

POST-CONQUEST ACTIVITY AT CATHEDRAL ROAD, DERBY

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INTRODUCTION

In 2015 Wessex Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological investigation on land on the south side of Cathedral Road, in the centre of Derby, ahead of the redevelopment of the site. Following production of a desk-based assessment (May 2007) and a trial trench evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2015), an area measuring 20m by 16m was opened to further explore remains thought to be associated with medieval occupation in Derby (Figs 1 and 2). The excavations revealed features consistent with backyard activity in the form of ditches, pits and postholes associated with pottery spanning the late 10th to mid 13th centuries. The site represents evidence for the planned post-Conquest settlement in Derby and is in keeping with remains from other excavations in the vicinity. There is an absence of structural remains of medieval to mid 19th century date. This corresponds with cartographic evidence, which indicates that during this period the site contained the gardens of properties fronting on to Walker Lane and St Mary's Gate.

Geology, topography and land-use

The site is underlain by solid geology of the Mercia Mudstone Group, with superficial River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey 2017). It slopes gradually downwards from east to west, with a fall of around 1m and an average height approximately 51m above Ordnance Datum (OD). At the time of the archaeological investigation, the site was under hard standing and was being used as a car park. Prior to this, it was occupied by a maintenance garage, filling station and parking areas for the Sixt motor vehicle hire company.

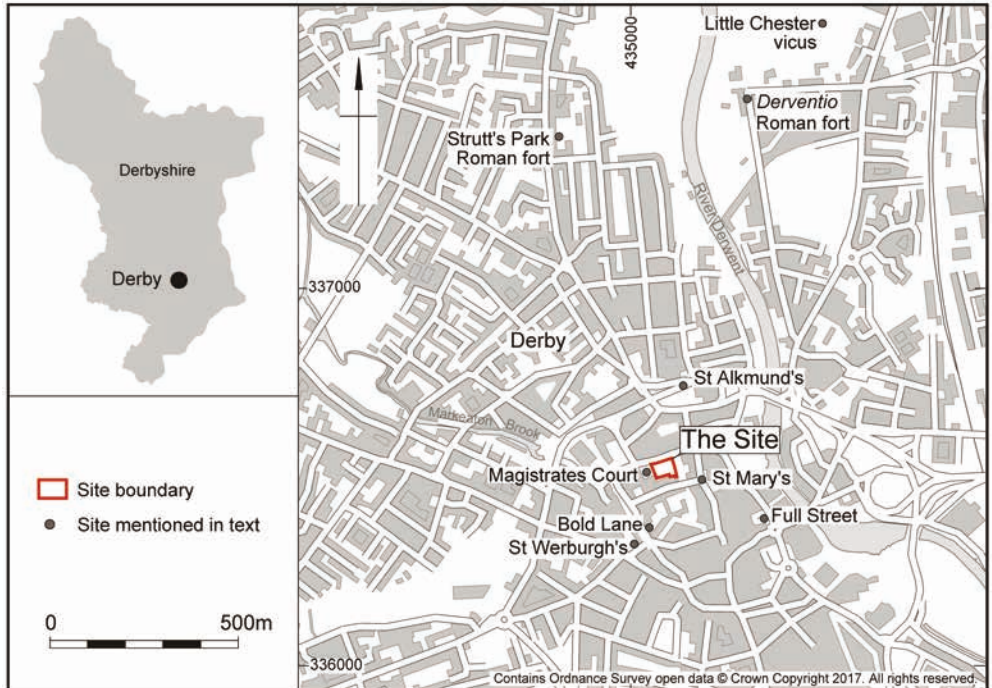


Fig. 1: Site location, showing other sites mentioned in text.

Archaeological and historical background

There is no evidence for prehistoric activity within the site's vicinity and it is presumed that the low-lying topography in this area would have been prone to flooding, and therefore not favoured for settlement (Boucher *et al.* 2003, 6–7; May 2007, 8).

The focus of Roman activity in the local area lay a short way north of the Cathedral Road site, beyond the core of the modern city. Archaeological excavations at Strutt's Park on the western bank of the River Derwent, approximately 800m north of Cathedral Road, identified a fort dating to *c.* AD 50, with civilian settlement continuing into the 2nd century (Wheeler 1985). A second fort was built *c.* AD 80 on the opposite bank of the Derwent at Little Chester. Known as *Derventio*, settlement continued here until the late Roman period (Hewitson 2012, 8).

Although the presence of bodies buried in a pagan Anglian style at *Derventio* indicates some continuation of activity here, by the 9th century the focus for settlement had moved to the south, around the churches of St Werburgh (220m south-west of the site, thought to be have been established in the late 7th century) and St Alkmund (200m north-east, in existence by the 9th century) (Boucher *et al.* 2003, fig.2.1; Hewitson 2012, 10). The settlement was known by the English as Northworthy ('northern enclosure') but by the 9th century the Scandinavian name Derby ('farm of the animals or deer') had replaced the English one, one of the few recorded examples of this happening (May 2007, 8; Cameron 1959, 446). The name-change probably related to the exchange of control of Derby from the Anglo-Saxons to the Danes from AD 873. Following recapture by Anglo-Saxon forces, a new minster was constructed approximately 120m east of the site, and was completed in AD 943 (May 2007, 9; Craven 1988, 26). Known as All Saints Church, it served as a collegiate church and later

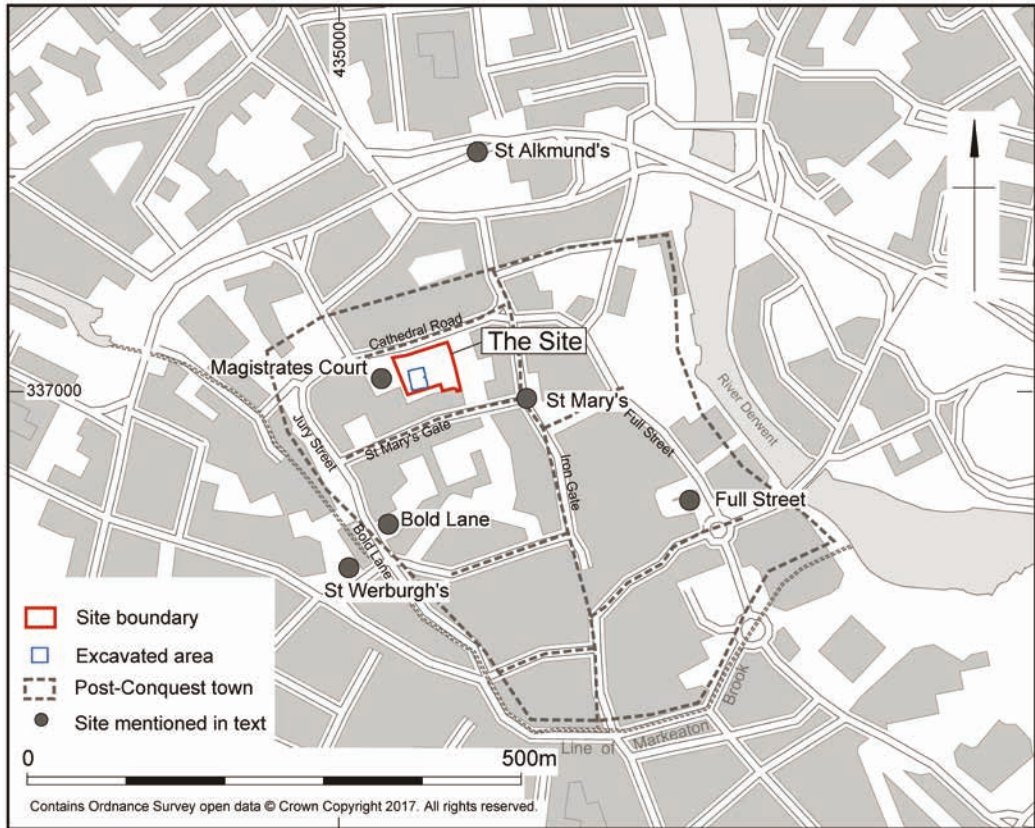


Fig. 2: Location of the site in relation to the post-Conquest town.

became a cathedral. According to the Domesday survey, Derby had ten mills in 1086 (Williams and Martin 2002, 755). The survey also records that six churches were in existence, one of which was probably St Mary's, which is thought to have been located on the corner of St Mary's Gate and Iron Gate, 100m south-east of the site. St Mary's church is believed to have remained in use until the 16th century, although few details are known (Fig. 2; Mallender 1972, 87–8).

