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86 The Green
Kings Norton
Archaeological
Excavation
2007

UNIVERSITY OF
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Archaeological Excavations at 86, The Green, Kings Norton

2007

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Introduction

This interim report presents the results of the archaeological investigations completed during the construction of an extension to number 86, The Green, Kings Norton, Birmingham in 2007 (centred on NGR SP O495 7889; SMR 20635; Fig. 1). The village of Kings Norton was until recently set within the heart of the countryside. Although now subsumed within south-west Birmingham, and largely surrounded by 20th-century

housing, it has managed to retain a good deal of its former rural character and identity. Kings Norton is something of a border town. Formerly in Worcestershire, it was situated in the far north of the county, close enough to the Warwickshire border to be incorporated into the city of Birmingham

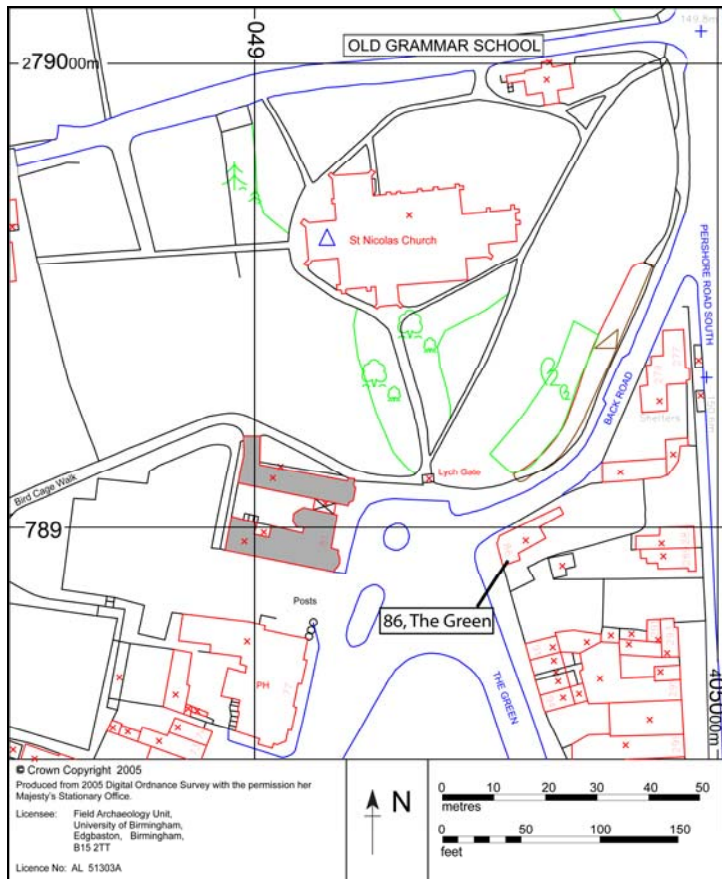


Fig. 1 Site location

early in the last century. It lies approximately 6 miles from the former Staffordshire border, and less than 20 miles from the Shropshire border and for this reason may be described as being close to the heart of the West Midlands. Previous archaeological projects within Kings Norton and the immediate area have identified important buried remains surviving around and indeed beneath the modern buildings (Jones *at el* 2000; Jones and Ratkai 1992). For this reason this archaeological excavation was recommended by the City Archaeologist prior to the start of construction.

Historical overview of Kings Norton

Kings Norton is of Anglo-Saxon origin, being recorded in the Domesday Book as one of the outlying estates of Bromsgrove (Jones and Ratkai 1992, 102). It is suggested that Bromsgrove and Kings Norton formed a large estate prior to this, placing the site within the boundary of this larger estate (Jones and Ratkai 1992, 102).

The village is focused on the church of St Nicolas, which is situated within an irregularly shaped churchyard forming the highpoint of the settlement at what used to be its northern extremity. Falling away from the churchyard, and fanning outwards towards the south is the roughly triangular shaped Green, a large open space that forms the defining feature of the village, and around which the settlement was spaced. The church is medieval and probably Norman in origin, with 12th, 13th and 14th century features and a 15th-century tower and spire along with extensive 19th-century alterations (Pevsner and Wedgwood 1966).

On the west side of The Green is the former Saracen's Head Inn. Apart from the south range that comprises 19th-century brickwork, the complex is of timber frame construction dated, by dendrochronological analysis, to the 15th century (Tyers 2003).

