DRAFT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT 26, COWL STREET, EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE

Tom Vaughan

With contributions by Laura Griffin and Elizabeth Pearson

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

27th April 2007

Historic Environment and Archaeology Service,
Worcestershire County Council,
Woodbury,
University of Worcester,
Henwick Grove,
Worcester WR2 6AJ

Project 3070
Report 1531
WSM 29513

Contents

Archaeological evaluation at 26, Cowl Street, Evesham, Worcestershire

Tom Vaughan

With contributions by Laura Griffin and Elizabeth Pearson

Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 26, Cowl Street, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR: SP 0389 4384). It was undertaken on behalf of Evesham and Pershore Housing Association, who intends residential redevelopment for which a planning application has been submitted. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate its nature, date and location.

The evaluation identified deposits, features and structures of medieval and post-medieval date. The medieval remains were mostly identified along the frontage, comprising the stonewalls and foundations of a *c* 14th century building, predated by several 13th century pits and postholes to the east, and a butted by a sequence of 16th century deposits to the west. A further 13th century pit was identified at the rear of the plot.

The structural remains comprised a north-south aligned unmortared wall of lias stone, which turned west at the north end, and east at the south end. It was butted by a square structure on the southern alignment. The main structure is considered to form part of a typical high-status medieval town-house, possibly part of the same building as that identified during a previous watching brief of 25, Cowl Street (WSM 25970). The small additional structure is conjectured to be a garderobe or cess-pit. The postholes observed adjacent may represent activity relating to the original construction of the building.

Deposits to the rear of the plot included garden soils and make-up layers of 16th century date, along with similarly dated pits which appeared to have been used for tanning (although evidence of metal smithing was also forthcoming), which were in turn sealed by garden soils of the 17th century.

The building on the frontage may have stood until the 18th century, and later in the same century a new building was erected, which caused disturbance of earlier deposits. This building occupied the site until its demolition *c* 1982.

The site is considered to be of *regional importance*, given the good level of survival, the relative rarity of the remains, their vulnerability and the high potential for additional information, which relate directly with a number of research aims identified within the West Midlands Research Frameworks Seminar.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 26, Cowl Street, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR: SP 0389 4384; Fig 1), on behalf of Evesham and Pershore Housing Association. The client intends redevelopment with ten residential units and has submitted a planning application to Wychavon District Council (ref. W/07/00441), who considers that remains of archaeological interest may be affected (WSM 3571 and 20774).

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999).

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Planning Advisory Section of the County Archaeology Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council (CAS 1997a), for which two project proposals (including detailed specification) were produced (CAS 1997b; HEAS 2007).

1.3 Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation. The purpose of this was to establish their significance, since this would make it possible to recommend an appropriate treatment, which may then be integrated with the proposed development programme.

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary search

A search was made of Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) and material used from Worcestershire County Record Office (WCRO). In addition to the sources listed in the bibliography the following were also consulted:

Cartographic sources

- Plan of the Parish of St Lawrence and All Saints, Evesham, 1827, surveyed by N Izod, WCRO r.899:251/BA5044 parcel 15
- 1st edition Ordnance Survey, 1886, 6":1 mile, sheet XXXIX
- 1st edition Ordnance Survey, 1886, 25":1 mile, sheet XLIX.3
- Ordnance Survey, 1903, 25":1 mile, sheet XLIX.3

The following sources were not considered relevant to this project: aerial photographs.

2.2 Fieldwork methodology

2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (CAS 1997; HEAS 2007).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 25th April and 7th July 2000. The site reference number and site code is WSM 29513.

Two trenches, amounting to just over 50.40m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 581m², representing a sample of *c* 8.7%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 180º wheeled excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

2.2.2 Structural analysis

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

2.3 Artefact methodology, by Laura Griffin

2.3.1 Artefact recovery policy

All artefacts from the area of salvage recording were retrieved by hand and retained in accordance with the service manual (CAS 1995 as amended).

2.3.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. Artefacts were identified, quantified and dated and a *terminus post quem* date produced for each stratified context.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992; Hurst 1994).

2.4 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson

2.4.1 Sampling policy

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995, appendix 4). Large animal bone and large molluscs were hand-collected during excavation. Samples of 10 to 20 litres were taken from six pits (one of which is conjectured to be a garderobe) of medieval to post-medieval date (Table 1).

2.4.2 **Method of analysis**

The samples were processed by flotation followed by wet-sieving using a Siraf tank. The flot was collected on a 300µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were fully sorted by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. The flots were fully sorted using a low power EMT stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by the Service, and seed identification manual (Beijerinck 1947). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the Flora of the British Isles, 3rd edition (Stace 2001).

A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammerscale.

2.5 The methods in retrospect

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

3. Topographical and archaeological context

The site lies to the east of the centre of Evesham, within the parish of St Lawrence and All Saints. It occupies a long narrow, sub-rectangular plot of land, approximately 8m wide by 59m long, on the west-north-west side of the street (Fig 1). It is currently disused, having been the subject of a failed development proposal in 2000. It is a roughly flat area, at a height of approximately 35.50m AOD along the frontage, rising gradually to approximately 36.75m AOD to the rear.

Evesham is a market town, located within a meander of the River Avon. It lies in the centre of the Vale of the Evesham, toward the western edge of Worcestershire, north of the Cotswolds escarpment. The underlying drift geology comprises gravels of the Second and Third Terrace of the River Avon (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1974). Regarding the soils, the site lies within an unsurveyed urban area. However, the soils along the river to the east belong to the Fladbury 1 soil association (813b), comprising stoneless clayey soils, in places calcareous, variably affected by groundwater, on flat land with a risk of flooding. To the north the soils along the west bank of the river belong to the Wick 1 soil association (541r), comprising deep, well drained coarse loamy and sandy soils, locally over gravel; some similar soils affected by groundwater, with a slight risk of water erosion. Otherwise, to the north and south of the town, the main soil association is Evesham 2 (411b), comprising slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils, some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey and fine loamy or fine silty over clayey soils; associated with irregular local terrain and landslips. The parent material comprises respectively: river alluvium; glaciofluvial or river terrace gravel; Jurassic and Cretaceous clay (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

The town has been the subject of a desk-based survey of all previous archaeological work in the town, undertaken as part of the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey (Dalwood 1996). A number of more recent archaeological investigations have also been completed within the immediate vicinity of the present site. In summary:

There is little evidence of activity of prehistoric date within the area. A small number of flint tools have been found within the town (WSM 21047 and 21048), and deposits relating to prehistoric activity have been recorded during investigations at 95-7, High Street (WSM 26358, 27191 and 28764). Evidence for Iron Age and Roman activity is similarly minimal, although evidence of 2nd - 3rd century occupation has been identified at Vine Street to the west (WSM 30354, 30578 and 32766) and at Twyford Bridge to the north (WSM 02757).

Etymological and documentary evidence indicates an Anglo-Saxon date for the establishment of the town. There are three distinct names for Evesham, all of which first appear in documents of the very early 8th century: *Ethom*; *Cronuchomme*, *Cronochomme*; and *Eveshomme*, *Eouesham*. The first form is thought to derive from the All are considered to contain the suffix *-hamm*, referring to the bend in the river. The prefix *Et-* is considered to be a late spelling of the Old English *æt*. *Cronuc-* is considered to derive from the Old English *cornoc* or *cranoc*, meaning a crane or possibly a heron. The last is thought to derive from the Old English personal name *Ēof* (Mawer and Stenton 1927, 262-3).

Archaeological evidence for early Anglo-Saxon occupation is, however, limited to the Hampton - Fairfield area to the south-west of the town, on the west bank of the river. The medieval core of the town lies on the west bank of the river within the centre of the present urban area, with the medieval suburb of Bengeworth on the east bank. The present site, on Cowl Street, lies within an area of medieval tenement plots and is conjectured to have been laid out in the late 11th or early 12th century, after a document of 1202 which refers to a *Colestrete* (WSM 20774; VCH II, 371); and a number of archaeological investigations:

25, Cowl Street, adjacent to the north-east, was the subject of investigations in 1997, which revealed activity from the 12th century onwards. The earliest activity comprised a series of 12th-13th century rubbish pits to the rear of the plot and an associated stone wall footing along the southern boundary with the present site. This latter was on a slightly different alignment (east-west) to the present boundary and had been truncated by a well-preserved, substantial stone lined cellar. This had extant steps, was conjectured to be of 15-17th century date, and had remained in use at least until the 1970s (Napthan 1997; WSM 25970).