The settlement focus seems to have moved following the Norman Conquest, along the east and west side of Iron Gate, from its junction with Victoria Street/Albert Street in the south and northwards towards the junction with King Street (Boucher *et al.* 2003, fig.2.1; May 2007, 9–10). The western boundary is thought to have been defined by the course of Markeaton Brook, while the east was bounded by the River Derwent (Fig. 2). This area includes St Mary's Gate and Cathedral Road, where the site is located.

Archaeological investigations undertaken within this part of Derby have confirmed the presence of occupation and industrial remains spanning the later Saxon and medieval periods. This includes the area immediately west of the site, in advance of construction of the new Magistrates Court (Boucher *et al.* 2003). Excavations here in 2001–2002, revealed relatively intense backyard 'industrial' activity in the medieval period involving processing animal products, probably horn working, tanning or tawing (Boucher *et al.* 2003, 6–5–6–7). Archaeologically visible activity diminished thereafter, with post-medieval cess pits and domestic rubbish pits suggesting a shift in

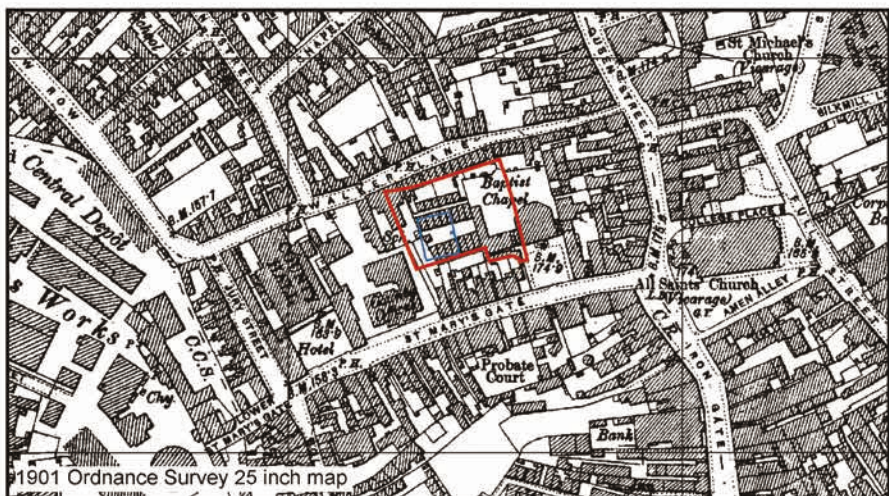
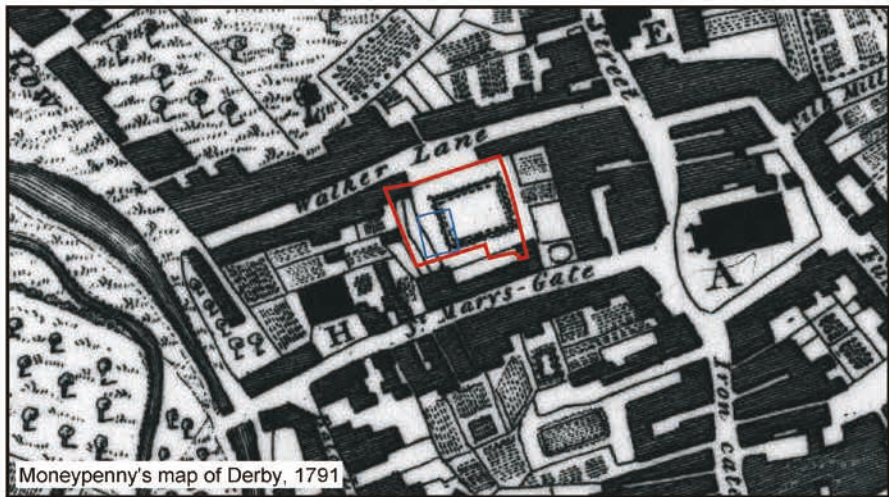
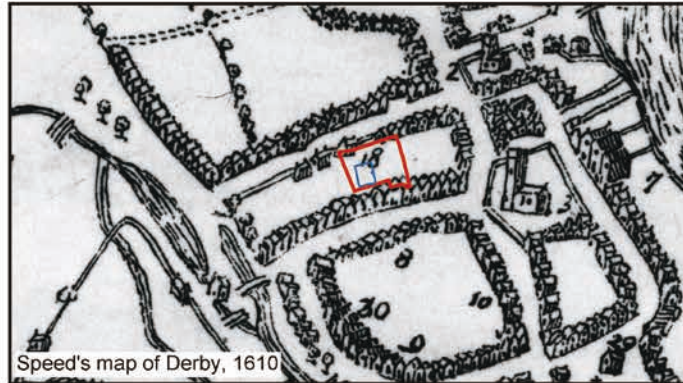


Fig. 3: Historic mapping: top Speed's map of Derby, 1610; middle Moneypenny's map of Derby, 1791 both reproduced with permission of Derby Local Studies and Family History Library; bottom 1901 Ordnance Survey 25-inch map (Reproduced from the 1901 Ordnance Survey map).

land-use towards gardens and domestic waste dumps.

Speed's map of 1610 shows the site to have been occupied by open ground to the rear of ordinary town houses (May 2007, 11), while the more detailed map of 1791 shows a rectangular garden or small park had been established, suggesting the site lay within a relatively genteel area lying between Walker Lane and St Mary's Gate (Fig. 3).

Historic maps indicate increasing development on the site from the early 19th century. A Baptist chapel was established during the 1840s, and by 1852 rows of small terraced houses had been constructed within the western part of the site. The chapel and houses were demolished in 1951, with Walker Lane widened and renamed Cathedral Road (May 2007, 12–13). Kennings garage and later a depot of the Sixt motor vehicle hire company occupied the site in the latter part of the 20th century. These buildings were gradually demolished, with the site fully cleared by 2014.

EXCAVATION

Methodology

Of the six 10m by 2m trenches proposed for the archaeological evaluation, five were successfully opened. One could not be excavated due to asbestos contamination. Evaluation revealed that archaeologically sensitive remains were likely to be present in the central and southern parts of the proposed development site. Based on these results, an open area excavation was undertaken in its south-western end, where development would potentially impact on below-ground remains. A considerable depth of overburden was found to seal the horizon of medieval activity in this area, and so safety considerations necessitated a stepping in of the excavation site (see dashed line on Fig. 4). The strategy and methodology complied with the written scheme of investigation agreed with Derbyshire County Council.

Results

Archaeological features identified during the excavation comprised two parallel ditches and five pits/postholes (Fig. 4), sealed beneath a substantial deposit of dark grey or black clay (103). This buried soil was encountered across most of the excavation area and was at its thickest in the south-western corner of the site, where it measured up to 1.55m deep, shallowing out to just 0.15m deep in the south-eastern corner.

