

# STAIRWAYS TO NOWHERE; COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY AT STAVELEY, NORTH-EAST DERBYSHIRE, INTERIM REPORT 2005

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## SUMMARY

*This project was designed by Frank Robinson, Heritage Project Worker for Staveley Neighbourhood Management, and members of Staveley History Society, in order to discover more of the history of Staveley Hall, Derbyshire. The project consisted of presentations and visits to eleven local schools, a community archaeological excavation, and a search of published material and private archives. Also included in the Heritage Lottery funded project was the restoration of the south wall of the Hall by removal of old render, recording the wall before replacing with lime mortar render (Robinson in prep.). ARCUS were commissioned by Staveley History Society to provide professional support for the project, including school visits, supervision and training during the community archaeology project, and post-excavation analysis leading to a full report.*

*Volunteers under the supervision of ARCUS archaeologists excavated seven evaluation trenches. Medieval activity on the site, possibly dating as far back as the eleventh century, was indicated by a number of ditch and gully features including a substantial rock-cut ditch. Bloomery ironworking and smithing was taking place on or close to the site during the medieval period. The remains of the seventeenth century hall were encountered east and south of the surviving building, with substantial stone footings surviving in places and foundation trenches elsewhere. Significant terracing and levelling of the site had taken place in advance of construction. Later activity, involving further landscaping of the site during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, was identified through a series of made ground deposits rich in industrial residues.*

## INTRODUCTION

ARCUS were commissioned by Staveley History Society to provide professional training and supervision during a community archaeology project, 'Stairways to Nowhere', at Staveley Hall, Derbyshire (centre SK 43387490). Documentary and map evidence suggested that the surviving hall building (now Staveley Town Council offices) represents the remnant of a much larger hall; the final phase built in 1604, probably on the site of an earlier medieval building. A successful application for Heritage Lottery funding was made, in order to investigate the site of the seventeenth-century hall through community archaeology, and seven evaluation trenches were consequently excavated during August and September 2005.

### Site location and land use

The site is located to the east and south of the surviving buildings of Staveley Hall, Derbyshire (Figs 1 and 2). The hall is located on a low hilltop at around 76m AOD, at the southern end of a tongue of land between the River Rother and the River Doe Lea. The natural topography has been altered by terracing to create a largely flat hilltop around the church and hall, with a significant drop towards the Rother floodplain effected by the ‘ramparts’, a substantial stone-built retaining wall to the west. The ground dips gradually away to north and east, although this also appears to have been lessened by terracing, with a drop in ground level of around two metres to Duke Street at the eastern edge of the site. The extent of the seventeenth century hall lies within the grounds of the town council offices, and is laid to rough grassy lawn, with occasional mature trees, a tarmac driveway and car parking area. The geology is sandstone of the Carboniferous “Westphalian B” (Middle Coal Measures).

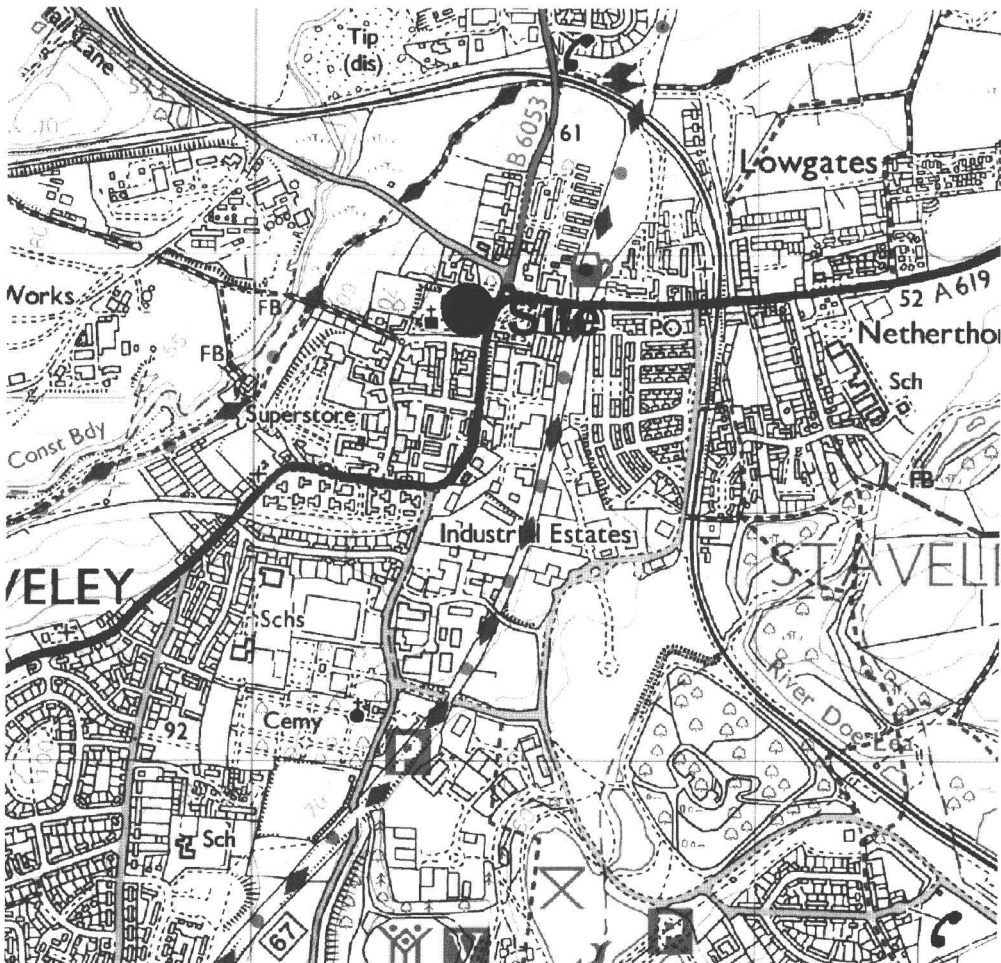


Fig. 1: Location of Staveley Hall.



surrendered without a fight when Crawford's parliamentary forces marched on Staveley after taking Bolsover Castle. Crawford captured twelve pieces of ordnance, 230 muskets and 150 pikes. Following the Restoration, John Frecheville was made Lord Frecheville, and in 1681 he sold the lordship, Hall, and a number of tenanted farms to William Cavendish, 4th Earl of Devonshire.

From 1726 the Hall became the Rectory of Staveley, although remaining in the ownership of the Cavendish family. There is evidence that parts of the hall were demolished during the earlier part of the eighteenth century; James Gisbourne, the Rector of Staveley, protested to the Cavendish family about this ongoing demolition in 1753. It is likely that this demolition involved the eastern part of the hall, in the car park and front lawn area; this part of the hall is not shown on a 1783 plan, indicating that it had been demolished by this time. However new building had taken place at the north-east to include a kitchen and brewery.

Duke Street is shown as a road on the 1783 plan, although significant widening and/or landscaping has taken place since. The land to the east of Duke Street is shown as 'Hall Orchard' in 1783.

Further demolition is recorded in the 1840s, when the southern part of the house was removed in preparation for extension of the church. Around 1898 the building was sold by the Duke of Devonshire to the Church Commissioners, and was later transferred to the Urban District Council of Staveley and then Staveley Town Council.

### **Remote sensing survey**

Remote sensing surveys were carried out by the University of Sheffield Department of Archaeology early in 2005, focussing on the front lawn area north of the main car park, a smaller lawned area south of the surviving hall building, and the bowling green to the rear of the hall. The results of the resistivity surveys in particular appeared to offer some insights into the nature and potential of below-ground archaeology.

The bowling green to the rear of the hall appeared to offer little potential for archaeological investigation; a single linear anomaly running east-west probably relates to a modern service trench or perhaps to the original edge of the bowling green.

The small area south of the surviving building showed a single clear feature running east-west. On the basis of the 1682 plan, this was considered likely to represent the southern external wall of the 1604 hall, with a window bay clearly visible.

The front lawn area appeared to offer varying potential. Little was visible immediately north of the car park. Further to the north a diffuse anomaly oriented roughly north-south appeared to coincide with the location of the northern external wall of the 1604 hall, perhaps reflecting the presence of rubble spreads relating to demolition. Further to the north-east, structures were more clearly visible, with pairs of linear anomalies aligned SE-NW and SW-NE. These structures were not shown on any existing plan of the hall.

## **AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

### **Research context and rationale**

The primary archaeological aim of the project was to establish the character, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological structures and deposits on the site,

and to assess the importance of the archaeology in the context of local, regional and national research agendas. Additionally, more specific aims were suggested by documentary research and the remote sensing survey detailed above. Documentary and map evidence suggested a basic layout and chronology for the 1604 hall (although the original eastern extent of the hall was not established) with the eastern range probably demolished during the mid eighteenth century and the southern rooms in the 1840s. The project aimed to assess the nature, extent and preservation of archaeological deposits relating to this building, and their potential to enhance our understanding of its spatial layout, chronology, and the nature of human occupation within it.

While the seventeenth century hall occupied a central place within the project aims, it was considered important to place this building in its full chronological context. The 1682 plan hints that the seventeenth century hall may have been constructed on an earlier core, perhaps a medieval hall building. The location of the hall, on high ground adjacent to the eleventh century church, suggests that a medieval manor house may have been present. The project therefore aimed to assess the survival of archaeology pre-dating the 1604 hall, from the medieval period or earlier, and to record activity on the site after the eighteenth and nineteenth century episodes of demolition.

### **Methodology**

Seven evaluation trenches were excavated (Fig. 2). These were positioned primarily to intercept structural elements of the 1604 hall as indicated by the 1682 plan and by the resistivity survey, sampling both internal and external areas.

Trenches were initially hand excavated, with removal of turf, topsoil, and any subsoil deposits necessary to expose the uppermost archaeological layers. Archaeological cleaning and pre-excavation recording was carried out at this stage to assess the nature of the deposits and levels of preservation. Further excavation was carried out in the whole trench, or a selected sample area; this involved the removal and recording of archaeological deposits in sequence, until the natural geology was encountered. Towards the end of the excavation, machine excavation was carried out where hand excavation of deposits was not considered practicable, in Trench 1, the northern extension to Trench 2, and Trench 7. Machine excavation ceased when the uppermost archaeological horizon was reached, to allow archaeological cleaning and further hand excavation.

## **RESULTS**

### **Trench 1**

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4) was excavated south of the standing hall building, to intercept the anomaly located during resistivity survey, possibly corresponding to the projected southern external wall of the 1604 hall. Although this anomaly proved to be a brick path of recent date (Plate 1), the robbed-out foundation trench of the external wall was identified, along with a substantial V-shaped ditch probably of medieval date (Plate 2).

*Early V-shaped ditch* (Plate 3). The earliest feature identified was a substantial V-shaped ditch [1021] running east-west, and excavated into sandstone bedrock (1025), the surface of which was encountered 0.30–0.40m below the modern ground surface. The ditch was 0.90m deep from the bedrock surface, and 2.10m wide at its upper edge,

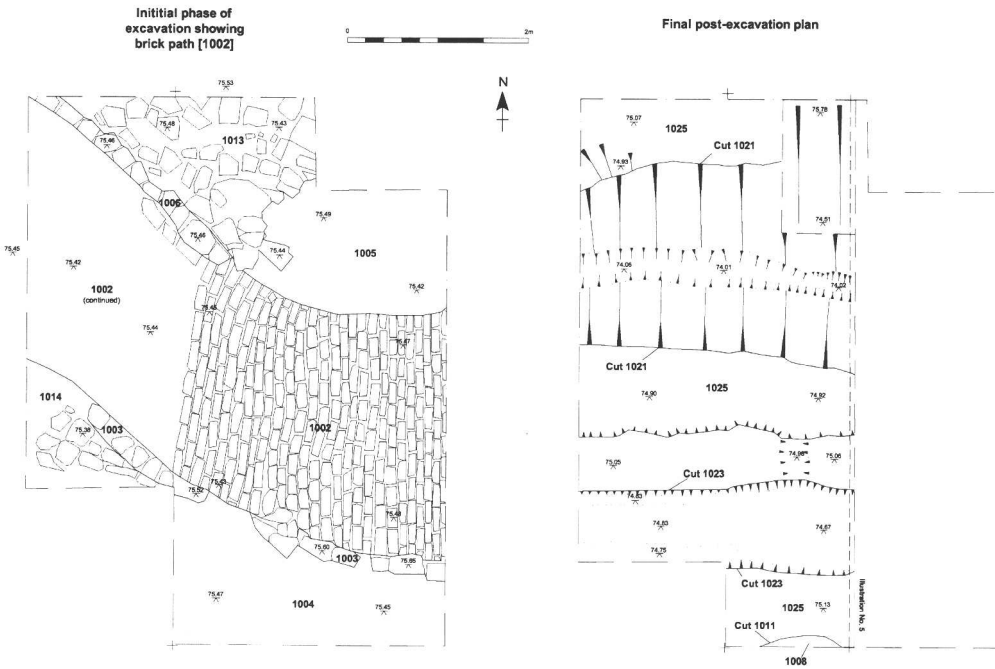


Fig. 3: Staveley Hall: trench 1 plans.

