



**Archaeological excavation on land at  
Much Park Street car park, Coventry  
West Midlands  
2014-15**

Report no. 16/71

Author: Jonathan Elston

Illustrator: James Ladocha



---

©MOLA Northampton  
Project Manager: Jim Brown  
Site Code: CUS 14  
NGR: SP 33774 78697

---

MOLA  
Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton  
NN4 8BN 01604 809 800  
[www.mola.org.uk](http://www.mola.org.uk)  
[business@mola.org.uk](mailto:business@mola.org.uk)



**Archaeological excavation on land at  
Much Park Street car park, Coventry  
West Midlands  
2014-15**

Report no. 16/71

Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	11-May-16	Pat Chapman	Jim Brown	Steve Parry	Report for review by AECOM

Author: Jonathan Elston

Illustrator: James Ladocha

© MOLA Northampton 2016

MOLA  
Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton  
NN4 8BN  
01604 809 800  
[www.mola.org.uk](http://www.mola.org.uk)  
[sparry@mola.org.uk](mailto:sparry@mola.org.uk)



## STAFF

Project Manager	Jim Brown BSC PGDIP MCIfA
Text	Jonathan Elston
Fieldwork	Jonathan Elston
	Adrian Adams
	Emma Bailey BA
	Andrew Smith BA
Watching brief	Dave Leigh BA
The pottery	Iain Soden BA MCIfA
The building material	Pat Chapman BA ACIfA
The animal bone	Adam Reid BA
Clay tobacco-pipes and other finds	Tora Hylton
Illustrations	James Ladocha BA



# OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>OASIS no. molanort1-248917</b>	
Project name	Archaeological investigation on land at Much Park Street car park, Coventry, West Midlands, 2014-15		
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological excavation was carried out in the winter of 2014-15 by MOLA Northampton on land at Much Park Street car park, Coventry, West Midlands. The excavation revealed heavily truncated medieval and post-medieval structures behind the street frontage of Much Park Street, at the west end of the car park. Evidence of a timber-framed building, which was replaced in stone, predated a stone undercroft with surviving architectural features, both developments of the 13th-15th centuries. The site was the subject of extensive 19th-century development for a ribbon factory, which incorporated surviving elements of the stone medieval undercroft into the factory basement and reused stone boundary walls with brick modifications.		
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Detailed excavation and watching brief		
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	none		
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	Heritage assessment (Meckseper 2013) Trial trench evaluation (Thompson 2014)		
Current land use	car park		
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	none		
Monument type/ period	medieval and post-medieval structures		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	none		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	West Midlands		
Site address (including postcode)	Much Park Street car park, Coventry, West Midlands, CV1 2LT		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	560 sq.m		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	SP 33772 78697		
Height OD	83-85m OD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Chris Patrick, Coventry Conservation and Archaeology Officer		
Project Design originator	Chris Thomas, MOLA London		
Director/Supervisor	Jonathan Elston, MOLA Northampton		
Project Manager	Jim Brown, MOLA Northampton		
Sponsor or funding body	Coventry University		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date/End date	26/10/2014 – 18/12/2014		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>	
Physical	Coventry Museum Accession code to be arranged on deposition	pottery, animal bone, building materials, clay tobacco-pipes and other finds	
Paper		background documentation, research notes, context record, photographic record, supporting registers etc.	
Digital		client report PDF, digital photographs	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	Archaeological excavations on land at Much Park Street car park, Coventry, West Midlands, 2014-15		
Serial title & volume	client report 16/71		
Author(s)	Jonathan Elston		
Page numbers	56		
Date	11 May 2016		



# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>BACKGROUND</b>	
2.1	Location, topography and geology	
2.2	Historical and archaeological background	
<b>3</b>	<b>AIMS AND OBJECTIVES</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE</b>	
5.1	General summary	
5.2	Late medieval, a formalised street frontage (13th to 15th centuries)	
5.3	Post-medieval redevelopment (16th to 20th centuries)	
<b>6</b>	<b>THE FINDS</b>	
6.1	The pottery	by Iain Soden
6.2	The building materials	by Pat Chapman
6.3	The animal bone	by Adam Reid
6.4	The clay tobacco pipes	by Tora Hylton
6.5	The other finds	by Tora Hylton
<b>7</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	
	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	
	<b>APPENDIX 1</b>	<b>CONTEXT INDEX</b>
	<b>APPENDIX 2</b>	<b>STONEMASONRY PHOTOGRAPHS</b>
	<b>APPENDIX 3</b>	<b>3D MODEL</b>

## Figures

- Front cover: Aerial view of the site, orientated towards north
- Fig 1: Site location  
 Fig 2: Archaeological areas of investigation  
 Fig 3: Selected Historic Environment Record (HER) data  
 Fig 4: John Speed's map of 1610  
 Fig 5: Thomas Jefferys' map of 1748-9  
 Fig 6: EW Brayley's map of 1807  
 Fig 7: Map of Coventry, 1837  
 Fig 8: Board of Health map, 1851  
 Fig 9: First edition 25" Ordnance Survey map, 1888  
 Fig 10: Ordnance Survey map of 1962  
 Fig 11: Much Park Street, 1912  
 Fig 12: Plan of archaeological features and structures  
 Fig 13: Truncated pit [124], Section 7  
 Fig 14: Building [139] and undercroft [138], looking east  
 Fig 15: Wall [60] with V-shaped sockets to support the vaulting, looking south  
 Fig 16: Undercroft skylight [141], looking east  
 Fig 17: Springer set into north wall [61], looking north  
 Fig 18: Well [66], looking south  
 Fig 19: Flagstone yard [87] and well [66], looking west-south-west  
 Fig 20: Flagstone surface [87] and well [66], Section 6  
 Fig 21: Wall [129] in TP1, looking north-west  
 Fig 22: Clay floor (47) in TP3, looking south-east  
 Fig 23: TP2, Sections 2 and 5  
 Fig 24: Aerial view of the site, orientated towards north  
 Fig 25: Structure [5] storerooms, looking west  
 Fig 26: Wall [29] and brick floor [125], looking north-north-west  
 Fig 27: 19th-century doorway into undercroft, looking south-east  
 Fig 28: Boundary wall [65] overlain by wall [143], looking east  
 Fig 29: Clay tobacco-pipes, representing public houses  
 Fig 30: Bone domino game piece, (SF6)  
 Fig 31: Bone working debris, (SF7)

## Appendix 2

- Fig 32: Undercroft floors, looking south  
 Fig 33: Column on wall [60], looking south  
 Fig 34: Undercrofts [138] wall [60], looking south-east  
 Fig 35: Ceiling boss from rubble backfill of [138]  
 Fig 36: Ceiling boss from rubble backfill of [138]  
 Fig 37: Stone moulding from demolition deposits  
 Fig 38: Stone moulding from demolition deposits  
 Fig 39: Stone moulding from around the undercroft  
 Fig 40: Stone moulding from around the undercroft

## Appendix 3

- Fig 41: Screen capture of 3D model, orientated looking south-west  
 Fig 42: Screen capture of 3D model, orientated looking south-east

Back cover: Aerial view of the medieval building [139] and undercroft [138]

## Tables

Table 1:	Historic Environment Record (MCT) and Event numbers (ECT)
Table 2:	Identified periods and relevant archaeological features
Table 3:	Quantification of pottery
Table 4:	Animal bone, the identified taxa
Table 5:	Clay tobacco-pipe bowls and stamps
Table 6:	Clay tobacco-pipe catalogue



# **Archaeological excavation on land at Much Park Street car park, Coventry West Midlands 2014-15**

## *Abstract*

*An archaeological excavation was carried out in the winter of 2014-15 by MOLA Northampton on land at Much Park Street car park, Coventry, West Midlands. The excavation revealed heavily truncated medieval and post-medieval structures behind the street frontage of Much Park Street, at the west end of the car park. Evidence of a timber-framed building, which was replaced in stone, predated a stone undercroft with surviving architectural features, both developments of the 13th-15th centuries. The site was the subject of extensive 19th-century development for a ribbon factory, which incorporated surviving elements of the stone medieval undercroft into the factory basement and reused stone boundary walls with brick modifications.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

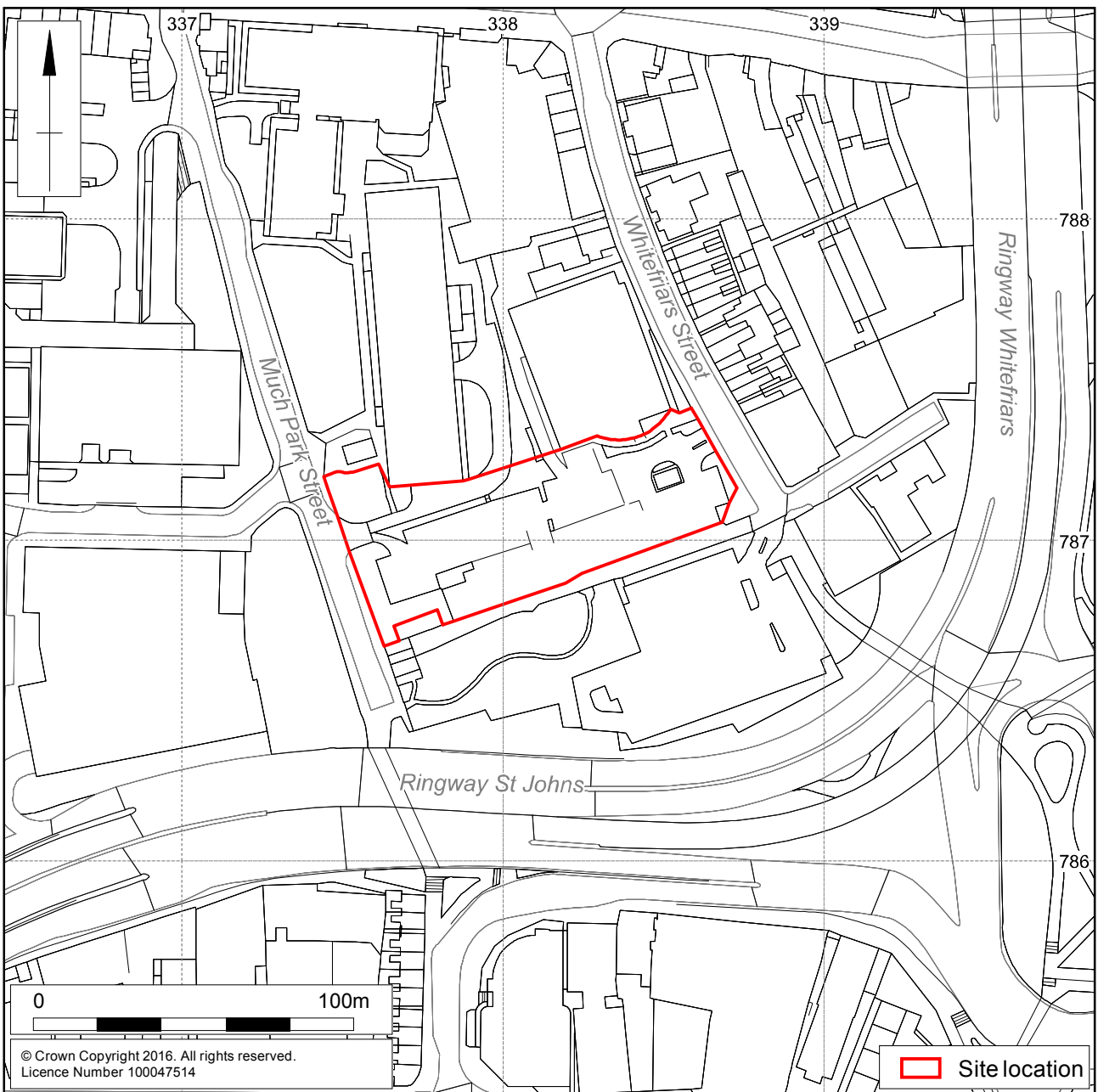
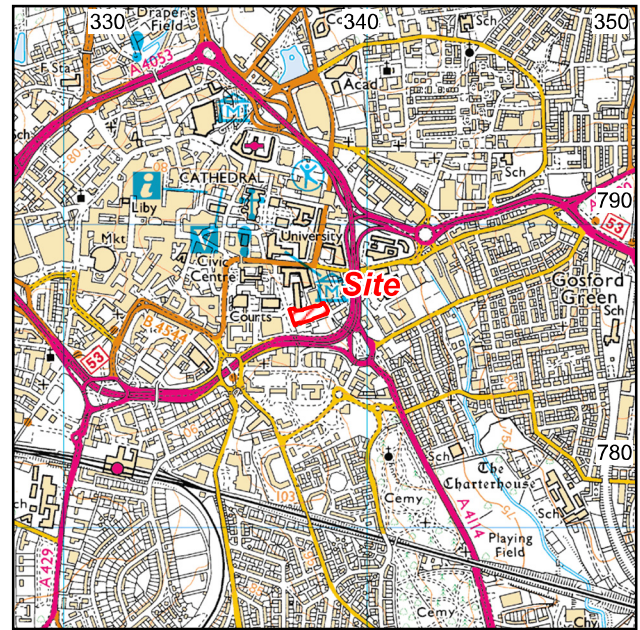
In December 2014, MOLA Northampton was commissioned by AECOM, on behalf of Coventry University to conduct an archaeological investigation on land at Much Park Street car park, Coventry (Fig 1; SP 33774 38697). The investigation was carried out prior to the ground works for the construction of a new science building. The project was designed to identify the extent of archaeological remains and to mitigate the impact of the pile foundations.

The site lies within an area of known archaeological interest due to its location on a main road that has existed from the 13th century. Much Park Street heads south from the medieval town centre, passing the gatehouse to Whitefriars Priory, and out of the city through the town wall at New Gate. The road would have formed an important link to and from London that attracted businesses wishing to send produce to larger markets as well as catering for visitors newly arrived in Coventry.

A previous archaeological evaluation identified medieval walls and an undercroft on the western edge of the site along with the remains of a 19th-century ribbon factory (Thompson 2014).

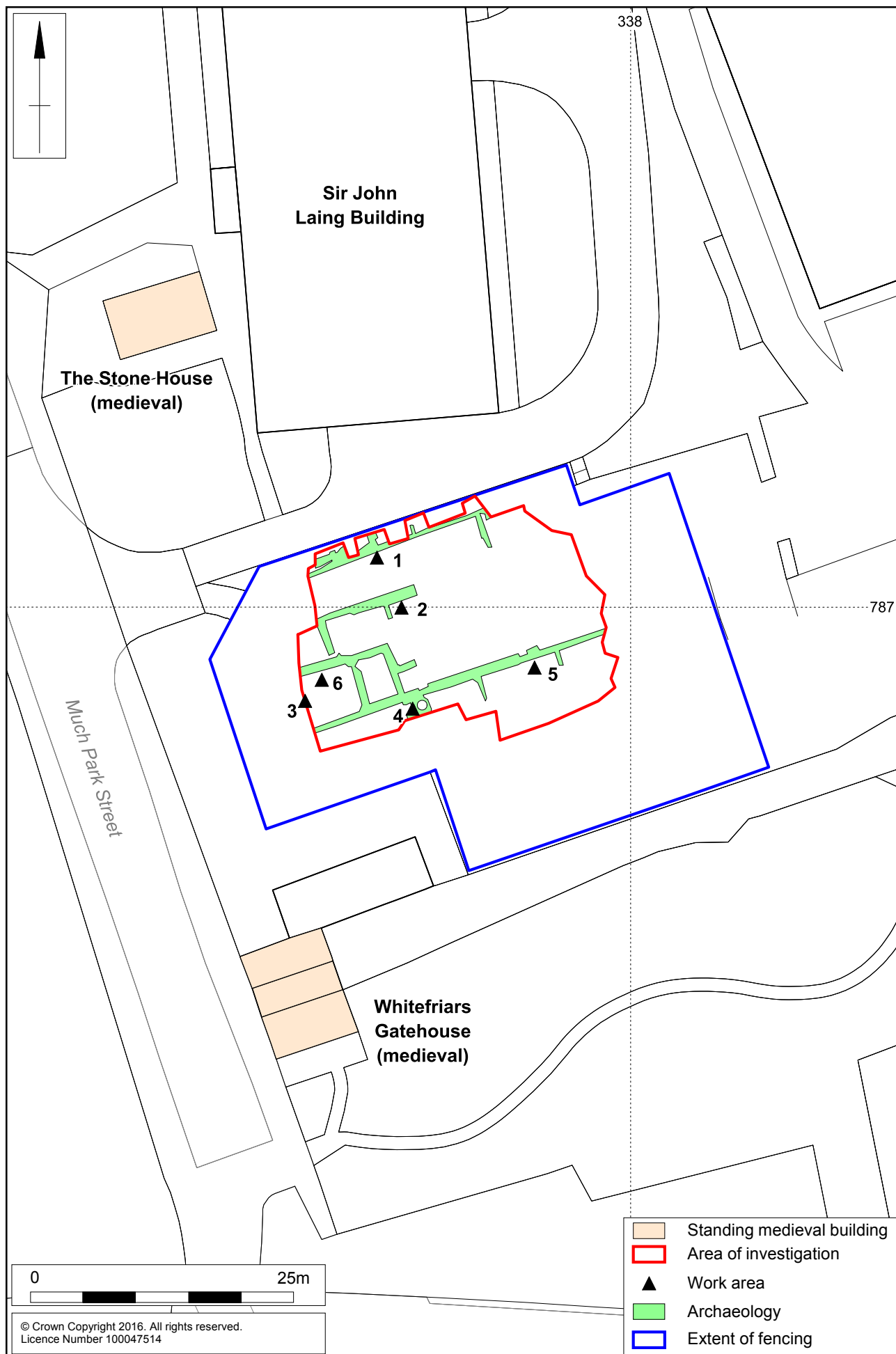
Consequently, a further programme of archaeological investigation within the proposed development area (PDA) was required. The requirements of the site investigation were outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by MOLA (2014a-b) and approved by the Coventry City Council Conservation and Archaeology Officer.

