

ESLR/02



EDGAR STREET LINK ROAD, HEREFORD: WIDEMARSH STREET JUNCTION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
EHE NO. 80166

commissioned by Balfour Beatty Living Places
on behalf of Herefordshire Council

September 2017

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology undertook archaeological excavation during the construction of a new relief road at its junction with Widemarsh Street in the city of Hereford.

The investigation revealed structural remains of medieval date, apparently fronting onto Widemarsh St, to both the east and west sides of the road, with a metalled surface, potentially an early evolution of Widemarsh Street itself, also observed within a machined sondage. Extensive post-medieval robbing and demolition occurred in the 17th–18th centuries, with later post-medieval and modern construction identified.

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	PLANNING BACKGROUND	1
1.2	DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE	1
1.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	1
1.4	OBJECTIVES	1
2	METHOD	2
2.1	MECHANICAL REMOVAL OF OVERBURDEN AND SUBSOILS	2
2.2	RECOVERY OF FINDS	2
2.3	PALEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING	2
2.4	RECORDING	2
2.5	POST-EXCAVATION	2
3	RESULTS	5
3.1	EVALUATION	5
3.2	MITIGATION	5
3.3	AREA 1 (ILLUS 2 AND 3)	5
3.4	AREA 2 (ILLUS 13)	7
4	DISCUSSION	9
5	CONCLUSION	15
6	REFERENCES	16
7	APPENDICES	20
APPENDIX 1	SITE REGISTERS	20
APPENDIX 2	FINDS ASSESSMENT	26
APPENDIX 3	FAUNAL ASSESSMENT	29

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

ILLUS 1 SITE LOCATION	VIII
ILLUS 2 PLAN OF AREA 1	3
ILLUS 3 GENERAL VIEW OF AREA 1, LOOKING NORTH	7
ILLUS 4-4A WEST FACING SECTION, STRATIGRAPHY AREA 1	8
ILLUS 5 PLAN OF WALL FOUNDATIONS [1053 AND 1054]	9
ILLUS 6 SOUTH FACING SECTION SHOWING STRATIGRAPHY, WALL FOUNDATION [1053] AND LATER POST-MEDIEVAL FOUNDATIONS	9
ILLUS 7 SEGMENT OF PROBABLE REVETTING WALL [1029], LOOKING EAST	10
ILLUS 8 WELL REMAINS [1049], LOOKING NORTH	10
ILLUS 9 PLAN VIEW OF COBBLED SURFACE (1048)	10
ILLUS 10 NORTH FACING SECTION THROUGH WALL FOUNDATION [1003]	10
ILLUS 11 PLAN VIEW OF WELL [0010] SHOWING INTERNAL CONSTRUCTION	11
ILLUS 12 VIEW OF WALL FOUNDATION REMAINS [1073 AND 1074], LOOKING NORTH-EAST	11
ILLUS 13 PLAN OF AREA 2	13
ILLUS 14 GENERAL VIEW OF NORTHERN HALF OF AREA 2, LOOKING SOUTH	15
ILLUS 15 WEST FACING ELEVATION OF WALL FOUNDATION [2010]	15
ILLUS 16 NORTH FACING SECTION AREA 2 NORTH, SHOWING STRATIGRAPHY AND WALL FOUNDATION [2010]	15
ILLUS 17 GENERAL VIEW OF SOUTHERN HALF OF AREA 2, LOOKING SOUTH-WEST	16
ILLUS 18 WALL FOUNDATION REMAINS [2044], LOOKING WEST	16
ILLUS 19 PLAN VIEW, FLOOR SURFACE REMNANT [2048]	16
ILLUS 20 PHASE PLAN OF MITIGATION AREAS	17
ILLUS 21 SPEED'S MAP 1610 AND TAYLOR 1757	19

LIST OF TABLES

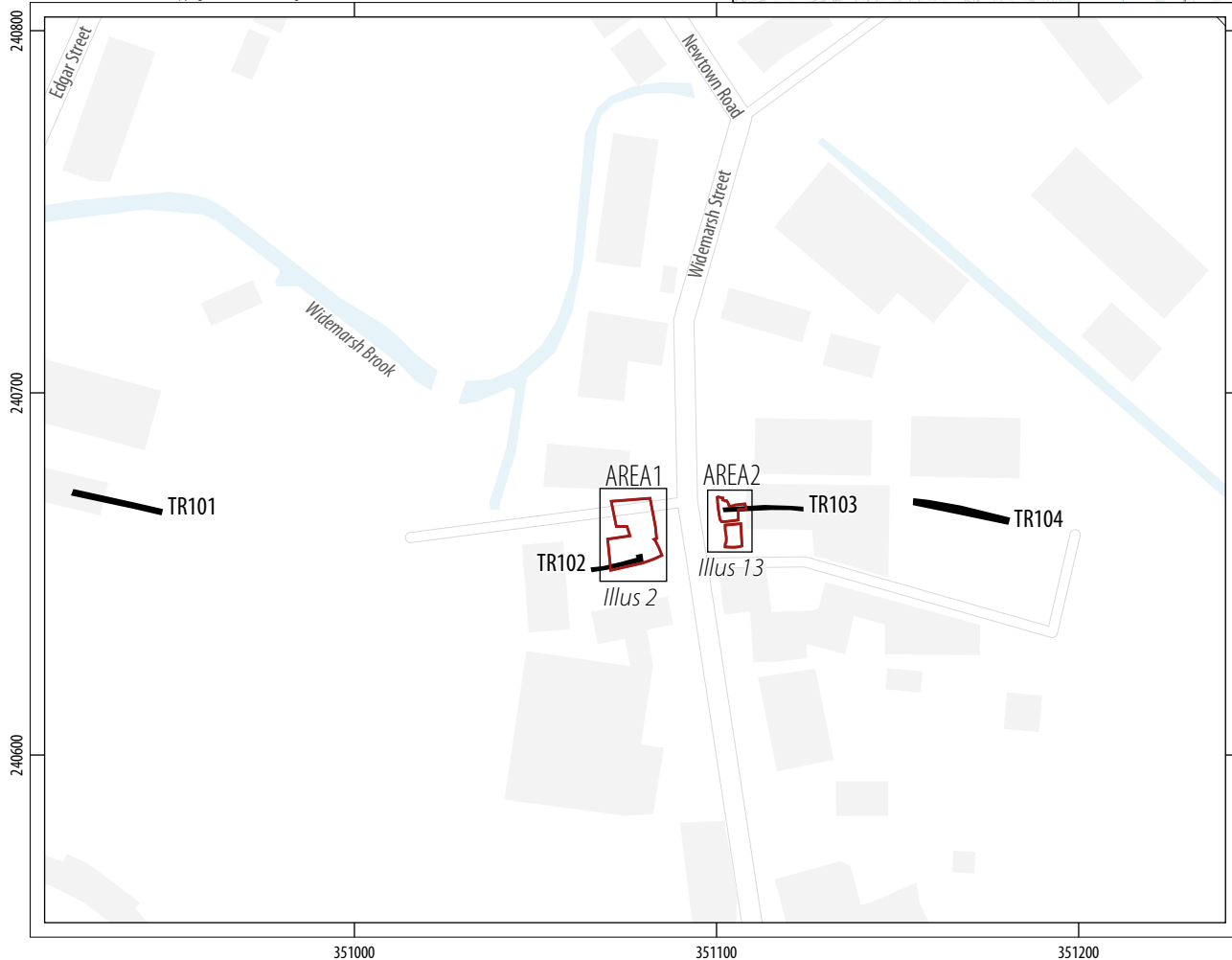
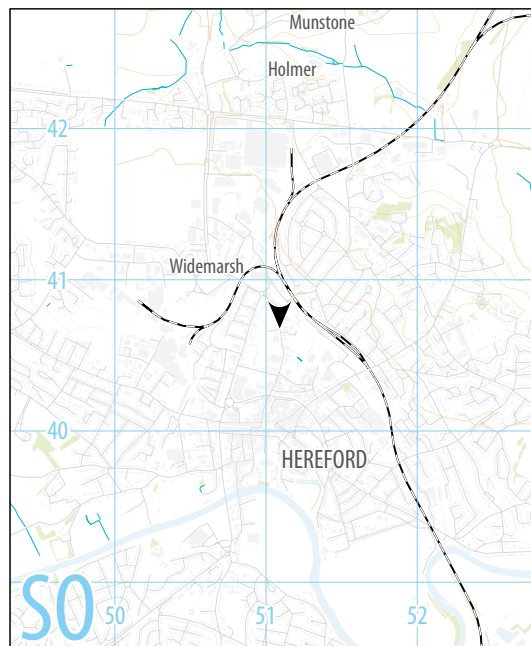
TABLE 2.1 SUMMARY OF FINDS ASSEMBLAGE BY FEATURE OR LAYER WITH SPOT DATING	27
TABLE 2.2 MEDIEVAL TO MODERN POTTERY TYPE SERIES	28

ESLR/02

Hereford Relief Road:
Widemarsh Street Junction
Hereford
Herefordshire

0 200km
1:10,000,000 @ A4

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0 40m
1:2,000 @ A4

mitigation areas
 trench location

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ILLUS 1 Site location

EDGAR STREET LINK ROAD, HEREFORD: WIDEMARSH STREET JUNCTION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological investigation carried out during the construction of a new link road in the city of Hereford, in the area of a junction of the road with the existing Widemarsh Street.

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Balfour Beatty commissioned Headland Archaeology to undertake archaeological works along the route of an approx. 800m new road running from Edgar Street, through Merton Meadow, across Widemarsh Street and the Police training area, and finishing at Commercial Road, Hereford.

The archaeological advisor to the planning authority (Mr Julian Cotton) identified that the location was likely to contain archaeological remains that could be adversely affected by the proposed works, and requested the implementation of a programme of works so that any significant remains present and at risk of harm could be suitably recorded or avoided. The advisor's requirements have been en-capsulated within Herefordshire Archaeology's brief (ref. b092576s2) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Kimber 2014) prepared by Headland Archaeology and approved by the advisor to the planning authority.

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

The location of the new road lies to the north of the historic core of Hereford City (Illus 1). It is located within an area called Widemarsh and comprises low lying deposits that have been subject to peat formation at various times in the past.

The excavation areas subject to this report are centred around NGR SO 510 406, located to the West and East of Widemarsh Street (Illus 2). The sites had previously been occupied by commercial premises.

The underlying geology of the site consists of siltstones and mudstone of the Raglan Mudstone Formation, overlain by Alluvium (NERC 2017).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed line of the relief road lies outside the medieval defensive circuit of the city. However, Widemarsh Street was the main route into the medieval city from the north. Cartographic evidence (eg Speed 1610, Taylor 1757) depict buildings lining the road in the vicinity of the site. Previous work towards the south of Widemarsh Street, but outside of the historic core of the city, has identified suggestions of medieval occupation in the form of pits and post-holes and structural remains dating from the 17th century (Morris and Thomas 1993).

It was first mentioned in the Cathedral muniments in the early 13th century and by the 14th century was known as 'Wydemerstrete' (Tonkin 1966). Development in the area around Blackfriars priory, approximately 300m south-west of the site, is recorded from the 14th century onwards.

