Marches Archaeology

# The Civic Hall

## Castle Dyke Lichfield Staffordshire

## A report on a archaeological watching brief

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### The Civic Hall Castle Dyke Lichfield Staffordshire

#### NGR: SK 1185 0943

## Report on an archaeological watching brief

**Report by** Adrian F. Nash

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#### Summary

The site is situated between Wade Street and Frog Lane, both streets being part of the medieval core of the city. Various studies have argued that the core was a planned town executed c. 1150 AD. Documentary evidence demonstrates that both streets existed by the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Lichfield District Council wished to remodel and extend the Civic Hall that was built in the early 1970s. Staffordshire County Council Archaeological Advisor required that all groundworks associated with development be subject to archaeological supervision. During the excavation of a new orchestra pit several medieval pits were encountered ranging in date from the  $12^{th}$  century to the  $15^{th}$  century. The watching brief located further evidence for activity on the site ranging in date from the  $12^{th}$  to the  $18^{th}$  century.

The evidence for the medieval activity on the site was restricted to features that would have been in the backlands of the plots. There was no evidence for structures on either Wade Street or Frog Lane. Many of the pits found date to the 13-14<sup>th</sup> centuries, which is not surprising when compared to other excavations that have been undertaken in Lichfield. However, the pits that are from the 12<sup>th</sup> century are more significant as they date from the era of the setting out of the town by Bishop Clinton and soon after. There is a decline in features from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and then there is no evidence for further activity on the site until the 17<sup>th</sup> century. At the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century or early in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the ground level of the site was brought up possibly to settle problems that the site had with water. This issue is probably reflected through the street names of Frog Lane and Wade Street both of which have medieval origins referring to waterlogged land. After the site's ground level was brought up new developments were erected on the site.

#### 1 Introduction

A planning application was submitted by Lichfield District Council to remodel and extend the Civic Hall at Castle Dyke in Lichfield (ref. 00/00756/FUL). The site is situated at NGR: SK 117 095 (Fig. 1) and is registered on the local Sites and Monuments Record as being a site of archaeological interest (PRN 3610). In September 2000 the Staffordshire County Council Archaeological Advisor required that the applicant submit a report on an archaeological desk-based assessment. The client, Lichfield District Council, commissioned Marches Archaeology to produce the assessment, which was completed in November 2000 (Tavener, 2000).

Permission for development was granted in January 2001 with the following condition:

8 No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the 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 Local Planning Authority. Staffordshire County Council produced no specific Brief. Marches Archaeology produced a project proposal for an archaeological watching brief that was based upon previous experience with the County Council's Briefs and Specifications and it was approved by the Staffordshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor. The proposal set out the aims of the project and included a contingency for a full archaeological excavation should any significant archaeology be identified. Lichfield District Council (the client) commissioned Marches Archaeology to provide the archaeological services.

The watching brief commenced in February 2002. During the early stages of the watching brief significant archaeology was identified by the on-site archaeologist. The County Archaeological Officer and Lichfield District Council were informed and a meeting was held between the Archaeological Advisor, representatives of Lichfield District Council, the contractors (Interserve) and Marches Archaeology. The decision of the meeting was that an excavation should be undertaken in a trench set aside for the new orchestra pit. Five days were allotted for the excavation. The watching brief was run consecutively with the excavation. The majority of the goundworks were completed by 24 July 2002. The contractors finally concluded the groundworks on 11 March 2003. Post-excavation work was delayed due to the unavailability of specialists. The report was issued on 19 March 2004.

#### 2 Scope and aims of the project

The scope of the project included the following elements:

- { observe all topsoil stripping, other earthmoving and trench excavation until natural subsoil was reached
- { the sequence of soil deposits present and all archaeological deposits and features shall be recorded
- { all artefacts shall be collected, identified and catalogued
- { if significant archaeology is identified the archaeologist on site should inform the County Archaeological Officer and the client immediately in order that appropriate action may be taken to minimise the damage to such deposits and to record them appropriately. This may include a requirement for full archaeological excavation, the level of which would be determined by discussions between Lichfield District Council, Marches Archaeology and Staffordshire County Council's archaeological advisor. In the event that no consensus can be reached on the appropriate level of record the final decision will rest with Staffordshire County Council's archaeological advisor.
- { Full processing of archaeological materials and the production of an appropriate report

Specific research aims for the project, if significant deposits or features survived, were to determine:

- { what was the date of the earliest activity on the site?
- { what was the nature of the occupation of the site in the medieval period?

- { does the archaeological evidence reflect the documentary evidence that in the seventeenth century the site lay within a relatively poor area of the city?
- { is there any archaeological evidence that Frog Lane was a 'failed' part of the town, whereas Wade Street was more successful?

The Institute of Field Archaeologists defines the purpose of an archaeological watching brief 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

#### 3.1 Fieldwork

Observations of groundbreaking activity in association with the development and appropriate recording were undertaken.

The recording system includes written, drawn and photographic data. Context numbers were allocated and context record sheets completed. Plans were drawn showing the location of the trenches with detail plans of archaeological features drawn at 1:20, sections were drawn at 1:10 or 1:20. The photographic record consists of black and white negative and colour transparency film. The sequence allocated to context record sheets continued from the previous evaluation.

#### 3.2 Office work

On completion of fieldwork a site archive was prepared. The written, drawn and photographic data was catalogued and cross-referenced and a summary produced. The artefactual data was processed, catalogued and cross-referenced.

#### 4 Archaeological and historical background

Prior to the start of the work on site Marches Archaeology produced a desk-based assessment on behalf of Lichfield District Council (Tavener, 2000). A summary of the findings of that report is presented below:

'The site is situated... between Wade Street and Frog Lane, both streets being part of the medieval core of the city. Various studies have argued that the core was a planned town executed c. 1150 AD. Documentary evidence demonstrates that both streets existed by the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

The desktop study has found that this part of Frog Lane was not occupied from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards and that the fragmentary nature of the occupation of the street as a whole is probably reflected in the relative paucity of old documents for that street in the post-medieval period. Wade Street appears to have become a paupers' area by the middle of the seventeenth century and the Wade Street frontage appears to have been occupied by old buildings owned by charitable bodies until the redevelopment of 1973.

The Civic Hall was largely constructed within the garden area of these old buildings although it probably encroached upon the back of the buildings. It features a partial basement and low lying ground floor and these probably involved the destruction of archaeological deposits within the footprint of the building. The new extensions will occupy most of the grassed areas remaining around the periphery of the building on its north, south and east sides. Ancillary ground works and services from 1972 onwards may have caused further damage within the areas affected by the proposed extension, but even if only small areas of deposits survive then these could answer important questions; this is probably the last chance in this area. Unfortunately the presence of such deposits cannot be reliably inferred or their location accurately predicted.'

#### 5 The watching brief and excavation

In the early stages of the watching brief it became apparent that the site had significant archaeological deposits surviving below the Civic Hall's construction level. An orchestra pit, being excavated by machine, located a series of pits (Fig. 2). After consultation with the client and the county archaeological advisor, permission for an excavation of the orchestra pit was granted. While the excavation was occurring the groundwork contractors continued with trenches for the stanchion bases. During both the excavation and the stanchion base watching brief significant archaeological features within the central area of the site were located (Fig. 2). Other areas of the site were subsequently watched during the groundworks and also revealed other archaeological features.

#### 5.1 Phase 1: 12<sup>th</sup> to early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries

#### 5.1.1 The orchestra pit excavation

In the south-west corner of the orchestra pit several features were excavated which represent the earliest activity on the site (Fig. 3a). The features cut the natural red sandstone [07] that was seen in all the deep excavations across the site.

Amongst the earliest features was a sub-circular feature [54] that contained soft sand with reddish brown silt [53]. The pit was 0.61 m wide and around 0.2m deep. There was no dating evidence but the feature was truncated by an irregular feature 0.39m deep [50]. The feature was vertically sided and had an irregular base but its extent to the south-west was difficult to determine as part of the feature had been machined

away and as it may have been cut by a later medieval feature. It was filled with silty sand with occasional pieces of charcoal, coal and sub rounded pebbles [49]. Three sherds of pottery indicate that the feature dates to the 12<sup>th</sup> to early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

To the north was a possible posthole [70], 0.34m in diameter, cutting in to the natural rock. It had been filled by friable red brown sand [69] that was at least 0.13m deep.

