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Chapel Street, Rugby Archaeological Excavations 2007

Post-Excavation Assessment





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CHAPEL STREET, RUGBY ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION 2007

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

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i.

Chapel Street, Rugby, Archaeological Excavation 2007

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CONTENTS

	SUMM	ARY	III
1	INT	RODUCTION	1
2	MET	HODOLOGY	1
3	LOC	ATION AND GEOLOGY	2
4	ARC	HAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
5	AIM	S AND OBJECTIVES	2
6	RES	ULTS	3
	6.1 6.2 6.3 6.4 6.5 6.6	PHASING PHASE 1: 13TH CENTURY (FIGS. 2-3) PHASE 2: 14TH-15TH CENTURY (FIGS. 3-4) PHASE 3: 16TH CENTURY (FIGS. 3-4) PHASE 4: 17TH-18TH CENTURY (FIGS. 3 AND 5) PHASE 5: 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY (FIGS. 3 AND 5)	.3 .3 .4 .4
7	ASS	ESSMENTS	6
	7.1 7.2 7.3 7.4 7.5 7.6	PAPER ARCHIVE FINDS ARCHIVE SMALL FINDS, BY ERICA MACEY-BRACKEN MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY, BY STEPHANIE RÁTKAI WATERLOGGED WOODEN PLANK FROM PIT 1034, BY STEVE ALLEN (YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST 15 CHARRED PLANT REMAINS, BY ROSALIND MCKENNA.	. 7 . 7 . 9) 16
8	7.7 חחוו	ANIMAL BONE, BY DAVID BROWN	
8 9		K LIST	
10	PUB	LICATION OUTLINE	23
11	ACK	NOWLEDGEMENTS	23
12	REF	ERENCES	23
AF	PEND	DIX 1: POTTERY SPOT-DATES	25

ii

List of tables

- 1 Paper archive quantification
- 2 Finds archive quantification
- 3 Clay pipe fragments: type, date and context
- 4 Pottery, Phases 1-3, details
- 5 Potter, Phases 4-5, details
- 6 Palaeoenvironmental samples

List of figures

- 1 Location of Rugby (A); Location of site within Rugby (B); Location of the excavation in relation to the medieval marketplace (C)
- 2 Area of overburden removal, showing extent of detailed archaeological investigation
- 3 Area of detailed investigation, simplified plan of all features
- 4 Simplified plan of Phase 1-3 features
- 5 Simplified plan of Phase 4-5 features
- 6 Sections of Phase 2 pit 1034 and Phase 4 pit 1156

List of plates

- 1 Pit 1176 (foreground), pit 1010, pit 1185 and pit 1009 (background), looking northeast
- 2 Pit F1034 during excavation, looking north
- 3 Pit F1034 with detail of wooden structure, looking south
- 4 Pit F1048, looking west

Chapel Street, Rugby, Excavation 2007

Post-Excavation Assessment

SUMMARY

Excavations were undertaken on land off Chapel St, Rugby in Autumn 2007. The excavation focused upon a transect to the rear of Drury Lane to examine a former burgage plot. The zone nearest the former historic street frontage was heavily disturbed by post-medieval cellaring and pitting. To the rear a number of pits were recorded, including regular rectangular pits and complex intercutting pits, some of which contained waterlogged deposits and wooden features. A number of wells were also recorded at the site, which appears to have been the focus of industrial activity, possibly relating to tanning. A number of 19th/ 20th century building remains, the majority of features recorded appear to date to the 17th or 18th centuries, though some medieval activity dating to the 13th century and extending into the 16th century was also identified. The excavation area, however, appears to have lain towards the fringes of settlement in the medieval period. Earlier archaeological work comprised a desk-based assessment and trial-trenching.

Chapel Street, Rugby, Archaeological Excavation 2007

Post-Excavation Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 In 2007 an archaeological excavation was carried out at a former car park off Chapel Street and Drury Lane, Rugby (centred on NGR SP 4033 7985, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Asda Stores Ltd, with advice from Cyril Sweett Limited, and was required as a condition of planning consent by Warwickshire County Council. This requirement was in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, *Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990). The work was informed by a previous archaeological evaluation of the site (Warwickshire Museum 1997).
- 1.1.2 The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of the project results and proposals to bring the results to publication, in accordance with The Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (English Heritage 1990).
- 1.1.3 Subject to the approval of the landowner the finds and paper archive will be deposited with Warwickshire County Museum.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1.1 The excavation conformed to a brief prepared by Warwickshire County Council (2007) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Birmingham Archaeology 2007) which was approved in advance by the Planning Authority. The excavation conformed to the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (IFA 2001).
- 2.1.2 The excavation was undertaken in two stages. Stage 1 involved the controlled removal of overburden over part of the development site (Fig. 2). Stage 2 involved the detailed excavation of an area totalling 600 square metres, in order to obtain a representative sample of medieval-later activity between Drury Lane and Chapel Street, including the immediate historic street frontage and also the backplot areas. The area selected for Stage 2 detailed investigation was agreed in consultation with Jonathan Parkhouse and Anna Stocks, Warwickshire CC.
- 2.1.3 The Stage 1 removal of overburden to the first archaeological horizon was monitored continuously by an archaeologist. Following completion of machining the entire area was rapidly base-planned. This plan formed the basis for the selection of the Stage 2 area for detailed archaeological investigation. Within the Stage 2 area half of all discrete features was sampled, and 20% (by length) of each ditch was tested by hand-excavation. Recording was by means of pre-printed pro-formas for contexts and features, supplemented by plans (scale 1:20 and 1:50) and sections (scale 1:50 and 1:20), and photographs (colour slide and monochrome print). Outside the area for detailed investigation there was no requirement for hand-excavation or recording of the archaeological remains.

3 LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

3.1.1 The site is located in Rugby Town Centre and is bounded by Drury Lane to the east, and Chapel Street to the northwest, and is centred on NGR SP 502, 751 (Fig. 1). The underlying geology consists of Dunsmore gravels over lower lias clays.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1.1 This section of the assessment draws upon previous stages of work, comprising a desk-based assessment (Warwickshire Museum 1993) and an archaeological evaluation (Warwickshire Museum 1997).
- 4.1.2 A market place was established in Rugby in 1255, located between Drury Lane and High Street. Properties associated with this market place would have occupied the west side of Drury Lane and the east side of High Street. These properties would have been occupied by numerous traders and craftsmen associated with the market. The properties would have been divided by narrow property boundaries or burgage plots running back from the street frontages of Drury Lane and High Street.
- 4.1.3 It has been documented that properties began to encroach upon the market place in the later medieval period, and the main commercial frontage established itself along Sheep Street, to the east of Drury Lane. It has been suggested, therefore that the area of Drury Lane may have witnessed less development in this period. In the 17th-18th century the properties fronting Drury Lane had been amalgamated into larger blocks of land, subsequently used for housing. The area was occupied by the Rugby Co-Operative Society premises from the late 19th century.
- 4.1.4 Trial-trenching (Warwickshire Museum 1997) established the limited survival of significant medieval deposits within the area of the development site, alongside later medieval and post-medieval features. This demonstrated potential for the presence of further medieval or early post-medieval deposits on the site. These deposits could contribute to an understanding of the urban development of Rugby.

5 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 5.1.1 The desk based assessment and evaluation demonstrated potential for the survival of some medieval remains within the area of the proposed development. Such medieval deposits are considered to have the potential to provide important information regarding the development of medieval Rugby (Warwickshire CC 2007).
- 5.1.2 The main aim of the archaeological excavation was to preserve archaeological features and deposits by record in advance of the development. The particular aims of the fieldwork (Birmingham Archaeology 2007) were to provide:
 - Details of the choronological development of the medieval and early postmedieval settlement
 - An understanding of the medieval and early post-medieval layout of the area
 - An understanding of the economy of the area
 - An appreciation of the development of medieval and early post-medieval Rugby

6 RESULTS

6.1 Phasing

- 6.1.1 Based on the stratigraphy, and spot-dating of the finds, a total of five phases have been defined, as follows:
 - Phase 1, 13th century
 - Phase 2, 14th-15th century
 - Phase 3, 16th century
 - Phase 4, 17th-18th century
 - Phase 5, 19th and 20th century
- 6.1.2 The features were cut into the natural subsoil. Appendix 1 provides details of the spot-dating.

