

WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

For

**Test Pitting Exercise
to the rear of
The Griffin Public House**

93 Leonard Street
Shoreditch
London

National Grid Reference: TQ3315482402

Colin Lacey & Dr Peter Wardle
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Watching Brief Report
The Griffin Public House, Leonard Street, Shoreditch, London
by
Colin Lacey & Dr Peter Wardle
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1. Version Control

Version No	Draft	Content Added/Omitted	Date
0.5	Client Draft		
0.7	LPA Draft	Client Comments	
1	Issued Report		

2. Summary

A test pit was excavated under archaeological supervision, examining part of the small area to the east of the Griffin Public House that was not previously occupied by a building. The walls of two structures were noted, the existing building to the west and a former structure to the south. The excavated remains comprised 19th century domestic refuse / cess pit deposits with a small number of earlier artefacts considered to have been deposited in the 19th century.

3. Introduction

3.1 The Client

This report was commissioned by Paul Holden of Severn Capital.

3.2 Confidentiality and Copyright

This document is to remain confidential for a period of 12 months or until it forms part of a formal planning application or until otherwise indicated by the client. The copyright of this report belongs to the Historic Environment Consultancy. No liability to third parties is accepted for advice and statements made in this report.

3.3 Location

Site Address:	The Griffin, 93 Leonard Street
Post Code	EC2A 4RD
County:	Greater London
Borough:	Shoreditch
Grid Reference:	TQ3315482402

The general location is shown in Figure 1 and the specific location in Figure 2.

3.4 Extent of Watching Brief

A single test pit measuring 1.0m square and 2.2m deep was excavated against the eastern wall of the Griffin Public House, on 3rd November 2013. The purpose of the excavation was to ascertain the extent of foundations of the Griffin.

Works were monitored and recorded by Dr Peter Wardle.



Metres 1:10,000 @ A4

Figure 1: General Location Plan. Scale 1:10,000



Figure 2: Location of test pit, 1:1000 @ A4

4. Historic Environment Planning History & Background

4.1 Listed Buildings

The Griffin Public House is listed to Grade II. The description is as follows:

The Griffin Public House. C.1889, designer unknown. Red brick with extensive stucco dressings and encaustic tile decoration, glazed ground floor front, ornamental cast iron window boxes to second floor windows. Three storeys, three bay front to Leonard Street, five bay return to Ravey Street with lower northern continuation of two storeys with attic, four bays wide. Continuous fascia to both sides. Ground floor with glazed terra cotta facing, bearing the name of the Meux brewery's products. Interior: features include behind-bar mirrored screen with Corinthian columns; boarded ceiling carried on slender cast iron columns; room to rear lined with inscribed mirrors proclaiming the virtues of the drink on offer. Open stairs to rear lead up to former function room on first floor. A characterful pub from the High Victorian period with a good façade and internal survivals of note.

4.2 The History of the Settlement

Shoreditch is believed to have originated as a settlement focussed at the junction of two important Roman roads, following the courses of the modern Kingsland Road (which formed part of Ermine Street) and Old Street, which linked Ermine Street with Watling Street.

Roman Londinium seems to have been abandoned soon after the Roman withdrawal from Britain and it seems that the area remained largely unoccupied until the beginning of the 7th century. The hypothesis that a British enclave survived within the region has now largely been discredited and it seems that any remaining indigenous population either abandoned the Londinium region or adopted the customs and material culture of the Germanic immigrants. It seems that the first Germanic settlers arrived in the London area in the late 4th or early 5th century, and that early Saxon settlement was concentrated in the river valleys of the Thames and its tributaries. The name of Shoreditch is believed to be Saxon in origin, early forms including 'Sordig' and 'Sordich', and may come from "Sewerditch" referring to a stream which ran to the east of St Leonard's Church to near Holywell Lane.

During the medieval period the area became increasingly developed, with the Augustinian priory of Holywell being established nearby in the mid-12th century. In the post-medieval period, the area was popular for theatres as it lay just outside the City and therefore outside the jurisdiction of the Lord Mayor who had issued an edit banning plays from being performed within the City.

Between 1872 and 1875, Great Eastern Street was constructed parallel to the line of the previous road of Willow Walk but slightly further to the south. At this point, the London furniture trade was focused in South Shoreditch with a number of specialist workshops located in the area.

5. Methodology

The 1x1m test pit was excavated by hand by contractors to a depth of 2.2m under archaeological supervision, immediately abutting the eastern wall of the Griffin Public House. The pit was excavated to ascertain the extent of foundations of the Griffin.

6. Results

Beneath the modern ground surface (0.2m concrete on c. 0.4-0.5m rubble), a thick deposit of very dark brown / black sandy clay loam with inclusions of oyster shell was encountered. This contained 19th century refuse and is interpreted as a cess pit / refuse tip. The bottom of this layer was not encountered.

