



A.P.A.C. Ltd.

Archaeological Perspectives Analysis Consultancy

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

REPORT

Ty Dan-y-Castell, Crickhowell, Powys.

Planning Application No: 14/10404/PAYPRE



Prepared for:

Mr S. Marr-John

By:

Dr N Phillips.



Summary

Dr N Phillips of A.P.A.C. Ltd, was contacted in August 2013 by Mr A Cook on behalf of Mr Marr-Johnson in relation to proposed work to be undertaken in the rear garden of Ty Dan Y Castell, Crickhowell.

The proposed work involves construction of a: 'new residential development and associated works.

A pre-planning application was submitted to Brecon Beacons National Parks (BBNP) Planning and as part of the planning process; the (BBNP) Heritage Officer advised that as the proposed work at the site could likely impact on archaeological resources the client would need to engage an archaeologist to undertake preliminary evaluation work at the site.

Dr N Phillips from A.P.A.C. Ltd visited the site on 31st July 2013 and after discussions with the agent and the BBNP Heritage Officer agreed to accept the work.

A written scheme of investigation was drawn up and sent to BBNP for approval which was given and the evaluation trenching took place on the 22nd September 2014.

This report contains the findings of the archaeological evaluation.

No structural archaeological resources were impacted upon within the area of the two evaluation trenches.

A limited amount of small finds; mostly ceramics indicated a 18th-19th century deposition date range.

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1 Introduction

This report has been prepared by Dr Neil Phillips, A.P.A.C. Ltd, from the results of a programme of archaeological evaluation work undertaken in response to a proposed programme of works to construct 'a new dwelling and associated works' within the curtilage of Ty Dan Y Castell, Castle St, Crickhowell, Powys, NP8 1AP.

The proposed plan is to build the house on a raft which will limit the depth of ground disturbance to 600mm; less than would be required by a construction on traditional foundations; however, this will probably not reduce the depth for the services which range between 600-1000mm.

The client, Mr Marr-Johnson; having submitted a pre-planning application to Brecon Beacons National Parks (BBNP) through his agent, Mr A Bevan; (PI App: 14/10404/PAYPRE), has been advised that the proposed work would have an archaeological restraint, requiring a program of archaeological evaluation.

The stated reason was that the application area is situated:

within the historic core of Crickhowell, is adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument BR111, Crickhowell Castle, and is within an area identified as an Area of Archaeological Evaluation in the adopted Local Development Plan: an area that is not fully understood, or has not been fully investigated by archaeologists in the past, but where the survival of important archaeological features is considered to be likely.

(Ward 14/08/214).

Welsh Office Circular 60/96. Section 13:

'where research indicates that important archaeological remains may exist, the planning authority should request the prospective developer to arrange for an archaeological field evaluation to be carried out before any decision on the planning application is taken'.

It is also worth noting that Ty Dan y Castell itself; the curtilage of which the proposed building will be erected, is a Grade II listed building, Cadw 7191, with 16th c origins

The client contacted A.P.A.C. Ltd, to undertake the work.

Based on discussion with the client and (BBNP) heritage officer; a design brief for the work was drawn up, submitted and agreed as fit for purpose, (DB: EV/CD/14).

Evaluation trenching took place on the 22 September 2014 and was monitored by BBNP on the 24th September 2014.

2 Site Location and Description

Crickhowell is a small village located some 6 miles west of Abergavenny on the A40, Abergavenny to Brecon Rd, fig 01,

At the village centre monument, turn south along High St and take a left onto Castle St where Ty Dan Y Castell is located on the right just past 'Danycastell Chapel'.

The position of the proposed site is to the south east of the main house and was until recently occupied by a garden of raised flower beds under which was a 'Terram' membrane.

The ground had been cleared to the 'Terram' layer prior to the evaluation trenching

3 Geology and Topography

The town of Crickhowell lies on a southerly slope of the Brecon Beacons, above and to the north of the River Usk. The area is for the most part agricultural with a small industrial park to the east.



