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Evaluation Report**

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Lancashire

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for the North West

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Rachael Reader

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# Summary

In July 2015, Salford Archaeology (formerly known as the Centre for Applied Archaeology) were appointed by Simon Thorpe of the Heritage Trust for the North West (HTNW) to lead a programme of archaeological works at the Grade I listed Lytham Hall in Lytham, Lancashire. The trust was successful in obtaining a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to restore the buildings and the archaeological works are a response to the physical works which could affect the historic fabric. However there is also a further opportunity to explore the history of the site through investigating the below ground remains also. The Heritage Lottery Fund also places a strong emphasis on learning and participation, therefore volunteers also play a strong role in helping to understand the history of Lytham Hall.

Lytham Hall is a Grade I listed property, which is dominated by the three storey main hall designed by John Carr of York and constructed between 1752 and 64. To the west are a range of buildings which are known as the Jacobean courtyard. These wings predate the main hall and incorporate 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century fabric, some of which has been dated by a dendrochronology programme carried out by English Heritage (now Historic England).

The house is known to have been in the Clifton family's possession from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century until the 1960s. The Clifton family obtained it after the property changed hands several times after the reformation during Henry VIII's reign. Prior to this, the hall was the site of a Benedictine Priory cell, established in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. However very little is known about the earliest origins of Lytham Hall and the exact location, size or appearance of the priory buildings are unknown.

The first phase of work was an archaeological evaluation targeting the Jacobean wing and in particular, the internal courtyard, currently sealed by concrete flags. The aim here was to assess any archaeological remains to inform mitigation strategies for any future works which could impact upon them. The research aims were to characterise the foundations of the Jacobean buildings and to try and understand how John Carr modified earlier phases of the building. Another aim was to examine whether any remains relating to the priory could be identified. This phase of archaeological evaluation took place between 30<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015. A total of thirteen volunteers participated on the evaluation.

The foundations were explored along the north and south face of the southern Jacobean wing and found that they were constructed differently. A mid-19<sup>th</sup> century handmade brick sewer was also identified in one of the trenches, as well as several ceramic drains. All except one were identified from a drainage plan drawn up in the 1940s. Features cutting into the natural sand were identified as possible wall slots and postholes. One possible wall slot was securely dated through a late Cistercian ware

double handed cup deposited within the infill and suggesting that these were pre-Jacobean features and therefore possibly related to the priory.

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Salford Archaeology (formerly known as the Centre for Applied Archaeology) was commissioned by the Heritage Trust for the North West (HTNW) to undertake a programme of archaeological work at Lytham Hall, Lancashire (SD 35676 27969). This work is part of a wider restoration programme of the Hall and its associated buildings. This report incorporates the results of the archaeological evaluation which forms the first part of this work.

HTNW were successful in obtaining a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant to restore Lytham Hall with planning permission and listed building consent granted in 2013 (Applications: 13/0661 and 13/0663). Conditions 9 and 10 state that a programme of building recording and archaeological investigation would be required and this was part of the restoration process.

## 1.2 Location, Topography and Landuse

Lytham Hall is located in Lytham approximately 1km NW of the town centre and 9km SE of Blackpool. The hall is centred on NGR: SD 35676 27969 and is located within extensive parkland. The site lies at approximately 6m AOD and the land is relatively flat. Lytham Hall is open to the public and sits within 78 acres of historic parkland.

## 1.3 Designations

Many of the buildings and features associated with Lytham Hall are protected structures, first listed during the 1960s. The main house and associated Jacobean courtyard buildings are designated as Grade I listed buildings (NHLE No: 1219078) whilst the Dovecot is Grade II\* listed (NHLE No: 1219120). Within the hall complex, the stable block is Grade II listed (NHLE No: 1196376) as is a statue of Diana the Huntress, supposedly obtained from Greece and dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> century (NHLE No: 1219130) and the Monks' Wall with attached cottage and privy (NHLE No: 1297649). Within the parkland and outwith, the Church Road Lodge is Grade II listed (NHLE No: 1196360), as is the main lodge, gates and boundary wall on Ballam Road (NHLE No: 1196375), gateway and boundary wall on Blackpool Road (NHLE No: 1218602) and the railings and gate across the driveway (NHLE No: 1219126).

## 1.4 Personnel

The project was conducted by professional archaeologists from Salford Archaeology and volunteers. On-site excavations were conducted by Rachael Reader and Kirsty Whittall, who also compiled the technical report and the finds report respectively. The report was illustrated by Richard Ker and the project was managed by Adam Thompson.

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## 2. Historical and Archaeological Background

### 2.1 Introduction

The site of Lytham Hall has been occupied since at least the 12<sup>th</sup> century when a Benedictine Priory cell was established here. After the dissolution of the monasteries in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century, the site changed hands several times until it was bought by the Clifton family in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. The main three storey Georgian Hall was designed by John Carr and built during the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Clifton family held the property until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, when it was sold to the Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance. They sold it in 1997 to the Lytham Town Trust who leased it for 99 years to HTNW in 2001, who are currently the guardians of the property.

### 2.2 Historical Background

#### 2.2.1 Lytham Priory (12<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> century)

Lytham is first mentioned in the Domesday Book and was categorised as King's land. In the late 11<sup>th</sup> century, the land is passed to Roger de Poitou and by 1188, Richard Fitzroger was in possession of land. A parish church was established in Lytham before 1190 and was dedicated to St Cuthbert, hinting at a prior relationship with Durham before the priory cell was established.

The foundation charter for the priory states that it was founded between 1189 and 1194 when Richard Fitzroger gave all of his land in Lytham to the monks of Durham so they could establish a monastic cell. Documentary evidence suggests that attempts were made to make it an independent house but this was abandoned in favour of a cell dependent on the Durham Priory. It was dedicated to God, St. Mary and St. Cuthbert, as was Durham and was a Benedictine Priory (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 107). It was one of Durham's remote priories, along with Stamford and Oxford (Cambridge 1992) but continued as a cell until the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530s.

As the priory was a dependent cell of Durham, it is thought that only 3-4 monks would have been based here (Girouard 1960a, 130) although only two were documented here during the early 15<sup>th</sup> century (Dobson 1973, 300). Although isolated, it was a prosperous cell according to Dobson and the priors enjoyed a high standard of living. However the documentary evidence suggests that the Priory was on hostile terms with the locals. Several priors asked to be returned to Durham during the late 14<sup>th</sup> century because the hostilities became too much for some (1973, 328). One Prior also quarrelled with Thomas Butler who owned neighbouring lands and the latter's servants and tenants damaged the Priory's land in 1530 (Girouard 1960a, 130). However during the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Prior William Partrike sided with the landowners and launched an (ultimately unsuccessful) bid to detach from Durham and become independent (Dobson 1973).



There is surviving documentary evidence relating to the cell at Lytham, including a list of the Priors (see Appendix) but it primarily relates to financial matters (e.g. Cambridge 1992). Therefore there is no evidence for where the priory was exactly located, its appearance or size. However Lytham was referred to as a *manerium* in documentary evidence of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, suggesting that it resembled the domestic arrangements of a priory manor rather than a conventional claustral plan (Cambridge 1992, 163). Girouard has also suggested that it would have had a hall to eat in, a chamber for guests and a chamber for monks (1960a, 130).

### **2.2.2 Lytham Hall (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century)**

After the dissolution of the monasteries, the priory ceased being used as a religious institution and although ownership was not clear at this stage, the tenancy of the manor transferred to a Sir Thomas Dannett. It was subsequently owned by Thomas Holcroft (from 1555) and Richard Molyneux (from 1597) before being bought by Cuthbert Clifton of Westby in 1606 (Girouard 1960a, 131). The Rogerley family were the tenants until the Hall was purchased by Clifton, having bought the lease from Dannett although it is not clear when.

#### *The Clifton Family*

The Clifton family owned the house until the 1960s however prior to Cuthbert's purchase, the family already had a pre-existing relationship with the cell at Lytham, albeit an unfriendly one (Farrer and Brownbill 1908, 109). For example, in 1320, Prior Roger of Tynemouth complained to the Earl of Lancaster that William de Clifton had invaded the Priory with 200 armed men (*ibid* 110). The Clifton family owned a lot of land around this area and first appear in documentary evidence in the 12th century as Lords of the manor at Clifton (Girouard 1960a, 131), c.11km east of Lytham. Their lands were also centred round a manor at Westby, 5km NE of Lytham and Cuthbert Clifton of Westby purchased the manor at Lytham from a Richard Molyneux for £4300 in 1606 (Girouard 1960b, 188).

It is said that the Priory buildings were levelled so Clifton could construct his Jacobean Hall, however elements of fabric within these buildings suggest that some of the Priory was incorporated into the Hall. There is only one depiction of the hall which is dated to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century and it is depicted as a high gabled building with a timber upper storey and the rest of brick or stone (Girouard 1960a, 131-2; see Plate 1). It is also depicted with a triple span pitched roof with two smaller extensions either side. It is likely to predate alterations by Cuthbert made in 1625 because an inventory taken at his death in 1634 stated that there were around forty rooms within the hall (*ibid* 132) and therefore suggests a building larger than the one depicted.



**Plate 1** A rare early depiction of Lytham Hall (top left) suggests that this was the building in existence prior to Clifton's alterations in 1625 (taken from Girouard 1960a, 131; Lancs. Archives ?DDCL/1056)

The family prospered during the 17<sup>th</sup> century and continued to increase their landholdings around the Fylde area. However, as staunch Catholics, their choice to support the Royalist cause during the Civil War was the start of their brief downfall as three of Cuthbert's sons were killed during the war. The eldest, Thomas, who owned the land and house at the time, had his estates confiscated in 1653 and his son Cuthbert died in Manchester Gaol after being taken prisoner in 1644. When Thomas died in 1657, Cuthbert's brother Thomas became the head of the family and recovered the family estates during the Restoration, as well as receiving a baronetcy. However during William III's reign, the family were arrested on suspicion of supporting James II. Although nothing could be proven, after his second arrest and trial in 1694, Thomas died leaving his estate to his nephew, also called Thomas (Girouard 1960b, 188-9).