To the east of feature [50] was a beautifully cut near rectangular feature [37] with slightly rounded corners, smooth vertical sides and a flat base (Figs. 3a & 5). The pit was 1.38m long x 0.9m wide and was physically the deepest feature seen in the orchestra pit excavation, as its bottom was 79.189m O.D. The top half of the feature had been cut by a post-medieval pit. The primary fill, which had no finds, was a firm light brownish red slightly silty sand with less than 5% gravel [66]. Sealing [66] was a yellowish white sand [65], which was of 12<sup>th</sup> to early 13<sup>th</sup> century date. The remaining fill of the pit consisted of a light reddish sand stained white by li me. Within the reddish sand were bands of charcoal and yellow white sand similar to [65]. The finds from this part of the fill were given context number [38]. The 27 pot sherds from this context have been spot dated to the  $12^{th}$ – $13^{th}$  centuries.

Another possible early pit was [64], which was only partially seen as it had been cut by a later pit [25] and by the machine during the initial excavation of the orchestra pit (Figs 3a & 4). The pit was rectangular with a rounded corner and was cut into natural bedrock. The sides were vertical and the bottom concave. The primary fill was a firm red sand [63], covered by a thin band of 25-40mm thick loamy green sand Over the east side of fill [62] was a firmish red sand with fragments of [62]. sandstone [61] which in turn was covered by a clean orange red sand [60]. Presumably these fills were slippage from when the pit was once exposed. Resting on top of the orange red sand and partially on to edge of the pit was a band of orange sand, which was covered by another 30-40mm band of green loamy sand [58]. Above the green fill [58] was an orange sand with patches of sandstone [24], which again may have been slippage. Both fills [58] and [24] had been truncated on the west side by cut [25]. None of the fills contained any dating evidence.

To the west of pit [37] was another early feature [47], which had partially been removed by machining (Figs. 3a & 6). The sides of the pit had been cut near vertical but with not the same quality of workmanship as pit [37] (Fig. 6). Similarly the break of slope at the bottom was more gradual rather than cut squarely. At the bottom of the pit was a layer of cleanish sand that contained a significant amount of pottery sherds [75]. The pottery has been dated to 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. On top of the sand was a thin layer of charcoal and grey ash that had occasional pieces of burnt bone. On top of this was a vellowish white sand with content of charcoal [74]. The vellowish sand had bands of sand running through it that were tipping towards the south-west. No finds were found within [74]. On the south-west side of the pit was a slightly loamy, light red brown sand [73], that had intermingled with [74]. The fill contained a few sherds of pottery that date to c.1150-1175. Sealing [73] and partially covering [74] was a mauve red sand that had lumps of sandstone. The redeposited natural, which was 0.2m thick, was tipping downwards towards the north-west and covering more than half of the pit. The lowest of the fills on top of the redeposited sand was a sandy soil that was located at the north-west limit of the redeposited natural, next to south-west tipping bands of [74]. Covering the rest of the redeposited natural was a 0.12m light red brown loamy sand. Above these fills was a mid red-brown loamy

soily sand with yellowish white sand bands mostly tipping towards north-west. The deposits above the redeposited natural were not given unique context numbers but rather a general finds number, [72]. The pottery in this was dated to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, which may suggest that the pit had a long working life. The relationship of the upper levels of pit [47] had removed by a later medieval pit [125].

A later medieval pit [125] had also partially cut away the north-west part of a subrectangular feature with 0.2m vertical sides and a flat bottom [68]. This was filled with mixed reddish brown silty sand with greenish cess [67]. Within the fill were seven sherds of pottery that date to the late 12<sup>th</sup> to early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Sealing the fill was layer [30], which consisted of mid brown sand with some root disturbance. The layer was above the natural and was around 0.2m thick. It is likely that this was the former medieval topsoil. Though the layer was found in various places across the whole of the site only 3 pieces of pottery were found within it. The pottery found was dated to the mid 12<sup>th</sup> to early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The group of 12<sup>th</sup> century features in the orchestra pit appear to have been set out on a different alignment to both Frog Lane and Wade Street. The features rather than being parallel to the roads are offset 10-15°.

#### 5.1.2 The watching brief

During the watching brief the excavation of the trenches for the steel stanchion bases were observed. In one of the stanchion bases a medieval pit was located [84] (Fig. 2). The pit had been truncated on the northern side by the foundations for the 1972 Civic Hall (Figs. 7 & 8). The pit [84] cutting into the natural was sub-rounded in plan with steep sides and had a flat bottom. It was filled with loose reddish brown sand with no inclusions [83]. The fill had a lot of animal bone near the top, but the pottery only came from 0.3m-0.4m above the bottom. The pottery has been spot dated to the early period apart from a single sherd, which dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The single sherd is likely to be intrusive, as the risk of contamination in the trench was high due to the 1972 disturbance and the narrow working area of the trench.

Above [83] was a pale yellow sand with a 60% content of sub rounded pebbles [82]. It was not clear whether this was a layer of the fill of another pit (Fig. 8). Cutting [82] was a steep sided shallow bottomed cut in the south-west section of the trench [81]. The cut was filled by yellow brown sand with a fleck of charcoal [80], but this had no finds within it. Over these undated features was modern layer [04].

#### 5.2 Phase 2: mid 13th to 14th centuries

#### 5.2.1 The orchestra pit excavation

Many of the early features cut directly into the natural sandstone, whereas most of the features that date to the mid 13th to the 14th centuries cut layer [30].

In the south-west corner was a sub-circular feature [52] that was partially obscured by two sections (Fig. 3b). The feature had sharp break of slope at the top, concave sides through layer [30] but once the sides of the pit started cutting into the natural sandstone [07] the sides became much more vertical. The break of slope at the

bottom of the feature was sharp and the bottom was dish shaped but the relationship was not clear. On the north side of the feature it cut the earlier feature [50]. The feature was 0.67m deep from the top of [30] to its base and contained mid red-brown soft sandy silt with occasional lenses of cess and charcoal [51]. The fill had a couple of pottery sherds that date to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, though they may be 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Pit [56], next to the western edge of the trench, had been partially machined away but the remaining cut was still 0.38m deep. The pit was sub-oval with vertical sides that had a sharp break of slope at the bottom (Fig. 9). The bottom of the feature was flat. The primary fill of the feature was a mixed green-brown cess with the occasional inclusion of lime, charcoal and pebbles [57]. The secondary fill [55] was a dark red brown silty sand with occasional cessy patches, charcoal and sub-rounded pebbles. Three pottery sherds found within the primary fill date this context to the earlier period. However, the pottery from the secondary fill and the fact the pit cuts [30] suggest that the feature belongs to Phase 2.

To the north-west of pit [56] a segment of sub–circular feature [31] was found (Figs. 3, 4, 10). The break of slope at the top of the feature was sharp and then sloped with concave edges through [30]. When the feature was cut into the natural sandstone the cut was sharper and more vertical. Unfortunately, due to the feature's location in the corner of the trench the bottom was not reached. The earliest fill [48] was a loose mid grey-brown sandy loam with clean yellow sand patches. The fill had inclusions of sub rounded pebbles and pieces of sandstone. Pottery from within the fill dated to c 1150-1200. The later fill was orange brown silty sand with occasional pieces of coal and sub-rounded pebbles [06]. The pottery dated this fill to the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

To the north-east of pit [31] was an elongated sub-oval feature at least 2m long [125] (Fig. 3b). It was truncated in the north-east during the initial excavation of the orchestra pit and part of the feature was not seen as it was beyond north-west limit of the excavation. The machine cut which also exposed feature [47] revealed that [125] had truncated the top of the earlier pit (Fig. 6). Also, when a section was put through the middle of the feature it was evident that [125] had truncated the top of [68]. The fill of [125] was a mid greyish-brown sandy loam with clay lumps near the base [71]. Pottery from [71] dates the feature to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Further north-east, cutting pit [64] was another pit [25] that was 3.2m wide at the top and 1.5m deep (Fig. 3b0 & 4). The north-west side of the feature sloped near the top at around 45° then becoming more vertical. The bottom of the feature was concave and then sloped up gradually until it reached the edge of the sandstone cut for [64]. Where the feature was seen in plan there was a nicely cut almost square corner. The relationship between the fills was complicated due to another later pit having been excavated near to the centre of the feature. The lowest fill [23] was a thin band of green loamy sand that thickened out near to the bottom of the feature, where it was c. 0.1m thick. A single sherd of pottery was dated to the 13th century or possibly 14<sup>th</sup> century. On top of [23] was a yellow orange sand with a less than 10% inclusion of small, less than 15mm, sub-rounded stones. The pottery from [22] has been dated to circa AD 1250.