South of the present site, 31, Cowl Street, was investigated in 2003. The earliest remains identified included a north-south aligned linear cut of late 12th-early 13th century date, interpreted to be a boundary feature, although it was on an oblique angle to the street frontage. The site appears to have remained largely open and contained a series of rubbish pits from the late 12th century onwards, including evidence of small scale metal working in the 13th - early 14th century, and a well of the 15th century. The earliest evidence of substantial structural remains date to the 17th - 18th century and comprised timber framed buildings founded on dwarf stone walls (Cook 2003; WSM32284).

The evidence from the above excavations, with the addition of findings from 4-7, Cowl Street (WSM 01958), may indicate that the earliest street layout of this medieval suburb was somewhat different to the present arrangement, being a more strict gird plan, orientated north-south and east-west.

An open area was excavated to the rear of 19, Cowl Street, at the north end of the road in 2001, which revealed rubbish and cess pits of medieval and post-medieval date along the present southern boundary. The former contained a large proportion of lime, and many animal bone fragments (Lockett and Jones 2001; WSM 20775). Toward the south-east end of the road, a project at 2, Cowl Street identified a linear feature, conjectured to be a medieval boundary ditch, which ran parallel to the modern frontage, and a wall foundation which predated a Victorian well (Williams 2006; WSM 35778). Closer to the river, investigations to the rear of 23-25, Mill Street revealed limited remains of 12th-13th century activity (Fagan *et al* 1994; WCM 17838). Lastly, works in Swan Lane to the north-east have confirmed that the suburbs extended well beyond Cowl Street by the 13th century (Napthan 1997, 1).

The present site was previously occupied by an 18th century residential building (WSM 03571). This comprised a two-storey house, with dormers, a Welsh slate roof, and coved eaves cornice, four double hung sash windows, a six-panel door within an entrance below transom lights, and a garage. It was demolished *c* 1982, after which the site has remained vacant.

To the south-west, at the rear of 28-30, Cowl Street, is the Society of Friends' (Quakers) Meeting House with associated former burial ground, established in 1676 (WSM 19555, 20731 and 22594).

4. Results

4.1 Structural analysis

The trench locations are shown in Fig 2; the features recorded are shown in Figs 3-6. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

4.1.1 Natural deposits

The natural matrix comprised brownish orange silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded pebble gravel. It was observed in both trenches; in Trench 1, at 0.36m+ below the ground surface; and in Trench 2, at 0.60m+ below the ground surface; having been truncated by the features described below (Sections 4.1.2 to 4.1.4).

4.1.2 Romano-British deposits

No deposits of this date were identified, although a single residual sherd of pottery was recovered from the fill of 132, a later pit feature (Section 4.2.1 below).

4.1.3 Medieval deposits

The medieval remains were mostly contained within Trench 1, and comprised the stonewalls and foundations of a building in the centre of the trench (102 and 112), a number of pits and postholes to the east (105, 131, 135, 138, 140, 162, 163, 165, 167 and 169), and a sequence of deposits to the west (125, 127-130).

The structural remains comprised a north-south aligned wall, which returned east at 90° at its southern end, and west at a slightly more acute angle at its northern end (102), and a square structure which butted the south face of the southern east-west aligned wall (112; Fig 3). Both the walls and square structure were built of unmortared lias fragments laid in semi-regular courses and faced on both sides. The full extent of the building represented by these remains is uncertain: the southern east-west aligned wall may have originally extended eastwards to the street frontage, although only a short length had survived due to recent truncation in this area, while the northern east-west wall appeared to continue further to the west. To the north of the trench, a watching brief in 1997 identified the remains of a stone-lined cellar which may have formed part of the original building, or been a later addition (WSM 25970). Compacted cobble layers 159 and 160 may represent floor surfaces associated with the building.

The sequence of layers 125, 127-130 observed to the west of, and butting structure 102, are considered to represent make-up layers, laid down during use of the building. They were cut through by an irregular ditch cut, 116, of unknown function, which terminated abruptly within the angle of the wall 102.

The pits and postholes identified to the east of wall 102 are of two distinct groups, both of which appear to predate the structure. 135, is the earliest, and comprised a very wide, deep, sub-circular pit (Fig 6). It was cut by a number of postholes (105, 131, 138, 140, 162, 163, 165, 167 and 169) which formed an apparent group, possibly relating to the construction of 102.

A single pit, 156, of medieval date was recorded within Trench 2 to the rear of the plot (Fig 6). It is conjectured to have been used for general rubbish disposal.

4.1.4 **Post-medieval/modern deposits**

The post-medieval evidence comprises the remains of a brick-vaulted cellar and stonewalls in Trench 1; and a garden soil and pits in Trench 2.

Along the north side of the site, a well-constructed stonewall, with additional brick infilling was identified directly below the surface (174). It was associated with a brick and tile floor surface, laid in a herringbone pattern (173 and 175). The construction of this building, in the 18th century, and subsequent removal *c* 1982, caused the truncation of the medieval structural remains described above (Section 4.1.3)

The brick cellar and stone wall along the south side of Trench 1 (no numbers assigned) are also conjectured to be associated with the 18th century building which occupied the street frontage. This structure was in turn disturbed by a service trench.

The main feature in Trench 2 is a large, vertically-sided and flat-bottomed pit, 151 (cutting medieval pit 156, Section 4.1.3 above) with a clay lining, 154, and secondary fills, 149 and 150, including a deposit of concentrated lime, 144 and 155. In view of the pit's shape and size, and the nature of its fills, it is considered to be a tanning pit, probably one of several in the vicinity, although a small quantity of smithing slag was also retrived. The pit contained pottery of early to mid 16th century date, including several sherds of imported German stoneware. This phase of tanning was apparently superseded by a phase of horticulture, represented by a garden soil, 145, of early 17th century date, although a pit (unnumbered) cutting this deposit also contained concentrated lime (and mollusc shells) suggesting the continuation of small scale industrial activity.

Trench 2 also contained several deposits of made ground, a pit, two water drains and former surfaces, all of modern date (for which numbers were not assigned).

4.1.5 **Undated deposits**

No deposits, structures or layers of defined pre-medieval date were identified. A number of features may be associated with any dated features, although did not contain any intrinsically dateable material. These included postholes 106 and 142. The latter was truncated by 13th century pit 135; both may be associated with the medieval small pits and postholes adjacent (Section 4.1.3).

4.2 Artefact analysis, by Laura Griffin

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Appendix 4: Tables 1 to 3.

A substantial assemblage totalling 327 artefacts weighing 13.93kg was retrieved from the site. The assemblage was of mixed date spanning from the Roman to post-medieval periods. The finds were spot-dated and in the case of those from stratified deposits, this date was used to aid phasing of the site.

Pottery formed the largest material group totalling 128 sherds, weighing 1723g and accounting for 39% of the overall assemblage. The general condition of the sherds was very good with little evidence of abrasion. The majority of sherds could be dated to the medieval and post-medieval periods, although a single sherd of Samian ware dating to the Roman period was identified as residual within context 131. All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (see Table 2). A total of 17 diagnostic form sherds were present and could be dated accordingly; the remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span. Where mentioned, all specific forms are referenced to the type series within the report for Deansway, Worcester (Bryant 2004).

Ceramic building material formed the second largest material group, accounting for 33% of the assemblage. The vast majority could be identified as fragments of flat roof tile of a long-lived type produced between the 13th and 18th centuries. Other building material consisted of three pieces of brick were also retrieved from contexts 100 and 108 and 14 pieces of stone which appear to have been used structurally, the majority as roof tile. Two fragments of plaster were also recovered from context 107.

A total of 43 pieces of iron were recovered, the majority being nails. However, there was small number of larger objects, which could not be identified at this stage due to the build up of corrosion products. In addition, six pieces of metalworking slag were retrieved from the site and fell broadly into two different types, smithing and fuel ash waste.

Other finds included two pieces of worked bone (context 107), five pieces of clay pipe dating to the 18th century (context 122 and unstratified), two pieces of post-medieval vessel glass (context 100) and three unidentifiable fragments of copper alloy (contexts 115 and 122).

4.2.1 Discussion

The discussion below is a summary of the finds and associated location or contexts by period. Where possible, *terminus post quem* dates have been allocated and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

Roman

Material of this date consisted of a single, residual fragment of samian ware (fabric 43), which was retrieved from context 131 and could be dated to between the late 1st and early 3rd centuries AD.

Medieval

A total of eight contexts (102, 104, 110, 111, 115, 131, 136 and 148) could be allocated a terminus post quem of medieval date, on the basis of the material retrieved. Of these, two contexts (111 and 115), appeared to be of particular significance, containing relatively large groups of pottery of 14th-15th century date.

