

JMB 02

John Muir's Birthplace, 126-128 High Street,
Dunbar, East Lothian
The results of an Archaeological Excavation

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Client: The John Muir Trust
October 2002

Summary

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by The John Muir Trust to carry out an archaeological excavation in the garden to the rear of 126-128 High Street Dunbar. The site lies within the known medieval core of Dunbar. An evaluation carried out by Headland Archaeology in July 2002 showed that well-preserved archaeological deposits were present on the site.

The excavation involved the hand digging and recording of all archaeological deposits on the site, down to undisturbed natural subsoil.

Several phases of activity were represented on the site. The earliest feature was a pit or possible ditch. It contained a substantial amount of charred oak, which may be the remains of a fence or timber lining, and a number of sherds of green glazed pottery dated to the 14th/15th century. Above this feature a clay layer of unknown function covered the entire site, although it was cut in several places by later features.

A cobbled surface identified in the evaluation was recorded, and found to be bedded in marine sand, from which a copper alloy spur of 15th century date was recovered. This surface covered much of the excavated area forming either a metalled road or courtyard. Integral to this was a well-made gutter that ran along the southern boundary of the site and issued into a culvert at its east end. This potentially drained under a building that fronted onto the high street. Two clay bonded walls were present both of which ran parallel to the present property boundaries.

A large quantity of pottery was recovered from across the site, ranging in date from the 12th to the 19th centuries. The largest group can be dated to the 13th to 15th centuries. Several copper alloy objects including the spur, a thimble and a ferrule were also recovered dating to the same period as the pottery. Animal bone including sheep, pig, and cattle together with smaller mammals, and frogs and some marine shell was found. Small amounts of slag and iron were also present.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology were commissioned by The John Muir Trust to carry out an archaeological excavation of the courtyard area behind John Muir's Birthplace, No.126-128 High Street, Dunbar (NT 6786 7900 - Figure 1). This work was undertaken as a result of recommendations made by the East Lothian Heritage officer on the basis of an evaluation carried out by Headland Archaeology (Morrison 2002). The evaluation involved the excavation of hand dug test pits, which uncovered the remains of a cobbled surface, a wall and a ditch. Finds included marine shell and animal bone, together with a few small sherds of 12th to 15th century pottery.

The building itself is located on the west side of the High Street within the known bounds of the medieval settlement. (Turner Simson & Stevenson 1981 NT 6786 7900 - Figure 1).

This report contains the results of the archaeological excavation. The fieldwork was carried out between the 10th and the 25th of September 2002.

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Dunbar was first established as a baronial burgh in the fourteenth century and was granted Royal Burgh status in 1445 (Perry 2000). Much earlier references do, however, exist including the 'Life of Wilfred' written in the 8th century.

The layout of medieval Dunbar used High Street as its axis and this would have been the focus for activity in the burgh.

A number of previous archaeological excavations have been carried out in Dunbar including one on the High Street itself. The results of these excavations revealed that the remains of medieval and early post-medieval Dunbar are well preserved beneath the existing High Street and the plots which stretch back from it. Of particular relevance was an evaluation carried out earlier this year at 138-140 High Street to the north of the site. During this deeply stratified deposits were encountered to a depth of 2.5m, these were found to date to the Medieval and post-medieval period and included walls floors and cut features. The deposits were shallower at the frontage and deeper at the rear of the plot (Suddaby 2002).

An evaluation carried out on the site by Headland Archaeology in July uncovered well preserved archaeological remains on the site including a cobbled surface and stone walls. A small amount of 12th to 15th century pottery, animal bone and marine shell were recovered.

3 OBJECTIVES

The objectives were:

- 1) To preserve by record all archaeological deposits present on the site, prior to their destruction by the proposed development.

4 METHODS

4.1 *Archaeological excavation*

The modern overburden and concrete were removed by hand, and taken off site. Each layer beneath the modern overburden was cleaned by hand and recorded. Layers were removed and negative features were half sectioned then fully excavated after recording. The archaeological deposits on the site were 100% excavated.

4.2 *Recording*

All contexts and environmental samples were given unique numbers. Bulk finds were collected by context. Colour transparencies and colour print photographs were taken. Single context planning of all deposits was undertaken at a scale of 1:20. Each layer was cleaned and a plan or overlay of the site as appropriate was drawn. Sections were drawn at 1:10. All recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards. The plans were tied in to a site grid. All levels were related to the Ordnance Datum.

4.2 *Samples and artefacts*

Artefacts retrieved during the evaluation have been catalogued and will be subject to standard Treasure Trove procedures. Archaeological deposits were sampled systematically. Bulk samples, a minimum of 10 litres but up to 20 litres if possible, were taken for wet sieving and flotation. These have been processed and analysed as part of the excavation.

5 RESULTS

Preliminary Phasing

5.1 *Phase 1: Natural subsoil & early negative feature (Figure 2, Plate 5)*

The natural subsoil was a coarse compact red sand and gravel (444) with occasional pockets of fine compact sand. A large pit/ditch (462) was cut into the subsoil at the west end of the site. The full extent of the feature was not visible as it was cut by the foundation trench (414) for wall (405). The feature had right-angled corners, very steep sides and a flat base. A quantity of pottery was recovered from the three fills of the ditch all of which dates to the 15th century. The main fill of the feature (463) contained a large quantity of charred oak, and burnt straw, with lumps of clay. The wood was distributed evenly across the feature.

5.2 *Phase 2: Clay deposit (Figure 2 & 5, Plate 4)*

Lying directly on top of the natural sandy gravel was a compact reddish brown sandy clay deposit (437=460). This was visible across the full extent of the site, where not cut by later features. It was of uniform thickness apart from a shallow depression in the centre of the site that had been filled with redeposited natural sandy gravel (445). At the west end of the site the deposit (437) had a higher sand content and was therefore issued with a separate number and sampled separately (460). The entire deposit was hand excavated, but no finds were retrieved on site. A small sherd of white gritty pottery together with some fish bone and marine shell were, however, recovered from bulk soil samples. The pottery was dated to between the 12th to 15th century. A linear feature (443) aligned parallel with the modern upstanding walls could be seen to cut the clay deposit. It became indistinguishable in plan from foundation cut (414), therefore its full extent is not known.

5.3 *Phase 3: Cobbled surface (Figure 3 & 5, Plate 1,2 & 3)*

Phase 3 represents one of the main periods of activity on the site. It is characterised by the construction and use of the cobbled surface (403=420) and its associated drainage features (440) and (426). The north side of the surface was truncated by the construction of later walls. The earliest feature appears to be a stone built culvert (425) the construction trench for which (426) had been cut through the clay surface (437=460). Its west end had been blocked by stone, and the runnel of the cobbled surface ran into it. It was presumed that the culvert would initially have been capped with flat stones to prevent it blocking.

