



8 Merstow Green

Evesham, Worcestershire

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Archaeological recording

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Contents

<i>Figures</i>	3
<i>Plates</i>	3
SUMMARY	4
INTRODUCTION	6
<i>Location and scope of works</i> (Figs. 1 & 2)	6
<i>Geology and topography</i>	6
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	7
RESULTS (Figs. 3-8)	8
<i>Method and nature of the excavation</i>	8
<i>Description of deposits</i>	9
FINDS.....	29
<i>Environmental data</i>	30
DISCUSSION (Fig. 9).....	32
BIBLIOGRAPHY	34
APPENDIX 1: OASIS	35

Figures

- 1 site location
- 2 area of study
- 3 ground plan of school house and location of trench 1
- 4 north elevation of school house & trench 1 sections
- 5 detail of the south end of the former detached (?kitchen) building
- 6 trench 2, plan
- 7 trench 2, sections
- 8 trenches 3 & 5, sections
- 9 historic environment plan with trenches 1-8

Plates

- 1 trench 1c, showing context (wall) 104, from the east
 - 2 trench 1c, showing context (wall) 104, from the west
 - 3 trench 1c, fully excavated, from the east
 - 4 trench 1d, east end showing Lias stone wall (context 112), from the west
 - 5 trench 1d, west end (position of wall 113), from the east
 - 6 trench 1b with wall 108 to the right of the scale, from the south-east
 - 7 trench 1a, showing context 101 (masonry rubble), from the north
 - 8 details of south end of former detached (?kitchen) building
 - 9 trench 2, from the south showing contexts (pits) 200, 202 & 210
 - 10 overall view of trench 2, from the south
 - 11 context (pit fill) 201
 - 12 context (pit fill) 203
 - 13 context (pit fill) 205
 - 14 context (pit fill) 207
 - 15 trench 3, north-south arm, from the north-west
 - 16 section 3b, detail at north end
 - 17 trench 4, from the north-east
 - 18 trench 5 section, from the west
 - 19 trench 6, (context 601)
 - 20 trench 7 showing context (wall) context 701
- Front cover; 8 Merstow Green, from the south-west, 2015

SUMMARY

Archaeological recording was carried out on land to the rear of 8 Merstow Green, Evesham, Worcestershire during development comprising part demolition of the existing building and the erection of a rear extension, four houses and a flat. The results confirmed previous suspicions that the area of study has been subjected to earlier truncation associated with previous development and that in places this was substantial.

The earliest evidence of activity within the study site was demonstrated by the half dozen residual Roman pottery sherds recovered during the excavations indicating a period of continued Roman activity stretching from the 1st to early 5th century AD.

Situated in a row aligned north-south at the rear of the building was a series of pits (some inter-cutting). These were interpreted as associated with the occupation of the school house between the 16th and 19th centuries when it was formerly an enclosed garden.

Archaeological Building recording carried out in conjunction with observation of the excavation connected with the rear extension identified a number of phases associated with the rear development of the school house some of which could be related to the walled remains recorded within the trenches. Although excavation produced limited dating evidence, the broad range of artefacts recovered shows continued activity from the Roman and medieval periods and again during the 18th century.

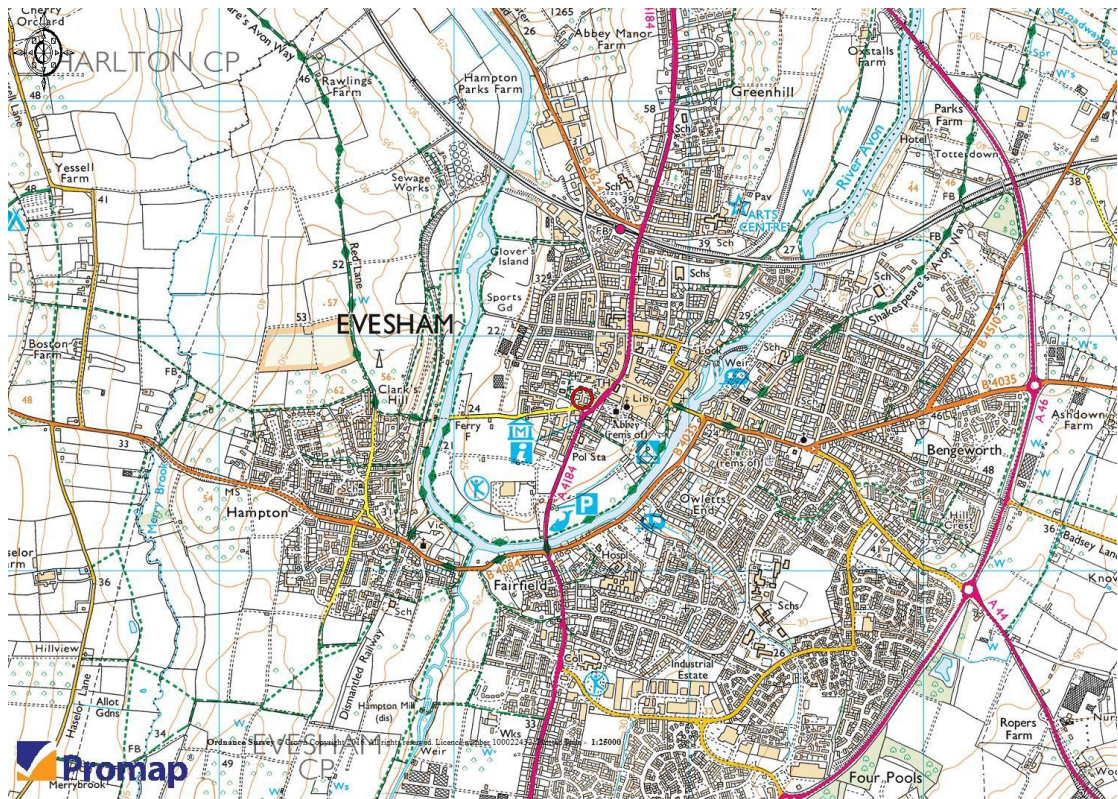


Fig. 1; site location (circled in red)

