

Handsworth Park, Birmingham. An Archaeological Evaluation. 2002

 $m{B}$ irmingham University Field Archaeology Unit



## Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit **Project No. 979** November 2002

## Handsworth Park, Birmingham. An Archaeological Evaluation. 2002

by Emma Hancox

With Contributions by Annette Hancocks and Marina Ciaraldi Illustrations by Nigel Dodds

For further information please contact:
Simon Buteux Alex Jones or Iain Ferris (Directors)
Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston

Birmingham B15 2TT Tel: 0121 414 5513 Fax: 0121 414 5516

E-Mail: BUFAU@bham.ac.uk Web Address: http://www.bufau.bham.ac.uk

## Contents

Summary	I
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Site Location	1
3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background	2
4.0 Aims	2
5.0 Method	3
6.0 The Results of the Trial Trenching	3
7.0 Finds by Annette Hancocks	5
8.0 Environmental Analysis by Marina Ciaraldi	7
9.0 Discussion	7
10.0 Acknowledgements	8
11.0 References	9

## Appendix

Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation as part of landscaping proposals. Birmingham City Council Planning Department.

## **Figures**

- 1) General Site Location
- 2) 1890 Ordnance Survey Map
- 3) Trench Location
- 4) Trench 1, plan and sections of Sondages 1, 2 and 3.
- 5) Trench 2, plan and section; Trench 3, section.
- 6) Trench 5, plan and section.

## **Plates**

- 1) Trench 1
- 2) Trench 1- F100
- 3) Trench 2
- 4) Trench 2- Sondage 6
- 5) Trench 3
- 6) Trench 3- Tarmac surface
- 7) Trench 3- Rubble build up
- 8) Trench 4
- 9) Trench 4- Section
- 10) Trench 5- F500, pre-excavation shot
- 11) Trench 5- F500
- 12) Trench 5- F500, section

## Handsworth Park, Birmingham. An Archaeological Evaluation. 2002

## Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in Handsworth Park, Birmingham (NGR SP 051 901) in September and October 2002. Birmingham City Council commissioned the work prior to a program of landscaping. Five trenches were dug in the northeast part of the park to investigate any evidence of medieval settlement, including a possible former fishpond. Two trenches were also located to attempt to identify the remains of a Rectory that survived until the construction of the park in the 1890's. excavations revealed that extensive landscaping had taken place during the building of the park and any surviving archaeology was under a thick layer of overburden, Evidence for the Rectory in the form of a garden/yard wall and associated cobble surface was found. The possible medieval fishpond was also located. No evidence was found for a medieval settlement. It is possible that the original ground surface was truncated away in some areas. If this is the case, then any below-ground deposits will have been destroyed. Should any archaeology survive, it will be preserved under the substantial build-up of soil and rubble. The remains of the Rectory may be closer to the modern ground surface.

#### 1.0 Introduction

This report details the results of trial trenching in Handsworth Park in Birmingham. The evaluation was undertaken in advance of a programme of landscaping in the park and followed a desk-based assessment carried out in 1998. Five trenches were excavated in the northeast part of the park near to St. Mary's Church and Hamstead Road. Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) was commissioned by Birmingham City Council Leisure Department to carry out the work, which was undertaken in September and October 2002.

The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by The Department of Planning, Birmingham City Council (Hodder 2002, Appendix) and a written scheme of investigation prepared by BUFAU (Coates 2002).

## **2.0 The Site** (Fig. 1)

Handsworth Park is located to the northwest of Birmingham city centre (NGR SP 051 901). The park is bounded by Hamstead Road to the east, Holly Road and Grove Lane to the south and west, Hinstock Road to the northwest and St. Mary's Church and the gardens of properties fronting onto Church Lane, to the north.

The Park was laid out in the late-nineteenth century encompassing open grass areas, a lake, tennis courts, bowling green, cricket pitch and children's play areas. It was paid for by local businesses and landowners as a place for the community to use for recreation. During the post-war years the park became an unsafe place, overgrown and disused by the public. It subsequently became the property of Birmingham City Council.

The underlying geology of the area is boulder clay with an overlying, undifferentiated drift. Bunter pebble beds extend across the northern part of the park (terms from British Geological Survey 1955). The park is mostly open grassland with partial tree cover. The trial trenching occurred in the northeast part of the park, where there is a large lake and some structural development in the form of the Park Lodge.

## 3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

No previous archaeological investigations have been conducted within the park, therefore this background is based solely on documentary and cartographic sources and surface finds. A more detailed study is available in the desk-based assessment (Mould 1998).

The only evidence of pre-medieval activity within the park consists of two surface finds, a Bronze Age Palstave axe (Birmingham SMR 20159) and a Roman coin from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (Birmingham SMR 02236). These may relate to settlements in the area, but it is more likely, given the lack of any other finds, that they were associated with more transitory activity across what would have been heath and woodland in the prehistoric and Roman periods (*ibid*.).

The Domesday Book of 1086 mentioned a manor in Handsworth, but did not state exactly where this was. There is believed to have been a church on the site of the present St. Mary's since the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The Church is on one of the highest points of land in the area, close to the Grove Brook, which is a natural source of water, and along the busy Hamstead Road, which led into the medieval town of Birmingham. Therefore, it would seem likely that the settlement associated with the manor would have been somewhere in the vicinity of the Church. Whether it was to the north or south of the Church is unknown. If a settlement had developed along the road to the south of the Church, evidence may survive below ground, in the area under archaeological evaluation.

Maps dating back to 1775 show the area as open heath land up until the building of the park in the nineteenth century. A Rectory is shown to the south of the Church, near to where the Park Lodge stands today (Fig. 2). It appears on the earliest map and therefore pre-dates 1775. The exact age of the Rectory is unknown (*ibid.*).

