

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION AND BUILDING  
APPRAISAL  
AT  
33-38, COWL STREET, EVESHAM,  
WORCESTERSHIRE

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Project 3330  
Report 1698  
WSM 40819, 40820



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## Archaeological evaluation and building appraisal at 33-38, Cowl Street, Evesham, Worcestershire

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### Part 1 Project summary

Archaeological evaluation and building appraisal were undertaken at 33-38, Cowl Street, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR SP 03858 43790). The work was undertaken on behalf of Rooftop Housing Group Limited, who are proposing development of the site, to retain the façades of the six existing properties but to replace the main structures with a new residential block and to construct a new building to the rear of 33 and 34. The project aimed to identify historic fabric within the buildings and to determine if any significant archaeological remains are present to the rear.

The evaluation trenching identified deposits, features and structures of post-medieval and modern date along with residual finds of medieval date. The buildings appraisal identified structures of medieval, post-medieval and modern date.

The buildings recorded at 33-38, Cowl Street date back to the 'high medieval' period, probably the 12<sup>th</sup> century. These structures consist of a stone built undercroft below 35-38, related to a merchant's property on Bridge Street, and dating to before the creation of Cowl Street, and a stone built cellar below 33, set back from the frontage of Cowl Street within one of tenement plots running to the west of the street. The undercroft building had a timber-frame building constructed over it, on the ground floor, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and an 18<sup>th</sup> century building had been added over the stone cellar.

The buildings on the site, in particular 35-38, are considered to be of *national and regional* importance, given the fact that a 'high medieval' structure has survived hitherto unknown in an urban environment and is considered as *highly vulnerable*. The buildings also have such a high importance for their potential to provide important information relating to the urban development of Evesham and the development of urban housing in the medieval period. The buildings have the potential to provide additional information relating directly to research aims identified within the West Midlands Regional Research Framework for Archaeology.

The structural remains to the rear of the properties were confined to post-medieval and modern boundary walls, which contained re-used medieval stonework. A 17<sup>th</sup> century stone-lined well was also evident to the rear of 38; its lower fill containing abundant environmental residues of animal and plant remains.

An outbuilding, typically of 18-19<sup>th</sup> century style of outbuildings for high status properties, constructed with stone and brick walls and with a lias stone floor, survives along the rear boundary of 34, Cowl Street.

Deposits to the rear of 33, 34 and 38 consisted of garden soils and make-up layers of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The depth of these soils to the north west of plots 33 and 34 was considerable, indicating that the site has been used for market gardening, as documented in 19<sup>th</sup> century trade directories.



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## Part 2 Detailed report

### 1. Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

Archaeological evaluation and building appraisal were undertaken at 33-38, Cowl Street, (NGR SP 03858 43790), Evesham, Worcestershire (Fig 1), on behalf of Rooftop Housing Group Ltd. The client intends to demolish 33-38, Cowl Street, but retain the street façade, with new build behind, and a new residential block to the rear of 33. A planning application has been submitted to Wychavon District Council (ref. W/09/00782). It is considered that a site of archaeological interest may be affected (WSM 20774).

#### 1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and the *standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (IfA 2008b).

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Section of Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (HEAS 2009a) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2009b).

#### 1.3 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation and to establish their significance.

The aim of the building assessment was to determine whether the existing properties (with 19<sup>th</sup> century façades) contain elements of earlier construction.

The project has the potential to address a number of research questions identified within the West Midlands Regional Research Framework for Archaeology seminars (Bryant 2003; Dalwood 2003), notably:

- medieval town planning and urban landscapes;
- medieval buildings;
- medieval crafts and trades;
- industry, marketing and trade;
- variable development patterns

### 2. Methods

#### 2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the County Historic Environment Record (HER) and the County Record Office (CRO).

#### *Cartographic sources*

- 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, 1886, 6":1 mile, sheet XXXIX
- 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, 1886, 25":1 mile, sheet XLIX
- 1904 edition Ordnance Survey, 25":1 mile, sheet XLIX
- 1923 edition Ordnance Survey, 25" 1 mile, sheet XLIX
- 1938 edition Ordnance Survey, 25" 1 mile, sheet XLIX

#### *Aerial photographs*

- 1960s, unmarked HER archive photograph, source unknown
- 1960s, unmarked HER archive photograph, source unknown

#### *Documentary sources*

- County Records Office (WRO) – BA 4925/61 ref 705:477; BA 6088/45(ii) ref 705:739; BA 8392/3 ref f899:251; BA 8591/25(ii) ref 850; BA 8913/1 (i) & (ii) ref 899:251; BA 9186/16(ii) ref 705:184 and other numerous plans, deeds and indentures relating to properties in Cowl Street and Bridge Street
- Trade directories of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century

## 2.2 **Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2009b).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 11 and 19 May 2009.

### 2.2.1 **Evaluation trenching methodology**

The site code for the evaluation trenching is WSM 40819.

Five trenches, amounting to just over 29.25m<sup>2</sup> in total, were excavated over the site area. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

In Trench 1 deposits not considered to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision, using a 180° wheeled excavator employing a toothless bucket. Subsequent excavation of this and the total excavation of Trenches 2, 3, 4 & 5 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 **Building recording methodology**

The site code for the buildings appraisal is WSM 40820.

The project conformed to the specification for a level 2 survey as defined in the English Heritage document *Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (EH 2006). This level of survey is described as 'a descriptive record' comprising of



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'conclusions regarding the building's development and use' (EH 2006). This required the following elements of survey:

#### Survey and drawings

- Plans of all main floors and elevations as existing (provided by client).
- Measured drawings showing the form of any architectural or functional detail not more readily captured by photography.

#### Photography

- Overall appearance of rooms and circulation areas.
- Detailed coverage of the building's external appearance.

Thus building recording consisted of a photographic survey of the interior and exterior of the buildings, basic analysis of their development and annotation of existing survey drawings. All photographs were taken with photographic scales visible in each shot. The photographic survey was carried out with a Sony  $\alpha$ 350 digital camera. All photographs were recorded on pro-forma Photographic Record Sheets. Annotation of existing ground plans and elevations, and completion of pro-forma Building Record sheets, complemented the photographic record.

### 2.2.3 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.

Analysis of the buildings was based on the study of the photographic record, building recording forms and annotated drawings. It was also informed by the documentary sources listed above (Section 2.1).

### 2.3 Artefact methodology, by Dennis Williams

#### 2.3.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS, 1995, Appendix 4).

#### 2.3.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. The finds were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The *terminus post quem* dates were used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

The pottery was examined under  $\times 20$  magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees, 1992; WHEAS, 2009).

Some bones from domestic and farmed animals were recovered from several contexts, but were not worthy of detailed comment, nor included in the Table 1 quantification below.

## 2.4 **Environmental archaeology methodology, by Alan Clapham**

### 2.5 **Sampling policy**

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995, appendix 4). No large animal bone was hand-collected during excavation. A sample of 20 litres was taken from one context (3013), from a fill of a stone-lined well of post-medieval date.

### 2.6 **Method of analysis**

#### 2.6.1 **Macrofossil analysis**

The samples were processed by flotation 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. During processing it was noticed that the deposit consisted of waterlogged plant material and therefore the flot was kept wet.

The residues were fully sorted by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. The flot was scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by the Service, and seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2006). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the New Flora of the British Isles, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Stace 1997).

A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammerscale. No hammerscale was detected.

### 2.7 **The methods in retrospect**

The methods adopted allow a moderate degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved, although the sample available for evaluation trenching was limited to approximately two-thirds of that required in the brief (HEAS 2009a), due to the presence mature trees and extant boundary walls, most notably the wall which divides the rear plots of 33 and 34.

Almost all of the rooms in the structures have been accessed in order to produce a full record. Only the first floor of 36, Cowl Street and the roof space of 33 were not accessible due to unsafe and missing flooring. However, the rooms of 36 were visible from the top of the staircase and a photographic record could be made of architectural features within the room. The roof space of 33 was not accessible because there was no safe way to enter the structure from a ladder. Even so, an adequate record that will meet the aims of the brief has been produced.

## 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 rectangular plot of land to the rear of 33 and 34 Cowl Street and by a further rectangular plot which runs at right angles to the rear of 35-38, Cowl Street (Fig 1). The properties are currently vacant and land beyond the plot boundaries is unoccupied apart from footpath access to retail units at the rear of Bridge Street. The area to the rear of all the properties appears to have been artificially terraced from south-east to north-west with an underlying geology of natural soils arising at a height of 34.25m AOD to the north-west and dipping to a height of 33.76m AOD in the south-east.

The following is taken from Vaughan (2007) with additional updated information.

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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 stone less 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.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> century: *Ethom*; *Cronuchomme*, *Cronochomme*; and *Eveshomme*, *Eouesham*. 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).

The urban settlement of the current town of Evesham appears to have been planned and was in existence at least by the late 11<sup>th</sup> century. It was focussed on the large funnel shaped market place running northwards from the Abbey precinct, along High Street. It is likely that Bridge Street was also part of this early urban settlement. Documentary evidence has properties on Bridge Street in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century (MacRay 1863, 208-217) although the Bridge Street area appears to relate to a suburb of the town described in a late 12<sup>th</sup> century rental document (Hilton 1982, 3) and archaeological investigation in tenement plots on either side of Bridge Street has produced pottery dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> century (WSM 7579 and 17838).

To date archaeological evidence for early Anglo-Saxon occupation has been 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 lies within an area of medieval tenement plots. Cowl Street has all the characteristics of a 'break-through' street leading off Bridge Street. This street was created by removing one of the properties on Bridge Street to allow a narrow access onto a new street at right angles to Bridge Street. The layout of Cowl Street shows the typical shape of a narrow entrance on Bridge Street widening out the further north the street runs, as the width of the street was not restricted by buildings on land to each side. The street only begins to widen to

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the north of 35-38 Cowl Street. Documentary evidence of 1202 or 1206 refers to properties on *Colestrete* which appear to have been in existence for some time (MacRay 1863, 208-217; VCH II, 371; WSM 20774). This then suggests that Cowl Street was created in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century.

25, Cowl Street, to the north-east, was the subject of investigations in 1997, which revealed activity from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The earliest activity comprised a series of 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> 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 15-17<sup>th</sup> century date, and had remained in use at least until the 1970s (Napthan 1997; WSM 25970).

To the north of the present site, 31, Cowl Street, was investigated in 2003. The earliest remains identified included a north-south aligned linear cut of late 12<sup>th</sup>-early 13<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards, including evidence of small scale metal working in the 13<sup>th</sup> - early 14<sup>th</sup> century, and a well of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest evidence of substantial structural remains date to the 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> 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), confirm that the street grid plan for this medieval suburb was established by the 12<sup>th</sup> century as part of a systematic town plan development strategy designed and implemented by Evesham Abbey.

An open area was excavated to the rear of 19, Cowl Street, at the north end of the road in 2001, revealing 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 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century activity (Fagan *et al* 1994; WCM 17838). Works in Swan Lane to the north-east have confirmed that the suburbs extended well beyond Cowl Street by the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Napthan 1997, 1).

To the north-east, 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).

The vacant plot of 26 Cowl Street, also to the north-east, was evaluated in 2007 (Vaughan 2007; WSM 29513) revealing deposits, features and structures of medieval and post-medieval date. The medieval remains were mostly identified along the street frontage, comprising stonewalls and the foundations of a *c* 14<sup>th</sup> century building. This was predated by several 13<sup>th</sup> century pits and postholes to the east, and abutted by a sequence of 16<sup>th</sup> century deposits to the west. A further 13<sup>th</sup> century pit was identified at the rear of the plot.

### 3.1 Historic Buildings

The buildings recorded are located along the Cowl Street frontage. Whilst none of the structures are listed, they fall within the Evesham Conservation Area (WDC 2007). Oat Street and Cowl Street have been defined as an individual Character Area within the *Evesham Conservation Area Appraisal (ibid, 28-9)*. The buildings are included within the *Appraisal* as 'Unlisted Buildings of Local Interest' (*ibid, map between 47 and 48*). Due to their inclusion within the Conservation Area, the buildings all have listed status.

33 is the furthest north and 38 closest to Bridge Street. 33 is on the corner of an access opening to the rear of the properties on Cowl and Bridge Streets. This opening was caused by the partial demolition of 32, Cowl Street in the later 20<sup>th</sup> Century. 33 and 34 are separate properties and consist of tall two-storey structures both having been shops on the ground floor at some time. 35-38, Cowl Street form a range of narrow two-storey cottages, all of which have also been shops on the ground floor Cowl Street frontage.

The Historic Environment Record, as well as recording a number of activities in the area also contains records of associated historic buildings. These are detailed below in Table 1 and include a number of listed buildings and distinctive historic buildings dating back to the late medieval period but mainly to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that some of the buildings hide medieval origins.

Of the buildings closest to the site, 41, Bridge Street (WSM 3563) and 31-32, Cowl Street (WSM 17014 and 31575) appear to date from around 1600 to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. However they are both sitting on medieval land plots as are all the structures recorded on the site.

