TOWER STREET, DUDLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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For

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On behalf of

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For

Dudley College

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Network Archaeology Limited as part of a planning application submission for the construction of a new college facility at Tower Street, Dudley.

Four evaluation trenches were excavated and recorded. Natural geological deposits were recorded in only one trench; excavation of the other three trenches was halted due to health and safety requirements before geological horizons could be reached.

No archaeological deposits pre-dating the later post-medieval period were recorded in any of the trenches. Instead, the remains recorded were predominantly levelling and demolition deposits and the foundations of brick-built domestic dwellings dating to the 19th and 20th centuries, with two main phases of building being detected in the northern part of the site. The pottery assemblage reflects moderate prosperity, although as this material was largely recovered from levelling deposits, the extent to which this reflects the status of the buildings' occupants is uncertain.

Evidence from the trench evaluation revealed something of the extent to which the land surface has been altered in the past. The relationship between the location of the trenches and the depths to which excavation proceeded before natural geological deposits were or were not encountered suggests that the original ground surface sloped down considerably from south to north across the site. The likelihood that the development area has been raised and levelled in the past to obscure this original slope is revealed both by the seemingly extensive levelling deposits recorded in the northern trenches, and by a consideration of the local topography.

The building remains and other associated deposits uncovered during the course of the evaluation can be considered to be of local importance, due to their recent date, and the ubiquity of similar Industrial-era housing stock in the wider area and beyond. Due to the fact that the remains at the site tally with cartographic evidence, further investigation is unlikely to significantly increase our understanding of the development of Dudley in the Industrial period.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the report

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation conducted within a proposed development area located at Tower Street, Dudley, West Midlands (Figure 1). This report describes the buried archaeological resource revealed within a series of archaeological evaluation trenches and considers the wider implications of these findings.

1.2 Commissioning bodies

This report was commissioned by Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy for Prospect Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Dudley College. The archaeological contractor was Network Archaeology Ltd.

1.3 Proposed development area

1.3.1 Development proposal

Dudley College has been granted planning permission for the construction of a new college building, as part of their town centre campus project, on the site of the former Fire and Ambulance Stations on Tower Street, Dudley.

1.3.2 Location and description of the proposed development area

The proposed development area lies to the north west of the modern commercial centre of Dudley and to the south west of Dudley castle. When the archaeological trial trench evaluation occurred, the development area was occupied by a modern tarmac car park, the standing shell of Dudley fire station, and the razed remains of a former ambulance station, the latter having been demolished immediately prior to the trench evaluation. The development area occupies a roughly rectangular plot of land, aligned north east to south west, and measuring approximately 140m x 55m. This site is bounded to the north by the Broadway, to the east by Tower Street, and to the south by Gladstone Buildings and Dudley Police Station. These two latter buildings front onto New Street and Tower Street (NGR SO 9445 9050) (Figures 1 and 2).

The proposed development area lies at approximately 195m OD, but dips down slightly from south to north, while the surrounding area is also relatively flat, falling slightly beyond the limit of the site to the north, before rising up again. The site is dominated to the north east by the knoll upon which Dudley castle is located.

The geology underlying the proposed development area is Pennine Lower Coal Measures Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone (BGS 2011).

Soils within and in the vicinity of the proposed development area are not classified as part of the Soil Survey of England and Wales due to the urban nature of modern Dudley.

1.4 Legislation, regulations and guidance

1.4.1 Policy statements and guidance

The document 'Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment' (PPS5) sets out the Government's national planning policies relating to the conservation of the historic environment. It is accompanied by a best practice guide (English Heritage 2010).

The policies in PPS5 are a material consideration that must be taken into account in planning decisions by local authorities. PPS5 sets out the concept that parts of the historic environment have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest. These parts of the historic environment are called 'heritage assets' in PPS5.

Heritage assets are a material planning consideration. The extent, nature and importance of an asset's significance, along with the impact of the proposed development on the heritage asset, should be established at an early stage, in order to inform the planning process and allow mitigation measures to be included as part of any planning conditions.

1.4.2 Pre-planning consultation

In July 2010 a Historic Environment Assessment report was produced (Prospect Archaeology 2010a). This comprised a consideration of the historical development of the town of Dudley in general, and the Police, Fire and Ambulance Stations in particular, along with a report on the Level 2/3 Building Recording Survey carried out on the historic buildings on the site.

The Historic Environment Team at Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, (DMBC) identified the need for an archaeological trial trench evaluation, and a Written Scheme of Investigation through Evaluation Excavation was consequently prepared by Prospect Archaeology (Prospect Archaeology 2010b) and approved by the Historic Environment Team, in line with PPS5. The results of the trial trench evaluation will form part of the client's planning application for the development of the site, allowing the potential impact of the development on any buried heritage assets to be assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place if necessary.

1.5 Archaeological and historical background

The following section has been reproduced from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Prospect Archaeology Ltd 2010b).

Dudley was a planned town, originally built in the 12th century along a main road stretching from St Edmund's Church in the east to St Thomas' Church in the west. The burgess plots were laid out to north and south of this central road and were served by lanes to the rear. Tower Street was the back lane to the north. Further west along Tower Street, medieval surfaces and foundations have been identified, although this area is likely to have been an early expansion area lying as it did between the market place and 'Horsepool' the main watering place in the town.

The site of the Fire Station is believed to have been occupied from at least the 18th century, and potentially the medieval period.

Cartographic evidence confirms built development in this area from the early 18th century. A late 18th-century trade's directory indicates that Tower Street was occupied by a variety of tradesmen. During the 19th century the Castle Works were located within the site, manufacturing coaches and carriages under the ownership of George Nicholls. The current buildings on the site are the result of 20th century town planning and were purpose built for the then Police Fire Brigade in 1939-41. They retain a number of original features although alterations and subdivisions have been identified. The façade is considered to add to the conservation area as part of the civic expansion of the late 19th to 20th century.

1.6 Aims

1.6.1 Aims of the evaluation

The aims and objectives of the evaluation, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation, were as follows:

- To evaluate a reasonable percentage of the site and determine the presence or absence, extent, condition, depth, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains within the development area
- To enable the development of a mitigation strategy to preserve by record any significant archaeological remains that may be discovered during the course of the trench evaluation.

1.6.2 Archaeological resourcing

The evaluation was carried out between 2nd and 7th March 2011 by Patrick Daniel and Paul Flintoft, two experienced Project Officers employed by Network Archaeology Limited.

Use was made of MapInfo GIS and AutoCAD to manage and present the graphical data. Sub-contractors have been commissioned to provide three specialist reports. These are included in the appendices of this report.

1.7 Circulation of this report

This report will be circulated to the following recipients:

- Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy
- Prospect Archaeology Ltd
- The Historic Environment Team at Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, (DMBC)
- Dudley College

2 FIELDWORK PROCEDURES

2.1 Quality standards

All archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' standard and guidance documents (IfA 2008a, 2009a, 2010).

Network Archaeology Limited is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). The standards represented by the Registered Organisation (RO) scheme operated by the IfA were adhered to throughout. Key project staff are members of the IfA at appropriate levels.

2.2 Evaluation trenches

The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) identified the need for five evaluation trenches. In the event, on-site constraints involving access, service ducts and standing building remains meant that four were excavated. Following consultation with the Historic Environment Team, Trench 2 (under the numbering scheme of the WSI) was abandoned; Trench 1 was moved slightly to the south east and Trench 3 was moved slightly to the south west and reconfigured (Figure 2).

2.2.1 Survey

The trenches were located to reference points on static features visible on Ordnance Survey maps, and using a Garmin Etrex GPS handset. Heights above Ordnance Datum (AOD) were recorded with a Leica optical level, using a temporary benchmark established by the principal contractors on the site. Subsequent levels taken at the site were calculated against this temporary benchmark.

2.2.2 Mechanical excavation under archaeological control

The evaluation trenches were excavated down to the top of the first archaeological horizons by a JCB 3CX mechanical excavator fitted with a pneumatic breaker and a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation was undertaken under close archaeological supervision.

