



Cambridge Archaeology Field Group

Excavations at Johnston's Pond, Wimpole

First Preliminary Report

CHER Number ECB5431

TL 526331

May 2018

Excavations at Johnston's Pond, Wimpole Estate

The Background

In 2005 members of CAFG excavated on the site of the fountain shown on the 1707 drawing by Kip and Knyff to the north of the Hall. This excavation located the brick work of the circular basin and a rectangular chamber abutting the north side into which a wooden pipe intruded with a circular large lead plate on the end (CAFG unpubl.). This pipe was the water supply for the fountain. At a later date, geophysics by RheeSearch located what appears to be the metal connectors of the pipe coming down the slope in the field below the Folly from the direction of the reservoir on Johnston's Hill. An attempt to locate this pipe with a trench in 2014 failed to identify the pipe.

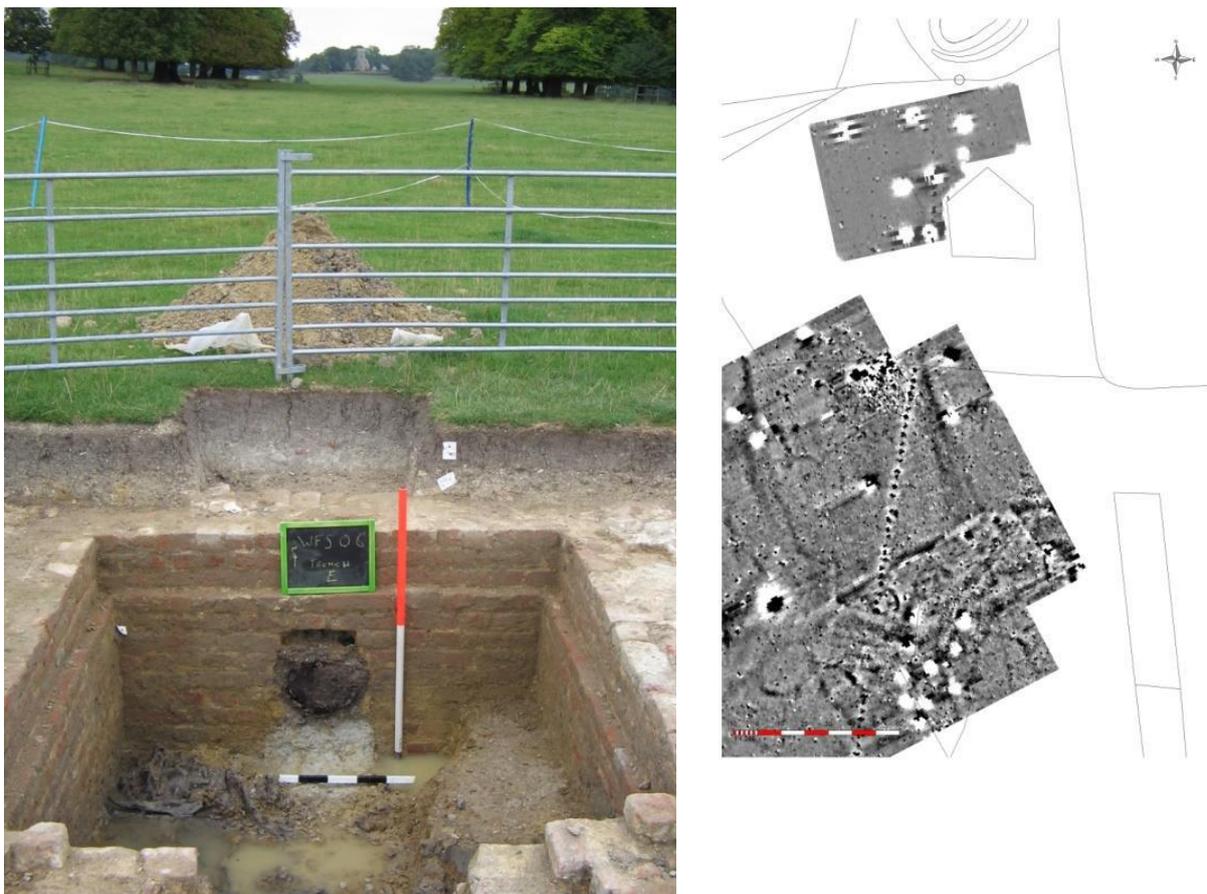


Figure 1. (a) Excavated water supply pipe (b) Geophysics below Folly Field.

