

# KEYSTONE ARCHAEOLOGY

**Excavation Report for the “Bettie’s Garden” community archaeology project.**

**4, Cromwell View, Caistor, Lincolnshire, LN7 6UH.**

**July 2014.**

**Collaborative project between Caistor Arts & Heritage Centre,  
Down Your Wold Project, Bishop Grosseteste University and  
Keystone Archaeology.**

**KA 2014/09-ER**

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by  
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Keystone Archaeology

**Summary**

In July 2014 Keystone Archaeology (KA) and Bishop Grosseteste University (BGU) were commissioned by Caistor Arts and Heritage Centre and the Down Your Wold Project to provide a community based excavation in “Bettie’s Garden” to the rear of No. 4 Cromwell View over the period 16th to 18th July 2014.

The site is an elevated strip of land to the rear of a group of six Victorian cottage gardens that has been in the continuous ownership of Mrs B Hyde and family for many years.

Excavations yielded various modern refuse spreads and levelling deposits and a shallow fire pit, again for the disposal of refuse.

Finds consisted of modern post WWII domestic items of social history interest as well as a Victorian medicine bottle and 1830’s glass inkwell, both of which had been re-deposited with the topsoil.

Due to the short time period and the lack of excavated depth, no archaeological features of importance were revealed.

As a community project, the participation level was extremely high across the full range of local residents and school pupils. It was universally well received and regarded as a complete success.

OS Grid Ref: TA 11582 01212

Site Code: CVC14

Museum Accession Code: LCNCC : 2014.141



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## Acknowledgements

KA and BGU would like to thank Mrs Bettie Hyde for accommodating the project with the garden of her property.



Mrs Bettie Hyde.

Acknowledgement is also made to Stephanie Dale of Caistor Arts and Heritage Centre for the extended assistance before, during and after the project.

## Site Location and Description

The area investigated was a long thin parcel of land to the rear of a group of six Victorian cottages that lies adjacent to land designate as a scheduled ancient monument, EH List entry 1004995 - Caistor Roman town, monument number 80330.

The piece of land lies approximately half way down the westerly facing slope of the escarpment upon which the town lies and is currently a garden annex to No.4 Cromwell View.

Primarily flat in nature it is raised approximately 2m above the gardens it borders to one side. The other edge moving up the hill has steeply graded borders leading to garden walls above.

The area of investigation was roughly central to the plot and was agreed in consultation with the landowner, Mrs Bettie Hyde.

