

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EXCAVATION AND BUILDING  
ASSESSMENT AT  
ROOKERY STREET/WELL LANE,  
WEDNESFIELD,  
WOLVERHAMPTON

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14<sup>th</sup> July 2006 revised 24<sup>th</sup>  
August 2006

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Project P2841  
Report 1417

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# Archaeological excavation and building assessment at Rookery Street/Well Lane, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton Tom Rogers and Shona Robson-Glyde

With a contribution by Angus Crawford

## Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological excavation and building assessment were undertaken at a site at Rookery Street/Well Lane, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton (SJ 9430 0010). It was undertaken on behalf of Wolverhampton City Council, who intend to construct an urban square and footpath link between Bentley Bridge and High Street, Wednesfield for which a planning application has been submitted (05/1091/DW).

An archaeological evaluation of the area was undertaken in 2003 (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2003) comprising a desk-based assessment of the entire area and trial trenching in one part of the site (Area A). Trench 1, which crossed the site parallel to Well Lane, revealed a series of pits and postholes cut into natural layers. One pit and one posthole contained 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Two further pits were recorded cutting into buried soils at a higher level.

The present project aimed to excavate an area where archaeological features had been uncovered during the evaluation work and which was likely to be affected by the construction of the footpath link. The overall brief was to identify and fully excavate any archaeological features present. An area of 80m<sup>2</sup> was opened by machine around the features recorded in Trench 1 of the evaluation. The topsoil and upper layers were removed to the depth at which the upper pits were recorded. This level was cleaned and photographed but no features were recorded. The remainder of deposits overlying the natural layers were then removed and this level cleaned by hand. One of the pits identified in the evaluation was recorded and re-excavated and an additional three small pits, one of which contained 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery, were also identified. A large pit or ditch terminus was excavated on the southern edge of the excavated area. This was almost 2m deep and contained a large sawn tree stump, 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery and organic layers at the base.

It is thought that due to the similarity of the fills the three pits are roughly contemporary but their function is not clear. The large ditch terminus had 18<sup>th</sup> century material in one of its fills but may be an older feature. The organic layer at the base suggests that it was open for some years and contained still water.

The buildings recorded dated mainly to the 20<sup>th</sup> century but also included the mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century Temperance Hall. This was constructed on vacant ground, as shown on the tithe map, and gave its name to the new street, Hall Street. Later in its life it became the Tivoli Music Hall. The building has been altered, including the replacing of both gable ends but some features are still visible within the fabric of the building such as fan light windows and blue banded brickwork.

## Part 2 Detailed report

### 1. Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological excavation and building assessment were undertaken at a site at Rookery Street/Well Lane, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton (SJ 94300010; Fig 1), on behalf of the client, Wolverhampton City Council. The client intends to construct an urban square and footpath link between Bentley Bridge and High Street, Wednesfield for which it has submitted a planning application (reference 05/1091/DW).

A previous evaluation on the site identified archaeological remains and 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery. It was considered by Mike Shaw, the Black County Archaeologist, that a wider area should be opened around these features in order to determine their nature and importance, also that the buildings within the area should be assessed to determine their importance.

## 1.2 **Project parameters**

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (IFA 1999) and *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (IFA 2001).

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Mike Shaw, Black Country Archaeologist, on behalf of Wolverhampton City Council (WCCPH 2005) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2005).

## 1.3 **Aims**

The aims of the excavation were to locate further archaeological deposits, record and interpret them.

The aim of the building assessment was to ‘assess the buildings within the south eastern area’. The purpose of this was ‘to make recommendations regarding buildings of merit’ (WCCPH 2005).

## 2. **Methods**

### 2.1 **Documentary search**

Prior to fieldwork the following sources were also consulted:

#### *Cartographic sources*

- 1842 Wednesfield tithe survey and award (Wolverhampton Archives ref MAP/101/a)
- 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1887 Ordnance Survey map, Wednesfield sheet, 1 mile: 25”
- 1902 Ordnance Survey map, Wednesfield sheet, 1 mile: 25”
- 1919 Ordnance Survey map, Wednesfield sheet 1 mile: 25”
- 1938 Ordnance Survey map, Wednesfield sheet, 1 mile: 25”
- 1953 Ordnance Survey map, Wednesfield sheet, 1:2,500

#### *Documentary sources*

- Cherrington and Coates 2004
- Kelly’s Directory of Staffordshire 1896
- Rees and Mills 1992
- Smallshire 1978

#### *Photographic sources*

- Temperance Hall 1960 (Wolverhampton Archives ref M6/WED)

- Well Lane 1959 (Wolverhampton Archives ref C2/WEL/6/1)

## 2.2 **Fieldwork methodology**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2005).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 13<sup>th</sup> March and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2006.

### 2.2.1 **Excavation strategy**

A rectangular area measuring 10m x 8m was excavated either side of Evaluation Trench 1 (Fig 1). All excavation was undertaken with a 180° mechanical excavator using a smooth bladed ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. As requested by Mike Shaw, the excavation was undertaken in spits. Initially deposits overlying layers 104-6 (as identified in the original evaluation) were removed, the exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand, inspected and features were planned, photographed and recorded. These layers were then removed by machine to the level of the natural horizon. Subsequent excavation was again undertaken by hand and deposits were recorded and excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature (Fig 5). All deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

Context numbers assigned during this excavation were 1000s. Those assigned during the previous evaluation were 100s, 200s and 300s.

### 2.2.2 **Building assessment strategy**

The project conformed to the specification for a level 1 survey as defined by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (RCHME 1996). This document has been superseded, since the fieldwork was carried out, by English Heritage guidelines *Understanding historic buildings* (EH 2006) and the project conformed to a level 1 survey as set out in this document and also includes the following items of record not detailed in the relevant element of the guidance. • Photographs of external detail relevant to the building's design, development or use

- Photographs of signage which contribute to an understanding of the building

The building assessment consisted of an external photographic survey of the buildings and a deskbased assessment of the area. All photographs were taken with a Nikon D70 digital camera. All photographs were recorded on a pro-forma Photographic Record Sheet. This record was complemented by making notes on the appearance on possible age of the buildings and by completing pro-forma Building Record Sheets. Further research was carried out on the buildings at Wolverhampton Archives where documents, maps and photographs were studied.

### 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 notes. It was also informed by the documentary and cartographic sources listed above.

