Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological excavations at the former site of

Astleys, Far Gosford Street, Coventry

May - July 2006

Paul Mason and Iain Soden

March 2008

Report 08/42

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REGISTERED IFA ORGANISATION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT THE FORMER SITE OF ASTLEYS, FAR GOSFORD STREET, COVENTRY

MARCH 2008

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Astleys, Far Gosford Street	
Short description	In May 2006 Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Unite Integrated Solutions Ltd to undertake the archaeological excavation of the former site of Astleys, Far Gosford Street, Coventry. Excavation over a three and a half month period revealed evidence for some eight hundred years of human activity. The earliest remains comprised a solid timber post set into a pit cut into layers of alluvium. Tree-ring dating established a felling date for the post of 1162-1212. A frontage was first occupied in the early 14th century when buildings were laid out along the street. These structures were dismantled in the first half of the 15th century, probably at the same time as the town wall was built a short distance to the west. A second medieval frontage lasted until 1643 when it was again dismantled during the Civil War. Entrenchments dating to this period were also excavated. In the 18th century a third frontage was built, replaced in the 19th century and finally demolished to make way for Singer Motors car showroom after they acquired the site in 1926.	
Project type	Excavation, watching brief	
Site status		
Previous work	Evaluation (ULAS), Palaeoenvironmental assessment (Head and Wilkinson 2006), DBA (Alcock 2006)	
Current Land use	Urban development	
Future work		
Monument type/ period	Medieval/post-medieval	
Significant finds	Silver coin hoard, 12th-13th-century timber post	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Coventry	
Site address	Former site of Astleys, Far Gosford Street, Coventry	
Study area (sq.m or ha)	*c* 650sq m	
OS Easting & Northing	NGR 434207 278880	
Height OD	75.89m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Chris Patrick, City Development Directorate, CCC	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Paul Mason (NA)	
Project Manager	Richard Buckley (ULAS) Iain Soden (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Unite Integrated Solutions Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date/end date	May 2006/February 2008	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		
Digital		
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological excavations at the former site of Astleys, Far Gosford Street, Coventry	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Report	
Author(s)	Paul Mason, Iain Soden	
Page numbers	92	
Date	February 2008	

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ABSTRACT

In May 2006 Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Unite Integrated Solutions Ltd to undertake the archaeological excavation of the former site of Astleys, Far Gosford Street, Coventry. Excavation over a three and a half month period revealed evidence for some eight hundred years of human activity. The earliest remains comprised a solid timber post set into a pit cut into layers of alluvium. Tree-ring dating established a felling date for the post of 1162-1212. A frontage was first occupied in the early 14th century when buildings were laid out along the street. These structures were dismantled in the first half of the 15th century – probably at the same time as the town wall was built a short distance to the west. A second medieval frontage lasted until 1643 when it was again dismantled during the Civil War. Entrenchments dating to this period were also excavated. In the 18th century a third frontage was built, replaced in the 19th century and finally demolished to make way for Singer Motors car showroom after they acquired the site in 1926.

1 INTRODUCTION

In May 2006 Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS), on behalf of their client, UNITE Integrated Solutions plc, to undertake archaeological excavation on the former site of Astleys, Far Gosford Street, Coventry (NGR SP 3420 7888, Fig 1). Following an evaluation of the site by ULAS, fieldwork commenced on 9th May and continued until 23rd July with a further two days watching brief in August to observe piles been driven along the frontage.

During the course of the excavation the remains of seven broad phases of occupation and activity were revealed, dating from the 12th /early 13th century to the 20th century. These included the formation of alluvial deposits prior to occupation in the medieval period, building-footprints of successive medieval street frontages, Civil War entrenchments and evidence for commercial/industrial activities in the post- medieval period, along with contemporary frontage buildings.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank UNITE Integrated Solutions plc together with their archaeological consultants, University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS), for commissioning and funding this project. Thanks are also extended to the principal contractor on site, William Davis Ltd, for their friendly cooperation. For their support and interest, we are grateful to the Coventry Ambassadors group and Jim Cunningham MP. Finally, as always, we are indebted to the many volunteers that assisted with the fieldwork, including those from Coventry and District Archaeological Society (CADAS).

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Historical

Acknowledgement

In compiling this report, I record my thanks to Dr Nat Alcock, who, in tandem with the evaluation of the site, looked through the archives pertaining to the former

Astleys and Calcott factory holdings. His understanding of the (eventually rapid) growth of their property in a series of large blocks added considerably to our knowledge of the latter development of the site. However, the excavation site in the medieval period, with its comparatively sparse documentation remained entirely divorced from the later factory site. These disparate sources have been little understood and are the principal subject of the present research. The reader who wishes to research beyond the excavation site is referred to Dr Alcock's report, hereafter referred to as Alcock (2006).

The landmarks in the vicinity

Relatively speaking, it is an easier prospect to approach the documents of a Coventry site, such as here at Far Gosford Street, when they lie close to the former town defences. This is simply because for the later medieval period and until about 1662 the presence of those defences often looms large as a very distinctive abuttal to which to anchor a deed or a release or a rental. For Far Gosford Street the situation is, however, slightly more complicated in that there are a number of landmarks even more long-lived than the static defences (Fig 2). Here, instead of having a defensive ditch, the city used the natural barrier of the north-to-south-flowing River Sherbourne just outside the wall. This of course flowed long before the wall was constructed. So too did the Springfield Brook, which lay parallel in these parts beyond the River Sherbourne, shown in all the maps from John Speed's of 1610 onward (see below and Figs 3a-f). While the presence of both can be discerned in documents, they are usually not distinguished from each other, being called simply 'the water' as often as not. Since they form the main topographical barrier on the excavation site, the wall is rarely mentioned.

In 1451, in a period of general alarm, a spayer or sluice gate was said to have been built at Gosford Gate (Gooder 1971, 21). A defensive ditch from Gosford Gate to Mill Lane (Gulson Road) is confirmed as having been dug hereabouts in 1403, cutting though a pre-existing garden (NA: E164/21, 128.1). It is difficult to see how these features would have co-existed with the River Sherbourne; no evidence for them was found during the excavations.

Gosford Gate may have replaced an earlier example which had been rebuilt by 1349 (Gooder 1971, 53). However, its early location is uncertain. The successor three-storey Gosford Gate, built around 1380-1400 and destroyed in 1765 is unmistakable when mentioned - illustrated in Gooder (op cit, 38), as is the wall, when relevant. However, over each of the watercourses, the Sherbourne and the Springfield, stood a bridge. Latterly they became known colloquially as Calais and Dover bridges, respectively, the former also giving its name, albeit only briefly, to the length of street between them, Calais Street. This part of the street on which the excavation site stands, has variously also been known as Far Gosford Street, Gosford between the bridges, and Gosford Gate Street. Documents thus are found which may relate to this site (and others on the north side), located under any one of these four names.

Calais Bridge figures in numerous documents, and a bridge over the Sherbourne is known here from documents as early as the 1260s, presumably replacing the earlier, original Gos- (or goose-)ford (CA: BA/B/P/175/2). Dover Bridge is, however, much less conspicuous in documents and often its presence has to be inferred.

From about 1380-1400 until its demolition in 1822, St George's Chapel stood opposite the site and actually formed part of the north side of Calais Bridge. Its construction probably entailed the first bridge being rebuilt, or being built in stone for the first time. Bridges are common places for wayside chapels at this period, but its location here might be problematic since it seems that it was also attached to the north-east corner of Gosford Gate, at a first-floor doorway, through which the two structures communicated (Stephens 1969, 332). During the life of the chapel as a

guild meeting house (*c* 1380-1547), the gate was frequently used as an overflow room or as secondary lodging quarters (ibid). The construction of the chapel was sanctioned by Richard II and his advisors, who were also well aware that the city was also constructing its defences at this time (not least since the king gave permission for the stone to come from his quarries and specifically requested that his Cheylesmore Manor be included within the walls). The chapel itself is known to have been constructed on a plot (partly river-bank, partly bridge-abutment and pontoon) which measured 21 feet (north-south) x 52 feet (east-west along the bridge) and was of two storeys (CA BA/C/10/5/2). It comprised the meeting rooms, including kitchens with a priest's dwelling attached. Its wooden pile foundations were supposedly located by the antiquarian John Shelton in the 1930s (Austin's Monthly Magazine Nov 1932, Vol 25, no 305).

The drawings which survive of Gosford Gate, albeit not contemporary, are believed to be copies of reliable precursors. Those of St George's Chapel relied on no earlier generation and seem without question to be reliable (Gooder 1971; Singlehurst 2000, 5-9, plates II, III and IV). They all suggest a bottleneck on the bridge into which any attacker might be drawn, a so-called 'killing-zone', unavoidable if the gate was to be assaulted. From the street, however, there is no sign that one is on a bridge, since the southern side is topped by a high wall, whether real or artist's license. This may suggest that St George's chapel was conceived early in the 15th century as part of, or complementary to, the defensive capabilities of Gosford Gate. If such a view persisted, it may be the reason why, during the general local alarm of the English Civil War (1642-9), the chapel was left intact (despite being no longer a chapel or guild house by then) when other private properties outside this gate and many others were taken down to improve the defensive capabilities of the city.

Although slightly removed from the excavation site, the presence of the Town Wall to both sides of the gate was paramount to all of the suburbs since it defined their character. The wall to the south of the gate was probably built soon after 1430, while that to the north was not constructed until the period 1480-99 (Gooder 1971, 4). It has often been said that there was an earlier defensive line but hereabouts that seems not to have been the case since in 1393 a plot given to the Holy Trinity Guild was described as stretching from Much Park Street eastwards (past the Whitefriars' precinct) right down to the Sherbourne (CA: BA/B/16/14/5 (aj)).

The chapel was from the outset the scene of controversy. During Richard II and Henry IV's reigns (1377-99 and 1399-1413, respectively), it soon became the scene of meetings of a new and reputedly subversive Fraternity of St Anne who, in the end became a proscribed group and were banned by the authorities, perhaps not least because their meeting place was so intrinsically linked with the city's defensibility. The fraternity may have been associated with the Wyclivian and Lollard idealists (largely viewed as subversive and heretical) who may have counted the nearby Charterhouse of St Anne as a haven. Certainly one noted Oxfordshire Wyclivian, Nicholas Hereford fled from persecution in 1417 and became a Carthusian (Soden 1995, 11). With subversives out of the way the chapel became associated principally with the locally prominent Shearmen and Tailors' Guild, whose patron saint was St George. For a good history of the chapel in its own right, the reader is referred to Singlehurst (2000).

In any case at this period the city was already in a state of alarm and in no mood to allow even the smallest voice of insurrection, being understandably jittery following a local rebel uprising which had had to be bought off in 1396 (Soden 2005, 235). Preparations for the famous 'lists' (duel or tournament) at nearby Gosford Green only one year later involved as many as 10,000 troops camping within a mile of Gosford Gate. Before taking the field Henry Bolingbroke, Earl of Derby (soon to become the usurper Henry IV) actually lodged with one of the leaders of the 1396

uprising, Sir William Bagot of Baginton Castle. The local unrest may have found a voice in the disaffected earl or the earl was capitalising on local feeling to bolster his cause. Either way the show of strength by Richard, who also brought Philip the Bold, Duke of Burgundy to the lists, was designed to quell the situation.

To the south of the site, the river and the brook converged. They still do, of course, but the brook is no longer visible above ground. They are both depicted on the maps of 1610 and later, to varying degrees of accuracy, but below their confluence lay the 13th-century Altergeder Mill, also confusingly known, amongst other names, as Whitefriars' Mill (although it was Priory-owned). Its ownership can be traced with certainty back to the earls of Chester and thus it once belonged to the Coventry Manor of their pre-conquest precursors, Earl Leofric and Godiva. The mill was given in 1227 by Ranulf III, Earl of Chester (earl 1181-1232), to the Sherrif of Staffordshire Henry de Aldithlege (aka Audley). Henry was Ranulf's knight and was also his new son-in-law. The mill formed part of the dowry of his neice and ward Hawise (Soden, forthcoming). The mill, although at some distance downstream from the excavation site, is of relevance since the regulation of the mill's waters had the potential to affect the site (see below).

Limitations of the documents

While the destruction of the town wall from 1662, Gosford Gate in 1765, and to some extent St George's Chapel in 1822 successively removed these landmarks from the map, the river and brook remained, as did necessarily their two bridges. While the excavation site lay in the proximity of the defences and the chapel, it is the river, brook, the bridges and the course of the road itself which consistently define the plots described in documents.

The documents for the excavation site derive from numerous sources. Although the eventual repository for most has become Coventry Archives (CA – in the Borough Archive, designated 'BA') as reflecting properties now in the ownership of Coventry City Council, their designation within that huge corpus of material denotes only their final passage into the hands of the City Corporation. This is sometimes constitutes their originator, back in the 13th or 14th centuries but more often than not the properties passed through various hands before the Corporation got them. Only the last can be securely identified by the group in which a document lies. These previous owners or interested parties (for this site) include Mayor Bailiff and Commonalty of Coventry Corporation, the City Wardens, Coventry Priory, the Holy Trinity Guild, the Shearmen and Tailors' Guild and King Henry VIII School.

There are inevitably gaps in the documentation since different documents set out to record different things. They are also mere snapshots, often averaging only one per generation, some dealing with ownership, others with tenancies or sub-tenancies; still others are known only from abuttals mentioned in passing. With this level of conjecture, it becomes clear that it is not possible to trace the history of the excavated plots either without break or with certainty at any point. Thus one can suggest tentative plot layouts but they are not documentary evidence for the topography of the site, but only a possible topography. Many contain no topographical detail so are of very limited value in this study. In many cases the evidence remains equivocal.

The excavated plots (maximum six plots a-f)

These are the plots which, with varying degrees of conjecture, lay between the bridges and on the south side of Far Gosford Street (Fig 2). The reader should be aware that there is always a degree of uncertainty since there are huge gaps in documentation and documents record wide variation in topographical indicators. Even when using abuttals, such as 'lying between x's plot and y's plot' they rarely

use the same person, some adopting owner, others lessee and others still the tenant (more often than not the actual neighbour). The only permanent topographical indicator is the water of the river, anchoring one or more plots to a bank on one side. However, these rarely distinguish between Sherbourne and Springfield and there remains uncertainty for this reason too. A huge hiatus exists in the documentation for the site, probably because, when the Civil War demolitions took place, the documentation was no longer relevant to houses which were taken down. Those documents which survived did so by happenstance.

Tables 1: Documentary evidence, plot a (excavated)

Date	Personalities	Trade	Notes	Reference
1318-29	Richard Blauncheval of Stoke to John de Hanovere		Messuage	BA/B/16/177/1-8
1329	Sub-let to Sir Robt de Bulton			"
1333	Blauncheval to Sir Gilbert de Spalding and wife			"
1345	Spalding to John de Fillongley and Wm de Langham			"
1359	Grant of rent to Spalding			"

Table 2: Documentary evidence, plot b (excavated)

Date	Personalities	Trade	Notes	Reference
1318	Once of John de Langley		Tenement	BA/B/16/177
1339	John Ballard			BA/B/16/177/6
1343	Adam de Itchington to Henry de Geddyng	Chaplain (Itchington)	1 of 2 messuages (with b) (access to rear?)	BA/B/16/439/6
1359	Richard de Stoke to Wm de Langham		Cottage	BA/B/16/191/11
1727	John Evens	Barber and wig-maker	Part of 1821 bankruptcy papers	Alcock (2006, 11)
1748	Thomas Ashton	Victualler	"	Alcock (2006, 11)
1760	William Burgess	Silkman	"	Alcock (2006, 11)
Pre 1821	Joseph Matthews	Ribbon Manufacturer	1 of 3 messuages (with d, c)	Alcock (2006, 11)
1821	John Whitmore		1 of 3 messuages (with d, c)	Alcock (2006, 11)

Table 3: Documentary evidence, plot c (excavated)

Date	Personalities	Trade	Notes	Reference
1343	Adam de Itchington to Henry de Geddyng	Chaplain (Itchington)	1 of 2 messuages (with b) (access to rear?)	BA/B/16/439/6
1347	Richard de Stoke to Alice de Langley	Lord of Stoke		BA/B/16/439/6
1359	Richard de Stoke to Wm de Langham	Lord of Stoke	Cottage	BA/B/16/191/11
1634	Henry Sewall jnr to George Foxcrafte and John Astwood	Leatherseller (Astwood)	Access to rear?	Alcock (2006,26)
1727	John Evens	Barber and wig-maker	Part of 1821 bankruptcy papers	Alcock (2006, 11)
1748	Thomas Ashton	Victualler	"	Alcock (2006, 11)
1760	William Burgess	Silkman	"	Alcock (2006, 11)
pre1821	Joseph Matthews	Ribbon Manufacturer	1 of 3 messuages (with d, b)	Alcock (2006, 11)
1821	John Whitmore		1 of 3 messuages (with d, b)	Alcock (2006, 11)

Table 4: Documentary evidence, plot d (excavated)

Date	Personalities	Trade	Notes	Reference
1359	St John Baptist Guild		'Cottage'	BA/B/16/191/11 (b)
1429-44	HTG lease to Laurence Cook	For Shearmen and Tailors' Guild	1 of 3 messuages	BA/C/10/5/1-4
1550	?tenant John Heybott, Thos Arlam or John Boydon	London owners	1 of 3 messuages	Cal Pat R. 1549-51, 412
1727	John Evens	Barber and wig-maker	Part of 1821 bankruptcy papers	Alcock (2006, 11)
1748	Thomas Ashton	Victualler	"	Alcock (2006, 11)
1760	William Burgess	Silkman	"	Alcock (2006, 11)
pre1821	Joseph Matthews	Ribbon Manufacturer	1 of 3 messuages (with c, b)	Alcock (2006, 11)
1821	John Whitmore		1 of 3 messuages (with c, b)	Alcock (2006, 11)

Table 5: Documentary evidence, plot e (excavated)

Date	Personalities	Trade	Notes	Reference
1260	Master Miles	?soldier		BA/B/17/177
pre1280	Thos de Fakenham			BA/H/8/30/1
1349	Nicholas Michel	Mayor		BA/B/16/183/5
1384	Thos de Meryngton			BA/B/16/205/2
1393	Thos de Meryngton		Eastern abuttal of f	BA/B/16/14/5 (dz)
1429-44	HTG lease to Laurence Cook	For Shearmen and Tailors	1 of 3 messuages	BA/C/10/5/1-4
1550	?tenant John Heybott, Thos Arlam or John Boydon	London owners	1 of 3 messuages	Cal Pat R. 1549-51, 412
1727	John Evens	Barber and wig-maker	Part of 1821 bankruptcy papers	Alcock (2006, 11)
1748	Thomas Ashton	Victualler	"	Alcock (2006, 11)
1760	William Burgess	Silkman	"	Alcock (2006, 11)
pre1821	Joseph Matthews	Ribbon Manufacturer	Former messuage, subdivided, demolished by Matthews	Alcock (2006, 11)
1821	John Whitmore		2 new messuages replace old subdivided one	Alcock (2006, 11)

Table 6: Documentary evidence, plot f (excavated)

Date	Personalities	Trade	Notes	Reference
1260	Philip Barbe d'Averil to Thos Fortwine	Knight		BA/B/17/177
Pre 1280	Richard le Northerne	Tenant		BA/H/8/30/1
1280	Henry Oky and Alexander Vinter			BA/H/8/30/1
1349	Robert le Skarning		Tenement + bakehouse and oven	BA/B/16/183/5
1384	Adam de Walsheman	Mercer		BA/B/16/205/2
1393	John Walsale		Tenement of HTG	BA/B/16/14/5 (dz)
1429-44	HTG lease to Laurence Cook	Mayor 1429, for Shearmen and Tailors	1 of 3 messuages	BA/C/10/5/1-4
1550	?Tenant John Heybott, Thos Arlam or John Boydon	London owners	1 of 3 messuages	Cal Pat R. 1549-51, 412
1727	John Evens	Barber and wig-maker	Part of 1821 bankruptcy papers	Alcock (2006, 11)
1748	Thomas Ashton	Victualler	"	Alcock (2006, 11)
1760	William Burgess	Silkman	"	Alcock (2006, 11)
pre1821	Joseph Matthews	Ribbon	Former tenement,	Alcock (2006,

		Manufacturer	demolished by Matthews	11)
1821	John Whitmore		2 new messuages replaces old tenement 3 new ones to rear (1-3, Court 16)	Alcock (2006, 11)

The following are the surrounding plots, not excavated, but for which the documents add greater understanding of the makeup of the street (Fig 2). Despite demolitions, some have fared better than those for the excavated plots.

Table 7: Documentary evidence, plot g (not excavated)

Date	Personalities	Trade	Notes	Reference
1349	Land once Roger le Hunte's			BA/B/16/183/5
1339	Land once Matilda le Purcere's			BA/B/16/177/6
1359	Lease from Richard de Stoke to Adam de Yardley		2 granges and arable land linked to plots b and c	BA/G/6/52/1
1585-98	Tenant John Fenton	Innholder, Miller		BA/D/12/27/1; BA/A/2./20/8
1620	Stone lined mill race. Thos Sargenson bound to Henry Sewall for its upkeep	Mason	Link through to Sewall messuage c	BA/D/12/27/2
1634	Tenant John Lax of Earl St	Innholder	Orchard	Alcock (2006, 26)

St George's Chapel, despite its Guild-related purpose, was probably permanently tenanted. Following the Dissolution of the Guilds and Chantries in 1547, the chapel was used as a residence for poor people.

Table 8: Documentary evidence, St George's Chapel (not excavated)

Date	Personality	Trades	Notes	Reference
1400-1547			Lessees. Chapel is 21 foot x 52 foot	BA/C/10/5/2-4
1429	Laurence Cook		Lessee	BA/C/10/5/1-4
Guild dissolved 1547				

1550	In the occupation of the poor		Crown grant to the city	Cal Pat R. 1550-53, 338
1552	In the occupation of the poor		Abuttal inferred	BA/B/P/102/3
1595	Gerorge Kevett and Roger Hervey		Abuttal to H	BA/A/2/20/7
1617			Abuttal to H	BA/A/4/44/1
1675	Christopher Wade		Inhabited part comprised 6 bay messuage	BA/C/10/5/7

Plots h and i are for much of the early post-medieval period divided and treated as two properties. However, their earliest appearance is as a testamentary bequest, by Margaret Warton to Coventry Charterhouse, where she wished to be buried, and this was of only one messuage, plus nine cottages etc which lay elsewhere (Soden 1995, 31-2). This single messuage seems to have been divided up, perhaps after the death of Margaret soon after the bequest, providing a western and an eastern part, thereafter treated as two messuages, but kept together. Margaret's daughter Elizabeth, who seems not to have married (or at least changed her name), lived on in one part during the changeover years of the immediate post-Dissolution period, perhaps fossilising a subdivision made so that the new owners might gain some financial benefit. Thereafter the one property was treated as two (h and i) until *c* 1640.

Table 9: Documentary evidence, plots h and i (not excavated)

Date	Personality	Trades	Notes	Reference
-1507	Margaret Warton	Widow	Bequest to Charterhouse	St John.D22.35.1
1507-39	Coventry Charterhouse		Owner	
1507-53	Elizabeth Warton		Tenant; daughter of Margaret	PA 989; Pat Rolls Edw VI pt vi m7
1542	Richard Andrews and Leonard Chamberlain	Speculators	Owner	Letters and Papers Henry VIII 17/6/42
1542-3	Henry Over	Sherrif	Owner	BA/A/2/20/1
1543-58	Thomas Kevett	Clothier	Owner	BA/A/2/20/1
1558-77	Elizabeth Kevett (Keyme)	Marries	Owner	BA/A/2/20/3

There is a deliberately acquisitive implication to the new Kevett ownership from 1543, since Thomas Kevett had been the rent collector for Coventry Charterhouse before the Dissolution so would have known all her properties intimately, and indeed would have been familiar with not only the more recent donors of properties, but the tenants, some of whom (like Elizabeth Warton) wished to continue their occupancy despite the major upheavals of the Dissolution period (Soden 1995, 11). Thomas Kevett had actually been owed money by the recently dissolved Charterhouse, £1 14s 2d, a not-inconsiderable sum and was in the privileged position in August 1537 of securing lifetime 'panic leases' from the Charterhouse of many of its properties, once Dissolution became a real prospect. He was one of the principal 'friends' of the monastic house and in 1547 was appointed a bailiff for the house (ibid, 11, 14-16; see also Bickley 1923). Henry Over's part in proceedings was as a speculator since he had angled to buy the Charterhouse itself, making use of his position as Sherrif of Coventry. He was well aware of the property of the dissolved house and its potential value in an inflationary market (Soden, op cit, 14-16). Also in the immediate area he acquired a part share in Whitefriars Mill which he held up until 1550 (Cal Pat Rolls 1549-51, 412).

If Elizabeth Kevett, on the occasion of her marriage (her husband was a Lincolnshire man), moved out of one half of the family home, this left her brother George, to whom the property reverted, in the other half, to sell her part as dowry, thus splitting the 1507 single, Warton messuage into two. Such a split would be in keeping with the hard times which Coventry was experiencing. From here h and i are separate entities.

Table 10: Documentary evidence, plot h (not excavated)

Date	Personality	Trades	Notes	Reference
1577-95	Gerorge Kevett	Gentleman	Owner	BA/A/2/20/4
1595-1600	Roger Harvey	Whittawer	Lessee	BA/A/2/20/7
1595	Elizabeth Ratzdale		Tenant	BA/A/2/20/7
1598	Corporation ownership inferred		Kevett quitclaim 1605	BA/A/2/20/8-9
1600-	Robert Sebirge	Tailor	Sub-Lessee from Harvey	BA/A/2/20/7 endorsed memo
1615-post 1675	City of Coventry		Owner	BA/A/4/44/10
1615-16	Richard Leech	Dyer	Lessee	BA/A/2/20/10
1617	Jeremy Saunders	Cutler	Lessee	BA/A/2/20/13; BA/A/4/44/1
Pre 1636	William Dawes	Dyer	Lessee	BA/A/2/20/14
1636-40	Edward Cooper	Clothier	Lessee	BA/A/2/20/14
1640	Plot lost; re-emerges only as 'adjoining close'			BA/A/2/20/23 (1685)

Plot i is the second (eastern) part of what was the original Warton bequest of 1507. From 1507 to 1577 their history is the same. The following is the subsequent divergence.

Table 11: Documentary evidence, plot i (not excavated)

Date	Personality	Trades	Notes	Reference
1507-77				See H + I (above)
1577-95	Gerorge Kevett	Gentleman	Owner	BA/A/2/20/4
1595-1600	Roger Harvey	Whittawer	Lessee and occupier	BA/A/2/20/7
1600-	Robert Sebirge	Tailor	Lessee	BA/A/2/20/7 endorsed memo
-1617			Cottage, former almshouse	BA/A/4/44/1
1598	Corporation ownership inferred		Kevett quitclaim 1605	BA/A/2/20/8-9
1615-36	City of Coventry		Owner	BA/A/4/44/10
1640	Edward Knightley	Gentleman	Owner	BA/A/2/20/15
-1672	City of Coventry		Owner	BA/A/2/20/21
1672-7	Sarah Rushworth		Lessee	BA/A/2?20/22
1685				BA/A/2/20/23
1706	Joseph Barker	Weaver	Lessee	BA/A/2?20/24

One more plot seems to lie on the east, adjoining the Springfield Brook, Plot j. It descended as follows.

Table 12: Documentary evidence, plot j (not excavated)

Date	Personality	Trades	Notes	Reference
1411	Henry at Haye's widow			NA: E164/21, 176.2
1550-1552	Henry Harvey		Served Hayes Chantry 1390-	BA/B/P/102/3
1552	Corporation			BA/A/A/7/1; Cal Pat R 1550-53, 338
	Roger Harvey	Whittawer	Messuage	BA/A/2/20/7-8
1615			Tenement	BA/A/2/20/10

On the west of Gosford (Calais) Bridge lay plots of land to north and south which were the west bank of the Sherbourne. They lay from *c* 1430 (south side) and *c* 1480 (north side) on the outside of the City Wall and terminated at Gosford Gate. As integral to the city's defences they were Corporation land, their management vested in the City Wardens from the time each length of the wall was constructed. Plot k is that portion south of the gate, while Plot l is that portion north of the gate. The documents detail their sizes meticulously over many years. The eastern side of both is the River Sherbourne, the western side the City Wall. It may be possible to identify Plot l once before the wall was constructed, but this is very tentative.

Table 13: Documentary evidence, plot k (not excavated)

Date	Personality	Trades	Notes	Reference
1600	George Urland		Tenant	BA/A/2/22/1
C1620	Thomas Urland	Tailor	Tenant	BA/A/2/22/1
1648-81	Richard Urland	Cutler	Tenant	BA/A/2/22/1-7
1681-97	Joseph Farman	Dyer	Tenant	BA/A/2/22/2
1697-1748	Elizabeth Shaw		Tenant	BA/A/2/22/3
1748-82	John and Mary Twitty	Dyers	Tenants	BA/A/2/22/4-7
1782-	John Langdell	Mason	Tenant	BA/A/2/22/7

Table 14: Documentary evidence, plot l (not excavated)

Date	Personality	Trades	Notes	Reference
1429	Laurence Cook		Pre wall	BA/C/10/5/1
1636	Edward Cooper	Clothier	Tenant	BA/A/2/20/14 (b)
C1650	Francis Clarke	Whittawer	Tenant	BA/C/10/5/8 (To Wardens via Shearmen and Tailors' Guild
1695	Thomas Jesson		Tenant	BA/C/10/5/8

The Civil War

It is known that following Charles I's initial attack on the city in August 1642, there was growing consternation in Coventry, which held the Parliamentarian powder magazine for the county. It was a natural prize for the Royalists and extra defences were needed. An additional, polygonal tower was built overlooking the London Road approach to the city but wider measures were put in place as the war raged across the midlands towards its initial climax at Naseby in mid-1645. Nine of the twelve gates were blocked up, probably causing considerable alarm in the excluded suburbs beyond and holding back their normal mercantile business. The three gates left working comprised New, Bishop and Gosford, each surmounted by newly-bought artillery. At each, deep trenches were dug outside, drawbridges cut into the existing crossings, and 'half-moons' made beyond the trenches to make them more secure. Additionally at Gosford Gate it is recorded that '*a strong outwork was made, surrounded by the river*' (Gooder 1971, 41). Elsewhere suburban houses

were pulled down to give a clearer field of fire from the walls and gates, including outside Gosford Gate (ibid 44). Until now it has not been possible to look at what the Gosford Gate outwork entailed, nor do more than conjecture what form the deep trenches took nor the appearance of the half-moons. The work on the drawbridge (and other unnamed works) is detailed in a document in the National Archives which lists eight men paid for a day's work on 31 May 1645. Payments, including materials, totalled £3 4s (Nat Alcock, pers comm).

At Gosford Gate, the additional strong outwork may have been occasioned by the continued presence of St George's Chapel attached to its north-east corner. While it represented possible cover for an approaching enemy, and was (presumably) not designed to be defensible, it may have become a symbol of greater depth of defence in front of the gate. Effectively it may have become part of that outwork, which had to be matched on the south side. Since it spanned the river on the north side of Gosford bridge, something to balance it on the south would create a narrow defile, a bottleneck, in which to trap attackers.

The river itself was a very natural barrier which, although never naturally deep or impassable, could be dammed at any of the mills to raise the water level and, if necessary, flood the meadows on either side. At Gosford this meant even up to the walls. Previously such measures had happened at inopportune moments and caused difficulties to nearby householders, including at Gosford in 1540-41 when the following is recorded in Leet jurisdiction:

Item..the miller of the Whit frer milne for [kepyng upp his water to the great anoyaunce of his neighbours] (fined) 3s 4d (Fox 1946, 242)

So common had the problems of the river become, that the City's Leet had had to require all the mills to pull up their sluices at times of very wet weather, simply to stop the flooding (Dormer-Harris 1907-13, 759).

During the Civil War, the simple descriptions which Gooder related seem to suggest measures to ensure that none of the road approaches to the gates or bridges could be outflanked and that any approach to the working city gates were trammelled along lines covered by pre-registered artillery mounted on the gates. There seems little doubt that, in common with other gates, houses in the way of these measures were sacrificed, most particularly at Gosford Gate, where the defensive measures seem to have adopted a belt-and-braces approach. While such measures meant the end for the aged pre-war buildings and their plots, it also accounted for the documentation which went with them. A hiatus is seen in documentary coverage which stretches back to encompass generations of documented construction and changes of ownership, lease or tenancy. When building resumed in the later 17th century, it was often on a totally different basis.

Following the Civil War the defences came under the spotlight as the city continued to harbour unrest, particularly at the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660. Already by 1648 some gates were said to be in a state of '*grate decay*' and the last round of repairs had begun (BA/H/17/A79/215). In 1662 a concerned Charles II, wishing to deny the city's disaffected Commonwealth supporters any further opportunity to coalesce behind their walls, wrote to Sir Robert Townsend, Earl of Northampton giving him orders to slight the walls (Gooder 1971, 45). In turn the Earl of Northampton, when he carried out his work, expended the minimum of effort, issuing a warrant encouraging local people to remove the stone themselves, allowing *'to every person the stone or such part of the walls as he or they shall wholly pull downe at their own expense*' (BA/H/17/A79/250). He can have found little help south of Gosford Gate since, firstly the houses on the site probably no longer existed so there was no one all that local to carry out such work, and secondly it is known that the wall hereabouts was not taken down until 1814, to

build Herbert's Row (more recently the site of the former nurses' accommodation for Gulson Hospital). Ironically, when taken down, the wall here was found to have been so well built, that gunpowder had to be used to demolish it (Poole 1870, 80). Herbert's Row can be seen on maps from 1851. As likely as not it utilised the Town wall in its foundations.

