

OLIVER'S MOUND, SHRAWLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE

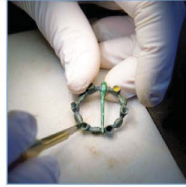
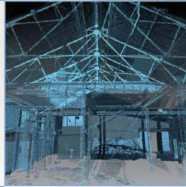
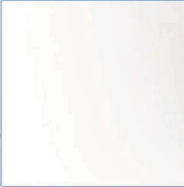
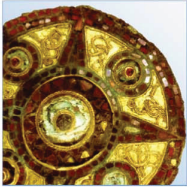
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT

National Grid Reference: SO 8133 6547

AOC Project No: 7705

Site Code: OMS08

Date: May 2009



Oliver's Mound, Shrawley, Worcestershire

An Archaeological Excavation Report

On Behalf of:	The Shrawley Local History & Archaeology Society
National Grid Reference (NGR):	SO 6133 6547
AOC Project No:	7705
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Date of Excavation:	19 th to 30th May 2008
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Non-Technical Summary

Between the 19th and 30th May 2008 an excavation was conducted by Shrawley Local History and Archaeology Society, at the site of Oliver's Mound, Shrawley, National Grid Reference (NGR) SO 8133 6547. The work was carried out as part of a larger project undertaken by the Shrawley Local History and Archaeology Society to investigate the history of the local area, with special emphasis on activity during the medieval period. The archaeological investigation consisted of two hand dug trenches, one measuring 3m by 3m, the other 3m by 4m.

Archaeological features associated with the medieval activity on the mound were identified in both trenches. Trench 1 revealed a substantial set of sandstone structural remains previously identified during archaeological excavations conducted between 1928 and 1930. The stone structure was in fair condition, and could easily be attributed to a castle building as suggested by the documentary evidence. Unfortunately, due to prior disturbance, not immediate dating evidence was identified, but residual pottery recovered from the overlying backfill deposits indicate it was constructed between the 11th and 14th century.

In Trench 2 the remains of a possible internal cobbled surface was identified, with pottery evidence dating its construction to the later 12th or 13th century. It is likely to be in use for up to a century before the structure around it fell into disuse and decay, sealing the cobbled surface with a layer of fallen stone roof tiles.

The evidence from the two trenches begins to support both the documentary evidence and early 20th century excavation results indicating the presence of a medieval castle structure on the mound.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Site

- 1.1.1 The Oliver's Mound site is situated approximately 1km to the east of the village of Shrawley, Worcestershire. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SO 8133 6547 (Figures 1 & 2). The site is roughly oval in shape, covering an area of approximately 5000sq metres, and is bounded on all sides by woodland.

1.2 The Scope of the Project

- 1.2.1 This document aims to summarise the results of the archaeological excavation, conducted by Shrawley Local History and Archaeology Society, at Oliver's Mound, Shrawley, Worcestershire.
- 1.2.2 The site work was allocated the site code OMS 08.

1.3 Project Background

- 1.3.1 The excavation was conducted as part of a larger project undertaken by the Shrawley Local History and Archaeology Society to investigate the history of the local area, with special emphasis on activity during the medieval period. The archaeological works were supervised by AOC Archaeology Group.
- 1.3.2 The site is owned by the Forestry Commission, and has also been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by English Nature. Archaeological advice and assistance was supplied by Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (WHEAS).
- 1.3.3 This Excavation Report follows current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:
- Institute of Field Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (IFA 1994).
- Institute of Field Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IFA 1997).
- Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire - Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (2007).
- 1.3.4 The programme of archaeological excavation at Oliver's Mound was undertaken between 19th and 30th May 2008. The excavation was focused on two trenches in the northern area of the site.

1.4 Geology and Topography

By Rollo Gillespie

- 1.4.1 The underlying geology of Shrawley Wood is the Triassic Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation, part of the Sherwood Sandstone Group. This was laid down about 260 million years ago by braided rivers flowing Northwards from America/France. The Palaeoenvironment was arid flat plains with the rivers and also fluvio-lacustrine sabkha environments. The unit comprises the basal Burcot Member, the central Finstall Member (formerly the Building Stones Member) and the upper Sugarbrook Member. It is not clear which member is present in the woods without a reference to the base. However, some of the considerations are that the Burcot Member contains more clastic material. Dessication only occurs to a limited extent at the top of this and plant remains are rarely found.
- 1.4.2 Dessication horizons are fairly common in the Finstall Member, as are plant remains. Both good quarry sites at NGR SO 8123 6616 and SO 8130 6537 contain dessication horizons, the latter

having evaporitic horizons and a plant horizon. Probably on balance then this is most likely to be the Finstall Member. A site across the river, NGR SO 8179 6586, also contains a similar evaporitic horizon. Dip varies through the woods but at Olivers Mound is about 10/80S.

- 1.4.3 Olivers Mound is overlain by the Holt Heath Member (Severn Terrace 3). This is about 35,000 years old and is post Devensian. The gravels are poorly sorted and up to cobble size, and are even up to about 20 x10 cms in size.
- 1.4.4 The site is situated on a natural spur of land running north-south; with the River Severn located approximate 50m to the east, and New Pool located an equal distance to the west. The site lies at an approximate height of 38m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

2 Methodology

- 2.1 The excavation was conducted according to the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by AOC (2008).
- 2.2 The project involved the initial excavation of two hand dug trenches, both measuring 3m by 3m. Trench 2 was later extended to a size of 4m by 3m. Trench 1 was located to re-excavate an area of the mound initially opened in the late 1920s, whereas Trench 2 was located in an area to evaluate the results produced by a geo-physical survey (Figure 2).
- 2.3 The excavation was conducted by members and volunteers from the Shrawley Local History and Archaeology Society and supervised by Chris Clarke of AOC Archaeology, closely assisted by Dale Rouse of Archaeological Investigations. The progress of the project was monitored by Tim Yarnell (Forestry Commission), John Bingham (Natural England), and Malcolm Atkins (WHEAS).

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

By R.D. Sproat

3.1 Prehistoric and Roman

- 3.1.1 Archaeological finds are scarce in this part of North Worcestershire, but the area does hold a number of important prehistoric and Roman sites. The nearest of these sites are the Iron Age settlement at Grimley, and the pre-Roman hill fort at Woodbury Hill, that protected the northern frontier of the *Dobunni* and *Hwicce* peoples (Yeates 2008), against the *Cornovii*, tribes to the north, and the *Ordovices* to the west. Woodbury Hill controlled the strategically important pass through the Abberley Hills that connected present-day Wales with the West Midlands. Oliver's Mound lies in direct line with this ancient track way at its crossing of the River Severn. Old Worcestershire antiquarians, Nash, Noakes, Habington, *et al*, state that this was an ancient fording place, and ravines leading down to the rivers edge certainly suggest this. This stretch of the west bank however, was extensively dug away in the mid 19th century for clay when there was a brickworks on the site, so no artefacts have yet come to light to prove its existence. The fording place connected the track way that would have carried on to the salt workings at Droitwich, which were known to have existed in the Iron Age (Hurst 2006). The deep ditches to the north and south of the site at Oliver's Mound may suggest that there was a fortified occupation here in pre-history.
- 3.1.2 Roman evidence in the parish of Shrawley exist in the form of a Claudian military marching camp, identified by aerial photography, one kilometre west of Oliver's Mound and en route meeting up with

the old track way to Bays Meadow Roman Villa Complex & Dodderhill Roman Fort in Droitwich (Hurst 2006). The Roman road east of Droitwich to the Roman town of Alcester is evident and well recorded as the 'Saltway'. Major Roman roads passed from Worcester, *Vertis*, through Droitwich, *Salinae*, to Wall, *Letocetum*, east of the River Severn. On the west side, the Roman military road went from Kentchester, *Magnis*, through Leintwardine, *Bravonium*, to the regional capital at Wroxeter, *Viroconium*. Archaeological evidence from briquetage finds suggests that most traffic was north/south, but there must have been local traffic east/west. Medieval field names and straight road layouts suggest that this road was in existence in ancient times and that Oliver's Mound policed the crossing point over the River Severn.

3.2 Anglo-Saxon

- 3.2.1 With the withdrawal of the Roman Legions, in about the year 416 A.D., and with the depopulation that followed, much of the West Midlands became covered in forest and vegetation. Shrawley Wood formed the southern edge of the great Wyre Forest that spread well into Shropshire. Shrawley in the early Anglo-Saxon time became a no-man's-land between the *Hwicce*, descendants of the (*Dobunni*?), and the *Wocensaetna* to the north in Shropshire, and the (?)*Westerna* in Herefordshire (Hill 1981). The princes of the Hwicca ruled the area as under kings, or vassals of the great Mercian Kings, such as Offa the Great.
- 3.2.2 Stenton (1943) states that: '*Before 680 Theodore had created the diocese of Worcester for the Hwicce of the Severn Valley, and that of Hereford for their western neighbours the Magonsaetan.*' This part of Worcestershire became a lawless place, 'bandit country', and the road north from Worcester to Shropshire, (present day B4196), was named '*folc herepath*', meaning 'peoples war road'. With the coming of Christianity most of north Worcestershire was incorporated into the great Anglo-Saxon estate of Wick Episcopcy, controlled from the Benedictine Monastery of St. Mary, at Worcester. Shrawley lay just outside in the Estate of Martley that was Mercian Royal estate. Eventually these two estates became the Hundreds of Oswalslow, (Wick), and Doddingtree, (Martley).

3.3 Early Norman

- 3.3.1 Shrawley is not named in the Domesday Book showing they probably had a destitution of population at this time. Ralph de Tosny, standard-bearer to William the Conqueror, owned Astley, (the next parish north), and several others in the area, but is not recorded as making a claim to Shrawley. Shrawley Wood would have been a valuable commodity as it was used in the brine boiling at Droitwich where many nobles including the clergy owned 'brine houses'. Ralph probably had little interest in his Worcestershire manors for he never visited here, and Shrawley came under the ownership of Urso de Abitot, Sheriff of Worcester. Upon Urso's death his daughter inherited his estates. As a wealthy heiress a poor knight called Beauchamp courted her and won her affections. They set up court at Elmley Castle, south east of Worcester. Shrawley, being part of Urso's estate, was included in the ownership and the Beauchamps set about constructing a castle to collect dues at the crossing, and enforce the King's law along their stretch of the River Severn.

3.4 Medieval

- 3.4.1 It would appear that by the end of the 1100s the castle had been established, for William Beauchamp of Elmley had '*built a castle to control the ancient fording place across the river Severn*'. The castle then appears to be under the stewardship of Sir William Poher, '*sometime lord of the manor*' (Habington p.354). By the time of the reign of Edward I (1272-1307) Roger le Poher held a fee of four hides in Shrawley, from his overlord baron William de Beauchamp and was dealing with land in Shrawley in 1234-5 (Feet of Fines, Worcs, case 258, file 4, no. 37). The Poers were the first recorded under-tenants of the Beauchamps in Shrawley, and would have resided at Shrawley Castle

soon after it was built (VCH Vol.IV). In 1248-9 Hugh Poer granted 2 carucates of land in Shrawley to William Poer (Feet of Fines, Worcs, case 258, file 6, no. 60). William claimed free warren in the manor in 1274-5 (Assize Roll, 1026, manu. 35). The next reference is in the Lay Subsidy Rolls c.1280 when William Poer paid 20s. 0d. in tax to the king. William died without male issue and the manor was granted by his daughter Alina le Poer, one of his co-heirs, to Edmund Mortimer, of Wigmore Castle, and Margaret his wife (Chan. Inquisitions Post Mortem, 32 Edw. I, no. 63b), who were jointly seised at the time of Edward's death after he was wounded in Blith in 1304.

3.4.2 Margaret granted the manor of Shrawley in 1314, along with the manor of Eckington, to Alina Poer for life, with the proviso that on her death the manor would revert to John, son of Edmund Mortimer, and his issue, and that the contingent remainder of the manor to Margaret and her heirs (Feet of Fines, Worcs, Mich. 8 Edw. II, no.20). In 1316 Margaret Mortimer was holding the manor of Shrawley as lord of the manor and was assessed at 20 shillings rent to the king (Chan. Inquisitions Post Mortem, 9 Edw. II, no.71, m. 53). She probably passed the manor to her great-grandson, Roger Earl of March. Roger's eldest daughter Catherine married Thomas, Earl of Warwick in 1337. The manor passed by marriage to Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick and there must have been an arrangement, for Aline le Poer was still living at Shrawley Castle. Aline must have died soon after, for she is recorded as being in dispute with the Church and was buried on site within the grounds of her castle (S&DLHS journal 2, pp.7). Aline must have been wealthy for she had bequeathed an annuity of £100 a year out of the King's Manor of Bromsgrove and King's Norton to Edmund Mortimer and his wife Margaret. Thomas Beauchamp apparently bought the manor of Shrawley in 1344 for it was settled by him on himself and his wife Catherine, and the remainder of the estate to his sons Guy, Thomas, and Reynburn, and to the male heirs of John, his brother (*Cal. Pattinton*. 1343-5, p.251; Feet of Fines, Div. Co. Trinity, 18 Edw. III, no. 55).

3.4.3 The documentary evidence suggests that by 1344 Aline had died and that the Beauchamps had lost interest in the upkeep of Shrawley castle, for they built a new castle, four kilometres downstream on the River Severn, at Holt. It is thought that at about this date the castle was abandoned. The influence of the castle must surely have diminished by the year 1389 for the Shrawley estate was administered by Hugh Belchamp's bailiff, Robert Hyllhampton (Bailiff's Account Roll dated 22nd June 1389/90, WRO Ref. 705:66. BA 4221/7. Up to the early 1600s the site was known as 'Courte Hills' on tenant's rent rolls.

3.4.4 In 1471 Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, was killed in the Battle of Barnet, and all his estates, including the manor of Shrawley passed to the Crown. By about the 1500 king Henry VII appointed a forester to stop '*depredations going on in Shrawley Wood*' showing that the castle was derelict and of no influence.

3.5 Post-Medieval

3.5.1 The English Civil War was a brief period when the site came to prominence. The Childe family who were staunch Royalists owned Shrawley Wood. According to local legend they then proceeded to rearrange what was left of the stonework as defensive gun positions against Parliamentary forces. What is evident is that some remains of the castle continued into the 18th century. Dr. Nash (b.1725, d.1811), Worcestershire antiquarian, states that, '*During the excavations, a few years ago, there were discovered a well, and the remains of a spiral staircase; a quantity of human bones was also dug up*'. There is another reference at Shrawley Parish Church, that '*Underneath the eastern window, on the exterior side, and fastened upright to the wall, is an ancient prism-shaped stone coffin lid, supposed to be nearly 700 years old*'. It is possible that the prism-shaped stone may be associated with activity at the castle during the early medieval period. In addition, the 'ting tang' bell that adorns the Village School in Shrawley is reputed, by legend, to have been found at the castle.