Two long thin ponds, joined at the western end by a small channel are shown on the maps up until the late-nineteenth century. They were filled in at some point between 1870 and 1890. These have been identified as possible medieval fishponds (*ibid.*). They lay within the area now under evaluation. The southern pond lay under where the lake is and has probably been truncated away. However, the northern pond formed the boundary to the Church grounds and may still survive underneath the present ground surface. The ponds were filled in over a short period of time and may still contain undisturbed deposits from the medieval period.

#### 4.0 Aims

The general aim of the evaluation was to characterise the nature, extent and date of any archaeological deposits encountered.

More specific aims were to identify:

- the location and extent of the Church Rectory which existed in the area where the Park Lodge now stands,
- · any evidence of medieval settlement, and
- the degree of survival of the former medieval fishpond, which is on the line of a proposed new park boundary wall. Also to examine the survival of environmental evidence within the former pond deposits.

#### 5.0 Method

Five trenches were excavated of various lengths, totalling 75m and each measuring 1.6m wide (Fig. 3). Two were dug along the edge of the present Churchyard wall to the north of the lake (Trenches 4 and 5). They were excavated in order to determine the potential survival of one of the medieval fishponds. Trench 3 was dug to assess the possibility of a medieval settlement in the vicinity of St. Mary's Church, along Hamstead Road. The eastern end of the trench was positioned over a slight dip in the ground running along the edge of the park boundary. Trenches 1 and 2 were dug in the area where the Rectory once stood, possibly over the gardens associated with the house, which are depicted on the 1890 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 2).

The trenches were excavated down to archaeological deposits, under archaeological supervision, with a mini-digger (Trenches 1 and 2) and a J.C.B. (Trenches 3, 4 and 5). They were dug using a toothless ditching bucket, following manual turf removal to minimise damage to the surrounding grass and facilitate re-turfing.

Each trench was drawn in section and plan at 1:20 and 1:50. Photographs were taken in both black and white print and colour print and slide. Dateable features and deposits were sampled for environmental study. Finds were collected, washed, marked, bagged and conserved as appropriate. Recording was by means of printed *pro-forma* context and feature cards.

The archive for this evaluation is currently stored at Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit.

#### 6.0 The Results of the Trial Trenching

6.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 3 and 4; Plates 1 and 2)

Sondages were hand dug in the eastern end and the centre of the trench to find the depth of the natural subsoil. Mechanical excavation to this depth was not possible due to the presence of a service running along the north side of the trench. Natural was encountered at a depth of 1.1m (110.693m AOD in Sondage 3 and 110.628m AOD in Sondage 2).

Above the natural were three thin layers of sand (a light grey/white sand [1004], which was under a grey sand [1003], which was, in turn, under a brownish yellow sand [1002]). No finds were recovered from these layers. Over these layers was a silty layer containing some brick rubble and post-medieval pottery [1001]. Topsoil [1000] overlay all these layers.

Apart from the relatively modern service trench, only one feature was identified in Trench 1. This was the remains of a small wall (F100) in the western end of the trench. Five courses of bricks remained, in a stretcher pattern bonded by a yellow mortar. The bricks measured 3 x 9 x 4 inches. The wall was built directly over [1003] with no evidence of a foundation cut or layer. It was sealed by [1001], a rubble layer. Layer [1002] appeared to be built up against the wall, but it is also possible that it was cut by it.

## 6.2 Trench 2 (Fig 3 and 5; Plates 3 and 4)

In the western end of the trench, natural [2010] was encountered at a depth of 1.85m below the surface (111.240m AOD). This was overlain by a substantial build-up of rubble layers [2003], [2002], [2001]; all underneath the topsoil [2000]. In the eastern end of the trench, the natural was found to be about 0.7m higher. Here it was overlain by a narrow layer (c.0.1-0.2m deep) of red sand [2009], which was under F201. No finds were discovered in this layer. A cobbled surface (F201) running up to a wall (F200) were the earliest features. The bottom four courses of the wall survived. which showed it to be two bricks widths wide. The bricks in the bottom course were resting on their sides. The wall was butted by the cobble surface on the south side. The bricks were red in colour, with dimensions of 9 x 4 x 2 inches. This size suggests that the bricks were possibly of sixteenth or seventeenth century date (M Hislop pers. comm.). However, in the absence of datable finds associated with the construction of the wall, we can only date it to pre-nineteenth century. A demolition layer [2011], containing twentieth century pottery, lay over the wall and the cobbled surface. The subsoil [2001] and topsoil [2000] overlay this. A dark grey charcoal/ash/clinker layer [2007] lay directly over the cobble surface in Sondage 6 and under [2011]. The cobble surface was cut by two services in this sondage.

## 6.3 Trench 3 (Figs. 3 and 5; Plates 5-7)

Natural [3016] was located in the eastern end of this trench, 2.1m below the surface (109.640m AOD) It was not located in the remainder of the trench as it was at too great a depth to be excavated safely. The trench was dug to a depth of 1.2m with a sondage half way along excavated to a depth of 1.5m. Layers of rubble build-up [3001-3], [3005], [3008], [3012] and [3013] including large pieces of masonry were found throughout. Apart from a modern drain [3004], the only feature identified was F300 [3006], a layer of tarmac. This is possibly a road surface or part of the tennis courts that stood in this area. A 'Codd' bottle (of a type produced until the 1920's) was found directly under the tarmac in context [3007]. A path is visible on the 1890 OS map (Fig. 2) running along the edge of the park in the area of this tarmac surface. F300 was overlain by the deep rubble layers, which ran across the rest of the trench to a depth of 0.7m over the tarmac up to more than 1.5 m. A layer of topsoil [3000] sealed all these layers.