The detailed excavation was carried out following the guidelines suggested by the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation and Code of Conduct*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA 2014a-b). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with Historic England, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (HE 2015) and MOLA's *Archaeology Fieldwork Manual* (2014b).



Scale 1:2000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:500

Archaeological areas of investigation Fig 2

## **2 Background**

### **2.1 Location, topography and geology**

The development site lies in the south-east area of the city centre and forms part of the Coventry University campus, bounded by Much Park Street to the west, Whitefriars Lane to the south and university buildings to the north (NGR SP 33774 78697; Fig 1).

The general topography across the site is flat. Prior to the works the area was split between two levels, likely created during the construction of the current carpark. The upper level was adjacent to the southern site boundary along Whitefriars Lane with the majority of the PDA being located on the lower level to the north at 85.0m Above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and covered an area 29.0m long by 23.0m wide.

The solid geology of the area is Upper Carboniferous red brown mudstone and sandstone with subordinate lenticular conglomerates and thin limestones of the Keresley member (BGS 2015).

### **2.2 Historical and archaeological background**

A desk-based heritage asset assessment provides a detailed account of the archaeological and historical assets within 300m of the PDA (Meckseper 2013). As it forms a comprehensive record for the historical assets, a brief history and only the relevant information is summarised below.

#### ***Prehistoric and Roman***

The desk-based assessment indicated that there are no designated Prehistoric or Roman heritage assets within the development area and due to the intrusive nature of urban development; if they were present they have not survived.

#### ***Late Saxon***

Throughout the modern city of Coventry and surrounding areas, place names that contain the suffix *-ley* (such as Canley, Henley and Corley) indicate a clearing in the forest and are likely of Anglo-Saxon origin (Soden 2005, 16). The city centre, however, was likely settled in the late Saxon period although the location of the settlement is not known.

The first documented evidence for Coventry was the founding of a Benedictine House in 1043 by Leofric, Earl of Mercia and his wife Godiva. The priory would have drawn people to the area and it is likely that a settlement would have been established in close proximity. Some 43 years later, an entry in the Domesday survey of 1086 lists Coventry as having 69 households with a value of 5 geld units indicating a well-established town had grown.

The development site lies to the south of the priory and there are no known assets of this period associated within the area.

#### ***Saxo-Norman and medieval***

During the early medieval period Coventry was undergoing a period of prosperity from wealth brought in by the cloth and wool trade. Growth of the town was limited on its southern edge by Cheylesmore Park (MCT2038), which was attached to

Chelyesmore manor and constructed around 1154 AD. The park was enclosed by a massive ditch and bank known as the *Hersum* or Red Ditch (MCT2037) which potentially crosses within 80m of the eastern end of the PDA, on a north to south alignment, before turning to the west. It was found during excavations at the Civic Centre in 1974 and again when the Law Courts were constructed in 1980.

The site, which had been within the boundaries of the deer park since its construction, underwent a change of use during the 13th century when the park boundaries were relaxed due to pressure from the city's need to expand. Initially the area had little in the way of occupation but developed as a place for metal working with small timber-framed workshops and agriculture. These were identified in excavations carried out in the early 1970s at Stone House (ECT464), 122-3 Much Park Street (ECT123) and later excavations at the former public house, The Greyhound (MCT109).

The trend continued up until the mid-1300s by which time a Carmelite Priory (MCT850), attracted to the city by the growing wealth from the wool industry, had been established to the south-east of the PDA. The gatehouse to the priory (MCT890), built in 1352, fronts onto Much Park Street at the west end of Whitefriars Lane that runs along the southern boundary of the site leading to the priory (Fig 2). Although the priory was dissolved in 1583 the Whitefriars Gatehouse still stands and is a Grade II\* Listed building.

In 1363 Edward III granted Coventry the right to crenellate. A defensive wall (MCT2599) was constructed around the town allowing thoroughfares south of the city, towards London, to be developed. Much Park Street (MCT16303), which had existed from the 13th century, became the main route exiting the city through a gatehouse called New Gate (MCT601), 150-190m to the south-east of the PDA.

During this time, Much Park Street underwent a period of clearance and the industrial workshops were replaced with timber buildings set upon stone footings along the street frontage. These properties had gardens to the rear and yards with access to the street along the side. They were a mixture of domestic dwellings for wealthy merchants, commercial properties and public houses that catered for the passing trade to and from London.

Later in the 14th century and at the beginning of the 15th century some of the properties were enhanced by incorporating stone vaulted cellars or "undercrofts". Some examples of these have been found on Bailey Lane, Gosford Street (behind the Phoenix public house) and most notably The Stone House (MCT202) on Much Park Street, which was revealed during bombing in the Second World War and still survives to the north of the site (Fig 2).

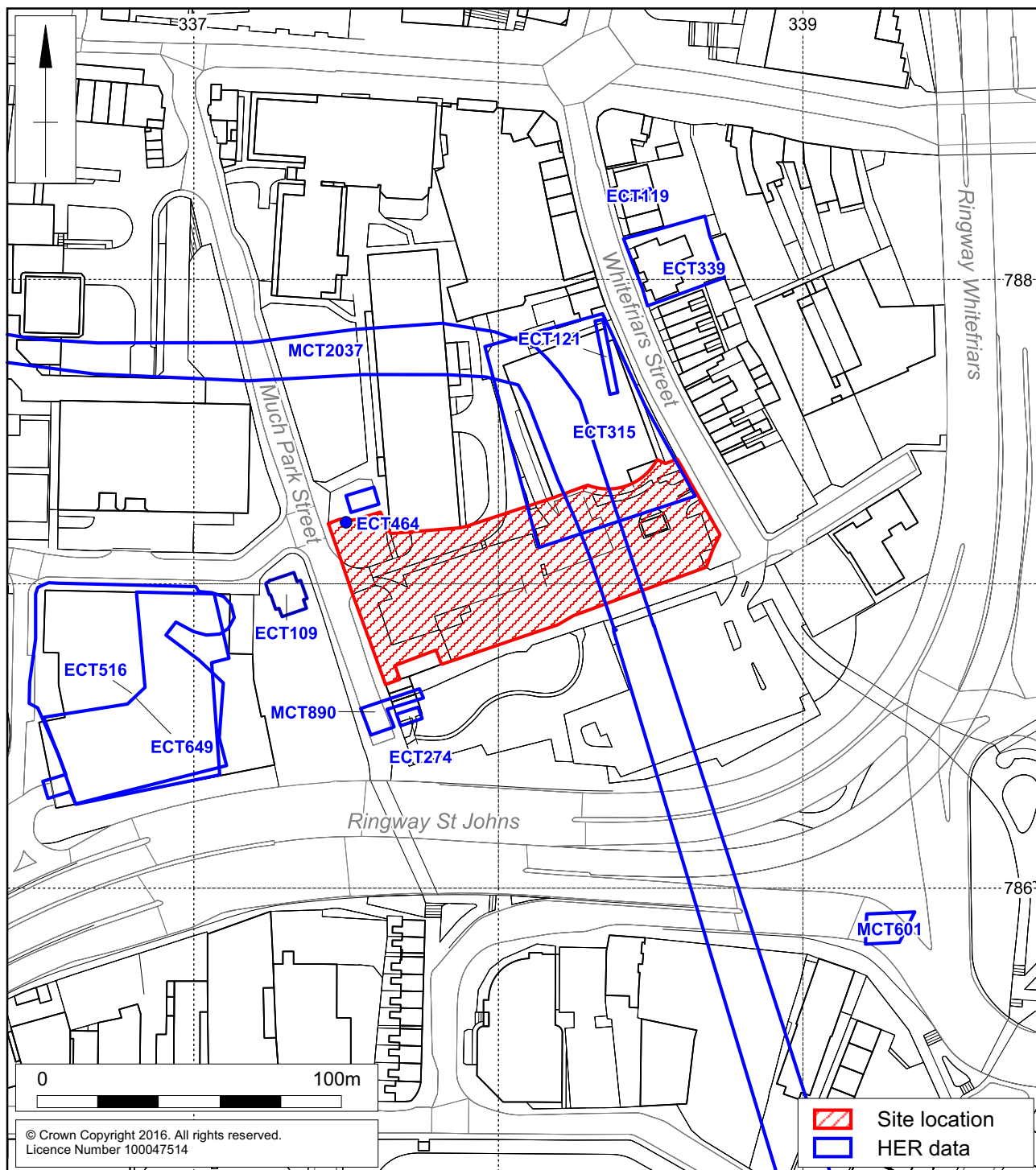
Table 1 lists the Historic Environment Record numbers (MCT) and archaeological investigations by Event numbers (ECT) along Much Park Street, St John's street and Whitefriars Lane and should be used in conjunction with Figure 3.

Table 1: Historic Environment Record (MCT) and Event numbers (ECT)

HER no (MCT)	Event no (ECT)	Description
202	464	<i>The Stone House; rear of 28 Much Park Street</i> Visible as a standing ruin and was built in the 1340s as a mercantile house. Stone footing presumably for timber-framed building was also identified. Excavations in 1970-71 found evidence of metalworking from the 12th to early 13th centuries.
8083	274	<i>38 Much Park Street</i> A survey prior to the demolition of 38 Much Park Street identified a substantial medieval building. The party wall between the medieval building and Whitefriars Gatehouse may have pre-dated the gatehouse.
8293	339	<i>14th-century quarry pit, 68-70 Whitefriars Street</i> Large 14th-century quarry pits were excavated, part of a stone mould for producing decorative fittings was recovered.
8295	339	<i>A boundary wall and ditch</i> Excavated extending south from Gosford Street to the precinct wall of Whitefriars Monastery, possibly a medieval burgrave plot. Evidence of occupation in the medieval period was also identified in the form of a large number of 14th- and 15th-century pits, which contained pottery and slag.
14361	516	<i>Medieval occupation, St John's Street</i> A first phase evaluation identified mid- to late medieval occupation. Pits, postholes, metalworking and structural remains of a building were found.
15970	649	<i>12th/13th-century pits and beam slots, St John's Street.</i> Features interpreted as probably pits and beam slots dating from the 12th-13th centuries, St John's Car Park in 2008
15971	649	<i>Medieval buildings and property boundaries, St John's Street</i> Stone foundations of three 14th- or 15th-century buildings were excavated along with boundary walls and ditches forming property plots. Pits were also excavated.
15972	649	<i>15th/16th-century occupation and industry, St John's Street</i> Over 100 pits of varying uses, including tanning, storage, postholes, rubbish disposal and a large quarry pit with an access ramp dating to the 15th and 16th centuries were excavated on this site in 2008. Evidence for small scale button production, metalwork and dying was identified. Possible cloth production may also have taken place with some pits being associated with a tenter ground.
16300	464	<i>Site of burials in Much Park Street</i> Burials recorded by Shelton found on Much Park Street (no further information available).
16508	109	<i>Medieval site; The Greyhound, Much Park Street</i> Earliest phase of activity on the site represented by a buried soil suggesting agricultural use of the land and a pit in the early medieval period.

HER no (MCT)	Event no (ECT)	Description
16509	109	<i>Medieval site; The Greyhound, Much Park Street</i> The second phase of activity in Trench 1 found the remains of a probable timber-framed building dating from the early medieval period.
16514	109	<i>Possible medieval tower, The Greyhound, Much Park Street</i> The remains of a large stone building, possibly a tower, were excavated during an evaluation.
16518	119	<i>Early medieval occupation; 76 Whitefriars Street</i> First and second phases of occupation recorded dating to the early 12th to 13th centuries excavated in 1995
16519	119	<i>Third phase of medieval occupation and ironworking site, 76 Whitefriars Street</i> Evidence of ironworking and occupation dating to the 14th century discovered in 1995 excavation.
16520	119	<i>Fourth phase of medieval occupation, 76 Whitefriars Street</i> Evidence dating to the mid-14th century comprised of several pits, one with organic remains, and a linear feature.
16521	119	<i>Fifth phase of medieval occupation, 76 Whitefriars Street</i> Evidence dating to the mid-14th century comprised stone-lined pits, a well and the remains of an undercroft, excavated in 1995.
16523	315	<i>Medieval occupation and metalworking: Whitefriars Sports Hall 2003</i> Pits of 14th- to 15th-century date were excavated, some contained evidence of metalworking.

In the late medieval period Coventry suffered an economic depression. The cloth and wool trade had gone into decline being unable to compete with cheaper markets elsewhere and properties across the city stood empty causing rents to fall. The dissolution of the monasteries in 1539 resulted in Coventry's stagnation for the next 200 years.



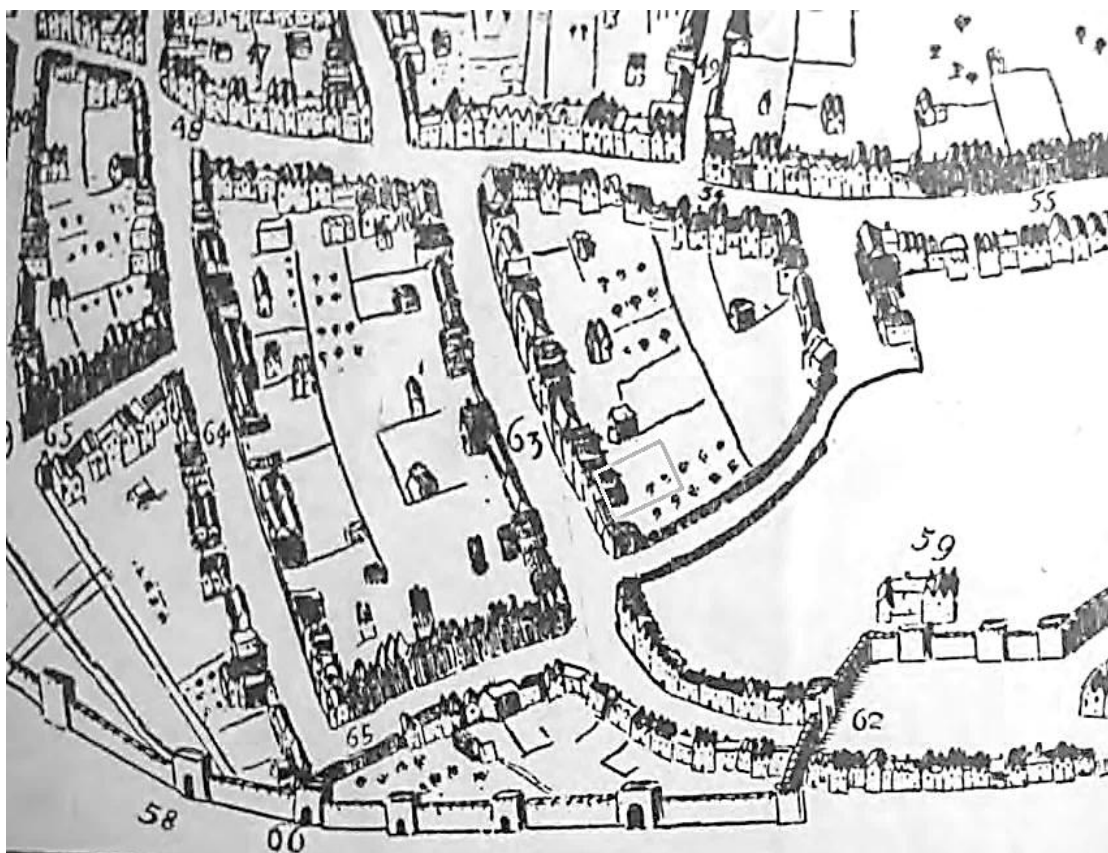
Scale 1: 2000

Selected Historic Environment Record (HER) data Fig 3

### ***Post-medieval and cartographic evidence***

The following maps show the approximate location of the PDA outlined in red. With little development or growth occurring during the early 1600s, John Speed's map 1610 (Fig 4) would be a fair representation of medieval Coventry. It shows a well-established street layout surrounded by the defensive town wall and gatehouses. Much Park Street is clearly marked on the map curving south-east towards New Gate and has developed street frontages with open plots of land with the occasional outhouse to the rear.

