

**LAND AT MANOR HOUSE,
RIDING MILL,
NORTHUMBERLAND**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION REPORT**

AUGUST 2022

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Land at Manor House, Riding Mill, Northumberland

Site Code: RMN22

Commissioning Client: Hedley Planning Services Ltd



On behalf of: The Ian Dickinson Trust

Contractor:

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

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LAND AT MANOR HOUSE, RIDING MILL, NORTHUMBERLAND

EVALUATION REPORT

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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology were commissioned by Hedley Planning Services Ltd, on behalf of The Ian Dickinson Trust, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Manor House, Riding Mill, Northumberland, centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) NZ 01500 61620. This work was undertaken as part of the proposed residential development involving the construction of 13 No. dwellings, creation of new access, car parking and soakaways (Planning Application 21/02007/FUL).
- 1.2 Prior to this phase of works, a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey was undertaken at the site (ASDU 2021a & b). The combined results of this work concluded that although there has been localised later disturbance within the site there is potential for archaeological remains to survive. Although there was no direct evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity within the site, the proposed development lies c. 30m to the south of the line of Roman Dere Street. The site is unlikely to contain any archaeological remains associated with Roman Dere Street, however, there was limited potential for remains associated with roadside activity to be present at the site. Traces of Ridge and furrow cultivation of possible medieval date were identified by geophysical survey across the southern part of the site that may mask earlier remains. A further anomaly identified at the north-eastern part of the site may represent debris material associated with the demolition of post-medieval properties, possibly dating to the 17th century, that fronted the road. It was considered that there was a high potential for the structural remains associated with the post-medieval properties to survive below the debris material.
- 1.3 The trial trenching evaluation was undertaken according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by PCA and approved by Northumberland County Council prior to the commencement of work (PCA 2022). Ten trenches (Trenches 1-10) were excavated across the proposed development area where this would aid in assessing the archaeological potential of the site and meet the project aims and objectives (Figure 2). The dimensions of each trench were as follows: 1 no. 30m x 1.8m (Trench 1), 4 no. 20m x 1.8m (Trenches 2, 3, 4 & 6), 1 no. 10m x 1.80m (Trench 5), 2 no. 10m x 2m (Trenches 7 & 10), 1 no. 8 m x 2m (Trench 8) and 1 no. 5m x 2m (Trench 9).
- 1.4 Five phases of activity were encountered: Phase 1: Superficial geology; Phase 2: Undated subsoil, Phase 3: Post-medieval structure, Phase 4: Post-medieval demolition and Phase 5: Modern. Trench 10 was sited to test an anomaly identified by geophysical survey within the north-eastern corner of the proposed development. The structural remains of a building were encountered in Trench 10 include a substantial WNW-ESE orientated external wall, a stone flag surface, a later cobble and lime mortar repair and the remains of a hearth/fireplace. A further WNW-ESE orientated wall was recorded to the SSW of the external wall that probably delimits a yard area.
- 1.5 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered in Trenches 1-9.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

- 2.1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on land at Manor House, Riding Mill, Northumberland in August 2022. The works were undertaken in association with a proposed residential development involving the construction of 13 No. dwellings, creation of new access, car parking and soakaways. The proposed development at Riding Mill covers c. 1.05 hectares and is centred at NGR NZ 01500 61620 (Figure 1 & 2). The archaeological investigation was commissioned by Hedley Planning Services Limited on behalf of The Ian Dickinson Trust and was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA).
- 2.1.2 The archaeological potential of the site was initially established by an archaeological desk-based assessment (ASDU 2021a) and followed by a geophysical survey of the site (ASDU 2021b). The geophysical survey identified a large anomaly within the north-eastern corner of the proposed development that were suggestive of sub-surface archaeological features.
- 2.1.3 The scope of works for the archaeological evaluation was set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (PCA 2022) which was approved by the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT). The aim of the evaluation was to clarify the presence, nature, date, extent and significance of any archaeological remains that might be present in the areas of proposed impact and to test the geophysical anomaly which are most likely indicative of sub-surface archaeological remains associated with a building that was depicted on 19th century mapping evidence. Ten trenches (Trenches 1 - 10) were excavated.
- 2.1.4 The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigation (OASIS) reference number of the project is preconst1-509009.

2.2 Site Location and Description

- 2.2.1 The proposed development area comprises an irregular shaped parcel of land, covering c. 1.05 hectares, located at Manor House, Riding Mill, Northumberland at central National Grid Reference NZ 01500 61620 (Figure 1). Presently the site is occupied by gardens situated to the east of the manor house in the northern part of the proposed development area and a grass field in the southern and eastern parts. The gardens included lawns, planting beds, a fenced orchard and a disused tennis court located within the central part of the site.
- 2.2.2 The site is bounded to the north by a brick and stone garden wall beyond which lies the A695, to the east by the continuation of the garden wall and by wooden fencing and mature trees, beyond which lies Hollin Terrace, and by a combination of wooden fencing, hedges and matures trees to the south and west.

2.3 Geology and Topography

- 2.3.1 The site lies to the south of the River Tyne with the area of the proposed development gently sloping downwards from the north to the south and has a mean elevation of c. 125m AOD.
- 2.3.2 The underlying solid geology is recorded by the British Geological Survey as sandstone of the Stainmore Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 319 to 329 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period (British Geological Survey website). Superficial deposits are recorded as Devensian glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary period (*ibid*).
- 2.3.3 Geotechnical investigations undertaken at the site by Roberts Environmental limited in 2021 involved a series of boreholes and trial pits. This work recorded the maximum and minimum thickness of topsoil as 0.60m and 0.20m, respectively. No made ground was identified in any of the exploratory holes undertaken.

