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WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY
48, 2005



CBA WEST MIDLANDS

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND ARCHAEOLOGY
WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
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WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

48

2005

**Edited by
Sarah Watt**

CBA West Midlands

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WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

notes for contributors

CBA West Midlands welcomes contributions from anyone working in the West Midlands region, whether in a professional or local society capacity. Our aim is to document work in the region but also to act as a forum where ideas can be freely floated as short discussion articles. Contributors should aim to make any piece they submit short, concise and readable. Professional organisations should note that technical reports will not be accepted and that negative results will only be published if their significance and context is made clear. Please avoid technical jargon and do not waffle - it will only be cut out. Please also note that *WMA* should not be seen as a substitute for full publication in a county, national or period journal, but as an opportunity for providing notice and update of work carried out within the region. Longer articles may be subject to a refereeing process. Wherever possible, summaries of seminars and open days will be included in *WMA*.

Would contributors please observe the following conventions when submitting articles:

- Submit articles by **30th June 2007** at the latest.
- All text should be submitted by disk, CD or by email - **typed manuscripts will no longer be accepted.**
- The article must include the site name, a six-figure national grid reference, and a sites & monuments record number (where applicable).
- If you are submitting more than one article, group them alphabetically and by county.
- Illustrations are positively encouraged. They should include scale and north arrow. Captions should be separate from the figure. *WMA* does not hold an Ordnance Survey licence.
- Published references should be cited in Harvard style, i.e. Author surname, Date of publication, page number(s), e.g. Barker 1977, 56.
- Aerial photographs should be cited using the negative number, SMR number or other recognised reference.
- Any article or source cited must be listed at the end of the article, e.g. Barker, P A 1977 *Techniques of Archaeological Excavation* (1st edn.).
- Acknowledge **any** other person's work you have used in your article. This includes aerial photographs and geophysical reports, e.g.the site was discovered through an aerial photograph (Pickering, 1977).
- The article will be the copyright of the author.

The editor reserves the right to edit contributions as necessary. No offprints are supplied to authors. Authors are also invited to contribute to the national journals, some of which publish annual summaries of archaeological fieldwork. They can be contacted at:

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Post-medieval Britain in 2005
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BIRMINGHAM, Old Union Mill
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TREDINGTON, Armscote House, Armscote
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WORCESTER, Sansome Walk, Lamb's furniture repository
WORCESTER, Sansome Walk
WORCESTER, Sansome Walk, St. George's Roman Catholic Church
WORCESTER, 119 Sidbury and 4 Wylds Lane
WORCESTER, 119 Sidbury and 4 Wylds Lane
WORCESTER, 4/4a Whittington Road

WWI and WWII

ADDERLEY, Adderley Hall Farm
WOLVERHAMPTON, Upper Green, Tettenhall
WORCESTER, 119 Sidbury and 4 Wylds Lane

EDITORIAL

Welcome to Volume 48 of *West Midlands Archaeology*. Again, it's a full issue with a comprehensive round-up of archaeological work undertaken in 2005, both amateur and professional.

I have to announce that this is my last year as editor of the journal as, mainly due to other demands on my time, I've decided to step down after publication of this volume. Next year's volume will be taken on by my fellow committee member Sheena Payne (brave woman that she is!) It is with some regret that I'm relinquishing the editorship as I have enjoyed doing it and have got a lot out of it. Still, this is my sixth year as editor and it's probably time to hand it over. I'd like to say thank you to everyone who's contributed to the journal over the last six years and to John Heath of Impress Printers, who printed it for us until last year.

To facilitate the change in editorship and to ensure that *WMA* is up-to-date, I would appreciate it if organisations with an entry in the Directory section would please check this for accuracy and contact Sheena with any amendments before the end of June 2007.

Many thanks,

Sarah Watt
Hon. Editor

THE FORUM

A POTTERY INDUSTRY ON THE BANKS OF THE WYE

**Asda Development, Land to the West of A49 and Belmont Avenue, Hereford
(NGR SO 50510 39310)**

K. H. Crooks

A substantial dump of kiln wasters including both pottery and roof tile was uncovered during construction work for a new ASDA supermarket, on the southern side of the River Wye in Hereford (Fig. 1).

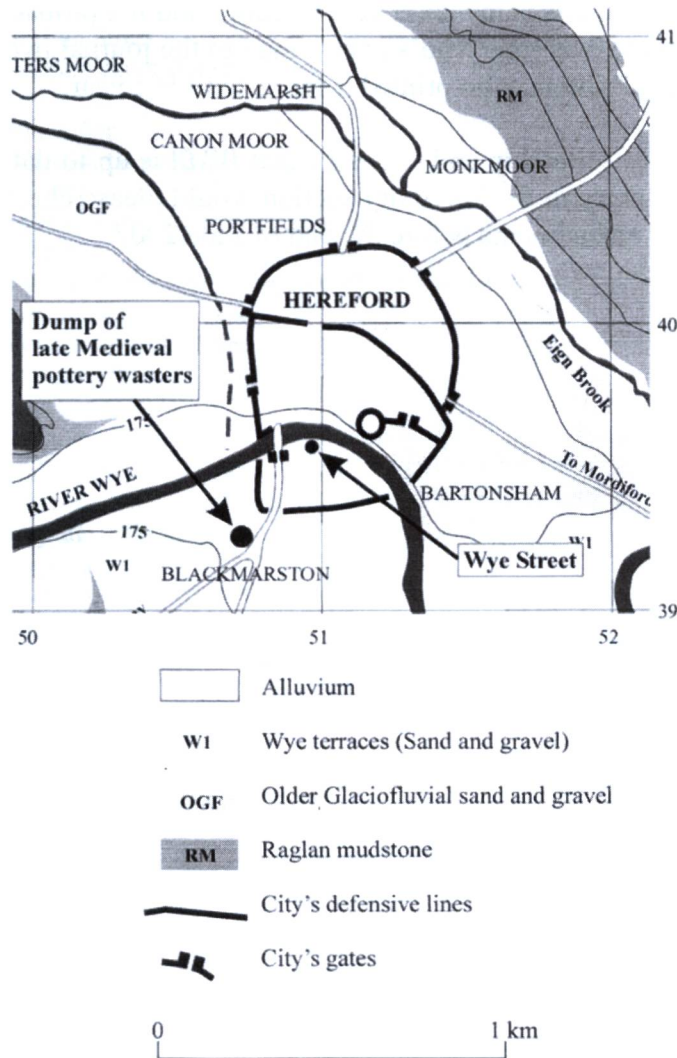


Fig. 1: Location of pottery kiln

The evidence for local pottery manufacture came from two locations within the site. One, a formally excavated trench in an area occupied by Causeway Farm (the deeds for which survive back to the mid 13th century), the other to the east of this in an area subject to a watching brief. At the first of these locations the following sequence of layers was recorded from top to bottom:

- A post-medieval cobbled surface situated c.1m below the modern day ground surface
- A patch of orange-brown sand and cobbles at the south end of the trench (480)
- Pebbles and cobbles in a pinkish sand matrix forming a surface (479)
- A mixed layer of cobbles and gravel in an orange-brown matrix (478)
- A dump of kiln waste within layer 478 was distinctive enough to be recorded separately (477)
- The remains of a cobble surface (482)
- Natural clay (481)

In the second location an area of medieval metalworking was identified and in summary comprised (again from top to bottom):

- Recent deposits (c.1m deep)
- A black ashy deposit containing slag and pottery (703)
- A burnt red clay (702)
- A sooty cobbled surface covered in slag (701)

The following types of sherd have been classed as wasters:

- Those with glaze on their breaks
- Those that are clearly over- or under-fired
- Those with other types of glazing faults

Although many of the remaining fragments of pottery and tile were probably also wasters they were not classified as such due to a lack of definitive evidence. There is some evidence to suggest that pottery and roof tile were made on the same site where the rim or base of a jug was found, fused by the glaze to a fragment of tile.

The material has been identified as Herefordshire fabric A7B, described as ‘fine textured with a few small rounded quartz grains, generally less than 0.3mm. White mica and a few sandstone fragments occur. Brown clay pellets are distinctive, being 0.1mm to 3.0mm across. The white slip contains angular quartz and white sandstone fragment but no mica’ (Vince 1985).

The most common form from the site was the rod handled jug, with a central knife cut groove to the handle (**Fig. 2**; Nos. 1, 2 and 3). Forty-two fragments of these handles were recovered (11% of the total number of sherds of this fabric). Strap handles were present, in smaller quantities. Bases seem to have been thumbled/frilled (23 examples – **Fig. 2**; No. 4), though plain bases (**Fig. 2**; No. 5) were also present (7 pieces). The form of the frilled bases meant that it was difficult to measure size with any certainty though most seem to have been about 15cm in diameter. It could not be ascertained whether the rod handles and frilled bases were associated or whether the rod handles were associated with plain bases.

Both inturned and squared rims were represented; squared rims seem to have been associated with rod handles, though Vince (2002) states that rod handles occur on both rim forms. The few spouts were pulled with no examples of bridge spouts. In addition to the large/medium-sized jugs, five small jugs with rod handles were represented. No bases of these vessels were found.

Two handles of pipkins or skillets, and sherds of internally glazed cooking pots, and of bowls of dishes, also internally glazed, suggest that other forms were made on the site. Although these

were found in the waster dumps there was no definite evidence that they were wasters. A single finer sherd in this fabric, with a clear, green speckled glaze possessed glaze on a broken surface. In general the body sherds were too small for the form to be evident. This is largely a result of the fact that the waster dumps were used as consolidation, and were therefore further crushed and broken during use of the surface. However, the vast majority of vessels seem to have been jugs.

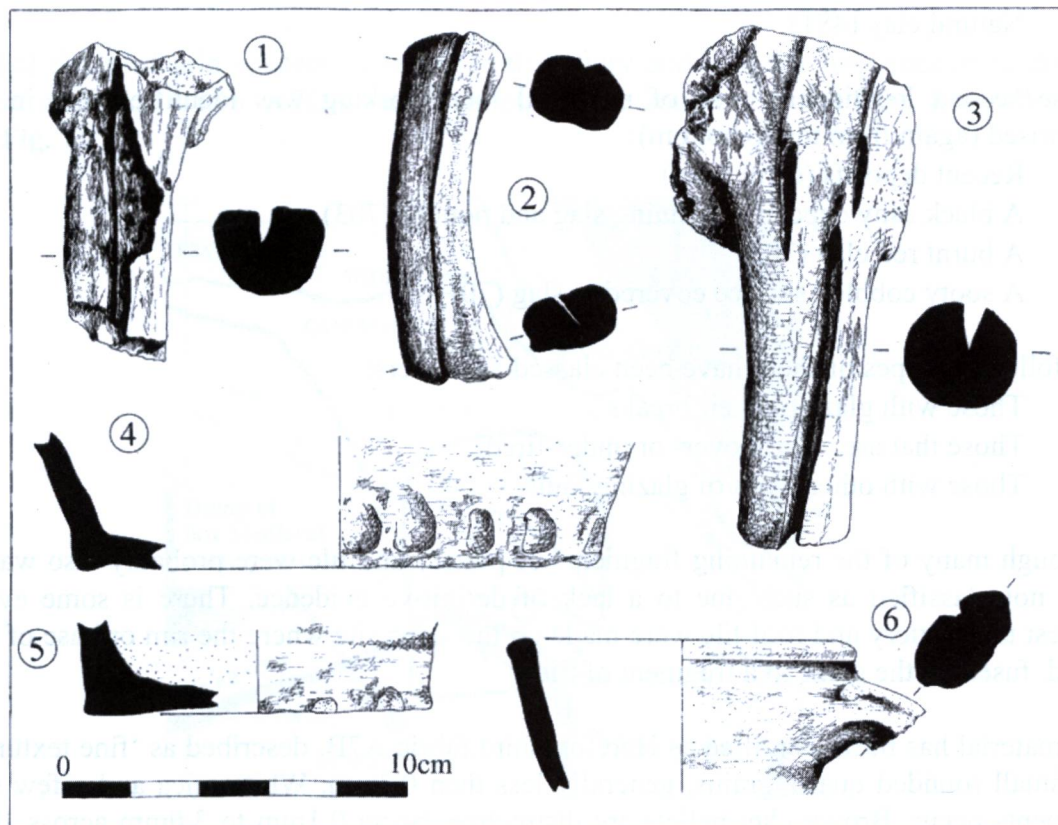


Fig. 2: Examples of pottery found

Wasters of flat tiles and ridge tiles were present, with moulded crests on 6 ridge tiles out of 259 tile fragments. The crests were luted onto the tile with the join being a point of weakness, as in the majority of cases the decorative crest had broken away. There was some variety of surface treatment, though it should be noted that many of the fragments of tile were very small and a patchy or incomplete glaze may mean that different fragments from a single tile could have been recorded more than once and as having different surface treatments. No surface treatment was present on 83 fragments (32%) while 156 were glazed (60%). The glaze varied between a thick glossy coating and occasional splashes, which might have dripped from other vessels in the kiln. On 26 examples the glaze appeared not to have fluxed.

Although there have been previous finds attesting to the presence of a pottery industry in Hereford or its immediate surrounds, none were as substantial as the waster dumps on the ASDA site. However, 34 wasters of this fabric were found on Wye Street in 1985/6 (Vince 2002) 400m northeast of the present site, the excavators believing that the kiln might have been at some distance from the find site. Wye Street was known in medieval times as Rodipot Way (Tonkin

1966) and it seems possible that the name Rodipot could refer to pottery, implying an industry along the south bank of the Wye. Vince considered this to be a typical location 'on the outskirts of the town in an area where settlement seems to have started in the later 13th century'.

Fabric A7B is first found in mid-13th-century contexts in Hereford and is considered to be residual by the mid-16th century (Vince op. cit.). It was the main fabric in Hereford in the 14th and 15th centuries, accounting for over 40% of the pottery recovered from city contexts. Although kiln wasters had previously been found in the area, giving rise to the suggestion that this pottery was produced in or around Hereford, the only site at which substantial waster dumps had been found in the county was at Weobley. Vince (op. cit.) speculated that the pottery found in Hereford originated from more than one source and it is now certain that this was the case. More pottery of this fabric (337 sherds) than tile (274 fragments) was recovered from the site.

No kiln has so far been found, though the earlier discovery of a kiln spacer at Greyfriars Bridge suggests that one existed in the vicinity. Although the wasters may have been moved for a certain distance, as they were eventually used for consolidating surfaces, the quantity suggested that they were easily available. The waster dumps all contained material of later date (16th century), probably intrusive from continued use of the surface, while the kiln wasters from a dump thought to derive from metalworking debris were associated with 13th- to 14th-century pottery of other fabrics.

Table 1: Summary of pottery of fabric A7B from the site

Context	total A7B	overfired	underfired	Glaze faults	wasters	%	Rod handle	Base
476	2	1			1	50	1	1
477	96	24		14	38	54	6	4
478	136	51	2	15	68	41	27	9
479	6	1		1	2	33	1	1
482	73	13		5	18	24	3	8
483	10	3		1	4	40	3	2
701	9		1	1	2	22	1	
703	5	3			3	60		2

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FIELDWALKING AT BROADWAY, WORCESTERSHIRE

Alan J Jacobs (Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeological Service) with contributions by Andrew Mann, Alvaro Mora-Ottomano, Carolyn Hunt, Mike Glyde and Deborah Overton

Introduction

This was an exciting project undertaken in partnership between professional and amateur archaeologists at Peters Farm, Middlehill, on land to the northwest of the Football Ground, at Broadway. This site is located in the extreme southeast of Worcestershire on the edge of the Cotswolds (NGR SP 0891 3790). The project was undertaken in order to investigate a distinct and unusual palimpsest of cropmarks (**Fig. 3**), and was fieldwalked by kind permission of the landowners - Wychavon District Council and Mr. and Mrs. Ken Brain (farmers).



Fig. 3: Aerial photograph of cropmarks at Peter's Farm Broadway

All artefacts from the area of survey were recovered as part of a fieldwalking exercise undertaken by the Worcestershire Young Archaeologists' Club (WYAC), supervised by Mrs. Deborah Overton and with the assistance of the South Worcestershire Archaeological Group. WYAC successfully applied for a Lottery Heritage Fund Awards For All grant to fund an

outreach program supervising the young archaeologists in the processing, recording, quantifying, analysis and plotting of the artefacts from their fieldwalk. The results of this fieldwalk were presented to the public by members of WYAC at Broadway village hall on 25th June.

Methodology

The site was sampled by grid walking, the field being divided into 55 sampling squares covering an area of approximately 160 x 140m, divided into squares of 20m² (Fig. 4). A total assemblage of 2304 artefacts weighing 20.239kg was recovered during the fieldwalk. The group could be dated from the Mesolithic period onwards with a total of 902 sherds of Romano-British pottery weighing 6.124kg. This assemblage conforms to those from other regional sites, being dominated by Severn Valley Ware with only small amounts of fine ware pottery. Overall, the level of preservation was generally poor with the majority of sherds displaying high levels of abrasion, but a notable amount of animal bone was recovered, evidently concentrated to the west of the enclosures in the area of the pits (Fig. 4), and a regionally significant Mesolithic flint assemblage.

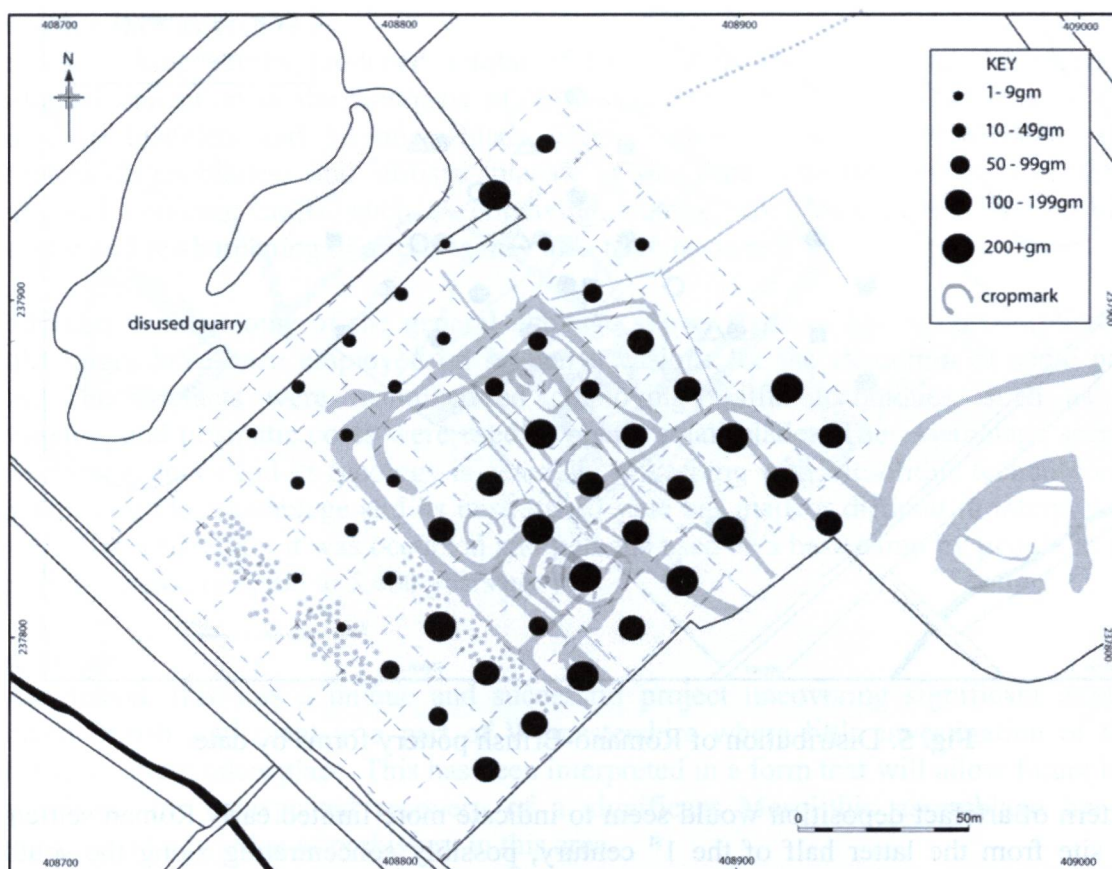


Fig. 4: Distribution of Romano-British pottery by weight

A considerable amount of Roman activity has been recorded in the vicinity of Peters Farm, Broadway, including both find spot material and cropmark evidence. In the immediate area of the fieldwalk, excavation had in 1946 uncovered Iron Age pottery, Roman brooches of 1st- to 2nd-century date as well as substantial amounts of pottery and a limestone carving. A single

sherd of Saxon pottery was also recovered, which would appear to date from the 6th to 7th century. In addition, a large number of cropmarks has been identified in the area immediately around Broadway.

Roman Settlement

The distribution of Romano-British pottery allows some limited inferences to be made regarding the chronology, extent and nature of the settlement pattern (Figs. 4 & 5). This site broadly follows the overall pattern of settlement dating across Worcestershire, with a distinct pattern of expansion in the 2nd-3rd century followed by retraction in the later 3rd-4th century. Chronological change across the site, with a distinct shift southwards, can be inferred from the distribution of the dateable forms recovered from this survey.

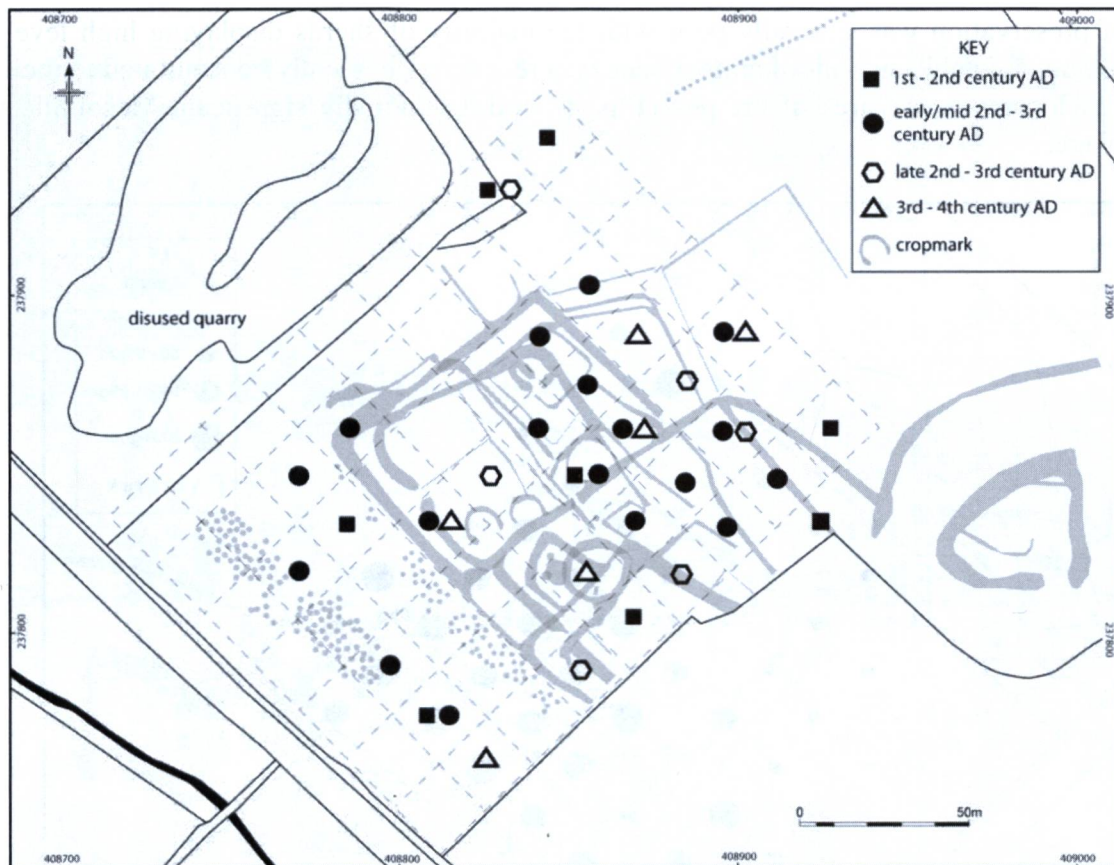


Fig. 5: Distribution of Romano-British pottery forms by date

The pattern of artefact deposition would seem to indicate more limited early Roman settlement on this site from the latter half of the 1st century, possibly concentrating along the southern borders of the area of fieldwalking. The earliest enclosure would appear to be that underlying D1-E1 where there is a concentration of Samian as well as a few early forms of Severn Valley ware. The balance of forms from the northernmost part of the palimpsest of enclosures appears of a general 2nd century date with a gradual shift southwards where a later 2nd-3rd century date range was indicated. The latest dated material again is concentrated in the southernmost area of the enclosures.

The possible prehistoric pottery was recovered from square B2 and was very abraded and indefinable, appearing to come from the area of the pits to the west of the enclosures (**Fig. 4**) and being of a fabric that dates from the 6th century BC until the 2nd century AD. It is possible that the earlier material is more deeply buried and as such is not facing degradation by agricultural activity, or located to the north in the area of earlier excavation. The more random distribution of the medieval and post-medieval pottery would appear to indicate the use of midden material for manuring.

Animal bone

The animal bone is indicative of general mixed rubbish including butchery waste, which suggests that most of the processing practices (slaughter, butchery and cooking preparation) were undertaken locally. It seems that cattle and sheep/goat were the dominant species with pig supplementing the meat diet, a common pattern throughout the Roman period. The limitations in analysis of assemblages from fieldwalking restricts the overall usefulness of the data. However, the preservation of the recently exposed bone was good, suggesting that any further invasive investigations on the site are likely to yield good animal bone assemblages.

Mesolithic flint assemblage

The fieldwalking survey produced a total of 68 worked flints, which can be regarded as a substantial collection in the southeast of Worcestershire. They are divided into 38 flakes, 2 blades, 10 bladelets and 18 micro-blade cores. Although the overall frequency of tools, retouched flakes/blades, and utilised blanks is low, the assemblage indicates that some specialised domestic crafts, such as engraving, cutting, etc. were carried out on site. The repairing and re-sharpening of artefacts may also have occurred.

In addition to this, some of the general debitage shows signs of having been utilised. These blanks might have been employed on several occasions for the execution of some particular tasks. The artefacts were manufactured employing skilful techniques, such as indirect percussion, and prismatic cores were used to obtain small blades. The assemblage seems to be fairly homogeneous and its typology is generally in keeping with Mesolithic techno-complexes. The nature of the assemblage and its unstratified state has made it difficult to interpret the site, but it is discernible that it was occupied and perhaps used as a base camp by people in the later Mesolithic period (c.8,500 to 5,400 years ago).

Conclusion

In conclusion, this was a unique and successful project uncovering significant evidence of Romano-British settlement in a part of Worcestershire where little investigation of the rural settlement pattern takes place. This has been interpreted in a form that will allow future inter-site comparison. The unexpected recovery of a significant Mesolithic assemblage has greatly enhanced our knowledge of prehistory in this area.

Fieldwork will be continued later in the year when WYAC will fieldwalk the enclosure to the southeast of the main group. It is possible that this D-shaped enclosure may represent earlier settlement activity in the area. The results of the Broadway fieldwalk will be put forward for publication in the Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeology Society.

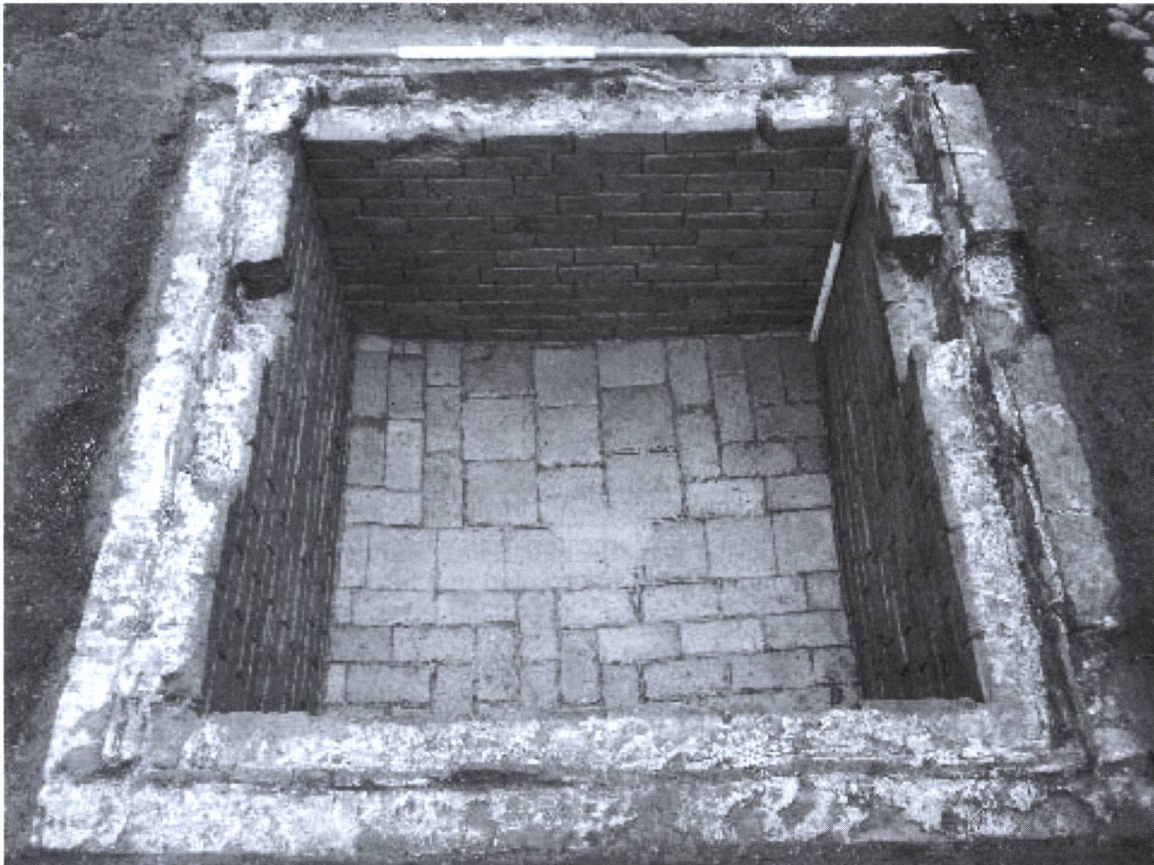
**HERITAGE WEEKEND EXCAVATION 10TH/11TH SEPTEMBER 2005
AT THE
COVENTRY WATCH MUSEUM PROJECT PREMISES, SPON STREET COVENTRY
(SO 329 790)**

Adrian Adams, Coventry and District Archaeological Society

Following the removal of a large build-up of overburden from the garden of the museum a request was made to CADAS to put in a trial trench, the premises being in an area that has seen activity since at least the early mediaeval period.

An area 2m square was marked out using a small area of protruding mortared brick as a base point. Following removal of a levelling layer a brick structure was found to sit almost exactly within the marked area (**Fig. 6**). Full excavation of the structure revealed a brick tank, 2m square externally by 1.5m internally by 1m deep, double skinned with tiles mortared vertically between the skins to provide a water tight structure. The fill was mainly bricks and tile which may have come from demolition of the upper part of the structure, plus pieces of Victorian domestic pottery, bone, clay pipes, shoes and oxidised metal fragments.

The interpretation is that it was used to store water for the Victorian brewhouse which sat immediately adjacent to it, and which was demolished sometime in the early to mid 20th century.



**Fig. 6: Brick water tank excavated at Coventry Watch Museum
BUILDING RECORDING AND WATCHING BRIEF AT SINAI PARK FARM,**

AT
BRANSTON, NEAR BURTON-UPON-TRENT
(SK222 230)

Ken Hollamby, John Samuels Archaeological Consultants
(as presented at Staffordshire Archaeology Day, 2006)

Introduction

In 2004 John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC) were commissioned to record the farm buildings and carry out a watching brief during construction works in support of a planning application for a barn conversion at Sinai Park Farm, Branston, near Burton-upon-Trent. Our work built on a survey by Bob Meeson in 2001. The client's architects had previously drawn outline plans and elevations of the site and standing buildings.

In 2004 JSAC prepared detailed drawings of the timber structures and the ground-floor fittings in the two-storey section of the complex. JSAC made a detailed photographic survey in colour and black-and-white of all the standing buildings. Further photographs were taken during the watching brief visits in 2005. During the fieldwork phase Room Based Recording Forms and Brickwork Recording Forms were prepared and rubbings taken of the carpenter's marks. Robert Howard of Nottingham University prepared the tree ring dating report.

History

The farm complex is not listed but is adjacent to Sinai Park House, situated on a moated site protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (**Fig. 7**). The house is listed Grade II*. The origins of the estate can be traced back to the 10th century. By 1086 it was held by the monks of Burton Abbey. In the early 14th century a house standing on the moated site was used by the monks when they had their blood let. In the early 16th century it appears to have been tenanted, as the monks complained that they no longer had their customary recreation called 'le seyges'. This appears to be the origin of the name Sinai but in its current form it was coined by the antiquary William Burton in 1622 who thought the estate resembled the biblical wilderness of the same name. A map of the late 1750s shows an L-shaped building in the same position relative to Sinai House as the surviving two-storey farm building.

The estate came into the Paget family in 1546. Henry William Paget was created Marquis of Anglesey after the Battle of Waterloo. The house and surrounding farmland was sold to Burton Co-operative Society in 1918 and has passed through several owners since then.

Dating

The earliest phase of construction of the L-shaped building used timber felled in 1499, which is consistent with the earliest phase of Sinai Park House (1494-1534). There was a major phase of alteration, including the insertion of the floor, using timber felled in 1635. The third phase of Sinai Park House uses timbers felled between 1597 and 1655.

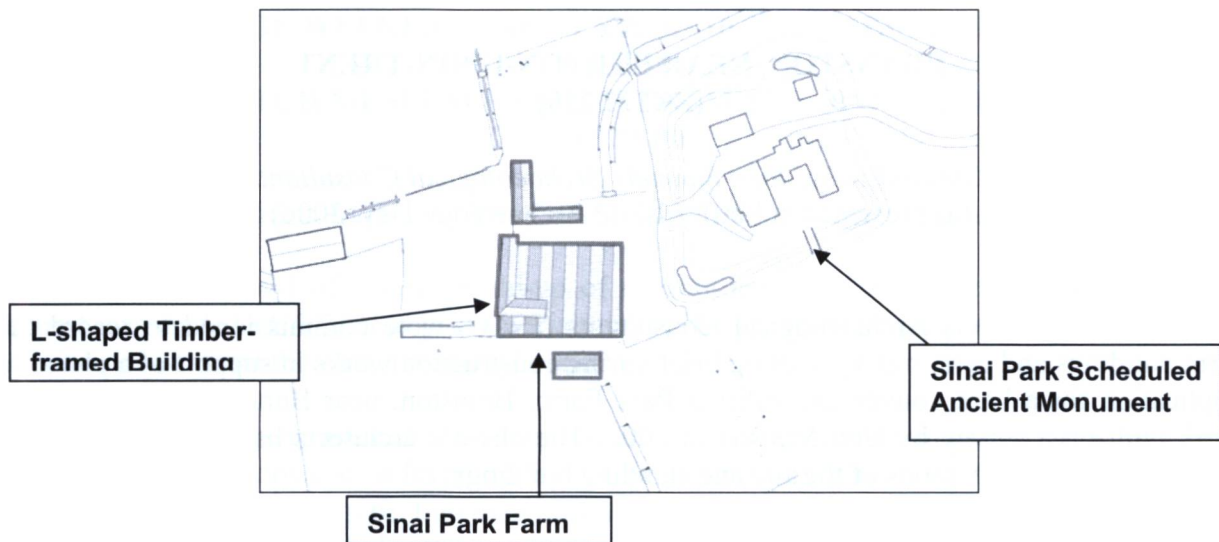


Fig. 7: Plan of Sinai Park Farm

This suggests that the work on the two phases of the timber-framed barn was connected with the development of the house at times when agriculture was thriving. There is no firm dating of the model farm phase but the house was re-modelled in the late 18th century and the farm appears to date from this period. The layout of the buildings conforms with mid-19th-century ideas on the application of industrial work flow systems to farming. At this time the buildings were on three sides of an open yard.

The single-storey buildings and the yard were later roofed in corrugated iron. This type of development does not come to Staffordshire until the end of the 19th century. There do not seem to have been any major changes in the 20th century. The farm was still using horses in the 1950s and the house did not have mains water at that time.

Model Farm

Susannah Wade-Martins defines a model farm as '*a steading built for a land owner who wanted to set an example to the tenantry on his estate and society at large, invariably in addition to satisfying his own taste for classical or picturesque buildings ... Sometimes they incorporate an earlier barn*'. Sinai Park Farm demonstrates all of these features. Its south-facing elevation (**Fig. 8**) on high land overlooking the Trent Valley was clearly meant to impress the neighbours. Its layout conforms to 19th-century ideas of workflow. Raw materials were delivered to the upper storey and fed through chutes to feed processing machinery on the ground floor (**Fig. 9**). The overhead power-trains survive. Feed was delivered to stock through a central feeding passage and manure is conserved in a covered manure store considered by Bob Meeson to be '*an extremely rare survival*' (his italics). **Fig. 10** shows the L-shaped building as viewed from the northeast.



Fig. 8: South-facing elevation of the model farm

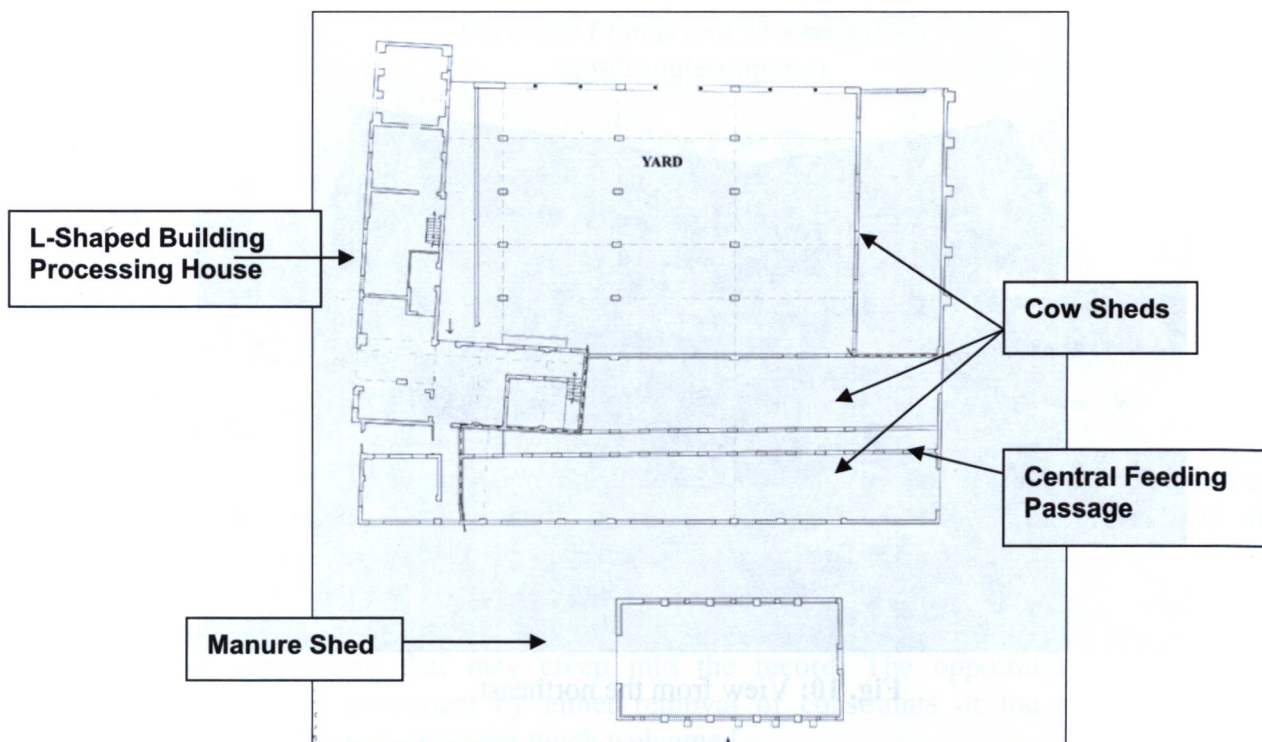


Fig. 9: Site Plan showing the relationship between the medieval building and the model farm development

Interpretation

At this stage of the project we had a clear idea of how the farm developed and how it operated but there was still some debate on whether the oldest buildings were in situ or if they had been built from timbers moved from elsewhere. All the surviving timbers are at first-floor level.

These were visible during the 2004 surveys but the lower part of the building was obscured by later developments. Building work during 2005 exposed the lower parts of the building.

The foundations of the east-west wing are 5 courses of exposed sandstone blocks. Similar blocks were seen under the north-south wing. Sinai House has similar foundations. The principal posts are cut off at first-floor level. One of the buildings in the main house has timbers similarly cut off.

The 15th-century tree ring dates are grouped in the north-south wing with some in the east-west wing, mainly in the principal posts. The 17th-century dates are all in the east-west wing. The floor was inserted in the 17th century.

An L-shaped building is shown on the late 1750s map.

A plan of Cranley Hall near Eye in Suffolk, dated 1626, shows agricultural buildings outside and to the southwest of a moated manor house. This is a similar layout to Sinai Park.

All this leads to the conclusion that the first phase of the building is in situ and was originally built as an open barn in the late 15th or early 16th century. It was later modified and a floor was inserted in the 17th century.



Fig. 10: View from the northeast

Conclusion

Before the advent of PPG16 and developer-funded archaeology this group of derelict farm buildings would have been demolished and the information contained within them lost. This project applied standard archaeological and building recording techniques to tease out the complex history of the site. It demonstrates that the use of historical sources, building recording, industrial archaeology, oral history and the application of scientific analysis can all contribute to a satisfactory outcome.

The confirmation that the core of the complex is a previously unrecognised, in-situ medieval barn is a useful contribution to the history of Staffordshire. The results of the project could be developed as an educational resource with many opportunities for further research.

Credits

Funding: Cameron Homes Ltd.
 Building Survey: Simon Johnson
 Dendrochronology: Robert Howard, Nottingham University
 Analysis & Report: Ken Hollamby

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REDEFINING THE EARTHWORK ENCLOSURE AT PILES COPPICE, BINLEY, WARWICKSHIRE

Mercedes Planas and Martin Wilson
 (gps@southernrain.biz)

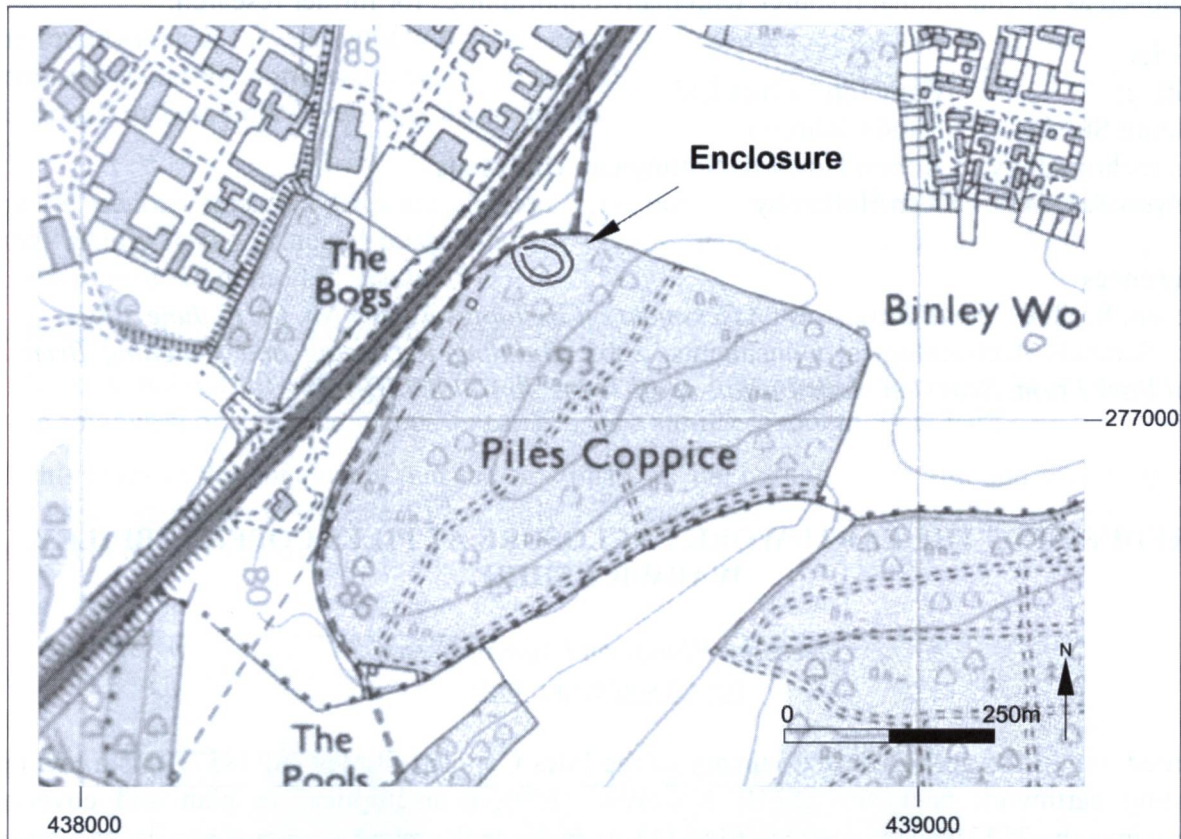
Situated within the northeastern boundary of the Piles Coppice, Binley (SP385770) is a low up-standing earthwork enclosure (SMR No. WA 7179), near-elliptical in plan and covering approximately 2527 square metres (**Fig. 11**). It is located amongst mature sessile oak and a mature small leaved lime coppice and, for the most part of the year, is largely concealed by dense undergrowth.

Purpose of the Survey

It was first observed by amateur archaeologist, Pete Woodward at the time of the construction of Coventry's Eastern Bypass in 1987. It was then surveyed a few years later (Wilson, 1993, 84-5, fig.25) using conventional manual archaeological recording techniques. The difficulties of using measuring tapes and levelling staff in such conditions need little explanation to those archaeologists who have attempted such feats. Earthwork surveying is a process that necessarily involves dialogue between surveyors, and plenty of it took place at Piles Coppice. Even to the trained eye where features are in low relief and at times barely perceptible one is wary of an element of supposition that may creep into the record. The opportunity to improve our understanding of a monument by either removal of constraints or the application of new techniques is therefore always very much welcomed.

It should be added that the re-survey was to a certain extent prompted by perceived threat to the monument and the need to highlight, in cultural resource management terms, the rarity of such earthworks that are located in valley-bottoms. Over the last decade, the ancient woodland known as Binley Woods, which adjoins Piles Coppice, has become a local recreational facility, and with it there has been a steady increase in vandalism and public access abuse which the conservation bodies recognise as an on-going problem. The survey would enable a clearer appreciation of the

extent of survival of the monument if measures are to be taken to avoid its destruction through non-awareness.



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Fig. 11: Location of Piles Coppice

Methodology

In 2005, the authors set out to re-define the morphology of the earthwork and further characterise the extent of survival using digitally-enhanced techniques. The survey was carried out using a Total Station (TST). An un-biased sample (X,Y and Z co-ordinate point data) was maintained throughout the earthwork, as tree cover and vegetation permitted, with points taken every metre along 2-4m traverses.

A Digital Terrain Model was then computer-generated, allowing a 3-dimensional study of the earthwork from different viewpoints (**Figs. 12 & 13**). The result is a more in-depth understanding of the actual physical characteristics of the earthwork. It comprises a single boundary ditch with an open 'V' profile, which is visible up to 1m in depth and generally 8m in width, enclosing an area of approximately 1790 square metres. A slight lip is discernible above the inner slope of the ditch and may suggest the remains of a deflated internal bank. The entrance is believed to be located on the long axis of the enclosure to the northwest, but features are poorly preserved as surface phenomena. Equally, there are no discernible upstanding remains within the enclosure.

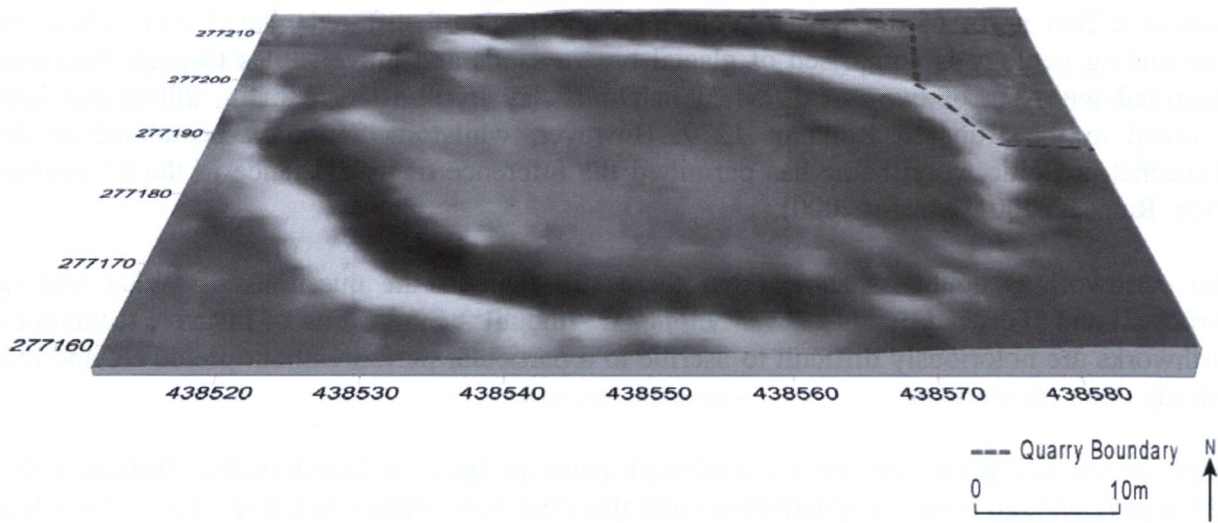


Fig. 12: Digital Terrain Model of the enclosure (facing north)

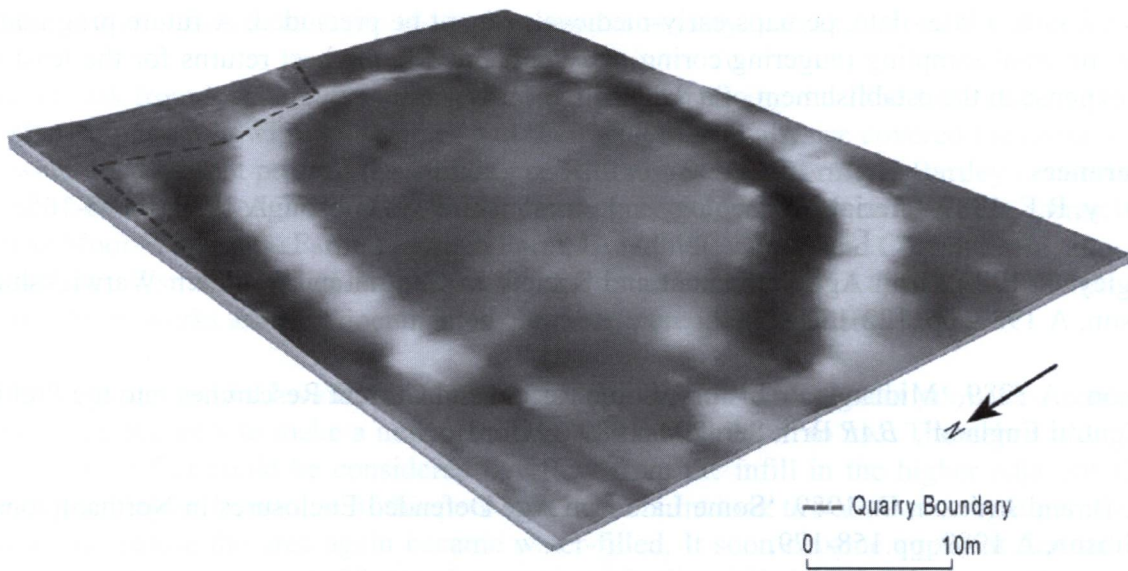


Fig. 13: Digital Terrain Model of the enclosure (facing southeast)

Uncertain Date

Piles Coppice is one of the few tracts of surviving ancient woodland in central Warwickshire. Comprising c.21 hectares it is situated on the eastern urban fringe of Coventry, alongside the bypass (A46), with Binley Woods to the east and Binley to the west (**Fig. 11**). The coppice is situated c.2km north of the River Avon upon a deposit of stiff red glacial clay, while the surrounding geology is comprised of glacial brown sands and gravel. Piles Coppice has been identified with one of two woods listed in Domesday Book 1086 (Morfitt, 2000) and later recorded in the Hundred Rolls of 1279. However, whilst its antiquity, postulated as the Munechet, a Celtic wood name has permitted the inference of its existence in the 6th century (vide. Ramsey, 2001; Morfitt 2000).

The earthwork is doubtless ancient but there still remains the questions of ‘What was its purpose?’ and ‘To what period does it belong?’ Without the application of invasive techniques, earthworks are notoriously difficult to ascribe to a particular period without prejudice, and rely entirely upon comparison.

It was previously suggested that the earthwork dated to the 1st millennium BC (Wilson, 1993) which gave enough room for speculation - and there has been much since then. If its form is Iron Age then it escapes close comparison with known types (*c.f.* Hingley, 1989, 136 and figs.9.9 and 9.10; Hartley, 1989, 99-101 and fig100) and, as pointed out by Hingley, the most common examples of Iron Age settlement enclosures in Warwickshire are rectangular or sub-rectangular (Hingley, 1989, 136). It may however, belong to a group of strongly defended small enclosures of late Iron Age date recognised in neighbouring Northamptonshire, whose forms show considerable variation (*c.f.* Dix and Jackson, 1989).

This all said, a later date, perhaps early-medieval, cannot be precluded. A future programme of environmental sampling (augering/coring) may best provide the best returns for the least effort and expense in the establishment of a date for the earthwork.

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Acknowledgements

The woodland is in the guardianship of The Woodland Trust and the survey was carried out with kind permission of Andrew Sharkey.

WOODGATE & THE VALLEY HISTORY GROUP

Maureen Surman

We are fortunate, thanks to Paul Cadbury's foresight in 1953 of a Plan for a New Birmingham Parkway⁽¹⁾, that we are still able to enjoy a large tract of land that hasn't changed much in appearance for over 200 years and probably more. This land was designated in 1984 as the Woodgate Valley Country Park.

Our Local History Group was formed six years ago to record/collate all the available information regarding a triangle of land (centre SP 005 833) and its residents that formed the northwest tip of Worcestershire prior to its amalgamation into Birmingham in 1911. The 'Hamlets' were known as Woodgate, Moor Street and California, although the name California didn't come into existence until the 1840s. The north boundary line is the Bournbrook.

Taking a break from local archives we began field walking. Using the 1883 O.S. map, we began to familiarise ourselves with field names and their shapes. Initially we covered the areas where farms were once present prior to the building of Hillcrest School (formerly Bartley Green Girls' Grammar School), Woodgate Valley South housing estate and Birmetals. These farms were known as Moor/Wilderness Farm, Nonsuch Farm, Broadhidley Farm and Coalpit Farm, although the latter was a smallholding. Hole Farm is still in existence. The Lapal Canal Tunnel and California brick works are well documented but these were included also.

During one particular field walk we came across what was once a stagnant pool. This had been cleared by the Rangers to make a new pond for the schoolchildren to use. The debris alongside contained much that could be considered overflow from the infill in the higher adjacent field. However, the clay at the bottom of this pool area had a burnt look to it and we sought permission to investigate before the area again became water-filled. It soon became apparent that the two half bricks we had uncovered (2" down) were part of a line of bricks that had a corresponding row the other side. At a point nearest to the bank we discovered 'burnt bricks' and an amount of charcoal in amongst the clay. By now the water was lapping at our feet and we were finding it increasingly difficult to pull our boots out of the clay. At what we estimated to be midway between the two lines of bricks a pit was dug. This contained a mixture of clay and black (charcoal) deposits, broken tiles and bricks. At the bottom (approximately 18") was a very large tile measuring 9¼" x 8¼". Very apt as this pool was in the field known as Big Tilers. Our

findings were communicated to the City Archaeologist, Mike Hodder, and he confirmed that we had located a brick and tile kiln.

In February, 2005 Mike met with us and taught us how to survey and measure the 'hollows', the sites of kilns or clay pits, within the Country Park. (This may be because he thought using an interested Local History Group was an ideal way of expanding the knowledge of the area, or it would keep us out of harm's way!) Six hollows, including the brick and tile kiln, were plotted in Big Tilers.