### **2.2.3 Lytham Hall (18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> century)**

The present day main house was an early design by John Carr of York (1723-1807), with building work beginning in 1757. John Carr was a renowned architect and designed other country houses, including Harewood and Wentworth Woodhouse and contributed to the survey and repair at York Minster. Lytham Hall is a rectangular block, three storeys high and built of red brick with painted stone dressings of a Palladian style. It was commissioned by another Thomas Clifton (born 1727), the grandson of Thomas who died in 1720.

It is not clear how much of the previous house was altered or demolished during this phase although it was supposedly built onto the front of the old house. Record for payments in 1759 refer to "pulling down" and "alterations" in "ye olde building" (Girouard 1960a, 133), strongly suggesting that some of the older building fabric was retained. The courtyard buildings to the west of the main house attest to this, containing fabric which may be Jacobean or earlier in date. The dendrochronology

suggests this with the long gallery floor likely constructed in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century (Tyers 2013, 8). The Picture Gallery in the main house also contains early 17<sup>th</sup> century planks within the floor and two rooms on the third storey are also lined with panelling of a similar date, thought to have been reused from the earlier house (Girouard 1960a, 132-133).

Other buildings on the estate were constructed around this time, including the chapel in 1753 which was “a large and plain room at the back of the house” and also served as the parish church for around 50 years (Girouard 1960b, 190). This is also known as the south-west range. In addition to this, the dovecot was constructed in 1757 and a stable block in 1758 (Girouard 1960a, 133). A wall, known as Monk’s Walk, thought to be part of a former walled garden may be 17<sup>th</sup> century in origin. This runs SE from the chapel and also has a privy and cottage built within it. Other later additions include a Lodge to the hall on Church Road during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a Lodge on Ballam Road in the 1840s although it was moved to its current location during the expansion of the railway line in the 1860s. The attached boundary wall probably dates to the 1850s with another part of the boundary wall along Blackpool road which possibly predates the other one.

Major refurbishments of the house took place in the 1790s and 1830s but the family’s fortunes took a downturn during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, largely in part to the excessive spending of John Talbot Clifton (1868-1928) and his son Henry Talbot de Vere Clifton (1907-1979). The house was sold during the 1960s to the Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance to help pay some of the debts, who then utilised the buildings as offices. The Lytham Town Trust bought the property in 1997 and agreed a 99 year lease with HTNW in 2000, who currently look after the property and the house and parkland are open to the public.

There are very few maps showing the hall in any detail and by the time the Ordnance Survey ones were published, many of the major alterations to the house had already taken place. The only major difference shown on the maps is the slowly decreasing size of the parkland that the hall sat in as 20<sup>th</sup> century developments encroached on the fringes.

## **2.3 Archaeological Background**

Since the lease for the hall transferred to HTNW in 2000, the Trust has embarked on a programme of restoration to allow the house to have a sustainable future and become a tourist destination. The first phase focused on restoring the south-west range into conference, catering and tea room facilities. After completion in 2007, the Trust moved onto preparing for Phase 2 and was awarded funds in 2011 to continue restoration and deliver a programme of learning and participation on the heritage of the site. This phase is due for completion in 2017, with a third phase planned to restore the stables and outbuildings.

### ***2.3.1 Dendrochronological Dating Programme***

In 2008, Historic England (formerly English Heritage) carried out a dendrochronology survey, targeting timbers in the main house, the long gallery and the south-west range as well as living oaks within the parkland. The results confirmed the accepted

construction dates for both the main house by John Carr and the broadly contemporary south-west range. The 16<sup>th</sup> century dates from the long gallery timbers confirms that the courtyard buildings contain fabric from the earlier buildings, possibly even the priory (Tyers 2013). Between 2009 and 2013, excavations were carried out in the parkland targeting the artificial mound and an icehouse depicted on mapping, as well as other garden features to the south of the house.

### **2.3.2 Current Restoration Programme**

As part of the restoration programme, a programme of archaeological works was implemented to help deliver HLF's participation and learning objectives. In line with the planning consent also (Fylde Council App No': 13/0663), works are needed to inform future work which may have an impact upon the historic fabric of the building and/or below-ground remains. This will also be enhanced by research into the history of the site to enhance further interpretation and learning.

Although this report specifically focuses on the evaluation phase, there is also a phase of historic building recording envisioned and the main aims and objectives for this programme are:

- To understand the historic fabric and archaeological remains to inform the next phase of design proposals where they may impact upon the historic buildings and below ground remains
- To gather new information about the history of the buildings and site to inform preparation of new exhibitions
- To relate the building history to the vernacular buildings on the Fylde Coast
- To provide opportunities for volunteers to engage in archaeology
- To engage established groups, societies and individuals in the process
- To provide opportunity for community participation and learning
- To ensure that significant historic remains are preserved by record and where appropriate, *in situ*

Specific research aims of the archaeological works are as follows:

- To investigate evidence for the Priory on this site
- To understand the construction, appearance and status of the Jacobean house on the site
- To understand the phasing of alterations, re-use of fabric and changing use and status of the site from Priory to Georgian Hall

### **2.3.3 Participation and Learning**

To also provide learning and participation opportunities, the archaeological works will involve engagement with volunteers. For the evaluation phase, a total of fourteen volunteers were involved and carried out both excavation, recording and post-excavation tasks such as finds processing. Full training and guidance was provided by the staff at Salford Archaeology. In addition to this, the staff provided interviews for BBC Radio Lancashire, This is Lancashire TV and Rock FM. An article was also

published on Lytham Hall's website and in the Lytham St Annes Express newspaper (3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2015).

Further opportunities for involvement and learning will also happen through:

- Group involvement e.g. local archaeology societies, specialist groups such as Vernacular Architecture Group and CBA
- Providing tours, social media presence, viewing points, exhibition boards or leaflets for visitors
- Lecture series and one seminar/study day

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## 3. Methodology

### 3.1 Excavation Methodology

Due to the small size of the excavation area, all excavations were carried out by hand. In the courtyard, the concrete flags were removed and excavated material was stockpiled into two separate piles: bedding sand for the flags and all other deposits to make the hand reinstatement easier after excavation. Deposits were removed by hand until archaeological features or natural geology were encountered. Volunteers carried out excavation by hand, under the supervision of professional archaeologists.

Excavated spoil was stockpiled at least 1m away from the trench edges onto tarpaulin within the inner courtyard to aid spoil management. After the excavation was complete, the trenches were backfilled by hand and reinstated by volunteers, aided and supervised by professional archaeologists.

### 3.2 Recording Methodology

Separate contexts were assigned individually (Appendix 1 – Context List) with plans and sections recorded on drawing sheets at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 and 1:50), depending on the complexity of the data and features encountered. All drawings were individually identified and cross referenced, contexts enumerated and principle layers and features annotated with OD level information.

Photography of all relevant phases and features were undertaken with digital formats. General working photographs were taken during the archaeological works to provide illustrative material covering the wider aspects of the archaeological work undertaken (Appendix 3 – Photographic Archive).

All finds were recorded by context, with significant small finds located within three dimensions to the nearest 100mm, bagged and labelled separately.

All fieldwork and recording of archaeological features, deposits and artefacts were carried out to acceptable archaeological standards. All archaeological works carried out by CfAA are carried out to the standards set out in the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).



# 4. Archaeological Descriptions

## 4.1 Introduction

The primary aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence, extent, depth and state of preservation of the archaeological resource to enable informed recommendations and future mitigation for any surviving remains. Research aims of the evaluation were to try and characterise the foundations of the Jacobean buildings and locate any priory remains. This evaluation also involved members of the community so training was also provided in aspects of excavation, recording and post-excavation work.

A total of four trenches were excavated targeted within two main areas: the inner courtyard of the Jacobean buildings and the area to the south of the Jacobean range. Three were located within the Jacobean courtyard and one trench was located along the southern elevation. Due to adverse weather conditions, only one trench could be opened along the southern elevation and one trench within the inner courtyard could only be partially excavated.

## 4.2 Trench 1



**Plate 2 General shot of Trench 1 (looking north)**

Trench 1 was located against the western side of the Jacobean courtyard and was an irregular shape due to where the flags were removed from. The uppermost deposit was **(001)**, concrete flags sat on a loose light yellow brown silty sand. This measured 0.15m in depth and sealed **(002)**, a fairly loose mid grey brown clayey silt with no observed inclusions. This measured < 0.10m in depth and sealed **(004)**, a fairly



compact mid brown grey silty clay with occasional small broken bricks, measuring < 0.15m in depth. This sealed (007), a large handmade brick culvert which was orientated N-S and consisted of stretcher bricks laid on side with a collar either side. This was visible over a length of 1.30m and measured 0.90m in width. This was abutted on the west side by (009), a handmade brick surface with regularly laid full and half bricks with excavated dimensions of 1.30 x 0.40m. This was the lowest observed deposit on the western side of the culvert (see **Error! Reference source not found.**). On the eastern side, sealed by (004) was (034), a fairly compact dark yellow grey silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones. This also appeared to seal (007).

### 4.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located along the northern side of the Jacobean courtyard and was also irregular shaped due to where the flags were removed from. The uppermost deposit was (001) which in turn sealed (006), a ceramic pipe located at the west end of the trench. It was c.0.30m in diameter, orientated NE-SW and within a deposit of loose mid grey brown sandy silt with no observed inclusions. This measured at least 0.40m in depth and was infilling [031], a linear cut running NE-SW and measuring > 0.70m in width. Also sealed by (001) but at the opposite, NE end of the trench was (005), a ceramic pipe measuring 0.20m diameter and orientated NW-SE. It was only visible over a distance of 0.50m and was sealed by a mid brown grey silty clay. This was sat within cut [035], which was also orientated NW-SE and was a minimum of 0.40m wide, although it was not fully excavated.



Plate 3 Cut features at S end of Trench 2

[031] appeared to truncate (003), which was a fairly compact mid brown grey silty clay with occasional large roof slates, medium sub-angular stones and rare brick fragments. This measured 0.15m in depth and was only visible at the southern end of the trench. (003) sealed (025), a compact dark brown grey silty clay containing rare large sandstone blocks, some with traces of mortar on. This deposit also contained the near complete late Cistercian ware cup (see Appendix 5). This in turn infilled [028], a linear cut running E-W. It was at least 1.30m in length, 0.60m wide and a minimum of 0.15m deep although it was not fully excavated. This in turn truncated (036), a dark brown grey clayey silt with no visible inclusions. This appeared to be the infill of [037], a linear cut running N-S and visible over a length of 0.30m and width of 0.10m. It possibly turns to run W-E also (see **Error! Reference source not found.**). [037] cuts (038), a malleable dark brown grey silty clay with no noted inclusions measuring 0.05m in depth.

