



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Field
Evaluation at Fairfax Street
Coventry
NGR: SP 33808 79211**

Nathan Flavell




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**An Archaeological Field Evaluation
At Fairfax Street, Coventry
(SP 33808 79211)**

**Nathan Flavell
For: CODE Student Accommodation**

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An Archaeological Field Evaluation at Fairfax Street, Coventry (SP 33808 79211)

Nathan Flavell

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out Fairfax Street, Coventry (SP 33808 79211) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in August and September 2016. The work was carried out on behalf of CODE Student Accommodation in advance of the construction of new student accommodation. The site lies within the line of the medieval town walls and close to the course of the River Sherbourne. Seven trenches measuring between 15m and 32m in length and 1.6-2.0m in width were excavated across the site. Areas of post-medieval build up layers were identified along with the medieval city wall and its subsequent demolition.

*The site archive will be held by Coventry City Museum Services under the accession number **FXS 16**.*

Introduction

This document constitutes the final report for an archaeological field evaluation (AFE) carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) within the Cox Street public car park, north of Fairfax Street, Coventry (SP 33808 79211; Fig. 1) on behalf of CODE Student Accommodation between 17th August and 2nd September 2016. Planning consent is sought for the construction of new student accommodation and, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, a programme of archaeological investigation has been implemented in order to determine the potential impact of the proposals on buried archaeological remains. This commenced with an archaeological desk-based assessment (Hunt 2016), and was followed by the subject of this report: intrusive investigation by trial trenching to assess the nature, extent, date, depth and significance of any archaeological remains which might be present. This information should enable the planning authority to make an informed decision about the impact of the proposals and consider whether any mitigation measures might be required.

The work followed the approved *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Field Evaluation: Fairfax Street, Coventry* (ULAS 16-086)

Geology and Topography

The site consists of a sub-triangular section of public car park, close to the A4053 Ringway on the north-east edge of Coventry City centre, around 1km north-east of Coventry cathedral. The site covers approximately 0.4 hectares and is at a height of around 76-77m aOD.

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain website indicates that the underlying geology consists of river alluvium overlying Keresley Member sandstone (www.bgs.ac.uk).

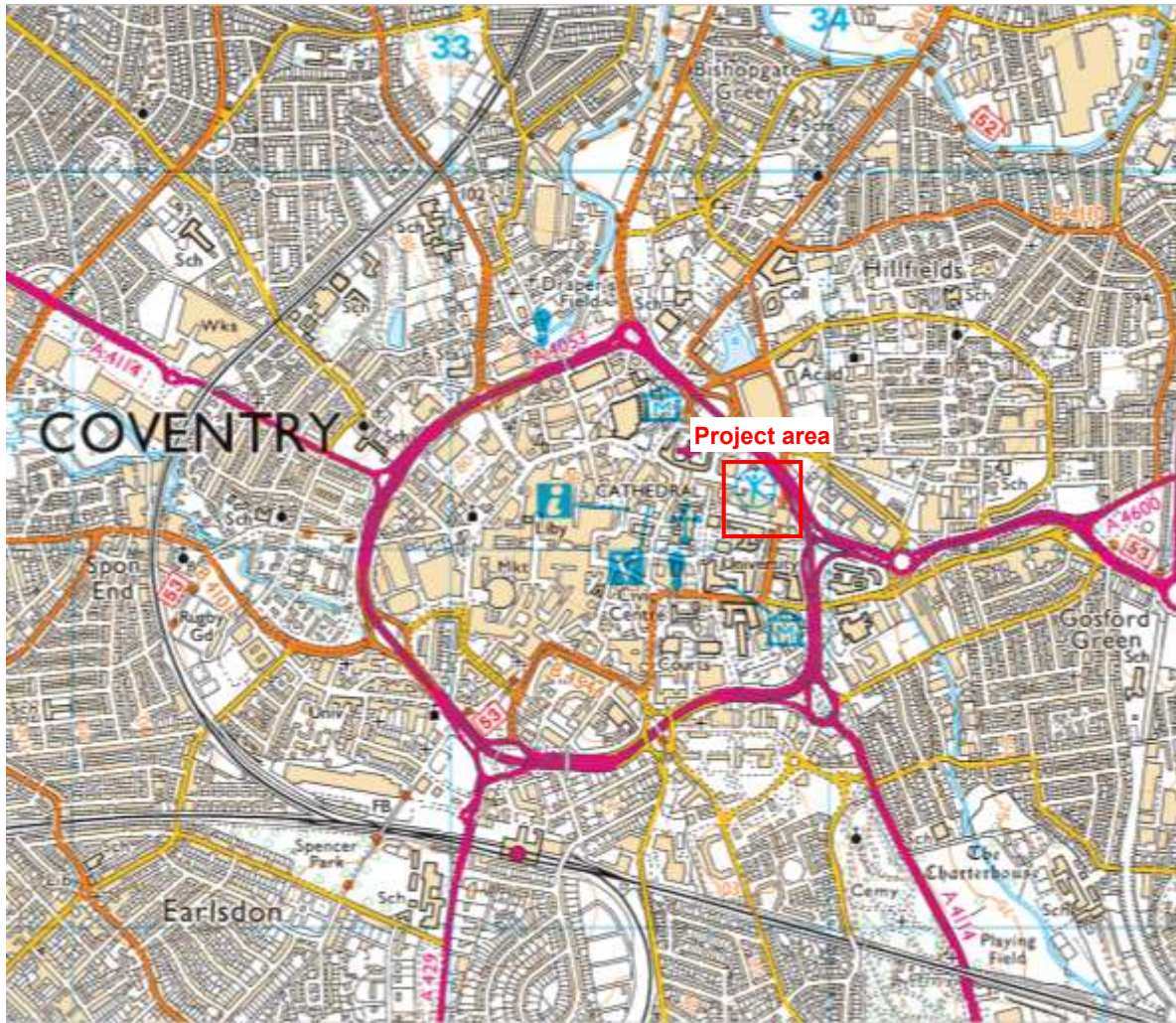


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:25 000)

Reproduced from Explorer® 221 Coventry & Warwick 1:25,000 OS map by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright 2010. All rights reserved. License number AL100029495.

Historical and Archaeological Background

An archaeological desk-based assessment (Hunt 2016) was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) for land at Fairfax Street, Coventry (NGR: SK 3380 7920). The assessment area is currently part of a public car park situated on flat ground under the flyover of the ring road ('Ringway'). It lies within the line of the medieval town walls and close to the course of the River Sherbourne.

The medieval town defences were constructed from the 14th century into the 15th century, with the walls turning southwards to the north of the present site and running north to south through the present assessment area. The river Sherbourne also ran from west to east immediately south of the site and was fed by a tributary running north to south through, or close to the site here. These river courses have since been culverted and most likely run under the present Cox Street to the east of the site and Fairfax Street to the south. The site was fairly undeveloped until the mid-19th century when a house was built to the north of the site, with the assessment area largely situated on orchards. The area surrounding the site was developed throughout the 20th century and then re-developed during the regeneration programme following WWII. For most

of this time the site was either a store yard or a car park. An electrical sub-station and toilets were constructed on the site around the 1930s. The present ring road that lies over the north-eastern part of the car park site was constructed throughout the 1960s and was complete by 1971.

A full list of archaeological sites and listed buildings is shown in the Appendices.

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To prepare a detailed assessment of the history of the site and its archaeological potential
- To identify any evidence for the survival of buried archaeological remains on the site which may be threatened by the development proposals
- To determine the depth of burial, character, date, extent, and state of preservation of any such remains.

Methodology

The original trench plan agreed with the Coventry City Council Planning Archaeologist was for seven trenches measuring between 15m and 40m in length (Fig. 2). Due to a number of constraints including topography, existing services and the continued use of the car park, the original trench plan was modified, with changes to the location and lengths of some of the other trenches (Fig. 3). Due to the unsafe depths, some trenches were not entered and were recorded safely from ground level.

All exposed areas, sections and existing spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. Archaeological features were hand cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as per the approved WSI (Buckley 2016). All work followed the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIFA) Code of Conduct* (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2014).

Results

General Summary

The top surface of the car park for all trenches consisted of tarmac with some hardcore layers. Foundations of a toilet block were uncovered in trench 3, the boundary wall of a terraced property were in trench 1, and a larger building was uncovered in trench 6. There was also some modern foundations next to the medieval wall (14) in trench 5.

The medieval town wall was uncovered in trenches 3, 4 and 5 (Fig. 4), with associated demolition rubble also appearing in trench 7.

The natural substratum was encountered in trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7. In trench 1 it consisted of yellow-grey gravels at 2.88m deep, and light yellow-brown silty clay, 2.7m deep in trench 2. In trenches 6 and 7 it was yellow-brown silty sand, 3.4m and 2.7m deep respectively. Within the other trenches, the natural geology was pink-red clay between 2.7m and 3.8m deep.

In trenches 1, 2 and 7, and in the eastern areas of trenches 3 and 4 there were various make-up and levelling layers. Within trenches 5 and 6 there were organic silting layers with levelling layers above them.



Figure 2: Original trench plan. Plan provided by client.

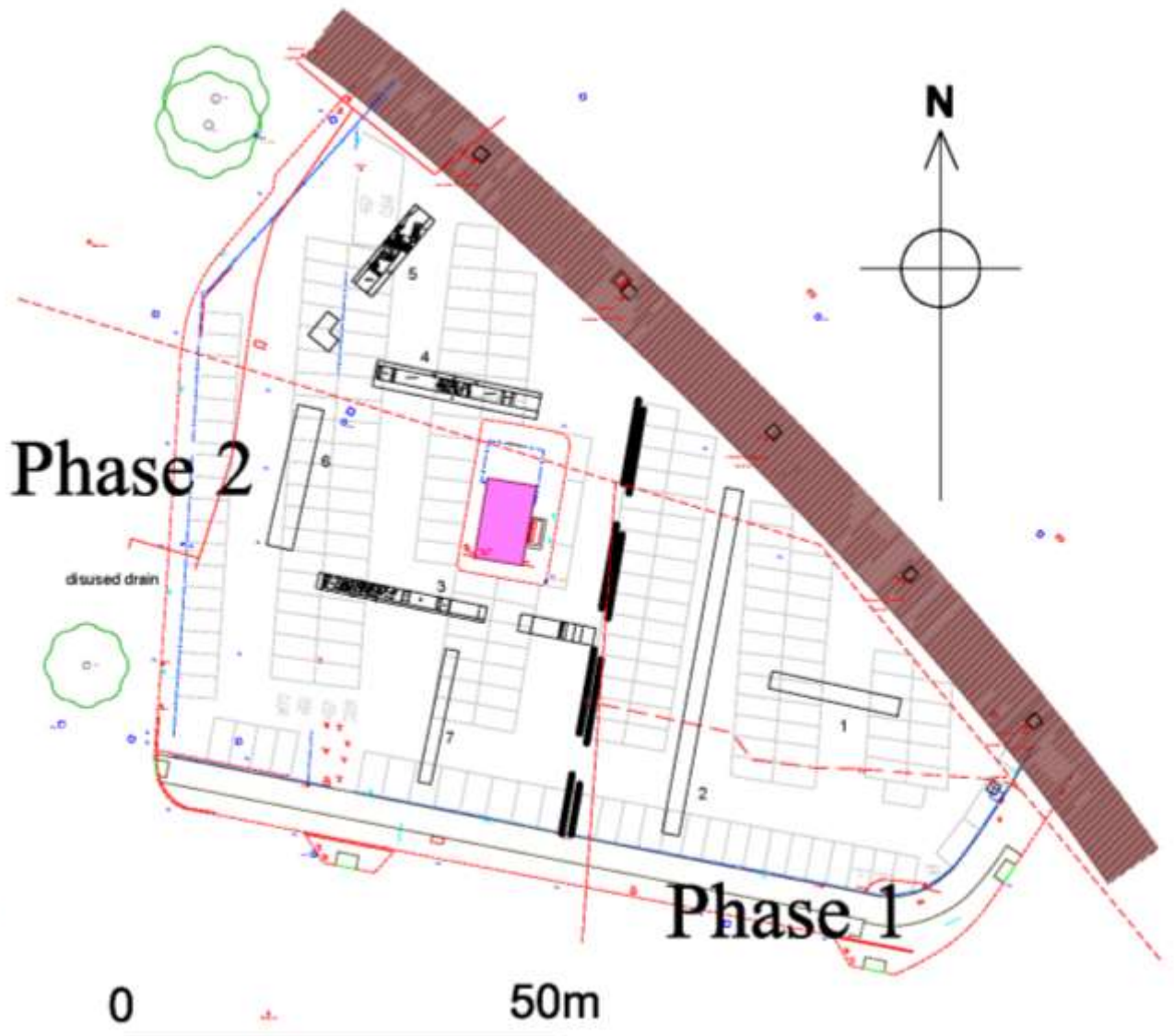


Figure 3: Trench Plan



Figure 4: Trenches 3-6 detail

Trench 1 was aligned roughly west to east. The natural substratum consisting of yellow-grey river-type gravels was only encountered at the east end of the trench at a depth of 2.88m. At 2.5m (the general machined depth), was a contaminated black-brown silty-clay soil. An organic silty sand covered this. Above these layers were at least two post-medieval levelling layers. Cut into these was a brick boundary wall, a single-brick-thick, aligned approximately east-west, 1.4m deep, from the northeast corner of the trench to 11m along the southwest side of the trench (Fig. 5). There were also remnants of a garden path. There also what appeared to be a linear pit under the path which may have been associated with the terraced house.

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)	Archaeology?	
1	15	2.2-3.3		41.58	0.7		2.5	Post-medieval	
Interval (m) from southeast end	2	4	6	8	10	12	14		
Tarmac level aOD		76.44m							
Tarmac depth	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2		
Overburden depth	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43		
Top of natural substratum	-	2.36	-	-	-	-	-		
Base of trench	2.06	2.36	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.88		



Figure 5: Trench 1: Terraced house boundary wall, looking north

Trench 2 was aligned north to south. The natural substratum consisting of light yellow-brown silty clay was only encountered at the east end of the trench, 2.7m deep. Possible pits were observed at the west end of the trench at a depth of 2.25m (Fig. 7). These were truncated by other pits with fills that were similar to the levelling layers that were in trench 1. These also appeared to be the same levelling layers within this trench, very dark brown-grey-black silty clay with CBM and charcoal inclusions. A sondage was excavated through these layers 28m from the west end of the trench (Fig. 6). This uncovered an earlier fill/layer of a black-brown organic clay (1), with remnants of leather to at least a depth of 3m. A number of drains and services were also noted.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
2	38		2.2	83.6		1.84		2.5		
Interval (m) from southwest end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35		
Tarmac level aOD		76.5m			76.43m	76.37m		76.32m		
Tarmac depth	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2		
Overburden depth	1.1	1.04	1.2	1	0.93	1.3	0.9	0.8		
Top of natural substratum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Base of trench	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.02	1.84	2.3	2.02	2.7		



Figure 6: Trench 2 sondage looking west



Figure 7: Trench 2 looking south

Trench 3 was aligned approximately east to west (Figs. 8 & 10). The medieval town wall (4) was encountered near the west end of the trench, aligned north to south, 0.98m deep (Fig. 9). It was made up of large pink sandstone blocks, with rough facing on the outer edge, with a rubble core. A small sondage was excavated 0.5m into the west edge, into pink-red clay sand with charcoal flecks (5), which is mostly likely to be the backfill of the construction trench [10] (Figs. 11 & 12). Two fragments of roof tile dating from 13th to 15th centuries were recovered from this context. This showed two distinct courses of dressed sandstone blocks with a rubble foundation underneath. It was clear that the wall had been demolished to the east as the tumbled

stones were clearly visible. The rubble layer (7) was 0.25m thick, and continued for at least 10m along the trench (Fig. 13). It overlaid mid brown-grey silty sand with brick, mortar and tile inclusions (8), at least 0.35m thick. Above this and the rubble was dark brown-grey clay sand (6) with CBM inclusions, 0.45m thick. At least seven different post-medieval/modern levelling layers were above this 0.25-0.5m thick, with a re-enforced concrete foundation above that. On the north-west side of the wall there were eight make-up/levelling layers different to those in the rest of the trench. These were overlying the wall in stratigraphic sequence, and so post-date the 17th-century demolition. To avoid services, a gap was left, and the rest of the trench was excavated. This revealed the same levelling layers (6) and (8), somewhat similar to those in trenches 1 and 2. At 28.3m from the west end of the trench was a single course of sandstone blocks, 1.8m deep (Fig. 14). The wall, aligned north-northeast to south-southwest appeared to be quite roughly made, and at least cut into layer (6).

