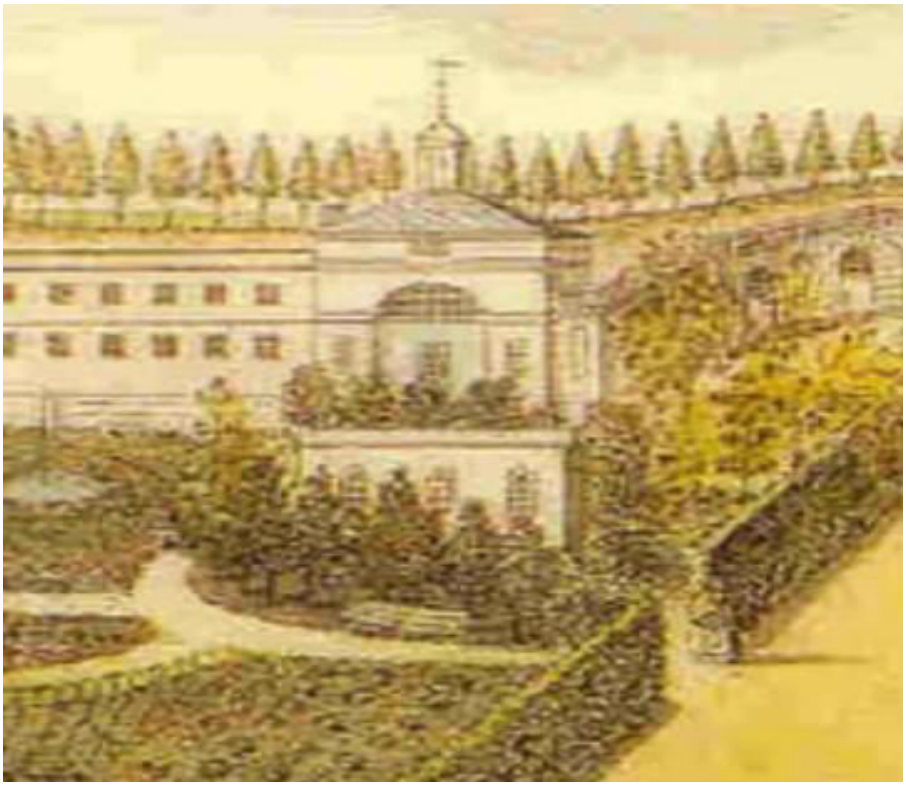

Prior Park Bath House 2022

Bath

Tim Lunt

David Stubbs

December 2022

Abstract

Previous work in 2019, 2020 and 2021 discovered the site of a building to the north of the east wing of Prior Park Mansion (St. Peter's today) which had been thought to have been first built as a Pineapple House before later conversion to a Bath House. Findings can be read from the Bath and Counties Archaeology Society reports :

The Pineapple House, Prior Park, Bath : Tim Lunt and David Stubbs, BACAS December 2020.
https://www.bacas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Pineapple-House-2020.pdf

The Cold Bath, Prior Park, Bath : Tim Lunt and David Stubbs, BACAS December 2021
https://www.bacas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/coldbath29nov2021report.pdf

The excavation of the cold bath was backfilled for safety reasons in 2021 leaving the east end of the building exposed. Further geophysics and excavation in 2022 examined the resistivity profile across the Bath House, the external features of the walls and underneath the east end floor. Finds were limited but included another batch of C18 Delft tile fragments. A separate culvert and a modern sewer pipe were also uncovered, both seen as later features unconnected to the Bath House.

At least two separate phases of building development were found during 2022 with identification of infilling to the east end to create a higher floor level, a blocked window opening and differences in the style and mortaring of the walls. With recognition of these developments, the depth of the bath cavity excavated in 2022 is now seen to have been relatively shallow at 60cm when compared to the level of the door sill and supposed ground level shown for the Cold Bath and illustrated in the Prior Park Estate Survey Plan.

Table of Contents

Abstract 2
1 Introduction 5
1.1 Location 5
1.2 Dates 5
1.3 Personnel 5
1.4 The Site 6
1.5 Acknowledgements 6
2 Background 7
2.1 Survey and Excavation 2019-2020 7
2.2 Excavation 2021 8
2.3 Summary of evidence and conclusions 9
3 Excavation 2022 10
3.1 Objectives 10
3.2 Method 10
3.2.1 Excavation 10
3.2.2 Resistivity profiling 10
3.2.3 Resistivity survey 10
3.3 Results 11
3.3.1 North Wall 11
3.3.2 East Wall 12
3.3.3 Window 14
3.3.4 Floor 15
3.3.5 Stone Surround 17
3.3.6 Culvert 17
3.3.7 Garden 18
3.3.8 Bath drain culvert and turning circle resistivity 18
3.4 Interpretation 19
3.4.1 Walls 19
3.4.2 Floor 20
3.4.3 Window 21
3.4.4 Stone Surround 22
3.4.5 Culvert 22
3.5 Finds 23
3.5.1 Delft tiles 23

3.5.2 Mortar fragments 24
3.5.3 Rolled glass fragment 24
3.5.4 Bowl foot rim 24
4 Comment and Conclusions 26
4.1 Earlier phase 26
4.2 Later Phase 26
4.3 Conclusions 27

Appendix

A Finds List 28

B Resistivity Profiles 29

C Absolute Archaeology Report 30

List of Figures

Figure 1 : Prior Park Garden; red arrow indicates excavation area 5
Figure 2 : Dig direction sign and Information Centre 6
Figure 3 : North east corner of building first revealed in 2020 and at the time thought to be the Pineapple House 7
Figure 4 : Ralph Allen Estate Survey Plan : Cold Bath shown from the North 8
Figure 5 : Antony Walker, 1752 : Science Museum 9
Figure 6 : Stone surround by north wall in 2021 before further excavation 11
Figure 7 : North wall outer face 12
Figure 8 : Sewer pipe through east wall 13
Figure 9 : Culvert on right of east wall 14
Figure 10 : Blocked window above excavated stone surround 15
Figure 11 : East/West resistivity profile showing area of east floor infill 15
Figure 12 : Test pit in NE corner of east floor 16
Figure 13 : Test pit mortar samples 16
Figure 14 : Mortar layer within the stone surround before removal 17
Figure 15 : Water culvert, east wall to the right 18
Figure 16 : Resistivity survey areas 19
Figure 17 : building walls with culvert 20
Figure 18 : Estate Plan elevation of building north face with excavated floor levels. 21
Figure 19 : Sample of the Delft tiles with ‘dotted flower head’ motif 23
Figure 20 : Glass fragment 24
Figure 21 : Bowl foot rim 25

1 Introduction

1.1 Location

The work was carried out in Prior Park Landscape Garden, a property owned by the National Trust to the south of Bath and originally the garden of Prior Park Mansion, built by Ralph Allen in the 1730s, now occupied by Prior Park College.

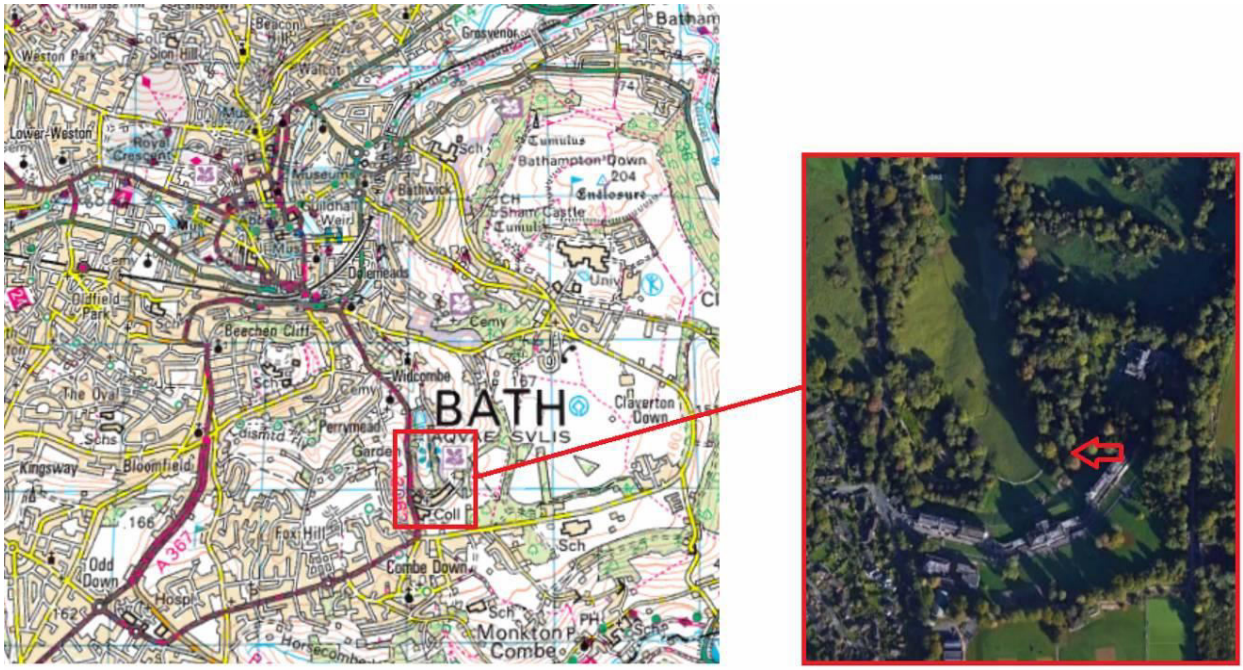

Figure 1 : Prior Park Garden; red arrow indicates excavation area

All mapped images in this report are aligned with north to the top unless shown.