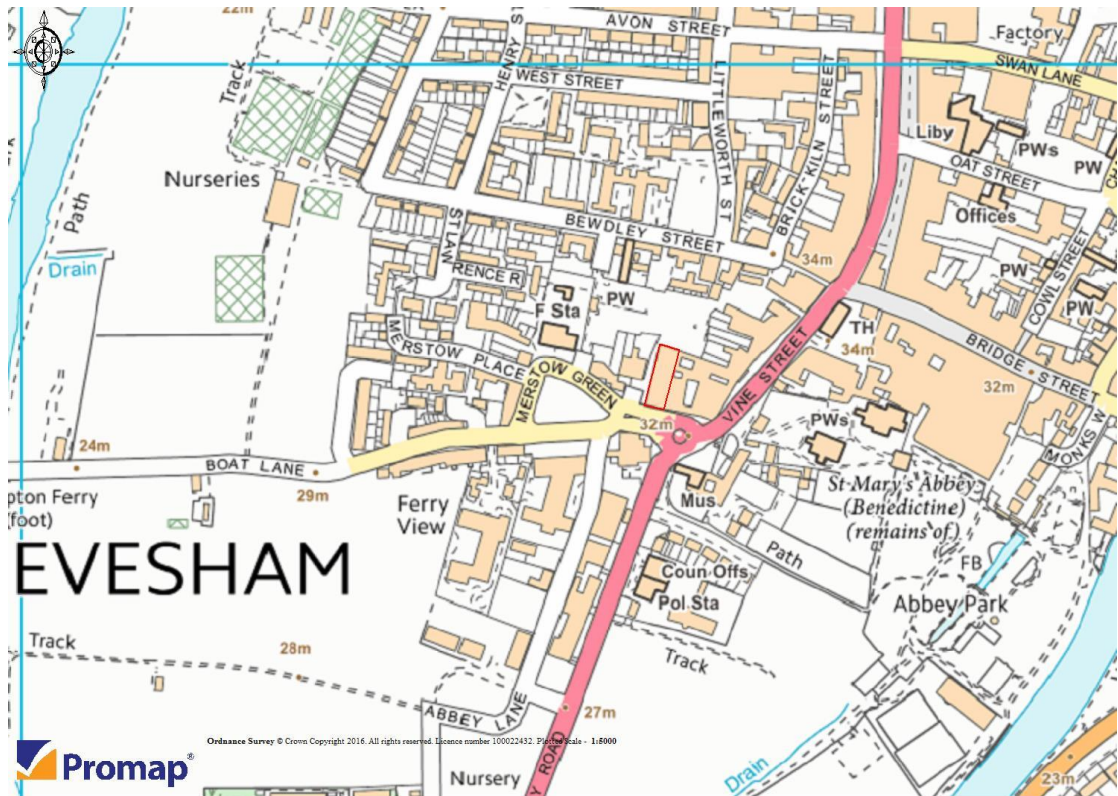


Fig. 2; area of study (outline in red)

INTRODUCTION

Location and scope of works (Figs. 1 & 2)

This document sets out the results of archaeological recording ('watching brief') on land to the rear of 8 Merstow Green, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 4BB at the request of Mr Stuart Homer AJ & SC Properties Ltd during 9th and 31st July 2015 and again during 5th January 2016. The agent was Stansgate Planning. The proposed development comprised the part demolition of the existing building, erection of rear extension at no.8 and also at the rear, four two-bedroom houses and one two-bedroom flat.

The programme of archaeological work was required as a condition of planning permission granted in respect of an application (Ref: W/15/1082) to Wychavon District Council and was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service in 2014 and an accompanying letter (Nash, A., 24th, June, 2015). The proposed development is located within an area which is known to contain archaeological deposits relating to the medieval town of Evesham. It is anticipated that any archaeological deposits may be truncated but information of the evolution of Evesham can be still be gained from such remains. Given the scale of the development, and the anticipated archaeological potential, the likely impact on the historic environment caused by this development was offset by the implementation of a conditional programme of archaeological works comprising a controlled watching brief.

Geology and topography

The study site is represented by a roughly flat north-south rectangular plot of land lying to the rear (north side) of 8 Merstow Green, Evesham. It lies at a height of about 32m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and the underlying geology comprises River Gravels of the Third Terrace of the River Avon (BGS, 1974). This was confirmed during excavation as an orange sand in trench 1, sand and gravel in trenches 3-8.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

An HER search was carried out on a 500m radius of the study site. The search area sits within the urban area of Evesham, a Minster town located within a meander of the River Avon situated over sand and gravel terrace deposits and bedrock of mudstone. Evesham is a planned medieval town established in c.700 by the Bishop of Worcester. The search area mainly sits within the historic core of the town, surrounded at its edges by 20th Century semi-detached housing expansion. Within the search area lie 105 Listed Historic Buildings and a further 75 unlisted historic buildings. Many of these buildings are 18th and 19th century housing but the records do include several structures dating to the 11th-14th Century pertaining to the site of Evesham Abbey. 8 Merstow Green is part of the Old Grammar School thought to be of 16th Century date but with many alterations. Recently the building has been used as a Mens Working Club and is listed along with numbers 1-7. A Historic England funded project to identify the historic farmsteads of Worcestershire did not record any farmsteads within the search area.

In addition to the building there are also monument records indicating the discovery of a Medieval Well in the grounds of 8 Merstow Green. Numerous other records also relate to this period in the search area including further evidence for the site of the Abbey, a market cross and site of the town stocks, the site of Bengeworth Castle and other areas of medieval activity. Later evidence includes civil war defences, the site of post-medieval houses and evidence for the defence of Worcestershire during the Second World War. Earlier evidence is also present in the form of an Early Iron Age occupation site and a late Bronze Age settlement.

As the search area falls within an urban area the amount of archaeological investigations recorded is very high. There is good survival of above ground remains from the medieval period onwards and excellent preservation of deposits below ground. The historic and listed buildings constitute a coherent body of evidence, but are not numerous for early periods, and are judged to have moderate potential for detailed study and recording. There is potential for excellent below ground archaeology from the Roman period through to the post-medieval. Finally, a Historic England funded project to identify the potential for Palaeolithic archaeology within Worcestershire identified two large deposits within the search area with the potential for Palaeolithic archaeology dating back to 13050 BC.

RESULTS (Figs. 3-8)

Method and nature of the excavation

Archaeological recording was undertaken to obtain a record of any archaeological deposits or finds disturbed or exposed during excavation of the site. Machine excavation was only used for the removal of non-archaeologically significant material (modern deposits) and was used to excavate these layers stratigraphically. All machining was conducted under constant and close archaeological supervision at all times using a toothless bucket. Trenching was generally 0.60m wide and approx. 1m deep throughout the majority of the excavation although in some areas excavation went deeper. The results of the archaeological recording confirmed previous suspicions that the area of study has been subjected to earlier truncation associated with previous development and that in places this was substantial.

Trench 1 represented the foundation for the rear extension to the former grammar school building and was L-shaped. Excavation was divided into four lengths, trenches 1a, 1b & 1d were excavated by hand whilst trench 1c was mostly excavated by machine. Truncation was particularly evident within the eastern half (trench 1c) where the insertion of services including drainage (ceramic pipes), water and electric resulted in disturbance to much of the underlying stratigraphy leaving only small areas of undisturbed natural substrate and pockets of relict subsoil (context 105) surviving intact. At the west end of the trench, within smaller trenches between the existing pillars, deposits remained relatively undisturbed and a number of finds were retrieved as a result of excavation by hand.

Trench 2 comprised the excavated foundations for the new build. This was a new detached development replacing an earlier modern extension associated with the former working mens club. Excavation initially consisted of four trench arms (each approx. 11.5m long) aligned north-west to south-east, each connecting with a longer trench (approx. 20m long) aligned north-east to south-west. These trenches were excavated to a width of 0.60m and a depth of about 1m.

