



ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUND MONITORING AT GRANGE COURT, LEOMINSTER, HEREFORDSHIRE

for Herefordshire County Council

DCNC2009/0435/CD

February 2011

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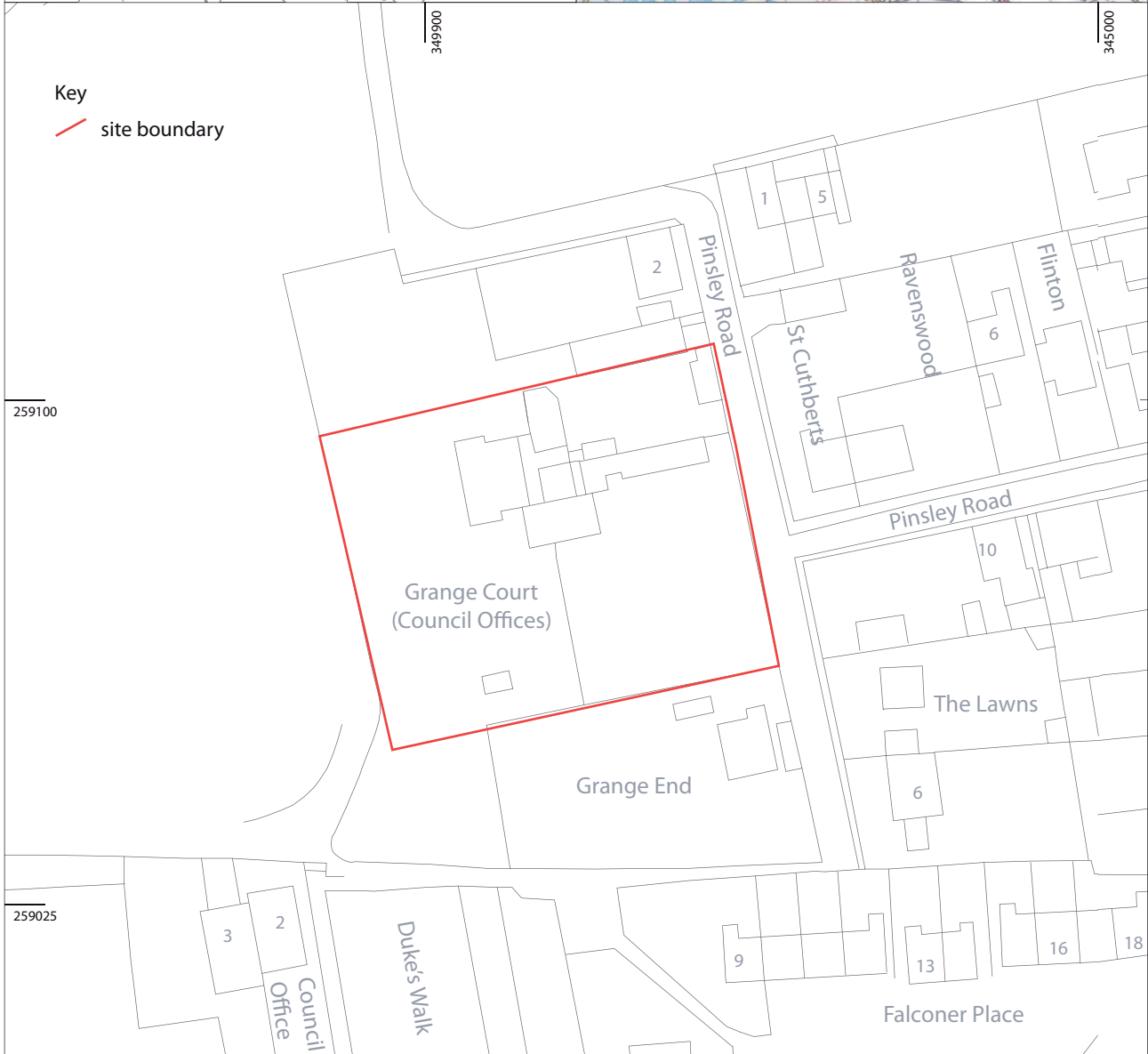
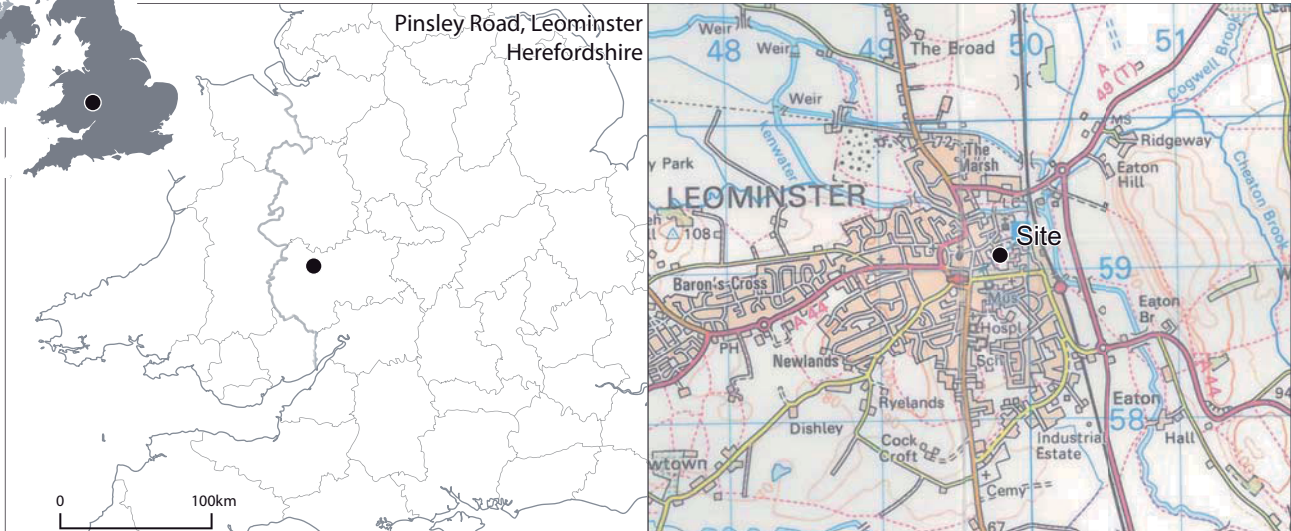
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Scale 1:1000 @ A4