6.2 Phase 1: 13th century (Figs. 2-3)

- 6.2.1 Few features belonging to this phase were recorded. It is possible that other evidence of 13th century activity could have been scoured-out by later occupation.
- 6.2.2 A pit, 1159, was recorded to the north of the area investigated in detail. As excavated, it was 0.28m deep and contained a fill of dark grey-brown silty sand (1158). A curving ditch, 1199, further to the north may have been contemporary. The ditch was roughly aligned northwest-southeast, and measured a maximum of 0.2m in depth. It may have formed a plot boundary.
- 6.2.3 A possible east-west aligned gully was recorded towards the Drury Lane frontage (1025/1004). Feature 1025 was 0.1m deep, 0.5m wide, and filled by grey sandy silt (1031). Feature 1025 may have been the butt-end of a gully which continued to the east (as 1004). Feature 1004 was 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep, and was also filled by grey sandy silt (1007). This feature was aligned at a right angle to the street frontage, and was cut by a Phase 2 pit, 1023 (see below).
- 6.2.4 The southernmost feature attributed to this phase was an oval pit, 1021, 2m long by 0.6m wide by 0.2m deep (Figs. 3-4). The feature was flat-based and filled by dark grey-brown sandy silt (1022).
- 6.2.5 Pit 1021 and ditch 1199 both contained 13th century pottery; pit 1159 contained pottery dating to the mid-13th century to early 14th century.

6.3 Phase 2: 14th-15th century (Figs. 3-4)

- 6.3.1 Only few features could be attributed to Phase 2. These medieval features were predominantly located towards the Drury Lane frontage.
- 6.3.2 The northernmost feature, a pit, 1040, was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.4m in diameter and 0.54m in depth. It was filled by a primary light brown sandy silt with gravel, sealed by dark grey-brown sandy silt (1044) with frequent large rounded stones (1043). Two further pits, 1005 and 1024/ 1023 were located nearby. Pit 1005 measured 0.8m in diameter and 0.15m in depth. Pit 1024/ 1023 was approximately 1.7m in diameter and 0.1m in depth. It was filled with grey silt

(1030). Pit 1005 was cut by a post-hole, 1006. A further, stone-packed post-hole, 1003, adjoining pit 1024/ 1023, was also recorded. Two adjoining post-holes, 1195 and 1197, were recorded further to the south. They measured at least 0.3-0.6m in diameter and 0.15-0.3m in depth. Post-hole 1195 contained packing stones. Both were cut by a later feature (1192, see below).

6.3.3 Only small quantities of pottery were found in Phase 2 features. Pits 1040 and 1024 contained 14th to 15th century pottery.

6.4 Phase 3: 16th century (Figs. 3-4)

- 6.4.1 Little evidence of 16th century activity had survived later disturbance.
- 6.4.2 A large, shallow sub-circular pit, 1009, measuring 2.6m long by 2.2m wide and 0.4m deep was located towards the Drury Lane frontage. It was filled by a dark grey sandy clay with a basal layer of cobbles. A roughly north-south aligned wall, 1192, was recorded for a distance of approximately 2.5m. The wall was made of sandstone fragments bonded with lime mortar. It cut two Phase 2 post-holes (see above). A small oval pit, 1068, 1.5m long by 1m wide and 0.25m deep was recorded to the west of the street frontage. It was filled with brown sandy silt (1067).
- 6.4.3 Pits 1009 and 1068 contained pottery of 16th century pottery.

6.5 Phase 4: 17th-18th century (Figs. 3 and 5)

- 6.5.1 This phase represents the first intensive use of the site, which also extended to the rear of the street frontage. Phase 4 activity is represented by shallow, probable boundary ditches, flat-based pits possibly associated with tanning and by fencelines or other structures defined by lines of post-holes, misaligned with the street frontage.
- 6.5.2 Part of a northern Phase 4 plot boundary was recorded to the rear of the Drury Lane frontage. This boundary was defined by a ditch, 1077/ 1104/ 1106, which was recorded for a total length of approximately 15m. It was 0.8m wide and a maximum of 0.2m in depth. The ditch was filled with dark grey-brown sandy-silts (1076/ 1103/ 1105). A short length of a second ditch to the south, 1110, may have been associated. Ditch 1110 was filled with dark grey silt (1109).
- 6.5.3 The southern plot boundary was probably located outside the area of detailed archaeological investigation. It may have been represented by one or more (unexcavated) ditches aligned approximately east-west (not numbered on Fig. 2).
- 6.5.4 The rearward boundary of this Phase 4 plot may have been formed by two, roughly north-south aligned ditches, cut at a separation of approximately 8m. The northernmost of these ditches, 1179/ 1170, clearly respected the northern boundary ditch, although its relationship with ditch 1110 is not known. Ditch 1179/ 1170 was recorded for a length of 8m, and measured 0.7m in width and 0.2m in depth. Ditch 1172/ 1138 was cut parallel with, and to the west of, the former ditch. Ditch 1172/ 1138 measured a maximum of 8.4m in length, 1m in width and 0.2m in depth. It may have been associated with an adjoining post-hole, 1140.
- 6.5.5 The projected alignment of the northern plot boundary, and the two offset ditches forming the western (rearmost) plot boundary formed the northern and western bounds of an area of industrial activity, represented mainly by flat-based, square or rectangular pits.

- 6.5.6 The easternmost group of industrial features comprised three evenly-spaced square or rectangular pits, 1185 (Plate 1), 1010 and 1176. The western edges of these three features were approximately flush. Pit 1185 measured 1m by 1.1m in plan. It was filled with a deposit of lime and gravel (1184). Pit 1010 measured 1.4m square, and 0.35m in depth. It was filled with a lens of lime (1011) measuring up to 0.1m in depth, sealed by a layer of dark grey-brown sandy-silt (1012). Pit 1176, the largest of the group, measured 1.5m by 1.2m in plan, and 0.24m in depth. It was filled with mid grey-brown sandy-silt (1175). Morphologically, sub-rectangular pit 1075, located further to the west, could have been associated. Pit 1075 measured 1.4m by 1.3m in plan, and 0.55m in depth. It was filled with dark brown sandy-silt (1074).
- 6.5.7 Other, possibly industrial features in this plot comprised further pits, which were irregularly-shaped in plan.
- 6.5.8 The easternmost of these irregular pits, 1156, was roughly rectangular in plan. It measured a maximum of 3m by 2.3m, and a maximum of 1.2m in depth. The pit (Fig. 6.S.1) was filled with a dark grey-green organic silt (1155). A secondary fill of mid grey-brown silt (1157) was sealed by a deliberate backfill of redeposited orange sand and gravel (1154). The final fill of the feature was made up of a grey-brown sandy silt with gravel (1153). The pit was in turn cut by a shallow pit, 1161, 2m in length, 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep.
- 6.5.9 A shallow sub-circular pit, 1036, measuring 1.2m by 0.7m in plan, and 0.25m in depth was located further to the west. Pit 1036 was filled with sandy-silt and gravel (1037). It was cut by a large sub-rectangular pit, 1034, which measured 7m by 3.4m in plan, and a maximum of 1.3m in depth (Plate 2). The base of the feature contained a number of post-holes, 1115, 1113 and 1117 and a horizontal plank (Plate 3, Fig. 6.S.2, Plate 3), together defining a possible 'sump' within the base of the feature. Post-hole 1113 was replaced by post-hole 1111. The primary pit fill comprised a waterlogged black organic silty clay (1119), sealed by two layers of orange-brown silty clay (1086 and 1035). In turn, backfilled pit 1034 was cut by an oval pit, 1032 (S.2). This feature measured 5.3m by 2m in plan, and a maximum of 0.25m in depth. It was filled with light orange-brown silty clay.
- 6.5.10 The westernmost, 1102, of this group of irregularly-shaped pits measured 2.9m by 1.5m in plan, and a maximum of 0.5m in depth. It was filled with a dark greybrown sandy silt (1101) overlain by a lighter grey-brown sandy silt (1073).
- 6.5.11 A pit lined with clay, 1048, and a well, 1149, may have also been associated with this group of industrial features. Feature 1048 measured 1.3m in diameter and 0.5m in depth (Plate 4). The base and sides of this pit were lined with pink clay (1047) and wood (1046). This lining was sealed by a black sandy-silt (1045). The well, 1149, was also lined with clay (0.2m thick), and then with dressed stone blocks, 1151.
- 6.5.12 Most of the remaining features of this phase comprised post-holes. These defined the northeastern corners of two structures (Structures 1 and 2) perhaps forming part of fences or temporary buildings, both misaligned with the Drury Lane frontage and with the northern and western plot boundaries. The northeastern side of Structure 1 comprised five irregularly-spaced post-holes, 1085, 1123, 1015, 1013 and 1001. The northwestern side of the structure was formed by five post-holes, 1085, 1088, 1094, 1132 and 1134. Post-hole 1134 cut pit 1102, and the northern side of the structure was also cut across pit 1075, which may suggest that it post-dated the disuse of at least some of these industrial features. Post-holes 1090 and

1092 were recorded within the interior of this structure. The remaining sides of this structure could have been open, or were not defined at excavation because of later disturbances. A further post-hole, 1125, was recorded to the northeast of this structure. Structure 2, further to the south, was less well-defined, and was also slightly misaligned with Structure 1. Structure 2 comprised four irregularly-spaced post-holes, three defining the northeastern side, 1098, 1096 and 1072, and two defining its northwestern side, 1100 and 1098. Both structures contained post-holes measuring up to 0.5m in diameter and 0.15m in depth.

