

Rockingham Street, Sheffield

National Grid Reference: SK 3489 8741 (centred)

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Reporting

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OASIS SUMMARY FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
OASIS identifier	Arcus2 - 45045	
Project title	Land adjacent to Rockingham Street, Sheffield.	
Short description of the project	Archaeological watching brief attempting to locate buried soils sealing Bronze Age features located during mitigation of an adjacent site and assessing the potential survival of 18 th to 19 th century tenement structures. During the course of this work the presence of structural remains relating to the tenement blocks extending south of the former line of Boden Lane were identified. These remains were mainly, though not exclusively, confined to the eastern section of the site and the potential here for further preservation is high. More significantly the buried soils encountered in previous mitigation were also found to extend further south along the line of Rockingham Street.	
Project dates	17 th Sept 2007 – 4 th Dec 2008	
Previous/future work	No	
Monument type and period	Medieval to Post Medieval buried soils. 18 th and 19 th -century tenement structures	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	Sandstone machine base / Post-medieval	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County/Parish	South Yorkshire	
Site address	Rockingham Street.	
Site co-ordinates	SK 3489 8741	
Site area		
Height OD	81.03m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	ARCUS	
Project brief originator	South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	
Project design originator	Steve Baker	
Project Supervisor	Duncan Alexander, Adam Tinsley	
Project manager	Richard O'Neill	
Sponsor or funding body	Watkin Jones Construction Ltd.	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
Archive Type	Location/Accession no.	Content (e.g. pottery, metalwork, etc)
Physical	Western Park Museum / SHEFM : 2007.505	Pottery, metalwork.
Paper	Arcus Archive / 1142	Site paper archive
Digital	OASIS	PDF Copy of report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
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Report no	1142.1(1)	
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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

ARCUS were commissioned by Watkin Jones Construction Ltd in September 2007 to carry out archaeological mitigation on land located between Rockingham and Newcastle Street, Sheffield.

A watching brief was commissioned following the archaeological mitigation on an adjacent site during January 2007 (Alexander 2008). This mitigation had uncovered the heavily truncated remains of tenement blocks featuring on survey maps potentially as early as 1808 (Stenton 2006). A buried soil covering pits of medieval or earlier date was also uncovered. The continuation of these remains onto the land between Rockingham and Newcastle Street was thought likely.

Mitigation of land located between Rockingham and Newcastle Street did subsequently uncover remains relating to tenement blocks extending south of the former line of Boden Lane. These remains were mainly, though not exclusively, confined to the eastern section of the site and the potential here for further preservation is high. Buried soils encountered during mitigation of the previous site were also found to extend further south along the line of Rockingham Street.

1 INTRODUCTION

ARCUS were commissioned by Watkin Jones Construction Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during demolition and site clearance of a site between Newcastle Street and Rockingham Street, Sheffield, South Yorkshire. The site works were not covered by a planning consent, but form part of a private agreement between Watkin Jones and the landowner of the site, relating to works on the adjacent Rockingham House site. No desk-based assessment was undertaken, although the site does fall within the remit of previous work carried out relating to an adjacent site located immediately to the north (Stenton 2006).

The guidance of South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) was sought regarding an appropriate level of archaeological intervention, and they indicated that the proposed site clearance works should be covered by an archaeological watching brief.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

The requirement for archaeological fieldwork arose from the need to mitigate the impact of groundworks carried out during site clearance. The proposed groundworks were considered to be minimally intrusive, so an archaeological watching brief was chosen as an appropriate level of intervention. Specific aims were as follows:

- To record and, where possible, to characterise any archaeological remains exposed during site groundworks or during removal of concrete slabs;
- To provide general information relating to archaeological preservation and potential, in order to inform any future planning application. In particular to locate, if present, the probable Medieval buried soil identified during mitigation of the adjacent site.

2.2 Methodology

All work on site was carried out in accordance with the ARCUS project design (Baker 2007) and with current industry best practice (IFA 2001).

The groundworks subject to archaeological watching brief comprised:

- Excavation of a 4-metre-wide strip to allow construction of a retaining wall between the site and the adjoining Rockingham House site. This was carried out in spits to allow archaeological recording at each level.
- Lifting of concrete ground slabs and the breaking and removal of any concrete piles.
- Grubbing out of the 20th-century wall foundations within the site, relating to the recently demolished buildings (excluding those at the external perimeter).

2.3 Fieldwork programme

The project was managed for ARCUS by Steve Baker. Fieldwork was carried out by Duncan Alexander, Ros Sampson, Justin Wiles, Adam Tinsley, James Thomson, Ashley Tuck and Paul Beers, between September 2007 and February 2008. Survey was carried out by Chris

Breeden, Tom Sparrow, Kathy Speight and Chris Swales.

2.4 Site location

The site (centred on SK 3489 8741) is located to the west of the centre of Sheffield, between Rockingham Street and Newcastle Street and immediately to the south of the current Watkin Jones site at Rockingham House **Illustration 1**. The site was formerly occupied by works buildings relating to the 1950s and 1960s, now demolished to the foundations. It encompasses part of the area identified as former tenement blocks between the former Boden Lane and Carr Lane arranged around a small open square (**Illustration 2**). It also extends to encompass former tenement blocks identified south of Carr Lane.

The geology of the site is Lower Magnesian Limestone and Middle Coal Measures.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

No archaeological desk-based assessment has been carried out, and no previous archaeological evaluation has taken place within the site. However, some basic observations are possible, using a desk-based assessment prepared for the adjacent Rockingham House site (Stenton 2006), and the results of archaeological mitigation at Rockingham House adjacent (Alexander 2008).

