

HORNBY VILLAGE INSTITUTE, HORNBY, LANCASHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief



Oxford Archaeology North

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Harrison Pitt Architects

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Prepared by: Position: Date:	David Tonks Assistant Supervisor November 2005				
Checked by: Position: Date:	Emily Mercer Senior Project Manager November 2005	Signed			
Approved by: Position: Date:	Alan Lupton Operations Manager November 2005	Signed			

Oxford Archaeology N	orth	© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd (2005)
Storey Institute		Janus House
Meeting House Lane		Osney Mead
Lancaster		Oxford
LA1 1TF		OX2 0EA
t: (0044) 01524 848666		t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01524 848606		f: (0044) 01865 793496
	w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk	

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SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North in June and July 2005 at the Hornby Village Institute, Hornby, Lancashire (centred on SD 58556 68296). Harrison Pitt Architects propose to redevelop and extend the present building, which lies within an area of recognised archaeological potential. Following a request for a watching brief by Lancashire Council Archaeological Service, Oxford Archaeology North were commissioned to undertake the programme of observation during the associated groundworks.

In total, seventeen foundation trenches and an elevator shaft pit were excavated and an area to the south of the existing building, previously a raised garden, was graded down to a pre-determined level. Three features and two archaeological horizons were observed and recorded. The footing for a possible garden wall was observed in Trenches 4 and 8, and a spread of cobbles, possibly a soakaway feature associated with a garden, was observed in Trench 4. These are both thought to be post-medieval. A subsoil, **101**, was further observed in the elevator shaft pit from which medieval pottery was recovered. This was interpreted as a medieval ploughsoil, probably the remnants of activity within a former east/west aligned burgage plot fronting onto the modern high street. Beneath this ploughsoil and cut into the natural was also observed a small, shallow pit, **100**, which was medieval in date. This was interpreted as most likely a pit for the disposal of bio-degradable refuse.

In the garden area to the south of the existing building, another subsoil horizon, **104**, was encountered from which pottery sherds and kaolin clay pipe fragments were recovered. These dated from the twelfth through to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, demonstrating continuity of use from the early middle ages through to the time the present building was erected in the Victorian era, a potential span of up to seven hundred years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Harrison Pitt Architects for commissioning the project, and to Mr Paul Waters and colleagues of Pinnington Construction for their assistance on site.

The watching brief was undertaken by David Tonks, who also wrote the report. The finds section was written by Jo Dawson, who examined the finds with the exception of the animal bone, which was studied by Stephen Rowland, and the medieval pottery, which was identified by Ian Miller. The palaeoenvironmental assessment was made by Elizabeth Huckerby with assistance from Sandra Bonsall. The drawings were compiled by Emma Carter. The project was managed by Emily Mercer who edited the report, along with Alan Lupton.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 Following the submission by Harrison Pitt Architects of a planning application to redevelop the existing building of Hornby Village Institute, Main Road, Hornby, Lancashire (centred on SD 58556 68296), Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) issued a formal brief recommending that an archaeological watching brief be conducted during any associated groundworks (*Appendix 1*). In accordance with this, a project design (*Appendix 2*) was supplied by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North). The project design was approved and OA North were commissioned to undertake the watching brief. This was undertaken in two phases between 15th and 23rd June 2005 and 18th and 25th July 2005 during the excavation of wall footings and an elevator shaft in advance of construction of the proposed extensions to the property. This report sets out the results of the watching brief in the form of a short document.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 **PROJECT DESIGN**

2.1.1 The project design (*Appendix 2*) approved by LCAS, was adhered to in full and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 Close liaison was maintained between OA North staff and the site contractors during the watching brief. The programme of field observation accurately recorded the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features. This work comprised observation during the groundworks, the examination of any horizons exposed, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features, horizons and any artefacts found during the excavations. The ground works were effected by a small mechanical excavator using a 0.6m toothless bucket.
- 2.2.2 The recording comprised a full description and preliminary classification of features or structures revealed on OA North *pro-forma* sheets, and their accurate location in plan. In addition, a photographic record in colour slide and monochrome formats was compiled.

