



Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Paradise Street Coventry, West Midlands July 2016

Report No. 16/131

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NGR: SP 34016 78503

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on land at Paradise Street
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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS molanort1-259005	
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Paradise Street Coventry, West Midlands, July 2016		
<p>MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by K2 Consultancy to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Paradise Street, Coventry, West Midlands. A total of four trial trenches were excavated, two lay within the car park in the north end of the site and two in the car park to the south-east. The northern area showed possible evidence of medieval quarrying, afterwards there were truncated late medieval pits and a gully or slot and these were sealed beneath 17th-century ground build up layers. The latter was also present over the southern area. Modern occupation was identified along the street frontage onto the London Road in the form of a 19th-century cellar and walls that were sealed beneath demolition deposits and a car park surface.</p>			
Project type	Evaluation		
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Car parks		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Late medieval activity and modern occupation		
Significant finds	Pottery		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	West Midlands		
Site address	Paradise Street Coventry, West Midlands, CV1 2JU		
Easting Northing	SP 34016 78503		
Area (sq m/ha)	c.3600m sq.		
Height aOD	c.85m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project Design originator	Coventry City Council		
Director/Supervisor	Jonathan Elston		
Project Managers	Jim Brown		
Sponsor or funding body	K2 Consultancy Ltd		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	27/06/2016		
End date	30/06/2016		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical Paper	PSH16 Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Jordan Well, Coventry CV1 5QP	Site records (1 archive box), pottery	
Digital		Client report PDF. Survey Data, Photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Title	Archaeological evaluation on land at Paradise Street Coventry, West Midlands, July 2016		
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Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Paradise Street, Coventry West Midlands June 2016

Abstract

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by K2 Consultancy to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Paradise Street, Coventry, West Midlands. A total of four trial trenches were excavated, two lay within the car park in the north end of the site and two in the car park to the south-east. The northern area showed possible evidence of medieval quarrying, afterwards there were truncated late medieval pits and a gully or slot and these were sealed beneath 17th-century ground build up layers. The latter was also present over the southern area. Modern occupation was identified along the street frontage onto the London Road in the form of a 19th-century cellar and walls that were sealed beneath demolition deposits and a car park surface.

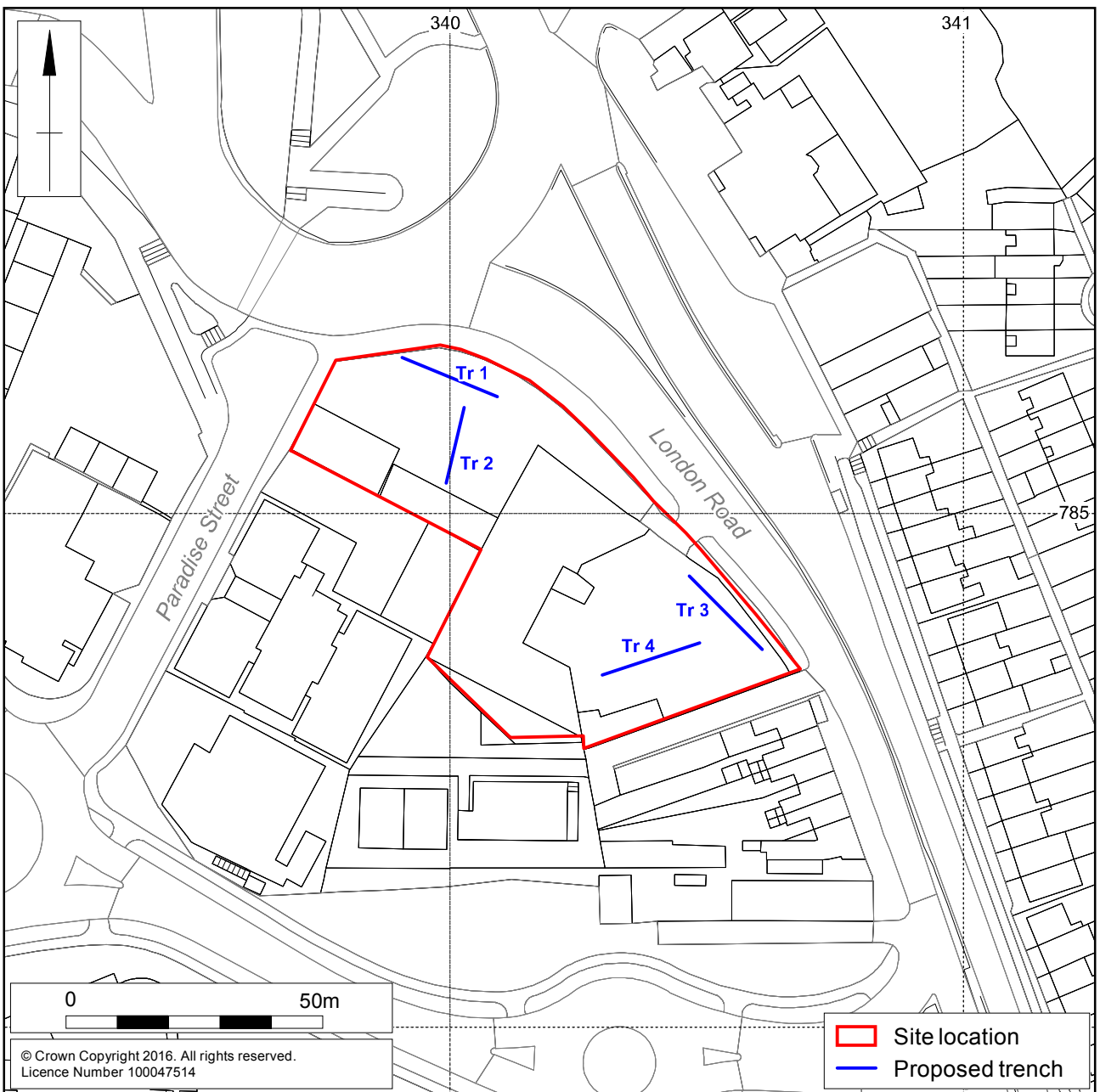
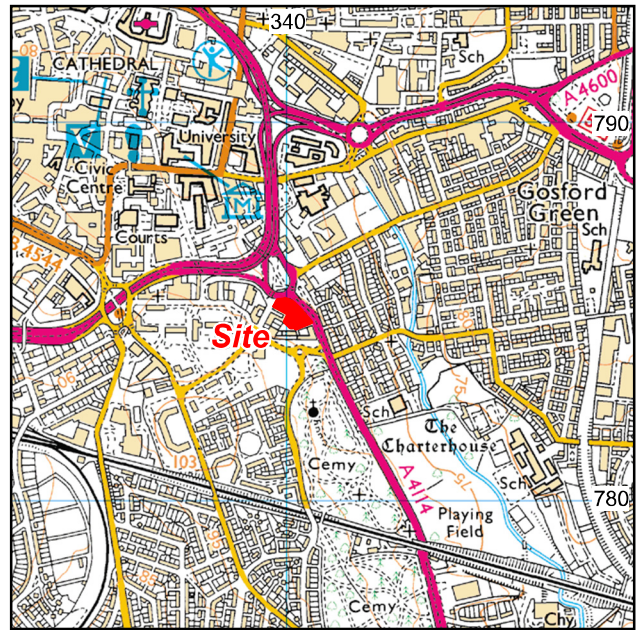
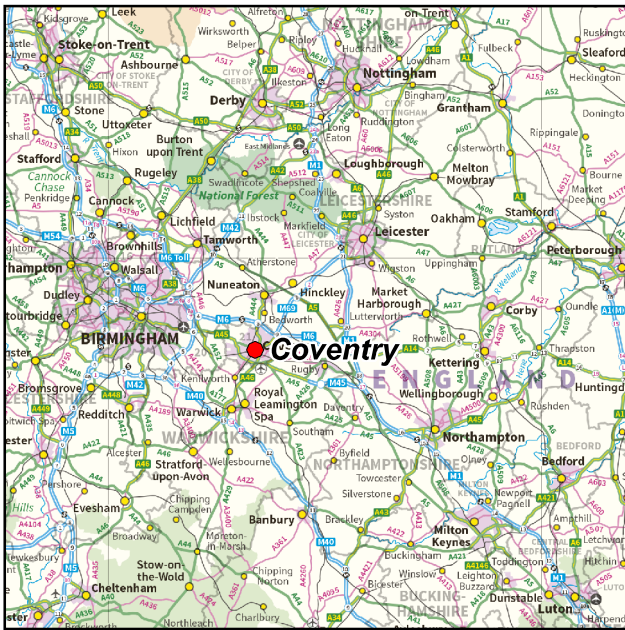
1 INTRODUCTION