The western side of the test pit was formed by the red brick wall to the cellar of the Griffin, which extended to c. 1.8m below ground level. The southern side of the test pit was formed by the wall of the cellar of a previous building fronting Leonard Street. This wall was formed of London Stock bricks identifiable by their yellow colour and terminated c. 1.4m below the current ground surface.



Plate 1: North aspect, test pit



Plate 2: South aspect, test pit



Plate 3: West aspect, test pit

7. Finds

A number of finds were recovered. These comprised two items of worked bone, ceramic sherds, clay tobacco pipes and a number of fragmentary pieces of animal bone. This assemblage is interpreted as comprising 19th century domestic refuse.

7.1 Worked Bone

Two items of worked bone were recovered: the handle from a shaving brush and a small turned hollow item of unknown purpose, possibly part of a bobbin.



Plate 4: Shaving brush handle

The shaving brush handle is a turned hollow tube measuring 47mm in length and 28mm in external diameter. The internal diameter is of 20mm. It is threaded internally at one end and bears the legend 'BEST BRISTLES LONDON MADE'.



Plate 5: Spindle / bobbin

The second object measures 35mm in length. It is cylindrical and tapers slightly to one end. The thicker end has three bands of 11mm in diameter and the thinner end has a single band of 8mm diameter. The item is hollow, with a bore of c. 2.5mm diameter and appears to have been broken from a larger item at its larger end. The item may be part of a bobbin or spindle, possibly a lace-maker's bobbin.

7.2 Ceramics

A selection of sherds of domestic ceramics were recovered, including 11 examples of glazed tableware alongside three of earthenware vessels. These are mostly considered to be 19th century in date.



Plate 6: Delft tile

A single piece of tile measuring 32mm x 118mm was recovered. This has been cut from an entire tile to fill a gap rather than having broken and features blue decoration on a pale background. The tile is considered likely to be a Delft biblical tile, possibly depicting the stoning of Stephen. This style of tile dates from the 17th-19th centuries. The reverse of the tile is coated in mortar indicating the tile was once fitted.



Plate 7: Replica Delft biblical tile alongside example from the Griffin

The above image is reproduced from <http://www.villalagoontile.com/delft-biblical-tiles.html>

Delftware was produced in the Netherlands from the 16th century onwards and in England by Dutch immigrants between the 16th and 18th centuries.

Two other sherds of Delft tableware were recovered, alongside other ceramics. The majority of the assemblage is considered to consist of 19th century pottery.



Plate 8: Ceramics

7.3 Clay Tobacco Pipes

Two clay pipes were recovered with bowls joined to stems. Two further bowls were also found, along with eight stem pieces.

The oldest of the pipes comprises the largest of the bowls, which is dated stylistically and by dimensions to c. 1700-1710.



Plate 9: 1700-1710 pipe

One 19th century bowl and stem are considered to belong to the same pipe, the stem having broken off prior to deposition. The bowl of this pipe has a leaf motif surrounding the seam between the two halves of the pipe.



Plate 10: 19th century pipe

The remaining pair of complete clay pipes present are of 19th century date. Each has a flat-based spur, with makers' marks. The first has a fluted bowl again with leaf motif on the seam, and an asterisk-shaped maker's mark on either side of the spur. The second has a plain bowl with a capital 'I' on each side of the spur.



Plate 11: Pair of 19th century pipes

7.4 Animal Bone

The animal bone present is in keeping with domestic food refuse with a mixture of identifiable whole and butchered bones from fowl, pig and cow amongst a number of other fragmentary remains.

8. Discussion

The test pit examined part of the small area to the east of the Griffin Public House that was not previously occupied by a building. The walls of two structures were noted, the existing building to the west and a former structure to the south.

The deposits encountered comprised domestic refuse which whilst containing a small number of artefacts considered to date from earlier periods, is thought to have been deposited in the 19th century. Above this, a layer of rubble was present, relating to the demolition of the previous buildings on this part of the site in the 20th century.

9. Appendix: Historic Maps

9.1 Methodology

A variety of maps are presented in the map regression analysis that have been obtained, copied and digitised in a variety of ways and in addition certain conventions have been chosen. The following paragraphs list these conventions.

Map Date

The published map date is used.

Scale

The map has been rescaled to 1:1000 when the map is detailed enough to warrant this. This is achieved by applying a change of scale factor to the published scale. For maps that have been photographed a similar method is used but by measuring a distance on the historic map compared to a measured map. Such scaling is marked "approximate scaling" that is the scaling is within $\pm 10\%$. Where a map cannot be scaled with certainty within $\pm 10\%$ it is marked "not to scale".

For smaller scales the maps are rescaled to approximately 1:2500 or 1:5000.

Distortion

Where a map has been distorted by photography or similar the map is corrected using photo-rectification software where this assists the interpretation of the map.

Locations of the Buildings

It is conventional to mark the location of the building or site by edging the boundaries in red. This convention is not followed, as by definition it will obscure the mapping of the boundaries. Instead there are arrows that point to the position of the building.

