

# ***Marches Archaeology***

**Palmers Hall  
Ludlow College  
Ludlow  
Shropshire**

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

February 2006

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**Palmers Hall  
Ludlow College  
Ludlow  
Shropshire**

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

**NGR: SO 511 744**

**Report by  
Jo Wainwright**

**Contents**

Summary

1	Introduction	1
2	Scope and aims	2
3	Methodology	2
4	Site description	3
5	Archaeological and historical background	3
6	The programme of works	6
7	The pottery	10
8	Discussion	13
9	Conclusions	13
10	Acknowledgements	14
11	References	14
12	Archive	15

Appendix 1: List of contexts

Figures and plates

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*Marches Archaeology Series 411*

### **List of illustrations**

- Fig. 1 Location of the site with inset showing site in more detail (SMR sites in green)
- Fig. 2 1832 Map of the Borough of Ludlow, Evans
- Fig. 3 1835 Map of Ludlow, Wood
- Fig. 4 1862 Map of Ludlow, Curley
- Fig. 5 1885 Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan (not reproduced to scale)
- Fig. 6 Location of the areas of excavation
- Fig. 7 Section of Trench 3
- Fig. 8 Section of Trench 13
- Fig. 9 Plan of Trench 13
- Fig. 10 Section of Trench 14
- Fig. 11 Plan of Trench 14
- Fig. 12 Section of Trench 15

### **List of plates**

- Plate 1 Trench 13 looking SW. Feature [1108]
- Plate 2 Trench 14 looking south. Surface [1096]

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Shropshire**

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

*Summary*

*A programme of archaeological works at Palmers Hall, Ludlow College, Ludlow, Shropshire uncovered the possible remains of two 14<sup>th</sup> century buildings which were probably outbuildings associated with Palmers Hall. These were situated in the north-western part of the site. A stone yard surface adjacent to Palmers Hall must also be contemporary with the building complex. From the medieval period onwards the north-eastern part of the site was utilised as a garden.*

*In the later medieval period or early post-medieval period it is possible that another building existed on the site in the north though a flagged floor could represent an external yard surface.*

*In the southern part of the site only one trench was excavated which produced no significant archaeological features or deposits.*

## **1 Introduction**

A planning application has been passed by the local planning authority for permission to erect new classrooms at Palmers Hall, Ludlow College (ref. 1/04/16491/LB). The site is situated at NGR: SO 510 744 (Fig. 1).

The site is listed on the local Sites and Monuments Record as being a site of archaeological interest. An archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2003 confirmed the archaeological potential of the site (Wainwright, 2003). Medieval remains of a stone surfaced yard, a well and a small building were uncovered close to the rear of Palmers Hall. The eastern part of the site was shown to have probably been a garden from the medieval period to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor advised that in order that the archaeological resource was adequately protected an archaeological watching brief was to be carried out during ground works associated with the development.

The Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor produced a "Brief for an archaeological watching brief". Pinnegar Hayward Design, on behalf of the client, commissioned Marches Archaeology to provide the archaeological services detailed in the Brief.

## 2 Scope and aims

The scope of the project was defined in the Brief as:

- { observation of all topsoil stripping, other earthmoving and trench excavation until natural subsoil was reached
- { the 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 had been identified the archaeologist on site should have informed the County Archaeological Officer and Project Engineer immediately in order that appropriate action could have been taken to minimise the damage to such 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*

No documentary study was undertaken for this project as research was carried out to inform the evaluation stage.

### *Fieldwork*

Observations and appropriate recording was undertaken of all ground breaking activity in association with the development apart from one area of the site where there was a mix up in communications between the site contractors and Marches Archaeology. Two further areas were excavated and partially backfilled before an archaeologist was on site.

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 and trench record sheets completed. Plans, sections and other appropriate drawings of significant data were made. The photographic record was made using black and white negative and colour transparency film.

### *Office work*

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

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

#### **4 Site description**

Palmer's Hall is situated on the eastern side of Mill Street at the southern end of the street (Fig. 1). The development site comprises an open courtyard in the north, which was surrounded by the buildings of Ludlow College. Some of these buildings have been demolished to make way for the new development (Fig. 1). A wall forms the eastern and part of the northern boundary of this area. A now demolished flight of steps lead down to a courtyard in the south, which is where the entrance to the site is positioned. The lower courtyard is surrounded by buildings except on the western side.

The northern courtyard is at about 94.30m O.D. and the southern courtyard is at about 91.50m O.D. The underlying geology is of Downtonian sandstones which typically consist of red marls.

#### **5 Archaeological and historical background**

*Ludlow* by Nic Appleton-Fox

Although scattered prehistoric artefacts have been recovered from the area of the town, and a Bronze Age barrow is recorded on the site of St Lawrence's Church (Stanford, 1991) there is no evidence for the occupation of the town site itself until the late 11<sup>th</sup> century. The site of the town is suggested as the crossroads for two prehistoric trackways (Lloyd, 1999) and it is also suggested that the line of Corve Street and Old Street reflects the line of a Roman road to the ford (Watson, 1989).

Ludford is recorded on Domesday Book (Thorn and Thorn, 1986), and is presumably of Saxon origin, but there is no mention of the castle. This is thought to have been built between 1086 and 1095, with the town being founded shortly after (SMR: 6177, Fig. 1). The site was part of the estate of Stanton Lacy and eventually became the main centre for the de Lacys in Shropshire (Faraday, 1991). The topography here made it an ideal defensive site; level ground surrounded by steep slopes and flanked by the rivers Teme and Corve. The local Silurian limestone provided an abundant source of building material. However, the first documentary reference to the castle is from the siege of 1139 (Faraday, *op cit*). The castle was built to form a staging post for the mounting of campaigns into Wales and became increasingly important. The town had spread as far as the south end of Corve Street by 1186, when burgages are recorded there. The bridge over the Teme was built by 1220 and a murage licence was granted to the town in 1233 (Lloyd and Moran, 1978). Evidence from curtailed burgage plots shows that the town was well built up before the wall was constructed and the southern circuit was not completed until around 1290 (SMR: 1177, Fig. 1, Stone, 1998).