2.4 Planning Background

- 2.4.1 The requirement to undertake the archaeological investigation is in line with planning policy at a national level, as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2019). Heritage assets - those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest - are a key concept of the NPPF.
- 2.4.2 Chapter 16 of the NPPF 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' describes, in paragraph 190, how LPAs should '*...set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment' and details, in paragraph 189, that 'In determining applications, LPAs should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum, the relevant [Historic Environment Record] HER should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, LPAs should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and where necessary [the results of] a field evaluation'.*
- 2.4.3 Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT) has responsibility for archaeological development control in relation to the historic environment. A phased programme of archaeological work was required in association with a proposed planning application for Seaton Delaval Station on the Northumberland Line.

- 2.4.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by PCA (PCA 2022) and approved by NCCCT, detailing the methodology of the programme of works. This report details the archaeological evaluation undertaken following on from the WSI.

2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.5.1 Information in this section is largely extracted from the desk-based assessment undertaken by Archaeology Services Durham University (ASDU 2021a). The research and writing of those responsible is acknowledged. Sites within the Northumberland Historic Environment Record are followed by the HER number.

Prehistoric

- 2.5.2 Although there is no evidence of prehistoric settlement within the site there is evidence of prehistoric activity within the wider area including Mesolithic and Neolithic flint scatters found at Low Shilford to the east and High Shilford to the south and finds of Mesolithic flint tools recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) found within close proximity to the River Tyne to the northeast of the site.
- 2.5.3 The area of the Tyne Valley was a focal point for burials during the Bronze Age with numerous burials identified within a 300m buffer either side of the river, the closest of which lies to the north of the river of a probable Bronze Age burial cairn (HER 10058).

Roman

- 2.5.4 Although there is no evidence within the site for Roman activity the site lies c. 20m to the south of the route of Dere Street Roman road that acted as a supply route between York (*Eboracum*) and Newstead (*Trimontium*). The Roman road (HERs 10100 & 12392) survives as an earthwork to the north of Riding Mill comprising two ridges c. 1.5m apart that is thought to represent the north kerb of the road and a roadside gully.

Medieval

- 2.5.5 The 'riding' element of the place-name originates from the Old English *ryding* meaning 'clearing' and suggests there may have been an early medieval settlement in the area with the current settlement thought to be medieval in origin.
- 2.5.6 Archaeological evidence for the for the medieval Riding settlement (HER 10082) is limited due to the limited number of archaeological investigations undertaken within the area. The place name element 'riding' originates from the Old English 'ryding' meaning clearing. The earliest documentary evidence for the Riding settlement was in 1262 where the *vills* of Riding (HER 10082) and Lee (HER 10077) were originally members of the manor of Broomhall in the lordship of Bolbec at which time Riding comprised seventeen cottage holdings containing twenty-six and a half acres of land (Hodgson 1902, 269). Later documentary evidence pertaining to the Riding settlement include refer to tofts and crofts in

the 14th century and in the 15th century at which time the Riding was in the possessions of the earls of Westmorland (Hodson 1902, 269)

- 2.5.7 A water mill (HER 10069) was also recorded in 1262. Later documentary evidence identifies that the mill was owned by the Carnabys, leased to John Ord in 1644 and later in the 17th century the owner was recorded as Thomas Errington. A mill was operational at the same location until 1902.
- 2.5.8 The geophysical survey identified a series of NNE-SSW aligned anomalies across the southern part of the proposed development interpreted as representing ridge and furrow cultivation of medieval origin (ASDU 2021b).

Post-Medieval

- 2.5.9 Both the Manor House (HER 12775; Listed Building 1154322) and associated forecourt and walls (HER 23618; LB 1045392) to the west of the site and the Dower House (HER 12776; Listed Building 1045397) to the northwest of the site are grade II listed properties with 17th century origins. The Dower House is likely to be early 17th century in date and was possibly a bastle originally and the Manor House is also likely to have a 17th century origin. Both properties have been extended and altered in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 2.5.10 John Speed's map of 1611 depicts the main settlements in the area and Riding is shown between Dipton Burn and the River Tyne. Although Armstrong's 1769 map of Northumberland and John Fryer's 1820 map of Northumberland does not show Riding in great detail. Armstrong's map depicts Manor House on the south side of the main road and John Fryer's map depicts the village as a cluster of buildings fronting both sides of the road. John Fryer's map also depicts the Riding Mill.
- 2.5.11 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1865 is the first map to depict the proposed development area in detail. A rectangular shaped area of formal planting (Orchard) associated with Riding House is located at the north-western part of the site and a row of properties (Riding Cottages) are depicted at the north-eastern corner of the site. The remainder of the site is depicted as undeveloped with mature trees along part of the southern boundary.
- 2.5.12 By the time of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey of 1896 Riding House is now Manor House. The structures within the north-eastern corner of the site have been demolished and a series of enclosures at the north of the site probably represent garden plots. The larger field forming the central and southern part of the site is likely to represent a pasture field.

2.5.13 Modern

- 2.5.14 The 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1921 shows the addition of several small structures at the western part of the site that probably represent utilitarian building associated with the garden. A large area of tree planting is now depicted to the south of Manor House with this extending into the western part of the site.

3. PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project Aims

3.1.1 The primary aim of the programme of works was to determine the absence/presence of archaeological remains and to test anomalies identified by geophysical survey. The archaeological work will identify, investigate, and record any archaeological remains observed during the evaluation. The results will be used to inform decisions regarding further archaeological mitigation measures that may be required at the site prior to determination and commencement of development.

3.1.2 The objective of trial trench evaluation as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) is to 'determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices' (CIfA 2020a).

