

Marches Archaeology

**5-9 High Street,
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire**

**Report on building interpretation and archaeological
watching brief**

March 2004

Marches Archaeology Series 328

This report is produced by

Marches Archaeology

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**5-9 High Street
Newcastle-Under-Lyme
Staffordshire**

A report on building interpretation and archaeological watching brief

NGR: SJ 8473 4613

Report by
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Summary

Marches Archaeology were commissioned by Wardell Armstrong, on behalf of J & S Seddon (building) Ltd to undertake a building recording and archaeological watching brief on 5-9 High Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire (NGR: SJ 8473 4613) prior to and during renovation works on the site

The building recording identified seven phases of construction, the earliest of which is represented by two late medieval cruck frames which survive as the internal partition walls for the building. During the second phase (16th century), much of the property was rebuilt in brick with extensive updating taking place in Phase III (1750's). A number of extensions were added throughout the 19th and 20th centuries when the buildings use changed from domestic to industrial/commercial, and the building was sub-divided into three units.

The watching brief on ground works revealed a surprising absence of archaeological deposits or features in the backlot of the property, indicating that widespread clearance took place before the 19th century development of this area. A single sandstone foundation was observed during level reduction within the shop floor of 9 High Street, which may be linked to the Phase I timber building.

1. Introduction

Project Background

Marches Archaeology was commissioned by Wardell Armstrong, on behalf of J & S Seddon (building) Ltd to undertake a building recording and archaeological watching brief on 5-9 High Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire (NGR: SJ 8473 4613). J & S Seddon (building) Ltd have had planning permission granted (refs: 02/00595/ FUL & 02/00596/LBC) for the redevelopment, and partial demolition of the building.

5-9 High Street is a Grade II Listed Building, and the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor recommended that if planning permission was granted, a negative condition should be attached, requiring an "implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority".

The Site

The site is occupied by a three storey, brick building which fronts onto the High Street, with a two storey north-south extension and a small, enclosed concrete area to the west, which is accessed off Hickman Street (Figure 1).

It is located on the north side of the High Street at its western end, and was formerly known as 12-14 Bridge Street. Prior to the redevelopment, the ground floor of the building had been used as a clothes shop.

Geology and Topography

The underlying solid geology of Newcastle-under-Lyme consists of Carboniferous deposits of the Westphalian C Coed-Y-Allt and Halesowen Formations and Ruabon Marl and Etruria Formation. The former consists of grey mudstone, sandstone and thin deposits of coal, with the latter formed of red mudstone and pebbly sandstone.

The sites lies at a height of approximately 140m OD, within a general area of higher ground that forms Newcastle town centre. The land slopes to the south-west, down into the river valley of the Lyme Brook, which runs north-west south-east.

2. Aims and objectives

The project brief states that the aims of the project are

- An archaeological watching brief on the work at the rear of the building.
- An archaeological watching brief on the groundworks at the front to establish whether archaeological remains survive below the floor.
- Preparation of a Level 3 Record, as defined in the RCHM(E) publication *Recording Historic Buildings- A Descriptive Specification*. (3rd edn.)
- Additional recording of the timber framing within the building.

The Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) describes Building Investigation and Recording as “a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, or structure, or complex and its setting, including its buried components on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater”.

The purpose of building investigation and recording is defined by the IFA as “to examine a specified building, structure, or complex and its setting, in order to inform [either] the formulation of a strategy for the conservation, alteration, demolition, repair or management of a building, or structure, or complex and its setting [or] to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the results”.

The purpose of an archaeological watching brief is defined by the IFA as: “to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the

presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works”

and

“To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard”.

3. Methodology

Documentary research

Documentary research was carried out in accordance with the brief. Freely accessible sources were consulted at the Staffordshire Record Office and the William Salt Library, Stafford. The Staffordshire SMR and the Listed Buildings Register at the NMR, Swindon were also consulted. The study area covered an area of 200m radius around the site.

Building recording

The building recording was carried out in conjunction with the requirements of a Level 3 record, as set out by the RCHM(E). The record consisted of drawn, written and photographic elements, with the main elevation drawings surveyed with a Leica REDM running TheoLt to produce real-time 3D CAD drawings. A full photographic survey of the building was carried out using 35mm colour slide and 35mm black and white negatives. Further hand drawings were prepared and photographs were taken as appropriate of significant elements revealed during the alterations of the building.

Watching Brief

The project proposal stated that all ground breaking activity was to be carried out under full archaeological supervision, but unfortunately, in practise, a number of the trenches were dug prior to the archaeological contractor being informed of their excavation.

The site record consisted of written, drawn and photographic data. Each trench was fully recorded with context numbers allocated to each feature or deposit, and a Marches Archaeology *pro forma* trench record sheet completed for each trench. Plans were normally drawn at a scale of 1:20, and sections at 1:10, with other drawings completed as appropriate. A full photographic record was kept, using both 35mm colour slide and 35mm black and white negatives.

Office Work

On completion of the fieldwork, a site archive was prepared. Written, drawn and photographic elements were cross-referenced and catalogued, and artefacts from stratified contexts were archived. This report was produced detailing the aims, methods and results of the project, including a non-technical summary.

4. Archaeological and historical background

All SMR data recorded within the study area is plotted on Figure 1. The bold numbers in brackets refer to the information in Appendix I.

There is little evidence of settlement or other activity within Newcastle-under-Lyme prior to the medieval period. There are only two findspots of prehistoric date within the town, one of which is within the study area **(1)**. This is a Neolithic ‘axe-hammer’ found in 1942, the exact location of which is unknown.

Medieval and Post Medieval

Newcastle-under-Lyme is not entered as a manor in the Domesday Book of 1086, and the town appears to have come into existence in the 12th century. A charter issued by King Stephen granted Ranulf Gernons, the Earl of Chester, the gift of ‘Novum Castellum de Staffordshira’ in c.1149 along with other lands and lordships, with the settlement of ‘Novum Oppidum subtus Lymam’ first recognised as a borough in the Pipe rolls of 1172-3. The name Newcastle-under-Lyme therefore refers to a ‘new castle’, which possibly replaced an earlier one at nearby Trentham, with the ‘under-Lyme’, referring to the town’s position in relation to Lyme Forest and the Lyme Brook. Documentary references to the town throughout the medieval period include Nouum Oppidum sub Lima, Novum Castellum subtus Lymam, and Newcastle super Are.