WSM No	NGR	Site Name	Date	Description
2885	SP 03793 43794	21 Bridge Street	1700-present	Grade II listed. 18 <sup>th</sup> C, brick, three storeys, parapet, modern shop -front
2886	SP 03800 43791	23 Bridge Street	1700-present	18 <sup>th</sup> C, brick, three storeys, quoins, doorway keystone and fanlight.
2888	SP 03802 43751	36 Bridge Street	1700-present	Grade II listed. 18 <sup>th</sup> C, red brick, three storeys, tripartite window, oriel window, parapet, modern shop-front.
2889	SP 03829 43738	46 Bridge Street	1700-present	Three storeys, three bays, stucco, quoins, oriel windows, pilasters, modern shop windows, carriageway.
2890	SP 03833 43730	48 Bridge Street	1700-present	Three storeys, single bay, brick, bowed and lunette windows, modern shop window.
3552	SP 03849 43726	52 Bridge Street	1066-present	Medieval timber-framed origins. Retains part of 15 <sup>th</sup> C timber front, a doorway and door. Much altered and restored. Modern shops.
3556	SP 03803 43785	25 Bridge Street	1800-present	Two Regency houses, pilasters, parapets with pediments and antefixes, three storeys, ground floor shops.
3557	SP 03809 43782	29 Bridge Street	1800-present	Two Regency houses, pilasters, parapets with pediments and antefixes, three storeys, ground floor shops.
3558	SP 03815 43786	31 Bridge Street	1800-present	Grade II listed with 33. Early 19 <sup>th</sup> C, engraved stucco, probable earlier core, three storey, dog-eared architraves, cornice, parapet, modern shop front.
3559	SP 03820 43784	33 Bridge Street	1800-present	Grade II listed with 31. Early 19 <sup>th</sup> C, engraved stucco, probable earlier core, three storey, dog-eared architraves, cornice, parapet, modern shop front.
3560	SP 03865 43747	47 Bridge Street	1750-present	Grade II listed, group with 37-47 (odd). Late 18 <sup>th</sup> C, restored, red brick, three storeys, key blocks, lintels, modern shop fronts.
3561	SP 03832 43768	37 Bridge Street	1750-present	Grade II listed, group with 37-47 (odd). Late 18 <sup>th</sup> / early 19 <sup>th</sup> C, red brick, three storeys, key blocks, lintels, quoins, modern shop fronts.
3562	SP 03839 43774	39 Bridge Street	1750-present	Grade II listed, group with 37-47 (odd). Late 18 <sup>th</sup> / early 19 <sup>th</sup> C, red brick, three storeys, key blocks, lintels, quoins, modern shop fronts.
3563	SP 03847 43768	41 Bridge Street	1750-present	Grade II listed, group with 37-47 (odd). Late 18 <sup>th</sup> C, restored, red brick, three storeys, key blocks, lintels, modern shop fronts.
3564	SP 03855 43755	43 Bridge Street	1750-present	Grade II listed, group with 37-47 (odd). Late 18 <sup>th</sup> C, red brick, three storeys, fluted key blocks, sill band, modillion eaves cornice, channelled lintels, modern shop fronts.
3565	SP 03859 43754	45 Bridge Street	1700-present	Grade II listed, group with 37-47 (odd). Brick, 18 <sup>th</sup> C, modillion cornice, parapet, quoins, 3 storeys, fluted keystones, modern shops.
17014	SP 03867 43813	32 Cowl Street	1600-	Part of 31. 19 <sup>th</sup> C painted cement to earlier timber

			present	frame, two storeys, later attic; casement window to shop; tiles. Interior has timber frame.
22594	SP 03872 43829	Friends Meeting House	1540-1900	Small cellar c1700, part of original building on the site constructed in brick with Gothic vaulted ceiling over, superstructure originally timber framed but remodelled in 19 <sup>th</sup> C.
31575	SP 03863 43817	31 Cowl Street	1600-present	With 32. 19 <sup>th</sup> C painted cement to earlier timber frame, two storeys, later attic; casement window to shop; tiles. Interior has timber frame.
36372	SP 03864 43770	2 Cowl Street	1775-present	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> C, commercial use and later cottages, entrance from Bridge Street, double entrance of 19 <sup>th</sup> C.
36373	SP 03897 43764	2 Cowl Street	1775-1925	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> C, salting tower for meat associated with adjoining abattoir. Possibly originally overseer office in tower.

*Table 1: Historic buildings within the vicinity of the site*

## 4. Evaluation trenching results

### 4.1 Structural analysis

The trench locations are shown in Fig 2; the features recorded are shown in Figs 3 and 4. 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 moderate small sub-rounded pebbles. It was observed in two of the five trenches; in Trench 1, at 1.80m below the ground surface and in Trench 5, at 1.69m below the ground surface. In Trench 2, to the south of Trench 5, this matrix was only encountered by auger, at a depth of 2.40m below the current ground level.

#### 4.1.2 Medieval deposits

No medieval deposits, layers or structures were identified. However a total of 61 sherds of pottery were recovered from residual contexts contained within Trenches 2, 3 and 5, with a date range of 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century (Section 4.2.1 below).

#### 4.1.3 Post-medieval deposits

Evidence for post-medieval activity comprised the remains of a stone-lined well (3011) and associated deposits in Trench 3, to the rear of 38, Cowl Street. The top of the well structure was encountered at 35.47m AOD with its base at 33.90m AOD, giving it an original depth of 1.57m. The stone lining was intact at its west perimeter (with 13 surviving courses; Fig 3, Plate 1) but had been disturbed and largely dismantled around the remainder of its circumference. The pit shaft (3010) with sand packing (3012) were evident and the interior was backfilled with two distinct deposits (3013 and 3014) which contained a relatively large number of artefacts (Table 3 below). The lower fill (3014) was sampled for environmental analysis (Section 4.3 below).

A small pit was revealed at a depth of 0.75m below ground surface, in the north-west edge of Trench 3 (3009). It contained artefacts mainly of 18<sup>th</sup> century date within the fill (3008)

A possible foundation cut or large post-pit was also exposed in Trench 5 (5011). Its vertically rectangular profile was recorded in the south-west facing excavation baulk (Fig 3, Plate 2) and it contained five distinct fills. Its lower fill (5009) contained finds ranging in date from the 11<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### 4.1.4 Modern deposits

Deposits within Trench 1, to the rear of the dividing wall at the north-west boundary of 33 and 34, Cowl Street, were dominated by largely homogenous garden soils with randomly placed small amounts of building debris. These soils were observed to directly overlie the natural matrix toward northwest end of the trench at a depth of approximately 1.80m.

The upper deposits of Trenches 2 to 5 contained abundant fragments of building material, including brick, stone, glass, ceramic and stone tile and plaster, mainly within matrices of cinder and ash and rubble layers of sand and mortar. Demolition layers were particularly notable in Trenches 2 and 5 (Plate 3) between 35.45m and 34.08m AOD (2006, 2007, 3006, 3007, 5005, 5006 and 5007).

A garden feature comprising a dressed and grooved limestone slab (2004) was encountered at 0.60m below ground level within garden soils contained by Trench 2 (Plates 7 and 8), measuring 1.08 x 0.45 x 0.16m.

A brick-lined drain (3003) was evident in Trench 3 at 0.20m below ground level and was in-filled with black ashy material (3004 and 3005).

Trench 4 was excavated to characterise the relationship between the extant dividing wall (Plate 4, Section 4.3 below) and garden features and soils. An earlier, two sided stone structure (4005) of ten courses was identified, abutted by the dividing wall. At 1.06m below ground level this structure contained an extant lias stone floor surface of vertically set blocks (4004). Structure (4005) was extended by five later courses of brick, also abutted by the dividing wall (Fig 4 and Plates 5 and 6).

#### 4.2 Artefact analysis, by Dennis Williams

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 2, 3 and 4.

The assemblage, recovered from 24 stratified contexts, consisted of 661 finds with a total weight of 22.278kg (Table 2). The standard of preservation was generally good; abrasion of the ceramic finds was slight, although metal finds had suffered significant corrosion.

Material	Type	Total	Weight (g)
Bone	Undated	165	2748
Brick	Post-med/modern	5	491
Brick/tile	Post-med/modern	5	106
Clay pipe	Post-medieval	88	207
Coal	Undated	2	3
Glass	Modern	1	2
Glass	Post-med/modern	19	338
Glass	Post-medieval	11	205
Leather	Undated	4	276
Metal	Post-med/modern	3	60
Metal	Post-medieval	1	4
Metal	Undated	10	195
Mortar	Post-medieval	2	118
Plaster	Post-medieval	10	445
Pottery	Medieval	62	1378
Pottery	Post-med/modern	97	1472
Pottery	Post-medieval	132	2395
Shell	Undated	3	39
Stone	Medieval/ post-medieval	3	6200
Stone	Post-medieval	3	219
Stone	Undated	5	657
Tile	Medieval/ post-medieval	7	2490
Tile	Post-medieval	21	2189
Tile	Undated	1	39
Wood	Undated	1	2

Material	Type	Total	Weight (g)
Totals:		661	22278

Table 2: *Quantification of the assemblage*4.2.1 **Pottery**

The assemblage included 287 pottery sherds, with a total weight of 5.233kg, and dating from the early medieval period through to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. No prehistoric or Roman pottery was found.

All pottery sherds were grouped and quantified by fabric type (Table 3). Where possible, specific forms have been referenced to the type series within the report for Deansway, Worcester (Bryant, 2004). Otherwise, the sherds were dated to their broad production spans, according to fabric type.

Period	Fabric	Fabric name	Total	Weight (g)
Medieval	55	Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware	3	91
	57	Cotswolds unglazed ware	1	36
	64	Glazed sandy wares	2	39
	69	Oxidized glazed Malvernian ware	47	958
	99	Miscellaneous medieval wares	9	254
Post-medieval	77	Midlands yellow ware	5	70
	78	Post-medieval red wares	82	1829
	81	Stonewares	17	313
	81.5	White salt-glazed stoneware	14	200
	82	Tin-glazed ware	4	33
	83	Porcelain	4	33
	84	Creamware	5	21
	91	Post-medieval buff wares	10	76
	100	Miscellaneous post-medieval wares	19	369
Modern	85	Modern china	65	911
Totals:			287	5233

Table 3: *Quantification of the pottery by fabric**Medieval*

A single sherd of Cotswolds unglazed ware (fabric 57), found in context 5006, was potentially the oldest pottery on the site, since its production span could have been as early as 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century. However, as with all the medieval pottery at this site, this fabric was residual within a context that contained post-medieval finds.

The remaining medieval pottery was probably all made in Worcestershire. The glazed Malvernian fabric (69), late 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century in date, was the most abundant, being found in contexts 2002, 2003, 2005, 3007, 3013, 5003, 5005 and 5010. Although most of this material was very fragmentary, it was possible to identify sherds from bowls, jars, jugs and a skillet. Rims from two flared bowls (Deansway 11 and 13 forms) were present, as was a grooved rim, probably from a chafing dish.

Fragments of Worcester-type cooking pots (fabric 55), found in 3007, 5003 and 5009, dated from the late 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century date range. Context 3007 also yielded two sherds of a Worcester sandy-type glazed ware (fabric 64), one of which was a rim sherd from a Deansway type 3 pitcher. This material was produced from the late 11<sup>th</sup> century onwards, but mainly during the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> period.

Four sherds were classed as miscellaneous medieval (fabric 99), and found in 2003 and 3013, could also have been from locally-made cooking pots, though there was no conclusive form



evidence to confirm this. It was noted that these had very sandy fabrics, without any calcareous inclusions, which would be consistent with manufacture within the county.

### *Post-medieval*

A substantial amount of post-medieval pottery was recovered. Black-glazed redwares (fabric 78), dated as 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century, accounted for the largest part of this, with sherds being widely distributed among the contexts. Most of these sherds appeared to have come from jars, jugs or flared bowls. A wide range of wall thicknesses and glaze qualities were noted, while the larger bowls often had poorly mixed clays.

Smaller numbers of yellow and buff ware sherds (fabrics 77 and 91, respectively) were also present. The Midlands yellow ware sherds, dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, included parts of a jug that were found in 3007. Among the 18<sup>th</sup> century buff wares, a single rim sherd was found in 3008. This was from a jar or jug. Other buff ware sherds were undiagnostic, in terms of form; several bore brown slip trailed decoration.

Stoneware sherds were also widely distributed throughout the contexts, with jars, jugs and dishes being represented. These have been recorded mainly under the generic fabric category (81), and have not been dated beyond a wide 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century date range, because few distinct fabrics or forms were identifiable. However, distinctive sherds of mid-18<sup>th</sup> century white salt-glazed stoneware (81.5) were found in 2003, 3008 and 5006.

Tin-glazed sherds (fabric 82), some of which were hand-painted in blue, were found in 2003 and 3007, could be dated to 1590-1730. Only one decorated sherd of porcelain (fabric 83) was found, in 2002. This was a very thin body sherd with a gilt line, but which was otherwise undiagnostic and could have been from a wide 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century date range. However, some small Creamware sherds (fabric 84), from 2003 and 5004, would have been produced during the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### *Modern*

A single stoneware sherd from 2009, decorated with blue and white bands, and bearing a 'Meakin' stamp, could have been from a late 19<sup>th</sup>, or 20<sup>th</sup> century, date of manufacture. China (fabric 85), both bone and stone, accounted for the remainder of the modern pottery, and was found in contexts 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 4002, 5002, 5004, 5008 and 5009. This material included cups, saucers, dishes and plate, but was unremarkable insofar as it all appeared to have been mass-produced by moulding. Printed decoration included familiar designs such as the blue 'Willow Pattern', but in the absence of any diagnostic makers' marks, these vessels could not be dated except to say that they were likely to have been manufactured during the late 19<sup>th</sup>, or early 20<sup>th</sup>, centuries. However, a blue 'Asiatic Pheasants' design, which appeared on an earthenware (fabric 100) plate sherd from 4006, may have been produced at an earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century date, although its standard and type of decoration were similar to those seen on later china.

### *Other artefacts*

A number of roof tile fragments were retrieved (from 2003, 2005, 2007, 3007, 3008, 5005, 5006 and 5008), but none of the thin, hard-fired examples could be dated more accurately than the late post-medieval period. A single tile fragment, with a coarse but hard, orange fabric, from context 2005, may have been either medieval or post-medieval in date. Likewise, a number of limestone roof tiles, some with nail-holes, were found in 3014 and 5003, but were effectively undatable, as were limestone flagstones from 3011. Small amounts of grey slate were also recovered from 5008 and 5009. The brick fragments in the assemblage were too small for any dimensions to be determined, but were probably post-medieval.

Clay pipe fragments were widespread. No makers' stamps were observed, but the variations in bowl angles and rim diameters suggested these items had a wide 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century date range.

Copper alloy finds included a flat plate, possibly a badge of some type (context 4006), and a hat-pin (context 5003). There was also a small, decorative (one-piece) 'buckle', found in 5009. These finds probably all dated from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Various ferrous finds were heavily corroded, and included hand-made nails and a door hinge.

Numerous fragments of vessel glass were recovered, but the only items worthy of note were both from 4002. A small cream jug, moulded to resemble cut glass, was of late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The other was part of a bottle that once contained 'Mrs Winslow's Soothing Syrup', a teething preparation for infants that first went on sale in 1849. This preparation gained popularity with some adults owing to its use of morphine as an active ingredient, until this was discontinued in 1909 (League of Antiquarians 2008).

