

Marches Archaeology

The Old Shop Skenfrith Monmouthshire

**A report on a
programme of archaeological works**

July 2005

Marches Archaeology Series 388

This report is produced by

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**The Old Shop
Skenfrith
Monmouthshire**

**A report on a
programme of archaeological works**

NGR: SO 4563 2030

**Report by
Jo Wainwright**

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The Old Shop Skenfrith Monmouthshire

NGR: SO 4563 2030

A report on a programme of archaeological works

Summary

A programme of archaeological works at The Old Shop, Skenfrith, Monmouthshire revealed features dating from the 12th century. A cess pit must have been associated with a dwelling but no evidence for a building was excavated.

In the early 13th century a layer of cobbles and gravels was laid down across the whole of the area to combat flooding. Two ditches were excavated into this layer and both were backfilled in the 13th century. It is possible that the larger of these two features was part of the moat of the castle. Perhaps predating the stone lined moat which was excavated after 1254.

A large pit excavated into the top of the large ditch remains an enigma. It was backfilled probably in the 14th century, but its function remains unclear.

There seems to be little activity during the later medieval period on the site. During the post-medieval period the archaeological evidence is mainly limited to soil horizons until the construction of parts of The Old Shop in the mid 18th century.

1 Introduction

Planning permission has been granted by the local planning authority for permission to build an extension (ref. M8860) and carry out alterations to the Old Shop, Skenfrith, Monmouthshire. The site is situated at NGR: SO 4563 2030 (Fig. 1).

An evaluation was carried out in 2003 by Marches Archaeology (Wainwright & Fielding, 2003) which identified medieval features within the footprint of the extension. The Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor advised that in order that the archaeological resource was adequately protected an archaeological watching brief be carried out during ground works associated with the development and such a condition was applied to the consent.

RRA Architects, on behalf of the client, commissioned Marches Archaeology to provide the archaeological services required.

No Brief for the works was prepared. In a telephone conversation between Marches Archaeology and the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor it was agreed that Marches Archaeology would produce a written scheme of investigation for the works.

2 Aims and objectives

The scope of the project was defined as:

- observation of all topsoil stripping, other earthmoving and trench excavation until natural subsoil was reached
- recording of the sequence of soil deposits present and all archaeological deposits and features
- the collection, identification and cataloguing of all artefacts
- if significant archaeology was identified the archaeologist on site would have informed the County Archaeological Officer and Project Engineer immediately in order that appropriate action could have been taken to minimise the damage to these deposits and to record them appropriately.

The purpose of an archaeological watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as:

‘to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works’

and:

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

3 Methodology

Documentary research

Primary and secondary sources were consulted for the evaluation excavation. Further research was undertaken to place the results of the project in an historical context.

Fieldwork

Observations and appropriate recording were undertaken of all ground breaking activity in association with the proposed development. This consisted of the excavation of foundation trenches and the lowering of ground surfaces and the excavation of service trenches (Trenches 2-4, Fig. 2).

The recording system included written, drawn and photographic data. The primary written record was by means of site notes, accompanied by sketches. Context numbers were allocated and context record sheets completed. Plans and sections of significant data were

made. Plans were multi-context. The photographic record was made using black and white negative and colour transparency film.

Deposits and features were encountered for which the resources allocated to the watching brief were not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard. The client's agent and the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor were informed in order that an appropriate course of action was implemented. More detailed excavation and recording were carried out in the area of Trench 2.

Office work

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

Assessment was based on the site archive. The pottery, which required specialist assessment, was submitted for such work.

4 Site description

The Old Shop is situated between the castle and church in the village of Skenfrith in the parish of Llangattock-Vibon-Avel (Fig. 1). Surrounding the house is a garden bounded by a hedge in the west and the wall of the churchyard in the north. To the east and south of the garden the land drops by about a metre and a stone ha-ha delineates this boundary. There are two other buildings situated in the eastern part of the garden. The underlying drift geology consists of fluvial alluvium deposits and mudstones.

5 Archaeological and historical background

Skenfrith

It is probable that the site of Skenfrith was first settled in the Roman period. Evidence of Roman ironworking was found during excavations at the castle (Sites and Monuments Record Number 1698g, Fig. 1). A Roman coin has also been uncovered at Malthouse Farm (SMR no: 3652g, Fig. 1). However, the extent of the Roman settlement has not been determined. It is also unclear whether settlement continued in the post Roman period.

The place name Skenfrith is an anglicized Welsh name and comes from the Welsh *ynys* meaning island or water meadow and the personal name *Cynwraidd* (Osborne and Hobbs, 1986). The Welsh dedication (*Ffraed*) points to a pre-Norman founding of the church (SMR no: 1696g) and perhaps the settlement (Soulsby, 1983). However, no firm evidence for any post-Roman or pre-Norman occupation exists.

