

CE07/0642/F



CATHEDRAL SCHOOL SPORTS HALL
East Street
Hereford

Rapid Historical Research

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EXCAVATION • RESEARCH • GEOPHYSICS • ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

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Archaeological Investigations Ltd is a trading company wholly owned by the Hereford City and County Archaeological Trust Ltd, a registered charity founded in 1997 to further the work of the City of Hereford Archaeological Committee (founded in 1974) throughout Herefordshire. The Company maintains a core staff with a broad range of expertise, whilst also making extensive use of specialist contract personnel. Besides working on the buried archaeology of Hereford and the country in general, the Company specialises in geophysical survey, historical illustration and the archaeological recording and analysis of standing buildings. Work is usually on a commission basis on behalf of organisations such as English Heritage, the National Trust, and the Landmark Trust. The Company also accepts commissions from local authorities and private developers and provides specialist consultancy advice in relation to archaeology in the planning process and general environmental issues.

Cover picture: **Site seen from East Street.**

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Cathedral School Sports Hall
East Street, Hereford
Herefordshire
SO 51175 39058

Historical Research

Text, research, illustrations and mapping
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Historical Research

1. Summary

Archaeological Investigations Limited was commissioned by Hereford Cathedral School through their architects, Godwin Austen Johnson, to carry out a rapid historical research exercise into the site of a proposed Sports Hall at 77 East Street, Hereford.

This revealed that an archaeological evaluation by means of three trenches had taken place in 1990 and had revealed features and deposits of 11th-century and later date, including evidence of metal-working taking place in the area. These deposits were sealed below deep deposits of later garden soil.

Map regression and other research showed that a building has existed on the site of 77 East Street since at least 1721. A plan of 1794 shows a stable on the site and it can be assumed that the current building post-dates 1794. In the 19th century a glasshouse was built against the south wall of 77 East Street, apparently necessitating structural alterations.

Although internal access to 77 East Street was not possible, it is apparent that a stone-built cellar survives below the building, but on a different alignment from the upstanding building. The possibility that other remains of earlier structures survive within the fabric of 77 East Street is worthy of investigation. The adjoining wall to the west contains courses of dressed masonry.

2. Introduction

2.1 The Project

Archaeological Investigations Limited was commissioned by Hereford Cathedral School through their architects, Godwin Austen Johnson to carry out a rapid historical research exercise into the site of a proposed Sports Hall at 77 East Street, Hereford. The site falls within a conservation area (Hereford Local Plan 1996, 57) and within an area of archaeological importance as defined by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

2.2 The Site

The Site (centred at SO 51175 39858, hereafter referred to as "the Site") fronts onto the southern side of East Street, approximately halfway along its length. It comprises a brick two-storey house, 77 East Street, and associated gardens and yard enclosed by brick walls and wooden fencing; a single-storey "Terrapin-style", temporary classroom of late 20th-century date; and an area of lawn.

In appearance 77 East Street is a mid-18th or early 19th-century building with a slate roof and chimney stacks at each end. The southern wall (facing towards 1 Castle Street) had no openings until the recent insertion of a single pane window at first floor level (not present in 1990, Shoesmith and Thomas), but the ground storey has had an extra layer of bricks added as facing (in 1990 the top surface of the extra layer of bricks carried a skim of mortar (Fig. 3)). It is apparent from the gable walls that the whole south wall has had to be rebuilt, replaced or refaced at some point and metal tie bars are present at the south-eastern corner. Access to the interior of the building was not possible, but it appears that the building has a cellar/s, at least partly constructed of stone and on a slightly different alignment from the building above.

Butting against the western end of the street frontage of 77 East Street is an east/west wall forming part of the northern boundary of the Site. The upper courses are of brick, but the basal eight courses are formed of dressed masonry and below this there appears to be a plinth. It was not possible to establish whether the masonry has been re-used from elsewhere or is in its original position.

3. Methodology

3.1 Objectives

The main objectives of the work were, through the examination of a range of publicly available sources, to:

- a. Try and establish the history of the site, its usage and occupants
- b. Predict the likelihood of significant archaeological deposits surviving on the Site.

3.2 Methods

3.2.1 General

The code of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists was adhered to, in particular *Standards and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment* (revised September 2001).

3.2.2 Documentary Research

A range of published and unpublished documentary and secondary sources was consulted at local depositories and they are itemised in the bibliography. To provide an historical context a map regression exercise of the Site also was undertaken. Research was restricted to local sources and some sources of information (such as aerial photographs) were not pursued as they were considered unlikely to produce additional worthwhile information.

3.2.3 Repositories

The following is a list of the repositories visited or consulted for the project:

- Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record
- Herefordshire County Record Office, Hereford
- Hereford Library
- Hereford Cathedral Archives
- National Monuments Record (NMR), English Heritage, Swindon
- Archaeological Investigation Ltd's library and archives.

4. History of the Site

The project focussed upon the Site itself. Therefore, the history of the Cathedral School is not retold in any detail but will be referred to only where it may impinge upon the structural history of the Site. The Cathedral School is partly housed in 1 Castle Street, for which substantial holdings of 18th- and 19th-century leases, conveyances and other related documents are held by Hereford Cathedral Archives. The rapid nature of this investigation meant that these could not be fully explored for all relevant information, although the debt of the investigation to these holdings will be apparent in section 4.2 below.

4.1 Archaeology

A number of archaeological interventions have been made within the immediate area of the Site, but most pertinent is an evaluation undertaken on the Site in 1990 in connection with a previous development proposal (Shoesmith and Thomas 1990; Thomas and Boucher 2002, 15).

This comprised three trenches, each 2m square (Figs. 1-4). Excavation of Trench C ended at a depth of 1.20m owing to disturbance by a modern drain and a 19th-century pit, but the other trenches were excavated to depths of 2.20m below modern ground surface. The surface area at the base of these trenches was much reduced by "stepping in" for Health and Safety reasons.