This project in 2017 was designed to locate any structures in the bank surrounding the reservoir at the point in the south west where there was an apparent break through the bank. It was hoped to find the pipe that fed the fountain and any control mechanism.

Method

Two trenches were excavated, A and B, by hand. Trench A was placed along the bottom of the depression that cuts through the bank of the reservoir on the south-west with the intention of recovering any evidence of structures relating to control of the water outlet. Although brickwork was found at both the south and north ends of this trench it proved impossible, due to the confined nature of the site, to excavate both ends. Therefore the brickwork at the north end – nearest the water of the reservoir – was reburied under the spoil heap created while excavating the south end of the trench. Excavation was done with trowel and mattock where appropriate and contexts recorded on individual sheets. Trench B was excavated to the south of A where it might be expected there would be evidence of a trench for the outgoing pipe – heavy clay and chalk was encountered and with the finding of a deep chamber in trench A it was concluded that to find any evidence of the pipe would require excavation to be much deeper than time and labour permitted.

The position of the trenches was established in relation to a baseline created by RheeSearch when they did the geophysics. Points on this base line were marked by CAFG with large metal washers nailed into the ground.

Results

Trench A (plan 1 and section 1)

Contexts [1] and [2] consisted of leaf litter and a brown top soil. Removal of these exposed the brickwork of the top of structures [4] and [5] (latter not on plan 1 as covered with spoilheap).

The northern end of trench A was excavated to expose the top of brick structure [5] with the removal of overlying brick rubble [6], [7]. Structure [5] was east west across the line of the depression through the reservoir bank and its central section had been removed in antiquity and filled with context [8]. Excavation of this apparent northern

wall facing out onto the reservoir was abandoned and covered to provide space for the spoil from excavation of the southern end of trench A.

On first exposure structure [4] appeared to be a straight wall across the depression but further excavation showed that the inner face was concave on the face towards the north – the reservoir. To the south of this wall [4] a layer of brick rubble, context [3] overlying [12] and [17] a light brown soil with pieces of brick sealed the southern face of the wall, this face was of very rough construction.

On the north side of wall [4] a 1m wide strip was excavated exposing a dark soil [10] cut through contexts [24] and [11] from the surface at layer [2]. Contexts [24] and [11] consisted of clay soil with chalk pieces filling the chamber created by structure [4] and the walls on the east [9] and west [22]. Below [11] was large quantity of brickwork, some still joined, and finds of a late date in contexts [16] and [18] to [21]. Excavation to 1.5m depth and probing below this showed that the chamber was at least 2.5m deep and beyond the ability of CAFG to excavate.

The wall [9] was originally part of [4] but had tipped forward (to the west) whereas the wall on the west side [22] was in a very jumble and broken state.

Trench B

This 2m x 0.5m trench was excavated to 0.35m depth where it encountered apparent linear features running north to south but these were only about 0.10m deep. The use of an augur established that there was hard chalk and clay below. This trench was then abandoned.

Discussion

The finds from contexts [18] to [21] from below the clay with chalk [11] all dated to the middle of the 20th century.

An interpretation of this is that the late 18th century brick built structure [4] [9] and [22] were the walls of a chamber built to control the water flow to the fountain, perhaps as a settling tank.

It is possible that the chamber and brick roof were still open until the mid 20th century when the brickwork of the roof was broken and allowed to fall into the chamber. At this time layers [18] to [21] were thrown in along with a large quantity of glass bottles, tins and other items – these would seem to be the result of the clearance of a domestic