The strategic importance of Skenfrith is attested by the establishment of a castle probably in the early years after the Norman Conquest. It is likely that this castle was built by William Fitz Osbern, the earl of Hereford. However, he did not live long and by 1075 his son had forfeited his lands to the crown (Knight, no date). The earliest documentary reference to Skenfrith Castle is in the 12th century and by this time a "territory of the three castles" (Skenfrith, Grosmont and White Castle) was in the hands of King Stephen (*op cit*).

In 1187 Ralph Grosmont was granted the Lordship of the Three Castles and it is likely that parts of the stone castle were constructed at this date (Evans and Trott, forthcoming). In 1193 a palisade was erected around the partly built stone castle and the ditch. A 12th century wharf and slipway associated with the castle have been uncovered during excavations of the riverbank (*op cit*).

In 1201 King John granted the lordship of the Three Castles to Hubert de Burgh who continued with the construction of the stone castle in 1219 (SMR no: 1698g, SAM 088, Fig. 1). However, in that year the river Monnow flooded extensively and the interior of the castle had to be raised, by the dumping of river gravel, before being rebuilt. Recent excavations outside of the castle have revealed similar deposits dated to the early 13th century (Evans and Trott, forthcoming, Fig. 1). Therefore it is likely that general landscaping and raising of ground levels of the interior and the area around the castle took place in 1219. In 1254 a new tower was constructed as was a stone lined moat which fed a mill to the south (Remfry, 2000). Excavations have revealed that the moat initially silted up in the 13th and 14th centuries and the upper fill dates from the 17th century (Evans and Trott, forthcoming).

The settlement of Skenfrith seems not to have been a planned town but grew up piecemeal beside the castle and church (Locock, 2002). By 1219 Reginald de Brouse was clearing the surrounding woodland perhaps to accommodate new burgages but the plantation of a new town is unlikely (Soulsby, 1983). Skenfrith did not receive borough status and documentary references to a fair and market are doubtful (Locock, 2002).

Excavations to the north-west of the church uncovered stone buildings dating from the 13th-14th century preceded by an earlier timber phase (SMR no: 3651g, 3653g, Fig. 1). Two of these buildings were abandoned in the 16th century. This area has since been scheduled (SMR no: 4691g, SAM 215, Fig. 1). However, at a site to the east of this area Archaeological Investigations Ltd uncovered no significant archaeological remains (Hereford Archaeology Series 361, 1998, Fig. 1). A coin dated to the reign of Henry II was found with a metal detector at Malthouse Farm (SMR no: 3650g, Fig. 1).

There is a record of a rectangular enclosure surrounding the village including the church and motte of the castle (SMR no: 1698g, Fig. 1). The enclosure consisted of a bank and ditch and enclosed an area measuring 700 ft by 400 ft. A medieval date has been ascribed to this monument but the information held on the SMR is rather vague. This could be the 30 acres of land that comprised of the castle and adjoining village which were sold in 1899 by the Duke of Beaufort to Robert Newton Jackson. Bradney suggests they were the original demesne lands that were granted by James I to Edward Ferrars and Philip Phelps (Bradney, 1907). There are vestiges of burgages on the west side of the street leading from the castle to the church and perhaps the other side of this street was built up.

By the end of the wars of Independence (late 13th century) Skenfrith lost its military significance and apart from minor repairs in 1448-9 the castle does not seem to have been much maintained (SMR no: 1698g). It is likely that the settlement of Skenfrith started to decline in the later medieval period. If buildings existed to the east of the street running from the castle to the church perhaps they were abandoned in that period. This is a low lying area and prone to flooding. This area may have been the first part of the settlement to be abandoned.

In 1800 Coxe described Skenfrith as ‘miserable village, containing a church, a few cottages and a public house’ (SMR no: 1698g). Bradney says that much of the village was dilapidated with a quarter of the houses uninhabited in 1901 (Bradney, 1907).

The Old Shop

Parts of The Old Shop probably date back to the mid 18th century and it is a Grade II Listed Building (LB25045, Fig. 1). In the 19th century a front was added to the standing building to create a shop.

It is believed that originally there were three cottages on the site. One to the south, The Old Shop and one cottage adjoining The Old Shop to the north. It is probable that the adjoining cottage was built at the same time as The Old Shop. This was demolished in 1964 and the footings were uncovered during the present excavation. It is not known when the building to the south was demolished.