0 50m

viii

Illus 1
Site location

ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUND MONITORING AT GRANGE COURT, LEOMINSTER, HEREFORDSHIRE

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Herefordshire County Council to undertake archaeological ground monitoring at Grange Court in Leominster, Herefordshire as a condition of planning approval ref. DCNC2009/0435/CD. Apart from a pond and modern well, the archaeological watching brief did not reveal any other evidence of archaeology around the building

1. INTRODUCTION

Planning permission for development of the house and gardens at Grange Court, Leominster was granted by Herefordshire Council on 07/08/2009. The applicant was Mr B Williams of Herefordshire Council, through agents ST Walker and Duckham of Worcester. On the advice of Herefordshire Archaeology, a pre-commencement archaeological planning condition (Condition 9) was attached to the planning permission, in order to secure a suitable programme of archaeological work in relation to the development. Such conditions are in line with the guidance given in *Planning Policy Guidance Archaeology and Planning 1990* (PPG 16), and are in accordance with the (Herefordshire) Unitary Development Plan, Policy ARCH6.

The presumed sensitivity of the site led to an archaeological field evaluation being undertaken in January 2009, in order to inform the planning application. The results of this evaluation are contained in *An Archaeological Field Evaluation at Grange Court, Pinsley Road, Leominster, Herefordshire* Mercian Archaeology PJ234 Feb 2009.

