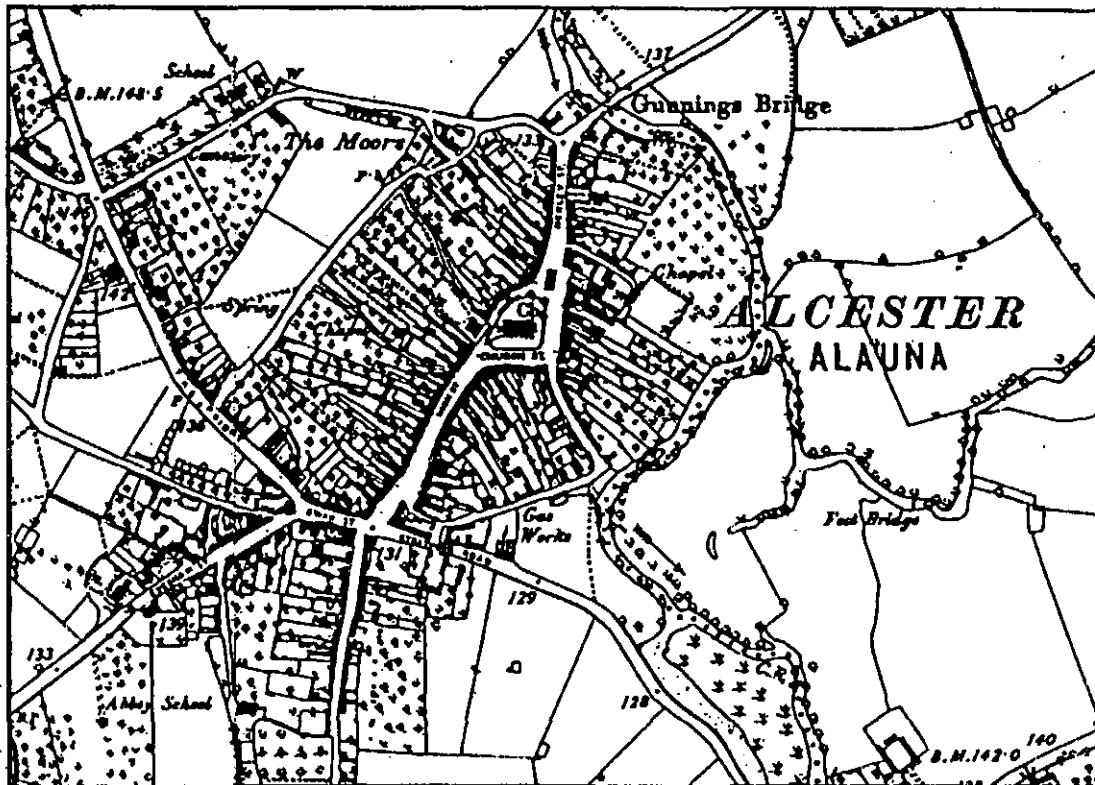


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SWA 18447
EWA 7259
CWA 7544
MWA 6495
FWA 4122
MWA 9741
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FWA 4129
FWA 4130
FWA 4131
FWA 4132
MWA 9853
FWA 4134

Archaeological Evaluation and Observation at 4-6 Evesham Street, Alcester, Warwickshire



Warwickshire
County Council
Libraries & Heritage
Museum Field Services
Archaeology Projects Group

November 2002

Archaeological Evaluation and Observation at 4-6 Evesham Street, Alcester, Warwickshire

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Report 0246
November 2002

Warwickshire Museum Field Services
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Summary

Archaeological observation and evaluation work associated with the construction of new houses at 4-6 Evesham Street, Alcester, recorded a series of gravel surfaces and an associated boundary ditch, a pit and an oven, within the extramural area of the Romano-British town of Alcester. A stone-built well of possible medieval date was also recorded, together with a brick-built well and wall foundations of 19th century date.

1. Introduction

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Stratford on Avon District Council for the demolition of an existing building and replacement with two dwellings at 4-6 Evesham Street, Alcester (Planning Ref. S99/01528/FUL). A further Planning Application has been made for the construction of three dwellings to the rear of 4-6 Evesham Street (S01/1954/FUL). Because the site of the proposed developments lies in an area of archaeological importance, in an area of Roman and medieval occupation (Fig. 1), it was a condition of planning permission that a programme of archaeological work should take place in conjunction with the development. For Planning Application S01/1954/FUL it was recommended that a field evaluation be carried out before commencement of the development. This was followed by observation of some of the trenching for the new houses.

1.2 Three programmes of fieldwork, in accordance with Briefs prepared by the Planning Archaeologist on behalf of the Planning Authority, were commissioned from the Warwickshire Museum Field Archaeology Projects Group and carried out in April, August and November 2001. The first stage of the work consisted of the observation of foundation trenches and other groundworks associated with the new development along the Evesham Street frontage and of a test-pit assessing the depth of geological natural to the rear. This was followed by the archaeological excavation of three evaluation trenches located so far as was possible within the footprints of the proposed new properties and their associated garages to the rear of the Evesham Street frontage (Fig. 2). Some of the groundworks for the development to the rear of the frontage were observed in November 2001. Further recording was carried out in June-August 2002 at the request of Stratford on Avon District Council, when the foundations for the last property, soakaways and services trenches were excavated. This report presents the results of these programmes of work. The project archives will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum under the site code AL68.

2. Location

2.1 The site of the development lies at 4-6 Evesham Street, Alcester, Warwickshire, east of Birch Abbey (Fig. 1). It is centred around national grid reference SP 0881 5726. The initial part of the new development overlies the former street frontage dwellings at 4-6 Evesham Street while the second part of the development consists of three new dwellings and associated garages to the rear (Fig. 2). The area was formerly occupied by the houses, yards, outbuildings and gardens of 4-6 Evesham Street.

2.2 The underlying geology of the development area is First and Second River Terrace Gravels (British Geological Survey 1974).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 In the Romano-British period Alcester was a major town (Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record No. WA 4495; Fig. 1) which was probably known as *Alauna* (Fig.

