

FWPW10



FOURWINDS, PERSHORE, WORCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief

for Highbury Design & Development Ltd

W/08/1913

August 2011

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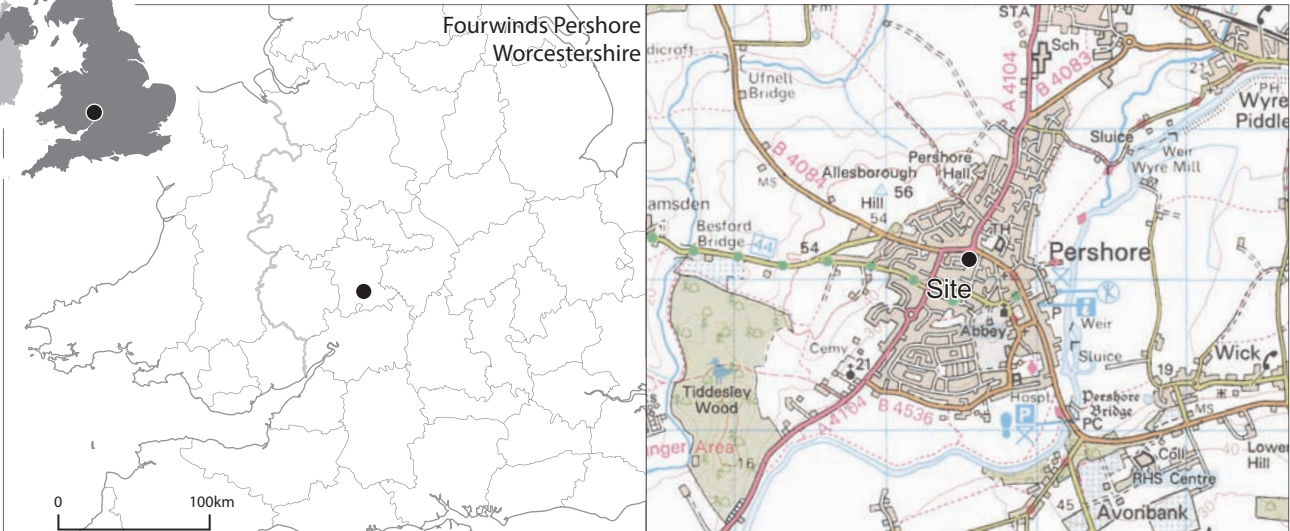
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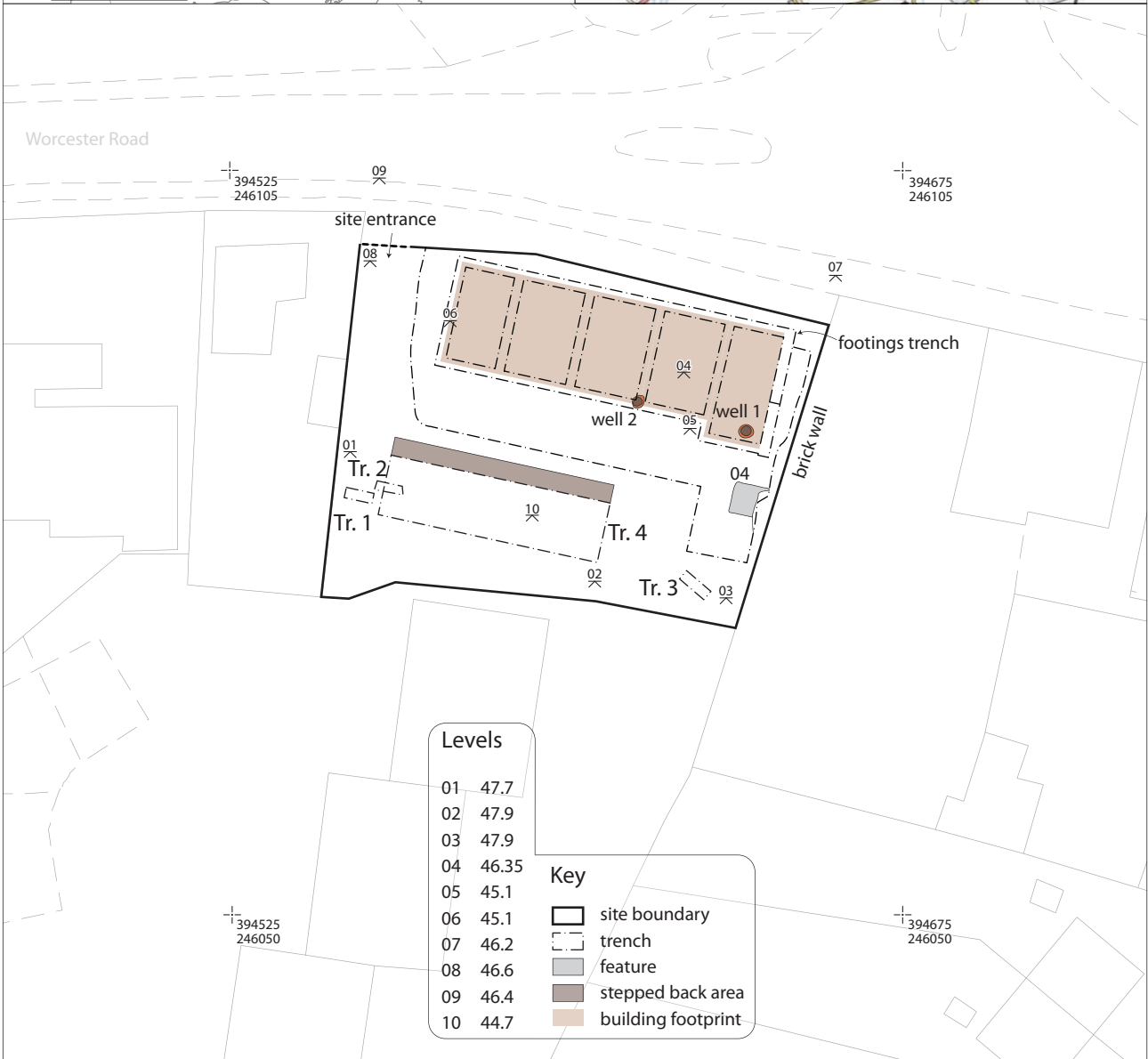
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Scale 1:500 @ A4