An early plan of the Three Castles dating to the reign of King Henry VIII (1509-47) shows the three castles and the surrounding fields and woods (not illustrated). Although the plans of the castles are largely schematic the plan shows Skenfrith church and a building between the church and the castle. The church and the building appear to be within an enclosure. Further buildings are situated to the north and a mill is shown to the south of the castle. The fields associated with the castle are situated to the east of the castle and the church. It is probable that the buildings depicted represent where the medieval village of Skenfrith was situated. If this map is accurate perhaps the area where The Old Shop is situated would have been built up during that period.

A plan dated to c.1625 (Fig. 3) shows the castle and church and buildings of the settlement. However, no buildings are shown to exist between the castle and the church. The extent of the churchyard is shown as is what was presumably a field between the churchyard and the castle. The area of the site appears to be situated within this field. If buildings had existed here then they appear to have been abandoned by the time this map was drawn.

The Tithe Plan of 1845 (Fig. 4, no 76) is more accurate and shows The Old Shop, the building to the south and the cottage adjoining The Old Shop to the north. The part of the building fronting onto the street appears to extend further southwards than it does today. It is unclear whether this is the extension for the shop, dated to the 19th century, or an original part of the building which was presumably knocked down when the shop frontage was constructed.

The parcel of land included the building to the south and was owned and occupied by Peter Hall. The Tithe apportionment states that the parcel consisted of a house etc and was 1 rod and 28 perches in size. According to the entry the holding was not titheable. Presumably by 1845 The Old Shop had been converted into one cottage and the cottage to the south was unoccupied. The structures to the east, if they existed, are not shown but this is not surprising on a Plan of this nature.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch Plan of 1883 (Fig. 5) is more detailed and shows divisions within the garden between the cottage in the south and the adjoining building to The Old Shop. These both also have extensions to the eastern side and the frontage of The Old Shop appears smaller than it was on the 1845 Tithe Plan. Perhaps this was the 19th century

shop frontage. Also shown are two structures situated in the garden to the east. The cottage to the south is shown with several outbuildings.

The Second Edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch Plan of 1904 (Fig. 6) shows some change to the First Edition. The two structures in the eastern part of the garden have been enlarged and the extensions on the eastern side of The Old Shop have been consolidated and some minor internal boundary changes have taken place. There was no change to the site between 1904 and the next published Ordnance Survey Plan in 1920 (not illustrated).

It is unlikely that the area between the castle and church was not built upon during the medieval period but the documentary and map evidence is inconclusive. If buildings existed then it is probable that when the castle fell into decline in the later medieval period this area of the settlement was abandoned. Perhaps the likelihood that it flooded was also a reason for desertion.

It is probable that the only buildings that existed in this area during the post-medieval period are the ones that formed the parcel of land 76 of the Tithe Plan of 1845.

6 The programme of archaeological works (Fig. 2)

Trenches 2 and 3

Trenches 2 and 3 were initially recorded as two trenches but overlapped each other so will be dealt with as one. Trench 3 encompassed the whole of the evaluation trench. The whole area was lowered by about 1.20 metres and the foundation trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of about 2.00 metres. The service trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of about 2.00 metres.

The underlying natural deposits of bands of pinkish sands and gravels [229] and [314] were seen in the north of the area at about the level of the site strip. A cess pit [317] had been excavated into the natural in the north of the area (Fig. 7, Plate 1). This was sub-square with rounded corners, concave sides and a flattish base. The earliest fill was a mid reddish brown sandy clay with very frequent pebbles and charcoal [320]. The next fill, which was also seen in the base of the cut, was a soft humic greenish brown silty clay with patches and lenses of lime, charcoal and pebbles [319]. One sherd of pottery recovered from fill [319] dates from the 12th –13th centuries. Overlying [320] was a fill of mid reddish brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal and cobbles [316]. Above this was a mid grey brown sandy silt with very frequent gravel and pea grit [318]. It seems likely that fills [316] and [318] have slumped into the top of the pit at a later date. Pottery from [316] dates from the 12th –13th centuries.

In the north east section of Trench 3 a natural depression or possibly a cut [313] was seen in the section cutting the natural [314] (Fig. 8). This was filled with a mid reddish brown sandy silt clay with very frequent sandstone fragments and cobbles [312]. Above [313] and cess pit [317] was a 700mm thick layer of mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with very frequent sandstone fragments and cobbles [311]. This was seen in the northern part of Trench 3. Layers [22] and [24] seen in the evaluation trench probably equate to [311].