3.6 Previous Archaeological Investigation

Masterman's Excavations

- 3.6.1 Between 1928 and 1930 Mr. & Mrs. S.W. Masterman undertook a series of excavations at Oliver's Mound in three separate locations on the upper level of the mound. Publication of their results was limited, but the Masterman's excavation did reveal several walls, which they interpreted as a castle, square in plan, surrounded by a curtain wall with octagonal corner towers and main hall to the eastern side of the structure. Finds recovered during these excavations include numerous structural sandstone blocks (several blocks stylistically dated to the 13th and 14th century), 14th century pottery and coins, a baked clay spindle whorl, fragments of slag and nails, and a variety of domestic animal bones (Sproat 2007). Current observations indicate that these excavations were never fully backfilled.

Geophysical Survey Results

- 3.6.2 In the winter of 2007 a geophysical survey was undertaken across the mound producing a number of magnetic, resistivity and ground penetrating radar responses. The survey appears to indicate the presence of stone footings or rubble in four locations across the site. The first is to the northeast corner of the mound where two areas of high resistance are located close together. Other high resistance responses to the west of the mound may also indicate the presence of a curtain wall. Scattered across the site the magnetic data indicates numerous buried features, areas of burning, or iron objects buried in the site (Archaeological Investigations 2009).

Walkover Survey

- 3.6.3 A small quantity of isolated finds have been recovered from the surface of the mound over the past few years, including pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) fragments. Analysis of these fragments indicate a substantial number of them are roughly dated to the 13th or 14th century (Anon 2007 & Crooks 2007).

4. Original Research Aims

- 4.1 The aims of the excavation were defined as being:
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To excavate, and preserve by record, any archaeological remains within the trenches.
 - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits, and to take samples of these deposits where required.
 - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
 - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation to enable them assess the progress of the project and significance of the results.
 - To produce an Excavation Report containing the results of the excavation and full analysis of materials recovered, in addition to recommendations for further publication and dissemination of the work to the public.

4.2 The specific aims of the excavation were:

- To determine the presence of any remains that pre-dated the medieval activity on site.
- To assess the accuracy and interpretations of the 1920s excavations undertaken by the Mastersons, in addition to assessing the impact on the archaeological resource.
- To establish a reliable date and function of the medieval activity present on site.
- To evaluate the interpretations of the geophysical survey.
- Assess the degree and extent of truncation to earlier deposits by phases of post-medieval activity on the site, with a strong focus on the use of the mound during the English Civil War.

4.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation.

5. Results

5.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

5.1.1 Surface of Trench = 37.04m OD

Height (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
37.04-36.98m	0.00m	(1/001)	Topsoil. Soft, dark brown, sandy silt.
36.98-36.58m	0.06m	(1/002)	Subsoil. Soft, mid orangey brown, silty sand.
36.58-36.15m	0.46m	(1/003)	Rubble Spread. Compact, Brownish grey, sandstone rubble in silty sand matrix.
36.20-36.10m	0.15m	(1/004)	Disturbed Deposit. Soft, light orangey brown, sandy silt.
36.15-35.85m	0.54m	(1/006)	Disturbed Deposit. Friable, dark brown, silty sand.
35.81-35.52m	0.50m	(1/008)	Disturbed Deposit. Firm, Dark brown, silty sand.
35.76-35.68m	0.58m	(1/012)	Disturbed Deposit? Soft, dark brown/black, sandy silt.
35.69-35.49m	0.62m	(1/013)	Disturbed Deposit. Soft, dark brown, sandy silt.
35.85-35.75m NFE	0.65m	(1/014)	Gravel Layer. Compact, yellowish brown, silty sand gravel.
35.49-35.39m NFE	0.65m	(1/015)	Surface Layer? Soft, mid reddish brown, sandy clay.

NFE= Not fully excavated

- 5.1.2 The earliest recorded deposit was what appeared to be reddish brown, compacted clay layer (1/015), recorded at a height of 35.49 mOD. The presence of this deposit was limited to a small area in the southwest corner of Trench 1, meaning a comprehensive interpretation of this context could not be reached. It is possible that context (1/015) is an *in-situ* surface deposit associated with the known medieval activity on site.
- 5.1.3 Overlying context (1/015) was layer of yellowish brown sandy gravel (1/014) identified in the southern area of the trench; this remains unexcavated. The purpose of this layer is uncertain, but it is believed it may be associated with the construction of the later stonework recorded in the trench. The gravel appeared to pre-date masonry features in the trench, and had not been disturbed by the 20th century archaeological activity on the mound.
- 5.1.4 Appearing to truncate gravel layer (1/014) was the first phase of a series of sandstone masonry features (Plate 1). The earliest phase is a foundation [1/009] which was roughly aligned north-south, measuring over 2.75m in length, and 1.90m wide. The foundation [1/009] was constructed of large, well-dressed facing stones, with medium to large roughly dressed blocks used to construct the core of the foundation. Both types of stone were laid in a series of rough courses, surviving to an approximate height of 1.00m. Of interest was the lower course of facing stone to the west face of foundation [1/009] which was stepped out by 0.20m. In addition to this, the southern portion of the foundation was constructed to a roughly square design, approximately 1.20m by 1.20m, suggesting this part of the foundation may have supported a buttress. No bonding material was observed.
- 5.1.5 Abutting the eastern side of foundation [1/009] was masonry feature [1/010], forming the second phase of construction associated with the stone structure in Trench 1. The construction of feature [1/010] was of a very similar nature to that of foundation [1/009], utilising large dressed unbonded sandstone blocks on the southern face of the feature, and roughly-dressed stone in the core of the wall. Feature [1/010] measured over 1.75m in length, in excess of 1.20m wide, and survived to a height of 0.65m. It is possible that this second phase construction was part of an internal feature since several dressed sandstone blocks had been intentionally laid to form a flat surface on the eastern side of the feature, at a height of 36.80m OD.
- 5.1.6 The third and last identified phase of construction was a wall [1/005], abutting features [1/009] and [1/010], in the eastern area of Trench 1. As with the earlier two structures, wall [1/005] was also constructed using roughly coursed large, well-dressed sandstone blocks, measuring over 1.00m in length, 0.40m wide and 0.50m in height. The wall distinguished itself from the earlier phases of stonework due to the use of a light grey sandy mortar as bonding material. Evidence of a practical repair was present: thick ceramic tiles had been used in the eastern edge of the structure.
- 5.1.7 In the southwest corner of the trench several deposits are present; with their deposition appearing to post date the construction of the masonry features in the trench. The earliest of these layers was a 0.20m thick deposit of dark brown, sandy silt (1/013). This context was observed throughout the southwest corner of the trench and contained several fragments of animal bone and pottery sherds dated to between the late 11th century and the 14th century. The layer also appeared to have been recently disturbed, so it is uncertain if it is associated with the medieval occupation of the site or later 20th century activity. Deposited directly over layer (1/013) was a small dump of material (1/012), up to 0.10m thick, containing ashy residue and fragments of slag. Due to the presence of this material a sample of the deposit was taken. The sample identified a fragment of smithing hearth bottom, in association with small quantities of hammerscale, slag and furnace lining, which suggests secondary smithing was taking place nearby. Sealing dump (1/012) and occupying the southeast corner of the trench was a 0.20m thick layer of dark brown, silty sand (1/008). Fragments of late 11th century to 14th century pottery and animal bone were recovered, but its disturbed appearance and presence of

randomly deposited sandstone rubble suggest it was deposited during the 20th century activity on site.



Plate 1. Masonry Feature Trench 1.

- 5.1.8 On the east side of Trench 1 a further sequence of deposits had accumulated abutting the medieval masonry. The first deposit in the sequence was a 0.15m thick, dark brown, silty sand (1/006) containing fragments of pottery and animal bone. A bulk sample was taken from this context, when assessed for metallurgical remains a small to moderate amount of flake hammer scale was identified, indicating smithing may have been taking place within the vicinity. The disturbed appearance of the context indicated it may have been deposited during the 20th century. Layer (1/006) was followed in the sequence by a thin (0.1m) spread of an orangey brown, sandy silt backfill material (1/004), deposited across the upper elements of the stonework in the southeast quadrant of the trench.
- 5.1.9 Located above layers (1/004) and (1/008), and occupying all but the northeast corner of the trench, was a substantial deposit of rubble spread in a silty sand matrix (1/003). The deposit was of variable thickness, with its maximum depth recorded at 0.45m. Most of the rubble recovered from layer (1/003) was either roughly or well-dressed blocks of sandstone, including three chamfered quoin stones, indicating they originated from the earlier medieval structure. The wide range of finds collected, including some from the 20th century, strongly support the idea that the material derived from the partial backfilling of the original excavation trenches excavation in the late 1920s. It is likely, during the earlier 20th century excavation, a level platform of rubble [1/010] was laid in the northern side of the trench, in the form of loose stonework patch [1/011] deliberately laid above wall (1/010).
- 5.1.10 Both the rubble spread (1/003) and the loose stonework [1/011] were overlaid by a 0.50m thick deposit of orangey brown, silty sand subsoil (1/002), deposited unevenly due to the varying concentration and size of rubble in the layers beneath. Its stratigraphic position and dating of the finds indicated this was deposited during the 20th century disuse of the mound. The pottery recovered from both layer (1/003) and (1/002) reflected the disturbed character of the two deposits, as the fragments recovered represented a diverse range of dates from the 11th century through to

the 17th century. The sequence of deposits in Trench 1 was sealed by a thin layer of sandy silt topsoil (1/001).

5.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

5.2.1 Surface of Trench = 38.07m OD

Height (OD)	Depth	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
38.07-37.97m	0.00m	(2/001)	Topsoil. Soft, dark brown, sandy silt.
37.97-37.77m	0.10m	(2/002)	Subsoil. Soft, mid reddish brown, silty sand.
37.86-37.77m	0.21m	(2/003)	Soil Horizon. Compact, dark reddish brown, silty sand gravel.
37.77-37.65m	0.30m	(2/004)	Demolition Horizon. Loose, reddish brown, silty sand stone tile layer
37.65-37.55m	0.42m	(2/005)	Soil Horizon. Soft, mid reddish brown, silty sand.
37.58-37.50m	0.49m	(2/009)	Cobbled Surface. Compact, mid reddish brown, coarse silty sand gravel.
37.50-37.40m	0.57m	(2/006)	Soil Horizon. Compact, mid reddish brown, silty sand gravel.
37.40-37.29m	0.67m	(2/007)	Soil Horizon. Loose, mid greyish brown, silty sand gravel.
37.29-37.01m (NFE)	0.78-1.06m	(2/008)	Natural. Compact, mid orangey brown, sandy gravel.

NFE = Not Fully Excavated

5.2.2 The earliest recorded deposit was compact, mid orangey brown, sandy gravel (2/008), interpreted as the natural deposit. This was observed across the full area of the trench, and was at its highest at 37.29m OD.

5.2.3 Deposited directly above the natural was a 0.12m thick layer of loose, greyish brown, silty sand containing well-sorted gravel (2/007). This soil horizon was uniform in character and barren of cultural material, indicating that that layer (2/007) could be a palaeo-soil. Overlying context (2/007) was a further gravel layer (2/006), distinguishable by its reddish brown colour and lower density of small sub-rounded stones. This gravel layer was up to 0.25m thick, containing occasional pottery, CBM and animal bone fragments. Analysis of the pottery sherds indicates a late 12th or early 13th century date for the deposition of the layer. The size of the pottery sherds recovered suggest they may have derived from a midden or yard surface. It is thought that layer (2/006) was deliberately deposited as a formation layer to facilitate the construction and bedding of a cobbled surface above (2/009). Cobbled surface (2/009) survived in a poor condition, with irregularly located cobbles restricted to the northeast corner of the trench. The cobbles themselves were well-rounded and up to 0.1m in length. The patchy quality of cobbled surface (2/009) suggests that majority of the cobbles had been robbed out in antiquity. A single sherd of pottery was recovered from the cobbled surface indicating that it could be contemporary with layer (2/006) below.

5.2.4 Sealing the remains of cobbled surface (2/009) was a reddish brown, silty sand soil horizon (2/005), approximately 0.1m thick, from which several fragments of 13th century pottery, CBM and animal

bone were recovered. Three large dressed sandstone blocks were also recovered from context (2/005), one of which is believed to be derived from a capping course of a crenelated building (Appendix C), all of which appeared to be sitting directly upon robbed out cobbled surface (2/009). The uniform nature of the deposit suggests it had accumulated gradually after the robbing-out of cobbled surface (2/009). Lying above soil horizon (2/005), across the entire trench, was a thinly spread layer of greenstone roofing tiles associated with a silty sand matrix (2/004), up to 0.15m thick. The roof tiles were generally of a trapezoidal shaped with chamfered on all outside edges with partial or complete nail holes. The positioning and distribution of the tiles indicated that they derived from the disuse and decay of a building in close proximity. Finds recovered from this layer include moderate ceramic tile fragments and pottery dating to the late 13th to 17th century.

- 5.2.5 The next deposit to be identified was a compacted silty sand gravel horizon (2/003) present in the southeast corner of the trench. The gravel horizon was up to 0.25m thick, from which fragments of 13th to 17th century pottery and ceramic building material were recovered, in addition to a large fragment of sandstone hood moulding from an arched doorway or window. Lying above gravel horizon (2/003) was a thick deposit of reddish brown, silty sand subsoil (2/002) up to 0.40m in depth. The subsoil contained a small but varied selection of finds, the latest of which were thought to be dated to the 20th century. Sealing the sequence was a 0.10m thick layer of organic sandy silt topsoil (2/001).

6 The Finds Assemblage

6.1 Quantification of Finds

The following finds were collected during the course of the excavation. All of the finds have been washed, quantified and marked where appropriate.

Find Type	Quantity
Medieval Pottery	1.18kg-129 sherds
Ceramic Building Material	1.61kg-133 fragments
Faunal Remains	132 fragments
Worked Stone	15 worked stones
Stone Roof Tile	92kg
Environmental/Metallurgy Samples	2 samples

6.2 Finds (Appendix C)

6.2.1 Medieval Pottery

A total of 129 sherds of pottery (1186.3g) were recovered from excavations at Oliver's Mound, Shrawley. Of this material 58 sherds were recovered from Trench 1 and the remaining 71 from Trench 2. The bulk of the pottery suggested a date from the middle to end of the 13th century and was sourced locally from the Worcester or the Malvern area. Much of the pottery was abraded, suggesting deposition on a midden or yard or other surface after breakage; the small size of many of the sherds would support this hypothesis.

6.2.2 Ceramic Building Material

During the course of the excavation a total of 133 fragments (1613.7g) of ceramic roof tile was recovered, 28 fragments were from Trench 1 and the remainder from Trench 2. The vast majority of

tile from the site was a sandy fabric probably produced in Worcester. Very little of the material was diagnostic and much of it was abraded.

6.2.3 Faunal Remains

The excavation recovered a small assemblage of animal bones, comprises of a total of 132 fragments. The condition of the bone is mixed, varying from poor to excellent. Most of the bones can be identified to broad taxon. The majority can be identified as cattle, sheep/goat and pig, in addition to a small quantity of bird bone. Bones of cattle are the most common and were found in most contexts.