Parts of small leather shoes, made for children, were found in context 4002. At the time of writing, these were undergoing preliminary conservation treatment and could not be closely examined.

Context	Material	Fabric no.	Fabric name	Period	Date range	TPQ
2001	Clay pipe	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1900	1800
2001	Glass	-	-	Modern	1900-1950	
2001	Metal	-	-	Post-medieval/ modern	1850-1950	
2001	Pottery	78	Red wares	Post-medieval	1600-1800	
2001	Pottery	85	Modern china	Post-medieval/ modern	1800-1950	
2001	Pottery	100	Miscellaneous post-medieval	Post-medieval/ modern	1700-1900	
2002	Clay pipe	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1900	1800
2002	Metal	-	-	Post-medieval/ modern	1800-1950	
2002	Pottery	69	Oxidised glazed Malvernian	Medieval	1300-1600	
2002	Pottery	78	Red wares	Post-medieval	1600-1800	
2002	Pottery	81	Stonewares	Post-medieval	1600-1900	
2002	Pottery	83	Porcelain	Post-medieval/ modern	1700-1950	
2002	Pottery	85	Modern china	Post-medieval/ modern	1800-1950	
2002	Pottery	100	Miscellaneous post-medieval	Post-medieval/ modern	1800-1950	
2003	Brick/tile	-	-	Post-medieval/ modern	1600-1950	1800
2003	Clay pipe	-	-	Post-medieval	1800-1900	
2003	Glass	-	-	Post-medieval	1700-1900	
2003	Pottery	69	Oxidised glazed Malvernian	Medieval	1300-1600	
2003	Pottery	78	Red wares	Post-medieval	1600-1700	
2003	Pottery	81	Stonewares	Post-medieval	1600-1800	
2003	Pottery	82	Tin-glazed ware	Post-medieval	1590-1730	
2003	Pottery	84	Creamware	Post-medieval	1760-1790	
2003	Pottery	85	Modern china	Post-medieval/ modern	1800-1950	
2003	Pottery	91	Buff wares	Post-medieval	1700-1800	
2003	Pottery	99	Miscellaneous medieval	Medieval	1075-1300	
2003	Pottery	100	Miscellaneous post-medieval	Post-medieval/ modern	1700-1950	
2003	Tile	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1800	
2005	Clay pipe	-	-	Post-medieval	1800-1900	1800
2005	Glass	-	-	Post-medieval	1700-1800	
2005	Plaster	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1800	

2005	Pottery	69	Oxidised glazed Malvernian	Medieval	1300-1600	
2005	Pottery	78	Red wares	Post-medieval	1600-1700	
2005	Pottery	81	Stonewares	Post-medieval	1800-1950	
2005	Pottery	85	Modern china	Post-medieval/modern	1800-1950	
2005	Tile	-	-	Medieval/post-medieval	1300-1900	
2007	Plaster	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1800	
2007	Pottery	91	Buff wares	Post-medieval	1700-1800	1700
2007	Tile	-	-	Post-medieval	1700-1900	
2008	Brick	-	-	Post-medieval/modern	1700-1950	1700
2008	Pottery	78	Red wares	Post-medieval	1600-1700	
3004	Pottery	78	Red wares	Post-medieval	1600-1800	1600
3007	Brick	-	-	Post-medieval/modern	1600-1800	
3007	Brick/tile	-	-	Post-medieval/modern	1600-1900	
3007	Clay pipe	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1900	
3007	Pottery	55	Worcester-type sandy unglazed	Medieval	1075-1300	
3007	Pottery	56	Malvernian unglazed	Medieval	1100-1300	
3007	Pottery	64	Glazed sandy ware	Medieval	1100-1300	
3007	Pottery	69	Oxidised glazed Malvernian	Medieval	1300-1600	1800
3007	Pottery	77	Midlands yellow ware	Post-medieval	1600-1700	
3007	Pottery	78	Red wares	Post-medieval	1600-1800	
3007	Pottery	81	Stonewares	Post-medieval	1600-1800	
3007	Pottery	82	Tin-glazed ware	Post-medieval	1590-1730	
3007	Pottery	85	Modern china	Post-medieval/modern	1800-1950	
3007	Pottery	91	Buff wares	Post-medieval	1700-1800	
3007	Pottery	99	Miscellaneous medieval	Medieval	1100-1600	
3007	Tile	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1800	
3008	Glass	--	-	Post-medieval	1700-1900	
3008	Pottery	78	Red wares	Post-medieval	1600-1700	
3008	Pottery	81.5	Salt-glazed stoneware	Post-medieval	1720-1770	1720
3008	Pottery	91	Buff wares	Post-medieval	1600-1700	
3008	Tile	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1900	
3011	Stone	-	-	Medieval/post-medieval	Undated	-
3013	Pottery	64	Glazed sandy ware	Medieval	1100-1400	
3013	Pottery	69	Oxidised glazed Malvernian	Medieval	1300-1600	1600
3013	Pottery	77	Midlands yellow wares	Post-medieval	1600-1700	
3013	Pottery	99	Miscellaneous medieval	Medieval	1075-1400	
3014	Tile	-	-	Medieval/post-medieval	1300-1900	Late med/post-med
4002	Glass	-	-	Medieval/post-medieval	1850-1950	
4002	Pottery	81	Stonewares	Post-medieval/modern	1800-1950	1850
4002	Pottery	83	Porcelain	Post-medieval/modern	1700-1950	
4002	Pottery	85	Modern china	Post-medieval/modern	1800-1950	
4006	Clay pipe	-	-	Post-medieval	1800-1900	1850
4006	Glass	-	-	Post-medieval/modern	1850-1950	

4006	Metal	-	-	Post-medieval/ modern	1800-1900	
4006	Pottery	85	Modern china	Post-medieval/ modern	1800-1950	
4006	Pottery	100	Miscellaneous post-medieval	Post-medieval/ modern	1800-1950	
5001	Pottery	78	Red wares	Post-medieval	1600-1800	1800
5001	Pottery	100	Miscellaneous post-medieval	Post-medieval/ modern	1800-1950	
5002	Clay pipe	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1900	1800
5002	Pottery	85	Modern china	Post-medieval/ modern	1800-1950	
5002	Pottery	91	Buff wares	Post-medieval	1700-1800	
5003	Brick	-	-	Post-medieval/ modern	1600-1900	1700
5003	Clay pipe	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1900	
5003	Pottery	55	Worcester-type sandy	Medieval	1075-1400	
5003	Pottery	69	Oxidised glazed Malvernian	Medieval	1300-1600	
5003	Pottery	78	Red wares	Post-medieval	1600-1800	
5003	Pottery	81	Stonewares	Post-medieval	1600-1900	
5003	Pottery	91	Buff wares	Post-medieval	1700-1800	
5004	Plaster	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1900	1800
5004	Pottery	78	Red wares	Post-medieval	1600-1800	
5004	Pottery	84	Creamware	Post-medieval	1760-1790	
5004	Pottery	85	Modern china	Post-medieval/ modern	1800-1950	
5004	Pottery	91	Buff wares	Post-medieval	1700-1800	
5005	Glass	-	-	Post-medieval/ modern	1800-1950	1800
5005	Pottery	69	Oxidised glazed Malvernian	Medieval	1300-1600	
5005	Pottery	78	Red wares	Post-medieval	1600-1800	
5005	Pottery	100	Miscellaneous post-medieval	Post-medieval/ modern	1800-1950	
5005	Tile	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1900	
5006	Brick	-	-	Post-medieval/ modern	1600-1900	1800
5006	Brick/tile	-	-	Post-medieval/ modern	1600-1900	
5006	Clay pipe	-	-	Post-medieval	1700-1900	
5006	Glass	-	-	Post-medieval	1700-1900	
5006	Mortar	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1900	
5006	Pottery	100	Miscellaneous post-medieval	Post-medieval/ modern	1800-1950	
5006	Pottery	57	Cotswolds unglazed ware	Medieval	1075-1200	
5006	Pottery	78	Red wares	Post-medieval	1600-1800	
5006	Pottery	81.5	Salt-glazed stonewares	Post-medieval	1720-1770	
5006	Pottery	91	Buff wares	Post-medieval	1700-1800	
5006	Tile	-	-	Post-medieval	1700-1900	
5007	Bone	-	-	Undated	Undated	-
5008	Mortar	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1900	1800
5008	Pottery	78	Red wares	Post-medieval	1600-1800	
5008	Pottery	85	Modern china	Post-medieval/ modern	1800-1950	
5008	Tile	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1900	
5009	Brick/tile	-	-	Post-medieval/ modern	1600-1900	1800
5009	Clay pipe	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1900	
5009	Metal	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1900	
5009	Pottery	55	Worcester-type sandy unglazed	Medieval	1075-1400	
5009	Pottery	78	Red wares	Post-medieval	1600-1800	

5009	Pottery	81	Stonewares	Post-medieval/ modern	1800-1950	1600
5009	Pottery	85	Modern china	Post-medieval/ modern	1800-1950	
5010	Clay pipe	-	-	Post-medieval	1600-1700	
5010	Pottery	69	Oxidised glazed Malvernian	Medieval	1300-1600	

Table 4: Summary of context dating based on artefacts.

### 4.3 Environmental analysis, by Alan Clapham

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Tables 5 and 6.

#### 4.3.1 Wet-sieved samples

A single sample of 20 litres from the bottom fill (3013) of a stone-lined well (3011) was analysed for environmental remains. Context 3013 contained, apart from plant remains, occasional small mammal bone, abundant fish bone which included vertebrae (some of which were of eel), scales and long bones. Other non-plant remains included occasional amphibian (frog/toad) bone, abundant bird bone and mineralised fly puparia and millipedes. Occasional fragments of coal were also noted.

Plant material recovered from the context included abundant charcoal, some of which was identified as oak (*Quercus* sp.) heartwood, moderate charred, mineralised and abundant waterlogged plant remains.

#### *Charred plant remains*

The charred plant assemblage from context 3013 consisted of grains, tail grains and grain fragments of a free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp.). Very little chaff was recovered from this context but a single rachis fragment of bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) suggests that the wheat was most likely to be bread wheat.

Other cereal remains identified included hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and rye (*Secale cereale*). A single barley rachis was identified but it was not possible to say whether this belonged to the six- or two-row variety.

Non-cereal crop remains included peas (*Pisum sativum*) and black mustard (*Brassica nigra*). The latter species can also occur as a weed. A possible wild food source was identified by the presence of a single fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell.

Weeds seeds present in the assemblage included grasses such as brome (*Bromus* sp.), fescue/ryegrass (*Festuca/Lolium* sp.) and oat (*Avena* sp.). Other weed species present included black medick (*Medicago lupulina*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*). These species are most likely to have been associated with the cereal remains.

#### *Mineralised remains*

The mineralised plant remains were not as common as the charred remains and consisted of a single buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus*) achene, six vetch/vetchling/pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) and two possible spurge (*Euphorbia* sp.) seeds. Of interest were the three mineralised mericarps of fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) which may have been used as a flavouring. Associated with the mineralised plant remains were a large number of mineralised fly puparia and millipedes, this suggests either the dumping of cess material or domestic rubbish.

*Waterlogged remains*

Waterlogged remains consisted of mostly plant species that indicate cultivated or disturbed ground including some of which can occur in shady situations. These conditions are most likely to occur in a garden and could have grown around the well. Species identified included poppy (*Papaver* sp.), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), orache (*Atriplex* sp.), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), bramble (*Rubus* sect. *Glandulosus*), possible sloe (*Prunus* sp.), fool's parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*), red dead-nettle (*Lamium purpureum*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The presence of birch seeds suggests that there was a birch tree growing in the vicinity. This mixture of plants suggests that the garden may either have been neglected or abandoned at the time of deposition.

The presence of water-plantain (*Alisma* sp.) and sedges (*Carex* spp.) suggests that either there was some damp patches in the garden or that they had been deposited by some other means, such as flooding). No bran fragments were identified from this context suggesting that the deposit does not represent cess material.

4.3.2 **Overview of environmental evidence**

The mixture of charred, mineralised and waterlogged plant remains in this deposit suggests that it has several origins and that the deposit represents disposal after the well had stopped being used for drawing water. The charred remains were probably dumped after they had accidentally caught fire during processing as the presence of the weed seeds suggests. The mineralised material may represent the dumping of domestic refuse that provided food for the fly puparia and millipedes. The dumping of domestic refuse is also supported by the abundance of bird and fish bones found in the sample. And the waterlogged material may represent what was growing in the garden at the time of deposition and suggests that the garden was either unkempt or abandoned.

Context	Sample	Sample type	Context type	Description	Period	Sample vol (l)	Vol processed (l)	Res assessed (l)	Flot assessed (ml)
3013	1	general	well	primary fill	post-med	20	20	2.4	30

Table 5: Sample data and description

Context	Sample	small mammal	fish	frog/td	bird	insect	charcoal	charred plant	mineralized plant	waterlogged plant
3013	1	occ	abun	occ	abun	abun	abun	mod	mod	abun

Table 6: Environmental summary (occ = occasional; mod = moderate; abun = abundant)

5. **Building recording**

The results of the building appraisal have been presented below. Photographs of the structures, as mentioned in the text, have been reproduced as Plates 9 – 27. Plans and phasing of the structures, and of the medieval layout of the area around the site have been reproduced as Figures 5 and 6.

## 5.1 Building history

A large number of documents exist in the County Record Office relating to properties in Cowl Street and Bridge Street. The majority of these documents do not mention the specific properties to which they refer, except by the names of their owners or occupiers. Given time, it would most likely be possible to trace the owners of 33-38 Cowl Street back to at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century (the earliest dates of some of the documents).

The 19<sup>th</sup> century history of the structures is more readily available through the well-documented census records and trade directories. Census records back to the first census of 1841 have revealed that the some of the buildings had regularly changing occupants and where therefore probably tenanted properties. Others, such as 37, Cowl Street, were occupied by the same family from 1841 through to the 1901 census, which suggests that the buildings were occupied by their owner. The census data relating to the buildings is reproduced in Table 7 below.

The trade directories for Worcestershire contain a wealth of information and date back to around 1820. They were produced regularly by a number of different companies, in particular Kelly, up to around 1940. The directories showed that, whilst some people moved from the properties, the same trades often continued. For example, 41, Bridge Street was a butcher's shop run by three different people between 1876 and 1932. Information from a sample of surviving trade directories is reproduced below in Table 8.