GIS corrected Maps

The use of digital historic maps which have been corner corrected so that they fit OS digital data are avoided as far as possible.

Map North

Maps are presented with North at the top of the page. No correction is made so that the maps line up with Grid North not true North.

Errors

We regularly come across errors in mapping. These are discussed in the text and how we have investigated them.

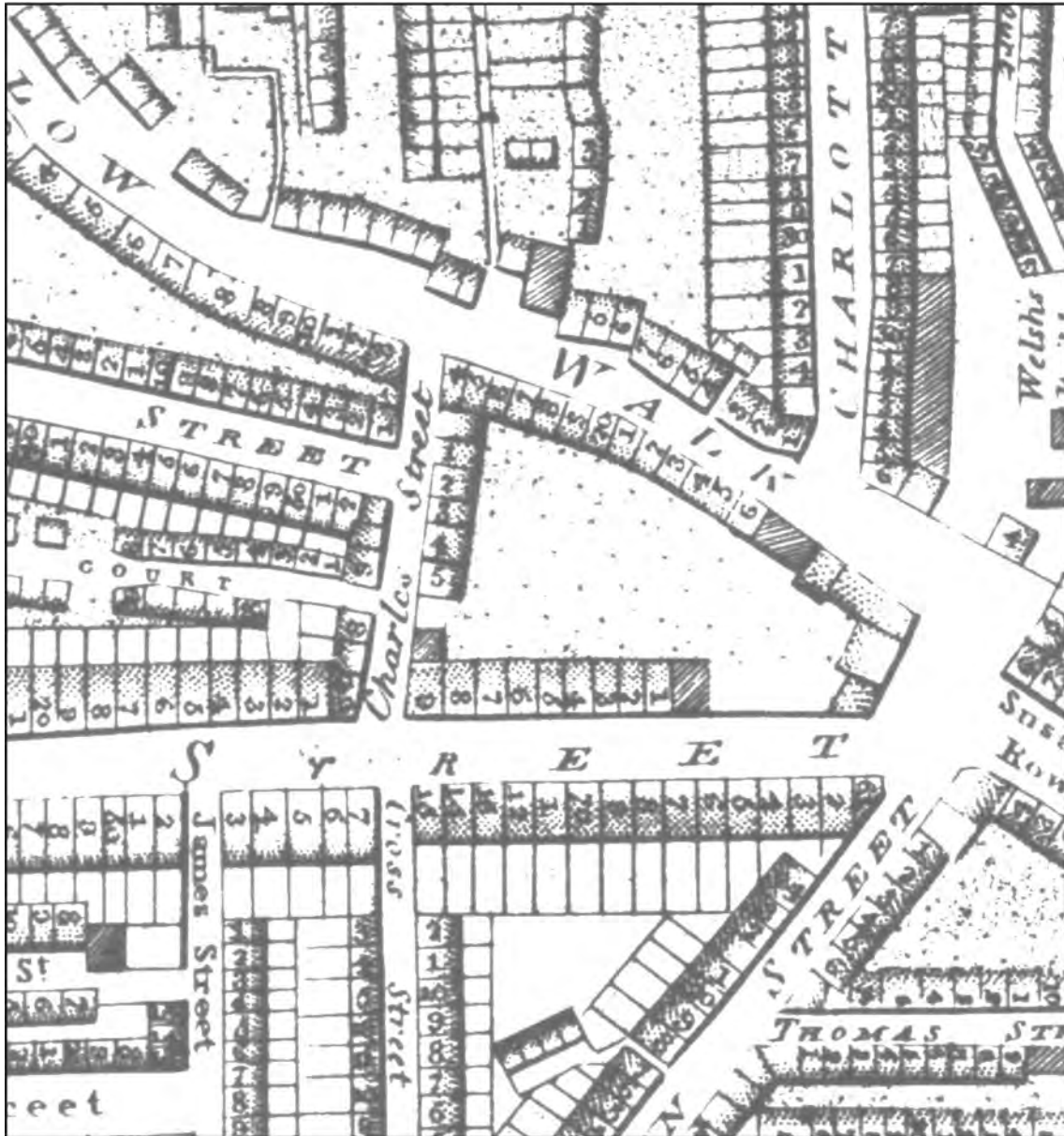
Overlays

Where a map is overlaid onto OS data this is to be regarded as indicative not exact. The maps are adjusted so that the detail that is being considered matches OS data this will include:

1. Correct so that the historic map is orientated on grid north.
2. Scale

No attempt is made to correct for map projection.

9.2 1799 Horwood Map



Metres 1:1000 @ A4

Figure 3: Horwood's 1799 map

The site is occupied by two rows of terraced houses - one along Charles Street (now Ravey Street), the other along Leonard Street.