It is known that the town was granted a charter in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, probably before 1241 as an annual fair was being held by then, and there is reference to a market place in 1255. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century Ludlow was one of the 53 places in England that was licensed to export cloth, which was the mainstay of the medieval economy of the town (Conzen, 1968). This declined during the 14<sup>th</sup> century and with the pacification of Wales in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century the importance of Ludlow declined. The effects were somewhat mitigated by the Mortimer

family transferring the centre of their activities to Ludlow from Wigmore in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1461 the town became a corporate borough and returned a member of parliament (Beresford and Finberg, 1973). The establishment of the Council of the Marches in the latter 15<sup>th</sup> century, with Ludlow as its base, created a boost to the service industries of the town. This, together with a resurgence of the cloth industry helped to restore the fortunes of Ludlow (Faraday, 1991). As the cloth trade declined after 1582 leather working became the chief occupation apart from serving as a market town and the associated activities. In response to the burgeoning ironworking industry in North Herefordshire an attempt was made to make the River Teme navigable by William Sandys in 1636 (*op cit*).

With the dissolution of the Council of the March during the Commonwealth Ludlow lost a good source of income, even with the restitution of the Council after the Restoration it never fully recovered its influence and the Council was finally abolished in 1689. Ludlow had stood for the King during the Civil War, but escaped most of the usual ravages after the negotiated surrender of the castle, though the town saw some destruction, with a large number of houses being levelled in preparation for the siege (Dalwood, 1996).

During the 18th century Ludlow benefited from the turnpiking of the roads and became fashionable as a resort (Lloyd and Klein, 1984). In 1794 the streets of the town were paved and provided with lighting. By the middle of the 19th century railway lines joined Ludlow to Hereford and Shrewsbury. Glove making remained an important industry along with tanning and the exploitation of the local timber resources. Clothing was still represented in the town until the closure of E Walters & Sons factory in the 1990s. Tourism is now the main source of income for the town.

### *The development area*

The study area lies in a part of Ludlow characterised by planned medieval tenement plots. The block of tenement plots in which the site is situated is defined by Mill Street, Bell Lane, Lower Raven Lane and Silk Mill Lane (Sites and Monuments Record: 6240, Fig. 1). A number of hypotheses have been advanced for the development of the town and various dates have been ascribed to the laying out of this specific block of burgages. Conzen suggested burgage plots orientated on Mill Street were laid out in the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, as part of a large plan-unit (Dalwood, 1996, SMR: 06240). Rear access to burgages was by Raven Lane until in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century when the lane was built up with new burgages made up of the back of the Mill Street plots (SMR: 06240). Slater believes the burgage plots here were developed in the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Dalwood, 1996). Therefore the study area would have been part of a burgage plot or plots laid out by at least the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century. In Ludlow, as in many other towns, the standard unit of measurement the perch or pole (16½ feet (5½ yards), 5.029 metres) seems to have been used in the laying out of burgage plots (Lloyd, 1999).

The evaluation excavation revealed that in the northern courtyard there was extensive activity on the western part of the site by at least the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Wainwright, 2003). In the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century a building founded on a sill foundation was erected on the site. The angle found probably represents the north-east corner of the building, some 20m from Mill Street. The evaluation suggests that there were at least two hearths within this building, one of which was at least 1.3m across. This size suggests either that it was a principal room (e.g. a hall), which seems unlikely, or had an industrial function. Presumably this building was contemporary



with Palmers Hall. Two stone surfaces and a well are probably contemporary with this building and suggest its western end was to the east of the well.

In the eastern part of the northern courtyard it seems likely that the medieval deposits excavated formed as a result of cultivation. It seems probable that this area had been a garden from the medieval period to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The Grammar School (now Ludlow College) moved to the Mill Street site in about 1527. Originally the site consisted of Palmers Hall (SMR: 11225, Fig. 1) and a garden to the rear of the hall.

The evaluation revealed that in the early post-medieval period, c.1500-1650/1700, there appears to be a hiatus in the archaeological record (Wainwright, 2003). No pottery was recovered from this period though from the historical record it is clear that the site was in use as a school so activity was taking place on the site. The absence of pottery from the early post-medieval period from other sites in Ludlow has been noted elsewhere (Mike Watson, pers. comm.).

Palmers Hall is a stone built medieval hall house of probably 14<sup>th</sup> century date (SMR: 11225). It had a central hall and a solar at the north end and the service quarters at the south and was probably built for a rich merchant. As the school expanded the building was enlarged and altered. By the early 17<sup>th</sup> century the southern part of the hall was being used by the Usher, the central part was the schoolroom and the northern end was the Schoolmaster's house. The gardens to the rear were similarly divided up (Lloyd, 1977).

The northern end of the hall was probably extended eastwards in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by Richard Harley, approximately along the lines of the present Haycock Wing. It is possible that a similar extension was built at the southern end (*op cit*).

In 1682 'new houses of office' (enclosed earth closets) were erected at the top of the playground. A wall divided the Master's garden from this playground. Lead pipes were laid by Ludlow Corporation in 1718 to bring water into the Headmaster's House and in 1734 the wall along the southern edge of the playground was repaired, separating it from the Barnaby House gardens to the south. Further alterations had taken place to Palmers Hall in the preceding centuries, and as the school expanded more buildings and land were bought.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the school acquired two cottages to the north of Palmers Hall and these were knocked down and a large building fronting on to Mill Street was erected. Behind this, in the gardens of the demolished cottages, a kitchen and outbuildings were built. In 1828 the eastern wing, at the north end of Palmers Hall, was replaced by the Haycock Wing. This was further extended in 1908 (*op cit*).