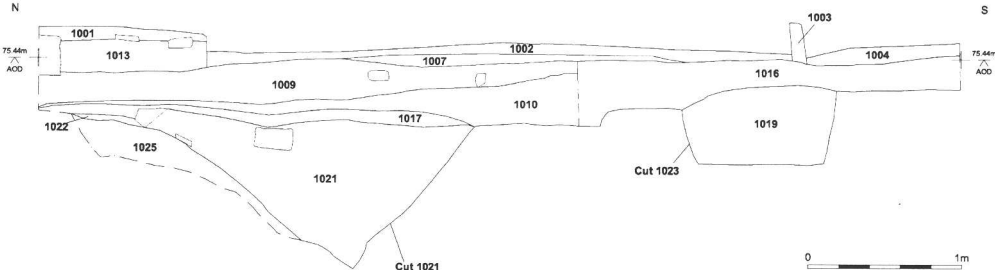


Fig. 4: Staveley Hall: trench 1, west facing section.

sloping in a regular 45° V-profile. At the centre of the base was a rough steep-sided gully 0.34m wide and 0.16m deep. The ditch was filled throughout by a uniform deposit (1018), a very dry and compacted sandy silt with sandstone rubble and charcoal throughout, clearly representing a single act of backfilling. Very little cultural material was present within the backfill, but a small group of twelfth- to fourteenth-century pottery suggests a time frame for the backfilling episode. Bloomery iron-working slag was also present within (1018), and this material was subject to further analysis (see below).

*Seventeenth century hall.* Towards the southern edge of the trench, to the south of [1021], a trench [1023] ran east-west, excavated into sandstone bedrock (1025). [1023] was 0.32m deep from the bedrock surface and 0.85m wide, with regular vertical sides and a flat base (Plate 4). The backfill (1019) of this feature was compacted rubble, with

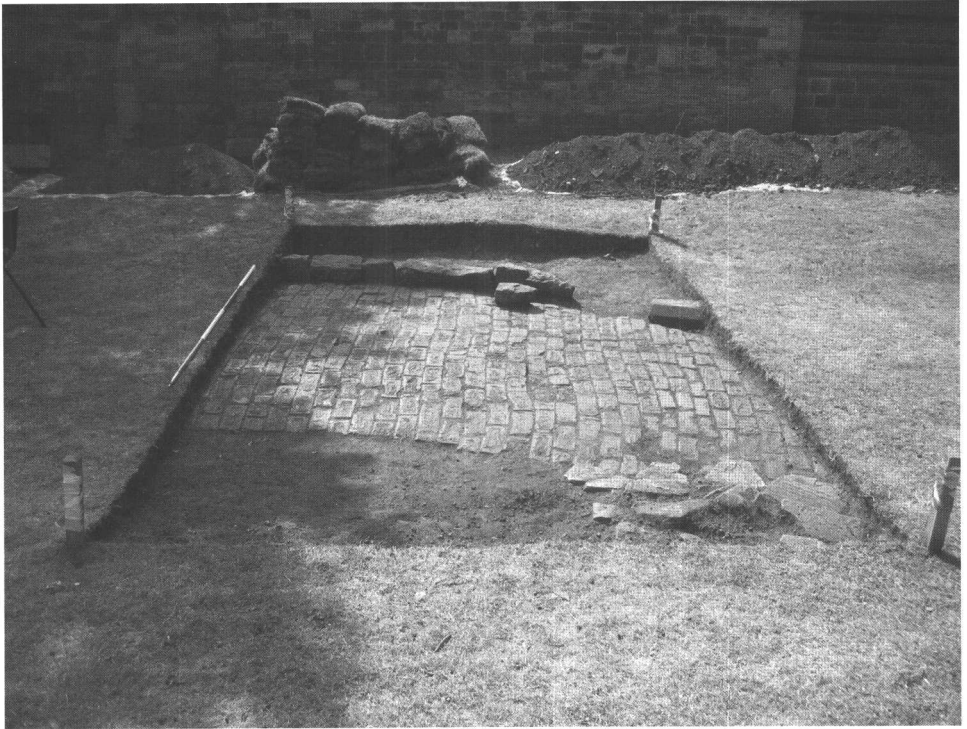


Plate 1: Staveley Hall: trench 1; showing nineteenth-century brick path [1002], looking south.



Plate 2: Staveley Hall: trench 1; showing early rock-cut ditch [1021] (left) and robbed-out foundation trench [1023] for the southern external wall of the seventeenth-century hall (right), looking east.



Plate 3: Staveley Hall: trench 1; early rock-cut ditch [1021], looking east.

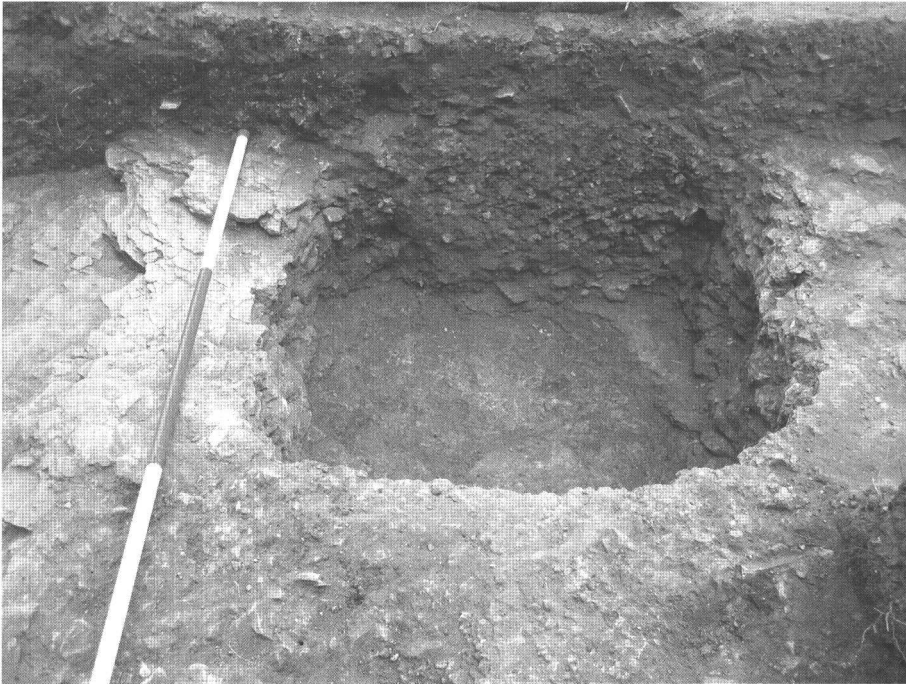


Plate 4: Staveley Hall: trench 1; robbed out foundation trench [1023], looking east.



pale pink lime mortar, some apparently *in situ* at the base of the trench. [1023] was interpreted as the entirely robbed-out foundation trench for the southern external wall of the 1604 hall. Material culture within the backfill included sixteenth to nineteenth century pottery and seventeenth to eighteenth century clay pipe. This is consistent with the suggested demolition date during the 1840s for this part of the building.

*1840s demolition and subsequent landscaping.* A layer of crushed mortar (1017) ran from the northern edge of the trench, ending above the southern extent of ditch [1021] and directly overlying the ditch fill (1018). This appears to relate to the 1843 demolition episode, with nineteenth century pottery and glass, and residual sherds of earlier material. Above (1017), a soil layer (1010)/(1016), about 0.2m thick, and an overlying rubble and mortar layer (1009), 0.25m thick appeared to represent post-demolition landscaping, with compacted demolition material spread over much of the trench area. The lack of any faced stonework suggests that demolition was comprehensive, with any material of value removed for re-use. These layers contained eighteenth to nineteenth century pottery and glass, and blast furnace slag.

*Nineteenth and twentieth century landscaping.* At a later date, a brick path [1002] was constructed, running east-west but with a southward 'bulge'. This feature apparently corresponded to the 'bay window' structure located in the resistivity survey, its response perhaps enhanced by the demolition rubble lying beneath. [1002] had been laid on a fine levelling layer of yellowish sandy material (1007), with lines of edging stones [1003] and [1006] to south and north. A greyish subsoil (1004) abutted [1003] to the south, and a compacted layer of pinkish slag and clinker (1005) abutted [1006] to the north. Rubble layers (1013) and (1014) were also contemporary with [1002]. This landscaping probably dates from the nineteenth century, although the brick path [1002] was still used for access to the rear of the hall within living memory, as recently as the 1970s. The material culture from these layers was exclusively eighteenth to nineteenth century, and was dominated by material from the later part of the nineteenth century. The surface of [1002] was encountered within 0.20m of the modern ground surface, below a fine layer of turf and topsoil (1001). The topsoil yielded a large mixed pottery group, dominated by eighteenth to nineteenth century material, but with a single sherd of residual thirteenth/fourteenth-century whiteware.

## Trench 2

Trench 2 (Figs 5 and 6) was excavated north-south across the front lawn area to intercept the projected position of the northern external wall of the 1604 hall, and the diffuse anomaly interpreted as demolition rubble in the resistivity survey. The southern area of the trench corresponded to an internal area shown as a kitchen on the 1682 plan, and the subsequent northern trench extension to an external area beyond the northern wall. On excavation, no trace of the external wall was identified, the resistivity anomaly apparently relating to a substantial eighteenth century stone drain and an associated rubble deposit. A clear difference in the nature of the subsurface archaeology between the main trench area and the northern extension area suggests however that the external wall may have been situated in the vicinity of the eighteenth century drain and a modern service pipe at the northern end of the main trench, with all traces removed by later activity.

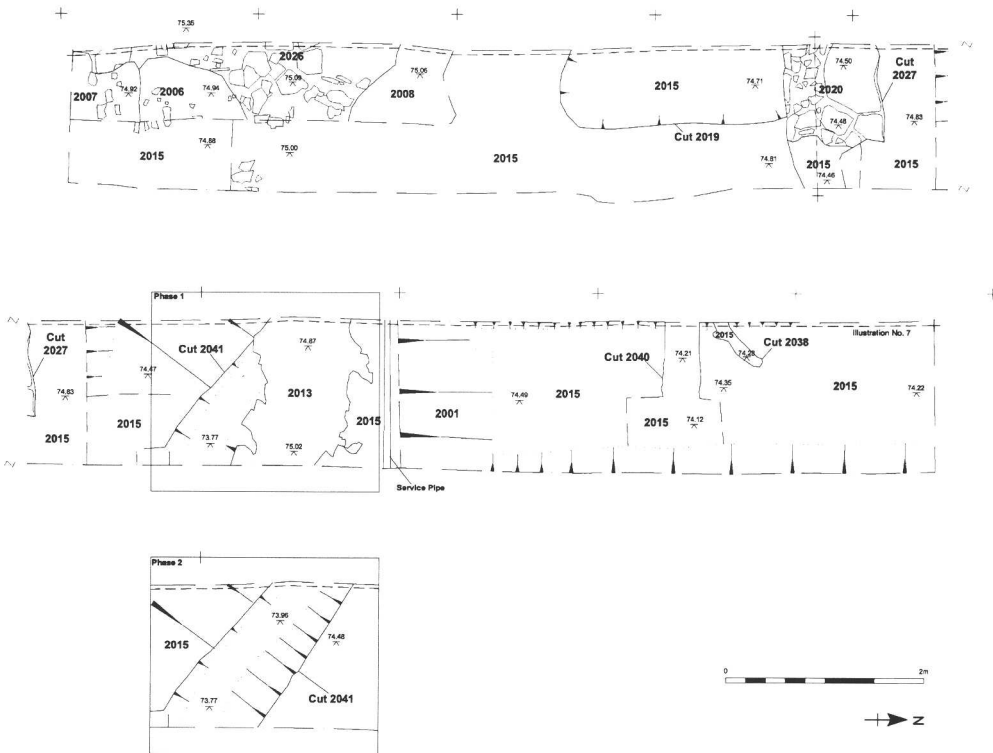


Fig. 5: Staveley Hall: trench 2 plan.

*Medieval ditches/gullies* (Plate 6). The earliest features in this area were associated with medieval shell tempered pottery and clearly relate to activity some time before the 1604 hall. [2041], a NW-SE ditch, was excavated 0.58m into natural sandstone clay, with an irregular U-shaped profile, 1.10m wide, and steep sides. The ditch was subject to silting, with a sequence of waterlogged clays and clay silts (2032), (2025), (2023) and (2016). The primary silt (2032) contained shell tempered pottery dating between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries, as well as bloomery smelting slag. (2023) contained twelfth to thirteenth century shell tempered pottery and twelfth to fourteenth century whiteware. The continuation of ditch [2041] was also excavated in Trench 7 to the south-east (feature [7003]/[7013]).

Two features in the northern extension to the trench may have been contemporary with [2041]; these were only located as shallow gullies in the surface of the natural, but may have been significantly truncated during later landscaping in this area. [2040] ran east-west and was 0.30m deep and 0.46m wide at the surface of the natural, with a greyish-brown clay fill (2036). A single sherd of possibly Roman pottery in (2036) is intriguing, but its abraded condition suggests residuality. A smaller gully [2038] ran NE-SW and was 0.22m deep and 0.42m wide, with a greyish-green silty clay fill (2037). Twelfth to fourteenth century shell tempered ware was recovered from (2037).