## 2.3 **Artefact methodology, by Angus Crawford**

### 2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

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

### 2.3.2 **Method of analysis**

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

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

## 2.4 **Environmental archaeology methodology, by Katie Head and Elizabeth Pearson**

### 2.4.1 **Environmental sampling policy**

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). One sample of 10 litres was taken from a ditch feature (context 1036) of post-medieval date from which both pollen and plant macrofossil remains were analysed.

### 2.4.2 **Method of analysis (Pollen), by Katie Head**

One pollen sample (context 1036) was taken from an organic secondary ditch fill. A sediment sample of 1cm<sup>3</sup> was measured volumetrically. To remove clays, the sample was heated in tetraSodium Pyrophosphate for 20mins, sieved through a 120µm mesh, washed onto a 10µm mesh, and the residue collected. 10% Hydrochloric acid was then added in order to remove any calcium carbonate within the sample. To remove siliceous material, the samples were soaked overnight and then digested using Hydrofluoric Acid in a hot-water bath for 30mins. As the sample was organic in nature, it was acetolysed for 3mins to break down the cellulose material. Finally the pollen pellet was stained with safranin, washed in alcohol to dehydrate the sample, and preserved in silicon oil.

Pollen grains were counted to a total of 250 land pollen grains (TLP) for assessment purposes using a GS binocular polarising microscope at 400x magnification, and identification was aided by using the pollen reference slide collection maintained by the Service, and the pollen reference manual by Moore *et al* (1991). Nomenclature for pollen follows Stace (1997) and Bennett (1994), and results are listed in taxonomic order.

### 2.4.3 **Method of analysis (Plant macrofossil remains), by Elizabeth Pearson**

A sub-sample of 500µm was processed by the wash-over technique as follows. The sub-sample was broken up in a bowl of water to separate the light organic remains from the mineral fraction and heavier residue. The water, with the light organic fraction was decanted onto a 300µm sieve and the residue washed through a 1mm sieve.

The residue was fully sorted by eye, although no identifiable remains were recovered. The flot was scanned using a low power EMT stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by the Service, and seed identification manual (Beijerinck 1947). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the Flora of the British Isles, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Stace 2001).

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## 2.5 **The methods in retrospect**

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

The building assessment aimed to assess the buildings within the southern area of the site. However no access was available to the interior of the buildings and they were assessed from the exterior only. This assessment, in conjunction with cartographic and documentary evidence, has allowed provisional dating of the buildings. Therefore, whilst a fuller assessment would have been carried out if the interior of the buildings could have been seen, the aims of the project have been achieved.

## 3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

The archaeological background to this site has previously been described in the evaluation report (Cherrington and Coates 2003, section 4.1). The following is a summary:

The site is located to the south-west of the medieval village of Wednesfield and falls within the historic core of the settlement. The placename suggests a pagan Saxon origin as a field or open ground of the Anglo-Saxon god Woden (the equivalent of the Norse Odin) and this name is first recorded at the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century. This may imply the existence of a shrine to the god somewhere in this area. Settlement at Wednesfield is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086.

Medieval Wednesfield seems to have been a small village surrounded by farms, some of them moated, and four open fields. The village lay in the parish of St Peter's, Wolverhampton and Wolverhampton Deanery Manor.

Yates' County Map of Staffordshire of 1775 shows buildings along Rookery Street at this time (Shaw 2005).

Industrialisation arrived later in Wednesfield than other Black Country towns, its open fields lasting into the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It was noted for its cottage industries such as key making (Chubb Locks still operate a plant here) and trap making. In 1795 the Wyrley and Essington Canal (SMR 6939) was built, passing through the town to the west of the High Street. This was a narrow canal, principally used to carry coal from mines in the Wyrley and Essington area to Wolverhampton.

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century large-scale manufacturing industry had arrived in the south part of Wednesfield. An ironworks and a manure and acid works are shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 and a chocolate factory on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of 1902.

Despite the intrusion of large-scale manufacturing, small-scale industry survived well into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Kelly's Directory of 1896 lists 14 key makers and 2 lock makers in Rookery Street alone as well as 10 key makers in Hall Street.

The tithe map of 1842 shows Wednesfield as a small town or large village. There are houses fronting onto Rookery Street with narrow plots extending back through the subject site although there is also a building on the frontage of Well Lane.

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 shows further buildings along Well Lane, and a public house on the corner of Well Lane and Rookery Street. A smithy is shown immediately south of the subject site, fronting onto Well Lane, although this is not marked on the 1902 edition. On the 1919 edition, several small outhouses have been constructed to the rear of the street frontages.

The 1971 OS map shows many of the terraced houses along Well Street replaced with the semidetached houses that still stand. In the 1970s all the houses in this block were demolished including the public house on the corner and the corner was rounded to allow easier turning between Rookery Street and Well Lane.

Opposite the site, 1-5 Church Street is a mid 18<sup>th</sup> century house (SMR5878) and 'The Pyle Cock' public house (SMR 13234) was built in 1867. The 'Dog and Partridge' Inn (SMR 445) a late 16<sup>th</sup> century building is the only late medieval structure still standing in Wednesfield.

## 4. **Excavation results**

### 4.1 **Structural analysis**

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figs 2-8. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1. Please note that numbers below 1000 refer to contexts recorded during the evaluation of 2003 while contexts above 1000 were recorded during the excavation.

#### 4.1.1 **Phase 1 Natural deposits**

Natural deposits on the site comprised context 1030, a mottled yellow/pinkish sand with frequent rounded and subangular stones up to 150mm in length and patches of oxidised iron staining in places. This is the equivalent to deposit 107 from the 2003 evaluation.

#### 4.1.2 **Phase 2 Medieval deposits**

A single rim sherd of medieval cooking pot was recovered from ditch fill 1021 but the context also contained 18<sup>th</sup> century roof tile and it was therefore residual in this context.

Pit 116 of the evaluation was re-excavated as cut 1014. In the evaluation, one sherd of iron rich sandy utilitarian ware, a cooking pot rim of 12<sup>th</sup> –13<sup>th</sup> century and one sherd of medieval quartz tempered coarseware were recovered from the fill (115). No further pottery was recovered during the excavation. It is circular pit, with a diameter of 0.45m with a sharp break of slope at top, steep, almost vertical sides, a sharp break of slope to a bowl shaped base.

#### 4.1.3 **Phase 3 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century deposits**

Three pits 1016, 1018 and 1020 were exposed, cut into the natural sand (1030) at the northern end of the site, close to pit 1014. Only one of these pits, 1016 contained dateable evidence, two large sherds of 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery, however as they are of a similar size and their fills were almost identical, it is considered likely that they are roughly contemporary and all three are described in this section.