The drainage runnel of the cobbled surface (426) was formed by excavation through the clay deposit. A thick layer of shell sand (424) was laid on top of this deposit into which the cobbles were bedded. The surface had a noticeable camber down to the south, allowing water to drain into the runnel. The cobbles varied in size, some were set on edge with other rounded cobbles being bedded flat. The upper surface of some of the cobbles was polished from wear but this varied depending on the type of stone. The runnel at the west end was constructed from even flat stones. Around the cobbles was a dark brown silty clay (427), this deposit may have been intentional packing or it may represent an accumulation of material during use. The environmental sample produced charred cereal grain, pottery, marine shell and fishbone, reinforcing the later interpretation.

The cobbled surface was cut by the foundation trench (430) for the present upstanding wall forming the south boundary of the excavation, and foundation cut for clay bonded wall (405). There was no evidence for a foundation cut for the wall forming the west boundary of the site and the cobbles appeared to continue under it.

The bedding sand (411) into which the cobbles were set contained 3 sherds of white gritty pottery dated to between 12th to 15th century. A copper alloy rowel

spur was recovered from this deposit during excavation; it is in good condition and has been dated to the 14th-15th centuries.

5.4 *Phase 4: Sandstone walls* (Figure 4)

A clay-bonded wall (405) ran for a length of 3 m parallel to the present north wall of the site in the north west corner. The associated construction trench (443) truncated the earlier cobbled surface (403). The wall was built from squared red sandstone rubble, bonded with reddish brown sandy clay. The front, ie. south, side of the wall was faced and it had a rubble core. The opposite face is thought to lie hard against the modern upstanding wall forming the north boundary of site. An associated construction trench was present (414), which ran on an east west orientation for several metres from the end of wall (405) before becoming indistinguishable from earlier cut (414). The fill of this trench (413) was cut by the foundation cut (416) of a second sandstone wall. No dateable artefacts were recovered, but it did contain, burnt clay, and metal working debris. This clay bonded wall (406), abutted the east end of wall (405). Its total width was not visible.

The existing upstanding walls are constructed from red sandstone rubble. A construction cut (430) for the southern wall was visible and cut the earlier cobbled surface (403). No other construction cuts were present for the remaining west standing wall.

5.5 *Phase 5: Post-medieval and modern features*

At the east end of the site adjacent to the modern services the remains of a heavily lime mortared wall stub (432) was present. It was cut to the north and east by modern services and lay immediately below the modern concrete surface. A piece of clay pipe stem dated to the 16th/17th century was found within the fill of the foundation cut (457).

Directly below the modern overburden a cobbled surface was revealed (400) (Plate 7). The surface was composed of rounded cobbles with flatter stones forming a drain along the south side. The surface was truncated to the north and east by modern services and abutted the site boundary walls to the west and south. The north side of the surface had a semi-circular hole in its shape which may have been related to the use of the surface, or the result of later robbing.

Two sub-circular features (408) and (410) were excavated from modern ground surface down to the subsoil. Both features were found to contain gravel, and modern material (cigarette ends and plastic). Both appear to have been related to the modern garden.

A number of services truncated the deposits on the site. These included a lead water pipe and a ceramic drain running along the north wall. A number of ceramic pipes and an unidentified iron pipe heavily truncated the east end of the site.

6 DISCUSSION

Although several different phases of activity have been identified on the site, the majority of the pottery has been dated to the 14th to 15th centuries. Earlier sherds of pottery from the 12th and 13th centuries may be residual, and represent earlier activity in the area or could have been brought in with levelling material. The shallow nature of deposits; a maximum of 0.6m from modern ground surface to natural, suggests that instead of building on top of existing deposits the site was cleared down to natural, before the main phases of activity in the 14th to 15th centuries. This is confirmed by the absence of a surface created from eroded and trampled subsoil.

6.1 *Phase 1: Natural subsoil & early negative feature*

The earliest feature on the site is a possible ditch or pit (462) (Figure 2 & Plate 5), which contained a sizable assemblage of pottery all of which dates from the 14th to 15th century. The large amount of burnt wood in the upper deposits has been identified as oak which is known to have been used to construct hurdles or fencing. It is possible that the ditch had an associated fence, which burnt and collapsed into the ditch after it had gone out of use. It is equally possible that the feature was a pit. Its straight edges and right-angled corners together with the quantity of burnt wood recovered indicating it had a timber lining. The function of this feature remains unknown.

6.2 *Phase 2: Clay surface*

The function of the clay surface (Plate 4), which extended over the entire site, is as yet unknown. It is possible that it was formed by the accumulation of debris from a collapsed building. Only one sherd of pottery was recovered from the entire deposit. The pottery had a white gritty fabric, dating from the 12th to 15th centuries. Three environmental samples were taken from different parts of the site. One of the samples was sterile whilst the other two contained a small amount of domestic debris. The low concentration of this would, however, suggest the surface was not used as an active living surface reinforcing the collapsed material interpretation.

Due to the truncation caused by the wall construction the function and extent of linear feature (443), which cuts the clay deposit, is not understood.

6.3 *Phase 3: Cobbled surface*

The initial interpretation from the evaluation (Morrison 2002) of the cobbles (420=403) formerly being part of a close or pend, has not been proven by the excavation. The possible burgage plot boundary (460) identified during the evaluation was found to be the cut of the drainage runnel for the cobbled surface. The clay-bonded wall cutting the surface makes it impossible to tell if the surface extended north to form a large courtyard but it would be unusual to have such a steeply cambered surface in a courtyard. It is, however, possible that the drain marks the north edge of a metalled road leading to a pend. Although no definite eastern edge to the cobbles was present, the change from the drain into a stone culvert (426) may suggest it was passing under a building or the street at that point, indicating the location of the frontage. This interpretation is reinforced by the termination of the clay-bonded wall (406) at a similar point. The copper alloy spur, which was found within the bedding sand (411) beneath the cobble surface, has been dated to the 14th/15th centuries.

6.4 *Phase 4: Sandstone walls*

The two clay bonded walls (405) and (406) follow the same alignment as the linear feature (443) and the present upstanding boundary walls. Wall (406) is the earlier and wider of the two. The foundation trench of this cuts the cobbled surface (403). Wall (406) (Plate 8) continues east and terminates at the modern entrance into the courtyard. The remains of clay surface (437) were visible to the north east of the wall. This shows that the wall definitely did terminate and has not simply been robbed out. If the wall had continued the foundation trench would have removed any traces of (437). The substantial nature of the walls implies they formed a structure. The end of the wall may indicate the end of the plot and the beginning of the frontage.

Clay bonded walls were in use in Edinburgh in the 14th century (Reed & Lawson 1999). It has also been suggested that clay bonded walls were used to form the foundations of timber structures in the 14th century (Reed & Lawson 1999). Although it is possible that clay-bonded walls were still in use much later in Dunbar, the presence of a mortar-bonded wall associated with 16th/17th century clay pipe shows that mortar-bonding was in use by this period. Reinforcing a 14th/15th century date for the clay bonded walls.

6.5 *Phase 5: Post-medieval and modern features*

The remains of the lime-mortared wall stub (459) was heavily truncated by modern services on two sides, therefore the extent and orientation of the wall remain unclear. A clay pipe stem fragment from the late 16th early 17th century was found within the backfill of the foundation cut.