This year's winter survey was undertaken in Lower Tilers/Long Leasow and in the Urban Farm, courtesy of Mike Gee. Long Leasow has been identified through magnetic survey by Keele University as an area where burning had occurred and what is probably a tile furnace⁽²⁾. A document dated 1735 lists the fields in the area as Hidlis Tyle House Park and the Tyle House Rough⁽³⁾. One could argue that the 'hollow' on top of the spoil heap from the Lapal Tunnel in the Urban Farm was subsidence but it may also have been a source of readily available clay, especially when you consider that the owner of Hole Farm in 1871 was rated for a Brick Works in Moor Street.⁽⁴⁾ Three documents lend credence to this thought.

(1) In 1793 an order for half a million bricks was placed from the kiln in Moor Street on the line of the tunnel. Later, in 1797, having his idea of enlarging the bore cast aside, a William Jones bored for coal under the tunnel.⁽⁵⁾ At this time a William James owned Broadhidley and a mine of coal was proved by boring near the centre of the estate. This fact is confirmed with a Sales document of 1807⁽⁶⁾ and Maps dated 1883 & 1913/14.

(2) In a Will dated 1840, the then owner of Birchey Close (now Woodgate estate, off Woodgate Lane) said that previously the fields were known as Brick Kiln Close.⁽⁷⁾

(3) Two cottages still standing in Woodgate Lane were said to have been built from the marl hole in the adjacent field known as Pope's Brickworks.⁽⁸⁾

Unfortunately, some of the pools identified on earlier maps, that could have been clay pits used to build the cottages, farms and outbuildings, are now lost under roads.

There are other features within the Country Park that have been recorded and show that the land was in use in prehistoric/medieval times. These include burnt mounds and probable moated sites. During the autumn of 2004 alongside the small pool in Moat Leasow large stones were revealed that had probably been moved from their original position and had been used as a base for a house. A geophysical survey of the area, together with aerial photography evidence, suggests evidence of former human activity.⁽⁹⁾

Ancient hedgerows survive, the oldest being in Watery Lane, and which is approximately 750 years old. The hedgerow remains of the road to Wilderness Farm are dated to around 300 years and the cart track, probably used by occupants of Hole Farm to travel the fields, at 500 years. A line of trees in Moat Leasow is probably around 500 years old.

There are boundary stones, not as well known as the one at the Great Stone Inn in Northfield, but nevertheless marking parish boundaries and/or boundaries of the farms

Many areas still remain to be surveyed and we will be seen in the years ahead well wrapped up to keep out the cold. We are not academics but hope, in a small way, that we are helping to enlarge and preserve the history of the area for future generations.

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EAST WARWICKSHIRE FIELDWALKING PROJECT (Birdingbury, Brandon and Bretford, Brinklow and Wolston)

Giles MacFarland, Warwickshire Museum

Fieldwalking was carried out in 2005 at seven locations between Rugby and Coventry. The aim of the project is to understand the nature of the archaeological record in relation to the underlying geology, specifically clay and gravel. Aerial photography has revealed many archaeological features on gravel soils but far fewer on clay; this project attempts to understand if this is an accurate reflection of the archaeological record in this area.

The fields that have been walked so far (in 20m transects) are three fields in Wolston parish (SP 4191 7425, SP 4210 7439, SP 4032 7494), two in Brandon and Bretford (SP 4203 7649, SP 4207 7734), one in Brinklow (SP 4146 7862) and one in Birdingbury (SP 4322 6754). The field in Brinklow parish was unusual in that it contained no artefacts of archaeological significance at all. The other fields contained between 10 and 24 flint artefacts as well as occasional sherds of medieval and Roman pottery. The flints appeared to be in a loose scatter throughout the area, and so do not represent specific settlement sites. They also appeared to be multi-period with some diagnostic tools such as a microlith (from Birdingbury), but other tools had characteristics suggesting much later dates.

One of the fields in Brandon and Bretford (BG 01 SP 4203 7649) was exceptional in that it contained 264 flint artefacts. The flints were located near, but not centred on, an undated cropmark enclosure. Finds included a Mesolithic microlith, a Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead and many blades, cores and scrapers. However, the characteristics of the tools and the methods of flint knapping used on most of the pieces were more typical of Bronze Age or Iron Age flint

assemblages. The distribution shows that most of the flint artefacts were located near the River Avon with two main concentrations. Further analysis is in progress but preliminary work suggests that the site is multi-period. It is partly located on gravel terrace 1 of the River Avon but the concentrations are on the modern floodplain. The project has not yet progressed far enough to draw firm conclusions relating to the distribution of sites in respect to geology. Fieldwork will be ongoing in the Warwickshire area (email Gjmacfarland@Yahoo.co.uk for more information).

Table 2: East Warwickshire Fieldwalking Project, Fields walked

<i>Field Code</i>	<i>Grid Ref</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>No of Finds</i>	<i>Flint Underlying Geology</i>
FF 01	SP 4191 7425	Wolston	22	Clay
FF 02	SP 4210 7439	Wolston	10	Clay
LF 01	SP 4032 7494	Wolston	21	Gravel
BG 01	SP 4203 7649	Brandon and Bretford	264	Gravel
BG 02	SP 4307 7734	Brandon and Bretford	24	Gravel and Clay
BG 03	SP 4146 7862	Brinklow	0	Clay
DP 01	SP 4322 6754	Birdingbury	13	Alluvium

RUGBY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

June 2006

Irene Glendinning, Secretary RAS

Sadly Jack Lucas lost his fight with cancer and died in March 2006. Jack had been director of excavations since 1966 and RAS chairman for many years and is greatly missed by his colleagues and friends.

As we were aware of Jack's increasing infirmity during 2005, we ensured that the fourth and final report on the Tripontium excavations was completed during the summer of 2005 and published in August 2005. Copies are available from the Society, price £30. At Jack's request, many of the illustrations in the report are in colour and the main focus of the report is the 1990-2005 bathhouse excavations. The report also contains a summary of all research and excavation undertaken to date relating to Tripontium.

Shortly before he died, Jack nominated Craig Frogley as site director for the Society. Therefore, some excavation work is still continuing in the area around the Tripontium bathhouse under Craig's guidance. However, work on the bathhouse complex is now complete and it is likely this will be backfilled very soon, to avoid any further decay to the remaining structures.

RAS members are currently in discussion about the future direction of the Society. The immediate intention is for the excavation team to continue to excavate available ground in the locality of Tripontium. There is also a prospect of creating further publications about the work of the Society and the finds at Tripontium.

OBITUARY

Jack Lucas FSA 1921 - 2006

It is with great regret that I pass on the sad news:

The archaeologist Jack Lucas died on Tuesday 28th March 2006, aged 85. Jack was the Chairman of Rugby Archaeological Society and has been Site Director for the excavations of the Roman settlement Tripontium since 1966. He continued his work at the site until December 2005.

Jack was born in Earl Shilton, Leicestershire in 1921. On leaving school he was apprenticed to a painter and decorator. He later founded his own painting and decorating business, which operated until his retirement. Many people in the area will remember him in this capacity.

However, his consuming interest was for archaeology, particularly the Roman period. This passion was kindled during his RAF service as a maintenance fitter on Spitfires in the Second World War. During this time he travelled to many countries around the Mediterranean, including Egypt, North Africa, Malta, Sicily, Italy and France. He had many hilarious adventures during this time, with which he continued to enrapture his audiences in various local hostelrys, until recent times. Recently, his elder granddaughter transcribed some of the details from his wartime diaries, which are now accessible on the Internet (see www.bbc.co.uk/dna/ww2/U762460).

The Roman settlement of Tripontium straddles the A5 road between the villages of Newton (Warwickshire) and Shawell (Leicestershire). In the early 1960s, when some Roman remains were discovered during sand and gravel quarrying activities at Shawell, Jack joined the recently formed group of volunteer diggers. He became the Site Director in 1966 and has rarely missed a weekend at the site since that time. Under Jack's leadership, the story of Tripontium has gradually unfolded through the meticulous excavations and related research. The findings have been documented in four formal archaeological reports. The fourth and final report was published in August 2005. In 1997 a non-specialist account was published about the excavation of Tripontium and Jack's experiences as an archaeologist, but this has been out of print for some time. There are plans to publish an updated version of this book shortly.

In 1992 Jack's unstinting labours were rewarded, when he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, in recognition of his work at Tripontium. There were other accolades, most notably, Rugby Archaeological Society was awarded the prestigious 2004 Pitt Rivers Award, with which Jack was presented at the British Archaeological Awards ceremony at Queen's University Belfast (see *WMA* 47, 2004).

Most of the finds from Tripontium are on display in Rugby Museum and there is also a small exhibition in Lutterworth Museum, close to where he lived during last years of his life.

Jack is survived by his wife, Marion, son and daughter-in-law Jonathan and Lesley, and granddaughters Rebecca and Melanie. He will be sadly missed by his family, colleagues and friends. However, the legacy of his labours persists and the archaeological work he began will

be continued by RAS members. This enthusiastic team of volunteers includes just a few of the many people that Jack trained in archaeological fieldwork.

Irene Glendinning, Rugby Archaeological Society

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BOOK REVIEW

An Illustrated Chronicle of the Cluniac Priory of St James, Dudley

by John Hemingway (Friends of Priory Park, Dudley, 2005)

Paperback, 96pp, £12.50)

The author of this book, Archaeological Officer for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, will be far better known to most readers of *West Midlands Archaeology* than the site about which he writes. Dudley Priory was a small monastery, never housing more than five monks, founded in the middle of the 12th century at the foot of Castle Hill. Its surroundings are now a public open space and the Priory remains can be visited at any time.

Appreciation of Dudley Priory has hitherto been hampered by a lack of accessible published material. The archaeological record is represented by the “wall-following” excavations by C.A. Raleigh Radford in 1939, supplemented by more recent work on the floor tiles and a pool revetment wall, and the evidence provided by the standing remains. As well as the written documentary record there are several drawings and engravings from the 18th and 19th centuries which show the buildings in some detail.

This book brings together the archaeological and documentary evidence and presents this deceptively insignificant Priory in its local and national setting. The very foundation of the Priory by Gervase Pagnell brings us into national history: it was an act of atonement for deaths resulting from a fire in Nottingham during the capture of that city in the 12th century Anarchy by his father Ralph, a supporter of the Empress Matilda.

The development of the site is described with phase plans and photographs, accompanied by reconstruction drawings. The east end of the church and east cloister range were constructed first, presumably accompanied by other buildings in timber. The north range, church nave and west range followed. The chancel was subsequently extended and made square-ended, and a sacristy was added to its east. A grand chantry chapel whose walls still survive was probably added in the 14th century, and the nave walls were heightened and a new west window inserted. The chapel itself was modified in the 15th century. Decorated floor tiles laid here (described in

detail and illustrated in an appendix) seem to have included tiles reset from elsewhere on the site. The setting of the Priory was greatly enhanced by the pools which almost surrounded it and offset to some extent its subservient position in relation to the castle looming above it.

For each period, the book describes landholdings and church holdings, together with the often long drawn-out disputes relating to them. The background and careers of some of the monks and priors of Dudley are known from the Bishop's Registers. The Priory was subjected to two major break-ins in the middle of the 14th century which not only indicate unrest but also tell us something about the possessions and contents of its buildings, including moveables not often represented in the archaeological record.

The story of the Priory continues after its 16th-century Dissolution into its siege in the Civil War and successive occupation by a tanner, a thread manufacturer and a steam mill which ground glass and polished fire-irons. The medieval buildings suffered from stone-robbing and some demolition when Priory Hall was built nearby in 1825.

I was disappointed to see only a single, brief, reference to Sandwell Priory, which is only a few miles away from Dudley and is its twin in many ways: also founded in the mid-12th century; tenorial links (it lay within the Honor of Dudley and Gervase Pagnell had to approve the land grant for its foundation); similar size and plan (apsidal ended presbytery and chapels, north cloister); probably a similar sequence of building; and though Benedictine it had links with Cluniac houses, including Much Wenlock, Dudley's mother house. The lack of a text reference is not helped by the bibliographic reference for Sandwell erroneously referring to the excavations there as being 1828-88 rather than 1982-88!

The clear and friendly style in which this book is written make it accessible to the general readership for whom it was intended, and this is reinforced by the inclusion of background information on the Cluniac order and on life in a monastery, and a glossary. One can almost hear John saying the words he's written and I for one would love to hear the lecture version! Specialist readers may not be wholly satisfied but are well-served by the comprehensive bibliography. Perhaps one day John will write a longer version which includes a reassessment of the 1939 excavations.

You should buy this book not only to learn about this West Midland monastic site but also because it supports the efforts of the Friends of Priory Park who are based in the nearby residential area and are striving to increase appreciation of Dudley Priory and its surroundings.

Mike Hodder, Birmingham City Council

HEREFORDSHIRE

BARTESTREE Bartestree Court Barns (SO 5649 4116)

Nineteenth-century farm buildings at Bartestree Court Farm near Hereford were converted for residential use. The excavation of underpinning holes, foundations and services was recorded. A building survey was carried out, which defined the phases of construction and recorded the condition and general appearance of the buildings prior to alteration through annotations on existing architects' plans and elevations, photography and site notes.

Four main phases of development to the farm complex were observed. Phase 1 includes the 17th-century timber barns. Phase 2 encompasses the brick buildings built prior to 1839. Phase 2 also includes the first extension of the hop building before 1839. Phase 3 includes the agricultural building and the lean-to on the west of the hop building built by 1886. Phase 4 includes the timber extensions to the hop building done between 1929 and 1971. The watching brief proved that no archaeological finds or features were present within the excavated areas of the site.

Rouse, D., 2004, Bartestree Court Barns, Bartestree, Herefordshire. Archaeological building recording and watching brief. HAS 636

BROCKHAMPTON. Brockhampton Court Nursing Home (SO 5980 3231)

During the course of a watching brief, part of the remains of a recently demolished 19th-century building and garden boundary wall were located with associated ground levels. A brick-built water storage tank fed from the roof drains was located by excavation, as were various services relating to the house. No archaeological finds or features pre-dating the 19th century were present within the excavated areas.

Rouse, D. 2005, Brockhampton Court Nursing Home, Brockhampton, Herefordshire. Archaeological Watching Brief and Building Recording. HAS 676

BROMYARD, 25 High Street (SO 65401 54656)

A watching brief and building survey were carried out on the site at Bromyard. A clay floor surface of probable early post-medieval date was present near the back of the building at 25 High Street. A stone wall, possibly associated with the clay floor, was also present. A stone-lined tank that cut the wall and floor was located. Post-medieval pottery and bone was found in the fill of the stone tank. Two stone foundations related to the outbuildings were located aligned northeast-southwest. No dateable evidence was present in association with the wall. An ovoid brick dome topped a well that was located on the east side of the surveyed outbuildings and the corner of another stone wall was also located on the east side. No pottery was found in association with these features.

Rouse, D., 2004, 25 High Street, Bromyard, Herefordshire. Archaeological watching brief and building recording. HAS 643

BROMYARD, Pump Street (SO 65420 54590)

An evaluation excavation at the corner of Pump Street and Little Hereford Street revealed a large late medieval post pit in the middle of the site. A further posthole was also present but might not have been associated with it. Two substantial rubbish pits were also present, one of which contained a sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware.

Crooks, K, Pump Street, Bromyard: Archaeological Evaluation HAS 630

COLWALL, Park Farm (SO 73820 42400)

An archaeological project was undertaken in response to proposals to renovate the historic house at Park Farm, Colwall. The

site was apparently preferred as a Hunting lodge by the Bishops of Hereford and is one of the Bishops' palaces listed for Herefordshire.

It would appear from the preliminary analysis of the building that the earlier northern portion has survived later (most probably 18th-century) alterations much better than the southern part. The earliest (northern) part of the building is probably early 16th-century in date, later altered in the early-mid 17th century when two piles were added to the south. The two piles were probably constructed to replace an existing building (possibly the medieval hall as the 16th-century northern part of the building was clearly residential in function). There is evidence in the framing that the south wall of the north pile was originally an internal one. Some original, medieval, features may survive between the earlier and the later piles, specifically a chimney base and the possibility of early framing encased in later (18th-century?) stonework.

A., Boucher and R.K. Morriss, 2004, Park Farm Colwall, Herefordshire: Preliminary Analysis HAS 627

COLWALL, Walwyn Road (SO755 425; HSM 42930)

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for a pair of semi-detached houses on land to the rear of Bank Chambers, Walwyn Road, Colwall. The site lies well away from the historic core of Colwall, but close to the railway station, which was the nucleus of a secondary settlement focus in the mid to late 19th century. A marker stone, the "Colwall Stone", possibly of prehistoric origin, stood approximately 50m to the southwest into the early years of the 20th century, but has been removed by road widening.

Topsoil and recent deposits stripped by the builders prior to construction proved to be very shallow garden soils and post 19th-century accumulated debris. Natural deposits were encountered, within 0.3m of the existing ground surface, the only

exception being beneath the former hedge-line on the northern boundary, where natural deposits had been disturbed by root action. No archaeologically significant features were exposed – the only earlier structure encountered being a brick-lined soak-away linked by pipes to the early 20th-century Bank Chambers building. All of the artefacts observed were of late 19th-century or early 20th-century date. The new buildings were built on trench-dug cast concrete strip foundations.

Napthan, M 2005, *Watching brief at Land to the rear of Bank Chambers, Walwyn Road, Herefordshire*, Mike Napthan Archaeology Report

COUGHTON, Ross-on-Wye (SO 5956 2125)

A number of trial trenches were dug at the former Welsh Water Depot in Coughton. Archaeological deposits, including a ditch with pottery dating to the late Iron Age or early Roman period and a large ditch with Severn Valley ware were present. Although structural remains such as walls or postholes were not found the amount of late Iron Age pottery recovered from the ditch suggests that occupation was probably present in the immediate area. The construction and stratigraphy of substantial stone drains suggested that these might also be early, though this was not certain.

Crooks, K, Coughton, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, Former Welsh Water depot: Archaeological Trial Trenching, HAS 618

GOODRICH CASTLE

A programme of additional building recording was carried out on the solar arch at Goodrich Castle, in order for remedial works to be conducted on the decaying stonework. The work involved enhancement of existing drawings and the production of moulding profiles of major architectural elements, and emphasis was based on elements outside the inspection scaffold in order to give information about joints and coursing.

Mayes, S R, 2004, Goodrich Castle, North Range, Solar Arch, Historic Building Recording: Additional Record, HAS 639

**HEREFORD. 39-40 Bewell Street
(SO 508 400)**

Archaeological Investigations Ltd. was commissioned to undertake an archaeological excavation on the site at 39-40 Bewell Street, Hereford, in advance of development of the site. In addition to the excavation a watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a lift pit. An evaluation excavation carried out in 2004 had identified stratified remains dating from the Saxo-Norman period sealed by deposits and features of later medieval and post-medieval date.

The excavation uncovered remains of three phases of metalworking and a suggestion from the animal bones that the site may have been associated with tanning during the post-medieval period.

The earliest features dated to the Saxo-Norman period and appeared to be structures that fronted onto Bewell Street (**Fig. 15**). The watching brief revealed

further early features dating to the Saxo-Norman period.

Crooks, K. in prep. 39-40 Bewell Street, Hereford. Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief. HAS 683

**HEREFORD, 39-42 Bewell Street
(SO 508 500)**

A programme of evaluation was carried out on the site at 39-42 Bewell Street in order to provide information for the planning authority prior to determination of a planning application for the site. The trenches revealed a number of features dating from the 16th century or earlier, many of them containing tap slag and smithy waste, indicating that the site was used for small-scale iron working. Several yard surfaces were identified, suggesting multiple phases of activity. The earliest pottery found on the site dated to the 11th or 12th century.

Porter, S, 39-42 Bewell Street, Hereford, Herefordshire, Archaeological Evaluation



Fig. 15: 39-40 Bewell Street, Hereford

HEREFORD, 43 Bewell Street (SO 5091 4040)

A small trench was dug at 43 Bewell Street immediately prior to construction work. A number of features of medieval date, some containing 12th- to 13th-century pottery, cut natural gravel in the base of the trench. They were sealed by a number of levelling deposits dating from the 13th to the 16th century. Cutting the levelling deposits were two 16th- to 17th-century pits. The levelling dumps can probably be related to similar deposits recorded during the evaluation (HAS 600)

Crooks, K., 2004, 43 Bewell Street, Hereford: Archaeological Excavation, HAS652

HEREFORD, Land at Bishop's Meadow and King George's Field (Hereford Flood Alleviation Scheme) (SO 5090 3936)

A further archaeological evaluation, comprising the excavation of seven trenches, was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2005, following an earlier phase of geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation in 2002. Seven trenches were excavated across the development area. In the northwestern part of the site, small-scale industrial and/or domestic activity dating to the medieval period was identified. This activity probably continued into the early post-medieval period. The Rowe Ditch (bank and ditch) was examined and it is postulated that the earlier phases of construction may date to the medieval period. Victorian dumping and modern landscaping were also identified.

Laurie Coleman, Cotswold Archaeology

Cotswold Archaeology, *Land at Bishop's Meadow and King George's Field (Hereford Flood Alleviation Scheme Report No 05191*

HEREFORD, Castle Pool (SO 5130 3167)

Archaeological Investigations Ltd. was commissioned through Owen Williams to undertake archaeological studies in advance of the de-silting of Castle Pool (**Fig. 16**).

Seven cores of sediment were assessed from the pool. The pollen results demonstrated changes in vegetation within the catchment of the pool during the time represented by the sediments. The assessment considers that the species identified in the earlier, basal deposits post-date the original parkland landscaping (probably 1752–1822). The earliest deposits indicate a relatively open landscape with tree pollen increasing higher up the profile.

Probing for structures revealed a solid feature on the south side of the pool opposite the line of excavated medieval roads in the grounds of Castle House. It is thought that this may be the remains of a bridge abutment. A radar survey confirmed that the structure identified by probing is solid.

Boucher, A., 2005, Castle Pool, Hereford: Archaeological Surveys HAS 686

HEREFORD, County Hospital (SO 5155 4015)

St. Guthlac's Priory occupied the site between 1143 AD and 1539 AD and although the position of the burial ground has been known for some time there has been little evidence for the priory buildings. Most archaeological work seems to have taken place after 1970 when burials were recorded during construction of a walk-through duct. All burials were thought to be monks of St. Guthlac's and were described as being of males. These burials were aligned northwest/southeast instead of the more usual east/west.

Recent excavations have revealed the likely extent of the priory burial ground (**Fig. 14**) marked by a double ditch on its northwestern side. Although no ditches or walls were seen to the north and southeast, the sudden cessation of burials made it clear that the limit of the cemetery had been reached; truncation from later features may have removed evidence for such boundaries. In addition, a large, undated, ditch was located east of the edge of the

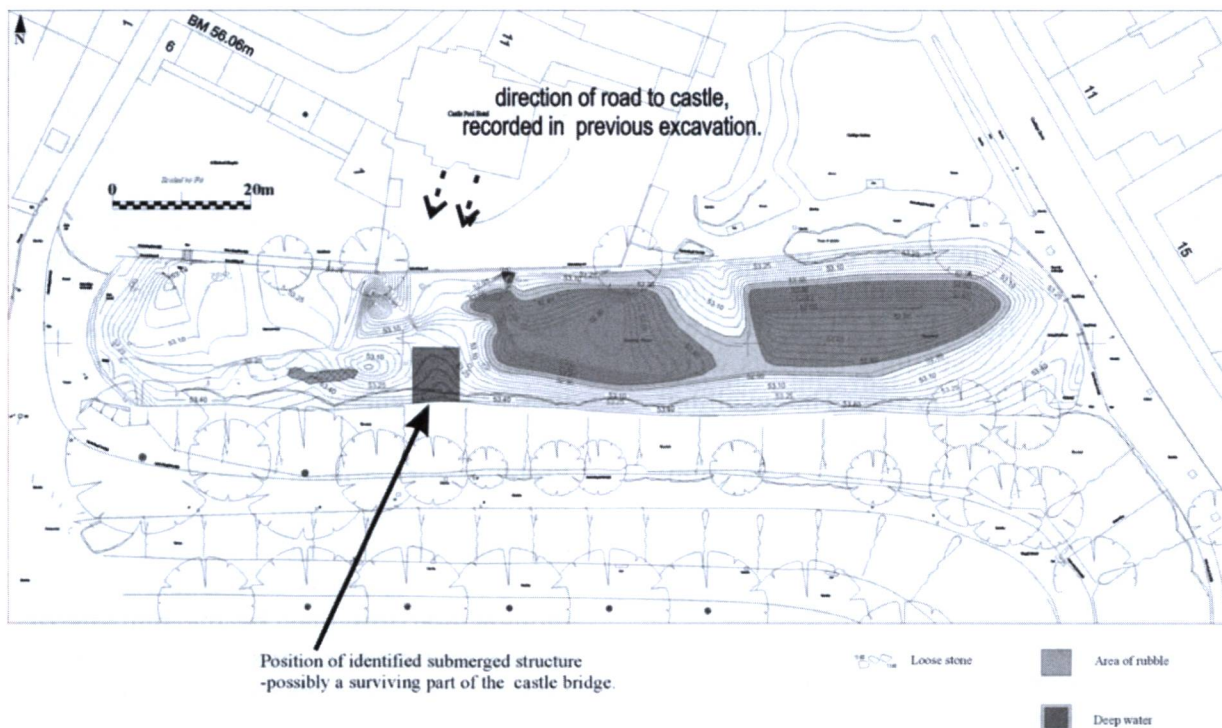


Fig. 16: Contour survey of Castle Pool Moat showing loose stone and areas of hard packed rubble

burial ground, coinciding with the line of the parish boundary.

A substantial wall and possible buttress on the northern part of the site seem likely to have been part of the monastic church. The alignment of this masonry is the same as that of the burials; if this was the church then they would probably have been aligned on the building. The wall cut a number of burials so must have been part of a later phase of construction. Less substantial walls located to the southeast may also have been associated with the priory; their full nature and extent is yet to be established.

Two anomalous burial positions were recorded, one contracted and on her side and the other face down, but it was not clear whether the last was the result of accident or whether there were more sinister reasons. A number of different burial customs were recorded on the site, including burial in stone cists and a burial with stone 'earmuffs' supporting the head inside the wooden coffin. Two individuals were

buried on a bed of lime or mortar. A number of wooden coffins was also present, though the density of burial in the more 'populous' parts of the burial ground caused difficulties in identifying whether a particular individual was coffined or not. One individual in the northeastern area was buried with a mortuary chalice, suggesting priestly status.

It is possible that the more varied burial customs predate the later part of the 13th century, after which a number of factors seem to have led to a greater standardisation of burial practice. The total number of individual interments examined was small, meaning that analysis of burial customs was limited.

Examination of the skeletons has revealed that women and children were buried in all parts of the cemetery so far examined, indicating that the burial ground served a wider community. It is likely that the parish in question was that of St. Peter, which maintained strong links with St. Guthlac's

from 1101 - when Hugh de Lacy granted the priory to St. Peter's Abbey in Gloucester - until the dissolution. Disputes with the Cathedral over burial rights seem to have erupted shortly after de Lacy's grant, with a deal made by Bishop Reinhelm (d. 1115) maintaining the Cathedral's burial rights with Gloucester Abbey having complete control over St. Peter's church. It seems likely that so far the part of the burial ground reserved for the monks has not been found.

In light of the above work it must now be considered that many of the burials from earlier excavations considered to be 'probably male' or 'with female characteristics' may, in fact, have been those of women.

K H Crooks, HAS

**HEREFORD. Sunbeam Corner, Friar Street
(SO 50600 40060)**

Archaeological Investigations Ltd. was commissioned to undertake a watching brief during the excavation of foundation trenches at Sunbeam Corner, at the corner of Eign Street and Friars Street in Hereford

Three pits, containing pottery dated to the 12th and to the 14th to 15th centuries suggested occupation in the vicinity during the medieval period.

Crooks, K. 2005. Sunbeam Corner, Friar Street, Hereford. Archaeological Watching Brief. HAS 672

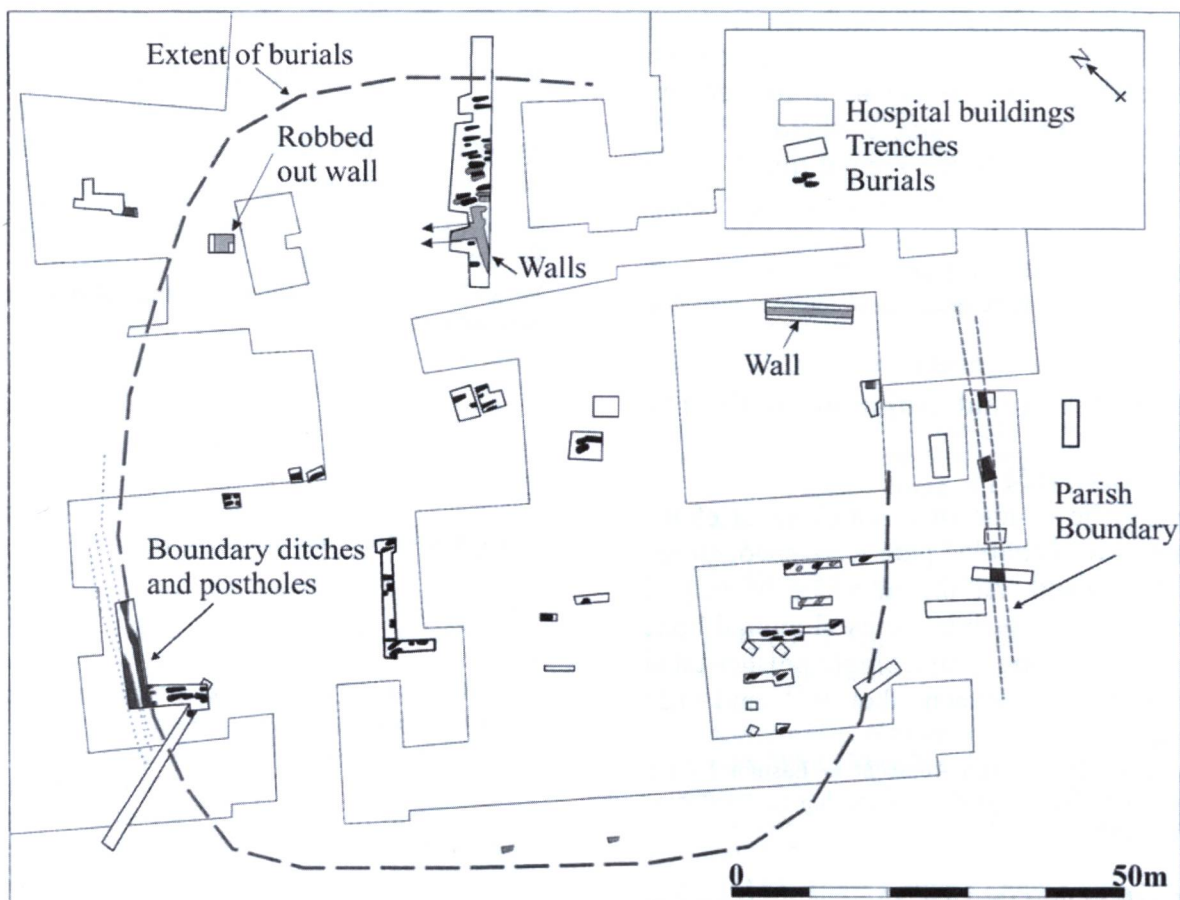


Fig. 14: Site plan - County Hospital, Hereford

HEREFORD, Gaol Street/Bath Street (SO 5139 3190)

Monitoring of eight archaeological boreholes and four engineers' holes provided evidence for the line of the City ditch and for the environment in the area at the time when the ditch was open. Waterlogged conditions had led to the good preservation of seeds and potential for the preservation of pollen. An assessment of the lower silts suggested these might be suitable for C14 testing. Little charred grain was present but seeds of over 50 species of water, marginal and land plants were found. Crooks, K, 2004, Gaol Street/Bath Street, Hereford:Archaeological Monitoring of Boreholes HAS 654

HEREFORD, 53 St. Owen's Street (SO 5138 398)

Two small trial holes were excavated at the rear of 53 St. Owen's Street. In the first was a build-up of garden soil with later post-medieval pottery. Beneath, a further soil layer contained a single sherd of 13th-century pottery. In the second trench was a large pit with 16th-century pottery and other finds.

Crooks, K, 2004, Land at the Rear of No 53 St Owen's Street, Hereford:Archaeological Test Pits, HAS 649

LEDBURY, Land Adjacent to Eastnor House (SO 7124 3765)

During the course of a watching brief the remains of a cobbled path were encountered in the topsoil. At the interface of natural deposits and overlying subsoil animal bone was found along with a single potsherd that dated from between the 10th and 12th centuries.

Rouse, D. 2005. Land Adjacent to Eastnor House, Worcester Rd, Ledbury. Archaeological Watching Brief. HAS 663

MORETON-ON-LUGG, Moreton Business Park (SO 505 483)

An archaeological evaluation was carried out as a condition of planning consent for the development of the site, which was

formerly part of a military base. In one trial-trench in the west part of the site two parallel shallow linear ditches were recorded, one of which contained three abraded sherds of Romano-British pottery. In another trench, close to the northern limit of the site, a shallow linear ditch was recorded containing a partial semi-articulated horse skeleton. The size of the horse skeleton was consistent with an animal dating to the Iron Age or Romano-British periods. Close to the southern edge of this linear ditch was an undated feature, possibly a pit.

The linear ditches were all on a similar alignment, all the features contained similar fills and were sealed by a similar depth of alluvium. This evidence suggested that all the features could date to the Romano-British period or perhaps earlier. The precise function of the features is unclear, although it seems possible that the ditches could be associated with drainage and/or agricultural activities. Similar features have been recorded during investigations to the north of the site and at the nearby Wellington Quarry.

Mary Duncan and Laurence Jones, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1350

The following sites had watching briefs/evaluations carried out on them by Archaeological Investigations Ltd., but were found to contain nothing of archaeological significance:

DINEDOR, Car Parks at Dinedor Camp (SO 5228 3461)

Rouse, D. Carparks at Dinedor Camp, Dinedor, Herefordshire. Archaeological Watching Brief. HAS 678

DOCKLOW, Hampton Wafre Farm

Rouse, D., 2004, *Hampton Wafre Farm, Docklow, Herefordshire. Watching brief on excavations for a telecommunications mast. HAS 626.* (NGR SO 57390 56780)

ERDISLEY, Erdisley Castle (SO 3109 4901)

Ward, B. 2005. Erdisley Castle, Erdisley, Herefordshire. Archaeological Watching Brief. HAS 685.

HAMPTON BISHOP, The Stank

Crooks, K, 2004, The Stank, Hampton Bishop, Herefordshire: Photographic Survey and monitoring of Ground Disturbance, HAS 621 (SO559 380)

HEREFORD

Cantilupe Street Gardens

Poole, B, 2004, Cantilupe Street Gardens, Hereford, Archaeological Watching Brief, HAS 619 (SO5131 3969)

Gas Main Renewal (SO 510 400)

Crooks, K. Gas Main Renewal, Hereford: Archaeological Watching Brief. HAS 655

Land Adjacent to St. Guthlac Street, Hereford (SO 5150 4040)

Crooks, K. 2005. Land Adjacent to 68 St Guthlac Street, Hereford. Archaeological Watching Brief. HAS 657

71 St. Owens Street, Hereford (SO 5140 3975)

Crooks, K. 2005. 71 St Owens St, Hereford. Archaeological Evaluation. HAS 660

St. David's Pupil Referral Unit, Blackfriars (SO 5119 4043)

Ward, B. 2005 St. David's Pupil Referral Unit, Blackfriars, Hereford Archaeological Watching Brief. HAS 687

King George's Playing Field (SO 5086 3949)

Ward, B. 2005 King George's Playing Field Fibre-optic cable duct, Hereford Archaeological Watching Brief. HAS 690

Widemarsh Street

Rouse, D., 2004, *The Blackfriars Friary, Widemarsh Street, Hereford, Herefordshire Archaeological watching brief on a scheduled Ancient Monument. HAS 623.*(NGR SO 5119 4043)

KINGS CAPLE, The Forge (SO 56 28)

Crooks, K. 2005. The Forge, Kings Caple, Herefordshire. Archaeological Watching Brief, HAS 665.

KINGSLAND, The Little Croase, North Road. (SO 4442 6163)

Porter, S. 2005. The Little Croase, Kingsland, Herefordshire. Archaeological Watching Brief. HAS 662

LEOMINSTER, Leisure Centre

Crooks, K, 2004, Leominster Leisure Centre, Herefordshire, Archaeological Monitoring, HAS 629 (SO 5969 5852)

LEOMINSTER Nursery and Family Centre. (SO 4969 5852)

Ward, B. 2005. Nursery and Family Centre, off Conningsby Road, Leominster. Archaeological watching Brief. HAS 668

LEOMINSTER, 27-31 South Street

Rouse, D., 27-31 South Street, Leominster, Herefordshire, Archaeological Watching Brief (NGR SO 4967 5874)

LONGTOWN. Land adjacent to Longtown Primary School. (SO 3200 2933)

Rouse, D. 2005 Land adjacent to Longtown Primary School, Longtown Herefordshire Archaeological excavation. HAS 688

LUSTON, The Balance Inn

Crooks, K, 2004, Land at the rear of the Balance Inn, Luston, Herefordshire, Archaeological Monitoring, HAS 628 (SO 48690 63145)

LYONSHALL, Land adjoining Littlebrook Cottage. (SO 3382 5538)

Rouse, D. 2005 Land adjoining Littlebrook Cottage, Lyonshall, Herefordshire. Archaeological watching brief. HAS 689

MARDEN, Manor Farm

Rouse, D., 2004, *Manor Farm, Marden, Herefordshire, Archaeological Watching Brief, HAS 651* (NGR SO5206 4831)

MONKLAND. Stretford Bridge Farm. (SO 44042 55443)

Ward, B. 2005 Stretford Bridge Farm, Monkland. Hereford. Archaeological Monitoring. HAS 684.

MUCH MARCLE. Swan Cottage (SO 50320, SMR 390332)

Crooks, K. 2005. Swan Cottage, Much Marcle, Herefordshire. An Archaeological Watching Brief. HAS 658

PEMBRIDGE, Townsend Farmhouse

Rouse, D., 2004, *Townsend Farmhouse, Pembridge, Herefordshire. Archaeological Watching Brief and Building Recording. HAS 645* (NGR SO 3937 5815)

ROSS-ON-WYE, Vine Tree Farm

Crooks K , 2004, *Vine Tree Farm, Ross, Herefordshire: Archaeological Trial Trenching, HAS 617* (SO5940 2270)

RUCKHALL. Dinas Cottage, Eaton Camp.

Mayer, S. 2005. Dinas Cottage, Eaton Camp, Herefordshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Associated with the Construction of a New Cycle Path. HAS 667

SHROPSHIRE

ADDERLEY, Adderley Hall Farm (SJ 6586 3994)

In November 2004, a building assessment was undertaken to accompany a planning application to convert the complex of farm buildings at Adderley Hall Farm for residential use. The complex of farm buildings is located within the settlement of Adderley, c.8km north of Market Drayton, and includes an 18th-century Grade II listed stable block of high architectural and historic interest together with a contemporary walled garden on its south side. Additional farm buildings were added to the site in the 1870s and modern alterations date to the post-war period, following the purchase of the site by the current owners.

The Cope family have been farming at Adderley Hall Farm since 1958, during which time the business has expanded from 275 acres to its current area of 475 acres, providing land for the increasing dairy herd. The current planning application has evolved from the desire of the Cope family to upgrade and modernise their farming enterprise. The 18th- and 19th-century buildings are no longer suited to modern farming methods. While the 19th-century farm buildings and their modern additions are currently in use, the stable block is largely disused and as such will undoubtedly fall into serious disrepair.

In order to preserve the integrity of the Grade II listed stable block, the walled garden and the 1870s farm buildings, the current application includes removal of post-1948 modern agricultural buildings, reinstatement of the walled garden, restoration of the 18th- and 19th-century farm complex and conversion to residential use. The farming enterprise will then be removed from the current site and relocated

to modern agricultural units. The scheme will culminate in the erection of an agricultural farm worker's dwelling adjacent to the chosen site.

The settlement at Adderley was once a medieval market town, which declined in importance to become the scattered settlement surrounded by an agricultural landscape that exists today. One of the main landowners was the Corbet family, who had come from Normandy during the Norman Conquest. The descendents of the family settled at Adderley during the 16th century, building a succession of residences. In the 18th century, Adderley Hall was built for Sir Clive Corbet Bart. in Georgian style with 11 bays and a giant portico designed by John Carline the Younger (1761–1835), one of a family of stonemasons/architects who worked in the Shrewsbury area in the 18th century. To complement the hall, Carline appears to have designed the stable block, which now forms the focus of the Adderley Hall Farm buildings.

When the 1780s hall was destroyed by fire in 1857, it was replaced by the last Adderley Hall, completed in 1878 and built for H.R. Corbet on the same site as the old hall to the Gothic design of George Devey. This hall was pulled down in 1953, generally due to the high costs of maintaining such an elaborate building. With the extensive upkeep of the property, the Corbets obviously saw the benefits of putting their estate to work for them as opposed to maintaining their parkland, which was no longer economically viable. The rebuilding of Adderley Hall in the 1870s included the establishment of the Hall farm together with a farmhouse for the tenant farmer.

The farm also provides rare evidence of WWII in Shropshire. During WWII, Adderley Hall was occupied by the forces

and the farm appears to have been worked by German prisoners of war. During both World Wars, many hundreds of prisoners of war had been lodged in Shropshire – most of them put to work on the land as agricultural workers. Adderley Hall is recorded as Camp No. 192/240 and the north end of Plot 9 retains a tie beam truss inscribed in German:

‘Die Mahrheit wird euch Frei Machen’

Until the 1950s, Lt.Col. Sir John Corbet, Bart., M.B.E. owned the Adderley Estate. He took up residence at his Acton Reynald Estate, near Shrewsbury, and sold the estate by public auction on Wednesday 22nd October 1958. The Cope family purchased Lot Two – The Valuable Attested Dairy and Mixed Farm known as The Home Farm. Subsequent enlargements and improvements to assist dairy farming took place. The main structural change has been the removal of the south wall of Proposed Units 15 & 16 and the subsequent enlargement of the cow shed below the modern roofline by 1999. Despite the many alterations and the removal of the south wall, substantial parts of the 1874 building remain within the modern cattle shed. The recent removal of the c.1874 east-west brick building to facilitate the modern milking parlour has left the footprint of the former building in the concrete yard and within the milking parlour. This building will be reinstated as Unit 13 of the proposed works, constructed in materials to match the existing buildings on site.

The buildings on site are representative of three building phases of estate and agricultural development over a period of c.220 years. They provide testimony to the changing face of the English landscape, as settlement and economic patterns changed. Following the proposed scheme, the buildings together with the new farm complex will provide a further resource for the historic and social development of the farming industry in the 21st century.

The Grade II listed 18th-century stable block and walled garden represent the estate of the Corbet family displayed with Georgian elegance.

Phase 2 saw the rebuilding of Adderley Hall together with the planned farmstead, which comprised the 1873 detached barn rapidly followed by the 1874 complex. Building work included the farmhouse to the south. The 19th-century complex is representative of the planned farmsteads, constructed to supplement estate incomes and the group value of the 19th-century buildings as such is considered to be high.

Phase 3 represents post-war developments, the decline in local employment on the Corbet Estate, which culminated in the sale of the farm in 1958. The modern buildings added to the site are the result of changes in technology in dairy farming, resulting in 19th-century buildings being no longer suitable for the requirements of modern milking parlours etc.

While the current owners bear the responsibility of maintaining the Grade II listed stable block, it is unreasonable to expect them or other farmers in a similar position to maintain buildings that have limited or no agricultural use. In many cases demolition and/or badly planned conversions of redundant buildings has resulted in the loss of irreplaceable historic fabric.

The removal of unsympathetic modern features and the proposed re-use of the buildings for residential use while respecting the character and appearance of the buildings, will ensure their survival, while maintaining the character and history of the site. The retention of elevation details, minimum loss to the original fabric, respect for original openings and doorways will ensure the survival of the buildings, which bear evidence of the development of estate farming and the changes in farming

practices and technology over a period of 200 years. The scheme includes provision for the upkeep and future maintenance of the buildings and their surroundings.

The scheme has been planned to retain the quality of the landscape with visual consideration of the aspect of the development as viewed from the village. It is considered that the scheme will significantly improve the character and the appearance of the listed building and those within the curtilage, while creating a sustainable future for the site. The relocation of the working farmstead following the restoration of the Grade II listed stable buildings and the 19th-century farms will provide a setting fitting to the status and historic importance of the site.

The photographic record together with the survey drawings provided by Frazer Homes Ltd. has ensured that a record has been made of the buildings prior to any change of use.

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castlering Archaeology

Frost, P., 2004, *Historic Building Assessment*. Castlering Archaeology Report 192

BROSELEY, Caughley Quarry (centred on SJ 691 999)

Fieldwalking for finds over the area known as Phase 5 of Caughley Quarry was conducted in May 2004, as part of planning consent. Caughley Quarry is part of Lord Forester's Estate, south of Broseley, Shropshire, leased for clay extraction to Parkhill Estates Ltd. The quarry is located in a former area of intense industrial activity during the 18th and 19th centuries. The tips and shaft of the former Turnersyard Colliery can still be seen north of the lane that leads to Inett and Caughley Farms and, south of the lane, Caughley China and Saggar Works had been worked from the mid-18th century until c.1815.

From the 1770s, Caughley Chinaworks was worked by Thomas Turner, who imported china clays from Devon and Cornwall to

produce his '*soft paste porcelain*'. Turner's work emulated the blue and white Chinese porcelain that was being imported into the country, to fill the demand for fine teawares. The fine ceramic material recovered during fieldwalking included blue and white underglazed sherds typical of 18th-century Caughley ware, although the size of the sherds precludes any indication of vessel form, other than one example of '*reeding*' used on c.1790s teabowls. Of particular interest then is the single body sherd recovered with an '*hS*' initial mark c.3mm high, in underglaze blue on the reverse side of an oriental pattern. The '*S*' mark is attributed to 1790s Caughley ware, prior to the factory being taken over in 1799 by John Rose, founder of the Coalport Company.

Fifty-six pieces of saggar were recovered from the site, including examples of saggars that have been covered with a thin layer of powdered flint or silica sand in which biscuit hollowware was densely packed, to prevent warping.

However, in proportion to the area walked, a disappointing amount of material has been recovered. In view of the size of the sherds of glazed and unglazed pottery sherds recovered, it seems highly likely that the area has been walked previously as a collecting site for samples of Caughley ware. This is particularly emphasised by the fact that only eleven sherds of blue and white Caughley ware were recovered over the entire area.

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castlering Archaeology

Frost P., 2004, *Caughley Quarry Fieldwalking Report*. Castlering Archaeology Report 185

CLUN, Clun Bridge and Waterloo Ford (SO 300 807 and SO 303 807)

A desk-based assessment was carried out for Moore on behalf of Shropshire County Council in advance of proposed repairs to Clun Bridge and the construction of a temporary bridge at Waterloo Ford. The work comprised a full examination of

available historic maps and other documentary sources, in addition to a walkover survey. The results suggest that the bridge occupies the site of a much earlier river crossing, dating from the Norman Conquest at the latest, and that the ford served as an additional access point to the town. The bridge is listed as 16th-century but comprises a series of building periods and may contain medieval fabric. An archaeological survey of the fabric is recommended in order to determine the relative significance of the various phases, and a watching brief is recommended during groundworks. Information regarding the ford is lacking, but given the high incidence of prehistoric finds in the area, it potentially has very ancient origins as part of a trade route. Here too a watching brief would be appropriate.

Kristina Krawiec and Malcolm Hislop, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1331

HIGHLEY, parish hedgerow survey

A survey has been carried out of all extant hedgerows in the parish of Highley, Shropshire (Mountford and Poyner, in press). Where possible, species composition and numbers/30m length were recorded. The work was largely undertaken by volunteers trained by a professional ecologist. Features such as hedge banks or pollarded trees were also recorded. The work was accompanied by a review of all available sources relating to the landscape history of the parish.

The documentary survey established that in medieval times the open field system existed over the southern two-thirds of the parish; in the northern third, the landscape was dominated by assarted pasture and Highley Wood, an area of ~140 ac of common wood-pasture. It has already been demonstrated that the main phase of enclosure took place in the early 17th Century (Nair, 1988, 79-83). Further analysis showed that early enclosure fields were largely replaced by rectilinear fields by the turn of the 19th century.

The hedgerow survey revealed only a weak positive trend between woody species density (number per 30m) and presumed hedgerow age. Indeed, most early enclosure and pre-enclosure hedges appeared to be relatively indistinguishable from each other, whereas post-1850 hedges were species poor and predominantly hawthorn. Hedges were mostly species rich and had the composition expected of assarted, woodland relic hedges, even where they had been laid out on the former open-fields or could be shown to be early 19th-century in date.

It was concluded that this reflected the regular use of shrubs from local woods to establish or repair hedges; significantly, the enclosure of the open fields coincided with the clearance of trees and shrubs from Highley Wood. Furthermore, when hedges were realigned or created pre-1850 it seems likely that shrubs from existing hedges were transplanted. Even so, hedges showing extreme species richness (7 or more species/30m) or containing certain species (including alder, crack/white willow, guelder rose, small hornbeam, small-leaved lime and wild service), were largely concentrated along old boundaries and/or in the northerly area of medieval woodland and assarting. Thus these features appear to have value in differentiating the general location of former medieval wood-pasture and early assarts from areas of medieval open fields.

The project is currently being extended to the neighbouring parishes of Kinlet, Stottesdon and Billingsley. The hedgerow survey was organised by Dr. Jan Ensum and funded by a grant from Rural Action for the Environment.

Dr. Ed Mountford, Joint Nature Conservation Committee; Dr. Gwyneth Nair, Dept of Sociology, Paisley University and David Poyner, 136, Hoo Road, Kidderminster.

Poyner, D.R. and Mountford, E., Long-term patterns of land use, evolution of the fieldscape, and hedge composition in Highley parish, south-east

Shropshire, *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society*, (publication due in 2007)
Nair, G., *Highley, history of a community*

HIGHLEY, Green Hall (SO 731843)

Green Hall is the site of a farmhouse in Highley, present by 1569 but demolished c.1935. Previously it was noted that medieval pottery had been recovered from the site by fieldwalking and it was suggested that it originated as a medieval assart (Nair and Poyner, 2004, 44). Further examination of pottery from the site by Peter Reavill, Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme, has indicated that a small number of sherds are Romano-British in date. Most are very badly abraded but one, a jug handle, is in much better condition, suggesting it had only recently been ploughed up from an undisturbed layer.

It would be unwise to over-interpret the site on the ceramic evidence. However, it is consistent with some kind of Romano-British activity in the vicinity. Highley is on coal measure soils and was part of a belt of woodland in early medieval times (Gelling, 1992, 14); thus it has never represented good quality agricultural land. Furthermore, Greenhall itself was probably wooded in early medieval times, if it was an assart. Thus there is a possibility that the site was originally brought into cultivation in Roman times, abandoned in the early middle ages and re-established by the 14th century.

Dr. Gwyneth Nair, Dept of Sociology, Paisley University, and David Poyner

Gelling, M., *The West Midlands in the Early Middle Ages*

Nair, G. and Poyner D.R. *West Midlands Archaeology*, (2004), 47

KINLET, Log Mill (SO 740820; SMR 07051)

A survey of the surface remains of Log Mill in Earnwood township, Kinlet, has been combined with an investigation of historical sources (Poyner, 2006, 27-33). The mill is located on a minor tributary of the Borle

Brook. The head race and millpond, whilst both dry, are well preserved; although there is no sign of a dam to divert water into the headrace, there is timber framing in the bed of the brook at this point, perhaps the remains of a sluice. The site of the mill itself is largely obscured by fallen trees and undergrowth, but a low platform can be made out, equating with what was probably the mill building as shown on an estate map of 1782. The wheel pit is discernible; it appears to be stone-lined and would probably have housed a low breastshot wheel roughly 2m in diameter by 1m in width. The tailrace can be traced for most of its length leading back to the Borle Brook. Close to the mill are the remains of a pair of cottages, now a heap of bricks but probably surviving well below ground. The remains of two bridges that carried tracks to serve the mill are also visible; one represented by a single stone abutment on the north bank of the Borle brook and the other by brick and stone abutments over the stream that fed the mill.

The mill is not mentioned in a survey of Earnwood in 1565 but was present by 1583. It was working as a corn mill in 1643 but in 1789 was advertised to let as a logwood-grinding mill. It probably ceased to function shortly afterwards, although the cottages associated with it remained occupied well into the 19th century. Perhaps the most intriguing feature about the mill is the date of its construction; this coincides with the ownership of Earnwood and much of the Wyre Forest by Sir Robert Dudley. Dudley developed his adjacent estates in the Wyre Forest by building a pair of blast furnaces. It is tempting to see the construction of Log Mill as another of Dudley's investments in his estates, probably for corn milling.

The SMR gives the alternative names Lockwood Mill and Mulness Mill. The former is a corruption of Logwood Mill and the latter of Malpass Mill; Francis Malpass worked the mill in 1643. Both of these

corruptions appear to be due to errors on early maps.

David Poyner

Poyner, D.R., *Wind and Water Mills*, 2006, 25.

KINLET, Catsley (SO 72 79)

Fieldwalking has been carried out in the vicinity of Catsley Farm, Kinlet. Immediately to the south of the farm are earthworks in a field of permanent pasture (centred on SO 726795). Immediately adjacent to the B4194 road is a series of building platforms, at least some of which can be equated with an "old house" and "homestead" shown on an estate map of c.1730. North of these, leading to the present farmyard, are traces of ridge and furrow, headlands and a pair of lanes. East of the ridge and furrow earthworks are a series of deep hollows running on a roughly northeast-southwest alignment, one of which is served by a track. Estate records show that a brick works was operating at Catsley from the late 18th century until c.1805; the hollows probably represent clay diggings.

West and south of the above field are two ploughed fields, separated from it by the B4363 and the B4194 roads. The western field, (centred on SO 723794) has significant surface scatters of medieval and post-medieval pottery. The shards frequently show few signs of abrasion and very few are later than the mid-18th century. The c.1730 estate map shows two buildings on this field, both apparently barns; however, the pottery evidence is consistent with habitation from the medieval period to the early 18th century. The northern field (centred on SO 727792) produced smaller surface scatters of mostly abraded medieval and post-medieval pottery. However, a number of scatters of daub was also noted, consistent with buildings. The fieldname, recorded on both the tithe map and the c.1730 survey was Great Philapatown. Intriguingly Philippa de Montacute, widow of Roger (V) de Mortimer, held land in

Earnwood, adjacent to Catsley, as part of her dower in the later part of the 14th century (Hopkinson and Speight, 2002, 112; Close Rolls 34 Ed III, July 3rd 1360). Furthermore, a 1565 survey of Earnwood records a number of tenants holding burgages (National Archives, SP 12/36, Folio 1).

Approximately 200m west of Catsley Farm is a third field currently used as arable (SO 722797). This had a sparse scatter of abraded medieval pottery; however, small quantities of Romano-British pottery were also noted. The field is the site of a rectilinear enclosure identified from aerial photographs (Shropshire SMR PRN 04480, SO 722796); perhaps the source of the pottery.

It appears that occupation at Catsley can be traced back to Romano-British times. It is recorded as a small settlement in the Domesday book, but the archaeological evidence suggests that it underwent significant expansion in medieval times, shrinking back to its present size by the late 18th century. It is hoped that documentary research will add further information.

The pottery found from the fieldwalking has been recorded by Peter Reavill, Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme; initial identification and dating was done by Hugh Hannaford, community archaeologist for Shropshire County Council. A report on the site has been lodged with the Sites and Monuments Record. I am grateful to Mr. Ben Mole of Catsley Farm for access to his farm and to Penny Ward, Shropshire SMR, for access to aerial photographs.

David Poyner

Hopkinson, C. and Speight, M. *The Mortimers, Lords of the March*

**MARKET DRAYTON, 12 Stafford Street
(SJ 6759 3422)**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the site of proposed redevelopment at 12 Stafford Street, Market Drayton, intermittently between October 2004 and February 2005. The proposed development lies within the historic core of the medieval town of Market Drayton, occupying former medieval tenement plots that may have comprised part of the earliest element of the medieval town created during the 13th century. Prior to redevelopment, the site was occupied by a fire-damaged street frontage shop, which was subsequently taken down to ground level while retaining the façade. The existing street frontage was shored up during building works and will be reconstructed to match the streetscape.

During the 1860s streets in the town were generally widened and many of the older buildings replaced with new. The 1874 O.S. map records two buildings added to the rear of the site, fronting *The Shutt*, and the Stafford Street frontage appears to have been rebuilt.