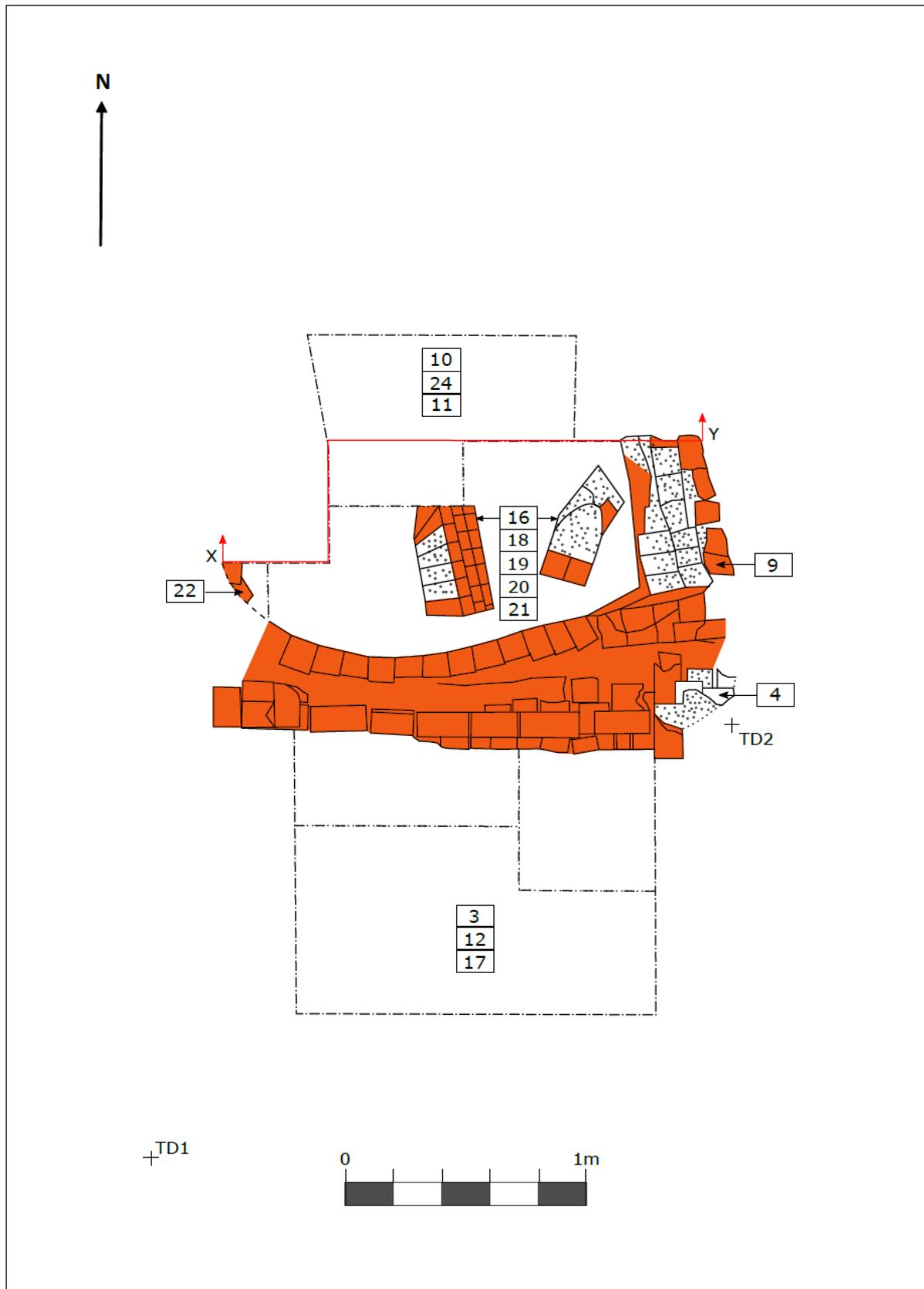
dwelling. The nearest dwelling is the Gothic Folly – perhaps a post-war clear out. Further brickwork was pushed in [16] followed by parts of the bank of the reservoir to seal the chamber with [11] and [23]. At some later date a further pit was dug into these fills creating context [10].

The brickwork and bricks of the chamber are compatible with a late 17th century date. Brick walls [9] and [4] (and possibly [22] although this was in a poor state) were well built with finished surfaces facing inwards and the junction of [9] and [4] showed a subtle use of the bricks to form a stepped effect. The brick structure briefly exposed at the north end of trench A [5] seems to be the north wall of the chamber. This excavation suggest that the chamber must be at least 2m deep – the inlet perhaps controlled by a sluice gate and the outlet pipe on the south at 2m well below detectable depth.