The objective of this stage of archaeological work was to record any remains of archaeological significance encountered during the course of the development, produce a report and deposit the archive with a local repository.

1.1 Location

Leominster is located at the junction of the A49 Hereford to Shrewsbury road and the A44, which links Leominster with Worcester. The Shropshire market town of Ludlow is some 18 kilometres to the north, the city of Hereford

around 20 kilometres to the south. The town occupies the higher ground in the area of land defined by the confluence of the Rivers Lugg and Arrow.

Grange Court is on the eastern side of the town, around 300 metres to the south of the Priory Church of St Peter and St Paul (the site of Leominster Priory). The site is approached via Pinsley Lane, which runs from Etnam Street at the south, to Church Street to the northwest.

1.2 Background and history

Leominster is a historic market town, designated as an 'Archaeologically Important Urban Area' in the Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan. The core of Leominster, within which the site is situated, is regarded as having high potential for the recovery of historic artifact assemblages and for the detailed study and recording of historic structures (CMHTS, 1996).

The site is in a particularly sensitive location archaeologically, being within the ancient Saxon precinct of Leominster Priory. Because of the sensitivity of the site an archaeological field evaluation was undertaken in January 2009, in order to inform the planning application:

'The results of the archaeological work demonstrated that there were limited archaeological features within the evaluated area. A single shallow gully was seen in Trench 2, with a more substantial ditch feature identified in Trench 3. The fills of these features contained no artefacts and so remain undated. The likelihood is that the features are medieval and represent drainage features in a formerly wet area that was cultivated, probably during the medieval period. It appears that when the Grange Court building



was erected on the site in the mid-19th century, the gardens were also laid out resulting in areas of landscaping and terracing, with earth moved about the site.’
(*Mercian Archaeology, 2009*).

2. METHOD

The scope of the work encompassed archaeological monitoring of:

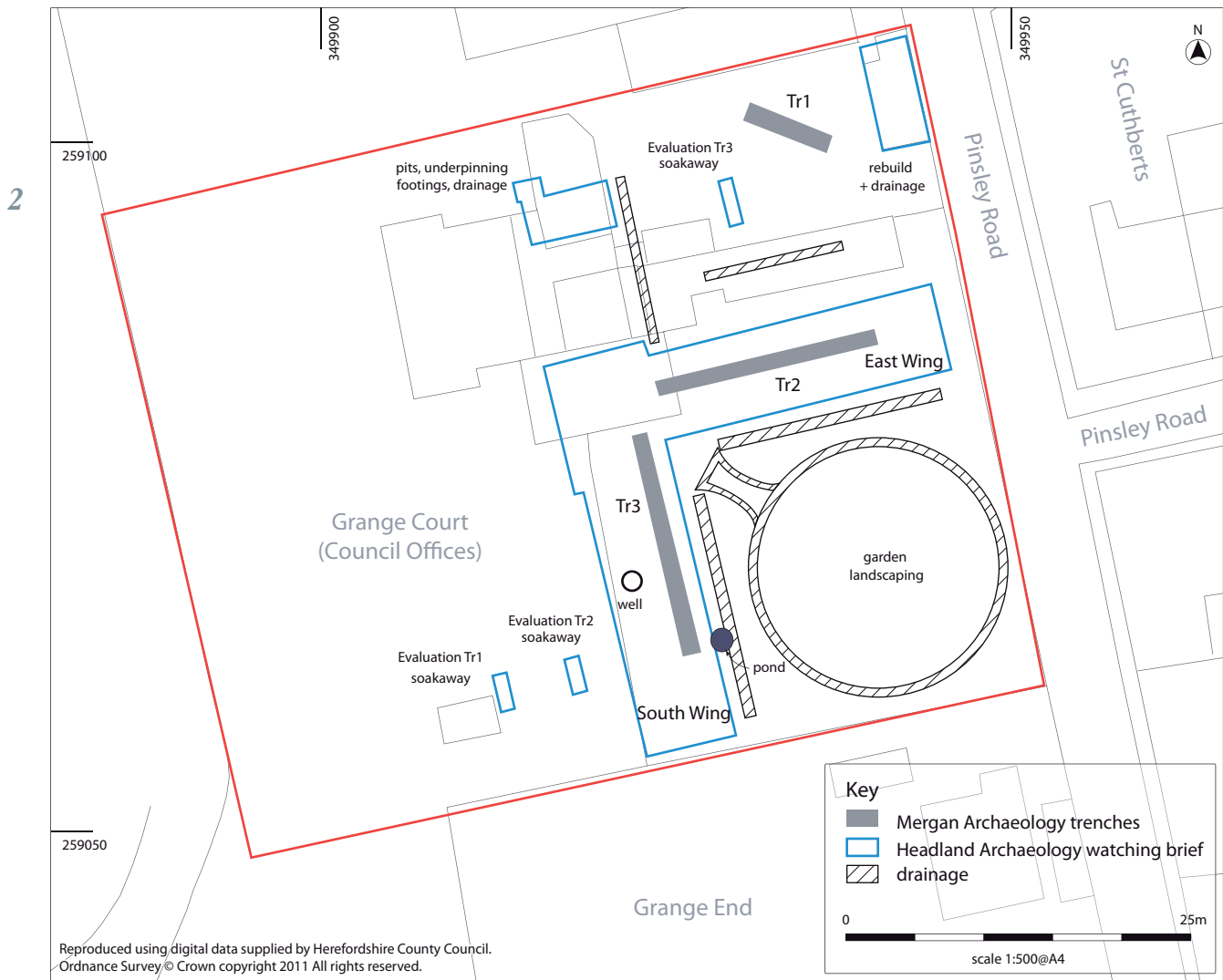
- excavation for the slabs of the south and east wings,
- test pits, underpinning and footings for the northern extension of Grange Court,
- the rebuild of the outbuildings abutting the stable block,
- drainage works in the northeast and southeast quadrants of the site,