The Pigot and Co. directory of 1828-9 lists Cowl Street under its original name of 'Cole Street'. This directory does not include numbers for the properties and therefore cannot be used to track down individual properties. However, it does give us an idea of the status of the street at this time. It appears to have been a highly commercial area with businesses including an auctioneer and carpenter, boot and shoe maker, butcher, currier, 'fellmonger' and ironmonger. The directories of the later 19<sup>th</sup> century also show that Cowl Street was an area of Evesham dominated by market gardeners, some also selling their produce in shops at the properties. The properties closest to the site listed with this trade are 30 and 31 adjacent to the northeast.

No.33	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901
surname	?	Harrison	Harrison	Harrison	White / Harrison	Roberts	Tredwell
first name	James	George	George	Mary	Ethel / Mary	Thomas G	Joseph I
Age	70	45	54	66	53 / 76	25	59
No in Household	5	5	6	3	1 and 2	4	6
head occupation	Grocer	Breeches Maker and Tailor	Tailor & Draper	Income derived from house	Dressmaker / Shopkeeper	House Painter & Glazier	Gardeners Labourer
No.34	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901
surname	Welman	Shrop	Franklin	Simpson	Hughes	Ellis	Smith
first name	James	John	Jesse	William	Frederick	Tom	Richard
Age	25	35	38	38	25	32	75
No in Household	5	3	5	3	2	4	4
head occupation	Tailor	Teacher at Baptist School	Policeman	Police Constable	Painter & Carpenter	Life Insurance Agent	Gardener - Domestic
No.35	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901
surname	Charwood	Charwood	Taylor	Perkins	Walters	Walters	Hughes
first name	George	Ann	Sarah	John	William	William	Charles
Age	40	52	50	26	56	68	81
No in Household	4	4	4	4	8	3	2
head occupation	Manual Labourer	Midwife	Sempstress	Shoemaker	Bricklayer	Bricklayer	Living on own means
No.36	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901
surname	Hayes (?)	unknown	Edgecox	Hill	Bennett	Freeman	Davis

first name	Alfred	/	George	Joseph	William	Henry	Frederick
Age	25	/	32	22	34	34	26
No in Household	4	/	5	4	7	8	2
head occupation	Plumber	/	Labourer	Agricultural Labourer	Labourer in Tanyards	General Labourer	Hay Trusser
<b>No.37</b>	<b>1841</b>	<b>1851</b>	<b>1861</b>	<b>1871</b>	<b>1881</b>	<b>1891</b>	<b>1901</b>
surname	Hirons	Hirons	Hirons	Hirons	Hirons	Hirons	Hirons
first name	William (snr)	William (snr)	William	William	William	William	William
Age	50	60	41	51	61	71	81
No in Household	6	7	8	3	3	3	2
head occupation	Plumber & Glazier	Plumber & Glazier	Hairdresser	Hairdresser	Hairdresser	Hairdresser	
<b>No.38</b>	<b>1841</b>	<b>1851</b>	<b>1861</b>	<b>1871</b>	<b>1881</b>	<b>1891</b>	<b>1901</b>
surname	Smith	Corf(?)	Mills	Summers	Summers	Brotherton	Mills
first name	William	Thomas	Elizabeth	Henry	Sarah	Henry	Richard
Age	45	42	57	59	67	39	32
No in Household	6	3	8	5	6	7	7
head occupation	Confectioner	Tailor	Laundress	Plasterer		General Labourer	General Labourer

Table 7: Census information

Directory	Year	Address	Name	Trade
Billing	1855	[33] Cowl Street	George Harrison	Tailor and shop keeper
Kelly	1876	33 Cowl Street	Charles Harwood	Baker
		47 Bridge Street (now 41)	Isaac Morris	Butcher
Littlebury	1879	33 Cowl Street	Mrs Mary Harrison	Shopkeeper
		33 Cowl Street	Miss Esther White	Dressmaker
		37 Cowl Street	William Hirons	Hairdresser
		47 Bridge Street (now 41)	Isaac Morris	Butcher & dealer
Kelly & Co	1884	33 Cowl Street	Mrs Mary Harrison	Baker
		33 Cowl Street	Miss Esther White	Dressmaker
		33 Cowl Street	Thomas Badger	Cabinet maker
		37 Cowl Street	William Hirons	Hairdresser
		47 Bridge Street (now 41)	Isaac Morris	Butcher & dealer
	1896	37 Cowl Street	William Hirons	Hairdresser
		47 Bridge Street (now 41)	Isaac Morris	Butcher & dealer
Kelly's Directories Ltd	1904	33 Cowl Street	Joseph Ireland Tredwell	Shopkeeper
		47 Bridge Street (now 41)	Herbert Tyler Bayliss	Butcher
	1916	33 Cowl Street	Miss Mary Tredwell	Shopkeeper
	1932	34 Cowl Street	Sydney Cropper	Shopkeeper
47 Bridge Street (now 41)		Frederick Stratford	Butcher	

Table 8: Trade directory information

## 5.2 Building descriptions

All of the buildings are constructed of brick on their front, Cowl Street, elevations with a mix of a gauged-brick or segmental head arches and sash or casement windows.

33 (Plate 9), the most northerly property recorded, has been empty for a number of years and has been boarded up since its last use as a shop. The brick frontage consists of a left-hand door with a flanking shop window, both surmounted by pilasters and a projecting cornice. The ground floor also has a gauged-brick headed window with a projecting cill. The first floor has two sash windows with moulded sash boxes flush with the front of the building and flat head arches formed from brick headers on edge. Both of these windows also have a projecting cill. The eaves of the building have a dentilated cornice.

34 (Plate 10), adjoining the south gable of 33, has the same detail as 33. The building has been empty for only a short period of time since its last usage as a pet shop. It is narrower than its adjoining property, 33. The ground floor consists of a wooden frame doorway with a



gauged brick head. The ground and first floors have matching sash windows although the first floor has a flat head opening instead of the gauge brick opening that the ground floor has. Both windows have projecting cills and the eaves have a dentilated cornice.

35-38 (Plate 11), are a row of simple cottages with 35 the most northerly, adjoined to the south gable of 34, and 38 closest to Bridge Street in the south. All of the buildings have the same detail although they have been arranged in pairs, 35 and 36 (Plate 12) and 37 and 38 (Plate 13). All of the properties are empty, and appear to have been for a number of years, and all also appear to have been shops at one time. The pairs of buildings mirror each other, in that the doors to 35 and 37, are on the right hand side while the doors to 36 and 38 are on the left hand side. The first floor windows of each pair are also mirrored, with the windows of 35 and 37 being on the left hand side of the property and those of 36 and 38 being on the right hand side. All of the window and door openings have segmental arched heads and all of the first floor windows are flush with the face of the buildings and consists of 9-light casements with the right-hand 6-lights opening.

All of the properties have cellars but these are situated at different positions within the footprint of the buildings.

### 5.3 **Construction sequence of the buildings**

#### 5.3.1 **Phase 1 medieval**

##### *35-38, Cowl Street*

35-38, Cowl Street still retain a portion of a medieval undercroft as their cellars (Fig 6). The cellar frontage (east) walls (Plate 14) on Cowl Street are constructed of lias, as are the north wall of the cellar of 35 and the south wall of the cellar of 38. Large diamond shaped piers have also survived within the cellars (Plate 15), with one side in each one of 35-38, and are also constructed of lias.

This lias built structure can only date to the 12<sup>th</sup> century due to its position on Cowl Street. The building is located at the northern boundary of the medieval tenement plot that became 41, Bridge Street. The medieval tenement plot boundaries can still be traced on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 (Fig 5). The medieval plots of Cowl Street, running to the west from the Cowl Street frontage, begin to the immediate north of this 12<sup>th</sup> century structure and respect the full length of the Bridge Street back plots (Fig 5). If this structure had not been in existence by the late 12<sup>th</sup> century when Cowl Street was created, then the widening of Cowl Street would have been able to take place much further south towards Bridge Street than it does.

Therefore around the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century a structure was built to the rear of a property on Bridge Street (now No 41). This building, 35-38, Cowl Street, consisted of a large lias undercroft that had two diamond shaped pillars to hold a stone vaulted ceiling. The ground floor superstructure was probably also built of stone and may have had a first floor above this. The undercroft would have been used as storage for the property on Bridge Street, which was a merchant's plot, and may have had guest accommodation or further storage on the ground and/or first floors.

A medieval merchant's plot was laid out on one of a number of plans (Pantin 1962-63, 202-236). The plan of the property on Bridge Street can still be discerned from the Ordnance Survey map of 1886. The property would have consisted of one or two shops on the ground floor of the Bridge Street frontage with a passage to access rear buildings at one side of the building plot, this passage still exists on the 1886 map (Fig 5). Above the shops would be a hall or domestic accommodation area that was built over the passage. Along the east side of the property boundary was a range of buildings, including the undercroft structure at 35-38, Cowl Street, that formed storage, workshops or domestic accommodation. No other structures

would have been built on the rest of the building plot, leaving the area on the west of the plot open.

### *33, Cowl Street*

33, Cowl Street sits within the boundary of a tenement plot that was probably created in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. The cellar of this existing building is not on the Cowl Street frontage but is located to the rear of the current structure. However this cellar is constructed of lias on three of its sides (Plate 16) and possibly has a late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> century origin, relating to a medieval superstructure on the site. As discussed above, documentary evidence for Cowl Street shows that plots on the street were occupied by the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. The size of the cellar suggests that the medieval building on the site would have been of high-status and probably belonged to a merchant who had a need for secure storage.

A previously recorded lias cellar on Cowl Street (WSM 25970) was also set back from the street and an evaluation adjacent to this cellar revealed remains of the associated house, which continued to the street frontage (WSM 29513). Although these structures have been dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> century it does not negate the possibility of a late 12<sup>th</sup> century structure at 33, Cowl Street.

## 5.3.2 **Phase 2 17<sup>th</sup> century**

### *35-38, Cowl Street*

By the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the superstructure over the undercroft (the building to the rear of 41, Bridge Street), had gone out of use and may have become structurally unstable or partly derelict. At this time the above ground building was taken down and two buildings were constructed on the undercroft footprint (Fig 6). These buildings consisted of a timber-framed structure - portions of which still survive in the walls (Plate 17), the cellars (Plate 18) and the roof space of the existing buildings (Plate 19) - with brick infill panels and external walls (Plate 20). The stone-lined well revealed in Trench 3 was probably related to this structure.

The roof of the building is unusual because from both the front and the rear, the building appears to be gabled. However the internal structure of the roof and aerial photographs show that the roof is M-shaped with a central valley running parallel to Cowl Street (northeast-southwest). This form of construction is typical of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and went out of use in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

An M-shaped roof has two gables at each end of the structure and sometimes includes a wall that projects above the level of the roof, this 'Dutch' gable is also typical of the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> century. As can be seen by the front elevation of 38, this M-shaped roof has a Dutch gable (Plate 21).

A building with an M-shaped roof typically sits with its gables facing the street to show-off its high-status. 35-38 Cowl Street has its gables facing Bridge Street, instead of Cowl Street, which suggests that the building was still associated with the Bridge Street property in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

### 5.3.3 Phase 3 18<sup>th</sup> century

#### *33 and 34, Cowl Street*

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century a large house was constructed across two medieval tenement plots. This building fronting Cowl Street, now 33 and 34, had a central door with a gauged brick head and was flanked by sash windows also with gauged brick heads. The first floor had three matching sash windows arranged above the ground floor openings. This 18<sup>th</sup> century house had a corridor running from the front door to an opening onto the rear of the plot. There were four ground floor rooms opening from each side of the central corridor. The north west room was slightly large, with a small wing to the rear of the property. The first floor was also arranged in this way and evidence of a former connecting door, now blocked, can be seen on the first floors of both 33 and 34 in the rooms along the street frontage.



Taken from architects drawing no. 2246-10OCT07-03

### 5.3.4 Phase 4 early 19<sup>th</sup> century

#### *33 and 34, Cowl Street*

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the 18<sup>th</sup> century property was divided into two separate buildings, the current 33 and 34, Cowl Street. At this time both of the properties had extensions added to their rear elevations (Fig 6). These were probably service ranges and may have held kitchens or washrooms. 34 also had a brick built cellar added under the rear of the house.

Documentary evidence, as shown in Tables 7 and 8 above, shows that these houses were occupied by shopkeepers, skilled workers and professionals. This is further evidence of the higher status of these properties.

#### *35-38, Cowl Street*



Taken from architects drawing no. 2246-10OCT07-03

At this time the two 17<sup>th</sup> century properties were divided into four individual cottages. The front elevation of the buildings was completely replaced with the existing brick Cowl Street frontage. The brick front wall does not tie into the 17<sup>th</sup> century internal walls (Plate 22). These buildings had a single room on the ground floor and two rooms on the first floor. The census information (Table 7) shows that

these buildings were occupied by labourers and workers.

In the centre of each ground floor room was a pointed chimneystack (Fig 6, Plate 23). It is possible that these stacks are built of lias and are the continuation of the lias piers from the 12<sup>th</sup> century undercroft. However, in the roof space (Plate 24) the remains of the stacks are constructed of brick and it is therefore presumed that the lias piers were used as a foundation for the early 19<sup>th</sup> century chimneystacks. These stacks were still in place in the late 1960s

when an aerial photograph of Evesham was taken (Plates 25). The stacks can just be made out, with their shadows, in a zoomed in view of the aerial photograph (Plate 26).

### 5.3.5 **Phase 5 late 19<sup>th</sup> century**

*34, Cowl Street*

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, a further extension was added to rear of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century range behind the house. This extension probably housed the privy and had a door leading from the rear yard rather than access from the house.

### 5.3.6 **Phase 6 20<sup>th</sup> century (c 1970)**

*33, Cowl Street*

In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, 33, Cowl Street had a number of openings blocked and partitions constructed on the first floor. These partitions created a bathroom, a bedroom and a corridor to another bedroom. Other changes were made but these were purely cosmetic and included the refitting of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century extension as a kitchen.