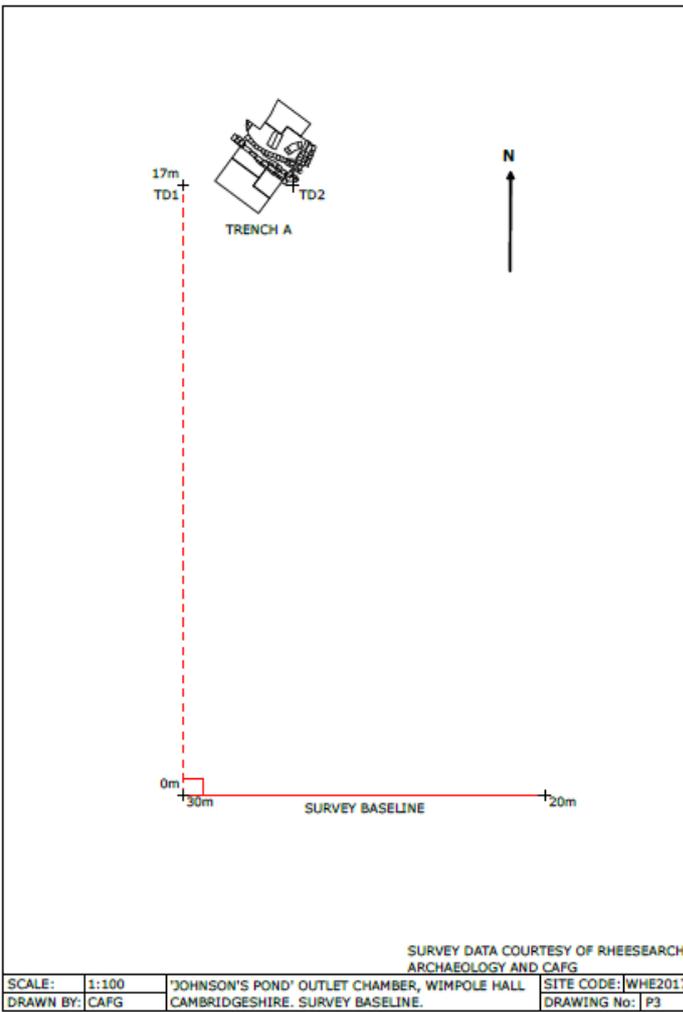
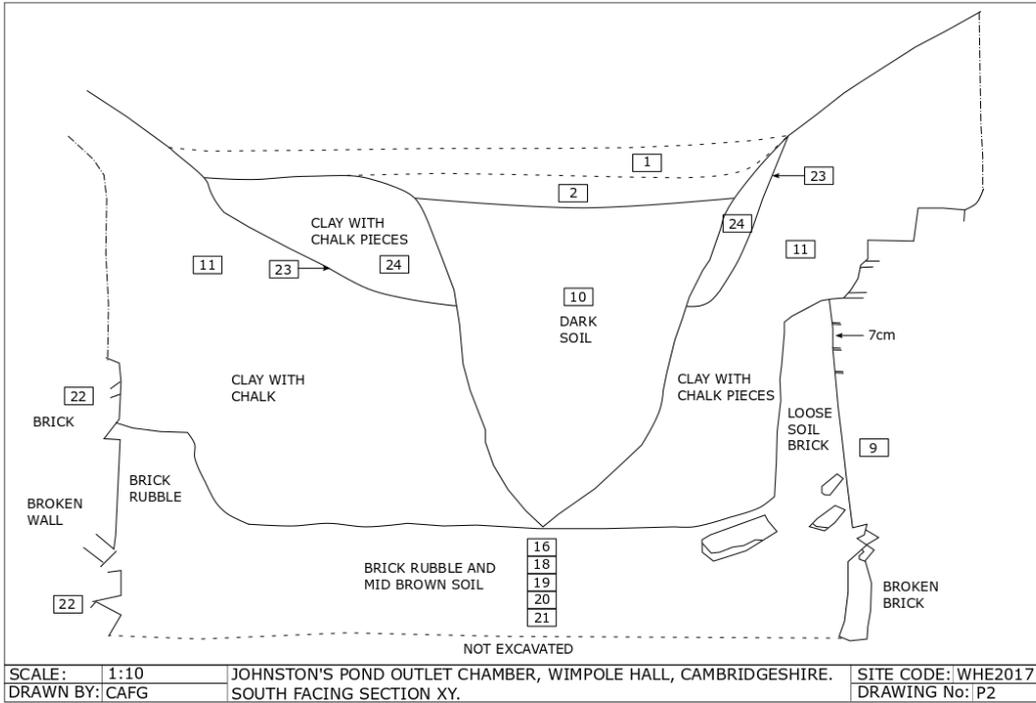
This excavation has established that there was a structure built in the late 17th century to control the water entering the pipe to the fountain but its exact method of working is not clear. Understanding the working of this would be enhanced by further excavation of the brick wall [5] facing onto the reservoir.