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken in spring 2007 on the Essex Arms playing fields, now the police training ground, located to the east of the investigation area, (Crooks et al 2008) when a total of fifteen trenches were excavated. The trenching identified post-medieval pits and extensive layers of peat were revealed across the site. Pollen and radiocarbon analysis suggested that an open landscape was established on the site by the middle Bronze Age.

1.4 OBJECTIVES

In general, the purpose of the investigation was to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage assets before they were lost. This would be achieved by determining and

understanding the nature, function and character of any remains on the site, disseminating the results of that work and archiving the material and paper records.

The archaeological investigations were carried out in order to:

- › assess extent, layout, structure and date of features and deposits of archaeological interest; and
- › where possible, place the identified features within their local and regional context.

The Widemarsh Street phase of work carried specific objectives to:

- › look for evidence of a Roman road in this area; and
- › to look for evidence concerning the extent of Hereford's medieval suburbs.

These objectives would be reviewed in light of the results of the excavation prior to analysis and the project design updated.

The resulting archive (finds and records) will be organised stored temporarily at Headland Archaeology premises until such time as arrangements for deposition with Hereford Museum Service are made to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

2 METHOD

2.1 MECHANICAL REMOVAL OF OVERBURDEN AND SUBSOILS

Following advice from Balfour Beatty, that previous construction on the site had heavily disturbed deposits in the vicinity of the Widemarsh Street Junction section of the new road, a programme of trial trench evaluation was introduced under the auspices of the agreed WSI in order to confirm this and assist defining the extent of areas requiring archaeological mitigation. As a result, two areas either side of Widemarsh Street were subsequently identified for mitigation (Illus 1).

Mechanical removal of overburden and subsoil deposits were variably undertaken using 360°, tracked excavators fitted with flat bladed buckets in accordance with the construction programme. Archaeological monitoring of these phases was undertaken, with a rolling programme of monitoring and excavation agreed with the contractor on site to ensure monitoring of all ground-works within the mitigation areas. Strata was removed until formation levels or archaeological deposits were observed. Evaluation works were undertaken between the 23rd and 26th August 2016, with mitigation carried out between the 9th September and 14th October 2016. Weather conditions were generally dry and favourable.

Archaeological features identified during machine stripping were surveyed using a Trimble dGPS system to produce a pre-excavation plan of the site.

2.2 RECOVERY OF FINDS

All artefacts and other finds from significant archaeological deposits were collected, identified by stratigraphic unit, catalogued and retained. Any finds considered to be typologically distinct or significant were assigned a small find (SF) number and the location of the find was recorded three dimensionally.

2.3 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

Due to diesel contamination of sediments in the locale and general disturbance of the stratigraphy, environmental sampling was not deemed appropriate and to hold little value in terms of understanding the development of the site. No environmental samples were collected during the course of the project.

2.4 RECORDING

All recording followed ClfA *Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological excavations* (ClfA 2014).

- › A pro forma context record was completed for each stratigraphic unit.
- › A digital plan of the excavated area and features was produced using a Trimble dGPS unit.
- › Sections through stratigraphic units were hand-drawn at a scale of 1:10 with hand plan of the mitigation areas produced at 1:20.
- › A photographic record of all stratigraphic units comprised black-and-white prints supplemented by digital photographs.
- › A diary record of the progress of the archaeological work was maintained, including details of liaison and monitoring meetings, visits and a record of the staff on site.

2.5 POST-EXCAVATION

To date the following post-excavation tasks have been completed:

- › All records have been checked and cross-referenced.
- › Contextual data has been entered onto a database.
- › Photographic record has been developed and catalogued.
- › Digitising and geo-referencing of site drawings.
- › Entering of artefactual and ecofactual data onto a database.



3 RESULTS

3.1 EVALUATION

Four evaluation trenches were excavated between the 23rd and 26th August 2016 (Illus 2) measuring 25m long by 1.80m wide. Trenches were machined to an average depth of 1.10/1.20m below ground level. Trenches 1 and 4 contained no archaeological remains with natural gravels encountered. Trenches 2 and 3 both identified archaeological remains, primarily in the form of potential wall foundations at approximately 1.00m below ground level and formed the basis for the subsequent mitigation areas. As such, the remains identified, which were more fully recorded within the mitigation work, are discussed as part of the mitigation results below. Features and deposits recorded during the evaluation are detailed within the context summary in Appendix 1 to this report.

3.2 MITIGATION

Two Areas on the Widemarsh Street Junction stretch of the new road were subject to archaeological mitigation. Area 1, measuring approximately 202m² was situated to the west of Widemarsh Street with Area 2 on the eastern side of the street. Area 2 was stripped in two phases covering approximately 57m². Results are presented by area, with overall phasing of both areas integrated within the discussion section of the report.

3.3 AREA 1 (ILLUS 2 AND 3)

General stratigraphy

Interventions across the site varied in depth between 0.65m and 2.00m in depth and revealed a variable stratigraphic sequence. Due to the nature of the ground-works and health and safety considerations with deeper excavation, no overall control section was able to be maintained, with sequences recorded in areas when opportunity was afforded or within hand excavated sondages.

The most complete sequence representative of the broad site stratigraphy was recorded in the eastern edge of Area 1 (Illus 4, 4a). Concomitant deposits identified and recorded separately across the site are detailed in Appendix 1 and referred to in the results where relevant to phases of structural remains.

The earliest deposit encountered, at c.52m AOD, was a mid-brown slightly sandy, silty clay (1062) which oxidised on exposure and was highly organic. Whilst peat-like, it was not a fully formed peat deposit but formerly and probably seasonally waterlogged, creating anaerobic conditions which preserved twigs and wood debris. The deposit is likely to have formed in water meadow or marsh like conditions. Pottery dating to the 15th/16th centuries, animal bone and leather shoe fragments were recovered from the interface of the deposit with overlying stratigraphy. Further to the east, within a machine sondage, a probable continuation of the same deposit was identified (1047) (Illus 5).

This was overlain by a 0.03 to 0.11m thick silty clay layer (1061), also highly organic and indicative of former and/or seasonal waterlogging.

A 0.25 to 0.42m thick layer of pinkish brown sandy clay (1060) from which fired clay fragments were recovered, sealed the organic deposits and appeared to represent levelling or made ground. The top of the deposit was recorded at c.52.40m AOD and was similarly identified to the east of the site in the form of (1046) at 52.50m AOD.

Overlying (1060) was a 0.15m maximum thickness, light brownish grey sandy clay and pea gravel (1059). The deposit was encountered at 52.50m AOD and was interpreted as representing either a high energy alluvial deposit or remnant of a former ground surface. Insufficient extent of the deposit was exposed to provide any certainty. Overlying this were a series of pinkish brown and greyish brown sandy clay and gravels (1056, 1057, 1058) containing clay lenses which appeared to represent levelling and made ground. Similar deposits were observed and recorded throughout the ground-works across the area.

A further episode of modern made ground (1001) up to 0.34m thick, consisted of silty clay and building debris with the present ground surface variably represented by concrete, cement and demolition debris (1000).

Medieval deposits

Within a 1.00m wide machine sondage to test ground compaction towards the south-east corner of the area, a cobbled surface (1048) (not illustrated in plan – see Illus 9) was partially exposed at 51.55m AOD, some 1.8m below ground surface and beneath later wall foundation (1003). Due to the excavation depth, limited recording was afforded before backfilling. The cobbles were sub-rounded, densely packed and sealed by an organic layer (1047). The full extent was not ascertained, however the deposit appeared to extend beyond the limits of the sondage. Pottery of 13th century date was recovered from the surface.

Approximately 5m north, remnants of a similar cobbled surface (1055) were also recorded at approximately 51.80m AOD (Illus 5). The surface was partially truncated by machine excavation but where it survived, densely packed, sub-rounded cobbles between 0.08 and 0.15m long were recorded. The two metallised surfaces were believed to be contiguous.

Oriented north-south and located to the south and centre of the area, a stone wall foundation (1029) was recorded (Illus 2 and 7), its base at approximately 51.80m AOD. The foundation was exposed during removal of modern overburden to the west and largely observed in section with a 1.80m wide segment exposed in plan in the area of the former evaluation trench. Oriented North-south and measuring 1.05m wide, 0.48m depth and greater than 7m long, the foundation was constructed of roughly hewn limestones measuring from 0.15 to 0.50m long. Three rough, random courses were identified with no facing stones. Traces of a pink clay bonding material were observed. No cut for the foundation was evidenced but it was observed to overlie a greenish grey silty clay (1032) which was contaminated by diesel fluids and is likely to have been contemporary with deposits (1062 and 1061).

Toward the centre of Area 1 and on the eastern edge of the site, two stone wall foundations [1053 and 1054] were partially exposed (Illus

5). Oriented north-south, wall foundation [1053] measured 1.00m wide and greater than 2.15m long. The foundation was constructed of roughly hewn limestone blocks of variable sizes, from 0.15 to 0.60m long, bonded with a pink clay. Two random courses were observed and the wall extended northwards, beyond the limit of excavation.

Foundation [1054] was oriented east-west, measuring 0.90m wide and greater than 0.72m long, extending east beyond the limit of excavation and truncated at its western end. A single random course of roughly hewn angular and sub-angular lime and sandstones was exposed in plan, the stones varying from 0.10 to 0.50m in length. The stones were bonded in a pink clay containing charcoal flecks. Deposit (1060) appeared to have formed around the foundations (Illus 6) and overlay the cobbled surface (1055). The two wall foundations were believed to be associated.

Approximately 1.5m south-west of the wall foundations, a stone structure [1049] (Illus 2 and 8) was partially exposed, the top of the stones at approximately 52.30m AOD. The full extent of the feature was not observed but it appeared to be a partially exposed circular feature of 1.60m external diameter, roughly constructed of angular sand/limestones of 0.10 to 0.50m length bonded in a red-brown clay. Made ground (1058) sealed the feature and filled the exposed interior. The structure was interpreted as a possible well with the stones creating an approximately 0.40m thick lining. Levelling in the area was undertaken before fuller examination could be afforded.

Post-medieval deposits

A stone wall foundation [1064] (Illus 5) was recorded in section and appeared to re-use the earlier foundation [1053]. The foundation measured 0.55m deep and was bonded with a light pinkish brown coarse sandy clay containing tiny lime fragments. Over this was a brick wall foundation fragment [1065] comprising 4 courses of headers, each brick measuring 0.11 X 0.05m. The foundation was 0.64m wide and 0.35m deep and was believed to have been associated with [1064]. Immediately to the west a further fragment of stone wall foundation [1066] was recorded consisting of 3 rough, random courses of angular stones bonded in a gritty, sandy pink clay.

Oriented north-south, a stone wall foundation [1003] (Illus 2 and 10) measured 0.76m wide and greater than 6.40m long, extending beyond the limit of excavation to the south. The foundation survived to at least three rough courses and was constructed of sand/limestone, roughly worked to create rectangular or squared blocks which were bonded with a light pinkish brown, lime-based mortar. The foundation was stepped along part of its eastern edge, this was not observed along its full length. At its northern end, the foundation was observed to potentially turn to the east, where it was truncated by modern disturbance and a culvert. Modern brick, bonded to the top of the foundation suggested it may have been re-used for a more recent building.