The castle appears to not have been surrounded by a traditional moat, but instead a pool which extended from 'Pool Dam' to 'Rotterdam' (names still in existence in the town). The cost of maintenance for this lake was considerable, with £37 spent in 1137, indicating that there must have been a strong necessity for moving the castle from Trentham, and for the construction of such a sizable defence. After Ranulf’s death in 1153, the castle became the property of the crown, into whose hands it regularly returned after being granted to a number of people, including Ranulf de Blundevill, Earl of Chester in 1254 and Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, in 1265. In the latter half of the 14th century the importance of the castle declined, and by the time of Leland’s visit in c.1541 it had been reduced to the state where his entry records ‘al the castel is doune save one great toure’.

Various elements of the castle have been found during works in the town. In 1933 during the laying of a sewer pipe across Silverdale Road and John of Gaunt’s Street remains of the castle were found, and the following year excavations were undertaken in this area (Pape, 1938). These found evidence of the bailey walls, buildings on the motte and revetting for the bank of the castle pool. More recent investigations in the early 1990s discovered a pit containing medieval pottery and bone located to the west of the motte (Stoke-On-Trent Museum Field Archaeology Unit, 1992).

The medieval settlement of Newcastle-under-Lyme was focused around the ‘new’ castle and the medieval church of St Giles **(3)**, with protection offered entirely by the castle as the settlement is not recorded as walled (Pape, 1928). By 1193 a mill was in existence by the outflow of the moat, with a further two recorded at the site of the Pool Dam in 1279.

A charter for the establishment of the guildhall was issued by Henry II in 1235, and was probably located on High Street, to which the earliest reference is made in 1326 **(2)**. Other streets known to exist in the medieval period include Lower (or Nether) Street (1316), Penkhull Street (1450), and Dog Lane (mid 14th century) later known as Fog Lane. The only recorded surviving building of medieval date, other than the medieval elements of the largely rebuilt St Giles' church, is the Star Inn, located on the south side of Ironmarket. This is a timber-framed hall of two bays parallel to the street, with a two storied cross-wing at its western end. Two other public houses known to have cores of 16th century date are the Wine Vaults **(8)**, on the High Street and the Boozy Dog at 49 Ironmarket **(9)**. Both are timber-framed in origin, and were probably constructed as houses, although both have undergone a large amount of rebuilding.

A rental of 1608 names a number of other streets which had come into existence, including Bridge Street, the Iron Market, Merrial Street, Salters Lane (Hickman Lane since 1875) and The Green, indicting that the town was expanding to the higher ground to the east. The earliest existing plan of the town dates to 1691, and shows it as a small settlement of 12/13 streets centred around the High Street where presumably the market was held. There are three buildings of this date recorded within the study area, again all of which have been at one point used as public houses. 14 & 16 High Street **(10)** is another timber-framed building, and it is probable that the Old Bull's Head Inn **(11)** was also timber-framed before being largely rebuilt in the 19th century. Both were probably originally houses. 65 Lower Street **(12)** is a brick built structure, which has been extensively altered in later periods.

Growth of the town took off in the late 18th century, when, in 1782, reclamation of the marshland which lay to the east of the town started. Quickly a number of new streets were built on the reclaimed marsh. This reflects the growth in population in the town, which is indicated in various lists throughout the medieval and early post-medieval period. In 1327 50 people were recorded as paying a tax on movables, while in 1563 an Episcopal return of Lichfield lists the number of households in the town as numbering 78. The Hearth Tax return of 1666 records a list of 279 householders, and the Compton Census of 10 years later estimates that there were 1000 conformists and 5 nonconformists resident in Newcastle. By 1801 the population totalled 4,604 rising to 17,805 in 1890 and 70,036 in 1951.

During the 17th century timber-framed buildings appear to have been replaced with brick construction. Many 17th century timber-framed buildings, almost exclusively public houses and coaching, remained standing in the first half of the 20th century, including the Red Lion in Penkhull street and the Wine Vaults in Red Lion Square, but the majority have since been demolished. Currently the only recorded timber-framed buildings standing in Newcastle-under-Lyme other than The Star are the Three Tuns Inn, in Red Lion Square, of 16th century date and 14-16 High Street (The Golded Bell Inn) of early 17th century date.

There are a number of buildings dated to the 18th and 19th century throughout the town. These include domestic housing, public houses, shops and militia barracks and are

generally of brick construction. Within the study area the 18th century buildings include seven properties on the High Street (14-20) (including the site), and two on the Ironmarket (21 & 22), as well as a house on Merrial Street (23). The market cross (25) in the High Street, and the Unitarian Church (24) on Lower Street are also of this date. A further two properties on the High Street date to the 19th century (27 & 28),

The earliest industry to be associated with Newcastle was ironworking, with John Andrew ‘ferrou’ and Thomas Blomer ‘blomer’ recorded in 1421 and 1456 respectively, as well as ‘nailers’ recorded in the town between the 14th and 19th centuries. From the 16th century onwards the number of industries represented increased, with tanning, felt making, clay pipe production, and silk and paper milling all taking place in the 16th-19th centuries.

During the later post medieval period the economic importance of Newcastle-under-Lyme rose due to its location on the main road between Birmingham and Manchester, and between the north-east Midlands and the potteries of North Wales, Shrewsbury and Chester, and by the middle of the 18th century was the terminal point for five other roads linking many of the pottery towns. Some potteries were located in Newcastle (6 & 7), but it was more important as a through point for the distribution of the clay and flints from the Liverpool docks to larger pottery towns such as Shrewsbury and Burslem. In the later 18th century new turnpike roads were created which allowed the distribution of clay to by-pass Newcastle-under-Lyme, decreasing its importance in the pottery industry, although it maintained its position as a market and developed as a major coaching town. From the late 18th century a number of small canals were constructed and over the second half of the 19th century a number of railway projects were carried out, both primarily to allow for the transportation of coal from the nearby mines as well as other raw materials for industry.