The Green at Kings Norton corresponds with the original medieval village green and may have acted as an informal market place during the Middle Ages (Dyer 1992), although a licence was not granted until 1616. There are documentary references from the mid 16th century referring to 'faire' houses that may have belonged to wool staplers at Kings Norton (Toulmin Smith 1964, 96). Cartographic evidence from 1732, in the form of an estate map (WRO fo 970.5:7 B A 1101/2) shows a rectangular green with two-storied houses on each side of the green.

Previous Archaeological Evidence

A number of archaeological excavations were carried out during the period between 1985 and 2007 in the area surrounding Kings Norton Green. The archaeological investigation at Number 2-3, The Green in 1985 recorded the sandstone footings of a probable medieval building.

An archaeological excavation at Number 15, The Green in 1992 (Jones *at el* 2000) revealed part of the rear of a medieval tenement plot, extending southwards from the original village green. Evidence of two timber-framed buildings together with a third, less substantial structure was uncovered. These structures dated from the early 13th century to the late 14th century, although the presence of 12th century pottery hinted at earlier settlement on the site.

In 2003, a total of 33 pits were excavated for lampposts, along with associated trenches for electricity cables. No clear evidence was found of archaeological features or deposits associated with the medieval village green, probably due to the small size of the pits, the shallow depth of the associated trenches, disturbance by modern service trenches and modern landscaping. No finds dating from earlier in date than the late 16th/ early 17th centuries were recovered. The remains of a probable cobbled surface of possible 17th-18th century date, or earlier, were recorded in one lampost pit located immediately to the south of St. Nicolas churchyard. The contexts recorded in other lampost pits were of later 18th-19th centuries/ modern date or were undated.

During a period between 2006 and 2007 Birmingham Archaeology carried out excavations in areas immediately adjacent to the 15th century standing building of the Saracen's Head. The focal points of the investigations included the courtyard, the corridor from the courtyard onto The Green and a small area on the eastern frontage of the North Range of The Saracen's Head. The work successfully uncovered archaeological deposits contemporary with and pre-dating the late 15th century standing building.

The earliest archaeological deposits recorded from the initial period of work dated from the thirteenth century and the excavations illustrated that at least two timber structures existed on the site during that period. The remains included a post-hole structure situated to the western side of the courtyard. The archaeological evidence covered an area 4.5m long and 3m wide, although the extent of the structures could not be confirmed within the

confines of the excavation. The structures appeared to have extended further to the south into the area occupied by the 19th century south range. The building was associated with the remnants of two sill beam slots and a stone plinth apparently indicating a 13th century timber framed structure. These were probably the remains of domestic structures. There was evidence of associated domestic cooking activities of a comparable date.

The exposure of deposits at the edge of The Green at the east of the site indicated that such an area, potentially adjacent to a medieval market place on the Green and immediately to the south of St Nicolas Church, which also has medieval origins, was well paved with a pebble surface. The deposits could indicate that during the medieval period The Green was a prosperous and well-maintained market place.

In 2007 further archaeological work took place at The Saracens Head as part of a scheme to repair and rejuvenate this important building. The excavation took place in an area formally occupied by the 15th century hall and cross-passage, a space which subsequently housed the parochial church council offices. In advance of the excavation a nineteenth century partition and staircase was removed and the existing floors were taken up.

The earliest archaeological feature which was discovered was the southern edge of a substantial ditch extending along the north side of the excavation. The ditch existed within the area of the north range and was in excess of 2m wide. Pottery recovered from

the upper fill of the ditch, dating to the 12th/ early 13th centuries suggested a possible construction date of the early medieval period.

Further archaeological activity was illustrated by the discovery of a cobbled layer which dated to the 13th century and sealed the aforementioned ditch. The layer had apparently been used as a base for the foundation of a building. The only surviving remains from the building were a possible hearth and traces of the building foundations. Archaeological remains post-dating the 13th century period of activity were illustrated by the 15th century floor surface for the existing range. The excavation of the surface uncovered a number of apparently *in situ* 15th century floor tiles.

The findings from the excavations from 2006 and 2007 concur with those from the archaeological work which took place on the southern side of The Green in 1992. It was apparent that areas of the sites were abandoned and left vacant after the thirteenth century. There was a sign of re-occupation, prior to the construction of the Saracen's Head at the turn of the 15th century. The earliest construction phases of The Saracen's Head building which were still present on the site were uncovered during the excavations. It was evident that when the building was built there was a cobbled courtyard in the vicinity of the present courtyard, which was used in the 17th century before it was replaced. There were signs of later modifications to the building with the presence of a brick bay on the southern side of the North Range.