2.3 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 2.3.1 One bulk sample (30 litres) was taken from the possible medieval ploughsoil, *104*, for the assessment of charred and waterlogged plant remains. From this, a 10 litre sample was processed.
- 2.3.2 The sample was hand-floated and the flot was collected on 250 micron mesh and air dried. The flot was sieved in to coarse, medium and fine fractions and scanned with a Leica MZ6 stereo microscope. Plant material was recorded and provisionally identified. Botanical nomenclature follows Stace (1991). Plant remains were scored on a scale of abundance of 1–4, where 1 is rare (less than 5 items) and 4 is abundant (more than 100 items). The components of the matrix were also noted and samples assessed as to their potential for further analysis.

2.4 ARCHIVE

2.4.1 A full archive of the work undertaken has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The archive will be deposited in the Lancashire County Record Office in Preston, and a copy of the report will be forwarded to the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION

3.1.1 Hornby Village Institute lies on the eastern side of Main Road, Hornby, Lancashire (centred on SD 58556 68296), just south of the River Wenning (Fig 1). The main building, fronting Main Road to the west, is of two stories and was built in the nineteenth century. The existing extension to the rear of the property was built some time in the late twentieth century. The plot it occupies is bounded to the north by the access road to Bridge End Farm, to the east by outbuildings belonging to the farm, and to the west by the end-terrace house and garden of a row of terraced properties.

3.2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.2.1 The underlying geology of the Bowland fringe is mainly Millstone grit, overlain by a complex of unconsolidated glacial deposits comprising mainly thick tills but with extensive areas of sand and gravel left by glacial melt water (Countryside Commission 1998, 91-96). The natural deposits encountered within the trenches correlates well with this, having been found to comprise largely sand and gravels. Hornby Village lies on the interface of two soil groups, and the drift geology has been mapped as being typical alluvial gley soils of the Enborne series to the west and predominantly Cambic stagnognley soils of the Brickfield 2 series in the vicinity of the site (Ordnance Survey 1983).

3.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.3.1 *Prehistoric Period*: little is known of early prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of Hornby. It has been suggested by Haselgrove that some of the settlement and associated field system sites at Eller Beck, near Tunstall, may date to the Iron Age, as may the enigmatic curvilinear site on Castle Hill, Leck (Haselgrove 1996, 64-5). In addition, Forde-Johnston (1962) suggested that Castlestede, overlooking a crossing point over the River Lune, was originally a small 'hillfort' which was reused to construct a medieval motte and bailey castle. In 2002, a small assemblage of worked flint and chert, of tentative late Mesolithic/early Neolithic date was found during an archaeological evaluation on nearby Priory Farm (OA North 2002a).
- 3.3.2 *Roman Period*: a road between the Roman forts at Lancaster and Burrow is known to have run along the east side of the River Lune, passing through Caton, Hornby and Tunstall (Shotter and White 1995, 59-60). No Romano-British rural sites are known from the Hornby area but two joining, heavily abraded sherds of Roman pottery were found during an archaeological evaluation conducted by OA North at nearby Priory Farm (OA North 2002a). Other sites of probable Romano-British date have been identified at nearby Claughton, Whittington and Eller Beck (Shotter and White 1995, 71-4).