Historic maps

The site is shown in relatively good detail on the accustomed series of maps of Coventry between 1610 and 1905.

John Speed's map (1610; Fig 3a)

In common with all the other streets of the city, the frontages are shown fully built-up. This cannot be fully checked against anything else but excavation evidence might suggest that it is too simple a depiction to be reliable at the level of the individual plot. The bird's-eye perspective (rather than plan) means that the excavation site cannot be fitted properly onto the ground without taking in part of the River Sherbourne. Speed's plan is accurate in many other ways (his placing of towers on the town wall, for instance) but for individual houses he cannot be relied upon. Gosford Gate is visible but St George's Chapel is not distinguishable from the rest of its frontage.

Samuel Bradford's map (1748-9; Fig 3b)

Bradford is not often used as a reliable source since his depiction of buildings seems to be formulaic. However, he does show the distinctive changes of building line which are known to have characterised many of the city's streets (such as on the north side of Gosford Street in Fig 3b, echoed here in later maps). For the excavation plot, his usually formulaic depiction seems more individualistic and a broad similarity with later maps suggests that he might be reliable in this case. Both Gosford Gate and St George's Chapel can be seen (although the latter stands at the river's edge, not over it) while the excavation plot has clearly been redeveloped since the demolitions of the Civil War. There continues to be a problem fitting the excavation plot in, without including part of the river.

Thomas Sharpe's map (1807; Fig 3c)

The map drawn for the antiquarian Thomas Sharpe often shows little change from the period of Bradford, simply because little had changed across the city in the half-century since then. Sharpe's depiction of this plot seems broadly similar to Bradford and if both are independently drawn, might infer reliability for both of them. By 1807 Gosford Gate has been removed from the street, but St George's Chapel remains although it still seems not to span the river but stand on its eastern bank. Ironically a building on the south side of the bridge is shown spanning the river. Its identity is not known, if reliable, although it was shown as part of the excavation plot in Bradford's map, where it encroached on the river's eastern bank, but did not span the stream.

Board of Health map (1851; Fig 3d)

This is the first fully reliable map of the city, surveyed to a standard Ordnance Survey scale of the day. Since it was drawn to provide the city with a new sewerage system, it had to be accurate and has been shown to be so, down to the detail of some gardens. Levels above Ordnance Datum too were included. This clearly shows that the site has been redeveloped since the Sharpe depiction and the buildings along the frontage have assumed a different plan. They are now the row later numbered as 166-173 Far Gosford Street and the rear buildings known as 1-3, Court 16. St George's Chapel has been knocked down and redeveloped. The river and the Springfield Brook to the east are shown with their distinctive bow-shape,

and are depicted accurately for the first time, enabling the excavation site to fit neatly into the frontage as was seen on the ground.

Ordnance Survey 1st edition (1889; Fig 3e)

While this map shares the accuracy of its 1851 precursor, it details increasing changes to the locality. The river has been straightened over much of its course and the Springfield Brook is partly culverted at its southern confluence with the Sherbourne. Unfortunately the excavation site is made difficult to see in detail by the location of a large map label which reads 'Site of Saint George's Chapel' and 'Site of Gosford Gate'. To all intents and purposes it seems little changed from 1851.

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition (1905; Fig 3f)

Equally accurately surveyed, this edition has lost the obscuring labels of the 1889 depiction. The frontage and Court shown in 1851 are little changed. The Springfield Brook has all but disappeared, presumably culverted, but remains as a boundary. The Colcutt Factory is encroaching from the south while houses fringe Shut Lane to the east.

Deed Plan (c 1913; Fig 3g)

In a departure from standard map-making and all the foregoing depictions, this deed plan extract, reproduced from Alcock (2006, fig 16) is shown with north at the foot (as drawn) and is here reproduced in this way so that labels can be read. Most of the excavation plot has been built over by the Calcott factory, but the frontage houses of 166-173 Far Gosford Street and 1-3 Court 16, remain as shown previously. This is their last known depiction before they were demolished (CA:CCA/3/BYE/7691).

3.2 Archaeological background

Prior to this project no previous archaeological work had been conducted within the site. A trial trench excavation conducted by ULAS (Richards 2006) and a palaeoenvironmental survey (Head and Wilkinson 2006) were undertaken in the lead up to the open area excavation of the site. The results of these surveys have been incorporated into the text of the main report (see Sections 2.3, 4.1, 4.4).

A small number of archaeological investigations have taken place in close vicinity to the site and are summarised below.

Gosford Gate Excavations (1932)

J B Shelton, Coventry's dedicated antiquarian of the 1930s and 1940s, was on hand to observe workmen excavating on the site of St George's Chapel which lay on the opposite of Far Gosford Street to Astleys (Fig 4; Singlehurst 2000, Plates II, III & IV). The foundations of the chapel were uncovered and timber piles were found beneath the foundations of the adjoining Gosford Gate. The timbers lay at a depth of *c* 14ft (4.2m) below the ground and Shelton describes them as, '*Eight piles of oak, measuring 4-ft 6-ins. to six-ft*' (1.4-1.8m). He also observed timbers on the other side of the gate (to the immediate west of Astleys) which he interpreted as forming part of a Saxon or Norman building. In addition, part the original river bank was exposed, its current location the result of being, '*…thrown further back for 100 yards (91.5m) in 1860-62…*'. He also observed a well-preserved section of the town wall and occupation debris complete with, '*…quite a lot of 14th century pottery…*' (Austin's Monthly Magazine, Nov 1932).

Bridge Buildings Excavations (1991)

In 1991 the former Coventry Museums Archaeological Unit conducted an evaluation to the immediate west of Astleys prior to the construction of the existing National Tyres and Autocare premises (Fig 4). Three trenches traced the line of the town wall for 40m; in one place ashlar facing stones were found to survive only a few centimetres below the modern ground surface. No medieval deposits were revealed but a pit dating to the Civil War period was excavated (Dickenson 1991).

Anchorsmith Tavern (1991)

As part of the development evaluated by the Bridge Buildings excavation, a building was demolished which incorporated oak timbers from the rear wing of the historic Anchorsmith Tavern; a building which appears on John Speed's map of 1610 and is also annotated on the Board of Health map of 1851. Subsequent dendrochronological dating produced a felling date of 1410-20 for the primary upright of the structure (Rylatt, Soden and Dickinson 1991).

3.3 Topography and geology

The archaeological site lay within the north-west corner of the development area which is bounded by Far Gosford Street to the north, Gulson Road to the south, Vecqueray Street to the east and the River Sherbourne culvert to the west. At the time of excavation the development area was a working construction site under the management of the Principal Contractor, William Davis Ltd.

The geology of the site is comprised of Keele Series sandstones, siltstones and conglomerates, a sub-division of Carboniferous Upper Coal Measures, overlain by varying thicknesses of alluvium (Head and Wilkinson 2006, 7). The River Sherbourne, a tributary of the Warwickshire Avon, flows through a modern culvert (1860-62) to the west of the site. The evidence of the palaeoenvironmental survey suggests that prior to culverting the river bed had gradually migrated in a westerly direction and had deposited thick layers of alluvium into its former channel and across its floodplain (*ibid*). To the immediate east of the site flowed the Springfield Brook, a feeder stream, which joined the Sherbourne to the south of the excavated area. This watercourse was in-filled and culverted in the late 19th century (Fig 4).

4 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological mitigation strategy were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Soden 2006). The main objective was to preserve by record any archaeological deposits likely to be affected by the proposed development within a designated area and to an agreed depth. Where the archaeological deposits were affected the principal aim was to excavate and record the remains in order to understand the nature, function and character of the built frontage in its cultural and environmental setting.

More specific aims of the strategy were:

- To excavate successive frontages of Far Gosford Street within the site
- To record any remains of Civil War defensive arrangements
- To better understand the uses to which the Far Gosford Street properties were put and any changes in economy and form throughout time

- To understand the function, form, development and continuing history of the medieval and post-medieval suburb associated with the Far Gosford Street frontage through archaeological excavation and recording

4.2 Methodology

A trial trench evaluation was carried out in Spring 2006 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services, followed by mechanical stripping of the site under their archaeological control. At this point Northamptonshire Archaeology was engaged to complete the fieldwork in the form of area excavation. The strategy was set and refined, partly on site, in consultation between all parties.

A previous phase of palaeoenvironmental assessment and the above mentioned evaluation had identified that the majority the lowest levels comprised pits cut into alluvium with subsequent layers of makeup and riverside inundation deposits before the first frontage was constructed. While these early layers are the subject of a strategy of preservation *in situ*, the later horizons, comprising successive frontage buildings, were earmarked for excavation and preservation by record.

An L-shaped area along the frontage and stretching back from that was pre-designated for area excavation. It encompassed two evaluation trenches but otherwise comprised ground largely, but not exclusively, undisturbed since the 19th century.

Records were made on standard Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma context sheets. Plans of the excavated areas and features were made at scales of 1:50 and sections drawn at 1:10 and 1:20. A photographic record was maintained in colour slide, monochrome print and digital formats.

The site code FGC06 was allocated to the site by University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 Environment prior to occupation (to mid-13th century)

A palaeoenvironmental assessment of the development site was undertaken prior to the start of the excavation (Head and Wilkinson 2006). Boreholes located to the south of the excavation area revealed deep deposits of alluvium overlying the Keele Series bedrock. Analysis of these deposits indicated that the course of the River Sherbourne, now culverted to the west of the site (Fig 4), once flowed in a channel further to the east. The survey results show that it gradually migrated westwards to a position close to the present culvert and its former channel and floodplain were covered with alluvial deposits (ibid, 7). Charcoal present within the upper levels of this alluvium was radiocarbon dated to the period cal AD 1005 to cal AD 1330 (ibid, 12).

Within the excavation area these upper levels of alluvium (145), (233), (659) were most extensively revealed below the base of a 19th-century cellar located towards the centre of the site at a depth of *c* 2.75m below the modern ground level at *c* 73m OD (Fig 5, Fig 6; Section 1). Pollen samples taken from the alluvium have produced evidence for cereals and weeds of agricultural and waste ground. Levels of tree pollen were also most visible in the alluvium; they included oak, ash, lime in addition to alder and willow which are species that favour riparian environments (see Section 7.4).

Along the frontage the alluvium was overlain by deposits of mixed organic and

mineral material which are thought to be the product of vegetation, casual waste disposal and intermittent over-bank flooding. These layers contained the earliest pottery found on the site in the form of Calcerous shelly ware (1100-1300), Coventry A ware (produced from the 12th century), Coventry D ware (1150-1250) and Developed Stamford ware (1100-1250). The dumping of table and kitchen waste, dominated by beef and mutton, was indicated by the animal bone assemblage gathered from these deposits. Debris indicative of horn working was also found (see section 7.1). Plant macrofossils from these horizons contained cereal processing waste, crop weeds and a high density of flax capsule fragments; flax pollen was also present in the pollen monoliths from these contexts.

5.2 The origins of the medieval suburb (12th-late 13th centuries)

Timber post and early occupation of the frontage

The earliest dateable evidence for the start of the site's structural sequence derives from an oak timber post [223] which had been set into a large pit [660] cut into inundation/dumping deposits towards the centre of the site (Fig 5, Fig 6; Section 1, Plate 1). The post measured 0.65m long and 0.31m by 0.33m square and its flat base lay at *c* 72.20m OD, almost 3.5m below the modern ground surface. Dendrochronological dating produced a felling date of 1162-1212 (see Section 7.5).

Adjacent to the foot of the post and laying flat-side down in the base of the pit were the remnants of two timber planks [314]. They were both 10mm thick and may have been placed there to provide a stable platform while the post was set into position. On the northern edge of the pit was a crude 1 sq m surface of sandstone slabs (315) which may have provided further consolidation of the soft ground underfoot (Plate 2). The pit had been backfilled with a charcoal flecked sandy loam (232) and sealed by layers of dumped and organically derived material (661), (664), (230).

The layers which accumulated over the backfilled post pit of [223] were later cut by another pit [183] which would have re-exposed the timber almost to its foot. This pit was filled with a firm dark grey clay (216) containing pottery dating to the 13th century. Another pit, similar in character and cut from the same stratigraphic horizon, was present *c* 2m to the east [184] and in its base was a large posthole [316] but no trace of a timber post. It was filled with an alluvial silt (216) containing 13th-century pottery.

Any attempt to interpret the function of a single post must remain highly speculative. Its size suggests that, along with other timbers, it may have been capable of supporting a structure of some size. The presence of other posts in the vicinity, hidden beneath later deposits that, in accordance with the excavation strategy, were left *in situ*, cannot be discounted. Indeed, similar posts were observed to the west of the site by J B Shelton in the 1930s and to the north during excavations below St George's Chapel. He interpreted them, rather fancifully, as the foundations of Norman houses but, what with the close proximity of the River Sherbourne, a more plausible explanation may be that the posts were part of a bridge, pontoon or jetty.

Early occupation features

The earliest archaeological remains relating to the street frontage were a cluster of stakeholes [649], [651], [653], [655], [716], [718], some containing well-preserved wooden stakes, cut into the inundation and dumping deposits at the north-east corner of the site (Fig 5). In association was a shallow posthole or small pit [696], two

fragments of sandstone that may have functioned as post pads [427] and [428] and a hearth comprising a patch of heat-damaged fragments of sandstone packed with ash and clay [533] (Plate 3). No obvious widespread structural form is suggested by the juxtaposition of these features which probably continue beyond the northern limit of the excavation. This activity is dated by late 13th-/early 14th-century pottery and a hammered silver penny of Edward I (1272-1307) (SF156) present in the upper levels of the underlying dumping and inundation deposits (487), (512), (619) and sherds of Chilvers Coton A ware pottery (1250-1300) recovered from the fill (697) of pit [696].

5.3 The medieval street frontage (late 13th/14th-early 15th centuries)

These early remains were overlain by the remnants of the first substantial structures to be built along the frontage. They comprised a series of dwarf sandstone rubble walls, bonded with clay and with footings cut into the underlying dumping/inundation deposits (Figs 7 and 8; Plate 4). The walls presumably acted as plinths for timber-framed houses. Four separate rooms were defined by the walls. They correspond to historic plots b-d (see Section 3.1).

Room 1, which, morphologically, appeared to be the focal point to which the other rooms were added, was defined by walls [425], [507] and [454]. Its internal dimensions measured *c* 4.40m on its east-west axis and at least 4.20m on its north-south axis which continued beneath the edge of excavation (Plate 5). Using the building lines indicated on the Board of Health map as a guide to the alignment of the street prior to modern redevelopment, the north wall of this structure probably lies somewhere beneath the existing pavement. The structure falls within the plot documented as the putative plot c.

Three sandstone pads [530], [722], [723] were aligned north-south along the western side of the room *c* 1.10m from its western wall. It is possible that they carried a partition creating a side passage from the street to the rear of the building. A similar structural arrangement can be seen at Court 1, Spon Street (formerly 7 Much Park Street).

A series of wall remnants to the west defined a second room (Room 2). This structure corresponds with historic plot d. Greatly truncated by later cellarage (see section 5.5), the enclosed space measured *c* 4.25m in width (Plate 6). It may have been divided lengthways into two parts by a partition carried on a light sandstone rubble plinth [715].

To the east of Room 1 were the remnants of two more rooms whose morphology appeared to indicate successive easterly extensions to the block. They fall within historic plot b. Room 3 was formed by walls [425], [511] and [508] with internal dimensions of 2.20m east-west and over 3m on its north-south (Plate7). Sandstone pads [602] and [603] located against the western wall of this structure may have supported posts.

Two more truncated walls [724], [725] to the east of Room 3 suggest the presence of another room (Room 4) measuring 3m by at least 2.6m (Plate 8). The wall that provides the north-south division between Room 3 and Room 4 was of a lighter construction than the outer walls suggesting that the two rooms may have been created by subdividing a single-bayed building.

Ceramic roof tiles found in later abandonment contexts indicated that at least one, perhaps all, of these structures was roofed with pitched tiles (see Section 6.2). A roof crest found in ploughsoil to the rear of the plots (390) was of a type commonly used in the mid-14th century (see Section 6.2).

Occupation

The floors of the structures which typically lay 0.50m above the alluvium at *c* 73.50m OD, were surfaced with beaten earth which survived in patches as a compact yellow brown sand in Room 3 and Room 4 (509) and a similarly compact red brown clay to the west in Rooms 1 (420/485) and 2 (214). Pottery retrieved from these floor surfaces included Chilvers Coton C ware and dates from the 13th and 14th centuries.

In Room 1 the presence of a hearth was indicated by circular patch of heat-damaged sandstone [528] which overlay the floor surface towards the south-east corner of the room. It was flanked by a sandstone post packing [529] and a sandstone pad [532]. Evidence for another hearth was present in Room 4 where a circular patch of intense burning (510) lay over the beaten earth floor. A spread of debris (479/488) containing substantial amounts of charcoal and hammerscale was centred on this feature (Plate 9). An unused horseshoe nail was also present in this deposit; its form is typical of the 13th/early 14th centuries. Chilvers Coton A (1250-1300) and C ware (1300-1500) provides corroborative dating evidence.

A series of contemporary occupation layers were spread across the floor surfaces of the other structures. They were, generally speaking, comprised of thin lenses of dark organic material interspersed with sand, probably introduced as intermittent repairs and consolidations of the floor were made. Pottery found in these layers included Midland Purple ware dating to the early 15th century. At this time the entire floor level in Room 1 had been raised by *c* 0.30m with a deposit of clay (480). Occupation debris continued to accumulate over this new surface (484).

Animal bones retrieved from contexts associated with the structures included cattle, sheep, domestic fowl, duck, rabbit, cod and bones from the foot of a wild boar from floor surface (214) in Room 2.

A coin hoard

The floor surface and occupation layers in the southern part of Room 2 were heavily worn exposing the underlying consolidation material beneath (677). A cylindrical wooden receptacle containing 38 silver coins was found buried in this deposit where they had seemingly been placed for safe-keeping beneath the floor of the building (Figs 7 and 8, Plate 6). The coins are all silver long-cross pennies dating from early in the reign of Edward I (1272-1307) through to the first decade of Edward III's reign (1327-77). The latest coin, a rarely-found inclusion in medieval coin hoards, shows little wear suggesting that the coins were probably deposited sometime in the 1330s (see Section 6.5).

Features to the rear of the frontage

A scatter of contemporary features was cut into the dumping and inundation deposits to the rear of the frontage (Fig 7). This included two rectangular pits [632] and [672] (Plates 10 & 11). Both were timber-lined and the sides of pit [672] had an additional outer lining of stone. The upper fills of the pits, (633) and (673), were sampled for pottery but failed to produce any.

To the north of the pits the eastern extremity of a stone-lined pit comprised crudely dressed sandstone blocks [691] (Plate 6 foreground). The stones forming its southern side were tiered to form an inward facing slope. The internal width of the feature was *c* 1.40m. Its length was not determined as the western side was robbed away; however, three sections of a sandstone wall [687] found to the west, were aligned with its northern side and may be part of the same construction. Such an arrangement would produce a feature aligned on an east-west axis with a length in excess of 10m. Isolated sections of unrelated wall [688] and [609] were present to

the north and south of this.

Abandonment

The abandonment of the frontage buildings is evidenced by pits cut into the occupation layers and also localised deposits of demolition rubble. In Room 1 an irregular shaped pit measuring 0.90m by 0.60m [526] was filled with clay loam (527) containing stone fragments, bone and sherds of Chilvers Coton A and C wares (1250-1300, 1300-1500). A large number of fragmented roof tiles were also present. In Room 2 a circular pit [713] was cut though the occupation debris (Fig 7; Plate 12). Its upper fill was composed entirely of lime mortar (714). Small pits were also present to the east in Rooms 3 and 4 [473], [482] and [647]; the fill of the latter (648) contained Chilvers Coton ware pottery. This fill was overlain by a charcoal rich deposit (469) containing sherds of Midland Purple ware dating to the early 15th century. A sample taken from this produced little other than charcoal and coal hearth waste.

The evidence would appear to indicate an early 15th-century date for the abandonment of the first frontage. This corresponds with the period in which the stretch of town wall was built to enclose the precinct of the nearby monastic house at Whitefriars and the south-east part of the city as far as Gosford Gate. Documentary sources indicate that this work took place *c* 1430, although Gosford Gate itself had been built almost a century before and appears in documents of 1349 (Gooder et al 1966, 92). It may be that the houses of the first frontage were demolished at the same time that the wall was constructed. Such demolitions are known to have occurred throughout the city as the wall was built; from 1403 the Cartulary of St Mary's Priory records thirteen such cases affecting their holdings alone (Soden 2005, 228).

A structural hiatus?

The open ground created by the levelling of the first frontage may have been left undeveloped for some time enabling deposits of loam and demolition debris, eg (611), (709), (710), to accumulate over the remnants of the 14th-century buildings and the contemporary features to the rear. A layer of dark loam (611), present to the west of Room 2 was found to contain pottery fabrics of 13th to 16th-century date and included a sherd from a Martincamp Flask, manufactured in France (1500-1700) and used to import wine. In association were found numerous animal bones indicative of a high status diet. They included mute swan, woodcock, adult cattle, veal calves, sheep, pigs, and several geese and chickens. It would appear that this food debris was fly-tipped onto the vacant plot, perhaps from across the road where St George's Chapel was the venue for occasional feasting in the medieval period.

Prior to the construction of the second frontage the building debris of the first frontage and the overlying detritus were levelled over with deposits of clay and sand (313), (466), (612), (629), (683), (688), (705), (710). Pottery retrieved from these levelling layers is residual and dates exclusively to the 13th century, perhaps indicating that the soils were imported for the purpose.

In the north-east corner of the site, pit [482] cut into the levelling material over Rooms 3 and 4 and was in turn cut by a much larger pit [467]. The lower fills of the latter (447), (448) were a charcoal-flecked silty loam containing pottery of a 15th-century date. Pit [467] was later backfilled with a mass of building material comprised mainly of broken roof tile. These pits and deposits were overlain by the archaeology of the second street frontage.

5.4 Late medieval/early post-medieval development (15th-mid-17th centuries)

The second frontage and rear tenements

Structural remains of a second frontage, comprising walls, hearths and floor surfaces overlay the layers masking the earlier structures (Figs 9 & 10). The buildings, like their earlier predecessors, would have been timber-frame constructions resting on sandstone-rubble plinths. Along the frontage, floor levels were typically raised 0.50m above those of the earlier structures at *c* 74m OD.

To the rear of the frontage a number of walls were found aligned at right angles to the street defining up to five separate tenement plots. Some of them were evidently occupied by out-buildings and to the very rear of the site there was cultivated ground cut by pits. Much of the medieval archaeology of this area had, however, been truncated by later Civil War works.

Plot b (Figs 9 and 10)

In the north-east corner of the site sandstone rubble walls [290], [291] and [292] formed a large room [Room 5] with an internal width of *c* 5.5m (Plate 12). On its north-south axis it measured in excess of 3m before extending beyond the limit of the excavation.

The structural walls were clay-bonded and stood to heights of 0.30 - 0.45m above an interior floor surface comprised of beaten clay (318) which lay at *c* 74.15m OD. At its centre a deposit of ash and charcoal (411) had been compacted into the floor and contained pottery sherds including Cistercian ware (1475-1550). It was suggestive of a nearby hearth, perhaps lying within the building a short distance north of the excavated area. To the west of this deposit a 0.80m wide linear strip of slightly sunken floor surface (392) lay adjacent to wall [292]. Its noticeably 'cleaner' appearance was suggested that the strip may have been covered by a consolidated walkway or even a timber stair leading to a floor above. The floor surface must have been kept clean or was surfaced with boards whilst the structure was occupied because, other than the aforementioned burning, there were no overlying occupation deposits.

The area to the rear of the structure had been truncated by Civil War works. The presence of an extensively robbed tile-lined hearth built into the east face of wall [325] suggests that another room once existed in this location. Wall [325] was aligned with an isolated section of wall [131] to the south and together they formed the remains of the western boundary of a tenement plot. The opposing eastern wall was not observed and is assumed to have lain outside the excavated area.

Plot c (Figs 9 and 10)

Adjoining the western wall of Room 5 were two more rooms (Rooms 6 and 7) (Figs 9 & 10; Plate 13). The principal walls [292], [293], [295] and [320] were again constructed from clay-bonded sandstone rubble and stood to heights of up to 0.5m. The width of this structure was *c* 4.5m. A fragment of a sandstone slab bearing part of an incised design was found within the structural fabric where wall [293] abutted wall [292]. The design, part of a decorative cross-head enclosed within a roundel, is indicative of a grave slab (Plate 14). A similar motif was incised into a 14th-century slab found across the city at St Mary's Priory (Rylatt and Mason 2003, 35). Its presence might indicate that this part of the wall was built, or repaired, sometime after 1539 when fabric from Coventry's four dissolved monastic houses flooded the market.

A beaten earth floor of compact reddish brown clay (393) was present within Room 6. It was directly overlain by demolition debris.

The southern room (Room 7) measured 4.5m by 3m and contained a heavily disturbed floor surface of clay (312). The room was then subdivided by the insertion of wall [294] creating a small compartment measuring 3m x 1.20m, again surfaced with clay (308). There were threshold-like stones at both north and south ends, suggesting a corridor.

To the rear of the frontage a narrow tenement plot measuring *c* 4.5m in width was defined by walls [131]/[325] to the east and a truncated continuation of wall [320] to the west. Localised patches of ground within this plot appeared to have been consolidated with dumped material prior to the construction of the walls. Pottery found within these layers is largely residual and dates from the 14th century; horn-working debris was also found in one such deposit (275).

As observed to the east, much of the internal area of the plot had been truncated by later features, although a mass of clay-bonded sandstone rubble (394) retained by walls of faced sandstone [379] and [380] was present directly to the rear of the frontage. This evidently formed the base or footing of a large feature perhaps surrounded by a path or passageway. A section of wall discovered at the very rear of the excavated area [398] may have been associated with these substantial yet enigmatic remains.

Plots d and e (Figs 9, 10 and 11)

Much of the contemporary archaeology of these centrally-located plots had been removed by later intrusions including Civil War works, post-medieval cellarage and a large contamination test-pit. Despite this level of truncation the walls surviving on the frontage indicate the presence of a comparatively large two-bay building divided by a through-passage which gave access to rear tenements. The principal walls were, as observed elsewhere, constructed from clay-bonded sandstone forming plinths for a timber-framed structure. East-west aligned walls of each bay [105], [402] and [699] formed strong building lines with the corresponding rear walls of the structures occupying Plot 2 to the east.

The front two rooms of the building (Rooms 8 and 9) were defined by truncated walls [105], [241], [283], [320], [699] and [720] and separated by a 1.20m wide passageway. The eastern room (Room 8) was *c* 4m long with 2m of its width lying within the excavated area. A compacted layer (497) within the walls may have been the remnant of a beaten earth floor. The western room (Room 9) was *c* 3m across and also had a beaten earth floor (705).

Adjoining to the south was a larger rectangular room (Room 10), the eastern half of which was almost entirely robbed away by later cellarage. It was defined by walls [105], [241], [320] and [402] with a through passage aligned slightly to the west of centre. Internally the enclosed space would have measured *c* 8m by 4m. Towards the western side of the room the truncated remnants of a hearth were set into a beaten earth floor (478). It was constructed from mortar-bonded cobbles of sandstone [277] surrounded by sandstone blocks [276]. At a later date the room appears to have been re-floored with another beaten earth surface (477) and the hearth rebuilt using pitched roof tile [437] (Plate 15). A similar hearth, located within a room of comparable proportions was found in a later 15th/16th-century context during excavations at 122-123 Much Park Street, Coventry (Wright 1988, 56). A deposit of ash (541) was spread around the hearth. Next to the hearth were the remnants of a circular oven [476], also constructed from roof tile (Plate 16). A deposit of ashy loam (475) that sat over the oven was also sampled and found to contain small quantities of animal and fish bone, eggshell, and fragments of coal.

Adjoining the southern wall of Room 10 to the west of the cross passage was another structure (Room 11) defined by walls [402], [406], [407] and [241]

enclosing an interior measuring *c* 2.10m in width and 4m in length (Plate 17). A small rectangular hearth [409] constructed from sandstone flags was placed centrally against wall [406]. Traces of a mortar floor surface (493) overlay a layer of beaten earth (616) which contained Midland Yellow Ware pottery (produced from 1550). This was overlain by a compacted occupation layer (408). It contained 16th-century pottery, a small assemblage of iron and copper alloy objects and small quantities of fuel and food debris.

The presence of yet another room (Room 12) to south was suggested by the continuation of wall [241] and a small section of robbed out wall [726] lying opposite [407]. The room measured *c* 2.1m x 3.6m and was surfaced with a beaten earth floor (496) applied over a bedding layer (608) which contained a sherd of 16th-century pottery. An occupation layer (445) containing residual pottery of a 16th-century date had accumulated over this.

Walls preserved to the rear of this comparatively large building indicated that two separate tenement plots had existed here. The eastern (Plot d) was defined by wall sections [320] and [446]. The heavily robbed remnants of its southern wall [429] were also discovered allowing the full dimensions of the plot, from frontage to rear boundary, to be calculated at 4m wide by at least 22m long. Almost all of the ground to the rear of the buildings had been truncated by the Civil War works and the test-pit. In the base of the latter a linear arrangement of sandstone rubble was roughly aligned with the western boundary wall and may have been part of its wall footing. The test pit had also cut another line of sandstone blocks to the east [405], perhaps the remnants of a light wall associated with the large stone feature [379] in Plot c.

The western plot (Plot e) was defined by walls [241] to the west and [446/388] to the east. At the southern end of the site wall [388] returned to the west to form a rear boundary of the plot allowing its dimensions to be established at *c* 4m wide and at least 28m long. Approximately half of this space was occupied by the frontage buildings and the rooms attached to their rear. The Civil War works had truncated a sizeable portion towards the rear. South of this was an expanse of consolidated material comprised of demolition material and clay (516) which may have been the floor surface of another structure (Room 14). A crude hearth [515] had been set into this surface close to the boundary wall [388]. It was constructed from a fragment of heat damaged millstone surrounded by roof tile and sandstone blocks (Plate 18). A line of rubble to the south of the hearth may have been the remains of a partition creating another room to the south (Room 15). Alternatively, this area may have been open to the elements; the level of truncation occurring in the vicinity made it impossible to ascertain for certain. Documentary evidence suggests that that this area of plot e originally wrapped around the southern boundary of plot f forming an abuttal with the eastern bank of the Sherbourne (Fig 2).

Plot f (Figs 9 and 10)

Plot f was defined to the east by wall [241] and the south by [416] giving a shorter plot length than that to the immediate east (exceeding 15m). Cartographic evidence suggests that the course of the river lay very close to the west and probably formed part of its boundary on this side (not, though, on the street frontage). There was no evidence for buildings on the frontage although they may have been removed by subsequent Civil War works. The only structural evidence was found away from the frontage where walls [241], [419], [499] and robber trench [491] defined a room (Room 13) adjoining the western side of Room 11. Its interior, which measured *c* 3.75m x 4.6m, had also been heavily disturbed by later intrusions (Plate 19).

A large pit [502] was present in the north-east corner of the room. Its fills (503) and (547) contained a large quantity of ferrous slag, probably indicative of secondary

smithing (see Section 6.3). An early 16th-century date was suggested by the presence by a single sherd of pottery in the form of a Siegburg drinking jug (Fig 17.3). A surface of small sandstone cobbles (498) had been laid over the infilled pit and a compartment was formed in the north-west corner of the room by the insertion of light sandstone walls [500] and [501]. It enclosed an area measuring *c* 1.20m x 3m - the same size as the compartment tentatively interpreted as a corridor in Room 7. A configuration of sandstone blocks [421] found against its southern wall appeared to form a socket for a post.

Two ovens [462] and [465] were also present in the main room. Both were constructed from flags of sandstone and in the case of [462] edged with fragments of roof tile (Plate 20). The sandstone bases bore only slight evidence of heat damage. Oven [462] was built over the infilled pit [502] perhaps suggesting that the function of the room had changed during its lifespan from industrial to domestic.

Open land to the rear of the tenements

Beyond the southern boundary wall of Plot d, and east of the rear-most buildings of the site, was a thick layer of dark silty loam (390) containing sherds of pottery dating throughout the medieval period through to the 16th century. A crucible fragment was also found, perhaps providing more evidence for smithing in the locality. Cutting this layer were a number of pits, some of which were themselves inter-cutting [383], [433], [437], [521], [524], [550], [553], [557], [561], [562], [566], [595] (Fig 11). As these would be relatively unaffected by the developments piling scheme, only the upper fills were sampled for pottery. Sherds of pottery taken from organic fills (567) and (520) indicate that some of the earliest pits probably date from the 13th century. A soil sample taken from (567), the primary fill of pit [566], was found to contain seeds of weld or dyer's rocket, a plant commonly used in the medieval period for its brilliant fast yellow dye (see Section 7.3).

Trench 2 of the ULAS evaluation, located to the rear of Plot f, also discovered features cut through a similar homogeneous layer of dark silty loam (Richards 2006, 7). These features included linear cuts and pits containing pottery dating from the later 13th century through to the late medieval period.

5.5 The Civil War (1642-49)

The strengthening of Gosford Gate defences in 1643

A general scarcity of occupation layers was noted within the buildings of the second frontage implying that the floor surfaces were kept reasonably clean during their lifespan. Neither did they exhibit the evidence of having stood empty or partially dismantled for any length of time. Instead there appears to have been a swift and efficient dismantling/demolition as evidenced by fragmented deposits of building material lying directly over former floor surfaces.

