

**EDGBASTON HOUSE, WELLINGTON, SHROPSHIRE**

**(No 11-13 Walker Street)**

**Environmental Sampling, May 2010**

*Initial Notes and Photographs*

## BA 2077 Wellington town centre

Notes, K Krawiec, 13/05/10

### Samples recovered

|    |        |        |                             |              |
|----|--------|--------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1  | 1015   | 10L    | Upper fill of pit           | 3 small bags |
| 2  | 1031   | 10L    | Black silt below 1015       | 3 small bags |
| 3  | 1032   | 10L    | Brown peat below 1031       | 3 small bags |
| 4  | 1034   | 10L    | Black woody silt below 1032 | 3 small bags |
| 5  | 1035   | 10L    | Grey sandy silt below 1034  | 2 small bags |
| 6  | 1036   | 10L    | Black silt, primary fill    | 2 small bags |
| 7  | [1013] | 2 tins | monoliths labelled 1 and 2  | 2 tins       |
| 8  | 1001   | 2 tins | monoliths labelled 3-4      | 2 tins       |
| 10 | 1056   | 10L    | bulk from pit 1000          | 1bkt         |
| 11 | 1001   | 10L    | Bulk from upper fill        | 1bkt         |
| 12 | 1038   | 10L    | Bulk from lower fill        | 1bkt         |
| 13 | 1048   | 10L    | Bulk from pit 1000          | 1bkt         |

17 x Pollen spot samples from 1015 and 1031, too small for monolith, every cm

Monolith 7 sub-sampled 4/6/10 every 8cm

0.17-0.18m  
0.25-0.26m  
0.33-0.34m  
0.41-0.42m  
0.49-0.50m  
0.57-0.58m  
0.65-0.66m

Monolith 8 sub-sampled 7/6/10 every 8cm

0-0.01m  
0.08-0.09m  
0.16-0.17m  
0.24-0.25m  
0.32-0.33m  
0.4-0.41m 2cm off base

C14 wood sample from base of 1036

**[1013]** ovoid pit lined with wooden planks supported by uprights 2014 (W1-12). Filled by a series of waterlogged deposits containing organic material. Animal bones recovered from 1031 and 1036. no other dateable finds. Possible processing pit/tank.



**Pit 1013: Plan View**



**Pit 1013 after sampling**



**Pit 1013: South-west facing section**



**Pit 1013: Samples *in situ***

**1014** wooden lining of pit, split oak planks, possibly reused, only lining the top which suggests they are to used to keep it watertight but to stop it collapsing. W1,2 and 4 recovered for dating and analysis (with SLR).

**1015** Upper fill of pit, black brown compacted organic silt. May be compromised as is the interface between overlying post-med activity

**1031** Black organic silt fill below 1015, contained small animal bones and fruit stones. Highly organic.

**1032** Brown black silty peat, abundant monocot remains, fruit stones, visible beetle remains. Below 1031

**1034** Black organic silt, pale rootlets and monocot remains. Below 1032.

**1035** Grey blue sandy silt with occasional small pebbles, may be a sealing layer or slump material. Below 1034.

**1036** Black sandy organic silt primary fill of pit, occasional twigs and pale rootlets, sheep/goat skull and long bone recovered from base. C14 wood sample recovered from base. Below 1035.

### *Fieldwork*

Pit **[1013]** appears to be tank with wooden supports at the top. The feature contained groundwater when excavated and the fills suggest a still or stagnant water condition. The fills contained numerous visible plant and beetle remains as well as seeds and fruit stones. The lower fill contained animal bone which may relate to function if the pit was used for tanning. The presence of fruit stones may indicate a cess type fill and may also have been used as a latrine.

This pit was one in a series running parallel to the medieval street frontage. A similar smaller pit **[1000]** was also lined with wood and contained the remains of a wooden bowl and wood working debris. The fills of this were also sampled by SLR for pollen, plants and beetles (S1 Top and S6 bottom). The features were devoid of dateable finds and a sample of wood submitted for dendro during test-pitting was unsuccessful.

Several other pits were also excavated at the site but the fills had a much lower organic content although wooden remains were present in the form of natural roundwood. These will also be sampled for waterlogged material. It is likely the pits date from the medieval if not early post medieval period and be related to backplot activity.

Samples taken by BAE are in the stores awaiting the delivery of the other samples from the site. There should be wood and radiocarbon dating samples along with bulks and monoliths from the other features.



**Pit Lining 1014 after sampling**



**Pit 1013: Timber W1**



**Pit 1013: Showing Timbers W3, W4, W5, W8**



**Pit 1013: Timbers W4 and W5 (close-up)**



**Pit 1013: Showing Timbers W9, W10 and W12**