

# **Mere Lane Armthorpe South Yorkshire**

## ***Archaeological Excavation***

### *Summary*

*An archaeological excavation at Mere Lane, Armthorpe, revealed the remnants of a possible late medieval land surface. This surface was truncated by the remains of an early post-medieval structure possibly a former farmhouse constructed during the 16th or 17th century. Contemporary with the building was an internal pebble floor and an external cobble surfaces that probably formed a surrounding yard. Pottery recovered from these surfaces suggests the structure was in use up until possibly the 18th century, a coin/token (jeton) dated to the late 16th to early 17th century was also recovered from an external surface.. Undated remains consisted of three pits and six post holes morphologically similar to post-medieval post holes and pits. Other remains included pits and post holes probably associated with 19th century cottages shown on the 1854 Ordnance survey map.*

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# 1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) were commissioned by Urban i to carry out an archaeological excavation in advance of construction of three apartment blocks (planning ref. 06/01404/FULM) on the site of a former Working Men's Club, Mere Lane, Armthorpe, South Yorkshire (NGR 462300 405000, Fig. 1). The fieldwork follows on from an archaeological evaluation by trail trenching (ASWYAS 2006). The investigation was undertaken between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

## 1.1 Site Location and Topography

The proposed development area is on the western side of the town of Armthorpe, approximately 4km to the east of the Doncaster Town centre (Fig. 2, NGR 462300 405000). The ground is generally flat and lies at approximately 14m above the Ordnance Datum (AOD).

## 1.2 Soils, Geology and Land use

### The soils of the area belong to:

- Isleham 2 Association, described as 'Deep permeable sandy and peaty soils affected by groundwater. Very complex soil pattern with hummock and hollow micro-relief locally. Risk of winter flooding. Risk of wind erosion (SSEW 1983, 861b).' and;
- Newport 1 Association, described as 'Deep well drained sandy and coarse loamy soils. Some sandy soils affected by groundwater. Risk of wind and water erosion (SSEW 1983, 551d).'

### The drift geology of the area is:

- Glacial sand and gravel
- Blown sand
- Undifferentiated river terrace deposits
- Peat
- Undifferentiated Lacustrine deposits
- Alluvium (BGS 2006)

### The solid geology of the area is:

- Permian and Triassic sandstones, undifferentiated, including Bunter and Keuper (BGS 2006)

## 1.2 Land Use

The proposed development area has recently been used as a car park and garden for a former working men's club. At the time of the excavation groundwork preparation prior to construction had begun.

## 1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background

The proposed development area lies adjacent to the historic core of Armthorpe. Settlement at Armthorpe originated in the early medieval period, and the settlement is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The name Armthorpe is thought to mean *Arnulf's farmsted* (SYAS 2006b).

St Mary and St Leonard's Church, lies approximately 200m to the south of the proposed development area. The church is substantially Norman in date with the Nave and Chancel arch dating to this period (*ibid*).

An archaeological evaluation on the proposed development area by ASWYAS prior to this stage of work revealed two pits and a post hole of late medieval date (ASWYAS 2006). Also recorded during the evaluation were the remains of a 19th century row of cottages and a ditch visible on an 1854 Ordnance Survey map (*ibid*).

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> and throughout much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, coal mining dominated the economic and social life of Armthorpe and the surrounding area. Housing estates were built for the mine workers and have a distinctive ring or crescent layout and such estates lie to the east and west of the proposed development area. After a period of economic recession the area has undergone substantial regeneration and due to its excellent communication links is the location for a number of large businesses premises.

## 2 Aims of the Excavation

The general aim of the archaeological excavation was to preserve by record any archaeological remains within the area of excavation. The specific aims of the excavation were to:

- locate and record any surviving below ground archaeological remains dating from the medieval period which may be associated with the medieval settlement of Armthorpe or the nearby medieval church;
- provide an assessment of the potential and significance of any identified archaeological remains in a local, regional and (if relevant) national context, and;
- provide information on which a strategy for further excavation and/or mitigation, if required can be developed.

## 3 Methodology

The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a project design prepared by Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS 2006) and approved by South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS). The investigation strategy consisted of an open area excavation covering approximately 190m<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 2) and its location was determined by the result of an evaluation that identified late medieval and post-medieval remains in the area fronting Mere Lane (ASWYAS 2006, Trench 1, Section 4.1, Fig. 3).

All archaeological remains were surveyed using a Geodimeter Total Station and related to the national grid. A temporary bench mark with a value of 14.38m AOD was established on site.

The excavation area was stripped of modern overburden under direct archaeological supervision using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide smooth-bladed ditching bucket. The overburden was removed in controlled, level spits until the first archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural deposit was identified. The resulting surface was then cleaned manually and inspected for archaeological remains.

All archaeological and potentially archaeological features were investigated. An appropriate written, drawn and photographic record was made in accordance with ASWYAS standard methodology (ASWYAS 2003).

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Overview (Fig. 3)

The excavation area was 21m by 9m with an average surface height of 14.30m AOD and was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 13.22m AOD. The primary phase of activity identified during the investigation was post-medieval. The earliest deposits were two buried soil horizons (523, 527), followed by the remains of a structure consisting of two beam-slots (526, 530), pebble floor surface (524) and cobbled surfaces (506, 531). A post-medieval tipping deposit (505), pit (514) and a post hole (539) was also identified.

Undated remains consisted of three pits (508, 512, 522), six post holes (510, 516, 518, 520, 533, 535) and a cobbled surface (528).

The continuation of three pits (107, 108, 111) identified during the evaluation stage was also identified (ASWYAS 2006 Trench 1).