M. Coles

Drawings



SCALE:		'JOHNSON'S POND' OUTLET CHAMBER, WIMPOLE HALL CAMBRIDGESHIRE. TRENCH A PLAN.	SITE CODE:	WHE2017
DRAWN BY:	CAFG		DRAWING No:	P1



Photographs



Top – view south; Bottom left – view east; Bottom right – view east north wall [5] not on plan.

Site code: WHE2017` FINDS LIST

Find No.	Trench	Cxt	Find	No.	Wt. g	Description
1	A	16	Glass vessel	2	52	Clear
2	A	16	Glass vessel	1	98	Clear base square base 0995
3	A	16	Glass vessel	1	120	Clear ? Shiphams's paste pot with metal lid corroded
4	A	16	Glass vessel	1	160	Clear base C.T.G see note
5	A	16	Glass vessel	1	233	Complete Jeyes Fluid bottle with stopper
6	A	16	Metal	x	225	Fe corroded fragments of cans
7	A	16	Metal	1	4	Cu/AL gun cartridge end
8	A	16	Pot	1	21	Joins with sherd in A 19 Transfer ware
9	A	16	Rubber	1	15	Ring
10	A	18	Glass vessel	7	59	Dark green clear fragments
11	A	18	Glass vessel	11	21	Light green clear fragments
12	A	18	Glass vessel	3	27	Brown
13	A	18	Glass vessel	1	155	Brown bottle wall AN TEEED/LON
14	A	18	Glass vessel	1	155	Dark green neck and part wall
15	A	18	Glass vessel	1	104	Brown neck with cork
16	A	18	Glass vessel	1	92	Brown neck with cork corroded
17	A	18	Glass vessel	1	57	Light brown neck and shoulder EMU See note
18	A	18	Glass vessel	2	222	Light green base and wall joining K BLD T
19	A	18	Glass vessel	1	98	Dark green neck bottle
20	A	18	Glass vessel	1	75	Base clear L37
21	A	18	Glass vessel	1	10	Neck jar clear
22	A	19	Bone	3	1.6	Not ID
23	A	19	Glass vessel	7	52	Dark brown fragments
24	A	19	Glass vessel	8	119	Dark green fragments
25	A	19	Glass vessel	4	41	Brown Fragments
26	A	19	Glass vessel	7	31	Clear fragments
27	A	19	Glass vessel	3	232	Clear jar horizontal chevron decoration rim
28	A	19	Glass vessel	1	80	Clear stopper
29	A	19	Glass vessel	1	98	Dark brown neck
30	A	19	Glass vessel	1	8	Clear shoulder
31	A	19	Glass vessel	1	4	Dark green neck bottle
32	A	19	Glass vessel	1	5	Clear fragments
33	A	19	Metal	1	1	Ring ? Alloy
34	A	19	Metal	x	856	Fe corroded fragments of cans
35	A	19	Metal	1	382	Fe part alarm clock with bell
36	A	19	Metal	2	307	Fe and Bakelite earpieces
37	A	19	Pot	12	304	1 sherd joins with pot in A 16 Transfer ware