*Sunken feature [2027]* (Plate 5). A rectangular cut feature [2027], 1.35m wide, 0.36m deep, extending into the western baulk of the trench, was observed to cut part of the

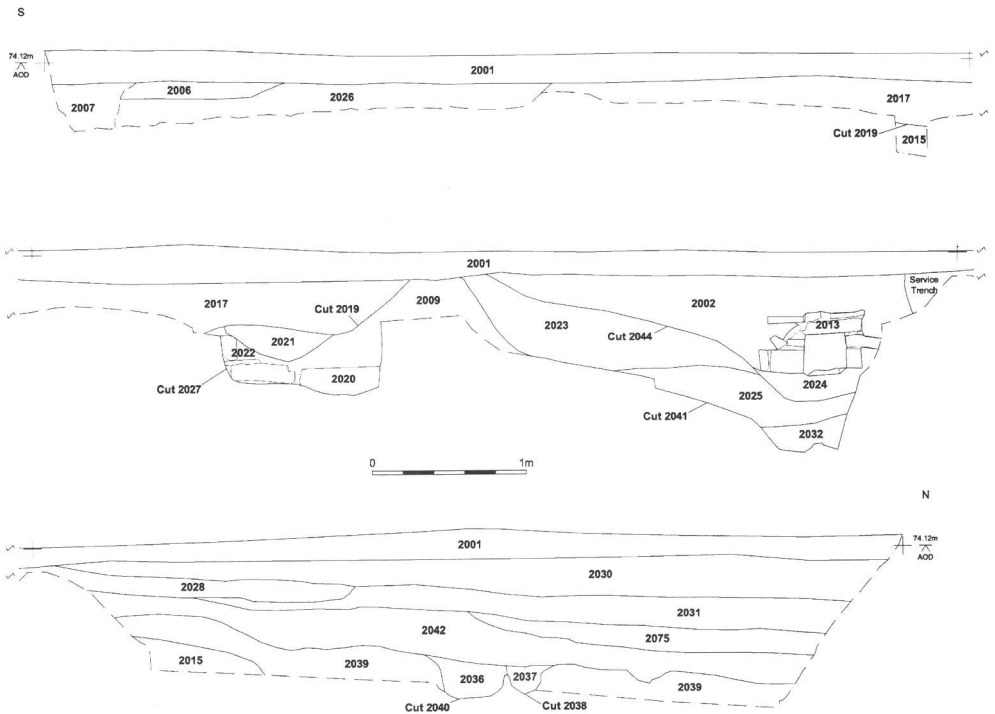


Fig. 6: Staveley Hall: trench 2, east facing section.

upper fill (2016) of the early ditch [2041]. Cut into natural yellow clay (2015) on three sides, the northern side appeared to be consolidated with a dump of clean greyish clay (2005). The base of [2027] was a stone structure [2020] composed of two layers of sandstone slabs, the upper layer up to 0.13m thick, laid in a grey silty bedding material (2034) to form a flat upper surface, with edging slabs on the southern side. Above [2020], the feature had subsequently filled with a mortar-rich deposit (2022), with redeposited yellowish clay (2021) above. Fifteenth to sixteenth century pottery from the bedding layer (2034) suggested that this feature was contemporary with the seventeenth century hall, although it is clearly well below the floor level of this building. The large extent of the room identified as a 'kitchen' on the 1682 plan suggests that the roof may have required support columns, and this feature may represent a partially robbed-out pad foundation for one of these. Alternatively the flat base and edging slabs may suggest a stone-lined pit or perhaps a partially robbed-out foundation trench (although the lack of mortar around the base [2020] would argue against this).

*Southern trench area.* To the south of [2027], few features were encountered, with yellowish clay natural only 0.30m below the modern ground surface. Cutting the upper fills of [2027], a very shallow feature [2019] ran 3.10m to the south, extending into the western edge of the trench, with a clear and very regular straight eastern edge along the centre of the trench. The fill (2017) was a greyish brown silty clay. At the extreme southern end of the trench, a sequence of irregular spreads of undated material (2006), (2007) and (2026) was encountered, with mortar and rubble perhaps suggesting an association with the demolition of the hall building.



Plate 5: Staveley Hall: trench 2; foundation pad or stone-lined pit [2027]/[2020], looking north.



Plate 6: Staveley Hall: trench 2; medieval ditch [2041], below stone-lined drain [2013], looking south.

*Northern extension* (Plate 7). Beyond the modern service pipe at the original northern end of Trench 2, the trench was extended northward by a further five metres. The natural surface (2039) was considerably deeper in this area, and appeared to slope away northwards, from 0.80m below the modern ground level at the southern end of the extension, to 0.95m below ground level at the northern extent. This contrasts with the relatively shallow natural surface in the main trench, and may reflect a difference between areas internal and external to the 1604 hall. The stratigraphy in this area was also markedly different from the main trench, comprising a sequence of layers of compacted industrial waste with concentrations of ferrous slag in the lower layers (2042) and (2035), green vitreous slag in (2031), a coal-rich spread (2028) and a rubble layer (2030) at the upper horizon. A very worn sandstone slab surface [2029] survived above this sequence towards the northern end of the extension. The boundary between this dumping sequence and the very different stratigraphy within the main trench corresponds closely to the expected position of the northern external wall of the 1604 hall. The sequence in the extension seems likely therefore to represent landscaping during the lifetime of the hall building, possibly during the early eighteenth century. The slab surface [2029] may therefore represent a survival of part of an external yard surface.

*Eighteenth century stone drain [2013]* (Plate 6). The upper silts of the early ditch [2041] had been cut by a construction trench [2044] for a stone-built drain structure [2013]. The construction trench [2044] was gently sloping on the southern side, and 0.64m deep, with the northern side unexcavated due to live modern services. The stone-built drain [2013] was constructed on a silty bedding layer (2024), and consisted of a slab base, coursed slab sides, and large irregular capping slabs lying in places two or three slabs thick. [2013] was 0.90m wide and 0.42m high, and ran roughly east-west within the trench, although it appeared to bend from this alignment outside the excavated area. The foundation trench was backfilled with a rubble deposit (2002), extending over the top of the drain structure [2013]. Above the base slabs a layer of silting (2018) had been deposited during the use-life of the drain. Slipware pottery, and seventeenth to eighteenth century glass from the bedding layer (2024) suggested construction during the eighteenth century, with material from the silting fill (2018) indicating that the drain remained in use into the nineteenth century. The rubble backfill (2002) contained a mixed group of pottery, including medieval wares dating between the eleventh and fourteenth centuries and also seventeenth to eighteenth-century material. The later material is consistent with the eighteenth century date for construction of the drain; the medieval pottery must therefore be considered residual and probably derives from the disturbed upper silts of the underlying ditch [2041]. [2013] seems therefore to post-date the seventeenth century hall, and may have provided drainage from the reduced hall following demolition of the eastern part of the building in the early eighteenth century.

### **Trench 3**

*Seventeenth century hall; entrance steps [3002]*. Trench 3 (Fig. 7) was excavated in a planting bed just east of the surviving hall building, corresponding with the expected position of a semicircular entrance stairway projecting to the north of the 1604 hall. The trench limits were tightly constrained within surrounding concrete kerbs; however, the lowest footings of steps [3002] survived within the trench (Plate 8), though with some disturbance from modern services. [3002] formed a curving edge, originally



Plate 7: Staveley Hall: trench 2; fragmentary sandstone flag surface [2029] in northern extension, looking south.



Plate 8: Staveley Hall: trench 3; footings [3002] for an entrance stairway to the hall, looking east.

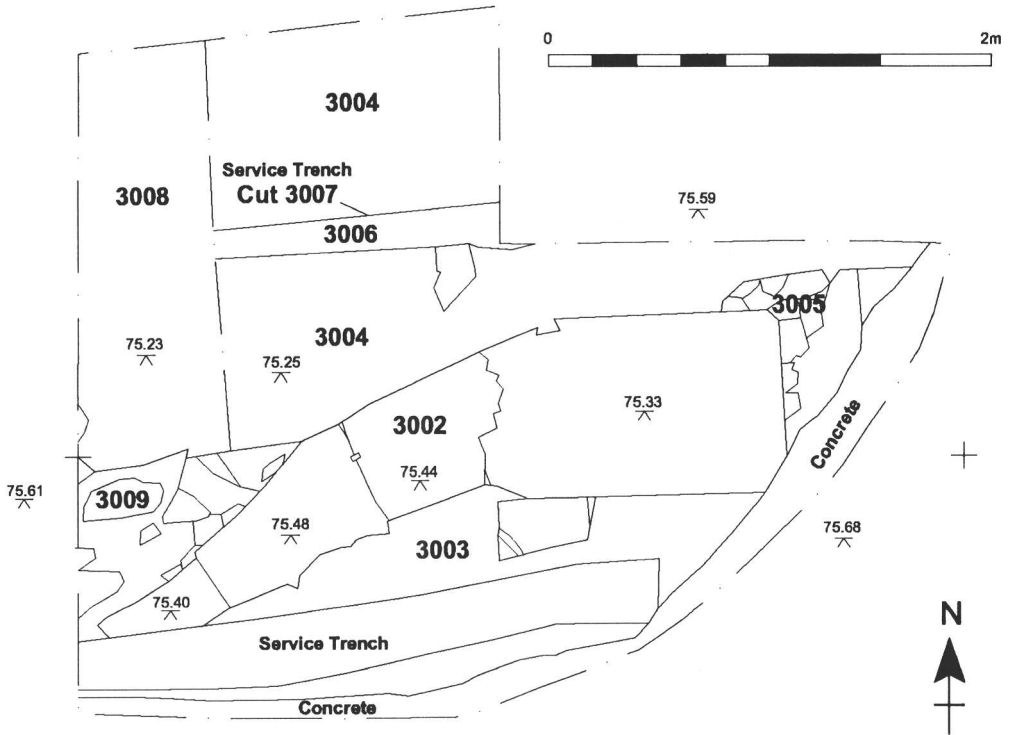


Fig. 7: Staveley Hall: trench 3 plan.

composed of five dressed slabs 0.05m thick, the largest measuring 1.30m × 0.80m, now heavily cracked and weathered. Moulded lead ties in the interstices between the masonry anchored the slabs; no mortar was evident. [3002] had been laid onto rough rubble footings [3009] and [3005], which in turn lay on the natural yellowish clay surface (3008), encountered only 0.38m below ground level. To the rear (south) of this front edge was a soil and rubble infill (3003), with a similar material (3004) to the north. Material culture from (3003) and (3004) included early material such as a sixteenth or seventeenth century sherd from a Frechen-Köln stoneware bottle, bearing the typical *Bartmann* facemask, and a group of early seventeenth century clay pipe. The deposits had clearly been subject to later disturbance and mixing, as nineteenth century material was also present.

#### Trench 4

Trench 4 (Figs 8 and 9) was excavated in the north-eastern part of the front lawn to investigate resistivity anomalies on a SW-NE alignment. These were found to correspond to a wall footing and cobbled path, probably contemporary with the 1604 hall. A more substantial east-west wall was probably also of this period. These structures were associated with episodes of landscaping apparently involving levelling of the site. Further rubble deposits may relate to demolition of this part of the hall.

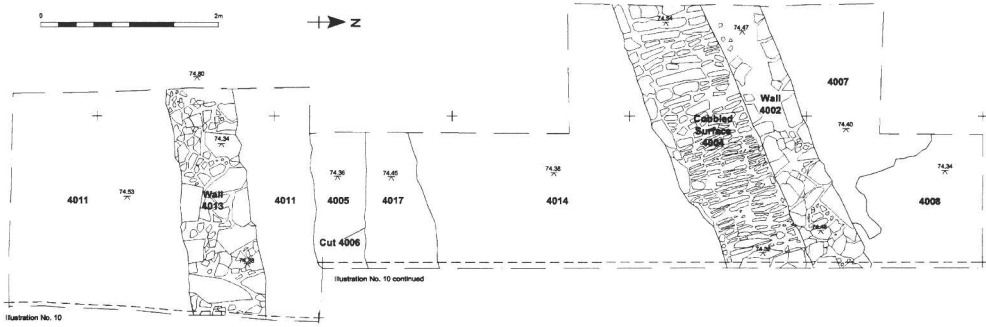


Fig. 8: Staveley Hall: trench 4 plan.