- 6.5.13 Finally, northern plot boundary ditch 1077 was cut by a small circular pit, 1079, measuring 0.3m deep, which in turn was cut by a small rectangular flat-based pit, 1083, measuring 3.2m by 0.55m in plan, and a maximum of 0.6m in depth. It was filled with brown sandy silt (1082).
- 6.5.14 Pit 1075 contained mid-late 18th century pottery. The Phase 4 pits contained pottery of early-mid-late 18th century date; pit 1048 contained pottery dated approximately 1790-1800. The Phase 4 plot boundary ditches contained 18th century pottery.

6.6 Phase 5: 19th and 20th century (Figs. 3 and 5)

- 6.6.1 Phase 5 features are described in summary only.
- 6.6.2 Two further brick wells were recorded, which may be attributed to the 19th century. Well 1180, 1.4m in diameter, was lined with clay (1181) and a light yellow brick (1182), possibly a type of heat-resistant fire brick, probably re-used. The upper fill of the well was a dark grey-brown silty sand (1183). The well adjoined Phase 4 stone-lined well 1149 and may have replaced it. The second brick-lined well, 1130, measured 2m in diameter, with a brick lining 1.2m in diameter. The outer cut for the well was filled with silt and charcoal (1128). The brick lining was filled with sand (1129). It is possible that a shallow rectangular feature, 1127, 0.7m long by 0.4m wide by 0.07m deep, may have been associated with well 1130.
- 6.6.3 A number of 19th century or later pits were also recorded. Pits 1050 and 1064 were recorded adjoining the frontage, with pit 1121 to the west. Further pits, 1167, 1187 and 1174, were recorded in the west of the area excavated.
- 6.6.4 The remaining Phase 5 features comprised brick walls or floors. These are illustrated in Figs. 3 and 5, but are not described, with the exception of a brick wall, 1190, which overlay Phase 3 wall 1192 (see above), towards the Drury Lane frontage.
- 6.6.5 Phase 5 features were associated with 19th century pottery, or contained earlier, residual pottery.

7 ASSESSMENTS

7.1 Paper archive

7.1.1 Table 1 provides a quantification of the paper archive.

TABLE 1: Paper archive quantification

Item	Quantity
Contexts	199 contexts and

Features	features
Drawings	45
Photographs	6 films
Survey records	1 file
Administration	1 file

7.2 Finds archive

7.2.1 Table 2 provides a quantification of the finds archive.

TABLE 2: Finds archive quantification

Item	Quantity
Pottery	378
Clay pipe	66
Glass	56
Iron objects	79
Lead objects	2
Copper alloy	7
Leather objects	1
Tile and brick	142

7.3 Small finds, by Erica Macey-Bracken

7.3.1 Non-pottery finds from the site included clay pipe, glass, iron, lead, copper alloy, leather, shell, charcoal and wood. The assemblage was fragmentary, although the recovered fragments were largely unabraided.

Clay pipe

7.3.2 A total of 66 fragments of clay pipe were recovered. Most were pipe stems, although nine bowls, or fragments of bowls, were also recovered. Most of the bowls were provisionally datable using Ayto (1999, 5-7).

	sipe maginents, type		
Cut/ Context	Number of stems	Number of bowls	Possible date
1001/1002	1	-	-
1034/1035	1	-	-
1048/1045	1	1	1840-1860
1064/1063	1	-	-
1102/1073	19	2	1660-1680
			1860-1090
1083/1082	1	-	-
1102/1101	2	-	-
1106/1105	1	-	-
1034/1119	2	-	-
1130/1128	2	-	-
1130/1129	1	-	-
1143/1142	1	-	-
1149/1152	1	-	-
1156/1153	7	-	-
1156/1155	4	1	-
1161/1160	3	3	1660-1680
1163/1162	4	2	1690-1720
			1840-1860
1167/1166	1	-	-
1176/1175	2	-	-
U/S	2	-	-
TOTAL	57	9	-

TABLE 3: Clay pipe fragments: type, date and context

Recommendations

7.3.3 The clay pipe should be reported-on by a specialist (David Higgins) with appropriate items selected for illustration.

Glass

7.3.4 Fifty-six fragments of glass were recovered, including window and bottle glass fragments. The glass vessels should be reported-on by a specialist.

Iron

7.3.5 Seventy-nine iron items were recovered from the site, including twelve nails. Most of the remainder of the iron came from the fill (1162) of a small pit 1163, which produced 59 strips of iron of varying sizes. The remainder of the assemblage was

composed of amorphous lumps of iron. No further work is recommended for this group.

Lead

7.3.6 Two pieces of lead were recovered. One item was a short strip of lead (1073) and the other was a crumpled piece of lead sheet (1086, SF 3). No further work is recommended on this material.

Copper alloy

7.3.7 Seven pieces of copper alloy were recovered. The most interesting piece was a probable buckle or brooch fragment (1034, 1035, SF 2, Phase 4), which should be closely datable. Other copper alloy finds included two pieces of copper sheet (1008, SF 1), a nail (1129), two thin bent pieces of copper rod (1162) and a small lump of copper (1175), which will require x-ray to determine their shape and any possible function. It is recommended that the buckle/ brooch fragment is identified by a specialist; no other work is required for the remainder of the assemblage.

Leather

7.3.8 One leather shoe offcut (1104, 1101, SF 4) was recovered from the site. No further work is recommended for this item.

Tile and brick

7.3.9 One hundred and forty-two pieces of ceramic tile were recovered from the site. Most of the tile was undiagnostic, but two fragments (from 1034/ 1035, and 1034/ 1086) had nail holes. One coarse orange sandy fabric seemed to dominate the assemblage, although closer examination of the material showed that other fabrics were present in small quantities. Most of the tile appears to be of post-medieval date. Fourteen pieces of ceramic brick were also recovered from the site. None of these bricks were complete. No further work is recommended for the brick and tile.

7.4 Medieval and post-medieval pottery, by Stephanie Rátkai

Introduction

7.4.1 A total of 378 sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered. The pottery was examined macroscopically and divided into medieval fabrics and post-medieval wares. Each context was spot dated. At this assessment stage the pottery was only quantified by sherds per context. Appendix 1 provides spot-dating.

The pottery

7.4.2 Most of the medieval pottery could be ascribed to known fabrics, eg Coventry ware (Redknap 1985) and Chilvers Coton fabrics A, B and C (Mayes and Scott 1985). A small number of medieval sherds were not recognised and need to be examined under x 20 magnification and compared with the Warwickshire County Type Series (Rátkai and Soden 1998). All the post-medieval pottery was in known wares of the type frequently encountered in the West Midlands.

TABLE 4	Pottery,	Phases	1-3,	details
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Phase	Ctxt	Feature	Qty	Shelly ware	Chilvers Coton A	Chilvers Coton B	N Warks granitic ware	Reduced Deritend ware	Coventry ware	Misc Medieval	Chilvers Coton C	Cistercian/blackware	Rhenish Stoneware
1	1022	1021 pit	11	х									
1	1158	1159 pit	95	х	х	х	х	х					
1	1198	1199 ditch	4	х				x	х				
2	1007	1004 pit	2						х	х			
2	1030	1024 pit	1								х		
2	1043	1040 pit	2								х		
2	1044	1040 pit	1	х									
3	1008	1009 pit	2									x	x
3	1041	1038 pit	1						х				
3	1067	1068 pit	1								х		

Phase 1

7.4.3 Three features belonging to Phase 1 contained pottery. Pit 1021 contained several sherds from a very abraded shelly ware jug. The deposition date for the jug is likely to lie in the 13th century, possibly in the earlier part of that century, before the introduction of Chilvers Coton A and B fabrics (Mayes and Scott 1984) to the site. A second pit, 1159 (located outside the area of detailed excavation), contained some 95 sherds. Amongst these were 35 sherds from a Chilvers Coton A ware jug dating to the mid-13th to early 14th centuries. The remaining sherds were made up of Chilvers Coton B, North Warwickshire igneous tempered ware (probably also made in the vicinity of Chilvers Coton), shelly ware and reduced Deritend ware (made in Birmingham in the 13th and early 14th centuries). The absence of any Chilvers Coton C sherds suggests a deposition date before c 1300. Ditch 1199 (also outside the area of detailed excavation) contained Coventry ware, Deritend ware and shelly ware sherds and a deposition date around the mid-13th century is a possibility.