The removal of building rubble in the area of the street frontage building was monitored down to existing floor surfaces. In view of the nature of the development, which follows the natural rise in ground level south, a minimal amount of new ground has been broken into. The monitoring work has revealed that the site had presumably been cleared above the natural sand subsoil during 19th-century construction work.

No archaeological features were revealed other than the footprints of former 19th-century buildings. Finds recovered over the area of the site were entirely post-medieval to modern in date and consistent with late 18th- to 20th-century domestic occupation.

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castlering Archaeology

Frost, P., February 2005, *12 Stafford Street, Market Drayton, Archaeological Watching Brief*. Castlering Archaeology Report **200**

**MUCH WENLOCK, Holy Trinity Church
(SJ 624 000)**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in December 2004 at the Parish Church of The Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock, during ground disturbing works in the churchyard. The church occupies a central position in the town centre, in close proximity to the site of the first religious house founded by St Milburga in 680 AD. The nave of the present church was built c.1100 AD by the Cluniac Monks of Wenlock Priory and enlarged throughout the 12th to 15th centuries.

The current programme of work included the provision of a tarmac area on the north side of the tower to accommodate a small area for car parking; the widening of the footpath southwest of the south porch; the relaying of the existing path parallel to the south aisle and the creation of a 2m diameter turning circle to allow wheelchair access to view the Brookes memorials.

Dr. William Penny Brookes founded the Olympian Society in 1850 and his enthusiasm was a major contribution in the founding of the modern Olympic Games. Consequently his grave provides a much visited tourist attraction.

In view of the archaeological potential of the proposed development, the PCC requested an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the external works.

The groundworks were monitored by the contractor in December 2004. Following removal of the existing brick kerbstones on the west side of the path outside the south porch, a brick vaulted tomb was uncovered, which had already been disturbed during the laying of the path in the 1950s. On its north side, a second tomb was located, which had its vaulted roof intact. The construction of

tombs revealed and the finds located around them suggests a late 19th-/early 20th-century construction date. The roof of the disturbed grave had to be removed as part of the programme of works but the slightly lower elevation of the intact tomb has enabled its preservation intact. The watching brief has ensured that a record has been made of the current works on site.

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castlering Archaeology

Frost P., 2004, Holy Trinity Church, Much Wenlock, *Archaeological Watching Brief*. Castlering Archaeology Report 196

NEWPORT, Woodcote Wood (SJ 7700 1470)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2005 on land at Woodcote Wood, Newport. Two trenches were excavated across the historic boundary of the medieval chapelry of Woodcote, which lay within the area of proposed mineral extraction. The evaluation demonstrated the survival of both the bank and ditch of the boundary where only one or the other could be seen in relief. It is also shown that maintenance of the boundary was periodically undertaken to combat erosion. No evidence, however, was recovered to date the construction or use of the boundary.

Tim Havard, Cotswold Archaeology

Cotswold Archaeology, *Woodcote Wood, Newport, Shropshire. Archaeological Evaluation*. Report No 05107

OSWESTRY, The White Lion Inn, Castle Street, Whittington (SJ 32 31)

Galliford Interiors commissioned Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology to undertake an evaluation prior to the extension of the White Lion Inn, Whittington. The scheme was requested by English Heritage as the property lies partly within the boundary of Whittington Castle, a Scheduled Monument. Four trenches were excavated in the extension area, revealing evidence of 19th- and 20th-century activity, but nothing

of medieval or earlier date. The section of an ambiguous mound revealed by the demolition of an outbuilding was also recorded during the evaluation. This again appeared to be a 19th- or 20th-century feature, created during the construction of the outbuilding.

A watching brief during the extension work recorded remnants of floors and a well related to the White Lion Inn and dating from the post-medieval and modern periods. The only exception to this was a sherd of Samian pottery of the 1st to 3rd centuries.

Deborah Forrester and Noel Boothroyd, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology

OSWESTRY, Land off Chapel Street (SJ 2896 2980)

In February and March 2005, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site of a proposed housing development on land off Chapel Street, Oswestry. The site lies within the historic core of the medieval town of Oswestry and it was known to be crossed by the conjectured line of the medieval town wall, built in the 13th century, and also included an area of rear tenement plots associated with the medieval town and probably dating to the 12th century. The archaeological evaluation comprised desk-based assessment and field evaluation.

Based on the results of the desk-based assessment and site visit, it was concluded that evidence of the medieval town wall may be located on site. Two trenches were excavated in March 2005 and within the limits of the evaluation, a considerable amount of evidence of medieval occupation was recovered.

Trench 1 was excavated in the garden area to the rear of *Castle Buildings*. Following the removal of topsoil and post-medieval layers, the excavation located deposits which contained 15th-/16th-century and late 14th-/15th-century ceramics. A pit excavated in the southwest corner of the trench

appeared to be circular in plan, and ceramics recovered from the fill suggested usage as a probable medieval rubbish pit.

Trench 2 was sited to locate the medieval town walls. Following removal of the hardcore surface, the trench was excavated down to medieval deposits on the southwest side, where a late medieval rubbish pit, at least 3m in diameter, was located. The animal bone and ceramics within the fill suggest a rubbish pit, associated with occupation within the 13th-century town walls.

On the alignment suggested by the desk-based assessment, primarily based on information gained from an 1840 Deed Plan, the medieval town wall together with a small D-shaped tower were located (**Figs. 15-16**). The tower was constructed predominantly from sandstone blocks with occasional limestone, and bonded with very

soft orange sand with occasional patches of later repair in a cement-based mortar. The structure is a rare, previously unknown feature associated with the 13th-century town walls, surviving in good condition below ground.

The town wall itself appears to have been robbed out successively. However, evidence of the wall continued southwest across the trench and formed the base of a limestone wall constructed in the 19th century. On the northeast side of the tower and wall, a light orange-brown, mixed clay deposit is interpreted as imported material used to level the area. Although no evidence of a cut for a ditch associated with the town wall was revealed, the clay material may cap the ditch, if existing, as recorded in the 1980s excavation work, which appeared to extend into Chapel Street.



Fig. 15: Trench 2 and D-shaped tower, Chapel Street, Oswestry



Fig. 16: D-shaped tower, Chapel Street, Oswestry

Based on the evidence revealed during current evaluation work, it is assumed that evidence of the medieval walls will survive below ground across the proposed development area and further archaeological works are anticipated on this site.

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castlering Archaeology

Frost, P., March 2005, *Land off Chapel Street, Archaeological Evaluation*. Castlering Archaeology Report 199

OSWESTRY, Land at The Terraces, Morda (SJ 2893 273)

In October 2005, an archaeological desk-based assessment and site visit was undertaken at The Terraces, Morda, on behalf of The Trustees of Mrs. M.E. Leighton Dec'd. The archaeological assessment had been recommended as an appropriate response to future plans for the site in order to assess the impact of any

future development on the archaeological resource.

The proposed development site is located on the southern limits of the village of Morda, east of the A483 trunk road at c.114m OD. The site was part of the extensive agricultural land known as Sweeney Estate. In the late 1930s, the site was subject to the sinking of two coal pits, which were subsequently developed as Sweeney Colliery and Brickworks. The clay from the coalfield was eminently suitable for brick making and most of the collieries in the area were also engaged in the manufacture of bricks. Sweeney Brickworks produced red and blue bricks, tiles, pipes and other ceramic products. The company was renowned for the manufacture of blue engineering bricks and other products produced from the fireclay retrieved from under the coal measures. Industrial development continued throughout the 19th century, but in the early decades of the 20th century, the Brickworks

fell into disuse and by 1926, the site had been cleared of all industrial buildings.

The study area is accessible via an unadopted track which leads in off the A483 trunk road. The core of the site comprises a series of earthwork mounds, resulting both from 19th-century industrial activity and subsequent years of fly tipping. The earthworks lie under a canopy of broadleaf which covers undergrowth, consisting largely of bramble and ivy. Neither the desk-based assessment nor the site walk-over revealed any evidence to suggest that the land was used for anything but agricultural purposes prior to the late 1830s industrial activity. The only above-ground structures on site are a block of c.1960s garages and the remains of a tennis court of similar age. The existing spoil tip on the northeast side of the site is the only surviving above-ground feature from the industrial period.

While cartographic evidence suggests that the southernmost of the two colliery shafts sunk in the 1930s may underlie the entrance track, there is no visible evidence of the location of this or the shaft to the north. The depth of the coal workings that underlie the study area would not be encountered during any proposed development.

Based on evidence provided by the 1874 O.S. map, it is considered that any reduction in ground levels on the lower area of the site, which includes the brick garages and the tennis court, has the potential for encountering foundation works associated with part of the 1870s-1911 brickworks building.

However, previous impacts such as demolition work and ensuing levelling may have significantly damaged the basal remains of any structural archaeology on site. It was concluded that the preservation of any archaeological deposits would depend on the amount of levelling that has

taken place in the 1920s period, the depth of which is as yet unknown.

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castlering Archaeology

Frost, P., October 2005, *Land at the Terraces, Morda, Oswestry (Former Sweeney Brickworks Site), Archaeological Desk-based Assessment and Site Visit*, Castlering Archaeology Report **225**

SHIFNAL, Land at Shifnal Squash Club (SJ 749 076)

In June and October 2005, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site of proposed residential development by Westbury Homes on land at the former Shifnal Squash Club. The proposed development site lies within the historic core of the medieval town of Shifnal, bounded on the north side by Shifnal Railway Station and embankment; on the west side by the rear of properties fronting Market Place and Park Street, and on the south and east sides by modern housing development in the grounds of Yew Tree Court. The site occupies an irregular plot of land c.210m east from the pedestrian entrance from Market Street and c.70m south from the railway embankment. Prior to demolition, the site comprised fairly level ground, on which the modern Squash Club building with external tennis courts and car parking had been constructed.

An archaeological desk-top assessment was undertaken on the site by Oxford Archaeology, at the request of Tweedale Architects in February 2005. The assessment confirmed that, although there were no recorded archaeological sites or find spots, the site occupied an area that represented burgage plots relating to 13th- to 19th-century tenements that fronted Market Place and Park Street and that the proposed development might reveal archaeological remains relating to those periods.

In view of the potential for buried archaeological deposits on the site, an archaeological evaluation, comprising desk-based assessment and field evaluation was

recommended prior to the proposed works. Three trenches were excavated on site and although 18th-century ceramic material was recovered from the ash pits located in Trench 2, elsewhere only evidence of 19th-/20th-century occupation was recovered.

Within the limits of the evaluation, it has been concluded that 19th-century developments have obliterated any earlier archaeology on site. The advent of the railways in the mid-19th century and more particularly the later construction of the viaduct, north of the development site, presumably necessitated considerable rebuilding work on the site, which had previously been occupied by crofts to the rear of properties fronting Market Place.

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castlering Archaeology

Frost, P., October 2005, *Land at Shifnal Squash Club, Archaeological Evaluation*, Castlering Archaeology Report 210

SHRAWARDINE, Castle Croft (SJ 4005 1533)

A contracted archaeological watching brief undertaken in October 2004 monitored the excavation of footings for an extension to the existing dwelling and construction of a detached garage at Castle Croft, Shrawardine. Castle Croft has a boundary with the Scheduled Ancient Monument known as Shrawardine Castle and settlement remains, sited on the north bank of the River Severn, northwest of the town of Shrewsbury. The site lies in the postulated outer bailey of the medieval castle.

Traces of fragmented and eroded sandstone together with lime mortar were located in both areas of excavation. In the trenches excavated for the house extension, the sandstone appeared to be the remains of walls which had enclosed areas with compacted pebbled floors. Fragments of animal bone were compacted into the floor surface. In the excavations for the garage,

similar walls appeared to have enclosed a cobbled floor.

A ditch or pit c.0.96m deep, excavated to a depth of 2.2m below the tarmac drive was also located in the area excavated for the garage footings. The feature had a wet, heavy gravel fill, which included a minimal amount of sandstone fragments, charcoal and animal bone.

The features were not evident until the trenches had been excavated to c.0.8-0.9m below the existing external ground levels. Although no direct dating evidence was recovered from the features, the depth at which they were located suggests a medieval date.

Within the limits of the current application, the watching brief recovered considerable evidence of early settlement at Shrawardine. *Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castlering Archaeology*

Frost P., 2004, *Castle Croft, Shrawardine, Archaeological Watching Brief*. Castlering Archaeology Report 189

SHREWSBURY & ATCHAM, Harlescott House (SJ 50 16)

Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology evaluated an area on the edge of Harlescott House moated site. The site is a Scheduled Monument located in the centre of a large residential area and was to form part of the 'All the King's Men' project: a heritage trail linking the events and locations related to the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403. Four small trenches were excavated to determine the best location for a corresponding number of sculptures. It was thought that evidence of deposits from the in-filled moat could be detected in the proposed location areas. Trenching yielded only post-medieval material, much of which was 19th- and 20th-century in date. Some evidence of a possible sandstone structure of uncertain date was encountered at a greater depth than

that required for the sculpture bases and was therefore recorded and left *in situ*.

A watching brief on the installation of the sculptures revealed no further archaeological evidence in the area.

Tony Hanna, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology

SHREWSBURY, 16 Belmont (SJ 4906 1220)

A contracted archaeological watching brief undertaken in March 2004 on a vacant plot at 16 Belmont, Shrewsbury, monitored the reductions in ground levels and excavation of footings for a new building. The site is located adjacent to a Grade II listed building at the junction of Belmont with Town Walls, occupying a street frontage position within the historic core of the medieval town of Shrewsbury. No archaeological features were revealed and the few finds recovered were entirely post-medieval in date.

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castling Archaeology

Frost P., 2004, *16 Belmont, Shrewsbury, Archaeological Watching Brief*. Castling Archaeology Report 174

SHREWSBURY, No. 6, Coffee House Passage & former Veterinary Practice, College Hill (SJ 491 123)

Between May and September 2005, a contracted archaeological assessment comprising rapid desk-based study, photographic and building recording, and follow-up watching brief was undertaken at No.6, Coffee House Passage and the former Veterinary Practice fronting College Hill, Shrewsbury, at the request of Naylor Construction Services Limited. The property comprises No. 6 College Hill, a late 18th-century three-storey brick house under slate roof and the adjoining timber-framed property with brick infill, which fronts College Hill. The assessment has been undertaken prior to and during the conversion of the buildings into residential

use and the erection of a two-storey rear extension.

The proposed development site lies within the historic core of the medieval town of Shrewsbury. It occupies part of an area likely to have been in existence since the late Anglo-Saxon period. Burghley's Map of 1575 indicates that development has taken place on both sides of College Hill by this time.

The listed building description gives a possible late 16th-century construction date for the timber-framed element of the development site. The adjoining property, No. 14 College Hill is recorded as a late 17th-century house, presumably based on the 'cambered truss with raking struts' exposed in the west gable. However, during current works on site, it was noted that the lower half of No. 14's cambered truss forms the east wall of the study area. The eastern Queen post Truss 3 of the timber-framed house on site stands back from No. 14's end truss. This arrangement suggests that the two-bay timber-framed house on site was constructed against the cambered truss and presumably post-dates No. 14, giving them both a possible 17th-century construction date.

The timber-framed house was presumably infilled with brick in the 18th or early 19th century. Rebuilding work appears to have taken place along Coffee House Passage in the late 18th century. The Passage itself was named after an 18th-century 'house of entertainment' which stood on the east side of the Passage at its entrance from the Square and by the late 1830s, the existing Music Hall had been constructed on the west side of Coffee House Passage.

The unconventional stratigraphy located during reduction in ground levels in the rear yard area suggests the entire area comprises made-up ground, which may be largely the result of household clearance and the demolition of properties that fronted Coffee

House Passage, prior to construction of the existing buildings, in the late 18th century. The volume of redeposited material suggests a source in close proximity to the site. The finds recovered appear to be entirely 17th- to 19th-century in date, which suggests the bulk of the material may predate the construction of Nos. 3-6 Coffee House Passage. Any later material is assumed to be clearance during the occupation of the properties by Henry Wace or Robert Parker Parsonage, when the property was in use as a Solicitor's and later a Veterinary Practice.

The existing ground plan of the buildings on site, including the present boundary walls, are those recorded by the O.S. in 1882. Both buildings have been adapted to commercial use in the 19th/20th century, particularly the ground floor of the timber-framed structure.

The proposed re-use of the buildings will ensure their survival, while maintaining the character and history of the site. The retention of elevation details and the minimal loss to the fabric of the timber-framed building, will ensure the survival of the existing archaeological and architectural features which are currently seriously at risk.

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castlering Archaeology

Frost, P., November 2005, *No.6, Coffee House Passage & former Veterinary Practice, College Hill, Shrewsbury, Historic Building Recording & Archaeological Watching Brief*, Castlering Archaeology Report 211

SHREWSBURY, Ditherington Flax Mill (SJ 49871382)

Two archaeological watching briefs were carried out for English Heritage, the first being conducted during the excavation of 11 hydro-geological trial holes. The site of a demolished warehouse structure revealed a 2m deep brick-lined chamber with a large entrance at the south end complete with an access ladder. The chamber may have

housed part of a conveyor system associated with the maltings buildings. The excavations also revealed evidence for a brick structure, complete with exterior yard surface, to the north of the apprentice house, probably relating to structures outlined on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey. Excavations between the cross mill and the kiln structures exposed a rail from one of the railway tracks which served the factory buildings. At the front of the main mill building, over the presumed site of the boiler house, a series of layers of made ground was recorded, reaching a depth of over 2m without the natural ground surface being encountered. Other areas bounded by the perimeter walls revealed several layers of rubble and ash overlying the natural ground surface, presumably associated with debris produced by industrial processes and successive building phases. An area of scrub land between the factory and the Crewe and Shrewsbury Railway line revealed deep build-ups of dumped ash material, over 2m in depth, containing numerous glass bottles and fragmentary ceramics, perhaps a rubbish dump.

The second watching brief was undertaken during the partial removal of the blockings from five early windows within the main mill building, in order to expose the window heads and to recover evidence for the techniques of construction. The exercise revealed 9 inch wide timber lintels to all five window openings. Two of these lintels were abutted by chamfered outer timbers, one towards the exterior and one towards the interior. In one opening a splayed jamb was recorded.

Kate Bain and Malcolm Hislop, Birmingham Archaeology, Reports 1344 and 1344.01

STOKESAY CASTLE, The Gatehouse Chimney (SO 343 281)

A watching brief was carried out to monitor and record the dismantling of the brick section of the Gatehouse Chimney at Stokesay Castle before urgent repairs took

place, with the aim of illustrating the construction and annotating the construction method or the flue and hidden details. The survey found that the brickwork was generally in good condition except for the base where it joined the stonework. The stone was badly weathered. Towards the bottom of the brick part of the chimney the flue had collapsed.

Rouse, D, 2004, *The Gatehouse Chimney, Stokesay Castle, Shropshire, Archaeological Building Survey and Watching Brief HAS 634*

STOKESAY, Stokesay Castle Chimney Stage 2 (SO 343 281)

The project was initiated in response to a request from English Heritage to survey and record the fireplace and the south gable chimney at Stokesay Castle gatehouse before and during dismantling (**Fig. 17**).

The chimney stack was recorded and carefully dismantled. Examination of the fireplace construction indicated that the reason for the overly wide width of the fireplace within the gatehouse is likely to be due to the fireplace being one of two openings, side by side - one associated with the gatehouse and one with the connected building.

Rouse, D. & Mayes, S. 2005. *The Gatehouse Chimney, Stokesay Castle, Shropshire. Archaeological Recording, Stage 2.* HAS 673

WELSHAMPTON, St. Michael and All Angels Church (SJ 4335 3495)

Between November 2004 and August 2005, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the request of the PCC, during ground disturbing works in St. Michael and All Angels churchyard associated with an extension to the west end of the nave and the excavation of a trench to connect drainage from the extension to a new septic tank to be sunk in a pit excavated near the lychgate.

The Church Guide Book states that details of the first church on site are scarcely known. The second church, built in 1391, stood for 397 years until it was taken down in 1788. There are no surviving records to indicate its size or the materials used in its construction. It has been speculated that it may have been a timber-framed church, maybe thatched in its early days. The 14th-century church was replaced by the church designed by Edward Edgecombe by 1789. The bricks for the building were burnt on common land at Bradenheath and the slates came from the Glyn Quarry, Denbigh. The Georgian church subsequently fell into disrepair and was replaced in 1861 by the existing building on site, built to the design of Gilbert Scott and completed in 1863. The church with nave and chancel with semi-circular apse is constructed in dressed Cefn-y-fedw sandstone below a slate roof.

The existing churchyard has a part brick and part stone revetted boundary with access through the roadside lych-gate. The stone wall, built in the 1840s, perpetuates the boundary of the 14th-century churchyard. The excavated trench uncovered a tank which appears to have been constructed as a soakaway for water from the 1860s baptismal font. Otherwise, no archaeological features were revealed.

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castlering Archaeology

Frost, P., August 2005, *St Michael and All Angels Church, Welshampton, Archaeological Watching Brief*, Castlering Archaeology Report **216**

The following site, investigated by Archaeological Investigations Ltd., contained nothing of archaeological significance:

CRAVEN ARMS, Heath House

Mayes, S R, 2004, Heath House, The Heath, Clunjunford, Craven Arms, Shropshire, HAS 641

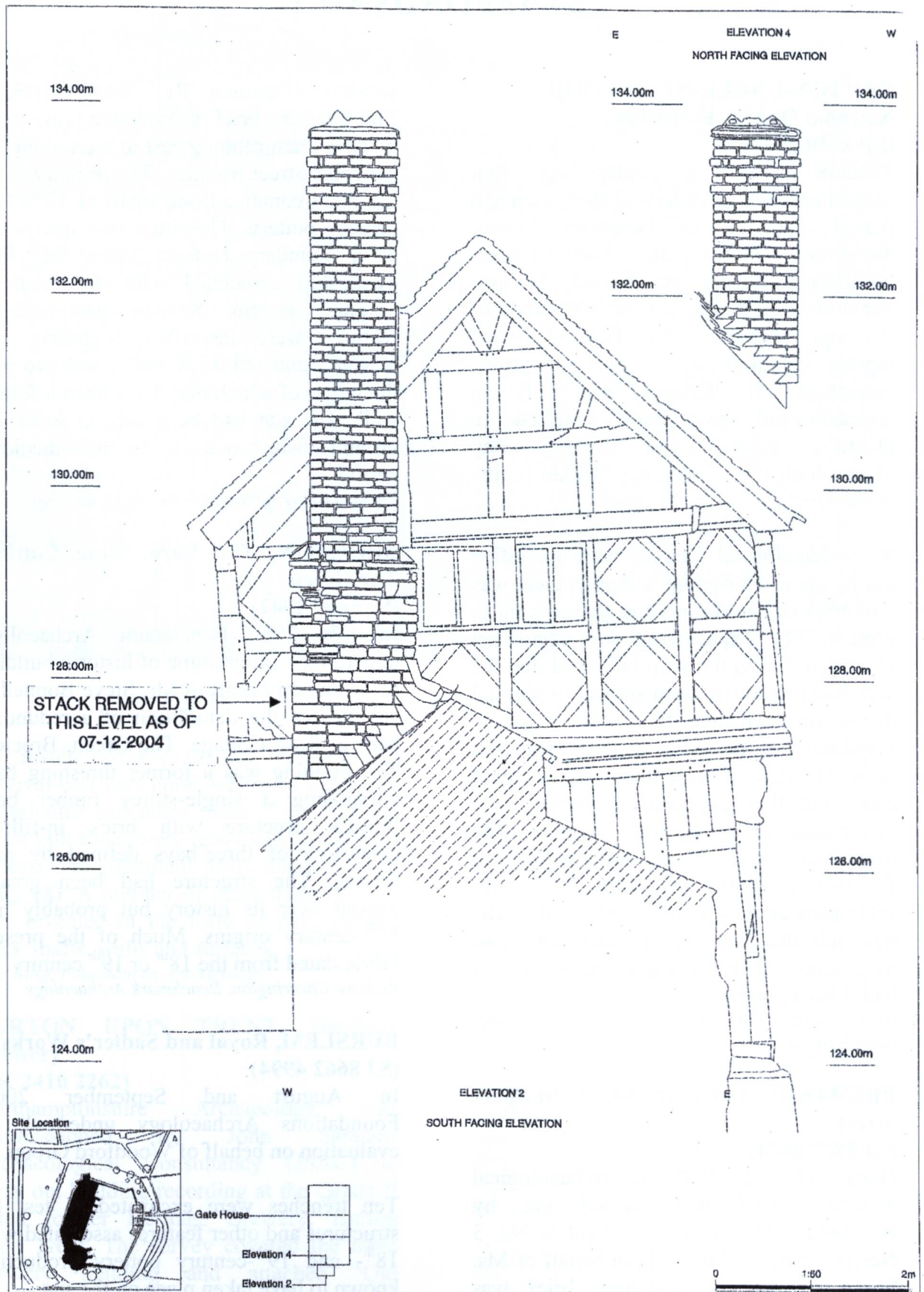


Fig. 17: Stokesay Castle Chimney

STAFFORDSHIRE

BARTON-UNDER-NEEDWOOD, Newbold Quarry Extension (SP 2050 2040)

Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd. carried out an archaeological strip, map and record exercise at Newbold Quarry extension (Phase 3), Barton-Under-Needwood, during the period August–September 2005, carried out on behalf of Aggregate Industries UK Limited during topsoil stripping, in advance of gravel extraction. It formed part of an archaeological programme required to identify, record and sample any archaeological features within the extension.

No archaeological features were identified during the soil stripping, although there was a number of land drains and tree-root boles present. The sequence of soil deposition identified during the strip indicated that the area had previously been subject to alluvial deposition; whether this was a single inundation or periodic episodes was not clear. The date of these floods was also not clear, but they appeared to pre-date the post-medieval agricultural regime. The nature of the soil and susceptibility to flooding probably precluded any early settlement activity on this part of the site, although the flooding episodes may also have removed any occupational evidence, had it been present.

Gary Coates, Phoenix Consulting Archaeology (unpublished)

BREWOD, Land at No. 3 Newport Street (SJ 8827 0874)

During October 2005, an archaeological watching brief was carried out by Benchmark Archaeology on land at No. 3 Newport Street, Brewod, on behalf of Ms. Susan Lamb. The watching brief was undertaken prior to the construction of a timber-framed house with associated

services (Planning Ref: 04/01481/FUL). The watching brief recorded the presence of a linear ditch running east to west along the Newport Street frontage. The primary fill of the ditch contained one sherd of 13th-/14th-century pottery. The ditch was interpreted as a boundary feature demarcating land ownership associated with the medieval burgage system. Several post-medieval features were identified, including two masonry and red-brick walls, and two pits, the larger of which may have been a former well. The site had been subject to severe ground disturbance in the post-medieval period.

Richard Cherrington, Benchmark Archaeology

BROCTON, The Barn, Rose Cottage, The Green (SJ 9680 1942)

In July 2005 Benchmark Archaeology undertook a programme of historic building recording on behalf of Mr. Steve Bonnell in advance of the demolition of a redundant barn at Rose Cottage, The Green, Brocton. The building was a former threshing barn comprising a single-storey timber box-framed structure with brick in-filling, consisting of three-bays defined by roof trusses. The structure had been greatly altered over its history but probably had 17th-century origins. Much of the present fabric dated from the 18th or 19th century.

Richard Cherrington, Benchmark Archaeology

BURSLEM, Royal and Sadler's Works (SJ 8662 4994)

In August and September 2004, Foundations Archaeology undertook an evaluation on behalf of Woodford Group.

Ten trenches were excavated to test for structures and other features associated with 18th- and 19th-century pottery production known to have taken place on the site.



Fig. 18: Kiln base at Royal and Sadler's Works, Burslem

The results of the evaluation indicated that survival was very good, where no later deep disturbance had taken place. Two virtually intact kiln bases were recovered, along with at least one additional badly disturbed kiln (**Fig. 18**). A number of other features were also revealed in the form of pits, gullies, brick shafts, walls and surfaces.

Roy King, Foundations Archaeology

BURTON UPON TRENT, Heritage Brewery (SK 2410 2262)

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultancy (JSAC) to carry out building recording at the Grade II listed former Heritage Brewery, Burton upon Trent. The survey covered the main brewery building and attached 'Old Brewhouse' (possibly originally a cart shed and grain store); the Thomas Sykes Public House (originally the brewery stables); the

'Old Stables' and the Vehicle Shed. Also recorded was the 'Managers House', which remains in use as offices for the nearby Goat Maltings. Its initial construction was in 1880/1. Four further bays were added after 1888, and possibly after 1898 when Everards took possession of the brewery. The main building was extended for a third time in 1936, when the roof of the coppers room was raised to increase capacity.

The survey was able to establish the brewing process and assign functions for most of the rooms and buildings.

Upson-Smith, T, 2005 *Buildings Recording at the Former Heritage Brewery, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 05/115

BURTON UPON TRENT, Hunter's Lodge, Horninglow Road (SK 255 244)

An historic building assessment was carried out for Staffordshire County Council. Hunter's Lodge was built as a substantial house of comparatively modest pretensions, probably around 1835, for a farmer, John Lathbury. Circa 1855 it was remodelled and enlarged with the addition of a substantial dining room and a porch possibly for Henry B. Leigh Esq. In 1880 the house was acquired by a hop merchant, George Lathbury, probably a son of John Lathbury, who had lived at Hunter's Lodge in the 1840s. Around the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries George Lathbury further enlarged the property by adding a billiard room, ablution block, new service wing and several more bedrooms. He also built a new stable and coach house. The structural development of Hunter's Lodge, and rise to prominence of the Lathbury family, reflects the transformation of Burton upon Trent, in the latter half of the 19th century, from small market town into the Mecca of the brewing industry, and the wealth that it engendered, and prosperity it bestowed upon the local population.

Malcolm Hislop, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1294

BURTON UPON TRENT, 181 Horninglow Road (SK 252 233)

An archaeological desk-based assessment of land to the rear of No. 181 Horninglow Street, Burton-Upon-Trent, was carried out by Birmingham Archaeology in June 2005. The work was commissioned by Peter Diffey and Associates Ltd. on behalf of Bakewells solicitors and was required prior to the submission of a planning application for the proposed development of the site.

The study area lies within a conservation area in the historic core of late Saxon/early medieval Burton Upon Trent, and may contain evidence of the early development of the city. Documentary evidence indicated

that buildings fronted Horninglow Street from at least c.1200 AD with cartographic evidence depicting the boundaries of burgage plots laid out at the beginning of the 13th century. The current property reflects the original boundaries and it is likely that the route of the street itself dates back to the Anglo-Saxon period. Excavations at No. 185-6 Horninglow Street recovered a sherd of Saxon pottery, along with evidence for metal-working and domestic occupation during the 12th-14th centuries. It is likely that similar survival of archaeological deposits remains at No. 181 Horninglow Street, especially as cartographic evidence indicates most of the study area does not appear to have been built on since the 18th century.

No. 181 Horninglow Street is a Grade II* listed building (Listed Building No. 0944, HER 8441), as are the adjacent buildings and many of the buildings on the street. The building is of Regency style and date; however, Nos. 186 and 187 Horninglow Street have been found to retain evidence of a 14th-century timber-framed building, behind the Georgian frontage. It is possible that No. 181 could also retain remnants of earlier, possibly medieval, structures within the current building.

Emma Hancox, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1322

CHESTERTON, Rowhurst employment site (centred on SJ 827 494)

An archaeological assessment comprising desk-based assessment and rapid walk-over survey was carried out on the site of the proposed extension to Rowhurst Employment Site.

The history and archaeology of the site was traced through archaeological evidence already recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record, cartographic sources dating from William Yates's 1775 Map of Staffordshire and documentary sources, to

more recent archaeological excavations and evaluations undertaken since 1959.

The site lies within an area associated with the Roman settlement of Holditch/Chesterton, increasing evidence of which has been revealed during developments in the area since the 1960s. The extent of the Roman settlement is as yet undefined, and it is feasible that it may have extended into the current study area.

The route of the Roman Road already proven along the B5500, which appears to connect Loomer Road Marching Camp, the Roman settlement at Holditch, to the fort at Chesterton, identified south of Apedale Road, may have continued northwest through the site.

However, coal, iron and brick making activity, over a period of 170 years at least, may have destroyed any evidence of Roman activity.

Cartographic evidence suggests that the site remained principally agricultural until the early decades of the 19th century, when mechanised industrial activity began with the establishment of brick and tile making and Chesterton Coal & Iron Works on the northeast corner of the site. The 1969 O.S. map and modern aerial photographs record the result of continual expansion of industrial activity on the site since the early 19th century.

The rapid walk-over survey examined evidence for above-ground archaeological features, while examining the potential survival of sub-surface features. No above-ground archaeological features were observed during the walk-over.

The current land-use is mainly rough grassland and scrub surrounded by pastureland on the north side and modern industry on the west and south sides. On the northeast side of the site, two extensive spoil tips rise to either side of the former

site of Forge Pit, which has been levelled in the recent past. There is no visible evidence of the location of any coal shafts, although shafts have been identified during the cartographic research. There is no evidence of the line of the mineral railway, which once ran through the site and now appears to have been partly built over by Watermills Road.

South of Watermills Road, an infilled marl pit is located immediately east of Howle Close and, further south, the landscaped area which rises to Apedale Road was also worked as a marl pit.

Results from borehole data and trial pits indicate a considerable amount of made-up ground on site. Future redevelopment on any part of the site is likely to involve redistribution of the overlying tip material. The potential for archaeological levels on the site will as always depend on the design, depth, extent and positioning of any foundations and associated ground disturbance.

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Archaeological Desk-based assessment and walk-over. Castlering Archaeology Report 193, December 2004

CHURCH LEIGH, All Saints' Church (SJ 3530 0380)

Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology carried out a watching brief on drainage work at All Saints' Church, Church Leigh, on behalf of the Parish Church Council. The project monitored the excavation of three soak-away pits and associated drainage runs on the northern and southern sides of the church. Only one pit, located on the southern side of the church, contained anything of archaeological interest. A single brick-lined grave was encountered during trenching in this area, containing the skeletal remains of an adult female. Traces of coffin and coffin furniture were present although badly decayed. The burial probably dated to the late 18th or early to mid-19th centuries.

Jonathan Goodwin, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology, Report no. 181

**CROXDEN, The Cheese Factory,
Croxden Lane
(SK 0668 3966)**

A watching brief was undertaken by Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology at the former Cheese Factory, Croxden Lane. The site is bounded to the west and south by Croxden Abbey, and the purpose of the watching brief was to record any evidence for the abbey within the area of the Cheese Factory. Excavations for wall footings and the lowering of floor levels within the main building revealed no archaeological remains. Three trenches outside the building yielded evidence of a stone feature, possibly a drain, of uncertain date, sandstone blocks that were probably the footings of a boundary and gate to the factory, and the foundation walls and floor of a building that had once butted against the west-facing elevation of the factory.

Tony Hanna, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology, Report no. 176

**CROXTON, The Windmill, Windmill Lane
(SJ 782 319)**

During July 2005, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Benchmark Archaeology at The Windmill, Windmill Lane, Croxton. The watching brief was undertaken prior to the conversion of the derelict 18th-century windmill into habitable accommodation. The watching brief recorded no significant archaeological features, deposits or artefacts, and no significant evidence for mill machinery or the life of the miller was identified. The watching brief did, however, reveal the methods employed in the construction of the mill tower. This included details of the vertical brickwork receiving the tapered or battered element of the mill tower; the brick-paved floor of the basement; and the masonry base of the earthen mound surrounding the windmill.

Richard Cherrington, Benchmark Archaeology

**ECCLESHALL, 30 Castle Street
(SJ 83100 29295)**

An archaeological desk-based assessment and site visit were undertaken on the site of

proposed redevelopment at 30 Castle Street, Eccleshall, in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site to assist planning guidance. The site is located within the boundary of Eccleshall Conservation Area, on the north side of the town and immediately outside the boundary of the medieval borough and settlement as recorded by Staffordshire County Sites and Monuments Record (PRN 2348).

The history and archaeology of the assessment site was traced through documentary sources, cartographic sources dating from 17th-century county maps to present-day and archaeological evidence already recorded on the SMR. An unsourced map dated to 1622, based on a Survey of the Bishop of Lichfield's Estate, shows plots east and west of Castle Street extending from the Cross, north to the River Sow, but the plots lack the characteristic long narrow lengths generally associated with burgage plots. A more accurate record was provided for post-medieval occupation on the site with dwellings recorded on the 1839 Tithe map. Cartographic evidence and the current site visit suggest that only minor structures have been added to the site since the 19th century.

Although the site contains no above-ground features or earthworks of any archaeological or historical importance, the potential for buried archaeological deposits cannot be discounted.

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castlering Archaeology

Frost P., 2004, *30 Castle Street, Eccleshall, Archaeological Desk-based assessment and site visit*. Castlering Archaeology Report 178

**ELMHURST, Lichfield Borrow Pits
(SK 1082 1387)**

Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted a geophysical (magnetic susceptibility) survey and trial trenching evaluation, on behalf of Buckingham Group Ltd., on an area of land of approximately 3.5ha proposed for excavation of borrow pits.

Geophysical survey revealed nothing of archaeological significance. Trial trenching confirmed this as the only features present were two linear gullies, probably relating to an undated quarry located in the centre of the application area or possibly remnants of 19th-century field drainage systems.

Butler, A, and Mason, P, 2005 *Geophysical survey and archaeological trial trenching at the proposed Lichfield Borrow Pits, Elmhurst, Staffordshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 05/156

FAREWELL, Farewell Hall (SK 08196 11628)

Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology carried out a watching brief on the construction of a detached garage at Farewell Hall, a late 17th-century building, which lies in close proximity to the site of a Benedictine priory, a medieval water mill and a deserted medieval village. No archaeologically significant features or deposits were found during the project. One gully or ditch feature was located during the course of the foundation excavations but was filled with 19th-century material. The feature was interpreted as a drainage ditch.

Tony Hanna, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology, Report no. 171

FISHERWICK, Lichfield Borrow Pits (SK 1721 0847)

Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted a geophysical (magnetic susceptibility) survey and trial trenching evaluation, on behalf of Buckingham Group Ltd., on an area of land of approximately 8.5ha proposed for excavation of borrow pits.

Geophysical survey revealed nothing of archaeological significance. Trial trenching revealed several small undated linear features and one stone-lined well with pottery dating from between the 15th to 17th centuries. This suggested that the well was related to the deserted medieval village of Horton on the eastern side of the track outside the proposed borrow pit area. Further evidence for natural geological features was noted in the centre of the field.

Westgarth, A, 2006 *Geophysical survey and archaeological trial trenching at the proposed borrow pits, Fisherwick, Lichfield Staffordshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 06/37

LICHFIELD, Dimble House (SK 113 097).

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Benchmark Archaeology at Dimble House, Lichfield. The watching brief took place in July 2005 during groundworks to facilitate the erection of a staircase. The watching brief uncovered the remains of a sandstone masonry wall aligned north-south, 2.4m in width, and recorded to a height of 1.0m. The wall had been constructed by placing large bedding stones as a foundation at the base of the wall. The east and west sides of the wall were raised with large sandstone facing-stones and then the cavity was infilled with sandstone rubble and bonding material. At the lower levels, bonding material comprised red clay with lime mortar flecks. The remainder of the wall was bonded with a sandy, perished lime mortar. The lack of dating evidence, and the parameters of the watching brief, precluded a definitive date and function for the wall although the presence of substantially higher ground immediately east of the wall suggested a revetment associated with the Cathedral School to the east. The lower levels of the wall may have been medieval in origin; a post-medieval date was likely for the upper level.

Richard Cherrington, Benchmark Archaeology

LICHFIELD, Greyfriars Franciscan Friary (SK 1158 0936; SMR 21560)

During December 2005, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Benchmark Archaeology at Greyfriars Franciscan Friary, Lichfield. The watching brief was undertaken during groundworks facilitating the erection of an interpretation panel at the site. The groundworks were on a very minor scale and comprised the excavation of two small post-holes. The watching brief recorded no significant

archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts.

Richard Cherrington, Benchmark Archaeology

LICHFIELD, King Edward VI School (SK 1240 0860)

Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology carried out a watching brief on behalf of Staffordshire County Council on the excavation of an area of land in the grounds of the King Edward VI School, Lichfield. The site is in an area that is believed to have been a focus for Anglo-Saxon settlement. No archaeologically significant features or deposits were found during the project. A consistent soil profile of turf and topsoil overlying building rubble and then natural sandstone was observed across the development area. The development area may be situated outside the possible settlement area, or it may be that the previous landscaping of the school grounds had already removed any archaeology.

Ruth Leak, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology, Report no. 164

LICHFIELD, Sandfields Canal Lock, Sandfields (SK 1085 0824)

Groundwork in advance of the construction of 220 housing units on a site at Chesterfield Road, Sandfields, Lichfield, had commenced in October 2005. The groundwork encountered structural evidence of a lock, which was once part of the Wyrley and Essington Canal. Work in the area of the lock was temporarily suspended and it was agreed that an archaeological contractor be appointed to record the canal structure in advance of further groundworks. Castlering Archaeology was subsequently contracted by Persimmon Homes (West Midlands Ltd.), to undertake the archaeological recording.

The Wyrley and Essington Canal was first authorised in 1794, surveyed by Mr. William Pitt, and constructed from 1797 with the purpose of bringing coal from the collieries at Wyrley and Essington to the

town of Wolverhampton. The canal was progressively extended from Wolverhampton to the junction with the Coventry Canal at Huddlesfield, near Lichfield. This eastern extent, once known as the Ogley Locks Section, is now commonly known as the Lichfield Canal. The Birmingham Canal Navigation Company acquired the Wyrley and Essington Canal in 1840 and major refurbishment work was carried out. When the eastern extent of the canal fell out of use following an Act of Parliament in 1954, much of the canal was backfilled, including the lock at Sandfields.

During the current programme of archaeological work, a drawn and photographic record has been undertaken of the 4m length of structural remains of the canal lock that lie on Persimmon land (**Fig. 19**). The single lock is of fairly orthodox design and construction. The lock also appears to have been reduced in height by c.0.5m prior to any current works on site and all lock furniture had been removed. The surviving above-ground lock structure is constructed in mid to late 19th-century factory produced blue engineering bricks, which presumably date to post-1840s refurbishment work undertaken by Birmingham Canal Navigation Company. The exposed core of the blue engineering bricks suggests that the locks have been reconstructed in the post-1840s period. On the northwest-facing elevation substantial evidence of the use of the grey clay as a sealant was revealed. On the southwest side of the lock entrance, evidence of earlier brickwork was located. The orange-red bricks are of a more friable nature with pebbled inclusions, which suggests they were made locally and certainly pre-date the blue engineering brickwork.

The recording work was restricted to the section of the lock which lies within the Persimmon boundary. Observations made during the current programme of works, indicate that the lock, canal bed and



Fig. 19: Wyrley and Essington Canal lock, Sandfields, Lichfield

towpath wall extend southwest as a substantial structure and earthwork towards Fosseway Lane Bridge. While it is considered that no further archaeological features associated with the lock will be impacted upon by the current development, any development southwest of the Persimmon boundary will certainly encounter substantial archaeological remains of the Wyrley and Essington Canal. *Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castlering Archaeology*

Frost, P., October 2005, *Sandfields Canal Lock, Sandfields, Lichfield*, Archaeological Recording, Castlering Archaeology Report 223

LITTLE ASTON, Little Aston Primary School, Forge Lane (SK 093 007)

An archaeological watching brief was carried out in January 2005 at Little Aston JMI School, Forge Lane, Little Aston. The site lies on the line of the Roman road,

Ryknild Street, which runs north-south through the Midlands linking up with the Fosse Way to the northeast of Cirencester. The watching brief was carried out by Birmingham Archaeology during groundworks for a car park at the school. No archaeological deposits or features were noted during the watching brief, and the only finds were one sherd of post-medieval coarseware pottery and two fragments of tile, one of which was of possible medieval date.

Erica Macey-Bracken, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1273

LOGGERHEADS, Blore Heath (SJ 7144 3527)

Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology carried out a watching brief on Severn Trent pipeline trenching across the site of the Battle of Blore Heath, 1459, one of the first engagements of the Wars of the Roses. It was thought that evidence of deposits or features from the battle may be detected

through the archaeological observation and monitoring of the ground excavations within the development area.

Topsoil stripping and trenching, however, revealed very little, exposing only one small deposit of probable post-medieval agricultural material. It would appear that the pipeline route lies beyond the focal point of the battle.

Tony Hanna, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology, Report no. 183

MARKET DRAYTON, New Electricity Circuit between Hookgate and Market Drayton

(SJ 6850 3445 to SJ 6925 3420)

During September and October 2005, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the laying of a new 33kv Electricity Circuit between Hookgate and Market Drayton. The underground cable passed through fairly level agricultural land at c.90m OD, southeast of the town of Market Drayton. To the north and west of the route, the River Tern forms the county boundary, placing the circuit route in Staffordshire.

The section monitored during the watching brief is mainly part of land farmed by Broomhall Grange. After the Norman conquest, lands at Broomhall Grange belonged to Roger de Montgomery, who granted the land to William Pantulph. Pantulph subsequently leased land at Broomhall Grange to the Cistercian Abbey of Combermere, which was sited on the Cheshire/Staffordshire border.

The existing Grade II listed Broomhall Grange farm buildings appear to date to the 18th and 19th centuries, possibly constructed on the site of earlier buildings. Staffordshire Historic Environment Record also includes a reference to ironworking in close proximity to the new circuit route, based on information in Colonel Francis Randle Twemlow's history of 'The Manor of Tyrley', published in the 1940s.

Documentary evidence suggests the agricultural landscape at the Grange has changed little over a period of 160 years at least. Nineteenth-century maps give no indication of land-use other than that associated with farming.

However, during the removal of topsoil for the wayleave a substantial area of ironworking slags was uncovered. The material is consistent with that generated during the process of iron production using the bloomery method. The slags material combined with Twemlow's documentary evidence suggests the bulk of the material recovered is the result of a smelting process, undertaken in proximity to the cable wayleave. The sample consisted of a quantity of bloomery iron-working residue, predominantly comprising fractured pieces of slag, with a small quantity of fuel ash slag, several pieces of fired, oxidized clay, and a single piece of lead slag.

Perhaps the most characteristic and diagnostic material were the pieces of tap slag with the ropey, smooth or rippled upper surfaces and uneven bases indicative of cooling on a charcoal bed or within the channel or pit into which they were tapped. These would form during smelting as the liquid slag flowed down through the furnace, gathering at the base and retaining enough heat to remain fluid. They could then be tapped into a channel or shallow pit to be disposed of when cool.

Ceramic material recovered during the watching brief was noticeably sparse. The material gathered during topsoil stripping dates from the 14th to 19th century, with the emphasis being on material dated 16th to 17th century. Without further works being undertaken in the area, it can only be speculated that bloomeries may have been in use on site by the Cistercians, continuing in use following the dissolution of the monasteries.

The Cistercians were renowned for, amongst other things, their industry and iron production, and by the 1530s several religious establishments were operating bloomeries on the fringes of the Coalbrookdale coalfield in Shropshire and Staffordshire. One hundred and fifty years later, in 1685, an Edward Slanes was operating in Market Drayton as an ironmonger with interests in furnaces and forges throughout the area (Trinder 1983, 34, 63). It is quite probable therefore that the residues relate to iron production dating to the medieval or early post-medieval period.

The material recovered substantiates the documentary evidence supplied by Twemlow (1946) and the watching brief in general has ensured that a record has been made of the current works on site.

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castlering Archaeology

Frost, P., October 2005, Broomhall Grange, Market Drayton, Archaeological Watching Brief. Castlering Archaeology Report **219**

Twemlow, Colonel F.R., 1945-6, The History of the Manor of Tyrley in the County of Stafford down to the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, History of the County of Staffordshire. 1946

PENKRIDGE, Belbrook, Staffordshire (SJ 9243 1247)

An archaeological desk-based assessment and site visit were undertaken on the site of proposed office development on land off Belbrook, Penkridge, in August 2004 in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site to assist planning guidance.

The site is located within the town centre, c.170m east of the town's stone cross, which forms the focal point of the town. The site lies within the postulated boundary of the former medieval settlement at Penkridge and Penkridge Conservation Area, opposite land that was formerly in use as the site of the Horse Fair.

The history and archaeology of the assessment site were traced through documentary sources, cartographic sources dating from 17th-century county maps to present day and archaeological evidence already recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record. The assessment concluded that although there was no direct evidence of occupation on the site itself until 1963, when the existing builder's yard was established, the potential for buried archaeological deposits could not be discounted.

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castlering Archaeology

Frost P., 2004, *Belbrook, Penkridge, Archaeological Desk-based assessment and site visit*. Castlering Archaeology Report **186**

ROLLESTON ON DOVE, 2A, Station Road (SK 2375 2761)

A contracted archaeological watching brief preceded by rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken in October 2004, when the excavation of footings for a new dwelling on land at 2A, Station Road, Rolleston on Dove were monitored.

A post-war bungalow occupied the plot until it was demolished in advance of the current development. On the west side of the plot, the smithy first recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1886 still stands, and may be incorporated into the new dwelling at a later date, although the external features will remain unaltered. Apart from the smithy, no development appears to have taken place on the site, until the post-war construction of the modern bungalow.

The groundwork was monitored by the contractor intermittently in January and February 2004 but no archaeological features were revealed. The few finds recovered were modern in date, consistent with the clearance following the demolition of the post-war bungalow and there was no evidence to suggest any earlier occupation on the site.

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castlering Archaeology

Frost P., 2004, *2A Station Road, Rolleston on Dove, Archaeological Watching Brief*. Castlering Archaeology Report 173

SHUGBOROUGH, Shugborough Park (SJ 993 218)

An archaeological evaluation was commissioned by the National Trust at Shugborough Park (centred on NGR 399000, 322900), in advance of the proposed construction of a new car park and visitor centre. The archaeological field evaluation followed a desk-based assessment summarising the archaeological and historical background of the site and a geophysical survey.

The geophysical survey suggested the presence of archaeological features within and in the vicinity of the development site. Trial trenching recorded the presence of a Bronze Age pit, sealed beneath an alluvial deposit in the vicinity of a brook. A number of pits were recorded, some of which corresponded with a pit alignment previously recorded by aerial photography. No artefactual data was recovered from these pits. A small pit produced a concentration of fired clay, interpreted as the fragmentary remains of a small oven. A large enclosure ditch was recorded within two trenches to the southwest of Shugborough Park Farm.

Two sandstone structures were recorded on the southern and northern sides of a large northwest to southeast aligned hollow visible in the area of the proposed car park, which may have represented a natural feature or a hollow way. These features may pre-date the 18th-century landscaped park. A post-medieval brick building was recorded to the west of the walled garden, together with a further brick boundary wall laid on sandstone foundations.

John Halsted, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1328

STAFFORD, The Areva Works, Lichfield Road (SJ 929 223)

In response to a planning application for a mixed-use development of part of the Areva Works Site, Lichfield Road, Stafford, recording of the factory buildings of the former Siemens Brothers Dynamo Works was undertaken by Steve Litherland of Birmingham Archaeology. This heavy electrical factory opened in Stafford in 1903 after the purchase of c.50 acres of land to the southeast of the Forebridge area of Stafford in 1900, forming the power arm of a triumvirate of Siemens factories in Britain, its sisters being Woolwich (cables and telegraphy) and Dalston (lamps) in London.

The building survey highlighted a broad schema for the development of the works incorporating three main phases. Phase 1 involved the construction of the core of the factory, including offices, furnaces, casting shops, a huge machine shop over 85m long by 84m wide, and an equally massive erecting, testing and packing shop that was over 145m long. Characterised by the evident quality and solidity of their build, these buildings made a bold statement about the modernity and rational organisation of the Siemens Company. Steel-framing was used throughout (advancements in the mass-production of steel being in no small part due to the pioneering work of William Siemens). The riveting of the frames and use of lattice work for bracing was typical of this period, and is reminiscent of contemporary railway architecture. During the First World War the company was taken over by the government and devoted to munitions production, particularly shell casings.

Phase 2 covered the English Electric ownership of the works, up to the end of the Second World War. The English Electric Company was formed in 1918/1919 through an amalgamation of several large engineering firms with a heavy electrical

and transport bias. Despite the difficulties faced by British industry during the 1920s and 30s, English Electric was heavily involved in the establishment of the National Electricity Grid and the electrification of the Southern Railway. Production reverted to munitions again during the Second World War. Bomb casings were made here for the RAF, including those for the famous 'bouncing bomb' designed by Barnes Wallis, as well as shell casings and the ill-designed Covenanter Tank. Stafford town escaped relatively lightly from the Luftwaffe aerial offensive against Britain, and the Stafford Works was no exception. Disruptive paintwork was used to disguise the straight lines of the factory buildings, and several air-raid shelters were dug, the main ones having anti-gas filters. Overall this era was characterised by gradual expansion and adaption of the original works and following the Factory Act of 1937, the provision of better welfare facilities.

The final phase (3) of growth was under the post-war English Electric regime. After the Second World War the heavy engineering side continued to expand and the Nelson Research Laboratories were set up in order to maintain and develop the technological advances made during the war, including early work in computing. These buildings were stridently modernist in design. However, in the late 1960s English Electric was swallowed into the GEC empire, which in turn was to merge with the French Company Alstom, subsequently re-branded as Alstom, and then Areva, in more recent years. In an ironic quirk of history, one of the main bidders against Areva for the Stafford Works was Siemens AG, some 100 years after their initial involvement with the development of the site.

This works incorporated state-of-the-art technology and the most-up-to-date principles of industrial management and played a significant role in the second phase of the Industrial Revolution in this country.

It was an early example of pan-European industrial co-operation that produced equipment for an energy source that transformed 20th-century life, although its products also came to litter the battlefields of the world. Finally, after a century, part of the works has now succumbed to a major 21st-century phenomenon – that of miniaturisation.

Steve Litherland, Birmingham Archaeology Report 1363

STANTON, Barn Piece, Thorswood — flint scraper (SK 1152 4728)

A flint scraper was recovered from ground disturbed in 2004 in the construction of a gateway into a field formerly known as 'Barn Piece', giving access to the newly-established 'Thorswood Nature Reserve' (Moscrop 2003). The flake has been struck from a nodule of brown, translucent flint with finely-pitted surface, perhaps derived in prehistory from a glacial deposit, rather than directly from the chalk. The scraper is of 'horseshoe' form and has been made in such a way as to remove the bulb of percussion (**Fig. 20**), a characteristic most often encountered late in the Neolithic or early in the Bronze Age, at some time around 2000 BC or perhaps a little later.

The construction-works of 2004 involved some earth-moving at this spot, and it should not be overlooked that this may have required the importation of topsoil from another place, opening the possibility that the flint scraper was brought here very recently, in which case it provides no evidence for prehistoric settlement in the immediate vicinity. Besides this, the recent works have inflicted considerable damage upon a length of bank-and-ditch earthwork here (itself seemingly unrecorded hitherto), which could mean that the scraper was already in a secondary context before being brought to the surface in 2004.

G. Guilbert, D. Garton and D. Walters

Reference

Moscrop, D, 2003. 'Stanton, Thorswood Nature Reserve', *WMA* 46, 105-6.

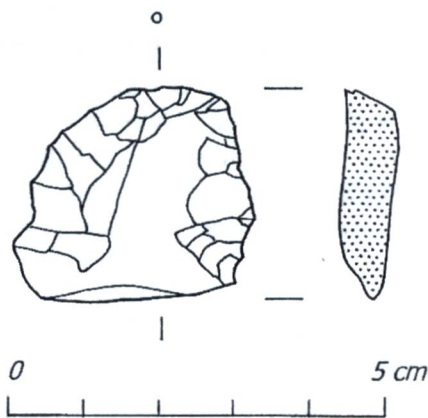


Fig. 20: Flint scraper found at Barn Piece, Stanton; scale 1:1.

STOKE-ON-TRENT, A500 Pathfinder Scheme

(Centred on SJ 8798 4531)

An ongoing watching brief on the remodelling of the A500 through Stoke-on-Trent is being undertaken by Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology, on behalf of Edmund Nuttall Ltd. Pottery waste attributable to some of the town's most well-known 19th- and early 20th-century pottery manufacturers (Copeland - Spode, Adams, Jones, Mayer etc.) continues to be recovered.

Ruth Leak, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology, Report nos. 147 & 161

STOKE-ON-TRENT, Cotehouse Farm, Berry Hill

(SJ 905 461)

Excavation at the site of a small dairy farm in the hinterland of Stoke-on-Trent was carried out by Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology Service. A third season of research/training excavation uncovered a range of two brick-built pigsties and a privy of the later 19th-century. The single privy, which required mucking out by hand, was in use until the 1950s. The pigsties, in contrast, were fitted with stone-ware drainpipes leading to a brick-lined cess pool.

