

Archaeological Evaluation

Haywards (Tewkesbury) Ltd

Land at the rear of Nos. 125-6
High Street Tewkesbury
Gloucestershire GL20 5JX

August 2015



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Cover: View northeast of Trench 3, with Pit [308] visible in foreground

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1 Executive Summary

Border Archaeology Ltd (BAL) was commissioned by Colin Purser Esq on behalf of Haywards (Tewkesbury) Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological field evaluation with respect to a site located to the rear of Nos. 125-6 High Street Tewkesbury. The programme of archaeological investigation followed submission of a Desk-Based Assessment, which was also undertaken by BAL. The site lies within the Tewkesbury Conservation Area.

Three trenches were opened. Considerable disturbance was observed in all three trenches resulting from construction and eventual demolition of the cottages and workshops that occupied the site in the 19th century and which are shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map of 1885. Evidence of brick cellarage of probable 19th - century date associated with these cottages was noted in all three trenches, including the barrel vault of a cellar (106) revealed in Trench 1.

Trench 1 also demonstrated the survival of undisturbed medieval or post-medieval garden soils at its eastern end, where later post-medieval disturbance had not occurred.

Trench 3, located in the northeast part of the site, revealed a substantial pit dating to the later medieval or early post-medieval period. In addition to medieval pottery and animal bone, the fill of this feature contained seven sherds of residual Romano-British pottery, including a sherd of samian ware and one of rusticated greyware. The presence of samian ware could indicate high-status occupation, such as that represented by deposits at the Sabrina Cinema site, where painted plaster and opus signinum (Roman pavement) were also found. A date in the 2nd century AD is suggested for the pottery from the site.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology Ltd (BAL) was commissioned by Colin Purser on behalf of Hayward (Tewkesbury) Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological field evaluation to the rear of Nos 125-6 High Street Tewkesbury Gloucestershire in respect of a proposed development (*fig. 1*). The site comprised a concrete carpark and yard to the rear of properties on the High Street (Nos 125-6 & No 127) and incorporated a number of 20th-century buildings and workshops. The site is surrounded by a brick wall and access is from Oldbury Road to the E. The site lies at a height of some 15.35m OD.

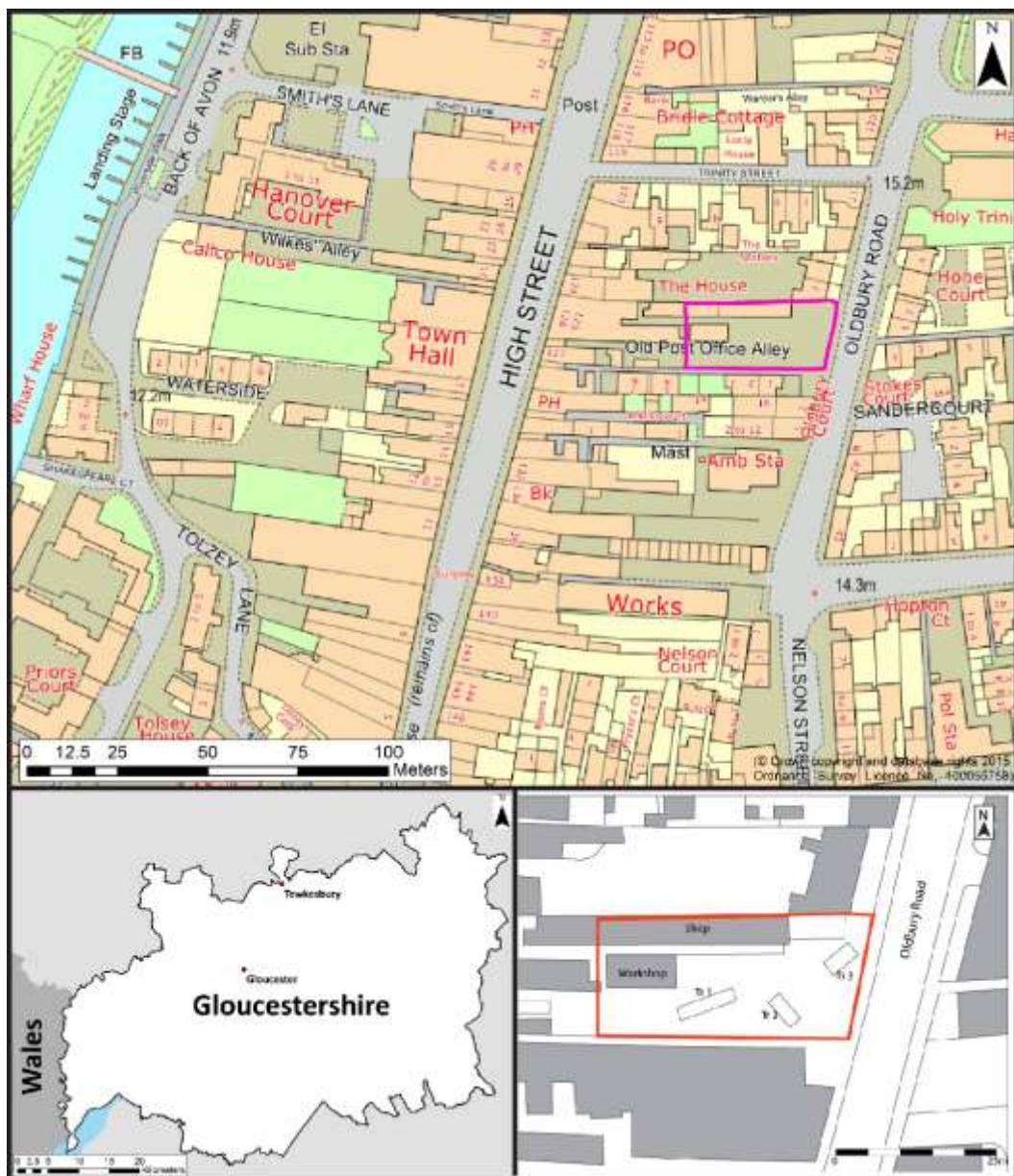


Fig. 1: Plan showing location of trenching

Site work took place between June 1st and June 10th 2015. Copies of this report will be submitted to the Client, Charles Parry Archaeologist Gloucestershire County Council and to the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record

2.1 Site Description

The site comprises a concrete surfaced car-park and yard to the rear of properties on the High Street (125-6 and 127) and incorporates a number of 20th -century buildings and workshops. The site is surrounded by a brick wall and access is from Oldbury Road to the E.

The area has not been surveyed by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983) owing to its urban location. However, the soils surrounding Tewkesbury consist of river alluvium of the FLADBURY 1 series (813b), comprising stone-less clayey soils, in places calcareous, variably affected by groundwater.

3 Project Aim

The broad aim of the programme of archaeological field evaluation was to assess as fully as possible the character, nature, date, extent, state of preservation and significance of the archaeological resource on the site. Based on the results of this programme of works, a considered assessment can be made of the likely impact on the archaeological resource of the proposed developmental groundworks and thus an appropriate programme of mitigation can be devised for implementation in those areas of the site identified as being subject to significant disturbance.

4 Historical and Archaeological Background

The site lies within the Tewkesbury conservation (Tewkesbury Borough Council (2012) and in an area close to significant Roman deposits. The historical and archaeological background has been previously examined in a Desk-Based Assessment (BAL 2015) to which reference is herein made.

5 Methodology

The archaeological field evaluation programme was carried out in accordance with the methods and approaches set out *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Lee 2015), as well as other relevant published sources of technical, professional and ethical guidance. Border Archaeology adheres to the *CIfA Code of Conduct* (2014) and *Regulations for professional conduct* (2015).

With the agreement of Charles Parry, trench size was adjusted to avoid the known position of underground services, although the 5% sample area was maintained.