- excavation of a circular wall foundation for landscaping,
- excavation of trenches through the areas where soakaways are to be sited.

Due to a lack of finds of any archaeological significance over a period of two weeks whilst monitoring service trenches it was agreed with Julian Cotton (Archaeological advisor for the planning authorities) that other areas likely to be affected by the proposed developments be evaluated with 3 trenches.

2.1 Recording

All recording was carried out to IfA Standards and Guidance. All contexts were given unique numbers and recorded on pro forma cards and a context register. Photography was undertaken using 35mm slide and black and white film. A 7.2mp camera was used for illustrative purposes.



Illus 2
View of site looking north

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Illus 3

Overview of site facing north

2.2 Samples and artefacts

No contexts worth sampling were uncovered during the course of the watching brief and no stratified small finds were observed/retained.

3. RESULTS

Observations made during the course of the project were consistent with the evaluation report from 2009 (Mercia Archaeology). The underlying drift geology is at c.500–700mm, below a cultivation subsoil of between 200

and 400mm thickness, underlying topsoil and general detritus c.200–400mm deep. The exceptions to this is the area of the stable yard which had little topsoil, but instead revealing make-up deposits for a sequence of yard surfaces.

No continuations of the ditch and gully reported by Mercian Archaeology have been found, but the demolition deposits noted in their Trench 2 were seen in the drainage and landscaping of the northwest corner of the garden area. A well was recorded during excavations for the south wing, and a probable clay-lined pond feature nearby in associated drainage works.



Illus 4

Pond [108] facing southeast

4. CONCLUSION

The results of the archaeological work revealed few archaeological features, limited to the probable pond and a well observed in the drainage and foundation trenches for the proposed south wing. The features did not contain stratified archaeological finds and it is therefore not possible to ascribe dates.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mercian Archaeology, 2009, *An Archaeological Evaluation at Grange Court, Pinsley Road, Leominster, Herefordshire*, A Report for Herefordshire County Council.