Noel Boothroyd, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology Service

STOKE-ON-TRENT, Chatterley Whitfield Colliery (SU 8839 5326)

Between September 2004 and November 2005, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief commissioned by Atkins Heritage as part of the Chatterley Whitfield Regeneration Project. A watching brief during the excavation of test pits revealed the foundations of building number 12 (the main office block) and evidence of ground reduction and/or deposition of made ground prior to the construction of building number 12. A partially exposed concrete slab, which may represent an earlier phase of building, was also recorded. A later watching brief during the installation of new sewers exposed the ground floor and walls of the former lower laboratory building and layers of made ground over the northeast corner of the site, and also those associated with the access road embankment. During the excavation of a cable trench an earlier road and yard surface was exposed southwest of the main office.

Mike Sims (OA Client Report)

STOKE-ON-TRENT, The Hadderidge Pottery, Navigation Road, Burslem (SJ 8669 4954)

Acting for Pochin Homes Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology undertook excavations on the sites of two early pottery factories, the Hadderidge Pottery and the Albion Pottery. The former was certainly in existence by c.1790, while the latter probably dates to the early 19th century. Archaeological evidence for the two factories, which had merged in the 20th century, was limited, although the remains of two potters' ovens were revealed. Deposits of pottery wasters reflected the early products of the factories, the most significant of which was a group of cream- and pearlwares manufactured by the firm of Lakin & Poole during the years 1791-1795. A further group of wasters indicated the manufacture of coarse earthenware pans

and jars in the vicinity, probably during the second half of the 18th century.

On the western side of the site were terraced houses which dated to the early 19th century. Excavation exposed ten of these, revealing a form with a single living room floored in alternating red and blue quarry tiles, and two small utility rooms beyond. Small yards lay to the rear, into which extensions and toilets were added from the late 19th century.

Deborah Forrester, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology

**STOKE-ON-TRENT, Etruria Industrial Museum, Etruria
(SJ 8735 4672)**

British Waterways commissioned Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology to carry out the survey of a wall adjacent to the Caldon Canal at Etruria Industrial Museum, Stoke-on-Trent. The structure is all that remains of the boundary wall of the 1804 Dispensary and House of Recovery which once stood on the site. This was one of the first establishments of its kind in the Potteries and was built on a piece of land between the Caldon Canal and the Trent and Mersey Canal, formerly owned by Josiah Wedgwood's son, Josiah. The hospital, a three-storey building, was designed by Mr. David Bellhouse of Manchester and built by Mr. Francis Coxon of Hanley. The hospital and surrounding land was purchased by the British Gas Light Company in 1867, which built extensions to its gasworks and had demolished the main buildings by 1880.

The surviving boundary wall showed evidence of truncation, particularly at its western end, where access to an adjacent gasometer had been created. Modifications and repairs were recorded, including stepping and capping with blue bricks and concrete filling and patching. Possible evidence of a gate was observed at the wall's eastern end.

Zoe Sutherland, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology, Report no. 168

**STOKE-ON-TRENT, The Diamond Gimson Works, City Road, Fenton
(SJ 8952 4450)**

Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the evaluation and subsequent excavation of a former stilt and spur (kiln furniture) manufactory, operated by Gimsions (later Diamond Gimson) since the 1860s. This specialist branch of manufacture was a consequence of the advent of machine production from the mid-19th century, and became crucial to the success of the industry, but it has never been investigated archaeologically. The excavation revealed a range of complex structural evidence which is proving difficult to interpret. Workshop floors, flues, drains and storage tanks existed alongside circular brick-built beehive-like structures which were encountered in locations at which ovens were indicated on the Ordnance Survey maps. If these are ovens, their form and method of operation remain to be determined. The best preserved of the dome structures sat upon waste from the nearby factory of C. J. Mason, which was abundant across the site.

Deborah Forrester, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology

**STOKE-ON-TRENT, The Old Foley Pottery, King Street, Fenton
(SJ 8669 4954)**

Davenport Projects commissioned Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology to undertake archaeological building recording and archaeological evaluation and excavation on the site of the Old Foley Pottery. Pottery has been made on the site since the late 18th century, although the present factory buildings date to the 19th century, when the site was occupied by two factories, the Old Foley Pottery and the Old Foley China Works, which were consolidated in the 20th century. The buildings recorded related to the final use of the factory by Hadida China in the late 20th and early 21st century.

Five excavation trenches revealed structural evidence for both factories, including the remains of six circular pottery ovens. Some

of these pre-dated 1878 and had been modified or rebuilt over a period of seventy years or more. Three ovens had been accommodated within buildings rather than having hovels. One of the ovens was of the more efficient downdraught type, introduced in the early 20th century. The remains of this included the brick base, the central circular well, and the brick-lined flue which led from this. A second flue connected with the first, suggesting that a second downdraught oven had existed nearby. Further structures included a rectangular muffle kiln, used for hardening-on over-glaze painted decoration of wares, and a 20th-century tunnel kiln.

Zoe Sutherland, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology Report nos. 177 & 178

STOKE-ON-TRENT, St. Paul's Church, Smithpool Road, Fenton (SJ 8850 4423)

Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology was commissioned by Milwood Ltd. to undertake archaeological buildings recording on St. Paul's Church prior to its demolition. A date stone indicates that the present building was erected in 1885, succeeding an earlier Mission Church built in c.1870 to accommodate the growing population of the Potteries. The church is brick-built and of a simple form, comprising a rectangular nave of 16.35 x 13.66m lit by clerestory windows, a chancel of 8.86 x 5.50m, and a small vestry and organ room. The Church was built next to an existing school, with the constraints of the site dictating its north-south alignment. The Church displays only minimal decorative treatment either internally or externally, but has remained little altered since its construction, apart from the installation of a stained glass window in the south wall of the Chancel in 1902. The floors were tiled, with decorated tiles used only in the chancel.

Tracy Weston, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology, Report no. 165

STOKE-ON-TRENT, The Trent Pottery, Hanley

(SJ 8892 4696)

Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology evaluated and subsequently excavated part of the former Trent Pottery sanitary ware manufactory for Woodford Consulting Engineers. The Trent works was built alongside the Cauldon Canal in 1896 by the firm of Johnson Brothers for the production of toilets, sinks, cisterns, etc.

Excavations comprised four trenches targeting late 19th-century terraced houses, stables and pottery ovens. Although the survival of the workers' housing was relatively poor, it was nonetheless possible to determine that the properties had been altered over time with the addition of rear extensions, probably to house improved sanitary facilities. The stable block featured within the factory complex as a result of its canal-side location, where horses were used to pull barges of raw materials and finished goods. Unfortunately, little information was gleaned from the stable block and, to date, no other examples have been excavated in Stoke-on-Trent.

A total of seven ovens was discovered within two trenches, all of which were of the downdraught type, used in the north Staffordshire pottery industry during the late 19th to early 20th centuries (**Fig. 21**). Downdraught ovens were far more efficient than the traditional updraught model, which wasted a great deal of the heat generated during firing. Downdraughts re-circulated heat within the oven chamber to ensure a more efficient and more consistent firing cycle. Heat and gases were vented off through slots in the floor and out via a large underground flue connected to a separate chimney, evidence for which was also found during the excavations.

It is clear from this and subsequent excavations in Stoke-on-Trent, that the use of downdraught ovens was commonplace in the north Staffordshire pottery industry by



Fig. 21: Central well and exit flue of downdraught pottery oven, Trent Pottery, Stoke-on-Trent

the end of the 19th century. This was in some doubt, as little evidence of such ovens had been identified on previous sites. Although it is likely that some smaller or older factories persisted with the long-established updraught variety, others chose to utilise downdraught ovens. The Trent Pottery seems to have functioned exclusively with downdraughts, although it is not clear whether this represents the firm's faith in this oven type or some requirement of the quite specific form of ceramic production that took place at the factory.

A watching brief accompanied the remediation of the site and recorded the remains of a flint calcining kiln which formerly abutted one of two extant, Grade II listed examples on site.

Jonathan Goodwin, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology Report no. 157

STOKE-ON-TRENT, Waterloo Road, Hanley

(SJ 8788 4822)

Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology was commissioned by Lear Management Ltd. to undertake the limited building recording of late 19th-century terraced houses at 452 to 464 Waterloo Road, Hanley, and the subsequent archaeological evaluation of two of these (Nos. 462 and 464). A date stone in No. 462 indicated construction in 1897. The excavation identified the structural remains of the better quality terraced housing which was built within the Potteries during the later 19th century, together with their associated ancillary buildings and yards.

Both excavated houses had well-proportioned large front parlours and living rooms, with bay windows facing onto the main road, and with cellars beneath. The

size and appearance of these rooms at the front of the house contrasts with the smaller service rooms located at the back, which included a separate kitchen and scullery. The adequate provision of fireplaces for heating and cooking throughout helped ensure a certain level of comfort. Later alterations, such as the infilling of the cellar in house No. 462, re-laid floors, and improvements to drainage and water supply, testify to modernisation during the lifetime of the houses.

Alison Nicholls, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology

**STOKE-ON-TRENT, Sideway
(Site A - SO 387500 343500; Site B - SO
387500 342500; SOT30270)**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken for CgMs Consulting on behalf of Mouchel Parkman at two locations. Site A revealed the remains at foundation level of the farm buildings at Sideway Farm. The earliest structures seemed to be external walls dating between 1740-1780, with later additions, both internal and external to the buildings, dating to the 19th and 20th centuries. These forms of farm buildings are rare within the Stoke-on-Trent city boundary. Site B was a larger scale of evaluation comprising 25 trenches machined throughout a single, large field. Visual survey and aerial photography had established the presence of a raised platform area in the western part of the field. This was considered to have the potential to be medieval in date. The trenches revealed features relating to the field's use in an agricultural context during the post-medieval period, though none were medieval. The trenches also revealed field boundaries which had been changed in the modern era. The northern side of the field revealed the former course of the Chitlings Brook, which presently forms the northern boundary of the field. Samples were taken from this palaeochannel, which revealed that the surrounding area was probably deliberately cultivated for rye grass used for animal fodder. The remnants of food items were probably carried down from upstream

settlement. There were no significant archaeological deposits at Site B, indicating its history of agricultural usage away from the settlement of Hanford half a kilometre to the west.

Milward, J, and Goad, J, 2005 *Archaeological evaluation at Sideway, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, Worcestershire* Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1352

SWINDON, Stirrup mount find

Stirrup mounts are not particularly uncommon finds, but this stirrup mount does have a more unusual design than most (**Fig. 22**). Williams (Williams, D. 1997 *Late Saxon Stirrup Strap Mounts: A classification and Catalogue* CBA Research Report 111) in his 1997 Catalogue illustrates only three of this type (Type 15). The design is simplistic, formed with a pair of joined spirals. This was found by a metal detector user and reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (WAW-1BA854).

Angie Bolton (Warwickshire/Worcestershire Finds Liaison Officer)

**TAMWORTH, Coton Lane (north of
Tamworth)
(SK 1885 0621)**

In October 2005, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief commissioned by Severn Trent Water Ltd. in advance of a programme of asset diversion. The watching brief revealed deposits of post-medieval worked soils directly overlying the natural Terrace deposits. No intrusive features or deposits indicative of earlier archaeology were encountered.

Mike Sims (OA Client Report)

**TAMWORTH, Bonehill Mill, Lichfield
Street, Fazeley
(SK 1993 0209)**

BDG Ltd. commissioned Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology to undertake a watching brief on the excavation of a wall foundation trench on the southern boundary of the Bonehill Mill industrial complex, Fazeley, Tamworth. The course of Watling Street Roman road runs beneath the development



Fig. 22: Stirrup mount from Swindon

© Birmingham City Council/Portable Antiquities Scheme

area. The shallow excavations revealed evidence of an earlier boundary wall to the site which had been bisected by a recent service trench. No traces of the Roman road were encountered at the maximum trench depth (0.50m).

Jonathan Goodwin, Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology, Report no. 158

TUTBURY, Tutbury Castle and Park Pale

(SK 20952915)

A second season of archaeological work was carried out as part of a wider research project in collaboration with the British Museum and Tutbury Castle. The archaeological work included a resistivity survey of the middle bailey, and a topographical survey of the Park Pale, a large linear earthwork of unknown date that lies to the south of the castle, extending into the town of Tutbury. In addition, three areas of excavation were opened, Area 1 in the inner bailey to the southwest of the North Tower, Area 2 also in the inner bailey to the northwest of the South Tower, and Area 3 on top of the motte.

Area 1 uncovered more of a building that was partially investigated in the 2004

season, and which is traditionally on the site of the lodging occupied by Mary Stuart during her incarceration at the castle. The building was rectangular, and the remains comprised a comparatively narrow stone plinth, probably designed to carry a timber-framed superstructure. A sondage excavated inside the building at the southern end of the trench revealed a cobbled surface associated with 12th-/13th-century pottery. Within the north end of the building was a sub-circular pit of dished profile c.3.2m in diameter. It was filled with rubble and mortar including a number of moulded stones, perhaps from the nearby North Tower. Generally, the finds from the upper levels of the interior of this building, both pottery and clay pipes, date from the mid-17th century, and may point to a final phase of occupation during the Civil War. To the north of the building's northwest corner a substantial 2.8m long dressed stone gully was uncovered, and, adjacent to it towards the east, a metallised surface. The gully had been broken through at each end by possible postholes. A curiosity was that the one at the south end contained a complete Midlands Purple pot dating from the

15th/16th century, apparently in situ though its purpose has yet to be determined.

Area 2 was situated immediately northwest of the assumed line of the rampart identified during the 2004 excavations. The trench was excavated to a depth of 2m below ground level, and the natural subsoil located by auger at a depth of approximately 3.6m. Overlying the subsoil was a 0.44m thick layer of redeposited silty clay, sealed by a thin deposit of pale grey clay. Above this was a waterlogged layer of clay containing large amounts of wood and 12th-century pottery. The excavation appears to have located a major feature, possibly a ditch, although its nature could not be determined owing to the limited nature of the investigation. It is planned to continue working on this area next year.

The trench on the motte (Area 3) was located on the northwest side in an area previously excavated in 1913 and the 1950s, when substantial stone foundations were discovered. The 2005 excavation uncovered, in the northeastern portion of the trench, a medieval stone structure at least 1.2m thick, which was tentatively identified as a flight of steps. In the southwest portion of the trench, at a depth of approximately 2.7m, was a possible floor surface consisting of flat stones pressed into clay. Part of this surface was sealed by 0.3m thick flat stones, which appeared to form a pavement. These features indicate that the motte was formerly occupied by a substantial stone building, although further investigation is required to ascertain its nature.

Malcolm Hislop, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1188.02

TUTBURY, 34 High Street (SK 2130 2898)

A contracted archaeological watching brief preceded by rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken on land to the rear of 34, High Street, Tutbury in February 2004, during alteration and extensions to the

three-storey Grade II listed building. The building fronts onto the High Street, a typical broad market street lined by mainly Georgian and Regency styled housing. Cartographic evidence suggests No. 34 was built by the 1850s, replacing a house recorded on the site in 1810.

Reductions in ground levels to the rear of No. 34 uncovered a rectangular and a sub-circular water tank sunk into natural clay. The impervious nature of the clay would have prevented any natural drainage, necessitating the construction of tanks to collect rainwater, which may have been pumped out and used for washing and/or garden purposes.

The rectangular tank constructed with hand made bricks measured 1.96m long x 1.37m wide x 1.67m deep. A vaulted roof was corbelled to a depth of seven courses below which the tank had been cut straight into the clay. A circular opening measuring 0.47m diameter was formed by a collar of rubbed bricks on the southwest side of the vaulted roof. The collar opening presumably afforded access for cleaning and/or removing water from the tank in bulk. Two openings on opposing corners held sections of iron pipe, leading into the tank. In the northwest corner, a 5cm diameter pipe extended to the bottom of the tank and may have been connected to a pump. Removal of the roof of the tank was necessary as part of the current works. Following removal of the roof, the internal 20cm square tiled walls and a c.30cm square sump was located in the east corner of the tank. The body of the tank will be left in situ and the structure filled with clean stone as part of the current works.

West of the rectangular tank, a sub-circular tank measuring, 1m east/west by 0.9m wide, was located. The tank was constructed with unmortared bricks laid on-end. The structure was filled with demolition rubble, which was finally cleaned out to a depth of 1.8m, which

appeared to be the natural clay base. Brickwork retained on the southeast side showed that the upper three courses of the structure were corbelled and slate bedding on the northeast side may have held a pump. The sub-circular tank was presumably built to take rainwater from the extension built over the earlier rectangular tank. The body of this tank will also be filled with clean stone as part of the current works.

The few finds recovered during clearance were of 19th-/20th-century date, mainly resulting from the demolition of the extension on the east side and entirely domestic in nature. There was no evidence to suggest any earlier occupation on the site.

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castlering Archaeology

Frost P., 2004, *34 High Street, Tutbury, Archaeological Watching Brief*. Castlering Archaeology Report 175

TUTBURY, 73 Holts Lane (SK 2088 2863).

During September 2005, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Benchmark Archaeology at 73 Holts Lane, Tutbury. The watching brief was undertaken prior to the construction of a two-storey extension and a single-storey front extension to the property. The watching brief recorded no significant archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts other than a mid-brown clayey silty loam deposit that may have been a former plough-soil associated with probable medieval field-systems (PRN 05277) known to have existed in the area. No evidence for survival of the nearby Park Pale, or associated deposits was identified. It is likely that any evidence for the Park Pale would have been destroyed by modern development activity at the site.

Richard Cherrington, Benchmark Archaeology

UTTOXETER, Land off Town Meadows Way

(SK 09442 33511)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land off Town Meadows Way, Uttoxeter, to be developed by Churchill Retirement Living for the construction of forty-seven sheltered housing apartments. The site covers approximately 0.34 hectares of land on the east side of the town centre of Uttoxeter.

A series of four trenches was excavated in February 2006, revealing considerable ground disturbance and buried post-medieval levelling deposits.

In Trenches A and B, the natural subsoil had been cut by linear features and pits, which were interpreted as garden features/cultivation beds together with a drain constructed with rounded river cobbles. The linear features included both late medieval and post-medieval ceramic material. Cleaning over the natural subsoil at the junction of Trenches A and B also produced a mix of medieval and post-medieval ceramic material together with the chance find of a chert flake, which appeared to be worked. This mix of finds in the area of the garden features indicated the amount of disturbance caused by turning over the soil in the post-medieval period.

The garden/cultivation bed features cut into the natural subsoil, located in Trenches A and B, are fairly consistent with map evidence for the site from the 17th century onwards. Peter Lightfoote's Map of 1658 shows the Church, Vicarage and land owned by Mr. James Wood of The Hall, in the tenure of William Royston. The land slopes east towards the 'Wilgs', a name which may have been derived from willows which may have grown there. The current development site lies below the old Vicarage gardens and Lightfoote's map indicates an undeveloped tree-lined field. By the mid-19th century Tithe map, the site

is recorded as an orchard attached to Plot 101, a house owned by George Bladon.

Land generally slopes east from the town towards the valley of the River Dove. The evaluation site lies at least 7m below the ground level of the church. The natural river gravels located below the subsoil suggest the low-lying ground may have been a hindrance to any settlement in the medieval to modern period.

The degree of disturbance from garden activity in the post-medieval period explains the presence of the single flint and the late medieval ceramics, which may have been introduced from the higher ground. Further disturbance to the west end of the site has been caused by the demolition of the red brick two-storey building which once formed part of the lower churchyard boundary.

Excavations further east uncovered a thick deposit of light reddish-brown clay, which oral testimony together with the recovery of modern material indicates was imported to level the site some time within the last seven years, since the construction of Town Meadows Way.

The evaluation has shed further light on the nature and survival of the archaeological resource in the area. The results, particularly from trenches A, B & C, allow the broad characterization of surviving archaeological deposits within the application area.

The depth and extent of the current proposed development will not impact on any of the post-medieval cultivation beds or levels at which late medieval ceramic material were encountered.

The presence of medieval ceramic material may suggest a potential for buried archaeological deposits of this period during any future development on higher ground west of the current evaluation site.

The consistency of the light reddish-brown clay, however, suggests that this made-up ground may continue over the remaining undeveloped low-lying ground bordering the west side of Town Meadows Way.

Pat Frost, Consultant Archaeologist, Castlering Archaeology

Frost, P., February 2006, *Land off Town Meadows Way, Uttoxeter, Archaeological Evaluation*. Castlering Archaeology Report **229**

Frost, P., 2001, *Land between Town Meadows Way & Bridge Street, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, Archaeological Assessment*. Castlering Archaeology, Report **110**

WOBASTON, land off Wobaston Road and Clewley Farm (SJ 9010 0400 and SO 9040 0400)

Two stages of evaluation were undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting at the instruction of Mouchel Parkman. Initially sixteen trenches were excavated across two fields, which had previously been the subject of geophysical survey. The survey had revealed weak anomalies which were considered to indicate either geological variations or archaeological features. No significant archaeological structures, features or horizons, nor any trace of former ridge and furrow were observed. It is considered that the geophysical anomalies were probably the result of variations in the natural matrix, the existence of agricultural land drains and extensive deep ploughing of the site. The minimal artefactual assemblage recovered indicates that there was probably never intensive activity within the site other than of agricultural origin.

The Stage II evaluation at Clewley Farm took place in a copse just to the east of the Stage I evaluation. Six trenches were opened up across the area and revealed a series of well-preserved remains of the farmhouse and various farm buildings, which dated from the late 18th century onwards. The majority of the farm buildings would appear to have been established at the same time, with additions of extra buildings throughout the 19th and early 20th

centuries. The farmstead was demolished shortly after the Second World War. There is no indication that this was a “model farm” of the period, although it is of local archaeological significance.

Vaughan, T, and Goad, J, 2005 *Evaluation at Wobaston Road, Wobaston, near Wolverhampton, Staffordshire*, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1329

**WOLVERHAMPTON, Bilston,
Millfields Road
(SO 934 963; EBL761)**

Building recording was undertaken on behalf of Coltham Developments. The buildings recorded at Millfields Road form part of the John Thompson Ltd. company of boiler tube makers, although the works on the site was a Motor Pressings Works and chassis manufacturer. The first building was constructed on the site around 1910 with later buildings being constructed in the 1930s. This included an impressive office building with limestone window and door cills. The first building on the site was also extended in the 1930s using Belfast trusses and steel stanchions from Consett.

Robson-Glyde, S, 2005 *Building recording at Millfields Road, Bilston, Wolverhampton, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service*, internal report, 1383

**WOOTTON, Gid Acre — prehistoric
cup-marked boulder
(SK 1032 4531)**

Following his discovery of a cup-marked stone in 2003, Angus Dalton (tenant of Shawcroft Farm, Wootton) has located another example, at just 440m south-south-east from his first find (for which see Guilbert *et al.* 2003). This one lay under the boundary-hedge between Gidacre Lane and a field that was known as ‘Gid Acre’ in the 1844 tithe-apportionment for the township of Wootton, providing our name for this item of rock-art (in *ibid.*, the 2003 find was called ‘Gidacre Lane’ but, in line with the terminology adopted in the present volume of *WMA*, employing 1844 field-names, it should more properly be referred to as ‘Big Whites’, as used hereafter in the interests of

clarity). The Gid Acre cup-marked stone had evidently been positioned at the find-spot in forming the footing of a drystone-wall, now much robbed and dilapidated, and long replaced by the hedge. It sat with a heavily-decorated surface uppermost (termed ‘obverse’ below), though some two-thirds of that surface were covered by a smaller wall-stone, and it was only AD’s heightened awareness of the possibility that further rock-art might emerge from the land he farms that led him to notice the several exposed cups (all the more laudable when it is realized that the visible cups included none of the largest ones, i.e. until AD removed the overlying piece, the outline of which remained obvious through discoloration upon the decorated face when this was first seen by the writers, at which time the boulder remained where found). Given that the decorative marks are presumed to have been executed in prehistory, and that the stone thus seemed sure to have been shifted from its original location before being built into this wall, it was decided to lift it for recording, thereby revealing cup-marks in lesser density on its underside (the ‘reverse’). It should be emphasized that the attitude of this stone in prehistory can never be ascertained, so that reference here to ‘uppermost’, ‘underside’, or ‘obverse/reverse’, is purely for convenience in description — indeed, it may be that the decoration on opposed faces was meant to be appreciated simultaneously, in which case it would obviously have been necessary to stand the stone on edge.

The Gid Acre decorated stone is a medium-grained, mid-brown sandstone, rather less vesicular than that from Big Whites but also apparently derived ultimately from one of several varieties of Triassic sandstone mapped by the British Geological Survey in these southern foothills of the Weavers. Given that many neighbouring wall-stones appear similar lithologically, a nearby origin for this particular stone seems all the more probable, though it is evidently an eroded boulder, no doubt transported by ice

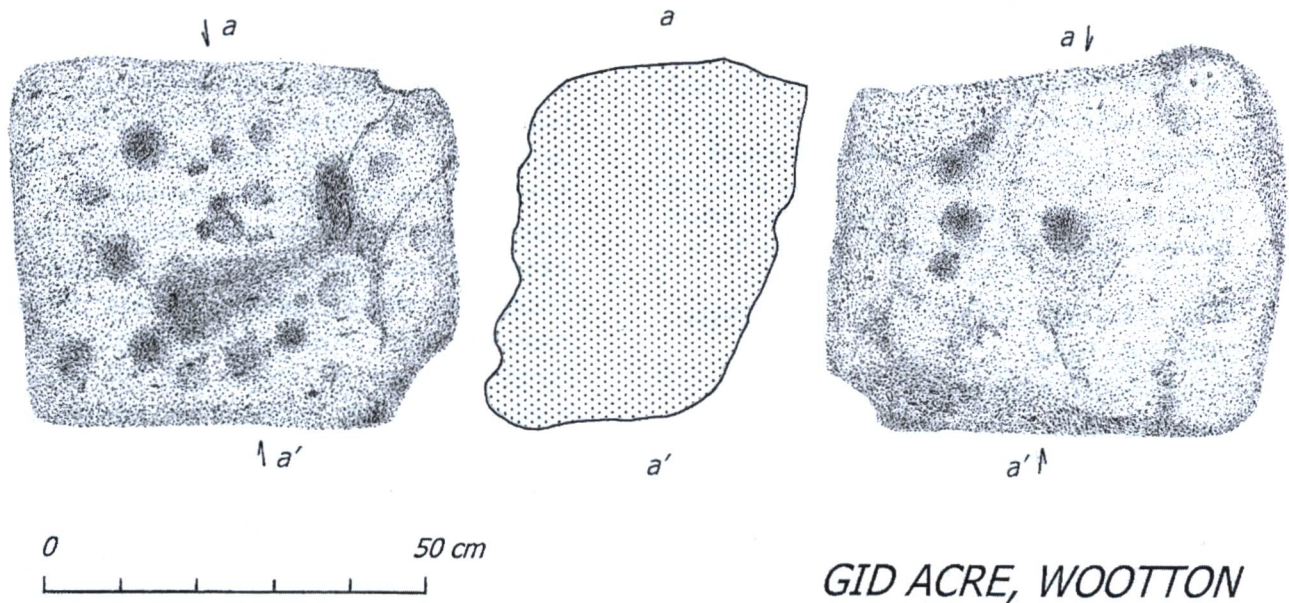


Fig. 23: Cup-marked boulder from Gid Acre, Wootton, depicting both 'obverse' (left) and 'reverse', with cross profile on line a-a'; scale 1:10

and formerly incorporated in a till-deposit (perhaps even that mapped by BGS in the immediate vicinity of Gid Acre – Chisholm *et al.* 1988, 96, fig. 25), so that the possibility of an erratic carried from some more-distant source cannot be entirely discounted.

The boulder is roughly oblong, approximately 0.6x0.5m, and 0.30-0.35m in thickness. The decoration occurs on the two largest faces, both of which measure c.0.50x0.40-0.45m, and both are flattish overall despite running almost perpendicular to the bedding-planes in the sandstone, giving rise to some localized relief that seems relevant to the layout of some of the cup-marks, especially on the reverse. The boulder appears to have suffered little damage since decorated, with just one sizeable scar, left by forcible removal of one corner of the block, injuring at least one cup on the reverse (scar at top in **Fig. 23**, but wholly excluded from the slightly-oblique view in **Fig. 24** - this does not have the appearance of *very* recent

damage). Neither does it seem to have been much eroded after the decoration was completed, because, whereas all of its faces and edges (bar the sharply-defined scar) remain well rounded, the numerous cup-marks appear far less smoothed through weathering than do their surrounds, suggesting that erosion was all but complete by the time the boulder was released from the till. In consequence, the decoration probably remains much as created.

The decoration on the obverse (**Figs 23 and 24**) resembles that of the multi-cup stone from Big Whites, both in its exclusive use of cups (albeit the Big Whites stone is incomplete) and, particularly, in the distinctive, near-conical form of some of those cups. Much of the obverse is covered by a dense pattern of cups, numbering at least sixteen, of various depths and diameters. The centre-piece of this face is a larger and more-amorphous hollow, elongated and asymmetrically angled in outline — what might be termed a bent pear-shape — c.350mm in length by up to



Fig. 24: Cup-marked boulder, showing 'obverse', as found in wall-footing under hedge forming north-east boundary of Gid Acre, Wootton; scale-divisions are 0.10m

c.110mm in width and c.26mm in depth. The shallower, up to c.14mm, arm of this central feature (to the right in **Fig. 23**) partly matches the line of a crack in the rock (one of two seen to continue in their unaltered form towards the top right corner in **Fig. 23**), while its terminal is slightly deepened, after the character of a cup. It is not impossible that the latter lay independent of the larger hollow at one stage, and this may provide a clue to understanding the nature of other parts of the central feature — *viz*, despite initial impressions, this may not have formed the focus of any overall decorative design in which simple discrete cups were distributed around it, nor even of a pattern that developed piecemeal as cups were added round about, for the central feature may never have been conceived as a motif in its finished form, having perhaps come about through coalescence of several separate cups, or maybe by deliberate expansion of pre-existing cups. A majority of the

surrounding cups are bowl-shaped, ranging c.20-50mm in diameter by c.4-8mm in depth, while most of the six biggest cups, c.55-70mm across by c.14-24mm deep, are almost conical, with side sloping quite steeply to a blunt tip (that included in left side of **Fig. 23** profile is unfortunately the least conical of these). Many of the cups appear little weathered, especially the larger ones, as witness peck-marks preserved within them, apparently as left by the tool with which they were made. Several other isolated indentations, more irregular in depth and outline, may be entirely natural, possibly due to localized flaws in the rock, or were perhaps caused by some ancient damage (particularly a small group lying just above centre in **Fig. 23**).

The reverse (**Fig. 23**) is less even than the obverse, with some slight steps. This carries five undoubted cups, if anything appearing rather better preserved than any on the obverse, with pristine peck-marks evident.

It is as though the reverse has seen even less exposure to the elements subsequent to decoration than has the obverse — maybe the reverse is aptly named, its fresh-looking cups having perhaps lain on the underside for many years even before the boulder was incorporated in the wall. The largest cup on the reverse, again trunconic in profile, c.70mm across by c.12mm deep, lies close to central, cutting into a slightly-raised part of the natural surface. Three of the others, ranging c.50-55mm in diameter by c.8-10mm deep, form a curving row (left of centre in **Fig. 23**), with the fifth certain cup close by, partly removed by the scar, as remarked above. In addition, three or four smaller and shallower indentations (including two at bottom right and one below the central cup in **Fig. 23**) have an appearance of incipient cups, because they too display peck-marks — together with its comparative sparsity, this detail makes it seem feasible that the art on the reverse never became ‘developed’ to the same extent as that on the obverse (conceivably chiming with our suspicion that the reverse could have been longer protected from weathering, and hence maybe also hidden from view).

Clearly, the Gid Acre cup-marked stone relates to the well-known, yet little understood, tradition of prehistoric cup-and-ring art, just as has been concluded in assessing other decorated stones recently recorded in this part of Staffordshire, including that from Big Whites mentioned above (see Guilbert *et al.* 2003 for published references to examples from the parishes of Ramshorn, Okeover, Stanton and Wootton). Others from Wootton are reported below — ‘Hooball Wood Piece’, ‘Upper Close’ and ‘Weaver’, found approximately 1250m, 700m and 800m respectively to the north-east, north-east and north of Gid Acre — and it deserves notice here, firstly, that the Big Whites field was ploughed again in 2004, when it produced, at SK 101 457, a smaller piece of sandstone very like that recovered in 2003 and bearing

a single rounded cup, c.65mm across by c.17mm deep, possibly being a fragment broken from the 2003 find; and, secondly, that a fragment of a denser kind of medium-grained sandstone with solitary cup, c.85mm across by c.24mm deep and with peck-marks apparent, has been retrieved from among rocks piled near the margin of Big Whites following their clearance from that and adjacent fields during 2004-5. These several additions can but give emphasis to the clustering of such rock-art that is gradually emerging from these hills around the southern tip of the White Peak.

Viewed in a wider context, the Gid Acre boulder can be seen as a comparative rarity in that art-motifs occur on more than one of its faces, and it is of some interest that this phenomenon seems to be represented in rather higher proportion among rock-art in the Peak than in many of the other regions of upland Britain where it is plentiful, examples being known from four sites in Derbyshire — Ball Cross (Stanley 1954, 98; Barnatt & Reeder 1982, 42, fig. 4), Barbrook II (*ibid.*, 42, fig. 4), Bleakley Dike (*ibid.*, 41, fig.4; Barnatt & Robinson 2003, 19) and Stanage, Eyam Moor (Barnatt & Reeder 1982, 42, fig. 5) — arguably also among the other recent finds from Wootton (‘Upper Close’ below).

G. Guilbert, D. Garton and D. Walters

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**WOOTTON, Hooball Wood Piece —
cup-marked stones
(SK 113 459)**

A block of sandstone distinguished by several apparent cup-marks was spotted in 2002, at SK 1137 4594, among the coping of a drystone wall which, in 1844, separated fields named 'Hooball Wood Piece' and 'Big Tinsells' (*cf.* 'Gid Acre' above). Like others in the immediate vicinity, the wall is composed entirely of fragmented blocks and slabs of a hard, medium-grained local sandstone, being situated upon the Triassic foothills of the Carboniferous Weaver Hills, in a topographic situation which, in another set of circumstances, we have dubbed 'Tinsell Bench' (Guilbert *et al.* 2001).

The surviving portion of the surface bearing the cup-marks is roughly rectangular, averaging c.0.36x0.22m and passing through a well-rounded angle of nearly 90°, which served as the ridged top of the copestone (uppermost in **Fig. 25**). The cups occupy just one of those two planes, the best defined being of such regular bowl-shape, 75-80mm diameter by up to 24mm depth, as to seem surely artificial, while the other three, possibly four, vary 45-90mm across and 8-18mm deep, the largest of them, plus the possible fourth, being transgressed by a broken edge of the block. The whole of the decorated surface, including the cups, appears weathered, whereas its margins are generally less so, being quite sharply defined in places, outlining the three other surfaces, each of which appears little eroded, presumably remaining much as fractured by the post-medieval wall-builders. Thus it seems likely that this block was split from a larger decorated one, conceivably broken from an outcrop locally, when the wall was constructed. All told, it is reasonable to regard this as a fragment of prehistoric rock-art, perhaps of more complex design overall, like some others lately recognized in adjacent areas of these foothills (see other reports upon Wootton finds of rock-

art in this volume of *WMA*, giving references for some previously published).

As it happens, another good candidate for prehistoric rock-art was found in 2003, missed by us but brought to our attention by Derek Salt, who noticed it while building a stile over the same wall, at SK 1138 4594, less than 10m east from our find of 2002. This is an eroded boulder of local sandstone, lying at the eastern foot of the wall and partly under turf. It may be among fallen wall-stones (though the wall is not much tumbled at this point) but looks more likely to be earthfast. The exposed c.0.60x0.35m part of its upper surface, athwart the bedding in the rock, sports at least two weathered cups, one almost conical, c.95mm in diameter by c.28mm in depth, the other more dished, c.60mm across by c.15mm deep. No attempt has been made to uncover more of it in search of further motifs.

With these finds in mind, close inspection of neighbouring walls continues, and it is intended that resulting discoveries will be reported in *WMA* soon.

G. Guilbert, D. Garton and D. Walters

Reference

Guilbert, G, Garton, D, and Walters, D, 2001. 'Wootton, Tinsell Bench', *WMA* 44, 152-3.

HOOBALL WOOD PIECE, WOOTTON

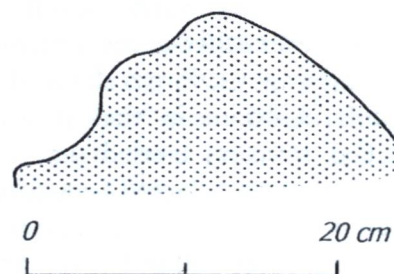


Fig. 25: Cross profile of cup-marked stone from Hooball Wood Piece, Wootton; scale 1:5.

WOOTTON, Upper Close — prehistoric cup-and-ring stone (SK 1088 4569)

This fragment of decorated stone was found in 2003, in the course of searching drystone walls on the southern foothills of the Weaver Hills, as part of a long-term project instigated by the chance discovery in 1998 of a larger slab of sandstone adorned in cup-and-ring style (Guilbert 1999, 20-1, fig. 2C, pl. 2 – and see ‘Wootton, Weaver’ below). The latter had been built into a squeeze through a field-wall, situated at SK 1055 4606, some 500m north-west, and upslope, of the stone described here, which was itself retrieved from among the coping of a wall constructed since preparation of the 1844 tithe-apportionment, crossing a parcel of land which had then been called ‘Upper Close’. That wall is composed largely of broken blocks of sandstone, requiring careful scrutiny if inconspicuous artificial marks are to be noticed on any block that is not otherwise distinguishable — indeed, we initially thought that this Upper Close stone bore just one sizeable cup, but, upon closer inspection, it became evident that other, more unusual, markings are recessed less deeply.

It comprises medium-grained, orange/brown sandstone, and is well rounded by erosion except where sharp edges define three broken surfaces (though evidently not broken *very* recently, because discoloured by exposure). Such rock may be derived from one or other of the Triassic formations underlying the area about the find-spot, which could mean that it was actually detached from an eroded outcrop rather than forming a glacially-rounded boulder. However, even as a boulder created through transport within Quaternary drift, it could be of local origin in human terms, for till is mapped by the British Geological Survey at this very location (Chisholm *et al.* 1988, 96, fig. 25).

It is now impossible to estimate the size of this stone, or therefore the extent of its art,

before it became fragmented, which will have happened some time after it was decorated, perhaps preparatory to wall-building. If so, other bits of the same stone might be expected to occur in this or some adjacent wall, but a second thorough inspection of these in 2005 failed to reveal any more pieces of rock-art in the immediate vicinity (the only possibility located by us thereabouts, built into the same wall as the stone illustrated here, at c.50m to its west, has two interlinked hollows, each c.50mm across, but there seems no way to feel sure that these are artificial, let alone prehistoric).

The preserved portion of its weathered surface carries several artificial marks (**Fig. 26** – for ease of illustration, the decorated faces are drawn as if all in one plane, though in reality there is a curve of approximately 90°, as recorded in profile a-a’). The most extensive, flattish part has a single large cup, c.85-90mm in diameter by c.20mm in depth, now situated close to a broken edge of the stone. Separated from this face by a curved angle, the adjacent face displays three smaller cups, each c.30-35mm across by 8-10mm deep, two of which are set within a ‘ring’ formed by a groove of c.25-30mm width and no more than 5-6mm depth, measuring at least 140x110mm overall (at left in **Fig. 26**). One of the broken edges transgresses this interesting motif, the full form of which could therefore have been more elaborate than seems suggested by the simplest reconstruction — i.e. as an apparent oval of some 160mm length enclosing a pair of cups positioned symmetrically upon its long axis. There also seems every chance that this ensemble of rock-art was more extensive when complete, with additional motifs. In fact, the one other unfractured part of the surface (top edge in **Fig. 26**) does have two or three hollows ranging c.15-40mm in diameter, but each of these seems dubious as an artificial cup; and that same face has a group of several linear grooves that have perhaps been made either

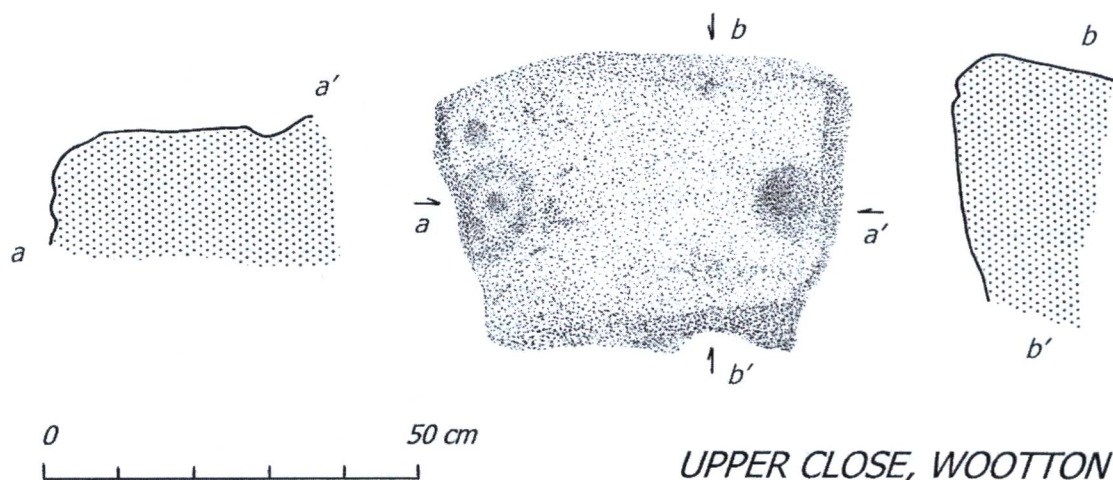


Fig. 26: Cup-and-ring-marked stone from Upper Close, Wootton, with decorated surface drawn as though much of it is flattish, while cross profiles on lines a-a' and b-b' show its true curvature; scale 1:10.

by the plough or through whetting some blade, while several smaller and irregular divots marring the decorated faces are probably due to secondary damage too (one such divot appears in profile b-b' of **Fig. 26**). It should be added that, in contrast to the sharp-edged fractures (less so the localized damage just noted), all of the ornamental marks are rounded in profile and ill-defined at the margins in their present weathered state, thereby suggesting that the decoration on this boulder, or outcrop, lay open to the elements for a considerable time before being broken up.

It can scarcely be doubted that this is an example of prehistoric cup-and-ring art, the more so in view of related pieces reported recently from the Weavers and their foothills, including the slab mentioned above, plus others from Wootton detailed in this volume of *WMA*, and some published previously (Guilbert *et al.* 2003a; 2003b),

all found less than 1km from Upper Close. Even the simple symmetrical restoration of the most complex of the motifs on the Upper Close stone sets it apart from these other local instances of rock-art, while that motif also seems far from common among the seemingly-limitless variations on the cup-and-ring theme encountered across Britain. There is nothing quite like it among other published items from the Peak upland (Barnatt & Reeder 1982; Barnatt & Robinson 2003), though it might be taken for a minimal version of the enclosed groups of more numerous cups recorded at two places in Derbyshire — *viz*, Ball Cross (Stanley 1954, 98, with photo facing page 85; Barnatt & Reeder 1982, 42, fig. 4) and Gardom's Edge (*ibid.*, 41, figs 3 and 4; Walster 1999; Barnatt & Robinson 2003, 19) — while two cups within an irregular-oval ring at Whitton Hall Farm in Co Durham can be adduced to illustrate how this Upper Close motif *could* have formed

part of some much more complex design (Beckensall & Laurie 1998, 25-6).

Given that the Upper Close stone is perfectly acceptable as rock-art, its largest, possibly isolated, cup is not without its own interest, at least in the local context, inasmuch as it can increase confidence in regarding some others recently recorded by us around the Weavers, each bearing just one cup that is as big or not much smaller than this one, as probable examples of rock-art in their own right. This might apply, for instance, to the gritstone boulder found c.900m to the north-west of Upper Close (i.e. 'Wootton, Weaver' below), or to the fragment of sandstone recovered from spoil at the field once called 'Big Whites', c.850m to its west (see 'Wootton, Gid Acre' above). Although there can never be certainty in such cases, it may be reflected that, had the Upper Close stone been broken differently, we might easily have been left to record what seemed to be yet another piece with solitary cup, which, as it happens, was just what appeared likely at the moment of discovery.

G. Guilbert, D. Garton and D. Walters

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WOOTTON, Weaver — cup-marked boulder (SK 1034 4637)

This elongate boulder with single well-defined cup-mark was among the cope-stones of a dry-built wall separating fields on top of the Weaver Hills. Given that this part of the limestone plateau had yet to be divided into enclosures when the tithe-apportionment was prepared in 1844 (at which time it was 'arable and pasture' known simply as 'Weaver'), it is evident that the boulder did not reach its recent find-spot until some time after then. It may well have been garnered from adjacent land for incorporation in this field-wall, which, like others upon the Weaver Hills, is composed very largely of angular limestone, so that this rounded, eroded boulder of coarse-grained, pale-brown, Namurian gritstone (plus the few other fragments of various sandstones incorporated in the wall, but apparently bearing no art) readily drew the eye when, in 1999, we searched field-walls lying within 500m of the spot where a cup-and-ring slab had been found in 1998 on the southern flank of the Weavers ridge (Guilbert 1999, 20-1, wherein the 'boulder adorned with solitary cup' is that here ascribed to 'Weaver', being the sole outcome of our 1999 search, though this has subsequently been extended and has borne further fruit – for example, 'Wootton, Upper Close' above).

The Weaver boulder may have undergone glacial transport and, as argued above apropos of two other Wootton items of rock-art, was perhaps garnered in prehistory from some local deposit of till (the nearest mapped lies just 350m north-west of the Weaver find-spot – Chisholm *et al.* 1988, 95-6, fig. 25), while varieties of Namurian rocks crop out within 3km of Weaver. In this instance, however, a more-distant origin cannot be discounted, firstly because

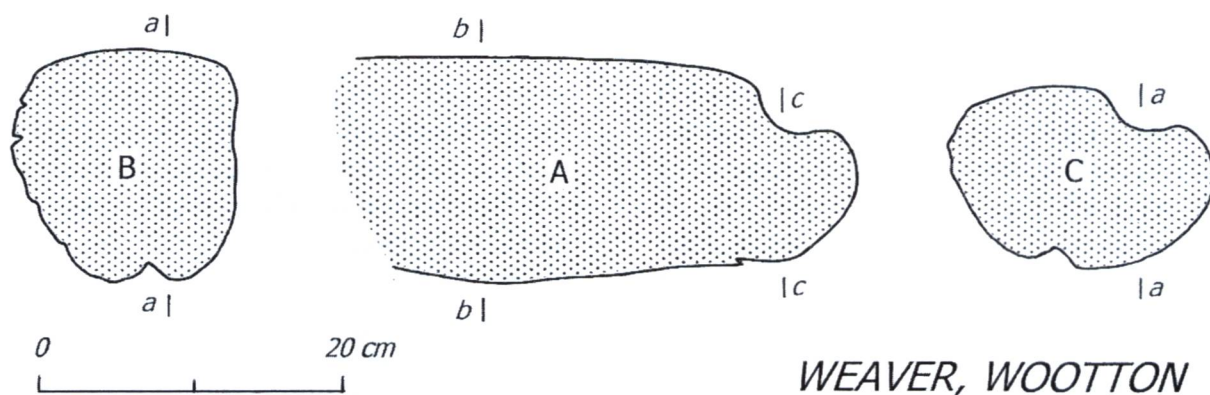


Fig. 27: Cup-marked boulder from Weaver, Wootton, recorded in longitudinal profile (A) and two cross profiles (B and C), both A and C passing through the cup; scale 1:5.

the boulder is more-easily manhandled than those from Gid Acre and Upper Close, and secondly because the late R. J. Firman, geologist, has drawn our attention to a thin 'veinlet of baryte' running through it, apparently representing a feature not often encountered in rocks of this kind from the Peak massif and possibly therefore affording potential for a closer geographical identification of suitable sources.

The boulder now measures c.0.36m in length and up to c.0.18m in thickness (**Fig. 27**). One end has fractured off, meaning that it may once have been rather less portable, though it need never have been significantly longer. However, the heavily-abraded edges of the break suggest that this damage occurred quite some time ago, maybe even before the less-eroded cup was made upon the sloping, undamaged end of the longest and thickest axis of the boulder. Although evenly rounded by weathering, the circular cup, 60-65mm in diameter by c.17mm in maximum depth, retains an all-round symmetry which certainly implies that it is artificial, and the more so as there are no comparable indentations of any shape at any other point over the boulder's rough-textured surface (the only other marks to appear man-made being two straight grooves of c.20-30mm width by c.10mm

depth, possibly inflicted by the plough, and both situated on the underside relative to the cup – one appears in each of profiles B and C in **Fig. 27**).

The pitfalls of interpreting such a single cup are well understood (*cf.* Guilbert 1999, 21), but interpretation as prehistoric rock-art does seem acceptable in the present case (as reasoned above, by way of the Upper Close stone), especially as numerous pieces of indisputable rock-art have subsequently come to light among the neighbouring foothills of the Weavers (for example, other Wootton reports in this volume of *WMA*, with 'Upper Close' providing references for some published in vol. 46, while there are more to come in future volumes, all in addition to the cup-and-ring slab of 1998). So, a solitary cup *may* have constituted the totality of the 'art' in this instance, though, of course, there can be no certainty that more cups, or other types of motif, were not removed together with the opposite end of the boulder.

G. Guilbert, D. Garton and D. Walters

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WARWICKSHIRE

ALCESTER, Scout and Guide Headquarters, Moorfields Road (SP 0914 5759)

Observation of groundworks for a new building in June 2005 on a site to the northwest of the Roman defended area and the medieval town revealed no significant archaeological remains, in line with previous evidence.

Ian Greig, Warwickshire Museum

ALCESTER, 12 Bleachfield Street (SP 0890 5712)

Observation of foundation trenches for a new extension to the rear of a Grade II listed 17th-century house, on a site in the southern suburb of the Roman town, on behalf of Mr. R. Clifton in September 2005, revealed a Roman subsoil, medieval/post-medieval dump layers/garden soils and a possible robber trench which could be Roman to early post-medieval.

Ian Greig, Warwickshire Museum

Greig, I, 2006 *Archaeological Observation at 12 Bleachfield Street, Alcester, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0614

ALCESTER, Greig Memorial Hall, Kinwarton Road (SP 0914 5780)

Observation of groundworks for an extension to the sports hall and a car park in October 2005, on a site just north of the River Arrow, to the northeast of the Roman and medieval town, revealed no early archaeological features or finds.

Ian Greig, Warwickshire Museum

ATHERSTONE, The Red Lion, Long Street (SP 307 977)

Observation of foundation trenches for two extensions to the rear of the Red Lion, a property within the medieval town whose name goes back to 1694, took place in October-November 2005 on behalf of

Hilton Architects. The work revealed a yard surface and walls and floor surfaces of 18th-/19th-century outbuildings but no trace of medieval occupation.

Catherine Coutts, Warwickshire Museum

Coutts, C, 2006 *Archaeological Observation at The Red Lion Hotel, Long Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0618

ATHERSTONE, 8 Long Street (SP 3057 9796)

Observation of groundworks for a new house and garage to the rear of a property within the medieval town in May-June 2005 on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. L. Dirveiks revealed no medieval or early post-medieval finds or deposits although the latter could have survived further down. An undated stone wall was probably contemporary with a structure in use during the 19th century and from which a series of floor layers survived.

Stuart Palmer, Warwickshire Museum

Palmer, S, 2005 *Archaeological Observation to the rear of 8 Long Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0527

ATHERSTONE, 108 Long Street (SP 309 977)

Limited photographic recording was carried out in January 2005 before and during the refurbishment of a street frontage retail unit and conversion of the property into apartments. The building is an 18th-century brick-built building with a sign over the door saying 1720, although the Grade II listing citation suggests an early 19th-century date for the shop and a slightly earlier date for the back range. The brick build is Flemish bond. Trade directories indicate that it was a bakery from at least 1900.

Catherine Coutts, Warwickshire Museum

BADDESLEY CLINTON, Baddesley Clinton Hall (SP 200 715)

Archaeological observation took place during the excavation of trenches for land drains at the overflow car park east of Baddesley Clinton Hall in January 2005 on behalf of the National Trust. Medieval settlement earthworks have been recorded along the western edge of the main car park and aerial photographs taken in 1977 (Warwickshire Museum AP Collection WMAP115/43-44) show medieval ridge and furrow in the fields to the south and east of the Hall, some of which was subsequently destroyed by the car park and overflow car park

No trace of either medieval occupation or ridge and furrow was noted during the excavation of the drainage trenches. The area was beyond the limits of the recorded settlement, but it had once contained ridge and furrow running northwest-southeast, parallel with the path to the church.

Catherine Coutts, Warwickshire Museum

BARFORD, A429 Barford Bypass (SP 266 607)

Investigations in advance of a proposed new bypass on the west side of the village, on behalf of Warwickshire County Council in June-August 2005, involved thirteen trial trenches followed by excavation of two areas of archaeological activity within a broad meander of the River Avon (**Fig. 28**).

Area A (SP 2655 6090)

Trenches 6-9 and 13 and Area A lay immediately northeast of a cropmark site (Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record No WA 4621) consisting of a large double rectangular ditched enclosure with an eastern entrance from which antenna ditches extend to the east. The southern antenna ditch turns south and then west parallel to form one side of a possible track- or driveway that then turns northwest at the rear of the enclosure. The excavations were located within a proposed flood

compensation area adjacent to the river outside the northeast corner of the enclosure where a length of ditch leads to an L-shaped cropmark. Excavation revealed that both arms of the L-shaped cropmark were open contemporaneously and were V-shaped, up to 3.6m wide and 1.7m deep. Finds from the ditch were restricted to a few crumbs of probable Iron Age pottery, although a human lower mandible was recovered from near the base of the eastward length of ditch. The northward length of ditch extended at least as far as the edge of the floodplain and cut the western edges of a linear arrangement of sterile, shallow, vertical-sided pits which may represent an earlier pit alignment boundary. A further arrangement of five pits, some of which contained dumps of charred material and Late Iron Age pottery, were aligned along the western side of the ditch, and a further group of seven disparate pits were examined in the opened area northeast of the L-shape, and one of these contained a large dump of charred wheat grain, dated by pottery to the Late Iron Age.

Area B (SP 2665 6065)

Trenches 3-5 and 10-12 and Area B lay some 125m to the southeast of Area A where fieldwalking had located a few Late Bronze Age/Iron Age flints (SMR WA 7308) and 125m northwest of a palimpsest of linear cropmarks, possibly representing enclosure or field boundaries. The earliest datable evidence found was a single pit containing probable middle Bronze Age pottery. In the southwest corner of the site a group of large vertical-sided pits of Iron Age date seem likely to have been used for storage. One of the larger examples had a central posthole cut through its base and a further two postholes were positioned at surface level on its north and east sides. A nearby pit had a similar arrangement of postholes at surface level to the south and west. The excavation area was bisected northwest to southeast by a succession of narrow gullies, some of which turned to the northeast at the northern end. The gullies

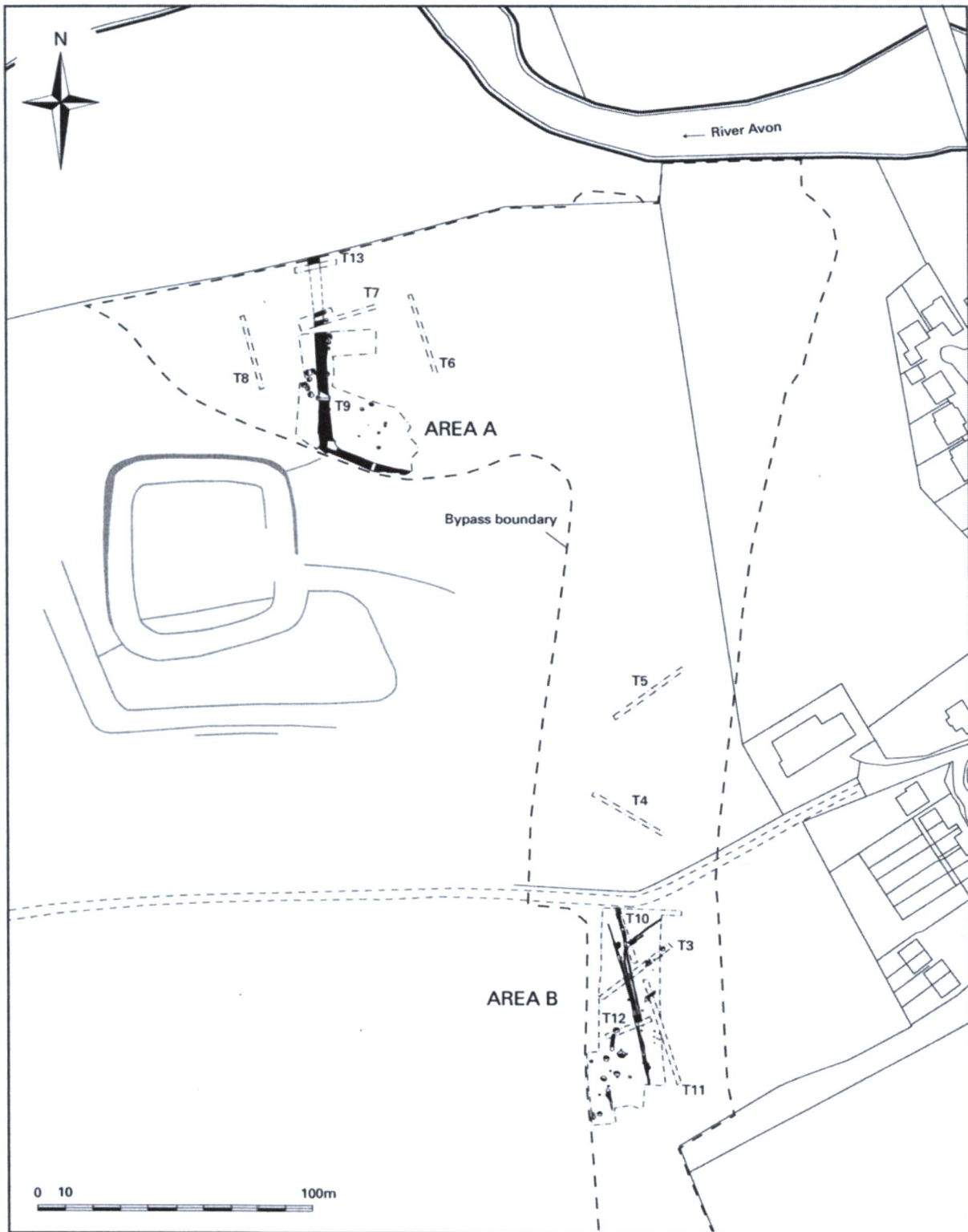


Fig. 28: Barford, A429 Barford Bypass, Areas A and B (*Drawn by Candida Stevens*)

probably represent field boundaries, possibly associated with the nearby cropmark palimpsest, but remain undated. A number of undated postholes recorded on their eastern side may have represented structures, although this remains far from certain.