Medieval

Boundary ditches

Two north–south parallel ditches spaced approximately 5m apart crossed the site and were probably property boundaries. Ditch 150 was the most substantial (Pl. 1); it was traced for over 20m, and seemed to continue beyond the northern and southern limits of the site – although recorded separately, feature 129 probably forms its southward continuation beyond disturbance caused by a modern drainage feature (Fig. 4). Ditch 150 measured up to 1.8m in width by 0.6m deep, and had a flared U-shaped profile. An assemblage of animal bone (244 pieces weighing 4936g) and pottery (nine pieces weighing 108g) was recovered from the ditch fill. The pottery was predominantly of 10th to 11th century date, with Stamford type ware predominating (e.g. Fig. 5.4) and a single residual sherd of Roman samian ware. One fragment of wood and a single fragment of possible hearth bottom slag were also recovered. Environmental remains included grains of free-threshing wheat, barley and rye, with weeds

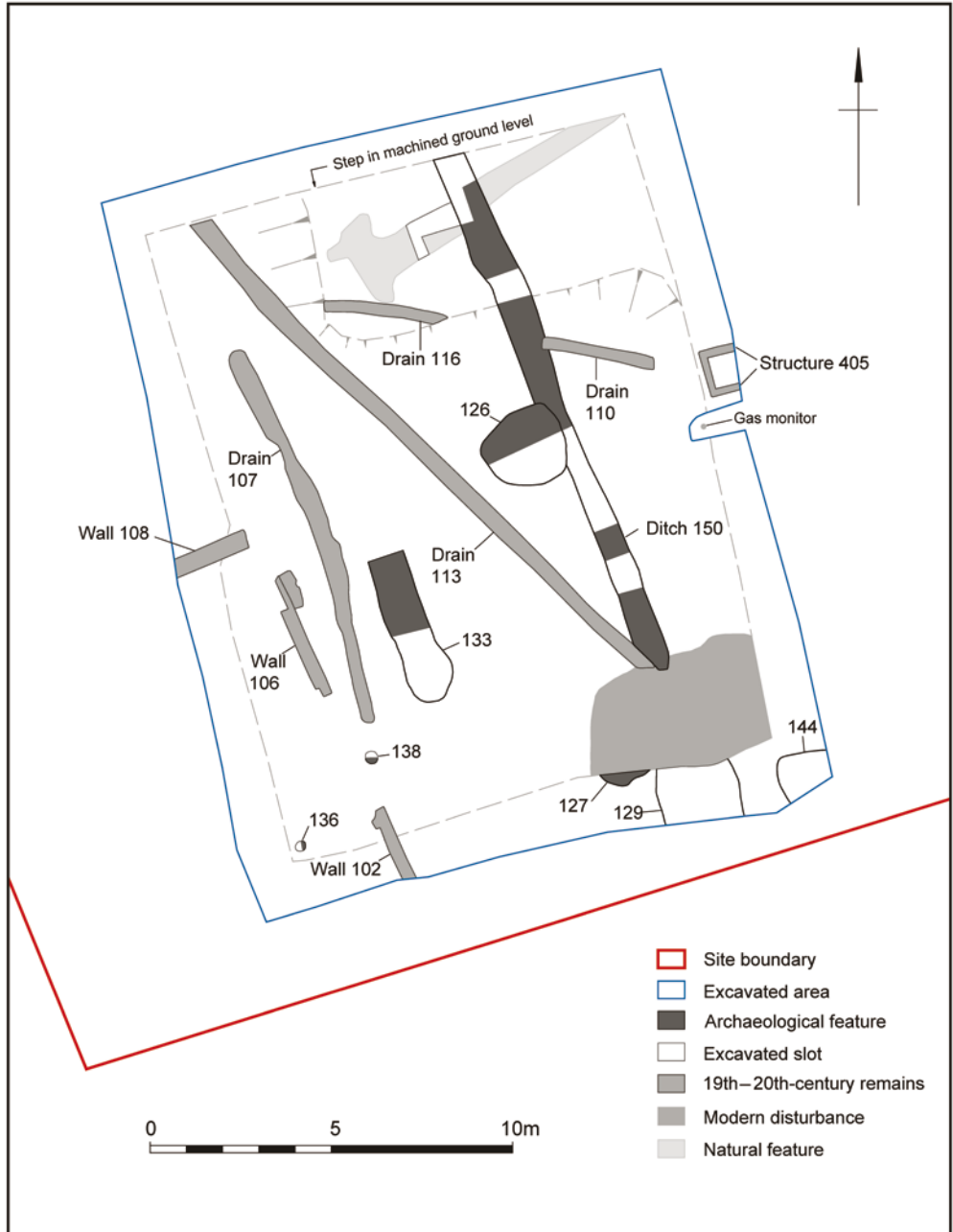


Fig. 4: Site plan.



Plate 1: North-facing section showing ditch 129=150, buried soil and modern deposits.

The second ditch, 133, was more diffuse in form and just 4m of it was visible. It was 1.22m wide by 0.28m deep and had a bowl-shaped profile. No artefacts were recovered; however, grains of free-threshing wheat and barley, and remnants of vetch-type plants were retrieved from environmental samples. It is not clear whether ditch 133 was established at the same time as ditch 150 or represents later subdivision.

Pits

Of the four pits identified, only one, 138, appears to be contemporary with the boundary ditches. It was located to the west of ditch 133 and measured 0.48m in diameter by 0.2m deep (Fig. 4). It contained a single fill of very dark grey clay, from which two sherds of possible Lincoln Saxo-Norman Sandy ware type pottery, probably dating to the late 10th to late 11th century, were recovered.

The pottery recovered and the stratigraphic information indicate that the remaining features represent activity post-dating backfilling of ditch 150. The most substantial of these was pit 126, which measured approximately 2.2m in diameter by 0.84m deep and was cut through the western edge of ditch 150. It contained a succession of three fills. The basal fill (130) consisted of a 0.3m-thick accumulation of dirty redeposited natural clay. This was overlain by a 0.5m-thick deposit of dark brown clay (123) which contained a relatively large quantity of cobbles. The uppermost fill of the pit (124) was a deposit of seemingly heat-affected dark orange and red sandy loam, 0.18m thick. It yielded a relatively large assemblage of animal

bone (188 pieces weighing 2397g) and pottery (62 pieces weighing 1374g), over half of which consisted of sherds of Splash Glazed Buff Sandy ware of late 11th to early/mid 13th century AD date (e.g. Figs 5.5 and 5.6). Two sherds of Burley Hill ware were present, thought to date to between the mid/late 13th century and early 15th century AD. Charred plant remains recovered compared to those observed in boundary ditch 150.

Pits 127 and 144 were found in the site's south-east corner. Pit 127 had been cut to the north by a later drainage structure and the remaining portion measured 1.3m east–west by 0.35m north-south (Fig. 4). Pit 144 extended beyond the limits of excavation and the visible portion measured 1.3m north–south by 0.65m east–west, and was 0.95m deep. It contained a single fill (145) from which a small quantity of animal bone (twelve pieces weighing 90g) was recovered. Two pot sherds were recovered, a fragment of Splash Glazed Buff Sandy ware of late 11th to early/mid 13th century AD date, and a sherd of a Reduced Sandy ware jug dating to the 12th or 13th century AD. This deposit appeared very like buried soil 103 (see below), making it difficult to determine a sequential relationship between the two deposits.

A further feature, posthole 136, was identified in the site's south-west corner. The feature's date is unclear; it was buried by 103 indicating it was likely to be contemporary with the other features, however it contained post-medieval ceramic building material which would suggest that it was later in date.