## 6.4 Trench 4 (not illustrated; Plates 8 and 9)

In Trench 4, layers of rubble build-up were identified over natural. Natural was encountered at a depth of 1.3-1.5m. No features were revealed. The rubble layers contained finds that were late-nineteenth and early/mid-twentieth century in date and

probably represent phases of landscaping from the original construction of the park and later alterations.

## 6.5 Trench 5 (Figs. 3 and 6; Plates 10-12)

There was a build-up of layers over the natural [5006], which was identified in the northern end of the trench, at a depth of 1.1m below ground level (111.625m AOD). This was cut by F500, the only feature identified, which was the possible medieval fishpond. Measuring c.5m to the end of the trench, this was a large feature filled with organic deposits. The edge of the feature sloped fairly gently towards the southern end of the trench. The bottom fill in this feature was a band of sand [5005], whose colour changed gradually from red to grey, which was very water-logged in the southern end. Over this was a distinct band of very dark grey silty sand [5004], loose and damp, again becoming water-logged in the southern end. No finds were found in these layers and they may represent undisturbed deposits dating to the medieval period. Samples were taken for environmental analysis. There was a shallow layer of reddish brown silty sand [5003] overlying these fills in the northern end of the feature. [5003] contained finds of nineteenth century date, and is probably related to the backfilling of the pond in the late-nineteenth century.

Over F500 was a layer of rubble and silt, [5002] and the topsoil [5000]. The topsoil contained modern finds (not kept), which included bin bags, and is probably connected to a more recent phase of landscaping.

## 7.0 Finds by Annette Hancocks

A small assemblage of mostly twentieth century material was recovered from five evaluation trenches. This material is described in detail below and where appropriate a *terminus post quem* is provided.

#### 7.1 Trench 1

Six sherds of tin-glazed earthenware were recovered from the topsoil [1000] of this trench. This material can be dated to the nineteenth century AD.

#### 7.2 Trench 2

A total of nine sherds (166g) were recovered from the topsoil [2000] from this trench. Pottery identified included a stoneware ginger beer bottle, willow pattern, modern twentieth century china and ceramic brick. A single, clear piece of modern window glass, two fragments of a pale blue glass vessel, probably a medicine bottle, and 64g of animal bone were recovered from [2001].

Six fragments of a near complete stoneware bottle (375g), two fragments of modern flowerpot and one sherd of china were recovered from layer [2011]. This pottery was spot-dated to the twentieth century.

### 7.3 Trench 3

A single complete 'Codd' bottle impressed with 'CRESSWELL & CO was recovered from layer [3003]. Below this detail was an embossed diamond shape with the following embossed on each side of the diamond 'TRADE' 'MARK' 'REGIS' 'TERED'. Immediately underneath this detail was the place of registration

'SMETHWICK'. At the rear of the base of the bottle was the manufacturers name 'DAN RYLANDS LD No 4.'

This type of bottle was manufactured up until the early twentieth century. The term 'Codd' bottle comes from the name of the man who invented them, Hiram Codd. The bottles had a glass ball in the neck, which formed a stopper and controlled the flow of liquid. They were filled upside down so that as soon as the filling stopped, the stopper was forced down to seal the bottle against the rubber ring.

#### 7.4 Trench 4

A near complete stoneware ginger beer bottle marked 'AUSTINS REGISTERED BIRMINGHAM FERMENTED STONE GINGER BEER' was recovered from layer [4005].

## 7.5 Trench 5

Nine sherds of pottery including transfer printed wares, modern flowerpot, china and stoneware and two fragments of ceramic brick and tile were recovered from layer [5002]. In addition a small quantity of finds were recovered from [5003] (F500). These include a clay pipe bowl and stems (33g) and three fragments of ceramic brick.

#### 7.6 Conclusions

The general impression of this material is quite poor. Much of the pottery is considered to be of twentieth century date and manufactured over a long period of time. Further detailed work would be of little value to our knowledge of finds of this type.

The finds assemblage comprises less than half a standard finds box and eight assemblage summary sheets. Upon completion of the project this archive will be deposited at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, subject to the legal ownership of finds being satisfied.

Table 1: Summary of finds by Annette Hancocks

Trench	Context/ Find type	Ceramic: Brick	Post-Medieval pottery	Clay pipe	Glass: Window	Glass: Bottle	Animal Bone
1	1000 Topsoil	-	6 (28g)	-		-	-
2	2000 Topsoil	1 (27g)	9 (166g)	-	-	I (26g)	; -
2	2001	-		-	1 (3g)	2 (67g)	64g
2	2011 (rubble layer)	-	9 (390g)	-	-	-	-
3	3003	-		<u> </u>		<u>-</u>	-
4	4005		1 (456g)	Ţ <b>-</b>	J <b>-</b>	]	
5	5002	2 (15g)	9 (111g)	<u> </u>		-	
5	5003 (F500)	3 (231g)	-	4 (33g)	-		<u> </u>
Totals		6 (273g)	34 (1151g)	4 (33g)	1 (3g)	3 (93g)	64g

## 8.0 Environmental Analysis by Marina Ciaraldi

Two soil samples (F500/5004) and (F500/5005) were collected by the excavator during the evaluation. The soil samples were processed and the charred plant remains were assessed in order to establish:

- the preservation of organic remains,
- the potential of the plant assemblage in understanding the site economy, and
- the potential of reconstructing the palaeoenvironment of the site.