Phase 2

7.4.4 A small cluster of pits and post-holes in the northeastern corner of the area inverstigated in detail represented activity in Phase 2. Only six sherds were recovered, of which three came from pit 1040 and one from pit 1024. Both pits contained Chilvers Coton C ware, dating to the 14th to 15th centuries but the primary fill of feature 1040 contained a shelly ware sherd dating to the 13th or possibly 12th century. Pit 1004 contained two sherds of probable 13th century date. It is difficult to gauge the date of disuse of these pits. Such a small amount of

pottery could represent intrusion or trample into the upper pit fills and the single shelly ware sherd in the primary fill of 1040 may date the disuse of the pit to the (possibly earlier) 13th century. The paucity of pottery in this and the following phase is certainly striking in comparison to the quantity of pottery recovered from Phase 1.

Phase 3

- 7.4.5 As in the preceding phase there were only few sherds recovered from Phase 3 features. Pit 1009, in the same area as the Phase 2 pit cluster, contained a Rhenish stoneware sherd and a cistercian ware/ blackware sherd, suggesting that the pit fell into disuse in the 16th century. Pit 1068 contained a residual Coventry ware sherd.
- 7.4.6 To the southwest, pit 1068 produced a single Chilvers Coton C sherd, dating to the 15th or possibly 16th century.

TABLE 5: Pottery, Phases 4-5, details

Phase	Ctxt	Feature	Qty	Misc medieval	Midlands Purple	Rhenish sroneware	Cistercian ware	blackware	yellow ware	Coarseware	Mottled ware	Brown salt-glazed stoneware	Slip-coated ware	Feathered slipware	Trailed slipware	Tin-glazed earthen ware	White salt-glazed stoneware	Agate ware	Refined body	Creamware	Pearlware	Misc 19th c	Flowerpot	Drainpipe	Tile
4	1002	1001 ph	1						х																
4	1012	1010 square pit	6	х	х				х												х			х	х
4	1033	1032 pit	15					x	х	х	х							х							
4	1035	1034 irregular pit	23						х	х	х			х		х									
4	1086	1034 irregular pit	8								х		x					х							
4	1119	1034 irregular pit	4								х		x			x									
4	1045	1048 pit	3																	x	x				
4	1071	1072 pit	4	x						х															
4	1074	1075 square pit	11							х	х						х								
4	1076	1077 ditch	1	x																					
4	1082	1083 pit	4	x					x	х															
4	1073	1102 irregular pit	39	x		x		x	x	х												х			
4	1101	1102 irregular pit	5						x	х															
4	1103	1104 ditch	4					x		х															
4	1124	1125 ph	2	x						х															
4	1142	1143 ditch	1																	х					

4	1150	1149 well	2						х				х								
4	1152	1149 well	22						х	х							х	х	х		
4	1153	1156 irregular pit	12	х				х	х	х	х		х								
4	1155	1156 irregular pit	5		х			х		х	х										
4	1160	1161 pit	12					х	х	х	х										
4	1175	1176 square pit	5	x	х					х			х								
5	1051	1052 structure	7				х	х		х		х						х	x		
5	1059	1060 trench	1	х																	
5	1063	1064 cut	5	x				х													
5	1128	1130 well	1								х										
5	1162	1163 pit	25	х	х			х	х	х		х		х					x		
5	1166	1167 ditch	10							х									x	x	
5	1173	1174 pit	6						х		х					х	х				
5	1183	1180 well	8							х	х									x	
5	1042	Modern	1						х												
5	1065	modern	1	x																	
5	1065	Modern	3	x		x	x														
u/s	1070	-	1						х												

Phase 4

- 7.4.7 A series of four rectangular pits belonged to this phase, 1010, 1075, 1176 and 1185. Pit 1185 did not contain pottery and none of the remaining pits produced many sherds. The disuse of feature 1075 was dated by a white salt-glazed stoneware sherd, suggesting a date in the mid to late 18th century. Pit 1176 may have gone out of use slightly earlier. Pit 1010 contained a rather mixed group with pottery dating from the medieval period up to the early 19th century.
- 7.4.8 Three large, irregularly-shaped features, 1032/ 1034/ 1102, were located in the centre of the site; a further irregular feature, 1156, was located to their east. Pit 1156 contained pottery dating to the later 17th to mid-18th century, with a probable deposition date of c 1725-50. Pit 1161 contained pottery probably disturbed from feature 1156. Pit 1034 contained a similar range of pottery to pit 1156 but also produced sherds of agate ware and a tin-glazed earthenware saucer and foot-ring bowl. The latter two perhaps suggest a deposition date of after c1750. Pit 1032 dug into the top of feature 1034 produced blackware, coarseware, yellow ware and agate ware sherds, which may have been disturbed from the fills of 1034. Pit 1102 contained a good group of large sherds suggesting a deposition date in the late 17th or possibly early 18th century. The pottery from well 1149 to the southwest of feature 1034 suggested that it also had begun to go out of use in the 18th century. A pit, 1048, possibly connected with the use of features 1032 and 1034, contained creamware and pearlware sherds with a suggested deposition date of after *c* 1790-1800.
- 7.4.9 Four ditches were ascribed to this phase, 1077/1104/1106, 1110, 1138/1172, and 1170/1179. Ditch 1077/ 1104/ 1106, the only other ditch to contain pottery, produced a Coventry ware sherd from fill 1076 and blackware and coarseware sherds of probable 18th-century date from fill 1103. The ditches produced surprisingly few sherds and it is difficult to be certain about their construction and disuse dates. Pit 1083 at the eastern end of ditch 1077 contained a mix of medieval pottery and post-medieval pottery likely to have been deposited in the later 17th or early 18th century. Pit 1083 cut pit 1079 which in turn cut the ditch. This throws some doubt on the dating of the disuse of the ditch since the fill material of pit 1083 is earlier than that recovered from fill 1103 of the ditch.

Phase 5

7.4.10 Pottery from features ascribed to this phase contained mainly residual pottery together with some 19th century sherds.

Discussion

- 7.4.11 Comparatively little excavated pottery has come from this area of Warwickshire and even less from Rugby itself. For this reason, this assemblage, although small (378 sherds) is important.
- 7.4.12 The pottery shows that this area of Rugby was occupied from at least the early 13th century. Occupation appears to have been continuous (if only slightly represented) during the next three centuries. Increased activity is evident in the 17th and 18th centuries although the pitting may have largely stopped by the mid 18th century.
- 7.4.13 Most of the pottery was recovered from Phases 1 and 4. Considering the size and number of features there was a surprisingly small amount of pottery recovered.

Even were it not obvious from the features themselves that the excavated area had been given over to industrial or craft activity (such as tanning) at least from the early post-medieval period, the paucity of obvious dumps of domestic refuse would make this clear. A comparative absence of good domestic groups of pottery on industrial sites, particularly those associated with tanning, has been noted in Birmingham (Rátkai forthcoming) and Northampton (Denham 1996).

7.4.14 The pottery appears to have had mainly local sources and to have been fairly runof-the-mill and characteristic of medieval and post-medieval urban sites. The shelly ware sherds have not yet been sourced but they are likely to come from the East Midlands. Further work may help discover where they were made. The regional import of Deritend ware from Birmingham is of note and presumably represents a trip to a market (or fair) there, rather than a regular supply of Birmingham pottery to this area of Warwickshire. The presence of at least two Rhenish stoneware vessels is also worthy of note and suggests that the occupants in this area of Rugby aspired to 'bourgeois' living and were a little better off than some. The tin-glazed earthenware sherds from pit 1034 may indicate continued prosperous living in the earlier 18th century.

Statement of potential

- 7.4.15 The assemblage has the potential to increase our knowledge of the distribution and use of medieval and post-medieval ceramics in the county, in an area where little work has previously been undertaken.
- 7.4.16 More detailed study of the ceramics should help show the sources of pottery supply to Rugby in the Middle Ages and the socio-economic contacts which this implies.
- 7.4.17 The ceramics will help elucidate the early development of the town and the dates when this took place.
- 7.4.18 The post-medieval ceramics will help inform the date of industrial activity taking place in the town and the possible lifestyle of the inhabitants of the area.
- 7.5 **Waterlogged wooden plank from pit 1034,** by Steve Allen (York Archaeological Trust)

Method

7.5.1 A systematic photographic record of a wooden 'plank' recovered from a waterlogged context at the base of a large pit (1034 Phase 4; Plate 3) was provided by Birmingham Archaeology.

