BALANCE STREET,
UTTOXETER,
STAFFORDSHIRE:



AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION





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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD R12032

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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BALANCE STREET, UTTOXETER, STAFFORDSHIRE:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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ABSTRACT

An archaeological Evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at Balance Street, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire between the 16th and 18th February 2015. The Evaluation was commissioned by Paul Clark of CgMs on behalf of RJK. The evaluation identified a late 17th-early 18th century rubbish pit within the north east corner of the site and several cellars belonging to houses that once fronted Balance Street during the 19th and 20th centuries. The rest of the site has been heavily truncated during the 20th century developments within the site boundaries.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at Balance House, Balance Street, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, ST14 8JE (NGR SK 09964 06645) as part of a condition for planning application P/2014/01011 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client RJK, in response to discussions with Stephen Dean, the Historic Environment Officer (HEO) for Staffordshire County Council, regarding the appropriate archaeological intervention. This was determined to be archaeological evaluation.
- 1.1.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which was approved by the Historic Environment Officer for Staffordshire County Council. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the WSI.

1.2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

1.2.1 The study area, centred on NGR SK 09964 06645 (Figure 1), covers an area approximately 0.21 hectares comprising demolition debris form the former care home that had occupied the site until recently a carpark area and access road. The site is situated approximate 100 metres to the south-west of Uttoxeter Town Centre, flanked by 30 Balance Street to the west. The site is bound to the north by a residential area known as Chartley Court, to the east is the Black Swan Public House and a set of retail premises including an electrical contractor. The southern limits of the development are demarcated by Balance Street (Figure 2).

1.3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.3.1 Geology: The subject site is characterised by the bedrock formation of Mercia Mudstone Group Mudstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed during the Triassic periods, when the area was previously a hot desert. Overlaying this are Glaciofluvial Deposits of sand and Gravel formed during the Quaternary Period when the local environment was previously dominated by ice age conditions. (British geological Survey www.bgs.ac.uk)
- 1.3.2 **Topography:** The subject site is located within the town of Uttoxeter, on the north side of Balance Street, c.35.2m west of it junction with Market Street, approximately 100m south-west of Uttoxeter town centre. At the time of the evaluation the site was undergoing demolition work, to remove all previous buildings from the site. The ground conditions across the site consisted of undulating demolition rubble, except for a small tarmac car park located within the south-east corner of the site. The site is situated within a gradually slopping landscape,

sloping southwards towards Picknal Brook. A spot height taken at the entrance to the site was recoded at c. 87.08m AOD

1.4 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.4.1 This archaeological and historical background is based on information compiled within the, Staffordshire's County Councils, 'Uttoxeter Historic Character Assessment' 2011.

1.4.2 Prehistoric (General)

1.4.1.1 There is no evidence for activity in the prehistoric period within the town of Uttoxeter.

1.4.3 Roman 43 – 410AD

1.4.3.1 There is no evidence for activity in the Roman period. The only Roman artefact to be found within Uttoxeter is a single Roman coin that may have been deposited at a later date.

1.4.4 Anglo-Saxon 410 - 1066AD

1.4.4.1 The only evidence for settlement in Uttoxeter in this period is its inclusion in the Domesday Book which notes the land was held at this time by the Earl of Mercia. Its inclusion in the Domesday Book indicate a settlement must have been established here within the late Saxon/early medieval period. In 1086 Uttoxeter is recorded as being called *Wotocheshede* – thought to derive from the old English meaning *Wittuc's Heath*.

1.4.5 Medieval 1066 - 1485AD

- 1.4.5.1 Uttoxeter is recorded in the Domesday Book; 'Earl Algar held ½ hide, land for 10 plough. In lordship 2, with 1 slave. 24 villagers and 11 smallholders with 11 ploughs. Meadow 16 acre Woodland 2 leagues long and as wide'. In the mid-13th century the Earl of Darby was granted a Charter to hold a market in the town, a further Borough Charter was also granted in 1225. Many of the medieval town plan components; Church, Market Place and Street plan, are still visible today. Balance Street is believed to be part of the medieval street plan, with Burgess Plots on both sides of the street.
- 1.4.5.2 A number of archaeological interventions have taken place within the town, uncovering evidence for medieval activity. An archaeological observation to the rear of Bridge Street identified two burgess plot boundaries. One of the boundary ditches produced 12th and 13th century pottery. A further watching brief undertaken at 48-50 High Street uncovered medieval pottery and a pit dated to the 13th -14th century. A number of historic building with medieval features still stand in the market place including, the 14th century Church of St Mary. The origins of the is church are thought to pre-date the Borough charter of 1225, but the church fabric dates for the 14th century, suggesting a possible rebuild during the 1300's.

1.4.6 Post- medieval 1485-1900

1.4.6.1 Uttoxeter has a wealth of historic buildings dating from the 16th – 19th century. Historic maps consulted during the Building Survey, undertaken by PCA on the site (2014), highlighted a number of large and small tenement plots covering the site during the 1800's. Archaeological interventions within the town have uncovered 17th and 18th century pottery, also possible evidence for butchery at 48-50 High Street.

2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to address the following objectives:

- To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological remains affected by the investigation.
- To assess where appropriate the ecofactual and palaeoenvironmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the site.
- To provide sufficient information to allow informed discussions regarding the scope for further archaeological intervention across the site.

In addition, the evaluation aimed to address the following research questions:

- To set the site and its potential archaeological remains into the context of the wider landscape
- To confirm the presence or absence of any Saxon activity or settlement within in the site that may relate to the pre 1086 settlement recorded in the Domesday Book;
- To confirm the presence or absence of any medieval activity within the site particularly associated with possible burgess plot remains along Balance Street.
- To confirm the presence or absence of post-medieval activity relating to early maps of the area.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The site was evaluated through three 2m wide rectangular trenches measuring between 10m and 18m in length and an additional fourth L shaped trench 2-3m wide. This totalled c.56.4m of trenching across the site (Figure 2). Due to services and restricted space/access, Trench 5 (see WSI) was not evaluated. However, to compensate this Trench 4 was widened and placed at an angle to maximise the coverage within this area.
- 3.1.2 Each trench was excavated using 20 tonne tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Plate 2). The overlying demolition debris were excavated down to the archaeological horizon or the natural geological horizon, whichever came first.
- 3.1.3 Exposed archaeological features and deposits were cleaned as necessary to define them using hand tools.
- 3.1.4 Limits of all excavation areas, pre-excavation and post-excavation plans of archaeological features and heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) were recorded using a Leica 1200 Global positioning System (GPS) rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 3.1.5 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).
- 3.1.6 All features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.
- 3.1.7 Drawn records are in the form of survey plans, drawn plans and section drawings of all archaeological features at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 and 1:50) while all individual deposits and cuts were recorded as written records on PCA Pro-forma context sheets.
- 3.1.8 Linear features were investigated by means of full excavation across their exposed widths within the trench. If stratigraphic relationships between features were not visible in plan, slots were positioned to determine inter-feature relationships.
- 3.1.9 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital Photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits.