3.1.3 Specific objectives of the investigation were:

- To assess the extent, date, character and state of preservation of any archaeological remains within the Site;
- To test the anomaly identified by geophysical survey within the north-eastern corner of the site (Trench 10);
- To inform the archaeological baseline information associated with the Site;
- To inform the requirement for and scope of any archaeological mitigation that may be required.

3.2 Research Objectives

3.2.1 Archaeological work provides potential opportunities to address key research objectives as set out in *shared Visions: The North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NERRF) (Petts & Gerrard 2006)*. The NERRF highlights the importance of research as a vital element of development-led archaeological work. It sets out key research priorities for all periods of the past so that all elements of commercial archaeological work can be related to wider regional and national priorities for the study of archaeology and the historic environment.

3.2.2 The site was considered to have potential to provide a contribution to several 'Key Research Themes' in the NERRF 'Research Agenda and Strategy' for the for the Roman (R), Medieval (MD) and post-medieval (PM) periods. The following list contains the research priorities for each period:

- Ri. The Iron Age to Roman transition;
- Riv. Native and civilian life;
- Rv. Material culture;

- Rix. Landscape and environment;
- Rx. Roman-early medieval transition;
- MDi. Settlement;
- MDii. Landscape;
- MDvii. Medieval ceramics and other artefacts;
- MDxi. The medieval to post-medieval transition;
- PMv. The growth of civil life;
- PMiv. Chronology.

3.2.3 An appropriate level of reporting on the work was required, including, if necessary, full analysis and publication of any notable archaeological findings upon completion of the evaluation. Thus, the results of the work constitute the preservation by record of any archaeological remains encountered and subsequently removed during the course of works. The full scheme of archaeological work is described in the following section.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken in compliance with the codes and practice of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and the relevant ClfA standard and guidance document (ClfA 2020 a & 2021). PCA is a CIFA 'Registered Organisation'. All fieldwork and post-excavation was carried out in accordance with the Yorkshire, the Humber & The North East: Regional Statement of Good Practice (SYAS 2019).
- 4.1.2 The project was managed in line with principles set out in Historic England's *'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment'* (MoRPHE) published in 2015.
- 4.1.3 All archaeological staff involved in the project were suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. The project was overseen for PCA by Aaron Goode, Project Manager at PCA's Durham Office. All relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice were respected. PCA's Health and Safety (H&S) Policy is the starting point for managing H&S at all locations where PCA carries out its operations.
- 4.1.4 The scope of the work for the archaeological evaluation was set out in a detailed WSI (PCA 2022). The trial trenches were positioned to avoid any obvious obstructions and to provide good coverage of the site.
- 4.1.5 The archaeological evaluation comprised the mechanical excavation of ten trial trenches (Trench 1-10). The trial trenching evaluation was undertaken according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by PCA and approved by Northumberland County Council prior to the commencement of work. Ten trenches (Trenches 1-10) were excavated across the proposed development area where this would aid in assessing the archaeological potential of the site and meet the project aims and objectives (Figure 2). All trenches were excavated in full at their proposed locations.
- 4.1.6 The archaeological evaluation was carried out between the 8th – 11th August 2022. Trenches were set-out using a Leica Viva Smart Rover Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), with pre-programmed co-ordinate data determined by an office-based CAD operative.
- 4.1.7 Ground level in the trenches was reduced using a backhoe mechanical excavator for Trenches 1-6 & 9 and by mini-digger for Trenches 7, 8 & 10, both utilising a toothless ditching bucket. Successive spits of no more than 100mm depth were removed until either the top of the first archaeological horizon or the top of superficial geological deposits was reached. All ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision.
- 4.1.8 The investigation of archaeological levels was by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and in section, where appropriate. Investigations within the trenches followed the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and were conducted in accordance

with the methodology set out in the field manual of PCA (PCA 2009) and the Museum of London Site Manual (Museum of London 1994).

- 4.1.9 Deposits and cut features were individually recorded on the *pro-forma* 'Trench Recording Sheet' and 'Context Recording Sheet'. All site records were marked with the unique-number RMN22 (site code).
- 4.1.10 The height of all principal strata and features was calculated in metres above Ordnance Datum (m AOD). A detailed photographic record of the evaluation was prepared using SLR digital photography. All detailed photographs included a legible graduated metric scale. The photographic record illustrated both in detail and general context archaeological exposures and specific features in all trenches.

4.2 Post-excavation

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written and photographic records. A total of 36 archaeological contexts were defined within the seven trenches (Appendix 2). Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, grouping contexts and phasing the stratigraphic data. A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described in Section 5.
- 4.2.2 During the investigation a small assemblage of post-medieval material was recovered from archaeological deposits including 4 sherds of pottery (Appendix 5), a single fragment of glass (Appendix 6) and a single fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem (Appendix 7).
- 4.2.3 The complete Site Archive, in this case comprising only the written, drawn and photographic records (including all material generated electronically during post-excavation) will be packaged for long term curation. In preparing the Site Archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document (Brown 2007) will be adhered to, in particular a well-established United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document (Walker, UKIC 1990) and the most recent ClfA publication relating to archiving (ClfA 2020b).
- 4.2.4 At the time of writing the Site Archive was housed at the Durham Office of PCA, The Rope Works, Broadwood View, Chester-le-Street, County Durham, DH3 3AF. When complete, the Site Archive will be deposited at Great North Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne under the site code RMN22.