During the 1819 Inclosure Act, much of the land in the north and west of the Borough was granted to the burgesses of the town. Their pasture rights meant that they were unwilling to allow building in this area, and it remained relatively undeveloped until the late 1920s. When the population of Newcastle doubled in the early 19th century, the majority of the new housing was constructed in the Liverpool Street area of the town, while further expansion has continued throughout the 20th century.

On the 1st January 1954 a number of changes were made to street names in Newcastle. The principal throughfare through the town, which consisted of Penkhull Street, Market Square, High Street, Red Lion Square and the lower part of Bridge Street was all renamed as High Street. 5-9 High Street (the Site) would have been located on Bridge Street prior to this.

5. Building Recording

The following consists of a description of the building fabric by phase. The room numbers used in the description are indicated on Figures 6-8.

Results

5-9 High Street consists of a brick built, L-shaped building, with a tiled roof fronting onto the north side of Newcastle-under-Lyme High Street (Figure 1). On the west side of the building is a concrete area accessed off Hickman Street, which runs north south at right angles to High Street. The southern east-west range of the building, together with a double gabled northern wing extending off the western two bays of this range, rises to three stories in height, while the north-south extension, which is joined to the eastern bay of the east-west range, is two stories high. Until recently a single storey extension of late 20th century date was located in the angle between the north-west wing and the north extension, this was demolished in the period between the first and second visit to the building.

Phase I

The earliest phase of construction within the building is represented by the two timber framed partition walls, located within the east-west range at the front of the building and containing upper crucks (Figures 9 & 10). The upper cruck blades are halved at the apex, and support a double trenched purlined roof. The cruck blades rest directly on the tie beam of the second floor, with the space between them infilled with large, square, timber-framed panels (Plate 1). A series of carpenters' assembly marks sequentially number the mortice and tenon joints on both frames at second floor level, indicating that all the timbers are of one phase, and are all *in situ* (Plate 2). Similar frames of large open panels exist on the first floor, but no carpenters' assembly marks are visible on these and they are misaligned with those on the second floor.

These two upper cruck frames appear to have been part of a building that was at least three bays in length. This is suggested by the fact that the Phase II brickwork of both gable end walls of the east-west range bears the imprint of the cruck shape and height, indicating they are rebuilds of existing walls containing cruck frames. The condition of the existing crucks also indicates that they have at no point been external, and have not undergone weathering by being exposed to the elements.

Access between the rooms at both first and second floor level was by doorways set into the northernmost panels of the frame, which have subsequently been blocked up. At second floor level a series of mortice holes visible in the eastern face of the timber upright forming the south side of the doorway in the western cruck (Figure 10), suggest that a timber screen extended across part of the room, although the extent of this is unclear as there are no corresponding mortice holes in the doorway of the eastern cruck.

There is virtually no evidence for the form of the building in which these cruck frames were originally located, the external walls having been later entirely replaced. In upper cruck buildings, as in other cruck structures, the external walls tended to have little structural importance, and in this building the wall plate was probably jointed into the tie beam where it extended out beyond the bottom of the cruck blades. The southern end of the tie beam can be seen to extend into the brickwork of the southern elevation, but there is no visible evidence of the position of the wall plates. That the original building was at least partially timber framed on the external elevations is suggested by vertical joints in

the brickwork of the north and south elevations, immediately either side of the line of cruck blades. These suggest that phase II brickwork may have incorporated large timber uprights from the original building, which were later removed and themselves replaced with brick.

Phase II

During the second phase of work, the external walls of the east-west range were rebuilt in brick. As stated above, the brickwork of the east and west gable end walls preserved the curved outline of the cruck blades (Figures 11 & 12) and may have been built while the original walls were *in situ*, demolition of the Phase I walls taking place when the roof was securely supported by the new structure.

The north and south walls were rebuilt as triple gabled elevations (Figures 13 & 14), the gables constructed slightly offline with the internal bays of the building in order to present a more symmetrical facade. Both the bricks and the mortar used in the construction of the walls are identical to those used in the brick noggin infilling the timber panels of the cruck frames. This suggests that the infill of the panels was replaced in this phase, although the lack of stave holes in the two rails of the frame that are currently exposed indicates that the Phase II brick did not replace wattle and daub panels. A single window, wider than it was high and centrally placed within the south elevation, served each room on the first and second floor.

To the rear of the building a double gable wing, one room deep, was constructed to the north of the west and central bays (Figure 12). The only possible surviving window opening of this phase is to be seen in Room 24, which has a moulded hood over it externally (Plate 3), although the partial remains of a second hood survive over the window for Room 28, which has later been altered.

Each of the rooms in the east-west range on first floor level (and ground floor in the eastern bay at least), was provided with a fireplace with chimneystacks built into the east and west gable end walls, and a third built into the north wall of the central bay. The profile of a curved chimney hood can be seen preserved in the side faces of the chimney breast in Room 22. The western two rooms of the north wing are currently also provided with fireplaces with a stack built against the internal face of the north wall of the rooms, but this is probably a later addition.

The walls separating the rooms in the north wing from their adjacent stairways are later additions of lathe and plaster, while the stairs themselves are also of a later date. The position of the Phase II staircase is unclear however. There appears to have been no direct access between Rooms 27 and 28/29 (which at this point were one room) at this time, with Room 29 accessed by a now blocked doorway in the south end of the wall dividing it from Room 24.

The only direct dating evidence for the Phase II construction is the window hood moulding on the rear elevation which is 17th century. The triple gable elevation became extremely popular in the 17th century, both for timber-framed buildings and the

increasingly popular brick buildings, a date which is supported by the size and style of the bricks used in the construction.

Phase III

The inserted brick chimney stack against the north wall of the north range appears to have been constructed after the gable end wall of the north range was completed, but before the roof was heightened. It cuts the moulded hood of the westernmost Phase II window.

Phase IV

The fourth phase of work consisted of a raising and levelling of the north and south walls of the east west range, with the probable replacement of the Phase I timber uprights that had survived within the Phase II brickwork.