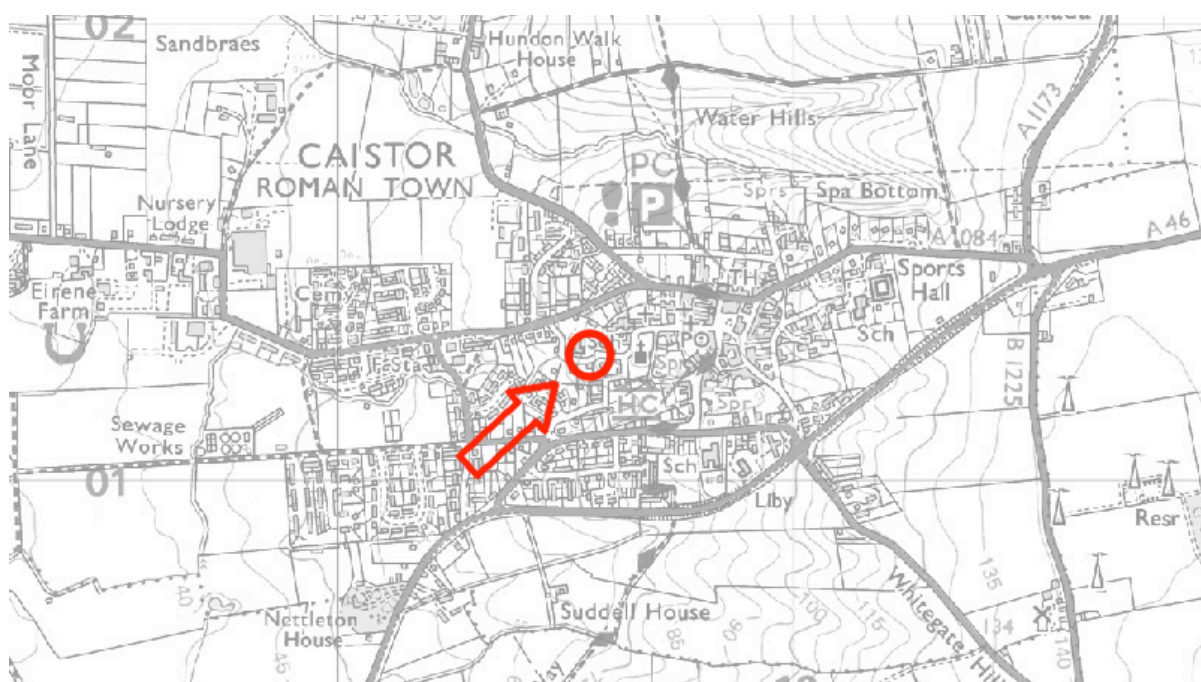


Figure 1 - Site location.

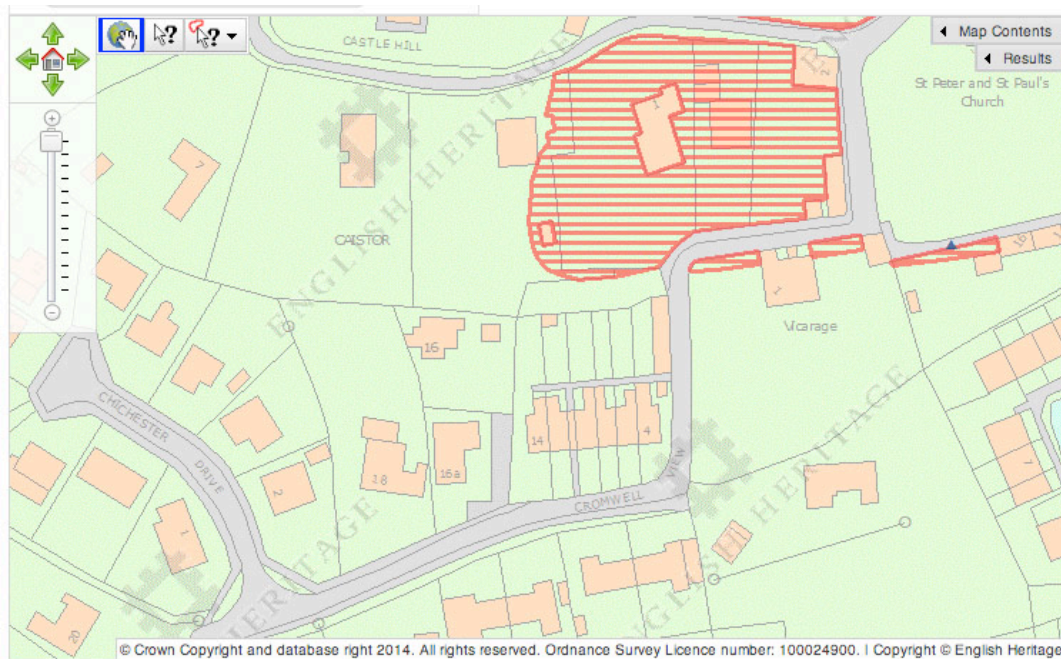


Figure 2 – South-western area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument - Caistor Roman town.