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
3	32.4		1.8-2		52.52		1.05		2.15		Medieval wall
Interval (m) from northeast end	0	5	10	15	19	25	30				
Tarmac level OD		76.82m			76.73m	76.84m					
Tarmac depth	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2				
Overburden depth	0.86	0.8	1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1				
Top of natural substratum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Base of trench	1.57	1.05	1.16	2.1	2.15	2.04	2.15				

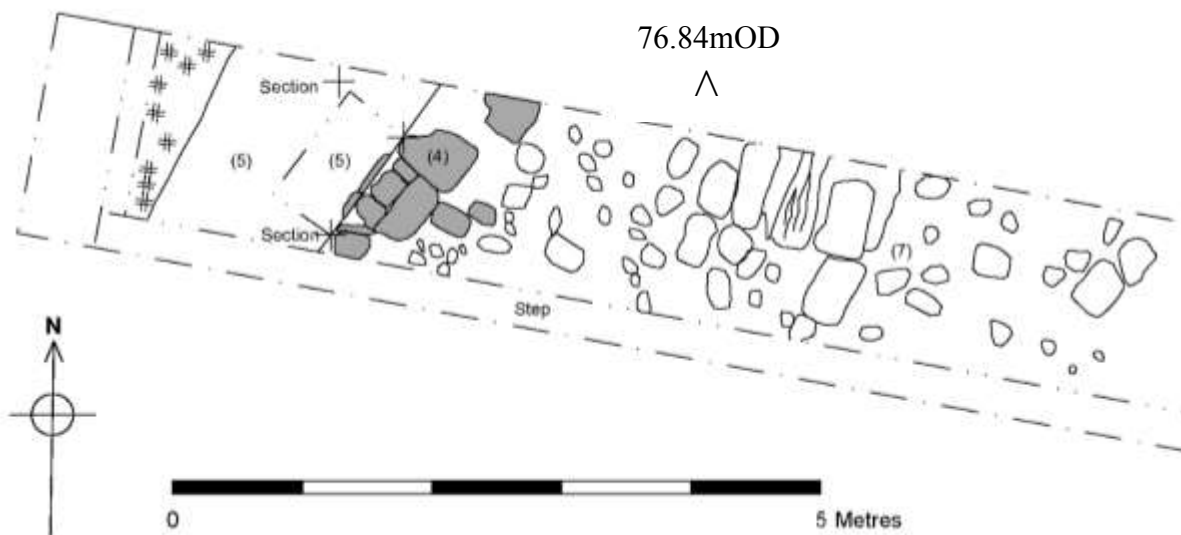


Figure 8: Trench 3 partial plan



Figure 9: Trench 3: Town wall (4) looking west

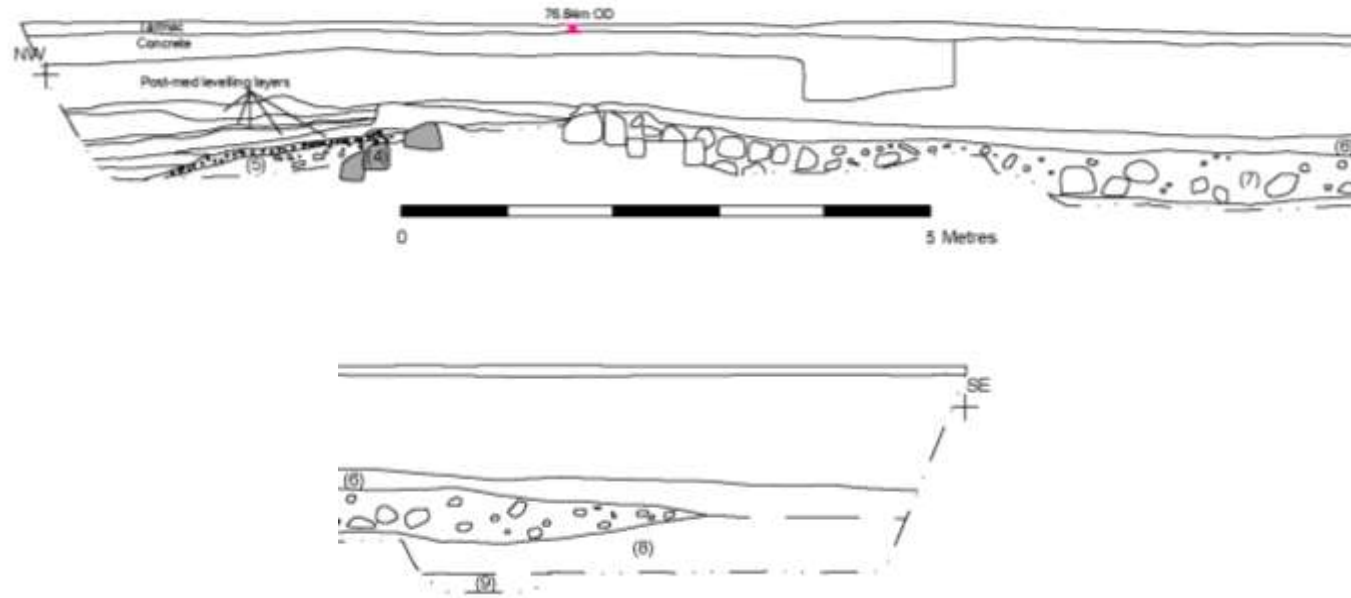


Figure 10: Trench 3 section



Figure 11: Wall (4) with foundations & backfill (5) looking east

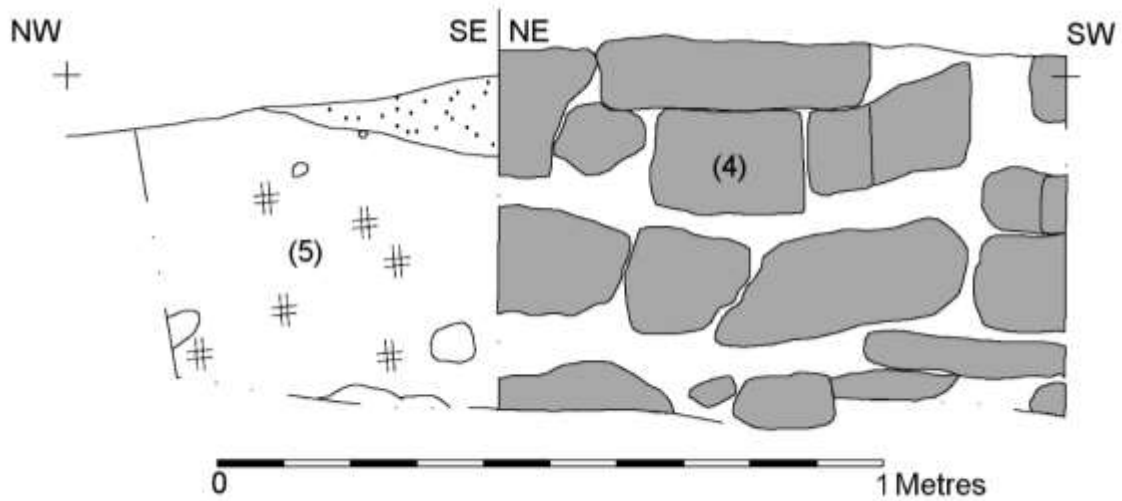


Figure 12: Wall foundation section



Figure 13: Wall demolition rubble looking north



Figure 14: Trench 3 single course sandstone wall looking north

Trench 4 was aligned west to east (Fig. 15). The town wall (4) was further uncovered 10m from the east end of the trench at a depth of 1.04m (Figs. 16 & 17). No dressed sandstone blocks were present, only the rubble foundation remained. Immediately on the west side was a deposit of orange-brown silty-clay with mortar inclusions (12) which was most likely to be the backfill of the construction trench [11] (Fig. 18). To the east side there was a similar layer of sandstone rubble (13) as found in trench 3. This continued to the end of the trench, 0.8m thick. The same levelling layers were observed covering the rubble as in trench 3. To the west of the wall were different levelling layers. These were somewhat similar to those in trench 3 on the same side of the wall.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Archaeology?
4	19		3	57		1.55	2.7	Medieval wall
Interval (m) from southeast end	0	5	10	15	18			
Tarmac level OD	76.43m	76.46m		76.57m	76.61m			
Tarmac depth	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2			
Overburden depth	0.7	0.7	1.5	0.9	1.37			
Top of natural substratum	-	-	-	-	2.7			
Base of trench	2.1	2.15	1.55	1.87	2.7			

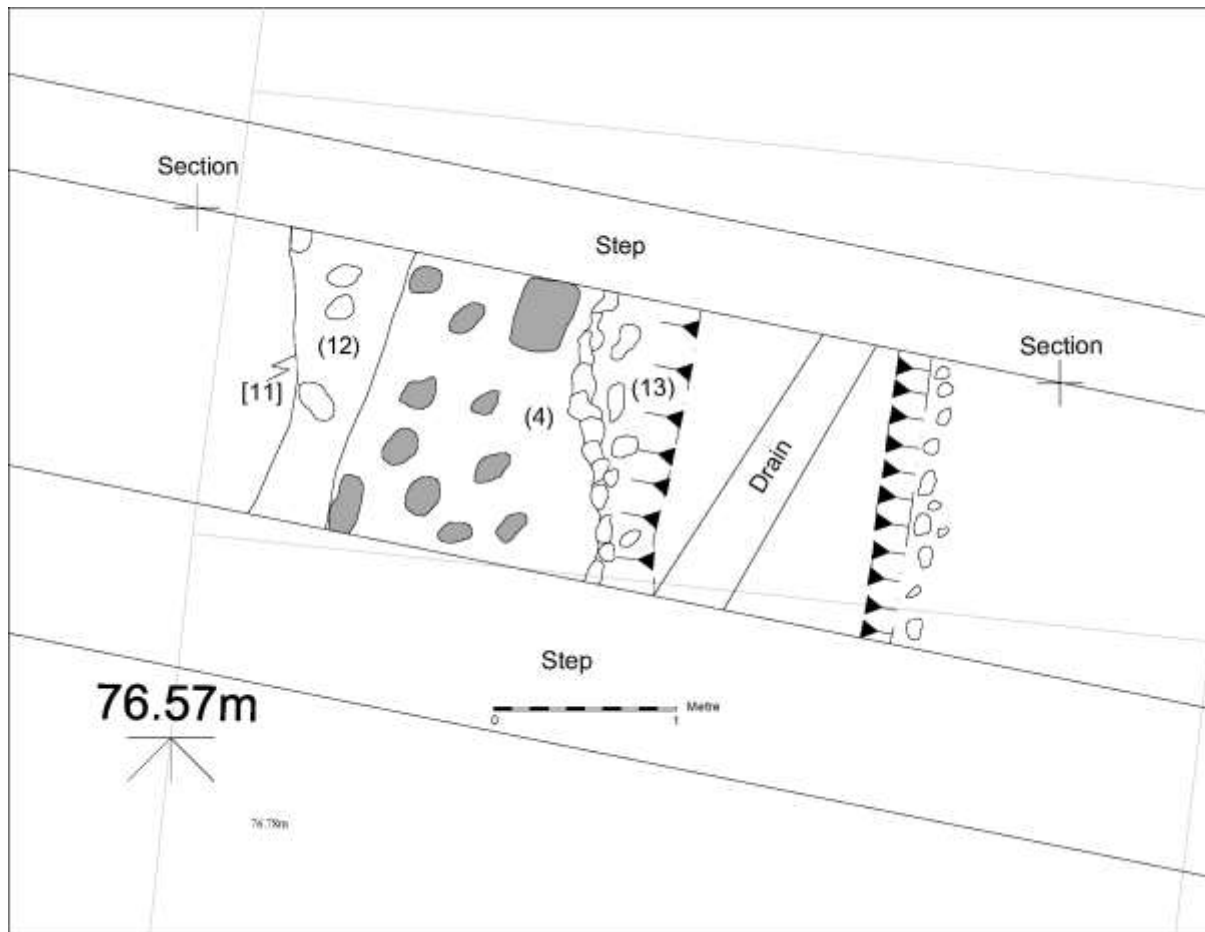


Figure 15: Trench 4 partial plan

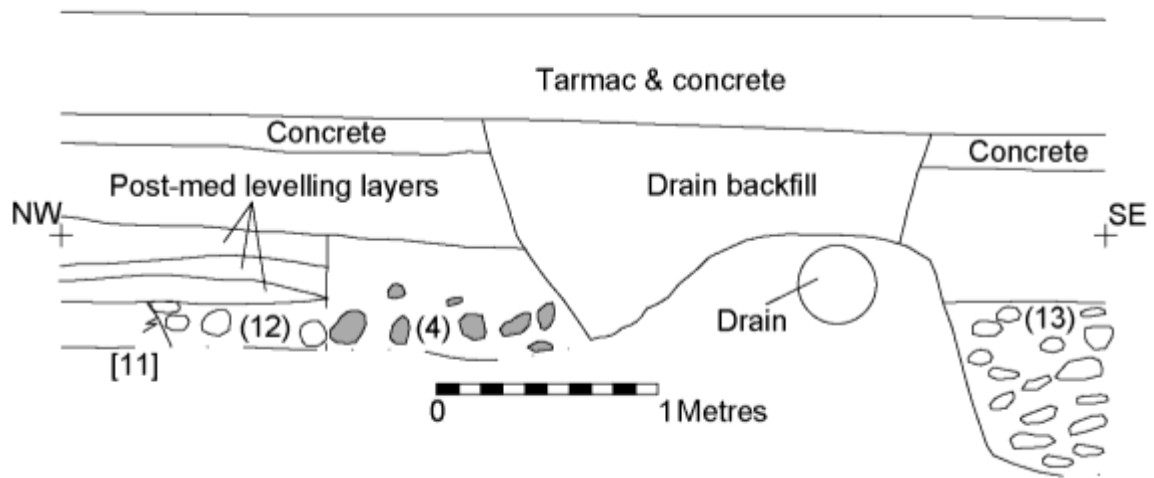


Figure 16: Trench 4 partial section



Figure 17: Wall (4) in trench 4 looking east



Figure 18: Wall (4) with construction cut [11] looking north

Trench 5 was aligned north-east to south-west. A further section of town wall (14) was uncovered, aligned approximately east to west, 0.28m deep (Figs. 19 & 20). All the outer dressed stones seem to have been removed, leaving the rubble core as noted by the shapes of mortar left. It was 1.4m high, and 2.35m wide, including 0.8m of rubble foundation (15) on the north side of the wall. On the south side of the wall was a small layer of roughly shaped sandstone blocks, lying flat, and 0.9m wide (Fig. 21). These may have been removed from the wall but not taken away for reuse. On the north side of the wall there was a partial square sandstone foundation (16) uncovered, 1.6m deep, measuring 1.05m by 1.6m continuing into the east side of the trench (Figs. 22 & 23). The sandstone was partially dressed on the outside with a fine mortar bonding. This could be part of the tower where the walls meet, or a buttress for the tower. Part of the trench was unexcavated due to services to the south-west. The south-west end of the trench was excavated down to a depth of 3.8m to the natural substratum of pink clay. Above this was a layer of mid brown-grey silty clay with an organic component full of oyster shells. This was covered by various levelling layers similar to those seen in trench 6 (Fig. 24).