Pit 1016 is oval, 0.57m long, 0.52m wide and 0.23m deep with a sharp break of slope at top, a steep, almost vertical side to north and moderately steep sides to east and west and 45° side to south. It was filled by a loose soft dark brown sand with occasional small pebbles (1015).

Pit 1018 is heart shaped 0.72m long and 0.46m wide with a maximum depth of 0.22m. It has a sharp break of slope at top, steep sides and a moderate break of slope to a bowl shaped base. It probably represents two inter-cutting pits, but there was no evidence of this in the fill. It was filled by 1017, a loose, soft dark brown/grey sand with occasional large rounded cobbles up to 120mm in length. Brick fragments were recovered from the top of the fill.

Pit 1020 is sub circular pit with a diameter of 0.4m and a depth of 0.28m. It has a sharp break of slope at the top, steep sides and sharp break of slope to the bowl shaped base. It was filled by 1019 a dark grey/brown loose soft sand with moderate small pebbles.

The terminus of a down-cut feature was recorded at the southern edge of the site. It was cut through context 1012, a grey sand overlying the natural and into the natural sand 1030 and measured 3.35m wide at the section. It was visible in the excavated for a length of 1.43m and continued beneath the southern baulk. The sides are straight, suggesting that it is a linear feature and it has steep, welldefined sides reducing to a concave base. It was truncated by a small pit of a linear feature (1034) and the

evaluation trench of 2003. Five fills were recorded in the ditch, one of which (1035) contained 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

The primary fill of the ditch (1037) was a firm, medium brown sandy clay with a high percentage of sand, gravels and small rounded pebbles, with a depth of 0.25m. The fill above this (1036) was a soft, light greenish brown peat/silty sand with a high frequency of organic materials. The context above this (1035) contained a large sawn tree stump as well as several sherds of 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery. It was a firm, gritty blue-grey sandy clay containing frequent organic material including wood, twigs, charcoal and occasional large sub-angular pebbles.

#### 4.1.4 Phase 4 Modern deposits

The upper three contexts in the excavated area 1001, the topsoil, 1002 a layer of ash and clinker and 1007 a dark grey buried topsoil all contained 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century white glazed pottery and are therefore relatively modern. To the west 1002 was not present and instead a brick footing, gutter and two concrete layers lay above 1007 and are therefore relatively modern. The bricks of 1003 are dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Four relatively modern pits were cut through the upper layers of the site and are also thought to be modern in origin.

1024 was a circular pit on the southern edge of the excavated area containing 1023, a mixed dark brown topsoil and orange/brown silty clay containing plastic, metal and glass. The pit, which was not fully excavated, was cut from context 1002 and through all the layers below into the natural.

1029 was an irregular pit 1.3m wide in section, protruding from the eastern edge of the excavated area. The fill (1028) was a loose dark brown/black sandy silt containing frequent rubble and stones as well as concrete, brick plastic, pipe and glass. The pit was not fully excavated.

1034 was a partially exposed feature cut into the upper fills of linear feature 1022. Regular, slightly concave steep sides and 'V' shaped base filled by a friable light grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and lime mortar fragments (1034).

1039 was a circular pit with moderately steep, regular sides and a concave 'u' shaped base, cut from above a layer of pinkish sand 1008. The fill, 1038 was a dark brown sandy silt with frequent brick fragments and sub rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks. It is probably a modern pit.

A modern service trench (1027) crossed the site approximately north to south to the west of the excavated area. It was ceramic, in a machine cut trench (1026), which ran directly parallel to the building footing (1003) and is probably related to that building.

#### 4.2 Artefact analysis, by Angus Crawford

The pottery assemblage retrieved from the excavated area consisted of 30 sherds of pottery weighing 1061.5g. In addition, fragments of roof tile, brick, drain and glass were recovered. The group came from 10 stratified contexts and could be dated from the medieval period onwards (see Table 1).

Level of preservation was generally good with the majority of sherds displaying only slight levels of abrasion.

Context	Material	Type	Fabric	Fabric common name	SumOfTotal	SumOfWeight	Date range
1002	BRICK	MOD			1	3440	M19-E20C
1003	BRICK	LPMD			1	3610	L18-M19C
1005	POT	PMD	83	Porcelain	1	1	18C
1007	GLASS	PMD-MOD			3	19	M19-E20C
1007	POT	PMD-MOD	83	Porcelain	3	28	19C
1007	POT	PMD-MOD	85	Modern stone china	12	26	19-E20C

1009	BRICK	PMD			2	11	18-19C
1009	POT	LPMD-MOD	85	Modern stone china	1	0.5	19-20C
1009	POT	PMD	77	Midlands yellow ware	1	13	L16-E18C
1015	POT	PMD	78	Post-medieval red wares	2	337	18C
1017	BRICK	PMD			2	27	17-M19C
1021	BRICK	PMD			4	410	L17-M19C
1021	POT	MED	64.4	Unglazed sandy white ware	1	30	13-E14C
1021	POT	PMD	90	Post-medieval orange ware	1	134	18C
1021	POT	PMD	91	Post-medieval buff wares	4	128	18C
1021	TILE	ROOF			1	94	18C
1032	BRICK	LPMD			5	112	18-19C
1032	DRAIN	FIELD			1	107	18-E19C
1032	POT	PMD	78	Post-medieval red wares	1	34	18C
1035	BRICK	PMD			1	535	1650-1786
1035	POT	PMD	100	Miscellaneous post-medieval wares	3	330	18C

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

#### 4.2.1 Discussion of the pottery

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (see Table 2). A total of eight diagnostic form sherds were present and could be dated accordingly, the remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span.

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

Context	Fabric name	Fabric number	Total	Weight (g)
1005	Porcelain	83	1	1
1007	Porcelain	83	3	28
1007	Modern stone china	85	12	26
1009	Midlands Yellow ware	77	1	13
1009	Modern stone china	85	1	0.5
1015	Post-medieval red wares	78	2	337
1021	Medieval sandy white ware, unglazed	64.4	1	30
1021	Post-medieval orange wares	90	1	134
1021	Post-medieval buff wares	91	4	128
1032	Post-medieval red wares	78	34	34
1035	Miscellaneous post-medieval wares	100	3	330

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric

#### Medieval period

A single rim sherd of medieval cooking pot was present within the assemblage and the fabric type could be identified as unglazed sandy white ware (fabric 64.4, context 1021). While the production source is unknown for this fabric, similar material has been excavated from a kiln site at Burslem indicating that it may be a Staffordshire product dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> century. However context 1021 had a *terminus post quem* (*tpq*) of post-medieval date, indicating that this sherd was redeposited.