2.2.3 Hand-excavation and recording

The base and a representative section of each trench were cleaned using appropriate tools by the archaeological team. Archaeological remains were excavated in a controlled and stratigraphic manner, and in sufficient quantities, in order to meet the stated aims of the project, and to comply with the methodology outlined in the WSI. A staged sequence of machining was utilised during the excavation of Trenches 1, 4 and 5. Initial machining was halted at the level where intact structural remains were first exposed. These remains were recorded and investigated as appropriate, and once their relatively recent date had been established, then machine excavation was recommenced in order to expose any deeper remains.

A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of the site, including standardised context descriptions on *pro forma* record sheets, sections and plans drawn at scales of 1:20 or 1:50, and both colour and monochrome photographs.



Plate 1: Paul Flintoft recording the remains in Trench 4

2.3 **Project codes and number allocations**

The trial trench evaluation has been given the internal Network Archaeology project code DTS 14. In agreement with Dudley Museum and Art Gallery, the proposed body for the deposition of the site archive, a separate museum accession number has not been issued. All documents relating to the site archive for this project have therefore been referenced with the code DTS 14.

The numbering of the evaluation trenches in the field conformed to that proposed in the WSI, and so Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5 were excavated and recorded, i.e. the series of trenches was not renumbered following the decision to leave Trench 2 unexcavated. A unique block of context numbers was issued for each trench, using the trench number as a prefix. Hence, the first context number from Trench 1 was 100, and that for Trench 3 was 300, etc.

2.4 Assessment of archive and finds

Following completion of the evaluation, the artefacts and stratigraphic information were assessed as to their potential and significance for further analysis.

The finds were quantified and sent to appropriate specialists for assessment; these specialists are listed in the table below.

Table 2.1: Material types and specialists

Material type	Assessment by
Pottery	Stephanie Ratkai
Animal bone	Jennifer Wood
Glass, iron, clay tobacco pipe	Mike Wood

2.5 Data management and presentation

2.5.1 Context summary table

Summary context data, giving a full description and brief interpretation of each context, is presented in trench order in Appendix A, with trench matrices displayed in Appendix B.

2.5.2 Figures

A total of eight figures are presented. There is one overall location plan, showing the proposed development area in its geographical context (Figure 1); a plan showing the trenches in relation to the current landscape and the proposed development area (Figure 2); and detailed plans and sections showing the archaeological remains within the four trenches (Figures 3 to 5). Figures 6 to 8 relate the structural remains uncovered in the trenches to a series of maps of the development area dating from the mid-19th century onwards.

2.5.3 Accuracy of displayed data

Data was captured from two sources, a 1:000 OS base plan provided by the client, and permatrace drawings at 1:20 and 1:50 scale. The trenches have a positional accuracy of approximately ± 0.1 m.

3 **RESULTS**

Each trench contained a series of archaeological remains, generally comprising walls, floors/surfaces and levelling deposits of late post-medieval to modern date (18th-20th century). These are described below.

3.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3a-c, Plates 2-4)

Trench 1 was the only trench in which natural geological deposits were encountered. The sequence comprised pale brownish yellow stony sand, **110**, overlain by a 0.1-0.15m-thick layer of soft dark brown sandy clay, **109**, which was in turn overlain by a similarly thick layer of soft dark greenish grey clayish silt, **115**. This sequence of deposits has been interpreted as natural subsoil **109** separating buried humic topsoil **115** and clean natural geological sand **110**. The surface of the buried humic topsoil was encountered at a height of 197.17m OD, around 0.5m below the current ground surface.

Located towards the south eastern end of the trench, wall **108** was right-angular in plan, and appeared to define the north western corner of a building or room, the majority of which lay beyond the confines of the trench. Wall **108** was constructed using a double layer thickness of bricks and survived to a height of 0.35m. It was served by brick floor **107**, which measured at least 1.5m by 0.85m, and was three courses of brick thick.

Context 116, a 0.4m-thick layer of loose brick and mortar rubble infilled the structure that floor 107 and wall 108 defined, and so marked its demolition and disuse. This rubbly material did not extend beyond the confines of the structure it was found within.

The upper surface of 116 was sealed by a succession of preparation and bedding layers (117-119 inclusive) that supported a later brick floor, 106 = 123. The north western limit of brick floor 106 = 123 was not marked by any particular feature, but it is noteworthy that this limit corresponded with the position of the earlier wall 108 below, suggesting that remodelling had occurred within existing boundaries. By contrast, the south eastern limit of brick floor 106 = 123 was marked by a double layer-thick brick wall (105) built upon a footing of unmortared angular sandstone blocks (104). Two sherds from a blackware or 'shining black' mug, dated to the 18th century, were recovered from beneath 104, providing a *terminus post quem* for it.

Cartographic evidence reveals that a building, part of the Castle Carriage Works, had stood over the area where Trench 1 was located from at least 1882 until 1960. It is possible that the earlier wall (**108**), may relate to a pre-existing structure, or the entire sequence may relate to the development of the internal space within the Carriage Works. The Castle Carriage Works building was demolished at some point in interval between the 1960 and 1970 Ordnance Survey maps. (Figure 6; Prospect Archaeology 2010a).

The above remains were sealed by limestone aggregate **102**, a levelling deposit laid down in preparation for the tarmac car park that formed the modern ground surface when the excavation occurred.

At the opposite (north western) end of Trench 1 lay the remains of a further brickbuilt structure. This was formed by two walls (111 and 113) forming a slightly irregular T-shape in plan, along with a brick floor, **112**, lying between them. Wall **111** had a visible length of 1.55m, was two layers of brick wide, and survived to a maximum height of 0.74m. Abutting wall **111**, and on an almost perpendicular north west to south east alignment, was wall **113**. This measured at least 2m in length and was constructed using a triple thickness of bricks. It is possible that wall **113** was a much later addition to wall **111**: not only was it constructed using a different mortar from that used for **111** (a soft greenish grey sandy mortar with black speckled inclusions, as opposed to the pinkish beige sandy mortar with white and black speckled inclusions used for wall **111**), but the bricks used were also different. A variety of bricks had been used for wall **113** including standard red bricks, with some yellow-fired and white ceramic-glazed bricks also present.

A loose rubble deposit, **114**, was located to the south of wall **113** and presumably represented material used to level up the area following the demolition of the wall. Several large sherds from a decorated toilet bowl, possibly dated to around 1900, were recovered from this rubble (Appendix C).

Walls **111** and **113** were physically sealed by deposits associated with the modern car parking as with the remains at the opposite end of the trench. No stratigraphic relations existed to provide a relative sequence between the two sets of building remains. Cartographic evidence suggests, however, that walls **111** and **113** were present when the 1882-87 First Edition Ordnance Survey map was produced, and are therefore likely to have formed part of the Castle Carriage Works building (Figure 6).

Excavation of Trench 1 reached a maximum depth of 196.13m OD, approximately 0.75m below the current ground surface.

3.2 Trench 3 (Figure 3d, Plate 5)

On-site constraints, namely extant building remains, proximity of live gas and water services, along with ongoing access requirements, meant that the actual location and form of Trench 3 differed from that proposed in the WSI. Trench 3 was eventually dug a little to the south west of its original location, and at 4.25m x 2.5m, was shorter and wider than the strip trench originally proposed (Figures 2 and 3d).

Following machine removal of the concrete hard standing that formed the existing ground surface, the main deposit revealed was an extensive layer of loose fragments of clinker, ash, brick and concrete, **305**, which filled the entirety of the trench. At over 1.6m thick, the base of this deposit was not seen. Three service ducts had been cut into this deposit. A modern manhole inspection chamber was visible in the north eastern side of the trench (sealed beneath the concrete surface), and the cut for a drain was seen leading to it across the base of the trench. In addition, an iron water pipe, presumably relating to an earlier drainage scheme, was also visible in the base of the trench, along its south western edge.

The possible remains of a brick wall (300 and 301), were recorded immediately adjacent to the south eastern side of the trench sealed beneath layer 305. Context 301 was perhaps the header end of a double-thickness brick wall extending into the trench section, while context 300 was a deposit of loose bricks, probably representing the collapsed remains of the wall. The original extent and function of these bricks could not be discerned within the available space.