Area C (SP 2690 6010)

Trenches 1-2 (Area C) were designed to locate a possible barrow on the parish boundary between Barford and Wasperton suggested by place name evidence (SMR WA 7287). An L-shape of trenches was excavated around the outside of an existing warehouse on the southern side of the Avon meander south of a recently culverted former tributary. The trench revealed an undated buried soil horizon but no evidence for a barrow ditch.

Stuart C Palmer, Warwickshire Museum

BEDWORTH, Chapel Street, a late medieval timber-framed building (SP 3593 8709)

A photographic record made in 1985 by the late Alfred Phillips, amateur archaeologist, depicts possibly the oldest known vernacular building in Bedworth town centre.

A timber cross-frame (**Fig. 29**) of a cottage was exposed during removal of rendering from the western face of the Nurse's House of Bedworth Almshouses which was built in 1840. The post and truss frame presumably in oak, comprised heavy principal rafters with trenched purlins. The rafters were joined by a collar and the tie beam was slightly cambered.

The cross-frame, dismantled and removed during the renovation, represented the east end of a cottage, which until its demolition in c.1970, had been encased in Victorian-period workshops fronting Chapel Street. The Nurse's House itself is understood to encase the further remains of earlier cottages (Burton, 1992, 67).

Measurements were taken recently from older elements of the Nurse's Home and computer-rectified, showing that the timber frame was c.4.3m wide and c.4.8m from ground level (no sill beam was revealed in 1985) to the ridge (**Fig. 30**).

Phillips observed traces of wattle and daub, although the majority of framework sections had been replaced by hand-made bricks 2 ¼" (57mm) thick, not dissimilar to those used in other 17th-century structures in the district (e.g. Arbury Hall stables, 1670-80; Griff Lodge Farm, 1642; Three Horse Shoes Inn, Chilverscoton, shown on The Hewitt Map of 1684). In an attempt to date the structure, a small trench was dug by Phillips immediately west of the cross-frame on the site of the former dwelling (now the site of a shrubbery) exposing a wall and the 'scant remains of a brick floor'. Artefacts recovered were unstratified due to nearby service trench disturbance and ranged in date from the mid-17th to 19th centuries. However, comparable timber cross frames recorded in the Midlands (c.f. Charles, 1981, 114, Fig.19 TIII; Boland and Lang, 1988, 47-9) suggest that the Bedworth structure may date to somewhere between the 16th century and mid-17th century.

Martin Wilson, Souterrain

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Notes and photographs were donated by Mrs B Phillips

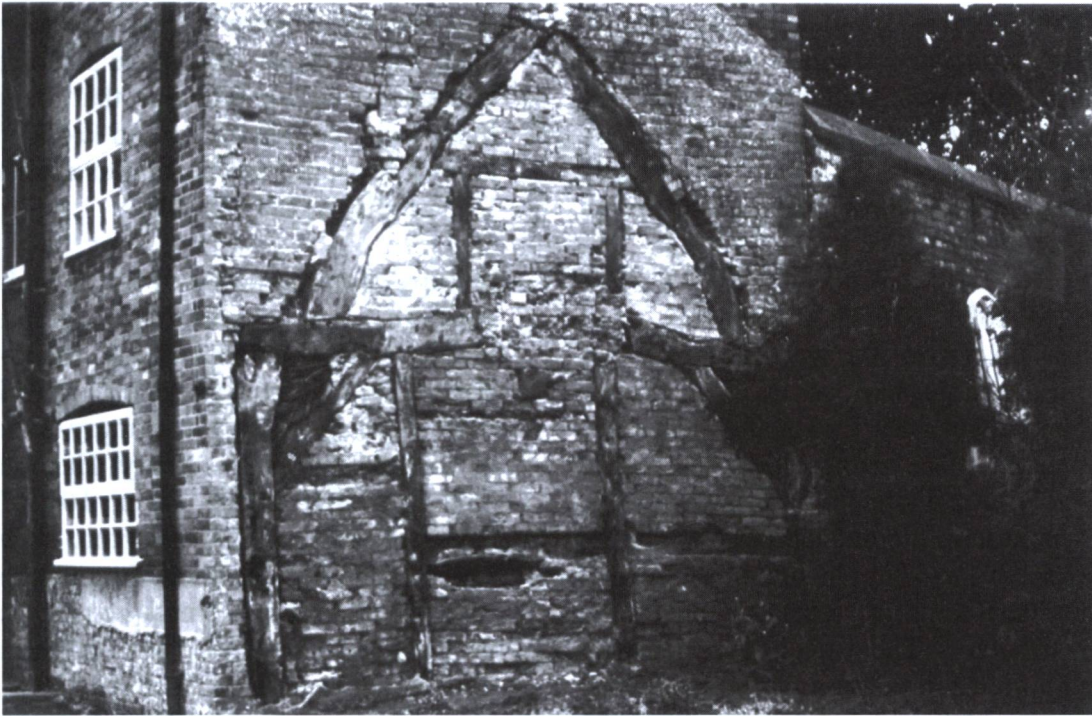


Fig. 29: A late medieval timber frame revealed at Chapel Street, Bedworth (photo by A.A. Phillips)

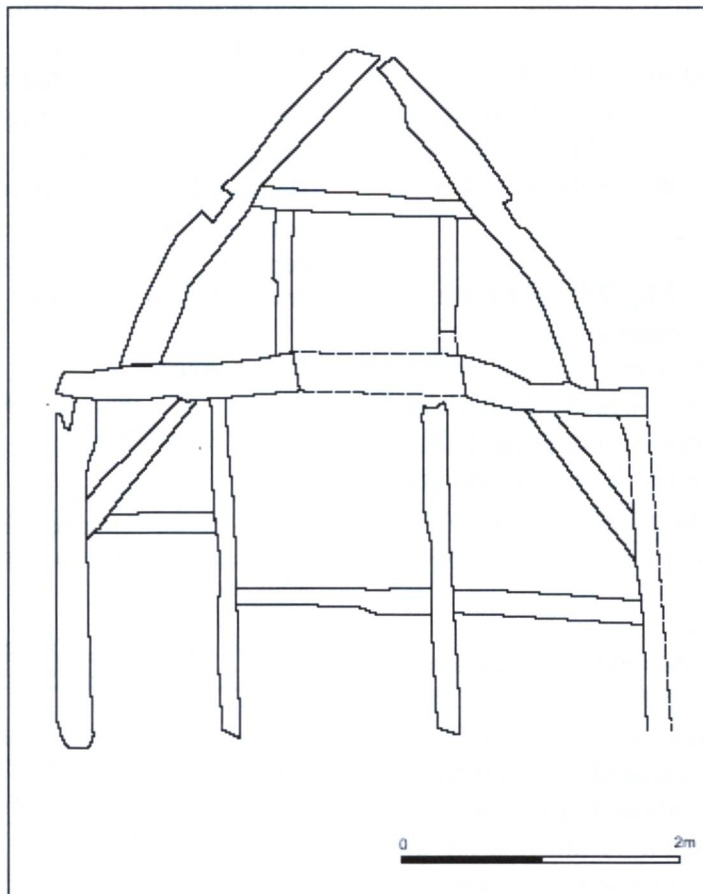


Fig. 30: Computer-rectified drawing of medieval timber frame, Chapel Street, Bedworth (drawing by M Planas)

BEDWORTH, Chasewood Lodge, Exhall (SP 347 847)

An archaeological excavation at Chasewood Lodge, McDonnell Drive, Exhall, Bedworth, was commissioned by Mr. Das. The work was undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology in November 2005 as part of a condition of planning following the erection of a 71 bed residential nursing home and 5 flat units.

The development site was situated across a medieval moated site. Previous archaeological work, including a desk-based assessment and an evaluation, established that below-ground remains of both the moat and the original building survived within the development area. Despite construction work commencing before the full archaeological mitigation requirement had been satisfied, areas that had been undisturbed by the development were excavated. The results of the excavation revealed that the site had been occupied since the medieval period, and identified several phases of activity.

Deposits dating to the 12th to 14th century were present in all the areas excavated, though these remains were heavily truncated by later activity. Robbed-out sandstone walls and a pit were identified cutting the clay house platform, and some evidence for timber-framed structures was encountered. It was shown that the moat was excavated during this period, and further evidence of timber structures in the form of a possible bridge were identified at its edge.

The archaeological evidence points to a reorganisation of the site during the 16th century, with deposits relating to the demolition of the previous buildings sealing the earlier features, including the robbed-out walls and possible timber bridge. Evidence from the moat itself suggests it had not been maintained, and was silting up during this period. Subsequent activity on the site included the deliberate infilling of

the moat, and the construction of 18th-century brick buildings.

Eleanor Ramsey, Birmingham Archaeology, Reports 1335 and 1337

BIDFORD-ON-AVON, Early Medieval Dress Hook

An early medieval dress hook or hooked tag was recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme from Bidford-on-Avon (**Fig. 31**). Much of the early medieval material is highly decorated and of a high status. This small dress hook or hooked tag is more understated and delicate: it is undecorated and has slightly abraded edges, but is just as important to record. Dress hooks probably had a number of functions, for example as a 'hook and eye' dress fastening. They are often found with burials, perhaps suggesting the dress hooks sealed the burial shrouds. This type of dress hook dates between the 7th and 11th centuries (Hinton D. in Biddle, M (ed.) 1990 *Object and Economy in Medieval Winchester Volume II* Oxford, Clarendon Press). During the medieval period dress hooks tend not to feature, but they do make a reappearance in the early post-medieval period when they become larger and more decorative.

Angie Bolton (Warwickshire/Worcestershire Finds Liaison Officer)



Fig. 31: Early medieval dress hook from Bidford-on-Avon

©Birmingham City Council/Portable Antiquities Scheme

BIDFORD-ON-AVON, St Laurence's Church

(SP 101 518)

Archaeological recording in December 2005 on behalf of Stratford District Council, during the taking-down and rebuilding of a section of churchyard wall revealed a layer of graveyard soil containing occasional fragments of human bone. Single fragments of ceramic roof tile and probable medieval pottery were recovered from this soil. No re-used architectural fragments were found within the wall and no remains associated with the known nearby Roman settlement or Roman road were observed.

Bryn Gethin, Warwickshire Museum

Gethin, B, 2006 *Archaeological Recording at St Laurence's Church, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0621

BIDFORD-ON-AVON, Waterloo Road

An evaluation involving five trial trenches on a site north of the Roman and medieval settlements but adjacent to Ryknild Street, on behalf of Laing Homes in August 2005, revealed only traces of ridge and furrow ploughing.

Stuart C Palmer, Warwickshire Museum

Palmer, S, 2005 *Archaeological Evaluation at Waterloo Road, Bidford on Avon, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0529

BISHOP'S TACHBROOK, St. Chad's Church

(SP 3135 6140)

An evaluation involving six small trenches on the site of a proposed new church centre in the churchyard northwest of the church on behalf of St. Chad's PCC in May 2005 revealed a number of burials, the fill of one containing two sherds of 13th-century pottery. This area was included in the churchyard only in the early 1970s; previously it had belonged to the adjacent Church Farm. The presence of the burials suggests that the medieval churchyard was larger or, possibly, that this area had been

used for burials that were unacceptable within consecrated ground.

Catherine Coutts and Chris Jones, Warwickshire Museum

Coutts, C, & Jones, G C, 2005 *Archaeological Evaluation at St Chad's Church, Bishop's Tachbrook, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0518

BOURTON AND DRAYCOTE, Angel Cottage, Bourton

(SP 4353 7044)

Observation of foundation trenches for an extension to an 18th- and 19th-century house in January 2005, on a site within the medieval village, revealed no significant features or finds.

Catherine Coutts, Warwickshire Museum

BRAILES, Meadow Cottage, Winderton

(SP 3268 4039)

Observation and recording was carried out in September 2005 during groundworks ahead of the construction of a summerhouse within the likely extent of the medieval settlement. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

Peter Thompson, Warwickshire Museum

BRINKLOW, 42-44 The Crescent

(SP 4379 7972)

Observation of groundworks for extensions to a 17th-century listed house on a site within the medieval settlement on behalf of Mr. P. Mawson in July 2005 revealed only 18th- and 19th-century features. Finds included a 14th-/15th-century decorated floor tile.

Robert Jones, Warwickshire Museum

Jones, R, 2005 *Archaeological Observation at 44-46 The Crescent, Brinklow, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0537

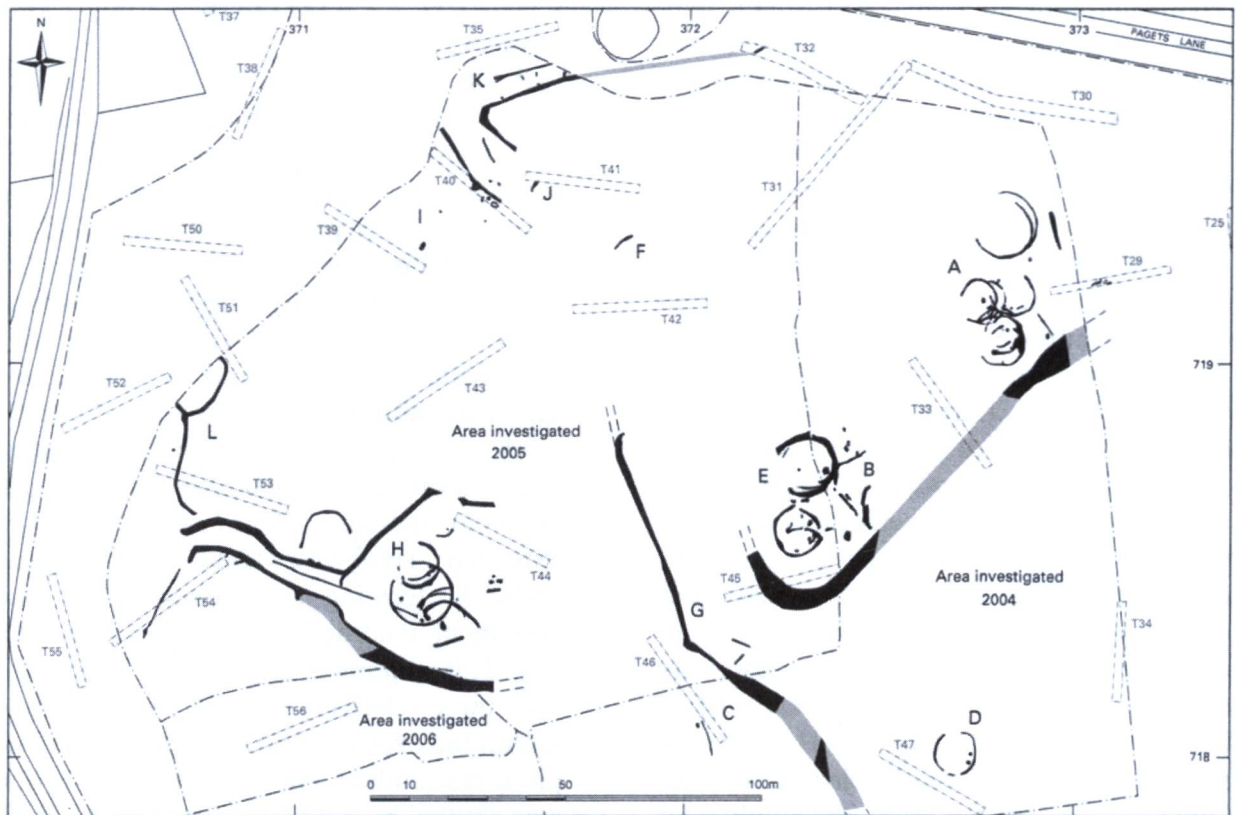


Fig. 32: Bubbenhall, Wood Farm Quarry, Iron Age settlement (*Drawn by Andrew Isham*)

BUBBENHALL, Glebe Farm Quarry (SP 3654 7195)

Observation of topsoil stripping to the northwest of the Glebe Farm buildings in September 2005 on behalf of Smiths Concrete Ltd. revealed only traces of ridge and furrow, a single flint flake, and a single Iron Age and four Romano-British sherds.

Caroline Rann, Warwickshire Museum

BUBBENHALL, Wood Farm Quarry (SP 371 719)

Observation of topsoil stripping in advance of gravel extraction in May 2005 on behalf of Smiths Concrete revealed more of the Iron Age settlement excavated in 2004 (see *WMA* 47, Areas A-D). Further excavations between June and August 2005 expanded the known areas of activity and identified several new ones (**Fig. 32**, Areas E-K). The fills of the Iron Age features cutting the clayey Thrussington Till over the gravel were almost impossible to distinguish away

from the settlement areas where they contained ashy occupation material. This problem was exacerbated by the dry summer conditions and resulted in the full extent of some features not being identified. It is also probable that other features remained completely unrecognised.

Area E, the continuation of 2004 Area B, was identified as a settlement site formed by a series of roughly circular inter-cutting drainage gullies that would have surrounded successive round houses. A number of associated pits was also recorded and the settlement was seen to lie within the corner formed by a large boundary ditch that extended southwestwards from Area A, turning northwards immediately to the west of Area B/E. Just to the west, another boundary ditch, identified in 2004 in Area C running south-southeast – north-northwest, was traced running northwards in Area G.

To the north, parallel ditches in Area K may have been the continuation of the two boundary ditches to the south. Two gullies identified in Areas F and J may have been drainage for round houses or enclosures, whilst a series of pits in the vicinity (Areas I and K) may have been associated features. One of the ditches was perhaps the continuation of a feature first identified during the initial evaluation of 1999.

To the southwest another settlement site was identified (Area H). This again consisted of a series of successive circular inter-cutting round house drainage gullies and associated pits. The settlement appeared to have been surrounded by a substantial ditch that had been re-cut at least once and came together to create the boundary to an entrance to the west. Unfortunately, the eastern extent of the ditch was not identified but the general plan of Area H was very similar to that of a banjo enclosure. Further boundary features ran north and south from the western entrance to the Area H settlement. The northern ditch ran into another ditch sequence that may have formed the boundary to yet another settlement (Area L), though here the only other evidence was a small pit filled with heat-cracked pebbles.

The 2004-5 excavations have identified a series of roughly equidistant Iron Age settlement sites set within an irregular landscape of boundary ditches.

Chris Jones, Warwickshire Museum

BUDBROOKE, Church of St. Charles Borromeo, Hampton on the Hill (SP 2525 6430)

Observation of goundworks for a new porch to the 19th-century Roman Catholic church on a site within the medieval village on behalf of Fr. Quigley revealed no early finds or features.

John Harman, Warwickshire Museum

Harman, J, 2005 *Archaeological Observation at the Church of St Charles Borromeo, Hampton on the Hill, Budbrooke, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0550

CHURCH LAWford, Ling Hall Quarry, Area AC (SP 448 733)

In the thirteenth season of work since the evaluation of 1989 (*WMA* 32, 87), the junction of three pit alignments was excavated in September-October 2005 on behalf of Ennstone Johnson (**Fig. 33**). The area had been partially stripped of topsoil in 2000 (*WMA* 43, 92, Area X) but had immediately been covered in silt. Across the southeastern part of the area the 2005 work revealed that the major alignment of large, deep, rectangular pits identified in 2004 to the east (*WMA* 47, Area AB) extended southwestwards towards, and probably forming a continuation of, the alignment recorded in Area E (*WMA* 35, 55). This alignment was distinctly angular, with three relatively straight lengths visible within the exposed area. An unusual double pit at the southern end of the middle section was abutted by a double alignment of small round pits that extended from the east and probably formed a continuation of the Area H alignment (*WMA* 38, 91). A third alignment, of rectangular, intermediate sized pits, extended westwards from a point just south of the double alignment and may well continue the alignment examined in Area K.

The alignment of small pits identified in Area Z to the north was found to continue southwards towards the junction but curved to the west towards a ditch that formed the northern side of a probable trackway feature. This trackway, aligned northeast to southwest, had been extended to the northeast at least once and continued to the southwest through Area K. Two posthole alignments ran parallel to the trackway ditches, the northern alignment occasionally being double and having a 14m wide gap but terminating adjacent to the ditch terminals. The southern alignment which lay between the trackway ditches appeared to align with a kink in the northern ditch. Although their relationship remains unknown, the similarity in extent and

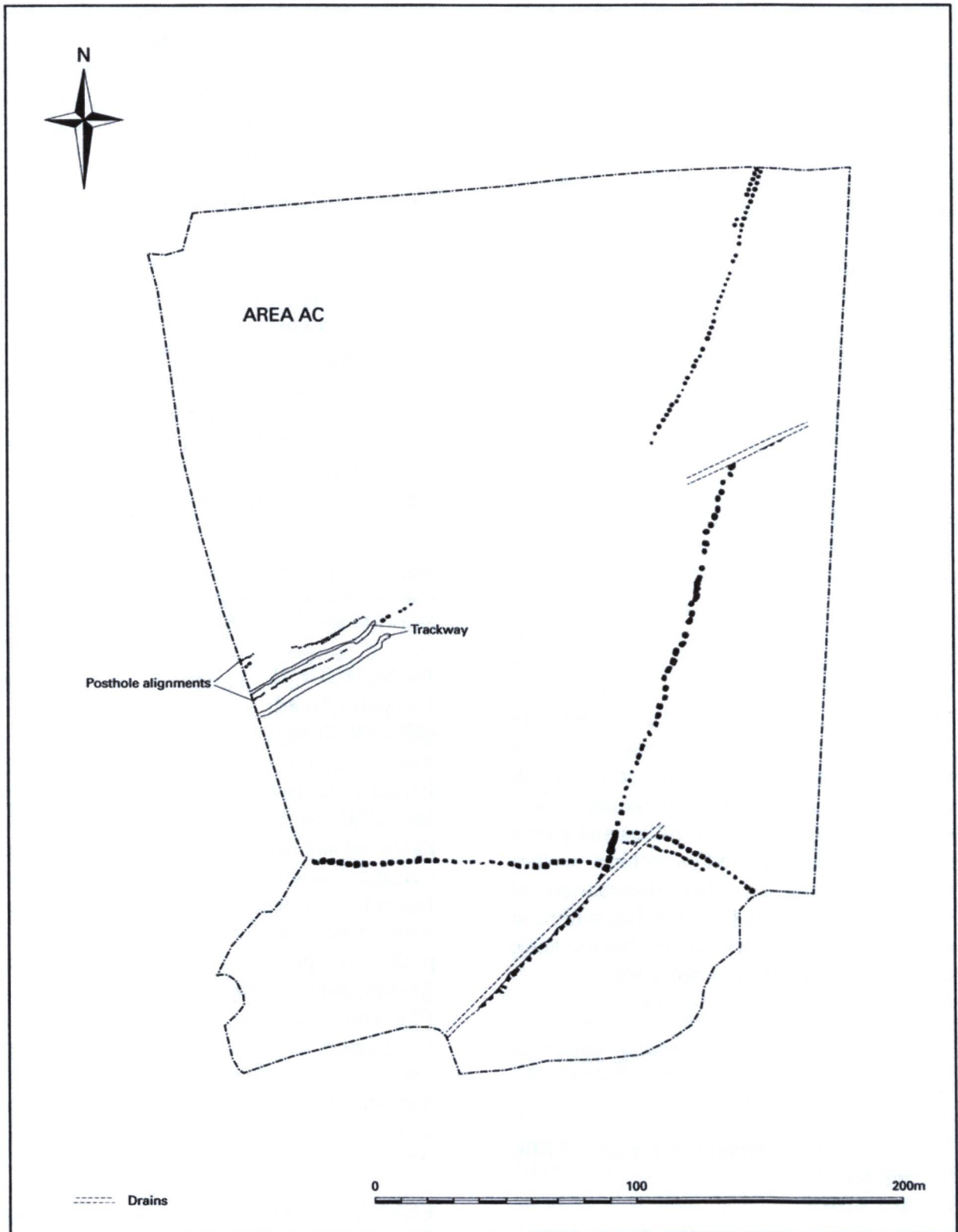


Fig. 33: Church Lawford, Ling Hall Quarry, Area AC (Drawn by Candida Stevens)

alignment appears to suggest that they served a similar function. At a superficial level the trackway appears to lead to or perhaps from an otherwise apparently blank area to the west.

This recent work has clarified a number of points regarding the land units or estates into which the centre of Dunsmore was divided during the 1st millennium BC. It is hoped that the extensive sampling policy undertaken will provide suitable material for radiocarbon dating the individual alignments and thereby assist in determining the overall chronology of this significant landscape.

Stuart C Palmer, Warwickshire Museum

COLESHILL, Ennersdale Road (SP 198 902)

An evaluation involving twelve trial trenches on a site on the southeastern edge of the known Roman settlement on behalf of North Warwickshire Borough Council in October-November 2005 recorded a wide distribution of occupation and probable boundary features across the eastern part of the site. This included a large ditch or pit and domestic rubbish pits containing 2nd- to 4th-century pottery. Other gullies and pits, a single hearth/oven and a pebble surface were also revealed. The distribution of features confirms that the site lies within or on the edge of the settlement. No evidence of medieval activity was recorded.

Peter Thompson, Warwickshire Museum

Thompson, P, 2005 *Archaeological Evaluation at Ennersdale Road, Colehill, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0563

COLESHILL, former Forge Mills, Station Road (SP 198 910)

An evaluation of a proposed new station site involving four trial trenches, on behalf of Laing Rail, in November 2005, recorded evidence for the 19th-/20th-century paper and corn mill buildings, along with stonework that may have formed part of an earlier, possibly 18th-century, mill structure.

Evidence for the late 20th-century railway sidings which replaced the mill was also identified. The remains of the mill were buried by 1.5-2m of later build up and will be unaffected by the station development.

Chris Jones, Warwickshire Museum

Jones, G C, 2005 *Archaeological evaluation of proposed Colehill Station, Colehill, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0561

COMBE FIELDS, Combe Abbey (SP 4035 7980)

Observation of a service trench within a new conservatory just to the east of the former monastic refectory on behalf of Coombe Abbey Hotels Ltd. in April 2005 revealed no evidence of earlier structures or other significant archaeological remains.

Robert Blackburn, Warwickshire Museum

Blackburn, R, 2005 *Archaeological Observation at Combe Abbey, Combe Fields, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0543

DUNCHURCH, Guy's Common, Daventry Road (SP 4839 7096)

Archaeological recording on behalf of Parker Lake Homes Ltd. was carried out in late 2005 on land within the area of the medieval settlement of Dunchurch, but no definite medieval features were revealed. Instead, a series of ditches was revealed with finds including two sherds of prehistoric pottery, one sherd of abraded Roman pottery and several flint flakes. A flint core was also found residually in a 19th-century context. Although the finds are few, they hint that there is an unlocated prehistoric and Roman settlement in the vicinity.

Giles MacFarland, Warwickshire Museum

FENNY COMPTON, Old Rectory, Church Street, Fenny Compton (SP 4179 5212)

Observation of foundation trenches was carried out in February 2005 during ground reduction and excavation ahead of the construction of an extension within the likely extent of the medieval settlement.

Stone foundations of a pre-existing outhouse were revealed, but no significant archaeological features or finds were recorded.

Peter Thompson, Warwickshire Museum

FENNY COMPTON, Hall Park Field, Dog Lane, Fenny Compton (SP 4166 5200)

Topsoil stripping and earthmoving for a flood alleviation scheme in Hall Park Field was observed in March 2005. The field contains visible earthworks associated with a pond and associated ditches. However, no further archaeological features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

Peter Thompson, Warwickshire Museum

GAYDON, adj. The Villa, Church Road (SP 3648 5401)

Observation of ground reduction and foundation trenches was carried out in July 2005 within the likely extent of the medieval settlement. At the rear of the site two segments of limestone wall foundations were revealed. These totalled 4m in length and were 1m wide. A further 3m long stretch of facing stones was also revealed. A spread of limestone fragments 6m long and 3.5m wide was revealed adjacent to the walls. No archaeological finds were recovered in relation to the structural remains.

These undated remains may be part of a large building such as a barn. However, no building is shown in this position on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps.

Peter Thompson, Warwickshire Museum

GRANDBOROUGH, Chapel Barn, Grandborough Fields Road (SP 4879 6675)

Ground reduction and foundation trenches were observed in February 2005 during the construction of a new garage extension on a site within the medieval settlement. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Peter Thompson, Warwickshire Museum

HARBOROUGH MAGNA, Endswell, The Green (SP 478 793)

Observation of foundation trenches for a new house in April 2005, on a site within the medieval village, revealed no significant archaeological features or finds.

Catherine Coutts, Warwickshire Museum

HARBURY, Harbury House (SP 3776 6007)

Observation of foundation trenches to the south-west of the 17th-century and later Harbury House, on a site within the medieval village, revealed no medieval or earlier remains. The earliest features recorded were two undated, but pre-19th-century stone wall foundations. A series of later brick foundations belonged to former outbuildings shown on 19th-century maps.

Giles MacFarland, Warwickshire Museum

MacFarland, G 2005 *Archaeological Recording at Harbury House, Harbury, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0530

HASELOR, Little Manor (SP 124 576)

Observation of groundworks for an extension to Grade II listed, 17th-century timber-framed former cottages, on a site within the medieval settlement in April 2005, revealed three features cut into natural clay, one containing 17th-century pottery.

Robert Blackburn, Warwickshire Museum

HENLEY-IN-ARDEN, 31 High Street (SP 1522 6644)

Observation of groundworks for a replacement extension behind the frontage of a site within the medieval town in August 2005 revealed only undated layers and a garden soil containing 16th- and 17th-century pottery along with 18th- to 20th-century material.

Ian Greig, Warwickshire Museum

HENLEY-IN-ARDEN, Edge Lane/Arden Road

(SP 158 657)

Observation of topsoil stripping for a new sewer through a field of well-preserved ridge and furrow on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. in November 2005 revealed no earlier archaeological features. A small number of medieval/post-medieval tile fragments were noted in the ploughsoil.

Caroline Rann, Warwickshire Museum

Rann, C, 2005 *Archaeological Observation of the STW Edge Lane Sewer, Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0556

HUNNINGHAM, The Motte, School Lane

(SP 3722 6799)

Observation of foundation trenches for a rear conservatory on a site within the medieval village in October 2005 revealed no significant archaeological remains.

Nicholas Palmer, Warwickshire Museum

KENILWORTH

(SP 293 725)

In September 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief commissioned by Haswell in advance of the laying of new sewers. The watching brief revealed the presence of a 18th-century brick arched culvert spanning the old course of a millrace branching off the Finham Brook in Manor Road (SP 2915 7264), and a 19th-century brick capped well in land off Glendale Avenue (SP 2951 7245).

Mike Sims (OA Client Report)

KENILWORTH, Kenilworth Abbey Barn

(SP 2848 7231)

A small sondage was excavated under Scheduled Monument Consent by Warwickshire Museum and Kenilworth History and Archaeology Society (KHAS) immediately outside the south wall of the Abbey Barn. The investigation was conducted in order to determine whether the distributions of ferrous and non-ferrous

metal objects along the southern edge of the building, noted during a metal detecting survey undertaken under licence by KHAS in 2003, were the result of a scatter of spent shot from Civil War skirmishing (and related to a number of scars on the south wall, interpreted previously as evidence of an affray recorded in September 1642) or roofing repairs.

The results of the investigation revealed that the signals recorded by the metal detecting were caused by modern litter in the topsoil; some nails may have been the result of recent roofing repairs but there was no spent ammunition. A thick layer of 19th-century rubble was exposed, doubtless associated with an enclosed yard shown on a late 19th-century photograph. This overlay an earlier stone feature extending for some 0.90m from the building at a depth of approximately 0.35m, possibly a stone walkway; this feature had been observed further along the wall to the west when a test pit was dug in 1994.

Jonathan Parkhouse, County Archaeologist, Warwickshire Museum

KENILWORTH, Kenilworth Castle, Gatehouse

(SP 279 723)

Observation of trenching around the Gatehouse on behalf of English Heritage in April-May 2005 revealed a number of features dating from the medieval and early post-medieval periods. The original line of the medieval curtain wall was exposed to the west of the gatehouse along with the remains of at least two structures: one apparently part of a drain, the other the foundations of a building predating the gatehouse. Both were most likely medieval in date. To the south of the Gatehouse a further wall foundation, again probably medieval, was exposed, along with an area of gravel surface that may have been part of the roadway south from the gate. To the north of the gatehouse the west face of the 16th-century bridge leading into the gatehouse, together with demolition

material associated with the slighting of the castle was exposed. A layer containing 17th-century finds, including a pistol ball, may be associated with the Civil War garrisoning of the castle.

Bryn Gethin, Warwickshire Museum

Gethin, B, 2005 *Archaeological Recording adjacent to Leicester's Gatehouse, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0564

**KENILWORTH, Kenilworth Castle, Gallery Tower
(SP 279 721)**

An evaluation of the site of a proposed new entrance building west of the Gallery tower at the south end of the Tiltyard Dam on behalf of English Heritage in May-July 2005 revealed medieval deposits just below the ground surface. The excavations revealed dam construction layers dating to the 12th/early 13th century, the traditional date for the original construction of the dam. These layers appeared to pre-date the standing walls of the Tiltyard and Gallery Tower and were topped by a rubble surface which may have formed a strand for boats used on the Mere (**Fig. 34**). The surface was overlaid by later medieval and post-medieval surfaces. No trace was found of the steps, shown on a plan of c.1650, which may have led down to the strand.

Chris Jones, Warwickshire Museum

Jones, G C, 2005 *Archaeological Evaluation at The Gallery Tower, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0540

**KENILWORTH, Kenilworth Castle, Leicester's Stables
(SP 279 722)**

Observation of two small test pits within the Stables building on behalf of English Heritage in November 2005 revealed only late 20th-century layers.

Bryn Gethin, Warwickshire Museum

Gethin, B, 2005 *Archaeological Recording at Leicester's Stables, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0558

**KENILWORTH, Kenilworth Castle, Keep
(SP 2784 7228)**

In October 2005 the upper part of the western large window arch in the south wall on the main floor of the Keep was recorded on behalf of English Heritage ahead of conservation work. As with the central window recorded in 2004, the work revealed evidence for the widening of the original 12th-century window as part of Dudley's programme of works in the late 16th century.

Catherine Coutts, Warwickshire Museum

**KENILWORTH, 25 High Street
(SP 2852 7248)**

A site visit was made in November 2005 in response to a report of the discovery of human remains in the foundation trench for a replacement rear extension on a site within the medieval settlement adjacent to St. Nicholas's Churchyard. A human tibia and fibula were recovered, possibly from an articulated medieval or post-medieval burial in a layer below an extensive disturbance relating to a 19th-century privy.

Ian Greig, Warwickshire Museum

**KENILWORTH, 9 School Lane
(SP 288 723)**

Observation of foundation trenches in October 2005, during the conversion of several 19th-century buildings into flats revealed a large, squared sandstone foundation for one of the outbuildings but this proved to sit on 19th- or 20th-century concrete. The 1885 Ordnance Survey shows that this wall formerly formed the property's boundary with the Finham Brook.

Bryn Gethin, Warwickshire Museum

**KENILWORTH, The Well, Borrowell Lane
(SP 2842 7192)**

Observation of repairs to the masonry of the well in April 2005 suggested that the date stone above the arch reads 1580 rather than 1780 although the stonework does appear to be 18th-century.

Robert Blackburn, Warwickshire Museum



Fig. 34: Kenilworth Castle, Gallery Tower, medieval rubble surface, possible strand for boats on Mere

**KINETON, Kents Farm, Little Kinton
(SP 3388 4908)**

An archaeological metal detector survey of a proposed manège on the edge of the possible limits of the Civil War battlefield of Edgehill on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. T. Lister in August 2005 recovered 26 metal objects dating from the 14th/16th to the 20th centuries, but none which could be definitely associated with the battle.

Bryn Gethin, Warwickshire Museum

Gethin, B, 2005 *Archaeological metal detector survey of land at Kent's Farm, Little Kinton, Kinton, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0535

**KINGSBURY, Kerrycroft Hall Farm,
Hall Farm Lane, Kingsbury
(SP2146 9639)**

Foundation trenches and topsoil stripping for a new extension and garage were

observed in January 2005 close to Kingsbury Hall and the medieval settlement of Kingsbury. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

Peter Thompson, Warwickshire Museum

**LAPWORTH, Packwood House
(SP 171 721)**

Archaeological recording of the groundworks for a new pathway on behalf of the National Trust in November 2005 recorded a series of drains associated with earlier, probably 19th-century, arrangements of the gardens. No finds or features associated with any earlier occupation of the house were recovered.

Bryn Gethin, Warwickshire Museum

**LEAMINGTON SPA, Lillington Manor,
Church Lane, Lillington
(SP 3248 6741)**

Ground reduction and foundation trenches were observed in January 2005 during the construction of a new detached garage in the rear garden of the manor house within the medieval settlement of Lillington. No significant archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Peter Thompson, Warwickshire Museum

**LONG COMPTON, Geophysical survey
adjacent to Church
(SP 287 330)**

A geophysical survey using a resistivity meter to survey 20 x 20m grids was carried out in August 2005 in conjunction with members of Long Compton Local History Society. The first area surveyed was immediately west of the church and enclosed by the earthworks of a probable moat which appears to extend around some, if not all, of the present day churchyard. While there were no clear results, an area of high resistance may suggest the presence of demolition material, possibly associated with a former building or buildings within the possible moat. A large number of earthworks are visible in the surrounding field which might be ponds and other garden features associated with a former large house occupying the moat.

A second small area was surveyed south of the church on the frontage of the main street in order to see if any remains of houses were present. This produced no evidence for buried structures.

Anna Stocks, Warwickshire Museum

**LONG LAWFORD, Country Inn, Main
Street
(SP 4725 7505)**

Observation of groundworks for a housing development in February 2005, on a site within the medieval village close to an area where Romano-British and medieval boundary ditches were excavated in 2003 and 2004, revealed only an undated east-

west ditch 1.85m wide x 0.65m deep cutting natural gravel.

Robert Blackburn, Warwickshire Museum

**LONG LAWFORD, The Retreat,
Lawford Heath Lane, Lawford Heath
(SP 4562 7327)**

Foundation trenches for the construction of new extensions close to an area of cropmarks were observed in January 2005. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

Peter Thompson, Warwickshire Museum

**LUDDINGTON, Old Church Close
(SP 1683 5267)**

Observation of foundation trenches for a house extension, on a site within the medieval village and adjacent to the site of a former chapel, in January 2005 revealed no significant features or finds.

Robert Jones, Warwickshire Museum

**MANCETTER, Gramer House
(SP 3195 9665; SWA 7456)**

An excavation and watching brief was undertaken on behalf of North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust. The site is within the boundaries of the substantial 1st-century Roman fortress at Mancetter. A main trench was excavated at the rear of the property in the position proposed for the construction of a new respite bungalow. A service trench was also monitored, which ran along the length of the drive of the property. The archaeological deposits observed fell into two main periods; Roman and medieval, with a small amount of post-medieval and modern activity also represented.

A number of shallow pits and gullies were Roman in date, possibly relating to military structures. These were associated with a large pit possibly containing industrial waste and other more substantial ditches. A piece of worked stone was recovered from one of these ditches, which may have come from a stone building demolished in the vicinity. A ditch cluster of at least four phases was also identified, the later cuts

dating to the 3rd or 4th century, which is considerably later than other known predominantly 1st-century activity in the area associated with the fort. In the gas pipe trench a substantial ditch, over 7m wide, was recorded, which is probably part of the northern defences of the fort.

Also recorded were at least seven graves containing a poor assemblage of human remains, the result of the acidic nature of the soil. Osteoarchaeological assessment of the one human skeleton was limited because of the poor quality of the bone. Pottery recovered from one of these graves has been dated to the medieval period and represents a shift of the boundary for the graveyard of St. Peter's church, which now stands 40m to the east. The remains of a wall bisecting the trench could have been this boundary in the 19th century.

Milward, J, 2005 *Archaeological excavation and watching brief at Gramer House, Mancetter*, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1354

**MANCETTER, Lodge Cottage,
Nuneaton Road
(SP 3230 9637)**

Observation of groundworks for a new house close to the Roman fortress and northeast of an area of medieval iron works in January 2005 on behalf of Mr. P. Gaskin revealed no Roman or medieval remains.

Robert Blackburn, *Warwickshire Museum*

Blackburn, R, 2005 *Archaeological Observation at Lodge Cottage, Nuneaton Road, Mancetter, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0504

**NEWTON AND BIGGIN, Acorn
Cottage, 10 Main Street, Newton
(SP 530 780)**

Observation of foundation trenches for an extension to a 19th-century house on a site within the medieval village in October 2005 revealed a large pit filled with handmade brick and quarry tile rubble and a wall from a 19th-/20th-century outbuilding.

Catherine Coutts, *Warwickshire Museum*

**NORTON LINDSEY, Tudor Cottages, 1-2
Main Street
(SP 2279 6310)**

Observation of foundation trenches for extensions to a Grade II listed, 17th-century house within the probable extent of the medieval settlement revealed no evidence of medieval occupation. A post-medieval stone-built well was located, and its fill, which dated to the mid 18th-century, produced an almost complete, internally glazed coarseware jar, inscribed *Benjeman Long* on its base (**Fig. 35**). This may have been produced at Polesworth in the early 18th century; its form and fabric are similar to Polesworth vessels (Melton, N, and Scott, K, *Post-Med Archaeol* 33 (1999), 110, Fabric 3, nos 94-99) and a family of potters called Long is recorded there from the late 17th to the early 19th century.

Robert Jones and Ian Greig, *Warwickshire Museum*

Jones, R, & Greig, I, 2005 *Archaeological Observation at Tudor Cottages, 1-2 Main Street, Norton Lindsey, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0544

**NUNEATON, Griff - A late medieval
floor tile from the site of Griff Manor
(SP 357891)**

A fragment of an unusual impressed medieval floor tile depicting the head of a stag was donated by amateur archaeologist Mr. Ron Waite of Nuneaton, having been found at the former site of Griff Manor House (AKA Sudeley Castle; SMRWA5140).

During the extensive excavation of the moated manor site in 1966 in advance of the Nuneaton Bypass (West, 1968) only four other decorated floor tiles, or fragments, were found, two of which were equally unusual. One of these was a complete tile (112mm square) depicting a mounted man with a horn (**Fig. 36a**), the other a fragment, showing the lower part of a running ?deer (**Fig. 36b**). All three tiles are straight-sided, c.25mm thick, and have a thick brownish-green glaze on all surfaces. They were most

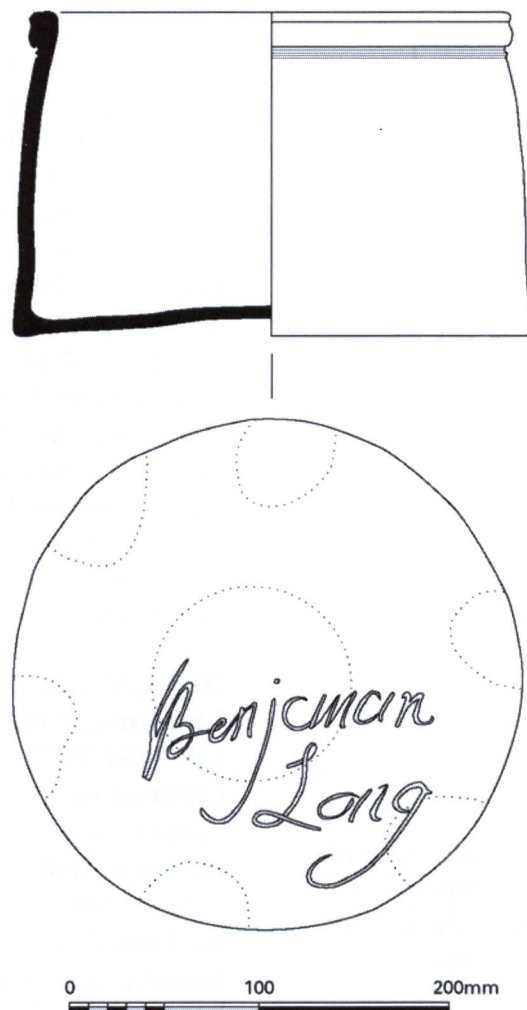


Fig. 35: Norton Lindsey, Tudor Cottages, coarseware jar inscribed with potter's name *Benjeman Long* (Drawn by A Isham)

likely to have been manufactured locally at Chilverscoton.

The medieval manor of Griff and Coton is understood to have been a temporary residence of the de Sudeley family whose seat was in Gloucestershire (Dugdale, 1656, 1071). The excavation concluded the discovery of a 'specialised type of house', possibly a hunting lodge (Rigold, 1968, 86), with finds dating predominantly between the early 13th and late 14th centuries, but with a few pottery sherds dating to the 15th century when the manor was believed to have been in stewardship.

It is possible that the tiles were bespoke items representing a hunting theme. Another suggestion (pers. comm. Soden, I) is that the stag design denotes the white hart and allegiance to Richard II.

References

- Dugdale, Sir Wm, 1656 'Griffe, Hemlingford Hundred' *The Antiquities of Warwickshire*.
 Rigold, S. E, 1968, 'Note on the plan of the building' pp.86-7 in West, S. E, 1968.
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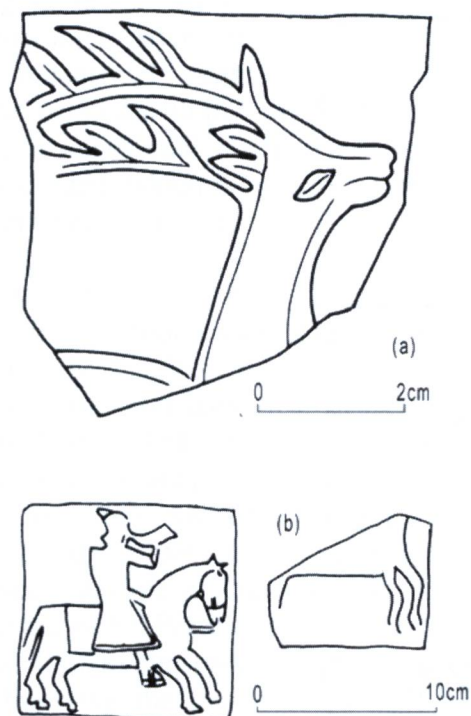


Fig. 36: Impressed medieval floor tile with stag's head design from Griff Manor House (a); Medieval tiles excavated from Griff Manor House (after West 1968) (b)

NUNEATON, Hare and Hounds Lane, Stockington (SP 434 291)

A watching brief was carried out at No. 8 Hare and Hounds Lane, Stockington, Nuneaton in April and May 2005. Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the work by the developer, Roy Flanagan, in order to comply with conditions placed on planning application (TP/0535/02). The site was located in an area that had been the focus of an extensive pottery industry dating from the 13th and 14th centuries (SMR MWA 7370). Several phases of excavation in the 1960s and 70s revealed that the preservation of multiple kiln complexes was good. Some forty-two kilns were excavated on nineteen sites, revealing that the complex was a major production centre.

The watching brief monitored the excavation of service trenches, during

which an archaeological layer 0.2-0.4m deep was revealed across the site. It contained a large quantity of medieval pottery, dated from the 13th to the 15th centuries. No cut features were observed, and only one trench actually cut through this medieval layer to the natural subsoil below. The layer contained relatively large quantity of pottery, some of which was poorly fired and blistered. Two fragments of kiln superstructure were also recovered, and it was noted that none of the pottery showed evidence of sooting. It is therefore likely that this layer represents a dump of waste material from the surrounding kiln complexes.

Birmingham Archaeology

NUNEATON & BEDWORTH, Heath End Road, Chilvers Coton (SP 3494 9072)

Observation of foundation trenches for new houses on a site within the area of the medieval settlement of Heath End, to the west of the known medieval pottery kilns, on behalf of Kepp Ltd. in August 2005 revealed no medieval remains. The site had been heavily disturbed by nearby 19th- and 20th-century brick and tile workings and waste from this activity had been deposited over the entire site.

Giles MacFarland, Warwickshire Museum

MacFarland, G, & Coutts, C, 2005 *Archaeological Recording at Heath End Road, Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0534

NUNEATON, St. Mary's Abbey Church/Nuneaton Priory (SP 355 920)

Prior to the consolidation of masonry in the Scheduled Ancient Monument of St. Mary's Church/Nuneaton Priory a programme of archaeological recording was carried out on behalf of St Mary's PCC. The walls were surveyed in April 2005 to record their profiles and a photographic record was made. After the walls were sprayed with amicide to kill off vegetation some of them became unstable so consolidation began

immediately without any further archaeological recording of the walls bare of vegetation. This was remedied as soon as possible and further photographic recording took place in the summer of 2005. When the two highest surviving walls (the north and west walls of the Chapter House) were consolidated it was decided that they should be rebuilt some 0.50m higher than previously to increase their stability. Other walls were repointed or rebuilt according to the level of damage they had sustained over time.

Catherine Coutts, Warwickshire Museum

PILLERTON PRIORS, Sandpit Farm (SP 294 476)

Observation of groundworks for a new cattle shed within the medieval settlement in February 2005 on behalf of Mr. N. Gardener revealed fragmentary stone footings for one or two medieval buildings and an associated stone surface. Pottery dating from the 13th to the 15th centuries was recovered from the surface, but the majority was 13th-/14th-century, suggesting that this part of the village was deserted during the 15th century.

Bryn Gethin, Warwickshire Museum

Gethin, B, 2005 *Archaeological Recording at Sandpit Farm, Banbury Road, Pillerton Priors, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0542

POLESWORTH, Polesworth Abbey (SK 2632 0242)

Construction of a new entrance building and toilet block between St. Editha's Church and the Vicarage within the Scheduled Area of Polesworth Abbey was accompanied by limited excavation on behalf of Polesworth PCC in March-April 2005. The earliest masonry revealed may have formed part of the east wall of a monastic range west of the west range to the cloister and south of the church, possibly part of the Abbess' Lodging. Further south, part of an undercroft to this range appears to survive in the cellar of the late 19th-century Vicarage.

To the west a sandstone foundation running to the southwest corner of the church represented the east wall of the northernmost part of the post-monastic manor house, built according to tradition over the Abbess' Lodging, while a ragged line of masonry to the west marked its northern end. To the east the early masonry was cut by the northeastern corner of a cellar lined with 18th-/19th-century bricks belonging to a rear range of the manor house. Layers contemporary with the manor house appeared to be cut by the construction trench for the south wall of the nave of the church, suggesting that it is an 18th-century replacement for the original medieval wall. The manor house was demolished in c.1870 when the existing Vicarage was built. The previous entrance building between the Vicarage and Church had been added by 1886.

Nicholas Palmer, Warwickshire Museum

POLESWORTH, Polesworth Abbey (SK 264 026)

Observation of foundation trenches for an extension on a site within the medieval town in April 2005 revealed only 17th- to 18th-century clay pipe and 18th-century pottery.

Robert Jones, Warwickshire Museum

RADWAY, Sunnyside, King John's Lane (SP 366 474)

Observation of groundworks for a replacement house in May 2005 on a site on the southern edge of the 1642 Edgehill Battlefield revealed only remains of north-south aligned ridge and furrow.

Robert Blackburn, Warwickshire Museum

ROWINGTON, Severn Trent Water Treatment Plant (SP 188 695)

Observation of groundworks on a site just to the east of an area of Romano-British pottery and tile kilns on behalf of Carl Bro Consultants and Severn Trent Water in January 2005 revealed no archaeological remains.

Robert Blackburn, Warwickshire Museum

Blackburn, R, 2005 *Archaeological Observation at Severn Trent Water Rowington Treatment Plant, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0515

**RUGBY, Church Hill Road, Wolvey
(SP 443 287)**

An archaeological watching brief on land at Altus Windows, Church Hill Road, Wolvey, Rugby, was commissioned by George Stew Ltd. The work was undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology in March 2005, during the proposed redevelopment of the site.

The site itself is situated between the early medieval settlement focused around the Church of St. John the Baptist (SMR WMA 3594), and the mid-1200s development around the market to the south (SMR WMA 8905). The earliest evidence on the site suggested a smallholding with toft to the rear which would have occupied the periphery of the early settlement from the 12th century. Following the granting of a market charter in 1237 new burgages were laid out associated with the market place to the south of the site. Property boundaries were maintained and re-cut into the 15th century. There was no evidence for any early post-medieval occupation, suggesting that it had reverted to pasture.

Eleanor Ramsey, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1286

**RUGBY, 24 Main Street, Newbold on Avon
(SP 489 772)**

Further observation of groundworks on a site within the medieval settlement on behalf of Harvon Developments Ltd. in June 2005 recorded only two wall footings corresponding to structures shown on 18th- to early 20th-century maps.

Ian Greig, Warwickshire Museum

Greig, I, & Coutts, C, 2005 *Archaeological Observation at 24 Main Street, Newbold on Avon, Rugby*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0526

**RUGBY, 56 Lower Street, Hillmorton
(SP 5368 7396)**

An evaluation involving three trial trenches on behalf of Cawston Grange Developments Ltd. in February 2005, on a site within the medieval settlement of Morton, revealed a probable medieval boundary ditch, containing 13th-/14th-century pottery, parallel to the street frontage. An undated posthole and the remains of 19th-century cottages with associated 19th- and 20th-century pits were also revealed.

Bryn Gethin, Warwickshire Museum

Gethin, B, 2005 *Archaeological Evaluation at 56 Lower Street, Hillmorton, Rugby, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0514

**RYTON-ON-DUNSMORE, A45/A445
Roundabout
(SP 3920 7415)**

Excavations in advance of the construction of a new traffic island on behalf of the Highways Agency, Optima and May Gurney Ltd. in January-February 2005 revealed several elements within an unenclosed Late Iron Age settlement, previously encountered during an evaluation in advance of a gravel quarrying application in 1990 (*WMA* 33, 87-8).