Post-medieval and modern

The buried soil (103) sealing the medieval remains described above accumulated from the later medieval period through to the 18th to early 19th century AD. Lack of any associated structural remains tallies with cartographic evidence indicating that the site contained open ground during this period. An apparent cessation of industrial/backyard activity may be due to the apparent gentrification of the area, as shown by construction of the neighbouring County Hall (later courthouse) in 1660, and the presence of a formal garden or small park depicted on 18th and 19th century maps. Cartographic evidence records that the site was occupied by housing by the mid 19th century; the archaeological remains corresponded well to the mapping, with a series of brick walls (102, 106 and 108) and drainage features (107, 110, 113, 116 and 405) identified, relating to the 19th and 20th century.

THE POTTERY

By C.G. Cumberpatch and contributions by G. Monteil and J. Young

The assemblage consisted of 102 sherds of pottery weighing 2341g representing a maximum of sixty-two vessels.

Roman pottery

By G. Monteil

A single sherd of samian ware, recovered from context 131, comes from a decorated bowl form Dr.37 from Lezoux in Central Gaul. What remains of the decoration is very partial but perhaps shows ovolo B223, a motif used by several Antonine potters from Lezoux (Rogers 1974): Cinnamus ii (serial number 0010698), Pugnus ii (serial number 0007193), Secundus v (serial number 0012552) and Casurius ii (serial number 0010603) AD 140–190. The serial numbers quoted are taken from 'European intake of Roman samian ceramics', a digital based resource (Dannell *et al.*, nd).

Medieval pottery

By C.G. Cumberpatch

The medieval pottery formed the largest single component of the assemblage (Table 1). The pottery spanned the late Saxon and early medieval periods with little identified as definitely post-dating the mid/late 13th century.

Five sherds were identified as being of late Saxon type; buried soil 103 (Small Find 1 and one other sherd), pit 138 fill 139 (two sherds) and pit 126, fill 141. All shared common traits in terms of colour (mid to dark grey) and were hard with sandy or coarse sandy unglazed surfaces. Two rims were from jars (Figs 5.1 and 5.8) and one was probably from a spouted pitcher (Fig. 5.7) while the sherd from buried soil 103, Small Find 1, was a flat or slightly sagging base. Examination with a x20 binocular microscope showed that fabrics were not as similar as they appeared superficially.

The sherd from buried soil 103, (Fig. 5.1), the rim of an everted rim jar with a dished profile, had a fine brown sandy fabric which contained fine rounded quartz temper up to 0.4mm and occasionally up to 0.5mm. It did not match known types of late Saxon reduced wares and may be a local product. A date range spanning the late 9th to 11th centuries is suggested and its presence in buried soil 103, a disturbed context, indicates it to be residual.

<i>Pottery ware type</i>	<i>Date range</i>	<i>No. sherds</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>ENV</i>
Bone China	MC19–EC20	1	5	1
Brown Glazed Coarseware	C18–C19	5	445	4
Brown Glazed Fineware	C18–EC19	1	3	1
Burley Hill 01 type ware	C13–LC14	7	237	6
Cistercian ware	c.1450–1600	2	9	2
Late Blackware	C18	1	4	1
Lincoln Early Medieval Shelly ware	MLC12–EMC13	1	19	1
Lincoln Kiln type	C10	1	12	1
Local Buff Gritty ware	LC11–EMC13	1	5	1
Local Buff Sandy ware	LC11–C13?	1	14	1
Local Coarse Buff Sandy ware	LC11–C13	1	13	1
Local Late Saxon Grey ware	LC9–MC11	5	97	5
Local Oxidised Fine Sandy ware	LC11–EMC13	1	5	1
Local Oxidised Sandy ware	LC11–C13	3	12	3
Local Reduced Coarse Sandy ware	LC11–C13	2	32	2
Local Reduced Sandy ware	LC11–EMC13	1	19	1
Local Sandy ware	LC11–C13	1	14	1
Midlands Purple type ware	C17–C18	1	46	1
Samian ware	Roman	1	8	1
Slipware	C18	1	18	1
Splash Glazed Buff Sandy ware	LC11–EMC13	44	912	8

<i>Pottery ware type</i>	<i>Date range</i>	<i>No. sherds</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>ENV</i>
Splash Glazed Buff Sandy ware type	LC11–EMC13	1	10	1
Splash Glazed Coarse Buff Sandy ware	LC11–EMC13	1	19	1
Splash Glazed Coarse Orange Sandy ware	LC11–EMC13	1	13	1
Splash Glazed Reduced Sandy ware	LC11–EMC13	5	146	4
Splash Glazed Sandy ware	LC11–EMC13	1	23	1
Stamford type ware	C10–C11	8	109	7
TP Bone China	LC19–C20	1	54	1
TP Whiteware	MLC19	1	34	1
Yellow ware	C17–C18	1	4	1
Totals		102	2341	62

ENV = estimated number of vessels; TP = Transfer printed

Table 1: Summary quantification of pottery.

Three sherds (fills 139 and 141) were pale grey in colour and contained abundant clear rounded to sub-rounded quartz grains up to 0.4mm with occasional rounded black rock ‘pebbles’ of a similar size (see archive report). Fabrics were hard and dense in texture, suggesting a high firing temperature. No satisfactory attribution to type was possible although better known types of late Saxon pottery (including Torksey ware) were ruled out after comparison with examples of such wares. Coppack noted the presence of a type he named ‘Grey Gritty ware’ at both Full Street (1972, 45; fig. 9.33–8, fig. 10.50 and 10.67–71) and Little Chester (2002, 246; fig. 59.21–2), but lack of a detailed description of the fabric in either publication made it impossible to determine whether any of the sherds discussed here belong to the type.

It is possible that the sherds from contexts 139, 141 and 103 (object number 1) belong to the Lincoln Saxo-Norman Sandy ware type (Young *et al.* 2005, 77–81), although, while some rim shapes bore a superficial resemblance to examples from Lincoln, none seemed to be an exact match. The date range of the type lies between the late 10th and late 11th century. A second possibility is that the sherds belong to the Lincoln Late Saxon Sandy ware type (Young *et al.* 2005, 44–47) dating to the mid 9th to late 9th/early 10th century. Two major sub-groups have been defined by Young *et al.*: Fabric A and Fabric B. Of these, Fabric A seems the closest to the sherds in question but again, a definite identification is difficult to demonstrate. It is quite possible that the sherds formed part of a regional tradition which included these Lincoln wares as well as other types manufactured in or close to Nottingham or Derby rather than Lincoln. Although the sites have yet to be published, the evidence from King Street and Queen Street indicates that pottery was in general use in late Saxon Derby as it was in Lincoln and Nottingham. In the light of this, the existence of a local pottery industry would be expected, even in the absence of known potteries in the Derby. Certainly, pottery manufacture is well-attested in nearby centres such as Newark, Nottingham and Lincoln.

Pending publication of the material from Nottingham and Derby, it is suggested that these sherds should be classified as Local Late Saxon Grey ware, with a caveat that more than one fabric may be represented, as both of the sherds from buried soil 103 are somewhat different from the remainder.

Amongst the sherds identified to known and dated ware types, Stamford type ware was particularly significant (buried soil 103 and ditch 129, fill 131). It should be noted that the term 'Stamford type ware' has been preferred to the more conventional 'Stamford ware' as an origin in Stamford itself can no longer be sustained in the light of discovery of evidence for manufacture in Pontefract, West Yorkshire (Roberts *et al.* 2013).

The fabrics of the Stamford type ware sherds were pale buff-grey to dark grey in colour, although the darker grey colour appeared to be commoner where sherds had been heavily burnt, suggesting that the original colour was a light buff to grey-white, consistent with what is expected from Stamford type ware. The fabric has a fine, even, sandy or slightly granular texture which has its best parallel amongst the Fabric E/F type from Stamford itself. Comparison with examples from the Pontefract kiln showed the Pontefract material to have a finer, denser texture and to be somewhat more yellow in colour. It is highly unlikely that Pontefract was the source; Stamford remains a possibility although the E/F fabric is of an early date (late 9th century), significantly earlier than some of the pottery with which the Derby sherds were associated. Jane Young considers the sherds comparable to types seen in Lincoln where they would be considered as early Stamford ware (EST) fabric A and datable to the late 10th to early/mid 11th century (Young *pers. comm.*).