Illus 1
Site location

FOURWINDS, PERSHORE, WORCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Watching brief

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd carried out a watching brief at Fourwinds, Pershore, Worcestershire on behalf of GoMac Business Developments Ltd. The watching brief was carried as part of a planning condition (Planning reference W/08/1913) given for the redevelopment of the site. The redevelopment included the removal of an existing bungalow and services to allow for the construction of five houses with associated drainage works. The works revealed the presence of a rectangular pit [04] in the east of the site that dates to between the 18th and 19th century. Forty two sherds of pottery were recovered from the pit and these dated mostly to the 18th century. Two residual finds were also recovered. The earliest was a flint blade of prehistoric date but lacking any features to allow closer dating. The other was a sherd of local Worcester Ware cooking pot, dating to between the 12th and 14th century. Two post medieval wells that appear on the 1885 ordnance survey first edition were also revealed at the north of the site.

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1. INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd at Fourwinds, Pershore, Worcestershire. Wychavon District Council attached an archaeological planning condition under PPG16 and ENV10 Wychavon Local plan to the development of the site as there was the potential for archaeological remains to survive within the site boundary. The project was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (Glyde 2010) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Kimber 2010) agreed with the Historic Environment Planning Officer.

The site is located at SO 9455 4618 (site centre) and is situated just off the B4084 Worcester Rd in on the east of Pershore, which forms the northern boundary of the site. It is also located adjacent to a known heritage asset, a farmstead of medieval–post-medieval date (WSM04987). The site was previously occupied by a bungalow and the surrounding landscape is urban residential.

The underlying geology consists of Jurassic Lias clay overlain by alluvium and river terrace deposits (British Geological Survey 1993) which consist of sterile argillic brown earths of the Bishampton series (soil Survey of England and Wales 1986)

1.1 Archaeological background

The development site lies just outside the Medieval Town of Pershore (Dalwood 1996) and is bounded to the north by the B4084 Worcester Road.

It has been suggested that this modern Worcester Road leading to High Street may follow a medieval saltway route with its origins in the prehistoric period (Houghton 1929–30). Head street, which lies approximately 150m to the east of the development area, was the edge of the medieval town. It is documented as ‘le Hedestrete’ where the sub-cellarer of the abbey had rents from properties in 1389–90 (Dalwood 1996). To the east of the current development lay the Society of Friends burial ground. There is record of their presence in Pershore from 1662 and excavations by Bond and Wilson in 1973 revealed the presence of post medieval burials in this location (Dalwood 1996).

There are a number of sites registered on the WSM record in Pershore and a few located close to the development area.