Undisturbed natural deposits were encountered in Trench A at 54.30m OD and at 54.63m OD in Trench B. Cutting the natural at the base of Trench B was a 0.20m deep gully running parallel with the alignment of the late Saxon rampart located to the north. The ditch was filled and sealed by a light brown silty soil (7 on the section of Trench B, Fig. 2), which was also observed

in Trench A (10 on Fig. 2). No datable material was recovered from these deposits. Overlying the silty soil in Trench A was a sequence of pebble, slag and gravel (7-9 on the section of Trench A, Fig.2) and a small pit or gully. This sequence was interpreted by the excavators as yard surfaces incorporating waste material from a smithy (Shoesmith and Thomas 1990) and elsewhere as either a yard surface or part of an intra-mural road running within the late Saxon defences (Thomas and Boucher 2002, 15). Two 11th-century pottery sherds were recovered from the layer of slag and mention is made in the conclusion to the original report of furnace lining material and "a recognisable hearth bottom" (Shoesmith and Thomas).

Later medieval activity was represented in Trench B by a garden soil containing 13th-14th-century pottery (5 on the section of Trench B, Fig. 2) and by a pit (6) containing similar material. Pottery of 14th-century date was found in a thick layer of soil (6) in Trench A, but the deposit also contained later sherds, some of 17th-century date. This layer, cut by a posthole and two 18th-century pits, seems to have represented the level of the Site before it was raised by the importation of material from elsewhere to create the gardens still in existence in 1990. This material (2-3 in Trench A and 2-4 in Trench B) included pottery of 17th-19th-century date.

The limited area of the evaluation trenches means that any interpretation of the deposits exposed can only be tentative, but it seems incontestable that the Site contains evidence of activity in the 11th century and possibly earlier. Smithing appears to have been taking place in the vicinity. However, the excavators concluded that

"The upper 1.0m comprises recent deposits of no particular archaeological interest and this depth could be increased to about 1.4m in the area of trench A. In addition the ground slopes downwards by between 0.3 and 0.5m to the south-west which would allow additional ground cover protection to the buried archaeological levels" (ibid.).

Excavation and borehole survey on land adjacent to 87 East Street (60m north-west of the Site at its closest point) revealed a similar picture (AIL 2002). Below a metre or more of relatively modern deposits later medieval surfaces and features were exposed but, owing to the nature of the exercise, little archaeological investigation of these or any earlier deposits was undertaken.

4.2 History

Current thinking suggests that East Street derives from a communication route along the interior of the later 9th-century timber-faced turf and clay rampart which, with a ditch, formed a second stage of the defences of the Saxon burh. Stage 2 has been seen as an eastward extension to include the precinct of St Guthlac (under present-day Castle Green) and this may account for the change in the alignment of East Street to run more southwards (Boucher 2002, 9). As Hereford expanded northwards after the Norman Conquest the defences fell out of use.

The footprint of the development includes the property of 77 East Street and the garden to the west and south of it which formed part of the large garden attached to 1 Castle Street. The present building on that site has been described as "early Victorian, like a club" (Pevsner, 1963, 189), but the statutory listing description describes it as 18th century with 19th-century additions (Grade II*). A large property is shown on the site in 1757 (Taylor, Fig. 6) and a lease of 1700 mentions a brick house lived in by Margaret Croft "and built at her own cost" (Hereford Cathedral Archives 3816/1). In 1713 this is described as a "mansion" (Hereford Cathedral Archives 3816/2). 1 Castle Street was bought by the Cathedral School in 1910 for £500 as the headmaster's house and a second house for boarders (Parker 2000, 591).

A building of similar dimensions to that presently on Site is shown in the location of 77 East Street (then Packers Lane) on Taylor's map of 1757 where it forms the end point of an axial avenue in the garden of 1 Castle Street. Shoesmith and Thomas suggest that this building was replaced in the second half of the 18th century, but that the replacement may have used the cellars of its predecessor. The date and form of any earlier building must be a matter for speculation. The location of the Site is shown as built up on Speede's map of 1610 (Fig. 5), but this map is assumed to be schematic in its depiction of buildings on the streets of post-medieval Hereford. Archaeological Investigations Ltd possesses a very poor quality photocopy of part of the map known as the Church Commissioners' Map of 1721 (Hereford Record Office Ref. AA59. Smith 2004, 110). This map is poorly preserved, not usually available for consultation and the photocopy is of too poor quality to reproduce. However, it appears to show an isolated building with three gables facing south in approximately the position of 77 East Street. When this earlier building originated and what its relationship to 1 Castle Street may have been are unknown, but a plan of 1794 shows a completely different building on the Site (Hereford Cathedral Archives 3816/40. Fig. 7). This is labelled "Stable" and the apparent evidence of the openings shown on what appears to be a street elevation strongly suggests that it is not the structure now present at 77 East Street (Fig. 8). The map is annotated as having been given to J.H. Matthews (the then owner) by James Phillipps (a former owner or relative) on 22nd November 1834 and includes details of the purchase of the leasehold of land to the west of 77 East Street from Upper and Lower Harley Building which is now the location of the temporary building on the Site.

By 1829 the sale of 1 Castle Street from Penelope Gordon to John Matthews mentions "those two Cottages or Dwelling Houses with the Appurtenances thereto belonging ["situate in Street" crossed out] near to or adjoining the before mentioned premises and now in the occupation of Mrs Morris and Henry Leigh" (Hereford Cathedral Archives 3816/23). These cottages (or one of them) are taken to be the current building at 77 East Street, designed with no openings to the rear to secure the privacy of the residents of 1 Castle Street. Curley's plan of 1858 shows the current building with a large addition or extension to the rear of 77 East Street entered from a pathway through the garden of 1 Castle Street (Fig. 9) and the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1886 reveals that this was a glasshouse (Fig. 10). This may be assumed to be related to the extra thickness of brick added to the ground floor of the south-facing elevation of 77 and its importance to the owners of 1 Castle Street can be gauged from the particular mention of repair and upkeep of the glasshouse and vinery in a lease of 1862 (Hereford Cathedral Archives 3816/44). The greenhouse "Brick timber and glass built, situate at the rear of the dwellinghouse No 77 East Street" is mentioned in a Law Fire Insurance Policy of 1898-1904 (Hereford Cathedral Archives 3816/47). These are not the earliest references to the garden of 1 Castle Street as the map of 1794 shows a "Green house" in the north-east corner of the garden (Hereford Cathedral Archives 3816/40, Fig. 8) and a purchase agreement of 1829 refers to "the Offices Coach-houses Hot houses Green houses Stables buildings yards gardens pleasure grounds" that go with the property (Hereford Cathedral Archives 3816/23). The formal gardens shown behind 1 Castle Street by Taylor had been replaced with lawned areas by 1858 (Fig. 9).