Results

- 7.5.2 The wood is almost certainly oak. The timber has been tangentially faced and may have a little sapwood surviving, or at the very least have the sapwood/heartwood boundary present. Part of the outer surface of the roundwood has been trimmed away to give a more regular flat face. There are several cuts present which are the result of de-barking the timber. Not only was this done to make a better looking piece of timber, but the bark was usually sold on to tanners for use in tanning hides.
- 7.5.3 The plank has been cut from a very large side branch. At least two further side branches can be identified, with smaller knots nearby and other side branches have

been cut away from the roundwood face. A very large side branch appears to have been cut though on the underside showing that parts of this timber when growing were curving though at least three different directions. The views of the underside show that the timber has been converted by sawing, not by splitting.

7.5.4 There are no joints present which would indicate either that this timber was joined to others or that it had been part of an earlier structure. There is no apparent evidence of woodworm or beetle damage. This suggests that this timber went into its waterlogged burial context very shortly after having been felled. The implication is that this timber was prepared specifically for the purpose and context in which it was found. It has definitely not been reused.

Discussion

- 7.5.5 This is a very knotty piece of timber which would have been unsuitable for any high (or even medium) quality timberwork, but just the sort of wood required for a fairly low status function where it wouldn't be seen or have any serious load or joint bearing function. It is pretty typical of the sort of poor quality cheap timbers which appear widely in the post-medieval period when people start using saws for chopping up poor quality trees which previously might only have been useful for fuel or for small curved boat timbers.
- 7.5.6 It is recommended that a 1:10 scale drawing is prepared for record purposes (and publication). This object is dated by the pottery recovered from this feature.

7.6 Charred plant remains, by Rosalind McKenna

Introduction

7.6.1 Six samples; SN2 (1034/ 1119), SN3 (1156/ 1155), SN4 (1159/ 1158), SN11 (1034/ 1086), SN12 (1176/ 1175) and SN14 (1156/ 1157) were submitted for assessment of environmental potential.

Methods

- 7.6.2 Four of the samples; SN4, SN11, SN12 and SN14 were processed using standard water flotation. The flot (the sum of the material from each sample that floats) was sieved to 0.5mm and air dried. The heavy residue (the material which does not float) was not examined, and therefore the results presented here are based entirely on the material from the flot. It was examined under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x12 and x40.
- 7.6.3 The other two samples; SN2 and SN3 were processed using standard methods described by Kenward *et al.* (1980), for the extraction of environmental remains that have been preserved by waterlogging. Plant remains were extracted by means of a 'washover' to concentrate the lighter, organic fraction. The components of the fraction were recorded whilst wet. The washover and the residue was stored wet.
- 7.6.4 A four point semi quantative scale was used, from '1' one or a few specimens (less than an estimated six per kg of raw sediment) to '4' abundant remains (many specimens per kg or a major component of the matrix). Data were recorded on paper and subsequently on a personal computer using a Microsoft Access database.

Results

- 7.6.5 A semi quantitative score of the components of the samples can be found in Table 6. The four samples that were processed for general environmental remains all contained sand and charcoal fragments. Contaminants of modern plant macrofossils were present in SN4, SN12 and SN14. Archaeological plant macrofossils were present in SN4 (as was chaff – material from crops associated with processing) and SN14 in small amounts and SN11 in a waterlogged form. Bone fragments were also present in SN11 and SN12 in small quantities.
- 7.6.6 The two samples (SN2 and SN3) processed for waterlogged remains contained herbaceous detritus, wood and charcoal fragments, plant macrofossils and insect fragments. The plant and insect remains were in a very good state of preservation as well as being in high quantities and are diverse enough to be of interpretable value.

Recommendations

- 7.6.7 SN4, SN12 and SN14 contained small amounts of material but further interpretable evidence cannot be gained from the samples, and hence further environmental analysis of these samples is not recommended.
- 7.6.8 SN11 contained herbaceous detritus and waterlogged plant macrofossils that scored 3 on the abundance scale, and so it is recommended further sediment from the sample is processed for waterlogged remains, and an analysis of these plant remains is undertaken.
- 7.6.9 SN2 and SN3 contain extremely well preserved, and a highly diverse suite of identifiable plant macrofossils, and so it is recommended that a full analysis of the plant remains from these samples is undertaken. The preservation of the insect fragments in these two samples was also very good, and so it is recommended that an analysis of the insect remains is also undertaken.

Component	SN. 2 (1119)	SN. 3 (1155)	SN. 4 (1158)	SN. 11 (1086)	SN. 12 (1175)	SN. 14 (1157)
Bone frags.	-	-	-	1	1	-
Ceramic building material (CBM)	-	2	-	-	-	-
Charcoal frags.	3	3	2	2	3	4
Herbaceous detritus	4	3	-	3	-	-
Insect frags.	3	3	-	2	-	1
Moss frags.	2	-	-	-	-	-
Plant macrofossils (charred)	-	-	2	-	-	2
Plant macrofossils (waterlogged)	4	3	-	3	-	-
Plant macrofossils (modern contaminant)	-	-	2	-	1	1
Rachis frags.	-	-	1	-	-	-
Root / rootlet frags.	-	-	4	-	-	-
Sand	4	-	2	-	4	4
Slag	-	2	-	-	-	-
Stones	3	3	-	-	-	-
Twigs	-	2	-	-	-	-
Wood frags.	3	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE 6: Palaeoenvironmental samples

7.6.10 Semi quantitative score of the components of the samples is based on a four point scale, from '1' – one or a few specimens (less than an estimated six per kg of raw sediment) to '4' – abundant remains (many specimens per kg or a major component of the matrix).

7.7 Animal bone, by David Brown

Methodology

7.7.1 This assessment was conducted using an NISP quantification methodology, that is, each individual fragment of bone was counted regardless of identification. The assemblage was hand-collected which creates a bias in recovery toward specimens immediately visible in the ground.

Results

7.7.2 The assemblage comprised of a total of 265 fragments (4827g) equating to one standard-sized museum archive box (450 x 265 x 160mm). A total of 105

fragments were identifiable to groups 'cattle, 'sheep/goat', 'pig', 'horse', other domesticates', 'birds', 'fish', and 'wild'. Specific identifications were made as appropriate. Preservation and fragmentation of the remains were both noted as 'satisfactory/poor'.

- 7.7.3 The assemblage was dominated by cattle and sheep/goat remains, with proportionally fewer incidences of other domesticated species, such as pigs and horses. There was a single dog bone recorded and very small numbers of fish and bird bones. No wild species were recorded. Seven specimens were recorded as measurable, nine specimens were ageable, and six mandibles were deemed ageable.
- 7.7.4 The majority of the material recovered belongs to deposits dating to Phase 4 (17th-18th century) of the site (73%). Other material was mostly later in date. There was material from a single deposit that was dated to Phase 1 (13th century), and material from three contexts dated to Phase 2 (14th-15th century) and two that dated to Phase 3 (16th century).

Discussion

- 7.7.5 Element representation indicates that primary butchery and initial carcase dressing were carried out in the vicinity of the site. Non-meat bone bones such as skull elements and autopodials and metapodials are the most common elements seen in the assemblage.
- 7.7.6 The assemblage is too small to merit further work.

8 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN, BY JOHN HALSTED

- 8.1.1 The excavations at Rugby have enabled a comprehensive record to be made of a medieval to early post-medieval plot extending to the rear of Drury Lane and the former medieval market place. A low density of medieval features was recorded. Other early features may have been scoured-out by later activity. The excavations demonstrated the survival of medieval and post-medieval plot boundaries to the west of Drury Lane, and presumably to the rear of former properties on the street frontage. Within these plot boundaries were features largely relating to 17th and 18th century industrial processing activities, which may be provisionally interpreted as tanning pits.
- 8.1.2 The presence of 13th century pottery from a boundary ditch outside the area excavated in detail may suggest that the earliest plot boundaries date from the medieval period, while others may have continued into the post medieval period. A scatter of 13th century features on the site may suggest a low level of activity in this period, and the quantities of of 13th century pottery indicates nearby domestic occupation. A cluster of features dating to between the 14th-16th centuries close to the Drury Lane frontage suggests activity to the rear of properties fronting onto the

medieval market place, although the quantity of pottery recovered appears to have been low (Rátkai above).