3.2 POST FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

- 3.2.1 English Heritage's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (EH 2006) was used as the framework for post-excavation work.
- 3.2.2 The archive from the mitigation works is currently held by PCA at their office in Market Harborough, Leicestershire. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, the site archive will be deposited with the Staffordshire Museum Service, under an Accession Number 2014.LH.77

3.3 THE CONTEXTS

3.3.1 A unique context number was assigned to each distinguishable depositional event. There were thirty nine contexts, including layers, deposits, features, structures and surfaces. They are presented in table form in the appendix (see Appendix 1). There was a single cut features found during the investigation that produced pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material, glass, iron and clay tobacco pipes, along with a scattering of artefacts found within adjacent layers, deposits and structures encountered across the site. Specialist reports have been obtained on these artefacts to attempt to ascertain the significance of these, and the results are given in Section 5.

4. THE RESULTS

4.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits (Figures 3, 4 & 6)

4.1.1 The natural deposits encountered during the Evaluation consisted of friable, mottled reddish brownish orange sand and water-worn pebbles (contexts **102**, **202**, **312**, and **411**) that was identified in all four trenches (sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 respectively). The top of the natural was recorded at its highest point of 88.85m aOD in the northeast corner of the site (Trench 1). The natural layer represents the 'Glaciofluvial' deposits of sands and gravels as depicted by the British Geological Survey. The top of the natural drops steadily southwards across the site recorded at 86.85m aOD in the southeast corner (trench 4). This highlights the once sloping topography of the landscape.

4.2 Phase 2: Late 17th –early 18th century (1650 – 1720) Figure 3 & 6

- 4.2.1 The earliest human activity on the site is represented by a pit [103] cut in to the natural within Trench 1. The pit had vertical cut sides, rounded corners, and a flat base which contained a single fill (104). The pit was 1.26m deep, appeared sub circular in plan aligned southeast northwest however, the full extent of the pit is unclear as it extended beyond the limits of Trench 1 (Figure 3). The moderately compact, black charcoal & clinker sandy silty fill (104) contained a wealth of archaeological material. Seven pottery types were identified from the seventy—three fragments recovered that included; yellow ware, trailed Slip ware and Tin-glazed earthenware. All the fragments were from table wares consisting of bowls, cups, storage jars and butter ports (Rátkai 5.1) dating from the mid-17th early 18th century. Worthy of note within the collection was a single residual abraded fragment from a 13th or 14th century cooking pot.
- 4.2.2 Forty two fragments of clay pipe were encountered within this pit, including six bowl fragments, three of which were stamped. The stamps were all made by pipe makers working in Staffordshire between 1660 and 1730 (Trott 5.2). The limited bone assemblage from the pit was recovered in poor condition, of this small assemblage, six loose teeth, a mandible fragment, part of a distal humerus and the shaft of a metatarsus from cattle were identified (Rielly 5.5). A single iron nail and four small fragments of glass from two drinking vessels were also recovered from the pit.
- 4.2.3 All the material recovered from the pit suggests it is likely to have been in use for the disposal of domestic rubbish between the late 17th early 18th century. An environmental sample taken from the fill highlighted this feature contained a large amount of charcoal & charred wood

fragments as well as coal burning residues that can be associated with domestic hearth waste (Fryer 5.6), no plant macrofossils were recovered from the sample.

4.2.4 A narrow band of dark brown sandy loamy buried topsoil **(105 & 410)** with inclusions of water worn pebbles was encountered within trenches 1 & 4 as well as within the north-western corner of the site (section 4, 6 & 7). A single fragment of late 17th-mid 18th century pottery and clay tobacco pipe stem were recovered from a buried topsoil **105** both dated to the early–mid 18th century.

4.3 Phase 3: 19th century (1800 - 1899) Figure 4 & 6

- 4.3.1 The 19th century occupation on the site is represented in the form of cellars and drains encountered within Trenches 3 and 4, located within the southern portion of the site, close to Balance Street. A brick culvert [310] was cut [308] through a layer of redeposited natural (311) into the natural in Trench 3. This culvert, 0.2m wide by 0.1m high, was of simple brick construction comprising; a single layer of brick on the base laid side on, rows of mortared bricks laid end to end formed the sides, then caped with a further set of mortared bricks laid side on. The back fill (309) of the culvert comprised a mid-brown course sandy silt with occasional water worn pebbles. Sealing the culvert were a set of bedding layers a lowest layer comprised of a dark brown back sandy loam (307) and an upper layer of course mid brownish grey sand (306), these layers formed a level base for the brick cellar floor [305]. At the eastern end of the cellar floor are the remains of the cellar wall (304), the western portion of the cellar floor has been truncated during recent demolition works on the site, resulting in only 2.5m of the cellar floor remaining. No datable material was recovered although the bricks are thought to be pre-brick tax size (1785 AD), but the mortar used in the construction of the culvert and cellar are typical of the 19th century 'hard mortar' suggesting the bricks have been reused.
- 4.3.2 A large portion of a cellar wall **[407]** and cellar floor **[412]** was uncovered within the central portion of trench 4. The construction cut for the cellar **[405]** was recorded on the north-west and south-west sides of the building. A moderately compact, mid brown sandy silt with small pebbles formed its backfill **(406)** within the construction cut. Seven conjoining fragments of a 19th century yellow ware bowl base were recovered from the backfill, suggesting the cellar was constructed within the 19th century. A small investigation below the floor revelled it sealed an infill of black clinker rich ash/coal, estimated to be over 0.50m deep, suggesting the cellar was once a deeper structure. A brick culvert **[413]** abutted the southwest corner of the cellar running north south towards Balance Street. The culvert had silted up with a friable dark grey silty sand containing seven fragments from the lower portion of a 19th century wine bottle,

- which were recovered from the culvert fill **(416)**. The cellar is aligned parallel to Balance Street but set back from the street suggesting it was a cellar at the rear of the house.
- 4.3.3 A further brick structure **[418]** was identified 1.22m to the north-west of the cellar. Only the north-east corner of the structure was visible within the evaluation trench. A small investigation, following the removal of a brick, revealed a void stretching beyond the limits of the evaluation trench. The structure exhibited a brick vaulted ceiling and curved wall suggestive of a well that was infilled with rubble. Immediately north-east of the well within the north-east facing edge of the trench was a three to four course brick wall **(409)**. The wall runs perpendicular to Balance Street.

4.4 Phase 4: Modern (1900 - Present) Figures 3-6

- 4.4.1 All the features and structures within the site were sealed by a series of modern demolition layers. The site appears to have undergone several periods of demolition and rebuilding within the 20th century. The earliest demolition activity is most likely associated with the buildings that once stood over the cellars with in trench 3 and 4. The cellar within Trench 3 was sealed buy a loose greyish red, brick and mortar demolition rubble (302) containing slate, window glass and decayed wooden window frame fragments. The cellar within trench 4 contained a light greyish brown sandy silt intermixed with brick, tile and large fragments of window glass and green floor lino (408). A further demolition rubble (404) sealed all of the features within Trench 4. Both rubble layers are likely to be associated with the demolition of the house that once stood above cellar (407). Sealing the whole trench of Trench 4 was a series of bedding layers (403) and (402) for the modern tarmac surface (401).
- 4.4.2 A demolition layer **(303)** was encountered to the west of cellar floor (305) within Trench 3, it contained large fragments of concrete, brick, window glass and a single fragment of residual slipware pottery. This demolition layer is associated with the backfilling of further cellars during the construction of Balance House Care Home.
- 4.4.1 The uppermost layer sealing Trenches 1, 2 and 3 is the modern overburden (101, 201 & 301) resulting from the recent demolition of Balance House Care Home. This modern overburden lay directly over the natural in central portion of the site (Trench 2).

