

# ***Marches Archaeology***

**Land formerly belonging to Vincent Greenhous  
St. Julian's Friars  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire**

**Assessment report on archaeological fieldwork with an  
updated project proposal**

May 2004

*Marches Archaeology Series 340*

**This report is produced by**

## ***Marches Archaeology***

**Marches House  
6 High Street  
Clun  
Shropshire  
SY7 8JB**

**Tel:- 01588 640976**

**Fax:- 01588 640796**

**e-mail:- marches@archaeology.kc3.co.uk**

**For:-**

**Cpm (Environmental Planning and Design)**

**Akeman Barns  
Coln St. Aldwyns  
Cirencester  
Gloucestershire  
GL7 5AW**

***Marches Archaeology*** is the trading name of Marches Archaeology Limited (Registered in England and Wales: 4095678). The directors are Nic Appleton-Fox and Richard Stone, who have worked in close association since 1991. All principal members of staff are members of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and abide by its code of practice and other regulations. *Marches Archaeology* provides a full range of archaeological services to a client base of architects, local authorities, national bodies and private individuals. Our standard services include; excavation, watching briefs, building survey, building analysis, planning advice, landscape survey, photographic recording and historical research. Specialist consultants are available to provide environmental, geophysical and finds advice and analysis.

VAT Reg. No. 656 0767 15

**Land formerly belonging to Vincent Greenhous Ltd  
St Julian's Friars  
Shrewsbury**

**NGR SJ 4938 1227 and 4951 1225**

**Assessment report on archaeological fieldwork with an updated project proposal**

**Report by Nick Tavener**

**Contents**

Summary

1. BACKGROUND TO THE FIELDWORK
  - 1.1 Planning history and mitigation
  - 1.2 Archaeological and historical background
  - 1.3 Scope and aims of the project
  - 1.4 Methodology
2. SITE NARRATIVE
  - 2.1 Summary of the results of the excavation and evaluation
  - 2.2 Discussion of the stratigraphic and structural evidence
3. THE FIELDWORK ARCHIVE
  - 3.1 Quantification of the paper records
  - 3.2 Quantification of the artefacts and samples by period
  - 3.3 Sources of bias arising from site conditions and collection strategies
  - 3.4 Desirability of processing of the environmental samples in the near future
  - 3.5 Condition of the materials in the archive and implications for long term storage
4. ASSESSMENT REPORT
  - 4.1 Introduction
  - 4.2 The potential of the stratigraphic and structural evidence for analysis
  - 4.3 Spot dating of the pottery with a brief assessment *by Stephanie Ratkai*
  - 4.4 Brief assessment of the human and animal bone assemblage
  - 4.5 Assessment of the metal working wastes and fabricated metal objects *by Nick Tavener*
  - 4.6 Brief assessment of the potential of the environmental evidence for analysis
  - 4.7 Assessment of the building materials
  - 4.8 The potential value of the data collection to local, regional and national research priorities
5. UPDATED PROJECT PROPOSAL
  - 5.1 Aims and objectives
  - 5.2 Methods statement
6. PUBLICATION SYNOPSIS
7. RESOURCES and TIMETABLE
8. REFERENCES

May 2004

*Marches Archaeology Series 340*

### *List of illustrations*

Fig. 1 Location of the site

Fig. 2 Early maps of Shrewsbury

Fig. 3 Extract from Rocque's map of Shrewsbury, 1746 with various near contemporary views showing detail of the development site

Fig. 4 The site in the 1830s

Fig. 5 The Ordnance Survey 1:500 map of 1880 (reduced to 1:1000)

Fig. 6 Trench 1 - plan and south trench edge section

Fig. 7 Trench 2 - east trench edge section

Fig. 8 Trench 3 - plan and sections

Fig. 9 Trench 4 - plan and sections

Fig. 10 Trench 5 - east trench edge section

Fig. 11 Trench 7 - sections

### *List of Tables*

Table 1. Quantity summaries of the paper record

Table 2. Quantity summaries of the finds assemblage and samples with subtotals for the medieval period

Table 3. Spotdates for the pottery

Table 4. Proposed layout of the report

Table 5. Estimate of resources required to bring the project to full publication

**Land adjacent to the former Century Cinema  
St Julian's Friars  
Shrewsbury**

**Assessment report on archaeological fieldwork with an updated project proposal**

*Summary*

*This report constitutes an assessment of the potential for analysis of the results of an excavation of the site together with an updated project proposal for further analysis and eventual publication. An archaeological watching brief still to be carried out on the ground works for the development may recover further data. On completion of the watching brief a short report will be produced to assess the potential of that data for analysis. The next stage will be the analysis of those elements from the excavation and watching brief which have potential to further an understanding of the site and also its importance within local, regional and national archaeological research. The final product of the analysis will be publication of the results of the excavation and the watching brief in a suitable journal (e.g. Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society).*

*The current project has so far consisted of the excavation of seven trenches. The town wall was found just below the modern ground surface in four trenches. In two trenches, the wall was definitely the original medieval structure. In the other two trenches, it was an early post-medieval rebuild. The medieval town ditch was clearly identified in two trenches where it had been recut in the early post-medieval period.*

*Several walls forming part of a Franciscan Friary were investigated in two trenches. There was clear evidence for two medieval building phases with utterly different plans and tentative evidence for an intermediate phase. With the exception of the friary, there seems to have been relatively little activity in the medieval and early post-medieval periods. Both areas of the site were probably open meadow or garden areas as shown on Rocque's map of 1746. The first large-scale development of the two sites dates to c. 1800-50.*

*The assessment of the potential for analysis has demonstrated that the site has much to say about the development of the town's defences and the Friary. The finds assemblage includes a reasonably important suite of medieval material. Extensive and deep landfill operations in the late 18th century meant that there was little disturbance of the earlier deposits by later construction works. Analysis of the pottery, bone and stratigraphic evidence will provide useful information about the development of this part of Shrewsbury. The focus will be on the medieval and early post-medieval periods. Analysis of the various elements will greatly increase an understanding of the diet, economy, environment and trade connections in these periods.*

## **1. BACKGROUND TO THE FIELDWORK**

### **1.1 Planning history and mitigation**

A planning application was submitted to the local planning authority for permission to erect 52 flats, 39 residential units and two retail units on land on both sides of St Julian's Friars (ref. 94/0238/063/94 and see Fig 1). The proposed development also includes a new road layout linking English Bridge with Beeches Lane. The site comprised former garage buildings, light industrial units and areas of open yard formerly belonging to the Vincent Greenhouse Group. All these buildings were demolished in December 2003.

The site was evaluated in 1993 and proved to contain extensive areas of high archaeological potential including the site of a Franciscan Friary and substantial sections of the medieval town wall (OAU, 1993). Later archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the development boundaries (Hannaford, 1993) and also within the immediate vicinity (Gifford & Partners, 1994; Hannaford, 1997; Hannaford, 1999; Frost, 2002; Tavener, 2002).

The Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor advised that further archaeological works should be carried out both in advance of, and during, the proposed development and these works should be made a condition of planning (*ibid.* para 1.3). The Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor produced a 'brief' or written scheme of investigation for the archaeological works (Watson, 2003). In the proposed design, the ground level across the development area will be raised prior to commencement of construction works. The general foundation design will comprise augered piles. The 'brief' recognised that these two factors would limit the archaeological implications of the development, but noted that penetrative ground works would be required for the installation of services.

CPM, on behalf of the client, commissioned Marches Archaeology to provide the archaeological services detailed in the 'brief'.

Marches Archaeology prepared a project proposal (9th Oct. 2003) in response to the project brief. The project proposal identified a strong likelihood that the fieldwork would reveal information of high quality and with potential for further analysis. The proposal indicated that formal publication would probably be required if this proved to be the case and that the necessary works would be subject to a further Project Proposal that would be costed separately.

This report is an interim summary of the results of the fieldwork in compliance with the terms of the project brief (see Watson, 2003, paras 6.8 - 6.10). Later sections of this report set out details of the post-excavation programme required for the preparation of a full report along with provisional publication proposals.

### **1.2 Archaeological and historical background**

The development area falls into two separate blocks of land (Fig. 1). Comparison of historical maps dated c. 1575, c. 1610, 1746, 1832 and 1838 (Figs 2 to 4) indicates that the north-western block was open ground and totally undeveloped until some time after 1838. Documentary sources show that a Franciscan Friary occupied the western end of the east

block from 1245 to 1538. The north-eastern tip was occupied by a river wharf in the 18th century (and probably much earlier) and the medieval town wall passed through the north-eastern part of the block. The historic maps indicate, however, that the eastern block was largely fields or water meadows from the medieval period until some time between 1746 and 1832 when the first developments took place. This information is supported by prints of 18th date (Fig. 3). There are no known documentary sources that indicate the presence of any other significant structures within the development areas before the first map evidence of 1576.

The County Sites and Monuments Record holds details of the following sites of direct interest:-

1) *The Franciscan Friary* (PRN 01523, 10526, 60178, 60215-217, 62465-469)

The site is marked as 'A' on Fig 5.

The Franciscans or 'Grey Friars' were one of the larger mendicant orders. These orders followed a doctrine of poverty defined in 'rule' set out by St. Francis that they spread through preaching. They were predominantly urban institutions, often establishing their houses on the fringe of towns just outside the town wall, exactly the situation of the house on St. Julian's Friars.

The Grey Friars arrived in England in 1224, establishing houses at London, Cambridge, Oxford and Northampton within six months. The rapid natural growth of towns in the 13<sup>th</sup> century led to the rapid growth of the order. By 1256, the Grey Friars had established 49 houses and had expanded into Wales, Scotland and Ireland by the end of the century. At the time of the Dissolution c. 1536 there were 60 Franciscan houses.

In October 1245, King Henry III ordered that a 'sufficient and suitable site in Shrewsbury should be assigned to the friars for the building of their Church and for their accommodation' (Martin, 1937, 8, 247). It seems that building work was in progress the following year for a gate was made through the town wall for the friars. Royal gifts of materials and money continued for a further five years. Local benefactors also gave considerable contributions (VCH, 1973, 89) and the friars' church was still under construction in 1251 (Ferris, 1993). The street known as St Julians Friars (occasionally as Friar's Lane or Distaff Lane) was probably created at the same time to connect the new friary to the town.

Early walls may have been at least partly of mud for reasons of ascetism so masonry structures may date from a number of decades after the original foundation in 1245. At an early stage, the provincial minister, William of Nottingham, 'out of zeal for poverty' ordered the donor to replace the masonry walls of the dormitory at Shrewsbury with mud walls, which he did 'with wonderful devotion and sweetness and very great expense' (VCH, 1973 citing Little, 1917). The first warden, Martin of Barton, used to recite with glee how they had lived simply, drinking dregs of beer mixed with water (VCH, 1973).

In 1267 the gate through the town wall was enlarged to take wheeled traffic. Building was probably in progress again in 1371 when a stone quarry was made available near the house. The friars were charged with obstructing a watercourse at Wyle in 1382 and 1389. In 1440 new land had been added to the site deflecting the river and damaging the town walls and

bridge. In 1443 there were similar *purprestures* on the Coleham side of the river. The friars had fish weirs in the 15th century (VCH, 1973).