Ten litres of soil were processed by manual flotation. The flot was recovered on a 0.5 mesh. They were dried and scanned under a microscope. The residue was recovered on a 1mm mesh and sorted by eye.

The flots contained abundant modern organic material (rootlets etc.), but no charred or waterlogged remains.

On the basis of the two samples examined, it would seem that preservation of the organic remains on the site is very poor and that the potential of the biological material is low.

#### 9.0 Discussion

The excavations revealed that there was a substantial build-up of layers of silt and rubble over the area evaluated, which was not expected prior to the excavation. The natural was located at least 1.1m below the present ground surface and up to a depth of 2.1m (Trench 3)?

Given that the ground level in the park does not appear to be higher than the surrounding area, it is possible that the original ground surface has been truncated away in certain areas. This is particularly likely in Trench 3. The ground level in this area does not appear to have been significantly raised up, which suggests that the original surface may have been truncated away and rubble used to build it back up. If this were the case then any underlying archaeology could have been destroyed. Archaeology was found in Trench 5, 1.1m below the modern surface, suggesting that archaeological deposits may be preserved at some depth below the present ground level in some areas.

A wall (F201) was found along with an associated cobbled surface (F200) in Trench 2. These features may be part of the gardens to the old Rectory. They were in the area of the gardens indicated on the 1890 OS map (Fig. 2) and appear to be sixteenth or seventeenth century in date. There was no evidence for any buildings in Trench 1. This is probably due to the Rectory being slightly further to the south. However, it is possible that all traces of the house were removed during the construction of the park. The wall and cobble surface were c. 0.7m below the ground surface, 112.227m AOD. If the house were at the same height AOD as the cobble surface it would be above the modern ground level in the area of Trench 1 and this may explain why there is no trace of it here. The ground does rise up towards the south and east.

A small wall was found in Trench 1 (F100). When the park was originally landscaped, a low wall was constructed along the edges of the road by the main gate with an iron fence embedded into it (park staff pers. comm.). F100 could be the remains of that wall. The wall is unlikely to be from the remains of the Rectory, as the brickwork appeared to be fairly modern

Trench 3 was much deeper than expected, containing a substantial build-up of rubble layers. There was part of a pillar in the deep rubble layers, which is of the same size and design as the pillars at the entrance to the park. It had a base of sandstone and black bricks attached to a red brick pillar. The entrance to the park presumably dates from the original phase of construction, in the nineteenth century. The rubble layer containing the broken pillar may date from the more recent removal of the old tennis courts.

Trenches 3, 4 and 5 were dug to investigate the potential survival of medieval activity. The excavations did not reveal any evidence of medieval settlement in the area. No finds were identified dating before the mid/late-nineteenth century. It was thought possible that a settlement had grown up along the edge of Hamstead Road near to St. Mary's. However, no evidence was found to indicate this. The settlement may be preserved under the build-up of rubble or it may have been truncated away. However, some residual pottery in the upper layers might be expected if there had been a substantial medieval settlement here.

The fishpond was identified in Trench 5. This has been dated to the medieval period (Mould 1998), which suggests medieval activity somewhere in the area. It is possible that there was a settlement to the north and east of the Church, rather than the south. No evidence of the medieval fishpond was found in Trench 4. This is probably because the edge of the pond does not extend this far north and is located somewhere under the modern path, although it may be because the edge of the pond has been truncated away.

In summary, there appears to be preservation of garden features associated with the Rectory, although at a depth of over 1m. The line of the fishpond was also identified, although the environmental samples were of poor quality and there was a lack of dateable evidence. Elsewhere, in the park, there appears to have been a considerable degree of reasonably modern landscaping, which creates difficulty in identifying whether truncation of deposits has occurred or build-up above original layers. In either case there exists considerable overburden protecting any potentially unidentified archaeological deposits.

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

Kate Bain, Susic Blake, Bob Bracken, Phil Mann and Steve Williams carried out the archaeological excavations. Ellie Ramsey and Emma Hancox supervised the excavations. Emma Hancox wrote the report, which was edited by Gary Coates, who managed the project. The finds were dated by Annette Hancocks and the illustrations drawn by Nigel Dodds. Marina Ciaraldi analysed the environmental samples. Thanks are also due to Malcolm Hislop for dating the bricks in Trench 2.

Mike Hodder, Birmingham City Planning Archaeologist, monitored the project on behalf of Birmingam City Council.

Thanks are due to Gary McManus and his team, from Birmingham City Council Parks and Leisure Department, for their assistance and co-operation.

## 10.0 References

British Geological Survey 1955.

Coates, G. 2002. Written Scheme of Investigation, Handsworth Park, Birmingham. BUFAU Report.

Hodder, M. 2002. Handsworth Park (SP051901) Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation as part of Landscaping Proposals. Birmingham City Council Planning Department.

Mould, C. 1998. An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Walkover Survey of Handsworth Park, Birmingham. BUFAU Report No. 541.

# Appendix

## Appendix -

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Handsworth Park(SP 051901)
Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation as part of landscaping proposals

## 1.Summary

Landscaping proposals at Handsworth Park include works in parts of the site which have been identified in an archaeological desk-based assessment as potentially containing below-ground archaeological remains, including a former fishpond with deposits providing evidence for the historic environment and potential remains of a medieval settlement south of the parish church. This brief is for an archaeological field evaluation consisting of excavated trenches to provide information on the location, survival and significance of archaeological remains on various parts of the site, to contribute to the detailed design process and to identify where further archaeological work may be required.

