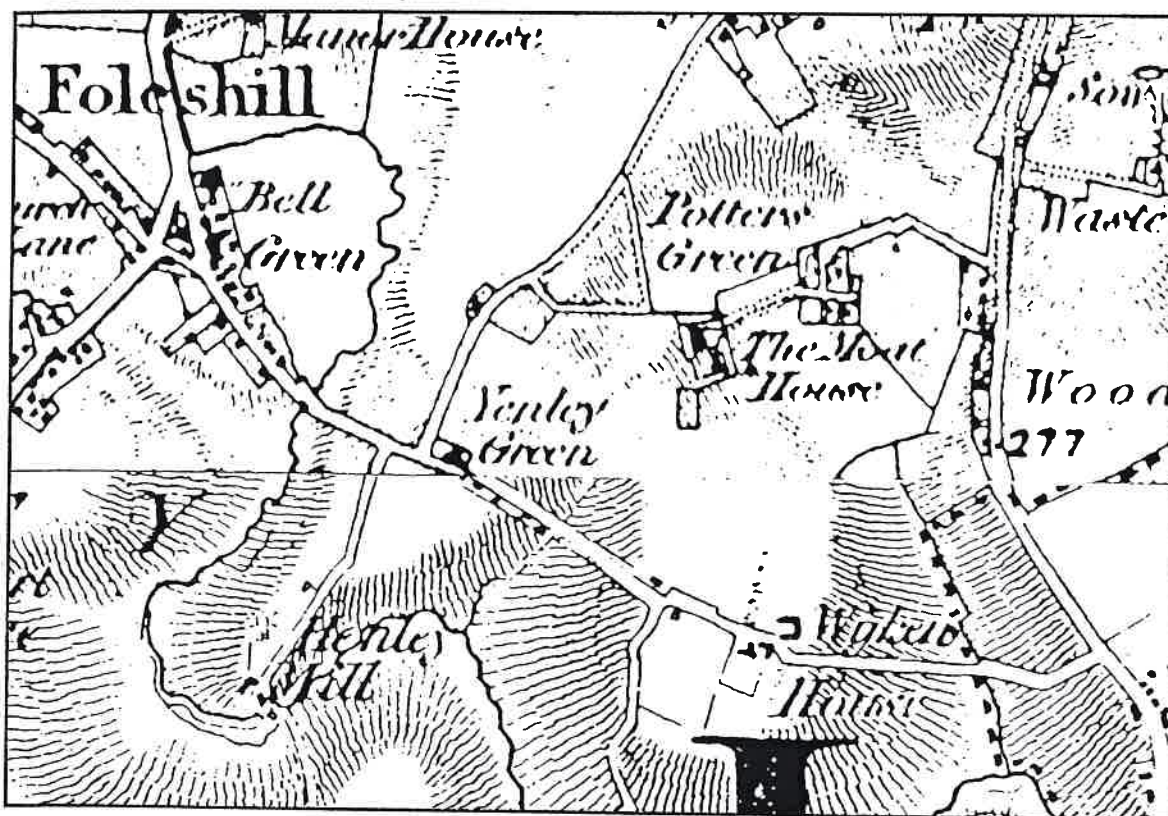


# Archaeological Observation at land adjacent to 218 Henley Road, Coventry



Report 0420

May 2004

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Report 0420  
May 2004

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## Summary

Archaeological observation at land adjacent to 218 Henley Road, Coventry, within the historic settlement of Henley Green, on the possible site of a medieval or early post-medieval building, revealed a 18th/19th century brick-built hearth or flue base but no indication of substantial structural remains.

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Coventry City Council for the erection of a single dwelling on land adjacent to 218 Henley Road, Coventry (Planning Ref. 42002/C). Because the site lies within an area of high archaeological potential, on the possible site of a medieval or early post-medieval building, it was thought that medieval or later archaeological deposits might be disturbed during the work. It was therefore a condition of planning permission that the applicant should secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work to be carried out in conjunction with the development.

1.2 A programme of fieldwork, consisting of archaeological observation of the excavation of the foundation trenches and service trenches for the new house and garage, in accordance with a Brief prepared by the City Planning Archaeologist on behalf of the Planning Authority, was commissioned from the Warwickshire Museum Field Archaeology Projects Group and carried out in March and May 2004. A contingency for archaeological excavation of a 10m x 1.5m trench should significant early structural remains be encountered was not invoked. This report presents the results of that work. The project archive will be stored at the Herbert Museum and Art Gallery under the site code HR04.

