



The Past Year

ANNUAL REVIEW OF

1998/9

Chester Archaeology

'Making Chester a better place to live, work and visit'



Timber-lined tank from the 'Bars' (see page 5)
(Photograph courtesy of University of Manchester Archaeological Unit)

WE are committed to caring for our environment; promoting awareness of, and access to, our heritage; and promoting community identity.

We have pursued these objectives in a number of ways:

A partnership approach - by stepping aside from routine contract work, we have been better able to take a strategic view - identifying projects that make a significant contribution to our knowledge of the archaeology of Chester and its District or to its dissemination and then undertaking them with appropriate partners, new and old. Notable partnerships have been with Liverpool University, in what is turning out to be an exciting landscape archaeology project at Carden Park; with Manchester University Archaeological Unit, in the excavation at the 'Bars' on the eastern fringe of the Roman and medieval settlement at Chester; with the Chester Archaeological Society in beginning the investigation of the old cheese warehouse near the New Crane Wharf; and with Chester College in planning an archaeology module for their undergraduate History course. All of these projects have allowed us to achieve more together than we could have achieved separately.

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Partnerships for knowledge and access

The Year's Achievements

1998/9 saw continued changes in the way we work in order to support the City Council's goal of community leadership

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Stewardship of the historic environment

The main threat to Chester's archaeological resource comes from building development. This can take many forms, including office blocks, housing, shops and farm buildings. During the last ten years, changes in central government policy have enabled local planning authorities, like Chester, to place strict controls on new developments, in order to preserve or investigate archaeological remains

WE have devised policies which seek to manage the archaeological resource but which also enable Chester and its District to develop as a prosperous social and economic centre. Thus, within much of the city centre, development is permissible provided an appropriate archaeological investigation is carried out. However, to balance this policy, in several areas of special importance (covering about 25% of the historic core), development should avoid damaging the archaeology. In order to implement and monitor such policies, the city's archaeologists have spent an increasing amount of time working with the planning and conservation officers.

At the strategic level, the most important work has been on the Local Plan. Public consultation on the draft Local Plan attracted several comments and objections to the archaeological policies. We responded to these by proposing a number of changes and are confident that these revisions still provide strong protection for the archaeological resource. The public inquiry, which will finalise the content of the Local Plan, will be held in 1999/2000.

Major development proposals such as the Old Port area, Tower Wharf and the Bars have been dealt with. The Council has also prepared a new development brief for the city centre Forum site (now renamed Northgate). A key element of this brief is the treatment of the

archaeology, and we have stipulated the relevant constraints and mitigation requirements for this extensive area, which lies on the site of well-preserved Roman barracks.

At the site-specific level, much work has gone into monitoring the planning applications submitted to the Council. The weekly list of all applications is inspected and those that may have archaeological implications are looked into in more detail. After these enquiries, most applications (60%) are deemed to have no significant archaeological implications. The remaining 40% are subject to a variety of actions, mainly secured by conditions attached to the planning permission. Further discussions often result in modifications to the foundation design, to reduce or avoid damage to archaeological remains. The main mechanism to secure the archaeological requirements is through conditions attached to the planning permission. This year we again achieved our performance indicator of responding to 100% of applications within the time specified by the Planning Department.

The general trend is for an increased number of conditions to be applied. It is surprising how few applications have needed an evaluation prior to decision. This is because we know quite a lot about the archaeology in many areas, especially the city centre. The City and County (who hold the County Sites and Monuments Record) work closely together on applications in the rural District.

One new planning condition has been introduced this year, in line with practice elsewhere in the country. This is the groundwork method statement, which requires the applicant to specify the amount of ground disturbance to be caused by the development so that a suitable archaeological response can be agreed.

When archaeological work is required on a development, a brief is prepared by the City Archaeologist setting out the scope of the work. The developer then appoints a suitable archaeological contractor. The City Archaeologist monitors the work to advise and ensure that it is carried out. There is a significant increase in the number of briefs being prepared in comparison with 1997. Our performance indicator of completing briefs within the timetable required by developers was again achieved.

Stewardship Facts 1998

(NB: This information relates to the calendar year 1998, in accordance with the way that other planning statistics are kept. 1997 figures are shown in brackets)

City	District	Total (1997)
<i>Applications examined:</i>		
63	50	113 (88)

Recommendations:

<i>Evaluation prior to determination</i>		
0	1	1 (0)
<i>Groundworks method statement</i>		
2	1	3 (0)
<i>Archaeological investigation</i>		
10	4	14 (11)
<i>Watching brief</i>		
16	7	23 (17)
<i>Building recording</i>		
1	2	3 (6)
<i>Section 106 (legal agreement)</i>		
0	0	0 (0)
<i>Refusal</i>		
0	1*	1 (0)

Total no recommendations:

29	16	45 (34)
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Recommendations as % of applications:

40% (39%)

* application for development on a Scheduled Ancient Monument (withdrawn)

Briefs:

<i>Desk-based assessment</i>		
1**	0	1 (0)
<i>Evaluation</i>		
2	0	2 (0)
<i>Excavation</i>		
1	0	1 (1)
<i>Watching brief</i>		
3	2	5 (2)
<i>Building recording</i>		
5	2	7 (3)
<i>Total</i>		
12	4	16 (6)

** = Prepared by consultant and approved by City Archaeologist

(Many planning permissions are never implemented, whilst others are not carried out for up to five years. This means that the figures for both recommendations and archaeological briefs do not correspond to the number of archaeological projects carried out in any one year).

Fieldwork & Research

A variety of fieldwork projects continued to make a substantial contribution to our knowledge of the archaeology of the city and district

Chester Royal Infirmary

REDEVELOPMENT at Chester Royal Infirmary for a housing development provided us with a rare opportunity to investigate a large site in a part of the walled city that was poorly known archaeologically.

The excavation in the Spring of 1998 was the first large-scale investigation of this area since World War I and added significantly to our knowledge. The earlier work by Professor R Newstead, a little to the south, had revealed part of a Roman cemetery, while later work uncovered a small building, possibly a shrine associated with the cemetery, and also various enclosures, as well as evidence for light industrial activity. By contrast, the main discoveries on the 1998 site belonged to the medieval and later periods.

From the Middle Ages this part of the city was known as the 'Crofts' and was envisaged as being open ground apart from the tithe barn of St Werburgh's abbey and the chapel of St Chad – neither precisely located. Alms houses for the support and lodging of the poor were erected to



Chester Royal Infirmary: the 'medieval road' (Photograph by Chris Holder)

the east of the site in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The infirmary itself was founded in 1761.

Running north-south, just west of the Inner Ring Road, we found a substantial cobbled roadway. This may have originated in the medieval period but probably continued in use well into the eighteenth century. The road was totally unexpected, as it does not appear on any early maps of the city. Large amounts of Roman and medieval pottery and tile came from its surface, as well as fragments of sandstone walling.

Another important discovery was made during the last days of the excavation, when the first clay tobacco-pipe kiln in Chester was

found, to the south of the cobbled road. Although kiln waste has been recovered before in the city, no actual kiln structure had ever been found. On the evidence of waste pipes found with the kiln it has been dated to c 1630, which also means that it is the earliest clay tobacco-pipe kiln yet discovered in Britain. It appears to represent the first phase of clay tobacco pipe production in the city, when locally made pipes replaced ones imported from London.

Medieval yard surfaces were unearthed at the northern end of the site, as well as a large pit. The latter contained quantities of pottery and animal bone, as well as many large fragments of medieval roof tile,

(Continued from page 1)

Involving people in what we do - both through the joint projects described above and through public activities aimed at a wide range of people, such as 'Step into Spring' at the amphitheatre and National Archaeology Day at the Poulton excavation, as well as the Explorers' Club for local children and numerous public lectures and other events.

Consulting people - on what they want from us, both as part of the development of the Cultural Strategy and routinely in the course of public events.

Raising Chester's profile - both through television programmes like *Meet the Ancestors* and lectures to professional audiences and abroad.

Seeking to achieve excellence in what we do - through developing a comprehensive suite of standards to gain the Council's 'Investors in Quality' award and by a programme of relevant staff training.

The rewards for our approach are beginning to show, in increased requests for our services, and will become clearer over the next year.



**Chester
City Council**

which suggest that a substantial building once stood nearby. Roman features included pits, gullies (including one running along the eastern edge of the site, parallel to the cobbled roadway), and a north-south, V-shaped ditch, which may have been a boundary ditch for the cemetery.

A fascinating range of finds also came from the site. The roof tiles from the medieval pit seem to be mainly ridge tiles coated with a pale green or yellow glaze. Other unusual finds included a seventeenth-century lead cloth seal, a medieval iron cauldron or tripod leg (which came from the pebble surface), and part of a Roman portable oven (*clibanus*), used to bake bread and to keep food hot for the table. An unusual piece of amber, beautifully carved into the shape of a cockle-shell, may have come from a disturbed Roman burial.

The excavation was funded by Bryant Homes and directed for Chester Archaeology by Mike Emery. We are grateful to Dr David Higgins and Dr Alan Peacey for information and advice on the pipe kiln.

For interim reports, see *The Past Uncovered*, Summer and Autumn issues, 1998. The excavation will be published as a Chester Archaeology monograph.

Chester Cathedral

The site of Chester Cathedral contains an archaeological resource of national importance. It is also one of the most completely surviving medieval abbey structures in the country. In last year's annual review we reported on the first significant archaeological excavations ever carried out at the Cathedral, which came about as a result of a major scheme to renew the floor and heating system in the nave. These excavations produced important new information about the development of the Cathedral, but as often seems to be the case in the excavation of medieval churches, its structural history turned out to be more complex than the documentation would suggest. It became



Study of the many human bones discovered during the excavations has now been completed and, following a short ceremony, they were reburied beneath the nave floor in October 1998.