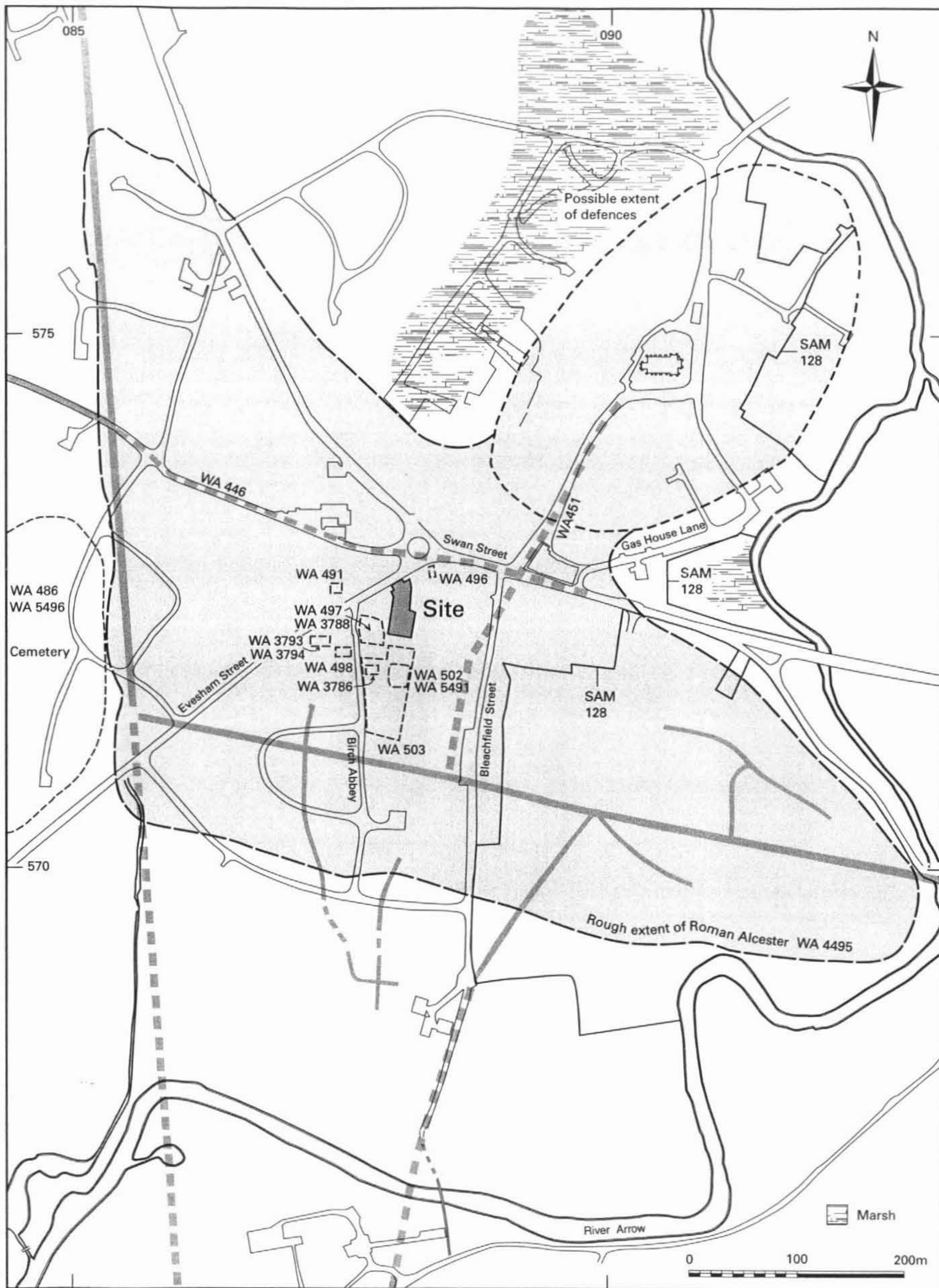


Fig. 1: Site Location

1). The first Roman presence was military with a fort originally established on the hill south of the river and succeeded by another in the Bleachfield Street area. The town seems to have first grown around the latter fort, and then continued to expand as a civilian settlement after the army moved northwards, the occupation lasting through the Roman period until the end of the 4th century at least. The core of the town, which was defended by a rampart in the 2nd century and by a wall in the 4th century, lay on either side of Henley Street and High Street. There was also a large suburban area to the south, extending from east of Bleachfield Street, over the former fort, to north of Evesham Street and Seggs Lane (Warwickshire Museum 1995, 3). Two of the town's Roman roads run close to the site (SMR WA 446 and WA 451).

3.2 The development sites lie within the suburban area of the Romano-British town to the west of the later walled area and outside those parts of the town which form a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County Monument Number 128). Excavations in the vicinity suggest that this area may have been a market place with a succession of gravel surfaces and wooden buildings during the Roman period, though evidence comes largely from the 1st-2nd century. The gravel surfaces covered a considerable area stretching from Evesham Street to west of Bleachfield Street, and south from Swan Street to about a third of the way down Birch Abbey. To the south the buildings were constructed using wooden sleeper beams for foundations which were set in slots in the gravel surface (SMR WA 3786; Cracknell 1985, 37-8; WA 5491; Taylor 1973, 1). Both the buildings and the gravel surfaces were rebuilt/relaid a number of times during the early Roman period, a sequence which has been recorded from a number of sites in the vicinity (SMR WA 496; WA 498; Taylor 1972; WA 3786; Cracknell 1985, 37-8; WA 3793; WA 3794; WA 5491; Taylor 1973, 1). In some instances the discovery of postholes suggests that some of the buildings were constructed around a framework of earth-fast posts (SMR WA 498; Taylor 1972; WA 5491; Taylor 1973, 1-2). In the case of excavations in the garden of Linby House, one such posthole was associated with an extensive stone flag surface rather than the usual gravel layer (SMR WA 502; Hughes 1958, 10, 17)

3.3 South-west of the current development area the sequence of gravel layers continued throughout the Romano-British period (SMR WA 3786; Cracknell 1986, 38). To the south the gravel layers and associated buildings appear to have gone out of use in the 3rd century when earth layers built up which contained large amounts of cattle bone (SMR WA 5491). Following this a further cobble surface was laid down, overlain by a layer of sandstone which sealed a number of late 3rd century coins. The remains of a large sandstone building and a mortar floor were also recorded nearby (Taylor 1973, 2). Some evidence for late Roman occupation was also recovered from the garden of Linby House, though it is unknown what form this took (SMR WA 502; Hughes 1958, 10, 17) whilst at Swan Street, to the north-east, a cremation urn was recovered (SMR WA 496). Both cremations and inhumations of late Roman date have also been recorded from sites further south, suggesting a change in use and perhaps an abandonment of settlement over at least part of the area.