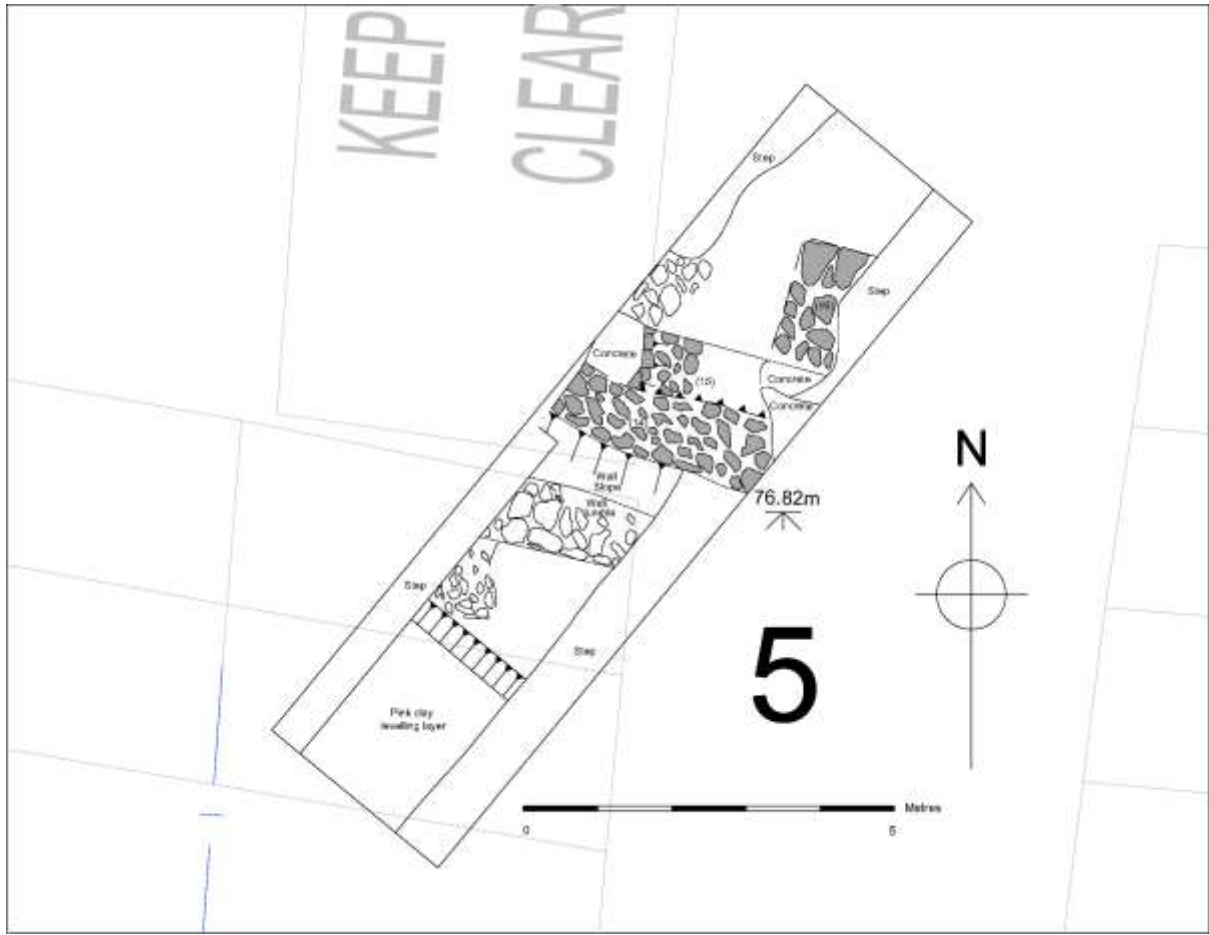


Figure 19: Trench 5 plan

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
5	19.2		2.9	55.68		0.28	3.8		Medieval wall
Interval (m) from northeast end	0	3	6	9	18				
Tarmac Level aOD	77.00m		76.88m						
Tarmac depth	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2				
Overburden depth	1.57	1.63	-	1.7					
Top of natural substratum	-	-	-	-	3.8				
Base of trench	1.57	1.63	0.28	1.7	3.8				



Figure 20: Town wall (14) looking west



Figure 21: Layer of sandstone blocks looking north-east



Figure 22: Butters/tower (16) & wall (14) looking south



Figure 23: Butters/tower (16) looking east



Figure 24: trench 5 sondage looking south-east

Trench 6 was aligned north to south. The natural substratum of yellow-brown silty sand was uncovered in a sondage at the south end of the trench, 3.4m deep (Fig. 25). Above this was mid brown clay silt (20) with oyster shell and an organic component, 0.4m thick. This was overlain by mid brown red silty clay (19) with wood and stone fragments, 0.48m thick. Both have such an organic nature to their fill, it seems likely they might be fills of a pond. These layers are sealed by pink-red silty sand (18), 0.42m thick. Within the rest of the trench are post-medieval levelling layers 1.68m thick. There was also truncation by a cast iron pipe 0.7m deep, and brick foundations for a demolished building, 1.52m deep.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
6	16.4		3	49.2		0.7	3.4		Post-medieval
Interval (m) from northeast end	2	5	8	10	14	15			
Tarmac Level aOD	76.88m			76.93m		76.92m			
Tarmac depth	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2			
Overburden depth	2.1	0.7	2.1	1.2	2.1	0.2			
Top of natural substratum	-	-	-	-	3.4	-			
Base of trench	2.2	0.7	2.45	1.2	3.4	1.1			



Figure 25: Trench 6 sondage looking south-east

Trench 7 was aligned north to south. The natural substratum was observed in a sondage 9m from the south end of the trench (Fig. 26). It was yellow brown sand, 2.7m deep. Above this was mid brown silty sand (9) with charcoal flecking, 0.7m thick. This was similar to that observed at the base of trench 3 (14m from the north end). Above this was layer (8), 0.6m thick. This was overlain by the same demolition rubble layer (7), 0.4m thick (Fig. 27). Layer (6) was above this, 0.4m thick. There were various make-up/levelling layers 0.7m above this. Again these were similar to those observed in other trenches.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
7	15.5		1.5	23.25		0.4		2.7		
Interval (m) from south end	2	4	6	9	10	12	14			
Tarmac Level aOD	76.78m			76.80m			76.77m			
Tarmac depth	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2			
Overburden depth	1	0.85	0.8	1.05	0.95	0.85	1			
Top of natural substratum	-	-	-	2.7	-	-	-			

Base of trench	2.12	1.75	1.9	2.7	2.35	1.9	1.75		
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Figure 26: Trench 7 sondage looking west



Figure 27: Trench 7 demolition rubble (7) looking west

Discussion

Apart from revealing the line of the medieval town wall, the excavated trenches revealed little evidence for activity on the site before the post-medieval period, which is perhaps unsurprising given the map evidence for the undeveloped nature of this area of Coventry until that time. The trenches suggest many levelling and make-up layers outside the town wall after the 1662 order for the demolition of the wall and what appears to be its final removal in the area after 1807, which is the last map to clearly show an extant wall. However remnants may still have existed above ground given T.F. Ticker's 1917 map clearly showing the line of the town wall. The 1850 Board of Health map also shows 'the Site of the City Wall'.

It is difficult to trace the line of the wall due to post-war demolition and re-landscaping of the city. The pre-war maps seem to suggest the line of the wall as the slightly curved boundary at the rear of the properties on the south side of Ford Street and the north side of Pool Meadow, which derive from the 1850 Board of Health map showing the same boundary. It is interesting to note that within trench 5, the wall was so shallow beneath the modern surface as to suggest quite good late survival, given it had inter-war foundations built on top of it (1937 OS). It is possible then that the demolition seen in trench 3 may in fact be later and perhaps associated with the 19th-century redevelopment of the site.

Within the town wall (trenches 5 and 6) there is evidence for a pond, as evidenced by the layers of organic material at the bottom of the trenches, (19) and (20). This is most likely to be St. Osburg's Pool. A diversion was made by the request of the Prior in the building of the wall to enclose certain fish-ponds and St. Osburg's Pool. The pool is believed to have been located east of Pool Meadow (Gooder 1971, 25). A map showing the last phase of the town wall shows

the site of the pool directly on the west part of the site (Gooder 1971, 49). This is further evidenced by the environmental sampling (Appendix I), noting organisms associated with grassland and aquatic plants. This is in contrast to the environmental results from outside the town wall (trenches 1 and 2) which show more settlement-type dumping of material, so likely to be refuse deposit outside of the wall, possibly with a combination of it washed up by the river tributaries.

Within trench 2, the brick wall appeared to be the brick boundary wall between 123 and 125 Cox Street, 1950 OS map. Trench 6 located the ancillary and lavatory buildings associated with the Public baths, 1937 and 1950 OS maps (which do not appear on the 1925 edition).

Publication and Archive

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	Universi1- 294113		
	Project Name	Fairfax Street, Coventry		
	Start/end dates of field work	17-08-16 – 02-09-16		
	Previous/Future Work	Desk-based assessment		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Car park		
	Monument Type/Period	Medieval Wall		
	Significant Finds/Period	Medieval		
	Development Type	Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.			
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Cox St, Coventry CV1 5GA		
	Study Area			
	Site Coordinates	SP 33808 79211		
	Height OD			
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (CCC)		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Richard Buckley		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Stephen Baker, Nathan Flavell		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Developer – CODE Student Accommodation		
PROJECT ARCHIVE	Recipient	Coventry City MusService	Digital Coventry City MusService	Paper Coventry City MusService
	ID (Acc. No.)	FXS 16	FXS 16	FXS 16
	Contents	Pottery, tile, bone, leather	Photos	Watching brief records Contact sheet

PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)
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The site archive consists of: 7 A4 trial trench recording forms,, 1 A4 context index sheet, 13 A5 context sheets, 3 A4 masonry sheets, 1 A4 drawing index sheet, 1 A4 Sample index sheet, 2 A4 photo index sheets, digital photographs, 3 A2 permatrace sheets and 2 A3 permatrace sheets.

The site archive will be held by Coventry City Museum Services under the accession number FXS 16.

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Appendix I: The Finds

Pottery and tile

By *Deborah Sawday*

Seven sherds of pottery weighing 519 grams, were catalogued with reference to the Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Ceramic Type Series (Soden and Ratkai, 1998) and more recent work in Coventry (Woodfield 2005).

Five fragments of roof tile, weighing 644 grams were also recovered and recorded with reference to similar tile at the Church of Our Lady of Carmel in Coventry (Ratkai and Woodfield 2005).

The results are shown below (table 1).

Table 1: The Ceramic and Miscellaneous Finds by fabric, sherd/fragment numbers and weight (grams), by context.

Context	Fabric/Ware	No s	Grs	Comments
POTTERY				
8 Tr 2	SQ30 – Chilvers Coton C	1	98	Rod handle, double thumbed at base, c.1300-1500.
8 Tr 7	?SQ40 _ Brill/Boarstal type	1	1	1300-1400
8 Tr 7	SLM – Late medieval oxidised	2	86	Join – cistern bung, c.14th – 15th C.
8 Tr 7	SQ23 – Cannon Park	1	32	Glazed externally – hard fired – 14 th C
8 Tr 7	SLM – Late medieval oxidised	1	287	Body from a large internally glazed hollow ware vessel, 14th-15 th C.
9 Tr 7	?WW02 – Surrey White ware/ Tudor Green type	1	15	Flared vessel, probably a cup, glazed internally and externally, 1350-1500.
ROOF TILE				
5 wall trench	CRS – Coarse Red Sandy ware	1	24	Flat – 15 th C +
5	SRS - Smooth Red Sandy ware	1	37	Flat – 13 th -14 th C.
8 Tr 2	SRS - Smooth Red Sandy ware	1	315	Curved ridge - 15th C+
8 Tr 7	SRS - Smooth Red Sandy ware	1	147	Flat – 15 th C +
8 Tr 7	CRS – Coarse Red Sandy ware	1	121	Flat – 15 th C +
MISC				
5	Animal Bone	1		

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Leather footwear and offcuts from Fairfax Street, Coventry FXS16.

Nicholas J. Cooper

Introduction

Waterlogged deposits were recorded on the site dating to late medieval period and sealed by the demolition of the town wall which was ordered by Charles II in 1662. The deposits included the complete upper of shoe and a small number of leather offcuts (including more from the bulk samples). The finds are currently stored in water in a refrigerator until a decision is made about long-term conservation.

Footwear

Trench 2 (PH1) (01). Complete upper of a 'one-piece' ankle shoe (right foot) of early 15th century date (Grew and de Neergaard 1988, 41, figs.63-65 and 71, fig.105). Side seam. Single tapering strap held by a knot into a slit cut into the upper part of the vamp next to the side seam. A separate tongue is held in position by a second strap on the opposite side, which is itself held by a spade-like terminal. The tapering strap appears to have been threaded through a slit in the tongue and back through the slit in the vamp. It is no clear how a securing buckle (now presumed missing) might have been held. Length 150mm equivalent to child's size six (Continental size 23). (Fig 1).

Offcuts

Five offcuts of leather were recovered, four of which could be described as irregular strips, the largest of which is 300mm in length and up to 60mm in width. The other is triangular of length 130mm and width 85mm. The evidence suggests the existence of leather working industry in the vicinity of the site.

Potential

This evaluation report has demonstrated the potential for the preservation of leather in waterlogged deposits on the site, which is highly important for advancing the understanding of dress during the medieval period in Coventry.

Reference

Grew, F. and de Neergaard, M. 1988 *Shoes and Pattens: Medieval Finds from Excavations in London 2*. London: HMSO.



Fig. 1 Leather shoe: uppers, top side



Fig 2 Leather shoe: uppers, underside

Waterlogged Wood

M. Beamish

Introduction

Fragments of waterlogged wood were recovered from trench 6 (Context 19, Sample 4) to a water tank at the University of Leicester. The pieces were placed on a bench, gently cleaned using tap water and assessed.