9.3 1872 Ordnance Survey



20 0 20 40 60 80 100



Metres 1:1000 @ A4

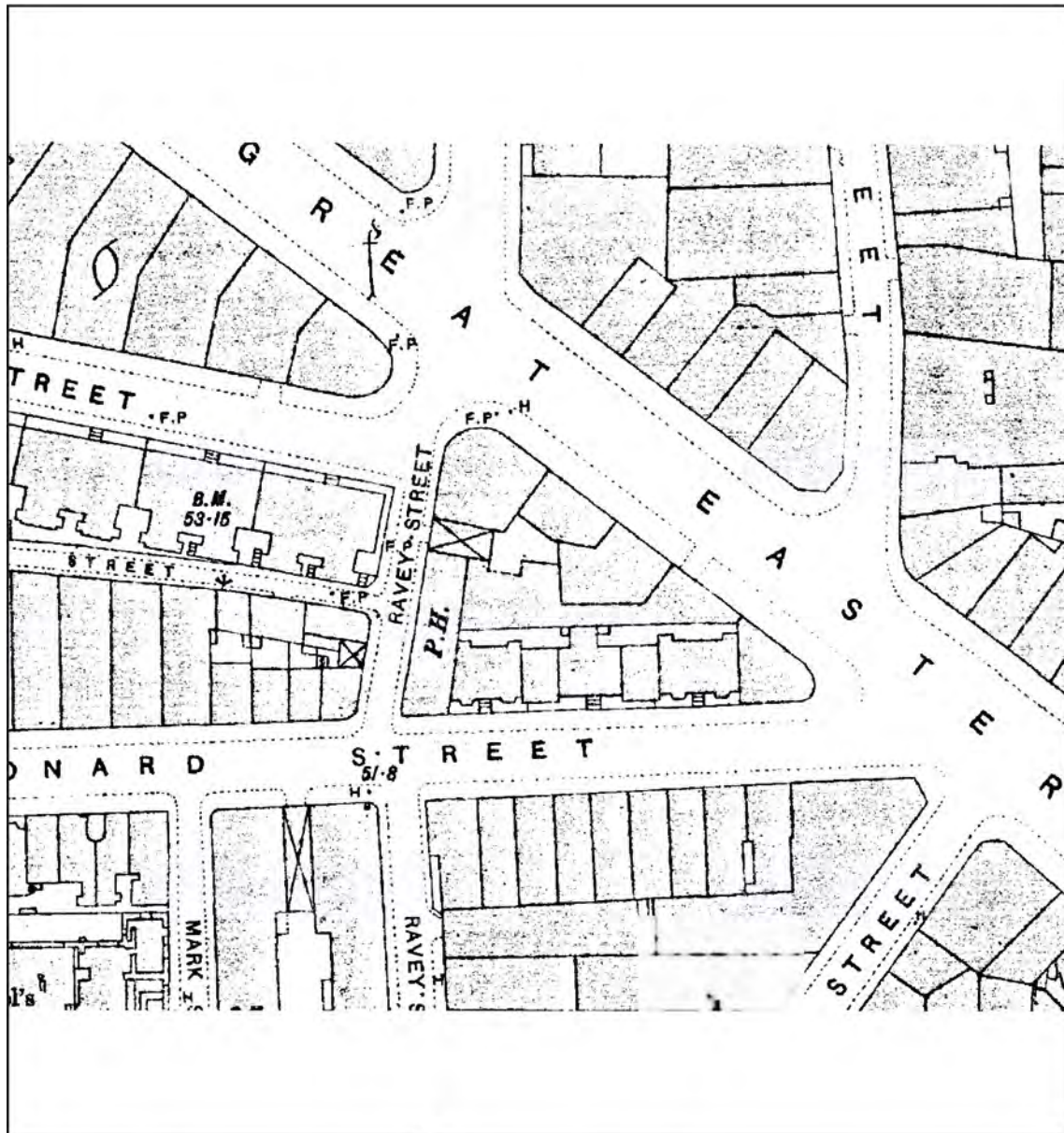
Figure 4: 1872 Ordnance Survey plan

The Griffin and a building to the north have both been constructed. The northern wall of The Griffin is in a somewhat uncertain location.

The eastern wall is depicted as being parallel to Charles Street (Ravey Street) rather than reflecting its true form, tapering to the north.

It is considered likely that this discrepancy is due to the surveyor not being able to access the rear of the building when composing the map, and projecting a straight line from the visible roof line of the frontage.

9.5 1913 Ordnance Survey



20 0 20 40 60 80 100

Metres 1:1000 @ A4

Figure 6: 1913 Ordnance Survey

The buildings are shown in their current form. The northern wall of The Griffin appears further south than in the former map, more akin to its current position.

9.6 1914 Ordnance Survey



20 0 20 40 60 80 100

Metres 1:1000 @ A4

Figure 7: 1914 Ordnance Survey

There is no change to the layout of the site. The buildings along Leonard Street do not have the bays depicted as on the previous map.