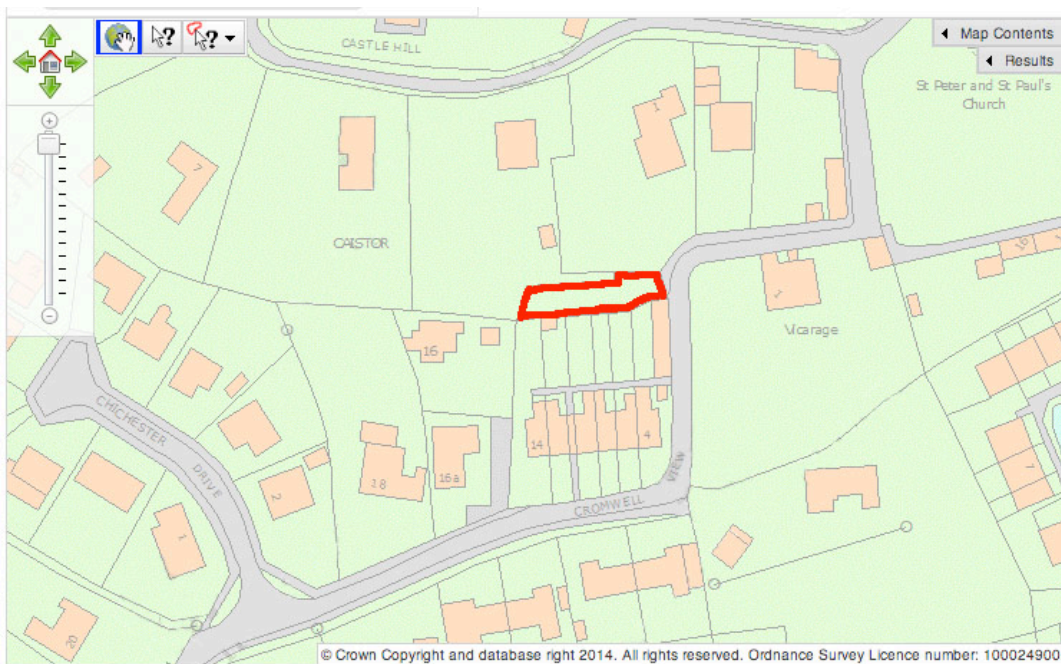


Figure 3 - Area of the site - "Bettie's Garden"

## Geology

Generally speaking, Caistor sits atop the chalk escarpment that forms the western edge of the Lincolnshire wolds. A closer examination of the geology shows that narrow north-south bands of Ferriby and Hunstanton Chalks, Carstone Grit, Tealby Limestone and Mudstone, Claxby Ironstone and Spilsby Sandstone form the western slope of the escarpment. The entirety of the project site sits on top of a band of the Claxby ironstone formation.

## Archaeological and Historical Background

Caistor is a small town in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire, lying at the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds and looks out over the Ancholme Valley and the major Roman road, Ermine Street.

As previously stated, the site lies adjacent to the scheduled ancient monument of Caistor Roman town. The current town centre lies atop this Roman enclosure, and salvage excavations, antiquarian travelogues, and accidental finds demonstrate evidence of occupation all the way from the Iron Age to the present.

The remains of the 4th century walls and defences are now reduced to a standing segment 15 feet in length, and scattered foundations preserved in the cellars of buildings, but its buried presence has shaped the layout of the town through the years. The wall is particularly visible in the southern boundary of the parish church of St Peter and St Paul, itself a building of some interest having an Anglo Saxon tower dating to the late 11th century. The market square in the town centre, lies at the heart of a conservation area that contains 56, mainly Grade II, listed Georgian and Victorian buildings. Other notable buildings in the town include Caistor Grammar School, founded in 1633 and Sessions House, built in 1662.

Whilst there have been many excavations in and around Caistor, especially within the confines of the Grammar school, there are no known previous archaeological investigations on this site.

### Previous Work Close to Site

1964	Archaeological evaluation by English Heritage at Cromwell View / Plough Lane. Roman town defences and ditch. Medieval pit.
1993	Archaeological evaluation by Lindsey Archaeological Services at Caistor Grammar School. Roman pit and drain, early Medieval feature, pit and ditch and post-medieval yard, pits and building.
1997	Archaeological evaluation by Lindsey Archaeological Services at Caistor Grammar School. Medieval features, pits and a wall and possible Roman surface. Small finds included pottery and animal bone.
1997	Archaeological watching brief by AOC Archaeology at Caistor Grammar School. Post-medieval terracing.
2002	Archaeological evaluation by Lindsey Archaeological Services at Caistor Grammar School. Evaluation of the Roman defences in conjunction with English Heritage.
2003	Archaeological evaluation by Lindsey Archaeological Services at No. 2 Cromwell View. Unidentified post-medieval feature.
2013	A Geophysical survey was undertaken by Krissy Moore and team as part of master level project looking at the landscape archaeology of Caistor.