3.4 Excavations have previously taken place close to the development site itself. In 1933 a rough stone floor, together with some Romano-British pottery, was observed in the bottom of a trench dug close to the rear of the Bell Inn pub buildings (SMR WA 497), though its precise location is unknown. A watching brief carried out close by in 1983 recorded a gravel surface and a possible pit, together with quantities of 2nd century pottery and the late Romano-British burial of an adolescent cutting the gravel surface (SMR WA 3788; Cracknell 1985, 39). An archaeological evaluation behind The Bell Inn, to the south and west, recorded a series of gravel layers associated with the Roman-British market place, together with the wall of an associated stone building. A post-medieval boundary ditch was also recorded (Warwickshire Museum 1999).

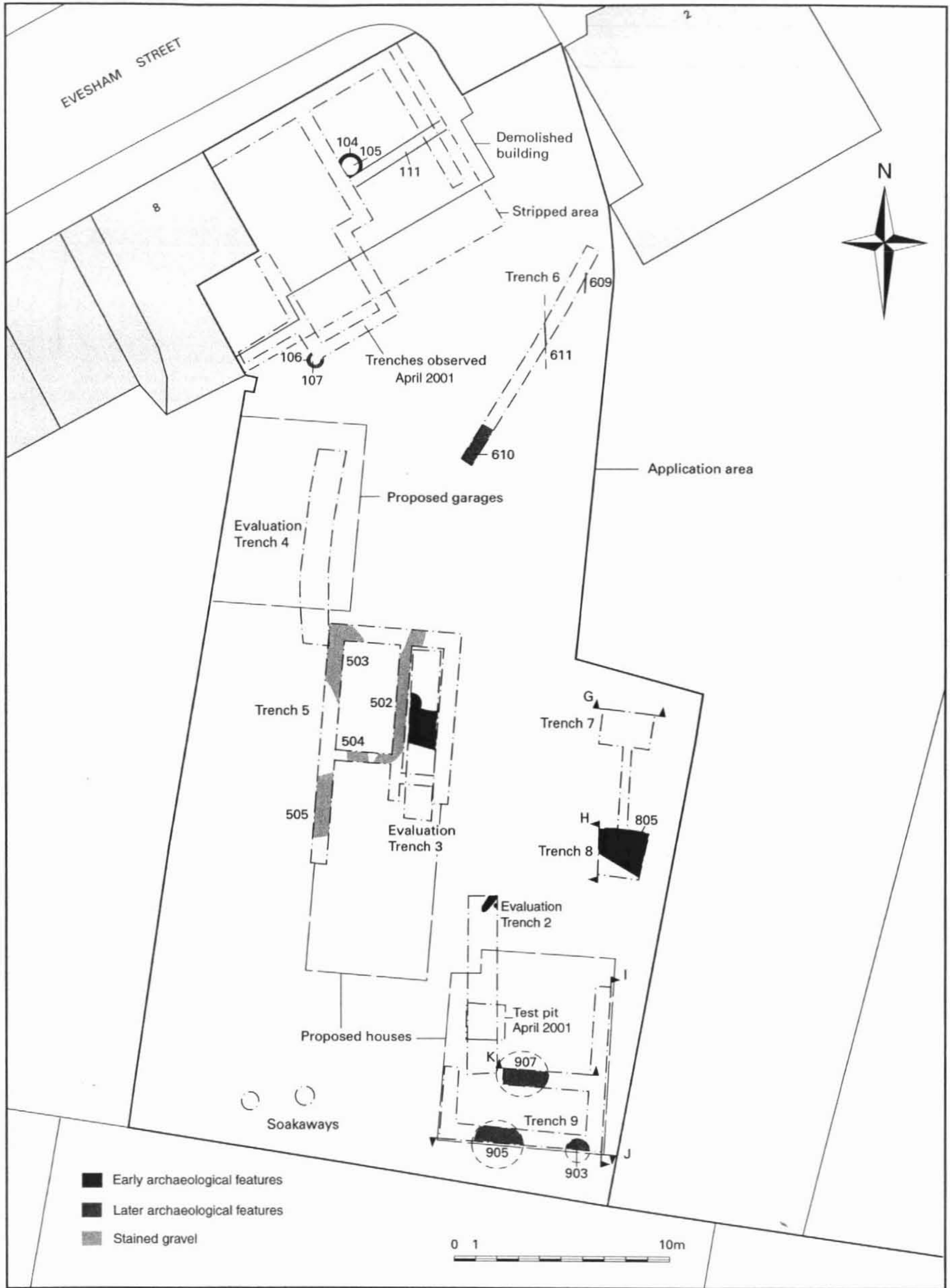


Fig. 2: Location of Trenches

3.5 Other Romano-British remains from close by include rubbish pits containing Roman material to the west (SMR WA 491), south-west (SMR WA 498, WA 3786) along with a quantity of remains, imprecisely located, from the Abbey or Nursery Gardens and the Abbey School Gardens which were recovered during the 1920s and 1930s (SMR WA 503).

3.6 There is little evidence for post-Roman activity in the area, which lay towards the western extent of the medieval town of Alcester. At this time the development area would have formed either the tenement of one of the westernmost properties within the town or part of the open field system which surrounded it. The earliest detailed maps of the town date from the mid 18th century (Sutton 1754, Eyre 1760; Fig. 3) but many of the boundaries shown are likely to have survived from the medieval period. Later maps show the gradual inclusion of the area into the town proper (Ordnance Survey 1831, Ordnance Survey 1887, Ordnance Survey 1902).