9.7 1953 Ordnance Survey

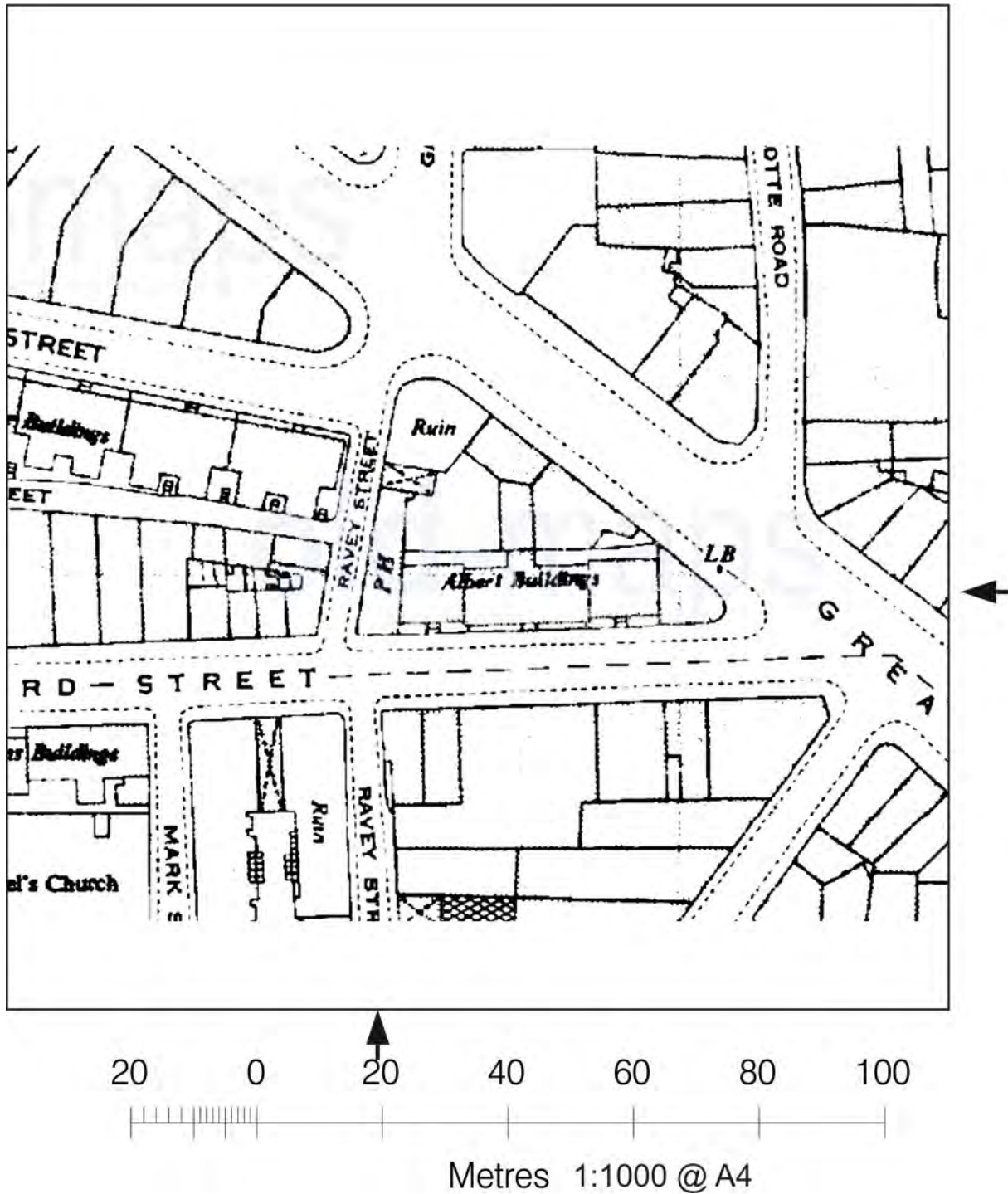
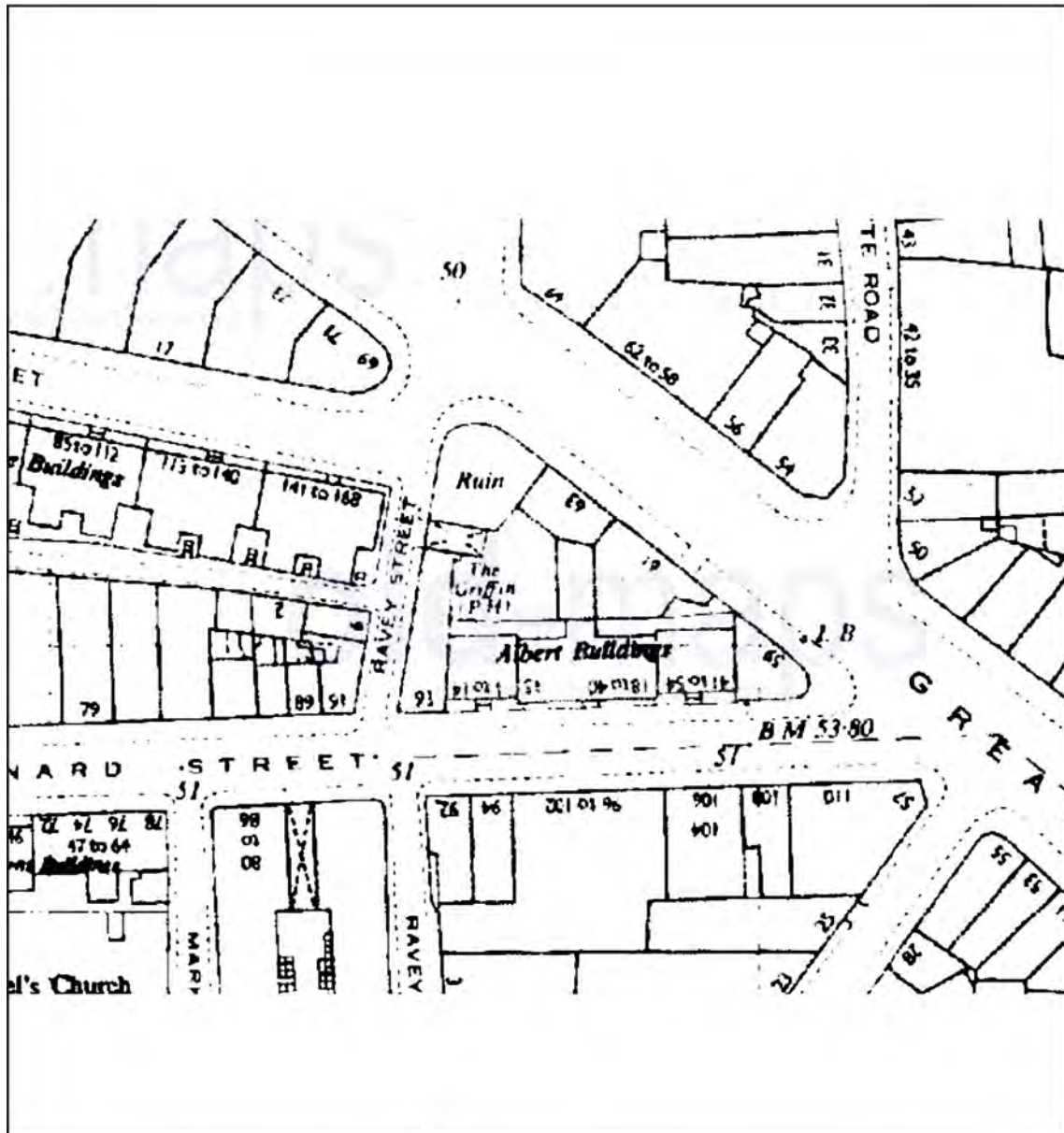