Broad Lane may have been a significant route, possibly a drove way, during the medieval period. At this time, the site between Newcastle Street and Rockingham Street lay in the immediate vicinity of the Town Field. Areas immediately north and northeast of the site were developed during the early 18th -century expansion of Sheffield, an urbanisation known as the 'Crofts'. However, the proposal area was depicted as rough heath in 1771, and was not shown as developed until the Fairbank plan of 1795.

Medieval features close to Broad Lane were encountered on the adjacent Rockingham House site, sealed by a buried soil of 13th to 18th century date. Also encountered below these soils were a number of irregular shaped pits containing no traces of cultural material but producing one radiocarbon date, derived from a charcoal rich context, this has tentatively been assigned a Bronze Age date (1630 -1450 cal BC)

No detail of individual buildings on site are known until the Ordnance Survey map of 1853, which depicts terraced and back-to-back buildings arranged around courtyards stretching between Newcastle Street and Rockingham Street. These buildings are likely to represent the original late 18th-century development of the site. Similar buildings and courtyards were encountered during mitigation on the Rockingham House site, preserved in places above ground floor level.

The courtyard tenement buildings, see **Illustration 8**, remained largely unchanged until demolition during the 1930s or 1940s. Following this, a large 'works' building probably relating to a tool manufacturing company, occupied the majority of the site north of the former line of Carr Lane. To the south further demolition of tenement structures can also be witnessed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1951 (**Illustration 8**) at which point they appear to be replaced by large works buildings of unspecified nature.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Phase 1

The initial phase of the watching brief was undertaken between the 17th and 19th of

September 2007 and monitored the removal of all archaeological deposits by spits down to the surface of the natural. This was undertaken in a 4m area located along the northern boundary of the site adjoining the area of previous archaeological mitigation immediately north of the current site (Alexander 2008) (see **Illustration 7**). Few structural remains were encountered during the removal of deposits, although a significant deposit, context 002 was encountered and probably represented the remains of a courtyard levelling deposit. This deposit contained fragments of ceramic building materials (CBM), unused crucibles and ceramics. To the east of the area context 004, a section of handmade red brick walling with a white lime mortar aligned north to south and approximately 1m in length, probably relates to tenement buildings known to have faced onto Rockingham Street between Carr Lane to the south and Boden Lane to the north (see **Illustrations 2, 6, 7**). Towards the western section of the area context 011, a 3m long section of roughly cut sandstone blocks orientated north to south and set within a lime based sandy mortar, probably represented a foundation wall of corresponding properties formerly facing west on to Newcastle Street.

While such structural remains added further detail to the plan of the tenement blocks uncovered in the adjacent area, of greater significance was the identification of the buried soil, context 008 (**Plate 1**), extending south from the previous area of mitigation. This occurred at variable depths below the concrete surface across the area, between 1.42m towards the east and 0.42m to the west. These soils contained fragments of blown glass, clay pipe and ceramics. The buried soils were overlain by several deposits, contexts 005 and 006, representing made ground and appeared to be cut by a large pit, context 014, to the west. Pit 014 contained several dumping deposits, contexts 009, 012 and 013. There is significant opportunity for the appearance of intrusive finds.

No further evidence of pit features were encountered beneath the buried soil horizon, although a single field drain, context 007, was recorded cut into the clay natural mid way along the area and running in a north-west to south-east direction. Whilst no further features of potentially prehistoric date were encountered, these buried soils were found to seal such features further to the north (Alexander 2008) extending south beyond the limits of archaeological investigation. There is therefore the potential for encountering such deposits and features should further ground work be undertaken to this level elsewhere on the site.

4.2 Phase 2

The second phase of the watching brief commenced on the 8th of January 2008 and continued sporadically according to the activities of the contractor until the 7th of February 2008. This phase primarily consisted of monitoring the breaking and removal of concrete surfaces and stantions, where encountered, across the greater area of the site prior to a proposed levelling and raising of the ground surface. As ground works were intended to be only minimally intrusive it was not anticipated that the buried soils detailed above would be encountered and indeed this proved to be the case. It remains uncertain, therefore, how far south these deposits continue further south along the line of Rockingham Street, although given their preservation even in areas of deep 20th-century ground penetration in the footprint of Rockingham House (Alexander 2008), their continuing survival is likely.

A great deal of structural features were encountered following the lifting of the concrete surface, as might be expected of an urban plot, although those of particular interest in terms of the preservation of the tenement blocks were mainly concentrated to the east of the site.

The footprint of 20th-century buildings were immediately obvious as surviving concrete

bases and machine made frogged red brick wall structures and associated metal station bases, mainly extending along a north-south axis though several also extend east-west across the greater part of the site (i.e. contexts 109, 110, 128, 129, 134, 136, 139, 142 and 146) (see **Illustrations 2-5**). Also, probably relating to this period, were several buried caches of assorted tools, some of which were in a relatively good state of preservation and therefore indicative of comparatively recent disposal. The majority of such items carried the makers mark of "Ennfield Gordon" and probably relate to the tool workshop located to the north of the site, constructed sometime in the 1950s following the demolition of the tenement blocks (**Plates 2 and 3**).

For ease of discussion the remaining archaeological features of interest can be divided into two main groups, those south of the former line of Carr Lane and those to the north. Carr Lane itself is almost certainly represented on the site by contexts 135 and 132, two sections of a sandstone cobbled surface located approximately mid way along the site and sharing the same width and east-west orientation (**Illustration 2 and 4, Plate 7**). Indeed, while no record exists as to the nature of the lane surface, imposition of the site plan over the OS map of 1951 shows the features to line up almost exactly over the former route of the lane, thus conveniently fixing the site plan in relation to historical maps of the locality (**Illustration 10**). The section of Carr Lane linking Rockingham Street and Newcastle Street appears to have gone out of use by 1963 when the ordinance survey map depicts the works to the south extending north to encompass the area.