1.2 Dates

The excavations were undertaken over 8 days from 25 July -3rd August 2022

1.3 Personnel

The survey and excavation were led by Tim Lunt and David Stubbs and performed by the following members of the National Trust Skyline and Dyrham Archaeology Monitoring Groups and Bath and Counties Archaeological Society (BACAS):

Jon Allman, Martin Ansell, Terri Bell, Jane Briggs, Elaine Flemons, Ian Hanmer, John Knapper, Darren McNie, Malakai, McNie, John Oswin, Sue Rhodes, Wendy Russ and Gillian Vickery.

1.4 The Site

The site is located in the southeast corner of the Garden, a Registered Park or Garden, immediately beside the boundary fence with Prior Park College. The area is a grassy bank surrounded by mature yew and chestnut trees

1.5 Acknowledgements

The National Trust for access to the Garden, permission for excavation and generous assistance with facilities and equipment

The National Trust volunteer garden team for clearing the site of vegetation.

Alice Norland, Ashling Gilbert and Fliss Swallow for their help in providing publicity and an information centre at the site during the Festival of Archaeology visited by several hundred people.

Figure 2 : Dig direction sign and Information Centre

Tan Tootill of Prior Park College for his continuing support on the project and allowing vehicle access and parking by the site

Kevin Morris of UK Delftware for again offering his knowledge about the Delft tile finds

Paul Martin of Absolute Archaeology for preparing drawings of the excavation and guidance. (Appendix C)

Paul Richens and the Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust for sharing knowledge regarding Alexander Pope's pineapple house

Martin Papworth, National Trust Archaeologist SW, for his ongoing support and encouragement

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The time and effort of all the BACAS and National Trust staff and volunteers involved

2 Background

2.1 Survey and Excavation 2019-2020

The investigation to find the lost Pineapple House of Ralph Allen at Prior Park was started with a resistance survey of the site in 2019 which identified a number of features thought to be paths or garden features. No clear evidence of a building could be seen.

Test pits were dug in 2020 which found the corner foundations of a building and a stone kerb nearby. Extension of the test diggings exposed a floor surface and more of the building walls. The stone kerb was found to extend for 7m.

Figure 3 : North east corner of the building first revealed in 2020 and at the time thought to be the Pineapple House

Further details can be found in the BACAS report :

The Pineapple House, Prior Park, Bath : Tim Lunt and David Stubbs, BACAS December 2020.

https://www.bacas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Pineapple-House-2020.pdf

2.2 Excavation 2021

Further excavation aided by mechanical digger in 2021 revealed much of the north side of the building together with a bath cavity with remains matching the drawing of the Cold Bath on the Ralph Allen Estate Plan (Fig 4), except for the central doorway. In addition, examination of the Prior Park School Sports Pavilion confirmed the rearrangement of the two separate east and west end sections shown on the Plan by joining them together with adjustments to the windows. The Bath House was then believed to be made up of a bath of approx 1.4m depth with steps down from a higher changing area at the east end of the building.

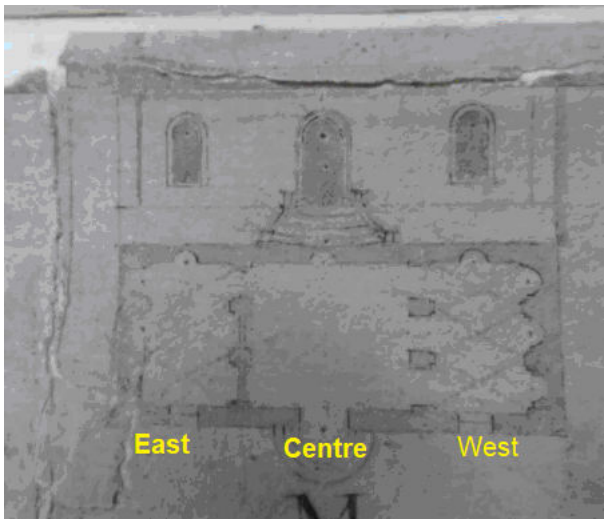


Figure 4 : Ralph Allen Estate Survey Plan : Cold Bath shown from the North

Finds were largely Victorian, probably from elsewhere and found amongst fill used to landscape the area after the building demolition. Fragments of mid C18 Delft tiles found in situ and near the bottom of the bath showed evidence of bath and wall tiling using recycled tiles from various manufacturers and made at different times. A culvert discovered under the bath floor probably acted as an overflow from the spring water source to the Bath, and as a drain.

Further details can be found in the BACAS report :

The Cold Bath, Prior Park, Bath : Tim Lunt and David Stubbs, BACAS December 2021
https://www.bacas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/coldbath29nov2021report.pdf

2.3 Summary of evidence and conclusions

It seemed certain from the start that the foundations were a building built by Ralph Allen around the time of the construction of Prior Park mansion and subsequently recorded on the Ralph Allen Estate Survey Plan of c1764 (Fig 4) and the Anthony Walker engraving of 1750 (Fig 5). The largely mid 19th century date of the datable finds above the remains suggested that the cover was largely debris brought to landscape the area after the building demolition, estimated to be in the mid to late C19.

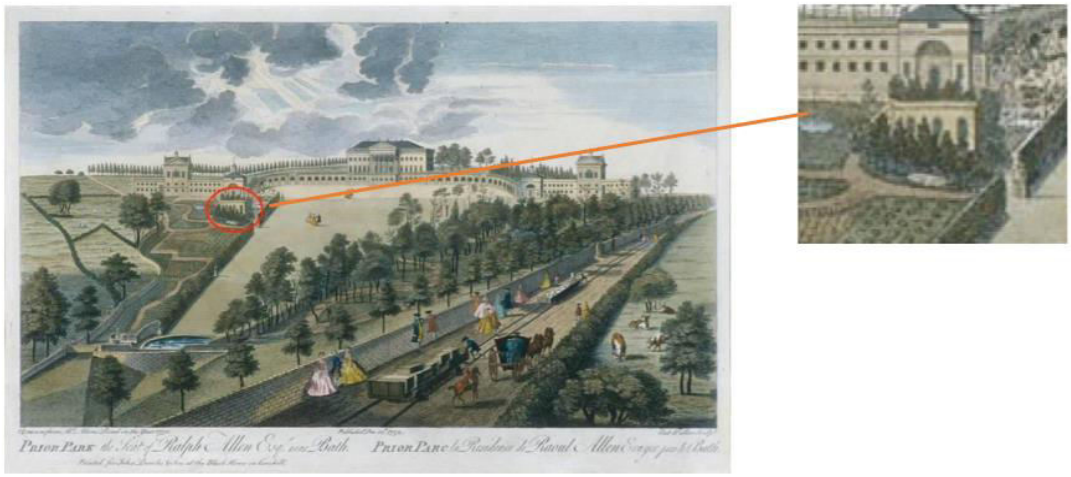


Figure 5 : Antony Walker, 1752 : Science Museum

Whether the building was the Pineapple House, to be later converted to the Cold Bath House, or simply the latter, was uncertain until 2021, when the dig revealed the bath cavity. There was no evidence of the pineapple house and the thickness of the walls would not have been required for a typical mid C18 pinery with a glass and timber roof.

Although the dimensions of the building found in 2020 largely matched the Bath House shown in the Survey Plan, as confirmed by examination of the two ends of the building preserved in the Prior Park sports pavilion, it appeared from the excavation that the front doorway was 2m further east than shown on the Plan and would have lead directly into the bath.

3 Excavation 2022

3.1 Objectives

- Examine the north and east walls to try and resolve entry to the building, its development over time and the original ground level of the east end of the building.
- Establish the overall size of the building and the extent of the Cold Bath within it.
- Identify any remains under the carriageway turning circle
- Find the bath drain culvert and any surrounding garden features

3.2 Method

3.2.1 Excavation

Manual excavation of outer faces of the exposed wall foundations, stone surround and any features highlighted by geophysics described below in 3.2.2 and 3.2.3

3.2.2 Resistivity profiling

The standard BACAS set of 32 probes was used and set at 0.5 m spacing. The probes were either driven into the ground or on solid surfaces, supported through holes in upturned plastic tumblers. The probe tips on solid surfaces were kept soaked with water during the measurements to maximise electrical contact. The probes were connected via the BACAS cable looms and distribution box to an RM Frobisher TAR-3 resistivity meter.

Two profiles were made over the site of the Bath House, south/north and east/west, to show the resistivity profile at depths up to 5m with the objective of identifying the position and depth of walls and floor. The profiles are shown in Appendix B.

3.2.3 Resistivity survey

Two areas were laid out for survey and gridded with 20m squares. A single grid covered the turning circle on the carriageway above, south of the Bath House. Below the Bath House in the pasture, two grids were laid out over an area thought to cover the bath drain culvert.