Trenches 3 and 4 were connected with the proposed flats at the southern end of trench 2. Excavation initially comprised an L-shaped trench (also 0.60m wide and about 1m deep) extending from the south-east corner of trench 2 and a similarly sized trench parallel to the southern side of trench 2. In the event, due to underlying conditions the trench was excavated to a width of about 1m.

Slightly further to the south, four short individual trenches (5-8) approx. 1.50m long and 0.45m wide, were also excavated, these being associated with supporting pillars.

Description of deposits

TRENCH 1

Contexts 106 (natural geology)

The surface of the geological horizon (context 106), a natural substrate comprising a friable orange sand and gravel, was exposed throughout the east half of the excavation (trench 1a). This was subjected to significant truncation at varying degrees of intensity, but seems to have survived relatively intact within the central area of the trench where it was recorded at a height of about 31.20m AOD. To the west of this, a construction trench (context 111) associated with a ceramic drainage pipe has penetrated the upper level of the deposit (after truncating the east end of wall 104), whilst the east and south-east area of the excavation has been affected by the insertion of services including water, electric and a former concrete/brick wall building (context 110) aligned north-south. At the west end of the excavation in the locations of trenches 1a and 1b the natural substrate was not clearly reached, but in the base of the trench 1d context 103 was similar (see below).

Context 103

Situated at the base of the trench 1a and partially truncated to a depth of 0.30m during the excavation of trench 1d was context (?layer) 103, a deposit of soft to friable, light orangey-brown silty-sand with the occasional stone fragment. The deposit was undated and interpretation is difficult given the constraints of the trench. The presence of stone and silt within its composition suggests that it is more likely to be equivalent to the relict subsoil (context 105) rather than the natural substrate, but the surface of this deposit equates neatly with that of context 106, the natural substrate in trench 1c.

Context 105

Immediately overlying the natural sand and gravel within the east end of the excavation (trench 1c) to a depth of about 0.30m was an undated relict subsoil deposit (context 105) comprising a friable greyish-brown sandy-silt mottled with orange sand (redeposited natural).

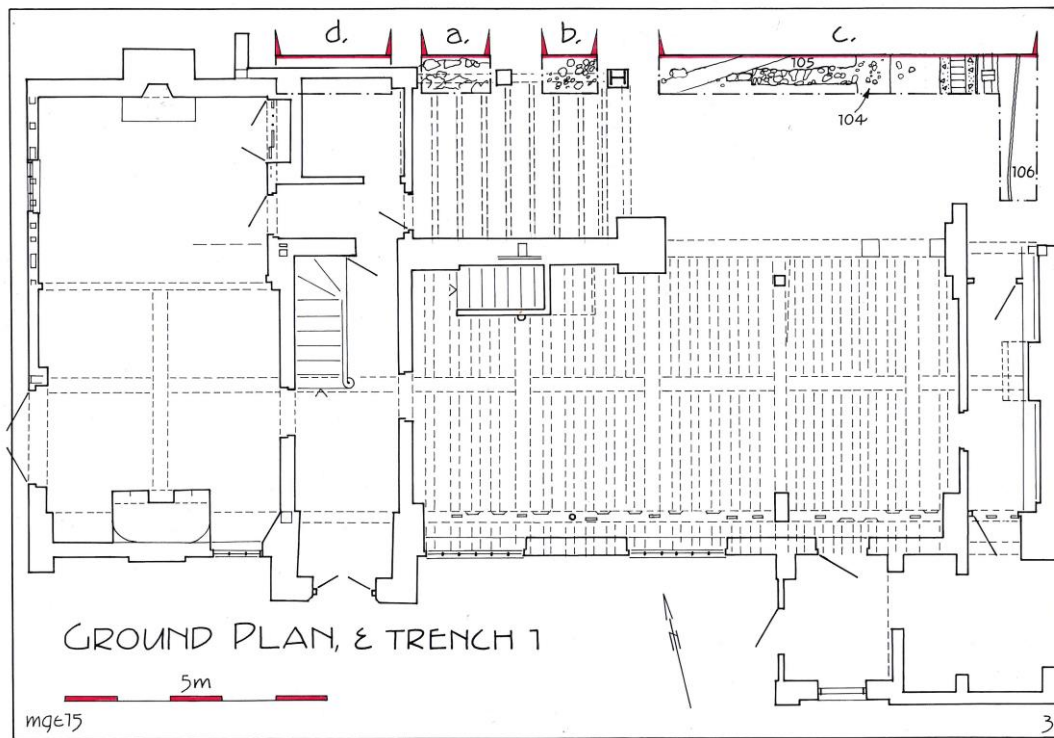


Fig. 3; ground plan of school house and location of trenches 1a-d

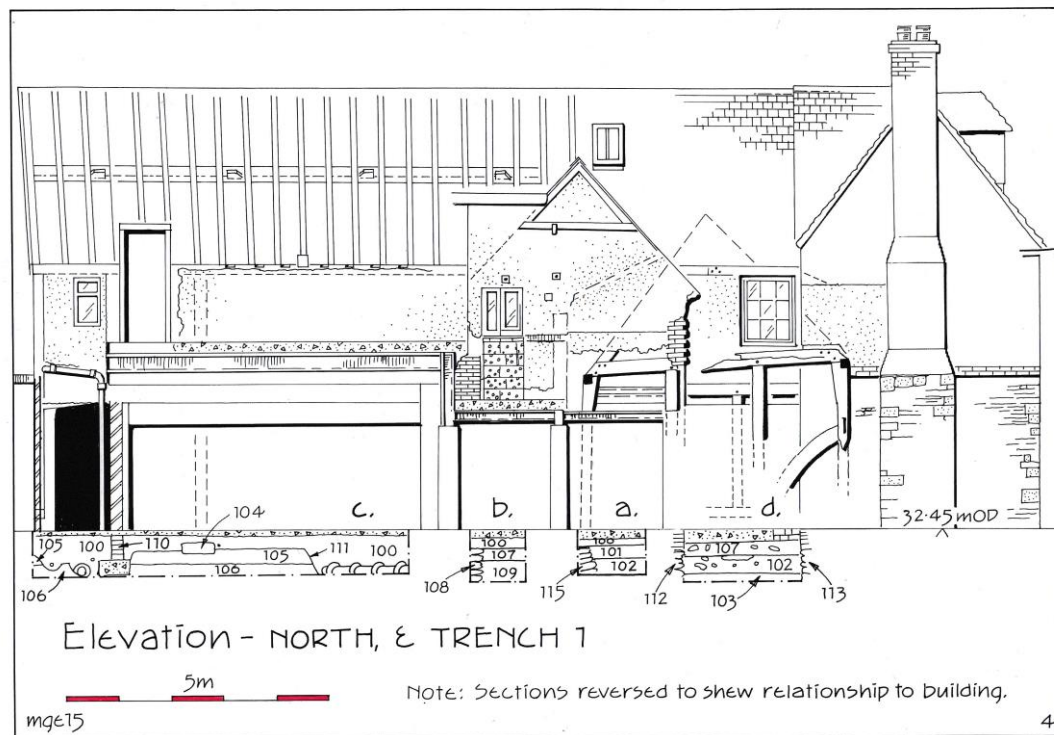


Fig. 4; north elevation of school house & trench 1 sections a-d

Continued from page 9

A small component of rounded pebbles, the occasional Lias and limestone fragment and some charcoal flecking was also recorded. The deposit was equally truncated in various parts of the trench as a result of later building work and the insertion of service trenches.