3.7 In 1968 No. 6 Evesham Street was put forward for consideration as a Grade III Listed Building. It was described as being of early 19th century date, in colour-washed brick with a tiled roof, two storeys and two windows, an arched doorway with a fanlight (Ministry of Housing and Local Government 1968, 6). The 1881 census suggests that a needleworker and his family occupied either 4 or 6 Evesham Street at that time. No. 6 Evesham Street was the Alcester Co-operative Society butcher's shop, from the 1920s until the 1960s (ADLHS 1986, 87). The shop



Fig. 3: Detail from the Map of the Earl of Warwick's Estate by E. J. Eyre, 1760

continued as a butcher's until it was closed in 1984. The structure in the yard behind was the slaughterhouse. Cattle were bought on the Tuesday at the market in Seggs Lane and driven to the slaughterhouse. When a new abattoir was built at Station Road the one on Evesham Street became redundant. The former slaughterhouse was then used by a Mr Ison for manufacturing radiators. The shop at No. 4 was used by the Co-op as a confectioners in the 1920s and later as an antiques shop (Saville 1984, 4).

4. Observation of Groundworks, April 2001

4.1 The building of 4-6 Evesham Street were demolished in April 2000. Observation took place in April 2001 after the site had been stripped of surface debris. Over the majority of the site no more than c.0.10m of topsoil and surface material was cleared. On the street frontage, where the houses had previously been located, the area was stripped to between 0.25m and 0.50m deep; the greater depth of stripping lay to the rear of the property. The walls of the previous property stood one or two courses proud of the existing ground surface. The majority of these were removed using a pneumatic hammer.

Test Pit 1

4.2 A test-pit was excavated by mini-excavator at the rear of the development area to assess the depth of topsoil. A dark grey brown sandy loam (109) lay to a depth of 1.40m above a rubble layer which it was thought might be the remains of a wall (110). A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the spoil from the test-pit, at around the same level as the wall. The trench was dug to a depth of c.1.80m, with the sides of the trench collapsing continuously so it was not possible to examine the trench in detail. Geological natural sand and gravels was being brought up in the last buckets.

Foundation Trenches

4.3 The strip along the side of No. 8 Evesham Street was excavated in blocks for underpinning as this building was cellared. The blocks were 1m cubes and the southernmost of these was observed. This cut into made-up ground and revealed the house foundation/external side of cellar wall. The foundation trenches for the rest of the new property were excavated by a mini-excavator with a 0.65m toothed bucket to a depth of c.1m deep below the existing ground surface.

4.4. The old foundations of the demolished early 19th century building (111) along the street frontage were removed before the new footings were constructed. The old foundations were constructed of 0.25m of brick on top of 0.20m of sandstone, the whole bonded by a hard off-white mortar. Along the Evesham Street frontage the geological natural was encountered at c.0.7m below the existing ground surface but the new foundation trench cut a further 0.40m it. Geological natural sand and gravel (108) was overlain by a mixed layer of dark greyish brown sandy loam and gravel (103) 0.16m thick. On top of this was a brown sandy loam layer (102) again mixed with gravel. This was covered by 0.26m of very dark greyish brown silty loam (101) the whole being sealed by 0.28m of modern pavement (100). The layers of gravel within this section only showed up in its easternmost 5m. The western 5m consisted of the 0.55m of brown sandy loam and was sealed by the pavement.

4.5 The sections in the rest of the trenches all showed a broadly similar soil make up, the natural sand and gravel overlain by 0.15-0.25m of brown sandy loam and gravel sealed by up to 0.25m of greyish brown sandy loam. None of these layers produced dateable finds.

4.6 Close to the centre of the new house footprint (see Fig. 2) a foundation trench cut across the edge of a well (104, Fig. 4). This was cut from the surface down into the natural gravel (108) and had been backfilled at a later date. The well consisted of a circular shaft approximately 1.1m across and lined with walling made up of small to medium sized limestone rubble. These appeared to be of dry-stone construction and did not appear to have any mortar or clay bonding. The well was filled by a very dark grey silty loam (105) with occasional limestone blocks, presumably fallen from the well's lining. The only datable material recovered from the well consisted of two fragments of 13th/14th century pottery.

4.7 In the south-west corner of the area observed, another well (106) was cut through by the foundation trenches. It was circular in plan, had an internal diameter of approximately 0.8m and was lined with mortared bricks, probably of 19th century date. The well had been filled in with rubble (107) containing large quantities of 20th century brick and broken bottles.

5. Evaluation Trenches

5.1 Three evaluation trenches were excavated in August 2001 to the south of the street frontage in the footprints of proposed two new house blocks and one garage block (Fig. 2). These were numbered Trenches 2-4 to avoid confusion with context numbers already assigned. The trenches were excavated by a JCB using a toothless ditching bucket.

Trench 2

5.2 Trench 2 measured 8.3m long by 1.25m wide and was aligned north-south to the rear of the site; it cut through Test Pit 1 to the south. What appeared to be the geological natural sand and gravels (203/211) was encountered at c.1.4m below the existing ground surface. However, this layer contained a number of metal finds in its upper 70mm, some of identifiably Roman date and it may have been redeposited as a surface during the Romano-British period. It would have formed part of the possible 'market' area identified with other Romano-British gravel layers recorded from sites in this area. At the north end of the trench, layer 211 was cut by a keyhole-shaped feature (204, Fig. 5). This had a flat base and burnt, clay-lined, sides (205) which curved inwards and may once have formed a dome, though no capping survived. It may have been a small oven. A small fragment of melted lead was recovered from nearby in layer 211, but this by itself is insufficient to suggest industrial activity. The clay lining was filled by a black silty material (206), probably derived from charcoal, which contained Romano-British pottery. This was overlain by some redeposited natural sand and gravels (210). Immediately to the east of this was a possible slot or posthole (214). The fill of this feature (215) was an amalgamation of loam 202 (see below) and gravel 203/211 only the vertical southern edge was established with any certainty. The feature may have belonged to a structure associated with oven 204.