In May 2016 MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by K2 Consultancy Ltd to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Paradise Street, Coventry, West Midlands (Fig 1: NGR SP 34016 78503). At the time of the works the site was occupied by a tile warehouse outlet and a car parking area.

The work was undertaken in advance of proposed development of the land with the approved demolition of the existing buildings. In its place will be student accommodation, three storey town houses, cycle parking and landscaping with pedestrian and vehicle access off Paradise Street (FUL/2015/3153). Coventry City Council issued a brief for an archaeological evaluation in the form of 75m of trial trenching to determine the site's potential for archaeological remains within the development area

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest. Its location is outside the medieval city wall and New Gate, which had been the gatehouse leading into the city from London.

The requirements were outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by MOLA Northampton (MOLA 2016) and carried out following the guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* and *Code of Conduct*, (CIfA 2014a and 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 in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).



Scale 1:1250

Site location and trench location Fig 1

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

The proposed development area comprises a c.3600m sq. parcel of land to the south of Coventry city centre. The land is fronted to the north-east by London Road, to the north by Small Street, and to the west by Paradise Street. To the south, the area is bordered by a newly built student accommodation block and former industrial units.

The topography of the site was generally flat tarmac surfaces at c.85m in the north rising to c.86m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to the south.

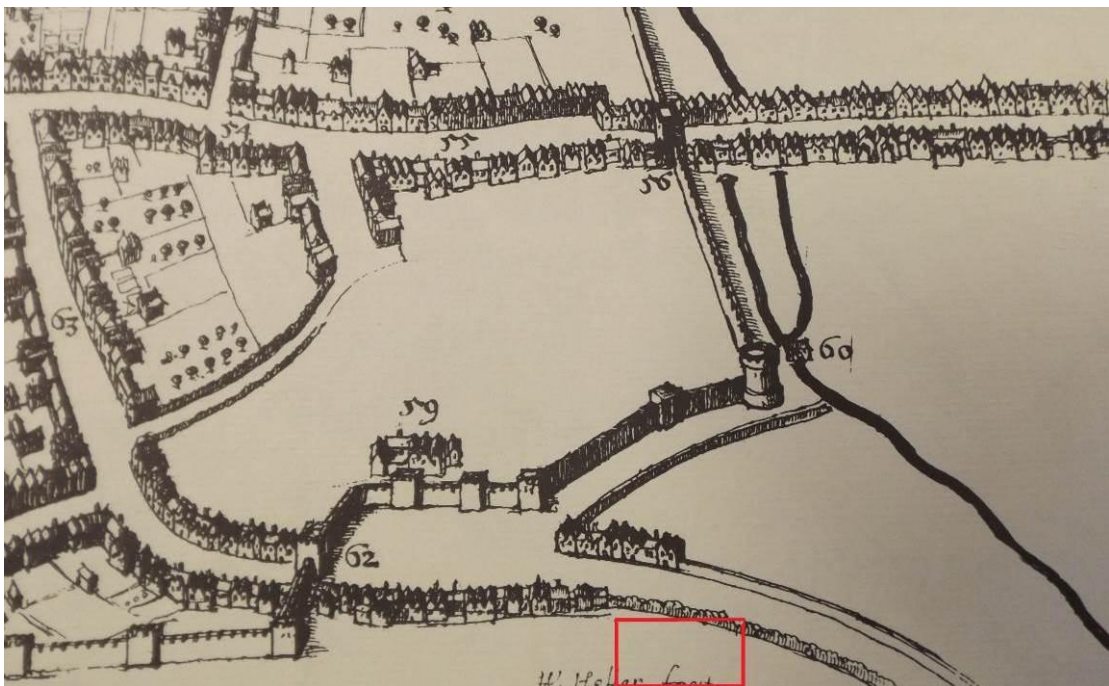
The geology across the site is recorded as Warwickshire Group siltstone and sandstone, with subordinate mudstone (BGS 2016)

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The construction of the ring way road network in the 1970s has altered the landscape of the area and has made it difficult to locate the exact development area on early maps. The location has been roughly outlined in red on the following maps (Figs 2-5). The site lies at the head of the London road, just outside the medieval city walls on the south-east side of Coventry. Although the street frontage closest to the city wall and New Gate has houses recorded on John Speed's map of 1610 (Fig 2), the site lies in an area of open ground.

A search of the Coventry City Historic Environment Record (HER) was made for a 200m radius and has been summarised below. The HER table and location map have been included in the appendix (Appendix 2)

The majority of the HER records for this area date from the medieval period. The earliest record from within a 1km radius of the site refers to the Hersum ditch (MCT2037), which formed the boundary to a medieval deer park, part of the Cheylesmore or Earls Park.