In 1874 a row of cottages and gardens directly to the south of the school were purchased. Three of these cottages had been made out of a medieval house, Barnaby House. A survey carried out on Barnaby House concluded that parts of the building date from about 1300 (SMR: 4806, Morriss, 1991). Presumably the building was set within a burgage plot that fronted onto Mill Street and it is certain that this building was longer than it is now (Morriss, 1991). Silk Mill Lane, to which Barnaby House is adjacent, was originally known as Barnaby Lane (*op cit*). The gardens ran up to the steep 12 foot high slope to the south of the school playground (Lloyd, 1977).

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a laboratory was built. This was designed to sit astride the steep slope down from the schoolyard. Further alterations were made to Palmers Hall with an extension added at the south end. The old coach factory was also purchased (SMR: 6148) and a new building erected on the site. In the later 20<sup>th</sup> century a temporary building was erected in the playground towards the rear of the northern courtyard.

An 1832 Map of the Borough of Ludlow by Evans shows the Free School, i.e. Palmers Hall (Fig 2). More detail is shown on Wood's 1835 Map of Ludlow (Fig. 3). Palmers Hall is shown, as is the extension to the east. The division between Barnaby House and the school is visible but the boundary between the plots fronting onto Raven Lane is shown as being closer to the school than it is today. The 1849 Tithe Plan of Ludlow St Lawrence (not illustrated) is not detailed and does not show any property divisions. Curley's 1862 Map of Ludlow is similar to Wood's except it shows the eastern property boundary to the school in the same position it is today (Fig. 4). The 1885 Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan is more detailed (Fig. 5). Steps are shown leading down to the Barnaby House area and the northern courtyard is shown as gardens and a playground. The eastern boundary to the northern courtyard is situated in the same place it is today.

It seems likely then that the area of the northern courtyard was part of the backlands of Palmers Hall from at least the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Indeed if the burgage plots in this part of Ludlow were laid out during the 13<sup>th</sup> century it is possible that a predecessor to Palmers Hall existed and the study area was within the backlands of this plot. It is probable that the northern and southern boundaries of the backlands of Palmers Hall have not changed since they were laid out in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. However, it is possible that the rear (eastern) boundary has gone through several changes. Originally it probably continued to Raven Lane until in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century when the Raven Lane frontage began to be built up. If the map evidence is correct then the backlands associated with the Raven Lane frontages would have extended further west. Presumably the school acquired part of the backlands of properties fronting onto Raven Lane before Curley's Map was drawn in 1862. If this is the case then the study area is not just within the Palmers Hall backlands but part of it is within the backlands of several properties fronting onto Raven Lane. The position of this boundary is probably along the same line as the boundaries of the plots situated to the north (Fig. 1).

## **6 The programme of works (Fig. 6)**

### *Trench 1*

This trench was the re-excavation of a drainage run and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.15 metres. The ceramic drain [1015] and backfill [1014] were excavated towards to base of the trench. Above this was a brick rubble layer [1013] about 2000mmm thick which was sealed by the make-up [1012] and tarmac [1011] of the courtyard.

### *Trench 2*

This trench was excavated to locate the water mains trench and excavations at a later date for a drain run (Trench 3) encompassed the whole of Trench 2. This was excavated to a maximum of 1.20 metres.

The ?natural sandstone brash [1024] was seen in the base of the trench. Above this were two sandstone blocks laid flat [1023] surrounded by clay [1022]. This was cut by an irregular

shaped 19<sup>th</sup> century pit [1020] filled with [1021]. It is thought that [1023] is a culvert and probably equates to [1048] in Trench 3.

Sealing pit fill [1020] was a layer of sandstone fragments [1019] about 200mm thick. Above this was a layer of crushed building debris [1018] which underlay the make-up [1017] and tarmac [1016] of the courtyard.

#### *Trench 3 (Fig. 7)*

This trench was excavated for a drainage run and was not seen during excavation. The trench was a maximum 1.60 metres deep in the east but shallower in the west.

A layer of sandstone brash [1035], seen in the base of the trench, was interpreted as the natural though it is possible it was re-deposited natural. A cultivation/garden soil [1033] and [1046] was above the natural. It is likely that this soil built up from the 14<sup>th</sup> century to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. A stone culvert [1049] cuts [1048] through part of this garden soil [1046]. The culvert had silted up sometime in the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century.

Overlying the garden soil was a disturbed stone surface [1039] and [1044] laid onto hard pink clay bedding [1040] and [1043]. A layer of yellowish clay [1045] underlying [1043] could be a levelling deposit for the bedding. Directly to the north of the surface a robber trench [1037] had removed what was probably a foundation/wall associated with the surface. This was backfilled [1038] in probably the early post-medieval period.

Above the stone surface was another garden/cultivation soil [1052] probably of a 17<sup>th</sup> century date. Above this was an 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century dump [1041].

To the north of the robber trench and cutting soil [1033] was a post-medieval pit cut and fill [1036]. A layer [1032] was above this pit. Also cutting [1033] was another pit [1042] which was backfilled in probably the later 18<sup>th</sup> century.

A probable 19<sup>th</sup> century garden soil [1030] and [1051] was seen below the modern overburden [1050]. The garden soil was cut by a pit [1031] in the north and a manhole in the south [1053]. A layer [1054] seen in the opposite section was given a number for finds retrieval. This dates to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Trench 4*

Trench 4 was excavated for a drain run and was a maximum of 900mm deep. A layer of demolition debris [1057] was seen throughout the trench. At the east end of the trench brick footings were excavated [1058] and in the centre of the trench a 19<sup>th</sup> century pit [1059] was uncovered. A ceramic drain [1060] ran north-west to south-east across the trench. Above [1057] was the hardcore [1056] and scalpings [1055] of the temporary modern surface.

#### *Trench 5*

Trench 5 was excavated for a pile cap and was about 900mm deep. At the base of the trench was a thick post-medieval deposit [1063]. This was overlain by a layer pinky clay [1062] which lensed out to the west. Above this was the modern scalpings [1061].