The decision of the general chapter of the whole order of England to meet at the Shrewsbury house in 1509 argues for a sizable complex, but it would appear that the precinct complex was somewhat down at heel a decade later. The corporation granted money to repair the granary in 1520 and further sums for repairs in 1529 (VCH, 1973, 90). The Friary was poor in 1538 at the time of the Dissolution, having no property or rents, but was popular locally.

The evidence for the extent of the friars' landholding has been reviewed (Ferris, 1993). The northern boundary was the town wall and the river formed the southern boundary (PRN 62469) but the available sources do not allow precise location of the east and west boundaries (*ibid*). A lease dated 1544 indicates that ten separate parcels of arable land amounting to 3 or 4 acres lay around the precinct to both the east and west of the buildings. The entire development area thus falls largely within the friars' original landholding.

The main buildings of the complex would have undoubtedly been arranged around a cloister. The sole surviving building (Nos. 20-26, St Julian's Friars, see Fig 5) lies near the riverbank and was thus almost certainly at the southern end of the complex. Maps of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century date clearly show that the garden areas around 'A' on Fig. 5 were intrusions into the eastern part of the old cloister area by properties situated to the north. Hitchcock's map of Shrewsbury of 1832 (Fig. 4) appears to show detail of buildings set at a right angle to Nos. 20-26, St. Julian's Friars, ie. possibly reflecting the west side of a cloister arrangement. These buildings may well have post-dated the dissolution but would probably reflect old property boundaries. The detail, however, from Hitchcock's map has been overlaid onto John Wood's survey of 1838. Wood's surveys were usually fairly accurate. The two copies of Hitchcock's map found so far are too small to allow reproduction of clear detail, but overlaying the two surveys indicates that Hitchcock's survey had fundamentally serious survey inaccuracies. The buildings shown by Hitchcock were either cleared before 1838 or were the same as those shown by Wood.

Burials were discovered within the Friary area in 1938 and 1952 during ground works in the workshop of the Vincent Greenhous Garage (Carver, 1978, No. 52 - location marked 'N' on Fig. 5). A later eyewitness reported a row of burials of various ages exposed within the west end of the stores building during ground works c. 1969 (Ferris, 1993, quoting L. Hamer). The burials were interpreted as being part of a lay cemetery close to the town ditch at the north edge of the Friary precinct.

## *2) The town's defensive wall and ditch (PRN 60168, 62393, 62395, 62396, 62470-474)*

The inner side of the town wall has been excavated in three trenches at positions marked as 'J', 'K' and 'L' on Fig. 5 (Carver, 1978 : Tavener, 2002). This, in combination with map evidence, indicates that the wall in this area ran from points 'B' to 'C' to 'D' on Fig. 5. The wall was found in 1993 in trench 10 (OAU, 1993 - see Fig. 5 herein and below). The wall was situated several metres to the south of the line predicted on the basis of major property boundaries on old maps. The location of the wall to the east of trench 10 remained unknown.

There are no records for the establishment of the town wall in the vicinity. It probably belongs to the period of murage grants from c. 1220-1240 AD. The town wall in the vicinity of St.



Julian's Friars (SMR PRN 62471/2) must have been in position before 1246 when it was heightened to allow the gateway for the friars (above and SMR PRN 62470).

3) *A medieval quayside or wharf known as 'Bulgerlode'* (PRN 04716 & 60169)

The location, marked 'E' on Fig. 5 (and see also Fig. 3B and 3C), was probably on the river's edge until the creation of Marine Terrace some time after Wood's map of 1838 (see Figs 4 and 5). The name possibly derived from *boulgers*, makers of leather bags and pouches who may have worked nearby at the foot of Wyle Cop.

4) *The medieval 'English Bridge'* (PRN 60213, 60434, 62645)

See 'F' on Fig. 5. Parts of the medieval bridge structure are known to survive below street level virtually adjacent to the north-east corner of the development area at point 'I' on Fig. 5 (see Hannaford, 1999). Any ground works for services in this area could reveal further detail of the medieval bridge.

A new English Bridge was built c. 1770. The present structure dates from an entire rebuild in the 1920s. The main engineer for the 1920s rebuild later wrote a history of the two main Shrewsbury bridges, recording a veritable plethora of floods and damage to the medieval structure through the five centuries of its existence (Ward, 1935). All three builds of English Bridge occupied the same position.

The approach to the bridge, i.e. the street called Under the Wyle, was raised with landfill around 1755 (Ward, 1935, p. 65 ; SMR PRN 60434). Ground works near English Bridge in 1773 found a channel and pavement 5.5 feet down. The ground around the bottom of Wyle Cop was raised c. 1758 by 7 feet (i.e. since Rocque's map of 1746). Recent archaeological investigations at the junction of St. Julians Friars and Beeches Lane found that the medieval ground surface lies c. 2.5m below those streets (Tavener, 2002). The ground surface at the southern end of St. Julians Friars is only slightly lower than at the north end so it is fairly obvious that the whole area has been raised considerably. There is some evidence that some of this raising outside the town wall occurred in the medieval period (OAU, 1993).

5) *Old burgage plots* (PRN 10658&9, 20111, 20332, 60151&2, 60214, 60388, 62397, 62451, 62454-457)

Elements of old property boundaries, probably of medieval origin, can be detected on maps to the present day all along both sides of Under the Wyle. Several of the properties on the south side of the street (around point 'G' on Fig. 5) almost certainly extended southwards for several metres into the development site originally. The PRN Nos. quoted above largely refer to the numerous listed buildings on 'Under the Wyle'. Of these, the old Lion and Pheasant Inn (adjacent to 'H' on Fig. 5) is noteworthy. The rear part of the building appears to date to the 17th century. Ground level in the immediate vicinity of this structure seems to have altered little since that date (unless an original ground floor is now a cellar). This is odd, for it seems to contradict the documentary evidence for the raising of the ground surface in the area (above : Ward, 1935). A watching brief undertaken on shallow ground works at point 'H' found little of direct relevance (Frost, 2002).

6) *Archaeological watching brief on the site of the old Barge Inn* (PRN ?No Number)

Underground petrol tanks sited within the footprint of the old Barge Inn were grubbed out in 1993 (at point 'P' within the current study area on Fig. 5). Medieval deposits were identified in the sides of the excavation at c.3m below ground level and below (Hannaford, 1993).

7) *Archaeological evaluation of this development site* (PRN 60171- 60177)

Eight evaluation trenches were excavated by the Oxford Archaeology Unit (OAU, 1993, positions shown on Fig. 5). Most of the trenches found significant archaeological deposits, usually sealed below 1-2m depth of late post-medieval landfill. The town wall and ditch were found and investigated in trench 10, the first time that these features had been identified in the vicinity. The course of the wall to the east of trench 10 remained unknown as it was not found in the OAU trench 8. Trench 4 found deposits associated with the Friary including evidence for a made-up landfill platform of medieval date. Trench 2 (at the western edge of the development area) identified part of the same medieval platform.

8) *Archaeological watching brief at the Sandford House Hotel* (PRN SA3722)

A watching brief on ground works for new dwellings at the extreme west end of the hotel garden (point 'M' on Fig. 5) found post-medieval landfill to below 1m (Hannaford, 1997).

9) *Archaeological evaluation trenches near Greyfriars Bridge* (PRN SA 2012)

Two trenches found a fairly complex sequence of deposits. Medieval layers were identified c. 2m below the modern ground surface. They were sealed by post-medieval landfill (Gifford & Partners, 1993).

### 1.3 Scope and aims of the project

The 'Brief' stipulated that the archaeological project should consist of:-

- a) a desk-based study to inform the fieldwork phase
- b) two evaluation trenches, each 3m x 1.5m, against the south face of the town wall
- c) full archaeological excavation of four areas, the locations identified on a plan accompanying the project brief
- d) building recording (i.e. a full drawn, written and photographic record) of a visible upstanding length of the town wall c. 21m in length and roughly 3m high (above present ground level). This lies to each side of the northern tip of trench 5 (Fig.1).
- e) a watching brief on all other ground works. *It should be noted that the development has not started yet so the watching brief has yet to be undertaken. It is highly likely that the watching brief will retrieve archaeological information of direct relevance to the findings of the completed part of the archaeological fieldwork reported on here. Any such future findings will need to be incorporated in the final report.*

The general aims of evaluations, excavations, watching briefs and building recording, as defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in their Standard and Guidance notes, were set out in the project proposal.

In summary, the main objectives of this programme of works were to:-

- excavate sections of the town ditch
- investigate and record the town wall

- obtain a sample across the Friary precinct

*The evaluation* - trenches 6 and 7 on Fig.1

The purpose of these trenches was to assess the impact of the proposed development on this section of the town wall and to provide information for the devising of an appropriate mitigation strategy. Excavation was to be limited to the to the top of significant archaeological deposits. Further excavation was only to be undertaken where it was essential for achieving the objectives of the evaluation (Watson, 2003, para 5.2).

*The excavation* - trenches 1 - 5 on Fig.1

The intended scheme set out in the project brief comprised four trenches:-

- Area A (trench 5 on Fig. 1) - to be 10m x 4m - to investigate the town wall and ditch
- Area B (trench 2 on Fig. 1) - to measure 12m x 4m - to investigate the town wall and ditch
- Area C (trench 1 on Fig 1) - to measure 10m x 4m - to locate and investigate the town wall and ditch
- Area D (near trench 3 on Fig. 1) - to measure 60m x 2m - to obtain a cross section of the Friary precinct

A site meeting took place prior to commencement of the fieldwork between Marches Archaeology and the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor. It was agreed that:-

a) Area C (trench 1) would become an evaluation trench. The position (or even existence) of the town wall had never been proved at this location. It was agreed that a trench c. 1m wide and starting at the extreme east edge of the development area would be machined in a westerly direction until the wall was found. A smaller excavation would then take place straddling the town wall.

b) Area D - the trench measuring 60m x 2m (120m<sup>2</sup>) stipulated in the project 'brief' would be changed to a trench measuring 20m x 4m (trench 3 on Fig.1) and a second trench measuring 10m x 4m (trench 4 on Fig.1). The positions were agreed on the ground at the meeting. Both trenches were intended to investigate the medieval Friary.

*The watching brief*

As noted above, the watching brief has yet to start. The specification is set out in the project brief (para. 5.4).

## **1.4 Methodology**

### *a) Documentary research*

Primary and secondary sources including the Shropshire County Sites and Monuments Record were consulted to inform the fieldwork phase. The following sources were also considered:-

- Ordnance Survey maps and other historical maps
- Previous published and unpublished archaeological reports and archive work
- Written non-archaeological sources
- Borehole and other engineering data.

#### *b) Fieldwork*

Insignificant post-medieval deposits were removed by mechanical excavator to a level determined to comprise deposits, features or horizons of archaeological significance. Further excavation was mainly by hand. Some of the deeper deposits in trenches 1, 2 and 5 were tested by machine because safety considerations prevented hand excavation.

Trenches 1, 2 and 5 were dug to investigate the town ditch. Their long axes were at right angles to the line of the wall. Trenches 2 and 5 were 3m deep or more and were stepped to give a maximum section 2m wide through the ditch itself. Trenches 3 and 4 were dug to explore the archaeology in the area of the Friary. Roughly 70% of the footprint of Trench 3 needed to be reduced to below 1.2m to clearly elucidate the level of deposits associated with the Friary levels. The trench sides were stepped and battered.