5. RESULTS: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

During the archaeological investigation, separate stratigraphic entities were assigned unique and individual context numbers, which are indicated in the following text as, for example [123]. The context numbers have been assigned per trench therefore contexts from Trench 1 are in the 100s and contexts from Trench 2 in the 200s etc. The archaeological sequence is described by placing stratigraphic sequences within broad phases, assigned on a site-wide basis in this case. An attempt has been made to add interpretation to the data and correlate these phases with recognised historical and geological periods. The figures can be found in Appendix 1 with the context index and stratigraphic matrix located in Appendix 2 and 3 respectively. A selection of plates can be found within Appendix 4.

5.1 Phase 1: Superficial Geology

5.1.1 Phase 1 represents superficial geological deposits that were observed within all ten trenches. The geological material comprised friable, dark reddish brown sandy clay with very frequent small and medium stone inclusions, fractured sandstone being the most prevalent (Plates 1-4 & 8). This material represents the Devensian glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary period (British Geological Survey website).

5.1.2 The table below summarises the depth below ground level and metres above Ordnance Datum (AOD) height of geological deposits within the trenches. The highest level at which natural substratum was encountered was 55.26m AOD in Trench 4 and the lowest level was 50.39m AOD in Trench 7.

No.	Context	Depth (below ground level)	m AOD	
			Highest	Lowest
Trench 1	[101]	0.35m	53.51	51.74
Trench 2	[201]	0.35m	53.14	51.78
Trench 3	[301]	0.30m	54.84	54.15
Trench 4	[401]	0.38m	55.26	52.94
Trench 5	[501]	0.35m	52.08	52.05
Trench 6	[601]	0.35m	54.07	53.74
Trench 7	[702]	0.45m	50.39	50.46
Trench 8	[802]	0.65m	50.81	50.98
Trench 9	[901]	0.20m	51.78	51.78
Trench 10	[1002]	0.55m	50.86	50.84

Summary of superficial geological deposits

5.2 Phase 2: Undated subsoil

- 5.2.1 Subsoil was only encountered in Trench 10 and comprised loose, reddish brown sandy clay [1001], encountered at maximum and minimum heights of 51.29m AOD and 50.84m AOD, respectively (Plate 3). No artefactual material was recovered from deposit [1001].

5.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval structure

- 5.3.1 Phase 3 represents the structural remains of a post-medieval building encountered in the northern half of Trench 10 including an external wall to the south [1009], a presumed internal wall [1012] to the east, a stone flag surface [1006], a cobble and lime mortar surface [1008] and the remains of a fireplace/hearth [1005] (Figure 3 & Figure 4, Section 2; Plates 3 & 8-12).
- 5.3.2 The natural topography of the site sloped downwards from south to north, therefore, it is likely that prior to the construction of the building the natural sloping ground was terraced to create a level area. The cut for the terrace [1010] was only partially exposed within the central part of the trench for a distance of c. 2m and the WNW-ESE aligned external wall [1009] constructed adjacent to this.
- 5.3.3 External WNW-ESE oriented wall [1009] was exposed for a distance of c. 2m (Plates 9 & 10). It was up to 1.20m wide by at least 0.42m high, encountered at a maximum height of 51.09m AOD. The wall itself was built using a combination of medium to large sized cobbles (maximum 300mm x 300mm x 200mm) and small to large sized unworked subangular stones (maximum 310mm x 290mm x 110mm) bonded with firm dark reddish brown sandy clay. The internal elevation of wall [1009] was covered by c. 10mm thick light grey lime mortar render [1015] that had surviving remnants of light blue paint to the WNW part of the exposed walls elevation (Plate 15).
- 5.3.4 Wall [1012], orientated NNE-SSW, was only partially exposed along the ESE limit of Trench 10 and was 2.90m long and survived up to 0.64m high (Figure 4, Section 2; Plate 12). The width of the wall was not established. The NNE & SSW parts of the wall were covered by light grey lime mortar render [1015]. The remains of a hearth/fireplace [1005] was recorded abutting the central part of wall [1012], therefore, there was no lime mortar render applied to the wall at this location and the exposed masonry here was covered in a thick soot. The wall, [1012], was built using unworked and roughly hewn medium to large cobbles and subangular stones (minimum 40mm x 40mm - maximum 600mm x 400mm) bonded with firm dark reddish brown sandy clay. This wall probably represents an internal wall to the building. An entrance to a room to the ESE was observed within the north-eastern corner of the trench formed by the end of wall [1012] and the continuation of the stone flag surface [1006] to the ESE.
- 5.3.5 The floor surface of the building comprised stone flags [1006] and associated c. 50mm thick sand bedding [1007] (Plates 8, 11 & 12). The stone flag surface was exposed for a

maximum area of 3.24m NNE-SSW by 2.00m ESE-WNW and occurred at a height of c. 50.66m AOD. The stone flags were generally rectangular (minimum 510mm x 300mm – maximum 700mm x 500mm) or square (500mm x 500mm). The stone flag surface was truncated at the location of the hearth/fireplace [1005] for an area of 1.06m NNE-SSW by 0.60m WNW-ESE and may be the result of robbing activity prior to the buildings demolition. A single shard of glass was recovered from the sand bedding deposit dated between c. 1740 – 1900 (Appendix 6).