Figure 8: 1953 Ordnance Survey

The buildings are shown in their current form with the tapering east wall of the Griffin evident. The change in wall line is not thought to reflect a change in the building itself, rather in the post-Second World War era, the Ordnance Survey had extensive air photography coverage from which accurate boundaries could be derived.

9.8 1964 Ordnance Survey



20 0 20 40 60 80 100
 Metres 1:1000 @ A4

Figure 9: 1964 Ordnance Survey Plan

There is no change in the layout of the buildings from the previous map. The Griffin is now named.

9.9 1985 Ordnance Survey

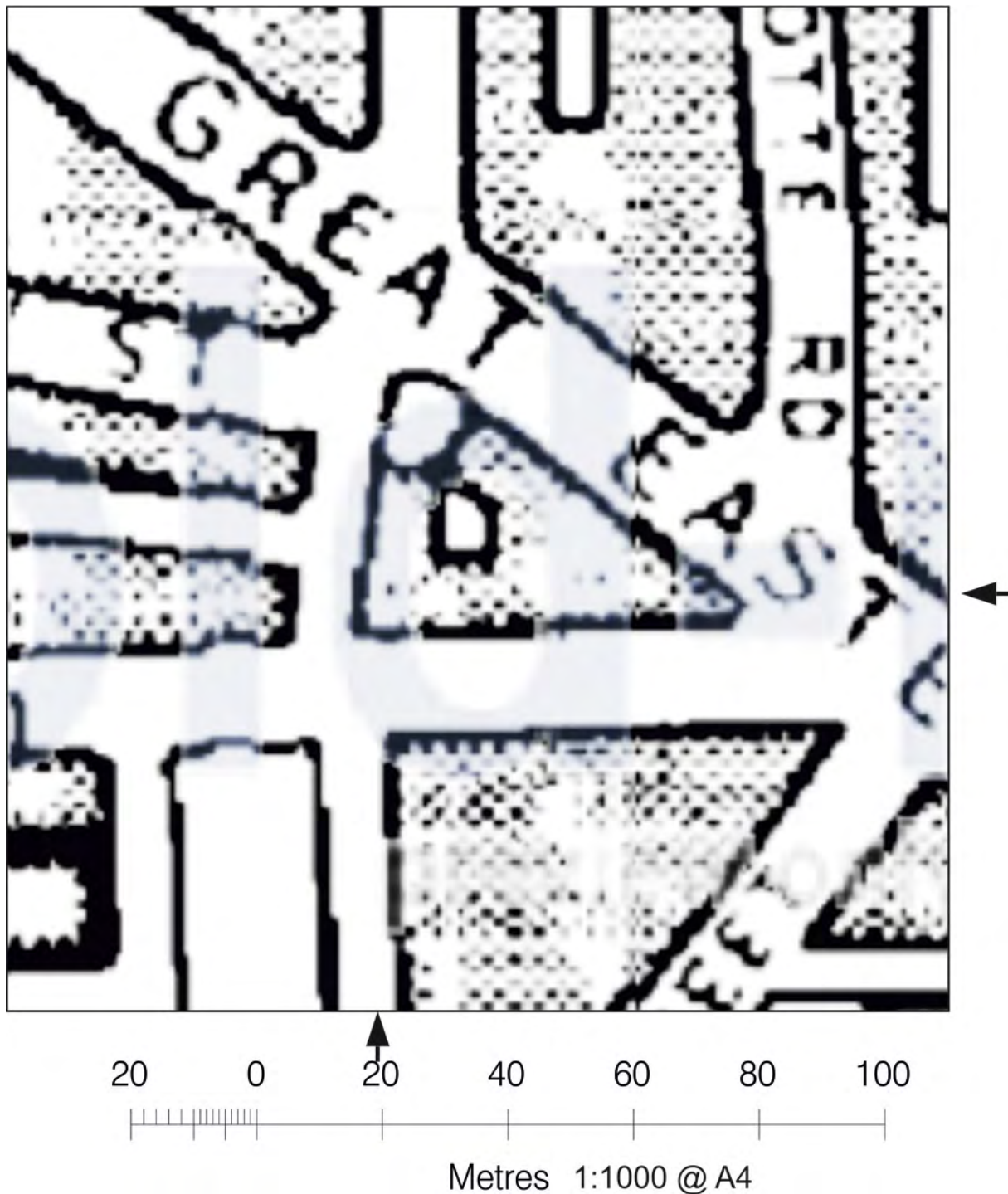
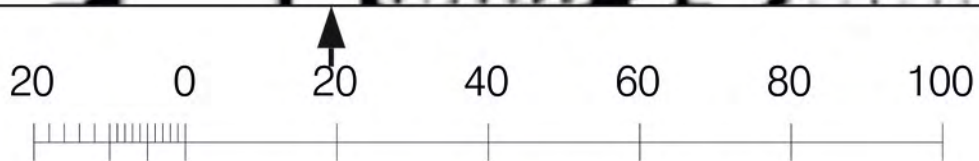
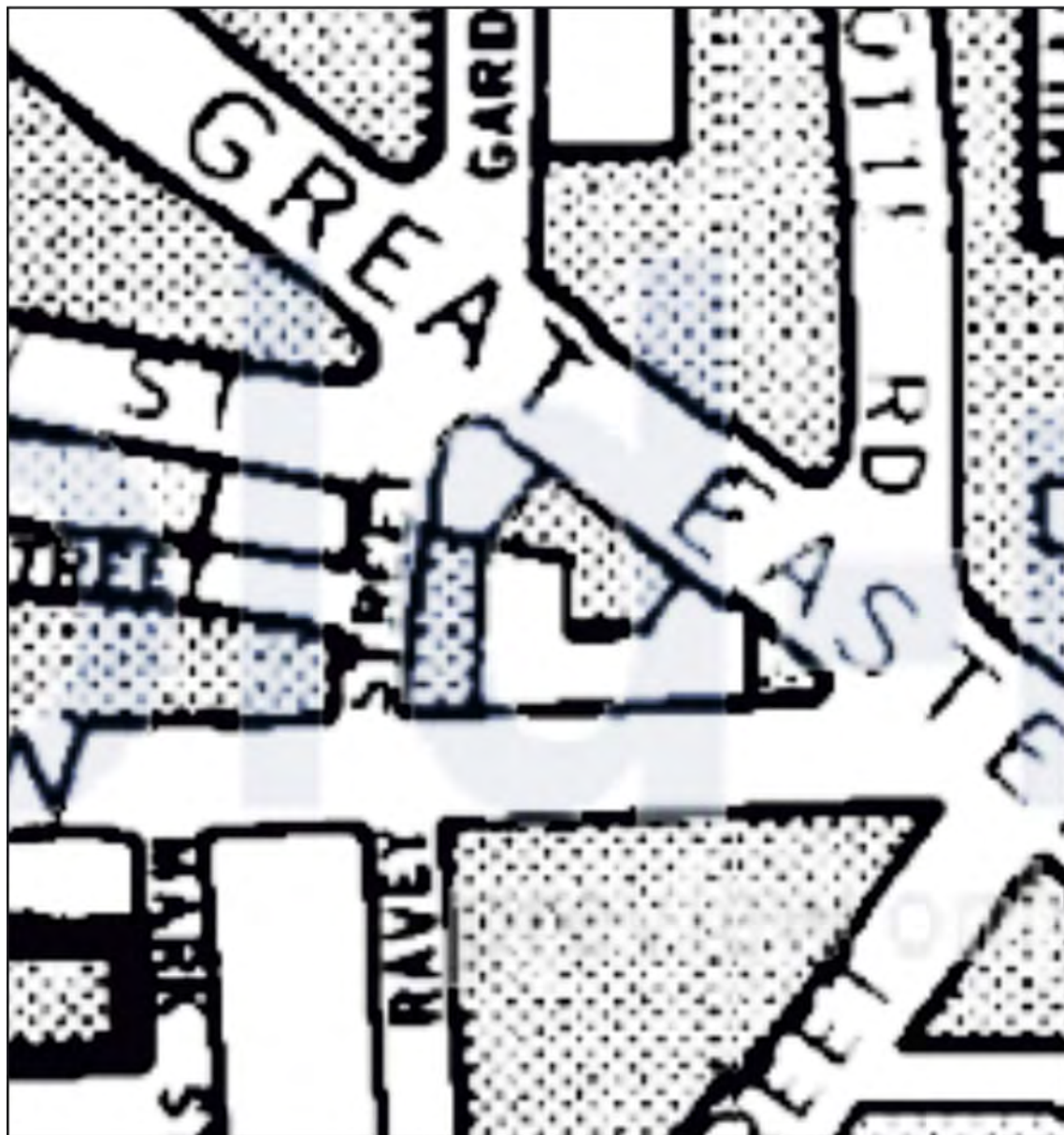