## **Fieldwork Methodology**

### **Aims and Objectives**

The projects research aims were to assess the nature and condition of any archaeological deposits in an area adjacent to (but outside of) the scheduled ancient monument with the possibility of better defining the line of any remaining Roman wall suspected to border the site.

The project also sought to give the local residents, local school pupils and the wider community the opportunity to be involved and have direct experience of archaeological investigation. The project demonstrated to participants the reality of archaeological excavation and the processes involved in completing a project. These included demonstrating high standards of professionalism, both during fieldwork and in the post-excavation phase.

### **Excavation Approach**

A single 1.5m x 4m trench was opened in order to investigate the objectives listed above. The trench was excavated by hand. The turf was lifted and set aside for reinstatement. Contexts were placed in separate spoil heaps and returned to the trench in the correct relative position. Sieving was employed as and when appropriate. All artefacts recovered from beneath the turf layer were collected for further analysis.

Full details of the health and safety arrangements can be found in the Project Brief.

### **Metal Detecting**

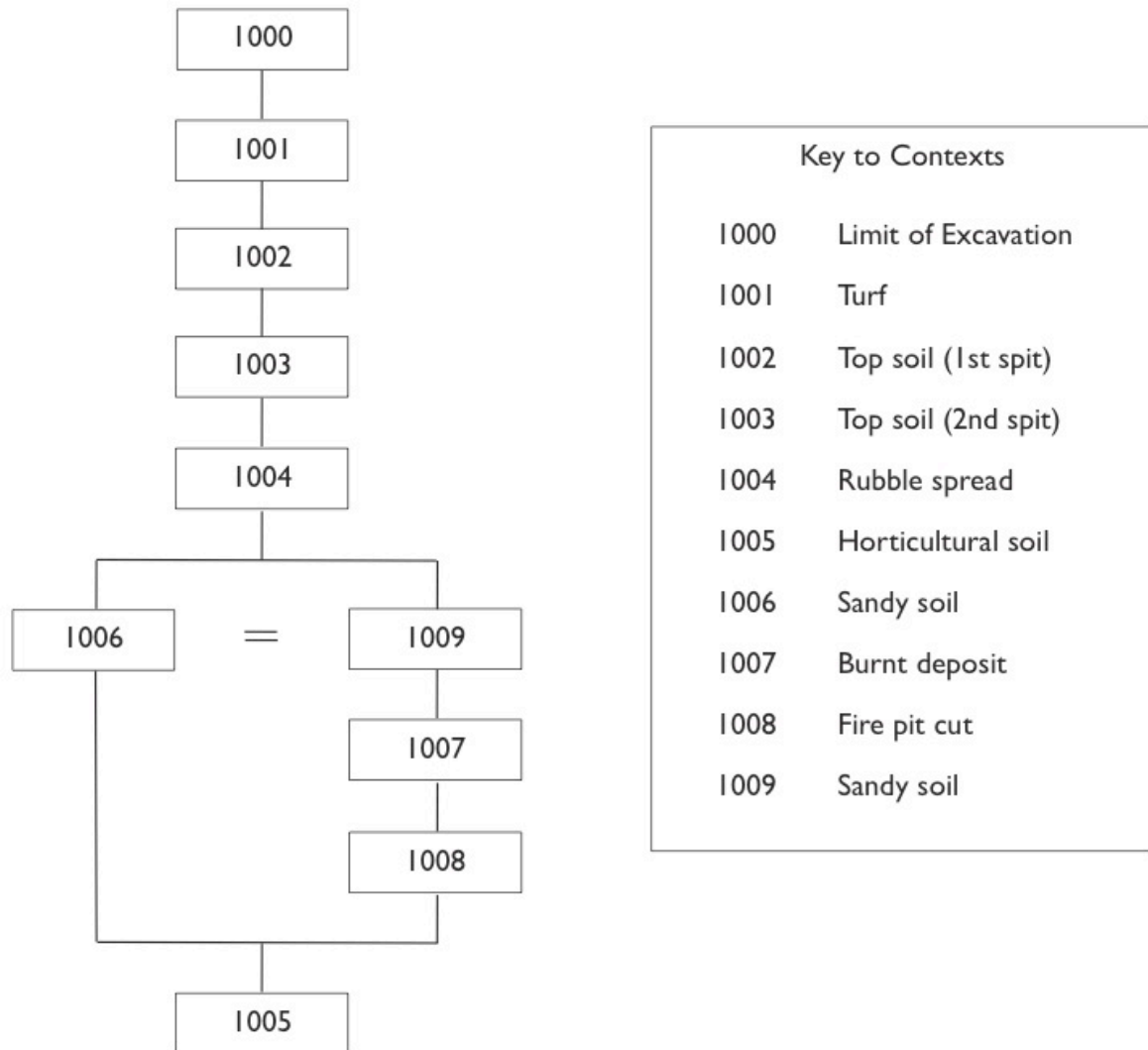
Metal detectors were used to scan the various spoil heaps to locate finds missed by the diggers. Metal detectors were also used over the area of the trenches prior to hand excavation. The 'hits' generated were marked and left for recovery in the course of excavation.

