per context by type

8.2.2 It is all roof-tile, with the curvature and thickness of the pieces indicating that they are nearly all from ridge-tiles, with just three fragments of flat tile noted. Most of the former had patchy green glaze on the upper surface. They are all of relatively local manufacture, being Minety- or Malvernian-types. Ridge-tiles in these fabrics were made from the late medieval to early post-medieval periods (Vince 1977, 274; *ibid.* 1984, 264), whereas flat Malvernian tiles are generally post-medieval, and date to the late 16th – 17th centuries (*ibid.* 1977, 275). The Minety flat tiles are generally of the same date as the ridge-tiles. It seems likely that the tiles all pre-date the Market House, and are thus from the earlier buildings which were demolished to make way for the construction of the Market House. These seem most likely to have had stone flat tiles as fragments of clay examples are extremely scarce here, although they may have been re-used elsewhere.

8.2.3 The fragments of Minety tile from context 60 appear to be from a single example. A number of the Malvernian fragments from the same context also refitted. All the ridge-tiles from all contexts exhibited traces of mortar, as did the fragment of unglazed flat tile from context 47.

8.3 The Glass

John Shepherd

8.3.1 Ten fragments of glass were submitted for identification. All are catalogued below. There is nothing exceptional about them. However, the curvature of the bottle fragment from [54] and the two bottle fragments from [60] suggest that they come from bottles dating to the earliest part of the time-span of the 'English' wine bottle, namely late 17th to 18th century. The four fragments form a colourless goblet or beaker, although they cannot be closely dated, come from a vessel for use on the table. All the others are from utilitarian containers.

Catalogue

8.3.2 [43] Fragment of thick glass from the body of a cylindrical bottle. Machine made; amber-coloured glass with a bright finish on both surfaces. Amber brown glass was commonly used for beer bottles, which were made of thick glass in anticipation of heavy usage and reuse. They were also strongly made, with a form of sealed enclosure, as the contents were likely to be partly carbonated. Such vessels, in the glass bottle industry, are known as 'pressure ware'. Late 19th or early 20th century.

8.3.3 [47] Fragment of thick glass from the body of a cylindrical bottle. Machine-made, clear olive-green glass. Probably from a wine bottle. Late 19th or early 20th century.

8.3.4 [47] Small fragment of natural blue glass from a free-blown vessel of indeterminate form. Post-medieval.

8.3.5 [54] Fragment from the side of an 'English' wine bottle. Free-blown; thick dark olive-green glass. Curvature to the bodt suggests a bulbous form, and therefore likely to date from the late 17th or 18th century.

8.3.6 [56] Four fragments from the rim and part of the side of a bucket-shaped bowl of a drinking vessel, either a beaker or stemmed goblet. Free-blown; colourless glass. The side of the bowl is upright, the rim slightly thickened and fire-rounded. Bucket-shaped bowls for stemmed vessels commence being used during the 18th century. Beakers are more commonplace from the late 18th century onwards. The context will date this example, but it is probably 19th or early 20th century.

8.3.7 [60] Two fragments from the bodies of common 'English' wine bottles. Free-blown; dark olive-green glass. The fragments are curved, suggesting they came from bulbous-bodied bottles (more common in the late 17th or 18th century) rather than bottles with cylindrical bodies (predominantly 19th century and later). Late 17th or 18th century.

8.4 The clay tobacco pipe

Marek Lewcun

Introduction

8.4.1 The Minchinhampton excavation produced a 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.

8.4.2 The pipes were examined, and dates were assigned to each item, based on currently available information. Dates have been given to marked pipes in accordance with currently known documentary evidence. Where makers' marks are not present, wide date brackets have been given, based on borehole diameter and stem thickness.

8.4.3 The assemblage comprises a total of 81 fragments of pipe. There are 12 bowls represented in the assemblage, of which nine are complete or largely complete.

Date ranges

8.4.4 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 1870-1920. The majority of the pipes, on balance, date to the period 1650 to 1720, while a small number are clearly of a more recent date, most probably after 1850 given their very narrow stem bore diameters. 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, though a small number of factories, such as those in Broseley and Manchester, continued to operate after this date to satisfy the demand of die-hard clay pipe smokers at home and the overseas markets.

Catalogue

Context	Date	Quantity	Description
11	1800-1920	1	Stem
	1850-1920	1	Stem
	1850-1920	1	Bowl fragment, with raised ridge along the back seam
14	1620-1700	1	Stem
25	1620-1700	2	Stems
	1685-1720	1	Bowl. Spurred
28	1620-1700	4	Stems
33	1620-1700	1	Stem
	1670-1750	1	Stem
47	1620-1700	4	Stems
	1620-1720	12	Stems
	1650-1680	1	Bowl, Gloucestershire type 3a, milled
	1679-1710	2	Stems, stamped WILL/CHAPE/RLINE above three flowers
	1680-1720	1	Bowl fragment
	1682-1720	1	Bowl. Broseley type 5A, stamped THO/HUG/HES
	1800-1920	2	Stems
54	1620-1700	4	Stems
	1650-1720	2	Stems
	1670-1720	1	Bowl. Spurred Gloucestershire type 8/9 hybrid
	1680-1720	1	Stem
56	1680-1720	1	Stem
	1800-1920	4	Stems
	1870-1920	1	Stem, stamped []OR on left and 105.B[] on right
57	1680-1720	2	Stems
	1800-1880	1	Spur of bowl
	1800-1920	4	Stems
60	1620-1720	10	Stems
	1630-1660	1	Bowl, Gloucestershire type 2
	1685-1698	1	Bowl, with stem stamped ED/[HIGG/ENS]
	1680-1700	1	Bowl. Polished. Base marked RICH/GREEN:/LAND
	1680-1720	1	Stem
	1690-1710	1	Bowl. Gloucestershire type 7
61	1680-1720	1	Stem
	1800-1920	1	Stem
63	1620-1720	4	Stems
	1680-1720	1	Stem
	1680-1720	1	Stem, stamped WILL/CHAPE/RLINE above three flowers
	1690-1720	1	Bowl, Gloucestershire or Wiltshire type

Table 3 The clay tobacco pipe catalogue

The sources of the pipes and makers

8.4.5 The marked pipes conform to the distribution of the products of different makers as found in the Stroud valleys. Peacey illustrates a variety of pipes from the Stroud area, where they comprise Gloucestershire forms, pipes from north-west Wiltshire, pipes from north-east Somerset, and pipes from Broseley which had been brought down the River Severn from Shropshire (Peacey 1979, 63-69). With the exception of the later stem in context 56, the marked pipes are all of either a late 17th or early 18th century date.

8.4.6 There are three stems from contexts 47 and 63 stamped WILL/CHAPE/RLINE. These are products of the Wiltshire pipemaker William Chapperlin, who is recorded at Ashton Keynes between

1679 and 1692 and at Malmesbury between 1699 and his death in 1710. His pipes have a wide distribution in the county, and have also been recorded from Gloucester. The pipe by Edward Higgins from context 60 is also a local product and must predate his move to Salisbury by 1698 (Lewcun forthcoming, b). The pipes of both Chapperlin and Higgins have a very wide distribution across the county, including Gloucester.

8.4.7 There are two pipes from further afield. Pipes from Broseley, Shropshire, are common finds in Gloucestershire, having travelled down the River Severn. The pipe from context 47 bearing the name of Thomas Hughes is identical to another example of the stamp recorded from Stroud (Peacey 1979, 67), and is of the type given by Higgins as Thomas Hughes type 1 (Higgins 1987). The pipe bearing the name of Richard Greenland from context 60 is from Norton St Philip, an important production centre in Somerset during the 17th and 18th centuries. Greenland died in 1710, the same year as William Chapperlin (Lewcun forthcoming, a and b). Pipes from Norton St Philip are not uncommon finds in Gloucestershire, and an identical example of this particular pipe is recorded from Chalford, a short distance to the north-east of Minchinhampton (Peacey 1979, 65).