Sealed by (038), located to the E of [037] and therefore not physically related to this feature was (033), a friable dark brown grey clayey silt with no visible inclusions. This was the infill of [032], which were two small sub-circular cuts measuring 0.15m in diameter. One was partially excavated and measured less than 0.05m in depth. These were cut into (027), which was a light yellow brown natural sand. This was the lowest observed deposit within this part of the trench.

Ceramic pipe trench [035] truncated (010), a friable mid grey brown clayey silt with abundant fragments of degraded brick and mortar and measured 0.10m in depth. (010) also appeared to be sealed by (039) a loose mid yellow brown mixed sand with no visible inclusions. This measured 0.20m in depth and also extended below the building to the south. The foundations visible here also revealed that the stone foundations were sat on two header laid bricks spaced apart 0.50m. (039) in turn sealed (040), a loose dark grey brown silty sand with no observed inclusions. It was observed over a length of 1.80m, a width of 0.70m and a depth of 0.20m. This also appeared to extend below the foundations of the building.





**Plate 4 Foundations of the Jacobean building within Trench 2**

(040) sealed (041), a loose dark grey brown silty sand with occasional inclusions of medium brick fragments. It measured 0.20m in depth and sealed (030), a handmade brick wall running E-W. Its full width could not be ascertained and it was only partially revealed in a slot by the foundations of the buildings however it was three courses high and measured 0.20m in depth (see **Error! Reference source not found.**).



This was infilling cut [029], a linear cut running E-W and measuring 0.15m in width. Deposit (041) was also within this cut and it measured 0.30m in depth overall.



**Plate 5 Cobbled surface (011) in Trench 2**

[029] truncated (011), a cobbled surface with small stones tightly and randomly packed into a dark grey clay layer. Its excavated length was 1.40m and measured 1.20m in length and 0.05m in depth (see **Error! Reference source not found.**). Sealed below (011) was (026), a malleable dark brown grey silty clay with no inclusions observed. It measured up to 0.20m in depth however it was only partially revealed in section. This in turn sealed (027) and was the lowest observed deposit within this part of the trench.



#### 4.4 Trench 3



**Plate 6 General shot of Trench 3 (looking N)**

Trench 3 was located towards the centre of the courtyard however due to adverse weather conditions and being in the open, the trench flooded several times therefore it was only partly excavated. Overall it measured 1.85 x 0.65m and was orientated N-S and (001) sealed the trench. This sealed (042), a ceramic drain c.0.20m diameter,

orientated NE-SW and infilled with a dark brown grey silty clay with occasional small sub-circular pebbles. This infilled [043], a steep sided linear cut, orientated NE-SW and visible over a length of 0.70m and 0.40m wide. The depth was not fully excavated. This in turn truncated (044), a light reddish brown silty clay with inclusions of degraded brick, mortar fragments and small angular stones. This measured 0.10m in depth and sealed (045), a layer of slate or unknown stone type that easily fractures. This was located 0.30m below the ground surface and was not excavated to any further depth. It was excavated to maximum dimensions of 0.70 x 0.40m and was only located to the north of [043].

Partially sealed by (044) towards the S end of the trench was (046), a line of medium angular sandstones, measuring no more than 0.20m across and orientated NW-SE. These were only traced over a length of 0.40m and sealed (047), a fairly loose light brown grey sandy silt with frequent inclusions of mortar fragments. This was not fully excavated and was only visible in a small part of the trench to the north of (046). This was the lowest observed deposit stratigraphically and due to water ingress issues, this trench was not excavated any further.

#### 4.5 Trench 4

Trench 4 was located along the southern face of the Jacobean building and targeted an area of brickwork exposed in the ground and the joining brickwork between the Jacobean and Georgian buildings. This trench measured 3.40 x 1.00m and was orientated E-W. Excavations reached a maximum of 0.50m depth due to water ingress.

The trench was sealed by (008), a friable dark black brown loam topsoil material. This varied in depth and measured up to 0.30m in depth. This sealed (014), a handmade brick feature abutting the wall of the Jacobean building. Overall it measured 1.90 x 0.95 x 0.30m, had three sides and a rectangular aperture in the middle measuring 0.90 x 0.40m (see **Error! Reference source not found.**). To the west of this feature, a slot was excavated through the deposits on this side and (014) sealed (016), a fairly loose mid grey brown sandy silt and measured 0.20m wide and 0.10m in depth. It was excavated to a length of 0.50m and sealed the brickwork of the building. It was the infill of [017], a linear cut orientated E-W and excavated to the dimensions of (016). This in turn truncated (019), a compact mid red brown silty clay lens which measured 0.05m in depth and had no visible inclusions. This in turn sealed (018), a friable mid brown grey clayey silt which had no visible inclusions and measured < 0.20m in depth. This was the lowest observed deposit in this area and could not be excavated further due to water ingress.





**Plate 7 Feature (014)**

On the eastern side of (014) but not physically related to it was (023), a handmade brick drain with a small chamber measuring 0.60 x 0.40m and orientated N-S. This truncated (024), which lay to the east and was a handmade brick lined drain excavated to maximum dimensions of 0.50 x 0.50m and orientated E-W. Depth was not ascertained due to water ingress. (023) also sealed (020), a friable dark grey brown sandy silt which was the infill of [021], a linear cut running E-W and only revealed in section measuring 0.05m in width and 0.25m in depth.

Within this cut was (048), the foundations of the later extension of the Jacobean courtyard buildings. This consisted of three courses of handmade brick which stepped out each time and partly cut into large stones which appeared to be two courses high measuring 0.50 x 0.50m. This stone in turn sat on another course of mortared handmade brick although due to water ingress, the area could not be excavated further. The stones appear to have been worn away and this part of the foundation cuts into (049), the handmade brick foundations of the Jacobean wall. Although it is not clear where the base of the foundations were, towards the base of the excavations, the foundations consisted of at least two courses of stepped out brick although the bricks appear not to have been arranged in a regularly pattern (see **Error! Reference source not found.**). [021] truncated (022), a compact dark brown grey silty clay with rare small rounded pebbles and frequent inclusions of small mortar fragments. This was the lowest identified deposit in this area and due to water ingress, the area could not be excavated any further.



**Plate 8 The foundations of the two differently phased buildings revealed in Trench 4**

# 5. Archaeological Results

## 5.1 Introduction

Based on the results of the evaluation, it is possible to construct a basic phasing for the features found. This is split into four broad phases dating from the Medieval period to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 5.2 Phase 1: Medieval Priory (pre 1606)

The earliest identified features on site were found in Trench 2 and consisted of two possible postholes at the northern end of the trench. These could possibly relate to the Priory phase although no dating evidence was directly associated with them.

A possible relict ground surface appears to have formed, sealing the former postholes and was identified in two places within Trench 2. This was truncated by at least one slot for a possible wall or timber beam. This appears to be broadly contemporary with a cobbled surface, also identified within Trench 2. There is evidence to suggest that this wall/beam was robbed out and was sealed with large mortared stones and roof tiles, suggesting that it belonged to a larger building. Within the robbed out trench was a late Cistercian ware cup, which places this possible building in the Medieval period.

## 5.3 Phase 2: Jacobean House (1606 – c.1750)

Evidence for this building phase was found in Trench 2, where the demolition material appears to have been used to level up the ground surface. The cobbled surface was then truncated by the foundation cut for the southern building. This appears to have had a handmade brick foundation onto the natural sand. The brick wall along the southern elevation investigated in Trench 4 may be contemporary with this phase although the foundations on the two elevations are very different.

The original northern wall of the southern part of this courtyard appears to have been demolished and then levelled up before being replaced with a stone wall. However it is not entirely clear when this happened as it could have been part of the alterations when Carr's house was built.

## 5.4 Phase 3: Carr's Extension (c.1750-1800)

When Carr built the main three storey house at the eastern end of the complex, he also constructed a link between the Jacobean wing and this new building. This evidence was found in Trench 4, where the stone and brick foundations for the link appeared to truncate the earlier wall.

## 5.5 Phase 4: 19th-20th Century Modifications

A 19<sup>th</sup> century brick sewer was located in Trench 1, a relatively late addition and the brick feature in Trench 4 is also dated to around this time. It is not clear what this feature was for, however its location in the former walled garden and traces of small metal fixtures on the wall above suggest that it may have been a flower bed. Plants

such as roses or wisteria could have been trained up the wall using the fixtures observed.

One of the last modifications was the addition of a flagged surface within the courtyard area. This took place after the Royal Guardian Exchange took over the hall in the 1960s, replaced a cobbled surface here (Simon Thorpe pers. comm.)

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## 6. Discussion

The results of the evaluation have shown that there is archaeological potential for remains of the priory to survive and this discussion looks at potential comparisons to place the remains in context.

### 6.1 Lytham Priory

The early remains identified in Trench 2 have been tentatively assigned to when the site was a Priory. The evidence suggests the presence of a building and pathway but only a very small part was revealed.

The church was an integral part of life in England from around 7<sup>th</sup> century through to the Dissolution in the 1530s and more than 1000 existed in Medieval England (Coppack 2012). Few areas did not have some form of religious house and Lytham was no exception. When Lytham was founded as a Benedictine Priory cell in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century, the movement had lost its earlier pre-Conquest dominance and other orders had been established such as Cistercians and Cluniac. Nevertheless, it was established as a cell of Durham possibly as a practical way to manage the estates gifted to the order by Fitzroger (Cambridge 1992, 10). As to what property and assets Lytham was managing, very little can be discerned although it must have been successful enough as it continued as a Priory until the Dissolution.

Benedictine Priors generally had similar layouts and excavated examples at Jarrow and Monkwearmouth, Tyne and Wear, also dependent cells of Durham, shows what the layout at Lytham may have looked like. Each have a cloister with a covered walkway with the church to the north and ranges of buildings attached to the side. At Monkwearmouth, there were buildings to the east and south (Cramp 2005a, 134) and at Jarrow there was an eastern range but an unfinished southern range. It remains to be seen whether Lytham had sufficient importance and finances to fund a Priory on a par with its North-Eastern counterparts.