The underlying geology of Crickhowell is predominantly made up of the Senni and Brownstones formation with drift deposits of boulder clay, alluvium, glacial and fluvoglacial sand and gravel (BGS, 1990).

4 Brief archaeological and historical background

The Crickhowell area is rich in archaeological resources as a simple search on the 'Coflein' database, under Crickhowell, will yield with a NPRN list of 307 records with 'broad class' listings going back to the Neolithic.

Crickhowell town itself has an NPRN number: 91235, with a tentative 'medieval' broad class listing.

A brief report compiled by Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) from sources held at the HER demonstrates an almost continual habitation at Crickhowell from the 12th century to present (CPAT 2013).

The castle, NPRN 92110, is believed to have been a late 13th century re-fortification of the early 12th century motte which itself possibly replaced the earlier 11th century motte, NPRN 306242, just to the west, at Maescelyn, (Phillips, 149-50. 2004).

Ty Dan y Castell is itself a grade II listed building; Cadw. ID 7191; with an external door-case dating to c 1790 (Haslam, p 314) but internal features indicating early 16th 17th century origin, Cadw.

Its earliest cartographic record is on the 1844 Tithe map, fig 03, which shows an almost identical footprint for Ty-Dan-y-Castell, albeit with a large, empty, rectangular enclosure in the area of the site, (In Cook. p 21. 2013).

The footprint is corroborated with the map regression shown in fig 03 which clearly shows that with the exception of the removal of trees between 1887 and 1905 (*actually, 1883 to 1903 date of surveys*) there was no change to the garden layout as late as 1953.

Although Ty Dan Y Castell itself has seen periods of development since the early 18th century with extensive restoration in 1934, it is believed that the garden area of the proposed site has not been disturbed since at least the 19th century.

5 Aims and Objectives

In accordance with the Project Design, DB:EV/CD/14 the of the evaluation was to:

Elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of any potential archaeological remains, extant in the development area; allowing for the production of a sufficiently detailed report to be used to inform and mitigate any associated development.

This was to be realized through the following objectives:

The evaluation report would provide sufficiently detailed information to allow informed decisions to safeguard the archaeological resource, to be taken on the basis of its contents.

The evaluation would attempt to; specifically, establish the presence and extent of potential significant archaeological deposits, features and structures, which may be identified in the fieldwork.

The evaluation would attempt to recover enough information to enable assessment of the archaeological implications of the study area.

Resulting from the evaluation, a report on the results would be produced, which would include a detailed summary of the methodology, site history, deposits/features/ structures/artefacts uncovered and interpretation of the results.

6 Scope of the Work

The archaeology of the application site as a whole, in its wider local or regional context, was considered, although the evaluation trenching was be confined to those areas which will be directly affected by the development or some aspect of it.



All remains of potential interest were considered, whatever their date.

7 Methodology

The trenching strategy was been drawn up with reference to discussion with the client, his architect Mr A Cooke and from the brief supplied by the (BBNP Heritage Officer).

The evaluation trenches were strategically placed in order to maximise the archaeological potential; to determine the nature, depth, survival and extent of any archaeological features remaining in situ.

Evaluation

Two evaluation trenches were excavated by a tracked mechanical digger fitted with a grading bucket.

The trench locations are shown in fig 02, their measurements were:

1. 10m x 1.8m; evaluating the southern, eastern and western extents of proposed building
2. 6m x 2m; evaluating the northern extent of new building.

The mechanical digger was used to remove the overburden of soil in order to reach either an archaeological horizon or natural deposit.

In the case of both trenches, no archaeological horizon was encountered and so excavation was stopped at a level known to be natural deposit; and beyond the extent of depth of disturbance for the proposed house foundations.

Initial recording

A record of the stratigraphy of each trench was made during excavation and modified on completion.

The work was recorded digitally throughout using a Sony DSC F828 Camera set to 8mp Jpeg & RAW format.

All finds recovered were recorded to context and bagged.