*35-38, Cowl Street*

35-38, Cowl Street fared rather less well in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. At this time the entire rear elevation of the cottages was completely rebuilt in modern brick (Plate 27) and changes were made on the first floor of the structures to create a bathroom and kitchen in each of the houses. The roof tiles were replaced at the same time and the large brick chimneystacks were taken down.

## 6. **Synthesis**

### 6.1 **Buried remains**

The identified archaeological remains comprise a 17<sup>th</sup> century well to the rear of 38, Cowl Street (Trench 3), a 19<sup>th</sup> century post-pit to the rear of 33 (Trench 5) and two partially exposed sides of a 20<sup>th</sup> century outbuilding constructed with a lias stone floor and limestone and brick walls to the rear of 34 (Trench 4). This building is abutted by the extant dividing wall which marks the north-western boundary of 33-34.

Across all five trenches archaeological deposits were largely of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century date and comprised occasional demolition layers and extensive deep garden soils. The latter is indicative of extensive market gardening activity in the plot rear of the north-west boundary across the rear plots of 33-34, Cowl Street.

### 6.2 **Artefactual**

The excavated artefacts were typical of discarded domestic material, rather than products or waste from industrial activity. All the medieval finds were residual within contexts that contained post-medieval and/or modern material. Nevertheless, the context date ranges clearly indicate that long, if not continuous, occupation of the site has taken place on the site from the medieval period onwards. The *terminus post quem* dates deduced for the contexts are shown in Table 3.

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## 6.3 Environmental

Context 3013 is the primary fill of a 17<sup>th</sup> century stone-lined well (3011) and the recovered environmental evidence suggests that after the well fell into disuse it was used as a rubbish pit. The environmental remains from this site bear some comparison to that undertaken at other sites along Cowl Street.

### Survival/condition

The environmental remains from Trench 3 were preserved by charring, waterlogging and mineralization. The condition of the material permitted the identification of the plant remains to species level in most cases.

There has been previous environmental work at 25, 26 and 31, Cowl Street, Evesham (Napthan, 1997, Pearson 2002 and Vaughan 2007). The material from these sites consisted of a 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century pit (201) at 25, medieval and post medieval pits at 26, and late 12<sup>th</sup>-early 13<sup>th</sup> century, 12<sup>th</sup>-early 13<sup>th</sup> century pits and a 15<sup>th</sup> century well. No environmental work was carried out at 19, Cowl Street (Lockett & Jones 1991).

From 25, Cowl Street, the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century pit (201) produced small quantities of fish bone, fish scale, mussel shell and the bones of a young pig. The charred plant remains were a small assemblage and consisted of free-threshing wheat grains, oat grains and seeds of vetch/vetchling/pea (Pearson in Napthan 1997). The three medieval pits at 26 Cowl Street produced a small quantity of charred plant remains including free-threshing wheat, barley, oat and common vetch (*Vicia sativa*). Possible thorow-wax (*Bupleurum rotundifolium*), a rare arable weed today was also identified (Pearson in Vaughan 2007). These medieval pits also contained mineralised remains of arable weeds including corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*), thorow-wax, corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*), elder, hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) and fennel.

The medieval to post-medieval pit 151 from 26 Cowl Street only produced occasional seeds of elder and some free-threshing wheat grains in addition to some large mammal bone and fish vertebrae (Pearson in Vaughan 2007).

The late 12<sup>th</sup>-early 13<sup>th</sup> century pit (context 032) produced the occasional fragmented large mammal bone and fish vertebrae along with moderate charred cereal crop remains which included free-threshing wheat, vetch/vetchling/pea, a cereal straw node, a slow stone (*Prunus spinosa*) and a fragment of hazel nutshell. (Pearson 2002). Context 038 from a 12<sup>th</sup>-early 13<sup>th</sup> century pit produced large mammal and fish vertebrae. The charred plant assemblage consisted of possible emmer or spelt wheat grains (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) and rye with weeds seeds such as common vetch, medick (*Medicago* sp.), sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and sedges. The only chaff remain was that of a barley/rye rachis. No waterlogged material or mineralised material was recovered from these two pits.

The only directly comparable post-medieval feature from 31 to the feature sampled at the present site is the 15<sup>th</sup> century well (context 046). From this well only a small quantity of charred cereal crops remains were identified and included both free-threshing and glumed wheat and barley grains. The only other find was of a field bean (*Vicia faba*).

In comparison with the material analysed from the present site, the above environmental evidence broadly agrees with what has been found there. The number of plant remains from 38 is far greater than those found at the other Cowl Street sites and there is a greater variety of modes of preservation at the present site.

The cereal remains all show that the crops had been processed to the stage of hand cleaning which would have been carried out at each household prior to being processed for food. The presence of charred material may suggest that there was some accidental spillage during this final cleaning and the charred remains were dumped into the features when the domestic

hearths were cleaned out. The presence of bird and fish bones indicate that food waste was also dumped in to pits/wells, which at 38 provided the right habitat for flies to breed as indicated by the presence of mineralised fly puparia. The presence of waterlogged plant remains in the well (3011) in trench 3 also show that the garden was either unkempt or abandoned at the time of deposition.

## 6.4 **Historic buildings**

The buildings recorded on Cowl Street have a long history. This began in the 12<sup>th</sup> century with the construction of an undercroft at the back of a medieval tenement plot on Bridge Street. Because the building is built back from the street frontage, it was most probably used for storage rather than a shop or tavern, common uses for such buildings in towns.

This building, the cellars of 35-38, Cowl Street, was constructed of lias and consisted of a below ground, or part-subterranean, undercroft with two diamond shaped piers to hold a vaulted ceiling. Above ground there was at the least a ground floor structure and possibly a first floor above that. The above ground structure may have been used for further storage or for accommodation. This building sat along the east and north boundaries of the medieval plot and was the end structure in a range of buildings running from the Bridge Street frontage along the eastern boundary. The property on the frontage probably consisted of a number of shops on the street with a passageway on the west boundary and a first floor hall above this stretching over the passage and all the shops. The buildings ranged behind this probably consisted of storage or accommodation and were access through the passageway. When Cowl Street was created in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century, the undercroft building stood adjacent to the frontage but was still part of the Bridge Street plot.

Once Cowl Street had been created, tenement plots were laid out running back from the frontage. In the late 12<sup>th</sup> century a building was constructed on one of the new plots on Cowl Street, to the immediate north of the undercroft building. This structure, 33 Cowl Street, included a lias built cellar, slightly set back from the street, and may have been a merchant's house with the shop on the street frontage. It is probable that this property was part of a row of buildings in tenement plots on the street, although not all of the structures will have included cellars.

There is no evidence within any of the buildings of later medieval structures on the site and it therefore seems that the medieval buildings stood until the 17<sup>th</sup> century for the undercroft building and the 18<sup>th</sup> century for the Cowl Street building. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, two timber-framed buildings were built on top of the undercroft (35-38, Cowl Street), after the demolition of any remaining above ground structure. At this time it was more usual to build houses in timber and brick than in stone. These buildings shared a roof, which was M-shaped and aligned on Bridge Street and therefore retained the medieval layout of the tenement plot. There is no surviving architectural evidence to show the function of these buildings. They may have been used for further storage or for domestic accommodation both accessed from the passageway off Bridge Street.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century development on Cowl Street consisted of the building of a large house (33 and 34, Cowl Street) crossing the first two medieval tenement plots on the street, and to the immediate north of the undercroft building. This property was symmetrical with a central doorway and reused the medieval cellar as a cellar for the property. Such a large house, constructed in the centre of the town, and crossing two plots, is suggestive of a rich family. This status however was short lived as, early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the property was divided and became two houses, although the occupants of the houses consisted of professional and skilled workers. At the same time the alignment of the undercroft building was changed by the creation of a row of cottages out of the two 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings (35-38, Cowl Street), by rebuilding the front elevation. These cottages all fronted on to Cowl Street and were occupied by labourers.

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Later development of the properties was concentrated in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century when the rear elevation of the cottages was completely rebuilt.

## 6.5 **Research frameworks**

### 6.5.1 **Evaluation trenching**

Unfortunately the low level results of the present trenching sample did not allow any of the identified research questions (Section 1.3 above) to be addressed.

### 6.5.2 **Buildings assessment**

The buildings analysis has shed light on an identified research question, namely:

‘Buildings... Some medieval small towns in the region contain nationally significant groups of medieval buildings... and there is potential for developing a more coherent approach to research into medieval urban buildings in the region.... There is enormous potential to develop the understanding of medieval vernacular architecture through studies of standing buildings and archaeological evidence. Archaeology can contribute to the understanding of the building types of medieval towns where no medieval houses survive, and to the study of the changing use of building materials’ (Dalwood 2003, 4).

Medieval Evesham has been researched and discussed at length in the past, but this research has tended to concentrate on the Abbey and its associated buildings. One of the exceptions is the Central Marches Historic Town Survey for Evesham, which includes general discussion on the development of the town and its urban components (Dalwood 1996). Medieval houses have also been greatly researched, such as *The medieval houses of Kent* (Pearson 1994) and *Hampshire houses 1250 – 1700: their dating and development* (Roberts et al 2003). The most relevant research has already been mentioned in the preceding paragraphs. Pantin’s *Medieval English town-house plans* (Pantin 1962-63) discusses in detail the arrangement of houses in medieval towns and Hilton’s *The small town and urbanisation: Evesham in the middle ages* discusses the medieval development of Evesham, mentioning individual streets and rental documents. This report allows an increased knowledge of the development of urban Evesham and its high-status buildings to be incorporated into already existing information and invites further research into this subject.

## 7. **Significance**

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.

### 7.1 **Evaluation trenching**

The current trenching has only identified archaeological remains (deposits and structures) of low significance. However, the sampling rate was low, at approximately two-thirds of that originally envisaged. It was hampered by tree cover and the great depth of soils to the rear of 33-34, which meant that the full stratigraphic down to the natural matrix was largely unexposed.

The large quantity of residual medieval pottery sherds (62), and the attested medieval remains recovered during investigations in adjacent sites, means that it can be argued that the site still retains the potential for extant significant below ground archaeological remains, which would be vulnerable to disturbance during any groundworks below the depth of these soils.

Thus, because of the *high level of survival* of structural remains of medieval and post-medieval date (Section 7.2 below) the site is considered to have a *moderate/high potential* to yield below ground archaeological information of local importance, regarding the occupation of this medieval suburb of Evesham, from the later 12<sup>th</sup> century.

## 7.2 Buildings

### *Period, rarity and survival*

The buildings appraised on the site date back to the medieval period, most likely the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The evidence surviving from this period consists of the standing remains of an undercroft and a cellar. These structures have been incorporated into later buildings and it is this continued use that has caused the survival. Discovery of surviving upstanding ‘high medieval’ structures is very unusual, especially in Worcestershire where the predominant medieval building material is timber. The fact that these buildings are constructed of stone makes them more rare. In urban Evesham very few of the buildings of this period would have been constructed of stone and those were merchant’s properties, high status structures.

### *Vulnerability*

The top of the medieval stone structures on this site can be found immediately below the ground surface and some of them are right on the Cowl Street frontage. This means the buildings are very vulnerable to any development on the site and also to any ground works taking place on the street frontage.

Current proposals include the demolition of the above ground structures, except the street frontage, on the site. This would have a significant impact on the medieval structures below ground and would involve the demolition of 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings founded on the medieval stone undercroft. These timber-framed structures are also very vulnerable.

### *Potential*

The surviving buildings on this site have the potential to be nationally important. The survival of unknown ‘high’ medieval structures is very rare. The appraisal of buildings carried out for this project has only allowed a small amount of information to be discovered about the site, and any further work would reveal more information and has the likelihood to reveal more remains of the same date. The potential regional importance of the site is also great, as the study of these buildings will reveal more about the development of the urban settlement of Evesham and of the construction of high-status medieval town buildings within Worcestershire.

## 8. 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.

*Archaeological evaluation and buildings appraisal were undertaken on behalf of Rooftop Housing Group Ltd at 33-38 Cowl Street, Evesham, Worcestershire (NGR SP 03858 43790; WSM 40829 and 40820).*



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*The evaluation trenching identified deposits, features and structures of post-medieval and modern date along with residual finds of medieval date. The buildings appraisal identified structures of medieval, post-medieval and modern date.*

*The buildings recorded at 33-38, Cowl Street date back to the 'high medieval' period, probably the 12<sup>th</sup> century. These structures consist of a stone built undercroft below 35-38, related to a merchant's property on Bridge Street, and dating to before the creation of Cowl Street, and a stone built cellar below 33, set back from the frontage of Cowl Street within one of tenement plots running to the west of the street. The undercroft building had a timber-frame building constructed over it, on the ground floor, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and an 18<sup>th</sup> century building had been added over the stone cellar.*

*The buildings on the site, in particular 35-38, are considered to be of national and regional importance, given the fact that a 'high medieval' structure has survived hitherto unknown in an urban environment and is considered as highly vulnerable. The buildings also have such a high importance for their potential to provide important information relating to the urban development of Evesham and the development of urban housing in the medieval period. The buildings have the potential to provide additional information relating directly to research aims identified within the West Midlands Regional Research Framework for Archaeology.*

*The structural remains to the rear of the properties were confined to post-medieval and modern boundary walls, which contained re-used medieval stonework. A 17<sup>th</sup> century stone-lined well was also evident to the rear of 38; its lower fill containing abundant environmental residues of animal and plant remains.*

*An outbuilding, typically of 18-19<sup>th</sup> century style of outbuildings for high status properties, constructed with stone and brick walls and with a lias stone floor, survives along the rear boundary of 34, Cowl Street.*

*Deposits to the rear of 33, 34 and 38 consisted of garden soils and make-up layers of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The depth of these soils to the north west of plots 33 and 34 was considerable, indicating that the site has been used for market gardening, as documented in 19<sup>th</sup> century trade directories.*

## 9. **Acknowledgements**

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## 10. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Justin Hughes and Shona Robson-Glyde. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan. Fieldwork was undertaken by Justin Hughes, Shona Robson-Glyde and Steve Woodhouse, finds analysis by Dennis Williams, environmental analysis by Alan Clapham and illustration by Carolyn Hunt and Shona Robson-Glyde.