On the other hand, as a cell it may not have had a standard layout and as it was described as a *manerium*, it may not have had the typical claustral plan. It may have been comparable to Kersal Cell, Salford which was a dependent of the Cluniac Priory Lenton in Nottinghamshire. This was founded between 1143 and 1153 (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 113-4) although the standing building dates to 1563, which is Post-Reformation. Future work could help elucidate whether Lytham was closely comparable to a standard plan of a Benedictine Priory, or whether being a *manerium* meant that it differed.

### 6.2 Adaptation or demolition? From Priory to House

The historic fabric preserved within the later Jacobean buildings shows that elements of the monastic buildings were probably reused. A number of monastic sites were adapted into other buildings by later owners, such as Monkwearmouth (Cramp 2005a; 2005b) and Launde Abbey, Leicestershire (Finn *et al* 2005). At Monkwearmouth, the south and east range of the claustral buildings were adapted for a Jacobean house. The excavation report does not deal with the Jacobean foundations in any detail therefore it is not known what form these alterations took. However this work may

have included casing the southern façade, as well as sub-divisions and extensions to the original monastic buildings (Cramp 2005a, 138). The buildings no longer exist as they were destroyed by fire in 1790 (*ibid* 41) however they once formed three sides around a square adjoining the church (Cookson n.d.).

Launde Abbey retained many of the priory buildings in the post-dissolution house built by Gregory Cromwell, Thomas's son. When taken over by William Halford in 1611, the house was substantially remodelled but again, still preserving the former priory buildings (Finn *et al* 2005, 9-10). The evidence suggests that the Clifton family had the courtyard buildings at Lytham clad in brick, which again closely resembles what happened at Launde Abbey. However the different foundations of the north and south façade of the southern building shows that the remodelling was a complicated process and may have involved some demolition and reconstruction during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### 6.3 Conclusion

With only a very small portion of the site opened up, it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions on the results. However the initial comparisons have served to give an indication as to what form the Priory may have taken at Lytham. With such limited documentary evidence on the Priory, archaeological investigation may be the only way to elucidate whether the cell here was closely comparable to those such as Jarrow and Monkwearmouth or the building at Kersal. With the Building Survey planned for the future, this will also help to characterise the Priory remains and help determine to what extent the Jacobean extension utilised previous buildings.

# 7. Future Implications

## 7.1 Introduction

As the archaeological evaluation was the first phase of works, the following outlines the implications for future work on the site to help achieve the aims and objectives set out.

## 7.2 Future Archaeological Work

This initial phase of evaluation has clearly shown that there are below-ground remains surviving in the courtyard area which could possibly relate to the Priory. Therefore it is recommended that there is an archaeological presence during any works which may impact upon the archaeology. The scale and nature of this will depend on the impact level of any future groundworks however archaeology was encountered at depths starting at 0.30m below the flagged surface.

Due to the adverse weather conditions, only a small part of the area to the south of the Jacobean buildings could be investigated. Further work is recommended in this area to assess whether there is any trace of 19<sup>th</sup> century garden features, possibly related to the Walled Garden and whether the Priory extended into this area.

As stated in the original brief, a Watching Brief is to be expected particularly during phases of ground reduction and placing/moving services and drainage runs. A Watching Brief will also be required during works which impact upon the historic building. A clearer idea on where may be affected should be possible once the building survey phase has been completed.

## 8. Archive

The archive comprises of notes, annotated field drawings, site registers, digital photographs and finds. These have been digitised and the archive is currently held by Salford Archaeology. A copy of this report will be forwarded to the client and associated parties.

A copy of this report will also be deposited with the Lancashire Historic Environment Record.

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## 9. Acknowledgements

Salford Archaeology would like to thank Simon Thorpe, Project Manager at Lytham Hall for commissioning the programme of archaeological works and providing welfare facilities. Thanks also goes to Marianne Blaauboer, Activity Plan Officer, for arranging the volunteers to take part and to **John, the parkland manager** for his help also. The fourteen volunteers who slogged through difficult weather conditions during late November/early December also deserve thanks for their hard work and enthusiasm.

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Lytham Hall Building Plan based on Foster Survey Drawings © 2007

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# Appendix 1: Context List

Site Code: LHL15		Site Name: Lytham Hall, Lytham, Lancashire
Context No.	Trench/Area	Description
(001)	Site	Concrete flagged surface and bedding sand
(002)	Trench 1	Fairly loose mid grey brown clayey silt with no observed inclusions. < 0.10m in depth. Sealed (004)
(003)	Trench 2	Fairly compact mid brown grey silty clay with occasional large roof slates, medium sub-angular stones and rare brick fragments. 0.15m deep. Seals (025)
(004)	Trench 1	Fairly compact mid brown grey silty clay with occasional small broken bricks. < 0.15m in depth. Sealed (007)
(005)	Trench 2	Ceramic pipe, 0.20m diameter and orientated NW-SE. sealed by a mid brown grey silty clay. Infill of [035]
(006)	Trench 2	Ceramic pipe, c.0.30m in diameter, orientated NE-SW and within a deposit of loose mid grey brown sandy silt with no observed inclusions. Infills [031]
(007)	Trench 1	Large handmade brick culvert, orientated N-S and visible over a length of 1.30m. 0.90m wide. Abutted by (009)
(008)	Trench 4	Friable dark black brown loam topsoil material < 0.30m deep
(009)	Trench 1	Handmade brick surface with regularly laid full and half bricks. 1.30 x 0.40m
(010)	Trench 2	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt with abundant fragments of degraded brick and mortar. 0.10m deep. Sealed by (039)
(011)	Trench 2	Cobbled surface with small stones tightly and randomly packed into a dark grey clay layer. 1.40 x 1.20 x 0.05m. Seals (026)
(012)	VOID	VOID
(013)	VOID	VOID
(014)	Trench 4	Handmade brick feature abutting the wall of the Jacobean building. 1.90 x 0.95 x 0.30m, had three sides and a rectangular aperture in the middle 0.90 x 0.40m. Seals (016)
(015)	VOID	VOID
(016)	Trench 4	Fairly loose mid grey brown sandy silt and measured 0.20m wide and 0.10m in depth. Infills [017]
[017]	Trench 4	Linear cut orientated E-W. 0.50 x 0.20 x 0.10m. Cuts (019)
(018)	Trench 4	Friable mid brown grey clayey silt which had no visible inclusions. > 0.20m deep
(019)	Trench 4	Compact mid red brown silty clay lens (0.05m deep) and had no visible inclusions. Seals (018)
(020)	Trench 4	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt. Infills [021]
[021]	Trench 4	Linear cut E-W. 0.05m wide, 0.25m deep. Contains (048) and cuts (022)



<b>(022)</b>	Trench 4	Compact dark brown grey silty clay with rare small rounded pebbles and frequent inclusions of small mortar fragments. Cut by [021]
<b>(023)</b>	Trench 4	Handmade brick drain with a small chamber measuring 0.60 x 0.40m and orientated N-S. Truncates (024)
<b>(024)</b>	Trench 4	Handmade brick lined drain excavated to maximum dimensions of 0.50 x 0.50m and orientated E-W. Seals (020)
<b>(025)</b>	Trench 2	Compact dark brown grey silty clay containing rare large sandstone blocks. Not fully excavated. Contains late Cistercian ware cup. Infill of [028]
<b>(026)</b>	Trench 2	Malleable dark brown grey silty clay with no inclusions observed, 0.20m depth. Seals (027)
<b>(027)</b>	Site	Light yellow brown natural sand
<b>[028]</b>	Trench 2	Linear cut running E-W. > 1.30m in length, 0.60m wide and > 0.15m deep. Not fully excavated. Truncates (036)
<b>[029]</b>	Trench 2	Linear cut running E-W 0.15m wide, 0.30m deep. Foundation cut for (030)
<b>(030)</b>	Trench 2	Handmade brick wall running E-W, below foundations of southern building. Three courses high. Infills [029], sits on natural sand (027)
<b>[031]</b>	Trench 2	Linear cut running NE-SW and measuring > 0.70m in width. Cuts [003]
<b>[032]</b>	Trench 2	Two small sub-circular cuts 0.15m diameter. < 0.05m deep
<b>(033)</b>	Trench 2	Friable dark brown grey clayey silt with no visible inclusions. Infill of [032]
<b>(034)</b>	Trench 1	Fairly compact dark yellow grey silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones. Seals (007)
<b>[035]</b>	Trench 2	Linear cut, orientated NW-SE, < 0.40m wide. Cuts (010)
<b>(036)</b>	Trench 2	Dark brown grey clayey silt with no visible inclusions. Infill of [037]
<b>[037]</b>	Trench 2	Linear cut running N-S and > 0.30m x 0.10m. It possibly turns to run W-E also. Cuts (038)
<b>(038)</b>	Trench 2	Malleable dark brown grey silty clay with no noted inclusions. 0.05m deep. Seals (033)
<b>(039)</b>	Trench 2	Loose mid yellow brown mixed sand with no visible inclusions. 0.20m deep, extended below the building to the south. Seals (040)
<b>(040)</b>	Trench 2	Loose dark grey brown silty sand with no observed inclusions. 1.80 x 0.70 x 0.20m
<b>(041)</b>	Trench 2	Loose dark grey brown silty sand with occasional inclusions of medium brick fragments. 0.20m deep, seals (030)
<b>(042)</b>	Trench 3	Ceramic drain c.0.20m diameter, orientated NE-SW and infilled with a dark brown grey silty clay with occasional small sub-circular pebbles. Infills [043]
<b>[043]</b>	Trench 3	Steep sided linear cut, orientated NE-SW, 0.70 x 0.40m. Not fully excavated. Cuts (044)
<b>(044)</b>	Trench	Light reddish brown silty clay with inclusions of degraded