Context (wall) 104

Overlying context (layer) 105 and aligned north-south with a thinner arm extending west along the centre of the trench was the context (wall) 104 comprising one, and in some places two, courses of masonry consisting of Lias stone within sandy-clay matrix. The north-south wall alignment (approx. 0.70m wide) cut across the trench and consisted of a single course of large blocks of stone. That part of the wall extending westwards for about 4m was 0.25-30m wide and consisted predominantly of two courses of small angular fragments of stone bonded by sandy-based mortar with the occasional large stone. Two stones at the west end of the appear to represent the position of a former threshold.



Plate 1; trench 1c, showing context (wall) 104, from the east



Plate 2; trench 1c, showing context (wall) 104, from the west



Plate 3; trench 1c fully excavated, from the east

Contexts 102, & 109

Overlying the deposit 103 in trenches 1a & 1d was context 102 comprising 0.30m a soft to friable dark greyish-brown clayey-silt with a small component of brick and stone. The inclusion of brick would suggest a post-medieval date for deposition with the residual deposition of finds as a result of a later intrusion. These comprised two sherds of Roman pottery, four sherds of 17th/18th century pot, an assemblage of clay tobacco pipes bowls and animal bone.

Situated at the base of the adjacent trench (section 1b) was an undated deposit (context 109), comprising a greyish-brown sandy-silt with a small component of Lias stone fragments. It was not bottomed at a depth of 0.40m and continued beyond the trench base. The east side of this deposit was seemingly truncated during the construction of a stone wall (context 108).

Context (wall) 108

Constructed within the deposit 109, but only observed within the south facing section was context (wall) 108 surviving to a depth of 0.65m. This was comprised entirely of small to medium sized fragments of Lias stone, there was no obvious bonding agent. It was unclear whether this feature was originally aligned north-south across the trench as it appears to have been subjected to truncation and this could explain why where there was no evidence of a continuation in the opposite trench section.

Context (wall) 112

Constructed within the deposit 102 (section 1d) were the remains of a Lias stone wall (context 112). The feature was sat on the surface of the underlying deposit (context 103) surviving to a width of about 0.35m, it appears to have been subjected to some previous truncation in relation to the erection of an adjacent brick wall and this may explain why it could not be observed in the opposite (north) trench section.

Context (wall) 113

Situated at the west end of trench 1d to a depth of about 0.70m and aligned north-south was a Lias stone wall (context 113). There was no clear construction trench associated with this wall which represents the east side of the existing cross-wing.

Context (wall) 115

Situated at the east end of trench 1a and aligned north-south was a Lias stone wall (context 115) consisting of a number of courses of thin fragments of stone to a depth of 0.70m. No clear construction trench was observed for this wall which is interpreted as the east side of the former detached building (?kitchen). The wall was sloping from west to east suggesting subsidence.



Plate 4; trench 1d, east end showing context (Lias stone wall) 112, from the west



Plate 5; trench 1d, west end (position of wall 113), from the east



Plate 6; trench 1b with wall 108 to the right of the scale, from the south-east

Contexts 101 & 107

Excavated from the two small trenches at the west end of the excavation were two undated deposits of masonry rubble (contexts 101 & 107) each about 0.25-30m thick and comprising predominantly Lias, but with some limestone (Plate 3). These deposits are likely to be associated with the demolition of contexts (walls) 108, 112, 113 & 115.



Plate 7; trench 1a, showing context 101 (masonry rubble), from the north

Context (wall) 110

Constructed within context 105 at the west end of the excavation was the concrete foundation for an overlying brick wall (context 110) which cut north-south across the trench. Immediately west of this wall and affecting deposits within the corner of the excavation were three trenches associated with services including drainage, water and electric.

Context 111 (trench) filled by context 100

Another drainage trench (context 111) cut obliquely, north-east to south-west across the centre of the trench reaching the natural substrate. This was backfilled with context 100.

Context 100

Situated below the existing concrete floor level and sealing all of the underlying deposits including wall 104 was context 100, a deposit of dark-greyish-brown sandy-clayey-silt (topsoil). This was 0.10m thick at the west end increasing to

0.30m thick at the east end of the excavation. Finds included a single sherd of Roman and medieval pottery, a number of clay tobacco pipe stems and fragments of animal bone.