These bones have given us a fascinating insight into the people who were buried in the Cathedral. One notable feature was the large number of infant burials, and a study of the bones showed that some had been suffering from anaemia when they died.

Both men and women are represented in the burials, and many of their bones show conditions that are part of the normal ageing process. However, some had suffered from severe osteoarthritis and there was one case of diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis (DISH), where five vertebrae had fused together. This condition is most common in men and appears to be related to obesity. On the other hand, there were also indications, in the form of rickets and enamel hypoplasia, that many people were malnourished.

Many people had clearly suffered from poor dental health, with heavy calculus build-up and periodontal disease. Some had lost many of their teeth as a result of these conditions. There was also one clear case of syphilis and a few trauma victims, who had suffered with broken limbs which had healed mal-aligned.

clear that detailed inspection and recording of the masonry would undoubtedly help clarify the building sequence.

In 1997 the Dean and Chapter drew up plans to construct a new Song School above the thirteenth-century eastern cloister range. The first floor of this range used to contain the monks' dormitory (dorter), but had become ruinous by the early nineteenth century and was demolished. No detailed, recent, survey of the ancient fabric had been undertaken, so Chester Archaeology were commissioned to carry out an extensive survey and assessment of the range. In parallel with the archaeological work, a documentary survey was carried out by Cheshire County Record Office.

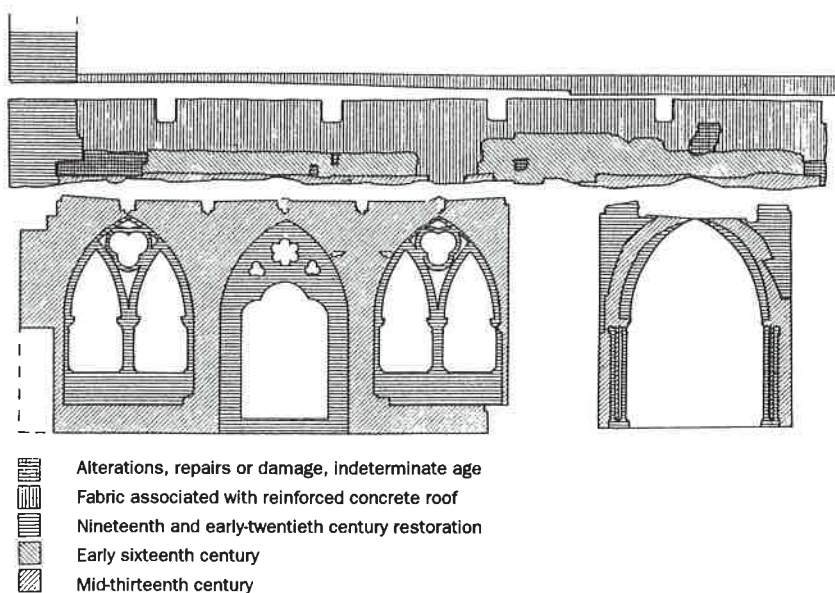
Work in the roof space revealed that significant stretches of early masonry had survived, some of which might date to the Norman period. The original level of the first floor was also located. The plan of this floor was more complex than at first seemed. The dorter once extended eastwards, parallel to the chapter house, instead of running north from the north transept, as is more usual. The eastern extension has now been demolished, but traces of it are left in the fabric. The night stairs should have led down from the dorter to the church, but the present spiral staircase in the corner of the north

transept provides an awkward and possibly late access. The later history of the building – the periods of neglect followed by the Victorian restorations – was also represented. There were even traces of the fire watchers' hut from World War II. On the ground floor, the parlour, which the monks used for discussion, seems to have been finished to a lower standard than the other rooms on the ground floor and may in fact just be the undercroft below the dormitory.

Bishop's House

During structural alterations to the Bishop's House, a large Victorian mansion at the north-east corner of Abbey Square, we found parts of the medieval chapel that still lies at its core. The chapel, dedicated to St Thomas, was part of the medieval abbey of St Werburgh and comprised a nave of three bays and a narrow, square-ended chancel. The nave survives intact but the chancel has been reduced to a bay window.

A sequence of walls was uncovered in the garden, including one that may once have been the south wall of the chancel. Another substantial wall ran southwards to the Cathedral. A significant amount of medieval pottery, which may have derived from the nearby abbey refectory and kitchens, was found in the area to the south-west of these walls.



Chester Cathedral: outline elevation, vestibule west wall and entrance to slype, showing phasing
(Drawn by Cheryl Quinn)

Cathedral grounds

As part of a training project, a small group of students from Chester College carried out a geophysical survey of the Cathedral grounds. This revealed traces of the outbuildings that were once attached to the medieval abbey, as well as some of the later buildings on the site.

Work on the Song School was funded by the Dean and Chapter and that on the Bishop's House by the Church Commissioners; it was directed by Simon Ward. Mrs E Brotherton-Ratcliffe has examined the medieval floor tiles found during the excavations for the Cheshire tile census.

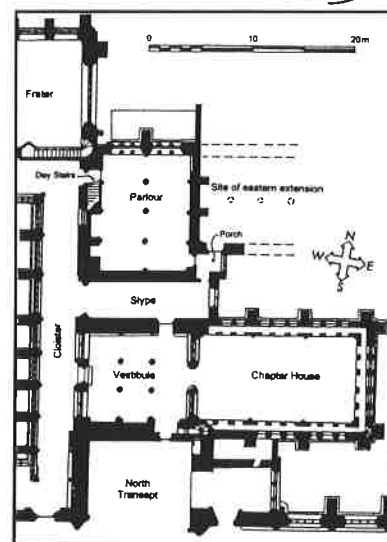
For interim reports, see *Archaeology North West*, the Bulletin of CBA North West **12** (vol 2, Pt 6), Autumn/Winter 1997, 136-7; 'A church for all ages', Chester Cathedral Excavations in 1996 and 1997 by Chester Archaeology; *The Past Uncovered*, March and June 1996, Summer 1997 and Summer and Autumn 1998; *The Past Year* 1995/6 and 1996/7. The final report will be published as a Chester Archaeology monograph.

The Bars (148-58 Foregate Street)

Redevelopment of this site gave us the opportunity for the first controlled excavation of an area right on the eastern fringe of the Roman and medieval settlement. The project consists of three parts: recording of a standing building on the corner of Dee Lane, which was to be conserved to become a feature of the new development; excavation of part of the site to the rear; and a watching brief over other parts of the site (scheduled for winter 1999/2000).

The Grade II listed brick building on the corner of Dee Lane was found to encase parts of two timber-framed buildings dating to the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In the early to mid-eighteenth century the alleyway between the two buildings was filled in and the buildings were remodelled along classical Georgian lines. They attained their present appearance in about 1907.

The most important discoveries made during the excavation comprised a group of rectangular pits and tanks. These were probably used for tanning hides for Chester's thriving medieval and post-medieval leather industry. One of the pits was timber-lined and was very similar to the late medieval, oak-lined tanning pits found during excavations at nearby Love Street in 1939. Many cattle horn cores were also found in association with these pits. Another,



East range of **Chester Cathedral** cloister
(Drawn by Simon Ward)

stone-lined, tank, which was almost completely filled with animal bone, is also likely to be associated with the tanning industry.

The hides were used to make various items, including shoes, gloves, belts and saddles. The horn was removed to make a variety of objects, such as combs, drinking vessels and knife handles.

The site is of particular interest as we think that the listed building may have been the home of Alderman Walley, the mayor of Chester during the Civil War siege of 1644-6. Documents suggest that it was captured during the siege and became the headquarters of the besieging Parliamentary forces.

Other discoveries include at least two Roman gullies, cut into the natural clay, and several post-medieval pits. These produced a mixed group of finds, including pottery, brick fragments and pieces of several long-stemmed, clay tobacco pipes.

The standing building survey and excavation were directed by Dr Mike Nevell, Ivan Hradil and Tom Burke for the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, and were funded by Wimpey Homes.

For interim reports, see *The Past Uncovered*, Autumn 1998 and Spring 1999.



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Tower Wharf canal basin

Excavations at the Tower Wharf canal basin during Winter 1998 revealed the remains of five barges (or 'flats'), that plied the local waterways at the end of the last century. The boats were sunk and the basin filled in during the early 1950s. Fortunately, a plan of the boats was drawn at the time, which gave their names as 'John', 'Linnet', 'Herbert', 'Coronet' and 'Onward'. The Register of Canal Boats tells us that they were used for the transport of general goods on the route between Liverpool and Chester in the late 1870s.

The Mersey flat was larger than the standard canal boat. It was about 65 feet long by 16 feet wide, with a distinctive pointed stern. It was a sailing vessel, which could carry huge loads in shallow water, and was designed for use in estuaries and coastal waters: up the River Mersey to Run-corn and Warrington, and on the River Weaver to the tidal limits just above Frodsham.

Although there are many photographs of boats like these, they tell us little about the methods used to construct them. The yards that built them were usually small family concerns, which made only one or two new boats each year. The boats themselves can provide additional detailed evidence. Samples have been removed for further study by specialists from York Archaeological Trust, and it is hoped that some of the hulls can be preserved and restored for display, perhaps on-site in the old boat workshop, and also at Ellesmere Port Boat Museum.