	3	brick, mortar fragments and small angular stones. 0.10m deep. Seals (045)
<b>(045)</b>	Trench 3	Layer of slate or stone that easily fractures. 0.70 x 0.40m – not fully excavated
<b>(046)</b>	Trench 3	Line of medium angular sandstones, < 0.20m wide and orientated NW-SE. 0.40m long. Seals (047)
<b>(047)</b>	Trench 3	Fairly loose light brown grey sandy silt with frequent inclusions of mortar fragments. Not fully excavated
<b>(048)</b>	Trench 4	Foundations of the later extension of the Jacobean courtyard buildings
<b>(049)</b>	Trench 4	Handmade brick foundations of the Jacobean wall

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# Appendix 2: Figures



<p>University of <b>Salford</b> MANCHESTER</p>	<p><b>Salford</b> Archaeology</p>	<p>The Centre for Applied Archaeology</p>	<p>Centre for Applied Archaeology College of Science and Technology The Crescent Salford M5 4WU</p>
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Scale 1:50,000

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Fig. 1: Site location

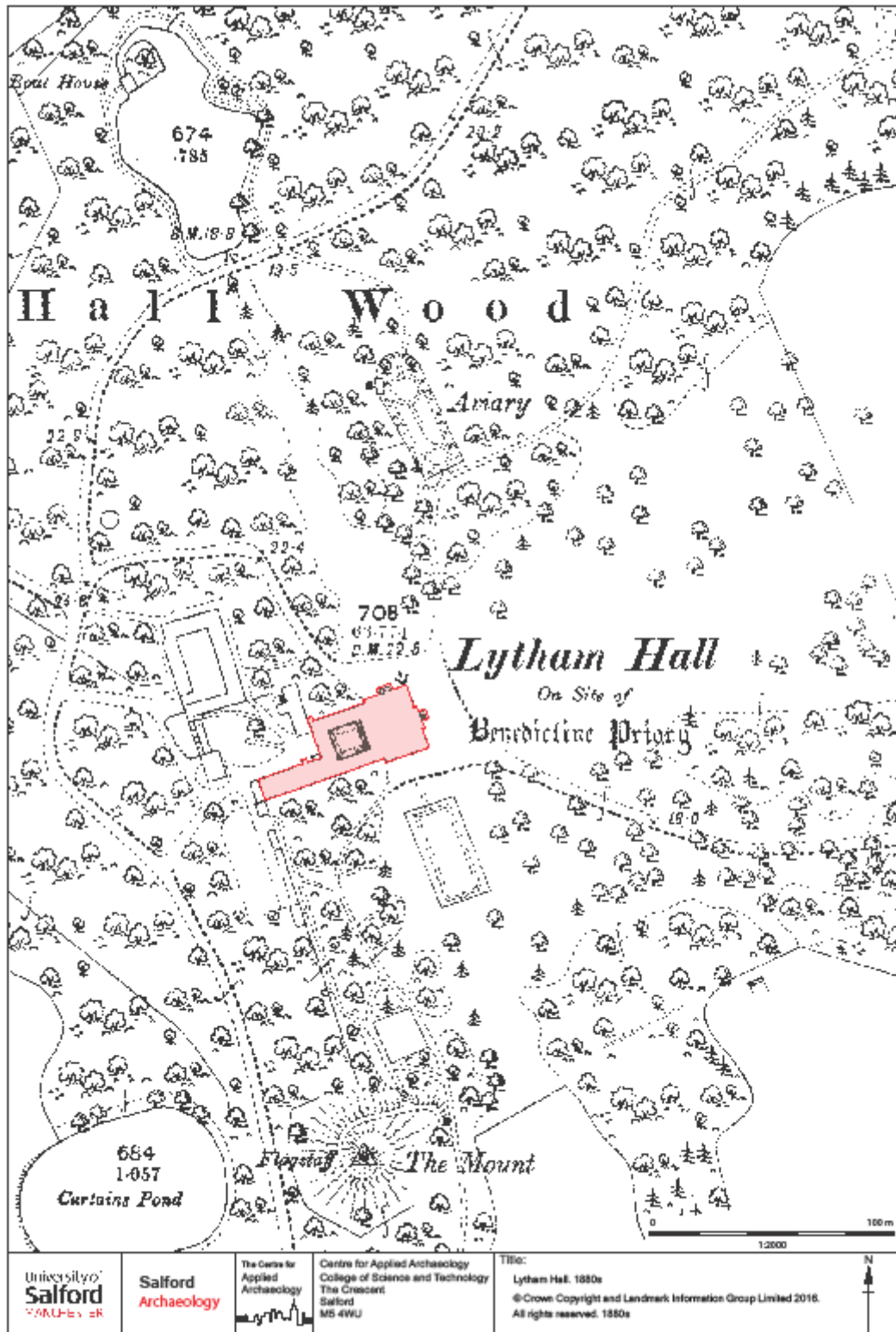
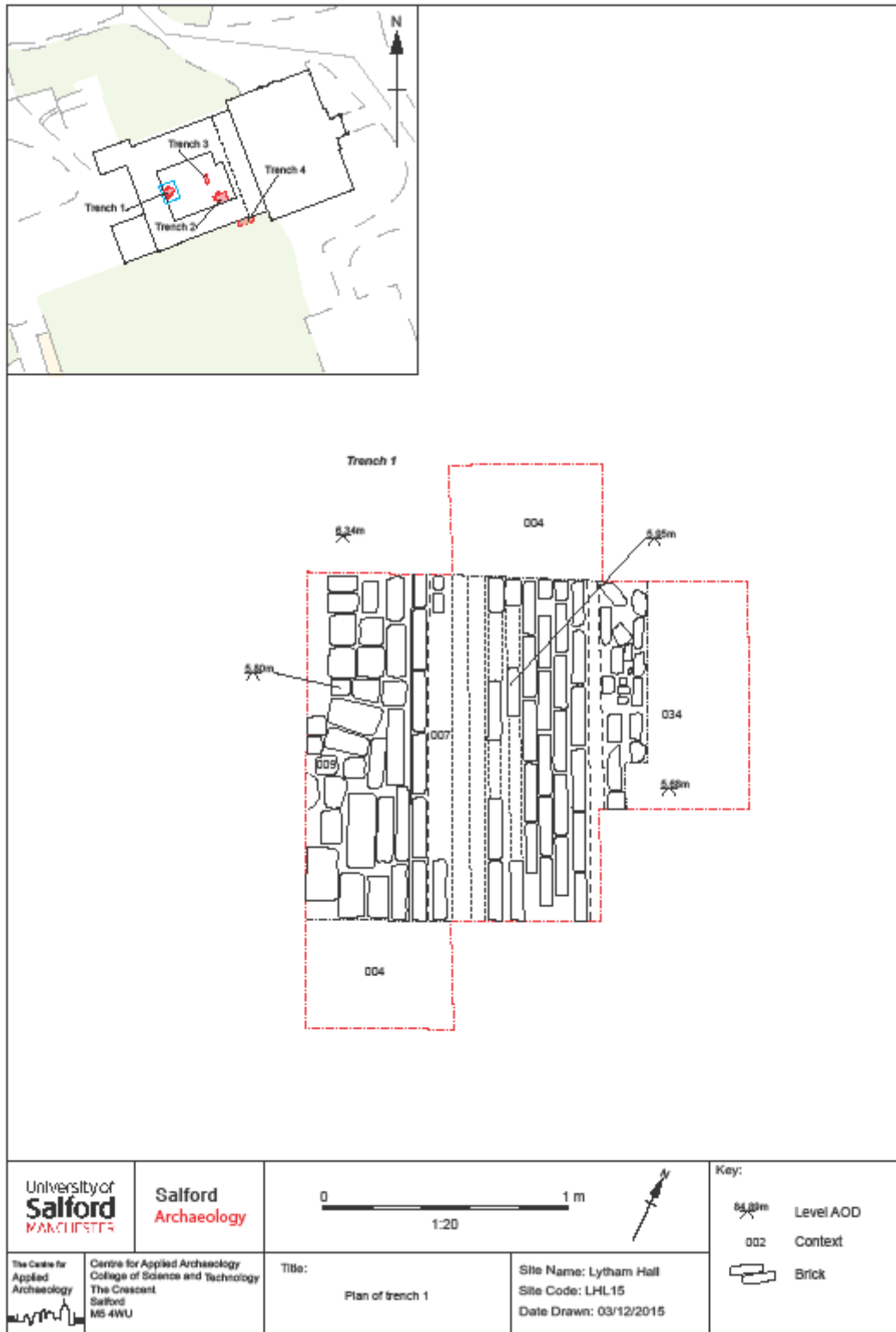


Fig. 2 Ordnance Survey Map (published 1893)