Features of 19th – 20th century date consisted of pits, post holes, levelling deposits (501, 504) and a garden soil (500), probably associated with the development and occupation of 19th century cottages shown on the 1854 Ordnance survey map.

### 4.2 Late medieval/early post-medieval activity

#### Buried land surfaces 523 and 527

##### *Description*

Layer 523 was a greyish-brown sandy-silt 2.2m long, 1m wide and 0.06m deep, containing occasional pebble and charcoal inclusions (Figs. 3 and 4). Layer 527 was a mid-brown sandy-silt 3.8m long, 1m wide and 0.08m deep, containing occasional pebble inclusions (Fig. 4). Both layers were truncated by the deposition of stone surfaces 506 and 524 and the construction of beam slots 526 and 530.

##### *Finds*

Two sherds of late 13th to early 15th century pottery, a sherd of middle 15th to late 16th century pottery, two sherds of 17th to 18th century pottery and an iron hook like object (small find 2) was recovered from layer 523. No finds were recovered from layer 527.

##### *Discussion*

These layers appear to be the same deposit representing the remains of a possible late medieval former land surface, truncated during the deposition of stone surfaces and the construction of a post-medieval structure. No finds were recovered from layer 527, but finds were recovered from layer 523 which may suggest that more activity took place on the latter surface.

### **Beam slots 526 and 530**

#### *Description*

Beam slots 526 and 530 were 4.5m long, 0.5m wide, 0.18m deep and 2.25m in long, 0.5m in wide and 0.04m deep, respectively (Figs. 3 and 4). Both contained a dark grey sandy-silt single fills (525, 529) with occasional cobble and charcoal inclusions (Fig. 4). The beam slots were truncated at a point where both would have converged. Beam slot 530 was truncated by a cobbled surface 528 and beam slot 526 truncated by levelling 504.

#### *Finds*

Retrieved from layer 525 was a sherd of late medieval pottery, a sherd of late 15th to 16th century pottery and four fragments of animal bone. A single sherd of late 13th to late 14th century pottery was recovered from fill 529.

#### *Discussion*

Beam slots 526 and 530 seem to form the south-eastern corner of a structure that continues to the northwest and southwest beneath Mere Lane. The medieval pottery recovered from the fill (525 and 529) of each slot are most likely to be residual. The beam slots are probably contemporary with what appears to be an internal pebble surface (524) and external cobbled surfaces (506 and 531) of a post-medieval date. The fills within each beam slot (525 and 529), probably represent the decayed beams mixed with debris from the construction of the slots. Beam slot 530 and pebble surface 524 were truncated by a later cobbled surface. Beam slot 526 was truncated by levelling associated with the development and occupation of the 19th century cottages.

### **Pebble surface 524**

#### *Description*

This pebble surface was a layer of reddish-brown sandy-silt measuring 4.7m in length, 2.25m in width and 0.08m in depth with frequent pebble and occasional charcoal inclusions (Fig. 3 and 4). This surface was bounded by two beam-slots 526 and 530 and partly truncated by a cobbled surface 528.

#### *Finds*

A sherd of c.1460 to 1600 pottery, a sherd of post-medieval pottery, two sherds of late 16th to 17th century pottery, six sherds of 17th to 18th century pottery and an oyster shell were recovered from this surface.

#### *Discussion*

This surface comprised very compacted pebbles that butted up to the enclosing beam slots and appear to represent an internal floor probably constructed during the late medieval period and in use up to the 17th or 18th century.

### **Cobble surfaces 506 and 531**

#### *Description*

Layers 506 and 531 were 4.6m long, 3.75m wide, 0.1m deep and 3.4m long, 2.6m wide, 0.08m deep respectively. Both layers consisted of greyish-brown sandy-silt with frequent cobble-stones, occasional coal and charcoal inclusions (Figs. 3 and 4). Layer 506 also contained some red brick fragments. Layer 531

was partly overlaid by a later cobbled surface (528) and was truncated by levelling (504).

#### *Finds*

Two sherds of 13th to 15th century pottery, two sherds of c.1460 to 1600 pottery, three sherds of 15th to 17th century pottery, six sherds of 16th to 17th century pottery and thirty one sherds of 17th to 18th century pottery was recovered from surface 506. Also from surface 506 was a 16th to 17th century copper alloy coin/token (small find 1), a fragment of undated roof tile and seven fragments of animal bone. Retrieved from surface 531 were thirty sherds of 17th to 18th century pottery, a sherd of 16th to 17th pottery, four pieces of iron chain (small find 3), a fragment of horseshoe (small find 4) and five fragments of animal bone.

#### *Discussion*

Layers 506 and 531 appear to be the same deposit separated by later 19th century truncation and probably represent the remains of external cobbled surfaces contemporary with the post-medieval structure. The majority of the pottery assemblage recovered from both surfaces was of a 17th to 18th century date that would suggest that this was when the surfaces were in use.

### **Layer 505**

#### *Description*

Layer 505 was a pale yellowish-brown clayey-silt 2.75m long, 1.4m wide and 0.08m deep containing some red brick fragments and occasional pebble and charcoal inclusions (Figs. 3 and 4). This layer was overlying cobbled surface 506.

#### *Finds*

A single sherd of late 15th to 16th century pottery and a fragment of clay pipe bowl were recovered.

#### *Discussion*

The only conclusions that can be drawn from this layer is that it probably represents tipping deposited upon cobble surface 506 and the 15th to 16th century pottery is most likely residual.

### **Pit 514**

#### *Description*

Pit 514 was sub-circular in plan 1.1m long, 1.04m wide and 0.45m deep containing a single fill (513) of mid-greyish-brown sandy-silt containing some pebble inclusions (Figs. 3 and 5, S. 15). This pit had a similar profile and fill description as undated pits 508 and 512 located close by.