Cartographic evidence reveals that, from the mid-19th century until the 1930s or 1940s, buildings had once stood where Trench 3 was later located (Figure 7). No in situ trace of these was found, however, suggesting that they had been thoroughly demolished. This is supported by the great depth of deposit **305**. The possible wall remains recorded in Trench 3 do not appear to coincide with any structural features shown on the mapping, although it does appear to share the alignment of the nearby buildings. It is possible that walls **300** and **301** represent fallen or demolished walls, rather than in situ remains.

The superimposition of the modern manhole inspection chamber (mentioned above) over the likely course of the wall suggests that deposit **301** is further disturbed beyond the confines of the trench.

Excavation of Trench 3 reached a maximum depth of 194.79m OD, approximately 1.6m below the current ground surface.

3.3 Trench 4 (Figure 4, Plates 6-10)

The stratigraphically earliest deposit recorded in Trench 4 was **416**, a small patch of pale coloured clayish mortar found close to the north eastern end of the trench. This was overlain by a pale blue or white firm clay, **422**, which was present in the base of the trench in various locations. It is possible that this clay material represents a substantial levelling deposit introduced into the area during remodelling of the landscape prior to construction activity. The same material may have been encountered in Trench 5, where it was numbered **512**.

Context **422** had been cut by square pit **438**, which was backfilled with a mix of dark clinker, ash and charcoal. This had in turn been truncated by brick wall **426/430**. This wall crossed the trench on a north west to south east alignment, was at least 1.7m long, and had a maximum width of 0.6m. The original function of this wall is unknown, as no other walls associated with it were found.

Wall **426/430** was overlain by later wall, **409/410**. This wall, also brick-built, formed a right-angle in plan. At its northern end it appeared to consist of a double thickness of bricks, with grey bricks used for the inner face (**410**) and ordinary red bricks used for the outer (**409**). This wall appeared to be an internal feature standing within a larger brick-built structure formed by walls **407**, **408** and **435**. Walls **407** and **408**, both constructed of a double thickness of bricks, crossed the trench on an alignment slightly askew to **426/430**. Walls **407** and **408** were linked by wall **435**, which was not visible in plan as it coincided with the north western edge of the trench. These three walls, which survived to a height of around 0.9m, together defined an area, apparently rectangular, measuring 4.25m by at least 1.5m.

All of the above walls appear to coincide with a building marked on the 1882-87 First Edition Ordnance Survey map, and the 1855 Board of Health map (Figure 8). In particular, walls **407** and **408** appear to represent the external walls of the building.

In the area delineated by walls 407, 408 and 435, various deposits of lime mortar, clay and dumps of brick rubble were recorded, along with the right-angled structure (409/410) mentioned above. No in situ floor surfaces were present. Instead, the deposits seem to represent demolition material laid down to level up the interior of the structure prior to further development. Various fragments of blackware, pearlware and coarseware pottery dated to around the mid-19th century (and

therefore congruent with the cartographic dating evidence) were recovered from this material (Appendix C).

No contemporary structural remains were recorded to the south west of wall **408**, and indeed this area is shown to be a yard or garden on the historical mapping. The deposits recorded in this area consisted largely of dark deposits, possibly representing a yard or garden soil (Plates 6-10). This material had been cut by various features, none of which could be investigated due to safety considerations, although the latest in the sequence, **432**, could be seen to contain a brown glazed ceramic water pipe of relatively recent date.

The brick-built building which stood where Trench 4 was later located was demolished at some point in the interval between the production of the 1916-24 and 1937-48 mapping.

A final phase of structural activity present in Trench 4 was represented by contexts **404**, **405**, **444**, **406**, **419** and **420**. These formed a series of five strips of poured orange mortar/concrete with a north west to south east alignment. These were extremely hard in consistency, and had smooth and level upper surfaces. It is thought that these served as foundation beams to support a building, or buildings.

These beams represent a subsequent phase of building activity to the structure represented by walls 407, 408 and 435. The beams sealed the underlying demolition deposits (those associated with the dismantling of the brick building represented by walls 407, 408 and 435), so presumably would have been poured into pre-dug foundation slots. One of the beams, 405, appeared to truncate wall 410, which is assumed to be contemporary with the brick building. Certainly, the proximity of the beams to the brick-built structure would not have allowed them to co-exist. There was nothing in the excavated evidence to suggest what type of building these beams originally supported. When excavated, the beams were sealed by nothing more than levelling deposits laid down to prepare the area for the modern tarmac car park that formed the ground surface when the trench evaluation occurred.

It seems most likely that the beams represent the former position of a row of properties that was constructed on the site of the earlier brick-built structure (and also extended over its garden or yard area to the south west). This would appear to have occurred at some point in the interval between the production of the 1916-24 and the 1937-48 Ordnance Survey maps (Figure 8).

Excavation of Trench 4 reached a maximum depth of 193.54m OD, approximately 1.25m below the current ground surface.

3.4 Trench 5 (Figure 5, Plates 11-15)

The stratigraphically earliest deposit recorded in Trench 5 was a pale greenish grey clay, **512** (Plate 15), which contained occasional brick or tile fragments and a single partially glazed coarseware base-body sherd from a jar of likely 18th century date (Appendix C). This deposit was found throughout the trench, and was generally present at a height of 193.25m OD. The base of this deposit was not seen, but machine investigation revealed it to be at least 0.5m thick at the north western end of Trench 5. Context **512** has been interpreted as a substantial levelling deposit; its depth and extent would seem to represent considerable remodelling of the land surface in the past. This material may equate with deposit **422** from Trench 4.

Overlying **512** were two layers of soft, dark brownish grey silty clay, **517** = **527**, and **519**. This material would appear to represent a spread of humic garden soil or 'dark earth', the quantity of charcoal inclusions at least partially accounting for its dark colour. The crispness of the interface of this material with underlying levelling layer **512** suggests that it represents deliberately deposited material, rather than topsoil that developed naturally over time. Creamware pottery dating to the 18th century was recovered from these dark earth layers (Appendix C).

An apparent 'step', **518**, had been cut into the surface of the dark earth, possibly for landscaping purposes. This was filled by a substantial deposit of friable brownish green silty clay, numbered **516**. Built upon deposit **516** were two lengths of wall, **508** and **511** (Plate 13).

Wall **508** was just 1.4m in length, measured 1m wide and survived to a height of 0.5m. It had been truncated to the south west, and its north eastern end coincided with the edge of the evaluation trench. A single small sherd from a medieval cooking pot most likely of 13th-century date was recovered from within the build of wall **508** (Appendix C). This medieval sherd is almost certainly residual, as wall **508** clearly overlaid deposits from which later artefacts were recovered. A small patch of brownish orange clay, **514**, appeared to abut wall **508** on its north western side, and may represent the truncated remains of a clay floor or surface that served the wall. Parallel with wall **508**, and located just 0.9m to the north west, was wall **511**. This was over 1.5m in length, 0.5m wide, and survived to a height of around 0.4m.

Walls **508** and **511** were each built from roughly coursed angular sandstone blocks held together with a soft, pale pink mortar with frequent small white lime inclusions. The north eastern end of wall **511** lay within the evaluation trench, where it had apparently been truncated, while the opposite end continued beyond the edge of the evaluation trench. Neither wall had a well-defined construction cut.

Part of wall **508** appeared to project towards wall **511**, but this had been truncated by the trench for a relatively modern ceramic water pipe, **509**. This intrusive feature had removed any relationship or junction between the two walls, and so obscured whether or not they had originally formed part of a single structure.

As well as having their original height truncated, each wall appeared to have been cut shorter than its original length, suggesting remodelling of the area prior to further development. With so little of the original extent of these walls surviving, it is difficult to determine their original function. Both do, however, appear to coincide with walls within a range of buildings shown on the 1855 Board of Health map (Figure 8). To judge by their size and location, these structures may represent outbuildings such as wash houses, sheds or privies. Wall **511** in particular may represent the back boundary of a plot whose property fronted on to Tower Street.

The truncation of walls **508** and **511**, along with a second apparent 'step', this time cut into the surface of **516**, appears to represent a second phase of landscaping of the ground surface. This second landscaping cut, **513**, was filled by a mix of stiff clays of various hues of grey, green and blue (**503**), and contained further 18th-century material (Appendix C).