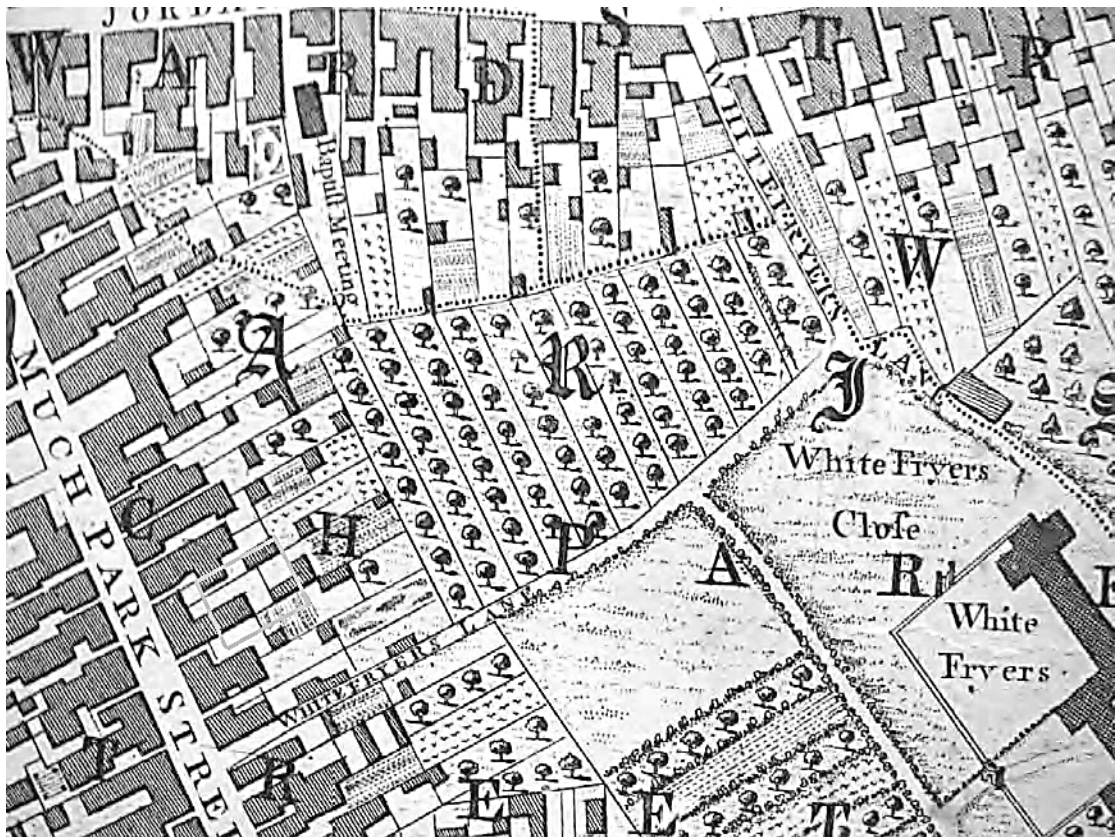
The area of the PDA was located at the back of the street frontage over the rear projection of the building on an east to west alignment. The area surrounding it was open, possibly a yard and gardens with two rows of trees to the east representing a small orchard. Whitefriars Lane is visible on the map, although it is unnamed; it shows a possible hedgerow, fence or wall lining the route.



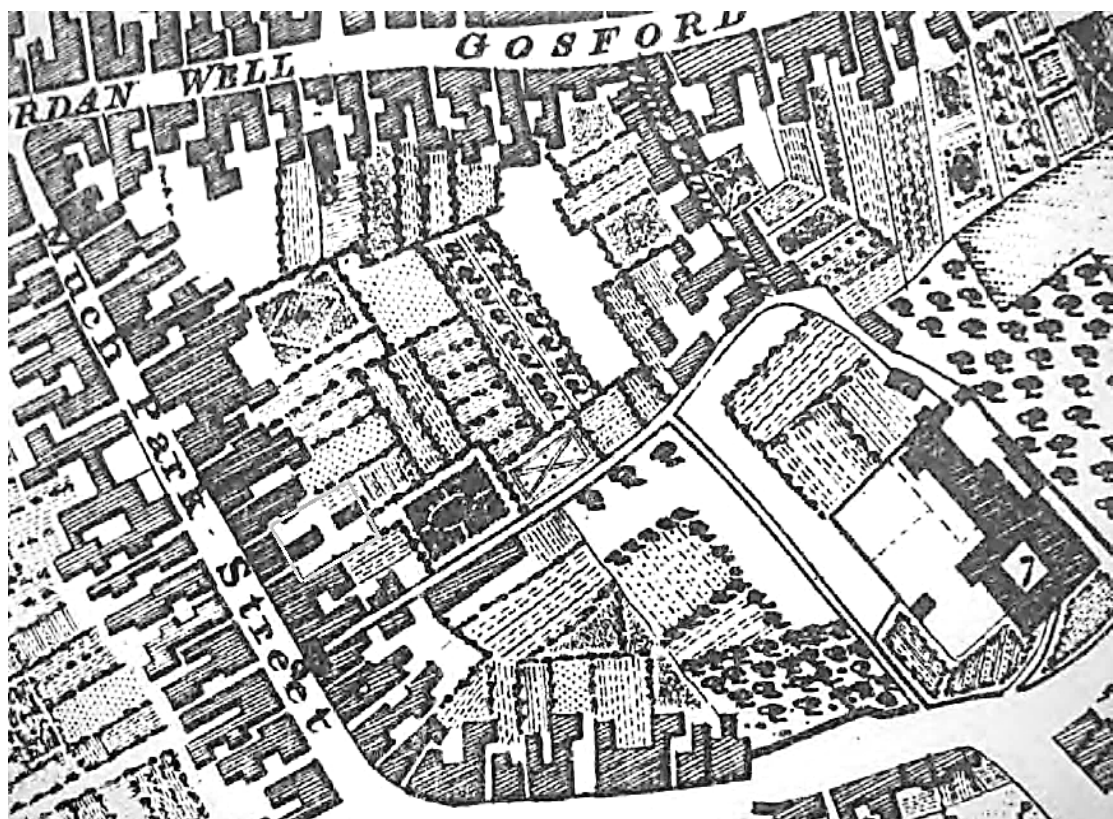
John Speed's map of 1610 Fig 4

The city was besieged in 1642 during the English Civil War and New Gate, 150m to the south-east of the PDA, was attacked. Musket balls found during excavations on the site of university's sports hall on the northern boundary of the site provided archaeological evidence for the skirmish (ECT121).

After the Civil war Coventry's defensive walls were slighted and can be seen marked on Thomas Jefferys' map as ruins in 1748-9. Much Park Street's frontage is clearly drawn with defined boundaries (Fig 5), possibly the original medieval burgage plots, present to the rear.



Thomas Jefferys' map of 1748-9 Fig 5

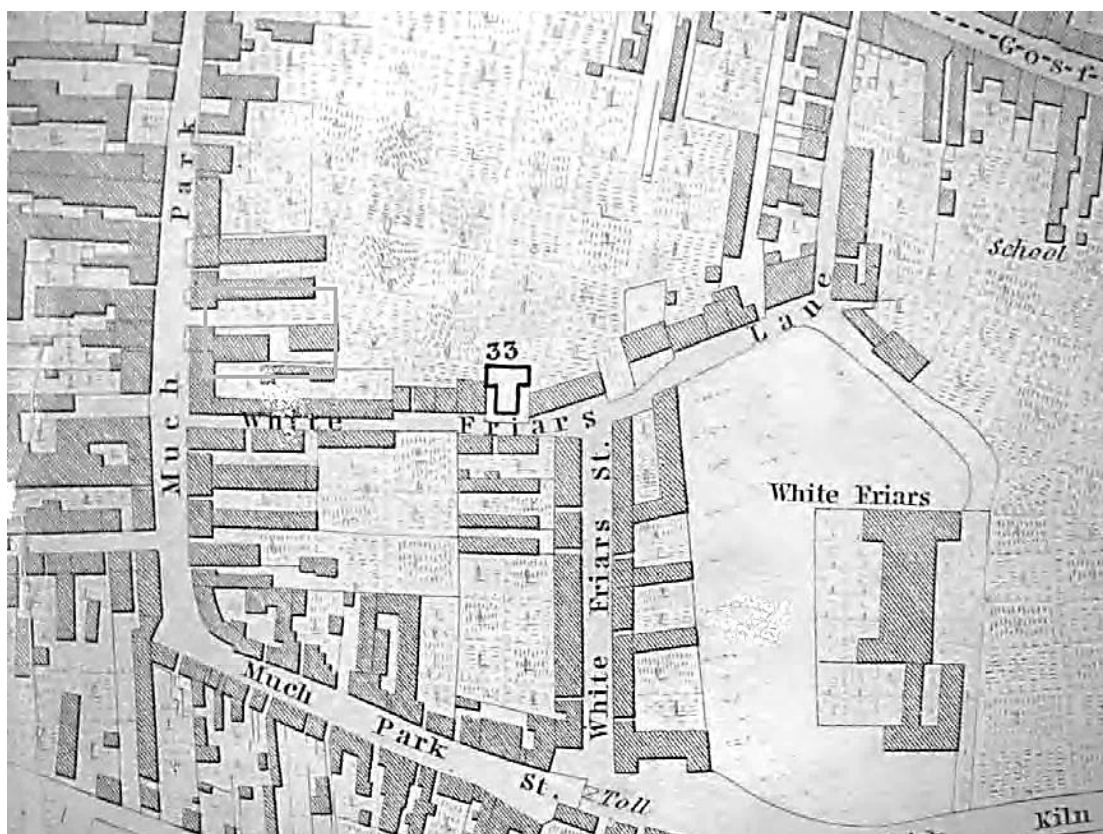


EW Brayley's map of 1807 Fig 6

With the addition of a few outhouses there was little change within the area which can be seen by comparison with EW Brayley's map of 1807 (Fig 6).

Although the map evidence does not show a significant change in Coventry, new industries were developing in the city with silk ribbon weaving and watchmaking on a small scale, operating out of pre-existing workshops and houses with most of the work being done by hand.

Thirty years later Whitefriars Lane, on the 1837 map of Coventry (Fig 7), had street frontages along its length. The properties did not extend far off the frontage and the open areas behind remained intact.

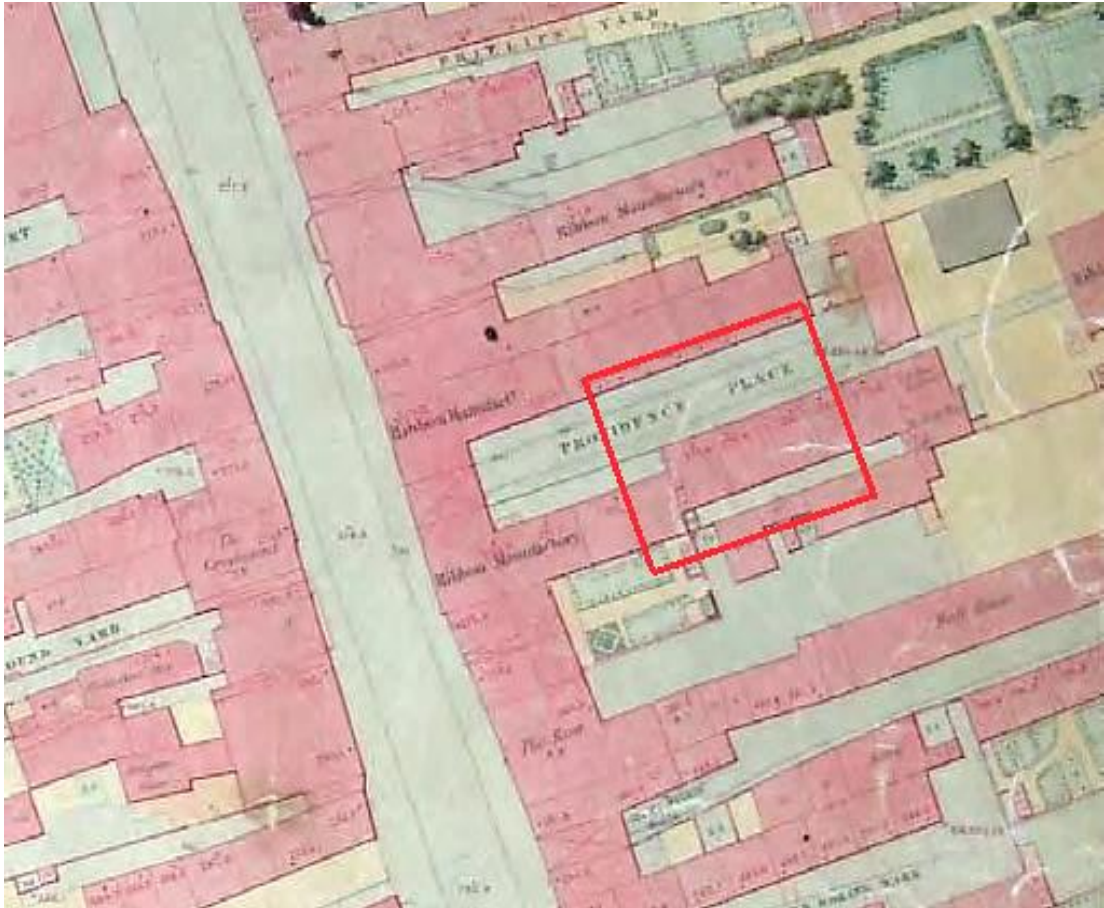


Map of Coventry, 1837 Fig 7

In the 1840s the site underwent redevelopment as industrialisation transformed the city. The small scale ribbon weavers started to use weaving machines that required larger buildings. The 1851 Board of Health map shows the area of the PDA had been significantly altered (Fig 8). A large building dominated the plot and is labelled as a ribbon manufactory with a court area called Providence Place. The northern edge of the court was lined with properties running perpendicular from Much Park Street to the rear of another ribbon manufacturer occupying the frontage.

The ribbon factory within the PDA respected the established plot boundaries on the map, appearing to be based upon the footings of the previously mapped buildings and possibly using them as foundations.

From Curtis and Beamish's Directory of Coventry, 1874-5, the ribbon manufactory is listed under Providence place as *Pizzie and Cramp's factory* and later, in 1909, as *Cramp Jas & Son Ltd manufactrs of blouses, shirts, costumes, ribbons, blouse and shirt labels, tubular ties, etc.*

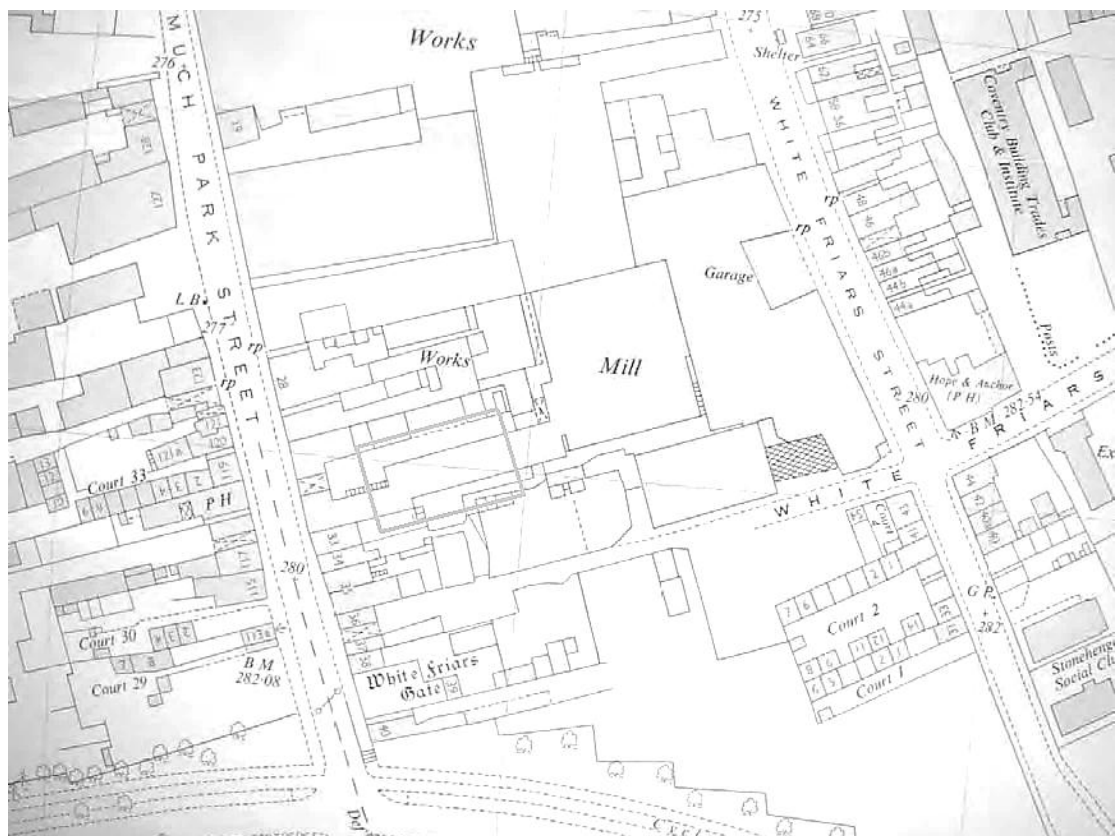


Board of Health map, 1851 Fig 8

Ordnance Survey maps dated between 1888 and 1962 show the central part of the site remained dominated by the factory, Court 6 (Providence Place) and associated buildings (Figs 9-10).