Approximately 3m to the west of the wall foundation a stone built well [1010] was recorded (Illus 2 and 11). A section positioned through the well identified two upper fills (1043 and 1012) from which post-medieval and modern material was recovered.

Observed abutting the well, a partial metallised surface (1009) extended some 1.40 south and 1.30m east. A sondage through the surface revealed it to be a single layer of small sub-angular and angular stones set on a made ground deposit (1013). Traces of the surface were observed to the west but it had largely been removed by later disturbance or through machine excavation. Pottery of 16th–17th century date and post-medieval glass was recovered from the surface.

Further to the south and east, remnants of a slightly earlier metallised surface (1027/1028) were identified in a machine sondage. This lay approximately 0.23m below (1009) sealed by a levelling or made ground deposit (1026) likely to be concomitant with (1013). The surface consisted of sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles and cobbles and was heavily truncated. A range of pottery dating from the 13th to 18th centuries was recovered from the surface, though this may have derived from the levelling deposit rather than being directly associated with occupation or use of the surface.

Toward the western edge of the area, stone wall foundations [1022 and 1023] were recorded in plan. Oriented north-south and approximately 0.50m wide, the foundations appeared to represent part of the same structure with [1022] truncated at its southern extent. The two segments of foundation lay 1.40m apart and were separated by a possible robber cut [1040] which was filled with a mid grey clay (1039) containing tile, brick and coal fragments.

Abutting [1023] a 0.93m long by 0.55 to 0.83m wide length of an east-west oriented wall foundation [1024] was also recorded in plan. The foundation was truncated away at its western end where extensive modern overburden deposits had been identified. The foundation was constructed of a single course of large stone blocks with traces of a lime based mortar evident.

Approximately 1.50m west of wall foundation [1003] a sub-circular feature [1007] measuring 1.17 X 1.08m and extending beyond the limit of excavation to the north was recorded. On further investigation this was found to contain a smaller discrete cut [1042] which had been lined around its upper edge with half bricks and contained a back fill of debris such as white glazed pottery, tile and iron nails. The feature measured 0.63 X 0.53m and 0.18m deep and was interpreted as either a post-hole or some form of 'garden' feature. It appeared that cut [1007] represented several inter-cutting post-medieval or modern features of this type.

Immediately adjacent and parallel to the northern end of [1003] a rectangular cut [1005] measured greater than 2.20m long and 1m wide. A section positioned through the feature revealed it to be 0.20m deep with pottery of 16th to 18th century date recovered from the fill (1006). The cut was thought to relate to demolition or deconstruction of the wall foundation.

Also adjacent and abutting [1003] a dump of stone cobbles (1004) was identified which possibly derived from demolition of structural remains in the area.

In the north-west of the area, two wall foundations [1073 and 1074] (Illus 12) were recorded in plan approximately 0.65m below ground level. Oriented east-west [1073] measured greater than 2.8m long and



ILLUS 3 General view of Area 1, looking north

a maximum of 0.72m wide. Foundation [1074] was oriented north-south, measuring 2.30m long and 0.53m wide. Both foundations appeared constructed of a mix of brick and stone bonded with a yellow-brown lime based mortar.

On the eastern side of wall foundation [1003] modern service trenches and remnants of a stone and brick built culvert [1014/1016] were identified.

3.4 AREA 2 (ILLUS 13)

General stratigraphy

Area 2 lay to the east of Widemarsh Street and was machine excavated in 2 segments, north and south. Archaeological remains were generally encountered between 52.40m and 52.50m AOD, some 0.70m below ground level. Modern service cuts and truncation of archaeological remains were observed.

The earliest deposit identified (51.75m AOD) was within a hand excavated sondage and was represented by a peat deposit (2041), greater than 0.25m depth. This was sealed by a brownish pink sandy clay and gravel (2043) some 0.23m thick which contained lenses of brown clay and represented a made ground, likely initial consolidation of material over the peat deposits. A similar light pinkish brown sandy clay and gravel (2009, 2016, 2019 and 2060) was variably recorded across the site, creating a made ground deposit of approximately 0.50m thickness.

Identified in the northern section of the Area and overlying the made ground was a series of laminated alluvial deposits (2023). Similar deposits were identified in the south (2065 and 2068) seemingly representing a flooding event.

Dumped deposits (2021, 2022) and (2063, 2064) were recorded over the alluvium and were interpreted as relating to construction on the site.

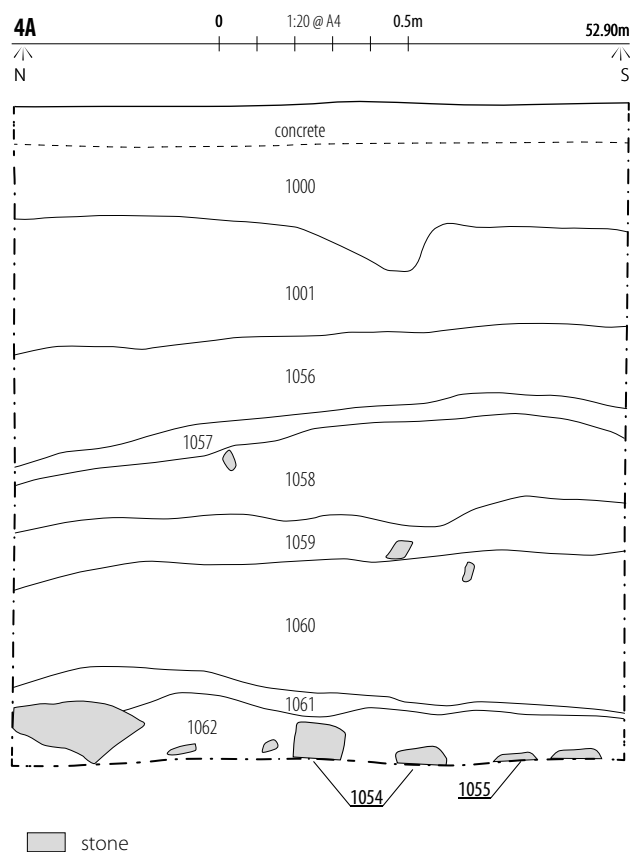
A 0.37m thick, mid-pinkish brown sandy clay (2003) deposit containing artefactual material dating from the 17th to 19th centuries sealed earlier deposits across the Area and related to demolition and levelling of the site.

In the northern half of the area a former modern garden soil (2001) and associated dry stone wall [2002] were recorded over the levelling deposit (2003) with a 0.40m concrete and rubble make-up layer sealing the rest of the site.

Medieval deposits

Cut into the top of made ground deposits and located in the northern half of the area, two stone wall foundations [2007 and 2010] were recorded (Illus 14).

Oriented east-west, [2007] measured 1.66m wide and greater than 2.40m long, extending west beyond the excavation limit. The foundation was constructed of natural and roughly hewn angular



ILLUS 4-4A West facing section, stratigraphy Area 1

blocks and stone rubble between 0.13 and 0.95m long. Three random courses were evidenced to 0.81m depth with no facing stones present. The foundation was bonded with a pink clay containing charcoal fragments and had been extensively robbed. A shallow setting and packing deposit (2033 and 2035) was recorded in the heavily truncated remnant of a probable foundation cut [2042] into the made ground (2009). The foundation cut was also observed to cut a mid-grey slightly silty sandy clay [2034] which was interpreted as a probable buried soil associated with occupation of the structure from which 13th century pottery was recovered.

The second foundation [2010] was oriented north-south and measured greater than 1.28m long, 0.70m wide and 0.50m deep (Illus 15 and 16). Two broad courses survived and were constructed of randomly coursed angular natural stones between 0.15 and 0.55m long. A pink clay bonding material was observed. The foundation came to an abrupt end at its northern extent and it could not be ascertained whether this was due to truncation or by design, potentially creating an access point between the two wall foundations. The top of the foundation was recorded at 52.49m AOD. Pottery dating to the 13th century was recovered from the wall foundation.

In the southern half of the area (Illus 17), two further remnants of wall foundations were identified.

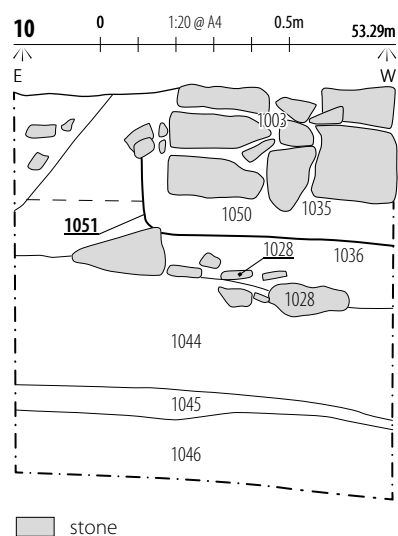
A north-south foundation [2045] measured 3.35m long and was truncated at its northern extent. A single course, measuring 1.00m wide, was identified in plan at 52.52m AOD and was constructed of a mix of rubble stone and angular blocks and slabs bonded within light brown and pink clays.

An east-west oriented foundation [2044] was recorded against the southern extent of the excavation area. The foundation measured greater than 1.18m wide and 2.50m long, extending beyond the limits of excavation to both the west and south (Illus 18). The foundation was heavily truncated with much of the former masonry robbed out leaving a pink clay bonding matrix with variably sized stone blocks and slabs (0.10 to 0.70m long) which survived to at least 0.20m depth and consisted of at least two random courses.

Foundation [2045] was believed to be a continuation of [2010] in the northern area with [2044] representing a return wall parallel with [2007] defining the rear of a structure, its frontage to the west.

Remnants of a probable stone slab floor surface [2048] (Illus 19) associated with the wall foundations survived against the western edge of the excavation area and within the interior of the area defined by [2044 and 2045]. A mix of small slabs and stones in a single layer were set on a slightly sandy, brownish-pink clay (2057) between 0.04 and 0.10m thick. To the north of this, overlying the made ground deposits,





ILLUS 7 Segment of probable revetting wall [1029], looking east **ILLUS 8** Well remains [1049], looking north **ILLUS 9** Plan view of cobbled surface (1048) **ILLUS 10** North facing section through wall foundation [1003]

Medieval remains

The earliest evidence of structural remains was represented by two wall foundations [1053 and 1054]. These appeared to be associated, potentially forming the south and western corner of a building, suggesting a frontage to the east. The caveat to this must remain that only limited remains were exposed and the foundations could represent internal divisions within a larger structure. However, the line of a later rear wall of a building [1003] (see below) followed the same alignment as [1053] increasing the likelihood of the rear of a structure. The location of a possible well, which may be associated with the wall foundations, would also suggest the rear of a structure.

It is possible that the wall foundations represent an initial attempt at early expansion of the medieval town northwards. The presence of 12th–13th century pottery in the investigation areas may suggest a potential date for such expansion though dating of the remains cannot be unequivocal. It would seem however, that this was possibly an unsuccessful venture, with organic deposits, indicating waterlogged or marshy conditions, returning and forming over and around the foundation remains.