A small assemblage of worked flint and a few Bronze Age pottery sherds were found residually across the site. A penannular ditch with an eastern entrance with an internal diameter of c.10m was re-dug as many as six times, on each occasion encircling a larger area, until at its widest it enclosed an area 20m in diameter terraced into the side of a low hill (**Fig. 37**). A tree had stood within the enclosed area which may perhaps have been the focus, or crucial to the significance of the structure. Very few finds were recovered but the central area contained a number of pits and postholes of uncertain function cut through the original Iron Age land surface. It is suggested that it may have been a ceremonial or religious feature, perhaps even an unusual form of shrine

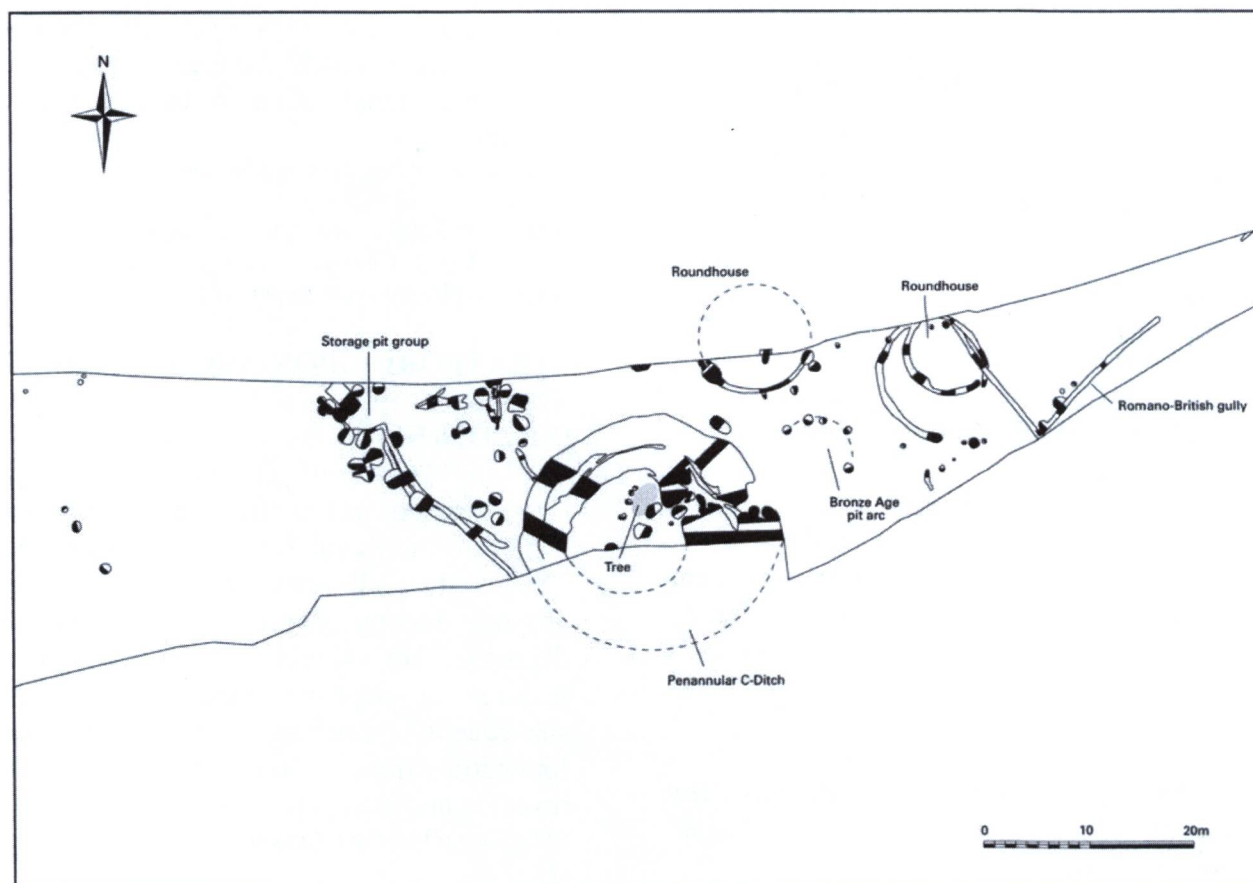


Fig. 37: Ryton-on-Dunsmore, A45/445 Roundabout, Iron Age settlement (*Drawn by Candida Stevens*)

morphologically similar to that at Frilford, Berkshire (Harding 1974; Drury 1980). The resemblance to other local features at Marsh Farm, Salford Priors (Palmer forthcoming) and Park Farm, Barford (Cracknell & Hingley 1994) is also noteworthy.

Two possible domestic roundhouses defined by curving gullies were examined and the absence of internal postholes suggests that they were constructed in the local mass-wall tradition. A hearth was found in one of the buildings.

A modest group of probable storage pits yielded Early Iron Age and Late Iron Age pottery and a useful assemblage of charred remains probably derived from a midden. One pit contained a significant proportion of an unusual, deliberately dumped, clay oven, associated with a saddle quern and a La Tene brooch of Hull and Hawkes' Type

2Ca involuted (short type) variety (Hull & Hawkes 1987, 156-157). The oven has an integral plate or shelf, with a large central aperture and an outer ring of small air holes. Similar oven fragments were found in a pit cutting through one of the early penannular ditch terminals.

At the eastern end of the site a single Romano-British gully was identified which may represent a field boundary and therefore part of an overlying field system.
Stuart C Palmer, Warwickshire Museum

Cracknell, S, & Hingley, R, 1994 Park Farm, Barford: excavation of a prehistoric settlement site, 1988, *Transactions Birmingham Warwickshire Archaeol Soc* 98 (1993-94), 1-30.

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SNITTERFIELD, Barley Break (SP 2185 6001)

Observation of foundation trenches for a replacement house in April 2005 on a site just south of St. James's Church and near the site of Snitterfield Hall revealed only demolition material from the previous 19th-century house.

Robert Jones, Warwickshire Museum

STONELEIGH, Church of St. Mary the Virgin (SP 331 7260)

Archaeological observation, between September and October 2005 on behalf of Stoneleigh PCC, during the replacement of decayed joists beneath the pews at St. Mary's Church recorded some archaeological deposits. The foundations for the original south wall of the nave, probably dating to the 12th century, were found between the piers of the south aisle arcade. The bases of both of these piers were exposed and found to be in very good condition. Fragments of a very worn *in situ* medieval tile floor were also exposed (**Fig. 38**) along with areas of mortar bedding for the same floor and numerous loose floor tiles, including several patterned examples. A small area of flagstones and a rough sandstone wall of unknown purpose appeared to postdate this floor. Several fragments of medieval window glass and a large number of copper pins were also found within the loose soil beneath the pews. The base of the south side of the highly decorated Norman chancel arch was exposed, revealing some elements of severely damaged mouldings. A

fragmentary late 18th-/early 19th-century mug, found beneath the pews, may date from their construction in the early 19th century.

Bryn Gethin, Warwickshire Museum

Gethin, B, 2006 *Further Archaeological Recording at St Mary's Church, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0622

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, Courtyard Theatre (SP 20136 54578)

On May 16th 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on behalf of The Royal Shakespeare Company. The evaluation revealed modern made ground directly overlying river terrace deposits. No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed. A subsequent watching brief on the foundation trenches for the new building revealed no features or finds.

Mike Sims (OA Client Report)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, 35/36 Henley Street (SP 1990 5525)

Observation of foundation trenches for an extension to a 16th-century timber framed building refaced with 19th-century brickwork on a site within the medieval town in April 2005 revealed only post-medieval deposits.

Robert Blackburn, Warwickshire Museum

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, Halls Croft, Old Town (SP 2001 5457)

Observation of trenching for a new boundary wall on a site on the probable northwestern edge of the late Anglo-Saxon settlement on behalf of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in December 2005 revealed only a 17th-/18th-century pit.

Caroline Rann, Warwickshire Museum

Rann, C, 2006 *Archaeological Observation at the rear of Hall's Croft, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0602



Fig. 38: Stoneleigh Church, remains of medieval tiled floor

**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, Riverside
Veterinary Centre, Loxley Road
(SP 2091 5488)**

Observation of limited ground reduction for an extension on a site just north of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery on behalf of Riverside Veterinary Centre in March 2005 revealed no significant archaeological remains.

Kevin Wright, Warwickshire Museum

Wright, K, 2005 *Archaeological Observation at Riverside Veterinary Centre, Loxley Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0541

**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, 117
Tiddington Road
(SP 2171 5571)**

Excavations in advance of a new conservatory and garage/stable block on a site within the Roman settlement adjacent to an area excavated in 1988 were carried out

on behalf of Mr. C. Griffith in July 2005. Three mid/late 1st-century AD pits and a gully lay north of the 1st- to 2nd-century ditched enclosure sequence excavated in 1988. The area appears to have remained undeveloped thereafter and no further trace of Anglo-Saxon activity identified in 1988 was recorded.

Stuart C Palmer, Warwickshire Museum

Palmer, S, 2005 *Archaeological Recording at 117 Tiddington Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0559

**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, 119
Tiddington Road
(SP 2173 5572)**

An evaluation involving two trial trenches on a site towards the northern edge of the Romano-British settlement on behalf of Mrs. R. Velarde in September 2005 revealed two inhumations and a number of pits in one trench. A small group of pottery

dating from the mid/late 1st century AD to the 4th century, included a 4th-century storage jar from one pit. Evidence from adjacent sites suggests that this area was densely settled in the later 1st and 2nd centuries and lies over an early Anglo-Saxon enclosure, although no further Anglo-Saxon material was recovered during this work.

Stuart C Palmer, Warwickshire Museum

Palmer, S, 2005 *Archaeological Evaluation at 119 Tiddington Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0539

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, 34 Knights Lane, Tiddington (SP 2211 5557)

An evaluation involving three trial trenches was carried out in June 2005 on behalf of Stepnell Ltd. on a site south of a Roman road running eastwards from the Romano-British settlement adjacent to where a cluster of pits and a corndrier were found in 1983. The work revealed two further pits with probably 2nd-century pottery, and other undated features including a posthole and a gully. The features were confined to the northern part of the evaluation area.

Bryn Gethin, Warwickshire Museum

Gethin, B, & Palmer, N, 2005 *Archaeological evaluation to the rear of 34 Knights Lane, Tiddington, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0522

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, former Alveston Nursery, Church Lane, Alveston (SP 231 563)

Observation of groundworks for a housing development between August 2005 and January 2006 revealed no significant archaeological features or finds, although there was a large, unexplained area of disturbance up to 3m deep towards the southern end of the site.

Caroline Rann, Warwickshire Museum

TANWORTH-IN-ARDEN, Moat House, Salter Street, Hockley Heath (SP 122 742)

Archaeological observation was carried out in March 2005 on behalf of Mr. J. Campbell during the excavation of foundation trenches for house and garage extensions. The house (Grade II listed) is partly timber framed and dates from the 17th to 19th centuries. It lies within a partially water-filled moat with attached fishpond (Scheduled Ancient Monument Number 30006). The excavation for the extension to the existing house revealed a layer containing numerous pebbles and occasional sherds of 12th- to 15th-century pottery. This was probably part of a medieval external yard surface and proves that the moat island was occupied during this period. No remains of archaeological significance were found in the garage extension foundation trenches.

Bryn Gethin, Warwickshire Museum

Gethin, B, 2006 *Archaeological Observation at Moat House, Salter Street, Tanworth-in-Arden, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0634

TREDINGTON, Armscote House, Armscote (SP 2455 4455)

Observation during the construction of extensions to the rear of the house was carried out in April and May 2005. A post-medieval brick-lined drain was observed to the rear of an existing outhouse, but no other significant archaeological features or finds were recorded.

Peter Thompson, Warwickshire Museum

WAPPENBURY, Garden Cottage, Church Road (SP 3784 6930)

Observation was carried out in September 2005 on behalf of the Wappenbury Estate during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new garage adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Wappenbury Camp (Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 21555). No significant

archaeological remains or features were revealed.

Peter Thompson, Warwickshire Museum

Thompson, P, & Greig, I, 2006 *Archaeological observation at Garden Cottage, Wappenbury, Warwickshire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0626

WARWICK, St. Nicholas Park, Banbury Road

(SP 290 648)

Extensive soil stripping was carried out ahead of the creation of new sports pitches adjacent to the River Avon and was observed in June 2005. Evidence of 19th-century bottle dumping was observed, but no significant archaeological deposits or features were revealed.

Peter Thompson, Warwickshire Museum

WARWICK, 30 Bridge End

(SP 2795 6489)

Observation of foundation trenches for extensions to a property within the medieval southern suburb on behalf of Coventry Turned Parts Ltd. in January 2005 recorded no evidence of medieval occupation. However, a rubble deposit of uncertain date including many faced and worked sandstone blocks may have derived from a nearby building. Dump and silt deposits probably dating between the 17th and 19th centuries were also recorded.

Peter Thompson, Warwickshire Museum

Thompson, P, 2005 *Archaeological Observation at 30 Bridge End, Warwick*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0510

WARWICK, King's High School for Girls, The Butts

(SP 2830 6506)

Archaeological recording was carried out in August-October 2005 on behalf of the King's High School for Girls during groundworks for a new sixth form centre. An evaluation in 2004 had recorded the outer edge of the medieval town ditch and other medieval and post-medieval features, but no evidence for a town wall. The observation of the groundworks recorded similar features including the rock-cut outer

(northeastern) edge of the town ditch, whose full depth was not reached. The upper fills of the ditch contained 18th- to 19th-century material, though medieval finds were recovered from the lowest deposits uncovered. Another smaller, medieval ditch was recorded running roughly parallel to the town ditch and some 4-5m to the north of it, whilst a medieval well was also recorded in this area. A service trench into The Butts across the putative line of the town wall suggested that this whole area had been quarried for stone, probably working back from the town ditch. The quarried area had been backfilled in the 18th century and no evidence survived for the inner edge to the ditch or for a town wall. Further remains of the WWII air raid shelter recorded during the evaluation were also observed.

Chris Jones, Warwickshire Museum

WARWICK, 7 The Butts

(SP 2824 6511)

Observation of construction of a new parking space fronting Chapel Street at the rear of a property running across the line of the town defences in March 2005 revealed the edge of a probable stone quarry pit filled with material containing a single medieval sherd, and overlaid by the walls of a former stone outbuilding probably shown on the 1851 Board of Health Map.

Chris Jones, Warwickshire Museum

WARWICK, Oken's House, Castle Street

(SP 2827 6480)

Photographical recording was carried out after the former Doll's House Museum building, the 15th-century Oken's House, had been emptied. The Doll's House Museum was part of Warwickshire County Council's Museum Service until 2005. Oken's House is a timber-framed Grade II* listed building, which was heavily restored in 1864. The building was photographed both externally and internally so that a record could be made of the exposed timber framing.

Catherine Coutts, Warwickshire Museum

WARWICK, Priory Park Nursery School, Coventry Road (SP 2863 6528)

Archaeological observation was carried out in October and November 2005 on behalf of WCC Property Services Dept. during preparatory work and foundations for a prefabricated building. No archaeological remains associated with the medieval priory precinct were revealed. Two pits were recorded, one containing 18th- and 19th-century pottery, the other undated.

Peter Thompson, Warwickshire Museum

WARWICK, 13 Market Place (SP 2803 6494)

Archaeological recording took place in April 2005 in the lower cellar of the 18th-century Grade II listed building which originally formed part of the public house (The Tilted Wig, formerly The Green Dragon) immediately to the north. The pub was a coaching inn dating back to at least 1805 and the premises have been licensed since 1694. The ground floor of No. 13 is currently a shop but the small lower cellar, which is barrel vaulted and cut into c.0.80m or more of bedrock, is not used. A blocked-up stone archway was recorded in the northern cellar wall which would once have led into the cellar of the adjoining part of the public house. The opening has been blocked by seven courses of hand-made bricks. It was presumably blocked up when No. 13 became a separate building. On the south wall of the cellar is a blocked-up doorway or opening through the bedrock, blocked with machine-made bricks.

The site was re-visited in August 2005 after the bricked-up doorway had been partly opened up. A further cellar was discovered, of a similar size to the first but square rather than rectangular. This cellar room was completely rock-cut. Late 19th-century pottery, iron straps, basketry, and an egg-shaped Hamilton glass bottle were recovered from within the room, the floor of which was covered with soil c.0.30m deep.

Catherine Coutts, Warwickshire Museum

WARWICK, County Record Office, The Priory, Priory Park (SP 2826 6531)

Observation of excavations to investigate a damp problem on the south side of the CRO document store within the Scheduled area of Warwick Priory in April 2005 on behalf of WCC Property Services revealed only 1970s construction layers.

In December 2005 recording of the ruined south wall of the north range of the post-monastic mansion house took place in advance of masonry repairs. The range which dates to the mid/late 16th century was brick-built with stone details. At the east end there is a narrow Tudor-arched doorway leading originally to a through passage, and possibly a stair, and, to the west, there are two wider Tudor-arched doorways each flanked by two-light mullioned windows, which are likely to have led to self-contained lodgings. Further west the scar of the original west range (4.5m wide) is visible, and beyond it a further bay with a two-light mullioned window. Although only the ground storey now survives, the range was originally two-storied with an attic. A doorway into the west range is likely to have been an early addition. It was blocked in the mid 18th century when the west range was removed, and one of two rectangular pavilions was built against the western window. In the 18th or 19th century the windows of the eastern lodging were replaced with french windows. In the later 19th century the ground floor of the range was remodelled as stabling, fronting a new yard to the north. The two lodging doorways were blocked off, the blocking containing reused two-light mullioned windows. Inside the range to the east the wall was lined with a skin of blue bricks, while to the west, heating ducts were cut into the wall and panelling was attached, presumably for grooms' accommodation or a tack room. At the same time or probably a little later all the south-facing windows were blocked and the whole range was rendered. The north range

was mostly demolished in 1925 along with the greater part of the house. The 18th-century pavilion survived to the 1970s when the existing CRO was built.

Nicholas Palmer, Warwickshire Museum

Giles MacFarland, Warwickshire Museum

**WARWICK, 10 Stand Street
(SP 2763 6450)**

A site visit to investigate a report of the discovery of a buried wall in April 2005 on a site in the western suburb of Warwick concluded that it probably belonged to a 19th-/20th-century brick outbuilding.

Robert Jones, Warwickshire Museum

**WARWICK, 11 Stratford Road
(SP 278 642)**

Investigation of a report of human remains found during underpinning operations to the rear of a house in August 2005 revealed fragments of at least four individuals (skulls and long bones) buried at a depth of 1.3m in a layer cut by the house foundations. The site is adjacent to the former medieval Church of St. Lawrence and the remains are likely to have come from its graveyard.

Kevin Wright, Warwickshire Museum

**WASPERTON, Manor Farm
(SP 2641 5882)**

Observation of groundworks for an extension to the Grade II* listed 14th-century aisled hall with 18th-century additions within the medieval village in July 2005 revealed three pits, one containing 12th-/13th-century pottery, the others undated. Three further 13th- to 15th-century sherds and three later 17th-century clay tobacco pipe bowls, including one with 'mulberry' decoration, came from the topsoil.

Kevin Wright, Warwickshire Museum

**WILLEY, Star Cottage, Main Street
(SP 496 848)**

Observation of groundworks for a replacement extension and a garage on a site within the medieval village in December 2005 revealed only 19th-/20th-century brick and concrete floors belonging to an outbuilding demolished in the 1980s.

WEST MIDLANDS

BIRMINGHAM, Land Bounded by Digbeth, Allison Street, Well Street and Park Street (SP 07408632)

An historic environment study was carried out on an area of land close to the centre of the medieval town of Birmingham, immediately east of the parish church. There is little doubt that the southwestern half of the study area has been settled since the Middle Ages, probably since the foundation of the town in 1166, and that the street and property pattern is to a large extent derived from that period.

Digbeth formed the principal route to and from the east in the medieval period, and was probably part of the 12th-century town layout, whereas Park Street is likely to have been a 13th-century creation. Orwell Passage began life as a service road c.1900, but probably preserves part of the line of an early watercourse that was in use during the 12th century. This watercourse, part of which has been excavated on the edge of the study area, took the form of a ditch, some 7m wide and at least 2m deep. It served to confine the 12th-century town as well as to demarcate the rear extent of the properties facing Digbeth. Although changes have occurred over the centuries, including amalgamation of plots, and a considerable amount of rebuilding, the present delimitations of these Digbeth plots and buildings probably preserve the positions of several medieval property boundaries, and hence represent continuity from the foundation of the town in the 12th century to the present day.

Allison Street, which borders the area to the southeast, was formed at the end of the 18th century, probably as a response to the creation of the Digbeth Branch Canal in 1790, and the opening up of this area to development. Well Lane, which forms the northeastern side of the study area, was

built c.1809 by the Inge estate. Buildings followed, including small industrial concerns, at least two of which were exploiting the water supply by the mid-19th century.

The buildings that occupy the study area today range in date from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century, though it is possible that some earlier fabric might survive in the party walls. Several are of good architectural quality, and although none is statutorily listed, or is likely to qualify for listing, there are four locally listed buildings along the Digbeth frontage (Nos 124-134, 135-6, 137, and 138-9), as well as one Grade A locally-listed building (Police Station, Digbeth/Allison Street), and one Grade II listed building (RTP Crisps, Allison Street/Well Street) immediately outside the study area.

The significance of the study area is that it represents the remarkable survival of part of the medieval town plan, whereas nearly all the other property boundaries of that date have been lost. It is even more consequential in that it preserves aspects of the plan of the town founded in 1166, and therefore, along with the Church of St. Martin, embodies one of the last physical reminders of that early settlement. It is recommended that in any proposed redevelopment of the area, these medieval boundaries are preserved.

Malcolm Hislop, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1274

BIRMINGHAM, Former Parcel Force Site, Curzon Street (SP 078 870)

An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out in advance of redevelopment for Drivers Jonas on behalf of The Eastside Partnership Nominee Company Ltd. The desk-based assessment tracks the development of the first railway

station in Birmingham. Built to serve the London to Birmingham Railway, Curzon Street was a passenger station from 1837 to 1854 when New Street Station was opened and took over Curzon Street's passenger function. Curzon Street continued to be used as a goods station and considerable expansion took place at the site in order that it might serve its new purpose.

By 1870 the site was occupied by numerous buildings and an extensive network of railway lines. Further developments had occurred by 1889, including the construction of Curzon Street Wharf to the east of the Birmingham Canal. During the following 70 years the study area underwent few changes.

It continued in use until the site was acquired by Parcel Force in the 1960s. The site was cleared of buildings and lines during this decade, preserving only the office building, a Grade I listed structure dating from 1838 and lying just outside the study area. A new structure was created c.1966, which occupied a large part of the former goods depot, and which still stands within the site. Some parts of the 19th-century goods station survive, including part of the stone perimeter wall along Curzon Street, and the brick wall along New Canal Street and Banbury Lane. The carriage and pedestrian entrances, also built of stone, survive to the south of the Grade I listed office building. It is thought that remains of the Curzon Street Goods Station buildings, lines and other structures associated with the railway may survive below-ground. Recommendations included the consideration of surviving station structures for statutory listing, in conjunction with an archaeological survey to determine the significant elements, and archaeological monitoring of future groundworks.

Leonie Driver, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1272

BIRMINGHAM, Eastside Technology Park

(SP07908730)

An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out in advance of the proposed regeneration of the area. Part of the study area is made up of a Conservation Area centred on the Warwick Bar, which includes a large section of the industrial area to the east of Belmont Row.

The assessment demonstrates that the study area contains several zones of potential below-ground archaeological remains dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. It also includes a number of standing buildings belonging to Birmingham's 19th-century industrial past. Standing buildings of interest within the study area include the Grade II listed group of buildings which make up 7-12 Bartholomew Row, and the Grade II listed Moby Dick's public house on the corner of Gopsal Street and Penn Street. It is recommended that these 19th-century buildings be retained during redevelopment. This report also recommends the archaeological building recording of surviving 19th-century buildings prior to redevelopment.

The northeast part of the study area is of particular archaeological importance, as both standing structures and below-ground sites, listed in the SMR, are located in this area. There are two sites of particular importance, the Belmont Glass Works and Ashted Pumping Station. The boundary wall of the Belmont Glass Works survives above-ground, and there is great potential for below-ground archaeological remains. Part of the Ashted Pumping Station also survives above ground with further potential for the survival of below-ground remains. The report recommends that the surviving remains of the glass works and pumping station be retained and incorporated into future redevelopment.

The archaeology of Eastside has the potential to further our understanding of the

growth of Birmingham as an industrial centre. Areas of special interest, which may be affected by the programme of regeneration, have been highlighted within the report.

Leonie Driver, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1285

BIRMINGHAM, Greet, Greet Public House (SP 1006 8391)

Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd. carried out an archaeological evaluation in the grounds of the Greet Inn public house, Birmingham, during September 2005. The work was carried out on behalf of Messrs Dunleavy and was part of an archaeological evaluation programme required to assess the extent, nature and survival of archaeological features within the application site. The proposed development was the demolition of the existing public house and the creation of a retail outlet.

The first stage of the works involved the undertaking of desk-based research. This indicated that Manor House Farm, which stood on the site until the first half of the 20th century, may have replaced the former Greet Manor House, which had medieval origins. The settlement of Greet can certainly be traced to the 13th century, but its origins are undoubtedly earlier. Manor House Farm was pulled down at the time the Public House and its associated grounds were built.

Consideration of the desk-based research resulted in 2 trial trenches being excavated across the area. They measured 1.9m by 15m and 27.5m respectively, and were positioned to encounter any evidence of early buildings as indicated on the historic mapping. Possible post-medieval boundaries and a suggested stream course were identified in Trench 1, along with a boundary wall of probable 19th-century date (**Fig. 39**). A degree of levelling was evident in this trench. 20th-century building foundations were encountered in Trench 2.

No further archaeological features were identified and no artefacts pre-dating the 18th century were recovered.

No evidence relating to medieval Greet was recovered during the trial trenching exercise. If the manor house existed on the site then it may survive in areas which were not investigated by trenching, although it is likely that any such deposits would have been heavily truncated during the creation of the public house and its grounds.

Richard Cherrington & Gary Coates, Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Report PC268b

BIRMINGHAM, High Street, Bordesley (SP 0818 8623)

An archaeological excavation was undertaken for Pendragon PLC in advance of alterations and additions being carried out to the existing car showroom on the site. The development site is close to the centre of medieval Bordesley and lies on the northeast side of High Street Bordesley, which has been the principal road leading east from Birmingham since the medieval period. Cartographic evidence shows that the development site has been built up since at least the mid-18th century. Three areas of excavation were located within the development site, all of which produced evidence of occupation and industrial activity stretching from at least the early to mid 17th century through into the 19th century.

Excavation in the southwestern area (Trench 1) of the development site revealed evidence of industrial activity and a cobbled surface of possible 16th- or 17th-century date, which had been cut by two ditches and a 17th-century brick-built drain. In the northwestern part (Trench 3) of the development site, fronting onto the Bordesley High Street, excavation uncovered another cobbled surface of possible 16th- or 17th-century date aligned at a right angle to the High Street. A number of pits of 17th- to 18th-century date, which contained industrial waste and rubble, were

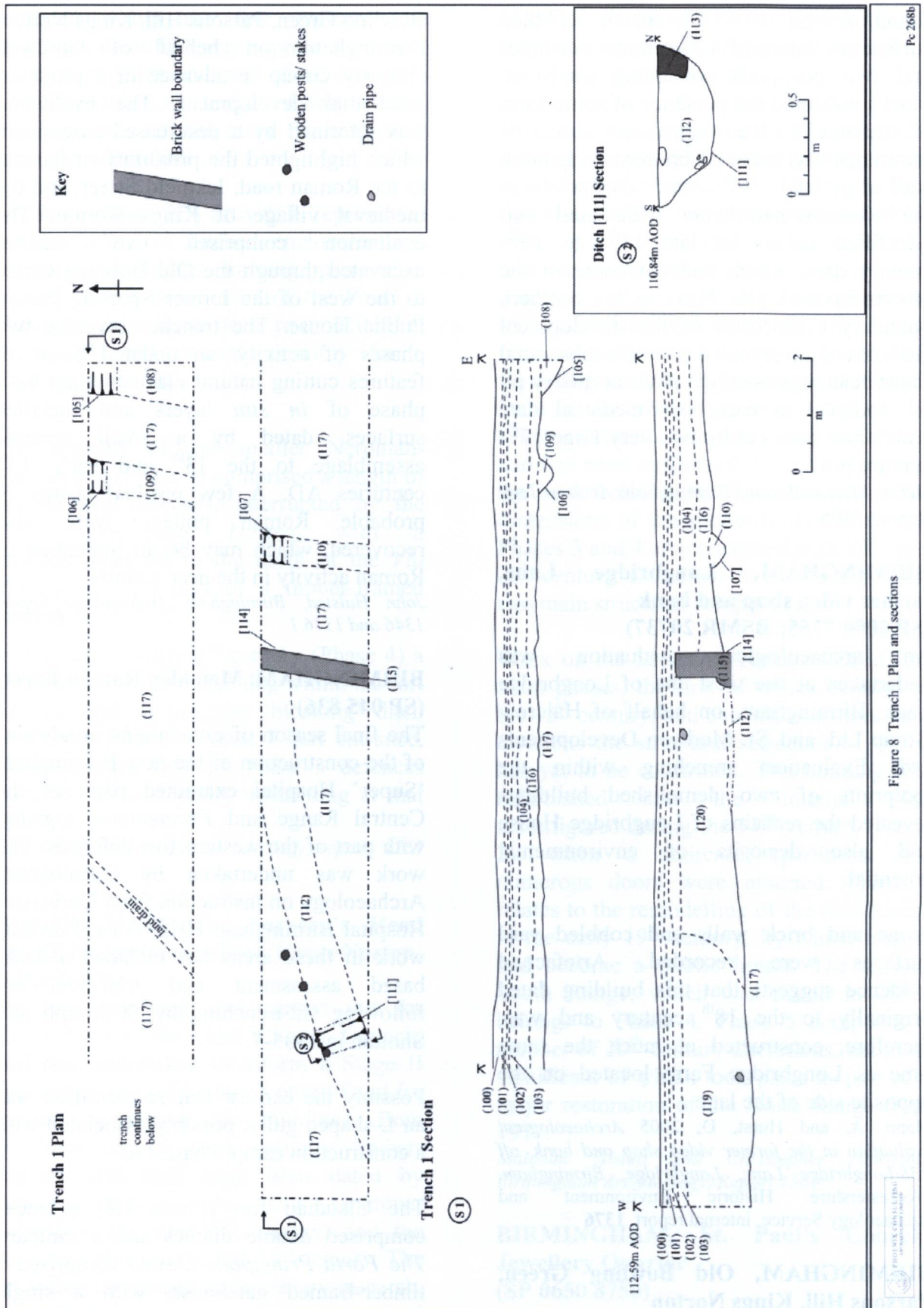


Figure 8 Trench 1 Plan and sections

Pc 2688



Fig. 39: Trench 1, Greet Inn

found, several of which cut the cobbled surface. A series of 17th-century postholes and two post-pads containing sandstone blocks indicated the presence of some form of structure. In the southeastern corner of the trench was part of a crudely-made brick wall of probable 17th-century date whilst in the western half were walls and two backfilled cellars of late 18th- to 19th-century date, which had cut some of the aforementioned pits. Next to the northern boundary (Trench 2) of the development site excavation revealed part of a substantial linear feature, possibly a ditch or quarry pit of medieval or early post-medieval date which had been cut by two very large 17th-century pits.

Helen Martin-Bacon, Birmingham Archaeology Report 1296

BIRMINGHAM, Longbridge Lane, former video shop and bank (SP 0090 7755; BSMR 20737)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the west end of Longbridge Lane, Birmingham, on behalf of Halcrow Group Ltd. and St. Modwen Developments Ltd. Evaluation trenching within the footprints of two demolished buildings revealed the remains of Longbridge House and also deposits of environmental potential.

Stone and brick walls and cobbled yard surfaces were recorded. Artefactual evidence suggests that this building dated originally to the 18th century and was, therefore, constructed at much the same time as Longbridge Farm located on the opposite side of the lane.

Mann, A, and Hurst, D, 2005 *Archaeological evaluation at the former video shop and bank, off A38/Longbridge Lane, Longbridge, Birmingham, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1376*

BIRMINGHAM, Old Bowling Green, Parsons Hill, Kings Norton (SP 049 787)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in September 2005 at the Old

Bowling Green, Parsons Hill, Kings Norton, Birmingham, on behalf of Cordwell Property Group in advance of a proposed residential development. The evaluation was informed by a desk-based assessment which highlighted the proximity of the site to the Roman road, Icknield Street, and the medieval village of Kings Norton. The evaluation comprised two trenches excavated through the Old Bowling Green to the west of the former Sporting Parson Public House. The trenches revealed two phases of activity, an undated phase of features cutting natural clay, overlain by a phase of *in situ* layers and metalled surfaces, dated by a small ceramic assemblage to the 13th and early 14th centuries AD. A few residual sherds of probable Roman pottery were also recovered, which may be an indication of Roman activity in the near vicinity.

John Halsted, Birmingham Archaeology Report 1346 and 1346.1

BIRMINGHAM, Metchley Roman Forts (SP 045 836)

The final season of excavations in advance of the construction of the new Birmingham 'Super' Hospital examined parts of the Central Range and *Praetentura*, together with part of the western fort defences. The work was undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology on instruction from University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust. Previous work in these areas has included a desk-based assessment and trial-trenching, following slit-trenching by St Joseph and Shotton in 1935-7.

Possibly the earliest feature identified was an L-shaped gully, possibly associated with a construction camp, Phase 1A.

The Claudian fort (Phase 1B) defences comprised double ditches and a rampart. *The Porta Principalis Dextra* comprised a timber-framed gatehouse, with a single guardchamber to the north of the passage. Two phases of timber-framed buildings, cut on slightly differing alignments were

recorded within the fort interior. The structures identified may represent a store-building, together with part of the *Principia* and *Praetorium*. A length of the western *Via Sagularis* and the outer flanking ditch were also identified.

Neronian (Phase 2B) activity is represented by the layout of ditched enclosures and temporary buildings forming part of a military stores depot. Part of the Phase 1 *Principia* may have been re-modelled in Phase 2B, and re-used, possibly for a different function.

The remains of the smaller Neronian-Flavian fort (Phase 3) comprised a length of the western defences, interrupted by the *Porta Principalis Dextra*, with a guardchamber set to the north of the *Via Principalis*, and part of a timber-framed granary.

In the late 1st-early 2nd century (Phase 4) a number of clay pits were dug within the fort interior, and an irregular 'blocking' ditch was cut across the Phase 3 fort entrance, which implies that the Phase 3 defences remained at least partly upstanding at that time.

Alex Jones, Birmingham Archaeology, reports 1265 and 1282

BIRMINGHAM, The Saracen's Head and Old Grammar School, Kings Norton (SP 050 790)

Building recording was carried out for Kings Norton Parochial Church Council, and was undertaken to inform a Stage II application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding to restore the buildings. Both buildings are at least partially timber-framed, and both have been dated by dendrochronology, the Old Grammar School to the mid-15th century, and the Saracen's Head to the late 15th century. The recording comprised documentary research, an analytical written record, annotation and modification of supplied survey drawings, compilation of detail drawings, a contextual record, a photographic record, identification

of building stones, and the undertaking of a GPR survey of part of the wall surface of the Old Grammar School.

Four principal structural phases were discerned in the fabric of the Old Grammar School. Phase 1 relates to the 15th-century timber-framed superstructure, which probably began life as the upper storey of a two-storey chamber block in a now vanished hall house. Phase 2 comprises the 17th-century brick substructure. It has not been possible to prove whether the timber-framed element of the building was brought from elsewhere and raised on top of the brick substructure or whether it is in situ, and has been underbuilt, but it is clear that the brick building has been tailored to the dimensions of the timber-framed structure. Phases 3 and 4 are concerned with 19th- and 20th-century alterations to the fabric of the two main structural components.

Work on the Saracen's Head revealed five main phases, the first of which belongs to the 15th century, and encompasses four subdivisions the structural sequence of which has yet to be confirmed. The building was refurbished and the internal plan reconfigured during the 17th century (Phase 2), when a staircase, partitions and numerous doors were inserted. Phase 3 relates to the remodelling of the East Range in the early 19th century, by which time it had become a public house. The current South Range, which was raised in 1888, belongs to Phase 4. Phase 5 comprises a number of 20th-century alterations, the most significant of which took place as part of a major restoration of the North Range from 1977.

Malcolm Hislop and Christopher Hewitson, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1301

BIRMINGHAM, St. Paul's Church, Jewellery Quarter (SP 0650 8750)

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Kevin Colls of Birmingham Archaeology, at St. Paul's Church,

Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham, for the Diocese of Birmingham. The church of St. Paul's was built between 1777 and 1779 as a result of a private Act of Parliament that had, in 1772, authorised the building of two new churches in Birmingham to provide worship space for the growing population. The archaeological watching brief identified the presence of burial vaults adjacent to the northwest and northeast walls of the church. These monuments remained structurally secure and undamaged by the programme of works. There was some indication that several of these vaults had been disturbed by previous activity on the site, possibly during work associated with the laying of the surrounding tarmac. Tombstones along the northwest wall of the church may have been removed from their original location at this time.

Kevin Colls, Birmingham Report 1287

BIRMINGHAM, Old Union Mill (SP 0579 8650)

Building recording and fabric analysis was undertaken at New Union Mill, Grosvenor Street West, Birmingham. The New Union Mill was built c.1813, and the buildings were arranged around three sides of a quadrangular courtyard next to the canal. Much of the complex including the mill itself has been demolished, and the surviving structure, which was the focus of the recording exercise, comprises the southeast range and part of the southwest range. The southeast range contained the main carriage entrance from Grosvenor Street West, and was largely given over to offices, though the northeast end may have accommodated manufacturing or warehousing operations. The southwest range appears to have contained domestic accommodation. The symmetrical southeast front towards the street is a façade that does not reflect the internal layout, and was evidently intended to present an attractive public face. There has been a good deal of alteration, including the replacement of most of the windows with replicas, the reconstruction of large areas of brickwork

to the rear of the southeast range, and the disappearance of many internal features, such as fireplaces, doors and skirting boards. However, it is the early 19th-century character that prevails, and the building remains a significant piece of early industrial architecture.

Malcolm Hislop, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1324

BIRMINGHAM, Rotton Park Street, Icknield Port Loop (SP 049872)

A photographic survey of buildings to be demolished was made for British Waterways. The survey included rectified digital images of the main elevation of the early 20th-century former Bellis and Morcom engineering works, as well as detailed non-rectified images of other buildings within the complex, including a 1930s Art Deco garage range.

Christopher Hewitson, Birmingham Archaeology

BIRMINGHAM, Father Hudson's Retirement Home, 98-106 Moseley Road (SP 0810 8570)

Archaeological building recording was carried out at the former Father Hudson's Retirement Home, 98-106 Moseley Road, Birmingham, for McBains Cooper, Property and Construction Consultants, on behalf of Concept. The work was a condition of planning permission for the conversion of three Grade II listed buildings facing Moseley Road, the demolition of buildings to the rear, and subsequent construction of 89 apartments with 66 basement parking spaces. The listed buildings date from the 1820s and are indicative of an early middle-class exodus from industrial Birmingham. All three houses have been subjected to varying degrees of alteration, illustrating a history of adaptation to changing circumstances. The least altered is No. 98, the most altered No. 102, the interior of which has been thoroughly remodelled in the later 20th century. Changes such as these have in some cases obscured the historic fabric, and conversion may provide

opportunities for further recording and interpretation.

Malcolm Hislop, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1362

BIRMINGHAM, Sutton Coldfield, Lindridge Road, Barn Farm (NGR 413950, 297210)

Historic Building Recording and Analysis of the structures and site collectively known as Barn Farm, Lindridge Road, Sutton Coldfield was carried out by CgMs Ltd in 2005 (**Fig. 40**). The site included five standing buildings and walling, dating from the late 18th to 20th century, an open yard and the remains of a demolished structure.

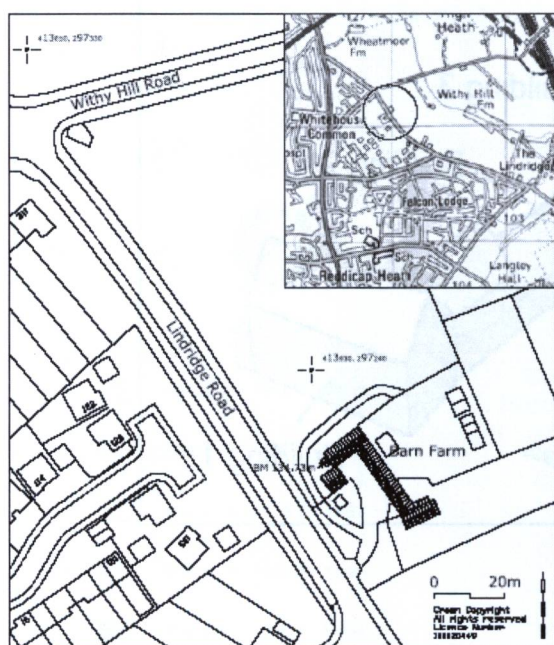


Fig. 40: Location of Barn Farm

The standing buildings included four abutting agricultural brick structures and a farm house or residence, set around a yard with open fields to the north, south and east (**Fig. 41**). The buildings were in a state of dereliction having been vacant for several years. The last use had been as a smallholding. Deterioration of the building fabric had occurred through vandalism, arson and weathering.

None of the buildings were statutorily listed, nor were they located within a Conservation Area. The buildings were

listed grade B on the local list buildings of architectural and historic interest, principally due to the temporary use of one of the agricultural buildings as a Mission Room during the late 19th and early 20th century.

The purpose of the work was to preserve by record the structures and immediate environs due to their local historic interest prior to their demolition and the site's redevelopment with a hospice by the Sutton Coldfield Municipal Charities (SCMC). The aim of the record was to present a detailed understanding of the buildings, their structural evolution, alteration and history of usage. This was achieved through detailed description and analysis of the structural form and fabric and a visual record of the buildings in their current state and a review of available documentary and cartographic sources.

Barn Farm formed a group of five red brick agricultural buildings (**Fig. 42**), arranged around a small yard on the east side of Lindridge Road, south of its junction with Withy Hill Road. The buildings stood in relative isolation in a prominent position on a ridge overlooking Collets Brook and open country to the east, whilst to the west of Lindridge Road, encroachment by 20th-century residential developments had affected its once rural setting. In 1996, the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Field Group had briefly surveyed the buildings, identifying their use at that time as stables (SMR 20450). A specification prepared by Birmingham City Council identified the site to retain the last standing 'field chapel' in the West Midlands and secured its full recording as a planning condition to the consent.

Each building had been subject to historic alteration and adaptation. However, the fabric of Building 4 demonstrated a sequence of events, supported by documentary evidence, which heighten its



Fig. 41: Barn Farm, from entrance looking north

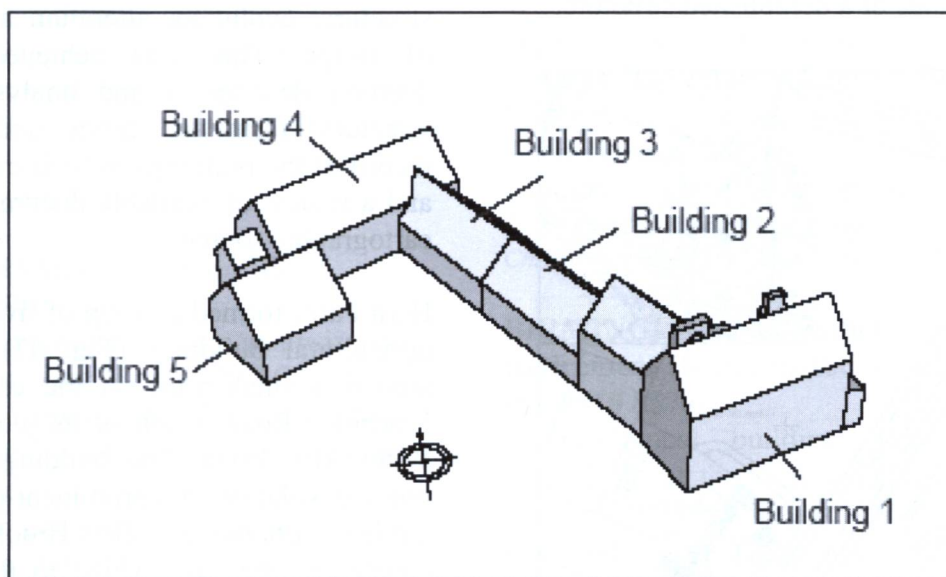


Fig. 42: Building identification, Barn Farm

Building 1: Farm House

Building 2: Cow Shed

Building 3: Stable

Building 4: former Mission Room and Barn

Building 5: Livestock Room

archaeological and social interest in the context of 19th-century rural communities. The complex had remained in use as a smallholding through to the departure of its final tenants during the last decade of the 20th century, but the adaptation of the barn (Building 4) in 1879 as a field chapel or Mission Room, forms a curious exception lasting 24 years until c.1903.

The site is understood to have origins in the 16th century but the standing buildings form a near comprehensive rebuilding of the site during the first half of the 19th century. The development of the site can be attributed to five key phases of works or alteration. These are summarised below (and see **Fig. 43**).

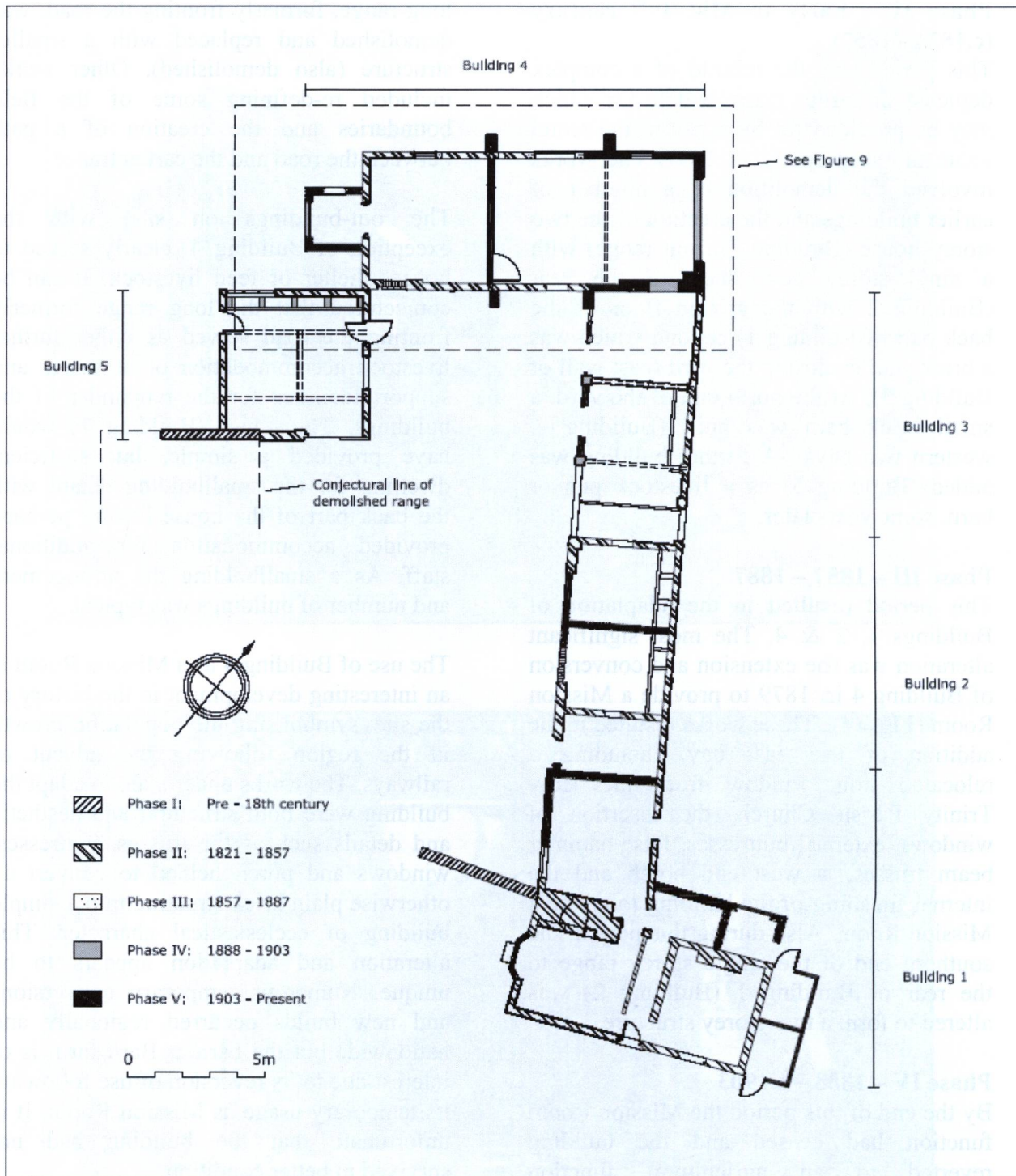


Fig. 43: Buildings 1-5, floor plan

Phase I – Prior to the early 19th century

Two stone walls, one extending west from Building 1 and a second extending from Building 5, survived from this phase. The former is thought to be a remnant of a wall along the southern approach to the earlier house (demolished) whilst the latter is

thought to be the north wall of a range aligned with the road. No other buildings survive although reused timber was noted in Building 4 (wall plate) and possibly Building 2 (tie beam).

Phase II – Early to Mid 19th century (c.1824 - 1857)

This period saw the rebuild of a complex depicted in earlier maps, a date for which may be provided for by a rise in the rental value of the property in 1837. The works involved the demolition of a number of earlier buildings and the erection of the two storey house (Building 1, front range) with a single-storey cow shed to the rear (Building 2 with the ground floor of the back part of Building 1) beyond which was a brick wall enclosing the yard (east wall of Building 3). At the north end of the yard, a small brick barn was built (Building 4, western two bays). A further building was added (Building 5) as a livestock pen or barn, some years later.

Phase III – 1857 – 1887

This period resulted in the adaptation of Buildings 1, 2 & 4. The most significant alteration was the extension and conversion of Building 4 in 1879 to provide a Mission Room (**Fig. 44**). These works resulted in the addition of the east bay, including a relocated iron window from the Holy Trinity Parish Church, the insertion of windows, external buttresses, false hammer beam trusses, a west end porch and the internal finishing of the building to create a Mission Room. Also during this period, the southern end of the single storey range to the rear of Building 1 (Building 2) was altered to form a two-storey structure.

Phase IV – 1888 – c.1903

By the end of this period the Mission Room function had ceased and the building reverted to an agricultural function following the insertion of a wide cart entrance in the east gable. This reversion of use also included the blocking of the porch door (**Fig. 45**). Building 3 was added during this period, serving as a stable, and the trough feature in Building 5 was added.

Phase V – c.1903 - Present

During the 20th century only minor alteration occurred to the buildings. The

long range, formerly fronting the road, was demolished and replaced with a smaller structure (also demolished). Other works included re-defining some of the field boundaries and the creation of a path between the road and the cart entrance.

The out-buildings on site, with the exception of Building 4, clearly served to house, shelter or feed livestock. It can be conjectured that the long range formerly fronting the road served as either further livestock accommodation or as stores and support facilities for the remainder of the buildings. The house (Building 1) would have provided a simple, but sufficient dwelling for the smallholding tenant with the back part of the house having perhaps provided accommodation for additional staff. As a smallholding the arrangement and number of buildings was typical.

The use of Building 4 as a Mission Room is an interesting development in the history of the site, symbolising the population growth in the region following the advent of railways. The works undertaken to adapt the building were both structural and aesthetic and details such as the trusses, buttresses, windows and porch helped to convert an otherwise plain brick structure into a simple building of ecclesiastical character. This alteration and adaptation appears to be unique. Numerous temporary conversions and new builds occurred regionally and nationwide but the barn at Barn farm is of interest due to its reversion of use following its temporary usage as Mission Room. It is unfortunate that the building had not survived in better condition.

It is clear that the buildings were never adapted or modernized to accommodate mechanised farming practices, perhaps due to the predominant use for livestock. This informs us that Barn Farm may have only ever served as a smallholding and that its operations were more in line with self-sufficient production or production for a local market. It is interesting that the



Fig. 44: Building 4 north and east elevations (above) and interior, looking east (below)

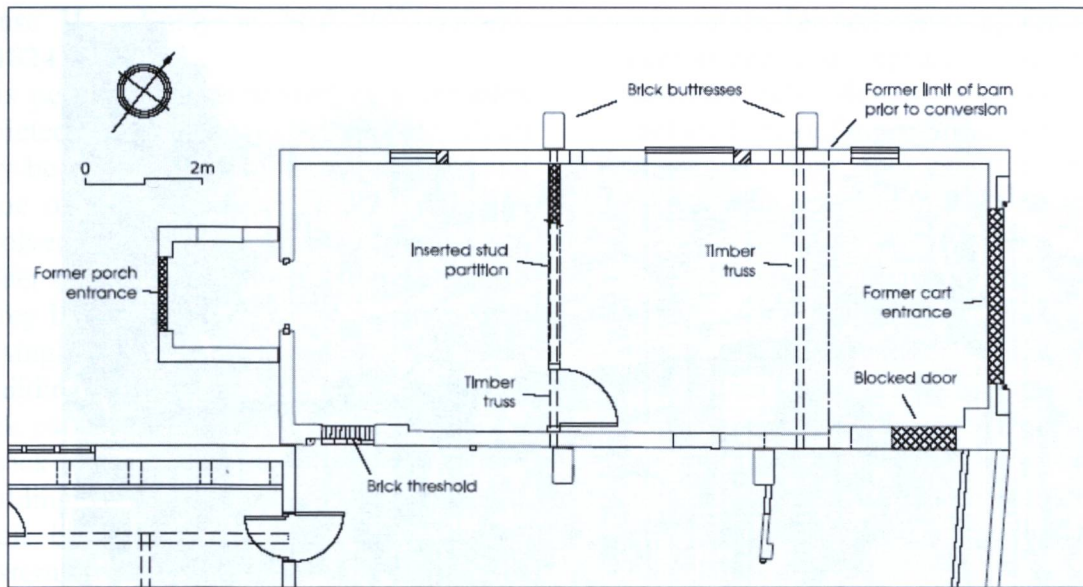


Fig. 45: Building 4, detailed floor plan

historic map sequence does not refer to a farm in 1887 which may suggest that the use of the barn as a Mission Room impacted upon the ability of the remaining buildings to serve an agricultural use.

Jon Lowe, Chris Adams & Sarah Watt, CgMs Ltd, Report No. 6199

BRIERLEY HILL, The Former Royal Brierley Crystal Works (SO 913870)

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at the site of the former Royal Brierley Crystal Works, North Street, Brierley Hill. The site opened in the 1870s and continued in production until the modern day. The watching brief was aimed at enhancing the understanding of the works through supplementary recording of the standing buildings, particularly the glasshouse that was due for demolition. The watching brief revealed little that greatly enhanced the archaeological record. However, it did allow the completion of the detailed record of the glasshouse prior to its demolition.

Christopher Hewitson, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1306

COVENTRY, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Bayley Lane (SP 3370 7895)

The first phase of archaeological excavation of land affected by a proposed extension to the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, was undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology, in the area of Mandela House car park to east of Bayley Lane. The excavation recorded extensive archaeological features and deposits up to 2-3m below the former car park surface. The earliest features exposed were a pair of postholes suggesting the presence of a timber structure, which may date to the 11th or 12th centuries. Overlying these features was a thick layer of sandy silt that contained 13th- and 14th-century pottery. Cut into this layer was a large number of inter-cutting pits dating from the 14th to 17th centuries (**Fig. 46**). **Fig. 47** shows a 16th-century salt-cellar recovered from one of these pits. From the 14th century the site was probably within an area of back plots belonging to houses, fronting onto Bayley Lane. The pits probably represented several phases of industrial activities, some of which were probably associated with the processing of cloth. Documentary evidence suggests that many of the properties fronting onto Bayley Lane



Fig. 46: Excavation of medieval and early post-medieval pits



Fig. 47: 16th-century salt-cellar recovered from large pit

were owned by cloth merchants during this period. The foundations of 19th-century buildings also survived (**Fig. 48**), sealed beneath rubble derived from the post-WWII clearance of bomb damaged structures. The chance find of a Roman brooch within a medieval layer may, perhaps, suggest Roman occupation in the area. The second phase of excavation is due to be undertaken in 2006 and subsequently a programme of post-excavation assessment, analysis and publication of both phases of excavation will be carried out.

Emma Hancox and Laurence Jones, Birmingham Archaeology



Fig. 48: Medieval pits and foundations of 19th-century buildings



Fig. 49: Medieval shoe from Belgrade Theatre

**COVENTRY, Belgrade Theatre
(SP 3311 7921)**

An archaeological watching brief by Northamptonshire Archaeology was maintained during the ground-working phase for the construction of a new auditorium for the Belgrade Theatre. As a result of these works medieval fabric relating to the city wall was observed and recorded to the north of the auditorium footprint below Bond Street. The wall survived largely as strips of core-work heavily truncated by modern services. However, a short section of ashlar blocks forming the inner face of the wall survived, enabling the line of the wall to be projected. Other sections of ashlar-clad wall located in close vicinity may relate to a tower and 'spayer' or sluice gate which was built to divert the waters of the Radford Brook into

a defensive ditch which ran around the perimeter of the wall. No dating evidence was found to support documentary sources which indicates that this stretch of wall was built at the end of the 14th century.

Post-medieval structures to the north and south of the Bond Street frontage were also recorded and a collection of medieval shoes was retrieved from an un-stratified deposit (**Fig. 49**).