## 2. Location

2.1 The site is located at national grid reference SP 3648 8165 in the former parish of Foleshill in the north-east part of Coventry (Fig. 1). The development site was previously the western part of a garden belonging to 218 Henley Road.

2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Thrussington Till, mainly red and brown pebbly clay (British Geological Survey 1994).

## 3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 The historic settlement of Henley Green lies on the road from Sowe to Foleshill and was one of three hamlets in this area, along with Tackford and Bell Green. Henley Green may have originated as a squatting tenancy. The field names in this area can be traced back to the 15th century as most of the land was owned by St Mary's Priory before 1539. After this date it was owned by a succession of wealthy Lords, including Sir Thomas White, Lord Clifford and Lord Craven.

3.2 The earliest detailed map of the area is the Foleshill Inclosure map which dates to 1774 (City Archives PA46/1). This shows a number of properties on the south side of Henley Green and one on the north side, at the junction with Deedmore Road. Enlargement of the map from its original scale in chains (approximately 1:6336) to fits modern property boundaries and other features of the landscape suggests that the site of the present development lies on the site of one of two houses depicted on this map. The larger property, to the west is complex in shape, suggesting it has been added to at different periods. For this reason it has been



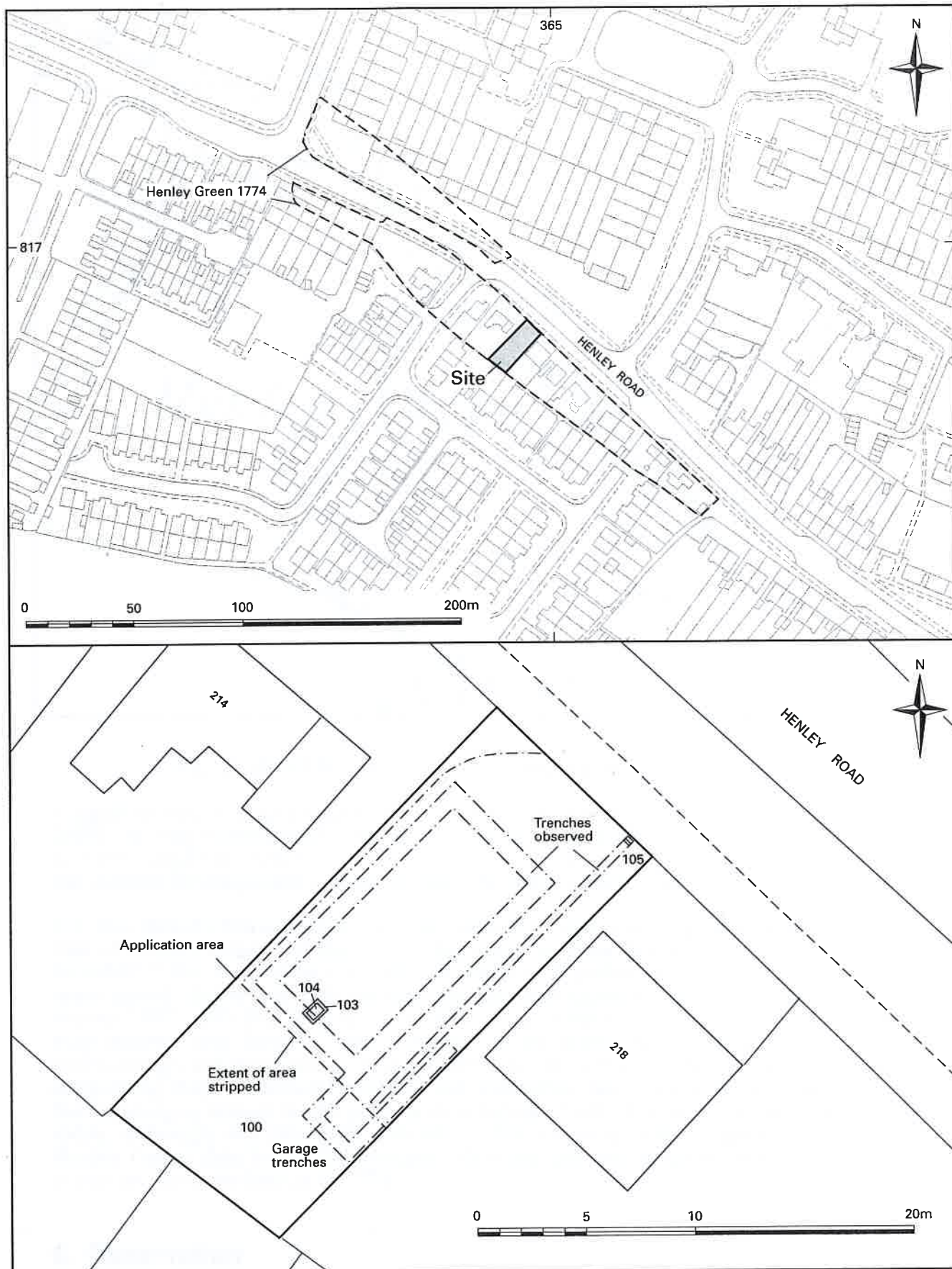


Fig. 1: Site location and areas observed

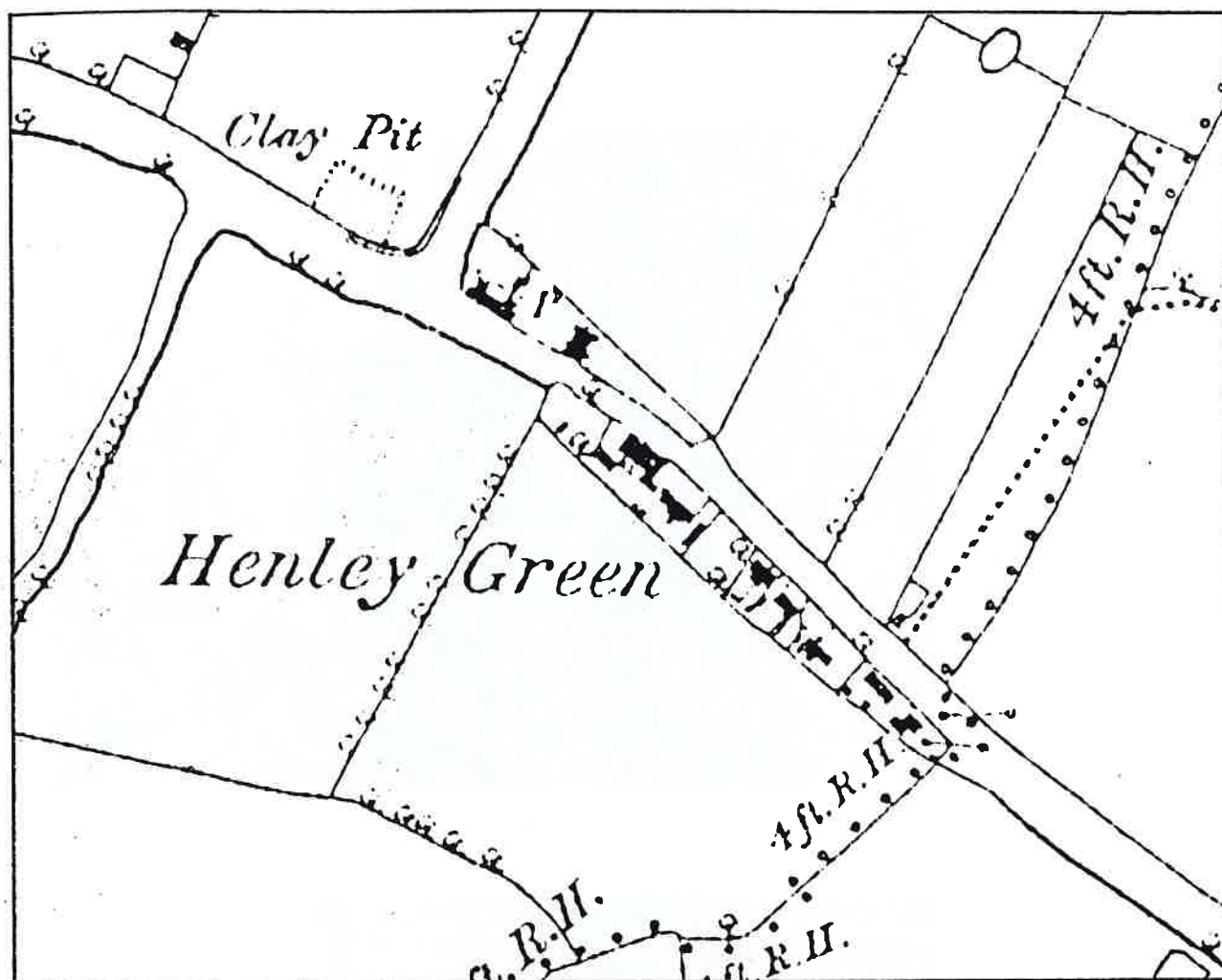


Fig. 2: Detail from the 1:10560 Ordnance Survey map of 1887

suggested that it may be medieval in origin or at least early post-medieval (Soden 2003). A long narrow building runs east-west behind the house. The eastern house is more simple in outline. A 'best-fit-enlargement' of this map would suggest that the current development site lies on the site of the eastern house.