Three trenches were thus excavated, as follows:

Trench 1: 9m × 2m × 1.2m ENE/SSW

Trench 2: 5m × 2.1m × 1.2m aligned NW/SE

Trench 3: 5.8m × 2.1m aligned NE/SW

Evaluation trenching was opened by machine using a toothless ditching bucket. Machining continued under archaeological supervision down to archaeological deposits; thus, only undifferentiated topsoil and overburden of recent origin was removed by machine. Thereafter, investigation proceeded manually.

All spoil and removed material was examined visually and sorted for artefacts. The aim of the evaluation was to determine, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains likely to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where such remains are potentially threatened was studied and attention given to sites and remains of all periods (including evidence of past environments).

The evaluation sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion and assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits.

5.1 Recording

Full written, graphic and photographic records using pro-forma record forms and sheets were made in accordance with Border Archaeology's *Field Recording Manual* (2014). A detailed written stratigraphic record was made using individual numbered context recording sheets.

The drawn record was produced on gridded, archive-stable polyester film at a scale of 1:20. Measured sections were prepared, as appropriate and practicable strictly within established safety parameters. A temporary benchmark (TBM) of 15.35m AOD was established and plans and sections contained grid and level information relative to OS data. All drawings were numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records.

A photographic record was made using a high-resolution digital camera, comprising photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. An appropriate scale was included in each photograph and all photographic records were indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view were maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.

The progress of the works was recorded and assessed using the Company's ISO 9001 procedures.

5.2 Palaeoenvironmental/palaeoeconomic sampling

Samples for palaeoenvironmental/palaeoeconomic purposes were collected according to guidance set out by English Heritage (Historic England) in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (2nd edition) (Campbell Moffet & Straker 2011).

5.3 Recovery, processing and curation of artefactual data

Recovered artefacts were retained, cleaned, labelled, stored and assessed according to *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014) and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 2001), the aim being to create a stable, ordered, well-documented, accessible material archive forming a resource for current and future research (CIfA 2014). All artefacts were bagged and labelled with the site code and context number before being removed off-site. Each assemblage has been examined according to typological or chronological criteria and conservation needs identified.

6 Results

6.1 Trench 1

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(100)		Deposit	Carpark surface	Reinforced concrete; 0.10m thick, trench-wide	-	-	-	-	-	
2	(101)		Deposit	Aggregate	Compact light yellow small stone bedding layer; average 0.12m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (100), overlying (102)	-	-	-	-	-	
3	(102)		Deposit	Demolition dump	Black silty sand, frequent charcoal, moderate oyster shell, charcoal & small stones. 0.40m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (101), overlying (103)	-	-	-	-	-	
4	(103)		Deposit	Levelling or dump	Loose light brown silty sand; 0.65m E/W × 0.55m N/S × <0.25m. Only in SW corner of trench; recorded from section. Underlying (102), overlying (104).	-	-	-	-	-	
5	(104)		Deposit	Accumulation of garden soil to W of cellar (106)	Soft dark greyish-brown sandy silt, frequent charcoal flecks & small stones, occasional oyster shell fragments. Underlying (103) & (113), overlying (109)	-	-	-	-	-	
6	(105)		Deposit	Accumulation of garden soil to E of cellar (106); present only at E end of trench	Soft dark greyish-brown sandy silt, frequent charcoal flecks & small stones, occasional oyster shell fragments; >4.42 × >2m × 0.7m. Underlying (102), overlying (112).	-	-	-	-	-	
7	(106)		Structure	Cellar; remains comprising walls of structure and barrel vaulting	Brick; red, un-frogged; brick size: 230mm × 120mm × 60mm; random coursing; mid yellow & grey sandy mortar; extended >2m × 2.15m × >0.64m	-	-	-	-	-	
8	(107)		Structure	Wall	Brick, red, un-frogged & limestone; aligned N/S; brick size: 230mm × 160mm × 60mm; four (visible) courses, coursing	-	-	-	-	-	

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
					indiscernible (as seen in section); compact light grey white mortar, crushed stone & charcoal inclusions; extended 0.36m × 0.57m depth. Underlying (102), overlying (113)						
9	(108)		Structure	Wall aligned E/W	Brick, red, un-frogged; aligned N-S (S-facing side un-faced); brick size: 230mm × 120mm × 60mm; random coursing, five courses surviving; mid yellowish-grey sandy mortar; extended 0.9m × 0.4m × 0.42m. Abutted by (102), overlying (104)	-	-	-	-	-	
10	(109)		Structure	Brick surface comprising floor surface & outer wall	Brick; red unfrogged; brick size: 230mm × 120mm × 70mm; light to mid grey sandy mortar; extended 1.7m × 1.1m, depth unknown. Underlying (114), abutted by (104), abutting (106)	-	-	-	-	-	
11	(110)		Deposit	Rubble infill in cellar (106)	Moderately compact black silty sand & brick fragments, frequent charcoal flecks. 2.2m × 1.2m, depth unknown. Abuts (106)	-	-	-	-	-	
12	[111]		Cut	Service pipe	Linear; aligned NW/SE. Cuts (102), underlying (101)	-	-	-	-	-	
13	(112)		Deposit	Natural	Firm mid to dark orange-brown rounded cobbles & sand	-	-	-	-	-	
14	[113]		Cut	Foundation for wall (107)	Not visible (recorded for stratigraphic purposes); aligned N/S. Cuts (104), filled by (107)	-	-	-	-	-	
15	(114)		Structure	Short stretch of wall on same alignment as (108) but not part of the same feature	Brick; aligned N-S; brick size: 230mm × 120mm × 70mm; eight (visible) courses (seen in section); extended 0.40m width × 0.70m depth. Overlies (109), abutted by (110)						

6.2 Trench 2

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(200)		Deposit	Carpark surface	Reinforced concrete & aggregate; 0.20m thick, trench-wide	-	-	-	-	-	
2	(201)		Deposit	Late post-medieval levelling/demolition deposit	Moderately compact, dark brown sandy silt, frequent brick & d stone; extended <0.20m thickness. Below (200), butts to (203)	-	-	-	-	-	
3	(202)		Deposit	Late post-medieval accumulation of dumped material; levelling deposit comprising multiple lenses	Fairly loosely compacted lenses of pale grey mortar & concentrations of brick/stone. Underlying (201), overlying (203) & (204).	-	-	-	-	-	
4	(203)		Structure	N/S aligned wall; short section of wall visible in section at NE corner of trench; W face internal	Brick, red, un-frogged; random coursing; brick size: 230mm × 100mm × 60mm; eight courses surviving; light grey hard mortar; extended 0.80m × 0.90m depth. Underlying (202), overlying (206)	-	-	-	-	-	
5	(204)		Structure	E/W aligned wall; S face internal but unfaced	Brick, red, un-frogged; brick size: average 230mm × 100mm × 60mm; random coursing, 12 surviving courses; light grey hard mortar. Abutting wall (205), underlying (202).	-	-	-	-	-	
6	(205)		Structure	Wall; principal supporting wall for small structure	Brick, red; brick size: 230mm × 100mm × 60mm; N/S aligned; irregular English Garden Wall bond – four bricks wide; sandy cement mortar; extended >1.42m × 0.47m >0.75m. Abutted by (204)	-	-	-	-	-	

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
7	(206)		Deposit	Redeposited natural - potential levelling	Mid brown dirty orange sandy silt & gravel (present at far NE corner of trench). Overlain by (203)	-	-	-	-	-	