The Results of the Excavation at Number 86, The Green, 2007

The results of the excavation are illustrated in Figure 2. Towards the extreme north-eastern area of the site excavation was severely affected by the presence of live sewerage services (1030, 1031). To the east of the drainage pipes, however, the natural pale yellow sandy clay subsoil (1002) was uncovered at a depth of 152.41m AOD. No archaeological features were recorded cut through the natural subsoil in this area of the site. The natural subsoil (1002) was sealed across the central and eastern areas of the excavation by a layer of pale yellowish- brown silt sandy clay (1001), which measured between 0.10-0.16m in depth. As more of the layer was revealed it became evident that the layer was quite undulating. It appeared to represent disturbed subsoil and contained a relatively small number of pieces of pottery.

To the south of the drainage system, approximately one and a half metres from the east end of the trench, the natural subsoil had been cut by a shallow circular feature (1008; Plate 3). The cut, measuring 1.10m in diameter and 0.15m in depth, possibly represented the base of a small well or a pit relating to a former garden feature. The fill of the pit (1007), a mid grey-brown silt sandy clay, contained a fairly high quantity of finds including brown glazed pottery sherds, clay pipes and animal bones. This was overlain by decorative brickwork (1016), comprised of a number of hand-made red bricks arranged in a circle with one at the centre, perhaps representing an ornamental feature.