Twin-probe resistance was used with 1m probe spacing performed with an RM Frobisher TAR-3 meter. Readings were taken at 0.5m intervals along lines 1m apart giving 800 readings per 20m grid square. The very dry characteristics of the ground at the time of the survey appeared to reduce the sensitivity of the equipment which may have limited the results.

Survey results are shown in 3.3.8

3.3 Results

3.3.1 North Wall

The mechanical digger used in 2021 to excavate the Bath had also been used to remove spoil from the outer face of the north wall and had uncovered a stone surround approx 50cm below the wall top. This feature was excavated and findings are discussed in 3.3.4 below.

Figure 6 : Stone surround by north wall in 2021 before further excavation

Further excavation of the outer side of the north wall was continued by hand this year and exposed to a depth of 1.3m which was considered the limit on health and safety grounds. The bottom of the wall had not been reached. The wall facing was found to be a mixture of rough stonework with some larger pieces used around the building north east corner. Mortar in the north wall is firm with charcoal flecks, unlike that of the east wall which is sandy and friable.

Figure 7 : North wall outer face

3.3.2 East Wall

The major interest with the east wall was at the southern end at the limit of the previous year's excavation. This was the point where the two Delft tile fragments were found still in position on the inner face and where the wall appeared to end. There was the possibility of an entrance door at this point so the excavation was extended south by approx 50cm in the hope of revealing a wall opening.

The floor did not extend into this gap and instead a modern vitrified clay sewer pipe was soon revealed passing from the direction of Priory Lodge to the east towards the Prior Park College north lawn to the west and driven directly through the remains of the building.

Figure 8 : Sewer pipe through east wall

Further excavation of the outer side of the east wall soon exposed a separate water culvert running closely alongside. This is discussed in 3.3.6 below and its proximity restricted further excavation of the outside of the east wall beyond, noting that it was similar to the north wall and made from a mixture of rough stonework. Mortar binding this wall is sandy and crumbly.

Figure 9 : Culvert on right of east wall

3.3.3 Window

As the north wall was slowly exposed it became clear that an opening had been untidily filled with ashlar stone blocks. This matched the position and width of a window shown on the vertical section of the Ralph Allen Estate Plan (Figure 5 above). The blocked opening was directly above the stone surround.

The Plan indicated that the window would have been approx 60cm above the door sill of the Bath House entrance and around 1.6m above the bottom of the entrance steps. However if this opening was a window, the bottom sill is approx 10cm below the level of the inner ashlar wall enclosing the east floor. This is shown in the Appendix C: North Facing North Wall diagram

Figure 10 : Blocked window above excavated stone surround

3.3.4 Floor

It was not intended to excavate the floor at the east end of the building but the resistivity profile (Fig 11) taken from east to west had revealed a high resistance anomaly under the surface at this point. This suggested that the original floor level at this end of the building may have been approx 1.5m deeper and subsequently infilled.

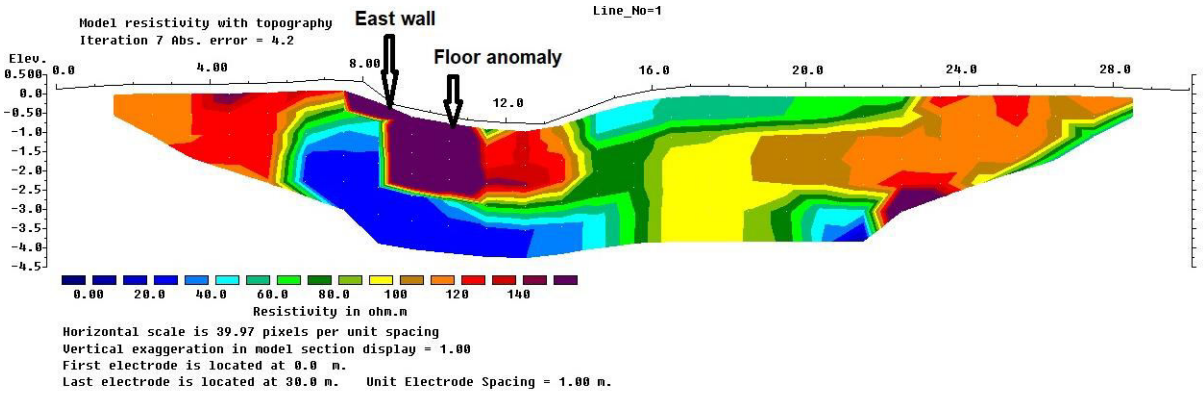


Figure 11 : East/West resistivity profile showing area of east floor infill

A test pit was therefore made in the north east corner of the floor to expose mortared rough rubble stone pieces solidly filling the space. Manual and difficult extraction of this stonework made a hole approx 60cm square and 75cm deep to reveal the inner face of the north and east walls made of dressed stone which extended for 50cm with a ledge at a depth of 40cm. Below this the inner face of the wall was unclear and as the depth of the infilled cavity was shown in

the profile to be approx 1.5m, the test pit only went halfway down and would require mechanical assistance to enlarge further.

Figure 12 : Test pit in NE corner of east floor

The large amount of mortar surrounding the rubble stones in the test pit contained flecks of black charcoal similar to the north wall.

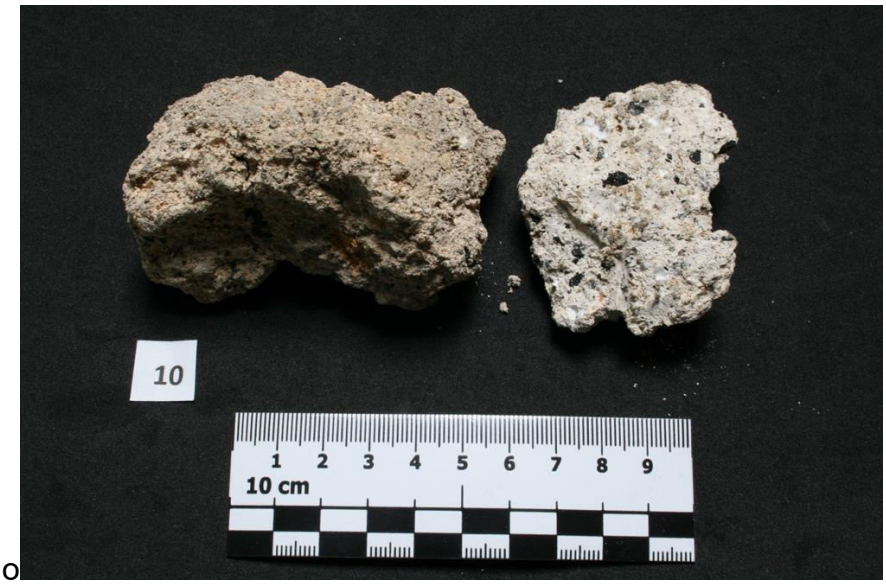


Figure 13 : Test pit mortar samples

3.3.5 Stone Surround

The stone surround outside the north wall was excavated and found to be made up of two end stones, not attached to the north wall, each approx 45cm long connected by 115cm of rubble stones crudely mortared together. Within the surround was a looser mortar material containing fragments of Delft tile which when their corner motifs were researched were all found to be of a rare type from 1750-1770 made only at the Lambeth High Street pot shop (see 3.5.1 for details). The mortar fill covered the lower sill of the blocked window as shown in Fig 14.

Figure 14 : Mortar layer within the stone surround before removal

3.3.6 Culvert

Excavation outside the east wall exposed a stone feature sloping down at 13° closely beside it but at roughly the same height as the wall foundations. It ran down from the south towards the pasture on a bearing of 315°.

Made of mortared rough stone it was topped with a mix of large rough and recycled dressed stone blocks 101-152mm thick which on removal were found to cover a water culvert blocked with dry soil and leaves. The sides of the culvert were made from smooth cement whilst the bottom was dressed Bath stone.

The culvert was 216-229mm (8½ - 9 inches) wide and 152-178mm (6-7 inches) deep.

Figure 15 : Water culvert, east wall to the right

3.3.7 Garden

A small test pit was made to the east of the Bath House to identify a possible garden feature that showed up in geophysics but with no result.

3.3.8 Bath drain culvert and turning circle resistivity

A single 20m grid covered the turning circle but the large amount of asphalt road surfacing restricted the survey area. No measurements could be made through the asphalt even when wet so only the grassy central oval around the tree was surveyed. The survey did not show any identifiable features

Two grids covered an area in the pasture below the Bath House where it was thought the bath drain culvert might be found. No features could be identified from the geophysics and a shallow 30cm trench of 10m dug at one point revealed nothing.