The next fill was firm orange yellow sand with fragments of sandstone [21]. Above both [22] and [21] was a dark yellow brown sand with no inclusions. Over this was a pale yellow brown sand with a few charcoal inclusions [19], the fill included a couple

of pieces of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Dividing this fill from another layer containing pottery was a band of orange sand [18]. The fill above was green loamy sand that extended from the pit's edge [17] with pottery dating to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries along with some animal bone including horn core.

To the east of pit [25] were the shallow remains of another pit [42] (Fig. 3b). The initial excavation of the orchestra pit had truncated this pit, which looked like it was once sub-circular in shape with a diameter of 0.81m. The surviving pit was shallow being only 0.11m deep (Fig. 11). The pit was filled with a friable mid grey-brown sandy loam with occasional pebbles and pink sandy patches. The fill contained a single sherd of pottery that dates to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### 5.2.2 The watching brief

In one of the trenches for the stanchion bases the remains of a pit [33] were partially seen (Fig. 2). The pit appeared to be sub-circular in plan and cut through [30]. Though the feature was positioned close to feature [31] in the orchestra pit its characteristics did not suggest it to be a continuation. The top of the feature had a sharp break of slope and the sides of the pit were concave but it was not possible to bottom the feature. The pit contained a mid-grey brown sandy loam that had two sherds of pottery dating to the mid  $13^{\text{th}}$  to  $14^{\text{th}}$  centuries. A modern feature truncated part of the pit.

In another stanchion base trench was pit [36] (Fig. 2). The pit was sub circular in plan and had a sharp break of slope at the top that dropped vertically to form the side of the pit. It was excavated down 0.48m but was not bottomed. The pit was filled with mid red brown sandy loam with occasional pebbles, coal, charcoal and mortar. The fill though similar in colour and consistency had a gradual change so was divided into two finds contexts. The lower fill [35] had pottery dating to c. 1250 while the upper finds spit had pottery dating to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries [34].

During the excavation of drainage trenches between Saint Martin's shopping centre and the 1972 Civic Hall a pit [110] was partially exposed (Fig. 2). The feature was sub circular in plan being 1m north to south, whilst it was 1.1m east to west and cut layer [30]. Only the top of the pit was exposed and as the excavation had reached its limit no further investigation was undertaken. The pit was filled with various bands that from the outside into the middle consisted of orange sand, green sand and the middle was a dark reddish brown [109]. Pottery finds from the fill date to the mid  $13^{\text{th}}$  to  $14^{\text{th}}$  centuries.

Whilst excavating the new foundation trenches next to Saint Martin's, part of a medieval pit [107] was exposed. It was more fully exposed during the excavation for the new drainage (Figs. 2, 13, 14 & 15). The pit appeared to be sub-circular in plan and cut the natural; the north-west part of the pit had been destroyed during part of the groundworks that were not observed. A section through pit [107] revealed that the surviving south-west section was near vertical, ending with a rounded break of slope. The bottom of the feature was concave and then stepped up sharply and then levelled out (Fig. 15). Further cutting back revealed that the bottom of the feature was more uniform and flat (Fig. 15a). The primary fill was loose orange brown sand with a slight charcoal content [129]. No finds were found in the primary fill. The fill above was a green sandy loam with occasional patches of almost black sand [106]. The fill

contained pieces of animal bone and 3 sherds from c1250-1300. Above this was an orange brown sand which had little inclusion apart from a little charcoal and animal bone [105]. Covering [105] was a thin band of green sand that had occasional almost black patches [104], which according to the pottery dates to around the 13<sup>th</sup> century. This fill appeared to have been truncated and then covered over by [103], a layer of mixed red and yellow sandy loam with a high content of pebbles (Figs. 14 & 15). There was no pottery to date the layer but the layer's brick content suggests a post-medieval date.

The excavation of a foundation trench on grid line 21, which is south-east of the old Civic Hall building, located two medieval pits [123] and [124], which cut layer [30] (Figs. 2 & 16). The earlier [124] was visible in the south-west section (Fig. 17), but was largely truncated by a modern layer [01]. The layer at the surface was a grey brown loam with charcoal flecks [01]. The layer had lots of brick and tile fragments and was heavily disturbed by roots. It was seen overlying layer [30] across the area to the south-east of the 1972 Civic Hall. Also truncating [124] was cut [123], which was most clearly seen in the north-east section (Fig. 18). The cut was deeper than [124] and had steep sides on the north-east side, with shallower sides on the southwest. The fill of the pits was indistinguishable, a mid-brown loam with flecks of charcoal [122]. Within the fill were bone, potsherds, brick and some tile; the pottery was dated to the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

In the trench along grid line N were the remains of steep sided concave based pit [119] seen in the north section (Figs. 2 & 19). The pit was 1.4m wide and 1.28m deep and was filled with a grey-brown sandy loam with an inclusion of sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal. The fill had suffered from a lot of root disturbance, which made it difficult to distinguish the layer above from the fill. However, bone, several pieces of tile and a single sherd of pottery were securely recovered from the fill. The single sherd dates from the mid  $13^{th}$  to  $14^{th}$  centuries

#### 5.2 Phase 3: Late Medieval

Cutting the fills of pit [25] in the orchestra pit was another pit [16] (Fig. 4). This pit contains much residual pottery of  $13^{\text{th}}$  and  $14^{\text{th}}$  century date, and may have been in use from Phase 2. The pit was only seen in section but appeared to have steep sides with a bowl shaped base [16]. The fills of the pit consisted of a band of green silty loamy sand that contained pottery from the c1250-1300 [15]. On top of the green loam was a pinkish sand with few inclusions [14]. Physically higher than [14] was a thin band of green loamy material [13], not dissimilar to [15] that was resting against cut [16]. On top of [13] was a friable dark brown sandy loam with bands and lumps of mortar [12]. Pottery from [12] indicates that this fill dates to the 15th century. The fill above [11], which was a pale yellow brown sand with slight clay content and only a few charcoal and pebble inclusions, had pottery dating to the mid  $13^{\text{th}} - 14^{\text{th}}$  centuries. It was clear that this layer had been disturbed in some way. Covering [09] was a band of clay 0.04m thick [10], which appeared to be a cap to cover the fills of the pit.

On top of the clay was a layer of yellow brown sand loam with a content of pottery, charcoal, mortar and tile [09]. The pottery sherds have been dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but the fills of pit [16] are dated later and are below layer [09]. A possible explanation is that the soil had been redeposited and the 13<sup>th</sup> century sherds were

already within the soils make-up. Over this layer was a thin layer of sand [128] not dissimilar to [30].

Found in one of the stanchion bases surrounding the orchestra pit was the edge of a feature [77] the plan of which could not be determined (Fig. 2). The edge of the feature [77] ran roughly east to west and filled more than half of the  $1.1m \ge 0.95m$  trench; the feature cut [30] and the natural sandstone [07]. The break of slope at the top was sharp and the sides were near vertical. The break of slope at the bottom of the cut was again sharp and the 0.45m of the bottom of the feature was flat. The feature was 1.1m from its break of slope to its base. The fill was a friable dark grey brown sandy loam with frequent inclusions of coal and charcoal and the occasional fragment of roof tile. There were lenses of clean clay and sand [76]. Only three sherds of pottery were found in the fill but a  $15^{th}$  century date seems probable.

