

Archaeological Excavation

**Old Corner House
Weobley
Herefordshire**

NGR: SO 40209 51678
SMR No: 44444

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1. Non Technical Summary

The site, located within an orchard to the S of The Old Corner House, within the centre of the historic medieval town of Weobley, revealed a series of deposits and structural remains dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods, relating to one or more medieval burgage houses occupying the street frontage on the W side of Broad Street, which are shown on the Weobley tithe map of 1838 and were probably demolished in 1844-45.

The earliest phase of activity identified on the site was dated to the 13th-14th centuries and consisted of three structural elements, namely:

- The lowest courses of a regularly coursed stone wall running east-west across the centre of the excavation trench which was abutted by a deposit containing 14th century pottery.*
- A rectangular area of flagstone flooring bounded by a well-built stone wall to the west and by a cobbled surround to the north and east, which upon further investigation was found to be the capping for a stone-lined pit.*
- A series of stone steps at the extreme north end of the trench leading to a subterranean structure, presumably cellarage, evidence for which, however, was not identified within the limits of the excavation trench.*

During the late medieval/early post-medieval period, the regularly coursed wall running east-west appears to have been partially rebuilt and extended.

These buildings appear either to have collapsed or were partially demolished at some point in the 17th-18th centuries, following which an attempt was made to rebuild them, represented by a series of walls, cobbled surfaces and stone kerbing.

The structures occupying the site in the 1830s-early 1840s, which are depicted in a painting of 1831, were humble cottages rather than high-status dwellings, which were then occupied by agricultural labourers, a tailor and a postmaster.

The cottages are described in contemporary documents as 'vote houses' belonging to the Marquess of Bath, lord of the manor of Weobley, and were probably demolished as part of the wholesale destruction of up to 84 'vote houses' which took place in 1844-45.

Following the demolition of the houses occupying the site in the mid-1840s, the site was converted into orcharding, as shown on the OS 1st edition map of 1887 and subsequent OS maps of the area.

2. Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Mr & Mrs Kilvert and Mrs Saunders to carry out a limited area excavation within a former orchard to the S of The Old Corner House, Broad Street, Weobley, Herefordshire (NGR SO 40209 51678), in pursuance of the brief issued by Julian Cotton of Herefordshire Archaeology on 29th August 2006, the precise location and layout of which was delineated by Julian Cotton based on the results of a prior evaluation carried out in 2004 which indicated the presence of medieval and early post-medieval archaeological deposits and features in many parts of the site.

Copies of this report will be submitted to the clients, Mr Julian Cotton of Herefordshire Archaeology and the Herefordshire Sites & Monuments Record (SMR).

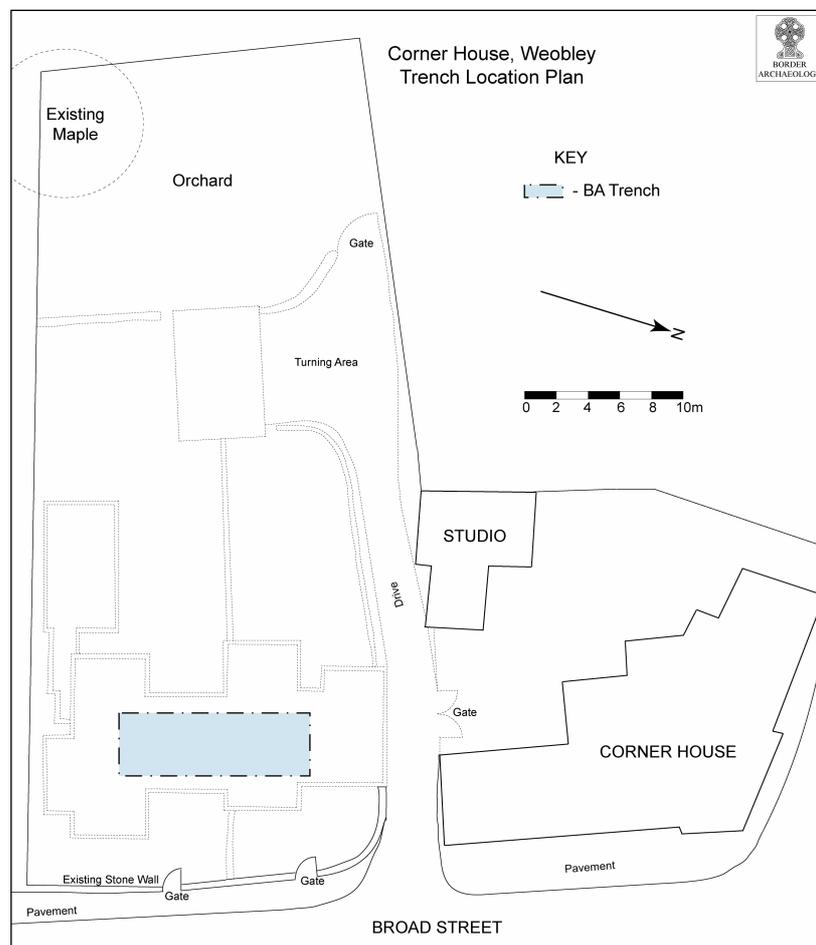


Fig. 1: Site Location Plan (NGR SO 40209 51678)

2.1 Soils & Geology

The predominant soil type in the vicinity of the site consists of typical argillic brown earths of the ESCRICK 1 series (571p) generally composed of deep well drained reddish coarse loamy soils overlying reddish till (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

3. Site Specific Historical & Archaeological Background

The origins of settlement at Weobley can be traced back to before the Norman Conquest. The earliest documented reference occurs in the Domesday Survey of 1086, which records that the manor of 'Wibelai' (a place name of OE origin meaning 'Wiobba's clearing') was held before the Conquest by Edwy Cild and was then valued at 100s (Thorn & Thorn, 1983, 184d).

By 1086, the manor of Weobley had come into the hands of the prominent Marcher lord Roger de Lacy and it was probably Roger or his son Hugh de Lacy who built Weobley Castle in the early 12th century, which thereafter functioned as the *caput* or administrative centre of the de Lacy estates in Herefordshire. It has been suggested that Bell Square could represent the centre of the pre-Conquest settlement, prior to the establishment of a planned urban settlement at Weobley.



Fig.2: Extract from a reproduction of the tithe map of Weobley (1838) showing the 'vote houses' situated on the E side of Broad Street to the S of the Old Corner House
 (Reproduced by courtesy of the Herefordshire Records Office)

The foundation of the borough of Weobley is not accurately dated (due to the lack of a borough charter) but documentary evidence suggests that a planned urban settlement was established there by the early to mid-13th century. Weobley received a royal confirmation of an annual fair in 1231 and a weekly market by 1261, and shops are documented in the borough in 1294 (Dalwood, 1996, 2; Salt, 1954, 11, 19). The focal point of the planned medieval borough of Weobley was evidently the triangular market



place in Broad Street to the N of the castle, which is defined on either side by blocks containing regularly distributed narrow burgage strips, as shown on the Weobley tithe map of 1838. Some of these burgage strips were subsequently amalgamated into larger plots during the mid-late 19th century, as shown on the OS 1st edition 25 inch map of 1887.

Weobley appears to have escaped the depredations of the Welsh during the revolt of Owain Glyndŵr in the early 15th century, unlike many other Marcher towns, which may account for its relative prosperity during the late medieval and early post-medieval period, attested by the survival of a significant number of timber-framed buildings ranging in date from the late 14th to the early 17th centuries (Dalwood, 1996, 7; Noble, 1964, 69). Among these is Old Corner House, situated immediately N of the excavation site, a Grade II* Listed Building of 15th century date with mid 19th century alterations, which was further extended in the late 20th century. The house is L-shaped in plan and comprises a hall range and a gabled and jettied cross-wing (RCHME, 1934, 199).

The Tudor antiquarian John Leland, writing in about 1540, noted that Weobley still flourished as a market town, while the historian William Camden commented in 1586 that Weobley 'had more fair cellars than most market towns of its bigness in England'. In 1628, the borough was re-enfranchised and returned members of parliament until it was disenfranchised as a parliamentary borough by the Reform Act of 1832 (Hillaby, 1967, 105-6).

By the late 17th century, the urban settlement at Weobley was experiencing a marked decline in prosperity, which appears to have intensified throughout the 18th century. A contemporary observer, Richard Blome, writing in 1698, commented that Weobley 'formerly enjoyed a good trade which is of late less considerable by the growth of its neighbouring town, Kington' (O'Donnell, 1971, 191). This economic decline is corroborated by the architectural evidence for a decline in the quality of mid-late 17th century buildings in Weobley and the almost complete absence of any new buildings in the town of 18th-19th century date (Dalwood, 1996, 8).

Documentary evidence suggests that Weobley had ceased to be a town in all but name by the early 19th century. The disenfranchisement of the borough as a result of the 1832 Reform Act led to many of the burgage or 'vote houses' held by the lord of the manor, the Marquess of Bath, falling into disuse, although census returns indicate that some of the vote houses in Broad Street continued to be occupied until as late as 1841. Consequently, in 1844-45, the Marquess of Bath instructed his agent to pull down the majority of the 'vote houses' and up to 84 buildings were demolished (Leather, 1926, 174). The foundations and paving stones associated with these structures were still visible on the E side of Broad Street as late as 1926 (Leather, 1926, 175).

3.1 Site Specific Analysis (including Map Regression)

The earliest detailed plan of the village of Weobley to have survived is the tithe map of 1838 (**Fig. 2**), which shows regularly distributed burgage plots on either side of Broad Street prior to the wholesale demolition of the Marquess of Bath's 'vote houses', which took place in 1844-45, and the subsequent amalgamation of these burgage plots into larger units of property. Of particular interest is the group of buildings delineated on the E side of Broad Street immediately to the S of Old Corner House, to the rear of which are four narrow burgage strips marked as Nos. 693-96 on the tithe map. These four

strips were subsequently amalgamated to form the site of the existing orchard to the S of Old Corner House.



Plate 1: Detail from a painting of 1831 by John Hilder looking N along Broad Street towards Weobley Church. The gabled buildings shown in the background to centre-left, fronting onto the W side of Broad Street may represent the houses marked as Nos. 693-6 on the tithe map. *(Reproduced by courtesy of the Herefordshire Records Office)*

Nos. 693-696 are listed as four separate properties in the tithe apportionment, all of which were owned by the Marquess of Bath and were occupied by four individuals, listed as Francis Gatehouse (No. 693), Joseph Davies (No. 694), Joseph Baskerville (No. 695) and John Ambler (No. 696). The Land Tax Returns for Weobley covering the years 1795 to 1830 list the 'vote houses' belonging to the Marquess of Bath in a single group, although the precise location of these properties is not given. Joseph Baskerville is listed as one of the occupiers of these 'vote houses' from 1795 up to 1830, while John Ambler first appears as a tenant of the Marquess in 1821. Neither Francis Gatehouse nor Joseph Davies is mentioned in the Land Tax Returns for Weobley up to 1830.