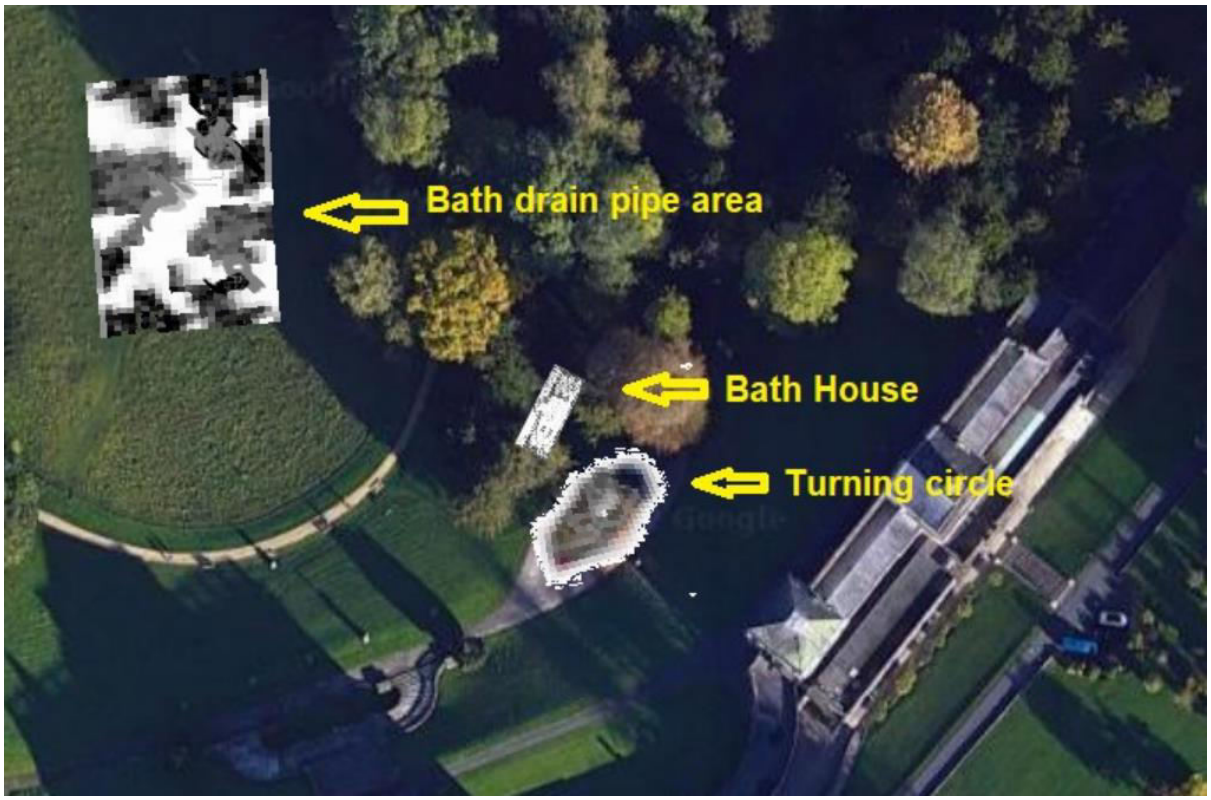


Figure 16 : Resistivity survey areas

3.4 Interpretation

3.4.1 Walls

The east wall opening which was thought initially to be a doorway was clearly made by the sewer being driven across the Bath House remains. The date of the pipe looks to be post 1950 and enquiries made of Prior Park College have confirmed that no record of its installation, or discovery of building remains at that time, has been kept.

Looking at the walls generally, a difficulty is their rough external stone facing which does not correspond to the design and quality of a building sited directly in front of Prior Park Mansion, or the apparently ashlar faced structure shown in the Walker engraving.

Comparison of the north and east walls also shows differences in their construction. The east wall stonework is wider and mortared with different material and more carefully than the north wall. This may indicate different periods for construction but the wider east wall appears to reflect the three apses shown in the Survey Plan.

Another observation of note is that the demolition of the building removed stonework at the east end to a common height while robbing stone to the original footings alongside the Bath. A possibility is the lowered east end walls then formed the base for a timber structure or some sort of odd garden feature. No signs of structure fittings can be seen on the walls and again it seems unlikely that either possibility would be considered for installation in front of the Mansion.

Figure 17 : building walls with culvert

The excavation of the north wall outer face to 1.3m and the identification of the window which would have had a sill around 1.6m above ground level (if the Estate Plan scale is correct), both indicate that the original ground level was likely to be at or around 1.6m below the sill.

3.4.2 Floor

The infilled void under the east floor, although not excavated to its full depth, is shown in the resistivity profile (Fig 11) to be of a similar depth to the buried north wall and this original floor level is likely to have been similar to the original external ground surface. The dressed stone sides for the test pit and the act of infilling show the east end of the building is very likely to have been used previously at that lower level as no intermediate floor surface was found in the test pit.

As we have seen in relation to the window shown in the Estate Plan, the ground level was approx 1.6m below the window sill. The Plan would also indicate that the door sill was around 1m above ground level above external steps. A comparison of these measurements with the

excavated depth of the bath cavity and the east floor level as shown in Fig 18 would indicate that the bath could only be about 60cm deep in relation to the door sill.

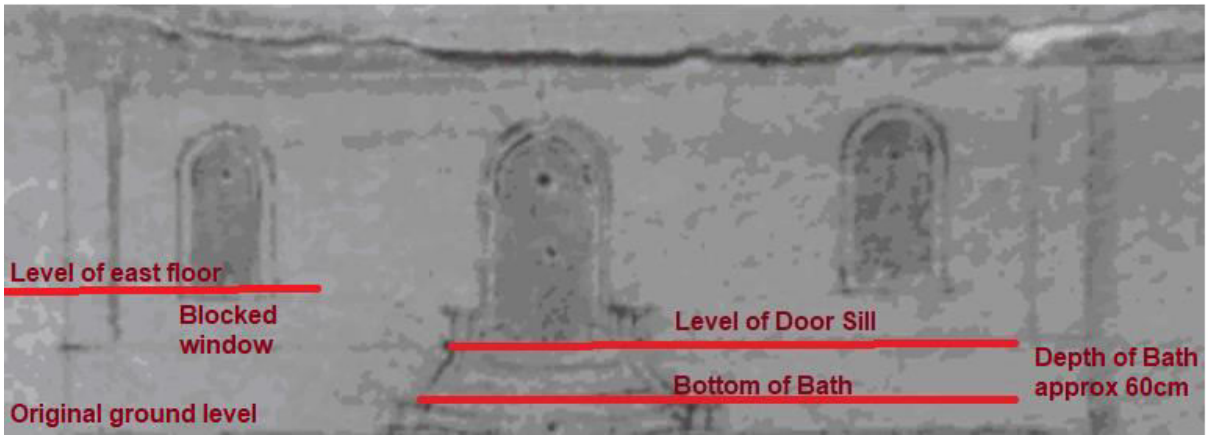


Figure 18 : Estate Plan elevation of building north face with excavated floor levels

This uncertainty about bath depth, the door access directly into the bath and the realisation that the east floor level is a secondary development make it very difficult to understand the development sequence of the building. This makes a compelling case for a further and deeper excavation of the east floor.

3.4.3 Window

The blocked opening must point to a later phase to the building when its original use had become redundant.

In the history of Prior Park College by the Rev. Roche written in 1931 he stated that "*When in 1844 the ground was being cleared for the erection of the Church the press* ["St. Paul's Press"] *was transferred to a building which stood in front of St. Peter's and occupied the site which is now the turning oval for motor-cars on the front carriage drive…… In passing it may be noted that the present cricket pavilion was built with the stones from the structure last occupied by "St. Paul's Press".*

We have found no documentary evidence to support the turning circle as the location of that structure. Indeed our resistivity survey of the turning circle (Fig 16) did not show any identifiable features although the survey area was very limited .

We do know that the origin of the cricket pavilion referred to by Roche was correctly identified as the Bath House so it is quite possible that the east end floor could have been raised and the window blocked to accommodate St Paul's Press.

The difference in height between the sill of the opening and the inner ashlar wall referred to in 3.4.2 could suggest the opening was either a narrow door with doorstep or a floor length window.

3.4.4 Stone Surround

The stone surround could be concurrent with the blockage of the window as its position must indicate that the external ground surface was by then at this level. One interpretation is that it was built as a window box, but this is unlikely if the window was blocked at the same time. Another interpretation is that it formed a doorstep if the opening was indeed a narrow door. Its purpose remains unclear although its inner cavity could suggest some sort of container.

3.4.5 Culvert

A number of water culverts are recorded in the bank above the Bath House running down from under St Peter's and can be seen under various manhole covers located within Prior Park College. They carry significant amounts of spring water which is channelled down to, in all probability, resurface as the stream in the eastern woods of Prior Park Garden. By following the alignment of the culvert at the Bath House south towards these other culverts, no connection could be found.

If the original ground level is accepted as being approx 1.6m lower than the top of the culvert and the Bath House foundations, the culvert remains have a depth of approx 70cm and therefore must have been constructed later.

The culvert design, position and topography adjacent to the Bath House point to a later and separate existence to the Bath House and it also does not match the design of the C18 culverts found in Prior Park Garden which have dressed stone channels. It appears to be a-C19 addition, perhaps connected with the construction of the carriage drive in 1834 when the C18 culverts would have had to be diverted. Also its relatively small capacity suggests a specific purpose to supply a fountain or basin in the garden and further investigation will be needed to find both its destination and source.

This will form part of our planned investigations into the garden's water infrastructure.

3.5 Finds

A complete list of finds is included at Appendix A.

The finds from 2022 included quantities of Delft tiles, rusty nails, glass fragments and plaster and mortar fragments. In addition there was an oyster shell, heel tap, and a red clay tile, clay pipe fragments and an English Creamware bowl foot rim.