The latest cobbled surface (400) (Plate 7), which lay directly below the modern

overburden, was less-well constructed than the earlier surface. It is possible that cobbles were removed from the earlier surface and re-used. It is thought that this surface may relate to the use of the area as washhouses and outbuildings in the late 18th and 19th centuries. The sub-circular shape within the cobbles may have been for a tub or other furniture related to the use of the area.

Other features on the site, pits (408) and (410) were modern and related to the planting of the garden.

6.6 *Conclusion*

The earliest phase of activity on the site is represented by a single pit which, on the basis of the pottery, can be confidently assigned to the 14th or 15th centuries. Its function is unknown but it is possible that it was lined with wood or it may have supported a screen or partition. The pit was backfilled and a large part of the site was sealed by a layer of clay-rich sediment approximately 0.15 m thick. This layer is poorly understood but it lies directly above the subsoil indicating that the topsoil had been stripped. The most likely interpretation of this, at present, is that it was the packed remains of an earth/clay/turf structure, possibly a wall or building.

Much of the excavated area was cobbled forming either a metalled road or courtyard. Integral to this was a well-made gutter that ran along the southern boundary of the site and issued into a culvert at its east end. This potentially drained under a building that fronted onto the high street. A date within the 15th-16th centuries for these features would seem likely.

Along the N boundary a substantial wall was constructed but it is unclear whether this was the wall of a building or a boundary wall. It was eventually demolished and rebuilt slightly to the north and the earlier cobbled surface replaced by a second cobbled surface. This appears to respect the N, S and west walls of the site. This phase of the site appears to postdate the 17th century and could even be somewhat later. It is possible that it was contemporary with the construction of the present 18th century building.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The fieldwork was carried out by Jenni Morrison Jonathan Millar and Ross Murray, the project was managed by Tim Holden. The illustrations were prepared by Mike Middleton and Jonathan Millar. The finds were assessed by Julie Franklin, Dave Henderson and the sample assessment was carried out by Mhairi Hastie.

9. REFERENCES & SOURCES

Morrison. J. 2002 *John Muir Birth Place, 126-128 High Street Dunbar, East Lothian, The Results of an Archaeological Evaluation*, Headland Archeology Client Report

Morrison. J. 2002 *John Muir Birth Place, 126-128 High Street Dunbar, East Lothian, Historic Building Survey*, Headland Archeology Client Report

Perry D R, 2000 *Castle Park, Two Thousand Years on a Fortified Headland*, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Edinburgh

Reed D & Lawson J A 1999 *Ronaldson's Wharf/Sandport Street, Leith* in Discovery and Excavation Scotland

Turner Simpson. A & Stevenson. S 1981 *Historic Dunbar The Archaeological Implications of Development* University of Glasgow

Suddaby. I 2002 *Lawson Place, 138-140 High Street Dunbar, East Lothian, Archaeological Evaluation, Data Structure Report, No 694* CFA Report

Maps

Wood J. 1830 Plan of Dunbar
First Edition Ordnance Survey 1854 6" Haddingtonshire Sheet 6 **APPENDIX 1**

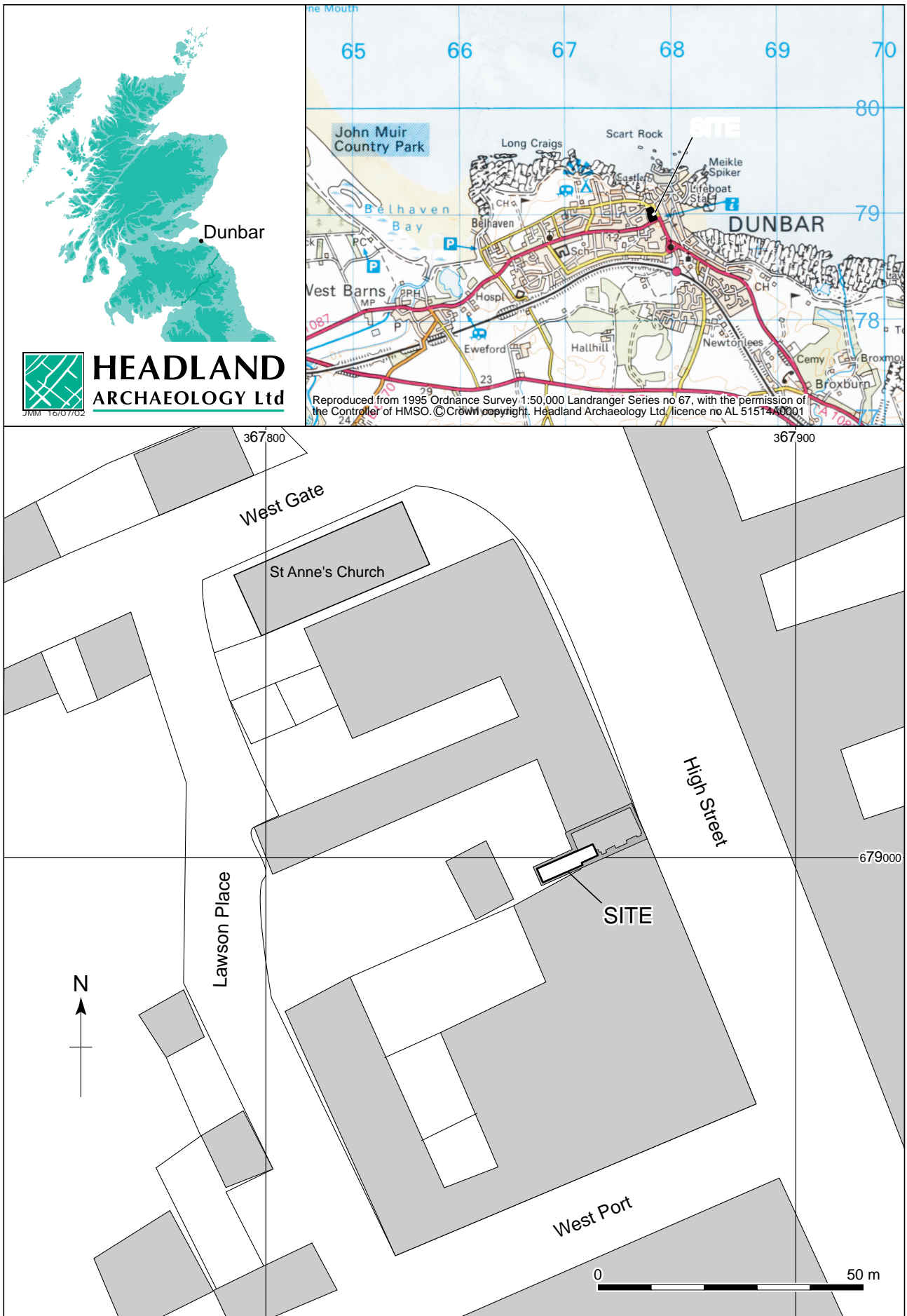
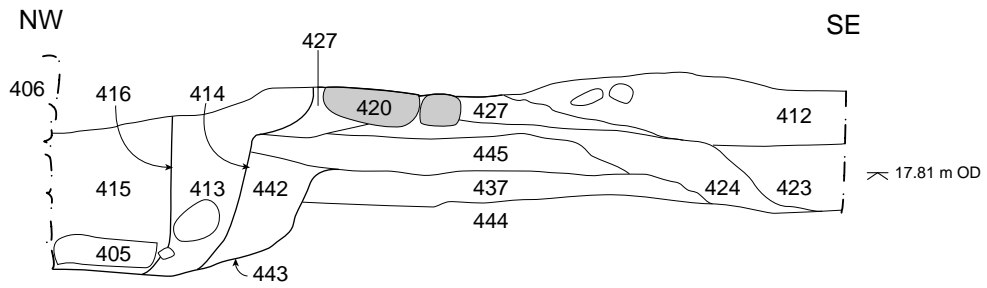
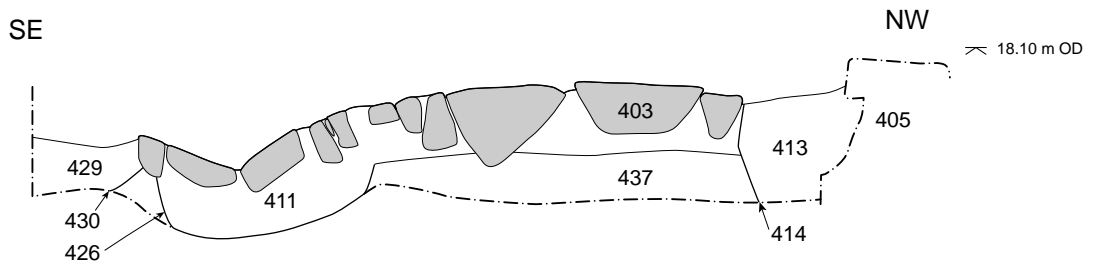