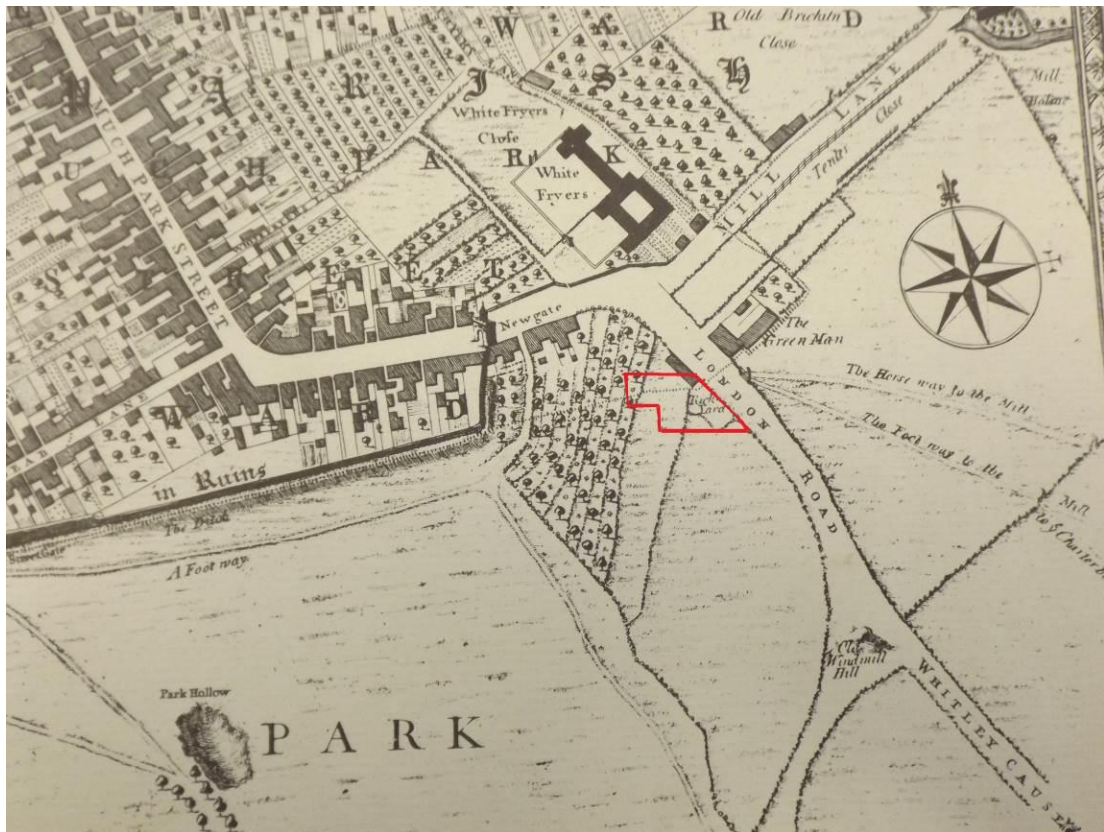


John Speed's map of Coventry, 1610

Fig 2

The medieval thoroughfare of Much Park Street (Fig 2, labelled 63), was situated around 300m to the north-west of the site (MCT16303) and developed in the 13th century as the town expanded to the south. Around 160m to the north of the site at Gulson Road is the site of Whitefriars Carmelite Priory (MCT850). The priory (Fig 2, labelled as 59) was founded in 1342 and dissolved in 1538, after which it became the private house of the Hales family. The only remaining buildings are the east range of the cloister (MCT191) and the gatehouse which is situated on Much Park Street to the north (MCT890).

A number of HER results relate to the medieval city wall of Coventry which passed close to the location of Paradise Street. Construction began in the 1350s and took 180 years to complete (Fig 2). Much of the wall was demolished in 1662 by order of King Charles II and can be seen as ruins on Samuel Bradford's map of Coventry 1748-9 (Fig 3). The site of the New Gate medieval gatehouse (Fig 3) is situated around 130m north-west of the site (MCT601). The gate was built in about 1355 but was demolished in 1762. A short section of the medieval town wall at the New Gate Court area dating from 1351 is still visible above ground just over 100m to the north-west of the site (MCT41).



Samuel Bradford's map of Coventry, 1748-9 Fig 3

A number of earthworks related to the medieval city defences are also recorded. The medieval town ditch (MCT629), which ran around the outside of the town wall, has been excavated in several locations over the years. This work, in places has uncovered waterlogged deposits. The former town ditch may have remained as an open feature in places until the 19th century. On Gulson Road, to the east of the site, an earthwork rampart associated with the Carmelite Priory had been constructed in 1430 (MCT16301). It is still visible as an earthwork. Around 250m to the west of the site, an earth bank or rampart inside the city wall at Parkside has been archaeologically recorded by J.B. Shelton (MCT15187).



Thomas Sharp's map, 1807

Fig 4



Ordnance Survey map of Coventry, 1888

Fig 5

Other medieval sites in the vicinity of the excavation include the site of a medieval quarry situated c.80m to the south of the site (Fig 5). It was known as the Prior's Stone Quarry and is mentioned in a number of documentary sources and depicted on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map (MCT15015). Around 60m to the west of the site was parcel of land lying just outside Newgate in 1482, known as Skynners Buttes (MCT16252). Further afield, the site of Little Park deer park lay over 300m to the south-west of the site. It was enclosed from the large Great Park between 1348 and 1367 (MCT2006).

A long, thin building appears on Bradford's map 1748-9 fronting onto the London Road approximately at the sites location and remains up to the 1800s surrounded by open/agricultural land (Fig 4). The south-eastern half is recorded as a 'Rick Yard' on this map, which was a place where haystacks or ricks were put. The north-western area was part of a large field. The site developed during the 19th century with large houses built on the street frontage.

A former row of Victorian terrace buildings (Fig 5) were recorded as fronting Paradise Street. These comprised number 13 (MCT376), and Eden Terrace, numbers 15-23 (MCT377). The buildings were constructed between 1800 and 1888 and demolished in 2001.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the archaeological investigation was to recover information to assist in making future decisions regarding the planning requirements of the site.

The specific objectives of the project were to examine the archaeological resource within the proposed development area to establish:

- The date, nature, significance, and extent of any archaeological remains within the development area.
- The relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape
- The potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region
- The potential for palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environment conditions
- To provide any further information that may inform the needs for archaeological mitigation requirements during the development of the site in a manner consistent with the expectations of the local authority.

The project addressed the research aims outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MOLA (MOLA 2016) and was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives set out for the West Midlands (Watt 2011).

4 METHODOLOGY

The evaluation comprised the excavation of four trial trenches measuring between 15.0m and 20.0m long by 1.85m wide, with stepped-out edges required for safety to reach the depth of natural geology or horizon of archaeological interest. Two of the

trenches were moved slightly as the site had limited space in the eastern area, which was still functioning as a car park.

The trial trenches were surveyed using Leica Viva Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of $\pm 0.05\text{m}$.

The excavation of the trial trenches used a JCB (4CX) mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, operating under constant archaeological supervision, to reveal archaeological remains or, where these were absent, undisturbed natural horizons. The tarmac, rubble and soil deposits were stacked separately at the side of the excavated area and scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

The trial trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. Archaeologically sensitive horizons were subject to limited hand excavation and auguring. All archaeological deposits identified during the course of the investigation were recorded following standard MOLA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (MOLA 2014).