5.3 Both backfilled features were overlain by a layer of grey silty loam (202) which may be the remains of a developed soil which accumulated after occupation on the site had ceased. This was overlain by another loam layer (209) which was probably a garden or horticultural soil associated with properties fronting onto Evesham Street in the medieval and post medieval periods. A layer of brick rubble (201) overlying this garden soil would have derived from demolition work of 19th century structures in the area.

5.4 Rubble layer 201 was cut by a large pit (212) which extended to the south and included the majority of the area of the current trench. The pit, which was of recent



Fig. 4: Remains of stone well 104



Fig. 5: Oven 204: lining 205, fills 206 & 210

origin, was steep-sided, flat-bottomed (212) and stopped at the surface of gravel 211. This would suggest that it might have been intended for waste disposal rather than quarrying. The fill (213) included a quantity of sandstone rubble towards the base but was largely a dark brown loam containing quantities of modern detritus. These are the stone rubble (110) and dark loam (109) encountered in the earlier test pit. A cut in the base of the pit (207), filled with loose stone (208), is likely to have been associated with the earlier test pit; the continual collapsing of the sections in this area made it difficult to examine in detail. The backfilled pit and the remainder of the trench were covered with a thick layer of topsoil (200).

Trench 3

5.5 Trench 3 measured 8m long by 1.25m wide and was aligned north-south in the centre of the site. In the northern half of the trench undisturbed geological natural gravel (319) was recorded at c.1.30m below the existing ground surface, at a similar level to that in Trench 2 (211). It is possible that here the natural gravel was used as an occupation surface as well, but this is uncertain as it was only recorded in a small area of section. To the north the geological natural was cut by a large pit of uncertain extent and filled with layer of sandy silt loam (316) and layers (313, 306/311) the latest of which formed a surface (306/311) containing Romano-British pottery and metalwork.

5.6 Successive gravel surfaces (301, 303/304) were also recorded over the natural at the south end of the trench, though here the surfaces were thinner above 306/311.

5.7 In the northern half of the trench the gravel surface 306/311 was cut by what appeared to be a pit (317, Fig. 7, E) with steep sides and a rounded base. The pit was backfilled subsequently with a sandy loam (318) and was only visible in the edge of a later ditch, the fill of which obscured the plan of the pit (see below, 305, 314). Pit 317 and the gravel surfaces in each half of the trench were cut and separated by a ditch (314) aligned roughly east-west which also cut the backfilled pit 317. This had a rounded base and a near-vertical south and steep-sided northern edge. This may be the re-cut of an earlier ditch or some other form of boundary feature along the same line. Both the fills of the ditch (305, 315), as well as the latest gravel surfaces (303/304, 306/311), contained a considerable quantity of cattle bone including horn cores, jaws and foot bones which suggests that butchery was carried out nearby.

5.8 The backfilled ditch (305, 315) and all of the gravel layers were overlain by a layer of dark grey loam which contained quantities of fragmented and decomposed sandstone in the southern half of the trench (302). This petered out towards the north (307, not on section). It is possible that the sandstone came from the demolition of a Romano-British building in the vicinity. The layer itself, however, was probably a garden or horticultural soil associated with properties fronting onto Evesham Street in the medieval and post-medieval periods, the equivalent of 209 in Trench 2, although it did contain Romano-British pottery.

5.9 Garden soil 302/307 was cut by the foundations (308-310) of a 19th century brick outbuilding to the north and by the concrete foundation (312, 320) of a wall dividing the properties of No. 2 and 4/6 Evesham Street (not on plan). This boundary line is first recorded on plans of the mid-18th century (Eyre 1760, Sutton 1754) and may reflect the medieval arrangement, though no evidence for any earlier boundary was visible. The outbuildings first appear on plan in the late 19th century (Ordnance Survey 1887). These recently demolished brick walls were overlain by topsoil 300.

Trench 4

5.10 Trench 4 measured 9.10m long by 1.25m wide and was aligned north-south immediately behind the houses along the Evesham Street frontage. Geological

natural sand and gravel (403) was encountered at c.0.70m below the existing ground at c.41.30m aod.

5.11 The geological natural was overlain by a very compact gravel layer containing fragments of Romano-British pottery and metalwork (402) which represents another occupation surface within the possible market area (Fig. 9). This, in turn, was overlain by a layer of dark grey loam (401) which appeared to be a continuation of the largely post-medieval garden/horticultural soil from Trench 3 (302). This also contained fragments of decomposed sandstone which may have derived from Romano-British buildings in the vicinity.

5.12 The loam layer was cut by the foundations of two parallel brick walls (404/408, 407/409) running roughly north-south and overlain by an associated brick surface. These belonged to a 19th century extension behind the street frontage properties (Ordnance Survey 1887). Demolition rubble (405) from the walls overlay layer 401 to the south while to the north was discontinuous layer of topsoil (400).

6. Observation of groundworks, November 2001 and June-August 2002

Trench 5

6.1 One day of observation was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for the house plots in the centre of the site.

6.2 The trenches observed were for the northern part of the central housing plot. External trenches measured 0.80m across and internal trenches 0.50m across. All Trench 5 trenches were c.1.0m deep, just cutting into the uppermost part of the gravel surfaces recorded in the adjacent evaluation trench. The gravel here (501) appeared to be stained a darker grey brown in areas (502-505). While these areas may represent linear features cutting into the gravel they might also represent staining from the layer above. The gravel was overlain by a layer of mixed dark grey brown sandy loam (500) which contained fragments of modern brick and pottery.

6.3 In June 2002, at the request of Stratford-on-Avon District Council, the observation of further excavation took place. Four soakaways had already been excavated; two on the east side of the site some time ago, and two on the south-east of the site in the previous week. The spoil from the latter two trenches was still on site and was examined for finds. No Romano-British material was identified, but a small number of fragments of animal bone were noted, along with post-medieval pottery and a clay tobacco pipe stem.