Figure 1. John Muir's Birthplace: Site location.

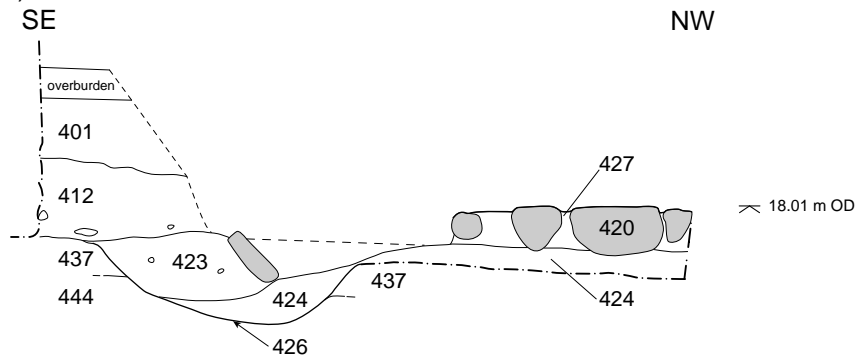
Section A
(Drawing No. 5)



Section B
(Drawing No. 21)



Section C
(Drawing No. 11)



Section D
(Drawing No. 22)

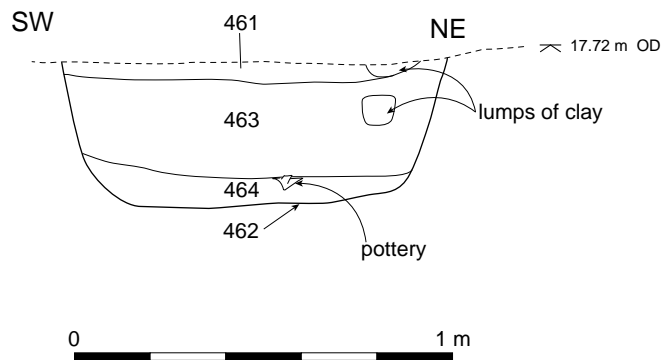


Figure 5 - John Muir's Birthplace: Sections.



John Muir's Birthplace: Plate 1- Bird's eye view of the site



Plate 2 - Cobbled surface 403 from above



Plate 3 - East facing section through cobbled surface 403



Plate 4 - Clay surface 460/437 in central part of the site: from the east



Plate 5 - Ditch/pit 462, after excavation: from the north



Plate 6 - Stone culvert 425: from the west



Plate 7 - Later cobbled surface 400: from the south



Plate 8 - Elevation of clay bonded wall 406: from the south

John Muir's Birthplace

John Muirs Birthplace: Soil Sample Assessment

Mhairi Hastie

METHOD

Bulk soil samples ranging in size from 10 - 20 litres were taken from well-stratified, secure archaeological deposits for palaeoenvironmental assessment. In total, 17 samples were collected.

Each sample was processed through a system of flotation in a Siraf style flotation tank. The floating debris (flot) was collected in a 250 μm sieve and, once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. This was then sorted and any material of archaeological significance removed.

RESULTS

Retents

Pottery and glass bead

Seven samples contained fragments of white gritty ware dating to the 12th - 15th centuries. In addition, one small opaque white glass bead (diameter 5 mm) was recovered from Context 461.

Industrial

A large percentage of samples contained traces of industrial activity such as slag, hammer-scale and other metal working debris. Large quantities of coal were also present.

Mammal and fishbone

Preservation of animal bone as good with most samples containing some mammal and fish bone. The animal bone is discussed in detail by D. Henderson this report.

Marine shell

The majority of samples contained small quantities of marine shell. The shell was dominated by the edible peri-winkle (*Littorina littorea*) with lesser quantities of limpet and oyster shell.

Flots

Preservation of all organic remains on site was by charring; no waterlogged remains were recovered.

Carbonised cereal grain and chaff fragments

Low concentrations of carbonised cereal grain were present in all the samples apart from Context 428 (clay surface). The preservation of the cereal grains was good and most could be identified to species level; oat, barley, wheat and rye were all identified. Large concentrations of oat florets were also present in Context 463 (fill of boundary ditch).

Charred weed seeds

Eight samples contained concentrations of carbonised weed seeds. In most cases only small quantities were present, however, one sample Context 463 did contain large amounts of burnt sedge/rush) and straw stem fragments.

Wood charcoal

The quantity of charcoal present in most samples was very low and comprised of a mix of small shrubby species and oak fragments. One concentration of well-preserved carbonised round wood was recovered from Context 463. The round wood charcoal was scanned quickly and appears to comprise wholly of oak charcoal; the diameter of the round wood ranged from 10 - 20 mm.

Carbonised twine and other material

Small fragments of burnt vesicular material were present in the sample from Context 463. The majority of the material was glassy in appearance with little or no organized structure and could not be identified. Occasional fragments of this vesicular material did, however, contain fragments of small lengths of twine which had fused together. The carbonised twine was approximately 1 mm in width and survived to a max of 5 mm.

DISCUSSION

The mix of domestic and industrial material recovered from John Muir's Birthplace is comparable to other Scottish medieval urban sites. One of the main features at this stage is the apparent uniformity in the composition of archaeological material across the site. Cereal grains and charcoal are present in low concentrations throughout, while both domestic waste, such as bone, marine shell and pottery, and industrial debris, such as slag and hammerscale, are present in most contexts. This seems to suggest continuity in usage of the area throughout the medieval period.