The recording system includes written, drawn and photographic data. Context numbers were allocated and context record sheets completed. The trenches and significant features were surveyed using a Total Station and the data plotted in AutoCad. Plans of features and significant deposits within trenches were hand drawn at scale 1:20. All plans were multi-context. The Autocad data was then added to a topographical survey digitised by surveyors working for the developer. Sections were hand drawn of significant deposits at 1:20. The deposits and features have been related to Ordnance Datum. The photographic record comprises black and white negative and colour transparency film.

All artefactual and ecofactual material recovered from hand excavation has been retained. There were no fragile or otherwise vulnerable objects requiring conservation. Samples were taken of deposits considered to have environmental potential.

#### *c) Building recording*

The designated length of the town wall was recorded stone by stone at a scale of 1:20 and also by black and white and colour slide photography, in accordance with RCHM[E] level 3 requirements as defined by the RCHM[E] (1996) as stipulated in the project brief.

## 2. SITE NARRATIVE

### 2.1 Summary of the results of the excavation and evaluation

#### *Trench 1*

The town wall was found c. 10m from the eastern edge of the development area running roughly north to south (Fig. 6). It was 1.4m thick and survived to a height of 2.9m. This was one of the more important findings of the project, as the exact location of the wall to the south of English Bridge was hitherto unknown.

A deep box excavated to c. 0.2m below the base of the wall on the riverwards side found that the wall was founded on alluvial mud [116] that continued to accumulate after the wall was built. The basal course of the wall was formed from random blocky sandstone laid on a mat of smaller stones and was capped by a small projecting ledge. A similar course of random blocky sandstone lay above the ledge and was capped by a chamfered plinth formed from very precisely cut blocks projecting 0.25m from the main wall face (Fig. 6).

The plinth stones were covered by alluvial muds [115], [114] and [112]. Pottery dating to the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> centuries was recovered from silt [115] and also from the top of silt [112]. It seems that these mud layers accumulated quickly on the riverwards side of the wall, saving the plinth from serious erosion leaving it in a superb unworn condition.

Above the plinth, the outer eastern wall face was formed from rectangular cut sandstone ashlar. These were largely mauve but there were occasional greyish white blocks, probably from the Grinshill quarries. There was no mortar in the tightly fitting joints. Attempts to excavate to the base of the wall on the western or inner face were frustrated by the extremely unstable nature of the running sands encountered. The lowest sand [121] also contained pottery dating to the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. The exposed portion of the inner face was irregular and formed from large roughly dressed mauve blocks. It seems likely that the portion exposed was not intended to be seen.

The sequence of deposits above sand [121] comprised a succession of near identical light golden brown silty coarse sands [122] to [125] (Fig. 6). These were capped by a layer of pink clay [126] containing rubble and mortar that was obviously a deliberate landfill and of early post-medieval date and probably broadly equivalent to landfill [240] in trench 2.

On the riverwards side of the town wall, the rapid build-up of sediments in the 14<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> centuries gave way to a slower accumulation of more humic alluvial silts [111], [110] and [109] through the early post-medieval period. This culminated in a fairly stable ground surface on the top of soil [109] by the early to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. The lower part of soil [109] was partially cut by the footing trench [135] for a crude masonry wall [134] forming the eastern side of a drain or culvert [136], the town wall [120] being utilised as the west side. Simple brick pillars [131] leaning against the town wall and spaced at c. 3m intervals were used to carry brick arches [132]. This arrangement must have carried wooden roof supports; the sheer volume of Welsh slate [118] found in the bottom of the culvert indicates that it probably featured a slate roof.

An east-west masonry wall [127] was inserted at a right angle into the inner side of the town wall at about the same time that culvert [136] was created. The upper part of the town wall [120] was thinned down by half to form part of the same building. A mortar floor [129] was laid and the inner face of both walls were plastered above floor [129] indicating the interior of a room.

Finds associated with slates [118] indicate that the culvert was still functioning in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and that the roof collapsed or was pushed in early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century followed rapidly by demolition materials [119] and [133]. This culvert was shown running down the east side of a building on the Ordnance survey map of 1880 (Fig. 5). It is almost certain that wall [127] formed part of that building. It was situated to the rear of the Barge Inn in 1880 and it seems likely that the building was shown on Wood's map of 1838. Two 18<sup>th</sup> century prints (Fig. 3) show buildings including a gazebo or tower at about this location but Rocque's map of 1746 appears to show no buildings at this location.

The area to the east of the new culvert [136] was subjected to a series of landfill dumps shortly after the construction of wall [134]. The dumps started with a fairly rapid build up of ash and soil layers [108] to [106] in the mid to late 18th century culminating in a temporary ground surface of trampled coal ash [105]. There followed a period of soil development [104] following which a cobbled path [103] was laid alongside the culvert.

## *Trench 2*

The town wall [210] crossed east-west through the trench near the north end (Fig. 7). The wall, which was c. 1.6m thick, was entirely bonded in hard, near white mortar. The external face was formed from roughly dressed blocks and was reasonably tidily executed. There was no plinth. The inner face was very irregular, being formed from random sandstone blocks of widely different sizes. The overall appearance suggests that badly worn medieval ashlar had been re-utilised at a later date in a wall held together with strong mortar. It survived to a height of 1.3m, having been truncated to its present height in the mid to late 18th century when the outer edge was used as the footing for a brick boundary wall.

Wall [210] sat over pale yellow brown alluvium [205] / [206]. The former contained pieces of clay tobacco pipe at the level of the base of the wall whilst a single sherd of pottery dated to the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> centuries was recovered from the latter. These finds indicate that the wall dates to the late 16<sup>th</sup> century or slightly later. Alluvium [206] overlay a succession of light grey alluvial mud deposits [207], [208] and [209] which in turn overlay a clean pale yellow running sand [211]. The unstable nature of the latter prevented any hand serious hand excavation of the overlying grey muds, so no finds were recovered. Mud [207] was, however, cut by a deep, steep sided ditch [230]. Three sherds of pottery of 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> century date were recovered from the upper edge fill [247], dating ditch [230] to the medieval period.

Ditch [230] was obviously in an advanced state of silting up when alluvial muds [205] and [206] were deposited and the ditch was recut as [220] and the town wall [210] constructed. The recut [220] was filled with a succession of largely similar brownish grey silty muds [232] to [236]. The overhung angle of the north edge of ditch [220] (Fig. 7) would appear to have been caused by slumping of the alluvial layers [205] and [206] at a late stage in the silting up of the recut. Outwash from the running sands [211] caused the sections to collapse twice during attempts to obtain a clear profile to the base of the ditch and no finds could be

recovered with secure provenance from layers [232] up to [235]. The ditch seems to have stabilised as a shallow V-shaped linear hollow (top of layer [236]) before being buried rapidly by various loamy deposits [223] up to [202], all dated by pottery to the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

There seems to have been some truncation of the upper parts of these deposits (context [202] in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when an ashy loam landfill [201] was dumped prior to the laying of a cobbled road [245] down the east side of the trench. This road almost certainly relates to a terrace of housing shown on the Ordnance survey map of 1880. A brick footing [229] crossing the south end of the trench almost certainly belonged to a building of 18<sup>th</sup> century date shown by Wood (Fig. 4A).

### *Trench 3*

Undisturbed medieval landfill deposits belonging to the platform identified in 1993 (OAU, 1993) lay 1m to 1.2m below the modern ground surface (see top of contexts [314], [316], [324] and [332] on Fig. 8C and [343], [348], [351], [357] and [365] on Fig. 8A). The western end of the trench was occupied by a solid brownish pink silty clay [343]. There were no cut features in this area. The central and eastern parts of the trench were largely occupied by a complex of intersecting robber trenches which had been dug in the post-Dissolution period along old medieval foundation trenches (Fig. 8B). Occasionally, the robbers had left the basal course or courses of masonry (Figs 8A, B and C). Most of the medieval foundation trenches penetrated the top of the natural grey alluvial silt [400] that underlies the medieval landfill platform. The areas between wall trenches were occupied by medieval landfill, the landfill materials occasionally being entirely different to each side of a wall line.

The earliest identifiable wall was an east west-wall [369] occupying much of the southern part of the trench. The western part of this wall had been virtually completely removed in the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century by a robber trench [393]. The surviving masonry of [369] to the east was universally a very red sandstone with a slightly orange hue. This was probably derived from the quarry at 'the Quarry' some 1km to the west (Mike Watson, *pers comm*). Where the cut penetrated the underlying alluvium [400], there was a identifiable construction cut with fill between cut and masonry. Above the alluvium, the medieval landfills abutted the masonry, i.e. post-dated the wall.

It seems that phase 1 was largely demolished and the footings partially robbed in the middle ages. Limited pottery evidence indicates that this occurred sometime in the period between the mid 13<sup>th</sup> and late 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Wall [369] was demolished and the surviving basal courses were cut by 3 north-south wall lines [315], [321] and [329]/[368], i.e. a clearly identifiable later building campaign of entirely different plan. There is a strong possibility that the three north-south walls were not all of a single phase. Later robbing had largely destroyed the stratigraphic relationships that would have unravelled this phasing. It is possible that the watching brief may yet reveal further information to clarify the situation.

The structural information from the east end of the trench indicates that there may have been an intermediate (i.e. true second) phase. Part of a wall line or square plinth [370] towards the east end of the trench appears to have been truncated in the medieval period and sealed under medieval landfill. The nearby masonry [373] was almost certainly from phase 1, as was an east-west wall [397] to the south. Wall [397] was clearly cut by a wall trench [388] running

southwards from a diagonal footing [399] at the extreme east end of the trench. Masonry [399], which was the best preserved piece of wall within the trench, was probably a buttress. It was sealed by medieval landfill [372] and had escaped the attentions of the post-Dissolution robbers. The wall lines [396] and [391] running away from the buttress to the west and south had not. The generally chaotic and widespread nature of the post-Dissolution robbing and the general paucity of datable finds, especially in the robber trenches, meant that it was often difficult to detect disturbance or establish direct relationships between some of the masonry features at the eastern end of the trench and walls further westwards. Further detailed spatial and stratigraphic analysis should help to clarify the sequence.

A large steep sided pit [338] near the centre of the trench contained disarticulated human bones from a burial including the lower jaw. The pit would seem to have been a grave and may have been inside a building. The backfill of the robbed grave was cut by a bell-casting pit [327] featuring heat scorched edges (Fig. 8C) which must logically also be of medieval date. The grave [338] thus almost certainly predates the north-south walls [315] etc. Elsewhere, human bones were found occasionally scattered through the fills of the post-Dissolution robber trenches indicating that other graves were disturbed in the area.

The floors had largely been destroyed, but a few small areas of floor surface relating to the second or late phase walls were found scattered along the trench (contexts [329], [329], [323] and [354]), usually adjacent to robber trenches. Floor [354] comprised a very thin layer of mortar with clear floor tile impressions indicating that the tiles had originally been laid diagonally to the wall lines. Tile fragments recovered from the various robber trenches indicate that the floor surface inside the buildings featured a selection of ceramic floor tiles, some glazed, some painted and glazed and some with impressed decoration. Elsewhere, the floors seem to have been dug up during the early post-medieval robbing phase and the top of the medieval platform was mostly overlain by spreads of demolition materials (see e.g. contexts [352] and [353] and [341] on Fig. 8A and [331] and [341] on Fig. 8C).