Thorne, A, Webster, M, and Mason, P, 2005 *An archaeological watching brief at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, February to October 2005*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 05/154

**COVENTRY, Bond Street
(SP 3307 7932)**

An L-shaped trench 20m wide at the corner of Bond Street and Hill Street and extending 50m in both directions was

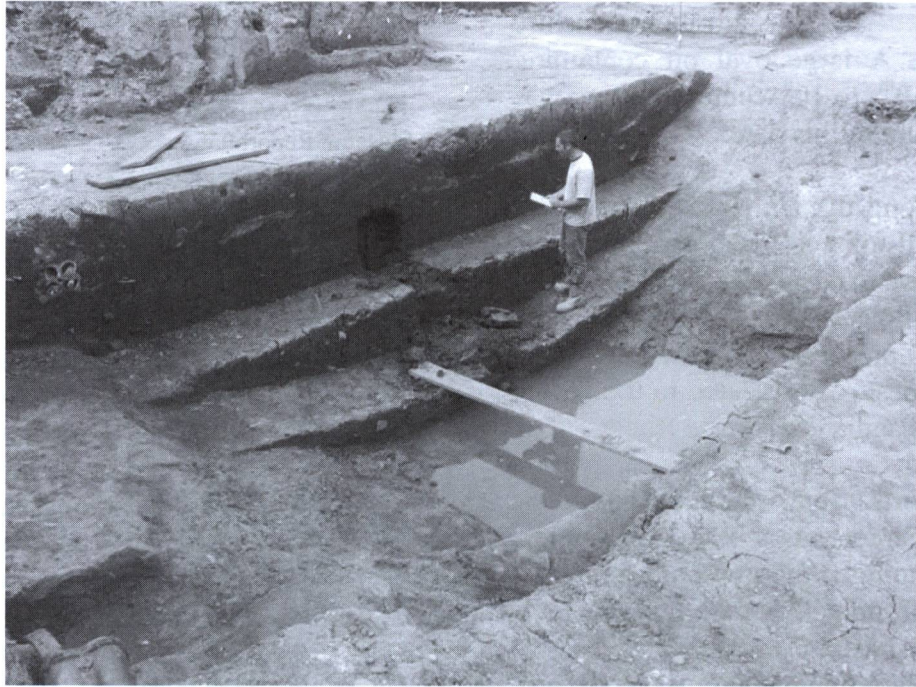


Fig. 50: Section through medieval defensive town ditch, Bond Street

excavated by Northamptonshire Archaeology. A large oval pit containing fragments of 9th- to 10th-century pottery was the only feature of this date.

Extending along the length of Bond Street the silted fill of the medieval defensive town ditch was exposed and fully sectioned in three locations. The fills contained rich deposits of preserved leather including numerous shoes, pottery dated to the 15th to 17th centuries and animal bone.

Extending north from the ditch along the line of Hill Street was a series of pits and postholes relating to houses built along the Hill Street frontage in the late medieval period. The sandstone walls and surfaces of one of these buildings were excavated (**Fig. 51**). Extending back from the Hill Street frontage, a series of large pits had been cut into the natural. These contained humic and organic layers and deposits of preserved leather, pottery dated to the 13th to 14th centuries, animal bone and fragments of woven textile. The pits were later cut and overlain by the post-medieval foundations for brick walls, drains and surfaces.

In the north of the site were the sandstone foundations for two houses fronting onto Hill Street. These had been cut through and overlain by foundations for later walls, services and a brick-built cellar related to the post-medieval development of the site.

Mason, P, and McAree, D, forthcoming *Archaeological excavation at Bond Street, Coventry Assessment Report and Updated Project Design*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report

COVENTRY, 61-63 Far Gosford Street (SP 3445 7903)

A single trial trench on a site in the medieval eastern suburb, in September 2005 on behalf of Mrs. S. Kaur, revealed evidence for medieval activity near to the street frontage in the form of a ditch containing 15th-century pottery. Any early deposits to the rear of the development had been severely disturbed by 19th- to 20th-century house construction.

Chris Jones, Warwickshire Museum

Jones, G C, 2005 *Archaeological Evaluation at 61-63 Far Gosford Street, Coventry*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0554

COVENTRY, Astley's Car Park, Gosford Street (SP 341 788)

An archaeological desk-based assessment carried out for Phoenix-Beard has highlighted that this area of Coventry was occupied since the early medieval period at the latest, and that the inhabitants of Gosford Street were, amongst other things, involved in trade and the woollen cloth industry which was so important to Coventry's development during this period. The site itself lies immediately to the southwest of Gosford Gate and to the northwest of the Carmelite Friary of Whitefriars. Excavations to the east at 'Bridge Buildings' located the town wall and the remains of a timber-framed medieval building.

The buildings on Gosford Street appear to be typical of the general urban environment of Coventry when until modern times the older infrastructure was adapted for new industry, rather than demolished and rebuilt. The character of industry in Gosford Street appears to have changed with the general changes in and around the city, with ribbon-makers, watch-makers, cycle-makers and motorcar manufacturers all being present at various times in the city's history.

Since the demolition of the buildings that had been present on the site, the site has remained undeveloped and therefore the potential for the survival of important below-ground archaeological deposits is extremely high. To this end, a programme of further archaeological investigation was recommended, prior to any redevelopment of the site.

Eleanor Ramsey, Birmingham Archaeology Report 1275



Fig. 51: Excavation of sandstone walls of late medieval buildings, Bond Street

COVENTRY, Park Court, Grosvenor Road (SP330784)

An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out in October 2005 on the Park Court site, Grosvenor Road, Coventry. The work was commissioned by Park Court Properties Limited, prior to an application for planning permission for the proposed redevelopment of the site. The study area is located to the south of the historic core of Coventry, adjacent to Cheylesmore Park and the main road leading south to Kenilworth and Warwick. The desk-based assessment highlighted that while Coventry itself has a long and illustrious history dating back to the Anglo-Saxon period, it is unlikely that occupation and development of the study area occurred before the mid-19th century. While late 19th-century

buildings of archaeological interest, such as the greenhouses of Warwick Road Nursery, were present on the site, the 20th-century construction and subsequent demolition of later buildings is likely to have truncated any remains relating to these structures.

Eleanor Ramsey, Birmingham Archaeology Report 1352

COVENTRY, Former Hospital Site, Gulson Road (SP 3406 7867)

Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd., in association with Benchmark Archaeology, carried out an archaeological evaluation exercise at the Former Gulson Road Hospital site, Coventry, during January and February 2005 (**Fig. 52**). The work was carried out on behalf of Coventry University and was part of an

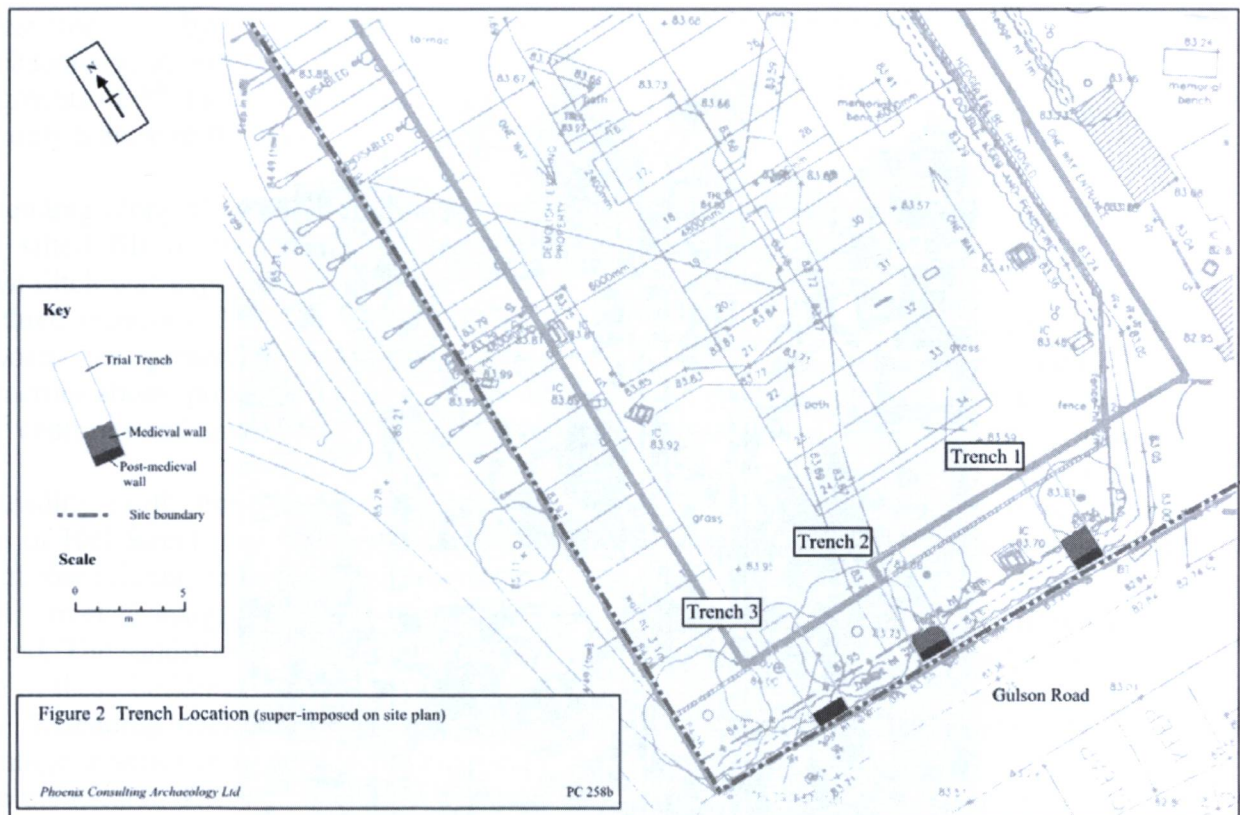


Fig. 52: Gulson Road trench location

archaeological evaluation programme required to assess the extent, nature and survival of archaeological features within the application site. The proposed development was for a student information building.

The southern boundary of the site lies on the line of the medieval town wall, dating between the 14th and 15th centuries in its construction. It also lies upon the possible line of the precinct wall of the Whitefriars monastery grounds, which occupied the site until the 16th century. Cartographic evidence suggests the site was largely open fields and orchards until the 19th century, when it became the workhouse allotments, and was later occupied by hospital buildings and grounds.

Three trial trenches, measuring 5m by 1.6m were excavated to try and identify the line of the town wall and its state of preservation.

The remains of the medieval town wall foundations were identified running east-west in Trenches 1 and 2 (**Figs. 53-54**). In Trench 1, the wall foundations survived in a good state of preservation, visible to a width and height of c.1.6m, revealing a stepped construction technique and the use of clay as a bonding material. In Trench 2, the wall foundations had originally been stepped, but had suffered from truncation, with the outer faces possibly removed. No remains of the wall foundations were recorded in Trench 3. The remains of a later, post-medieval masonry wall, built on top of the medieval wall foundations, was identified in all the trenches, upon which the modern boundary wall sits.

Richard Cherrington & Gary Coates, Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Report PC258b

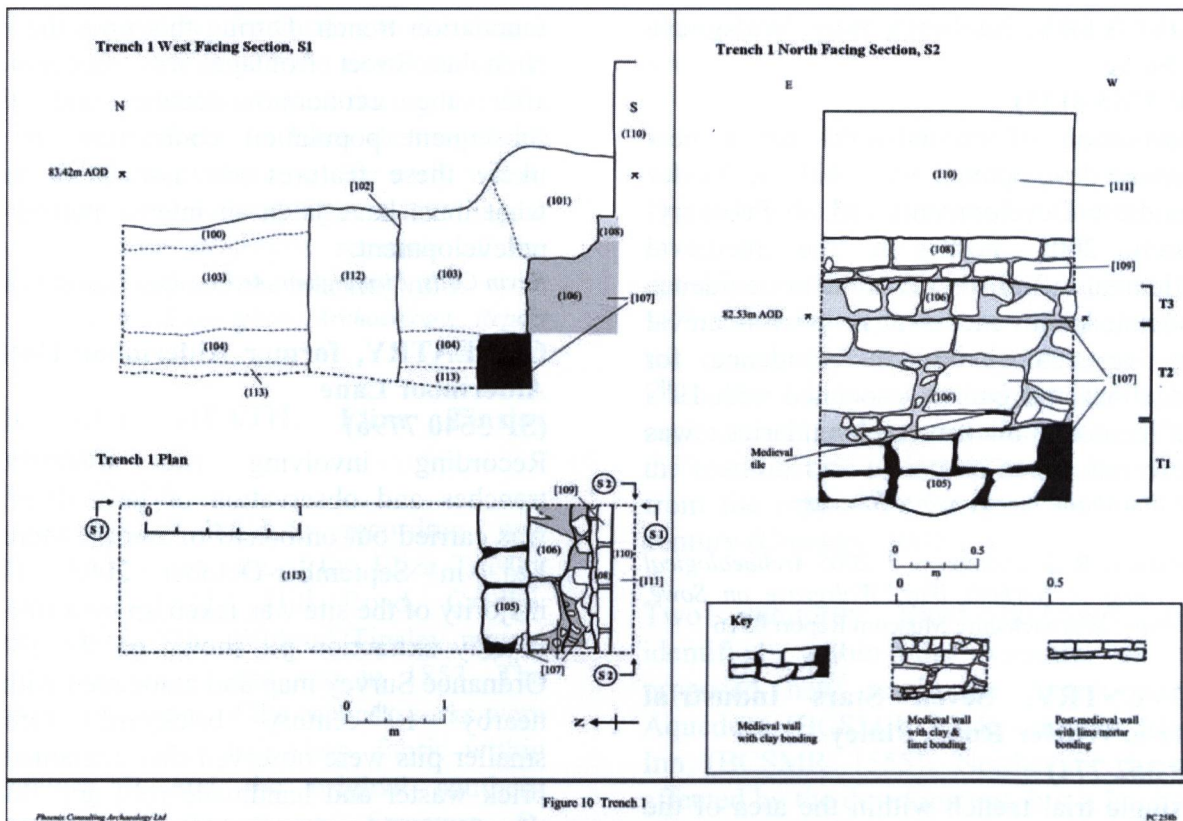


Fig. 53: Trench 1, Gulson Road

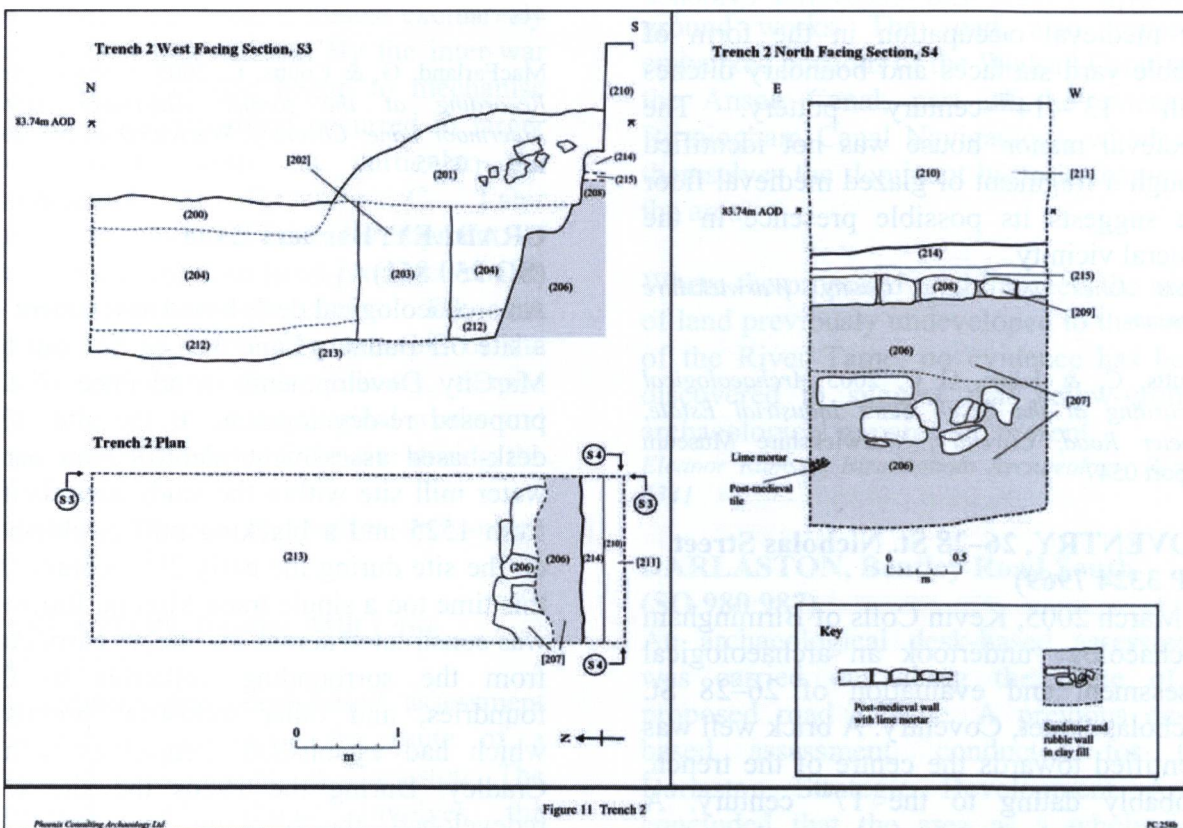


Fig. 54: Trench 2, Gulson Road

COVENTRY, Narberth Way, Walsgrave on Sowe**(SP 3785 8135)**

Observation of groundworks for a new housing development on behalf of Taylor Woodrow Developments Ltd. in February-March 2005 north of the medieval settlement of Sowe revealed no evidence associated with medieval or post-medieval clay or coal extraction. Evidence for hedgelines and gullies associated with 19th-/20th-century allotment boundaries was recovered.

Rob Blackburn, Warwickshire Museum

Blackburn, R., & Thompson, P, 2005 *Archaeological Recording at Narbeth Way, Walsgrave on Sowe, Coventry*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0516

COVENTRY, Seven Stars Industrial Estate, Wheler Road, Pinley**(SP 352 774)**

A single trial trench within the area of the former medieval settlement of Pinley in September 2005 on behalf of Coventry Prototype Panels Ltd. recovered evidence for medieval occupation in the form of pebble yard surfaces and boundary ditches with 13th-/14th-century pottery. The medieval manor house was not identified though a fragment of glazed medieval floor tile suggests its possible presence in the general vicinity.

Chris Jones and Cathy Coutts, Warwickshire Museum

Coutts, C., & Jones, G C, 2005 *Archaeological Recording at the Seven Stars Industrial Estate, Wheler Road, Coventry*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0547

COVENTRY, 26–28 St. Nicholas Street**(SP 3324 7969)**

In March 2005, Kevin Colls of Birmingham Archaeology undertook an archaeological assessment and evaluation of 26–28 St. Nicholas Street, Coventry. A brick well was identified towards the centre of the trench, probably dating to the 17th century. A number of archaeological remains were identified dating to the 19th century, including two pits, a gully, and a possible

foundation trench. During this time the St. Nicholas Street frontage was reoccupied after the economic decline and the subsequent population contraction. It is likely these features are associated with what must have been an intense period of redevelopment.

Kevin Colls, Birmingham Archaeology Report 1291

COVENTRY, former Aldermoor Hotel, Aldermoor Lane**(SP 3540 7796)**

Recording involving two evaluation trenches and observation of groundworks was carried out on behalf of Barratt Mercia Ltd. in September-October 2005. The majority of the site was taken up by a filled-in clay extraction pit shown on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map and associated with a nearby 19th-century brickyard. Other smaller pits were observed that contained a brick waster and handmade roof and floor tile fragments presumably deriving from earlier brick and tile production on the site.

Giles MacFarland and Cathy Coutts, Warwickshire Museum

MacFarland, G., & Coutts, C, 2005 *Archaeological Recording at the former Aldermoor Hotel, Aldermoor Lane, Coventry*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0555

CRADLEY, Banners Lane**(SO 950 851)**

An archaeological desk-based assessment of a site off Banners Lane was carried out for MarCity Developments in advance of the proposed re-development of the site. The desk-based assessment identified an early water mill site within the study area dating from 1525 and a blacking mill established on the site during the early 20th century. At this time too a single track Mineral Railway was constructed across the site, to carry coal from the surrounding collieries to the foundries, and other industrial premises which had established themselves within Cradley. During the 1920s the site was redeveloped, the blacking mill buildings were demolished and in their place a foundry was established, which remained in

use until recently. Alterations to the course of the River Stour and the development of the site for industrial uses during the 20th century are likely to have destroyed all archaeological evidence of the early water-powered mill. Landscaping and levelling at the site have destroyed remains of the mineral railway and the blacking mill.

Leonie Driver, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1271

CRADLEY HEATH, Eliza Tinsley Ironworks (SO 95308690)

Archaeological building recording was carried out at the site of the Eliza Tinsley Ironworks, Reddal Hill Road, Cradley Heath. Eliza 'The Widow' Tinsley moved her ironworks to the site in 1853. The surviving remains of the earliest works were Structure A, the chain-shop, fabric within Structure B and the original southern elements of the house, Structure D. Originally production centred on nail-making but altered in the late half of the 19th century and became almost exclusively centred on chain-making. By the inter-war years the works had begun to mechanise and a general transition occurred to larger open factory units, in particular the construction of Structure C. Later renovation continued the development of the works away from hand-produced chains to machine-produced chains. The site represented an interesting example of the locally important chain industry, despite minimal survival of the original works and large-scale alteration of the site during the 20th century.

Christopher Hewitson, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1343

DARLASTON, Bentley Mill Lane (SO 990 980)

An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out along the route of a proposed road scheme in Darlaston. The proposed road scheme involves the realignment of Bentley Mill Lane and the construction of a new east-west road to the south of the River Tame. The road scheme

also follows part of Darlaston Road to the south.

A previous desk-based assessment, conducted for the Darlaston Strategic Development Area, concluded that the area as a whole was probably not initially developed prior to the closing stages of the 18th century, though the area spans much of the core industrial area which established Darlaston's importance and reputation as a regional and national centre for mining and the manufacture of metals and metal goods from the mid-19th century to the late 20th century (Conway, 2002).

Two statutorily listed buildings were identified within the vicinity of the proposed new road, the James Bridge Aqueduct (BCSMR 2694) and the Globe Inn (BCSMR 1555). Neither is directly affected by the development, but it has been highlighted that care should be taken to avoid damage to these buildings from vibration or undermining by any adjacent ground works. The road also transects embanked portions of the Walsall Canal and the Anson Canal, part of the extensive Birmingham Canal Navigations, which are themselves the dominant historic feature of the area.

Where the proposed road transects the areas of land previously undeveloped to the south of the River Tame, no evidence has been discovered to suggest that below-ground archaeological remains are present.

Eleanor Ramsey, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1341

DARLASTON, Bentley Road South (SO 980 987)

An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out along the route of a proposed road scheme. A previous desk-based assessment, conducted for the Darlaston Strategic Development Area, concluded that the area as a whole was probably not initially developed prior to the closing stages of the 18th century, though

the area spans much of the core industrial area which established Darlaston's importance and reputation as a regional and national centre for mining and the manufacture of metals and metal goods from the mid-19th century (Conway 2002).

The assessment concluded that below-ground archaeological remains associated with a malthouse depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (BCSMR 11032) might survive within the study area. The assessment further concluded that early 20th-century walls fronting Bentley Road South to the south of the canal have earlier 19th-century walls incorporated into them relating to earlier industrial works, and might merit further archaeological recording if they are to be demolished during redevelopment.

Eleanor Ramsey, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1376

DUDLEY, Bus Station (SO 946 903; HBSMR 12394)

A desk-based assessment was undertaken on behalf of Faber Maunsell. Documentary, cartographic and photographic sources were consulted as well as the Dudley Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record, from which a history of the bus station area was constructed. Dudley existed as a relatively small settlement at the time of the Domesday survey. There is some evidence to suggest that the castle was used as a defensive site at this time. The medieval borough of Dudley grew up or may have been laid out between two churches at either end of the ridge, the top church, St. Thomas's and the bottom church, St. Edmunds. The site of the bus station lies adjacent to St. Edmunds and is crossed by the line of a former 'back street' of the town, Birmingham Street. It is therefore probable that burgage plots once stretched from Castle Street to Birmingham Street on the west side of the site, either side of Fisher Street which joined the two. However, it appears that on a pre-enclosure map of 1780, land holdings within the area

were considered agricultural and it may be that either these plots had never been built on or the settlement had contracted at some point, perhaps after the plague of 1666 which saw a dramatic reduction of the population, or during the siege of Dudley Castle in 1646. In 1835, Treasure's map shows buildings along the frontages of Fisher Street and Birmingham Street, with a school on the north side of the former. By the time of the Ordnance Survey of 1884, the area is heavily built up with dense housing both on the street frontage and behind, and this situation remains until the 1930s when the entire area is subject to slum clearance. The bus station opened in 1952 and was refurbished in the 1980s. It is concluded that there is a potential for the survival of archaeological features beneath the current bus station, particularly in the light of watching briefs undertaken elsewhere in Dudley where medieval features have been uncovered in the town centre.

Rogers, T, 2005 *Desk-based assessment of Dudley Bus Station, Dudley, West Midlands*, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, **1382**

LOWER GORNAL, Recess feature in a wall in Summer Lane (SO 391 291; SMR 1229)

A brick-lined recess feature existed in a sandstone wall by the side of Summer Lane in Lower Gornal. Due to the fact that the wall was starting to give way the authority decided to take it down and rebuild it. The feature would not be part of this rebuild, so a photographic record was made of it. A watching brief was instigated while the work was being done and it was discovered that a sandstone bowl lay at the base of the feature, and a pipe which fed water to the bowl was discovered in the wall. Later conversations with locals revealed it had been used before the Second World War as a watering trough for horses.

John Hemingway, Dudley MBC

OLDSWINFORD, Subterranean Feature at St. Mary's Church (SO 390 283; SMR 12300)

A watching brief was performed at St. Mary's Church when an underground feature was broken into while excavating a pipe trench, outside the walls. The feature was a two-bay chamber with a vaulted roof. The eastern chamber was a brick-lined area within a sandstone cut void. This was the largest chamber and had a blocked-up hole at the junction of the south wall and vault. The western chamber was divided into two; on the south side there was a set of stairs and on the north side a small chamber with an access hole in the roof and at the top of the west wall.

Despite the fact that the feature was not shown on any map it has been interpreted as a coal-fired boiler room. If the small chamber to the west was a coal store it would have served the boiler in the large chamber in the east. Access to the large chamber was via the steps. The blocked hole rising from the large chamber would have been for a pipe which would have supplied heat to the vestry and church.

John Hemingway, Dudley MBC

SANDWELL, Warley Woods Park (SP 013 861)

In December 2005, Birmingham Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation, sponsored by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council on behalf of Warley Woods Community Trust (WWCT), at Warley Woods Park, Sandwell. Twenty trial trenches were excavated within the park, located with an aim to assess the survival and character of the archaeological remains across the site and targeting features and structures associated with the transformation of the Warley Estate in the late 18th and early 19th century. A further aim of the evaluation was to identify possible areas suitable to excavate as part of a future community/outreach project.

The evaluation proved successful in characterising the remains of many of the targeted features. Structural remains were identified at the locations of the Abbey, Icehouse, stables, North and South lodges, and the Temple. The remains, consisting of a variety of brick walls, foundations, and surfaces were all in a good state of preservation. The trenches across the site of the Abbey identified substantial walls and surfaces sealed by shallow deposits of topsoil and demolition debris. The character, survival, and depth of the archaeological evidence associated with the Abbey would make this area suitable for excavation as part of an outreach community project.

Other trenches identified several of the 'lost' footpaths running across the Park. No structural remains were identified at the putative location of Warley Tor, where the trenches revealed a large area of landfill material consisting of ash and slag.

Kevin Colls, Birmingham Archaeology Report 1374

SOLIHULL, Former UCI Cinema, Highlands Road (SP 132 769)

In March 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on the site on behalf of Davis Langdon. The evaluation revealed extensive ground reduction throughout the development area, which probably occurred during the construction of the cinema and car park. Any potential archaeological deposits or features that may have survived within this area have subsequently been truncated by modern development.

Guy Cockin (OA Client Report)

SOLIHULL, Former TRW Site (SP 1230 7740)

On the 12th September 2005 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at the former TRW site, Shirley, Solihull. The project was commissioned by CPM Environmental Planning and Design

Limited (CPM), on behalf of Sunrise Senior Living Limited.

The evaluation consisted of two 30m and one 40m trench across the proposed development area.

The results of the evaluation work revealed one post-hole, most likely of modern origin; no other archaeological finds or features were present within the study area.

Tracy Michaels, Foundations Archaeology

**SOLIHULL, Mill Pool Barn, Darley Green, Knowle
(SP 1773 7395)**

Observation of foundation trenches for an extension within the site of the 17th-century, and possibly earlier, Darley Mill, on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. J. Spencer in January 2005, revealed only undated mill dam layers and a late 19th-century brick floor probably from an outbuilding shown on the 1905 Ordnance Survey map.

Bryn Gethin, Warwickshire Museum

Gethin, B, 2005 *Archaeological Observation at Mill Pool Barn, Darley Green Road, Dorridge, Solihull*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0525

**SOLIHULL, Templars' Hall, Temple Balsall, Balsall
(SP 2069 7599)**

Observation of the construction of paths and a disabled access ramp on behalf of the Lady Katherine Leveson Foundation in May-June 2005 revealed evidence of a demolished wall at the southeastern corner of the medieval Hall. This could have formed a southwards continuation of the present east wall and corresponds to the suggested location of a former east wing, described in 1541 as the 'Low Parlour'. Subsequent alterations to the south wall were also recorded.

Ian Greig, Warwickshire Museum

Greig, I, 2005 *Archaeological Observation at Templars' Hall, Temple Balsall, Solihull, West Midlands*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0536

**STOURBRIDGE, 44-74 Enville Road and 1-4 School Street
(SO 898844)**

An archaeological building record was made of 44-74 Enville Street and 1-4 School Street, Stourbridge, for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council and was conducted in conjunction with desk-based assessment of the study area. The overall character of Enville Street during the Victorian period was typified by small terraces utilised for both residential and small-scale industrial purposes that became increasingly given over to commercial use during the early 20th-century. Terraced housing of the kind within the study area was once typical of those towns that underwent industrial expansion throughout the mid-to-late 19th century though large-scale demolition of such properties has meant that in some areas they are becoming increasingly rare. The buildings have a greater significance as a group than as individual properties and represent an interesting chronological cross-section of the process of urban development in the Black Country.

Christopher Hewitson, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1235

**THE LEASOWES, watching brief on pipe trench
(SO 397 284; SMR 12031)**

A watching brief was instigated on the construction of a large modern tool store within the curtilage of the listed building called The Leasowes. The foundations of the store cut through over a metre of soil on its east side and revealed a number of layers of loam. It had been suggested that the site of the original Leasowes House, the home of the poet and landscape gardener, William Shenstone, was in the middle of the site. However, no evidence was observed of any building in this area.

The most interesting layer was a deep black loam which seemed to relate to the 18th century. It is known that William converted his house garden into a shrubbery (the first

use of the term) and it seemed likely that this was part of that garden. A trench ran from the store to the present car park in front of the house, revealing that when the present property was built in the late 18th century a substantial area had been terraced, thus removing much of the western part of the garden of William Shenstone.

John Hemingway, Dudley MBC

SMETHWICK, Brasshouse Lane Infants School

(SP 0220 8907)

A watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology during groundworks for the construction of new houses on land at Brasshouse Lane Infants School, Brasshouse Lane. No archaeological features were seen during the watching brief. Upton-Smith, T, 2006 *Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Brasshouse Lane Infants School, Brasshouse Lane, Smethwick, West Midlands, May-June 2005*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 06/3

TIPTON, Rounds Timber Yard, Castle Street

(SP 395 292)

An archaeological evaluation on land at the site of the former Rounds Timber Yard, Castle Street, Tipton, was undertaken by Eleanor Ramsey of Birmingham Archaeology in March 2005, commissioned by Framework Construction Limited. The earliest archaeological features and deposits identified on the site probably relate to the construction of the canal in the late 1700s. Two phases of building were identified on the Castle Street frontage. The earliest building appeared to be contemporary with the remaining standing building on the site and a nearby Canal Keeper's Cottage. Later cellars, to the west of the early building, belonged to a mid-Victorian row of cottages that can be seen on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. The early development of the canalside probably took place around 1800 as part of the industrial expansion of Tipton. The timber business itself formed an important part of the 19th-century industrial economy, providing

timber both for the houses provided for the working classes who were flooding into the area at this time, as well as props for the many coal mines that were being dug in the surrounding area.

Eleanor Ramsey, Birmingham Archaeology Report 1299

WALSALL, St. Lawrence's Church, Darlaston (SO 976 968)

Observation of groundworks for a car park extension and landscaping in the churchyard on behalf of St. Lawrence's Church PCC in May 2005 revealed no archaeological features or finds.

Kevin Wright and Cathy Coutts, Warwickshire Museum

Coutts, C, & Wright, K, 2005 *Archaeological Observation at St Lawrence's Church, Darlaston, West Midlands*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0533

WALSALL, Wolverhampton Road (SK 0065 9865)

Archaeological building recording was carried out at the site of the former garage. The site opened as a coal gas works in 1850 and ceased production in 1895 when it became an electricity generating station. The only surviving remains of the original gas works were of the retort house. Examination of the canal boundary wall revealed three phases of development. The first phase consisted of a small section of wall associated with the early development of the gas works. The remaining two phases probably dated from the early 20th century and were associated with the conversion of the site to the electricity generating station. The site represented an important example of a mid 19th-century gas works, with the retort house in particular having well-preserved building fabric with minimal alteration.

Christopher Hewitson, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1268

**WOLVERHAMPTON, Upper Green,
Tettenhall****(SJ 887 001)**

An air raid shelter located on the Upper Green, Tettenhall, was recorded in June 2004 by Birmingham Archaeology for the City Council. The shelter was L-shaped in plan, with two entrances, and completely subterranean, taking advantage of the steep natural slope of the Green. It was constructed using corrugated iron shuttering with internal braces, and was reminiscent of wartime tunnels surviving below Dover Castle. The shelter had been provided with electricity, with a backup supply, and had been fitted out with toilets. Unfortunately, documentary research could not provide a confident date for the monument, and there is anecdotal evidence that it was never used. This, and photographic evidence, suggest a late date of construction, post-1943, which is unusual.

Steve Litherland and Kirsty Nichol, Birmingham Archaeology, Report 1321

The following sites had watching briefs/evaluations carried out on them by Archaeological Investigations Ltd., but were found to contain nothing of archaeological significance:

OLDBURY, Pinfold St/Flash Rd

Crooks, K, 2004, Junction of Pinfold Street and Flash Road, Oldbury, West Midlands, HAS 648 (SO3993 2895)

WEDNESBURY, 7 Parkway

Crooks, K, 2004, 7 Parkway, Wednesbury, West Midlands, Archaeological Evaluation, HAS 646 (SO 398 295)

WORCESTERSHIRE

ALVECHURCH, Birmingham Road (Centred on SP 0266 7309; WSM 33991)

An archaeological evaluation of two fields to the east of Birmingham Road, Alvechurch, was undertaken on behalf of Worcestershire County Council. The evaluation of 26 trenches identified evidence for different phases of cultivation and drainage. Four sherds of Roman pottery and three fragments of possibly Roman tile were recovered in the field adjacent to Birmingham Road. The small size and abraded condition of these artefacts suggest that they were deposited along with midden material spread as manure. The absence of Roman artefacts in the field to the east suggests that it was not cultivated in this period, or at least not manured: it may have been managed as grassland or wood-pasture. There was also an absence of early medieval artefacts in both fields, although this is typical and implies nothing about the nature of land-use in this period.

Evidence for late medieval or early post-medieval cultivation was recovered in the form of plough furrows and tile fragments in the east field, and tile fragments only in the west field. Later post-medieval and modern cultivation was represented in the east field in the form of artefacts and mole drains. The west field seems to have been managed as pasture in these periods. Documentary evidence shows that the present field boundaries were established before the late 18th century. It is also likely that the brook that divides the two fields had been diverted and straightened by this time, and that a floodbank had been constructed on the east side of the new channel. The former channel was identified behind the floodbank. Finally, in the same area, an apparent pond shown on current Ordnance Survey maps was shown to be the result of localised waterlogging.

Miller, D, 2005 *Archaeological evaluation of land to the east of Birmingham Road, Alvechurch,*

Worcestershire, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1312

BROUGHTON HACKETT

Two matching vessel mounts from Broughton Hackett have been recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (WAW-2F4145 and WAW-2EFFB6) (Fig. 55). Bovine vessel mounts, which are a more common type of vessel mount, are dated to the late Iron Age and Roman periods. Human bust mounts are less common, but can also be considered to be Romano-British rather than solely Roman. A similar vessel mount to the Broughton Hackett examples was discovered in a grave from Brough, East Yorkshire (Corder, P. and Richmond, I.A. 1938 'A Romano-British Interment, with Bucket and Sceptres, from Brough, East Yorkshire' *Antiquaries Journal* Vol. 18, p. 69ff). Other parallels include the Alyesford bucket, which are helmeted busts and considered to be reflecting native styles, and a mount from a bucket from Marlborough, Wiltshire, where the bust has swept back hair and a thick moustache.

The Broughton Hackett examples are more simplistic in their features; they lack a distinctive accessory to help dating, but perhaps the swept back hair, and almost lentoid eyes could suggest these were produced by a Romano-British craftsperson. As to the context, many of these humanoid mounts are associated with burials. However, this is potentially a misguided statement. A similar presumption was made of buckets with bovine mounts, and it has since been illustrated that these buckets are not primarily associated with burials; instead, they have been excavated from a variety of sites including forts, temples, villas, and salt production sites.

Angie Bolton (*Warwickshire/Worcestershire Finds Liaison Officer*)

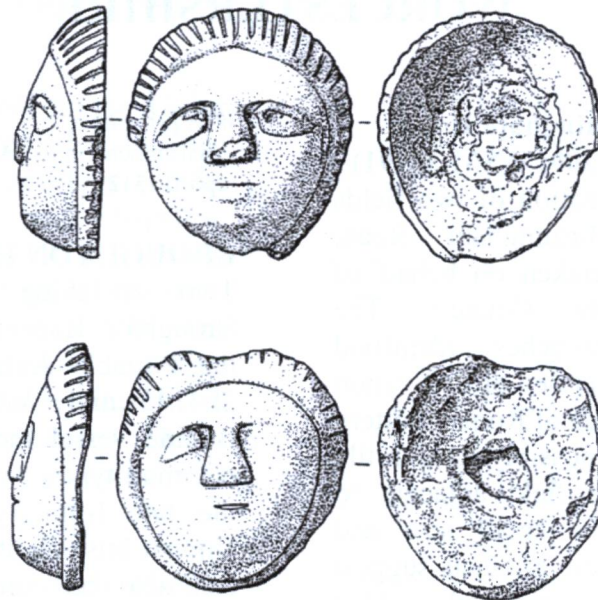


Fig. 55: Vessel mounts from Broughton Hackett
© Candy Stevens

CHADDESLEY CORBETT, Roman Lead Brooch Pattern

A pattern is created to form a basic model or outline of an artefact. The pattern, made from lead, bone or wood, is then used to make a mould from clay and sand (Leahy, K 2003 *Anglo-Saxon Crafts* Tempus Figure 78). The pattern is impressed into the clay and sand to form the mould. The molten metal would be poured into the mould to produce the final brooch.

The Roman lead brooch pattern (**Fig. 56**) is designed to make a Colchester Two-Piece; Polden Hill type brooch. It has semi-cylindrical wings with wing caps. The wing caps do not have central holes, like their copper alloy counterparts. These holes would have held in place an axis bar, around which the spring would be coiled, making the brooch functional. The bow head is hump-like and undecorated, and likewise the bow. The bow terminates with an over-sized foot. Integral to the foot is a smaller elongated curved knop or strand. On the reverse of the bow, there is a crumpled catchplate.

The study of other lead Roman brooches, which are considered to be patterns, reveal similar features to the Chaddesley Corbett example. The hinge lug of a lead brooch from Poole's Cavern, Derbyshire, also lacks a hole for the axis bar and spring. This is thought to be added to the final copper alloy brooch. The objects are considered to be patterns rather than brooches as they do not appear to be functional; for example, the catchplates of a lead pattern from Brough-Under-Stainmore, Cumbria is thickened along the edge, probably to allow the copper alloy brooch to be hammered out (Bayley & Butcher: 29). Additionally, the Chaddesley Corbett example has, below the bow foot, an integral knop or strand. This is likely to be a 'runner' so when the mould is formed from the pattern there is a hole into which the molten metal could be poured. There is evidence from a flawed casting of a trumpet brooch from Brough-Under-Stainmore that brooches were cast vertically, with the head down and the molten metal poured in through the foot. (Collingwood 1930).



Fig. 56: Chaddesley Corbett Roman lead brooch pattern
© Birmingham City Council/Portable Antiquities Scheme

The Chaddesley Corbett brooch is likely, therefore, to be a pattern. The discovery of the Chaddesley Corbett pattern suggests metalworking in Chaddesley Corbett; whether this metalworking was carried out by a passing craftsman or the parish was a regional centre for brooch production is uncertain. There is no evidence at present for Roman metalworking in Chaddesley Corbett, but this is worth further consideration.

Angie Bolton (*Warwickshire/Worcestershire Finds Liaison Officer*)

Bayley, J. and Butcher, S. *Roman Brooches in Britain: A Technological and Typological Study based on the Richborough Collection* Society of Antiquaries

Collingwood R, 1930 'Romano-Celtic Art In Northumbria' *Archaeologia* Vol. 80

CHILDSWICKHAM, Slade House, Atkinson Street, Childswickham (SP 0767 3871)

Two trenches were excavated by Cotswold Archaeology across the proposed development area. A single small quarry pit was identified which probably represents a casual exploitation of the natural gravel resource on a small scale. The presence of

buried soils was also noted. In all likelihood the site lies beyond the main focus of the Iron Age and Roman settlement to the north. Two possible furrows were also excavated which may be the result of medieval cultivation, the presence of which is attested to by extant ridge and furrow earthworks in neighbouring fields.

Kate Cullen, Cotswold Archaeology

Cotswold Archaeology, *Slade House, Atkinson Street, Childswickham, Worcestershire. Archaeological Evaluation. Report No. 05009*

CHURCH LENCH, Main Street (SP 0261 5128; WSM 34258)

A small-scale archaeological excavation was undertaken on behalf of Mr. S. Woods. The excavation was carried out in the small field to the northwest of the junction of Main Street and Low Road, to the eastern end of the village, prior to the construction of a private dwelling. A small ditch/gully was found running in an east to west direction. This contained high quantities of charcoal and a few fragments of pottery and tile. The ditch probably ranges in date from the medieval or post-medieval periods and likely served as a small drainage ditch or field boundary. A much larger ditch was also exposed to the southern end of this

field, and though undated, it is possible that it was created somewhere between the post-Roman and medieval period. This ditch, which terminated within the excavation area, was of considerable size, being at least 3m in width and 1m deep. To the south were the slight remains of a bank, pottery from the surface of which indicated an 11th- to 14th-century date. The extent and nature was unclear in the excavation, though it is clear that it is of some significance.

Sworn, S, 2005 *Archaeological excavation at Main Street, Church Lench, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1328

DROITWICH, Salters Shopping Centre (SO 389784 263326; WSM 34248)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting via their client the Salters Centre Limited Partnership and Paragon Planning.

The evaluation revealed archaeological features of medieval and post-medieval date. Their survival was better than anticipated given the modern landscaping that is a feature of the present development. The features indicated the survival of probable domestic features in the form of pits. The limited scope of the investigation could cast some doubt on the interpretation of a couple of the features but association with back-plot activity seems most likely. The location and survival of the features points to further significant archaeology surviving underneath the rest of the immediate surrounding area.

Goad, J, 2005 *Archaeological evaluation at Salters Shopping Centre, Droitwich, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1325

DROITWICH, Saltway, Waitrose (SO 9005 6343; WSM 33531; SAM 30097)

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting, who were acting on behalf of the John Lewis Partnership at the instruction of Moss Construction. This followed the approval of

a mitigation strategy by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, English Heritage and Worcestershire County Council, which ensured preservation *in situ* of medieval and earlier remains. A particular aim of the project was to document, as far as possible, the impact on the archaeology of the vibroplacement system, which was included in the development strategy as part of the mitigation.

The trenching exposed strata of ashy industrial waste material, which had originated from the furnaces of the salt works that had covered most of the development area. Numerous brick walls were exposed, which were mostly associated with the various salt works buildings that existed on the south side of the canal. Several brine shafts were also located, two of them with cast iron capping. These existed inside the salt works adjacent to the brine pans and drying rooms. The site was successful in revealing significant parts of Droitwich's salt industry of the mid-19th to early 20th century.

Significant archaeology was located in Trench 21 on the southern side of the development area, outside the SAM. Features dating to the Roman period were revealed during the machining. The material from this period was sampled to reveal that after a period of occupation the site was briefly abandoned, given the presence of material consistent with waste ground. The trench showed that possible domestic or commercial settlement existed next to a water-management system. Two distinct phases of Roman activity were encountered, with a phase of ditching superseded by another. Possible wooden linings to some of the ditches were also identified. The pollen evidence pointed to open and disturbed land, which is consistent with an industrial landscape of the period. Saxon and medieval pottery was recovered during the salvage recording, but no distinct features from those periods were identified. The significant archaeology in this trench was

buried some distance down from the present ground surface. This was due to the subsidence that has occurred across the development area, with the most acute area of subsidence running in a line north to south directly beneath the new store. The presence of a blue alluvial layer just above the natural river terrace gravels pointed to an early episode of flooding. Excavations elsewhere in the area indicate similar events occurring in the late Saxon period.

Trench 2 contained the only other possible area of significant archaeology, with the base of the trench possibly revealing the remnants of a cobbled surface. This might have been associated with a late Saxon or early medieval trackway believed to run from the Worcester Road to a junction at the southern end of Rickett's Lane, where a branch headed towards the river.

Goad, J, 2005 Archaeological watching brief at Waitrose, Saltway, Droitwich, Worcestershire (SAM 30097), Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1303

DROITWICH, Whittingham House, Worcester Road

(SO 9003 6328; WSM 33827 and 34185)

An archaeological excavation and watching brief were undertaken on behalf of McCarthy and Stone Developments Ltd., who had planning permission to build retirement flats and low-cost housing. The project aimed to record and interpret the deposits of medieval and earlier date previously located during an evaluation.

The excavation and watching brief revealed a sequence of activity from the Roman, late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods. The Roman features took the form of ditches, which could have marked field systems or property boundaries on the edge of the Roman settlement.

The late Saxon features were a mixture of pits, ditches and postholes. The features, artefacts and ecofacts indicated domestic occupation and tethering of animals. The nature of the late Saxon remains indicate

some form of domestic occupation, which add to the evidence from elsewhere in Droitwich.

The majority of the activity on the site was medieval and later. A very large ditch dating to the 13th-14th centuries dominated the excavation area and pointed to the presence of either a medieval manorial enclosure (the ditch acting as a moat), or more probably a large boundary ditch. The ditch might also have demarcated the eastern boundary of the urban area in the 13th-14th centuries. The density of features indicated the area of occupation was on the west side of the ditch. This may have been associated with a manor house that existed on the site of the present Raven Hotel, which is known to have existed from at least the 12th century, being the birthplace of Richard de Wych. A small assemblage of animal bones belonged to domestically reared animals; cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, etc. The area also showed evidence of animal trampling, with large amorphous spreads of dark material covering irregular (disturbed) natural clay surfaces. The site also contained a semi-circle of postholes extending beyond the excavation boundary, which have been interpreted as a possible dovecote. Dovecotes were often situated within the confines of manorial sites in the medieval and post-medieval periods. If Whittingham House was an area associated with the Raven Hotel manor house, the area of land which the manor dominated would have been very large. The owner of this property could only have been one of the wealthy new salt burgesses that rose to prominence in Droitwich from the early 13th century, when rights to the salt extraction were farmed out to town officials, with the Crown supervising the distribution of salt rights and the levies on the owners.

The excavation also revealed the unexpected remains of a post-medieval salt production area and included furnaces and brine shafts.

Goad, J and Woodiwiss, S, 2005 Archaeological excavation and watching brief at Whittingham House, Worcester Road, Droitwich, Worcestershire, *Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1313*

ELMLEY CASTLE, Old Mill Inn (SO 9845 4117; WSM 7679)

Archaeological field evaluation and building recording were undertaken on behalf of Kimbridge Limited. The project aimed to establish the presence and significance of archaeological deposits, and the character and history of the present buildings.

The results showed that the site was first developed in the early 18th century. This development consisted of a two-celled, three-storey brick house built in the Palladian style. The house was built on deposits of made ground that were brought in to level a natural slope. A ditch found to the northwest of the house may have bounded the 18th-century property. The site was further developed in the 19th century by the addition of other buildings, including a malthouse. The 20th century saw much change to the house as it was converted for use as pub. This involved the construction of numerous extensions to house the kitchen, bar, lounge, toilets, dining-room, office and guest bedrooms.

S Robson-Glyde and Miller, D, 2005 Field evaluation and building recording at the Old Mill Inn, Elmley Castle, Worcestershire, *Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1317*

EVESHAM, Cooper's Lane (SP 0405 4328)

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Andrew Josephs Ltd., on behalf of Crest Nicholson PLC, to carry out an archaeological trial excavation on land south of Cooper's Lane, Evesham. Eight trenches were excavated. Four trenches contained medieval features, dated to the 11th to early 13th centuries. One trench contained post-medieval features and three trenches contained undated features and/or vegetation disturbance. The development

area as a whole contains archaeological features predominantly post-dating the Norman Conquest, with the main activity occurring in the areas south of Cooper's Lane and southeast of 'The Mansion House'.

Jones, M, 2005 *Archaeological Evaluation on Land South of Cooper's Lane, Evesham, Worcestershire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 05/112

EVESHAM, 31-35 Port Street (SP 0418 4364; WSM 34264)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken which aimed to characterise, date, and establish the significance of archaeological remains in the area of a proposed development, and to make an architectural and historical assessment of several buildings proposed for demolition. The site consists of two adjacent plots extending from Port Street to Lower Leys. These plots are thought to have been laid out in the late 13th or early 14th century as part of a wider suburban development, and remains of medieval and later date were anticipated.

Two trenches were excavated behind the buildings in each plot. The trench behind 31 Port Street exposed two pits containing medieval pottery. No artefacts indicating particular crafts or trades were recovered, but the date of the pottery supports suggestions that the plot was laid out around the 14th century. Numerous postholes and a possible beam slot of 18th-to early 19th-century date were found in the same trench, suggesting intensive building activity in this period. No evidence of late medieval or early post-medieval activity was found. A lack of evidence for activity in these periods has been noted in similar contexts elsewhere, and has been taken to indicate a protracted phase of abandonment or non-urban land-use. The cellar and surface of an early 20th-century building was also found. This is likely to have been the factory or store of Brearley's Mineral Waters Manufacturers between c.1904 and 1949. Numerous bottles with Brearley stamps were found in the fill of the cellar

along with other bottles produced by local manufacturers.

No 14th-century features were found in the trench excavated behind 35 Port Street, though such features would appear to be sparsely distributed and may exist elsewhere in the plot. There was, however, a similar lack of evidence for late medieval and early post-medieval activity. An increase in activity between the 18th and 20th centuries was represented by a well, two rubbish pits and several postholes, although, as before, this activity seems to have been less intensive, and for this period there is documentary evidence for arrangements of a semi-rural character.

Of the buildings proposed for demolition, 31 Port Street has the most architectural and historical interest with regard to its surviving 19th-century fabric and frontage. However, the building has no discernable features that give it any considerable merit and its integrity has been significantly compromised by extensive 20th-century alterations.

Miller, D, 2005 *Archaeological evaluation at 31-35 Port Street, Bengeworth, Evesham, Worcestershire* Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1330

EVESHAM, Vale Park (SP 0419 4157)

During November 2005, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on land southeast of Vale Park, Evesham, for Evesham Estates Ltd. in advance of further development. The evaluation revealed Roman and undated ditches to the south and ridge and furrow to the northwest of the proposed development site. The Roman pottery recovered from features was mostly local Severn Valley ware with a sherd of samian. The remaining pottery from the topsoil and subsoil was post-medieval.

Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (OA Client Report)

KEMERTON, Kemerton Sewage Works (SO 9414 3600 - SO 9300 3688; WSM 34184)

A programme of archaeological evaluation and monitoring was undertaken on behalf of Severn Trent Water of Kemerton Sewage Treatment Works. One open area, one borehole and three trenches were investigated.

The open area and borehole within the existing sewage treatment works compound revealed modern horizons and disturbance directly overlying and cut into the natural sand and gravel. A small area of silty sand on the east side was determined to be a relict subsoil. No continuation of the 5th- to 8th-century settlement activity previously identified in the field to the north was recorded. Foundation gravels for the modern road surface were noted directly over the natural matrix within the trenches along Kinsham Lane and Kemerton Road.

A shallow, clayey sand-filled hollow observed opposite Lower Court was of indeterminate date or function, although it may relate to the field boundary adjacent to the west. A wide shallow silt loam-filled feature was identified within the trench along the track between Kinsham Lane and the sewage treatment compound. It lay at the north end of the curvilinear crop mark visible in aerial photographs and was interpreted as a hollow way during previous investigations in the field to the south. Again, no finds were recovered, so it remains undated and its relationship with the postulated Iron Age enclosure to the south is still undetermined.

Vaughan, T, 2005 Archaeological evaluation and monitoring of Kemerton Sewage Treatment Works, Kemerton, Worcestershire, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1316

KEMPSEY, Land to east of Sunnyside Farm, Old Road South (SO850 486; WSM 34573)

An archaeological documentary assessment was undertaken by Mike Napthan

Archaeology for land at Sunnyside Farm, Kempsey, prior to a proposed housing development. Low-level prehistoric and Roman activity has been previously identified throughout the parish of Kempsey, but there is, as yet, no archaeologically proven evidence for any substantial settlement of these periods in the area covered by the core of the present village.

The most significant surviving earthworks in the parish, to the north and west of the church may possibly be (as presently recorded) of Iron Age date, but this is unproven. The undated boundary or enclosure features around the church might, on presently available evidence, equally prove to be early medieval (possibly a churchyard boundary) or associated with the documented monastic site and later Bishop's residence. Several 20th-century excavations around the built-up area of the village by archaeologists have failed to find any stratified evidence of Iron Age or Roman date, but there is abundant evidence of medieval activity in this area. The sum total of recorded Iron Age and Roman pottery sherds from the area enclosed by the earthwork is one probable Iron Age and seven Roman sherds, from four separate professional investigations – all were unstratified. It appears there is sufficient circumstantial evidence (in the form of residual material and undated features) to suggest that the area was cultivated during the Iron Age and Roman periods, but the settlements appear to have lain outside the present village core.

Early antiquarian reports suggest that there was once more definite evidence for Roman settlement in a field called the Moors to the north of the enclosure around the church, but this was probably largely destroyed by gravel digging at the time of discovery. The main Roman road ran well to the east of the present village, and it is probable that any substantial settlement of that date lay towards the road-line.

The cropmark enclosures to the south and southeast of the village appear to provide more firm evidence for prehistoric or Romano-British activity. Those to the southwest of Sunnyside Cottages, Old Road South, appear to be of later Iron Age date, and are of considerable archaeological interest. No clear internal features can be discerned, but it is probable that at least one of the enclosures represents a farmstead site. No crop-mark evidence for the present site is recorded, though a probable former stream or river channel (visible as a depression) to the east of the site might contain significant evidence for the prehistoric environment, though this is presently unproven.

The absence of recorded cropmark evidence for the area of the present proposal is not proof of the absence of significant features, but it does suggest that if present they are unlikely to be substantial or organically rich. It is unlikely that any remains are deeply buried, and they may therefore have suffered considerable truncation through intensive agricultural use.

There appears to be no documentary evidence for significant activity on the site during the historic period; the medieval settlement was focused to the east of the church, well to the north. It appears from Tithe map evidence that the present site lay within the medieval open-field system, and that following the establishment of Old Road South as a trackway running obliquely across the field system, the western part was probably a triangular patch of road-side waste. This was subsequently enclosed and was in use as a hop-yard by the early 19th century. Pits dug to receive hop poles may have damaged any surviving archaeological features. Sunnyside Farm to the west was not established until the late 19th or very early 20th century, though it was preceded by Sunnyside Cottages c.1875. The area otherwise remained relatively unaltered until the construction of a mid 20th-century

bungalow to the south and the development of the Meadow Lane housing estate immediately to the north c.1980.