### **Results**

After the removal of the turf layer [1001], the topsoil was lowered by approximately 5cm as a single spit [1002] to level the surface. With no distinguishable features present the excavation was lowered again by approximately 5cm as a single spit [1003]. At this point, CBM and stone rubble was revealed at the centre of the trench [1004]. This was removed, but proved to be only a shallow spread (dump of waste material). To either side of the rubble spread were deposits of a lighter sandier soil [1006] and [1009] which, although somewhat divided by the rubble spread, were certainly the same material. These sandy deposits either side of the rubble spread were approximately 8-10cm thick. Beneath these sandy deposits was a deep layer of darker brown soil [1005]. Cut through this was a shallow pit [1008] and a mixed deposit [1007] containing a high proportion of charcoal and partially burned small finds. This is thought to be a refuse disposal fire and anecdotal evidence from the landowner supports this.

The darker brown soil [1005] continues beneath the whole excavation and was excavated to a further 10cm in the central portion of the trench with no sign of features or change. It is thought to be a deep horticultural soil possibly brought to site for improvement of the land. This was the final horizon for the excavation before closing the trench.

There were no significant archaeological remains discovered in the time allowed for the project beyond some mid 20<sup>th</sup> century remains and some re-deposited earlier remains within the topsoil.

**Matrix****Environmental Sampling**

No features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

## **Conclusions**

Excavations yielded various modern refuse spreads and levelling deposits and a shallow fire pit, again for the disposal of refuse.

Finds consisted of modern post WWII domestic items of social history interest as well as a Victorian medicine bottle and 1830's glass inkwell, both of which had been re-deposited with the topsoil.

Due to the short time period and the lack of excavated depth, no archaeological features of importance were revealed.

As a community project, the participation level was extremely high across the full range of local residents and school pupils. It was universally well received and regarded as a complete success.

## **Recommendations for Further Work**

Further excavation and investigation of this site would certainly yield some interesting archaeology in the form of earlier deposits. Overall, this site has a high level of archaeological potential, being close to (but not within) the scheduled ancient monument and would benefit from further study.

## **Deposition of Archive and Finds**

The Site Archive will be prepared for long-term storage in accordance with *Guidelines for Deposition of Archives with the City and County Museum (January 2000)*.

The project archive, under the Site Code CVC14, will be deposited with the Lincoln City & County Museum.

The project archive, consisting of an A4 ring binder and a collection of digital photographs is currently held jointly by BGU and KA at the Archaeology Dept, BGU under the Site code CVC14.

## **Copyright**

The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Keystone Archaeology and Bishop Grosseteste University under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

**Appendix I - Site Record Photographs.**



Context 1002 – Top soil (1<sup>st</sup> spit)





Context 1003 – Top soil (2<sup>nd</sup> spit)



Context 1004 – Rubble Spread





Context 1005 – Horticultural soil.



Context 1005 – Horticultural soil (mid excavation)





Context 1005 – Horticultural soil (after removal of 1006)



Context 1006 – Sandy soil (western edge)





Context 1007 – Fire pit deposit.



Context 1008 – Fire pit cut.





Context 1009 – Sandy soil (eastern side)





Trench at end of excavation.