Apart from a concentration of carbonised round-wood (Context 463) charcoal is generally very sparse. The absence of charcoal from medieval sites is unusual, however, previously excavated medieval sites in East Lothian and Edinburgh have produced similar results. It appears that coal was the preferred fuel from the earliest periods in this region of Scotland and this is probably a reflection of the presence of East Lothian coalfields.

One sample - Context 463, middle fill of boundary ditch - does stand out with respect to concentration of charcoal and other carbonised plant remains. Excavation of the ditch revealed a thick evenly spread deposit of burnt material (250 mm thick) distributed along the length of the ditch. A sample taken from this deposit consisted primarily of burnt

Table 1: Composition of Flots

Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant

Context Number	Sample Number	Context Description	Total Flot Vol (ml)	Cereal Grain	Weed Seeds	Charcoal	Cinders	Coal	Summary Plant Identifications
402	5	Levelling deposit	30	+	+				wheat + barley +
404	6	Levelling deposit	10	+	+	+			oat + barley +
413	8	Fill of construction cut for wall	20	+	+				oat + barley + wheat +
421	7	Fill of stone culvert	10	+					oat + wheat +
422	10	Levelling deposit	10	+		+	+		cereal indet. +
427	19	Clay packed around cobbles	20	+		+			barley + cf. wheat +
428	11	Sandy clay despot present across whole of site	<10						Archaeologically sterile
437	16	Deposit extending over whole of site	<10	+			+		oat + wheat +
437	20	Deposit extending over whole of site	<10	+		+	+		oat + wheat +
439	12	Fill of stone culvert	10	+		+			barley + wheat +
441	13	Levelling deposit	30	+	+	+			oat + wheat + cf. rye + metal working debris +
442	14	Fill of boundary ditch	30	++	+	+			oat + wheat ++ barley +
445	15	Re-deposited natural	10	+		+	+	+	oat + barley +

Table 1: Composition of Flots (cont)

Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant

Context Number	Sample Number	Context Description	Total Flot Vol (ml)	Cereal Grain	Weed Seeds	Charcoal	Cinders	Coal	Summary Plant Identifications
451	17	Fill of posthole	<10	+		+			barley + wheat +
461	21	Levelling deposit	10	+	++	++			barley +
463	22	Fill of ditch	50	+	+++	+++			oak charcoal +++ straw culm nodes + sedge stem fragments +++ oat + oat florets +++ Charred twine/string fragments
464	23	Lower fill of ditch	10	+	+	+			oat + barley + wheat +

Table 2: Composition of Retents

Context Number	Sample Number	Context Description	Pottery	Glass Bead	Glass	Lead Frag.	Burnt Clay/ Daub	Slag	Metal Working Debris	Large Mammal Bone	Small Mammal Bone	Fishbone	Marine Shell	Charcoal
402	5	Levelling deposit			++			+		+				
404	6	Levelling deposit						+	+	+		+		+
413	8	Fill of construction cut for wall	+					+	++	+		+		
421	7	Fill of stone culvert	+					++		++		++	+	
422	10	Levelling deposit						++		+			++	
427	19	Clay packed around cobbles	+					++				+		
428	11	Sandy clay despot present across whole of site						+						
437	16	Deposit extending over whole of site						+		+			++	
437	20	Deposit extending over whole of site	+									+	+	
439	12	Fill of stone culvert						+			+	+		
441	13	Levelling deposit	+					++	++	++	+	+		+
442	14	Fill of boundary ditch						+	+		+	+		+
445	15	Re-deposited natural							+	+	+	+		
451	17	Fill of posthole											+	
461	21	Levelling deposit	+	+	+			+		++		+	+	+
463	22	Fill of probably ditch terminal						+				+		++
464	23	Lower fill of ditch	+				+	+				+		++

small diameter oak round wood, chaff fragments and weed seeds. There was no evidence from the archaeological record to suggest that this material had burnt *in situ*.

The presence of large concentration of oak round wood coupled with the even distribution of the material throughout the ditch may suggest that this could be the remains of an oak hurdle or fence structure which originally ran along the ditch bank. The wood was spread across the ditch and this is thought to indicate that the remains of the wooden structure had slumped into the boundary ditch after it was destroyed by fire.

A large concentration of oat florets, culm nodes and an assemblage of weed seeds were also recovered from this burnt deposit. The mix of material present suggests that this debris represents the burnt remains of straw and/or the by-products of corn processing. Furthermore small fragments of burnt twine were recovered from the same ditch fill. The origin of this material is unclear at this stage and the twine could have been used for many purposes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Glass Bead**
One glass bead recovered from Context 461 should be submitted to a specialist for further detailed analysis.
- Further analysis of the palaeoenvironmental remains from the above samples will add very little to the information gained from this assessment and further detailed work is not recommended. A summary of methodology and results from this assessment should be added to any final report.

APPENDIX 2: POTTERY & FINDS ASSESSMENT

Julie Franklin 01/10/02

The assemblage numbers 135 sherds of pottery (all locally produced), 8 objects of copper alloy (including a spur, a thimble and a lace end), 4 iron objects, a clay pipe stem sherd and 2 fragments of glass. But for a handful of modern finds (Ctxt 402, 437 and U/S), the assemblage points towards the later Medieval period, particularly the 15th century.

A copper alloy spur and thimble provide valuable dating evidence and also show some degree of status to the site's occupation. The Medieval pottery is of a variety of locally made generally types. The majority represent jugs rather than cooking vessels which again points towards the later Medieval period when the use of metal cooking pots was more commonplace. At least one of these jugs appears to be of an unusual two handled form.

The lack of pottery imports is odd, given the volume of European trade which was crossing the North Sea during the 15th century and the high status finds of copper alloy.

Summary of Finds Dating Evidence

nb. dates are approximate and subject to change

/ indicates a possible date in either century

- indicates a span of dated material

Ctxt	Date	Evidence
U/S	17 th -19 th	3 pot
401	14 th -15 th	2 pot
402	14 th -18 th	14 pot, 1 glass fragment
404	14 th -15 th	14 pot
411	14 th /15 th	3 pot, 1 spur
412	14 th /15 th	2 pot, 1 thimble
413	14 th -15 th	19 pot
415	14 th /15 th	6 pot
417	14 th -15 th	5 pot
418	13 th /15 th	1 pot
419	15 th /16 th	1 pot
420	13 th /15 th	1 pot
421	14 th /16 th	1 pot
422	14 th /16 th	1 pot
424	15 th /16 th	1 lace end
427	pre modern	1 iron staple
437	modern	1 plastic object, intrusive?
441	14 th -15 th	12 pot
460	12 th /14 th	2 pot

461	15 th	23 pot
463	15 th	15 pot
464	15 th	8 pot
465	15 th	1 pot

Conservation and Cleaning

None of the finds need cleaning for identification purposes. However, x-ray and cleaning *may* reveal some kind of decoration on the spur, though there is no sign of any at present. The thimble is in relatively good condition at present but is actively corroding and stabilisation would be required if this were needed for eg. display.

Illustrations

The following finds are recommended for illustration in a forthcoming publication report. The pottery may be subject to change after the assemblage has been worked for joining sherds.