Cutting [311] in the far north of Trench 3 was a linear feature [310] which ran the whole length of the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west (Figs 8 and 9, Plate 2). Although only one side of this feature was seen it was interpreted as a ditch and had a

concave side and a flattish base though in places this feature was not bottomed. In the north-east [310] had four fills, the earliest being a light red slightly silty sand with frequent cobbles and sandstone fragments [309]. This was interpreted as slumpage from the edges. A similar fill [315] was seen in the south-east facing section and in the base of the cut. Against [309] was a soft reddish brown sandy clay silt with frequent charcoal and occasional cobbles and pebbles [308]. Overlying [308] was a similar fill [307] which contained lenses of charcoal and pottery dating from the 12th-13th century. This fill was also seen in the north-west section. A patch of burnt material and a flat stone [327] was within fill [307]. Above this was a fill of light reddish brown sandy silty clay with frequent cobbles and sandstone fragments [306]. Overlying [306] and seen in both sections was a deposit [305] which was practically the same as [311]. It is possible that this deposit represents slumpage into the top part of the ditch and explains why the top of this feature was not identified in the evaluation.

Cutting [311] and excavated in Trench 2 was a large feature which only one edge of was seen [212]. This feature was not bottomed but was at least 1.60 metres deep. The side that was excavated of this feature was vertical but in places slightly concave. Because only one edge was seen and the base was not reached interpretation is difficult. It is possible that it is a quarry pit or more likely a large ditch running north-east to south-west with the other side of the feature being somewhere between the castle and the south eastern extent of the excavations.

Feature [212] was backfilled with 24 fills, [207-211, 213-227, 230, 232-233 and 236] (Fig. 10). These varied from grey to black silty loams with frequent charcoal and pea grit to orange pink slightly silty clay with 50% large pebbles and gravel. Many of the fills merged into each other and it was apparent that the feature was not just backfilled from one side. The water table was reached in several places during excavation. Pottery recovered from the fills dates from the 11th –13th centuries.

Cutting the top fills of [212] was another large feature [326] which was originally thought to be part of [212] (Figs 9, 10 and 11, Plate 3). Feature [326] was interpreted as a sub-circular pit with near vertical sides in the main and equates to [28] in the evaluation. The base was not reached but it was at least 1.50 metres deep. Ten backfills were identified, [203-206, 228, 231, 321-323 and 325]. These ranged from mid grey brown silty loams with moderate charcoal and pea grit to pink slightly silty clays with 50% large cobbles and gravel. As with feature [212] it was apparent that this feature was backfilled from many angles.

Overlying pit [326] and ditch [310] were several post-medieval layers which represent soil horizons [202], [302], [303] and [324]. Pottery from [202] dates from the 18th century. A wall [304], seen in the north-east section of Trench 3, was probably a garden feature.

Cutting the fills of [310] in the north-eastern part of the excavations was a pit or possible a ditch [330]. This had two fills [328 and 329]. One fragment of clay pipe was recovered from [328] and a sherd of pottery dating to the 15th-16th century was recovered from [329].

A nineteenth or twentieth century stone lined drain [234] was excavated in the south-eastern corner of the site and a sewer [235] of a twentieth century date was excavated at the north end of Trench 2. Above these was the topsoil [201] and [301] which was seen over both trenches.

Trench 4

Within the south-western part of the Old Shop itself the floor levels were reduced by a maximum 350mm. A post-medieval layer [401] was seen directly underneath the floor surfaces.

7 The pottery *By Steve Clarke*

The pottery is mostly local, hand made A3 cooking pots or storage jars. The forms and other features could be dated anywhere from the 12th or early 13th but the assemblage has more of a 12th century feel rather than 13th – unless otherwise stated, such as the 13th century Monnow Valley glazed wares, which are rare in your groups. Although the assemblages (or single sherds) are small there are several reasons for suggesting a predominantly 12th century – date such as the rarity of glazed wares.

It is hazardous to depend on rim styles (there are around twenty different forms from a single 12th century context from Monmouth Priory) but those in the assemblage do seem more 12th century than anything else. A wide date range has been placed on the groups unless it can be narrowed down to say perhaps: *Late 12th/ early 13th*. When a closer date has been suggested there is more evidence to support this date.

The D2 Cotswold Ware rim from Context 230 (with one exception) has only been found (in Wales) in the early towns of Monmouth, Abergavenny and Chepstow. Although the ware continues later in Gloucester, it is a sure sign of the Normans in Wales and occurs in the very earliest house floors in Monnow Street where rare coin (incl. William I) and archaeomagnetism (cAD1070-1130) suggests a late 11th / early 12th century date. There are two other fabrics (both mostly quartz tempered but with distinctive forms) in the early floors at Monmouth and a residual rim of one of these was recovered from the river bank excavations to the east (Evans and Trott, forthcoming). The rim sherd excavated at The Old Shop does appear to be residual.