Apart from the Delft tile fragments, none of the finds contributes to our knowledge or interpretation of the Bath House during the time of Ralph Allen. Rather, they give us a possible glimpse into life lived at Prior Park by its various occupiers after Ralph Allen. Judging by the finds recorded both this year and in 2020/21 it is reasonable to conclude that this part of the garden was used as a rubbish dump from the early 1800s onwards. When the building was demolished, it is reasonable to assume that a very large hole left by the bath would have been filled either immediately or perhaps over a period of time with material, including rubbish, from elsewhere.

3.5.1 Delft tiles

About 24 fragments of Delft tiles were recovered from the mortar layer within the stone surround next to the north facing wall.

Delft tiles were originally from the town of this name in Holland but the designs were taken up by pottery manufacturers in other places in Holland and in Britain. Corner motif designs allow a date and manufactory to be established. The fragments found in the stone surround are decorated with a rare ‘dotted flower head’ motif made only in the Lambeth High Street pot house from 1750 to 1770.

Figure 19 : Sample of the Delft tiles with ‘dotted flower head’ motif

Delft tile fragments recovered in 2021 from the bottom of the Bath came from many sources and dated from 1700 to 1780. Two were found still attached to the inside of the east wall. This supported a conclusion that the inside of at least some of the Bath House was faced with Delft Tiles.

The Delft tile fragments found mixed in the mortar of the stone surround were different to those found in 2021 as they were of a rare type and all from the same Lambeth manufacturer. These

tile pieces are most likely to have come from some other external source and used as waste material during the construction of the stone surround.

3.5.2 Mortar fragments

Significant amounts of mortar with black inflections were found in the east floor test pit. Our interpretation of the probable re-purposing of this structure would be greatly assisted if this mortar could be dated.

3.5.3 Rolled glass fragment

A small fragment of circa 3mm thick glass was found which could be Pilkington figured rolled glass called ‘Lozenge’ and dating from 1898. This post dates the demolition of the Bath House and can therefore only be from another building elsewhere. It was found in the stone surround which suggests that this feature was still visible in the early C20.

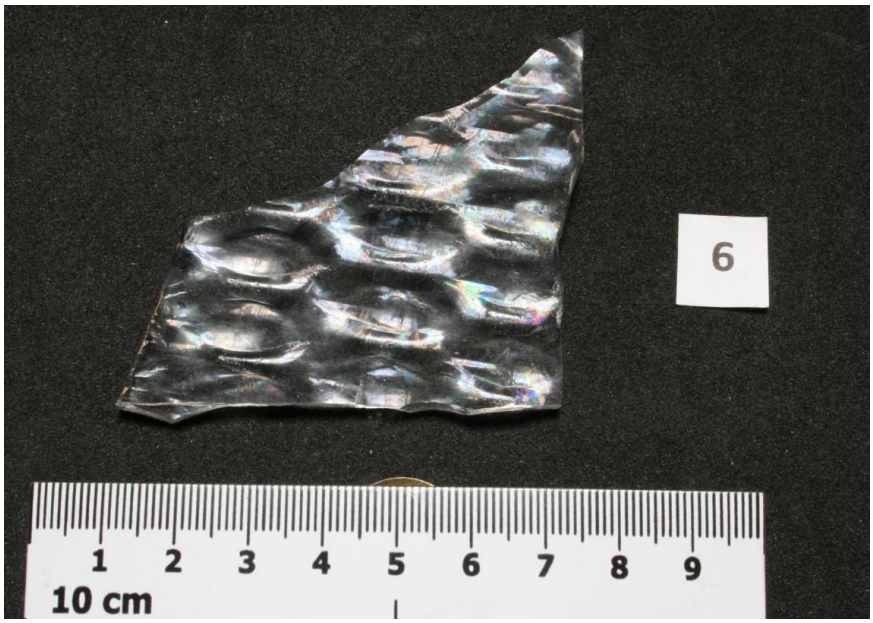


Figure 20 : Glass fragment

3.5.4 Bowl foot rim

A small glazed English Creamware bowl foot rim with a blue floral decoration on the remains of the inside of the bowl and dated to the 19th century. This was found to the east of the Bath House in an area where 18th/19th century objects were found in 2020/21 and located in what may well have been a rubbish dump.

Figure 21 : Bowl foot rim

4 Comments and Conclusions

There are a number of indications revealed during this year's work which point to two or more stages in the life of the building before final demolition.

4.1 Earlier phase

The Estate Survey Plan shows a building described as the Cold Bath which had dimensions that can now be validated against the position of the east window and an internal apse of the building remains, together with the still extant walls rebuilt as the Prior Park College sports pavilion. This building is drawn to scale with steps leading up to a door sill approx 1m above ground level and a window sill approx 1.6m above ground level.

Having this year now found the window sill level it can be calculated from the Plan dimensions and the 2021 excavation measurements that the cold bath bottom would have been only around 60cm below the door sill of the building (Fig 18). If this floor level existed at the same time as the bath design in the Survey Plan it would have meant a water depth incompatible with most known Georgian cold baths.

One exception is the plunge pool at Stourhead, located within a grotto constructed in 1748 (a few years before Allen's Bath House) and having a relatively shallow depth of 50/60cm.

The bottom of the bath excavated in 2021 seems to match the lower level of the infilled cavity under the east floor that can be seen in the resistivity profile shown in Fig 11 and suggests that this lower floor level continued, at least in the excavated areas of the building, at the same time. The test pit excavation into the corner of the east floor showed a dressed stone wall interior matching the wall quality of the sports pavilion and consistent with the other parts of the Bath House.

Whether this can be seen as the first phase of the Bath House is clearly uncertain because of the problem with the shallow bath depth. If it is, it calls into question the function of part the stone wall separating the east area from the Bath, as found in the 2021 excavation and shown on the Estate Survey Plan.

The rough stone exterior of the building now seen going down to the original ground level is also hard to comprehend as its original construction given the Walker engraving, the location in front of the mansion and Ralph Allen's own sources of ashlar stone.

4.2 Later Phase

What certainly came later is the infilling of the east end of the building to create the existing higher floor level and most likely at the same time to raise the external ground level, block the window opening and build the stone surround. This period may also relate to the differences noted in the wall construction and mortar differences.

This may have taken place in connection with the relocation of St. Paul's Press discussed above or as a redevelopment of the Bath in some way. It could also reflect the time of

demolition if this part of the building was repurposed by infilling the floor and lowering the walls to a common height.

4.3 Conclusions

It was the thought that Ralph Allen's Pineapple House could be here that started our investigation of the building, but with greater knowledge of pineapple cultivation it looks increasingly unlikely to have been located here on the north side of the mansion, and separate to the vegetable garden which was either close to the Lodge (now St. Mary's House) lived in by Allen's head gardener, Isaac Doddsley, or at Priory Farm on the west side of today's Ralph Allen's Drive.

Furthermore, the lightweight construction of pineapple houses from this period, more akin to today's heated greenhouses, would not have required the substantial foundations now discovered.

We are left therefore with the excavation of the bath in 2021, previously lined with C18 Delft tiles and with a depth of 1.4m deep from the higher east floor . This seemed to confirm the Bath House as shown in the Estate Plan although it was never clear which parts of the building shown in the Plan were the bath cavity or the surrounding floor. The door entrance directly over the bath and the apparent lack of a walkable perimeter were also issues.

The disparities with ground level and water depth that are now apparent rely on the accuracy of the elevations shown in the Survey Plan which has been found to be correct with regard to the excavated wall and sports pavilion remains. If the Plan dimensions are accepted, the original bath was shallow and could have extended over a large area of the building.

The raising of the external ground level as indicated by the stone surround and the infilling of the east floor may point to the period when the 1.4m deep bath that was excavated in 2021 came into existence. Later still might have been the arrival of the St Paul's printing press and demolition of all or parts of the building.

Clues may be found through excavation of the east floor to the full depth and to its western edge which was the side of the bath cavity. It is hoped to proceed with this work in 2023.