## 2. Site location and description

Handsworth Park is bounded by Hamstead Road, Holly Road, Grove Lane and Hinstock Road. It is a public park owned and managed by Birmingham City Council. It is mainly grassland and trees, with a few buildings and sports playing areas. The parts of the site referred to in this brief are as follows:

- (i) The northern part of the site, where it adjoins the churchyard of St Mary's church. A fence of concrete posts and netting currently divides the park from the churchyard. The churchyard has a steep edge which may indicate the edge of a former pool shown on historic maps. There is also a hollow along the northern side of the present path alongside the pool which may indicate the line of the former pond. This part of the site is currently grass and trees.
- (ii) Te eastern part of the site, east of the pool. There is a hollow running just inside the present park boundary, possibly a former road line. This is currently grass, with some trees and flowerbeds.
- (iii)Around the site of the former Rectory, south of the pool. This is currently grass, with trees and flowerbeds

## 3.Proposals for the site

It is proposed to construct a new boundary wall between Handsworth Park and the churchyard and to undertake refurbishment works elsewhere in the park, including refurbishment of all footpaths and a new boathouse.

## 4. Existing archaeological and historical information

Handsworth Park was developed as a public park in the 19th century. Its history has been researched by Hilary Taylor. The Sites and Monuments Record contains several entries in and around the park. The records within the park relate to park features, except for the site of a moated rectory (SMR 02929) in the east of the park. In the surrounding area finds of stone and bronze axes and Roman coins are recorded together with several surviving post-medieval structures and the sites of others.

St Mary's church, the medieval parish church of Handsworth, is just outside the east boundary of the park. Historic maps such as the Yates's Map of Staffordshire of 1775 show a few buildings near the church but no viliage. However, a village might formerly have existed in this area, and might have extended into the eastern part of the present park, where its remains would be expected to be relatively well-preserved because of the lack of recent disturbance. Chance finds from the park's surroundings suggest that there might also be remains of prehistoric and Roman date.

An archaeological assessment of the whole of Handsworth Park was carried out in 1998. This consisted of a search of documentary and cartographic sources, published and unpublished written records and a walkover survey. The assessment identified areas on the eastern side of the park which potentially contain below ground archaeological remains. The line of the proposed wall on the south side of the churchyard includes the site of a former fish pond which preceded the existing pool. The exact date and character of the pond are not known, but it is marked on an 18<sup>th</sup>-century map and was filled in by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The assessment drew attention to the likely survival of the cut of the pond and deposits within it which may contain plant and insect remains providing evidence for the historic environment of the park. The assessment also drew attention to the potential survival of archaeological remains of a medieval settlement in the area of the former Rectory to the south-east of the present pool.

An archaeological field evaluation consisting of excavated trenches in the Jubilee Allotments in the south-east of the Park in May 2000 revealed no features preceding the creation of the allotments.

#### 5.Requirements for work

The archaeological field evaluation is required to determine the likely survival and significance of archaeological remains on particular parts of the site in advance of detailed design.

- (i)On the line of the proposed new boundary wall between the park and the churchyard, to test whether the edge of the former pond lies on the line of the proposed new wall line; to test the survival of deposits within the former pond; and to test the potential of the deposits filling the former pond to provide information on the historic environment.
- (ii)To the east of the pool, and around the site of the former Rectory, on and on the area east of the Rectory, to test for remains of a medieval settlement.

#### 6.Stages of work

The archaeological field evaluation is to consist of the following: (i)two trenches running from the existing churchyard wall to the north edge of the path alongside the pool. Excavation is to be sufficient to identify the edge of the

former pond and to sample the deposits filling it. The potential of these deposits for detailed analysis must be assessed.

(ii)a trench to the east of the pool, a trench to the west of the former Rectory, and a trench to the east of the former Rectory.

Excavation in each trench is to be sufficient to define record and sample all archaeological features encountered. The potential of deposits for environmental analysis must be assessed.

The approximate location and extent of each trench is shown on the accompanying plan. The exact location and size of each trench is to be agreed on site with the Planning Archaeologist prior to commencement. Each trench is to be at least 1.6m wide. Excavation is to be entirely manual and to include manual removal of turf. Fencing will be required because the park is freely accessible to the public. Trenches are to be backfilled at the end of the evaluation and turf replaced. Finds are to be cleaned, marked and bagged and any remedial conservation work undertaken.

## 7.Staffing

The archaeological field evaluation is to be carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct, Standards, Guidelines and practices of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and all staff are to be suitably qualified and experienced for their roles in the project. It is recommended that the project be under the direct supervision of a Member or Associate Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

## 8. Written Scheme of Investigation

Potential contractors should present a Written Scheme of Investigation which details methods and staffing. It is recommended that the proposal be submitted to the City Council's Planning Archaeologist before a contractor is commissioned, to ensure that it meets the requirements of the brief.

#### 9.Monitoring

The archaeological field evaluation must be carried out to the satisfaction of the Chief Planning Officer, Birmingham City Council, and will be monitored on his behalf by the Planning Archaeologist. At least five working days notice of commencement of the evaluation must be given to the Planning Archaeologist, so that monitoring meetings can be arranged.

## 10.Reporting

The results of the archaeological field evaluation are to be presented as a written report, containing appropriate illustrations, and a copy of this brief. 20 copies of the report must be sent to the Planning Archaeologist, including one unbound.

#### 11.Archive deposition

The written, drawn and photographic records of the archaeological field evaluation, together with any finds, must be deposited with an appropriate

repository within a reasonable time of completion, following consultation with the Planning Archaeologist.

## 12.Publication

The written report will become publicly accessible, as part of the Birmingham Sites and Monuments Record, within six months of completion. The archaeological contractor must submit a short summary report for inclusion in West Midlands Archaeology and summary reports to appropriate national period journals.

CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER
BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
Date prepared: 31 July 2002
Planning Archaeologist: Dr Michael Hodder 0121-303 3161 fax 0121-303 2584
Mike.hodder@birmingham.gov.uk
Birmingham City Council
Planning Department
Alpha Tower
Suffolk Street Queensway
Birmingham B1 1TU

HWORTHPevalbriewf.doc

# Figures

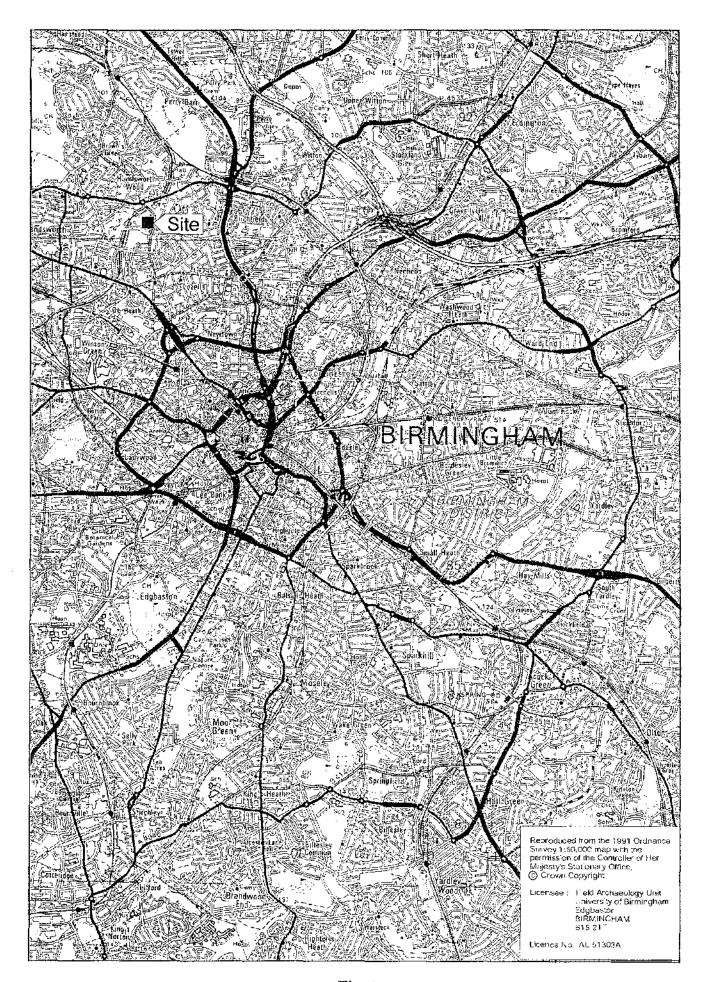


Fig.1

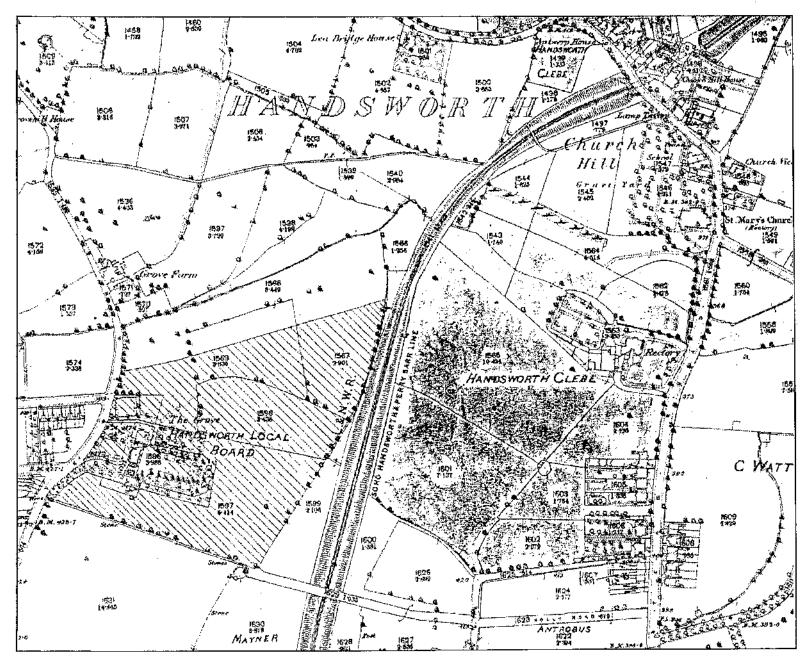


Fig.2 (1890)