6.2.4 Worked Stone

A total of 15 worked blocks of stone were recovered during the course of the excavation. All stone were of local red or red-grey sandstone. Of the stone collected five had architectural mould details, while a further eight had dressed faces. The moulding styles present on the stone work indicate they are associated with a large medieval stone building, possibly crenelated, dated to the 13th or early 14th century.

6.2.5 Stone Roof Tile

During the course of the excavations at Oliver's Mound 92kg of stone roof tile was collected. All of the stone roof tiles were collected from a single context from Trench 2. The roof tiles are of a trapezoidal shaped with chamfered on all outside edges and partial or complete nail holes.

6.2.6 Environmental/Metallurgical Samples

Two soil samples taken from contexts from the excavation at Shrawley Castle were briefly examined for the presence of charred or mineralised plant remains, and slag and anvil debris. Results of the environmental analysis were limited, primarily to the small number of carbonised remains identified. Analysis of the slag and anvil remains was more significant as the results identified the presence of flake hammer scale, slag, furnace lining, and a smithing hearth bottom. This suggests that secondary smithing, along with welding and other high temperature process such as edging tools was taking place within the vicinity.

7. Discussion

7.1 Trench 1

7.1.1 During the course of the archaeological excavations on site, two trenches were opened and investigated in the northern area of the castle mound. Each trench identified a different sequence of archaeological deposits, primarily represented by elements of a substantial masonry structure in Trench 1, and a series of layered deposits in Trench 2. Natural deposits were not identified in Trench 1, although a sandy gravel deposit, interpreted as the natural, was identified in Trench 2 at a height of 37.29m OD.

7.1.2 The earliest deposits observed in Trench 1; layers (1/015) and (1/014), were recorded in the southern half of the trench at a height of 35.49m AOD. These layers potentially pre-date the substantial masonry features recorded in Trench 1, but also appeared to have remained undisturbed by the early 20th century excavations which took place on site. Due to their restricted position in Trench 1 the two layers were left unexcavated, so it is not possible at this time to define the character of the deposits or the date when they were deposited.

7.1.3 In plan, the majority of Trench 1 was occupied by a single substantial masonry feature, comprising of three individual elements [1/010], [1/009] and [1/005]. The first of these three elements is foundation

[1/009]; a squared design on a north-south axis and incorporating a possible square buttress base. Overlying foundation [1/009] on its eastern side was a possible internal surface [1/010] comprising of stone blocks laid flat to form a level surface. Wall [1/005] appeared to be the latest of the three elements of the masonry feature, as it was recorded as abutting both foundation [1/009] and surface [1/010]. All three elements were constructed using well-dressed sandstone blocks utilising rough courses, and in respect to foundation [1/009], surrounding a rubble core. Due to their similar construction techniques, they are likely to have been raised in a consecutive sequence of events over a short space of time. No dating evidence was collected in direct association with the masonry feature. Only a small proportion of this substantial masonry feature was uncovered in Trench 1 thus interpretation of its function or character is limited, although it is possible to suggest it may of once been part of a stone built fortification or structure of equivalent size.

- 7.1.4 Overlying the masonry feature was a series of thin ad-hoc layers of varying character, primarily deposited in random fashion throughout the area of Trench 1. The layers tended to have a disturbed appearance, although loose stonework [1/011] laid above wall [1/005] appeared to be more structured. Not only did these layers included dressed and moulded sandstone blocks associated with a medieval building of status, but also a mixed selection of late 11th century to 14th century pottery. This selection of finds, albeit of a disturbed and mixed in character, if deposited in the ground overlooked by Masterman's excavation team, may imply the *in-situ* stonework recorded below was of medieval origin. The disturbed and random nature of the deposits suggests they may have been deposited during, or immediately after, the excavations on site between 1928 and 1930, originating from the material initially excavated from the Masterman's trench. The loose stonework [1/011] may even have been an attempt at an early archaeological reconstruction of the masonry feature discovered. Metallurgical analysis of the samples taken from contexts (1/006) and (1/012) identified waste material associated with secondary smithing activities. This material may not derive from *in-situ*, but they do strongly suggest that smithing activities were taking place on the mound at some point in the past.
- 7.1.5 The overburden deposits in Trench 1 consisted of a thick layer of subsoil below a limited topsoil deposit, both of which appeared to have accumulated gradually following the contours of the suspected medieval stonework. With this being the case it implies that Masterman left his trenches exposed once excavations were completed, with the excavated material being deposited elsewhere. A moderate number of dressed sandstone blocks were recovered from the 20th century backfilling of the trench, but it is not certain if these originated from the structure in Trench 1, or derived from elsewhere on the mound, potentially from Masterson's other excavation trenches, and deposited as part of the 20th century backfill to remove them obstructing other activity on the mound.

7.2 Trench 2

- 7.2.1 The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 2 was of a different character from those observed in Trench 1. The deposits in Trench 2 were composed of a series of layers. The earliest of these layers was identified as overlying the natural deposit and is thought to be a palaeosoil (2/007). No cultural material was recovered from this layer.
- 7.2.2 The first evidence of human occupation in Trench 2 is present in the form of a partial cobbled surface (2/009) and its associated formation layer (2/006). The pottery recovered from these layers suggests a date for construction and use of the cobbled surface in the late 12th or early 13th century; further supporting the interpretation of medieval utilisation of the mound. The partial character of surface (2/009) indicates that the majority of the material used in its construction had been robbed out at the point of its disuse.

- 7.2.3 This phase of disuse was represented by a thin sandy soil layer (2/005) sealing surface (2/009), containing a small selection of finds including several large dressed sandstone blocks thought to have tumbled from substantial medieval structures in proximity to the cobbled surface. The pottery found was dated to the 13th century indicating that the cobbled surface was only in use for up to a century before it was robbed out and left to fall into disuse. Decay of surrounding structures is further represented by a layer of greenstone roofing tiles (2/004) lying over sandy soil (2/005). The consistent and even coverage of tiles within the area of the trench strongly indicate that they derived from the gradual deterioration of a roof structure once positioned over the location of the trench, implying that surface (2/009) was an internal surface. However, this cannot be confirmed as no wall lines associated with the cobbled surface were uncovered during the course of the excavation. Several pottery sherds were found between the roofing tiles, although these could only be broadly dated to between the 13th and 17th century preventing closer dating of their deposition. Once maintenance of the roof had ceased and the beams were exposed to the elements it is thought that full collapse of the roof would have occurred within a 100 year period.
- 7.2.4 It is likely that further activity occurred on the mound after the collapse of the roof associated with layer (2/004) as a compact gravel layer (2/003) was recorded in the southeast corner of the trench. Not enough of layer (2/003) was exposed to fully understand its character and purpose, although its stratigraphic position immediately overlying tile layer (2/004) and the recovery of similar dated 13th and 17th century pottery, indicates it may have been deposited not long after the roof collapse. Sealing layer (2/003) was an uninterrupted sequence of subsoil and topsoil deposits, indicating that no further significant activity occurred within the proximity of Trench 2 until occasional use of the mound in the 20th century.

7.3 General

- 7.3.1 Interpretation of the excavation results appears to tie in fairly closely with what is known from the documentary evidence collected. The earliest known activity on site is the construction of the cobbled surface, identified in Trench 2, in the late 12th or 13th century, which ties in well with the documented date for the construction of the castle by the late 1100s. The documentary sources also indicated that Sir William Poher was in ownership of Oliver's Mound until his death in the early 14th century when the manor was granted to Edmund and Margaret Mortimer (Chan. Inquisitions Post Mortem, 32 Edw. I, no. 63b). The date of disuse for the structure, identified in Trench 2, coincides well with the early 14th century for the change in ownership of the mound. Edmund and Margaret Mortimer may have decided that they did not want to pay for, or could not afford, the cost of maintaining the structures on the mound. Granting the manor and the mound back to Alina Poer in 1314, may have been an attempt at shifting the responsibility for the up keep of the structures on the mound away from the Mortimers.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 During the course of the excavation on the site of Oliver's Mound two trenches were opened and investigated. Both trenches revealed evidence for medieval structures dating to between the late 11th to 14th centuries.
- 8.2 In regards to the original research aims, the excavation produced significant evidence to support the presence of medieval activity on the mound in the form of substantial stone built structures that could be associated with fortifications or high status domestic accommodation. Although specific dating of the substantial stonework in Trench 1 was not possible, the suspected internal surface in Trench 2 was believed to have been constructed in the late 12th or 13th century. The evidence recorded in both trenches seem to imply that each structure only had a single phase of use, as no evidence was

- identified suggesting comprehensive reconstruction or rebuilding. Due to the limited scale of the archaeological investigation at this stage it is not possible to clearly define the function of these structures. It is likely that such an objective would have to wait until more focused investigation is possible.
- 8.3 An additional aim of the project was to evaluate the area of high resistance as identified by the geophysical survey of the mound (Archaeological Investigations 2009). The excavation results from Trench 2 supported this interpretation, as a layer of stone roof tile was discovered believed to derive from the demolition or deterioration of an adjacent building. The results indicate it was the tile layer which produced the high resistance responses. These results suggest that similar irregularly high resistance responses identified elsewhere on the mound may also derive from the presence of rubble deriving from other structures once present on the mound.
- 8.4 Another aim was to assess the interpretations and impact of the excavations undertaken by the Masterson's between 1928 and 1930. Trench 1 was purposely located and excavated to allow investigation of this earlier archaeological work. The archaeological remains show that Masterson did uncover the remains of a medieval stone structure, the substantial size of which could easily support the Masterson's interpretation of it belonging to a castle located on top of Oliver's Mound. The Masterson's more specific interpretation was that an octagonal corner tower was located within this area of the mound. Again, it is not possible to identify the structural element that this stonework represented, but the angles present in the stonework did not suggest that it was part of an octagonal structure.
- 8.5 In regards to the condition of the remains, the sandstone structure in Trench 1 was found to be in fairly good condition, indicating that both the Masterson's excavation and the passage of time had not inflicted any significant damage to the below ground remains. Masterson appears to have removed all the deposits overlying the stonework, but did not remove any significant part of the stonework itself. Most importantly, the recent excavations in Trench 1 demonstrated that undisturbed deposits, pre-dating the stone built structure, may still survive. This suggests that Masterson only excavated to a depth at which the structure was fully exposed and no further, and that earlier evidence pre-dating the construction of the medieval structures on the mound may still survive. The implications of Masterson's impact upon the archaeological remains may also be feasibly transferred to Masterson's other excavation trenches, based upon the fair assumption that the Mastersons did not alter their excavation methodology over the course of their three years of investigations on the mound. This implication is that although the overlying deposits may have been removed, the original stonework should remain undisturbed, in association with any deposits that may pre-date their construction.
- 8.6 The initial research aims raised at the beginning of the project did ask if any remains earlier or later than the medieval period could be identified during the course of the excavations on Oliver's Mound. Deposits pre-dating the construction of the possible castle were thought to survive, although no evidence attributed to activity dating to before the 11th to 14th century was recovered. Evidence post-dating this period, not taking into account the known 20th century activity on the mound, was slight, solely consisting of pottery fragments broadly dating to the 13th to 17th century. It is possible that this pottery could have been in use during the latter period, up to the 14th century, when the site is known to be in use. No evidence of activity later than the 14th century can be attested to; this includes the suspected Civil War occupation of the mound.
- 8.7 The excavations undertaken in May 2008 have begun to answer many of the questions previously existing regarding the mound, identifying with confidence that a substantial medieval structure, constructed between the 12th and 13th century, was once present on the mound. These questions have only just started to be answered, with many more questions regarding the construction, layout,

occupation, role and disuse of the medieval structures present needing to be addressed. It is hoped that further excavations on the mound will take place in order address these questions. What is clear is the importance of the site, taking into account the good preservation of the remains, type of structure and period represented, indicates that the site is of regional significance. Further archaeological analysis of the remains on the mound will undoubtedly benefit our understanding of how the landscape of Worcestershire was structured during the medieval period.

9. Publication & Archive

- 9.1 The excavation undertaken in 2008 is one stage in a longer process, for it is anticipated that further excavations on Oliver's Mound will take place in the form of at least one addition season of fieldwork.
- 9.2 It is anticipated that publication will primarily be in the format of a journal article, including site drawings, site location, plans of the excavation area showing the main features with additional illustrations where needed. The article will be submitted to the Worcestershire Archaeological Journal and will incorporate the results of the 2008 seasons and the results of the upcoming 2009 season once they have been written up. Publication of the site data will also be made through the Archaeological Data Service OASIS form (Appendix E).
- 9.3 Discussions are already underway to prepare the excavation archive, consisting of paper and drawn records, 35mm and digital photographs, finds, and samples (Appendix D), to be deposited with Worcester Museum Service. The archive is currently in preparation and will be held by The Shrawley Local History and Archaeology Society until it is ready to be deposited.