**Fig. 3 Plan of Trench 1**

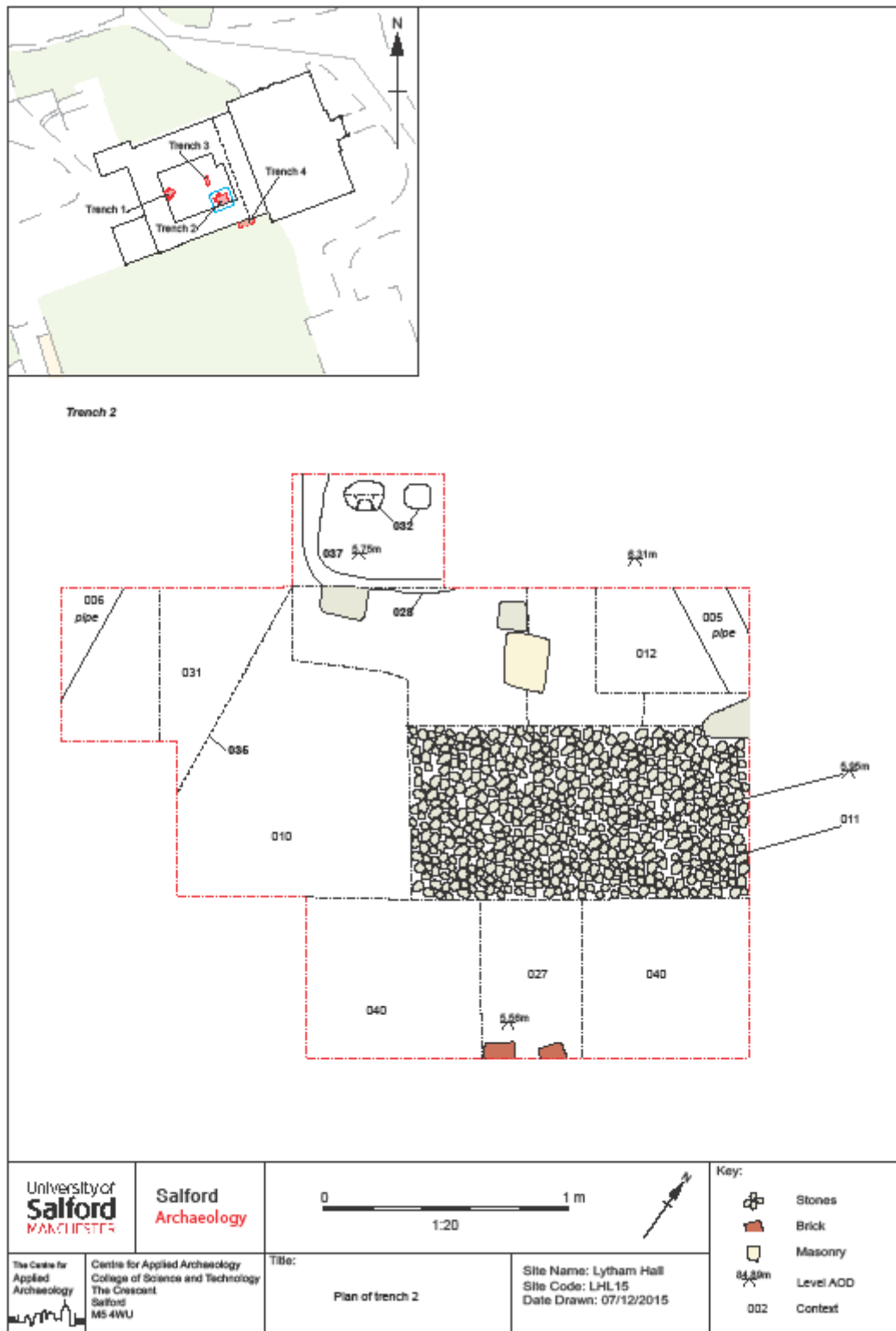
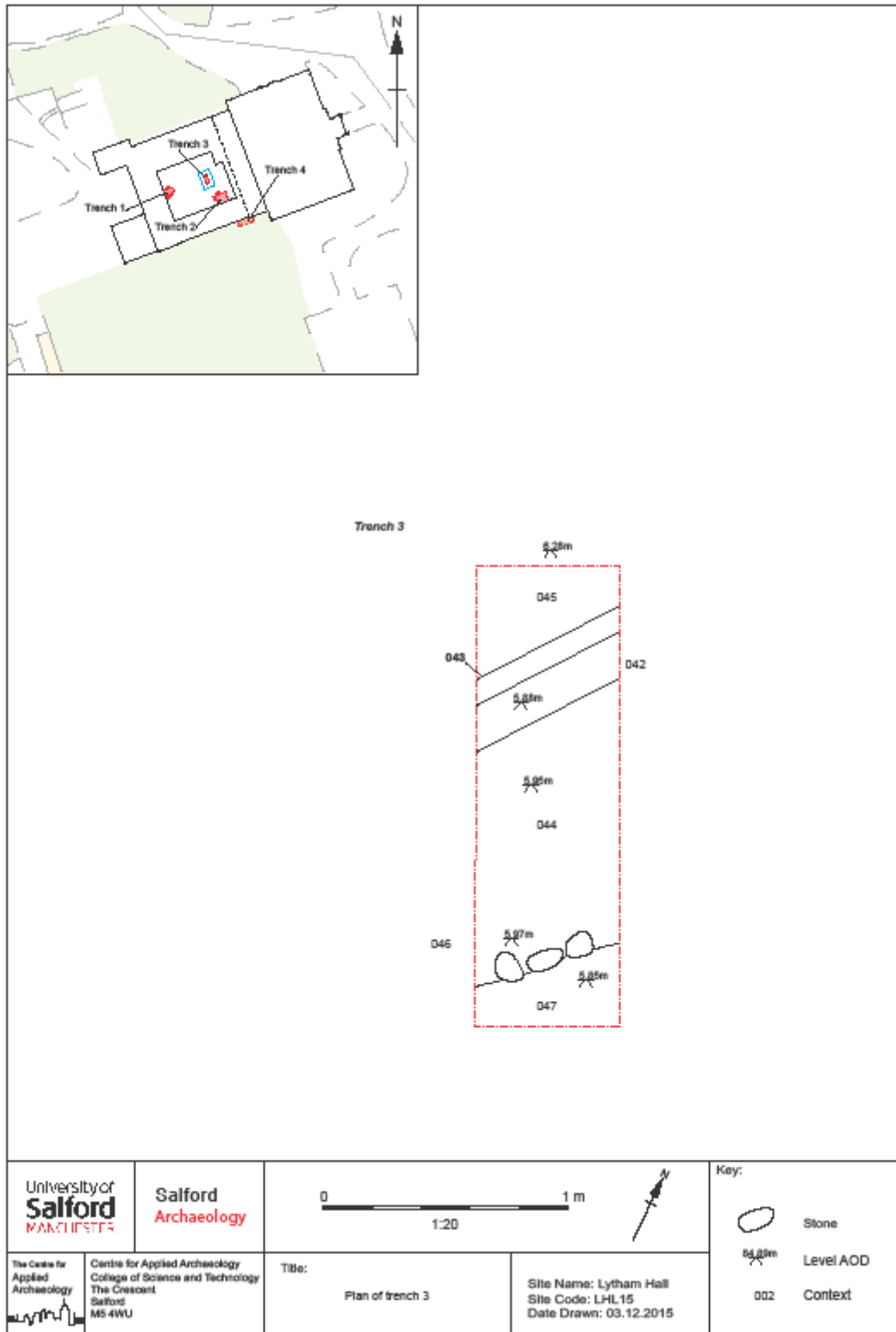
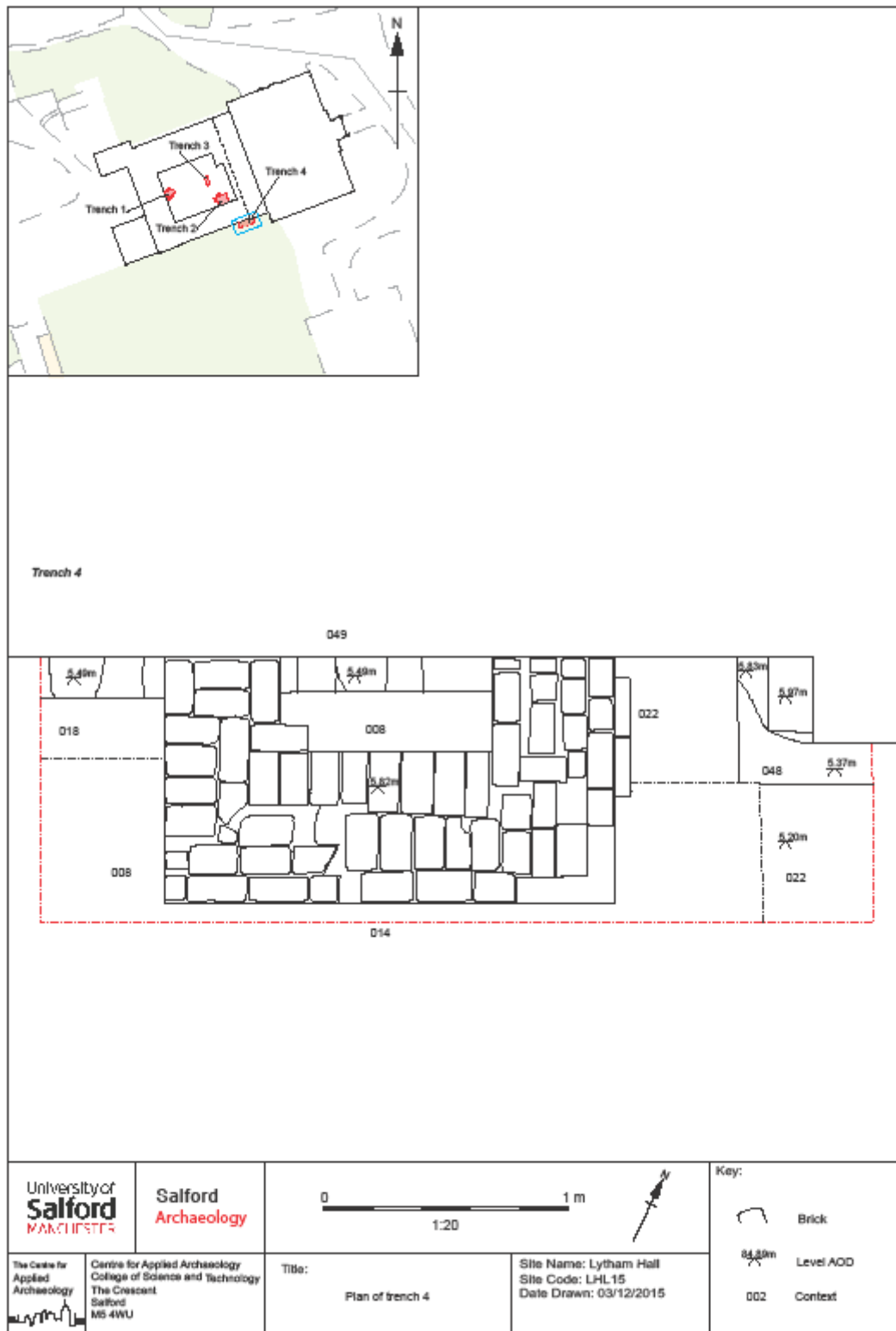