#### *Finds*

A single sherd of 18th to 19th century pottery was recovered from the fill (513) of pit 514.



*Discussion*

This pit is similar to undated pits 508 and 512 and may share a similar date and function.

**Post hole 539***Description*

Post hole 539 was circular in plan 0.35m in diameter and 0.35m deep and had a single fill (538) of greyish-brown sandy-silt containing occasional pebble and charcoal inclusions (Figs. 3 and 5, S.23). This post hole had similar dimensions and contained a similar fill as undated post holes 510, 520 and 535. Post hole 539 truncated buried land surface 523.

*Finds*

Two sherds of 16th to 17th century pottery were recovered from fill 538

*Discussion*

This post hole and the undated post holes (510, 520 and 535) do not seem to form any structure though they are morphological similar.

**4.3 Undated features****Pit 508***Description*

Pit 508 was sub-circular in plan 0.79m long, 0.55m wide and 0.25m deep and had a single fill (507) of a greyish-brown sandy-silt containing no visible inclusions (Fig. 3). This pit shared a similar profile, shape in plan and fill as an undated pit (512) and a 18th to 19th century pit (514) located close by.

*Finds*

No finds were recovered.

*Discussion*

This pit was similar to a undated pit (512) and 18th to 19th century pit (514) but no conclusions can be reached as to its function.

**Pit 512**

This pit was sub-circular, 1.08m long, 0.91m wide and 0.31m deep and held a single fill (511) of greyish-brown sandy-silt with rare pebble inclusions (Figs. 3 and 5, S. 14)

*Finds*

Small fragments of animal bone and teeth were recovered from the fill (511).

*Discussion*

Pit 512 as mention above had some similarities with an undated pit (508) and an 18th to 19th century pit (514). The poorly preserved animal bone recovered from fill 511, suggests it was a domestic rubbish pit that may have contained organic waste. The acidic soil conditions probably account for the poor preservation and lack of survival of any remaining bone which may suggest the possibility that similar pits 508 and 514 may have had a similar function.

### **Pit 522**

Pit 522 was oval in plan 0.6m long, 0.56m wide and 0.05m deep and had a single fill (521) of greenish-brown clayey-silt containing no visible inclusions (Fig. 3).

#### *Finds*

No finds were recovered from fill 521.

#### *Discussion*

This pit does not have any similarities with any of the surrounding pits and its function is unknown.

### **Post holes 510, 520 and 535**

#### *Description*

Post holes 510, 520 (Fig. 3) and 535 (Figs. 3 and 5, S. 22) were all circular in plan measuring an average 0.43m in diameter and 0.24m in depth. Each post hole contained a single fill (509, 519 and 534, respectively) of a greyish-brown sandy-silt. Fill 519 contained a large cobble-stone, fills 509 and 534 had no visible inclusions.

#### *Finds*

No finds were recovered from any of the fills.

#### *Discussion*

These post holes appear to share similar profiles, shape in plan and fill descriptions with 16th to 17th post hole 539 and appear to have contained circular shaped posts. However, no structure could be identified between the post holes in plan.

### **Post holes 516 and 518**

#### *Description*

Post holes 516 and 518 were circular in plan 0.28m in diameter and 0.23m in depth each having a greyish-brown sandy-silt fills (515 and 517 respectively), containing rare pebble inclusions (Fig. 3). Both had similar profiles

#### *Finds*

No finds were recovered from either of the fills of post holes 516 or 518.

#### *Discussion*

Post holes 516 and 518 were located close together and probably were contemporary, containing circular posts. No obvious conclusions can be drawn as to the function of these posts.

### **Post hole 533**

#### *Description*

This post hole was oval in plan 0.45m long, 0.3m wide and 0.14m deep and had a single fill (532) of greenish-brown clayey-silt containing no visible inclusions (Fig. 3.).

*Finds*

No finds were recovered from fill 532.

*Discussion*

There is a possibility that this heavily truncated post hole may have had a later support post on its northern side. It appears to share no similarities with other nearby post holes and no conclusions can be drawn as to its function.

**Cobble surface 528***Description*

Layer 528 was a yellowish-brown sandy-silt 3.8m long, 0.7m wide and 0.08m deep, containing frequent cobble and occasional charcoal inclusions (Fig. 5). Layer 528 truncated cobble surface 531, beam-slot 530 and part of pebble surface 524.

*Finds*

No finds were recovered from fill 528.

*Discussion*

This layer seems to represent a later phase of external re-surfacing after disuse and demolition of the post-medieval structure.

**4.4 19th – 20th century activity****Post holes and pits***Description*

A total of 24 post holes and 8 pits of probable modern date were exposed during the excavation and investigated (Figs. 3 and 4). The majority of the post holes were circular measuring between 0.3 to 0.5m in diameter and the pits were sub-circular measuring between 0.7m to 1m in diameter. Most of these features contained dark greyish-black sandy-silts with occasional brick and mortar fragments, coal, charcoal and pebble inclusions.

*Finds*

Each post hole and pit investigated contained 19th – 20th century pottery and/or brick fragments.

*Discussion*

The majority of these features were located outside the footprint of the former 19th century cottages and may represent scaffolding holes and rubbish pits used during construction of the cottages.

**Layers***Discussion*

A number of layers (500-504) containing 19th – 20th century material was observed within the south-east facing section of the excavation (Fig. 4). Layers 501, 502 and 504 were identified as levelling deposits; the former two consisted of gravels and the latter of demolition debris. A coal layer (503) was identified overlying the levelling deposits and probable represents a former coal storage area. These layers were sealed by a garden soil (500) which in

turn was sealed by the modern overburden consisting of hardcore and tarmac that formed the surface of the car park for the former working men's club.