### *Trench 6*

Trench 6 was excavated for a pile cap and was about 850mm deep. In the base of the trench and about 50mm thick was a garden soil [1066] dated to the later 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century. Above this was thick mixed deposit [1065] which was below the modern scalpings [1064].

### *Trench 7*

Trench 7 was excavated for a pile cap and was about 800mm deep. Below the modern scalpings [1067] was a mixed deposit of demolition and burnt material [1068].

### *Trench 8*

Trench 8 was excavated for a pile cap and was about 900mm deep. Below the modern scalpings [1069] was a mixture of silty clay with many inclusions [1070].

### *Trench 9*

Trench 9 was excavated for a pile cap and was about 900mm deep. A layer of black scalpings [1073] was seen in the base of the trench. In the east facing section was a wall [1074] which was the remains of part of a covered walkway demolished in 2005. Above [1073] was a mixed layer [1072]. Above this was the modern scalpings [1071].

### *Trench 10*

Trench 10 was excavated for a pile cap and was about 900mm deep. At the base of the trench was a layer of sandstone brash [1077] which was probably the natural. Above this was a very mixed silty clay deposit [1076]. The modern scalpings [1075] were above this.

### *Trench 11*

Trench 11 was excavated for a pile cap and was about 900mm deep. A post-medieval soil horizon [1080] was seen in the base of the trench. A mixed deposit [1079] was above this. Above [1079] was the modern scalpings [1078].

### *Trench 12*

Trench 12 was excavated for a pile cap and was about 900mm deep. At the base of the trench was a layer of sandstone brash [1084] which was probably the natural. Above this was a mixed layer [1083] which had been disturbed by the 2005 works in the north-west corner of the trench [1082]. Above this was the modern scalpings [1081].

### *Trench 13 (figs 8 and 9)*

This trench was excavated for a drain run and was a maximum 1.30 metres deep. At the base of the trench was the top of a stone culvert [1110] which ran approximately north to south. This was surrounded by a greenish silty clay [1109]. To the east of the culvert and set into [1109] were two thin rough hewn sandstone blocks [1108] approximately orientated north-east to south-west (Plate 1). There was only one course of stones. It is possible that [1108] is the base plate for a building built sometime before the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century.

To the west of [1108] and on top of [1109] were two thin sandstone slabs [1111] which were only seen in section. Interpretation of this feature is difficult. It could be associated with the base plate [1108] or it could be part of a culvert. This feature forms a definite division between layers to the west and east. To the east of [1111] and smeared over part of [1108] was a thin layer of silty clay with very frequent charcoal and fire debris [1107]. Overlying this and butting up to [1111] was a layer of pink clay [1106]. Pottery recovered from [1106] and [1107] dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century.

To the west of [1111] and overlying [1109] was a layer of re-deposited natural brash [1112] lensing down to the south-west. In the east of the trench, at the limit of excavation, was a mixed deposit [1105] which contained pottery dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that if [1108] is a base plate and part of a building it could be that [1105] is occupation debris associated with the building.

Above [1105], [1106] and [1112] was a cultivation/garden soil [1104] which although contained pottery from the later 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century must date from 15<sup>th</sup> century or later. Above [1104] was a post-medieval deposit of silty clay with frequent inclusions [1103]. Cutting [1103] were the foundations for the demolished steps from the lower courtyard [1099-1102]. In the far north-west of the trench was the cut [1098] and backfill [1099] of a 19<sup>th</sup> century manhole. Above [1103] were the modern scalplings.

#### *Trench 14 (figs 10 and 11)*

Trench 14 was excavated to a maximum depth of 600mm to form a level area adjacent to Palmers Hall.

A yard surface [1096] was seen at the limit of excavation in the north of the excavation (Plate 2). This probably equates to surfaces [230] and [236] seen in the evaluation. The yard surface was made up of roughly squared sandstone blocks laid flat and rough hewn sandstone fragments laid on edge. Pottery pressed into the deposit around the stones dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is probable that this surface continues southwards below the limit of excavation.

Above [1096] in the north-west of the trench was a thin layer of silty clay [1095]. A thick post-medieval deposit [1094] overlay [1095] and part of surface [1096]. Cutting [1094] and [1096] in the north-east of the trench was a post-medieval pit [1093] and backfill [1092]. A layer of demolition rubble [1091] seen in the south and east of the trench was presumably used as levelling deposit. Cutting [1091] and only seen in section was a culvert [1089] and [1090].

Cutting [1094] in the west was the construction cut [1086] for the brick and sandstone abutment [1085] to Palmers Hall which was probably built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to stabilise the foundations. To the east of this was a ceramic drain [1087] and cut [1088]. Above [1094] was the tarmac and make-up of the 2005 surface.

#### *Trench 15 (Fig. 12)*

Trench 15 was excavated to reduce the level of the southern part of the northern courtyard to that of the southern courtyard. A maximum of about 3.50 metres was removed in this area. The excavations of this area were carried out in a haphazard way with much tracking back and forwards over the excavated areas. This area had also been heavily truncated in the 19<sup>th</sup>

century by the construction of steps leading down from the upper courtyard and the extension to the south and south-east of Palmers Hall. Therefore only a limited amount of archaeological recording was possible.

No archaeological deposits or features were seen in the south of the trench. In the north-west of the trench, adjacent to Trench 13, deposit [1112] and [1109] were excavated. In the west facing section of the trench a layer which was probably [1106] was seen. Above this was the late medieval garden soil [1104] and the post-medieval soil [1103].

In the north-east of the trench the natural brash [1122] was excavated. Cutting this was a probable sub-circular pit [1121] which was backfilled [1120] in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. This had been cut by the southern extension [1113] and [1114] to Palmers Hall.

Above [1122] to the east of cut [1121] was an 18<sup>th</sup> century layer [1117]. This was cut by a 19<sup>th</sup> century drain [1118] and [1119]. Above the drain run was a layer of construction debris [1116] probably associated with the extension to Palmers hall. Above this was mixed deposit [1115] with the modern overburden above this.