First edition 25" OS map, 1888 Fig 9



Ordnance Survey map of 1962 Fig 10

A photograph of Much Park Street from 1912 views the street from opposite Whitefriars Gatehouse looking north (Fig 11).



Much Park Street, 1912 Fig 11

On the frontage, three buildings along from the gatehouse, the factory building can be seen with two rows of windows for light and an archway with a dropped kerb for street access to Providence Place (Fig 11).

### ***Modern development***

Redevelopment occurred again during the late 1960s with the construction of a ringway around Coventry's centre which passes immediately to the south of the site. The buildings within the PDA were demolished in the 1970s and the Sir John Laing building was constructed to the north. Ordnance Survey maps clearly record the development of the city centre to the present day.

## **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The investigation was carried out in two phases; the initial aim, given the known potential for medieval remains, was to remove the overburden from the PDA and identify the extent and character of the archaeological remains present.

The second phase of the investigation was to provide mitigation for any remains within the PDA that would conflict with the new foundations and service trenches. Specific interest was focused around and within the medieval undercroft to ensure no medieval elements were removed without being recorded and any stone work considered of architectural merit was identified and recorded.

The specific objectives of the project provided further information on the following:

- Identify the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site;
- Ensure that any medieval remains of architectural significance were not removed;
- To clean and plan the archaeological remains at the western end of the site where the deposits lie closest to the surface;
- Record areas to be disturbed by piling at the western end of the site where this does not involve excavation of deposits to be preserved *in situ*;
- Assist in identifying any areas where foundations or service trenches would need relocating (e.g. in the event of passing through an architecturally significant feature);
- Identify the depth of natural deposits, where encountered;
- Record evidence for the date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation encountered within the building footprint on the Much Park Street frontage;
- Provide an opportunity for more detailed archaeological fieldwork, as necessary, in order to enable preservation by record where significant archaeological remains will otherwise be lost;
- Recover artefacts to assist in development of the artefact studies within the region;
- Recover palaeo-environmental or industrial residues where they might be encountered.

The investigation was carried out according to the objectives suggested by the published research priorities set out by Historic England (HE 2015), with specific reference to the West Midlands Research Framework for Archaeology, published by the University of Birmingham on their website.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

An area measuring 28m by 23m located at the western end of the car park was marked out using Leica Viva Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of  $\pm 0.05\text{m}$  (Fig 2). The area agreed upon in the WSI was only altered to incorporate existing limiting factors such as tree preservation orders, root protection areas, live services and safe access and egress to the site.

The modern surfaces were broken up using a 360° excavator fitted with a breaker and removed with a toothless ditching bucket and small dumper truck. The underlying non-structural post-medieval and modern layers were then removed by machine, under archaeological supervision. This material were then stored on the upper level of the car park alongside Whitefriars Lane, keeping the tarmac and concrete separate from the bulk of the soils.

The remaining structures and potential archaeological features were then hand cleaned and planned at 1;50 scale, with relevant sections drawn at 1;10 or 1;20 where appropriate.

All archaeological deposits identified during the course of the investigation were recorded following standard MOLA procedures (MOLA 2014). Levels were related to the Ordnance Datum. Photographs were taken of all any relevant deposits using high resolution digital images and on 35mm monochrome print film.

The ribbon mill of the 19th-century was mapped in extent, profile and recorded photographically. Archaeological features or deposits predating these were investigated and characterised.

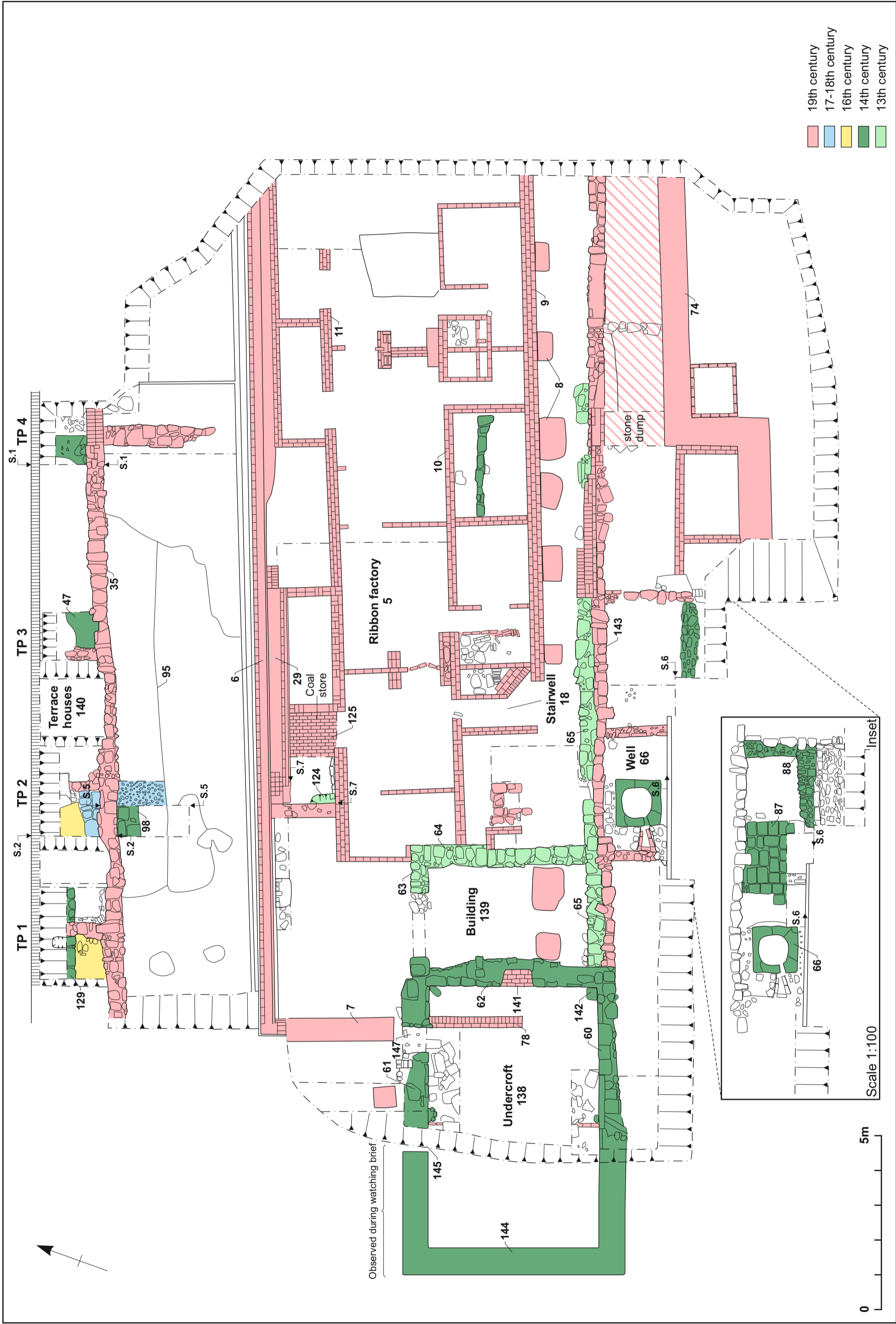
The pile locations were marked out by a surveyor to identify where they clashed with important archaeological features. This was then discussed with the Coventry City Council Conservation and Archaeology Officer on site and where the pile position posed a significant risk to archaeological deposits further hand excavation was required to characterise the nature of the archaeology.

The agreed methodology for phase two identified key work on site (Fig 2):

- Limited excavation on the north side of the open area to examine the medieval walls beneath the 19th-century horizon (Area 1);
- Investigation of the reuse of medieval structures in the foundation of later post-medieval developments (Area 2);
- Further investigate along the west side of the open area to confirm the continuation of the medieval undercroft (Area 3);
- Excavation of a medieval well on the south side of the open area, together with the reduction of surrounding deposits by hand in order to make a full record of their stratigraphic matrix and recover potential artefacts and/or samples (Area 4);
- Investigate other areas of green limestone that may clarify the overall plan and extent of the medieval structures (Area 5);
- Removal of the post-medieval and modern infill deposits within the medieval undercroft by hand, to facilitate mitigation of a central pile if this cannot be excluded by engineering design (Area 6);
- Photographic record of any architectural masonry fragments reburied within the undercroft.

Care was taken not to compromise the integrity of the archaeological record without first undertaking a full investigation

A further watching brief was carried out to observe the excavation of a pile position within the stone undercroft, all stonework from the excavation was safely stored in the agreed location against the east wall of the undercroft.



Scale 1:100 Plan of archaeological features and structures Fig 12

## 5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

### 5.1 General summary

Due to the nature of the urban landscape, development was often restricted by pre-existing buildings, roads and property boundaries. This meant that any activity within the city took place within relatively small areas with individual plots being repeatedly built upon, truncating or completely destroying the earlier deposits.

The overburden was removed to a maximum depth of 1.4m revealing the extent of the archaeological deposits and structures across the site (Fig 12). Undisturbed geology was only encountered in a small area, approximately 3m long by 2m wide, at the western end of the site and in a hand dug intervention through a brick basement floor surface. The substrate was dark reddish-brown sandy clay with occasional sandstone fragments and present at 83.73m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

The archaeological remains can be classified into two broad phases of activity; medieval and post-medieval. A summary of the periods and relevant archaeological features have been tabulated in Table 2.

*Table 2: Identified periods and relevant archaeological features*

Period	Main archaeological developments
Late medieval	<i>Formalised Street frontage</i> Late medieval buildings along with outbuildings, pavement and stone-lined well within burgage plots, separated by a stone boundary wall, in the back yards of the buildings along Much Park Street.
Early post-medieval	<i>Clearance</i> Demolition of small outbuildings and associated ground works.
Late post-medieval	<i>Redevelopment</i> The construction of terraced houses and a large ribbon factory caused heavy truncation of earlier deposits over much of the site.

The later medieval period, AD 1250-1500 is represented by a pit, sandstone walls, an ashlar block undercroft and a stone-lined well with sandstone surface. These features had survived to varying degrees across the site as later activity had substantially truncated the stratum, occasionally incorporating, but mostly removing the earlier structures and deposits.

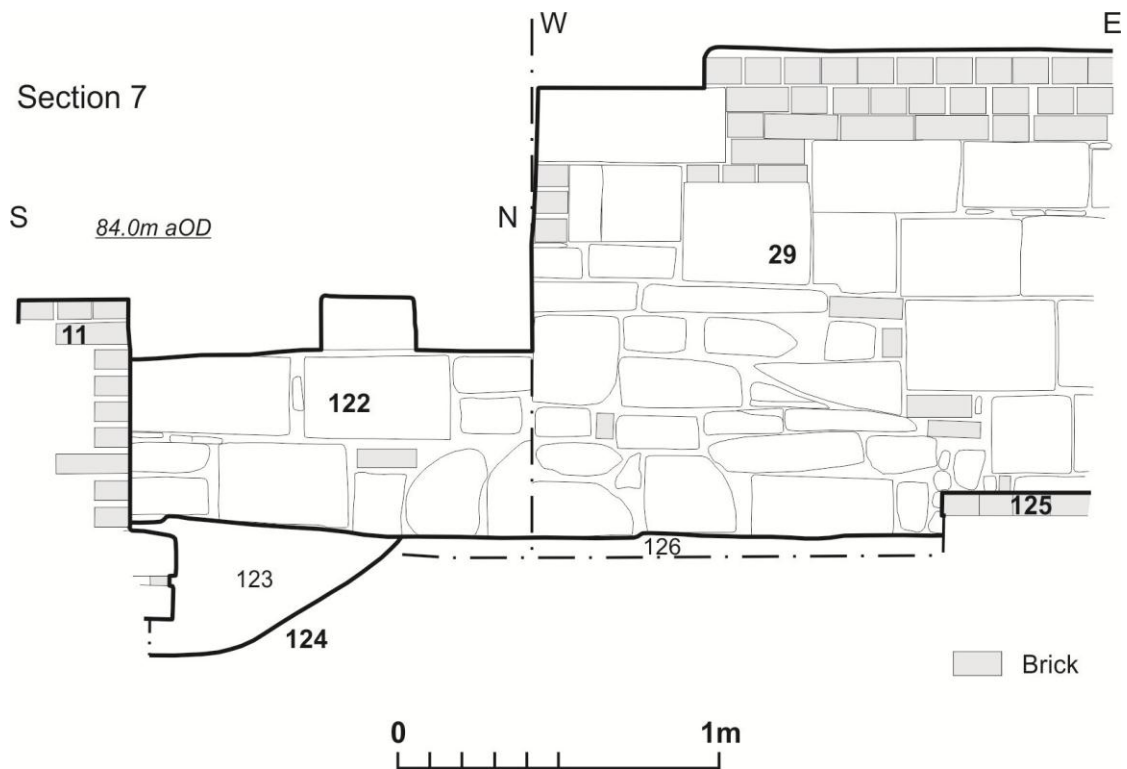
During the early post-medieval period the site remained relatively unchanged with only a few pits and deposits present on the northern edge of the site, which probably represented a localised demolition of outbuildings and alterations to the ground level.

It was not until the 1840s the site underwent an intensive period of development, with the old sandstone structures being cleared away for the construction of a large brick-built building, labelled on the Board of Health map (Fig 8) as a ribbon manufacturer together with terraced houses around a courtyard and associated structures. These dominate the site and are clearly defined by the use of reddish-orange hand-made brick.

## 5.2 Late medieval, a formalised street frontage (13th to 15th centuries)

The earliest evidence of activity likely belonged to the period when the site had been used for workshops in the early 1300s (Fig 12).

Evidence of this comes from a circular pit [124] that was heavily truncated by a stone ashlar block wall [122] to the west and brick wall [11] to the south (Fig 13). With approximately only one quarter of the whole pit visible, it was at least 0.80m long by 0.30m wide and 0.40m deep with a wide bowl-shaped profile onto a flat base. It had been cut into the natural (126) with a fill of mid brownish-grey silty sand and produced a single rim sherd of Coventry A ware with a date ranging between the 12th and 14th centuries.



Truncated pit [124], Section 7 Fig 13

As the area developed and Much Park Street's layout became more formalised, burgage plots were aligned east-north-east to west-south-west in the rear plots of Much Park Street as drawn on the Thomas Jeffreys' map 1748-9 (Fig 5).

The site would have contained three burgage plots that would have been separated by boundary walls. The boundary between the northern two plots has been lost through later development of the site and would have likely been located on the northern edge of the ribbon factory.

The southern two plots were divided by a sandstone boundary wall [65] that was 28.0m long, 1.0m wide, standing up to four courses high and visible across the site. It was constructed of large irregular-sized blocks of sandstone between 200x250x300mm and 450x500x300mm. The stone had been roughly-faced on its external edges with an irregular interlocking internal pattern for strength, bonded with reddish-brown clay.

***A possible timber-framed building***

The majority of the excavated area was located over the northern plot of land. The earliest structure surviving on the site was Building [139] that may be of a similar age to pit [124] but had no surviving datable occupational deposits (Fig 14).

The building was positioned along the southern boundary of the burgage plot in the back yard of a house on Much Park Street. Building [139] may have been a timber-framed building set on top of stone footings, similar buildings recorded from this period were found during excavations at The Greyhound (ECT 109).

The length of the building is unknown as a later structure, undercroft [138], has been inserted on the same alignment leaving only the eastern end 3.50m long by 5.0m wide visible.



Building [139] and undercroft [138], looking east Fig 14

Building [139] consisted of two sandstone walls [63] and [64] aligned east-north-east to west-south-west and north-north-west to south-south-east with boundary wall [65] forming the south wall. The walls were keyed into each other at the time of construction and survived to a height of 84.71 aOD with the uppermost course forming a level surface from which a timber frame could have been built (Figs 12 and 14).