5. THE FINDS

5.1 POTTERY AND CBM by Stephanie Rátkai

Introduction and methodology

The pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) were catalogued and quantified by sherd/fragment count and weight, and dated. The pottery is catalogued by ware type (not by fabric) following classifications used in the post-medieval pottery reference collection held at Stoke-on-Trent Museum. A fuller description of post-medieval wares can be found in Rátkai (2009). The catalogue data are stored on an Excel worksheet Appendix 2.

The historic character assessment of Uttoxeter (Shaw and Taylor 2011) suggests that Balance Street was part of the historic medieval core of Uttoxeter. However, there was only a single sherd of pottery – no more than a 1g chip - that pre-dated the 17th century; this was a medieval cooking pot body sherd of local type, probably dating to the 13th or 14th century. Most of the pottery and CBM derived from post-medieval pit 103, to the rear of Balance House, and is discussed in detail below. Trench 3 demolition deposit [303] contained a residual, trailed slipware, flange-rim bowl sherd (c1640-1700). In Trench 4 construction cut 405 contained a 19th-century, yellow ware bowl base. These late factory-produced yellow wares were used for basic kitchen and storage wares.

Description

The Pottery and CBM from Pit 103

Nine pottery types were identified. Table 1 shows the pottery and CBM, and suggests the likely date range for them on this site. Seven pottery types could be classed as those used primarily for table wares and are all well known in the region. The remaining two pottery types were coarsewares, used for basic utilitarian vessels such as wide-mouthed bowls and jars. Identification of some of the sherds was hampered either by their small size and/or heavy abrasion which had removed some surfaces completely. The average sherd weight was 11g, which, along with the abrasion noted on some sherds, suggests that the pit fill was not a primary deposition. Strangely, however, only one sherd (from a feathered slipware platter) was picked up from the garden soil 105, perhaps the obvious source for backfill material for the pit.

In terms of vessel function (Table 2) the dominant form was the jar and in particular butter pots. These were often tall, cylindrical containers with a highly fired clay body. They were used, as the name suggests, as containers for butter produced in the Staffordshire uplands and were a convenient way of transporting butter to market. The production of butter pots was a mainstay of the Burslem kilns in the 17th and 18th centuries. Weatherill (1971, 77) notes ' The sale of butter pots was confined to within about 15-20 miles of Burslem. The chief market was Uttoxeter. Here they were filled with butter, for

sale to dealers from London.' The trade in butter pots is reported to have continued until the 1780s. The butter pots demonstrate the importance of dairying in the area's economy. Other utilitarian wares were represented by a wide-mouthed bowl, which would have had numerous uses in the kitchen environment, and a strainer (or colander).

Table wares consisted of drinking vessels and bowls. It is unfortunate that these were very fragmentary and there is little to be said about them as a functional class.

Most of the pottery is likely to have come from the Staffordshire Potteries – Burslem, for example, traded in coarseware, blackware and slipwares (Weatherill 1971, 77) - but other sources, such as Ticknall, Derbyshire cannot be ruled out for the yellow wares for example. There was a surprising overlap in the marketing areas of the large 17th and 18th century pottery producers (Spavold and Brown, 122-135). The plain, undecorated tin-glazed earthenware bowl is less likely to have been made locally.

In addition to the pottery there were 31 fragments of flat roof tile. One fragment was from a tile with a central nib and it is likely that the other fragments were from nibbed tiles. One tile fragment had a heavy patch of soot on the un-sanded face of the tile and over the break. The tiles are not closely datable. There were also three substantial brick fragments. Two of these had a hard- or over-fired dark purplish-red fabric and could be matched to complete bricks salvaged from the excavation from context 304, the probable cellar wall of 18 Balance Street. These bricks have been recorded separately (Table 3). Parliament specified brick dimensions of 8½"x4"x2½" (215mm x 102.5mm x 65mm) in the 18th century. Although none of the brick measurements given in Table 3 match these specifications exactly, the thickness of the bricks is such as to suggest that they pre-date the Brick Tax of 1784. The third brick fragment had a poorly mixed, streaky fabric with ill-sorted, often very large grits. This could not be matched to any of the salvaged bricks.

Discussion

The pottery from Balance House is typical of urban assemblages of the late 17th or early 18th century. A similar range of pottery was found on Northfield Avenue, Rocester (personal inspection by author) and also included fragments of butter pots.

Although some of the pottery could date to the early or mid-17th century, when viewed as a whole, it seems most likely that the group from pit 103 dates at its earliest to the late 17th century. This would be consistent with the Deed of Exchange of 1703 (Garwood 2015, 8) when a house on the site is first reported. As noted above, the pottery is not a primary deposition and sometime could have elapsed between the purchase and use of the pottery and its eventual breakage and discard. Given the presence of CBM in pit 103, it seems likely that the brick and tile, and the pottery were deposited at a

time of construction, reconstruction or demolition. The documentary record and historic building recording, provides three possible time-frames for this: the first decade of the 18th century when a 'building recently erected' is mentioned, the second the middle or late 18th century when Balance House was 'improved' or the third when the domestic dwelling became a Coach House towards the end of the 18th century.

Although the assemblage is small, the absence of wares such as white salt-glazed stoneware (1720s-1760/70s and Creamware (1750s-1790s) would be odd for a prosperous urban dweller, especially given the proximity of the major manufacturers of these wares in the Staffordshire Potteries, if the contents of the pit 103 were deposited after the 1740s. It therefore seems most likely that the pit was backfilled in the first decade of the 18th century, although a decade later is not impossible. The flat roof tile from the pit group is difficult to date with any exactitude but the historic building report on Balance House (Garwood 2015, 19, 7.4) suggests that the original house had a roof of ceramic or stone tile. It therefore seems more than likely that the roof tile and other CBM in pit 103 represent building materials used in the original construction of Balance House.