Three of these individuals, Davies, Baskerville and Ambler, were still occupying these properties in Broad Street at the time of the 1841 census and their professions are listed as an agricultural labourer, postmaster and tailor, respectively. Francis Gatehouse, the occupier of No. 693, is listed in the 1841 census as an agricultural labourer who had moved to Weobley Marsh by that date; his tenancy in Broad Street appears to have been occupied by a schoolmaster named Thomas Underwood.

Nos. 693-96 themselves are described in the tithe apportionment as 'gardens', the respective acreages of which are listed as 22 perches (approximately 554 sq. metres) for Nos. 693-695 and 19 perches (approximately 475 sq. metres) for No. 696. The evidence of the tithe map and apportionment and the census return indicates that the four properties occupying the street frontage of Plots 693-96 were, at this time, private residences rather than industrial buildings (e.g. smithy) or shop premises. The fact that

agricultural labourers occupied two of these properties in 1838 suggests that they were humble cottages rather than high-status dwellings.



Fig.3: Detail from the OS 1st edition 25-inch map of 1887 (Herefordshire 25.3) showing the orchard to the S of Old Corner House planted after demolition of 'vote houses' in 1844-45. (Reproduced by courtesy of the Herefordshire Records Office)

The humble character of these properties is confirmed by a view painted in 1831 by the landscape artist John Hilder (d.1839) looking N along Broad Street towards the parish church (**Plate 1**). This invaluable view of the town, taken some 13 years before the demolition of the Marquess of Bath's 'vote houses' in 1844-45, shows a pair of gabled, two-storey cottages fronting onto the W side of Broad Street, situated to the S of the junction of Broad Street and Bell Square, at the NW corner of which stands the Red Lion Inn, which is shown in the centre background of the picture. The two cottages appear to be of humble vernacular construction with a large stone chimneystack located at the S end of the southernmost of the two cottages.

Hilder's view also shows a small, gabled single-storey structure immediately adjacent to the northernmost of the two gabled cottages and extending onto the street. This appears to correspond with the evidence of the tithe map, which also shows a small rectangular extension projecting eastwards into Broad Street from the building occupying Plot No. 693.

By 1887, as shown on the OS 1st edition 25 inch map (Herefordshire 25.3), the houses occupying the street frontage of Plot Nos. 693-96 had been completely cleared and the burgage strip boundaries as shown on the 1838 tithe map had also been removed, to create a single, roughly rectangular plot of land (marked as Plot No. 354), which had been converted to use as an orchard by that date (**Fig. 3; Plate 2**). This plot, covering

an area of 0.890 acres (0.360 ha), is still depicted as orcharding on the OS 2nd edition 25-inch map of 1905; however, the OS provisional edition 6-inch map of 1948 (Herefordshire 25 NW) shows that a narrow strip of land along the N edge of the orchard was enclosed and apparently cleared of trees by that date (**Fig. 4**).



Plate 2: Detail of photograph taken in 1891 looking N along Broad Street towards the Red Lion Hotel, showing the orchard immediately S of Old Corner House to the left of the picture

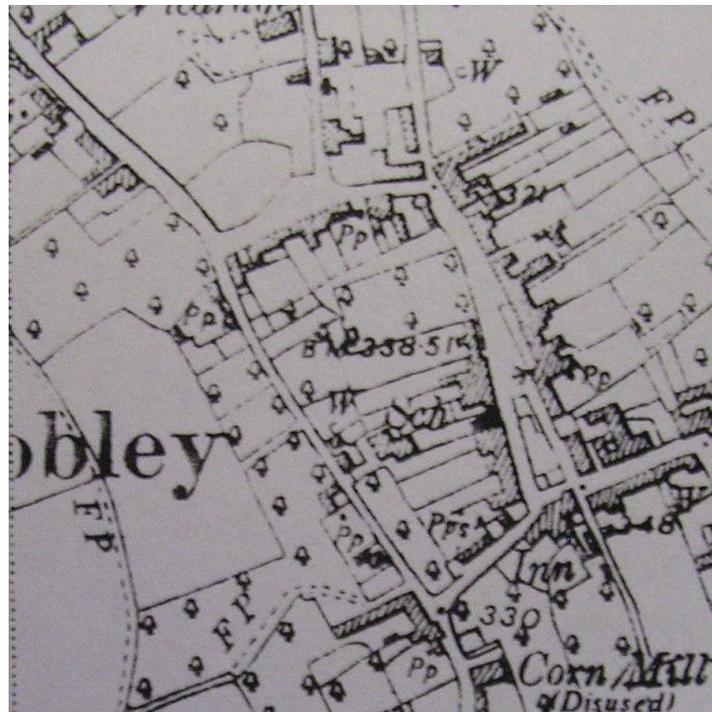


Fig.4: Detail from OS provisional edition 6-inch map of 1948 (Herefordshire 25 NW)
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Herefordshire Records Office)



4. Methodology

4.1 Excavation methodology

The excavation area measured 10m (N-S) × 4m (E-W), the location and dimensions of which were in accordance with a brief issued by Julian Cotton of Herefordshire Archaeology. A temporary benchmark was established with a value of 99.68m AOD.

Manual excavation of archaeological deposits was used for the recovery of stratigraphic data, with the extent and character (colour, texture, boundary characteristics etc) of each archaeological context being defined by trowelling prior to excavation.

The excavation of pits and other non-structural intrusions allowed for their stratigraphic recording and for the identification of post-pipes, post-packing and any related material.

An environmental sampling strategy was employed in accordance with *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage, 2002) whereby samples were taken from deposits rich in environmental indicators such as shell and charcoal. Samples taken from selected contexts were assigned sample numbers and these were entered into a sample register and cross-referenced with context sheets.

4.2 Recording methodology

All archaeological features, structures and deposits located were recorded using separate *pro forma* record sheets in order to fulfil the aims of the project specification and to resolve questions relating to their likely date, nature, extent, condition and relationship to adjacent features.

Plans, sections and elevations were produced at scales of 1:20 or 1:10, as appropriate, on *pro forma* gridded archivally stable polyester film. All plans, elevations and sections also contained grid and level data relative to the OS national grid. All drawings were numbered and listed in a drawing register; these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records.

The written and drawn records were made in accordance with *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation* published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in September 1995 and revised in September 2001 and with Border Archaeology's Fieldwork Site Recording Manual. The MoLas single-context planning system was used and a detailed stratigraphic record compiled using a context numbering system; a Harris matrix was constructed as a means of ordering the stratigraphy and understanding stratigraphic relationships.

A photographic record of all stratigraphic units comprising record views of contexts, samples or artefacts was compiled using a 4.2MPX digital camera and a 35mm SLR camera using colour print and black and white film. These were indexed by film and frame number and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view were maintained in a photographic register, indexed by film and frame number.

5. Results

A total of 53 contexts were identified which appear to represent six distinct phases of activity spanning the late medieval to the late post-medieval periods.

The uppermost context (001) consisted of a topsoil layer of friable mid brown sandy clay with occasional bone, 19th century iron glazed and stoneware potsherds and CBM and moderate charcoal flecking, measuring 0.18m in thickness, which extended across the entire trench. Underlying (001) was subsoil layer (002), consisting of a friable mid brown silty clay with occasional gravel and moderate amounts of 18th-19th century potsherds including slipware and iron-glazed wares, CBM & mortar with occasional Fe slag and charcoal flecking, again extending across the entire trench and measuring approximately 0.25m in thickness.



Plate 3: View looking E showing post-medieval pit (012) in W-facing section of trench

Sealed by (001) and cutting into both (002) and (003) was [012], the cut for a sub-circular pit identified towards the N end of the trench (**Plate 3**). The pit measured 0.74m (NNW-SSE) × 0.54m (ENE-WSW) × 0.3m with a moderate break of slope at the top and regular sides, a sharp break of slope at the base and a flat, slightly uneven base. The fill of this pit (013) consisted of a moderately compacted (slightly friable) mid greyish-brown silty sand with occasional 18th-19th century potsherds, moderate charcoal flecking and very slight mortar flecking.

Sealed by (002) and cutting into (003), (016) and (029) was [017], the cut for a large, deep sub-circular pit which was not fully excavated and consequently its full extent could not be gauged (**Plate 4: Fig. 7**). The pit extended N for a visible length of 5.1m across the W-facing section of the trench and to a maximum visible depth of 0.78m. The pit contained three fills (018), (019) and (021), containing a quantity of demolition debris presumably relating to a destruction episode.

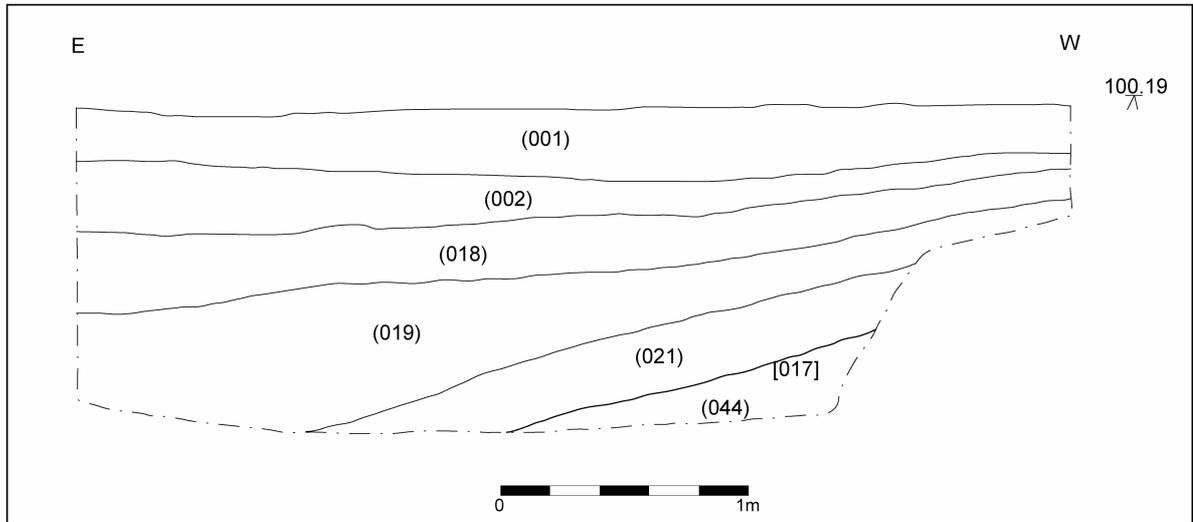


Fig. 7: N-facing section of excavation trench showing pit [017] and associated fills underlying subsoil layer (002)

(018), the uppermost fill of [017], comprised a moderately cohesive pale greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions and moderate charcoal flecking with occasional CBM and mortar fragments, measuring 0.42m in thickness. Underlying (018) was a 0.44m thick cohesive pale greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent lenses of pinkish-red clayey silt and occasional gravels, with moderate charcoal flecking and CBM fragments (019).



Plate 4: View E showing pit [017] in W-facing section of trench

The basal fill of pit [017] was (021), a cohesive dark greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent gravel and occasional sandstone and CBM fragments and slight charcoal flecking, its visible thickness measuring 0.12m. (021) contained a small number of 18th-19th century potsherds (including slipware and iron-glazed ware) and pantiles. Based on the evidence of the fills, pit [017] was probably dug for the disposal of debris relating to the demolition of the 'vote houses' documented as occupying the site in 1844-45.