8.4.8 The marked pipe from context 56 is of uncertain origin, but possibly from much further afield. The lettering on the left side of the stem might be the end of the name Naylor or Taylor, while 105.B on the right side is most likely the beginning of an address. Although there were pipemakers of the name Taylor in Bristol, Shrewsbury and Birmingham, none are known in association with the number in their address (Peter Taylor, pers. comm.). Although some late 19th and early 20th century pipes bear mould numbers for customer ordering purposes, it seems unlikely to be the case with this particular pipe.

8.4.9 The unmarked bowls in contexts 25 and 63 are probably from either Gloucestershire or north-west Wiltshire, as they are not from any of the moulds used by the north-east Somerset pipemakers whose products reached as far as the Stroud valleys. As such, they might be further products by Edward Higgins or William Chapperlin. The bowl fragment in context 11 is a recognizable later 19th century form, 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 Bristol or Gloucester.

Retention and discard statement

8.4.10 Only the bowls and stems bearing makers' marks are worthy of being archived, and it is recommended that the unmarked stems could be discarded.

8.5 The stone

Chiz Harward

8.5.1 Two fragments of limestone tile were recovered from context (60), both are perforated by single fixing holes. The Througham Tilestone formation occurs at the top of the Fuller's Earth around Minchinhampton, it consists of fissile sandy limestones which would be split to make roofing tiles commonly known as Cotswold Stone slates (Historic England 2017, 12). Cotswold slates decrease in size up the roof, with the largest tiles at the bottom of the roof and the smallest at the ridge, the fragments measure 148 x 106 x 25mm (466g) and 135 x 132 x 12mm (360g) but neither example has a complete width or length.

8.5.2 The tiles can be discarded.

8.6 The metal finds

Angie Bolton

Introduction and Aims

8.6.1 This assessment covers the copper alloy small finds recovered from Market House, Minchinhampton (MMH 22). The report aims to describe, identify, date and quantify the artefactual evidence, followed by an assessment of their significance and their potential to enhance our understanding of the site.

Quantification

8.6.2 The small finds are summarised in Table 4.

Small find no.	Material	Context	Comments	Spot-date
<SF1>	Copper alloy	(57)	Waste copper alloy plate.	c. 1800-1900
<SF2>	Copper alloy	(63)	Machine manufactured thimble.	c. 1650-1750
<SF3>	Copper alloy	(63)	Ferrule.	c. 1700-1900
<SF4>	Copper alloy	(63)	Lace tag.	c. 1600-1800
<SF5>	Copper alloy	(63)	Ring, possibly a finger ring.	c. 1600-1900

Table 4 Metal finds summary

Copper Alloy Small Finds

<SF1> Waste Copper Alloy Plate

8.6.3 Copper alloy unidentified waste plate: The plate sub-triangular with a long curved edge and right-angled corner (Fig. 22). In profile it is slightly bent forming a undulating profile. The edges are all original with no breaks or abrasion. The surface is slightly encrusted, has a mottled green-grey colour which has not developed a patina. The artefact measures 63.05mm long, 24.74mm wide, 1.92mm thick and weighs 6.19g.

8.6.4 The plate is most likely to be waste copper alloy plate as there are no mounting points, decoration or identifiable features. The crispness of the edges suggest it has not been disturbed and abraded by movement in the ground, nor is it of great age. It is likely to date to the 19th century.



Fig. 22 <SF1> Copper alloy unidentified waste plate

<SF2> Thimble

8.6.5 One-piece machine manufactured copper alloy thimble: The thimble has a domed top, straight sides which taper slightly toward the top and has a thickened and plain rim (Fig. 23). There is a slightly ridge at the junction of the wall and top. The thimble has circumferential horizontal lines of circular indentations on the walls and the top. The indentations on the top form concentric rings centering around the plain apex. The thimble is in good condition and shows little wear. The thimble measures 21.61mm tall, 17.26mm diameter and 1.07mm thick at the rim and weighs 5.61g.

8.6.6 Before the mid-17th century thimbles were manufactured in the Netherlands. It wasn't until John Lofting, a Dutch immigrant to England, was granted the license to manufacture one-piece thimble in England in 1693 such thimbles were produced in England (Holmes 1988,3). Lofting's thimbles were manufactured in England until his death in 1742. It is difficult to distinguish whether this thimble was manufactured in the Netherlands or England (Read 2018,63) but it is likely to date to the mid-17th to mid-18th century.



Fig. 23 <SF2>

<SF3> Ferrule

8.6.7 Copper alloy ferrule or end cap, possibly from a pointer or porte-crayon: The ferrule has a circular sectioned cylinder with an end cap and the broken terminal (Fig. 24). The body of the ferrule is undecorated and at the terminal has two oval indentations, one either side of the ferrule. Beyond which there is an expanded collar formed by the ridges of varying depths and diameters. This terminal has a broken edge suggesting the wall of the ferrule originally continued. The collared terminal shows that the ferrule is cylindrical rather than solid and its depth is 5.59mm. The surface of the ferrule has a shiny dark grey patina. It measures 25.69mm long, 10.43mm diameter at the collar and weighs 3.79g.

8.6.8 The ferrule is possibly a holder or reinforcer for a pencil or other drawing material such as charcoal, chalk or crayon; these are known as porte-crayons or portcrayons, and are well known from the 18th and 19th centuries (Ashley 2022). The oval indentations and collar would have helped with gripping the writing implement.



Fig. 24 <SF3>

<SF4> Lace Tag

8.6.9 Copper alloy lace tag copper alloy ferrule or lace tag: The lace tag is cylindrical tapering to narrowed collar and a solid knob at the base (Fig. 25). Through the outer edge are two equally sized circular holes (diameter 1.9mm) which are aligned with one another, presumably to take a fixing (now not present). The lace tag has a mottled dark green-grey coloured patina. It measures 22.87mm long, 7.86mm wide at the opening, and 5.92mm across the opening. The sheet metal is 0.61mm thick and weighs 2.22g.

8.6.10 Lace tags were used for decorative and functional purposes at the end of leather or twine cords and laces to prevent them from fraying. The lace tag is likely to date to the 17th to 18th centuries.



Fig. 25 <SF4>

<SF5> Ring

8.6.11 Copper alloy ring: The ring is sub-oval in section and an asymmetrical oval in plan. It is undecorated and has no signs of wear (Fig. 26). The surface has traces of a dark green patina. It measures 20.75mm long, 16.92mm wide, 2.03mm thick and weighs 0.78g.

8.6.12 The ring is possibly a finger ring as it is not robust enough to be a strap attachment and does not have the profile of a ferrule. Finger rings such as these are difficult to date, but when considering the patina it is likely to date to the Post Medieval period, probably 17th to 19th centuries.



Fig. 26 <SF5>

Conclusion

8.6.13 The waster copper alloy plate found in context (57) is likely to be intrusive artefact from the upper stratigraphy. The artefacts from context (63) are a small selection of domestic objects which correspond to the date of the building and are the type of artefacts that can be casually lost during use.

8.6.14 I would recommend retaining the domestic artefacts as a reflection of everyday artefacts but discard the intrusive waste.

