



University of
Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Excavation
and Watching Brief during
the Coventry Heatline Project,
Central Coventry.**

NGR: SP 3355 7929 (NW) to SP 3418 7834 (SE)

Jennifer Browning and Gavin Speed



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during the
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**NGR
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Gavin Speed and Jennifer Browning

For: Cofely District Heating

Approved by:



Signed

Date: 28th November 2013

Name: Vicki Score

**University of Leicester
Archaeological Services**
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614
www.le.ac.uk/ulas

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An Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief During the Coventry Heatline Project, Central Coventry NGR SP 3355 7929 (NW) To SP 3418 7834 (SE)

Summary

Between January and June 2013 University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for a new district heating system pipeline in the southeast quarter of central Coventry on behalf of Cofely District Heating.

Archaeological remains, dating from the medieval period to the 19th century, were observed in several different locations during the work. 'Pockets' of archaeology were observed on Whitefriars Lane, Grove Street car park, Cox Street, Jordan Well and London Road. Significant archaeology was seen at Much Park Street and Whitefriars Gateway, where subsequent excavation revealed evidence for medieval buildings off Much Park Street. These remains consisted predominantly of fragments of walling and associated floor layers. Some evidence for the Carmelite Friary was identified, including a fragment of the precinct wall and a series of deposits which possibly lie within the precinct were seen at the east end of Whitefriars Lane. On the north side of Gosford Street, a finely-built well was located beneath the Grove Street car park, capped by 14th century architectural fragments. To the south of the area, part of the robbed town wall was observed within the traffic island on London Road.

The site archive will be held by Coventry City Council Museums under the Accession No: HP 2013

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Cofely District Energy to carry out a watching brief in Coventry City centre (NGR SP 3355 7929 (NW) to SP 3418 7834 (SE)). The work was undertaken in mitigation of any potential damage to buried archaeological deposits or upstanding remains caused by the groundworks associated with laying of services for the Coventry City Centre District Heating System. The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), (DCLG 2012) and the requirements of the City Archaeologist, Coventry City Council. In total, 36 visits were made between January and June 2013.

The watching brief (archaeological observation and recording) was required to cover the excavation of service trenches within an archaeologically-sensitive area located largely within the south-eastern quarter of Coventry's historic centre, encompassing Bar Road, London Road, Whitefriars Lane, Much Park Street, Earl Street, Jordan Well, Ringway Whitefriars, Grove Street, Cox Street and Fairfax Street.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site is located in the south-eastern and central-eastern of Coventry centre (Fig. 1). The route of the pipeline runs north along London Road, before splitting into east and west sections. The eastern section runs along Whitefriars Lane, beneath the Ringway Whitefriars, down Grove Street, Cox Street, Cope Street and Priory Street. The western section follows Whitefriars Lane west past the former Toy Museum and then down Much Park Street to Jordan Well and Earl Street (Fig. 2).

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain shows the bedrock geology as predominantly Keresley member sandstone, except to the north and east of the area around Cox Street, Grove Street, Priory Street and Fairfax Street where it was Keresley Member – interbedded argillaceous rocks and [subordinate/subequal] Sandstone and Conglomerate. No superficial geology is recorded.

(<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed on 8th October 2013).

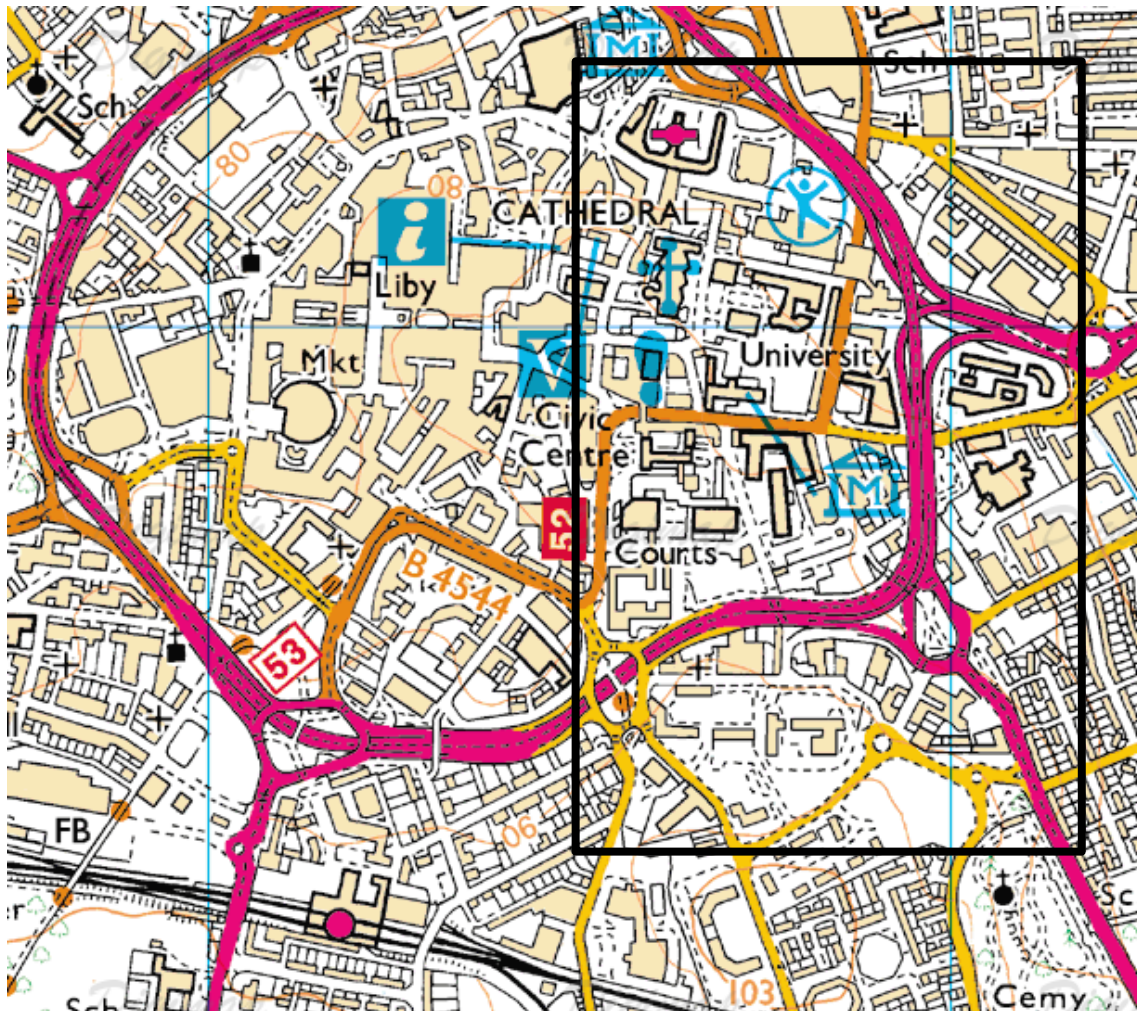


Figure 1: Site location within Coventry

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3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The streets affected by the Heatline project are situated in the southeast part of the walled historic core of medieval Coventry, an area dominated by the medieval Whitefriars Abbey.

Prehistoric and Roman

There is little evidence of activity in these periods in the study area. The nearest Iron Age settlement known was at Canley (Soden 2005, 16).

Anglo-Saxon/Anglo-Norman

Evidence for the Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman periods is insubstantial and limited, largely comprising residual finds such as pottery from a medieval ditch excavated at St. John's Street car Park to the west (**MCT15969**) and Anglo-Norman pits encountered below medieval ridge and furrow at 114-115 Gosford Street (**MCT845**) to the east (Fig. 3). The line of Mill Lane, now Cox Street, dates from this period, so called because the Earl's Mill stood at the entrance to Godiva Street (**MCT16299**). A hearth suggesting a metalworking site was found at the Greyhound and could be early in date (**MCT16513**).

Medieval

Prior to the founding of the Friary, the street which became Whitefriars Lane was the main route out of the city towards London (Colls and Mitchell 2013, 129). The Carmelite Order of Friars (the Whitefriars) founded their house in the southeast corner of Coventry's medieval city centre in 1342, essentially blocking this route. The Friary included a substantial church which was *c.*95m in length; the foundations of the eastern end can still be seen today beyond the ring road (Fig. 4). The only surviving building is the eastern cloister with the Friar's dormitory above which was later used as a private house after the dissolution. Standing remains of the Friary include the 14th century postern gatehouse (**DCT326**) in Much Park Street, and the eastern cloister range in Gulson Road (**DCT421**). The latter was the private house of the Hales family to 1717 and subsequently converted to a workhouse for the poor in 1804.

Excavations on land adjacent to the present site at the rear of the Tiny Tim Centre, Whitefriars Lane, produced human bone fragments (**MCT16989**), possibly deriving from the medieval lay cemetery of Whitefriars Friary (Warwickshire Museum Field Services, 2003). An archaeological evaluation took place at Whitefriars Lane car park, prior to the erection of a building associated with the district heating project at Whitefriars Lane. The work produced limited evidence of archaeological activity in the form of a single undated wall foundation which appeared to predate the 19th century terraced housing, certain walls of which tallied with those visible on Ordnance Survey maps. Whilst Victorian development had truncated the garden soil present across the entire site, there were no indications of this having sealed earlier archaeological features, such as evidence for the Friary. The presence of a fragmentary and heavily-rebuilt sandstone wall along the eastern site boundary suggests that this may mark the line of the monastic precinct boundary wall. If this is the case, it would indicate that the precinct was somewhat smaller than has previously been suggested (Kipling 2012).

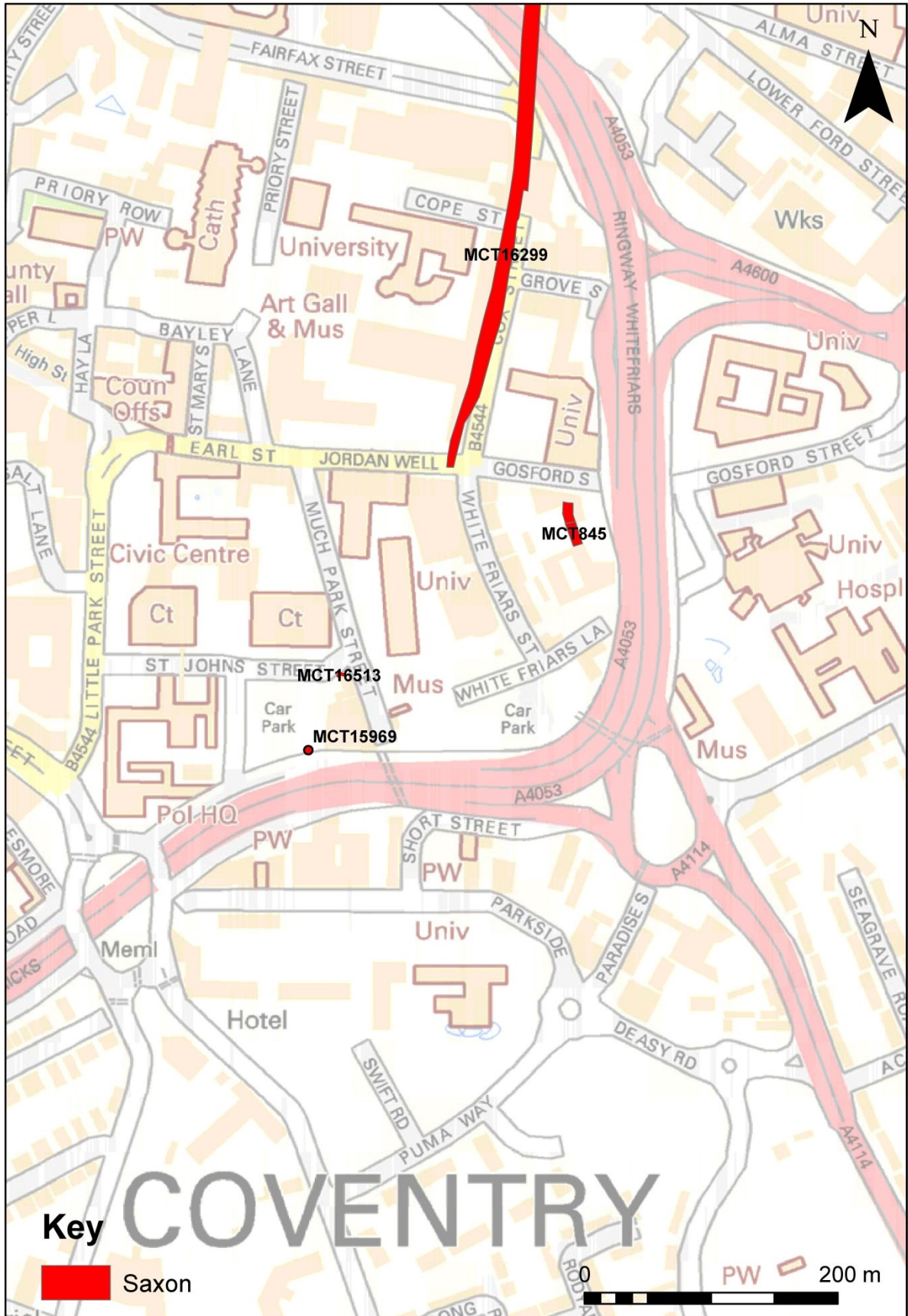


Figure 3: Map of Saxon HER sites (Coventry City HER)

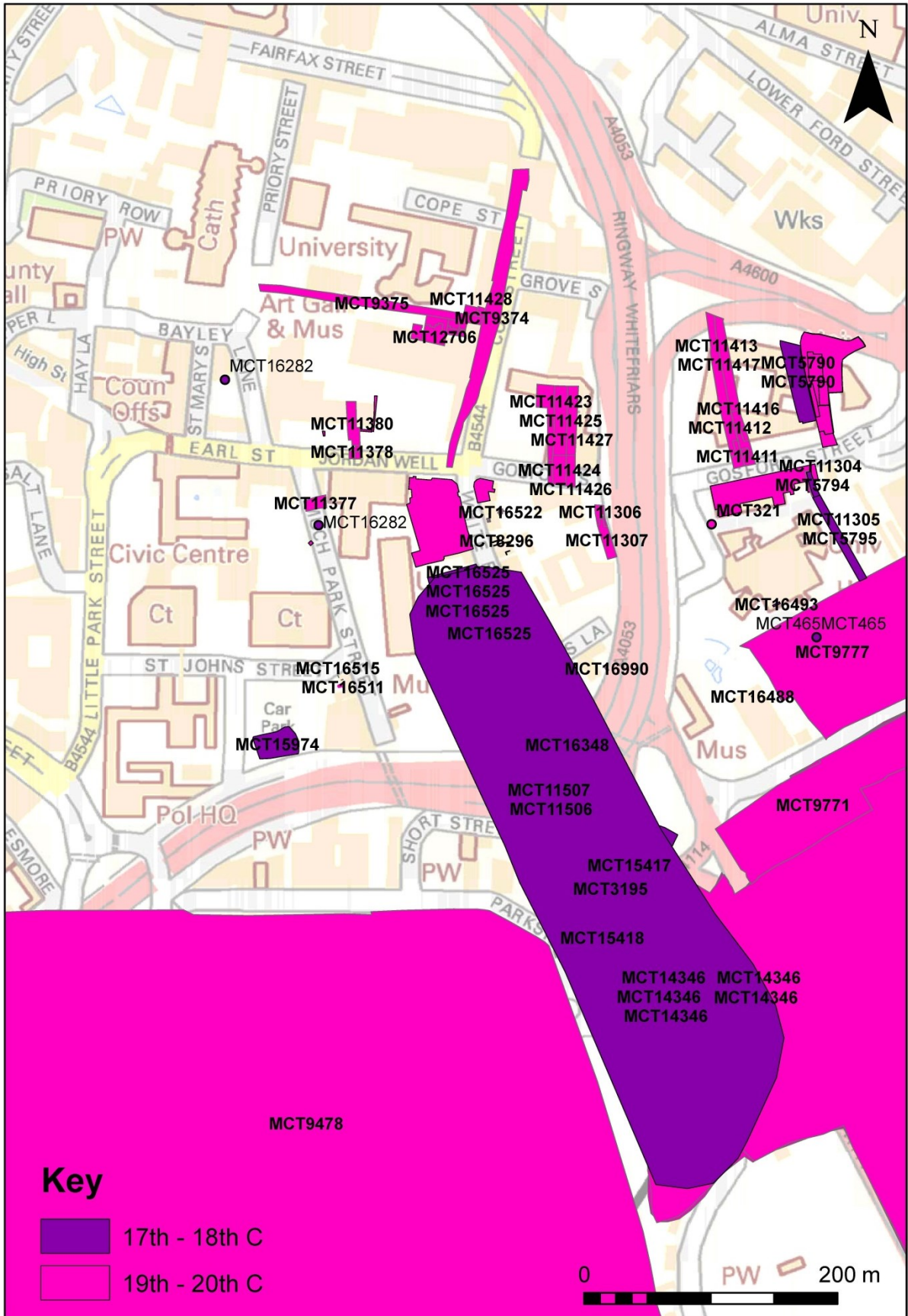


Figure 5: Map of Modern HER sites (Coventry City HER)

Two badly-preserved and largely rebuilt lengths of the town wall circuit survive to the east (**DCT19 & DCT20**), whilst a possible medieval metalworking site was excavated to the southwest at The Greyhound, Much Park Street, in 1997 (**MCT16513, MCT201**), followed by mercantile occupation in the 16th century. The occupation sequence served to demonstrate the transition from semi-rural exploitation of environment in the 12th century to the fully urbanised context of the 15th century.

Between 2007 and 2010 excavations were carried out at Much Park Street, just to the west of the pipeline route. The site produced dense evidence for occupation between the 12th and the 19th centuries, demonstrating increasing activity peaking in the 15th century and declining in the following centuries. Much Park Street had increased in importance following the creation of the Friary precinct, as it became the main thoroughfare from the London Road. The plot developed in the 14th century with the imposition of regular plot divisions and stone buildings on the northern part of the site and extensive backyard-type activity consisting of extensive pitting, post holes and ditches on the southern part (Colls and Michell 2013).