Contexts from the evaluation (Trench 1)

Context	Fabric and Form	Code	Date	Sherd count
U/S	Unknown origin	G	medieval	2
U/S	?Southern Wales ware	G	12 th -13 th c	1
U/S	Local cooking pot	A3	12 th -13 th c	1
13	Monnow Valley ware jugs	A5	13 th c	3
17	Local cooking pot	A3	12 th -13 th c	4
21	Local cooking pot	A3	12 th -13 th c	2
21	?Storage jar with lid seating (two rims)	B1	12 th -13 th c	2
21	Similar to A5b	A	mid 13 th c	1

22	Local cooking pot	A3	12 th -13 th c	1
23	Probably South Wales Greyware		Roman	1
24	Local cooking pot	A4	c. 1300	1
24	Drybridge ware or similar with iron enriched applied decoration	A5	first half of 14 th c	1
25	Probably Worcester cooking pot	C1	12 th – early 13 th c	1
30	Local cooking pot	A3	12 th -13 th c	1

Contexts from the programme of works (Trenches 2-4)

Context	Fabric and form	Code	Date	Sherd count
T2 U/S	North Devon Gravel Tempered ware	E5	late 17 th - early 18 th c	25
T2 U/S	Staffs/Bristol slipware	C4	18 th c	1
T2 U/S	Midlands Redware? Including one base	G	18 th c	2
T2 U/S	Tin Glazed Earthen ware ?Dutch ?English		18 th c	1
T2 U/S	Porcelain including two rims	G	18 th c	3
202	Staffs/ Bristol tankard including one base	C4	18 th c	3
202	?South Wales bowl	A	18 th c	1
202	Unglazed sherds ?flowerpot including one rim	G	18 th c	5
205	Local cooking pot	A3	12 th –13 th c	1
208	Malvernian cooking pot, thin walled, hand made	B1	probably 12 th c	1
218	Local cooking pot	A3	12 th –13 th c	1
230	Cotswold ware	D2	late 11 th - early 12 th c	1
231	Local cooking pot	A3	12 th –13 th c	1
T3 U/S	Hand made, one base	A3	12 th –14 th c	1
T3 U/S	Worcester cooking pot	C1	12 th –13 th c	1
T3 U/S	Severn Valley ware?		Roman	1
305	Local cooking pot (two bases, two rims)	A3	probably 12 th c	6
305	Jug, first local glazed ware	A5b	early 13 th c	2
306	Malvernian cooking pot	B1	possibly early 12 th c	2
307	Local cooking pot (three bases, one rim)	A3	12 th –13 th c	21

315	Unusual cooking pot rim	A3	12 th -13 th c	1
316	Local cooking pot	A3	12 th -13 th c	5
319	Local cooking pot	A3	12 th -13 th c	1
321	Local cooking pot	A3	12 th -13 th c	2
323	Local cooking pot	A3	probably later 12 th c	2
329	Local kiln Tyg or Tankard	A5	15 th -16 th c	1
T4 U/S	Local ?jug	A5	probably 15 th c	1

7 Discussion

The two Roman sherds of pottery found during the evaluation and the programme of works are residual but excavations at the castle uncovered evidence of ironworking so a settlement must have existed in the vicinity of the site.

The excavation uncovered features dating from the 12th century. The cess pit [317] was the earliest feature excavated and was presumably associated with occupation before a layer of cobbles and gravel [311] was deposited over the site. Feature [317] was therefore in use when the early castle was in existence. Presumably there was a dwelling close by that the cess pit served though no evidence for a building was excavated on the site. However, such a building could have been situated outside of the area of excavation or have been removed by later features.

Documentary evidence indicates that the river Monnow flooded extensively in 1219 and the interior of the castle had to be raised, by the dumping of river gravel, before being rebuilt. Recent excavations outside of the castle have revealed similar deposits dating to the early 13th century (Evans and Trott, Forthcoming, Fig. 1). Layer [311] is probably contemporary with these deposits which suggests that a wide area was raised and landscaped at this time.

Ditches [310] and [212] must have been excavated into deposit [311] sometime in the 13th century as pottery recovered from the backfills of these features dates from the late 11th to 13th century. Although these features may not be contemporary it is likely that they are. Therefore these two features are probably contemporary with the phase of building at the castle of perhaps the round keep and the remaining three sides of the castle in stone between 1219 and 1232. Perhaps [212] represents an earlier moat than the stone lined moat which was constructed after 1254. To the east of the garden of The Old Shop there is a definite bank visible as an earthwork which could be the edge of [212] continuing towards the river (Plate 4).

The sub-circular pit [326] cutting ditch [212] also has a date of the 12th century for backfilling. However, this feature was picked up in the evaluation [28] and pottery from the backfills of this feature date from the 12th-14th century so it is likely that it was backfilled in the 14th century. It is not clear what the function of pit [326] was and whether it was associated with the castle complex at all. The date for the backfilling in the 14th century corresponds with the decline of the castle in the late 13th century and the sheer size of the feature suggests that its function was not perhaps of a domestic nature.