## 5 Finds

### 5.1 Pottery by Chris Cumberpatch

#### Introduction

The pottery assemblage from Mere Lane, Armthorpe, consisted of 112 sherds of pottery weighing 1825 grams and represented a maximum of 108 vessels. Details of the assemblage are given in Table 1. The report on an assemblage from an earlier stage of work on the same site (Cumberpatch 2006a) should be read in conjunction with the present report.

#### Type series

##### *Coal Measures wares*

Examples of both Coal Measures Whiteware and Coal Measures Purple ware were identified in the assemblage. Full details of these wares and their manufacture have been published elsewhere (Cumberpatch 2004).

##### *Cistercian ware*

A small number of Cistercian ware sherds were identified and are described in Table 1. The date range (c.1460 – c.1600) is based upon a recent re-dating of this distinctive type of later medieval pottery by Anne Boyle (unpublished).

##### *Yellow ware*

Yellow wares appeared alongside Cistercian wares in the latter part of the 15th century (they are sometimes referred to as 'Reversed Cistercian ware'), and continued to be produced alongside the 17th century Blackwares (Moorhouse and Roberts 1992). The examples from Mere Lane were not closely datable, as noted in Table 1.

##### *Slipware*

Two distinct types of slipware were identified in the assemblage. These are *Slipware type 1*, a slip decorated version of the plain Redwares described below and *Slipware* represented principally by press moulded dishes with slip decoration internally and a single sherd from a hollow ware vessel (context 506) with white trailed slip decoration externally.

Slipwares were manufactured in South Yorkshire throughout the 18th century (Cumberpatch 2004b). Production probably began in the later 17th century, as it did elsewhere in the country, but to date no definite evidence has been found for this although there is evidence for the manufacture of Slipware Type 1 in West Yorkshire in the 17th century (summarised in Cumberpatch 2006c). Production of this type probably did not continue beyond the first decade of the 18th century, if indeed, it lasted as long as that.

It is of some interest to note that the pattern of slip application seen on the sherds from Mere Lane differs from that seen on slipwares from Barwick-in-Elmet (Cumberpatch 2006b) in that red slip is applied on top of white, rather than white on red at Barwick. The overall decorative effect is similar and the difference is only visible in cross-section. It is possible that such differences in technique, might, if identified as occurring on a regular basis within assemblages from individual potteries, permit the origin of particular sherds to

be established, something that cannot be done with any certainty on the basis of visual inspection of the fabrics.

#### *Redware*

Redware, characterised by its bright orange to red fabric and the use of clear glaze, is a distinctive ware type which appears to date to the 17th century and, at the latest, the early years of the 18th century. The slip decorated version (Slipware type 1) has been described above and both types appear principally as dishes, bowls and pancheons. A number of distinct fabric types have been distinguished at other sites (e.g. Cumberpatch 2002:191-192) and it appears to have been manufactured widely during the 17th century.

#### *Purple Glazed ware*

Purple Glazed coarsewares, also known as Midlands Purple wares, formed an important element in the transition from medieval to post-medieval pottery (Cumberpatch 2003). The examples identified at Mere Lane have much in common with the earlier varieties of Brown Glazed Fineware and given that the definition of both types is to a high degree imprecise, it is, in some cases, difficult to distinguish between them. This is particularly the case with the sherds from context 506 where a variety of fabrics occurred together and the finish included sherds with a brown to purple metallic glaze. In terms of chronology it would seem that the purple glazed wares, which appear as a coarseware component alongside Cistercian and Blackwares, are somewhat earlier than the Brown Glazed wares. This having been said, there is some evidence that the brown glazed wares follow the later Humberwares and if this is the case, then a 16th century date for their first appearance is not impossible (Cumberpatch 2003). The date ranges noted in Table 1 are based upon the characteristics of individual sherds or vessels rather than on general date ranges for the wares as a whole.

#### *Brown Glazed Coarseware and Fineware*

Brown Glazed Coarseware is ubiquitous on sites dating to the 18th and 19th century throughout South and West Yorkshire. As indicated above, its precise origin is unclear but it appears to represent a late development from the Humberware industry, although the range of forms rapidly moved away from those typical of Humberwares until, by the 18th century the principal form was the large open pancheon. The absence of such vessels and the presence of a number of sherds from jugs and other hollow wares may suggest that the group is of an earlier rather than a later date. As in the case of the Purple Glazed wares described above, date ranges have been ascribed on the basis of the characteristics of individual sherds rather than the broader date range for the type as a whole.

*Brown Glazed Finewares* form a distinctive group within the utilitarian ware tradition consisting mainly of smaller hollow wares (jars, jugs etc) and appear to be principally of later 17th and 18th century date. They seem to occur in 19th century contexts principally as a residual element.

#### *Yellow Glazed Coarseware*

Yellow Glazed Coarsewares are distinguished from their brown glazed counterparts by a layer of white slip internally, overlying the generally red to orange sandy textured fabric. Under the clear glaze this appears to be yellow

in colour and gives the wares their distinctive appearance and name. Pancheons and large bowls are the commonest form but the reason for the distinction between these and the brown glazed types is unclear. It is most probably related to vessel function and in this regard it may be significant that the yellow wares appear to be commoner on rural sites than on urban ones. Yellow Glazed Coarsewares must be distinguished from the Yellow wares described above which have a much finer, white to buff body and, where white slip is present this is much thinner and somewhat harder. The presence of a significant number of Yellow Glazed Coarseware pancheons and an absence of such vessels in Brown Glazed Coarseware suggests that the yellow glazed type is somewhat earlier than the brown glazed type, although it is also possible that the distinction relates to the uses for which the vessels were intended.