Appendix

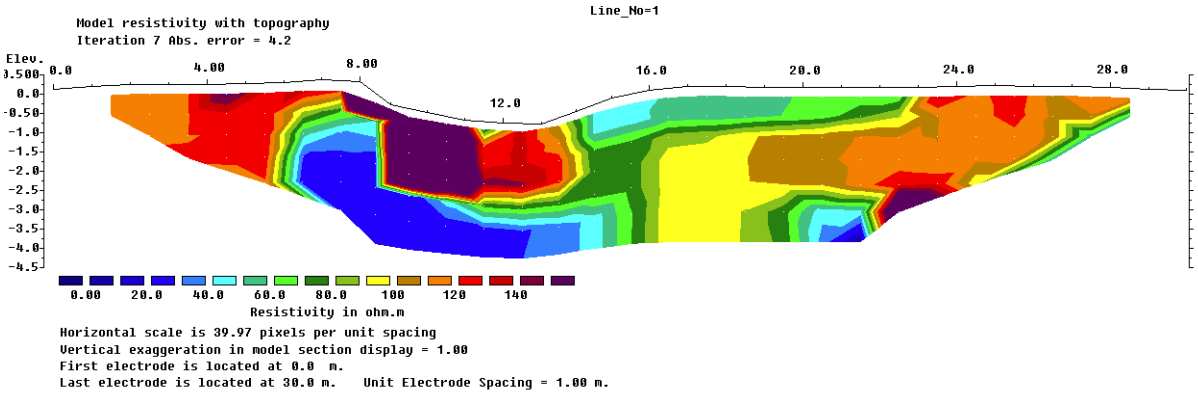
A Finds from Ralph Allen's Bath House Dig, Prior Park, Bath

URN	Description
1	2 fragments of Delft tile.
2	85 long very rusty nail.
3	100 long fragment of clay pipe including a small part of the bowl.
4	One of many fragments of white painted plaster.
5	Fragment of c1mm frosted glass.
6	Fragment of c3mm glass. Could be a Pilkington figured rolled glass called 'Lozenge" dating from 1898.
7	Oyster shell with mortar attached.
8	45 long rusty nail.
9	Fragment of plaster.
10	Two example fragments of mortar with black inflections from north wall and floor test pit. Example of sandy mortar from east wall.
11	Fragment of a small heel tap.
12	Fragment of dark green glass bottle bottom. Original external diameter about 11mm.
13	Fragment of limestone with concave carving suggesting a possible original diameter of 11mm. Fragments of mortar still attached.
14	Fragment of c1.5mm thick red clay tile, glazed on one side.
15	Small fragment of clay pipe including a small part of the bowl which has a black internal surface.
16	Small 19th Century glazed English Creamware bowl footrim with blue floral decoration on the remains of the inside of the bowl.
17	Fragment of white painted plaster
18	Fragment of black painted plaster
19	6 fragments of c1mm frosted glass.
20	7 fragments of c3mm glass similar to 6 above
21	Fragment of frosted green glass.

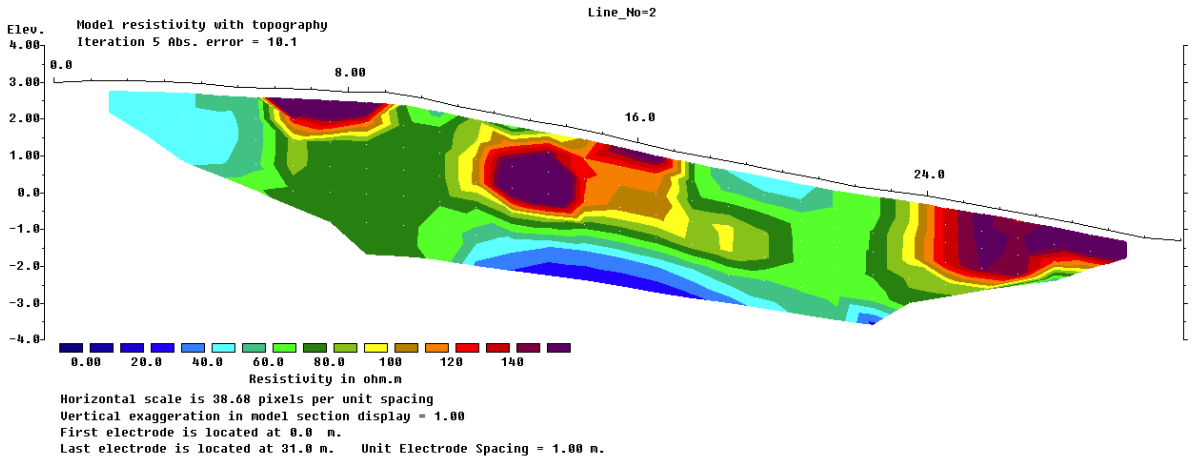
22	Fragment of plaster with a very thin light blue decorated laminate applied.
23	7 fragments of Delft tiles decorated with rare "dotted flower head" corner made in the Lambeth High Street pot house dating from 1750-1770.

B Resistivity Profiles

East to West across building, east wall outer face on profile at 9.3m, north wall outer face at 1m



South to North across building, east wall outer face at 4.5m, north wall outer face on profile 23.5m



C ABSOLUTE ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT

Planning and Section Drawings carried out at ‘Prior Park’, Bath

View Looking West towards the Excavations

Paul Martin BSc (Hons)

Absolute Archaeology.

On behalf of the National Trust
Dyrham, South Gloucestershire.

SN14 8ER

Client/Agent Name:	National Trust
Document Title:	Planning and Section Drawings carried out at ‘Prior Park’ Bath
Grid Reference:	NGR to centre of ‘Project Site’ ST 74596.76290
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Prepared by

Paul Martin

BSc (Hons)

Signed by

Paul Martin

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Absolute Archaeology

51 St Mary’s Gardens, Hilperton Marsh, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 7PH
Paul Martin (mobile) 07796333021.
(e- mail) paul.martinabsoltuearchaeology@virginmedia.com

Introduction

This short document sets out the results from the overall planning and interpretation of an excavation carried out by David Stubbs and Tim Lunt in an area of Prior Park in 2021. The planning necessitated a scaled drawing at 1:20 covering the whole site including a plan and section drawing of the North elevation of the North wall. The planning was carried out by Paul Martin (Absolute Archaeology) and David Stubbs. The investigation of the site occurred over a two day period on the 27th and 28th October 2022 following on from the excavations carried out by David Stubbs and Tim Lunt.

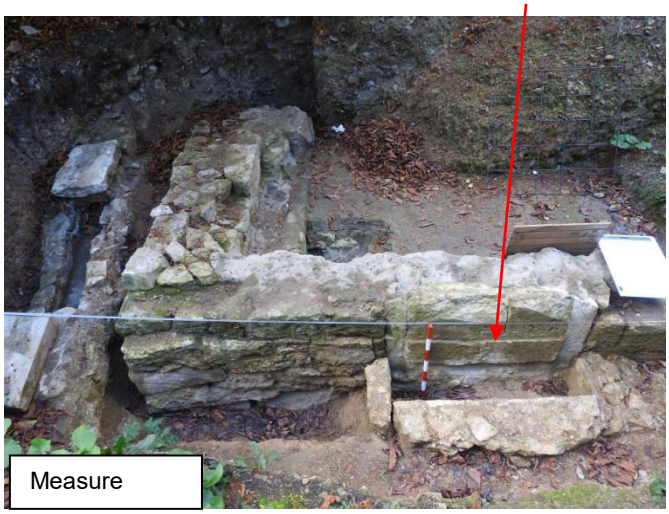
Acknowledgements

Absolute Archaeology would like to David Stubbs for assistance in the Planning of the excavation and to Felicity Swallow for helping with the levels.

Looking West towards the 2021 Excavations

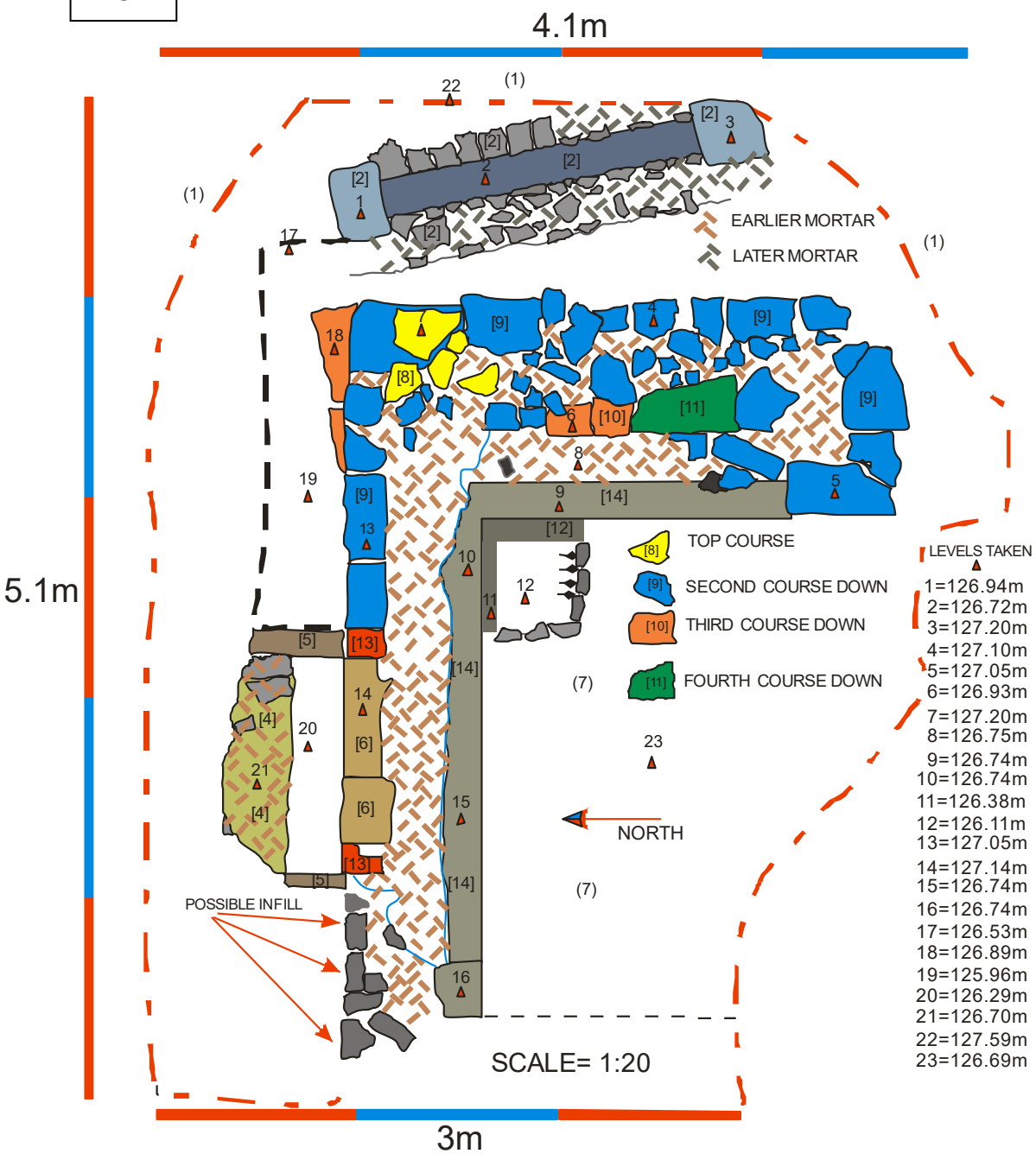
Looking NE towards the 2021 Excavations

The North facing wall and filled in window/doorway [13]