The south elevation, as well as being raised to a level topped face (Figure 14, Plate 5), was also refaced externally with higher quality brick laid in Flemish bond, the central bay projected south of the adjacent two by the thickness of two or three bricks. The façade has a moulded sill band on both the first and second floor and a moulded cornice immediately above the second floor windows. The external window surrounds are of moulded stone, and the elevation is topped by four decorative stone pedestals (Plate 4). The decorated heads of the downpipes that accompanied this refacing bear the date 1747. The Phase II windows were replaced with the taller, narrower, 24-paned sash windows which were furnished internally with fielded-panel reveal linings and, on the first floor at least, window seats.

The north wall of the east-west range was also raised and levelled (Figure 13), although to a slightly lower height than the south elevation, producing an asymmetrical roofline. The walls and roof of the north wing was also raised (Figure 12, Plate 6), although the double gable form was kept. The three windows in the north extension at first floor level all appear to be replaced in this phase, those in Room 23 at the bottom of stair 1 having fielded-panel reveal linings.

It was probably during this phase that the ceiling height, and presumably the floor height in Room 22, was raised and the chimneybreast extended outwards with a new fireplace formed. The chimneybreasts of the stack set in the north wall of rooms 20 and 26 were also extended outwards to form deeper fireplaces.

The style of the work carried out in this phase, with the production of the highly symmetrical south façade including the tall sash windows and the decorative dressings, is clearly of the early Georgian period. The date of 1747 provided by the heads of the downpipes can be safely taken to date the façade and the rest of the work that is associated with it.

Phase V

During the latter half of the 19th century, post 1860 and pre 1900, a number of extensions and small buildings were constructed at the rear of the building (Figures 4A & B). This

principally involved the construction of the two storey north-south extension (Figures 6 & 7), which appears to have been built in two phases due to the differences in brick used and the changes in level. The southern part of the extension, which joins onto the north side of the eastern bay of the east-west range, is constructed of the small, 5.5cm thick bricks used in the Phase II brickwork although the cementacious mortar, and the 1st Edition OS Map of 1860, indicates that it is of a late 19th century date. The northern half of the extension, which is wider than the southern portion, is constructed of larger, 19th century bricks with a similar cementacious mortar. The whole extension is roofed using identical King post trusses.

As well as the north-south extension, the two story structure which, until recent demolition, formed the northern end of 5 High Street, is of this date. The 2nd Edition OS map of 1900 shows this existing as one of five small buildings clustered to the rear of the north wing, built since 1860 (as indicated by the 1st Edition OS Map of 1860) (Figures 4A & 4B).

The late 19th century maps also show that some time between 1860 and 1924 the building had been divided into three separate properties corresponding to the three bays of the east-west range, with a separate entrance passage to the north extension between the east and central properties. It is therefore certain that it is at this date that staircases 1 and 2 were constructed, together with the plasterboard partition walls that separate the stairwells from Rooms 21 and 23 on the first floor, and 24 and 29 on the second floor. The doorways in the timber-framed partition walls on the first and second floor were also blocked at this time. It is also likely that the timber partition wall creating Rooms 28 & 29 was erected at this date.

In Room 27 a small fireplace was inserted into the chimneybreast serving the first floor fireplace.

It appears to be during this phase that the function of the building changes, with the division of the property creating individual shops, and the north extension constructed for possibly light industrial use/office purposes.

Phase VI

At some point in the mid 20th century the small cluster of buildings to the rear of the north wing were largely demolished and replaced with a single, one story structure linking the west bay of the north wing and the two storey structure to the north. The height of the roofline for this link building necessitated the bricking up of the bottom half of the phase IV windows in Room 21 and at the base of staircase 1.

Phase VII

In the late 20th century, probably between the late 1970's and early 1990's a single storey extension consisting of two rooms (1 & 2) was added onto the west side of the north extension. The front of the building at ground floor level was extended outwards, creating two fully glass shop fronts, and bringing the property into line with the late 19th century buildings on either side.

The central area between the different buildings which had previously been open was covered over with a flat, felt-covered roof, and the ground floor covering the east and central bay of the east-west range, the east bay of the north wing and much of the north extension was opened out to create a single large shop floor (7 High Street). The walls internally were lined with plasterboard and the ceilings replaced with polystyrene tiles. The rear of the property was refurbished in the same style, with rooms functioning in relation to the property's use as a shop. Room 2 functions as a loading room, with large double doors opening out onto a raised loading area to the west, while Room 3 was a wash room and Room 4 a kitchen/tearoom.

The western section of the building remained as a separate property on the ground floor, also in use as a shop. However at some time access was re-established between the first floor rooms by the removal of a mid rail in the southern section of the eastern frame to create a doorway, and the complete removal of the southern section of the western frame for the same purpose. On the first floor a mid rail was removed from the northern half of the western frame to create a doorway, but access between Rooms 26 and 27 was not possible until recently, when the blocked doorway between them was opened up during the development works.

6. Watching brief

A total of 12 trenches were excavated within the area of the ground floor footings of the site (Figure 15). A full summary of the context information from these trenches can be found in Appendix II.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was a trial pit excavated against the east wall of the property in the south half of the shop floor, within the area of the Phase I-IV building. It was dug to a depth of approximately 0.85m in order to observe the foundations. All of the layers identified within this test pit related to modern floor levels, with a sequence of concrete floors with underlying levelling layers on top of a thicker deposit of building rubble.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was also excavated against the east wall of the building in the northern half of the main shop floor in order to check the foundations. The layers observed were very similar to those seen in Trench 1 with two concrete floor levels, each with an underlying levelling layer. These were overlying a deposit of clayey sand, roughly dated as modern by the fragments of coal within it, the bottom of which was not reached.