Recording work began again in March 1999, this time on the old boatyard, workshops and other canalside buildings. The aim is to produce a drawn and written archive of the buildings, which will provide detailed information about their structure and contents.

Work was funded by British Waterways and carried out by their team of archaeologists, led by site director Martin Cook.

For interim reports see *The Past Uncovered*, Spring 1999, and *Rescue News* 77, 1999, 1-2.



Mersey 'flats' exposed at Tower Wharf canal basin (Photograph by Mike Morris)

Carden Park

Carden Park is the only known rock-shelter with prehistoric occupation in the whole of Cheshire and is one of only two known Mesolithic occupation sites in the county. Nationally, the site falls within the typical late Mesolithic narrow-blade industry. It is very different from the other Mesolithic site in the county, at Tatton, in being a 'hunting stand', occupied for short intervals over a long period. The third season of excavation, in late Summer 1998, also produced evidence for Bronze Age activity, which is unusual in the region. Work early in 1999 revealed the remains of an eighteenth-century Romantic landscape of the 'promenade' type, of national significance.

In 1998 the first trench, in front of the main shelter, proved to contain *in-situ* Mesolithic archaeology. Previously, all the flint and chert from here had been residual in later deposits. At least some of this material may have come from clearing out the cave in 1744. However, beneath the post-medieval archaeology were deposits that contained nothing but prehistoric material. There were suggestions of curious structures (in particular, something that resembles the 'furniture' inside the later, Neolithic, dwellings at Skara Brae on Orkney) and, most excitingly, patches of burnt sandstone, which appear to have been hearths. Hammer stones, used to make flint tools, and rubbing stones, used to smooth cloth and skins, were also found, as well as fragments of hazelnut shell.

In dismantling a structure thought to have been put up by the hermit John Harris in the mid-eighteenth century, we found pieces of Bronze Age pottery, dating from about 2500-1800 BC. One may have come from a Beaker-style vessel. A few scraps of badly eroded human bone were found nearby. Beakers are normally associated with ritual sites and burials are sometimes found in caves.

There was intriguing evidence of even earlier occupation at the site. A single flint was found that looked Upper Palaeolithic in character. If correctly identified, this would date occupation of the site to the very end of the Ice Age, when people first began to settle in the region again, around 12,000 to 10,000 BC.

The Carden Project is run jointly with the University of Liverpool, with Dr Anthony Sinclair and Patrick Quinney co-directing the work with Keith Matthews of Chester Archaeology.

For interim reports, see *The Past Uncovered*, Winter 1997 and *The Past Year*, 1996/7 and 1997/8. An article on the eighteenth-century landscape and the hermit, John Harris, can now also be found on-line at <http://www.shf.ac.uk/~capra/1/hermit.html>. The final report will be published as a Chester Archaeology monograph.



Julian Richards excavates the grave of Sir Nicholas Manley during filming by the BBC at Poulton
(Photograph by Chris Holder)



'Poulton Man'

A grave, thought to contain the skeleton of Sir Nicholas Manley, was excavated in the chancel of the chapel. Sir Nicholas, whose family lived at Poulton Hall from the late fifteenth century, was buried at Poulton chapel in 1518. The skeleton is fascinating because of its great size – six feet three inches tall. Unusually, it had an extra vertebra (sometimes found in very tall people) and an extra bone in the right foot.

The skeletal analysis was carried out by Charlotte Roberts of Bradford University and the skull was examined by specialists in facial reconstruction at Manchester University. The rebuilt clay face of 'Sir Nicholas' was revealed in the BBC 2 series *Meet the Ancestors* in February 1999. The skeletal analysis and the facial reconstruction work were funded by the BBC.

Poulton

The Poulton project is a partnership between Liverpool University and Chester Archaeology and has served as a major research and training excavation since 1995. The project has focussed on the location of the 'lost' abbey of Poulton, which was founded in 1153. The excavations have given us a detailed picture of a chapel attached to the abbey, as well as hints of unsuspected Mesolithic, Roman and Saxon use of the site.

During the fourth season, work continued on the medieval chapel site. The whole of the western end of the chapel has now been revealed, exposing the foundations of the tower and much of the nave. Several more burials were excavated in the graveyard attached to the chapel. A trench was also opened up to the east of the chapel, on the site of the me-

dieval Poulton Hall, where finds dating from the medieval and later periods were discovered.

The excavation was directed by Mike Emery and received financial support from Cheshire County Council. We are grateful to Councillor G Fair and family for their continuing interest and enthusiasm in supporting the project.

For interim reports see *The Past Uncovered*, Winter 1995, Autumn 1996 and Autumn 1997 and *The Past Year*, 1995/6, 1996/7 and 1997/8. A full report on the first season of excavations is also available as a Chester Archaeology monograph.

Roman Holt Research Project

Although progress continued to be slow, work did continue on the project. Steven Sanders, a B Ed student from Chester College, carried out a study of the distribution of Holt products in England and Wales. This involved a journal search to note the presence/absence of Holt products at particular sites. This information will ultimately be plotted onto maps and a summary and interpretation of the findings produced and circulated to all interested groups and individuals.

Steven carried out this research as part of a placement for the B Ed Enterprise Scheme, which is organised by Chester College. He also assisted with the District Survey (*see below*).

District Survey

The District Archaeological Statement, in conjunction with the Cheshire Sites and Monuments Record, will become the main tool for managing the District's archaeological resource once it is fully up and running. It consists of a number of discrete elements which will eventually be fully integrated. At the heart is a database index of all the archaeological sites and findspots identified in the District. The computerised database is linked to GIS, giving a spatially arranged interface to the data.

These sources of information, along with the Urban Archaeology Database, will feed into an Archaeological Resource Statement that synthesises the data in a more narrative format. This will bring out what we need to know as well as highlighting the strengths of the local resource. From this, we shall develop an Archaeological Resource Strategy, a public statement about how we intend to manage the resource in the future.

Since January 1999 volunteer Stephen Mellor has been collating information for the District Survey and has written up notes for the District Archaeological Statement. In addition, he has made important contributions to the computerised database that supplements the statement, including inputting text and making structural changes to help make the database compatible with a geographical information system.



**Chester
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Stray finds

Cremation burials, Handbridge

A Roman cremation burial was discovered in Handbridge in March 1999 by a local resident digging on land at the back of his garden. The coarse orange ware jar is the first complete pottery vessel to be found in Chester in twenty years and was probably made at Holt, where pottery was produced for use by soldiers based at the legionary fortress. Cremation burials have been discovered before in Handbridge, where a cemetery lined the Roman road south.

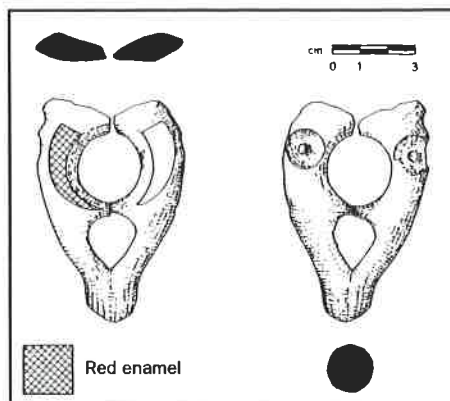
Mr Jones, who made the discovery, has kindly donated the pot to the Grosvenor Museum. It will be carefully excavated and recorded before eventually being put on display.

Out walking his pet dog, in June 1998, Steven Murray, a member of the Explorers' Club, discovered some cremated human bones on the mudflats by the Old Dee Bridge. They may have come from the nearby Roman burial site at Eaton Road, Handbridge. Someone may have discovered the burial accidentally and disposed of the remains in the river.

The bones were the subject of a long interview with Keith Matthews on BBC1 *Northwest Tonight* and were put on temporary display in the Grosvenor Museum foyer as *Archaeology in the news*.

A Roman hypocaust *pila*

Excavation of a sewer trench along Water Tower Street for a new housing development by Bryant Homes on the site of Chester's Royal Infirmary uncovered a Roman stone hypocaust *pila*. It is made of local red sandstone and stands about 70 cm high. Small pillars like this one were used to support a raised floor. Warm air from a nearby furnace circulated beneath the floor, providing under-floor heating for the room above. It is not clear where the *pila* originated: no hypocausted buildings are known in the immediate area. The nearest were bath houses south of the Elliptical Building (under the present 'Forum' complex), and near the Watergate. However, in the last century many remains from the fortress baths in Bridge Street were put on display outside the Water Tower.



An iron dagger scabbard (Drawn by Cheryl Quinn for the Salt Museum, Northwich)

Most of these items were later transferred to the 'Roman Gardens' by the New Gate. It is possible that this *pila* is a remnant of the Water Tower display.

Contracts

Throughout the year, post-excavation staff carried out studies on material from sites throughout the region and beyond.

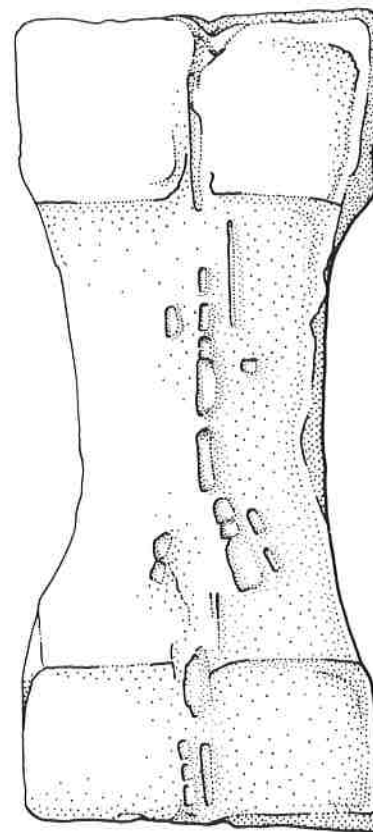
Old Vicarage Garden, Chesterfield

In the Autumn of 1998 we organised vital specialist support for excavations in Chesterfield run by the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit. The site lay in the centre of Chesterfield, in an area where previous excavations had offered glimpses of early Roman military occupation.