The north wall [63] was 3.50m long by 0.60m wide and constructed from four courses of squared-off sandstone that alternated between courses of headers and stretchers. The lower two courses were possibly foundation stones below ground as the stones are slightly more irregularly-sized and contain smaller packing stones.

The stone size varied from 200x200x250mm up to 500x300x300mm with a loose mixed soil and clay bonding. The upper two courses of stonework are of a better quality with stones that were faced and squared off, ranging in size from 250x250x300mm up to 500x300x400mm and bonded with reddish-brown clay. Wall [63] had been truncated by a modern service pipe at the western end.

Wall [64], which formed the east side of Building, between walls [63] and [65], was constructed using the same method as wall [63] and measured 5.0m in length.

### ***The vaulted undercroft***

During the later 14th century the possible timber-framed building was replaced by an ashlar block sandstone-built vaulted cellar or undercroft [138] (Fig 14). It almost completely occupied the footprint of the earlier building and would have presumably joined onto the rear of a timber-framed building fronting Much Park Street similar to those found during excavations at the Stone House (ECT464).

The original structure would have been rectangular, two storeys high, with a hall on the upper floor above the vaulted undercroft and it may be the structure first depicted on Speeds map in 1610 that survived to 1837 (Figs 4-7). The undercroft would not have been visible from the street and access would have been from a yard area to the north and possibly an internal door to the west.

The Stone House (MCT202) that survives to the north of the site is a comparable building with similar characteristics, dimensions, alignment and location from Much Park Street with the east end walls appearing to be in line with each other. It is unclear whether undercroft [138] was entirely below ground as the medieval ground surface does not survive on site and the Stone House undercroft appears to be at street level

The undercroft [138] survived to a depth of 2.0m and was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west with internal dimensions of 7.4m long by 4.8m wide, divided into two bays, each 3.7m long. The undercroft comprised four substantial sandstone ashlar walls [60] to the south, [61] to the north, [62] to the east and [144] to the west. The eastern wall had a skylight located centrally along its length, whilst the north wall had a possible doorway, 2.5m from the east end, observed in the watching brief.

The springers [142] for the vaulted ceiling survived on the north-east and south-east corners as well as half way along the length of the undercroft north and south walls. They sat on applied or engaged chamfered columns (Fig 17) and split into three ribs to support the vaulting. Two ceiling bosses were found within the backfill of the cellar (Figs 35-36).

The south wall [60] would have formed part of the boundary to the site and had partially truncated the earlier boundary wall [65] along its length. It was 7.40m long by 0.65m wide and stood to a height of 2m at 84.54 aOD with the internal face to the north. It was constructed of large ashlar sandstone blocks ranging between 300x300mm to 500x300mm and had at least seven horizontal courses, with the occasional ceramic tile infill, bonded with pinkish-cream lime mortar (Fig 15).

The wide V-shaped sockets in wall [60] were used to support the vault with the springers set at the base of the V. The springers were better preserved on the south-east corner and mid-way along the north wall [61].



Wall [60] with V-shaped sockets to support the vaulting, looking south Fig 15

Wall [62] was 5.0m long x 0.70m wide, it was constructed in the same method as wall [60] and formed the east end to the building with a skylight [141] located centrally along its length (Fig 16). The skylight opening into the undercroft was 1.0m wide and set 0.50m into the wall letting natural light into the building and suggesting it was below ground level. Later in the 19th century, brick had been used to block off the skylight.

The north wall [61] of the undercroft was 7.40m long by 0.75m wide with a springer halfway along its length and had two possible doorways. The original doorway [145] was 2.40m from the western end of the wall with an opening 0.80m wide, and was observed during the watching brief. This doorway towards the western end, however, is likely to be a later addition with brickwork present below the sandstone door jamb (Fig 14).



Undercroft skylight [141], looking east Fig 16



Springer set into north wall [61], looking north Fig 17

Part of the watching brief involved the excavation of a pile position located centrally within the undercroft and ground reduction to the west. During these works the west end of the building, wall [144] and a sandstone floor level (148) were encountered beneath later brick and concrete surfaces. The sandstone floor surface consisted of large flat blocks up to 500x400x200mm (Appendix 2, Fig 32). The undercroft was infilled during the 20th century and contained moulded and decorated architectural fragments from when the structure was demolished.

***Stone-lined well and flagstone yard***

During the 14th century there was a stone-lined well and flagstone yard surface along with the possible footings to an outbuilding. To the south of boundary wall [65] the presence of a well indicated a property of high enough status to have its own fresh water and is mentioned in a property sales deed for 33-34 Much Park Street, c.1349 (VCH 1969).

The top of well [66] was 1.30m by 1.30m square and constructed of large sandstone blocks up to 700x400x500mm, the internal edge had been carved to form a rough circle with a 0.90m diameter. The lower courses were smaller blocks of sandstone no larger than 450x300mm with no obvious bonding material (Fig 18).



Well [66], looking south Fig 18

The well was in-filled with loose rubble and silty sand (116) that contained pottery and clay tobacco-pipe and, most notable, a carved bone domino dating to the 19th century, suggesting it remained open if not still in use up to the 1850s.

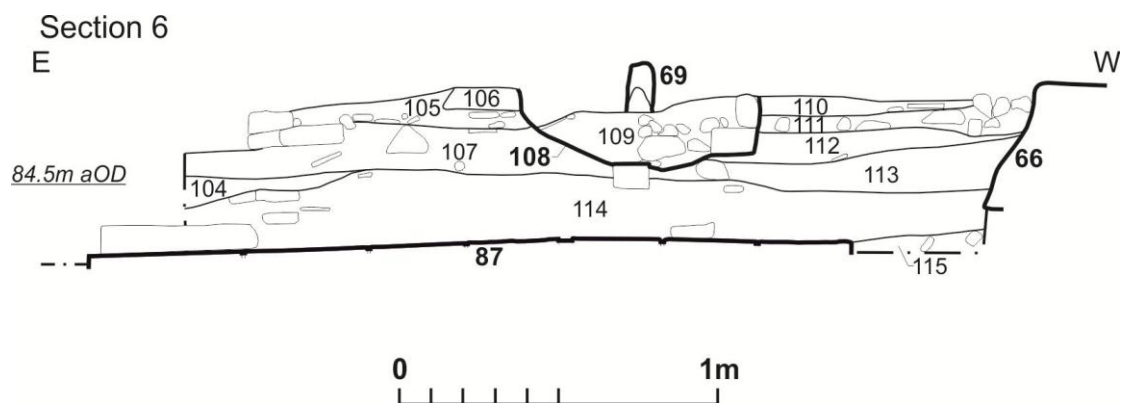
A flagstone yard surface [87] that was 2.50m long by 1.50m wide by 0.20m thick lay to the east of the well and may have originally butted up to it (Fig 20). It consisted of a patchwork of flat, square and rectangular sandstone slabs varying in size from 400x300mm to 500x300mm, packed with reddish-brown clay (Fig 19).

At the south-eastern corner of the yard surface a sandstone rubble foundation [88] was exposed, 2.20m long by 1.40m wide, extending beyond the limit of excavation and was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west (Fig 19, left side). The function was unclear as it appeared to dip sharply to the south and was constructed from irregularly-sized and shaped sandstone fragments firmly compacted together.



Flagstone yard [87] and well [66], looking west-south-west Fig 19

The area immediately to the east of the well [66] had been entirely sealed beneath a mixed layer of sandy clay (114) that was 0.24m thick and produced Nuneaton A type pottery dating to the early 15th century along with evidence of bone button or bead making (Fig 31). These in turn were overlain by a sequence of sterile post-medieval deposits.



Flagstone surface [87] and well [66], Section 6 Fig 20

### ***Late medieval outbuildings***

Along the northern boundary of the site, four hand dug test pits were excavated (TPs1-4, Fig 12), which varied in size due to the presence of tree stumps, live buried services and the car park boundary wall. They revealed heavily truncated potentially medieval layers and walls sealed beneath post-medieval demolition deposits, ground make up levels and buildings. The intensive activity, however, had created a relatively unreliable datable stratigraphy with pottery from the medieval and post-medieval periods appearing throughout the deposits (Fig 13).

Medieval sandstone walls aligned east-north-east to west-south-west were present in TP1 and in the extension to TP2. Both were of a similar construction with wall [129] being 1.20m to the north and 2.0m to the west of wall [98]. Wall [129] was 2.50m long by 0.25m wide with a single course of roughly squared sandstone blocks 0.30m long by 0.25m wide by 0.20m thick bonded with reddish-brown clay (Fig 21). Only a 0.50m length of wall [98] was visible in TP2s extension where it was a single course 0.40m wide and 0.12m thick. They probably represent the remains of outbuildings on the plot of land during the 15th century.



Wall [129] in TP1, looking north-west Fig 21

Test pits 3 and 4 to the east revealed a possible medieval clay floor. Layer (46) was mid grey-brown sandy clay with frequent sandstone fragments that was excavated to 0.10m and contained medieval pottery (Fig 22). It was overlain by a reddish-brown clay floor surface (47) that was 0.13m thick and potentially covered an area 6.0m long by 1.50m wide. It had been truncated on its northern edge by the modern car park wall that has removed any evidence of an associated structure.



Clay floor (47) in TP3, looking south-east Fig 22

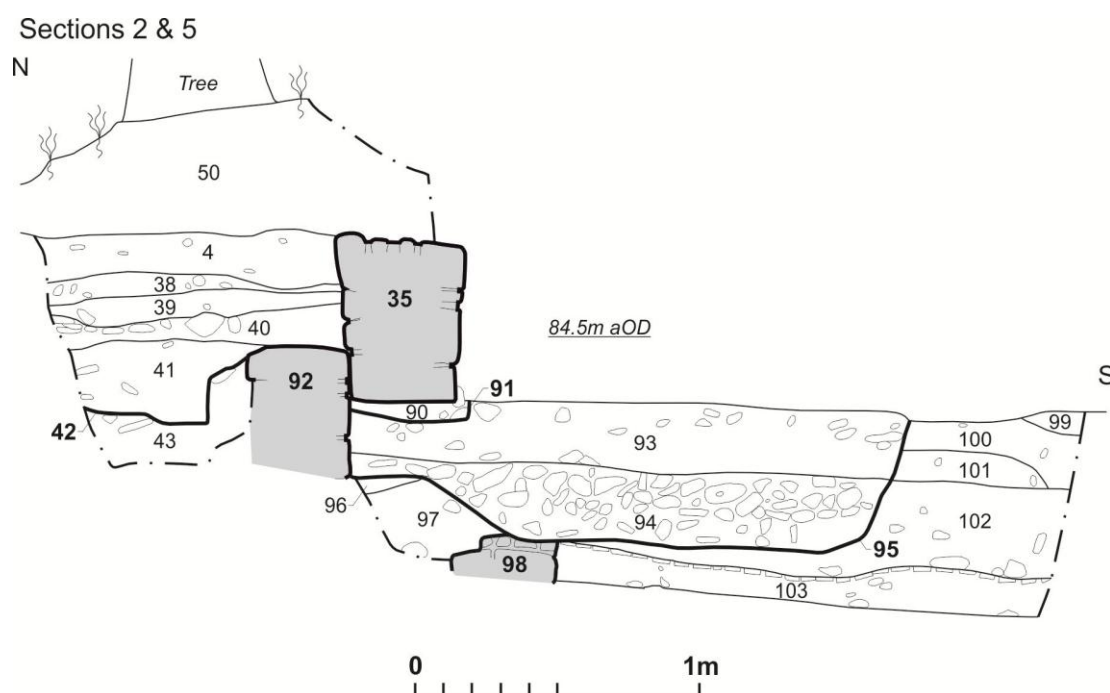
### 5.3 Post-medieval redevelopment (16th to 20th centuries)

#### *16th- to 17th-century clearance*

A 16th- or 17th-century soil layer (43/48) was seen in all of the test pits with a maximum thickness of 0.30m and, which sealed the earlier medieval remains. The soil was mid-reddish-brown clay sand that contained frequent mortar flecks, sandstone and tile fragments. It was identified as layer (43) at the western end of the area (Fig 23), whilst layer (48) towards the east and represented a period of clearance of the medieval outbuildings.

The extension to TP2 also identified re-deposited natural sand and clays (contexts 100-3) possibly deposited during a period redevelopment that involved the ground level being raised by up to 0.70m (Fig 23). The evidence for this only survived on the northern area of the site and probably occurred around the time of the outbuilding clearance.

A segment of ditch or a large pit [95] aligned north-north-east to west-south-west truncated the re-deposited layers and contained demolition deposits with pottery dating to the 17th or 18th centuries (Fig 23). It had a U-shaped profile with a wide flat base and was 11.0m long by 1.40m wide by 0.50m deep. The lower fill (94) contained a large quantity of small irregular sandstone fragments, broken tile and the occasional cobble stones and was overlain by greyish-brown silty sand (93) that had a small quantity of demolition material present.



TP2, Sections 2 and 5 Fig 23

A short segment of sandstone wall [92], 1.40m long, was aligned on the north edge of pit [95] and appeared to be of a similar date. It was constructed with roughly shaped sandstone blocks 440x300x300mm in size and loosely bonded with a weak creamy lime mortar. The pit had been severely truncated by the construction of later building structure [140].

### **18th-to 19th-century redevelopment**

During the mid-19th century the whole site underwent a redevelopment with the remaining medieval structures being cleared away for the construction of a large factory and courtyard terraced houses. During this period terraced houses [140] developed along the northern edge of Providence Place, shown on the Board of health map of 1851 (Fig 8).

Aligned east-north-east to west-south-west along the old plot boundaries the front wall [35] was 17.50m long by 0.50m wide and stood up to four courses high at 84.79 aOD. It was constructed from mainly reused medieval sandstone blocks that ranged in size from 200x150x200mm to 500x400x400mm. They were irregularly laid with frequent reddish-orange unfrogged brick, 210mm long by 110mm wide and 60mm thick that was crudely bonded with yellowish-brown sandy mortar. The quality of the construction may indicate that wall [35] may have been the foundation layer to the structure from which the rest of the building could have been built, presumably of brick.

Within TPs1-3 were three smaller segments of wall aligned north-north-west to south-south-east and keyed into wall [35]. The segments were spaced 4.0m apart and would have divided the properties of the terraced houses, forming a terrace. They were constructed from smaller sandstone fragments, no larger than 400x300x300mm and also contain unfrogged bricks bonded with thick mortar. They extended 1.0m to the north where they had been truncated by the modern car park wall. The final sequence of deposits identified in the test pits below the modern ground level were demolition layers of the terraced houses [140] and subsequent levelling layers produced 19th to 20th century pottery.

### ***The ribbon factory***

Over the central area of the site a large brick-built factory [5] dominated the archaeological remains, which is labelled as a Ribbon Manufactory on the Board of Health map (Fig 8).



Aerial view of site, orientated towards north Fig 24

The building was located on the south side of Providence Place and was constructed from handmade, unfrogged orangey-red brick that were 240mm long by 110mm wide by 70mm thick bonded with a pale yellow-brown sandy mortar. Aligned east-north-east to west-south-west, the building was 68.0m long and at only 8.50m wide, it was possibly respecting the original long and narrow medieval burgage plot by reusing boundary wall [65] (Fig 24).

The main exterior walls were present across the 28.0m length of the site forming the northern and southern facades to the building that would have been two storeys high with basements beneath it. The foundations had truncated all earlier deposits across this area to a depth of 82.96m aOD. The medieval undercroft [138], however, became incorporated into the new structure with brick-built additions to adapt it for purpose

The northern façade wall [6] was built on a crushed brick concrete foundation [7] that was 0.65m wide and exposed to a depth of 0.60m, which turned towards the south at the western end. Wall [6] consisted of two skins of brick that had been laid in an English bond, which had survived up to five courses high and was 0.37m wide.

On the south side, wall [9], was constructed in Stretcher bond with the occasional block of headers locking the wall together. No concrete foundations were

encountered, but may have been present at a greater depth than excavated. Along the southern edge of wall [9] crushed brick concrete buttress bases [8] were present roughly-spaced between 1.0m-1.60m apart and mostly 1.0m long and protruding from the wall up to 0.70m. The buttresses can be seen recorded on the Ordnance Survey map of 1888 (Fig 9), and would have supported the south wall.

The surviving brick divisions were those that formed the layout of the former factory basement. Internally the basement was divided into storerooms with smaller rooms to the north and south of a central series of rooms. The main structural walls [10] and [11] ran parallel to each other, spaced 3.0m apart along the length of the building. Smaller division walls usually single or double skinned aligned north-north-west to south-south-east created individual rooms within the basement. The rooms were rectangular, aligned east-north-east to west-south-west and varied in size between 2.20m long by 2.0m wide to 4.50m long by 3.0m wide. The larger rooms ran down the centre of the basement with smaller rooms off to the north and south.