38	A	19	Wood	1	14	? Spigot ? Tool for CODD bottle gas release
39	A	20	Bone	4	7	Not ID
40	A	20	Glass vessel	3	17	dark brown fragments
41	A	20	Glass vessel	2	6	Light brown fragments
42	A	20	Glass vessel	2	9	Green fragments
43	A	20	Glass vessel	11	38	Clear fragments
44	A	20	Glass vessel	7	118	Clear square with neck
45	A	20	Pot	2	19	Similar transfer ware to A 19
46	A	20	Pot	2	295	Stoneware joining salt glaze ? See note
47	A	21	Bone	3	1.4	Button ? Mother of pearl
48	A	21	Bone	8	51	Not ID
49	A	21	Glass vessel	10	181	Clear fragments
50	A	21	Glass vessel	5	52	Light green fragments
51	A	21	Glass vessel	9	83	Dark green fragments
52	A	21	Glass vessel	13	197	Dark brown fragments
53	A	21	Glass vessel	4	384	Dark green base and wall
54	A	21	Glass vessel	1	95	Dark brown base
55	A	21	Glass vessel	1	35	Clear jar horizontal chevron decoration rim
56	A	21	Glass vessel	1	10	Light brown BOTTLES
57	A	21	Glass vessel	1	24	Dark brown '2' base
58	A	21	Glass vessel	1	32	Pale green part base with pontil
59	A	21	Glass vessel	1	8	Clear rim
60	A	21	Glass vessel	1	81	Clear base ' 3 '
61	A	21	Glass vessel	1	122	Complete clear bottle ' R6 '
62	A	21	Glass vessel	3	46	Dark brown fragments
63	A	21	Glass vessel	15	526	Pale green bottle with deep pontil
64	A	21	Glass vessel	1	652	Brown bottle complete
65	A	21	Glass vessel	1	309	Clear bottle complete ? Salad cream
66	A	21	Glass vessel	1	109	Clear bottle square
67	A	21	Glass vessel	1	617	wine bottle clear
68	A	21	Glass vessel	1	291	Clear complete ? Salad cream
69	A	21	Glass vessel	1	248	Clear jam jar ' G 597 5 M 10 UGB
70	A	21	Glass vessel	1	414	Clear Jam jar ' 30 in circle FMF '
71	A	21	Glass vessel	1	460	Clear Jam jar
72	A	21	Glass vessel	1	500	Bottle CODD with marble rubber seal and stopper
73	A	21	Glass vessel	1	252	Jar chevron décor below rim R-7606-4 Reg no 727048
74	A	21	Glass vessel	1	261	Jar chevron décor below rim R-7606-5 Reg no 727048
75	A	21	Glass vessel	1	Clear bottle base with stopper1953/30	
76	A	21	Glass vessel	1	110	Brown bottle octagonal base MILTON FGC
77	A	21	Glass vessel	1	230	Clear jar Q666/3

78	A	21	Glass vessel	1	255	Clear jar Q666/3
79	A	21	Glass vessel	1	145	Clear finely fluted ? Meat paste Rd No 777824
80	A	21	Glass vessel	1	196	Clear bottle ? Salad cream
81	A	21	Glass vessel	1	108	Clear bottle OWBRIDGE'S LUNG TONIC HULL
82	A	21	Glass vessel	1	106	Clear jar with lid base FHW 1390
83	A	21	Metal	1	11	Fe part can
84	A	21	Metal	x	957	Fe corroded fragments of cans
85	A	21	Metal	1	7	Cu/AL gun cartridge end KYNOCH No.16 BIRMINGHAM
86	A	21	Metal	1	49	Knife Fe blade ? Bone handle
87	A	21	Pot	1	30	Stoneware rim with groove white
88	A	21	Pot	1	29	Transfer ware with foot
89	A	21	Pot	1	43	rectangular moulded ? Salt '3/89 '
90	A	21	Pot	1		Stoneware jar reconstructed J & JE PHILLIPS LTD THE BREWERY ROYSTON 1 Circular stamp DALTON & Co LIMITED LAMBETH
91	A	21	Rubber	1	9	Top ' Boots Cash Chemists '
92	A	21	Rubber	1	5	Ring
93	A	21	Wood	2	8	Part of wooden vessel

Site code: WHE2017` CONTEXT LIST

Trench	Context No.	Description	Category	Contains	Below
A	1	Leaf mould & topsoil	Layer		0
A	2	Brown soil some chalk pieces	Layer		1
A	3	Brick rubble	Layer		2
A	4	Brick wall curved	Structure		2
A	5	Brick wall white mortar	Structure		2
A	6	Brick rubble	Layer		2
A	7	Brick rubble	Layer		2
A	8	Brown soil some chalk pieces	Fill	5	2
A	9	Brick wall red bricks	Structure		2
A	10	Dark brown soil	Fill		2
A	11	Light brown soil some chalk pieces	Fill		2
A	12	Light brown soil and brick	Layer		3
A	13	Cut into 11 containing 10	Cut	10	2
B	14	Topsoil to 0.5m	Layer		0
B	15	Dark brown soil	Fill		14
A	16	Brick rubble	Layer		11
A	17	Brown soil with chalk pieces	Layer		12
A	18	Mid brown soil with occasional brick	Layer		11
A	19	Mid brown soil with occasional brick	Layer		18
A	20	Mid brown soil with occasional brick	Layer		19
A	21	Mid brown soil with occasional brick	Layer		20
A	22	Brick wall	Structure		11
A	23	Cut into 11 containing 24	Cut	24	2 & 10
A	24	Light brown soil with chalk pieces	Fill		2 & 10

NOTES ON FINDS

J & JE PHILLIPS LTD THE BREWERY ROYSTON

Royston Brewery, Baldock Street.