Underlying subsoil layer (002) was (003), a cohesive pale pinkish-brown silty clay deposit, with occasional gravel and charcoal flecking, extending from the NE corner of trench for 7.3m along its eastern edge to a maximum depth of 0.2m. Finds recovered from (003) included moderate amounts of 18th-19th century iron glazed wares and slipware sherds and a small number of late medieval and early post-medieval potsherds and ridge tile fragments. (003) was interpreted as a post-demolition/levelling deposit associated with clearance following demolition of the buildings occupying the site and was probably deposited shortly after (004).

Partially underlying and merging with levelling layer (003) was (004), a friable mid greyish-brown clayey silt with moderate sandstone rubble fragments, frequent mortar flecking and moderate charcoal flecking and CBM fragments. This deposit extended across from the N end of the excavation trench and ranged in depth between 0.1m and 0.6m. This was interpreted as a destruction deposit, probably associated with the actual demolition of the structures shown on the 1838 tithe map.



Plate 5: View N showing wall (005) abutting the N end of (006)

Revealed beneath levelling/demolition layers (003) and (004), in the centre of the excavation trench, were a series of stone-built wall foundations and cobbled areas defined by stone kerbing which extended beyond the limits of the excavation; their total extent could thus not be accurately gauged. Underlying (003), at a height of 99.39m AOD, was (005), the remains of a roughly coursed, shallow sandstone wall aligned N-S (**Plate 5**). The wall measured 2.04m (N-S) × 0.4m (E-W) × 0.34m and stood three courses in height, consisting of poorly coursed, undressed sandstone slabs bonded with pale pinkish-brown clayey silt similar to (003).

Wall (005) abutted the N end of (006), a much more substantial wall with E-facing returns at the N and S ends, constructed of irregular sandstone slabs measuring at least

seven courses in depth. Some of the stones displayed external evidence of a whitish lime mortar.

The precise relationship between walls (005) and (006) is difficult to establish clearly. Wall (005) appeared to be a continuation of the northward return of (006), possibly replacing an earlier wall on the same alignment, but it appears to have been rather crudely keyed into (006) and there was a marked difference in construction between the two walls. The manner of construction apparent in wall (005) was very similar to walls (007) and (008) farther to the W and contrasted with the substantial, coursed masonry visible in wall (006). It seems reasonable to assume that (005) represented a later, northward extension to (006).

Immediately to the E, wall (006) appeared to enclose three sides of a rectangular area extending beyond the eastern boundary of the trench (**Plate 6**). It could not be determined, within the limits of the excavation trench, whether this area to the E of (006) represented a clearly definable feature, such as a domestic waste pit. Further excavation revealed a sequence of deposits in this area immediately to the E of (006), the uppermost of which was (029), a cohesive mid-reddish brown clayey silt with frequent sandstone and mortar fragments and occasional CBM and frequent charcoal flecking, measuring 0.33m in thickness and provisionally interpreted as a demolition or levelling deposit. An environmental sample (Sample <1>) was taken from this charcoal-rich deposit.



Plate 6: View looking W showing wall (006) following the excavation of a sondage immediately to the E

Underlying (029) was a moderately compacted dark greyish-brown silty clay (039) measuring 0.5m in thickness, containing a number of 13th-14th century ridge tile fragments and frequent bone fragments with moderate charcoal flecking.

A sondage measuring 1m × 1m × 0.34m was dug against the E edge of wall (006), which revealed that (039) overlay (049), a cohesive dark greyish-brown humic organic silt with moderate charcoal and mortar flecking, provisionally interpreted as a possible cess or domestic waste deposit. If this were indeed the case, it would lend credence to the interpretation of the area immediately E of wall (006) as a cess or waste disposal pit. Consequently, an environmental sample (Sample <2>) was taken from (049) in order to determine whether or not it was a cess or domestic waste deposit. The maximum depth of (049) was not reached but it extended to a visible depth of 0.25m (97.83m AOD). Somewhat surprisingly, in view of the fact that (029) and (039) contained moderate quantities of potsherds and CBM, no ceramic materials were recovered from (049).

The S end of wall (006) appeared to overlie a somewhat crudely built, randomly coursed wall aligned roughly E-W and constructed of irregular angular and subangular sandstone slabs (023) (**Plate 7**), which were bonded with a pale pinkish-brown clayey silt similar to (003). The maximum visible dimensions of (023) measured 3.47m × 0.82m × 0.53m; however, the wall appeared to extend beyond the W baulk of the excavation trench, so its full length could not be ascertained.



Plate 7: View E showing the interface between walls (006) and (023)

The upper stages of the wall had been robbed out, as evidenced by robber trench [025], an E-W linear cut visible in the E-facing section of the excavation trench measuring 0.8m wide and 0.9m deep. [025] was filled by (020), a friable dark greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent sandstone rubble and mortar fragments, moderate charcoal flecking and a

moderate amount of 18th century potsherds (including Staffordshire slipware and iron glazed wares), sealed by post-medieval subsoil deposit (002).

Wall (023) appeared to have been built on top of wall (046), which was on the same E-W alignment, extending for a maximum visible length of 1.9m and continuing beyond the W baulk of the excavation trench. The maximum depth of (046) could not be gauged, as it continued beneath the base of the excavation trench, but its maximum visible depth measured 0.93m. Wall (046) was of noticeably better quality than (023) and comprised four or five slightly irregular courses of dressed sandstone blocks, again bonded with a pale pinkish-brown clayey silt (**Fig. 8; Plate 8**). The quality of construction of (046) suggests that it could have formed the foundation plinth for a timber-framed structure, which was subsequently rebuilt in stone as represented by walls (006) and (023).

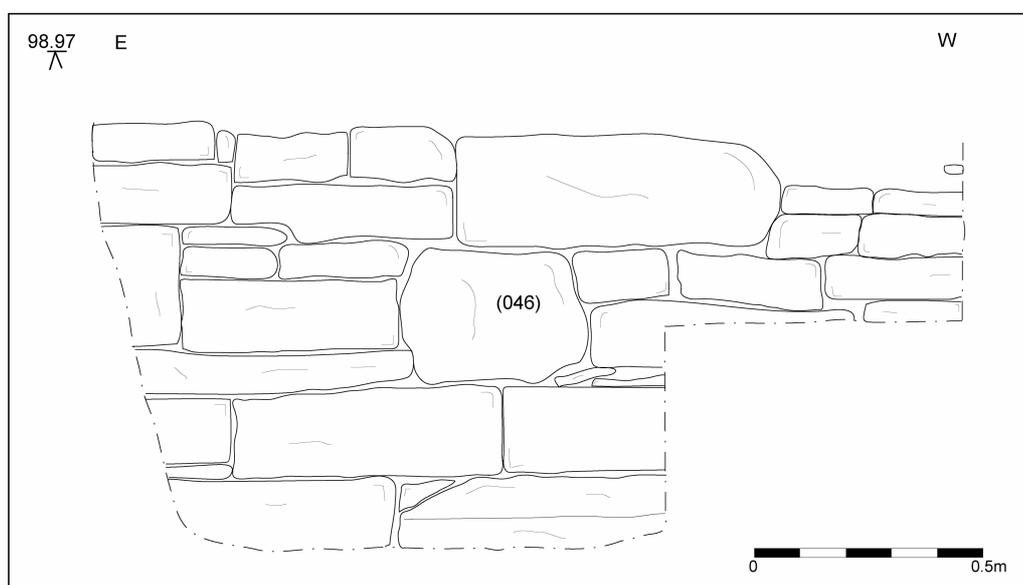


Fig. 8: N-facing section showing dressed sandstone wall (046)

Visible both in section and plan immediately to the N of wall (023) and to the W of wall (006) were a series of features and deposits that appeared to have been disturbed by robber trench [025]. The uppermost of these was (015), a small area of kerbing consisting of irregular sandstone slabs laid on edge that appeared to extend into the W baulk of the trench. Situated at right angles to (015) was (014), a single course of sandstone kerbing, aligned E-W and measuring 1.42m × 0.08m × 0.18m.

Within the area framed by kerbing (015) and (014) was (045), a layer of friable mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecking measuring 0.33m in thickness. Underlying (045) was a small area of irregular stone paving (030) measuring 1.08m (N-S) × 0.64m (E-W), consisting of a series of flat sandstone slabs of angular and subangular form up to 0.35m in thickness and bonded with a pinkish-red clayey silt (**Plate 9**).

The paved surface also displayed evidence of having been patched in several places somewhat crudely with stone roof tiles. The form of (030) and the lack of evidence for weathering suggested that it was an internal rather than an external feature and the crude nature of its construction and repair suggests that it probably related to a utilitarian or low-status domestic structure.



Plate 8: View looking S showing regularly coursed sandstone wall (046) underlying more crudely built wall (023)



Plate 9: View looking W showing the remains of stone paved surface (030) bounded by sandstone kerbing (014) and (015) to the N and W respectively

Beneath (030) was a sequence of deposits initially interpreted as a series of levelling layers but which appear more likely to have been a gradual accumulation of occupation deposits within the area framed by (006) to the E, (014) to the N and walls (023) and (046) to the S. The uppermost of these deposits was (031), a cohesive mid pinkish-red clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecking and a single piece of late medieval ridge tile, measuring up to 0.18m in thickness. The fairly sterile nature of (031) suggested that it could represent redeposited natural subsoil used as a sub-base for paved surface (030).

Underlying (031) was (032), a moderately compacted mid greyish-brown silty clay with moderate amounts of animal bone, shell and occasional charcoal flecking, containing a small quantity of late medieval ridge tile and potsherds of 16th-17th century date. Beneath (032) was (034), a moderately compacted reddish-brown silty clay with frequent medium sized angular stones, animal bone and a moderate quantity of late medieval and 16th-17th century pottery sherds.