Fig. 4 Plan of Trench 2



**Fig. 5 Plan of Trench 3**



**Fig. 6 Plan of Trench 4**



## Appendix 3: Photographic Register

Site Name: Lytham Hall, Lytham, Lancashire			
Frame	Trench/Area	Description	Direction Facing
001	Trench 2	General shot	E
002	Trench 2	As 001	W
003	Trench 2	Ceramic pipe (006)	W
004	Trench 2	Possible demolition material (003)	N
005	Trench 2	Small ceramic pipe (005)	NE
006	Trench 2	Close up of Jacobean Buidling foundations	S
007	Trench 1	General shot of culvert (007)	W
008	Trench 1	As 008	N
009	Trench 1	S facing section of culvert (007)	N
010	Trench 1	Possible surface (009) abutting (007)	N
011	Trench 4	Bullnose bricks recovered from (008)	N/A
012	Trench 4	As 011	N/A
013	Trench 4	Fill removed from (014)	N
014	Trench 4	As (013)	E
015	Trench 4	As 011	N/A
016	Trench 4	Truncated drain (024)	N
017	Trench 4	Later drain (023) and poss construction cut [021]	E
018	Trench 4	Foundations (048) truncating (049)	N
019	Trench 4	Feature (014)	N
020	Trench 4	Foundations (049) at W end of T4	N
021	Trench 4	General shot	E
022	Trench 3	General shot	W
023	Trench 3	As 022	W
024	Trench 3	As 022	N
025	Trench 3	As 022	N
026	Trench 3	As 022	W
027	Trench 3	As 022	W
028	Trench 3	As 022	W
029	Trench 2	Deposit (003) with possible roof slates	N
030	Trench 2	As 029 – section	N
031	Trench 2	As 029	N
032	Trench 2	Cistercian cup (SF1) sealed below (003), within (025). <i>In situ</i>	N
033	Trench 2	As 032	N
034	Trench 2	As 032	N
035	Trench 2	As 032	N
036	Trench 2	Surface (011)	E
037	Trench 2	As 036	SE

038	Trench 2	As 036	SE
039	Trench 2	As 036	N
040	Trench 2	As 036	W
041	Trench 2	As 036	W
042	Trench 2	As 036	N
043	Trench 2	Shot of foundations including deposit (040)	S
044	Trench 2	As 043	S
045	Trench 2	Foundations post-exc	S
046	Trench 2	As 045	S
047	Trench 2	As 045	E
048	Trench 2	Possible wall slots [028] and [037], and postholes [032]	N
049	Trench 2	As 048	N
050	Trench 2	As 048	W
051	Trench 2	As 048	W
052	Trench 2	As 048	E
053	Trench 2	As 048	E
054	Trench 2	Foundations of Jacobean wing, multiple phases	S
055	Trench 2	As 054	S
056	Trench 2	As 054	E
057	Trench 2	As 054	S

## Appendix 4: List of Priors

The following is a list of the known Priors of the Priory at Lytham between 1205 and 1535, when the Priory was dissolved during Henry VIII's reformation. Although the list is fairly comprehensive, not all the information is complete. This list is taken from Farrer and Brownbill 1908, 107-111.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Period</b>
William	after 1205; before 1226
John	before 1233
Helias	after 1205; before 1240
Roger	after 1217; before 1249
Thomas	before 1250
Clement	before 1258
Stephen of Durham	Jan 1259 – Feb 1272
Richard of Hutton	1285-1288
Ambrose of Bamborough	1288
Henry of Faceby	1291
Robert of Ditchburn	1307
Hugh Woodburn	1310-11
Roger of Stanhope	unknown
Roger of Tynemouth	1316-25
John of Barnby	Mar 1332 – 1333
Aymer of Lumley	1333
Hugh of Woodburn	1338-42
Robert of Camboe	Oct 1342 – 1349
Robert of Kelloe	Jul 1351 – 1361
John of Normanby	Jul 1362 – 1373
Richard of Birtley	Oct 1373 – 1379
William of Aslackby	1379 – 1385
Thomas of Corbridge	1388 – 1402
Richard of Heswell	1412 – 1431
William Patrik/Partrik	Jun 1431 – Jan 1444 or 1445
Henry Heley	Apr 1445 – 1446
John Barley	Sep 1446 – 1456
William Dalton	1456 – 1458
John Middleham	Jul 1458 – 1459
Thomas Hexham	?1459 - 1465
William Cuthbert	1465 – 1472
Robert Knowt	1474 – 1479
William Burdon	1479 – 1484
William Cuthbert	1486 – 1491
Richard Tanfield	1491 – 1510

Robert Stroder	1514 – 1516
Edmund Moore	1525 – 1530
Ralph Blaxton	1533 - 1535

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# Appendix 5: Post-Excavation

## Lytham Hall, Lytham

### Post Excavation Statement by Kirsty Whittall

#### Introduction

This assessment report concerns the archaeological material recovered from the Lytham Hall, community excavations in 2015, carried out by Salford Archaeology (formerly the Centre for Applied Archaeology), University of Salford on behalf of Heritage Trust for the North West. The community excavations formulated part of a wider restoration project for Lytham Hall. The findings of this report will be use to inform any further archaeological works for Lytham Hall, with the benefit of providing proxy or relative dates by way of the artefact assemblage.

#### Assessment Aims and Objectives.

The principal aim of the present assessment is to evaluate all classes of archaeological artefact data generated during the excavations of 2015 at the site of Lytham Hall, Lytham. A statement of significance of the artefactual assemblage is given below based on the assessment work undertaken, and the original research themes expressed in the project design. The objectives of the assessment correspond to and are prescribed to English Heritage MoRPHE guidelines project planning note 3 Archaeological Excavation, “3.7 Analysis and Report Production” (English Heritage:2008) and “Selection, Retention and Dispersal of archaeological collections guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland” chap 4 pp24-29. (Society of Museum Archaeologist: 1993: PP 24-29)

- To assess the quantity, provenance and condition of all classes of stratigraphic artefactual and environmental data, with a view of retention and dispersal of materials in line with the stated Guidelines
- To comment on the range and variety of the material, with a view of expanding the collected archaeological data and formulating new archival resources of artefactual information.
- To formulate any further questions arising from the assessment of the excavated data, in line with the research agenda set out in the North West Research Framework.



### Material Assessed.

The entirety of the stratigraphic archaeological artefact data along with a brief overview of the unstratified archaeological data was viewed and assessed for the production of this report. The quantifications are incorporated into each individual assessment.

### Procedure of Assessment

The methodologies adopted for the assessment varied depending on the class of the material under examination. All classes of find were examined in full, with observations supplemented by the finds records generated during the course of the excavation.

### Methodology

The assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines set out by English Heritage in the document Management of Research Projects in the Historical Environment (English Heritage : 2008) Planning Policy Note 3 and with reference to the Medieval (Newman and Newman :2007) and Post Medieval Research Agendas drafted by the North West Region Research Framework (Newman and McNeil: 2007). The Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections: Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Society of Museum Archaeologist: 1993), and “The Post Medieval Research Agenda” (Newman and McNeil: 2007) were also consulted for the formation of this report.

The finds recovered from the excavation comprised various categories of material including: Glass, Ceramic, Bone, Metal and Miscellaneous.

All categories of finds were examined in full, with observations in regards to the level of preservation, condition and any observable anomalies, such as decoration being noted. All categories of finds were given individual accession numbers in line with the Standard Operating Procedures (Whittall : *forthcoming* ) for Salford Public Archaeological Resource Centre (SPARC), and all finds were photographed digitally using a Canon Power Shot G12 with a Canon 6.1 – 30.5mm zoom lens.

All images were then downloaded on to Digital archives held at the Centre *for* Applied Archaeology.

### The Assemblage

The artefact assemblage recovered from the community excavations at Lytham Hall have been assessed for levels of preservation and for the local, regional and national significance of individual artefacts as well as the relevance of the assemblage as a whole. In order to

evaluate the archaeological significance of this assemblage, the artefacts were subdivided into material groups.

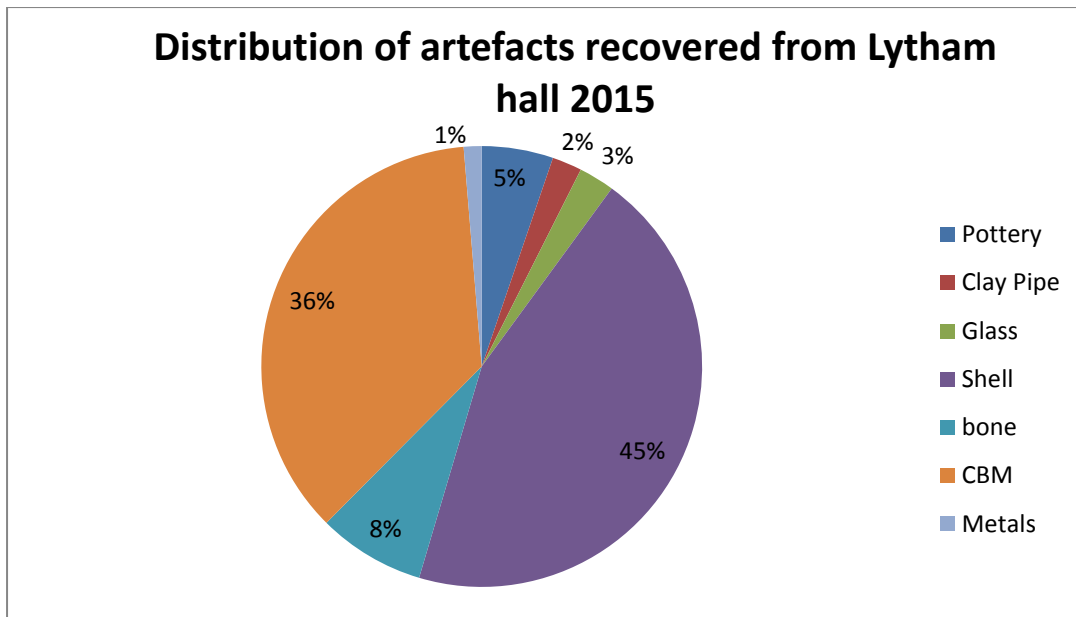
In total 247 items were recovered during the excavations, which were then divided into 6 material categories for the assessment of the assemblage. The table below offers these material categories and their number of artefacts.

<b>Material</b>	<b>Count</b>
Shell	102
Building Materials	83
Ceramics	12
Glass	6
Metals	3
Clay pipe	5

**Table 1:** Table showing the material subgroups of the assemblage.

The above table reflects the individual groups with the materials were divided into and the numbers of items which fell into those sub groups. There were some items with were classified under miscellaneous, these items were either part of a broader context or were unstratified, within this assessment these items have been counted and catalogued but will not be discussed at this stage.

The discussions focus on items which were identifiable and fall within one of the above subgroupings.