**Appendix II - Site Finds Data & Photographs.**

- A – Registered Finds
- B – Ceramic Archive
- C – Glass Archive
- D – Animal Bone Archive
- E – Ferrous Material Archive
- F – Ceramic Building Materials Archive
- G – Shell Archive
- H – Selected Finds Photographs

## Appendix A

### CVC14 – Registered Finds

<b>Reg. Finds. No.</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Object Name</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	1002	Bottle	glass	mid - late C19	probably medicine bottle
2	1002	Coin	silver alloy	1935	sixpence piece
3	1002	Inkwell	glass	1830 - 1900	
4	1004	Thimble	metal	modern, post C18	
5	1005	Toy money	metal	modern	sixpence piece
6	1004	Toy	metal	modern, 1950s	Matchbox Lesney toy Caterpillar Bulldozer



## Appendix B

### CVC14 - Ceramic Archive

Context No.	Earliest Date	latest Date	No. sherds	No. Vessels	Type	Fabric Code	Form	Comments
5000	C20	C20	1	1	unspecified modern stoneware	ENGS	BS	stoneware, striped with fish scale type decoration
1001	C20	C20	1	1	modern	WHITE	rim	modern whiteware
1001	C19	C20	2	2	C19 buff ware	NCBW	BS	
1002	C19	C20	2	2	english stoneware	ENGS	BS	1 beige, 1 brown
1002	C16	C17	1	1	cistercian ware?	CIST?	BS	
1002	C13	C15	1	1	yellow glazed medieval	EMED	BS	
1002	C18	C20	4	4	transfer printed ware	TPW	2 rims, 2 BS	2 possibly hand painted
1002	C19	C20	1	1	earthenware	LERTH	base	
1002	1770	1830	2	1	blue & white hand painted creamware	CREA	BS	
1002	late C18	C20	4	1	pearlware	PEARL	BS	has blue internal glaze, same vessel as in 1004
1002	C19	C20	6	3	C19 buff ware	NCBW	BS, base, handle	
1002	late C18	C20	8	8	pearlware	PEARL	1 rim, 7 BS	various blue and white patterns, joins a sherd in 1004
1002	C19	C20	2	1	clay pipe	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE	stem	two pieces join
1003	1770	1830	1	1	creamware	CREA	BS	

1003	C19	C20	1	1	porcelain?	PORC?	rim	has faint gold coloured decoration
1003	mid C16	C19	1	1	Brown glazed earthenware?	BERTH	BS	
1004	C20	C20	2	1	modern whiteware	WHITE	BS	Cornish ware?
1004	C19	C20	2	2	porcelain?	PORC?	BS and base	
1004	C18	C20	3	3	transfer printed ware	TPW	2 BS, 2 rim	blue and white , joins a sherd in 1002
1004	C19	C20	1	1	C19 buff ware	NCBW	BS	blue and white transfer
1004	late C17	C19	1	1	mottled ware - Staffordshire?	STMO?	BS	
1004	late C18	C20	4	3	pearlware	PEARL	BS	2 sherds have blue glazed inner surface (same vessel as in 1002)
1005	C19	C20	2	2	English stoneware	ENGS	BS	1 brown, 1 grey
1005	C19	C20	1	1	clay pipe	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE	stem	
1005	C19	C20	1	1	C19 buff ware	NCBW	BS	
1005	C20	C20	1	1	modern whiteware	WHITE	BS	
1005	late C18	C20	3	1	pearlware	PEARL	BS	
1005	C18	C20	1	1	transfer printed ware	TPW	base	'LAND' (as part of ENGLAND) in brown on base.
1005	C17	C18	1	1	slipware	SLIP	rim	
1005	1770	1830	1	1	creamware	CREA	BS	has a feint blue pattern
1006	C19	C20	1	1	C19 buff ware	NCBW	handle	
1006	C20	C20	1	1	modern whiteware	WHITE	base	
1006	C20	C21	1	1	stoneware	ENGS	rim	
1007	C18	C20	1	1	transfer printer ware	TPW	BS	

1007	C20	C20	1	1	modern whiteware	WHITE	BS	or poss Staffordshire white salt glazed ware?
1007	C18	C20	1	1	creamware	CREA	BS	blue & white hand painted
1009	C18	C20	1	1	transfer printer ware	TPW	base?	
Totals			69	57				