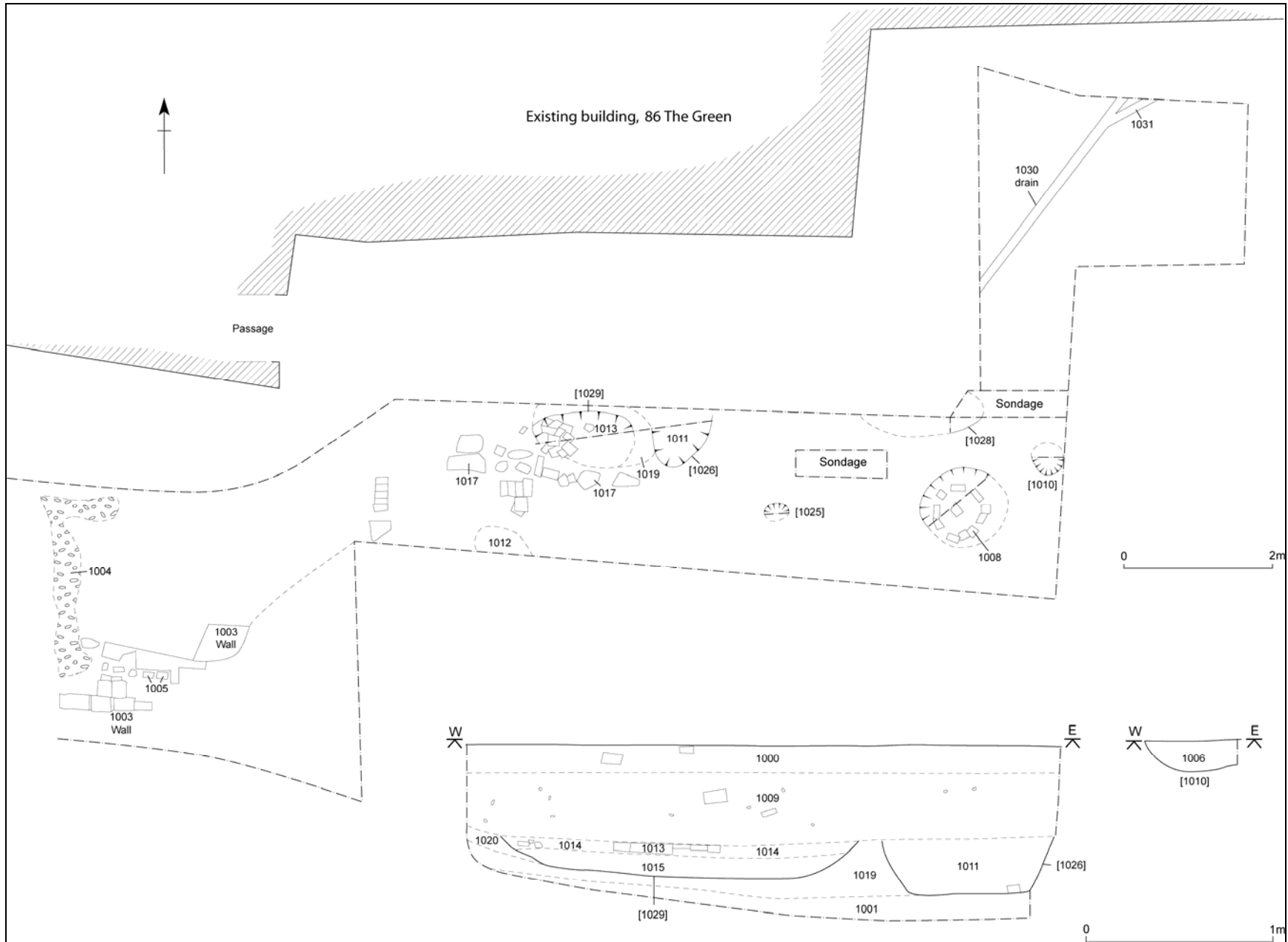


Fig 2. Plan showing the archaeological features and deposits

A small post-hole (1010) was excavated to the north-east of circular cut 1008. It contained a charcoal flecked silt sandy clay (1006), which also contained post-medieval pottery animal bone and pieces of clay pipe. Approximately one metre to the north-west of post-hole 1010 the southern edge of another feature (1028) was partially exposed. The fill (1027) contained post-medieval pottery, the location of the cut suggested that it would have been heavily truncated by the modern drainage system (1030, 1031) situated in the north-eastern area of the site.

Towards the central area of the site the disturbed subsoil (1001) had been cut by three more features (1025, 1026 and 1029). The former, a very shallow post-hole situated two metres to the west of cut 1008, contained post-medieval pottery, brick and animal bone (1024). To the north-west of the post-hole the disturbed subsoil had been overlain by a spread of orange-brown clay (1019). The compacted clay contained brown glazed pottery, brick and tile and may have represented a heavily truncated surface. The clay had been cut by two pits (1026 and 1029). The larger pit (1029) measured approximately 1.80m in diameter, extending beyond the northern edge of the excavation. As in the case of feature 1008 it was characterized by an arrangement of red bricks, on this occasion in a sub-circular fashion (1013). The cut was filled with dark-brown silt sandy clay (1015), which contained brick, tile, post-medieval pottery and animal bone and was sealed by grey-brown silt sandy clay (1014), which also contained post-medieval pieces of pottery. A second, smaller sub-circular pit (1026), situated immediately to the east of pit 1029 was also cut through the compacted clay (1019). The distinctive fill of the pit (1011/1022) was comprised of ash, charcoal and mortar and datable evidence in the form

of clay pipe and post-medieval pottery was recovered. Each of the aforementioned features located in the central and eastern areas of the site were overlain by a layer of grey-brown silty sandy clay (1009) measuring between 0.35-0.50m in depth, becoming deeper towards the eastern edge of the excavation. The layer probably represented a former garden soil and contained frequent sherds of post-medieval pottery, pieces of clay pipe and animal bones. It was sealed by a layer of topsoil (1000), which measured between 0.15-0.22m in depth.

In the extreme south-western area of the site the natural pale yellow sandy clay subsoil (1002) was exposed at a depth of 152.68m AOD. The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of cobbles (1004; Plate 5) within a silt sand matrix. The rounded cobbles ranged between 0.02-0.20m in diameter. The cobble layer apparently represented the partial remains of a floor surface and measured approximately 2.86m in length by 2.16m in width. One small find, a copper alloy object, was recovered from the cobble surface. The eastern edge of the cobbles was overlain by a fine-grained yellow sand (1023), which apparently formed a setting material for two courses of an east-west aligned sandstone wall (1003; Plates 1 and 2). The blocks were quite substantial, measuring up to 0.50m x 0.35m x 0.40m. The wall measured 0.40m in width and in excess of 2.78m in length, extending beyond the south-east edge of the excavation. Interestingly the large sandstone blocks may have been re-used from a previous structure and served as footings for an undated feature, which had apparently been reinforced along the southern side by two courses of later brickwork (1005). The two courses of red brickwork (1005) pre-dated a

layer of red paving tiles (1032), which lay immediately below 0.15-0.25m of topsoil (1000).

The Finds

The Pottery by Stephanie Ratkai

The earliest occupation on the site seems to date from the 16th century. There were no medieval sherds similar to those recovered from The Saracen's Head or from Number 15, The Green (Rátkai 2001).