Trench 3

This trial pit was also located against the east wall of the building, within the 19th century extension, for a foundation check to approximately 0.50m. This contained a series of thin modern deposits including clinker and brick fragments, overlying a deposit of clay also including brick fragments that was not bottomed.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was the final inspection pit excavated against the east wall of the building, and was located in the rear office of the ground floor area, within the area of the 19th century extension. This again has a concrete floor surface overlying a very thin modern make-up deposit. This overlay a silty sand which appeared to be natural, and which was cut by a modern drain. Although this trench was excavated to 0.80m, it was waterlogged from a depth of 0.69m.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was excavated against the northern wall of the building, still within the area of the 19th century extension. The sequence of layers encountered contained the same concrete floor and levelling layer observed in trench 4, but overlying a silty grey clay instead of a sandy deposit. Investigation of the clay was not possible due to localised oil contamination.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was located against the west wall of the property, within the front half of the shop floor, and therefore within the phase I-VI building. Below the concrete floor and its associated levelling layer, a deposit of dark brown sand containing fragments of broken brick was recorded. This overlay the natural silty sand as seen in Trench 4.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was also located against the west wall of the building, further north than Trench 6, and within the Phase II extension. The sequence of deposits was almost identical to that observed in Trench 6 however, with a dark brown silt overlying the natural sands which was clayier in this area.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was excavated against the southern wall of the Phase VII (late 20th century) extension. This had the same sequence of deposits as observed in Trenches 6 and 7, with two sequences of concrete flooring at the top of the section.

Trench 9

Trench 9 was an area of level reduction across the central area of the main shop floor of both shops forming the site, revealing an area that had been heavily disturbed (Figure 16a). Two natural deposits were observed, a thick red clay (914) overlain by a yellow clay containing flecks of organic material (905). This upper clay was cut to a lower level on the east side of the trench, and had been replaced by a sequence of deposits (908-913) varying in thickness but all of which appeared to be modern in date.

Clay (905) and the sequence of modern deposits were cut by a linear cut [907] which was aligned on a north east – south west line and filled with redeposited natural clay. This was in turn cut by [904], a steep sided, flat based cut the extent and purpose of which was unclear. Into the top of this sequence was cut a very modern cut containing a modern drain pipe.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was excavated to a depth of 1.5m in the rear office of the ground floor, between the trial pit Trenches 4 and 5, and within the 19th century extension. Below the overlying layer of demolition debris was observed a sequence of clay deposits which varied slightly in colour and texture from a red sandy clay to a yellow grey clay (Figure 16b). None of the clay deposits contained any archaeological inclusions and all appeared to be natural deposits, with the red sandy clay (1002) associated with the natural deposits observed in Trenches 4 and 5.

Trench 11

Trench 11 was a footing trench excavated north-west south-east across the rear portion of the shop floors to a depth of 1.2m (Figure 17). Here the modern concrete floor layer was directly overlying a modern dark silty sand containing a large quantity of organic material. This in turn overlay natural deposits of silty clays and sands.

Trench 12

Trench 12 consisted of a large area of level reduction across the area of the demolished Phase VI extension in the north-west corner of the site, as well as the removal of the concrete slab across the Hickman street frontage to the west of the extension (Figures 18a & b). Below the make-up layer for the concrete two natural deposits were observed, one of orange sand and another of red clay which partially overlies the sand in the western half of the trench.

Cutting the natural was the remains of a brick and sandstone block foundation, orientated north east – south west. On the south-eastern side of this foundation was part of a brick blockwork surface. Both the wall and the surface were modern in date.

Level reduction

Further level reduction and plaster stripping in the southern half of the shop revealed the remains of a sandstone foundation at the base of the east internal elevation of the building (Figure 19). This was of roughly coursed rubble construction, the sandstone blocks varying in size from 0.05 to 0.65cm. The foundation was cut directly into the natural red clay, and possibly formed the foundation for the Phase I cruck framed building.

7. Discussion

Building Recording

The earliest phase of the building is represented by the two upper cruck frames which have survived at the core of the present building, and a stated above these appear to have been part of a three bay house of substantial size and status.

There is little remaining evidence for the plan of the Phase I building, but it is likely that a building of this size had wings that extended off the main east-west range. There is also little visible evidence for the internal layout of the building during the phase I period. It seems likely that a floor level existed at the level of the present second floor, as the open panel timber framing of the first and second floor is misaligned. Whether a two storey

hall was present on the ground/first floor that was later floored over is unclear however due to the complete clearance of the ground floor for the modern shop.

The precise date of these cruck frames is unclear as there are no closely datable features associated with it. Crucks themselves are used over a relatively long period of time from the 13th century onwards, still being in use as late as 1700 (Morriss 2000), and dating of such structures is most reliably produced using dendrochronology. The form of the carpenter's marks and the size of the timbers indicate that these frames fall into the later half of this time frame, with the relationship with the Phase II brickwork indicating a date of the 15th or early 16th century.

The second phase of work, consisting of the rebuilding of the external walls in brick and the construction of the north wing can be dated to the 16th or early 17th century. Brick is generally recorded to have superseded timber framing within Newcastle by the mid 17th century, but the triple gabled south elevation is typical of a style that became very popular in the early half of the 16th century indicating it may be an early use of brick within the town. The narrow thickness and rough texture of the unfrogged bricks and the use of English bond indicates a date of the early post medieval period. Very few features survive intact from this phase, with the windows and fireplaces largely altered in the phase IV remodelling of the building, but one window opening in the eastern bay of the north wing (Room 24) does survive in its original form with a moulded brick label or hood mould of 16th/ early 17th century date.

There are few other buildings of this date surviving within Newcastle-under-Lyme. The two other recorded buildings of 16th century date are both timber-framed, (No 36 High Street and No 49 Ironmarket) and appear to have been originally built as houses although both later were converted to inns. There are six recorded buildings of 17th century date, the majority of which have been substantially altered in later periods resulting in little information as to their original form. No 14-16 High Street, formerly 7-9 Bridge Street and close to the site, is also timber framed and stands to a height of two storeys with an attic, while No 25 Ironmarket is recorded as 17th century containing a cruck truss and traces of timbering in a first floor wall. There certainly appears to be no other building of brick, surviving to such a great extent, which is known to survive within the town. High Street/ Bridge Street was the principal road through Newcastle, and contained many large coaching inns.