The possibility that a Stamford type ware was being produced in or close to Derby in the 10th and 11th centuries and that such local production is reflected in the apparent concentration of the ware in Derby (Roberts *et al.* 2013) must be seriously considered. Petrographic analysis might cast more light on the issue although the absence of a body of comparative material would probably preclude a definite conclusion as to origin.

The range of vessel forms was limited. Parallels for the everted rim jars (contexts 103 and 131) include Full Street, Derby (Coppack 1972, fig. 9.26–8) and Stamford itself (Kilmurry 1980, fig. 42.32–3). In Stamford, the form (Form 2) has been dated to the 10th and early 11th centuries. A small, heavily burnt rim sherd from context 131 resembled Kilmurry's Form 14, dated to the 10th to late 11th centuries but given the extreme burning is perhaps more likely to be a crucible fragment (Kilmurry's Form 19; 1980, fig. 64.1, 6, 7), most probably of late 10th to mid 11th century date (Young *pers. comm.*).

Most of the medieval wares were not identifiable to specific known types and have been described using generic names. The common factor linking these wares was the presence of quartz grit and smaller quantities of iron-rich black and red inclusions. Dating depends upon the presence of splashed glaze, a technique normally dated to the post-Conquest period in the north Midlands and which was replaced by suspension glaze during the mid to late 13th century.

Pit 126, fill 123 (= 141) and pit 144, fill 145 produced a small group of similar sherds which have been given the name Splash Glazed Buff Sandy ware. No comparable type was identified amongst Coppack's local type series and the type also appeared to be distinct from splash glazed Nottingham wares because of its buff to white colour. Fabrics of the Nottingham wares seem generally to be iron-rich which would tend to give fired vessels a red or orange colour rather than buff/white but it should be noted that the rim shapes (Figs 5.5 and 5.6) resemble those of some later Nottingham Splashed wares (cf. Young *et al.* 2005, fig. 112.824–32). The fabric of the vessels described here was fine in texture and white to buff in colour, occasionally showing a very pale orange tint. It contained abundant, fine, sub-rounded to rounded quartz grains up to 0.5mm and sparse round red grit of a similar size but with rare 'pebbles' up to 4mm, although the latter were rare and probably accidental. A sub-division of the fabrics distinguished the substantially complete jug from context 123 (Fig. 5.6) from

the jug represented by just the rim and handle stump (Fig. 5.5) in the same context and by the rod handle from context 141. The fabric of the latter vessels contained, in addition to the inclusions noted above, moderate quantities of soft white rounded inclusions, most probably mudstone. These shared a size range with the red grit. The fabric of the base sherd from context 145 resembled that of the jug shown in Fig. 5.6 and superficially resembles Doncaster Hallgate B ware. This similarity may indicate a Coal Measures clay source of similar origin and character to that used by the Doncaster potters. No definite local parallels can be cited but earlier work on the Derby Inner Ring Road (Cumberpatch 2012, table 5.1) identified a Buff Sandy ware which included a splash glazed variant and the examples from Cathedral Road are believed to be of the same ware type. Vessel forms identified were limited to wheel-thrown, strap-handled jugs which were decorated with patchy yellow-green to pale green splashed glaze. Two distinct rim forms were identified but the small size of the assemblage should be noted; the two examples are highly unlikely to represent the full range of vessel forms. In terms of dating, and lacking any definite parallels, a broad date range of the late 11th to early/mid 13th century has been ascribed but further work on pottery from Derby might allow this to be refined. In the interim, it is suggested that this fabric (or group of fabrics) represents a local industry dating to the period between the mid/late 11th and early/mid 13th centuries.

Ditch 125, fill 122 and pit 126, fill 123 (=141) produced a group of four sherds, all apparently hand-made and sharing a coarsely textured fabric containing abundant sub-rounded to sub-angular quartz up to 1mm with rare red grit of a similar size and occasional round 'pebbles' up to 3mm. These were assigned the name Splash Glazed Reduced Sandy ware. Although the range of inclusions was broadly comparable to those seen in the Splash Glazed Buff Sandy ware described above, the absence of mudstone and the dark orange internal surface (implying a higher iron content in the clay) seem to set them apart. How far this implies separate clay sources and how far it might relate to banding within Coal Measures deposits (suggested to be the case in Newcastle; Vaughan *nd*) is unclear. Two of the sherds (contexts 123 and 141) shared a surface decoration consisting of rouletted lines of inverted triangles around the body of the vessel, not dissimilar from the decoration seen on 12th century, splash glazed, Brunssum type ware (Young *et al.* 2005, 131, fig. 118), although the fabrics differ considerably in all respects.

Context 141 produced three other sherds of splash glazed ware, all of which were distinguished by their fabrics (Splash Glazed Coarse Buff Sandy ware, Splash Glazed Coarse Orange Sandy ware and Splash Glazed Sandy ware), as described in Table 1.

Several sherds (contexts 123, 141 and 145) were identified as of Burley Hill 01 type, known primarily from excavations and surface survey on the site of the pottery in Allestree Park, but which remains poorly dated (Cumberpatch 2002–2003). The fabric is very close to Nottingham Reduced Green Glazed ware (NOTGR) and it is possible that the two types are, in fact, the same. In the present context this poses a potential problem in that NOTGR is currently dated to the later medieval period (late 13th to early 15th century) which would not be consistent with the dating of other sherds in the three contexts. Extensive residuality is a possible explanation but further work on the Nottingham assemblages will be required before a satisfactory conclusion can be reached.

A variety of other medieval wares were identified in contexts 103, 123 and 141. All were given generic names, identifying them as local wares with varying characteristics, principally differences in the size and density of the inclusions rather than in the character of those inclusions. Quartz and red grit were common and rock fragments, probably mudstone, were noted in two cases (contexts 103 and 141). All appeared to be of an earlier rather than later medieval type.

Shell-tempered ware

By J. Young

Two shell-tempered sherds in a leached condition were examined; fabric identification was undertaken by x20 binocular microscope and the sherds were directly compared to type sherds held at The Collection, Lincoln.

The earliest sherd (found in buried soil 103) was from a small wheel-thrown jar in what is probably a Lincoln Kiln-Type fabric (LKT), shown in Fig. 5.2. This type was in production from the mid/late 9th to late 10th centuries (Young *et al.* 2005), but this sherd is unlikely to pre-date the late 9th century. The rim shape is in use throughout the life of the industry, although it is most commonly found in deposits dating to before the mid/late 10th century.

The other sherd found in pit 126, fill 140, was almost completely leached with little of the original fossil shell temper remaining. The form is typical of large jars in Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly ware (LEMS) dating to between the mid/late 12th and early/mid 13th centuries. Microscopic examination of the voids left by the dissolved fossil shell do not contradict this identification.

Post-medieval, early modern and recent pottery

By C.G. Cumberpatch

Pottery of post-medieval (*c.*1450–*c.*1720), early modern (*c.*1720–*c.*1840) and recent (*c.*1840–*c.*1950) date was present in only small quantities. Post-medieval pottery was represented by two sherds of Cistercian ware, along with sherds of Midlands Purple type ware and Yellow ware recovered from buried soil 103 (=604 and 605, Evaluation Trench 6). Early modern wares were represented by sherds of Late Blackware, Brown Glazed Fineware, Brown Glazed Coarsewares and Slipware, again from 103. A local origin is probable for these sherds, Ticknall being the obvious candidate although such wares were manufactured widely and other sources cannot be ruled out. A transfer printed Whiteware (Willow border) sherd of recent date was also recovered from context 604.