Ceramic Type	Date	Count	Weight
Medieval cooking pot	13th-14th c	1	1
Post-Medieval Tablewares			
Blackware	17th-mid 18th c	7	15
Yellow ware	17th-early 18th c	12	86
Yellow ware?	17th-early 18th c	1	5
Feathered slipware	later 17th-mid 18th c	1	5
Trailed slipware	mid 17th-early 18th c	3	26
Slip-coated ware	later 17th-18th c	2	23
Slipware?	later 17th-mid 18th c	1	9
Mottled ware	later 17th-18th c	1	7
Tin-glazed earthenware	17th-18th c	2	9
Coars eware/MP/Blackware	17th-mid 18th c	1	4
Post-Medieval Utilitarian Wares			
Coarseware/MP	17th-18th c	21	307
Coarseware	17th-18th c	7	151
Ceramic Building Material			
Flat rooftile	Post-medieval	31	1792
Brick	18th c	46	2696
Fired clay	?	1	28
Total		138	5164

Table 1: Quantification of pottery and CBM from Pit 103

Vessel Form	mug/cup	hollow ware	bowl flange-rim	bowl bead-rim	bowl other	wide-mothed bowl	strainer	storagejar	butterpot	unknown
Ceramic Type										
Blackware	5 (-)									2 (-)
Yellow ware	1 (-)			1(1)	2 (-)			3 (2)		6 (-)
Yellow ware?					1 (-)					
Feathered slipware	?1 (-)									
Trailed slipware			1 (-)		1 (-)					1 (-)
Slip-coated ware			1(1)				1 (-)			
Slipware?										
Mottled ware		1 (-)								
Tin-glazed earthenware					2(-)					
Coarseware/MP/Blackware	?1 (-)									
Coarseware/MP									21 (3)	
Coarseware						1 (-)		4 (-)	2(1)	
Total	8 (-)	1 (-)	2(1)	1(1)	6 (-)	1 (-)	1(-)	7 (2)	23 (4)	9 (-)

Table 2: Vessel Function by sherd count (rim count)

ctxt	Description	Brick type	Dimensions in mm
304	Remains of balance house wall	unfrogged	225 x 108 x 70
305	Yard surface	unfrogged	237 x 115 x 70
310	Culvert	unfrogged	230 x 115 x 54
407	Cellar wall	unfrogged	222 x 111 x 55
412	Floor surface	unfrogged	232 x 112 x 65
413	Culvert	unfrogged (odd shape)	240 x 102 x 58
413	Culvert	unfrogged (odd shape)	240 x 100 x 58

Table 3: Complete bricks salvaged from the excavation

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5.2 CLAY PIPE by Kevin Trott

Introduction

In total forty-three fragments of polished clay tobacco pipes were recovered from the archaeological investigations, consisting of six bowl fragments, thirty-four stem fragments and a single mouth-piece. The assemblage contains two stamped or moulded marked bowls and a single stamped heel mark dating from the late 17–early 18th century.

Discussion

Most of the clay pipe assemblage from the site was recovered from a single fill (104) from a pit [103], with a single stem being recovered from the garden soil (105). This group of pipes came from the excavation of a single pit and overlying garden soil contained within the eastern limits of Trench 1 and spans the late 17-early 18th century. It was noted during the study of these pipe fragments that several stem pieces, bowls and a stem/heal were exhibiting heat damage caused by exposure to direct heat or a fire than the ash & coal-rich deposit that they were excavated from.

Of the forty-two clay pipe fragments from (104) the three marked bowl/heals represented three different makers; C R (Charles Riggs of Newcastle-Under-Lyme); Broseley Type 4, C B (Charles Baddeley of Newcastle-Under-Lyme); Broseley Type 2b & an unidentified maker who partially-stamped either an R or K on the heal of a Broseley Type 3. These pipe makers were working in Staffordshire between 1660 to 1730. The dates are also supported by the pipe bowl profile typology characterised by Oswald 1975. The remainder of the bowl assemblage included a plain pipe bowl of Broseley Type 1A dated to c.1660-1680 and the heal and lower bowl of a Broseley Type 5c, attributed to a c.1680-1730 date.

The remainder of the tobacco pipe assemblage consisted of polished stems and a single mouth fragment, no refitting pieces could be identified during the initial study.

Context (105) contained a plain stem of a style/size that was attributable to the early-mid 18th century date.

Table 1: Clay Tobacco Pipe Inventory

Context	Total	Weight (g)	Туре	Description	Date Range
104	1	5	Broseley Type 1a	Fresh with heat	1670-1680
			Bowl with plain	staining on exterior	
			heal, broken bowl,		
			no rim		
104	1	9	Broseley Type 2b	Fresh-slightly abraded	1660-1680
			Bowl with plain	with soil staining on	
			heal, milling on rim	exterior, rim chipped	
			& makers mark CB		
			the back of the		
			bowl		
104	1	11	Broseley Type 3	Fresh with heat	1680-1730

			Bowl with K or R on the heal, milling on rim	staining on exterior, chipped rim	
104	1	11	Broseley Type 4 Bowl with plain spur and makers mark CR on the back of the bowl	Fresh with soil staining on exterior	1690-1730
104	1	4	Broseley Type 5c 'Bowl' with plain heal	Fresh with soil & heat staining on exterior	1680-1730
104	2	2	Bowl fragments	Fresh with burning patches on exterior	17 th century
104	33	81	Plain stems	Fresh-slightly abraded with some soil & heat staining	17 th Century
104	1	1	Plain mouth piece	Fresh with some soil staining	17 th Century
105	1	1	Plain stem	Fresh	18 th Century

Recommendations

The clay tobacco pipe assemblage is in a very good condition with an excellent late 17th-early 18th century group from Context (104). The assemblage was associated with other dateable artefacts that include pottery and glass. These pipe fragments should be retained for future study with the remainder of the archive.

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5.3 GLASS by Kevin Trott

Introduction

In total four fragments of thin clear glass from a drinking vessel was recovered from the fill (104) of pit [103] within Trench 1. Seven fragments from a single dark green wine bottle were recovered from the fill (416) of the brick Culvert [416] within Trench 4.

Discussion

The four small fragments of clear glass from pit [103] derived from at least two drinking vessels of unknown form. The fragments all derived from tightly curved walls relating to potential wine glasses, the dating of the associated finds (pottery and clay tobacco pipes) suggest the glass dates from the mid-17th-early 18th century.

The seven large fragments recovered from the fill of the brick culvert [416] were probably from the lower portion of a single wine bottle. The fragments from the base with a parabolic basal profile suggest a late 18th-early 19th century date, the presence of mortar attached to several of the fragments indicate it was probably discarded in the 19th century.

Recommendations

The glass assemblage was recovered from slightly waterlogged/wet conditions and following initial washing off of the surrounding soil, it has been re-bagged wet and sent to an archaeological conserver to stabilise the glass for long term storage.

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5.4 METALWORK by Kevin Trott

Introduction

Two single conjoining iron fragments from a single nail was recovered from the mid-17th-early 18th century pit [103]. The iron nail (Context 104), comprised a corroded square headed nail and shank from a utilitarian non-structural nail. As an individual artefact, the iron nail is of a type and style that have a long lifespan and to date the nail individually would be problematic, although the associated pottery and clay tobacco pipes dated to the mid-17th-early 18th century.

Catalogue

Iron Object

(104) Plain square-profiled nail head (0.04 x 0.04mm) with rectangular shank tapering to point; length 3.5mm; thickness 0.02×0.02 mm. Weight 2 grams.

References

Garratt, B. 1994. 'The Small finds' in Cunliffe, B & Garratt, B. Excavations at Portchester Castle, Volume V: Post Medieval 1609-1819. Society of Antiquaries Research Report LII, 98-129.

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5.5 ANIMAL BONE by Kevin Rielly

Description of bones

A total of 9 bones, all identified as cattle, were recovered from the fill (104) of a late 17th century pit. These included 6 loose teeth, a mandible fragment, part of a distal humerus and the shaft of a metatarsus. The teeth include a possibly complete maxillary molar row and 3 mandibular molars from at least two individuals, one an older adult and one either sub-adult or a young adult. These bones were in rather poor condition in the sense that while the surface condition was relatively good, they are noticeably fragile with a tendency to laminate.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

These few bones offer little more than the obvious inference that adult cattle formed a portion of the local diet during the early post-medieval period in this part of Uttoxeter. Further excavation would undoubtedly provide more bones. However, the fragile nature of this collection suggests a generally poor survival of faunal material with a likely bias towards larger and more robust bones. Thus it can be proposed that the potential for the recovery of bones and indeed the potential information available from those recovered will be rather poor.