All of the footings for walls standing at the Dissolution had been robbed, many heavily so, leaving simply robber trenches filled with demolition debris. The robbing had removed some stratigraphic information but much remained. The robbers in the post-Dissolution period had either failed to realise that phase 1 existed or had largely ignored phase 1 walls where they had touched them in the sides of their robber trenches along the north-south walls. The robber trenches were often splayed at the top (i.e. much wider than the original wall line) and the footprint of the trench was largely occupied by rubble and sand at the original floor level.

The resultant early post-medieval demolition deposits and spreads [353] etc were overlain by a thin cultivation soil [309] containing artefacts of 17th and early 18th century date. All contexts and deposits above soil [309] represent landfill of late 18th century date followed by soil development [308] in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century then more recent landfill deposits, structures or rubbish pits.

#### *Trench 4*

The trench was machined to the top of the uppermost surviving layer of the medieval landfill platform, a brownish light pink clayey silt [415] (Fig. 9A). The top of this layer had been converted to a mid brown pink loam soil [405] by cultivation following the abandonment of the Friary. This was probably the same as the cultivation that had created soil [309].



There was no survival of floor surfaces, probably due to cultivation of soil [405]. A robber trench [410] crossed the trench approximately north to south. The trench, which was 1.2m wide and 1.5m deep, was clearly for a substantial and important wall. The robbers had left no masonry *in situ*, the trench being filled entirely with red sand, brown loam and small sandstone pieces rejected by the robbers. Wall line [410] was on the same alignment as wall line [329] / [368] in trench 3 and may represent a southern continuation of that wall.

A much shallower linear cut [425] in the north-east corner of the trench may have been a robber trench along a wall lined up on the eastern end wall of the surviving Friary building. There was no surviving masonry so this remains unclear. Only a short length of cut [425] was investigated, but if it were a wall line, it was not parallel to wall line [410].

Wall line [425] was cut by a large rubbish pit [409] of late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century date. Soil [405] was last cultivated in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century following which the area was raised with landfills [404] and [401]. A machine dug service trench [406] traversed the trench east-west and was cut by two even later pits [419] and [421].

### *Trench 5*

The presence of a live storm drain [564] and a live 440 volt electricity supply prevented the machining of a single continuous deep trench (Fig. 10).

The north edge [502] of the medieval town ditch was found c. 1.3m to the south of the extant town wall [501] (Fig. 10). The medieval ditch [502] was recut much later [510]. This had entirely removed the southern side of the earlier ditch, but some of the northern edge fills of the medieval ditch survived (contexts [506] to [509]). Below these, the edge of the medieval ditch was sealed with a thick deposit of bright pink puddled clay [503] that must have been deliberately applied to stabilise the soft alluvial materials forming the edge of the ditch. Pottery recovered from silts [508] and [511] indicates that they were laid in the later 13<sup>th</sup> century. The pottery recovered from silt [509] was largely medieval but included some 17<sup>th</sup> century material that may have been trampled in when the ditch was recut at the latter date.

The lowest investigated fills of the recut [510], contexts [512] and [513] and [570], contained brick and ceramic roof-tile of 17<sup>th</sup> date, indicating that the recut was probably late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century in date, possibly dating to the Civil War. Pottery and brick of early to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from the final fills, [519], [568] and [567] indicating that the fill sequence was of fairly short duration. The southern edge of the recut [510] lies to the south of the trench, making that ditch at least 13m in width. A small area of grey alluvium [572] found at the base of the trench at the southern edge may have been natural, i.e. part of the southern edge of recut [510] but this remains unclear.

The rapid filling of ditch [510] ended with a stable ground surface [528] late in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. The area was then landfilled (all layers above [528] to the top of [536]). The layers over [536] comprise dumps and spreads of imported ash and garden soil. These were interspersed with several garden features related to the occupancy of the adjacent Severn House (e.g. kerb [560] / path [559], flagstones [573]). Severn House was not shown on maps of 1832 or 1838 (Fig. 4).

The town wall [501] overlay the same pale yellow alluvium [504] that was cut by the medieval ditch [502]. A small cut feature [575] extended under the town wall but there were no finds in the fill [576]. Alluvium [504] was directly overlain by a silty layer containing pottery of late 18<sup>th</sup> century date that formed part of the general mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century ground surface [528]. It is evident that there has been erosion along the narrow berm approximately 1.2m wide (contexts [504]/[505]) alongside the town wall [501] leading to deposits of early to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century date directly overlying deposits of medieval date. By the end of that period, all stratigraphic relationships between the wall and the recut ditch [510] were destroyed and the footings of the town wall were entirely exposed to view. It is therefore not possible to date the extant wall with any precision. It was formed from neatly cut ashlar, but there was no plinth and the width of the wall remains unknown. It may date to the Civil War period or possibly have been rebuilt slightly later (but see 'building recording' below).

### *Trench 6*

The lowest layer exposed, at 49.4m OD, was a grey brown soil [609] formed from dirty brownish light grey alluvium of late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century date. The overlying layers [608], [607], [606] and [605] were 18<sup>th</sup> century or later landfills. There was no sign of the town wall. The base of the trench was 0.8m below the level of the base of the town wall in trench 5 to the west and c. 0.4m above the base of trench 7 to the east (Fig. 11). A road iron was pushed 1m downwards by hand at an angle into alluvium [609] in order to test for the presence of the town wall below the northern edge of the trench. This exercise was repeated several times at closely spaced intervals, meeting no resistance. The town wall would seem not to exist at this location, and yet the trench lay within 2m of a trench excavated by Martin Carver in 1975 which had found the wall surviving almost to modern ground level (Carver, 1978).

A wall footing [610] bonded with cement and thus of certain 20<sup>th</sup> century date enclosed three sides of the trench, making deeper excavation of the trench potentially hazardous. The footing was built from mauve ashlar blocks probably robbed from the town wall nearby.

### *Trench 7*

The town wall [703] was found within 0.3m of the modern ground surface. The wall was formed from mauve ashlar sandstone and was quite worn. At the base, it steps out c. 0.3m as a very roughly formed horizontal ledge. It is known that this part of the wall is medieval because an excavation trench virtually opposite on the inner side has already proved this (Tavener, 2002).

The lowest layer investigated to the south of the wall face was a 'natural' grey alluvium [709] of 17<sup>th</sup> century date and broadly equivalent to alluvium [609] in trench 6. The overlying ash and soils [708] to [706] were landfills containing pottery of late 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century date, whilst the overlying landfills [705] and [701] date to the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### *Building recording*

The upstanding portion of the town wall at the north end of trench 5 was photographed and drawn. A limited portion of this wall 1m in width was excavated to c. 0.2m below its base at the north end of trench 5 (Fig. 10). Three factors precluded larger scale exposure of the lower

portion of the wall. Firstly, the ground behind the wall (i.e. to the north on the Beeches Lane side) is c. 3m higher than within the development area, so the wall is holding back a considerable weight of ground. Secondly, the wall features a major weakness in the form of a near vertical construction break from top to bottom about midway along its length. Thirdly, the wall is founded on soft alluvium. There were running sands below the alluvium in trenches 1 and 2. Any movement of material from beneath the wall brought about by deep archaeological excavations could have seriously compromised the remaining strength of the wall.

The masonry forming the wall comprises large square cut ashlar blocks but exhibits no diagnostic or datable features. Two buttresses are arranged along this section of wall. These appear to be identical to buttresses shown further northwards round the wall circuit on a print dated 1739 (see Baker, 2003, p 18). The available dating evidence from trench 5 shows that the wall cannot be medieval and is more likely to date from the late 16th or early 17th centuries.

## **2.2 Discussion of the stratigraphic and structural evidence**

### **The 13th - 16th centuries**

The construction of the medieval town wall and foundation of the Friary represent the earliest archaeological activity. These occurred just before 1240 AD and in 1245 respectively.

#### *The town wall*

The portions of the town wall found in trenches 1 and 7 were, beyond doubt, medieval in date and probably constructed in the 13th century. The wall in trench 1 featured a chamfered plinth. Evidence from elsewhere in Shrewsbury indicates that the medieval town wall usually featured at least one chamfered plinth near the base (see e.g. Baker, 2003, plate on p. 21). Later rebuilds of the wall apparently did not have this feature and were usually made from more crudely dressed masonry bonded with lime mortar (Brown and Watson, 1989).

The standard of dressing of the wall masonry found in trenches 2 and 5 was plainly of an inferior quality to that in trench 1 and neither wall [210] or [501] had a plinth. They generally fit the description of known later rebuilds. Pieces of clay tobacco pipe recovered from the alluvium [206] below the external face of the wall in trench 2 indicate a construction date in the very late 16th or early 17th century. The evidence from trench 5 is less clear. Excavation of part of the small cut feature [575] extending physically under the wall yielded no finds. This layer, and the surrounding alluvium [504] were directly overlain by a thin deposit [528] of early to mid 18th century date. Alluvium [504] was cut by the medieval ditch, i.e. was of medieval date, so several centuries of deposits were missing at that location leaving the wall footing utterly exposed. These two facts must logically indicate that severe erosion had taken place along the berm between the wall and ditch. It would be tempting to postulate a Civil War rebuild for the wall at trenches 2 and 5, but the wall is shown clearly on maps of c. 1575 and 1610. There is documentary evidence from elsewhere that parts of the circuit of the walls were repaired in the late 16th century (Brown and Watson, 1989). What is certain, however, is that the deposits belonging to the northern edge of the medieval ditch survived in both trenches 2 and 5 and that the medieval ditch was recut in the late 16th or early 17th century.

The presence of the medieval ditch must indicate that the medieval wall was either on, or close to, the line of the later wall rebuilds. The wall found in trench 2 during this excavation was on the same line as that found by the Oxford Archaeology Unit in their trench 10 in 1993. This line is several metres to the south of the line predicted from boundaries on old maps.

The investigations at trenches 1 and 7 were not large or deep enough to find the medieval town ditch. It is possible, perhaps even likely, that wall [120] in trench 1 utilised the river as its defensive ditch. The presence of the medieval ditch below trench 7 can reasonably be inferred as it exists in trench 2 to the east and trench 5 to the west.

The wall found in trench 1 was probably not intended to serve as a quayside. The projecting plinth would have been a nuisance. More importantly, the base of that wall occurs at c. 47.3m OD. The average river level in summer at English Bridge is 47.2m OD, in winter it is 47.45m (see Fig. 6). It is clear that no barge could have got alongside the wall in the medieval period unless the river bed has changed considerably since then. The plinth was covered by a rapid accumulation of fine grey alluvial sandy silty muds [115] and [111] of 14th / 15th century date culminating in a ground surface at c. 48.5m. The wall cannot have been a quayside at that or any later date. The quayside known as the 'Bulgerlode' must lie to the east.

The coarse pale sands (contexts [121] up to [125]) that accumulated on the inside of the wall pose something of a mystery. They were all largely similar in nature and almost sterile and entirely different in nature to the silts on the east side of the wall. These were the more 'normal' light grey or brownish grey fine sandy silty alluvial mud. The uppermost sediment [125] lies over a metre above modern river levels (see Fig. 6). The rather indistinct traces of layering indicated horizontal banding. This probably indicates deposition by water but could indicate deliberate landfill of sands into water. The sparse pottery evidence indicates that the sands were of 14th / 15th century date, i.e. broadly contemporary with, and at the same height as, the fine grey muds [115] and [111] on the riverwards side of the wall. If these were deposited naturally by the river, then there must have been one or more occasions when water was flowing considerably faster inside the town wall than on its riverwards side. A documentary source in 1440 indicates that the friars' various land reclamation activities had led to the river damaging the town wall and also English Bridge.