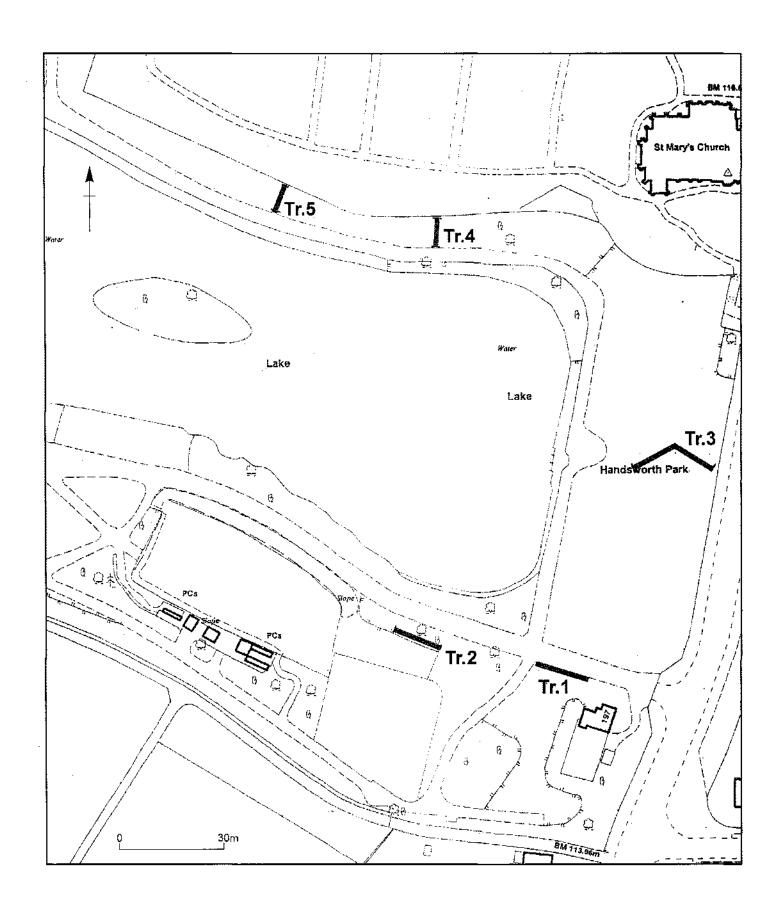


Fig.3

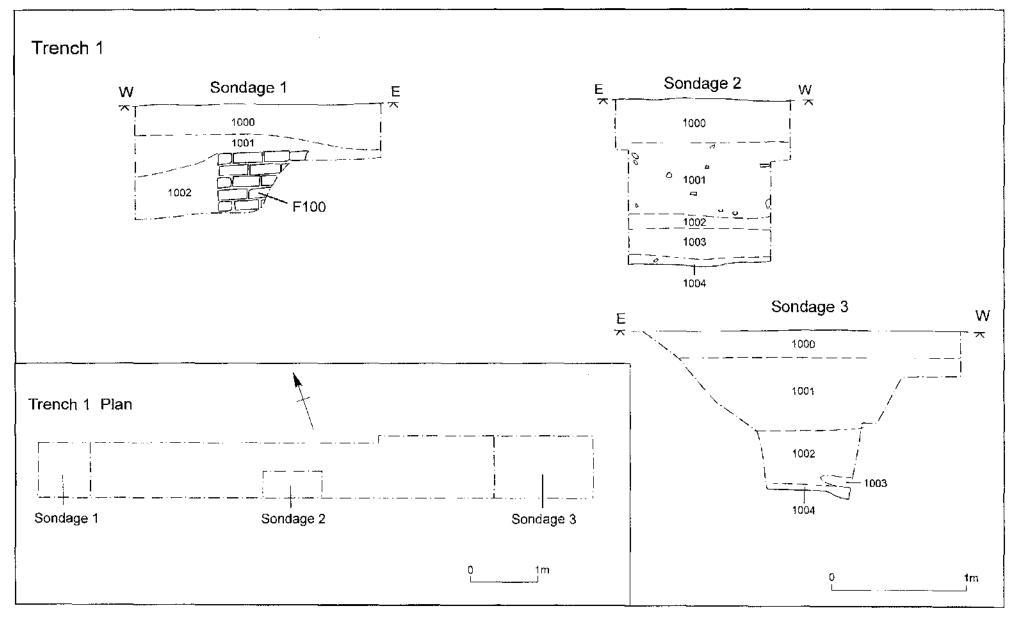


Fig.4

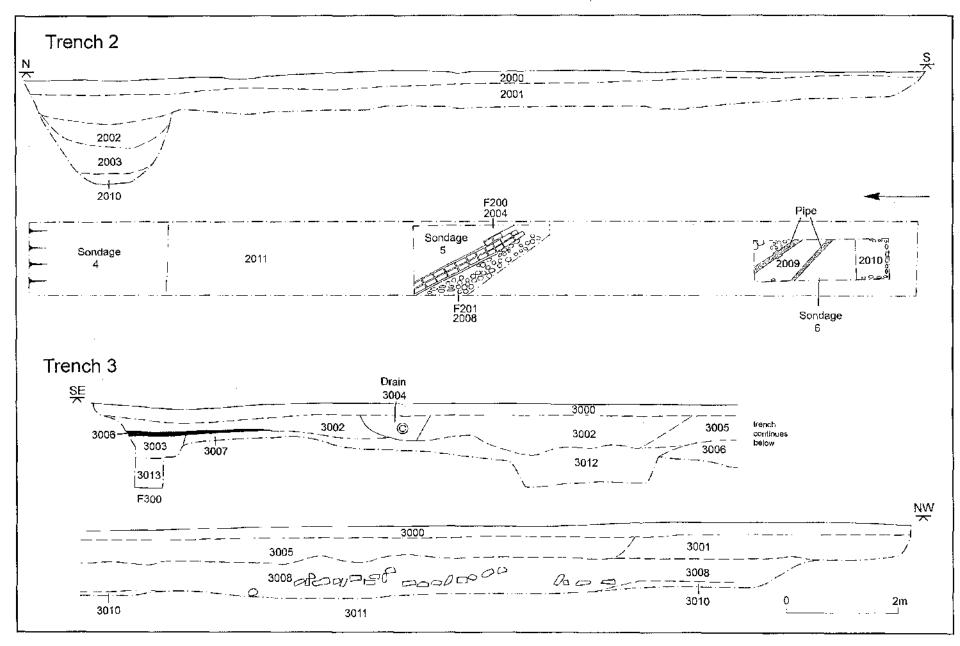


Fig.5

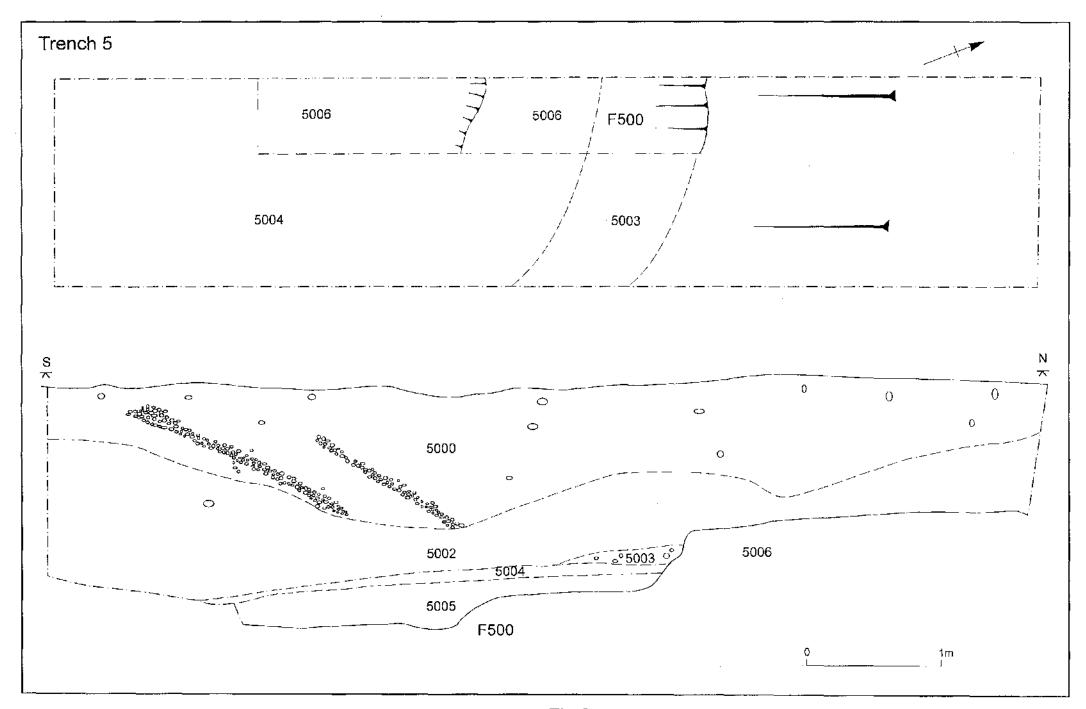


Fig.6

# Plates

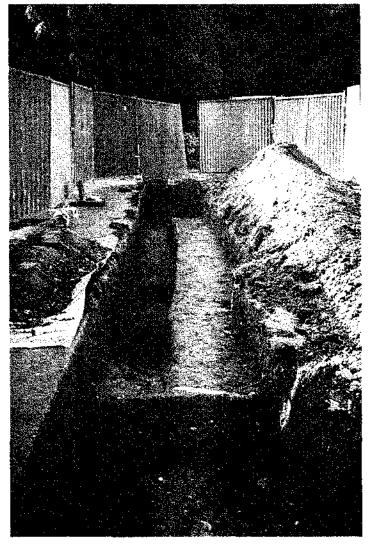