Fabric/ware	Date	1000	1001	1007	1009	1011	1012	1015	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022	1023	1024	1027	Total
blackware	Mid 16th-18th			2	4		1	3			1	2	3				16
brown salt-glazed stoneware	Later 17th to 19th	1						1									2
cistercian ware	Late 15th-mid 16th						1										1
coarseware	17th to 19th			1	6		1	2	1			1	2		2		16
coarseware?	17th to 19th		1														1
creamware	c. 1750-1800											1	2				3
creamware/whiteware	19th			1													1
crucible?	Med/postmed							1									1
flowerpot	18th to 19th	1															1
late oxidised ware	15th to 16th		1					1						1			3
midlands purple ware	15th to 16th							1									1
mottled ware	Later 17th to mid 18th			2									1				3
pearlware	Late 18th to 19th			1													1
slip-coated ware	Later 17th to 18th			3	3	3				1		1					11
westervald stoneware	17th to 18th															1	1
white salt-glazed stoneware	c. 1720 - 1770			2													2
yellow ware	Late 16th to early 18th				1	1											2
Total		2	2	12	14	4	3	9	1	1	1	5	8	1	2	1	66

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by fabric type and context

The post-medieval assemblage was typical for the region, being composed primarily of blackware, coarseware and slip-coated ware (Table 1). A small heavily burnt, partly

vitrified sherd from (1015) appears to be part of a crucible. The crucible would have been quite small and is typical of the medieval period (see for example Bayley 1992 fig 4, c and d).

The Clay Pipe by David Higgins

Clay tobacco pipes provide one of the most accurate and sensitive means of dating post-medieval deposits, particularly if they are present in some numbers. Unfortunately most of the pipe groups recovered from this site are small and the reliability of the dating evidence they offer is not as great as if larger assemblages had been present. Despite this, the pipe fragments still offer a useful guide as to the date and nature of the excavated deposits.

A total of 47 fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from the excavations, comprising eight bowl fragments, 38 stem fragments and one mouthpiece. These range from the early 17th century through to the early 20th century in date and were recovered from a total of 11 different contexts. The three largest context groups were 1007, 1009 and 1022, which produced 17, 12 and 7 fragments respectively. All of the other groups comprise just one or two fragments. There were just two marked pieces amongst the assemblage as a whole – a 17th century stamped heel from 1009 (Fig. 3.3) and part of an 18th century roll-stamped stem border from 1007 (Fig. 3.4) The only decorated fragment was part of a late 19th or early 20th century decorative heel from 1009 (Fig. 3.5). All of the fragments from this site have been examined and details of each context group tabulated (Appendix 1).

The largest group of pipes (17 fragments) was recovered from pit 1007. Although this group includes some 17th century stems there are certainly some 18th century pieces present (for example, a spur fragment and part of a John Briton stem stamp dating from c1740-80) and four of the stems date from the late 18th or 19th century. This shows that pit 1007 was filled with material of mixed date at some point around 1760 or later.

The second largest group (12 fragments) came from former garden soil 1009. The pieces in this group were of mixed date with some 17th century material being present (Figs. 2.2 and 2.3) but the majority of the fragments dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. The latest closely datable piece is a bowl of c1870-1920 (Fig. 2.5). Overall, the pipes would suggest that this deposit accumulated over a period of time and that it was not finally sealed until around 1900.

The third largest group (7 fragments) came from 1022 and, once again, these are of mixed date with the latest pieces suggesting a final deposition date during the late 18th century or later. The other context groups are too small to provide reliable dating evidence for the final deposition of the contexts within which they occur, although their presence does at least provide a *terminus post quem* for these deposits. The only other pieces of note are perhaps the two stem fragments from 1015, which may indicate a late 17th or early 18th century date for pit 1029, and the single bowl fragment of c1780-1880 from 1014, the layer that sealed this pit.

As well as providing some dating evidence for the excavated contexts and features, the pipes also contribute to a broader understanding of production and consumption patterns within the broader catchment area of the site. The earliest pipe bowl recovered dates from *c*1610-40 (Fig. 3.1), making it one of the earliest pipes so far to have been recovered from the Birmingham area. This piece is doubly important since its fabric, style and quality all point to it being a locally produced piece, suggesting that pipe production has started in the area well before 1762, the date of earliest currently documented Birmingham pipemaker (Oswald 1975, 197). In fact Gault was only able to document six 17th century pipemakers from anywhere in Warwickshire (Gault 1979), to which Melton (1997) has since added two or three more. With the exception of two Coventry pipemakers, who are recorded during the 1630s, these 17th century makers all date from the second half of the century, showing how poorly documented the early pipemaking industry is in this region. This bowl from Kings Norton not only provides an early example of a regional pipe but also shows how important is it to collect and study more material from throughout the historic county of Warwickshire if the origins and development of pipemaking in this area are to be properly understood.