The medieval pottery assemblage consisted of 107 sherds weighing 1260g, accounting for 84% of the total pottery assemblage. The material displayed a range of fabric types and forms not only from production sites within Worcestershire, but also further afield with wares from Brill-Boarstall in Buckinghamshire and various fabrics thought to be of either Oxford or Gloucestershire production. The dating indicated by these sherds ranged from the early 13th-early 16th centuries. The assemblage displayed a standard range of domestic vessel forms commonly seen on sites of this type and date, consisting primarily of jug and cooking pot forms.

Local wares were dominated by products of the Malvernian industry, with 51 sherds of the oxidised glazed fabric identified (fabric 69). Forms present within this group included two rounded jugs (form type 69.4) of late 14th-15th century date (contexts 102 and 111), four jar/pipkin vessels (form type 69.7) dating between the late 15th-16th centuries (contexts 100, 150 and unstratified in trenches 1 and 2) and a small cup (form type 69.11) of the same date (context 150).

The second largest fabric group consisted of sherds of Evesham micaceous wares (fabrics 148.1 and 148.2), which as the name suggests, are thought to have been produced in the Evesham area. The sherds closely resemble those of Worcester-type wares, in both fabric and form but are distinctive because of abundant mica inclusions. Sherds of this type are generally found in number on sites within Evesham or surrounding towns and villages. Identifiable forms within the unglazed wares consisted of nine cooking pots (contexts 100, 108, 111, 122,

136, 145, 148 and trench 2 unstratified), which could be dated between the mid 12th and early 14th centuries. In addition, the foot and base from a tripod pitcher was identified within the glazed fabric and could be dated between the 12th and early 13th centuries.

Worcester-type wares (fabrics 55 and 64.1) amounted to just eight sherds, presumably due to the local production discussed above. The most interesting sherd was a strap handle which had a white slip underneath the characteristic green glaze more commonly seen on vessels of the glazed fabric. Sherds decorated in this distinctive manner are generally from bridge-spouted jugs (form type 64.1.4.2) of 13th-14th century date (V Bryant pers comm.). Other identifiable sherds included one from a jug with impressed decoration (context 115) and two sherds from a cooking pot (context 115) dating between the 13th and 14th centuries.

Non-local wares within the assemblage were dominated by sherds of Brill -Boarstall wear (fabric 63; contexts 108, 110, 111 and 115). Sherds of this fabric within Worcestershire are generally from jug forms of 13th-14th century date.

Remaining sherds were of fabric types not commonly identified within the County and therefore, were grouped as 'miscellaneous medieval wares' (fabric 99). Within this group were two sherds of distinctive fabrics containing a significant proportion of shell (context 111). One was a rim from a cooking pot, the other was also a rim sherd but distinctively decorated with a white slip and greenish yellow overglaze. The presence of shell within these sherds would suggest a provenance of either Oxfordshire or Gloucestershire for these sherds.

Remaining sherds consisted of a variety of glazed wears, including one of a distinctive micaceous ware (context 111), decorated in a style reminiscent of Deritend ware, with an applied strip of white clay and a brown glaze. It is almost certain that this sherd came from a jug and is likely to date between the 13th and 14th centuries. A further sherd was of particular note due to it containing large, iron-rich inclusions and having a dark green external glaze which seemed lie over an iron-rich slip (context 111).

In addition to the pottery, other ceramic material of medieval date consisted of 17 fragments of flat roofing tile (contexts 111, 115 and 131). A small number of pieces displayed the peg holes and nibs used for fixing the tiles to the roof. There were two glazed roof tiles of Malvernian fabric and remaining fragments are likely to be of local production. In addition the ceramic tile, five pieces of stone also appear to have been used as roofing material with two displaying nail holes (contexts 115 and 148).

Remaining finds of this period consisted of 29 fragments of iron (contexts 110, 111, 115 and 136), including a number of nails, two small fragments of copper alloy (context 115) and two pieces of fuel ash slag (context 148). A further

Post-medieval

A total of eight contexts (101, 107, 108, 113, 122, 145, 150, 152) could be allocated a terminus post quem of post-medieval date on the basis of material found within them. Material ranged from the 16th-18th centuries in date and once more, was dominated by pottery.

In contrast to the medieval pottery, the post-medieval assemblage consisted entirely of sherds commonly seen in Worcestershire between the late 16th-18th centuries. Once more, this included oxidised glazed Malvernian ware (fabric 69; contexts 107, 113 and 122), with sherds from this period coming from flared bowl forms (form type 69.9) and representing the latest phase of the industry which is thought to have ceased in the early 17th century (D Hurst pers comm). Other sherds of this date consisted of a series of drinking vessels in a hard fired red fabric decorated with a distinctive dark brown glaze with white speckles (fabric 72; contexts 107, 115, 145 and 150) and two sherds of Raeran stoneware with a transparent glossy glaze, characteristic of this fabric type (fabric 81.8; contexts 145 and 152).

Remaining sherds could be dated between the mid 17th and 18th centuries and consisted of post medieval red wares (fabric 78; contexts 100 and 122) and buff wares (fabric 91; context 122 and trench 2 unstratified). The sherds from the latter came from slip-decorated dishes typical of this fabric type.

Ceramic building material from contexts of post-medieval date included 102 fragments of flat roof tile (contexts 101, 107, 145, 150, 152 and trench 2 unstratified), with a large proportion likely to be residual and of medieval date. In addition, three pieces of brick were also retrieved (contexts 100 and 108) and could be dated to the 18th century by associated finds. Once more, a number of fragments of building stone were also identified within contexts from this period (contexts 107, 108 and 150).

As in the case of the medieval metalwork, material dating to the post-medieval period consisted primarily of nails and unidentifiable amorphous fragments. There was also a small unidentifiable fragment of copper alloy within context 122. In addition, two pieces of smithing slag were retrieved from context 150.

Remaining post-medieval material of note consisted of five fragments of clay pipe (context 122 and trench 2 unstratified) and two fragments of worked bone (context 107). These pieces of bone were both from the same object and appeared to display some sort of 'keying' in the form of a lattice of engraved lines on one surface, possibly for the purpose of inlay.

4.3 Environmental analysis, by Elizabeth Pearson

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Appendix 3: Tables 1 to 5.

4.3.1 Hand-retrieved material

A total of 2.09 kg (112 fragments) of animal bone was hand-collected from 10 contexts during excavation (Table 3). This was well preserved, consisting of mostly cattle and sheep bones. However, as this was a small assemblage it was not considered to merit full analysis.

A small number of oyster shells and land snails (*Cepaea* sp) were also hand-collected, consisting of 51g and 5 shells.

4.3.2 Macrofossil remains

Medieval pits (112: fill 111; 132: fill 133; and 135: fill 136)

A small quantity of charred plant remains was recovered from all three contexts, consisting of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp free-threshing) and hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grains in association with oat grain (*Avena* sp) and weed seeds such as common vetch (*Vicia sativa*) and possibly thorow-wax (cf *Bupleurum rotundifolium*). These remains are likely to have been charred as a result of small-scale parching of grain on domestic fires and spillages during cooking, or as a result of cereal crop waste being thrown on to fires. This material would have been thrown in to pits along with other domestic waste.

A small amount of mineralised plant material, in association with phosphate concretions was present in all three contexts. This material was difficult to identify, but included seeds of arable weeds, such as tentatively identified corncockle (cf *Agrostemma githago*) and thorow-wax (cf *Bupleurum rotundifolium*) and field gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*). Seeds of elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) are most likely to derive from vegetation growing on neglected and overgrown ground in the vicinity of the pits, and seeds of fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), an edible herb, may have originated from gardens nearby, kitchen waste or latrine waste. Pit fill 133 was identified as a possible garderobe during excavation, an interpretation which would be consistent with the mineralised material recovered. However, fruit pips which are the most common component of mineralised cess pit

assemblages were not noted in these assemblages. It is likely that some of the mineralised seeds derived from a number of sources (such as cereal crop waste and weedy vegetation surrounding the pits) and have simply become mineralised as a result of the presence of latrine waste.

A small quantity of fragmented large mammal bone, fish and bird bone and also hammerscale were noted in the residues.

Medieval to post-medieval pit (151: fills 154 and 155)

A small number of mollusc remains which included *Discus rotundatus* and *Oxychilus* sp indicate a wooded or shady environment around pit 151 (Context 154). Occasional seeds of elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) from this context are also likely to derive from wooded or scrub vegetation. Only occasional charred grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp free threshing) are evidence of occupation debris.

Context 155 consisted almost entirely or lime or chalk. However, occasional mollusc remains which included *Pupilla muscorum* and *Lauria cyclindracea* would be consistent with chalky soils or a substrate such as a stone wall. A single wheat (*Triticum* sp free-threshing) was also noted.

Occasional fragments of large mammal bone and fish vertebrae were also recovered.