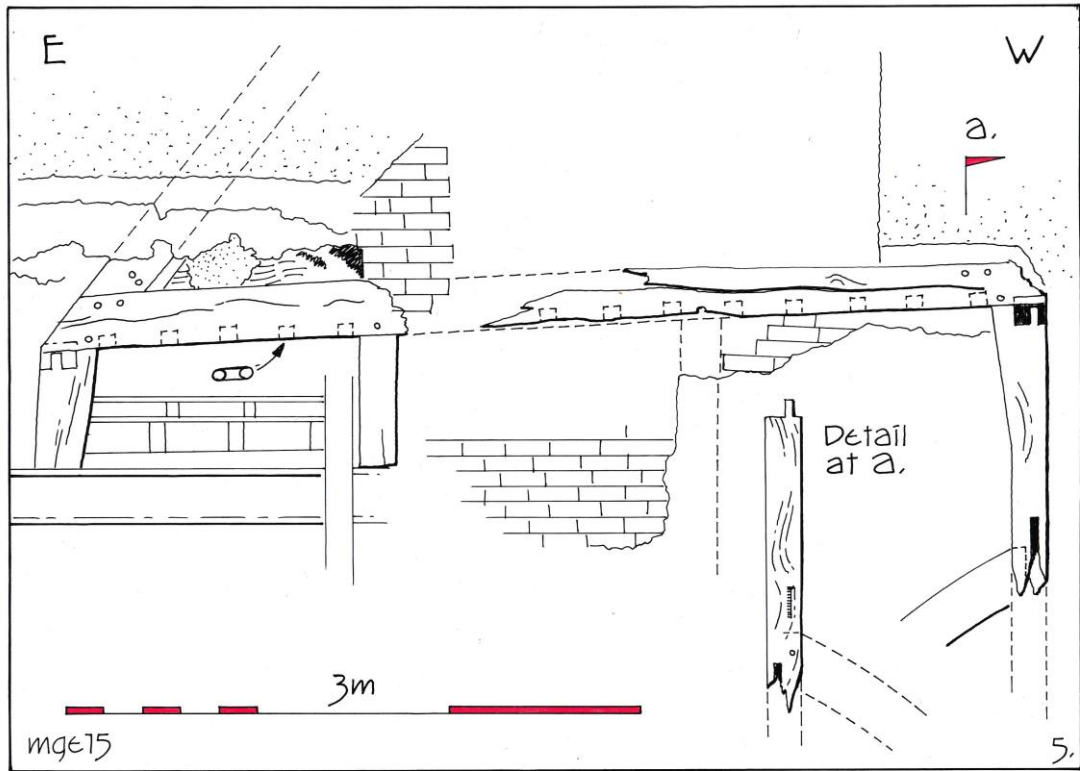


Fig. 5; detail of the south end of the former detached (?kitchen) building



Plate 8; details of south end of former detached (?kitchen) building

TRENCH 2

Context 214

The natural substrate comprising an orange sand was recorded throughout all of the excavated trench and was truncated during machining. This deposit had already been subjected to earlier truncation as a result of pitting (see below) and the construction of concrete foundations and brick walls associated with the previous working mens' club. A slight slope downwards in the surface of this layer from north (32.08 AOD) to south (31.70m AOD) was observed in the longer north-south arm of the trench.

Context 213

Overlying the natural sand and gravel within the north-south arm of trench 2 was a thick layer of soil comprising a combination of relict subsoil and the upper topsoil layers. There was no obvious division or interface between the two layers, instead there was a gradual change in colour and texture suggesting continued intermixing of the soils. This is probably attributed to the excavation and inter-cutting of a number of pits (see below).

Context (pit) 200, filled by context 201

Partially exposed within the north end of trench 2 was the pit (context) 202. This comprised a steep-sided feature 2.90m wide on the north-south axis where it cut into the natural substrate and at least 0.50m deep. The east-west sides of the pit continued beyond the edge of the excavated foundation trench. It was filled by a single undated deposit (context 201) consisting of a clean (no inclusions), soft to friable, dark greyish-brown sandy-silt and produced a single fragment of animal bone. The fill of this feature contrasted quite starkly to the background orange sand (see plates).

Context (pit) 202, filled by context 203

Situated slightly further south of pit 200 was a similarly steep-sided pit-like feature (context 202), albeit slightly smaller. Where the pit cut into the natural sand it measured 2m across and at the base of the trench 1.85m. This feature was filled by (context 203) a comparable fill to pit 200 and produced two sherds of Romano-British pottery.