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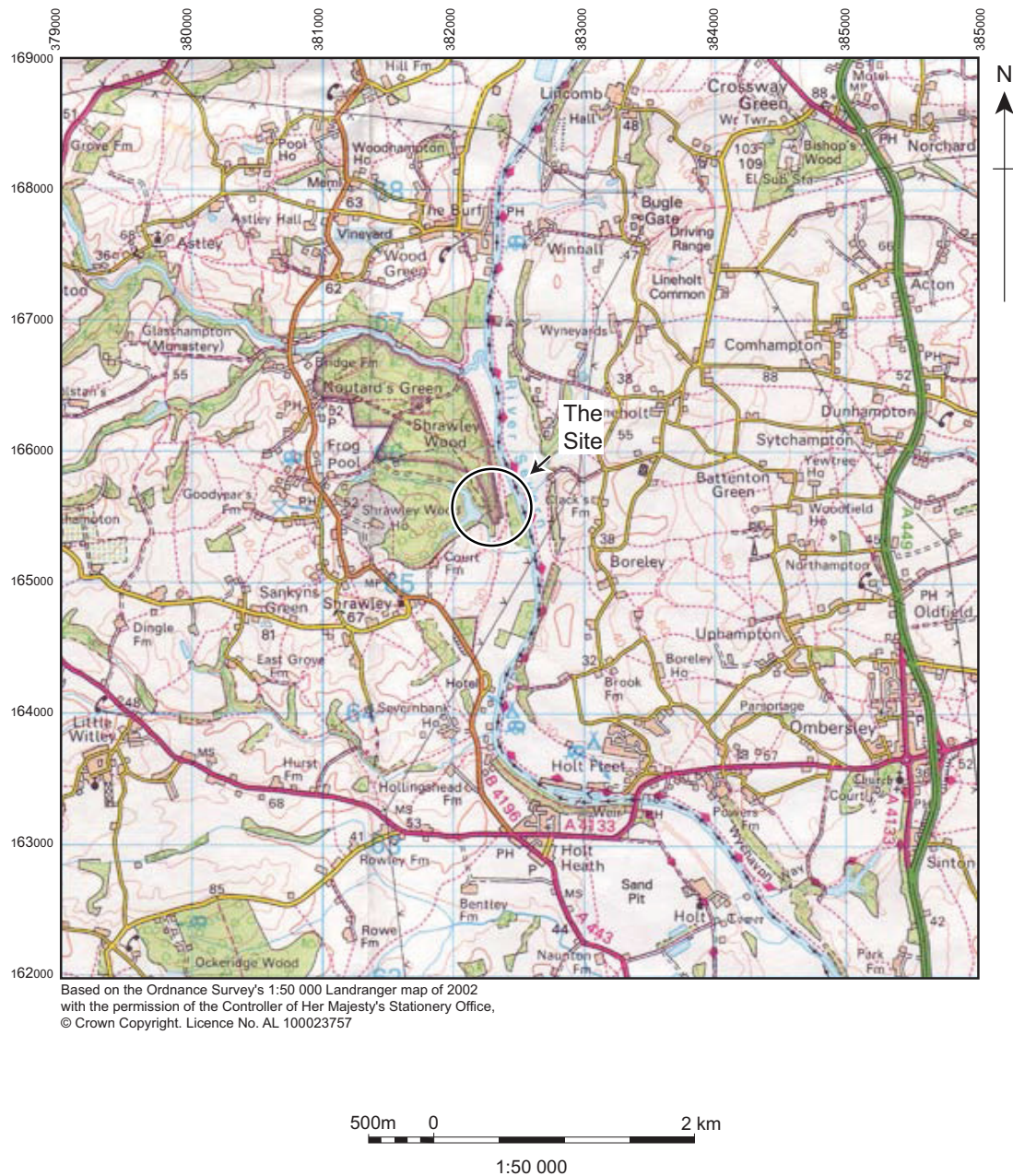
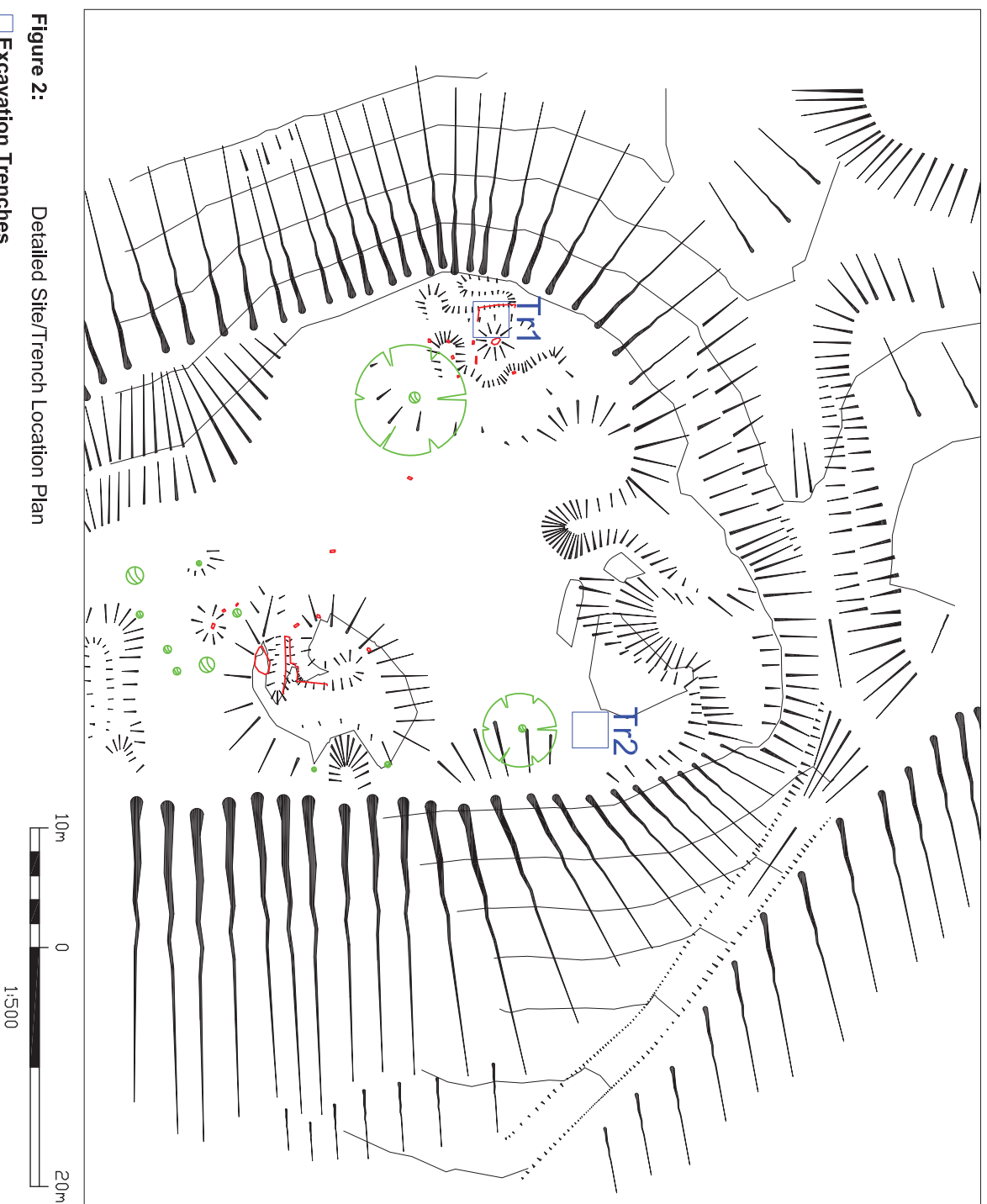
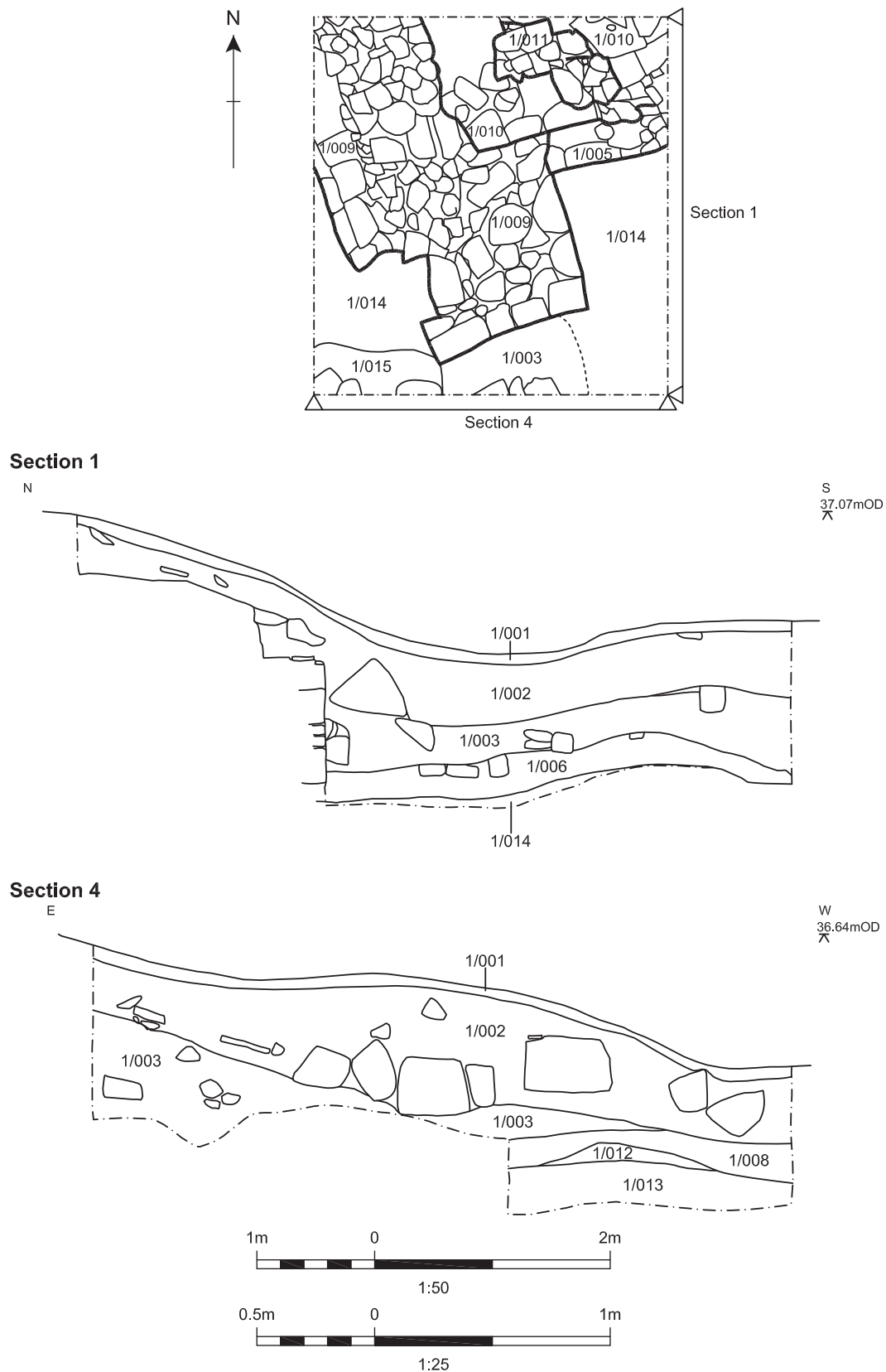


Figure 1: Site Location





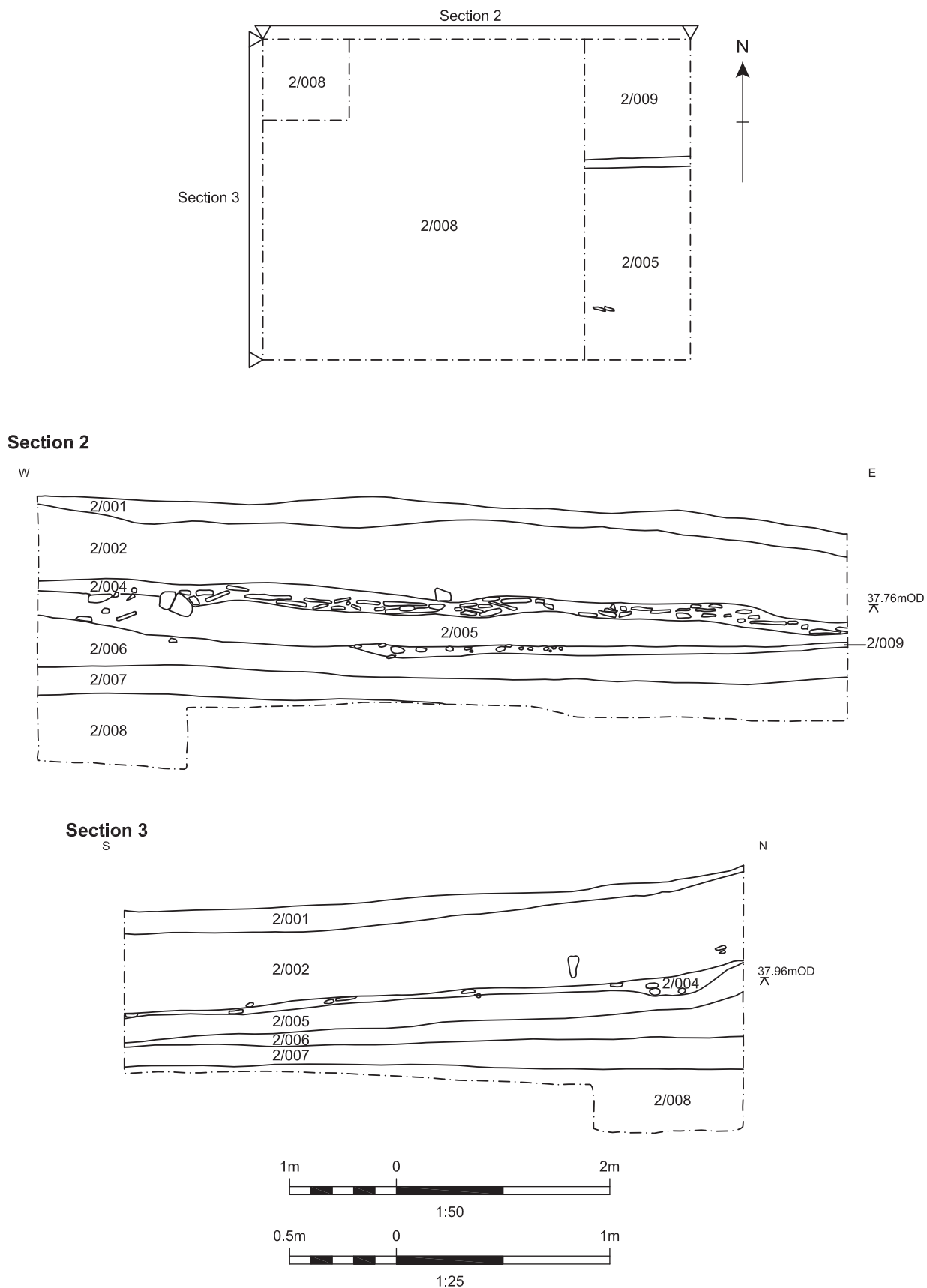


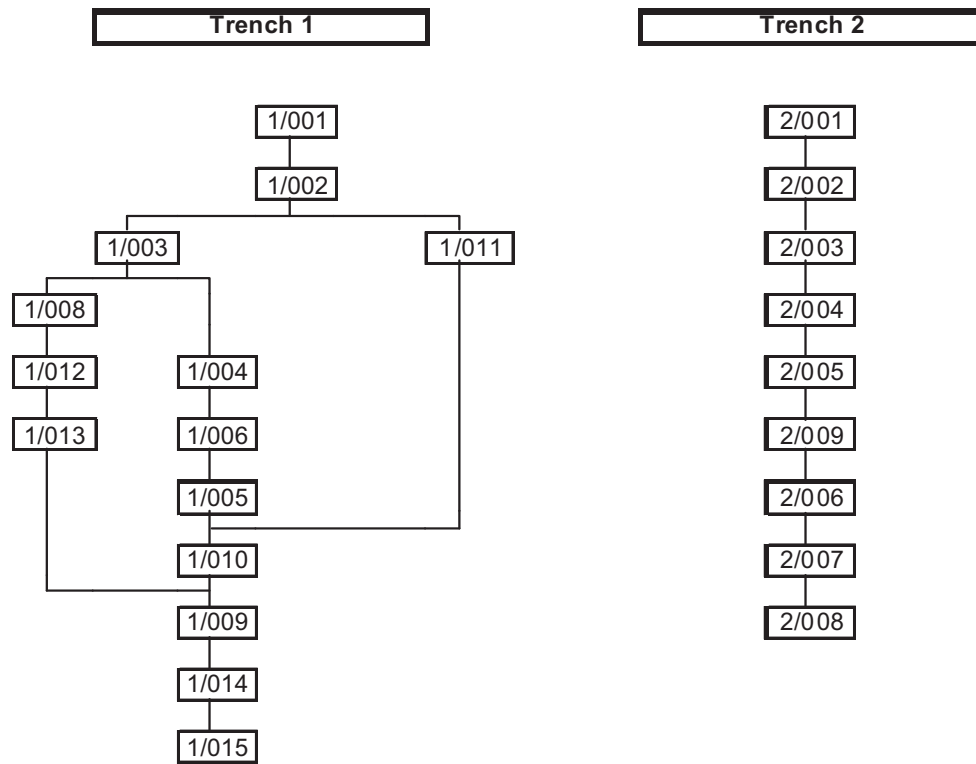
Figure 4: Trench 2: Plan (1:50) & Sections (1:25)

Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

CONTEXT	TYPE	LENGTH	WIDTH	DEPTH
1/001	Topsoil: Soft dark brown sandy silt	3.00m+	3.00m+	0.05m
1/002	Subsoil: Soft mid orangey brown silty sand	3.00m+	3.00m+	0.50m
1/003	Rubble spread: Compact brownish grey stonework in silty sand matrix	3.00m+	2.16m	0.45m
1/004	Dump deposit: soft light orangey brown sandy silt	0.78m	0.70m	0.10m
1/005	Masonry: Sandstone wall	0.98m+	0.40m	0.47m
1/006	Interface Layer: Soft dark brown silty sand	0.60m	0.40m	0.08m
1/008	Dump deposit: firm dark brown silty sand	1.70m	1.22m	0.16m
1/009	Masonry: Sandstone wall	2.75m	1.87m	0.80m
1/010	Masonry: Sandstone wall	1.73m	1.20m	0.64m
1/011	Masonry: Repair	0.90m	0.85m	0.30m
1/012	Dump deposit: soft dark brown sandy silt	0.60m	0.55m	0.08m
1/013	Interface Layer: Soft dark brown sandy silt	0.82m+	0.55m+	0.20m
1/014	Layer: Compact yellowish brown silty sand gravel	3.00m+	2.10m+	N.F.E
1/015	Layer: Soft mid reddish brown sandy clay	1.10m+	0.40m+	N.F.E
2/001	Topsoil: Soft dark brown sandy silt	4.00m+	3.00m+	0.10m
2/002	Subsoil: Soft mid orangey brown silty sand	4.00m+	3.00m+	0.40m
2/003	Gravel horizon: Compacted greyish brown silty sand gravel	2.06m+	2.03m+	0.25m
2/004	Demolition debris: Roof tiles in silty sand matrix	4.00m+	3.00m+	0.16m
2/005	Soil horizon: Soft reddish brown silty sand	4.00m+	3.00m+	0.10m
2/006	Gravel horizon: Compacted reddish brown silty sand gravel	4.00m+	3.00m+	0.25m
2/007	Gravel horizon: Loose mid greyish brown silty sand gravel	4.00m+	3.00m+	0.10m
2/008	Natural: Compact orangey brown sandy gravel	4.00m+	3.00m+	N.F.E
2/009	Cobbled surface: Compact grey	1.10m+	0.80m+	0.10m

Appendix B – Harris Matrix



Appendix C – Specialist Reports

The Pottery and Ceramic Building Material

By
K. H. Crooks

Introduction

A total of 129 sherds of pottery (1186.3g) were recovered from excavations at Olivers Mound, Shrawley, during excavation of two trenches by the Shrawley Local History and Archaeology Society. Of this material 58 sherds were recovered from Trench 1 and the remaining 71 from Trench 2 (and from five and six contexts per trench respectively). Fifteen sherds of this material (twelve from Trench 1 and three from Trench 2) were unstratified.

The bulk of the pottery suggested a date from the middle to end of the 13th century and was sourced locally – Worcester or the Malvern area with the exception being a single sherd of 'Tudor Green' ware – fabric 70.1, usually dating in the Midlands to the later 15th to 16th centuries and which was unstratified in Trench 2.

Three sherds from the site could not be identified as to form or fabric but were of local sandy ware type.

Method

The pottery was washed and marked with the site code and the context number. It was then examined by eye and using a hand lens (x10) and sorted according to the classification and descriptions on the Worcestershire on-line Ceramic database and in Bryant (2004). The majority of the sherds were quite small and could not be identified as to form; this was particularly the case with jars/bowls/cooking pots in fabric 55. Although the assemblage from Olivers Mound was small and number of fabrics represented not extensive, some limited comparison was attempted with medieval material from the site at Deansway in Worcester (Bryant 2004).

The pottery

A full catalogue of pottery from the site can be found below (Table 1).

Trench 1

Trench 1 was excavated in an area disturbed by previous work and the distribution of pottery appeared to reflect this. Fabric 69, Malvernian oxidised glazed wares, dating to the later 13th to 17th centuries was present in all contexts in this trench from which pottery was recovered including those beneath the spread of rubble (1003). However, pottery was not recovered from the earlier deposits in this trench.

The majority of pottery from Trench 1 was recovered from context 1003, a spread of rubble, largely stone roofing tile, which contained 26 sherds. Predominant in this material was Fabric 55, which accounted for fifteen of the sherds.

Trench 2

In contrast to Trench 1 pottery of earlier 13th century/late 12th century date was present in contexts beneath demolition dump 2004 with Fabric 69 absent. Above this deposit pottery suggested a date in the later 13th century.

It is possible therefore that this layer could indicate the date of demolition or change in use – with pottery beneath 2004 of later 12th to mid 13th century date and later material above a phase of demolition or rebuilding in the middle to later years of the 13th century. However, the number of sherds was too small to draw firm conclusions.

Discussion

Much of the pottery was abraded, suggesting deposition on a midden or yard or other surface after breakage; the small size of many of the sherds would support this hypothesis. For this reason identification of the form of many of the vessels was not possible and in some cases surface treatment, such as a slip or glaze, may not have survived. Unglazed jars or cooking pots predominated in the assemblage with very few glazed wares being represented.

The pottery was almost entirely locally sourced – Worcester or the Malvern area. The exception to this was a single sherd of Tudor Green ware, a fabric which becomes ubiquitous in the later 15th and 16th centuries in the Midlands.

The vast majority of pottery from the site was Worcester sandy unglazed ware – cooking pots accounting for 80 out of 128 sherds (62.5% by sherd count and 59% by weight). The rims were of the 'simple everted' type stated by Bryant (2004) to date to the 13th century. Glazed sherds were of fabrics 69, suggesting a date in the later part of the 13th century and of 64.1, one sherd being the handle of a tripod pitcher (Type 1) a form which peaks in the middle of the 13th century (Bryant 2004).

The regional sourcing for the pottery is same as that noted in Worcester at this time (Bryant 2004, p.334) with the proportion of sandy unglazed cooking pots broadly similar to that on the Deansway site in period 9 – later 13th to earlier 15th century. A larger number of unglazed vessels could suggest a later date.

The Ceramic Building Material

A total of 133 fragments of ceramic roof tile was recovered during excavations at Olivers Mound, Shrawley (1613.7g), 28 fragments were from Trench 1 and the remainder from Trench 2.

Method

The tile was sorted by fabric. Many fragments were very small and non-diagnostic; tile would usually be recycled when a building was demolished and any tile that could be reused would be removed from the site for use elsewhere; only tile that could not be reused (ie was broken) would remain on the site.

The Roof tile

The vast majority of tile from the site was a sandy fabric (2) probably produced in Worcester (123 pieces) comprising 9732g and 92.5% of the total. No complete or near complete tiles survived with the only dimension it was possible to record the thickness (for fabric 2 between 12 and 20mm. Four fragments of tile were from the Malvern area. Very little of the material was diagnostic and much of it was abraded. A total of five sherds of the sandy fabric 2 had partial glaze. None of the tiles was stamped with a makers or tally marks. Of four fragments of Malvernian tile three were glazed

Trench 1

Three fragments of tile recovered from Trench 1 had large circular pegholes (two of these were 15mm in diameter and the third 11mm in diameter). No nibbed tiles were recovered from this trench. Three of the glazed fabric 2 tiles were from Trench 1.

Trench 2

Three tiles from trench two provided evidence for fixing, in this case nibs were present on two of the tiles, one of which also had a small nail hole, with a small nail hole present on a third tile – presumably a nib would also have been present. One fragment of ridge tile in Malvernian fabric 3 was probably from a crested tile.

A quantity of fired clay in a very sandy reduced fabric was also present. This may have been building material or associated with kilns or furnaces. No evidence for surface treatment survived.

Discussion

Very few pieces of ridge tile were recovered from the site, none in fabric 2 and it is possible that, together with the majority of the flat ceramic and stone tiles these were removed for reuse elsewhere. The ridge tile was generally Malvernian – only two fragments of ridge tile were found. Two pieces of Malvernian tile were very thin c8mm but this thickness is recorded by Vince (1984); these fragments were too small for the form to be established. It is possible that the majority of the roofing material at Shrawley was, in fact, of stone.

Although very few diagnostic examples were present it is possible that there was a difference in construction date between the building represented in debris in Trench 1 and that in trench 2 – with different fixing methods used for the tiles. The small size of the tile from the site makes it difficult to draw conclusions, but the impression gained is that buildings in the vicinity of the two trenches may have been of different dates.

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Table 1. The Pottery Assemblage

ID	context	fabric	form	wt(g)	rim diam	rim %	date	decoration and comments
1	us/T1	55	cp	118.9			L11/13c	chunky base
2	us/T1	55	cp	22.2	20	8	L11/13c	everted rim. Lid seating; sim Bryant 2004; Fig 177. 3
3	us/T1	70.1	cup?	2.5			L15/16	ext grn gl; wheel turned line
4	us/T1	55	cp	7.8			L11/13	
5	us/T1	55	cp	7.3			L11/13	
6	us/T1	55	cp	11.1			L11/13	
7	us/T1	55	cp	15.4			L11/13	
8	us/T1	55	cp	4.8			L11/13	
9	us/T1	55	cp	5.4			L11/13	
10	us/T1	55	cp	8.5			L11/13	ext soot
11	us/T1	?	cup?	3.3				fairly free of obvious inclusions; has been burnt. Pale ext gl, int black gl;
12	1/008	55	cp	39.3			L11/13	chunky base
13	1/008	55	cp	22.3			L11/13	
14	1/008	55	cp	16			L11/13	
15	1/008	55	cp	5.2			L11/13	
16	1/008	55	cp	5			L11/13	
17	1/008	55	cp	6.4			L11/13	
18	1/008	56	cp	1.7			L12/14	
19	1/008	64.1	jug	3.1			12/e14	ext thin grn gl
20	2/005	55	cp	6.6			L11/13	
21	2/005	55	cp	9.4			L11/13	much abraded
22	2/005	55	cp	4.7			L11/13	
23	2/005	56	cp	21.8	20	6	L13	inturned rim. Vince 1984 fig. 38.4
24	1/006	69	bowl/dish	24.5			14/16	internal clear green speckled glaze
25	1/002	55	cp	8.1			L11/13	int residue
26	1/002	55	cp	3.4			L11/13	abraded
27	1/002	55	cp	3.1			L11/13	abraded
28	1/002	?	cp	24	19	4		speck of clear gl ext. oxidised, rim form is fab 69 but lacks Malv rock

60	2/006	55	cp		3.1				L11/13	
61	2/006	55	cp		3.7				L11/13	
62	2/006	55	cp		4.1				L11/13	
63	2/006	55	cp		2.6				L11/13	
64	2/006	55	cp		4.6				L11/13	
65	2/006	55	cp		3.2				L11/13	
66	2/006	55	cp		3.2				L11/13	
67	2/006	55	cp		3.8				L11/13	
68	2/006	55	cp		3.4				L11/13	
69	2/006	55	cp		2.9				L11/13	
70	2/006	55	cp		3.2				L11/13	
71	2/006	55	cp		3.6				L11/13	
72	2/006	55	cp		3.5				L11/13	
73	2/006	55	cp		2.2				L11/13	
74	2/006	55	cp		1.8				L11/13	
75	2/006	55	cp		2.9				L11/13	
76	2/006	55	cp		1.8				L11/13	
77	2/006	55	cp		2.1				L11/13	
78	2/006	55	cp		2				L11/13	
79	2/006	55	cp		2.5				L11/13	
80	2/006	55	cp		1.1				L11/13	
81	2/006	55	cp		20.8	27	4	I3	joins to ids 82 - 84; Bryant 2004 fig 177.3 (rim most common in 13th c)	
82	2/006	55	cp		19.2	27	4	I3		
83	2/006	55	cp		11.1	27	<4	I3		
84	2/006	55	cp		10	27	<4	I3		
85	2/006	64.1	jug/pitch		16.4			I3	thin ext reduced olive gl	
86	2/006	55	jar		22.2	30	4	L11/13	lid seating	
87	2/006	55			1.3			L11/13	oxidised	
88	1/003	55	cp		11.3			L11/13		
89	1/003	55	cp		23.2			L11/13		
90	1/003	55	cp		7.9			L11/13		

91	1/003	55	cp		5.9				L11/13	
92	1/003	55	cp		4.3				L11/13	
93	1/003	56	cp		40				L12/14	
94	1/003	56	cp		6.8				L12/14	
95	1/003	64.1?	?		11.9					internal thin olive gl; spots clr gl ext. form unknown - suggests pipkin etc but no ext sooting
96	1/003	55	cp		9.3	23	4	13		rim Bryant 2004 fig 177.3
97	1/003	55	cp		15.6				L11/13	
98	1/003	55	cp		6				L11/13	
99	1/003	55	cp		6.7				L11/13	
100	1/003	12			5					much abraded ?Severn Valley ware
101	1/003	69	jar/bowl		31.9				L13/17	thin internal green speckled gl joins to id 102
102	1/003	69	jar/bowl		30.3				L13/17	thin internal green speckled gl
103	1/003	69	jar/bowl		11				L13/17	spot of clr gl. Probably same vessel as ids 101/102
104	1/003	69	?		7.9				L13/17	none apparent
105	1/003	55	cp		4				L11/13	
106	2/us	55	cp		5				L11/13	
107	2/us	64.1	jug/pitch		8.1				13	ext grn gl. Sherd much abraded
108	1/013	69	jar?		13.6	20	4		L13/17	single spot of grn gl inside.sherd much abraded. intumed squared rim
109	1/013	56	cp		7.6				L12/14	
110	1/013	55	cp		5.6				L11/13	
111	1/013	55	cp		5.7				L11/13	
112	2/003	69	?		9.1				L13/17	none on this sherd
113	2/003	69	bowl??		4.3				L13/17	patchy int clr gl
114	2/003	69	?		2.3				L13/17	traces external clr gl; sherd much abraded
115	2/003	69	?		3.6				L13/17	spots and dribble ext clr/light grn gl; abraded
116	2/003	69	?		4.5				L13/17	much abraded, with ext surface not present
117	2/009	56	?		8.5				L12/14	
118	2/003	56	cp		3.2				L12/14	
119	2/004	55	cp		4.3				L11/13	abraded
120	2/004	69	?		2.4				L13/17	