#### 5.4 Phase 4: 17th to 18th centuries

A layer found in the orchestra pit and generally across the central area of the site sealing the medieval features was a very firm grey brown almost black loam, which had a content of brick and brick fragments [04]. Occasionally there were patches of firm yellow sand with mortar and patches of solid red clay. Pottery from the layer has been dated to the late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the orchestra pit the layer was on average 0.6m thick but in the stanchion base trenches the layer varied in depth but the layer seemed to be shallower in the south-east trenches, where the layer was 0.3m to 0.5m thick. The layer in the stanchion bases to the north-west of the orchestra pit was at a similar depth to that found in the orchestra pit. The stanchion base trenches in the lower area had no evidence for layer [04]. Notably there was no sign of layer [04] in the trenches excavated between grid lines J and N (Fig. 2). In these trenches a more modern layer [01] was noted.

Truncating pit [37] in the orchestra pit was a large oval shaped pit that was mostly excavated away by machine [39] (Fig. 3c). The fill [40] of the pit, which had survived, contained pottery from the  $18^{th}$  century (Fig. 5). The relationship of the pit to layer [04] was not determined.

A likely 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century feature was a 1.28m long sub-rectangular feature with rounded corners [44] in north-east half of the orchestra pit. The top of the feature had been removed during the excavation leaving only of 0.1m of the pit. The sides that remained were vertical and ended sharply at the bottom. The base of the feature was irregular. The pit was filled with a firm but friable sandy loam with a content of ash [43]. The ash was coloured is variety of shades from a grey-brown to a green-brown. The fill had an inclusion of coal, charcoal, pebbles and brick fragments.

During the excavation for the drainage between St. Martins and old Civic Hall building a  $1.06m \ge 0.78m$  sub oval shaped pit [121] cutting [30] was uncovered (Fig. 2). Only the upper fill was examined, as it was not going to be affected any further. The pit had a dark reddish brown fill that produced animal bone, pot brick, brick and glass [120]. The pottery has been dated to the late  $17^{th}$  century.

In the trench on grid line N was a steep sided sub circular pit [117] (Figs. 2 & 19). The feature was not bottomed and less than half of it was seen. It was at least 1.1m wide and at least 1m deep and was filled with pale yellow grey sand with inclusions

of sandstone [116]. Roots had very heavily disturbed the fill. Pottery fragments from the fill were 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Further to the north-west next to the roadway in Wade Street another 17<sup>th</sup> century feature was found whilst excavating the drainage (Figs. 2 and 20). The drainage trench had cut through the end of a substantial feature that is presumed to be a pit [100]. The feature was 2.3m long and was 0.9m deep and cut the natural [07]. What was seen in plan would suggest a sub-circular shape (Fig. 21]. The pit had near vertical sides, whilst the base was bowl shaped (Fig. 22). The fill of the pit was grey brown silty sand with a 30% inclusion of charcoals and mortar flecks [99]. Within the fill were bone, pot, brick and shell. The pottery has been dated to the later 17<sup>th</sup> century. A band within the primary fill was made up of clean sand with c 0.03m pebbles [98]. Above the fill of the pit and over lying the natural were the isolated remains of layer [97]. The layer was a grey brown silty loam with several c 0.08m pebbles. It is possible that this was an earlier ground surface. On top of the surface and across the pit was red sand with only occasional charcoal flecks [96]. Above this were various modern cuts, fills and layers [89] (Fig. 21).

#### 5.5 Modern layers and features

In the north-eastern half of the orchestra pit, partially obscured by the south edge of the trench, were the remains of the bottom of a pit [29] (Fig. 3d). The pit was 2.3m from north-east to south-west and 1.2m from north-west to south-east. It was on average only 0.17m deep, though up to 0.36m in the south-east section. The fill was primarily a dark brown slightly sandy silt that had patches of light brown and dark red sands [28]. The pottery from [28] was dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. On the north-west side of the pit was a secondary fill that was a mid brown slightly silty sand [27]. The fill was seen in the south-east section to be 130mm deep and a contained a couple of residual sherds of pottery from c.1500 to 1550. In the south-eastern half of the pit, covering an area 1.65m north-east to south-west by 1.1m north-west to south-east, was a dark-brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and fragments of tile, bone and small brick fragments [26] (Fig. 12). The pottery from this fill dated to the late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. This may be more than one feature.

Evidence for the remains of cellarage was found in the trench along grid line A [85] (Fig. 2). The trench truncated a 2.92m wide cellar that was at least 2m wide from north-west to south-east, but had been partially been truncated in the south-east when the Civic Hall was constructed [85]. The cellar was cut into the natural sandstone [07] on which the bricks to form the floor were roughly laid. Each brick was  $0.23 \times 0.11 \times 0.06m$ . The cellar had been back filled with demolition from the houses knocked down in the 1960s. The 1848 tithe map of St Mary's Parish shows a house numbered as parcel 525 above the position of cellar and the 1884 Ordnance Survey map shows the same house (Tavener, 2000, Figs. 5 and 7).

Among the 19<sup>th</sup> century features that survived were brick wall foundations that once divided the site into separate plots. Wall [05] ran north-west to south-east, was seen in the orchestra pit excavation, and two of the stanchion base trenches (Figs. 2 & 4) and in the trench that ran along grid line N (Fig. 19). The boundary wall is shown on the 1848 tithe map of St Mary's Parish (Tavener, 2000, Fig. 5). Another wall is [102] located to the north-east of the 1972 Civic Hall, in the space between the hall and the

Saint Martin's building. The wall foundation ran parallel to wall [05] and was 2.3m north-east of the old hall. The wall, which was 0.3m wide, survived for 1.65m to the north-west of grid line D and ran 8.2m to the south-east. The wall was below a surface, which included granite setts that was associated to [101].

Below modern disturbance and above layer [30] in the section of the trench along grid line A and between grid lines 15 and 17 was a dark red-brown sandy loam with a high charcoal content and a high degree of roof tile [88] (Fig. 2). This layer dated to a period before the Civic Hall's construction but was probably not much older. The layer was likely to be associated to the demolition of the site in preparation for the Hall's construction. Above the layer was a reddish sand with a charcoal content [87].

Inside the 1972 Civic Hall building the layers above [04] consisted of a layer of red brick and tile [08] covered by a green-yellow stones hardcore [03]. This was sealed by a 0.3m thick concrete surface [02]. All these layers are part of the 1970s Civic Hall.

#### 5.6 undated features

A sub circular feature [46], with a maximum diameter 0.46m and was only 0.15m deep, in the north-east half of the orchestra pit cannot be dated (Fig. 3d). The top of the feature was not seen and there were no relationships to other features. The only positive relationship was that the feature cut [30] which rules out a phase 1 date. The feature sides were roughly vertical and the bottom was dish shaped. The feature was filled with a friable mid orange-brown sandy loam with occasional pebbles. It was not possible to distinguish if the feature was a small pit or a posthole.

In the stanchion base to the north-east of the stanchion base trench containing pit [84] was another pit [79] that had been cut by the 1972 foundations (Fig. 2). This pit cut the natural sand and sandstone [07] and was probably sub circular in plan; only a 1.05m segment was seen. It was not clear if the top of the feature had been previously truncated, there was evidence for the feature cutting [30]. The sides, which were 1.45m, were slightly concave when cutting the sand but were more vertical when cutting through the sandstone. The vertical slope ended with a sharp break at a flat base, which was seen at 0.75m wide before it disappeared into the south and east sections. The pit was filled with soft mixed green brown silty loam with frequent lenses of ash, humic material and frequently coal [78]. More occasionally there were pieces of sandstone and mortar within the fill. Unfortunately, no pottery was found to date the feature but its form and the character of its fills would suggest that it was medieval.

Between grid lines K and L, to the north-east of grid line 4, in a 0.6m wide trench was an undated feature [112], cutting layer [30] (Fig. 2). The feature was 0.94m wide, but only 280mm of it was exposed. The feature contained a yellow brown sand with occasional flecks of charcoal. A small sample of the feature was excavated to a depth of 0.2m but no bottom or dating evidence was found. Sealing the cut was a mixed dark yellow and grey brown sandy loam with a content of modern brick and pottery [115]. Above this layer was a hardcore [114] and a tarmac surface that was part of the car park associated with the 1972 Civic Hall.