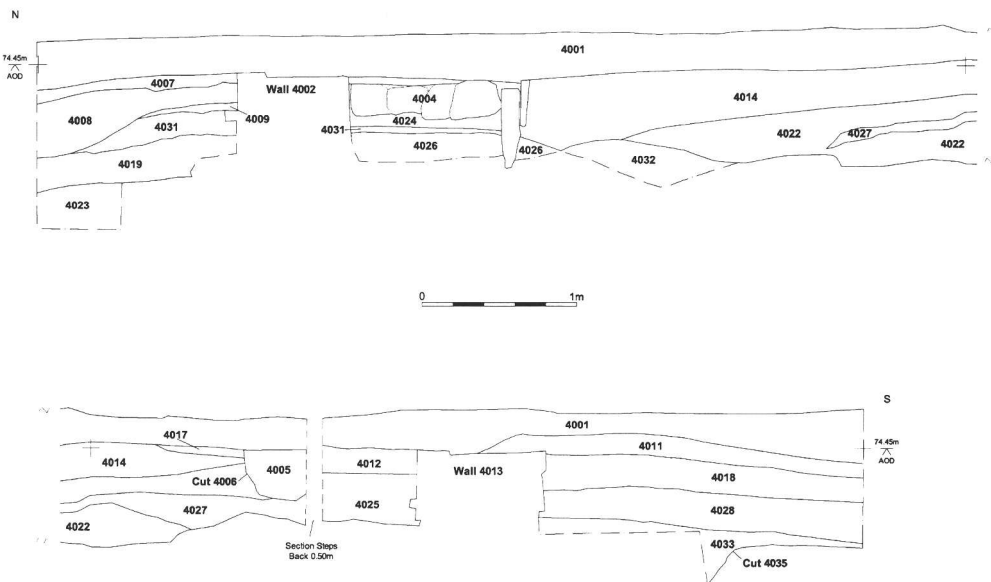


Fig. 9: Staveley Hall: trench 4, west facing section.

*Seventeenth century hall; east-west wall [4013].* Situated towards the southern end of Trench 4, the footings of a substantial wall (Plate 9) were located running east-west across the trench. Build was of sandstone slab, typically 0.13m thick, roughly finished to the exterior, with a rubble core including burnt sandstone creating a drystone structure 0.75m wide. Four courses survived, constructed directly onto the surface of the natural clay (4034), which was encountered 0.72m below the modern ground surface. This wall may correspond with the location of an outbuilding shown on the 1682 plan.

*Landscaping episodes.* The footings [4013] were abutted by layers of made ground (4028), (4018), (4025), (4012) and (4022) which are likely to represent landscaping at the time of construction, to a depth of around 0.48m above the natural surface. These layers were generally dumps of rubble in a silty matrix, although (4028), a brownish



grey silty clay with charcoal flecks, may represent an *in situ* buried soil. Dumped material was also present in the centre and the northern end of the trench. The natural surface appeared to slope away northward and was not encountered at the northern end of the trench despite excavation to 1.20m below the modern ground surface. This northward slope, encountered in both Trench 2 and Trench 4, appears to reflect the original natural topography. The hilltop on which the hall is located has been subject to significant episodes of levelling or terracing (in the context, for example, of the construction of the 'ramparts' to the west). The dump material in Trench 2 and Trench 4 suggests therefore that this levelling was effected by infilling above the natural slope to the north (and east — see Trench 5) of the hall site.

Layers of levelling material (4023) and (4019)/(4026) were present at the northern end of the trench, to a depth of 1.20m below ground level; (4023) was a grey silty clay with coal flecks, and (4019)/(4026) was an ashy deposit rich in coal fragments.

Pottery within these levelling layers is consistent with deposition around the time of construction in the early seventeenth century. The presence of both bloomery and blast-furnace slag from (4028) also supports this conclusion, as the transition between these processes is likely to have occurred during the seventeenth century. Residual sherds of medieval pottery are also present, from as early as the thirteenth century.

*Wall and cobbled path [4002]/[4004].* These structures (Plate 10), running SW-NE at the northern end of the trench, corresponded to the anomalies seen in the resistivity survey. Wall footing [4002], 0.60m wide, was built on a rough rubble foundation, with sandstone slabs typically 0.08m thick, roughly finished to the exterior, and a lime mortar bonded rubble core. Immediately to the south, and on the same alignment, was a cobbled pathway [4004], 1.05m wide, of flat sandstone cobbles inserted vertically to measure typically 0.35m x 0.09m at the surface, and 0.16m deep. The cobbles were laid perpendicular to the wall [4002] and were edged on the other side by a linear kerb of larger stones parallel with the wall, and inserted to a depth of 0.32m below the cobbled surface. [4002] and [4004] were constructed on a redeposited clay and rubble base (4031), 0.18m thick, laid above the underlying made ground (4019)/(4026) and a greyish silty packing material (4024) was used to bed the cobbles. Fragments of a metalled surface (4003) were present above the cobbles, suggesting that this path was in use for some time, and subject to at least one episode of re-surfacing.

These structures post-date the levelling episodes discussed above at the northern end of Trench 4. Although these structures are not shown on any plan of the hall, seventeenth century pottery was found in the surface of the path [4004], and material from the packing deposit (4024) below the path is entirely consistent with a seventeenth century date. It appears therefore that [4002] and [4004] are indeed contemporary with the seventeenth century hall.

*Demolition and further landscaping.* At the southern end of the trench a rubble spread (4011) overlay the remains of the east-west wall [4013] as well as the earlier landscaping layers. This layer may therefore relate to the demolition of structures relating to the hall, probably during the early eighteenth century. Rubble layers (4014) and (4017) in the centre of the trench were observed to abutt the edge of the cobbled path [4004], with similar layers (4008) and (4009) abutting wall [4002] to the north. A mortar spread (4007) was present over wall [4002] and extended further north over (4008). This layer



Plate 9: Staveley Hall: trench 4; wall footings [4013], looking west.



Plate 10: Staveley Hall: trench 4; wall footings [4002] and cobbled path [4004], looking west.

appears to relate to the demolition of [4002]. Pottery from the rubble layers contained eighteenth century material in addition to residual medieval material. Two small pot discs were recovered from (4008).

### **Trench 5**

Trench 5 (Fig. 10) was positioned to the south of the modern car park, in order to investigate the eastern extent of the hall. This area appeared to be outside the 1604 building, with no evidence of structures. A subsoil deposit showed evidence of levelling of the slope to the east of the hall; two eighteenth century pits were also excavated.

*Natural coal deposits.* The underlying topography was observed to slope eastward, with the natural surface reached at 1.00m below the modern ground level at the western end, and 1.20m below ground level at the eastern end of the trench. At the western end of the trench the natural was a yellow sandstone clay (5009), with an outcrop of coal (5008) at the eastern end.

*Levelling deposit (5006).* The underlying slope had been levelled (Plate 11) by deposit (5006), a layer, 0.30–0.40m thick, of greyish-brown clay silt, to create the relatively flat modern ground surface, with a retaining wall at the eastern boundary of the site. Other lenses of material (5007) and (5010)-(5012) appeared also to belong to this episode. It is unclear whether this deposit represents a dump of intrusive material or levelling of an existing subsoil. This episode pre-dates eighteenth century pits [5003] and [5005] and may therefore relate to the same major episode of terracing associated with construction of the ‘ramparts’. Sixteenth to seventeenth century pottery from (5006) is consistent with deposition contemporary with the seventeenth century hall; the presence of both bloomery and blast-furnace slags in this deposit also suggest a date in the seventeenth century.

*Eighteenth century pits [5003] and [5005].* Two pits (Plate 11) were cut into the upper surface of (5006); these features were very similar in profile and fill, and may therefore be considered contemporary. The pits were roughly bowl-shaped and circular in plan, with steep sides to a concave base, with diameter roughly 0.80m and depth 0.30m from the upper surface of (5006). The pit fills (5002) and (5004) were rubble, in a dark silty matrix, with brick and tile fragments, mortar, pottery, animal bone and distinctive eighteenth century glass bottle fragments, and may represent episodes of rubbish disposal. Pottery from (5002) and (5004) is consistent with the suggested eighteenth century date.

### **Trench 6**

Trench 6 (Plate 12) was a small sondage excavated below the slab floor of one of the cellars beneath the surviving hall building. Two damaged slabs were raised, revealing a fine (0.05m) layer of reddish grit, presumably used as levelling for the slab floor. Below this was undisturbed natural, a pale grey shale clay. No evidence for an earlier floor was identified.

### **Trench 7**

Due to the lack of clear structural evidence for the 1604 hall in Trench 2, and the possible outbuilding at the southern end of Trench 4, a further trench was excavated in

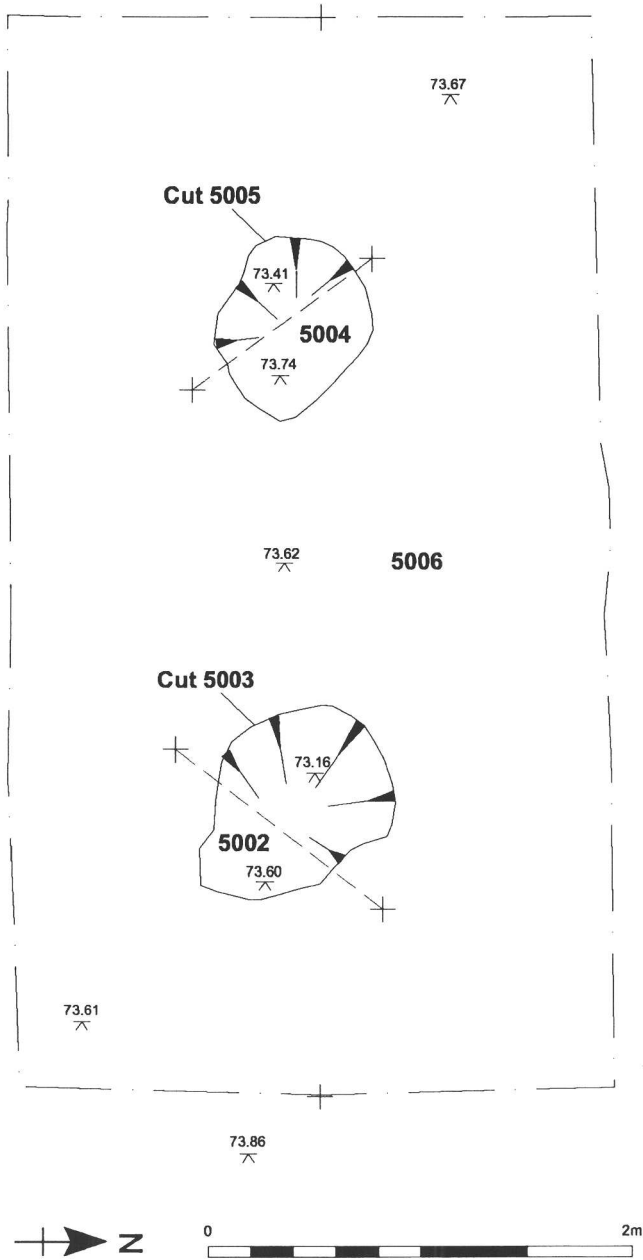


Fig. 10: Staveley Hall: trench 5 plan.

the front lawn area, between Trenches 2 and 4 (Figs 11 and 12). Given that both Trenches 4 and 5 appeared to be beyond the eastern end of the hall building, it was hoped to intercept the eastern limit of the hall within Trench 7. Given the time constraints, archaeological cleaning and recording was carried out once archaeological

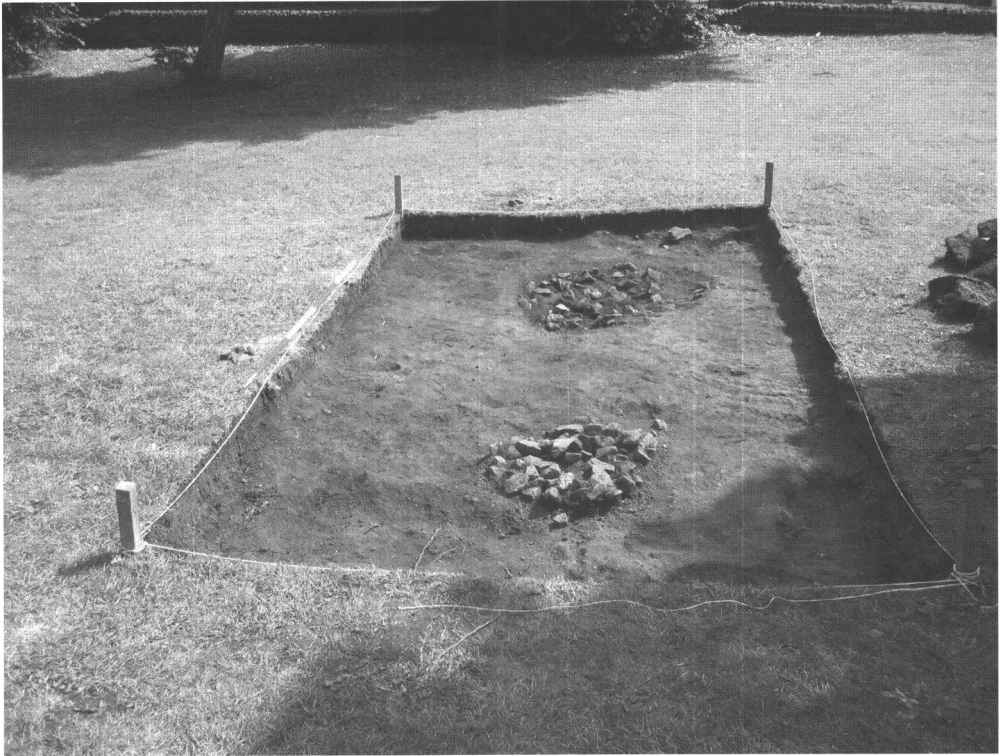


Plate 11: Staveley Hall: trench 5; landscaping deposit (5006) with eighteenth century pits [5003] and [5006], looking east.

deposits had been exposed, but full excavation was not attempted. Trench 7 exposed significant structural remains almost certainly associated with the seventeenth century hall building, and possibly forming part of its eastern extent. The continuation of the medieval ditch located in Trench 2 was also excavated, along with a stone-lined drain, probably of eighteenth century date.