Plate 1

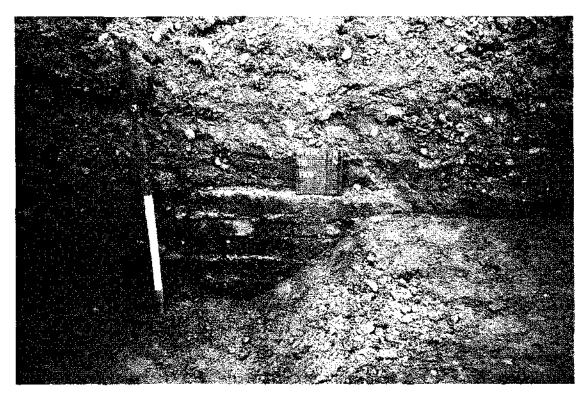


Plate 2









Plate 5



Plate 6



Plate 7



Plate 8



Plate 9

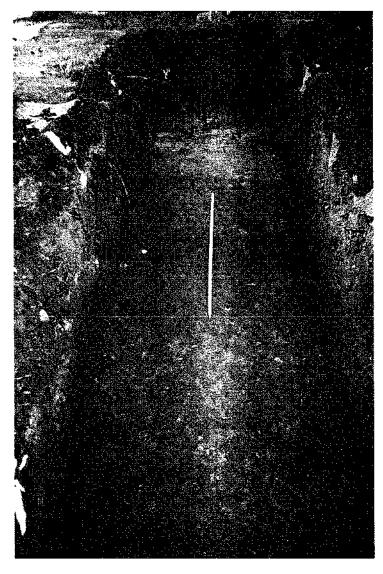


Plate 10



Plate 11

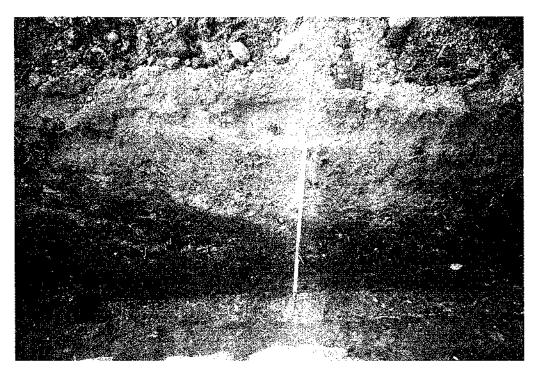


Plate 12