That the building at 77 East Street was a focal point to the garden of 1 Castle Street as well as stables (Fig. 8 shows a garden seat placed to the south of the stable) and could later be designed and added to in ways that were beneficial to the owners of the larger house indicates common ownership. The house on East Street may have served as staff accommodation for 1 Castle Street, but by the later 19th century the former is leased out. Rapid examination of directories and other sources has revealed the following occupants of the two properties (the list for 1 Castle Street is by no means exhaustive and some dates are taken from Shoesmith and Thomas where no sources are accredited):

1 Castle Street

- 1700 – 99 year lease between Benedicta Andrews of Hereford, widow and Oswald her son, and Margaret Croft of Hereford, widow (Hereford Cathedral Archives (HCA) 3816/1)
- 1713 – Transfer of interest in lease to Elizabeth Moseley, née Croft (HCA 3816/2)
- 1717 – John Trant lived there as tenant of the Moseleys (HCA 3816/3)
- 1728 – Moseleys still have an interest
- 1736 – Leased by Uvedale Price (HCA 3816/7)
- 1820 – Conveyed from James Phillips Esq to Mrs Gordon (HCA 3816/21)
- 1829 – Purchased by John Matthews of Hereford from Penelope Gordon (HCA 3816/23)
- 1863 – Sold by the Bishop of Hereford to Francis Lewis Bodenham and Charles Bodenham (HCA 3816/15)
- 1876 – 7 – Miss E.M. Bodenham
- Pre-1876 – late 1890s – Miss Bodenham (Shoesmith and Thomas (S + T))
- 1885 – Miss Bodenham
- 1890 – Miss E.M. Bodenham
- Late 1890s – 1910 – Harley House Girls School, Misses Earle, principals (S + T)
- 1909 – Harley House Girls School, Misses Earle, principals
- 1913 – Rev. John Henson, MA (headmaster of Cathedral schools)
- 1929 – James H.E. Crees, MA, D.Litt (headmaster of Cathedral schools)

77 East Street

- 1829 – Mrs Morris and Henry Leigh (in two cottages)(HCA 3816/23)
- Pre-1876 – Thomas Redding (carpenter) (S + T)
- 1885 – William Gilliam, carpenter
- 1890 – Thomas Redding, carpenter and joiner
- 1895 – Thomas Redding, carpenter
- 1908 - 22 – G.W. Bellars FISA (Secretary to the Hereford Cooperative Society)(HCA 6128 i)
- 1922 – Ernest James Haynes, postman (HCA 6128 ii)
- 1934 – Jas. Ernest Haynes (S and T)
- 1951 – Jas. Ernest Haynes (S and T).

The tenancy agreement with Mr Bellars in 1908 refers to the property as “Harley Cottage, 77 East Street” (HCA 6128 i).

In February 1968 an agreement was signed between the Dean and Chapter and the City Council for fixing a street light to the street frontage of 77 East Street. A drawing accompanying that agreement shows that no alterations have been made to the northern elevation of the building since that time (Fig. 11).

5. Discussion and Conclusions

The evaluation carried out in 1990 established that significant archaeological deposits survived on the Site, but that they are likely to have been to the south of the late 9th-century defensive arrangements and the communication road. Amongst the deposits recovered were a gully and yard surfaces, both possibly of pre-Conquest date. The yard surfaces included evidence of metal-working taking place nearby. A pit and artefacts recovered from garden soil indicated activity on the Site in the later medieval period and further features of 18th-century date seem to pre-date the introduction of large quantities of soil to create a garden. Notable is the depth of

"protection", in the form of relatively recent deposits associated with the garden/s shown on maps.

At first glance the building at 77 East Street seems a relatively straightforward and undistinguished late 18th- or early 19th-century cottage/s. However, rapid research has uncovered evidence of buildings on the Site since at least 1721 and possibly since 1610. The buildings shown in 1721 appear residential, but by 1794 they are described as a stable and bear no visual resemblance to those depicted in 1721 (the nature of the building shown on Taylor's map of 1757 is unclear). It is evident that stone cellars survive below the current building and are probably remains of one of the earlier structures on the Site. They are unlikely to have formed part of a purpose-designed stable, so are likely to be earlier than the late 18th century. Moreover, 77 East Street, particularly the south wall, shows evidence of rebuilding or re-skinning. This may be associated with a conversion from stable to cottage rather than full-blown rebuilding or could be associated with the erection of the glasshouse.

Without internal survey it is impossible to determine either how much of the existing fabric of the building at 77 East Street pre-dates the early 19th century or the likelihood of survival below ground of deposits associated with earlier buildings on the Site.

6. Bibliography

6.1 Documentary sources

All original documentary sources were housed in the Hereford Cathedral Archives (HCA) and selective scanning of those referring to 1 Castle Street was undertaken for references to the buildings at the East Street end of the property. More detailed examination of all the holdings may reveal more information. The assistance of the Cathedral Archivist is gratefully acknowledged.

1700	99-year lease of 1 Castle Street (HCA 3816/1)
1713	Transfer of interests in lease of 1 Castle Street (HCA 3816/2)
1717	Lease agreement for 1 Castle Street (HCA 3816/3)
1736	Lease agreement for 1 Castle Street (HCA 3816/7)
1820	Conveyance of lease of 1 Castle Street (HCA 3816/21)
1829	Agreement for purchase of lease of 1 Castle Street (HCA 3816/23)
1862	Lease of 1 Castle Street (HCA 3816/44)
1863	Sale of lease of 1 Castle Street (HCA 3816/15)
1863?	1794 Plan of property of 1 Castle Street with later annotations (HCA 3816/40)
1898 – 1904	Law Fire Insurance Policy for 1 Castle Street (HCA 3816/47)
1903	Agreement for erection of a telegraph pole behind "The Lodge", East Street (HCA 6129 i)
1908 -	Tenancy agreement for 77 East Street and later correspondence (HCA 6128 i)
1922	Tenancy agreement for 77 East Street (HCA 6128 ii)
1968	Agreement for fitting street light to 77 East Street (HCA 6128 iii).