*Medieval ditch [7003]/[7013].* This feature, running SE-NW, was located in the south-western corner of Trench 7, and formed a continuation of ditch [2041] in Trench 2. [7003] was excavated 0.52m into natural sandstone clay, and formed a rough V-shaped profile, 0.8m wide, with steep sides (Plate 14). [7003] appeared to be a re-cut of an earlier ditch [7013], only visible to the south of [7003]. The grey clay fill (7005) associated with [7013], was considerably lighter in colour than (7004), the homogenous silty clay fill of [7003].

*Seventeenth century hall; wall footings and drainage.* Like wall [4013] in Trench 4, the structural features in Trench 7 were constructed directly onto the surface of the natural clay (7010), 0.58m below the modern ground level (Plate 13). In the southern part of the trench, three courses of a substantial wall footing [7002], 0.90m wide, ran 4.10m east from the western baulk of the trench, sitting on top of the fill of ditch [7003] at the western end. Construction was of large sandstone blocks up to 0.15m thick, roughly



Plate 12: Staveley Hall: trench 6; sondage through cellar floor into natural shale clay, looking south.

finished to the exterior with a rubble core, in a pale yellowish lime mortar. One fragment of re-used millstone had been incorporated within the structure.

In the northern part of the trench a similar north-south footing [7014], 0.90m wide, ran perpendicular to [7002], possibly forming the south-east corner of part of the building. A more irregular area of footing [7017], 0.93m wide, filled the gap between [7002] and [7014] to create a continuous structure. [7017] was of sandstone slab construction (including one fragment of re-used millstone) in a sandy mortar, with a regular western face but a stepped eastern face.

A curving drain [7015] had been built through [7014]; this feature was 0.73m wide, with a base of random sandstone slabs and sides of sandstone blocks (one or two courses) roughly finished to the interior of the drain, some apparently re-used with tool marks. [7015] appeared to emerge eastward through the wall footing [7014], with a marked drop in level; once outside the wall, [7015] curved to run north before being interrupted by a modern service pipe. A sandy deposit (7009), up to 0.12m thick, had been deposited in [7015] during its use. Seventeenth to eighteenth century pottery from this deposit is consistent with use during the lifetime of this part of the hall. To the east of [7014] an L-shaped structure [7016] formed an angle over the curve of [7015], and was of the same build. [7016] had an outer face of sandstone blocks one skin thick,





Plate 13: Staveley Hall: trench 7; wall footings [7002], overlying silts of medieval ditch [7003]/ [7013].

## ARTEFACTS

### **Pottery**

By Dr. C.G. Cumberpatch, with a contribution by Jane Young

#### *Overview*

The assemblage consisted of a total of 1115 sherds of pottery weighing 8715 grams and represented a maximum of 1037 vessels. The date ranges given are based upon the characteristics of the individual vessels and groups of sherds, related where possible to dated groups and examples published elsewhere.

#### *Roman pottery*

One sherd of Roman pottery was noted in the assemblage. This was a small piece of colour-coated ware from context (2008). A second sherd, from context (2036), may be a fragment of a Roman amphora.

#### *Medieval pottery*

The medieval pottery included examples of a number of important local and regional types. While much can be subsumed under the title of Coal Measures ware, a number



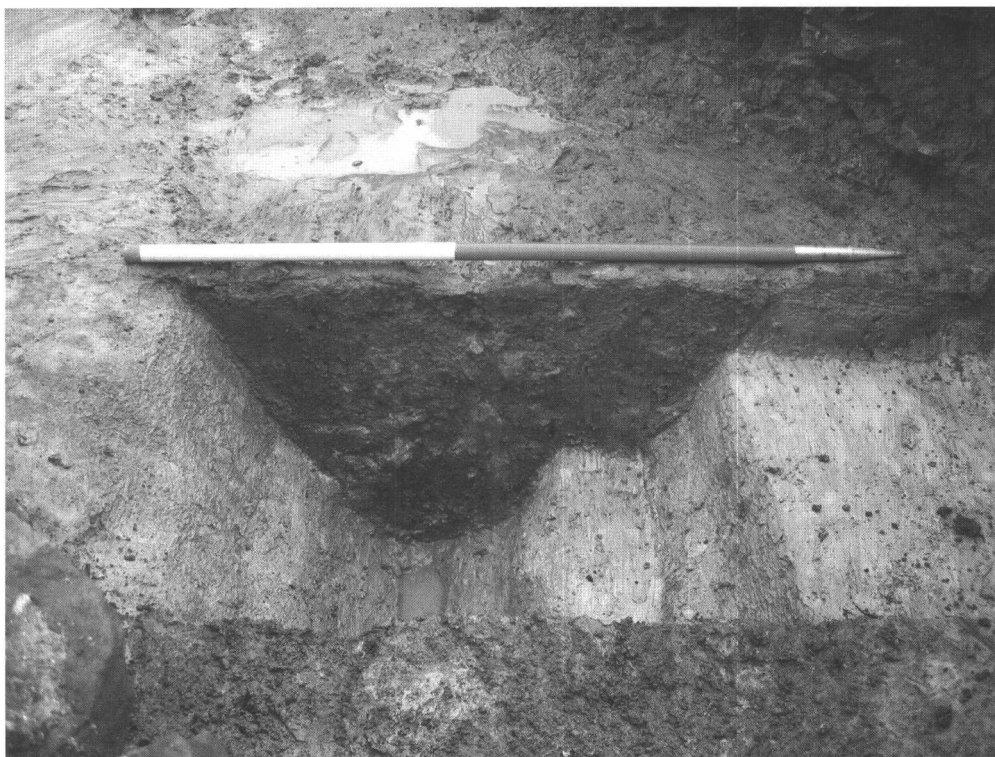


Plate 14: Staveley Hall: trench 7; section through medieval ditch [7003]/[7013], looking south-east.

of individual sources were identifiable on the basis of recent work. The wares identified include both the earlier *Coal Measures Whiteware* (thirteenth to fourteenth century) and the later medieval to early post-medieval *Coal Measures Purple ware* (fifteenth to sixteenth century). The latter is probably principally from potteries in the Don Valley (Rawmarsh and Firsby Hall Farm; Cumberpatch 2004a) but the earlier material, while it includes Don Valley wares, also includes wares very similar to those manufactured at *Brackenfield* (Cumberpatch 2004b). Other *Coal Measures* wares (including those listed as ‘Whiteware (Medieval)’ in Table 10 in the Archive) are most probably of local manufacture but at present our knowledge of other potteries active during the medieval period in the Chesterfield area is extremely limited (Cumberpatch 2004c) and it remains impossible to ascribe all sherds to possible production sites.

One sherd of *Burley Hill type ware* was noted in context (4011). Examples of *Burley Hill* products are known from Chesterfield (Cumberpatch and Thorpe 2002) but it is unclear as to how much pottery was reaching the town and its environs from this source. Similarly, a single sherd of *Humberware* was identified in context (4028).

A number of ware types have been identified according to their individual characteristics and given generic names accordingly (*Buff Sandy ware*, *Coarse Sandy ware*, *Gritty ware*, *Oxidised Sandy ware*, *Reduced Sandy ware*). These wares were represented by

small numbers of often small sherds. A further significant group of sherds is the *Shell Tempered wares*. The report on these sherds is presented below.

The distinction between medieval and post-medieval pottery has become somewhat blurred in recent years as work on fifteenth and sixteenth century assemblages has cast doubt on the existence of a clear horizon distinguishing medieval from post-medieval material. The recent proposal (Boyle n.d.) that the origin of Cistercian ware should be dated to around 1460 rather than post-1485 is a further example of the breakdown of any link between pottery and the political and constitutional events which are held to mark the end of the medieval period. This should, of course, be no surprise as the connections between material culture and other aspects of society are well known to be complex with few of the simple equations between socio-political changes and material culture standing up to serious enquiry. In the absence of any better terminology, the split between medieval and post-medieval pottery has been retained here, but it should be noted that the Coal Measures Purple ware mentioned above and the Cistercian ware mentioned below may very well be contemporary and are both manifestations of a general trend towards darker coloured pottery which began during the fifteenth century and continued into the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (Cumberpatch 2003).

#### *Late medieval and post-medieval pottery*

Local later medieval wares include *Cistercian wares* and the related (although later) *Blackwares* and *Yellow wares*, fully described by Moorhouse and Roberts (1992). Recent re-dating of these wares has suggested that the Cistercian wares begin about 1460 and so should be considered to be later medieval in date. Together with the broadly contemporary *Purple Glazed wares*, these vessels represent the first significant innovation in pottery styles since the Norman Conquest, although the nature of the innovation and its wider significance is still far from well understood (Cumberpatch 2003). The difficulties of distinguishing between Cistercian ware and Blackware on the basis of small sherds is reflected in the use of the *Cistercian / Blackware* category in contexts (1017), (2008) and (4024).

Cistercian wares and Blackwares have a number of counterparts amongst the utilitarian wares. *Purple Glazed ware* and *Midlands Purple type ware* refer to two of these, although it must be acknowledged that the definition of this group of wares is somewhat looser than that of the Cistercian wares and Blackwares.

*Green Glazed Sandy ware* and *Late Medieval Sandy ware* are similar types which appear to represent a limited continuation of the medieval tradition of green glazed wares into the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. They were present in only small quantities within the assemblage although the reason for this is not clear.

Later post-medieval wares were dominated by utilitarian types. Of these, *Brown Glazed Coarsewares* were present in significant quantities throughout the assemblage. These wares are difficult to date accurately because they have never been studied in any significant detail. They represent the standard type of utilitarian ware in use from the later seventeenth century until the later nineteenth century and are found in abundance on all types of sites. They were accompanied by *Yellow Glazed Coarsewares*, a type that occurs in a similar range of forms (predominantly open bowls or pancheons) and which appears to be commoner on rural sites than urban ones.

### *European pottery (post-medieval and early modern)*

The later medieval and post-medieval groups include a number of European imports in addition to the locally manufactured wares. The commonest types are stonewares from the Rhineland, principally *Frechen-Köln* stoneware bottles, one of which bore the typical *Bartmann* face mask: context (3004). A smaller number of sherds were tentatively identified as of *Raeren* type (Gaimster 1997) while others were not identifiable to known types. A high proportion of this material was recovered from topsoil contexts, notably (2001).

Context (4008) produced a small number of sherds from a *Martincamp flask*, a type originating in northern France (late fifteenth to eighteenth century) with a further sherd which is probably of this type from context (2034).

### *Early modern pottery*

Early modern pottery is defined as that which dates to the eighteenth century, but as with the distinction between medieval and post-medieval wares, the reality of the situation is somewhat more complex than it first appears with wares of post-medieval type remaining in use throughout the century (Cumberpatch in prep). The eighteenth century pottery identified within the Staveley Hall assemblage includes examples of both vernacular tablewares and formal tablewares. The former are represented by the *Brown Salt Glazed Stonewares* (BSGSW), *Mottled wares*, *Slipwares* and *Late Blackwares* while the latter include the *Tin Glazed Earthenwares*, *White Salt Glazed Stonewares* (WSGSW) and *Porcelain*, the latter most probably imported from China. The scarcity of *Creamwares* (c. 1740–c. 1820) and *Pearlwares* (c. 1780–c. 1830) is notable and suggests that the assemblage dates to the beginning or middle of the eighteenth century rather than the later years of the century. Utilitarian wares which appear to be of eighteenth-century date include the *Brown Glazed Coarsewares*, *Brown Glazed Finewares* (BGFW) and *Yellow Glazed Coarsewares*, as described above.

### *Recent pottery*

Although later eighteenth and early nineteenth century pottery was relatively rare within the assemblage, later nineteenth century material, notably Whitewares and utilitarian stonewares (bottles and flagons) was considerably more common, particularly in the upper layers and disturbed contexts. Large assemblages of such wares from excavations in Sheffield are in the process of being published, but the potential of nineteenth century pottery as a source of information about late Georgian and Victorian society is generally under appreciated and significant groups of material, including some from Chesterfield, remain unpublished. The information from Staveley Hall may be of considerable significance in the future when it can be compared with data from other sites.

### *Conclusions*

The pottery assemblage from Staveley Hall includes a wide range of material ranging in date from the medieval period to the nineteenth century, with two residual sherds of Roman pottery from one trench. The incidence of residuality generally was high with many contexts producing groups of pottery of mixed character and few of any size appearing to represent undisturbed deposits.

The range of ware types conforms to what might be expected from a site occupied from the medieval period into the early modern period with a broad mixture of

utilitarian wares, kitchen wares and tablewares. The presence of Tin Glazed Earthenware, Porcelain and White Salt Glazed Stonewares suggests the presence of individuals who were able to acquire fashionable new wares at a time when tastes in pottery were changing. The relative lack of later eighteenth and early nineteenth century wares would seem to indicate a change of use of the site at this time, although the possibility that it represents a change in the methods of rubbish disposal at this time cannot be discounted.