There seems to be little activity during the later medieval period on the site and during the post-medieval period the archaeological evidence is mainly limited to soil horizons until the construction of parts of The Old Shop in the mid 18th century.

8 Conclusions

It seems likely that a dwelling existed in the area between the church and the early castle in the 12th century. Although no evidence for a building was excavated the cess pit must have served a building close by.

The next phase of activity on the site was the deposition of a thick layer of cobbles and gravels to presumably landscape the area and combat flooding in the early 13th century. Similar layers have been excavated to the east. These deposits were laid down to raise the ground surface in 1219 after a particularly devastating flood.

It is possible that feature [212] was part of the moat of the castle and was excavated in the early 13th century after the area was landscaped in 1219. It was backfilled when the stone lined moat was excavated after 1254.

The large pit [326] remains an enigma. It was backfilled in probably the 14th century and must have been excavated sometime in the 13th century after ditch [212] was filled in. The function of this feature remains uncertain.

9 Acknowledgements

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Maps

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11 Archive

The site code is OSS04A. The archive consists of:

- 12 trench sheets
- 1 drawing index sheets
- 10 field drawings on 3 sheets
- 2 sheets of levels
- 6 sheets of site diary and notes
- 21 finds sheets
- 10 photo record sheets
- 5 films of black and white photographic negatives
- 4 films of colour photographic transparencies
- 1 set of digital prints
- 1 box of finds:

The archive is currently held by Marches Archaeology awaiting transfer to the relevant museum.

Appendix 1: List of contexts from the evaluation

Context Number	Category	Description
1	Wall/footing	East to west running wall/footing of demolished building (northern wall). Sandstone blocks and brick.
2	Wall/footing	North to south running wall/ footing of demolished building (eastern wall). As [1] except chimney breast within structure
3	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown black, humic loam with occasional brick and pottery.
4	Surface	Internal surface of sandstone flagstones with tiled area around fireplace of demolished building.
5	Wall/footing	North to south running wall/footing of demolished building (western wall). As [1].
6	Layer	Mixed pinky brown silt loam with very frequent pebbles, mortar, charcoal and occasional sandstone fragments. Maximum 300mm thick.
7	Fill	Layer of cobbles within cut [29]. Possible external surface
8	Layer	Mixed layer of soft brown silt with lens of lime, ?cess. Occasional brick and tile.
9	Surface	Tiled surface laid on bed of mortar. Floor of western extension to demolished building.
10	Layer	Dark red brown clay silt with frequent pebbles and moderate sandstone fragments.
11	Fill	Mixed red brown silt with frequent plaster, cobbles, slate, charcoal and sandstone fragments. Fill of [12]
12	Cut	Sewer pipe trench excavated in 1964
13	Fill	Mid brownish beige mortar with occasional charcoal flecks, pebbles and sandstone fragments. Fill of [14].
14	Cut	Sub-circular or sub-rectangular with an uneven base and concave sides.
15	Fill	Dark reddish brown sandy silt with moderate pebbles, occasional charcoal and mortar flecks. Fill of [16].
16	Cut	Ovoid? With irregular base and sides. Probably caused by root action.
17	Fill	Firm pinky brown slightly sandy silt with very frequent pink and white mortar fragments, pebbles and small cobbles. Occasional sandstone fragments. Fill of [18]
18	Cut	Sub-rectangular or sub-square with an irregular base and concave sides in the main.
19	Fill	Pinky brown sandy silt with very frequent small pebbles and pea grit. Occasional mortar and charcoal flecks. Fill of [20].
20	Cut	Only one corner seen probably square. Vertical sides. Not bottomed.
21	Fill	Mid red brown sandy silt with very frequent cobbles and pebbles. Fill of [28]

22	Layer	Mid red brown slightly sandy silt with frequent large cobbles, sandstone fragments, smaller pebbles and occasional charcoal and mortar.
23	Fill	Mixed dark red brown sandy and gritty silt. Contained frequent small pebbles, mortar and sandstone fragments. Also lenses of charcoal within matrix. Fill of [28].
24	Layer	As [22] except slightly redder.
25	Fill	Pinky red sandy silt with very frequent sandstone fragments, occasional cobbles, mortar and charcoal. Fill of [28]
26	Footing	Footing of Old Shop. One course of sandstone blocks mortared with a pink mortar.
27	Fill	Soft orange red sandy silt with occasional sandstone fragments, mortar, charcoal and pebbles. Occasional lenses of pure silt. Fill of [28]
28	Cut	Only northern edge seen. Concave sides. Not bottomed.
29	Cut	Sub-rectangular? With concave sides and a flattish base.
30	Fill	Mid pink brown sandy silt with frequent grit, charcoal, mortar, ?daub and small pebbles. Fill of [28]
31	Fill	Mid reddish brown slightly sandy silt. Contained very frequent moderately sized cobbles and pebbles. Moderate mortar and charcoal. Fill of [28].
32	Fill	Mid reddish brown sandy silt with frequent cobbles and occasional charcoal and sandstone fragments. Fill of [20].
33	Fill	Mixed soft reddish silt with occasional sand. Fill of [20].
34	Layer	Mid red brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal, mortar, daub, pebbles and sandstone fragments.
35	Fill	Reddish brown slightly sandy silt with frequent gravel, mortar and small cobbles. Occasional charcoal. Fill of [28].
36	Layer	As [35] except contained slightly less inclusions of charcoal and mortar.