The clay infill deposit **503** had an uncertain relationship with a brick-built structure, **507**, located in the centre of the trench, and which also lacked a well-defined construction cut. The uncertain nature of the stratigraphic origin of this structure

meant that it was not possible to determine a relative sequence between it and sandstone walls **508** and **511**. Structure **507** was rectangular in plan, measured 2.2m in length and was 0.5m wide (Plate 14). Its walls were two bricks thick and survived to a height of 0.6m; its base was brick-lined. Structure **507** may have originally functioned as a soakaway or cess tank and was filled with **506**, a loose black gritty sand containing frequent fragments of bricks, and also whole bricks. The deposition of context **506** post-dates 1862, as revealed by the date printed on a largely intact marmalade jar found within it (Appendix C).

This date is in accordance with the cartographic evidence, which suggests that structure **507** is likely to be part of the back range of buildings, mentioned above, which was present from the mid-19th century onwards. These buildings seem to have been remodelled over time, but the scale and resolution of the mapping evidence is not clear enough to be able to determine exactly where structure **507** fits into the sequence (Figure 8).

The disuse of structure **507** appears to be marked by a deposit of very hard, brownish orange mortar, **505**, which had been 'poured' into it and over its south eastern wall (Figure 5c, Plate 14). The surface of this mortar was very flat and smooth, and it has been interpreted as a foundation block for a building that was constructed above the demolished remains of structure **507**. It is assumed that this hard mortar material was contemporary with similar deposits revealed in Trench 4 (**404**, **405**, **444**, **406**, **419** and **420**), and formed part of the same building or range of buildings. The cartographic evidence would appear to support this, as mortar **505** appears to have formed part of the footprint of this building (Figure 8e).

Poured mortar foundation **505** was sealed by an extensive deposit of blackish grey gritty sand with frequent fragments of brick rubble, **502**, which was revealed across most of Trench 5. This probably represents debris from the demolition of any standing buildings prior to the creation of the tarmac car park that formed the modern ground surface when evaluation trenching took place. Deposit **502** was the level from which service trench **509** (containing the ceramic water pipe mentioned above) had been cut, confirming its recent date.

Excavation of Trench 5 reached a maximum depth of 192.69m OD, approximately 1.54m below the current ground surface.

3.5 Effectiveness of the methodology

The trial trenching methodology employed to evaluate the proposed development area was effective in as much as it established the presence of the buried remains of earlier buildings and structural features on the site, along with various levelling and make up deposits associated with them. An indication has also been gained of the date of these remains, and the depth at which they may be present elsewhere on the site. It is, however, possible that the character of the archaeological sequence as revealed in the evaluation trenches is not representative of the proposed development area as a whole. Remains undoubtedly extend beyond the limits of the trenches, but inevitably, given the keyhole nature of trial trench evaluation, the full extent and character of archaeological remains at the proposed development is not known. In general, confidence in the findings from the trenches is high. Structural remains were clearly defined, and have been shown to correspond with buildings recorded on historic mapping. The sequence of these is in accordance with the relationships recorded in the field. Due to the absence of well-defined construction cuts, however, it was not always readily apparent which deposits had accumulated against walls and which deposits had been cut through by walls, i.e. the relative chronology of walls and adjacent deposits was not always clear.

The stratigraphic security of artefacts is considered to be high, particularly so for those recovered from the earliest contexts, as dating material was sought from the trench sections in these instances. The dating evidence from artefacts found within the trenches appears to broadly tally with the cartographic sequence. However, large quantities of levelling material appear to have been imported into the proposed development area in the past, and so a degree of residuality within the finds assemblage is to be expected.

4 INTERPRETATION

The variation in the depths at which natural geological deposits were encountered suggests that the original ground surface sloped down considerably from south to north across the site. The original ground surface was recorded at a height of 197.17m OD in Trench 1 (at the southern end of the site), but was not recorded at all in any other trench, despite excavation reaching 192.69m OD in Trench 5 (in the northern part of the site). The likelihood that the development area has been raised and levelled in the past to obscure this original slope is revealed both by the presence of the pale clay levelling deposits **422** and **512** in Trenches 4 and 5, and by the discrepancy between the height of the development area's current ground surface and the much lower ground surface of the (presumably less intensively reworked) parkland adjacent to the site. During the evaluation, a spot height of 192.12m OD was recorded on the ground surface of the park immediately north west of Trench 4, some 0.57m lower than the deepest of the evaluation trenches, which lay just 30m away. The trench evaluation has therefore revealed something of the extent to which the land surface has been altered in the past.

No anthropogenic ('man-made') deposits pre-dating the late post-medieval period were encountered at the depths at which safety considerations brought trench evaluation to a halt. A single sherd of possible 13th-century pottery was recovered from Trench 5, although this would appear to be residual, perhaps originally brought to the site by manuring. The Tower Street area lies beyond the core of the planned medieval settlement, perhaps explaining why so few contemporary remains have been uncovered in this part of the town (Prospect Archaeology 2010a).

Dudley suffered much destruction during the English Civil War; a defensive ditch was excavated from St Edmund's church to Dudley Priory during the conflict, and presumably passed close to Tower Street. Remains of this entrenchment were recorded nearby, during an archaeological watching brief at Green Man Entry (Prospect Archaeology 2010a; SMR4213). It is possible that a programme of rebuilding following the disturbance that occurred during the Civil War was the occasion for the deposition of the levelling clays recorded in the bases of Trenches 4 and 5.

The subsequent complexity of the stratigraphic sequence revealed in Trenches 4 and 5 is in accordance with the generally 'urban' character of landuse on the site in the more recent past. The trenches reveal relatively intense reworking of the area from the mid-19th century onwards. Evidence collated in the DBA suggests that at this time Tower Street was occupied by lower status housing, possibly with some workshops or shops (Prospect Archaeology 2010a). The evaluation has uncovered the bases of such 19th-century buildings, with two main phases of development detectable in Trenches 4 and 5.

The cartographic evidence generally corroborates the excavated sequence, although when walls were tightly packed, and the clarity of the mapping is less than ideal (such as in the area occupied by Trenches 4 and 5), then it has not always been possible to match physical remains uncovered with wall lines appearing on any particular map. This is particularly the case with regard to internal walls. However, the structural remains uncovered are all broadly relatable to buildings appearing on the mapping sequence, and this is summarised below.

The remains in Trench 1 are likely to correspond with the Castle Carriage Works, whereas the absence of any building remains within Trench 3 is explicable by the

great degree of truncation that was recorded in that trench. For Trench 4, cartographic evidence indicates mid-19th century buildings and adjacent yard area, and this could be discerned in the excavated sequence, as could the early-mid-20th century building that the mapping shows replacing the earlier structures. The sandstone walls in Trench 5 may relate to outhouses present on the mid-19th century mapping, and the sequence recorded with the trench of a brick-built soakaway being replaced by a later structure again receives support from the cartographic sequence. Finally the absence of structural remains from the north western end of Trench 5 appears to be explicable in terms of the garden shown on maps of this area.

The pottery assemblage, assuming it is in situ, seems to suggest the occupants of these buildings were moderately prosperous (Ratkai, Appendix C). The evidence may complement written sources which record that Tower Street was occupied by a variety of tradesmen in the late 18th century (Prospect Archaeology 2010a). The majority of the pottery assemblage was, however, recovered from levelling deposits. Work on similar material in Sheffield has suggested that, in the past, building contractors used domestic waste (containing pottery) as levelling material prior to construction (Cumberpatch 2005). Clearly, deposit formation needs to be thoroughly understood, if comparisons between a site's pottery assemblage and documentary evidence relating to its former inhabitants are to be meaningful. The taphonomy of post-medieval pottery assemblages from urban or brownfield sites is not well understood, and would serve as a potentially fruitful research avenue in the future. Data gathered from a range of developer-funded projects such as this may be useful in such a synthesis.

Due to the fact that the remains recorded at the site appear to tally with the cartographic evidence, they are not likely to greatly increase our understanding of the chronology of the development of Industrial-era Dudley. The artefactual evidence may, however, be used to elucidate the material circumstances of the population in the past, and may be compared with documentary sources. The building remains are reasonably well-preserved, although such Industrial-era housing stock is ubiquitous in the wider area and beyond. Overall, the evaluation has indicated that the remains at the site are of no more than local significance.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The trial trench evaluation identified archaeological remains dating from the later post-medieval period onwards, with in situ structural remains dating from at least the mid-19th century recorded in three of the four trenches.