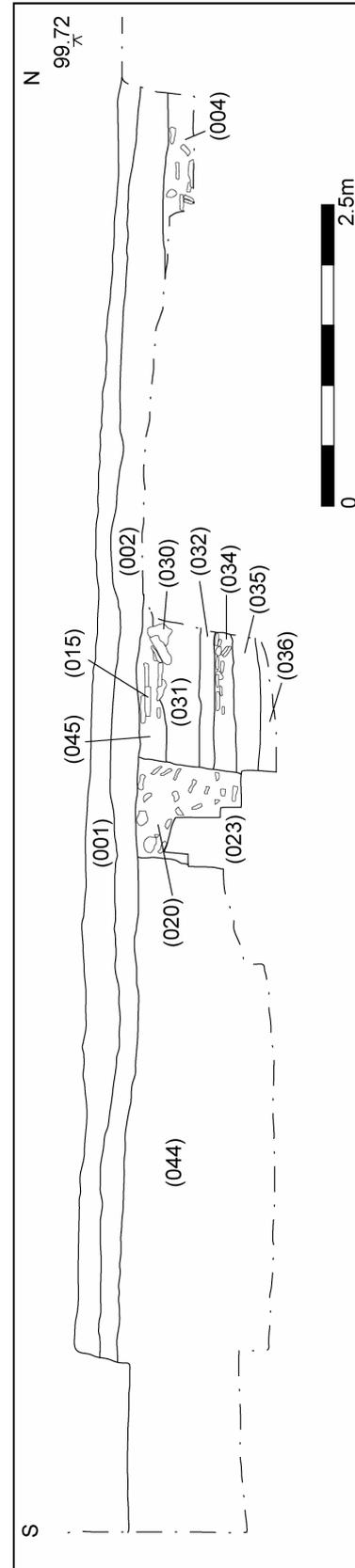
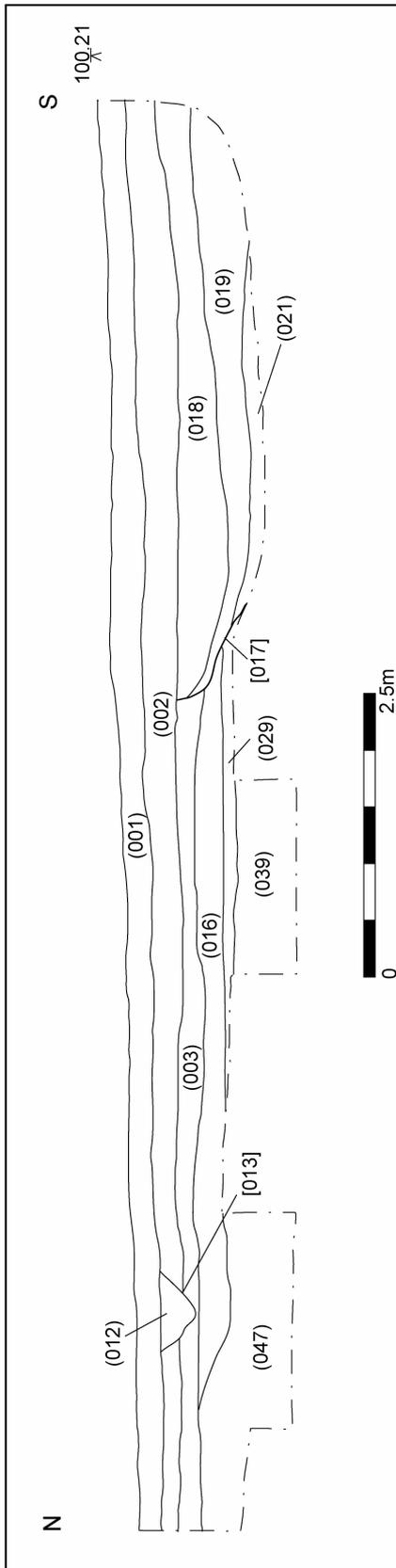
Deposit (034) in turn overlay (035), a moderately compacted dark greyish-brown clayey silt with animal bone and shell, measuring 0.2m in thickness. Underlying (035) was (036), a moderately compacted dark greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent medieval ceramics (including 13^h-14th century ridge tile fragments), animal bone, oyster shell, wood fragments and occasional charcoal flecking extending to the base of the excavation trench. An environmental sample (Sample <3>) was taken from this deposit.



Plate 10: View E showing (036) extending beneath wall (006) with walls (023) and (046) to the S

The insertion of post-medieval robber trench [025] obscured the relationship between this sequence of deposits and walls (023) and (046); however, it appeared that the two lowest deposits (035) and (036) were both abutting, rather than being cut by (046), implying that both of these layers were deposited after the construction of (046). However, (036) appeared to extend beneath the base of the W-facing elevation of wall (006), which, if interpreted correctly, would provide an approximate *terminus post quem* for the construction of (006) (**Plate 10**).

Figs. 9a & 9b: W- & E-facing sections of excavation trench (post-ex)



Located to the N of the area framed by walls (006), (023) and kerbing (014), a series of walls and cobbled surfaces were identified, which, from the evidence of weathering, appeared to represent a large external courtyard, in contrast to the features and deposits immediately to the S interpreted as a series of internal occupation layers (**Plate 11**). Immediately to the N of and abutting (014), a small area of regularly laid, heavily worn angular sandstone cobbles (011) was identified, which measured 0.63m (E-W) × 0.54m (N-S) and was bonded with a pale pinkish-brown clayey silt.



Plate 11: View W showing cobbled layer (011) to N of kerbing (014) bounded to the N and W by walls (007) and (009)

(011), which was interpreted as the remains of an external cobbled yard surface, appeared to be bounded to the N and E respectively by stone walls (007) and (009). Wall (007) was aligned E-W and consisted of three irregular courses of large undressed sandstone bonded with an orangey-brown clayey silt similar to (004) and measuring 1.94m × 0.44m × 0.3m (**Fig. 10**).

To the E of (011) was truncated wall stub (009) aligned N-S at right angles to (007) and measuring 0.56m × 0.35m × 0.13m. The relationship between (007) and (009) was unclear, for, although wall (009) abutted (007), it did not appear to be keyed in and the types of stone employed in the construction of (009) were quite dissimilar to the large, irregular boulders used in (007).

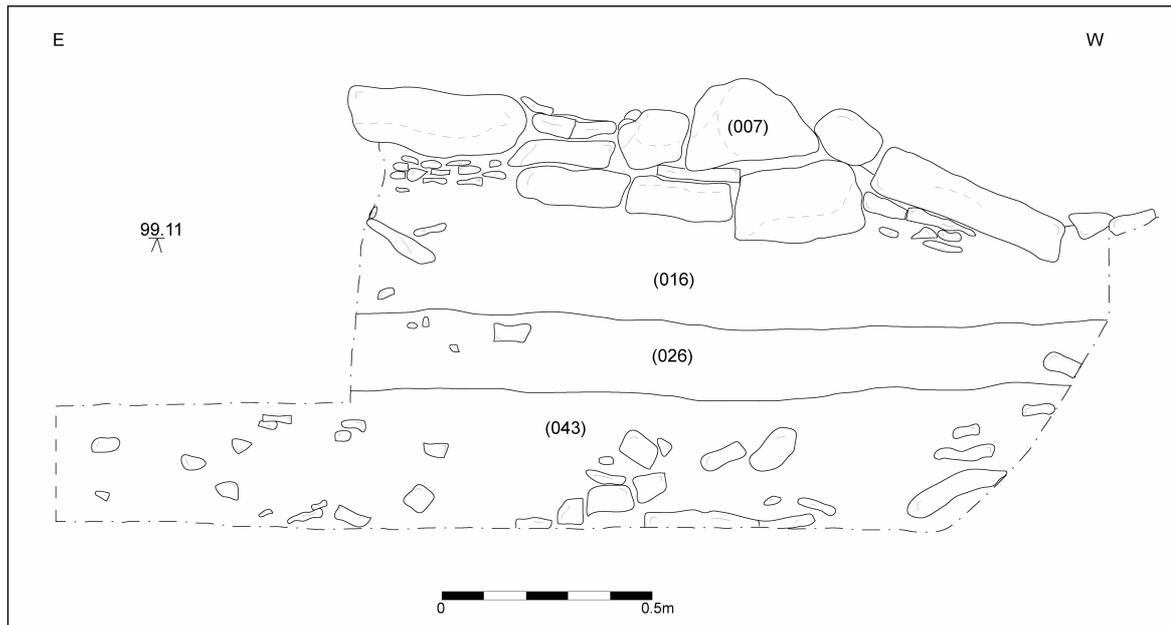


Fig.10: N-facing section showing wall (007) and underlying deposits (016) (026) and (043)

Immediately N of and abutting wall (007) was shallow cobbled surface (010), the visible extent of which measured 1.33m × 1.07m × 0.15m (**Plate 12**). The cobbles were laid on edge and bonded with a pinkish-red clayey silt, similar to (003), and appeared to be much more irregularly laid in comparison to (011). The upper surface of the cobbles exhibited considerable evidence of weathering, suggesting that (010) also represented the remains of a cobbled yard surface. The full extent of (010) could not be gauged, as it extended into the W baulk of the excavation trench; it also appeared to have originally extended further to the E but had been heavily truncated at some point.



Plate 12: View SW showing cobbled layer (010) with the regularly coursed S face of wall (008) in foreground

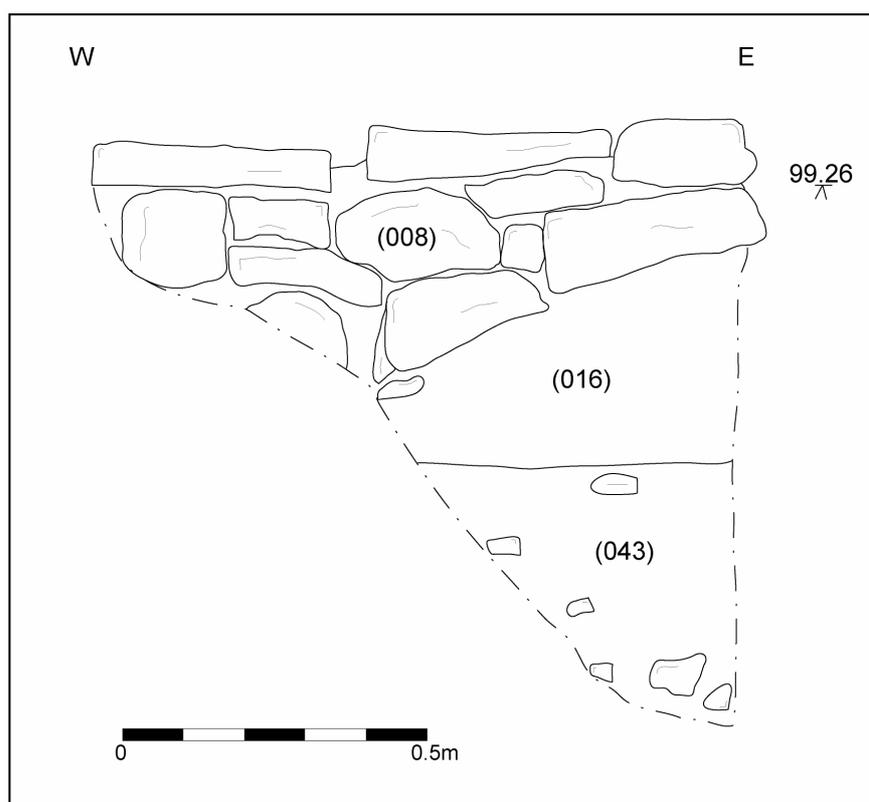


Fig.11: S-facing section showing wall (008) overlying demolition/levelling deposits (016) and (043)

Abutting (010) to the N were the heavily robbed-out remains of a short section of sandstone walling (008), aligned E-W and standing at least three courses high (maximum height 99.37m AOD) and bonded with a pale reddish-brown clayey silt (**Plate 13; Fig. 11**). The visible dimensions of (008) measured 1.33m (E-W) × 0.4m (N-S) × 0.4m; the wall appeared to have continued westwards into the W baulk of the trench. A marked contrast was noted between the S face of (008), which consisted of regularly laid sandstone slabs, implying that it was an external elevation, and the N face, which was of much cruder construction, consisting of irregularly laid subangular and rounded stones, characteristic of an internal wall facing.