Trench 6

6.4 An 11.5m length of sewer trench was observed. Spoil from this was put directly into a dumper truck for off-site removal. The trench was 1.80m deep and 0.60m wide; geological natural gravel (608) was reached at a depth of 0.70-0.90m. This was overlain by a series of gravel and sand layers (603, 604, 605, 606, 607) of c.0.10-0.15m each in depth. These may have been of Roman date although no finds were recovered from them due to the spoil disposal method. The uppermost of the gravel layers (603) was overlain by a layer of grey gravel which contained a large number of brick fragments, probably a post-medieval yard surface (602). This was in turn overlain by a 0.10m thick layer of very dark grey silt (601), itself overlain by the tarmac (600) of the yard surface.

6.5 In the north-west facing section, near to the north-east end of the trench, seven courses of a short stretch of brick walling (609), 0.80m in length, was exposed below ground. This ran at an angle to the trench and appears to correspond to walling shown on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1887 and 1905, marking the former property

boundary with No. 2 and the possible rear wall of an out-building in this adjacent property. A ceramic land drain also ran across the trench (611).

6.6 In the southern part of the trench observed an area of post-medieval brick walling was recorded (610), reaching a depth of 1.20m below ground and filling the width of the trench. The mass of walling suggested that there was more than one wall and the Ordnance Survey maps of 1887 and 1905 show this area lies on the junction of a large and small outbuilding, probably representing the remains of three walls of 19th century date.

Trench 7

6.7 Two trenches for large soakaways on the eastern side of the development site were observed. The northern trench (Trench 7) reached a depth of 2.40m and measured 2.20m west-east and 2.20-1.80m north-south (Fig. 8 G). In this trench a series of possible gravel surfaces were recorded (702, 703, 704, 705, 706) above the natural light brown sand and gravel (707). The lowest gravel (706) was brownish grey and was 0.12m deep, overlain by 0.15-0.20m of dark grey gravel (705). The dark gravel was overlain by a 0.10-0.20m thick layer of compact strong brown gravel, itself overlain by a thin (80mm) layer of small pebbles and grey gravel (703). Layer 703 produced a sherd of Romano-British pottery; no finds were recovered from any of the layers below. The thin layer was overlain by 0.20m of gravel and very dark grey silt with pebbles up to 0.10m across (702) which was overlain by 0.50m of very dark grey silt (701). The silt was overlain by 0.20m of modern hardcore rubble (700).

Trench 8

6.8 A second large soakaway (Trench 8) was excavated to the south of T7 to a depth of 2.50m. The trench measured 2.40m-2.05m west-east and 2.30m north-south (Fig. 8, H). The trench cut 0.40m into natural red gravel (809) at a depth of 2.20m, which was overlain by 0.20m of compact pinkish brown gravel (808) itself overlain by c.0.30m of brown gravel (804). The brown gravel was overlain by 0.20m of strong brown gravel (803). None of these layers produced archaeological finds and may have been natural. The first significant archaeological horizon was reached 1.10m below ground level and was a 0.30m deep layer of dark grey gravel which contained fragments of Romano-British pottery and fragments of animal bones (802). This layer, and the gravel layers below (803-808 and the upper part of 809) were cut by a large ditch (805) with sloping sides and a rounded base. The ditch appeared to run NW-SE and was filled with grey silt and gravel (807) which contained animal bone and Romano-British pottery, with an upper fill of dark grey silt and gravel (806). The backfilled ditch was overlain by 0.80m of very dark grey silt (801) itself overlain by 0.30m of modern brick rubble (800) that had been brought in to form a temporary hardcore layer for car parking etc (Fig. 10).

Trench 9

6.9 Part of the trenching for the rear house plot was observed in August 2002 (Trench 9). The trenches were 1.40-1.60m deep and 0.70m wide. A layer of possibly natural sand and gravel (909) was reached at between 0.90 and 1.30m and was overlain by a 0.20m deep layer of grey brown sandy loam with occasional charcoal flecks (902). Layer 902 was overlain by a c.0.20m thick layer of brown sandy loam which contained large quantities of mortar and fragments of sandstone and limestone rubble (901). This was cut by a number of pits (903, 905, 907, 910) the first three with roughly vertical edges the latter with sloping edges (Fig. 8, I-K). All were filled with very dark grey brown silty loam with fragments of charcoal (904, 906, 908, 911), none of which produced any finds. The level from which they were cut suggested that these were post-medieval features, probably 18th or 19th century in date.