6.2 Secondary printed sources

AIL (Archaeological Investigations Ltd), 2002 *East Street, Hereford. Bore hole survey and Excavation* Hereford Archaeology Series 533

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Figures

1. Location of 1990 evaluation trenches
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8. Detail from 1794 plan showing "Stable", "Green house" and land acquisitions in the 19th century (HCA 3816/40)
9. Extract from Curley's plan of Hereford, 1858
10. Extract from 1:500 Ordnance Survey First Edition, 1886
11. Northern elevation of 77 East Street to accompany agreement for erection of street light, 1968 (HCA 6218 iii).

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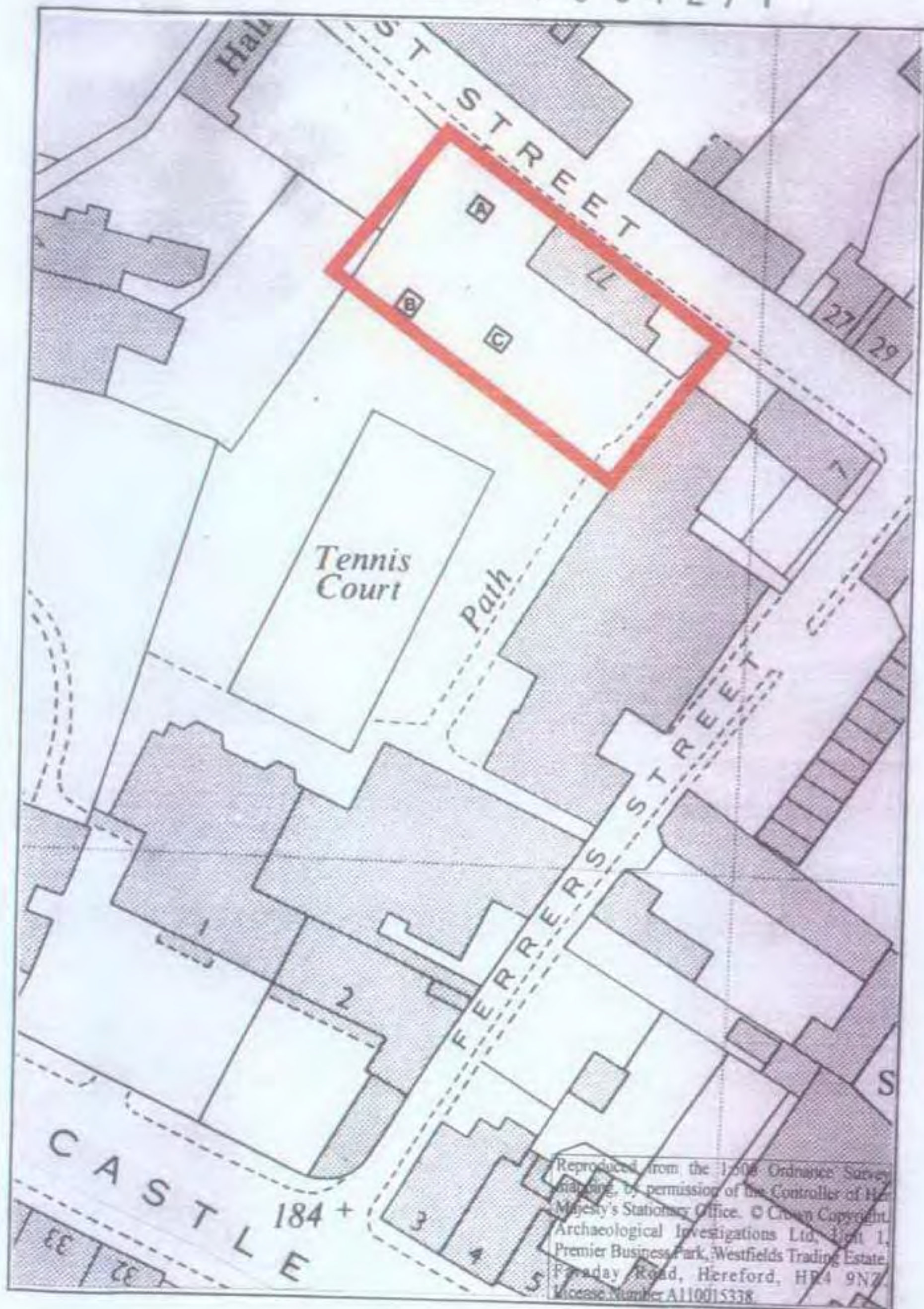
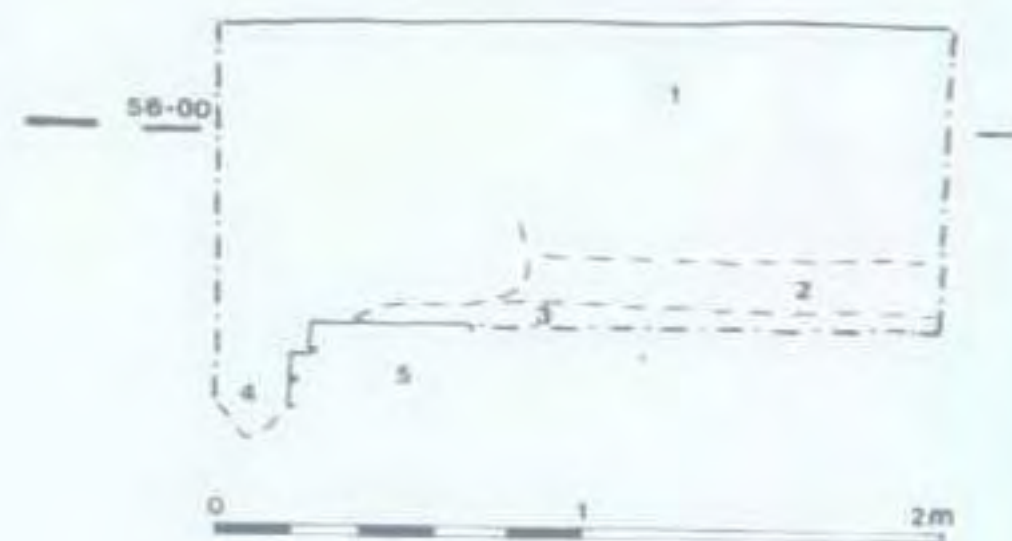
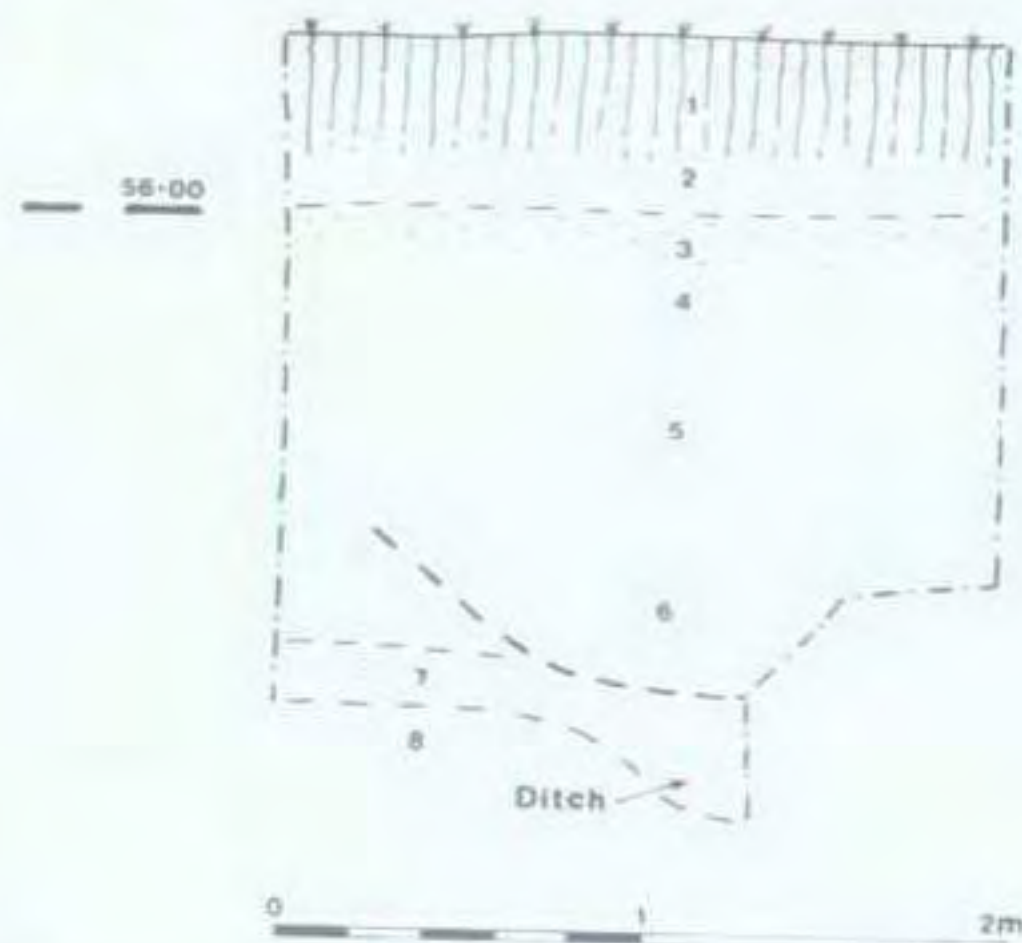
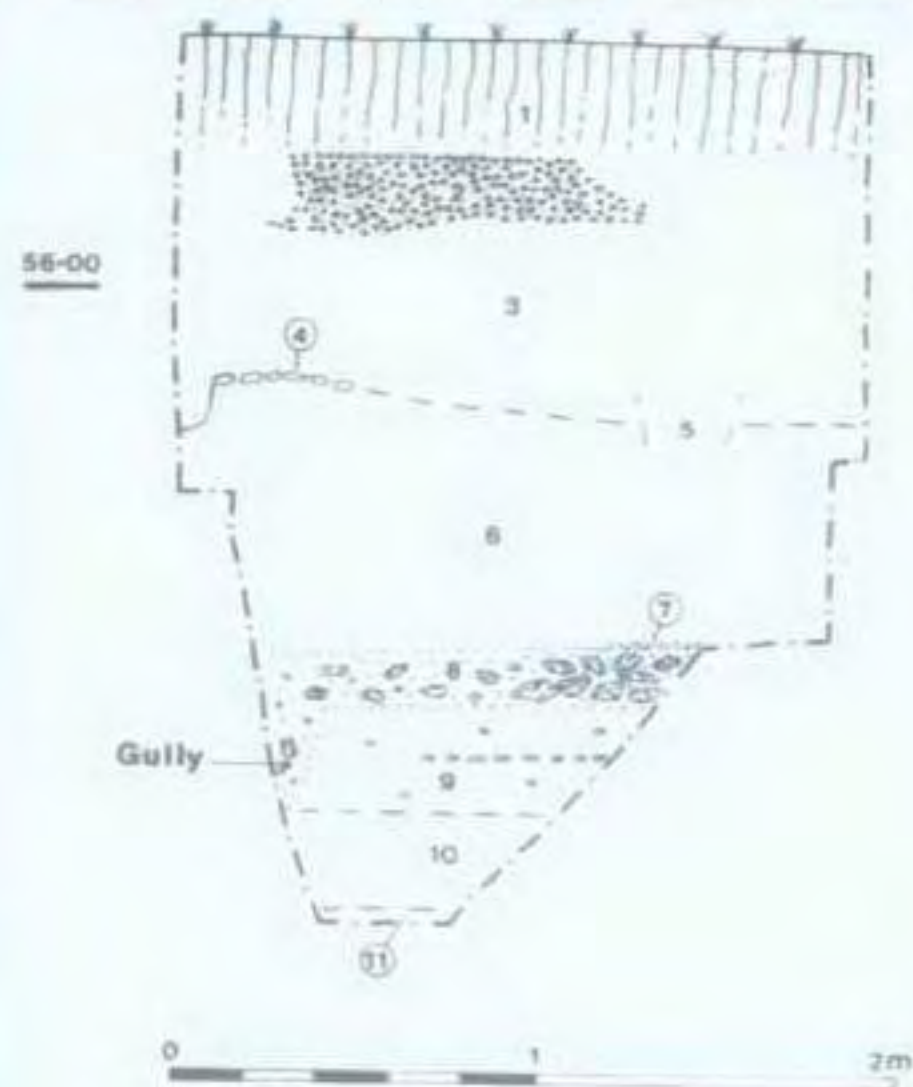