8.7 The Plaster

Chiz Harward

8.7.1 Two fragments of plaster were taken from context (60), a rubble infill over the pre-1698 buildings. The plaster is similar to that seen on the face of the pre-1698 walls [62] *et al.*

8.7.1 The fragments weigh 371g and consisted of a moderately hard lime plaster or render backing up to 35mm thick, with a finish skim c3–8mm of fine white lime plaster with a layer of limewash over the finish coat. There is no visible hair in the plaster. The reverse of the plaster shows that it had been applied to masonry, rather than lathes, and although a finish coat had been applied, the surface was not flat. The plaster therefore appears to come from the internal face of a masonry wall.

8.7.2 The plaster can be discarded.

8.8 The Animal bone

Hannah Russ

Introduction

8.8.1 Animal remains comprising mammals (20 fragments) were recovered via hand collection during archaeological excavation at Minchinhampton Market House, Gloucestershire. This assessment includes quantification of the assemblage recovered with identification at species level where possible, an assessment of significance and recommendation(s) for any further work.

Methods

8.8.2 The animal remains were identified to element, side and to as low a taxonomic level as possible using the Author's reference collection and published and online identification guides (Hillson 2003; 2005). Quantification for mammal remains used the diagnostic zone method as presented by Dobney and Rielly (1988). A taphonomic assessment of each fragment was

undertaken, recording the presence and absence of cut and chop marks, burning and calcination, any evidence for animal activity (canid or rodent gnawing), and surface preservation; any other surface modifications of note were also recorded. At this stage, no attempt was made to sex any of the remains, or to measure any elements. Sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goat (*Capra hircus*) distinctions were also not considered. Fragments of bones that could be identified to element but not any specific species were grouped as far as possible using size and class or order categories. Results were recorded in an electronic proforma in Microsoft Excel.

8.8.3 This assessment has been undertaken in line with published standards and guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019), a written scheme of investigation for the site (Harward 2022) and with reference to the South West Archaeological Research Framework for the post medieval period (SWARF, accessed October 2022).

Results

8.8.4 Mammal remains (20 fragments) were recovered from five contexts across three test pits during excavations at Minchinhampton Market House in 2022 (Table 5).

8.8.5 Identified mammal remains included domestic cattle (*Bos taurus*), pig (*Sus domesticus*) and sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), Table 1. Additional remains were identified within size categories at clade (ungulate) or class (mammal) level (45.0% by count, n=9).

Context	Cattle	Pig	Sheep /goat	Large ungulate	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Total
43				1			1
47	1	1	1	2	3		8
54						1	1
56		1					1
57			1				1
60	4	2	1				7
61			1				1
Total	5	4	4	3	3	1	20

Table 5 Summary of animal remains from excavations at Minchinhampton Market House (MMH22), count.

Taphonomic assessment

Bone surface preservation and fragmentation

8.8.6 Bone surface preservation varied throughout the assemblage from 'excellent' to 'poor' (categories 1 to 4). Most of the specimens displayed 'moderate' surface preservation (55.0% by count, n=11). Fragmentation was moderate throughout the assemblage with some partial bones recovered.

Butchery

8.8.7 Evidence for butchery in the form of fine cut marks and more substantial chop marks was recorded on four specimens throughout the assemblage. Cut and/or chop marks were observed on cattle, pig and sheep/goat bones. Site-wide, evidence for carcass processing was moderate.

Animal interaction

8.8.8 Carnivore gnawing activity was observed on two specimens, a cattle axis from context 47 and a sheep/goat pelvis from context 60. No evidence for rodent gnawing activity was observed.

Pathology

8.8.9 No skeletal abnormalities possibly resulting from disease, injury or age were recorded.

Burning and calcination

8.8.10 No burnt or calcined bones were recovered.

Potential for measurements

8.8.11 Two bones were suitably complete to allow measurement for size estimation, a cattle phalanx 1 and a sheep/goat metacarpal.

Potential for ageing and sexing

8.8.12 Bone fusion data for estimation of age at death was recorded for one or both epiphyses of seven specimens. No mandibles or loose teeth were suitable for providing age at death data. No animal remains were suitable for identifying sex.

Discussion

8.8.13 The range of taxa identified at Minchinhampton Market House were consistent with those to be expected from post-medieval deposits in Gloucestershire. Cattle would have been kept for meat, traction, milk and/or leather, pigs for meat, and sheep/goat for meat, milk and/or wool; these taxa are all common features within the assemblages of animal bones recovered from sites within the region and throughout Britain, being three of the main domestic livestock animals from the Neolithic period onwards (Baker and Worley 2019, 3). The species represented, along with carcass processing evidence, suggest that at least some of the remains represent food waste. The elements bearing chop and cut marks are high meat-bearing; however, low meat bearing elements are also present, suggesting that some material represents primary butchery waste.

8.8.14 Due to the small size of the assemblage, it is not possible to comment further on the role of these animals at the site. The assemblage is of low local significance with limited future research potential beyond the information contained within this report and associated spreadsheet.

Recommendations for future analysis and dissemination

8.8.15 No further work is recommended for the animal remains recovered from Minchinhampton Market House in 2022. This report and associated data should be retained within the site archive and integrated into any site-wide reporting or publication. The animal remains may be discarded on completion of the project.

9 Discussion, conclusions and statement of significance

9.1 The Market House is a Grade 2* listed building within the centre of the Cotswold town of Minchinhampton. Consent was granted in 2022 for a program of refurbishment that included work on the undercroft floor that would impact on below ground archaeological deposits; evaluation had demonstrated that earlier deposits and structures were present beneath the current pavers, and the design had been adjusted to minimise disturbance. The watching brief at Minchinhampton Market House was carried out to ensure mitigation of any negative impact from the reflooring of the undercroft on the archaeological remains of the Market House, and on any earlier archaeological remains predating the 1698 construction.

Discussion of the site sequence

9.2 The watching brief involved ground reduction across the entirety of the undercroft, an area of approximately 105m², a relatively large area within a closely built-up townscape. The results include evidence for masonry buildings predating the 1698 construction of the Market House as well as evidence for the construction and development of the Market House, especially alterations to the undercroft flooring, and the 1858 works instigated by David Ricardo the Younger.

9.3 The pre-1698 deposits exposed in the watching brief comprised the backs of properties that would have fronted onto the east side of the High Street/market square. The walls were constructed using locally available stone and the buildings may have had two storeys with an attic and cellar. The roofing material is suggested by the finds of clay ridge and flat roof tiles, although stone slates may also have been used.

9.4 The line of the rear wall was exposed over a length of 5.64m, however the north end of this wall was a squared terminus suggesting a doorway (or window) to the north, and the building is likely to have extended to include the polygonal masonry seen to the north, a total length of over 8m. This polygonal structure suggests a change in orientation, perhaps as the High Street turned eastwards by Upper Island. The parallel walls at the north of the site suggest a passageway, although it is not clear where the worn step leads to (although this may be reused) and the north end of the building plan is not clear.

9.5 Most, if not all, early buildings on Minchinhampton High Street are aligned at a right angle to their street frontage and 8m is wide for such a frontage suggesting the building may have been aligned parallel to the High Street, or may be the remains of two adjacent properties – with the party wall not being exposed at formation level. It is possible that the walls represent the back of a linear building facing the market square, perhaps even a set of shops or kiosks specifically constructed to serve the markets -the ownership by the Lord of the Manor might support this possibility.

9.6 The presence of cellars is indicated by voids within the rubble infill and the floors of the internal rooms were at some depth below street level. Several historic properties along the High Street do have cellars (Nick Hurst *pers. comm.*) and these may have been used for storage of market goods.

9.7 To the east of the rear wall, a small area of possible paving was exposed, this was sealed by an accumulated trampled soil suggesting that this eastern area was the back yard behind buildings.