Survey

The topographic survey was undertaken at the end of the excavation work using a Topcon 3007 REDM to map the site boundary, and trench positions and depth profiles.

All data was set from an arbitrary site datum point which was later tied in to the National grid using the data from the topographic survey supplied by the client.

The data collected was imputed into CivilCad for initial processing and exported to Autocad in order to include information and geo reference supplied by the client.

The output was then exported to Adobe Illustrator for presentation.

Research

Some brief research was undertaken using information supplied by the client and documentation provided by Mr Cooke during the project design.

Searches were made on line from various reliable archive sources including County Records Office, archwilio, ADHS, Coflein, Ordnance Survey, BGS, Vision of Britain, Magic, Promap etc.



8 Data Presentation

Presentation Notes:

All contexts are denoted [#] in the text, listed in Appendix I.

Photographs used in the text are listed Pl #, listed in appendix II and can be found following the figure section.

All finds denoted {#} in the text and are listed in Appendix III with images IIIa.

Data referred to within the text is shown in Figures: fig#, Plates: PL# Contexts [#] and finds: {#}.

Figures and Plates follow the Bibliography at the end of the report and Contexts, Photographic list and Finds are detailed in Appendices I, II, III respectively.

A contact sheet is also provided and a full set of photographs is included in an archive disc.

Ground conditions

The ground condition was good on the day of the evaluation although the upper deposits were very friable in the hot sun.

9 Evaluation Trenches Results

Trench 1. (refer to fig 03)

Trench 1, Pl 01 provided an unbroken deposition sequence under the 'Terram' [100], Pl 02, section aa:

[101], 500mm of Dark brown/black sandy loam with specks and nodes of lime plaster and a few roots.

[102], 300mm of red sandy fill with a large percentage of angular stone.

[103], 150mm of red sandy clay with no stone

[104], red sandy clay with rounded stones, a few over 400mm approximate diameter

To prove natural, a small test pit 400mm x 400mm x 200mm was excavated at the centre of the southern section fig 02; there was no change.

A small area to the west of Trench 1 impacted upon a layer of disturbance identified as part of the garden path, a better section survived in trench 2 and is described below.

Trench 2. (refer to fig 03)

Trench 2, Pl 03 had an identical stratigraphy to that in 1 with the addition of a section of the surviving garden path along the north western end, Pl 04, section bb, giving a sequence of:

[105], Concrete path

[106], Pink sand grit bedding

[107], Gravel bedding

10 Finds

Surprisingly the site produced fewer small finds than were expected, based on previous work in the area and the proximity of the castle.

Trench 1 produced a single sherd of late 18th- 19th century Pearl ware {1} from directly under the Terram membrane [100]; an obvious re-distribution when the raised garden was prepared, in the recent past.

Context [101] was more productive with an assemblage of 35 ceramic sherds, 6 shards of glass, 2 clay pipe stems, 2 iron nails, 6 small mammal bones and a fragment of slate.



The majority of the ceramics and glass were 19th – 20th century but some of the ceramic fabrics could extend from the late 18th century, (Clarke & Phillips).

Trench 2 produced similar assemblage {3} from [101], comprising 34 ceramics sherds and 2 shards of modern window glass.

However, 17 of the ceramics sherds are from fabrics and glazes that range from an earlier 17th – 18th century type; 11 from one vessel two pieces of which refit. (Clarke & Phillips).

A further assemblage {4} was retrieved from the spoil heaps, none of which add more insight into the date for the site in any way.

11 Discussion and Interpretation

The top layer of soil over the site [101] appeared to be of remarkably good quality, well suited for gardening.

Considering the lack of debris and small finds, it is possible that the humic soil had been imported for a gardening plot.

The underlying layer of angular stone [101] may be a natural deposition or equally a phase of levelling but there were no finds to corroborate the latter.

12 Impact

Considering the results of the evaluation, it is unlikely that any significant archaeology will be impacted upon by the proposal to build a new dwelling on this site.

13 Archive

Original archive will be retained by APAC Ltd.