6. APPENDIX

6.1 Site registers

Context Register

Context no.	Trench no.	Description
100	-	Topsoil horizon
101	-	Subsoil immediately between topsoil and rubble
102	-	Rubble/demolition spread
103	-	Rubble fill of modern service trench
104	-	Post medieval/modern disturbance/rubble
105	-	Fill of backfilled pond feature
107	-	Clay-lining of pond feature
108	-	Cut for pond feature
109	-	Undisturbed geological deposit

Drawing Register

4	Drawing no.	Section	Plan	Description
	1	1:20	-	West facing section of test pit 1
	2	1:20	-	East facing section of test pit 2
	3	1:20	-	East facing section of test pit 3
	4	1:10	-	South facing section of pond [108]
	5	1:10	-	North facing section of pond [108]
	6	-	1:20	Feature [108]
	7	-	1:100	Trenches 1 and 2
	8	-	1:100	Trenches 1 and 2 continued
	9	-	n/a	Sketch plan of south end of site
	10	-	1:50	Inspection chamber drainage, east of site
	11	1:50	-	North facing section of inspect chamb drain
	12	-	1:50	Underpinning + footing, NE corner of build
	13	-	1:100	Water-main trench by south and east wings
	14	-	1:50	Drains east of footing
	15	-	1:50	Extension of footing and inspection chamber
	16	-	1:50	Drainage east of south wing
	17	-	1:50	Outbuilding rebuilt as boiler room
	18	-	1:50	Drainage connection plan 13 and 16

Photographic Register

Photo no.	Colour slide	B&W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
1	-	-	100-0041	S	Excavation of footing for south wing
2	-	-	100-0042	S	Excavation of footing for south wing
3	-	-	100-0043	W	Grange building, south wing trench in foreground
4	-	-	100-0044	S	South wing trench near completion
5	-	-	100-0045	S	Stoning up in south trench
6	-	-	100-0079	N	North end south wing trench
7	-	-	100-0080	N	Well showing modern backfill
8	-	-	100-0081	N	Compaction in south trench
9	-	-	100-0082	W	Test pit 2, inspection of foundations
10	-	-	100-0083	SW	North facing section, test pit 2
11	-	-	100-0084	SW	Test pit 3, profile below exposed footing
12	-	-	100-0085	E	Clay lining of pond feature
13	-	-	100-0086	N	Top view of pond feature
14	-	-	100-0087	S	Top view of pond feature
15	-	-	100-0088	SE	Top view and two sections of pond feature showing fills
16	-	-	100-0089	S	North facing section of pond feature
17	-	-	100-0090	N	Draingage run from cellar to pond feature
18	-	-	100-0091	W	E-W drain run, 90° to photo 17
19	-	-	100-0092	E	View along drain run from spoil heap
20	-	-	100-0093	E	View along drain run from spoil heap
21-25	-	-	n/a	n/a	Error in numbering of photograph register – void numbers
26	-	-	201-1790	n/a	Photo of construction plan
27	-	-	201-1791	n/a	Photo of wings
28	-	-	201-1792	n/a	Photo of wings
29	-	-	201-1793	n/a	Photo of whole building plan
30	-	-	201-1794	E	Trench 1 during machining
31	-	-	201-1795	S	Modern disturbance close to buildings, in Trench 1
32	-	-	201-1796	n/a	Stones from lapidarum
33	-	-	201-1797	n/a	Norman capital from lapidarum
34	-	-	201-1798	SE	Levels being taken at the start of machining, Trench 2
35	-	-	201-1799	W	Excavation of Trench 2 running parallel with Trench 1
36	-	-	201-1800	NW	Excavation of Trench 2 running parallel with Trench 1
37	-	-	201-1801	S	Modern gas main trench (linear feature)
38	-	-	201-1802	S	First clean up of gas main trench (linear feature)
39	-	-	201-1803	S	First clean up of gas main trench (linear feature)
40	-	-	201-1804	N	Modern linear feature in Trench 2
41	-	-	201-1805	W	Excavation adjacent to the south side of the buildings
42	-	-	201-1806	NW	Excavation adjacent to the south side of the buildings
43	-	-	201-1807	NW	Modern irregular feature to the south of the buildings