The main body of features lay immediately to the south-east of the line of Carr Lane, though isolated structures were identified as far as the southern limit of the site. In the very south eastern corner for example, context 107 (**Illustration 5**) was a large section of red brick wall with a sandstone foundation deposit orientated north-south and turning west at its northern limit. The construction was of handmade red brick in a white lime mortar and probably related to one of the original tenement structures fronting onto Rockingham Street. Further north of this feature, within an area dominated by 20th-century concrete bases and a tarmac surface, context 103, several different though presumably related small wall sections occur - contexts 100, 101, 102, 104. The majority of these walls were of handmade red brick with a white lime mortar and again probably relate to early tenement structures. Wall 102 however consisted of both handmade and frogged machine made brick, probably indicating the re-use of the former, and may represent the location of a 20th-century toilet block. Immediately to the north a large 20th-century machine made red brick wall, orientated east-west across the entire site, separated these features from the main body of structural remains of interest.

North of this wall and along the eastern boundary of the site a significant number of wall structures and floor surfaces were revealed (**Illustration 4**). With the exception of walls 109, 110 and 134, which are of obvious 20th-century origin, the majority of these structures are formed from handmade red brick in a white lime mortar, or in the case of floor surfaces handmade red brick with occasional sandstone blocks and no visible bonding agent. Among these structures contexts 111 and 120, 121 were of particular interest. Context 111 includes a double-skin wall section running north-south off the southern end of which a single skin section extended east. Mortared onto the east-west orientated section were several courses of red brick set in groups of three courses that are visibly staggered, each partially overlying the previous section (**Plate 4**). The feature may therefore represent the upper section of a vaulted ceiling and as such may give some indication of the depth of preservation on site. A second double skin wall was orientated east-west parallel to the single skin section and formed the southern boundary to the possible vaulted surface. Contexts 120 and 121 are bounded to the east and north by surfaces constructed of handmade red brick and sandstone, contexts 118 and 123 respectively. They comprised a

large sandstone block 120, secured to a base of handmade red brick, 121, with a white lime mortar (**Plates 5 and 6**). The sandstone block was roughly square in shape with multiple and irregularly-shaped facets of variable depth cut into one surface. Within the facets at various points across the surface several metal rods had been fixed into the stone. The block was probably a machine base of some sort and, as it is likely that machine bases relating to the 1950s works site would have been constructed in concrete rather than cut stone, probably relates to one of the tenement industries located on the site. Further to the west and southwest of these features, there are several other hand made red brick wall sections (i.e. context 12) and a floor surface of red brick and sandstone 124, presumably an extension of contexts 118 and 123. There also appears to have been a large pit or dumping deposit of unknown date located south of the machine base in the form of context 116. Collectively this group of structures probably relate to one or more of the tenement buildings that fronted onto Carr Lane immediately to the north.

Approximately 20m to the west of this area and along the western boundary of the site, the only other structures identified in the group south of Carr Lane are a number of brick walls (128 and 129) and two sections of red brick and sandstone surfaces (contexts 127 and 130, see **illustration 4**). The wall sections are constructed of machine-made frogged red brick and were therefore probably of 20th-century origin. Context 127 rests upon a levelling layer 131 and consisted of a mixture of handmade red brick and sandstone blocks. The nature of the materials suggests an earlier origin than walls 128 and 129, though it is neatly enclosed on three sides by 128. It may therefore indicate a reuse of previous building materials in the construction of this surface, or alternatively the retention of previous surfaces in subsequent constructions. Surface 130 represented the most westerly of the features and consisted of both handmade and machine made red brick with additional sandstone blocks. Here again, the combination of handmade and machine made brick may indicate reuse of materials, although an alternative suggestion would involve the repair of retained surfaces with more modern materials.

The remaining features to be discussed were encountered north of the proposed line of Carr Lane and consisted predominantly of sections of red brick floor surfaces, several wall sections and various concrete and metal stantion bases (**Illustration 3**). The imprint of the 20th-century works building that occupied the north section of the site was visible. Of more interest were several, and in instances quite extensive, floor surfaces which can be identified as contexts 138, 140, 141, 143 and 144. All consisted of a combination of handmade and machine-made red brick and occasional sandstone blocks. As was the case with contexts 127 and 131 above it is uncertain if this represents the re-use of previous materials in the construction of a floor surface

relating to later works or the retention and continued repair of floor surfaces relating to the tenement blocks after their demolition. Where surface 144 encountered the obvious 20th-century structure of context 142 it appeared to respect the line of the later feature. However if we envision a scenario where former surfaces are retained and repaired it is entirely feasible that 142 was inserted through 144 and the surface later repaired and taken up to the line of the wall.

The chronology of the surfaces are therefore uncertain but it is interesting to note that the most extensive of the features, 144, in terms of total area coverage may indeed line up with the position of a tenement square identified as Smith's Square on the 1890 OS map (**Illustration 2**). To the very west of this surface and extending from the western boundary of the site along an east-west axis three sections of wall probably relate to tenement structures facing west onto Newcastle Street. Context 141 represented a sandstone wall

constructed of irregularly cut blocks with no visible coursing as excavated, set with a lime based mortar and cut by three voids (contexts 45-47) filled by rubble deposits. Contexts 42 to 44 were all wall sections made from handmade red brick set within a white lime mortar and also probably relate to the same or adjacent structures with the same fronting.