The excavations suggest that there were at least two phases during the Roman period. The earlier, industrial phase may represent occupation just outside a fort in the early second century. The second phase suggests that there may have been an extension of the fort, or an annexe attached to it, in the mid-second century.

The excavation was directed by John Walker. After study is complete, the finds will be returned to Chesterfield Museum. The results will be published in the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*.

For an interim report, see *The Past Uncovered*, Winter 1998.



A Roman hypocaust *pila* from Water Tower Street (Drawn by Cheryl Quinn)

Other contract work

Various sites in the region

Finds drawings by Cheryl Quinn for the Salt Museum, Northwich.

6 King's Buildings

Report on Roman finds by Peter Carrington for Engineering Archaeological Services.

Boar's Head, Bolton

Assessment report on medieval and later finds by Julie Edwards for Manchester University Archaeological Unit.

Garforth, West Yorkshire

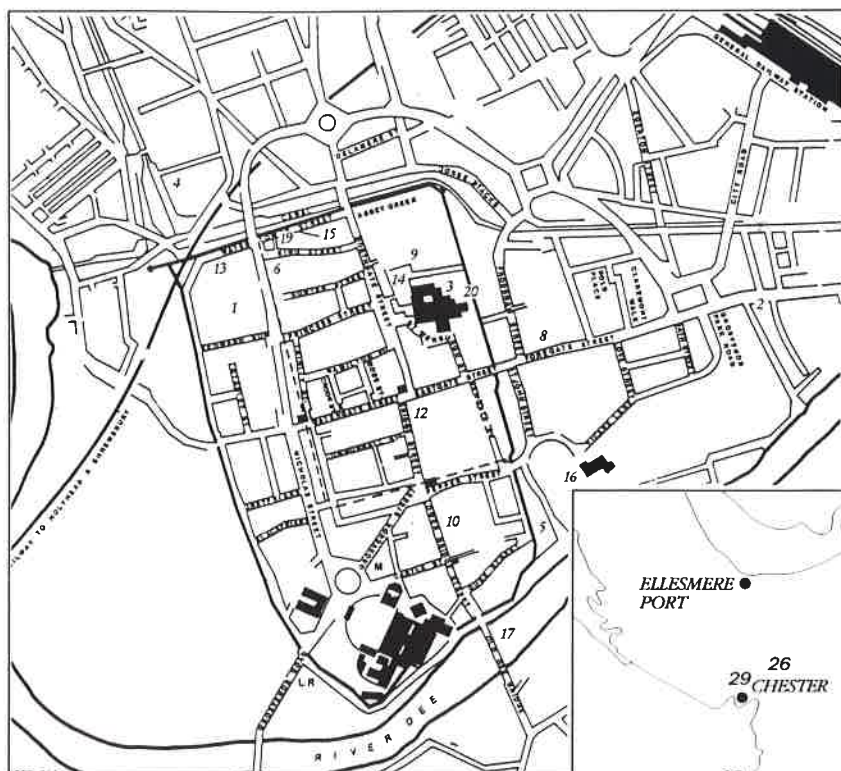
Assessment report on Romano-British animal bone assemblage by Ian Smith for Gifford & Partners.

Shoeburyness Roman barracks, Essex

Assessment report on animal bone by Ian Smith for Gifford & Partners.

Gwynedd deserted rural settlement trial excavations

Report on medieval pottery by Julie Edwards for Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.



Fieldwork Facts

(Last year's figures in brackets)

Excavations 6 (5)
(2 x UMAU)

Evaluations 4 (4)
(1 x UMAU; 1 x British Waterways;
1 x Engineering Archaeological
Services Ltd)

Watching briefs 15 (18)
(2 x UMAU; 1 x Gifford & Partners;
1 x Entec UK Ltd)

Desk-based assessments 0 (0)

Standing building surveys 4 (4)
(1 x UMAU; 1 x Nigel Neil)

Geophysical surveys 2 (0)

Finds contracts 6 (4)



Summary of fieldwork projects

Chester City sites

- 1 Chester Royal Infirmary - excavation
- 2 148-58 Foregate Street (The Bars) - excavation (UMAU)
- 3 Cathedral Song School - building survey
- 4 Tower Wharf development - evaluation (British Waterways)
- 5 Roman Gardens, Souter's Lane - evaluation (UMAU)
- 6 6 King's Buildings - evaluation (Engineering Archaeological Services)
- 7 Cheese Warehouse (Old Port) - geophysical survey and evaluation (*off map*)
- 8 29-35 Foregate Street - watching brief
- 9 1 Abbey Street (Bishop's House) - watching brief
- 10 29-31 Lower Bridge Street ('Tudor House') - watching brief
- 11 Wrexham Road Park & Ride scheme - watching brief (*off map*)
- 12 29 Bridge Street - watching brief
- 13 73 Watergate Street - watching brief (Nigel Neil)
- 14 13 Abbey Square - watching brief
- 15 Water Tower Street - watching brief
- 16 St John's Church - watching brief
- 17 Old Dee Bridge - watching brief
- 18 66 Boughton - watching brief (Entec UK Ltd) (*off map*)
- 19 40 King Street - watching brief
- 20 Chester Cathedral grounds - geophysical survey

Chester District/Cheshire/external

- 21 Old Vicarage Garden, Chesterfield - excavation (UMAU) (*not on map*)
- 22 Carden Park - training excavation
- 23 Chapel House Farm, Poulton - excavation
- 24 St Chad's, Farndon - geophysical survey and excavation
- 25 Langford House, Handley - building survey
- 26 Barrow Church, Great Barrow - building survey (UMAU)
- 27 Calypso Works, Tattenhall - watching brief (Gifford & Partners)
- 28 Church Street, Farndon - watching brief
- 29 Bache Pool, Upton - watching brief (UMAU)



**Chester
City Council**

Public Archaeology

We took part in four major public events: 'Step into Spring' at the amphitheatre in April, with other Cultural Services staff; the 500th anniversary march of the Midsummer Watch Parade; National Archaeology Day, which was held on the site of the Poulton excavation in July; and Cathedral Open Day, as part of Heritage Open Day in September

In addition to the many talks that are given to local societies, colleges and schools, staff gave a number of lunchtime lectures as part of the Cultural Services 'Don't Just Sit There' programme. The programme also included evening walks during the summer around historic sites and villages in the District; these were a great success.

The Explorers' Club for local children continued to flourish. The downturn in membership of the club does not seem to indicate any lessening of enthusiasm among local children; rather it may reflect a rationalisation of our membership list. Gillian Dunn continued to produce our quarterly newsletter *The Past Uncovered* and also worked with the Council's Education Service to organise murals with a historical theme by local schoolchildren on the contractors' hoarding around the Royal Infirmary site. As an indication of growing links with the Cathedral, Alison Jones was invited to contribute a mosaic workshop there during 'Pilgrim Days 1998' in September. Julie Edwards organised a temporary exhibition of medieval pottery in the Water Tower for the Museums Service, to celebrate Heritage Open Day, and was one of the organisers of the Grosvenor Museum's 'Old Cocks, New Pots' exhibition. Julie also liaised with the BBC and supplied information for the *Meet the Ancestors* programme on Poulton.

Cheryl Quinn's design and interpretation skills continued to be called upon across Cultural Services and she produced numerous posters, leaflets and fliers, including displays for Town Hall Open Day and the Coun-



Members of the Explorers' Club wear their sun masks at the Midsummer Watch Parade. Jane Hebblewhite joins in the fun (Photograph kindly supplied by an Explorers' Club parent)

cil's 'Parish Partnership' evening in November. Cheryl also worked with Chester Civic Trust and Chester Heritage to produce a booklet for 1998 Heritage Open Day events and with the Falcon Trust to produce an interpretative leaflet on the 'Falcon' inn.

'Step Into Spring'

'Step into Spring', a special event for residents and visitors, was held in the amphitheatre at the end of April 1998. Organised as a joint event with other Cultural Services staff, visitors were able to help make the Midsummer Watch dragon, try on replica Roman armour and make 'Roman' face pots. Re-enactment group *Legio Secunda Augusta* set up camp and carried out drills in the amphitheatre. There was also a drawing competition for children and a fiendishly difficult family quiz, for which prizes were awarded.

Midsummer Watch Parade

Explorers' Club members, wearing the sun masks they had made at the 'Beastie-making' workshops on 6 June, joined with local children, youth and community groups to take part in the 500th anniversary march of the Midsummer Watch Parade.

This spectacular summer pageant, one of the great spectacles of medieval and Tudor Chester, was first recorded in 1498. Organised by the city's guilds, the parade featured fab-

ulous beasts, animated tableaux and the famous Chester Giants. The guildsmen marched in procession accompanied by musicians, minstrels, morris dancers, stiltmen and hobby horses – led by a small boy and drummer.

The mayor of Chester banned the parade in 1600. Although it was restored the following year, the parade was finally abandoned in the late 1670s. It was revived in its present form in 1995 and the figures of giants, beasts, angels and fiery monsters are all loosely based on original descriptions.