Underlying walls (005), (007), (008), (009), (010), (011) and kerbing (014) was (016), a friable mid pinkish-brown silty clay with frequent gravel and inclusions of mortar and sandstone fragments and moderate charcoal flecking with frequent bone and CBM fragments. A moderate amount of pottery was recovered from (016), which mostly consisted of hollow wares of early post-medieval date and some sherds of 18th century Staffordshire slipware. (016) appeared to be a post-demolition layer associated with the partial clearance and robbing-out of earlier demolished buildings on the site.

(016) overlay a series of deposits, (026), (027)=(047), (028), (029) & (043), which may be interpreted as demolition/levelling layers associated with the demolition of an earlier range of stone buildings on the site. The pottery recovered from these deposits was generally of late medieval or post-medieval date with a limited number of 19th century sherds, which appeared to be intrusive.



Plate 13: View S showing remains of truncated E-W wall (008) bounding cobbled surface (010) to the S

Further evidence of building activity, which appeared to predate the walls and cobbled surfaces identified in the central part of the trench, was found at the northern extremity of the excavation area. In the extreme NE corner of the trench, approximately 0.45m from the E baulk and extending into the N baulk, a poorly defined, shallow rubble spread (054) was identified at 99.22m AOD, consisting of one large subangular slab and several smaller elongated and rounded stones, measuring approximately 1m E-W x 0.65m N-S x 0.2m, underlying early post-medieval demolition/levelling deposit (016).



Plate 14: View W showing flight of steps (048) with undefined rubble spread (054) to N

This rubble spread (054) appeared to be slightly later than levelling layer (027)=(047), which it overlay. (027)=(047), which extended southwards from the N end of the trench for 1.8m and to a depth of 0.45m, consisted of a cohesive mid reddish-brown gritty clayey silt with frequent gravel and occasional charcoal flecking. A quantity of late medieval and early post-medieval pottery was recovered from this context, in addition to a small amount of 18th century potsherds.

Revealed beneath (027)=(047), at 98.96m AOD, was a flight of roughly hewn stone steps (048) consisting of four rectangular, partially broken sandstone slabs, each measuring approximately 0.85m x 0.2m, extending E for 0.72m down to 98.24m AOD (**Plate 14**). The steps had evidently been heavily truncated and appeared to extend into the E baulk of the trench. (048) appeared to be bounded on the N and S by irregular stone kerbing (055) and (056) which measured 1.1m x 0.15m and 0.95m x 0.15m, respectively, the former disappearing into the E baulk of the trench.

There was no evidence of a structural link between (048) and wall (005) to the S or (008) to the W, both of which appeared, on the basis of the stratigraphy, to be of a later date. Presumably, this flight of steps gave access to cellarage beneath the houses which occupied the street frontage of either Plot No. 693 or 694 as shown on the Weobley tithe map of 1838; however, no evidence was found for this cellarage within the limits of the excavation.



Plate 15: View N showing flagstone capping (040) bounded by cobbled surround (042) to N and W and (052) to E

Evidence of another stone-built structure was identified at the southernmost end of the trench. Underlying (029) was raised flagstone surface (040) consisting of two flat, rectangular sandstone slabs of slightly differing dimensions, the larger of the two measuring 1.05m x 1.32m x 0.06m, while the measurements of the smaller slab were 0.95m x 1.24m x 0.07m (**Plate 15**). Both slabs were cracked and appeared to be gradually sinking into a void beneath. Abutting (040) to the E were the fragmentary remains of a cobbled surround (052), composed of irregularly sized, undressed small angular and subangular stones bonded with a pinkish-brown gravelly silty clay.

Bordering (040) to the N and W was a considerably better preserved cobbled surround (042) lined with irregularly laid subangular sandstone cobbles bonded with a pale pinkish-brown silty clay similar to (003).

Running E-W along the outer N edge of (042) was (041), a series of small, elongated sandstone slabs laid on edge that initially appeared to be kerbing for (042) (**Fig. 12**). Removal of part of the raised flagstone capping (040) revealed that (041) and (042) in fact formed part of the outer surround for a stone-lined pit [053], the uppermost fill of which (050) consisted of a cohesive dark reddish-brown humic/organic silt with moderate charcoal flecking and sandstone fragments. The thickness of (050) was not determined nor was it possible to establish the maximum depth of the stone-lined pit [053].



Plate 16: View looking W showing wall (022) with cobbled surround (042) and flagstone capping (040) immediately to E

No finds were retrieved from (050) but an environmental sample (Sample <4>) was obtained and it is hoped that further analysis of this should help to establish the function of pit [053]. Provisional interpretation, based on analogy with stone-lined pits found on other medieval urban sites in the locality, such as Hay and New Radnor, suggests that a pit of this type would have been intended (originally, at least) for the storage of agricultural produce (specifically grain) but it is possible that it may have been used later for domestic waste disposal. The fact that [053] was sealed by capping (040) would suggest that its active life ceased some time before it was overlaid by demolition/levelling deposit (029).

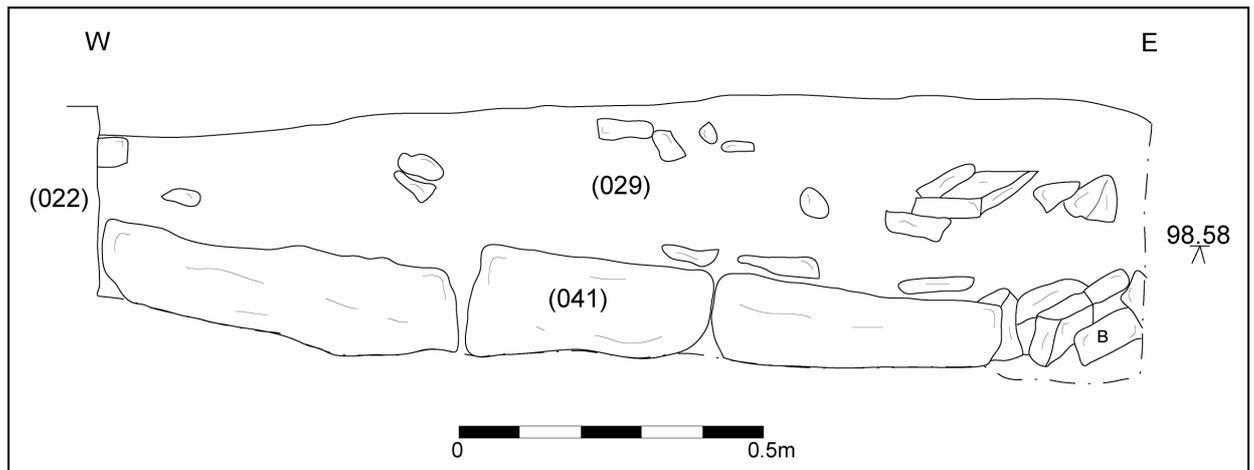


Fig. 12 View showing S-facing section of stone kerbing (041) overlaid by demolition/levelling deposit (029)

Bordering cobbled surround (042) to the W was a substantial, regularly coursed stone wall (022) consisting of angular sandstone slabs extending N-S for a visible length of 4.4m into the S baulk of the trench (**Plates 16 & 17**). The N half of the wall stood up to three courses in height while the S half of the wall appeared to have been partially robbed-out and only stood up to a single course. The substantial nature of the wall suggested that it could have been the foundation plinth for a timber-framed structure and the quality of its construction closely resembled that of wall (046) identified in the central part of the trench.



Plate 17: View looking N along the top of regularly coursed sandstone wall (022)

6. Interpretation of Findings

Six broadly defined phases of activity were identified during the course of the excavation, extending from the high medieval period (13th-14th centuries) to the late post-medieval period (mid-late 19th century).

Phase 1, the earliest phase of occupation on the site appears to be represented by three structural components, which, based on the pottery evidence, could range in date between the 13th and 15th centuries.

1/ A regularly coursed E-W wall (046) visible in the central part of the trench, underlying walls (023) and (006). It was evident that (046) predated (023) and (006) and there was a significant difference in the quality of construction between (046) and the two later walls. It is possible that (046) may originally have been built as the foundation plinth for a timber-framed structure. (036), the lowest in a sequence of deposits within the area framed by these three walls, appeared to be abutting (046) and contained 14th century ceramics, which would suggest that (046) was constructed either before or during the 14th century.

2/ A rectangular area of flagstone capping (040) framed by regularly coursed stone wall (022), kerbing (041) and cobbled surrounds (042) and (052) underlying which was a stone lined pit [053] presumably built for storage of agricultural produce. These features were overlaid by (029) which contained mostly late medieval and early post-medieval pottery with a quantity of 18th century sherds.

Unfortunately, no datable evidence was recovered relating specifically to this structure or from pit [051] beneath it; however, the similarity in build between walls (022) (041) and (042) and wall (046) suggests that this structure may be contemporary with (046) which might indicate a possible 13th-14th century date for its construction.

3/ A series of stone steps (048) aligned E-W at the northernmost end of the trench that appeared to be extending down to a subterranean structure, presumably cellarge, although no evidence for this was identified within the limits of the excavation area. Overlying (048) was (027)=(047), containing mostly late medieval and early post-medieval pottery with a certain amount of 18th century sherds.

Within the defined limits of the excavation trench, it was extremely difficult to establish the relationship between the remains of the various structural elements assigned to Phase 1, whether they formed part of a single building or several structures.

The pottery evidence would generally appear to indicate a date range for the Phase 1 structures between the 14th and 16th centuries, coinciding with a period of intensive building activity within Weobley, when the majority of surviving timber-framed houses in the town appear to have been built (Dalwood, 1996, 7). It is probable that the Phase 1 structures belong at the earlier end of this date range, possibly contemporary with or perhaps even predating the construction of Old Corner House, the original fabric of which has been dated to the early 15th century.

Phase 2 appears to be a slightly later phase of occupation than Phase 1, represented by walls (006) and (023). Wall (023) appears to have been constructed directly upon wall (046) and was subsequently overlaid, somewhat crudely, by wall (006). The purpose of



wall (006) is unclear but it may have been intended to link wall (023) with another structural element to the N.

The evidence for the slumping of wall (006) further suggests that it could well have been built over a ditch alignment. It is possible that (006) and (023) may correspond to an L-shaped extension to the rear of the building shown on the tithe map as occupying the street frontage of Plot No. 693.

The structures associated with Phases 1 & 2 appear either to have collapsed or were partially demolished at some point in the early post-medieval period. This phase of demolition is represented by Phase 3 contexts (026) (027) (028) (029) & (043). (016), which overlies these five contexts probably represents a levelling layer deposited shortly after the collapse or demolition of the Phase 1 structures. The dating of the pottery associated with the Phase 3 deposits suggests an early post-medieval date for this collapse or demolition event. This ties in with evidence for a gradual decline in the fortunes of the town towards the end of the 17th century, attributed by contemporary writers to the increasing growth of Kington as a centre for local commerce.

Following the Phase 3 collapse/demolition event, there appears to have been an attempt to rebuild and partially extend the Phase 1 & 2 structures, represented by Phase 4 walls (005), (007), (008), (009), cobbled surfaces (010), (011) and kerbing (014) & (015). The poor construction of the Phase 4 walls and surface features contrasted markedly with the regular coursing and substantial nature of the Phase 1 structures.