9.8 The date of these buildings is uncertain: the construction technique is a local vernacular that is in use throughout the medieval period and into the 19th century. Given the site's location at the north end of the market square/High Street it is very likely that the site was occupied from early in the town's history, and it is certainly possible that the walls and cellars are medieval in date, although they may equally be of Tudor or later date. One possible indicator of their date is that they were chosen to be demolished to make way for the new Market House, which might suggest they were of some age by 1698 and potentially in disrepair and therefore ripe for demolition.

9.9 The results of the watching brief therefore suggest the Market House was built on the site of one, or possibly a pair of, medieval or Tudor cellared buildings that had been constructed aligned with the market. The front of the building(s) ground floor may have been partly given over for retail, with a cellar for storage, and first floor (and possibly attic) accommodation. Behind the building(s) was open ground, this may have originally been paved, but had not been maintained and a layer of soil had accumulated over the slumped pavers by the time the buildings were demolished.

9.10 The site was selected by Philip Sheppard for the new Market House presumably at least partly as it was in poor repair, as well as in a suitable location, and the buildings would have been demolished with the timbers and good building stone probably being removed for reuse. The demolition would have infilled the cellar or basement level with plaster, mortar and poor-quality stone; it is possible that material was brought in from elsewhere to level up the site and that some finds are therefore not from the property itself. Following demolition, levelling deposits were spread across the site and trampled in. There is no evidence that the site was left open for any considerable length of time.

9.11 Once the site was levelled the new Market House was laid out and the foundation trenches dug, presumably to natural bedrock which involved digging through the recently infilled cellars. The foundations were built within the trenches which were then backfilled and the superstructure built up. Mortar from the construction was trampled into the surface of the interior of the undercroft.

9.12 The original flooring of the Market House is not known although limestone pavers were widely used in the late 17th century and would have been available from local quarries. The earliest surviving floor consisted of an orange clay slab laid as a bed for a floor of Painswick Stone pavers which were heavily worn. The clay sealed the 1698 foundations, and has every appearance of an original floor, however the pavers are below the level of the base of the Market House superstructure, meaning that the top of the foundations would have been exposed.

9.13 It appears unlikely that, having gone to the expense of commissioning the Market House, Sheppard would have accepted a floor that left the foundations visible, and this suggests that the Painswick Stone floor is a later reflooring. A small area of a different style of paved floor survived to the north in the undercroft, it was also laid on the clay slab, and was also set at the lower level. The tops of the foundations had been trimmed down to respect the lower floor surface, but this had been done crudely and was not the work of skilled masons. Dating evidence suggest that these lower floors were installed in the 18th century; perhaps the original slabs had worn badly and needed replacing, although why the floor was lowered to install the replacement flooring is unclear and may relate to wider hard landscaping along the High Street.

9.14 The listing text suggests that several of the columns have been replaced with square piers (Historic England 2022) however there was no clear evidence for this on site and they may be original given their paired location at the centre of the elevations.

9.15 Nineteenth century Minchinhampton was perhaps dominated by one man in particular: David Ricardo, son of the speculator and economist David Ricardo who had bought Gatcombe Park

from the Sheppards. David Ricardo Jr was instrumental in the rebuilding of Holy Trinity in 1842 and in numerous civic improvements around the town. The Market House was the target of his philanthropy, with the undercroft being repaved in 1858 apparently in celebration of his son's engagement with the rest of the High Street also being paved and gas lighting was also introduced at around this time with iron gas pipes being found at the north of the undercroft. The demolition of Upper Island in 1858 is likely to have been part of these civic works.

9.16 The undercroft was not just repaved: large stone blocks were set around the perimeter forming a threshold into which iron barriers were set. Local legend has it that these were installed by Ricardo to stop gatecrashers at his son's wedding, but it seems more likely that these were to keep cattle out of the undercroft.

9.17 The old limestone floor was simply buried under levelling deposits and a new floor of Pennant Sandstone slabs was laid. The new floor was level with the new threshold slabs and the base of the superstructure -the floor level was back to the level originally intended. In 1870 dormer windows were removed.

9.18 Further improvements had been made in 1911 with an external stair was added to the east side of the building, the Market House was leased by Ricardo to a local committee representing the parishioners for £2pa for seven years before being transferred permanently in 1919, as recorded on the building. In 1921 the fire engine was moved out of its lodging in the south end, and the southern bays enclosed. A memorial panel to those lost in WW1 was added to the ground floor, accompanying the new war memorial that was built opposite over the demolished Lower Island in 1919.

9.19 The Market House was restored in 1944: the undercroft floor needed further attention and this time about 70% of the floor was taken up and the ground dug down, with broken Pennant pavers thrown into the dig and covered by a concrete slab. The usable pennant slabs were relaid with extra new slabs to make up the gaps. In 1950 the stairs were realigned, and a memorial panel added to those who fell in WW2. Part of the south end of the undercroft was enclosed for toilets, with drainage running under the undercroft.

The finds

9.20 The pottery, glass and animal bones assemblages are relatively unremarkable, perhaps unsurprising as they are largely from demolition and levelling deposits, the clay tobacco pipes however are a relatively significant assemblage which has provided excellent corroborative dating evidence for the construction of the Market House.

9.21 The clay tobacco pipes largely conform to local distribution patterns (Peacey 1979, 63-69). The stamped stems WILL/CHAPE/RLINE are products of the Wiltshire pipemaker William Chapperlin, who is recorded at Ashton Keynes between 1679 and 1692 and at Malmesbury between 1699 and his death in 1710. The pipe by Edward Higgins is also a local product and must predate his move to Salisbury by 1698 (Lewcun forthcoming, b). The pipes of both Chapperlin and Higgins have a very wide distribution across the county, including Gloucester.

9.22 Pipes from Broseley, Shropshire, were traded down the River Severn and the pipe bearing the name of Thomas Hughes is identical to another example of the stamp recorded from Stroud (Peacey 1979, 67), whilst the pipe stamped Richard Greenland is from Norton St Philip, an important production centre in Somerset during the 17th and 18th centuries. Greenland died in 1710, the same year as William Chapperlin (Lewcun forthcoming, a and b).

9.23 The copper alloy finds include personal items such as a finger ring, a machine-manufactured thimble, a lace-tag and a ferrule. The ferrule or end-cap may be from a pointer or porte-crayon and indicates literacy, all these items are the type of personal artefacts that are fairly commonly lost and recovered on archaeological sites, but nevertheless are a reminder of the inhabitants of the town in the late 17th century. The artefacts all date to around the late 17th century and may be incidental losses that ended up in the site, rather than indicative of specific activities on site.

9.24 The thimble potentially provides closer dating evidence: before the mid-17th century thimbles were manufactured in the Netherlands. It wasn't until John Lofting, a Dutch immigrant to England, was granted the license to manufacture one-piece thimble in England in 1693 such thimbles were produced in England (Holmes 1988,3). Lofting's thimbles were manufactured in England until his death in 1742. It is difficult to distinguish whether this thimble was manufactured in the Netherlands or England (Read 2018,63).

9.25 The two fragments of Cotswold stone tiles, found in the 1698 demolition infill, cannot be directly linked to the pre-1698 buildings however stone tiles are a common roofing material in Minchinhampton. The Minety or Malvernian ware roof tiles are nearly all from ridge-tiles, with just three fragments of flat tile; taken together these suggest that some pre-1698 buildings in Minchinhampton may have had clay tile roofs, or at least the ridge finished in clay.