Members of staff helped to carry the figures and marshal the event. Staff also participated in the first-ever Winter Watch Parade, held in December.

The Midsummer and Winter Watch Parades were organised by Chester City Council, Chester Freeman and Guilds, Light Blue Touch Paper Arts Group and local youth and community groups.

National Archaeology Day at Poulton

This year's National Archaeology Day was held at Poulton on Saturday 25 July 1998 and attracted almost 1000 visitors from Chester, Cheshire, North Wales and Merseyside. There were also visitors from as far afield as Inverness, London, Leeds and Birmingham.

Highlights of the day were the site tours of the excavation and the



Ian Smith talks about animal bone during **National Archaeology Day at Poulton**
(Photograph courtesy of David Heke, Quetzal Photography)

medieval re-enactment group who set up camp on the site. Also popular were the finds talks by Chester Archaeology staff and the clay workshop run by local potter Neil Glendinning. Local bands provided entertainment for latecomers in the early evening and helped bring the day to a successful conclusion. Our part in the day was organised by Jane Hebblewhite.

BBC television cameras filmed the activities throughout the day as part of the *Meet the Ancestors* programme on Poulton, which was broadcast in February 1999.

Cathedral Open Day

Cathedral Open Day was held on 12 September as part of Heritage Open Days. Our participation, along with that of other Cultural Services staff, was organised by Jane Hebblewhite. Among the activities organised by Chester Archaeology, the many visitors to the Cathedral were able to taste 'Roman' food, make clay gargoyles and stained glass windows, find out about animal bones from archaeological sites and play medieval games.

Walks and talks

Although the number of lectures and guided tours given by staff remained fairly constant, there was an increase in the numbers attending.

Simon Ward gave talks on the excavations at Chester Cathedral to a variety of audiences, including Cheshire Archaeology Day at North-

wich, Frodsham National Trust Association, the Council for British Archaeology North West Spring meeting and Hooton Women's Institute. Keith Matthews gave a series of talks on Roman Chester to a group of GCSE Latin students at Manchester Grammar School. An unusual request was for a talk on Roman Chester by the Associação Arqueologica do Algarve, which was given by Peter Carrington in April. Amongst the many talks given by staff for the Cultural Services 'Don't Just Sit There' series, Julie Edwards, Ian Smith, Gillian Dunn and Alison Jones spoke about 'Pots, parasites and people', Mike Morris discussed World War II archaeology, while Peter Carrington and Keith Matthews led evening walks around Shotwick Castle and Tarvin respectively.

Keith Matthews, Simon Ward and Mike Morris again contributed to the 'History and Heritage in the Environment' course run by Chester College, and agreement was reached with the College on providing an optional archaeology module in their undergraduate History course. Places for this module in 1999/2000 were fully booked. Keith also supervised a group of students on the College's 'Landscape, Heritage and Society' MA course and continued to teach A-level archaeology at West Cheshire College.

Among talks to professional bodies, Keith Matthews discussed material culture from the fourth to seventh centuries at the Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference at Leicester; Ian Smith gave a talk on

Public Archaeology Facts

(Last year's figures in brackets)

Visitors to National Archaeology Day
Day c 1000 (c 8000)

Visitors to Cathedral Open Day
? (c 8000)

Visitors to 'Step Into Spring'
? (-)*

Visitors to Midsummer Watch
n/a (-)*

Visitors to Winter Watch
n/a (-)*
(*joint event)

Lectures and guided tours
77 (75)

(Public lectures 19

Lectures to societies, etc 49

Professional lectures 9)

Total attendance
2928+ (2679+)

Students at adult education classes
c 34 (18)

Explorers' Club events
10 (11)

Attendance 168 (253)

Explorers' Club members 112 (151)

Issues of newsletter 4 (4)

Children taking part in Infirmary murals
60 (-)

Children taking part in Cathedral 'Pilgrim Days' mosaic workshops
22 (-)

Temporary displays
8 (8)
(includes displays for other services)

Issues of *The Past Uncovered* newsletter 4 (4)
Print run per issue 2,000 (2,000)

Enquiries 176+ (123+)

Integrated service events/ assistance
15 (45)*

(*Last year's figures included events duplicated in other Performance Indicators)

Press notices
60 (58)



**Chester
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the animal bone assemblage from Merv, in Turkmenistan, at the Sasanian Seminar in the British Museum; and Julie Edwards and Keith Matthews gave a joint talk on the Hamilton Place excavations at the joint conference of the Northern Ceramic Society and the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology. Julie Edwards also spoke about early medieval pottery from Chester at the Medieval Pottery Research Group annual conference at the Museum of London.

The Explorers' Club

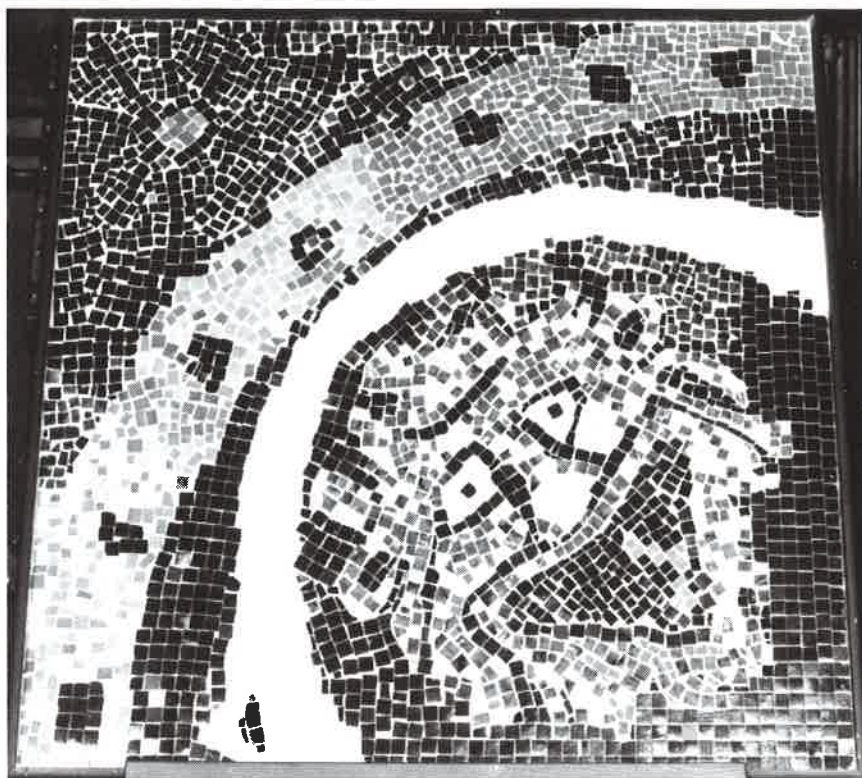
On the departure of Lesley Harrison, running of the club was taken over by Jane Hebblewhite, assisted by Cheryl Quinn (newsletter production) and Alison Jones (membership administration). Although nominal membership dropped during the year, events proved as popular as ever and were often filled to capacity. Members range in age from 8 to 16, with the 8 to 12 year-olds forming the core of the group. Membership is drawn from across the county, North Wales and South Wirral.

Nine events were held throughout the year, the most popular being a trip to Manchester Museum of Science & Industry to see a dinosaur exhibition. Other activities included a beastie-making workshop for the Midsummer Watch Parade, finding out about fossils, Easter-egg decorating and a Tudor Christmas day at Stanley Palace.

The newsletter is produced four times a year and is packed with news, information and ideas for club members, who continued to supply letters, articles and illustrations of their own.

'Pilgrim Days'

The first ever 'Pilgrim Days', organised by Judy Davies, Education Officer at Chester Cathedral, was held in October 1998 and comprised a week-long series of workshops and activities for local school children. Following on from the success of the mosaic-making event at last year's National Archaeology Day, the Cathedral invited us to run two mosaic workshops for 'Pilgrim Days' in 1998. The completed mosaic is now on display in the



The 'Pilgrim Days' mosaic on display in the Children's Chapel of Chester Cathedral
(Photograph courtesy of David Heke, Quetzal Photography)

Children's Chapel of the Cathedral and Alison Jones has been asked to run the workshops again in 1999.

Enquiries

Once again, we received a wide range of enquiries, by phone, fax, e-mail, letter and personal visit. This year they ranged from requests for information on finds in the city and district and beyond, to career advice and opportunities for voluntary work.

Community involvement

We continued to strengthen our links with local societies and community groups. For example, we carried out a joint project with the Chester Archaeological Society at the Old Port Cheese Warehouse. Peter Carrington continued to serve as editor of the Chester Archaeological Society journal and newsletter.

Media coverage

Our major projects continued to receive good coverage. These included the excavations at the old Royal Infirmary site and the 1998 summer seasons at Carden Park and Poulton. The excavations at Poulton also fea-

tured in the BBC 2 series *Meet the Ancestors*, which was broadcast in February 1999. Throughout the year, staff continued to contribute articles to the Chester Herald & Post *Scratching the Surface* series.

The work of Chester Archaeology was featured in the *Liverpool Daily Post*, the *Chester Chronicle*, the *Chester Evening Leader*, the *Chester and District Standard*, the *Herald & Post*, the *South Cheshire Mail*, the *Daily Post for Cheshire*, *Local History News* and the City Council's *Forum* magazine. Radio and television coverage included interviews with members of staff on BBC2's *Meet the Ancestors*, BBC Northwest Tonight, Radio Merseyside, Marcher Sound and Chester Talking Newspaper.