The wall may be in a better state of preservation to the south of trench 1 where a grassed area forms the highest point in the development area. The angle where the east-west wall [210] in trench 2 meets the southwards continuation of wall [120] from trench 1 must lie below this grassed area and the angle must be quite acute. To the north of trench 1, the Burghley map of 1575 shows the wall curving north-eastwards to meet the old bridge (Fig. 2A). Speed's detail is slightly different (Fig. 2B). It would be tempting to postulate that parts of the wall were rebuilt between the dates of the two map surveys, for there is documentary evidence to this effect at Roushill (Brown and Watson, 1989) but cartographic survey standards of that period are notoriously inexact. Both Speed and Burghley do, however, show a gateway in the section of the wall between trench 1 and English Bridge (Fig. 2A and 2B : Ward, 1935). In addition, the bridge may have continued westwards along Under the Wyle towards the bottom of Wyle Cop as a mixture of bridge arches and causeway (Nigel Baker, *pers comm* and see Fig. 3B). Parts of this structure lie under the current roadway (Hannaford, 1999) and may extend as far southwards as the pavement adjacent to the north-east corner of the development area. Any invasive ground works in this vicinity may hit components of the old bridge.

## *The Friary*

The trial trenches within the footprint of the Friary recovered highly important information regarding the plan of the buildings and conclusive evidence for at least two phases of construction with radically different layouts. Trench 3 was largely occupied by wall footings or robber trenches within such, whilst trench 4 added a further definite wall line to the overall plan with the possibility of a second wall line. In all likelihood, the portions of the trenches not occupied by walls were probably internal areas except, perhaps, for the western quarter of the trench 3 which may have been an external area.

A major landfill operation in the area of the Friary buried the last ‘natural’ alluvial ground surface under large amounts of imported materials, largely of natural geological origin, creating a raised platform (first identified by the Oxford Archaeology Unit in 1993) more than 1m higher than the old alluvial surface [400]. This operation seems to have been concomitant with the construction of phase 1 of the Friary. Phase 1 walls seem to have been narrower than later phase walls. This may signify that wall [369] was part of a single storey structure or perhaps a lesser building. The sparse pottery evidence indicates that this landfill operation was largely undertaken in the 13th century, but there was some addition of landfill to raise the platform still further in the later 13th or 14th centuries during the construction works for the phase 2 walls of the Friary. The full extent of this landfill platform remains unknown. The evidence from trenches elsewhere across the site indicates that much of the area continued to be flooded resulting in widespread deposition of finer sedimentary alluvial materials that slowed with time.

The truncation of the main east-west wall [369] of phase 1 and its replacement by three north-south walls proves beyond doubt a major second construction phase with a new building plan. It is tempting to postulate that this may have coincided with a documentary source that indicates that a quarry was made available to the friars in 1371. The pottery evidence, although sparse, would not contradict this. Most of the remaining components of phase 1, if not all, were demolished and reduced to ground level to make way for phase 2. The ground surface seems to have been raised by a further 0.3m for this phase. The diagonal wall [396] at the eastern end of the trench may have pre-dated phase 2 but continued in use in phase 2. It was probably a buttress although the stop at the north end may simply indicate a doorway. This serves to illustrate the difficulties of interpreting structures from a fairly small sample of the complex. There was no pit digging or casual disturbance during phase 1 within the areas examined. This may indicate that the entire trench was sited within building interiors, but again, it is difficult to be certain given the relatively limited portion of the structure exposed.

The level of the late medieval floors was clearly identified, but the evidence survived only as small isolated patches of mortar, usually adjacent to walls. These occurred to both north and south of wall [369], indicating that both areas were internal in phase 2 at least. It seems that the robbers had dug up most of the ceramic floor tiles, the broken examples often discarded into the adjacent robber trenches. There were at least three main different types of decorated glazed floor tile and two undecorated. No floors relating to phase 1 were found.

The grave found near the centre of the trench may have been sited within a building, this remains unclear. The grave could well reflect burial of a senior member of the order within a main building, possibly the church. What is more certain is that the body was dug up and largely removed during works for phase 2 or perhaps slightly later, leaving just a few

fragments. The backfilled grave was subsequently sealed below a bell-casting pit probably associated with phase 2 (or again possibly later).

The majority of the stone used in phase 1 was a bright red sandstone with slightly orange hue. Most of the phase 2 masonry was mauve sandstone, with some greyish white. Both phases featured drystone construction with rubble cores. The landfill material forming the medieval platform almost invariably lay right up against the masonry. There were often radically different landfill materials up against each of the two faces of any one wall in phase 1, i.e., there seem to have been no major construction cuts as such in phase 1. The walls were probably constructed straight onto the alluvial ground surface [400] or set within very shallow cuts into the alluvium and the space between the walls subsequently raised with landfill. The phase 2 construction trenches must have been cut through the phase 1 landfill. The landfill added for phase 2 lay against the upper courses of the faces of wall [399]. Elsewhere the masonry did not survive and the upper parts of the phase 2 construction cuts had been substantially widened and splayed by the post-Dissolution robber trenches.

The Dissolution inventory for the Shrewsbury house lists an 'upper vestrye, lower vestrye, the kechyng, the hall, the chamber (+ the frater)'. This list is probably not complete. A lease of 1544 refers to 'The Quyer' and 'Steple' and a Chapter House (VCH, 1973). A friary complex would also normally include a Guest House, a separate lodging for the 'Guardian', a school house, buttery, brewhouse and dorter. The church itself would typically have been 'a long house slated like a barn, boarded, the top leaded' (Martin, 1937).

The sole surviving building (Nos. 20-26, St Julian's Friars, see Fig 5) is widely identified as the 'frater' although it probably dates from the early 16th century, i.e. very late in the friars' occupation of the site. The standard work on Franciscan architecture describes it simply as a 'subsidiary building' (Martin, 1937, Pl 37). An adjoining long low timber-frame building of probably similar date and interpreted as being the dormitory was surveyed prior to demolition in 1967. An ancient building range immediately to the west was destroyed in 1879 to facilitate construction of the Greyfriars Bridge. The available map evidence suggests that these were all on a common alignment. What is clearly evident is that the wall lines found in trenches 3 and 4 were not rectilinear to the surviving building, indeed, the investigated wall lines lie at an angle of c. 30 degrees to that building. It has been noted that friars' cloisters and other conventual buildings seem not to have been laid out on any standard building plan and that even within the individual orders there was no apparent attempt at uniformity (Butler and Given-Wilson, 1983, p. 58). The excavated walls obviously form a small sample of one or possibly two buildings from a much larger complex, but the phasing and complexity found in trench 3 forms an important addition to our understanding of the Friary plan and will be of enormous value to future field workers.

The remainder of the development area was almost certainly part of the field system for the Friary and no medieval features or structures were found. Limited excavation of the medieval alluvial silts produced very little pottery, even from areas within the medieval town wall at trenches 1 and 2.

A very dry spell in Europe lasting from c. 1200-1280 was followed by a much longer cold wet climatic phase or 'mini Ice Age' from c. 1280-1500 AD (Roberts, 1989, Fig. 7.1). Excavations at Shrewsbury Abbey revealed that deposits that were dry in the 13th century became waterlogged before the 15th century (Dr. Nigel Baker, *pers comm*). A similar

phenomenon has been found in the alluvial deposits at the north west corner of St. Julians Friars (Tavener, 2002). The original town wall and Friary would, logically, have been constructed during the earlier dry phase. There was almost certainly a serious increase in flooding after c.1280. This would have caused enormous problems at the Greyfriars complex, especially if the original structures were largely of mud construction, and this change in conditions almost certainly explains the need for further raising of the landfill platform for the Friary. It possibly explains the presence of the deep red clay landfill behind the town wall in trench 2 and possibly the sands [121] etc. behind the town wall in trench 1, although the latter could be either landfill or river deposits.

### **16th century**

The Friary was heavily robbed in the years after the Dissolution c.1538, culminating in a series of quarrying operations to remove masonry from the footings. Phase 2 footings were particularly badly affected, whereas the robbers seem to have failed to follow phase 1 footings even when they found them. The ground surface outside the town wall away from the Friary platform rose due to natural deposition of alluvium. As the surface rose, the deposition slowed resulting in a humic soil formation along the floodplain in the later 17th century. The town wall in trench 2 was rebuilt around 1600 and the ditch was redug. The town wall in trench 5 probably also dates from about that time but the ditch may have been redug slightly later during the Civil War.

### **early 17th - mid 18th centuries**

The Friary was largely ruinous and both areas of the site were largely unoccupied at the beginning of this period. The sole activity throughout much of the period seems to have been shallow disturbance of the upper soil layers across the whole site by cultivation and normal soil forming processes. The recut town ditch silted up, the event probably hastened by dumping of rubbish. The town wall was realistically militarily obsolete at the start of the period but parts were patched up in the late 16th century and other parts for the Civil War. The wall was utterly redundant by the mid 18th century and was reduced piecemeal in trenches 1, 2 and the stump utilised as a footing for other structures. At trench 1, this may be the building shown on two prints dating to the early 18th century (see Fig. 3). Rocque's map of 1746 shows that the wall probably also no longer existed above ground at trenches 5 and 7. The ground surface was raised c. 1m in the vicinity of these trenches.

### **late 18th century**

The main activity was a large-scale raising of the ground surface across the whole site utilising 1-2m of imported landfill materials. These were largely loam or demolition materials and brought the ground level to almost that of the present day.

### **c. 1800-1850**

Severn House was constructed in the western area. Its formal gardens occupied all of that area until later in the century when the eastern part of the garden was developed. In the eastern area various buildings were constructed, probably largely of an industrial nature. The 1880 Ordnance Survey 1:500 map appears to show part of culvert [136] with a building on the west side. The angle of this building indicates that it was lined up on the town wall and that wall [127] was probably part of it.

### 3. THE FIELDWORK ARCHIVE

#### 3.1 Quantification of the paper records

The recording system includes written, drawn and photographic data. These have been catalogued and cross-referenced. They are itemised in Table 1 below.

Item	size	quantity	comments
context records	A4	315	
levels information	A4	4	3 sheets for plans, 1 for sections
site notebooks		none	
site matrix	A4	7	
drawings	A2-4	19	11 sheets of field drawings to date
drawing index	A4	1	
monochrome films	35mm	6	
monochrome index sheets	A4	6	
colour slide films	35mm	5	
colour slide index sheets	A4	5	
finds/context assemblage summary sheets	A4	64	
small finds index	A4	-	
small finds record sheets	A4	-	
samples index	A4	1	
Sample seiving index	A4	1	
sample sheets	A4	9	

**Table 1. Quantity summaries of the paper record**

#### 3.2 Quantification of the artefacts and samples including proportions by period

General collection procedures employed by Marches Archaeology were set out as Appendices 1 and 2 of the project proposal. All artefactual and ecofactual material recovered from hand excavation was retained. The artefactual and ecofactual data has been processed, catalogued and cross-referenced. The overall quantities are summarised in Table 2 (overleaf) with sub-totals for medieval finds.