*Fig One: showing a pie chart distribution of the artefacts recovered from Lytham hall in 2015*

### Shell

The shell recovered from Lytham Hall accounts for 102 individual items and accounts for 45% of the total assemblage. The majority of the shell recovered was collection from Trench One, meaning Trench one was the most productive trench in quantity of items recovered with a count of 155 items accounting for 62% of the entire assemblage.

The shell fragments recovered were predominantly that of oyster shells, notably, oysters were characteristic of a poor status diet during the later 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These shells could be contemporary with the construction of the culvert which dates to 1864 by way of a diary entry of the garden staff at that time. The shell may well have been deposited during the back filling process.

The shell deposit recovered from Lytham Hall is not considered to be of regional or local significance and is recommended for dispersal.

### Clay pipes

The recovery of clay pipes can greatly aid the interpretation of potential dates for a site, due to the relatively high production and consumption of these items, clay pipes typically are recovered in large numbers.

The clay pipes recovered from Lytham Hall however, only account for 2% of the total assemblage, with a count of only 5 identified fragments. This is a usually low count for a residential site, however the recovery of these items within the inner courtyard cannot be dismissed as this may have impacted the recovery of clay pipes, as smoking for staff within the inner courtyard area may well have been prohibited.

The clay pipes recovered were characteristic of later clay pipe production, circa late 18<sup>th</sup> /early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries; this date range was ascertained by bowl shape and borehole diameter.

### Building Materials

During the excavations at Lytham hall, multiple fragments of building materials were uncovered. The predominant building material uncovered was that of handmade brick, typically the form was bull nosed, a standard brick with a curved header design. The handmade brick accounted for 28% of all building materials recovered.

Slate was also uncovered during the excavations; predominantly recovered from Trench two the slates are similar to the peak district roof slates, rather than the Welsh blue slates. These slates have a singular pin hole at the top left of the slate, and are unregulated in size and thickness, offering a proxy date range of 1700-1900 AD. The slates account for 48% of the building materials recovered.

The building materials recovered account for 36% of the total assemblage collected during the 2015 excavations.

### Ceramics

The ceramic collection from Lytham hall reflected the use of the house as a residency, and is mostly attributed to the form of ceramics closely associated with general household goods, such as Iron Glaze fragments, and stonewares. However, included within the ceramic assemblage 2 artefacts of significance were recovered. The total ceramic assemblage accounted for on 5% of entire collection of recovered artefacts, which is relatively low for this type of site, it would be expected that further excavation would offer a much greater spread of ceramics.

The two artefacts of significance were recovered from Trench Two within the inner courtyard area, both of which lay beneath the roof tile deposits.

2101.5.1 – Midland Purple variant base sherd, with a mid-red firm fabric, little to no inclusions within the temper and a mid-dark brownish black glaze. The glaze appears relatively uneven and thick in parts suggesting that this piece has been created in a two staged process of form production then glazing. This artefact offers a proxy date range of 1680-1720AD

2101.2.1 – Cistercian ware mug recovered from Trench Two, lying beneath the roof slates, above the area of negative archaeological features. The item shows characteristic uniform fine ware mid reddish brown smooth fabric, with no inclusions in the temper and handmade construction. The glaze appears as a lead glaze which is mid to dark brownish purple in colour and the item had connections for two handles. The mug is 900mm tall and 706mm at its widest point. The item reflects the typical bulbous formed pottery associated with Cistercian wares and is similar to Brears type 7 (formally type 14) in its profile. This item offers a date approximation of late 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The presence of these two items from the evaluation would strongly suggest that full excavation would be successful for the collection of further material data.



**Fig three:** showing a scale photo of the Cistercian two handled mug.



## Conclusion

Although the collected materials from the Lytham Hall excavations were relatively low in comparison to the predicted assemblage recovered from residential type sites, the presence of Cistercian ware among the ceramics assemblage is an extremely positive point which suggest mitigations for further works should be considered.

As the evaluation focussed predominantly on the inner court yard area, it was expected to recover a high number of ceramic fragments of much later dates, for example there is a dramatic lack of mass produced white wear material, which on residential type sites is normally abundant. Similarly, there is a large decrease in the amount of clay pipe recovered; again this would be expected to have been recovered in a much greater number.

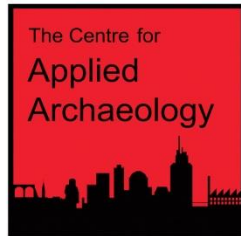
To this extent, the mitigations for further work should include a sampling strategy for both material remains and for any pollens or paleosols which may be present on site, to further inform the time frames for occupation and activity on and around the site of Lytham Hall.

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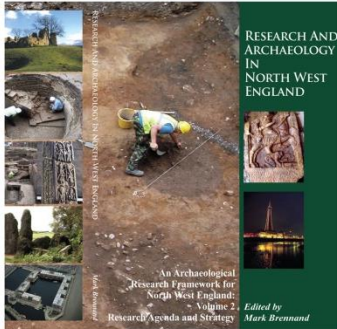
site code	Accession	Trench	context	Count	Material	Description
LHL15	2105.2.1	One	U/S	6	Bone Clay	6 fragments of animal remains, 2 are rib, 1 mandible with tooth
LHL15	2101.6.2	One	(001)	2	Pipe	1 bowl fragment and 1 bowl and stem fragment
LHL15	2106.4.1	One	(001)	2	Slate	2 large fragments of slate
LHL15	2104.1.2	One	(001)	2	Pottery	2 fragments of later 19th century coarse ware with brown glaze
LHL15	2104.3.1	One	(001)	1	Glass	single fragment of iridescent glass
LHL15	2105.3.3	One	(002)	5	Bone	5 fragments of animal bone
LHL15	2105.5.1	One	(002)	23	Shell	23 fragments of oyster shells
LHL15	2100.2.1	One	(002)	2	Glass	2 clear glass fragments
LHL15	2104.2.2	One	(002)	1	Metal	1 fragment of ferrous metals (iron)
LHL15	2106.4.2	One	(002)	21	Misc Clay	5 fragments of coal, 10 fragments of slate, 6 misc. stone fragments
LHL15	2101.6.3	One	(002)	2	Pipe	2 clay pipe stem fragments
LHL15	2104.5.2	One	(002)	83	Mixed	74 Oyster Shells, 5 coal fragments, 1 slate frag, 2 mortar frags, 1 wood fragment
LHL15	2104.2.1	One	(002)	1	metals	single fragment of iron, poss. Nail
LHL15	2104.1.1	One	(002)	3	Pottery	1 reduced midland purple variant rim frag, 1 later 19th cent coarse ware with brown glaze, 1 misc frag.
LHL15	2102.3.1	One	(012)	1	CBM	single bull nosed brick
LHL15	2101.1.1	Two	U/S	1	Pottery	single fragment of midland purple variant rim sherd
LHL15	2106.4.4	Two	U/S	4	Stone	4 fragments of poss.roof slate
LHL15	2106.4.5	Two	U/S	4	Stone	4 fragments of poss.roof slate
LHL15	2106.4.3	Two	U/S	1	Stone	single large roof slate
LHL15	2104.5.3	Two	U/S	1	Misc	Pencil Lead
LHL15	2102.1.1	Two	U/S	1	CBM	single fragment of smaller tile

LHL15	2101.4.2	Two	U/S	1	Pottery	single fragment of iron glaze pottery
LHL15	2105.3.1	Two	(001)	3	Bone	3 fragments of animal bone
LHL15	2101.5.1	Two	(003)	1	Pottery	Midland purple Variant base sherd
LHL15	2105.3.2	Two	(003)	2	Bone	2 fragments of animal bone
LHL15	2101.4.3	Two	(026)	1	pottery	single fragment of later 17th century black ware
LHL15	2104.3.2	Two	(026)	1	Glass	single sherd of later 17th cent glass
LHL15	2101.2.1	Two	(025)	1	Pottery	single find of Cistercian mug, 60% completeness
LHL15	2104.5.1	Four	(001)	68	Misc Clay	18 frags of slate, 5 frags of shell, 4 frags of bone, 22 brick frags, 5 stone frags, 2 glass sherds, 1 FE object
LHL15	2101.6.1	Four	(008)	1	pipe	single fragment of clay pipe stem
LHL15	2101.4.1	Four	(008)	2	Pottery	2 fragments of iron glaze pottery late 19th cent

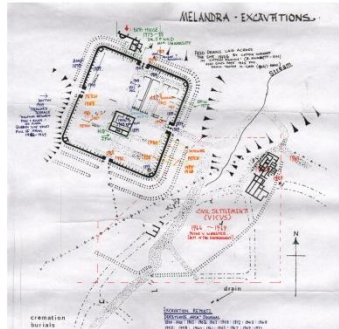
University of  
**Salford**  
MANCHESTER



**CONSULTANCY**



**DESK BASED ASSESMENTS**



**WATCHING BRIEF & EVALUATION**



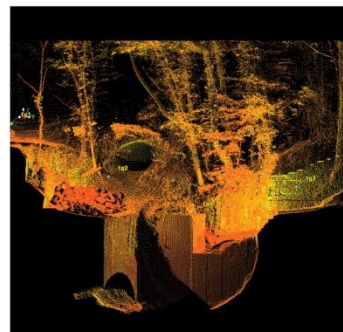
**EXCAVATION**



**BUILDING SURVEY**



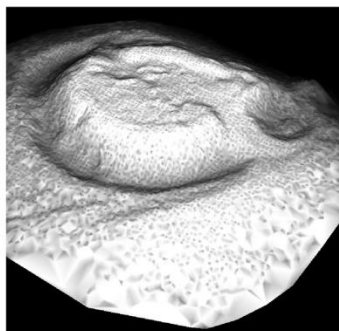
**3D LASER SCANNING**



**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**



**LANDSCAPE SURVEYS**



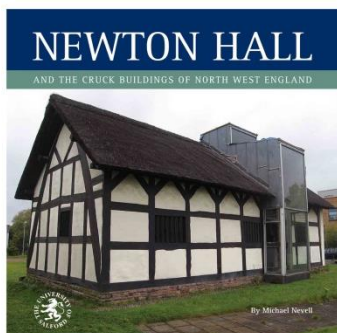
**GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS**



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