Post Medieval and Modern

At the end of the medieval period the town went into decline, which is shown in the drastically reduced rents evident in the 16th century records of the Holy Trinity Guild, as well as archaeological evidence of loss of buildings (Soden 2005, 35). The town walls fell into disrepair and dismantling was actively encouraged after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 (Soden 2005, 241). An industrial boom in the 19th and 20th centuries shaped the modern city, with the expansion of the town far beyond its former boundaries (Fig. 6). The above ground appearance of Coventry was dramatically altered by intensive wartime bombing and the reconstruction that followed.

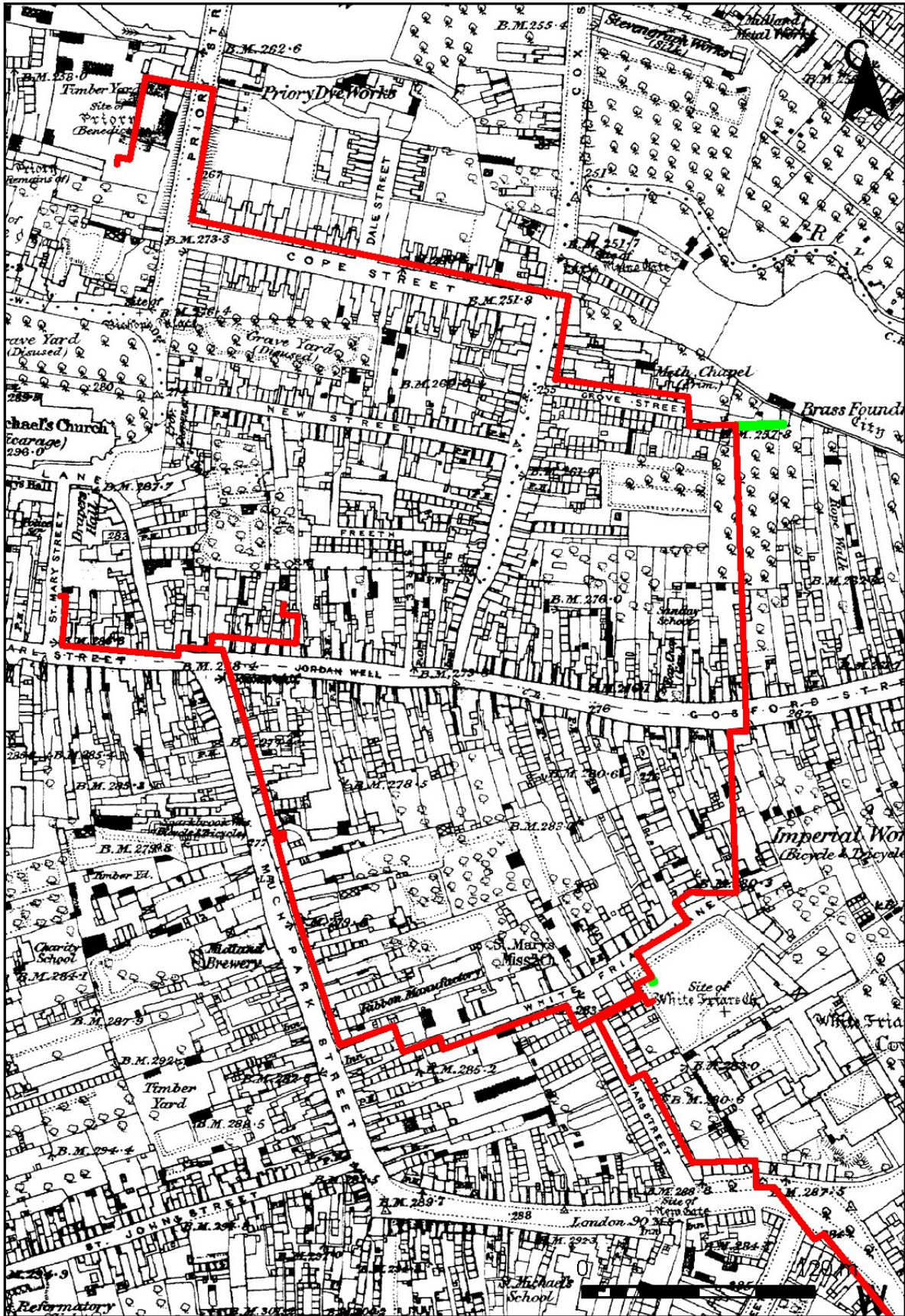


Figure 6: 1st Edition OS map showing pipeline route

4. Aims and Objectives

The principal aims of the archaeological work are:

- To determine and understand the nature and extent of surviving archaeological remains on the site in their cultural and environmental setting
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record significant archaeological deposits which will be destroyed or damaged by groundworks associated with the development.
- To produce an archive, report and publication of the results.

5. Methodology

The work followed the methodology in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Kipling 2013) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2012), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (2008).

The project required archaeological attendance by an experienced professional archaeologist during all groundworks which had the potential to disturb buried archaeological remains. During these groundworks, if any archaeological deposits were seen to be present, the archaeologist investigated and recorded areas of archaeological interest. If significant archaeological deposits were discovered, contingency excavation and recording was carried out. Archaeological deposits were hand cleaned and planned as appropriate and excavated and recorded using standard ULAS procedures. If the initial monitoring identified areas of no archaeological interest (e.g. modern made ground or disturbed areas), then monitoring of that area was stood down.

6. Results

The watching brief was undertaken as a series of intermittent visits from 18.01.2013 to 03.06.2013. The pipe trenches were approximately 1.1m to 1.5m wide, depending on location and excavated to a minimum depth of 1.0m but were often nearer to 1.5m. Much of the pipeline was excavated through disturbed and backfilled ground down to the base of the trench. This is not unexpected in a city such as Coventry, particularly as the pipe routes generally followed roads, where modern services have been repeatedly laid. Natural sandstones and clays were occasionally seen at the base of the trenches but only appeared in the upper part of the trenches outside the town, for example along London Road.

Archaeological deposits were identified in various locations during the watching brief (see Fig. 7) and the archaeology in each of these areas is discussed by location in the text below. Due to the extent of archaeological remains around White Friars Gateway (Whitefriars Lane / Much Park Street), a short excavation was undertaken from 07.03.2013 – 21.03.2013.

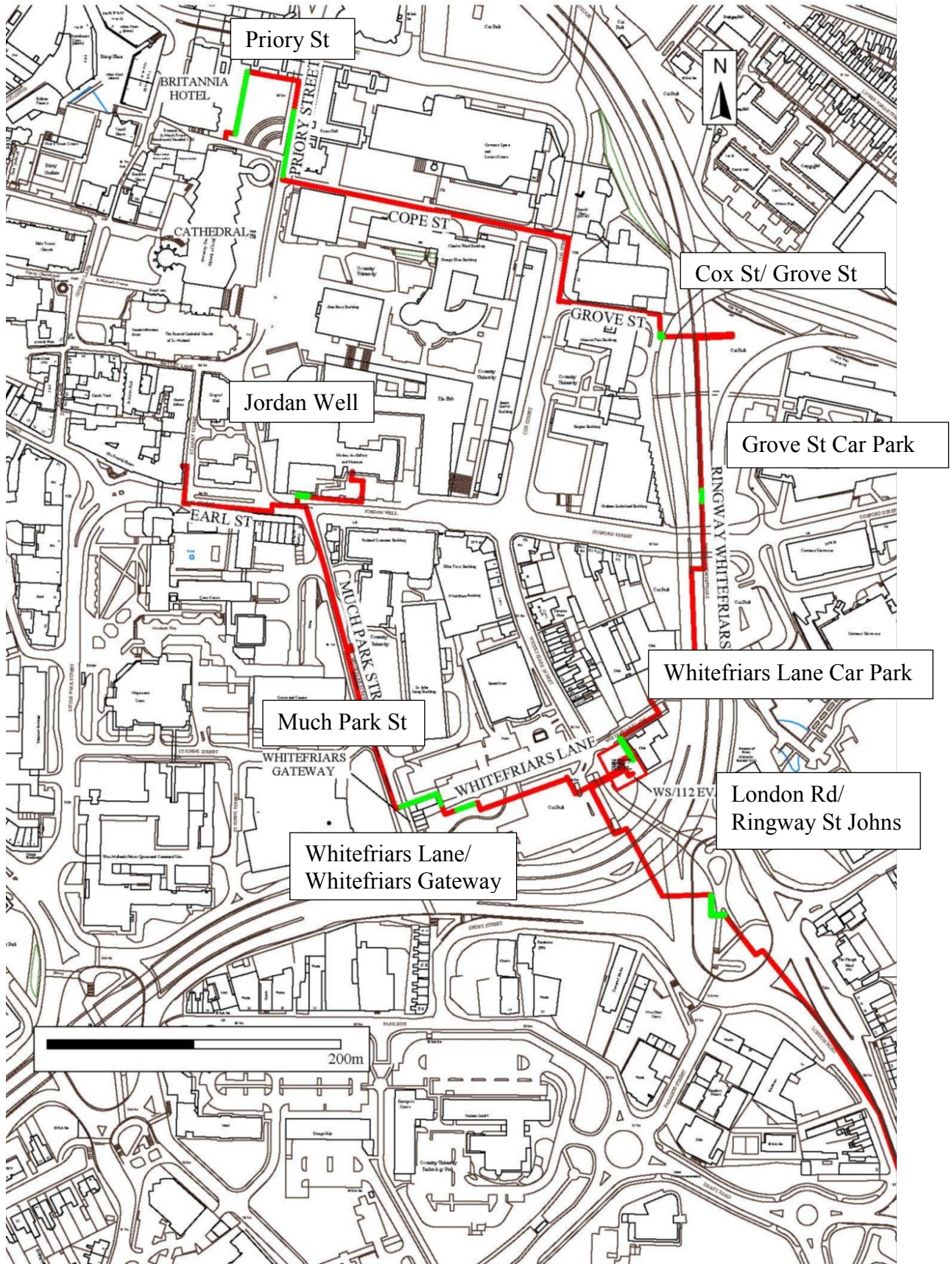


Figure 7: Detailed view of the pipeline trench, areas shaded green indicate areas with archaeological deposits

Whitefriars Gateway area

Archaeological deposits were located over a 33m length of trench around the gateway on the north and east sides (Figs 8-9) and consisted of a complex sequence of medieval and post-medieval buildings (stone walls, floor surfaces, and other deposits). The medieval buildings front onto Much Park Street and there are direct parallels with the close-by ‘Stone House’ (a 14th century ruin discovered after World War II bombing). A stone wall found parallel with Whitefriars Lane (wall 54) may be the Whitefriars Precinct wall. Further stone-built buildings were located close by in ‘Pocket Park’, to the south of Whitefriars Lane. The archaeological deposits are described from west to east along the trench.

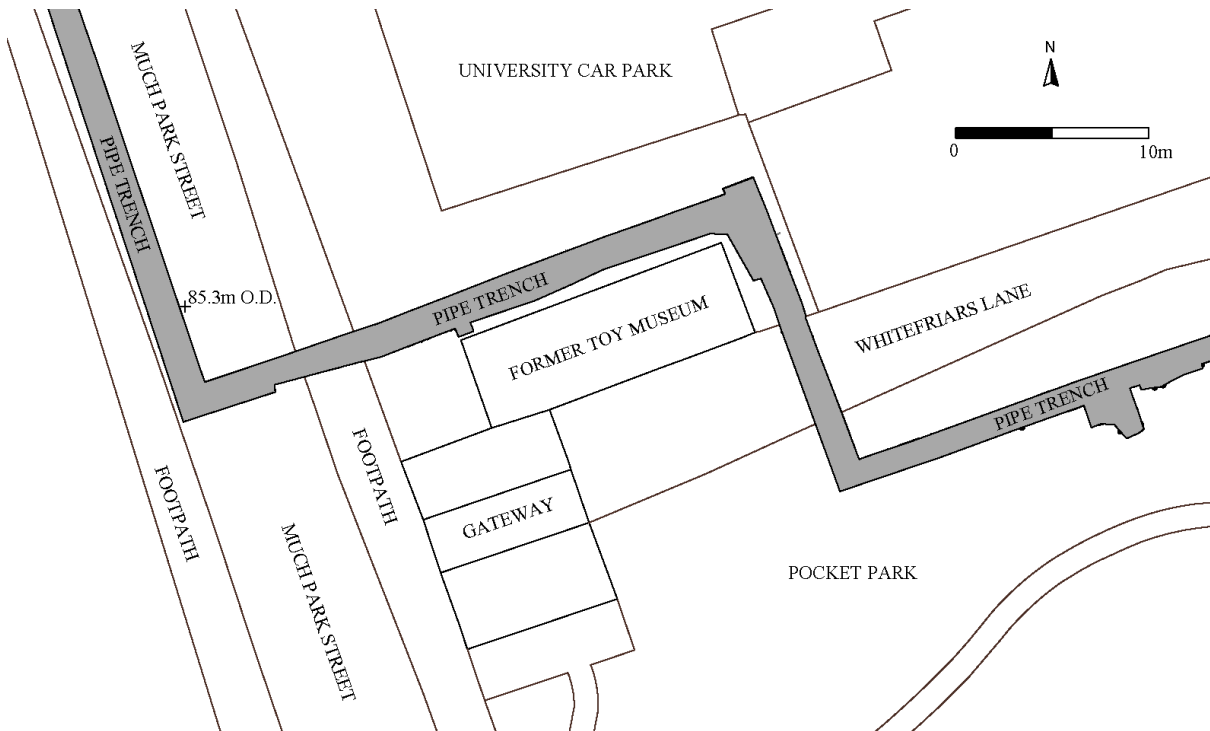


Figure 8: Detailed location plan of trench around Whitefriars Gateway / Much Park Street

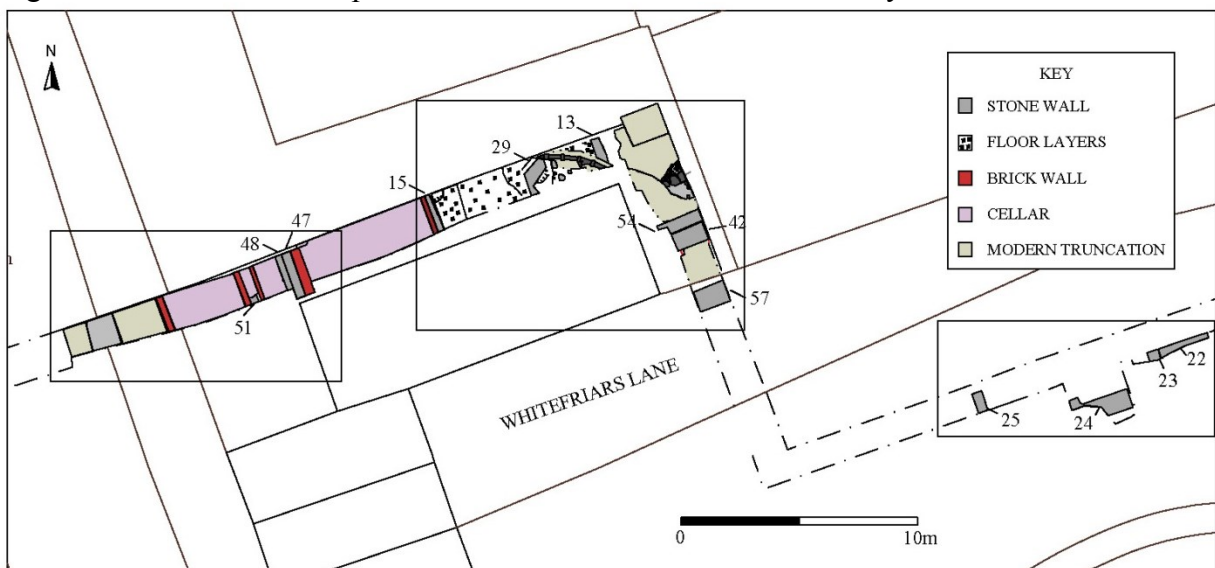


Figure 9: Whitefriars Gateway, key features. Areas boxed are shown in more detail below.