5.6 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS by Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Evaluation excavations at Balance Street, Uttoxeter, undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA), recorded a single pit (feature [103]) of probable seventeenth to eighteenth century date, which appeared to be filled with domestic refuse. A sample for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblage was taken from the pit fill (context 104) and submitted for assessment.

The sample was bulk floated by PCA and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Table 1. All plant remains were charred. Nomenclature within the table follows Kerney and Cameron (1979) for the mollusc shells.

Results

The recovered assemblage is extremely small and limited in composition. Charcoal/charred wood fragments are present, but no other plant macrofossils are recorded. The assemblage is largely composed of black porous and tarry residues, most of which are probable bi-products of the combustion of coal. Small pieces of coal (coal 'dust') are also recorded. A small number of heavily abraded shells of terrestrial molluscs are also present and these appear to indicate that the site was largely open, although shaded elements containing leaf litter and/or garden vegetation (possibly the pit fill itself) were also present in the near vicinity.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, although this assemblage is limited, it would appear that the few remains which are recorded are probably derived from scattered domestic hearth waste, some or all of which was accidentally incorporated within the pit fill.

On the basis of only one assemblage, it is difficult to make recommendations for future sampling. However, if further work in the site was to take place and revelled sealed and dated features, it is suggested that additional plant macrofossil samples are taken, as the Post-medieval period is generally under-represented within the regional and national plant macrofossil data bases.

Plant macrofossils

Charcoal <2mm x
Charcoal >2mm x
Charcoal >10mm x

A . I	
()ther	remains
Othici	Cilianis

Black porous and tarry residues	xx	Key to Table:
Small coal frags.	X	x = 1 - 10 specimens
Vitreous material	Х	xx = 11 - 50 specimens
Mollusc shells		
Discus rotundatus	Х	
Helicidae indet.	Х	
Pupilla muscorum	Х	
Vallonia sp.	X	
Sample volume (litres)		
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	
% flot sorted	100%	

Table 1. Charred plant macrofossils and other remains from Balance Street, Uttoxeter

Reference

Kerney, M.P. and A Field Guide to the Land Snails of Britain and North-west Europe.

Cameron, R.A.D., 1979 Collins, London.

6. **CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 The evaluation fulfilled its aims and objectives by identifying and recording a sequence of geological and archaeological stratigraphy on the site revealing evidence of the houses that once fronted Balance Street during the 19th/20th Century, also an isolated rubbish pit that was in use during the late 17th /early 18th century and the intense redevelopment of the site within the last hundred years.
- 6.2 Natural deposits recorded on the site comprised Glaciofluvial Deposits of sand and gravel in concurrence with the British Geological Survey mapping of the site.
- 6.3 There was no evidence for any archaeological activity pre dating the 17th century other than a residual medieval pottery sherd found in a late 17th early 18th century pit.
- 6.4 Evidence of mid- 17th— early 18th century activity was limited to a single rubbish pit located within the north-east corner of the site. The pit contained both domestic and fragmented building refuse along with evidence for hearth waste. The pottery report suggests the pit was mostly likely open for only the first decade of the 18th century and may coincide with building works know to have taken place at 16 Balance Street during this period (Garwood 2014). The pit is located approximately 22m directly north of where 16 Balance Street once stood and falls within the know boundaries of the property as depicted on a plan dated 1830 (Garwood 2014 Figure 3). Although we have no cartographic evidenced of property boundaries in the early 1700's it not unreasonable to assume they had not change significantly, hence the pit is most likely associated with activity 16 Balance Street during the first decade of the 18th century.
- 6.5 Evidence of 19th century activity was all located within the southern portion of the site, associated with the buildings that once fronted Balance Street. Within the south-east corner of the site a cellar and culvert are all that remains of what was once 14 Balance Street, as depicted in Historic Plate 2. This cellar would have been located below the rear portion of the property based on it distance form Balance Street. The cellar located within Trench 1 is most likely associated with 18 Balance Street as depicted in Historic Plate 1. Here the picture shows windows on either side of the door at ground level.
- 6.7 Evidence of 20th century activity is recorded within the many demolition layers recorded across the site. The earliest demolition layer is associated with demolition of 12 & 14 Balance Street sometime between 1964 and 1973, followed by the demolition if 18 Balance Street, and other buildings within the site to make way for the construction of Balance House Care Home sometime between 1973 and 1989. The modern overburden across the site covered all but the

southeast corner of the site, is related the demolition of Balance House Care Home in January 2015.

6.8 It is clear from the evaluation the 20th century development of the site has destroyed any potential archaeology that once may have existed. The isolated pit within the northeast corner of the site continued north beyond the limits of the development site. No evidence for the Burgess plots suggested within the 'Uttoxeter Historic Character Assessment' were encountered during this investigation. The erection of the 18th and 19th century houses (12, 14, 16 & 18 Balance Street) that once fronted Balance Street would have destroyed any evidence of earlier domestic dwellings that may have front this potential medieval thoroughfare.

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8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Commissioning Client: Paul Clark of CgMs on behalf of RJK Ltd

Fieldwork Staff: Kathryn Brook & Kevin Trott

Cad Drawings: Adela Murray-Brown

Report: Kathryn Brook Editing: Kevin Trott

HISTORIC PLATES



Historic Plate 1: Balance House, Nos. 14 (left), 16 (middle) & 18 (right) Balance Street, looking north-east



Historic Plate 2: Balance House, Nos. 12 &14 (left), 16 (middle) & 18 (right) Balance Street, looking north-west

PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, view looking southwest, pit [103] in the foreground (scale 3 x 1m)



Plate 2: Trench 2, View looking southwest (scale 2 x 1m)



Plate 3: Trench 3, view looking west. (scale 3 x 1m)



Plate 4: Trench 4, view looking northwest (scales 3 x 1m)



Plate 5: Trench 4, view looking east with well [418] in the foreground with cellar floor [412] and culvert [413] beyond. (scale 2x1m & 1x 0.3m)

APPENDIX 1: Context Summary

Trenc	Context		Category Description				Phases	Section No.
) 	X t	γ	Colour	Texture	Inclusions			
	101	Layer	Reddish brown	Lose Friable brick and concrete rubble		Modern Over burden	4	1
	102 Layer Mottled reddish brownish orange Friable gravel with fine sand		Water warn pebbles	Natural	1	1		
	103	Cut	Sub circular in plan, Ne deep. Aligned northwe	ar vertical sides, flat base c. st south east. Contains (104	1.40m wide, 1.28m)	Cut of Pit	2	1
	104	Fill	Black	Moderately compact sandy silt	Occasional water warm pebbles and rear clay lens.	Fill of 103	2	1
-	105	Layer	Black	Moderately compact sandy loam with water warn pebbles	Rare fragments of charcoal and ash	Buried topsoil	2	1, 3 & 4
	106	cut	Linear in plan aligned e Unexcavated.	ast west. Vertical side, trun	cated 105 and 102.	Foundation trench for Care Home	4	3
	107	Fill	Mid greyish brown	Friable lose sandy gravel	Frequent brick, iron, concrete fragments	Fill of 106	4	3
	108	Layer	Blackish grey	Friable sandy loam and brick rubble	Large pebbles and concrete fragments	Modern levelling layer	4	4
	109	Layer	Black	Moderately lose sandy loam		Top soil	4	4
2	201	Layer	Reddish brown	Lose Friable brick and concrete rubble		Modern Over burden	4	-
	201	Layer	Mottled reddish brownish orange	Friable gravel with fine sand	Water warn pebbles	Natural	1	-