Discussion

Buried soil 103 contained a mixed medieval, post-medieval and early modern pottery assemblage which suggested that the context, a buried soil horizon, had seen some form of disturbance in the 20th century, even though none of the pottery post-dated the early 19th century and the group included a substantial early medieval element.

Context 122, the fill of ditch 125, contained just two joining sherds from an early medieval vessel of unknown type. A date range within the late 11th to early/mid 13th century is indicated by these sherds but some caution must be exercised when drawing interpretations based upon such small quantities of pottery, particularly given the incidence of residuality on the site.

Context 123 (=141), the fill of pit 126, produced a group of splash glazed wares including the jugs shown in Figs 5.5 and 5.6, together with two sherds of Burley Hill type ware. One of the latter also appeared to bear splashed glaze suggesting an early date for the start of pottery production on the site. Context 141 also included a single probable late Saxon sherd, the rim shown in Fig. 5.8, presumably residual. No later pottery was found mixed with the medieval sherds and the fact that one of the vessels (Fig. 5.6) appears to have been substantially complete when deposited (perhaps broken *in situ* at the time of deposition), may indicate that the feature was indeed of earlier medieval date.

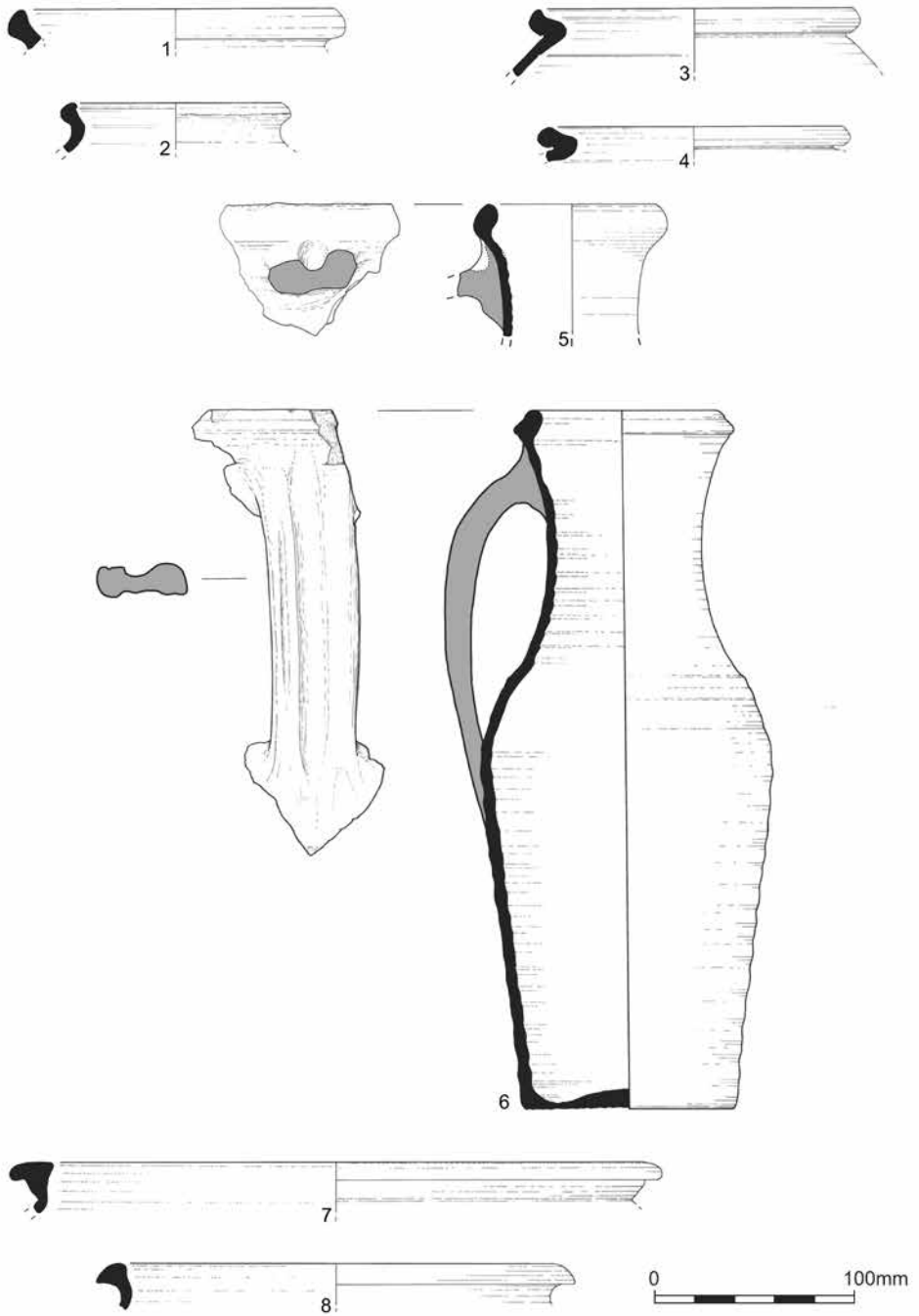


Fig. 5: Pottery, see pottery report for details.

Context 131 included the single sherd of residual Roman pottery (described by Monteil, above) alongside a group of Stamford type wares including the crucible fragment, suggesting a medieval date for the context and some disturbance of Roman period deposits.

Context 139, the secondary fill of pit 138, was of particular interest given that it contained the rim of the probably late Saxon pitcher alongside a body sherd in a similar fabric and no other material. This might indicate a date range for the feature but as in the case of context 122, above, and 140, below, the danger of drawing inferences based upon small pottery assemblages must be considered.

Context 140, the secondary fill of pit 126 contained the rim of a jar in Lincoln Early Medieval Shelly ware (described by Young, above) which probably dated to the period spanning the mid/late 12th to early/mid 13th century.

Two sherds from context 145 also resembled the assemblages from contexts 123 and 141 although the quantities of pottery were low, suggesting caution be employed when discussing the relationship between the features.

Contexts 604 and 605 produced small mixed groups of late post-medieval, early modern and recent wares from which medieval pottery was notable by its absence.

Broadly speaking, and despite its small size, the pottery assemblage suggests a complex history of activity on the site which began in the Roman period. The late Saxon and early medieval centuries saw a significant level of activity, with some disturbance in the late post-medieval, early modern and recent periods, although elsewhere such late activity does not seem to have had a significant impact of the medieval features.

List of illustrated sherds (Fig. 5)

- 1 Jar rim, Local Late Saxon Grey ware, smoothed internally and externally. Buried soil 103.
- 2 Rim of small jar, Lincoln Kiln type, smoothed internally and externally. Buried soil 103.
- 3 Jar rim, Stamford-type ware. Buried soil 103.
- 4 Jar/cooking pot rim, Stamford-type ware, some external burning. Context 131, ditch 129.
- 5 Jug rim, Splash Glazed Buff Sandy ware; glaze splash on rim. Context 123, pit 126.
- 6 Jug profile, Splash Glazed Buff Sandy ware; glaze splash on rim. Context 123, pit 126.
- 7 Rim from possible pitcher, Local Late Saxon Grey ware. Context 139, pit 138.
- 8 Jar rim, Local Late Saxon Grey ware. Context 141, pit 126.

ANIMAL BONE

By L. Higbee

The assemblage comprises 419 fragments (or 8.208kg) of hand recovered animal bone and a further 115 fragments (or 261g) of bone from the sieved residues of eight bulk soil samples. Once conjoins are accounted for the total fragment count falls to 471 (Table 2). Bone was recovered from a small number of ditches and pits, and includes material of medieval and post-medieval date.