Photo no.	Colour slide	B&W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
44	-	-	201-1808	N	Modern irregular feature to the south of the buildings
45	-	-	201-1809	W	Trench 2 linear feature and T-return to the north
46	-	-	201-1810	N	Trench from the cellar showing modern rubble
47	-	-	201-1811	W	Start of machining for foundations of south wing
48	-	-	201-1812	NW	Start of machining for foundations of south wing
49	-	-	201-1813	NW	Machining at east end of east wing duct trench
50	-	-	201-1814	NE	Machining at east end of east wing duct trench
51	-	-	201-1815	E	East wing foundation trenches partly stone up, showing west wing foundation trenches in the foreground
52	-	-	201-1816	NE	Duct trench showing south wing foundation trench in the foreground
53	-	-	201-1817	NE	Trench joining south and east wings
54	-	-	201-1818	SE	Test pit 1 for architects to assess foundations
55	-	-	201-1819	S	Rubble deposit
56	-	-	201-1820	NW	Location of test pit 1 on north side of modern building
57	477/36	478/36	202-2007	E	Inspection chamber excavation on east side of modern building
58	35	35	202-2008	W	Inspection chamber at easternmost end of modern building
59	34	34	2009	S	Underpinning east building, west end including wall stub
60	33	33	2010	S	Underpinning east building, west end including wall stub
61	32	32	2011	W	Footing for new build, north of eastern building
62	31	31	2012	S	Footing for new build, north of eastern building
63	30	30	2013	S	Water main in NW angle of new slab SE of building (sample section 1)
64	29	29	2014	S	Water main in NW angle of new slab SE of building (sample section 2)
65	28	28	2015	E	Water main - general trench view
66	27	27	2016	N	Sample section in pit for inspection chamber, east of new footing
67	26	26	2017	N	Sample section in pit for inspection chamber
68	25	25	2018	W	Sample section west end footing to the north of grange court
69	24	24	2019	W	View of east end of building after it has been opened up
70	23	23	2020	W	General view drainage at east end of building
71	22	22	2021	S	Drainage trench west side NS running slabs SW of grange court
72	21	21	2022	N	Levelling work at east end of grounds against boundary wall
73	20	20	2023	SW	Internal works, floor reduction in SE room of extension
74	19	19	2024	N	View of central section of drainage trench west of south wing
75	18	18	2025	n/a	ID shot
76	17	17	2026	N	Slot through SW soakaway, east end
77	16	16	2027	N	Slot through SW soakaway, east end
78	15	15	2028	N	Slot through NE soakaway
79	-	-	201-1765	S	Cutting trench 1
80	-	-	1766	W	Cutting trench 1
81	-	-	1767	S	Cutting trench 1 buildings included
82	-	-	1768	S	Trench 1 showing clean base and rubble disturbance
83	-	-	1769	N	Norman stone voysoir from lapidarum

Photo no.	Colour slide	B&W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
84	-	-	1770	N	Norman window head from lapidarum
85	-	-	1771	N	Norman window head from lapidarum
86	-	-	1772	N	Norman column bases from lapidarum
87	-	-	1773	N	Second Norman window head
88	-	-	1774	n/a	Collection of assorted stones
89	-	-	1775	n/a	Collection of assorted stones
90	-	-	1776	n/a	Decorated piscena or mortar
91	-	-	1777	n/a	Decorated piscena or mortar
92	-	-	1778	n/a	Decorated piscena or mortar
93	-	-	1779	n/a	Decorated piscena or mortar



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