Bulk finds soil samples from 5 carefully selected medieval contexts were sieved through a 2mm mesh to retrieve artefacts. The samples ranged from 2 to ten buckets (30-150 litres) in size. The samples include 1 from trench 1, 2 from trench 2 and 2 from trench 5. This procedure recovers small animal bone and other small artefacts that would not otherwise be detected, especially where they would be largely invisible to the naked eye such as in the grey-brown muds.



### 3.3 Sources of bias arising from site conditions and collection strategies

#### *Factors affecting the provenance of materials within the medieval silts and sediments*

The sequence of alluvial sediments underlying the town wall was partially investigated in trench 1 but was not investigated at all in trenches 2, 5, 6 or 7 for safety reasons. The total lack of organic remains such as leather in the investigated sediments attests to a lack of true waterlogging.

The sieving of the bulk soil / finds samples taken from medieval deposits and silts contained gravel in varying proportions and sizes, a phenomenon previously encountered during earlier archaeological fieldwork in the north-west corner of St. Julians Friars (Tavener, 2002). The discrepancies in size and proportion of the gravel almost certainly indicate an element of water-sorting, i.e. indicate the presence of heavy water lain materials. This could have serious implications for the provenance of artefacts and ecofacts occurring within the alluvial sediments. Alluvium is an 'overbank' deposit. There must have been regular flooding of the layers below alluvium [400], [212] and [112] (see river levels marked on Fig. 6). The typical Severn flood deposits do not usually contain coarse material (N. Baker, *pers comm*) but the addition of some flood derived material can be reasonably assumed in the humic (organic matter) and fine mineral fraction. The main problem lies in establishing what types and size of artefacts and ecofacts could have also been introduced by floodwater.

The movement of particles in suspension is related to effort and is thus a function of particle size, particle density and water speed. Materials with a density lower than silica (e.g. bone) will require lower effort. Materials with densities <1 float. The main possibility of contamination arises from the possible introduction of materials that would float or semi-float / bump along the bottom. These could include many of the usual plant related 'ecofacts' (e.g. seeds, nuts insects etc). Sampling of the medieval sediments was restricted for this reason.

Pollen occurs within the same particle size range as clay and fine silt. Fine clay can stay in suspension in still water for up to 24 hours and almost indefinitely in moving water. The pollen may have come from anywhere within the Severn-Vyrnwy catchment area as could any materials that could float. It is recommended that no pollen analyses or soil chemical analyses be undertaken without expert opinion.

#### *General sampling procedure*

No environmental samples were taken from contexts from the Friary because most of the materials making up the medieval landfill platform were obviously imported. Most were sterile geological materials and there was always the possibility of contamination from undetected disturbance during the robbing phases. Any recovered environmental materials could thus have either little association with the site as a whole, or the event being examined.

Sampling was restricted to secure, undisturbed medieval contexts. Post-medieval features were not sampled for any purpose. In general, sample positions were chosen visually so as to maximise recovery of charred or preserved materials. In all cases, the sample points should be largely unaffected by later activity although a moderate amount of root activity from reeds is possible within the alluvial sediments.

With the exception of the five bulk soil / finds samples, artefacts were recovered solely by hand. Consequently, the recovery of artefacts and ecofacts from the later medieval and post-

medieval layers was entirely a function of recognition; this inevitably introduces a measure of individual bias between different site staff and also methods of excavation, e.g. trowel versus pick and shovel. The material recovered from the bulk finds samples indicates that recovery rates of pottery from hand selection were low, especially of smaller sherds. The nature and depth of the stratigraphy meant that there was virtually no contamination of earlier contexts with later material. Conversely, the fairly low volume of medieval pottery on site meant that later features contained little relict medieval material.

The bulk of the post-medieval layers were removed largely by machine, so the post-medieval assemblage is grossly under represented. The smaller *corpus* of material relating to the early post-medieval period (up to c. 1750) and the later pottery have provided useful spot-dates but will be of little potential research value.

The medieval animal bone assemblage appears to be largely fresh and unabraded (as does the pottery from these layers) but there are a small number of very obviously rounded and worn bones. The good condition of the bone assemblage in the lower river affected sediments and the medieval landfill platform attests to a high background pH value and/or semi-anaerobic conditions. The few metal objects recovered were also fairly well preserved.

Shell should have been well preserved and easy to identify. The fact that only 4 tiny fragments were recovered suggests that molluscs were either not a significant part of the local diet or not disposed of within the site.

No coins were recovered. A small flat copper or bronze button was recovered from medieval fill [392] in trench 3. Small metal objects would probably have been difficult to detect, but, if common, should have been retrieved during processing of the bulk finds samples. These samples indicate that metal objects were not a common 'disposal item' on this site in the high medieval period. The excavation method for later medieval and post-medieval contexts probably means that small metal objects were not detected.

Small quantities of daub or burnt clay were recovered from the bulk finds samples from the medieval period. The degree of preservation appears to be excellent. This material is frequently encountered on medieval occupation sites and much probably originated from destruction or replacement of the wattle and daub walls of timber houses.

### **3.4 Desirability of processing of the environmental samples in the near future**

All the environmental samples remain unprocessed and are wet or damp. They are thus vulnerable to normal rotting processes as well as attack by fungal growth and algae. They should not, however, be dried as this will merely accelerate the deterioration of any surviving organic materials. The processing of these samples should be undertaken as a matter of urgency and analysis of the environmental samples carried out. Failure to do so will almost certainly lead to deterioration of the assemblage and negate the value of the assemblage.

The sieving of the samples has produced modest quantities of small bones from smaller species but also large proportions of small broken fragments of large bones. These are often largely unidentifiable (Baxter in Tavener, 2002). Some small bones may yet be discovered in the residues of the bulk environmental samples following flotation of those samples.

### **3.5 Condition of the materials in the archive and implications for long term storage.**

It is proposed to deposit the site archive along with all finds at Rowley's House Museum.

The finds have been washed, dried and marked. They should be stable, without treatment or conservation, for long term storage. The final animal bone report should contain sufficient data for future research workers. The final report for the tiny assemblage of metalworking debris should contain sufficient data for now, but the development of better analytical techniques in future may mean that the assemblage could have some potential for research by future workers.

Ceramic roof tile cannot be closely dated. The original purpose of collection was merely to test for the presence or absence of such tiles. Preliminary analysis indicates no occurrence of roof tile before the 15th century. The ceramic roof tile has served its purpose. There are no further useful analyses that can be carried out. The assemblage should be discarded or selectively 'weeded out'. The fragments of glassware also have little potential research value.

The iron nails, other iron objects and copper button are in fairly good condition. The nails have limited research potential and full conservation would be of little benefit. They should be recorded by X-radiography on a single plate and sent to archive. The other iron objects should be X-rayed on the same plate and, where possible, identified. The button from context [392] will require specialist examination.

<b>material</b>	<i>No. of contexts</i>	<i>Total weight (g)</i>	<b>Total No. of pieces</b>	<i>No. of medieval Contexts</i>	<b>No. of Medieval pieces</b>	<i>Condition of material</i>	<i>Research potential</i>
<b>Artefacts</b>							
pottery	50	7104	278	15	<b>102</b>	<i>excellent</i>	<i>high</i>
clay pipe	11	92	22	<i>none</i>	-	<i>excellent</i>	<i>low</i>
vessel glass	9	1019	13	<i>none</i>	-	<i>excellent</i>	<i>low</i>
bone objects	<i>none</i>				-		
slag	4	699	11	1	<b>4</b>	<i>excellent</i>	<i>low</i>
nails	4	122	7	1	<b>4</b>	<i>fair</i>	<i>low</i>
other iron object	3	177	4	2	<b>3</b>	<i>fair</i>	<i>low</i>
lead objects	<i>none</i>				-		
other metal obj.	1	1	1	1	<b>1</b>	<i>good</i>	<i>high</i>
Human bone	1 +	60 +	8 +	1+	<b>8+</b>	<i>good</i>	<i>high</i>
<b>Building materials</b>							
stone roofing	2	712	2	1	<b>1</b>	<i>excellent</i>	<i>low</i>
worked stone	10	9007	27	8	<b>24</b>	<i>excellent</i>	<i>moderate</i>
window glass	1	2	1	1	<b>1</b>	<i>good</i>	<i>low</i>
daub/clay	3				<b>13</b>	<i>good</i>	<i>low</i>
brick	2	3398	4	<i>none</i>	<b>none</b>	<i>good</i>	<i>low</i>
floor tile	25	22011	127	<i>see text</i>	<b>see text</b>	<i>excellent</i>	<i>high</i>
roof tile	8	2684	20	2	<b>4</b>	<i>excellent</i>	<i>low</i>
mortar	12	2384	27	<i>see text</i>	<b>see text</b>	<i>good</i>	<i>moderate</i>
stone flooring	2	160	2	2	<b>2</b>	<i>good</i>	<i>moderate</i>
<b>Ecofacts</b>							
animal bone	32	3514	219	17	<b>151</b>	<i>good</i>	<i>moderate</i>
animal horn	2	4076	13	1	<b>3</b>	<i>good</i>	<i>moderate</i>
bird bone	?	?					<i>unknown</i>
fish bone	?	?					<i>unknown</i>
shell	3	11	4	3	<b>4</b>	<i>good</i>	<i>low</i>
charcoal	4	25	56	4	<b>56</b>	<i>good</i>	<i>low</i>
wood	1	12	1	<i>none</i>	<b>none</b>	<i>good</i>	<i>low</i>
<b>Samples</b>							
bulk soil for finds	5	--	--	5	<b>5</b>	<i>processed</i>	<i>high</i>
charred organics	5	--	--	5	<b>5</b>	<i>unprocessed</i>	<i>high</i>
other environmental	<i>none</i>						
technological	1	--	--	1	<b>1</b>	<i>unprocessed</i>	<i>moderate</i>

**Table 2. Total finds and samples with medieval subtotals**  
summary of quantities, condition and potential for research

## **4. ASSESSMENT REPORT**

### **4.1 Introduction**

An assessment report aims to identify the potential for analysis of the individual components of the archaeological data recovered during the fieldwork phase. The extent to which any component of data (e.g. the pottery, the environmental remains) has potential to enhance an understanding of a site will differ from site to site. Similarly, the level of potential must be assessed in order to determine a cost benefit analysis. The results of an assessment report should thus inform the formulation of an updated project proposal (see section 5) which will set out the requirements for analysis and publication of the various components of archaeological data arising from the project.

In the case of the present project there is a further stage of site work - the archaeological watching brief - which may yield further archaeological data worthy of assessment and analysis. The findings of this assessment report may yet alter depending on the results of the archaeological watching brief.

### **4.2 The potential of the stratigraphic and structural evidence for analysis**

The presence of moderately deep sequences will aid the stratigraphic interpretation of the site. The depositional and structural sequences were fairly simple and straightforward. The features and deposits will allow useful comment on the sequence of the medieval and later defences and occupation in this area of Shrewsbury.

### **4.3 Spot dating of the pottery with a brief assessment by Stephanie Ratkai**

#### *Overview and methodology (for spot dating)*

A total of 278 ceramic finds were recorded, comprising 102 medieval sherds, 163 post-medieval sherds and 13 fragments of ceramic building material or indeterminate fired clay. In general the medieval pottery was composed of fairly small, often abraded sherds.