Our newsboard and leaflet dispensers in the Grosvenor Museum continued to be popular with both staff and visitors. As our only regular shop-window on the 'outside world', the newsboard provided information about on-going projects, advertised forthcoming lectures, exhibitions and events in the city and district, and kept people up to date with news about archaeology, both locally and around the world.

Publications

The excavation reports referred to last year – on the Roman defences, Elliptical Building and fortress baths – are still making their way through the publication process. As stated in *The Year Ahead*, the first is with the printers and it is hoped that the second will be printed during the Spring

A new guide to the City Walls was published this summer. Produced by Wordplay Publishing in association with the City Council's Cultural Services, the guide includes a 3-D picture-map, which shows the old city and its walls in fascinating detail. In addition, there are over thirty illustrations, including photographs and etchings, which bring the walls to life in vivid detail. The guide is available from tourist information centres, bookshops and museums.

The income from our existing publications showed a marked fall (see *Business News* - Finance). This is partly the result of the ageing of our range of popular publications. The publication of a number of excavation reports in the next few months will undoubtedly improve matters, but clearly the situation needs attention.

By contrast, articles published elsewhere showed a healthy trend, with more staff contributing a greater range of copy, especially reviews.



Evaluation and assessment reports 1998/9

S W Ward with C Quinn	Chester Cathedral 1998, cloister east range, survey and assessment. Chester Archaeology Evaluation Report 54
K Owen with sections by J E C Edwards, A Jones & I Smith	Chester, 29 Bridge Street watching brief. Chester Archaeology Evaluation Report 55
S W Ward with sections by J E C Edwards, A Jones & I Smith	Chester, 1 Abbey Street 1998 (The Bishop's House), watching brief. Chester Archaeology Evaluation Report 56
P Carrington	Farndon/St Chad's Church 1998. Geophysical survey and trial excavation. Chester Archaeology Evaluation Report 57
S W Ward with a section by J E C Edwards	Chester Old Dee Bridge 1999, watching brief on engineering works. Chester Archaeology Evaluation Report 58

Left: View of Cathcart Square in March 1930 from the roof of the Will R rose photographic laboratories.

(Photograph: Chester Archives, catalogue no. CR 259/1 no 1).

Published in K J Matthews *Familiarity and contempt: the archaeology of the 'modern'*. In Tarlow, S & West, S eds. *The familiar past? Archaeologies of later historical Britain*: London, Routledge, 155-79 (See page 14)

Below left: A yard running north from the east end of Cathcart Square, March 1930.

(Photograph: Chester Archives, catalogue no. 259/1 no 4).
(Published as above)



Publication Facts

(Last year's figures in brackets)

Excavation and Research Reports and Occasional Papers	0	(0)
Evaluation and assessment Reports	5	(6)
Contributions to other professional publications	9	(7)
Popular guides (Wordplay Publishing in association with Cultural Services)	1	(0)
Newsletters	4	(4)

Publication sales down 42% on 1997/8



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Contributions to other professional publications 1998/9

(NB: Non-Chester research is carried out outside work time)

- P Carrington Review of Bowsher, J, *The Rose Theatre. British Archaeology* 37, Sept 1998, 16
- G Dunn Review of *Roman Pottery in Britain. Antiquity* 72, no 276, 1998, 459–60
- K J Matthews Review of *The archaeology of ethnicity: constructing identities in the past and the present. Antiquity* 72 (276), 1998, 464–5
- K J Matthews Familiarity and contempt: the archaeology of the 'modern'. In: Tarlow, S & West, S eds. *The familiar past? Archaeologies of later historical Britain*. London: Routledge, 155–79
- K J Matthews *Britannus/Britto*: Roman ethnographies, native identities, labels and folk devils. In: Leslie, A ed. *Theoretical Roman archaeology and architecture: the third conference proceedings*. Glasgow: Cruithne Press, 1999, 14–32
- K J Matthews Death into life: population statistics from cemetery data. In: Leslie, A ed. *Theoretical Roman archaeology and architecture: the third conference proceedings*. Glasgow: Cruithne Press, 1999, 141–61
- K J Matthews The Iron Age of northwest England. In: Bevan, B ed. *Northern exposure: interpretative devolution and the Iron Ages of Britain*. Leicester U P, 1999, 173–95.
- S W Ward The archaeology of medieval Chester: a review. *J Chester Archaeol Soc* 73, 1994/5, 31–62
- S W Ward Archaeology in Chester Cathedral. *Church Archaeology* 2, 1998, 39–44

No 5 Excavations at Chester, 12 Watergate Street 1985: Roman headquarters building to medieval Row by S W Ward. 1988. Pb. x + 75 pp. 83 ill (24 colour). **UK £5.80; £6.75 / Abroad £7.50**

Excavation of the Roman fortress headquarters and survey of an overlying medieval Row house. Well-preserved plant and insect remains from a thirteenth-century pit.

No 6 Excavations at Chester, the lesser medieval religious houses; sites investigated 1964–1983 by S W Ward. 1990. Pb. xiv + 292 pp. 185 ill (67 colour). **UK £24.95; £28.50 / Abroad £29.50**

Excavations of the Benedictine nunnery and Dominican friary and summaries of the Franciscan and Carmelite friaries.

No 7 Excavations at Chester, Saxon occupation within the fortress: sites excavated 1971–1981 by S W Ward and others. 1994. Pb. x + 135 pp. 67 ill (29 colour). **UK £20.00; £21.70 / Abroad £22.50**

Saxon remains found on seven sites in the city centre. Reviews the long-term survival of the Roman fabric and the development of Saxon Chester and its port.

No 8 Excavations at Chester, the evolution of the heart of the city: investigations at 3–15 Eastgate Street 1990/1 by K J Matthews and others. 1995. pb. viii + 74 pp. 80 ill. **UK £10.60; £11.60 / Abroad £12.30**

Excavation, survey of the standing buildings and documentary research shed light on the development and topography of this key area of the city: the Roman *praetorium*, the Saxon market place and development of the medieval Rows.

No 9 The archaeology of an ecclesiastical landscape: Chapel House Farm, Poulton (Cheshire) 1995 by M M Emery and others. 1996. Pb. vi + 90 pp. 50 ill. **UK £9.95; £10.95 / Abroad £11.95**

Publications in Print

EXCAVATION & SURVEY REPORTS

No 1 Excavations at Chester, Northgate Brewery 1974/5: a Roman centurion's quarters and barrack by S W Ward & T J Strickland. 1978. Pb. vi + 50 pp. 28 ill. **UK £1.20; £1.85 / Abroad £2.40**

Unusual courtyard timber phase plan best paralleled at Neuss. Presents key evidence for Hadrianic and Antonine hiatus in the occupation of the fortress.

No 3 Excavations at Chester, 26–42 Lower Bridge Street 1974–6: the Dark Age and Saxon periods by D J P Mason. 1985. Pb.

viii + 72 pp. 46 ill. **UK £5.40; £6.35 / Abroad £6.95**

Planned development of cellared buildings in the tenth century. Reconstruction of the buildings and discussion of the burghal defences. Detailed study of Chester ware pottery.

No 4 Excavations at Chester, the Civil War siegeworks 1642–6 by S W Ward. 1987. Pb. vi + 38 pp. 23 ill. **UK £4.95; £5.60 / Abroad £6.20**

Combines documentary research with the results of fieldwork to present the first comprehensive picture of Chester's defences in their last phase of military use.

Full report on the first season of excavations by Liverpool University and Chester Archaeology at the Cistercian abbey of Poulton, 8 km S of Chester. Detailed study of the human skeletons and of the documentary evidence.

No 10 Excavations at Chester, Chester Castle: the seventeenth-century armoury and mint.
Excavation and building recording in the Inner Ward by P Hough 1979-82 compiled by P Ellis. 1996. Pb. vi + 40. 24 ill. **UK £6.20; £6.85 / Abroad £7.85**

Study of the armoury, mint and curtain wall during clearance of the Inner Ward. The mint was the scene in Chester of the Great Recoinage of 1696-8 under Sir Edmond Halley.

OCCASIONAL PAPERS

No 2 From flints to flowerpots. Current research in the Dee-Mersey region: papers from a seminar held at Chester February 1994 compiled by P Carrington. 1994. Pb. vi + 89 pp. 12 ill. **UK £7.95; £8.95 / Abroad £9.75**

Thirteen papers summarising current research. Particular emphasis on late prehistoric to Saxon landscape archaeology.

No 3 'Where Deva spreads her wizard stream'. Trade and the port of Chester: papers from a seminar held at Chester November 1995 compiled by P Carrington. 1996. Pb. vi + 94 pp. 22 ill. **UK £9.95; £10.95 / Abroad £11.95**

Papers on the maritime trade of Chester from the Iron Age to the end of the nineteenth century.

No 4 West Cheshire from the air: an archaeological anthology by S R Williams. 1997. Pb. vi + 104 pp. 97 ill. **UK £14.99; £15.99 / Abroad £16.99**

Over sixty sites, from neolithic to modern, in west Cheshire and surrounding areas. An excellent introduction to the archaeological wealth of the district.

How to order

The Grosvenor Museum Shop
27 Grosvenor Street
Chester CH1 2DD

Tel: +44 (0)1244 402029
Fax: +44 (0)1244 347587
E-mail:
I.williamson@chestercc.gov.uk

Personal customers

Send your order and cheque by post, or fax us your order and credit card details (Visa and Mastercard accepted).

International customers

Fax, post or e-mail your requirements together with an order number and we shall invoice you.