### **Shell Tempered wares**

By Jane Young

A small mixed group of shell tempered pottery from Staveley Hall was examined using a X20 binocular microscope. The material is generally in a poor condition making close identification difficult. The fossil shell temper has leached from the surfaces and edges of all but one sherd (context (7001)) and in most cases has also either completely, or partially, begun to disintegrate within the matrix of the sherd. The small jar sherd from context (7001) is possibly of Late Saxon date, but may date as late as the later eleventh century. The sherd is unfortunately too small to determine the exact ware type but the shell temper is of Lincolnshire type. Three Saxo-Norman vessels were identified; two Lincolnshire Fine-Shelled ware (LFS) bowls and one Saxo-Norman (SN) jar. These vessels are products of unknown production centres in Lincolnshire operating between the late tenth and late twelfth centuries. The Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly ware (LEMS) jar or bowl and two of the Derbyshire Shell Tempered (DERBMSH) vessels (contexts (2001) and (2023)) are of early medieval type and are likely to date to between the mid twelfth and early/mid thirteenth centuries. The remaining DERBMSH vessel from context (2037) is too small to enable precise dating but is handmade and probably dates to between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries.

### **Clay pipe**

By Dr. S.D. White

Derbyshire has been little studied so far as pipe research is concerned. In the Bibliography of Clay Pipe Studies (Atkin 1989) only one entry is given for the whole of Derbyshire, and this is simply a list of pipe makers for Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Leicestershire.

The excavations produced a total of 217 clay tobacco pipe fragments consisting of 21 bowls, 194 stems, and 2 mouthpiece fragments. The fragments were recovered from 26 different pipe-bearing contexts, and one unstratified deposit. The majority of the pipe fragments are plain stems, which account for 89% of the total assemblage. A large number of the stem fragments are nicely burnished and the majority date from the seventeenth or early eighteenth century. One of these bears the roll-stamp mark of Richard Scolah, a maker from Rawmarsh who is known to have been working *c.* 1717–1767 (White 2004, 180). There are also two joining stem fragments with a very neatly executed decorative band made up of fine milling. The excavations recovered two mouthpiece fragments, one from context (5001) and one from context (5006), both of which date from the seventeenth century. There are also three stem fragments from very close to the mouthpiece. Two of these have traces of green glaze that could date as late as *c.* 1910. There is also a stem fragment from context (1016) with a pinkish tinge

that appears to be the residue from a red wax or painted mouthpiece. The most diagnostic fragments are the bowl fragments and these include a number of early seventeenth century bowls. There are also fragments of bowls from the eighteenth and early nineteenth century.

Clay tobacco pipes have two significant attributes: their regional diversity allows them to be used to study trade and marketing contacts while differing qualities allow for an examination of social status. Although only one of the marked fragments can be attributed to a known pipe maker, it does go some way towards assessing the catchment area from which services and supplies may have been drawn.

Plain stems are difficult to date accurately. Stem bore dating techniques are based on the assumption that all pipe makers from any given period used the same diameter wire in the pipe making process. These methods require samples of several hundred fragments in order to produce a reliable date. Dates for plain stems have therefore been given as broad date ranges.

There are no stem fragments that are obviously from the short 'cutty' style pipes that were popular from *c.* 1850 onwards. A number of the stem fragments, however, are very small and given that there are glazed fragments that could date as late as *c.* 1910, the possibility that some of these smaller fragments are from short stemmed pipes can not totally be ruled out.

Of the 21 bowl fragments recovered, ten of them date from the seventeenth century, although there are also bowl fragments from the Transitional Period (*c.* 1690–1730) as well as the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

### **Animal bone**

By Sarah Viner

Excavations at Staveley Hall conducted by ARCUS have led to the collection of a small animal bone assemblage originating from medieval and seventeenth to twentieth century deposits. Animal bones came from the topsoil, numerous features associated with the structure of the hall, made ground surfaces and rubbish pits.

### ***Preservation***

The bones included in this analysis are well preserved and showed few signs of having been exposed to weathering. The assemblage contained large amounts of very fragmented non-countable bone, and a number of contexts had no countable elements despite a relatively large volume of bone fragments. The effect of scavengers, evidenced by gnawing marks on bones, appears to have been limited. Only four examples were observed from three contexts all located within Trench 4. All gnawing is consistent with that caused by canids (probably domestic dogs). The scarcity of gnawing points to the likelihood that bones were buried quickly on deposition. Burning was not apparent on any of the recovered bones.

### ***Overview of the assemblage***

In total 188 countable specimens were identified from a variety of contexts. The broad time-span covered by the Staveley Hall material requires that distinction be made between the remains found in contexts dated to different chronological periods. No single context or feature has provided an assemblage large enough to make individual

consideration profitable. Bones from each period will be grouped together and discussed in combination.

The majority of the bone material was recovered from modern topsoil contexts, with eighteenth century deposits containing the second greatest abundance. Most remains were of domestic species, particularly cattle and sheep/goat, but also including pig, equids, dogs and cats. Cattle are the most abundant large domestic species in the majority of periods.

Wild species included hare (*Lepus*) and deer, whereas the wild or domestic status of the rabbit (*Oryctolagus*) is difficult to establish. Using the morphological characteristics of Lister (1996), deer bones were identified as *Cervus elaphus* or *Cervus/Dama* (C/D). All of the specimens are relatively small in size but none could be securely identified as *Dama dama*. In contrast, 3 were confidently attributed to *Cervus elaphus*, but despite this the possibility still remains that both *Cervus elaphus* and *Dama dama* were present at the site. Deer were the most abundant wild animal at the site.

The rat (*Rattus*) bones that date to the seventeenth century probably belong to commensal animals.

Bird bones were not numerous, but along with domestic chicken (*Gallus gallus*), two other taxa were also represented. These were pigeon (*Columba*) and crow (*Corvus*). The crow was probably a scavenger, while the pigeon could have been domestic.

A single fish bone was recovered from context (4011). The bone was not identified to species level.

Butchery evidence is not prolific within the assemblage and only four examples were recorded as occurring on countable elements. Two of these were from topsoil contexts, and included cutting and sawing, a technique only employed on a broad scale for butchery in modern times. The other two examples both came from eighteenth century contexts, and showed signs of cutting and chopping activity.

No substantial body of data was retrieved for any of the periods. It is therefore not possible, without further material, to determine accurately the biometric characteristics of any taxa.

### **Discussion**

The relatively small size of the assemblage and its broad contextual and date variation makes it difficult to make any clear interpretation of the primary use of animals at the site at any particular time. In addition faunal assemblages from post-medieval sites are not common, and it can therefore be difficult to make meaningful comparisons. The domestic animals retrieved are what is expected from British archaeological sites of the periods in question, and the assemblage is really too limited to provide a clear idea as to the relative abundance of each of the domestic species. Cattle were in general more abundant than the smaller domestic food animals i.e. sheep/goat and pigs, but this might be a result of differential survival. The less robust bones and teeth of the smaller domestic species are often more easily destroyed than the relatively stronger and larger bones of cattle. The use of sheep was probably primarily for wool production until at least the mid seventeenth century, and although limited the presence of mostly adult animals during all periods supports the suggestion that sheep were not bred as meat animals.

Although butchery marks were not abundant on animal remains from the site, most of the taxa identified are those that would have been useful as a source of food. Horses

were probably not part of the diet and no evidence of butchery was found on horse bones but equids were commonly used as traction animals from the medieval period onwards (Clutton-Brock 1976, 383). In most of the periods under discussion it is unlikely that horses were used as food for human populations. In contrast there are archaeological examples of horse meat being used to feed dogs, for example at the eighteenth century site of Witney Palace (Wilson and Edwards 1993, 43–46). There is no such accumulation site at the site under discussion but the horses at Staveley may have been used as work animals before dying/being slaughtered and used as food for domestic dogs. Documents and plans relating to the Hall refer to kennels near the site.

The consumption of deer and other game was a preserve of the aristocracy, and even by the elite the use of deer as food was limited (Dyer 1989, 60–61). No butchery evidence was connected with the animals found at Staveley, and the elements recovered are not the ones that bear the most meat. However, the occurrence of deer bones in such a small assemblage might support the view of Staveley Hall as a high status site.

Both domestic dogs and cats are common occurrences on archaeological sites from the early medieval period and throughout the phases represented at Staveley.

There is no evidence to suggest that the animal bones at Staveley Hall have accumulated as the result of any process other than the disposal of food refuse. There is not a particularly large accumulation of faunal remains, no skeletal element is overrepresented, and there is not an abundance of evidence for butchery or bone working at the site. It does not appear to have been the site of any kind of processing or industrial activity relating to animals.

### ***Conclusion***

The assemblage from Staveley Hall is comprised of the species that are commonly found on British archaeological sites from these periods. However, the relatively small sample size and the broad chronological period over which the faunal assemblage is spread limits its interpretation.

Elite status at the site is perhaps suggested by the larger number of cattle specimens in most periods in comparison to sheep/goat remains (cattle being used to provide a source of both meat and milk, whereas meat was a secondary use of sheep until the mid eighteenth century). In addition the consumption of deer was largely a preserve of the aristocracy between the medieval period and the eighteenth century, though it is uncertain whether these bones were the remains of food debris.

The assemblage probably originates largely from food debris. There is no evidence to suggest any other factor in its deposition.

### **Glass**

By Dr. H. Willmott

### ***Introduction***

A total of 841 fragments of glass were recovered from the excavations, although the assemblage is highly fragmented and for the majority of pieces (801 in total) only a partial identification can be made. Furthermore, most came from common bottles or window glass, so have only been quantified and roughly categorised (Table 2 in the Archive). Twelve vessels, one object and three pieces of window glass are more

diagnostic and have been fully catalogued and are discussed in this report. The remaining 24 fragments are from glass waste, although the precise nature of its origins are uncertain.

### *Vessel glass and objects*

Even though the assemblage is highly fragmented, the number of table and more diagnostic wares present is surprisingly low. Fragments from only two drinking vessels can be identified, and due to their small size only general identifications made. The first, G1, is the rim from a small wine glass, although the rest of its form is impossible to reconstruct making precise dating difficult. However, stylistically this is likely to be nineteenth century in date. The other fragment, G2, is a small section of a lower goblet bowl made in a good quality clear soda-rich glass. Again difficult to date accurately, the quality of the metal suggests it was produced during the seventeenth century.

Two fragments, G3-4, are both rims from quite large bowls. However they are made in heavily green-tinted potash glass which must date to the first half of the seventeenth century, if not a few decades earlier. Of similar date and metal are two very finely blown sections of spherical body from a flask, G5-6, although due to the lack of more indicative portions such as the rim or base, little more can be said about these pieces. More diagnostic are fragments from four different phials. The first, G7, is the complete base from a small, squat, square phial, a characteristic type that can be dated to the latter half of the seventeenth or early eighteenth century. Of similar date is a small section of shoulder from a cylindrical phial, G8. The remaining two phials are slightly later and date to the late eighteenth to mid nineteenth centuries. G9 is a small section of rim in a green tinted glass, whilst G10 is made in a clear lead glass.

Whilst a large number of wine bottle fragments were found, most are undiagnostic, save from being broadly datable to within a century or so. There are, however, two exceptions, both being the impressed seal applied to the bottle. The first of these, G11, is the earlier of the two. Sufficient remains of the body to identify that it comes from a shaft and globe style, the earliest type of bottle and one datable to 1650–80. It is impressed with an armorial consisting of three stag heads. This is usually taken to be the arms of the Cavendish family; however this seal also includes two cornucopias which are not usually present in this particular family's crest. The second wine bottle seal, G12, is equally interesting. Impressed with the initials RM it also contains the date 1725. However, what is clear is that this seal has been clearly reused after the original bottle broke. The remaining body of the bottle has been carefully chipped away and both the external and internal faces of the seal show extensive patterns of wear consistent with it having been reused as a counter or token.

The final object, G13, is a very small lead glass seal, not from a bottle but possibly from a ring. It is impressed (and not cut) with a flower design, which suggests it is nineteenth century in date and not earlier. There are traces of metal residue around its edges where the ring would have held it, and its size would suggest that it was intended for a female.

### *Window glass*

As was the case with wine bottles, the majority of the window glass is highly fragmented and largely undiagnostic. However, there are three fragments which are



more characteristic. Two are seventeenth or early eighteenth century in date and allow for the reconstruction of their glazing pattern. The first, G14, retains two grozed edges and is the upper portion from a diamond quarry. The second, G15, also has two grozed edges surviving but from its overall shape can be identified as having come from a half-diamond or triangular quarry. These two shapes are typical for early post-medieval glazing patterns, where the central portion of the scheme consisted of interlocking diamonds, and the edges squared-off with half diamonds. The final piece of diagnostic window glass, G16, is later in date, and probably originates in the nineteenth century. Interestingly it retains the remains of five fine score marks, running exactly parallel and spaced about 2mm apart. The purpose of these is unclear, but is possible that this is an off-cut from glazing.