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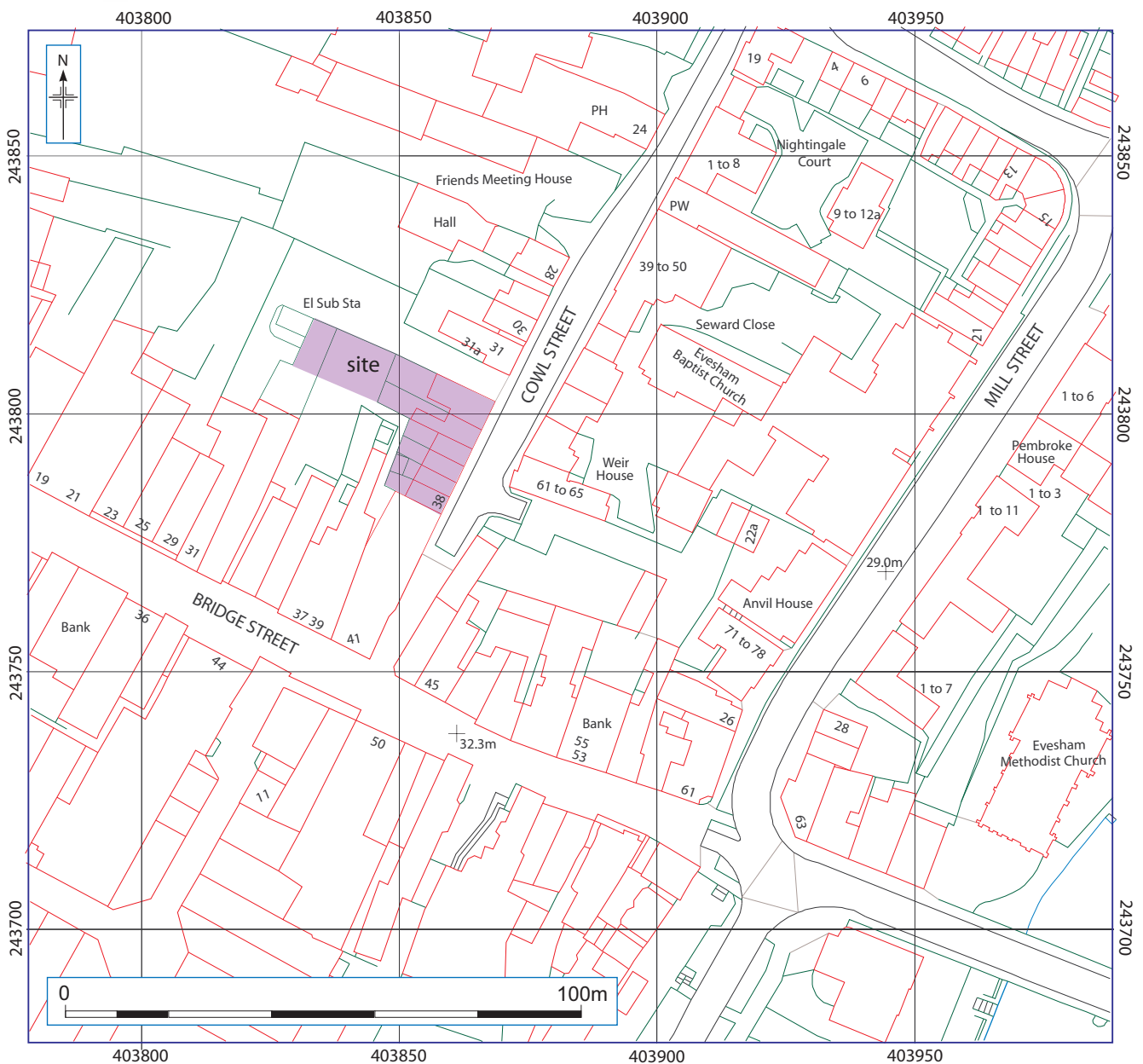
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# Figures

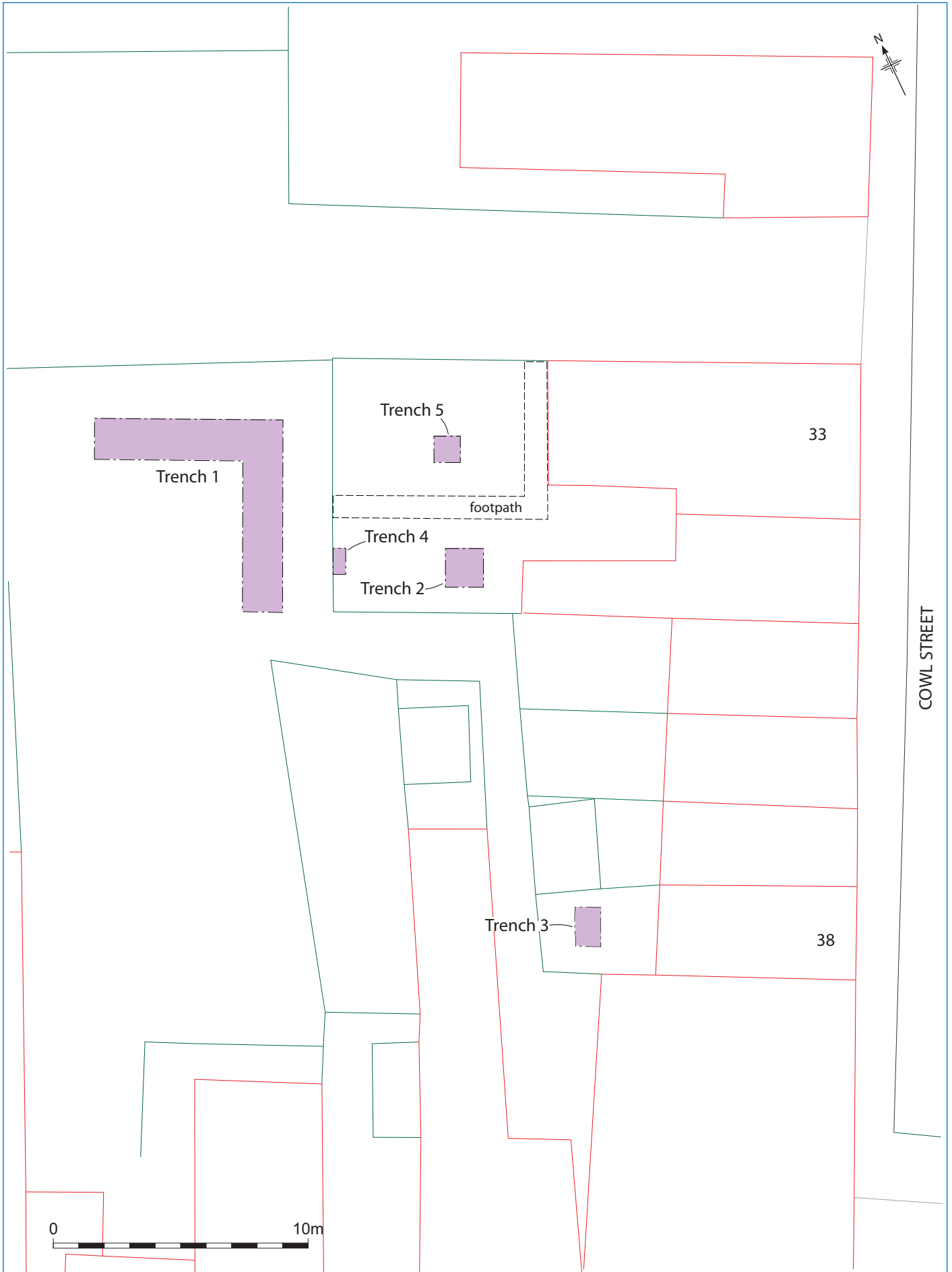




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Location of the site

Figure 1



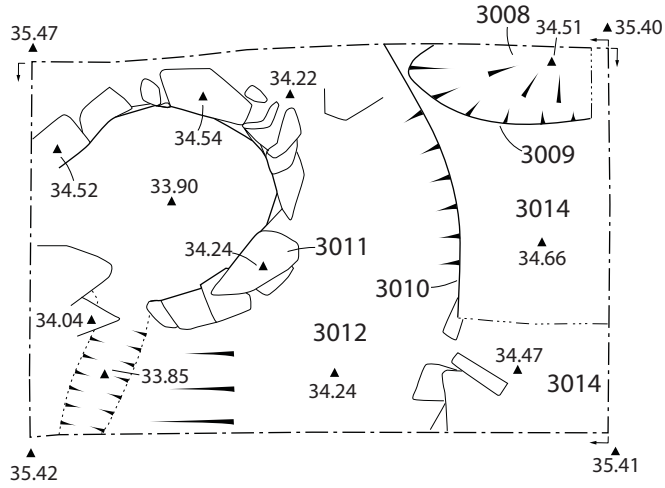
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Trench location plan