121	2/004	69	?		1.2				L13/17	
122	2/002	69	?		3.8				L13/17	traces of clr ext gl
123	2/002	69	?		4.2				L13/17	ext clr gm speckled gl
124	2/002	69	?		4.8				L13/17	ext clr gm speckled gl
125	2/002	64.1	jug/pitch		3.7				13	very thin. Ext clr mottled gm gl
126	2/002	64.1	jug/pitch		2.7				13	ext patchy gm gl
127	2/002	56	cp		2.7				L12/14	black residue/ink...
128	2/002	60	?		12.1				13/14	
129	2/us	64.1	pitch		51.8				13	Bryant 2004, fig. 179.1. handle; slashing/stabbing patchy olive gl. Rim - too small to measure accurately

Table 2. The Ceramic Building Material Assemblage

ID	context	fabric	form	wt	length	width	thick	decoration and comments
1	us/T1	2	flat	79.6			15mm	none; sandy fabric - rounded quartz
2	us/T1	2	flat	181.6			14mm	none
3	1/008	2	flat	165.6			17mm	none
4	1/008	2	flat	72.2			13mm	
5	1/008	2	flat	29.4			12mm	thick but oxidised gm gl
6	2/005	2	flat	29.8			12mm	
7	2/005	2	flat	23.8			11mm	
8	2/005	2	flat	6.4				
9	1/003	2	flat	18.2			12mm	abraded
10	2/006	2	flat	16.2				abraded
11	2/006	2	flat	131			17mm	smear of thin clr gl
12	2/006	2	flat	21.9			17mm	circ peghole
13	1/003	2	flat	85.6			15mm	
14	1/003	2	flat	233.1			14mm	
15	1/003	2	flat	147.3			15mm	circ peghole

16	1/003	2	flat	109.4			13mm	
17	1/003	2	flat	136.6			14mm	circ peghole
18	1/003	2	flat	36.3			14mm	
19	1/003	2	flat	40.7			13mm	
20	1/003	2	flat	147.7			14mm	circ peghole
21	2/001	2	flat	15.1				lower surface flaked away
22	2/003	3	?	20.7			15mm	clr grn speckled gl
23	2/003	2	flat	48.6			15mm	abraded
24	2/003	2	?	1.9				fragment
25	2/003	2	?	1.4				fragment
26	2/003	2	?	1.1				fragment
27	2/003	2		0.7				fragment
28	2/003	2		0.8				fragment
29	1/005	2	flat	137.2			16mm	
30	1/005	2	flat	15.1			12mm	
31	1/005	2	flat	81.9			13mm	
32	1/005	san	flat	38.7			19mm	v thick and rough. Rounded quartz inc. unfortunately v abraded. thickness could be floor???
33	2/004	2	flat	92.1			15mm	traces thin grn gl
34	2/004	2	flat	452.8			20mm	thin clr grn speckled gl
35	2/004	2	flat	166.3			15mm	nib and single small nail hole
36	2/004	2	flat	18			15mm	
37	2/004	3	flat	21.3				upper surf broken away
38	2/004	2	flat	58.8			15mm	
39	2/004	2	flat	50.2			15mm	
40	2/004	2	flat	22.7			15mm	
41	2/004	2	flat	22.1				surf broken away
42	2/004	2	flat	10.6			15mm	
43	2/004	2	flat	13.2			15mm	
44	2/004	2	flat	10.6				fragment
45	2/004	2		5.3				fragment

46	2/004	2				7.1			fragment
47	1/011	2	flat			183.4		15mm	
48	1/011	2	flat			152.4		14mm	
49	1/011	2	flat			145		15mm	
50	1/011	2	flat			72.9		14mm	
51	1/011	2	flat			86.4		15mm	
52	1/011	2	flat			78.9		15mm	yellow/clr gl
53	1/011	2	flat			124.5		16mm	yellow/clr gl
54	1/011	san	floor?			94			
55	2/002	2	flat			38.1		12mm	
56	2/002	2	flat			73.9			surf broken away
57	2/002	2	flat			39.8		15mm	abraded
58	2/002	2	flat			32.3		12mm	abraded
59	2/002	2	flat			41.8		16mm	abraded
60	2/002	2	flat			37.8		15mm	abraded
61	2/002	2	flat			23.6		15mm	abraded
62	2/002	2	flat			22.6		12mm	abraded
63	2/002	2	flat			21		13mm	abraded
64	2/002	2	flat			9.4		15mm	abraded
65	2/002	2	flat			6.4		15mm	abraded
66	2/002	2	flat			3.8			fragment only
67	2/002	3?	?			17.7		7mm	form seems like tile as unfinished lower surface. No gl
68	2/004	san	?			14.5			fragment only
69	2/004	san	?			10.2			fragment only
70	2/004	3	ridge			27.1		8mm	curve; clr gm speckled gl
71	2/005	2	flat?			100		17mm	does have a curve tho no surf treat. Round nail hole
72	2/005	2	flat			97.6		16mm	
73	2/005	2	flat			33.3		14mm	
74	2/005	2	flat			18.1		15mm	
75	2/005	2	flat			25.2		16mm	
76	2/005	2	flat			15.1		15mm	

77	2/005	2	flat	15.9			16mm	
78	2/005	2	flat	14			17mm	
79	2/005	2	flat	13.3			16mm	
80	2/005	2		7.4				fragment
81	2/005	2		9.6				fragment
82	2/005	2		6.4				fragment
83	2/005	2		9.7				fragment
84	2/005	2		3				fragment
85	2/005	2		3				fragment
86	1/002	2	flat	97.9			14mm	
87	1/002	2	flat	28.1			16mm	
88	1/002	2	flat	44.6			15mm	
89	1/002	2	flat	35				surf broken away
90	1/005	3?	flat	207.6			14mm	
91	2/004	2	flat	54.4			15mm	
92	2/004	2	flat	335			15mm	
93	2/004	2	flat	88.6			15mm	
94	2/004	2	flat	224			17mm	
95	2/004	2	flat	221			15mm	
96	2/004	2	flat	96.7			13mm	
97	2/004	2	flat	270.7			15mm	
98	2/004	2	flat	348			15mm	
99	2/004	2	flat	246.8			17mm	
100	2/004	2	flat	150.4			16mm	
101	2/004	2	flat	107.8			15mm	
102	2/004	2	flat	163.8			17mm	
103	2/004	2	flat	98.8			14mm	
104	2/004	2	flat	204.5			15mm	
105	2/004	2	flat	75.2			14mm	
106	2/004	2	flat	120.2			16mm	
107	2/004	2	flat	106			15mm	

108	2/004	2	flat	145.8			15mm	
109	2/004	2	flat	53.3			14mm	
110	2/004	2	flat	210.5			13mm	
111	2/004	2	flat	97.8			14mm	
112	2/004	2	flat	84.2			13mm	
113	2/004	2	flat	193.7			15mm	nib and peghole - circ
114	2/004	2	flat	102.1			15mm	nib
115	2/004	2	flat	127			15mm	
116	2/004	2	flat	111.4			16mm	
117	2/004	2	flat	65.3			17mm	
118	2/004	2	flat	65.8			15mm	
119	2/004	2	flat	98.2			17mm	
120	2/004	2	flat	54			16mm	
121	2/004	2	flat	121			15mm	
122	2/004	2	flat	129.6			15mm	
123	2/004	2	flat	63.6			15mm	
124	2/004	2	flat	45.4				surf broken away
125	2/004	2	flat	46.9			16mm	
126	2/004	2	flat	74.3			15mm	
127	2/004	2	flat	55.2			14mm	
128	2/004	2	flat	29.1			14mm	
129	2/004	2	flat	57.7			14mm	
130	2/004	2	flat	29.3			16mm	
131	2/004	2	flat	25.9			12mm	
132	2/004	2	flat	15.6				fragment
133	2/004	3	ridge	189			15mm	dark green gl. Becomes thicker as though for crest

Animal Bones

By
S. Hamilton-Dyer

Introduction and Methodology

Fieldwalking and excavation of 2 trenches recovered a small assemblage of animal bones. In total 132 individual bones were made available for analysis. Taxonomic identifications were made using the author's modern comparative collections. All fragments were identified to species and element with the following exceptions: ribs and vertebrae of the ungulates (other than axis, atlas, and sacrum) were identified only to the level of cattle/horse-sized and sheep/pig-sized. Unidentified shaft and other fragments were similarly divided. Any fragments that could not be assigned even to this level have been recorded as mammalian only. Where possible sheep and goat were separated using the methods of Boessneck (1969), Payne (1985) and Halstead & Collins (2002). Recently broken bones were joined where possible and have been counted as single specimens. Tooth eruption and wear stages of cattle, sheep and pig mandibles were recorded following Grant (1982). Measurements follow von den Driesch (1976) and are in millimetres unless otherwise stated. The archive includes details of metrical and other data not presented in the text.

Results

The majority of the bones (98 of 132) are from 11 stratified contexts; the remaining 34 bones were from unstratified deposits. Most of these closely resemble the stratified material. The condition of the bone is mixed, varying from poor to excellent. Most of the bones can be identified to broad taxon. The majority can be identified as cattle, sheep/goat and pig. Most if not all the indeterminate fragments are also likely to be of these taxa. In total, nine different taxa are present; besides cattle, sheep/goat and pig there is one bone of horse, one of roe buck, four of fallow and 17 of birds. No dog bones were recovered but several bones show indirect evidence in the form of gnaw marks. A summary table of the taxa distribution is given in Table 1.

Bones of cattle are the most common and were found in most contexts. All areas of the body are represented but most of the bones are elements of the foot. Butchery marks were observed on several bones, both from jointing and from meat removal. Several of the indeterminate (but probably cattle) vertebrae and ribs had also been chopped. Sheep and goat bones are notoriously difficult to separate; in the 11 ovicaprid bones found, one could be positively identified as sheep but the others are undiagnostic. Most are limb bones and some of these also have butchery marks. Pig is represented by 12 bones and loose teeth. One of the teeth is a canine that can be identified as being from an adult sow; other remains include those of immature pigs. The single horse bone is from the ankle.

Roe buck is represented by a modified antler; it has been cut off just above the bur, the side tine and tip have been removed and this part whittled to a point (photo). When held in the hand it forms a comfortable tool, which may have been used for scribing, perhaps for leather. Because this antler is cut above the bur, it is not possible to tell whether it was collected loose after shedding or taken from a carcass. The fallow remains are all metapodia (foot bones) and must have been from carcasses. One is a metatarsus (hind foot), the other three are metacarpals (fore foot). These have no meat value and would have been discarded when the carcass was trimmed, either when killed or later on in the kitchen.

The 17 bird bones could not all be identified but are mainly of domestic fowl (10) with two of goose and one of duck. Domestic goose and duck are difficult to separate from their wild progenitors, greylag and mallard. These bones are judged to be probably from domestic birds, based on the size of the bones. Three of the indeterminate bird bones are small shaft fragments, the other is a large rib probably of goose. Two of the fowl bones have cut marks; on a humerus and a tibiotarsus, this last indicates where the foot was cut off.

The sample here is too small to draw any firm conclusions but the mix of bones is typical of medieval material in general. The high proportion of bird and the presence of several deer bones in a small collection is, however, likely to be significant. The amount of these is usually higher in castle and other 'high status' sites. Interestingly several castle sites show a preponderance of hind leg bones from deer, which has been suggested as indicating a deliberate selection and supply of prime joints (Albarella & Davis 1996). This site has more front feet, and the cattle bones are mainly of the lower value feet too. A much larger assemblage from this site might confirm whether this is a true reflection of the anatomical distribution or is a statistical artefact of a small sample size.

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Worked Stone

by
Dale Rouse

Fifteen loose stones were recovered during excavations carried out in 2008 on the site of Shrawley Castle (also known as Olivers Mound). Eleven of the stones came from Trench 1, four from Trench 2. All stones were of local red or red-grey sandstone, probably quarried from a nearby source.

Of the fifteen stones collected, all had some damage, five had architectural moulded details, eight had dressed faces and two had no obvious diagnostic features. No mortar was present on any of the surfaces of any of the stones.

The Architectural/Moulded Stones

Stone 3, 2/005- Measured 0.30m long by 0.17m high by 0.17m wide. (Double chamfered block). The stone had seven dressed or tool marked sides. On the two long opposing faced sides (best face 0.30m long by 0.17m high) was a 5" (0.13m) wide, horizontal chamfer running at 45° along the upper edges (see moulding profile). Heavy tool marks cut the faces at 45° to the bedding plane. The tool marks were measured and imply the stone may have been dressed using a bolster with a 2½" (6.5cm) cutting edge. The top side of the stone was flat between the opposing chamfers and measured 3½" (9cm). This part of the stone appears to have been mutilated, possibly with a chisel, maybe while attempting to remove the stone? The stone could have been part of a capping course, topping off a wall or parapet, possibly even part of a crenelated building.

Stone 7, 1/003- Measured 0.26m long by 0.24m wide by 0.11m high. (Chamfered Quoin). This stone had an identical architectural feature to Stones 11 and 15, and was clearly part of the same architectural structure. The stone had a 2⅜" (6cm) 45° vertically chamfered corner angle (see moulding profile). There was one dressed face (possibly a second, too damaged to be certain) a dressed bedding plane and a squared end, all of which had been damaged. The longest face (0.26m long by 0.11m high) had tidy, tightly spaced, fine tooling at 45° to the bedding plane. The tool marks implied (like Stone 5) that the long face may have been dressed with a 2" (5cm) bolster. The squared end was randomly dressed, possibly using a smaller chisel with a 1½" (3.25cm) cutting edge. The tooling on the bedding plane was heavier and crisper than on the face. This stone was part of a chamfered quoin, either from the corner angle of the wall of a building, or of a doorway or window.

Stone 8, 2/003- Measured 0.43m long/high by 0.36m wide by 0.14m thick. (Hood moulding) The narrow moulded face of the stone (0.43m high by 0.14m wide) had a 2¾" (7cm) wide, 45° chamfer along the inner edge, a 1cm deep "V" shaped groove ran along the outer edge of the chamfer and central to the moulded face, the remaining 4cm of the face being flat and square to the outer edge (see moulding profile). The opposing face was broken away and no clues remained to indicate what the appearance of the stone was from that side. The stone had a very slight curve along its length that suggested it was part of an arched feature. The tool marks on the top and bottom ends of the stone were crisp and cut at 45° to the inner and outer faces, creating partial chevron patterns. The size of the tool marks implies that the ends of the stone may have been dressed using a bolster with a 2½" (6.5cm) cutting edge. A few faint tool marks were evident on the Inner and outer (0.36m wide) surfaces where the faces of

the stone had been smoothed. This stone most likely came from an arched doorway or a window.