### *Glass waste*

A very small quantity of glass waste, 39g in total, was recovered from eight different contexts. All the glass is heavily green-tinted as a result of contamination from iron oxides, and superficially at least might appear to have been generated as the by-product of glassmaking. Certainly there are lumps and molten splashes that could have been formed during either vessel or window manufacture. However, on the basis of such a small assemblage it might just represent a quantity of finished glass that has subsequently become exposed to heat. Without supporting evidence in the form of crucible fragments or more diagnostic blowing waste it is hard to make any firm conclusions, but it does raise an interesting possibility that glassmaking was occurring close to, if not actually on, the site.

### *Conclusions*

Although the assemblage appears to be quite large it is also a highly fragmented one. Furthermore, most of the glass comes from ubiquitous bottle and window types, making accurate identification of the forms more difficult. There are surprisingly few diagnostic types, although the assemblage does include a range of seventeenth to nineteenth century vessels such as wine glasses, bowls and phials. Perhaps the most interesting items are the two wine bottle seals and the ring seal. Intriguingly there is also some very tentative evidence that glassmaking *may* have been being undertaken close by to the site, although this is far from certain. Maybe the most important aspect of the assemblage is that it demonstrates that glass is present from the seventeenth century onwards, and that should there be further excavations more substantial groups may well be found.

### *Catalogue of selected finds*

- G1** 1 fragment of rim from a small plain wine glass. Clear lead glass with light weathering. Rim diameter uncertain. Context (1016). 19th century?
- G2** 1 fragment of lower bowl from a plain wine glass. Clear mixed alkali or soda glass with light weathering. Context (2024). Early 17th century?
- G3** 1 fragment of rim with out-turned edge from a bowl. Green potasso-calcic glass with some weathering. Rim diameter uncertain. Context (5001). First half of the 17th century.
- G4** 1 fragment of rim with vertical edge from a bowl. Green potasso-calcic glass with some weathering. Rim diameter uncertain. Context (5006). First half of the 17th century.
- G5** 1 fragment of body from a flask. Green potasso-calcic glass with quite heavy weathering. Context (5011). First half of the 17th century.

- G6** 1 fragment of body from a flask. Green potasso-calcic glass with quite heavy weathering. Context (5006). First half of the 17th century.
- G7** 1 fragment of base with a low push-in from a small square phial. Green potasso-calcic glass with some weathering. Base diameter 26mm. Context (7001). Late 17th–early 18th century.
- G8** 1 fragment of shoulder from a cylindrical phial. Green potasso-calcic glass with very light weathering. Context (1001). Late 17th–18th century.
- G9** 1 fragment of rim from a cylindrical phial. Green potasso-calcic glass with very light weathering. Context (1004). Late 18th–19th century.
- G10** 1 fragment of base with a low push-in from a small cylindrical phial. Clear lead glass with no weathering. Base diameter 16mm. Context (5001). Late 18th–19th century.
- G11** 1 fragment of body and impressed seal from a shaft and globe wine bottle. The seal is decorated with a crest consisting of three stags head and two cornucopias, possible a variation of the Cavendish family arms. Green potasso-calcic glass with quite heavy light weathering. Context (5004). *c.* 1650–1680.
- G12** 1 fragment of impressed seal from an onion wine bottle. The seal is decorated with the initials RM and a date 1725. The fragment has clear been reused after breakage as a counter. Green potasso-calcic glass with very light weathering. Context (5001). *c.* 1725.
- G13** 1 fragment of a very small impressed seal. The seal is decorated with a single fronded flower, which appears to be impressed rather than engraved. There is also evidence that it was once held in a metal mount, probably a finger ring. Clear lead glass with little weathering. Context (4001). Possibly 19th century?
- G14** 1 fragment of window glass. Originally a diamond-shaped quarry with two grozed edges. Green potasso-calcic glass with medium weathering. Context (4010). 17th–18th century.
- G15** 1 fragment of window glass. Originally a triangular-shaped quarry with two grozed edges. Green potasso-calcic glass with medium weathering. Context (7001). 17th–18th century.
- G16** 1 fragment of window glass. There are the remains of five parallel scored lines on one surface, possibly a glazing off-cut. Clear soda glass with little weathering. Context (7001). Mid 19th–early 20th century.

### **Metalliferous slags and industrial process residues**

By Dr. R. Mackenzie

#### *General assessment of the assemblage*

478 fragments of slag were recovered from the excavations. The assemblage can be divided into two main groups; the first group consists of blast furnace slag, the second group consists of slags that possibly relate to bloomery iron smelting. Bloomeries were an early type of smelting furnace used from the Iron Age until the widespread adoption of the blast furnace during the seventeenth century. Unlike blast furnaces, bloomeries produced iron that could be forged straight from the furnace and, in some parts of the country, they continued in use until the early eighteenth century (Crossley 1990, 154). In general, bloomery smelting slags are far less common than iron smithing slags and their presence normally suggests that iron smelting was being carried out nearby.

Contexts (1018) and (2032) contain pieces of slag that pre-date the introduction of the blast furnace in Britain; this confirms that the slags must relate to bloomery iron production. Contexts (4028), (4030) and (5006) are pre-eighteenth century in date, these contexts are of particular interest as they contain both bloomery and blast furnace slags. The slags may relate to the period that saw the local transition from bloomery iron smelting to charcoal fired blast furnaces.

The abundance of blast furnace slag in later contexts is perhaps unsurprising given the proximity of Staveley Ironworks. Blast furnace slags make ideal hardcore for levelling and backfilling ground and their use is widespread.

Further analysis was carried out on samples of early slag, to determine whether they were produced by bloomery smelting or iron smithing.

#### *Further analysis of slag samples from early contexts*

Four samples of slag from contexts dating between the twelfth and thirteenth centuries were selected for further analysis.

During this period, iron was produced by a two stage process. Iron was extracted from the ore by smelting in bloomery furnaces. The resulting ball, or 'bloom', of iron produced by the furnace contained a high volume of slag. The volume of slag was reduced by reheating and hammering the bloom. This process is known as primary smithing. Primary smithing produced billets or bars of iron that could either be forged into finished artefacts by smiths on site, or sold on to other smiths as raw material. The manufacture of finished goods, or 'secondary smithing', also produced slag.

In some types of metal production, the slag and residues produced can easily be recognised as belonging to a specific process. However, iron smelting and smithing slags can be very difficult to differentiate on morphology alone, especially those from the post-Roman period. (Bachmann 1982, 31; McDonnell 2001, 163). A holistic approach is often the best practice. The morphology, chemical composition, macro-structure and microstructure of the slags, together with their archaeological context, should be considered together.

The main purpose of this analysis was to use scientific techniques to determine whether the slag was produced by bloomery smelting or iron smithing. Depending upon the identification of the slag, secondary aims were to establish whether smithing slags were produced by primary or secondary smithing, and for smelting slags, the efficiency of the furnace and, if possible, the type of ore being used to produce the iron.

Samples 1 to 3 were recovered from context (1018) and Sample 4 from context (2032). Pottery found in the contexts suggests that (1018) dates between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries, and (2032) between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries. The small size of the pottery assemblages means that some degree of residuality is possible; however these are securely stratified medieval deposits with no later material.

The compositions of the four specimens were broadly similar, with the main components being FeO, SiO<sub>2</sub> and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

*Sample 1* had a comparatively porous matrix and was the least dense slag of the four samples. The surface of the slag was rough and, in places, slightly ropey. The matrix was mid grey in colour and incorporated fragments of charcoal and voids left by decomposed charcoal. The morphology of this sample suggested that it was either furnace or smithing slag. Its microstructural features and composition point to it being a smithing slag. Sample 1 was found in the same context as smelting slags and this supports the physical evidence that this slag was produced by primary rather than secondary smithing.

*Sample 2* was a very dense slag, dark grey to black in colour. The slag had large voids close to its surface, probably caused by gases escaping whilst cooling. Its morphology suggested that this sample was a smelting tap slag. The microstructure and

composition of Sample 2 compared well to those of other bloomery tap slags (Challis 2002, 39; Whiteman and Okafor 2003). Both macro and microstructure suggest that it was produced by a single tapping event.

*Sample 3* was a relatively dense slag, dark grey to blue-black in colour with a coarse ropey flow-like texture to its upper surface. This slag was the closest morphologically to the classic bloomery furnace tap slags discussed by Bachmann (1982) and Morton and Wingrove (1969; 1972). The morphology and distinct boundaries seen in the microstructure of Sample 3 suggest that the slag was the results of at least two tapping events.

*Sample 4* was similar in colour to Sample 3 and it had a similar density. The slag had a relatively smooth surface, suggesting that it may have been tapped. The macrostructure and microstructure of Sample 4 bore a strong resemblance to Sample 2, suggesting that Sample 4 is a smelting slag. The amounts of CaO and K<sub>2</sub>O are also similar to those found in Samples 2 and 3.

### ***Discussion***

In bloomery iron smelting, slag components were added unintentionally as part of the ore (gangue minerals) or as deliberate additions to the charge (Craddock 1995). Even though iron ore was not found during the excavations, the microstructure and composition of slags reflect the ores used during smelting (Morton & Wingrove 1972), for example, the presence of the alumina rich spinel hercynite is inferred as being an indication of the use of carboniferous ores. As North Derbyshire iron ore is carboniferous and all of the specimens contained hercynite, it is likely that the slags were produced by the smelting of local iron ore.

A feature that is common to all three smelting slags is the relatively low amount of lime present, less than around 3.3 wt% CaO. The addition of lime gives a greater return of iron from the ore, but requires a higher furnace temperature to form a slag. Morton & Wingrove (1972) found values of between 6 and 10% for slags known to come from furnaces using additional lime. This supports the hypothesis that lime was not deliberately added during smelting.

The efficiency of the bloomery smelting process is indicated by the reduction of most of the iron oxides in the ore with any remaining iron oxides being incorporated into fayalite rather than as wustite in the microstructure of the slags (Morton & Wingrove 1972). The three smelting slags all have different amounts of wustite present. Sample 3 has the lowest volume of wustite present and appears to have been produced by a relatively efficient smelt. In contrast, Sample 2 contains a high abundance of wustite. From the limited number of specimens analysed it is not possible to compare the skill of the ironmakers at Staveley to other sites, although the results do serve to illustrate the variable nature of the bloomery iron smelting process and the difficulties in making generalisations about the effectiveness of ironmakers using by-products from an inherently variable process.

### ***Conclusions***

The combination of smelting and primary smithing slags suggests that bloomery ironmaking was being carried out at, or very close to, the site. The ironmakers used local iron ore and no lime appears to have been deliberately added to the furnace

charge. The low levels of lime in the slags suggest that the bloomery used natural draught or hand bellows rather than water powered bellows.

### **Metal finds**

By Dr. J. Unwin and Mr. K. Hawley

There were approximately 300 metal finds. The majority of items were unidentifiable, either fragmentary or heavily corroded. Few metal finds occurred in primary contexts; the majority were from mixed topsoil or made ground layers.

There were just over 100 identifiable metal finds in Trench 1, the majority coming from the topsoil and the area associated with the path. The majority of the finds were nails, including modern copper roofing nails. There were some personal items such as an enamelled cross and a souvenir from Helston, Cornwall both coming from the topsoil. Several coins were found ranging in date from an 1806 penny to a 1991 five pence piece.

In Trench 2 there was evidence of structural metalwork in the form of a hinge, melted lead and hand forged nails.

The most notable finds from Trench 3 were three lead shot (?) diameter *c.* 15mm. It would be interesting to think that these related to Civil War activity.

Trench 4 produced the largest number of metal finds, but these were largely unidentifiable, with the exception of several nails.

Identifiable finds in Trench 5 came from the topsoil (5001) and subsoil (5006). Two dated modern coins were found and another lead shot.

Little information can be drawn from the metal finds. Probably the most intriguing are the lead shot, which might have some connection with local activities during the Civil War period. There were pieces of metal relating to the fabric of the building, such as nails, a hinge and stay, plus a number of lead fragments. Some of the lead pieces appear to have melted at some time. Others are formed as double strips, probably encasing electric wiring, as early examples of damp-proofing wire.

### **Charred plant remains**

By Ellen Simmons

One soil sample was taken from context (7004), the fill of a medieval ditch [7003], and processed for charred plant remains using a water separation machine. The flot was collected in sieves of 1mm and 300µm mesh, and the remaining heavy residue retained in a 1mm mesh. The flot and heavy residue were dried and the heavy residue sorted by eye for organic remains and artefacts.

A preliminary assessment of the flot was made by scanning the >1mm and the >300µm fraction under a low power microscope, and recording the abundance of the main classes of charred plant material present on a scale of 1–5.

Charred wheat grain (*Triticum* sp.) was found to be present along with a small number of charred wild plant seeds. It is likely that the cereal grain became charred during crop processing or food preparation activities and the wild plant seeds originated from weeds growing in the arable fields that were harvested along with the crop.

## DISCUSSION

### Topography, terracing and preservation

The modern site is fairly level at 75.30–75.60m AOD around the surviving hall building and the front lawn. A gentle slope is discernible to the north and east, with values of 74.60m AOD around Trench 4 and 73.80m around Trench 5. The surface of the underlying natural sandstone suggests that this slope was originally more pronounced. Natural was reached 0.30–0.40m below the modern ground surface close to the surviving building and the church, and in the front lawn area close to the car park. Away from this plateau, presumably corresponding to the original hilltop, the natural surface sloped away to north and east, to 1.20m below ground at the eastern end of Trench 5, >1.20m at the northern end of Trench 4, and 0.95m at the northern end of Trench 2.