Methods

The following information was recorded where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion and tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information.

Results

Bone preservation varies from good to poor. The well-preserved fragments have intact cortical surfaces on which fine details such as cut marks are clear and easily observed, while the poorly preserved fragments have exfoliated cortical surfaces and abraded edges indicating exposure to physical and chemical weathering most probably from being reworked and redeposited.

There is limited direct evidence that the assemblage has been significantly biased by the scavenging habit of carnivores, indeed gnaw marks were present on only 3% of fragments.

The medieval assemblage comprises 361 fragments, a large proportion of which are from pit 126 (41%) and ditch 105 (38%). Thirty-two percent of fragments are identifiable to species and bones from livestock species, particularly cattle and sheep/goat, predominate. Identified cattle bones include a range of different body parts from separate processes in the carcass reduction sequence, however there is a slight bias towards waste elements from primary butchery (e.g. heads and feet). A calf metatarsal was noted from pit 126, however the rest of the cattle bones are from adult animals. The range of ages tentatively suggests that the cattle supplied to Derby's meat markets primarily came from dairy herds. A vertebra from pit 126 had been split in half down the midline of the centra. This butchery technique splits the carcass into sides of beef and was a commonly used technique at the time. Sheep bones are also relatively common and like cattle, are also represented by a range of different body parts. Other identified species in the medieval assemblage include pig, horse, dog, cat, mole, badger (both probably intrusive), domestic fowl and goose.

The post-medieval assemblage comprises 110 fragments, most of which came from garden/buried soil layers. Only fourteen fragments are identifiable to species, and the only identifiable species are cattle and sheep.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Medieval</i>	<i>Post-medieval</i>	<i>Total</i>
cattle	60	11	71
sheep/goat	35	3	38
pig	10		10
horse	2		2
dog	1		1
cat	1		1
mole	1		1
badger	3		3
domestic fowl	3		3
goose	1		1
Total identified	117	14	131
Total unidentifiable	244	96	340
Overall total	361	110	471

Table 2: Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP) by period.

Conclusions

Industrial waste typical of small-scale backyard activities commonly associated with urban centres such as Derby during the medieval and post-medieval periods have been recorded in the site's vicinity (Boucher *et al.* 2003). This includes trades that used carcass by-products such as tanners, tawyers and horners. The small assemblage of animal bone from Cathedral Road is largely devoid of the deposits of horn cores and metapodials that characterise other local sites.

WORKED BONE

By Lorraine Mephram

Two worked bone objects were recovered. The first, from buried soil 103, is an incomplete pin beater (or thread picker) made from a section of long bone shaft from a large mammal (Pl. 2). Both ends are missing, and it is therefore uncertain whether the object was originally double- or single-ended. The cigar-shaped double-ended form, usually made of bone or antler, was associated with the warp-weighted loom, and examples are relatively common finds on Early and Middle Saxon settlement sites, often occurring in pairs of different sizes (e.g. Riddler 1993, 117–9). The single-ended form would have been used with the two-beam vertical loom, which seems to have emerged in English towns in the 10th century; examples similar to the object from buried soil 103 are recorded from this period up to the 12th century in York (MacGregor *et al.* 1999, 1967, fig. 923). Given the presence of a single Late Saxon pottery sherd from the same context, a Late Saxon or early medieval date is perhaps more likely for this object.



Plate 2: Late Saxon/early medieval pin beater.

The second object, from buried soil 605, is the proximal half of a cattle metatarsal which has a large sub-circular hole through the proximal articular surface. The metatarsal had been chopped diagonally across mid-shaft and may once have formed a blunt point although its function is uncertain.

OTHER FINDS

By Lorraine Mephram

Ceramic building material

Three pieces of ceramic building material were recovered, comprising two post-medieval brick fragments (from bricks of unknown dimensions and form) from posthole 136, and a 19th/20th century floor tile from buried soil 605 (same as 103).

Clay tobacco pipe

A fragment of clay tobacco pipe from buried soil 103 is from a stem, and is stamped with the mark L. Fiolet à St Omer Déposé. The Fiolet firm (along with Gambier of Paris) was one of the most prolific of the 19th century French pipemakers, and their pipes are the commonest French type found in this country (Oswald 1975, 115). Louis Fiolet took over control of the factory from his father in 1834, and operated it until his death in 1892; the firm had an office in London from 1853–84. Two fragments from evaluation context 604 (garden soil) are plain stem fragments, which cannot be dated more closely.

CHARRED PLANT REMAINS

By Sarah F. Wyles

Introduction

A series of twelve bulk samples taken from a range of features of medieval and post-medieval date across the site were processed for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoal. Following assessment a selection of three samples was made for further analysis of the charred plant assemblages. These were from boundary ditch 150 and pits 127 and 144.

Methodology

Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions. The coarse fractions (>5.6mm) were sorted for artefacts and ecofacts, weighed and discarded.

At the analysis stage, all identifiable charred plant macrofossils were extracted from the flots, together with the 2mm and 1mm residues. Identification was undertaken using stereo incident light microscope at magnifications of up to x40 using a Leica MS5 microscope, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild species and the traditional nomenclature as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, tables 3 and 5) for cereals and with reference to modern reference collections where appropriate; then quantified and the results tabulated in Table 3.

Results

Large quantities of charred plant remains were recovered from these medieval deposits. In all three cases cereal remains outnumbered weed seeds within the assemblages. The predominant cereal was rye (*Secale cereale*), followed by free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type). There were also several oats (*Avena* sp.) within the assemblage which are possibly of the cultivated variety. Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) was only present in small quantities. A single grain of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), together with a glume base was noted in the sample from boundary ditch 150. Other possible crop remains include those of celtic beans/peas (*Vicia faba/Pisum sativum*) in all three assemblages and a flax (*Linum usitatissimum*) seed and possible capsule fragment recovered from pit 114.

Area		A		
Phase		Medieval		
Group		Boundary ditch gp 150		
Feature Type		Ditch	Pit	Pit
Feature		129	127	144
Context		131	128	145
Sample		5	6	11
Vol (L)		20	19	20
Flot size		225	350	400
Roots %		2	2	2
Cereals	Common Name			
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. sl (grain)	barley	3	1	2
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> (grain)	emmer/spelt wheat	1	-	-
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> (glume bases)	emmer/spelt wheat	1	-	-
<i>Triticum turgidum/aestivum</i> (grain)	free-threshing wheat	4	15	12
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> (rachis frag)	free-threshing wheat	-	1	2
<i>Secale cereale</i> (grain)	rye	11	22	14
Cereal indet. (grains)	cereal	20	25	35
Cereal frag. (est. whole grains)	cereal	8	10	15
Other Species				
<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	buttercup	-	2	-
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. (fragments)	hazelnut	18 (1 ml)	11 (<1 ml)	14 (1 ml)
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> L.	corncockle	1	1	-
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.	knotgrass	-	1	1
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) À. Löve	black-bindweed	2	-	-
<i>Rumex</i> sp. L.	docks	-	2	1
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> L.	runch	-	1	-
<i>Rubus</i> sp.L.	brambles	-	-	1

Area		A		
		1 (<1 ml)	1 (<1 ml)	1 (<1 ml)
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	sloe stone	1 (<1 ml)	1 (<1 ml)	1 (<1 ml)
<i>Prunus spinosa/ Crataegus monogyna</i> (thorns/twigs)	sloe/hawthorn type thorns	8	1	-
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp. L.	vetch/wild pea	6	17	20
<i>Vicia faba</i>	celtic bean	-	2	-
<i>Vicia faba/Pisum</i>	celtic bean/pea	2	-	2
<i>Medicago/Trifolium</i> sp. L.	medick/clover	-	-	1
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> L.	flax	-	-	cf. 1
<i>Galium</i> sp. L.	bedstraw	8	1	1
<i>Lolium/Festuca</i> sp.	rye-grass/fescue	1	-	1
<i>Avena</i> sp. L. (grain)	oat grain	5	12	11
<i>Avena</i> sp. L. (awn)	oat awn	-	2	1
<i>Avena L./Bromus L.</i> sp.	oat/brome grass	18	39	35
<i>Bromus</i> sp. L.	brome grass	2	2	1
Monocot. Stem/rootlet frag		6	2	1
Parenchyma		-	2	2
Triangular capsule frag		-	-	1

Table 3: Charred plant remains from medieval features.