#### Post-medieval to modern period

The post-medieval/modern pottery assemblage consisted of 29 sherds, all of a domestic nature. The dominant fabric type was modern stone china (fabric 85) with twelve sherds from context 1007 and a

single sherd from context 1009. All of the modern stone china present could be securely dated to being of 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date. However, the sherd from context 1009 was found to be intrusive when taken in consideration with the other artefactual material from the context and the site stratigraphy. Two sherds of porcelain (fabric 83) were also identified including one of English manufacture (context 1007) dating from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The second sherd proved interesting, as it appeared to be that of imported Chinese porcelain of 18<sup>th</sup> century date and representing the domination of the market by imported Chinese porcelain prior to the establishment of the English porcelain industry.

Further post-medieval fabrics included four sherds of post-medieval buff wares (context 1021), three sherds of post-medieval red wares (two from context 1015 and one from context 1032) and single sherds of post-medieval orange ware (context 1021) and Midlands yellow ware (context 1009). All of these post-medieval wares were dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### Other finds

The remaining artefact types included post-medieval brick (contexts 1003, 1009, 1017, 1021 and 1035), a fragment of 18<sup>th</sup> century roof tile (context 1021), a fragment of 18<sup>th</sup> century field drain (context 1032), glass bottle sherds of late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date (context 1007) and a drainage brick of late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

#### 4.2.2 Significance

Overall, the assemblage does not indicate significant archaeological activity on the site and is indicative of general domestic discard from the 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The following contexts have been allocated *tpq* dates as a result of the assemblage quantification:

- 18<sup>th</sup> century: contexts 1017, 1009, 1015, 1021, 1032, 1034 and 1035.
- late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century: contexts 1002 and 1007

#### 4.3 Environmental analysis: pollen by Katie Head, plant macrofossils by Elizabeth Pearson

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Table 3.

Latin name	Family	Common Name	Habitat	1036
<i>Pteropsida</i> (monolete) indet	Pteropsida	ferns	BCDE	3
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Pinaceae	pine	C	1
<i>Caltha palustris</i> -type	Ranunculaceae	king cup/marsh marigold	CE	1
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Urticaceae	common nettle, stinging nettle	CD	1
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Betulaceae	alder	C	11
<i>Corylus avellana</i> -type	Betulaceae	hazel	C	9
<i>Persicaria bistorta</i> -type	Polygonaceae	common bistort	D	1
<i>Salix</i>	Salicaceae	willow	C	3
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> -type	Primulaceae	scarlet pimpernel, shepherd's weather-glass	AC	1
Grossulariaceae sp e.g <i>Ribes</i> sp	Grossulariaceae	e.g. blackcurrant, gooseberry		2
Rosaceae sp	Rosaceae		ABCDE	5
<i>Filipendula</i>	Rosaceae	meadow sweet	CDE	2
<i>Geranium</i>	Geraniaceae	crane's-bill	ABCD	2
Apiaceae sp	Apiaceae		ABCDE	3

<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Plantaginaceae	ribwort plantain	D	1
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Caprifoliaceae	guelder-rose	C	2
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Dipsacaceae	field scabious	D	1
<i>Cichorium intybus</i> -type	Asteraceae	chicory, wild succory	BD	5
<i>Anthemis</i> -type	Asteraceae	corn chamomile, mayweed	AB	1
Poaceae undiff.	Poaceae	grass	ABCD	197
<i>Secale cereale</i>	Poaceae	rye	F	1

Table 3: Pollen from selected context

#### 4.3.1 Pollen remains (Katie Head)

##### Context 1036, sample 4

The ditch fill was dominated by Poaceae undiff. (grasses), expected for a fully cleared post medieval landscape (Table 1). There were a number of other herbs in low numbers, including meadowland herbs such as *Filipendula* (meadowsweet), *Caltha palustris*-type (king cup/marsh marigold), *Persicaria bistorta*-type (common bistort), and *Cichorium intybus*-type (e.g. *Taraxacum officinale* (dandelion)). A second group of herbs were suggestive of cultivated land such as *Anagallis arvensis*-type (scarlet pimpernel, shepherd's weather-glass), *Geranium* sp (crane's-bill), and *Anthemis*-type (corn chamomile/mayweed). These may have been growing around the fields, as *Secale cereale* (rye) was also present, indicating that rye was either being locally cultivated or had been brought in with other products. There may have also been pasture suggested by herbs such as *Knautia arvensis* (field scabious). Hedgerows would have also been part of the landscape and their presence is suggested by herbs including Grossulariaceae sp (e.g. *Ribes* sp; blackcurrant, gooseberry) and *Geranium* sp (crane's-bill), although the former may also have been deliberately cultivated. Trees and shrubs were in low numbers, dominated by *Alnus* (alder) and *Corylus* (hazel) which would have been growing in the surrounding countryside most probably beside a river or stream.

There seems to have been a mosaic of different environments including cultivated fields, hedges, meadowland, and pasture, with an alder/hazel woodland concentrated beside rivers or streams. There is the possibility that some of the grass pollen derived from material such as hay, which was dumped into the ditch as this is often found in features such as moats or cesspits.

#### 4.3.2 Plant macrofossil remains (Elizabeth Pearson)

The assemblage from context 1036 was entirely made up of wood fragments, one larger fragment being identified as possibly oak (cf *Quercus* sp). The material appears to be very homogeneous, and is likely to represent a single source of wood rather than general woody debris from overhanging vegetation.

## 5. Building assessment results

The area assessed and the individual buildings are shown in Figures 8 and 9. Photographs of the buildings are included as Plates 11-29.