6.3 Trench 3

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(300)		Deposit	Carpark surface	Reinforced concrete & aggregate; 0.30m thick, trench-wide	-	-	-	-	-	
2	(301)		Deposit	Levelling/ demolition	Loose black ash/clinker, occasional CBM fragments; measured 300mm thickness. Underlying (300), overlying (302)	-	-	-	-	-	
3	(302)		Deposit	Levelling deposit	Compact red clay; measured 0.20m thickness, trench-wide. Underlying (301), overlying (302).	-	-	-	-	-	
4	(303)		Deposit	Levelling deposit	Loose black ash & clinker with post-medieval CBM. Underlying (302), overlying (309)	-	-	-	-	-	
5	(304)		Deposit	Natural	Strongly orange-brown gravel (rounded water-rolled cobbles in sand). Cut by (308)	-	-	-	-	-	
6	[305]		Cut	Modern duct running across the trench	Liner; aligned NE/SW; break of slope top sharp. Underlying (300)	-	-	-	-	-	
7	[306]		Cut	Redundant service trench running across the trench	Linear; aligned N/S; break of slope top sharp. Underlying (300).	-	-	-	-	-	
8	(307)		Structure	Cellar wall	Red un-frogged brick; two courses only visible; top headers with stretchers below. 1.60m x >0.70m x 0.24m wide. Aligned SW/NE. Individual bricks 240mm x 110mm x 50mm, bonded with cream mortar.	-	-	-	-	-	
9	[308]		Cut	Late medieval/early post-medieval pit	Sub-rectangular in plan; aligned N/S; extended >1.80m x >1.70m x 1.25m; break of slope top gradual, sides vertical, break of slope base sharp, base flat. Cut (304), filled by (309).	-	-	-	-	-	
10	(309)		Deposit	Single fill of (308)	Firm but soft & damp, mid to dark brown very silty sand, occasional water-rolled pebbles, patches of redeposited natural & discrete patches of burnt or organic material. Underlying (303) fill of [308].	-	✓	✓	✓	1	

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
11	(310)		Structure	Brick wall	Type of brick & bond; brick size: 240mm × 100mm × 70mm; aligned NW/SE; extended 1.40m × 0.20m × (?)0.07m. Only one course survived. Abutted by (311) & (312), overlying (303)	-	-	-	-	-	
12	(311)		Structure	Surface	Brick (irregular & broken); example brick size: 100mm × 60mm × 160mm; measured 1.30m × >1.20m, extending into section. Abutting (310) to S	-	-	-	-	-	Signs of wear
13	(312)		Structure	Surface	Brick surface similar to (311): 1.80m × 0.50m. Abutted (310) on S side.	-	-	-	-	-	Signs of wear

7 Discussion

The evaluation results demonstrate the presence of substantial, deep brick-vaulted cellars of probable late post-medieval date in all three trenches, probably associated with the framework knitters' cottages which are recorded in this area on historic maps of Tewkesbury dating back to c.1800. All three cellar structures were constructed of unfrosted brick, suggestive of an early 19th-century date. The maximum depth of the cellars could not be determined (the cellar exposed in Trench 1 was infilled with rubble) but it certainly extended beyond the maximum depth of the evaluation trenching (1.2m deep).

The depth at which archaeological deposits were, or might potentially be, encountered was also established.

While much of the site has been subject to considerable post-medieval disturbance, there are pockets of *in-situ* archaeological deposits and features of earlier date. Within Trench 1, a deep undifferentiated garden soil (0.7m thick) was identified at the E end of the trench, overlying the natural gravels. No archaeological deposits or features pre-dating the 19th-century cellars were observed in Trench 2.

Within Trench 3, however, earlier archaeological deposits and features were encountered, including a deep, truncated pit feature of late medieval/early post-medieval date, cutting the natural gravels (which were encountered at a depth of 1.2m beneath the carpark surface) and extending to a depth of 13.1m AOD. It is considered likely that later post-medieval activity, including the construction of the cellars and subsequent demolition and levelling operations, had effectively removed the upper levels.

Natural gravel was encountered at a depth of 1.45m beneath the existing surface in Trench 1 (13.90m AOD) and at a depth of 1.2m in Trench 3 (14.10m AOD).

7.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 attained an overall depth of 1.20m, with a *sondage* sunk a further 0.20m into natural gravels at the W end of the trench (*Plate 1*). The trench was located on the SW side of the site with its NE end within an area shown as open ground on the 1885 OS Town Plan of Tewkesbury, and the SW end extending into an area shown on the same plan as part of a terrace of cottages (*fig. 2*). The barrel-vaulted roof (106) of the cellar of one of these buildings, constructed of unfrosted brick, was present on the S side of the trench (*Plate 2, fig. 3*).

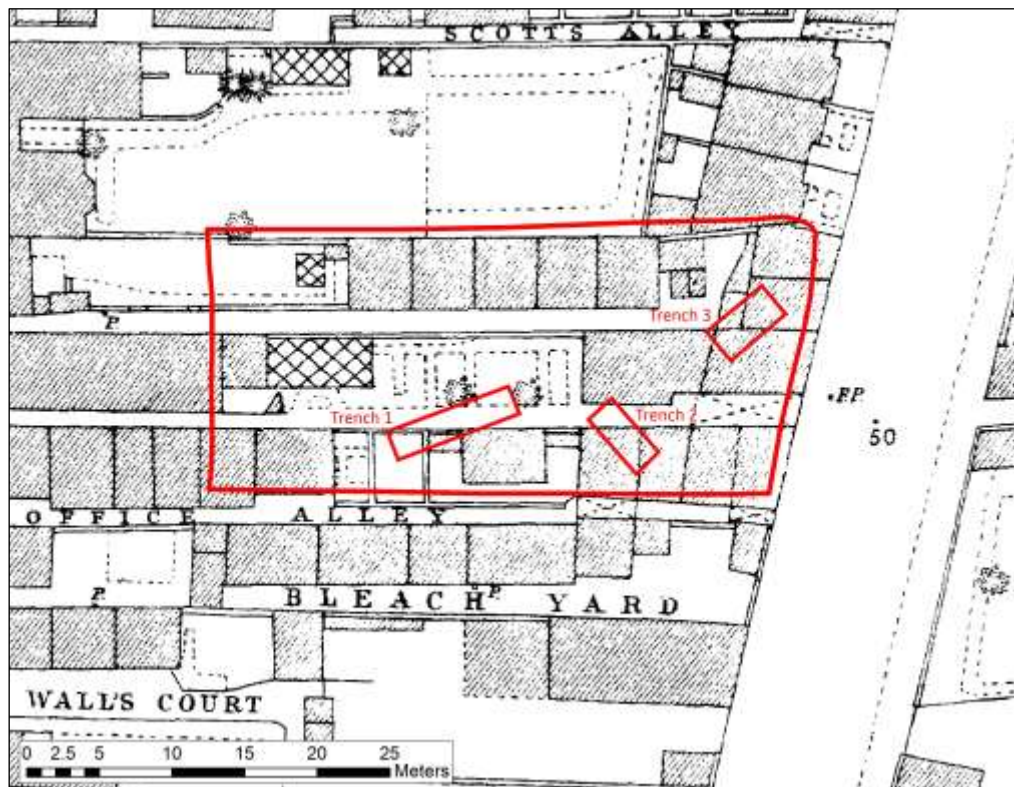


Fig 2: Trenches shown superimposed on the Ordnance Survey (1:500) Town Plan of Tewkesbury (1885)

Cellarage had previously been observed during the course of a watching brief carried out in 1991 at neighbouring Post Office Alley (Parry 1991). The presence of undisturbed garden soil at the E end of the trench would appear to suggest that parts of the site may have escaped damage by post-medieval development. This undifferentiated garden soil attained a depth of some 0.80m and was sealed by modern demolition rubble (102) and the carpark surface. It lay immediately above the natural gravel. The depth of the deposit indicates that it was likely to have accumulated over a long period of time. No pottery of Roman or medieval date was recovered from this material.