Wall [10] formed the southern division constructed from two skins of brickwork 0.28m wide, alternating courses between stretchers and mixed stretchers and headers, similar to a Common bond. Four doorways, 0.60m wide, were present along the length of the wall giving access to individual rooms. Responding wall [11], to the north, was of a heavier construction being three skins, 0.36m wide, which alternated between courses of stretchers on a mixed stretcher and header course. Three doorways, 1.0m wide, were present along the length of wall [11], giving access to rooms on the north side of the basement (Fig 25).



Structure [5] storerooms, looking west Fig 25

A hand-dug excavation was undertaken in a storeroom in the north-west corner of the basement to identify what appeared to be a medieval ashlar sandstone wall. Wall [29], aligned east-north-east to west-south-west along the inside of wall [6], was 7.0m long and 0.65m wide. The lower courses were constructed from reused medieval ashlar and rough sandstone that had 19th-century brick infill above smaller blocks to

level the course. Three courses of brickwork were set onto the sandstone forming a possible supporting section of wall for northern façade [6] (Fig 26).



Wall [29] and brick floor [125], looking north-north-west Fig 26

A brick floor surface [125] was encountered at 83.21m aOD, which comprised a single course of brick laid flat, covering an area 2.50m long by 1.30m wide. The floor abutted wall [29] and was covered by a deposit of coal (146), 0.34m thick. The coal store room and surrounding area was sealed beneath a 20th-century demolition deposit (32).

To the south-east of the coal store was a brick-built structure [18] that may represent an internal stairwell which accessed the basements from the main factory building above (Fig 12)

The undercroft [138], towards the western end of the building, was modified with the insertion of doorway [147] through wall [61]. It is unclear whether this was an original doorway but the presence of brickwork beneath the moulded sandstone door jamb may indicate reuse of medieval stonework. The doorway was 0.90m wide with wall [78] lining the eastern side of the entrance, extending 2.50m into the undercroft, and would suggest steps leading down into the undercroft (Fig 27).

Other modifications included a single skin central wall dividing the east from west and the blocking up of skylight [141] (Fig 16).



19th century doorway into undercroft, looking south-east Fig 27

The watching brief observed that the original sandstone floor of the undercroft, [148], had been overlain by a brick floor surface [149], which had been covered in a concrete skin [150]. The sandstone floor surface consisted of large flat blocks up to 0.50m long by 0.40m wide and 0.20m thick. The surface [149] was a single layer of brick laid flat, 240mm long by 110mm wide and 70mm thick, aligned across the width of the undercroft. A thin skin of concrete, 20mm thick had later then been applied to the brick, possibly to repair damage to the surface.



Boundary wall [65] overlain by wall [143], looking east Fig 28

The boundary wall [65] to the south of the factory appeared to be partially buried beneath mixed sandy clay soil (151) that was up to 0.30m thick (Figs 12 and 28). The boundary was reinstated by the construction of wall [143], with reused medieval sandstone blocks, that was 0.50m wide and varied in height along the length of site. The sandstone was all roughly-faced into rectangular blocks of stone between 300x300x250mm, up to 600x400x450mm in size. Brick inserts and sections of wall had replaced part of the sandstone wall, indicating continuous use and modification through to the 20th century.

On the plot of land to the south of boundary wall [143] there was a large crushed brick and concrete foundation, [74], which was 0.70m wide. Visible over a 10m area, aligned east-north-east to west-south-west that doglegged 1.30m to the south-east; it would have been for a large building

The architectural fragments located between the boundary wall [143] and foundation [74] appeared to be a dump of medieval sandstone fragments mixed with 19th-century soils that were deposited during site clearance for construction of the new boundary.

The entire site was overlain by mixed demolition deposits (31-33) of the factory building [5] that had been used to level off the area, up to 1.0m thick. This was overlain by a crushed hardcore layer (3) 0.20m thick that formed a base for a concrete slab (2) and the modern car park tarmac surface (1).

## **6 THE FINDS**

### **6.1 The pottery by Ian Soden**

A total of 488 sherds, weighing 7,820g, and from 29 fabrics or types were recovered. Together they span a period from the 13th-20th centuries, although earlier types are residual amongst later material. The deposits and contexts derive for the most part from the 18th-20th centuries. These have been classified in accordance with the Warwickshire County Type Series (CTS; Ratkai and Soden 1997). A further 60 sherds, weighing 1,440g, were recovered from the previous evaluation, and have already been reported upon (Soden 2014).

The material is dominated in numerical terms by 19th- and 20th-century ceramics, which may have been lost in the post-Blitz clearances, a phenomenon seen on numerous city centre sites as the ruins were bulldozed. Earlier material comprises a few scattered sherds of many types, with little coherence and all vessels which are represented are very fragmentary indeed. Few joining sherds were noted, those worthy of a remark being White salt glazed stoneware sherds from a single shaving type bowl spread between contexts (4) in TPs 1 and 2 and context (39) in TP2.

The test pits cut along the northern side of the site appear to have reached definite medieval levels (47 in TPs 3 and 4). Also the deposit (114) overlying the sandstone pavement (87) appears to be medieval, indicating this is probably a ground surface. Pit 124 is also probably medieval, although the dearth of ceramics above it cannot date the sequence on top of it.

A decision not to excavate further on this site means that the medieval levels have not been disturbed by controlled excavation. The nature of the late post-medieval material is disparate, as might be expected in the city centre, in a period of haphazard disposal, modern disturbance and demolition. The medieval potential of the plot, up to the period of Coventry's urban decay in the 16th century, cannot be realised in ceramic terms from the present assemblage.

Other than the medieval material from the lowest stratified deposits, there are no groups within this assemblage which have any perceptible value other than for dating. All of the types present are known from previous, better-stratified material from the city.

See Table 3 for the pottery classification from the Warwickshire type series.

Table 3: Quantification of pottery

Context/type	CTS	Date range	4 (slot 1)	4 (slot 2)	38 (slot 1)	38 (slot 2)	39 (slot 1)	39 (slot 2)	40 (slot 1)	40 (slot 2)	41 (slot 1)	41 (slot 2)	43 (slot 1)	43 (slot 2)	44	46	48 (slot 3)	49 (slot 3)	49 (slot 4)	89	93	94	97	101	114	116	116	121	123	130	Totals	
Coventry A	Sq202-203	1100-1400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/17	-	1/9	-	2/26	
Nuneaton A	WW01	1250-1400	-	-	-	-	1/20	-	1/2	-	1/11	-	4/53	2/27	1/3	-	2/41	-	-	1/10	-	5/99	3/21	-	-	19/224	-	1/10	-	-	41/521	
Nuneaton C	SLM10	1300-1400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/49	
Lyveden- Stanion B ware	CO03	1250-1500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/35	
Cannon Park ware	Sq	c1250-1300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/7	-	-	-	-	=	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/7	
Rw14	SLM12	1350-1500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/20	-	-	8/166	-	-	-	-	9/123	-	-	-	-	18/309	
Gritty, micaceous Coarseware	STr	Med	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/17	
Tudor- Green-type	WW02	1425-75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3/16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3/16	
Cistercian Ware	CIST	1475-1540	-	-	2/14	-	-	-	1/3	2/2	-	-	1/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/9	3/6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10/36
Midland Purple ware	MP	1350-1700	1/7	-	-	1/59	-	1/5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/31	-	-	-	-	-	6/162	1/13	1/140	-	-	-	-	1/77	-	-	-	13/494
Midland Blackware	MB	1550-1750	-	1/30	1/4	-	-	1/3	3/42	1/16	1/13	2/23	-	-	7/206	-	1/13	-	2/13	-	2/22	3/35	-	-	-	-	1/8	-	12/212	-	-	38/640
Midland Yellow ware	MY01	1530-1700	-	1/4	-	1/20	-	-	-	2/11	-	1/6	-	-	1/4	-	-	2/80	-	-	1/5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9/130
Tin Glazed earthenware	TGE	c1660-1750	-	2/27	1/28	2/40	-	1/5	1/6	1/8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8/114
Frechen Stoneware	STG03	1575-1675	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/30
Dark on Lt Slipware	SLPW04	c1640-1700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/8
Feathered slipware	SLPW01	1680-1740	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5/136	-	-	-	6/160
Manganese- glazed ware	MANG	1680-1740	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/5	-	-	-	4/105	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/49	1/50	4/17	-	-	-	12/226

Context/type	CTS	Date range	4 (slot 1)	4 (slot 2)	38 (slot 1)	38 (slot 2)	39 (slot 1)	39 (slot 2)	40 (slot 1)	40 (slot 2)	41 (slot 1)	41 (slot 2)	43 (slot 1)	43 (slot 2)	44	46 (slot 3)	48 (slot 3)	49 (slot 3)	49 (slot 4)	89	93	94	97	101	114	116	116	121	123	130	Totals
White salt-glazed stoneware	STE03	1720-80	2/39	1/16	-	1/20	-	2/15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/29	11/49	-	-	18/168
Creamware	CRW	1780-1820	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/18	3/12	-	-	7/34
Notts stoneware	STE02	1700-1800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/5	-	-	-	1/55	-	1/16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/11	2/20	-	-	6/107
Sprigged china	MGW	1820-50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/7	-	-	-	1/7	
Mocha ware	MO	1830=50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30/233	1/5	-	-	32/239	
Unglazed earthenware		C16-19	-	2/66	1/20	-	-	2/8	2/21	1/8	1/11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/8	3/131	-	-	-	-	4/51	-	1/21	-	-	18/345
Pancheon	MB	C18-20	-	-	-	-	-	1/17	1/31	-	1/11	-	-	-	3/144	-	-	-	-	1/20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3/106	-	6/910	16/1239
Church Gresley-type	MGW	C20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/53	3/141
Misc English stoneware	STE	C19-20	1/7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/16	-	2/15	-	-	2/14	-	1/42	1/8	-	-	-	-	1/17	-	5/96	6/187	-	-	-	-	20/402
Plain white glazed earthenware	MGW	C19-20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43/365	-	-	-	-	43/365
Underglaze transfer-printed earthenware	MGW	C19-20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/39	-	-	1/12	-	-	-	-	-	-	21/189	102/1396	-	-	-	-	126/1636
Moulded earthenware	MGW	C20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40/319	-	-	-	-	40/319
Totals			4/53	7/143	5/66	5/139	1/20	8/53	10/135	10/62	9/86	6/51	5/55	2/27	25/713	2/24	4/70	4/142	4/33	1/10	23/408	18/339	4/161	1/17	28/351	34/400	228/2635	43/655	1/9	7/963	498/7820
Context TPQ			C18-19	C19	C18	C18-19	Med	C18-19	C18	C18-19	C19	C18-19	C16	Med	C20	Med	C17-18	C18	C19	C19	C19	C16	C19	C19	Med	C20	C20	C20	C19	Med	C20

c = circa; C - century

## **6.2 The building materials by Pat Chapman**

### ***Roof tile***

Six roof tile sherds, 15mm-20mm thick and weighing 612g, come from layer (38), fill (93) in ditch [95] and deposit (97) above wall [98] in TP2. There are four fabrics: red-brown coarse sandy clay, slightly coarse orange-brown or pinkish-brown sandy clay and fine pink-buff sandy clay. Four sherds have dark green glaze, one of the two plain sherds has white lime mortar still adhering to one surface.

### ***Floor tile***

There is one complete floor tile from wall [35] in TP2, weighing 638g, and two sherds from layer (49) in TP4, weighing 143g, all with chamfered edges. They are all made from slightly coarse orange-brown sandy clay.

The complete tile is 120mm by 120mm (4¾ x 4¾ inches) and 22mm thick. Although all traces of glaze and dip have been worn away there are the very faint impressions of a curved design of dot and line around one corner.

The two small sherds, 22mm and 15mm thick, have splashes of green glaze on the edges.

### ***Stone***

The end of a piece of plain white marble or quality white limestone (SF9) comes from deposit (44) between boundary wall [65] and factory wall [9]. It is 94mm wide and 20mm thick. One surface and one side is polished, but with remnants of a black deposit adhering to the surface, the reverse is smooth but unpolished with a broken narrow ridge or flange along the end.

### ***Discussion***

The roof and floor tiles are medieval in origin, a broad 12th – early 16th century period. The probable design on the floor tile was quite a common one for church floors. The ‘marble’ could have an ecclesiastical or high status secular origin from the medieval or later periods.

## **6.3 The animal bone by Adam Reid**

A total of 3.36kg of animal bone was hand collected from 14 different contexts during the course of excavation. This material was assessed to determine the level of preservation, the taxa present and to inform on the potential for further work.

All material was washed prior to analysis. Identifiable bones were noted, and were examined for signs of butchery and the state of epiphyseal fusion. Identifications took place with the aid of the MOLA Northampton reference collection and Hillson (1992) and France (2009) were also consulted. Specimens that could not be positively identified were attributed, where possible, to categories including large mammal (cattle, horse), medium mammal (sheep/goat, pig, large dog), and small mammal (small dog, cat, rabbit). No microfaunal specimens were noted. The Heritage England guidelines for best practice were followed, where possible (HE 2014).

### **Identification and quantification**

The moderately fragmented nature of the assemblage made identifications difficult and a presentation of the results can be seen below (Table 4). Positive identifications were made for 73 specimens; 57% of the total assemblage. All identified taxa are domestic food bearing animals, with the exception a fragment of horse bone that was recovered from context (49). Sheep/goat is the most commonly represented domesticate, making up 62% of the identified assemblage. The assemblage also contained nine bird bones, which may warrant further analysis by a specialist.

### **Preservation and taphonomy**

The state of preservation of the material was good, with moderate surface abrasion and a high degree of fragmentation. Evidence of butchery was noted on a large mammal rib fragment from context (43), which appears to have been cleaved; presumably to separate the bone from the rest of the carcass. No clear evidence of carnivore gnawing was noted on any of the specimens.

*Table 4: Animal bone, the identified taxa*

Context	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Horse	Small	Med.	Large	Bird	Total
4	4	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	6
38	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	4
39	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	4
40	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
41	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	4
43	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
46	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
48	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
49	1	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	5
93	-	4	-	-	1	11	2	2	20
94	3	5	-	-	-	3	4	-	15
114	1	2	-	-	-	7	-	2	12
116	2	26	5	-	-	5	3	3	44
121	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>129</b>

### **Conclusions**

The relatively small size of the assemblage makes it difficult to draw any firm conclusions, other than to say that the main domestic taxa were utilised at the site, and that the material appears to derive from domestic waste with no clear suggestions of industrial activity. The presence of well-preserved identifiable material from several of the excavated deposits indicates the possibility for future faunal analysis, should any further work take place at the site.

## **6.4 The clay tobacco-pipes** by Tora Hylton

A group of c.221 clay tobacco-pipe fragments were recovered during the excavations. The majority of pipe fragments (186) were recovered from a well [66] sited on the southern plot of land, while smaller quantities were recovered from demolition deposits associated with the ribbon factory [5] and terraced houses [140]. The assemblage comprises 66 complete or fragmented pipe-bowls and 155 stem

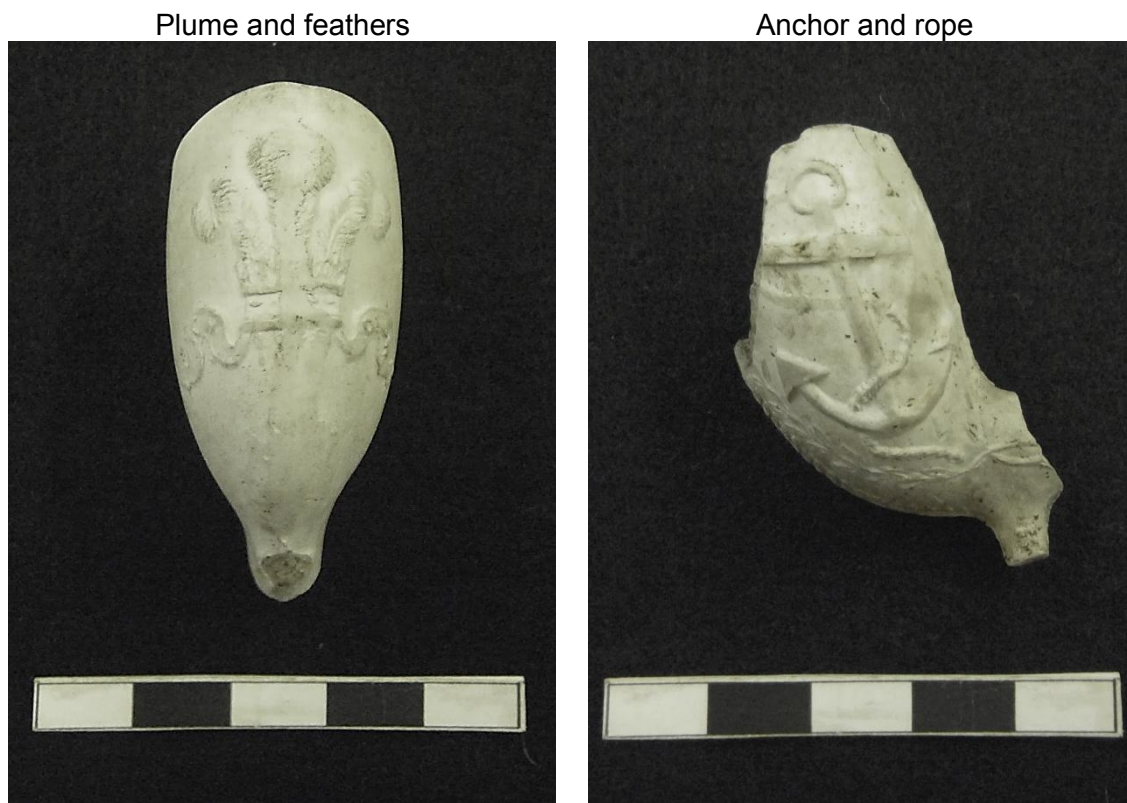
fragments, which together span the early 17th to early 20th centuries. Much of the assemblage is fragmented and displays signs of abrasion and wear, suggesting that the fragments had been lying around for some time prior to deposition (Table 6).