Of these sites the most significant which relates to the development area is heritage asset (WSM04987) which is a farmstead from the late 16th or early 17th century. It was later the burial ground for the Society of Friends in the latter half of the 18th century. An archaeological



evaluation and building recording carried out in 1999 by Archaeological Service, Worcestershire County Council at the farmstead (WSM27796) site also produced evidence of deposits related to a medieval and post medieval activity. Some fragments of bone and two coffin handles were also recovered confirming burial activity within the area (Lockett *et al.* 2001).

The Ordnance Survey 1885 first edition shows the development area as cultivated orchard having a row of terrace housing fronting the road at the north. The houses were serviced by two wells at the rear with a larger cottage or house at the east also serviced by a third well. This layout the remained the same on the 1888 and 1905 Ordnance survey maps (Lockett *et al.* 2001).



Illus 2a
Trench 1

2. OBJECTIVES

The aim of the project was to ensure that any features of archaeological or historic significance affected by the ground works were adequately recorded and reported.

Specifically this was monitoring all ground disturbances associated with the redevelopment of the site with a view to ultimately producing a report on the findings and depositing the archive with the local repository.



Illus 2b
Trench 2

2 3. METHOD

3.1 Background research

An SMR search and review of relevant historic maps was undertaken and a fieldwork reference number (WSM43229) was obtained from Worcestershire HEAS in advance of any fieldwork. Historic maps and plans were consulted.

3.2 Watching brief: monitoring of ground work

Excavation (Illus 1) was undertaken by the main contractor using a mechanical excavator with the use of a toothless bucket. A toothed bucket was utilised when hard modern surfaces or concrete were encountered.

At the south of the site three trenches (1–3) each measuring 2m x 0.7m by 2.8m (max) in depth were excavated along with a large attenuation tank (Trench 4) measuring 4m x 16m to a max depth of 3.2m. On the north of the site topsoil was removed to a max depth of 0.6m across an area of 30m x 17m. Into this area a sequence of trenches representing the building footings were excavated. This sequence of trenches (referred to from here on as the



Illus 2c
Trench 3

footing trench) had total dimensions of 25m x 0.7m and 1.2m in depth. Trenches that exceeded a depth of 1.2m within the footings and Trench 4 were stepped back approximately 1m for safety.

All excavations were carried out under direct archaeological supervision.

3.3 Recording

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and Headland recording procedures. All contexts were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted archaeological norms. Trench plans were drawn at 1:100. Selected representative trench sections were produced at 1:20. Photographs of the excavated areas were taken using 35mm monochrome and colour slide film. Digital photographs on a 7.2mp digital camera were taken for illustrative purposes. Registers were kept for context records, photographs and drawings. All trenches were tied into features shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Trenches 1–4

Trenches 1, 2 & 3 revealed sterile geological deposits ([05]) occurring as mixed bands of gravel, mottled clays and red sand at a depth of 0.8–2.8m below the current ground surface. Above this was dark brown silty sand subsoil ([02]) that was on average 0.4m thick. This appears to be an older topsoil horizon, fairly disturbed, probably related to post medieval occupation of the site. This was overlain by modern topsoil ([01]) of approximately the same thickness. No archaeological features or remains were identified (Illus 2).

Trench 4, the attenuation tank trench, revealed the same sequence of deposits and extended to a depth of 3.2m into the geological deposits. Again no archaeological features or remains were revealed (Illus 3).



3

Illus 3
Attenuation tank



to be sealed or infilled by a dark modern fill containing loose bricks, clinker, ash, glass and flower pot sherds.

5. DISCUSSION

No archaeological features or finds were uncovered in Trenches 1–4. This area was heavily disturbed by the previous bungalow and associated services which had been removed by the contractor prior to the commencement of work.

A small assemblage of finds (see Appendix 2) was recovered from the tipping deposit [03] within rectangular feature–pit [04] numbering 42 sherds of pottery, with lesser quantities of glass, ironwork, metalworking waste, brick, tile, and clay pipe fragments. Two finds were residual within the tipping deposit. The earliest was a flint blade of prehistoric date, which lacked any features to allow more accurate dating. The other residual sherd was a much abraded piece of local Worcester Ware cooking pot, dating to between the 12th and 14th century. The majority of the pottery dates to the 18th century. It is possible that the deposition of this tipping layer may be cumulative from the late 17th to the early 19th century or it may have been deposited in a single event not which did not predate c.1790. The mix of pottery types including Worcester wares, Staffordshire wares, Border wares and possible Beauvais ware reflects a broad regional assemblage that is not untypical.