4.3.3 Overview of environmental evidence

The environmental remains from the medieval pits indicate the deposition of a low level of charred cereal crop waste from domestic fires and cess waste. The lack of fruit pips commonly associated with cess waste may merely be a factor of poor preservation. Later context from pit 151, which were medieval to post-medieval in date, show some deposition of chalky or limy material. Mollusc remains indicated a shady or wooded environment surrounding the pit, and in the lower fill were consistent with having originated from a chalky soil or possibly from degraded limestone.

Similar assemblages of environmental remains have been recovered from other medieval pits nearby in Evesham, for example at 31 Cowl Street (Pearson 2002), High Street (Napthan *et al* 1994), Mill Street (Fagan *et al* 1994), 25 Cowl Street (County Archaeological Service 1997), and Castle Street (Whitworth 2001).

5. Synthesis

Taken together, the surviving remains appear to form part of a typical high-status medieval town-house, with the southern wall-angle representing the south-west corner of the main building, the square structure a garderobe or earth-closet (cess pit), and the northern east-west aligned wall the end of a western range. The cellar to the north (identified in watching brief on 25, Cowl Street; WSM 25970) is an addition to the standard form, and may indicate the storage of valuables appropriate to a wealthy resident or merchant.

The date of the building's construction is uncertain, as no part of the structure was excavated. However, the features to the east of the building are likely to predate it (their presence inside being inherently unlikely), and two of these features produced pottery of 13th to 14th century date. Similarly, the length of the building's occupation and its date of demolition are also uncertain: a small assemblage of 14th century pottery was recovered from the fill of the garderobe, which may indicate the end of this feature's use, although this date need not apply to the building as a whole. Likewise, the upper layers of the deposits butting the western walls of the building date to the 16th century and contain roof tile, which may represent demolition debris. However, here again, the evidence is equivocal, and the building may have stood far longer, perhaps as late as the 18th century (see below).

The following is suggested for the phasing of identified activity on the site:

Medieval

- *Phase 1*: 13th century: pits to front and rear of plot;
- *Phase 2*: 12th-14th century: stone building constructed on frontage, possibly occupying 25 and 26, Cowl Street;
- *Phase 3*: 14th century: garderobe attached to south;
- *Phase 4*: 16th century: deposits built up along west side (rear) of building – garden soils and make-up layers; tanning pits to rear of plot; metal smithing within vicinity;

Post-medieval

- *Phase 5*: 17th century: garden soils in trench 2; building along frontage extant?;
- *Phase 6:* 18th century: medieval building demolished; possible soils/layers built up along frontage;
- *Phase 7:* 18th century: new building constructed along frontage; causing truncation of earlier remains along frontage; pits to rear of plot;
- *Phase 8: c* 1982 building along frontage demolished; causing further truncation to medieval deposits.

5.1 Research frameworks

The results of the evaluation relate to a number of research questions raised during the West Midlands Research Frameworks Seminar 5, given on 24th February 2003, namely:

'*Medieval town planning*: urban landscapes. Plan-form analysis based on 18th or 19th century plans allows a hypothetical interpretation of the medieval plan of smaller towns. These town plans are the result of conscious decisions. Such plan analysis is achievable for every smaller medieval town in the region, and allows comparison with towns with similar morphology. The archaeological study of towns has been characterised by this 'landscape' approach since the 1970s. On one hand such studies identify areas of archaeological sensitivity, such as monastic precincts or churchyards which may be obscured by later change, and therefore underlies planning decisions relating to modern development. On the other hand such studies provide the fundamental understanding of the urban landscape and as such are an essential context for archaeological fieldwork.

'*Crafts and trades*: Small medieval towns were urban communities, with most of the population engaged in crafts and trades. The range of occupations was not as great as the larger towns, and craft production was largely focused on the needs of the local rural population rather than the requirements of the elite. Although some crafts are largely invisible archaeologically, small towns provide clear evidence for how medieval townspeople made their living. For most medieval towns, documentary sources can only give the broadest insight into occupations: archaeology offers the possibility of obtaining fine-grained and comprehensive evidence.

'*Varied development patterns:* Historical research suggests that small towns tended to develop in broadly similar ways, and have similar economic structures. Across the region, many small medieval towns had lost their urban functions by the 16th century, and had become villages. It would be difficult to ignore the role of the marcher lords in Herefordshire and Shropshire (and in Wales) in the foundation of new towns, which led to the distinctive distribution pattern of

medieval towns in the region. The decline of the institution of marcher lordships clearly had a significant effect on the long-term survival of a high proportion of marcher boroughs.

'However it is possible to see some other distinctive types of small town, such as inland ports on the River Severn. Archaeology can make a contribution to the understanding of these urban settlements. In addition there are few 'specialised' small towns with unusual economic functions.' (Dalwood 2003, 4-5).

'What was the effect of the events [famines and plague epidemics] of the 14th century on urban and rural settlements in Worcestershire? In towns we need to pay particular attention to excavations/evaluations in the suburbs where we know that fluctuations in population are more noticeable…' (Bryant 2003, 4).

6. Significance

6.1 Archaeological

In considering significance, the Secretary of State's criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments (DoE 1990, annex 4), have been used as a guide.

These nationally accepted criteria are used to assess the importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. Though scheduling is not being considered in this case they form an appropriate and consistent framework for the assessment of any archaeological site. The criteria should not, however, be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

The archaeological remains identified comprise medieval activity in form of *c* 13th century pits to the front and rear of plot; superseded by *c* 14th century building foundations to frontage; sealed and butted by 16th century built up deposits; evidence of 16th century industrial activity in the form of tanning pits to rear of plot, sealed by 17th century garden soils. Such a well-defined stratigraphic sequence is *rare* for Evesham.

Given the *high level of survival* of both structural remains and deposits of medieval and post-medieval date (even after truncation along the immediate frontage in the 18th century), the site is thus considered to have a *high potential* for further information, regarding both the occupation and industrial utilisation of this medieval suburb of the Evesham, from the 13th century through to at least the 17th century. These remains *are vulnerable* to disturbance by development, given their existence at approximately 0.65m below the present ground surface on the frontage and at approximately 0.80m depth toward the rear of the plot (Fig 7).

6.2 Artefactual, by Laura Griffin

This assemblage forms a well-preserved group of finds which appear to have been subjected to only low levels of disturbance since deposition and as a result, a number of key contexts can be relatively closely dated.

The medieval pottery was of particular interest both for the high proportion of sherds thought to have been produced within the immediate vicinity of Evesham and also for the presence of a number of fabrics previously unidentified on sites within the County. It is hoped that these sherds will form the basis for more detailed research and analysis concerning the types and sources of pottery found in this part of Worcestershire.

Although only forming a very small part of the assemblage as a whole, the slag represented is of interest because, although its presence does not necessarily indicate metalworking on this

specific site, this type of waste is not usually removed far from its source for disposal and therefore, there is likely to have been some form of metalworking activity in the vicinity.

The number of finds recovered from this evaluation would indicate the retrieval of a significant assemblage should further excavation be undertaken.

6.3 Environmental, by Elizabeth Pearson

Environmental remains recovered from these samples are small assemblages, which are typical of samples of this date from Evesham. They are therefore of *local significance* only.

6.4 The site

From the results discussed above, it is argued that the archaeological site identified is of *regional significance*.

7. Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Evesham and Pershore Housing Association at 26, Cowl Street, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR: SP 0389 4384; HER ref. WSM 29513).

The project identified deposits, features and structures of medieval and post-medieval date. The medieval remains were mostly identified along the frontage, comprising the stonewalls and foundations of a c 14th century building, predated by several 13th century pits and postholes to the east, and a butted by a sequence of 16th century deposits to the west. A further 13th century pit was identified at the rear of the plot.

The structural remains comprised a north-south aligned unmortared wall of lias stone, which turned west at the north end, and east at the south end. It was butted by a square structure on the southern alignment. The main structure is considered to form part of a typical high-status medieval town-house, possibly part of the same building as that identified during a previous watching brief of 25, Cowl Street (WSM 25970). The small added structure is conjectured to be a garderobe or cess-pit. The postholes observed adjacent may represent activity relating to the original construction of the building.

Deposits to the rear of the plot included garden soils and make-up layers of 16th century date, along with similarly dated pits which appeared to have been used for tanning (although evidence of metal smithing was also forthcoming), which were in turn sealed by garden soils of the 17th century.

The building on the frontage may have stood until the 18th century, and later in the same century a new building was erected, which caused disturbance of earlier deposits. This building occupied the site until its demolition c 1982.

The site is considered to be of regional importance, given the good level of survival, the relative rarity of the remains, their vulnerability and the high potential for additional information, which relate directly with a number of research aims identified within the West Midlands Research Frameworks Seminar.

8. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Cathryn Teagle-Davies (Pentan Partnership), George Stoyan (Evesham and Pershore Housing Association), Mike Glyde (Worcestershire Historic Environment Advisor, Worcestershire County Council).

9. Personnel

The fieldwork was led by Darren Miller. The report preparation was led by Tom Vaughan. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss. Fieldwork was undertaken by Paul Williams and Shona Robson-Glyde, finds analysis by Laura Griffin, environmental analysis by Elizabeth Pearson and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

10. Bibliography

Beijerinck, W, 1947 *Zadenatlas der Nederlandsche Flora*, Wagoningen

Bryant, V, 2003 *Medieval Worcestershire : priorities and potential*, West Midlands Research Frameworks Seminar 5, dated 24th February 2003 (http://www.iaa.bham.ac.uk/research/fieldwork_research_themes/projects/wmrrfa/seminar5/victoria%20bryant.doc)

Bryant, V 2004 Medieval and early post-medieval pottery in Dalwood, H, and Edwards, R. *Excavations at Deansway 1988-89*, CBA Res Rep **139**, pp 281-331

CAS, 1995 (as amended) *Manual of Service practice: fieldwork recording manual*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, unpublished document **399**, dated September 1995, revised April 2006

CAS, 1997a *Brief for an archaeological evaluation at 26, Cowl Street, Evesham,* County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, unpublished document dated 18th April 1997, **P1421**

CAS, 1997b *Proposal for an archaeological project (evaluation) at 26, Cowl Street, Evesham,* County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, unpublished document dated 13th May 1997, **P1421**

Chandler, J, 2000 *Proposed Residential Development, Conduit Hill, Evesham: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, Oxford Archaeological Unit, unpublished report, dated March 2000

Cook, M, 2003 *Building Recording, excavation and watching brief at 31, Cowl Street, Evesham, Worcestershire*, unpublished report, dated 24th February 2003, revised 28th February 2003

Dalwood, H, 1996 *Archaeological assessment of Evesham and Bengeworth, Hereford and Worcester*, County Archaeological Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished report 315, dated May 1996, revised December 1996, **P945**

Dalwood, H, 2003 *The archaeology of medieval small towns in the West Midlands*, West Midlands Research Frameworks Seminar 5, dated 24th February 2003 (http://www.iaa.bham.ac.uk/research/fieldwork_research_themes/projects/wmrrfa/seminar5/Hal%20Dalwood.doc)

Fagan, L T, Hurst, D, and Pearson, E, 1994 *Evaluation at 23-25 Mill Street, Evesham*, HWCC County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, unpublished report 235, **P941**

Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales), 1974 *Stratford-upon-Avon*, Sheet 200, Solid and Drift Edition, scale 1:50,000

HEAS, 2007 *Proposal for an archaeological evaluation of 26, Cowl Street, Evesham, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 28th March 2007, **P3070**

Hurst, J D, 1994 Ceramic building material, in Woodiwiss, S (ed), *Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich, CBA Res Rep* **81,** pp 155-157

Hurst, J D, and Rees, H, 1992 Pottery fabrics; a multi-period series for the county of Hereford and Worcester, in Woodiwiss, (ed), *Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich. CBA Res Rep* **81**, pp 200-209

IFA, 1999 *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation,* Institute of Field Archaeologists

Lockett, N and Jones, L, 2001 *Evaluation at 19, Cowl Street, Evesham, Worcestershire,* Archaeological Service, Worcester County Council, unpublished report 914, dated 24th May 2001, **P1963**

Mawer, A, and Stenton, F M, 1927 *The place-names of Worcestershire*, Cambridge University Press, London

Miller, D 2000 *Notes on evaluation at 26, Cowl Street, Evesham*, County Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document, dated 18th May 2000, **P1421**

Napthan, M, Hurst, J D, Pearson, E A, 1994 *Excavation at Cotswold House, High Street, Evesham*, HWCC County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, unpublished report 243**, P969**

Napthan, M, 1997 *Watching Brief at 25, Cowl Street, Evesham,* County Archaeological Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished report 601, dated December 1997, **P1496**

Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983 Midland and Western England, sheet 3, scale 1:250,000 + *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (A brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)*

Stace, C, 2001 (2nd Edition) *New Flora of the British Isles*, Cambridge University Press

VCH II, Page, W (ed), 1906 *Victoria History of the County of Worcestershire*, **II**

Whitworth, A, Jones, L, and Pearson, E, 2001 *Evaluation at Castle Street, Evesham*, Archaeological Service, Worcester County Council, unpublished report 897, **P1978**

Williams, P, 2006 *An Archaeological Evaluation at 2, Cowl Street, Evesham*, Mercian Archaeology, unpublished report dated October 2006, **PJ170**

Figures

Plates

Plate 1: Trench 1, general shot post-excavation, view south-east

Plate 2: Trench 1, general shot with pit 135, pre-excavation, and wall 102, view north-east

Plate 3: Trench 1, close up of probable garderobe 112, view south-south-west

Plate 4: Trench 1, close up of wall 102, view south-south-west

Plate 5: Trench 1 north-east section, return wall 102, view north-north-east

Plate 6: Trench 1 north-east section, wall 102, view north-north-east

Plate 7: Trench 1, north-east section with wall 102 and structure 174, view north-north-east

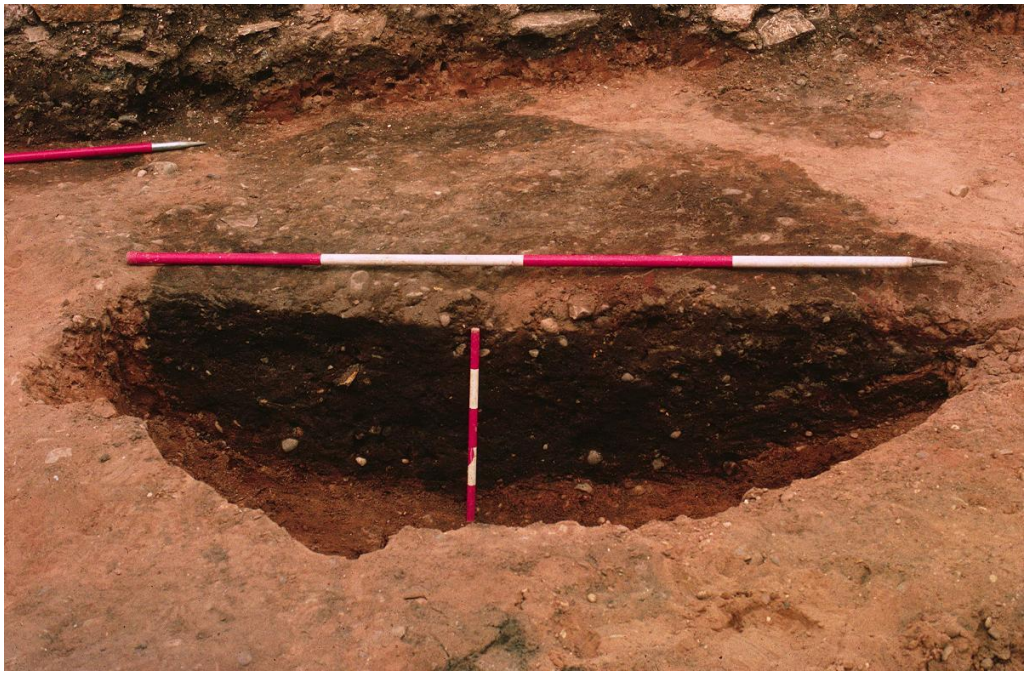

Plate 8: Trench 1, pit 135, view north-east

Plate 9: Trench 1, ditch 116 terminus, view north-east

Plate 10: Trench 2, general shot post-excavation, view north-north-east

Plate 11: Trench 2, general shot post-excavation, view north-north-west

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Site area: Cowl Street frontage