### 5.1 Building description

Blg no	Date	Description	Features	Plate no
1	c 1960	Modern brick built shed. Similar in appearance to WWII building	Asbestos roof, south elevation wood, west elevation corrugated asbestos.	11, 12
2	c 1960	Frontage on Well Lane is modern brick. Similar in appearance to WWII building.	Corrugated asbestos built. Two large blocked openings on west elevation are original.	13, 14
3	Late 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Flat roof extension to Blgs 1 and 2	Weatherboarded exterior	12, 14

4	by 1938	Small, brick built, flat roofed, structure	Formerly 'Registered Office' 'Willenhall Metal Reclamation Co Ltd'	15-17
5	post 1842 by 1887	Brick built building coursed in Flemish Stretcher Bond with 3 courses of stretchers to each row of Flemish. Modern brick west and east elevations	Former Temperance Hall. Tivoli Music Hall in 1919. Brickwork includes bands of blue bricks. Large semi-circular headed windows with iron glazing bars. Roller door inserted in south elevation.	18-21
6	post 1938 by 1953	Brick built structure with later alterations. Parts similar in appearance to WWII building	Corrugated asbestos roof, wooden south elevation.	22, 23
7	post 1938 by 1953	2-storey semi-detached house. Brick built. No 28 Well Lane	Brick quoins, door arch, bay window. Originally had inset porch	24
8	post 1938 by 1953	2-storey semi-detached house. Brick built. No 30 Well Lane	Brick quoins, door arch, bay window. Originally had inset porch	25
9	post 1938 by 1953	2-storey semi-detached house. Brick built. No 32 Well Lane	Brick quoins, door arch, bay window. Originally had inset porch	26
10	post 1938 by 1953	2-storey semi-detached house. Brick built. No 34 Well Lane	Brick quoins, door arch, bay window. Originally had inset porch	27
11	post 1938 by 1953	2-storey semi-detached house. Brick built. No 36 Well Lane	Brick quoins, door arch, bay window. Originally had inset porch	28
12	post 1938 by 1953	2-storey semi-detached house. Brick built. No 38 Well Lane	Brick quoins, door arch, bay window. Original inset porch	29

#### 5.1.1 Phase 1 mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century

In the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, a Temperance Hall (Building 5) was constructed on Hall Street. This building does not appear on the 1842 tithe map but is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887. A Temperance Hall was a building associated with the Methodists. In Wednesfield Methodism was first introduced in the 1820s by a group of workers from Bilston. There were three Methodist meeting halls or chapels in Wednesfield by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century including one on Rookery Street (Smallshire 1978). It is therefore unlikely that the Hall Street hall was used as a meeting place. Temperance halls were opened all over the country in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and were often run as cafés in order to entice people away from pubs and the 'evils of alcohol'.

#### 5.1.2 Phase 2 early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century

On the 1919 Ordnance Survey map, the Temperance Hall is marked as Tivoli Music Hall. It appears to have lost its original use although it is unknown if its original fittings survived until this time. Its function as a music hall suggests that it had a stage by this period.

In the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century a small brick structure (Building 4) was built at the end of Well Lane and Rookery Street. This building is similar in appearance to military inter-war structures. It may be associated with other buildings around it that also appear to have been constructed at this time. However, as the majority of the Black Country was not recorded as part of the Defence of Britain project, there are no records of military buildings in the area. It is also possible that it the structure was built as an office of the 'Willenhall Metal Reclamation Co Ltd' as the sign on its east elevation indicates (Fig 17).

#### 5.1.3 Phase 3 mid 20<sup>th</sup> century

In the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century Buildings 6-12 were constructed. Building 6, which appears in its current plan on the Ordnance Survey map of 1953 as a factory, may have originally been built as a smaller structure as can be seen on the Ordnance Survey map of 1938. In parts it has the appearance of an inter-war military structure because of its corrugated asbestos roof. It is possible that the building was first built by 1938 as a long north to south orientated structure that was then extended to the west to create a square factory building by 1953.

Buildings 7-12 (28-38 Well Lane) are all mid 20<sup>th</sup> century houses that were constructed between 1938 and 1953. These houses are typical of the structures that were built in the 1940s to meet the housing demand of the lower middle classes.

#### 5.1.4 **Phase 4 mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> century**

Around 1960 Buildings 1 and 2 were constructed. These were constructed using techniques similar to World War II buildings, for example corrugated asbestos roofs and walls. If these buildings were shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1938 or 1953, they would have been dated to Phase 3, due to their construction and appearance.

#### 5.1.5 **Phase 5 Late 20<sup>th</sup> century**

Building 3 was the only structure built in this phase. It was a small flat-roof extension to Buildings 1 and 2.

## 6. **Synthesis**

### 6.1 **Medieval**

Although no detailed early maps of Wednesfield survive before Yates' map of 1775, it is clear from the street plan that the site on the corner of Rookery Street and Well Lane lay within or very close to the historic core of the village. The site almost adjoins the south-western end of the High Street and the church is less than 50m away. It is not known, however, whether this area was a built-up part of the village or on its periphery before the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The presence of a pit dated by two medieval sherds neither confirms nor refutes this, as there may well have been domestic activity such as the digging of rubbish pits on the edge of a village.

### 6.2 **Post-medieval**

The four small pits at the northern end of the site (1014, 1016, 1018, 1020) are arranged roughly in an arc. They are all relatively steep sided and may possibly have held timber uprights if, as seems likely, they have been truncated at some point. Pits 1018 and 1020 were cut from the overlying grey sandy layer 1012. It is possible that they were originally cut through overlying layers, which have now gone and were of sufficient depth to have supported uprights. Otherwise they may simply be rubbish pits.

The feature at the south of the excavated area (1022) is almost 2m deep and 3.5m wide at the top. It was partially excavated as it continued beneath the southern baulk of the excavated area and may be no more than a large pit. The straight sides however, imply that this is the terminus of a linear feature. The secondary fill 1036 is organic in nature and quite peaty, which suggests that the ditch was open for some considerable time and was wet at the base, allowing the build-up of vegetable matter. The tertiary fill 1035, contains 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery and a large tree stump and is about 1m deep. This may represent deliberate backfilling of the ditch, perhaps in an episode when the site was cleared of trees and levelled. The ditch may, in this case, be considerably older than the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It runs directly down the slope and could be a large drainage feature but it is more likely to have been a boundary or defensive ditch.

### **Mid 19<sup>th</sup> century**

#### 6.3

The only dated evidence from this period comes from the Temperance Hall (Building 5). The building was built of brick with decorative blue banding and large semi-circular headed windows. This type of construction is typical for the period and appears to have formed part of a development of the southern area of Wednesfield. The street that the Temperance Hall lies on was constructed from a former

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boundary and vacant plot (no 776) shown on the 1842 tithe map (Fig 10). The Temperance Hall gave its name to the street, Hall Street.

#### 6.4 **Modern**

The modern layers and pits on the site are fairly typical of urban stratigraphy. Below the topsoil 1001, layers 1002 and 1007 are fairly modern 'made up' ground. It is possible that 1002, which largely comprised ash and cinders, may represent the waste from the smithy shown adjacent to the site on the first edition 1887 Ordnance Survey map.

The brick building (1003) and concrete yard (1006) probably represent one of the outbuildings to the rear of the houses shown on the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century editions of the Ordnance Survey map.

The majority of the buildings within the development area date to this period but were built at varying times between the early 1900s and around 1960. The largest single phase of construction was the building of the street of houses (Buildings 7-12), which is a good example of the expansion of the housing stock immediately following World War II.