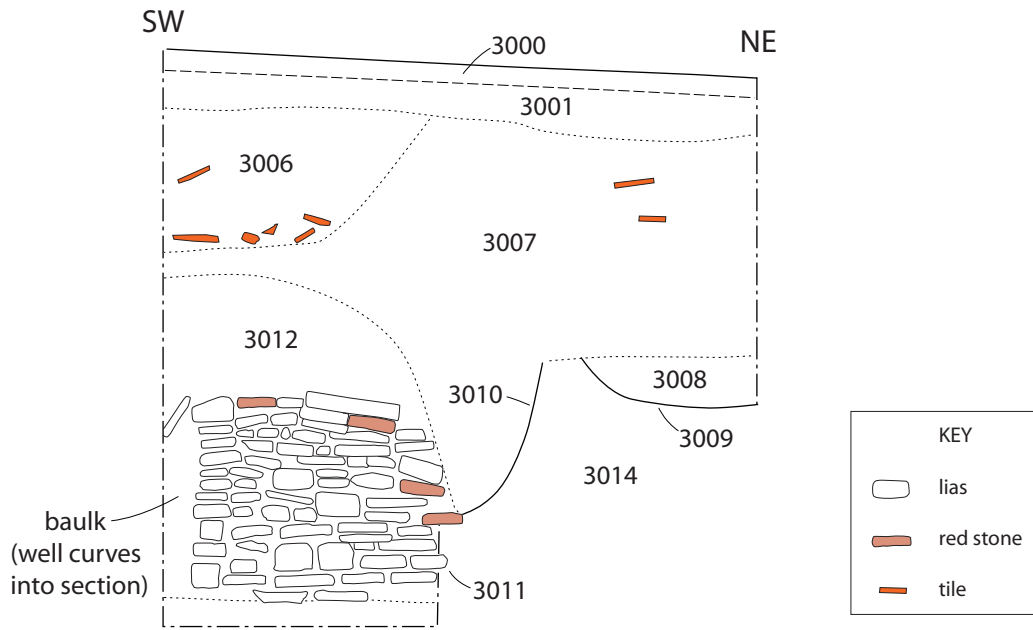
Figure 2



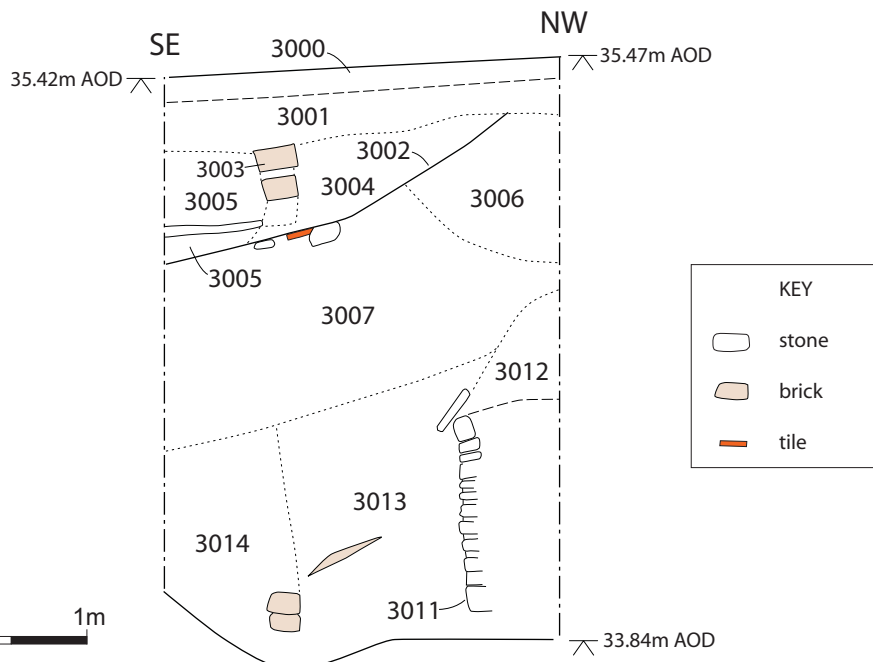
TRENCH 3: PLAN



SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION



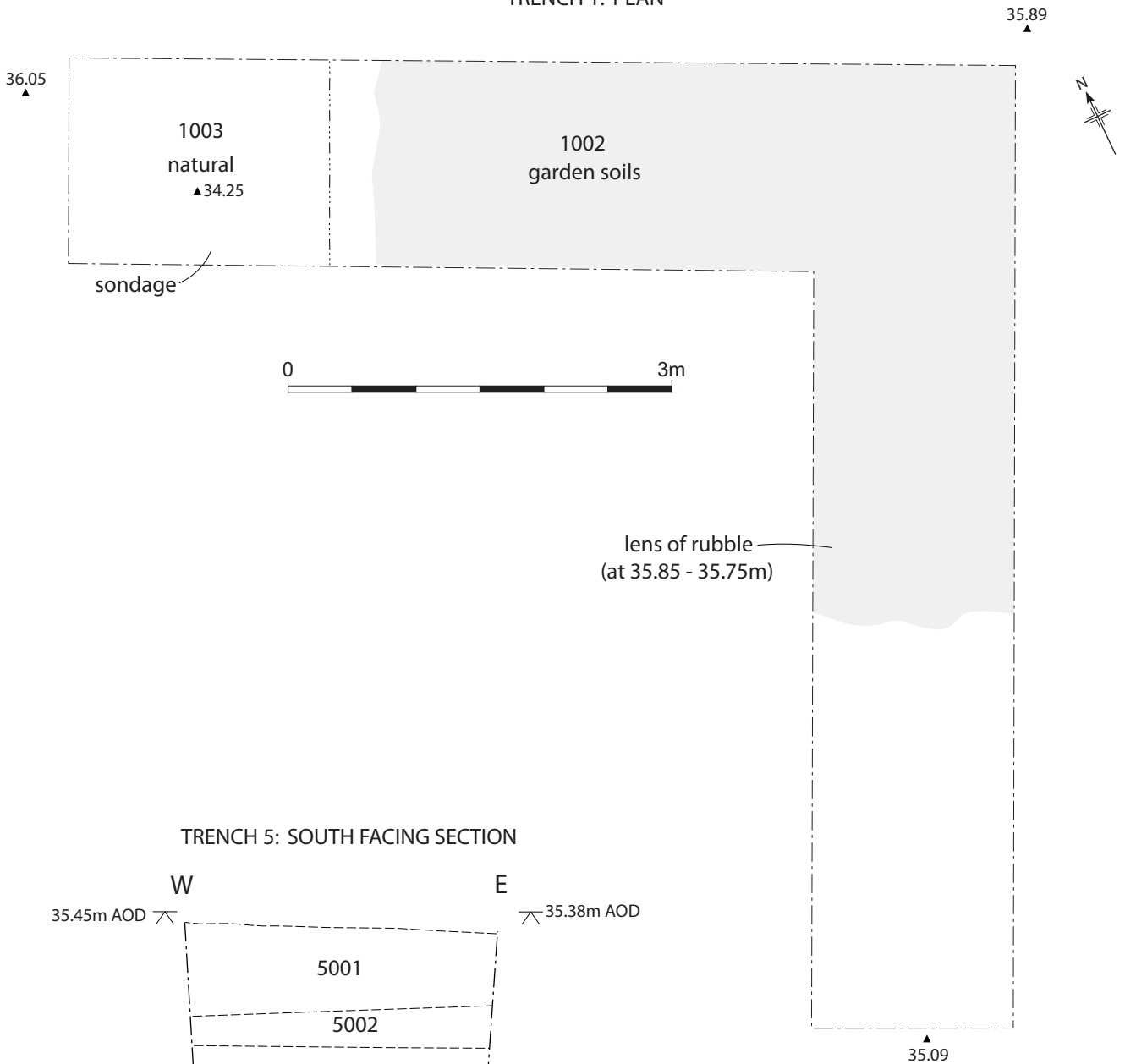
NORTH-EAST FACING SECTION



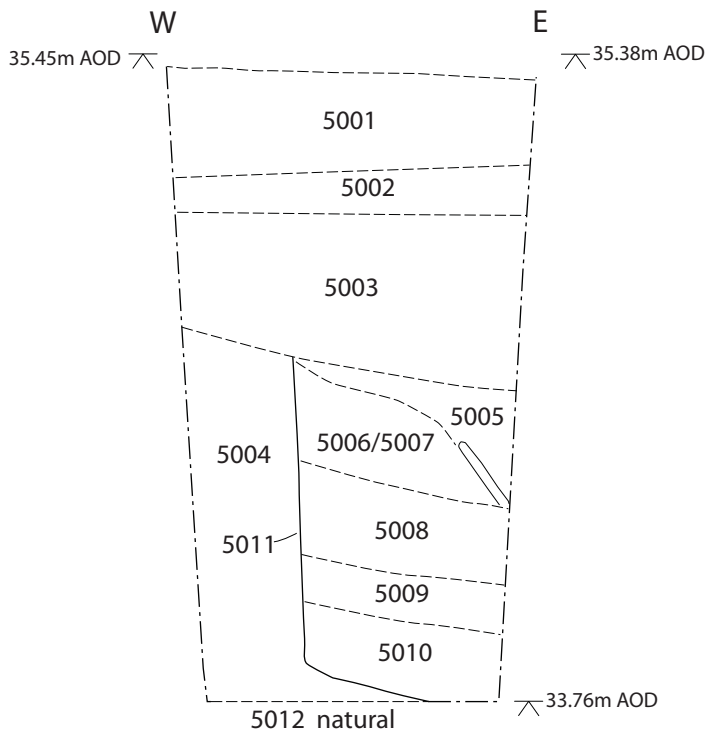
Trench 3: Plan and sections.

Figure 3

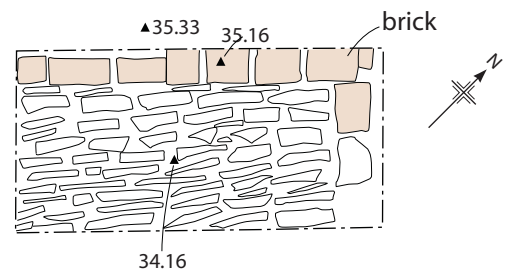
TRENCH 1: PLAN



TRENCH 5: SOUTH FACING SECTION



TRENCH 4: PLAN



Trenches 1 and 4: plans; Trench 5: section

Figure 4



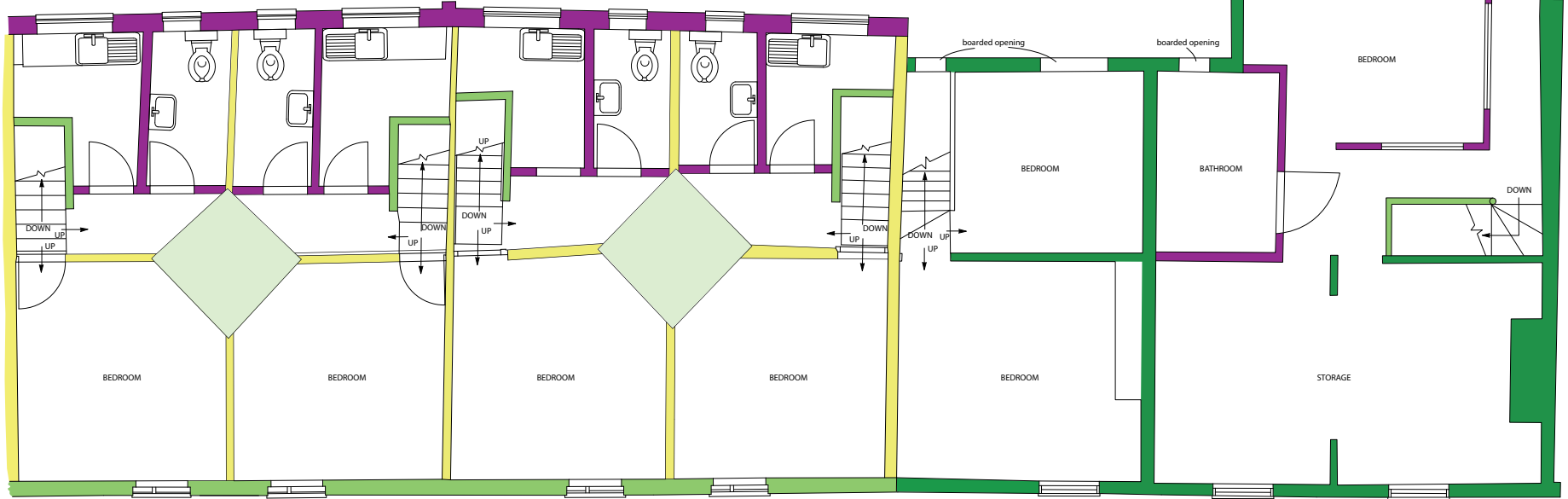
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Sample of surviving medieval tenement plot boundaries (based upon OS 1st Edition, 1886)

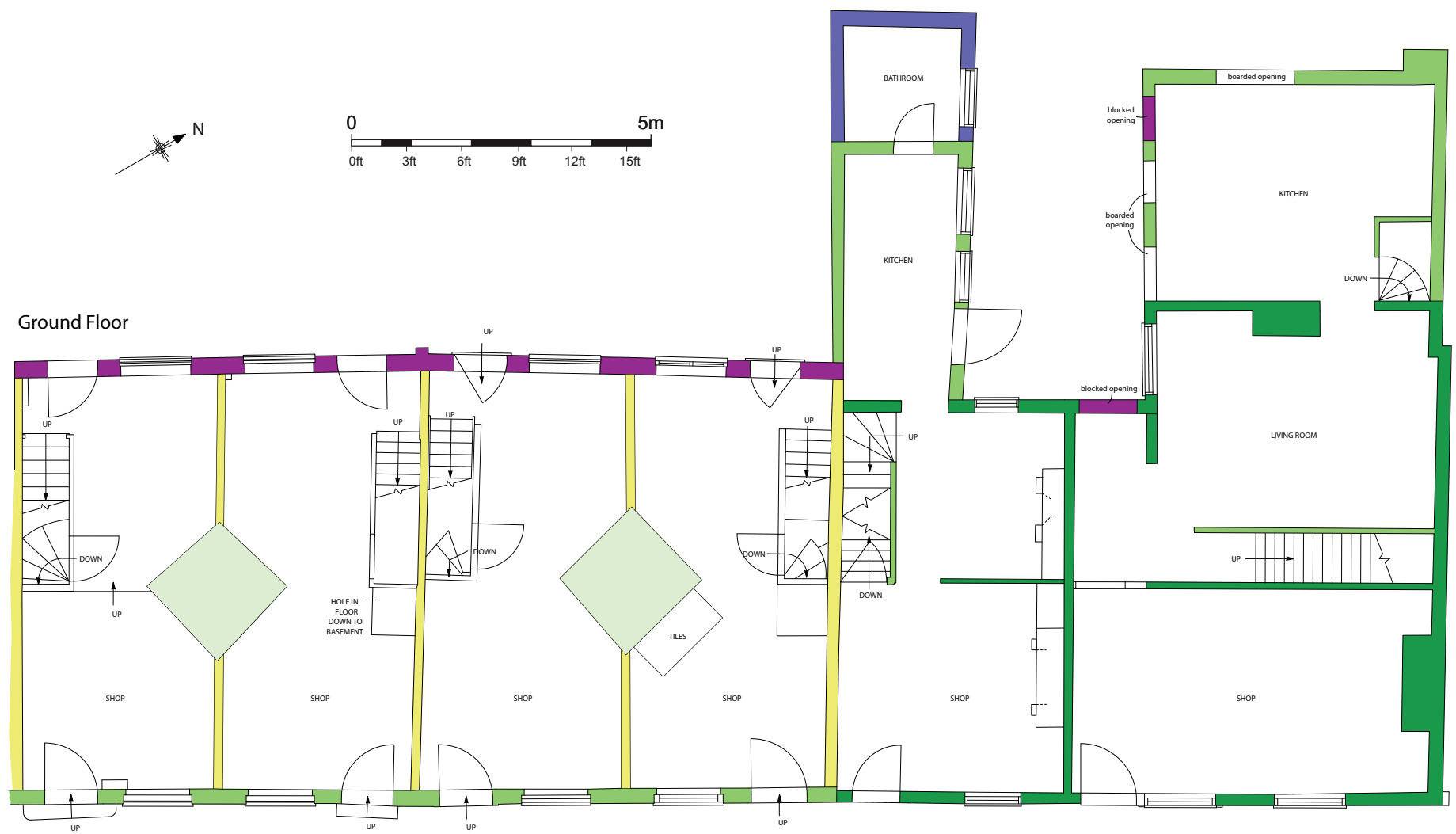
Figure 5

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:red; border:1px solid black;"></span> mid 12th century       | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:green; border:1px solid black;"></span> mid 18th century                | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:blue; border:1px solid black;"></span> late 19th century   |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:pink; border:1px solid black;"></span> presumed 12th century | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightgreen; border:1px solid black;"></span> early 19th century         | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:purple; border:1px solid black;"></span> late 20th century |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:yellow; border:1px solid black;"></span> 17th century        | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightgrey; border:1px solid black;"></span> presumed early 19th century |   |

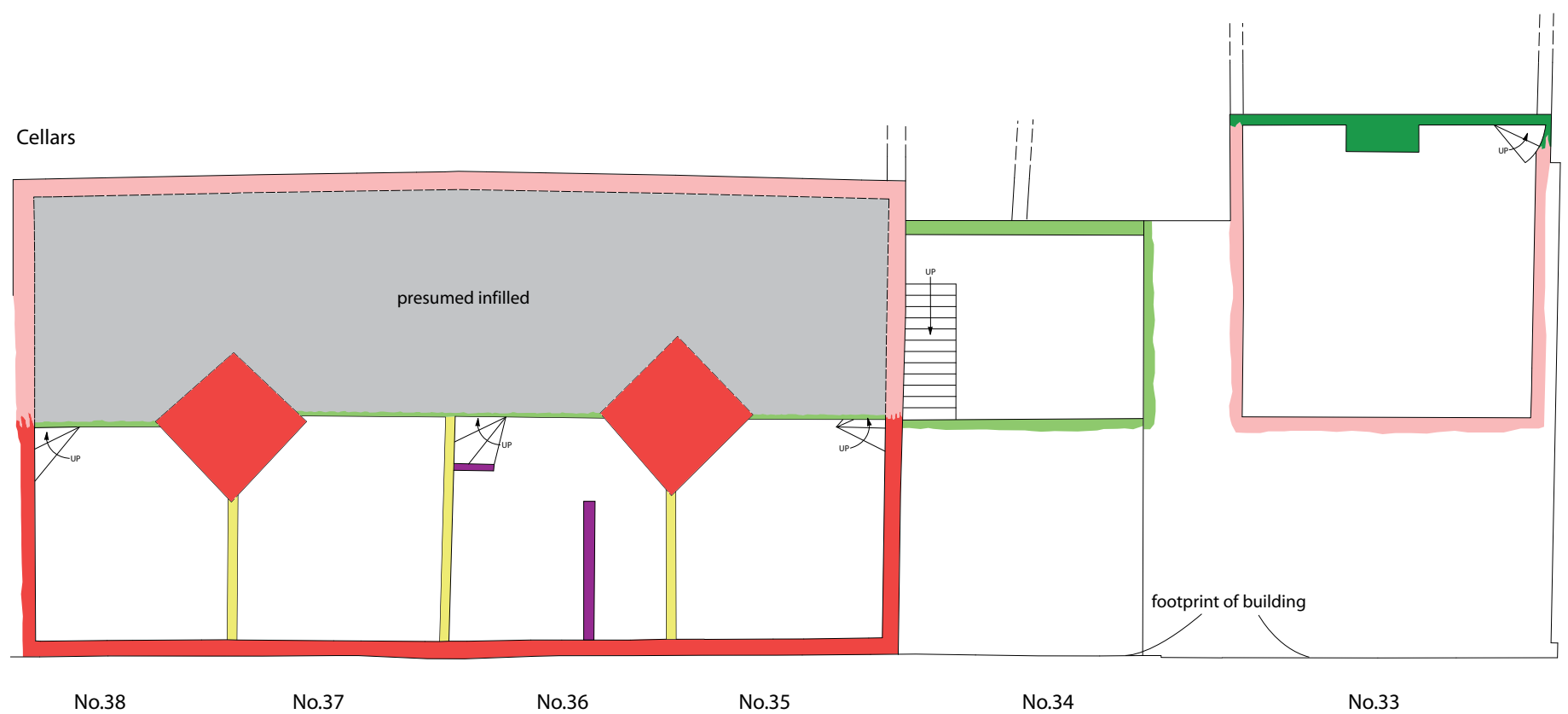
First Floor



Ground Floor



Cellars



Phased ground, first floor and cellar plans

Figure 6



## Plates



*Plate 1: Stone-lined well 3001 in Trench 3 facing NW*

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*Plate 2: Pit 5011 in Trench 5 facing NE*