- 3.3.3 *Medieval Period*: two fragments of Anglian crosses in the churchyard of the later medieval St Margaret's church are thought to derive from the site of the twelfth century Premonstratensian priory, which lay to the north-west of the medieval borough, overlooking the Lune (Collingwood 1927, 57). These, and the dedication of the priory to St Wilfred, suggest that the priory was in fact a re-foundation of an earlier Anglian monastery.
- 3.3.4 At some time after 1279 the Lords of Hornby, the Nevilles, moved a preexisting settlement from the vicinity of Castlestede, an earthwork castle that they had inherited, to a more favourable site beside the River Wenning (White 1996). The new borough of Hornby had a castle, a chapel, a market place, a tollbooth, and a grammar school. In 1319 the borough had more than 47 burgesses, but the town did not flourish, and by the later medieval period was in decay (*ibid*).
- 3.3.5 In September 2002, an archaeological evaluation conducted by OA North at Strands Farm revealed two north/south ditches dated to between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries (OA North 2002b). These were thought to be the rear boundary ditches of burgage plots that may have had their frontage during the medieval period on, or close to, present day Station Road (*ibid*). Continued investigations in the form of an excavation found further evidence from the medieval period of the twelfth to fourteenth centuries (OA North 2003), and the late medieval period (fifteenth and sixteenth centuries) was identified by a pit and an extensive ploughsoil horizon (*ibid*). The site of Hornby Institute is thought to lie within the area of the medieval borough of Hornby and there is considerable potential for remains relating to this period on the site of the Village Institute.
- 3.3.6 *Post-medieval Period*: in the late sixteenth century, a comprehensive survey was undertaken by the Hornby Castle Estates, which documented the landholdings within the estate (Chippendale 1939). The pattern of settlement has remained relatively unchanged until the present day. The establishment of Hornby Village Institute itself dates to the nineteenth century, with extensive renovations occurring in the late twentieth century.

4. RESULTS

4.1 **Observations**

- 4.1.1 **Introduction**: the observations took place over two phases. Firstly, the excavations for the footings and lift shaft to the north of the existing building (Fig 2) were effected over a period between 15^{th} and 23^{rd} June 2005. To the south, the ground was graded to a specified level before further excavations could be carried out. The grading and the excavation of the footings were undertaken over the period of 18^{th} and 25^{th} July 2005. The area to the north of the site been laid down to an asphalt car park, and the majority of the surface had been removed immediately prior to the commencement of the watching brief, leaving just a layer of hardcore. For practical reasons the trench footings were time. The trenches are, however, described in their full extent in this section. *Appendix 3* comprises a brief description of the contexts encountered and the finds discussed in *Section 4.2* below are listed in *Appendix 4*.
- 4.1.2 **Trench 1**: measuring 7.0m x 0.7m x 1.2m, the trench was positioned in the far north-east corner of the site, and excavated from south to north. The stratigraphy (Plate 1) comprised a 0.2m light brown crushed stone levelling layer over 0.2m dark grey sandy-clay with brick rubble elements. This make-up layer directly sealed soft, mid to light orangey-brown sandy-clay natural, with the occurrence of gravel and large cobbles toward the base. There were no archaeological horizons encountered.
- 4.1.3 **Trench 2**: measuring 7.0m x 0.7m x 1.4m, the trench was excavated from south to north, and the stratigraphy comprised 0.2m light brown crushed stone levelling layer over 0.2m dark grey sandy-clay with brick rubble elements. The uppermost crushed stone levelling layer diminished towards the north, and was gradually replaced by rubble made-ground. This make-up layer directly sealed soft mid to light orangey-brown sandy-clay natural, with the occurrence of gravel and large cobbles toward the base. Finds of animal bone were retained, but there were no significant archaeological horizons encountered.
- 4.1.4 **Trench 3**: measuring 7.0m x 0.6m x 1.5m, the trench was excavated from south to north. The stratigraphy comprised 0.3m dark grey mixed sandy-clay with rubble inclusions and sandstone fragments directly sealing soft mid to light orangey-brown very sandy-clay natural. Pottery finds were retained but there were no significant archaeological horizons encountered.
- 4.1.5 **Trench 4**: measuring 7.0m x 0.6m x 1.7m, the trench was excavated from south to north, and the stratigraphy comprised 0.3m to 0.4m dark grey mixed sandy-clay rubble make-up with lenses of purple sandy ash towards the base of the layer. This sealed soft mid to light orangey-brown very sandy-clay natural. The west-facing section collapsed to also reveal a cobble spread, approximately 1.0m across and 0.5m deep in the southern half of the trench (Plate 2). Within the northern half was a wall footing comprising large

cobbles up to 0.4m in diameter. It was 0.5m in depth and c 0.7m in width, and was aligned roughly east/west slightly oblique across the trench. It continued into Trench 8 and was observed for approximately 4.0m (Fig 2: Plate 3).