Maximum dimensions: Length: 7.60-8.75m Width: 5.20-5.35m Depth: 0.52-0.70m

Orientation: west-north-west to east-south-east

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	N/a	Unstratified and machine cut finds	N/a
101	Subsoil	Greyish / greenish brown clay loam to west end of trench. Moderately compact. Overlying 107; cut by 116; below 118 and 119.	0.20-0.63m
102	Wall	Yellowish grey lias / cleeve stone in loose decayed orangey brown sandy mortar (extant on western / external face). 0.75m wide, 3m+ long. Faced on both sides. To north of trench. Sealed by 130. Below 174.	0.25m +
103	Fill	Greyish brown sandy loam. Moderately compact. Almost no inclusions; 1 animal bone. Fill of 106. Sealed by 100.	0.48m +
104	Fill	Greyish brown sandy loam. *c* 25% small rounded pebbles; medieval pot sherd. Moderately compact. Fill of 105. Sealed by 100.	0.48-0.63m
105	Pit	Sub-circular cut. Shallow, slightly concave sides to irregular flattish base. *c* 0.15m deep. Obscured by stone surface to east; truncated. Filled by 104. Sealed by 100. Truncated by 109.	0.48-0.63m
106	Posthole	Square cut. Filled by 103. Sealed by 100.	0.48m +
107	Layer	Mid brownish yellow sandy clay. Occasional/moderate small and large sub-angular lias stone frags; rare small and medium sub-rounded pebbles. Inc pot and tile. Sealed by 101 and 118; overlies 121. Post-dates 102. Lias from collapsed wall?	0.22-0.75m
108	Fill	Greyish brown sandy loam; friable. Charcoal flecks; 40% rounded pebbles in lower strata. Modern brick and ironwork; ceramic drainage pipe at base. Sealed by 100; fill of 109: modern pipe trench.	0.48- *c* 0.68m
109	Service trench	Linear cut. Slightly concave sides. Filled by 108. Cuts 105. Sealed by 100.	0.48- *c* 0.68m
110	Layer	Yellowish brown sandy loam; friable; moderately compact. *c* 10% small sub/angular lias frags. Within 112, central building 'annexe'. Overlies 111.	*c* 0.65-0.75m
111	Fill	Greyish black sandy silt loam; friable; moderately compact. Organic rich, possible cess deposit. Within 112, central building 'annexe'. Sealed by 110.	*c* 0.75-1.05m
112	Walls	Rectangular structure: lias / cleeve flags bedded on loose shell flecked sandy mortar within centre of garderobe. *c* 1.10m long, 0.90m wide with walls *c* 0.40 and 0.48m. Faced stone on visible edges and filled with random lias core. Wall to east steps down with 0.20 x 0.20m step inside wall, 0.20m down from remaining stonework. Southern wall truncated on south side by post-medieval brick vaulted cellar. Contains 110 and 112. Below 100.	*c* 0.65-1.05m
113	Fill	Mid brown silty sand. Friable. Moderate small-medium sub-rounded pebbles. Below 101? Fill of 143. Unexcavated.	*c* 0.36m +

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
114	Pit?	Sub-circular cut continuing under south section at west end of trench. *c* 0.70 x 0.20m. Cut for well/cistern?	*c* 0.36m +
115	Fill	Greenish grey sandy loam; friable; moderately compact; loose to surface. Occasional charcoal flecks, increasing to base; frequent small sub-angular lias frags; Rare pea grit. Fill of 116. Sealed by 119.	0.28-1.16m
116	Ditch	Linear cut, sharp break of slope; steep sides; west side stepped; straight to flat base. 0.60m wide. Aligned north-south. Post-medieval. Filled by 115. Sealed by 119. Cuts possible medieval surface overlain by black/grey humic sandy loam with frequent charcoal.	0.28-1.16m
117	Layer	Yellow gravel car park surface. Compact. Seals 118.	0.00-0.07m
118	Layer	Dark brownish grey clay loam. Firm. Abundant large frags of brick rubble; moderate rounded pebbles; occasional mortar flecks. Make up layer for Carpark surface 117; overlies 101.	0.03-0.34m
119	Layer	Black charcoal and soot. Maximum 0.10m thick, thinner to east and west. Below 118 and 120. Seals 115 and 116. Overlies 101.	0.31-0.44m
120	Layer	Reddish brown sand. Compact. Below 118. Overlying 119. Same as 171?	0.31-0.40m
121	Layer	Mid brown silty sand with *c* 80% demolition rubble. Compact. Rare charcoal flecks. Below 107. Overlies 102.	0.25-0.83m
122	Fill	Mid brown silty sand. Friable. Brick rubble. Moderate mortar flecks and frags; abundant charcoal and ash in lower strata. Below 117. Fill of 123 (modern).	0.22->0.79m +
123	Cut	Vertical sides straight to base. Base not observed. Filled by 122. Cuts 118.	>0.66m +
124	Layer	Mid greyish green sandy silt. Firm. Rare charcoal flecks. Below 118. Overlies 125.	0.13-0.43m
125	Layer	Sandy silt. Firm. *c* 40% greyish blue clay. Rare small and medium sub/round pebbles. Below 124. Overlies 126.	0.43-0.67m
126	Natural	Light reddish brown sand. Friable. Occasional small pebbles. Thinner to east. Below 125. Same as 187.	0.56->0.77m +
127	Layer	Yellowish brown clay loam. Rare sub-angular lias frags, charcoal, mortar flecks and small rounded pebbles. Below 121. Cut by 116. Overlies 128. Abuts north-west side of wall 102.	*c* <0.36m?
128	Layer	Mixed reddish brown sand. Almost no inclusions. Below 127. Overlies 129. Abuts north-west side of wall 102. Same as 143.	*c* 0.36m +
129	Layer	Silt loam. Occasional ash and mortar. Rare small lias frags. Below 127. Overlies 129. Abuts north-west side of wall 102.	*unrecorded?*
130	Layer	Mid grey brown silty sand. Occasional green clay flecks and very small pebbles. Below 129. Overlies 187? Abuts north-west side of wall 102.	*unrecorded?*
131	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Firm/friable. Occasional sub-rounded pebbles. Rare charcoal flecks. Overlies 133. Secondary fill of 132. Truncated by modern disturbance.	0.63-0.85m
132	Cut	Sub-oval. Gradual break of slope. Concave sides curving to slightly rounded base. 0.73m x 0.66m, 0.27m deep. Filled by 131 and 133.	0.63-0.90m
133	Fill	Dark greyish brown/black silty sand. Occasional small to medium sub-rounded	0.85-0.90m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		pebbles. Moderate small frags and flecks of charcoal, more frequent to base. Redeposited burnt material. Primary fill of 132.	
134	Fill	Mid brown – dark greyish brown. Soft. Occasional small-medium sub-rounded pebbles. Rare small frags and flecks of charcoal. Bone and pot sherds. Decayed organic refuse? Truncated by shallow postholes. Primary fill of 135. Below 136.	0.60-1.10m
135	Pit	Sub-circular. Sharp break of slope. Concave sides curving to flat base. 2.30m diameter. Filled by 134 and 136. Cuts natural. Sand and gravel quarry pit?	0.60-1.10m
136	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty sand. Soft. Frequent small frags and flecks of charcoal. Rare small sub-rounded pebbles. Diffuse boundary below. 0.70m wide. Secondary fill of 135. Overlies 134.	0.56-0.71m
137	Fill	Mid brown – reddish brown silty sand. Firm. Occasional small sub-rounded pebbles. Rare charcoal flecks. Fill of 138.	0.60-0.65m
138	Posthole	Sub-circular cut. Gradual break of slope, concave sides to a flat base. Diameter 0.22m. Filled by 137. Associated with 140. Cuts 134 and 136.	0.60-0.65m
139	Fill	Mid brown – reddish brown silty sand. Firm. Occasional small sub-rounded pebbles. Rare charcoal flecks. Fill of 140.	0.63-0.70m
140	Posthole	Sub-circular cut. Gradual break of slope, gently sloping sides to a flat base. Diameter 0.43m. Filled by 139. Associated with 138. Cuts 134. Truncated.	0.63-0.70m
141	Fill	Greyish brown sandy loam. Moderately compact. Unexcavated. Fill of 142. Truncated by 135. Medieval scaffold pit?	> 0.60m +
142	Posthole	Sub-circular cut. Filled by 141. Unexcavated.	>0.60m +
143	Layer/fill?	Light brown silty sand. Abundant large lias frags. Occasional charcoal flecks. Below 121? Same as 128.	*c* 0.36m +
157	Fill	Dark brown sandy silt loam. Loose. Frequent small round and sub-rounded pebble. Some pockets of arrange sand (redeposited natural?) Sealed by cap of firm grey clay. Fill of 158. Below 178. Not fully excavated.	0.34->0.70m
158	Pit/linear	Shallow break of slope. Convex sides at *c* 60° to horizontal. Not fully excavated – base not observed. Aligned NW/SE. Filled by 157. Cuts 187.	0.34->0.70m
159	Layer	Compacted pebbles in reddish brown sandy clay. Firm. Unexcavated. Remnant floor surface? Same as 160?	>0.60m +
160	Layer	Compacted pebbles in dark brown sandy loam. Firm. Unexcavated. Remnant floor surface? Same as 159? Abuts 102.	>0.75m +
161	Fill	Dark brown sandy loam. Frequent small sub-rounded pebbles. Rare charcoal flecks. Fill of 162. Unexcavated.	>0.61m +
162	Pit?	Irregular plan. Continues under north-east trench section. Filled by 161. Unexcavated.	>0.61m +
163	Fill	Dark brownish black humic sandy loam. Loose. Rare charcoal flecks. Occasional small round pebbles. Fill of 164. Unexcavated.	>0.66m +
164	Posthole	Sub-oval plan. Filled by 163. Unexcavated.	>0.66m +
165	Posthole	Sub-oval plan. Filled by 166. Unexcavated.	>0.65m +
166	Fill	Orangey brown sandy loam. Firm. Frequent small rounded pebbles. Fill of 165.	>0.65m +