5 ARTEFACTS AND SAMPLES

5.1 Animal Bone

Linzi Harvey

Assessment

In total, two animal bone fragments were recovered from Rockingham Street, one of which was worked. These items were recovered from two contexts and are described below in **Table 1**.

Summary and Recommendations

The fragments include a sawn antler tip offcut from made ground deposit , context 108, and a butchered animal long bone from lime rich made ground context 006. It is likely these fragments represent manufacture and kitchen waste debris, but the sample is not large enough to characterise further. No further work is recommended.

Table 1 – Animal bone

Context	No. frags	Date range	Description and measurements
006	1	-	Fragment of medium sized animal long bone, with two small chop marks visible on shaft.
108	1	-	Antler tip offcut, about 60mm in length. Fine saw marks visible at sawn end; smooth appearance.
TOTAL	2		

5.2 Ceramic Building Material

Linzi Harvey

Assessment

In total, two fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered. These items were recovered from a single context and are described below in **Table 2**.

Summary and Recommendations

The CBM fragments recovered from levelling layer 002 appear to be modern bathroom or kitchen tile fragments. No further work is recommended.

Table 2 – CBM

Context	No. frags	Date range	Description and measurements
002	2	19 th – 20 th C	2 fragments of white fabric tile, with remains of dark green glaze. Bathroom/tile type, appear fairly modern.
TOTAL	2		

5.3 Clay Pipe

Linzi Harvey

Assessment

Ten fragments of clay pipe were recovered. These items were from four contexts and are described below in **Table 3**.

Nature of sample

The majority of pipe fragments recovered were plain stems. Plain stems are difficult to date accurately and therefore can only be given a broad date range, but most are late 18th or 19th-century. The plain stem fragments and single bowl fragment from buried soil 008 date to the earlier part of the 18th- century.

The remains of yellow-brown glaze or wax was visible on a single stem fragment from overburden deposit 001. Coating substances were occasionally used to smooth the area around the pipe mouthpiece or broken ends.

Recommendations

This assemblage consists primarily of plain stems, along with a single bowl fragment. The fragments in this assemblage date to the late 18th or 19th-century, although some fragments from buried soil 008 date to the earlier part of the 18th-century. No further work is recommended.

Table 3

Context	B	S	M	Total	Dec.	Date range	Description and measurements
001		1		1	1	?19 th C	Stem fragment with yellow-brown glaze/wax adhering
008	1	5		6		18 th – early 19 th C	1 thick bowl body fragment; 3 plain stem fragments one of which has a diameter of 9mm; 2 stem fragments with spurs, one of which is long and flat bottomed.
012		2		2		18/19 C	Plain stem fragments.
013		1		1		18/19 C	Plain stem fragment.
Total	1	9		10			

The above table presents details of the clay tobacco pipes recovered from the site. This table is arranged in context number order. In each case the number of bowls (**B**), stems (**S**), and mouthpieces (**M**) is given followed by the total number of fragments from each context. (**Dec.**) fragments are then given, followed by general comments for each context. The date range is then given.

5.4 Crucible Fragments

Dr Roderick Mackenzie

Assessment

The crucible fragments and recovered from the site have been examined to assess their archaeometallurgical significance. **Table 4** below summarises the findings of this assessment.

Table 4

Context no.	No. of fragments	Description
002	2	Fragments from the body of used steelmaking crucible(s). One fragment has an unusual double curvature and severe slag erosion.
012	1	Fragments from the body of used steelmaking crucible(s). Comparatively light fabric.
013	2	Fragments from the body of used steelmaking crucible(s). Both fragments have a comparatively light fabric.

Discussion

The assemblage consists of five fragments of used steelmaking crucible. Traditional Sheffield (or 'Huntsman') steelmaking crucibles generally had a very short service life and were typically discarded after one days use, fragments of used crucibles are a relatively common archaeological find within Sheffield, where they were often used as 'hardcore' to make up ground. Although common finds, used crucible fragments can be of archaeometallurgical potential when recovered from sealed 'dateable' contexts, or those relating to crucible steel production.

Crucibles were one of the most important components of the 'Sheffield/Huntsman' steelmaking process, yet very little research has been carried out to investigate the composition, fabric and potential refractory values of the crucibles themselves.

The fragments in this assemblage were recovered from the contexts that lay beneath an early 19th-century yard. Although the fragments cannot be linked to a particular steelworks, their relatively early date makes them useful for comparative purposes.

Recommendations

No further analysis is recommended at this stage, although the fragments should be retained as part of the site archive to offer the opportunity of future research.

5.5 Glass

Linzi Harvey

Assessment

In total, three fragments of glass were recovered from Rockingham Street. These items were recovered from three stratified contexts and are described below in **Table 5**.

Summary and Recommendations

Although the glass assemblage from Rockingham Street is small and fragmentary, it does contain a fragment of asymmetrical bottle lip which is likely to be free blown and 18th-century in date, from made ground deposit 006. It is recommended that the material be retained for the site archive.

Table 5

Context	No. frags	Date range	Description and measurements
006	1	?18 th C	Asymmetrical, almost oval lip fragment from wine bottle with applied single collar/lip; green; patinated.
008	1	?19 th C	Small fragment of reddy-brown glass with white decoration/top layer. Probably tableware fragment.

115	1	19 th – 20 th C	Base fragment from heavy wine bottle with deep kick-up; dark green; patinated.
TOTAL	3		

5.6 Wood

Linzi Harvey

Assessment

In total, three wooden items were recovered. These items were recovered from two contexts and are described below in **Table 6**.