Various sections of wall may have been deliberately robbed out at this time. Robber trenches [491] and [287] affecting the southern walls of Rooms 13 and Rooms 5 respectively appear, on the basis of stratigraphy, to be contemporary with the mid-17th century. In Room 6 a circular pit [309] with a diameter of 1m had been dug, cutting wall [293] (Fig 10). The demolition deposits, robber trenches and pit were sealed by layers of clay and building material (228) (263) (282) (299) (327) which were spread across most of the site in varying degrees of thickness. A Charles I farthing (SF70) was found in layer (299).

This evidence for dismantling/demolition accords with documented references in the City Annals to the first of two episodes of Civil War activity taking place outside

Gosford Gate. In 1643 the city authorities issued instructions for the pulling down of houses outside a number of the city's gates, including Gosford Gate. In addition, the digging of deep trenches and 'half moons' are recorded outside three of the gates including Gosford.

Evidence for one such entrenchment was found in the north-west corner of the site where the arc of a deep ditch [90] had removed layers contemporary with the second street frontage (Figs 12 and 6; Section 2; Plate 21). Evidently part of a larger feature extending beyond the excavation to the north and west, the visible section was over 3m wide and *c* 1.30m deep. Its primary fill was a dark grey silt (266) with pottery sherds including 17th-century 'light on dark' Staffordshire Slipware. Over this lay a dark loam (79) containing residual pottery sherds dating through to the later 16th century. Above lay a homogeneous mid-brown soil (78) with more medieval sherds.

The feature lay to the west of plot wall [241] and appeared to truncate another, east-west aligned section of wall [242] that had been constructed from large blocks of sandstone; some, including a section of chamfered plinth, evidently re-used from pre-existing structures. A very distinct pale grey lime mortar had been used to bond the blocks.

The mortar may have been mixed very close by; to the south a large pit [457] was found cutting both the clay levelling layer (282) applied over the remnants of Room 13 (Fig 10). The pit's primary fill was a crude mortar (458) similar in character to that used to bond wall [242].

Both wall [242] and entrenchment [90] are likely to have been successive attempts to defend Gosford Gate which was sited just a few metres to the north-west. The entrenchment, with its distinctive arc, is probably the 'half moon' referred to in the documents.

Defensive measures of 1645

Two years after the original reference to the fortification of the gate the documents state that, '*The Citty was called to make a strong outwork without Gosford Gate compassed round with a river*' (City Annals quoted in Alcock 2006, 17). This clearly documented feature was discovered during the excavation and established to be a ditch cutting a swathe at an angle to the street through the levelled buildings and underlying stratigraphy on a north-south alignment (Fig 12). Two sections were excavated through the ditch towards the centre of the site [93] and [246] (Fig 13; Section 3, Plates 22 & 23) and it was also exposed in the south-west of the site by Trench 2 of the evaluation and the north-east by the contamination test pit [67]. Hereafter it is referred to as Civil War ditch [93/246].

The ditch's width varied between 5m and 6m and in the excavated sections it was 1.4-1.6m deep. It had sides cut at approximately 45º and a flat base. The primary fill in both sections was alluvial silty clay (127), (271), (272) which was probably deposited by water channelling between the Springfield Brook and the River Sherbourne. The primary fills of the excavated sections were overlain by *c* 0.40m of organic and mineral lenses, characteristic of deposition in a waterlogged environment. Environmental samples taken from the organic component of the lower fills (109), (250), (253) produced evidence for regular inundations of deep water (see Section 7.3).

The lower fills were sealed by bulk deposits of clay loam and fragmented rubble (95=96=248) which contained mainly residual pottery but also sherds of the 17th century. Close dating to the Civil War period is provided by clay pipe bowls found in fills (96) and (109) that have been identified as a type manufactured between 1640-1660 (see Section 6.6). The homogeneous nature of the upper fills was

suggestive of deliberate backfilling, perhaps by pushing an accompanying bank back into the ditch. The ditch was later completely levelled over with more loam and rubble layers (99), (247), probably when the frontage was rebuilt in the early 18th-century (see Section 5.6).

Other features of probable Civil War provenance were enclosed within this substantial defence. They included a thick spread of yellow lime mortar (207) surrounding a trapezoid-shaped pit [258] which lay next to the northern edge of the excavation over Room 6 (Fig 12). The mortar had a distinct lip around its southern edge where something appeared to have been robbed away or turned around a central axis. Pit [258] had a posthole [261] cut in to its base measuring 360mm by 230mm. The general impression given was that these features were the remnants of a temporary construction, perhaps a mortar-mixer.

Another surface of probable Civil War origin was located over the north wall of Room 13 where the remnants of a sandstone surface (391) were uncovered (Fig 12, Plate 24).

5.6 Post-medieval occupation (18th-19th centuries)

Ground consolidation after the Restoration period

Various deposits overlay the infilled ditches, levelling layers and isolated features of the Civil War. Many of them, such as the upper fills of the ditches, appeared to have been deliberately levelled over, eg (68), (99) and (247). At the eastern end of the frontage layers of clean sand (205) and (206) were dumped over the underlying Civil War strata. A residual farthing of James I (1603-1625) and sherds of Manganese Mottled ware pottery, produced 1680-1740, were found in layer (206) where it overlay mortar feature (207) providing a useful *terminus post quem* for the levelling. Similar deposits were found to the west, including sandy layer (77) which contained frequent fragments of building material and had been used to level over the area around the in-filled 'half moon'. It contained pottery fabrics dating through to the 18th century.

At the eastern end of the frontage the upper surface of these levelling layers was consolidated with deposits of compacted sandy clay and fragmentary building materials (42), (101), (121), (122). Pottery retrieved from these layers dates them to the 18th century. Contemporary deposits, such as layer (176), performed the same function to the west.

The 18th century frontage

Cut into the levelling layers were substantial rubble-filled wall foundations relating to the first of two phases of post-medieval frontage (Fig 14). They appeared to define up to three separate buildings, the best preserved being in the north-east corner of the site (eastern building, plots b-c). Here a dog-legged construction trench [123] was filled with a sandstone rubble footing bonded with clay [112], defining the footprint of a substantial building (Plate 25). Its shape and location appear to be faithfully mirrored by a distinctive building incorporating a rear wing depicted on Samuel Bradford's Plan of Coventry (1748-9) (Fig 3b). The same building morphology is evident on Thomas Sharp's map of 1807 (Fig 3c).

Within the footprint of this eastern building was a flight of spiral stairs [104] constructed from sandstone and set within a stone stair-well (Plate 26). As they disappeared beyond the edge of the excavation their depth and their destination remain unknown. The close proximity of the Springfield Brook to the east would suggest that any cellarage in this location would be prone to flooding so it may be that the steps provided access to the stream – perhaps leading under 'Dover' bridge.

Dividing the eastern building from those to the west was a 1m-wide passageway whose position and alignment was almost identical to the earlier though passage present in Room 1 of the first frontage. It represents a surprising revival of an aspect of the frontage's original morphology that, based on the archaeological evidence, had lain dormant for some three hundred years (Fig 14, Fig 6; Section 1). The passage may have led directly onto a rear yard, the remnants of which survived as a surface of crude sandstone flags (44) overlain by a trample layer (43) containing sherds of slipware and Midland Black pancheon dating to the 18th century.

To the west of the passage were heavy wall footings [4] which had subsequently been re-used as foundations for 19th-century buildings - the later fabric being bonded on with a thick application of lime mortar. These earlier footings appear to define two separate buildings thought to be part of the 18th-century frontage. To the west of the passage the footings defined a building with a frontage width of some 8m (central building, plots d-e). Adjoining the western side of this was evidence for another contemporary building (western building, plot f). Approximately 4.5m of its width was visible in the north-west corner of the site.

The only evidence for floor layers associated with these buildings was found in the central building where the remnant of a brick and tiled surface (138) lay on mortar bedding (139) at *c* 77.8m OD. Encaustic tiles of the medieval period, evidently re-used from elsewhere, were visible protruding from the edge of the excavation. They bore a distinctive decoration for which 15th-century parallels exist, including tiles from St John the Baptist's Church, Coventry (see Section 6.2). Elsewhere the floor surfaces were absent; they were presumably grubbed up prior to the construction of the 19th-century frontage.

Wells

To the rear of the western building a brick-lined well had been cut in to the Civil War levelling layers and is thought to be contemporary with the 18th-century frontage. It had been capped with a brick dome [235] and later levelled over during the construction of a 19th-century yard surface (Fig 14; Plate 27). Digital photographs taken through a break in the capping revealed a timber post submerged below the water line. The post had a centrally-bored hole and is thought to be the remnant of a piped supply to a pump. To the east another brick-lined well [62] had been backfilled with debris including 19th-century pottery and capped with sections of window mullion, presumably re-used from contemporary buildings when the frontage was rebuilt in the early 19th century (see below).

Ovens/kilns

Further back from the frontage were the remains of a pair of circular brick-built ovens or kilns [191] and [196] that had been set into rubble-filled construction trenches [194] and [189] (Figs 14 and 15). Brick flues leading into them had been built in to the remnants of the rear wall of Plot f [416]. The bases of both the flues and the ovens/kilns were surfaced with irregularly-shaped sandstone flags (190) and (195). It is possible that the brick superstructure rose to form a domed roof. Such a design would suggest that they functioned as bread ovens. The bricks used in the construction of these features date from the 18th century. A small rectangular building appears in the same location as the ovens on the Board of Health Map of 1851 (Fig 3d).

The western oven [191] was the larger with an external diameter of *c* 2.2m (Plate 28). Up to five courses of unbonded, heat scorched bricks survived. Their average size was 40mm by 110mm by 200mm. The eastern oven was slightly smaller with an exterior diameter of *c* 1.70m, however, the average size of the bricks used was

larger at 60mm by 120mm by 250mm. In both cases the ovens had been modified with a partial re-lining of their interior. The flues were also modified, reducing their width to 0.60m.

For both ovens clear bases are consistent with regular cleaning as demolition debris sat directly over them with no intervening deposits of burned material. When the base (195) of the eastern oven was taken up, however, a localised patch of ashy residue (381) was revealed. Subsequent sampling produced only coal dust and charcoal.

167-172 Far Gosford Street

The final phase of occupation along the street frontage was characterised by the remains of brick-built houses, a cellar and a courtyard (Figs 2 and 16). Their ground plan survived to such a degree that they can be identified on historic maps as 167-172 Far Gosford Street. They first appear on the Board of Health map (1851) and survive with minor alterations to be included in a 1914 plan of the Calcott Brothers Factory site (Fig 3d-g).

The brick walls of the frontage are built over footings [24] comprising dressed sandstone, evidently re-used from earlier buildings as evidenced by the inclusion of large, tooled ashlar blocks and occasional moulded architectural fragments (Plate 29). To the west of the site (170-172 Far Gosford Street) these footings lie directly over the denuded foundations [4] of the earlier 18th-century frontage. To the east of the site (167-169 Far Gosford Street) the building line lies, for the most part, a short distance to the south of the earlier foundations except where it cuts across the rear wing at the eastern edge of the site. The passage of the earlier frontage was retained to divide house numbers 169 and 170. A salt glazed drainage pipe had been bored through the layers beneath the passage.

Patchy brick and quarry tile floor surfaces survived at *c* 75.2m OD.

Cellar

To the rear of house numbers 170 and 171 was a large half-cellar, identified as Number 1, Court 16, and accessed via a flight of heavily worn stone steps [80] from the south-east corner of 171 (Fig 16; Plate 30). The structure was primarily brick-built although its lower courses were constructed from sandstone ashlars which were presumably re-used from the 18th-century frontage. A 0.50m-wide trench encircled the cellar on its east, west and southern sides. It had been cut into the underlying stratigraphy to a depth of *c* 0.60m and was subsequently back-filled with red clay containing post-medieval pottery. The trench was probably dug as part of the ground works for the cellar – perhaps to prevent surface water draining into it during construction.

In digging out the cellar, the top of the 12th/early 13th-century post [223] may have been revealed. A pit [657] dug beneath the cellar floor was centred over the post and may indicate that some of the timber was removed at this time and an unsuccessful attempt made to dig the rest out (Fig 6; Section 1, Plate 1). The pit was subsequently backfilled and sealed by a clay levelling layer (149).

Two brick-lined drains were buried beneath the cellar's original floor surface and a thrall buttressed its interior walls. At a later date the floor level was raised obscuring the lower course of the thrall. This secondary level comprised a very neatly laid brick floor [81], sitting at *c* 74.10m OD, with a narrow slot built into its edge (Plate 30). Three compartments were built into the north side of the cellar and were evidently divided from the rest of the internal space by a wooden screen – traces of which survived in the base of the slot. The cellar was filled with 19th- and early 20th-century building and domestic debris.

To the east of the cellar a light brick wall [21] was attached to the south-west corner of 170 Far Gosford Street. It is the only remnant of a square structure that is shown adjoining the cellar on the historic maps (Figs 3d-f). A robber trench cut through the earlier yard surface (44) delimits its southern extent.

Court 16

Remnants of a yard surface (53) were revealed to the west of the cellar where a patchy spread of sandstone flags, cobbles and bricks overlay made ground comprising loam and demolition debris which contained sherds of 18th- and 19th-century pottery. The remains of a light structure, perhaps an outhouse, were defined by walls of sandstone and brick and sat within the yard's south-west corner.

The yard is annotated as, 'Court Nº16' on the Calcott Brothers plan (Alcock 2006, 21; Fig 16). Brick walls [52] protruding from the extreme western limit of the excavation correspond with structures marked as numbers 2 and 3 on the same plan, with the half-cellar building annotated as number 1.

5.7 The Calcott and Singer Factories (1896-1926)

Roughly cast concrete bases, some capped with bricks, were spaced at regular intervals to the rear of the frontage (Fig 16). They formerly provided structural support for the Calcott Brothers 'new' workshop depicted on their 1914 plan (Fig 3g; Alcock 2006, 21; Fig 16). The actual construction of this extension took place some time after 1916 when their application had been approved with the proviso that the houses along the street frontage were demolished (ibid, 20). These demolitions were finally undertaken by Singer Motors after they acquired the site in 1926.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 **Medieval to post-medieval pottery** by Iain Soden

The assemblage

A total of 1946 sherds were recovered, in 31 fabrics, weighing 31.045kg. In date they range from *c* 1100 to *c* 1900. The sherds were counted and weighed by fabric or type, using accepted and widely understood nomenclature and terminology. Each was then assigned to its type as set down in the Warwickshire Medieval and Post Medieval Ceramic County Type Series (Ratkai and Soden 1997). It was quickly realised that although the assemblage is of not inconsiderable size, it is unusually fragmented, with levels of residuality running very high. Sherd size and average sherd weight (15.9g) overall was very low, reflecting this, although as ever, more robust types tend to survive better, however badly they have been treated. No discrete pit groups were excavated and very few undisturbed contexts. Most pottery derives from construction levels, destruction levels and earthen yards. Very little came from floors or other occupation surfaces. Most is therefore of limited value except for providing broad dating for the site.

The following fabrics were present in the following amounts:

Table 15: Pottery quantification

Common name	Warwickshire CTS	Production range	Numbers	Weight (g)	Ave sh weight
Developed Stamford ware	WW201	1100-1250	2	45	22.5
Calcareous shelly wares	CS	1100-1300	13	334	25.7
Coventry D ware	Sq21	1150-1250	46	559	12.1
Coventry A ware	Sq202-203	12th-14th centuries	190	2918	15.3
Chilvers Coton A ware	WW01	1250-1300	881	13020	14.7
Chilvers Coton C ware	Sq30	1300-1500	179	3849	21.5
Brill/Boarstall type ware	Sq40	1300-1500	3	31	10.3
Potterspury-type ware	Sq50	1250-1500	5	277	55.4
Cannon Park ware	Sq23	1250-1300	11	90	8.1
Late med redware type	SLM14	14th-15th centuries	53	1228	23.1
Tudor Green ware	WW02	1350-1500	19	41	2.1
Midland Purple ware	MP	1400-1700	115	2647	23.0
Cistercian ware	CIST	1475-1550	27	113	4.1
Midland black ware (early)	MB01	1550-1700	95	1536	16.1
Midland black ware (later)	MB02	1700-1850	34	1497	44.0
Midland yellow ware	MY01	1550-1720	36	564	15.6
Tin glazed earthenware	TGE01	16th-18th centuries	7	39	5.5
Slipwares (all sorts)	SLPW	1640-1740	28	357	12.7
Manganese mottled ware	MANG	1680-1740	49	500	10.2
White salt-glazed stoneware	STE03	1720-1780	27	151	5.6
Blue shell edge pearlware	PLW02	1780-1840	5	114	22.8
Cream coloured earthenware (tortoiseshell)	New to County Type Series but part of CRW tradition	1750-1780	4	45	11.2
Creamware	CRW	1740-1790	38	142	3.7
Nottingham stoneware	STE02	1750-1900	13	169	13.0
Mocha ware	MO	1830-1850	3	16	5.3
Modern glazed ware	MGW	1800-1920	26	109	4.2

The following continental imports were also present in the following amounts:

Common name	Warwickshire CTS	Production range	Numbers	Weight	Ave sh Weight
Paffrath ladles	IMP02	13th century	2	21	10.5
Martincamp III stoneware	IMP 103	15th-17th centuries	1	30	30.0
Siegburg stoneware	STG05	15th-16th centuries	1	31	31.0
Frechen stoneware	STG03	1550-1690	1	12	12.0
German grog-decorated whiteware	New to County Type series –but comparable with GDW	1750	7	21	3.0

Medieval pottery (1100-1250)

There is very little pottery of any kind before *c* 1250. What is present is limited to a few sherds of Stamford and shell-tempered wares and evidence of a small number (perhaps only three) of Coventry D ware pitchers. These forms have been published from Broadgate (Redknap in Rylatt and Stokes 1996, 37-42) and are a type-fossil for the 12th to early 13th century, after which this (apparently) Coventry-based industry quickly disappeared, swamped by imported material from Nuneaton of both much higher quality and a wider range of forms.

The dearth of this material might suggest that the site supported no occupation before *c* 1250 and that the few sherds present before this date reflect casual dumping at the river's edge or even, in the case of individual sherds, river-wash from upstream.

Later medieval pottery (1250-1500)

From about 1250, there is an overwhelming reliance on the Chilvers Coton industry at Nuneaton, Warwickshire. This is in keeping with other sites in and around the city, where ceramics assemblages cross the 1250-divide, such as Broadgate and Much Park Street (Perry in Rylatt and Stokes 1996, 43-5; Wright 1988). Forms present are primarily WW01, or 'A ware', mainly jugs (nomenclature of Mayes and Scott 1984), the earlier being balusters with frilled bases, graduating to squat and ovoid forms, having rod or slashed strap handles. Some jars/cooking pots are also present. There were no complete profiles and much of the material was very abraded. The one fragment worthy of note is a fragment of a possible cresset lamp in fabric WW01, a ceramic form, similar to a mortar, seen previously in Coventry (Shelton Collection) but otherwise new in this fabric (Fig 17.1).

Chilvers Coton (Nuneaton) 'C ware' types (nomenclature of Mayes and Scott 1984) parallel the A ware at the start of the 14th century and supplant it into the 15th century, adopting similar jug forms (but not generally balusters which are characteristic of the 13th century). One squat or ovoid jug form retains a clear and unusual indication of having been coil-built in portions, later joined together. The lower portion almost looks like a separate bowl form, to which an upper portion has been added, smoothed over on the exterior but not the interior (Fig 17.2)

Smaller Coventry industries existed alongside the Nuneaton imports. Of note are small quantities of Cannon Park wares. Although not diagnostic sherds, elsewhere this type has been excavated on consumer sites where jugs dominate (see Soden 2005, plate 19 for the best complete example from Derby Lane 1982). The kilns are thought to lie in Canley, where a waster dump was excavated in 1976 (Redknap 1985). A later extension to this tradition are the late medieval redwares, first

identified at Charterhouse (Soden 1985). They are present in small quantities here and reflect the same red-firing coal-measure clays as the Cannon Park ware but in a wider range of forms (bowls, skillets, dishes) as reflecting later medieval dining habits.

The occurrence of Midland Purple types is dated to the middle of the 15th century, although some higher-fired Nuneaton C vessels share some of the characteristics of Midland Purples, giving rise to the appellation of 'transitional' Midland Purple, a result of higher kiln temperatures (coal-fired as opposed to wood- or charcoal-fired) and a finer potting technique achieving cleaner lines and sharp rilling, carinations etc. The glaze colour is often far from purple, achieving sometimes a thick, glutinous black aspect, presaging the lead glazes of the Cistercian and Blackware traditions which appear in the late 15th and 16th centuries. The origin of Midland Purple is far from clear, kilns producing such material being at Chilvers Coton ('D ware') and Ticknall, Derbyshire. A recent watching brief recovered waster material at the latter, near Calke Abbey and showed a range of Midland Purple Fabrics within which most Coventry types fall while others also match those from Nuneaton (Leigh and Cumberpatch in prep). Patronage of the two is distinctly possible.

Midland Purple forms present include jugs, including a deftly-made cabled handle of three plaited cords (context 265) and a bifid cistern rim with a half-moon cut-out (context 289), of a type paralleled at Coventry Charterhouse, where it dates *c* 1475-1539 (Soden 1995, 92-3 and fig 29). Other examples come from the town ditch at Cox Street (Redknap 1986, 75 and fig 13.29, 13.31, 13.34). The distinctive form is also known in Leicester, where numerous unknown kiln sources are also suspected (Woodland in Mellor 1981, 127, and fig 36).

Fragments of Paffrath ladle are present, seen previously nearby at 114-5 Gosford Street (Wright 1988) and at Whitefriars Street (Bryn Gethin pers comm). They are believed to have been imported within barrels or vats of ale or wine from the Rhineland. They are not uncommon although no profile has yet been excavated in Coventry.

Early finewares are represented by a few small fragments of Tudor Green types (Surrey Whitewares). The type regularly shatters into tiny fragments and in this case not enough survives to be sure of what forms are present. One base may be that of a cup-pedestal but the evidence is equivocal (context 408).

Early post-medieval types (c 1500-1640)

This period is marked by the appearance of fine table wares in increasing quantities and a wider range of fabrics, particularly in forms connected with drinking, including imported continental examples. Cisterician wares are present in the houses along the frontage but only in small quantities. The delicate upright rim and tiny handle fragments strongly suggest drinking cups but of unknown form, since they are very fragmentary. One or two bear applied decoration applied in a white-slip, which fires yellow under the glaze; it is often called reverse-Cistercian fabric.

Similarly the early Midland black ware appears in the 16th century, dominated by multi-handled drinking cups and upright beakers, known as Tygs. Examples here are, like Cistercian, very fragmentary and exact forms cannot be reconstructed.

A wide variety of Midland Yellow wares are found in the city beginning during this period and continuing though to about 1700. Previous excavations have shown that the type is given to a number of specialist forms, such as Chafing dishes, candlesticks (both in Shelton Collection) and an apple baker from Bayley Lane 1988 (Steve Moorhouse, pers comm). Very fragmentary pieces from Astleys appear to be mainly bowls or posset pots, but also include the knop from a ceramic lid. None has a complete profile.

In terms of cooking, there is a brief appearance of a redware jar with a pronounced internal lid-seating (context 390), a characteristic 16th-century form, best seen in a complete example recently excavated from the fill of the town ditch at Bond Street and Hill Street (Blinkhorn in Mason *et al*, forthcoming). A contemporary form in the same fabric has already been published from Cox Street (Redknap 1986, 73 and fig 12.20).

Continental imports find their apogee during this period. At Astleys, the range present is small but comprises an unusual mix. On most Coventry sites one expects to find Frechen ware, usually the Bartmannskruge, once popularly known as Bellarmine jugs. Here, however, such sherds are present in only minimal numbers. There are, however, Martincamp flask sherds from France, rarely seen elsewhere in the city but found in small numbers at Charterhouse (Soden 1995, 95-6 and fig 23.14), 121-4 Spon Street (Soden 2005, 149, fig 46) and over the nave of the Benedictine Cathedral (Clarke and Soden 2003b, 115).

Also present is the rim and neck of a Siegburg Jakobakanne drinking jug of about 1500 (Hurst et al 1986, 180 and fig 88.263). Siegburg stoneware is rarely found in Coventry, being recorded only from the Benedictine Priory undercrofts (Clarke and Soden 2003a, 110). The fragment is illustrated for this reason (Fig 17.3).

The Civil War period (1640-60)

This period marks the introduction in Coventry of the first slipwares, but soon encompassing all types, comprising trailed light-on-dark, dark-on-light, feathered and joggled. Press-moulded plates are the most common although numbers of the wares are relatively few.

Post Civil War (1660-1850)

This period is not marked by large quantities of pottery, despite evidence that a new frontage was constructed for occupation in the 18th century. As in all Coventry sites occupied at this time, consumption comes to rely almost totally upon Staffordshire production sources, especially for fine table-wares.

Amongst coarsewares at this period, Midland Blackwares continue to predominate, in pancheon, butter-pot and posset pot/chamber pot forms. None from this site is remarkable as they are so fragmentary. Alongside them are small quantities of manganese-glazed probable posset pots and tankards, closely dated to the period 1680-1740.

The finest salt-glazed stoneware, usually very fragile, is only present in small quantities, perhaps indicative of no particularly high status on the site. It was produced *c* 1720-80. The occurrence of Tortoiseshell (often called Whieldon-type, after the potter Thomas Whieldon, only one of a number of makers) is firmly in the Creamware tradition but has a hugely distinctive mottled, sponged and painted multicolour patterning (Barker and Halfpenny 1990, 35-43 and colour plates 16, 19, 40). It is not previously known from excavations in Coventry. Complete examples may be seen in Stoke-on-Trent City Museum and Oxford's Ashmolean Museum. The plate fragments found relate to a fairly simple form with only minimal feather-edge press-moulded decoration and date between *c* 1750 and *c* 1780 (Fig 17.5; Plate 31). Seven sherds of a grog-decorated and green-glazed vessel (context 228) are probably a German import of about 1750, from Cologne (Hurst *et al* 1986, 237-40). None of the sherds is diagnostic (Fig 17.4; Plate 32). A brown-glazed grog-decorated whiteware equivalent (again, a non-diagnostic body sherd from context 130) may be a Staffordshire copy, often described (often on no real evidence) as the work of the potter Ralph Brasset and most popularly known in the form of bear-jugs (complete white salt-glazed stoneware example in Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge acc no C.501 and A-1928). The type has been found in small quantities in Coventry

previously in 1989-90, behind Hay Lane/Bayley Lane (Soden 1990).

Conclusions

This is a relatively large assemblage but one which is not remarkable for the discovery of widespread types or forms new to Coventry. It would, however, when considered alongside the wealth of scientific and numismatic dating evidence retrieved from the site, appear to corroborate the received wisdom of Coventry's ceramic chronology.

Use trends for different types seem to be on a par with most other excavated Coventry sites, with a heavy medieval reliance on the Nuneaton industry after 1250 and a similar predominance of Staffordshire products in the post-medieval period. The assemblage is largely very fragmentary and is valuable for dating purposes only.

Catalogue of illustrated sherds *(Fig 17)*

1: Fragment of cresset lamp in Fabric WW01 (Chilvers Coton A) - context 213

2: Fragments of jug in fabric Sq30 (Chilvers Coton C) showing joined slabs - context 479

3: Rim and neck of a Jakobekanne from Siegburg, Germany - context 503

4 & Plate 32: Cologne grog-decorated whiteware sherds – context 228

5 & Plate 31: Coloured creamware (Tortoiseshell or Whieldon ware) – context 111

6.2 Ceramic building material by Pat Chapman

Roof tile

This assemblage of 161 fragments of roof tile, weighing 30.30kg, comprises 144 pieces of flat roof tile, with seventeen fragments of ridge tile and crests. They come from 62 contexts, with the largest assemblage of seventeen fragments and a complete tile from Civil War levelling layer (263), and smaller assemblages from medieval and Civil War contexts (306), (308), (389), (390) and (487).

There are six fabrics, with minor variations as follows:

Table 16: The Roof tiles

Fabric	Description
A	sandy, dark red fabric with occasional gravel up to 12mm in diameter, some very fine crushed 'shell' and occasional ironstone. Similar to the Chilvers Coton fabric D Midland Purple (Mayes and Scott 1984, 40)
B	coarse sand with variations on orange/reddish/brown with some fine shell, and occasional calcareous and black inclusions, similar to Chilvers Coton fabric C (ibid)
C	a fine, almost silty yellow brown
D	gritty, off-white to buff to slightly pinkish, sometimes with a dark grey reduced core, similar to Chilvers Coton fabric A (ibid)
E	fine, pale red brown with cream streaks, slightly vesicular
F	sandy reduced medium grey with darker core.

Most of the tile was made in fabrics A, B and D, the latter most closely associated with the ridge tile and crests, while fabrics C, E and F altogether accounted for less than twenty fragments.

There are two complete examples of the nib roof tile, one of which was already broken. The tile from (263) measures 263mm long by 171-4mm wide and 15mm thick. The broken tile from (289) measures 290mm long, tapering from 165mm

wide at the top to 170mm wide at the bottom and 16 to 20mm thick. The standard dimensions, as laid down by Parliament in 1477, were 10½ x 6½ x ½ inches (*c* 265 x 165 x 15mm), to which these tiles generally adhere.

On the 39 fragments of flat tile which have the top surviving, about a third of the assemblage, there is a nib. Twelve of these nib tiles, again about a third, are accompanied by pegholes which are either square or round (Plate 33).

The flat tiles are all plain, without glazing, except for streaks of dark green glaze on some fragments which may have dripped from pots or floor tiles occupying the same kiln during firing. The tiles are in a range of shades of brown and orange with black and as such would most likely have been used to create patterns on the roofs of the buildings, together with green glazed roof tiles perhaps, to make a colourful and attractive roofscape.

Ridge tile

Some fragments of ridge tile survive, but none big enough to have any meaningful dimension. Some flat green glazed fragments in fabric D, listed with the nib tiles, may have been ridge tiles but there was no curve to differentiate them. A few of the ridge tiles are plain and made in fabrics A, B and E. One fragment had been glazed black, but the majority were made from fabric D and had been glazed with a bright grass green or paler green colour. This fabric was generally thinner than the others, being about 8-10mm thick.

Crests

There is one complete crest and the remains of three others. The complete crest from context (390) is a style that appears to originate from Nuneaton and comprises most of the Chilvers Coton crests, made with two moulded strips of clay added onto the ridge tile in tight loops (Plate 34) (Mayes and Scott 1984, 166-170, figs 114-118). This style has been found in Coventry in Much Park Street (Wright 1982, 101-4, fig 56. 1, 3), at the medieval cathedral (Rylatt *et al* 2003, 94, fig 60. d and e) and at Whitefriars (Ratkai and Woodfield 2005, fig 149.8). These crests have also been found in Leicester at the Austin Friars (Allin 1991, 59, type 5 looped, fig 16.9) and one example from Greyfriars in Northampton (Eames 1978, 127, fig 18. 12). They have generally been in a green glaze, while this present one from Far Gosford Street has the appearance of Midland Purple. The origin of this crest has been dated to *c* 1300, and to have become a widespread Midland style by the middle of the 14th century (Allin 1991, 59). Two worn green-glazed crest fragments from (616) and context (387) may also be part of the double loop style, although only part of one loop survives.

The final crest, also green-glazed, comes from context (389). It resembles a handle rising from the apex for 15mm before bending almost at right angles, but at an angle from the apex, for 70mm before the break. There is a vertical slash at the base and three more vertical slashes at the broken end.

One unusual item is a head of an animal, possibly part of a zoomorphic finial, from context (145) in fabric D and green glazed (Plate 35) such as the one found near Lyveden, Northamptonshire, although in that case the head is missing (Dunning 1975, 103). The head is also similar to that of an aquamanile at the British Museum (Nenk and Walker 1991). The hole is continuous from the neck to the mouth, though it is very narrow at the throat. The mouth is damaged and the ears/horns are gone. The neck appears to be slightly asymmetrical, although only the top survives.

Floor tile

There are six complete floor tiles, one small square and fourteen fragments. Two of the complete tiles are decorated and there are two decorated fragments (Fig 18).

One complete tile has a diagonal cut ready for splitting into triangles, another has stacking marks along one edge (Plate 36).

There is a slight variation in size, from a square 110mm wide, which comprises the majority of the measurable tiles to the largest at 122mm wide. The thickness also varies slightly, between 20mm and 25mm. The fabric is a slightly coarse sandy clay with tiny flint inclusions or the occasional larger pebble and varies in colour from an orange brown to a more reddish or slightly purply colour with an occasional reduced core. Two have been slightly overfired and there is a tendency for the fabric to split horizontally where it is exposed. There are no stab marks in the bases of the tiles. The most likely source of these tiles are the Coventry Stoke kilns, which are about a mile away from the site.

With one exception all the tiles are very worn with only traces of glaze or slip left. The predominant glaze is green, but there are a few traces of yellow glaze. The decorated tiles have also lost their glaze, with the exception of the fragment from (469) which still retains a large part of the original glaze, and a slight trace remaining on the fragment from (138).