- Finds

Ctxt	Description
411	Spur (top and side angles)
412	Thimble

- Pottery

Ctxt	Description
461	grooved jug handle
463	jug rim/handle
463	jug rim/handle
463	applied decoration
464	jug rim/handle/spout, with conjoining 463 handle, vessel profile?

Finds Catalogue

Ctxt	Material	Qty	Description	Spot Date
?	CuA	1	Fragment: small irregular dribble of heavy CuA, probable Pb content, 22 x c.6mm	
402rt	Glass	1	Vessel glass: fragment of black glass, probably from wine bottle	L.17 th /19 th
411	CuA	1	Spur: Rowel spur complete but for missing wheel. Two single ring terminals, top edge of sides drawn up into crest, short neck. Length 112mm.	14 th /15 th
412	CuA	1	Thimble: Large heavy duty thimble, with domed end. Plain rim with hand punched indentations in spiral pattern covering whole rest of surface but for small area in centre top. Height 19, diam 21mm.	15 th /16 th
413	Fe	2	Highly corroded nails	
413	CuA	1	Fragment: small sub-triangular shaped fragment, 9 x 9mm.	
413	CuA	1	Sheet: Irregular shaped and slightly curving piece of sheet in two pieces. Possibly part of a buckle plate or small hinge. 26 x 10mm.	
415	CuA	1	Ferrule: sub rectangular tube of sheet CuA, tapering to closed rounded point. Reinforced end to a stick of some kind. Length 34, width 11 x 9mm.	
424	CuA	1	Lace end: simple lace end of sheet CuA rolled to form tapering tube, squashed flat at wide end. Length 22mm, width 2mm	X
427	Fe	1	Staple: small U-shaped strip of iron, broken at both arms. Length 27mm, width 27mm.	
441	CuA	1	Sheet: large rectangular piece of sheet CuA in three pieces, broken along one side. Two or three irregularly placed holes possibly original. Length 48, width 34mm.	
457	Clay pipe	1	Stem sherd, wide bore	L.16 th /17 th
460	Glass	1	Thin, opalescent, blue	
464	Fe	1	Corroded piece of thick sheet of iron	

Pottery Catalogue

Abbreviations: LMR=Late Medi Redware; LWG=Late White Gritty; MRW=Medi Redware; PMR=Post-Medieval Reduced; WG=White Gritty

Cxt	Fabric	Qty	Ri	H	Ba	Bo	Description	Spot Date
?	PMR	1				1	exterior olive glaze	17 th -e.18 th
401	LWG	1				1	thick, spots of glaze	14 th /16 th
401	MRW	1				1	gritty redware with brown glaze	13 th /15 th
402	Brown Glazed Earthen ware	1				1	red body	17 th /19 th
402	LMR	1			1		jug base	15 th /16 th
402	LWG	1				1	Mottled olive brown glaze, thick, light grey fabric	15 th /16 th
402	MRW	2				2	1 olive glaze, 1 brown glaze	13 th /16 th
402	MRW	2				2	exterior olive glaze, same vessel	14 th /16 th
402	Red Earthen ware	1				1	Relatively fine, CBM or flower pot?	18 th /20 th
402	WG	5				5	1 thick, 1 olive glazed and reduced	13 th /15 th
402r t	WG	1				1	Sooty	13 th /15 th
404	LWG	5				5	thick fine fabric	15 th /16 th
404	LWG	1				1	Thick, reduced	15 th /16 th
404	MRW	5				5	gritty redware, brown orange and olive glazes	13 th /16 th
404	WG	1				1	thin rilled sherd	12 th /14 th
404r t	WG	2				2	small fragments	13 th /15 th
411	WG	2				2	one very thin, one grey with olive glaze	12 th /15 th
411	WG	1				1	thin, abraded	12 th /15 th
412	MRW	2		1		1	coarse gritty redware, brown glazed, including thumbled strap handle terminal	13 th /15 th
413	LWG	6				6	thick, fine with few large inclusions, mostly olive glazed	15 th /16 th
413	LWG	2				2	pale, thick, relatively fine	15 th /16 th
413	WG	1				1	brown glazed	13 th /15 th
413	MRW	3				3	1 brown glazed	13 th /15 th
413	WG	2				2	1 sooty, 1 amber glazed	12 th /15 th
413	WG	5				5	all sooty	12 th /15 th

Cxt	Fabric	Qty	Ri	H	Ba	Bo	Description	Spot Date
415	LWG	4				4	pale, thick, few coarse inclusions, glaze spots, jug sherds	14 th /16 th
415	MRW	1				1	spot of orange glaze	13 th /15 th
415	WG	1				1	jug? sherd	13 th /15 th
417	LMR	1				1	olive glaze, thin, gritty, incised horizontal lines	15 th /16 th
417	MRW	1				1	Relatively fine fragment, glaze spots	14 th /16 th
417	WG	1	1				Jug spout, small patches of glaze	12 th /15 th
417	WG	1				1	Unglazed	12 th /15 th
417	WG	1				1	jug sherd, olive glaze with copper coloured mottles - import?	13 th /15 th
418	WG	1				1	grey interior, unglazed	13 th /15 th
419	LMR	1				1	thin, sandy, olive glazed	15 th /16 th
420	MRW	1				1	patchy glaze, red gritty fabric	13 th /15 th
421rt	LMR	1				1	thin, gritty	14 th /16 th
422	LMR	1				1	Slightly sandy, exterior olive glaze	14 th /16 th
441	WG	2				2	Exterior olive glaze	12 th /15 th
441	LWG	1				1	thick and late	14 th /15 th
441	LWG	2				2	pale grey, relatively fine, olive glaze	15 th /16 th
441	MRW	3				3	olive glaze, red gritty fabric, reduce cores	13 th /15 th
441	MRW	4				4	Including large jug belly sherd, brown and patchy olive glaze	13 th /15 th
441	WG	1				1	thin, sooty	13 th /15 th
460	WG	1				1	Exterior olive glaze, reduced	12 th /15 th
460	WG	1				1	Sooty	12 th /14 th
461	LMR	21		1		20	all possibly same jug sherds, grey sandy fabric, olive glaze, one grooved strap handle, 3 pieces of applied stamped iron coloured decoration, including a ring 'rose'	15 th /16 th
461	WG	2				2	slightly sooty	12 th /15 th
463	LMR	15	3	5		9	coarse sandy red and grey fabric, olive glazed, sherds from at least 3 jugs, grooved strap handles, one decorated with two applied iron coloured stamped ring 'roses'	15 th /16 th

Ctx t	Fabric	Qty	Ri	H	Ba	Bo	Description	Spot Date
							nb some conjoining with 464	
464	LMR	8	2	1		6	two sooted but mostly jug sherds, including large belly sherd and jug rim/handle with spout on perpendicular edge, probably multi-handle vessel, conjoining handle from 463, possibly others nb some conjoining with 463	15 th /16 th
465	LMR	1			1		thin sandy fabric, internal patchy olive glaze, external soot	15 th /16 th
U/S	Brown Glazed Earthen ware	1				1	white body, brown glaze, moulded decoration, tea-pot sherd	19 th /20 th
U/S	Porcelain	1	1				plate rim, hand painted in blue	18 th -20 th

APPENDIX 3: FAUNAL REMAINS

by Dave Henderson 02/10/02

A small quantity of faunal remains was excavated from 21 contexts on the site. The material was recovered both by hand selection during excavation and from sieved soil samples. Preservation of the bone is generally good. Most of the material appears to derive from the main domestic species (cattle, sheep or goat and pig) with lesser quantities of horse, cat and chicken bones. Remains of fish were frequently recovered from sieved samples, as were bones of frogs and small mammals. A piece of (?roe) deer antler was also found and the presence of dogs on site was attested to by frequently occurring gnawing marks on the bones. The bones appear to have derived from both butchering and consuming the food-forming species.