Any 19th-century features were mapped in extent, profile and recorded photographically. Archaeological features or deposits predating these were investigated and characterised. Deposit sequences were recorded using sectional details and drawings. Discrete features were half sectioned and slots excavated through linear features were a minimum of 1.0m in width. Care was taken not to compromise the integrity of the archaeological record without first undertaking a full investigation.

Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. 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.

Archaeological features were plotted on an overall plan at a scale of 1:50 or 1:100, as appropriate. Sections or profiles through features and areas of complex stratigraphy will normally be drawn at a scale of 1:10. All levels were related to Ordnance Datum.

Artefacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (ClfA 2014c; Walker 1990; Watkinson & Neal 2001). No contaminated finds or samples were retained. Unstratified animal bones and modern material were not collected. Material that comprised a large quantity of a standard product, such as brick or tile, was retained as a sub-sample representing their typical composition. Artefacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care in line with procedures outlined in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

The field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE



Trench 2, looking south-south-west

Fig 6

5.1 General comments

The natural substrate consisted of orange-brown sandy clay and sandstone fragments. It was reached at 84.50m above Ordnance Datum at an average depth of 1.40m to 2.0m below the current ground surface with the deepest area being to the east around Trenches 3 and 4.

The depth to natural may have been the result of quarrying for clay and sandstone in the area, which has known medieval quarries close by (Fig 5; MCT 15015).

Trench 1 was located in the northern area of the site and encountered truncated late medieval pits sealed beneath mixed soil layers as well as ground build up deposits dating to the 17th-century. The latter was also present in Trench 2.

Trenches 3 and 4 at the eastern area of the site also contained 17th-century ground build up deposits. These deposits were sealed by 19th-century brick buildings set out along the street frontage.

No archaeological features were identified in Trench 2 (Fig 6).

The feature dimensions and orientation are recorded in context index tables (Appendix 1).

5.2 Possible evidence of quarrying

Possible evidence of quarrying was present in the northern area of the site. It comprised a reddish-brown clay layer with sandstone fragment inclusions which appeared loosely compact (Fig 7). A 0.3m deep sondage was excavated through this deposit, but there was no archaeological material present. Its loose compaction suggested it was less likely to be the top of the natural subsoil than an area of infilling. Christopher Patrick, Conservation and Archaeological Section, City of Coventry monitored this work. It was agreed that due to its depth that no further excavation could be undertaken due to Health and Safety constraints.



Trench 1, looking north-west

Fig 7

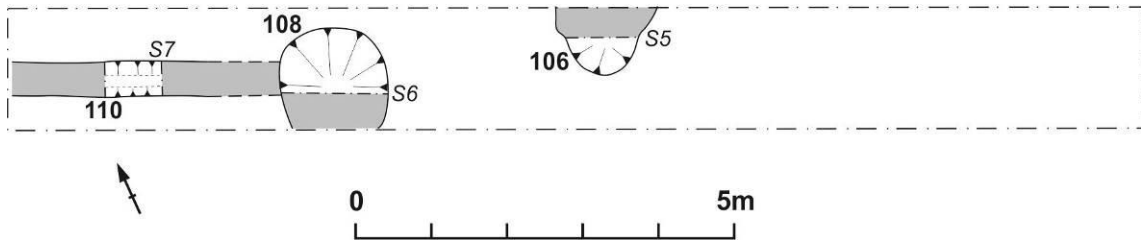


Trench 4, looking south-west

Fig 8

5.3 Medieval activity

In Trench 1 there were two pits that were cut into the possible medieval quarry material and a small gully that may have been present at a higher level within the soil deposits (Fig 9).



Trench 1 plan, scale 1:100

Fig 9

Pit [106] was sub-circular in plan with shallow gradual sloping sides onto a concave base. Approximately half the pit was visible in the trench and it was 1.15m wide by 0.10m deep (Fig 10). The pit was probably a rubbish pit that was filled with mid grey-brown slightly sandy silty clay (105) that produced some animal bone and one sherd of Chilvers Coton 'C' ware dated to the 14th century.



Pit [105], looking north-north-east

Fig 10

The second pit [108] was roughly oval in plan with a wide gradual sloping profile onto a flat base. It extended beneath the edge of the trench, was 1.70m long by 1.29m wide visible and 0.08m deep. The pit was also likely used for rubbish disposal and was filled with a similar material as (105) also containing animal bone and one sherd of Chilvers Coton 'C' ware.

The gully present on the west side of the pit [108] didn't appear to have a direct relationship with the pit and may have been the base of a later gully or slot that was stratigraphically later possibly cutting soil layer (103; Fig 11).

Soil layer (103) was mottled reddish-brown silty clay that was present throughout the trench with a maximum thickness of 0.40m. It had an uneven boundary to the natural horizon below and the build-up layer (102) above and may represent a remnant garden soil. A sherd of Tudor Green Ware pottery was recovered from the layer that dated to the late 14th-century. A similar soil layer (204) was also present in Trench 2 but produced a single sherd of 'Midland Purple' pottery that dated to the 15th century.

Possible gully or slot [110] in Trench 1 had a shallow wide, U-shaped profile that was 0.45m wide by 0.11m deep and was visible for 3.5m aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. It was filled by reddish-brown sandy clay (1109) that appeared to be intentionally deposited. The feature shallowed out at either end and may have formed a foundation slot for a timber structure.



Gully or slot [110], looking west-north-west

Fig 11

5.4 Post-medieval ground build-up

Overlying the soil layer (103) in Trench 1 was a mixed grey-brown silty clay deposit (102) that varied between 0.45m and 0.69m thick that was present throughout the trench. It appeared to be a dump of mixed material rather than a layer. It was also present in Trench 2 as layer (203), and likely intended to raise the ground level. Pottery recovered from deposit (102) dated to the 17th century (Fig 12).

In Trench 2, overlying deposit (203) was brown silty clay layer (202) that was 0.23m thick and contained small stones and charcoal flecks (Fig 13).

The build-up layers in both Trenches 1 and 2 were sealed beneath modern car park construction deposits that were between 0.35m to 0.41m thick (Figs 12 and 13).

In the eastern area, Trenches 3 and 4 also contained a series of build-up layers that were deepest nearest to the frontage along the London Road. Two sondages were dug at either end of Trench 4 to ascertain the depth of the natural geology. At the western end of the trench reddish-brown clays (417) were reached at 85.10m aOD, whilst at the eastern end it was not reached until 84.57m aOD (Fig 14). In Trench 3 the natural reddish-brown clay (311) was reached at 84.351m aOD.



Trench 1 make-up layers, looking north-north-east

Fig 12



Trench 2 section through make-up layers, looking north-west

Fig 13

Overlying the natural in Trench 4 was a buried soil layer (416) that comprised 0.37m thick greyish-brown silty clay and contained occasional charcoal flecks. From the layer one sherd of Chilvers Coton 'C' ware and two sherds of 19th-century earthen wares were recovered. The later sherds may be intrusive and the soil layer could be late medieval in date, similar to the buried soil layers present in Trenches 1 and 2 or Trench 3 where the buried soil (310) contained 17th-century pottery.