Between F and G in the trench on grid line 1 was a layer of mixed orange brown sand with vertical dark strips and occasional small stones [108]. This 0.6m thick layer was

found on top of the natural [07]. The layer above was a modern layer from the construction of the Civic Hall.

Context [86] was 0.8m wide x 0.75m deep trench located along the north-west corner of the Civic Hall on the Castle Dyke frontage (Fig. 2). The trench was excavated to accommodate a water pipe for use during the current works. The trench depth cut through the natural and only modern deposits were noted.

#### 6 **The pottery** *by Stephanie Rátkai*

The medieval pottery was examined under x20 magnification and divided into fabrics according to the type series, which was set up for pottery recovered from Sandford Street, Lichfield. The fabrics are not described here, unless previously unrecorded at Sandford Street, and the reader is referred to Rátkai (forthcoming a and b) for full fabric and form descriptions. The pottery was quantified by sherd count, sherd weight, rim count and rim percentage (*eves*).

A total of 267 sherds, weighing 4987g (25 rims, 254% *eves*) of medieval and postmedieval pottery was recovered (Table 1). The pottery was generally in good condition with often large, unabraded sherds.

A small number of new fabrics were encountered. These were fabric cpj10, fabric cpj11, fabric irp3 and glw2.

Fabric cpj10

Abundant well-sorted, rounded quartz, 0.25mm, sparse rounded clay pellets or mudstone, up to 1mm. Surfaces and int margin pale brown, ext margin salmon pink, partial, patchy grey core. Hand-formed, hard-fired.

There was a single sherd in this fabric from a cooking pot, with a thickened upright rim. The form and fabric suggest that this fabric is early, although the rim sherd was found residually in [22]. Context [22] contained residual pitcher sherds (Fig. 23.5 and 23.

7) and the fabric cpj10 sherd may well be contemporary with them.

Fabric cpj11

Sparse ill-sorted, rounded quartz, 0.01-1mm., sparse organics, mainly burnt out. Mainly reduced black, brown ext margin and surface (largely obscured by sooting and "cessy" deposits). Hand-formed, hard-fired.

The few sherds in this fabric were undiagnostic cooking pot sherds. A base sherd from [75] has traces of at least two drilled holes. This appears to be an early fabric and probably dates to the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Fabric irp3

sparse-moderate, ill-sorted sub-angular quartz, up to 0.5mm, but generally 0.25mm or smaller, sparse ?haematite, sparse iron oxide.

Pinkish-brown ext surfaces and margins, buff core. Hard-fired, possibly wheel-thrown. Possibly non-local.

Fabric glw2

moderate-abundant rounded and sub-rounded quartz, 0.25-0.5mm with occasional larger grains, sparse rounded cream ?clay pellets, c 1mm. Orange fabric, gritty surface feel. Hand-formed, hard-fired.

There was a single sherd in this fabric, which had an ext glossy, brownish-olive glaze.

Overall, whitewares (fabrics ww1-ww4) were the best represented with 76 sherds. Of these, fabric ww2 formed just under 58%. This whiteware fabric was also the most common on both Sandford Street sites. A substantial portion of a fabric ww1 pipkin was recovered from [109] the fill of cut/drain 110 (Fig. 23.9). The other principal fabrics were fabric cpj1, fabric cpj3 and fabric cpj8b. The latter fabric had only previously been found at 15, Sandford Street.

No individual context contained many sherds, the greatest number coming from [22] 28 sherds, [35] 26 sherds and [109] 22 sherds. However, some contexts contained a preponderance of whiteware sherds i.e. over 50%. These were [11], [15], [55], [71], [78], [106], [109] and [122]. A high incidence of whitewares is probably an indicator of a 14th century deposition date, although the sherd count for these contexts is small.

A number of contexts contained no whitewares at all and, even allowing for the low sherd counts, must pre-date the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century (see table 3). This interpretation is confirmed by the stratigraphic position of these contexts, which were [38] and [65] the fills of pit [37], [49] the fill of cut 50, [57] the lower fill of pit [56], [67] the fill of pit [68], [73] and [75] the fills of pit [47], and [83] the fill of pit [84]. Features [37], [68] and [84] cut natural and probably represent some of the earliest activity on the site. There was some disturbance to pit [84], which occurred within stanchion [21], resulting in an intrusive Midlands Purple sherd, a whiteware sherd and a fine red coarseware sherd, weighing 10g, 12g and 5g respectively.

The pottery within these features comprised hand-formed cooking pots and several fragments of glazed pitchers. The pitchers had several characteristics that marked them out as early. The pitcher sherds were reduced to dark grey or black with some thin surface oxidation or a narrow pale grey or buff margin below the glazed surface. Glazes were generally of poor quality, often opaque and sometimes whitish, as if decayed or insufficiently fluxed during firing. There was only one pitcher rim sherd, from [83] (Fig. 23.4) fabric medg3, and one decorated body sherd (Fig. 23.3) from [67] fabric cpj8bg. The form and style of decoration together with the characteristics outlined above are consistent with a date in the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century for the glazed material from pits [37], [56], [68], [47] and [84]. Further corroboration for this dating is provided by the Stamford ware base sherd from [73], glazed with a thin pale green glaze, which must date to the 12<sup>th</sup> century or earlier. A straight-sided cooking pot from [38] and [65] (Fig 23.2) would also suggest a 12<sup>th</sup> century date.

Sherds from fills [38], [65] of pit [37], and [75], fill of pit [47], were covered in a pale limey or cessy deposit, which suggests that the pits may well have been cesspits. The recuts of both pits apparent in section are also consistent with such a use. A specialised use for the pits is reinforced by the near absence of "cessy" sherds from elsewhere on the site with the exception of single sherds from [72] the fill of a recut of pit [47] and presumably derived from the primary fill, from [35] the fill of pit [36] and from [22] and [23] the fills of cut [25]. The provision of well-constructed 12<sup>th</sup> century cesspits is known from Harrison Street, Hereford (Rátkai forthcoming c). The cesspits in Lichfield may have been an integral part of the laying out of the town by Bishop Clinton in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Layer 30, which sealed pit 68 contained two sherds of fabric cpj8a and one of cpj8b both of which are unlikely to post-date the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was noticeable that the average sherd weights for layer [30] and for pits [68], [47], [50], [84] and [37] were comparatively high suggesting primary or near primary deposition. Feature fills and layers that were later than these contained pottery that had more variable average sherd weights. However, the majority of them were below 15g and many were below 10g. This suggests that the pottery had been subjected to a great deal of disturbance from the later 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

Further pitcher body, handle and rim sherds, which occurred residually, were also dated stylistically to the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Residual pitcher rim, handle and decorated body sherds have been illustrated (Fig. 23.5-7 from [22] and Fig. 23. 8 from [04]).

The lower fill [57] of pit [56] and [48] the lower fill of [31] also contained pottery of a similar type to that from pit [37], cut [50], pit [56], pit [47] and pit [84]. The upper fill [55] of pit [56] contained mainly whiteware sherds and dates to the late 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. The upper fill [06], of pit 31 contained six small-abraded sherds. One of these was in fabric cpj1 and two in fabric cpj8b. The remaining sherds were difficult to date. Two sherds were in a fine orange micaceous? wheel-made (very little of the surfaces survived) fabric. There were lighter streaks within the fabric. The streakiness of the fabric suggests a post-medieval date but they could just as well be small fragments of building material. The third sherd had a crude streaky fabric with large white inclusions, which did not react with HCl. This may have been fired clay or a small tile fragment.

There were few clearly late medieval sherds. They were found in contexts [12] (Fig. 23.10) [27] and [76]. There was very little post-medieval pottery. It occurred in contexts [04], [26], [40], [83], [99], [116] and [120]. Pottery from [28] dated to the 19th century and was not recorded in any detail.