UK prices are shown inclusive of packing and postage as well as 'over the counter'. Cheques should be in pounds sterling and should be made payable to Chester City Council.

Retail discounts

5% off orders with a total value incl p&p over £50; 10% off orders over £100; 10% off all purchases on production of a valid Chester Card (Chester residents only).

Booksellers

contact us for wholesale prices.....

You can see our list of publications on the web at
<http://www.chestercc.gov.uk/heritage.htm>

GUIDES

Complete guide: Roman Chester by local guide specialists Wordplay with Chester Archaeology. 1994. A2 folded leaflet. 2 colour. **UK £1.50; £2.00 / Abroad £2.20**

Map showing how modern Chester overlies the Roman fortress, reconstruction drawings, timeline, chart of major events, walk around Chester's Roman remains.

Complete guide: the unique Chester Rows by Wordplay with Chester Archaeology. 1995. A2 folded leaflet, 2 colour. **UK £1.50; £2.00 / Abroad £2.20**

3-D map showing the Row walkways, with notes on the major buildings; cut-away drawing showing the development of a typical Row building; timeline; walk around the Rows.

Chester Cathedral: the secret past produced by Wordplay with Chester Archaeology. 1996. A2 folded leaflet, 2 colour. **UK £1.25; £1.75 / Abroad £1.95**

Plan with notes on principal features, Saxon origins and later development, and architectural styles; timeline and key dates.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

The English Heritage book of Chester edited by P Carrington. 1994. Pb. 128 pp. 96 ill (16 colour). Published by Batsford. **UK £7.99; £9.50 / Abroad £10.00**

Traces the evolution of Chester from its foundation as a Roman fortress over two thousand years which have left it with a wealth of buildings reflecting every age and style.

Chester city ditches, a slice of history: excavations at 5-7 Foregate Street 1991. 1992. Pb. 24 pp. 22 ill (11 colour). **UK £2.95; £3.45 / Abroad £3.75**

For the first time in Chester, a complete slice was recorded across the ditches of all periods – Roman, Saxon and Medieval. This guide-book summarises the evidence from the excavation.



Chester
City Council

Service plan 1999-2000

THE table below shows how the benchmarks and action points in Chester Archaeology's current service plan meet the City Council's priorities and also the baseline local government archaeological provision suggested by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

Community leadership - responding to the aspirations of the community

Objective 1 - Set out a research framework to help in the long-term management of the archaeological resource.

Benchmark services

- Set out, develop and make available a research framework based on national criteria for the archaeological resource of the City and District against which priorities and proposals for development can be assessed

Action plan

- Prepare archaeological research framework

Objective 2 - Maintain an expert staff knowledge bank of the local archaeological resource.

Benchmark services

- Provide prompt, informed and expert advice to telephone and written enquiries
- Retain the position of 'first port of call' for researchers on local archaeology

Action plan

- Maintain professional training programme to keep staff skills and knowledge up-to-date

Objective 3 - Foster a sense of place, community and continuity.

Benchmark services - to be developed

Action plan

- Develop community plan for archaeology involving collaboration with local societies
- See also **Objective 8**, especially 'facilitate community/research projects'

Chester and its District - care for the environment and make it a friendly, accessible place

Objective 4 - Ensure that the City Council has appropriate policies for the preservation and sustainability of the archaeological resource.

Benchmark services

- Develop and maintain databases of archaeological sites in the City and District to assist in the management of the archaeological resource; provide means of public access
- Include effective policies for archaeological preservation in the Local Plan action plan
- Negotiate funding with English Heritage for Urban Archaeology Database

Objective 5 - Provide advice to the City Council on the archaeological impact of proposed developments, prepare appropriate briefs and carry out adequate monitoring.

Benchmark services

- Provide all planning recommendations (PPG15 and 16) within required consultation period
- Prepare archaeological briefs within requested timescale
- Monitoring of archaeological projects: set out standards and ensure archaeological contractors meet requirements of project briefs
- Provide the City Council with up-to-date and relevant expert advice on archaeological issues

Action plan

- Develop role as archaeological curator for the city

Objective 6 - Facilitate and encourage fieldwork and research into the archaeology of the City and District.

Benchmark services - to be developed

Action plan - to be developed

Objective 7 - Facilitate an active programme of on-site interpretation of archaeological sites and monuments

Benchmark services - to be developed

Action plan - to be developed

Objective 8 - Promote public enjoyment of and participation in archaeology.

Benchmark services

- Maintain and update a publicly accessible monthly newsboard of archaeological fieldwork and other relevant items
- Organise one or more major annual popular archaeology events
- Provide archaeological talks and tours for local groups and societies on request
- Facilitate community/research projects

Action plan

- Continue to develop Explorers' Club
- Expand opportunities for volunteers
- Review existing provision and cost-effectiveness of lectures and day schools, to better exploit archaeological resource and staff knowledge
- See also **Objectives 3** and **9**

Work in effective partnerships to achieve mutual aims

Objective 9 - Carry out joint projects with internal and external organisations.

Benchmark services

- Develop and maintain partnerships with local organisations to add value to service provision and stimulate community involvement

Action plan

- Negotiate arrangements for archaeology module in Chester College History course
- Maintain and develop existing productive partnerships with Cheshire County Council, Chester Archaeological Society, Chester Cathedral, Liverpool University and Manchester University
- See also **Objectives 3** and **8** (especially 'facilitate community/research projects')

Communications - listen to people and share information

Objective 10 - Produce a range of technical and popular publications about archaeological services and discoveries in Chester and district.

Benchmark services

- Set standards for and carry out the consistent and accessible technical publication of field-work and other research
- Publish an annual review of Chester Archaeology activities
- Publish news of recent discoveries and projects
- Make available guides to services and products
- Consult with customers on range, level and content of services

Action plan

- Maintain commitment to publication backlog
- Develop internet site
- Raise the profile of Chester's archaeology both through professional and general media
- Develop archaeology-specific consultation programmes

Improve the way we work

Objective 11 - Maintain the definitive archive of archaeological discoveries in the City and District.

Benchmark services

- Manage the post-1972 Chester excavation archive to current UK standards

Action plan

- Seek a replacement for St Bridget's workroom/store

Objective 12 - Pursue excellence through the formal adoption of City Council and professional archaeological quality service schemes.

Benchmark services

- All work to be carried out in accordance with relevant established standards

Action plan

- Gain 'Investors in Quality' gold award

Objective 13 - Make best use of available IT.

Benchmark services

- Computerise operations in accordance with current best national practices

Action plan

- Train staff to exploit MS Office

Objective 14 - Meet income target through relevant and productive project work.

Benchmark services

- Carry out selected finds and environmental contract work on relevant material in partnership with neighbouring organisations

Action plan

- Develop role as a centre of expertise for artefact and environmental study in Chester and the region

Quality service

Much effort went into our pursuit of the Council's 'Investors in Quality' award, which is based on the Chartermark scheme. It has involved preparing a general statement of the principles on which we operate, as well as numerous detailed standards covering most aspects of our work, from preparing archaeological research designs to giving presentations. Such documents can never, by themselves, ensure excellence, but they can provide minimum standards and consistency where consistency is appropriate.

Another vital element of the scheme is customer consultation. We carried out surveys of our draft service plan, publications, events and lecture series. We also took part in wide-ranging consultation exercises both in connection with the Council's new Cultural Strategy and to discover the potential for co-operation with the projects and wider aims of local societies. In addition to these formal techniques, staff are involved with local societies on a regular basis, and contracts, whether for archaeological research or for teaching, are tailored to meet the requirements of individual customers.

We gained the Silver award in 1999/2000 and hope to upgrade this to the Gold award before the end of the financial year. Our technical

Business Facts

(Last year's figures in brackets)

Total training courses attended

31 (37)

Total number of places
55 (66)

In-house business training
13 (18)

Professional training courses/
conferences
18 (19)

Customer surveys

7 (?)

Finance Facts

(Last year's figures in brackets)

Total budget

319,930 (319,370)

Income

27,170 (27,170)

Net cost

292,760 (292,200)

Cost per head

2.46 (2.45)

Employee costs

189,550 (184,660)

Support costs

107,490 (113,720)

(premises, IT, other internal
recharges)

Operating costs

22,890 (20,990)

(Note: these figures are based on budget estimates and should not therefore be taken as a precise indication of final out-turn. The cost per head is based on a District population of 119,221).

Income from publications

3582.54 (6174.74)

(Note: this income is credited to our publication funds and thus helps the production of further publications).



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standards are already distributed to contractors, and we will publish our general statement of principles in our next annual review. Consultation with other groups of customers will continue in future years.

The Council is now beginning to pursue the 'Business Excellence' model. Chester Archaeology is due to be assessed against these criteria in 2001, and we are already preparing for this.

Training

To continue raising our standards all staff have taken part in a wide variety of training courses, in line with an annual training plan based on the Council's corporate objectives. Individual needs were identified through the Employee Development Scheme. Many of these courses serve a dual purpose, allowing staff to pass on their own latest ideas to archaeologists elsewhere as well as to learn. Cheryl Quinn gained an NVQ level 3 in Graphics. Course notes placed on the computer network allowed the knowledge gained to be shared easily among staff.

Accommodation

The Council's decision to make over our workroom-cum-store in St Bridget's hall, opposite the Grosvenor Museum, to CATH (Chester Aid to the Homeless) was a major challenge. However, with the help of the Property Management section we have secured what we hope will be better premises and plan to move early in 2000.