In total, 14 bowls are sufficiently complete to enable dating using Oswald's simplified typology for bowl and foot/spur forms (1975, 37-41) and Atkinson's dating of Broseley pipes as reproduced in Oswald (*ibid*, 50). The majority of datable pipe bowls are represented by Broseley Types and these were manufactured to the west of Coventry in Shropshire. The datable bowls provide a date range of c.1600-1900, while stylistic features permit the dating of a small number of individual fragments.

Chronologically the earliest bowl form represented is an Oswald Type G4, which dates to c.1600-1640; recovered from the fill of a ditch [95]. Later Oswald Types include G22 and G29, both forms date to the 18th and 19th centuries and they were recovered from the well [66]. The earliest datable Broseley pipe is a Type 3, a form which dates to c.1660-1680; it was recovered from demolition deposits (44). The remaining identifiable Broseley pipes were recovered from the fill of well 66 and they are represented by Types 7c (c.1740-70) and 8b (c. 1800-40).

The stem fragments measure up to 130mm long and 19 examples retain mouthpieces, four different styles are represented. In addition, one broken stem has been pared down to form a new mouth piece. There are five glazed/painted stem fragments, represented by one green and four red stems, in all cases the colour stops just before the mouth piece.

Four pipe bowls and 11 stem fragments preserve maker's marks. Some of these can be attributed to individual makers who worked in Coventry, Wolverhampton and Broseley (see Table 5).



Clay tobacco-pipes, representing public houses Fig 29

In addition there are a small number of unidentifiable maker's marks. Some of the bowls/fragments are decorated and stylistic forms range from 17th- to 18th-century rouletting set just below the lip of the bowl and a line of leaves placed on the joining seam to more ornate 19th-century examples. The latter include pipe bowls in the form of a basket (Moore 1980, fig 9, 34) or a claw holding the bowl (*ibid*, fig 14.59), while others are decorated with equidistant protrusions (*ibid*, fig 11, 47). There are two bowls which may represent public houses, one in decorated with an anchor and rope and another with a plume and feathers (Fig 29).

*Table 5: Clay tobacco-pipe bowls and stamps*

Pipe bowl type	Contexts with datable pipe bowls and or makers marks							
	32	39	41	44	48	93	116	121
<b>Oswald Type</b>								
G4 (1600-40)						1		
G22(1730-80)							1	1
G29 (1850-1900)							2	
<b>Broseley Type</b>								
3 (1660-1680)				1				
7c (1740-70)							1	
8b(1800-40)							7	
Other (17th/18th century)		1	1		1			
Other (19th/20th century)	1						10	

*Table 6: Clay tobacco-pipe catalogue*

Context	Feature	Stems	Bowls	Comments
4	demolition layer	8	-	One stem with mouth piece
32	demolition backfill in [5]	-	1	Small bowl with basket design, similar to examples from Northampton (Moore 1980, fig 9, 34). Date: c. mid /late 19th century
38	layer in terraced houses [140]	2	1	Bowl fragment, spur missing.
39	layer in terraced houses [140]	8	1	Two stems with mouth piece One bowl frag with vestige of Broseley foot Bowl with makers marks on underside of heel, base of foot partially burnt so mark difficult to decipher, (?) P with star beneath. Possibly 'IP' (Muldoon 1979, fig 10, 40s). John Pottifer, Coventry c.1710. Rouletted rim.
44	deposit	4	1	Broseley Type 3 (c.1660-1680), rouletted. IH in square relief on heel, poss. John Hughes, Broseley c. 1650-1700. See Muldoon 1979, fig 5, 25a/b
45	deposit in [140]	3	1	Bowl fragment, small circular stamp on back of bowl, 'SD' with closed crown over (cf Muldoon 1979, fig 4, 19h). S.D. c.1670-1720.Poss. local maker? Exterior surface

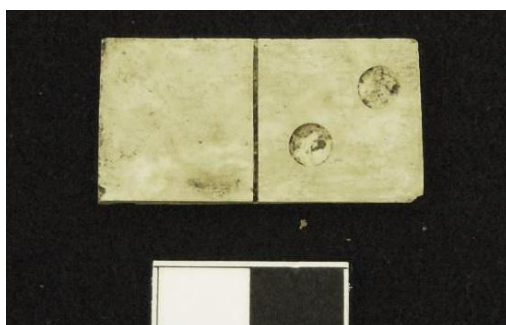
MUCH PARK STREET CAR PARK, COVENTRY

Context	Feature	Stems	Bowls	Comments
				highly polished.
48	layer	-	1	Undiagnostic fragment – rouletted therefore pre c.1710. Very abraded.
49	layer	2	-	-
93	fill of pit [95]	-	1	Small bowl (Oswald G4) with rouletting on rim. Date: 1600-1640
		-	9	8 bowl fragments and one complete bowl – Oswald G22 (1730-80). Bowl frag decorated with protrusions (cf. Moore 1980, fig 11, 47, date c. 1885-1900). Frag with leaves on front seam. Frag with large rouletting Frag with chamfered rim and ring dec. below
		1	-	Fragment only, pipe in form of claw holding the bowl – date c. 1885-1920 (cf Moore 1980, fig 14, 59) and similar to Muldoon fig 12, 52)
		109	-	Stem fragments measuring up to 130mm in length. 15 with mouth pieces (four type represented), plus one broken stem which has been pared down to form a new mouth piece. Majority of stems measure 4/64 <sup>th</sup> of an inch. Some with signs of burning - vitrified. Marked stems: SINGLETON/(WOLVE)RHAMPTON x 2 examples (C. Singleton c. 1840 (Oswald 1975, 9 193). W SOUTHORN/BROSELEY 8 (X2) – c. 1823-1871 W. SOUTHORN & Co and BROSELEY below (William Southorn & Co 1802-41). (J H)OLT/COVE(NTRY) J HOL (T)/ (COV)ENTRY JHOLT/COVENTRY c. 1868-1903 H SMI(TH) c. 1871-1905 ASTON (.....)/(.....)DLDS CAL (...)/(....)DKS Plus stem frag. With vestige of leaf dec (like Moore 1980, 53) –c.1885-1920 Glazed /painted stems One mouth piece with green glaze on int/ext of stem but not on actual mouth piece. Four with red painted stem close to mouth piece.
		-	49	20 whole bowls and 29 undiagnostic fragments 1 bowl with BROSELEY flanked by ? TL and PT above and below within circular, incuse on back of bowl. 2 bowls with small protrusions, one with heavy forward facing foot (looks like a hoof) and one without a foot (c.1885-1920). 1 bowl with line of leaves covering joining seam at front and back of bowl. 1 bowls with line of leaves covering joining seam at front and back , together with anchor and rope and foliate motif (moulded motif)

Context	Feature	Stems	Bowls	Comments
				1 bowl with rouletted rim (c.19 <sup>th</sup> ) 1 with plume of feathers (moulded motif) 3 bowls with spurs marked with small circles on either side of spur 1 Broseley Type 7c – (c.1740-70) 7 Broseley Type 8b – (c. 1800-40) 2 G29 – 19 <sup>th</sup> century (c.1850-1900)
121	levelling layer	17	1	Oswald G22 – (c.1730-80)

## 6.5 The other small finds by Tora Hylton

The excavations produced six small finds of late 18th and 19th century date. Of interest is a gaming piece and bone working debris. The gaming piece, a domino (Fig 30), was recovered from the fill of a well [66], together with numerous fragments of clay tobacco-pipe. It is manufactured from a thin rectangular plaque (36mm by 18mm) cut from a sliver of animal long bone; the exterior surface of the bone is visible on the underside. The values (blank/two) are neatly cut into the upper surface which is divided into two by a transverse incised groove. Similar examples are known from Southampton (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975, fig 249, 1950) and Norwich (Margeson 1993, fig 164, 1787).



Bone domino game piece, (SF6) Fig 30



Bone working debris, (SF 7) Fig 31

A strip of long bone (Fig 31) with two circular perforations and part of a third cut into it was recovered from layer [114] over flagstone surface [87] (Fig 18 and 19). The holes measure 10mm in diameter and 4-5mm high, they have been drilled from both sides of the bone, resulting in a concentric median ridge on the internal edge. These strips are often interpreted as the by-product of button making (cf. Geddes and

Clarke 1977, 314), but Egan has suggested that if they do not exceed c.10mm in diameter and c.4.5 thick, that they are turning-waste panels from bead manufacture (1991, 311). Woodfield has also suggested that a similar item from Whitefriars, Coventry is a waste panel from bead manufacture (2005, fig 164, 106).

The other finds include a Victorian farthing dated 1840, an 18th-century bone button and a hooked fitting, all from deposits associated with the terraced houses [140], and finally an annular copper alloy ring, presumably for suspension, was recovered from demolition deposits (32) associated with the Ribbon Factory [5] destruction.

### ***Finds catalogue***

- SF 2: Coin, copper alloy. Victoria farthing dated 1840, layer (38), terraced houses [140].
- SF 3: Ring, copper alloy. Annular ring made from thick circular cross-sectioned wire, terminals butt up together. Possibly a small suspension ring. External diameter: 16mm, height: 2mm. Context 32, demolition Ribbon Factory [5].
- SF 4: Bone button with raised edge and marginal groove, four holes. Date: c.18th century, diameter: 12mm, layer (39), terraced houses [140].
- SF 5: Fitting, iron rectangular frame with integral hooked attachment. Possible some sort of hook and eye clasp. Length: 18mm, width: 29mm, layer (39), terraced houses [140].
- SF 6: Gaming piece/domino, bone. Thin plaque cut from a sliver of animal long bone, exterior surface of bone visible on the underside. The values (two/blank) are neatly cut into the upper surface which is divided into two by a transverse incised groove. Post-medieval examples are known from Southampton (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975, fig 249, 1950), Norwich (Margeson 1993, fig 164, 1787). Dimensions: 36x18mm, fill (116) of well [66] (Fig 30).
- SF 7: Bone working debris. Strip of long bone with two circular holes cut into it and part of a third. The holes have been drilled from both sides, leaving a concentric median ridge on the internal edge. Diameter: 10mm, height: c.4mm-5mm, layer 114 (Fig 31).

## **7 DISCUSSION**

The earliest evidence on the site probably belongs to a period when the area of Much Park Street had been absorbed by the expanding city from Cheylesmore Park and was represented by a waste pit dating to the 1200s. The pit was the base of a much larger feature that had been heavily truncated by later walls and was a typical example of deposits found from this period in excavations along Much Park Street and St Johns Street where metalworking, waste and cess pits had been identified. It is assumed that other similar deposits will survive throughout the site but with only limited excavation depth and the level of truncation present it would be difficult to characterise the nature of the features.

During the early 13th century with the formalisation of street frontages and property boundaries, burgage plots were developed over the area of the site. A boundary wall delineated the earliest burgage plot and separated the site into two later plots with

the earliest structure surviving north of the wall as a stone footing for a timber-framed building, possibly an outhouse.

A period of wealth in the 14th century saw timber-framed buildings replaced with high status stone buildings, which included a hall and vaulted undercroft added as extensions to the rear of the original property. The undercroft is a direct comparison to the Grade II Listed Building, The Stone House, situated north of the site and was even located in a similar position from the frontage. They were constructed in a similar style and would have served similar functions to one another as wealthy mercantile houses along the main road to London.

A stone-lined well and flagstone pavement on the southern plot of land indicates the presence of another high status property outside the area of excavation from the same period.

The structures from the 13th-14th centuries would have had a relatively long lifespan due to the economic development unique to Coventry with many examples of medieval buildings surviving untouched up to the 19th century. Examples such as The Stone House, which was preserved by being incorporated into a later structure by being clad in brickwork and built around, was only revealed during bombing in the Second World War. The undercroft on the site appeared to undergo similar treatment with the construction of the ribbon factory and it was unclear whether the whole structure had been incorporated or just the undercroft. This poses the interesting questions of how many more structures may have survived until the 20th century and why, with the large scale building in the 19th century, these earlier structures were preserved and not demolished.

The medieval occupational deposits throughout the site have been almost totally removed by the later developments with only small fragments surviving on the northern edge of site in the form of small medieval sandstone walls and a possible clay floor surface. The level of disturbance made any associations between features difficult at best, producing a stratigraphy where residual medieval pottery and modern ceramics appear in the same contexts between horizons and causing difficulties for accurate dating.

Evidence for the early-post medieval period did not survive, with the next phase of activity loosely associated with the 16th century. It was evident over the northern area of the site that the ground level had been altered where some clearance of earlier structures had taken place. The scale and level of this activity however could not be determined.

The last phase of activity dated to the mid-19th century, which saw the construction of a factory whose foundations cleared away nearly all the earlier deposits and the development of terraced houses around a yard to the north, perhaps for local workers. Although the factory building truncated the natural stratum through the centre of the site up to 1.50m, it still respected the medieval tenement plots and reused the medieval sandstone stonework.

The buildings on the site changed function over the next 150 years with a variety of industries operating from them. They remained the same up until the early 1970s when the site was finally cleared and the Ringway around the city centre was constructed. A car park was established on the site to the south of the Sir John Laing Building, which was its current prior to the present archaeological investigation.

## **8 CONCLUSION**

The level to which the site was excavated demonstrated that the level of truncation would have removed all but the bases of the largest early medieval features and contemporary ground surfaces or occupation deposits have been lost.

A small area on the northern edge of site revealed heavily truncated evidence of 13th-14th-century structures that are unlikely to survive or extend much further onto site, with the revealed remains proving difficult to interpret or securely date.

The majority of finds were contemporary with the later phases of activity on the site with a background of residual late medieval pottery.

The construction of the new Coventry University Science Building on piled foundations should have minor impact on remaining deposits with the only conflict arising around the undercroft. Pile position and the ground beam located centrally across the width of the structure have been designed to minimise this impact.