#### 6.5 **Environmental remains, by K Head and Elizabeth Pearson**

The pollen evidence from the post-medieval ditch fill provides an insight into a number of landscape types in the Wednesfield area. Arable cultivation may have been occurring in the surrounding area, although the single pollen grain of rye could alternatively derive from material/foodstuffs brought onto the site. There seems to have also been a combination of meadowland, pasture, and hedgebanks. It is documented in Angerstein's Diary (Berg 2001) that in the 18<sup>th</sup> century Wolverhampton and the surrounding towns and villages such as Wednesfield, flax retting was undertaken in meadows with flax spread out ready to be retted and bleached. Unfortunately, the pollen record shows no evidence of flax although there was obviously meadowland in the vicinity.

Few pollen sequences have been investigated for the later post medieval period, particularly in this area. At nearby Dudley Castle, however, botanical remains from a latrine were investigated, dating to the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century (Moffet 1992). Like the Wednesfield pollen profile, there were a variety of environments represented including herbs of cultivated and disturbed ground, as well as wetland herbs. The most notable finding at Dudley is the presence of many cultivated plants including fruit, nuts, and culinary herbs. This evidence derives from the plant macrofossil record, although the sample was found to have good pollen preservation (Greig, J pers comm 1989).

Another site in the region, also comparable to Wednesfield, is the post-medieval site of Birmingham Moat, which was analysed for botanical remains including pollen (Greig 1979). Like Wednesfield, the moat represented a mosaic of landscape types including arable areas particularly cornfields, pastureland, hedgerows, heathland, and the possibility of the cultivation of hops.

Further afield however, is the 16<sup>th</sup> century Tudor Merchant's House in Tenby, Dyfed. A cesspit was analysed for plant macrofossils and pollen. The pollen included cereals, primarily oats, barley, and wheat, cornfield weeds such as *Anthemis* type (mayweed type), as well as fruit pollen of grape, plum, and hawthorn (Greig 1990).

The presence of the wood fragments recovered from the bulk sample is difficult to interpret. They do not appear to represent general detritus from overhanging vegetation, but may originate from wooden revetting within the ditch, or wood waste (fragments or timbers) perhaps from an industrial process.

#### 7. **Significance**

There has been little archaeological work in Wednesfield and the location of archaeological deposits in Wednesfield is largely unknown (Shaw 2005 pers comm). The small 18<sup>th</sup> century pits are of no more

than local archaeological significance and only serve to confirm what is known from cartographic evidence, that this site was occupied at that time. The large, probably linear feature (1022), is of more interest should it extend elsewhere as it is likely to have formed a significant landscape feature. It would merit further investigation of its precise date, form and function should it be affected by any development proposals as it has the potential to provide valuable information about medieval or post-medieval Wednesfield. This potential is increased by the waterlogged deposits at its base, which yields valuable information about the local landscape at the time the feature was open.

The pollen evidence was relatively well preserved, although it was present in low concentrations. Although the pollen remains are post-medieval in date, there are a lack of pollen profiles for this period in the area. The diversity of herbs provides an insight into the rural landscape set within an area of industrial importance, and is therefore of regional significance.

The buildings within the development area date mainly to the 20<sup>th</sup> century although there are two buildings of interest in the area. The first is Building 4, which is very similar in design to some of the military buildings being constructed during the inter-war period. If it was constructed by the military, it is probable that it was built to a design that will be traceable. Even if it was built for the 'Willenhall Metal Reclamation Co Ltd' it is still of interest to the local history of the area.

The most significant building is the mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century Temperance Hall. The building was constructed at a time when Methodism was growing in the area, with a number of chapels being built in Wednesfield and the surrounding settlements. Whilst the building has been considerably altered since it was first built – both gable ends have been replaced, large doors added to the south– it retains some of its features and more may still be hidden on the interior. A Temperance Hall was an important focal point within the Methodist community, providing a social focus away from pubs and therefore alcohol, forbidden by Methodists. The Hall Street Temperance Hall is interesting because within a short time from being constructed it had become the Tivoli Music Hall, a function somewhat at odds with the beliefs of its Methodist founders.

## 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.

*An archaeological excavation and building assessment was undertaken on behalf of Wolverhampton City Council, at a site on the corner of Rookery Street and Well Lane in Wednesfield (SJ 9430 0010). It is intended to construct an urban square and footpath link between Bentley Bridge and High Street. The excavation site is currently an open area of grass crossed by a tarmac footpath. An archaeological evaluation of the area was undertaken in 2003 comprising a desk-based assessment of the entire area and trial trenching in one part of the site. One trench, which crossed the site parallel to Well Lane, revealed several pits and postholes cut into natural layers. One pit contained 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century pottery. A buried soil also contained later medieval pottery. Two pits were also recorded cutting post-medieval deposits overlying the natural sand.*

*In the present project, a rectangular area of 80m<sup>2</sup> was opened by machine around the features recorded in an earlier trench. The topsoil and upper layers were removed to the depth at which the upper pits were recorded. This level was cleaned and photographed but no features were recorded. The footings of a brick building and two concrete surfaces were recorded 0.3m from ground level. The remainder of deposits overlying the natural layers were then removed and this level cleaned by hand. One of the pits identified in the evaluation was recorded and re-excavated and an additional three small pits one of which contained 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery were also identified. The fills of these three pits were similar and it is thought they may be roughly contemporary. A large pit or ditch terminus was excavated on the southern edge of the excavated area. This was almost 2m deep and contained five fills including an organic layer at the base and a fill containing 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Pollen analysis indicated that*

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*the feature lay within an area of meadowland, pasture, and hedgebanks. This feature continued beneath the south-eastern baulk of the excavated area. Several pits containing modern material including modern bricks and plastic were also recorded*

*The buildings of the development area dated primarily to the 20<sup>th</sup> century and were constructed of materials similar to those of World War II buildings, using corrugated asbestos. Of the 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings the most interesting was a small brick structure dating to the inter war period. This may have been constructed as a military building or as an office of the 'Willenhall Metal Reclamation Co Ltd'. The building of most significance was the mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century Temperance Hall, built when Methodism was growing in the area it was used as an alternative social venue to the pubs. In its later life it became the Tivoli Music Hall, a function incongruous with its original Methodist function.*

## 9. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

- 43 Context records AS1
- 2 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 3 Photographic records AS3
- 1 Sample records AS17
- 15 Scale drawings
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Black Country Museum,  
Tipton Road, Dudley.  
DY1 4SQ

## 10. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank Mike Shaw, Black Country Archaeologist for his kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project.