Plate 1: View E showing cellar (106); sondage into natural gravel visible at far (E) end of trench

Very few finds were recovered from (105), an accumulation of garden soil to E of cellar (106), which was present only at E end of trench. Those present included animal bone and oyster shell, which could have been introduced during gardening activity, although they may have been disturbed from underlying deposits.

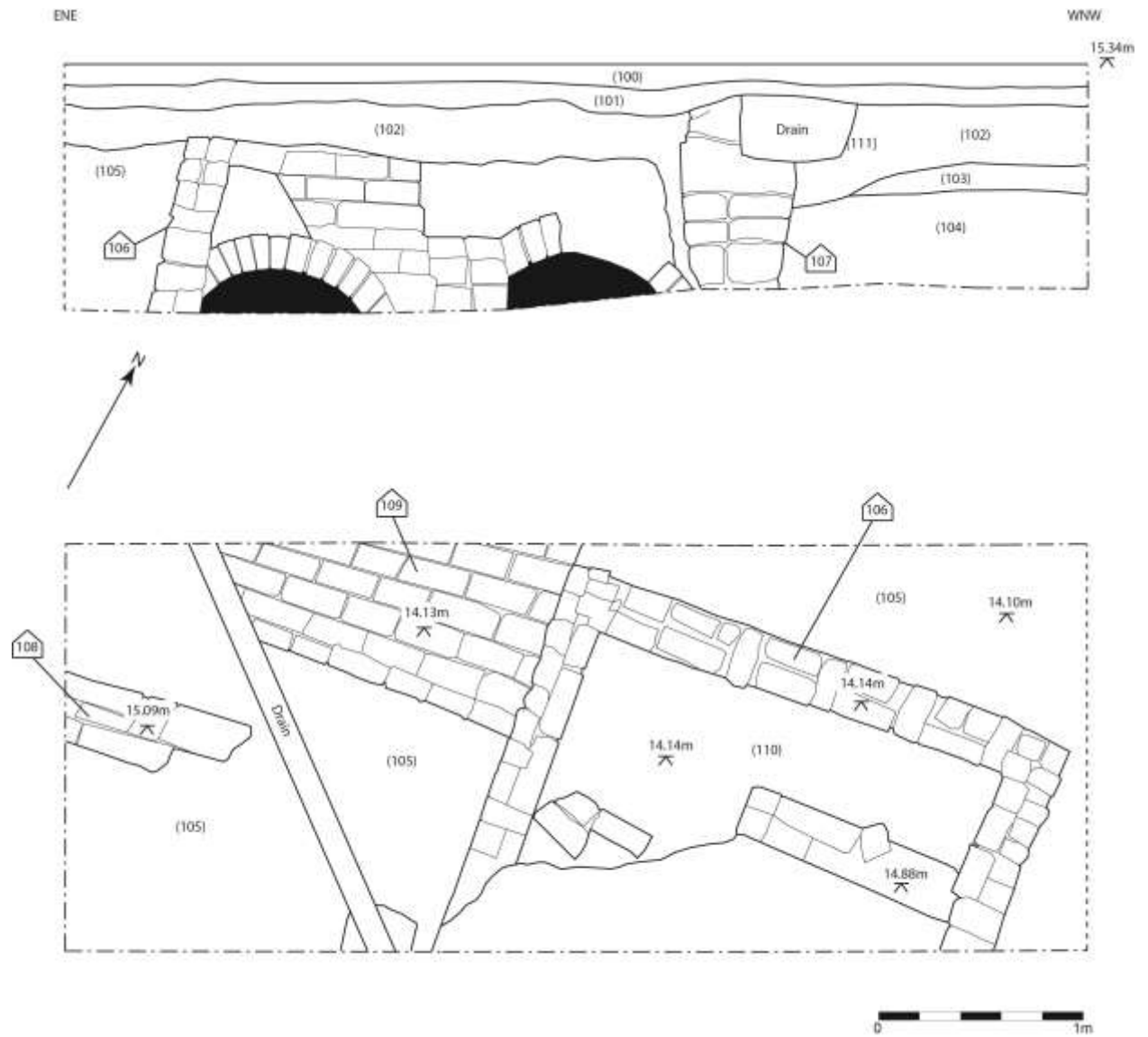


Fig. 3: Trench 1 section and plan



Plate 2: View S of barrel-vaulted roof of cellar (106)

7.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. Disturbance associated with cellarage and demolition (202) continued beneath this depth and undisturbed deposits were not present. The faces of the two walls seen in the trench were rough and unfinished, suggesting they were the rear or outward faces (*Plate 3*) and that the associated buildings lay outside the trench to the N and W. As in the case of the cellar recorded in Trench 1, it seems likely that this forms one of the buildings seen on the 1885 Town Plan (*fig. 2*).



Plate 3: View NW showing Trench 2, walls (204) and (205), with deposit (202) in foreground

No pottery dating to the Roman or medieval periods was recovered from this trench. As disturbance associated with the cellar extended over the full area of the trench to the excavated depth of 1.20m, archaeological deposits may have been damaged or destroyed in this area. However, the possibility that archaeological deposits or features may survive in truncated form beneath the excavation limit cannot be ruled out.