Earlier phase wall [14] and later phase wall [9]

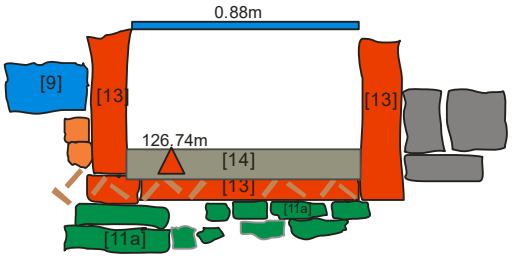
FIG 1



THE 1:20 SCALED DRAWING OF THE EXCAVATION SHOWS PHASING ACCORDING TO COLOUR. AT THE TOP OF THE DIAGRAM CAN BE SEEN A CULVERT [2] WHICH IS ALMOST CERTAINLY LATER, AND NOT CONTEMPOARY WITH THE ACTUAL STRUCTURE. AREAS OF INTEREST ARE THE DRESSED STONE ENCLOSING LAYER [14], WHICH SEEMS TO TERMINATE SOMEWHERE NORTH BENEATH THE MAIN NORTH WALL CONSTRUCTION. THE SAME DRESSED ASHLAR STONE WALL PROBABLY DOES THE SAME BENEATH THE EASTERN WALL. THE LEVEL OF THIS WALL IS PRECISE AT 126.74m TAKEN FROM FOUR READINGS SUGGESTING CAREFUL CONSTRUCTION AND PROBABLY PART OF THE COLD BATH HOUSE. THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID OF THE OVERLAYING /ADJACENT COURSES OF STONEWORK. THE BLOCK OF STONE [4] IS ALMOST CERTAINLY A RE-DEPOSITED SECTION OF WALLING AND PLACED LIKE A WINDOW BOX WITH BASIC KERBING [5] EITHER SIDE. THE WIDTH OF THE WALLS ARE ALSO DIFFERENT IN THAT THE EAST WALL IS 1.1m AND THE NORTH WALL IS 0.7m SUGGESTING DIFFERENT PHASING. SECTIONS OF THE NORTH WALL SEEM TO BE COBBLED TOGETHER INCLUDING EITHER SIDE OF [10], [16] AND BENEATH [11a] THE WINDOW/DOOR JAMBS AND SILL [13]. APART FROM WALLS, [12] AND [14], WHICH ARE MADE UP OF DRESSED ASHLAR STONE, THE REST SHOWN IN THE PLAN IS CONSTRUCTED ENTIRELY OF HEWN LIMESTONE. INTERESTINGLY THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF THE NICHE'S SHOWN ON THE PLAN OF *c*1764.

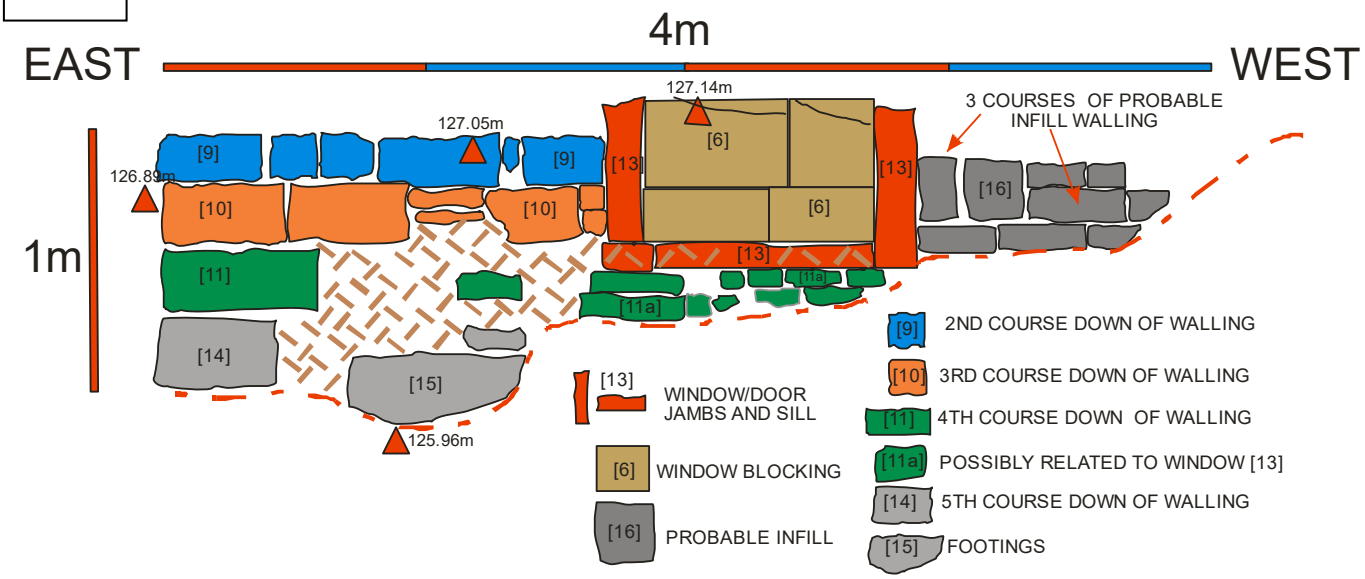
SECTION SHOWING JAMBS AND SILL IN RELATIONSHIP TO INNER WALL [14]

FIG 2



NORTH FACING SECTION OF NORTH WALL

FIG 3



THE 1:20 SCALED DRAWING ABOVE SHOWS THE NORTH FACING SECTION OF THE NORTH WALL. THERE ARE SEVERAL AREAS OF INTEREST IN THE SECTION ESPECIALLY THE BLOCKED IN WINDOW/DOORWAY [13]. TO THE LEFT OF WINDOW/DOORWAY JAMB [13] CAN BE SEEN A LEVEL AT 126.74m. THIS LEVEL IS THE SAME AS THE TOP OF THE INTERNAL ENCLOSURE WALL [14]. IF INDEED THIS WAS A WINDOW IT SEEMS STRANGELY PLACED WITH THE INTERNAL WALL [14] LEVELLING UP JUST ABOVE THE WINDOW SILL ITSELF AND LOOKING MORE LIKE A STEP UP. THE RALPH ALLEN ESTATE SURVEY MAP OF *c* 1764 SIDE ELEVATION DIAGRAM SHOWS THE ARCHED WINDOW TO BE QUITE HIGH COMPARED TO THAT SHOWN WITHIN THIS DIAGRAM. THIS WAS ALSO CONFIRMED BY TIM LUNT AND DAVID STUBBS IN THEIR REPORT (2021, 8). THERE IS ONE BLOCK OF SALVAGED ASHLAR DRESSED STONE WITHIN THE WALL ITSELF WITH THE MAJORITY OF THE WALL MADE UP OF HEWN STONE. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE INNER DRESSED STONE ENCLOSURE WALL [14] COULD BE PART OF THE COLD BATH HOUSE WITH THE HEWN STONE STRUCTURE WALLING LATER, THIS INCLUDES THE DOORWAY/WINDOW [13].