The pottery was quickly scanned by eye and recorded by general ware type. Each context was spot dated and the ware types quantified by sherd count (Table 3 overleaf).

#### *Methodology, aims and objectives for analysis.*

All the medieval pottery should be examined under x20 magnification, divided into fabric types and recorded in detail (quantification by sherd count, sherd weight, minimum rim count and rim percentage).

The post-medieval pottery consisted mainly of 17th to mid 18th century wares. There was a comparatively large number of slipware sherds. These were of interest, particularly the group from late ditch fill [221], since they appeared, for the most part, not to be products of the Staffordshire Potteries. For this reason they are worth further study and publication. The remainder of the 17th and 18th century pottery groups should be scanned and a brief note made of the wares and forms present (sherd count and sherd weight only).

<b>Table 3</b>	<b>Quantity (total)</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Century</b>	<b>Main Ware</b>	<b>Medieval quantity</b>
<i>Trench 1</i>					NB. ** = residual
115	2	76	14th-?15th	medg	2
111	3	68	late 14th-15th	ww	2
121	4	12	14th-15th	lmt?	4
109	7	228	17th	blw	2**
118	19	1,493	19th	mgw	
<i>Trench 2</i>					
206	1	12	15th-16th	lmt	1
207	3	32	14th-15th	cpj	1
221	20	686	late 17th-early 18th		
222	8	135	late 17th-early 18th	cw	1**
223	5	228	late 17th-early 18th	blw	
225	4	22	late 17th-early 18th		
202	9	742	late 17th-early 18th		
246	7	46	1760-1770	mang	
231	9	11	19th	malcpj	1**
<i>Trench 3</i>					
351	1	18	12th-13th	cpjred	1
362	4	122	?late 13th	rooftile	4
346	1	14	13th-14th	medg	1
361	3	12	13th-14th	medg	3
392	1	50	13th-14th	medg	1
334	11	116	14th-15th	ww	1
366	1	62	14th-15th	medg	1
341	2	4	15th-16th	lmt	2
394	3	36	17th	med	2**
309	2	104	17th-18th	blw	
308	1	42	first half 18th	slpwf	
306	2	78	19th		
<i>Trench 4</i>					
423	6	34	14th	cpj	3
413	1	12	15th-16th	lmt	1
407	2	16	17th	blw	
405	3	108	late 17th-early 18th	mang	
<i>Trench 5</i>					
508	17	242	later 13th	medg	17
511	23	101	later 13th	medg	23
591	1	8	14th-15th	buffg	
516	7	98	17th	mp	1**
527	2	14	17th	blw	
509	12	196	17th	med	8**
568	11	232	1650-1700	med	3**
570	6	104	17th?	cw	
535	5	18	first half 18th	slipco	
567	1	8	1720-1760/70	wsg	
550	1	14	18th-19th	flwrpot	
<i>Trench 6</i>					
608	1	20	later 17th-early 18th	slpwtr	
607	13	428	19th	cw	
<i>Trench 7</i>					
708	3	68	late 17th-early 18th	mang	
707	8	118	?early 18th	mang	
706	3	52	1700-50	slpwtm	

The medieval pottery includes a modest but useful *corpus* of material from securely stratified medieval contexts ranging in date from the 13th century through to the late medieval (15th century). This material will require analysis as the results will be important to future researchers.

Study of the pottery data should be directed towards several objectives:-

- the nature and duration of occupation and any functional bias within the site.
- the sources of supply for pottery and the degree to which this varies through time.
- a comparison of the pottery assemblage to other Shrewsbury urban and nearby rural sites.

It is not proposed that any more detailed work should be undertaken on the ceramic building materials. It is suggested, however, that a brief note about the roof tile, brick etc is included in the final text.

#### **4.4 Brief assessment of the human and animal bone assemblage**

A total of 3.514kg of animal bone was recovered from 32 contexts. The quantities for the medieval period are given in Table 2. In general, animal bones were not kept from contexts later than c. 1600. The smaller bones recovered from the 5 bulk finds samples (sieved at 2mm) form an important part of the assemblage. Nearly 65% of the bone assemblage dates to the medieval period.

A total of 60g of human bone was recovered from a robbed grave within the Friary. More may exist unrecognised within the animal bone assemblage from robber trenches and demolition spreads from trench 3. The human bone represents material from robbing of graves within the Friary precinct. Simple identification will probably produce information of value concerning age and gender of the individuals. Standard examinations during the identification phase may produce ancillary pathological information of value.

##### *Preservation*

The bone from medieval contexts was mostly in good condition, with breaks usually being sharp but there was a small amount of very worn abraded material. The condition of the bone assemblage from all later contexts ranges from fair to good.

##### *Residuality and contamination*

The pottery assessment has indicated that there should be very little residuality or contamination within the bone assemblage in contexts below the 18th century landfill encountered in trenches 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7. The scale and casual nature of the robbing of the Friary building encountered in trenches 3 and 4 means that very little of the bone recovered from trenches 3 or 4 can be securely attributed to the activities of the occupants of the Friary.

##### *Summary*

The assemblage has not been scanned by a specialist but appears to contain numerous bones from the normal domesticated species such as horse, cattle and sheep as well as some examples from non-domesticated species. The assemblage contains very few horncores from

deposits pre-dating the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. This is surprising given the findings of recent excavations on St. Julians Friars just to the north (Tavener, 2002).

#### *Potential and recommendations*

Although the assemblage is fairly small, there are potentially significant numbers of mandibles and bones from which age profiles and measurements can be obtained.

The assemblage might normally be considered rather small to warrant detailed analysis, but the medieval component should be of use in helping to elucidate diet and economy in the area.

Analysis in line with the methods set out by Davis (1992) is recommended along with comparison to other available data on medieval material from Shrewsbury and / or the surrounding area. The analysis should not take place until the pottery report is completed.

#### **4.5 Assessment of the metal working wastes and fabricated metal objects** *by Nick Tavener*

A total of 0.699kg (11 pieces) of metalworking waste was recovered in the form of slag. The only medieval material comprised 4 tiny pieces (20g) found during wet sieving of a sample from ditch fill [511]. The remaining material came from three late post-medieval contexts, [100], [231] and [528], and has little research potential.

A single iron nail was recovered from medieval context [334] and four nails were recovered from medieval context [511]. A single nail was recovered from each of post-medieval contexts [246] and [570]. An amorphous lump of iron was recovered from each of medieval contexts [508] and [591] and 19th century context [231]. A single small flat copper alloy disk, probably a button, was recovered from medieval robber trench fill [392].

#### *Method*

The assemblage was scanned rapidly for a simple assessment by visual appearance. No densities were measured. No chemical or metallographic analyses were undertaken.

#### *Discussion*

The wastes from [511] comprise solely of tiny smashed pieces of tap slag and were recovered from a very small part of the site. The pieces are all very small and were only recovered as a result of wet sieving using a 2mm mesh.

All of these slag pieces are the residue of primary iron working, i.e. smelting which probably indicates primary metalworking somewhere in the near vicinity in the medieval period.

No structures associated with metal working were found on site nor any layers which might indicate that the activity was conducted close to the trenches. The deposits from which the slag was recovered probably contained a significant component of domestic refuse from settlement somewhere upslope. Very few fabricated metal objects relating to the medieval period were found during either the excavation or the processing of the bulk finds samples. The few fabricated objects recovered were mainly simple square-headed nails.

#### *Potential and recommendations*



It is recommended that the tap slag be sent to a metallurgical specialist for confirmation of identification. The limited assemblage means that further analyses by XRF or standard spectral metallo-graphic techniques to obtain more information regarding the technological aspects of the process are probably not worthwhile.

#### **4.6 Brief assessment of the potential of the environmental evidence for analysis**

The sieving of bulk soil / finds samples from five selected medieval layers and deposits on site has enhanced artefact recovery from the medieval contexts tested. The samples will allow definitive statements to be made about the presence or absence of particular types of artefact and ecofact. They will also permit a rough estimation of what quantities of each material might exist within the area of the site at particular periods.

##### *Preserved macroscopic / microscopic faunal / floral remains*

There were no truly permanently waterlogged contexts present on site, but some material may yet be found in the environmental samples.

##### *Charred organic remains*

The bulk soil/environmental samples should contain charred remains with the potential to provide useful information regarding habitats as well as local economy and diet. The factors affecting the materials present in the samples are discussed in section 3.2 above.

##### *Pollen samples*

No analyses should be undertaken of any of the other samples, because of the uncertainties discussed in section 3.2.

#### **4.7 Brief assessment of the building materials for analysis**

The excavation trenches within the Friary produced a modest but useful assemblage of floor tiles. These were largely broken but there are two complete tiles. The floor tiles exhibit several different glazes and patterns and it may be possible to date the individual types more closely.

Fragments of cut and dressed stone, one piece of medieval ceramic roof tile, and a piece of limestone 'slate' were all recovered from contexts associated with the robbing of the Friary walls. It can reasonably be assumed that the fragments were all once part of the Friary structure, i.e. that the materials themselves are all of medieval date. The fragments of dressed stone comprise fragments of window bars and other masonry features. There are no decorated pieces. This in itself is a useful indication of the former appearance of the buildings.

The ceramic tiles and stone fragments should be sent to specialists for identification and, where possible, dating. The reports will form an important part of the final publication.

#### **4.8 The potential value of the data collection to local, regional and national research priorities**

As is normal on excavated sites, different elements of the archaeological data have different levels of potential to provide significant information. This section reviews the potential for

analysis of the elements of the archaeological resource and constitutes the justification for the targeted analyses detailed in the updated project proposal (see Section 5).

Preliminary analysis of the deep stratigraphic sequences indicates that the sequences are simple and straightforward and will, with further analysis, be well understood. These stratigraphic sequences include many of the medieval contexts from which pottery was recovered and are thus securely dated. The principal structures on the excavated areas of the site were the thirteenth century town defences and parts of the Friary complex. The remainder of the stratigraphic sequences consisted predominantly of consecutive layers rather than of cut features or structures.

The paucity of discarded building materials, fabricated metal objects and coins ostensibly seem to indicate that the site would appear to be at the margin of settlement in the medieval period. This would be consistent with the status of the majority of the site as fields or water meadows belonging to the Friary. The limited areas of investigation of private backplots or gardens within the town wall in trenches 1 and 2 were similarly unproductive.

The pottery is a moderately important assemblage spanning a date range from the medieval period to the 18th century. The medieval assemblage will be of value for testing the applicability of the West Midlands regional type series to Shrewsbury. Further analysis of the pottery assemblage has much potential for dating the origins, refining the sequence and indicating the status of this area of the town. The pottery assemblage will be of regional importance rather than national. The brick and tile do not warrant more than a brief note.

The soil samples are largely from non-waterlogged deposits. The assessment has identified that there is some uncertainty as to the ultimate origin of ecofacts within the samples, due to possible flooding. Analysis of the samples should be restricted to investigation of the nature of the habitats represented by examination of plant remains, but not of insect remains or molluscs. This data will be of at least local and possibly regional significance.