Appendix 2: List of contexts from the programme of archaeological works

Context number	Category	Description
201	Layer	Dark brown clay silt with frequent cobbles. Maximum 300mm thick. Topsoil
202	Layer	Mixed mid grey brown to pinky brown silty loam with frequent pea grit, charcoal and gravel. Lenses out to north. 18 th century soil horizon. Seen directly underneath The Old Shop
203	Fill	Pinky brown sandy silt with very frequent pea grit and larger gravel. Occasional charcoal and lenses of darker soil. Fill of [326]
204	Fill	Mixed grey brown silty loam with frequent charcoal, pea grit and occasional mortar. Fill of [326]
205	Fill	Mid pinky brown gritty silt loam with frequent pea grit and charcoal. Occasional mortar. Fill of [326]
206	Fill	Mid grey brown silty loam with moderate charcoal and pea grit. Occasional mortar. Fill of [326]
207	Fill	Pink gritty silt with 30% pea grit and larger gravels. Occasional charcoal. Fill of [212]
208	Fill	Grey/black silt loam with very frequent charcoal and moderate pea grit and gravel. Fill of [212]
209	Fill	Pinky brown clay silt with moderate sub-angular stones and gravel. Occasional charcoal flecks and lenses. Fill of [212]
210	Fill	Pinky brown clay silt with occasional sand, gravel and charcoal. Fill of [212]
211	Fill	Dark pinky brown sandy clayey silt with frequent gravel and pebbles. Occasional charcoal. Fill of [212]
212	Cut	Vertical to concave sides of large cut with only the northern edge seen. This feature was not bottomed and was a minimum 1.60 metres deep. Backfilled with many fills. Originally it was thought that this cut continued westwards into Trench 3 but further excavation and analysis revealed that this was a different cut [326] which truncated [212]. Probably a large ditch orientated east to west excavated in the 13th century
213	Fill	Mid pinky brown sandy silt with 30% pea grit and small gravel. Fill of [212]
214	Fill	Dark pinky brown sand and silt with moderate pebbles and pea grit.

		Fill of [212]
215	Fill	Light pinky brown silty sand with 20% large pebbles and pea grit. Fill of [212]
216	Fill	Light pink brown slightly silty sand with 40% pea grit and small gravel. Occasional larger gravel. Possibly equates to [213]. Fill of [212]
217	Fill	Mid pink brown slightly sandy silt with 20% gravel and occasional pea grit. Fill of [212]
218	Fill	Mixed dark pink brown and grey brown sandy silt with 20% pebbles, 10% pea grit and frequent large pebbles and charcoal. Occasional mortar. Probably several dumps/fills. Fill of [212]
219	Fill	Orange pink slightly silty clay with 50% large pebbles and gravel. Many voids and evidence of water percolation from below. Fill of [212]
220	Fill	Mid orangey pink silty clay with 20% pea grit, frequent gravel and occasional charcoal. Merges into [218]. Fill of [212]
221	Fill	Mid grey brown slightly sandy silt with 10% pebbles and cobbles, frequent pea grit and charcoal. Merges into [218]. Fill of [212]
222	Fill	Mid pinkish brown sandy silt with clay patches. 20% large pebbles and cobbles and occasional charcoal. Merges into [218]. Fill of [212]
223	Fill	Mixed mid grey brown to pinky brown clay silt. Frequent pebbles and large cobbles and occasional charcoal. Merges into [218]. Fill of [212]
224	Fill	Thin lens of mid grey brown clay silt with 50% large pebbles and gravel and frequent charcoal. Fill of [212]
225	Fill	As [219] except larger cobbles and more voids. Fill of [212]
226	Fill	Mid pinkish brown sandy silt with 20% gravel and large cobbles and frequent pea grit and charcoal. Fill of [212]
227	Fill	Mid pinky brown silt with 50% cobbles and gravel. Fill of [212]
228	Fill	Mixed brown grey sandy silt with very frequent pea grit, charcoal and lenses of lighter and darker material. Fill of [326]. Merges to become [205]
229	Natural	Compact bands of clean pinky orange sands and then pea grit and gravel. Equates to [314]