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		Unexcavated.	
167	Posthole	Sub-oval plan. Filled by 168. Unexcavated.	>0.67m +
168	Fill	Dark brownish black humic sandy loam. Loose. Rare charcoal flecks. Occasional small round pebbles. Fill of 167. Unexcavated.	>0.67m +
169	Fill	Fill of 170. Unexcavated.	>0.75m +
170	Posthole	Sub-oval plan. Filled by 169. Unexcavated.	>0.75m +
171	Layer	Same as 120? Below 117? Overlying service pipe 109.	*c* 0.30-0.48m
172	Pit	Irregular shape in plan. Profile unknown. Cuts 102. Filled by 124 and 125?	0.13-0.67m
173	Floor	Brick and tile floor laid in herringbone pattern associated with 174. Same as 175	0.02-0.25m
174	Wall	Yellow sandstone blocks, random stone frags and hard mortar. Aligned NW/SE. Sealed by 117. Overlies 102, 176 and 178. North wall of building extant until *c* 1980. Contemporary with 173 and 175?	0.02-0.25m
175	Floor	Brick and tile floor laid in herringbone pattern associated with 174. Same as 173.	0.02-0.25m
176	Fill	Single fill of 177. Sealed by 178.	0.17->0.60m
177	Pit	Filled by 176. Sealed by 174. Cuts 178 and 187.	0.17->0.60m
178	Layer	Dark brown silty clay. Abundant lias frags. Moderate charcoal frags. Firm. Consolidation layer or levelling up for 174? Overlies 179. Below 118 and 174. Cut by 177.	0.19-0.45m
179	Layer	Yellow sandstones bedded in silty sand? Consolidation / levelling up for 174 or disturbed earlier floor surface? Sealed by 178. Overlies 187.	0.32->0.53m
187	Natural	Mid brownish orange (silty) sand with occasional small sub-rounded pebble gravel. Same as 126.	0.36m +

Trench 2

Site area: To rear of plot, within former garage

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.88-3.05m Width: 2.40-2.50m Depth: 0.60-1.16m

Orientation: west-north-west to east-south-east

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
144	Deposit	Off white lime on north and south sides of cut 151. Discontinuous. Firm. Same as 155. Below 150. Overlies 152. Not a deliberate lining. Maximum 0.10m thick.	0.64-0.89m
145	Garden soil	Dark greyish brown silt loam. Firm. Moderate lime flecks. Occasional small charcoal frags. Rare small sub-rounded pebbles. *c* 2.00m x *c* 1.35m. Overlies 150. Remnant garden soil. Same as 180? Maximum 0.10m thick.	*c* 0.50-0.60m
146	Garden soil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Compact. Occasional small frags and flecks of charcoal. Rare lime flecks and sub-rounded pebbles. *c* 1.00m x *c* 1.00m. Overlies 148. Garden soil or interface layer with natural (subsoil)? Unexcavated.	<0.52m
147	Garden soil	Ill-defined patch of mid greyish brown sandy silt. Compact. Occasional small frags and flecks of charcoal. Moderate lime flecks. Rare small sub-rounded pebbles. *c* 0.25m x *c* 0.60m. Unexcavated. Remnant garden soil?	<0.70m
148	Fill	Mid brown silt loam. Firm. Moderate small frags and flecks of charcoal and small-medium sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles. Width 0.58m. Fill of 156. Cut by 151.	0.70-1.16m
149	Fill	Dark greyish brown silt loam. Firm. Occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and small frags and flecks of charcoal. Same as 150. Uppermost fill of 151. Below 145. Overlies 155.	0.50-0.87m
150	Fill	Dark greyish brown silt loam. Firm. Occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and small frags and flecks of charcoal. Same as 149. Uppermost fill of 151. Below 145. Overlies 155.	0.50-0.87m
151	Linear cut	Parallel sides, gradual break of slope, steeply sloping sides, gradual break to flat base. Aligned east-west. Industrial function – tanning? Filled by 149, 150, 152, 153, 154 and 155. Below 145. Cuts 148.	0.50-1.14m
152	Fill	Mid greyish brown silt loam. Firm. Occasional small sub-rounded pebbles. Below 155. Overlies 154. Tertiary fill of 151.	0.60-0.92m
153	Fill	Mid brown / mid reddish brown silty sand. Friable. Occasional small sub-rounded pebbles. Below 154. Primary fill of 151.	0.84-1.14m
154	Fill - lining	Mid grey sandy clay. Firm. *c* 2.00m wide. Below 152. Overlies 153. Secondary fill of 151. Deliberate lining, 0.04m thick.	0.73-0.94m
155	Deposit	Off-white lime on north and south sides of cut 151. Discontinuous. Firm. Same as 144. Below 150. Overlies 152. Fill of 151. Not a deliberate lining. Maximum 0.10m thick.	0.64-0.89m
156	Pit	Sub-circular cut. Not fully exposed. Sharp break of slope, steep sides and flat base. 0.50m + x 1.60m +. Filled by 148.	0.70-1.16m
180	Garden soil	Yellowish brown silty loam. Frequent charcoal frags and animal bone. Very diffuse boundary with 162 above. Same as 145 and 185?	0.19-0.70m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
181	Pit	Sharp break of slope, straight sides at *c* 60° to horizontal, straight to flat base. Filled by 182. Sealed by 184.	0.22-0.61m
182	Fill	Yellowish lime, mollusc shells and a patch of bone and snail shells. Fill of 181. Cut by 183. Sealed by 184.	0.22-0.61m
183	Service pipe	Modern ceramic drainpipe, 0.18m diameter, bedded within concrete. Bricks to east side. Below 184; cuts 182.	0.23-0.43m
184	Garden soil	Yellowish brown silty loam. Frequent charcoal frags and animal bone. Very diffuse boundary with 180 below. Same as 180?	0.09-0.36m
185	Concrete	Modern concrete raft – garage floor.	0.00-0.10m
186	Natural	Mid brownish orange silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded pebble gravel.	0.60m+

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

57	Context records AS1
3	Fieldwork progress records AS2
7	Photographic records AS3
4	Colour transparency film
3	Black and white photographic films
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
17	Scale drawings
3	Context number catalogues AS5
2	Matrix sheets AS7
1	Sample number catalogues AS18
1	Abbreviated context records AS40
2	Boxes of finds
1	Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum
Hartlebury Castle
Hartlebury
Near Kidderminster
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ
Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416

Appendix 3 Environmental Tables

Table 1: List of environmental samples

Context	Sample	Sample type	Context type	Description	Period	Phase	Sample volume (L)	Volume processed (L)	Residue assessed	Flot assessed
111	1	General	Pit	garderobe?	MED	14th C	20	20	Y	Y
133	2	General	Pit	fill of 132	MED	13th/14th C	10	10	Y	Y
136	3	General	Pit	fill of 155	MED	13th C	10	10	Y	Y
153	4	General	Pit	primary fill of 151	MED/PMED	16th C?	10	10	N	N
154	5	General	Pit	fill of 151	MED/PMED	16th C?	10	10	Y	Y
155	6	General	Pit	fill of 151	PMED	16th C	10	10	Y	Y

Table 2: Summary of environmental remains from selected samples

Context	Sample	large mammal bone	small mammal bone	fish	frog/td	bird	mollusc	insect	charred plant	mineralized plant	waterlogged plant	phosphate concretions	hammerscale	Comment
111	1	occ-mod	occ	occ	occ			occ	occ-mod	occ-mod		occ		
133	2	occ							mod	occ	occ	occ	occ-mod	
136	3	occ		occ		occ?			occ	mod			occ	
154	5	occ		occ			occ		occ	occ				
155	6	occ					occ							Limestone/ chalk abt

KEY: 0cc = occasional; mod = moderate; abt = abundant

Table 3: List of hand-collected animal bone

Context	Weight (g)	No	Notes
0100	200	14	Incl bird bone
0103	8	2	
0107	279	22	
0111	134	18	
0115	264	12	
0122	14	1	
0136	121	14	
0145	304	12	
0152	98	2	
1150	668	15	
TOTAL	**2090**	**112**	