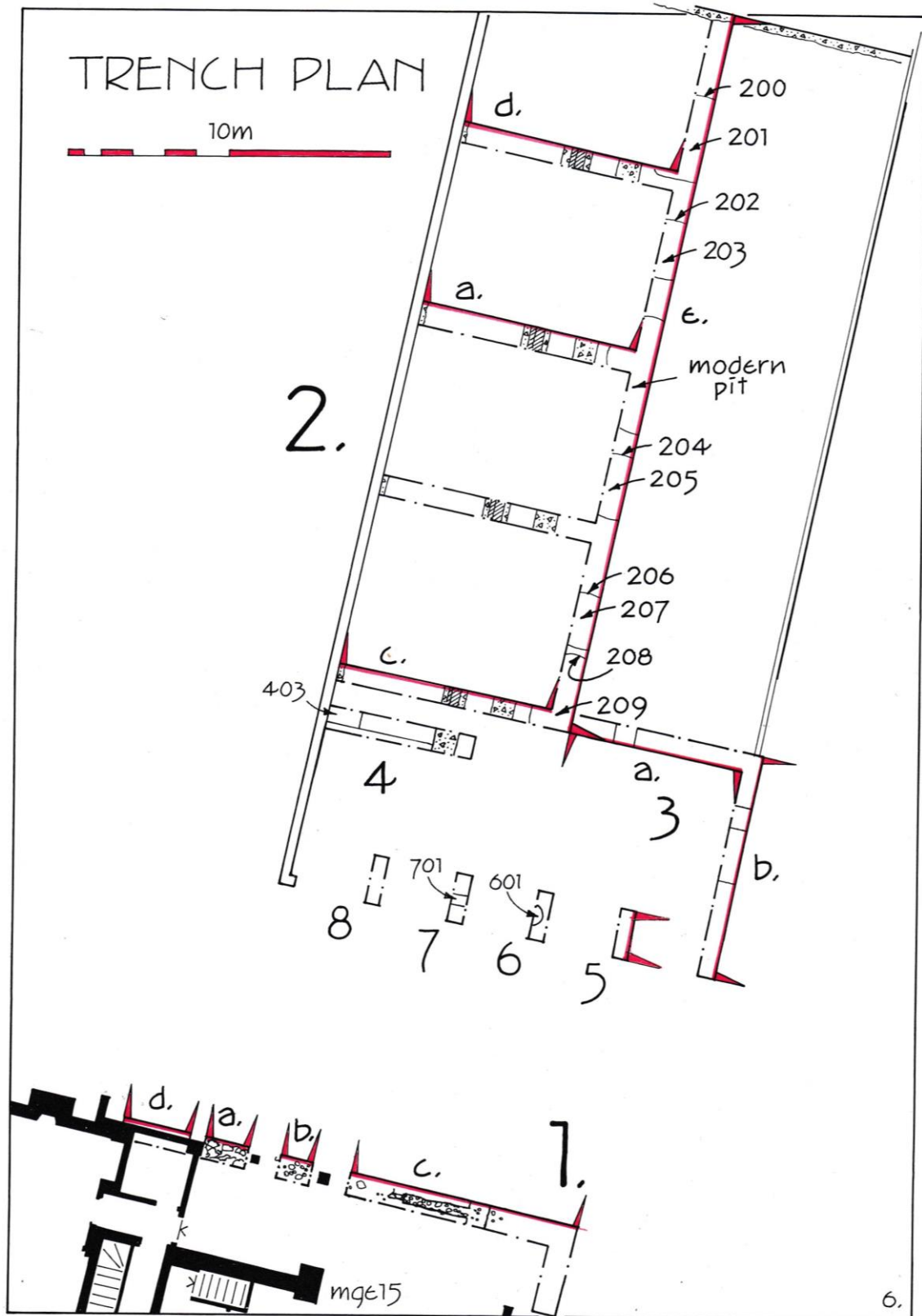


Fig. 6; Trenches 1-8, plan showing main features

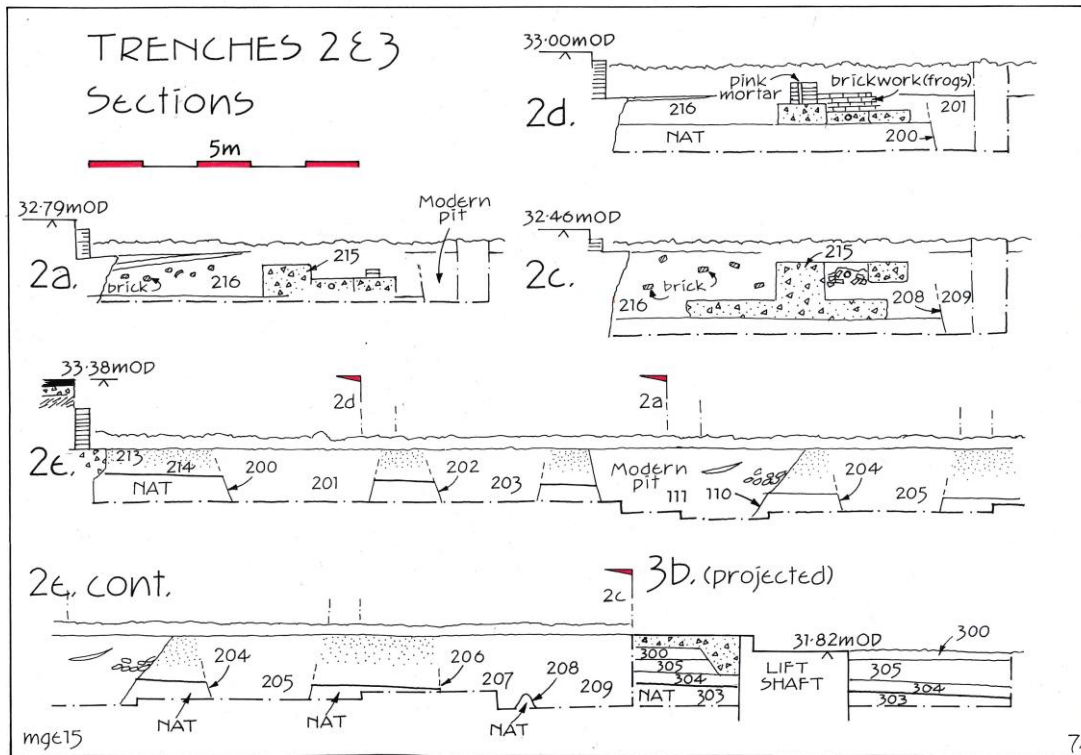


Fig. 7; trench 2 sections & section 3b (trench 3) projected

Context (pit) 204, filled by context 205

Similarly sized and recorded to the south of pit 202 was another steep-sided pit-like feature (context 204). It was also filled by an undated deposit (context 205) equal in colour and texture to the pit fill deposits 201 & 203.

Context (pit) 206, filled by context 207

Situated south of pit 204 was another steep-sided pit like feature intercut with a larger pit-like feature to the south (context 208). It was also filled by an undated deposit equivalent in texture and colour to pit fill deposits 201, 203 & 205.

Context (pit) 208, filled by context 209

A large steep-sided pit situated at the south end of trench 1, the north and west edges revealed within the trench with the remainder continuing outside the excavation. It was filled by an undated deposit equivalent to contexts 201, 203, 205 & 207.



Plate 9; trench 2, from the south showing contexts (pits) 200, 202 & 210. Concrete foundations associated with a brick wall aligned east-west can be seen at the north end of the trench.

Context (pit) 210, filled by context 211

Centrally placed within trench 2 and cut from the existing modern ground level was a partially exposed modern pit filled by a dark greyish-brown sandy-silt producing a single sherd of residual Romano-British pottery and occasional fragment of red brick towards the bottom of the feature.

Context (wall) 215

Walls and footing associated with former working mens' club were recorded aligned north-south within the centre and west end of the east-west arms of trench 2.

Context 216

Redeposited mixed soil comprising a greyish-brown sandy-silt overlying the natural sand within east-west arms of trench 2. Finds consisted solely of modern building debris.



Plate 10; overall view of trench 2, from the south



Plate 11; context (pit fill) 201



Plate 12; context (pit fill) 203



Plate 13; context (pit fill) 205



Plate 14; context (pit fill) 207

TRENCH 3

The natural sand (context 303) was recorded throughout the majority of the excavated trench except in places where there is truncation associated with the former working mens' club. This included a large square cut pit/trench (context 302), filled by context 301 a dark-greyish brown, clayey sandy-silt. Evidence for a relict subsoil layer surviving above the natural sand was represented by context 304, with greyish-brown silt mottled with natural orange sand. Seemingly truncating this deposit was a large (partially exposed) steep-sided pit (context 302) filled with a single deposit of greyish-brown sandy-silt (context 301). However, the stratigraphic evidence is unreliable as the relationship has been disturbed by a later shallow pit/trench associated with a concrete foundation.

This was in turn sealed by context 305 an undated layer of mid greyish-brown sandy-silt which was apart from an absence of mottling very similar to the underlying relict subsoil layer (context 304). Sealing this sequence of deposits was context 300, a relatively thin layer of dark-greyish brown sandy-silt interpreted as a later garden soil. This was truncated by a large modern feature (context 302) back filled with a single deposit (context 301) comprising a dark greyish-brown sandy-silt.

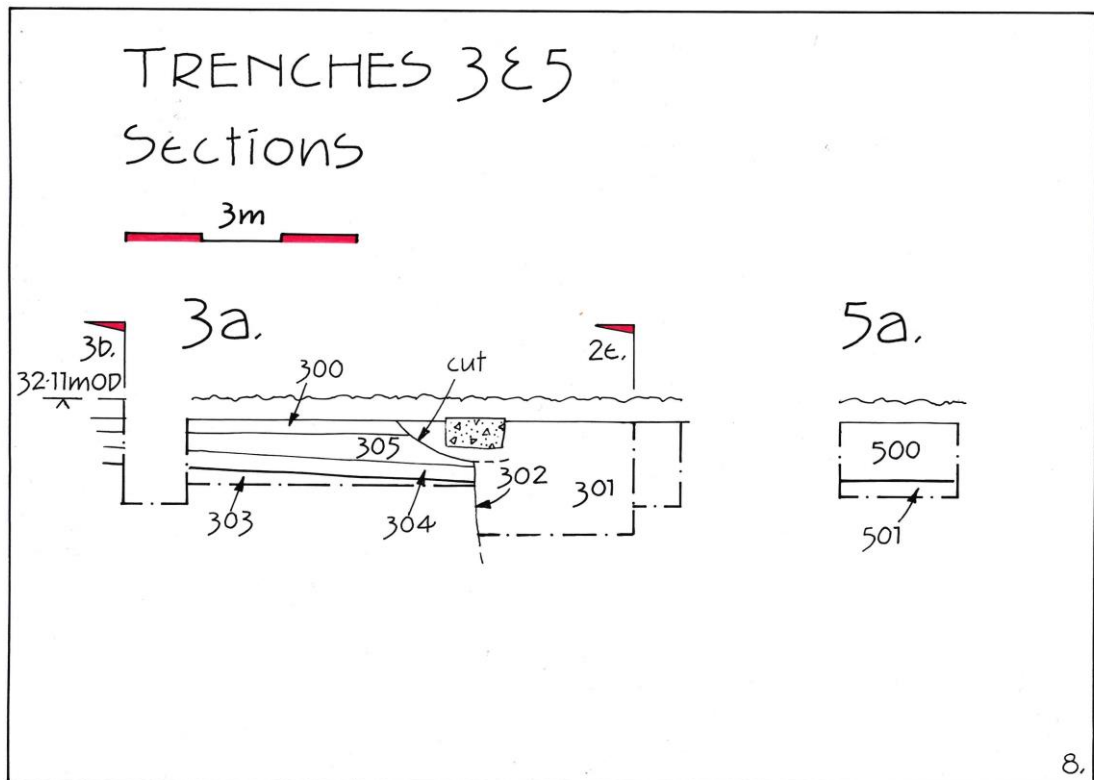


Fig. 8; trenches 3 & 5, sections



Plate 15; trench 3, north-south arm, from the north-west



Plate 16; section 3b, detail at north end



Plate 17; trench 4, from the north-east

TRENCH 4

The surface of the natural sand (context 403) was exposed at about 1m below ground level in only a small area at the west end of the trench. It was overlain by a concrete slab and footings associated with a brick wall aligned east-west which is shown on the OS First Edition.