Walls that probably once formed part of the Castle Carriage Works were recorded in Trench 1, whereas the building remains in Trenches 4 and 5 appear to relate to lower-status 19th-20th-century properties which fronted on to Tower Street and the outhouses and yard or garden areas that belonged to them. The structural remains recorded in the evaluation trenches correspond with buildings recorded on historic mapping, and the sequence of these is in accordance with the relationships recorded in the field. The dating of the artefactual evidence recovered from the evaluation trenches broadly corroborates both sequences.

The trench evaluation has also revealed something of the extent to which the land surface has been altered in the past: the original ground surface originally sloped down considerably from south to north across the site, but subsequent levelling, particularly in the northern part of the development area, has obscured this.

Overall, the evaluation has indicated that the remains recorded can be considered to be of local significance on account of their relatively recent date and unremarkable nature. The need for any further archaeological works will, however, be determined by the Historic Environment Team at Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council.

6 **ARCHIVE**

The documentary archive comprises:

- A copy of the Written Scheme of Investigation
- A copy of this evaluation report
- Relevant and non-confidential documents and correspondence relating to the site held by Network Archaeology
- Finds catalogues and assessment reports
- Site records, as detailed in the table below:

Table 6.1 Quantification of the site archive

Item	Count
Context index sheets	5
Context sheets	120
Drawing index sheets	2
Drawing sheets (A3	
permatrace)	8
Photographic registers	4
Black and white photographs	72
Colour slide photographs	72
Digital colour photographs	70

On completion of the reporting stages of the project, the archive will be prepared for long-term storage in a format agreed in advance with the relevant local depository. This will be in accordance with guidelines prepared by the UK Institute of Conservation (Walker 1990), the Museums & Galleries Commission (MGC 1992) and the IfA (2008b and 2009b). The project archive will be managed in accordance with current guidelines (Brown 2007).

The recipient museum is Dudley Museum & Art Gallery, St. James's Road, Dudley, DY1 1H (01384 812345; dudley.museum@dudley.gov.uk).

The recipient museum will receive the document archive, and with the permission of the landowners, any finds generated from the archaeological works.

Prior to the deposition of the archive, the necessary arrangements will be made with the site owners regarding the transfer of ownership of any archaeological finds to the recipient museum. In the event that deposition of the archive cannot be concluded, Network Archaeology will store the archive to a suitable standard until deposition can be arranged. In this event, Network Archaeology will retain ownership of the document archive until the document archive and its ownership is passed to the recipient museums.

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PLATES



Plate 2: Trench 1 following first phase of machining. Camera facing north west



Plate 3: Trench 1 following first phase of machining. Camera facing south east



Plate 4: Representative section through deposits in Trench 1



Plate 5: Trench 3. Camera facing south east



Plate 6: Trench 4 following first phase of machining. Camera facing south west



Plate 7: Trench 4 following first phase of machining. Camera facing north east



Plate 8: Representative section through deposits in Trench 4



Plate 9: Trench 4 following second phase of machining. Camera facing south west



Plate 10: Trench 4 following second phase of machining. Camera facing north east



Plate 11: Trench 5 following first phase of machining. Camera facing north west



Plate 12: Trench 5 following first phase of machining. Camera facing south east



Plate 13: Walls **508** and **511** in Trench 5



Plate 14: Structure **507** in Trench 5



Plate 15: Trench 5 following second phase of machining. Camera facing south east



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0.2	5/5/11	Fdits	JIC	PD	MW			
0.2	4/4/11	Trenches 1 and 3	JIC	PD	MW			
Ver	Date	Description	DM	Chk	App			
Na Ar Co	Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy Prospect archaeology							
то	Tower Street, Dudley							
an	Figure 3: Plan and sections of Trenches 1 and 3							
a) b) ph c) d)	a) Plan of Trench 1 b) Plan of Trench 1 (following second phase of machining) c) Section, Trench 1 d) Plan of Trench 3							
So	ale 1:50) and 1:20						



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Appendix A Context Index

Context	Туре	Description	Fill of	Dimensions (m) (L x W x D)	Interpretation	Provisional date
100	Layer	hard black tarmac	-	Across trench; 0.1 thick	modern car park; extant ground surface at time of evaluation.	Modern
101	Layer	soft reddish pink sand	-	Across trench; 0.02-0.06 thick	levelling sand	Modern
102	Layer	greyish yellow limestone	-	Across trench; 0.16 thick	levelling aggregate	Modern
103	Layer	loose dirty white/pale grey mortar	-	1.8+ x 0.3 x ?	mortar and brick rubble demolition layer	Modern
104	Masonry	linear wall; aligned NE-SW; sandstone blocks	-	1.5+ x 0.48 x 0.14	either earlier wall, or foundation stones for an overlying brick structure	Modern
105	Masonry	linear alignment NE-SW; bricks	-	1.5+ x 0.22 x 0.14	either base of wall, or more likely, edge of brick surface	Modern
106	Masonry	linear alignment NE-SW; bricks	-	1.5+ x 0.8 x 0.12	brick surface; floor or footing slab	Modern
107	Masonry	rectangular brick surface	-	1.5+ x 0.85 x 0.28	brick floor serving wall 108	Modern
108	Masonry	right-angular brick wall	-	3.6+ x 0.24 x 0.35	right-angular brick wall defining the corner of a room	Modern
109	Layer	soft dark brown sandy clay	-	Across trench; 0.1-0.15 thick	subsoil horizon	Modern
110	Layer	soft coarse pale brownish yellow sand	-	Across trench; 0.24+ thick	natural sand	Modern
111	Masonry	linear wall; aligned NE-SW; bricks	-	1.55+ x 0.23 x 0.74	exterior wall	Modern
112	Masonry	rectangular brick surface	-	3 x 1	brick floor parallel to wall 111	Modern

Context	Туре	Description	Fill of	Dimensions (m) (L x W x D)	Interpretation	Provisional date
113	Masonry	linear alignment NW-SE; bricks	-	?	brick wall includes some white glazed bricks	Modern
114	Layer	loose dark grey sandy clay	-	2 x 0.4 x 0.66	brick and mortar rubble-deliberate dump?	Modern
115	Layer	soft dark greenish grey clay silt	-	Across trench; 0.13 thick	buried humic topsoil	Modern
116	Layer	loose grey white rubble	-	2.6 x unknown x 0.4	demolition rubble	Modern
117	Layer	firm dark grey silty clay	-	1.5 x unknown x 0.2	levelling deposit	Modern
118	Layer	soft mid yellow clay sand	-	?	levelling deposit	Modern
119	Layer	loose black clinker	-	1.9 x unknown x 0.08	bedding layer of industrial waste	Modern
120	Layer	loose dark pinkish brown gritty sand	-	0.4 x unknown x 0.04	mortar remnant or remains of floor surface	Modern
121	Layer	loose dark red gritty sand	-	0.7 x unknown x 0.09	levelling deposit	Modern
122	Layer	compact yellow clay sand	-	0.3 x unknown x 0.04	dump of redeposited material	Modern
123	Masonry	linear brick surface	-	1.3 x unknown x 0.08	remains of brick surface, same as 106?	Modern
124	Layer	firm dark brown clay silt	-	0.12 x unknown x 0.28	dirty natural-disturbed during construction of 104?	Modern
300	Masonry	linear brick rubble	-	0.22 x 0.07	remnant of partially demolished brick wall	Modern
301	Masonry	linear brick arrangement	-	0.18 x 0.42	possible fragment of wall (2 bricks long)	Modern
302	Void	void	Void	Void	Void	Void
303	Cut	linear drain NW-SE	-	10m x unknown x unknown	modern drain	Modern