Minchinhampton market and fair

9.26 A merchant was recorded in Minchinhampton in the later 12th century (Glos. R.O., MF 339/5, f. 54), but the first recorded evidence for a market or fair is from 22nd September 1269 when Henry 3 granted the Abbess of Caen a charter to extract tolls with a weekly market and an annual fair at Minchinhampton:

'our beloved in Christ the Abbess and Nuns of Caen that they and their successors should forever be permitted to have a weekly market on Tuesday at their manor of Hampton Monialium (Minchinhampton) in the County of Gloucester and a yearly fair there lasting five days namely on the Eve and Feast of Holy Trinity and the three days following' (Cal. Chart. R. 1257-1300, 124).

9.27 It is possible that the 1269 charter could have been a confirmation of an earlier charter, or possibly even of a market held 'from time out of mind', however Minchinhampton does not appear to have been a major trading centre.

The fair

9.28 The fair was held outside the town and lasted five days around Trinity Sunday, it was largely for livestock, although a host of other products would have been sold and a wide range of social activities (*Cal Chart R, 1257–1300, 124*); the fair was recorded in 1307 when tolls were charged. By 1565 the town had declined, and there was some issue with the fair; Edward Windsor had to send John Hawk to London to make lengthy representations on a new grant as the churchwardens' accounts show:

'Item, thallowance to John hawkke for xij wyckes lyeinge in London for swyt of the merket, lvj s. j d.' (Bruce 1853, 427).

9.29 A grant was forthcoming confirming the Tuesday market and for two one day fairs to be held on Trinity Monday and 18 October (*Cal. Pat. 1563-6, 275*) but the issue was clearly not resolved fully as in 1583 further representations had to be made:

'Ma allowed to Edmond Draper, one of theyse accomptaunes, for moneye by hym layed out, at the request of the parochioners, vij yere3 past aboute the optaynyng of a markett, v s.'
(Bruce 1853, 433).

9.30 By the 18th century the Whitsun fair was primarily for cattle whilst the October fair was for horses and sheep:

'the Horse Fair that was usually held some time past at the Blue Boys in this Town, will in the future be holden (Sic.) at the top of the West End of the said Town' (Glouc. Jnl. 27 May 1760).

The market

9.31 Medieval markets were marked by a cross, usually in stone, standing at the centre of the trading area. At Minchinhampton the market cross was probably at the north end of the High Street and not far from the church of Holy Trinity, possibly near where the current war memorial stands. The cross would have been the natural focus of trading, often with women selling eggs, vegetables, and other home-produce (e.g. Fig. 27). The market area around the cross would have had temporary stalls, some covered to protect both the traders and their goods from the weather, with produce also laid out on the ground and hawked around the marketplace. A well provided water for traders, households and animals. The market would have provided a wide range of perishable and non-perishable goods, including sheep and wool from the area, the principal economy of Minchinhampton in the medieval period (Baggs *et al* 1976).



Fig. 27 A medieval market around 1400 with market cross (BnF, Fr. 12559, f. 167r)

9.32 Markets were not just for trading, church services aside these were the times when townsfolk, people from outlying villages, and travelling traders, would meet and there would be a

lively and often noisy atmosphere with entertainments, exchange of news, drinking and deals of all kinds being struck. As a wool and livestock market many animals would have been brought into the market for sale, hurdles would have been used to set up pens, although it is likely that many animals were kept on the Common until the day of sale.

9.33 Perishable goods would always have been sold on a weekly basis, but as the medieval period progressed, there was a general move away from trading at fairs to weekly markets for many of the increasing range of goods on sale. The right to hold a market was a valuable asset for a community and its grantee, usually the Lord of the manor, and the authorities attempted to control illicit trade and competition from alternative traders and nearby markets with common law stating that markets had to be at least seven miles apart. As a precursor of our Trading Standards, a set of standard weights and measures were kept helping ensure trust in traders.

9.34 Temporary market stalls would have been cleared away at the end of the market day, but later would have become permanent stalls and shops around the market, by 1307 butchers' shops were repaired at the expense of the manor (S.C. 6/856/15). The weekly market was intended to encourage trade and commerce and encouraged tradespeople to the town with shoemakers and other merchants recorded in town in 1316 when they paid rent to the manor (S.C. 6/856/18). Trade was not restricted to the High Street, with shops or stalls along the other streets apparently organised by produce such as the shambles of Bell Lane. The butchers' shops were repaired in 1600 and in the 1630s The Manor Court Rolls mention '*a messuage -called the Church House with the Penthouse grounds adjoining and all those 2 shoppes or shambles standinge between Well House and the Market House*', confirming the butchers' shambles were along Bell Lane on the south side of the churchyard,

9.35 Several shops were owned by the manor, and the churchwardens' accounts record payments '*for a locke and a keye for the myddell shop, vj d.; for dressyng the ij shoppes with lyme, vj d.;*'. In 1560 a payment was made of '*John Colle, for the shoppe, xvj d.; Jhon Bucchar, for the rentte of the churche-house, iij s.; of the same Jhon, for the rentt of the shoppe, xv d*' and in 1567 for '*mending off the iij shoppys*' (Bruce 1853, 425, 428).

9.36 Markets were inextricably linked with licenced premises and Minchinhampton had an innkeeper recorded in 1608 (Smyth 1980, 274), by 1755 there were twenty licensed victuallers (Glos. R.O., photocopy 959, f. 3). Inns lined the High Street and surrounding streets with the Ram, sometimes called the Hand and Pen, next door and the Crown opposite the Market House. The King's Head, The George and White Hart were on the east side of the High Street, the White Lion on Butt Street, and the Trumpet, Glazier's Arms, Greyhound and the Swan were on West End. In Tetbury Street was the Salutation inn, and Butt Street had the Boot, later Cooper's Arms. The Bell probably lay on Bell Lane, whilst the locations of the Unicorn, Maidenhead, Talbot, and Royal Oak, have not been found (Baggs *et al* 1976, 184–190). Inns would also have linked to the system of coaches that took advantage of the new Turnpike roads, with a coach to London via Cirencester by 1769 from the Crown (*Glouc. Jnl.* 15 May 1769).

9.37 The excavated buildings were in a prime site on the east side of the market square, with frontages potentially on two sides. The buildings may have been purpose-built shops, or possibly one of the 'lost' inns, or simply dwelling houses, although it is likely that the front would have been given over for retail. The rear of the property gave on to a narrow *cul de sac* next to the Ram Inn. The line of the frontage is not certain, with no evidence for the west or north walls. The Market House is set back from the main line of the High Street, although the presence of the Lower Island must be taken into account. It is likely that the pre-Market House frontage does not lie not far to the west of the current frontage.

The market houses

9.38 As one of the central gathering places, the market was a centre for many of the administrative functions of the town as well as for commerce, and many marketplaces were the site of pillories, whipping posts and ducking stools (Schmeichen and Carls 1999, 4). At Minchinhampton a pillory and curse stool is mentioned in the churchwardens' accounts for 1567 (Bruce 1853, 428).

9.39 The need for both sheltered trading spaces and a central venue for town activities led to the development of market houses or halls, a building that could provide for many of the needs of the town (Tittler 1991 25–28). Market houses or halls developed in the later medieval period with many following a standard form with a covered trading area on ground floor, and an upper floor used for administrative, judicial and municipal activities (Schmeichen and Carls 1999, 7; Tittler 1991, 25). The upper floor of many market houses acted as a courthouse (or loft), with a lockup for minor miscreants, and this combination of civic and administrative functions alongside the mercantile is typical of the development of market houses, which could fulfil many functions as a proto-town hall (Tittler 1991 6–9).