230	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal and moderate cobbles, gravel and pea grit. Fill of [212]
231	Fill	Reddish mid brown clay silt with frequent charcoal, clay patches, pea grit and small pebbles. Fill of [326]
232	Fill	Reddish mid brown sandy silt with 50% pebbles, cobbles and pea grit and occasional charcoal. Fill of [212]
233	Fill	Mixed silty clay with 20% cobbles and gravel and frequent charcoal. Fill of [212]
234	Drain	19 th century stone lined drain running north to south.
235	Cut	Sewer pipe trench excavated in 1964. Equates to [12] in evaluation. Cuts top of north-western edge of [212]
236	Fill	Reddish mid brown clay silt with frequent clay patches, pea grit and small pebbles. Moderate charcoal. Fill of [212] though it is possible this is a fill of [326]
301	Layer	Topsoil maximum 450mm thick. Equates to [201]
302	Layer	Dark reddish brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal and occasional sub-angular stones and cobbles. 19 th century soil horizon
303	Layer	Mid reddish brown slightly sandy clay with frequent cobbles and sandstone fragments and occasional mortar
304	Foundation	Sandstone footing of wall running roughly east to west. Probably of a 19 th century date
305	?layer	Mid reddish brown sandy clay with frequent pea grit, small sandstone fragments and small pebbles and moderate charcoal. Probably remains of a layer which has slumped into the top of cut [310]
306	Fill	Light reddish brown sandy silt clay with frequent cobbles and sandstone fragments and moderate charcoal. Fill of [310]
307	Fill	Soft dark reddish brown sandy clay silt with frequent charcoal and occasional cobbles and pebbles. Lens of charcoal within fill. Fill of [310]
308	Fill	As [307] except lighter in colour and less sandy. Fill of [310]
309	Fill	Light red slightly sandy silt with frequent cobbles and sandstone. Fill of [310] which has slumped from the edges.
310	Cut	Linear cut running approximately east to west with gradual sloping

		concave sides and a flattish base. Northern edge probably just outside limit of excavation. Continues westwards and eastwards. Depth c. 700mm. 13 th century ditch cut
311	Layer	Mid reddish brown sandy silt clay with very frequent sandstone fragments and cobbles. Equates to [22] and [24] in evaluation. Layer laid down to combat flooding in the early 13 th century
312	Fill/layer	As [311]. Possible fill of [313]
313	Cut?	Possibly a cut only seen in section or a natural hollow in the underlying natural deposits
314	Natural	Compact bands of clean pinky orange sands and then pea grit and gravel. Equates to [229]
315	Fill	Mid pink red brown sandy silt with moderate pebbles, pea grit and charcoal. Seen in base of trench in places and in south facing section. Probably same as [309]. Primary fill of [310]
316	Fill	Mid reddish brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal and cobbles. Fill of [317] could be slumpage from layers above
317	Cut	Sub-square/rectangular with rounded corners. Concave sides with a flattish base. Possible re-cut within fills. 12 th century cess pit. Underlies [311]
318	Fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt with very frequent gravel and pea grit. Fill of [317] could be slumpage from layers above
319	Fill	Soft humic greenish brown silty clay with patches and lenses of lime, charcoal and pebbles. Fill of [317]
320	Fill	As [316] except more pebbles and cobbles. Fill of [317]
321	Fill	Equates to a series of fills recorded as one. Mixed reddish brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles, pea grit and charcoal. Lenses down to west and north. Fill of [326]. Probably same as [203] and [228]
322	Fill	Mixed lenses of charcoal, cleaner sandy silt and charcoal. Fill of [326]
323	Fill	Dark grey brown silty clay with frequent pebbles and charcoal. Fill of [326]
324	Layer	Thin layer of dark reddish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel and pea grit. Base of the topsoil
325	Fill	Pinky slightly silty clay with 50% large cobbles and gravel. Fill of [326].

326	Cut	Sub-circular pit cut in plan with near vertical sides. Minimum depth 1.50 m and was not bottomed. In east edge not really discernible. Originally thought to be cut [212]
327	Fill	Patch of burnt material and flat stone within fill [307]. Fill of [310]
328	Fill	Dark grey brown silty loam with 20% cobbles and sandstone fragments. Fill of [330].
329	Fill	Slightly reddish silt loam with occasional cobbles, small stones and charcoal. Fill of [330]
330	Cut	Probable 18 th century pit cut seen in pipe trench. At least 1.20m deep.
401	Layer	Friable to firm mid reddish brown slightly sandy silt with frequent pebbles and charcoal. Moderate mortar and occasional cobbles and sandstone fragments. Seen directly underneath the floor surfaces inside the Old Shop.