APPENDIX 4: FINDS TABLE

List of hand retrieved finds, excluding pottery and metal work (see Appendix 2). An assessment of the animal bone is in Appendix 3.

Context	Slag	Mortar	Animal bone	Marine shell	Charcoal
401		1	1		
402			26		
404	1		28		
411			1		
412	1		2		
413	7		33	1	
415			18		
417			4		
421	2				
422			1		
423			11		
431			1		
437			1		3
441			44		
445			1		
460			6		
461			1		
463			4		
464			1		

APPENDIX 5: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context Number	Description
400	Cobbles, directly below modern overburden. Located in the south west corner of the site they extended 2m E-W and 1m north. A drainage channel ran along the southern edge. The cobbles ranged in size from 0.05m - 0.3m x 0.3m. They possibly formed the floor of an old washhouse or other outbuilding.
401	Deposit. Very dark brown friable sandy silt garden soil. Contained animal bone, teeth, and post-medieval pottery, cobbles 400 were bedded into this deposit. Average depth 0.1m-0.15m sealed 402 at west end of site.
402	Deposit. Mid red brown clay sand. Contained charcoal, pottery, mammal teeth, marine shell and lime mortar. Average depth of 0.2m. Interpreted as a levelling deposit.
403 =420	Cobbled surface, with a well constructed drain down the south side. It has been cut on the north and south by construction cuts for the upstanding walls. The cobbles are robbed out to the east and are bedded in yellowish grey marine sand.
404	Deposit. Mixed levelling deposit of reddish brown loam containing stone, charcoal flecks, marine shell, pottery and bone. East end marked by modern brick wall.
405	Structure. Wall aligned NE-SW (perpendicular to the High Street) constructed from red sandstone blocks, with clay bonding. Three courses surviving truncated at NE end by modern drain.
406	Structure. Wall on same alignment as 405. Constructed of large squared red sandstone blocks bonded with brown clay. Four courses survive the bottom course on natural gravel. It is set within a foundation cut.
407	Deposit. Fill of sub-circular pit 408. Contains modern material and gravel.
408	Cut of sub circular pit. Thought to be associated with garden planting, fill 407 contained modern material.
409	Deposit. Fill of modern pit 410, loose fill which included gravel and brick fragments.
410	Cut of sub oval pit. Thought to be associated with garden planting, fill contained modern material 409l. Very steep sided.
411 =424	Deposit. Light to mid yellowish brown shell sand. Forms bedding layer for cobbles, still visible where cobbles have been removed.
412	Deposit. Strong brown silty sand with lenses of shell sand, containing charcoal flecks and small sand stone fragments. Levelling deposit.
413	Deposit. Fill of construction cut for wall 405. Dark greyish brown clay silt with rare stone inclusions, heavy root disturbance in places.
414	Construction cut of wall 405. Steep sided with a flat base. Cut down to natural, to a maximum depth of 0.5m
415	Deposit. Mid greyish brown silty clay sand with fragments of red sandstone. Fill of construction cut 416.
416	Cut. Near vertical cut through 413 to natural. Construction cut of wall 406. 0.4m deep.
417	void
418	Deposit. Reddish brown compact clay sand with sandstone fragments. Levelling deposit over wall. 0.12m thick
419	Deposit. Very loose rubble, sand and mortar make up layer under modern concrete and slab patio. 0.15m thick
420 =403	Remnant of cobbled surface; same as 403. Bedded into sand 424. Dark material 427 packed around the cobbles. They have been robbed out leaving only a strip 0.6-0.75m wide.

Context Number	Description
421	Deposit. Greyish green clay mixed with brown sandy silt, very compact, contained animal bone. 0.2m thick. Fill of stone culvert 425.
422	Deposit. Dark greyish brown coarse shell sand , with common red sandstone, rare coal, charcoal and marine shell inclusions. 0.2m thick
423 =441	Deposit. Mid brown sandy silt with chunks of degraded sandstone, charcoal bone and pottery. Levelling deposit. Same as 441. 0.2m thick
424 =411	Deposit. Clean light yellow shell sand. Slopes following the camber of the cobbled surface 420, which is bedded into it. Bedding deposit. 0.2m thick
425	Structure. Rough stone culvert visible for 4.8m aligned perpendicular to the High Street. No cap stone present filled with 421. 0.7m wide 0.23m deep
426	Cut for stone culvert 425. Cut through clay surface 428/437. Aligned perpendicular to High Street. 0.3m deep
427	Deposit. Dark brown silty clay packed around cobbles 420. May be intentional packing or a build of material during use of the surface.
428 =437	Deposit. Dark brown very compact fine sandy clay, containing occasional small coal inclusions. Present across whole site, cut by construction cuts and culvert.
429	Deposit. Fill of construction cut 430 for upstanding southern boundary wall.
430	Cut. Construction cut for upstanding southern boundary wall. 0.3m wide, 0.05m deep
431	Void
432	Structure. remnant of wall stub, heavily lime mortared red sandstone blocks. Severely truncated.
433	Cut of modern drain. 0.45m diameter
434	Cut of modern ceramic drain, aligned NW-SE. 0.25m diameter
435	Cut of modern drain, probably related to drain 433.
436	Fill of modern drain. Fill of cut 435
437 =428	Deposit. Compact mid reddish brown clay, contains a patch of re-deposited natural gravel, extends across the whole area , cut be the culvert and construction cuts. 0.10m thick
438=425	Stone built culvert, fills cut 440
439	Deposit. Friable dark grey fine silty clay, has rare angular sandstone inclusions, and occasional charcoal. Fill of stone culvert 438. 0.13m thick
440	Cut for stone built culvert, only visible in north side. It has steeply slopping sides and a flat base. 0.2m deep
441	Deposit. Mid brown compact clay silty sand with frequent stone and charcoal inclusions. Contained animal bone, pottery and metal objects. Probable levelling deposit following the removal of the cobbles, sits on the bedding sand.
442	Deposit. Mixed grey-brown compact coarse sandy silt, contains common fractured sandstone and occasional charcoal inclusions and marine shell. Fill of linear feature (443) 0.17m thick.
443	Cut of unknown linear feature, filled with 442. Aligned East to west with steeply slopping sides and a broad flat base.
444	Deposit. Natural subsoil of compact courses red sands and gravels.
445	Deposit. Re-deposited natural appears to have been laid to level up a depression in clay deposit 437.
446	Deposit. Firm silty clay with sandy patches, contains fragments of red sandstone. Thought to be a destruction deposit relating to wall stub 432. 0.15m thick.
447	Cut for modern ceramic service pipe. 0.4m deep
448	Fill of modern service trench, contains large ceramic pipe. 0.4m deep
449	Cut of modern service trench, contains a ceramic pipe. 0.4m deep