Trench	Context	Category		Description	Interpretation	Phases	Section No.	
) S	X 	ory	Colour	Texture	Inclusions			
	301	Layer	Reddish brown	Lose Friable brick and concrete rubble		Modern Over burden	4	2
	302 Layer		Greyish Red	Lose Friable brick and mortar rubble	Slate, glass, wood	Demolition rubble	4	2
	303	Deposit			Pebbles, concrete, wood, glass and roots	Modern Demolition / levelling	4	3
	304	Structure	Remains of a brick wall	4 courses high, hard yellow	Cellar wall	3	3	
	305	Surface	Single layer of bricks la wall 304 eastern edge	id end to end, c.3.85m in le truncated by 303.	ngth. Western edge buts	Cellar floor	3	3
ω	306	Layer	Mid brown grey	Friable coarse sand		Upper bedding layer for 305	3	3
	307	Flayer	Dark brown black	Moderately compacts sandy loam	Small pebbles	Lower bedding layer for 305	3	3
	308	Cut		north south. Steep concave s . Contains 310 and 311.	Cut for brick culvert	3	3	
	309	Fill	Mid brown	Moderately compact coarse sandy silt	Occasional water warn pebbles	Backfill of culvert cut 308	3	3
	310	Structure	0.2m wide by 0.1m hig of mortared bricks laid bricks laid side on.	h. Single layer of brick on th end to end formed sides, ca	Culvert	3	3	
	311	Layer	Orange	Compact gravel with small amount of coarse sand.	Redeposited natural	3	3	

Trench	Context	Category		Description	Interpretation	Phases	Section No.	
) i			Colour	Texture	Inclusions			
	312	Layer	Mottled reddish brownish orange	Friable gravel with fine sand	Water warn pebbles	Natural	1	3
	401	Layer	Black	Compact tarmac		Tarmac Car Park	4	6 & 7
	402 Layer		Greyish pink	Lose crushed gravel		Upper bedding layer for 401	4	6 & 7
	403	Layer	Creamy grey	Crushed chalk		Lower bedding layer for 401	4	6 & 7
	404 Layer Mottled brownish grey and back		Moderately lose, sandy silty with brick and mortar.	Occasional charcoal lumps	Demolition / levelling layer	4	6	
	405	Cut	45° slope, base not see backfill 406	en. Truncates natural 411 co	Construction cut for wall 307	3	6 & 9	
4	406	Fill	Mid brown	Moderately compact sandy silt with small pebbles		Back fill of construction cut 405	3	6 & 9
	407	Structure	Base of wall not seen, syellow cement like.	seven courses visible, buts f	Cellar wall	3	6 & 8	
	408	Deposit	Light greyish brown Friable sandy silt with brick and tile		Window glass and floor lino	Demolition/ back fill of cellar	4	6
	409	Structure	Brick wall four courses	high. 2m> seen in section a	Wall	3	7	
	410	Layer	Black	Moderately compact sandy loam with water warn pebbles	Rare fragments of charcoal and ash	Buried topsoil	2	1, 3 & 4

Trench	Context	Category		Description	Interpretation	Phases	Section No.				
ä		эгү	Colour	Texture	Inclusions						
	411	Layer	Mottled reddish brownish orange	Friable gravel with fine sand	Water warn pebbles	Natural	1	6 & 7			
	412	Structure	Brick floor, large potion sides	n visible in base of trench , b	Cellar Floor	3	6 & 8				
	413	Structure	Brick culvert , brick line	contained 416	Culvert	3	9				
	414	VOID									
	415	VOID									
	416	Fill	Dark Grey	Soft silty sand		Fill of Culvert	3	9			
	417	Fill/ Deposit	Black	Friable ash, burnt wood fragments	Occasional fragment of coal	Infill of cellar	3	8			
	418	Structure	Square brick stricter on vaulted ceiling of a wel	ks suggest possible	Possible well	-					

APPENDIX 2: POTTERY ARCHIVE

Context	Feature	Description	Ceramic type	qty	Weight (g)	Comment	Date
104	103	Pit	Blackware	5	10	body sherds from mugs includes one 'carinated' sherd, all look 17th c	17th c?
104	103	Pit	Blackware	1	3	body sherd	17th c?
104	103	Pit	Blackware	1	2	body sherd	18th c
104	103	Pit	CBM	43	1230	brick fragments	Post-medieval
104	103	Pit	CBM	29	1318	flat rooftile	Post-medieval
104	103	Pit	СВМ	1	256	flat rooftile patch of v. heavy sooting on unsanded face and over one break	Post-medieval
104	103	Pit	CBM	1	218	flat rooftile with central nib	Post-medieval
104	103	Pit	СВМ	1	576	brick, brown/grey/purple-red, overfired, almost to the point of vitrification; fabric an overfired version of complete brick from 304?	18th c
104	103	Pit	СВМ	1	446	Brick, purplish red, overfired; same fabric as complete brick from 304	18th c
104	103	Pit	СВМ	1	444	brick, poorly mixed streaky body, with ill-sorted sometimes very large grits	18th c
104	103	Pit	Coarseware	1	100	wide-mouthed bowl body sherd, int. black glaze, under- glaze red slip ext. red-brown wash/slip	Late 17th-18th c
104	103	Pit	Coarseware	2	18	butterpot rim-neck, sherds join	17th-18th c
104	103	Pit	Coarseware	2	11	jar body sherds	17th-18th c

104	103	Pit	Coarseware	1	18	jar body sherd, int. spots of dark brown glaze	17th-18th c
104	103	Pit	Coarseware	1	4	jar body sherd, int. brown glaze	17th-18th c
104	103	Pit	Coarseware/MP	1	12	butterpot rim sherd	17th-18th c
104	103	Pit	Coarseware/MP	1	18	jar body sherd	17th-18th c
104	103	Pit	Coarseware/MP	1	17	butterpot rim sherd, second or waster	17th-18th c
104	103	Pit	Coarseware/MP	1	21	butterpot?/jar rim sherd, second or waster	17th-18th c
104	103	Pit	Coarseware/MP	17	239	butterpot body sherds	17th-18th c
104	103	Pit	Coarseware/MP/Blackware	1	4	mug? Body sherd, ext. black dribbled galze	17th c?
104	103	Pit	Feathered slipware	1	5	hollow ware (?large mug?)	later 17th – mid
							18th c
104	103	Pit	Fired clay	1	28	worn completely smooth, impossible to tell what this is	?
104	103	Pit	Medieval cooking pot	1	1	N Staffs type	13th-14th c
104	103	Pit	Mottled ware	1	7	hollow ware	18th c
104	103	Pit	Slip-coated ware	1	4	strainer body sherd	Late 17th-18th c
104	103	Pit	Slip-coated ware	1	19	flange-rim bowl	Late 17th-18th c
104	103	Pit	Slipware?	1	9	extremely abraded, no surfaces remaining	mid 17th-18th
							c?
104	103	Pit	Tin-glazed earthenware	2	9	bowl base and body sherds, undecorated	17th-18th c
104	103	Pit	Trailed slipware	1	19	Flange-rim bowl, light-on-dark slip	c. 1645-1700
104	103	Pit	Trailed slipware	1	6	bowl rim, light-on-dark slip	c. 1645-1700
104	103	Pit	Trailed slipware	1	1	body sherds	c. 1645-1700
104	103	Pit	Yellow ware	2	18	jar rim and body sherds	17th-early 18th
							С