## **7 The pottery by Stephanie Rátkai**

A second small assemblage of pottery was examined, the first having been excavated in 2003. Eighty sherds were recorded although 42 of these were from one possibly heat shattered vessel from [1105]. The assemblage contained medieval and post medieval sherds. The medieval sherds were examined under x 20 magnification and a general note on the inclusions made, although in the absence of any large published corpus of pottery from Ludlow or its immediate environs and because of the nature of the medieval sherds, often small and abraded with few sizeable form sherds, descriptions of the fabrics has been kept to a minimum.

The medieval pottery comprised:

Fabric 01 coarsely sandy ware with some mudstone and mica. The quartzitic inclusions are mainly sub-angular. The fabric is mainly reduced mid-grey but pale brown surfaces and margins suggest that the clay may have a low iron content. Both olive glazed and unglazed sherds were present. 13<sup>th</sup> century?

Fabric 02 fabric with a fine sandy micaceous matrix with sparse larger sub-angular quartz grains, rare mudstone and organics. Hand-formed but possibly wheel-finished 13<sup>th</sup>-e14<sup>th</sup> centuries?

Fabric 03 black ill-sorted sandy ware. Hand-formed, 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries?

Fabric 04 iron-poor, micaceous, mudstone tempered ware, also found in the 2003 excavations and paralleled by material from Wigmore Castle 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Hand-formed cooking pot and wheel-thrown jug.

Fabric 05 fine micaceous ware with few visible inclusions, hand-formed and wheel thrown vessels. 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Oxidised Ware 01 finely sandy orange oxidised wheel-thrown ware with tan glaze 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries?

Oxidised Ware 02 fine dense orange fabric with no inclusions other than sparse iron ore and the occasional fleck of mica. Probably wheel-thrown, 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries

Oxidised Ware 03 very finely sandy orange ware, highly micaceous, red-brown glaze. Wheel-thrown. The glaze colour suggests an early post medieval date, possibly 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The mudstone and/or high mica content in many of the fabrics suggests that they were made fairly locally although it is quite difficult to date any of the fabrics with much accuracy.

In addition to the above there were some wheel-thrown oxidised Malvernian sherds (Vince, 1985 fabric B4) dating to the mid 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Several sherds were intrinsically interesting. An overfired, partly vesicular sherd in Fabric 01 from [1120] had an external cratered olive vitreous surface. It is difficult to be sure if this sherd is a waster or possibly part of a crucible. A definite waster, the base of a corrugated blackware mug of later 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century date, which had glaze running across the breaks, was found in [1054].

The only decorated sherd from the site was a dark green-glazed jug sherd in Fabric 04, from [1104] which was decorated with applied vertical ribs, with applied, stamped/stabbed pellets between.

A flange rimmed bowl (Fabric 05) from [1105], which was c. 16cm in diameter, c. 5cm in height, was unusually thick-walled, at c. 1.5cm, for such a small vessel. The bowl had a very thick base, now chipped around the edge but which may originally have been finger-impressed, an internal glaze and was rather crudely finished. It was very friable and had disintegrated into numerous laminar fragments. The glaze was mostly greyish and opaque on the interior, although external glaze spots were translucent and olive coloured. The fracture pattern and glaze condition may indicate that the vessel had been subjected to fairly intense heat. The characteristics of the bowl match fairly closely the definition of a mortar – “A thick-walled bowl with a heavy base and a rounded internal profile with no discernible basal angle” – given in the Classification of Medieval Ceramic forms (MPRG 1998), although it would be a comparatively small mortar.

Also in Fabric 05 was the rim from a dripping tray. The sherd was found in [1046] and was heavily sooted on the partially glazed interior, with some patchy sooting on the exterior. Although ceramic dripping trays could not be classed as a rare form, they are sufficiently unusual to merit comment. Dripping trays are most commonly encountered on higher status sites since their use is primarily associated with the spit roasting of meat. The presence of a dripping tray and a mortar in a small assemblage such as the one from Palmers Hall may indicate, therefore, reasonably high status occupation in the area.

A series of cultivation soils [1033], [1046], [1066] and [1104] probably dated to the later 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Both [1033] and [1104] contained wheel-thrown, oxidised Malvernian ware dating to the later 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Yard surface [1096] also contained a late Malvernian ware sherd. Occupation debris layer (1107) contained four oxidised jar sherds (Oxidised Ware 02), which probably belong to the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Layer [1106] contained a single oxidised ?jar sherd (Oxidised Ware 01) and is probably more or less contemporary with [1107]. Three further soil horizons were identified [1030], [1052] and [1105]. Context [1105] contained a possible mortar (see above) which probably dates to the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>

centuries. Context [1030] contained a small cooking pot sherd (Fabric 04) of 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century date. The remaining context [1052] contained an oxidised bowl sherd (Oxidised Ware 03) with an internal red-brown glaze. The glaze suggests that the sherd is post-medieval and probably dates to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Post-medieval layer [1054] contained a 17<sup>th</sup> century blackware ‘corrugated’ mug sherd and an Oxidised Ware 01 jar sherd and [1117] an 18<sup>th</sup> century blackware cylindrical mug sherd. A post-medieval dump [1041] was dated to the second or third quarters of the 18<sup>th</sup> century by a sherd from a white salt-glazed stoneware hemispherical bowl, which was found with a slip-coated ware sherd of indeterminate form. Pit fill [1042] contained sherds from white salt-glazed stoneware hemispherical foot ring bowls and a possible tea bowl and a mottled ware mug sherd, suggesting that [1041] and [1042] dated to roughly the same period. Pit fill [1031] contained a tin-glazed earthenware flange-rim bowl sherd with internal blue painted chinoiserie decoration, dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Cut fill [1021] contained the latest material, a creamware flange-rim bowl sherd dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century but probably deposited in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

One medieval pit fill [1120] was recorded, which contained cooking pot sherds (Fabrics 01, 02, 03 and 04), a jug sherd (Fabric 01), a waster or crucible sherd (see above) and a jug, jar or cistern sherd (Oxidised Ware 01). Most of the sherds probably date to the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> centuries but the oxidised ware sherd is unlikely to pre-date the 15<sup>th</sup> century. As this sherd is fairly large at 33g the fill date is likely to date to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Culvert silt [1047] only contained medieval material comprising a Fabric 03 cooking pot sherd and a Fabric 04 jug sherd.