Stone 11, 1/003- Measured 0.33m long by 0.23m high and 0.23m wide. (Chamfered Quoin). The stone, like Stones 7 and 15 had a $2\frac{3}{8}$ " (6cm) 45° vertically chamfered corner angle (see moulding profile). The faces on either side of the chamfer had different finishes. One face was smooth (Ashlar) and the other face (and the chamfer) had weathered tool marks cut at 45° to the bedding plane. The tool marked faces imply the stone may have been dressed using a bolster with a 2" (5cm) cutting edge. Tool marks on the bedding plane were similar to those on the faces and the chamfered angle, being also at 45°, but with some tooling at random angles. The tooling on the bedding plane was crisper than that on the outer faces. This stone was part of a chamfered quoin, either from the corner angle of the wall of a building, or of a doorway or window opening.

Stone 15, 1/003- Measured 0.29m long by 0.23m high and 0.25m wide. (Chamfered Quoin). This stone had identical architectural features to Stones 7 and 11, and was clearly part of the same architectural structure. The stone had a $2\frac{3}{8}$ " (6cm) 45° vertically chamfered corner angle (see moulding profile). The faces on either side of the chamfer were differently finished. One face was smooth (Ashlar) and the other face (and the chamfer) had weathered tool marks cut at 45° to the bedding plane. The tool marked faces imply the stone may have been dressed using a bolster with a 2" (5cm) cutting edge. The tool marks on the bedding plane were similar to those on the face and the chamfered angle, having also been cut at 45°. This stone also came from the chamfered quoin of a building, or from a doorway or window.

The Dressed Stones

Stone 1, Context 2/002- Measured 0.28m long by 0.17m high and 0.17m wide. There were three dressed sides to the stone (one face, one end and a bedding plane). All the dressed sides were broken. Rough tool marks were present and cut at 45° to the bedding plane. The tool marks were measured and suggest the stone may have been dressed using a bolster with a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (6.5cm) cutting edge. The longer of the two faces (0.28m long by 0.17m high) showed signs of weathering implying it had been the exposed side, while the tool marks on the other sides were crisp implying that they had not been exposed. The stone had what appears to be natural pitting (small holes) on all sides.

Stone 2, 1/003- Measured 0.25m long by 0.20m high by 0.15m wide. The stone had two dressed faces, both damaged. The long face (0.25m long by 0.15m high) had been smoothed (Ashlar?) and the only visible marks on that face were faint scratches, possibly remnants of the original dressing of the stone from before it had been smoothed. The second face was roughly squared with randomly oriented, crisp tool marks. Tool marks were measured and the short side of the stone may have been squared using a bolster or chisel with a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (3.25cm) cutting edge.

Stone 4, 1/003- Measured 0.29m long by 0.28m wide by 0.16m high. There were no dressed faces on the stone except for the bedding plane. The sides had all been mutilated and possibly any dressed faces that had existed had been too badly damaged to be identified as such. The tool marks on the bedding plane were roughly cut and at 45°. The tool marks suggest the stone may have been dressed using a bolster with a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (6.5cm) cutting edge.

Stone 5, 1/003- Measured 0.35m long by 0.26m wide by 0.20m high. The stone had two worked sides, one a dressed face, the other a roughly squared end. Both tooled sides had

damage. The long face (0.35m long by 0.20m high) showed slight wear and had tidy, tightly spaced tooling at 45° to the bedding plane. The tool marks implied that the long face was dressed with a 2" (5cm) bolster. The tooled end of the stone had been roughly squared, possibly with a bolster or chisel with a 1½" (3.25cm) cutting edge.

Stone 9, 1/003- Measured 0.30m long by 0.24m wide by 0.19m high. Mostly the stone appeared roughly hewn, the only tool marks present were on one corner of the bedding plane where that face had been squared. The tool marks imply this was possibly done with a bolster or chisel with a 1½" (3.25cm) cutting edge.

Stone 10, 1/003- Measured 0.28m long by 0.19m wide by 0.12m high. This stone had a smooth ashlar face on the long side (0.28m long by 0.12m high) with only a few scratch marks present. The end of the stone was square with rough tooling and similar rough tooling was present on the bedding plane. The tool marks on the bedding plane and end were roughly cut and at 45°. Tool marks were measured and the stone appears to have been dressed using a bolster with a 2½" (6.5cm) edge. Tool marks on the bedding plane appeared worn implying that this side (possibly the upper side?) of the stone had been exposed and had weathered for some time.

Stone 13, 1/003- Measured 0.26m long by 0.20m wide by 0.20m high. There were four dressed sides on this stone (one long face two ends and the bedding plane), all the dressed faces were broken. Tool marks were present, mostly cut at 45° to the bedding plane. The tool marks were measured and suggest the stone may have been dressed using a bolster with a 3" (9cm) cutting edge, some tool marks on the short ends (probably from squaring the block) appeared to have been made using a bolster with a 1½" (4cm) cutting edge. The longer of the faces (0.26m long by 0.20m high) showed signs of weathering implying it had been the exposed face. The tool marks on the end faces were crisp implying that they had not been exposed. There were worn tool marks on the bedding plane that could imply that this had been the upper side of the block and that this face had been exposed to weathering.

Stone 14, 2/005- Measured 0.32m long by 0.32m wide by 0.24m high. Four sides of this stone had been dressed (two long sides, one end and the bedding plane). All the dressed faces were broken. On the largest face (0.32m long by 0.24m high) tool marks were faint and worn. The marks were measured and suggest the stone may have been dressed using a bolster with a 2½" (6.5cm) cutting edge. Tool marks on what appears to be the back of the stone were crisp but crudely executed and appear to have been cut using a bolster with a 1½" (4cm) cutting edge. The tool marks on the end of the block were also crisp but crude, dressing was probably done with a with a 2½" (6.5cm) bolster. There were only a few tool marks on the bedding plane where it appears very little effort was required to square this side of the block. The tool marks on the bedding plane suggest it may also have been dressed with a with a 2½" (6.5cm) bolster. There were no signs of wear on these faces, indicating they had not been exposed.

The Un-Diagnostic Stones

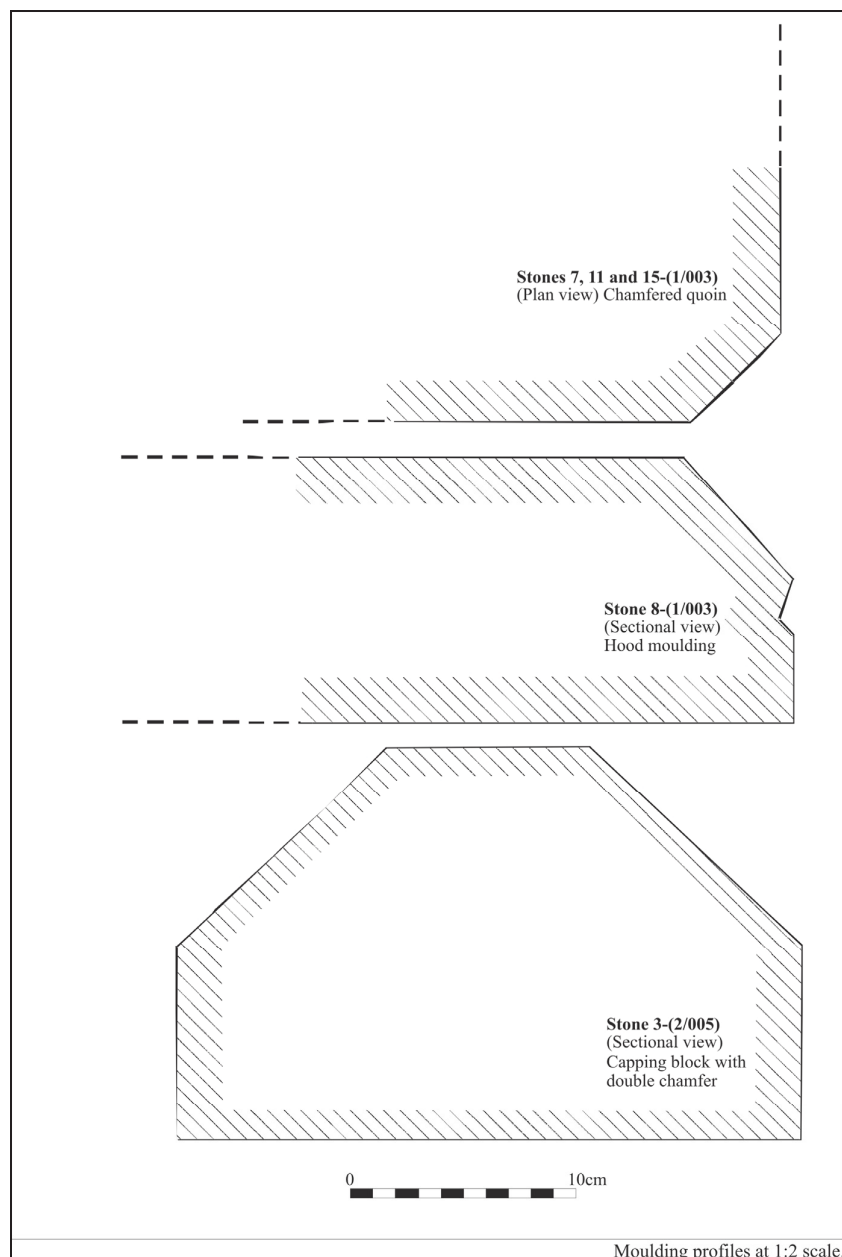
Stone 6, 1/003- Measured 0.30m long by 0.24m wide by 0.17m high. The stone appeared to be redder in colour and softer than the dressed stones, there were no diagnostic features present on any of the surfaces of this stone, which had no evidence to say it had even been squared.

Stone 12, 1/003- Measured 0.32m long by 0.24m wide by 0.17m wide. The stone was very weathered and worn, roughly squared on three sides but with no diagnostic features or tool marks present on any surfaces.

Possible Dating for the Architectural Moulded Stones

The castle is believed from the historic records to have been built in the second half of the 12th century, and was in use until around 1334 AD when the last tenant died. After 1334 AD the castle went into decline as it was no longer being maintained by the Beachamp family who were building a new castle to replace it at Holt, so the dates for the occupation of the castle cover a period of About 200 years, from around 1150 AD to 1334 AD.

The types of mouldings present on five of these stones fit comfortably within the occupation dates (1150-1334 AD) but are probably later than 1200 AD.



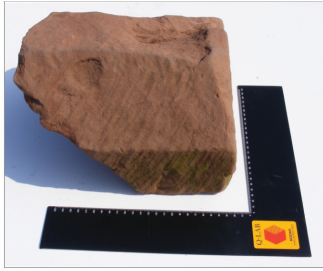


Plate 1, Double chamfered block, Stone 3. Note the fine but weathered tool marks at 45° to the bedding plane.

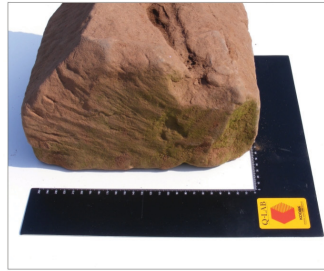


Plate 2, End view of the double chamfered block, Stone 3. Tool marks on the end are crisp and unweathered. The tooling is more random than on the face.

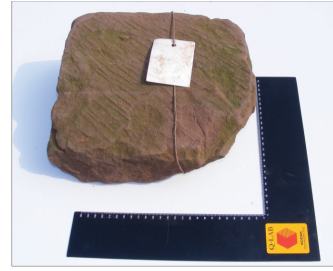


Plate 3, Stone 7. Fine tool marks on the bedding plane, still crisp as this face was not exposed to weathering.



Plate 4, Mouldings on the face of Stone 8, part of a "hood moulding" from the arch of a doorway or window. The moulding has a 45° chamfer on the inner edge and a "V" shaped groove central to the face.



Plate 5, The mouldings on the face of Stone 8, from this angle you can see the slight curve of the arch.



Plate 6, Tool marks on one end of Stone 8. The tooling is at 45°, but cutting from two directions has produced a chevron effect.



Plate 7, Stone 7, Dressed bedding plane and 6cm chamfer on the corner angle (at bottom left of picture).

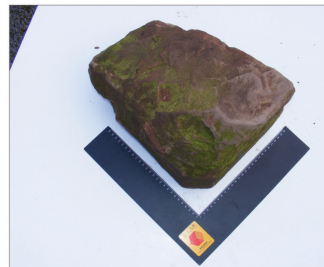


Plate 8, Stone 11, The stone has the same moulding detail as Stones 7 and 15, 6cm chamfer on the corner angle (at bottom middle of the picture).

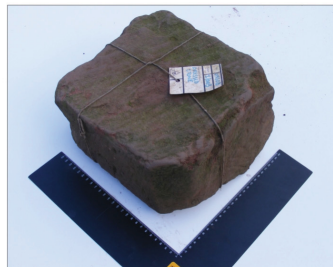


Plate 9, Stone 15, This stone has the same moulding detail as Stones 7 and 11, the chamfer is the same on all three stones (bottom middle of picture).

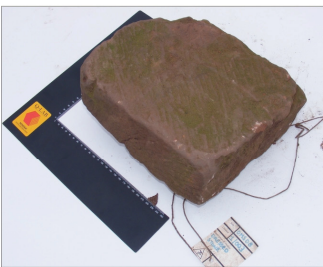


Plate 10, Stone 7, shows a dressed face, bedding plane and a squared end, all damaged. The face had tightly spaced, fine tooling.

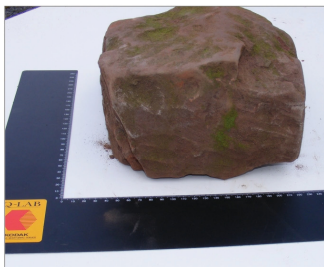


Plate 11, Stone 10, shows rough tooling on this end of the block, this appears to have been done using a 2½" (6.5cm) bolster.



Plate 12, Stone 5, dressed face with tidy, tightly spaced tooling. Possibly dressed using a 2" (5cm) bolster.

Plates 1 to 12.

Stone Roofing Tiles

By
R.D. Sproat

The aim of this report is to concentrated on the large assemblage of discarded roof stones were found in Trench 2, context OMS08 2/004. Green/grey coloured Devonian Sandstones pieces cut from layered beds of St. Maughans Formation [Gillespie 2008].

Methodology & Recording

At approximately 600mm below surface datum of Trench 2 a large collection of broken roof stones were found. The great majority were broken through the axis of the tail hole, an indication that they were deliberately ripped from a roof nearby and cast down as useless demolition waste. Lack of any quantity finds of medieval date above context level OMS08 2/004 shows that this layer contributed the last phase of the castles' demolition.

Of all the items recovered only four complete, or near complete, specimens were intact. Because there was a large quantity of finds at this level it was decided to save only those pieces with recognisable worked features. 92kgm (202lbs.) of material was recovered from site. This represents approximately 75% of roof tile material uncovered in Trench 2. Much of the retrieved material was of little value and only tiles with recognisable tooling is analysed in the report. Unrecognisable pieces were returned with the backfill at the end of the excavation.