A secondary Archive will be deposited with Powys archives.

A copy of the final report & project design will be deposited with the HER.

All finds will be returned to the client

14 Staff

Dr. Neil Phillips, AIFA.

Post ex
Mr A. O. Phillips.

Specialist Services: Mr S Clarke, Monmouth Archaeology

The copyright for this report shall remain with the A.P.A.C. Ltd.



15 Acknowledgements:

Thanks to Mr S. Marr-Johnson, for access to his garden and the much appreciated refreshments and Mr A Cook for his enthusiasm with the historic research.

Thanks are also due to Mr Clifford for his expertise with the mechanical digger.

Thanks also to Mr A. O. Phillips and Mr S Clarke for their work on the finds.

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Phillips, N., 2006	Earthwork Castles of Gwent and Ergyng AD 1050 – 1250. BAR 420. Archeopress.
The Society of Museum Archaeologists	Towards an Accessible Archive (1995)
United Kingdom Institute for Conservation. (Archaeology Section)	Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage (1990)
Wales & West Utilities	Awaiting reply
Welsh Water	Awaiting site visit App: 1001469200
Western Power	Ordnance survey extract of the main power supply for the area surrounding the property plot: 1227014. NGR 321658 218225 01/09/2014.
Cartography	opendatacommons.org

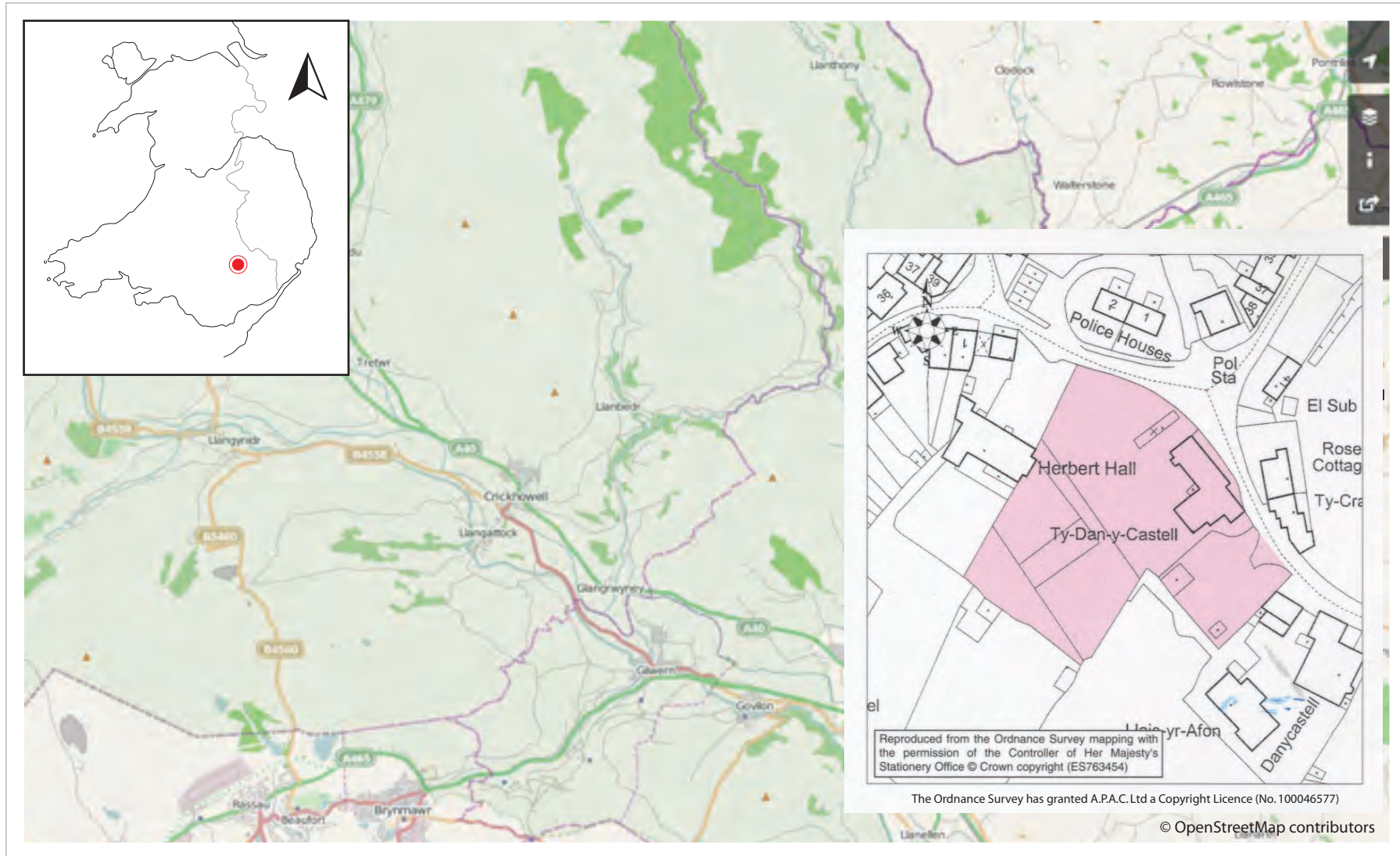
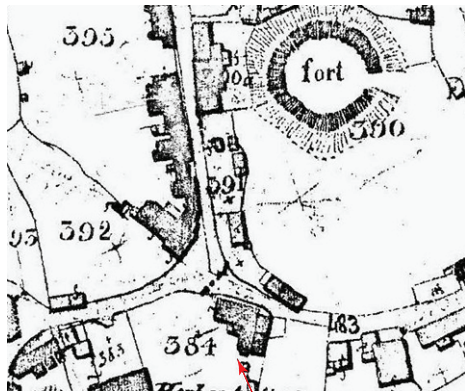