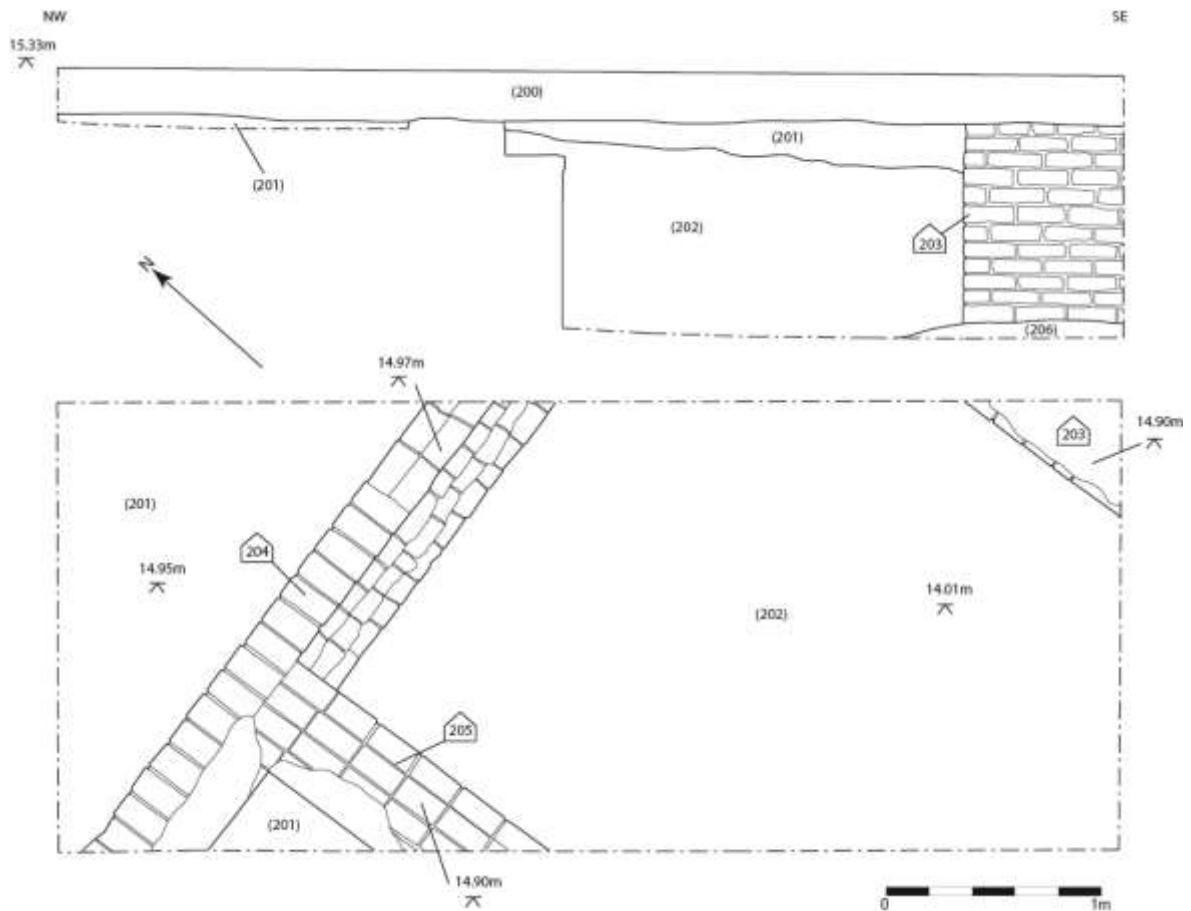


Fig 4: Trench 2 section and plan

7.3 Trench 3

The third trench was opened in the NE corner of the site, in an area shown on the 1885 Town Plan as being open ground. A brick surface (311/312) encountered 0.85m beneath existing ground level appeared too shallow to be the floor of a cellar and it is possible that the carpark had been levelled up at this point.

Although there was evidence for post-medieval disturbance in Trench 3, on the NE corner of the site natural gravels (304) were present at the SW end of the trench at a depth of some 0.90m beneath existing ground level (14.10m AOD). The gravels were cut by a large sub-rectangular pit [308] (Plate 4; fig. 5), the fill (309) of which contained five sherds of medieval pottery, including a sherd of Minety type ware and three sherds from the Malvern Chase area, thought to date to the 14th to 15th centuries. Within the same fill were a number of stone roof tiles and fragments of CBM. The pit also contained seven sherds of Roman pottery, residual in the feature, but indicating Roman activity in the immediately surrounding area. Finds indicative of high-status occupation during the Roman period were discovered during excavation at the Harvey White Engineering Company site (Wainwright 2002) some 7m to the S of the site.

The pottery from context (309) included a sherd of samian ware, suggesting that occupation of a similar nature to that identified in 2002 may extend to the N.

The Roman pottery probably attests to disturbance of Roman deposits by pit-digging in the medieval or early post-medieval period. Meanwhile, the medieval building debris would appear to suggest the presence of high-status structures in the surrounding area, although these buildings may have fronted onto High Street.

A sample (Appendix 2) taken from fill (309) confirmed re-deposition of earlier deposits, possibly during a single clearing-up operation. Fairly rapid infill was further suggested by the absence of snail shell in the feature. A discrete dump of burnt straw and chaff within the pit could indicate that this material was used as a fuel in the vicinity. The only charred seeds present in large quantities were of bread wheat, although two seeds of fat hen and one of knotgrass were also present.

The presence of uncharred seeds of plantain suggests that the area may have remained open yard for much of its history, with the plantain seeds becoming incorporated when the pit was filled.

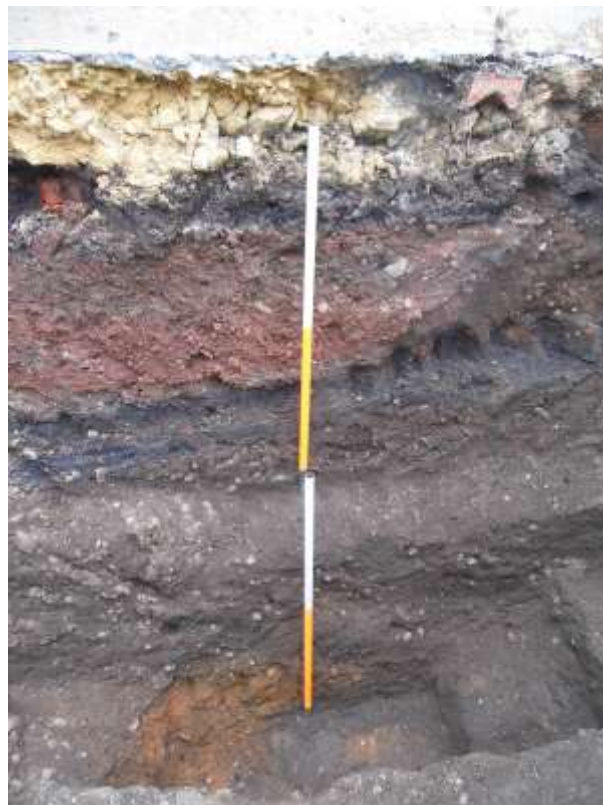


Plate 4: View S showing modern demolition and levelling deposits overlying fill (309) of pit [308]