FIG 4

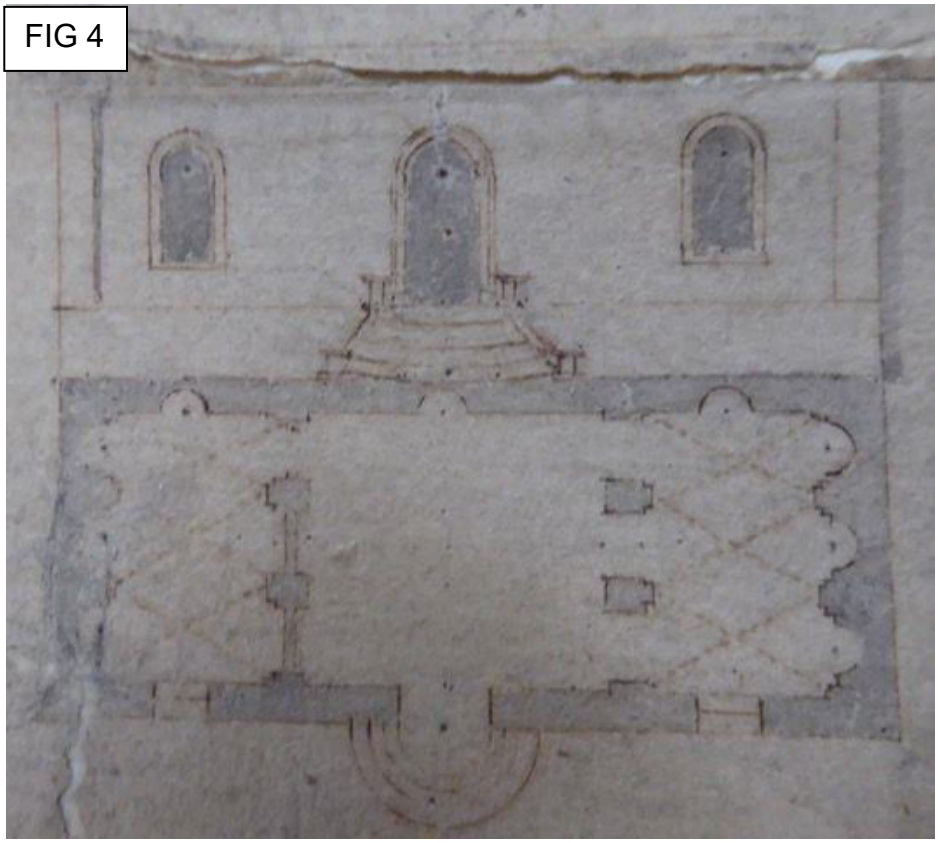
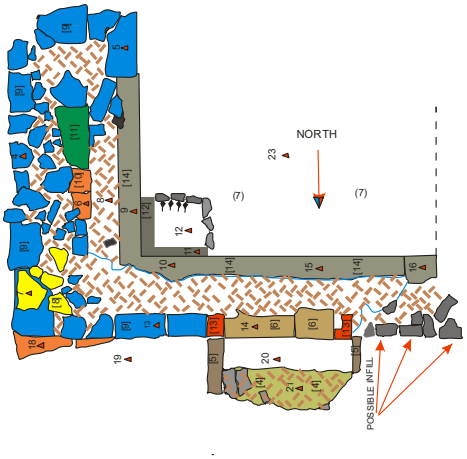


FIG 5



THE *c*1764 SURVEY PLAN SHOWS THE ARCHED WINDOW TO THE LEFT OF THE DOORWAY ELEVATED TO A CENTRAL POSITION. THE EXCAVATED WINDOW SILL AND JAMBS [13] THOUGH SUGGEST A MUCH LOWER ELEVATION. IN THE SURVEY PLAN CAN BE SEEN THREE NICHE'S. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY NICHE'S IN THE RECENT EXCAVATION BUT THEY COULD WELL BE MASKED BY THE LATER PHASE MAIN EAST WALL.

Discussion

The relationship between the present recorded plan and that shown on the c 1764, seem to be at odds. I am inclined to agree with David Stubbs and Tim Lunt's who in their report, comment '*Whether the building was the Pineapple House to be later converted to the Cold Bath House, or simply the latter, is uncertain as no evidence suggesting either use was found. What was puzzling in the 2020 discoveries was the difference between the remains of the building shown by excavation and those expected from the Plan'.* (Lunt and Stubbs, 8).

Are we looking at a later re-use/renovation of the original building shown on the *c*1764 plan and north elevation with niches removed, or are we looking at a later building than that shown on the survey plan of *c*1764? What can be certain is that the *c*1764 plan does not match the present plan. The dimensions are different and the north facing elevation shown on the c1764 drawing shows the two arched windows elevated quite high compared to the jambs, lintel and sill [13] shown in the section drawing of Figure 2 depicting a low elevation. Additional excavations are therefore required to investigate further.

1. More excavation are required especially in area (7) to reduce this area, or excavate several sondages to find any other phasing including floors and the niches shown on the 1764 plan.
2. Undertake some intrusive archaeology (slots) across the east and north walls [9] to find the width of wall [14].

Reference.

Lunt, T., and Stubbs, D. 2021. *The Cold Bath, Prior Park, Bath*. Bath and Counties and the National Trust

COUNTY BATH/NE SOMERSET	TOWN/PARISH PRIOR PARK	*ABSOLUTE ARCHAEOLOGY GRAPHIC REGISTER* ©	SITE CODE A ARC 266

SHEET No	DWG SCALE	COLOUR CODE	PAPER SIZE (cms)	LEVEL No	CONTEXT	DRAWN BY	DATE	DRAWING DESCRIPTION
1	1:20	LIGHT BLUE GREEN	32X29	1. 3.	[2]	PWM	OCT 2022	CULVERT CAPPINGS [2]
1	1:20	40% BLACK	32X29		[2]	PWM	OCT 2022	CULVERT SIDES [2]
1	1:20	DESERT BLUE	32X29	2.	[2]	PWM	OCT 2022	CULVERT BOTTOM [2]
1	1:20	BROWN	32X29		[4]	PWM	OCT 2022	ROUGH KERBING TO [5]
1	1:20	BANANA YELLOW	32X29	21.	[5]	PWM	OCT 2022	RE-DEPOSITED WALL [5]
1 & 2	1:20	GOLD	32X29	14.	[6]	PWM	OCT 2022	WINDOW BLOCKING [6]
1	1:20	YELLOW	32X29	7.	[8]	PWM	OCT 2022	TOP COURSE OF WALL [8]
1 & 2	1:20	BLUE	32X29	4. 5. 13.	[9]	PWM	OCT 2022	2ND COURSE DOWN OF WALL [9]
1 & 2	1:20	ORANGE	32X29	6. 18.	[10]	PWM	OCT 2022	3RD COURSE DOWN OF WALL [10]
1 & 2	1:20	GREEN	32X29		[11]	PWM	OCT 2022	4TH COURSE DOWN OF WALL [11]
1 & 2	1:20	KHAKI	32X29	9. 10. 15. 16.	[14]	PWM	OCT 2022	DRESSED STONE: WALL (INNER BUILDING) [14] AND POSSIBLY SHOWN IN NORTH SECTION OF WALL
1 & 2	1:20	OLIVE DRAB	32X29	11. 12.	[12]	PWM	OCT 2022	PROPOSED DRAIN [13]
2	1:20	RED	32X29		[13]	PWM	OCT 2022	WINDOW JAMBS & SILL [13]
2	1:20	30% BLACK	32X29	19	[15]	PWM	OCT 2022	STONE FOOTINGS [15]
1 & 2	1:20	60% BLACK	32X29		[16]	PWM	OCT 2022	INFILL WALL [16]

MUS ACC No	*ABSOLUTE ARCHAEOLOGY* © *LEVELS REGISTER*		SITE CODE A ARC 266

BACK SIGHT TAKEN TO 125 METRE OS CONTOUR NEAR SEAT BENCH

POSITION	BENCH MARK TBM	BACK SIGHT	INSTRUMENT HEIGHT	FORE SIGHT	REDUCED LEVEL	COMMENTS AND ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
1	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.44m	**126.94m**	NORTHERN CAPPING STONE OF CULVERT [2]
2	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.66m	**126.72m**	CULVERT [2] BOTTOM
3	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.18m	**127.20m**	SOUTHERN CAPPING STONE OF CULVERT [2]
4	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.28m	**127.10m**	SECOND COURSE OF WALL [9]: (BLUE)
5	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.33m	**127.05m**	SECOND COURSE OF WALL [9]: (BLUE)
6	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.45m	**126.93m**	THIRD COURSE OF WALL [10]: (ORANGE)
7	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.18m	**127.20m**	FIRST COURSE OF WALL [8]: (YELLOW)
8	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.63m	**126.75m**	TAKEN ON LAYER OF MORTAR
9	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.64m	**126.74m**	DRESSED STONE LAYER [14]
10	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.64m	**126.74m**	DRESSED STONE LAYER [14]
11	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	2.00m	**126.38m**	LOWER COURSE OF DRAIN [13]
12	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	2.27m	**126.11m**	BOTTOM OF DRAIN [13]
13	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.33m	**127.05m**	SECOND COURSE OF WALL [9]: (BLUE)
14	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.24m	**127.14m**	TOP OF WINDOW BLOCKING [6]
15	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.64m	**126.74m**	DRESSED STONE LAYER [14]
16	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.64m	**126.74m**	DRESSED STONE LAYER [14]
17	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.85m	**126.53m**	BOTTOM CUT FOR CULVERT [2]
18	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.49m	**126.89m**	THIRD COURSE OF WALL {10]; (ORANGE)
19	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	2.42m	**125.96m**	BOTTOM OF SONDAGE
20	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	2.09m	**126.29m**	BOTTOM OF SONDAGE
21	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.68m	**126.70m**	LENGTH OF RE-DEPOSITED WALLING [5]
22	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	0.79m	**127.59m**	TURFLINE/TOPSOIL (1): EAST OF EXCAVATION
23	125.00m	3.38m	128.38m	1.69m	**126.69m**	PROPOSED FLOOR LAYER (7)

GRID REFERENCE FOR SITE SOMEWHERE IN THE REGION OF ST 76227. 62967