The assemblage is important because of the early material which it contains. Despite Lichfield's early history there has been very little early pottery found. A small amount of possible 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery was found at Sandford Street (Rátkai forthcoming b), an area thought to have been developed quite late in Lichfield's history. A similarly small number of putative 12<sup>th</sup> century sherds were identified amongst pottery recovered from the Arts Centre (ACL 99B), Bird Street (BSL 99) and Greenhill (GL 00). The quantity of early pottery in this assemblage is, therefore, significant and suggests definite 12<sup>th</sup> century occupation. All of this is critical in the understanding of the layout and development of early Lichfield. The pottery from the Civic Hall is consistent with occupation associated with Bishop Clinton's laying out of this area of the town c.1130 but the presence of a few sherds of similarly early pottery from the south side of Sandford Street (Rátkai forthcoming b) to the north of the friary suggests that there was some contemporaneous occupation to the west of the planned town and possibly to the east at Greenhill. Gould (1976 section 2.6) notes the argument that early Lichfield may have consisted of a number of small hamlets centred on St Michael's church and the Sandford Street area. The most recent excavation in Lichfield at the Swan Hotel, Bird Street appears to have yielded pre-Conquest pottery (pers. comm. Chris Wardle), suggesting that the early settlement focus may have been to the north-west of the "planned" town, although this area has elsewhere been

assumed to have been marshy and largely unsettled in the medieval period (see Gould 1976).

The sources for most of the pottery were most likely local. The very high incidence of whitewares in the later 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries strongly suggests a very local production site, which was probably one of many in south Staffordshire and north Warwickshire, given the large quantities of whitewares found on various sites in these areas. Further work needs to be done on the stylistic, manufacturing and decorative variations within the whiteware tradition to try to establish the possible number of sources of production. However, it is clear that the whiteware cooking pot forms recorded in Lichfield are much the same as those illustrated by Ford (1995, Fig. 14), the majority of which come from Drayton Bassett, to the south-east of Lichfield. A kiln site situated to the east or south-east of Lichfield would be well placed to serve not only Lichfield but also Tamworth and settlements like Dravton Bassett and would also have easy access to Watling Street and the River Tame, providing good access to markets. To the east the kilns at Chilvers Coton (Mayes and Scott, 1984), also producing whitewares, were also well placed to take advantage of Watling Street, particularly as river transport was not available in this area of Warwickshire. It is noticeable that the whiteware cooking pots produced at Chilvers Coton were somewhat different from those found in southern Staffordshire and north-western Warwickshire and that despite the extensive nature of this industry it was unlikely to have supplied the Lichfield area to any great extent.

The pottery which has been identified as early i.e. of the 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries in this report is also likely for the most part to have been local. However, fabrics cpj8a, cpj8b, medg and medg3 are very similar to fabrics found at the Bull Ring, Birmingham where they were identified as Coventry or Coventry type wares (Rátkai forthcoming d), Warwickshire County type series fabrics Sq21 and Sq21.1 (Soden and Rátkai, 2000). At present there is an insufficiently large and diagnostic collection of these fabrics in Lichfield and Birmingham to be certain of their source but the few decorated sherds from the Civic Hall and the form of the two pitcher handles from 15 Sandford Street, can be paralleled by Coventry ware from Broadgate East, illustrated in Redknap and Perry (1996, Figs 31-34).

Patterns of trade and commercial contact are often best exemplified by the pottery record. The pottery from the Civic Hall shows that a comparatively small amount of pottery was not local. The possible link with Coventry in the 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries may perhaps reflect the ecclesiastical links between the two cities. The single shelly ware sherd is evidence of links with the east or south-east Midlands, which may be reinforced by the fabric irp3 sherds which resemble pottery from Northamptonshire. However, the ceramic evidence for contacts outside the Lichfield area is not great and from the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards the abundance of locally produced whitewares may have formed an effective barrier to trade in ceramics from outside the region.

	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Total	
Fabric	count	weight	count	weight								
cpj1	13	190	18	222					2	9	33	421
cpj2			2	25	1	41					3	66
cpj3	17	340	7	130	1	8					25	478
cpj4	1	3	16	264							17	267
cpj4a			2	22							2	22
cpj6	2	18	1	2							3	20
срј8	2	37	5	66							7	103
cpj8a	5	107	6	68							11	175
cpj8b	13	398	9	131							22	529
cpj10			1	41							1	41
cpj11	4	182	2	23							6	205
cpj6g			1	6							1	6
cpj8ag			2	31							2	31
cpj8bg	1	119	1	4							2	123
medg			1	25							1	25
medg2			2	14							2	14
medg3	8	335	1	8							9	343
medg5	2	30							1	90	3	120
glw2			1	8							1	8
shelly ware			1	3							1	3
Stamford ware	1	13									1	3
ww1			17	261	5	89	3	19			25	369
ww2	1	5	37	380	2	7	4	61			44	453
ww3			3	38							3	38
ww4			4	35							4	35
Irp2			2	14	1	5					3	29
Irp3	1	4	1	4	1	2					3	10
cm1							1	48			1	48
cm1a			1	3			1	37			2	40
lmt2							3	27			3	27
Rw1							2	75			2	75
Rw2							3	81			3	81
Rw3					1	140					1	140
Midlands Purple	1	10					1	6			2	16
cistercian ware							1	3			1	3
blackware							3	81			3	81
coarseware	1	12					6	357			7	369
coarseware/Midlands Purple							1	94			1	94
Tin glazed earthenware									1	19	1	19
slip-coated ware							1	37			1	37
fired clay/building materials?	1	1	4	19							5	20
Total	74	1804g	148	1847g	12	292g	30	926g	4	118g	268	4987g

Table 1: Pottery quantification (by sherd count and sherd weight in grams) by phase

Phase 1: 12th-early 13th centuriesPhase 2: mid 13th-14th centuriesPhase 3: late medievalPhase 4: Post-medievalPhase 5: 19th century

Context	30		38		65		57		67		73		75		83	
	Count	Weight														
Fabric																
cpj1							1	1					12	189		
срј3			15	266	1	64										
cpj4							1	4								
cpj6			1	5									1	13		
cpj8									1	30	1	7				
cpj8a	2	65							2	31					1	11
cpj8b	1				1	10			1	32			4	138	6	213
cpj8bg									1	119						
cpj11					1	66							3	116		
medg3									2	18	2	26			3	244
medg5													1	10		
Stamford											1	13				
Intrusive															3	27
Total	3	5	16	231g	3	140g	2	5g	6	230g	4	46g	21	466g	13	495g
Average sherd weight		23.3g		14.5g		46.7g		2.5g		38.3g		11.5g		22.2g		38.1g

 Table 2: Pottery from early features

 (quantification by sherd count and sherd weight in grams).

#### 7 Notes on the animal bones by Ian L. Baxter BA MIFA

#### 7. 1 Introduction

A total of 126 fragments of animal bones were recovered from the site. Of this total, 42 are identifiable to species or broader taxonomic category (Table 3). Bone preservation is variable with fragments from the earliest period (12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries AD) badly affected by the chemistry of the burial deposits. Tooth and mandibular wear stages were recorded for cattle, sheep/goat and pig mandibles following the method of Grant (1982). Measurements were only taken on complete bones or where this would help with species identification and to help establish the size of the animal. Bone measurements follow von den Driesch (1976). A full list of the contents of each context is presented in the catalogue of animal bones (Appendix 2). Vertebra and rib fragments are recorded as large, medium and small mammal.

#### 7. 2 Discussion

Only bones from domestic mammals were present in the assemblage (Table 3). Equal numbers of cattle, sheep/goat and pig were identified from the  $12^{th}-13^{th}$  century deposits. The cattle are small as is typical of the period. The few sheep/goat

mandibles derive from adult animals with  $M_3$  in wear. The pigs include juveniles and adults. The maxillae and mandibulae of a fairly large dog were found in context (83). Cattle fragments are more numerous than those of sheep/goat in the  $13^{th}-14^{th}$  century features. Only one pig fragment was recovered. Cattle cranial fragments with horncores were found in contexts [17] and [19]. That from [19] derives from a shorthorned ox and has a large occipital perforation with rounded edges that is most probably congenital in origin (Baxter, 2002). The two sheep/goat mandibles recovered came from young adults with  $M_3$  in wear.