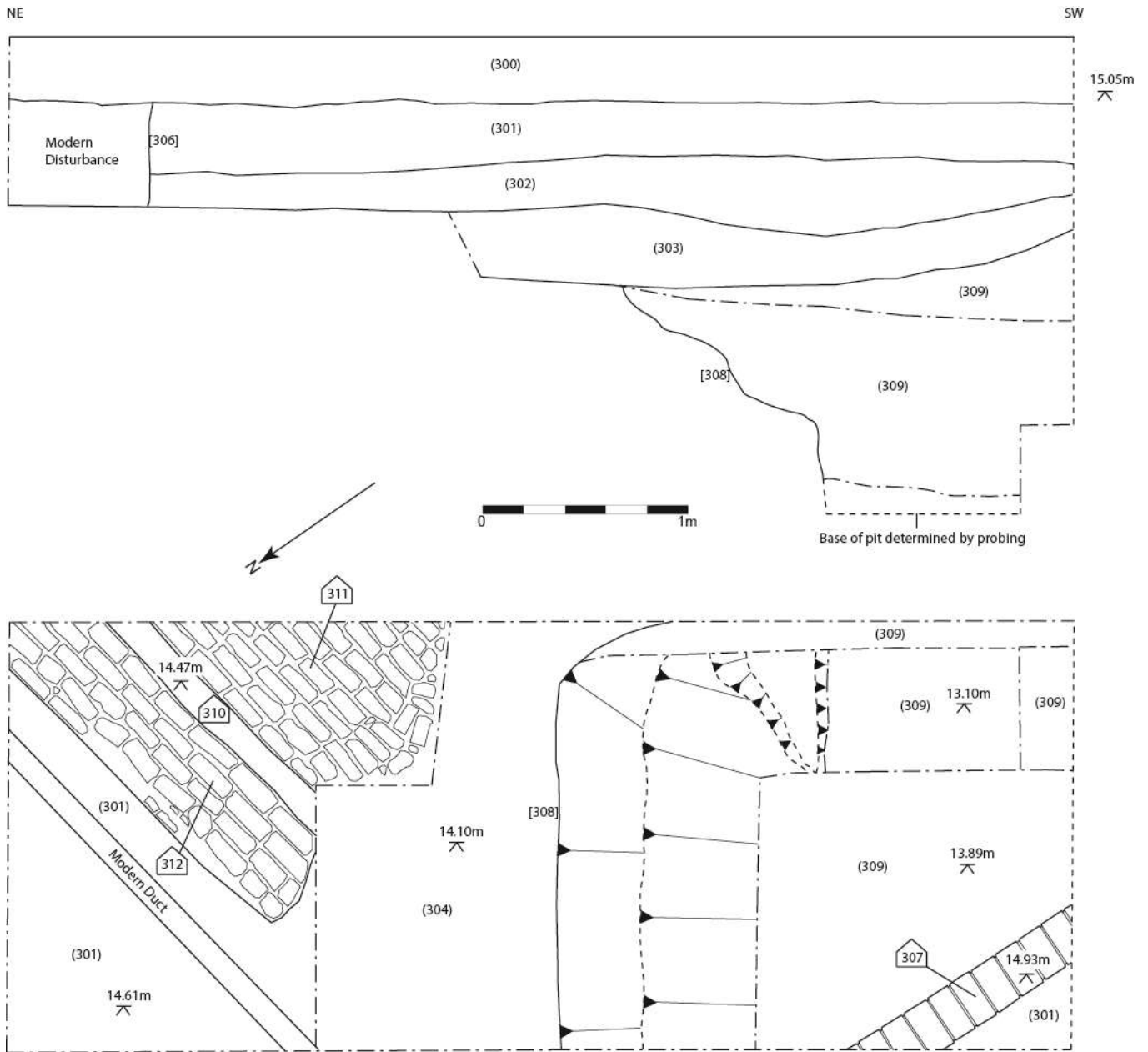


Fig.5: Trench 3 plan and section

8 Conclusion

Although the evaluation demonstrated that considerable disturbance had taken place over much of the site during the later post-medieval period, the presence of a single feature in Trench 3, together with natural gravel identified in the base of Trench 1 suggests the possibility that archaeological deposits may survive on parts of the site. Archaeological deposits and features were sealed beneath a substantial depth of topsoil and demolition debris with the result that the later medieval feature investigated in Trench 3 lay approximately 1m beneath the existing ground surface and the natural gravel encountered in Trench 1 was seen at a similar depth

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9 Bibliography

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10 Appendix 1: Assessment of the Pottery from Pit [308]

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10.1 Summary

Twelve sherds of pottery were recovered from (309), the single fill of pit [308]. It was the only early pottery to be recovered from the site, with later post-medieval wares observed but not retained in Trenches 1 and 2. The pottery from Trench 3 included seven Roman sherds, including one of samian ware, together with five sherds of medieval and later medieval date. The wide date range of the pottery recovered from this feature, together with the presence of medieval roof tile, suggests that the feature may have been used to dump waste from disparate sources after it had gone out of use for its original purpose.

10.2 Method

The pottery was washed and sorted by fabric and form by eye and under magnification (×10) using reference material published by Bryant (2004), Bryant & Evans (2004), Rawes (1982), Vince (1985) and Webster (1976).

10.3 The Roman pottery

Of the 12 sherds of pottery from pit [308], seven dated to the Roman period, with the identified forms probably suggesting a date in the 2nd century.

The Roman pottery included a sherd of organically tempered oxidised Severn Valley -type ware, the form of which is dated to the 2nd to early 3rd centuries AD; the fabric, however, is most commonly identified in assemblages dating from the mid-1st to 2nd centuries (Bryant & Evans 2004, 253) and was produced in Malvern Worcestershire. The cup or beaker in a fine sandy grey ware with incised grooves and burnishing may have been produced in Gloucestershire and has a suggested date range of 1st to early 3rd century.

The single sherd of samian ware could not be identified in terms of form but it would have originated in Central Gaul and its presence may indicate high-status occupation occurring close to the site.

Wt (g)	Fabric	Form	Date	Comments
26.9	OXSVW	tankard	C2 AD	Incised grooves, lattice beneath cordon. Rawes 1982 Fig. 7; 140. Voids – organic tempered variant
24.0	RSVW	jar	C1/C2 AD?	Rustication
16.2	?	Bowl or dish		Incised grooves, burnished. Fine grey fabric
4.9	CGTS	?	C2 AD	Undecorated body sherd

6.4	grey	?	Roman	Possible burnished cordon
8.0	OXSVW	?	Roman	
3.9	OXSVW	?	Roman	

Table 1: The Roman pottery from context (309)

10.4 The medieval pottery

Medieval pottery from the same context is dated to the 13th -16th centuries. All wares originated from neighbouring counties; none of the medieval pottery was sourced in the county itself. The earliest medieval pottery was a sherd of Minety -type ware, produced in Wiltshire. It was decorated with combed wavy lines and an olive green glaze and was probably from a tripod pitcher.

Wt (g)	Fabric	Form	Date	Comments
63.1	MalvCh	tankard	C14/C16	Thin external green speckled glaze. Form uncertain ?handle attachment
9.7	MalvCh	?	C14/C16	Speckles external clear tan glaze
2.1	MalvCh	?	C14/C16	Incised grooves. External clear green speckled glaze
8.6	Minety	Trip	C13	Combed wavy lines. External olive glaze
44.6	Worc	Dripping dish?	C14	Some external sooting. Internal partial dark green glaze

Table 2: The medieval pottery from context (309)

The three sherds from the Malvern Chase area date to the later part of the medieval period. All had a thin external glaze but none could be identified in terms of form. The sherd from Worcester was part of a large vessel such as a dripping dish or other baking ware.

10.5 The Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

Six small (total weight 394g) fragments of CBM were found in (309), together with a number of pieces of stone roof tile. All were of medieval date. A single fragment, decorated with a clear tan green speckled glaze was from a curved ridge tile, while a further curved fragment was probably also from a ridge tile but was unglazed. Both were oxidised, with a reduced grey core. The remaining tiles were oxidised throughout. Two fabrics were present; the ridge tiles and all but one of the flat roof tiles were probably from the Malvern area and are dated to the late 14th to 17th centuries. No evidence for attachments, either peg-holes or nibs, was present. The remaining tile, which was considerably thicker (18mm), was in a less sandy fabric.

10.6 Recommendations

The pottery from the evaluation should be incorporated into the corpus of material from any future work taking place on the site.

10.7 References

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11 Appendix 2: Palaeoenvironmental Assessment

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11.1 Summary

This report has been prepared by the Palaeoenvironmental Department at Border Archaeology Ltd (BAL) to facilitate and elucidate the palaeoeconomic interpretations of a small evaluation (Report Ref. BA1502HST) conducted at land to the rear of 125-6 High Street Tewkesbury in support of planning and in consideration of the site's inclusion within the Tewkesbury Conservation area. The site had previously been occupied by ancillary yardage and car-parking at the rear of, and servicing, 20th -century buildings and workshops. However, 19th century map evidence indicates that the site had previously occupied by cottages and workshops.

One sample was recovered from the only archaeological feature that included a fill, a reasonably large, squared pit of probable late medieval to early post-medieval date. Two walls and two surfaces that were not overtly modern were also revealed but, by their nature, were unsuitable for sampling. The samples were processed through flotation and the resultant archaeological and archaeobotanical material sorted and identified.

The sample from the pit comprised 40ℓ taken in four 10ℓ buckets, which represented a broad and unbiased proportion of the fill; of the four buckets, one was particularly rich in charred straw and chaff, indicating a highly localised dump of carbonised organic material and, coupled with the absence of sizable fragments of charcoal, leads to the suggestion that straw was being used as a fuel source within the proximity of the pit. The sample as a whole contained significant quantities of carbonised wheat grains, which was the only cereal present; this may again be indicative of a localised and temporally constrained dump of carbonised organic materials.

In addition to dumped refuse, which included bone and pottery, was the frequent inclusion of uncharred plantain seeds. This species quickly colonises paths and yard areas, due to its high resistance to treading and its propensity for fertile disturbed soils. The seeds would have been deposited during the fairly rapid filling of the pit and it is therefore likely that the land use covered by the evaluation trenches has changed little over time, suggesting that it has always been an external area that has occasionally been used for refuse dumping. It is unclear whether the yardage suggested by the palaeoenvironmental evidence was domestic or industrial and it is likely to have been a mix of both.