Results

All pieces were of different lengths, but similar section, and were found to join together to form a single piece that had split into three. The piece is 680mm long (incomplete), 140mm wide (incomplete) and 55mm thick (complete).

The wood is straight grained and fast grown, with 10 rings visible in the end grain of the cut face. It is unlikely for more than 20 rings to be present.

The conversion is tangential: the piece has split apart along the lines of the rays. The piece is of rectangular cross section, although it is incomplete across its width as the faces of the piece have split recently, perhaps during excavation. The unsplit faces of the piece are eroded and are probably original. No tooling was observed. The wood is poor to fair condition with tooled surfaces eroded.

One end of the piece is complete, with a clearly cut flat face at 30°. The cut face was 90mm long (75mm long when viewed in plan). The jointed face has been trimmed to remove the feathered edge so that the end of the piece is some 6mm thick. Several fixing holes that are now elongated are visible in this face. A circular iron fixing head visible 12mm in diameter is present on the uncut face although it no longer protrudes through the cut face. The original length and width of the piece are unknown.

On the basis of the pronounced medullary rays, and clear annual rings, the species is most probably oak. The jointed face is well preserved, and this along with the probable nail head indicates that the piece has been joined to another until relatively recently. No clear housing marks were visible on the piece.

A fibrous plant or hair substance was present on the jointed face of the timber. This has been sampled for i.d.

Interpretation

The incompleteness of the timber precludes an interpretation with much certainty. The piece would appear to be a brace, and is therefore part of a larger structure. The angle of the cut face to the profile and the lack of a bird's mouth joint suggests that the timber is not a rafter.

All the pieces have been discarded.



Figure 28: Waterlogged wood from Trench 6, (19). Nail head lower left, joint face with fibres visible low

Animal bone

By Jennifer Browning

A single bone fragment was recovered from the wall construction backfill (5). It was a metacarpal from cattle, distal fused, sawn through the distal shaft.

Assessment of waterlogged plant macrofossils from Fairfax St., Coventry

Wendy Smith

Three bulk samples of sediment were submitted to the University of Birmingham Archaeology Services by University of Leicester Archaeology Service for the recovery of both insect and plant remains. Hill and Smith (below) have reported separately on the insect remains from

these samples and the following assessment report presents the results for the plant macrofossils from these three deposits.

At the time of preparing this report, a full site narrative was not available from University of Leicester Archaeology Service for the Fairfax St., Coventry project; however, brief descriptions for each context sampled were provided:

Sample 01 (Context 01)/ Trench 2 – highly organic deposit with leather fragments observed

Sample 02 (Context 02)/ Trench 1 – palaeochannel deposit, again with leather fragments

Sample 03 (Context 20)/ Trench 6 – lower fill of pond

Given the leather fragments and urban character of these deposits, it has been presumed here that the rough date of these deposits is Medieval; however, assessment of the pottery and small finds may refine this view.

Assessment of the Fairfax St., Coventry samples was carried out in order to:

1. if plant macrofossils were present and of interpretable value
2. if plant macrofossils could determine the character of the deposits sampled
3. if plant macrofossils could indicate the nature of the surrounding environment
4. if plant macrofossils from samples 1–2 indicate leather processing activity

Method

A one litre sub-sample was collected from all three deposits prior to processing the majority of the sediment collected for these samples for insect remains. However, for purposes of this assessment a 500ml sub-sample of sediment was processed using the wash-over technique as described in Kenward *et al.* (1980) and the resulting flot and heavy residue were sorted and stored in a water/ ethanol mix. The 500ml volume has proven over the years a useful initial volume to process for assessment of waterlogged plant remains, as this has frequently avoided generating samples which would be overly time consuming to sort, semi-quantify or fully quantify at full analysis. In all three cases, the 500ml volume appears to have generated sufficient quantities of plant macrofossils to support interpretation, although it is recommended that the additional sediment for sample 3 is also processed (see below).

Both the flot and heavy residue were retained in a 0.3mm mesh geological sieve. The plant macrofossils were examined under low-power magnification using a Meiji EMZ500 binocular microscope at magnifications between x10 and x20. Assessment of the flots and heavy residues was made by rapidly scanning all of the respective flots and a sub-sample of the related heavy residues. Samples were evaluated for waterlogged plant remains (hereafter WPR) and allied environmental remains (animal bone, charcoal, insects, etc.) on a semi-quantified scale whereby: + = <5 items, ++ = 5 - 25 items and +++ = 25 - 100 items.

The quantification of waterlogged plant macrofossils and other environmental remains for the assessment should be viewed as a subjective approximation and, therefore, should be treated with caution. Comparative material was not consulted during this assessment and, therefore, all identifications should be viewed as provisional. Nomenclature for economic plants and

indigenous taxa follows Stace (2010). Unless otherwise mentioned, habitat information is derived from Stace (2010).

All of the samples were relatively 'clayey' and failed to fully disaggregate in processing with just hot water, therefore, at the further analysis stage, it is recommended that the heavy residue component should be treated with sodium hexametaphosphate [(NaPO₃)₆] to breakdown the remaining clay nodules and then reprocessed as per above. This should not add more than a 1/4 day to the full analysis programme, but the Gantt chart for the WPR programme should allow a window of at least one full week for this treatment phase, so that the heavy residues can be soaked and checked for successful disaggregation over a number of days before processing.

Results

Table 1 presents the assessment results for all three of the samples, reporting the flot and heavy residue components separately. In general, the plant macrofossils were relatively abundant and represented a fairly diverse range of taxa. Samples 1–2 (context 01 and 02 respectively) were clearly of a different character to sample 3 (context 20), which is derived from a pond feature and may be more 'natural' in character.

Sample 1 (Trench 2/ context 01)

This sample produced one charred hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grain and a few indeterminate cereal epidermis fragments. One culm node, which could be either from a cereal crop or a wild large-sized grass, and a hazel (*Corylus avellana* L.) nutshell fragment were noted as well. Although these constitute a relatively limited collection of crops/ collected wild foodstuffs (in the possible case of hazelnut), all of these plants are likely to be directly associated with settlement and could have entered the deposit through disposal of rubbish and/or cess.

Larger-seeded weeds of cabbage/ mustard (*Brassica* spp./ *Sinapis* spp.), such as charlock (*Sinapis arvensis* L.), corncockle (*Agrostemma githago* L.) and stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula* L.) are archaeophytes, frequently occurring as weeds of crops. They are considered troublesome weeds today, and certainly were recognised as such in the medieval period (e.g. de Moulins 2007). Some of the weed/ wild plant recovered are indicative of damp to wet conditions; such as, dropwort (*Oenanthe* spp.), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria* (L.) Maxim.) and marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris* L.). These plants may be coming in with hay collected from water meadows or the dung from animals feeding in water meadows. However, the limited number of dung beetles associated with this deposit (see Hill and Smith report [cross-reference]) suggests that this may be hay brought into the vicinity either to feed livestock or used in packing foodstuffs or other goods. Abundant plant stalk fragments were noted in the heavy residue component of this sample, which also supports the interpretation of hay.

This sample also produced a pupa of a sheep ked, which is generally believed to be directly associated with wool fleeces/ live sheep. Sheep ked has also been recovered in the insect sample from this same deposit (Hill and Smith below). Finally, Sample 1 produced abundant fragments of leather, which suggests that this deposit may have been located near to a leather working area, as many of these fragments appear to be off cuts, or potentially, this was the debris from urban households undertaking 'piece work' for the leather industry in Coventry.

Table 1: Waterlogged plant macrofossils assessment results from Fairfax St., Coventry

Sample Number	1	1	2	2	3	3	
Trench Number	Tr02	Tr02	Tr01	Tr01	Tr06	Tr06	
Context Number	01	01	02	02	20	20	
Fraction	Flot	HR	Flot	HR	Flot	HR	
Proportion Scanned	100%	10%	100%	20%	100%	20%	
Volume processed	500 ml		500 ml		500 ml		
Latin Binomial							English Common Name
Cultivars							
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. - hulled (charred) grain	-	+	-	-	-	-	hulled barley
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. - rachis node	-	-	+	-	-	-	rye
Cereal - indeterminate epidermis fragment	-	+	+	-	-	-	cereal
Cereal/ POACEAE - culm node	+	-	-	-	-	-	cereal/ large grass
Tree/ Shrub							
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. - nutshell fragment	-	+	-	-	-	-	hazel/ hazelnut
<i>Salix</i> spp. - bud	-	-	-	-	-	+	willow
<i>Salix</i> spp. - fruit	-	-	-	-	-	+	willow
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	-	-	-	+	-	-	elder
Weed/ Wild Plants							
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> (L.) Kuhn - pinnule fragment	-	+	-	+	-	-	bracken
<i>Nuphar lutea</i> (L.) Sm.	-	-	-	-	+	-	yellow water-lily
<i>Caltha palustris</i> L.	+	-	-	-	-	-	marsh-marigold
<i>Ranunculus acris</i> L./ <i>repens</i> L./ <i>bulbosus</i> L.	-	-	+	+	-	+	meadow/ creeping/ bulbous buttercup
<i>Ranunculus</i> subgenus BATRACHIUM (DC.) A.Gray	-	-	-	-	-	+	crowfoot
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i> L.	-	-	+	-	-	-	celery-leaved buttercup
<i>Ficaria verna</i> Huds.	-	-	-	+	-	-	lesser celandine
FABACEAE - Trifoliolate type flower	+	-	-	-	-	+	Pea Family - clover type flower
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> (L.) Maxim	+	+	-	-	-	-	meadowsweet
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L.	-	-	-	+	-	-	common nettle
<i>Reseda lutea</i> L.	-	-	+	+	-	-	wild mignonette
<i>Nasturtium microphyllum</i> (Boenn.) Rchb.	-	-	+	-	-	-	narrow-fruited water-cress
<i>Brassica</i> spp./ <i>Sinapis</i> spp.	+	+	-	+	-	-	wild cabbage/ mustard
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.	-	-	+	-	-	-	knotgrass
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> L.	-	+	-	-	-	-	sheep's sorrel
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> L./ <i>palustris</i> Sm. - within perianth	-	+	-	+	-	-	broad-leaved/ marsh dock
<i>Rumex</i> spp. - achene	+	-	-	+	-	-	dock
<i>Stellaria media</i> (L.) Vill.	-	-	+	+	-	+	common chickweed
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> L.	-	+	+	-	-	-	corncockle
<i>Chenopodium</i> spp.	-	-	+	-	-	-	goosefoot
<i>Atriplex</i> spp.	-	-	+	-	-	-	orache
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> L.	-	+	-	+	-	-	selfheal
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i> L.	-	-	-	-	+	-	gypsywort
<i>Carduus</i> spp./ <i>Cirsium</i> spp.	-	-	+	-	-	-	thistle
<i>Carduus</i> spp./ <i>Cirsium</i> spp./ <i>Centaurea</i> spp. - indet.	-	-	-	-	+	-	thistle/ knapweed
cf. <i>Cirsium</i> sp.	-	-	-	+	-	-	thistle
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i> L.	-	-	+	-	-	-	cornflower
<i>Centaurea</i> spp.	-	-	-	+	-	-	knapweed
cf. <i>Centaurea cyanus</i> L.	-	-	+	-	-	-	possible cornflower
<i>Lapsana communis</i> L.	-	-	-	+	-	-	nipplewort
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	+	-	-	+	-	-	stinking chamomile
<i>Glebionis segetum</i> (L.) Fourr.	-	-	+	-	-	-	corn marigold
<i>Bidens</i> spp.	-	-	+++	+	-	-	bur-marigold
ASTERACEAE - unidentified small achene	-	-	+	-	-	-	Daisy Family
<i>Oenanthe</i> spp.	+	-	-	-	-	-	water-dropwort
<i>Apium graveolens</i> L.	-	-	-	+	-	-	wild celery
<i>Potamogeton</i> spp.	-	-	-	-	-	++	pondweed
cf. <i>Potamogeton</i> spp. - internal structure	-	-	+	-	-	-	possible pondweed
<i>Juncus</i> spp.	+	-	+	-	-	-	rush

Sample Number	1	1	2	2	3	3	
Trench Number	Tr02	Tr02	Tr01	Tr01	Tr06	Tr06	
Context Number	01	01	02	02	20	20	
Fraction	Flot	HR	Flot	HR	Flot	HR	
Proportion Scanned	100%	10%	100%	20%	100%	20%	
Volume processed	500 ml		500 ml		500 ml		
cf. <i>Isolepis</i> spp.	+	+	-	+	-	-	club-rush
<i>Carex</i> spp. - 2-sided urticle	-	-	+	+	-	-	sedge
<i>Carex</i> spp. - 3-sided urticle	+	+	+	+	-	+	sedge
POACEAE - small-sized caryopsis	+	-	+	+	-	-	small-seeded grass
POACEAE - medium-sized caryopsis	-	-	-	+	-	-	medium-sized seeded grass
Unidentified - plant stalk (primarily <2mm)	+	+++	-	++	-	-	
Unidentified - wood fragments	-	+	-	++	-	-	
Unidentified - bud (deciduous tree)	-	+	-	+	-	+	
Unidentified - bud scar (deciduous tree)	-	+	-	+	-	-	
Unidentified - bud scale fragments (deciduous tree)	-	++	-	-	-	-	
Unidentified - plant membrane - ?cereal/ POACEAE	-	-	-	-	+	-	
unidentified	-	-	-	-	+	-	
Other Remains noted							
algal zoospore - ciliated circular structure	-	-	-	+	+++	+	
fish - vertebrae	-	-	-	-	-	+	
fly (Diptera) puparia	+	-	-	+	+	-	
insect remains (Coleoptera)	+	-	-	-	-	-	
sheep ked	-	+	-	-	-	-	
snail - operculum	-	-	-	-	-	+	
unidentified - pupal case	-	-	-	-	-	+	

Nomenclature follows Stace 2010

Key: + = <5 items, ++ = 5 - 25 items, +++ = 25 - 100 items,

Sample 2 (Trench 1/ Context 02)

This sample was similar to Sample 1 and also produced a small quantity of agricultural plant remains, including one rye (*Secale cereale* L.) rachis node and a few cereal epidermis fragments. However, Sample 2 greatly expanded on the range of weed/ wild taxa observed in Sample 1; including more plants of damp to wet conditions; such as bur-marigold (*Bidens* spp. – which was particular dominant in this sample), crowfoot (*Ranunculus* subg. BATRACHIUM (DC.) A. Gray), celery-leaved buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus* L.) and narrow-fruited watercress (*Nasturtium microphyllum* (Boenn.) Rchb. and many more weeds of crops. Like Sample 1, plant stalk and wood fragments were noted in the heavy residue. This sample also produced some fragments of leather, one of which was clearly worked. Finally, the recovery of elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.) and nettle (*Urtica dioica* L.) may suggest that some of the input into this deposit occurred after it fell out of use, as both taxa are typical of abandoned, neglected or overgrown places in an urban environment.

Sample 3 (Trench 6/ Context 20)

This sample was quite different in character from the first two. In particular, no cultivated plants were recovered from this sample and the range of taxa was quite limited. Wetland taxa such as crowfoot (*Ranunculus* subgenus BATRACHIUM (DC.) A. Gray), gypsywort (*Lycopus europaeus* L.), pondweed (*Potamogeton* spp.), sedge (*Carex* spp.), willow (*Salix* spp.) and yellow water-lily (*Nuphar lutea* (L.) Sm.) dominate this assemblage. Whilst crowfoot, gypsywort, sedge and willow can occur in waterside environments and withstand periods of

drought, the recovery of pondweed and yellow water-lily suggests that a pool of relatively deep and fairly still water was present.