4

Illus 4

19th Century Well within the footings trench

4.2 Footing trench

The topsoil overlying this area was removed by machine. The same soil profile of the sterile geological deposit [05] overlain by subsoil [02] was also evident throughout this sequence of trenches. A rectangular cut feature [04] was investigated in the north–west in this area. It measured 2 x 2.25m and had a depth of 1.2m (Illus 1). It was filled with multiple tip layers of mortar, rubble and redeposited soils [03]. A sample was taken from the base of the feature to try and determine its original function and a small assemblage of finds was recovered from the fill (see Appendices 2 & 3). Two circular wells were also uncovered within the footings in the process of the work (Illus 1 and Illus 4). These wells were revealed to approximately ten courses (c.1m) in depth. They were constructed of 19th century red brick with a grey bonding. The top three courses had a wider diameter (c.0.7m) than the lower courses. This may indicate the level of the previous ground surface or an attempt to cap the well at some point. From the extent revealed they appear

The environmental samples (see Appendix 3) contained charred plant assemblage from the fill [03]. This was in fairly poor condition and only wood charcoal fragments were recovered in any number. The main material recovered from the sample relates to potential building debris and industrial activity, with mortar, brick, iron (Fe) slag and iron (Fe) objects amongst the material recovered.

These findings together with the domestic material of pottery sherds and clay pipes suggest the pit fill is more likely to represent the disposal of household and industrial debris in the late or post medieval rather than cess related to an earlier phase on site.

The two wells revealed by the watching brief appear to be those shown at the rear of the row of five houses on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (1885), supporting the 19th century date for the brickwork. There was no

evidence for the properties fronting the street during the monitoring of the ground works however these were likely demolished during the development of the modern road and footpath.

The archaeological evidence reflects a site that was used for domestic or industrial occupation in the post-medieval and early modern periods.

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6.2 Cartography

1885, Ordnance Survey, *Worcestershire*.

1986, Soil Survey of England and Wales, *Soils of Worcester and the Malvern district*, Sheet 150.



7. APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Trench register

Trench no.	Orientation	Length & width	Excavated depth (max)	Average depth
Trench 1	E-W	2m by 0.7m	2.8m	2.6m
Trench 2	E-W	2m by 0.7m	2.8m	2.6m
Trench 3	SE-NW	2m by 0.7m	2.8m	2.6m
Trench 4	E-W	4m by 16m	3m	3m
Footings trench	ESE-NNW	25m by 0.7m	1.2m	1.2m

Drawing register

Drawing no.	Section	Plan	Description
1	–	1:100	Annotated site plan, location plan and details
2	–	1:20	Sketch plan of Well 1
3	–	1:20	Pre-ex plan feature [03]–[04]
4	–	1:20	Post-ex plan feature [03]–[04]
5	1:20	–	Section of feature [03]–[04]

Context register

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Context no.	Trench no.	Description	Dimensions
01	Trench 1–4, Footings trench	Topsoil, modern, very dark grey-black sandy loam; modern inclusion of CBM, glass, metals and plastics; very loose compaction	Across site, max depth 0.6m
02	Trench 1 Trench 1–4, Footings trench	Subsoil, dark brown silty sand with occasional small rounded stones; some modern cam and glass; very loose compaction	Across site max depth 0.4m
03	Fill of pit [04]	Multiple tips of soil, mortar, rubble and redeposited sterile geological deposits [05]	2m by 2.25m to a max depth of 1.2m
04	Cut	Rectangular pit, uncertain use	–

Photographic register

Photo no.	Colour slide	B&W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
	Film 480	Film 479	(201)		
1	1	1	001	–	Id shot
2	2	2	002	E	Trench 1
3	3	3	003	NE	SW facing section Trench 1
4	4	4	004	NE	SW facing section Trench 1
5	5	5	005	W	Working shot looking towards Trench 2 and 3
6	6	6	006	E	General shot of Trench 1

Photo no.	Colour slide	B&W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
7	7	7	007	W	Trench 2 and 3
8	8	8	008	S	Trench 2 and 3
9	9	9	009	S	Trench 2, north facing section
10	10	10	010	S	Trench 2, north facing section
11	11	11	011	E	Trench 2
12	12	12	012	W	Trench 3
13	13	13	013	N	Trench 3, south facing section (top layers)