TRENCHES 5-8

All of the trenches were excavated to a depth of about 1m below the existing ground level revealing the surface of the natural sand and gravel at a depth of approx. 0.70m. This was overlain throughout all of the trenches by a thick deposit of greyish-brown sandy-clayey-silt. Two features were recorded in trenches 6 and 7 respectively. Cut into the surface of the natural substrate in trench 6 was what appeared to be half of an undated circular pit-like feature (context 602), 0.45m (north-south) and 0.26m (east-west). Excavation showed this to be about 0.23m deep with a slightly rounded base. It was filled by context 601, a mid to dark greyish-brown sandy-silt which was sealed by a thick deposit (context 600) of greyish-brown sandy-silt. There was no obvious continuation in the west section of the trench suggesting that there may have been significant truncation of the upper part of the fill. In trench 7, an east-west wall (context 701) was recorded

overlying the natural sand and gravel. This was 0.34m wide and about 0.50m deep and constructed of mortared stone with inclusions of brick.



Plate 18; trench 5 section, from the west



Plate 19; trench 6, (context 601)



Plate 20; trench 7 showing context (wall) 701

FINDS

Pottery and clay pipe by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 11 sherds with a total weight of 342g. It consisted of a mixture of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval wares, and was recorded using the conventions of the Worcestershire county type-series (eg. Bryant and Evans 2002) as follows:

F12: Oxidized Severn Valley Ware, 1st – 4th century. 4 sherds, 136g

F23: South Midlands Shell-Tempered Ware, late 4th – early 5th century. 1 sherd, 37g.

F43.2: Central Gaulish Samian Ware, early 1st – late 2nd century. 1 sherd, 54g.

F64.1: Worcester-type Sandy Glazed Ware, late 11th – 14th century. 1 sherd, 12g.

F82: Tin-glazed Earthenware, 17th -18th century. 3 sherds, 60g.

F90: Post-medieval Orange Ware, 17th - 18th century. 1 sherd, 43g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. All the fabric types are well-known in the region. Most of the assemblage is in

good condition and, the residual material aside, appears reliably stratified. The three fragments of tin-glazed earthenware are all from a single blue-painted, foot-ring dish which is of a fairly high quality.

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

	F12		F23		F43.2		F64.1		F82		F90		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
100					1	54	1	12					18thC*
102	1	61	1	37					3	60	1	43	18thC
203	2	25											RB
211	1	50											RB
Table	4	136	1	37	1	54	1	12	3	60	1	43	

*clay tobacco pipe stems also present

Clay Tobacco Pipes

Context 102 produced an assemblage of 12 clay tobacco pipe bowls. All were of a very similar form, with the bowl cut parallel to the stem, and long, slightly flattened pedestal spurs. They all appear to be of 18th century date. Three of the bowls have the letters "S" and "L" stamped on the spur. A stem with an illegible stamp was also present. A number of stem fragments also occurred in context (100).

Environmental data

The Animal Bone By Jennifer Wood

A total of 21 (496g) refitted fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand during a scheme of archaeological works undertaken by One Ten Archaeology at 8 Merstow Green, Evesham, Worcestershire. All of the remains were recovered from 18th century layers (100), (102) and undated pit fill (201). The remains were generally of a good overall condition, averaging at grade 3 on the Lyman criteria (1996). A fragment of large mammal size vertebra from layer (100) and a fragment of large mammal size innominate from layer (102) display butchery evidence consistent with disarticulating and jointing of the carcass. No evidence of gnawing, pathology or burning was noted on any of the remains.

Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone

Context	Cut	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
100	N/A	Sheep/Goat	Humerus	R	1	18	Distal shaft, Bd=33mm, BT=31mm
		Sheep/Goat	Femur	L	1	22	Distal shaft
		Sheep	Metacarpal	R	1	28	Shaft and distal condyles. SD=18mm, Dd=11mm, Bd=30mm
		Cattle	Humerus	R	1	101	Distal shaft
		Domestic Fowl (<i>Gallus Sp.</i>)	Humerus	L	1	2	Shaft and distal condyles
		Large Mammal Size	Vertebra	L	1	20	Cranial centrum fragmeny, chopped longditudinlly and transversely
		Large Mammal Size	Rib	X	1	6	Blade fragment
		Medium Mammal Size	Rib	X	2	9	Blade fragments
		Large Mammal Size	Skull-frontal	L	1	35	Orbit fragment
Goose? (Anser Sp.)	Tibio-tarsus	R	1	3	Juvenile, Proximal shaft, unfused		
102	N/A	Cattle	Mandible	L	1	35	Diastama fragment, incisors in occlusion
		Sheep/Goat	Metacarpal	R	1	9	Proximal epiphysis, Bp22mm
		Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	5	Shaft fragment
		Large Mammal Size	Skull-nasal	L	1	25	In 3 pieces
		Large Mammal Size	Innominate	R	1	43	Illium fragment, chopped through
		Large Mammal Size	Innominate	X	1	18	Illium blade fragment
		Medium Mammal Size	Rib	X	2	5	Blade fragments
		Pig?	Illium	L	1	28	Illium fragment
201	N/A	Cattle	Metacarpal	R	1	84	Shaft fragment, broken into 4 pieces

As can be seen from Table 1, sheep/goat are the most abundant species identified within the assemblage, with a single fragment positively identified as sheep. Cattle is the next most abundant species identified, with small numbers of

pig, goose and domestic fowl also identified. Due to the limited size of the assemblage, little further information can be gained, beyond the presence of the remains on site. The represented species are fairly typical for the period and the represented skeletal elements are consistent with remains commonly associated with domestic waste.

DISCUSSION (Fig. 9)

The earliest evidence of human activity within study site was provided in the half dozen Roman pottery sherds recovered from trenches 1 and 2. Although they were all from residual contexts they indicate period of continued Roman activity stretching from the 1st to early 5th century AD.