### **Discussion**

There appears to be little to distinguish the different contexts in terms of the date range of the material present and a high degree of residuality and heterogeneity seems to be a characteristic of the site as a whole. Only context 531 seems to be relatively homogeneous in terms of the date range (17th to early 18th century) and even here a sherd of Yellow ware may be somewhat earlier. Context 525 may be of later medieval date although it is difficult to rely on a total of only two sherds as the basis for such an assertion. Similarly those contexts which produced only single sherds (505, 513 and 529) cannot be unequivocally dated by those sherds, given the general evidence for residuality amongst the assemblage as a whole.

### **Conclusion**

Although small in size, the pottery assemblage from Mere Lane, Armthorpe is not without interest in that it includes material from a period that is somewhat poorly represented in terms of excavated sites in South Yorkshire. The presence of later medieval wares would seem to suggest activity on and around the site from the 14th century onwards, through the post-medieval period and into the later 17th or early 18th century.

Table 1: Pottery Catalogue

Context	Type	No.	Wt.	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
505	Green Glazed Sandy ware	1	3	1	BS	Hollow ware	Green glaze int & ext	LC15th - C16th	Oxidised fine sandy fabric
506	BGFW	15	79	15	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C17th - EC18th	Brown glaze on a red body
506	BGFW	1	6	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C17th - C18th	
506	BGFW type	1	14	1	Rim	Jar	Brown glaze int	C16th - C17th	Everted rim with pointed cap
506	BGFW type	1	4	1	Rim	Jar	Shiny brown glaze int & ext	C17th - C18th	Everted rim
506	Blackware type	1	5	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze ext	C17th	Probably a flask or costrel; unglazed int
506	CBM	2	34	2	Fragments	Roof tile	U/Dec	Undated	
506	Cistercian ware	1	2	1	Rim	Cup	U/Dec	c.1460 - c.1600	A brick red fabric rather than the more normal dark red
506	Cistercian ware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1460 - c.1600	Dark red fabric
506	Coal Measures Purple ware	1	45	1	Base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC15th - C16th	
506	Purple Glazed ware	3	14	3	BS	Hollow ware	Purple glaze ext	LC15th - EC17th	Hard, grey reduced fabric, possibly Coal Measures
506	Purple Glazed ware	5	54	5	BS	Hollow ware	Brown-purple glaze ext	C16th - C17th	Hard, dense semi-vitrified red fabric
506	Reduced Sandy ware	1	18	1	Base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C13th - C15th	Black deposit ext; abraded
506	Redware	4	103	4	BS	Dish	Clear glaze int	C17th - EC18th	Fabric and finish resembles Slipware type 1
506	Redware	2	9	1	Rim	Dish	Clear glaze int	C17th - C18th	Profiled rim, slightly inturned
506	Redware	1	26	1	BS	Dish	Mottled clear glaze int	C17th - C18th	Thick sherd with patchy glaze
506	Sandy ware	1	5	1	BS	Hollow ware	Green glaze with dark streaks ext	C13th - C15th	Fine black grit, sparse quartz and non-crystalline grit
506	Slipware	1	8	1	BS	Plate	White slip int with thin red slip lines, feathered	MC17th - C18th	Press moulded plate/dish
506	Slipware	1	11	1	BS	Plate	Red-brown bands on white slip background	MC17th - C18th	Press moulded dish

Context	Type	No.	Wt.	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
506	Slipware	1	10	1	BS	Hollow ware	White trailed wavy line ext	C17th - C18th	Slip decoration on a BGFW type body
506	Slipware type 1	1	15	1	BS	Dish	Trailed white slip int	C17th - C18th	
506	Slipware type 1	1	5	1	BS	Dish	Trailed white slip int	C17th - C18th	Heavily flaked and abraded
506	URE	1	10	1	Rim	Jar	Rounded rim	Post-medieval	Hard, dense reduced fabric with black grit
506	YG CW	1	32	1	Rim	Dish	White slip int	C17th - EC18th	Thin white slip on a red body
513	YG CW	1	12	1	BS	Pantheon	White slip int under clear glaze	C18th - C19th	
523	BGCW type	1	5	1	BS	Hollow ware	Purple glaze int	C17th - C18th	Patchy glaze int
523	Cistercian ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	MC15th - LC16th	
523	Coal Measures White ware	1	92	1	Base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC13th - EC15th	Pitted and abraded
523	Coal Measures White ware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC13th - EC15th	Sparse glaze ext
523	Redware type	1	23	1	Rim	Dish	Sparse clear glazing	C17th - EC18th	
524	BGCW	2	10	2	Base & BS	U/ID	Brown glazed	C17th - C18th	
524	Cistercian ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1460 - c.1600	
524	Redware	3	9	3	BS	Dish	Clear glaze int	C17th - EC18th	
524	Slipware type 1	1	12	1	BS	Dish	Wavy yellow slip line int	C17th	
524	URE	1	7	1	BS	U/ID	U/Dec	Post-medieval	
524	Yellow ware	1	18	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Yellow glaze int only	LC16th - C17th	
524	Yellow ware	1	10	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Yellow glaze int & ext; profiled rim	LC16th - C17th	Crazed yellow glaze
525	Green Glazed Sandy ware	1	35	1	Handle stump	Hollow ware	Green glaze int & ext	LC15th - C16th	
525	Late Medieval Gritty ware	1	6	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	Late Medieval	Unusual fabric with quartz and rounded non-crystalline grit