The assemblage was too small to allow detailed interpretation of the pottery. The assemblage is broadly similar to that recovered from the 2003 excavations, although a suggested hiatus in the pottery sequence from c. 1500-1650 is not so evident in the 2005 assemblage.

### *Pottery fabrics*

<b>Fabric</b>	1021	1030	1031	1033	1041	1042	1046	1047	1052	1054	1066	1096	1104	1105	1106	1107	1117	1120	u/s	<b>Total</b>
Blackware										1							1			2
Creamware	1																			1
Fabric 01																		3		3
Fabric 02																		3	1	4
Fabric 03								1										1		2
Fabric 04		1						1					1					2		5
Fabric 05							1							41						42
Malvernian ware				1								1	1							3
Mottled ware						1														1
Oxidised ware 01										1					1	4		1		7
Oxidised ware 02											1		1							2
Oxidised ware 03							1		1											2
Slip-coated ware					1															1
Tin-glazed earthenware			1																	1
White salt-glazed stoneware					1	3														4
<b>Total</b>	1	1	1	1	2	4	2	2	1	2	1	1	3	41	1	4	1	10	1	80



## 8 Discussion

It seems probable that in the 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries the area of trenches 3 and 13 was a garden. Culverts [1110] in Trench 13 and [1049] in Trench 3 are presumably drains within the garden area.

Feature [1108] uncovered in Trench 13 could be the base plate for the western wall of a building and the two sandstone slabs [1111], seen in section, could be associated with [1108]. A deposit [1105] excavated to the south-east of [1108] could represent occupation debris associated with the building. Pottery recovered from this layer dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century. Palmers Hall was constructed in probably the 14<sup>th</sup> century so it is likely that this building was an outbuilding associated with the hall.

It is possible that this building was demolished or burnt down sometime in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and the area became a garden again. However, the extents of this building were not found in the excavation and it is entirely feasible to suggest that feature [1108] is not part of a permanent building but was perhaps part of a temporary structure.

The yard surface [1096] excavated in Trench 14 is more than likely the continuation of the surface excavated in Trench 2 of the evaluation. Pottery pressed into the surface of [1096] dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century but it is probable that this feature was in use before this date. It is likely that this surface is contemporary with the building excavated in the Trench 2 of the evaluation (13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century). The extents of the building excavated in the evaluation were not seen. This is probably because in the western part of Trench 3 the excavations were quite shallow and in the central part a drain run had removed any archaeological features and deposits.

The function of a pit backfilled in the 15<sup>th</sup> century in the north-west corner of Trench 15 is uncertain. It is unlikely to be a rubbish pit as it is situated very close to Palmers Hall.

The stone surface [1039] and [1044] seen in Trench 3 is possibly an internal surface associated with a wall to the north, which was robbed out at a later date. It is possible that if this was a building it was constructed in the late medieval period or early post-medieval period. It is also possible that the stone surface was an outside yard surface with a kerb line at the north end.

## 9 Conclusions

Gardening activities were taking place in the north-western part of the site from probably the 14<sup>th</sup> century. In this part of the site it is possible that two buildings were erected in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. These buildings would have been associated with Palmers Hall which was probably built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The northern building, seen in the evaluation, could have had an industrial function but the function of the southern building, excavated in Trench 13, is unclear.

There is an indication that the site was a reasonably high status one in the medieval period as fragments of a dripping tray and a mortar were identified in the pottery assemblage. These pottery forms are usually associated with more wealthy sites in the medieval period.

The stone surface excavated in Trench 14 must be contemporary with Palmers Hall and probably the northern building seen in the evaluation. In the later medieval period or early post-medieval period it is possible that another building existed on the site though the flagged floor excavated in Trench 3 could represent an external yard surface.

It is likely that the north-eastern part of the site was a garden from the medieval period until the 19<sup>th</sup> century and in the post-medieval period the north-western part of the site was incorporated into this garden area.

In the southern part of the site only one trench was excavated which produced no significant archaeological features or deposits.

## **10 Acknowledgements**

Thanks must go to Dave Dalziel from Quantum Construction for his co-operation on site.

## **11 References**

### *Abbreviations*

SMR Sites and Monuments Record

### *Maps and plans*

1832 Map of the Borough of Ludlow, Evans

1835 Map of Ludlow, Wood

1849 Tithe Plan of Ludlow St Lawrence

1862 Map of Ludlow, Curley

1885 Ordnance Survey Plan, 1:500, 78.12.1

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## 12 Archive

The site code is PHLC05A. The archive consists of:

- 5 context sheets
- 21 trench record sheets
- 1 drawing index sheet
- 8 field drawings on 4 sheets
- 1 sheet of levels
- 4 sheets of site diary and notes
- 20 finds sheets
- 8 photo record sheets
- 4 films of black and white photographic negatives
- 4 films of colour photographic transparencies
- 1 box of finds

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

## Appendix I: List of contexts

### Trench 1

Context number	Description	Interpretation
1011	Tarmac	Tarmac
1012	Mixed gravel and rubble	Make-up for tarmac
1013	Brick and general rubble in a mixed soil matrix. About 200mm thick.	Layer
1014	Re-deposited natural sandstone brash in a pale yellow brown silt. About 850mm thick	Drain fill
1015	Ceramic drain	Ceramic drain

### Trench 2

Context number	Description	Interpretation
1016	Tarmac	Tarmac
1017	Gravel and hardcore	Make-up for tarmac
1018	Demolition debris including crushed brick in a reddish brown sandy matrix	Demolition debris
1019	Sandstone rubble and bricks in a reddish brown sandy matrix	Demolition debris
1020	Irregular cut with an irregular base	19 <sup>th</sup> century pit
1021	Mid brown clay matrix with frequent large fragments charcoal and coal	Fill of [1020]
1022	Dark pink friable clay with occasional gravels. About 250mm thick	Probable layer surrounding culvert
1023	Sandstone blocks laid flat.	Culvert, probably equates to [1048]
1024	Sandstone brash	Natural?