104	103	Pit	Yellow ware	1	19	cup/mug base-body	17th-early 18th
							С
104	103	Pit	Yellow ware	1	3	Jar rim	17th-early 18th
							С
104	103	Pit	Yellow ware	4	3	body sherds	17th-early 18th
							С
104	103	Pit	Yellow ware	2	18	base-body and body sherds, salmon pink fabric, white	17th-early 18th
						under-glaze slip	С
104	103	Pit	Yellow ware	1	5	bead rim bowl?	17th-early 18th
							С
104	103	Pit	Yellow ware	1	20	bowl base, glaze tan rather than yellow	17th-early 18th
							С
104	103	Pit	Yellow ware?	1	5	bowl, extremely abraded, most of surfaces missing but	17th-early 18th
						trace of white slip?	c?
105		garden soil	Feathered slipware	1	3	body sherd from platter	later 17th-mid
							18th c
303		modern	Trailed slipware	1	37	shallow bowl with flange rim, almost complete profile,	c. 1645-1700
		demolition				light-on-dark slip	
310		brick culvert	CBM	1	478	flat rooftile	Post-medieval
406	405	construction	Modern yellow ware	8	129	footring [mixing] bowl base	early 19th c or
		cut					later
413		culvert	СВМ	1	261	flat rooftile	Post-medieval

APPENDIX 3: OASIS

OASIS ID: preconst1-206584

Project details

Project name BALANCE STREET, UTTOXETER, STAFFORDSHIRE:

Short description of

the project

An archaeological Evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at Balance Street, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire between the 16th and 18th February 2015. The Evaluation was commissioned by Paul Clark of CgMs on behalf of RJK. The evaluation identified a late 17th-early 18th century rubbish pit within the north east corner of the site and several cellars belonging to houses that once fronted Balance Street during the 19th and 20th centuries. The rest of the site has been heavily truncated during the 20th century developments within the site boundaries.

Project dates Start: 17-02-2015 End: 17-03-2015

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference

codes

BSUS 15 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Project location

Country England

Site location STAFFORDSHIRE EAST STAFFORDSHIRE UTTOXETER BALANCE STREET,

UTTOXETER, STAFFORDSHIRE:

Study area 0.21 Hectares

Site coordinates SK 00173 33314 52.8969501471 -1.99742802837 52 53 49 N 001 59 50 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 86.85m Max: 88.85m

Project creators

Name of Organisation

PCA Midlands

Project brief originator

Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator

Kevin Trott

Project director/manager

Kevin Trott

Project supervisor Ka

Kathryn Brook

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient

City of Stoke-on-Trent

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Physical Archive ID 2014.LH.77

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass"

Digital Archive recipient

City of Stoke-on-Trent

Digital Archive ID 2014.LH.77

Digital Media available

"Images raster / digital photography","Text"

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Paper Media available

"Context sheet","Drawing","Plan","Report","Unpublished Text"

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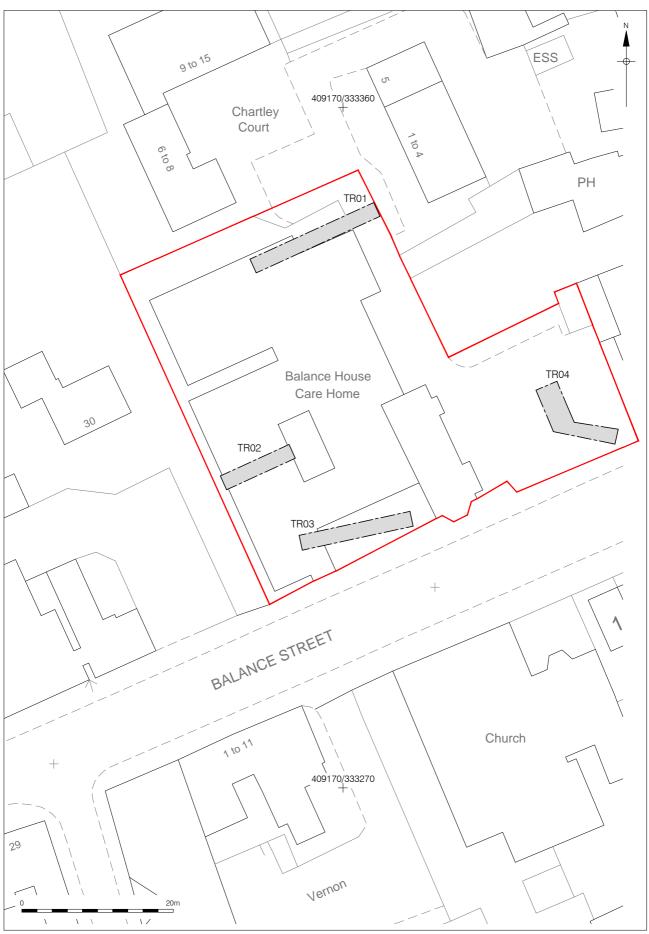
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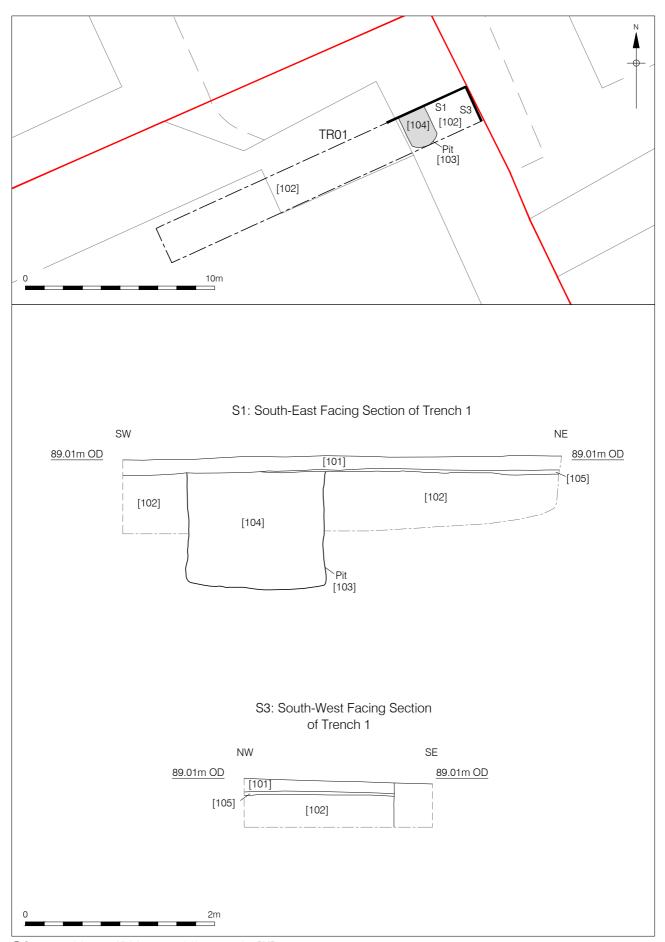
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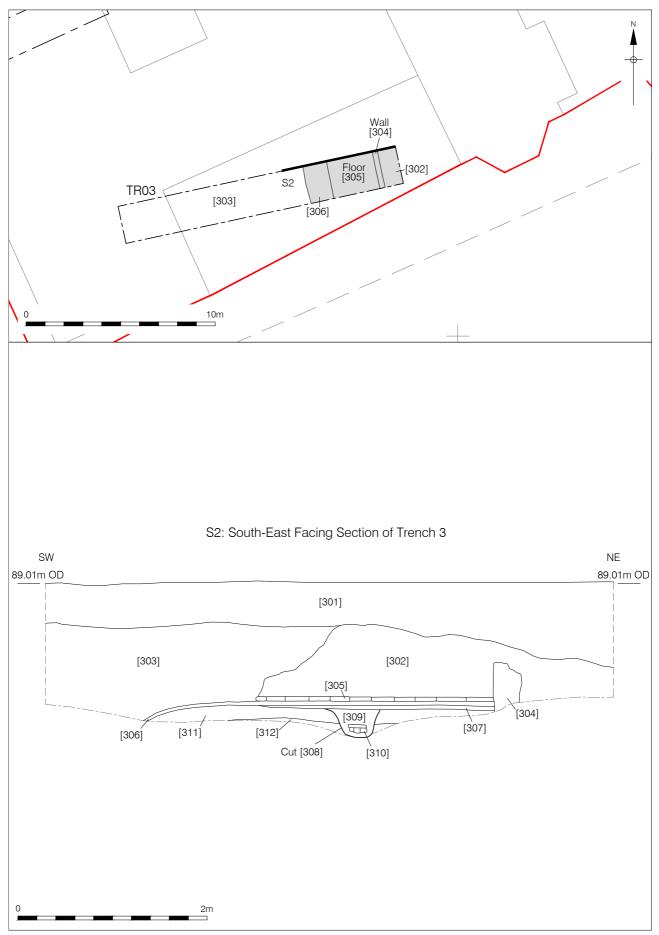