The structures represented by Phase 4 presumably correspond with those shown on the Weobley tithe map of 1838, although it is difficult to associate specific features revealed during excavation with those shown on the map. The pottery dating suggests a probable 17th–18th century date for the Phase 4 buildings and the noticeably poor construction of these structures ties in with architectural evidence for a general, steady decline in the quality of construction of buildings in Weobley, which appears to have set in during the 17th century (Dalwood, 1996, 8).

Phase 5, represented by levelling/destruction layers (003) & (004), relates to the demolition and clearance of the Phase 4 structures and the subsequent robbing of the masonry for building materials evidenced by pits [017] and [025]. This demolition event must have occurred after 1838, as the Weobley tithe map shows that the site lay at the W end of a group of buildings fronting onto Broad Street. It is likely that these buildings were demolished in about 1844, when as many as 84 burgage or 'vote houses' belonging to the Marquess of Bath (who owned the burgage plots extending to the S of Old Corner House) were pulled down.

Phase 6, the latest phase of activity identified on the site, was represented by topsoil and subsoil deposits (001) and (002) and related to late post-medieval activity postdating the demolition of the buildings previously occupying the site and the conversion of the site into an orchard plot as shown on the OS 1st edition 25 inch map of 1887.

The results of the environmental samples will be published and supplied separately.

7. Summary Conclusion

The excavation within the site of an orchard to the S of Old Corner House, Weobley, revealed a stratified sequence of features and deposits dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods, apparently relating to one or more burgage houses occupying the site, which are shown on the Weobley tithe map of 1838 and which were probably demolished in 1844-45.

Phase 1, the earliest phase of activity, dated approximately to the 13th-14th centuries, was represented by three structural elements:

1/ A regularly coursed linear wall (046) running E-W across the centre of the excavation trench which was abutted by occupation deposit (036) containing 14th century pottery and ridge tile

2/ A rectangular area of flagstone capping (040) framed by regularly coursed stone wall (022), kerbing (041) and cobbled surrounds (042) & (052), underlying which was a stone-lined pit [053], presumably built for the storage of agricultural produce.

3/ A series of stone steps (048) at the northernmost end of the trench that appeared to be extending down to a subterranean structure; however, no evidence for this cellarage was identified within the limits of the excavation trench.

It was not possible, within the limits of the excavation trench, to determine the relationship between these three structural components and to establish whether they represented parts of the same structure or several separate buildings.

Phase 2, represented by walls (006) & (023) overlying (046), appears to relate to a partial rebuilding of the structure that incorporated wall (046). The dating of these walls is problematic, due to the lack of evidence for foundation cuts; however, the fact that wall (006) was abutted by (016) & (029) suggests a late medieval or early post-medieval date for its construction.

The structures associated with Phases 1 & 2 appear either to have collapsed or to have been partially demolished at some point in the early post-medieval period (Phase 3, dated to the 16th-17th centuries), following which an attempt was made to rebuild and extend the Phase 1 & 2 structures, represented by Phase 4 walls (005), (007), (008), (009), cobbled surfaces (010) & (011) and kerbing (014) & (015), which have been dated to the 17th-18th centuries.

The structures represented by Phase 4 presumably correspond with those shown on the Weobley tithe map of 1838 occupying Plot Nos. 693-94, although it is difficult to associate specific features revealed during excavation with those shown on the tithe map.

Analysis of the documentary and pictorial evidence shows that the structures occupying the site on the 1838 tithe map were humble cottages rather than high-status dwellings, which were occupied by agricultural labourers, a tailor and a postmaster in the late 1830s-early 1840s. These cottages are described in contemporary documents as 'vote houses' belonging to the Marquess of Bath, lord of the manor of Weobley, and were probably demolished as part of the wholesale destruction of up to 84 'vote houses' which



took place in 1844-45. This destruction event and the subsequent levelling of the site appear to be represented by Phase 5 deposits (003) & (004).

Following the demolition of the houses occupying the site in the mid-1840s, the site was converted into orcharding as shown on the OS 1st edition map of 1887 and subsequent OS maps of the area; this phase of activity was represented archaeologically by topsoil and subsoil deposits (001) & (002), respectively.

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10. Cartography

(All maps were obtained from the Herefordshire Record Office unless otherwise stated)

1838 Tithe Map of Weobley Parish

1887 OS 1st edition 25-inch map (Herefordshire 25.3)

1905 OS 2nd edition 25-inch map (Herefordshire 25.3)

1948 OS provisional edition 6-inch map (Herefordshire 25 NW)

11. Context Register

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
(001)	Friable mid brown sandy clay with occasional bone and pottery with moderate charcoal flecking and post-medieval CBM. 0.18m thick extending across entire trench
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Topsoil</i>
(002)	Friable mid brown silty clay with occasional (10%) gravel and moderate post-medieval pottery, CBM & mortar with occasional charcoal flecking. 0.25m extending across entire trench. Underlies (001). Overlies (017). Cut by [012].
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Subsoil</i>
(003)	Moderately compacted pale pinkish-brown silty clay with occasional gravel and charcoal flecking. Maximum 0.2m thick extending from NE corner of trench for 7.3m along E edge of trench & gradually petering out. Underlies (002). Overlies (027). Cut by [012] & [027]
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Post-demolition/levelling deposit associated with clearance following demolition of buildings, probably deposited shortly after (004)</i>
(004)	Friable mid greyish-brown clayey silt with moderate sandstone rubble fragments & frequent mortar flecking and moderate charcoal flecking & CBM fragments, varying in thickness across the site from c.0.1m-0.6m. Underlies (003). Overlies (007) (008), (010), (011) and (014).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>General demolition or collapse deposit similar to, possibly merging with (016)</i>
(005)	Randomly coursed sandstone wall, W-facing, standing to 3 courses in height. Visible dimensions 2.04 × 0.44m × 0.34m. Bonded with a pale pinkish-brown clayey silt similar to (003). Underlies (003). Abuts (006). Overlies (016).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Roughly coursed sandstone rubble wall</i>
(006)	Sandstone masonry wall with E-facing returns at the N and S ends, average stone size 0.15m x 0.1m x 0.08m, undressed, 3 irregular courses, maximum of 7 courses, direction of faces NNW WSW, bonded by pale pinkish-brown silty clay, some stones apparently reused as faced with a lime mortar. Measured 2.2m (N-S) x 1.1m (E-W). No cut identified. Underlies (003). Overlies (036). Abutted by (005), (032), (034), (035).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Crudely built, irregularly coursed sandstone wall</i>
(007)	Sandstone masonry wall, average stone size 0.3m x 0.16m x 0.08m, undressed, irregular coursing, maximum of 7 courses, direction of faces NNW WSW, bonded by friable mid greyish-brown clayey silt, extent of wall 1.94m x 0.44m x 0.3m. No cut identified. Underlies (004). Abutted by (009), (010)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Irregularly coursed sandstone wall</i>
(008)	Wall constructed of mainly angular sandstone slabs with some rounded and subangular boulders, aligned NW-SE. Visible dimensions 1.33m × 0.4m. Stones split but not dressed (average size of individual stones 0.43m × 0.28m × 0.06m). S-facing elevation regularly coursed, N-facing elevation irregularly coursed
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Short length of truncated sandstone walling; the S face abutted by (010) is regularly coursed while the other side is much cruder and could have been cut into a bank.</i>
(009)	Randomly coursed sandstone wall, aligned NE-SW. Visible dimensions 0.56m × 0.35m × 0.13m. Stones probably split but not dressed (average size of stones 0.29m × 0.26m × 0.12m). Bonded with a pale pinkish-brown clayey silt. Appears not to be keyed into (007). Underlies (004). Abuts (007) & (011).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Short stub of wall, presumably remains of truncated structure</i>



(010)	Layer of rough sandstone cobbles. Visible dimensions 1.07m × 1.33m × 0.53m. Bonded with a pale pinkish clayey silt similar to (003). Underlies (004). Overlies (016). Abuts (007) & (008).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Remains of external cobbled yard surface</i>
(011)	Layer of undressed sandstone cobbles, much more angular and regularly laid in comparison to (010). Underlies (004). Overlies (016).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Area of cobbled surface that did not seem to exhibit evidence of constant use, in comparison to (010).</i>
[012]	Sub-circular cut. Visible dimensions 0.74m (NNW-SSE) × 0.54m (ENE-WSW) × 0.3m, moderate break of slope at top, regular sides, sharp break of slope at the base, flat, slightly uneven base. Cuts (002) & (003). Filled by (013).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Cut of post-medieval pit</i>
(013)	Moderately compacted (slightly friable) mid greyish-brown silty sand, occasional post-medieval pottery, occasional charcoal flecking & mortar flecking. 0.74m × 0.54m × 0.3m.
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Fill of post-medieval pit [012]</i>
(014)	Sandstone kerbing, average size of materials 0.26m x 0.05m x 0.15m, undressed, single course, SSE-facing, dimensions 1.42m x 0.08m x 0.18m. Underlies (004). Abuts (010).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Post-medieval sandstone kerbing</i>
(015)	Layer of sandstone slabs laid on edge, stone split but not dressed (average size of slabs 0.28m × 0.08m × 0.13m). Bonded with a mid pinkish-red clayey silt. Underlies (004). Overlies (045)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Small area of kerbing running off site section. At right angles to and presumably contemporary with kerbing (014).</i>
(016)	Friable mid pinkish-brown silty clay and mixed gravels, frequent inclusions of mortar & sandstone fragments, frequent CBM fragments, moderate charcoal flecking. Max depth 0.35m. Overlies (026), (028) & (029).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Post-destruction/collapse deposit, possibly equivalent to (004).</i>
[017]	Sub-circular pit. Maximum visible dimensions 5.1m × 0.78m, gentle break of slope at top, slightly concave sides. Filled by (018) (019) & (021). Not fully excavated.
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Cut of pit of apparent post-medieval date, function unknown</i>
(018)	Moderately compacted pale greyish-brown silty clay, occasional gravel inclusions, moderate flecking & charcoal fragments, occasional fragments of CBM, moderate mortar fragments. Max depth 0.42m. Underlies (002). Overlies (019).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Upper fill of post-medieval pit [017]</i>
(019)	Cohesive pale greyish-brown clayey silt, frequent lenses and patches of pinkish-red clayey silt, occasional mainly smaller gravels with moderate charcoal flecking and CBM fragments. Visible dimensions 5.1m × 0.44m
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Lower fill of pit [017] containing demolition rubble fill of post-medieval date</i>
(020)	Friable dark greyish-brown sandy silt, frequent sandstone rubble & mortar flecking, moderate charcoal flecking. Visible dimensions 0.8m × 0.9m
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Backfill of robber trench</i>
(021)	Cohesive dark greyish-brown silty clay, occasional sandstone fragments, CBM fragments, charcoal flecking. Visible dimensions 3.3m × 0.12m
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Basal fill of pit</i>
(022)	Sandstone slabs, average size of materials 0.26m x 0.22m x 0.09m, stones split but not dressed, regular coursing 3 courses high forming wall. Direction of faces ENE and WSW. Bonding material pinkish-brown clay silt. Dimensions 4.4m long going under southern baulk and up to 0.71m wide.
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Well constructed wall, partially robbed-out at different levels. Contemporary with (040), (041) & (042) and seems to form part of the same structure.</i>
(023)	Sandstone masonry, materials irregular but averaging at 0.4m x 0.26m x 0.09m, stones not split and not dressed, uncoursed, forming linear wall.