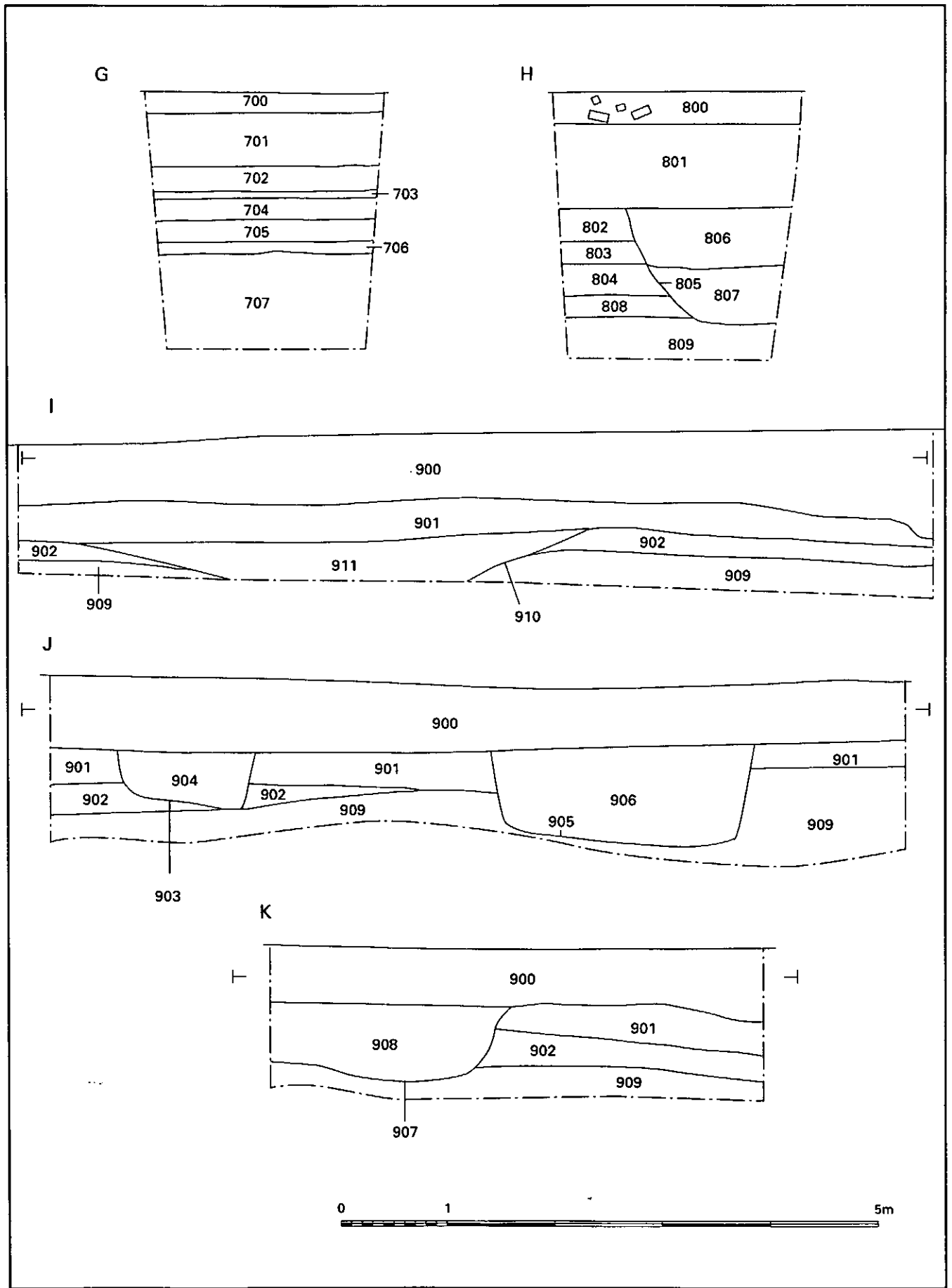


Fig. 8: Trenches 7-9, Sections G-K



Fig. 9: Gravel surface in Trench 4



Fig. 10: Soakaway Trench 8

7. Conclusions

7.1 Evidence for Romano-British activity was recorded in all three of the evaluation trenches and in two of the soakaway trenches. In each trench there was evidence of one or more gravel surface of the sort known from elsewhere along the western side of the Roman town and thought to represent a market place. In Trench 3 and Soakaway Trenches 7 and 8 a quantity of animal bone suggests that butchery was also carried out in the vicinity, an activity also known from elsewhere in the area of the 'market place'. In Trench 3 a boundary ditch was recorded which may have continued into Soakaway Trench 8.

7.2 Romano-British structural features survived at the north end of Trench 2. These consisted of a small oven of unknown purpose together with a possible posthole or beam slot. At the south end of the trench, however, Roman-British deposits had been largely destroyed by a substantial modern pit. Fragments of decomposing sandstone from later garden/horticultural soils may have derived from Romano-British buildings in the vicinity.

7.3 Following the Roman period the site appears to have remained unoccupied until the medieval period and possibly later, when a garden/horticultural soil developed over the area. This is probably associated with cultivation in 'garden' areas to the rear of buildings fronting onto Evesham Street.

7.4 A stone-built well recorded from one of the foundation trenches may have been of medieval origin. The only datable material recovered was the 13th-14th century pottery recovered from the backfill of the well which was probably contemporary with its abandonment. The position of this well does not leave a lot of space between it and Evesham Street and the well may have been between two buildings or within a building. The well was overlain by the foundations (111) for the early 19th century street frontage buildings. These foundations would have destroyed any evidence for earlier buildings in the area which may have been constructed following the abandonment of the well.

7.5 The layers of gravel (101, 102 and 103) visible in part of the trench section along Evesham Street may well be the remains of former street surfaces later encroached upon by the frontage buildings. No dating evidence was found within these layers but a date as early as the medieval period could be possible for the deeper layers.

7.6 The foundations of 19th century structures were recorded from Trenches 3, 4 and 6. These include walls belonging to outbuildings behind the Evesham Street frontage and a boundary wall dividing No. 2 from 4/6 Evesham Street. The latter feature may represent a boundary whose origins lie in the medieval layout of the town but is first recorded in the 18th century.

7.7 The brick-lined well (106) at the rear of the property is marked on the 1887 and 1904 Ordnance Survey maps and is likely to have been built at the same time as the property, in the early 19th century. The finds from the well's backfill suggest that it was probably filled in at some time in the first half of the 20th century.

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Appendix A: List of Finds

Context	Material	No.	Date/Comments
<i>Observation April 2001</i>			
Test pit	Pottery	1	Romano-British
Test pit	Animal bone	5	including cattle jaw
Test pit	Iron	1	nail
105	Pottery	2	medieval, 13th/14th century
<i>Trench 2</i>			
200	Pottery	2	Romano-British
200	Pottery	1	16th-17th century
200	Cu Alloy	1	coin, As? or <i>Dupondius</i> , late 1st/2nd century (SF 40)
202	Pottery	6	Romano-British
202	Animal Bone	2	cattle
206	Pottery	32	Romano-British
206	Animal Bone	33	sheep/goat, small mammal and cattle, includes 2 burnt fragments
208	Pottery	1	16th-17th century
208	Plastic	1	not retained
210	Pottery	5	Romano-British
210	Animal Bone	5	including 2 cattle molars
203/211	Iron	6	nails, probably Romano-British (SFs 27, 28, 30, 34, 37, 38)
203/211	Iron	1	bracelet fragment probably 4th century (SF 32)
203/211	Iron	2	1 strip fragment with rivet (SF 31)
203/211	Lead	3	1 sheet fragment (SF 35), 1 part melted (SF 39), 1 droplet
203/211	Cu alloy	1	House of Constantine coin, imitation AE4 <i>minim</i> , <i>Gloria Exercitus</i> , 1 standard AD 336-341 (SF 36)
<i>Trench 3</i>			
300	Pottery	18	17 frags of a single bowl and one complete ink bottle, all 19th century stoneware
300	Animal Bone	1	small dog jaw
300	Glass	2	vessel glass
300	Lead	2	sheet fragments
300	Cu alloy	2	coin, 1890 halfpenny
301	Iron	5	nails, probably Romano-British (SF 14)
301	Iron	1	unknown
301	Lead	1	sheet fragment
302	Pottery	1	Romano-British
302	Ceramic tile	1	roof tile, possibly Romano-British
302	Glass	1	vessel fragment, possibly Romano-British (SF 45)