Napthan, M, 2005, *Land to east of Sunnyside Farm, Old Road South, Kempsey archaeological desktop assessment*, Worcester Mike Napthan Archaeology Report

**MALVERN HILLS, Shire Ditch
(SO 36152 37081 - 76896 45796; WSM
34769; HSM 43068)**

An archaeological condition assessment was undertaken on behalf of Malvern Hills Conservators. The full length of this Scheduled Ancient Monument, as defined in the Worcestershire HER, commences south of Hollybush Hill and terminates south of Happy Valley/Green Valley, north of Worcestershire Beacon. A descriptive written and digital photographic record were undertaken and tied into the National Grid using GPS. Individual Management Units were created, distinguished variously by the topography, earthwork form and/or current state of preservation. The land use, ground cover and conditions in conjunction with existing and potential adverse factors were then described, from which practical recommendations could be made for remediation and prevention of further deterioration of the feature.

The recommendations for remediation fall into six categories, namely: general monitoring; management of trees, scrub and bracken; management of recreational activities; management of grazing; management of burrowing animals; and repair of erosion. Two specific areas, Hangman's Hill and Broad Down, have been highlighted with detailed recommendations for remediation drawn up. Generic remediation methods have been listed for the other management units. Finally, further archaeological investigations are proposed, which would provide a better understanding of the existing monument and its relationship with a number of surrounding features within the historic landscape.

Vaughan, T, 2005 *Condition assessment of the Shire Ditch, the Malvern Hills, Herefordshire and Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1384

**MALVERN, Pickersleigh Court
(SO788 468; WSM 34116)**

An archaeological evaluation, consisting of documentary search and mechanical excavation of 230m² of trench, was undertaken to the rear of Pickersleigh Court, Malvern. The area is presently a disused orchard, and a housing development has been proposed. The documentary research indicates that the property originated in the late 15th or 16th century and was known as "Pyckersled" by the 1540s. It formed part of the extensive Foley Estates, and the earliest detailed plan of the present property appears to be the Foley Estate map of 1833. This plan shows several agricultural buildings, including a possible barn, which had been largely cleared by the time of the 1880s Ordnance Survey. The 1910 plan accompanying the sale particulars for Lot 11 of the Foley Estate shows the present property much as it is now, although it has been much reduced in size by subsequent housing developments and road widening. The addition of the 'Court' to the name Pickersleigh appears to have been the result of 20th-century 'gentrification' - the manorial court was undoubtedly at nearby 'Court Farm', also part of the Foley Estates

The excavation trenches proved to be almost entirely negative in their findings - other than a couple of shallow late 19th- to early 20th-century linear features (probably drainage) there was little evidence of human activity other than that relating to the documented use as an orchard. The topsoil was shallow, only 0.22m on average, and there was no sign of deeper ploughing, possibly because of the gravelly clay natural subsoil. It is likely that the land remained as pasture/orchard throughout the agricultural occupation of Pickersleigh. The trenches lay in close proximity to, or partially across, the

footprint of a large building shown on the 1833 plan. However, only minimal quantities of architectural debris were observed (flat post-medieval tile and 19th-century brick). It is likely that this building was entirely of timber, and probably thatched, otherwise some trace should have been found. Abundant rubble and stone within the beds of the formal garden suggest that there was formerly a paved farmyard area to the rear of the main house, but this does not appear to have extended as far as the perimeter of the planned development. Some earthmoving has evidently been undertaken to infill a former pond, and this may have resulted in the loss of shallower features.

Of note was the presence of a previously unrecorded cider mill in the orchard. Although nothing remains of the cover building, remnants of the timber shaft and metal fittings survive *in situ*. The presence of undergrowth and brambles prevented close inspection, but the mill is likely to be of mid 19th-century date.

Napthan, M, 2005, *Archaeological Evaluation at Pickersleigh Court, Malvern, Worcestershire*. Mike Napthan Archaeology Report

**PERSHORE, 67 Newlands
(SO 9440 4596; WSM 34266)**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Berry and Young. The evaluation revealed a number of archaeological features, two of which, a probable well or pit and a post hole, were dated securely to the 12th to 13th centuries. The dating of these features is highly significant as it is the first physical evidence of the establishment of the medieval suburb of Newlands in the medieval period. A number of undated post holes were also found in the trench, pointing to further evidence for possible medieval structures. The features pointed to domestic occupation, which is consistent with the nature of a medieval suburb.

Goad, J, 2005 *Archaeological evaluation at 67 Newlands, Pershore, Worcestershire, Worcestershire*

Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1332

**PERSHORE, Pershore Abbey
(SO 94775 45805; WSM 34416)**

The results of a watching brief have concluded that substantial archaeological remains are well preserved not far below the present ground surface outside the northeastern corner of the vestry. There are below-ground remains of the eastern wall of the 12th-century northern transept and at least two phases of internal mortared floor surfaces. The partial remains of an earlier Christian burial lie in a well-preserved state not far below the surface, though truncated by the 12th-century wall foundations. Although considerable disturbance has taken place during the insertion of the large buttress and the modern concrete foundations for the present vestry, there are still significant remains that will help to establish the original ground plan of the early medieval northern transept and burial practice prior to the 12th century.

Sworn, S, 2005 *Archaeological watching brief at Pershore Abbey, Worcestershire, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1348*

**POWICK, Madresfield Brook
(SO 837 470)**

Observation of environmental improvements to a tributary of the River Severn on behalf of the Environment Agency in September 2005 revealed only undated alluvial deposits.

Ioannis Altsizoglou and Giles MacFarland, Warwickshire Museum

Altsizoglou, I, & MacFarland, G, 2006 *Archaeological Observation at Madresfield Brook, Powick and Ham Court, Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire, Warwickshire Museum Report 0601*

**POWICK, Manor Farm
(SO 8349 5113; WSM 34499)**

An archaeological evaluation was conducted on behalf of Mr. Thomas Hawkins, who intends to develop the site as a nine-hole golf course for which a planning application has been submitted. The site



Fig. 57: Aerial view showing evaluation trenches at Manor Farm, Powick, after backfilling
(Mike Glyde 2005)

covered four fields just south of the village of Powick and was deemed to have a high potential for significant archaeological deposits because of the presence of concentrated cropmarks on the proposed development site, hinting at past settlement. A total of 84 trenches was excavated in a grid array across the four fields of the site, and a large number of archaeological features was observed and recorded (**Fig. 57**). Many of the features were attributed to modern hop cultivation as two of the fields had previously been hop-yards. A substantial Romano-British settlement was also discovered in the area defined by the cropmarks. The most common features were substantial ditches, which signified the presence of enclosures relating to animal husbandry as well as domestic occupation. The enclosures were associated with a high concentration of other smaller ditches and pits and evidence for two round-houses in the form of two drip gullies with associated post-holes. A rich and well-preserved

pottery assemblage with unusual biases suggesting high-status activity allowed for provisional dating of the site, which originated in the 1st century, possibly the late Iron Age with a peak of activity in the 2nd century and minimal low-level activity in the 3rd century. A number of other features was identified, probably relating to a field system surrounding the main settlement.

The evaluation concluded that a significant Romano-British settlement was present on the site, which must be taken into consideration within the plans for the development of the site as a golf course.

Milward, J., 2005 Archaeological evaluation at Manor Farm, Powick, Worcestershire, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1374

SEVERN STOKE, Clifton Quarry (SO 8460 4670; WSM 34498)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Tarmac Ltd. To the

northeast of the existing quarry, a concentration of pits, postholes and ditches was identified, which clearly reflects former settlement at this location. Remains included a possible oven or kiln, evidence of ironworking and crop processing, plus an important assemblage of pottery including several previously unrecognised forms within the county. The latter were associated with fabrics not normally associated with such forms and it is suggested on the balance of evidence that at least some elements of the activity present may date to the very end of the Bronze Age or Early Iron Age period.

A general scatter of Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern material found across the site was determined to be the result of incidental distribution during agricultural manuring of agricultural fields. There was no evidence for the continuation of the Roman site previously identified to the north.

Within the existing quarry, a deep peat deposit was recorded, and determined by radiocarbon dating to have been forming from the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic (4690-4450 cal BC) through to the Early Bronze Age (2290-1910 cal BC). It is conjectured to be part of a large palaeochannel, possibly an earlier course of the River Severn, which now flows to the east. The peat was not rich in plant macrofossils, but very well-preserved pollen samples indicate that the site has the potential to provide a wealth of information regarding the surrounding landscape and changes to the environment during this period.

Vaughan, T, 2005 Archaeological Evaluation at Clifton Quarry, Severn Stoke, Worcestershire, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1369

UPTON UPON SEVERN, Ham Court (SO 856 383)

Observation of environmental improvements to tributaries of the River Severn on behalf of the Environment

Agency in September 2005 recorded alluvial layers containing prehistoric flintwork and Romano-British pottery, suggesting an episode of alluviation here of Romano-British (or later) date. The remains of a disused 19th-century sluice were also recorded.

Ioannis Altsizoglou and Giles MacFarland, Warwickshire Museum

Altsizoglou, I, & MacFarland, G, 2006 *Archaeological Observation at Madresfield Brook, Powick and Ham Court, Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire*, Warwickshire Museum Report 0601

WORCESTER, All Saints Road and Moreton Place (SO851 540; WCM 101407)

Archaeological monitoring of groundworks was undertaken by Mike Napthan Archaeology during groundworks for a new apartment block at the junction of All Saints Road and Moreton Place, Worcester. The project primarily comprised the monitoring and recording of deposits exposed in pile auger uprisings and subsequently level reduction between the piles.

Due to the generally deeply disturbed nature of the site and complexity of the new foundation design it proved very difficult to recover meaningful plans or sections of deposits, and recording was largely restricted to obtaining a general understanding of the deposit sequence. Only in the peripheral sections were comprehensible stratigraphic sequences of any depth seen. The site had been disturbed by demolition works, road construction, machine-dug pits for disposal of modern builders' waste and two separate previous archaeological evaluations. Within the new building footprint very little of the area retained significant deposits within 1.5m of surface levels, but this partly reflected later 18th-and 19th-century dumping or levelling up of the site. These deposits were further disturbed by piling operations, and the ground reduction necessary to level the piling rig on the steeply sloping site. Significant deposits may, however, survive

at greater depth and remain relatively undisturbed.

Natural deposits were directly observed only within the neighbouring property to the east (where probably *in situ* natural sand was exposed by removal of the retaining wall). It appeared that the present site had been partly terraced into the slope or that there was a natural river terrace edge very close to the eastern boundary, as natural sand was not observed within the site at any point within the foundation excavations, which were up to 2m deep in places. The pile uprisings demonstrated the presence of sand at depth, but proved to be a fairly unreliable guide to the underlying stratigraphy.

The deposits encountered appeared to be variously dump deposits and cultivated soils mingled with brick rubble and post-medieval demolition debris. No pit cuts were observed, perhaps due to the observation conditions, and it appeared that most of the stratigraphy encountered was of late 18th- to 20th-century date. Residual earlier artefacts were notably sparse, and it is therefore likely that the dumped material did not derive from an area of Roman or medieval occupation. At the base of the depositional sequence (exposed in a new basement area) there appeared to be medieval cultivation soils, but no artefactual evidence was recovered from these deposits. On the basis of previous observations Roman deposits are likely to be present at the base of the stratigraphic sequence, but were not seen during the present project.

Napthan, M, 2005, *Archaeological watching brief during groundworks at All Saints Road and Moreton Place, Worcester*. Mike Napthan Archaeology Report

**WORCESTER, Britannia Square, Springfield
(SO 846 556; WCM 101281)**

An archaeological programme of works was associated with the excavation of 26 tree pits located mainly around the perimeter of

Springfield. Previous investigations had shown that a major Roman building stood on or near the site of Springfield House, and that another Roman building lay 100m to the south on the site of 17 Britannia Square. There was also evidence for medieval and post-medieval agriculture, and for landscaping associated with the development of Britannia Square in the early 19th century.

Most of the tree pits showed a standard soil profile of loamy topsoil over sandy subsoil. These deposits contained small quantities of residual Roman, medieval, and post-medieval artefacts, and larger quantities of modern material. The character and distribution of the earlier material appears to represent periodic manuring with midden material that included small quantities of domestic waste. The later material probably represents more frequent and localised applications of manure after the gardens were established. Only two features were identified: a linear feature in the southeast corner of Springfield, which appears to represent early 19th-century sand and gravel extraction, and a later rubbish pit on the west side. Deposits of made ground lying above the standard soil profile were identified in the southwest corner of Springfield, and in the single tree pit excavated in St. Oswalds. The first deposit, which forms a substantial mound, appears to represent early 19th-century landscaping, while the second was clearly a more recent gravel surface. A slight earthwork was identified near the mound and associated with a short-lived 19th-century building.

Taken together with the results of previous investigations, the evidence from the tree pits suggests that the Roman buildings on the sites of Springfield House and 17 Britannia Square stood in an open landscape of gardens and fields. The area may have been cultivated before the buildings were established (possibly in the late 3rd century) and it probably continued to be cultivated after they were abandoned (possibly in the

late 4th century). The precise status of these buildings cannot be established from the available evidence, although the remains have much more in common with villas around Roman small towns such as Worcester, than with known temples or public buildings. Archaeological evidence for cultivation resumes in the 10th or 11th century in the form of a single sherd of Stamford ware, and it is likely that the area was cultivated into the 18th century, when it is recorded as lying between two enclosed fields. The development of the suburb in the early 19th century is well documented, and well represented archaeologically. At Springfield, the construction works were evidently large scaled, involving much landscaping and, it seems, localised sand and gravel extraction on the margins of the property. Once the house was built, there seem to have been few structural changes on the site until the early 1990s, although the garden has changed significantly in this period, and it is hoped that the newly planted trees will help to restore its historic character.

Miller, D, and Crawford, A, Programme of archaeological work at Springfield, Britannia Square, Worcester, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1326

WORCESTER, The Butts Depot (SO 8467 5509; WCM 101346)

A desk-based assessment was undertaken on behalf of Worcestershire County Council. It considered the implications for the historic environment of a proposed development (new library and heritage centre). It was based on a wide range of documentary sources, including records held by the Worcester City Historic Environment Record, archives held at the Worcestershire Record Office and field evaluation. It was also informed by an outline development plan and a visit to the site itself.

The evidence suggests that significant archaeological deposits are present on the site. These will probably include remains of

Roman settlement and ironworking, and deposits of late Roman or post-Roman origin, and, in the lower lying eastern part of the site, a long sequence of alluvial deposits. The remains of 19th-and 20th-century industrial buildings can also be anticipated.

The buildings on the site include surviving early 19th-century structures of a saw mill and builder's yard of the prestigious local firm of Joseph Wood and Sons. The buildings include examples of industrial buildings. There are also examples of later workshops dating to the site's use as a corporation yard.

As the exact scope of the proposed development has yet to be determined, its impact on archaeological deposits and standing buildings can only be assessed in general terms. However, it is likely that any large-scale development will have a moderate, if not major, adverse effect on significant archaeological deposits and, to a lesser extent, buildings of some architectural and historical interest. A programme of mitigation was also presented.

Miller, D, Robson-Glyde, S, and Woodiwiss, S, 2005 Desk-based assessment for a proposed new library and heritage centre, Worcester, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1338

WORCESTER, 24-30 Diglis Road (SO 8471 5493; WCM 101407)

An archaeological desktop assessment was undertaken in November 2005 by Mike Napthan Archaeology, prior to a planning application for a proposed development at 24 to 30 Diglis Road, Worcester. The site is currently occupied by a number of office, workshop and garage buildings, and hardstanding.

The site fronts the Worcester and Birmingham Canal, just to the north of Diglis Basin. Prior to construction of the canal in 1815 the site appears to have been open pasture land sloping up from Frog

Brook Evidence of peat containing important environmental evidence, dating back to before the last Ice Age and formed in an earlier stream channel was encountered on a canal-side site to the north of Mill Street, and there is a moderate potential for such remains to survive on the present site. There appears to be very little evidence of Roman activity in the immediate vicinity. There is some evidence for early medieval activity on the opposite bank of the stream, but this is unlikely to have extended across the watercourse.

The site has considerable potential for buried remains relating to 19th-century canal-side businesses and habitations. A surviving range of 19th-century buildings behind No. 24 includes a former stable block. Early to mid 19th-century boundary walls also survive in this area. Documentary sources indicate a range of businesses occupying these premises in the 19th century including a hay dealer, canal haulier and coal-yard.

At the southern end of the present site there was formerly a smithy and a number of tenements occupied by the poorest classes; the buildings on the Diglis Road frontage were of a slightly higher class and included a dairyman's shop in the later 19th century.

The present buildings, with the exception of the range behind No. 24, are all of 1950s-1970s date and of no architectural or historic merit.

Napthan, M, 2005, *Archaeological desktop assessment of 24-30 Diglis Road, Worcester*. Mike Napthan Archaeology Report

WORCESTER, Earl's Court Farm (Centred on SO 8240 5495)

In February 2006 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Earl's Court Farm, Worcester. The project was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on behalf of Hallam Land Management Ltd.

The evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of thirty-three 50m by 2m trenches; two additional areas of 100m² were also excavated as part of the contingency works.

Archaeological features were restricted to a complex of medieval features in Trench 7, a probable post-medieval feature in Trench 10 and undated features in Trenches 19, 20-28, 30 and 31.

There was a general paucity of artefactual evidence across the site. This was restricted to several sherds of medieval pottery from features in Trench 7, along with tiny fragments of ceramic building material from features in Trenches 7, 10, 22, 23 and 30. Also, a few sherds of modern china and glass were recovered from the ploughsoil, but were not retained

The evaluation suggests that conditions are good for the preservation of archaeological deposits across the site. Nonetheless, the results indicate that the area is of low archaeological potential, with the exception of the area around Trench 7 in Area 1 and the western part of Area 2

Roy King, Foundations Archaeology

WORCESTER, Friar Street and Sidbury (SO851 546; WCM 101374)

Archaeological monitoring of groundworks was undertaken by Mike Napthan Archaeology during Transco gas main replacement works in Friar Street and Sidbury, Worcester (**Fig. 58**). As the new pipe was being laid by insertion methods the project primarily comprised the monitoring and recording of deposits exposed in the sides of thrust pits and small trenches dug to allow service connections.

Due to the generally small size of the excavations (many less than 1m²) it proved very difficult to recover meaningful plans of deposits, and recording was largely restricted to obtaining sections through the deposit sequence. Where thrust pits were



Fig. 58: Friar Street gas main

excavated meaningful sequences were recovered. Only the largest trench of the Sidbury works was recorded in detail. Informal observation of the other trenches in this area suggested that the present trenching fell almost entirely within earlier service runs.

Trenching just to the north of the junction of Friar Street and College Street identified similar deposits to those previously seen in 2004 just to the south. These consisted of a metallised road surface 0.9m below current street level. A group of late 12th- to mid 14th-century pottery and a crucible fragment were recovered from a deposit (apparently consisting of earlier road surface trample or midden deposits), immediately below the

metallised surface. These latter deposits were very organic, containing wood, plant fragments and leather off-cuts. Pollen was also very well preserved at this level. The later medieval deposits in this area had been badly truncated by recent service trenching and only isolated patches of later medieval surfacing appeared to survive.

A putative sandstone structure, within the present street line near the original southern end of Friar Street may reflect a building or gateway marking the southern end of the passage to the Greyfriars from Sidbury, and is likely to be medieval. Probably post-medieval deposits were represented only by lengths of wooden water main piping to the south of the Talbot Hotel. The earlier

medieval deposits, however, appear to be relatively intact along the entire length of Friar Street from Union Street south. The trenching to the north of this point was insufficiently deep to firmly identify presence or absence of medieval deposits.

The project has once again demonstrated that observation of service trenching in the streets of archaeologically sensitive areas can greatly enhance our knowledge of the development of the form of the medieval city. The project adds significantly to the information gained during the 2004 watching brief on gas main replacement works in College Street and Edgar Street.

Napthan, M, 2005, *Archaeological watching brief during gas main replacement works at Friar Street and Sidbury* Mike Napthan Archaeology Report

WORCESTER, Guildhall, High Street (SO 850 548; WCM 101348)

Further analysis has been undertaken on the moulded timbers observed during the 2004-5 watching brief (see WMA 47). Dendrological dates obtained by Robert Howard of the Nottingham University tree ring laboratory have dated a range of timbers to between 1590 and 1607. This information tends to rule out the initial hypothesis that the timbers derived from a documented 1601 refurbishment of the Guildhall arcade. It is now considered more likely that the moulded timbers were part of the Tolsey rebuilding of 1601-10. The Tolsey (or toll-house), with a council chamber over stood in front of the northern end of the medieval Guildhall, and served as a proto-typical "council office" where monies were received and council business transacted. The upper chamber was apparently partially over an open walkway or arcade, the posts of which were painted in 1617 and again in 1630 (research by Pat Hughes). The character of the timber mouldings observed in the 2004-5 works appears to reflect the stylistic influences of a slightly earlier period, and it is quite possible that the Tolsey was built to blend in with the adjoining Guildhall arcade. A conservation statement is currently being

prepared for the building. Planned future works include a survey of timbers within the Guildhall roofs, which are known to include some further re-used moulded timbers.

Howard, RE, (forthcoming) *Tree-ring analysis of timbers from the Guildhall, High Street, Worcester*

Napthan, M 2005, *Archaeological watching brief during alterations to the North-Wing, Guildhall, High Street, Worcester* Mike Napthan Archaeology Report

WORCESTER, King's School, School House Library (SO 851 552; WCM 101367, WCM 101368)

Following previous archaeological works in 2004 (see WMA 47) the final stage of excavation and watching brief on this area of the Worcester Castle site was completed in the summer of 2005. Deposits were again found to be deeply disturbed by gravel and sand extraction features. The ceramic assemblage ranged from middle Iron Age to 19th century. The prehistoric material formed a relatively small part of the ceramic assemblage. Most of the prehistoric material came from a single stratified Iron Age pit. Only two fabrics were recovered; however, these included an unusually large sherd of organic briquetage, displaying finger marks and internal burning. In addition eleven small sherds of Palaeozoic limestone tempered ware in the form of a highly burnished globular jar were recovered. Although both these fabrics can date from the middle Iron Age (5th century BC - 2nd century AD), their appearance would indicate a late Iron Age date for this feature.

The remaining prehistoric material was residual in later contexts and consisted of two Late Iron Age/early Roman (Malvernian) everted rim jars, and in addition an unusual fragment of tubby cooking pot, which had black, shiny inclusions, more common to south Shropshire and northern Warwickshire.



Fig. 59: King's School cosmetic spoon

Small amounts of worked flint were also recovered.

The Roman material formed the largest part of the finds assemblage. Almost all of the Roman material was residual in later medieval contexts. The assemblage was dominated by Severn Valley Ware. A comparatively large amount of black-burnished ware was recovered from the site, including examples of 'dog dishes' of broad AD 120-350 and 120-200 dating. Examples of surviving lattice decoration and a rim indicate several cooking pots dating from between AD 160 and 270; no specifically late forms could be identified. A single fragment of a very fine Nene Valley ware funnel necked beaker of 3rd- to 4th-century date was recovered. Several examples of Oxford red/brown colour coat were recovered including the base of a mortarium, a very unusual hemispherical bowl with semi rosette stamps below a double beaded rim with a parallel from Droitwich, all being of 240-350 dating. The Malvernian ware forms consisted of a number of tubby cooking pots, a dog dish imitating black-burnished ware and two very unusual forms. The first of these was a square slab-built vessel with a very thick rim with local parallels from Deansway, Droitwich and Manor Farm, Powick (Jacobs forthcoming) and a square slab built jar of unusual size which is the largest piece of this unusual form that has yet come to light, and the specific function still remains a mystery.

This balance of fabrics and forms is very unusual within Worcester with its obvious evidence of continuity from the Iron Age into the early Roman period. Very distinctly early samian forms contrast strongly with the lack of the coarser organic Severn Valley Ware. The latter fabric dominates the assemblages from the Technical College excavations of the 1970s. A funerary character to the assemblage with a distinctly larger element of open to closed forms within this assemblage may be apparent. The nature of the later pottery indicates most activity within the 2nd-3rd century on this site with a larger than usual amount of later colour coat wares. A number of distinct 4th-century forms was recovered from this site, indicating the continued activity in the area up until the abandonment of the Roman small town. Of particular interest amongst the non-ceramic artefacts was a complete copper-alloy 'cosmetic spoon' (**Fig. 59**). Small amounts of Roman glass were also present

Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery deriving from the original occupants of the Norman castle was notably comparatively sparse, possibly because the material with which the gravel pits were filled derived from the levelling of the Norman ramparts and motte, rather than an area of Norman and medieval waste disposal, though some of the gravel pits may possibly be of medieval date. Both the medieval and post-medieval assemblages were primarily

domestic in character, reflecting the later use of the site as a gaol.

Napthan, M and Jacobs A, (forthcoming, 2006) *Archaeological works at School House, King's School, Worcester 2004-5*. Mike Napthan Archaeology Report

**WORCESTER, 13-15 Lowesmoor
(SO 851 552; WCM 101365, WCM 101366, WCM 101367, WCM 101368)**

An archaeological building recording survey and watching brief was undertaken in 2005 by Mike Napthan Archaeology, prior to the conversion of a listed building at 13-15 Lowesmoor, to a mixed development of offices, retail and café for Worcester Municipal Charities. The site was previously occupied by a computer retailer, but had been subsequently disused for several years.

Excavation of a lift-pit exposed the remains of a probable tile kiln with adjoining tile-built oven. The kiln itself had been heavily robbed, but the presence of large quantities of wasters strongly suggest this interpretation; the dating evidence suggests a 14th-century date for these features. This discovery follows the identification of a further medieval tile kiln just along the street at 45 Lowesmoor in 2004 (see WMA 47).

The building on the Lowesmoor frontage appears to have been constructed in the early years of the 18th century as a pair of single pile dwellings with rear wings either side of a central courtyard. The easternmost of the pair remained relatively intact until the present works, though partly modernised in the 19th century. The houses were three storeys high plus cellar and attic storey, and each had two chimneys, both flanking a stairwell. The stair-flights, of early 18th-century date, continued the full height of the building, with half landings on each floor. There appears to have been an original carriage-entrance in the centre of the ground floor, though this was probably narrower than the present passageway. There is less surviving evidence of the

western dwelling, but it appears to have been a mirror image of the eastern building. The present façade to Lowesmoor appears to have been a re-facing of the mid-19th century. There were formerly four dormers to the front elevation, and symmetrically placed chimney stacks at either end of the building. The attics were possibly originally used to store goods, but had some later servants' accommodation; there was a range of dated graffiti scratched into wall plaster from 1792 to 1824 in the eastern half of the attic.

The building was much altered in the 19th century, and apparently converted from domestic use to light industrial, quite possibly as glovers' workshops. In the 1860s the attics of both houses appear to have been used for the drying of leather, suspended from tenter hooks on inserted battens. A doorway was roughly knocked through the lath and plaster partition between the attics (**Figs. 60-61**). The entrance to the eastern attic was blocked off in the late 19th century. It is unclear when the two buildings were combined at all levels, but it was probably in the late 19th century. A girder in the front part of the building bore a probable date 1912, evidence of extensive works in the early 20th century, probably including the widening of the carriage entrance.

In the early 20th century, c.1920-1930, the western rear wing was demolished and replaced with a new workshop structure that also extended across the full width of the plot behind the eastern wing. Not long after the construction of this two storied structure, and before 1938, the remaining outbuildings and yard to the rear were replaced by a single large single-storey workshop.

Napthan, M, 2006, *Building recording and archaeological watching brief 13-15 Lowesmoor, Worcester* Mike Napthan Archaeology Report



Fig. 60: 13-15 Lowesmoor



Fig. 61: 13-15 Lowesmoor

**WORCESTER, 32-34 Lowesmoor
(SO 852 551; WCM 101177, WCM 101187)**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of three machine-dug test pits at land to the rear of 34 Lowesmoor, Worcester. The test pits were dug by geo-technical engineers E.J. Wilson & Associates of Gloucester, to inform projected foundation designs.

The test pits appeared to confirm previous observations at the neighbouring 36 Lowesmoor. Potentially archaeologically significant deposits were encountered between 0.2 and 0.8m below current surface levels (the site having been reduced previously by about 0.2m). The deposits of interest consisted of a 17th- to 18th-century shallow brick foundation and cultivated soils of early post-medieval or medieval date. There was also evidence of shallow sand extraction features of similar date. The depth of deposits was a maximum of 2.1m (at the southern end of the site). The highest point at which natural sand was observed was approximately 1.1m below current surface levels.

The rear boundary wall, apparently of 18th-century origin, contained large brick lumps consisting of up to eight bricks accidentally fused together in the kiln. The presence of brick wasters is of interest as it indicates some possible continuity to the previously observed medieval tile manufacturing tradition in Lowesmoor (at Silver Street and at 45 Lowesmoor). A further medieval tile-manufacturing site has subsequently been identified at 13-15 Lowesmoor, 80m to the northwest (see above). Unfortunately, the rear boundary wall was destroyed without record, and it is not possible to determine how extensive the use of brick wasters actually was. Those observed were lying in the remnants of the rubble after most of the wall had been carted away.

The present project confirmed the previous observations indicating the likely presence

of deposits of archaeological interest to the rear of 32-34 Lowesmoor. However, the nature of the project was so restricted that it was not possible to establish the true significance or dating of the observed deposits.

Napthan, M 2005, *Watching brief on engineers test pits, 32 -34 Lowesmoor, Worcester* Mike Napthan Archaeology Report

**WORCESTER, Merriman's Hill, Green Lane
(SO 854 563; WCM101399)**

An evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Property Services, Worcestershire County Council. Seven trenches were excavated on a square patch of rough grass, formerly a playing field in suburban north Worcester. Generally, a clay silt topsoil and subsoil lay over natural reddish clay. Several modern features were recorded, including a clinker path at the centre of the site and a field drain to the southwest. To the southeast of the site a thick layer of brick, iron objects and modern detritus overlay some brick foundations. These comprised three sides of a rectangular structure projecting from the north-facing section and a curved brick foundation crossing the trench from north to south. The bricks were press moulded with frogs (the depression in the top of the brick) and are thought to date from the 19th century. A house is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map in the centre of the site's southern edge with ancillary buildings in the location of this trench. The building is not shown on the 1840s tithe map of the area and was therefore built some time between 1840 and 1885. It is shown still standing on the 1940 Ordnance Survey map. It is probable that the foundations uncovered represent ancillary buildings or walls relating to this building, which was demolished some time after 1940.

Rogers, T, 2005 *Archaeological evaluation at Green Lane, Merriman's Hill, Worcester, Worcestershire* Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1378

**WORCESTER, Pierpoint Street
(SO 849 552; WCM 101375, WCM 101362)**

An archaeological watching brief and building recording was undertaken in 2005-6 by Mike Napthan Archaeology during redevelopment of a site at 14a Pierpoint Street, Worcester.

The deposits exposed during the groundworks included no archaeologically significant deposits. Observation indicated that the site had been deeply cultivated in the post-medieval period, and had subsequently been deeply disturbed by small-scale aggregate extraction, foundations for the recently demolished buildings, and a number of large underground fuel tanks. The only item of note uncovered was a late 19th- or early 20th-century brick-lined well.

A record was made of the northern elevation of Foregate Street railway station where it had been exposed by demolition of the former garage buildings. It was clear that there were several phases of building dating from the mid-19th century to early 20th century. The façade of the station building (where it lies within the site) is intended to be restored as part of the present development works.

Napthan, M, 2006, *Archaeological watching brief and building recording at Pierpoint Street, Worcester*. Mike Napthan Archaeology Report

**WORCESTER, Sansome Walk, Former BT building
(SO 850 552; WCM101320)**

An archaeological documentary assessment (or desk-top evaluation) was undertaken in January 2005 by Mike Napthan Archaeology prior to a planning application for a development at the former British Telecom building, Sansome Walk, Worcester. The site is currently a disused office/telephone exchange.

The site lies just to the northeast of the medieval city, in an area where pre-civil war activity appears to have been sparse.

The original land-use of the site appears to have been primarily horticultural. The plot appears to have been an extension of the medieval backplots behind Foregate Street properties. Development of Percy Alley, now Sansome Place, appears to have occurred (along the line of the medieval pathway to Sansome Fields) in the 17th century. By the 1680s there were 23 properties in Percy Alley, which suggests that some development of the west side may have occurred. The northern limit of Percy Alley appears to have been directly outside the present property, marked in the 18th century by the gates to Sansome Fields Walk.

In 1701, the neighbouring site to the south was acquired by the Society of Friends as a Meeting House, and in due course a burial ground was established, eventually extending to Sansome Place. The burial ground does not appear to have included the present property.

The first documented use of the present site occurred in 1779, at which time it was known as Toms Bowling Green and lay behind Toms Coffee House on Foregate. It appears to have remained as open ground until the construction of the railway in 1853. The creation of the embankment, which supports Foregate Street Station along the northern boundary of the present property, substantially altered the setting.

In 1896 Booth and Middleton, Wheelwrights and agricultural engineers, were listed as operating in Sansome Fields, and this appears to have been on the current site. Their association with Sansome Place lasted until at least 1908, though under a variety of names; sometimes Booth & Son and Middleton & Son were listed separately. They also appear to have occupied a second property in Sansome Place next to Lowesmoor Basin, which was perhaps the manufacturing base whilst the present site served as a 'showroom'. John Middleton and Sons, 'wheelwrights and

shoeing and jobbing smith', claimed to have been founded in 1820, but evidently started elsewhere. Open-fronted sheds and a possible workshop built against the embankment were present by the 1880s when they were marked on the First Edition Ordnance Survey.

The site was subsequently occupied by B. Summer & Sons, haulage contractors, who were first documented in the trade directory of 1922, and were still present in 1940. The site was acquired by the Post Office in the post-war years and the present building constructed in 1950.

Napthan, M 2005, *Archaeological documentary assessment of the former BT telephone exchange building, Sansome Walk, Worcester* Mike Napthan archaeology Report

WORCESTER, Sansome Walk, Lamb's furniture repository (SO851 554; WCM 101378 and WCM 101408)

In response to proposed conversion of the former Lamb's Furniture Repository, Sansome Walk, Worcester a building survey was undertaken in August 2005. This was followed by a watching brief during conversion works. The northern warehouse proved to be the substantially intact shell of an enclosed rackets court which opened on the site in July 1861 (rackets was the forerunner of modern squash). There was also considerable evidence that the eastern end of the building represented an earlier open rackets court, constructed after 1845. Documentary sources indicate that the Worcester court of 1861 was 'in all respects similar to the best court at Princes Racket Club in London', which had been built in 1853 and set the standard 60 by 30 foot dimensions of all subsequent match courts. The vertical playing surfaces of the court survived largely intact, although the roof (originally part-glazed) and floor had been altered. The spectators' gallery, which was at the west end of the building, survived only as a number of scars on adjoining walls. The building was originally heated by two

fireplaces, one in the room beneath the gallery and another on the gallery itself. The original fenestration in the end elevations survived as blocked openings, but could be reconstructed with the aid of a 1960s photograph which showed the original sash windows at the gallery end and an oculus in the pediment. Some internal window architraves survived. Tentative evidence of a possible earlier gallery building, relating to the open court, was seen as wall-scars on the south side of the building.

During the 1870s the building was converted to a warehouse, windows were inserted in the northern elevation and subsequently internal timber floors were constructed, standing on cast-iron stanchions and relatively independent of the original structure. Also in the 1870s the original lightweight part-glazed roof was modified to accept the additional weight of a full slate roof, reusing the original trusses with additional stiffening and some of the original purlins. Following insertion of the floors further fenestration was added at the eastern end of the building and the building converted to a hop-warehouse (**Figs. 62-4**).

In 1878 a further hop-warehouse was built adjoining the southern side of the rackets court – this building was carefully designed to mirror the original structure, and was similar in size, external finish and outline. The second building, being of commercial intent, was however built to a less finished standard, and was not internally plastered, nor were there opening sashes or architraves. The cast-iron stanchions of the 1878 building were made by Hardy and Padmore, the Worcester iron founders, and these supported iron-flitched principal floorbeams.

The buildings remained as a hop-warehouse until c.1969. In 1974 they were acquired by G.W. Lamb Ltd. as a base for removals and furniture storage. The buildings were little altered for this purpose and remained in more-or-less their 1878 state until



Fig. 62: Lamb's furniture repository

G.W. Lamb's relocated in the summer of 2005. The buildings are currently undergoing conversion to apartments by Court Properties Ltd.

The rackets court building is one of very few mid 19th-century and earlier courts to have survived, possibly the earliest civilian enclosed court in the country. Rackets Courts are, as a monument class, rare (there is only one other, 1880s, example in the county) as few were built even at the peak of their popularity in the 19th century. The sport was, in the Victorian era, almost entirely limited to three groups – officers in the services, the public schools and the very rich. The latter were responsible for a small number of private courts, mostly on large estates. The present court appears to have been founded, and was certainly run, by two local bankers, G.E. Martin and J.S. Isaacs, who both came from very wealthy family backgrounds, and in 1861 were junior partners in Worcester Old Bank. The Worcester rackets court apparently operated as a private club to which admission was granted to the public (presumably for a fee intended to exclude the common horde) and flourished briefly in the 1860s whilst the adjacent Pleasure Grounds were in operation, but vanished from the record after 1865, the year the Pleasure Grounds went into liquidation.

Napthan M, 2006, *Building recording and archaeological watching brief at a former rackets court and hop-warehouse, Lambs furniture repository, Sansome Walk, Worcester WCM 101378 and WCM 10140*. Mike Napthan Archaeology Report

WORCESTER, Sansome Walk (SO850 553; WCM 94542)

An archaeological documentary assessment was undertaken in January 2005 by Mike Napthan Archaeology prior to a planning application for a development at Sansome Walk Car Sales, 12 Sansome Walk, Worcester. The site is currently a car sales forecourt and former filling station of 1970s construction.

Previous archaeological observations in Pierpoint Street to the south of the present site, and at the former Gaumont Cinema immediately to the west indicate that the top of natural sand or clay deposits may be anticipated at a depth of between 0.8 and 1.5 metres below current street levels.

The earlier land-use of the site appears to have been primarily horticultural, though some of the plots fronting Sansome Walk were apparently pleasure gardens in the late 18th century. The plots appear to have been extensions of the Foregate Street medieval backplots, possibly part of the 'gentrification' of the Foregate Street suburb in the post-Civil War period. The opposite side of the Walk was occupied by the grounds and pasture land of Sansome House until the 1860s. Given the primarily horticultural land-use until modern times, the potential for buried significant archaeological deposits in this area appears to be low, even where not truncated by later activity. Noisome medieval and post-medieval industrial processes were, however, located on the periphery of the City and included tile and brick manufacture. Some evidence of such activity might therefore be present in the vicinity.

A small building, possibly an outbuilding, towards the northern end of the site frontage, is marked on Green's map of 1764, but not on previous or subsequent maps; this building lay on the front of the property and may be partly beneath the pavement, as it directly adjoined Sansome Walk.

The site to the south was occupied by the late Georgian Public Library building, built in 1830, and present by 1832 when it was marked on Chrisp's map of Worcester. Pierpoint Street was developed between the 1830s and 1860s, largely as a specialised quarter for the legal profession – a number of leading legal practices built purpose-built

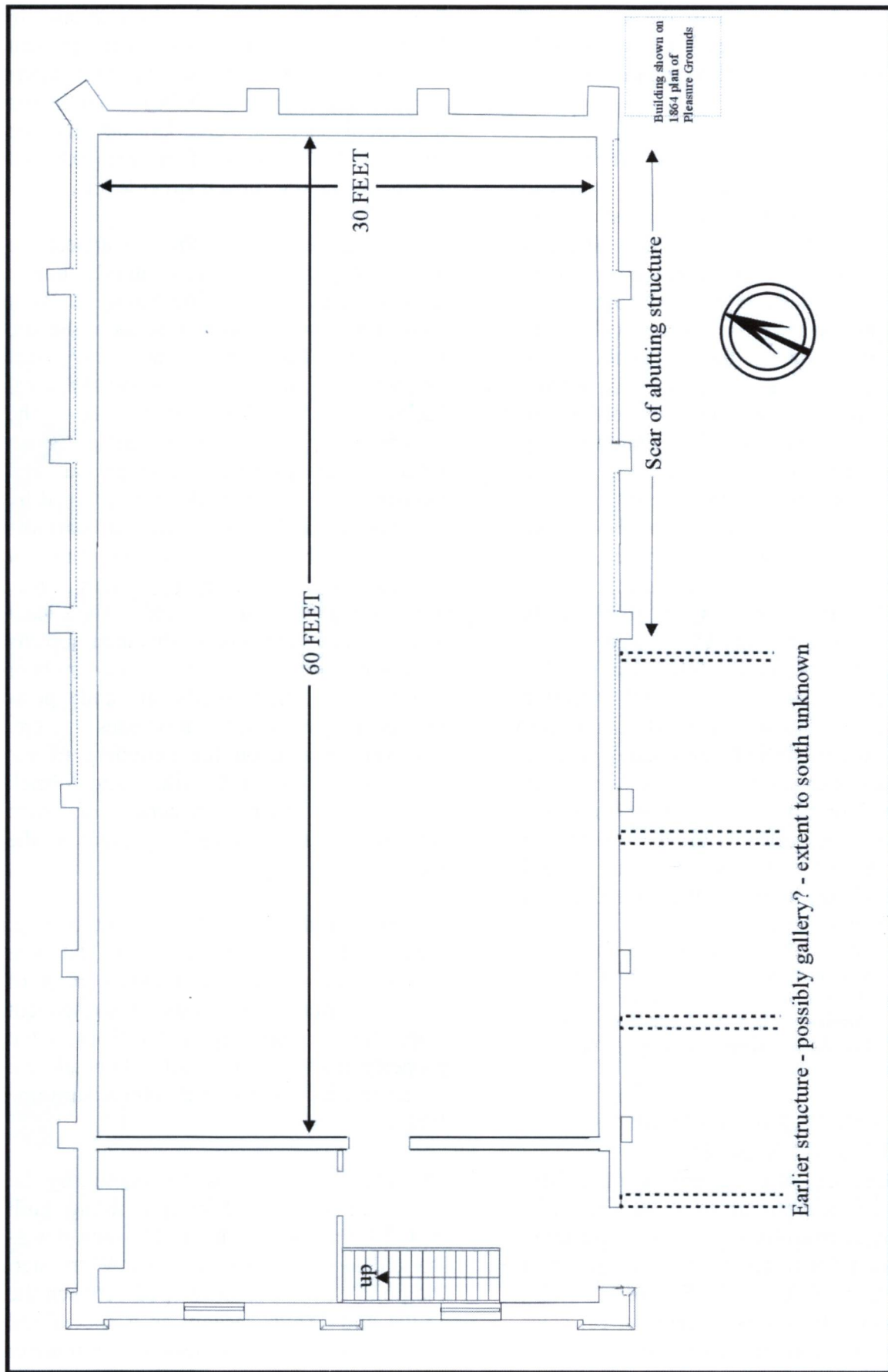


Fig. 63: Rackets court plan

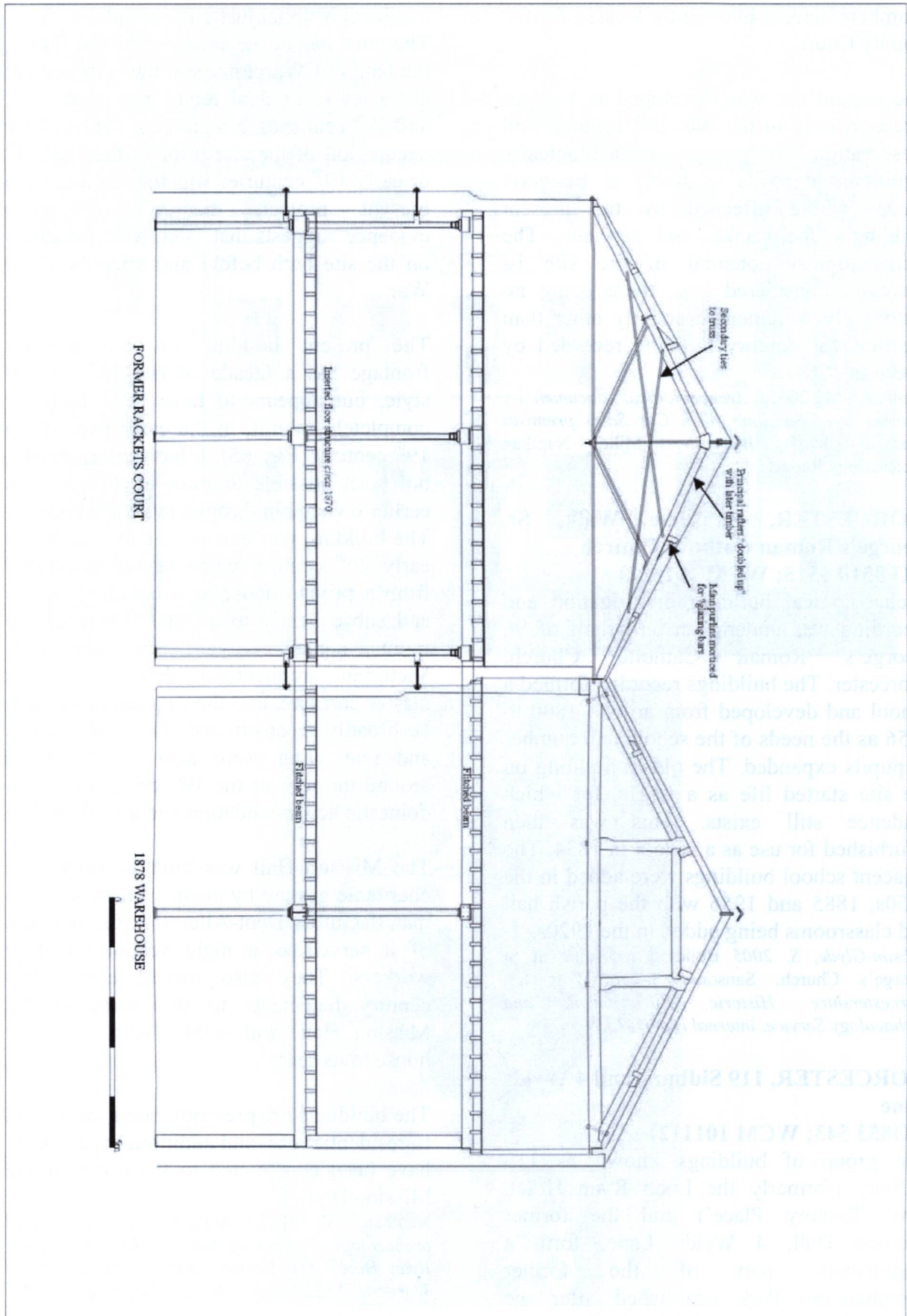


Fig. 64: Rackets court cross-section

chambers here, conveniently located for the County Court.

The present site was developed as a motor forecourt only in the late 20th century, and preservation of any archaeologically significant deposits is likely to be good except where affected by the present building's fuel tanks and services. The archaeological potential of the site is, however, considered low, there being no historically documented activity other than the mid 18th-century building recorded by Green in 1764.

Napthan, M 2005, *Archaeological documentary assessment of Sansome Walk Car Sales premises Sansome Walk, Worcester* Mike Napthan Archaeology Report

WORCESTER, Sansome Walk, St. George's Roman Catholic Church (SO 8510 5515; WCM 101332)

Archaeological building investigation and recording was undertaken on behalf of St. George's Roman Catholic Church, Worcester. The buildings recorded formed a school and developed from around 1800 to 1956 as the needs of the school and number of pupils expanded. The oldest building on the site started life as a stable, for which evidence still exists. This was then refurbished for use as a school in 1834. The adjacent school buildings were added in the 1850s, 1885 and 1956 with the parish hall and classrooms being added in the 1920s.

Robson-Glyde, S, 2005 Building recording at St George's Church, Sansome Street, Worcester, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1339

WORCESTER, 119 Sidbury and 4 Wylds Lane (SO853 543; WCM 101112)

The group of buildings known as 119 Sidbury (formerly the Loch Ryan Hotel, now 'Rectory Place') and the former Mission Hall, 4 Wylds Lane, form a fragmentary part of the former Commandery Park established after the Dissolution by the Wylde family, who occupied the Commandery, a former

medieval hospital just outside Sidbury Gate. The area was at the centre of action during the battle of Worcester and owes its present character to gradual rebuilding in the 18th and 19th centuries. No physical evidence for occupation of the site prior to the late 18th or early 19th centuries was found during the present project, though cartographic evidence suggests that there were buildings on the site both before and after the Civil War.

The present building on the Sidbury frontage has a façade of late 18th-century style, but appears to have been built, or completely rebuilt, in the early part of the 19th century (**Fig. 65**). It has, unfortunately, not been possible to trace anything of its earlier ownership through available records. The building was extensively altered in the early 20th century when it was converted from a private house to a boarding house, and subsequently to a hotel. Many of the rooms, however, retain early and mid-Victorian architectural details such as plaster cornices, and the original layout can be broadly reconstructed. The outbuildings and rear wing were also much altered around the turn of the 19th century to form domestic accommodation and a kitchen.

The Mission Hall was built in 1869 as a charitable gesture by prosperous local glove manufacturers Dent-Allcroft Ltd., and part of it served as a night school for their workers. They also owned early 19th-century tenements to the north of the Mission Hall, and stables with a coach-house to its rear.

The buildings are presently being converted to residential use, and additional apartments have been constructed to the north of the Mission Hall.

Napthan, M 2005, *Building Recording and archaeological watching brief at the former Loch Ryan Hotel, 119 Sidbury, and the Mission Hall, Worcester* Mike Napthan Archaeology Report



Fig. 65: Front elevation of 119 Sidbury and detail of finial

**WORCESTER, Taylors Lane
(SO849 553; WCM 101342)**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in April 2005 by Mike Napthan Archaeology prior to a planning application for a development at land adjacent to Ivy House, Taylors Lane, Worcester. The site is currently occupied by a derelict timber-framed office building and hardstanding.

Previous archaeological observations in Pierpoint Street to the south of the present site, and at the former Gaumont Cinema immediately to the southwest indicated that the top of natural sand or clay deposits in this area may be anticipated at a depth of between 0.8 and 1.5m below current street levels. On the present site natural sandy gravel was encountered between 1.1 and 1.2m below current ground levels.

The earlier land-use of the site appears to have been primarily horticultural. The plots appear to have been extensions of the Foregate Street medieval backplots, possibly part of the 'gentrification' of the Foregate Street suburb in the post-Civil War period. The earliest documented structures on the site were marked on Doharty's map of 1741, consisting of a probable outbuilding adjoining Ivy House (in the northeastern corner of the present site) and a larger building laid back from Taylors Lane on the western boundary of the site. The layout of these buildings was altered during the later 18th century, and a substantial foundation based on brick relieving arches located in Trench 1 appears to date from this phase (**Fig. 66**). The nature of this building is presently unclear, but the thickness and quality of the wall footing suggests that it was either domestic or a high quality garden building such as a pavilion. At least one 'Garden House' in Taylors Lane is known from a late 17th-century documentary source. The 19th-century use of the area appears to have been as pleasure gardens for a substantial property on the Foregate Street frontage. The wall fronting Taylors Lane is of late

18th- or early 19th-century construction, incorporating re-used early to mid 18th-century brick. Brackets on the southern face of the wall, together with vine ties, clearly relate to a glasshouse or a vine house (shown on the 1880s Ordnance Survey).

Subsequently, the area appears to have served as a school yard for the schools directly opposite - an ashy yard surface was certainly present prior to 1939-40 when extensive underground air-raid shelters were constructed using a cut and cover technique. At least three shelters of prefabricated steel frame form were constructed in trenches exceeding 2m deep and 3m wide. Further shelters may be present elsewhere on the site. The shelters had reinforced cast concrete bases and corrugated steel sheet roofs covered with soil mounds. The only shelter for which dimensions could be recovered during the evaluation was nearly 16m (55 feet) long, but the others appeared to be of identical plan. The seating capacity for such a shelter would be around 80 persons. It is presently unclear whether the shelters served the public at large or was primarily intended for the staff and pupils of the school. The shelters were dismantled using cutting torches immediately after the war, with some of the steel frames and corrugated sheeting dumped into the shelters prior to levelling of the site with loose sandy soil. Brick rubble in this backfill may have derived from the blast-walls and shelter entrances, the positions of which have not yet been located. A pupil at the boys' school clearly recalls that no trace of the shelters remained when he started there in 1951 and that the present area was then used as a school playground. The site was subsequently occupied by single-storey, timber-framed, local authority offices of 1960-70s construction. These have now been disused for several years, and the site is presently being redeveloped.

Napthan, M 2005, *Archaeological Evaluation at Taylors Lane, Worcester* Mike Napthan Archaeology Report



Fig. 66: Taylors Lane excavations, showing brick relieving arches in Trench 1

WORCESTER, Warndon, Neolithic Arrowhead

A Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead was found in a garden in Scaffell Close, Warndon, Worcester. The arrowhead was recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (WAW-6FC8E6) in August 2005.

The arrowhead was knapped from a light brown coloured flint. Both sides of the arrowhead have negative flake scars where it has been delicately knapped to form a leaf-shape. Leaf-shaped arrowheads, date to the early Neolithic period, 3500 to 2900 B.C.

A search of the Worcester City Historic Environment Record (HER) revealed that only a few other prehistoric knapped flakes have been discovered in Warndon, including 'two blades, five cores, and a worked flint' (HER No. WCM00688). Another object on the HER recorded from Warndon is a Roman coin of Constantine the Great, discovered in Buttermere Drive (HER No. WCM100090).

Angie Bolton (Warwickshire/Worcestershire Finds Liaison Officer) and Sheena Payne (Worcester City Historic Environment Records Officer)



Fig. 67: Neolithic arrowhead from Warndon
 © Birmingham City Council/Portable Antiquities Scheme

**WORCESTER, 4/4a Whittington Road
 (SO 8688 5369; WCM 91097)**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of John Rudge, who intends to develop the site for residential use. The site comprises the garden to the rear of a large Victorian brick house (No. 4 or Perrypoint), which fronts onto Whittington Road, and the garden of No. 4a, a relatively modern house slightly to the southeast. A mound with a pear tree growing on it some 25m south of No. 4 is reputed to be the location of a gallows used until the mid 18th century. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present, in particular any structures or finds related to the gallows.

The northern half of the site is flat and consists of well-tended garden but the southern half is a steep south-facing slope of rough grass and some fruit trees. Seven trenches were opened across the site by a machine fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless

grading bucket. Apart from some garden terracing features no features of archaeological interest were uncovered over the southern part of the site. However, in the area of the mound, several features of interest were recorded. A ditch, 1.5m wide and 0.3m deep crossed the site from east to west on the line of the mound and the hedge bank also relating to this boundary was uncovered slightly to the west. This is thought to be a former field boundary which is shown on the 1884 Ordnance Survey as the southern edge of the garden of No. 4. It is also the former parish boundary between St. Peter the Great and Whittington and the line of a former footpath which skirted the southern side of the Whittington Road. The probable edge of a former trackway was also recorded to the north of the mound, comprising a shallow cut with a probable cart rut with many cobbles within the fill. Although only a part of this feature was within the trench, the cart rut indicated that the track was following the same line as the former footpath. A pit which narrowed in its

base to the dimensions of a large posthole with a depth of 1m was recorded immediately west of the mound. No dateable evidence was recovered from the fill, but it is possible that this feature relates to the execution site as the posthole for the gallows, gibbet or another related structure.

Rogers, T, 2005 *Archaeological evaluation at 4/4a Whittington Road, Worcester*, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1385

WORCESTER, Windermere Drive, Archdales Sports Club (SO 8663 5713; WCM 181383)

A desk-based assessment for the historic environment was undertaken on behalf of Arthur Amos Associates and their client Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd. The site has the potential to contain prehistoric and Roman remains due to the presence of other sites of these dates in the area. The site is also likely to contain minor features relating to medieval agriculture and, of more potential importance, a building of at least 18th-century date. The site is currently a supermarket and sports ground.

Woodiwiss, S, 2005 *Archaeological desk-based assessment at Sainsbury's and Archdales (1973) Club, Windermere Drive, Worcester*, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1365

WYRE PIDDLE

(SO 9720 4790; WSM 33386)

Archaeological fieldwalking was undertaken by the Four Parishes Archaeology Group (4PAG) on land at Wyre Piddle as part of a Local Heritage Initiative scheme. A scatter of Romano-British pottery and other finds of mid 1st- to 4th-century date was recovered. The full extent of the pottery scatter was not established. However, analysis indicates the presence of a Romano-British settlement with a domestic focus and possibly an industrial or craft production area to its north. This supports the evidence from excavations and other work in the immediate vicinity and will contribute to the development of an understanding of the extents of Romano-British settlement and

patterns of landuse in this part of the Avon Valley.

Crawford, A, 2005 Finds from fieldwalking by the Four Parishes Archaeology Group on land at Wyre Piddle, Worcestershire, *Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, internal report, 1327*

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