The Kings Norton excavations also produced two pipe bowls dating from the second half of the century. The first of these (Fig. 3.2) dates from *c*1660-90 and seems most likely to be a local copy of a Shropshire style (see illustration notes below). This piece supports the suggestion that there was local pipe production from the early 17th century onwards as well as showing how dominant the Shropshire styles were within the region as a whole. The second example (Fig. 3.3) reinforces the regional significance of the Shropshire industry, since it is an actual import from that county, most likely produced in the

Broseley / Much Wenlock area. The maker's mark, TC, is usually attributed to Thomas Clark, a maker known from full name marks. This particular manufacturer appears to have had a particular link with the Birmingham area, since his marks are particularly common there (Higgins 2005). Despite the significance of the neighbouring Shropshire industry, local production certainly continued into the 18th century, as is shown by part of a John Briton stem stamp (Fig. 3.4). This is of a distinctive local style and shows that there was a sufficiently vibrant industry in the Birmingham area for local styles to develop, since quite a range of similar stem marks are known (Higgins 1988). It seems likely that John Briton worked at Deritend.

Later material was poorly represented, although there is one late 19th century bowl with part of a decorative heel or spur surviving (Fig. 3.5). By the 19th century Birmingham housed one of the largest concentrations of pipemakers of anywhere in England – second only to London and Bristol. There has been virtually no study of the artefactual evidence from this period and so this bowl provides a small but important step in redressing this balance.

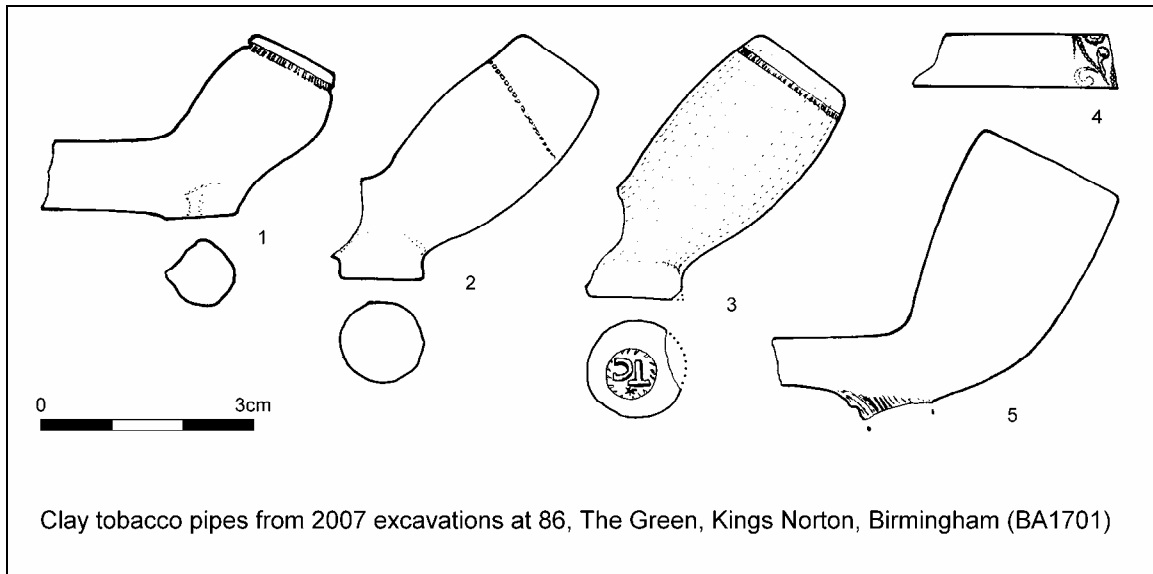


Fig. 3 Illustrations of some of the significant clay pipe recovered from the site (Illustration notes are outlined in Appendix 1)

DISCUSSION

In contrast to the results from work carried out in the surrounding area, the findings from the excavation suggested a relatively low level of archaeological activity within the confines of the plot of land. However, a small island of surviving archaeology was uncovered in the south-western corner of the excavation, representing part of a probable cobbled surface. It had been overlain by the partial remains of a two course deep sandstone wall. The large sandstone blocks had apparently been re-used from an earlier medieval building to form the footings for a heavily truncated post-medieval structure.