These results suggest that this feature was more ‘natural’ in character, with little or no input of settlement waste, which also seems to be consistent with the insect results (Hill and Smith below). The heavy residue component of this sample was particularly clayey and, therefore, it is difficult to determine if sufficient plant macrofossils are available for full analysis. As a result, it is recommended that the remaining 500ml of sediment for WPR analysis is retained and also processed for the full analysis phase of this project.

Comperanda

Waterlogged plant remains reported from Coventry for the medieval period are quite limited (see Environmental Archaeology Bibliography, University of York 2008). Sue College (1978, 1986) studied a small 15th century waterlogged deposit and Wendy Carruthers (2003) has examined waterlogged remains from an undated medieval millrace at the Priory of St. Mary in Coventry. Both of these reports have produced a similar range of weed/ wild taxa – often producing plants typically occurring as weeds of crops (in the case of Cox Street) or waterside/ aquatic conditions (in the case of the Priory of St. Mary). A further archaeobotanical report which includes waterlogged plant remains is available for Much Park Street; however, most unfortunately, the McKenna archaeobotanical taxa lists do not distinguish charred, mineralise or waterlogged plant macrofossils, although she reported all three modes of preservation were present (McKenna *et al.* 2013: 220). Nevertheless, the general range and character of both the arable weeds and waste/ waterside taxa is consistent with the Fairfax Street data.

Given that only two waterlogged deposits are fully reported (Cox Street and Priory of St. Mary) and the Much Park Street data does not clarify mode of preservation, the full analysis of all three samples from Fairfax St., Coventry is of clear local importance. The potential identification of debris related to leatherworking also is of interest as previous results for Cox Street and the Priory of St. Mary were more related to textile working (hemp in particular).

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University of Birmingham Environmental Archaeology Services Report 258

An assessment of the insect remains

By Geoff Hill and David Smith

Introduction

This assessment (University of Birmingham Environmental Archaeology Services Report No. 257) outlines the potential of the insect remains from three excavated medieval features on Fairfax Street, Coventry. Sample 1 (Tr2Context 01) is a waterlogged deposit containing worked leather. Sample 2 (Tr1Context 02) is from a feature described as a ‘palaeochannel’. The third sample (Tr6Context 20) was excavated from the lower fill of a pond.

Methods

The samples were processed using the standard method of paraffin flotation as outlined in Kenward *et al.* (1980). The system for ‘scanning’ faunas, as outlined by Kenward *et al.* (1985), was followed in this assessment.

When discussing the faunas recovered, the following considerations should be taken into account:

- 1) Identifications of the insects present are provisional. In addition, many of the taxa present could be further identified down to species level during a full analysis, producing more detailed information.
- 2) The various proportions of insects suggested are very notional and subjective. As a result, the faunas described here should be regarded as incomplete and possibly biased.

Results

The insect taxa recovered are listed in Table 1. The taxonomy follows that of Lucht (1987) for the Coleoptera (beetles). The numbers of individuals present for each taxa is estimated using the following scale: + = 1–2 individuals, ++ = 2–5 individuals, +++ = 5–10 individuals, ++++ = 10–20 individuals, +++++ = 20+ individuals.

The nature of the preservation and the potential for archaeological interpretation is outlined in Table 2. The insect faunas are largely comprised of the remains of Coleoptera (beetles), but larvae of numerous Diptera (fly) also were recovered (Table 1). The remains are, on the whole, well preserved and numerous in all three samples.

The puparia of a single ‘sheep ked’ (*Melophagus ovinus*), which is actually a heavily mutated fly and not a mite or tick (not a member of the Acari Family), was identified in Sample 1 (Context 01). A single flea (possibly a waterflea), which cannot be identified further, also was recovered in Sample 3 (Context 20).

Discussion

Notable differences between the three faunas are apparent, so the three samples will be discussed separately in two groups, based on the characteristics of their faunas.

Synanthropic fauna: Samples 1 and 2

Samples 1 and 2 contain few or no water beetles compared with the larger fauna of these taxa recovered in Sample 3. Both of these faunas contain a distinctly synanthropic fauna (a fauna directly related to human activity) which has been found in the archaeological record to be typical of settlement debris. This includes species which Kenward (Kenward and Hall 1995) has labelled the ‘house fauna’ (such as *Latridius*, *Anobium punctatum*, *Lyctus linearis*, *Cryptophagus* spp., *Atomaria*, *Dermestes*, *Ptinus fur* and *Monotoma* spp.). Large numbers of grain pests such as *Oryzaephilus surinamensis* and *Sitophilus granarius* also were present in these samples. Both samples also include a range of species that are commonly associated with rotting organic materials in settlement; such as the puparia of the ‘house fly’ *Musca domestica*. A single pupa of the ‘sheep ked’ *Melophagus ovinus* was recovered in Sample 1 (Context 01); the sheep ked is often associated with wool processing in the archaeological record. Sample 2 (Context 02) also produced a puparia of the ‘latrine fly’ *Fannia scalaris* a species that is normally associated with cesspits and pools of stale urine; both cess and urine were used in preparing hides and urine was used for degreasing, especially wool. It is therefore apparent that both of these deposits mainly consisted of settlement material, rubbish and cess. This deposit also contained the heads of four human fleas (*Pulex irritans*).

Aquatic fauna: Sample 3

Sample 3 (Context 20) was the smallest assemblage of the three assemblages, has generated a very different fauna as compared to samples 1–2. Sample 3 contained a fairly diverse set of ‘water beetles’ that are typical of still or stagnant water conditions, including *Haliphus* spp., *Gryinus* spp. and *Hydrobius fuscipes*. However, a single ‘riffle beetle’ *Oulimnius* sp. also was recovered and which may suggest some input to the pond from a nearby stream or river.

Sample 3 also contained more ‘outdoor’ fauna than either sample 1 or 2C2; such as the *Sitona* spp., Pselaphidae indet., *Cantharis* spp., Elateridae indet., *Phyllotreta* spp., *Chaetocnema concinna*, *Apion* spp., *Nedyus quadrimaculatus* and indeterminate Ceutorhynchinae. All of these taxa often are associated with grassland, arable land or areas of disturbed ground. A large number of *Aphodius* ‘dung beetles’ also were noted in this sample. However, in addition to this ‘natural environment fauna’, a number of taxa recovered from sample 3 are synanthropic, suggesting that either settlement was nearby or that settlement waste was periodically dumped or flowed into this feature.

Both Sample 2 (Context 02 – the palaeochannel) and Sample 3 (Context 20 – the lower fill of a pond) also contained a small number of taxa that are directly associated with aquatic plants, such as the Donaciinae indet. and *Notaris* sp., which often occur in reed beds,

Conclusion

The three Fairfax Street, Coventry samples represent very different depositional environments. Samples 1 (Context 01) and 2 (Context 02) appear to be deposits that are dominated by settlement waste and probably represents domestic dumping. At the time of this assessment, a site narrative was not available, however, the frequent recovery of leather ‘scraps’ in these deposits may just be ordinary domestic waste, but could indicate proximity to leather working in this vicinity of Coventry. Sample 3/(Context 20), on the other hand, appears to be a natural feature that contains a body of still or stagnant water surrounded by grassland, disturbed ground or pasture into which small quantities of settlement waste had been added.

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Table 1: Archaeoentomological results from the assessment of three samples from Fairfax Street, Coventry

Sample	1	2	3
Trench	T02	T01	T06
Context	01	02	20
COLEOPTERA			
Carabidae			
<i>Bembidion</i> spp.	+	+	+
<i>Pterostichus</i> spp.		+	+
<i>Amara</i> spp.	+		+
Haliplidae			
<i>Halipus</i> spp.			++
Gyrinidae			
<i>Gyrinus</i> spp.			+
Hydraenidae			
<i>Helophorus</i> spp.	+		
Hydrophilidae			
<i>Cercyon</i> spp.		+	
<i>Cryptopleurum minutum</i> (F.)	+++	++	
<i>Hydrobius fuscipes</i> (L.)			+
Histeridae			
Histeridae indet.	+		

Staphylinidae			
<i>Lesteva</i> spp.	++		+
<i>Anotylus rugosus</i> (F.)		+++	+
<i>Platystethus</i> spp.	+		
<i>Lathrobium</i> spp.		+	
<i>Xantholinus</i> spp.		+	+
<i>Philonthus</i> spp.	+		+
<i>Tachinus</i> spp.		+	
Pselephidae			
Pselaphidae indet.			+
Cantharidae			
<i>Cantharis</i> indet.			+
Elateridae			
Elateridae indet.			+
Dryopidae			
<i>Oulimnius</i> spp.			+
Dermestidae			
<i>Dermestes</i> spp.	+	+	
Nitidulidae			
? <i>Glischrochilus</i> spp.		+	
Cucujidae			
<i>Monotoma</i> spp.	++		
<i>Oryzaephilus surinamensis</i> (L.)	+	+++	
Cryptophagidae			
<i>Cryptophagus</i> spp.	+++	++	
<i>Atomaria</i> spp.	++		
Lathridiidae			
<i>Latridius</i> spp.	+++		+
Lyctidae			
<i>Lyctus linearis</i> (Goeze)	+		+
Anobiidae			
<i>Anobium punctatum</i> (Deg.)	++	++	+
Ptinidae			
<i>Ptinus fur</i> (L.)	++++	+++	+
Scarabaeidae			
<i>Aphodius</i> spp.			+++
Chrysomelidae			
Donaciinae indet.		+	++
<i>Phyllotreta</i> spp.			+
<i>Chaetocnema</i> spp.		+	+
Scolytidae			
? <i>Hylesinus</i> spp.			++

Curculionidae			
<i>Apion</i> spp.			+
? <i>Polydrusus/Strophosoma</i> spp.	+		
<i>Sitona</i> spp.			+
<i>Notaris</i> spp.		+	+
<i>Sitophilus granarius</i> (L.)	++++	+++	
? <i>Nedyus quadrimaculatus</i> (L.)			+
Ceutorhynchinae indet.		++	
Diptera			
<i>Musca domestica/Stomoxys calcitrans</i>	++	+++	
<i>Fannia scalaris</i>		+	
<i>Melophagus ovinus</i>	+		
SIPHONAPTERA			+
<i>Pulex irritans</i> (L.)	++		

Key

+ = 1-2 individuals

++ = 2-5 individuals

+++ = 5-10 individuals

++++ = 10-20 individuals

+++++ = 20+ of individuals

Table 2: Summary of the nature and potential of the insect faunas from Fairfax Street, Coventry.

Sample	Degree of Preservation	Size of fauna	Water conditions	Terrestrial fauna	Overall potential of sample
Sample 1(Context 01)	Good	Large	Limited fauna associated with still or stagnant water	Highly synanthropic fauna including grain beetles indicates dumped settlement waste	Excellent
Sample 2(Context 02)	Good	Large	Limited fauna associated with still or stagnant water	Highly synanthropic fauna including grain beetles indicates dumped settlement waste	Excellent
Sample 3(Context 20)	Average	Average	Larger fauna – majority associated with still or stagnant water	Fauna is derived from an area of grassland, pasture or disturbed ground. There is some evidence for the inclusion of domestic waste.	Good

A number of articles were found on the floor of the lake , and river bed at a depth of 16ft. ... As the men excavated in the silt of the river bed, a coin of Emperor Galinus 253-268AD came to view. I then watched closely and many Roman articles were found...The British Museum states the articles found would be the contents of a Roman lady's box or bag. The bronze key was found.

MEDIEVAL

HER REF	NAME	TYPE	DATE	FINDS	LOCATION
MCT629	Medieval Town Ditch	TOWN DEFENCES	Later Medieval to Victorian - 1351 AD to 1888 AD	-	SP 3361 7900

Description:

The medieval town ditch which ran around the outside of the town wall as an extra line of defence. The ditch has been excavated in several locations over the years, in places providing waterlogged deposits. It may have remained as an open feature in places until the 19th century.

Throughout its history the wall was accompanied by a defensive ditch in front of it. This generally measured up to 10m (33ft) wide and up to 3m (10ft) deep, although ground conditions sometimes resulted in it being wider or deeper in places, while corner-cutting meant that at other times it did not reach these proportions...Perhaps the foremost archaeological quality of the ditch is how varied is its size along its circuit and how different was the cleaning regime applied to the different lengths, from one gate to another and from one property to another. At times it was very poorly looked after and the City Leet Book records that it was often fouled with rubbish, requiring a Corporation order for its cleaning...Each length of ditch can be treated as a separate feature containing rubbish with a slightly different time span and range of finds from that next door in either direction, sometimes subjected to cleaning out, sometimes not, all eventually filled in (usually in different ways)...At [excavations in] Gosford Street (1991) , it was noted that the River Sherbourne ran parallel and so close to the wall that any ditch as such was dispensed with and the river itself served as the ditch-defence for a short distance along to Brick Kiln Lane (now Gulson Road). The ditch is marked on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 (1:2500 scale) in the area south of Cheylesmore Manor. Excavations of the ditch found that its fill dated to the early 19th century in this location (Friar's Road). When the City Walls were built, the river on this length [Gosford Street to Gulson Road] formed the ditch. Excavation uncovered some 55m of the city ditch adjacent to Bond Street, into which four large sections were cut, three close to Hill Street and one at the junction with Upper Well Street. The excavations highlight the huge investment made in digging and maintaining the ditch as a defensive line for the first half of the 15th century before it was gradually mis-used for fly-tipping and eventually lost beneath a welter of dumping by the 17th century. It was probably indefensible long before the Civil War. It is agreed that the wall between Bishop Street and Silver Street (Cook Street) was put up sometime in the late 14th or early 15th century. A reference in the Priory Cartulary suggests that the wall was not built all the way across in 1411 as a Cook Street tenement inside the city extended to the ditch, not the wall. The digging of the city defensive ditch is however, another matter and the exact date of its cutting between Bishop Street and Cook Street is known (John Smythier was Mayor= 1403), from the Priory Cartulary of 1411. During its excavation it cut across and reduced in length three gardens at the rear of Bishop Street and destroyed one and possibly two cottages at the end of Cook Street. Within the site the wall and ditch appear to have lain in areas which were gardens in 1403.

MCT894	THE CATHEDRAL & PRIORY OF ST MARY; PRIORY ROW; COVENTRY	ROAD BLACKSMITHS WORKSHOP PRIORY	Earlier Medieval to Later Medieval - 1101 AD to 1539 AD	-	SP 3361 7918
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Description:

The site of the medieval Cathedral and Benedictine Priory of St. Mary, which was founded in 1043 by Leofric and Godiva. Various excavations have taken place over many years, the most extensive being between 1999 and 2003.

c1043 a Benedictine House consisting of an abbot and 24 monks founded by Earl of Mercia and C Godiva. Highly probable that the whole of Coventry belonged to Godiva and that abbey founded within her territories.. No evidence in Domesday Book that abbey held any lands except own precinct. By 1113 priory (as abbey had become) was claiming a"half" of Coventry; the rest of the town remaining to Earls of Chester.. Two halves divided (according to Earl Hugh II charter to abbey c1161-75) by line along E-W axis of town. Prior half lay to the north, excluding the castle; both extended beyond the area of the later city walls..1102 - Bishop Robert de Limesey moved the seat of his diocese from Chester to Coventry and laid lands on the abbey making it a cathedral priory and himself bishop titular abbot..