Cattle and pig fragments are more numerous than those of sheep/goat in the small  $17^{\text{th}}$ - $18^{\text{th}}$  century assemblage. A cattle metacarpal from context [26] came from a beast 113cm high at the shoulder based on the multiplication factors of Matolcsi (1970). In size it shows no improvement from medieval cattle. The sheep/goat mandible found in context [99] came from an animal similar in age to those from the preceding periods. A pig  $3^{\text{rd}}$  metatarsal found in the same context came from an animal approximately 77cm high at the shoulder based on the multiplication factors of Teichert (1990). The proximal part of a dog  $3^{\text{rd}}$  metacarpal found in context [26] came from a medium sized animal.

#### 7.3 Summary and conclusion

The assemblage is too small to draw any meaningful conclusions regarding changes in economy, land use or husbandry practises over time at the site. Cattle, sheep/goat and pig meat was being eaten during all periods. There is also evidence for the presence of medium and large sized dogs. The assemblage does not indicate any substantive size increase affecting the domestic stock from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.

Taxon	Period	Total		
	C12th-13th	C13 <sup>th</sup> -14th	C17th-18th	
Cattle (Bos f. domestic)	4	9	4	17
Sheep/Goat (Ovis/Capra f. domestic)	4	7	2	13
Pig (Sus f. domestic)	4	1	3	8
Dog (Canis familiaris)	3	-	1	4
Total	15	17	10	42

Table 3: Number of identified specimens (NISP).

#### 8 Environmental remains by Elizabeth Pearson AIFA

#### 8.1 Introduction

Analysis of environmental remains from an excavation at the Civic Hall, Lichfield was undertaken on behalf of Marches Archaeology. Three samples from medieval and post-medieval contexts were selected for analysis.

#### 8.2 Project parameters

The environmental project conforms to relevant sections of the *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (IFA, 1999).

#### 8.3 *Methods*

#### 8.3.1 Fieldwork and sampling policy

Marches Archaeology took samples from deposits considered to be of high potential for the recovery of environmental remains. A total of 3 samples were taken from the site from the following contexts (Table 4):

- Sample 1, context 65, medieval (12<sup>th</sup> –13<sup>th</sup> century) cess pit
- Sample 2, context 67, medieval (12<sup>th</sup> to early 13<sup>th</sup> century) cess pit
- Sample 6, context 99, post-medieval (late 17<sup>th</sup> century) feature

#### 8.3.2 Processing and analysis

The samples were processed by flotation followed by wet sieving using a Siraf tank. The flots were collected on a 300µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were fully sorted by eye, and scanned with a magnet to detect hammerscale fragments. The abundance of each category of environmental remains was then estimated. The flots were fully sorted using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by the Service, and seed identification manual (Beijerinck, 1947). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the Flora of the British Isles, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Clapham, Tutin and Moore, 1989).

#### 8.4 *Results*

#### 8.4.1 Medieval (12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century) cess pits (contexts [65] and [67])

Only a limited range of environmental remains was found in these samples (Tables 4 and 5). Small burnt fragments of large mammal bone were relatively abundant in context [65], and to a lesser degree, fragments of cattle molars in context [67]. Occasional charred grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp free-threshing), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and unidentified grass (Gramineae sp indet) grains were also recorded in the latter sample. Phosphate concretions were abundant in the flot from pit fill [65], but otherwise, there were no identifiable remains commonly associated with cesspits such as mineralised fruit pips and fish bone.

#### 8.4.2 Post-medieval (late 17<sup>th</sup> century) feature (context [99])

A small number of blackberry/bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) fruit pips were recorded in association with occasional charred grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), wheat (*Triticum* sp), and other unidentified cereal and grass grains. A cattle phalange (toe bone), occasional fragments of unidentified large mammal bone, and one large fish vertebra were also noted. Artefactual or possible industrial waste was more abundant, particularly coal, with small quantities of brick, possible mortar, burnt stone, a piece of lead off-cut and globules of a white metallic (possibly lead based) material.

#### 8.5 Discussion

There is only minimal evidence for cess disposal in the form of phosphate concretions from cesspit [65]. This is probably a result of poor preservation in the well-drained sandy soils, the soils having not retained enough calcium phosphate, for example, to mineralise seed remains. Other debris in the pit such as burnt bone and burnt cereal crop waste is likely to originate from domestic or industrial hearths on the site. Various materials, such as lime, waste mortar, hay and straw were used in the past to dampen down foul odours of cess pits. The burnt bone in pit fill [65] may also have been used for this purpose. Evidence for cess waste was similarly absent from some samples identified as cesspits at Sandford Street, Lichfield, although one pit did contain phosphate concretions, occasional blackberry seeds and fish bone (Pearson, 2003). Survival of cess waste was much better at 17-21 Greenhill, Lichfield (Pearson, 1999) where abundant phosphate concretions, and traces of food remains such as the edible cultivars (fig and mulberry), and locally collected blackberry were identified from a 14<sup>th</sup> century cesspit. During its use, fly pupae appear to have incubated in the rich organic deposits, while chalk and lime may have been used to dampen down foul odours. Survival of cess waste is evidently patchy in this area of Lichfield, probably showing differential survival on account of slight differences in both soils and chemical composition of the pit fill constituents.

The blackberry and elderberry seeds recorded in the post-medieval feature [99] are common on urban sites, and may derive from cess, or from shrubs growing on wasteland in the near vicinity.

Context	Sample	Context	Description	Period	Phase	Sample	Volume	Residue	Flot
		type				volume	processed	assessed	assessed
65	1	pit	cesspit 37	MED	12th-	10	10	Y	Y
			-		E13th				
					С				
67	2	pit	cesspit 68	MED	12th-	5	5	Y	Y
			-		E13th				
					С				
99	6	unidentified		PMED	late	10	5	Y	Y
					17th				
					С				

 Table 4: List of environmental samples selected for analysis

Context	Sample	large	fish	insect	charred	waterlog	Other
		mammal			plant	plant	
65	2	abt					Phosphate
							concretions
67	2	mod			occ		
99	6	occ	occ	occ	occ	occ	

Table 5:	<b>Summary</b>	of	environmental	remains
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#### Key:

Occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant

#### Table 6: Plant remains from selected samples

Latin name	Family	Common name	Habitat	67	99
Charred plant remains					
<i>Triticum</i> sp (free-threshing)	Gramineae	free-threshing wheat	F	1	
grain					
Triticum sp grain	Gramineae	wheat	F		1
Hordeum vulgare grain	Gramineae	barley	F	1	4
Cereal sp indet grain	Gramineae	cereal	F		3
Gramineae sp indet grain	Gramineae	grass	AF	1	2
Uncharred plant remains					
Rubus fruticosus agg	Rosaceae	blackberry/bramble	CD		4
Sambucus nigra	Caprifoliaceae	Elder	BC		13

Key:

Category of remains
A= cultivated ground
B= disturbed ground
C= woodlands, hedgerows, scrub etc
D = grasslands, meadows and heathland
E = aquatic/wet habitats
F = cultivar

#### 9 Discussion

The documentary research (Tavener, 2000) suggested that the best place for the survival of archaeological remains would be in the grassed margins around the Civic Hall. This was concluded as it was presumed that any archaeological deposits would have probably have been removed during the construction of the Civic Hall. As it turned out the opposite results occurred with the majority of the archaeological deposits found below the footprint of the building.

The archaeological features found within the central band of the site date from the  $12^{th}$  century to the  $18^{th}$  century. The most significant are those features dating to the  $12^{th}$  – early  $13^{th}$  centuries [37], [47], [54], [64], [68], [70], [84] as these establish that occupation on the site occurred around the period that the town was formally set out. The alignment of the orchestra pit features ([37], [47], [54], [64], [68] and [70]) did not correspond to the current streets. This suggests the possibility that the features were not part of the formal setting out of the town or that the current street alignments do not correspond to the original medieval ones. This could therefore bring into

question the accepted model of the laying out of the grid pattern of streets. Unfortunately, only the remains in the back lands of the properties have survived, so no information about the dwelling types or even the number of dwellings can be determined. It is also not clear whether both Wade Street and Frog Lane were developed or whether there were dwellings only on the one street front or both. Since this information did not survive it is not possible to quantify the significance of the feature alignments. Further archaeological work in Wade Street and Frog Lane should aim to address this important question.