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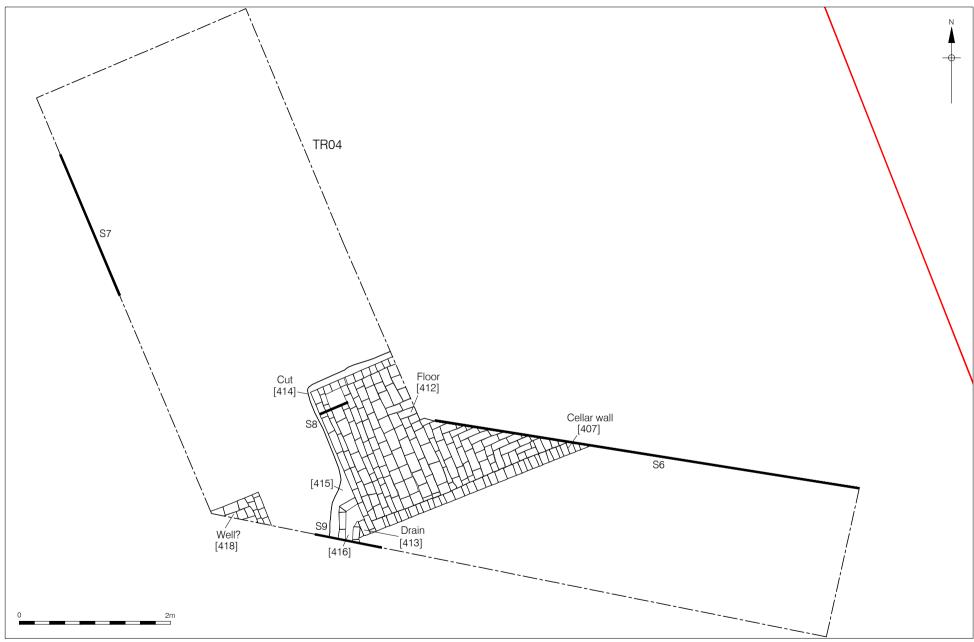
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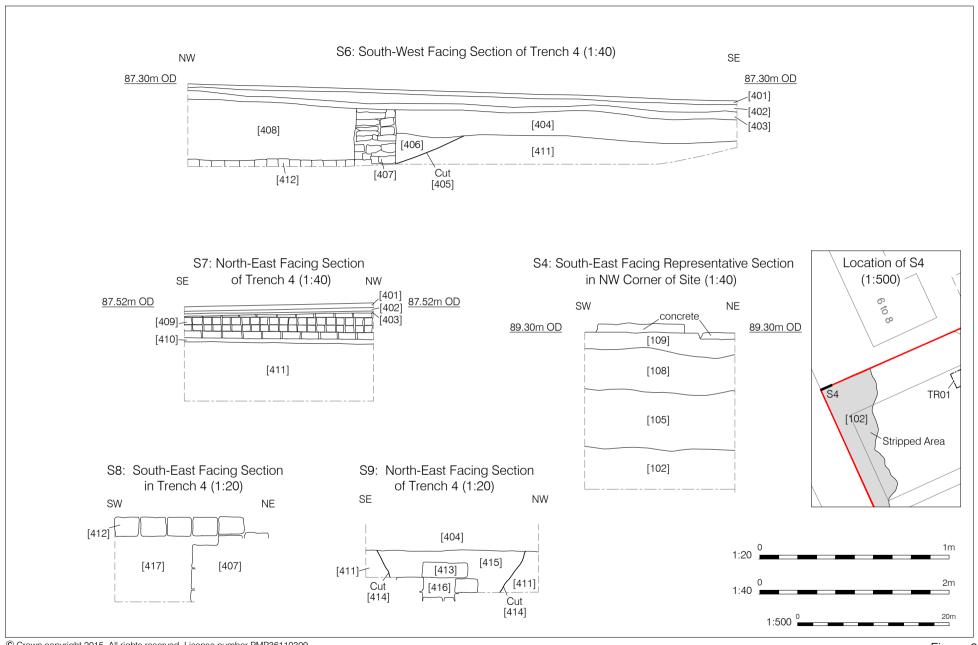
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© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015 11/03/2015 AMB Figure 5 Plan of Trench 4 1:50 at A4



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Figure 6
Trench 4 Sections and Section 4
Various scales at A4

P C A

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54

BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE 96 ENDWELL ROAD

BROCKLEY

LONDON SE4 2PD

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UNIT 19A

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