On 21 September 1725, the Royston brewery was bought by Robert Phillips from Radstock ie Radwell and mentioned as the founder in a later obituary. Around 1759 it passed to his son John I (b1713). The original article suggested that Robert was around 50 when he bought the brewery, so would have been in his eighties. Why not to his eldest sons William (b1704), Robert (b1705) or Michael (b1708), who are identified in notes from descendants now

living in New Zealand? Was the focus on milling and baking in this period, or had they involved elsewhere eg Oxford and Coventry? John I apparently died unmarried in 1786 and the brewery passed to his nephew John II (b1755), one of the sons of another brother Thomas (b.1712) in Stamford.

John II died in 1821, also unmarried. The brewery passed to his nephews John III (son of Robert) and John IV (b1796 son of Joseph I of Stamford). John III died in 1826 and two years later his mother sold their share of the brewery to John IV.

John IV's first wife, Monica Michael, died in 1839, leaving a son John V and possibly three daughters. John IV married for a second time, a Jane Helen Marshall of Walderssea, his brother Edward having married a Martha Marshall. (NB a family of this name brewed in Trumpington - Ada Emily Phillips of the Mortlake family also married a Marshall). He seems to have had two sons Joseph Edward John and George Frederick by his second marriage. By December 1870 the business was trading as Phillips Bros, suggesting that John V (b1835) and his half brother Joseph Edward John (b1843) had taken over the business from their father. John IV died in 1871 and in 1874 the business was listed as Phillips J & JE.

In 1897 a limited company was formed with directors John V's son by his first wife - John Robert Phillips of Torquay, James Jarvis of Eastbourne and James Edward Jarvis who was the MD at Royston. The latter was also a director of the Stamford Brewery in 1915. JEJ Phillips retired from active involvement in 1897, when he was also a shareholder in Halls of Oxford.

In 1899 Phillips of Royston bought Alexander Frederick Tooth's Castle Brewery of Cambridge. As an aside, in 1835 John Tooth from Cranbrook, Kent formed a partnership with Charles Newnham to establish the Kent Brewery in Sydney, Australia. In the mid 1840s the original partners had retired and the brewery was leased to Robert and Edwin Tooth, sons of Robert a brewer of London. They were also joined by Frederick Tooth, possibly another brother. Around this time some of the Phillips family emigrated to Australia, later O Phillips was a director of Tooth & Co and other members of the family were also involved. Two years after the foundation of Sydney, Captain Arthur Phillips was growing crops at Castle Hill, Rosehill (now Parramatta) which included barley used to produce the first ale in Australia.

On 23 Feb 1910, Joseph Edward John died aged 67 and his son Joseph Harold John (b1879) became involved. On 24th October 1925 John V died at the age of 90. His sons: John Robert, Eric Charles Malcolm, Ian Montague Michael, Edwin Gray Monilaws.

In 1949 the business (F4357) was sold to Greens of Luton. The family directors were: Col Joseph Harold John Phillips – chairman, Col Eric Charles Malcolm Phillips, Major EGM Phillips MC, Lt Cmdr CEHJ Phillips, Lt Col Harold PJ Phillips. Harold and Edwin became directors of Greens. In 1951 J & JE Phillips was operated as Greens' wine & spirits subsidiary, with directors shown as Col ECM Phillips CB DSO DL JP and Lt Col HPJ Phillips.

Codd Bottle



The photograph shows one of the bottles, which still contained a murky liquid. It is an example of the unusual Codd bottles, designed to hold fizzy drinks. Invented by Hiram Codd of Camberwell in 1875, it used an internal glass ball to seal its contents. Gas pressure forced the ball against a rubber ring in the neck and to pour out the contents you had to press the ball down with a special wooden tool supplied with the bottle. They were in use from 1875 to around 1930 in this country.

The embossed makers name is CRAMPTON and CO who were active in Newmarket and Sawston. In 1861 John Crampton set up two bottling plants, one in the High Street, Sawston and the other in Park Lane, Newmarket. The Sawston plant closed in 1928 but the Newmarket one carried on into the early 1960's.