- 5.3.6 The remains of the hearth/fireplace [1005] directly overlay stone flag surface [1006] and comprised two stone-built walls c. 1.40m apart (Plates 11 & 12). Both hearth/fireplace walls abutted wall [1012] and were similarly constructed using large roughly hewn stone blocks (maximum 650mm x 230mm x 250mm) bonded with light grey lime mortar. The external elevations of both hearth/fireplace walls were covered in the same light grey lime mortar render [1015] that covered walls [1009] and [1012]. Also observed was an extensive area of soot covering the stone flag surface [1006] adjacent to the location of the heath/fireplace (Plate 11). The soot covers an area of c. 1.50m WNW-ESE by 1.40m NNE-SSW and probably represents an area that was used for the raking out of ash from the heath/fireplace.
- 5.3.7 Located between the SSW hearth/fireplace wall [1005] and the external wall [1009] was a cobble and lime mortar surface [1008] that had dimensions of up to 0.79m NNE-SSW by 0.61m ESE-WNW (Plate 12). This surface probably represents a later repair to the stone flag surface [1006].
- 5.3.8 The basal remains of an ESE-WNW orientated wall [1016], built within a narrow construction cut [1017], was recorded c. 1.20m SSW of the external wall [1009] (Figure 3 & Figure 4, Section 1; Plates 3, 6 & 7). The wall itself was exposed for a distance of 2m and was up to 0.40m wide, encountered at a maximum height of 50.96m AOD. It was built using large cobbles (maximum 450mm x 440mm) and bonded with friable mid grey clayey silt. This wall probably delimits a small yard area to the SSW of the main building.

5.4 Phase 4: Post-medieval demolition

- 5.4.1 Phase 4 represents activity associated with the demolition of the Phase 3 building and includes a demolition deposit [1004] and a robber trench [1003].
- 5.4.2 A demolition deposit [1004] up to 0.36m thick, recorded at the NNE end of Trench 10, was exposed for a maximum area of 3.40m NNE-SSW by 2m ESE-WNW and was encountered at maximum height of 51.06m AOD (Figure 4, Section 2; Plates 6 & 8). It comprised small to medium sized cobbles and subangular stones within a loose mid grey sandy silt matrix and contained patches of broken/crushed lime mortar and fragments of red brick. The masonry material observed in the demolition deposit comprised primarily of stone and lime mortar that was probably derived from the walls of the building. No material was observed in this deposit that could be attributed to the roof structure, such as tile or slate, suggesting it may have been a thatch roof building. A small assemblage of post-medieval finds was recovered

from demolition deposit [1004] including 4 sherds of pottery dated to the 19th century (Appendix 5) and a single fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem that broadly dates to the 17th century (Appendix 7).

5.4.3 A robbing trench [1003] was recorded truncating the exposed portion of ESE-WNW orientated wall [1016] and was up to 1.50m wide by 0.30m deep (Figure 4, Section 1; Plate 7). Its single backfill [1011] comprised friable, mid-grey clayey sand that contained frequent small to medium stone.

5.5 Phase 5: Modern

5.5.1 Phase 5 represents topsoil encountered in all trenches and levelling deposits associated with the establishment of the formal garden and orchard areas encountered in Trenches 7 and 8.

5.5.2 A levelling deposit recorded extending across Trench 7 comprised loose, dark reddish brown clayey sand [701] up to 0.20m thick, encountered at maximum and minimum heights of 50.61m AOD and 50.39m AOD, respectively. This deposit probably represents cultivation activity within the formal garden area (Plate 4).

5.5.3 Levelling deposit [801] encountered in Trench 8 comprised friable, very dark grey, clayey sand up to 0.50m thick, encountered at maximum and minimum heights of 51.30m AOD and 50.80m AOD, respectively. Trench 8 was sited within the area of the orchard that lies at a higher elevation than that of the formal gardens located to the north. Therefore, this deposit probably represents material that was brought in to create a raised terrace area associated with the establishment of the small orchard area (Plate 5).

5.5.4 Topsoil, [100], [200], [300], [400], [500], [600], [700], [800], [900] & [1000], comprised loose, dark grey, clayey sand with very frequent small stone inclusions (Plates 1-6).

5.5.5 The table below summarises the thickness and metres above Ordnance Datum height for both topsoil and turf lines within all trenches:

No.	Context	Topsoil/turf	Thickness	m AOD	
				Highest	Lowest
Trench 1	[100]	Topsoil	0.35m	53.95	51.57
Trench 2	[200]	Topsoil	0.35m	53.55	51.66
Trench 3	[300]	Topsoil	0.30m	54.40	54.98
Trench 4	[400]	Topsoil	0.38m	56.09	52.68
Trench 5	[500]	Topsoil	0.35m	52.64	51.96
Trench 6	[600]	Topsoil	0.35m	54.77	53.87
Trench 7	[700]	Topsoil	0.25m	50.86	50.66

Trench 8	[800]	Topsoil	0.15m	51.63	51.48
Trench 9	[900]	Topsoil	0.20m	52.11	51.91
Trench 10	[1000]	Topsoil	0.15m	51.30	51.08

Summary of topsoil

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological investigations undertaken on the proposed site at Manor House, Riding Mill, Northumberland, comprised the excavation of ten trenches. Geological deposits, undated sub-soil, post-medieval structural remains, post-medieval demolition activity, modern levelling activity and topsoil were encountered. This activity was assigned to five phases of activity:
- Phase 1: Superficial geological deposits were encountered within all trenches;
 - Phase 2: Undated subsoil was encountered in Trench 10;
 - Phase 3: Post-medieval structural remains were encountered in Trench 10;
 - Phase 4: A demolition deposit and a robber trench associated with the demolition of the Phase 3 post-medieval structure was encountered in Trench 10;
 - Phase 5: modern levelling deposits were encountered in Trenches 7 & 8. Topsoil was encountered in all 10 trenches.
- 6.2 Trench 10 sited to test the geophysical anomaly within the north-eastern corner of the site that was thought to represent rubble associated with post-medieval roadside cottages, possibly dating to the 17th century, that are depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865. Structural remains associated with the roadside cottages were encountered including an external wall built using large boulders and cobbles, a stone flag surface and later cobble and lime mortar repair, an internal stone-built wall and the remains of a stone-built hearth/fireplace. Although only a single shard of undiagnostic glass was recovered from the structure itself the cottages likely to date to the 17th century.
- 6.3 By the time of the second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1896 the roadside cottages had been demolished. A small assemblage of 19th century pottery was recovered from the demolition deposit that directly overlay the structural remains of the cottages corroborating the date of its demolition.
- 6.4 The evaluation has established that the well preserved remains associated with the roadside cottages are present within the north-eastern corner of the proposed development (Trench 10). No archaeological remains of significance were encountered across the rest of the investigated area (Trenches 1-9).
- 6.5 No further work is required on the information recovered during the evaluation, with the Site Archive (including this report), forming the permanent record of the strata encountered.