Context	Туре	Description	Fill of	Dimensions (m) (L x W x D)	Interpretation	Provisional date
304	Fill	loose grey mortar, rubble and clinker	303	?	backfill of drain	Modern
305	Layer	loose grey industrial waste and rubble	-	across trench; 2m thick	levelling deposit	Modern
306	Service	Iron water main	-	?	service pipe	Modern
400	Cut	linear? Aligned SE-NW	-	0.55m wide	possible foundation trench	Modern
401	Layer	compact black grit, slag, clinker		5 x 1.8	levelling deposit	Modern
402	Masonry	compact concrete slabs	-	?	broken concrete slabs	Modern
403	Fill	loose sand, brick rubble and industrial waste	458	0.55	backfill of ditch	Modern
404	Masonry	linear concrete beam	-	1.2m long	large concrete beam for recent building construction	Modern
405	Masonry	linear concrete beam	458	1.2m long	large concrete beam for recent building construction	Modern
406	Masonry	linear concrete beam	-	1.2m long	large concrete beam for recent building construction	Modern
407	Masonry	linear wall SE-NW; bricks	-	?	double coarsed internal wall	Modern
408	Masonry	linear wall SE-NW; bricks	-	?	single coarse external wall	Modern
409	Masonry	linear wall SE-NW; bricks	-	0.62 x 0.11 x 0.23	single coarse internal wall	Modern
410	Masonry	linear wall NE-SW; bricks (grey)	-	0.75 x 0.57	right-angled wall forming part of building	Modern
411	Layer	coarse white/pinkish lime mortar around wall 410	-	0.8 x 0.76	underlies wall 410	Modern
412	Fill	plastic blue white clay	441	0.4	fill of ditch 441	Modern
413	Masonry	loose brick spread	-	?	rubble probably from 410	Modern
414	Layer	compact sand with brick frags	-	0.18 x 0.24	levelling deposit	Modern

Context	Туре	Description	Fill of	Dimensions (m) (L x W x D)	Interpretation	Provisional date
415	Fill	loose lime mortar, brick rubble, industrial waste	425	1.5 x 1	backfill of possible pit	Modern
416	Layer	compact white/pink clay and mortar		0.36	mortar spread	Modern
417	Layer	compact brown red sandstone, brick, limestone and silty clay		1 x 1.8	demolition rubble	Modern
418	Layer	compact yellow sand	-	0.35 x 0.25	bedding layer for concrete beam 406	Modern
419	Masonry	ıry linear concrete beam sw-ne		1.2m long	large concrete beam for recent building construction.	Modern
420	Masonry	linear concrete block	-	0.43 x 0.37	concrete block aligned with 419	Modern
421	Layer	compact yellow sand	-	0.43 x 0.38	bedding layer for concrete block 420	Modern
422	Fill	compact blue white clay	437	0.55 x 0.15	backfill for linear feature	Modern
423	Fill	firm black mortar and charcoal waste	424	0.55 x 0.07	backfill in feature 424	Modern
424	Cut	linear aligned ne-sw	-	0.55 x 0.07	possible foundation cut for 410	Modern
425	Cut	linear aligned se-nw	-	0.3 x 0.6	possible foundation cut for 408	Modern
426	Masonry	linear wall sw-ne; bricks	-	0.98 x 0.6	earlier wall predates modern concrete beams	19th C?
427	Fill	compact black charcoal and ash	438	1.5 x 0.9	backfill of 438	Modern
428	Fill	plastic clay with charcoal and brick frags	440	0.2 x 0.28	backfill of 440	Modern
429	Fill	compact grey white mortar and charcoal	439	3 x 1.3	backfill of 439	Modern
430	Masonry	linear wall; bricks	-	1.13 x 0.37 x 0.23	brick wall extended under 426	19th C?
431	Masonry	linear wall; bricks	-	0.5	thick brick wall-possible foundation for 407	Modern
432	Cut	linear N-S drain	-	0.45m wide	drainage trench	Modern
433	Fill	loose mid grey sandy silt and clinker	432	?	backfill of drain	Modern
434	Fill	linear ceramic drain	432	0.17m wide	ceramic drain	Modern

Context	Туре	Description	Fill of	Dimensions (m) (L x W x D)	Interpretation	Provisional date
435	Masonry	linear wall E-W; bricks	-	4.75m long	exterior wall of house	Modern
436	Layer	loose black clinker	-	?	levelling deposit	Modern
437	Cut	linear NE-SW feature	-	0.58m wide x 0.15	ditch?	Modern
438	Cut	rectangular pit with concave sides		1.5 x 0.9	probable pit	Modern
439	Cut	irregular pit-recorded in plan	-	3 x 1.3	probable pit	Modern
440	Cut	rectangular pit-recorded in plan	-	0.2 x 0.28	probable pit	Modern
441	Cut	linear N-S-recorded in plan	-	0.85m wide	ditch?	Modern
442	Layer	tarmac	-	0.05	tarmac	Modern
443	Layer	white rubble	-	0.16	levelling deposit across trench	Modern
444	Masonry	linear concrete beam SW-NE	445	0.55 x 0.19	large concrete beam for recent building construction	Modern
445	Cut	linear foundation trench SW-NE	-	0.55 x 0.19	foundation cut for beam 444	Modern
446	Layer	orange sand and rubble	-	0.1	levelling deposit at northeast end of trench	Modern
447	Layer	black silty gravel	-	0.07	bedding layer for tarmac	Modern
448	Fill	mixed sand and gravel	445	0.3 x 0.09	backfill over beam 444	Modern
449	Layer	loose white gravel and charcoal	-	0.83 x 0.16	levelling deposit	Modern
450	Layer	dark orange yellow gravel	-	0.1	levelling deposit for carpark	Modern
451	Layer	light orange yellow gravel	-	0.07	levelling deposit for carpark	Modern
452	Fill	firm green clay	400	?	backfill	Modern
453	Masonry	block of pink mortar	400	0.6 x 0.16	dumped into trench 400	Modern
454	Fill	loose charcoal, clay, brick frags	400	0.8 x 0.11	backfill into trench 400	Modern
455	Layer	Loose clay and mortar	-	0.3 x 0.15	levelling deposit	Modern
456	Layer	loose mortar and gravel	-	0.4 x 0.08	levelling deposit	Modern
457	Fill	mixed grey black gritty clay and brick frags	445	0.38 x 0.12	backfill	Modern
458	Cut	linear NE-SW with sharp sides	-	0.2 x 0.3	foundation cut for beam 405	Modern

Context	Туре	Description	Fill of	Dimensions (m) (L x W x D)	Interpretation	Provisional date
459	Fill	loose rubble	458	0.2 x 0.3	backfill	Modern
500	Layer	Tarmac	-	0.1	tarmac	Modern
501	Layer	compact yellow brown limestone chippings	-	0.25	bedding for tarmac 500	Modern
502	Layer	firm black grey gritty sand and rubble		across trench 0.3 thick	levelling deposit	Modern
503	Layer	r firm green grey clay		across trench 0.45 thick	levelling deposit of redeposited clay	Modern
504	Layer	hard yellow white sand and brick frags	-	1.25 x 1 x 0.6	spread of quicklime	Modern
505	Masonry	indurated brown orange mortar	-	1.25 x 1 x 0.6	poured concrete foundation	Modern
506	Layer	friable black gritty sand	-	0.8 x 0.8 x 0.65	levelling deposit	Modern
507	Masonry	right-angled brick wall	-	2 x 0.22 x 0.7	brick wall exposed in plan	19th C?
508	Masonry	linear rough sandstone block wall NE-SW	-	1.4 x 1 x 0.5	rough sandstone wall	17th century?
509	Cut	linear NE-SW	-	2 x 0.45 x 0.7	cut for ceramic (water?) pipe	Modern
510	Fill	friable black gritty sand	509	0.7	backfill of service trench 509	Modern
511	Masonry	linear rough sandstone block wall NE-SW	-	1.3 x 0.5 x 0.4	rough sandstone wall	17th century?
512	Layer	compact green grey clay with brick frags	-	1.7 x 1.8 x 0.5	levelling deposit	Modern
513	Cut	cut number given to ground clearance	-	1.5+ x ? x 0.5	widespread ground clearance prior to 19th century brick buildings	19th C?
514	Layer	friable brown orange sandy clay	-	0.55 x 0.4 x 0.1	levelling deposit used in construction of 508	17th century?
515	Layer	friable orange sandy silt	-	6 x 1.5 x 0.1	levelling deposit	Modern
516	Fill	friable brown grey silty clay	518	2+ x 1.5+ x 0.5	large landscaping event prior to construction of 508 and 511	17th century?
517	Layer	soft dark brown grey silty clay	-	2.1+ x 1.5+ x 0.18	levelling deposit; dumped top/subsoil?	Modern
518	Cut	extensive cut for landscaping	-	2+ x 1.5+ x 0.5	large landscaping event prior to construction of 508 and 511	17th century?