Context	Type	No.	Wt.	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
529	Coal Measures White ware	1	10	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown & yellow mottled glaze int, thin clear glaze ext	LC13th - LC14th	
531	BGFW	4	34	4	BS	Hollow ware	Red-brown glaze int & ext	C17th - EC18th	Glaze is slightly darker than Redware
531	BGFW	1	19	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown, slightly streaky glaze int & ext	C17th - EC18th	
531	Redware	1	67	1	Rim & handle	Hollow ware	Clear glaze int	C17th	Form resembles a Dutch Redware vessel
531	Redware	14	129	14	BS	Dish	Clear glaze int	C17th	Typical redware, glazed internally only
531	Slipware type 1	3	42	1	Rim	Dish	Wavy white slip line inside rim	C17th - EC18th	Clubbed rim
531	Slipware type 1	1	13	1	Rim	Dish	Wavy white slip line inside rim	C17th - EC18th	
531	Yellow ware	1	8	1	Handle & BS	Hollow ware	Yellow glaze int & ext	C16th - C17th	
531	YG CW	1	25	1	Rim	Dish	White slip int under clear glaze	C17th - C18th	
531	YG CW	4	30	3	BS	Pancheon	White slip int under clear glaze	C17th - C18th	
531	YG CW	1	20	1	Base	Pancheon	White slip int under clear glaze	C17th - C18th	Knife trimmed ext
538	BGCW	1	128	1	Rim & handle	Hollow ware	Brown glaze ext; patchy finish	C16th - C17th	Early BGCW with glaze pattern resembling Humberware
538	BGCW	1	10	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze ext; patchy finish	C16th - C17th	Early BGCW with glaze pattern resembling Humberware
U/S	BGCW	1	65	1	Rim	Bowl	Impressed lines ext below clubbed rim; brown glazed	LC17th - C18th	
U/S	BGCW	1	11	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext; profiled rim	C18th	Very fine red fabric
U/S	BSGSW	1	118	1	Base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C18th - C19th	Ring foot type pedestal base
U/S	Coal Measures White ware	1	71	1	Strap handle	Hollow ware	Sparse, friable green glaze	LC13th - LC14th	
U/S	Green Glazed Sandy ware	1	29	1	Rim	Bowl/Dish	Green glaze int & ext	C16th - C17th	
U/S	Purple Glazed ware	1	18	1	BS	Hollow ware	Purple glaze int & ext	C16th - C17th	
U/S	Redware	1	15	1	Rim	Dish	Clear glaze int	C17th -	

Context	Type	No.	Wt.	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
U/S	Redware type	1	48	1	Base	Pancheon	All glaze and slip removed from the int surface	EC18th	Knife trimmed ext
U/S	Slipware type 1	1	24	1	Base	Dish	White trailed slip design int	C17th - EC18th	
U/S	Stoneware	1	90	1	Base	Bottle	Pale green glaze int & ext	C19th	
U/S	Stoneware	1	44	1	Rim	Bowl	Brown ext, grey int	C19th	Kitchen bowl with thickened rim
	Total	112	1825	108					

## 5.2 Metalwork

### X-rays by Karen Barker

All the metal objects from Mere Lane, Armthorpe were x-rayed at 110KV for 45 seconds. X-ray plate K06/113

#### *Small find 1*

This small find was recovered from cobble surface 506 and was a copper alloy coin/token which was pierced possibly to be used as a pendant. This did not show up well on the x-ray and has been partially cleaned to allow for identification.

#### *Small find 2*

Small find 2 retrieved from buried land surface 523 was a curved thin piece of iron, hook like, but broken at both ends with no identifying features.

#### *Small find 3*

Small find 3 from cobble surface 531 was in 4 pieces and were the remains of a chain. None of the chain links are complete and they are plain loops of varying sizes.

#### *Small find 4*

This was a fragment of horseshoe recovered from cobble surface 531.

## 5.3 Nuremberg jeton

### Craig Barclay

This is a typical find of late 16<sup>th</sup>-early 17<sup>th</sup> century date (Plate 1). Many of Nuremberg jetons are 'signed' can be assigned to individual manufacturers, but this specimen has meaningless inscriptions on both sides.

Jeton; Nuremberg; Late C16th-early C17th

Anonymous 'rose-orb' issue

Obv) Three crowns and three lis around central rose

Initial mark lis; **MV[...]****MV[...]****VBA**

Rev.) Orb within double tressure

**MOBA[...]****MOBAMOB**

24mm; 1.15g; pierced; light wear

*MEE 06; Context 506; SF 1*



**Plate 1:** Nuremberg jeton

#### 5.4 Animal bones and marine shells by Jane Richardson

In total, 49 animal bone fragments and one marine shell were recovered. These are listed below by context (Table 2). Unfortunately, this assemblage is far too small to allow for meaningful interpretation, although the bones were typically well preserved, with few eroded surfaces.

The remains probably represent food debris in the main as, with the exception of a horse metacarpal, the bones came from the ‘meat’ animals, cattle and sheep. The meat component of the diet may have been supplemented by oysters, although with the recovery of only a single shell, the evidence is tentative. Except for some cattle tooth fragments from a sub-adult animal, no age data were recorded.