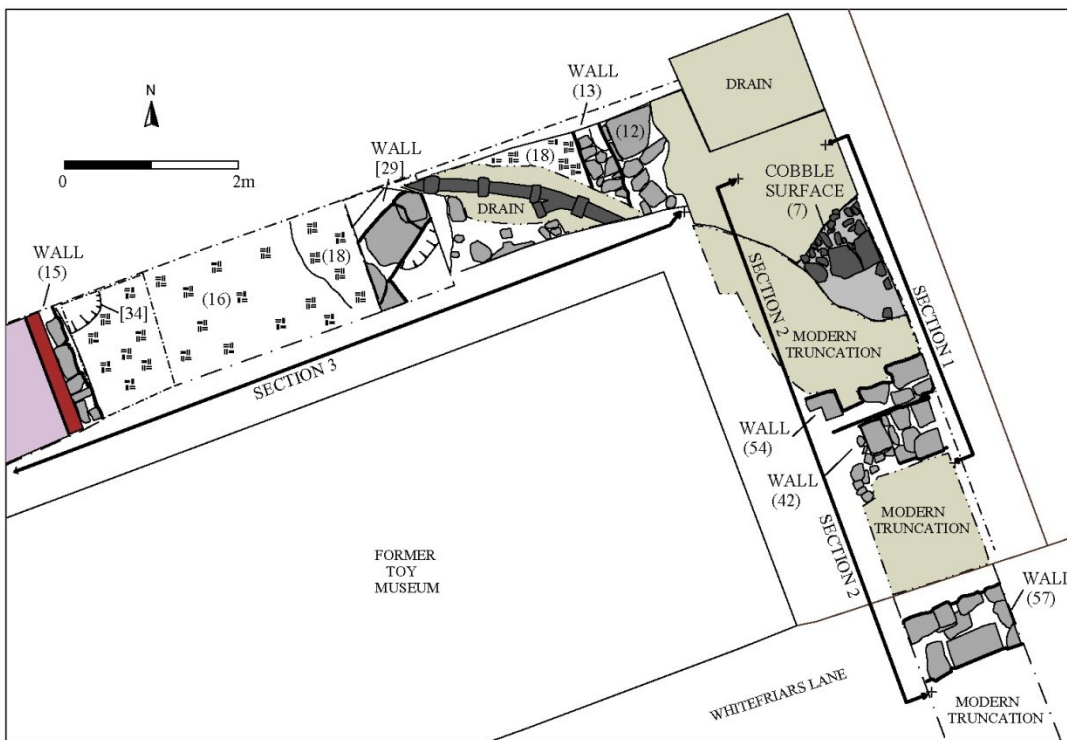
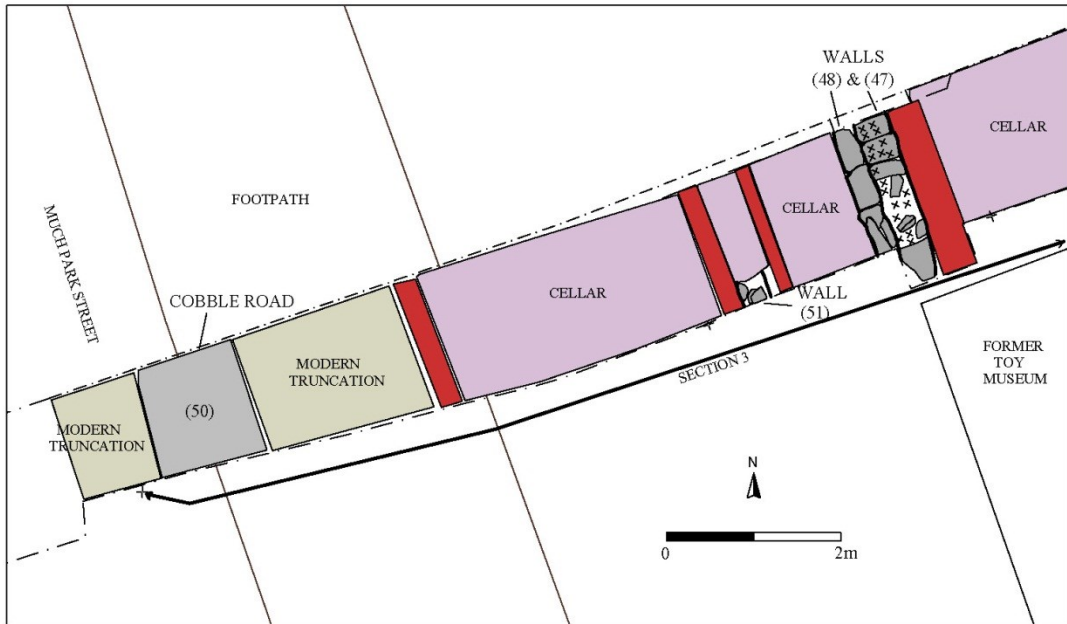


Figure 10: Detailed trench plan of Whitefriars Gateway area
 Sections 1-2 are shown on Fig. 18, Section 3 on Fig. 14,

North side of 35 Much Park Street (Figs 10-15)

Under Much Park Street, just to the north side of Whitefriars Gateway, a 1.3m length of cobble surface (50) was located c.0.87m below the road level (c.84.44m O.D.). It consisted of a thin layer (0.1-0.15m) of sub-rounded pebbles, firmly compacted within a dark grey-black silty-clay and was laid directly on natural clay. No associated artefacts were recovered. It could be the remains of a former cobbled trackway or road. It was cut by modern service pipes on both sides.

Any evidence for pre-modern buildings immediately on the Much Park Street frontage had been lost to 19th-century cellars. A brick wall on the street frontage was likely to have been the cellar wall for the Rose Inn, as shown on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map. The cellars had removed any evidence for earlier buildings, apart from three stone walls (47, 48 and 51), which were each found adjacent to later brick walls.

Wall (51) consisted of buff-mortar bonded sandstone, and was located 3.25m from the footpath edge on Much Park Street. It was 0.78m in depth (it cut into natural) and was cut on the west-side by a cellar wall, so its surviving width was 0.28m. It was also cut on the north side by a cellar. It was aligned to Much Park Street (NNW-SSE). Located approximately 5.5m from the street frontage was wall (47), roughly coursed with large sandstone blocks which were mortar-bonded (Fig. 11) and with a rubble core. It cut an earlier stone wall (48) on the west-side and was itself cut by a later 19th-century cellar wall on the east-side. Wall (48) was earlier than wall (47) and consisted of a nicely coursed un-bonded sandstone wall with tile levelling (Figs 11-12). The roof tile, a smooth red sandy ware, dated from the early 15th to early 16th century (Section 7.1). Both walls were aligned with Much Park Street (NNW-SSE), and so may represent the very truncated remains of sequential late medieval / early post-medieval buildings.



Figure 11: View of walls 47, 48, 51.



Figure 12: A further view of wall 48

A more complete sequence of features lay 12m east of the street frontage. Within this area of the trench modern demolition and garden soils were removed, and at a depth of 0.7m below the current ground level (c.84.88m O.D.), a series of demolition or levelling layers were encountered (Figs 14-15).

Layer (17) was a yellow-brown sand spread overlying layers (16) and (18). Layer (16) consisted of reddish-brown compact clay containing frequent charcoal, mortar flecks, and sandstone fragments. Layer (18) was also red brown clay with mixed dirty rubble consisting of charcoal flecks and crushed sandstone fragments and mortar flecks. Layer (19) was a reddish brown sandy-clay with mixed mortar, charcoal, and tile fragments of early 15th to early 16th century date. Pottery was recovered consisting of seven, possibly residual, sherds, dated to c.1250-1300 and a further sherd dating to the 15th to 17th century.

Below these layers was an un-bonded sandstone wall (15) containing rounded and angular stones. It was cut on the west-side by a brick cellar wall. It was aligned to Much Park Street (NNW-SSE). A further similar wall (13) lay 7m to the east and was constructed of large angular sandstone laid flattish and bonded with reddish-brown clay. Immediately to the east of wall (13) was a stone layer (12); this consisted of flat angular sandstones tightly packed to form a surface, possibly for a yard. Between the two walls of (13) and (15) lay a sequence of floor layers, which were investigated in two 1m x 1m sondages.

In the sondage next to wall (15), a small pit or large post-hole [34] was located below demolition layer (16), cutting layer (33). It was square or rectangular, with sharp sides and a flat base, and measured 0.65m by 0.3m, with a depth of 0.3m. The pit / post-hole contained a pale grey clay-silt within which was a reddish-brown sand with charcoal lumps. It contained two joining sherds of Chilvers Coton A pottery. Below demolition layer (16) was a dull

pinkish-brown clay with charcoal lumps and sandstone fragments (33). It contained a glazed ridge tile of *c.*1250-1300 and five sherds of pottery dating to the 13th or 14th century. It may have been a levelling layer laid down prior to setting out of a floor and was cut by the small pit [34]. Below (33) was a pale grey clay-silt (36) with coal lumps and sandstone fragments. This was very mixed, possibly a dump or levelling layer, and probably set down prior to the laying of (33); it may even pre-date the building. It was characterised by large quantities of coal fragments but also contained eight sherds of pottery dated to the 13th or 14th century. An environmental sample of context (36) (Section 7.2: Sample 3) produced abundant charcoal, as well as wheat barley and charred seeds. Below (36) was a pale grey clay-silt (37), containing sandstone and coal fragments. It was a highly mixed deposit and could either be a dump or deliberate levelling layer. Below (37) was a pale grey clay-silt (38) containing sandstone and coal lumps. It contained 18 sherds of pottery dated to the 12th to 14th century. Below (38) was a loosely compacted pale orange-brown clay-silt (39) with occasional flecks and lumps of charcoal, which may be the same as layer (32). Both layers could either represent dumps of material or deliberate levelling layers. Natural subsoil, consisting of pink clay, lay below (39) and was reached at 1.6m below modern ground level (*c.*83.92m O.D.).



Figure 13: View of wall 31 within cut 29

A second sondage was investigated next to a modern drain. Below demolition layer (18) was a black dark grey ashy clay-silt, (14), 0.13m thick, containing charcoal flecks. A single sherd of pottery dated to *c.*1250-1300 was recovered and an environmental sample (Section 7.2: Sample 1) contained abundant charcoal and lesser quantities of barley, wheat and charred seeds. This spread may be the remains of floor trample. Below (14) was a layer of dark ashy grey clay silt (27), 0.1m thick, containing charcoal lumps and flecks, along with lumps of reddish-brown sandstone. This may have been an occupation spread overlying (28) and contained six sherds of pottery dated to the 13th to 14th centuries. The bulk sample (Sample 2) revealed evidence for barley, wheat, charred seeds, abundant charcoal, as well as coal.

Layer **(28)** consisted of a very densely compacted surface of crushed sandstone fragments (0.07m thick) and coarse pale orange-brown sand. This could be a floor surface with overlying trample above (14) and (27). Below (28) a wall **(31)** of sandstone block construction, roughly dressed and un-bonded, was revealed. The L-shaped wall could be a corner or a junction of two walls. It was sat within a wall cut **[29]**, 0.85m wide, and contained a construction backfill **(30)** consisting of a dull orange-brown coarse sand with some charcoal and sandstone lumps. A single sherd of Chilvers Coton pottery was recovered, dating from the 13th to the 14th/15th centuries. Interestingly, this wall lay on a different orientation to all others in the trench, and also out of alignment with Much Park Street or Whitefriars Lane. Given its deep level within the site stratigraphy, this could conceivably represent the remains of an early building, perhaps pre-dating the street or, at least, not following the same orientation. The wall was cut into **(32)**, a loosely-compacted pale grey sandy clay silt with orange-brown sandstone and charcoal lumps. It contained two sherds of pottery dated to the 13th to 14th centuries. It may be the same as layer (39) seen in the other sondage, a subsoil lying directly above natural clay.

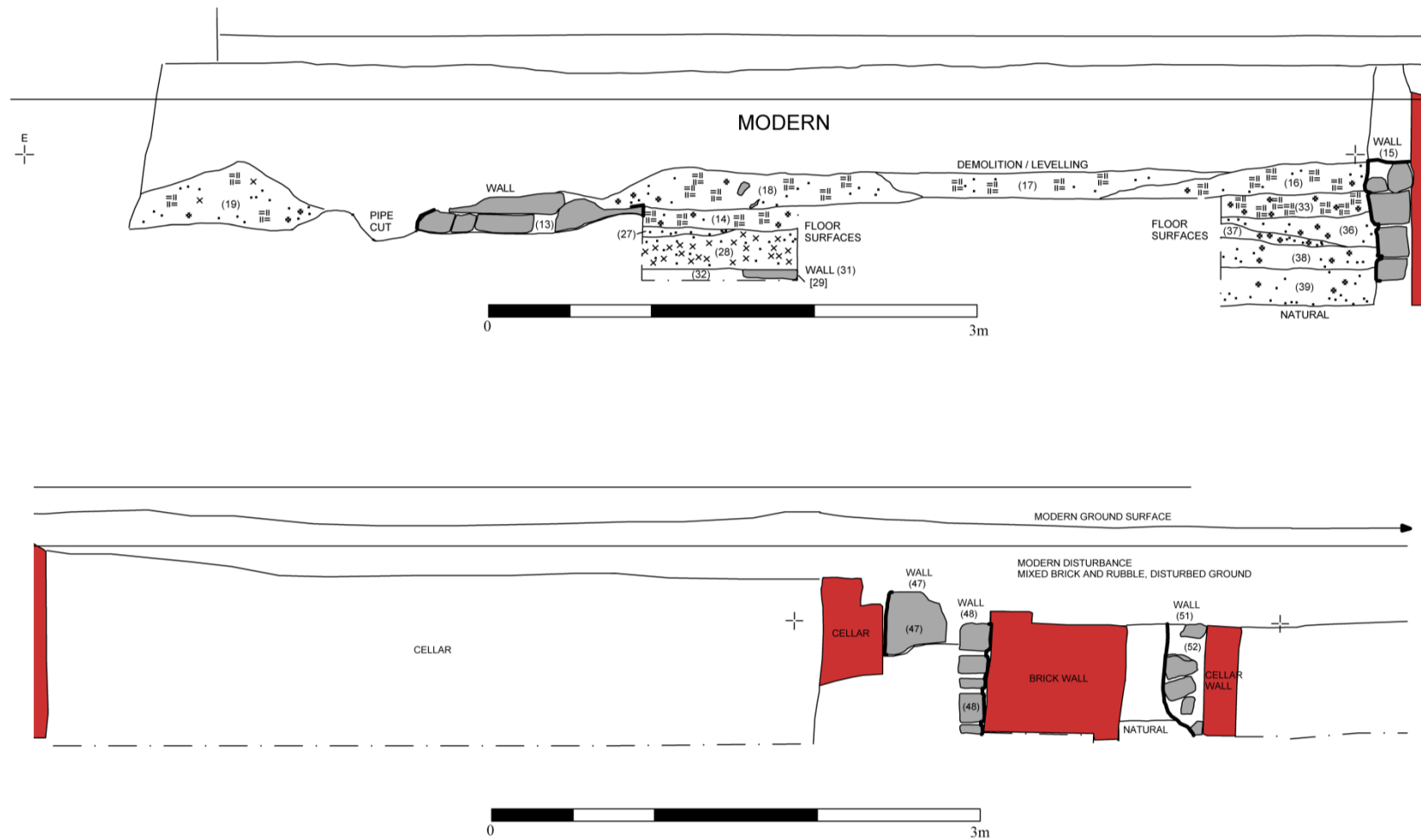


Figure 14: Whitefriars Gateway, sections of archaeological features (Section 3 on Fig.10).
Continues in section below

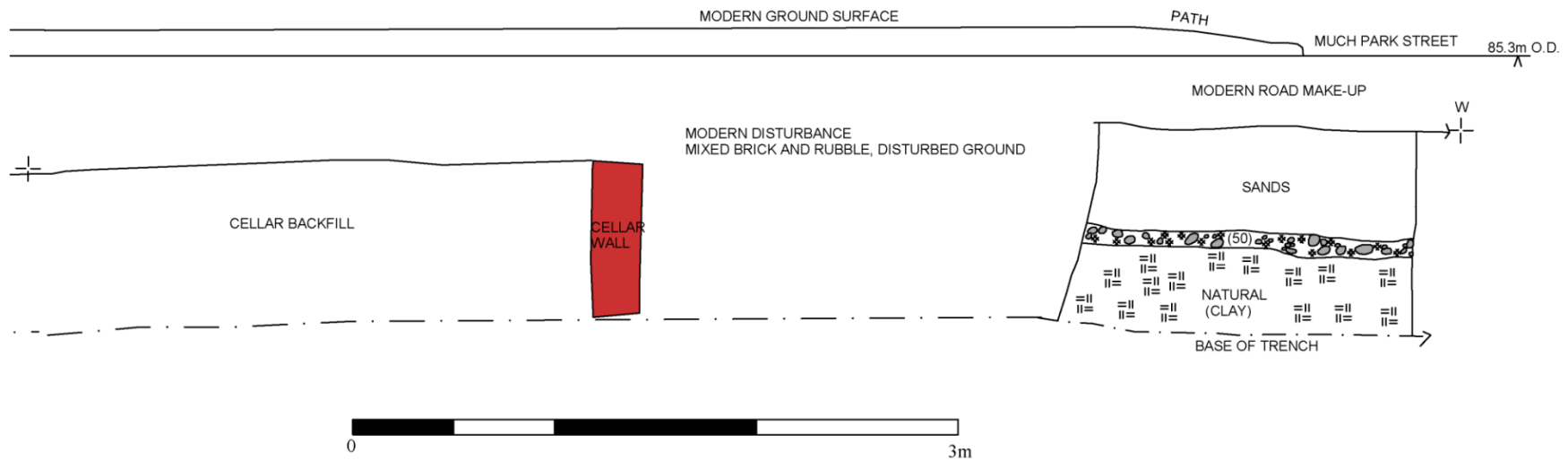


Figure 15: Continued section from Whitefriars Gateway

East side of 35 Much Park Street (Figs 10, 16-18)

A further sequence of archaeological deposits was located on the east-side of 35 Much Park Street, in between modern truncation and drains. Following the removal of modern demolition and garden soils within this area of the trench, a series of deposits were encountered at various depths.

Cobble surface **(7)** was the uppermost archaeological deposit. It consisted of a well-defined cobble surface consisting of sandstone blocks, some with pink sand packing. It was truncated by modern disturbance on the north and west sides. This overlay a loosely compacted mid black-brown sand-clay **(8)**. The finds included broken tile fragments, of early 15th to early 16th century date, and pottery with a latest date of 14th-15th century (Chilvers Coton C), along with some possibly residual earlier pottery (Chilvers Coton A). This was probably a garden soil, rather than a deliberate levelling layer for the cobbles above. Below this lay a sub-circular pit, **[9]**, with concave sides and a flat base. The fill was a single deposit of dark grey-brown sandy-clay **(10)**, loosely compacted and containing a small quantity of sandstone fragments. A single sherd of 13th to 14th century pottery was recovered.

A layer of yellow sand **(46)** was cut by pit **[9]**. This layer abutted wall **(54)**. Wall **(54)** consisted of large neatly-coursed un-bonded sandstone blocks and was 1.8m wide running across the width of the trench (1.5m), orientated NE-SW, parallel to Whitefriars Lane (Fig. 16). They were placed within a compact clay fill within construction cut **[45]**. The wall appears to have been constructed on at least two compact levelling layers **(40 & 41)**. A pink sandy layer **(40)** contained broken ironstone fragments and a sherd of pottery dating to the 12th to 14th centuries. A highly compacted pink clay layer **(41)** lay below this and contained a sherd of 12th to 14th century pottery. It is possible that given the size, orientation, and pottery dates, this wall could be the Friary precinct wall, laying on the north side of Whitefriars Lane, and presumably running up to Whitefriars Gateway to the east.

Underlying layer **(41)** was another stone wall **(42)**. The very base of the wall survived, the upper levels presumably removed prior to the laying down of layer **(41)**. This building therefore pre-dates the construction of wall **[45]**, and if so is pre-1350 in date. Two layers abutted wall **(42)**: **(43)** lay below **(41)** and consisted of a sandy layer with large quantities of pottery (19 sherds dated to the 13th to 14th centuries). Below **(43)** lay a further sandy soil layer: **(44)**. This was undated. This may be the same as layers **(32)** and **(39)** seen further along the trench.