Fig. 1. Location of 1990 evaluation trenches on 1:500 plan (Shoesmith and Thomas 1990) in relation to the 2006 development proposal.



Trench A, cross-section, inside of trench

- 1 - Topsoil
- 2 - Dark brown, silty clay
- 3 - Dark brown, silty clay
- 4 - Dark brown, silty clay
- 5 - Light brown, silty clay
- 6 - Light brown, silty clay
- 7 - Light brown, silty clay
- 8 - Light brown, silty clay
- 9 - Light brown, silty clay
- 10 - Light brown, silty clay
- 11 - Light brown, silty clay

Trench B, cross-section, inside of trench

- 1 - Topsoil
- 2 - Dark brown, silty clay
- 3 - Dark brown, silty clay
- 4 - Dark brown, silty clay
- 5 - Light brown, silty clay
- 6 - Light brown, silty clay
- 7 - Light brown, silty clay
- 8 - Light brown, silty clay

Fig. 2. Trench sections from 1990 evaluation

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The evaluation excavations from the south. Trenches B and C are in the foreground; trench A is close to the boundary wall. Part of 77 East Street is on the right.



Trench A from the north-west on completion.

Fig. 3. Plates from 1990 evaluation report (Shoesmith and Thomas, 1990).

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Trench B from the south-east. The small Saxon ditch is indicated by the lower scale.



Trench C from the south-east at the level where excavation ceased.



Fig.5. Speede's map of Hereford (1610)
(Site location estimated).

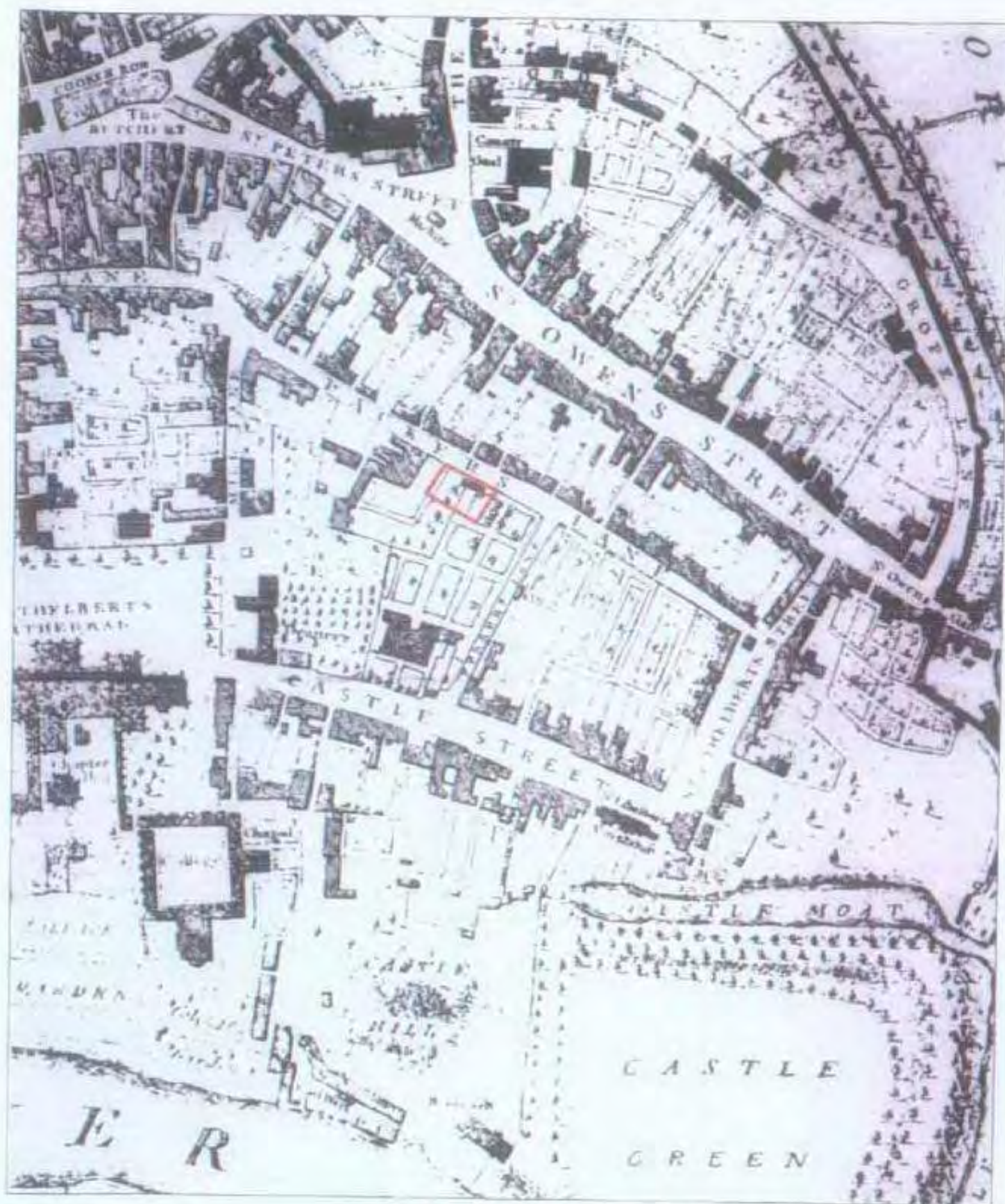


Fig. 6. Extract from Taylor's map of 1757. The Site is at the rear of the grounds of 1 Castle Street.