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7.2 Online Sources

The **British Geological Survey** website: www.bgs.ac.uk. This was consulted for information regarding the geology of the study area.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

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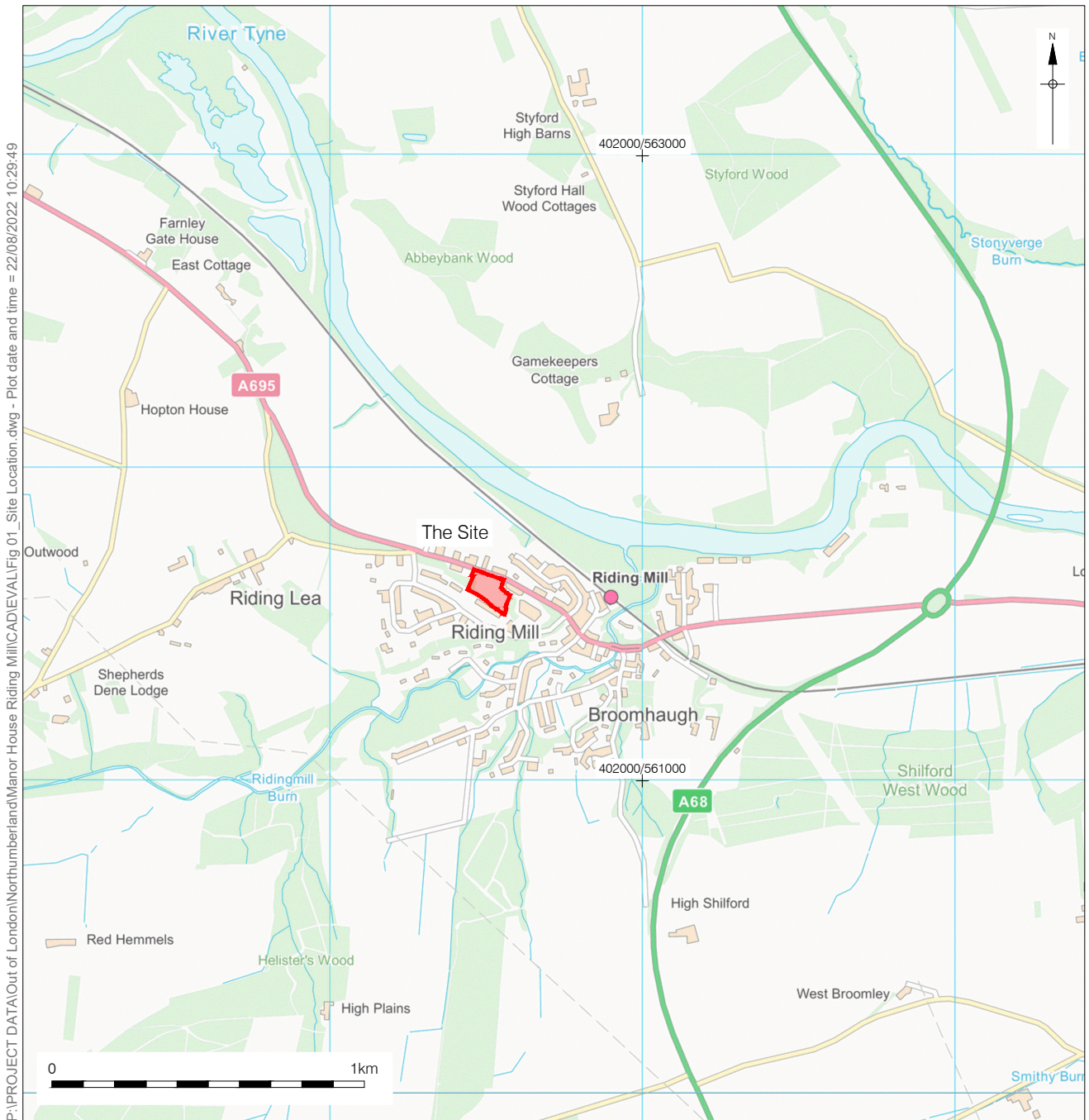
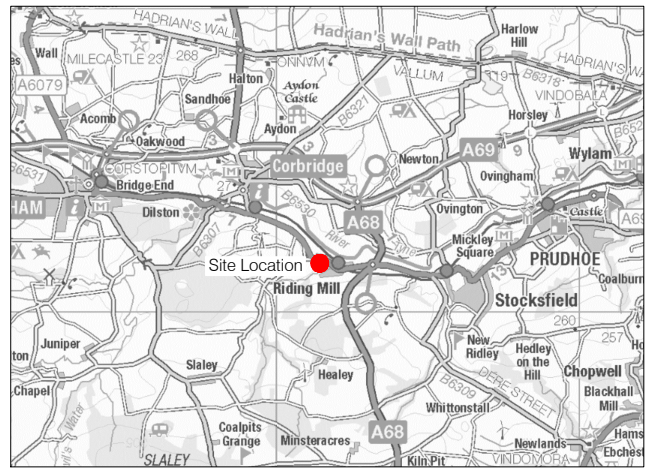
PCA Credits