The fourth phase of work constitutes the early Georgian remodelling of the building, with the complete remodelling of the south façade. The style of the building work, with its tall sash windows with moulded stone architraves, reveal linings and a window seat of fielded panels with ovolo moulding and use of the by now preferred Flemish bond, can be more precisely dated by the heads of the cast iron down pipes that are present on the south elevation and which bear the text I.B. 1747.

The stone used in the construction of the window openings can be seen from the inside to be large slabs of red sandstone. A number of other buildings within the town have been recorded as having sandstone within their foundations, thought to have been reused stone

from the castle which is documented to have been in decay from the 16th century onwards. Unfortunately the ground floor of the façade has been removed to make way for modern shop fronts

There are a number of other brick buildings of 18th century date in a similar style to 5-9 High Street, but the majority of them are recorded as being of the late 18th century.

The construction of extensions and other small buildings to the rear of the property in the late 19th century, are part of the expansion of the town that took place in the late 18th and 19th century, together with its increasing industrialisation. The map evidence shows that the western buildings and the southern half of the north extension buildings were constructed between 1860 and 1879, and it also appears to be at this time that the building was divided into two separate properties. The northern part of the north extension was added by 1900, and by 1924 a third property had been created, roughly corresponding to the three bays of the east-west range. The front of the building probably used as shops, and the rear extensions for a more industrial use with the map of 1924 showing a separate entrance to the rear extension between properties 7 & 9 High Street.

Watching brief

Twelve trenches or areas of level reduction were monitored as part of the archaeological watching brief on the groundworks associated with the remodelling of the building.

None of these trenches contained evidence of archaeological features or deposits, and no archaeological material was recovered during the course of the watching brief. The trenches and areas of level reduction covered areas both within and outside the Phase I building and its subsequent extension in Phase II. This therefore allowed coverage of areas behind the early post-medieval structures. The absence of archaeological deposits or features associated with these phase of activity in the backlot is slightly surprising. This, together with the absence of topsoil and subsoil deposits, indicates that the area was truncated prior to development in the 19th century.

Further, unmonitored level reduction in the southern part of the shop floor revealed the remains of a sandstone foundation. As a rubble constructed wall this is generally undiagnostic, but it is very possible that this formed the foundation for the Phase I cruck building, and reused to form the foundation of the Phase II brick building. Above ground level on the ground floor, this east wall appears to have been entirely replaced or refaced in Phase V or VI.

8. Bibliography

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9. Appendix I: SMR data

No	Eastings	Northings	SMR No	Date	Listing	Site type	Description
1	384600	346100	10768	Neolithic		Findspot	Medium sized axe-hammer found circa 1942.
2	384810	345960	02353	Medieval		Town centre	Medieval core of town, mentioned in pipe rolls for 12th century, charter granted in 1173. Mentioned in numerous other medieval documents.
3	384900	346100	01199	Post Medieval		Building	Parsonage house built in 1698 by Egerton Harding, curate of chapel of Newcastle.
4	383660	345990	01200	Post Medieval		Site	Site of Free Grammar School near Parish church.
5	348600	346000	05502	Post Medieval		Pottery kilns	Pottery kiln, part of a mid 18th century pottery kiln located in an evaluation, along with traces of late 17th century - early 18th century pot works.
6	384680	346050	06783	Post Medieval	Grade II*	Church and cemetery	St Giles' church. Parish church. Medieval foundation with refaced 13th century tower and fragments of original masonry, largely as rebuilt by George Gilbert Scott in 1876. Coursed and squared sandstone with plain tiled roofs. West tower is substantially 13th century, though refaced. 3 stages with clasping angle buttresses, stair turret to NW and embattled parapet. Moulded west door with 4 shafts. Bell chamber lights and clock over.
7	384710	346020	06784	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	3 and 5 Church St. Shop with dwelling over. Late 18th century. Brick with plain tiled roof. 4 storeys, single bay with 12 pane sashes with painted flat-arched heads above lower late 19th century shop front flanked by 2 doorways. Moulded eaves cornice, gable end stacks.
8	384860	345980	06788	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	Market Cross. Originally late 18th century in date, extensively renewed late 20th century. Stone fluted doric column capped with plain abacus and cast-iron lamp bracket raised on square plinth above circular steps.
9	384730	346130	06789	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	5, 7 and 9, High St. Shop, formally known as 10, 12 and 14 Bridge St. Originally a dwelling dated to 1747. Brick with stone dressings and plain tile roof. 3 bays, the central bay advanced, 3 storeyed, with modern shop front to ground floor, and 4 pane sash windows above in moulded stone architraves. Moulded stone eaves cornice capped by 4 stone urns with swags and flames.
10	384740	346090	06792	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	17 High St. Shop premises. Early 19th century and probably purpose built. Painted brick, plain tiled roof. 3 storeyed, 3 bays, with late 19th century shop front with doorway in curved angle and flanking windows, divided by pilasters and with pediments in fascia. 4 light sash windows above with flat arched heads. Dentilled eaves cornice, gable end stacks.
11	384710	346100	06803	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	14 and 16 High St. Formerly known as 7-9 The Golded Bell, Bridge St. Shop premises, originally dwellings and once used as an inn. Early 17th century with early 19th century modifications. Timber framed with painted render in imitation of timbering superimposed (close studding with middle rail). Plain tiled roof with scalloped bands. 2 storeyed with attic, 2 bays. Inserted ground floor shop front, then jettied upper storey with 2 oriel mullioned windows above, and long mullioned lights to attic dormers. Ornately carved barge boards with finials. Gable stacks.
12	384720	346090	06805	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	18A High St. Shop premises, probably purpose built. c. 1840. Painted brick with stone dressings, plain tiled roof. 3 storeyed, a single bay with inserted modern shop front to ground floor, and 3 light oriel window above, with 3 light mullion beneath stepped hood mould and pierced quatrefoil. Gabled facade with ornamental barge boards with spiked finials. Gable end stack. Included for Group Value.
13	384730	346090	06806	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	22 and 24 High St. Shop premises. Late 18th century. Brick with plain tiled roof. 3 storeyed, 2 bays with mid 19th century shop front to ground floor with fluted Corinthian pilasters on polygonal chamfered bases. 24 pane sash windows (12 pane to attic) with flat arched stuccoed heads. Moulded wood eaves cornice, gable end stacks.
14	384730	346080	06808	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	26 and 28A High St. Shop premises. Late 18th century or early 19th century. Painted brick with plain tiled roof. 3 storeyed, 2 bays with renewed doorway to NE elevation, inserted shop front in late 19th century style to SE. 16 pane sash windows above, with narrow flat arched heads with stuccoed voussoirs.