Following this period, formal reclamation of the land, through

levelling and consolidation of the area with a 0.50m layer of made ground appears to have occurred. Whilst dating cannot be unequivocal, this also appears to be within the 13th century. The potentially short time span between the initial structural evidence and subsequent consolidation of the land, through made ground, may suggest an element of planning and formal attempts to expand the town in the area, rather than ad hoc occupation and development.

A very loosely constructed wall foundation [1029] was recorded in the west of Area 1, beyond which no evidence of the made ground deposits was observed, though modern buildings and demolition had heavily disturbed the ground immediately west. The generally rough construction of the foundation and lack of any further association suggested that this may not have formed part of a building and was more likely to represent a retaining wall to the rear of properties, or most probably some form of revetment, defining the extent of the made ground and providing consolidation of the area.

Trench 1 of the evaluation phase of work did not record any similar made ground deposits further to the west, emphasising the possibility that the initial reclamation of the land was in a contained area.



ILLUS 11 Plan view of well [0010] showing internal construction



ILLUS 12 View of wall foundation remains [1073 and 1074], looking north-east

Structural remains in Area 2 [2007, 2010, 2044, 2045] potentially defined the rear of one building with remnants of an associated stone floor surface (2048). The foundations of the building measured approximately 10.50m wide, suggesting that it was potentially constructed on old perch measurements, representing approximately 2 perches (1 perch approx. 16.5 feet/5.03m) and the possibility of burgage plot construction. The fuller exposure of the remains did suggest the rear of a structure with a frontage to the west, adding weight to the suggestion of an earlier street, somewhat narrower, but consistent with the line of the present Widemarsh Street.

Similarly, whilst identified as post-medieval, the position of wall foundation [1003] suggests an element of conformity in construction, being a rear wall of a property and lining up with [1053], with properties fronting onto Widemarsh St. There is also a high probability that [1003] may have had origins in the medieval period with post-medieval and later modern re-use as evidenced by bricks mortared into the exposed top of the foundation. Wall foundation [1053] also displayed evidence of re-use in the post-medieval period and a suggestion of fossilisation of plots or property boundaries may be made during the medieval and earlier post-medieval periods.

Medieval glazed roof, ridge and floor tile recovered from the site, particularly in Area 2, suggest the presence of a building of relative status. Stone roof tile was also recovered and it is tempting to suggest that the structure may have been re-roofed as the occupants became more prosperous. Lead window cames may also have related to the medieval structure. The pottery and finds suggest occupation from the 13th to 16th centuries at least with no direct evidence of phases of construction within that period and only the suggestion of potential up-grading, though demolition and rebuilding on the same alignments may have occurred with later robbing obliterating evidence of phases of construction.

The high level of disturbance within both areas of the site makes secure dating from the artefactual remains recovered difficult. Made-ground deposits, of probable 13th century date, sealed structural remains in Area 1, however, 15th-16th century pottery was recovered from organic deposits which lay below the made ground.

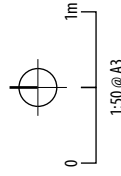
Stratigraphically, this is likely to be intrusive, with later medieval and post-medieval finds generally confined to deposits overlying the made ground and largely associated with demolition of structural remains. Secure medieval dating was obtained for wall foundations [2010 and 2045] and occupation surfaces and soil (2068, 2034), located above made ground deposits. Pottery of 13th century date was recovered from the top of the cobbled surface (1048).

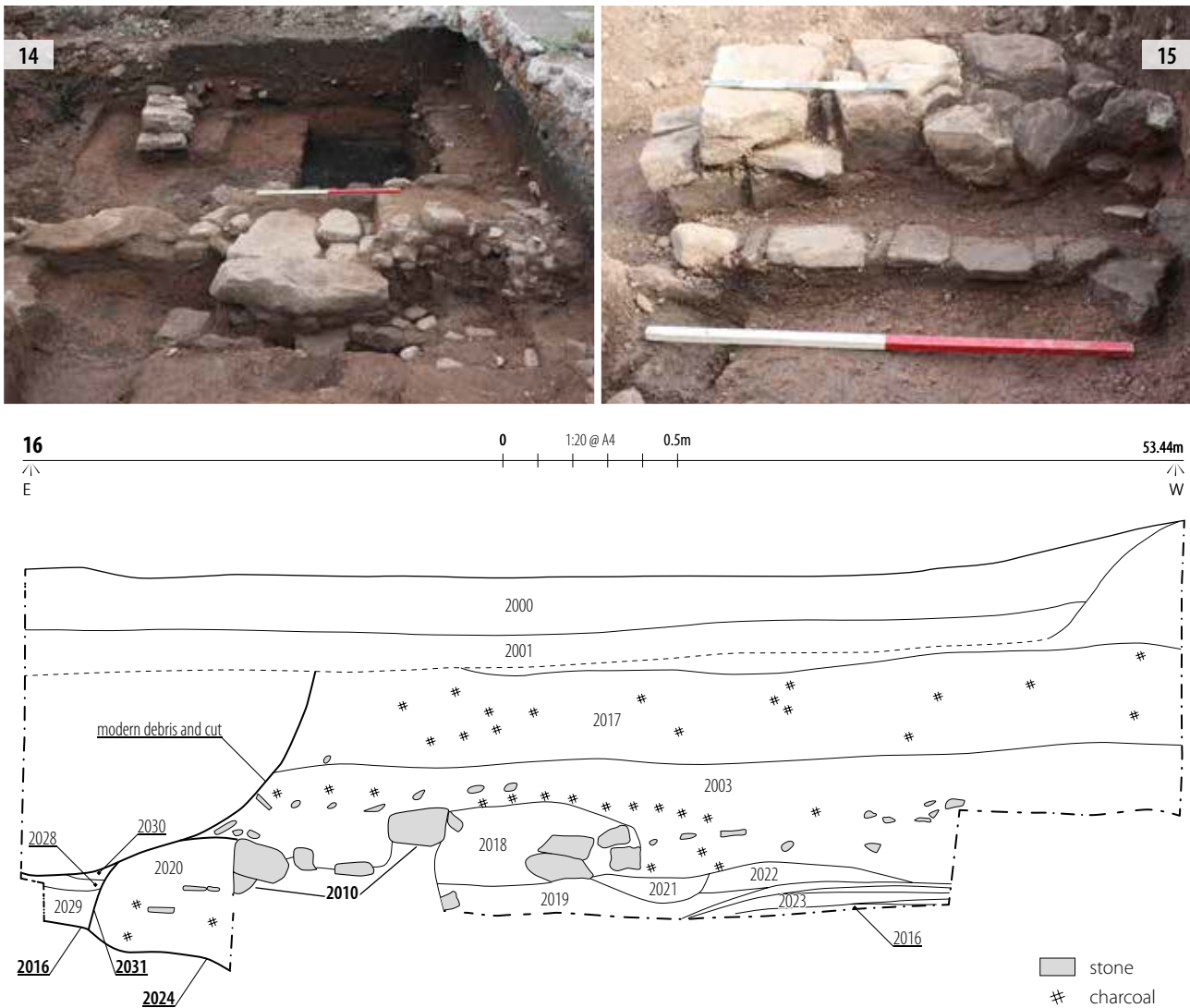
The assemblage does tend to suggest domestic activity with no evidence for any commercial or industrial functions positively identified. The presence of a Jetton of 16th century date may hint at some commercial activity later in the medieval and early post-medieval period, though this could equally have derived from later secondary deposition.

Other medieval pottery and finds were mixed within demolition deposits and robber cuts which appear to indicate demolition of the structural remains in Area 2 in the 17th or 18th centuries. Demolition appears to have been controlled and extensive, leaving very little of the wall foundations in place. Certainly no faced stones or architectural elements, such as decorated stone were observed during the investigation, though hints of relative status to the structural remains in Area 2 are apparent.

The nature of the ground-works afforded only a small glimpse of the cobbled surface (1048, 1055) some 2m below the present ground level. The precise nature of the surface cannot be positively attested due to limited exposure and interpretation can only be speculative. The two deposits were recorded over an 8.50m linear area and suggest a north-south alignment. The dense packing of the cobbles is also suggestive of a relatively formal construction, rather than dumping of material for ground consolidation and later structural remains were constructed over the surface rather than being associated with it. It is possible that surfaces represent part of an early route or causeway through Widemarsh, possibly an early evolution of the line of the present Widemarsh Street, though not precisely establishing the present route.

Whilst suggesting a possible medieval date, consideration must be given to the potential route of a Roman road through Widemarsh. No artefactual evidence of the Romano-British period was recovered during the investigation, though this would not be considered





ILLUS 14 General view of northern half of Area 2, looking south

ILLUS 15 West facing elevation of wall foundation [2010]

ILLUS 16 North facing section Area 2 north, showing stratigraphy and wall foundation [2010]

unusual along the course of a road or route. It is possible, however, that knowledge of or remains of a Roman route could have been used to establish a later causeway or Road.

Early cartographic evidence (Illus 21) shows structures fronting onto Widemarsh Street in the general vicinity of the investigation area, suggesting the possibility of continuous occupation from the medieval period. Taylor's 1757 map is of particular interest, depicting structures, potentially directly on the location of Areas 1 and 2, which could relate to the post-medieval remains recorded, particularly in Area 1, during the investigation. The map may also hint at retention of earlier potential burgage plots on the western side of Widemarsh Street.

The structural evidence on the east side of Widemarsh Street would also appear to indicate continuity of occupation. Whilst demolition and robbing of medieval structures were identified

during the investigation, no unequivocal evidence of post-medieval foundations or structures were evidenced in Area 2. Modern disturbance was evidenced on the site, which may have removed post-medieval remains but it is possible that the buildings shown on Taylor's map relate to the medieval foundations identified, with demolition occurring in the mid or late 18th century and a longevity to the structures identified.

Flooding, possibly as early as the medieval period, continuing into the 18th century was postulated during investigations at Stonebow Road in Hereford and suggested as deriving from a stream or leat associated with St Guthlac's Priory (Stone 1995). The area of Widemarsh Street Junction is on the line of a former stream or river known as Widemarsh Brook, which has been diverted and culverted in later times, and continues towards Stonebow Road where it is identified as the Eign Brook. It is highly probable that the alluvial deposits identified during the investigation relate to flood events



ILLUS 17 General view of southern half of Area 2, looking south-west remnant [2048]



ILLUS 18 Wall foundation remains [2044], looking west

ILLUS 19 Plan view, floor surface

associated with the brook prior to more concentrated development and urban expansion in the area.