A further sandstone wall **(53)** lay to the south, partly under Whitefriars Lane. This wall was neatly coursed with sandstone blocks, and clay and mortar bonded (Fig. 17). The wall construction fill contained mixed compacted clay **(58)**. It was 0.87m wide and ran parallel to Whitefriars Lane. Pottery recovered from the bonding material dates to AD 1600-1800. The wall may be that of a building attached to the east-side of the Rose Inn shown on the 1886 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Below the wall a soil layer **(2)** contained a single sherd of pottery dated to AD 1150-1250.

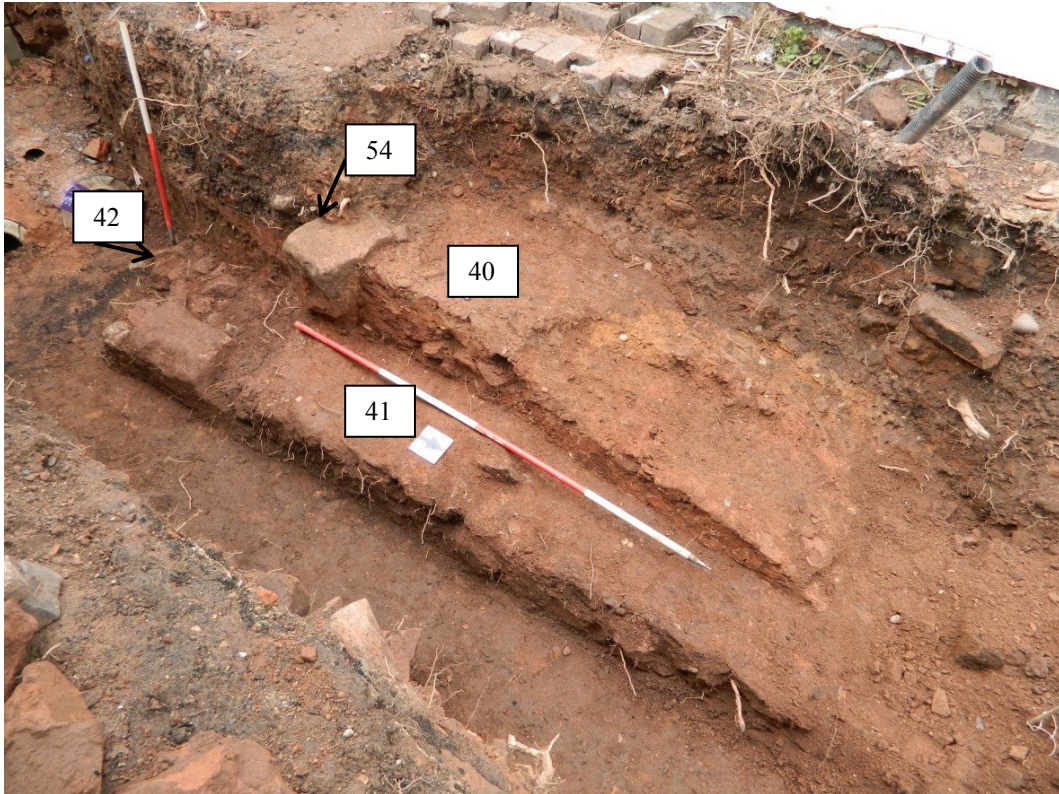


Figure 16: View of sand and clay layers 40 and 41 abutting wall 54. Wall 42 also visible



Figure 17: View of wall 57

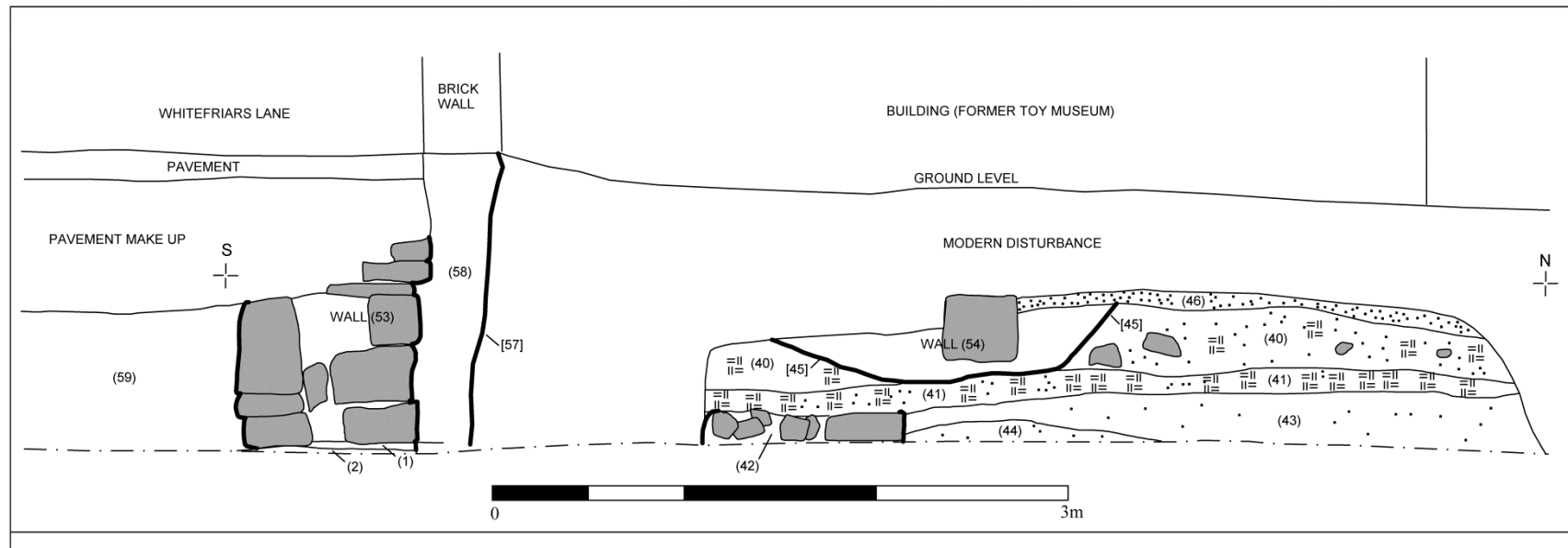
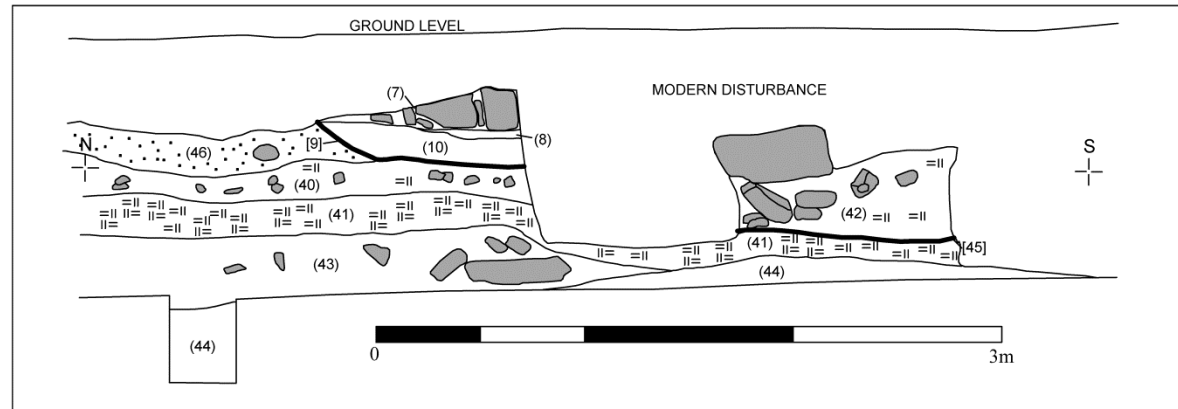


Figure 18: Sections 1 & 2 around Whitefriars Gateway (see Fig. 10 for location).

Whitefriars Lane

The trench ran along the south side of Whitefriars Lane, through Whitefriars Car Park and Pocket Park, before crossing Whitefriars Lane into the gateway area. The trench through the council car park to the west and then into Pocket Park mainly consisted of thick garden soil, being 1.2m deep to the base of the trench. However, in one area four stone walls were located: (22), (23), (24), and (25) (Fig. 19).

Wall **(22)** (same as 55) was located 29.5m east of Whitefriars Gateway, and 5m south of Whitefriars Lane. It was orientated east-west, 2.2m long, 0.3m deep and consisted of large well-coursed sandstone blocks. It contained roof tiles, one dated to the 13th or 14th centuries, and another dated to the early 15th to early 16th century. The wall appeared to abut wall **(23)**, which was of a very similar construction. Overlying both walls was a mixed pale / mid-grey clay-silt **(61)** that contained abundant mortar, sandstone, modern ceramic building material (CBM), and charcoal fragments. Underlying these walls was a mixed light brown silty-clay **(62)**. The section shows tumbled rubble to the side of wall (23).

Wall **(24)** was located 26m east of Whitefriars Gateway, and 6m south of Whitefriars Lane. It was 0.3m below the current ground level, measured 2.4m long and was 0.78m wide. The wall was east-west orientated and consisted of well coursed sandstone that was pink clay bonded.

Wall **(25)** was located 22.4m east of Whitefriars Gateway and 3.6m south of Whitefriars Lane. It was north-south orientated and consisted of well-coursed sandstone bonded with pink clay. It measured 0.85m long and was probably 1.3m wide. It lay just below the topsoil (0.3m deep). The stone was almost completely robbed, and the wall or robber cut **[63]** was visible in the section. The backfill consisted of a mixture of clay and charcoal pieces **(64)**. It was 1.4m below the modern ground level, below a thick layer of garden soil. It cut into a mixed light brown silty-clay **(65)**. Below this, at the base of the trench, was a layer of light yellow sand **(66)**.

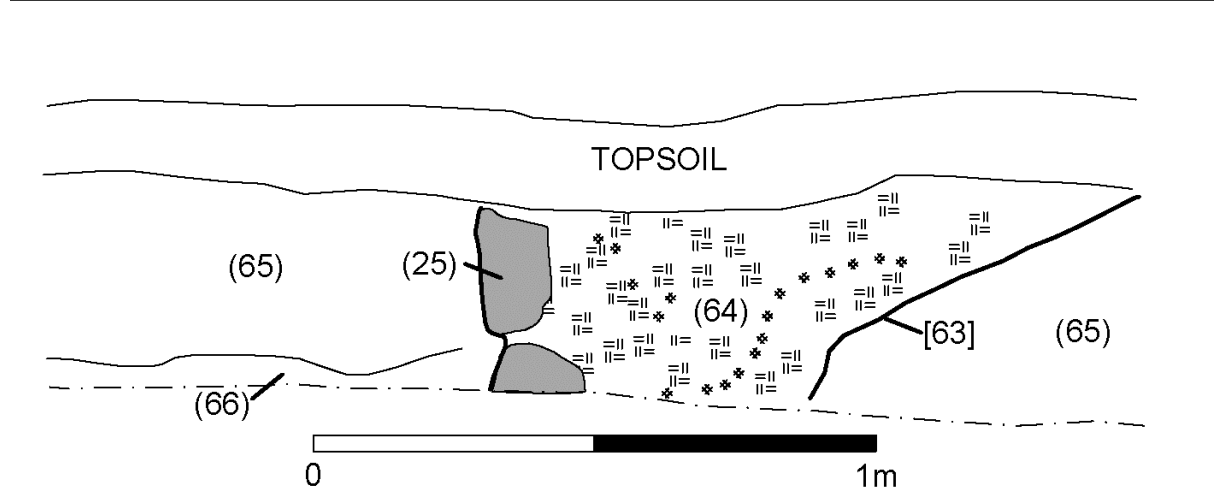
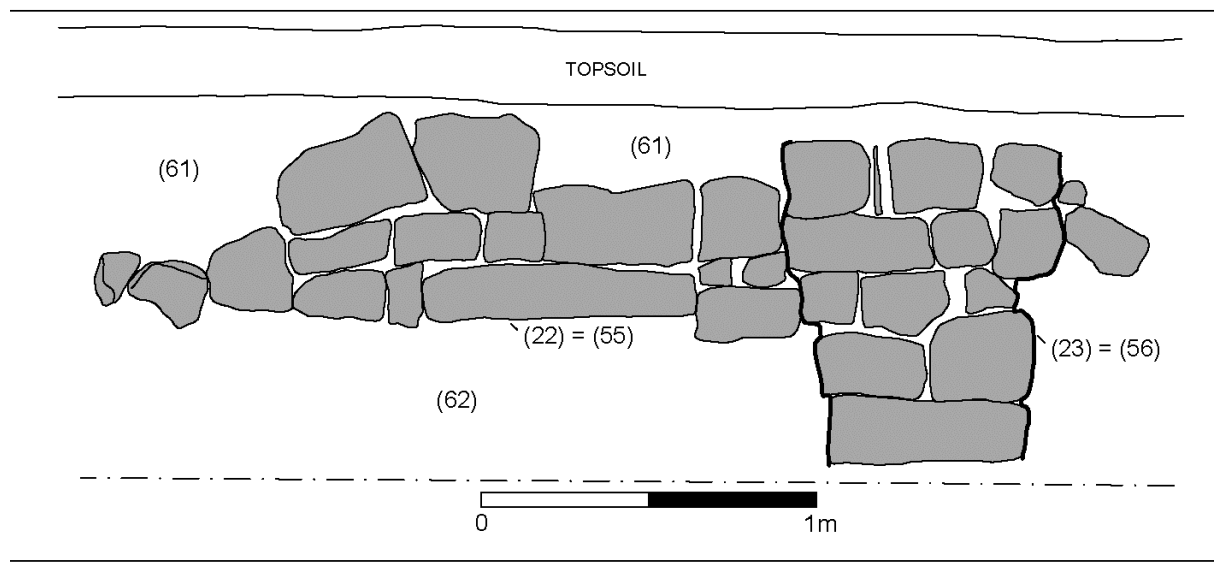
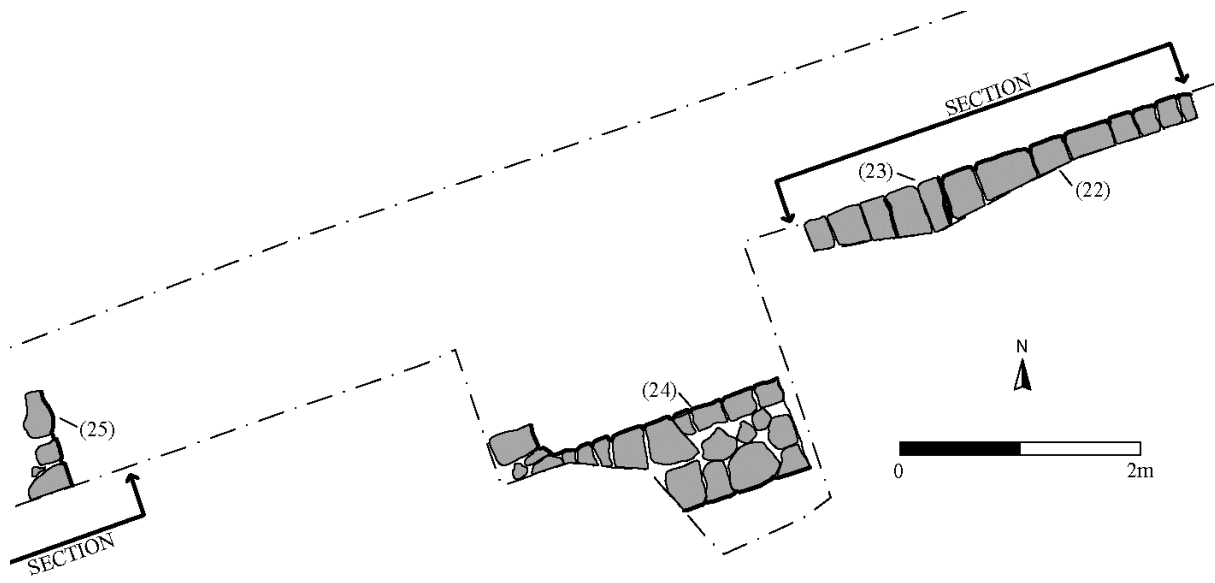


Figure 19: Plan and sections of walls located within Pocket Park

Whitefriars Lane car park (east of Whitefriars Street)

A series of archaeological deposits were observed in a trench excavated in the car park on Whitefriars Lane, east of Whitefriars Street (and the entrance to the modern subway). The area was formerly evaluated by ULAS (Kipling 2012). Part of the trench within the area of Whitefriars Lane car park revealed a large quantity of loose brick rubble, which seemed to be backfill of a 19th century cellar.

Archaeology was observed in a northwest to southeast orientated district heating trench positioned between the evaluation trench 1 and the eastern boundary wall (Fig. 20), which is thought to respect the monastic boundary (Kipling 2012). The evaluation trench had revealed made ground and brick rubble associated with demolished 19th century housing. A fragment of walling and a sequence of deposits were noted in the southwest-facing section. An eight metre stretch of trench was recorded, although the deposits continued to the south-western end.

The uppermost 0.5-0.6m was composed of modern surfaces and overburden. The deposits beneath the ground surface were highly disturbed and contained modern rubble, piping and cables. A series of discernible deposits were observed below this point; however there was evidence for several cuts, indicating modern intrusion and dumps of material. Immediately below the overburden on the south-eastern end, there was an uneven layer of crushed stone (89), probably representing a make-up layer for a previous surface. The surface was cut by a modern intrusion with vertical sides, probably a cable trench, which bisected the layers on this side of the trench. Stratigraphically below (89), there was a cut [98], containing fills (83) and (82), which lay partly on top of a robber trench [73] and contained some sandstone fragments. Both (82) and (83) were similar fills consisting of dark grey brown clayey sand, mottled with charcoal and sandy patches. This intrusion [98] cut through several thin layers, which were only apparent on the south-eastern side of the trench and which were also cut by the modern cable trench. These were context (84), a light orange brown clayey sand levelling layer, which was above light greyish brown clayey sand (85) and also whitish yellow sand layer (88). These were in the same stratigraphic position in the section but physically separated by the modern cable trench. Below was charcoal-rich sandy clay layer (86), which overlay a very thin light greyish brown layer (87). The layer beneath was context (80) which is described below.