## Appendix C

### CVC14 – Glass Archive

Context No.	Earliest Date	latest Date	No. Pieces	No. Vessels	Type	Colour	Form	Comments
5000	C19	C20	1	3	bottle	pale green	body	
5000	C19	C20	1	1	vessel	dark green	body	
5000	C20	C20	1	1	bowl	clear	rim	
1001	C19	C20	1	1	bottle	dark green	base	beer bottle?
1002	C19	C20	2	2	bottle	pale green	body	
1002	C20	C20	1	1	jar	clear	rim	
1004	C19	C20	1	1	bottle	pale green	rim	small deep rim from a small bottle
1004	C19	C20	1	1	bottle	dark green	body	
1005	C20	C20	3	1	bottle	dark green	body	
1005	C19	C20	2	2	bottle	clear	body	
1005	C19	C20	1	1	bottle	clear	body	square side of small mould blown bottle
1005	C19	C20	1	1	bottle	clear	base	base of small bottle?
1005	C19	C20	1	1	vessel	pale blue	body	possibly earlier.
1005	C19	C20	3	3	bottle	pale green	body	mould blown bottle glass. One has 'Wold C' embossed?
1005	C19	C20	1	1	bottle	medium green	body	has 'RIA' and 'ERB' embossed?
1005	C18?	C20	4	3	vessel	clear, brown, green	body	these pieces appear significantly earlier than the rest of the assemblage.
1005	C18?	C20	1	1	vessel	purple	base	has diamond pattern, abraded.

1005	C20?	C20	2	1	vessel	brown	body	has diamond pattern similar to the purple piece in the same context, but from a different vessel and made of different type of glass.
1006	C19	C20	1	1	bottle	pale green	body	
1006	C19	C20	2	2	bottle	dark green	body	
1006	C17	C18	1	1	bottle	brown	body	very weathered and laminated, possibly earlier.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>32</b>	<b>30</b>				

### CVC14 Discarded modern glass

Context No.	No. Pieces	Material	Type	Comments
5000	4	glass	glass	modern window glass
1001	2	glass	glass	modern window glass
1002	6	glass	glass	modern window & bottle glass
1004	1	glass	glass	modern bottle glass
1005	9	glass	glass	modern window and bottle glass
1007	5	glass	glass	modern window glass
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>			

## Appendix - D

### CVC14 – Animal Bone Archive

Context No.	No. Pieces	Weight - grams	Type	
1001	1	11	bovine rib	discarded
1002	23	40	unidentifiable fragments	discarded
1002	1	<1	Tooth	discarded
1003	8	9	fragments including 1 rib sheep/goat	discarded
1003	1	<1	tooth/tusk	discarded
1005	17	81	includes rib, bovine and small mammal bones	
1005	1		Tooth	
1006	4	65	includes bovine and small fragments, butchery	discarded
1006	1	1	Tooth	discarded
1009	2	11	pig knuckle,	discarded
<b>Totals</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>218</b>		

## Appendix E

### CVC14 – Ferrous Material Archive

Context No.	No. Pieces	Material	Type	Comments	
5000	3	ferrous	nail	modern hand forged nails	Discarded
1001	4	ferrous	nail	machine made & hand forged	Discarded
1001	1	ferrous	disc		Discarded
1001	1	ferrous	strip	unidentifiable	Discarded
1002	6	Ferrous	nail	machine made	Discarded
1002	3	Ferrous	strip	unidentifiable	Discarded
1002	2	Ferrous	wire		Discarded
1003	4	Ferrous	nail	machine made	Discarded
1003	1	Ferrous	lump	unidentifiable	Discarded
1003	1	Ferrous	thick strip		Discarded
1004	9	Ferrous	nail	8 hand forged, 1 machine made	Discarded
1004	2	Ferrous	thick strip		Discarded
1005	33	Ferrous	nail	various sizes, machine made and hand forged, possibly 1 horseshoe nail. Signs of burning.	
1005	5	Ferrous	wire		
1005	1	Ferrous	strip		
1005	8	Ferrous	nail?	unidentifiable, possibly nails	
1005	3	Ferrous	fitting	metal plate and twisted metal probably door or fence fittings	
1006	1	Ferrous	nail		Discarded
1006	1	Ferrous	wire		Discarded
1007	10	Ferrous	lump	unidentifiable	Discarded
1007	1	Ferrous	plate	thin plate metal, red	Discarded