Fig 01: Location

Crickhowell 1844 Tithe Map



Breconshire Sheet XLI.NE



1887



1905



1953

Ty Dan-y-Castell

FIG 02 Map Progression



FIG 03 Trench Plans



Plate 01: Overview of trench 1 at end of excavation with mechanical digger, sides collapsing



Plate 02: Section. Centre of Trench 1 southern side opposite trench 2



Plate 03: Overview of trench 2 and end of excavation

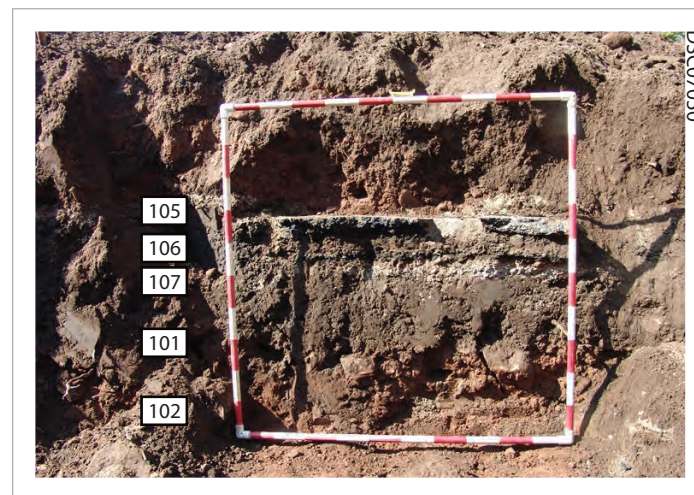
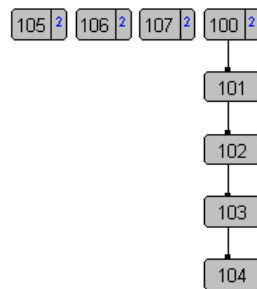


Plate 04: Section. North west end of trench 2, remains of garden path [105],[106],[107]