At the north-western area of the trench, there was a layer of light orangey brown clayey sand (74) directly below the overburden. This was above a dark grey brown sandy clay layer with frequent charcoal flecks (75) and mixed patches of yellowish clayey sand. This lay above a cut [73], which contained a large fragment of unbonded sandstone (81) and several smaller chips within a mottled grey sandy clay matrix (72), with charcoal flecks and globules of red clay. Below this deposit and, stratigraphically earlier, there was a layer of clay, into which were bedded several sandstone fragments (99) contained within a cut [100], which was only partially exposed. This is likely to represent a robbed wall, aligned east-west, with the base of the foundation still intact.

The robber trench cut through several layers on the north-west, including light brownish red clayey sand (76), possibly a levelling layer, below which was a charcoal-rich greyish brown sandy clay (77). This context contained pottery dating from the 12th to the 13th/14th century and is probably associated with occupation. The extent of the layer was uncertain however it clearly extended in section for several metres along the trench and appeared to dip below the

formation level at the south-eastern end of the trench. Context (77) was above context (78), a mid-brownish red sandy clay, seen partially in section and partly on the northwest base of the trench. This may be another occupation layer and also contained 12th – 13th/14th century pottery. It is cut by the wall foundation (100). A shallow feature seen on the base of the trench (90), [91] cuts through a brownish red sandy clay layer (101).

The robber trench [73] also cut through a series of layers on its south-eastern side, some of which clearly belonged to the sequence previously described. These included light orangey brown clayey sand levelling layer (80), which was above context (79), consisting of brownish red clayey sand, and which was possibly the same layer as (76), on the other side of the cut. The context below was occupation layer (77), above (78) and then (101), which was seen at the very base of the trench.

Since no evidence for the archaeological layers was observed during the evaluation, it is likely that the heating trench cut through strata that had survived subsequent disturbance because they were located closer to the boundary. The Whitefriar's precinct was formerly located immediately to the west. However, a wall foundation, consisting of loosely-arranged angular sandstone blocks set in a rectangular cut, was identified at the north end of Trench 1. This was undated but appeared to pre-date Victorian development on the site (Kipling 2012). There is no direct link between this and the wall foundation and robber trench observed during the current work; however it is conceivable that they are associated with the same early structure. Certainly the stratigraphic location and pottery recovered from related layers indicates that the wall footing belongs to the medieval period and could be part of the Friary precinct.

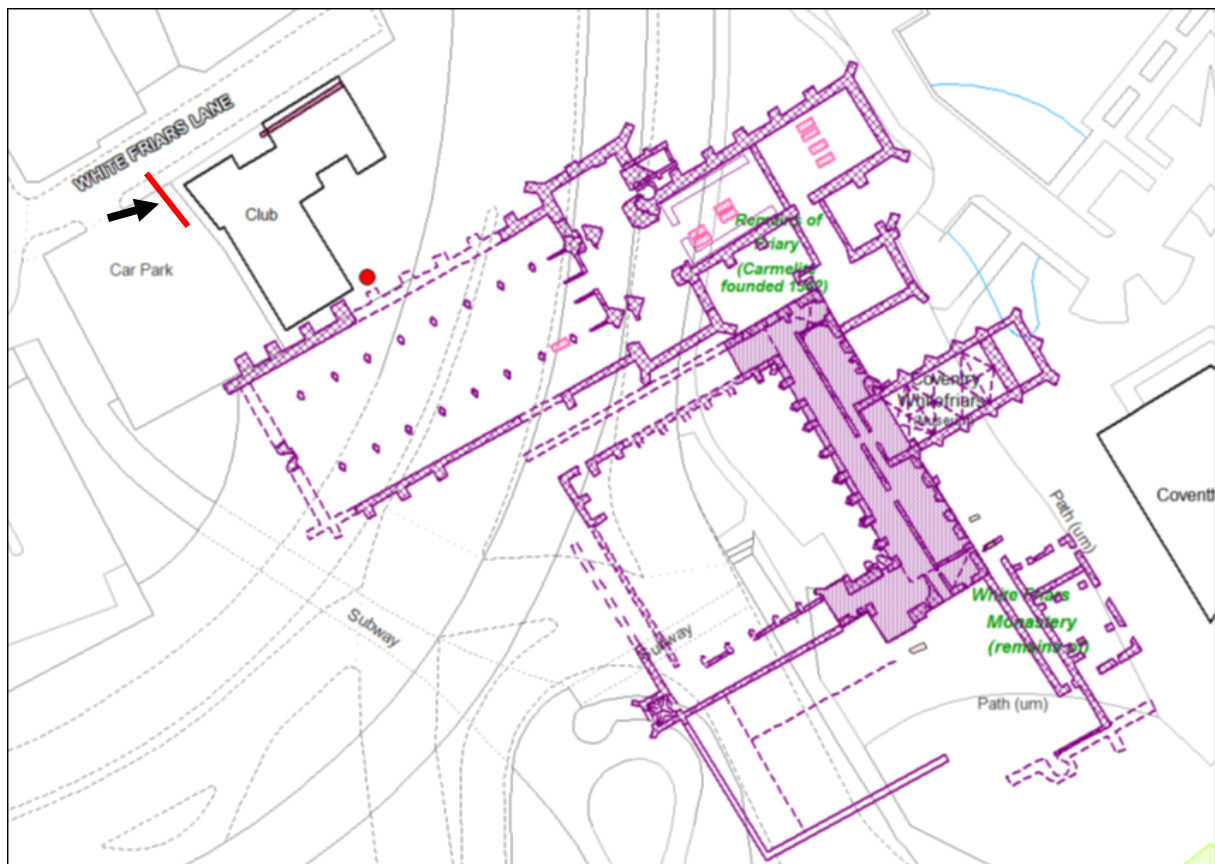


Figure 20: Location of observed archaeology (arrowed) in relation to the Carmelite Friary (taken from Kipling 2012)



Figure 21: West-facing section observed in Whitefriars Lane car park



Figure 22: East-facing section observed in Whitefriars Lane car park

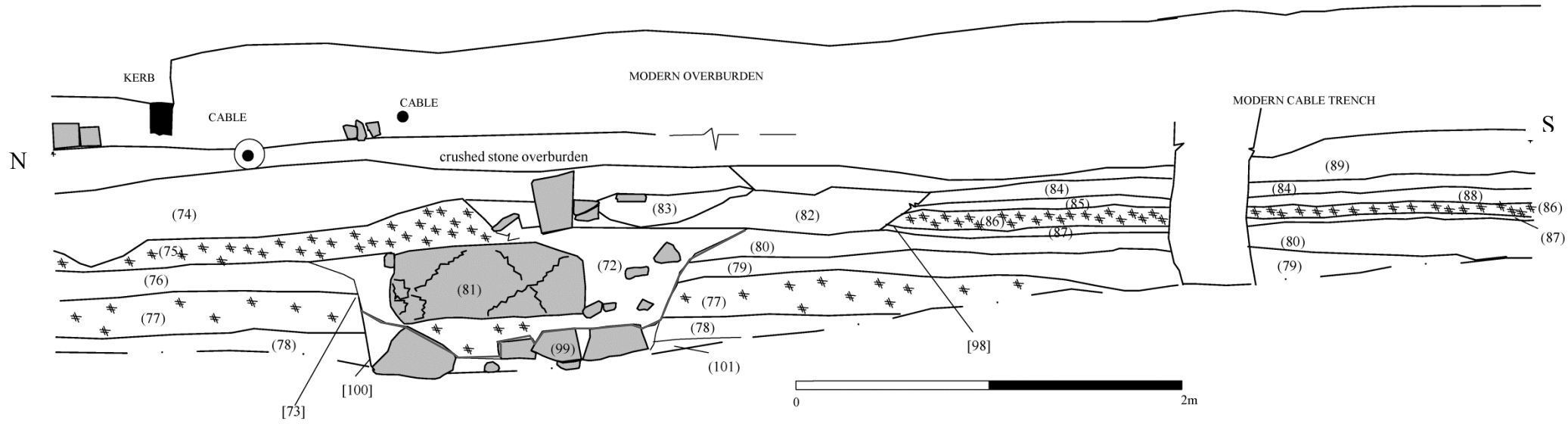


Figure 23: Section seen in Whitefriars Lane car park (west facing)

Grove Street Car Park

A north-south aligned stretch of trench, approximately 100m in length, was excavated northeast of Grove Street, running directly beneath the Ringway Whitefriars fly-over, in an area currently used for car parking. The northern part of this trench was excavated through heavily disturbed ground containing 19th century brick rubble and modern services. Garden soils were located which correspond with garden areas / orchards illustrated on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps. Similarly, 19th century brick frontages were observed on the east corner of Grove Street; these are consistent with buildings shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map.

Approximately 17m north of Gosford Street, a line of stonework was observed in the east-facing section. Investigation suggested that this was a wall (95), constructed from re-used sandstone, presumably for one of the boundaries extending north from Gosford Street (Fig. 25). Tile fragments found beneath the wall were 15th to 16th century in date.

The section recorded shows an undisturbed charcoal-rich layer (6) running beneath the wall line, below which was a red clay levelling layer (96). No natural subsoil was seen at the base of the trench. On the southwest side of the trench, below the section, there was dark brown silty sandy clay containing charcoal flecks, decayed stone and slate, possibly a garden soil. On the north-eastern side of the trench, the soil consisted of backfill, as it was loose, with frequent charcoal and coal flecks, re-deposited clay and variety of rubble including iron fragments and bricks (4), presumably associated with demolition. The context also contained industrial residues, such as copper, which had caused blue staining to animal bones and teeth.

One metre north of the boundary wall, in the same section, two sandstone blocks with concave sides were noted. There was a void behind them, which on further examination was revealed to be the shaft of a well [94] (Fig. 26). Since the stones were protruding into the base of the trench, the contractors needed remove them in order to accommodate the pipe. An extension to the trench was therefore excavated, exposing the entire structure, including some large red sandstone blocks acting as capping, encountered at 0.75m below ground level. These had partially collapsed into the well (Fig. 27) and were carefully lifted using harnesses. The side facing downwards over the well was found to be highly decorated, with embossed shields and traces of paint and sooting (Fig. 28). The well itself was constructed from specially shaped blocks of red sandstone, which fitted together neatly and appeared to have been bonded with natural clay (Fig. 29). The top course of the well below the capping was encountered at 1.1m below the car park surface. Each course was 0.20-0.25m deep, laid in an offset pattern to the course below. The high quality of construction and materials could suggest that it belonged to a building of some status. The well was dry and backfilled to 1.7m below the trench with clayey sand containing frequent mortar, stone, brick rubble and occasional slate fragments (5). Several bucketfuls of the backfill were winched up and picked over for finds. Pottery from the deposit therefore indicated that the final backfilling of the well took place in the modern period. An intrusion, presumably modern, containing pure sand was noted to the north of the well.

Examination of the projection of the pipeline on the 19th century maps suggests that the well is located to the rear of one of the former properties fronting onto Gosford Street (Fig. 24). Although the precision of the map evidence is uncertain it indicates that the well may have been covered over by outbuildings in the later 19th century.

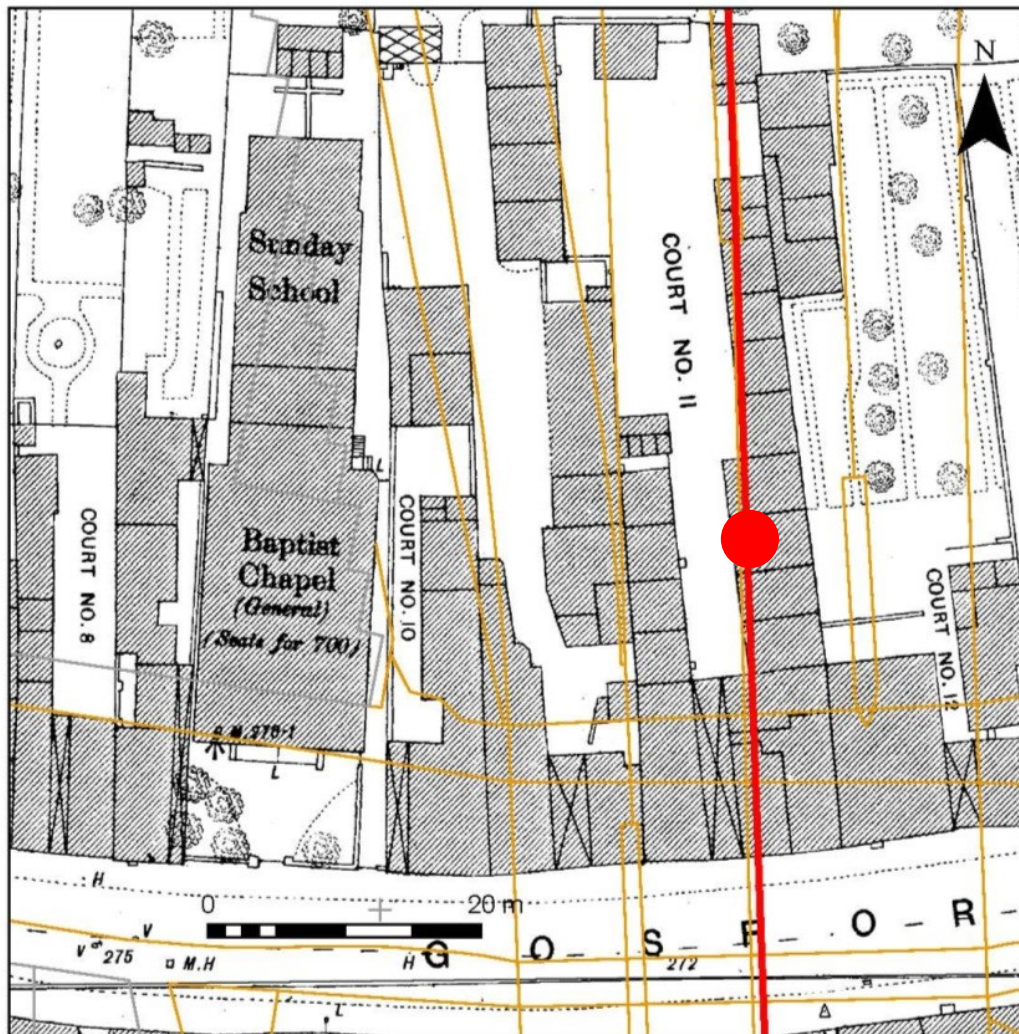


Figure 24: Detail of Town map showing Gosford Street, with route of pipeline overlaid showing approximate location of well

A short section of wall footing, consisting of three fine-grained sandstone blocks on a north-south alignment, was observed at the base of the trench 30m north of Gosford Street (97). This was likely to represent the footings of either the property boundary or an outbuilding to the rear of Gosford Street.

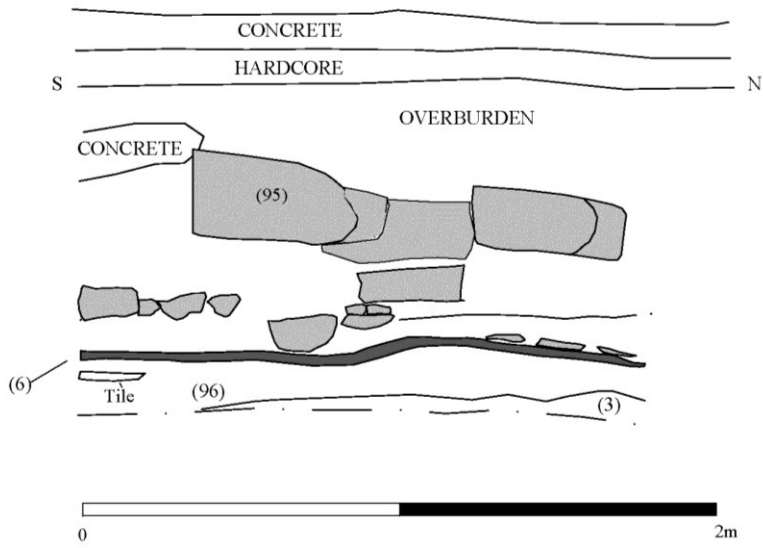


Figure 25: Section showing boundary wall (95, south of well)

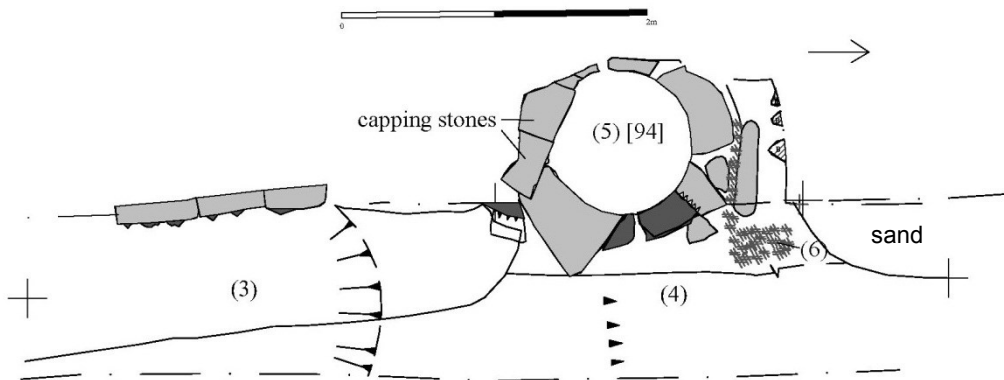


Figure 26: Plan of well [94] (Darker shaded stones indicates lower course)



Figure 27: Stone well with capping *in situ*, 0.5m scale



Figure 28: Stone capping after lifting. The photograph shows one of the decorated architectural fragments including embossed shields, which had been face-down over the dry well. 0.5m scale



Figure 29: Stone well with capping stones fully removed, 0.5m scale

Cox Street / Grove Street

A length of trench was examined at the junction of Cox Street and Grove Street. A section of sandstone walling was visible in the western section. This consisted of large rectangular blocks extending from the base of the trench to directly beneath the road surface, laid in an interlocking pattern (93), (Figs 30-31). The depth of the trench and danger of collapse from the non-supported sides meant that it was not possible to enter the trench and the base of the wall was not identified. Blocks already removed from the trench were found to measure approximately 0.50 x 0.45 x 0.25m. No mortar was visible, however occasional fragments of tile were noted between courses, perhaps used to level the wall and provide stability. Fragments collected were dated to the first half of the 15th to the early 16th century (Section 7.1). It was not possible to establish the southern extent of the structure, however, there were hints of a possible turn onto Grove Street but if this was the case, the wall may well have been previously disturbed during the installation of existing services. Comparison with the town map and the 1st edition OS map indicates that the wall could be part of a cellar relating to an earlier property, situated on the corner of Cox Street (formerly Earl's Mill Lane) and Grove Street.