A series of six pits were recorded aligned in a row from north to south along trench 2 each continuing beyond the base of the trench already 1m deep. One of these produced a single sherd of Romano-British pottery, but was clearly modern, whilst the remaining five pits were all seemingly contemporary. Only one other pit produced two sherds of Roman pottery which could have been redeposited when the pit was dug.

The pits are probably associated with occupation of the property when it was a school house from the early 15th century until its relocation to Lanesfield House (built in 1835) at Green Hill during the later part of the 19th century. In 1885 (OS First Edition) the rear of the building was an enclosed open/garden area and this is likely to have remained like this until development in the 20th century. The clean nature of the pit fills, almost devoid of pottery and containing no animal bone or inclusions (such as charcoal flecking) that would indicate repeated dumping of domestic hearth or food waste, suggests that they are likely to be cesspits. These features, seemingly sub-circular, were on the whole fairly large and deep, all continuing beyond both the sides and bottom of the trench.

The former school house, originally jettied on the front with continuous fenestration displays close studded timber-framing consistent with a date around 1500 AD. Previous archaeological work (Reynolds, 1969) suggests that this building replaced an earlier medieval structure. A well (WSM41420) uncovered during building work at the same premises produced 13th century pottery at the base of the feature. The site itself is a medieval tenement plot laid out on the north side of the former medieval market place at Merstow Green (WSM20739), a large rectangular area which is aligned on the Abbey gateway and which may have originated in the pre-conquest period (Dalwood, 1996).

Archaeological Building recording carried out in conjunction with the observation of the excavation identified a number of phases associated with the rear development of the school house some of which could be related to features identified in the excavated trenches.

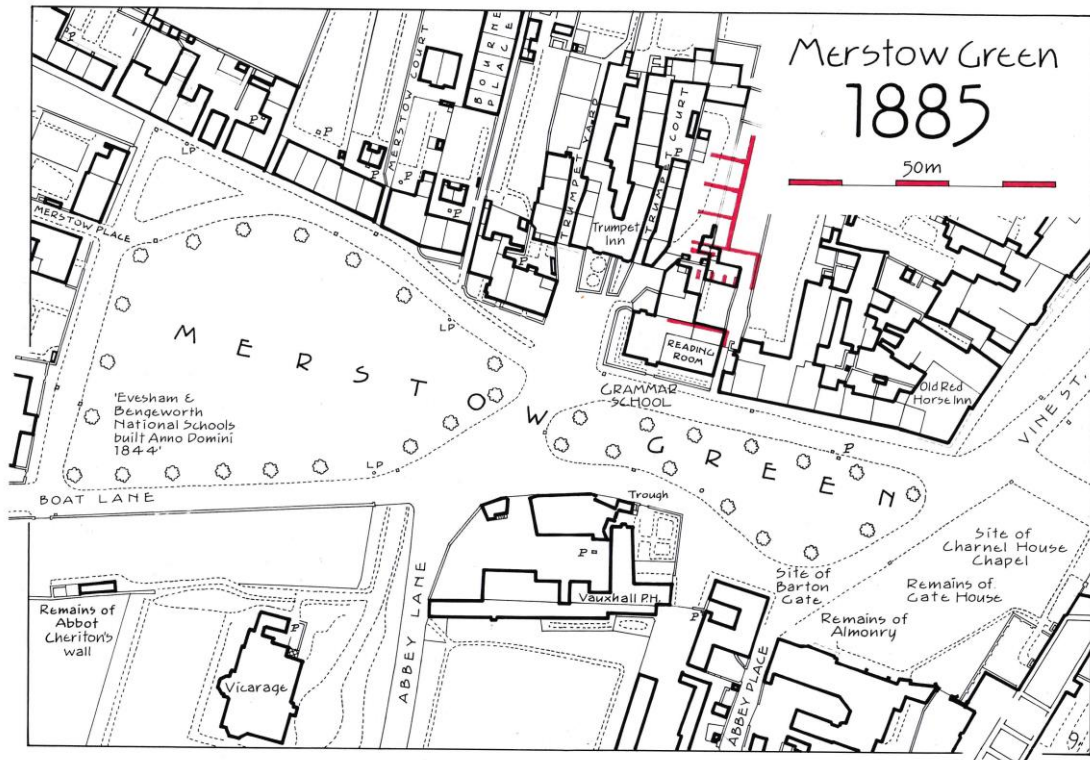


Fig. 9; historic environment plan with trench locations (red)

Feature A (timber framing) represents the south gable end of a tall single-storey detached building, possibly a former kitchen. The frame survived encased within later fabric, the upper part of the post and large brace revealed diagnostic features suggesting a 15th century date. Context (Lias stone wall) 115 corresponds with the east wall of this structure, the opposing west wall lay outside the excavation. This building became physically joined to the house following the erection of a subsequent two-storey north extension comprising rudimentary timber framing characteristic of the 18th century. Contexts (Lias stone walls) 108 & 112 are consistent with east and west walls of this building. A cross-wing was added to the west end of the school house during the 18th century and context (Lias stone wall) 113 appears to equate with this development.

A lean-to was also added at the east end of the school house and although its relationship to this other extension was unclear due to later disturbance, it could be earlier, possibly 17th or 18th century. This lean-to can be identified by a wall plate on the building showing trenches across the upper arris for rafters associated with

the structure. The walled foundations for the lean-to (context 104) revealed its extent. The eastern limit of wall plate aligns with the wider part of the foundations aligned north-south across the trench. The location of the thinner (east-west) return wall indicates the position of the back wall and two stones at the surviving west end of this wall (the remainder being truncated by a later drainage trench, context 111), point to a possible threshold (see plate). The rudimentary nature of the wall construction (two courses surviving) suggests that it was a dwarf wall supporting a timber frame. Although excavation of trenches 1 & 2 produced limited dating evidence, the broad range of artefacts recovered indicates continued activity throughout the Roman and medieval periods and again during the 18th century.

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APPENDIX 1: OASIS

Project name	8 Merstow Green, Evesham; archaeological recording
Short description of the project	Archaeological recording was carried out on land to the rear of 8 Merstow Green, Evesham, Worcestershire during development comprising part demolition of the existing building and the erection of a rear extension, four houses and a flat.
Project dates	Start: 09-07-2015 End: 05-01-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WSM67010 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	MGE15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	UF Medieval
Significant Finds	SN Roman
Significant Finds	SN Medieval
Significant Finds	SN Post Medieval
Investigation type	""""Watching Brief""""
Prompt	Planning condition
Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON EVESHAM 8 Merstow Green
Postcode	WR11 4BB
Study area	900 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 03541 43716 52.091364439763 -1.948309671179 52 05 28 N 001 56 53 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 31.2m Max: 32.08m
Name of Organisation	one ten archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design	one ten archaeology

originator	
Project director/manager	sean cook
Project supervisor	sean cook
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Physical Archive recipient	county museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	pdf report
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	county museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	8 Merstow Green, Evesham, Worcestershire; archaeological recording
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cook, S
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	one ten archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Warks.
URL	http://www.oasis.ac.uk
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