Across the central and eastern areas of the site a number of shallow pits and post-holes were exposed. Two of the circular cuts appeared to be the bases of former ornamental garden features. The finds retrieved from one context (1007), the fill of a pit/well (1008)

included a number of datable pieces of clay pipe which suggested that the feature had been back filled in the late 18th century. One of the clay pipe bowls retrieved from the ashy fill (1011/1022) of a small pit (1026) had very significant implications. Higgins (above) suggests that the clay pipe bowl was locally produced and dated between 1610 and 1640, making it one of the earliest pipe bowls recovered from the Birmingham area. The find indicated that pipe production had taken place in the area before 1762 which was the date of the earliest currently documented Birmingham pipemaker (Oswald 1975, 197).

Ceramic evidence suggests that the earliest occupation at Number 86, The Green dated from the 16th century. No medieval sherds similar to those retrieved from earlier excavations at the Saracen's Head or from 15 The Green were recorded. The post-medieval pottery assemblage was typical for the region, being composed primarily of blackware, coarseware and slip coated ware.

The relatively small number of post-medieval features recorded across the site had been sealed by a layer of cultivation/garden soil (1009) which would have afforded considerable protection to any potentially surviving earlier archaeological features. The clay-pipes and pottery retrieved from the aforementioned layer indicated a deposition date of the late 19th to the early 20th centuries. The results of this project will be fully disseminated as part of an integrated publication with the results of the Saracen's Head excavations by Birmingham Archaeology in 2006 and 2007.

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Appendix 1

Clay pipe summary table

This appendix provides a summary of the clay tobacco pipe evidence from the site. The context number is given first (Cxt) followed by the number of bowl (B), stem (S) or mouthpiece (M) fragments recovered from that context and the total number of pipe fragments from the context as a whole (Tot). The suggested deposition date of the context, based on the pipe fragments, is then given (this is based on the latest dates for the pipe fragments recovered, or the dates that best fit all the pipe evidence, not the overall range of pipe fragments present). The date is followed by a summary of the marked or decorated pieces from each context and the figure numbers of any illustrated examples (Figs). Bowl fragments, especially if they are marked, are much more closely datable than stem fragments. For this reason, the number and type of fragments present should be taken into account when assessing the reliance that can be placed on the suggested context dates given here.

Cxt	B	S	M	Tot	Range	Deposit	Marks	Dec, etc	Figs	Comments
1007	1	15	1	17	1610-1920	1760-1920	(IOHN BRITON) x 1		4	Mixed group with stems ranging from C17th to C19th or later in date. The only bowl fragment is an unmarked spur from a pipe of c1700-1760 in date. A few of the stems are burnished and there is one marked piece. This is an unburnished stem fragment of medium thickness with a bore of 6/64" and part of an impressed border surviving. Only a section of scroll with a Tudor Rose survives, but this can be identified as part of a IOHN / BRITON roll-stamp (Fig 4; National Catalogue Die No 893), which dates from c1740-80. The latest pieces are four thin cylindrical stems that are likely to date to some point between c1760 and 1920, which makes pinning down the final deposition date for this group difficult.
1009	3	9	0	12	1610-1920	1870-1920	TC x 1	Dec spur	2, 3, 5	This context includes two C17th heel bowls (Figs 2-3) but these must be residual since the associated stems are almost all of C18th or C19th in date. The third bowl is plain and dates from c1870-1920 (Fig 5), which provides the most likely date for the final deposition of this group. The spur of this third bowl, now almost entirely missing, was clearly decorated and probably took the form of a horse's hoof or a small animal head. One of the earlier bowls (Fig 2), dating from c1660-90 is of a local style but unmarked. The other example (Fig 3) dates from c1670-1700 and has a TC stamp applied sideways on the base of its heel. This mark is usually attributed to one of the Much Wenlock or Broseley area makers from Shropshire but this mark is particularly common in the Birmingham area there is a possibility that it was produced more locally. The fabric of this pipe is relatively fine and inclusion free, which would support this hypothesis.
1014	1	0	0	1	1780-1880	1780-1880				Plain fragment from the bowl/stem junction of a pipe with the heel or spur missing. Quite crudely made and with a small stem bore of 4/64". Most likely a late C18th or early C19th piece.
1015	0	2	0	2	1610-1720	1610-1720				One stem of C17th date and another very small piece that is probably either C17th or early C18th (stem bore 6/64" and a markedly oval stem section).
1018	0	1	0	1	1780-1900	1780-1900				Small stem fragment, most likely of late C18th or C19th date.
1019	0	2	0	2	1610-1730	1680-1730				One stem of C17th date and another that is probably either late C17th or early C18th in date (stem bore just under 6/64" and a markedly oval stem section).
1020	0	1	0	1	1780-1900	1780-1900				Stem fragment, most likely of late C18th or C19th date.
1021	1	1	0	2	1740-1900	1760-1900				This group comprises an unmarked spur fragment that probably dates from somewhere between 1740 and 1800 and a thin stem fragment that probably dates from c1760 or later. Both pieces could be contemporary and date from towards the end of the C18th.
1022	2	5	0	7	1610-1900	1780-1900			1	Rather a mixed group but one that includes a nice example of an early heel bowl dating from c1610-1640 (Fig 1). This is quite neatly finished in a glossy (but not burnished) fabric although the mould itself is not of the best quality. Almost certainly a local product. There is also part of a late C18th or early C19th bowl. The stems are mixed C17th to C19th. Hard to put an end date on such scrappy and mixed pieces but could be anywhere from the very end of the C18th onwards.
1024	0	1	0	1	1760-1900	1760-1900				Small scrap of stem dating from the later C18th or C19th.
1027	0	1	0	1	1780-1900	1780-1900				Stem fragment of late C18th or C19th date.
Tot	8	38	1	47						