**Table 2. Animal bones and shell by context**

Context	Species	Element	Quantity
506	Cattle	Proximal metacarpal	1
	Cattle	Tibia fragments	3
	Cattle	Metatarsal fragments	2
511	Cattle	Deciduous P4 (early wear)	1
	Cattle	Tooth fragments	27
524	Oyster	Shell	1
525	Horse	Proximal metacarpal	1
	Sheep/goat	Tibia barrel	1
	Large mammal	Pelvis fragment	1
	Large mammal	Long bone fragment	1
	Large mammal	Rib fragment	1
531	Cattle	Pelvis	1
	Cattle	Pelvis fragment	1
	Cattle	Tibia fragment	1
	Cattle	Femur fragments	2
	Sheep/goat	Radius barrel	1
536	Cattle	Astragalus	1
	Large mammal	Rib fragment	1
U/S	Cattle	Humerus fragment	1
	Large mammal	Scapula fragment	1

## 6 Discussion

It appears that the earliest deposit on site was a late medieval buried land surface (523 and 527) containing probable intrusive 17th to 18th century pottery which may have originated from the construction of a post-medieval building (526 and 530). The beam-slots seemed to form the south-eastern corner of a structure with an internal pebble floor (524) and external cobble surfaces (506 and 531). Late medieval pottery was recovered from the fills of the beam slots, however, it is likely that this pottery is residual probably originating from the buried land surfaces (523 and 527). The majority of pottery from the internal floor (524) and external surfaces (506 and 531) certainly suggests the structure was occupied from the early post-medieval period up until the 17th to 18th century. Surfaces (506 and 531) appear to represent a cobbled yard probably surrounding the structure, and the pottery recovered from these surfaces is indicative of activities associated with a domestic building, probably a farm house or cottage.

The footprint of the structure seems to be on either a north to south or west to east orientation, continuing towards the north and west beneath the present day course of Mere Lane. The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1854 shows that the course of the lane has deviated further to the east since the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Undoubtedly, the course of Mere Lane must have been located further west during the occupation of the structure which would most likely have fronted the lane to the west.

The undated features consisting of three pits (508, 512 and 522) and six post holes (510, 516, 518 520, 533 and 535) are most likely to be post-medieval in date and probably contemporary with the post-medieval building. Cobble surface (528) seems to be a later post-medieval deposition after the destruction of the structure.

The full extent of three pits identified during the evaluation stage were recorded (ASWYAS 2006 Trench 1).

Modern activity is represented by pits, post holes and levelling deposits of 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The majority of these features seem to be associated with the development of the former 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages that truncated the post-medieval phase. Following the disuse and demolition of the cottages a 20<sup>th</sup> century working men's club and car park was constructed on the site. This was subsequently demolished to make way for the present development.

## **7 Conclusions**

The excavation revealed the remains of a possible late medieval surface that was truncated by an early post-medieval structure that may have been a former farm house probably constructed during the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century. Pottery recovered from the internal and external stone surfaces associated with the structure suggests it was in use up until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Other discrete features identified were also of post-medieval date, probably contemporary with activities associated with the structure.

Combining the results of the previous archaeological evaluation (AWYAS 2006) and this excavation it can be concluded that archaeological remains survive further to the west beneath the present course of Mere Lane. Although, a possible late medieval buried land surface was identified and residual medieval pottery was recovered, no evidence for other archaeological remains of this period was identified.

## 8 Archive

The archive consists of this report, all other relevant project documentation, including the project design (ASWYAS 2006), primary archive (see Table 7.1), all non confidential project correspondence and all retained finds from the site. The archive will be prepared in accordance with relevant guidance documents (Walker 1990 and MGC 1994) and deposited at Doncaster Museum.

**Table 3: Inventory of primary archive**

File no.	Description	Quantity
1	Context registers	2 (context nos. 500- 539)
1	Context cards	40
1	Environmental samples registers	1 (sample nos. 1 & 2)
1	Drawing registers	1 (drawing nos. 10- 23)
1	Drawing sheets	4 (sheet nos. 1-3 small permatrace, sheet no. 4 large permatrace)
1	Photographic register	2
1	35mm colour film sheets	1
1	35mm black and white film sheets	1
1	Trench record sheets	1
1	Small Find register	1 (Small finds 1 – 4)

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**Other Sources**

Ordnance Survey 1854 (1<sup>st</sup> edition), 6 inch to 1 mile



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Karen Barker (X-rays)

Chris Cumberpatch (Pottery)

Jane Richardson (Animal bone and marine shell)

## Appendix A

### Context summary

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation	Date
<b>Excavation area</b>				
500	Layer	Greyish-black sandy-silt 21.8m in length, 8.5m in width and 0.3m in depth, containing occasional pebble-stone and occasional charcoal and coal inclusions	Garden soil	19th – 20th century
501	Layer	Greyish-brown sandy-silt 6.2m in length, 4m in width and 0.26m in depth containing frequent brick, tile and mortar fragments inclusions	Levelling deposit of demolition debris	19th – 20th century
502	Layer	Orange-brown silty-sand 3.4m in length, 2m in width and 0.16m in depth containing occasional pebble-stone-stone inclusions	Levelling deposit	19th century
503	Layer	Greyish-black coal and coal dust 4.5m in length, 2.8m in width and 0.03m in depth containing occasional pebble-stone-stone inclusions	Spread of coal and coal dust of a probable former coal storage area	18th – 19th century
504	Layer	Orange-brown silty-sand 13.2m in length, 5.1m in width and 0.4m in depth containing frequent pebble-stone-stone and occasional charcoal inclusions	Gravel levelling	18th – 19th century
505	Layer	Pale yellowish-brown clayey-silt 2.75m in length, 1.4m in width and 0.08m in depth containing rare red brick fragments and occasional pebble-stone stone and charcoal inclusions	Probable clay dumping deposit	18th – 19th century
506	Layer	Greyish-brown sandy-silt 4.6m in length, 3.75m in width and 0.1m in depth, containing frequent cobble-stones, rare red brick fragments, occasional coal and charcoal inclusions	External cobble surface	17th – 18th century
507	Layer	Greyish-brown sandy-silt 0.79m in length, 0.55m in width and 0.25m in depth, containing no visible inclusions	Single fill of pit 508	Undated
508	Cut	Sub-circular, 0.79m in length, 0.55m in width and 0.25m in depth	Pit filled by 507	Undated
509	Fill	Greyish-brown sandy-silt 0.39m in length, 0.37m in width and 0.19m in depth, containing no visible inclusions	Single fill of post hole 510	Undated
510	Cut	Circular, 0.39m in length, 0.37m in width and 0.19m in depth	Post hole filled by 509	Undated
511	Fill	Greyish-brown sandy-silt 1.08m in length, 0.91m in width and 0.31m in depth, containing rare pebble-stone stone inclusions	Single fill of pit 512	Undated
512	Cut	Sub-circular, 1.08m in length, 0.91m in width and 0.31m in depth	Pit filled by 511	Undated