Further analysis of the bone assemblage from the Friary, albeit of limited size, will add to an understanding of the diet and economy of the community. Further material may be recovered during the watching brief. The limited assemblage retrieved from the fills of the medieval town ditch could have been brought from elsewhere in the town but the assemblage could still provide useful information for diet and economy in medieval Shrewsbury.

The results of the excavation have proved sufficiently significant that detailed publication of the principal results is required. Publication in the regional journal, the Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society will probably be appropriate.

The excavation also identified elements of the archaeological resource which are of limited importance, and which will therefore not require formal analysis. In addition to those discussed above, the stratigraphic sequence in the later post-medieval period (eighteenth to twentieth centuries) is of limited importance and all elements of data from this period will require simply outline reporting in the final publication. The post-medieval building materials have restricted potential and no detailed analysis is envisaged. The chronological framework will be sufficiently well established from the artefacts. There is no requirement for laboratory dating techniques such as radiocarbon C14. The manufactured metal objects are of limited value. Simple X-ray recording and outline reporting will suffice.

## **5. UPDATED PROJECT PROPOSAL**

### **5.1 Aims and objectives**

The 'Brief' (Watson, 2003) stated that the overall aim of the project was:-

‘to ensure the preservation by record of the known archaeological remains to be impacted by the development, and any such remains that are encountered during the development (para. 4.1).

The 'Brief' (para. 6.8) also set out a requirement for an initial written report (i.e. this report) noting that it should contain:-

‘An outline post-excavation programme leading to preparation of a full report, including detailed artefact and analytical reports, and provisional publication proposals’.

and that:-

‘The condition of planning permission for this development where it relates to archaeological work will not be considered discharged until satisfactory completion of the full post-excavation programme and final report’ (para. 6.10)

### **5.2 Methods statement**

The proposed programme of analysis will allow a closer understanding of the development of the stratigraphic sequences across the site and will review the site within the context of similar sites. Further study of the artefactual and ecofactual assemblages will provide useful data which will be of value both for an understanding of the site itself and also at a regional level.

#### *5.2.1 examination of the stratigraphic evidence*

The stratigraphic record contains important information regarding the history of the site and the nature of the activities being undertaken. Further analysis should allow the stratigraphic sequence outlined in section 2 to be further refined. In particular, a refinement of the stratigraphic sequence related to the pottery dating should allow for a better separation of the nature of the activities occurring before the construction of the town wall and those occurring after. Further spatial and stratigraphic analysis of the features and deposits in trenches 3 and 4 will almost certainly refine the phasing of the various wall lines belonging to the Friary.

#### *5.2.2 examination of the artefactual evidence*

##### *Animal bone and shell*

The assemblage, although small, does warrant species identification, limited statistical analysis and interpretation by an expert.

### *Fabricated metal objects*

The small assemblage of metal objects will be sent to Cardiff Conservation Services for X-radiography. If the results reveal any items of interest these will be reported on. Any analysis will be undertaken by a laboratory with the necessary expertise.

### *Pottery*

The aims and objectives of further analysis as well as the methodology are set out in section 4.2.2

### *Metalworking debris*

The assessment undertaken in-house has indicated that the assemblage of metal-working waste largely represents primary working (i.e. smelting and casting). The methodology is set out in section 4.4.

## *5.2.3 examination of the environmental evidence*

The bulk soil / environmental samples will be sieved using a 1mm mesh for residue and 500µm mesh for organic 'flot'. The resultant residues and 'flots' will be scanned using an EMT stereo light microscope. An initial quick scan should be performed to look for species diagnostic of upland environments (i.e. material derived from Mid Wales). If these are not present, species of identifications of plant remains will be made (where possible) by comparison with reference collections housed at the Worcestershire County Council Archaeological Service.

## *5.2.4 further desk-based research*

The most obvious and important secondary sources and some primary sources were consulted as part of the desk-based assessment (*section 1.2 supra*) undertaken to inform the field work phase of the project.

Learned societies and individual scholars (e.g., contributors to the Victoria County History) have devoted considerable time and effort, often amounting to decades, to tracking down, transcribing and analysing the primary documentary sources for medieval and early post-medieval Shropshire held both locally and in national archives such as the Public Records Office. Further study is unlikely to discover previously unknown primary material without duplicating much of the work of previous academic endeavours; the scale of such a task would not be cost-effective.

A carefully targetted programme of further research of primary and secondary sources will, nonetheless, be useful to inform certain aspects of the findings of the field work for the final publication report.

## **6. PUBLICATION SYNOPSIS**

The medieval and later town defences are of local and regional significance. Being largely sited on the edge of medieval towns, very few friaries have escaped later large scale redevelopment. Even fewer have been excavated (Butler, 1984) so the information from trenches 3 and 4 will also be of interest to a wider national academic audience. It is considered that formal academic publication is required (see section 1.3). Accordingly, it is recommended that the analysis phase should lead to a report for inclusion in the Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society. This will ensure nationwide accessibility of the results to archaeologists and other academic researchers as well as to the public. It is possible that the watching brief may reveal other detail of the Friary making the overall discoveries of national significance. If this should be the case it may be appropriate to approach a national archaeological journal, such as *Medieval Archaeology*, with a view to publication.

The stratigraphic sequence in each trench is fairly straightforward, being relatively uncluttered by structures and cut features. A moderately short report should be sufficient for the site narrative and discussion of the features investigated so far (see Table 5). The various specialists reports, which will contain much information of interest to future workers, will account for much of the final content.

The estimates given in table 5 are based on publication of all fieldwork undertaken by Marches Archaeology to date and do not include any component for publication of the findings of any future fieldwork, including the watching brief.

## **7. RESOURCES and TIMETABLE**

### *Staffing levels*

The project will be managed by Nic Appleton-Fox, who is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists with a registered Area of Competence in Archaeological Field Practice. Other post-excavation staff will be appropriately experienced. Where trainees are used they will be closely supervised by senior members of the project team.

### *Specialists*

Specialist sub-contractors will be used as appropriate. These were identified in the Project Proposal.

Liaison will be maintained with Mike Watson (Shropshire County Council).

<i>Item</i>	<i>No. of pages</i>
<i>a) site narrative, discussion and bibliography</i>	
text	6
illustrations	7
tables	1
plates	1
<i>b) specialist's report - ceramics</i>	
text	8
illustrations	2
tables	3
<i>c) specialist's report - animal bone</i>	
text	2.5
tables	1.5
<i>d) specialist's report - metalworking</i>	
text and tables	1
<i>e) specialist's report - floor tiles</i>	
text	2
illustration	3
<i>e) specialist's report - other building materials</i>	
text	2
illustration	3
<i>f) specialist's report - environmental data</i>	
text	3
tables	2
(total 48)	

**Table 4. Proposed layout of the report**

<i>Task</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>by</i>	<i>Provisional time (days)</i>	<i>costs</i>
<i>A) raw data process</i>				
databases		SJ	2	
drawings - tidy / cross ref		NT	3	
contexts / levels to OD		NT	0.5	
photographs		NT	0.5	
bulk sample - residue sort		LP	1.5	
finds		JW	4	
		<i>subtotal</i>	<i>11.5</i>	
<i>B) Analysis Phase</i>				
stratigraphic / structural		NT	6	
phasing / final matrix		NT	2	
Research (+ travel ?)	Some mileage needed	NT	3	
liaise with bone specialist		NT	0.5	
liaison with pot specialist		NT	0.5	
liaison - enviro specialist		NT	0.5	
liaison - other specialist(s)	1) Masonry 2) Human bone	NT	1	
drawings- final plans		NT	5	
drawings- final sections		NT	6	
Tables - prep and format		NT	2	
		<i>subtotal</i>	<i>26.5</i>	
<i>C) Specialists</i>				
bone & shell		IB	estimated	
ceramics / pot (+ drawing)		SR	estimated	
pottery - residue analysis			0	
other finds (1)	masonry including drawings	RS	4	
other finds (2)	Human bone	LL	estimated	
technological samples			0	
burnt organic samples		LP	estimated	
other enviro. samples			0	
		<i>subtotal</i>	<i>7.5</i>	
<i>D) Report</i>				
preparation of 1st draft			10	
Format specialist reports			2	
integrate various reports			1	
Format illustrations			2	
editing 1st draft			2	
amendments to 1st draft			1	
proof reading - galleys			1	
journal - publication costs	£25 per page- 22 text,24 illustrations		0	1100
		<i>subtotal</i>	<i>19</i>	
<i>E) Post-publication</i>				
Meetings	+ mileage		0	
Archive deposition			0	costed into pp
Administration			2	
Contingency			0	
		<i>totals</i>	<i>63.5</i>	

**Table 5. Estimate of resources required to bring the project to full publication**

## 8. REFERENCES

- Addyman, PV and Black, VE (Eds.), 1984, *Archaeological Papers from York presented to M.W. Barley*. York.
- Baker, N, 2003, *Shrewsbury. Archaeological discoveries from a medieval town*. Shropshire Books (Shropshire County Council).
- Brown, TM & Watson, MD, 1989, *The Civil War Roushill Wall, Shrewsbury*. Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society LXVI, 85-89
- Butler, L, 1984, *The Houses of the Mendicant Orders in Britain: Recent Archaeological Work*. pp. 123 – 136 in Addyman and Black (Eds), 1984
- Butler, L and Given-Wilson, C, 1983, *Medieval Monasteries of Great Britain*. London.
- Carver, M O H, 1978, *Early Shrewsbury : an archaeological definition in 1975*. TSAS LIX, pt 3 (1973-4) pp 225-63.
- Ferris, I, 1993, *Appendix 1: History of the site*. pp. 18-21 in OAU, 1993
- Frost, P, 2002, *An archaeological desk based assessment prior to alterations to 45/46 Wyle Cop*. Castlering Archaeology. Report for private circulation.
- Gifford & Partners, 1994, *Report on an archaeological evaluation in relation to the proposed Shrewsbury Flood Alleviation Scheme*. Report No 6485.04 for National Rivers Authority.
- Hannaford, HR, 1993, *A watching brief at Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury, Shropshire*. Shropshire County Council Archaeological Services Report No. 29, May 1993.
- Hannaford, H, 1997, *An evaluation at Sandford House Hotel, St. Julians Friars, Shrewsbury*. Shropshire County Council Archaeology Service report.
- Hannaford, H, 1999, *A watching brief on Shrewsbury South Central (Phase 1) Water Mains Renewal*. Shropshire County Council Archaeology Service report.
- Little, AG, 1917, *Studies in English Franciscan History*. Manchester.
- Martin, AR, 1937, *Franciscan Architecture in England*. Manchester
- OAU, 1993, *St. Julian's Friars, Shrewsbury. An archaeological evaluation*. Oxford Archaeology Unit, Private report, June 1993.
- RCHM(E), 1996, *Recording Historic Buildings : A Descriptive Specification*. 3rd Ed. HMSO
- Tavener, N, 2002 *Land adjacent to the former Century Cinema, St. Julian's Friars, Shrewsbury: Assessment report on archaeological fieldwork with an updated project proposal, MAS 229*
- VCH, 1973 *Shropshire* Victoria County History Vol. II.
- Ward, A W, 1935, *The Bridges of Shrewsbury*. Reprinted 1983 by Shropshire Libraries. (Copy at SRO /shelf D28.5).
- Watson, MD, 2003, *Brief for a programme of archaeological work at St. Julians Friars, Shrewsbury*. Shropshire County Council, October 2003 (file 4562.doc).