After 1117 the monks produced their series of forged charters which included supposed foundation charter..It is also possible to trace back to the 14th century a persistent tradition that a nunnery was founded in Coventry by St Osburg, its abbess in late 10th century, that this nunnery was destroyed by the Danes under Edric the Traitor in 1016 and that Leofric and Godiva used the same site for the foundation of their Benedictine House C1043. No sign of nunnery. Part of monastery used as public cistern in 17th century; piped in "from the conduit (spring) head into the citie".

Foundation Charter of the Monastery of the Blessed Mary at Coventry [1043]; The Popes Bull Confirming King Edward's Charter; and the main text of the Charter of King Edward the Confessor to the Abbey of St Mary Coventry: English translations quoted in full. Boundary wall; cattle shed at a depth of 11ft with roof fallen in and bedding; Two fishponds: one made of mortared stone, 15-20ft wide and 2ft deep, 8ft deep from the land surface. Built near the stables and killing sheds of 1643 opposite the mill house. Fish would have been caught in the Swanswell, St Osburgs and Priory Pools and carried alive to these ponds for storage. An eel spur found and large numbers of larder

hooks. 'A short distance to the west a wall of great thickness was discovered' made from large stones from earlier churches; 4ft thick and bonded with blacksmith's ashes; nearby slag and great quantity of nails from a blacksmithy? Plumb House where lead for roofs and windows was hammered out was claimed by the Prior and the Church of St. Michaels; the latter probably rightly so as it stood in front of the Drapers's Hall near Bayley Lane. Main Priory buildings and features digitised from this source covering major excavations 1999-2000.

Listed Building (I) - 218543 Scheduled Monument - COVSAM7

MCT991	Site of medieval Earls Mill, R Sherbourne, Coventry	MILL	Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD	-	Centred SP 3384 7910
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Description:

The site of Earls Mill, a medieval watermill on the River Sherbourne. Sharp's map of 1807 may depict the mill which was demolished in 1844. Shelton may have observed remains of the watermill during the 1930s during the widening of the river in this area. In 1841 the R Sherbourne was described as "one of the filthiest streams that ever existed". The dams of the many watermills within the city hindered the flow of its polluted water and were held responsible for the many outbreaks of disease in certain areas of the city. In 1844 the Coventry Improvement Act passed, allowing the purchase and demolition of the remaining mills in the city. Earls Mill and Priory Mill, downstream from Spon End Mill, were shortly demolished. Both had existed since the 13th century. Earls Milne Gate (Site of) at confluence of River and Cox St. Seems to show leat to S of R Sherbourne on E side of stream. Building at W end and small triangular pond to NE. Earles Mill, on N side of river outside Bastile Gate. A tax of 3s was paid in 1087 for the Earl's Mill as recorded in Domesday. Mr Molesworth's house and shops with stone fronts and standing at the corner of Cope Street was built about 1843-7 by a Mr. Connop ... The stone front which was thought to be from Mill Gate, was stone from the Earl's Mill.

Since writing the first article about this site, in which I mentioned the Earl's Mill, the oak beams, morticed and pegged, on which little doubt exists that the first mill wheel was placed - this timber is to be seen amongst other things preserved. In one or two places under the culvert stone foundations were found; it may be some part of the dam for the working of the Earl's Mill. The Earl's Mill probably belonged to the Earls of Mercia before the Earls of Chester as it is mentioned in Domesday Book as bringing in three shillings to the city. An underground race was found in excavations and in deepening and widening the river bed, the old mill foundations were found at six feet six inches below the river. No doubt these were the timbers in which the mill wheel turned go back to the Earls time.

MCT992	PRIORY MILL; R SHERBOURNE; COVENTRY	MILL DAM MILL POND MILL RACE WATERMILL	Later Medieval to Victorian - 1400 AD to 1849 AD	-	SP 3355 7924
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Description:

The site of Priory Mill, a medieval watermill that was in existence by 1404 and which belonged to St. Mary's Priory. Around 1688 the mill was demolished and rebuilt, using some parts of the medieval structure. The mill site was excavated in 2002 as part of the Phoenix Initiative. J.B. Shelton reported that he found the foundations of an earlier mill on this site, which he interpreted as being the mill of St. Osburg's Nunnery (see MCT15149). In 1841 R Sherbourne described as "one of the filthiest streams that ever existed". The dams of the many watermills within the city hindered flow of its polluted water and were held responsible for many of the outbreaks of disease in the city. 1844 the Coventry Improvement Act was passed, allowing the purchase and demolition of the remaining mills in the city. Earls Mill and Priory Mill downstream from Spon End Mill were shortly demolished. Both had existed since the 13th century. "Mill Dam" under what becomes part of New Buildings. Triangular pool to the W of this, buildings to E. However mill pool fed from leat off N side of Sherbourne (as well as R) appears to be building across this in area of Hailes St (2 mills?). Prioye Mill. Marked on leat off S side of river (starts W of bridge re- enters E of mill. The stone culvert carrying water away from the Corporation Street Mill to the Priory Mill dam was found beneath the new hotel at the corner of Corporation Street. Mr Shelton has also discovered one of the original wheels of the Prior's Mill, which was recovered from a depth of six feet. Excavations revealed the depth of the Priory Pool. Date of construction not known but Shelton suggests 13th century on the basis of finds, or at least enlarged then. Its water was stored for the Priors Mill which stood there the three brick houses still stand in front of the offices of Messrs Newark's, timber merchants. At the rear still stands the Mill House, converted into two cottages. The mill was destroyed in 1848. The wheel must have been an undershot one as the race was 14ft 6inches in depth. Around the race was placed large sandstones. Near the fire station wall the race that carried the water from the mill wheel and emptied into the stream was discovered. Also a mill wheel made of oak, 4.5ins thick and about 17ins diameter having 8 peg holes, pegs still in part of holes... Lower down the river about 30 yards beyond the Fire Station, the flood gates stood. About 20 yards of the river bed was paved with stone. In the centre were large square stones with a groove cut for a gate to stay against floods; 17ft long and at the ends a well was sunk and oak posts placed in for wheels and chains to raise/lower the gate. As the Priory Mill dam extended to the [Priory] Tower, no horse road would be made through it, but boats were used on the pool and in these the Prior and Convent would reach the Tower. Three boat hooks have been found during excavations. The river Sherbourne and the River Albert, or Naul's Mill stream flowed through to the Priory Pool, which worked the Prior's Mill. In 1831 a number of persons agitating over a wage question... hurled looms out of the [Beck's ribbon factory] windows into the Prior's Pool. The conduit in Conduit Meadow emptied into Priors Pool. The Priory Pool was one acre in extent and reached to the Priory Tower. Prior complained of: ... the throwing of dung and filth into the river, thus utterly stopping the Prior's mill and flood gates whilst the smell was such that the brethren of the Monastery were hurt hereby. and at the bottom end of Trinity Street, at one time the Priors Pool, quite a lot of articles have been unearthed, such as pottery and leather along with the base of a 14th century pinched base pot ... an iron ring... which carried the prop of a cart when not in use... at least 600 years ago. The corporation

commissioned a survey of all its property in 1581, including the priory site where the dyehouse, the mill (poryrie myln') and the foregate were specifically listed...In the late 1650s...Aston's Mill continued to grind corn, renamed Perkin's Mill by 1666, when it contained three sets of stones grinding wheat, maslyn (a mixture of rye and wheat), and malt. By 1687 it was known as Chaplin's Mill and the buildings were in an extremely dilapidated state...At the turn of the 18th century the corporation found itself in severe financial difficulties...The water mill, which had been rebuilt in about 1688 was disposed of in 1731...The mill was removed under a local act of parliament around 1849 as a serious obstruction to the flow of water; its mill pool, a 'noisome and pestilential reservoir', considered a threat to public health, was drained. The site of the pool became the new cattle market, called Smithfield, solving another public nuisance problem of stock markets held in streets. Priory Mill was replaced by a steam-driven saw mill located immediately to the north on the land that lay between the mill tail race and the River Sherbourne

Inspeximus 24 Nov 1404

By Henry IV following the prior's petition in the Coventry Parliament about an underground conduit's having been damaged by various people who throw beast's entrails, dung and excrement into the River Sherbourne, so fouling Priory's Mill's water; the priory wished for a £10 penalty and payment of damages at thrice the value of the offence.

15>Excavations to the north-west of the conventual buildings located the Priory Mill. The mill was not destroyed at the Dissolution but continued as a working mill under various owners until c1688 when it was demolished and rebuilt. This re- building made use of some of the basic components of the monastic mill such as the wheel pit, head race and tail race, parts of which were found intact. Timbers were found in situ in the base of the mill features whilst their sides were predominantly constructed from sandstone ashlar. The heavily robbed walls of the mill house, auxiliary buildings and a flagged yard surface were also found. They had been incorporated into later structures on the site...

MCT2022	River Sherbourne	WATERCOURSE	Early Medieval to 11th Century - 901 AD to 1100 AD	STRATIFIED FIND WOOD	SP 3317 7905
Description: The approximate route of a watercourse (now known as the River Sherbourne) in the Anglo-Saxon period based on the results of environmental sampling.					
MCT2027	Anglo-Saxon Woodland	MANAGED WOODLAND	Early Medieval - 901 AD to 1000 AD	STRATIFIED FIND WOOD	SP 3362 7925
Description: An area where managed woodland may have existed during the Anglo-Saxon period, based on environmental samples taken at the Coventry Transport Museum, Hales Street.					
MCT2028	Anglo-Saxon Woodland	MANAGED WOODLAND	Early Medieval - 901 AD to 1000 AD	STRATIFIED FIND WOOD	SP 3394 7908
Description: An area where managed woodland may have existed during the Anglo-Saxon period, based on environmental samples taken at the Coventry Transport Museum, Hales Street.					
MCT2029	Medieval Carr	COPPICE FIND MANAGED WOODLAND	Early Medieval - 901 AD to 1000 AD	STRATIFIED FIND WOOD	SP 3347 7924
Description: A possible area of Alder/Willow Carr with evidence of coppicing as suggested by environmental evidence.					
MCT2030	Possible watercourse during Saxon period	WATERCOURSE	Early Medieval - 901 AD to 1000 AD)	STRATIFIED FIND WOOD	SP 3380 7942
Description: The possible route of a watercourse during the Anglo-Saxon period, as suggested by the results of environmental samples taken at Coventry Transport Museum, Hales Street.					

MCT2031	Anglo-Saxon Woodland	MANAGED WOODLAND	Early Medieval - 901 AD to 1000 AD	STRATIFIED FIND WOOD	SP 3379 7930
Description: An area where managed woodland may have existed during the Anglo-Saxon period, based on environmental samples taken at the Coventry Transport Museum, Hales Street.					
MCT2599	Medieval City Wall	TOWN DEFENCES TOWN WALL	Later Medieval to 17th Century - 1351 AD to 1662 AD	-	SP 3359 7901
Description: The city wall, the building of which was begun in the 1350s. It took 180 years to complete. Some stretches of the wall are still visible above ground level and are scheduled monuments but much of the wall was demolished in 1662 by order of King Charles II. Sections of the wall have been excavated over the years at various locations along its route. Some sections of the wall's alignment are marked on the ground by the use of different surface materials. Examples of this include a section in Queen Victoria Road and Bull Yard. The wall was begun at New Gate at the head of the London Road in the 1350s...the wall was at one point being built in both directions at once, a short section per year...Since the first took place in 1960 there have been 16 separate excavations on Coventry's late medieval town wall and its accompanying ditch...there were 12 gates and 20 towers along the route of the wall...In 1662 at the King's command, the Earl of Northampton issued a warrant to take down the walls, encouraging Coventrians to join in...The town wall, symbol of medieval Coventry's civic pride, was gone for good. The exact position of walls is not known but site of several of gates are known. Coventry did not become a walled city until the second half of the 14th century, but there was a town ditch and entrance bars in the C13th, and possibly even in the late 12th century. The only physical evidence for an early ditch is one 20' wide and 9' deep to the NE of Well Street Gate, and sections have been found on the South side of Smithford Street aligned with the Spon Street bars, and continuing North and East to Barr's Hill and St Nicholas' Church, (SP37NW12). The North and East sides of the town may well have not been ditched. A licence for murage was obtained in 1329, but work does not seem to have begun for some time. A licence to crenellate was obtained in 1363, and in 1385, a licence was granted to complete the work. The wall was constructed using material in situ; therefore a ditch surrounded the whole circuit. Twelve gates were erected at strategic points, (SP37NW49 and 55-65), these being built from ca.1367 onwards, most being completed by 1411. In addition, there were at least 20 intermediary towers, of which 15 lay on the South side of the town between Hill Gate and Gosford Gate. The sections to the NE of the Priory appear to have been the last section built, in the 15th century. During the 17th century Civil War, the three miles of city walling were comparable in strength to London's City Walls, with four strong gates guarded by 400 guards. In 1662, Charles II ordered that the walls should be pulled down because Coventry had harboured rebels after the restoration. However, this was revoked in 1672, and efforts were made to preserve the circuit. Attempts were made to convert both gates and towers to domestic habitation in the late 17th century and early 18th century, but from the middle of the 18th century onwards, the gates and walls were gradually removed. In 1870, only two gates remained, the Swanswell (Priory) Gate, (SP37NW61), and Cook Street Gate, (SP37NW49). Between these gates lies the only substantial surviving section of the city wall, although not to its original height. It is constructed of two outer skins of ashlar masonry with a rubble core. It was approximately 2 and 1/8 miles in length...and it was fortified with 20 towers and 12 gates according to the inset plan of Coventry shown on Speed's map of Warwickshire drawn about 1610. Ditches had been dug to provide some defence from the 12th century at least, but the power and prestige of the 14th- century city demanded something more than this. A royal grant of murage in 1326 was the first necessary step...and work seems to have started in earnest during the 1340s. Gates on the principal access routes into Coventry seem to have been the focus of the early work...Nevertheless progress seems to have been slow and fitful, with completion not being achieved until more than a century had passed...Even so the circuit of Coventry's medieval defences was maintained well into succeeding centuries. Gradually, however, maintenance declined and gaps began to appear as urban and suburban development eroded the need for and purpose of the city wall. The gates became more encumbrances than necessary control points as well. More importantly, Coventry had supported the Parliamentary cause during the Civil War in the 17th century. When the monarchy was restored, it became an obvious target for retribution - and the defences were an obvious target. Sections of wall and gates were demolished and would never be rebuilt. Subsequent urban expansion, road widening, early-mid 20th century redevelopment of the city centre, and subsequently the widespread damage caused by the Luftwaffe's bombing in World War II all led to further erosion of the remaining circuit. It is agreed that the wall between Bishop Street and Silver Street (Cook Street) was put up sometime in the late 14th or early 15th century. A reference in the Priory Cartulary suggests that the wall was not built all the way across in 1411 as a Cook Street tenement inside the city extended to the ditch, not the wall. The digging of the city defensive ditch is however, another matter and the exact date of its cutting between Bishop Street and Cook Street is known (John Smythier was Mayor= 1403), from the Priory Cartulary of 1411. During its excavation it cut across and reduced in length three gardens at the rear of Bishop Street and destroyed one and possibly two cottages at the end of Cook Street. Within the site the wall and ditch appear to have lain in areas which were gardens in 1403. City Walls (Rems). Early C14th town walls included 32 towers and 12 gates. Destroyed 1662 on the orders of Charles II. 10>SP335793 and SP335794. Remains of wall, well preserved, max. height 3.0m.					
MCT15142	River Sherbourne	BUILDING MILL DAM PILE ROAD	Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD	BUTTON (Medium quantity) SHERD (Large quantity) POTTERY	SP 33785 79175