Table 17: The floor tile

Context	Dimensions (mm)	Description
96	19 thick	Plain corner
137	20 thick	Plain corner, top worn, green glaze on side and base
137	110 x 23	Complete, plain green glaze on sides & bottom worn off top leaving black, stacking marks on edge
138	109 x 20	Complete, decorated
138	23 thick	Decorated, fragment
175	110 x 23	Complete, plain green glaze
225	17 thick	Yellow glaze
228	114 x 20	Complete, plain, diagonal cut for splitting into triangles
228	62 x 20	Complete small square, yellow glaze on edges
263	110 x 23	Complete, decorated
297	110 x 23	Two joining sherds making one complete edge
297	23 & 20 thick	Two fragments
299	23 & 15 thick	White slip on one, 15mm thick may be roof tile
431	110 x 20	Complete, plain with white slip and traces yellow glaze edges
455	22 thick	Black on top
469	122 x 23	Decorated, fragment
480	117 x 25	Complete, pale green glaze and black
606	20 thick	Pale green or yellow glaze

The decorated tile from context (138) is part of a nine-tile design, with a circular border comprising a cable enclosed by parallel lines, with a five-petalled flower between the letters A and M (Fig 18.1). This is almost identical to the 15th-century design from Aylestone Church, Leicester (Whitcomb 1956, 109, design 185 b) and Maxstoke, Warwickshire and St John Baptist's Church, Coventry (Chatwin 1936, fig 9. 8 and12). It is very worn with only the white slip surviving. The decorated corner fragment, also from (138), shows part of an arc with a triangle and a dot enclosed within a circle, but not enough to determine the type of design (Fig 18.2).

The decorated tile from (263) could be part of a sixteen-tile design. The border is very wide, comprising two single lines with opposing cusps creating a series of curves enclosing six-petalled flowers. Outside the circle at the corner is a fleur de lys (Fig 18.3). This design is identical to tiles found at Whitefriars, Coventry (Ratkai and Woodfield 2005, fig 143. 62a) and at Kenilworth and Wormleighton, both in Warwickshire (Chatwin 1936, fig 31).

From context (469) only a third of a decorated green-glazed tile survives. The design comprises a fleur de lys in each corner pointing into the centre and bounded by an arc. The arcs could be supporting a circle for the centre of the tile (Fig 18.4).

An interesting feature of the complete plain tile from context (137) are the possible stacking marks along one edge. These are two diagonal bands, 15mm and 23mm wide, with others extending beyond the edge of the tile, the broader bands contain the glaze which lies underneath the clay where the other tiles were pulled away (Plate 37).

The small plain square from context (228) was probably pre-cut from a larger square tile as the upper part of the two presumed internal edges are only clean cut along the top half, below they are rough as if snapped apart.

Brick

There are five incomplete bricks. They are handmade from a hard, sandy, reddish purple or orange red fabric, reasonably well mixed, with occasional rounded quartz pebbles about 10mm in diameter and one or two pebbles up to 25mm as inclusions. This is similar to the Midland Purple fabric. The 'top' surfaces are smoothed or slightly worn, while the edges and bottom are sandy and rougher, in one case very uneven.

Table 18: Brick dimensions

Context/feature	Length mm(inches)	Width mm(inches)	Thickness mm(inches)
193 /	230 min / 9 min	117 / 6¾	40 / 1,5/8
474 /		115 min / 6 min	53 / 2,1/8
474 /		134 / 5¼	50 / 2
474 /		120 min / 4¾ min	65 / 2½
474 /			60 / 2,3/8

Three of these bricks are unusually wide, since the average width in most periods tends to be about 100-120mm (4-4¾ inches). However, these bricks could be dated to between the 15th and early 18th centuries, as bricks varied in dimensions and fabric, by region and for whatever uses the brick was being employed.

Conclusion

The fabrics of the roof tiles suggest a 14th- and 15th-century date for their manufacture and use. It is possible that they could also have been reused at a later date before being discarded. The decorated floor tiles can also be dated to the same period.

6.3 Slag and metalworking debris by Andy Chapman

A total of 1.87kg of fuel ash slag was recovered. The majority of this, 1.60kg, came from a single context 146, a layer associated with the post-medieval frontage. A further four medieval/Civil War contexts, (133, 134, 144, 157) produced between 5g and 110g of fuel ash slag, all recovered from soil samples. This material comprises irregular lumps, up to 100mm diameter, of light and vesicular fuel ash slag, often with one surface fluid and glassy. Some lumps contain small fragments of charcoal and/or small pieces of pink to red burnt sandy clay. On some fragments, coming from contexts 146 and 133, there are impressions from what appear to be dense mats of organic material. These may have been chopped fragments of plant stems, which may suggest that the fuel ash slag has come from burnt daub.

There is 2.96kg of ferrous slag from context (420), a medieval occupation layer, and a further 2.32kg from context (503), the fill of medieval pit [502]. It comprises roughly spherical or elongated lumps, up to 110mm in diameter, which frequently contain small pieces of charcoal fuel. A single piece is more fluid, with a glassy surface. This material is indicative of ironworking being carried out nearby, most probably secondary smithing, with the slag coming from a charcoal-fuelled smithing hearth.

Sieving for plant macrofossil remains also identified black porous and tarry residues. Those within the earlier deposits are all probably derived from the combustion of organic remains at high temperatures. However, those from the later deposits, particularly those within samples 17 and 23, from 15th to 16th-century occupation layer (420) and pit fill (503) respectively, had a very even and open texture, and were probably derived from fuel (possibly low grade coal) which had been heated to an extremely high temperature. Coal fragments were present throughout, especially within the later medieval deposits and the demolition layer (455) associated with the Civil War ditches. The fragment size was generally very small (<2mm), possibly suggesting that much of the material was derived from coal 'dust'. Coal was mined in Wyken, Coventry from the early 16th century and from the 13th century in Shilton (Soden 1995, 9; 2005, 152). A small number of ferrous globules were noted within the assemblages from later medieval pit [502] (sample 23).

6.4 **Other finds** by Tora Hylton

Introduction

The excavations produced a group of medieval and post-medieval finds. With the exception of the hoard of silver coins (Curteis, this volume) only small numbers of artefacts were recovered from deposits relating to the early occupation and the first street frontage (mid 13th - early 15th centuries), suggesting that soil disturbances and building demolition during the late medieval and early post-medieval period has resulted in material from earlier features being either removed from site or redeposited within later fills, such as, for instance two 13th-century heraldic pendants in post-medieval deposits. The majority of artefacts were retrieved from deposits relating to later medieval/early post-medieval development and the Civil War defences. The range of finds provides a brief insight into some of the activities which may have taken place. In tandem with other excavations in Coventry, there is evidence for metal working (ferrous and non-ferrous) and bone working in keeping with previous historical research into the street (VCH 1951). The assemblage includes a small group of dress accessories and horse furniture.

In total there are 247 individual or group recorded small finds in seven material types, silver (39), copper alloy (78), iron (94), lead (14), stone (7), bone (4) and leather (11). Each object has been described and measured, and a descriptive catalogue is retained in archive. The majority of artefacts were recovered by hand, but the use of a metal detector at regular intervals during the excavation increased the recovery of metal objects.

A total of 38 iron objects (excluding nails and small fragments) and thirteen copper alloy objects were submitted for X-ray. This was undertaken by Wiltshire Conservation Service. This not only provided a permanent record, but enabled identification and revealed technical details not otherwise visible. Four iron objects have non-ferrous fittings or are coated in a non-ferrous metal for decorative purposes. One object was chosen for further investigation, a copper-alloy finger ring showing signs of decoration beneath corrosion deposits. This was undertaken

by David Parish of the Buckinghamshire County Museum Conservation Service. In addition, the small wooden vessel in which the coins were recovered has been conserved at the Museum of London Conservation Service, but was drawn and recorded before being sent there.

The finds

The finds are presented as individual types within seven major functional categories; these are tabulated below along with the quantities recovered.

Table 19: Finds quantified by functional category

FUNCTIONAL CATEGORY	PERIOD					
	C13th	**C14th-C15th**	**C15-C17th**	**1642-9**	**C18th-C19th**	**Indeterminate/ U/S**
Personal Possessions						
Costume and jewellery		4	8	7	6	8
Equipment and furnishings						
Building equipment						
General ironwork		1	1			2
Nails		9	10	11	9	10
Household equipment		1	1			
Knives			1	1	1	1
Hones/sharpeners	1	1	2			
Tools						
Textile working			1		1	1
Metal working			1			
Horse furniture						
Fittings					1	2
Horseshoes				1		
Nails		1				
Commercial Activity						
Coins and jettons	1	40	2	3	1	3
Scalepan/weight					2	
Weapons					2	
Miscellaneous and unidentified						
Copper alloy	1		13	6	5	
Iron	1	10	9	10	4	2
Lead			2	3	4	2
Bone	1		1	1		1

Period groups

12th - late 13th centuries

Only five small finds were recovered, so there is little to characterise the nature of occupation during this period. The finds include a hammered silver penny of Edward I (1272-1307) and a schist whetstone (Norwegian ragstone) from a dumping deposit (487), a fragment of melted copper alloy and a bone roughout from a pit (184) and an undiagnostic fragment of sheet iron from layer (134).

In addition, two contemporary horse harness pendants were recovered as residual finds from post-medieval deposits, both are shield-shaped and depict heraldic motifs (Fig 19.7), one resembles the insignia of the de Bohuns, Earls of Hereford and Essex.

Late 13th/early14th - 15th centuries

The excavation revealed a structure comprising four individual rooms and it was from the floors of these rooms (214, 420, 480, 615, 619, 684) that the majority of finds were recovered. The range of finds is small and is represented by items associated with industrial activity, commercial activity and costume fittings. There are few structural or domestic related finds.

Twelve finds were recovered from the floor of Room 1. These include the only piece of structural ironwork, recovered from this phase, a U-shaped staple for securing items such as chains, rings and hasps (not illus). Other finds include two buckles (not illus), four nails and three undiagnostic fragments of iron.

Of intrinsic importance is the presence of 38 silver coins placed within a cylindrical, turned wooden box and then deposited beneath the floor surface and occupation layers in the southern part of Room 2 (Curteis, this volume). Two nails were recovered from the surface of the floor.

Room 4 produced evidence for an area of industrial activity in the form of a hearth with patches of intense burning and metalworking debris. Finds associated with this deposit include an unused horseshoe nail, the form, with expanding head and ears is typical of the late 13th and early 14th centuries (not illus). Its presence in an unused form, together with quantities of hammerscale suggests that the area may have been used as a smithy. Other finds from the floor of Room 4 include a cast buckle pin with rectangular grip (not illus) and part of a stone mortar (Fig 19.4).

Room 4 also produced a simple token almost without decoration (not illus), a two-piece strap-end (not illus) and a whetstone (not illus); all were recovered from surface (671).

15th – mid 17th centuries

In total 52 artefacts were recovered from early 15th-17th-century deposits. The majority of finds were recovered from floors (208, 307, 308, 312) and abandonment layers (289, 378, 408, 445, 455), while smaller numbers were recovered from layer (390) and a series of pits used for the disposal of rubbish (287, 467, 524, 550, 567). In tandem with the previous phase, there is a dearth of building related artefacts, a result of demolition work or more likely, careful dismantling in 1643 prior to the development of the Civil War defences. Building equipment is represented by a single U-shaped staple and ten nails. There is evidence for metal working in the form of a crucible fragment from layer (390), a molten nodule from a pit (487), together with a small number of copper alloy offcuts and rod/wire fragments from a pit (287), abandonment layer (455) and a floor (312). Floors and abandonment layers also produced a candlestick (Fig 19.3), a knife blade with maker's mark (Fig 19.6) and a range of small costume fittings.

The Civil War 1642-9

Forty-seven artefacts were recovered from deposits relating to demolitions during the Civil War. The majority of these were located in levelling layers (206, 221, 228, 263, 299, 327), while smaller numbers were recovered from the new defensive ditch which crossed the site (90, 93). Two coins, farthings of James I (1603-1625) and Charles I (1625-1649) were recovered from levelling deposits (206, 299), together with two buckles (not illus), a knife blade (not illus) and evidence for the manufacture of bone buttons or counters. Much of the assemblage comprises undiagnostic fragments of iron, copper alloy and lead. Finally a late medieval horseshoe was recovered from ditch [93].

18th-19th centuries

A mixed group of finds comprising 37 individual objects were recovered from features of 18th- and 19th-century date. Although the majority are post-medieval, there are one or two objects which are residual from early phases; these include a late 13th-century horse harness pendant and a scale pan from a set of balances. Other finds include, an almost complete whittle tang knife (Fig 19.5) from a construction trench (103), a small group of pins and lead shot.

The finds by functional category

Personal possessions

This category comprises small portable items which would have formed part of a person's clothing (costume fittings) or been worn as jewellery. The former is represented by a range of strap fittings and fasteners which would have been used to secure items of clothing during the late medieval and post-medieval period. These include buckles, pins, hose hooks, a strap-end and a lace chape. Jewellery is represented by a finger ring and a stone bead.

Buckles

There are five buckles, three of copper alloy and two of iron. All were recovered from deposits predating the 18th century. The earliest stratified copper alloy buckle was recovered from 14th-15th-century occupation layer (484); it is a single-looped buckle with square frame and notch for the pin (cf. Marshall 1986, fig 7, 10). Part of a distinctive buckle with hexagonal double-looped frame was recovered from Civil War deposits (263). Stylistically the buckle resembles a 'rose', the petals are defined by lateral incised lines, a similar example has been recovered from Norwich (Margeson 1993, fig 15, 157). A buckle/brooch dating to the 14th and 15th centuries was recovered from pit [467]. It has a plain circular frame with pin attached (Fig 19.2) and resembles an example from London (Egan 1991a, fig 36, 31). There are two iron buckles with D-shaped frames, one from the floor of Room 1 (480) is coated in a non-ferrous metal, this would visually enhance and protect the buckle from corrosion. The other was recovered from Civil War deposits (263). Buckles of this type would probably have been used to secure heavy duty straps.

Other strap fittings include a strap-end and strap loop. The strap-end is a plain, two-piece tongue-shaped type with point terminal (cf. Pritchard 1991, fig 86, 611), it was recovered from a 14th-15th-century deposit (671). A five-sided strap loop was located in 15th-17th-century abandonment layers (455). It has an internal rivet for attaching to a leather strap and is similar to an example from London (Egan 1991b, fig 147, 1252). Egan has suggested that mounts of this type would have been used to secure an archer's leather wrist guard (ibid 231).

Other fasteners worthy of note include a lace chape and two hooked clasps. The lace chape has been manufactured from rolled copper alloy sheet, it is unperforated with an edge-to-edge seam and it was recovered from layer (133) (15th-17th centuries). Similar examples have been recovered from Whitefriars, Coventry (Woodfield 2005, fig 163, 87). The hooked clasps have cast trapezoidal loops, one is from layer (326) (15th-17th centuries) and is decorated with a circular cross-hatched roundel surrounded by an open-worked rosette. The other example is unstratified and is decorated with a centrally placed cross-hatched lozenge surrounded by an open-worked rosette (cf. Margeson 1993, fig 8, 72). Such items would have been used in pairs, to secure garters and purses, for a discussion see Egan 2005 (42).

Pins

In total there are fourteen pins, eight are complete and six are shank fragments. The

majority of pins are represented by mass produced drawn wire pins (cf. Tylecote 1972, 183-190), a light industry, evidence of which has been recovered from other sites in Coventry, like Whitefriars (Caple 2005, 359-60). Six pins have wire wound heads. They occur in unclamped forms (Soden 1995, fig 38, 22) which measure up to 48mm in length and clamped forms, which measure up to 35mm in length. Other forms include one with and flat circular head (ibid 1995, fig 38, 21) and one with a small spherical head (ibid, fig 38, 20).

Jewellery

There are very few items of jewellery, perhaps reflecting on the nature of occupation. Just two objects were found, a stone bead from Civil War deposits (263) and an unstratified copper-alloy finger ring. The bead is lathe turned and decorated with simple grooving (not illus). The finger ring is cast with a thin D-shaped cross-section. There is a raised narrow flange on the outside edge which is flanked on either side by marginally placed 'milled' motif. The raised flange is ornamented with three equidistant panels of seven close set 0's (representing false lettering) separated by a centrally spaced six-pointed star in the interspace (Fig 19.1). Rings of this type are not uncommon and an identical example from North Yorkshire is recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme Database (Find No: YORYM-7E7DFO), it dates from the late medieval to early post-medieval period (*c* 1400-1600).

Equipment and furnishings

This category may be sub-divided into building equipment and household equipment. The former comprises items which would have formed part of, or been attached to a permanent structure. Household equipment comprises items, which would have been for domestic use, this also includes knives and hones.

Building equipment

In comparison to the large numbers of nails and iron fittings which must have been required for the buildings that existed on the street frontage, there is a dearth of such ironwork, suggesting that any fittings which may have been in use, were deliberately removed and reused/recycled. Structural fittings are represented by two U-shaped staples measuring up to 64mm in length (not illus). They would have been driven into timbers and the protruding end would have formed a fixing point for items such as chains, rings or hasps. Both examples were recovered from floors, one from Room 1 (480) and the other from a 15th-17th century floor (312). A similar example was recovered from Much Park Street, Coventry (Wright 1982, fig 53, 1).

A total of 49 structural nails were recovered and classified. Of these 21 remain unclassified because they are too damaged. Nails were recovered from all periods of activity, specifically the floors in 14th-15th-century deposits (214, 614, 480) and levelling layers in Civil War deposits (206, 228, 263, 327). The nails are hand forged with generally rectangular or square cross sections. The shape of the head was used to classify the nails and five types were identified. The majority have flat circular heads (22) and measure up to 82mm, they would have been used in timber where they would have sat flush with the surface. Other types represented include nails with T-shaped heads (2) and L-shaped heads (1) these would also have been used with timber. In addition there are two nails with expanded triangular heads and one nail with a non-ferrous white metal head (1), the later may have been used as a stud.

Household items

There are two artefacts that are clearly for domestic use, they are represented by

items associated with the preparation of food and lighting.

A mortar fragment in local Triassic red sandstone was recovered from a 14th-15th-century industrial deposit (606). Only a small section of the rim and side survive, approximately one fifth of the original mortar. The rim is rounded and expands towards a solid lug with D-shaped cross-section, which extends vertically from the rim to the base (Fig 19.4). Measurements suggest that originally the mortar would have measured in excess of 230mm in diameter, with an internal diameter of 160mm. A fragment of another example was recovered from Much Park Street, Coventry (Stewart 1982, 100).

Part of a cast copper alloy candle holder was recovered from a 15th-17th-century abandonment layer (378). Although incomplete, the base is missing, stylistically the candle holder resembles a 'bunson' type, with the stem/socket and base manufactured in two pieces and joined by a metal rivet (Brownsword 1985, fig 2). It has a cylindrical socket decorated with grooving, the base of the socket angles to the stem, which has a bladed knop (Fig 19.3). Candle holders of this type generally date from the middle 15th century and were in use until the beginning of the 17th century (Michaelis 1978, 42). They have been recovered from a wide area of England. A typical example has been recovered from London (Egan 2005, fig 69, 337).

Knives

Four complete or fragmented blades and a handle were identified, of which three were in stratified deposits. Where possible they have been classified according to the method of attaching the handle. Whittle tang knives terminate in a tapered prong, on to which a handle of wood, bone or horn would have been hafted. Scale tang knives terminate with an integral, parallel-sided perforated strip, to which scales of wood or bone were riveted.

There are two whittle tang knives. One is a blade fragment, recovered from a deposit relating to the Civil War (288). The x-ray reveals that the tang is central to the blade with a stepped shoulder (not illus). The second, more complete example is unstratified. It is furnished with an integral thickening (bolster), between the tang and the blade, this stylistic feature was introduced during the 16th century and was in widespread use by the 17th century (Goodall in Margeson 1993, 130). The hafted wooden handle is plain with a circular cross-section. At the end of the handle is a small ferrous end-cap secured by a non-ferrous rivet (Fig 19.5).

Scale tang knives are represented by a bone handle comprising two D-sectioned scales with rounded ends and decorated with crudely incised longitudinal grooves. X-ray reveals that these are secured to the tang by three circular rivets which span the width of the handle (not illus). This handle was located in an 18th-century construction trench (103).

Finally, an undiagnostic blade fragment (probably from a scale tang knife) was recovered from a 15th-17th-century layer (611). Unlike the other knives the x-ray reveals that it is furnished with a maker's/cutler's mark set just below the back of the blade (Fig 19.6). The mark, although not identical, displays similarities to an example from London which has been identified as a letter R (Cowgill *et al* 1987, fig 67, 268). However, it is notable that historic documents indicate that in the 17th century the adjacent plot k, just across the river, was tenanted by a family of which two generations were cutlers. One of them was named Richard (Urland); if the letter on the knife is an 'R', it is possible that it derives from his workshop.

Hones

There are four stones used for sharpening ferrous metal knives and tools. Two types

are represented; hones, stones deliberately fashioned into smooth-faced elongated rods, and sharpeners, utilised irregular pebbles or stone fragments.

There are three incomplete hones, all of micaceous schist (Norwegian ragstone). They measure up to 130mm in length, two have rectangular cross-sections with all four sides displaying signs of wear, one was recovered from a 13th-century dumping layer (487) and the other from a 14th-15th-century deposit (671). A much smaller example with a triangular cross-section was retrieved from 15th-17th-century layer (390). Finally a sharpener with sub-rounded cross-section and tapering to a triangular cross-section was recovered from a 15th-17th-century pit (550).

Horse equipment

Items associated with the use of horses include a horseshoe, a horseshoe nail, two heraldic pendants and a crotal bell.

The earliest stratified horse furniture or tack, is a complete, unused horseshoe nail, recovered from a spread of metalworking debris in Room 4 (14th-15th century). The nail is distinct, having an expanded head and ears and represents a type which would have been used in conjunction with Museum of London Type 3 shoes (Clark 1995, fig 65-66), a 'transitional' shoe dating to the 13th and 14th centuries.

Part of a horseshoe was recovered from a Civil War Ditch [93], although incomplete, only one branch survives the x-ray reveals that it is furnished with three rectangular perforations, two with extant horseshoe nails with rectangular heads. Shoes and nails of this type were in use during the later medieval period and equate with the Museum of London Type 4 shoe (Clarke 1995, 88), a type which would have continued in use, into the 16th and 17th centuries outside London (Egan 2005, 179).

Of particular interest is the presence of two cast heraldic pendants dating from the second half of the 13th century (Griffiths 1995, 62), they were recovered as residual finds within post-medieval deposits. The pendants are shield-shaped with integral loops for suspension, and the x-ray reveals that each pendant represents a coats of arms depicted in enamel. One example recovered from an 18th-century levelling layer (284), is charged with a leopard passant guardent (Fig 19.7) and the other unstratified example is ornamented with a bendlet between six lioncels rampant (Fig 19.8). The latter example resembles the arms of the de Bohun family, who are known to have resided, on occasion, in Warwick and had connections with Coventry in the 13th-14th centuries, with family members buried at Coventry's Greyfriars. A pendant with similar motif was recovered in Gloucestershire in 2006 (www.ukdfd.co.uk, Ref No 2508).

Finally six fragments from a cast closed bell (crotal/rumbler) dating to the 17th and 18th centuries was recovered from layer (202).

Commercial Activity

With the exception of the coin hoard (Curteis, this volume), commercial activity is confined to isolated stray losses of coins (eight examples) and jettons (two examples). In addition there is a copper alloy balance pan and a lead weight.

Coins

The coins comprise an Edward I long-cross penny recovered from an early occupation deposit in the north-east corner of the site (487) and two farthings of James I and Charles I, both located in levelling layers (206, 299) associated with Civil War deposits. In addition an illegible copper-alloy penny was recovered from levelling layer (221).

Later post-medieval coins are represented by four half pennies, one illegible from a

post 18th-century deposit, and three unstratified examples.

Catalogue

Edward I long cross penny (1272-1307).
Obv: EDW REX ANGL DNS HYB (crowned bust full face, drapery forming two wedges).
Rev: Long cross pattee with three pellets in each angle.
SF 156, Context 487, dumping layer , pre-frontage

James I farthing (1603-25).
Obv: BRIT IACO . DG. MAG.(around a sceptered crown)
Rev: FRA . ET . HIB . REX. (crowned harp)
Ref: Seaby 2001, 2676
SF52, Context 206, levelling layer, 1642-9 Civil War

Charles I farthing (1625-49)
Obv: BRI. CARO. DG. MAG (around sceptered crown)
Rev: FRA . ET . HIB . REX. (beaded harp)
Ref: Seaby 2001, 3185
SF 70, Context 299, levelling layer 288, 1642-9 Civil War

George II halfpenny (1727-1760), illegible
SF 8, unstratified

Victoria halfpenny (1837-1901), dated 1861
SF 5, unstratified

George V halfpenny (1910-1936), dated 1912
SF 9, unstratified

George I, II or III, halfpenny, illegible
SF 18, context 117, 18th-century layer

Jettons

There are two jettons. Chronologically the earlier was recovered from a 14th/15th-century surface deposit; it comprises a flat disc with worn concentric pelleted motif. The other, a German jetton was recovered from Pit 287 (15th-17th centuries). Although heavily encrusted in corrosion products, the X-ray reveals that it is a *rechenpfennige* issued either by Hans Krauwinckle or one of the other Nuremburg makers of the 16th and early 17th centuries.

Miscellaneous

A single dished scale pan from a balance was recovered from an 18th-century layer (217). The pan is manufactured from sheet copper alloy, it has three marginally placed, equidistant circular perforations, through which the strings would have been threaded to enable the pan to be suspended from the beam (Fig 19.9). Similar examples have been recovered from Norwich (Margeson 1993, fig 156, 1576) and London (Egan 1998, fig 240, 1042). A conical lead weight (71.6gm) was recovered from layer 101 (18th century). The upper part of the weight has two opposing rabbets and may originally have been perforated for suspension, rather like an example from London (Egan 2005, fig 161, 850).

Evidence for Craft and Industry amongst the finds

The excavations produced a small number of miscellaneous objects which can be assigned to quite specific processes. These processes include, craft activities like bone working and textile working and industrial activities like copper alloy working.

Bone working

There is some evidence for bone working, a perforated bone roughout (not illus) was recovered from a 13th-century pit (184) and a sliver of long bone cut to form a tapered point (not illus) was recovered from a 15th-17th-century abandonment layer (289).

Later bone working is represented by a roughly hewn perforated, sub-rectangular panel cut from a long bone of large unidentified ungulate and recovered from a Civil War levelling layer (228). The piece is a by-product of button or counter making. Evidence for this type of activity has been recovered previously from Coventry at Much Park Street (Cram 1982, fig 58, 5-6) and Whitefriars (Woodfield, 2005, fig 164, 106), Charterhouse (Soden 1995, 126) and the Town wall (Bateman and Redknap 1986, 153-4). Finally an unstratifed bone counter measuring 12mm in diameter (not illus), and displaying similarities to an example from the Free Grammar School (Woodfield 1981, fig 10, n) may have been manufactured using a similar technique.

Copper alloy smelting

Evidence for small scale copper alloy working are represented by a fragment from a crucible and a miscellaneous molten nodules and blobs. The crucible was recovered from 15th-17th-century layer (390), it has a plain upright rim and part of the wall of the vessel survives too. The fabric is grey and reduced, the exterior surface is vitrified and molten copper alloy debris adheres to the interior surface. Copper alloy working is well known in Coventry, crucibles (Bayley 1982, 85) and stone moulds (Wright 1988, 87) have been recovered from Much Park Street and more recently at Whitefriars Street (McAree 2006, 15-16) and Bayley Lane (Soden 2005, 159-160).

Copper alloy waste in the form of pieces of wire, trimmings and offcuts, together with pins are also represented; these indicative of a wire-drawing and pinning industry (Woodfield 2005, 345). Waste fragments were mainly recovered from 15th-17th-century deposits.

Textile

Textile working is represented by three thimbles. A conical thimble with uneven hand punched circular indentations applied in a spiral and possibly medieval in date was recovered as a residual find from 15th-17th-century plough soil (390). There are two machine made thimbles with grooving around the base, one from 18th-century makeup (113) and the other unstratified. Four thimbles were recovered from Charterhouse (Soden 1995, fig 42, 60-63).

Weapons

Items associated with weaponry are represented by a copper alloy bullet casing and lead pistol shot, both were recovered from 18th-century deposits (148, 264).

Catalogue of illustrated finds (Fig 19)

The finds have been chosen to illustrated finds of intrinsic interest and to provide a visual overview of the range recovered, albeit without duplicating finds previously published in Coventry. Where similar finds have been published elsewhere, these have been referenced in the text.

1: Finger ring, copper alloy. Cast with a thin D-shaped cross-section. There is a raised narrow flange on the outside edge which is flanked on either side by marginally placed 'milled' motif. The raised flange is ornamented with three equidistant panels of seven close set 0's (representing false lettering) separated by a centrally spaced six-pointed star in the interspace. SF 153, Unstratified, *c* 1400-1600

2: Buckle, copper alloy. Cast plain circular frame with circular cross-section, pin with D-shaped cross-section, terminal folded around frame, no constriction for the pin. Diameter : 41mm SF 134, context 392, Pit 467, 15th-mid 17th centuries

3: Candleholder, copper alloy. Cylindrical socket decorated with three groups of circumferential grooving, internal measurement of 17mm. The base of the socket angles to the stem, which measures 100mm long and has a bladed knop 54mm above the base of the stem. Overall length: 132mm SF 109, context 378, 15th-17th centuries, abandonment layer

4: Mortar, red sand stone. Incomplete, small section of rim and side (c.1/5), base missing. Rounded rim, expands towards solid lug, which extends vertically from the rim to the base, tapered towards base with D-shaped cross-section. Interior edge vertical, exterior edge curved. Ext. Dia: *c* 230mm Int Dia: 160mm Height (incomplete): 78mm Width: 35mm SF 257, Context 606, industrial layer, 14th-early 15th centuries

5: Knife, iron. Whittle tang knife with bolster. Incomplete, tip of blade missing. Stepped shoulder between tang and bolster, back of blade horizontal and cutting edge curving to tip. Wooden handle with circular cross-section measuring 77mm in length and 17mm wide. Small ferrous end cap secured by a ?non-ferrous rivet measuring c. 22mm in length. Blade - L: 72mm W: 20mm Th:1mmBolster - Length: 12mm Diameter 10mm, SF 1, unstratified.

6: Knife, iron. Incomplete, tang and tip of blade missing. Back of blade horizontal with makers marks set just below the back at the thickest point. Length (incomplete): 90mm Width: 15mm Th: *c* 4mm SF 191, context 611, layer, 15th-mid 17th centuries

7: Horse harness pendant, copper alloy. Cast shield-shaped pendant with integral suspension loop. Enamel motif depicts 'leopard passant guardent over par chevron'. Length: 54mm Width: 32mm SF 133, context 284, levelling layer, 18 century or later

8: Horse harness pendant, copper alloy. Cast shield-shaped pendant with integral suspension loop. Enamel motif depicts bendlet between six lioncels rampant. Length: 46mm Width 30mm SF154, unstratified

9: Scale pan, copper alloy. Concave disc manufactured from sheet metal with three equidistant circular perforations marginally placed around the edge. Diameter: 32mm Depth: c.5mm SF 57, context 217, layer, 18C+

6.5 **Hoard of silver hammered coins** by Mark Curteis

A hoard of 38 silver coins lay immediately beneath the beaten-earth floor surface belonging to Room 2 of the 14th-century frontage. The coins were discovered stacked in the poorly preserved remains of a cylindrical wooden container (Fig 19.10) and it is likely that the find represents an unrecovered savings hoard. The coins were subsequently cleaned by David Parish of Buckinghamshire County Museums Service and declared Treasure Trove by the Coventry Coroner (BM Treasure No 2007 T513).

The 38 pieces that make up the hoard are all long cross pennies dating from early in the reign of Edward I (1272-1307) through to the start of the reign of Edward III (1327-77) (see Appendix 1). All the coins are of the type derived from the major re-coinage by Edward I in 1279 and it contains two continental sterlings of a similar type that also fit into the same chronological pattern.

A more detailed analysis of the hoard indicates that the earliest coins in the collection are class 2 pieces dating to 1280. The latest coin is a penny belonging to class 15d (dated *c* 1327-35 and generally considered to represent the first coinage of Edward III). This is a rare coin and hence is typically absent from many hoards of this period. This piece shows little wear indicating that the hoard was closed, and

potentially deposited, in the early 1330s. This is emphasized by the absence of the considerably more common coins belonging to the second coinage of Edward III (1335-43).

Proportionately by far the most commonly represented class in the hoard is class 10. This is what we would expect and reflects the composition of the currency pool at the time. The next most common class is 3, again this is as predicted and is a picture replicated in most contemporary hoards, eg Blackhills, Kirkcudbrightshire (Coupar 1998) and Llysdinam, Powys (Besly 1998).

If we look at the relative proportion of mints, then we see that London predominates, followed by Canterbury and then Durham. Again this reflects the composition of the currency pool at the time and is also a picture broadly duplicated in a number of contemporary coin hoards. For example, the Llanddona hoard (Besly 2003 and thought to have been deposited in the late 1320s or early 1330s) has 39% of its issues minted in London, 22% Canterbury and 7% Bury. Interestingly, although the Llanddona hoard is larger (311 pennies) and the composition is broadly similar class, 15d is absent highlighting the rarity of the issue, while only two sterlings are represented, providing less than 1% of the whole. The Ednam hoard (1472 pennies deposited *c* 1321-22; Holmes 1997) also reflects this picture but has London more strongly represented (43%), followed by Canterbury (22%). Continental issues here also form less than 1% of the hoard, again highlighting the proportion at Far Gosford Street.