Fieldwork: Aaron Goode, Andy Abson, Katie Mountain

Report: Aaron Goode & Andy Abson

Project Manager: Aaron Goode

APPENDIX 1: FIGURES



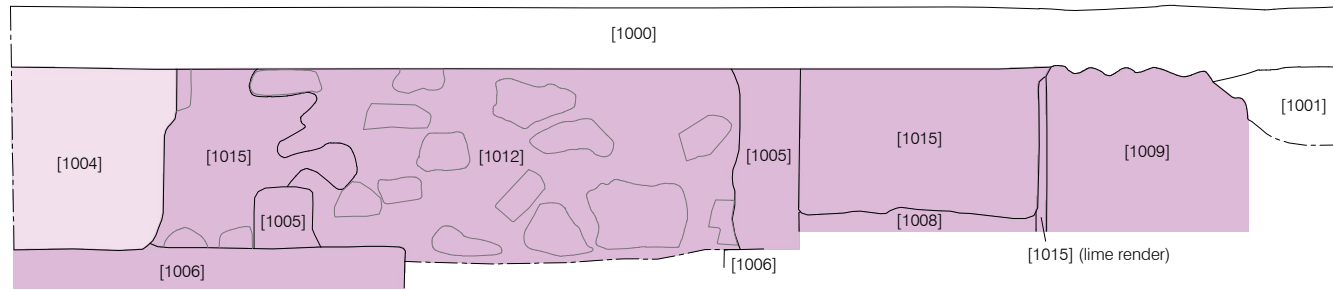
P:\PROJECT DATA\Out of London\Northumbria\Minor House Riding Mill\CAD\Fig 01_Site Location.dwg - Plot date and time = 22/08/2022 10:29:49



Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:1,000 at A4

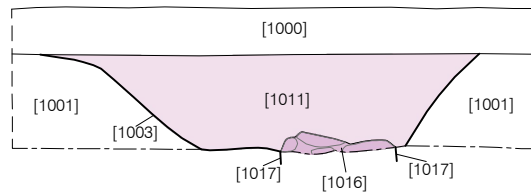


NE 51.46m OD SW 51.46m OD



Section 2
Northwest Facing
Trench 10

SW 51.37m OD NE 51.37m OD



Section 1
Southeast Facing
Trench 10

- Phase 4 Post-medieval demolition
- Phase 3 Post-medieval

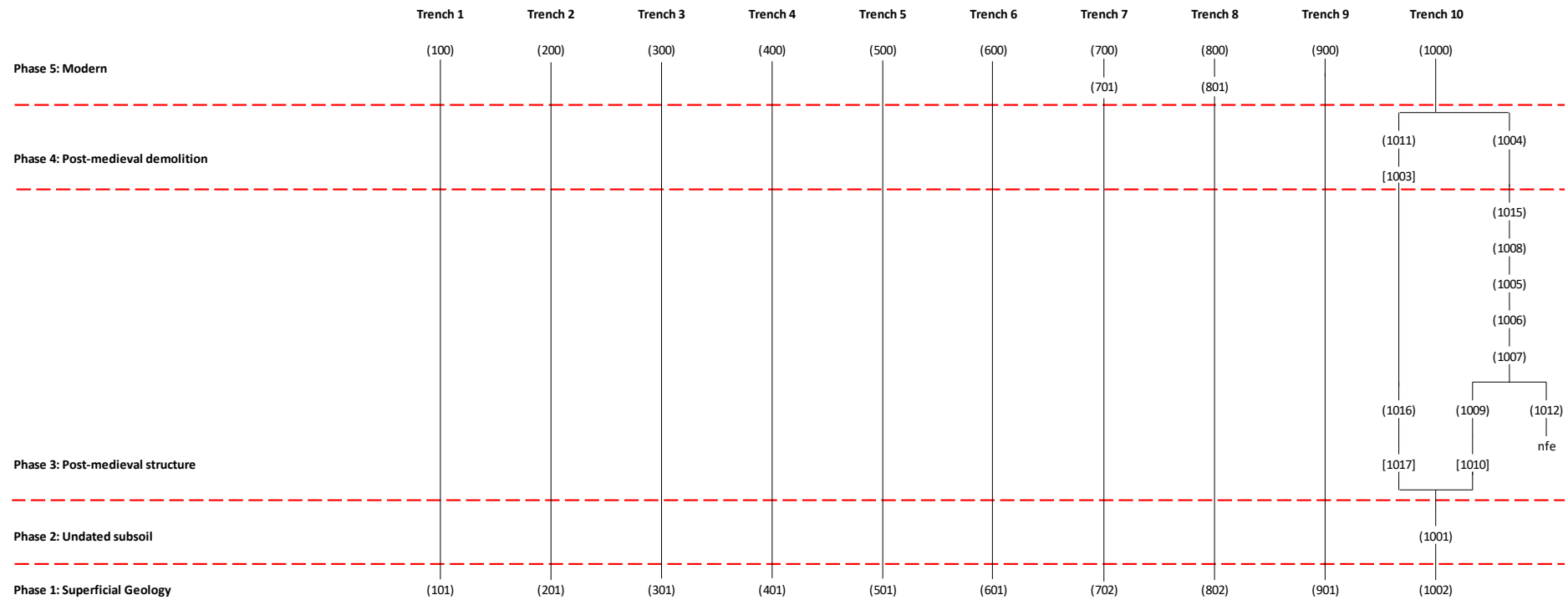


APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Phase	Type 1	Type 2	Fill of	Interpretation
Trench 1					
100	5	Deposit	Layer		Topsoil
101	1	Deposit	Layer		Superficial Geology
Trench 2					
200	5	Deposit	Layer		Topsoil
201	1	Deposit	Layer		Superficial Geology
Trench 3					
300	5	Deposit	Layer		Topsoil
301	1	Deposit	Layer		Superficial Geology
Trench 4					
400	5	Deposit	Layer		Topsoil
401	1	Deposit	Layer		Superficial Geology
Trench 5					
500	5	Deposit	Layer		Topsoil
501	1	Deposit	Layer		Superficial Geology
Trench 6					
600	5	Deposit	Layer		Topsoil
601	1	Deposit	Layer		Superficial Geology
Trench 7					
700	5	Deposit	Layer		Topsoil
701	5	Deposit	Layer		Garden levelling deposit
702	1	Deposit	Layer		Superficial Geology
Trench 8					
800	5	Deposit	Layer		Topsoil
801	5	Deposit	Layer		Orchard levelling deposit
802	1	Deposit	Layer		Superficial Geology
Trench 9					
900	5	Deposit	Layer		Topsoil
901	1	Deposit	Layer		Subsoil
Trench 10					
1000	5	Deposit	Layer		Topsoil
1001	2	Deposit	Layer		Subsoil
1002	1	Deposit	Layer		Superficial Geology
1003	4	Cut	Linear		Robber trench filled by (1011)
1004	4	Deposit	Layer		Demolition deposit
1005	3	Masonry	Structure		Fireplace/hearth
1006	3	Masonry	Surface		Stone flag surface
1007	3	Deposit	Layer		Levelling deposit for surface [1006]
1008	3	Masonry	Surface		Cobble & mortar surface
1009	3	Masonry	Wall		External masonry wall
1010	3	Cut	Linear		Construction cut for structure comprising walls [1009], [1012] & surface [1006].
1011	4	Deposit	Fill	[1003]	Fill of robber trench [1003]

1012	3	Masonry	Wall		Internal masonry wall
1015	3	Deposit	Structure		Lime mortar rendering
1016	3	Masonry	Wall		Masonry wall
1017	3	Cut	Linear		Construction cut for cobble wall [1016]

APPENDIX 3: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



APPENDIX 4: PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATES

Plate 1: Trench 3, North direction of view, 2m scale.



Plate 2: Trench 4, North direction of view, 2m scale.



Plate 3: Trench 10, North direction of view, 2m scale.



Plate 4: Trench 7, West direction of view, 2m scale.



Plate 5: Trench 8, East direction of view, 2m scale.



Plate 6: Trench 10, SSW direction of view, 2m scale.



Plate 7: Trench 10, NE facing section of robber trench [1003] and wall [1016], 1m scale.



Plate 8: Trench 10, ESE facing section showing demolition deposit [1004], 2m scale.



Plate 9: Trench 10, WNW direction of view showing external wall [1009], 1m scale.



Plate 10: Trench 10, NNE direction of view showing wall [1009], 0.5m scale.



Plate 11: Trench 10, SSW direction of view showing stone flag surface [1006] and hearth/fireplace [1005], 1m scale.



Plate 12: Trench 10, ESE direction of view showing stone flag surface [1006], hearth/fireplace [1005] and wall [1012], 2m scale.



APPENDIX 5: POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarret

Introduction

A small assemblage of post-Roman pottery (4 sherds, 4 Estimated Number of Vessels, 35g) dates only to the 19th-century and is of little significance. The pottery was collected solely by hand and was found in the demolition deposit [1004], Trench 10. The pottery is in a fragmentary state, but otherwise in a good condition, although three of the sherds are either laminated or pockmarked and resultant probably of frost damage. The pottery was likely to have been deposited under tertiary conditions.

Results

All of the pottery consists of decorated refined white earthenware, dated from c. 1805. Two different plate sherds (7g) are decorated with a blue Willow pattern design, dated from c. 1789. Although one base sherd has on the underside part of a maker's mark featuring the top right portion of the Newcastle coat of arms and indicates where the item was made. Maker's marks on 19th-century factory made fine wares became much more commonplace from c. 1830 and especially from c. 1850. There is a medium rounded bowl recorded with a green transfer-printed design, dated from c. 1825. The design features externally a European landscape of a lake with a castle type building with mountains in the background and internally pendants of flowers. The design dates to the mid-19th century. The final sherd of refined whiteware consists of the evenly scalloped rim of a plate with blue-shell edge decoration and is dated c. 1800–1840. Together, the pottery types and decoration suggest a deposition date of c. 1830–40/50.

Recommendations for Further Work

The pottery has little significance at a local level as the finds are a small sample with little meaning. The pottery has the potential to date the context it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the pottery which can be discarded.

APPENDIX 6: POST-MEDIEVAL GLASS ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarret

Results

A single fragment (5g) of glass was recovered from the site and was collected by hand. The fragment was found in the levelling layer [1007] for the flagstone floor [106]. The find consists of the thin wall sherd of a cylindrical wine bottle dated c. 1740–1900 made in mid olive-green green glass with sparse small elongated air bubbles. It is not certain how the wine bottle was made, either free-blown or mould made and therefore the find cannot be refined in its dating.

Recommendations for Further Work

The glass has little significance at a local level as the find is mundane and has little meaning. The glass find does have the potential to broadly date the context it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the glass which can be discarded.

APPENDIX 7: POST-MEDIEVAL GLASS ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarret

Results

A single fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recovered from the archaeological work and is of little significance. The find was collected solely by hand and was found in the demolition deposit [1004], Trench 10. The find consists only of a medium-thick stem with a wide bore that can only be broadly dated to the 17th century.

Recommendations for Further Work

The clay tobacco pipe stem has little significance at a local level as the stem is undecorated and has little meaning. The find has the potential to broadly date the context it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the find which can be discarded.

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