	Direction of faces NW and SE. Bonding by pinkish-brown clay silt. Dimensions 3.47m x 0.82m x >0.53m. Underlies (029). Overlies (046). Abutted by (006)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Poorly constructed wall of irregular sandstone 'lumps' sitting atop a much better quality wall (046).</i>
[024]	Cut feature
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Hypothetical construction cut for wall (022). Cut was not actually observed during excavation</i>
(025)	Linear cut with square corners, measuring 0.8m x 0.0m, sharp break of slope at top with vertical sides. Oriented E-W. Filled by (020)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Robber trench</i>
(026)	Friable mid reddish-brown clayey silt, frequent gravel and sandstone fragments, moderate charcoal flecking, occasional mortar flecking. Up to 0.18m thick. Underlies (016). Overlies (043). Abuts (006) & (014).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Demolition/rubble spread bounded by (006) and (014).</i>
(027)	Cohesive mid reddish-brown gritty clay silt, moderate gravels, occasional charcoal flecking. Up to 0.2m thick. Underlies (016). Overlies (048). Equivalent to (047)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Demolition/collapse spread, possibly deliberately laid out as a levelling layer</i>
(028)	Friable mid reddish-brown clayey silt, frequent gravel, sandstone rubble fragments & stone tile fragments, moderate charcoal flecking, occasional mortar flecking. Up to 0.20m thick. Underlies (016). Overlies (043). Probably equivalent to (026).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Demolition/rubble spread bounded by (006) & (014).</i>
(029)	Cohesive mid reddish-brown clayey silt, frequent gravel & sandstone fragments, moderate mortar fragments, occasional charcoal flecking & CBM fragments. Up to 0.33m thick. Underlies (016). Overlies (039), (040) & (052). Sample <1>
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Demolition or levelling layer sealing (040), (041) & (042).</i>
(030)	Angular sandstone slabs, size of materials irregular but up to 0.26m x 0.28m, stones split but not dressed including a couple of roof tiles, single course bonded by reddish-brown clay silt, forming paved surface. Dimensions 1.08m x 0.64m. Underlies (045). Overlies (031). Abutted by (014) & (015)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Small area of irregular stone paving, the form of which suggests an internal paved surface</i>
(031)	Cohesive, mid pinkish-red clayey silt, occasional charcoal flecking. Up to 0.18m thick, bounded by (006), (010), (012), (023) & (046) and extending into the W section of trench. Underlies (030) and (015) and overlies (032).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Possible sub-base for paved surface (030) suggested by the sterile nature of the deposit</i>
(032)	Moderately compacted mid greyish-brown silty clay, moderate animal bone fragments, shell and post-medieval ceramics, occasional charcoal flecking. Visible dimensions 1.2m x 1.89m x 0.12m. Underlies (031). Overlies (034). Abuts (006). Cut by [025]
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Levelling deposit</i>
(033)	VOID
(034)	Moderately compacted, mid reddish-brown clay silt, frequent mid sized angular sandstone fragments, animal bone, moderate early post-medieval ceramics, 5% charcoal flecking. Up to 0.12m thick. Underlies (032). Overlies (035). Abuts (006). Cut by [025]
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Levelling deposit</i>
(035)	Moderately compacted dark greyish-brown silt, moderate animal bone & shell, occasional early post-medieval ceramics, 10% charcoal flecking. Up to 0.2m thick. Underlies (034). Overlies (036). Abuts (006) & (046)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Levelling deposit</i>



(036)	Moderately compacted dark greyish-brown clay silt, frequent medieval ceramics & animal bone, occasional medieval CBM fragments & oyster, mollusc shells & wood, 10% charcoal flecking. Up to 0.8m thick. Underlies (035) & (006). Abuts (046). Sample <3>
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Levelling deposit</i>
(037)	VOID
(038)	VOID
(039)	Moderately compacted, dark greyish-brown clay silt, frequent medieval ceramics & animal bone, occasional medieval CBM fragments & oyster & mollusc shells, 10% charcoal flecking. Up to 0.65m thick. Underlies (029). Overlies (049).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Demolition deposit on E side of wall (006).</i>
(040)	Angular sandstone slabs, materials irregular but up to 1.32m x 1.05m x 0.06m, split but not dressed, forming paved surface/capstones. Dimensions 2.3m x 1.3m. Underlies (029). Overlies (050)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Paved surface capping for an earlier stone lined pit (053)</i>
(041)	Sandstone slabs, average size of materials 0.4m x 0.19m x 0.06m, stones split but not dressed, 1 course forming kerbing. Direction of face NW-SE - Dimensions 1.5m E/W x 0.06m N/S.
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Stone kerbing forming the edge of cobbled surround (042).</i>
(042)	Sandstone masonry, size of materials variable but average of 0.18m x 0.09m, undressed, forming cobbled surface, bonded with pinkish-brown gritty clay silt. Dimensions 3m NW-SE x 1.8m NE-SW. Underlies (029). Contemporary with [041].
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Area of cobbling which appears to form a surround defining the perimeter of stone-lined pit (053).</i>
(043)	Moderately compacted mid brown clay silt, frequent sandstone rubble, moderate early post-medieval ceramics & animal bone, 5% charcoal flecking. Up to 0.3m thick. Underlies (016). Overlies (033).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Demolition deposit</i>
(044)	Plastic red/yellow clay. Extent undefined. Underlies (002). Overlies (partially) (022). Cut by [017].
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Redeposited natural. Reason for redeposition unclear. However, this must have taken place sometime between the construction of [022] and the excavation of pit [017].</i>
(045)	Friable mid greyish-brown clay silt with 5% charcoal flecking. 0.33m thick bounded by (006), (014) & (046). Underlies (002) & (015). Overlies (031) & (030).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Occupation deposit associated with flooring (030).</i>
(046)	Sandstone masonry, size of materials regular with an average of 0.48m x (width not defined) x 0.16m, well dressed, some regular and irregular coursing, forming linear wall, direction of faces NWN, bonded by pinkish-brown clay silt. Measures 1.9m in length extending into E-facing baulk x 0.93m deep. Underlies (023).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Well constructed linear wall, which may represent the earliest phase of activity on the site. This structure forms the foundation of a later poorer quality wall (023).</i>
(047)	Moderately compacted, mid reddish-brown clay silt with frequent post-medieval ceramics and animal bone and 5% charcoal flecking. Extent undefined. Underlies (016). Overlies (048).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Post-medieval levelling deposit.</i>
(048)	Roughly hewn sandstone steps consisting of four rectangular, partially broken sandstone slabs, each measuring approximately 0.85m x 0.2m, extending E for 0.72m. Heavily truncated and appear to extend into E baulk. Appear to be bounded on N and S by irregular stone kerbing (055) and (056). Underlies (027)=(047)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Steps presumably gave access to cellarage but no evidence for this was</i>



	<i>found</i>
(049)	Plastic/cohesive, dark greyish-brown humic/organic silt with moderate mortar and charcoal flecking. Extent undefined as only revealed in a 1m x1m sondage but deposit was at least 0.25m deep. Sample <2>
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Organic material possibly representing a cess deposit.</i>
(050)	Plastic/cohesive, dark reddish-brown humic/organic silt with moderate sandstone fragments and charcoal flecking. Extent undefined as only revealed by small sondage but deposit was at least 0.3m deep. Sample <4>
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Fill of stone-lined pit (053). It seems likely that this deposit is not contemporary with the construction of the pit but may be contemporary with the later capping of the pit by (040).</i>
[051]	Cut with vertical sides. Filled by (050). Underlies (040).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Construction cut of stone-lined pit (053). Not excavated due to excavation constraints.</i>
(052)	Sandstone masonry, average size of materials variable but average of 0.16m x 0.04m x 0.04m, undressed, forming cobbled surface, pinkish-brown gravelly clayey silt bonding. Dimensions 0.18m x 0.48m x 0.04m. Underlies (029). Contemporary with & abutting (040).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Small area of sandstone cobbling associated and contemporary with the capping of (053) by (040).</i>
(053)	Sandstone masonry, size of materials 0.4m x 0.06m x >0.4m, split but not dressed. Kerbing/pit lining. Dimensions of masonry undefined. Underlies (040) & (050). Overlies (051). Abuts (042).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Masonry lining of pit of unknown function</i>
(054)	Poorly defined, shallow rubble spread extending into N baulk of trench, consisting of one large subangular slab and several smaller elongated and rounded stones, Dimensions: 1m E-W x 0.65m N-S x 0.2m. Underlies (016). Overlies (027)=(047)
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Rubble spread of undefined purpose</i>
(055)	Sandstone kerbing, average size of materials variable, forming irregular subangular stone lining on N edge of stone steps, pinkish-brown clayey silt bonding, stones split but not dressed. Extends into E baulk of trench. Dimensions 1.1m x 0.15m (depth undefined). Abuts (048). Underlies (027)=(047).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Irregular stone kerbing defining N edge of stone steps (048)</i>
(056)	Sandstone kerbing, average size of materials variable, forming irregular subangular stone lining on S edge of stone steps, pinkish-brown clayey silt bonding, stones split but not dressed. Dimensions 0.95m x 0.15m (depth undefined). Abuts (048). Underlies (027)=(047).
<i>INTERPRETATION</i>	<i>Irregular stone kerbing defining S edge of stone steps (048)</i>

12. Appendix 1: Pottery Report

Stephen Clarke MBE FSA MIFA

Context (001)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
001	Local brick	A7 type	Post Med	5
001	English stoneware	G	19 th C	2
001	Midlands manganese/iron glazed	E6	19 th C	16
001	Field drain		19/20 th C	1

Context (002)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
002	Crested ridge tile	A7	13/14 th C	2
002	Brick, local fabric	A	18/19 th C	1
002	Burnt clay			1
002	Sandstone			1
002	Lime mortar			1
002	Midlands slip/blackware	E6	18/19 th C	9
002	Non local slipware	G	18/19 th C	4
002	English stoneware	G	18/19 th C	1
002	Staffs slipware	E6	18 th C	10
002	Nottingham stoneware	G	18 th C	1
002	Midlands manganese/iron glazed	E6	18/19 th C	15
002	English stoneware	G	19 th C	1
002	Non local slipware North Wales		Post Med	1
002	Vessels	A7b	Late Med	1
002	Vessel	A7	Post Med	2
002	Rod handle with herringbone incised decoration	A7b	14/15 th C	1

Context (003)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
003	Midlands manganese/iron glazed	E6	18/19 th C	15
003	Staffs slipwares	E6	18 th C	13
003	English stoneware	G	19/20 th C	2
003	Midlands manganese/iron glazed	E6	18/19 th C	2
003	Midlands fineware	E6	18/19 th C	1
003	Slipware	E6	18 th C	2
003	Cups	A7c	17 th C	2
003	Cups/tygs	A7d	16/17 th C	4
003	Jug/hollow ware	B5	Early Post Med	4
003	Cups/bowls	B4	Early Post Med	7