11.2 Introduction

This report details the results derived from 40ℓ of soil recovered from one context, (309), which comprised the single fill of a large, squared pit [308] cut into natural. The pit was revealed in one of three evaluation trenches excavated to the rear of 125-6 High Street Tewkesbury Gloucestershire GL20 5JX. The evaluation was commissioned in support of planning and in consideration of the site's inclusion within the Tewkesbury Conservation area. The land was, at the time of excavation, surfaced with concrete for the purpose of car parking servicing the property fronting onto High Street. Nineteenth -century reveals the land was previously occupied by cottages, workshops and yardage that had subsequently been replaced by the current 20th century buildings and workshops.

Trenches 1 and 2 were recognised as solely containing disturbance from the construction and demolition of the 19th -century buildings and their replacement in the 20th century. An area of undisturbed soil within Trench 1 was not sampled, as it was recognised as garden soil of medieval to post-medieval date and therefore heavily worked over and likely to contain material subject to very frequent re-deposition.

Pit [308] within Trench 3 was of a substantial size and sub-rectangular in plan, with near vertical sides and a flat base. Although it was clearly of deliberate construction, the palaeoenvironmental sampling was unable to determine its original function and it is entirely plausible that it was intended for use as a refuse pit. The archaeological discovery of late medieval to early post-medieval pottery confirms the dating of the pit; however, samian ware and other high-status Roman pottery of a suggested 2nd -century AD date was also discovered. This implies significant re-deposition on the site and presents a potential implication in relation to the palaeoenvironmental material recovered. However, this material was in very good condition and the species represented together with their dispersal throughout the fill would suggest rapid deposition of the fill, with instances of localised dumping of specific charred material. The Roman pottery may therefore have been classified as site clearance material and disposed-of along with other refuse.

The samples were processed by means of flotation and the archaeobotanical remains from both the floating element and the heavier residue were sorted and visually identified. The variance between the flot and retent suggests a fairly stable burial environment, with no fluctuation of waterlogging, leading to a conclusion that very few taphonomic biases have influenced the preservation of the organic materials.

The site is contained within an urban area and has thus not been subject to detailed survey by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983). However, the surrounding geology of river alluvium and clays that may exhibit calcareous regions and a variable ground water table appears to have been much more stable around the High Street area, as the organic material has in no way been affected by fluctuating water levels and appears to have been subject to very few biases on preservation (BA 2015).

11.3 Methodology

11.3.1 Objectives of analysis

The purpose of the palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy implemented during the course of archaeological evaluation programmes is to retrieve non-specific palaeoenvironmental remains and further characterise features that cannot be fully investigated within the parameters of the evaluation.

11.3.2 Sampling methodology

Sampling methodology followed the BAL Palaeoenvironmental Department Manual for environmental sampling and processing (BA 2015). On site, the samples were collected in 10ℓ sample buckets and identified by context and sample number. Following receipt into the Palaeoenvironmental Department, they were assigned bucket numbers for tracking purposes. The samples were not subject to sub-sampling and were processed in their entirety by means of flotation. Flotation was undertaken in Siraf-style tanks with a 1mm retent mesh and 250µm flot sieve. No refloating was required for these samples. Retents were initially scanned by magnet to retrieve archaeometallurgical debris and a sieve bank was used to facilitate visual sorting, with the smaller fractions sorted by means of magnifying lamp and/or illuminated stereo zoom microscopy ($\geq \times 10$). The flots were sorted entirely by means of illuminated stereo zoom microscopy ($\geq \times 10$). The retents were not of substantial enough size to require part-sorting and the flots were by not sufficiently rich to require rifle-box sorting; this allowed 100% analysis. The results of this analysis are reported with the flot and retent data recombined; this is due to limited-to-no-variance in the species being reported.

11.3.3 Personnel

Flotation and primary analysis was undertaken by Robin Putland BSc MSc, Janice McLeish MA, Matthew Gutteridge BSc and David Elgar BSc MSc, with assistance from David Stockwell BA and Corey Koppelow BSc within BAL's Palaeoenvironmental Department. This work was further assisted by BAL's field staff as part of a programme of Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Further analysis and identification was undertaken by Robin Putland BSc MSc and Amy Bunce BSc MA. No external specialism was required for this report.

11.4 Description of results

11.4.1 Description and implications of materials recovered

Detailed below are the general implications of the discovery of certain materials within the palaeoenvironmental samples. Of relevance to the material from 125-6 High Street was the probable use of straw, particularly wheat straw, as a fuel source. Of additional interest is the presence of uncarbonised plantain seeds as, although uncarbonised and therefore often disregarded, these give a clear indication of ground conditions during the

period of fill deposition. Although material of a palaeodietary origin was retrieved, the predominance of one species – wheat - to the exclusion of any other cereal may suggest a more industrial use. The presence of quantities of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), occasional slag and Fe and Cu alloy fragments and high quantities of fragmented burnt and unburnt bone confirms the archaeological recognition of these materials. The limited occurrence of charcoal, with fragments of a size for retention only being retrieved from the retents, is again revealing and may further support the suggestion of alternative fuel sources. Of some note is the absence of snail shell, which, in this instance, may be due to the probable rapid fill deposition.

11.4.2 Finds

Archaeological finds within palaeoenvironmental samples are fairly common and assist in confirming that the sampling of the material was not biased in any manner.

The archaeological finds retrieved from the 125-6 High Street samples all derived from the retents and comprised pottery and fragmentary Fe and Cu alloy.

The pottery occurred predominantly as smaller fragments either with a dark glaze or of unglazed red fabric. Some fragments of a light fabric may represent grey ware; however, the pottery was predominantly of a medieval to post-medieval date. The fragment size precluded identification beyond fabric and the archaeologically -recovered ceramics were thus far better suited to assessment. The presence of pottery in midden -type disposal is common and adds further to the evidence that, although this may not have been its primary function, the pit had been used to dispose of refuse and/or in the process of site clearance and was rapidly filled as a result.

CBM in the case of 125-6 High Street may instead represent fired daub or other clays. Lime -based mortar was also present as small fragments which, additionally due to the absence of mortar adhered to stones, may suggest significant movement from the original point of deposition. The presence of building materials adds further to the archaeological evidence for the rebuilding of the site.

11.4.3 Slag

Archaeometallurgical debris was present in the form of one small fragment of unspecific slag retrieved from the retent. Its inclusion within the retent confirms a lack of vesicles containing air but the single occurrence of this material is inconclusive and its presence would appear to indicate some considerable displacement from the point of deposition.

11.4.4 Bone

Burnt bone within palaeoenvironmental samples is reasonably conclusive of anthropogenic origin, since it derives predominantly from domestic activities, although it is present also in industrial and funerary practices; this is as opposed to unburnt bone, which could have become incorporated due to the death of an animal in the vicinity of

the context during its formation. Although many cooking practices will leave no charring, the incidences of unburnt bone, especially of small mammals and reptiles, can be used to highlight the environmental conditions during the formation of the context, as the animals will occupy specific ecological niches.

The bone inclusions from 125-6 High Street are especially fragmented and this fragmentation is apparent in both burnt and unburnt bone. In view of the urban character of the site and bone fragmentation, it is impossible to conclude whether the bone occurred as the result of domestic or industrial practices. However, the absence of highly-fired whitened bone, which is traditionally categorised as 'cremated bone', due to the high temperatures (>800°C) necessary to achieve the whitening effect, precludes cremation or industrial practices based upon pyrotechnology. Any charring may be coincidental and, due to the proportion of unburnt bone present, it is likely that bone waste was not traditionally disposed of by fire.

The highly fragmentary nature of the unburnt and burnt large mammal bones precluded species identification. The occasional incidence of small mammal bone and fish vertebra suggests equally the presence of scavenging species on an urban site and the domestic consumption of fish: quantities were too small to draw any firm conclusions.