A section of trench at the junction of Cox Street and Cope Street revealed a 19th century brick culvert and brick rubble representing disturbed ground.



Figure 30: Wall (93) on corner of Cox Street, close to the junction with Grove Street



Figure 31: Closer view of the wall (93)

Grove Street

A trench on the south side of Grove Street, close to the junction with Cox Street, produced a quantity of rubble (92), (Fig. 32). There was no obvious bonding material and no evidence for structure or coursing. The rubble consisted of loosely packed sandstone blocks mixed with fragments of tile. It could represent a levelling layer perhaps for a road surface or more probably, a collapsed wall. This idea is supported by observation of possible lime mortar on some of the blocks. The trench also contained a modern truncation running east-west along the trench associated with brick footings.



Figure 32: Rubble (92) seen in Grove Street trench

Priory Street / Fairfax Street

Disturbed ground and some superficial brick footings of probably 19th or 20th century date were seen in this area.

Priory Street

A length of trench was examined in the landscaped square, outside the Britannia Hotel, south of Fairfax Street, west of Priory Street and north of the cathedral. An old footing and 4.5m of a stone-tiled surface was encountered, which required investigation. Although the surface was evidently modern, its shape was unusual. It was not flat but curved down towards its southern end and, therefore, it was initially suspected that it may be concealing a structure, such as a vaulted cellar. It was necessary to disturb the north end of the surface, in order to extend and excavate the trench down to the required level. A breaker was used to get beneath the surface, which came down onto concrete and then onto mixed earth and rubble below. On the basis of this evidence it seems likely to represent the floor or yard surface of a former building, perhaps sloping down into a gutter. The 1st edition OS map indicates that this was previously a timber yard, with which the structure could be associated.

A 19th century soakaway feature (or possibly a circular well) was observed as the trench progressed south towards the cathedral. The feature measured 0.55m in diameter and was a minimum of 1.10m deep, constructed from unbonded red house bricks, covered by two stone slabs and with the shaft partially backfilled with brick rubble. The feature was sealed by 0.30m of garden soil and 0.30m of cinders and brick rubble and cut the orange-brown natural clay. No other features were observed.

The trench along the west-side of Priory Street was 68m in length, mainly in front of Priory Hall. A compacted cobble spread (**60**) was found 1.3m below the current road level (Fig. 33). This consisted of small rounded pebbles within a yellow sand matrix. Overlying this were garden soils mixed with demolition debris (bricks, CBM) and make-up for the road. Under the cobble spread there was a light brown soil.



Figure 33: View of cobble spread (60) under Priory Street, looking south

Jordan Well

A fragment of walling (**97**) consisting of a brick superstructure built onto sandstone footings was observed on the frontage of Jordan Well, close to the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum (Fig. 34). The wall was aligned north-south and truncated on its south side by a service trench. It is likely to represent a building positioned on the original street frontage, prior to widening of the road in the post-war period, as is indicated by 19th century mapping.



Figure 34: Wall (**97**) on Jordan Well street frontage

London Road / Ringway St. Johns

A trench within the traffic island on London Road, just to the south of the mouth of the subway, revealed a robber trench and fragment of walling, which was thought to represent the remains of the medieval town wall. Only a narrow section was exposed and it was cut through by service trenches on the east and west sides. A construction (or robber) cut [67]=[104] was visible on the southern side, indicating a broadly northwest-southeast alignment (Figs 35-38). Although the opposite side of the cut was lost through disturbance by modern services, the estimated width was c.3.2m. The wall had evidently been robbed at a later point and unwanted fragments thrown back. The more solid component of the feature consisted of light pinkish brown coarse sand with both irregular and more regular blocks of sandstone, CBM and lumps of natural clay (70). Several small roughly-dressed blocks of sandstone (0.4 x 0.2m) were located on the southern edge of the cut and are pitched sharply; they conceivably represent the undisturbed rubble base of the wall. On the south side of the cut were two fills or layers, which could represent buried ground surfaces or possibly trample around the construction or robber cut. One consisted of mid grey brown sandy silt, with occasional charcoal flecks (68), while another was reddish brown sandy clay silt with fragments of mortar, charcoal and CBM (69). Mid grey brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal flecks and moderate tile fragments (71) was seen on the east side of the base of the trench and appeared to run beneath the robber material. Unfortunately, following the removal of the wall and robber material, very little was visible in section and there were no in situ stones in either section. A series of backfilled layers were observed in the top part of the section (Fig. 37: contexts 102, 103, 107), probably associated with robbing and levelling episodes. Context (106) was seen on the western side of the section and appeared to be below the level of the wall cut. This was very similar to, and probably part of the same deposit as (71), which was seen beneath the wall. Natural subsoil, consisting of red clay, was exposed on the western side of the trench.

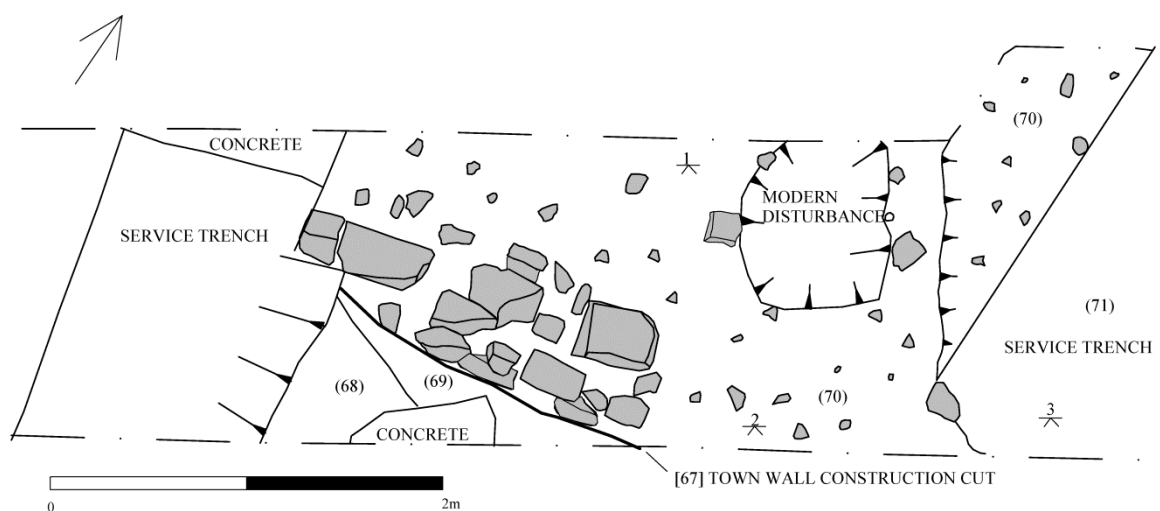


Figure 35: Plan of town wall revealed in trench

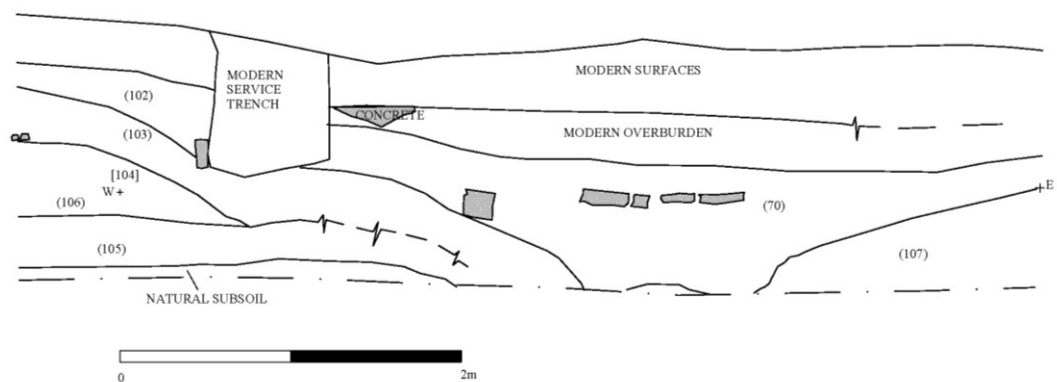


Figure 36: Section observed following removal of town wall



Figure 37: Section of the town wall revealed in the trench Scale: 1 x1 m



Figure 38: View of the exposed area of the town wall.



Figure 39: Architectural fragment recovered during removal of the wall and robber trench

7. Specialist Reports

The excavated archaeological features contained a range of material culture artefacts and environmental remains; the following section contains detailed description and analysis of these.

7.1 The Pottery and Roof Tile by Deborah Sawday

The Pottery

The pottery, 106 sherds, weighing 2.495 kg., was catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998), (MPRG, 2001) and the Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Ceramic Type Series (Soden and Ratkai 1998). However, more recent work in the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Whitefriars, Coventry, indicated that the Chilvers Coton fabric A in particular, which was formerly thought to be predominantly 13th century in date probably continued in production almost into the 15th century (Ratkai and Woodfield 2005, 292). Further analysis at Whitefriars of some of the wares here attributed to Coventry and Cannon Park, suggested that some may be variants of these wares or indeed, whilst having broadly similarly fabrics, may be products of production centres outside the immediate area (Ratkai 2005, 316); however all appear to be early medieval in date.

The results are shown below (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight

Fabric/Group	Common Name	Sherds	Weight (g)	Approx. Date Range
Medieval				
?SG202/203/21	Coventry Sandy/Glazed wares	14	196	12th – 14th C.
SG	Sandy Glazed ware	2	10	13th – 14th C.
STR30	Potters Marston	1	20	13th C.
?SQ231/2	Cannon Park ware	10	97	13th - 14th C.
	Unclassified Medieval Sandy	4	49	13th – 14th C.
WW01	Chilvers Coton A ware	53	1603	c.1250-1300/1375+
SQ30	Chilvers Coton C ware	3	72	13th-15th C.
Medieval Subtotal		87	2047	
Post-Medieval/Modern				
MP	Midlands Purple	1	38	15th-mid 17th C.
MB02	Later Midlands Black	1	13	c.1600-1800
MANG	Manganese Mottled ware	1	48	
SLPW	Slipware	9	263	17th – 18th C.
STE	Stoneware	2	16	Modern
MGW	Modern Glazed Early	5	70	Modern
Post-Medieval/Modern Subtotal		19	448	
Site Total		106	2495	

Whitefriars Gateway area

Part of a dark brown glazed base in Coventry Glazed ware was recovered from a layer, (2), below stone wall (53). This ware is dated c.1150 to c.1250. Single sherds of Coventry Sandy ware, which is dated generally from the 12th to the 14th centuries, were the only finds in the sandy layers (40) and (41). A thumbled jug base with a dark green glaze in the Chilvers Coton fabric A was found in the floor trample (14). This ware, was originally dated predominantly to the 13th century (Mayes and Scott 1984, 41), but examples in this fabric at the Church of Our Lady of Carmel at Whitefriars, were thought to date towards the end of the 14th century (Ratkai and Woodfield 2005, 290); and certainly thumbled jugs in A ware are dated from the later 13th century at Chilvers Coton (Mayes and Scott 1984). Sherds of Chilvers Coton A ware glazed in colours ranging from mottled copper and yellow green and orange brown also occurred in the levelling layer (33). Layers (36) and (43) produced green glazed sherds in the same fabric as the above together with Coventry Sandy ware and unclassified Medieval Sandy ware. Two joining sherds of Chilvers Coton A ware were found in the backfill of the small pit or post-hole (35) [34].

Thirteenth or 14th century Cannon Park ware occurred in the layer (44), together with Coventry Sandy ware; and was the only find in the pit fill (10) [9]. The occupation spread (27), overlying floor (28) also contained sherds of Cannon Park ware and Chilvers Coton A ware, the latter a jug rim similar to that found at the Church of Our Lady (Ratkai 2005, fig.152.3). Single sherds in both Cannon Park and Chilvers Coton A ware were found in context (32); a layer cut by the construction cut for the wall (31).

The possible levelling layer (38) was associated with a range of material including Coventry Sandy and Sandy Glazed ware, Potters Marston and Chilvers Coton A and C wares. Another brown glazed sherd in Chilvers Coton C ware was the only find in the backfill of the construction cut for the wall, (30) [29] noted above. Chilvers Coton C ware is dated generally from the later 13th century with a terminal, date in the 14th or 15th centuries. The latest pottery from the layer below the cobbles, (8) was in a knife trimmed sherd of Chilvers Coton C ware with a terminal, date in the 14th or 15th centuries together with possibly residual Chilvers Coton A ware. Midlands Purple, which is dated from the 15th century, and Chilvers Coton A ware occurred in the demolition layer over the floor surfaces, context (19). A single sherd of Blackware, dated from c.1600-1800, was found in the layer below wall (53) context (1).

Whitefriars Lane Car Park

Two sherds of Coventry Sandy and Chilvers Coton A ware dating from the 12th to the 13th or 14th centuries were recorded in the occupation layer (77). Another sherd of Coventry Sandy ware occurred in the levelling layer (78), and 13th or 14th century Chilvers Coton A ware in the levelling layer (79).

Grove Street (car park)

Twelve sherds of post medieval Slipware and Manganese Mottled ware and modern Glazed ware and Stoneware, weighing 272 grams, were found in the backfill, context 5, of the well [94], (together with post medieval or modern clay tobacco pipe and vessel glass).

London Road/Ringway St Johns

There sherds of post medieval or modern Slipware, weighing 84 grams, were recovered together with the neck of a jug in post medieval Stoneware from the robbed town wall (70).

The Pottery Vessel Forms

The bulk of the pottery assemblage (Table 1) consisted of green glazed sherds in Chilvers Coton A ware. The identifiable vessels included fragments of the thumbled bases of three jugs; two jug necks (Soden and Ratkai 1998, 162 nos.17-22), and a collared (Ratkai 2005, fig.152.3) and an upright jug rim. A jar (Mayes and Scott 1984, fig.82.577) was also present in the same ware together with the wall of an internally and externally glazed vessel, possibly a jar or jug. Many of the remaining externally glazed sherds in this ware probably represent jugs, including one with a mottled copper green and yellow glaze, fabric D4 at Whitefriars, Coventry (Ratkai 2005).

The only other identifiable medieval vessels comprised a jar rim in Coventry Sandy ware, previously paralleled in the same ware, fabric A, at Broadgate East, Coventry (Redknap and Perry 1996, fig.13.13) and a wheel thrown jar rim in Cannon Park ware was also similar to another vessel at Broadgate East in fabric A (ibid 1996, fig.16.112).). Over-all, the identifiable pottery vessel types, chiefly jugs and jars, are typical of the domestic assemblages of the period.

The Ceramic Building Material (Table 3).

The Flat Roof Tile

The flat roof tile, 36 fragments, weighing 5.649 kg, was recorded by context, fabric/ware, number and weight (grams), in Table 3. Most of the tile, whose thickness varied between 12 and 16mm, appears to be in the same fabric as that described as Smooth Red Sandy ware, at the Church of our Lady at Mount Carmel at the Whitefriars, Coventry, where the fabric has been identified as possibly a product of the nearby Coventry Stoke kilns and dated from the first half of the 15th to the early 16th century, (Ratkai and Woodfield 2005). Less common were tiles in what has been identified as a Coarse Red Sandy ware; these are approximately 13 – 15 mm thick and both the fabric and the nibs share the characteristics of similar material at the Church of Our Lady of Carmel (ibid 2005, fig.148.2), where the tile is dated to the 13th and 14th centuries.

Whitefriars Gateway

Thirteen fragments of flat roof tile, weighing 3.3476 kg were recovered from contexts (8), (19), (48) and (22). None of the tile was glazed and no nail holes were found. Ten of the fragments, weighing 2.562kg, which were found in the late medieval contexts (8) and (19) and in the walls (48) and (22), appear to be in Smooth Red Sandy ware.

Three nibbed flat roof tile, weighing 914 grams, including two joining piece, in what has been identified as Coarse Red Sandy ware, occur in contexts (8) and (22). This tile is apparently residual in the two contexts which also produced the later Smooth Red Sandy ware noted above.

Cox Street / Grove Street

Four joining fragments of Smooth Red Sandy ware flat roof tile were recovered from within the fabric of the wall of a property on Cox Street (93).

Grove Street

Three fragments of Smooth Red Sandy ware flat roof tile, weighing 179 grams were found in context (5), the backfill of the well [94]. Two of the tiles showed evidence of nail holes. A nibbed Coarse Red Sandy ware tile, weighing 270 grams, from the same context shared the characteristics of a similar tile from Whitefriars Gateway, noted above.

London Road/Ringway St Johns

Ten fragments of Smooth Red Sandy ware flat roof tile, weighing 992 grams were found in context (71), the back-fill of a robber pit possibly associated with the Coventry town wall. A Coarse Red Sandy ware fragment, weighing 104 grams, with a splash of the glossy rich dark green glaze which is characteristic of this ware, (Ratkai and Woodfield 2005, 288) was found in the same context.

The Floor Tile

Only one fragment of floor tile was recovered, from the Whitefriars Gateway. The tile was found in the demolition layer context (19) and weighed 450 grams, and is between 25-26mm thick. The fabric is similar to that associated with the Smooth Red Sandy ware flat roof tile noted above. Both floor and roof tile are thought to be products of the Coventry Stoke kilns (Woodfield 2005b, 249) with a terminal date in the first half of the 15th or the early 16th century.

The Ridge Tile

Four fragments of ridge tile weighing 890 grams were recovered from the excavation and watching briefs.

Whitefriars Gateway

Two glazed ridge tiles, weighing 22 and 14 grams respectively in Chilvers Coton A ware were recovered from context (8), a layer below cobble surface (7) and context (33), a levelling layer under floor (16). The former is probably residual in a context which also contained later medieval flat roof tile. Context (33) also produced pottery in Chilvers Coton A ware with a possible terminal date in the second half of the 14th century.