The 38 pence comprising the hoard, or three shillings and two pence, was not an inconsequential amount at the time. The average daily pay of a labourer in the 1330s was one to two pence and three to four pence per day for a craftsmen (Dyer 1989, 206), a pair of shoes cost 6d (Dyer 1989, 175), while rent on a peasant's cottage was in the region of 5s year or 20s for a craftsmen's house (Dyer 1989, 208).

6.6 Clay pipe by Tim Upson-Smith

A group of 83 clay tobacco-pipe fragments were recovered during the excavation. These comprised thirteen bowl fragments and seventy stem fragments. The assemblage dates to between the mid-17th century and the late 19th century. Of the thirteen bowl fragments twelve were complete enough to be datable using Oswald's simplified typology using bowl, foot/spur form (Oswald 1975, 37-41). Two of the bowls had makers' marks. The datable pipe bowls, where they were not residual, serve to compliment the ceramic dating.

The earliest pipes represented were two Oswald G5's; these date to between 1640-1660. The two pipes are from contexts (96) and (109) which were upper fills of the backfilled Civil War ditch of 1645. The pipe from context (109) has a virtually complete bowl and is 4½ inches long; pipes of this period were generally 8 inches in length.

Recovered from context [24], the fabric of an 18th-century wall, was the bowl of an Oswald G8 dating to 1680-1710. The pipe was marked IB in relief on the heel. Examples of this manufacturer are known from Coventry and examples have been found in Atherstone and Packington, Warwickshire. It is presumed that IB was a local pipe maker (Muldoon 1979).

From context (262) a layer pre-dating the post-medieval frontage, came a pipe bowl dating to 1670-1720, which was marked SD in relief on the heel. Examples of this manufacturer are known from Coventry and it is presumed that SD was a local pipe maker (Muldoon 1979).

Four post 18th century contexts produced bowls dating to the mid-19th century;

these were (64) two bowl fragments, (121) two complete bowls, (229) one complete bowl and (411) one bowl fragment. The complete bowls have a leaf design on the front and rear of the bowls and although unmarked examples of this design are known from Coventry and the museum card index states that they were made at the Stoke pipe factory, Brays Lane. If this is correct then they are likely to have been made by a member of the Holt family (Muldoon 1979).

An Oswald G9, 1680-1710, and an Oswald G22, 1730-1780, were recovered from contexts (110) and (111) respectively. These contexts relate to 19th-century floor levels so therefore the pipes were residual.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 The mammal, bird and fish bone by Philip Armitage

Introduction

Numbers of bone elements/fragments and species identified

Six boxes containing 878 hand-collected and sieved animal bone elements/fragments were submitted for identification and analysis. Using standard zooarchaeological methodological procedures 769 (87.6%) of the bone specimens were identified to species and anatomy; and 109 (12.4%) were indeterminate (Appendix 2; Table 1).

Mammalian bone elements/fragments comprised the bulk of the combined assemblages (89.8% of the total identified specimens) representing 10 species. Bird bones made up the second largest category (10.1%) (6 species), with a single fish bone (0.1%) making up the total. Listed below are the mammal, bird and fish species identified:

Mammals: cattle *Bos* (domestic), sheep *Ovis* (domestic), goat *Capra* (domestic), domestic pig *Sus* (domestic), wild pig *Sus scrofa*, dog *Canis* (domestic), rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*, fallow deer *Dama dama*, black rat *Rattus rattus*, mole *Talpa europaea*

Birds: grey-lag/domestic goose *Anser anser* /domestic, domestic fowl *Gallus gallus* (domestic), partridge *Perdix perdix*, mallard/domestic duck *Anas platyrhynchos*/domestic, mute swan *Cygnus cf olor*, woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Fish: cod *Gadus morhua*

Anatomical distributions of the bone elements of the major species are summarised in Appendix 2; Tables 3 to 7.

Preservation & bone modification (Appendix 2, Table 2)

Overall the preservation of the bone is assessed as good. The incidence of weathered/eroded/abraded bone is generally low throughout the site apart from small concentrations in black occupation layer (479) and in (610) the backfill of the construction trench for wall [242]. Likewise there are relatively low numbers of dog gnawed and burnt bone throughout the site.

Interpretation and discussion

Consolidation of alluvial deposits & refuse dumping prior to occupation (Group 1; 12th - late 13th centuries)

All the bones from the dumped material represent household (kitchen and table) waste, indicating a diet predominated by beef (with some veal) and mutton (with some lamb), supplemented by poultry (goose and chicken), and the occasionally pig (pork and bacon). Two domestic fowl tarsometatarsal bones from (222) fill of cut

[221] and from layer (512) are both identified as females, based on the absence of spurs (criteria of West 1982).

First street frontage (Group 2; late 13th-early 15th centuries)

The food bone deposits from these contexts indicate the 14th-century inhabitants enjoyed a similar diet to that already documented for the previous phase (above) but which also included stockfish (salted/dried cod), duck, rabbit, and at least one hunted wild boar. This wild boar (from sand layer 214) is represented by four metatarsal bones (M/T II, III, IV & V) from the hind foot of an animal with an estimated withers height of 91cm (calculated from the GL (97.1 mm) in the M/T III, after the method of Becker 1980: 27). Two male domestic fowl are represented by spurred tarsometatarsal bones from ash grey layer (213) and deposit (606). It is noteworthy that the diaphysis (shaft) in the former specimen is unusually wide ("swollen" in appearance) possibly due to a pathological condition. According to Brothwell (2002) this condition is diagnostic of avian osteopetrosis, and no other bird pathology results in such massive expansion of the diaphysis. Also known as "marble bone disease" the cause of this is a virus of the avian leucosis group (Boden 2005, 504), which Brothwell believes was established in Britain by the Roman period (Brothwell 2002, 318).

Later medieval/post-medieval development (Group 3; 15th–17th centuries)

Again (as in the previous phase) the staple diet of the inhabitants (as indicated by the discarded/buried food bones) comprised beef (with veal), mutton, pork (also including sucking piglet), rabbit, and poultry (goose and chicken). However there is also evidence at this later phase of a more varied and higher status diet that included venison (represented by a fallow deer tibia from layer 307) and partridge (represented by a humerus from layer 313). A high status diet is especially indicated by the assemblage from loam layer (611), which includes bones of mute swan (one humerus and one tibiotarsus) and woodcock (one radius) in addition to those of adult cattle, veal calves, sheep, pigs, and several geese (including one coracoid apparently chewed by a cat) and chickens. Among the pig bones are three mandibles, all from sub-adult male animals (sex was determined by the appearance of the lower canine using the criteria of Mayer and Brisbin 1988). Context (611) was not directly associated with occupation on the site, and stratigraphically corresponded with a hiatus between the earlier and later medieval frontages. Such high status waste, however, could have been dumped on the then vacant plot from the nearby St. George's Chapel, which lay directly opposite the excavation site. The chapel would have been the venue for feasting in the later medieval period.

In medieval towns where there was dumped food waste there was likely to be black rats, and so the presence of one of these unwelcome commensal rodents (represented by a femur from layer (308)) is not an unexpected discovery.

Layer (275) yielded six chopped horn cores and a single chopped goat horn core; identified as the waste from horn-working activity. Using the system of Armitage and Clutton-Brock (1976) the cattle horn cores are classified as follows:

short horned cattle: 1 young adult cow, 1 adult bull (with "blunt ended" stumpy horn) & 1 young adult castrate

medium horned cattle: 3 cows (all old adults)

The goat horn core, from an adult female, had been chopped from the skull just below its base (similar to the technique employed in removing the cattle horn cores, above), and with the tip of the core also cut off by chopping.

Civil War period (Group 4; 1642 – 1649)

These contexts produced small quantities of food debris comprising bones from

cattle, sheep, pigs, geese, domestic fowl and at least one duck (represented by a humerus from layer 426). A female domestic fowl is represented by an unspurred tarsometatarsus from (186).

Horn working waste in the recovered bone material is limited to a chopped cattle horn core of an adult short horned male (with a short "stumpy" core) from layer (79) and a horn core from an adult female sheep from ditch fill (96). Mention should also be made of the mole scapula from infill (306) and an immature dog rib from pit fill (304).

Post-medieval occupation (Group 5; 18th/19th centuries)

The layers and the infills of ditches/trenches/cuts assigned to this site phase yielded small quantities of food refuse derived from households whose diets comprised beef, mutton, pork and the occasional goose & domestic fowl. A pig metacarpus III from (94) fill of ditch [93] came from an animal with an estimated withers height of 82cm; whilst fill (99) of the same ditch [93] produced a chopped horn core of a young adult female sheep, the only specimen from this phase identified as horn-working waste.

Conclusion

Although the Astleys site yielded only a relatively modest sized collection of animal bones, its analysis has provided useful insight into the diets of the medieval and early post-medieval inhabitants of this extra-mural part of Coventry, located outside Gosford Gate. It is instructive to consider also the dietary profiles documented for the contemporary later medieval and early post-medieval extra-mural households in Hill Street (Belgrade Plaza site) on the opposite side of the city (Armitage in Mason *et al*, forthcoming). In both of these extra-mural areas the inhabitants appear to have enjoyed diets of "solid sufficiency" in terms of the staple red meats, flesh of poultry and fish consumed; evidence that during the later medieval and Tudor times townspeople "lived well" eating more meat and fish than contemporary villagers (see Drummond & Wilbraham 1939: 59-60). At the Belgrade Plaza site there was clear evidence for backyard subsistence farming (rearing chickens and pigs), which was not apparent at the Astleys site. The inhabitants of the latter site, however, appear to have consumed significantly more hunted species (wild boar, fallow deer and wild birds). At both sites there was evidence for high status feasting as indicated by the presence in the food waste deposits of bones of such exotic species as mute swan. Evidence of the proximity of the rural hinterland to both of these extra-mural areas was provided by the discovery of bones of small wild fauna (mole and stoat). Scavenger species (raven and black rat) were also represented among the bone assemblages from these sites.

7.2 The shells by Karen Deighton

Method

Shells weighing 0.5kg were recovered by hand from a range of contexts during the course of excavation. These were identified to taxon where possible and quantified (a small assemblage was also recovered from soil samples, see Section 7.3).

Results

Preservation

Preservation was reasonable with a low level of fragmentation.

Taxonomic distribution

Table 20: Shell taxa by context

Cut/fill	Feature type	Oyster	Mussel	Garden snail	Ram's horn
93/96	ditch	1		1	
102/103	construction cut	2			
121	layer	1			
133	layer	1			
176	layer		1		
183/216	pit	1			
205	layer	1			
184/215	pit	1			
261/262	posthole			1	
/263	layer	9			
264/265	robber trench				1
/289	layer	1			
304	area fill?	1			
/306	wall	1			
327	layer	3			
328	layer	1			
377	layer	2			
390	ploughsoil	1			
408	layer	1	1		
426	layer	2			
479	layer	1			
520/521	pit	11			
/606	layer	1			
611	layer	3			
635	floor level	1			
689/690	pit	1			
Total		48	2	2	1

Discussion

Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) is by far the most abundant and widespread taxon encountered. The sea water species is represented which was a cheap and popular food source from the medieval period to the early 20th century. Oyster shells were also used to enrich mortar for building purposes.

The garden snail (*Helix aspersa*) and rams' horn (*Planorbisplobis*) would have formed part of the local wildlife.

Conclusion

This small assemblage which gives some indication of the diet of the site's inhabitants. Unfortunately no spatial or temporal analysis could be undertaken due to the small size of the assemblage and its thinly dispersed nature.

7.3 Plant macrofossils and other remains by Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Twenty-five samples were taken for the retrieval of plant macrofossil assemblages. The samples were bulk floated by Northamptonshire Archaeology and the flots were collected in a 500 micron mesh sieve. A number of the assemblages were seen to contain waterlogged plant macrofossils and these were kept wet prior to sorting. All other assemblages were air dried. Both dried flots and wet retents were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Appendix 3. Identifications were made by comparison with modern reference specimens and nomenclature within the tables follows Stace (1997). Plant remains listed within the tables are mostly waterlogged; charred remains are denoted by a lower case 'c' suffix.

During assessment, it became apparent that, although a number of the assemblages were reasonably comprehensive in terms of the number of species identified, the density of material present within any one sample was generally low. As quantification of such assemblages would add little to the data recorded during assessment, no further analysis was undertaken. As a result, the density of material present within in each assemblage in expressed in the tables as follows: x = 1 – 10 specimens, xx = 10 – 50 specimens, xxx = 50 – 100 specimens and xxxx = 100+ specimens. Other abbreviations used in the tables are explained at the end of the text section.

Sample composition

Plant macrofossils

Cereal grains/chaff, seeds of common weeds and wetland/aquatic plants, and tree/shrub macrofossils were recorded at varying densities in all but four assemblages. Preservation of the waterlogged remains was generally good. However, some deposits would appear to have been subjected to intermittent inundation and desiccation (possibly the result of variations in the localwater table), resulting in very variable preservation, and macrofossils within other deposits were very comminuted and difficult to identify. With the exception of charcoal/charred wood fragments, charred plant remains were generally rare, with those identified mostly being puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Oat (*Avena sp.*), barley (*Hordeum sp.*), rye (*Secale cereale*) and wheat (*Triticum sp.*) grains were identified, although rarely as more than one specimen within an assemblage. Cereal chaff was exceedingly scarce, although sample 4, from an occupation deposit (143) of 13th-century date, did contain a small number of rachis nodes of rye and barley/rye type. Remains of other food plants occurred infrequently, but did include fig (*Ficus carica*) seeds, strawberry (*Fragaria sp.*) achenes and bullace/damson (*Prunus domestica ssp. insititia*) and cherry (*P. avium*) fruit stones.

Seeds of ruderal and segetal weeds were identified along with some grasses and grassland herbs. Ruderal species occurred throughout, with taxa recorded including fool's parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*), hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), hemp nettle (*Galeopsis sp.*), henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), dead nettle (*Lamium sp.*), black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*), sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*) and annual nettles (*U. urens*). Grasses (*Poaceae*) and grassland herbs, including greater plantain (*Plantago major*), cinquefoil (*Potentilla sp.*), meadow/creeping/bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus*) and dock (*Rumex sp.*), were also moderately common. Segetal weeds occurred less often, although sample 33, from 13th-century occupation deposit (644) did contain seeds

of stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*), corn marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*) and knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*).

Remains of two potential economic crops in the form of hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) seeds and flax (*Linum usitatissimum*) capsule fragments were recorded from the 13th-century deposits. Hemp seeds were extremely rare, occurring within only two assemblages, and may have been relicts of plants growing on or near the site. However, the flax capsules were abundant within sample 8 from occupation deposit (136), almost certainly indicating that flax processing was being undertaken in the near vicinity during the earlier medieval period.

Wetland/aquatic plant macrofossils were moderately common within the waterlogged deposits from the 13th-century layers and the Civil War ditch fills, but were rarely recorded within the charred assemblages. Seeds of water plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*), club rush (*Bolboschoenus/ Schoenoplectus sp.*), sedge (*Carex sp.*) and water pepper (*Persicaria hydropiper*) occurred most frequently, but other taxa included marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), spike-rush (*Eleocharis sp.*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), rush (*Juncus sp*.), ragged robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), blinks (*Montia fontana*) and reedmace (*Typha sp.*). A limited range of tree/shrub macrofossils, including birch (*Betula sp*.) fruits, hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments, bramble (*Rubus sect. Glandulosus*) 'pips' and elderberry (Sambucus nigra) seeds were also recorded, although mostly at a very low density.

Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout, and formed the major component of a number of the assemblages studied. Root/stem fragments were generally abundant within the waterlogged assemblages, although most were very comminuted and poorly preserved. Other plant macrofossils occurred infrequently, but did include indeterminate buds, leaf fragments, moss fronds and twigs. A single possible bracken (Pteridium aquilinum) pinnule fragment was noted within sample 25, from 15th to 16th-century pit [536].

Mollusc shells

A small number of shells of freshwater obligate molluscs were recorded within three of the Civil War ditch fills (samples 1, 2 and 13). However, it is unclear whether these were derived from the ditch fauna or from material from the nearby River Sherbourne, which would have been disturbed during the construction of the defences in the 17th century. A single shell of *Bathyomphalus contortus* was also noted within sample 5, from a horizon of imported soil (133) of 13th-century date (see also Section 7.2).

Other remains

With the exception of the fragments of black porous and tarry material and the pieces of coal, other remains were relatively scarce. Somewhat surprisingly, given the nature of the many dump deposits, dietary refuse (including fragments of bone, eggshell and fish bone) was particularly uncommon, possibly indicating that much of the pre-frontage dumped material was primarily derived from non-domestic sources.

Discussion

The 13th- century dump and inundation deposits (Appendix 3; Table 2)

Eight samples were taken from dump deposits and soil horizons of 13th-century date. Although the assemblages are generally quite sparse, material derived from at least three different activities may be present. Samples 4 and 33 appear to contain small quantities of cereal processing waste in the form of chaff (sample 4) and common cereal crop weeds (sample 33). However, it is unclear whether processing

was occurring in the immediate vicinity, or whether the material may be derived from waste products intended as kindling or fuel for other purposes. As stated above, the high density of flax capsule fragments within sample 8, layer (136) almost certainly indicates that this deposit was at least partly derived from flax processing waste. Scutchings (processed stem fragments) may also have originally been present within the assemblage, but the comminuted condition of the sample matrix has precluded their positive identification. Sample 5, from soil horizon (133) contains a number of vitreous globules, possibly indicative of an activity involving extremely high temperatures of combustion. Coal fragments, which are generally rare within the 13th-century deposits, are also moderately common within the assemblage. The remaining assemblages contain insufficient material for conclusive interpretation. As the macrofossils are all associated with dumped material, it is also unclear which, if any, may be indicators of the immediate local environment. However, the near consistent presence of seeds of wetland plants probably suggests that the area was wet and muddy, conditions to be expected given the proximity of the site to the river and brook.

The late 13th- and 14th- century deposits (Appendix 3, Table 3)

Four samples were taken, three from occupation/abandonment deposits (contexts (469), (477) and (615)) and one from the fill of a pit (context (567). The pit assemblage (sample 28) is potentially of interest, as it contains a moderate number of seeds of weld or dyer's rocket (*Reseda luteola*), a plant utilised widely during the medieval period as it provided a brilliant fast yellow dye (Grigson 1958). Although the density of seeds is not as high as that recorded from, for example, a contemporary dyers deposit in Norwich (Murphy 1988), the Coventry assemblage is poorly preserved and it is assumed that a great many seeds have not survived. The remaining three assemblages contain little other than charcoal and/or coal, and would appear to be primarily derived from hearth waste.

The 15th- and 16th- century deposits (Appendix 3, Table 4)

Of the five assemblages taken, four contain little other than charcoal, coal and, in samples 17 and 23, large quantities of grey/black 'cokey' material, possibly derived from spent fuel (see above). The few waterlogged macrofossils within sample 25 (pit [536]) may indicate that parts of the area were covered in rough, weedy grassland during the 15th and 16th centuries and again, the site appears to have been wet and muddy.

The Civil War ditch fills and the 18th-century deposit (Appendix 3, Table 1)

Moderately rich waterlogged assemblages are present within five of the six ditch samples. These indicate that the ditches were muddy and wet at their bases, with possible seasonal inundations of deeper water, the latter being still or possibly stagnant. The ditch sides were probably grassed with some colonising weeds and marginal plants towards the base, although the lack of shrub growth and larger weed species probably indicates that plant growth was managed, presumably because of the defensive nature of the features. Small amounts of charred waste or hearth debris may have been periodically deposited within the ditches, although this does not appear to have been a widespread practise. Demolition layer (455) (sample 19) contains an extremely low density of charred refuse and coal fragments, all of which may be derived from a single deposit of hearth debris.

Sample 16, from a burnt deposit (381) possibly associated with an 18th-century bread oven, consists entirely of coal 'dust' and a small quantity of charcoal.

Conclusions

In summary, although evidence for structural activity on the site goes back to the

13th century, few deposits directly associated with this occupation are recorded. It would appear that much of the area was being utilised for the dumping of refuse during the earlier medieval period, some or all of which may have been generated away from the immediate area of the site. Peripheral evidence for a number of activities including cereal processing, flax retting and possibly some small-scale industry is recorded but, due to the nature of the deposits, it is unclear if these are related to the contemporary structures. The occupation layers of 13th/14th- to 16th-century date produced little other than fuel residues, although one pit contains possible evidence for dyeing in bright yellow.

Because of its proximity to the river, the site appears to have been wet and muddy throughout much of its occupation, a state epitomised by the Civil War ditches, which contained standing water over a muddy sub-stratum, the latter supporting a range of marginal and wetland plants. Because of their defensive nature, the vegetation on the ditch banks appears to have been closely managed, and although the ditches probably afforded excellent opportunities for the deposition of refuse, such activities appear to have been kept to a minimum.

7.4 Pollen by Rob Scaife

Introduction

The cellared Number 1, Court 16, built during the 19th-century phase of frontage occupation, was constructed in the alluvial sediments of the River Sherbourne. When removed during excavation a section of the floodplain was revealed overlain by intercalated occupation debris that clearly demonstrated potential for preservation of environmental material. Column samples for pollen analysis were thus taken from this section (Fig 6, Section 2) and have been examined for preservation of sub-fossil pollen and spores. A preliminary examination was carried out in order to establish if preserved pollen was present and if so, to ascertain if useful palaeoenvironmental information might be gained from a more detailed analysis. This proved to be the case with well-preserved pollen being extracted from most of the sixteen samples submitted and a fuller analysis was subsequently carried out (Appendix 4).

Pollen procedure

Samples for pollen analysis were taken from the open excavated archaeological section using metal monolith profiles (<30> <31> <32>). Pollen sub-samples of 2ml volume taken from the sample monoliths were processed using standard techniques for the extraction of the sub-fossil pollen and spores (Moore and Webb 1978; Moore *et al* 1991). Micromesh sieving (10u) was also used to aid with removal of the clay fraction where present in these sediments. The sub-fossil pollen and spores were identified and counted using an Olympus biological research microscope fitted with Leitz optics. A pollen diagram incorporating each column has been plotted using Tilia and Tilia Graph with percentages calculated as follows:

Sum =	% total dry land pollen (tdlp)
Marsh/aquatic =	% tdlp + sum of marsh/aquatics
Spores =	% tdlp + sum of spores
Misc. =	% tdlp + sum of misc. taxa.

Taxonomy, in general, follows that of Moore and Webb (1978) modified according to Bennett *et al* (1994) for pollen types and Stace (1992) for plant descriptions. These procedures were carried out in the Palaeoecology Laboratory of the School of Geography, University of Southampton.

The Pollen Data

The sediments of basal column <30> context (659) are of primarily alluvial origin. Overlying monolith <31> (638), (639), (643) (644) and (646) span the upper part of the alluvium but which also contains significant quantities of occupation, debris. The uppermost monolith <32> is from the upper occupation layers which underlie later foundation levels. Of the sixteen samples examined spanning this sediment sequence, fifteen contained generally well preserved pollen. Samples at 8cm to 28cm <31> and 58cm to 66cm <32> contained highly humified (almost lignified) organic debris from rotted (?dumped) vegetation.

Herbs are dominant throughout the lower alluvial layers <30> (659) with only small numbers of trees and shrubs present. *Poaceae* (grasses) are dominant (to 60%) with substantial numbers of cereal pollen (to 25%) and large *Poaceae*; that is, grasses with grains of similar size to cereal (>45u) but with thin exine and non-typical cereal characteristics. These latter are thought to be wild grasses which have large pollen grains such as the aquatic grass, *Glyceria fluitans*. *Secale cereale* (oat) is also occasionally present. Other herbs include a diverse range of weeds of agriculture and waste or disturbed ground. Of note are occasional but nevertheless significant records of *Linum bienne* type most probably from cultivated flax (*Linum usitatissimum*). Trees and shrubs, as noted, are generally scarce although the lower levels of the profile (116-148cm) have slightly higher values (to 25% of total pollen). These comprise low levels of *Quercus* (oak) and *Corylus avellana* type (hazel) with sporadic/individual occurrences of *Tilia* (lime/linden) and *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash). *Alnus glutinosa* (alder) and *Salix* (willow) come from growth in river valleys.

Contexts (646-638) of column <31> contain layers occupational debris. Palynologically, these levels remains similar to the preceding levels with dominance of herbs and especially *Poaceae* (grasses) and cereal (including *Secale cereale*) pollen. These become more important (expanding to 65% and 20% respectively) presumably coming from the domestic waste. In addition there are also weeds typical of arable cultivation including *Centaurea cyanus* (blue cornflower). *Linum usitatissimum* (flax) is again of note and continues into the upper part of the profile <32> (210-214). Also of note is *Cannabis sativa* type (hop or hemp) which is likely to be from cultivated hemp given the medieval age of these sediments. Tree and shrub pollen remains relatively unimportant with continued but low levels of *Quercus, Alnus glutinosa* and *Corylus avellana* type. Subsequently, in the upper profile from *c* 58cm, these low arboreal and shrub values are reduced further with only occasional/sporadic presence of taxa noted above and *Betula* (birch), *Tilia* (lime/linden), *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash) and *Salix* (willow).

The alluvial and flood plain character of the sediments is represented throughout the profile by low levels of marsh and aquatic taxa. These include *Cyperaceae* (sedges), *Typha latifolia* (greater reedmace), *Typha angustifolia* type (bur-reed and lesser reed mace), and *Potamogeton* type (pondweed).

Discussion and conclusions

This pollen profile is typical of those obtained from soils and sediments in close proximity to occupation of historic, medieval age. Such assemblages often contain a rich flora dominated by herb taxa coming from very diverse sources. The taphonomy is thus complex with pollen coming from natural sources (air and waterborne) and secondary, human sources. The latter is frequently more important with pollen coming from domestic food refuse, faecal debris, dumped floor coverings and building materials (thatch etc.). This human component probably applies in this case with the substantial numbers of cereal pollen and associated taxa coming from waste food (bread or other farinaceous products) or from human

and/or animal faecal material that was dumped onto the river floodplain. It is accepted that pollen (cereal and associated segetals) incorporated in food may pass through the gut without any substantial deterioration and may be found in cesspits and latrines (Greig 1981,1982; Scaife 1982). Alternatively, such pollen may have come from local crop processing and from waste chaff debris.

Apart from cereals (wheat/barley and oats), the only other cultigens recorded include the small but continuous presence of flax (*Linum usitatissimum*) and hop/hemp (*Cannabis sativa* and/or *Humulus lupulus*). In the latter, similar pollen morphology precludes separation to either hop or hemp. However, medieval use of hemp for fibre was widespread and records here are attributed to such cultivation. It can be noted that flax is very poorly represented in pollen assemblages and numbers found here imply some importance. Usually this comes from flax retting in ponds or river margins.

The diversity of herb pollen as noted, comes from arable weeds which are also associated with the cereal pollen which becomes incorporated into food. Grasses and associated weeds of pasture are also important and may also come from primary sources such as local pasture or from the on-site river flood-plain. However, secondary sources may similarly be of importance where, as here, there is evidence of occupational debris in the sediments. Sources may include ingested animal fodder with resulting waste manure or even butchery waste.

The small numbers of tree and shrub pollen recorded represent the more regional woodland component, that is, largely oak and hazel (probably managed) woodland. This 'normal' airborne component will probably be very substantially under represented compared with the secondary/derived pollen noted above and from the autochthonous (on-site) component.

Conclusions

Well-preserved pollen was recovered from the alluvial sediments and from the intercalated occupational deposits. The pollen assemblages consequently demonstrate a complex taphonomy which is typical of deposits from in, and adjacent to areas of medieval activity. Thus, there is the possibility that the pollen recovered was derived from natural, airborne and water sources and from secondary sources such as waste food, faecal material and other dumped occupational waste. A background, regional woodland component consists of oak, hazel and alder (from wetland) woodland. Occasional ash and lime are present and may be from local origin or fluvially transported from farther afield. The herb pollen component is dominant with grasses, both wild and cultivated cereals, being most important. The latter probably comes from secondary sources including waste food or from human and/or animal faecal debris. Pasture types may also be from the (on-site) river floodplain and other grassland/pasture or from secondary sources such as animal dung floor coverings. Other herb pollen taxa come from a variety of habitats in the local area. Of some importance is evidence of flax and hemp. These were in cultivation and use.

7.5 Dendrochronology by Mark Bridge

Introduction

The wood sample, post [223], was recovered during excavation. The timber (Plate 1) was sliced to provide radii that could be measured under a binocular microscope on a purpose-built moving stage with a linear transducer, attached to a desktop computer. Measurements and subsequent analysis were carried out using DENDRO for WINDOWS, written by Ian Tyers (Tyers 2004).

Results and discussion

The timber was of oak (Quercus spp). The outermost rings were very soft and it proved impossible to determine ring boundaries with enough certainty to include them in the final timber series. The innermost rings were also excluded as there appeared to be some abnormal growth near the centre of the tree. A 133-year sequence was measured, which had at least fourteen additional unmeasured rings at the outside (Table 21). The timber section was fairly square, but it was inspected closely for any signs of sapwood, indicating the outer part of the parent tree. The natural edge between heartwood and sapwood was present only a few centimetres from the radius measured.

The measured series was dated to the period AD 1005-1137 (the best results for the comparisons being shown in Table 20). Adding the unmeasured fourteen rings takes the outermost ring date to 1151. If one then makes a generous allowance of up to 20 rings for the missing rings to the heartwood-boundary, that boundary date is likely to lie in the range 1151-1171. If one adds the appropriate sapwood estimate for the area (95% of oaks in the region having 11-41 sapwood rings), then the likely felling date range for this timber is AD 1162-1212.

In terms of the interpretation of this in relation to where it was found, the timber is most unlikely to have been felled before 1162. If the position from which it was excavated is felt to be its primary use, this dates the feature to the likely felling date period given above. If the timber was put into its excavated position having been used elsewhere first, all that can be said is that the feature is dated to sometime after 1162.

Table 21: Details of the timber sample

Sample Number	Timber and position	Dates AD spanning	H/S bdry	Sapwood complement	No of rings
nth01	Sample FGCC6 (223)	1005-1137	1151-71	-	133
					(+14)

Key: H/S bdry = heartwood/sapwood boundary – last heartwood ring date; std devn = standard deviation; mean sens = mean sensitivity; Sapwood estimate of 11 - 41 used for English timbers (Miles 1997)

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The environment of Far Gosford Street in the early medieval period

A palaeoenvironmental assessment of the development site undertaken to the south of the excavation area revealed deep deposits of alluvium laid down by the River Sherbourne as it gradually migrated westwards to a position close to the present culvert (Head and Wilkinson 2006, 7). Charcoal present within the upper levels of this alluvium was radiocarbon dated to the period cal AD 1005 to cal AD 1330 (ibid, 12).

Within the excavation area the upper horizon of undisturbed alluvium, a homogeneous mid-brown silty clay, was exposed at 2.75m below the modern ground level; a machine-cut sondage indicated that it was *c* 1m thick and that beneath was river terrace gravels. Pollen samples taken from the alluvium provide evidence for the environment of the site prior to its occupation. As would be expected given the proximity of the river, low levels of marsh and aquatic taxa were present and included sedges, greater reedmace, bur-reed, lesser reed mace and pondweed. Grasses dominated the sample but modest levels of cereal pollen were

also present. The deeper levels of alluvium contained the greatest amount of tree pollen, which dropped off towards the interface with the overlying dumping horizons; probably a reflecting increasing levels of deforestation as Coventry expanded in the 12th/13th centuries. Tree and shrub species included oak, hazel, lime/linden, ash, alder, and willow. The later two species are associated with growth in river valleys.

Broad comparisons can be made between the early medieval environment at Far Gosford Street and that at Hales Street where a borehole survey was undertaken in the vicinity of Coventry Transport Museum (Head and Wilkinson 2005). This site lay close to the confluence of the River Sherbourne and the Radford Brook, some 850m upstream from the Astleys site. A pollen sequence spanning the 10th-12th centuries suggested that the early environment was dominated by grasses and meadowland plants with oak and birch woodland. Small quantities of cereal pollen were entering the site from surrounding fields. In the later period, probably more closely contemporary with the Astleys sample, willow, alder and hazel dominated the river's edge, grasses diminished and cereals were, somewhat surprisingly, absent all together (ibid, 11-12).

Further comparison between the two sites is offered by evidence for the dumping of domestic waste which in both cases heralds the first indication of human activity. At Hales Street, however, this appears a little earlier than the 12th/13th-century material which overlies the alluvium at Astleys and is probably a result of its closer proximity to the original core of the city. Interspersed with these deposits was clear evidence for intermittent flooding, visible as bands of alluvia and lenses of organic matter. Plant macrofossils taken from these layers exhibited characteristics indicative of repeated inundation/drying and seeds of wetland plants were intermixed with the dumping deposits.

It was amid this environment that the site's earliest structural remains were set. The oak post (felled 1162-1212) would appear, on the basis of J B Shelton's observations, to be one of a number present in the vicinity. Their purpose remains obscure although it is worth noting that the early 13th-century date accords with the first documentary references to Gosford, or Goose ford.

8.2 Origins and early development of the medieval street frontage

The catalyst for early development along the Far Gosford Street frontage may have been the construction of a bridge over the River Sherbourne, first mentioned in documents of the 1260s (CA: BA/B/P/175/2). It is thought to have replaced the earlier ford and much later became known as Calais Bridge. The origins of a second bridge spanning the Springfield Brook (much later known as Dover Bridge) are not known; however, in the absence of evidence to the contrary it would seem reasonable to speculate a similar late 13th-century date.