Context	Туре	Description	Fill of	Dimensions (m) (L x W x D)	Interpretation	Provisional date
519	Layer	soft dark brown grey silty clay	-	8.3 x 1.5+ x ?	levelling deposit: dumped top/subsoil?	Modern
520	Layer	compact yellow brown silty clay with brick frags		?	levelling deposit	Modern
521	Layer	hard grey stone chips	-	0.8 x ? x 0.2	made ground using industrial waste	Modern
522	Layer	friable reddish brown clay	-	0.4 x ? 0.04	minor levelling event	Modern
523	Layer	friable dark grey sandy clay with frequent charcoal and coal flecks	-	0.6 x ? x 0.2	buried soil	Modern
524	Layer	hard orangey pink sandy mortar	-	0.5 x ? x 0.2	isolated dump of mortar	Modern
525	Layer	friable grey green sandy silt	-	0.4 x ? x 0.5	possible cess relating to building formed from wall 507 or 505	Modern
526	Layer	friable dark brown grey sandy silt with mortar, charcoal flecks, stones and brick frags	-	0.6+ x ? x 0.6	garden soil	Modern
527	Layer	soft dark brown grey silty clay	-	3.8+ x ? x 0.25	levelling deposit: dumped top/subsoil?	Modern









Appendix C Pottery Report

Stephanie Ratkai

Catalogue of Pottery by Context

114: Rubble dump

Large sherds of sanitary ware from a toilet bowl with moulded decoration, date c. 1900?

124: Disturbed natural

Blackware/'shining black' x 1 body-base sherd from a ?mug

401: Levelling deposit

Blue transfer-printed ware x 3 plate sherds, 'Spode willow pattern'

Blue transfer-printed pearlware x 4 sherds from a small jug (?milk jug), chinoiserie decoration

Blue transfer-printed ware x 1 plate rim chinoiserie decoration

Bone china x 1 small hollow ware sherd, traces of lustre decoration above a thin over-glaze painted orange band

415: Backfill of external wall construction trench

Blue transfer-printed pearlware x 5 rim-base sherds from dinner plate, 'Spode willow pattern'

Blue transfer-printed pearlware x 1 rim-base sherd from dinner plate, Spode willow pattern, partial blue printed markIRE... on external base

Blue transfer-printed ware x 2 rim-body sherds from indented rim dinner plate, 'Spode willow pattern'

Blue transfer-printed ware x 1 dinner plate base, 'Spode willow pattern'

Blue transfer-printed ware x 3 body sherds from plates possibly from the above or representing further vessels, 'Spode willow pattern'

Blue transfer-printed ware x 1 base from side or desert plate, 'Spode willow pattern'

Blue transfer-printed ware x 1 jug body sherd, willow pattern

Blue transfer-printed ware x 1 body-base sherd from jug with rounded profile and foot-ring base, external floral pattern (peonies or roses)

Porcelain (hard paste) x 6 body-base sherds from a hemispherical bowl, very pale blue transfer-printed chinoiserie pattern, painted blue mark on external base

Industrial slipware x 1 jug base sherd, decorated with horizontal blue bands

Industrial slipware x 1 jug rim, 'mocha ware'

Industrial slipware x 4 rim-base sherds from hemispherical bowl, white wavy lines on black background

Cream ware x 1 rim sherd from green shell-edge dinner plate

417: Demolition rubble

Blackware x 2 body sherds from a jar

Pearlware x 1 blue shell-edge dinner plate

Coarseware x 1 body sherd from bowl with internal red-brown glaze, rather burnt looking, probably a Wednesbury product

503: Levelling deposit

Creamware x 4 body-base sherds from plates, possibly all from same vessel

Industrial slipware x 1 hollow ware (mug or jug) body sherd 'Mocha Ware' black/white chequerboard pattern

Industrial slipware x 1 jug base, band of rilling under blue slip band

Brown salt-glazed stoneware x 1 base sherd from a bottle

?Pearlware x 1 base sherd from foot-ring bowl, with Caramanian-style pattern, partial printed mark on base, showing crown

Slip-coated ware x 2 hollow ware body sherds

506: Levelling deposit

Brown salt-glazed stoneware x 1 body sherd Industrial slipware x 1 jug handle Blue transfer-printed ware x 1 plate rim, chinoiserie pattern Coarseware x 2 joining pancheon rim sherds Utilitarian whiteware x 1 complete Kiellers marmalade jar (post 1862)

508: Wall

Sandy medieval cooking pot x 1 body sherd

512: Levelling deposit

Coarseware x 1 base-body sherd from a jar, partial thin glaze on exterior. Drilled hole in base

517: Levelling deposit

Coarseware x 1 jar/pan sherd ?Creamware x 1 small base sherd, part of a footring Brown salt-glazed stoneware x 2 sherds from a large footring vessel, probably a mixing bowl

527: Levelling deposit

Creamware x 1 hollow ware body sherd Creamware x 1 body sherd 2 small pieces of opaque white glass

Discussion

Trench 1: The earliest evidence for occupation dated to the 18th century and was represented by two sherds from a blackware or 'shining black' mug.

Trench 4: Most of the pottery from this trench, located towards the northern end of Tower Street, consisted of blue transfer-printed wares. Some of this could be identified as pearlware, which suggests a date before the mid-19th century. The indented rim also suggests an earlier rather than a later date. Most of the transfer-printed sherds were decorated with chinoiserie designs, most notably the so-called 'Spode willow pattern'. There was a single example of a printed floral or 'botanical' design on a rounded jug. This pattern dates from the 1820s and 1830s. The possible bone china sherd from 401 may date to the 1830s or 1840s but could be later.

The industrial slipwares (slip-decorated creamware and pearlware) from 415 probably date from about the 1790s to 1820s and a date in the first two decades of the 19th century is likely for the green shell-edge plate. The earliest sherd from the trench is probably the coarseware body sherd from 417, which could date to the earlier 18th century of possibly the 17th century.

Industrial slipwares are generally seen to belong to the 'cheap and cheerful' end of the market but other wares which belong in this category and date to the first half of the 19th century such as sponged ware, painted ware and lustre ware are absent.

Maker's and other marks appeared to be largely absent apart from part of a printed mark on the external base of a plate and an indecipherable painted blue mark on the external base of a transfer-printed English porcelain jug.

The group of ceramics from Trench 4 is perhaps more interesting than it might at first appear. The greater part of the material comes from dinner plates and there is an absence of 'tea wares', unless the small jug from 401 is a milk jug and the porcelain bowl from 415 is a sugar bowl or slop bowl. Other table wares, such as mugs, are also not represented. Coarseware vessels such as storage jars, pans and bowls, the staple of every kitchen and pantry, are absent apart from the single, probably residual, coarseware sherd from 417.

Taken all together the evidence suggests a group of ceramics dating to the first half of the 19th century and possibly to before c. 1840. In terms of function, the group is consistent with a moderately prosperous household, rather than the artisanal or poorer classes.

Trench 5: The material from this trench is clearly more mixed than that from adjacent Trench 4, as would be expected from a series of levelling deposits. The earliest material was a small medieval cooking pot sherd associate with wall 508. This had brown surfaces and dark grey core; sand and iron oxide inclusions were visible in the clay matrix. This type of pottery is known from South Staffordshire and has been found at Dudley Castle (pers inspection by author). It is most likely to date from the 13th century.

A small component of 18th century pottery seems to be present and includes two slip-coated ware body sherds from 503 and creamware. Sherds in the latter probably date to the last decade of the 18th century. More utilitarian kitchen wares were present than in Trench 4 and were composed of coarseware and brown salt-glazed stoneware vessels.