London Road/Ringway St Johns

A glazed ridge tile with part of a looped crest, in Chilvers Coton A ware, which was recovered from the Coventry town wall (70), is paralleled at the Austin Friars, Leicester (Allin 1981, fig.16.10), and at the production centre (Mayes and Scott 1984, fig.118), where it was dated to c.1340. A ridge tile in the same ware and with a similar crest was also found at the Church of Our Lady, Coventry where it was thought to date after the mid-14th century (Ratkai and Woodfield 2005, 293, fig.149.8).

White Friars Lane

A glazed ridge tile in Chilvers Coton A ware was the only find in occupation layer (77).

Brick

Two hand-made brick fragments, weighing 279 grams in total were recovered from context (5), the backfill of the well [94] on Grove Street, and the backfill of the robber pit (71), associated with the Coventry town wall on London Road/Ringway St Johns. The brick may, as at Whitefriars, be medieval or late Tudor, however, the lack of diagnostic features makes them impossible to date (Woodfield 2005a).

Conclusions

In spite of the limitations inherent in assessing what is only a small assemblage, the range of medieval pottery and tile fabrics which are present appear to be mostly local in origin, with Chilvers Coton pottery and Smooth Red Sandy ware tiles, products of the Coventry Stroke kilns, pre-dominant. Similar material was found at the excavations at the nearby Church of our Lady of Mount Carmel, Whitefriars (Woodfield 2005a). However the production centres for much of the so-called Coventry or Canon Park pottery remains unknown or uncertain, as is also the case for the Coarse Red Sandy ware tiles (Ratkai and Woodfield 2005, 292).

Stratigraphically, much of the pottery and the ceramic building material tile are probably residual in an area which had evidently seen archaeological activity from the 12th or 13th centuries. However, the late medieval or early post medieval Midland Purple pottery and the Smooth Red Sandy ware tile in the demolition layer 19 on Whitefriars Gateway provided a useful terminus-ante-quem for the ceramic material from the excavations and watching briefs. Indeed most of the later post medieval and modern pottery, and miscellaneous modern finds (Table 4) were recovered from the backfill of the well, context (5), on Grove Street, and the town wall robber (70), at Ringway St Johns.

The presence of both roof and floor tile suggest buildings of some status in the vicinity; indeed wall (55) at Whitefriars Gateway may lie within the Whitefriars precinct (G. Speed pers. comm.), and the layer, context (19), on the same site, which produced the floor tile is thought to represent demolition above a floor surface (J. Browning, pers. comm.). The Whitefriars excavations demonstrated that both tiles and slate, including tile in the Smooth Red Sandy ware, which was also found here in both walls (22) and (48), had been used as levelling courses in masonry walls during periods of rebuilding in the 15th and in the earlier part of the 16th century (Ratkai and Woodfield 2005, 288, 291). The Smooth Red Sandy ware tile in contexts (70), (71) and (93) – the first two of which are associated with the Coventry town wall - may have originally served a similar purpose within the structure of the wall.

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Table 2: The pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams) by context

Context	Fabric/Ware	Nos	Grs	Comments
Grove St (flyover)				
5	MANG - Manganese Mottled	1	48	
5	MGW – Modern Glazed ware	1	50	Bowl rim
5	SLPW - Slipware	5	147	Post medieval
5	STE – English Stoneware	1	7	modern
5	MGW – Modern glazed ware	4	20	
Whitefriars Gateway				
1	MB02 – Later Black ware	1	13	Base, slipped and glazed dark brownish black internally, c.1600-1800
2	SQ21 – Coventry Glazed ware	1	33	Base fragment, oxidised, glazed orange internally, sooted/burnt externally, c.1150-1250.
8	Chilvers Coton A ware	1	5	Body sherd, green glazed externally.
8	Chilvers Coton A ware	1	8	Body sherd, possibly from near the base of the neck of a jug, dark green glazed externally & internally.
8	Chilvers Coton C ware	1	60	Body – traces of trimming externally.
10 [9]	SQ231/2 – Cannon Park ware	1	3	Hard fired wheel thrown micaceous oxidised sandy fabric, externally sooted.
14	Chilvers Coton A ware	1	53	Externally thumbled jug base, green glazed externally, including under base, burnt, possible post deposition.
19	Chilvers Coton A ware	5	541	Convex and externally thumbled abraded large jug base, external base diameter c.320 mm. Traces of green glaze externally & internally, and scorching on exterior base. Some joining fragments.
19	Chilvers Coton A ware	2	9	Internally glazed base fragments, sooted externally
19	Midlands Purple	1	38	Flat base with purple/brown glaze on interior, hard fired brown sandy fabric with grey core & light grey margins
27	SQ231/2 – Cannon Park ware	5	28	Join lower body/base fragments, yellowish brown glaze internally, trimmed externally.
27	Chilvers Coton A ware	1	15	Upright & externally collared jug rim, (Ratkai 2005, fig. 152.3), exterior rim diameter c.120mm, pale green glaze externally.
30 [29]	Chilvers Coton C ware	1	6	Brown/orange glaze on exterior
32	SQ231/2 – Cannon Park ware	1	34	Hard fired convex base fragment
32	Chilvers Coton A ware	1	1	Body, green glazed externally.
33	Chilvers Coton A ware	1	7	Body sherd mottled copper green and yellow green mottled glaze internally & externally – fabric

				D04 at Whitefriars, Coventry (Ratkai 2005).)
33	Chilvers Coton A ware	2	46	Join, lower wall & basal angle, trimmed & sooted externally, orange/brown glaze on interior.
35 [34]	Chilvers Coton A ware	2	34	Join, upright jug rim, exterior diameter c.120mm, and strap handle stub. Red/pale pink surfaces & margins, grey/buff core, green glaze on neck & handle top.
36	SQ203 Coventry Sandy ware	4	28	Body sherds, two join,
36	Chilvers Coton A ware	2	22	Join base fragments, glaze runs exterior base.
36	Chilvers Coton A ware	1	23	Green glazed jug with inscribed lines at base of neck/shoulder.
36	Chilvers Coton A ware	1	39	Body – thumbled strip externally & traces of green glaze internally & externally..
38	SQ202 Coventry Sandy ware	1	30	Upright jar rim and shoulder, spot of green glaze on top of rim, sooted externally, (Redknap and Perry 1996, fig.13.13).
38	SG – Sandy Glazed ware	1	7	Orange glaze spots internally and externally, possibly an oxidised version of Coventry D ware? Sooted externally
38	SG – Sandy Glazed ware	1	3	Wheel thrown, micaceous, partially oxidised hard fired sandy fabric, patchy yellowish brown lead glaze on exterior.
38	SQ231/2 – Cannon Park ware	1	14	Hard fired grey coarse sandy fabric with olive green glaze on exterior.
38	SQ231/2 – Cannon Park ware	1	16	Wheel thrown jar rim, external diameter c.240mm. Hard fired surfaces, light grey core, everted rim with internal moulding. Rim similar to Coventry fabric A1 (Redknap and Perry 1996, fig.16.112).
38	Potters Marston	1	20	Heavy sooting on exterior.
38	Chilvers Coton A ware	8	41	Miscellaneous body sherds, all green glazed externally, one with inscribed wavy line decoration. Possible links with (43).
38	Chilvers Coton C ware	1	6	Glossy brown glaze on exterior, hard fired.
38	Unclassified Medieval Sandy ware	3	27	Very pale buff fine sandy fabric, light green glaze and inscribed wavy line and stabbed decoration.
40	SQ202 Coventry Sandy ware	1	17	Body sherd, sparse red ?fe inclusions
41	SQ203 Coventry Sandy ware	1	10	
43	Chilvers Coton A ware	1	21	Body sherd, spots of copper green glaze internally, sooted externally.
43	Chilvers Coton A ware	5	284	Abraded green glazed jug base,

				probably the same vessel as (19) check
43	Chilvers Coton A ware	8	262	Almost complete externally thumbled & green glazed jug base, external base diameter c.134 mm.
43	Unclassified Medieval Sandy ware	1	22	Green glazed ridged strap handle with incised herring bone decoration.
43	Chilvers Coton A ware	2	66	Join body and small strap handle with single thumb smear at base of handle. Brownish glaze on upper body.
43	Chilvers Coton A ware	2	45	Simple everted jar rim, external diameter c.240mm, plus flat externally sooted base fragment. (Mayes & Scott 1984, fig.82.577 – site 13 K31a-c)
43	Chilvers Coton A ware	1	7	Base fragment with stacking scar and brownish glaze under.
44	SQ231/2 – Cannon Park ware	1	2	Oxidised base fragment
44	SQ203 Coventry Sandy ware	2	19	Join, sooted externally
Ringway St Johns				
70 wall	SLPW - Slipware	1	63	Wide mouthed bowl rim, post medieval
70	SLPW - Slipware	2	21	Wide mouthed bowl/pancheon rim, join, post med/modern
70	STE – English Stoneware	1	9	Jug neck, post med
Whitefriars Lane				
77 occ. layer	SQ203 - Coventry Sandy ware	3	25	body
77	Chilvers Coton A ware	4	69	Glazed body/base, two with horizontal incised/rilled decoration on shoulder.
78	SQ203 - Coventry Sandy ware	1	34	Jar rim (Redknap and Perry 1996, fig.13.13)..
79	Chilvers Coton A ware	1	5	
wb				
U/S	SLPW – Slipware	1	32	Internally slipped and glazed wheel thrown hollow-ware body sherd. Post-medieval/modern.

Table 3: The ceramic building material by fabric, fragment numbers and weight (grams) by context

Context	Fabric/Ware	Nos	Grams	Comments
	FLAT ROOF TILE			
U/S w/b	Smooth Red Sandy	3	267	Red sandy clay body. Moulded tile, sanded under-side and one edge, top fettled, circa 10 – 15 mm thick,, flat roof tile.
U/S w/b	Coarse Red Sandy	1	51	Fine red body, sparse calcareous inclusions, circa 10 thick, flat roof tile.
Grove St				
5	Smooth Red Sandy	2	90	Both with evidence of nail holes, thickness approximately 12mm.
5	Coarse Red Sandy	1	270	Part of a nibbed flat roof tile, approximately 15 – 18 mm thick, smeared under nib, similar at the Church of Our lady of Carmel, Whitefriars (Ratkai and Woodfield 2005, fig.148.2).
5	Smooth Red Sandy	1	89	Flat roof tile, 12-13mm thick.
Whitefriars Gateway				
8	Smooth Red Sandy	3	583	Flat roof tile, mica visible on both surfaces and in section. The inclusions include angular quartz, black clay pellets and flint/chert. Thickness 10 – 15mm.
8	Coarse Red Sandy	1	114	Part of a nibbed flat roof tile, approximately 13 – 15mm thick. The upper surface of the nib and the upper edge of the tile are abraded, but the nib profile and the horizontal smear mark under the nib are similar to that found at Whitefriars (Ratkai and Woodfield 2005, fig.148.2). The nib protrudes from the smooth side of the tile which also shows some evidence of mortar, so that the sanded side would have hung uppermost on the roof.
19	Smooth Red Sandy	3	573	Flat roof tile; thickness varies between 12 and 16mm. Traces of mortar on the smooth surface of two of the tiles.
19	Smooth Red Sandy	1	450	The thickness of the tile, which varies between 25 – 26mm, and the smooth vertical sides, and the presence of mortar on one edge suggest that this is a floor tile. The surviving fragment suggests one maximum dimension of more than 165mm. Similar tile was recorded in this fabric at the Church of Our Lady, Coventry (Ratkai and Woodfield 2005, 291).
22	Smooth Red Sandy	1	284	Flat roof tile, 13 – 15mm thick, 173 mm wide. Fabric with conspicuous white/calcareous inclusions.
22	?Coarse Red Sandy	2	800	Joining fragments flat tile, the central nib is broken, and the tile has no nail holes. The tile is 168 mm wide, and 14-15mm thick. The mortar, which occurs on all surfaces, suggests post depositional re-use.

48	Smooth Red Sandy	1	474	Flat roof tile, 14 – 16mm torching (mortar) on both the smooth surface and very rough surface which is also abraded. Burnt/sooted post deposition.
48	Smooth Red Sandy	1	198	Flat roof tile, 14 – 15mm thick. Traces of soot on both surfaces.
	London Rd/Ringway St Johns			
71 Robber pit fill	Smooth Red Sandy	10	992	Flat roof tile, generally c.15mm thick
71	Coarse Red Sandy	1	104	Splash of glossy green glaze on all surfaces.
Wall	Cox St.			
93 wall	Smooth Red Sandy	4	310	Join, flat roof tile
	MED RIDGE TILE			
	Whitefriars Gateway			
8	Chilvers Coton A	1	22	Ridge tile – apple green glaze
33	Chilvers Coton A	1	14	Glazed ridge tile
Town wall	London Rd/Ringway St Johns			
70	Chilvers Coton A	1	31	Glazed ridge tile looped crest fragment (Mayes and Scott 1984, fig.118), where dated to c.1340, (Allin 1981, fig.16.10). Also paralleled at the Church of Our Lady, Coventry where dated after the mid-14th C., (Woodfield 2005b, 293, fig.149.8).
	Whitefriars Lane			
77	Chilvers Coton A	1	22	Glazed ridge tile
	FLOOR TILE			
	Whitefriars Gateway			
19	Smooth Red Sandy	1	450	The thickness of the tile varies between 25 – 26mm; the smooth vertical sides, are mortared on one edge. The surviving fragment suggests one maximum dimension of more than 165mm. Similar tile was recorded in this fabric at Whitefriars (Ratkai and Woodfield 2005, 292)..
	BRICK			
	Grove St			
5	Earthenware	1	49	Brick/tile fragment, mortared over breaks – re-used.
Town wall	London Rd/Ringway St Johns			
71 Robber pit fill	Earthenware	1	279	Handmade brick c.52mm (2 inches) thick. Hand-made bricks were thought to have been used during the last building phases of the friary associated with the Church of Our Lady at Coventry, (Woodfield 2005c, 297).

Table 4: The miscellaneous finds by material and fragment numbers by context

Context	Material	Nos	Comments
4	Copper	1	Scrap/dross
4	Vitrified material	1	Hearth lining
5	China clay	3	Tobacco pipe stems
5	Iron	1	Tap slag
5	Iron	3	Fragment of two nails
5	Copper	1	slag
5	Glass	1	Vessel glass, modern.
6	Clay	7	Daub
86	Iron	1	?Scrap
u/s	China clay	1	Tobacco pipe stem

7.2 The Plant Remains by Anita Radini

Introduction

During an archaeological excavation at Coventry, conducted by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services, samples, dating between the 13th and the 14th Century AD, were taken for the recovery of palaeo-environmental evidence.

Materials and Methods

Three samples of soil were sieved: sample **1**, (14), consisting of an ashy/charcoal rich layer, of possible trample above a floor; sample **2**, (27), consisting of an ashy/charcoal occupation layer overlying a floor, and dating to the 13th-14th century; and sample **3**, (36), a levelling layer, pre-dating building, later 13th century. The samples were processed for the recovery of all plant macro-remains and charcoal, by wet sieving in tank with 0.5mm mesh and flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. Residues were all air-dried and separated on a 4mm mesh riddle. The coarse fraction (CF) over 4mm, was sorted for all remains and finds, whilst the fine fractions (FF) below 4mm were reserved for sorting during the analysis stage if required. The flotation fractions (Flots) were transferred from the sieve into plastic boxes and air dried. Morphological criteria were used for the identification of plant species, based on modern reference material and seed identification manuals (eg Anderberg 1994; Cappers *et al.* 2006). The number of each archaeobotanical type was estimated on the basis of the minimum number of characteristic plant parts and occurrence, and the results are shown in Table 5. Classification and nomenclature follow Stace (1997).

Table 5: The plant remains

Sample N	Context	Ba	Wht	ChSe	Ch	Coal
1	14	xx	x	x	xxx	
2	27	xx	x	x	xxx	x
3	36	xx	x	x	xxx	

Ba=barley; Wht+wheat; ChSe=charred seeds; Ch=charcoal
x=present, xx=common, xxx=abundant

Results and discussion

All the samples contained a large amount of charcoal, and coal was also found in sample **2**. While charcoal and coal were the most abundant remains, cereal grains were also found in all the samples. The cereal assemblage was dominated by hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.). Barley needs to be parched for human consumption to remove the hull. Therefore the presence of charred hulled barely suggest these remains were for human consumption and were accidentally burnt during parching.

Cereal grains of wheat (*Triticum* spp.) were also encountered but in lower numbers. The identification of wheat grains is problematic because of the overlap of characteristics and the distortion and loss of embryos or parts of the grain during the charring process, and the absence of chaff remains prevented the identification of wheat to species level. It is however possible to say that the wheat retrieved is of a

free-threshing form consistent with bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*), the main type of wheat consumed in the Medieval period in Britain (Dyer 2006).

Only a small number of seeds belonging to the category of weeds and plants that grow on disturbed ground were found, such as goosefoots (*Chenopodium* spp.) and sorrel (*Rumex* spp.) in sample 1 and 2, whilst unidentified species of the Cabbage Family (Brassicaceae) were found in very low number in sample 3. All these plants have also edible leaves and could be animal fodder. Some species of the Cabbage Family have seeds used as spices; however, the precise identification was not possible due the absence of reliable characteristics which had been removed during the charring process. In addition a small number of grass stems and small grass seeds (Poaceae) were also recovered, in all samples. Grasses have many uses such as fodder, flooring and roofing material, but in this context it is possible they entered the archaeobotanical assemblage as result of straw being used for kindling.

The assemblage is remarkably consistent across the samples. The predominance of cereal remains over weed seeds suggests the remains are consistent with domestic disposal/accidental burning of cereal grains and/or food spillage, derived mainly from clean crops.

Conclusion

In summary the assemblage was rich in charcoal and cereals, but was poor in other type of remains that could provide information on crop husbandry practice and the surrounding environments. In light of this and considering the low number of samples, no further work is required on the material. The analysis has, however, provided evidence for the preparation and consumption of cereal crops on the site in this period, and it is proof of the survival of this line of evidence in the ground. An appropriate sampling strategy is therefore highly advisable if any work takes place on site or nearby in the future.