Terracing or levelling of the hilltop has therefore occurred, significantly levelling out the natural slope of the ground, and creating the drops in ground level associated with Duke Street to the east and the ‘ramparts’ to the west. Although construction of the ‘ramparts’ clearly represents a major episode of activity, it is possible that several different phases of levelling-up were encountered during the excavations. Certainly, the levelling deposits identified in Trenches 2, 4 and 5 are distinct in terms of the materials used, with apparent ironworking waste in Trench 2, silty coal-rich material in Trench 4 and a homogenous clay silt soil in Trench 5. The probable phasing of this activity will be discussed below.

It is possible, therefore, to discern a ‘core’ area of the site, corresponding to the original hilltop, and characterised by the presence of the natural sandstone clay within 0.40m of the modern ground surface. This area is occupied by the church, and by the footprint of the seventeenth century building, and was the location for much of the 2005 investigation. In this area, archaeological deposits were encountered very close to the modern ground surface, often directly below the turf. ‘Downslope’ areas of the site were subject to less investigation, but appear to be characterised by deeper deposits more than one metre in depth, partly deriving from intentional terracing and landscaping episodes.

In the core area, negative features pre-dating the seventeenth century hall were well-preserved below the footprint of the hall building, where they were cut into the natural surface and apparently not significantly truncated by later activity. Downslope areas were not significantly investigated, but good preservation of early features might be expected below terracing deposits, although later landscaping at the northern end of Trench 2 appeared to have truncated early features. No evidence for early structures was located, and no undisturbed soils or ground surfaces pre-dating the seventeenth century hall were identified. Again, the potential for *in situ* buried soils in downslope areas is probably greater than in the core area.

The 1604 hall building was subject to (at least) two episodes of demolition, and levels of preservation were therefore far from homogenous. In general, however, the building was truncated below ground floor level, and no evidence for cellarage was encountered. The surviving evidence therefore comprised wall footings, surviving to a maximum of four courses high, and the surrounding made-ground presumably introduced during construction of the building. Internal and external structural footings were encountered in the eastern part of the building below the front lawn; the absence of the northern

external wall probably reflects disturbance by later activity. The southern wing of the building appears to have been more comprehensively demolished, with the external wall entirely robbed out and no structural stonework remaining. In downslope areas there is some potential for the survival of fragments of yard surface contemporary with the hall building (as is probably the case in the Trench 2 extension and the cobbled surface [4004] at the northern end of Trench 4), and even greater potential for the survival of contemporary soils, landscaping deposits (northern ends of Trench 2 and Trench 4) and negative features (early eighteenth century pits in Trench 5).

Over the entire site, eighteenth and nineteenth century activity appears sparse, and this is confirmed by the rarity of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century pottery. Stone-lined drains encountered in Trenches 2 and 7 are likely to be associated with the reduced hall building after the early eighteenth century demolition episodes. The brick path and associated deposits in Trench 1 probably relate to nineteenth century garden landscaping.

To summarise, the core area of the site is likely to contain a well-preserved palimpsest of earlier activity, in the form of negative features cut into the surface of the natural. The structural plan of the seventeenth century hall, in the form of wall footings and robbed-out construction trenches, is superimposed on this earlier landscape. The downslope areas of the site are likely to contain deeper deposits, with enhanced potential for preservation of early deposits and features, though in places probably disturbed by landscaping episodes connected with the seventeenth century hall and later activity.

### **Medieval activity**

A number of features appeared to pre-date the seventeenth century hall building on ceramic or stratigraphic evidence: a substantial V-shaped ditch in Trench 1, small or truncated gullies in the northern extension to Trench 2, a NW-SE ditch in Trench 2 and the continuation of the same feature in Trench 7.

The substantial ditch in Trench 1 had however been deliberately backfilled in a single episode, probably some time between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries. The size, location and orientation of the ditch suggest a possible interpretation as a boundary feature between the church and an earlier hall or manor house to the north.

Pottery from the slighter ditches in Trenches 2 and 7 also confirms medieval activity on the site. These ditches were fully silted up before construction of the hall; indeed, wall footings in Trench 7 were laid directly onto the upper silts of [7003]. It is, however, possible that the rubble context [2002] represents a deliberate consolidation over ditch [2041] before construction. Although the silting of these ditches suggests a drainage function, the short sections excavated preclude any further interpretation.

Though the fills of [2041] and [7003] were wet at the time of excavation, analysis of soil samples showed no preservation of organic material. A few charred wheat grains were identified in the fill of [7003], along with charred wild plant seeds (see below); it is likely that this material derives from crop processing or food preparation on the site.

Shell tempered ware and other medieval pottery from these features places their construction and use between the eleventh and fourteenth centuries, perhaps therefore contemporary with the rock-cut ditch [1021]

Bloomery slags from ditches [1021] and [2041] include material from primary smelting and from the smelting process. This suggests that the full range of

ironworking processes was taking place on or very close to the site some time during the eleventh to fourteenth centuries. Bloomery material also occurs with blast furnace slag in seventeenth century contexts, suggesting that the changeover between the two processes occurred during the seventeenth century. The presence of this material may suggest continuity in local ironworking from the medieval period into the lifetime of the seventeenth century hall.

### **Construction of the 1604 hall**

A clear picture of the seventeenth century hall does not emerge from the scattered structural remains located during the excavations. However it is clear that significant structural evidence of this period does survive. Because the seventeenth century house was truncated below floor level during its demolition, no dressed stone remained *in situ*. However, substantial wall footings and a foundation trench were encountered. The evidence of the 1682 plan, supported by pottery from associated deposits, suggests strongly that the majority of these structures can be attributed to the seventeenth century hall.

External wall footings are likely to be represented by the robbed out foundation trench [1023] and possibly the substantial wall footings [7002], [7014] and [7017]. These structures are of similar dimensions, around 0.9m wide. [1023] confirms the southern extent of the building, while the structures in Trench 7 may form part of the eastern façade. The northern extent of the building is suggested by the marked change in deposits between Trench 2 and its northern extension, although no trace of this wall was identified, and the relevant archaeology may have been removed during insertion of a modern gas pipe. The external footings were mortared, with a pinkish lime mortar in [1023] and a yellowish lime mortar in [7002], and construction was of sandstone slab, roughly faced to each side, with a rubble core. Two fragments of millstone within [7002] had been re-faced to the outside of the wall, suggesting re-use of stone which may have been locally sourced. While [1023] had been excavated 0.32m into the sandstone bedrock, [7002] was only recessed 0.14m into the surface of the natural clay.

In Trench 4, the wall footings [4013], 0.75m wide, were less substantial than the external wall footings, and of drystone construction, with no evidence of mortar. However, the east-west alignment of the wall and the associated stratigraphy suggested a connection with the hall. If the footings in Trench 7 do represent part of the eastern external wall, then [4013] may be interpreted as part of an outbuilding, or as an external dividing wall. The cobbled path [4004] and wall [4002] are on a completely different alignment to the rest of the hall; these may represent part of an entranceway running towards the north-east.

The sunken feature [2027] in Trench 2, may also represent a robbed-out footing, perhaps relating to an internal feature such as a roof support. However, the stone slabbed base in this feature suggested a deliberate surface or lining, with no evidence of mortar or a rubble core. It is possible, therefore, that [2027] is an infilled sub-floor feature such as a stone-lined storage pit.

Due to the restricted dimensions of evaluation trenches, structural phasing within the seventeenth century building remains elusive. Slight differences in build were noted, such as the variations in mortar detailed above, but these may simply reflect differing



practices and preferences within a single large building project. Without further investigation to expose stratigraphic relationships between structures, it is not yet possible to assess whether the remains of the hall represent one phase or several.

Made-ground or landscaping events were noted in Trenches 2, 4 and 5; these episodes were apparently concerned with levelling of the natural slopes to the north and east of the hall. While the differing materials suggest several episodes, it appears that major levelling was carried out in preparation for the 1604 building, and also during its lifetime.

Fragments of melted lead and glass may be the result of fire, although no such episode is recorded in known documentary sources, and no clear spreads of burnt material were located in the excavation.

### **Demolition episodes**

Documentary evidence suggests that the eastern part of the house was probably demolished during the early eighteenth century, with the southern end of the remaining structure removed in the 1840s. In both cases, the building was demolished to below ground-floor level, which may have been raised above the contemporary external ground level. Preservation of structures and deposits relating to the building is patchy. Three or four courses of substantial footings survive in parts of the eastern area, along with contemporary made-ground deposits apparently introduced around the footings at the time of construction. However, the northern external wall was not located, suggesting that it may have been completely removed during demolition or as a result of later disturbance. The southern part of Trench 2, corresponding to an area thought to be internal to the building, recovered no structural evidence at all. The southern external wall, where encountered in Trench 1, had been completely robbed of stone, with only mortar patches remaining in the foundation trench.

It is likely that all the dressed stone from the building was sold on and removed as part of the demolition process. The only dressed stones encountered during the excavation had been re-used as edging for the late brick path in Trench 1. It is possible that these blocks were originally part of the hall building. Spreads of sandstone rubble possibly deriving from the demolition of the eastern part of the house were encountered in the upper layers of Trench 4. In Trench 1, mortar and rubble spreads had been used as a base for the later brick path.

The ceramic assemblage supports the proposed chronology of demolition. Late eighteenth and nineteenth century material is relatively rare over the eastern part of the site, and is absent from securely stratified deposits. This is wholly consistent with the demolition of this part of the building during the early to mid eighteenth century. Nineteenth century pottery is much more common in Trench 1, and is present within layers apparently associated with demolition and subsequent landscaping. This supports the suggestion that the southern wing of the building was not demolished until the 1840s.

### **Later activity**

The two sandstone drains located in the front lawn area appear to be of eighteenth century date, and probably represent the provision of improved drainage to the reduced hall, flowing downslope to the east. The brick path [1002] and associated

features attest to late nineteenth century landscaping after the demolition of the southern end of the house, and possibly to the creation of formal garden beds edged with re-used stone. Compressed ash and cinder were also used for surfacing in this area.

### Conclusions

Evaluation trenching was carried out to the east and south of the surviving buildings of Staveley Hall in order to assess the character, preservation and potential of the surviving deposits.

Medieval activity on the site was represented by a number of ditches, including a substantial V-shaped feature. Shell tempered pottery from these features, and other stratified medieval pottery, places construction and use of these features within the eleventh to fourteenth centuries. Residual medieval pottery dating from the twelfth century onwards is present in later deposits. Iron smelting and smithing was taking place on site during this period, and may have continued during the lifetime of the seventeenth century hall. The precise nature of medieval activity is not yet clear, although the size of the ditch in Trench 1 may suggest a boundary ditch between the churchyard and a precursor of the hall.

Significant levelling of the site has taken place, with made-ground deposits introduced downslope from the natural hilltop. Much of this material appears to have been introduced around the seventeenth century, probably in association with construction of the 1604 hall. Some later landscaping also took place during the eighteenth century, involving deposits of blast furnace slag and other industrial waste.

Substantial structural footings survive in parts of the front lawn area, relating to internal and external walls of the main seventeenth century hall building, the footings of an entrance stairway, and also to outbuildings and peripheral structures. This limited sample of the structure precludes a detailed assessment of phasing or spatial arrangement at the present. It is notable, however, that the entrance stairway was encountered exactly where shown on the plan of the building dated 1682, thus at least partially confirming the accuracy of the plan. Animal bone from this period derives from food preparation and is consistent with a high-status site, with cattle bone more numerous than sheep/goat. The status of the occupants is also indicated by their access to fashionable new pottery styles during the earlier part of the eighteenth century, and it is notable that this pattern does not continue into the later part of the century. Contexts containing both bloomery and blast furnace slag probably date to the seventeenth century, and may suggest that iron smelting took place on, or very close to the site during the lifetime of the hall building.

Demolition of the eastern part of the hall probably took place in the early eighteenth century. Direct evidence for this process was scarce, although material culture from contexts probably associated with demolition was consistent with this date. It is not clear whether demolition occurred piecemeal or in a single phase. No trace remained of the northern external wall in this area; the stonework may have been completely removed during demolition, or during insertion of a modern gas pipe. Eighteenth century drains in this area probably post-date demolition, providing drainage and/or sewerage from the reduced hall building.

Demolition at the southern end of the hall took place during the 1840s, and appears to have been a more comprehensive process than the earlier episodes, with all structural

stonework and footings removed. The robbed-out foundation trench of the southern external wall was encountered; associated material culture was consistent with the suggested demolition date.

### Further work

The 2005 evaluation exercise established the presence of a multi-phase landscape, with medieval activity including early ironworking and structural remains of the seventeenth to early eighteenth century hall. The results of this initial investigation informed the research aims for a second season of archaeological investigation of the site in 2006. A further report is in preparation.

The site archive will be deposited in Chesterfield Museum, under accession number 2005.157.

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