Appendix 2

Notes on Clay Pipe Illustrations by David Higgins:

The most diagnostic fragments from this site have been illustrated at 1:1 and the following list gives a suggested date for each example, together with details of its appearance and attributes. Each entry ends with the site code and context number from which the fragment was recovered.

Fig. 3.1 Good example of an early heel bowl dating from *c*1610-1640. This is quite neatly finished in a hard-fired and glossy (but not burnished) fabric. There are a few red and grey inclusions in the fabric as well as quartz particles. Although this is clearly a local fabric it is not typical of the rather more coarse Coalmeasure clays that are typical of Shropshire products and this is probably a locally produced piece. As such it provides important evidence for the early establishment of pipemaking in this area at a date well before the earliest known documentary reference. The mould itself is not of the best quality with some awkward lumps and angle changes, especially around the heel, but the overall quality and finish is perfectly acceptable. The rim is bottered and fully milled, and the stem bore is 6/64". BA1701 1022.

Fig. 3.2 Heel bowl of *c*1660-90 made of a hard fired but quite fine fabric with very few inclusions and quite a clean fracture. This fabric is not typical of the pipes made in Shropshire although the form is clearly derived from styles developed in the Broseley / Much Wenlock area (Higgins 1987). Furthermore, pipes from that area are frequently burnished, which is not the case in this example. For these reasons it is more likely to be a local copy in a Shropshire style rather than an actual import. The pipe itself is of a reasonably good form although the seams are not very well trimmed and the milling dips markedly on the right hand side of the bowl. The rim is bottered and three-quarters milled and the stem bore measures 7/64". BA1701 1009.

Fig. 3.3 Heel bowl of *c*1670-1700 made of a rather greyish white fabric with a granular fracture and a few small inclusions. This fabric is not as coarse as many of the Shropshire pipes made from Coalmeasure clays. The bowl form is, however, of typical Shropshire style and the rim is fully milled and bottered. There is a maker's mark reading TC stamped sideways on the heel with dashes around its edge and a star above the initials. TC stamps are often found at odd orientations on the heel, a trait that seems to characterise this manufacturer. These pipes seem most likely to have been produced in the Broseley or Benthall area of Shropshire where they are usually attributed to Thomas Clark. Another six examples of TC marks were recovered from the Bull Ring area excavations (Higgins 2005). BA1701 1009.

Fig. 3.4 A stem fragment dating from *c*1740-1780 with a stem bore of 6/64". This has been made from quite a fine fabric with a slightly granular fracture and impressed with a roll-stamped mark, one edge of which survives. This is decorated with tendrils and flowers, the stems of which are made up of small dots. This distinctive mark was used by

John Briton (Higgins 1988, Fig 12), one of the members of a well known local pipemaking family who may well have worked at Deritend. BA1701 1007.

Fig. 3.5 Bowl of c1870-1920 with traces of a decorative spur. This was clearly angled forwards and some of the relief-moulded decorative lines on it survive. The most common spur of this type was formed as a footballer's boot, but the surviving lines on this example look more like the representation of hair as found on spurs formed as a horse's hoof or head. The rim is cut and there is no internal bowl cross or sign of a pattern number on the stem. The stem bore is $5/64''$. BA1701 1009.



Plate 1 – Excavating walls 1003 and 1005



Plate 2 – Walls 1003 and 1005



Plate 3 – Feature 1008



Plate 4 – General photograph of archaeological excavation



Plate 5 – Remains of cobbled surface 1004