15	384720	346070	06809	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	28 High St. Shop premises, possibly original dwelling, with living accomodation over and at rear. Late 18th century. Brick with plain tiled roof. 3 storeys, 2 bays with mid 19th century shop front with cast-iron balconette over fascia which has glass lettering. Central doorway with fluted pilasters carrying fascia, and foliate spandrels. Sash windows above with flat arched stuccoed heads with stressed voussoirs. Moulded eaves cornice, gable end stacks.
16	384730	346030	06811	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	6 High St, The Wine Vaults. Formerly known as 14 Three Tuns Inn, Red Lion Square. Public house, probably originally dwelling. Late 16th century, partly rebuilt early 19th century. Render over timber frame, with plain tiled roof. 2 storeyed, hall and cross wing plan, with doorway in angle, and projecting gable to the left. Renewed mullioned windows. Stack on left side wall. Internal timber work exposed internally, but much renewed.
17	384800	345980	06813	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	56A High St. Formerly known as 44 High St. Shop premises, possibly originally built as dwelling. Mid-late 18th century. Brick with plain tiled roof. 3 storeyed, 5 bays with mid 19th century shop front with Tuscan shafts carrying moulded fascia. 12 pane sash windows above with stuccoed heads with stressed keys. central windows have architraves, shouldered to first floor. Eaves cornice and pediment over central section. Rear largely renewed.
18	384820	346070	06815	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	9-13 Ironmarket. Shop, possibly built for commercial use, and possibly originally 2 units. Late 18th century. Brick with plain tiled roof. 3 storeys 3 window range. Inserted ground floor with late 20th century shop fronts. Upper windows are 3 light casements, withtransoma and segmental arched heads with keystones to first floor, plain wood lintels to second storey. Sill band survives beneath second floor windows. Dentilled eaves cornice. Gable and axial stacks.
19	384860	346080	06816	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	14 - 16 Ironmarket. Row of 3 shops all built as separate deveulpoments. Mid 18th century with possible earlier cores. Brick with plain tiled roofs. Each has 3 storeys, 2 window range, and all with renewed ground floors with 20th century shop fronts. 14 has tall 3 light casement windows with transoms and flat arched heads to first floor, horizontal 3 light casement windows above. Heavy moulded eaves cornice, coped gables with moulded kneelers. Gable end stack. 15 has 12 pane sash windows with stuccoed heads and stressed key blocks to first floor, 6 pane sash windows above, with flat arched gauged brick heads and continuous sill band. Moulded eaves cornice. Coped gable and end wall stack. 16 similar to 15: sash windows with stuccoedheads to first floor, flat arched brick heads to second floor. First floor 2 pane sashes. Sill band to 2nd storey. Moulded eaves cornice, end wall stacks.
20	384910	346070	06820	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	49 Ironmarket (Boozy Dog Public House). Public house, originally built as a dwelling. Mid/Late 16th century. Timber framed, refronted in cement render, plain tiled roof. 2 storeys, hall and cross wing plan with projecting gable to right. Doorways in gable and centre of main range, with renewed casement windows. Original jettying suggested by projection of cement rendered upper storey. inside some original timbers remain, and especially the roof structure, with cambered tie beam with pendant and bracing over the main range.
21	384820	346050	06832	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	Old Bull's Head Inn, Lad Lane. Public house, probably built as a dwelling. Core probably early 17th century, re-fronted early 19th century. Stucco over brck with plain tiled roof. 2 storeyed, 3 unit plan, with one unit to right of doorway in moulded case. Casement windows of 3 lights. Gable and axial stacks. inside, a heavily moulded bressumer beam over fireplace, and chamfered ceiling beams survive from the earlier structure.
22	384610	345970	06834	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	Maxim's wine bar, 65 Lower St. House, now in use as public house/night club. Late 17th century, but extensively altered. Brick with plain tiled roof. 3 storeys, 6 bays, with doorway to right of centre with shell hood carried on moulded console brackets. To left, 3 narrow 18 pane sash windows are recent replacements of former inn front. Wider 12 pane sash window to right. Upper windows also sashes (one over doorway blocked), with flat arched stuccoed heads, and cambered brick heads to left. Deep moulded string courses and eaves band. Right hand bays contained beneath an early 20th century gable with brick nogging. gable and axial stacks.
23	384640	346070	06836	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	Old Unitarian Meeting House, Lower St. Unitarian Meeting House. Original building of 1650, restored in 1717 and a second storey added in 1926. Little of the original building now survives. Roughcast over brick with plain tiled hipped roof. 6 paneled door to right of south elevation in simple case, and three 12 pane windows beyond with segmentally arched heads, one cut by internal floor level. 3 wide small-paned windows above, 3 wood lancet lights in gable.
24	384760	346130	06841	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	48 and 50 Merrial St. Large house now used as club premises. Dated 1769. Render over brick, with plain tiled roofs. 2 storeyed, 5 bay plan with central doorway with segmental pediment carried on Tuscan columns flanked by 12 pane sash windows with flat heads, and a tripartite canted bay window with slate riif and modillion cornice. Fluted string course.