9.40 By the Restoration new market halls were often built in the new neo-classical style, this reflects not just a change in fashion, but also potentially new ideas of civic identity, patronage and administration. In the post-Reformation period communities had to restructure and find new ways to run themselves, however manorial management of markets was not necessarily good, with many such markets poorly run (Schmeichen and Carls 1999, 36–7).

9.45 Sheppard's market house was opened on 1st March 1698 as '*an undercroft, meeting and dealing rooms on two storeys*', the building followed the by-now established form of market houses, closely imitating the neo-classical Tetbury market house with bulbous columns and even to the eight pairs of bays. the two round-header arches at the end of the building, and deep coved eaves.



Fig. 28 Kip's view of Minchinhampton c1712, the 1698 Market House and Upper and Lower Islands are at the extreme right of the engraving

9.41 By the mid-17th century there were two existing market houses at Minchinhampton, one for the sale of white meat and one for the sale of corn (Bodl. MS. Top. Glouc. c. 3, f. 165). These were the Upper and Lower Islands, named as they stood entirely within the High Street and its continuation of Butt Street, a situation that is relatively common and designed to allow maximum

public access, and oversight (Tittler 1991, 28). The islands had probably developed from temporary stalls, with the permanent market houses built there to hold specific market goods, encourage trade, and thereby increase revenue.



Fig. 29 Tithe map of 1839 showing the general layout of Minchinhampton market after 1700: A Sheppard's Market House, B Lower Island, C Upper Island, D Holy Trinity church, E Bell Lane shambles, F The Ram Inn, G The Crown Inn, and the surrounding streets and houses

9.42 The Upper Island market house had been constructed by Richard Penfold, granted the bailiwick of the market and fair in 1601 as long as he built a *'sufficient market house'*. By 1651 a Manor Court Roll records land to the west as *'waste ground heretofore three shops lying between the Well House and the Market House'* (<https://www.minchinhamptonlocalhistorygroup.org.uk/history/wool/tudor/>). A small bell, dated 1515, was hung in the Upper Island market house after it was removed from Holy Trinity, and when the market house was demolished (according to Playne in 1806, not 1858) the bell moved to Longfords House before returning to the church c1920 (Playne 1915, 70–71).

9.43 In the late 17th century the lord, Philip Sheppard, resolved to build a third market house to complement those in the Upper and Lower Islands. His new Market House was specifically for the burgeoning trade in wool and cloth, and was clearly designed to compete with the market house at Tetbury which was built in 1655. The building was to have a covered trading space in the arcaded undercroft, with a first floor that could accommodate a wide range of functions as befitting

Sheppard's vision for the town, although it is not clear how the non-mercantile activities were shared between the three market houses (Rudder 1799, 468).

9.44 Such an expression of seigneurial, mercantile and civic pride required a prime location and the chosen site was perfectly located. The archaeological evidence and artefacts from the watching brief does not suggest that the site was an open space before construction but that the buildings were demolished fairly soon before construction. The buildings may well have been owned by Sheppard and may have been in a poor state of repair.

9.46 The new market house and the Lower and Upper Islands are all shown on Kip's view of Minchinhampton manor house dated c1712 (Fig. 28). Sheppard's market house is shown with dormer windows which were removed in 1870. Both islands had developed from their origins as market houses and now comprised several buildings. Upper Island is a complex building of two storeys and attic level, whilst Lower Island is shown as a long row of buildings. Upper Island is shown on the 1840s tithe map (Fig. 29) but was demolished in 1858, although Playne suggests the market house within the island was demolished in 1805 (Playne 1915, 70–1); Lower Island contained a rifle range, and church club on the first floor, the ground floor at the southern end being occupied by Thompson's drapers' shop. Lower Island is shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map before its demolition in 1919 with the site being donated by David Ricardo as the site of the new war memorial. There are several 19th and early 20th century photographs depicting Lower Island and/or Market House (Figs 30–35)



Fig. 30 The Lower Island in 1887 with Thompson's drapers, and the Crown Inn to the left, looking north (Howard Beard Collection MH0613s)



Fig. 31 A postcard of Minchinhampton Market House and Lower Island, looking south between 1870 and 1911, the gable windows are all blocked (photo courtesy Alan Vaughan)



Fig. 32 Minchinhampton Market House and Lower Island, looking south c1901, note the line of the street frontages (photo courtesy Alan Vaughan)



Fig. 33 A postcard of the north elevation of the 1698 Market House with Lower Island to the right, the external staircase shows it was taken between 1911 and 1919 (Howard Beard Collection MH0195)



Fig. 34 Rubble over the site of the demolished Lower Island, looking north 1919, the well-house is visible beyond (Howard Beard Collection MH0621s)



Fig. 35 The west elevation of the Market House after 1919 (Howard Beard Collection MH0428s)

9.47 Initially the new market house prospered, rapidly becoming one of the principal four wool markets in the county by 1702 and challenging Tetbury's ascendancy with the annual value of tolls listed as £30 in 1718 (*Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1702-3, 519; *Glos. R.O.*, D 131/T 14), however the initial promise failed to last and the market failed to prosper. At the end of the 18th century Minchinhampton market was described by Samuel Rudder

'Within the parish, is a little town of the same name, with a market on Tuesdays, and two fairs in the year viz. one held on Trinity Monday, and the other on the 29th of October...The town consists of four streets, in the form of a cross, with three market houses, one of which was built in the year 1700 (sic) for storing of wool and yarn, in expectation of establishing a great mart for those commodities, as the town is well situated for that purpose in a great clothing country; but it seems not to have fully answered the design' (Rudder 1779)

9.48 The first floor of the Market House was used for a wide variety of functions, both official and recreational, these perhaps passing the mercantile in importance, it became a key space in the town space within which communal activities could be held. In 1732 the Bath company of comedians played for two weeks, part of a long tradition of dramatic events at the Market House that continues to the present day. In the mid-18th century the Market House was also used as a meeting place for Quakers and in the mid-19th century the Minchinhampton Mutual Improvement Association. David Ricardo the Elder established a school on the Lancastrian model in the Market House in 1816, the first schoolmaster was Fenning Parke, who became a chronicler of the town (*Glos. R.O.*, P 217/CL 1, 41).

9.49 The activities the building has hosted over the last 300 years have gradually changed, with trade now a far smaller component; the Market House has evolved from its origins as a mercantile endeavour into a social asset at the heart of the town. It is fitting that the archaeological work has

demonstrated that repair and renewal have always been a key part of the Market House, as they are for the market and the town.

Assessment of the watching brief, and statement of significance

9.50 The watching brief has ensured that, where excavation of archaeological remains was required, these were excavated archaeologically and 'preserved by record'; following the identification of significant structural remains above the intended formation level these were preserved *in situ*. It is therefore considered that the watching brief was successful in recording and preserving remains as appropriate to their significance.

9.51 It is considered that the results of the watching brief deserve publication and it is recommended that an edited version of this report is submitted to a suitable archaeological journal.

9.52 The watching brief has demonstrated that significant and complex archaeological remains survive beneath the Market House but are also likely to survive elsewhere within the historic core of the town where later development has not disturbed them: for example the remains of Upper and Lower Islands are probably relatively undisturbed beneath the present High Street and War Memorial.

9.53 Minchinhampton is a historic market town whose history is largely seen through the prism of its buildings and in documentary records, old photographs, and maps; the watching brief has highlighted the wealth of archaeological remains that survive within the town.