Site: Ty Dan-y-Castle Crickhowell		Grid Ref: 321658 218225	Site No: EV/CD/14	Alternate No: Trench 1	1
CONTEXT	AREA	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	FINDS	PHOTOGRAPHS
100	T1 & T2	Terram	Surface at start of evaluation		
101	T1 & T2	Imported	Dark brown/black with some root and lime plaster flecks, some roots	{1}05503	DSC07049, DSC07051, DSC07052, DSC07053,
102	T1 & T2	Deposit	Red sandy fill with a large percentage of angular stone	{2}05504 {3} 05505	DSC07052, DSC07053,
103	T1 & T2	Deposit	Red sand with few stone		DSC07052, DSC07053,
104	T1 & T2	River deposit	Red sandy clay with rounded stone		DSC07051, DSC07052, DSC07053,
105	T2	Path	Concrete path		DSC07050, DSC07051,
106	T2	Bedding	Pink sand/grit bedding		DSC07051
107	T2	Bedding	Gravel		DSC07051



Appendix II

Photo no	Date	Camera	Size	Area	View	Description	Plate
DSC07049	22/09/2014	DSC F828	3264x2448	TR1	W	Nearing the end of Trench 1. Exposed sequence [100], [101],[102], [103]	
DSC07050	22/09/2014	DSC F828	2448x3264	TR2	W	Section. North west end of trench 2, remains of garden path [105], [106], [107]	
DSC07051	22/09/2014	DSC F828	2448x3264	TR1	N	Overview of trench 2 and end of excavation	
DSC07052	22/09/2014	DSC F828	2448x3264	TR1	S	Section. Centre of Trench 1 southern side opposite trench 2	
DSC07053	22/09/2014	DSC F828	3264x2448	TR1	S	Section. Centre of Trench 1 southern side opposite trench 2 (Flash)	
DSC07054	22/09/2014	DSC F828	3264x2448	TR1	SE	Extent of spoil showing restricted space of plot	
DSC07055	22/09/2014	DSC F828	2448x3264	TR2	SE	Overview of trench 'T' shape	
DSC07056	22/09/2014	DSC F828	3264x2448	TR2	NE	Overview of trench 1 at end of excavation with mechanical digger, sides collapsing	