## 11. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Tom Rogers and Shona Robson-Glyde. Simon Woodiwiss and Tom Vaughan were responsible for the quality of the project. Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Rogers, Simon Sworn, Andrew Mann and Shona Robson-Glyde, finds analysis by Angus Crawford and illustration by Carolyn Hunt and Tom Rogers.

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13.

## Plates



Plate 1 Brick footing 1003 and concrete pads 1004, 1006, exposed to west of excavated area, facing north-west.



Plate 2. Excavated area with context 1008 exposed, showing line of evaluation trench, facing east.



Plate 3. Excavated area with context 1030, natural sand exposed, pre excavation of features; facing north west.



Plate 4. Pit 1015/1016 half sectioned, facing south



Plate 5. Pit 1018 excavated, facing north-west



Plate 6 Pit 1020 post-excavation, facing south-west



Plate 7. Pit 1014 post-excavation, facing north



Plate 8. Ditch terminus 1022, partially excavated showing context 1035 exposed including sawn tree stump, facing south-east.



Plate 9. Site post-excitation, facing south.



Plate 10. Ditch terminus 1022, facing south-east.



Plate 11. Building 1 from the west



Plate 12. Building 1 from the east with Building 3 in front of it



Plate 13. Building 2 from the south



Plate 14. Building 2 from the north-east with Building 3 on the left



Plate 15. Building 4 from the north-east



Plate 16. Building 4 from the south-west



Plate 17. Detail of sign and letterbox on Building 4



Plate 18. Building 5 from the south-west



Plate 19. Building 5 from the north-west

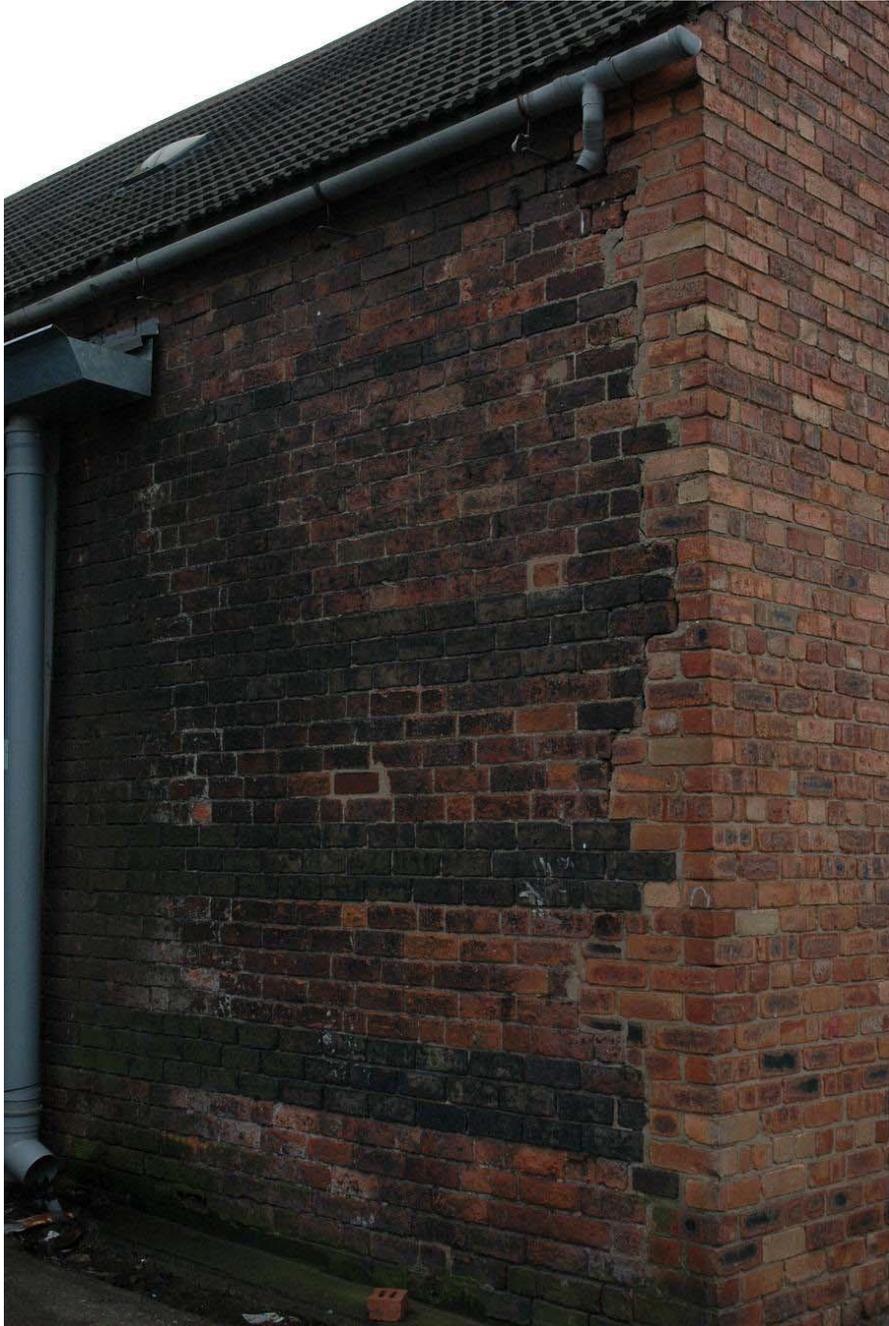


Plate 20. Detail of blue banding on Building 5



Plate 21. Detail of windows on Building 5



Plate 22. Building 6 from the south



Plate 23. Building 6 from the west



Plate 24. Building 7 from the north-east



Plate 25. Building 8 from the south-east



Plate 26. Building 9 from the north-east



Plate 27. Building 10 from the south-east



Plate 28. Building 11 from the north-east



Plate 29. Building 12 from the south-east

## Appendix 1 Context descriptions

### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1001	Layer	Reasonably loose brown sandy loam with frequent charcoal, ash, brick fragments and sandstone inclusions	0.0 – 0.28m
1002	Layer	Loose ash, clinker and occasional slag	0.28m – 0.5m
1003	Brick footing	Brick footing two courses wide, forming the corner of a structure on western side of excavated area. Bricks unfrogged measuring 230mm x 110mm x 70mm	0.28 – 0.98m
1004	Concrete floor	Layer of concrete, set in several phases formed of cement with small grey angular clasts. Enclosed by brick footing 1003	0.28m – 0.36m