Photo no.	Colour slide	B&W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
14	14	14	014	N	Trench 3, south facing section (lower layers)
15	-	15	015	N	Trench 3, south facing section (lower layers)
16	15	16	016	ESE	General site working shot
17	-	17	017	N	General site working shot
	Film 503	Film 505	(100)		
18	1	1	001	-	ID shot
19	2	2	002	S	Section, south-east corner of site
20	3	-	-	S	Section, south-east corner of site
21	4	3	3	S	Section through site shot
22	5	4	4	E	Section, north-east area of site
23	6	5	5	N	East footing, north end
24	7	6	6	W	General view of site
25	8	7	7	SE	General view of site
26	9	8	8	S	East footing, deepened, looking south
27	10	9	9	N	Well 1, in footings trench
28	11	10	10	N	Well 1, showing eroded side
Photo no.	Colour slide	B&W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
29	12	11	11	W	North footing at 2.1m depth
30	13	12	12	E	Rectangular feature in east section, south of footings
31	14	13	13	E	Rectangular feature and site section after partial excavation
32	15	14	14	E	Well 2, footings section after partial excavation
33	-	-	020	S	General shot of attenuation tank areas
34	-	-	021	E	General site shots
35	-	-	022	NE	General site shots
36	16	15	023	E	Plan of attenuation tank excavation
37	17	16	024	N	Section of attenuation tank excavation
38	-	-	025	S-SE	Sondage at base of attenuation tank excavation
39	-	-	026	S-SE	Sondage at base of attenuation tank excavation
40	-	-	027	S-SE	Sondage at base of attenuation tank excavation
-	18	17	028	S-SE	East end of attenuation tank excavation



7.2 Appendix 2 – Finds assessment

Julie Franklin

Assemblage summary

Pottery

The assemblage was small, numbering only 42 sherds of pottery, with lesser quantities of glass, ironwork, metalworking waste, brick, tile, and clay pipe fragments. All the finds came from the same context, the fill, context [03] of feature context [04]. They ranged in date from prehistoric to modern but the majority could be placed in the 18th century. These included both early 18th century finds such as Staffordshire type slipware and later 18th century types such as creamware and pearlware. Deposition may have continued over a long period of time, from the late 17th to

the early 19th century, though equally some of these finds may have been of some age when deposited. If deposited as a single event, this is unlikely to have been before c.1790.

Two finds were residual within this fill. The earliest was a flint blade of prehistoric date but lacking any features to allow closer dating. The other was a sherd of medieval pottery. This was from a local Worcester Ware cooking pot, dating to between the 12th and 14th century (Bryant 2004, fig. 77). The pottery is abraded and has clearly been redeposited in this context.

References

Bryant, V, 2004, 'Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery', in Dalwood, H & Edwards, R (eds), *The Excavations at Deansway, Worcester, 1988–89*, CBA Research Report 81, pp.281–339.

Finds catalogue

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Context no.	Sample no.	Material	Qty	Weight (g)	Object	Description	Spot date	Period
3	1	CBM	58	–	Brick	Fragments	–	–
3	–	CBM	2	–	Roof tile	–	–	–
3	1	Clay Pipe	3	–	Bowl & stem	Small sherds, narrow bore stem, fine walled bowls	18th–20th	Mod
3	–	Clay Pipe	2	–	Stems	Wide bore	17th–18th	PM
3	–	Glass	1	–	Bottle	Green sherd	c.1670–1730	PM
3	1	Glass	5	–	Bottle & window	Green bottle sherd, window fragments	–	PM–Mod
3	1	Industrial Waste	–	14	Iron slag	Fragments	–	–
3	1	Industrial Waste	–	4	Pb–Cu waste	Small lump	–	–
3	–	Iron	1	–	Nail?	Shaft, clenched at end	–	–
3	1	Iron	8	–	Nails	Various nails, tacks	–	–
3	1	Iron	4	–	Objects	Small lumps, possibly part of same object	–	–
3	1	Iron	6	–	Pins–wire	–	–	–
3	1	Lithics	1	–	Flint blade	Retouched blade; overshot, hinge terminated, hard hammer reduced blade with acute bifacial retouch to the left lateral at proximal and a small abrupt removal near the proximal end; creates a slightly pointed proximal end	–	PH
3	1	Mortar	–	2559	–	Large bag of lumps and fragments	–	–
3	–	Pottery (Med)	1	–	Worcester ware	Fabric 55, type 3, cooking pot, rim sherd (diam c.220mm)	12th–14th	Medi
3	1	Pottery (PM–Mod)	14	–	Various	Blackware, glazed red earthenware, creamware, pearlware, porcelain, abraded yellow glazed ware (possibly Beauvais, Border or Staffs)	1670–1730–1780–1830	PM–Mod
3	–	Pottery (PM–Mod)	27	–	Various	Creamware (queens shape plate), white salt glaze stoneware, scratch blue, porcelain, blue trans printed, pearlware, blackware, glazed red earthenware, Staff type slipware (bowl with notched edge and feathered slip decoration)	1670–1730–1780–1830	PM–Mod