10 Acknowledgements

10.1 Urban Archaeology would like to thank David Newton for commissioning Urban Archaeology to carry out the project and providing information on the site. The author would like to thank Rachel Foster (GCC), Justin Hodges, Tim Mowat and Richard Bryan of Minchinhampton Market House CIO. Chris Frape and the team at Rowland Stone were of great assistance on site, with principal thanks due to Mark Snook, Kane Frith, Jack Andrews and Bruce Martin for their assistance and conversation during the watching brief, also Nick Miles and John of Nick Miles Builders for their help during the evaluation.

10.2 Nick Hurst discussed aspects of the town history with the author and Alan Vaughan and Howard Beard provided valuable photographic material. The author is indebted to the past members of Minchinhampton Local History Society for their research and writings on the town, especially the late Diana Wall and Cyril Turk. Laurence Keen and Chris Dyer gave invaluable advice on medieval and later markets.

10.3 The watching brief was carried out by the author with illustrations by the author. The pottery and tile was assessed by Paul Blinkhorn, the glass by John Shepherd, clay tobacco pipe by Marek Lewcun, metalwork and metalwork photographs by Angie Bolton, animal bone by Hannah Russ; other finds were assessed by the author.

11 Archive

11.1 The site code MMH22 has been allocated to the excavation.

11.2 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation and watching brief are currently held by Urban Archaeology at their offices in Stroud. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive, which will comprise all retained artefacts and the written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with Museum in the Park. Digital data will be deposited on the Archaeology Data Service.

11.3 The archive will be prepared in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990), specifically complying with Gloucestershire Museum guidelines (Paul 2017). The archive will be presented to the receiving museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with Rachel Foster (for SDC). The archive will then become publicly accessible.

11.4 A copy of this report and a summary of information from this project will be submitted to the OASIS online database of archaeological publications (urbanarc1-511955; Appendix 4). A further copy of the report will be submitted to Gloucestershire HER. Shape files of the trench locations will also be submitted to the HER.

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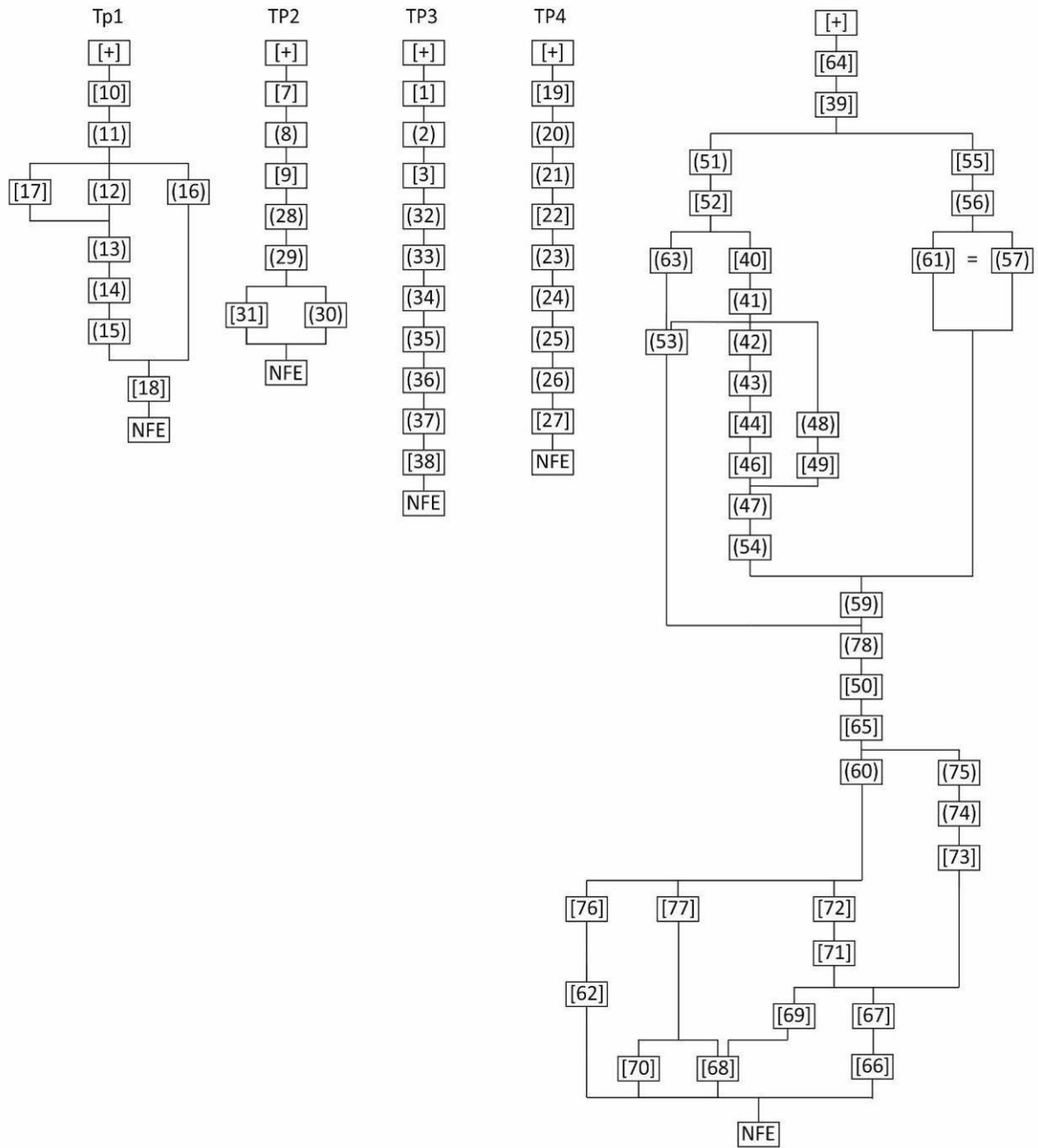
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Appendix 1 Context Register

Context no	Type	Location	Description	Basic Int	Period
1	Masonry	TP3	Limestone and sandstone pavers	FL	1858–present
2	Masonry	TP3	Mortar bedding for slabs	FL	1858–present
3	Masonry	TP3	Concrete slab	MU	1858–present
4	VOID				
5	VOID				
6	VOID				
7	Masonry	TP2	Limestone and sandstone pavers	FL	1858–present
8	Masonry	TP2	Mortar bedding for slabs	FL	1858–present
9	Masonry	TP2	Concrete slab	MU	1858–present
10	Masonry	TP1	Sandstone pavers	FL	1858–present
11	Deposit	TP1	Mortar bedding for slabs	MU	1858–present
12	Deposit	TP1	Orange clay mortar bedding	MU	1858?
13	Deposit	TP1	Make up levelling	MU	1858?
14	Deposit	TP1	Make up levelling	MU	1698
15	Deposit	TP1	Trampled surface of make up	ES	1698
16	Deposit	TP1	Iron pipe	MF	1858?
17	Masonry	TP1	Threshold stones	SO	1858?
18	Deposit	TP1	Market House	WA	1698
19	Deposit	TP4	Sandstone pavers	FL	Modern
20	Deposit	TP4	Sharp sand bedding	FL	Modern
21	Deposit	TP4	Backfill of modern trench	D	Modern
22	Deposit	TP4	Modern trench, drainage?	D	Modern
23	Deposit	TP4	Mixed levelling dump	MU	1858
24	Deposit	TP4	Sandy mortar trampled surface	ES	1698
25	Deposit	TP4	Soil dump	MU	1698
26	Deposit	TP4	Rubble infilling/levelling	MU	1698
27	Deposit	TP4	Market House	WA	1698
28	Deposit	TP2	Rubble infill and levelling	MU	1698
29	Deposit	TP2	Sandy infill levelling	MU	1698
30	Deposit	TP2	Trampled surface	ES	1698
31	Masonry	TP2	Market House pier base	WA	1698
32	Deposit	TP3	Broken sandstone pavers	DS	17th century
33	Deposit	TP3	Trampled clay sand	MU	17th century
34	Deposit	TP3	Trampled soil	ES	17th century
35	Deposit	TP3	Crushed mortar	CS	17th century
36	Deposit	TP3	Trampled clay occupation	ES	17th century
37	Deposit	TP3	Backfill/infilling and demolition	MU	17th century
38	Masonry	TP3	N–S limestone wall	WA	Medieval/Tudor
39	Masonry	Main site	Concrete slab	MU	Modern
40	Masonry	Main site	Paving slabs	FL	1858-present