1005	Gutter	Gutter 3.5m long running parallel to brick footing 1003 to the east. Formed of grey ceramic lengths 230mm long and 130mm wide with an internal depth of 50mm.	0.28 – 0.37m
1006	Concrete floor	Concrete floor outside brick footing 1003, formed of rounded and sub angular pebbles in cement.	0.28 – 0.37m
1007	Layer	Reasonably compact dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks, brick fragments and rounded pebbles 20-50mm long.	0.5 – 0.75m
1008	Layer	Pinkish beige sand with frequent rounded and sub rounded stones and moderate charcoal lumps and brick fragments.	0.75 – 0.90m
1009	Fill of small gully 1010	Friable mid –dark brown sandy silt with occasional small angular gravels, sandstone fragments and charcoal flecks.	0.75 – 0.79m
1010	Small gully	Small linear running north south at into the southern baulk of the excavated area. Visible for 2.5m. 0.32m wide and 0.04m deep with a clear break of slope at the top and gentle, slightly concave sides and a gentle concave base.	0.75 – 0.79m
1011	Deposit	Lens of yellow brown silty sand with very frequent cobbles – though not a firm surface lying between 1008 and 1012	0.9 – 1m
1012	Layer	Light grey sand with frequent rounded pebbles and lumps of charcoal, frequent mixing from worms.	0.90 – 1.08m
1013	Fill of pit 1014	Fill of previously excavated pit, identical to the backfilled material in the evaluation trench, a mix of deposits 1001, 1002, 1007, 1012.	1.08 – 1.35m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1014	Cut of pit	Circular pit diameter 0.45m and 0.27m deep. Sharp break of slope at top, steep, almost vertical sides, sharp break of slope to bowl shaped base.	1.08 – 1.35m
1015	Fill of pit	Fill of pit 1016. Loose soft dark brown sand with occasional small pebbles.	1.08 – 1.31m

1016	Cut of pit	Oval pit 0.57m long, 0.52m wide and 0.23m deep with a sharp break of slope at top, steep, almost vertical side to north, moderately steep sides to east and west and 45° side to south. Base flat but sloping to north.	1.08 – 1.31m
1017	Fill of pit	Fill of pit 1018. Loose, soft dark brown/grey sand with occasional large rounded cobbles up to 120mm in length. Brick fragments were recovered from the top of the fill	1.08 – 1.3m
1018	Cut of pit	Heart shaped pit 0.72m long and 0.46m with a maximum depth of 0.22m. Sharp break of slope at top, steep sides, moderate break of slope to bowl shaped base. May be two inter-cutting pits but no discernible difference in fills.	1.08 – 1.3m
1019	Fill of pit	Fill of pit 1020. Dark grey brown loose soft sand with moderate small pebbles	1.08 – 1.36m
1020	Cut of pit	Sub circular pit 0.28m deep with a diameter of 0.4m. Sharp break of slope at top, steep sides and sharp break of slope at base.	1.08 – 1.36m
1021	Ditch fill	Upper fill of 1022. Compact orangey brown silty sand with a high % of sub-angular gravels, occasional charcoal flecks and brick fragments.	0.8 – 1.56m
1022	Cut of linear feature	Steep sided linear cut exposed at northern terminus with clear, well defined edges. Clear break of slope, steep sides reducing to concave base. Truncated by 1034 and former evaluation trench.	0.8 – 2.8m
1023	Fill of pit	Modern fill of pit 1024, comprising mixed dark brown topsoil and orange/brown silty clay containing plastic, metal grass. Not fully excavated	0.25 – 1.07m
1024	Cut of modern pit	Sharp, vertical sides, possibly circular, not fully excavated	0.25 – 1.07m
1025	Cut of service trench	Straight-sided machine cut 0.68m wide, crossing n-s across excavated area for a length of 6m. Not fully excavated	1.08m -
1026	Fill of service trench	Mixed sandy fill of service trench. Not excavated	1.08m -

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1027	Ceramic pipe	Brown ceramic 8” service pipe, probably foul or storm water. Not disturbed.	1.12m -
1028	Modern pit fill	Fill of pit 1028. Loose dark brown/black sandy silt containing frequent rubble and stones as well as concrete, brick plastic, pipe glass. Not fully excavated.	0.24 – 1.15m+
1029	Cut of pit	Cut of irregular pit – not fully excavated. Steep vertical sides. 1.3m wide in section.	0.24 – 1.15m+
1030	Natural sand	Mottled yellow/pinkish sand with frequent rounded and sub angular stones up to 150mm in length. Patches of oxidised iron staining in places.	1.08 +
1031	Fill of 1034	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks, occasional brick fragments and fragments of sandstone.	1.22 – 1.33m
1032	Fill of 1034	Friable light grey sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and lime mortar fragments. Occasional small brick fragments and sandstones. Heavy root action.	1.22 – 1.74m
1033	Fill of 1022	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional brick and sandstone fragments.	0.8 – 1.06m
1034	Cut	Partially exposed cut feature cut into fills of 1022. Regular, slightly concave steep sides and ‘V’ shaped base	0.9 - 1.74m
1035	Organic fill of 1022	Firm, gritty blue grey sandy clay containing frequent organic material including wood, twigs, charcoal and occasional large sub-angular pebbles as well as one large sawn tree stump.	1.32 – 2.48m
1036	Secondary fill of 1022	Soft, light greenish brown peat/silty sand with a high frequency of organic materials and a distinctive smell.	2.3 – 2.6m
1037	Primary fill of 1022	Firm, medium brown sandy clay with a high % of sand, gravels and small rounded pebbles.	2.3 – 2.82m
1038	Fill of pit	Dark brown sandy silt with frequent brick fragments and sub rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.74m – 1.14m
1039	Cut of pit	Possibly circular cut of pit. Steep, regular sides to a concave ‘u’ shaped base.	0.74m – 1.14m
1040	Layer	Firm orange/brown clay layer containing mixed dark brown sandy silt. Visible in southern (north facing) section as a lens between 1007 and 1043	0.65 – 0.77m

1041	Brick wall footing	Outside face of probably n-s running brick wall visible in eastern (west facing) section. Two courses visible. Bricks	0.69 – 0.81m
Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		220 x 110 x 70mm.	
1042	Cut	Cut of wall footing 1041. Steep sided, squared.	0.69 – 0.81m
1043	Layer	Friable, grey brown silty sand with a high % of subrounded pebbles and gravels and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.62 – 0.86m
1044	Layer	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional brick and sandstone fragments. Probably the same as 1033	0.63 – 0.79m