7.3 Appendix 3 – Environmental assessment

Dr Scott Timpany

Introduction

One sample was taken during the watching brief at Fourwinds and was processed for palaeoenvironmental assessment. The sample was taken from the fill of pit [04] in order to see if it might represent a possible cess pit.

Method

The sample was processed in laboratory conditions using a standard floatation method (*cf.* Kenward *et al.* 1980). All plant macrofossil samples were analysed using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x10 and up to x100 where necessary to aid identification. Identifications were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers *et al.* (2006).

Results

The results of the sample processing are provided in tables Retent sample and Floatation sample. Suitable material for AMS dating is also identified within each table. All plant remains were preserved through charring.

Plant remains

A small quantity of charred cereal grain was recovered from the pit fill, with rare quantities of possible oat (*cf. Avena* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) present. The grains were found to be poorly preserved being broken and abraded, indicating they may represent redeposited material (see Retent sample table).

Charcoal fragments were present in an abundant quantity within the pit fill (mainly within the flot sample) and were observed to represent a mixture of both oak and non-oak taxa. The fragments were mainly of a small size (<1cm), with only a small number of larger sized fragments (up to 1.3cm). The abundance of smaller sized charcoal fragments within the sample suggests this material may also be redeposited (see Retent sample and Floatation sample tables).

Other finds

Together with the charred plant remains other material was also present in the sample including possible domestic materials such as pottery sherds, and clay pipe. Probable building materials were also present in the sample with brick and mortar fragments present in abundant quantities, together with a small amount of glass. Industrial waste in the form of Fe slag, Pb slag and Fe Objects were also recovered from the samples. In addition a small quantity of unburnt bone (possibly modern small mammals, due to its good preservation) and abundant cinder fragments were present (see Retent sample and Floatation sample tables).

Discussion

The charred plant assemblage recovered from the fill [003] of pit [004] was fairly poor with only charcoal fragments recovered in any number. The main material to come out of the sample relates to potential building debris and industrial activity, with mortar, brick, Fe slag and Fe objects amongst the main material recovered (see Retent sample table). These findings together with the domestic material of pottery sherds and clay pipe suggest the pit fill is more likely to represent the dumping of household and industrial debris rather than cess.

The charred grain assemblage of possible oat and wheat sp. provides little information on the activities taking place around the site and as indicated from the poor preservation could represent redeposited material. There is other evidence for redeposited material in the fill as suggested in the finds report with the inclusion of prehistoric (lithics) and medieval (pottery sherds) material.

The charcoal fragments were observed to be a mixture of oak and non-oak, indicating a variety of tree types may have been selected for use as fuel. The small quantity of coal in the sample suggests that charcoal was the main fuel type in use when the assemblage was deposited. The presence of a large quantity of cinder (or embers) in the sample indicates the charcoal and cinder may represent the discarding of hearth waste.

Conclusion

The charred plant assemblage recovered was very poor.

The main material recovered is suggestive of domestic, building and industrial waste.

The pit is unlikely to have been used as a cess pit and more likely for the discarding of domestic, building and industrial waste.

Recommendations

No further work is recommended on the charred plant remains assemblage from this site.

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Retent sample table

Context no.	Sample no.	Feature	Sample vol (l)	Pottery	Clay pipe	Mortar	Brick	Glass	Fe object	Fe slag	Pb slag	Unburnt bone	Charcoal qty	Charcoal max size (cm)	Coal	Material available for AMS	Comments
3	1	Fill of pit [04]	40	+++	+	++++	++++	+	+++	++++	+	+	+	1	++	Unburnt bone+, charcoal+	Charcoal is a mix of oak and non-oak

Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant
NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating.

Flot sample table

Context no.	Sample no.	Feature	Total flot vol (ml)	Cereal grain	Charcoal qty	Charcoal max size (cm)	Material available for AMS	Comments
3	1	Fill of pit [04]	150	+	++++	1.3	Charcoal +,	Unburnt bone +, cinder +++++, charcoal is a mix of oak and non-oak.

cf. *Avena sp.* *Triticum sp.*

Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant
NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating



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