Summary and Recommendations

Two worked objects were recovered from unstratified/machining context 001, both of which appear to be unfinished and unused cutlery or tableware handles or scales. It is recommended that the material from 001 be retained for the site archive whilst the unworked wood fragment from 013 be discarded.

Table 6

Context	No. frags	Date range	Description and measurements
001	2	-	75mm roughly square sectioned wood object, with circular hole at one end. Probably unfinished handle? 100mm scale for large knife, rounded at one end, with three centrally placed holes along length. Some kind of hardwood, apparently unused.
013	1	-	Unworked 160mm length of dark coloured wood.
TOTAL	3		

5.7 Metal

Ken Hawley and Linzi Harvey

Assessment

A total of 32 ferrous and non-ferrous objects were recovered. A number of spanners from contexts 115 and 149 were marked 'SHEFFIELD' and 'GORDON' and are likely to have been made at one of the Gordon Tools works on Rockingham Street. Two open ended chrome vanadium spanners from context 115, and a single open ended spanner from 149 were unfinished items, which may have been discarded prior to chrome plating. These items may have been wasters, although chrome plating is aesthetic rather than functional so they may have been set aside for use by factory workers. A ring spanner from 149 was also in an unfinished condition. A pair of pliers recovered from the same context are unlikely to have been produced on site. Items like pliers were often bought in to make up tool kits. Aside from a highly corroded ferrous wood turning chisel from 149, all items appear to date to the post-WWII period.

A total of 24 objects were recovered from made ground deposit 108, the majority of which were stainless steel knife blades of various types and stages of manufacture. These cutlery items are unlikely to be associated with the tool works and may relate to a later works on site. The assemblage consisted of several straight round-tipped table knives, a carving knife, a large ham knife, two letter openers and a modern steak knife.

There were several unfinished roll forged blades, which had not been tanged or clipped to

shape. Interestingly, a builders 'line pin' was also recovered, which would also have been roll forged. However, it had not been placed correctly between the roll forge rollers, resulting in asymmetry of the flat part. This was probably discarded as a waster. When similar manufacturing processes were used (i.e. roll forging) very different items, such as builders tools and cutlery, were often made in the same works.

Also of interest from context 108 was a brass 'founders tool'. This would have been used to smooth out the shape of sand-moulds prior to them being filled with molten brass or iron.

An assessment summary is provided in **Table 7** below.

Table 7

Context	Items	Description	Date
115	4	1 offset ring spanner, marked 'CHROME VANADIUM' and '5/16 W'. 2 unfinished (no chrome plating) open ended spanners, marked 'CHROME VANADIUM' on one side and 'SHEFFIELD GORDON ENGLAND' on the other. 1 socket spanner head, with ½" square drive.	Post-1945
149	4	1 heavily corroded ring spanner, unfinished item, marked 'GORDON TOOLS' on one side and 'CHROME VANADIUM' on the other, probably post-WWII. 1 heavily corroded open ended spanner, with 'SHEFFIELD GORDON' marked on one wide, probably post-WWII. 1 corroded pair of pliers, 150mm in length. 1 corroded wood turning chisel, possibly pre-war date.	20 th C
108	24	2 steel offcuts, probably from manufacture of cheese knife or similar. 2 stainless steel letter opener blades. 1 stainless steel 'ham knife' blade, 20cm in length. 1 broken carving knife, bottom of blade with bolster and round tang. 1 modern stainless steel steak knife blade. 1 large table knife with broken tip/point. 5 round point straight table knife blades. 2 stainless steel straight knives with pointed tips. 5 steel roll forged blades prior to tanging and clipping. 1 ferrous roofing hook, with square bolt and circular lead washer at one end. 1 brass sand-moulders or iron/brass founders tool, for smoothing sand moulds. 1 drop stamped steel object, use unknown. 1 'line pin' (builders tool) waster.	19 th – 20 th C
TOTAL	32		

Recommendations

No further work is recommended, and the assemblage may be discarded.

5.8 Plastic

Linzi Harvey

Assessment

In total, four plastic objects were recovered from Rockingham Street. These items were recovered from two contexts and are described below in **Table 8**.

Summary and Recommendations

Cutlery and tableware scales and handles are frequently recovered on industrial and domestic post-medieval Sheffield sites. The plastic objects are likely to be recently produced and are all from made ground or unstratified contexts. No further work is recommended and the assemblage may be discarded.

Table 8

Context	No. frags	Date range	Description and measurements
001	3	?20 th C	3 slim plastic scales, from knife or razor handle, all between 90 – 100mm; black; each has small rivet hole at rounded end.
108	1	?20 th C	Yellow handle, possibly plastic. Square with rounded corners in section; hole for tang at one end. Cutlery or tableware handle, burnt at one end.
TOTAL	4		

5.9 Pottery

Dr C.G. Cumberpatch

Introduction

The pottery assemblage consisted of 52 sherds weighing 879 grams in total, and representing a maximum of 47 vessels. The assemblage also included one fragment of a roof tile. The data are summarised in **Table 9**.

The pottery

The earliest pottery in the group is a sherd of *Midlands Purple type ware* from context 006 which dates to the later post-medieval period. Pottery of this date is not uncommon on sites in Sheffield, but, as here, is generally residual in later contexts.

Early modern pottery, dating to the 18th and early 19th-century, is represented by both vernacular tablewares (*Late Blackware, Slipware, Mottled ware*) and formal tablewares (*Creamware, Pearlware* and *Edged ware*). It is probable that a significant proportion of the utilitarian ware (*Brown Glazed Fineware, Brown Glazed Coarseware, Redware type*) is of a similar date although such wares tend to be less readily datable than are the tablewares. Much the same is true of the *Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware* although the majority of sherds appear to be from cooking wares rather than tablewares, suggesting a later 18th or 19th-century date for this type.