Figure 10: 1985 Ordnance Survey Plan

Despite being symbolically depicted, it is clear from the above image that the three sides of the triangle between Ravey Street, Leonard Street and Great Eastern Street are built on, except the Ravey Street / Great Eastern Street corner, as depicted on previous, more detailed maps.

9.10 1995 Ordnance Survey

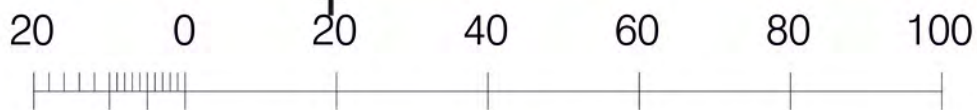


Metres 1:1000 @ A4

Figure 11: 1995 Ordnance Survey Plan

The above map illustrates the terrace on Leonard Street (known on previous maps as 'Albert Buildings') has now been demolished leaving the site open as in its present form.

9.11 Current Ordnance Survey



Metres 1:1000 @ A4

Figure 12: Modern Ordnance Survey

The buildings on Ravey Street have their current footprint.

10. Appendix: Bibliography

Cambridge Archaeology Field Group 2012. *Evolution of clay tobacco pipes in England*. Available online at <http://www.cafg.net/docs/articles/claypipes.pdf>

Trinity Court Potteries. *History of English Tin Glazed Earthenware*. Available online at <http://www.trinitycourtpotteries.co.uk/1history%20of%20Englisg%20Delft.htm>

11. Appendix: Definitions:

Term	Definition
Archaeology	The study of past human activities, before the end of the post medieval period at 1700 AD, from the material remains which these activities produce.
Remains	Includes any sign or trace of the thing in question.
Archaeological Site	The place or position occupied by, and the place where, physical remains of past human activity, including those remains, can be discovered.
Evaluation	Small scale inexpensive trial archaeological excavation carried out before planning permission is granted in order to determine the weight that ought to be placed upon the preservation of an archaeological site.
Industrial Archaeology	The study, using archaeological methods, of industrial processes from ancient times to the present day.
Mitigation Strategy	A strategy for ameliorating the effects of a development on an archaeological site, by means of a foundation design which reduces the amount of ground disturbance, or a programme of archaeological investigation, recording and research.
Preservation in situ	The physical preservation of archaeological remains and sites in the place where they are to be found.
Planning Archaeologist	The person who advises the Local Planning Authority on archaeological matters. This may be somebody within the authority but can be an external post in a County Council, English Heritage or another body.
<i>Period Definitions:</i>	
Neolithic	Circa 4000-2500BC uncalibrated radio-carbon years
Earlier Bronze Age	2500-1200 BC
Later Bronze Age	1200-800 BC
Iron Age	800 BC-50 AD
Romano-British	50 AD-410 AD
Early Medieval	410 AD-1086
Medieval	1086-1485
Post Medieval	1485-1700
Tudor	1485-1558
Jacobean	1603-1702
Georgian	1702-1837
Early Modern (Imperial)	1700-1837
Victorian	1837-1901
Modern	1901-present day
<i>Geological definitions:</i>	
Particle sizes	The Wentworth Scale is used
Made Ground	Non natural deposits which may have the potential to be archaeological remains. It is noted that the identification of made ground as being modern is the prerogative of archaeologists.