							Later (mid 19th century) addition to right with rounded arched doorway and tripartite window.
25	384750	346090	06843	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	Shop premises. Early 19th century and probably purpose built. Painted brick, plain tiled roof. 3 storeyed, 3 bays with late 19th century shop front with doorway in curved angle and flanking windows, divided by pilasters and with pediments in fascia. 4 light sash windows above with flat arched heads. Dentilled eaves cornice, gable end stacks.
26	384700	346070	13879	Post Medieval	Grade II	Tomb	Chest tomb in memory of Samuel Mayer, died 1738. By W. Spence of Liverpool. Rectangular tomb with depressed pyramidal cap raised on steps. Lettering in the long sides, with carved emblems of the passion, justice etc in the pilasters which mark the angles. Crouching angels and wheatsheafs etc in the lugged angles of the cap
27	384910	348110	13880	Post Medieval	Grade II	Building	Shop premises. Façade of c1800 refronting an earlier 17th century building. Rendered brick over partial timber frame, plain tiled roof. 3 storeyed, 2 window range. Late 20th century shop front, and sash windows above. Inside, one cruck truss visible in gable wall at first floor level, and traces of timbering in rear wall also
28	384870	345990	26730	Post Medieval		Pottery kilns	Pomona potworks. Site of Samuel Bell's Pomona potworks excavated 1969-72.

10. Appendix II: Trench summaries

Trench No. 1	0.8m x 0.7m	mOD
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
101	Concrete	0.15
102	Levelling for Concrete	0.25
103	Concrete	0.18
104	Levelling for Concrete	0.22
105	Brick and slate rubble	
Note	Total depth of trench was 0.85m	

Trench No. 2	1m x 0.7m	mOD
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
201	Concrete	0.15
202	Levelling for Concrete	0.21
203	Concrete	0.13
204	Levelling for Concrete	0.2
205	Layer of mixed orange brown and black clayey sand, occasional coal	0.23 +
Note	Total depth of trench was 0.92m	

Trench No. 3	0.66m x 0.56m	mOD
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
301	Concrete	0.1
302	Layer of clinker	0.06
303	Mixed layer of brick fragments in gritty very dark matrix	0.05
304	Layer of tile fragments in gritty black matrix	0.22
305	Reddish brown silty clay mottled with brick fragments	0.17 +
Note	Total depth of trench was 0.53m	

Trench No. 4	1.3m x 0.7m	mOD
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
401	Concrete Floor	0.07
402	Make up	0.04
403	Modern drain	0.5
404	Reddish brown silty sand	0.69+
Note	Total depth of trench was 0.8m, water logged below 0.68m	

Trench No. 5	0.45m x 0.3m	mOD
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
501	Concrete floor	0.07
502	Make-up layer for concrete floor	0.04
503	Grey silty clay with reddish brown patches	0.22+
Note	Total depth of trench was 0.45m. Not investigated below 0.32m due to oil contamination	

Trench No. 6	0.96m x 0.5m	mOD
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
601	Concrete floor	0.35
602	Make-up	0.07
603	Dark brown silty sand, contained bricks	0.13
604	Reddish brown silty sand	
Note	Total depth of trench was 0.27m	

Trench No. 7	0.55m x 0.45m	mOD
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
701	Concrete floor	0.07
702	Make-up	0.09
703	Dark brown gritty silt	
704	Reddish brown silty clay	
Note	Total depth of trench was 0.43m	

Trench No. 8	0.5m x 0.6m	mOD
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
801	Concrete floor	0.11
802	Make-up	0.08
803	Concrete floor	0.16
804	Make-up	
805	Dark brown gritty silt	0.02
806	Reddish brown sandy silt	0.13 +
Note	Total depth of trench was 0.5m	

Trench No. 9	Reduced level dig	mOD
Context	Description	Thickness (m)
901	Reddish brown silt with charcoal	0.3
902	Yellow brown sand	0.08
903	Grey and red brown silt with some clay. Fill of 904	0.3
904	Flat bottomed steep sided cut, filled by 903	
905	Yellow brown silted clay with charcoal content - natural	1.05
906	Med Yellow brown silted clay, similar to 905	
907	Steep sided flat bottomed cut, extent unknown	
908	Pale yellow sand	0.1
909	Dark grey almost black gritty silt - industrial waste?	0.03
910	Yellow brown clay	0.09
911	Loose orange sand	0.06
912	Smooth yellow clay	0.12
913	Dark green gritty layer	0.2
914	Natural red soft clay	
915	Grey brown silt, Fill of drain includes 7½ " clay drain	
916	cut for drain	
917	Red sand with yellow bands of sand and clay	0.6
918	Firm clean orange and grey clay, relationship to 914 not determined	0.27 +
919	Modern fill	
920	Modern cut cutting 917, possibly equated to 907. Deeper than L.O.E	
Note		

Trench No. 10	1.4m x 3.4m		mOD
Context	Description		Thickness (m)
1001	Demolition debris		0.1
1002	Red sand clay with flecks of charcoal and decayed sandstone		0.66
1003	Pale yellow grey silted clay with bands of black clay silt		0.2
1004	Yellow grey clay no inclusions		0.24
1005	Smooth grey clay		0.18
1006	Wet yellow clay with high content of decaying sandstone		
Note	Total depth of trench was 1.5m		

Trench No. 11	15m x 0.8 to 2.4m	Orientated: North-west to South-east	mOD
Context	Description		Thickness (m)
1101	Modern floor level made up of concrete and iron		0.2
1102	Dark greyish, black silty sand, modern backfill with high % of decayed organic content		0.4
1103	Mid brownish red, silted clay with bands of pinkish sand - natural		0.5
1104	Mid yellowish brown silty sand with bands of manganese - natural		0.6
1105	Modern brick wall with collapse with collapse on south edge		1.2
Note	Total depth of trench was 1.2m		

Trench No. 12	0.5m x 0.6m		mOD
Context	Description		Thickness (m)
1201	Concrete slab across the Hickman street frontage		0.2
1202	Make-up for concrete- The surface stripping for trench 12 left this layer across the area of the Hickman Street frontage beyond the brickwall from the previous building		
1203	Natural – orange sand with plates of sandstone. The only feature cutting this was the wall from the previous building and some associated drainage		
1204	Natural – Red clay with sandstone patches, Overlies 1203 on the Hickman Street frontage. The layer was below 1202		
1205	Brick and sandstone foundation. 2 red sandstone blocks. Bricks were red 240mm x 110mm x 80mm.		
1206	Brick block work surface		
1207	Cut for modern structure		
Note	Total depth of trench was 0.6m		