3.3 The 1834-5 Ordnance Survey maps indicate a series of properties along the south side of Henley Green but the scale is too small to show detail (see Cover). The 1841 Foleshill Tithe map shows a different layout of buildings and the present site is unoccupied. In the late 19th century the area was again mapped in detail (Ordnance Survey 1887; 1889; Fig. 2) and shows that none of the buildings depicted on the 1774 map existed any longer. What appear to be seven houses with accompanying outbuildings are depicted on these maps. A clay pit is marked to the north-west, suggesting clay extraction, possibly for industrial purposes such as brick-making. No building is shown on the present development site. Three of the house still stand today, although one (No. 202) is derelict. The majority of the houses on this side of Henley Green date to the 20th century, although the rear property boundary appears to run on the same line as in 1774.

#### 4. Observation

4.1 The north-eastern two-thirds of the development site was initially reduced in level by c.0.40-0.50m, revealing patches of geological natural sand (101) in the southern part of the site, overlying 0.50m of almost stone-free, very dark grey silty





Fig. 3: Site after initial ground reduction



Fig. 4: Feature 103



loam topsoil. Only a single fragment of brick was noted in the topsoil, along with 19th century pottery and glass.

4.2 The foundation trenches for the new house were excavated by mini-excavator to a depth of c.0.60m within the area where the ground had previously been reduced. Natural red brown clay (102) was reached at a depth of c.0.30m and was overlain by another natural deposit of light brown sand with occasional pebbles (101), 0.25m deep. Layer 101 had been cut (107) by a feature with brick walls (103) up to 0.23m high (Figs. 3 and 4). A fill was visible between the cut for the feature and the south-eastern wall (106). The feature was rectangular and measured 0.60m x c.0.90m externally. It had a base (108) made up of broken bricks mortared together and the interior of the feature was filled with a dark grey brown silt (104) which contained large amounts of charcoal and many fragments of mid-19th century clay pipe. The charcoal fill suggests that the feature may have been the base of a hearth or flue.

4.3 A service trench was cut along the eastern side of the area to a depth of 0.60-0.70m into geological natural red brown clay (102), and light brown sand (101). The natural sand was overlain by 0.10m of the remains of the topsoil (101). No features were recorded in this trench other than the former 20th century brick boundary wall at the extreme northern edge of the site (105).

4.4 The trenches for the garage were excavated to a depth of 0.80m and were 0.60m wide. Natural red brown clay was reached at a depth of 0.70m, overlain by 0.10m of light yellowish brown clayey sand, as in the foundation trenches for the house. The sand was overlain by 0.60m of very dark grey silty loam topsoil in the south-western part of the area as no ground reduction had taken place here. The topsoil here