5 CONCLUSION

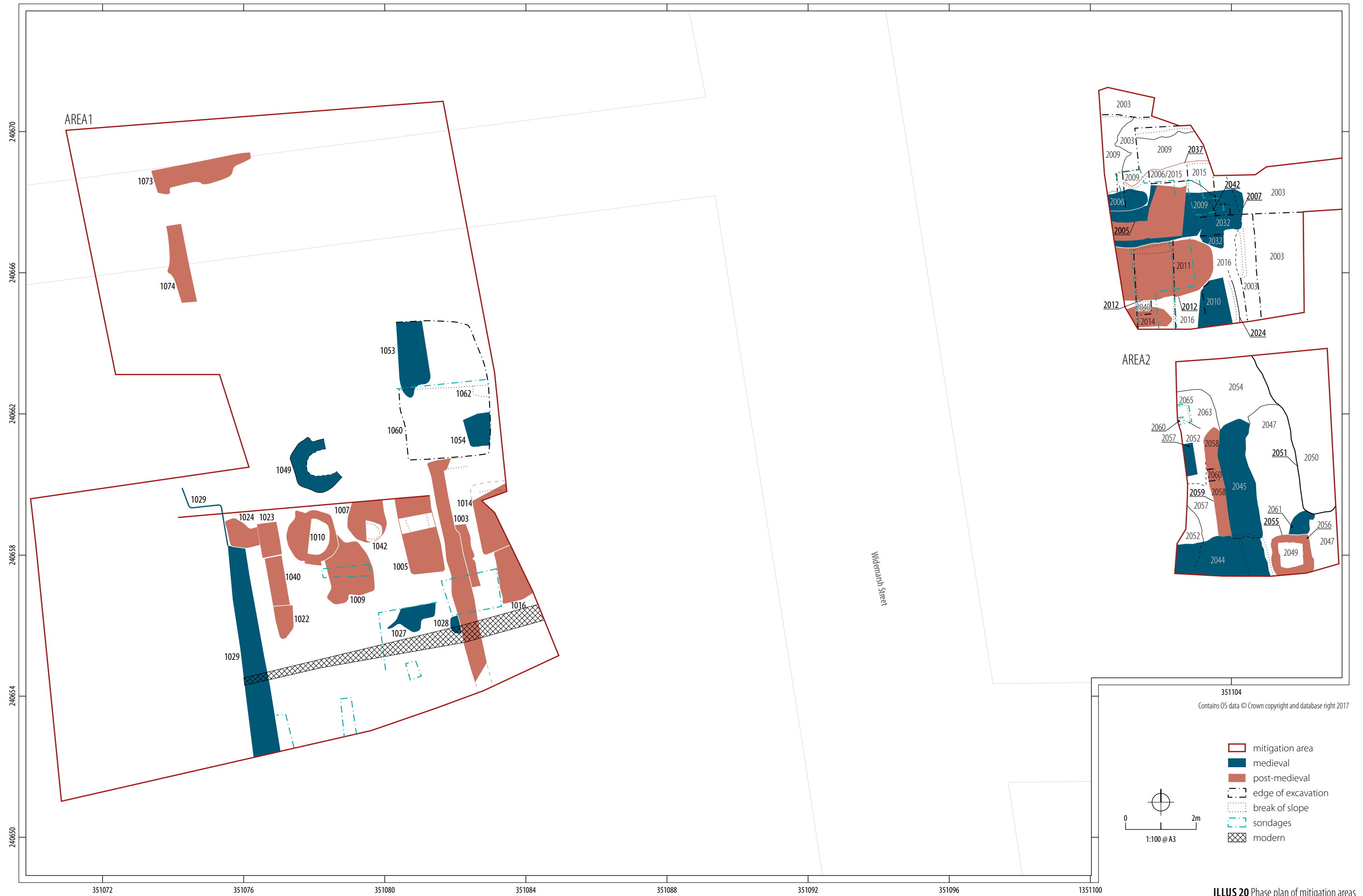
Archaeological investigations around the Widemarsh Street junction of the new Edgar Street Link road have identified a possible early evolution of the route of Widemarsh Street. Structural remains, potentially defining burgage plots, fronting either side of the route, were identified indicating a possible 12/13th century date for urban expansion of the city. This appears to have been an initially unsuccessful venture, with abandonment and consolidation of the ground occurring in a more organised approach.

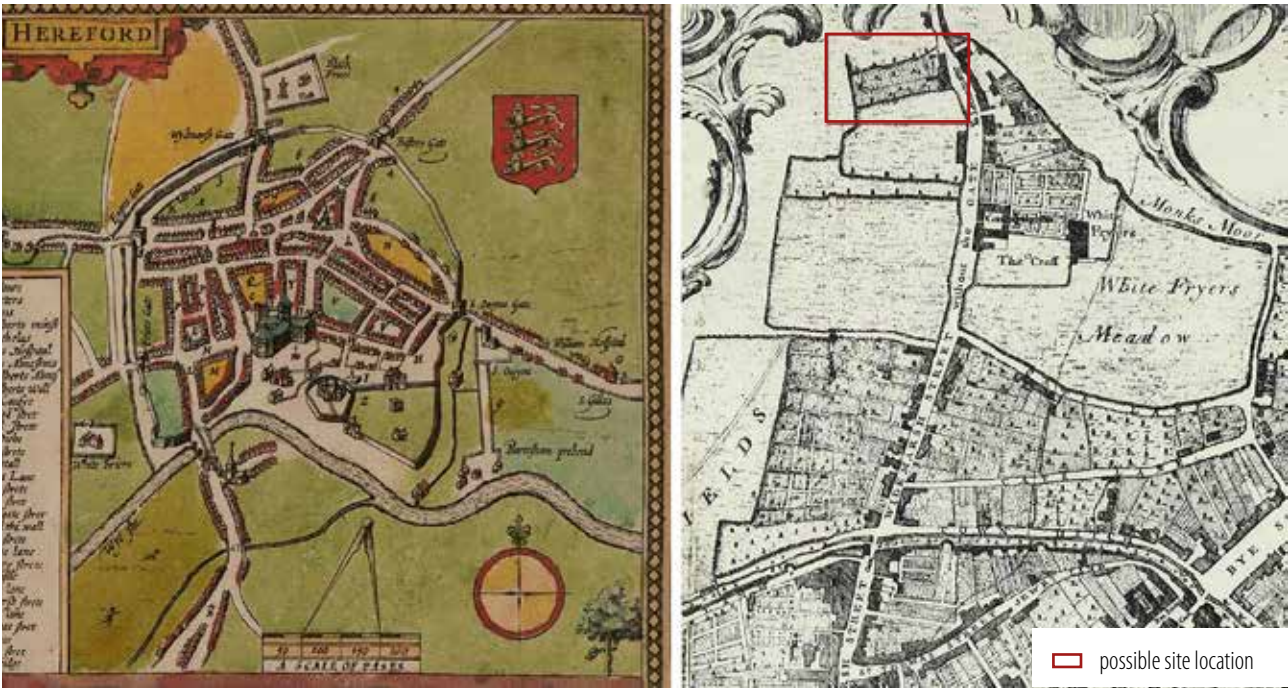
Occupation appears to have been continuous through the medieval period, potentially until the 17th to 18th centuries when extensive demolition and robbing of the buildings occurred and post-medieval and modern structural remains replaced the earlier buildings.

The investigation has highlighted the potential for further remains relating to early expansion of the city, outwith the confines of the city walls, to survive.

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ILLUS 21 Speed's map 1610 and Taylor 1757

7 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT REGISTER

CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	L(M)	W(M)	D(M)	COMMENTS	COLOUR	COMPOSITION
1000	Modern overburden	—	—	0.45	Very loose, Red brick crush and other CBM used to leveling.	Light greyish brown	Cement rubble-broken red brick
1001	Subsoil	—	—	0.34	Redeposited made ground	Dark blackish brown	Silty-clay
1002	Construction deposit	—	—	0.79	Redeposited material	Mid-reddish brown	Silty-clay
1003	Wall	5.87	0.52	0.27-0.38	Sandstone blocks, informal coursing bonded by a lime mortar.	—	—
1004	Destruction deposit	0.40	1.15	0.20	Dump of stone, possibly relating to a demolition phase of activity	Brownish-grey	Medium cobbles
1005	Pit	>2.2	0.97-1.0	0.20	Rectangular cut of pit, possible robber pit	—	—
1006	Deliberate backfill	>2.2	0.97-1.0	0.20	Deliberate backfill of robber pit	Mid-brown	Silty-clay
1007	Pit	>1.08	1.17	—	Not excavated, possibly two post-medieval features.	—	—
1008	Deliberate backfill	—	—	—	Not excavated, possibly two post-medieval features.	—	—
1009	Surface	1.40	1.05	0.06	Truncated yard surface of sub-angular sandstone	Light-grey	Sandstone
1010	Well	—	—	—	No cut visible as it is overlain by (01009), metalled surface	—	—
1011	Construction deposit	—	—	—	Sandstone construction of the well, roughtsquared stone.	Light-Grey	Sandstone
1012	Natural infill	—	—	>0.47	Natural infill overlying demolition material	Dark brownish grey	clay-loam
1013	Construction deposit	>2.0	>3.0	—	Pink clay deposited as a bedding material for (01009), Mettled surface	Mid-orange pink	clay-loam
1014	Brick wall	>1.4	0.22	0.25	Rectangular culvert made of hand made red brick, English garden wall coursing, layed on bed.	—	—
1015	Leveling deposit	—	—	—	Modern construction layer same as (01060) made ground	Pink	clay-loam
1016	Robber cut	>0.4	1.47	—	Robber cut above brick culvert.	—	—
1017	Deliberate backfill	—	—	—	Deliberate backfill of robber cut	—	—
1018	Occupation layer	—	—	—	Seen throughout the excavation area.Heavily damaged and truncated by later activity.	Dark grey	Clayey-silt
1019	Remnant topsoil	—	—	0.98	Layer of disturbed topsoil	Dark Grey	Calzey-silt
1020	Remnant sub-soil	—	—	1.3	Buried sub-soil	Dark yellowish-brown	Clayey-silt
1021	Natural Gravels	—	—	0.9	Loose grey sandy gravel recorded in the S-E of area 1	Mid-grey	Fine gravel
1022	Wall foundation	0.94	0.47	—	Roughly hewn natural block-stones. Lime based mortar. Heavily truncated	—	—
1023	Wall foundation	1.1	0.55	—	Stone and brick, rough angular blocks, lime based mortar with only a single course exposed.	—	—
1024	Wall foundation	0.93	0.55-0.83	—	Comprises associated contexts, 1023, 1022, 1040	—	—
1025	Levelling deposit	>2.2	—	—	Deliberate deposit to level the ground.	Dark grey brown	Silty clay
1026	Levelling deposit	>2.2	—	—	Duplicate sheet. Same as (01025)	Dark grey borwn	Silty clay
1027	Surface	—	—	—	Metalled yard surface	Dark brownish grey	Gritty sandy silt
1028	Surface	U/K	U/K	U/K	Metalled yard surface. Same as (01027)	Dark brownish grey	Gritty clay sand
1029	Wall	>6	0.7	—	Three courses of Rough angular sandstone, reddish pink clay bonding	Mid-dark grey	—

CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	L(M)	W(M)	D(M)	COMMENTS	COLOUR	COMPOSITION
1030	Surface	>6	U/K	0.57	Possible backfill. Not fully recorded	Mid-dark grey	Silty Sand
1031	made ground	>6	U/K	0.48	Possible made ground for yard surface (1009).	Mid-orange red	Gritty sandy clay
1032	Possible made ground	U/K	U/K	U/K	Possible made ground, only visible in section and highly contaminated	Mid-greenish grey	Silty clay
1033	Possible bedding material	U/K	U/K	U/K	Probable bedding material for surface (1027)	Mid reddish pink	Sandy clay
1034	Bedding material	U/K	0.15	0.06	Bedding material for surface (1004)	Mid reddish pink	Sandy clay
1035	Made ground	U/K	U/K	0.17	Made ground consisting of demolition material and domestic waste	Dark grey brown	Silty clay
1036	Possible made ground	U/K	U/K	0.19	Possible made ground deposit used to raise ground for a structure	Light-mid grey brown	Sandy clay
1037	Probable bedding material	U/K	U/K	0.06	Probable bedding material – same as (1033).	Mid reddish pink	Sandy clay
1038	Probable backfill	U/K	U/K	U/K	Probable backfill from a robber trench. Same as (1030)	Mid dark grey	Silty sand
1039	Demolition deposit	1.4	0.5	U/K	A dump of demolition material possibly in a break between walls [1022] and [1023]	Mid grey	Sandy clay
1040	Linear	1.4	0.5	U/K	Linear cut defining break/entrance way in walls [1022] and [1023]	—	—
1041	Deliberate backfill of 1042	0.63	0.53	0.18	Very mixed demolition/domestic waste deposit	Mid grey	Sandy clay
1042	Possible cut of garden feature	0.63	0.53	0.18	Cuts both 1013 and 1026. Has a brick lining. Possibly a posthole for a lean-to type building.	—	—
1043	Demolition deposit	U/K	1.08	U/K	Deliberate backfill of well [1011]	Mid orange yellow	Gritty clay sand
1044	Made ground deposit	>1	U/K	0.3-0.35	Made ground deposit acting as a bedding layer for surfaces 1027 and 1028	Pinkish brown	Sandy gravel
1045	Possible occupation layer	>1	U/K	0.07	Deposit consisting of fine grain sediments.	Dark brown	Sandy Silt
1046	Probable made ground	>1	U/K	0.2	Probable made ground and possibly same as (1060)	Mixed mid grey brown	Silty clay
1047	SEE 1062				SEE 1062		
1048	Metalled surface	0.5	0.5	U/K	Metalled surface consisting of rounded cobbles. Probably a track or path.	—	—
1049	Possible garden feature	1.25	1.39	>0.2	Feature was tracked over and machined out before it could be fully recorded. A semi-circular feature consisting of sandstone and limestone blocks and rubble. Possible foundation of well?	—	—
1050	Clay bedding for foundation cut [1051]	—	>0.67	0.11	Possible clay bedding located in base of foundation cut for wall [1003]	Grey brown	Silty clay
1051	Foundation cut for wall	U/K	>0.65	>0.20	Foundation cut for wall [1003]. Not visible in plan.	—	—
1052	Metalled surface	0.85	U/K	0.08	Metalled surface consisting of rounded stones.	—	—
1053	Wall foundation	>2.14	1	0.2	N-S orientated wall foundation overlies a metalled surface. Possibly associated with foundation 1054	—	—
1054	Wall foundation	0.72	0.9	U/K	E-W orientated wall foundation, possibly truncated. Possibly associated with foundation 1053	—	—
1055	Metalled surface	>2	>2.5	U/K	Metalled surface comprising of rounded cobbles and angular sand/limestone.	—	—
1056	Levelling/made ground deposit	>1.6	U/K	0.23	Coarse material with high pea gravel content. Imported material used as a levelling deposit	Mid pinkish brown	Sandy clay and pea gravel

CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	L(M)	W(M)	D(M)	COMMENTS	COLOUR	COMPOSITION
1057	Constructed related deposit	>1.6	U/K	0.07	Mixed deposit with pink clay and limestone frags suggestive of mortar. Possible construction waste.	Mixed mid grey and pink	Silty clay
1058	Levelling/made ground deposit	>1.6	U/K	0.2 - 0.3	Similar to 1056 with a high density of pea gravel	Mid pinkish brown	Sandy clay and pea gravel
1059	Possible former ground surface or alluvial deposit	>1.6	U/K	0.15	Coarse and poorly sorted material. Appears to be a natural flood episode but contains charcoal suggesting activity near by	Light brown grey	Sandy clay gravel
1060	Probable made ground deposit	U/K	U/K	0.25 - 0.42	Contaminated by diesel. Not fully excavated.	Mid pinkish brown	Sandy clay
1061	Probable decayed organic matter	>1.6	>2	0.03 - 0.11	Probable decayed organic material. Slightly peaty in nature but no large wood fragments. Related to 1053 and 1054	Dark grey to black	Silty clay
1062	Mix of dump material and silting up	>1.6	>2.7),16 - L.O.E	Slightly organic and peaty deposit consisting of a series of fine sediments. Appears to have been waterlogged.	Mid brown	Very slightly sandy silty clay
1063	Possible former subsoil	>3	U/K	0.18	Possible former subsoil related to 1064 and 1066	Mid grey brown	Sandy clay
1064	Wall foundation	U/K	0.58 - 0.97	0.55	Wall foundation consisting of 5 random courses bonded with pinkish brown clay sand. Possibly reuses foundation 1053	—	—
1065	Remains of wall	U/K	0.64	0.35	5 courses of a brick wall visible in section. Bonded with a pink clay	—	—
1066	Wall foundation	U/K	0.63	0.31	Wall foundation consisting of 3 rough courses of possible limestone with gritty sandy clay bonding	—	—
1067	Made ground/bedding layer	Total area	Total area	0.21	A crushed gravel deposit used as bedding for the tarmac surface	Light grey	Sandy gravel
1068	Fill of modern service	Throughout area	Throughout area	0.16	Poorly sorted pea gravel backfill of electric cable trench	Dark pinkish brown	Gravel
1069	Made ground deposit	Throughout area	Throughout area	0.21	Rubble made ground deposit possibly same as 1001 and 1002	Mid reddish brown	Sandy clay
1070	Modern demolition deposit	>5	U/K	0.15	Part of a sequence of modern levelling deposits.	Light whitish brown	Mortar and CBM
1071	Probable former ground surface	U/K	U/K	0.12	Colour suggests was formerly organic - perhaps an original topsoil	Dark grey	Slightly silty sandy clay
1072	Made ground/levelling	U/K	U/K	0.08 - L.O.E	Made ground levelling layer similar to other deposits round mitigation area 1	Mid pinkish brown	Sandy clay
1073	Wall foundation	2.8	0.55 - 0.72	U/K	E-W aligned wall foundation consisting of roughly hewn stone and brick fragments with a lime mortar bond	—	—
1074	Wall foundation	2.33	0.53	U/K	N-S aligned wall foundation - possibly truncated at S end. Possibly foundation for a rear garden wall and associated with 1073 and 1074	—	—
2000	Modern concrete floor surface	Throughout area	Throughout area	0.43	Concrete floor surface and associated levelling layers of gravel and demilition rubble	Light white grey	Concrete and rubble
2001	Buried topsoil	>7	>5	0.14	Associated with a drystone wall to N end of excavation area. Likely imported in to form a garden area	Dark grey	Slightly silty sandy clay
2002	Dry stone wall	U/K	>0.7	0.2	Truncated remains of dry stone wall. May be a dividing wall separating plots and properties	—	—
2003	Demolition deposit	>7	>4	0.37	Demolition rubble resulting from robbing of wall foundations 2007 and 2010	Mid pinkish brown	Sandy clay
2004	Back fill of robber cut in wall foundation	>1	0.53	>0.15	Backfill of robber cut in wall foundation	Light-mid pinkish brown	Sandy clay

CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	L(M)	W(M)	D(M)	COMMENTS	COLOUR	COMPOSITION
2005	Robber cut	>2	0.58	0.15	Robber cut in wall foundation 2007. Cut appears to chase the stone	—	—
2006	Backfill of robber cut	>1	0.8	0.49	Backfill of robber cut 2037. Contains demolition rubble and animal bone suggesting that domestic waste was dumped in at the same time	Mid brownish grey	Sandy clay
2007	Wall foundation	2.42	1.66	0.81	Wall foundation consisting of 3 courses of rough blocks of sand and limestone and bonded with a pink and light green clay	—	—
2008	Metalled surface	1.8	0.5	U/K	Heavily truncated possible metalled surface consisting of small gravel and small angular sandstone.	—	—
2009	Levelling deposit/made ground	>1.8	0.5	L.O.E	A largley pea gravel deposit used for leveling the area.	Light pinkish brown	Clayey sandy gravel
2010	Wall foundation	>1.28	0.7	0.5	A robbed out and truncated wall foundation consisting of rough limestone blocks.	—	—
2011	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2012	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2013	Deliberate backfill of 2014	U/K	>0.6	0.26	Mixed fill of pit 2014, possibly demolition material.	Dark brownish grey	clayey sand
2014	Cut of pit		>0.71	0.49	Shallow pit, possibly part of a larger robber trench		
2015	Backfill of robber cut	>0.78	>0.35	L.O.E	Probably demolition material from building associated with 2007 and 2010 foundations	Mid brownish grey	Sandy clay
2016	Levelling/made ground deposit	>1.3	>1.2	L.O.E	Imported gravel levelling layer. Probably same as 2009	Light pinkish brown	Sandy clay
2017	Possible subsoil	>7	>3	0.25	Possible subsoil below 2001	Mid brownish grey	Sandy clay
2018	backfill of wall foundation 2010	>1	0.63	0.24	Probable dump of demolition related material	mottled pinkish brown	Sandy clay
2019	Possible ground surface	>1	0.88	0.1	Possible truncated ground surface associated with structural remains	Mid brownish grey	Sandy clay
2020	Possible ground surface or subsoil	>1	0.62	0.15	Possible former ground surface associated with structural remains 2010. Probably same 2019	Mid brownish grey	Sandy clay
2021	Demolition/construction deposit	U/K	0.37	0.07	Only seen in section. Dump of material likely associated with construction/demolition of 2010	Black	Gritty sand
2022	Construction deposit	U/K	0.58	0.08	Only seen in section. Probably associated with wall construction	Mid yellow brown	Sandy clay
2023	Trample or water lain deposits	0.73	U/K	0.08	Highly laminated deposits possible result of low energy deposition (low volume of water) or trample during construction	Greenish grey	Silty clay
2024	Cut of foundation	>1.2	>0.3	0.1	Truncated remains of wall foundation for 2010	—	—
2025	Deliberate backfill	U/K	0.68	0.05	Mixed deposit with some demolition rubble. Deliberate backfill after robbing of building material	Dark brownish grey	Sandy clay
2026	Deliberate backfill	U/K	>0.71	0.19	Mixed deposit with demolition material scattered throughout.	Mid brownish Ggrey	Gritty sandy clay
2027	Deliberate backfill	U/K	>0.33	>0.26	Multiple layers of tipped material, most likely all part of the same event and process	Mid-dark greyish brown	Sandy silt
2028	Possible surface	>0.22	U/K	0.04	Layer of imported pink gravel possibly used to create a surface	Light reddish pink	Dense gravels
2029	Possible garden soil	U/K	>0.15	0.15	A gravelly deposit possibly the same as (2020). Potentially old garden soil associated with structure 2010	Dark greyish brown	Clay silt
2030	Unknown	0.18	U/K	0.04	Similar to (2019). Highly damaged by both excavation of modern cable trench and robbing out of 2010. Function unknown	Light brownish yellow	Silty clay

CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	L(M)	W(M)	D(M)	COMMENTS	COLOUR	COMPOSITION
2031	Probable robber cut	U/K	0.4	0.38	Probable robber cut truncated by modern cable trench	—	—
2032	Deliberate backfill	0.93	0.5	0.11-0.22	Dumped material from robbing/demolition of structural remains associated with 2010 and 2007	Mottled grey and pink	Sandy clay
2033	Probable disturbed original foundation setting material	>0.8	>0.5	0.05-0.15	Probable disturbed material from the setting of the foundation itself. Similar to (2038)	Mid brownish grey	Sandy clay
2034	Probable buried soil	>0.8	>0.4	0.09	Probable buried soil associated with occupation of structural remains indicated by 2007 and 2010	Mid grey	Slightly silty sandy clay
2035	Probable material used for foundation setting	>1.04	>0.35	0.25	Very similar to (2009). Probably used as setting material for foundations which have been subsequently robbed out.	Light brownish pink	Sandy clay
2036	Metalled surface	>0.65	>0.45	L.O.E	Remains of a metalled surface possibly relating to yard of 2007. Composed of rounded and angular stone cobbles	—	—
2037	Robber cut	>3	0.8	0.49	E-W aligned robber cut into foundation of 2007.	—	—
2038	Fill of foundation cut	>2	1.66	0.17	Seconday packing in foundation cut, found below and around foundation stones	Mid grey	Gritty sandy clay and gravel
2039	Possible bonding material	>1.29	0.7	0.36	Possible bonding material for 2010. Truncated by later robbing of building material	Dark reddish brown	Gritty silty clay
2040	Possible dump of material	>1	>1.2	L.O.E	Deposit comprised of a series of limestone in sandy clay. No evidence of bonding material. Probable dump of stone	Light brownish grey	Angular limestone in sandy clay
2041	Peat formation	>1	>1	>0.25	Initial formation of peat deposits. Very level interface suggesting reduction of peat before levelling .	Dark grey brown	Peat
2042	Possible truncated foundation cut	0.34	U/K	0.1	Possibly a foundation cut but highly truncated by 2037. Probably the same as 2024 and is filled by 2007, 2035 and 2038	—	—
2043	Levelling/made ground deposit	>1	>1	0.23	Very similar to 2016. Levelling layer	Light brownish pink with brown mottling	Sandy clay and gravel
2044	Wall foundation	>2.5	>1.18	>0.2	Wall foundation consisting of a clay base with stone rubble and anuglar slabs placed on top. Bonded with pink clay	—	—
2045	Wall foundation	>3.35	1	>0.21	Wall foundation which had been heavily robbed out and truncated .Probably same foundation as 2010	—	—
2046	Cistern or soakaway	>1.16	>1.14	U/K	Stone lining of cistern or soakaway. Feature is full of Post-Med material. No bonding visible	—	—
2047	Probable levelling deposit	>5	>2	>0.05	Probable levelling deposit for 2061. Likely same as 2057	Mid brown pink	Sandy clay
2048	Possible floor surface	0.9	>0.18	0.03	Possible floor surface comprised of slabs and angular stone. No visible bonding material.	—	—
2049	Backfill in cistern/ soakaway cut [2055]	0.7	0.62	U/K	Mixed and poorly sorted deposite used to deliberately backfill [2055].	Mid grey brown	Silty sandy clay
2050	Deliberate backfill	>4.5	>1	U/K	Highly mixed backfill of [2051]	Dark brown grey	Silty sandy clay
2051	Modern cut	>5	>1.8	>0.8	Unexcavated modern cut through made ground. Unknown function	—	—
2052	Probable post abandonment build up	>1.7	>0.55	0.03-0.09	Mixed fine ggrained sediments - not heavily compacted	Black	Silty sandy clay
2053	Demolition deposit	0.5	0.3	0.17	Mix of stone and pink clay likely driving from the robbing/ demolition of wall foundation 2045. Possibly same as 2062	Pink and grey	Pink clay and stones
2054	Demolition deposit	2.6	1.9	U/K	Unexcavated highly mixed deposit probably used as levelling	Mid brown	Sandy clay

CONTEXT	INTERPRETATION	L(M)	W(M)	D(M)	COMMENTS	COLOUR	COMPOSITION
2055	Probable cut of cistern/ soakaway	>1.16	1.14	U/K	Unexcavated rectangular cut of cistern or soakaway. Prob Post-Med	—	—
2056	Primary fill of 2055	1.16	0.2	U/K	Unexcavated fill within cut [2055]	Light grey	Silty sandy clay
2057	Levelling deposit	>3.5	>0.7	0.04-0.1	Levelling deposit for floor surface 2048	Mid brownish pink	Sandy clay
2058	Backfill of robber cut	3	0.4-0.5	0.16	Highly mixed backfill of robber cut [2059]	Mixed light yellow brown	Sandy clay
2059	Cut of robber trench	3	0.4-0.5	>0.16	N-S aligned cut of a robber trench truncating foundation 2045	—	—
2060	Levelling layer	U/K	U/K	U/K	Imported levelling deposit over peat to stabilise ground same as 2009 and 2016. Only exposed in in two sondages	Light brownish pink	Sandy clay
2061	Metalled surface	0.9	0.48	L.O.E	A possible stone yard surface set onto pink clay (2047). Likely associated with 2044 and 2045	—	—
2062	Demolition deposit	>5	>2	0.15	Layer of dumped material relating to robbing/demolition of a structure	Mixed - mid pinkish brown and brownish grey	Sandy clay
2063	Levelling deposit	>1	>1	0.1	Possibly related to construction of 2044 and 2045.	Light yellowish brown	Sandy clay
2064	Alluvium	>0.5	>0.5	0.11	Sequence of alluvial deposits probably predating building construction	Dark grey - dark brown	Sandy silty clay
2065	Probable initial occupation layer	>0.3	>0.3	0.07	Mixed deposit revealed in small sondage. Probably same as 2068 and may have been the first occupation layer following levelling of surrounding area	Light-mid brownish grey	Silty sandy clay
2066	Probable levelling layer	>0.3	>0.3	0.03	Probably the same deposit as 2060	Light pinkish brown	Sandy clay
2067	Possible alluvial deposit	>0.3	>0.3	0.02	Thin layer of fine grained sediments possibly the result of a low energy flood episode	Mid grey	Sandy silty clay
2068	Possible occupation layer	>0.35	>0.35	0.08	Possible occupation layer related to 2065.	Mid brownish grey	Sandy clay
2069	Bedding layer in base of foundation	>0.3	>0.35	0.1	Appears to be bedding material for wall foundation 2045	Light yellow brown	Sandy clay

APPENDIX 2 FINDS ASSESSMENT

Introduction

The finds assemblage numbered 142 sherds (3.431kg) of pottery, 32 sherds of clay pipe, 15 metal finds, 14 sherds (808g) of ceramic building material, two finds (1.053kg) of stone, 13 of glass and a few fragments of leather. Finds were found in a series of layers and features in four trenches. They range in date from the medi-eval to modern periods. The finds are summarised by feature in Table 7.2.1 and a complete catalogue is given at the end.

Medieval to modern pottery

This small assemblage was divided into fabric groups (see Table 7.2.2) largely following Vince (1985; 2002). Sherds were quantified by sherd count and weight. The unstratified material has not been recorded in detail. The assemblages from the individual features were typically small, with none larger than 14 sherds. Such small groups make interpretation of the data difficult if not impossible. However, the sherds themselves were often of a good size and were generally in good condition with very little sign of abrasion. This is unusual given that most groups were chronologically mixed.

The medieval pottery was generally of the types that form the bedrock of most assemblages from the city. Malvernian wares were the most frequent and no exotica or non-local pottery was present. Fabric A7b, the mainstay of glazed wares in the city was not as well-represented as expected but this could well be a function of the small assemblage size. Items of interest were two jug base wasters (layer (1027) and foundation [2007/2010] (2032)) probably in fabric A5 and a nicely decorated sherd in the same fabric with iron oxide-brushed, applied curvilinear strips and 'prunt', the decoration clearly imitating that found on Brill-Boarstall ware.

The post-medieval pottery consisted largely of functional vessels such as jars and bowls and drinking vessels. The utilitarian wares were supplied by the Malvernian potters in the 16th century but by the 17th century (probably even from the later 16th century) fine micaceous red-bodied wares of a type known in the Welsh Marches and found at Wigmore Castle (Rátkai 2015) and Presteigne (personal inspection by the author) were in use. These fall into Vince's (1985) A7d-e classification but are termed 'Marches post-medieval ware' here because of their wide distribution and difficulty in ascribing a particular source to them.

Newent in Gloucestershire was another supplier of ceramics to the city. Vince (1985) suggests these are most plentiful in the later 17th and early 18th century but they are found at Wigmore castle in contexts that cannot post-date the Civil War. Only one sherd was noted in this assemblage, a bowl with slip-trailed decoration. Other slipwares include a bowl base with trailed white slip decoration and a cup or mug with a glazed yellow interior and glazed black exterior with areas of feathered white slip. The fabric of the former suggested a source other than the Staffordshire Potteries. Identical vessels to the latter were made both in the Potteries and in Bristol but their products cannot be differentiated from each other.

Finally there were three sherds from an incontrovertible Staffordshire slipware dish. One sherd had the right hand portion of a 'cartouche'

which would probably, but not necessarily, have contained the maker's name. All that remains is the final letter 'T'. The sherd clearly comes from a bowl in the Toft-style, which is notable given that so few complete Toft bowls have survived. However, there are unfortunately some caveats. Firstly the 'T' is not quite the same form as those seen on Toft bowls and is followed by a slip dot. Illustrations in both Barker and Crompton (2007) and Cooper (1968) suggest this is not a feature of the Toft signature though there is one solitary example in Cooper (1968, Plate 200) from a dish by Ralph Toft. Secondly, the 'Toft-method' of decoration seems to have the 'jewelled' band (ie white slip dots over dark brown slip lines) lying directly over the lighter brown slip design; in the Hereford example there is a gap between them leaving a section of the yellow background visible. There were also other slipware potters, one of whom signed himself John Wright i.e. another final 'T' from a different surname, although Wright's work is certainly less accomplished than any of the Tofts' and also appears to be inferior to the Hereford example. In addition the 'T' may be from a motto such as 'DIEU ET MON DROIT' rather than a maker's name. The slipware sherds might therefore be the work of Thomas or Ralph Toft but this cannot be proven beyond doubt.