### Trench 3

Context number	Description	Interpretation
1030	Dark brown gritty silty loam with frequent coal	Post-medieval soil horizon. More than one layer. Probably equates to [1051]
1031	Irregular shape	Fill and cut of post-medieval pit
1032	Slightly pink brown silty clay loam with grit. About 100mm thick. Overlies [1033]	Post-medieval layer
1033	Light greyish brown silty clay loam with grit.	Later 14 <sup>th</sup> or 15 <sup>th</sup> century cultivation/garden soil. Probably same as [1046]
1034	mid-light orangey brown silty clay	Medieval layer. Probable interface between [1033] and natural [1035]
1035	Pale yellow sandstone brash	Natural
1036	Probably sub-circular cut with concave sides and a flat base. Fill of soft crumbly dark silty loam	Fill and cut of post-medieval pit
1037	Vertical edged cut on north more irregular on south. Appears to form eastern edge of surface [1039]	Robber trench for ?foundation/kerb
1038	Mixed yellow clay and small ?limestone brash.	Fill of [1037]
1039	Large fragments of stone laid flat	sandstone paved surface? Probably same as [1044]
1040	Hard pinky clay maximum 100mm thick could equate to [1106] in Trench 13	Possibly bedding for [1039]
1041	Mid brown clayey loam with yellowish clay fragments. Over 400mm thick	Later 18 <sup>th</sup> century dump
1042	Vertical side cut with a flat base	Later 18 <sup>th</sup> century pit cut and fill
1043	Same as [1040]. Maximum 200mm thick	Possibly bedding for [1044]

1044	Thin slabs of sandstone laid flat. Two deep in places	Sandstone paved surface? Probably same as [1039]
1045	Yellowish clay with small stones. Maximum 50mm thick	Layer
1046	Light brown grey silty loam with grit. About 300mm thick	Later 14 <sup>th</sup> or 15 <sup>th</sup> century cultivation/garden soil. Probably same as [1033]
1047	Mid brown grey silty loam with grit	13 <sup>th</sup> or 14 <sup>th</sup> century silting up of culvert [1049]
1048	Steep sided with flat base	Cut for culvert [1049]
1049	Stones laid flat and on edge. Runs approximately east to west	Medieval culvert
1050	Brick fragments and broken tarmac	Modern overburden
1051	Dark brown silty loam with grit and coal. About 600mm thick	Post-med soil. Probably equates to [1030]
1052	Dark brown silty loam with grit and coal. About 300mm thick	Post-med soil. 17 <sup>th</sup> century?
1053	Mid brown clay loam and yellow clay fragments. Also contained compacted yellow stones	Backfill of 19 <sup>th</sup> century manhole
1054	Brownish grey clay loam. Finds context layer seen on other side of trench	17 <sup>th</sup> century layer

#### Trench 4

Context number	Description	Interpretation
1055	Modern scalpings about 120mm thick	Modern scalpings
1056	Hardcore about 200mm thick	Hardcore
1057	Dark reddish brown gritty silt with brick fragments about 550mm thick	Demolition debris
1058	Brick footing seen in east end of trench	Brick foundation

1059	Pit filled with black gritty soil and coal fragments seen in centre of trench	19 <sup>th</sup> century pit and fill
1060	Ceramic drain running approximately north-west to south-east across trench	Drain

#### Trench 5

Context number	Description	Interpretation
1061	Scalpings maximum 200mm thick	Scalpings laid down in 2005
1062	Pinky clay with pea grit and gravel, lenses out to west. Maximum 150mm thick	Layer
1063	Dark grey black silty clay with frequent charcoal, coal, and mortar. Maximum 600mm thick	Post-medieval deposit probably more than one layer

#### Trench 6

Context number	Description	Interpretation
1064	Scalpings maximum 400mm thick	Scalpings laid down in 2005
1065	Silty clays with lenses of pea grit, sandstone fragments and brick about 400mm thick	Post-medieval deposit probably more than one layer
1066	mid grey brown silty clay with frequent charcoal, moderate mortar and occasional sandstone fragments. Not bottomed but a minimum 50mm thick	Later 14 <sup>th</sup> or 15 <sup>th</sup> century cultivation/garden soil.

#### Trench 7

Context number	Description	Interpretation
1067	Scalpings maximum 400mm thick	Scalpings laid down in 2005
1068	Mixed soils with demolition and burnt debris. Minimum 400mm	Post-medieval deposit more than one layer

#### Trench 8

<b>Context number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
1069	Scalpings maximum 300mm thick	Scalpings laid down in 2005
1070	Mixture of greyish silty clay with very frequent sandstone, brick, charcoal, mortar and re-deposited natural brash. About 600mm thick	Post-medieval deposit more than one layer

#### Trench 9

<b>Context number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
1071	Scalpings maximum 400mm thick	Scalpings laid down in 2005
1072	Mixture of greyish brown silty clay with frequent sandstone, brick, and charcoal. About 350mm thick	Post-medieval deposit more than one layer
1073	Black scalpings with coal and ashy and pink gravel lens. Maximum 150mm thick	Post-medieval deposit
1074	Sandstone wall seen in east facing section.	Part of building demolished in 2005