The impact was mitigated against during the watching brief with the pile location being excavated and all stonework being recorded and moved to a safe location within the undercroft. Photographs from this phase of work are in the Appendix 2.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Beamish & Curtis 1880, *Directory of Coventry*, Stevens, G and Co, London
- ClfA 2014a *Code of Conduct*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- ClfA 2014b *Standard and guidance: archaeological excavation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- Clarke, H, and Carter, A, 1977 *Excavations in King's Lynn 1963-1970*, The Soc of Medieval Archaeol, Monog, **7**
- Egan, G, 1991 Beads, in G Egan and F Pritchard 1991, 305-317
- Egan, G, and Pritchard, F, 1991 *Dress accessories: Medieval Finds from excavations in London c.1150-1450*, HMSO, London
- France, D I, 2009 *Human and nonhuman bone identification: A colour atlas*, Boca Raton: CRC Press
- Geddes, J, and Clarke, H, 1977 Bone and ivory objects, in H Clarke and A Carter 1977, 311-315
- HE 2015 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, Historic England
- HE, 2014 *Animal bones and archaeology: Guidelines for best practice*, Historic England
- Hillson, S, 1992 *Mammal bones and teeth: An introductory guide to methods of identification*, London: UCL Institute of Archaeology Publications
- Margeson, S, 1993 *Norwich Households, medieval and post-medieval finds from Norwich Survey Excavations 1971-78*, East Anglian Archaeology, **58**
- Meckseper, C, 2013 *Coventry University HLS, Heritage Asset Assessment*, Albion Archaeology, **CU2200**, Bedford
- MOLA 2014a *Coventry University, Proposed Science Building, Whitefriars Lane, Coventry, West Midlands, Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation*, MOLA London
- MOLA 2014b *Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological mitigation work at Much Park Street, Coventry, West Midlands, December 2014*, MOLA Northampton
- MOLA 2014c *Archaeological fieldwork manual*, MOLA Northampton
- Moore, W R G, 1980 *Northamptonshire clay tobacco-pipes and pipemakers*, Northampton Museums and Art Gallery
- Oswald, A, 1975 *Clay pipes for the archaeologist*, British Archaeological Report, **14**
- Platt, C, and Coleman-Smith, R, 1975 *Excavations in medieval Southampton 1953-1969, Vol 2: The Finds*, Leicester: University of Leicester
- Ratkai S, and Soden I, 1997 *Medieval and post-medieval ceramic type series of Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum, unpublished
- Soden, I, 2005 *Coventry: The hidden history*, Tempus, Stroud
- Soden, I, 2014 The pottery, in P Thompson 2014
- Thompson, P, 2014 *Coventry University Proposed Science Building, Much Park Street/Whitefriars Lane, Coventry: Archaeological evaluation*, Archaeology Warwickshire, report **1448**
- VCH 1969, *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 8, the City of Coventry and Borough of Warwick*, Victoria County History, **8**, London
- Wallwork, R 1986 *Coventry, Much park Street*, West Midlands Archaeology, **29**
- Woodfield, C, 2005 *The Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and some conventional buildings at the Whitefriars, Coventry*, British Archaeological Report, British Series, **389**
- Wright, S M, 1982 *Much Park Street, Coventry: the development of a medieval street, Excavations 1970-74, Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeology Society*, **92**

### **Websites**

BGS 2015 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html> British Geological Survey website

*West Midlands Research Framework for Archaeology*, University of Birmingham

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/research/arch-research/wmrrfa/index.aspx>

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context number	Context type	Description	Plan	SF	Finds
1	layer	car park	1	-	-
2	layer	concrete slab	1	-	-
3	layer	hardcore	1	-	-
4	layer	demolition layer	1	-	bone, pot, clay tobacco-pipe Cu ring (SF3)
5	ribbon factory	building brick construction. brick 240mmx110mmx70mm	1+2	-	-
6	north wall	east to west aligned brick wall. exterior-treble skin	1+2	-	-
7	north wall foundation	east to west aligned wall foundation	1+2	-	-
8	buttress's south wall	broken brick concrete buttress foundations	1+2	-	-
9	south wall	east to west aligned brick wall- exterior-treble skin	1+2	-	-
10	brick wall	east to west aligned brick wall-internal-double skin	1+2	-	-
11	brick wall	east to west aligned brick wall -internal-treble skin	1+2	-	-
12	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- internal-single skin	1	-	-
13	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- internal-single skin	1	-	-
14	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- internal-single skin	1	-	-
15	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- internal-single skin	2	-	-
16	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- internal-double skin	1	-	-
17	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- internal-single skin	1	-	-
18	staircase base	possible staircase base, brick and sandstone construction	1	-	-
19	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- internal-double skin	1	-	-
20	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- internal-single skin	1+2	-	-
21	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- internal-double skin	2	-	-

MUCH PARK STREET CAR PARK, COVENTRY

Context number	Context type	Description	Plan	SF	Finds
22	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- internal-double skin	2	-	-
23	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- internal-double skin	2	-	-
24	staircase base?	possible staircase base, brick construction	2	-	-
25	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- internal-single skin	2	-	-
26	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- internal-double skinned with buttress	2	-	-
27	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- internal-double skin	2	-	-
28	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- internal-single skin	2	-	-
29	buttress wall	east to west aligned brick and sandstone wall- internal	1	-	-
30	buttress wall	east to west aligned brick wall- internal - double skin	2	-	-
31	demolition backfill	mixed reddish-brown sand-clay, broken brick, sandstone fragments	1	-	-
32	demolition backfill	light grey-brown crushed mortar plaster, brick fragments	1+2	1+3	-
33	pre-construction layer	mixed light green and reddish-brown sand, clay, sandstone fragments	1	-	-
34	demolition backfill	mixed reddish-brown, dark grey and light brown sandy clay	2	-	-
35	stone and brick wall	south wall of court 6 cottages, east to west alignment	1+2	-	-
36	stone wall	north to south aligned stone wall- internal	1	-	-
37	stone wall	north to south aligned stone wall- internal	1	-	-
38	layer	light orangey-yellow sandy layer	1	2	pot, clay tobacco-pipe, tile
39	layer	dark grey with reddish - orange patches charcoal sand	1	5+4	pot. bone, clay tobacco-pipe
40	layer	pale orangey-brown sandy silt	1	-	pot, bone, clay tobacco-pipe
41	fill of [42]	reddish grey-brown sandy clay	1	-	pot, bone, clay tobacco-pipe

MUCH PARK STREET CAR PARK, COVENTRY

Context number	Context type	Description	Plan	SF	Finds
42	cut	linear robber trench? >1.26m long x 0.7m wide x 0.3m deep	1	-	-
43	layer	mid reddish-brown sand and clay	1	-	pot, bone
44	demolition backfill	reddish grey-brown clay with grey and yellow mottles	1+2	-	pot
45	cut	construction cut for modern retaining wall of car park	1+2	-	-
46	layer	mid brown sand with small sandstone fragments	2	-	pot, bone
47	layer	reddish-brown clay 0.13m thick	2	-	-
48	layer	mid reddish-brown sandy clay with sandstone fragments	2	-	pot
49	layer	mixed reddish-brown sand-clay, sandstone fragments, brick	2	-	Clay tobacco- pipe, pot, bone, tile
50	topsoil	grey-brown sandy clay loam	2	-	-
51	fill of [45]	dark grey clay with brick fragments	2	-	-
52	deposited natural	mid orangey-brown and reddish-brown sand and clays	1	-	-
53	spread	dark brown silty sand with brick and tile fragments	1+2	-	-
54	cut of pit	sub-circular pit 0.63m x0.45m - not excavated	1	-	-
55	fill of [54]	dark brown clay silt with tile fragments and slate	1	-	-
56	cut of pit	sub-circular pit 0.75m x0.61m - not excavated	1	-	-
57	fill of [56]	dark grey-brown clay silt	1	-	-
58	cut of pit	irregular shape 0.92m x 0.6m - not excavated	1	-	-
59	fill of [58]	dark grey-brown clay silt with tile fragments	1	-	-
60	stone wall	south wall of undercroft, ashlar blocks 5m long x 0.6-7m wide	1	-	-
61	stone wall	north wall of undercroft, ashlar blocks 5m long x 0.6-7m wide	1	-	-
62	stone wall	east wall of undercroft, ashlar blocks 5m long x 0.6-7m wide	1	-	-
63	stone wall	east to west aligned rough cut stone wall 3m long x 0.6m wide	1	-	-

MUCH PARK STREET CAR PARK, COVENTRY

Context number	Context type	Description	Plan	SF	Finds
64	stone wall	north to south aligned rough cut stone wall 5m x 0.6m	1	-	-
65	stone boundary wall	east to west aligned boundary wall incorporated into [138+9]	1+2	-	-
66	sandstone well	square constructed well 1.3m x 1.3m exterior, internal circular 0.9m	1+3	-	-
67	sandstone packing layer	mixed sandstone fragments and reddish-brown clay	3	-	-
68	brick drain	drain cut into west side of well [66] running from west to east	1+3	-	-
69	stone wall	north to south aligned wall, irregular stone blocks 1.8m long	1	-	-
70	stone wall	north to south aligned wall, irregular stone blocks 1.8m long	1	-	-
71	brick wall	north to south alignment, single skin of stretchers 0.5m long	1+2	-	-
72	buttress wall	east to west alignment, inserted into boundary [65] double skin	1+2	-	-
73	stone wall	north to south aligned stone wall- irregular rough sized stones	2	-	-
74	foundation	concrete and brick foundation 15m x 0.7m	1+2	-	-
75	brick wall	east to west aligned brick wall- double skin	1+2	-	-
76	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- double skin	1+2	-	-
77	sump	brick lined sump 1.4m x 1.4m abuts [74]	2	-	-
78	brick wall	north to south aligned wall inserted into [138]	1	-	-
79	pile	broken brick concrete pile foundation	1	-	-
80	pile	broken brick concrete pile foundation	1	-	-
81	stone/brick wall	stone and brick u-shaped structure 1.5m x 1m	1	-	-
82	stone wall	north to south aligned interlocking rough stone wall 3m x 0.8m	2	-	-
83	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- internal- single skin	2	-	-
84	brick wall	east to west aligned brick wall- internal- single skin	2	-	-

MUCH PARK STREET CAR PARK, COVENTRY

Context number	Context type	Description	Plan	SF	Finds
85	brick wall	north to south aligned brick wall- internal-single skin	2	-	-
86	stone wall	east to west aligned stone wall	2	-	-
87	stone pavement	stone slabs,0.4m x0.4m forming yard east of well [66]	3	-	-
88	pavement?	mixed compacted sandstone, dipping to south 2.3m x1.4m	3	-	-
89	fill of [91]	dark grey loamy, silty clay. frequent sandstone fragments	1	-	pot , bone, clay tobacco-pipe
90	fill of [91]	dark reddish-grey sandy loam	1	-	-
91	construction cut [35]	linear cut for wall [35] aligned east to west 28m x 0.4m 0.2m	1+2	-	-
92	stone wall	east to west aligned single course on rubble footing- two skins	1	-	-
93	fill of [95]	dark grey-brown silty clay, frequent sandstone fragments 0.2m	1	-	pot, bone, clay tobacco-pipe tile
94	fill of [95]	mid brownish-grey silty sand	1	-	pot, bone, tile
95	cut of pit?	cut of large rectangular pit 10m x 2m aligned east to west	1+2	-	-
96	layer	mid orangey-brown and reddish-brown sand and clays	1	-	-
97	layer	mid grey-brown silt clay, frequent sandstone fragments	1	-	pot, tile
98	stone wall	east to west aligned interlocking rough cut sandstone wall	1	-	-
99	deposit	mid reddish-brown sand and clay	1	-	-
100	redeposited natural	compact green sandstone	1	-	-
101	redeposited natural	light orange sand deposit	1	-	pot
102	redeposited natural	light reddish-brown clay sand	1	-	-
103	soil layer	dark grey brown sandy clay, frequent sandstone fragments	1	-	-
104	deposit/layer	reddish-brown clay 0.19m thick	3	-	-
105	layer	mixed green and reddish-brown sand	3	-	-
106	deposit	mid reddish-brown clay, leveling for wall [69]	3	-	-

MUCH PARK STREET CAR PARK, COVENTRY

Context number	Context type	Description	Plan	SF	Finds
107	layer	mid reddish-brown sand and clay	3	-	slate fragments
108	construction cut [69]	north to south linear cut for wall [69]	3	-	-
109	fill of [108]	mid reddish-brown sandy clay	3	-	-
110	layer	mid brown loamy sand 0.11m thick	3	-	slate fragments
111	layer	grey-brown sand	3	-	-
112	layer	mixed mid brown sand and clay 0.1m thick	3	-	-
113	layer	mixed orangey-brown sand	3	-	-
114	layer	mixed reddish -brown sand and clay 0.24m thick	3	7	pot, bone (SF7)
115	layer	reddish-brown sandy clay 0.07m thick	3	-	pot
116	fill of well [66]	dark grey ash and sand with frequent coal fragments		6+8	pot, bone domino (SF6), glass, clay tobacco-pipe
117	natural	extremely compacted reddish-brown sand, geology	1	-	-
118	fill of [120]	dark grey-brown silty clay, frequent sandstone fragments 0.2m	2	-	-
119	layer	reddish-brown clay sand 0.18m thick	2	-	-
120	cut for wall [65]	east to west linear construction cut, steep side to flat base	2	-	-
121	leveling layer	mid brown silty clay leveling layer	2	-	pot , bone, clay tobacco-pipe
122	stone wall	ashlar block 0.45m x0.3m block 1.3m long x 0.4m wide	1	-	-
123	fill of [124]	mid brownish-grey silty sand 0.4m thick	1	-	pot
124	cut of pit	sub-circular pit, bowl shaped with flat base 0.4m deep	1	-	-
125	brick floor	coal basement floor 230mmx110mmx65mm 2.5m x 1.25m	1	-	-
126	natural sand	firm orange brown sand- geology	1	-	-
127	clay deposit	firm reddish-brown clay	1	-	-
128	leveling layer	dark red and brown sand and clay mix	1	-	-
129	stone wall	east to west aligned sandstone wall	1	-	-
130	leveling layer	mixed grey-brown sandy clay, frequent sandstone fragments	1	-	pot

MUCH PARK STREET CAR PARK, COVENTRY

Context number	Context type	Description	Plan	SF	Finds
131	deposit	mixed reddish brown clay, frequent sandstone fragments	1	-	-
132	fill in undercroft	mid brown sandy soil, large sandstone fragments demolition	1	-	glass
133	demolition layer	mixed grey-brown sandy clay	2	-	-
134	redeposited natural	mid grey-brown silt clay, occasional sandstone fragments	1	-	-
135	layer	mid grey-brown silty sand. possible make up layer	1	-	-
136	soil layer	mid grey reddish-brown silty sand, possible ground make up	1	-	-
137	clay layer	reddish-brown clay layer around [139]	1	-	-
138	undercroft structure	east end of double-bay vaulted undercroft aligned east to west	1	-	-
139	outbuilding structure	outbuilding, dwarf wall for timber frame [63] +[64]	1	-	-
140	courtyard terraced houses	stone and brick footings for terraced houses	1+2	-	Farthing (SF2) Fe obj. (SF5)
141	sky light	stone skylight in wall [62] 1mx0.5m in undercroft	1	-	-
142	springer	vaulting springer on wall [61] for undercroft	1	-	-
143	boundary wall	post med reused sandstone	-	-	-
144	wall	east wall of [138]	-	-	-
145	doorway	doorway in [138]	-	-	-
146	deposit	coal residue over (125)	-	-	-
147	doorway	19th century insert in [138]	-	-	-
148	floor	sandstone surface in [138]	-	-	-
149	floor	brick surface in [138]	-	-	-
150	floor	concrete skin in [138]	-	-	-

## APPENDIX 2: STONEWORK PHOTOGRAPHS



Undercroft floors, looking south Fig 32



Column on wall [60], looking south Fig 33



Undercrofts [138] wall [60], looking south-east Fig 34



Ceiling bosses from rubble backfill of [138] Figs 35 and 36



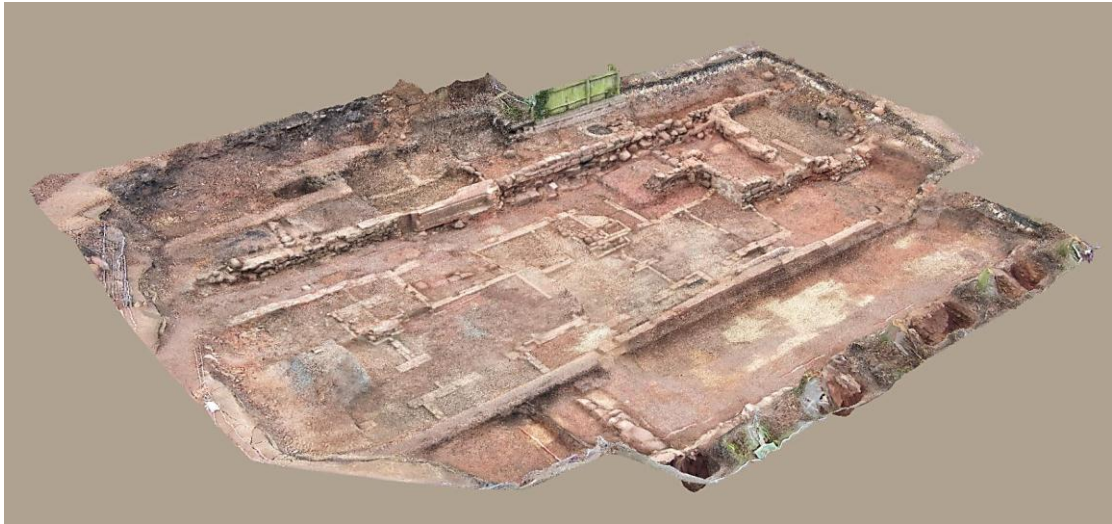
Stone moulding from demolition deposits Figs 37 and 38



Stone moulding from around the undercroft Figs 39 and 40

### APPENDIX 3: 3D MODEL

Please note that there is a digital 3D model that accompanies the hardcopies of this report on CD, which provides a photogrammetric reconstruction of the excavation shown in Figures 41-42, and which can be viewed on screen from different perspectives.



Screen capture of 3D model, orientated looking south-west Fig 41



Screen capture of 3D model, orientated looking south-east Fig 42