The range of decoration on all of these wares is standard for the period and conforms to the pattern expected from sites in Sheffield. The press moulded slipware dish from the watching brief bore typical bi-coloured trailed slip decoration and the transfer printed designs on the Pearlwares included Willow and other Chinese landscape designs.

The latest pottery on the site was recovered from deposit 108 and included transfer printed *Whiteware* (Wild Rose and Willow) and *Sponged ware*. Such wares are typical of the mid to later 19th century and are common on sites across Sheffield. The *Colour Glazed ware* sherd from context 108 is probably of a similar date and the same may be true of the *Slip Banded wares* from the same context although could well be of earlier 19th century date.

Discussion

The latest context on the site, 108, produced 18th and early 19th-century wares but these were accompanied by later wares, indicating that the context was of a mid to later 19th-century date. The remaining contexts, all associated with the excavation of a 4m long strip between two properties, were generally rather similar in character and indicate activity on the site in the mid to later 18th-century. Whether this was of a similar character to other sites which have produced assemblages of a comparable date (and the indications to date are that there is a horizon of deposition which dates to this period), is unclear but is highly probable. Comparative work is required before any useful conclusions can be reached on

this matter.

Overall it would seem that the excavation has identified archaeologically significant deposits dating to a period of construction on the site which is also represented on sites elsewhere in the city. Should future work be possible on the site, it should include provision for the investigation of the deposits identified, particularly those related to the first three phases of activity on the site.

Table 9: Pottery & Ceramic Building Material.

Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
001	BGCW	1	19	1	BS	Pancheon/bowl	Red-brown glaze int	C18th - C19th	
001	BSGSW	1	6	1	Rim	Bowl	Impressed line ext	MC18th - EC19th	
001	BSGSW	2	11	2	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	MC18th - EC19th	
001	Edged ware	1	8	1	Rim	Plate	Relief moulded 'Grass' pattern with blue paint	c.1810 - c.1830	
001	TP Pearlware	1	5	1	BS	Plate	Willow	c.1780 - c.1840	
002	BGCW	1	16	1	BS	Pancheon/bowl	Red-brown glaze int	C18th - C19th	
002	BGCW	1	22	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int	C18th - C19th	
002	BSGSW	2	9	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	MC18th - EC19th	
002	Late Blackware	2	67	1	Base	Jar	Brown glaze int, footed base	C18th	
006	BGCW?	1	33	1	BS	?Pancheon	U/ID	C18th - C19th	Internal surface flaked entirely
006	Midlands Purple type ware	1	23	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C16th - C17th	Hard, fine dark red fabric with moderate to abundant quartz and black grit
006	Mottled ware	1	21	1	Handle & BS	Mug	Light brown mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	
006	Redware type	1	53	1	Base	Jar	Clear glaze int on a red body	C18th	Patchy glaze on underside of base
008	BGFW	2	9	2	BS	Hollow ware	Mottled brown glaze int & ext	C18th	
012	BGCW	1	10	1	Base	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int	C18th - C19th	
012	BGFW	2	24	2	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th	Thin walled vessel

Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
012	BSGSW	1	19	1	BS	Hollow ware	Pale brown salt glaze ext	C18th - C19th	
012	BSGSW	1	3	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC18th - C19th	
012	Creamware	1	16	1	Recessed base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
012	Creamware	1	4	1	BS	Soup plate	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	Light Creamware, probably EC19th
012	Creamware	1	2	1	Flat base	Bowl/dish	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	Light Creamware, probably EC19th
012	Creamware	1	1	1	BS	Flatware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	Light Creamware, probably EC19th
012	Late Blackware	1	44	1	Base	Hollow ware	Black glaze int, footed base	C18th	
013	BGCW	2	98	2	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glazed int; rilled ext	C18th - C19th	
013	BGCW	1	20	1	Base	Pancheon	Brown glaze int	C18th - C19th	
013	BGCW	1	10	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int	C18th - C19th	
013	Creamware	1	50	1	Recessed base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
013	Creamware	1	3	1	Rim	Bowl	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
013	Late Blackware	1	21	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	
013	TP Pearlware	1	3	1	Rim	Cup/bowl	U/ID Chinese landscape ext; geometric frieze int	c.1780 - c.1840	
108	?Creamware	2	7	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC18th - EC19th	Very pale Creamware ?late
108	Colour Glazed ware	1	16	1	BS	Hollow ware	Green surface int & ext	C19th	
108	Slip Banded CC ware	1	5	1	Rim	Bowl	Brown and white slip lines	E - MC19th	

Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
							below rim		
108	Slip Banded ware	1	16	1	Handle & BS	Mug/Jug	Narrow blue bands and brown slip lines ext	LC18th - MC19th	
108	TP Pearlware	2	5	1	BS	Hollow ware	Chinese landscape ext; blurred print	c.1780 - c.1840	
108	BGCW	1	120	1	Rim	Pancheon	Brown glaze int	C18th - C19th	Triangular section rim
108	BGFW	1	8	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & partially ext	C18th - EC19th	
108	Creamware	2	4	1	Rim	Plate	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
108	Slipware	1	22	1	BS	Dish	Red-brown trailed slip design on white int	C18th	
108	Sponged ware	1	2	1	BS	Flatware	Blue sponging int	c.1830+	
108	TP Whiteware	1	8	1	Flatware	Plate	Wild Rose	M - LC19th	
108	TP Whiteware	1	2	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Floral design int & ext	M - LC19th	
108	TP Whiteware	1	34	1	Rim	Plate	Willow	M - LC19th	Spalled internally
	Total	52	879	47					
012	CBM	1	177	1	Fragment	Tile	N/A	Undated	

5.10 Soil Samples

Ellen Simmons.