This would accord with the earliest archaeological evidence for occupation between the two crossing points which comprise a cluster of stakeholes, stone pads and a crude hearth. A silver penny of Edward I (1272-1307) and late 13th/early 14th-century pottery was found in association. The 1260s also provide the first tentative documentary references to land ownership within the excavated area where plots e and f, lying in the western part of the site, are identified respectively as the holdings of Master Miles (perhaps a soldier) and a knight named Thomas Fortwine.

Whilst the earliest documentary evidence pertains to the western part of the site, the archaeological remains of the first street frontage were restricted to the east (plots b-d). Here the remnants of up to four timber-framed structures were found comprising sandstone rubble-plinths, beaten-earth floor surfaces and internal features. They had

been built directly over the upper levels of alluvium, dumped material and early occupation evidence. Perhaps in accord with the documentary evidence, the morphology of the structures suggested that they had been built west to east.

Numismatic evidence allows their construction to be dated with some degree of accuracy. Underlying the floor of Room 4, hypothetically the last to be built, was the silver penny of Edward I which provides a *terminus post quem* of 1307 for its construction. A *terminus ante quem* for Room 2 is provided by the single most spectacular find of the excavation, a hoard of thirty-eight silver long cross pennies buried in a wooden container dug through its floor surface. The latest coin in the assemblage was minted in the early years of Edward III's reign (1327-1335); very light wear on this piece suggests that it was not in circulation for long. Therefore, it would appear that at least part of the frontage was built-up sometime during the first three decades of the 14th century – a theory corroborated by documents of this period.

The room from which the coin hoard was retrieved lies within plot d, which in 1359 is recorded as a 'cottage' associated with St John the Baptist Guild. Its neighbour, Room 1 (plot c) and Rooms 3 and 4 (plot b) are also identified as cottages in documents of the same year. The earliest reference to these plots occurs in 1318 when plot b is described as a tenement formerly belonging to John de Langley.

Although 14th-century structural remains were absent along the western side of the frontage, a number of pits were discovered in what would have been their rear tenements. They included the truncated remains of what appeared to be a 10m-long 'trough'; the possible function of this unusual feature is discussed below.

Ceramic evidence suggests that the first frontage stood for maybe one hundred years before being dismantled in the first half of the 15th century. It is, perhaps, no coincidence that in *c* 1430 the construction of Coventry's town wall reached the southern side of Gosford Gate (which was already in existence by *c* 1349). It may have been during this topographic re-ordering that the houses of the first frontage were removed; such demolitions are known to have occurred throughout the city as the wall was built, the Cartulary of St Mary's Priory (1403) records thirteen such cases affecting their holdings alone (Soden 2005, 228). Another explanation for the demise of the first frontage may be that when the wall was built, sudden exclusion from the town had a detrimental effect on the economy of the individual plots, leading to their abandonment.

8.3 The extra-mural frontage

Following the dismantling of the 14th-century frontage buildings deposits of loam and debris accumulated over their floors before being sealed by levelling layers in preparation for the construction of a second frontage. Building work appears to have started in the mid-15th century although in the western part of the frontage deposits indicative of open ground continue to accumulate into the early 16th-century. From these came sherds from a Martincamp Flask, a French import associated with wine consumption and an assemblage of animal bones including mute swan, woodcock, veal calves, suckling pigs and several geese and chickens. It would appear that this food debris was fly-tipped onto the vacant plot, perhaps from St George's Chapel which lay on the opposite side of the street. By the mid-15th century the chapel had become associated with the Shearmen and Tailors' Guild and would have been used as a venue for feasting. In light of the 'deluxe' foodstuffs discovered it is, perhaps, no coincidence that property deeds specify that plots d, e and f may have been leased to the Shearmen and Tailors Guild by the Holy Trinity Guild in the period 1429-44 (BA/C/10/5/1-4).

By the late 15th/early 16th century the site was divided into five distinct tenement plots by sandstone walls aligned at right angles to the street (plots b-f). Despite being raised almost half a metre above the earlier frontage, they respected the old building lines. Like their predecessors, the structural remains of the second frontage included sandstone-rubble plinths, hearths and floor surfaces. Enough survived to enable the partial reconstruction of the ground plans of at least three timber-framed 'Wealden'-type houses. Unfortunately, the front of the buildings lay outside the northern edge of the excavation. Remains of structures to the rear of the frontage were also uncovered in plots e and f.

Two basic forms of building appear to have been utilised along the frontage, both are comparable with examples taken from Coventry's Much Park Street and now standing on Spon Street. The structures occupying the frontage of plots b and c (Rooms 5 and 6) are both a single bay wide with the latter being divided into a front and rear bay. Its dimensions and ground plan are reminiscent of the former 7 Much Park St (Plate 37) which dates from the 15th century. Unlike this example, however, the rear bay of Room 6 has been further subdivided creating a narrow compartment in its corner that probably functioned as a corridor.

The largest building along the frontage occupied plots d and e and incorporated two front bays (Rooms 8 and 9) either side of a through-passage. At the rear of the building was a large room (Room 10) spanning both bays with a hearth and oven set to one side. Such an arrangement bears comparison to the ground plan of the former Green Dragon Inn, 122-123 Much Park Street which is now a wine bar on Spon Street (Plate 38). A very similar design of pitched tile hearth was excavated in the rear bay this building prior to its transplantation and dated to the 15th/16th century.

The presence of a double-bayed building spanning plots d and e is also suggested by documentary evidence as, along with plot f, they are possibly both leased to the Shearman and Tailors Guild in 1429-44 (perhaps prior to the construction of the house at this point) and a century later appear as the property of the 'London owners' tenanted by John Heybott, Thomas Arlam and John Boydon (Cal Pat R. 1549-51, 412). The only reference to the smaller structures occupying the east of the second frontage pertains to plot c (Rooms 6/7). This tenement was acquired by George Foxcrafte and John Astwood (leather seller) in 1634 (Alcock 2006,26).

8.4 Craft and industry in the medieval suburb

Evidence retrieved from the medieval contexts suggests that a number of cottage industries were being practiced on or close to the excavated plots.

Smithing and smelting

Most visible in the archaeological record throughout the period was debris associated with smithing and smelting. The earliest evidence came from the floor of Rooms 3 and 4 (plot b) of the 14th-century frontage where a spread of debris containing charcoal, hammerscale and an unused horseshoe nail, was centred around a hearth.

Substantial quantities of ferrous slag were recovered from an occupation layer overlying the floor of Room 7 of the second frontage and more was present in the fill of a pit in Room 13, lying to the rear of plot f. The latter contained small pieces of charcoal fuel suggesting that a charcoal-fuelled hearth was being used for secondary smithing somewhere in the vicinity. A possible source is neighbouring Room 11 where a small assemblage of iron and copper alloy objects and fuel debris was present in the occupation layers overlying its floor and hearth.

Evidence for small-scale copper-alloy working was more ephemeral than iron

working but nonetheless present. A fragment from a crucible and miscellaneous molten nodules and blobs were recovered from the ploughsoil to the rear of plots d and e and date from the 15th-17th centuries. Copper alloy waste in the form of pieces of wire, trimmings and offcuts, together with pins were also represented; these are indicative of a wire-drawing and pinning industry (Woodfield 2005, 345). Waste fragments were mainly recovered from 15th-17th century deposits. Copper alloy working is well known in Coventry, crucibles (Bayley 1982, 85) and stone moulds have been recovered from Much Park Street (Wright, 1982, 87), Bayley Lane (Soden 2005, 159-160) and more recently at Whitefriars Street (McAree 2006, 15). At Far Gosford Street the association of the excavated tenements with the Shearman and Tailors Guild in the 15th century may be of significance in light of these discoveries.

Bone working

Bone working in the medieval period is suggested by the discovery of a perforated bone roughout in a 13th century pit cut into the alluvium/dumping strata and a sliver of long bone cut to form a tapered point recovered from a late medieval abandonment layer. Evidence for horn working was discovered in the form of six chopped horn cores and a single chopped goat horn core from a garden soil to the rear of plot e. There is no documentary for these activities taking place on the site during this period.

Flax and hemp cultivation/processing

Pollen monoliths spanning alluvial deposits, dumping layers and occupation along the street frontage show a correlation between early human activity on the site and increasing levels of flax (*linum beinne* type) and hemp (*cannabis satvia* type) pollen. This may indicate that they were cultivated or processed in close vicinity for their fibres – which had a multitude of uses.

The flax pollen peaks in the dumping layers of the late 13th century, just before the first street frontage was established. This crop was grown for both its seed (linseed) and its fibre which was extracted by the damp rotting of stems, a process known as retting before being dried and used for weaving and spinning. One method used to accelerate the decomposition of the stems was to submerse them in water – long, deep retting pits were often used for this purpose (Eyre 1913, 135). This could offer a possible explanation for the much-truncated remnants of the 10m long stone-lined pit located to the rear of the frontage in the late13th/early 14th century.

Hemp pollen peaked a little later than the flax at levels corresponding with the mid-14th to mid-15th centuries during the occupation of the first frontage. It too was valued for its fibres which could be spun into coarse linen garments or used in the manufacture of rope and nets. Like flax they were extracted by retting – which again offers a plausible explanation for the large pit to the rear of the plot.

The exploitation of both of these cultivars in the medieval period has been noted elsewhere in Coventry; evidence for flax and hemp retting was discovered at St Mary's Priory (Carruthers 2003, 124) and the cultivation of hemp at the extra-mural settlement on Hill Street (Mason *et al*, forthcoming).

Dyeing

Evidence for dying was found in a single pit located to the rear of the site where seeds of weld or dyer's rocket (*Reseda luteola*) were found. This plant was commonly utilised during the medieval period as it provided a brilliant fast yellow dye. The pit is thought to date to the 13th century though may be a little later, perhaps contemporary with the first frontage. The link between dying and fibre production, especially the weaving and spinning of flax and hemp fibres into

garments, may be of relevance in this instance.

8.5 Suburban diet in the medieval period

Throughout the medieval period the staple diet of the site's occupants was dominated by beef, mutton, poultry and pork. However, it would appear that an increase in dietary diversity was commensurate with the chronology of the site. Thus whilst the diet of the inhabitants of the 14th-century frontage consisted of the staple foodstuffs supplemented with duck, rabbit and stockfish, their 16th-century counterparts enjoyed a slightly more varied diet including venison, partridge and greater numbers of oyster, perhaps reflecting a relaxation in the forest and land-access laws.

Cereals present throughout the medieval period included oat, barley, rye and wheat. Other food plants commonly utilised included hazelnuts, blackberries and elderberries. Evidence for the importing and consumption of figs appears in later medieval contexts.

In terms of meat consumption, a similar diet of 'solid sufficiency' was indicated by the animal bone assemblage recovered from the extra-mural settlement at Hill Street (ibid) but here there was also clear evidence for backyard subsistence farming (rearing chickens & pigs), which was not apparent at the Far Gosford Street. However, the inhabitants of the Gosford Street tenements appear to have consumed significantly more hunted species (wild boar, fallow deer and wild birds) perhaps reflecting a more rural aspect to the south-eastern suburb. Certainly the proximity of the River Sherbourne and Springfield Brook would have provided a more appealing habitat for wild fowl than the town ditch and tanneries that lay outside Hill Street Gate. Freshwater fish, however, do not appear, perhaps due to the constraints of mills to the north and south.

At both sites there was evidence for high status feasting as indicated by the presence in the food waste deposits of bones of such exotic species as mute swan. Evidence of the proximity of the rural hinterland to both of these extra-mural areas was provided by the discovery of bones of small wild fauna (mole and stoat). Scavenger species (raven and black rat) were also represented among the bone assemblages from these sites.

8.6 The Civil War

The features identified with the Civil War, which comprise demolished houses, entrenchments, walls, surfaces and possible engineering works, comprise only the second such body of archaeological evidence for this tumultuous period in Coventry's history and are by far the most extensive.

Prior to the Astley's excavation, the only other physical evidence for Civil War activity was found a short distance to the west of the Astleys site at Whitefriars Street. Here fieldwork conducted in 2003 revealed a scatter of musket shot and a lead ball from a light cannon (Soden 2005, 240). These remains, which probably relate to the Royalist attack on Coventry in 1642 which pre-dated the official commencement of hostilities by a few days, provide a convenient start point from which to examine the Parliamentarian city's involvement in the struggle of the 1640s and provide background for the Civil War archaeology at Astleys.

Coventry, in the prelude to the Civil War was by no means an exclusively Parliamentarian city. Prominent members of the city authorities, including aldermen Henry Million and John Clarke (John 2000, 10) were, in fact, keen

supporters of the King while a large proportion of the city's inhabitants, like that of the country's general population, were neutral in outlook. It was at the gates of this melting pot that a Royal Herald arrived on August 13th 1642 and informed the mayor and aldermen that the King, at the head of a 1200-strong force, required admittance. The reason for his visit was clear to all; he sought Warwickshire's powder store, held in Coventry since 1640 (Soden 2005, 239).

Mindful of the havoc that such a large number of troops would bring upon the city, the authorities welcomed the King but offered admittance to only 200 of his entourage; a sum of two hundred pounds was duly raised for their accommodation and entertainment (John 2000, 12). The King, indignant, refused their offer and when the city authorities stood firm his forces began an artillery bombardment of the southern part of the city on 19th August from a position on Park Hill (the site of the former Cheylesmore Park quarries). The ordnance discovered during the 2003 watching brief at Whitefriars Street derives from this attack. The City Annals report that little damage was done and only two casualties were sustained; the bedridden Lady Hales and an attendant servant were injured when a stray shot hit their home, the former Carmelite House of Whitefriars (ibid, 13-14). Other apocryphal sources (eg Bliss-Burbage 1957), however, describe a successful frontal attack on New Gate which saw the King's forces gain entry only to be beaten off by a rabble led by an 'Amazon' woman armed with a Hercules club!

When a larger Parliamentarian force under the command of Warwick's Lord Brooke approached Coventry, the King withdrew, leading his army to Nottingham where, on the 22nd August, he raised his standard, thus formalising the start of the war. Lord Brooke's arrival had secured Coventry for the Parliamentarians - a loyalty that was to remain unchanged throughout the conflict.

The earliest evidence of the Civil War at Astleys relates to the initial efforts that were made to secure the city in 1642-43. The Annals describe the 'plucking down' of houses outside all of the main gates, including Gosford Gate and the wholesale demolition of the later medieval frontage, in a swift and efficient manner, is indeed indicated by the excavated evidence. This was undertaken to remove cover for potential attackers and to open up clear fields of fire from the towers and parapets of the town wall. Such demolitions were by no means confined to Coventry but were undertaken across the country; in Gloucester alone some 241 houses were destroyed when the suburbs were fired by its Parliamentarian defenders in anticipation of the siege of August/September 1643 (Atkin 1991, 35).

The cleared ground outside Gosford Gate appears to have been roughly levelled over with clay and demolition debris before the first of two entrenchments, the well-documented 'half-moon', was dug in 1643. Gosford Gate, along with New Gate and Bishop Gate were the only of the city's portals left open to traffic – the others were blocked up (Gooder 1966, 97). Outside these gates the 'half-moon' entrenchments were dug and drawbridges erected over them (ibid; John 2000, 15). On the basis of these descriptions the curving ditch discovered in the north-west corner of the site seems almost certain to be one of the half-moons. It presumably formed an entrenchment arching from the bank of the Sherbourne out to the carriageway in front of St George's Chapel before retuning to the river's edge to the north of the gate. How any drawbridge constructed over the earthwork operated in conjunction with the pre-existing bridge that sat in front of the Gosford Gate must remain a matter of conjecture. Contemporary documents suggest that a drawbridge existed, be it the Civil War work or the pre-existing bridge over the Sherbourne.

The silty primary fill of the half-moon entrenchment suggests that it may well have carried water from the Sherbourne. Pottery recovered from these deposits, including early sherds of Staffordshire Slipware, corroborates the Civil War origin of the

feature.

As Royalist armies moved throughout the Midlands in 1644 Coventry's authorities made further improvements to the defences. An extra tower was constructed adjacent to New Gate and the town ditch was widened at certain points along its circuit (Soden 2005, 240). A more immediate sense of threat, however, was felt in late May 1645 when Leicester, only thirty miles distant, was bombarded and subsequently sacked by the Royalists under the command of the King's nephew, Prince Rupert. This event directly precipitated the second phase of Civil War archaeology found at Astleys.

When the Royalist infantry entered Leicester on Saturday 31st May, through breaches blown in its walls, the town was '*miserably sackt without regard to Church or Hospital*' (Courtney and Courtney 1992, 57). An estimated six to seven hundred townsfolk were killed (ibid). Coventry, groaning under the weight of an influx of refugees that had swelled its population to some 9000 (John 2000, 24) took immediate measures to strengthen the defences outside the Gosford Gate, through which the Leicester Road passed. Therefore, the morning after Leicester was sacked, '*all the city was called to make a strong outwork without Gosford gate compassed round with a river*' (John 2000, 24).

The wide ditch that cut a swathe across the excavation site, truncating the remnants of the late medieval houses and tenement plots is undoubtedly the remnant of this outwork. Corroborative dating evidence is provided by clay pipes found within its fill that date to the period 1640-60. It would appear that the outwork was designed to connect the River Sherbourne to the Springfield Brook, thus creating a wet moat with, possibly, an internal bank formed from the up-cast earth. The lower fills of the ditch were indeed alluvial in character and contained botanical remains indicative of species favouring a waterlogged environment. Between the 'strong outwork' and the original 'half-moon', islands of contemporary archaeology survived indicating that hard standings of crude flagstone and cobble had been lain and perhaps, wooden platforms. Their function can only be postulated upon; artillery emplacements are a possibility. A schedule of bills for '*mason worke and other about the drawbridge at Gosford gate and other workes there 31th of may 1645*' may allude to the origin of these remains (TNA copy provided by Nat Alcock).

The Royalist threat was short-lived. On the 14th June the King's forces were defeated at the Battle of Naseby and Coventry's improved defences were never tested. It would appear that the entrenchments outside Gosford Gate were backfilled not long afterwards; probably by pushing the accompanying banks back in. A letter from Parliament dated 3rd March 1646 probably refers to this; it contains instructions for the committee of Warwickshire and orders that the '*City of Coventry bee a garrisoned and the new worke be slighted*' (Soden 2005, 241). Although the entrenchments were backfilled and subsequently levelled over by layers containing pottery dating to the late 17th/early 18th centuries, some, unspecified, physical earthwork trace of the Civil War appears to have remained visible well into the 19th century to be observed by the local antiquarian W G Fretton in 1870 (Fretton 1872, 63-68). No indication of this, however, is shown on the historical maps of the period.

8.7 Far Gosford Street in the post-medieval period

The 18th-century frontage

A period of dereliction appears to have existed between the slighting of the Civil War features and the re-construction of the frontage. Property deeds for the plots

falling within the excavated area reappear in the historic record in 1727 and Samuel Bradford's map (1748-9) is the first to show the morphology of the new buildings, their plan confirmed closely in excavation. A *terminus post quem* for the construction of eastern frontage is provided by sherds of manganese mottled ware (1680-1740) within its formation layers. The footings for the back wall of the overlying building (eastern building, plots b and c) had a distinctive projection clearly identifiable on Bradford's map. It appeared to enclose a set of spiral stairs, partially visible in the very north-east corner of the site where they presumably lead down to the bank of the Springfield Brook. The correlation between the excavated and cartographic evidence suggests that Samuel Bradford's map exhibits a degree of reliability at individual building level that has hitherto been dismissed.

To the east and separated by a passage was the central building (plots d and e). Despite the site's long history of demolitions and dereliction, the location of the dividing passage corresponded to the earlier passage in Room 2 of the original frontage, buried some 1.5m below. The east wall of the central structure also sat directly over the building lines of both earlier frontages; this was the most pronounced of numerous examples of medieval settlement morphology surviving well into the modern period. A third building was identified to the west where it occupied the approximate position of plot f.

Details pertaining to the tenancy of the three buildings are comparatively well documented. In the 18th century the buildings are associated with such characters as John Evens (barber and wig maker), Thomas Ashton (victualler), and William Burgess (silkman). The presence of a victualler may be relevant to the interpretation of two ovens or kilns located to the rear of plot f. Initially thought to be bread ovens, they could just as well have been used as malting kilns for the brewing industry. Soil samples taken from the ashy residue failed to clarify their use as they contained only fuel debris. Other evidence of the 18th-century economy include rare ceramics including Tortoiseshell Whieldon-type ware (its first known appearance in Coventry) and sherds of a grog-decorated vessel probably imported from Cologne *c* 1750. Two Georgian half-pennies were also found in association with the frontage buildings.

19th century to present

The fourth Far Gosford Street frontage appears to have been constructed sometime *c* 1821 when documents refer to new messuages replacing the old tenements in plots e and f (Alcock 2006, 11). Three new plots were created to the rear. This new morphology first appears on the Board of Health map (1851). The archaeological remains of these buildings were largely brick-built, though some borrowed the footings of the preceding frontage. This was particularly evident to the west of the site (plots d-f). To the east (plots b and c) the earlier structure (eastern building) appears to have been completely razed to the ground and levelled over prior to the construction of the new frontage. Amongst the foundations and lower courses were many large architectural fragments that had evidently been robbed from elsewhere – probably the fabric of the 18th-century frontage but also maybe the town wall (slighted in 1662 and demolished hereabouts in 1814), the gate (demolished 1765) or even St Georges Chapel (demolished 1822).

A plan of the site following its acquisition by Calcott Brothers identifies the frontage buildings lying within the site as 167-172 Far Gosford Street. A passageway leading between numbers 169 and 170 aligns exactly over the passage that led through the 14th-century frontage. The newly-created structures to the rear of plots e and f are labelled 1-3 as part of 'Court 16'. Number 1 relates to a structure with a sunken floor adjoining the rear of frontage buildings 170 and 171. During its construction the upper part of the timber post, felled and presumably set

in place some six hundred years earlier, was revealed. In an attempt to remove it a pit was dug but efforts were soon abandoned and the floor of the new building was raised above the top of the post on a raft of clay and crushed sandstone.

The modern history of the site has been relatively well established (Alcock 2006, 11). In the later 19th century a plethora of characters acquired rights to the frontage properties including a leading Coventry solicitor, Thomas Browett (whose family vault was excavated in Holy Trinity churchyard in 1999/2000). In the early 1880s the whole row was sold to a watchmaker, William Perkins. The buildings stayed in his family until 1887 and were then sold to three sisters living in Liverpool who in turn sold them to the Calcott Brothers in 1914.

The concrete bases of the Calcott Brothers 'new' workshop (constructed post 1916) were observed across the site where they truncated pockets of earlier archaeology. When the factory was sold to Singer Motors in 1926 the 19th-century frontage buildings were demolished and replaced by a single storey showroom. This, representing the fifth reordering of the street frontage, was retained as the premises of Asleys until it was demolished as part of the development that provided the impetus for the archaeological excavation.

Callice Court now occupies the site. It is the latest in a sequence of six Far Gosford Street frontages that span a period exceeding six hundred years.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Coin hoard data

Summary list by class:

Class 2	London (3)	Total: 3 (8%)
Class 3	Bristol (1), Canterbury (1), Durham (1), London (4)	Total: 7 (18%)
Class 4	Canterbury (1), London (1)	Total: 2 (5%)
Class 9	Bury (1), London (1)	Total: 2 (5%)
Class 10	Bury (1), Canterbury (5), London (7)	Total: 13 (34%)
Class 11	Canterbury (2), London (1)	Total: 3 (8%)
Class 14	Canterbury (1)	Total: 1 (3%)
Class 15	Bury (1), Canterbury (1), London (1)	Total: 3 (8%)
Berwick	Class 4 (1), Class 5 (1)	Total: 2 (5%)
Continental sterlings		Total: 2 (5%)

Summary list by mint:

Berwick	2 (5%)
Canterbury	11 (29%)
Bury	3 (8%)
Durham	1 (3%)
Bristol	1 (3%)
London	18 47%)
Continental	2 (5%)

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Roger Barrett for his help in identifying the coins.

Table 1: Catalogue of coins

Sf No	Issuer	Class	Mint	Cat.	Wt. (g)	Date	Comments
240	Edward I	2a	London	N.1014	1.18	1280	
222	Edward I	2b	London	N.1015	1.32	1280	
242	Edward I	2b	London	N.1015	1.10	1280	
221	Edward I	3b	Bristol	N.1017	1.26	1280-81	
212	Edward I	3cd	Canterbury	N.1018/9	1.18	1280-81	
236	Edward I	3f	London	N.1021	1.21	1280-81	
232	Edward I	3f	Durham	N.1021	1.30	1280-81	
230	Edward I	3f	London	N.1021	1.14	1280-81	
223	Edward I	3f	London	N.1021	1.04	1280-81	
228	Edward I	3g	London	N.1022	1.22	1280-81	
241	Edward I	4b	Canterbury	N.1024	1.20	1282-89	
216	Edward I	4c	London	N.1025	1.21	1282-89	
218	Edward I	9a	London	N.1036	1.08	c.1299-1301	
244	Edward I	9a?	Bury	N.1036	0.94	c.1299-1301	
237	Edward I	10ab	London	N.1038	1.20	1301-10	Early crown, muled 9b reverse
238	Edward I	10ab	London	N.1038	1.21	1301-10	Muled 9b reverse
226	Edward I	10ab	Canterbury	N.1038	1.18	1301-10	
227	Edward I	10ab?	London	N.103	0.76	1301-10	
219	Edward I	10cf	London	N.10403	0.99	1301-10	
235	Edward I	10cf2	Canterbury	N.1041	1.29	1301-10	
229	Edward I	10cf2	Bury	N.1041	1.23	1301-10	
215	Edward I	10cf2	London	N.1041	1.28	1301-10	
245	Edward I	10cf2	Canterbury	N.1041	1.30	1301-10	
239	Edward I	10cf3	London	N.1042	1.08	1301-10	
234	Edward I	10cf5	London	N.1043	1.14	1301-10	
233	Edward I	10cf5	Canterbury	N.1043	1.20	1301-10	
217	Edward I	10cf5	Canterbury	N.1043	1.32	1301-10	
225	Edward II	11a	Canterbury?	N.1060	0.95	c.1310-14	
249	Edward II	11a	London	N.1060	1.00	c.1310-14	
214	Edward II	11b	London	N.1061	1.17	c.1310-14	
224	Edward II	14	Canterbury	N.1065	1.33	c.1317-20	
246	Edward II	15b	Bury	N.1067	1.28	c.1320-33	
231	Edward II	15c	Canterbury	N.1068	1.16	c.132033	
220	Edward III	15d	London	N.1095	1.35	c.132-35	
243	Edward I	4	Berwick	N.1078	1.41	c.1300-1310	
247	Edward I	5	Berwick	N.1081	1.28	c.1312	
213	HenryII/III	Sterling		M.175-8	1.08		Lordship of Kuinra (Overjissel)
248	Ferry I	Sterling		M.314	0.67	c.1320	Duke of Lorraine

Notes:

Weights of coins are of cleaned pieces. Standard catalogue references are N (North 1991) and M (Mayhew 1983). Coins minted in Berwick are listed separately as, whilst bearing the same types as English coins, they do not fall within the same classes as most are from locally made dies.

Appendix 2: Mammal, bird and fish bone data

Table 1: Summary counts of the identified bone elements/fragments (NISP) by species and site phase.

Context Group	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
MAMMALS:						
cattle	61	89	96	50	51	347
sheep	48	68	68	37	45	266
goat	1					1
pig (a)	3	22	23	14	8	70
dog				1		1
rabbit		1	1		1	3
fallow deer			1			1
mole				1		1
black rat			1			1
unident.mammal frags.	3	24	18	5	20	70
BIRDS:						
goose	6	5	13	5	3	32
domestic fowl	4	12	14	6	4	40
mallard/dom.duck		1				1
swan cf.mute swan			2			2
partridge			1			1
woodcock			1			1
unident.bird frags.			13			13
FISH:						
cod		1				1
large gadoid			26			26
TOTALS	126	223	278	119	132	878

Notes: (a) probably mostly domestic pigs but at least one wild boar is represented among the Group 2 bones; (b) parts of skeleton of 1 small wild bird (species indet.); and (c) fin rays/spines from 1 fish

Table 2: Summary of the weathered/eroded, dog gnawed, burnt and green-stained bones from each context group.

Context Group	1	2	3	4	5
weathered/eroded	3	14	8	8	0
dog gnawed	0	1	1	1	0
charred/burnt/calcined	1	2	2	1	0
green stained	1	4	3	0	0

Note: All specimens are mammalian bone elements.
Green staining is probably due to contact/proximity with copper alloy artefacts.

Table 3: Anatomical distributions of the cattle bone elements.

Element/Context Group	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
horn core				6	
horn core + part skull			1	4	
skull = cranium					
skull fragments	4	1	1	2	
premaxilla		1			
maxilla					
mandible	4	4	5	3	1
incisor	1				
upper cheektooth		4	4	2	2
lower cheektooth	2	3	3		1
canine					
hyoid	1	1	1		
vertebra	1	1	1	1	
cervical			2		4
thoracic		2	3	1	
lumbar	1	1	3	2	2
sacrum		3			
caudal					
rib	15	22	17	14	13
sternum					
clavicle					
scapula	2	6		1	1
humerus	1	3	2	1	
radius		2	7	2	2
ulna	1	1	1	1	1
carpals	1				
metacarpus	1	1	1	1	
innominate	1	3	6	1	6
femur		3	8	2	1
tibia	4	4	3		1
fibula					
patella					1
calcaneum	1			1	
astragalus	1		1		
tarsals					2
metatarsus		2	1		1
metapodial	1				
phalanx I		2	2	1	1
phalanx II			2		
phalanx III	1	1			
sesamoid					
long bone shaft frags.	10	18	21	11	11
TOTALS	61	89	96	50	51

Table 4: Anatomical distributions of the sheep bone elements.

Element/Context Group	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
horn core		1		1	
horn core + part skull					
skull = cranium					
skull fragments		1			
premaxilla					
maxilla	2	1			
mandible		2	5	2	2
incisor	1		1	1	
upper cheektooth		1		1	1
lower cheektooth			2	1	1
canine					
hyoid					
vertebra	1				
cervical	1		1		
thoracic		1	2		
lumbar	3	2	2	3	
sacrum					
caudal					1
rib	14	17	17	2	14
sternum	2				
clavicle					
scapula	4	1	2	2	
humerus	4	7	1		3
radius	3	4	2	3	1
ulna	2		1		
carpals					
metacarpus	1	5	8	6	8
innominate	3	2	1	1	2
femur	2	4			1
tibia	3	10	7	4	
fibula					
patella					
calcaneum					
astragalus					
tarsals					
metatarsus		4	6	6	4
metapodial					
phalanx I	1		2	1	1
phalanx II					1
phalanx III					
sesamoid					
long bone shaft frags.	1	5	8	3	5
TOTALS	48	68	68	37	45

Table 5: Anatomical distributions of the pig bone elements.

Element/Context Group	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
skull = cranium					
skull fragments		2	1	3	
premaxilla					
maxilla	1	2			
mandible		1	5		1
incisor		1	1	3	
upper cheektooth					
lower cheektooth			1		
canine				1	
hyoid					
vertebra					
cervical			1		
thoracic			1		
lumbar		1	1		
sacrum					
caudal					
rib	1	1	1	1	
sternum					
clavicle					
scapula			1		1
humerus					
radius	1	3			
ulna		1	1		
carpals					
metacarpus		1	1	1	1
innominate					1
femur			1		
tibia		2	2	1	1
fibula		1			
patella					
calcaneum					1
astragalus					
tarsals					
metatarsus		3	3		1
metapodial		3	1		
phalanx I					
phalanx II			1	1	1
phalanx III					
sesamoid					
long bone shaft frags.				3	
TOTALS	3	22	23	14	8

Table 6: Anatomical distributions of the goose bone elements.

Element/Context Group	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
skull					
premaxilla					
mandible			1		1
maxilla					
scapula					
coracoid			2		
humerus	2			1	
radius	2	1		1	
ulna		1	1		1
carpometacarpus		1	2	1	
pelvis					
femur		1		1	
tibiotarsus			3		
fibula					
tarsometatarsus	1		3		
phalanges			1		1
vertebra					
synsacrum					
rib				1	
sternum					
furculum	1	1			
TOTALS	6	5	13	5	3

Table 7: Anatomical distributions of the domestic fowl bone elements.