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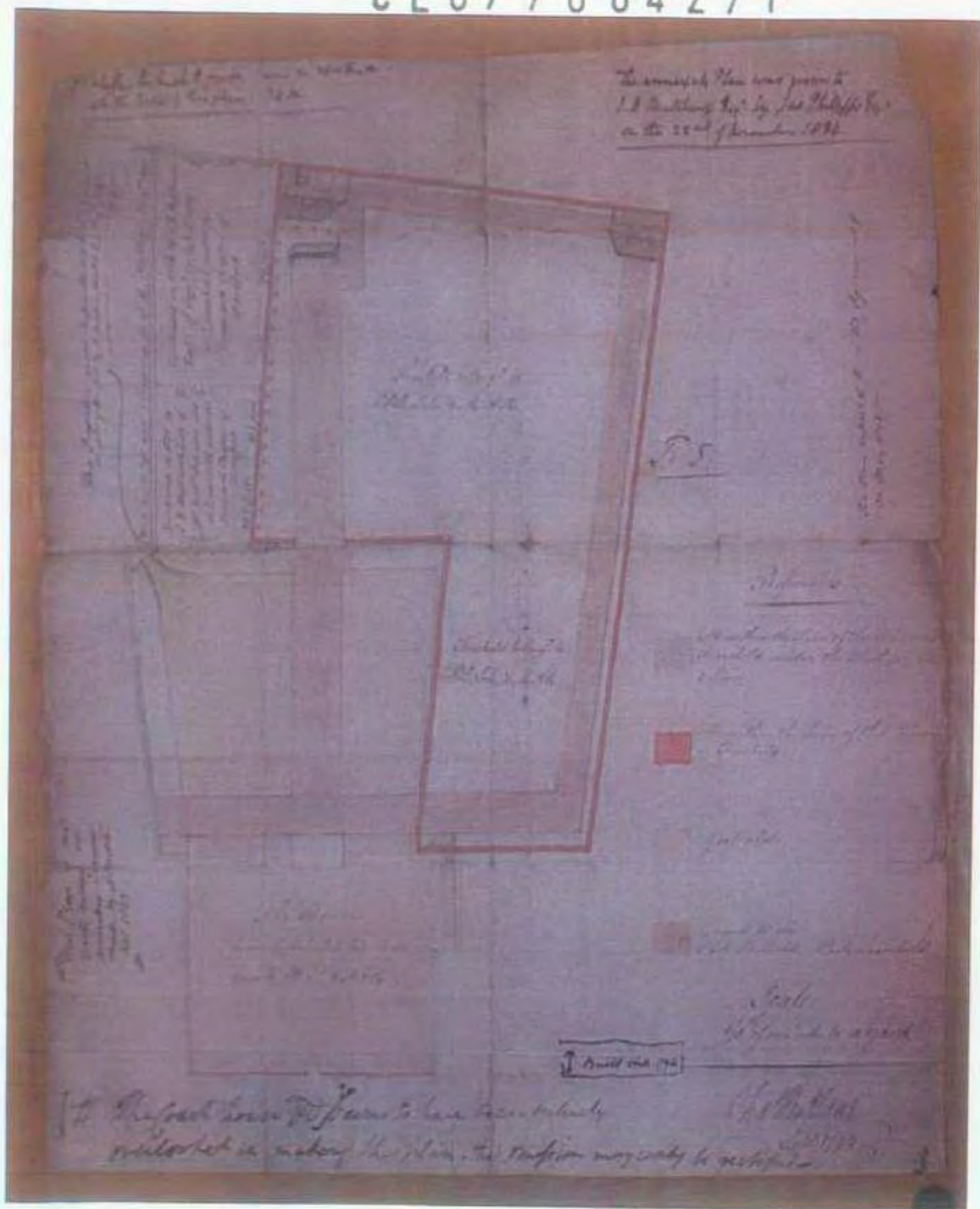


Fig. 7. Plan of 1794 with 19th-century annotations (HCA 3816/40).



Fig. 9. Extract from Curley's plan of Hereford 1858.