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7.3 Animal Bone by Jennifer Browning

The excavations and watching brief produced a very small assemblage of animal bone (Table 6). This included eight fragments from context (4) (an undated but probably post-medieval/modern deposit at Grove Street car park), which were stained turquoise, presumably as a result of contact with decaying copper alloys or other metals within the burial soil. Identifiable elements included a sheep/goat tibia, pig molar and mandible fragment from a calf. Two shaft fragments (of indeterminate species) were recovered from context (77) at Whitefriars Lane.

Table 6: Animal bone catalogue

Location	Context	Description	Comment
Grove Street Car park	4	Sheep goat distal tibia	Stained turquoise
Grove Street Car park	4	Pig molar(crown only)	Stained turquoise
Grove Street Car park	4	Medium mammal rib (incomplete)	Stained turquoise
Grove Street Car park	4	Cattle mandible (diastema from juvenile)	Stained turquoise
Grove Street Car park	4	4 x indeterminate fragments	Stained turquoise
Whitefriars Lane		2 indeterminate shaft fragments	

7.4 The Stonework

Significant architectural fragments encountered during the watching brief were removed to the Herbert Museum by the Cofely contractors, almost as soon as they were excavated and were therefore unavailable for examination at the time of writing. These included examples from the well [94] and from the robbed town wall. Photographs of the architectural fragments from the well [94] were examined by Richard Morris, who made the following initial comments in a reply to an enquiry by Chris Patrick, the Coventry City Archaeologist:

‘1. Style of octo-foiled panels, with bulbous foliate tips (eroded), with shield in centre, are in the style of the famous London/court architect, Henry Yeveley (c1360-1400), and may well be late 14th century.

2. It would appear that the edge mouldings taper in (like the Charterhouse ones), thus unlikely to be tomb-chest, where I would expect the mouldings to flair out to form a plinth at floor level.

3. Erosion and apparent soot deposits imply these pieces were external originally. I could envisage them being a horizontal frieze above, say, a gatehouse passage arch, but I have been unable to find an example of this at a quick glance through the books.’



Figure 40: View of the excavated stone fragments prior to transport to the Herbert Museum and Art Gallery

8. Discussion

A range of archaeological features were encountered along the pipeline route, dating from the medieval to the modern periods. Most of the features could not be closely dated, although in some areas a relative sequence was established. The pottery and tile fragments were mostly locally produced. The sherds recovered dated predominantly from the 12th to the 13th/14th century however some may be residual in later contexts.

8.1 Early medieval

Significant early medieval evidence was revealed from the development at Much Park Street. Under Much Park Street, just to the north side of Whitefriars Gateway a 1.3m length of cobble surface **(50)** was found *c.*0.87m below the road level. Given its substantial depth, it may date to the early medieval period, perhaps during the 12th century when this area lay outside of the early town, within Cheylesmore Park, an estate of the Earl of Chester. This cobble track may have been an early precursor to Much Park Street (Soden 2005: 44).

Part of a sandstone wall **(31)**, s either L-shaped or a junction of two walls, is also thought to belong to this period. It was within a wall cut **[29]**, which contained a single sherd of 13th/14th to 15th century pottery. Although it cannot be closely dated, this wall was on a different alignment to all others in the trench, not being orientated either with Much Park Street or with Whitefriars Lane. Given its deep level within the site stratigraphy, it probably represents the remains of an early building, perhaps pre-dating the street. Like the cobbled surface this may be a building within the Cheylesmore Park estate. This discovery is potentially significant as this structure may pre-date the Whitefriars, a reasonably late insertion into the city. As such the this early stratigraphy may represent evidence for early settlement extending up Whitefriars Lane from Gosford Street when it was functioning as the London road, prior to the street being blocked off.

8.2 Late Medieval

This was a period in which Coventry expanded and her prosperity increased which is reflected by the increased archaeological evidence.

Buildings on Much Park Street / Whitefriars Lane

The most significant late medieval evidence was discovered around the Whitefriars Gateway, where at least one building is dated by pottery to the 12th to 14th centuries. The building was stone-walled with a sequence of clay floors. These were aligned with (but set back from) the street frontage of Much Park Street. The area along Much Park Street became a major thoroughfare to London from the 13th century, after the relaxing of the role of the Hyrsum-ditch (the former boundary of the Cheylesmore Park – Soden 2005, 20). The building was probably 7.8m wide from E-W, slightly smaller than the ‘Stone House’ a 14th-century ruin that measures 9.6m x 6m and lays 50m further north along Much Park Street. Environmental samples taken from layers associated with this building contained grasses probably used for kindling and cereals associated with domestic waste.

Medieval well with horizontal frieze capping

A stone-lined well was identified to the north of Gosford Street, which probably existed in the backyards of a property fronting onto Gosford Street. The well was finely constructed from shaped red sandstone blocks and was therefore thought to be associated with a property of some wealth. It resembles a similar structure identified during previous excavations at Much Park Street, which was similarly constructed and bonded with loose sandy mortar and natural clay and was abandoned during the 18th-19th century. This example was associated with other structures, including stone-built privies (Colls and Mitchell 2013, 32). The occurrence of two such wells in differing parts of the town could indicate that others are likely to exist in any undisturbed areas. They also point to the prosperity of the town in the medieval period.

The well backfill contained post-medieval and modern pottery suggesting that it may have been sealed as late as the 19th century. One of the more interesting features of the well was the stones with which it had been capped. These were large fragments of sandstone, decorated on one side only and originally part of the same piece; they are currently in the possession of the Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, Coventry. An initial examination indicated that they could be late 14th century and represent part of a horizontal frieze, possibly above a Gatehouse passage. Certainly, the sooting and eroded condition suggests that they were external and therefore exposed to the elements. Their large size, weight and the consequent difficulty with transportation may suggest that they had not travelled far and therefore implies the former presence of an ornate building in the vicinity.

Although only dateable from its tile levelling courses, the wall of a building on the corner of Cox Street (formerly Earl's Mill Lane) and Grove Street could date from this period.

Whitefriars Precinct Wall?

In 1342 the Carmelites arrived in Coventry and founded their Friary at the end of London Road. 'Whitefriars' expanded throughout the 1340s, and in 1352 they acquired land off Much Park Street to create a (still standing) Gateway – 'Whitefriars Gateway' (DCT261 or MCT890 in Coventry HER). The precinct wall in this area is presumed to run along either side of Whitefriars Lane (see plans in Soden 2005: 19 and Woodfield 2005: 96). A substantial stone-built wall (54) discovered immediately to the east of 35 Much Park Street was orientated east-west (parallel to Whitefriars Lane) and dated by pottery to the 12th to 14th centuries. It is possible that given the size, orientation, and pottery dates, this wall could be the Friary precinct wall, lying on the north side of Whitefriars Lane and presumably running up to Whitefriars Gateway to the east. Associated levelling layers indicated a substantial construction / reworking of the area. It may be significant that a similar levelling layer, dating to the 15th century, was identified in a previous excavation on Much Park Street (Colls and Mitchell 2013, 15).

Whitefriars Lane

Several archaeological layers and the remains of a wall observed in the compound car park on Whitefriars Lane were formerly within the precinct of the Carmelite Friary. The friary was extended by a succession of land grants till by the 15th century their precinct stretched from the River Sherbourne at Shut Lane to Much Park Street and from New Gate to Gosford Street (Soden, 2005 79). Whitefriars included a substantial

church which was c.95m in length and the foundations of the eastern end are still visible beyond the ring road. The only surviving building is the eastern cloister with the Friar's dormitory (*dorter*). This dates to the later 14th century and was later used as a private house after the dissolution. Other standing remains of the Friary include the 14th century postern gatehouse (**DCT326**) in Much Park Street, and the eastern cloister range in Gulson Road (**DCT421**), which was the private house of the Hales family to 1717 and subsequently converted to a workhouse for the poor in 1804.

The archaeology identified here would have been within the north-western corner of the monastic precinct, where there was potential for the survival of remnants of the church, the precinct wall and the cemetery. Previous excavations on land adjacent to the present site at the rear of the Tiny Tim Centre, Whitefriars Lane, produced human bone fragments (**MCT16989**), possibly deriving from the medieval lay cemetery of Whitefriars Monastery (Warwickshire County Council 2011).

Medieval Town Wall

Work carried out within the traffic island on London Road revealed evidence for a large robbed out wall (**70**), believed to be part of the town wall, which is shown in this vicinity on early maps. The wall was built in stages from the mid-14th century, starting at New Gate on London Road (Soden 2005, 228), close to the current intervention. Pottery and tile recovered from associated deposits was dated from the 14th century, which is in keeping with this construction date. Where it has been seen in previous excavations the wall has varied in width from 2.1m (The Cheylesmore/Friars Road and Fleet Street/Spon Street) to 2.4m (Gosford Street). The estimated width of the construction trench seen at London Road was 3.1m, which is comparable with the sections seen at The Cheylesmore/Friars Road (Soden 2005, 229). Previous excavations near the royal manor house at Cheylesmore in 1992 indicated that the wall was finely constructed but had little in the way of foundations (Soden 2005, 228). No surviving in situ superstructure was seen in the current excavation, however, stone fragments recovered during the excavation of the robber material were ashlar blocks and blocks with shaping (e.g. Fig.39). Evidence from other parts of the town suggests that the town wall fell into disrepair and robbing was actively encouraged from the 17th century and the pottery evidence is consistent with this date. A hand-made brick fragment was recovered from the robber trench; although very difficult to date (Sawday this report); this could be of medieval or late Tudor date and could therefore be associated with the construction or destruction phase of the wall.

8.3 Post-Medieval and Modern

A building dated to the early 15th to early 16th century date was discovered at the Whitefriars Gateway area (wall **[49]**). This was a period in Coventry that saw significant decline, with reduced housing and activity within the town (Soden 2005: 35-36).

The backfilling of the well **[94]** in Grove Street car park probably took place in the later part of this phase. Similarly, a boundary wall seen on the same plot was thought to belong to this period.

In several locations (Jordan Well, Much Park Street), the assimilation and re-use of older walls and boundaries was seen, with the older stonework either cut into or running alongside more modern brickwork. The trenches around this quarter of the city also revealed evidence for 19th century occupation and industrial use, in the form of brick footings, culverts and a brick well or soakaway and surface on Priory Street, in an area which had previously been a timber yard. Garden soils and modern backfills were also widely observed along the pipeline route.

9. Conclusion

The watching brief followed the route of the heating pipeline around the eastern side and the south-eastern corner of the town, an area was dominated by the Carmelite Friary, which was established in 1342 (Soden 2005, 79). Most of the trenches were excavated through ground that had been previously been disturbed and backfilled with modern debris. However, several ‘pockets’ of surviving archaeology were located, dating from the medieval and early post-medieval periods and including important evidence for medieval buildings and deposits in several locations close to Much Park Street and Whitefriars Lane. A medieval well, capped in the modern period with decorative medieval architectural stone fragments was located north of Gosford Street and, close to London Road to the south of the town, a robbed section of the medieval town wall was identified. The work confirms the findings of earlier fieldwork in demonstrating the quality of the archaeology that can, and does, survive in the centre of Coventry, despite the extensive structural changes that occurred both during and following the Second World War.

10. Archive

The site archive will be deposited under accession number HP2013 with the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry.

The archive contains:

- Context summary records
- 106 context records
- Photographic recording sheets
- Drawing Index sheet and drawings (x7 sheets)
- CD containing digital photographs and report
- Survey data
- Unbound copy of this report
- Thumbnail print of digital photographs
- 33mm black and white contact sheet and negatives

The report will be listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	Coventry Heatline
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Gavin Speed/Jennifer Browning/Roger Kipling
Previous/Future work	yes
Current Land Use	Various
Development Type	Pipeline
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	complete
Site Coordinates	NGR: SP 3355 7929 (NW) to SP 3401 7857 (SE)
Start/end dates of field work	18.01.2013- 03.06.2013
Archive Recipient	Coventry City Council
Study Area	13.7 hectares
Associated project reference codes	Project ID: HP2013 OASIS form ID: universi1-164985

11. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *West Midlands Archaeology* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

12. Bibliography

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13. Acknowledgements

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Author contact details:

Dr Gavin Speed MA MIfA
Senior Archaeological Supervisor

Jennifer Browning MA MIfA
Field Officer,

University of Leicester Archaeological Services,
School of Archaeology & Ancient History,
University of Leicester, LE1 7RH.
Tel: 0116 252 2836
Fax: 0116 252 2614
E-mail: gs50@le.ac.uk; jcb9@le.ac.uk



22/11/2013

Appendix 1: Context List

Context	Area	Cut / Fill / Layer	Description	Pot	Cbm	Bone	Sample
1	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	Layer below stone wall (53)	Y			
2	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	Layer below stone wall (53)	Y			
3	Grove Street (car park)	layer	Layer				
4	Grove Street (car park)	layer	Layer			Y	
5	Grove Street (car park)	fill	backfill of well (94)	Y	Y		
6	Grove Street (car park)	layer	charcoal-rich layer near well				
7	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	cobble surface				
8	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	layer below cobbles (7)	Y	Y		
9	Whitefriars Gateway	cut	Pit cut				
10	Whitefriars Gateway	fill	Pit fill	Y			
11	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	spread				
12	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	pavement				
13	Whitefriars Gateway	structure	WALL				
14	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	ashy spread - floor trample	Y			1
15	Whitefriars Gateway	structure	WALL				
16	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	spread				
17	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	spread				
18	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	spread				
19	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	mixed layer - demolition over floor surfaces	Y	Y		
20	Whitefriars Gateway	cut/fill	cut and fill of linear feature				
21	Whitefriars Gateway	structure	wall footing				
22	Whitefriars Lane	structure	WALL				
23	Whitefriars Lane	structure	WALL				
24	Whitefriars Lane	structure	WALL				
25	Whitefriars Lane	structure	WALL				
26	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	floor surface				
27	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	occupation spread overlying floor (28)	Y			2
28	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	floor surface				
29	Whitefriars Gateway	cut	wall cut				
30	Whitefriars Gateway	fill	wall construction backfill	Y			
31	Whitefriars Gateway	structure	wall construction				
32	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	layer, cut by wall construction cut [29]	Y			
33	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	levelling layer laid down prior to setting out of floors. Under (16)	Y	Y		
34	Whitefriars Gateway	cut	cut of small pit, or large post-hole. Sealed by (16)				
35	Whitefriars Gateway	fill	fill of small pit, or large post-hole. Sealed by (16)	Y			
36	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	dump or levelling layer. Large quantities of coal.	Y			3
37	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	layer				

Context	Area	Cut / Fill / Layer	Description	Pot	Cbm	Bone	Sample
38	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	levelling material?	Y			
39	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	site layer				
40	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	pink sandy layer	Y			
41	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	pink clay layer	Y			
42	Whitefriars Gateway	structure	WALL				
43	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	layer	Y			
44	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	layer	Y			
45	Whitefriars Gateway	cut	wall cut				
46	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	layer				
47	Whitefriars Gateway	structure	WALL				
48	Whitefriars Gateway	structure	Sandstone wall, nicely coursed. Tile used as levelling sample of it taken. Wall N-S orientated (in line with street)		Y		
49	Whitefriars Gateway	structure	wall				
50	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	cobble surface				
51	Whitefriars Gateway	structure	wall				
52	Whitefriars Gateway	fill	WALL backfill				
53	Whitefriars Gateway	structure	stone wall				
54	Whitefriars Gateway	structure	WALL				
55	Whitefriars Gateway	structure	wall same as 22		Y		
56	Whitefriars Gateway	structure	wall same as 23				
57	Whitefriars Gateway	structure	WALL				
58	Whitefriars Gateway	structure	wall				
59	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	mixed clays and sands				
60	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	cobble surface				
61	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	layer				
62	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	layer				
63	Whitefriars Gateway	cut/fill	robber cut and fill				
64	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	layer				
65	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	layer				
66	Whitefriars Gateway	layer	layer				
67	London Road/Ringway St Johns	cut	wall cut (medieval town wall)				
68	London Road/Ringway St Johns	fill	backfill of construction cut				
69	London Road/Ringway St Johns	fill	fill of cut				
70	London Road/Ringway St Johns	structure	wall	Y			
71	London Road/Ringway St Johns	cut	robber pit		Y		
72	Whitefriars Lane	layer					
73	Whitefriars Lane	layer					
74	Whitefriars Lane	layer					

Context	Area	Cut / Fill / Layer	Description	Pot	Cbm	Bone	Sample
75	Whitefriars Lane	layer					
76	Whitefriars Lane	layer					
77	Whitefriars Lane	layer	occupation layer possibly sealed by a levelling layer	Y		Y	
78	Whitefriars Lane	layer		Y			
79	Whitefriars Lane	layer	red clayey sand- levelling layer				
80	Whitefriars Lane	layer					
81	Whitefriars Lane	structure					
82	Whitefriars Lane	layer					
83	Whitefriars Lane	layer					
84	Whitefriars Lane	layer	levelling layer				
85	Whitefriars Lane	layer					
86	Whitefriars Lane	layer					
87	Whitefriars Lane	layer					
88	Whitefriars Lane	layer					
89	Whitefriars Lane	layer					
90	Whitefriars Lane	fill	gully fill				
91	Whitefriars Lane	cut	gully cut				
92	Grove Street	layer	rubble/ dump				
93	Cox Street	structure	wall on Cox Street		Y		
94	Grove Street (car park)	structure	Well structure (stone blocks)				
95	Grove Street (car park)	structure	Boundary wall				
96	Grove Street (car park)	layer	re-deposited clay				
97	Jordan's Well	wall	fragment of walling				
98	Whitefriars Lane	cut	robber cut				
99	Whitefriars Lane	fill	wall foundation				
100	Whitefriars Lane	cut	wall cut				
101	Whitefriars Lane	layer	layer (base of trench)				
102	London Road/Ringway St Johns	fill	robber trench				
103	London Road/Ringway St Johns	fill	robber or possibly fill of construction trench				
104	London Road/Ringway St Johns	cut	cut of robber or construction trench. Seen in section only. Probably same as 67				
105	London Road/Ringway St Johns	layer					
106	London Road/Ringway St Johns	fill	robber fill prob associated with cut 104				

Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay
University of Leicester Archaeological
Services (ULAS)
University of Leicester,
University Road,
Leicester LE1 7RH

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848

F: +44 (0)116 252 2614

E: ulas@le.ac.uk

w: www.le.ac.uk/ulas



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