003	Fine cups, 1 with iron free applied decoration, clay wheel stamp	B4	Early Post Med	2
003	Midlands manganese/iron glazed	E6	19/20 th C	1
003	(?) Slipware rim	A7	Early Post Med	1
003	Ridge tile	B4	Late Med	1
003	Ridge tile	G7	Med	1

Context (004)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
004	Fine ware	A7c	Post Med	3
004	Hollow ware	A7b	Late Med/Post Med	6
004	Staffs	E6	18/19 th C	2
004	Nottingham stoneware	G	18 th C	1
004	English stoneware	G	19 th C	1

Context (016)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
016	Ridge tile, 2 with round holes - louvers or finials	A7b/ A5c	13/14 th C	14
016	Ridge tile	B4	Late Med	2
019	Staffs slipware	E6	18 th C	2
019	Midlands stoneware	E6	19 th C	1
019	Midlands manganese glaze	E6	19 th C	2
019	Hollow ware	A7d	18/19 th C	2
019	Hollow wares	B4	Early Post Med	7
019	Skillet	B4	Early Post Med	1

Context (018)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
018	Local brick	A7 type	Post Med	1
018	Ridge tile	A7d	Post Med	1
018	English stoneware	G	18/19 th C	3
018	Midlands manganese/iron glazed	E6	19/20 th C	4
018	Mocha ware	G	19 th C	1
018	Egyptian black	G	19 th C	1
018	Staffs slipware	E6	19 th C	16
018	Jug with applied decoration	A7 type	Late 13 th /Early 14 th C	2

*Context (020)*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
020	Staffs slipware	E6	18 th C	8
020	Staffs (?) moulded slipware	E6	18 th C	1
020	Manganese/iron glazed tankard	E6	18 th C	6
020	Staffs manganese/iron glazed	E6	18 th C	9
020	Lead glazed earthenware	G	18 th C	3
020	Internally glazed bowl	A7	18 th C	1

Context (021)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
024	Local pantile	A	19 th C	1
024	Lime plaster			4
024	Midlands manganese/iron glazed	E6	19 th C	2
021	Cup handle	B4	Early Post Med	1
021	Egyptian black moulded handle	G	18/19 th C	1
021	Non local slipware	G	18 th C	2
021	Midlands manganese/iron glazed	E6	18 th C	7

Context (027)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
027	Staffs slipware	E6	18 th C	1

Context (029)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
029	Ridge tile	B4	Late Med	3
029	Ridge tile flake	A7d	Late Med	1
029	Pantile	A	19/20 th C	15
029	Ridge tile	A7 type	Late Med	1
029	Lime plaster			
029	Pantile	A	19/20 th C	3
029	Midlands manganese/iron glazed	E6	18/19 th C	8
029	Staffs slipware	E6	18 th C	2
029	Non-local slipware	G	18 th C	1
029	Vessels	A7b	14/15 th C	3
029	Ridge tile	A7b	13/14 th C	1
029	Hollow ware	B5	Late Med/Post Med	1
029	Hollow ware	B4	Late Med/Post Med	3
029	Fine moulded red stoneware, London or Staffs	G	Mid-Late 18 th C	1



029	Midlands manganese/iron glazed	E6	18 th C	2
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Context (031)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
031	Ridge tile	A7 type	Med	1

Context (032)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
032	Hollow ware	B4	Early Post Med	3
032	Vessel	A7	Early Post Med	2
032	Ridge tile	A7b	Late Med	2
032	Ridge tile	B4	Late Med	3

Context (034)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
034	Cup base	A7c	17 th C	1
034	Vessel	A7b	Post Med	2
034	Hollow ware	B4	Early Post Med	4

Context (036)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
036	Ridge tiles	A7b	14/15 th C	2
036	Hollow ware	B4	Early Post Med	6
036	Very fine (?) cup	B5	Early Post Med	2
036	Ridge tile	A7b	Late Med	5
036	Ridge tile	B4	Late Med	1
036	Ridge tiles	A7	13/14 th C	11

Context (039)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
039	Ridge tiles	A7b	13/14 th C	12

Context (043)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
043	Dripping pan	B4	Late Med/Early Post Med	3
043	Including (?) Skillet leg and rod handle	B4	Early Post Med	4



043	Hollow ware	A7d	17 th C	3
043	Ridge tile and one louver or finial fragment	A7/A 7b	Early Post Med	7
043	Sandy ridge tiles	G7	Early Post Med	5
043	Dripping tray?	B4	Late Med /Early Post Med	1

Context (046)

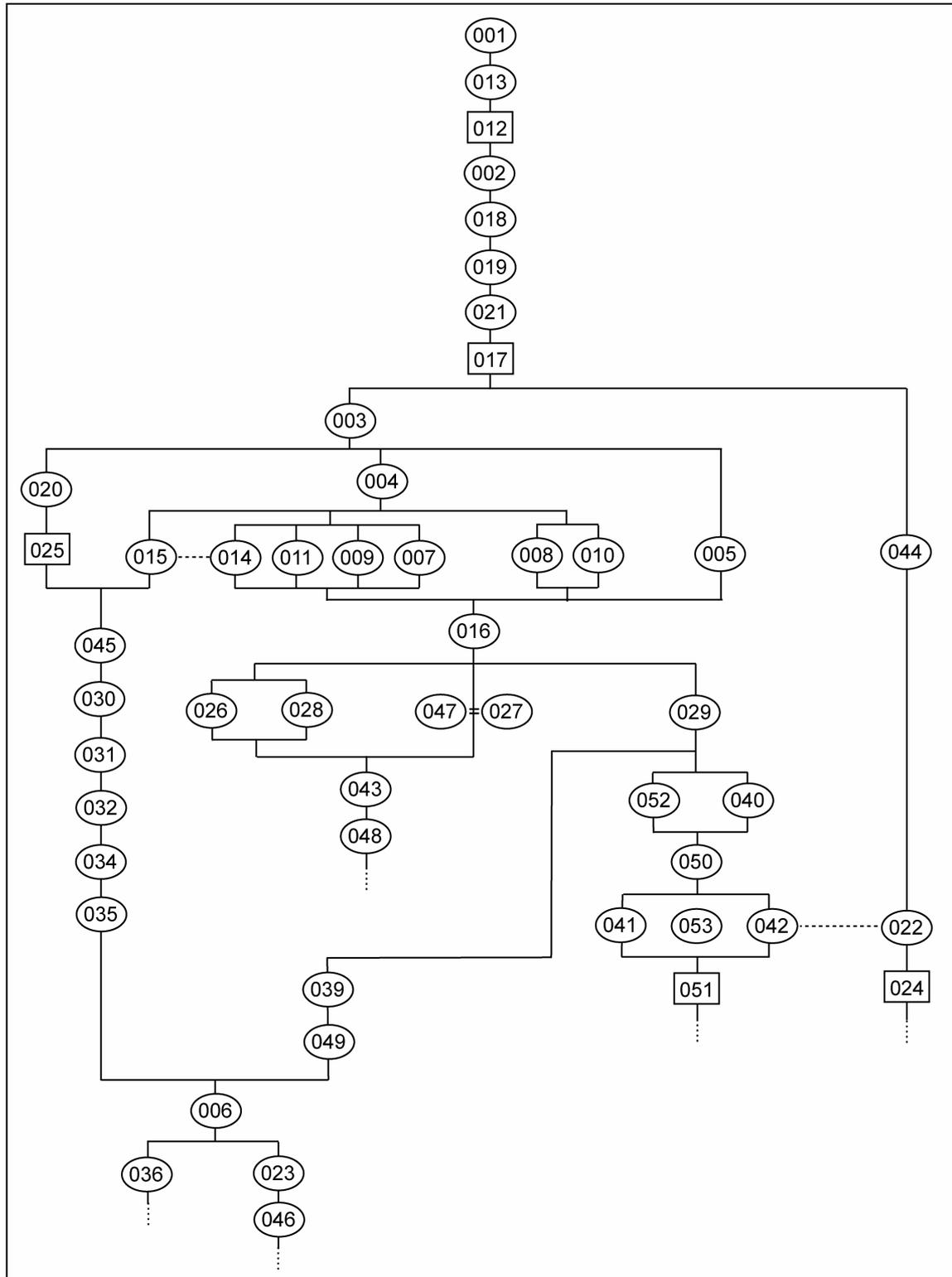
<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
046	Vessel	A7c	Post Med	1
046	Fine ware cup	B4	Post Med	2
046	(?) Cologne stoneware	F2	18 th C	1
046	Hollow ware	B4	Post Med	4
046	Dark glazed ridge tile	A7b	13/14 th C	1

Context (047)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
047	Midlands bowls/teapot lid	E6	19 th C	5
047	Staffs slipwares	E6	18 th C	2
047	Nottingham stoneware	G	18 th C	1
047	English stoneware bottle	G	19 th C	1
047	Cup/tyg including 1 base	A7d	19 th C	3
047	Cooking pot rim	B1	14/15 th C	1
047	Bowls/ (?) chaffing dish	B4	Late Med/Early Post Med	4
047	Unusual (?) dripping pan (identical to 043)	B4	Late Med/Early Post Med	3
047	Ridge tile	A7b	13 th - 15 th C	1
047	Ridge tile	B4	Late Med	1
047	Jug	A7c	Post Med	1



13. Appendix 2: Site Matrix





Site Summary

Report Name & Title	Archaeological Excavation, Old Corner House Weobley	
Contractors Name and Address	Border Archaeology PO Box 36 Leominster Herefordshire HR6 OYQ	
Site Name	Old Corner House Weobley Herefordshire	
Grid Reference (8 fig)	NGR: SO 40209 51678	
SMR number/s of site	44444	
Date of Fieldwork	Sept / Oct-06	
Date of Report	Jan-07	
	NUMBER AND TYPE OF FINDS	
Pottery	Period: Med/Post Med	Number of sherds: c.400
Tile, brick, plaster, mortar, burnt clay	Period: Med/Post Med	Quantity: 5
	NUMBER AND TYPE OF SAMPLES COLLECTED	
Samples collected for plant macrofossil assessment	No of features sampled: 4 No of buckets: 8	
C14/scientific dates	No and type: N/A Result: N/A	
Pollen	No of columns/spot samples: N/A Name of pollen specialist: N/A	
Bone	Number of buckets sieved for bone: N/A Quantity recovered: N/A Period: N/A	
Insect	No of columns/spot samples: N/A Name of pollen specialist: N/A	
Other	Type and specialist: N/A	
Summary of the report	The excavation within the site of an orchard to the S of Old Corner House, Weobley, revealed a stratified sequence of features and deposits dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods, apparently relating to one or more burghage houses occupying the site, which are shown on the Weobley tithe map of 1838 and which were probably demolished in 1844-45.	

Document Control

Job title	Old Corner House Weobley Herefordshire	Job No	BA0624BOCHW
Report written by	<i>Stephen Priestley MA</i>		
Report edited by	<i>George Children MA</i>		
Issue No	Status	Date	Approved for issue
1	Final	January 2007	<i>Neil Shurety</i>