Owbridge's Lung Tonic

Walter Thomas Owbridge was born in 1844 in Haxey, Lincolnshire, the son of James Owbridge, a corn merchant, and Eliza. The family were in Hull by 1861, at 113 English Street. Walter became a pharmacist, with a shop at 76 Porter Street, Hull. There were few off-the-shelf medicines and most of what he dispensed would have been pills and potions that he made himself on the instructions of doctors. In about 1874 he invented a cough mixture, and concocted it in his shop using a two-gallon bottle and a half-gallon pan. It sold well, becoming popular among fishermen who had to face the Arctic waters.

Owbridge's Lung Tonic did not have to contend with a Trades Descriptions Act or any effective consumer protection legislation. It could be advertised as a cure for “all affections of the chest, throat and lungs”, including asthma and tuberculosis!

Walter married Jane Dibb in 1867 and in 1881 the family lived at 47, Great Thornton Street, Hull. Walter Owbridge prospered. By 1875 he had a warehouse on Adelaide Street. In that year there was an accident on the premises which resulted in the death of his assistant, William Harper. Owbridge had to give evidence at the inquest, but no blame was attached to him.

He realised the value of advertising, and spent large amounts of money on it; but in 1888 he resisted the idea of registering “Owbridge's Lung Tonic” as a trade mark because it would have cost 3 guineas for 14 years' protection. He was persuaded when he was told that big names like Beecham's and Reckitt's had registered.

The firm outgrew the existing premises, and Owbridge bought a site on Osborne Street, near the corner of Midland Street, in 1894. The site had been built up for about thirty years, with a terrace of small houses and a few shops. These were demolished to make way for the new factory, which was opened in 1895. The shops on Midland Street were left intact. In the Directories of 1889 these are listed as a confectioner, two tobacconists, two temperance hotels, a shoe shop, a fried fish shop, an oyster dealer and a loan office. The North Eastern Tavern on the corner of Midland Street and Osborne Street was at that time run by a James Bell.

In 1896 and 1900 there were minor additions to the factory. It was known as “The Laboratory”, a title which Owbridge had transferred from his old premises on Porter Street.



Walter Owbridge had become one of Hull's élite. In 1896 he was made Sheriff of the city, and a portrait of him in this office is in the Guildhall. The following year he lost his seat on the Corporation – the result, said his obituary, of “the ingratitude of public office”. By this time he was living at The Grange, Cottingham, and in 1901 he stood successfully for a seat representing Cottingham on the East Riding Council.

In June 1903 Walter Owbridge died. His obituary in the Hull News paid tribute to his hard work, his “wide-awake activity and unsleeping energy”. As a businessman he had “a fine appreciation of the necessities of the times”. It also described him as “one of the most genial and kind-hearted of men” who had subscribed to many charities.

Walter's nephew, Fred Owbridge, became the new head of the firm. Under his leadership expansion continued, and in 1919 a large extension to the factory was built northwards, taking in what had been stables and shop premises. Owbridge's Lung Tonic, with its secret recipe modified over the years, continued to be a big seller.

In 1969 Owbridge's was sold to Organon Laboratories Ltd, a subsidiary of the huge Dutch pharmaceutical group KZO, at a price of £350,000. Organon said that they intended to increase production and sales and to introduce new products; but in 1971 production came to an end. The Corporation wanted the site for re-development, and the Medicines Act meant that a great deal of money would have had to be spent on upgrading the factory. So Organon pulled out, and the factory finally closed in January 1972.

In 1990 the William Sutton Trust took over the site and the now derelict shops adjoining it in Midland Street. At a cost of £1.3 million a new development of 35 flats was built. The façade and clock tower of the old factory were retained to remind us of the past.



EMU: There was an Emu brewery in Perth, also an Emu wine company importing to London (both Australian)

CTG: Canning Town Glassworks Ltd. 1927 acquired by British Glass Industries. 1977 manufacturer of glass bottles became a subsidiary of Arthur Bell and Sons

SKEY 5 TAMWORTH: (Stoneware bottle base)

George Skey and Co, Wilnecote, Tamworth. 1871 made gas stoves. 1800 manufacturer of glazed stoneware sewage pipes etc, including scullery sinks. 1935 factory acquired by Doulton Industries

The Headphones Find 36

Attached are some photos of the headphones used by the Observer Corps, one is from the diorama at Duxford showing a typical Observer Corps wartime post. The other is a publicity shot from the 1940's showing observers in action, including the radioman with his head and breast set. Although our bits are very corroded I think they look pretty similar. These phones were used by lots of the armed forces during the war and when I was a member of the Observer Corps in the early 60's we were still using them on our posts.

Terry Email from Terry 5.3.18