41	Masonry	Main site	Bedding	FL	1858-present
42	Deposit	Main site	Trample in south-east corner	ES	1858-present
43	Deposit	Main site	Fill of construction trench	S	1858
44	Cut	Main site	Construction trench for east thresholds	S	1858
45	Masonry	Main site	Market House threshold stones	SO	1858
46	Masonry	Main site	Limestone pavers	FL	18th century
47	Deposit	Main site	Clay bedding for [46]	MU	18th century
48	Deposit	Main site	Trampled floor patch S pier	FL	18th century
49	Cut	Main site	Cut for floor patch	S	18th century
50	Masonry	Main site	1698 building	WA	1698
51	Deposit	Main site	Loose broken pavers	DS	Modern
52	Cut	Main site	Cut for concrete slab [39]	S	Modern
53	Deposit	Main site	Make up levelling across west side	MU	1858?
54	Deposit	Main site	Soil trample under (47)	ES	1698
55	Masonry	Main site	Pavers at North end	FL	1858
56	Deposit	Main site	Dark grey bedding at north end	FL	1858
57	Deposit	Main site	Stony make up levelling under (56)	MU	1698?
58	Masonry	Main site	1698 pavers at northeast perimeter	FL	17th century
59	Deposit	Main site	Mortar trampled surface under (54)	ES	1698
60	Deposit	Main site	Rubble infill over undercroft	MU	1698
61	Deposit	Main site	same as (57)	MU	1858
62	Masonry	Main site	Masonry wall under (60)	WA	Medieval/Tudor
63	Deposit	Main site	Ashy makeup under (52)	MU	1858
64	Masonry	Main site	Paving slabs on [39]	FL	1858-present
65	Cut	Main site	Cut for Market House	SC	1698
66	Masonry	Main site	Continuation of wall [62]	WA	Medieval/Tudor
67	Masonry	Main site	Plaster on [66]	WA	Medieval/Tudor
68	Masonry	Main site	Polygonal wall	WA	Medieval/Tudor
69	Masonry	Main site	Plaster on [68]	WA	Medieval/Tudor
70	Masonry	Main site	North masonry wall	WA	Medieval/Tudor
71	Masonry	Main site	Blocking masonry	WA	Medieval/Tudor
72	Masonry	Main site	Plaster on [71]	WA	Medieval/Tudor
73	Masonry	Main site	Limestone pavers east of walls	ES	Medieval/Tudor
74	Deposit	Main site	Trample east of walls	EO	Medieval/Tudor
75	Deposit	Main site	Trample over (74)	EO	Medieval/Tudor
76	Masonry	Main site	Plaster on [62]	WA	Medieval/Tudor
77	Deposit	Main site	Yellow sand by [70]	DS	1698
78	Deposit	Main site	Orange brown silty clay over (60)	MU	1698
79	Deposit	Main site	Backfill around foundations [50], partly in cut [65]	S	1698

Appendix 2 Harris matrix



Appendix 3 MMH22 Archive contents

Digital archive

Type	Number	Comments
Digital photographs	175	

Table 6 The digital archive

Paper archive

Type	Number	Comments
Context sheets	79	
Trench Record Sheets	4	
Level traverse	1	
Registers	3	Context, plan and section registers
WSI		Written schemes of investigation for evaluation and watching brief
Report		Evaluation and watching brief reports

Table 7 The paper archive

Drawn archive

Type	Number	Comments
Permatrace	19	Plan and section sheets

Table 8 The drawn archive

Finds archive

Description	Count	Weight (g)	Retain/discard?
Pottery	124	1157	Discard
Ceramic Building Material	19	1765	Discard
Glass	10	-	Discard

Clay tobacco pipe	81	-	Retain
Stone	2	826	Discard
Metal finds	5	18.6	Discard
Plaster	2	371	Discard
Animal bone	20	-	Discard

Table 9 The finds archive

Appendix 4 OASIS form

OASIS ID (UID): urbanarc1-511955

Project Name: Watching Brief at Minchinhampton Market House

Activity type: Watching Brief

Project Identifier(s): MMH22

Planning Id: S.21/2293/LBC, S.21/2292/FUL

Reason for Investigation: Planning: Listed Building Consent

Organisation Responsible for work: Urban Archaeology

Project Dates: 06-Sep-2022 - 21-Sep-2022

HER: City of Gloucester and Gloucestershire HER

HER Identifiers: [no data]

Project Methodology: Between September 6th and 21st 2022 Urban Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief for David Newton Associates, on behalf of Minchinhampton Market House Management CIO, at Minchinhampton Market House, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, GL6 9JW, SO 87256 00749. The pavers were numbered, located on a scale plan of the undercroft, and lifted by masons from Rowland Stone and taken offsite. An archaeological watching brief was maintained on all subsequent works. Ground reduction commenced in the southwest corner of the undercroft, where it was present the concrete slab was broken out by hand. Layers were cleaned, assessed, recorded and excavated to a general depth of c0.3m below floor level. All excavation was carried out by hand, with the archaeologist present at all times directing and leading the excavation. All historic (pre-20th century) deposits were archaeologically excavated by the archaeologist with the assistance of the groundworkers for spoil removal. Following consultation with Rachel Foster significant archaeological remains were preserved in situ. Limited excavation was carried out around the drain in the south-western corner in order to allow repairs to the drain and adjacent masonry footings.

Project Results: Between September 6th and 21st 2022 Urban Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief for David Newton Associates, on behalf of Minchinhampton Market House Management CIO, at Minchinhampton Market House, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, GL6 9JW, SO 87256 00749. The watching brief revealed evidence for buildings pre-dating the construction of the 1698 Market House, these comprised substantial limestone walls at the rear of a property or properties fronting onto the market. The buildings had cellars, with plastered walls. The buildings were demolished, and the cellars infilled and levelled prior to the construction of a new Market House for the trade in wool and cloth by Lord of the Manor Philip Sheppard in 1698. The new building was Minchinhampton's third market house, the others being in the middle of the High Street at Upper and Lower Island. The new building was typical of 17th century market houses, with a ground floor undercroft of eight pairs of bays, and a first-floor trading and meeting hall. The Market House closely resembles the Tetbury market house, built nearly 50 years earlier. The initial undercroft floor appears to have been removed and replacement limestone floors installed at a slightly lower level than the original floor in the 18th century. David Ricardo, Lord of the Manor funded major works in 1858 to celebrate his son's marriage, with new threshold stones added around the perimeter, iron railings, and a new floor of Pennant sandstone pavers across the undercroft. Further work was carried out to the floor in the mid 20th century, with a concrete slab

laid to take a relaid floor. The watching brief has demonstrated that significant and complex archaeological remains survive beneath the Market House but are also likely to survive elsewhere within the historic core of the town where later development has not disturbed them: for example the remains of Upper and Lower Islands are probably relatively undisturbed beneath the present High Street and War Memorial.

Keywords:

Subject/Period: Cellar: POST MEDIEVAL

FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

Subject/Period: Market House: POST MEDIEVAL

FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types