		FINDSPOT WATERCOURSE		PIN (Medium quantity) BONE, BRASS CROSS (1) FONT (1) IMPRESSED OBJECT	
Description:					
<p>Numerous features and finds were made on the excavation of land near the course of the River Sherbourne by the Triumph Works, Cox Street, in 1933 and recorded by Shelton. Remains of the possible mill dam for Earl's Mill were found and a large number of wooden piles. The precise location of these features and finds is unknown.</p> <p>Cox Street excavations. The excavations of river beds are always of great interest especially on the site of old mill dams etc. This site proved to be of exceptional interest and no one living can really understand the make up of the ground. The Earl's Mill was worked by the river formed into a dam a little further back. The river at the crossing of Cox Street was originally 5-6ft lower than when the former bridge was built. It is hard to say when the making up actually took place but quite a quantity of 13th to 14th century pottery etc came out of the rubbish. The depth of rubble between the [Mill] gate and the river was about 16ft and a large stone wall was found which may have been the boundary to the Mill, built on piles. Many finds of a hundred years ago: especially bone button blanks.</p> <p>First came articles of 12th to 14th century including bones from which buttons had been cut. Many counters were found, so many one would think some were cast here. Brass needles, various pin types, a brass cross, dress holders, bone pins and needles, boots and laces, pottery, harness buckles; a font which monks or friars carried when performing rite of private christenings, with a six point star decoration.</p> <p>Scores of piles were found there and hundreds of large ashlar stones. Horses had died and been buried by the ages of rubbish which had accumulated. ... Where the culvert commenced, which ran beneath the Triumph works into Cox Street, a very interesting roadway made of bones was discovered two feet under the river; on the lower end piles had been driven in the bed to hold the bones in position. Most of the bones were from sheep or goats, no doubt brought in to the city for the winter killing. The reason for this roadway I believe was that as the stone had to be carried over the water, so by placing planks over the bones, they could form a temporary bridge ...</p> <p>The excavations beneath the brick culvert running under the Triumph Works did not yield a great number of articles, but those found were of great interest. One was a piece of leather embossed with a winged lion with a man's head and a Latin inscription...</p> <p>At the end of the culvert near the back of the baths a very interesting roadway ... was about 2ft beneath the present river bed and about 10ft from the surface. It was made from the bones of animals about 18ins in depth and 10ft in width. The roadway of bones was to make a crossing over the marsh of the river, as the water would filter through, and the builders of the [city] wall would be able to walk over the marsh, on top of the bones.</p> <p>It would appear from the many obstructions that were found in the river that little notice must have been taken of these in the medieval period. Just outside the culvert, and beneath the concrete of 30years ago [c.1900] was a large willow tree, weighing over half a ton. Near this spot was a large number of brass pins and several 14th century jugs, one 13th century. Several pieces of leather: saddle and shield? Some very interesting buckles were found... The pulling down the river walls show that a great portion was built with stones from the ruins of St Mary's Church in 1538. In one or two places under the culvert stone foundations were found; it may be part of the dam for the working of the Earl's Mill.</p>					
MCT15144	Possible 12th century battle site, Cox Street	FINDSPOT HUMAN REMAINS BATTLEFIELD	Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD	SHIELD (1) LEATHER SHEATH (1) LEATHER SWORD	SP 33784 79197
Description:					
<p>The possible site of a battle which documentary evidence suggests took place in this area in 1141 when Marmion of Tamworth attacked Coventry. Human remains were found here as well as the remains of a medieval sword, sheath and shield.</p> <p>Human skull of a man aged about 30 and other bones found with it at a depth of two feet below the river bed (possibly not the original bed), also part of a dagger sheath, a leather shield and part of a sword prompting suggestions that this may have been a victim of the battle 'fought on this ground by Marmion, a great warrior of Tamworth'. In 1141 Marmion turned the Benedictine monks out of the church and fortified it, also the buildings attached, made trenches in the surrounding fields and covered them over to trap the Earl's army. When the Earl's army attacked he forgot where the trenches were and whilst on his palfrey fell into one of them, broke his leg and had his head cut off - said to have been a judgement of God for profaning His sacred place.</p>					
MCT15145	Possible old course of medieval city wall	TOWN DEFENCES TOWN WALL	Later Medieval - 1400 AD to 1404 AD	-	SP 33840 79112

Description:

Remains of the original course of the wall as recorded by Shelton, with historical notes.

The city wall at one time surrounded the mill as excavations revealed, but the Prior complained that it injured his grounds to the extent of a few pounds a year, and asked for the wall to be removed, and built further back. At this time the wall was on the south side of the river, from near the fire station to the Mill, no doubt extending to the present wall at the south side of Godiva Street. At this time a tax of about £10 per year was due to be paid by the Prior, but he did all in his power to evade it; however at a later period payment was enforced. ... When coming down to the old stones of the earlier City wall of 1400-4, a road made of round cobble stones was found but apparently ended at the south side of the river as no traces of the same were found at the north side. The foundations were at a depth of 14ft, and as usual built on the solid ground.

Near to the mill a large stone wall, nine feet wide, ran. As the city wall surrounding the Benedictine Monastery site had been altered in 1467, this piece of walling was a part of the original wall, and was built on wood piles driven into the marshy ground.

'many piles yet standing, on which the City Wall had been built in 1404 over the mill foundations. ... Scores of piles were found all down the river, in some places large stones resting on them - showing that the city wall, built in 1404 (and demolished at the request of Prior Deram in 1461, when he asked that St Osburg's Pool be included in the wall).

The city wall in its original form was less than 3 miles in circumference. ... The wall was built around the northern borders about 1403... from Cook Street Gate it came to the corner of the new part of the Fire Station ... then running in front of the Fire Station to the river where the Priory Tower then stood. From there the wall ran to the east and quite a large portion is under Messrs Newark's the timber merchants while another part is still in the ground running to the south up New Buildings. This part may have been a lean-to wall staying the tower or otherwise made for holding back some water of Priory Pool.

The Prior stated that they had paid £10 per annum murage to the city wall, and that the Corporation should have built 6 perches per year and that most of this money had gone to repair the wall on other land. The Leet replied that they considered the people of the Monastery should be thankful as the pulling down the old wall and including St Osburg's Pool ... cost them 5 marks more than the first wall and as the wall protected their Monastery grounds and also that no complaint had been made prior to that of Prior Shotswell in 1461-2.

MCT16221	Site of medieval Priory dye house	DYE HOUSE? PAPER MILL	Later Medieval to modern	-	SP 33671 79170
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Description:

The site of the medieval dyehouse that was part of St. Mary's Benedictine Priory. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539 it remained as a dyehouse and for a short time in the 18th century was used for the manufacture of paper. In the 19th century this area was used as a timber yard but the dyehouse building survived. It was demolished by 1903 when the Triumph Cycle Company built their factory on the site.

John Hales died in 1571 and in 1575 his family sold the priory site, with its corn mill and dyehouse, to the corporation for £40 and the dyehouse equipment for £400... In 1577 the dyehouse and much of the precinct was leased by the corporation to Peter Demetrius, a 'doctory of physic'. He quickly sub-let the dyehouse to Thomas Eybourne, a dyer... The corporation commissioned a survey of all its property in 1581, including the priory site where the dyehouse... was specifically listed. The dyehouse and dwelling house contained seven bays and a lean-to, and adjacent were a two-bay barn and stable and a three-bay stone building. These buildings all appear to have survived into the 20th century... At the turn of the 18th century the corporation found itself in severe financial difficulties, not helped by a pervasive culture of corruption... but the corporation retained the dyehouse until well over a century later. By 1765 it had been converted to paper making... The survival of the former priory dyehouse, later a paper manufactory, and the water mill into the 19th century stimulated the industrialisation of the north part of the precinct. The dyehouse probably returned to its original function in the 1780s and in 1811 the corporation leased it to William Browett, a cotton manufacturer... The venture did not last long and by 1814 Thomas Moy, a timber merchant, had taken over the site for a wood yard, but he converted a surviving medieval building at the entrance into dwellings, previously used as stables... This area of the precinct was developing as an enormous timber yard with the factory [to the south] purchased from the corporation in 1861 by W.S. Boothe and G. Earle, timber merchants. In the same year they also purchased the former dyehouse site adjoining to the north... In 1896 William Boothe, timber merchant and survivor of the Boothe and Earle partnership, dissolved in 1873, sold the Priory Wood Yard... to the Triumph Cycle Company. By 1903 Triumph had built on of the largest factories in Coventry at the time, removing the medieval remains of the dyehouse and converting most of the site with a multi-storey block on the Priory Street frontage and extensive north-lit sheds

MCT16299	Mill Lane; Cox Street	ROAD	Early Medieval to 18th Century - 950 AD to 1799 AD	-	SP 33851 79188
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Description:

A medieval or earlier road called Mill Lane and later called Cox Street.

Cox Street is not an old name; it was formerly named Mill Lane because the Earls Mill stood at the entrance to Godiva Street.

MCT16486	City Ditch	TOWN DEFENCES	Earlier Medieval to Later Medieval	-	SP 33786 79255
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			- 1350 AD? to 1480 AD?		
Description:					
No evidence for the town wall was located possibly because of previous modern disturbance. However the surface of a possible town ditch fill (109) was recorded in the southern half of the evaluation trench. It was unexcavated as it would be unaffected by the proposed development. A mid C20 brick building may have utilised stone from the former town wall in its construction.					
MCT16642	Remains of the Medieval City Wall, Fairfax Street	TOWN DEFENCES TOWN WALL	Later Medieval to 17th Century - 1351 AD to 1662 AD	-	SP 33790 79239
Description:					
J.B. Shelton records finding remains of the demolished wall in the area north of what is now Fairfax Street when foundations were dug for a factory.					
In 1461 Prior Shotswell complained about the wall not including St Osburga's Pool and it was decided to extend the wall: in 1462 to 1480 it was enlarged to include: the White Friars, the Grey Friars, St Johns' Church, the Benedictine Monastery. 'The wall running in a straight line down the north side of Pool Meadow as far as a group of houses which stood on the east side of Priory Street just below the present factory... In the sinking for foundations for the factory, the wall was discovered just as it was thrown down in 1666, when most of the walls were demolished by Charles II'.					
MCT16643	Medieval Wall Foundations Observed in the Area of Fairfax Street Carpark	TOWN DEFENCES TOWN WALL	Later Medieval to 17th Century - 1351 AD to 1667 AD	-	SP 33795 79229
Description:					
J.B. Shelton observed foundations of the city wall near the former site of the swimming baths, now in the area of the carpark off Fairfax Street. Exact location uncertain.					
At the east side of the river, and continuing under the wall near the swimming baths a good length of the city wall foundations can be seen, and scores of oak piles ... and at the near side to the baths the bottom course of stone left from pulling down the city wall was still to be seen, and many of the piles on which it was built. After turning the bend in the river, a piece of wall about 14ft high was discovered and in the wall a round tower built on piles of silver birch.					
POST-MEDIEVAL					
HER REF	NAME	TYPE	DATE	FINDS	LOCATION
MCT15143	Possible site of bridge, Cox Street	BRIDGE	Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD	-	SP 33873 79115
Description:					
The possible site of a bridge across the River Sherbourne at Cox Street alluded to by J.B. Shelton. The river at the crossing of Cox Street was originally 5-6ft lower than when the former bridge was built. It is still within memory of some that only a small bridge of wood crossed the river.					
MCT16208	Mill Lease	GARDEN?	Jacobean to Unknown - 1611 AD	-	SP 33553 79227
Description:					
Lease of the former Priory mill area to Aston in 1611					
MODERN					
HER REF	NAME	TYPE	DATE	FINDS	LOCATION
MCT16020	Coventry Central Baths, Fairfax Street	BUILDING SWIMMING POOL	Modern	-	SP 33797 79125

Description:

Coventry Central Swimming Baths with attached sunbathing terraces. Designed 1956, built 1962-6 by Coventry City Architect's Department, under Arthur Ling and Terence Gregory. The building is Grade II Listed.

1> Swimming Baths with attached sunbathing terraces. Designed 1956, built 1962-6 by Coventry City Architect's Department, under Arthur Ling and Terence Gregory; Michael McLellan principal architect, Paul Beney assistant in charge. Steel frame, supported on four main stanchions set outside the building envelope with much use of cantilevers, clad in brick with large areas of glazing. At upper levels mosaic finish of expressed trusses replaced in powder coated metal that is sympathetic to original intentions. Set on a tight site, an enfilade of three pools set in a single hall, the largest pool 'T'-shaped to include a diving area. This projects on the south elevation, which is particularly impressive, with full glazing round five sides. This has strong internal mullions, while externally the mullions and transoms form an even grid.

The interior is particularly impressive. Main pool hall with seating for 1,174 spectators has 165' pool with diving area in projecting 'T'. Small teaching pool set in low ceilinged space under projecting café and viewing area, with small pool beyond. These retain original brick and tile finishes.

The elaborate facilities of the main pool were designed to meet international competition standards, and the pool became the regional competitive centre for the Midlands - a recognition of the impressive facilities provided rather than an original aim.

Later sports hall to east with bridge link not of special interest.

Wartime bombing destroyed four of Coventry's five swimming baths. By 1956 the city decided that its needs would best be met by a very large central complex. Coventry and Hampstead were the only complexes of the period to be constructed with three pools, and at Coventry all three remain in use. The use of a steel frame and the longitudinal plan are also unusual features. Coventry is important as amongst the most ambitious baths built anywhere in Britain in the short period 1960-66 when large swimming complexes were encouraged. It is also one of the few buildings in the rebuilt Coventry centre to be a pure modern design: 'Coventry has been provided with one of the finest swimming pools in the world. It has probably no equal in Europe, and local pride has reason to be satisfied. ... The site for the Swimming Baths was constricted and the requirements complicated. Yet the result is undoubtedly an architectural success. The enormous bird-like form has an imaginative and dramatic elegance which outclasses any of the other recently erected buildings in central Coventry.' (Coventry New Architecture).

Listed Building (II) - 466553 COVENTRY CENTRAL BATHS (ORIGINAL

PART INCLUDING SUNBATHING TERRACES)

MCT16028	Site of former Theatre One Cinema and Alexandra Theatre, Ford Street	COFFEE HOUSE CINEMA	Modern	-	SP 33875 79299
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Description:

The site of a building that was originally a late 19th century coffee house and which was later extended and converted into a cinema. The building became a nightclub in the 1970s and was demolished in 2014.