11.4.5 Uncharred archaeobotanical material

Uncharred archaeobotanical material comprised extensively *Plantago major* (Plantain). This ground-covering plant occupies areas of high human activity and favours disturbed but fertile soils, such as those found in settlements, whilst its resilience to tread-damage promotes colonisation of productive exterior spaces. The suggestion that the site remained in use as yardage is entirely consistent with the recovery of numerous uncarbonised plantain seeds from the flots. Whereas uncarbonised material is often disregarded as modern intrusion within palaeoenvironmental sampling, it is clear that the plantain seeds were deposited contemporary with the filling of the pit. Their preservation, and the absence of any other uncarbonised material within an environment providing demonstrably favourable conditions for survival, suggests a fairly rapid filling of the pit, potentially over the time span of just one flowering season in late summer.

11.4.6 Charcoal

The ubiquity of charcoal in terms of palaeoenvironmental sampling reflects its use in domestic, funerary and industrial settings; charcoal may also occur as a result of accidental firing. Species identification can add valuable data regarding the selection of wood for different purposes. Whilst reliance is often placed upon charcoal for dating purposes, in particular for ¹⁴C dating, it is not the most suitable material to use, as results can be affected by the 'Old Wood problem' of frequent redeposition and reuse. In addition, wood grows over many years and it is not possible to know precisely from which point within the tree a charcoal fragment has derived.

The charcoal from 125-6 High Street was retrieved solely from the retents, although flecking was identified in the flots. The limited presence of charcoal, when compared to the occurrence of charred cereal grains, may suggest an alternative fuel source used by previous inhabitants. In addition, the small fragment size contrasted with the

quality of the charcoal may suggest redeposition and damage during its presence on site. It is already apparent that Roman pottery had become incorporated within the fill and the presence of very occasional slag and mortar with no obvious provenance leads further to the distrust of any conclusions drawn from the charcoal. In no instance could the charcoal be assigned to a specific fire occurrence; therefore, wood identification would only have added to the generalised data for wood selection in the period and area concerned. The charcoal was equally unsuitable for recommendation for ^{14}C dating due to fragment size.

11.4.7 Charred archaeobotanical material

Charred archaeobotanical material is generally the most illustrative palaeoeconomic remnant. Whilst frequently the sole reason for its preservation, charring is also generally accepted as being almost solely anthropogenic in origin and this material can therefore be used directly to reconstruct agricultural economies and diet.

The carbonised weed species from 125-6 High Street included two examples of *Chenopodium album* (Fat Hen) and one example of *Polygonum aviculare* (Knotgrass). Both species may be expected to occur with cereal grains and in proportions that suggest the clean grains would have been processed off-site, with only very occasional inclusion of the arable weed species. However, of note is the presence of the carbonised weed species solely within the bucket that also contained carbonised straw and chaff; therefore, they are much more likely to have been deposited at the same time as that material.

The 237 carbonised cereal grains recovered from 125-6 High Street were exclusively of *Triticum aestivum/compactum* (Bread Wheat). The inclusion of reasonably well-preserved grains of a single species would appear to further support the suggestion of a temporally constrained process of fill deposition. It is likely they were disposed of directly following charring and that residual grains on the site would have become too degraded prior to deposition to survive. Also present with the charred cereal grains were charred straw fragments that included only very occasional rachis fragments. The grains and straw were spread throughout the four buckets of the sample but one bucket held by far the greatest quantity and it is suggested that this bucket marks the location of the deposition. In addition, the organically-rich bucket contained charred chaff within the flot. The chaff was heavily fragmented but appeared to represent glumes. Although it is unclear whether the grains were amongst the straw material when it was burnt, the proportion of grain to straw would suggest not, although the easy threshing of the species present cannot preclude this.

The question as to whether the charring of the cereal and straw material was deliberate or accidental is debatable. On-site threshing would appear unlikely, due to the quantities of chaff recovered, and the straw material thus seems likely to have been brought deliberately onto site with the grains either accidentally or deliberately attached. The reasons for charring are also unknown but it is quite difficult to char small organics, such as straw, as these will either fail to ignite or will be entirely consumed by the fire; charring is thus often dependent upon rapid covering by ash. For this reason, the use of straw as a fuel source is entirely consistent. However, the localised deposition may represent a single incident, for example, the burning of a palliasse (a straw-filled mattress), an event which could again have occurred accidentally or deliberately, for the expulsion of parasites. Equally, it is entirely plausible that the inclusion of wheat grains throughout the deposit represents

domestic consumption, with the localised deposition of the straw material relating to entirely different circumstances.

11.4.8 Description of significant palaeoenvironmental contexts

As the sampling from 125-6 High Street was of a single context only, its archaeological implications are considered in detail below. Further results may be observed in the table below (*Table 1*).

(309)

Context (309) was the singular fill of a late medieval to early post-medieval pit [308], which was the only cut feature of antiquity on the site. Two walls and two surfaces were also identified but these appeared, along with much later levelling deposits, to be significantly post-medieval. Whilst archaeologically (309) was recognised to contain pottery and bone, the palaeoenvironmental samples also returned sizable quantities of small fragments of pottery, some CBM and small fragments of Fe and Cu alloy, none of which were diagnostically identifiable. The presence of bone was confirmed within the palaeoenvironmental samples. Despite the bone being highly fragmented, occasional small mammal bones and fish vertebrae were recognisable. The high degree of fragmentation was not restricted to the burnt bone; the unburnt bone, which exhibited a slight prevalence in dominance over the burnt bone, was equally indeterminable as to species.

11.5 Tables of results

The following table (*Table 1*) details the results of both the archaeobotanical material and the archaeological finds. The flot and retent data has been recombined due to the lack of variation within the material represented.

Abundance key: + = rare; ++ = occasional; +++ = common; ++++ = abundant

Context no.			309			
Sample no.			1			
Sample part			3/4	4/4	2/4	1/4
Bucket no.			E 2159	E 2160	E 2161	E 2162
Sample vol. (mℓ)			1800	2800	1900	1500
% sample analysed			100	100	100	100
Waterlogged?			N	N	N	N
Refloated?			N	N	N	N
Latin name	Common name	Plant part				
Carbonised cereal grains						
<i>Triticum aestivum/compactum</i>	Bread/Club Wheat	caryopsis	62	94	45	36
Cereal indet.	Indeterminate	straw	+	+++	+	+
Cereal indet.	Indeterminate	chaff		+++		
Carbonised wild taxa						
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat Hen	seed		2		
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass	nutlet		1		
Uncarbonised wild taxa						
<i>Plantago major</i>	Plantain	seed	++++	++	+++	++++
Charcoal						
Undetermined	Undetermined	fragments	+++	++++	+++	+++
Artefactual						
Ceramic/pottery	-	-	++	+++	++	++
CBM	-	-			++	++
Fe	-	-	+	+		
Cu alloy	-	-	+		+	
Archaeometallurgical						
Slag	-	-				+
Faunal						
Mammal (unburnt)	Indeterminate	-	+++	+	++	+++
Small mammal (unburnt)	Indeterminate	-	+	+	+	+
Fish (unburnt)	Indeterminate	-	+	+	+	+
Mammal (burnt)	Indeterminate	-	++	+	++	++
Small mammal (burnt)	Indeterminate	-				+

Table 1: Table of archaeobotanical and non-archaeobotanical remains

11.6 Conclusions

The intention of the non-specific palaeoenvironmental sampling undertaken at 125-6 High Street Tewkesbury was to retrieve archaeobotanical remains. To this end, it was successful and may have significantly influenced the interpretation of pit [308] as it would seem highly likely that deposition occurred within a very constrained timeframe and the refuse contents of the pit may also have incorporated site clearance material.

The palaeoenvironmental results are considered in no way to affect the development proposals and no palaeoenvironmental considerations are required as part of any subsequent mitigation.

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