Element/Context Group	1	2	3	4	5
skull				1	
premaxilla					
mandible					
maxilla					
scapula				1	
coracoid			3		
humerus		2	4		
radius		2		1	1
ulna		1			1
carpometacarpus					
pelvis		1			
femur	1				
tibiotarsus			3	1	2
fibula				1	
tarsometatarsus	3	2	2	1	
phalanges			2		
vertebra					
synsacrum		1			
rib		1			
sternum					
furculum		2			
TOTALS	4	12	14	6	4

Appendix 3: Plant macrofossil data

Key to Tables

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 10 – 50 specimens xxx = 50 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens

c = charred tf = testa fragment cf = compare b = burnt DL = demolition layer

ID = industrial deposit OD = organic dump IS = imported soil AD = ash dump

O/AL = occupation/abandonment layer OL = occupation layer OF = organic fill SF = silt fill

Table 1: Plant macrofossils and other remains from the Civil War ditch fills and 18th-century deposit 381

Sample No.		**1**	**2**	**11**	**13**	**14**	**19**	**16**
Context No.		**109**	**127**	**157**	**250**	**253**	**455**	**381**
Context description		**OF**	**SF**	**OF**	**OF**	**OF**	**DL**	**OL**
Cereals and other food plants	**Common name**							
Secale cereale L. (grains)	Rye						xc	
Triticum sp. (grains)	Wheat						xc	
Cereal indet, (grains)			xc					
Ficus carica L.	Fig	xcf				xcf		
Fragaria sp.	Strawberry	xcf		xcf		xcf		
Prunus domestica ssp. *insititia* (L.)Bonnier&Layens	Bullace/damson	x						
Dry land herbs								
Aethusa cynapium L.	Fool's parsley		xx		x	x		
Asteraceae indet.		x			x			
Atriplex sp.	Orache	x	x	xcf	xx	xx		
Brassica sp.	Cabbage/mustard		xtf					
Brassicaceae indet.		x						
Cerastium sp.	Mouse-ear chickweed			x		x		
Chenopodium album L.	Fat hen		x	x		x		
C. rubrum/glaucum	Goosefoot		x			xx		

Cirsium sp.	Thistle	x	x	x	x			
Conium maculatum L.	Hemlock	x						
Epilobium sp.	Wiilow-herb	xcf						
Fallopia convolvulus (L.)A.Love	Black bindweed	x	x		x			
Fumaria officinalis L.	Fumitory				x			
Galeopsis sp.	Hemp nettle		x					
Hyoscyamus niger L.	Henbane	xcf			x			
Lamium sp.	Dead-nettle	x			xx			
Leontodon sp.	Hawkweed				x	x		
Lepidium sp.	Pepperwort	x		x				
Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia	Persicaria/redshank	x	xx			x		
Plantago major L.	Greater plantain				x			
Small Poaceae indet.	Grass	x	x	x		x		
Polygonum aviculare L.	Knotgrass	x		x	x	x		
Potentilla sp.	Cinquefoil			x				
Ranunculus sp.	Buttercup		x					
R. acris/repens/bulbosus		x	x	x	x			
Reseda sp.	Weld			x				
Rumex sp.	Dock	x	x	x	xx	x		
Scandix pecten-veneris L.	Shepherd's needle			xcf				
Sinapis sp.	Charlock		x		xtf			
Solanum nigrum L.	Black nightshade				x			
Sonchus asper (l.)Hill	Spiny sow thistle	x	x					
S. oleraceus L.	Sow thistle		xx	x	x	xx		
Stellaria media (L.)Vill	Chickweed	x	x	x	x	x		
Urtica dioica L.	Stinging nettle	xxx	x			xx		
U. urens L.	Annual nettle	x	x	x	x	x		
Wetland/aquatic plants								
Alisma plantago-aquatica L.	Water plantain	xxx		x	xxx	x		
Barbarea sp.	Winter cress	x						
Caltha palustris L.	Marsh marigold	xcf			x			

Carex sp.	Sedge	x				x		
Filipendula ulmaria L.	Meadowsweet	x						
Juncus sp.	Rush			x				
Lychnis flos-cuculi L.	Ragged robin		x					
Montia fontana L.	Blinks	x		x		x		
Persicaria hydropiper L.	Water pepper	xx	x	x	xx	x		
Ranunculus flammula L.	Lesser spearwort	x						
Sparganium erectum L.	Bur-reed	xcf						
Typha sp.	Reed mace	x				x		
Tree/shrub macrofossils								
Corylus avellana L.	Hazel			x				
Rubus sect. *Glandulosus* Wimmer&Grab	Bramble		x	x	x			
Sambucus nigra L.	Elderberry		x	x				
Other plant macrofossils								
Charcoal <2mm		xx	xxxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxxx	x
Charcoal >2mm		x	xx	xxx	xxx	xx	xxx	x
Charred root/stem							x	x
Ericaceae indet.(leaves)	Heather	xcf						
(stem)				x				
Waterlogged root/stem		xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxx	xxxx		
Indet.leaf frags.		x						
Indet,moss		x		xxxx				
Indet.seeds		x						
Indet.twig frags.				x				
Freshwater oblligate species								
Anisus leucostoma					x			
Bathyomphalus contortus		x	x		x			
Gyraulus albus					x			
Pisidium sp.					x			
Planorbis planorbis		x						
Planorbarius corneus					x			

Other remains								
Black porous 'cokey' material				x			xx	
Black tarry material							x	
Ferrous globules							x	
Fish bone		x					x	
Mortar/plaster							x	
Siliceous globules							x	
Small coal frags.		x	x	xx	x	xx	xxx	xxx
Waterlogged arthropods		xxx		x		x		
Sample volume (litres)		**40**	**20**	**10**	**30**	**10**	**10**	**10**
Volume of flot (litres)		**1**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**2**	**0.1**	**<0.1**	**0.1**
% flot sorted		**20%**	**50%**	**50%**	**10%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Table 2: Plant macrofossils and other remains from 13th-century dump/inundation deposits

Sample No.		**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**33**	**34**
Context No.		**143**	**143**	**133**	**134**	**134**	**136**	**644**	**645**
Context description		**ID**	**OD**	**IS**	**IS**	**IS**	**OD**	**OD**	**AD**
Cereals and other food plants	**Common names**								
Avena sp. (grains)	Oat		xc	xc		xc			
Hordeum/Secale cereale type (rachis nodes)	Barley/rye	xc	xxc						
Prunus avium L.	Cherry						x		
Secale cereale L. (rachis nodes)	Rye		xc						
Triticum sp. (grains)	Wheat	xc		xc					
Cereal indet. (grains)		xc	xc	xc					
Dry land herbs									
Aethusa cynapium L.	Fool's parsley	x	x	x					
Agrostemma githago L.	Corn cockle					xtf			
Anthemis cotula L.	Stinking mayweed							x	
Aphanes arvensis L.	Parslet piert							x	

Atriplex sp.	Orache					x			x
Brassicaceae indet.					x		x		
Bromus sp.	Brome	xc							
Cannabis sativa L.	Hemp	x			x				
Centaurea cyanus L.	Cornflower	x						x	
Chenopodium album L.	Fat hen					x			
Chenopodiaceae indet.					x				
Chrysanthemum segetum L.	Corn marigold							x	
Cirsium sp.	Thistle					x			
Fabaceae indet.				xc					
Fallopia convolvulus(L.)A.Love	Black bindweed			xc				x	
Galeopsis sp.	Hemp nettle					x			
Heracleum sphondylium L.	Hogweed					x			
Hyoscyamus niger L.	Henbane	x		x					
Lamium sp.	Dead-nettle			x	x				
Lapsana communis L.	Nipplewort							x	
Linum usitatissimum L. (capsule frags.)	Flax						xxxx		
Mentha sp.	Mint				x				
Small Poaceae indet.	Grass							x	
Large Poaceae indet.						x			xc
Polygonum aviculare L.	Knotgrass					x		x	
Potentilla sp.	Cinquefoil							x	
Prunella vulgaris L.	Self heal						xcf		
Ranunculus sp.	Buttercup			x					
R. acris/repens/bulbosus		x						x	
Rumex sp.	Dock			xx xc	x		x		
Sinapis sp.	Charlock						x		
Solanum nigrum L.	Black nightshade				x	x			
Stellaria graminea L.	Stitchwort					x			
S. media (L.)Vill.	Chickweed			x	x	x		x	
Urtica dioica L.	Stinging nettle				xx	x	x		

U. urens L.	Annual nettle				x				
Valerianella dentata (L.)Pollich	Cornsalad					x			
Wetland plants									
Bolboschoenus/Schoenoplectus sp.	Club rush							xxx	
Carex sp.	Sedge	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Eleocharis sp.	Spike-rush		xc			x			
Juncus sp.	Rush						xx		
Lemna sp.	Duckweed						x		
Lychnis flos-cuculi L.	Ragged robin						x		
Persicaria hydropiper L.	Water pepper			x					
Ranunculus sceleratus L.	Celery-leaved crowfoot				x		x	x	
Rorippa palustris (L.)Besser	Yellow cress						x		
Tree/shrub macrofossils									
Betula sp.(fruits)	Birch					x			
Corylus avellana L.	Hazel		xcf	xcf xc	x	x	xcf	x	xx
Rubus sect. *Glandulosus* Wimmer&Grab	Bramble	x		x	x	x		x	
Sambucus nigra L.	Elderberry	x		x	x				
Other plant macrofossils									
Charcoal <2mm		xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxx	xx	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm		xx	xxxx	xxxx	xx	xx	xx	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >5mm			x	x					x
Charred root/stem		x	x	x					x
Waterlogged root/stem		x	xx	xx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	x
Indet.buds				xc		x	x	x	
Indet,culm node			xc						
Indet.moss						x	x		
Indet.seeds					x	x			
Indet.twig frags.					x	x		x	
Wood frags.<5mm							x		
Wood frags. >5mm						x			x
Freshwater obligate species									

Bathyomphalus contortus				x					
Other remains									
Black porous 'cokey' material		x	x						
Black tarry material			x	x				x	
Bone				x xb	xb				
Cladoceran ephippia							x		
Eggshell				x				x	
Fish bone				x				x	
Siliceous globules			x						
Small coal frags.				xx				x	
Small mammal/amphibian bone		x			x				
Vitrified material		x		xx	x			x	
Waterlogged arthropods					x	x	xx	x	
Sample volume (litres)		**10**	**10**	**20**	**40**	**10**	**40**	**20**	**20**
Volume of flot (litres)		**<0.1**	**0.8**	**0.4**	**1**	**1**	**3**	**0.4**	**0.4**
% flot sorted		**100%**	**25%**	**50%**	**20%**	**20%**	**<12.5%**	**50%**	**50%**

Table 3: Plant macrofossils and other remains from late 13th-14th-century contexts

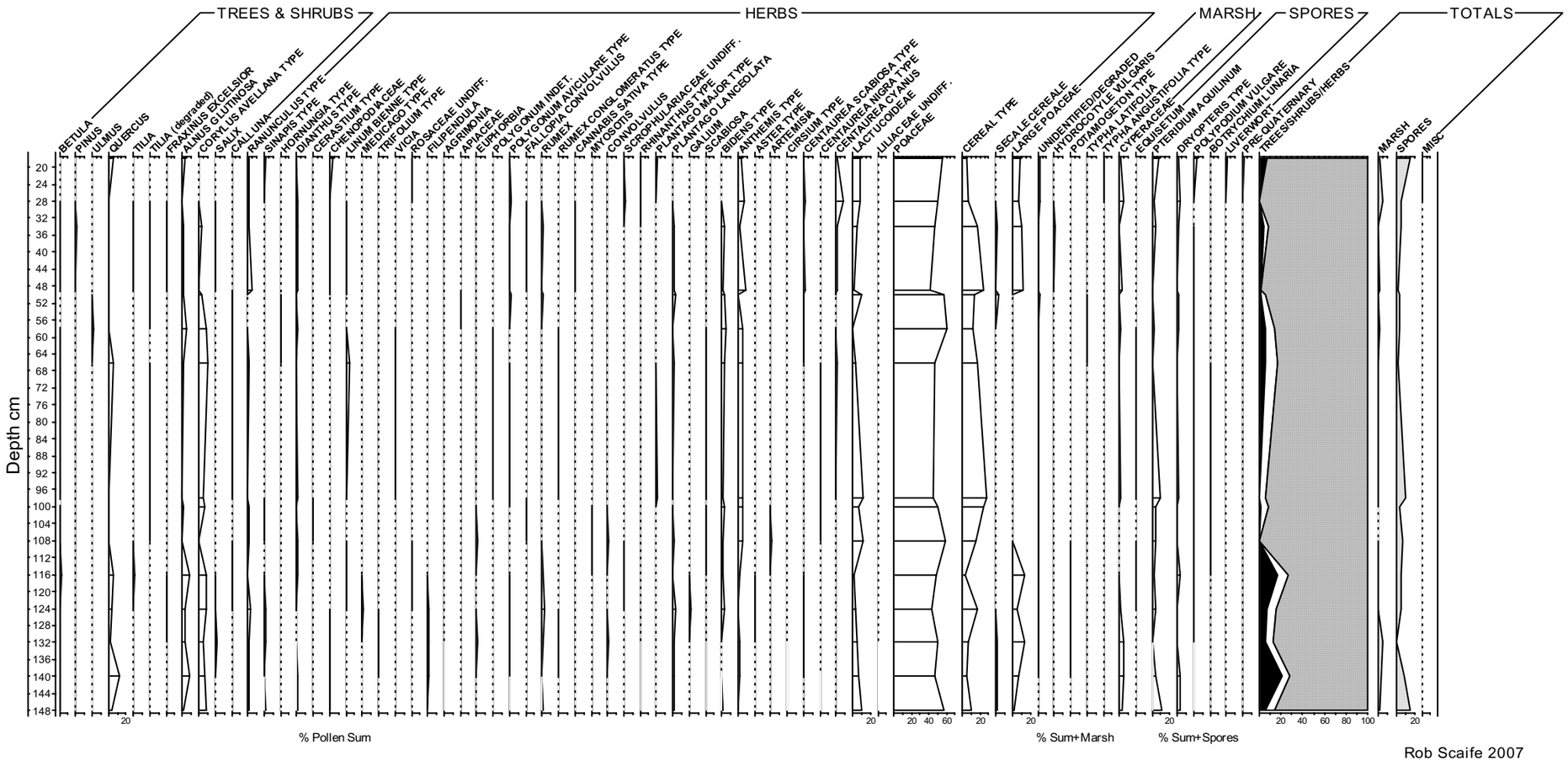
Sample No.		**20**	**21**	**28**	**29**
Context No.		**469**	**477**	**567**	**615**
Context description		**O/AL**	**O/AL**	**Pit**	**OL**
Cereals and other food plants	Common names				
Secale cereale L. (grains)	Rye	xc			
Triticum sp.(grains)	Wheat				xcfc
Cereal indet.(grains)					xc
Dry land herbs					
Brassiaceae indet.				x	
Cerastium sp.	Mouse-ear chickweed		x		
Chenopodium rubrum/glaucum	Goosefoot			x	
Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus	Buttercup			x	
Reseda sp.				xx	
R.luteola L.	Weld			xx	
Rumex sp.	Dock		xc	x	
Stellaria media (L.)Vill	Chickweed			x	
Wetland/aquatic plants					
Alisma plantago-aquatica L.	Water plantain			x	
Bolboschoenus/Schoenoplectus sp.	Club-rush				x
Carex sp.	Sedge			x	
Tree/shrub macrofossils					
Corylus avellana L.	Hazel		x		
Other plant macrofossils					
Charcoal <2mm		xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	x
Charcoal >2mm		xxxx	xxxx	xxx	x
Charcoal >5mm		x			
Charred root/stem				x	
Waterlogged root/stem				xxxx	
Indet.buds				xxx	
Indet.moss				x	
Indet.twig frags.				xx	
Wood frags.<5mm				xx	
Wood frags.>5mm				x	
Other materials					
Black porous 'cokey' material			xxx	x	x
Black tarry material			xxx		
Bone			x		x xb
Burnt/fired clay		x			x
Fish bone			x	x	
Small coal frags.		xxxx	xxx	xx	xxxx
Waterlogged arthropods				x	
Sample volume (litres)		**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**
Volume of flot (litres)		**4**	**0.4**	**0.5**	**4**
% flot sorted		**<12.5%**	**50%**	**25%**	**<12.5%**

Table4: Plant macrofossils and other remains from 15th-17th-century contexts

Sample No.		**12**	**17**	**18**	**23**	**25**	**26**
Context No.		**180**	**420**	**408**	**503**	**536**	**475**
Context description		**OL**	**OL**	**OL**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Ash**
Cereals and other food plants	**Common name**						
Ficus carica L.	Fig					xcf	
Hordeum sp. (grain)	Barley		xcfc				
Secale cereale L. (grains)	Rye		xcfc				
Triticum sp. (grains)	Wheat	xc	xc				
Dry land herbs							
Centaurea sp.	Cornflower		xc				
Galeopsis sp.	Hemp nettle	x					
Plantago major L.	Greater plantain					x	
Large Poaceae indet.	Grass					x	
Potentilla sp.	Cinquefoil					x	
Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus	Buttercup					x	
Rumex sp.	Dock		xc			x	
Stellaria media(L.)Vill	Chickweed	x					
Urtica dioca L.	Stinging nettle					x	
Wetland plants							
Bolboschoenus/Schoenoplectus sp.	Club-rush	x					
Carex sp.	Sedge	x	x			xx	
Juncus sp.	Rush					x	
Tree/shrub macrofossils							
Corylus avellana L.	Hazel	x					
Rubus sect.Glandulosus Wimmer&Grab	Bramble		x				
Sambucus nigra L.	Elderberry		x				
Other plant macrofossils							

Charcoal <2mm		xxxx	xxx	xxxx	xx	x	xx
Charcoal >2mm		xxxx	xxx	xxxx	xx	x	
Charred root/stem			x				
Pteridium aquilinum (L.)Kuhn (pinnule frag.)	Bracken					x	
Indet.bud						x	
Indet.leaf frags.						x	
Waterlogged wood<5mm		xx					
Waterlogged root/stem		xx				xxxx	
Other materials							
Black porous 'cokey' material			xxxx	x	xxxx		
Black tarry material					xx		
Bone							xx
Brick/tile				x			
Burnt/fired clay							x
Eggshell				xx			x
Ferrous globules					xx		
Fish bone				xxx			x
Small coal frags.			xx	xx	xxxx	xx	xxxx
Small mammal/amphibian bones			x	x			
Vitrified material			x				
Waterlogged arthropods		x				xx	
Sample volume (litres)		**20**	**20**	**10**	**10**	**40**	**5**
Volume of flot (litres)		**0.1**	**0.9**	**0.1**	**1**	**3**	**0.1**
% flot sorted		**100%**	**25%**	**100%**	**12.50%**	**<12.5%**	**100%**

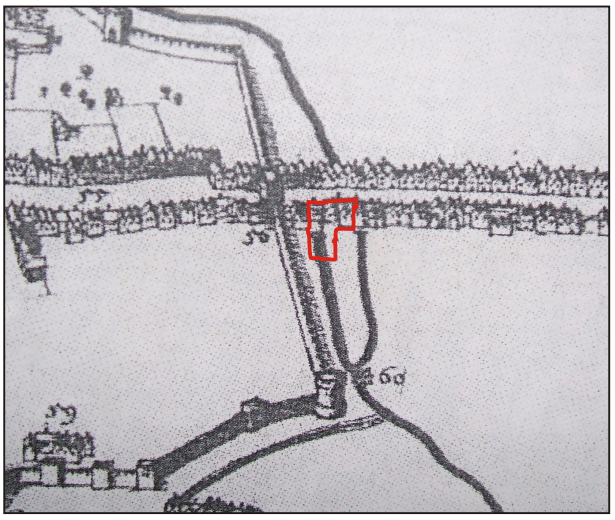
Appendix 4: Pollen diagram



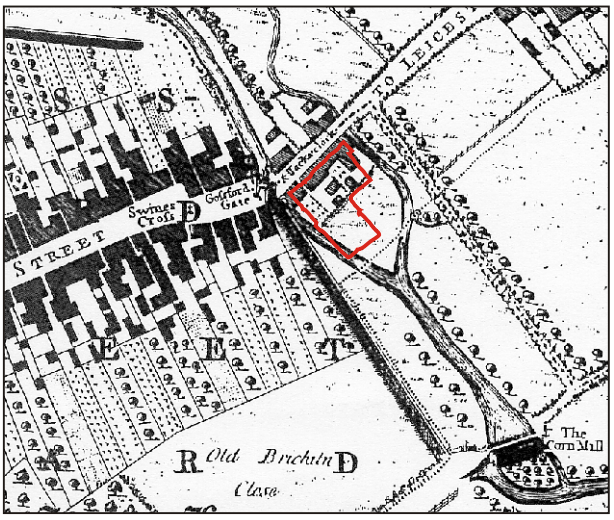
Scale 1:7500

Site location Fig 1

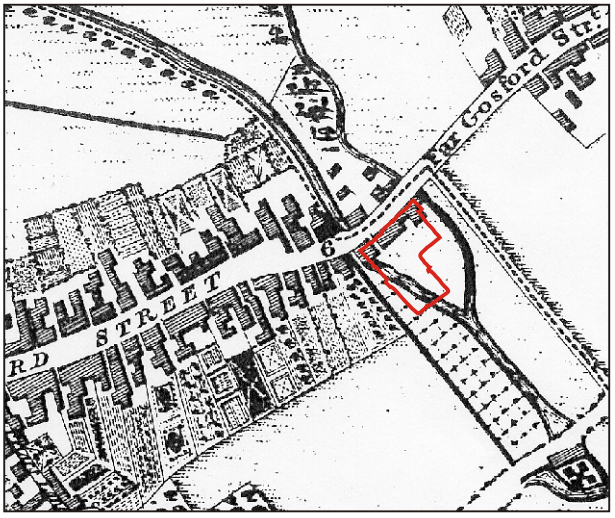
Plot reconstruction Fig 2



a: Extract from John Speed's 1610 map of Coventry.

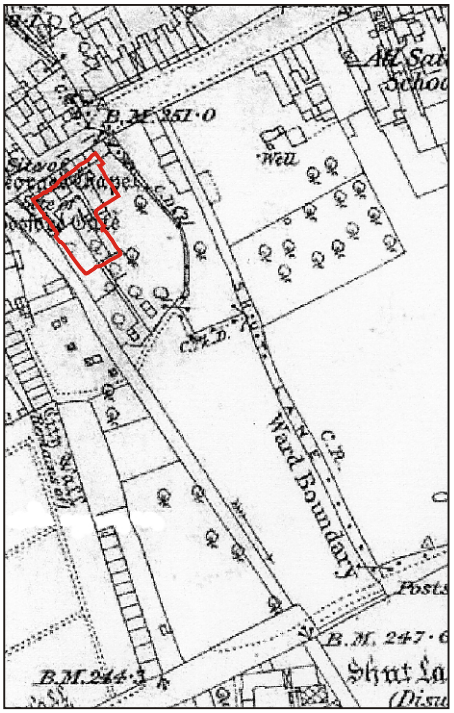


b: Samual Bradford's 1748-9 map of Coventry.

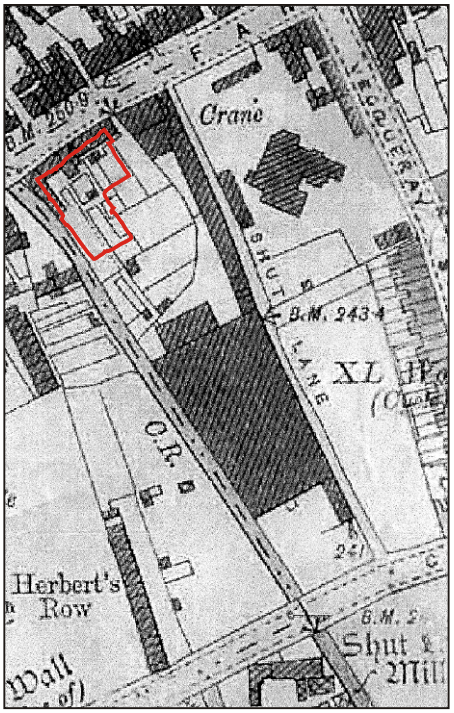


c: Thomas Sharpe's 1807 map of Coventry.

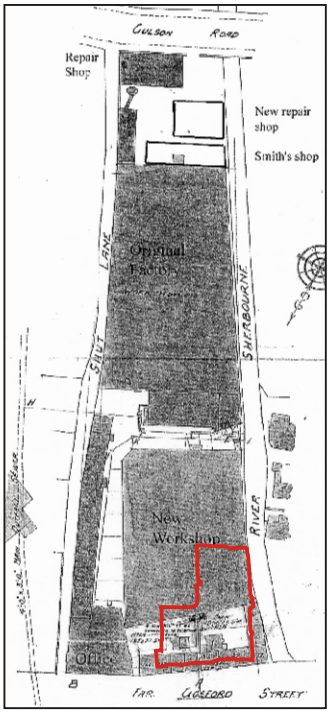
d: Board of Health 1851 map of Coventry.



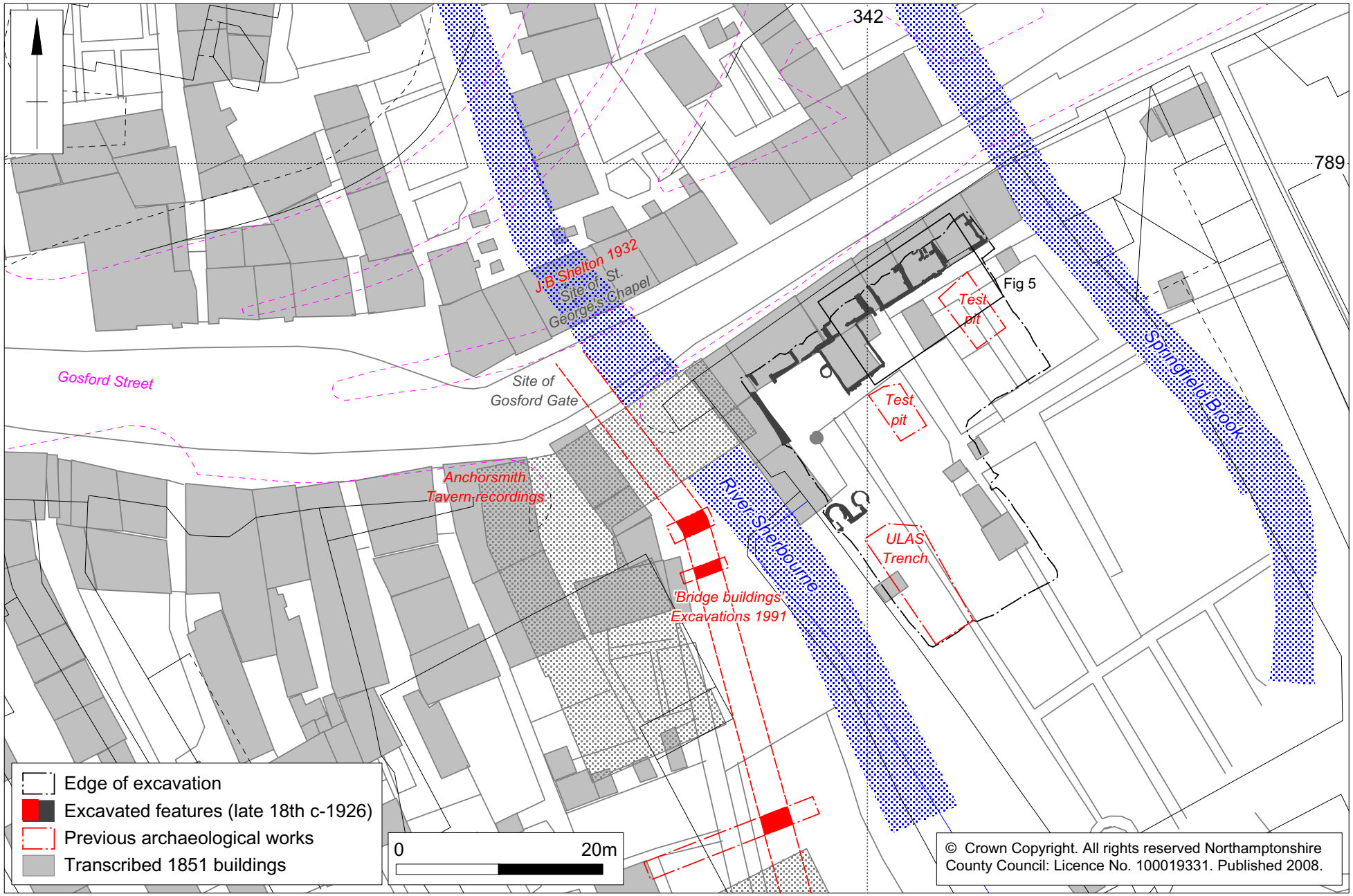
e: Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1889 map.



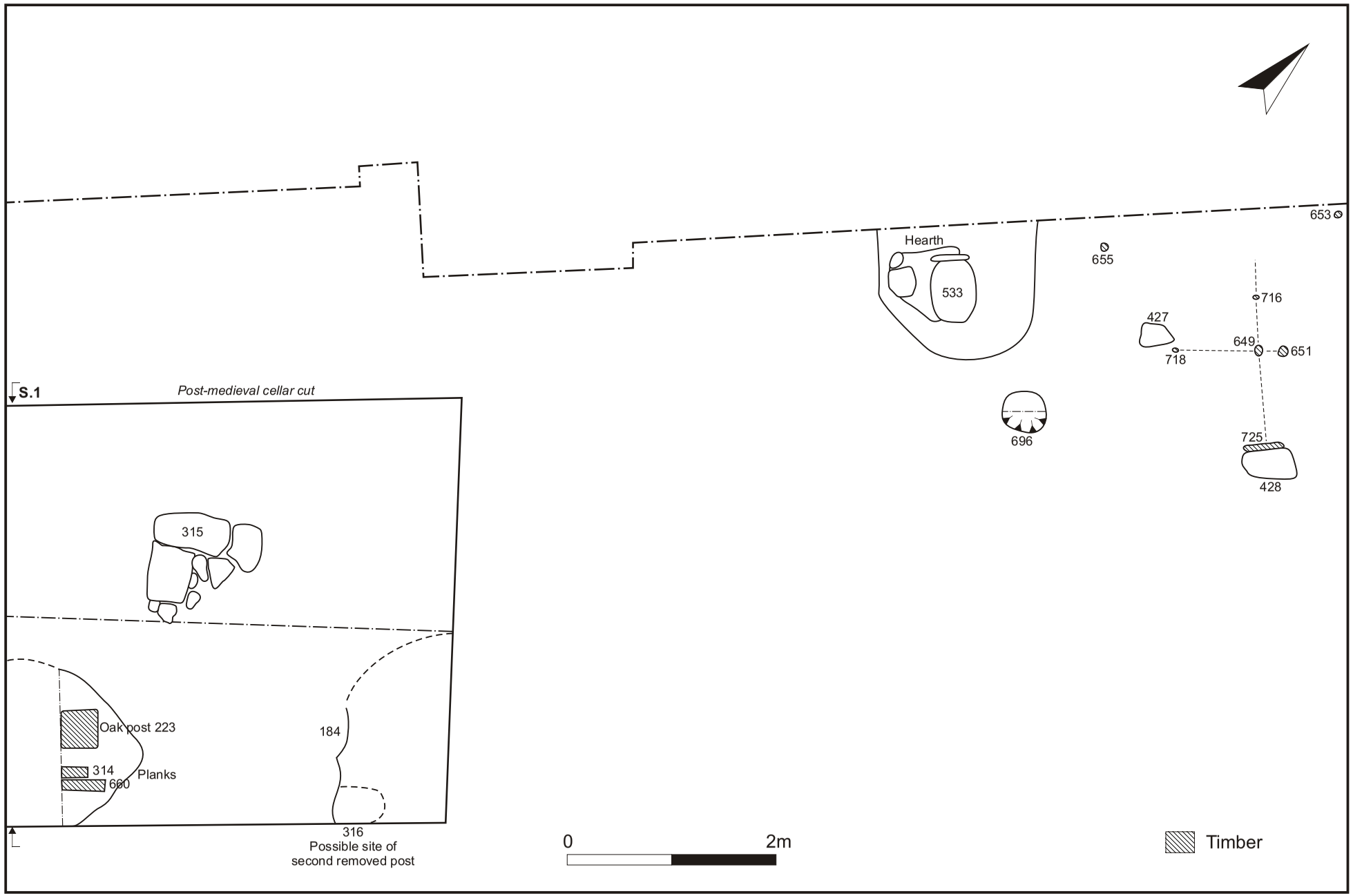
f: Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1905 map.



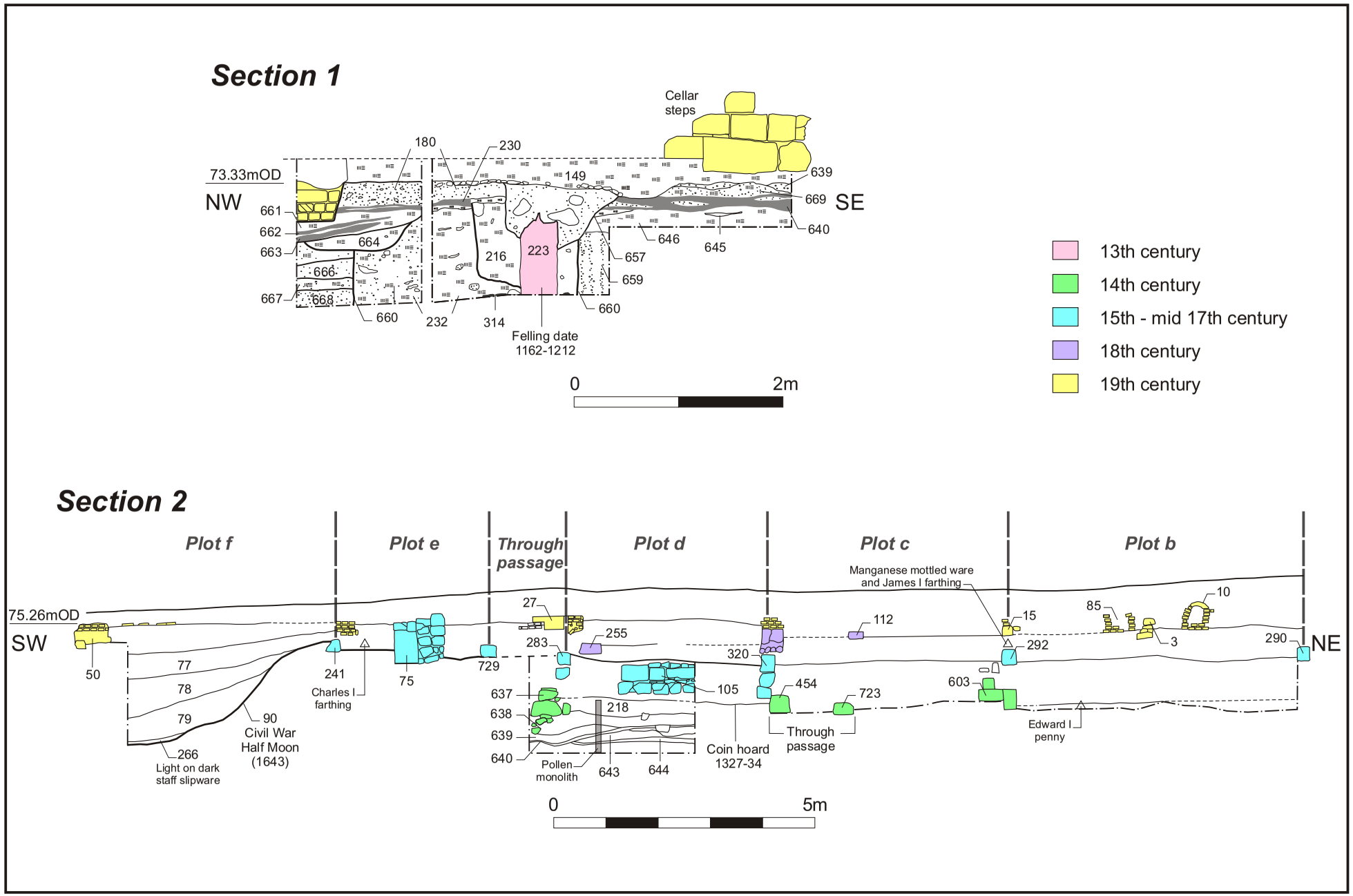
g: Plan showing Calcott Brothers Factory site.