Information Technology

The approach of the millennium and its associated IT problems prompted the City Council to migrate its network from Unix to Winframe, running MS Office. The extension of this system from the Forum Offices to the Grosvenor Museum buildings in Spring 1999 has not been without problems, but the adoption of industry-standard software has great potential for improving many of our systems.



Chester Archaeology core staff (Photograph by Simon Warburton, Chester Museums)

Personnel

Core staff

City Archaeologist

Mike Morris BA, MIFA
Chester Cathedral Archaeological Consultant and member of the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers

Senior Archaeologist (Fieldwork)

Keith Matthews BA
Member of the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology

Senior Archaeologist (Planning)

Simon Ward BA, FSA, MIFA
Member of the Society for Medieval Archaeology, the Society for Church Archaeology and the Association of Cathedral Archaeologists

Administrative Officer

Jane Hebblewhite

Archaeological Draughtsperson

Cheryl Quinn BA
Licentiate Member of the Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors

Senior Archaeologist (Publications)

Peter Carrington PhD, FSA, MIFA

Archaeologists (Roman finds)

Gillian Dunn BTEch, AIFA
Member of the Archaeological Leather Group, Finds Research Group 700-1700, IFA Finds Group, Osteoarchaeological Research Group, Palaeopathology Association, Quern Study Group, Roman

Finds Group, Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group and the Study Group for Roman Pottery

Alison Jones BA

Member of the Study Group for Roman Pottery and the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group

Archaeologist (post-Roman finds)

Julie Edwards BA
Member of the Ceramic Petrology Group, Finds Research Group 700-1700, IFA Finds Group, Medieval Pottery Research Group, the North West Region Medieval Pottery Research Group and the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group

Environmental Archaeologist

Ian Smith MSc
Honorary Research Assistant, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, member of the Association for Environmental Archaeology

Photographic services were provided by Simon Warburton of Chester Museums.

Project staff

Director **Mike Emery** BA

Supervisors **Clare Ahmad** BA
Dom Barker BA
Andy McBrien
Ken Owen
Freya Swogger BA

Site Assistants

Jessica Britton BSc
 Alan Dixon
 Joanna Eaton BA
 Chris Holder
 George Luke
 Andy McBrien
 Ken Owen
 Richard Parry
 Peter Peers BA
 Jon Sharps
 John Swogger BA

Finds Assistants

Clare Ahmad BA
 Rebecca Bridgman BA, PIFA

Contract staff

Catrina Appleby - editing
 Roman extra-mural sites volume 1
Julian Baum - computer graphic
 reconstructions
Linda Cairnes - masks and
 helmet-making at 'Step into Spring'
Marion Campbell - Roman
 face pots at 'Step into Spring'
Chris Cumberpatch - Chesterfield
 post-Roman pottery
Neil Glendinning - tile-making at
 National Archaeology Day and
 gargoyles at Cathedral Open Day
Jonathan Granville (*Chester
 Museums*) - Explorers' Club
Dr Birgitta Hoffmann - Roman
 defences
Ivan Hradil - Chesterfield charcoal
 analysis
Ruth Leary - Chesterfield Roman
 pottery
Dr David Mason - Roman fortress
 baths
Quita Mould - Cathedral ironwork
Louise Strain - face painting at 'Step
 into Spring'
Margaret Ward - Roman extra-
 mural volume 2; Chesterfield
 (samian ware)

Volunteers

In June 1998, along with other Cultural Services staff we organised a 'volunteers tea-party' as part of National Volunteers Week to thank our volunteers for their invaluable contribution to our work.

Sadly, Ted Williams, one of our long-term volunteers, passed away in April 1999. Ted had a great enthusiasm for archaeology and showed an intimate knowledge of the subject. He began as a volunteer for the Archaeological Service in 1986 and

took part in several excavations in the city, although, more recently, he had concentrated on post-excavation work. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

Fieldwork, post-excavation and public archaeology

Liz and John Bailey
 Jo Brunsten
 David Cartwright
 Becci Donovan
 Averil Downes
 Amy Gray-Jones
 Emma Harrison
 Les Isaacs
 Laura Jones
 George Luke
 Roy Lumb
 Anna Morrow
 Geoff Rhodes
 Jeff Speakman
 Ted Williams
 Terry Williams

Work experience students

Richard Bagot
 Jane Brachanice
 Katie Hewitt
 Philip Jones
 Adam Linfield
 Stephen Mellor
 Rebecca Ramsey
 Christopher Roberts
 Rebecca Stacey

Committee membership

Peter Carrington
 Editor of the Journal of the Chester
 Archaeological Society

Keith Matthews
 ALGAO Urban sub-committee and
 Planning and Legislation sub-com-
 mittee

Mike Morris
 ALGAO Urban sub-committee and
 North West Regional Group; Mem-
 ber of Chester Cathedral Fabric
 Advisory Committee

Simon Ward
 Council of the Society for Medieval
 Archaeology

David Cartwright (volunteer)
 Treasurer of CBA Northwest

Clients and sponsors

Graeme Allsop and Tig Rockliff
 ('Tudor House')
Bryant Homes North West Ltd
 (Chester Royal Infirmary;
 Water Tower Street)
Centros Millar
 (Old Vicarage Garden, Chesterfield)
Cheshire County Council
 (Poulton; Old Dee Bridge)
Chester City Council
 (Roman Gardens)
Chesterfield Borough Council
 (Old Vicarage Gardens, Chesterfield)
Church Commissioners
 (Bishop's House)
**The Dean & Chapter of Chester
 Cathedral**
 (Cathedral Song School)
The Diocese of Chester
 (1 Abbey Street)
**Engineering Archaeological
 Services**
 (6 King's Buildings)
Councillor G Fair and R Fair
 (Poulton)
Farndon PCC
 (St Chad's, Farndon)
Ralph Flennes
 (Poulton)
Gifford & Partners
 (Garforth, West Yorkshire;
 Shoeburyness, Essex)
Grosvenor Estate Holdings
 (29 Bridge Street)
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
 (various sites in Gwynedd)
Mr and Mrs Jones
 (Langford House, Handley)
Liverpool University
 (Carden; Poulton)
Safeway Stores plc
 (Bache Pool)
St David's Hotels
 (Carden)
The Salt Museum, Northwich
 (various finds drawings)
**University of Manchester
 Archaeological Unit**
 (Boar's Head, Bolton)
Wimpey Homes
 (The Bars)

We apologise to any individual or organisation accidentally omitted from this list.



**Chester
 City Council**

The Year Ahead

The process of achieving the IIQ Silver Award served to put many of our technical processes on a firm and clear basis. To achieve the Gold Award we need to do the same for our consultation processes with our customers. This should result in services that are more closely aligned with what people want and higher levels of customer satisfaction

WE have long been the only archaeological unit in the North West with a comprehensive finds service, and have carried out

work on an *ad hoc* contract basis. We now intend to market our services proactively. A more intensive engagement with the region will benefit research and improve the quality of work of our staff, as well as generating income.

A number of excavation reports have been at an advanced stage of preparation for some time. As we write, the first volume on the Roman defences of Chester is with the printers, and we aim to publish David Mason's report on the Elliptical Building before the end of March.

The migration of the Council's computer network from Uniplex to MS Office has given us the opportunity to create a greater number and variety of easy-to-use applications. In particular, we are now making considerable progress in developing a comprehensive excavations data-

base covering both stratigraphic and finds data.

The way in which the Council's web pages are administered has also changed recently, making it easier to change and update them. We have already taken advantage of this opportunity to put items of current interest on the web. Entitled 'The Past on the Web' it is updated monthly and incorporates items from our printed newsletter and from our Newsboard feature 'Dig Update'.

The archaeology option within the History degree at Chester College has proved extremely popular. Indeed, at the suggestion of the College Registry, Archaeology will be offered as a degree in its own right from Autumn 2000, and further modules taught by Chester Archaeology staff could be added.

Targets for 1998/9

How did we do?

- ☒ Remedy 1997/8 shortcomings
- ☒ Meet financial targets
- ☒ Get computerised database operational - see *The Year Ahead* (to be achieved in 1999-2000)
- ☒ Publish completed reports
- ☒ Meet commitments specified in Service Plan
- ☒ Achieve IIQ Silver Award and develop benchmarking standards - award gained in 1999/2000
- ☒ Continue staff development/acquisition of key skills - see *Business News*
- ☒ Develop stewardship role for the archaeology of the City and District
- ☒ Progress Urban Archaeology Database (UAD) - still in negotiation with English Heritage

- ☒ Improve community consultation and communication - to be achieved for IIQ Gold Award in 1999/2000
- ☒ Review/improve the scope of public involvement - ditto
- ☒ Progress UCC archaeology course - detailed agreement reached for commencement in September 1999
- ☒ Begin to carry out feasibility study for the development of a community project fundraising trust

Targets for 1999/2000

- Achieve IIQ gold award
- Develop specialist finds contract work
- Secure suitable replacement for St Bridget's facility
- Progress publication programme
- Exploit potential of IT migration from Uniplex to MS Office and devolved web authoring
- Successfully implement Chester College archaeology course

The Past Year

is produced by the City Council's Archaeological Service to keep its customers and sponsors informed as to how it has performed during the past twelve months. If you have any comments or questions, please get in touch.

This year's review has been compiled and designed by Peter Carrington and Alison Jones, with contributions from Julie Edwards, Keith Matthews, Mike Morris and Simon Ward. Drawings by Cheryl Quinn and Simon Ward. Photographs by David Heke, Chris Holder, Mike Morris and Simon Warburton.

Chester Archaeology

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Printed by Chester City Council
Reprographics Unit on environmentally friendly paper