Secure dating evidence was provided by a complete black-printed, whiteware Keiller and Sons marmalade jar from 506. The printed label bears the legend 'INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION 1862, THE ONLY PRIZE MEDAL AWARDED FOR MARMALADE', thus neatly providing a *terminus post quem* for the layer.

Conclusion

There was little evidence for occupation at the northern end of the study area before c. 1800 and there was too little pottery from Trench 1, to the south, to draw any conclusions about the extent or type of occupation. The pottery from Trench 4 is, however, not without interest and a larger assemblage from any subsequent excavations could form the basis of an interesting 'historical archaeological' approach combining documentary and artefactual evidence to inform the better understanding of the material circumstances of the early inhabitants of this area of Dudley.

Appendix D Animal Bone Report

Jennifer Wood

Introduction

A total of 8 (99g) fragments of animal bone was recovered during an evaluation undertaken by Network Archaeology Ltd at Tower Street, Dudley, West Midlands. The remains were recovered from demolition layer (417), levelling layer (506), levelling layer (517) and levelling layer (527).

Results

The remains were generally of a moderate overall condition, averaging between grades 2 and 3 on the Lyman criteria (1996).

No evidence of butchery, pathology or burning was noted on any of the remains. A single fragment of sheep/goat metatarsal fragment displayed evidence of carnivore gnawing on the shaft, suggesting the remains were left open to scavengers as part of or after the disposal process.

Context	Taxon	Element	Side	No.	Weight	Comments
417	Large Mammal Size	Innominate	Х	1	7	Ischium fragment
506	Sheep	Tooth	R	1	1	Lower dpm4=d
517	Large Mammal Size	Skull	Х	1	1	
	Equid (Horse Family)	Tooth	R	1	85	Upper PM/M
	Large Mammal Size	Rib	Х	1	4	Neck fragment
527	Sheep/Goat	Metatarsal	L	1		Shaft fragment, possible carnivore gnawing on the shaft
	Large Mammal Size	Vertebra	Х	1	8	Neural arch
	Large Mammal Size	Scapula	X	1	3	Blade fragment

Table D1: Summary of identified bone

As can be seen from Table 1, the assemblage consists of a small number of large mammal remains, two fragments from sheep and an equid tooth. The remains probably represent a mixture of domestic butchery and food waste.

No further work is required on this assemblage.

Reference

Lyman, R L, 1996 Vertebrate Taphonomy, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

Appendix E Glass, Clay Tobacco Pipe and Iron Report

Mike Wood BA (hons) MLitt MIfA

Introduction

A small collection of glass, clay pipe stems and an iron object was recovered from evaluation trenches on land off Tower Street, Dudley in the West Midlands. A total of fifteen fragments of glass, together weighing 699g, seven fragments of clay tobacco pipe weighing 16g, and one iron object weighing 28g was recovered. The material was derived from levelling deposits, demolition rubble and the fill of pipe trench cut **509**.

Methodology

The material was counted and weighed in grams, then examined visually to identify any diagnostic pieces and the overall condition of the assemblage. A summary of the material is recorded in Tables 1 to 3.

Assemblage

Table E1: Metal

Trench	Context	Deposit	Date	Coun t	Weight (g)	Measurements (mm)	Comments
5	517	Levelling deposit	20th	1	28	54 x 18 x 13	Heavily rusted and encrusted iron bolt

Table E2: Clay tobacco pipe

Trench	Context	Deposit	Date	Count	Weight (g)	Stem Bore	Comments
4	401	Levelling deposit	L18 th - 19th	1	2	4/64"	stem
4	417	Demolition rubble	18th	1	2	5/64"	stem
5	503	Levelling deposit	L18 th - 19th	1	2	4/64"	stem
5	503	Levelling deposit	18th	1	2	5/64"	Stem
5	527	Levelling deposit	L18 th - 19th	1	5	4/64"	stem
5	527	Levelling deposit	19 th	1	2	3/64"	Stem
5	527	Levelling deposit	19 th	1	1	3/64"	stem

Trench	Context	Deposit	Colour	Date	Count	Weight (g)	Comments
4	417	Demolition rubble	Brown glass	19th	2	59	Wine bottle including part of the base
5	503	Levelling deposit	Clear	undated	1	368	Partially melted and fractured fragment of glass, possibly originally decorative
5	503	Levelling deposit	Natural green	undated	1	10	Fractured and abraded
5	503	Levelling deposit	Clear	undated	1	2	chip
5	506	Levelling deposit	Clear	19 th -20 th	2	28	Fragment of glass light shade
5	510	Fill of pipe trench 509	Clear- heat damage d	undated	2	164	Twisted and melted lumps
5	510	Fill of pipe trench 509	Green	undated	1	19	Melted glass and metal
5	510	Fill of pipe trench 509	Clear	18th- 20th	1	4	Fragment of bottle glass
5	510	Fill of pipe trench 509	Clear	18th- 20th	1	1	Fragment of small decorative handle
5	510	Fill of pipe trench 509	Natural green appeari ng black	19th	1	17	Bottle stopper. There is a depression in the top where a decoration may have been attached.
5	527	Levelling deposit	Clear	20th	1	1	Fragment of window glass
5	527	Levelling deposit	Brown	20th	1	26	Bottle glass-partial base

Discussion

A small group of glass and clay tobacco pipe fragments, along with an iron object, was recovered during trial trenching on land off Tower Street, Dudley. The finds were derived from a variety of artificial levelling deposits, demolition rubble and the backfill of a pipe trench, so it is probable that none was retrieved from an original depositional context. Much of the material had been broken in antiquity and several of the glass fragments exhibit signs of being partially melted, perhaps suggesting they were burnt in home fires before being disposed of alongside other domestic or hearth waste. Alternatively, these pieces may represent material imported from the Glassworks shown just to the east of the site on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1882-7.

The single iron bolt is derived from a recent levelling deposit and could represent accidental loss or casual disposal during levelling.

The glass and clay tobacco pipe assemblage is broadly typical of domestic waste including fragments of bottles, a shard of window glass as well as a broken bottle stopper and a small, broken decorative handle.

Clay tobacco pipes are ubiquitous in post-medieval and modern assemblages and were still in widespread use into the twentieth century as limited use objects.

Recommendations for further work

None of the material warrants any further work or illustration. All the artefacts are in a stable condition and require no further conservation.

Reference

Oswald, A, 1975 Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist BAR 14, Oxford

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England						
List of Projects Manage Projects Search Projects New project Change your details HER ooverage Change country Log out						
Printable version	Printable version					
OASIS ID: networka2-99	9084					
Project details						
Project name	Dudley Tower Street					
Short description of the project	Archaeological Trench Evaluation of land at Tower Street, Dudley, West Midlands					
Project dates	Start: 03-03-2011 End: 07-03-2011					
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known					
Any associated project reference codes	DTS 14 - Sitecode					
Type of project	Field evaluation					
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other					
Monument type	DOMESTIC DWELLING Post Medleval					
Monument type	BACKYARD Post Medleval					
Proto di la colta a						
Project location	Facined					
Site location	England WEST MIDLANDS DUDLEY DUDLEY Dudley Towar Streat					
Bostrade	DV1 100					
Study area	0.55 Hertares					
Site coordinates	80 9445 9050 52.5119955349 -2.081788370590 52 30 43 N 002 04 54 W Point					
Height OD / Depth	Min: 196.13m Max: 197.17m					
Project creators						
Name of Organisation	Network Archaeology Ltd					
Project orier originator	Excel Automy Archaelogist and/or Hanning Automy/auvisory body					
Project design originator	Michael Wood					
Project supervisor	Patrick Daniel					
Type of sponsorfunding body	Landowner					
Name of sponsor/unding body	Dudley College					
Project archives						

Physical Archive recipient	Dudley Museum and Art Gallery
Physical Archive ID	DTS 14
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Dudley Museum and Art Gallery
Digital Archive ID	DTS 14
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Database', 'GIS', 'Images raster / digital photography', 'Spreadsheets', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Dudley Museum and Art Gallery
Paper Archive ID	DTS 14
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Drawing', 'Matrices', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'
Project bibliography 1	
	Grey Iterature (unpublished documentimanuscript)
Publication type	
Tite	TOWER STREET, DUDLEY Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
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