- 4.1.6 **Trench 5**: measuring 7.0m x 0.6m x 1.4m, The trench was excavated from south to north. The stratigraphy comprised 0.2m dark grey mixed sandy-clay with rubble inclusions and sandstone fragments over light grey-buff very sandy-clay, blending to the orangey-brown sandy-clay natural with depth. No significant archaeological horizons were encountered.
- 4.1.7 **Trench 6**: measuring 6.4m x 0.6m x 1.2m, the trench was excavated from east to west, and the stratigraphy comprised 0.3m dark grey mixed sandy-clay with rubble inclusions and sandstone fragments, directly sealing soft, mid to light orangey-brown very sandy-clay natural. No significant archaeological horizons were encountered.
- 4.1.8 **Trench 7**: measuring 16.4m x 0.7m x 1.5m, Trench 7 was the most northerly. It was excavated east/west at the northern end of Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9, and in 3.0m sections. The stratigraphy was essentially the same in each section, and comprised either crushed stone make-up layer or the dark grey sandy-clay with rubble inclusions, and occasionally deposits of large sandstone blocks up to 0.4m square. These deposits lay directly over greyish-buff very sandy-clay becoming orange with depth. Towards the southern end, the upper deposits had been previously disturbed by the laying of an electric cable and the insertion of a modern brick manhole for the sewer.
- 4.1.9 **Trench 8**: measuring 4.4m x 0.6m x 1.4m, the stratigraphy in Trench 8 comprised 0.3m dark grey sandy-clay with rubble inclusions over natural ground. The cobble footing first observed in Trench 4 continued within the upper layers (Fig 2).
- 4.1.10 **Trench 9**: measuring 7.0m x 0.7m x 1.4m, the trench was excavated from south to north. The stratigraphy comprised 0.2m dark grey sandy-clay with rubble inclusions, over dark brownish-grey very sandy-clay, which gradually changed to mid orangey-brown sandy-clay natural with depth. Finds of pottery and animal bone were retained, but there were no significant archaeological horizons.
- 4.1.11 **Trench 10**: measuring 3.2m x 0.85m x 1.6m, the trench, along with Trenches 11 and 12, was situated to the north-west of the site. It was excavated from south to north, and the stratigraphy comprised a 0.25m thick layer of rubble and fragmented tarmac over a 0.45m thick mid grey deposit of flecked black soft sandy-clay over mid orangey-brown gravelly-clay natural. The stratigraphy was partially disturbed by several modern drains and an associated brick manhole chamber.
- 4.1.12 *Trench 11*: measuring 4.5m x 0.85m x 1.6m, was excavated from east to west, and the stratigraphy comprised 0.1m tarmac over a 0.2m thick rubble levelling layer. This overlay 0.4m mid grey sandy-clay with some large cobble inclusions. This lay directly over mid yellow to orangey-brown very gravelly-sandy natural with some cobbles. A modern drain disturbed the upper

deposits. Finds of pottery and animal bone were retained, but there were no significant archaeological horizons.