303/304	Pottery	3	Romano-British
303/304	Ceramic tile	3	roof tile, probably Romano-British
303/304	Stone tile	1	roof tile, probably Romano-British
303/304	Animal Bone	17	fragmentary, includes 1 bird bone
303/304	Lead	1	lead sheet fragment, probably Romano-British (SF 43)
305	Pottery	6	Romano-British
305	Ceramic tile	3	roof tile, probably Romano-British
305	Animal Bone	60	mainly cattle, includes 6 horn cores
305	Shell	2	1 oyster
305	Iron	5	nails, probably Romano-British (SF 17, 18, 19, 41)
307	Pottery	1	Romano-British
307	Animal Bone	1	horn core
310	Pottery	1	18th/19th century
306/311	Pottery	14	Romano-British
306/311	Ceramic tile	1	curved with internal striations for plaster retention
306/311	Animal Bone	10	includes 1 dog mandible, remainder cattle bone fragments
306/311	Shell	3	oyster
306/311	Iron	9	includes 2 possible pins (SFs 15,16), 6 nails (SFs 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26), 1 lump (SF 20)
315	Pottery	61	Romano-British
315	Ceramic tile	13	roof tile, probably Romano-British
315	Animal Bone	14	mainly cattle, pig and sheep, at least one butchery mark
315	Shell	1	oyster
315	Glass	1	vessel, probably Romano-British (SF 46)
315	Iron	1	nail, probably Romano-British (SF 44)
<i>Trench 4</i>			
400	Pottery	4	Romano-British
400	Animal bone	7	including 2 horn cores
400	Shell	2	oyster
400	Iron	1	nail, probably Romano-British (SF 42)
400	Cu alloy	1	brass hook/handle, 19th-20th century
402	Iron	14	12 nails, 2 unidentified fragments, probably Romano-British (SFs 1, 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13)
402	Lead	1	lead sheet fragment (SF 10)
<i>Soakaway Trench 7</i>			
U/S	Oyster shell	1	
U/S	Pottery	5	Romano-British, 2 Samian, 3 oxidised
U/S	Animal Bone	1	
702	Animal bone	9	cattle

702	Iron	1	knife blade
703	Pottery	1	Romano-British, oxidised
703	Animal bone	2	cattle
<i>Soakaway Trench 8</i>			
802	Pottery	3	Romano-British, 1 black burnished, 2 oxidised
802	Animal bone	7	cattle and sheep

Appendix B: List of Contexts

Context No. Description

Observation April 2001

100	modern pavement
101	layer of silty loam and gravel
102	sandy loam layer
103	gravel and loam layer
104	stone-built well
105	fill of well 105
106	brick-lined well
107	fill of well 106
108	natural sand and gravel
109	layer of sandy loam
110	rubble layer, possible wall
111	foundations of demolished building

Evaluation August 2001

Trench 2

200	topsoil
201	brick rubble layer
202	silty loam layer
203	sand and gravel/pebbles, possibly geological natural
204	cut for possible oven
205	burnt clay lining of oven 204
206	primary fill of oven 204
207	modern ditch/pit cut
208	fill of ditch/pit 207
209	garden/horticultural soil layer
210	secondary fill of oven 204
211	same as 203
212	cut for modern pit
213	fill of pit 212
214	possible slot
215	fill of slot 214

Trench 3

300	topsoil
301	gravel surface
302	possible garden soil
303	gravel surface
304	same as 304
305	secondary fill of ditch 314

306 gravel surface
307 same as 302 north of 305
308 wall foundation trench for 309
309 brick wall
310 fill of 308
311 same as 306
312 concrete foundation
313 gravel layer
314 ditch cut
315 primary fill of ditch 314
316 sandy silt layer
317 pit
318 fill of pit 317
319 geological natural sand and gravel
320 cut for concrete foundation 312

Trench 4

400 topsoil
401 garden/horticultural soil
402 gravel/gravel surface, Romano-British
403 geological natural sand and gravel
404 brick wall
405 brick demolition rubble
406 brick surface/pavement
407 brick wall
408 foundation trench for wall 404
409 foundation trench for wall 407

Observation November 2001

Trench 5

500 mixed dark grey brown sandy loam
501 strong brown gravel layer
502 grey staining
503 grey staining
504 grey staining
505 grey staining

Service trenches June 2002

Trench 6

600 tarmac surface
601 very dark grey silt and gravel layer
602 possible yard surface of grey silt and brick fragments, post medieval
603... grey brown gravel and sand layer
604 dark grey gravel and sand layer
605 light brown gravel layer
606 red brown gravel layer
607 grey gravel layer
608 natural strong brown gravel
609 brick wall
610 brick walling (possible junction of walls)
611 land drain

Soakaways June and July 2002

Trench 7

700 Modern rubble
701 very dark grey silt
702 dark grey gravel
703 grey gravel surface
704 compact strong brown gravel ?surface
705 dark grey gravel ?surface
706 brownish grey gravel, @surface
707 natural light brown sand and gravel

Trench 8

800 modern brick rubble
801 very dark grey silt
802 dark grey gravel
803 compact strong brown gravel, ?natural
804 brown gravel, ?natural
805 large pit or ditch
806 upper fill of pit/ditch - dark grey silt and gravel
807 lower fill of pit/ditch - grey silt and gravel
808 compact pinkish brown gravel, natural
809 natural red gravel

Rear house plot August 2002

Trench 9

900 very dark grey brown silty loam
901 brown sandy loam with frequent mortar and rubble
902 grey brown sandy loam with occasional charcoal
903 post-medieval pit
904 fill of 903
905 post-medieval pit
906 fill of 905
907 pit
908 fill of 907
909 sand and gravel natural
910 ?post-medieval pit
911 fill of 910



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