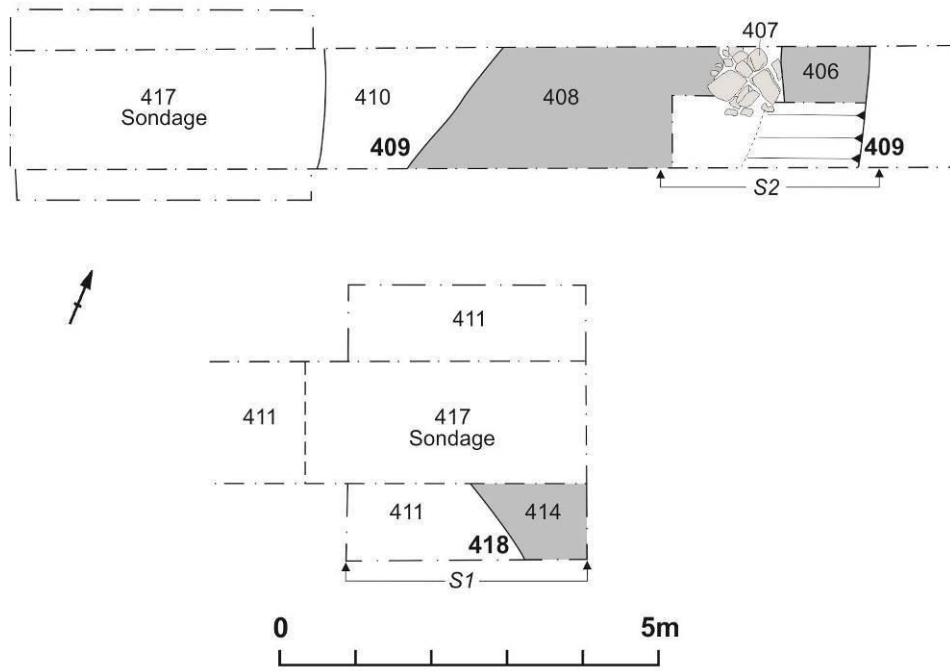
Trench 4 sondage section, looking east-south-east

Fig 14

A distinct demolition deposit or horizon (415) was present overlying the buried soil. It comprised mixed yellow-brown sandy material that was 0.20m thick and contained brick fragments, stones and charcoal flecks. In Trench 3 there was a similar demolition layer (309), which was 0.24m thick.

In Trench 4 this deposit was overlain by a mid-grey silty clay layer (413), which was 0.20m thick and represented the base to a series of depositing episodes which comprised layers (411 and 412). They were mixed silty clay and sandy clay deposits up to 0.60m thick and contained 19th-century pottery. In Trench 3 these deposits were represented by layer (308), 0.62m thick, which was mixed grey-brown sandy silty clay with frequent brick fragments, stones and charcoal flecks.

During the 19th-century a series of pits appear to have been cut into these deposits and backfilled with waste material.



Trench 4 plan, scale 1:100

Fig 15

Pit [418] appeared to be circular in plan with a bowl-shaped profile, 1.20m wide 0.58m deep. It had been in filled with reddish-brown clay (414).



Pit [409], looking south-south-east

Fig 16

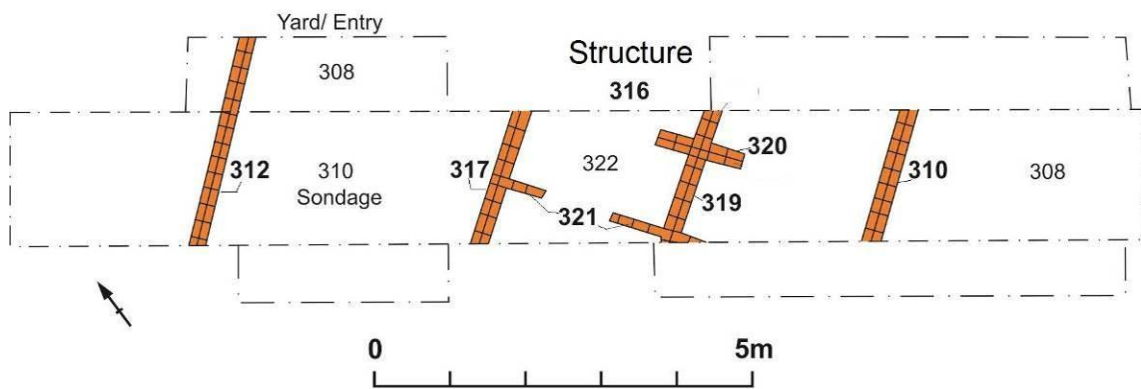
Pit [409] located near the centre of Trench 4 was sub-rectangular in plan approximately 6.0m long by 0.60m deep that extended beyond the trench (Fig 16). The pit had a gradual sloping edge onto a flat base and had been filled with a series of dumped materials (405, 406, 407 and 408). These were a mix of yellow-brown sand, reddish-brown clay and rubble. Within the fill were three large sandstone

blocks measuring 400mm long by 300mm wide by 300mm thick that had been roughly squared and faced. A glass bottle recovered from between the stones dated to the 19th century that was marked with 'Hinds & Co' company name and 'Coventry' (Fig 20).

The pits were sealed beneath layer of mid blackish-brown sandy silty clay (404) that was 0.26m thick and represented the final levelling of the site prior to the construction of the car park surface.

5.5 Modern occupation

Trench 3 located along the street frontage of the London Road contained parts of two buildings aligned north-east to south-west. They were constructed from reddish-brown unfrogged hand-made brick that measured 225mm by 105mm by 70mm (Fig 17). The buildings were separated by a yard or entry that had a blue engineer brick surface. The buildings truncated layer (308).



Trench 3 plan, scale 1:100

Fig 17

Structure [316] was a 5.0m wide cellar that comprised two external walls [317] and [310] and an internal structural wall [319] that divided the cellar in-two (Fig 18). The walls were made from brick, bonded with a sandy mortar that was two courses wide and laid as a stretcher bond. A single skin internal wall [321], aligned north-west to south-east, further divided the cellar into four bays. The walls stood up to nine courses high with a stepped foundation. The cellar was infilled with demolition material (322). It was mid-brown mixed silty sandy clay that contained frequent broken brick rubble, sandstone fragments and metal pipe. Pottery recovered from this deposit was 19th century in date.

Wall [312] represented the south-east external wall of the next building and was constructed using the same methods as [316]. The two buildings were separated by a yard or entry that was 3.40m wide and consisted of a single layer of blue engineering brick laid flat to form a surface (Fig 19). The bricks were unfrogged and handmade measuring 225mm by 105mm by 70mm.