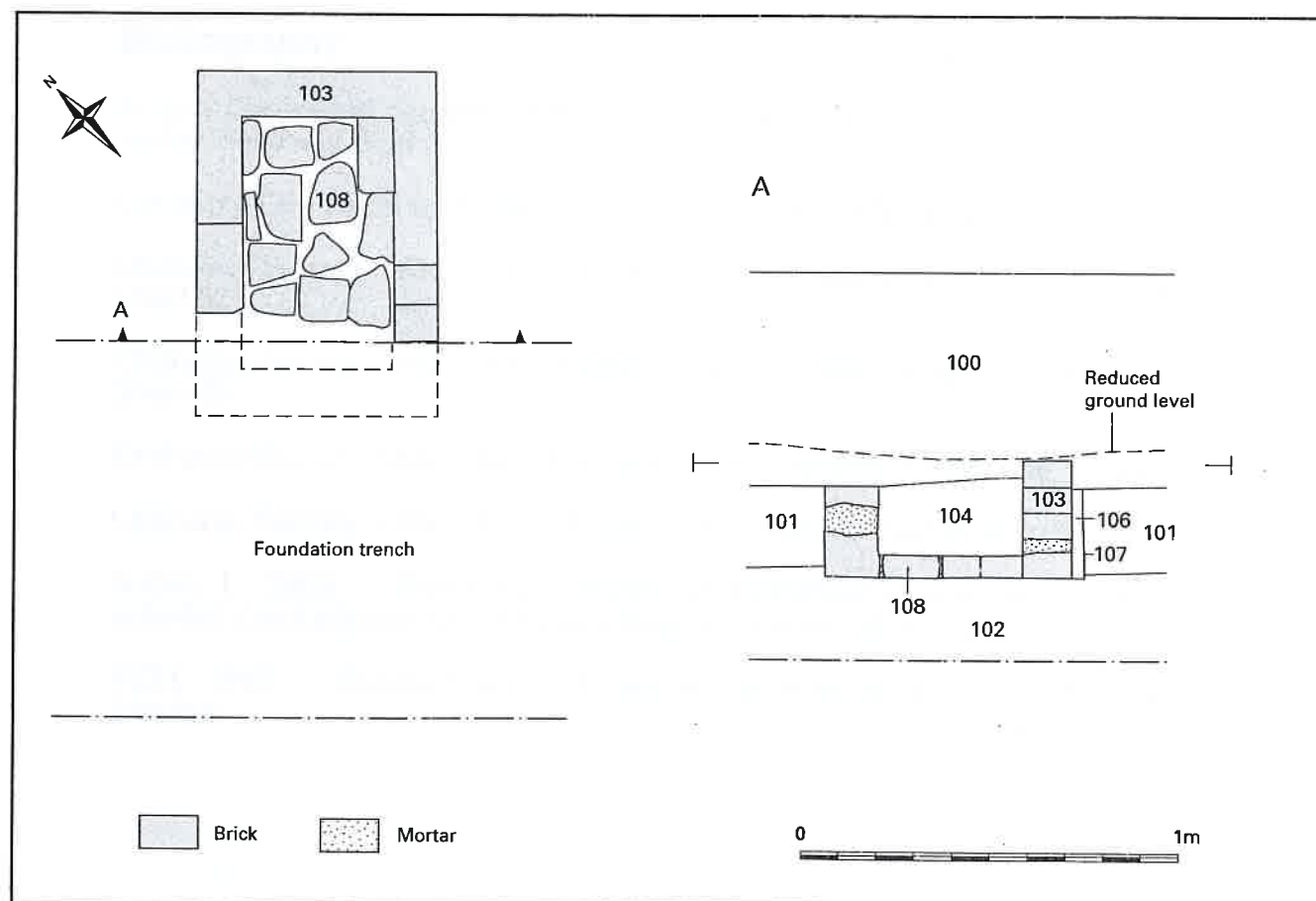


Fig 5. Feature 103 plan and section

contained a number of fragments of 16th/17th-century Blackware and 17th/18th-century Slipware and seven large fragments of a 17th/18th-century-Coarseware pancheon, as well as 18th/19th-century pottery.

## 5. Conclusions

5.1 No substantial structural remains were encountered on the site during groundworks. The topsoil did not contain any quantity of brick or stone rubble, suggesting that it is unlikely that this particular plot contained part of one of the buildings shown on the 1774 map. The only structural feature was the base of a small hearth or flue, which contained material dating to the mid 19th century. Some of the residual pottery found in the topsoil may date to the 16th or 17th century and there was a n amount of 17th/18th-century pottery, but the majority of material from the site dated from the late 18th-19th century. It seems likely that the buildings depicted on the 1774 map lay on one side of the plot and most of this pottery will represent domestic waste material.

## Acknowledgements

The Warwickshire Museum would like to thank Mr and Mrs Mander for commissioning the work. Work on site was carried out by Catherine Coutts and Rob Jones. This report was written by Catherine Coutts with illustrations by Andy Isham. It was checked by Nicholas Palmer.

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## Appendix: List of Finds

Context:	Material	Quantity	Date/Comments
100	Pottery	33	16th/17th century Blackware (Warwickshire Pottery reference code MB01) - 3 17th-19th century Slipware - 4 (SLPW02, SLPW03) Blackware - 4 (MB02) Creamware - 3 (CRW) Mocha - 3 (MO) Pearlware - 4 (PLW) Stoneware - 2 (STE02) Modern glazed wares - 3 (MGW) *Coarseware pancheon - 7 (CW01)
100	Clay pipe	1	stem
104	Pottery	4	late 18th/19th century Pearlware - 2 (PLW) Blackware - 1 (MB02) Creamware - 1 (CRW)
104	Clay pipe	12	1840s-1860s, including three spurred bowls
104	Glass	3	2 frags window glass, 1 rod
104	Iron	1	nail
104	Animal bone	2	
104	Ceramic	1	ball (marble-type)

\* Two sherds removed into Warwickshire Pottery Reference Collection held at the Warwickshire Museum