Scale 1:500 The site and its environs, including topographical detail from map of 1851 Fig 4



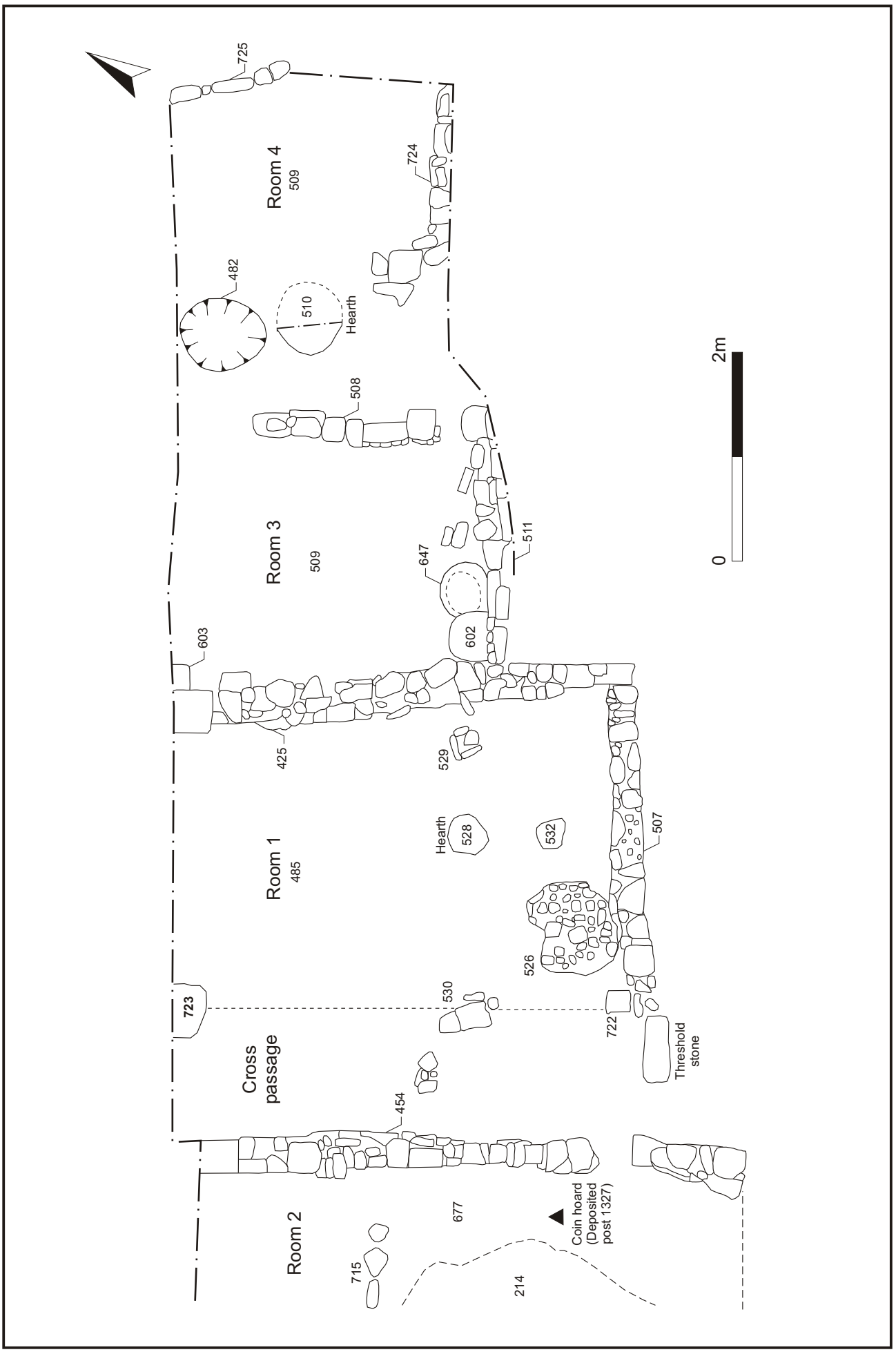
The origins of the medieval suburb (12th-13th centuries) Fig 5



Section 1 showing post [223] and Section 2, a simplified section along frontage Fig 6

Scale 1:200

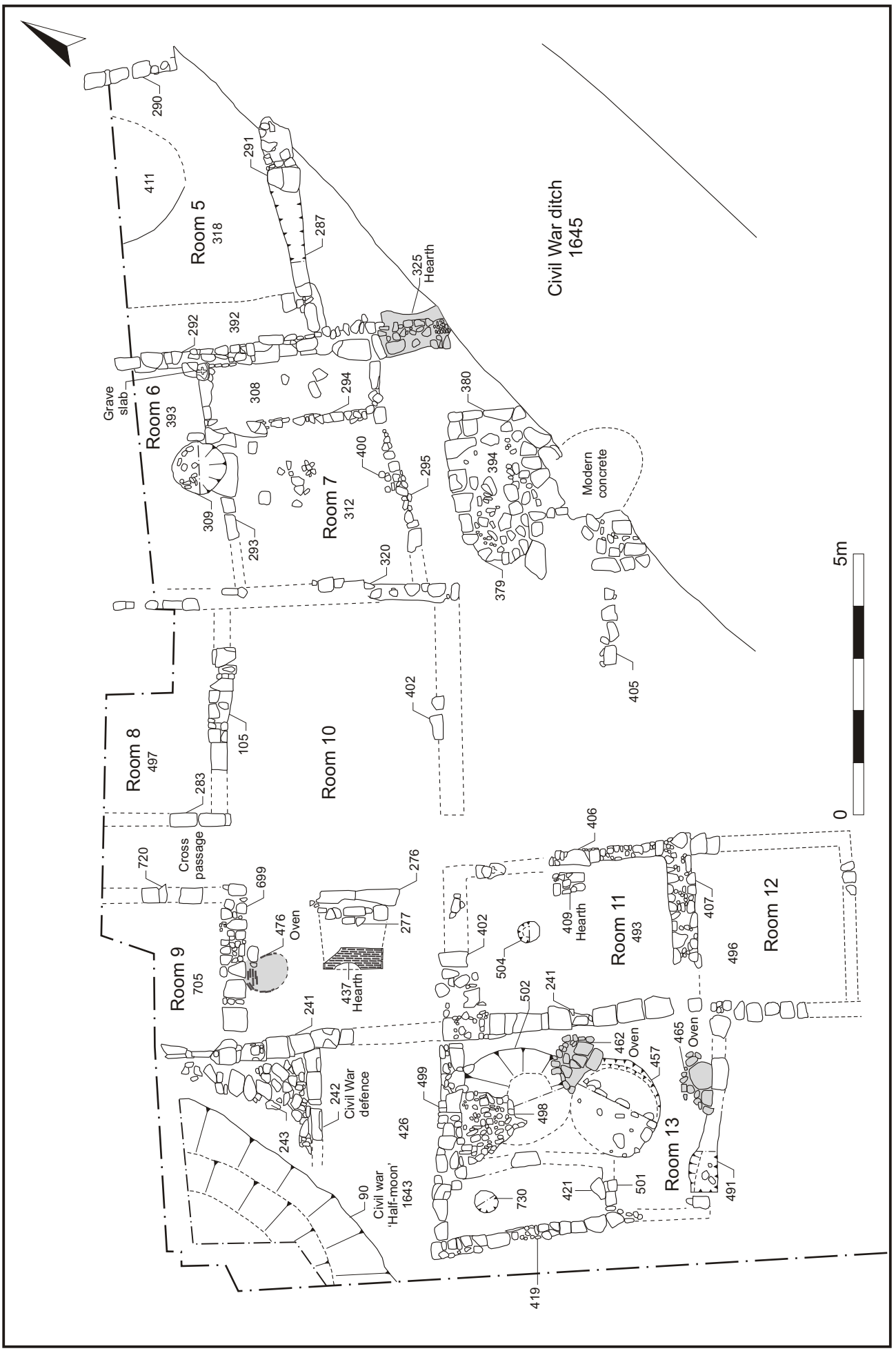
The first street frontage (early 14th century): overview Fig 7



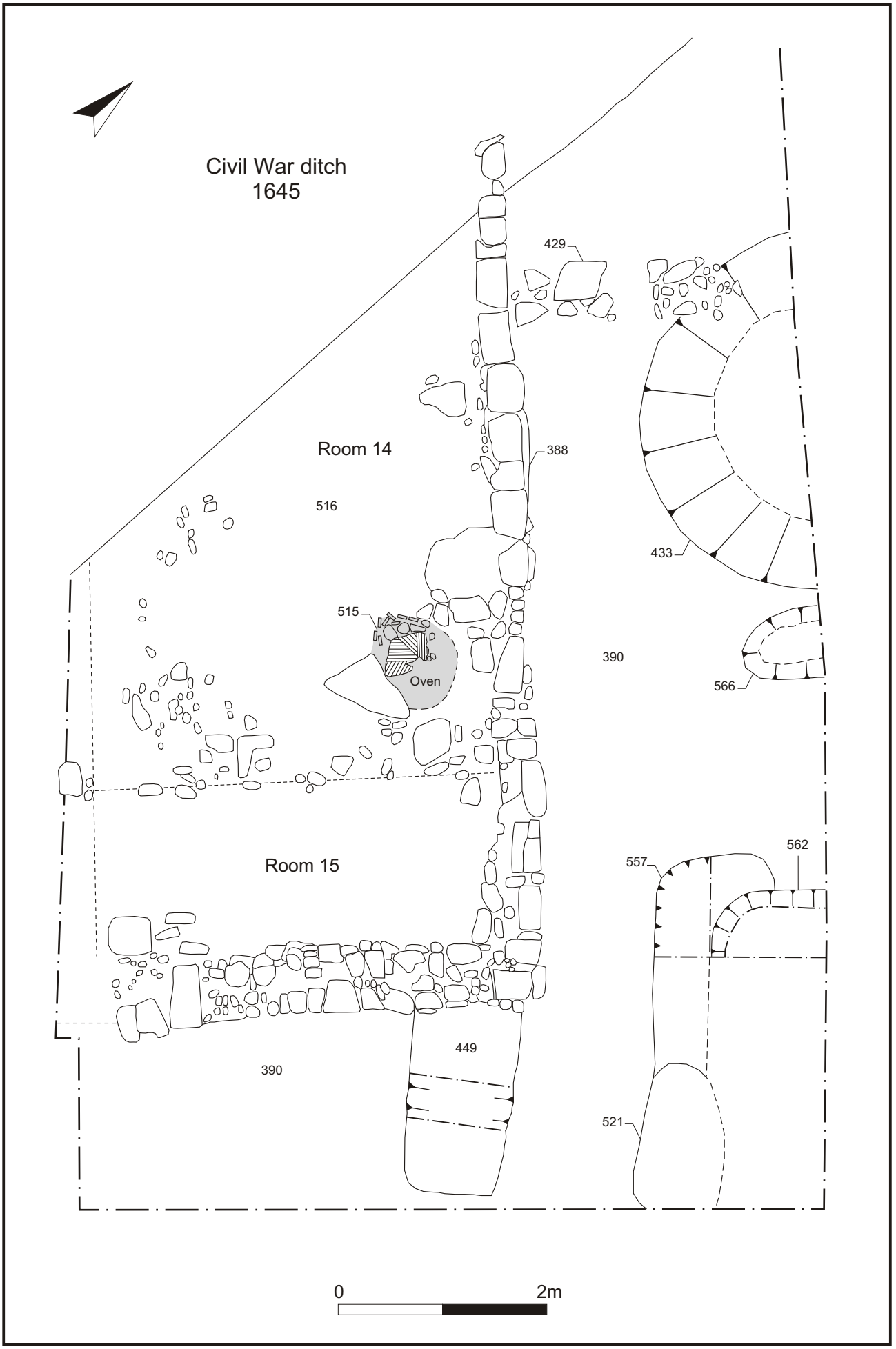
The first street frontage (early 14th century): detail Fig 8

Scale 1:200

The second street frontage and rear tenements (15th - mid 17th century): overview Fig 9



The second street frontage (15th - mid 17th centuries): detail Fig 10



Land to the rear of the tenements (medieval - Civil war) Fig 11

342

789

Site of
St. George's Chapel

Site of
Gosford Gate

Site of wall

River Sherbourne

Springfield Brook

Room 5

Room 6

207

Room 8

Room 9

Room 10

93

S.3

242

90

391

Room 11

Room 13

Room 12

246

Room 14

Room 15

Edge of excavation

Remains of second frontage and rear tenements (15th - mid 17th century)

Civil War (1642-9) features

Structures from 1851 map

0 20m

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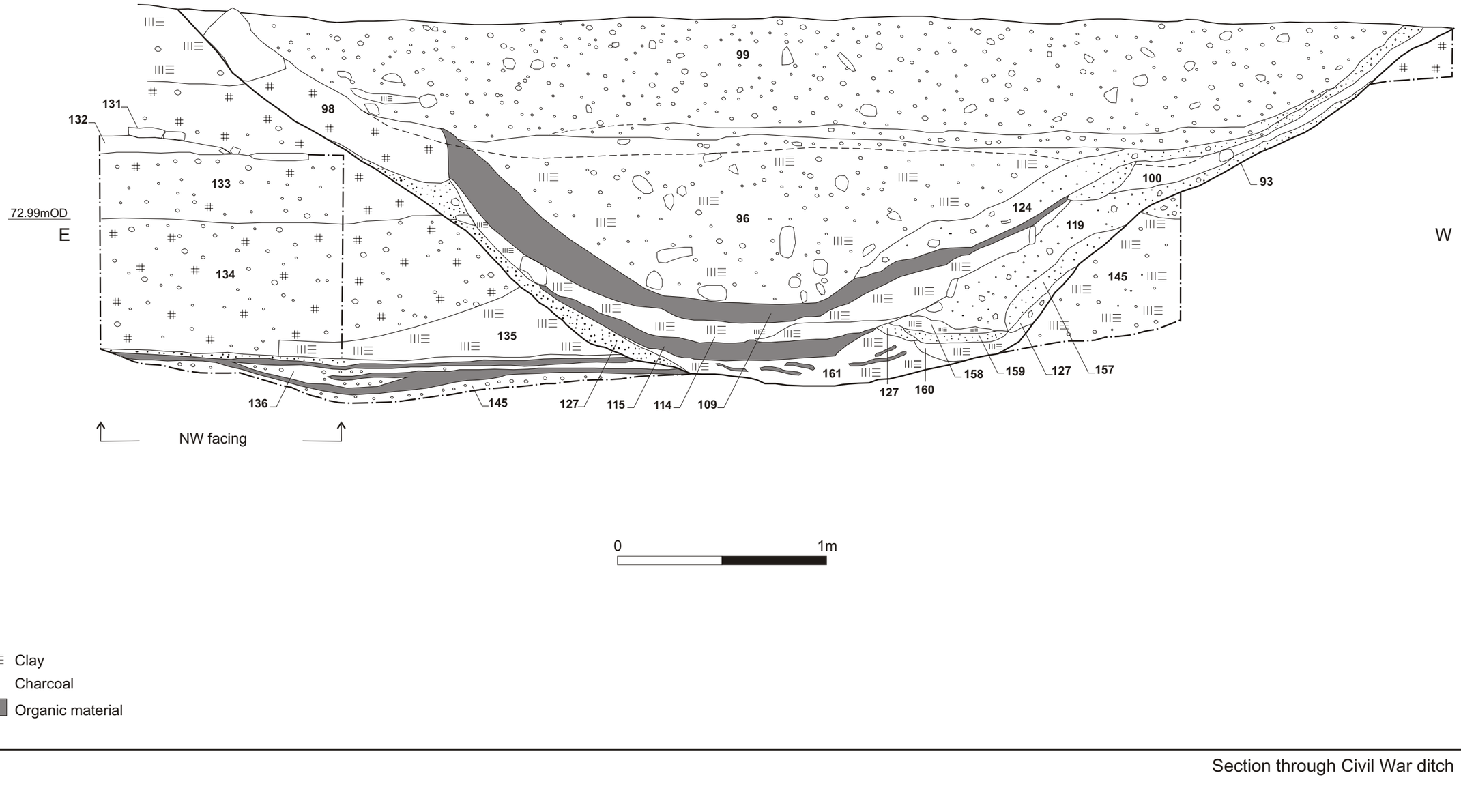
Scale 1:200

Civil War features 1642-9 Fig 12

Section 3



Section through Civil War ditch Fig 13

342

789

Site of
St. George's Chapel

Spiral stair
down

104

Eastern
building

112

Passage

Central
building

138

44

4

Western
building

62

Wells

235

Springfield Brook

River Sherbourne

Ovens

196

191

Fig15

0

20m

Edge of excavation
18th-century features
Projected 18th-century features
Structures from 1851 map

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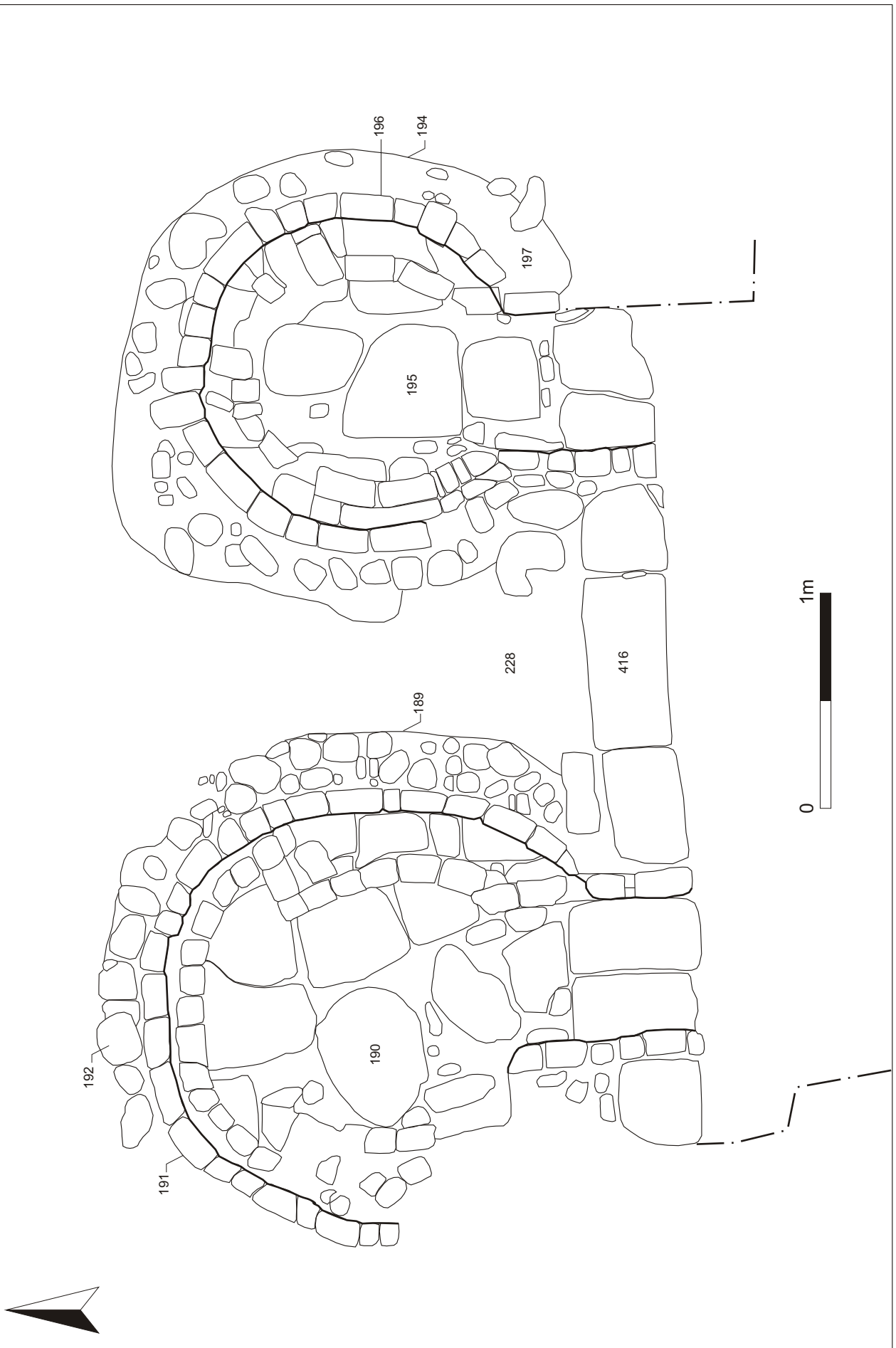
Scale 1:200

The 18th-century frontage and ovens Fig 14



18th-century bread ovens ? Fig 15

342

789

Site of
St. George's Chapel

167

168

169

170

171

171

172

21

? Cellar
1

Court
16
53

3

2

Springfield Brook

River Sherbourne

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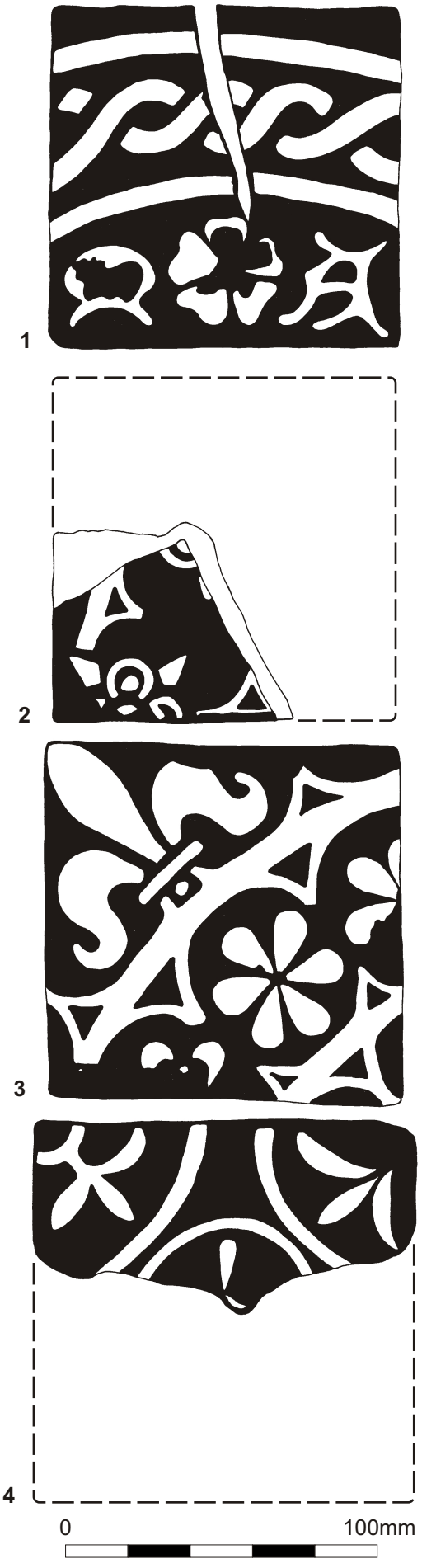
0 20m

Edge of excavation
Late 18th-century - 1926 features
Projected late 18th-century - 1926 features
Calcott Factory Block, c1916 (1925 OS)
Structures from 1851 map

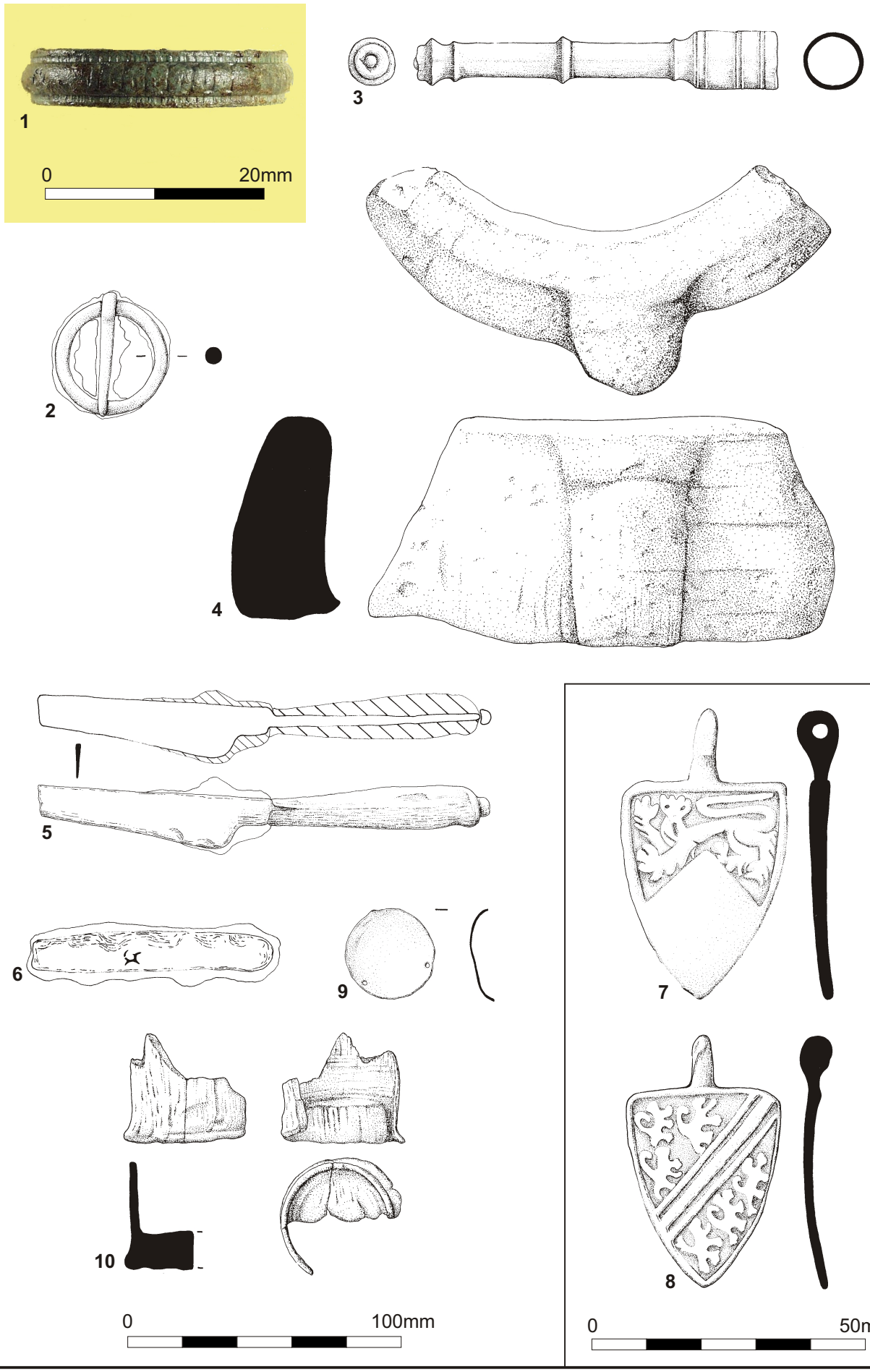
Scale 1:200

Later post-medieval features Fig 16

Medieval and post-medieval pottery, 1-5 Fig 17



Decorated floor tiles, 1-4 Fig 18



Other finds, 1-10 Fig 19

Plate 1: Oak post [223] set into a pit cut into the alluvium, felling date 1162-1212

Plate 2: Sandstone slabs (315), consolidating alluvium adjacent to post

Plate 3: Hearth [533] underlying 14th-century frontage

Plate 4: 14th-century frontage, looking west

Plate 5: 14th-century frontage, Room 1, looking south

Plate 6: 14th-century frontage, Room 2, looking north

Plate 7: 14th-century frontage, Room 3, looking north

Plate 8: 14th-century frontage, Room 4, looking south

Plate 9: Smithing debris (479) in Rooms 3 & 4

Plate 10: Timber-lined pit [632], 14th century (?)

Plate 11: Timber and stone-lined pit [672], 14th century (?)

Plate 12: 15th to 17th-century frontage, Room 5, looking west

Plate 13: 15th to 17th-century frontage, Rooms 6 & 7, looking south

Plate 14: Fragment of 14th-century (?) grave slab reused in wall [293] of Room 6

Plate 15: Pitched-tile hearth [437] in Room 10

Plate 16: Oven [476] in Room 10

Plate 17: Room 11, to rear of 15th to 17th-century frontage, looking west

Plate 18: Hearth [515] in Room 14 (?)

Plate 19: Room 13 to rear of 15th to 17th-century frontage, looking north

Plate 20: Oven [462], Room 13

Plate 21: Civil War ‘half-moon’ditch [90], cut 1643

Plate 22: Civil War ditch, cut 31st May 1645, Section [93], looking south

Plate 23: Civil War ditch, cut 31st May 1645, Section [246], looking south

Plate 24: Laid flagstone surface (391), Civil War period

Plate 25: Foundations [112] of eastern building, 18th century, looking west

Plate 26: Newel stair in eastern building leading to Springfield Brook?

Plate 27: Capped-off well [235] in yard to rear of western building

Plate 28: Possible bread oven or malting kiln [189] to rear of western building

Plate 29: Earlier fabric re-used in 19th-century frontage

Plate 30: Number 1, Court 16, looking north

Plate 31: Coloured creamware (Tortoiseshell Wheildon-type), *c* 1750-80, from layer (111)

Plate 32: Cologne grog-decorated coloured white ware, *c*1750, from layer (228)

Plate 33: Medieval nib tiles with peg holes

Plate 34: Roof crest, 14th century, from plough soil (390)

Plate 35: Possible aquamanile, from layer (145)

Plate 36: Medieval floor tile with stacking marks

Plate 37: Court 6, Spon St (formerly 7 Much Park St)

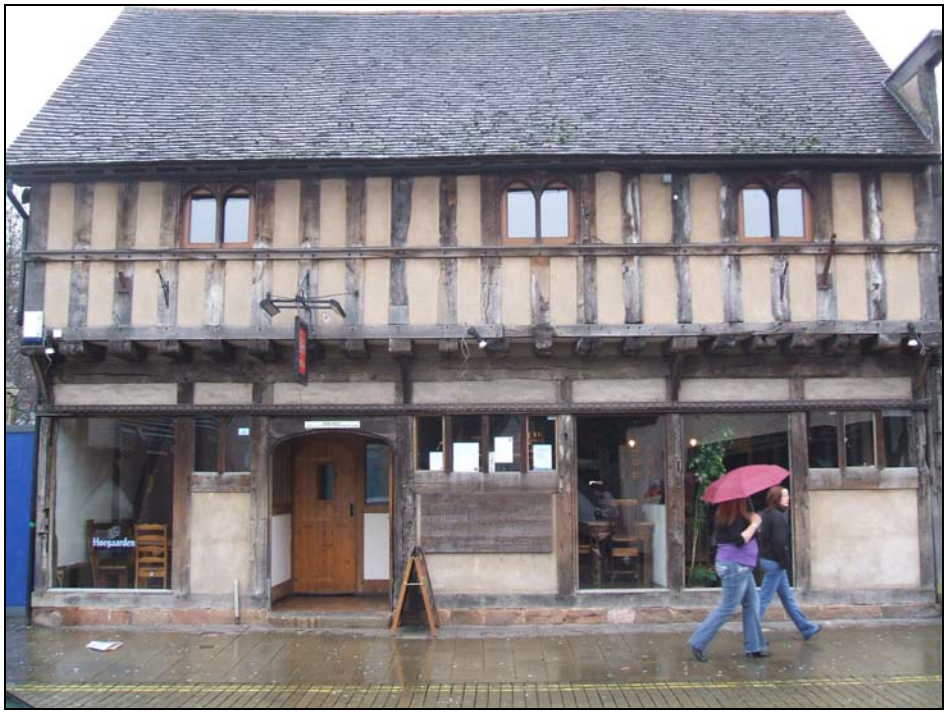


Plate 38: 1451 Wine Bar, Spon St
(formerly The Green Dragon Inn,122-123 Much Park St)

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