Sampling and recovery

A soil sample was taken from context 008 at Rockingham Street, Sheffield and processed for charred plant remains and wood charcoal using a water separation machine. The flots were collected in sieves of 1mm and 300µm mesh, and the remaining heavy residue retained in a 1mm mesh. The flots and heavy residue were dried and the heavy residue sorted by eye for organic remains and artefacts.

A preliminary assessment of the flots was made by scanning the >1mm and >300µm fractions under a low power microscope (x7-x45) and recording the abundance of the main classes of charred plant material present. This data is presented below in **Tables 10** and **11**.

Material represented

No significant quantities of charred plant remains were found to be present in the sample. Vitrified charcoal and coke was abundant, indicating high temperature burning and hence unsuitable conditions for the preservation of plant remains. One fragment of charred hazel nutshell was noted, along with a small quantity of wild/weed plant seeds. Charcoal fragments were also present, although these were largely less than 2mm in size

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

With the exception of one fragment of hazel nutshell and a small quantity of wild/weed plant seeds, there were no charred plant remains present in this sample. Charcoal fragments were present although not in sufficient quantity to be suitable for further analysis. The quantity of wood charcoal would be suitable for AMS radiocarbon dating although a number of fragments would need to be analysed which may affect the accuracy of the date. No further analysis of the material in this sample would therefore be recommended.

Table 10 – Preliminary assessment of charred plant remains

Sample No.	Context No.	Volume (litres)	> 1mm flot fraction ranking*		Main sample contents	>300um flot fraction ranking*		Main sample contents	Overall ranking*		Retain flots? (Yes √ No X)
			Crop elements	Wild plant seeds		Crop elements	Wild plant seeds		Crop elements	Wild plant seeds	
1	008	20	-	1	Vitrified charcoal, charcoal, coke type material, hazel nutshell fragment, wild / weed plant seed	-	1	Vitrified charcoal, charcoal, coke type material, wild / weed plant seeds	-	1	√

* Number of items of charred plant material - = none noted 1 = < 5, 2 = > 5, 3 = > 30, 4 = > 50, 5 = >100

Table 11 – Preliminary assessment of wood charcoal fragments

Sample Number	Context Number	Sample Volume (litres)	Charcoal Fragments				Suitable quantity for wood ID (Yes √/No X)	Suitable quantity for radiometric C14 dating? (Yes √/No X)	Suitable quantity for AMS C14 dating (Yes √/No X)
			> 5mm	2 - 5 mm	< 2mm	vitrified			
1	008	20	-	+	+++	++++	X	X	√

Key: '-' 1 or 2 items, '+' < 10 items, '++' 10 - 50 items, '+++> 50 items, '++++' >100 items

6 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The majority of the watching brief was undertaken on a strip and record basis and therefore no excavation was undertaken below the surface revealed by the breaking and removal of the concrete layer that covered much of the site. Even within these constraints combined with the presence of some considerable 20th-century intrusions across the site, it was possible to identify a relatively large number of features relating to ground floor structures probably associated with former tenement blocks that occupied the site on either side of Carr Lane, which formerly extended east-west between Rockingham Street and Newcastle Street.

These were mainly encountered towards the eastern boundary of the site, although further elements were identified to the very west, fronting onto Newcastle Street on either side of the route of Carr Lane. These features mainly consisted of wall sections and floor surfaces of variable size predominantly composed of handmade red brick and sandstone blocks set within a series of variable white lime mortars. Of particular interest was the identification of a large sandstone machine base set within a section of red brick and sandstone flooring, probably relating to one of the tenement based cottage industries that grew up in the area. These industries were limited in scope however, and the presence of imported crucible fragments in an early 19th-century made ground yard surface reflect only the disposal methods of nearby steelworks, and do not indicate steelmaking activity amongst the tenements themselves during the early 19th-century.

A possible vaulted surface may also be preserved, perhaps relating to a cellar ceiling associated with one of the tenement dwellings or workshops. The tenement blocks date to the 18th century, when they were established on then vacant ground as part of the expansion of Sheffield city centre. These tenements formed the locus for dense social dwellings and small scale industry and, notwithstanding minor modifications, largely remained unchanged until the 1930s-1950s when they were demolished to make way for several works buildings. The majority of finds recovered during machine-stripping of the site reflect this range and sequence, with all ceramics, ceramic building materials, clay pipe and glass finds being dated within the mid 18th-century to the mid 20th-century.

Plastic and metal finds appear to reflect the activities of post tenement tool-making and cutlery industries on the site, with most dating to after c.1945. Earlier metal finds associated with habitation of the tenements are lacking, possibly due to ground conditions being unfavourable to their preservation.

Should further development occur, the site offers the potential to increase our knowledge and understanding of social and economic life relating to the tenement blocks that grew up in Sheffield from the early 18th century onwards. This is particularly important given its local context adjoining a site of previous archaeological mitigation, which revealed considerable evidence for such activity.