DSC07049.jpg



DSC07050.jpg



DSC07051.jpg



DSC07052.jpg



DSC07053.jpg



DSC07054.jpg



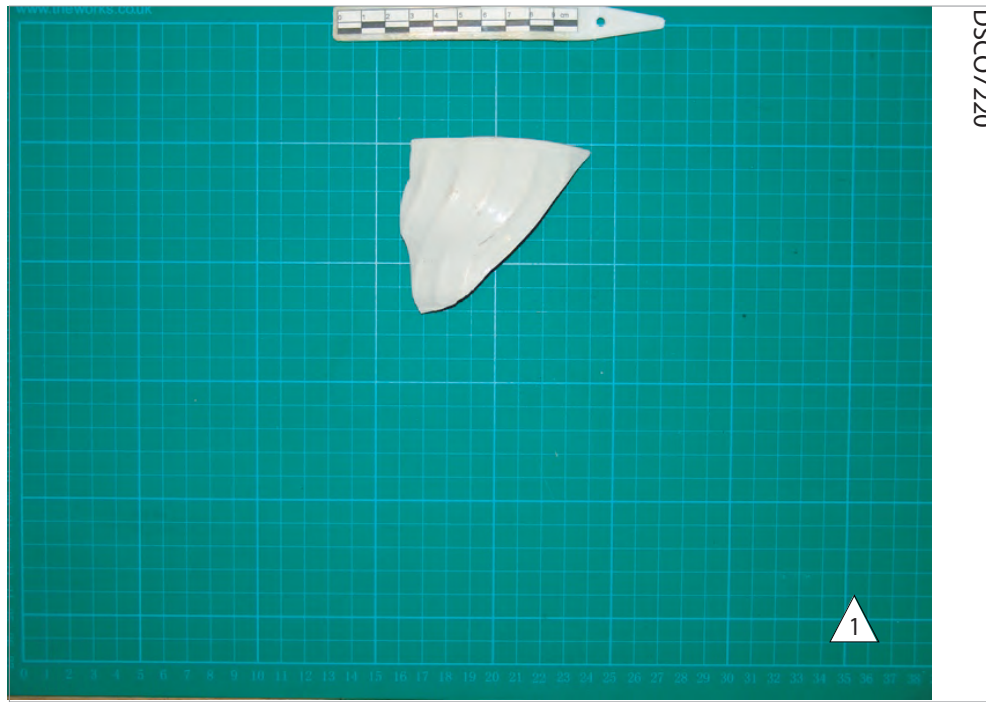
DSC07055.jpg



DSC07056.jpg



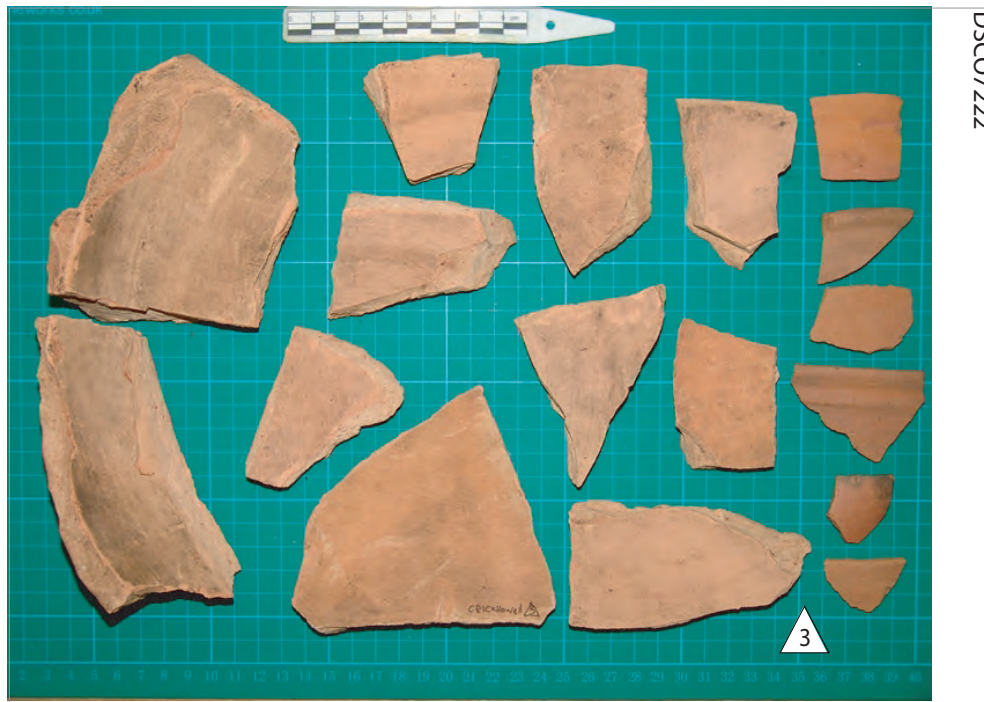
Find no	Area	Context	Description	Period	Date
1		100	1 sherd modern Pearl ware	Late 18th /	22/09/14
2	Trench 1	101	1 sherd cream ware 1 sherd cream ware pot/cup base 1 sherd salt glazed china. Greyish colour 1 sherd white salt glazed china 1 sherd stoneware salt glazed rim, with a brown glaze on the rim 2 sherds Pearl ware 4 sherd white china, with blue willow pattern 1 sherd white china dark blue design 4 sherds white china with light blue designs 4 sherds white china 1 sherd bone china ointment pot 1 sherd bone china 1 sherd bone china bowl rim with silver lines finish on the rim 2 clay pipe stems 2 shards frosted aqua blue glass 1 shard light green glass 3 shards green glass 1 white china bowl rim with embossed wavy lines 10 sherds earthenware flower pots 1 iron nail 6 animal bones 1 horse shoe nail 1 fragment of slate	Late 18th / 1800 / 19th - 20th	22/09/14
3	Trench 2	101	11 sherds earthenware (including 2 sherd base refit) 2 sherds Staffordshire slipware, with brown glaze 1 sherd stoneware, brown salt glazed 3 sherds stoneware 3 sherd(refit) cream ware china design 1 sherd cream ware china rim 2 sherds white china with blue willow pattern design 1 sherd white china with blue design 2 sherds white china rims 1 small sherd bone china 1 side of a white china tea cup 6 sherds mixed earthenware, (3 rims) 2 shards clear white glass	17th – 18th 18th / 1800 / 20th	22/09/14
4	spoil	spoil	1 sherd cream ware 1 sherd pearl ware 2 sherds white china, with blue design one a rim 1 sherd white china with blue willow pattern 2 sherds white china 1 white china cup handle 1 sherd white china with purple design 1 sherd salt glazed stoneware, with a brown line 1 shard green glass 1 shard green glass bottle neck 1 shard aqua blue glass 1 shard white glass 1 earthenware flower pot bottom 2 bones 1 shell	18th / 18th /19th 20th	22/09/14