*Plate 3: Section through deposits in Trench 5, facing NE*

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*Plate 4: NW boundary wall to the rear of 33-34, Cowl Street, showing location of Trench 4*

---



*Plate 5: Trench 4, Lias stone floor (4004) and NW wall (4005) of outbuilding to the rear of 34, Cowl Street*

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*Plate 6: Trench 4, Lias stone floor(4004) and N wall (4005) of outbuilding to the rear of 34, Cowl Street*



*Plate 7: Ornamental re-used limestone fireplace slab (2004) in-situ in Trench 2, facing S*



*Plate 8: Detail of ornamental fireplace slab (2004) found in Trench 2*

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*Plate 9: 33, Cowl Street*

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*Plate 10: 34, Cowl Street*

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*Plate 11: 35-38, Cowl Street*



Plate 12: 35 and 36, Cowl Street





*Plate 13: 37 and 38, Cowl Street*



*Plate 14: Cowl Street frontage, medieval stone wall in cellar of 38, Cowl Street*

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*Plate 15: Medieval stone pier in the cellar of 38, Cowl Street*

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*Plate 16: Stone cellar of 33, Cowl Street*



*Plate 17: Part of timber frame wall in 36, Cowl Street*

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*Plate 18: 17<sup>th</sup> century timber-frame in cellar of 38, Cowl Street*

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*Plate 19: Timber frame wall in roof space of 38, Cowl Street*

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*Plate 20: External gable showing early bricks in 35, Cowl Street*



*Plate 21: Dutch gable of 38, Cowl Street*

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*Plate 22: Detail of frontage wall (on right) and 17<sup>th</sup> century internal wall, with gap between the two (sample comparable in each of 35-38, Cowl Street)*

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*Plate 23: Ground floor diamond shaped chimney stack in 38, Cowl Street*



*Plate 24: Top of brick chimney stack in roof space of 35, Cowl Street*

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*Plate 25: 1960s aerial photograph of Evesham, looking west from Bengeworth*



*Plate 26 Close up view of Cowl Street in 1960s aerial photograph, showing chimneystacks.*



*Plate 27: 1970s rear elevation of 35-38, Cowl Street*



## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 15.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 1.80m

Orientation: NW-SE and NE-SW, L-shaped

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1001	Topsoil	Loose mid-grey sandy silt with moderate rubble including a lens of modern crushed stone, brick and pebbles at 0.30-0.40m below ground surface.	0.00-1.20m (36.05m to 34.85m AOD)
1002	Garden soil	Loose light brown sandy silt with occasional to moderate brick, CBM and stone and a patch of loose orange sand at the N corner (as L shape of trench turns W)	1.20-1.80m
1003	Natural	Loose orange sandy silt with moderate rounded pebbles, encountered in a sondage	1.80m+ (34.25m AOD)

### Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.50m Width: 1.50m Depth: 2.40m (including augered layers)

Orientation: N/A

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
2001	Topsoil	Loose mid-grey sandy silt with some root disturbance Ground level is 35.23m AOD	0.00-0.24m
2002	Garden soil	Loose mid-grey sandy silt, gritty in texture and containing CBM and charcoal flecks	0.24-0.64m
2003	Layer	Demolition material comprising loose orange sandy silt with abundant rubble, and charcoal flecking	0.64-0.78m
2004	Structure	Ornamental limestone (grooved) slab. Dim: 1.08 x 0.45 x 0.16m	0.60m bgs.
2005	Layer	Loose grey sandy silt containing plaster, pottery, glass and bone	0.78-1.14m
2006	Structure	Compact mortar rubble deposit, largely robbed	1.14-1.32m
2007	Layer	Loose, fine orange sand containing plaster and ceramic roof tile, possibly demolition material associated with 2006	1.14-1.38m
2008	Layer	Loose grey sandy silt containing abundant stone roof tile, possible fill but no clear edge within excavated area	0.90-1.05m
2009	Layer	Loose dark grey sandy silt with moderate charcoal and CBM flecks	1.14-1.60m
2010	Layer	Moderately compact grey-brown sandy silt, identified by auger	1.60-1.80m
2011	Natural	Loose orange sandy silt with moderate rounded pebbles, identified by auger	2.40m+ (32.83m AOD)

**Trench 3**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.50m Width: 1.00m Depth: 1.56m (max)

Orientation: N-S

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
3000	Structure	Yard surface of blue engineering bricks with some mortaring but only one course in thickness. Ground level is 35.40m AOD	0.00-0.07m
3001	Layer	Compact mixed mortar and sand containing sand, tile, brick and pebbles	0.07-0.29m
3002	Cut	Cut for a drain, only viewed in NW facing section	0.29-0.75m
3003	Structure	Brick drain within 3002, constructed in red brick in 3 courses, 0.42m wide and 0.22m in height	0.29m bgs
3004	Fill	Compact (friable) yellowish light brown clay silt containing brick, tile stone and pebbles - backfill	0.15-0.50m
3005	Fill	Loose layer of burnt material composed of charcoal and ash, 0.30m wide and 0.20m deep	0.20-0.50m
3006	Fill	Moderately compact mid brown clay silt with sand containing stone tile, worked stone and pebbles, 0.60m wide and 0.40m deep	0.15-0.55m
3007	Fill	Moderately compact brown grey clay silt containing some gritty sand, pebbles and stone, including tile. Also contains ceramic tile and charcoal flecks	0.35-1.00m
3008	Fill	Moderately compact greyish brown silt, gritty in texture and containing frequent bone, pottery, tile and glass	0.75-0.87m
3009	Cut	Pit cutting re-deposited material, much of profile beyond excavated area	0.75-0.87m
3010	Cut	Cut for well (context 3011), only partially exposed, profile therefore unclear	33.85m AOD at base
3011	Structure	Stone lined well of blue lias, E side intact but much of original structure disturbed. Dim: 0.60 x 0.50 x 0.70m	0.92-1.45m
3012	Fill	Loose orange sand with pebbles and material from context 3011	0.80-1.50m
3013	Fill	Moderately compact clay silt with sand, stone and charcoal, containing pottery, bone and occasional iron	0.80-1.55m
3014	Layer	Moderately compact mid to dark brown clay silt containing abundant stone roof tile, some worked stone and animal bone	0.80-1.50m

**Trench 4**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.00m Width: 0.50m Depth: 1.06m

Orientation: N-S

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
4001	Topsoil	Loose dark grey sandy silt with ash and some root disturbance – ground surface at 35.33m AOD	0.00-0.25m
4002	Garden soil	Loose dark grey sandy silt containing cinder, ash, white and cream ware vessel fragments. In-fill of structure 4003/4	0.25-0.40m
4003	Structure	Brick wall of five courses, abutted by W boundary wall to 34 Cowl Street. Part of a building indicated by the right angled turn of the wall which appears to run along a former boundary of 33-34 Cowl Street	0.25-0.55m
4004	Structure	Blue lias stone surface, blocks being set vertically, encountered at 34.27m AOD. Part of structure 4003/5	1.06m bgs
4005	Structure	Limestone wall of ten courses set into lias floor (context 4004). Appears to have been repaired or incorporated into brick courses above	0.55-1.05m
4006	Fill	Loose grey brown sandy silt containing abundant cinder, ash, pottery and glass. In-fill of building 4003/4/5	0.55-1.05m

**Trench 5**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 1.00m Width: 1.00m Depth: 1.69m

Orientation: N/A

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
5001	Topsoil	Loose dark grey sandy silt with ash and some root disturbance – ground surface at 35.45m AOD	0.00-0.26m
5002	Garden soil	Loose dark grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles, rubble and charcoal flecks	0.26-0.44m
5003	Layer	Loose orange grey sandy silt with abundant rubble	0.44-0.80m (max)
5004	Layer	Loose dark grey sandy silt containing pebbles and moderate charcoal flecks	0.70-1.69m
5005	Fill	Mortar and sand, uppermost fill of pit 5011	0.85-1.15m (max)
5006	Fill	Ash and charcoal deposit, fill of pit 5011	0.85-1.15m
5007	Fill	Same as 5006	0.85-1.15m
5008	Fill	Moderately compact greyish dark brown sandy silt containing stone and flecks of charcoal and mortar. Some root disturbance. Fill of pit 5011	1.15-1.30m (max)
5009	Fill	Moderately compact brown grey sandy silt with some root disturbance, containing flecks of charcoal and mortar. Bone, pottery and tile present. Fill of pit 5011	1.27-1.40m
5010	Fill	Compact dark brown silty sand with some root disturbance and containing stone, pottery and clay pipe. Primary fill of pit 5011	1.40-1.69m
5011	Cut	A vertically sided pit with rounded to partially concave base.	0.70-1.69m
5012	Natural	Loose orange sandy silt	1.69m+ (33.76m AOD)



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## Appendix 2 Technical information

### The archive

The archive consists of:

47	Context records AS1
10	Fieldwork progress records AS2
8	Photographic records AS3
275	Digital photographs
11	Scale drawings
1	Box of finds

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 Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

### WSM 40819 - P3330

#### Artefacts

Type	Count	Weight (g)	Date (note 1)	Specialist report? (note 2)	Key assemblage? (note 3)
Brick	5	491	Post-medieval/ modern	Y	N
Brick/tile	5	106	Post-medieval/ modern	Y	N
Clay pipe	88	207	Post-medieval/	Y	N
Mineral - coal	2	3	Undated	N	N
Glass - window	1	2	Modern	Y	N
Glass - vessel	11	205	Post-medieval	Y	N
Glass - vessel	19	338	Post-medieval/ modern	Y	N
Leather - shoe	4	276	Undated	N	N
Metal - Cu alloy	1	7	Post-medieval/ modern	Y	N
Metal - Cu alloy	1	4	Post-medieval	Y	N
Metal - Cu alloy	2	10	Undated	Y	N
Metal - iron	2	53	Post-medieval/ modern	Y	N
Metal - iron	8	185	Undated	Y	N
Mineral - mortar	2	118	Post-medieval	Y	N
Mineral - plaster	10	445	Post-medieval	Y	N
Pottery	62	1378	Medieval	Y	Y
Pottery	132	2395	Post-medieval	Y	Y
Pottery	97	1472	Post-medieval/ modern	Y	Y
Organic - shell	3	39	Undated	N	N
Stone - limestone floor tile	3	6200	Medieval/ post-medieval	Y	N
Stone - roof slate	2	42	Post-medieval	Y	N
Stone - limestone roof tile	1	77	Medieval/ post-medieval	Y	N
Stone - limestone flat fragments	5	657	Undated	Y	N
Tile - roof	7	2490	Medieval/ post-medieval	Y	N
Tile - roof	21	2189	Post-medieval	Y	N
Tile - floor	1	39	Post-medieval/ modern	Y	N
Wood	1	2	Undated	N	N



---

**Notes**

1. In some cases the date will be "Undated". In most cases, especially if there is not a specialist report, the information entered in the *Date* field will be a general period such as Neolithic, Roman, medieval etc (see below for a list of periods used in the Worcestershire HER). Very broad date ranges such as *late Medieval to Post-medieval* are acceptable for artefacts which can be hard to date for example roof tiles. If you have more specific dates, such as *13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century*, please use these instead. Specific date ranges which cross general period boundaries can also be used, for example *15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century*.

Period	From	To
Palaeolithic	500000 BC	10001 BC
Mesolithic	10000 BC	4001 BC
Neolithic	4000 BC	2351 BC
Bronze Age	2350 BC	801 BC
Iron Age	800 BC	42 AD
Roman	43	409
Post-Roman	410	1065
Medieval	1066	1539
Post-medieval	1540	1900
Modern	1901	2050

Period Specific	From	To
Lower Paleolithic	500000 BC	150001
Middle Palaeolithic	150000	40001
Upper Palaeolithic	40000	10001
Early Mesolithic	10000	7001
Late Mesolithic	7000	4001
Early Neolithic	4000	3501
Middle Neolithic	3500	2701
Late Neolithic	2700	2351
Early Bronze Age	2350	1601
Middle Bronze Age	1600	1001
Late Bronze Age	1000	801
Early Iron Age	800	401
Middle Iron Age	400	101
Late Iron Age	100 BC	42 AD
Roman 1st century AD	43	100
2nd century	101	200
3rd century	201	300
4th century	301	400
Roman 5th century	401	410
Post roman	411	849
Pre conquest	850	1065
Late 11th century	1066	1100
12th century	1101	1200
13th century	1201	1300
14th century	1301	1400
15th century	1401	1500
16th century	1501	1600
17th century	1601	1700
18th century	1701	1800
19th century	1801	1900
20th century	1901	2000
21st century	2001	

2. Not all evaluations of small excavation assemblages have specialist reports on all classes of objects. An identification (eg clay pipe) and a quantification is not a specialist report. A short discussion or a more detailed record identifying types and dates is a specialist report. This field is designed to point researchers to reports where they will find out more than merely the presence or absence of material of a particular type and date.
  3. This field should be used with care. It is designed to point researchers to reports where they will be able to locate the most important assemblages for any given material for any given date.
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