Context Number	Description
450	Structure. Modern brick wall, two rows of edge set bricks. 0.32m high, 0.3m wide
451	Deposit. Dark brown clay sand with small sub-rounded stone inclusions, and rare charcoal. Fill of probable post hole 452 0.19m thick
452	Cut of post hole only visible after ditch 443 had been excavated, so relationship not clear 0.19m deep
453	Modern ceramic waste pipe 0.25m diameter
454	Modern iron pipe oriented north south 0.04m diameter
455	Modern ceramic pipe, oriented north south. 0.3m diameter
456	Cut for wall 432, L shaped in plan. Shallow with U shaped profile. 0.2m deep.
457	Deposit. Clay with red sandstone fragments, and mortar, marine shell and clay pipe stem. Fill of construction cut for wall 459.
458	Cut for construction of wall 459, dug into natural gravel. Oriented east west. 0.15m deep
459	Structure. Red sandstone wall, built from rubble, one course surviving, possibly clay bonded but with lime mortar spread around.
460	Deposit. Same position and interpretation as 437 but more sandy.
461	Deposit of mixed light grey-brown silty sand and sandy clay, contains occasional charcoal inclusions. Above upper fill of pit/ditch 462, full extent not known. 0.12m thick
462	Cut of ditch/pit, it has very steep to vertical sides and a flatish base. 0.42m deep
463	Deposit. Loose brown/ black silty sandy with 30% charcoal inclusions. Large pieces of burnt twig, also contained large quantity of pottery. Fill of 462.
464	Deposit. Lower fill of 462. more mixed sand and natural gravel with lenses of charcoal.
465	Primary deposit of re-deposited natural. Fill of 462.

APPENDIX 6: DRAWING REGISTER

Drawing Number	Description	Scale
1	Eastern site base plan	1:20
2	Western site base plan	1:20
3	Plan of cobbles 403, wall 405,406,407,409	1:20
4	Plan of deposit 404	1:20
5	Section through extended evaluation trench 2	1:10
6	Plan of 412	1:20
7	Horizon 1, base plan, east end	1:20
8	Section through 407, 408	1:10
9	Section through 409,410	1:10
10	Section through stone culvert 425	1:20
11	Section through cut of stone culvert 420, 412, 423	1:20
12	East facing section through culvert 438	1:20
13	Plan of culvert 436	1:20
14	Plan of cut 141, & post-ex plan of construction cut for wall 405	1:20
15	Post-ex plan of cut 416	1:20
16	Plan of clay surface & culvert cut 414 part 1	1:20
17	Plan of clay surface & culvert cut 414 part 2	1:20
18	Plan of ditch 443	1:20
19	Plan of cut 456	1:20
20	Plan of cut 458 & wall 459	1:20
21	East facing section through cobbled surface 403	1:20
22	South facing section through feature 462	1:10
23	East facing section through feature 462	1:10
24	Post-ex plan of ditch 462	1:20

APPENDIX 7:PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

<i>Film no. 5</i>		Film Type: Colour Print & Colour Slide
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	-	I D shot
2	W	View of cobbled surface 400
3	W	View of cobbled surface 400
4	W	General view of cobbles 403
5	W	Detail of drainage runnel of 403
6	W	General site shot
7	E	Section through deposits
8	N	Wall 406
9	W	Working shot
10	W	Section through 407 and 409
11	W	Overview of site
12	W	Overview of site from 2 nd floor window
13	W	Overview of site from 2 nd floor window
14	W	Overview of site from 2 nd floor window
15	W	Overview of site from 2 nd floor window
16	W	Overview of site from 2 nd floor window
17	W	Working shot
18	N	Plan of cobbles 403 from above
19	NE	Overview from above
20	NE	Overview from above
21	E	Plan of cobbles 403
22	NW	View beyond site boundary
23	NE	View beyond site boundary
24	W	Cobbles and drain 403 at east of site
25	E	Cobbles and drain 403 at east of site
26	E	Cobbles and drain 403 at east of site
27	E	View of clay surface
28	W	Pre-ex shot of 431 & 432
29	-	Working shot
30	-	Working shot
31	-	Working shot
32	-	Working shot
33	-	Working shot
34	-	Working shot
35	-	Working shot
36	NE	Modern drain, wall base showing remnant clay
37	N	Modern drain, wall base showing remnant clay
38	E	Modern drain, wall base showing remnant clay

<i>Film no. 6</i>		Film Type: Colour Print & Colour Slide
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	-	I D shot
2	E	View of culvert 438
3	W	E facing section of 428 & 438
4	W	Ditch cut 413 & 414
5	W	Wall 406 after cleaning
6	W	Post-ex shot of 410 & cut 414, wall 405
7	W	Post-ex of 410, 414 & 405
8	S	Post-ex view of culvert 438 & 440
9	W	Post-ex view of foundation cut 416
10	W	Post-ex view of foundation cut 416
11	W	Working shot
12	W	Working shot
13	W	Clay surface 437 & 428, & gully 426
14	W	Clay surface 437 & 428, & gully 426
15	S	Post-ex of culvert 438
16	S	North facing section of culvert 438
17	E	Post-ex of ditch 443
18	E	Post-ex of ditch 443
19	N	Section through 437
20	NW	Working shot
21	E	Post-ex shot 456
22	N	General view of clay beyond 406 & 457
23	E	General view of clay beyond 406 & 457
24	W	Section of drawing 21
25	W	Section of drawing 21
26	W	Pre-ex shot of 462
27	S	Pre-ex shot of 462
28	W	Shot of 462 showing 463
29	W	Working shot
30	W	Working shot
31	W	E facing section of feature 462
32	N	S facing section of feature 462
33	W	E facing section of feature 462
34	W	S facing section of feature 462

<i>Film no. 7</i>		Film Type: Colour Print & Colour Slide
Shot no.	Direction Facing	Description
1	-	I D shot
2	NW	Post-ex shot of 462
3	W	Post-ex shot of 462
4	S	Post-ex shot of 462
5	-	Working shot
6	-	Working shot
7	-	Working shot
8	-	Working shot

APPENDIX 8: SAMPLE REGISTER

Sample No.	Context	Description
005	402	Mid red brown clay silt
006	404	Well mixed loam
007	421	Drain fill
008	413	Construction cut backfill
009	409	Fill of pit
010	422	Red brown clay sand
011	428	Clay surface
012	439	Fill of culvert 438
013	441	Levelling deposit
014	442	Fill of boundary ditch
015	445	Levelling deposit
016	437	Clay surface
017	451	Fill of post hole
018	429	Fill of construction cut
019	427	Deposit around cobbles
020	437	Clay surface at west end of site (more sandy)
021	461	Upper fill of probable ditch terminal 462
022	463	Fill of pit 462
023	464	Lower fill of probable ditch 462