- 8.1.3 The medieval features recorded on the site can potentially provide a valuable contribution to our understanding of west midlands small towns in this period, a topic recently highlighted as a regional research priority (Dalwood 2003). The evidence will also contribute towards an understanding of the medieval and early post-medieval urban form of Rugby. It has been noted that there is a lack of evidence for both domestic settlement and town layout in the period, in both Warwickshire and the wider West Midlands region (Palmer 2003; Dalwood 2003). Ultimately, any evidence obtained from the medieval occupation of small towns in Warwickshire and the west midlands has the potential to provide valuable comparative data and contribute to the understanding of these smaller urban centres set within their local landscape and wider regional economies (Dalwood 2003).
- 8.1.4 The range of Phase 4 pits in particular belong to industrial processing activities which date to the 17th and 18th centuries. Three regular square and rectangular pits aligned in a row bear close comparison with 17th-18th century tanning pits excavated at Edgbaston Street, Birmingham (Patrick and Rátkai forthcoming, 29) and 16th-17th century pits at the Green (Eastern Tannery), Northampton (Shaw 1996, Fig. 7a; 83). Three other larger less regularly shaped pits, containing what appear to be water-filled tanks and wooden stake-and-beam features may also relate to the tanning process at Rugby. A wooden beam was also recorded associated with a tanning pit at Edgbaston Street, Birmingham (Patrick and Rátkai forthcoming, 29). The circular clay-lined feature (1048), possibly originally containing a wooden structure such as a barrel, may be compared with 17th-18th century tanning features recorded at Edgbaston Street (*ibid*, 28) and 15th-16th century pits at The Green (Western Tannery), Northampton (Shaw 1996, plate 2; 77).
- 8.1.5 The tanning process involved a succession of activities, including de-fleshing through immersion in lime (Crossley 1990, 219). De-liming processes involving soaking in dung or vegetable matter (*ibid.*) and soaking in water and oak bark for lengthy periods up to 18 months (*ibid.*). The processes often involved a series of separate pits (Shaw 1996, 107). The presence of lime in two pits at the Rugby site certainly attests to this process, and the waterlogged sumps in other features also seems likely to be associated with tanning. The fact that the bone assemblage (Brown above) showed evidence of off-site butchery and the presence of non meat bones such as skulls, may also support the interpretation of tanning at the site. Hides were often brought to a tanning site with skulls and hooves attached (Shaw 1996, 107). Further analysis of insect remains (McKenna above) may also contribute to an understanding of specific industrial processes on the site. Bark beetles for instance have been recorded at tanning pits in Birmingham (Patrick and Rátkai forthcoming, 19).
- 8.1.6 Where tanning areas have been recorded elsewhere they are often in close association with water sources, such as the water channel recorded at Edgbaston Street, Birmingham (Patrick and Rátkai forthcoming, 18). It seems likely that the

water source for the tanning at Rugby was obtained from the numerous wells on the site. The waterlogging in the pits, however, may be testimony to the perched water table recorded at excavation, which may explain why the site was selected for tanning.

- 8.1.7 Evidence for post-medieval tanning in Warwickshire is limited, with some early post-medieval activity recorded at Stratford-upon-Avon (Parkhouse 2003) and some 17th-18th century tanning at Warwick (*ibid*). The evidence from Rugby therefore provides the potential for a greater understanding of this aspect of the industrial economy of a small market town.
- 8.1.8 The full post excavation analysis has the potential to address the aims and objectives of the project. The medieval and post-medieval ceramics have the potential to make a useful contribution to the understanding of the chronological development of Rugby. The excavated features will contribute to an understanding of the medieval and post-medieval layout of the environs of the medieval market place. Therefore, the site contributes directly to regional research priorities which emphasise the importance of an increased understanding of the morphology of small towns in the medieval and post-medieval periods (Dalwood 2003). The presence of probable tanning pits on the site contributes to an appreciation of the economic development of Rugby. Further analysis of the palaeo-environmental remains has the potential to contribute further to the understanding of industrial and domestic activities on the site and its immediate vicinity. Further specialist pottery analysis could contribute significantly to the understanding of the economic context of Rugby within the wider region, contributing to wider research priorities relating to the economic and social context of small towns in both the medieval (*ibid*; Palmer 2003) and post-medieval (Parkhouse 2003) periods.

9 TASK LIST

ID	Description	Initials	No of days (if applicable)
1	Project management	AJ	1
2	Specialist information pack	EMB	0.5
3	Clay pipe reporting	DH	-
4	Glass reporting	CC	-
5	Plant remains reporting	RM	-
6	Insect remains reporting	DS	-
7	Pottery recording*	SR	-
8	Pottery reporting	SR	-
9	Pottery illustration	HM	1.5
10	Wood illustration	HM	1
11	Prepare site illustrations	ND	1
12	Revise site narrative	JH	1
13	Prepare discussion	JH	1
14	Edit and integrate	AJ	1
15	Preparation of archive	SA	0.5
16	Deposit archive	SA	0.5

9.1.1 Tasks are listed in the sequence in which they will be undertaken.

KEY:

CC = Cecily Cropper, AJ = Alex Jones, Project Manager, JH = John Halsted, Author, RM = Ros McKenna, plant remains, SR = Stephanie Ratkai, pottery specialist, DS = David Smith, insect remains, SA = Site Assistant, archive preparation/ deposition.

* pottery recorded using Warwickshire County Pottery Type Series. Quantification by sherd count and weight, minimum rim count and rim percentage (eves). Medieval vessel forms recorded with reference to Medieval Pottery Research Group 'A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms' (MPRG 1998)

10 PUBLICATION OUTLINE

10.1.1 It is proposed that the final publication will be an article for publication in the *Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society*.

Medieval and post-medieval Rugby, excavations at Chapel Street 2007, by John Halsted and Stephanie Rátkai

with contributions by Cecily Cropper, Rosalind McKenna and David Smith

Summary, 250 words Introduction, 1,000 words, 2 figs Results, 4,000 words, 4 figs, 4 plates Finds Small finds, objects of glass, and copper alloy, 500 words Pottery, 5,000 words, 2 figs, 2 tables Clay pipes, 500 words Environmental Plant remains, 2,000 words, 1 table Insect remains, 1,000 words, 1 table Discussion, 3,000 words

Acknowledgements References TOTAL 17,250 words, 8 figs, 4 tables, 4 plates

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

11.1.1 The site was directed by Matt Edgeworth and the report was written by John Halsted. Alex Jones managed the project and also edited the report for Birmingham Archaeology. The illustrations were prepared by Nigel Dodds. Thanks go to Jonathan Parkhouse and Anna Stocks for their advice during the project, and to the client Asda Stores Ltd for commissioning the excavations. An earlier evaluation of the site was undertaken by Warwickshire Museum.

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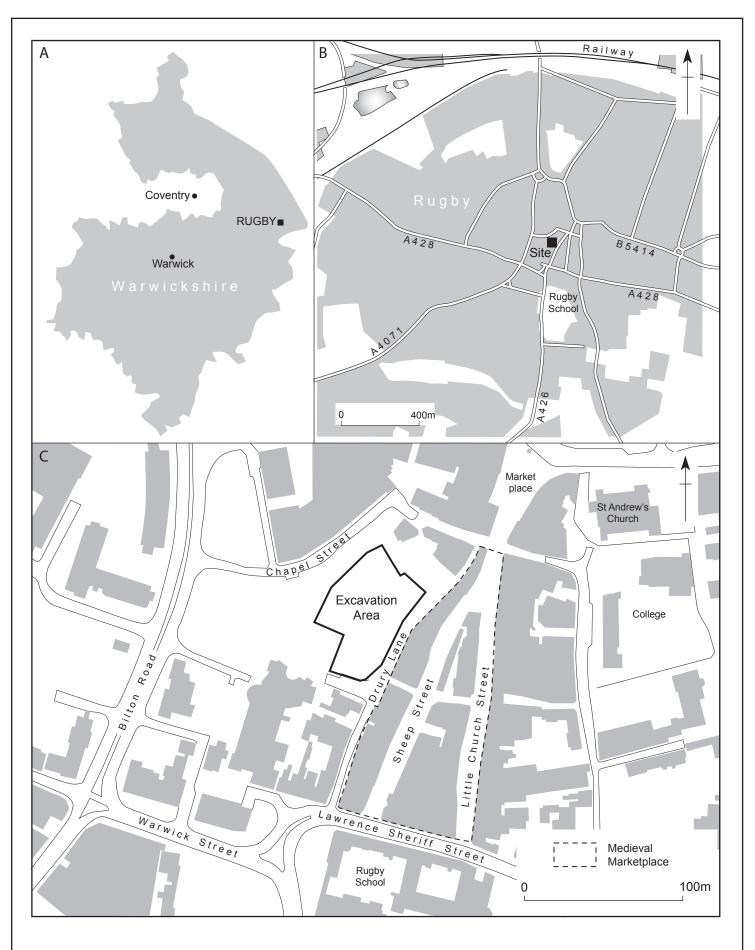
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APPENDIX 1: POTTERY SPOT-DATES