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1007	23	Ferrous	nail	various sizes and types, machine made and hand forged, some have evidence of burning	Discarded
1009	1	Ferrous	nail	probably hand forged	Discarded
1009	1	Ferrous	lump	unidentifiable	Discarded
<hr/>					
<b>Total</b>	125				

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## Appendix F

### CVC14 – Ceramic Building Material Archive

CVC14 Ceramic Building Material							
Context No.	Code Name	Full Name	Date Range	Total frags	Weight grams	Comments	
5000	MODTIL/MODTILE	Modern Tile	C18-C20	5	155	one pieces has a chamfered edge (retained) disposed	
1001	BRK	Brick	Post med	12	140	various fabrics	disposed
1002	BRK	Brick	Post med	4	335		disposed
1002	MODTIL	Modern Tile	C18 - C20	3	90		disposed
1002	MISC/TILE	Miscellaneous tile fabric	Post med	5	116		disposed
1003	DISC	disc	Post med	1	39	tile shaped into a rough disc	
1003	MISC/TILE	Miscellaneous tile fabric		2	90		disposed
1003	MISC/TILE	Miscellaneous tile fabric	Post med	18	65		disposed
1003	BRK	Brick	Post med	1	83	handmade with mortar	disposed
1004	MODTIL/MODTILE	Roof tile	Post med	5	166	various fabrics, one with chamfered edge	

1004	BRK	Brick	Post med	7	941	hand made, mortar adhering to one piece, several fabrics	
1005	MODBRK	Brick	Post med	11	819	Mostly handmade, some with mortar adhering to surface, frags of modern brick	disposed
1005	PANT	Pan Tile		1	82		
1005	PANT	Pan tile		1	29		
1005	MODTIL/MODTILE	Roof tile	post med	17	225	several with chamfered edges, several pieces curved	disposed
1005	MISC/TILE	Miscellaneous tile fabric	Post med	3	63		disposed
1006	MISC/TILE	Miscellaneous tile fabric	Post med	25	133		disposed
1006		Floor tile	modern	1	131	modern terracotta floor tile	
1006	BRK	Brick	post med	8	263		
1007	MISC/TILE	Miscellaneous tile fabric	post med	3	126	various fabrics	disposed
1009	MISC/TILE	Miscellaneous tile fabric	Post med	4	102	various fabrics	
	DRAIN	drain		1	66	silt deposit on inner surface	
<b>Total</b>				<b>138</b>	<b>4259</b>		

## Appendix G

### CVC14 – Shell Archive

Context No.	No. Pieces	Type	Comments
1001	4	2 oyster, 1 cockle, 1 garden	oyster fragments and near complete right valve of modern flat oyster?
1002	25	21 garden, 4 cockles	mostly fragments, garden has various types
1003	1	garden	discarded
1004	2	1 oyster, 1 cockle	
1005	7	2 oyster, 3 cockles, 2 garden	Mostly fragments
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>		

## Appendix H – CVC14 Selected Photographs<sup>i</sup>



Oyster & Cockle Shell



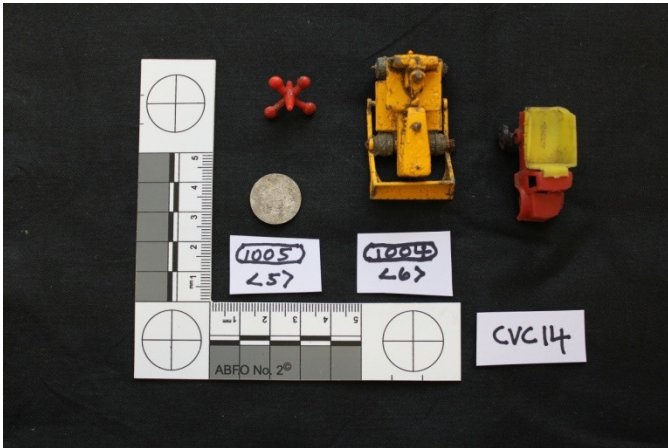
Ceramics



Victorian Bottles



Glass



Toys

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