Of the pits found in the backlands only [37], [47] and [68] were cesspits, the purpose of the other features was not established.

A previous excavation at 18 Wade Street (Hummler, 1982) found evidence of the earlier phase but nothing dating to the 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Carver (1982, 4) postulated that Lichfield experienced a 'depression if not desertion' during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. The archaeological evidence from this site and other recent archaeological excavations in Lichfield refute the theory that desertion occurred in the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Tavener forthcoming, Rátkai forthcoming a, Nichol and Rátkai, forthcoming).

On the Civic Hall site, however, there was clear evidence of activity during this period. Features [25], [31], [33], [36], [52], [56], [107], [109], [119], [124] and [125] date to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> centuries and demonstrate the continuity of occupation of the site through the medieval period. Again the surviving evidence is found within the back land of properties that once stood on either or both Wade Street and Frog Lane.

Evidence for the late medieval period  $(15^{th} \text{ century})$  is limited to two contexts [76] and [12]. Fill [76] was the exclusive fill of feature [77], though it was not possible to see the full extent of the feature due to limits of the trench required for the stanchion. Context [12] has a more complex story, as it was a secondary fill of pit [16] in which the more primary fills dated to  $13^{th}$  or  $14^{th}$  centuries and the fills deposited above were dated similarly. Fill [12] was securely dated to the  $15^{th}$  century so a possible explanation is that when the feature was backfilled the deposits used were not natural but fills or layer from somewhere else.

The limited number of 15<sup>th</sup> century features could be an indication that the site was suffering a decline, or even the abandonment of the site. The abandonment is suggested by a complete absence of features dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and it is not until the late 17<sup>th</sup> - early 18<sup>th</sup> century that evidence for activity can be found. The blackberry and elderberry seeds found in fill [99] may suggest that the site, or part of the site, was a wasteland with shrubs growing on it. Though the evidence from the 17<sup>th</sup> century pits is of significance probably more significantly important is layer [04]. Apart from the fact that without layer [04] little of the medieval archaeology would have survived the Civic Hall's construction, it is of interest why it was necessary in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century to build up the ground level from the level it had been in the medieval period. The reason for raising the ground levels could be indicated from the street names. Wade Street is likely to derive from the Old English '*waed*' (a ford) suggesting waterlogged ground (VCH, XIV, 42). Similarly Frog Lane, which was also known as Frogmere Street in 1297 and 1315, Throgmorton Strete (aka Throgge Lane) in 1596, and Frogg Lane or Frogmorton Lane 1664 (VCH, XIV, 42) has used

words such as frog and mere (marsh) suggesting an area of waterlogged land. It would seem likely that the ground level was raised in an attempt to drain what was once wetland.

Desk-based study has shown through map evidence that buildings were present along the Wade Street frontage in 1610 (Tavener, 2000), it is likely that the 17<sup>th</sup> century features would be associated with these buildings. Snape's map of 1781 shows buildings along the Wade Street frontage, which might date to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The evidence from the watching brief has demonstrated that in the period between the creation of Speed's map and Snape's map the ground levels of the site were raised. Unfortunately, the building works in 1972 removed any evidence for increase in ground levels along the Wade street frontage. However, it does seem unlikely that someone would significantly raise the ground level in the backlands of existing properties especially when that is an area of wetland. It seems more plausible that the whole of the site was redeveloped in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, which was a common phenomenon in Lichfield (Tavener, 2000). The cellar [85], built below plot 525 shown on the 1846 tithe map, may have been from this period.

#### 10 Conclusions

The project has provided invaluable information about the development of the town. The evidence for activity on the site from the 12<sup>th</sup> century is extremely significant as it corroborates earlier evidence that the lower, marshy areas, such as Wade Street and Frog Lane, were occupied from the outset (Taylor, 1969, 45; Hummler, 1982, 85). Though the features are contemporary to the town's setting out by Bishop Clinton, it is not clear from the evidence if Wade Street and Frog Lane were part of this. The alignment of the early features does not correspond to the configuration of the existing streets so it is possible that marshy areas developed without being formally set out, or maybe the street layout was changed in antiquity or in more recent times. However, without further evidence from archaeological work in the vicinity it cannot be ruled out that Wade Street and Frog Lane were part of the formal setting out by Bishop Clinton and that the divergent alignment of the pits seen in the area of the orchestra pit has a localised explanation. If this is the case then the implication is of a town laid out which has enough space to support an existing (or imported) population; rather than one designed with space for expansion.

The conclusions that can be drawn in regard to the nature of occupation on the site are restricted to the activities on the backlands as the evidence for what was occurring on the street frontages had been lost by the redevelopment of the site since the medieval period. The evidence from the backlands suggests that it was likely that there were buildings along one or both street frontages. The contents of the pits, which consist of cess and domestic rubbish opposed to any specific industrial by-products, suggest a domestic rather than specialised use. The loss of the archaeological resource on the frontages means that no information was available to test the relative development of Wade Street and Frog Lane.

The project tended to confirm the suggestion from the documentary evidence that in the 17<sup>th</sup> century the site lay within a relatively poor area of the city. The initial evidence to support this argument is demonstrated by the lack of any 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery, which may indicate that the area was poor and rundown prior to the 17<sup>th</sup>

century perhaps as early as the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The more significant evidence is the fact that by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century it was necessary to build up the ground levels on the site. This suggests that there was something amiss with the site, something that had to be put right prior to redevelopment. From what is known about the area it likely that the ground was marshy which may have made the site in by the 17<sup>th</sup> century an undesirable place to live.

This watching brief has been very significant addition to an understanding of the development of Lichfield. There have been very limited archaeological investigations within the Norman new town and this opportunity to test the model established in the 1980s has allowed a new interpretation. The site was clearly thriving from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The pottery dating sequence does not allow any in sight into population decline in the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century but there is a suggestion that by the 15<sup>th</sup> century there was less activity and only a slight resurgence in the later 17<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 11 References

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#### 12 The archive

Marches Archaeology currently holds the archive that awaits transfer to an approved repository. It is intended to deposit the archive with The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent.

The site archive consists of:

4 context index sheets
129 context sheets
2 levels sheets
1 index of drawings sheet
11 sheets of site drawings
19 photographic index sheets
11 film black and white photographic negatives
8 film colour photographic slides
48 finds recording sheets
39 sheets of site diary
6 sample sheets
3 Environmental sample records AS17

3 Flot record sheets AS212 box of finds
1 Box of flots and sorted remains from residues
1 site matrix
1 computer disk [IBM - database files Lotus Approach 97, matrix Bonn v.4.0] This report

The Marches Archaeology site code was CHL02a



Fig. 23 Illustrated vessels by Nigel Dodds

#### **Illustrated vessels**

1 AM (38) fabric cpj3, cooking pot, int and ext soot, int and ext cessy deposit

2 AN (38) and (65) fabric cpj3, cooking pot, heavy ext soot, some int limey or cessy deposit.

3 AX (67) fabric cpj8bg, pitcher body sherd decorated with applied, lightly finger impressed strip, decayed or insufficiently fluxed olive glaze.

4 AE (83) fabric medg3, pitcher, ext partly decayed olive glaze. Trace of int limey deposit, cess and decayed glaze.

5 AA (22) fabric cpj8ag, pitcher, ext glossy olive green glaze.

6 AB (22) fabric cpj1, ?pitcher, burnt, decorated with combed and incised decoration. There is a lighter diagonal streak across the sherd, possible the remains of a glaze.

7 AC (22) fabric medg, pitcher, ext and int glossy olive glaze, incised wavy line decoration

8 AL (4) fabric medg5, pitcher handle decorated with a central applied finger impressed strip flanked by impressed strips, opaque brownish ?decayed glaze. The two flanking strips have been formed by pushing the ?index finger into the clay, towards the centre of the handle rather than by "pinching" the clay between finger and thumb. The top of the handle has the remnants of a clay dowel, which would have been pushed through the body of the vessel for attachment and then smoothed over.

9 AK (109) fabric ww1, pipkin, int copper green glaze splashes and dribbles, ext soot, handle scar

10 AS (12), fabric rw3, jug or cistern, patchy ext purplish-olive glaze