Metalwork

There were five finds of copper alloy, four of lead and six of iron. The copper alloy finds were all of post-medieval or later date. The most distinctive was a Nuremberg jetton probably of Jorg Schultes (cf Mitchiner 1988, no 1311). Jettons are counters used in calculations on a lined board. By the mid 16th century Nuremberg jetton masters had gained a monopoly on the mass production of them for commercial use. Jorg Schultes became a master spender in AD 1515 and died in 1559. It was found in deposit (2003) which has been dated by other finds to the late 17th or early 18th century. This deposit contained three other copper alloy finds: a button; a wire pin; and a rod with three loops of uncertain function. The last copper alloy find appears to be a fragment of buckle frame found in layer (1018) which is of similar date to (2003).

The lead finds are all window comes, including one piece with an acute angled junction. These were also found in post-medieval layer (2003).

The only piece of metalwork from a medieval context was an iron nail from robber cut [2059] (2058). Two other nails were found in post-medieval and modern contexts. A U-shaped staple from post-medieval robber cut [2037] (2006) is also related to construction. The most distinctive iron finds were both related to horses: a spur from deposit (2003); and a fragment of horseshoe from subsoil (10303). Both were associated with late 17th and early 18th century finds. The spur is missing tip and terminals but appears to be a prick spur. Prick spurs are more common in the earlier medieval period but did have a revival in the mid 17th century (Clark 1995, 129).

Clay pipe

The majority of the clay pipes were unstratified, though 11 were stratified in contexts of 17th century or later date where they helped to date those contexts. Several bowls were present which could be typologically dated to the second half of the 17th century, including two bearing the distinctive Hereford wheel stamped and one with

AREA/ TRENCH	CONTEXT	POTTERY (MEDI)		POTTERY (PM)		POTTERY (MOD)		CU ALLOY	LEAD	IRON	CLAY PIPE	GLASS	LEATHER	CBM		STONE		DATING
		COUNT	WGT (G)	COUNT	WGT (G)	COUNT	WGT (G)	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	WGT (G)	COUNT	WGT (G)	
	U/S	—	—	2	33	18	373	—	—	1	21	3	—	1	66	—	—	Mod
A1	1005	—	—	4	142	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	L17th
A1	1009	—	—	1	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	29	—	—	17th
A1	1010	—	—	—	—	7	53	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	270	—	—	Mod
A1	1018	—	—	5	83	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	L17th–E18th
A1	1019	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	95	—	—	L Medi–PM
A1	1027	8	183	2	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14th or 17th
A1	1048	2	82	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	E13th
A1	1060	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	22	—	—	?
A1	1062	1	95	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	15th–16th
A2	2003	9	263	5	325	—	—	4	4	1	3	2	—	—	—	1	909	L17th–E18th
A2	2005	9	165	1	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	39	1	144	14th or 17th
A2	2007/2010	14	469	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13th
A2	f2010	3	29	1	57	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	155	—	—	14th or 16th
A2	2012	1	5	4	235	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	L17th–M18th
A2	2016	1	16	2	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	L17th–E18th
A2	2037	12	200	2	19	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	126	—	—	16th
A2	2042	6	187	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	13th or 17th
A2	2045	7	90	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13th
A2	2059	3	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	—	1	6	—	—	M–L14th
A2	2061	2	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	M14th–16th
A2	2068	2	63	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	E/M 13th
TR102	10204	1	14	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	16th or 17th
TR103	10303	—	—	6	61	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	L17th/E18th
Total		81	1,916	36	1,089	25	426	5	4	6	32	13	7	14	808	2	1,053	

TABLE A2.1 SUMMARY OF FINDS ASSEMBLAGE BY FEATURE OR LAYER WITH SPOT DATING

an 'RE' makers mark, also noted previously in Hereford (Peacey 1985). A bowl found in well [1010] (1012) was of a form dated distinctly later and can be dated c1750–1850. The most unusual bowl was later again probably late 19th or early 20th century and features a heel shaped like a football being kicked by a foot-ball boot (unstrat).

Glass

Six fragments of glass found in robber cut [2059] (2058) are associated with 14th century finds and are poten-tially

contemporary. The glass is dark and crystallising and are too small to identify vessel type. Other sherds are more typical of post-medieval and later deposits, including green wine bottle sherds and window sherds in 17th century and later deposits. A more unusual bottle is represented by a small kicked bottle base of fine pale coloured glass, from a cylindrical bottle about 50mm in diameter (foundation cut [2042] (2035)). It was asso-ciated with only medieval pottery but is more likely to be of post-medieval date.

Leather

Seven small fragments of waterlogged leather were recovered from layer 1062 where they were associated with a single sherd of 15th or 16th century pottery. The largest piece is part of a shoe sole, with very narrow instep and wide toe. Wide-toed shoes were popular in the 16th century.

Ceramic building material

The 14 sherds of ceramic building materials were made up of six sherds of roof tile, a sherd of floortile, one of brick and some fragments of fired clay, daub and possible hearth lining. The roof and ridge tiles were predominantly of Malvernian B4 fabric and are probably of 15th or 16th century date (Vince 1985). Possibly earlier, of late 13th to 15th century date, are two sherds in Hereford fabric A7 (ibid). The floor tile sherd is also of Malvernian fabric B4. It is very worn but originally had a white slip under the glaze.

Stone

Two pieces of stone roof tiles were found. Both were made of sandstone, split along bedding planes to 17-19mm thick and roughly-shaped around the edges. Both had drilled peg holes. Both were found in Trench 2, deposit (2003) and robber cut [2005] (2004). Both were associated with medieval to 17th century finds and could date anywhere within this range.

Discussion

The finds provide dating evidence for activity at the site from as early as the 13th century. The small size of the feature assemblage and the mixed nature of some deposits means that the dating evidence should be used with caution and with reference to the site stratigraphy. Layer 1048, foundation 2007/2010, foundation 2045, and layer 2068 all contain only 13th century finds. While robber cut 2059 contains 14th century material. Several deposits and features also contain apparently well-stratified 16th and 17th century finds (Table 1).

Medieval finds included the usual pottery types found locally and some roof and floor tile sherds indicating buildings of some status in the vicinity. The sherds of possible medieval glass are an unusual find and also suggestive of high status households. Post-medieval finds are more varied and include some interesting items of metalwork, clay pipe and glass as well as a leather shoe and some very finely made slipwares.

Recommendations

The small size of the assemblage and mixed nature of many deposits precludes the need for much further work on the pottery and ceramic building materials, as it is unlikely to add substantially to our existing knowledge. However, should further fieldwork be undertaken in the area, these finds should be included in any further work on the resulting assemblage.

Archive recommendations

The material should be retained, though potentially the unstratified and modern material could be discarded.

FABRIC	DATING	SHERDS	WEIGHT
Hereford (A2)	L12th–E13th	4	21g
Malvernian (B1)	12th–E14th	31	726g
Hereford (A2/A3)	E13th	1	6g
Hereford (A3)	E–M13th	3	91g
Hereford (A3/A5)	?M13th	6	107g
Hereford (A5)	M–L13th	3	228g
Hereford (A7b)	M13th–15th	12	323g
Malvernian (B4)	M14th–16th	21	414g
Cistercian	L15th–M16th	1	6g
Malvernian (B4/B5)	16th–17th	1	57g
Marches post-med	16th–17th	10	293g
Blackware (Hereford A7d-type)	17th	8	199g
Newent	17th–18th	8	240g
Slipware	M17th–M18th	5	252g
Mottled ware	L17th–18th	3	42g
Modern (various)	19th–20th	25	426g
Total		142	3431g

TABLE A2.2 MEDIEVAL TO MODERN POTTERY TYPE SERIES

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APPENDIX 3 FAUNAL ASSESSMENT

Introduction

A total of 102 items (from 15 contexts including six unstratified items) of animal bone were recovered by hand collection during archaeological works carried out during the construction of the new link road in the city of Hereford, in the area of a junction of the road with the existing Widemarsh Street. Of these, 13 fragments (from 4 contexts), were from Medieval contexts, the rest post-medieval. Due to the small size of the assemblage it was not possible to determine differences between the phases of use at the site.

Methodology

All bones were recorded on pro forma sheets, assigned to species and skeletal element and the state of epiphyseal fusion and any marks of butchery or pathology were also recorded. Fragments of rib were assigned to either cattle-sized or sheep-sized categories, where definitive assignment to species was not possible. Given the limited suite of species recorded, these categorisations are likely to be accurate, and have been treated as such below. Preservation of the bone was generally good, with little surface damage. Only eight bones showed evidence of dog tooth marks. It is likely, therefore, that most of the material represents primary deposition of waste bones in refuse.

Results

Species present

The most commonly occurring species was cattle (53 items), much of it in large fragments; sheep/goat was represented by 20 fragments, followed by pig (five) horse (three) and two bones of goose (it was not possible to establish if these were from wild or domesticated birds). These are all the commonly encountered domestic species. Twenty small fragments of bone were not identifiable to species. A sheep skull fragment from 15th–16th-century layer (1062) was from a polled (hornless) breed. A horse metacarpal from the same layer was from an animal of 134cm at the withers (13.2 hands), in modern terms this size would be classified as a pony. An unstratified cattle metatarsal was from an animal 1.11m at the withers, about average for an animal of the post-mediaeval period in England. As mentioned above, the presence of dogs is also attested to by marks on some of the bones.

Butchery and carcase utilisation

Much of the cattle bone was in large pieces, particularly those from the robber-trench backfill contexts (2006) and (2015) and the similarly dated layer (1062) and later 17th- or 18th-century layers (1018) and (1019). These contexts also contained the only horse bones recovered, and so may represent deposition of waste from butchery, rather than domestic, kitchen waste from meals.

The long-bones of cattle showed few marks mid-shaft, but were often chopped and cut at the joints, where the meat had been separated into 'joints' for sale or consumption. A sheep hyoid bone with paring and cut marks indicated that tongue was consumed. Over the site as a whole, neither the cattle nor the sheep bones were significantly more likely to come from the higher quality,

meatier, parts of the carcass than the low-quality parts (such as feet or jaws). Although quantities of bone are low for any one species or phase, this may indicate that slaughter and butchery of animals was occurring nearby.

Stock utilisation

Once again, the small assemblage makes assessment and interpretation of patterns of age-at-slaughter difficult. Only five sheep mandibles were recovered, with ages ranging between around two and six years of age. Three of these were from animals younger than three years, which may have been raised specifically for meat, the others would have provided several fleeces, possibly dairy products also. There was no evidence of very young lambs. Most cattle bones appear to derive from animals not fully mature, i.e. raised for meat, although at least one animal was over eight years old, possibly an old dairy cow slaughtered at the end of her productive life.

All the pig bones are from young animals, including one possibly from a 'suckling pig'.

Discussion

All material derived from common domestic species. The pattern of skeletal elements recovered may indicate that the site was not receiving kitchen waste alone, but the remains from butchery of whole carcasses. It is possible that the animals were both slaughtered for and consumed by a nearby domestic establishment, or the meat may have left site for consumption elsewhere. There is no indication of particularly high-status consumption patterns on the site; both young and old animals are represented, and there is an absence of game.

Further work

No further work is indicated on this small assemblage. A full archive of measurements, age-indicators and a catalogue of material identified is available in the archive.



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