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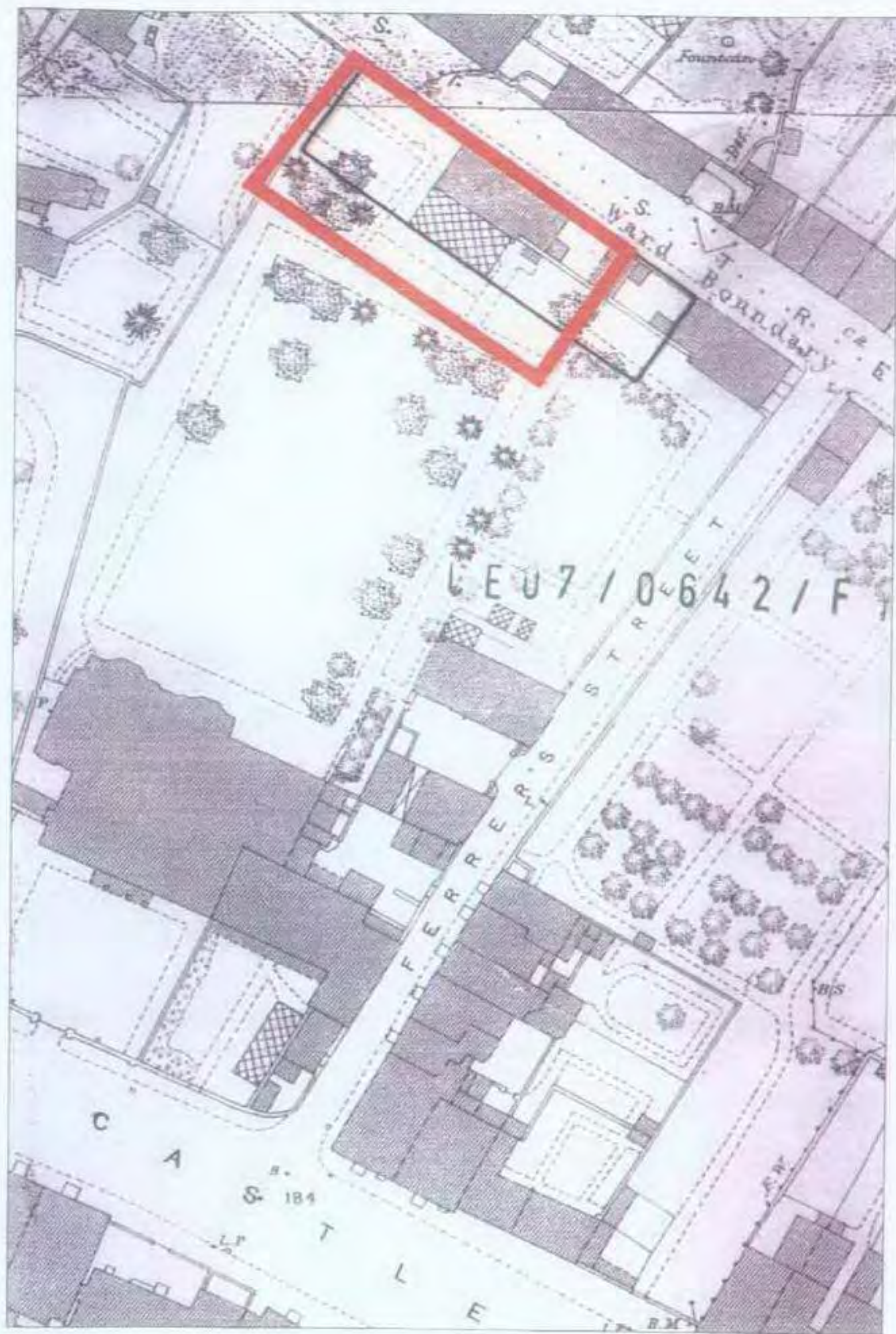


Fig. 10. Extract from 1:500 Ordnance Survey First Edition, 1886.

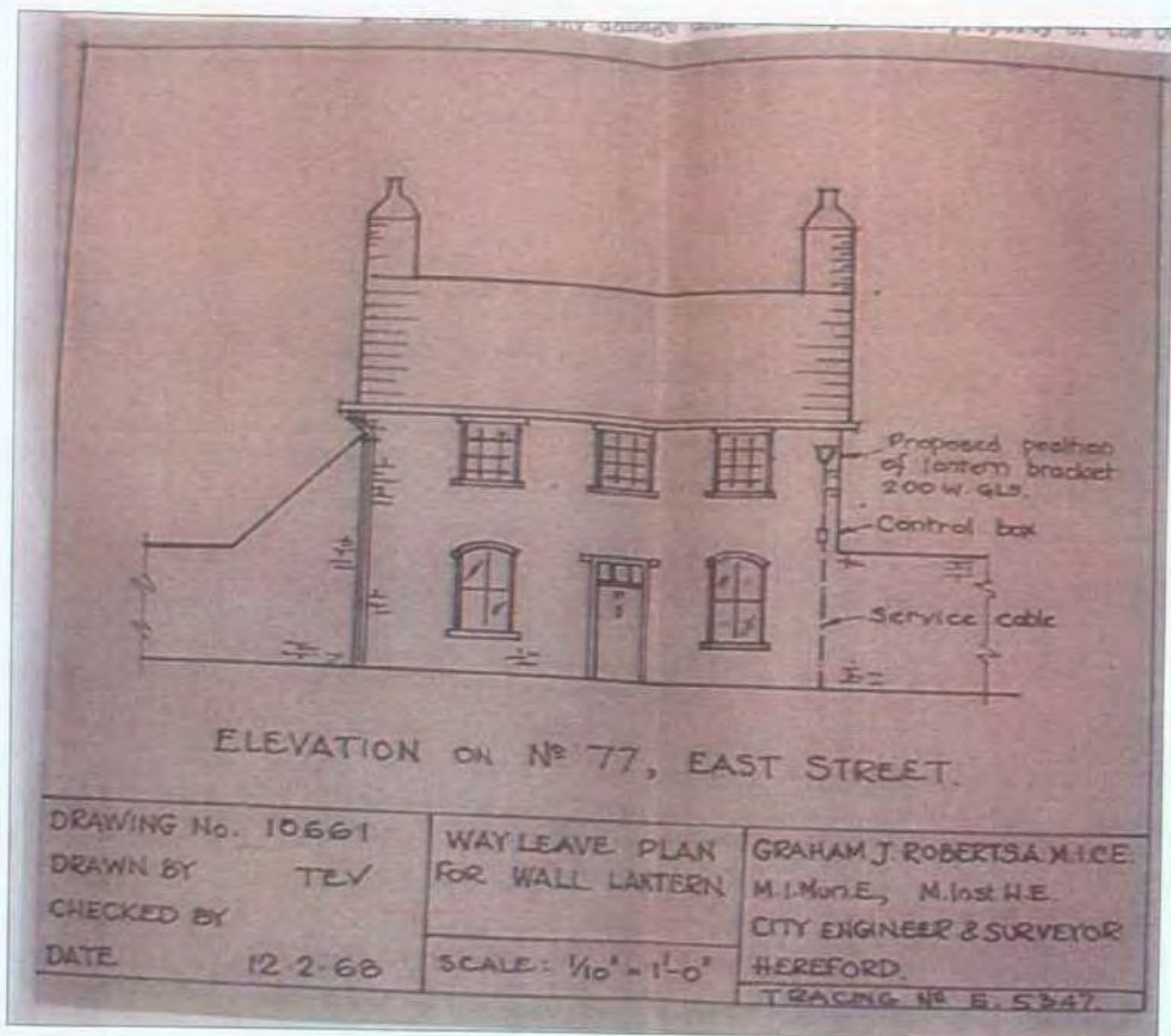


Fig. 11. Northern elevation of 77 East Street to accompany agreement for erection of street light, 1968 (HCA 6128 iii).

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