Structure [316], looking north-west

Fig 18



Sondage with entry [305] and wall [312], looking north-east

Fig 19

The buildings were sealed beneath a layer of demolition layer (323) that was dark grey silty clay with frequent brick fragments, stones and charcoal flecks and was 0.30m thick. Overlying the demolition layer was mid-grey silty clay (304) that was 0.09m thick and was the lower layer in a sequence of thin layers of rubble and gravel (303-2) with a combined thickness of 0.25m thick. The modern car park layer covers the area and was 0.06m thick.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 41 sherds with a total weight of 1,112g. It was mostly post-medieval or modern, and was recorded using the codes and chronology of the Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery Type-Series (Ratkai and Soden, in archive), as follows:

Sq30:	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware, 1300-1500	4 sherds, 49g.
WW02:	'Tudor Green' Ware, 1380 – 1550.	1 sherd, 1g.
MP:	Midland Purple Ware, 15th – mid 17th centuries	1 sherds, 5g.
MB02:	Late Midland Blackware, 1600-1900.	3 sherds, 111g.
SLPW01:	Staffordshire Slipware, 1640-1750	2 sherds, 38g.
STE01:	Late English Stoneware, 1750 +	4 sherds, 187g.
MGW:	Modern Earthenwares, late 18th century +	22 sherds, 323g.

The following, not listed in the type-series, were also noted:

GRE: Glazed Red Earthenware, mid-16th – 18th centuries (Brears 1969). 4 sherds, 398g

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a terminus post quem. The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region. The medieval sherds from contexts 105 and 107 are both from glazed jugs. They are quite large and in good condition, and appear reliably stratified.

The post-medieval assemblage includes a mixture of fine tablewares and more utilitarian earthenwares and stonewares, and is typical of the period.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Fabric	Sq30	WW02	MP	GRE	MB02	SLPW01	STE01	MGW	
Fill / cut / type	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	No/W (g)	
102 layer	1/12	-	-	-	1/56	-	-	-	17th century
103 layer	-	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Late 14th century
105 / 106 pit	1/16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14th century
107 / 108 pit	1/18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14th century
202 layer	-	-	-	-	-	-1/27	-	-	Mid-17th century
204 layer	-	-	1/5	-	-	-	-	-	15th century
308 layer	-	-	-	-1/62	-	-	1/6	4/44	19th century
309 layer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/27	19th century
310 layer	-	-	-	-	1/45	1/11	-	-	Mid-17th century
322 layer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3/164	19th century
405 layer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5/23	19th century
408 / 409 feature	-	-	-	3/336	-	-	3/181	3/46	19th century
410 layer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/4	19th century
411 layer	-	-	-	-	1/10	-	-	1/3	19th century
416 layer	1/3	-	-	-	--	-	-	2/12	19th century
Total	4/49	1/1	1/5	4/398	3/111	2/38	4/187	22/323	

6.2 Glass bottle by Tora Hylton

Part of a Codd bottle was recovered from Pit [409], the upper section from the base of the neck is missing. Codd bottles were patented by Hiram Codd, an English Engineer in 1872 and they were used to store carbonated mineral waters. The bottle was blown in a mould and it was filled under gas pressure which pushed a marble against a rubber washer in the neck of the bottle, creating a seal.

The exterior of the bottle is marked with the name of the bottle manufacturer - J. KILNER & SONS, MAKERS, WAKEFIELD. John Kilner founded the John Kilner and Co glass company in 1842 and they established several glassworks across the north of England during the 19th century. The glassworks in Wakefield, Yorkshire was active from 1847-57.

The front of the bottle is marked with – “HINDS & CO” and “COVENTRY”, the words separated by a trade mark, an Elephant and Castle with a monogrammed shield beneath. Hinds & Co, a mineral water/soft drinks manufacturer, traded in the mid late 19th and early 20th century, it was based in Hales Street, Coventry, next to the Grammar School.



Glass Codd bottle marked 'Hinds & Co', looking south-south-east

Fig 20

7 DISCUSSION

The earliest identifiable activity present on the site were probable medieval quarry pits identified in Trenches 1 and 2 at the north-western part of the site. Extensive medieval quarrying had been recorded directly to the south of the site in the HER (MCT 15015) and here their legacy survived as depressions in the ground into the 19th century (Fig 5). The evidence from Paradise Street was that this quarry activity seems to have been even more extensive than previously envisaged.

Two shallow truncated medieval pits and a gully or slot cut the former quarry area, presumably backplot activity to structures fronting the street recorded directly to the north of the development area in Speed's 1610 map (Fig 2).

It is likely the area was farmed from the late medieval/early post-medieval period. Levelling layers were encountered in Trenches 1 and 2 and these were presumably laid to make the site accessible for agriculture. The Speed map recorded the site was devoid of structures. The 1748-9 Bradford map shows half the development area was in part of an open field and the other as an area where there were haystacks (Fig 3).

It was not until the 19th century with the construction of buildings along the frontage of the London Road that the site was altered. The site was cleared during the late 20th century and the current buildings constructed.

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Maps

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	15m X 1.80m NW-SE	434000, 278528 434013, 278521	85.36m aOD	1.47m depth 83.89m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
101	Car park	Tarmac and hard-core	0.41m depth	-
102	Layer	Firm mid brown silty clay make-up deposit	0.69m depth	Pot, CBM
103	Layer	Firm, mid reddish-brown silty clay make-up deposit	0.40m depth	Pot
104	Natural (?)	Friable mid brownish-red sandy silty clay	0.19m depth	-
105	Fill	F/O Pit [106]. Friable mid grey-brown slightly sandy silty clay.	1.15m width 0.10m depth	Pot, A. Bone, CBM
106	Cut	Cut of shallow sub-circular pit, orientated NE-SW. Probably rubbish pit.	0.90. length 1.15m width 0.10m depth	-
107	Fill	F/O Pit [108]. Friable mid grey-brown slightly sandy silty clay.	1.29m width 0.08m depth	Pot, A. Bone
108	Cut	Cut of shallow sub-circular possible pit, orientated NE-SW.	1.70m length 1.29m width 0.08m depth	-
109	Fill	F/O gully terminus [110]. Firm mid brownish-red silty clay. Backfilling deposit.	0.48m width 0.11m depth	A. Bone, CBM
110	Cut	Cut of steep-sided U-shaped gully terminus, orientated NW-SE	2.45m length 0.48m width 0.11m depth	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	15m x 1.80m NNE-SSW	434002, 278521 433999, 278505	85.36m aOD	1.43m depth 83.93m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
201	Car park	Tarmac and hard-core	0.35m depth	-
202	Layer	Firm mid brown silty clay build-up material	0.23m depth	Pot
203	Layer	Firm mid reddish-brown silty clay build-up material	0.40m depth	-
204	Layer	Firm mid brown (red-brown mottling) silty clay dump deposit/build-up material	0.47m depth	CBM
205	Natural (?)	Friable mid brownish-red sandy silty clay	0.25m depth	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3	15m X 1.80m NW-SE	434047, 278486 434057, 278473	86.45m aOD	2.10m depth 84.35m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
301	Car park	Tarmac	0.06m depth	-
302	Layer	Firm mid purplish-grey silty clay build-up material	0.18m depth	-
303	Layer	Tarmac	0.07m depth	-
304	Layer	Firm mid purplish-grey silty clay build-up material	0.09m depth	-
305	Layer	Surface constructed of handmade, unfrogged blackish-grey bricks. Single course, bricks orientated N-S, bonded with sandy mortar. Bricks were 225mmx105mmx0.70mm	0.07m depth	-