Ctxt	Feature	Qty	Date
1042	Mod disturbance	1	17th-e 18th c
1065	Mod disturbance	1	15th-16th ?
1065	Mod disturbance	3	16th c
1070	Mod disturbance	1	17th-e 18th c
1002	1001 ph	1	17th-e 18th c
1007	1004 pit	2	13th c
1008	1009 pit	2	16th c?
1012	1010 ph	6	19th c?
1022	1021 pit	11	13th c?
1030	1024 pit	1	14th-15th c?
1033	1032 pit	15	mid 18th c
1035	1034 pit	23	?mid 18th c
1086	1034 pit	8	18th c
1119	1034 pit	4	later 17th-mid 18th c
Backfill	date of <i>c</i> 1750 for 1034	ŀ	
1041	1038 pit	1	13th c?
1043	1040 pit	2	14th-15th c?
1044	1040 pit	1	13th c
14th-15	5th c backfill date for 10	40	
1045	1048 pit	3	c1790-1800?
1051	1052 stru	7	19th c
1059	1060 trench	1	13th c?
1063	1064 cut	5	16th c
1067	1068 pit	1	15th-16th c
1071	1072 pit	4	17th-18th c
1074	1075 pit	11	1720-1760
1076	1077 ditch	1	12th-13th c
1082	1083 pit	4	later 17th-e 18th c
1073	1102 pit	39	17th c
1101	1102 pit	5	17th c
17th <i>c</i> l	packfill date for 1102		
1103	1104 ditch	4	18th c
1124	1125 ph	2	17th-18th c
1128	1130 well	1	later 17th-mid 18th c

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1150	1149 well	2	e 18th c
1152	1149 well	22	19th c
Well 1149 possibly started to go out of use in 18th c			
1153	1156 pit	12	late 17th-e 18th c
1155	1156 pit	5	later 17th-mid 18th c
Pit 1156 probably backfilled 1700-1750			
1158	1159 pit	35	mid 13th-e 14th
1158	1159 pit	60	13th c
Pit 1159 probably backfilled c 1250-1300			
1160	1161 pit	12	later 17th-e 18th c
1162	1163 pit	25	19th c?
1166	1167 ditch	10	19th c
1173	1174 pit	6	1770s-1780s
1175	1176 pit	5	later 17th-early/mid 18th c
1183	1180 well	8	late 18th-19th c?
1198	1199 ditch	4	13th c



PN: 1640 Stroot Dugby

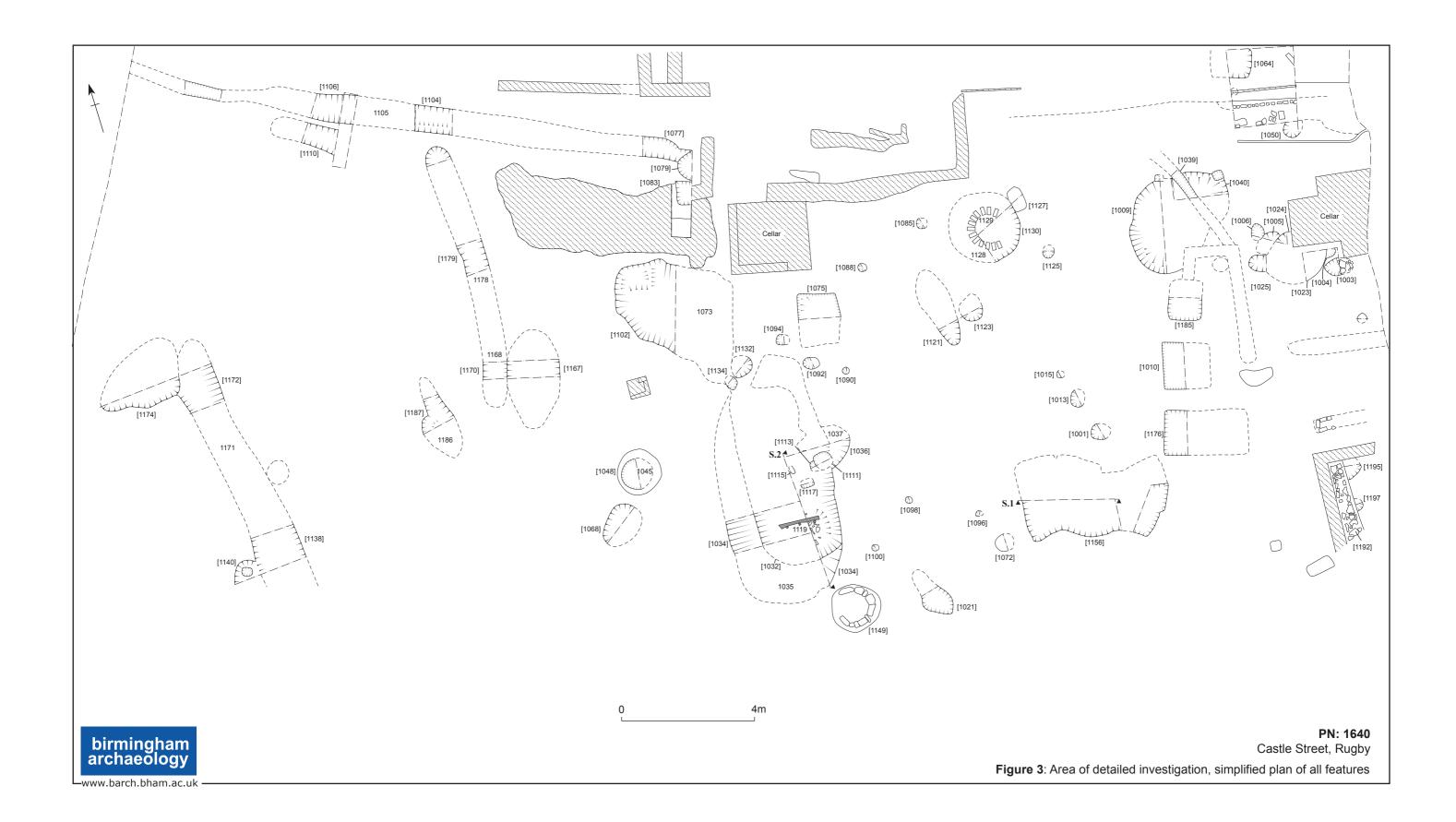
Chapel Street, Rugby Figure 1: Location of Rugby (A); Location of site within Rugby (B); Location of Excavation in relation to the medieval marketplace (C)