The more intrusive and earlier phase of mitigation, which saw the excavation of a four-metre-wide strip along the northern edge of the site between Newcastle Street and Rockingham Street down to the surface of underlying natural deposits, provided an opportunity to investigate the stratigraphic sequence of the site and potentially identify key deposits located during mitigation of the adjacent archaeological site, located immediately to the north. Of importance in this regard was the potential to locate a buried soil deposit that had previously been identified as significant due to the rich ceramic assemblage it yielded, dating to between the 13th and 18th centuries, and because it sealed a number of pit features cut into the natural, one of which provided a radiocarbon date relating to the Bronze Age. Although this date is tentative and does not necessarily date all

the pits, the deposit was deemed significant not only in terms of the longevity of the ceramic assemblage, a rarity in terms of the local area, but also because it may further preserve features of possible prehistoric date.

During the Rockingham Street mitigation, the buried soils were indeed identified at variable depths below the ground surface. One ceramic sherd dating to the late 18th-century was recovered from the buried soil. No further features were located beneath this layer but its preservation demonstrated that it extended further south along the line of Rockingham Street from where it was originally encountered. While preservation elsewhere on the site could not necessarily be guaranteed its survival in an area where ground intrusion by 20th-century building works was reasonably high suggested this may be the case. The potential for encountering such deposits elsewhere on the site must therefore be taken into account should further ground works intrude to this depth.

This should inform any further archaeological mitigation strategies adopted in relation to future development of the site.

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9 PLATES



Plate 1. Buried soil 008. encountered during excavation of the 4m wide strip along the northern boundary of the site



Plate 2 - Spanner cache 115.



Plate 3 - Spanner cache 149.



Plate 4 - Structure 111, a possible vaulted surface



Plate 5 - Sandstone machine base context 120



Plate 6 - The mortared red brick surface 121, housing the sandstone machine base 120



Plate 7 - Context 135, a layer of sandstone cobbles probably relating to the former surface of Carr Lane

10 ILLUSTRATIONS

11 APPENDICES

11.1 List of Contexts

Context number	Context type	Description
1	Deposit	Unstratified/machining
2	Deposit	Sub-courtyard levelling layer
3	Structure	Sandstone drain
4	Structure	Short N-S wall, lime mortar
5	Deposit	Redeposited natural – made ground
6	Deposit	Lime-rich made ground spread, predates (005)
7	Cut	Cut for field drain, sealed by buried soil (008)
8	Deposit	Buried soil layer
9	Deposit	Fill of construction cut [014]
10	Cut	Same as [014]
11	Structure	Sandstone footing with lime mortar – rear of Newcastle Street terraces
12	Deposit	Dump deposit within pit cut [014]
13	Deposit	Primary fill of pit cut [014]
14	Cut	Large irregular pit cut through buried soil (008)
15	Deposit	Natural sandstone clay
41	Structure	Irregular sandstone footing cut by [37]
42	Structure	Lime-mortared brick wall, E-W
43	Structure	Lime-mortared brick wall, E-W
44	Structure	Lime-mortared brick wall, N-S, keyed to [42]
45	Deposit	Rubble infill of [41] (east)
46	Deposit	Rubble infill of [41] (mid)
47	Deposit	Rubble infill of [41] (west)
100	Structure	Lime-mortared brick wall, N-S
101	Structure	Lime-mortared brick wall, N-S
102	Structure	20 th C toilet block
103	Structure	Tarmac yard surface
104	Structure	Lime-mortared brick wall, E-W
105	Structure	Modern concrete structure
106	Structure	Lime-mortared brick wall, single skin
107	Structure	Lime-mortared brick wall, sandstone footings, N-S
108	Deposit	Made ground
109	Structure	20 th C frogged brick wall
110	Structure	20 th C frogged brick wall
111	Structure	19 th C brick structures, including wall sections and possible surfaces
112	Structure	19 th C brick wall section associated with [03]
113	Structure	Sandstone surface
114	Structure	19 th C brick wall and surface
115	Deposit	Cache of 20 th C spanners
116	Deposit	Black ashy deposit with slag
117	Structure	19 th C brick wall
118	Structure	19 th C brick and sandstone surface
119	Structure	19 th C brick wall section

Context number	Context type	Description
120	Structure	Sandstone machine base
121	Structure	Mortared brick surface housing machine base
122	Structure	19 th C brick wall section
123	Structure	Sandstone and brick surface, irregular with frogged brick
124	Structure	Brick and sandstone surface
125	Structure	Brick and sandstone surface
126	Structure	Brick-lined tool cache
127	Structure	Irregular, brick surface, mix of handmade and machined brick
128	Structure	Modern brick wall
129	Structure	Modern brick wall
130	Structure	Irregular brick and sandstone surface – mix of handmade and modern brick
131	Deposit	Dark ashy deposit below [20]
132	Structure	Cobbled road surface between Rockingham and Newcastle Street
133	Structure	Modern concrete surface
134	Structure	20 th C frogged brick wall
135	Structure	Same as 25
136	Structure	Drain surround in frogged brick
137	Structure	20 th C frogged brick wall
138	Structure	Irregular brick surface, mix of handmade and machine-made brick, sandstone slab
139	Structure	Concrete capped drain
140	Structure	Patch of brick paving – mix of handmade and machine-made
141	Structure	Frogged brick surface including sandstone slab
142	Structure	20 th C frogged brick wall
143	Structure	Same as [141]
144	Structure	Frogged brick surface
145	Structure	Brick structure abutting [142] tp N
146	Structure	Truncated series of 20 th C walls
147	Structure	20 th C brick surface
148	Structure	Disused Drain
149	Deposit	Cache of 20 th C spanners and other tools
150	Structure	E/W wall R/B +lime wall keyed in N
151	Structure	E/W wall R/B +lime wall keyed in S
152	Structure	N/S r/b + lime wall keyed in
153	Deposit	Rubble infill of [148] E
154	Deposit	Rubble infill of [148] Mid
155	Deposit	Rubble infill of [148] W