Find no	Area	Context	Description	Period	Date
1		100	1 sherd modern Pearl ware	Late 18th /	22/09/14



Find no	Area	Context	Description	Period	Date
2	Trench 1	101	1 sherd cream ware 1 sherd cream ware pot/cup base 1 sherd salt glazed china. Greyish colour 1 sherd white salt glazed china 1 sherd stoneware salt glazed rim, with a brown glaze on the rim 2 sherds Pearl ware 4 sherd white china, with blue willow pattern 1 sherd white china dark blue design 4 sherds white china with light blue designs 4 sherds white china 1 sherd bone china ointment pot 1 sherd bone china 1 sherd bone china bowl rim with silver lines finish on the rim 2 clay pipe stems 2 shards frosted aqua blue glass 1 shard light green glass 3 shards green glass 1 white china bowl rim with embossed wavy lines 10 sherds earthenware flower pots 1 iron nail 6 animal bones 1 horse shoe nail 1 fragment of slate	Late 18th / 1800 / 19th - 20th	22/09/14



Find no	Area	Context	Description	Period	Date
3	Trench 2	101	11 sherds earthenware (including 2 sherd base refit) 2 sherds Staffordshire slipware, with brown glaze 1 sherd stoneware, brown salt glazed 3 sherds stoneware 3 sherd(refit) cream ware china design 1 sherd cream ware china rim 2 sherds white china with blue willow pattern design 1 sherd white china with blue design 2 sherds white china rims 1 small sherd bone china 1 side of a white china tea cup 6 sherds mixed earthenware, (3 rims) 2 shards clear white glass	17th – 18th 18th / 1800 / 20th	22/09/14



Find no	Area	Context	Description	Period	Date
3	Trench 2	101	11 sherds earthenware (including 2 sherd base refit) 2 sherds Staffordshire slipware, with brown glaze 1 sherd stoneware, brown salt glazed 3 sherds stoneware 3 sherd(refit) cream ware china design 1 sherd cream ware china rim 2 sherds white china with blue willow pattern design 1 sherd white china with blue design 2 sherds white china rims 1 small sherd bone china 1 side of a white china tea cup 6 sherds mixed earthenware, (3 rims) 2 shards clear white glass	17th – 18th 18th / 1800 / 20th	22/09/14



Find no	Area	Context	Description	Period	Date
4	spoil	spoil	1 sherd cream ware 1 sherd pearl ware 2 sherds white china, with blue design one a rim 1 sherd white china with blue willow pattern 2 sherds white china 1 white china cup handle 1 sherd white china with purple design 1 sherd salt glazed stoneware, with a brown line 1 shard green glass 1 shard green glass bottle neck 1 shard aqua blue glass 1 shard white glass 1 earthenware flower pot bottom 2 bones 1 shell	18th / 18th /19th 20th	22/09/14