These assemblages are compatible with a medieval date as free-threshing wheat, along with rye and barley, is a commonplace cereal recovered from charred assemblages in England within the Saxon and medieval periods (Greig 1991). The grain rich assemblages are mainly indicative of stored cleaned grain. Most of the chaff elements of free-threshing wheat tend to be removed in the field by threshing and winnowing prior to storage (Hillman 1981, 1984). Rye can be used to make bread, flour, beer, thatch and animal fodder and is thought to do better in more marginal lands and poorer environments than some other crops.

Cereal remains in assemblages from medieval deposits from St Mary's Gate Derby were dominated by those of free-threshing wheat and secondly oats (Monckton 2003). There were also smaller numbers of barley and rye remains in these samples. Peas and beans and flax were also present in some assemblages from the St Mary's Gate site. At Hemp Croft, Thurvaston, samples of charred plant remains from medieval deposits consisted mainly of free-threshing wheat, with a few barley grains and peas and beans (Moffett 1999). Very few cereal remains were recovered from the evaluation of medieval deposits at Bold Lane, Derby (Oxford Archaeology North 2010).

Weed seed assemblages were dominated by seeds of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.) and vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.). The weed seed species are those typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments.

Other remains included moderate quantities of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments,

a few brambles (*Rubus* sp.), sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) stone frags, hawthorn/sloe (*Crataegus monogyna/Prunus spinosa*) type thorns and monocotyledon stem fragments. This may be indicative of the exploitation of the hedgerow/woodland edge resource. Hazelnuts shells and bramble seeds were also recorded in some of the St Mary's Gate site samples (Monckton 2003). The seed assemblage from a medieval cess pit deposit at Full Street, Derby, included hazelnut shells, sloe stones and bramble seeds (Richardson 1975).

Conclusion

The assemblages are indicative of crops typical of the medieval period but with a higher presence of rye than is often found in deposits of this date. There is evidence as well for exploitation of the local hedgerows/woodland edge.

DISCUSSION

Archaeological investigations at Cathedral Road, Derby have provided further evidence for the development of settlement following the Norman Conquest. Although the excavation area was limited in size and the site had seen significant disturbance in the 19th and 20th centuries, stratified remains were identified, principally in the south-western corner where preservation was aided by the depth of the buried soil.

Although activity on the site dates principally to the 10th to 13th centuries, earlier activity is hinted at by the recovery of a single sherd of Roman pottery, recovered from a later context. Residual Roman pottery recovered during excavation at the neighbouring Magistrates Court site, was possibly imported into the site (Boucher *et al.* 2003, 5–10). In light of this interpretation, one must remain circumspect about suggesting that the samian sherd is a product of Roman activity within the site at Cathedral Road.

Based on available documentary evidence (Hall 1974), it is postulated that the site lay within the northern extent of the settlement area established from the 10th century onwards, replacing the earlier foci of settlement thought to be located at St Alkmund's and St Werburgh's, approximately 200m north-east and 220m south-west respectively (Boucher *et al.* 2003, fig. 2.1). The laying out of new towns following the Norman Conquest is a common feature in many urban centres in England, with earlier, Anglo-Saxon settlement centres deliberately dismantled or replaced by key features, such as churches or castles (Schofield 1999, 210).

Evidence from the excavation supports this assumption, with no evidence of early medieval occupation identified. Key evidence from the site, the pottery assemblage, indicates commencement of activity in the post-Conquest period. The main evidence from this phase was ditch 150, which was substantial enough to support the notion that it divided two different properties or burgages. Both the pottery dating evidence and the alignment of ditch 150 share strong parallels with remains recorded on the neighbouring Magistrates Court site: land boundaries there also followed the north-north-west/south-south-east orientation of ditch 150, and the earliest activity was also associated with Saxo-Norman ceramics. Together, the two sites provide a common window onto the townscape of the northern fringe of medieval Derby.

Although the pottery from ditch 150 does not extend beyond the 11th century, the predominant north-north-west/south-south-east orientation of medieval land boundaries to the north of St Mary's Gate has continued into the modern period. The archaeological sequence reveals that individual plots have altered in extent over time, but have largely respected the enduring template of the local street pattern. Ditch 133 also followed the predominant north-

north-west/south-south-east alignment. No dating evidence was recovered from this ditch so it is not clear whether it was created at the same time as neighbouring ditch 150 or represents later sub-division.

The pits identified on the site probably represent activity undertaken to the rear of the properties, although there is no definitive artefactual evidence to demonstrate the nature of that activity. Cathedral Road was called Walker Lane originally, and the road name is thought to indicate that occupants in this area were primarily engaged with 'walking' or fulling, the process of cleaning woven fabric (May 2007, 10–11). Fulling relies on a ready water supply, which could be the reason why this previously marginal area was selected. However, the only evidence for textile manufacturing identified from this site comprised a single pin beater, while the neighbouring site produced evidence for a range of other activities, including tanning, hornworking, grain drying and metalworking. While the faunal assemblage from the site lacks the characteristics of that recovered from the Magistrates Court site, the similarity between pit 126 and pit 3005 from the neighbouring site is worth highlighting. That both features were used to dispose of industrial waste (including charcoal and pink heat-affected clay) might, however, suggest that the Cathedral Road site witnessed some extension of the activities undertaken next door.

Overall, fewer features were identified compared to the Magistrates Court, implying that the site's exploitation was less intense. While subsequent ground disturbance, including that associated with use of the site as a garage (including construction of underground fuel tanks) may have removed some evidence, given that the remains were in part protected by the buried soil it is reasonable to assume that the recorded density of features largely reflects the original arrangement. This would support the suggestion made in the Magistrates Court site report that the 'industrial' use of this part of the settlement was more marked towards the water resources available at the Markeaton Brook, to the west, whereas further upslope (eastwards), towards the cathedral, landuse was more domestic in nature (Boucher *et al.* 2003, 8–2).

At some point around the 13th century, activity on the site appears to have halted and the buried soil (deposit 103) began to accumulate, with no evidence for resumption of occupation until the 19th century. This sequence, which was also recorded at the Magistrates Court, may be due to wider economic and social misfortune felt throughout England, including a famine recorded in 1315–25 and the Black Death in 1348 (Schofield 1999, 211). Following this, the site appears to have been turned over to horticulture, perhaps with an initial importation of soil followed by further accumulation as the land continued to be cultivated and middened, which may account for the presence of buried soil 103.

Evidence from the site has further supported the notion of settlement expansion in Derby following the Norman Conquest. Lack of evidence for any settlement activity preceding this, and post-dating the 14th century, could indicate that ground conditions made the area undesirable for occupation and that Cathedral Road (formerly Walker Lane) did represent the margins of post-Conquest settlement. This may be further reinforced by the unpleasant nature of industrial activity represented at the Magistrates Court, such as tanning, and the potentially comparatively brief usage of the property boundary ditch 150. Following the decline in economic fortunes seen throughout England in the late 13th and early 14th century, it is plausible that the settlement contracted in size, and activity focused instead on the urban core. The centre of the post-Conquest planned town, however, remains obscure archaeologically.

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