PARADISE STREET, COVENTRY

306	Layer	Firm mid brown-grey silty clay bedding layer for yard surface [305]	0.07m depth	-
307	Layer	Firm mid brownish-red silty clay build-up material	0.20m	-
308	Layer	Firm mid grey-brown slightly sandy silty clay build-up material	0.62	Pot
309	Layer	Firm mid brown-grey sandy silt- clay (with lens of mid brownish-red clay) rubble material, similar to (415)	0.29m depth	Pot
310	Layer	Firm mid grey-brown slightly sandy silty clay buried soil horizon	0.45m depth	Pot
311	Natural	Firm mid orangey-red silty clay	-	-
312	Wall	Brick wall, orientated E-W. Constructed of handmade, unfrogged, reddish-brown brick bonded with sandy mortar. Bricks were 225mmx105mmx70mm. Laid as a stretcher bond	1.80m length 0.22m width 1.50m depth	-
313	Fill	F/O foundation cut [314]. Soft mid yellowy-brown sandy silt	0.01m width 1.05m depth	-
314	Cut	Vertical cut of wall foundation for wall [312].	0.22m width 1.05m depth	-
315	Layer	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay rubble material behind wall [312]	0.32m width 0.68m depth	-
316	Structure	Cellar of house, comprising walls [317], [318], [319], [320] and [321]	-	-
317	Wall	Brick wall, orientated E-W. Constructed of handmade, unfrogged, reddish-brown brick bonded with sandy mortar. Bricks were 225mmx105mmx70mm. Laid as a stretcher bond	1.80m length 0.22m width	-

PARADISE STREET, COVENTRY

318	Wall	Brick wall, orientated E-W. Constructed of handmade, unfroged, reddish-brown brick bonded with sandy mortar. Bricks were 225mmx105mmx70mm. Laid as a stretcher bond	1.80m length 0.22m width	-
319	Wall	Brick wall, orientated E-W. Constructed of handmade, unfroged, reddish-brown brick bonded with sandy mortar. Bricks were 225mmx105mmx70mm. Laid as a stretcher bond	1.80m length 0.22m width	-
320	Wall	Brick wall, orientated N-S. Constructed of handmade, unfroged, reddish-brown brick bonded with sandy mortar. Bricks were 225mmx105mmx70mm. Laid as a stretcher bond.	1.17m length 0.22m width	-
321	Wall	Brick wall, orientated N-S. Constructed of handmade, unfroged, reddish-brown brick bonded with sandy mortar. Bricks were 225mmx105mmx70mm. Single thickness stretcher coursing.	0.84m+0.60m length 0.11m width	-
322	Layer	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay rubble material within cellar structure		Pot
323	Layer	Firm mid purplish-grey silty clay build-up material, similar to (304)	0.30m depth	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
4	17.5m X 1.80m WSW-ENE	434029, 278468 434049, 278474	86.51m aOD	2.00m depth 84.51m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
401	Car park	Tarmac and hard-core	0.10m depth	-
402	Layer	Surface of reddish-brown handmade, unfroged bricks. Single course, no set pattern to layout. No bonding material. Bricks were 225mmx105mmx70mm	0.07m depth	-
403	Layer	Hard-core	0.24m depth	-
404	Layer	Firm mid blackish-brown slightly sandy silt clay build-up material	0.26m depth	-
405	Layer	Firm mid reddish-grey-brown slightly sandy silty clay build-up material	0.21m depth	Pot
406	Fill	F/O Intrusion [409]. Compact mid brownish-red silty clay	2.,04m width 0.38m depth	-
407	Fill	F/O intrusion [409]. Soft light yellow silty sand dump of rubble material	2.20m width 0.36m depth	-
408	Fill	F/O intrusion [409]. Firm mid grey-brown slightly sandy silty clay manual backfill deposit	4.25m width 0.34m depth	Pot, Glass, CBM
409	Cut	Cut of shallow sub-rectangular intrusion, orientated N-S	1.80m length 6.00m width 0,60m depth	-
410	Layer	Firm mid reddish-grey-brown slightly sandy silty clay build-up material	0.50m depth	Pot
411	Layer	Firm mid reddish-grey-brown slightly sandy silty clay build-up material	0.42m depth	Pot
412	Layer	Firm mid reddish-brown slightly sandy silty clay build-up material	0.20m depth	-
413	Layer	Firm mid brown-grey sandy silty clay	0.20m depth	-