#### Trench 10

<b>Context number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
1075	Scalpings maximum 400mm thick	Scalpings laid down in 2005
1076	Mixture of greyish brown silty clay with very frequent sandstone, coal, ash, brick, charcoal, mortar and pink gravel. About 500mm thick	Post-medieval deposit more than one layer
1077	Sandstone brash	Natural



### Trench 11

Context number	Description	Interpretation
1078	Scalpings maximum 500mm thick	Scalpings laid down in 2005
1079	Mixture of greyish brown silty clay with very frequent sandstone, coal, ash, charcoal, mortar and pink gravel. About 500mm thick	Post-medieval deposit more than one layer
1080	Mid grey brown silty clay with frequent charcoal, bone, mortar and occasional coal and sandstone. Minimum 100mm	Post-medieval soil horizon

### Trench 12

Context number	Description	Interpretation
1081	Scalpings maximum 400mm thick	Scalpings laid down in 2005
1082	Modern disturbance seen in north-western corner of the trench	Modern disturbance
1083	Mid grey brown silty clay with very frequent charcoal, coal, mortar and bricks. About 400mm	Post-medieval deposit more than one layer
1084	Sandstone brash	Natural

### Trench 13

Context number	Description	Interpretation
1097	Rubble backfill	19 <sup>th</sup> century backfill for manhole
1098	Steep sided cut	19 <sup>th</sup> century cut for manhole
1099	Brick and sandstone wall and footing	Steps to lower courtyard demolished in 2005

1100	Cut for [1099]	Cut for steps to lower courtyard demolished in 2005
1101	Brick and sandstone wall and footing	Steps to lower courtyard demolished in 2005
1102	Cut for [1101]	Cut for steps to lower courtyard demolished in 2005
1103	Greyish silty clay with frequent inclusions. Maximum 800mm	Post-medieval layer over whole trench
1104	Mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent charcoal, occasional mortar and sandstone. About 400mm thick	15 <sup>th</sup> or 16 <sup>th</sup> century cultivation/garden soil.
1105	Mixed soil horizon of a pinky brown silty clay. Minimum 100mm	14 <sup>th</sup> or 15 <sup>th</sup> century layer.
1106	Pink clay with occasional charcoal and mortar. Seen to east of [1111]. Maximum 200mm thick	15 <sup>th</sup> or 16 <sup>th</sup> century layer
1107	Mid reddish brown silty clay with very frequent charcoal and fire debris. Bone (discarded). About 100mm thick. Overlies [1108]	15 <sup>th</sup> or 16 <sup>th</sup> century occupation layer or fire debris?
1108	Rough hewn sandstone laid flat appears to run approximately north-east to south-west. Only one course seen and not mortared together. Set into [1109]	Medieval. Possible base plate for building or foundation
1109	Greenish silty clay with occasional charcoal in west and frequent charcoal in east. Minimum 100mm thick	Medieval layer
1110	Three rough hewn sandstone fragments laid flat and sandstone fragments laid on edge at limit of excavation. Runs approximately SE-NW	Medieval culvert
1111	Two sandstone fragments seen in section. Layer [1106] seen to east of this and does not continue westwards.	Possibly associated with [1108] or could be part of a now destroyed culvert

1112	Sandstone brash in a greenish silty clay with occasional charcoal. Sandstone lenses out to east. Minimum depth 400mm	Medieval layer
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#### Trench 14

Context number	Description	Interpretation
1084	Tarmac and make-up about 200mm thick	Tarmac and make-up
1085	Brick foundation, sandstone slabs and brick rubble	Brick abutment and backfill of [1086]
1086	Cut against Palmers Hall	Cut for insertion of brick abutment to Palmers Hall. Probably 19 <sup>th</sup> century
1087	Mixed greyish loam with ceramic pipe	Fill of cut [1088]
1088	Concave sided cut not bottomed	Cut for drain run
1089	Stone laid flat on top and base with brick sides	Culvert
1090	Concave sides and flat base	Cut for culvert
1091	Brick rubble and other demolition rubble. Seen in east and south of trench and becomes thicker south. Minimum 600mm thick. Obscures [1096] in south	Demolition/ levelling deposit
1092	Grey clay loam with frequent pink pea grit, charcoal, cobbles and sandstone	Fill of [1093]
1093	Probably sub-circular cut with near vertical sides. Not bottomed	Post-medieval pit cut
1094	Mid grey brown clay loam with frequent mortar, charcoal and sandstone fragments. Occasional clay patches. Maximum 400mm thick	Post-medieval layer
1095	Pinky brown silty clay with sandstone fragments. Overlies [1096]. Maximum 100mm	Layer possibly equating to [239] in the evaluation
1096	Sandstone roughly squared laid flat and rough hewn sandstone fragments laid on edge. Set into a greyish silty clay with	15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century yard surface equates to [236] and [230] in

	patches of pinky silty clay	the evaluation
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#### Trench 15

Context number	Description	Interpretation
1113	Mixed red clay, brownish green sandy silt with brick fragments	Fill of [1114]
1114	Linear cut	19 <sup>th</sup> century construction cut for southern extension to Palmers Hall
1115	Sandstone brash in a greenish silty clay matrix with brick fragments and charcoal. About 400mm thick	Layer
1116	Brick and tile fragments in a mortar matrix. Towards base lens of pink clay silt. Maximum 200mm thick	Construction debris from extension to Palmers Hall
1117	Dark grey brown silty clay with frequent charcoal. Maximum 200mm thick	Post-medieval layer. 18 <sup>th</sup> century
1118	Mixed deposit and ceramic drain	Backfill of 19 <sup>th</sup> century drain run
1119	Linear cut	Cut for 19 <sup>th</sup> century drain run
1120	Soft greenish brown silty clay with frequent charcoal, occasional mortar pebbles and sandstone fragments	15 <sup>th</sup> century fill of [1121].
1121	Sub-circular? Cut with irregular edges	Medieval pit cut
1122	Sandstone brash	Natural? Top part probably disturbed