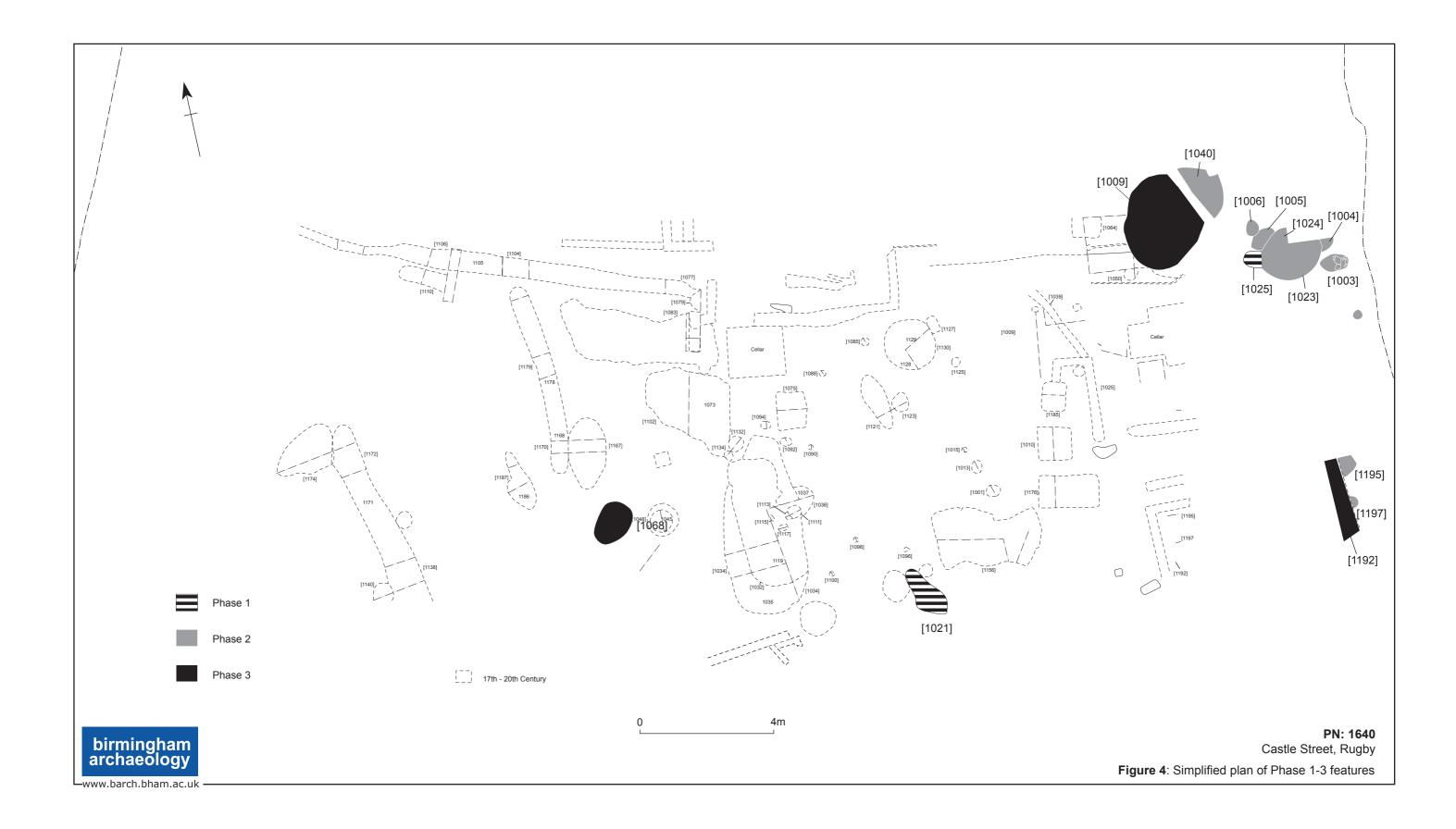
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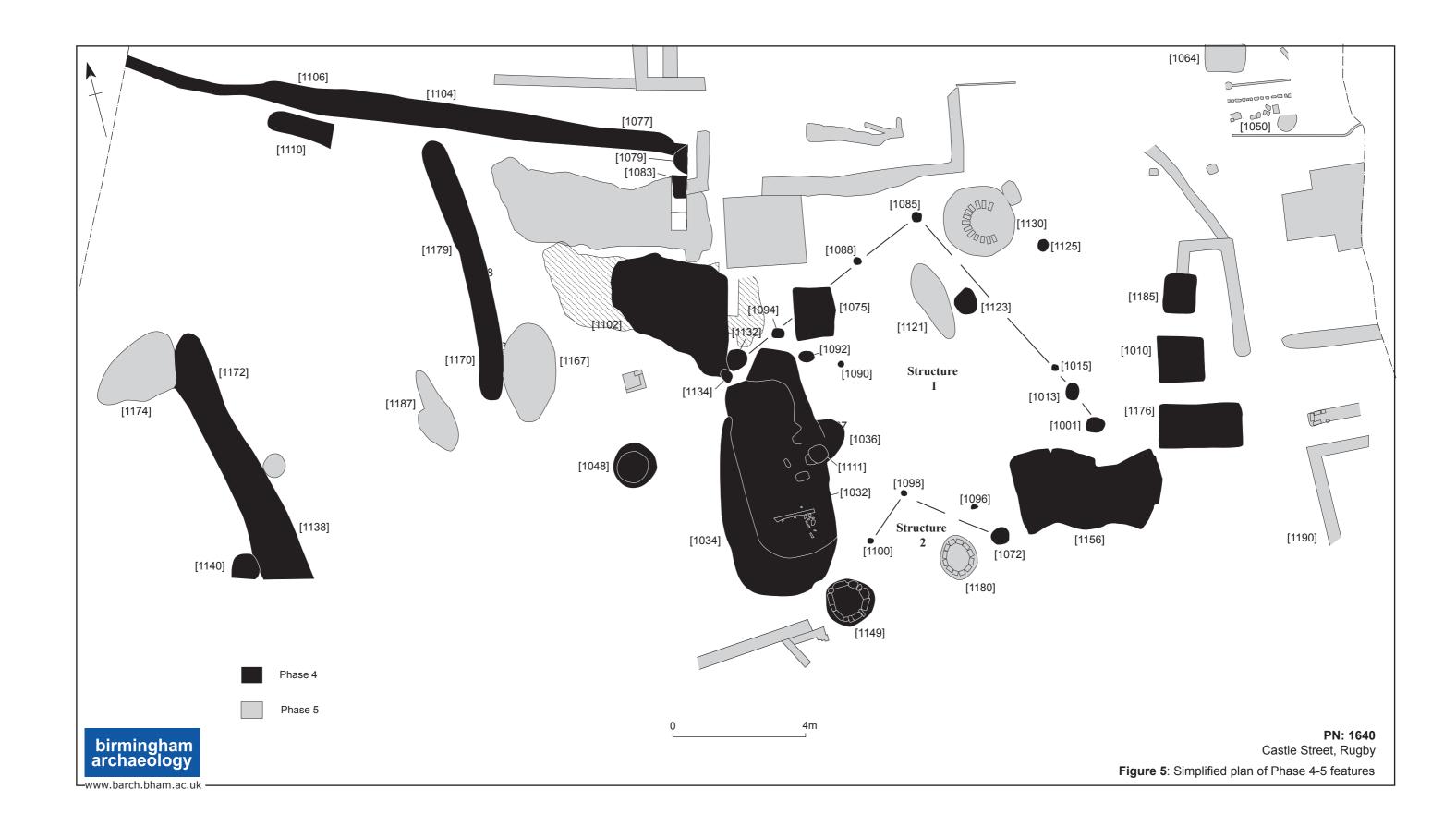
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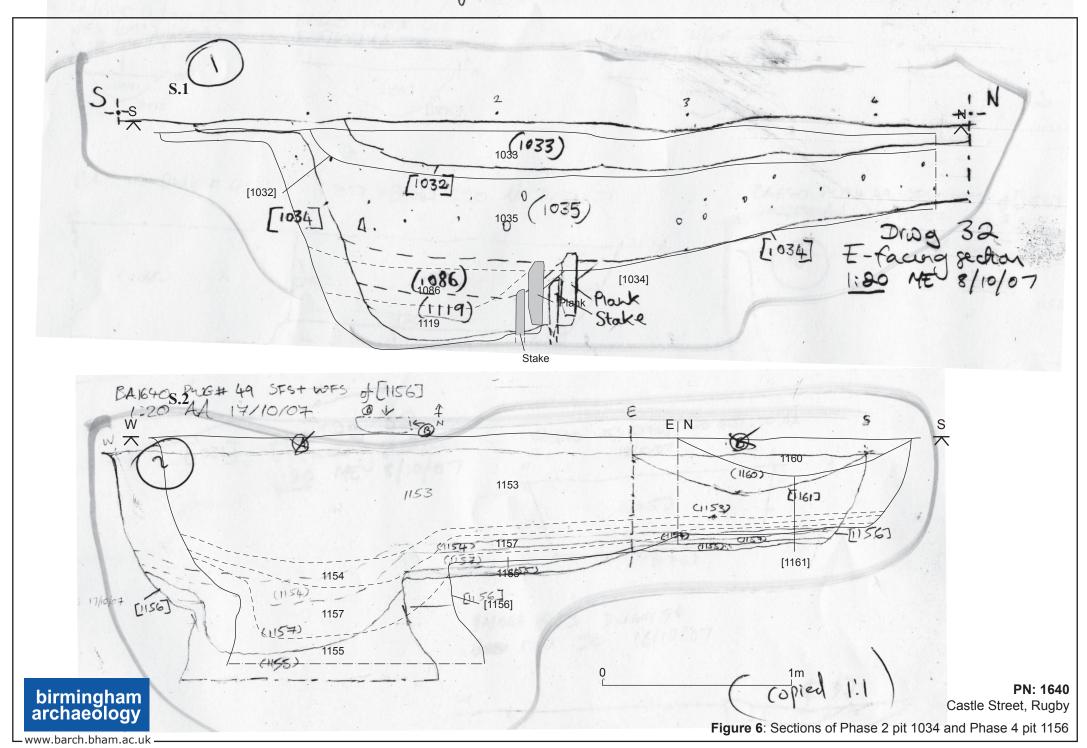




Plate 1





Plate 3