PARADISE STREET, COVENTRY

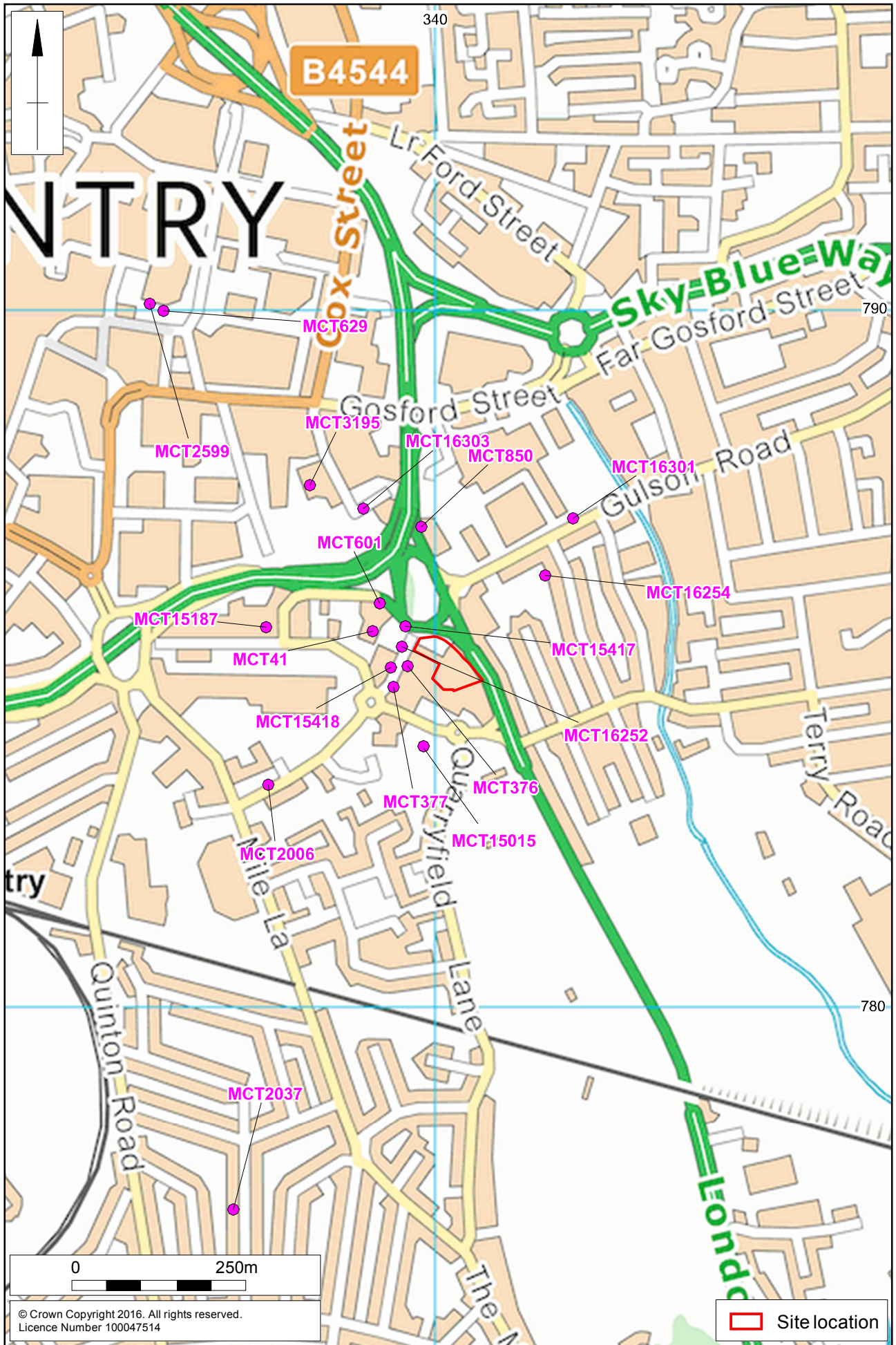
414	Fill	F/O pit [418]. Firm mid brownish-red silty clay dump of material	1.37m width 0.58m depth	-
415	Layer	Loose rubble material	0.16m depth	-
416	Layer	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay buried soil horizon, similar to (310)	0.37m depth	Pot, CBM
417	Natural	Firm dark brownish-red silty clay	-	-
418	Cut	Cut of moderately steep-sided sub-circular pit (?)	1.00m length 1.37m width 0.58m depth	-

APPENDIX 2: SELECTED COVENTRY HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORDS

Ref	Site Name	Period	Summary Description	NGR
MCT2037	Deer Park Boundary and Hersum or Red Ditch	Earlier Medieval to 18th Century - 1154 AD to 1795 AD	A ditch formed the boundary to the Cheylesmore or Earls Park, a medieval deer park.	SP 3371 7771
MCT16303	Much Park Street	Earlier Medieval to Modern - 1237 AD? to 2007 AD	Much Park Street, a medieval to modern thoroughfare which first began to develop in the 13th century	SP 33807 78716
MCT850	Whitefriars Carmelite Priory; Gulsdon Road	Earlier Medieval to Later Medieval - 1342 AD to 1539 AD	Whitefriars Carmelite Priory which was founded in 1342 and dissolved in 1538, after which it became the private house of the Hales family. The only remaining buildings are the east range of the cloister (MCT191) and the gatehouse (MCT890).	SP 3398 7869
MCT41	Coventry city wall: New Gate Court area	Later Medieval to 17th Century - 1351 AD to 1667 AD	A short section of the medieval town wall that is still visible above ground and which is a scheduled monument	SP 3391 7854
MCT2599	Medieval City Wall	Later Medieval to Jacobean - 1351 AD to 1622 AD	The city wall, the building of which was begun in the 1350s. It took 180 years to complete. Some stretches of the wall are still visible above ground level and are scheduled monuments but much of the wall was demolished in 1662 by order of King Charles II.	SP 3359 7901
MCT629	Medieval Town Ditch	Later Medieval to Victorian - 1351 AD to 1888 AD	The medieval town ditch which ran around the outside of the town wall as an extra line of defence. The ditch has been excavated in several locations over the years, in places providing waterlogged deposits. It may have remained as an open feature in places until the 19th century.	SP 3361 7900
MCT16301	Rampart	Later Medieval to 17th Century - 1355 AD to 1643 AD	Rampart from New Gate to Gulson Road	SP 34198 78702
MCT601	New Gate; Ringway St Johns	Later Medieval to 18th Century - 1355 AD? to 1762 AD	The site of New Gate, a medieval gatehouse built as part of the defensive circuit around the city. The gate was built in about 1355 but was demolished in 1762	SP 3392 7858
MCT15187	Parkside; City Wall earthworks	Later Medieval to 17th Century - 1355 AD to 1643 AD)	J.B. Shelton recorded an earth bank or rampart inside the city wall at Parkside	SP 33757 78546

PARADISE STREET, COVENTRY

MCT2006	Little Parke	Later Medieval to 17th Century - 1367 AD to 1639 AD	Little Parke, a deer park which was enclosed from the larger or Great Park at some point between 1348 and 1367. It may originally have been separated from the Great Park for the development of the medieval suburb of Queene Street, which was never built.	SP 3376 7832
MCT15015	Prior's Quarry; London Road	Later Medieval to Victorian - 1411 AD to 1889 AD	The site of a medieval quarry known as the Prior's stone quarry, which is mentioned in a number of documentary sources and is also depicted on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map.	SP 34003 78422
MCT16252	Skynners Buttes	Later Medieval - 1468 AD to 1482 AD	Land parcel outside Newgate in 1482	SP 33952 78518
MCT16254	Cathedral Church land	Later Medieval to Unknown - 1482 AD	Open field	SP 34158 78620
MCT15417	Gyrdlers Close	Jacobean - 1605 AD	Gyrdlers Close recorded in 1605 on the west side of the London Road by New Gate	SP 33957 78547
MCT15418	Close	Jacobean - 1605 AD	Close outside Newgate recorded in 1605	SP 33936 78488
MCT3195	Civil War skirmish site	17th Century - 1642 AD	The possible site of a skirmish during the Civil War of 1642. During archaeological fieldwork at this site several musket balls, six pistol balls, a cannon ball and the top of a powder measure were found. The skirmish may have been an attempt to breach to town wall by New Gate.	SP 3382 7875
MCT376	13 Paradise Street	19th Century to Victorian - 1801 AD? to 1888 AD	The site of a Victorian building that was a locally listed building but which was demolished in 2001	SP 3396 7849
MCT377	Eden Terrace; 15-23 Paradise Street	19th Century - 1801 AD? to 1900 AD?	The site of a terrace of Victorian houses that were locally listed buildings but which were demolished in 2001	SP 3394 7846



Scale 1:7500

Historic Environment Record (HER) data Fig 21



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