The Ordnance Survey map published in 1889 records the building as the 'Alexandra Coffee Tavern', with frontages onto Ford Street and Cox Street and an angled corner. The maps published in 1906 and 1914 show that the range along Cox Street was gradually extended northwards and the map published in 1937 shows the building marked as 'Cinema' and with an extended frontage to the west along Ford Street. It is believed that the coffee house and the attached cinema were under a single ownership and that the building was opened as the Alexandra Theatre in 1917 by Elijah Strong, previously landlord of the General Wolfe Hotel in Foleshill Road. The front of the building functioned as a coffee shop with a cinematograph hall behind. The cinema apparently had a small pit for an orchestra and a panoramic screen was installed in the 1920s and the cinema was converted to talking pictures in 1929. In 1934 the building was sold to Harold Philpot and became part of his circuit. In 1940 the building sustained bomb damage and Philpot sold out to Hugh Orr and it re-opened in January 1941. In 1968 the building underwent an overhaul, and reopened as 'Theatre One' in 1970. In 1972 it was converted into a two-screen cinema and in 1974 a third screen was added, with consequent subdivision of the interior. A fire in 1978 severely damaged the foyer area. An extensive conversion in 1989 involved the complete redecoration of the exterior, with applied cladding, and of the interior, including the replacement of seats and original tiles. In 1991 the building was converted to a nightclub.

DETAILS: A former coffee shop and cinema of late 19th and early 20th century dates with later, 20th century additions and alterations. Materials: red brick with stucco render and a pantile roof. Plan: the building has a two-storey range to the south and a lower, single-storey range to the north. The foyer and staircase are at the southern corner. Exterior: the frontage along Cox Street has three bays divided by pilasters. The lower body is windowless, but an attic has paired windows with key stones to the moulded surrounds and PVC window frames. A later-20th century water tank with clapboarded covering projects above the parapet at left. A plinth, bands and string course run around the two street fronts of the building. The southern corner of the building has a canted bay with a flight of steps rising to the doorway which has a round relieving arch. The moulded string course arches up over the doorway and the attic has a similar, small-scale arched moulding. The front to Ford Street has four similar bays with blind, semi-circular panels rising on the string course. Above these is a parapet with panel. The northern gable wall and the western flank are blank brickwork. Interior: the staircase retains a metal balustrade and mahogany handrail to its lower body which appear to be early 20th century in date. The auditorium has a suspended ceiling and landings to one side and at one end, which may include parts of the former cinema gallery. All seating has been removed and the ramped

<p>floor of the auditorium. The former projection room has lost all of its original equipment and was converted to an office to one end. A series of semi-circular window reveals can be seen in a flank wall.</p>						
MCT16234	Mill	SETTLEMENT?	18th Century to Unknown - 1731 AD	-	SP 33586 79228	
<p>Description: Mill plot sold by the Coventry Corporation to John Gulson in 1731</p>						
MCT16313	Priory Street	ROAD	Constructed, (between) Victorian - 1856 AD to 1857 AD	-	SP 33680 79149	
<p>Description: Priory Street was constructed between 1856 and 1857. Towards its southern end it cuts through the site of the Bishop's Palace. There is a bridge over the River Sherbourne in the middle of the street.</p>						
MCT16349	Cope Street	ROAD	Victorian to Modern - 1843 AD to 2007 AD	-	SP 33754 79072	
<p>Description: Cope Street built 1843-7</p>						
MCT16487	C18-19 Surface	Ground	BURIED SOIL HORIZON	18th Century to Victorian - 1751 AD? to 1850 AD?)	-	SP 33786 79255
<p>Description: The remains of a late C18 or e C19 ground surface were recorded. At this time the map evidence suggests the area was undeveloped open ground.</p>						

Appendix III: Historic Maps

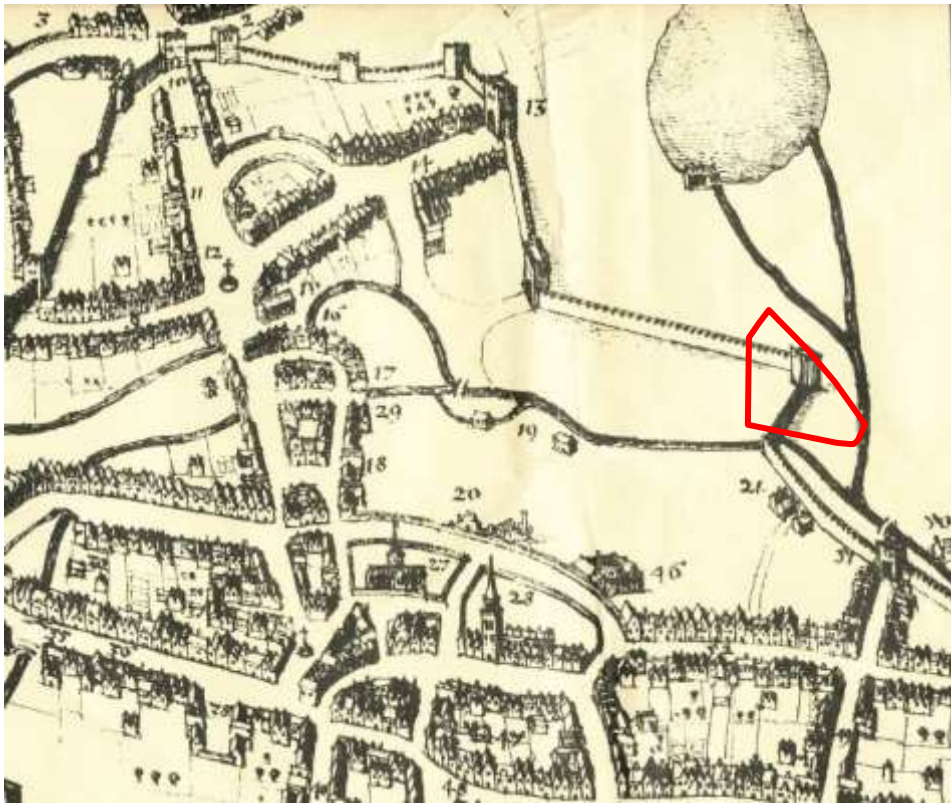


Figure 30: 1610 John Speed map



Figure 31: 1750 Samuel Bradford map



Figure 32: 1807 Thomas Sharp map of Coventry



Figure 33: 1851 Board of Health map, sheets 10, 11, 17 and 18



Figure 34: 1889 OS map, 25 inch to 1 mile

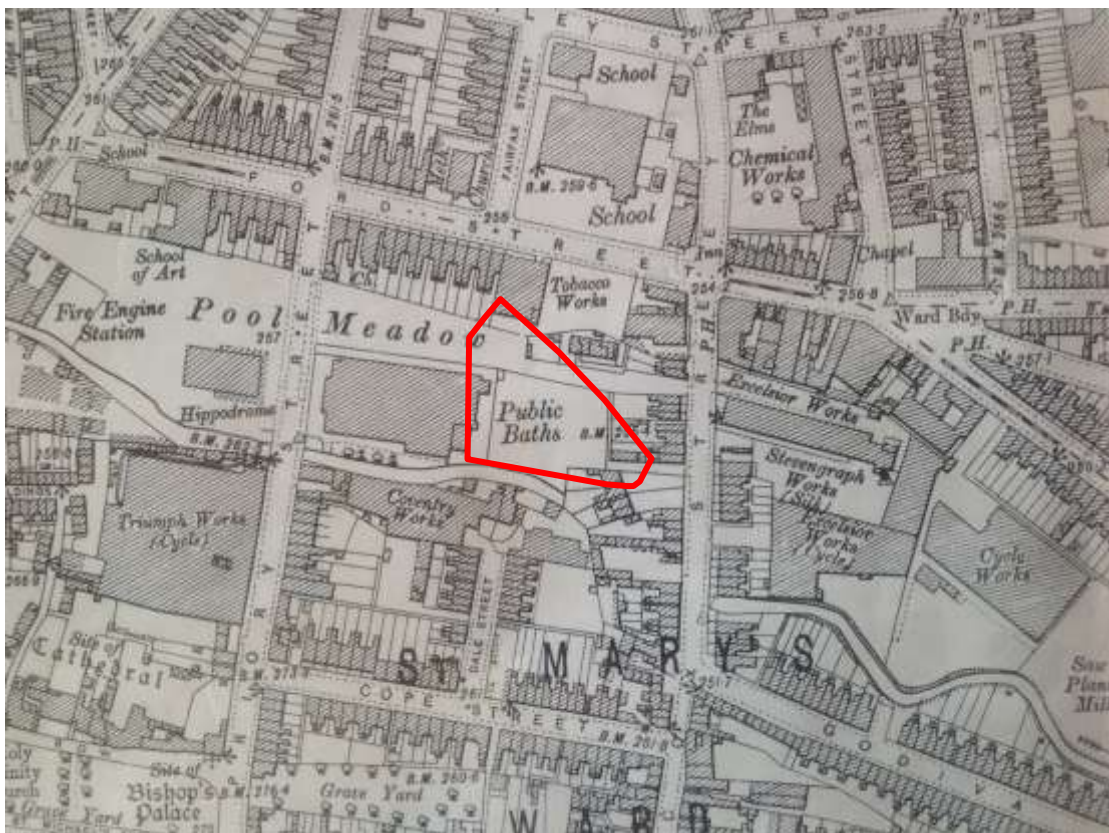


Figure 35: 1906 OS map, 25 inch to 1 mile

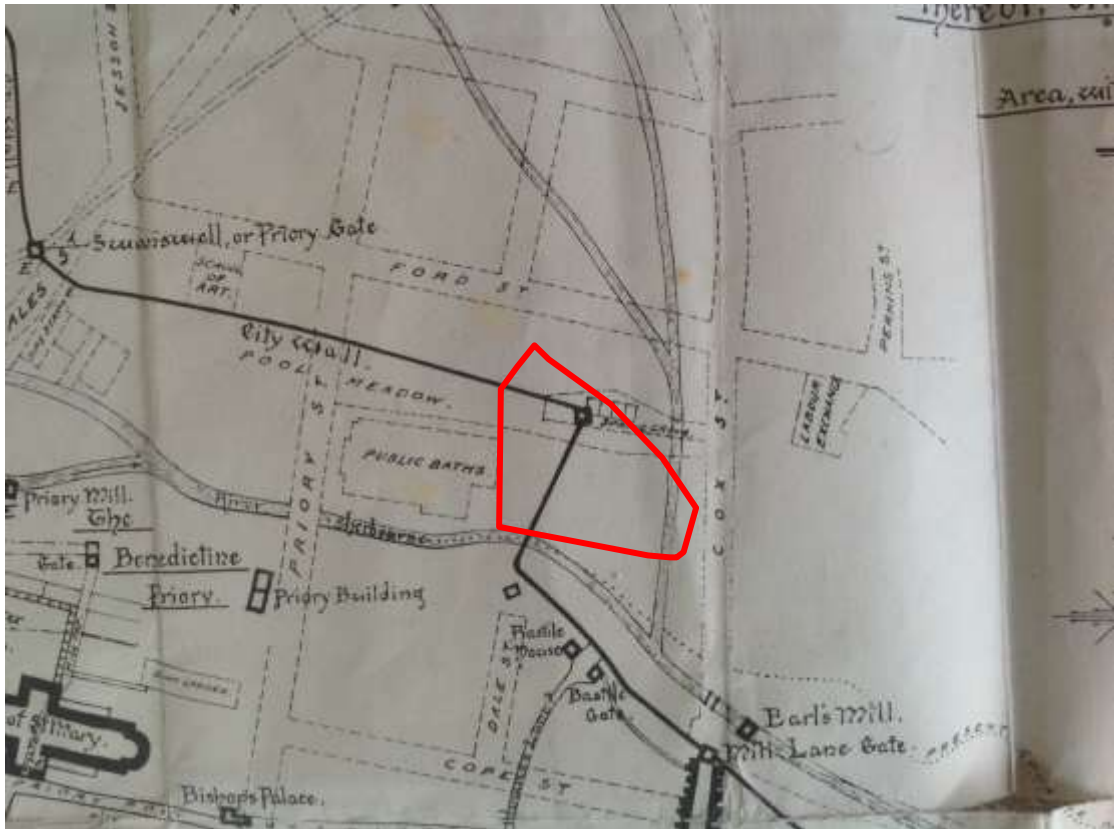


Figure 36: 1917 map by T.F Tickner showing medieval Coventry



Figure 37: 1925 OS map, 25 inch to 1 mile



Figure 38: 1937 OS map, 25 inch to 1 mile



Figure 39: 1950 OS map, 1:1250

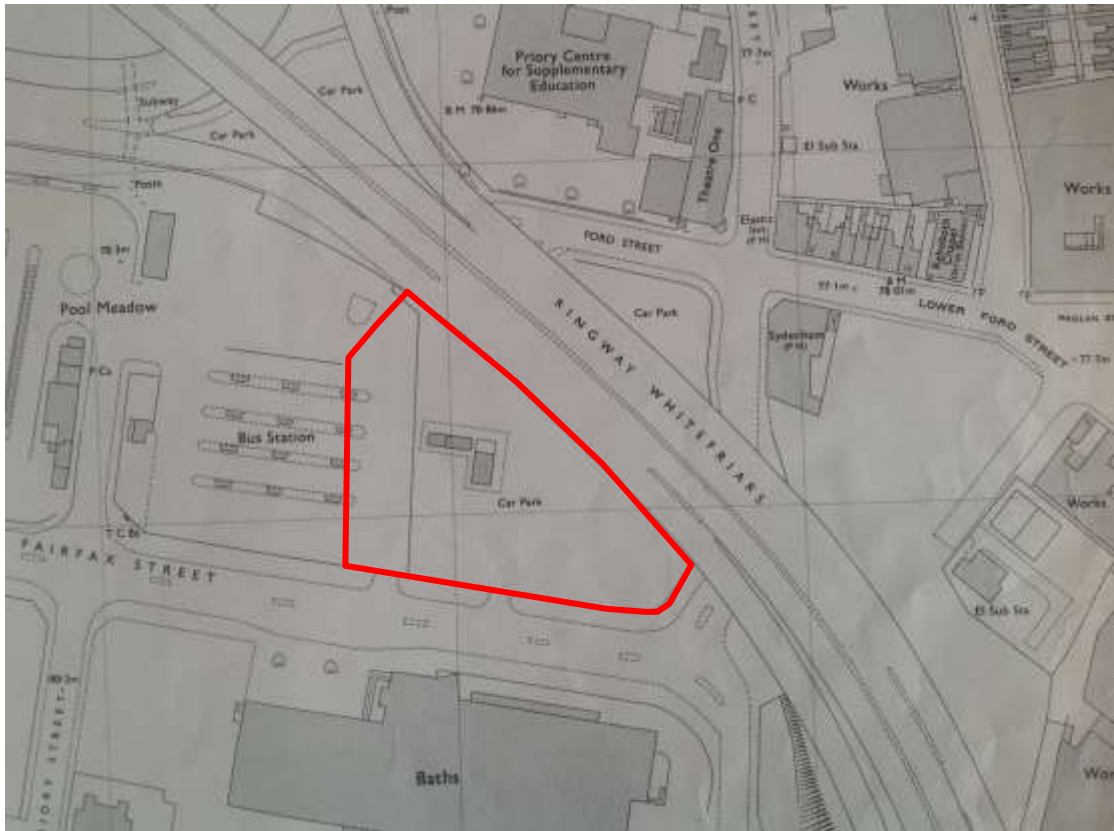


Figure 40: 1971 OS map, 1:1250

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