Most of the profiles of the stones are trapezoidal shaped, cut from the natural layering and, and chamfered on all outside edges. Nail holes had been drilled at the top edge, and countersunk on both sides. At least two examples had two opposing holes, indicating reuse. A small quantity of iron nails was also recovered at the same level. With the large variation of sizes of items found, this analysis seeks to record the dimensions: Dim'a', along the horizontal axis of the nail hole, Dim'b', the overall horizontal dimension at the base, and Dim'h', vertical height from base to nail hole. From these figures the surface area is calculated and dimensions of a selection of tiles shown on the attached spreadsheet.

Conclusion

Surface Area analysis:

Area analysis – more examples observed within the walls of Trench 2.

+100% broken material returned to trench , +200% on unrecoverable material outside excavated area, but included in geophysical results.

A guesstimate of surface area of roof cover therefore = $(2.53*2)+(2.53*4) = 15.18$ sq. metres

Only four undamaged roof tiles were found representing 7.5% of total mass.

The large quantity of damaged tiles, and small number complete tiles signifies many quantities of good quality tiles were removed from site during the castles demolition. Allowing for overlap of tiles during construction of a roof the area is not significant to cover a building of any expected size.

The finds were found clustered at just one context layer indicating that they were deposited at just one moment in time. No significant finds were found above this layer showing that the deposit represented the last phase of the castle's existence. The finds were concentrated in one place, showing that they must have been removed from a building, or a structure, close by. The date of the tiles is contemporary with other buildings of the 13th century.

Nail hole analysis:

Most of the roof tiles have holes that were drilled, with countersinks cut in top and bottom faces.

The cleanliness of the holes has the appearance of being drilled with an iron spade drill by the mason. The consistency of diameter points the fact one stonemason alone manufactured these roof tiles.

The countersinks have a roughness consistent with being chipped using a chisel.

A small number of tiles clearly show that a pointed spike was used to form the holes. Therefore there were at least two stonemasons employed producing the tiles for the castle.

Discussion

This range of material shows that there were at least three phases of construction of roofing material was used at the castle. The discovery of the layer of roof stones indicates that this layer caused the large response anomaly in Trench 2. The fact that this material was discarded as waste shows that it was not viable to be removed from site by the medieval workmen and that only the saleable roof tiles were salvaged. This was a time when more fashionable Welsh roofing slate was becoming vogue. Only one small piece of roof finial was found with these same deposits indicating that these stones may have formed a lean-to against the inside of the castle curtain wall. The great variation in size shows the usual practice of using small lighter stones at the apex, and the larger heavier stones near the base of the roof. The absence of any mortar in Trench 2, and demolition damage to the roof stones suggests that the roof formed a canopy against the weather rather than that of a habitable building. The geological findings of the origins of the stone fabric, pottery finds, and the historical summery, suggests that there was a connection here with north Herefordshire. The residing families of Shrawley Castle and the Mortimers of Wigmore Castle had family affiliations and shows that traffic, as well as from here to Worcester, extended westward into Herefordshire. This type of roofing material can still be found in farm outbuildings in Wales and medieval structures, (Abbey Dore and Wigmore Castle).

The best specimens will be eventually being deposited at the Worcester Museum Repository at Hartlebury.

References

Crooks, K.H. *The Pottery and Ceramic Building Materials from Shrawley Castle*. Archaeological Investigations Ltd. Report 2008.

Crooks, K.H. *Appendix Tiles*. Archaeological Investigations Ltd. Report 2008.

Gillespie, R.R. *Oliver's Mound Report*. Herefordshire & Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust. Report May 2008.



Plate 1 & 2. Examples of Stone Roof Tiles Recovered

The Slag and Anvil Residues

by

Kath Crooks

Introduction

After washing soil samples from two deposits in Trench 1 (1/006 and 1/012) were examined for the presence of slag and anvil debris. Examination of the residues has meant that it is now possible to suggest that there was a forge in the vicinity during the medieval period.

Method

The samples were washed and were initially assessed by eye for the presence of high temperature residues. When these were found to be present further examination and sorting took place using a magnet and lens (x10 magnification). Residues and the magnetic material extracted from them were weighed and the percentage of ironworking residue calculated.

Summary of the Residues from Shrawley Castle

Context 1/006

Context 1/006 contained a single sherd of pottery dated to the later 13th to 17th centuries. As this context was considered to be later medieval or post-medieval in date it was sampled only as opposed to being examined in its entirety. Also, it was not entirely out of the question that the deposit had been disturbed or contaminated during previous archaeological interventions. A sub sample of 700g – approximately ¼ of the residue from this context was examined and searched for ironworking residues. From this 700g sub sample 1.7g of hammer scale was recovered – 0.24% of the total material. There was no evidence for hammer scale in the flot – because it is very light spherical hammer scale is often found in the flot rather than the residue.

The Anvil Residues

A small to moderate amount of flake hammer scale was found in the residue from this context. This material was present in sufficient quantity to suggest that smithing had taken place in the vicinity. No obvious pieces of slag were seen in the residue, though small fragments of burnt clay may have been furnace or hearth lining.

Context 1/012

No dating evidence was recovered from context 1/012, though the context was considered to be securely dated by material from the contexts stratigraphically above and below it (Fabrics 64.1 and Fabrics 55 and 56 above in context 1/008 and Fabrics 55 and 56 below in context 1/013). These suggest a likely date between the later 12th and 13th century for context 1/012; the stratigraphy and lack of intrusive material implies that this material was unlikely to have been disturbed during previous excavations.

A small amount of non-diagnostic slag and fragments of burnt clay, almost certainly hearth or furnace lining, was recovered from the residue of context 1/012.

The smithing hearth bottom

The presence of a smithing hearth bottom, of the classic plano-convex form suggests the presence of a forge in the area. Smithing hearth bottoms are formed beneath the blow holes in the hearth. The hearth base weighed 206.9g, which is fairly typical with the majority being in the range of 200-500g (English Heritage 2001) though sizes up to around 2kg are possible. It was more or less circular in form. The upper surface had been smoothed by the blast of air.

The anvil residues

Initial assessment had suggested that hammer scale would be fairly abundant in this sample and this proved to be the case. The residue was therefore examined in its entirety (2.325kg) with 16.5g of hammer scale recovered, together with small fragments of slag and furnace or hearth lining (a further 29g). Hammer scale accounted for a total of 0.7% of the material. In addition 29g including slag and furnace lining was hand collected – making this up to about 2% of the total. In addition small fragments of spherical hammerscale were recovered from the flot (less than 0.5g).

Conclusion and Recommendations

At present no evidence for smelting or primary smithing (refining of the bloom) has been found at Shrawley. The small size of the smithing hearth bottom implies that secondary smithing is a more likely process than bloom refining. This seems likely to have included welding, for which process spherical hammerscale is diagnostic (though it can also be formed during initial refining of the bloom). The flake hammerscale included both glossy and dull varieties; the glossy variety could suggest a high temperature process such as edging tools.

While the forge could have been associated with the construction of the castle, a forge or smithy would undoubtedly have been in operation during its occupation. Medieval smithing hearths were usually at waist height meaning that physical evidence for their positions does not survive and they can be identified only by their residues (McDonnell 1983).

Although smithing was clearly taking place in the area – confirmed by the fragments of furnace lining as well as the hearth base, and anvil residues, large amounts of slag were not recovered. Further excavations should preferably sample for this material as well as for environmental remains.

References

Archaeometallurgy, 2001, *English Heritage Centre for Archaeology Guidelines*

Crew, P, 1996, Bloom Refining and smithing slags and other residues, *Historical Metallurgy Society, Archaeology Datasheet No. 6*

Mc Donnell, G, 1983, Tap Slags and Hearth Bottoms or How to identify slags, *Current Archaeology No. 86*

Assessment of Carbonised Plant Remains

by

Kath Crooks

Introduction

Two soil samples taken from contexts from the excavation at Shrawley Castle were briefly examined for the presence of charred or mineralised plant remains.

Method

After washing samples were checked using a hand lens (x10 magnification) and microscopically to check for plant remains.

The Samples

Sample 1 – context 1/012

Flot

The majority of the material seen during the assessment was lumpwood. None of the 12 seeds seen during the assessment were carbonised and none were grain. However some of the seeds were mineralised. There were also a number of what appeared to be empty invertebrate egg cases and a considerable amount of root – also not carbonised. Deposits demonstrating presence of metalworking remains frequently do not show good survival of carbonised plant material, but do, of course, provide important information on industrial processes undertaken.

Iron working residues

Some small pieces of spherical hammerscale (less than 5g) were recovered from the flot. This material is often hollow so is light enough to float.

Residue

No carbonised material other than lumpwood was seen during the assessment.

Sample 2 – context 1/006

Flot

A greater number of seeds (18) were present than in context 1/012. However, only two were grain - the only seeds to be carbonised. Five of the invertebrate egg cases mentioned above were also present, one of which was white and apparently fairly recent.

Residue

Searching through the entire residue revealed that the only carbonised remains were fragments of charcoal.

Conclusion

At present no further action need be taken as the number of seeds identified was very small. However, sampling has demonstrated the potential for the survival of such material and a sampling strategy should be considered during any further work on the site.

Appendix D – Stratigraphic Site Archive

Stratigraphic Site Archive	Quantity
Context Sheets	23
Context Register Sheets	2
Plans	4
Plan Register Sheets	1
Sections	4
Section Register Sheets	1
Levels Sheets	1
Photographic Register Sheets	3
Environmental Sample Register Sheets	1
Environmental Sampling Sheets	2
Photographs, Black & White	27
Colour Slides	23
Digital	10

Appendix E – OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-58810

Project details

Project name Oliver's Mound, Shrawley

Short description of the project Between the 19th and 30th May 2008 an excavation was conducted by Shrawley Local History and Archaeology Society, at the site of Oliver's Mound, Shrawley. The archaeological investigation consisted of two hand dug trenches, one measuring 3m by 3m, the other 3m by 4m. Archaeological features associated with the medieval activity on the mound were identified in both trenches. Trench 1 revealed a substantial set of sandstone structural remains, previously identified during archaeological excavations conducted between 1928 and 1930. The stone structure was in fair condition, and could easily be attributed to a castle building as suggested by the documentary evidence. No immediate dating evidence was collected, but residual pottery recovered from the overlying backfill deposits indicate it was constructed between the 11th and 14th century. In Trench 2 the remains of a possible internal cobbled surface was identified, with pottery evidence dating its construction to the later 12th or 13th century. It is likely to be in use for up to a century before the structure around it fell into disuse and decay, sealing the cobbled surface with a layer of fallen stone roof tiles. The evidence from the two trenches begins to support both the documentary evidence and early twentieth century excavation results indicating the presence of a medieval castle structure on the mound.

Project dates Start: 19-05-2008 End: 30-05-2008

Previous/future work Yes / Yes

Any associated project reference codes OMS08 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 7705 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Site of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI)
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	FOUNDATIONS Medieval
Monument type	FLOOR SURFACE Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Significant Finds	WORKED STONE Medieval
Significant Finds	ROOF TILE Medieval
Investigation type	'Part Excavation'
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE MALVERN HILLS SHRAWLEY Oliver's Mound, Shrawley, Worcestershire
Postcode	WR9 0HX

Study area 5000.00 Square metres

Site coordinates SO 8133 6547 52.2866585706 -2.273735378950 52 17 11 N 002
16 25 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 37.29m Max: 37.29m

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology
Organisation

Project brief Shrawley Local History and Archaeology Society
originator

Project design AOC Archaeology
originator

Project Andy Leonard
director/manager

Project supervisor Chris Clarke

Type of Local Arch. Society/Amateur Archaeologist
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Heritage Lottery Fund/Shrawley Local History & Archaeology
sponsor/funding Society
body

Project archives

Physical Archive Worcester Museum
recipient

Physical ID Archive OMS 08

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Worked stone/lithics'

Physical notes Archive Archive to be held by Shrawley Local History and Archaeology Society until ready to archive.

Digital recipient Archive Worcester Museum

Digital Archive ID OMS 08

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital available Media 'Images raster / digital photography'

Digital notes Archive Archive to be held by Shrawley Local History and Archaeology Society until ready to archive.

Paper recipient Archive Worcester Museum

Paper Archive ID OMS 08

Paper Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Worked stone/lithics'

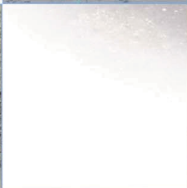
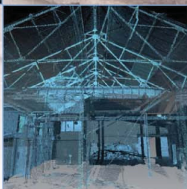
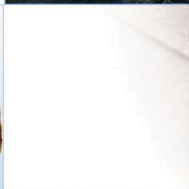
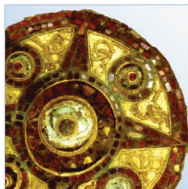
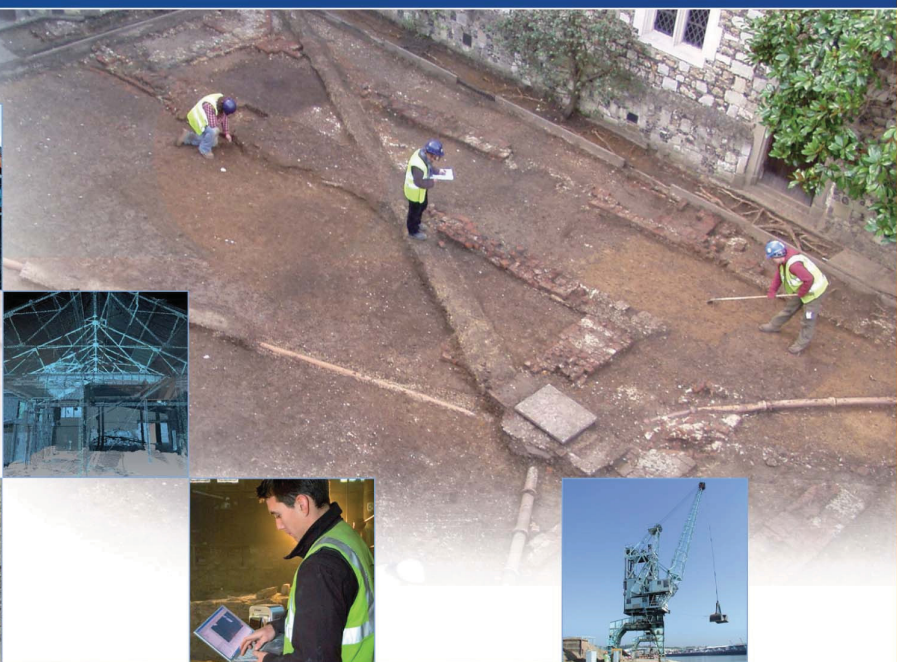
Paper available Media 'Context sheet','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Paper notes Archive Archive to be held by Shrawley Local History and Archaeology Society until ready to archive.

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	OLIVER'S MOUND, SHRAWLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Clarke, C.
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 text and illustrations 42 pages

Entered by	Chris Clarke (chris.clarke@aocarchaeology.com)
Entered on	29 April 2009



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