Table 4: Hand-collected molluscs

Context	Description	Period	Weight (g)	No	Notes
0100			3	1	Oyster
0107			23	1	Oyster
0115			25	4	Oyster, Cepaea

Table 5: Plant remains from selected samples

Latin name	Family	Common name	Habitat	111	133	136	154	155
Charred plant remains								
Triticum sp (free-threshing) grain	Poaceae	free-threshing wheat	F	+	++	+	+	+
Triticum sp grain	Poaceae	wheat	F	+				
Hordeum vulgare grain (hulled)	Poaceae	barley	F	+	+			
Lolium/Festuca sp	Poaceae	fescue/ryegrass	A		+			
Avena sp grain	Poaceae	oat	AF			+		
Poaceae sp indet grain	Poaceae	grass	AF			+		
Vicia cf *tetrasperma*	Fabaceae	smooth tare	AD		+			
Vicia sativa	Fabaceae	common vetch	AB		+			
cf *Bupleurum rotundifolium*	Apiaceae	thorow-wax	AB		+			
Carex sp	Cyperaceae	sedge	CDE		+			
Mineralised plant remains								
cf *Agrostemma githago*	Caryophyllaceae	corn cockle	AB	+				
Rumex acetosella	Polygonaceae	sheep's sorrel	ABD			+		
Foeniculum vulgare	Apiaceae	fennel	ABF			+		
Conium maculatum	Apiaceae	hemlock	AB	+				
cf Bupleurum rotundifolium	Apiaceae	thorow-wax	AB	+		+		
Apiaceae sp indet	Apiaceae	carrot family	ABCDEF			+		
Lithospermum arvense	Boraginaceae	field gromwell	AD		+	+		
Sambucus nigra	Caprifoliaceae	elderberry	BC	+		+	+	
Waterlogged plant remains								
Sambucus nigra	Caprifoliaceae	elderberry	BC		+			+

Key:

Habitat	Quantity
A= cultivated ground	+ = 1 - 10
B= disturbed ground	++ = 11- 50
C= woodlands, hedgerows, scrub etc	+++ = 51 -100
D = grasslands, meadows and heathland	++++ = 101+
E = aquatic/wet habitats	
F = cultivar	

Appendix 4 Artefactual Assemblage Tables

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Material	Total	Weight (g)
Roman pottery	1	2
Medieval pottery	107	1260
Post-medieval pottery	20	333
Tile	116	9234
Brick	3	36
Plaster	2	28
Stone	14	1702
Burnt stone	1	8
Flint	2	22
Clay pipe	5	24
Iron	43	704
Cual	3	6
Slag	6	558
Vessel glass	2	7
Bone object	2	1

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric type

Fabric no.	Fabric name	Total	Weight (g)
43	Samian ware	1	2
55	Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware	2	20
56	Malvernian unglazed ware	1	8
63	Brill/Boarstall ware	13	73
64.1	Worcester-type sandy glazed ware	6	77
69	Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware	57	769
148.1	Unglazed Evesham micaceous ware	20	205
148.2	Glazed Evesham micaceous ware	6	184
99	Miscellaneous medieval wares	7	81
72	Brown glazed speckled ware	4	62
78	Post-medieval red wares	3	30
81.4	Miscellaneous late stoneware	1	18
81.8	Raeren stoneware	2	38
91	Post-medieval buff wares	5	28

Table 3: Summary of the assemblage

Trench	Context	Material	Type	Total	Weight (g)	Date range	Period	TPQ
-	0	Iron		2	22			
1	0	Pottery	Medieval	1	48	L15-16C	MED	
1	0	Tile	Frt	1	1060	13-18C		
1	100	Brick		1	4			
1	100	Glass	Vessel	2	7		MOD	
1	100	Iron		1	6			
1	100	Pottery	Medieval	2	38	L11-E14C	MED	
1	100	Pottery	Medieval	4	62	L15-16C	MED	
1	100	Pottery	Post-medieval	2	23	17C	PMD	
1	100	Stone		3	52			
1	100	Tile		7	910	13-18C		
1	101	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	18	16C	PMD	16C
1	101	Tile	Frt	2	36		PMD	
1	102	Pottery	Medieval	1	45	13-14C	MED	15C
1	102	Pottery	Medieval	1	13	13-15C	MED	
1	102	Pottery	Medieval	5	30	13-16C	MED	
1	102	Pottery	Medieval	3	0	L14-15C	MED	
1	104	Pottery	Medieval	6	184	12-E13C	MED	E13C
1	107	Bone	Object	2	1			16-E17C
1	107	Flint		1	16			
1	107	Iron		1	36			
1	107	Plaster		2	28			
1	107	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	2	16C	PMD	
1	107	Pottery	Post-medieval	3	32	L15-E17C	MED	
1	107	Stone		4	400			
1	107	Tile		66	4234			
1	108	Brick		2	32			18C
1	108	Iron		2	16			
1	108	Pottery	Medieval	1	5	L11-E14C	MED	
1	108	Pottery	Medieval	1	26	M-L13C	MED	
1	108	Stone		1	192			
1	110	Iron		1	22			13C
1	110	Pottery	Medieval	1	5	13-15C	MED	
1	110	Pottery	Medieval	1	6	M-L13C	MED	
1	111	Iron		7	126			15C
1	111	Pottery	Medieval	1	4			
1	111	Pottery	Medieval	2	44		MED	
1	111	Pottery	Medieval	1	4	?13-15C	MED	
1	111	Pottery	Medieval	1	6	12-14C	MED	
1	111	Pottery	Medieval	2	12	12-E14C	MED	
1	111	Pottery	Medieval	6	38	13-14C	MED	
1	111	Pottery	Medieval	2	9	L11-14C	MED	
1	111	Pottery	Medieval	1	8	L12-14C	MED	
1	111	Pottery	Medieval	1	1	L13-15C	MED	
1	111	Pottery	Medieval	6	22	L14-15C	MED	
1	111	Pottery	Medieval	10	40	M-L13C	MED	
1	111	Tile	Frt	1	14		MED	
1	113	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	118	L15-E17C	PMD	E17C
1	115	Cual		2	4			14-15C
1	115	Iron		10	130			
1	115	Pottery	Medieval	1	21	?13-15C	MED	
1	115	Pottery	Medieval	1	1	13C	MED	
1	115	Pottery	Medieval	1	11	L11-14C	MED	
1	115	Pottery	Medieval	2	20	L11-M14C	MED	
1	115	Pottery	Medieval	23	307	L13-15tC	MED	
1	115	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	2	L15C	PMD	
1	115	Stone		4	810			
1	115	Tile	Frt	13	440			
1	122	Cual		1	2			18C
1	122	Iron		13	108			
1	122	Pipe	Stem	2	4		PMD	
1	122	Pottery	Medieval	1	8	L11-E14C	MED	
1	122	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	7	L15-E17C	PMD	
1	122	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	7	L17-18C	PMD	

1	122	Pottery	Post-medieval	4	26	M17-18C	PMD	
1	127	Iron		3	120			
1	131	Pottery	Roman	1	2	L1-E3C	RBR	MED
1	131	Tile	Frt	3	608		MED	
1	136	Iron		1	14			13C
1	136	Pottery	Medieval	1	38	13C	MED	
1	136	Pottery	Medieval	2	26	M12C	MED	
2	0	Iron		1	48			
2	0	Pipe	Bowl	1	10		PMD	
2	0	Pipe	Stem	2	10		PMD	
2	0	Pottery	Medieval	1	6	L11-E14C	MED	
2	0	Pottery	Medieval	2	71	L15-16C	MED	
2	0	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	2	L17-18C	PMD	
2	0	Slag		1	54			
2	0	Tile	Frt	5	292	13-18C	PMD	
2	145	Flint		1	6			16C
2	145	Pottery	Medieval	1	2		MED	
2	145	Pottery	Medieval	1	14	12-E14C	MED	
2	145	Pottery	Medieval	2	20	13-15C	MED	
2	145	Pottery	Post-medieval	2	43	16C	PMD	
2	145	Tile		1	2			
2	148	Pottery	Medieval	5	32	12-E14C	MED	E14C
2	148	Slag		2	28			
2	148	Stone		1	6			
2	150	Iron		1	56			16C
2	150	Pottery	Medieval	3	33	L15-16C	MED	
2	150	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	21	16C	PMD	
2	150	Slag		3	476			
2	150	Stone		1	242			
2	150	Tile	Frt	12	1118	13-18C		
2	152	Burnt stone		1	8			16C
2	152	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	32	E-M16C	PMD	
2	152	Tile	Frt	5	520	13-18C	PMD	