Context		Type	Description	Interpretation		Date
Excavation area						
513	Fill	Mid-greyish-brown sandy-silt 1.1m in length, 1.04m in width and 0.45m in depth, containing rare pebble-stone inclusions	Single fill of pit 514			18th to 19th century
514	Cut	Sub-circular, 1.1m in length, 1.04m in width and 0.45m in depth	Pit filled by 513			18th to 19th century
515	Fill	Greyish-brown sandy-silt 0.32m in diameter and 0.32m in depth containing rare pebble-stone inclusions	Single fill of post hole 516			Undated
516	Cut	Circular, 0.32m in diameter and 0.32m in depth	Post hole filled by 515			Undated
517	Fill	Greyish-brown sandy-silt 0.35 in diameter and 0.14m in depth containing rare pebble-stone inclusions	Single fill of post hole 518			Undated
518	Cut	Circular, 0.35m in diameter and 0.14m in depth	Post hole filled by 517			Undated
519	Fill	Greyish-brown sandy-silt, 0.5m in diameter and 0.33m in depth, containing a large cobble-stone inclusion	Single fill of post hole 520			Undated
520	Cut	Circular, 0.5m in diameter and 0.33m in depth	Post hole filled by 519			Undated
521	Fill	Greenish-brown clayey-silt 0.6m in length, 0.56m in width and 0.05m in depth containing no visible inclusions	Single fill of pit 522			Undated
522	Cut	Oval, 0.6m in length, 0.56m in width and 0.05m in depth	Pit filled by 521			Undated
523	Layer	Greyish-brown sandy-silt 2.2m in length, 1m excavated in width and 0.06m in depth containing occasional pebble-stone inclusions and charcoal inclusions	Former land surface			Late medieval?
524	Layer	Reddish-brown sandy-silt 4.7m in length, 2.25m in width and 0.08m in depth containing frequent pebble-stone inclusions and occasional charcoal inclusions	Internal pebble floor			Early post-medieval
525	Fill	Dark grey sandy-silt 4.5m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.18m in depth containing occasional cobble stone and charcoal inclusions	Single fill of beam-slot 526			Early post-medieval
526	Cut	Linear 4.5m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.18m in depth	Beam-slot filled by 525			Early post-medieval
527	Layer	Mid-brown sandy-silt 3.8m in length, 1m excavated in width and 0.08m in depth containing occasional pebble-stone inclusions	Former land surface			Late medieval?
528	Layer	Yellowish-brown sandy-silt 3.8m in length, 0.7m in width and 0.08m in depth containing frequent cobble-stone and occasional charcoal inclusions	Cobble surface			Undated
529	Fill	Dark grey sandy-silt 2.25m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.04m in depth containing occasional cobble stone and charcoal inclusions	Single fill of beam-slot 530			Early post-medieval
530	Cut	Linear, 2.25m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.04m in depth	Beam-slot filled by 529			Early post-medieval
531	Layer	Layer of greyish-brown sandy-silt 3.4m in length, 2.6m in width and 0.08m in depth containing frequent cobble	External cobble surface			17th – 18th century

Context		Type	Description	Interpretation		Date
Excavation area			stone and occasional charcoal and coal inclusions			
532	Fill	Greenish-brown clayey-silt 0.45m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.14m in depth containing no visible inclusions	Single fill of post hole 533		Undated	
533	Cut	Oval, 0.45m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.14m in depth	Post hole filled by 532		Undated	
534	Fill	Dark greyish-brown sandy-silt 0.41m in diameter and 0.22m in depth containing no visible inclusions	Single fill of post hole 535		Undated	
535	Cut	Circular, 0.41m in diameter and 0.22m in depth	Post hole filled by 534		Undated	
536	Fill	Greyish-brown/orange mix, sandy-silt 0.5m in diameter and 0.6m in depth containing occasional cobble-stone, charcoal, coal and brick fragment inclusions	Single fill of post hole 537		19th – 20th century	
537	Cut	Circular, 0.5m in diameter and 0.6m in depth	Large post hole filled by 536		19th – 20th century	
538	Fill	Greyish-brown sandy-silt 0.35m in diameter and 0.35m in depth containing occasional pebble-stone and charcoal inclusions	Single fill of post hole 539		16th to 17th century	
539	Cut	Circular, 0.35m in diameter and 0.35m in depth	Post hole filled by 538		16th to 17th century	

**Appendix B**  
**Plates**



Plate 1: Nuremburg Jeton



Plate 2: Southeast Section and Cobbled Area, Pre-excavation





Plate 3: SW facing section of pit 514



Plate 4 section through post hole 537





Plate 5: General shot of site post-excavation, looking east