- 4.1.13 *Trench 12*: measuring 3.1m x 0.85m x 1.6m, the trench was excavated from south to north, and the stratigraphy comprised 0.1m tarmac over 0.2m of a sandy hardcore levelling layer over 0.5m dark brown soft sandy-clay. This lay directly over mid yellow to orangey-brown very gravelly-sand natural subsoil with some cobbles. There were no finds and no archaeological horizons were observed.
- 4.1.14 *Elevator Shaft*: an area measuring 6.9m x 6.6m was excavated to the south of Trench 10, down to natural for the purpose of both underpinning the existing building and to accommodate an elevator shaft. A concrete surface was removed to reveal a 0.45m layer of soft loose dark brown sandy-clay with black flecks. This lay over a layer of mid-brown soft sandy-clay with charcoal inclusions and flecks, *101*, from which finds of pottery were retained. Further reduction of this layer to natural revealed a circular feature *100* in the southeast corner of the shaft trench (Fig 3). The feature was truncated to the north and east by modern walls. It was excavated and recorded as a pit (Fig 3, Plate 4), but no finds were retrieved from within its fill *102*.
- 4.1.15 *Grading and Levelling*: this area on the south side of the Institute (Fig 2) was formerly a pathway around the building with a raised plant bed to the south. The ground was to be graded to a uniform level of 0.45m below the existing floor of the Institute, prior to the excavation of Trenches 13-17.
- 4.1.16 The area was stripped of vegetation and trees, and much brick rubble from the demolition of a small outbuilding was removed. The topsoil comprised very dark grey-black soft silty-clay with inclusions of rubble and debris, including many iron window frames. This lay over a mid-brown soft very sandy-clay subsoil freckled with charcoal flecks, **104** (Plate 5). The subsoil was present across the length and breadth of the area and, as the ground had been on a gradient sloping downward from east to west, the section showed a decrease in the depth of this subsoil from 0.45m in the east (Plate 6) down to 0.1m to the west. A small sondage demonstrated the deposit to be at least 0.6m deep in the centre of the area. Unstratified finds of pottery and clay pipe fragments were retained from the up-cast material, and similar finds from within **104** were also retained. A 30 litre sample of this layer was recovered for palaeoenvironmental assessment.
- 4.1.17 **Trench 13**: measuring 4.8m x 0.6m x 1.5m, the trench was situated in the south-east corner of the site and was excavated from north to south. The stratigraphy comprised a 0.3m thick layer of subsoil **104** over soft light brown to orangey-buff sandy-clay natural, with gravels and cobbles occurring at 1.45m depth. There were no finds, and no archaeological features were observed.
- 4.1.18 *Trench 14*: measuring 4.8m x 0.6m x 1.5m, the trench was excavated from north to south, and the stratigraphy comprised a 0.3m thick layer of subsoil, *104*, over soft light brown to orangey-buff sandy-clay natural with gravels and

cobbles occurring at 1.45m depth. There were no finds, and no archaeological features were observed.

- 4.1.19 **Trench 15**: measuring 13.5m x 0.6m x 1.0m, the trench was positioned at the southern end of Trenches 13, 14, 16, 17 and was excavated from east to west. The stratigraphy comprised 0.3m subsoil **104** over soft, light brown to orangey-buff very sandy-clay natural (Plate 7), with gravels and cobbles occurring at 1.0 m depth. There were no finds, and no archaeological features were observed.
- 4.1.20 *Trench 16*: measuring 4.2m x 0.6m x 1.0m, the trench was excavated from north to south. The stratigraphy comprised 0.3m subsoil *104* over soft light brown to orangey-buff sandy-clay natural, with gravels and cobbles occurring at 0.75m depth. One sherd of green glazed pottery was recovered from the upcast material. No archaeological features were observed.
- 4.1.21 *Trench 17*: measuring 4.2m x 0.6m x 1.0m, the trench was excavated from north to south. The stratigraphy comprised 0.3m subsoil *104* over soft light brown to orangey-buff sandy-clay natural, with gravels and cobbles occurring at 0.75m depth. No archaeological features were observed.

4.2 FINDS

- 4.2.1 **Introduction:** in total, 128 artefacts and ecofacts were recovered during the fieldwork, most of which were fragments of pottery. The remainder comprised clay tobacco pipe, bottle glass, window glass, ceramic building material, and animal bone. The bulk of the finds was recovered from unstratified deposits within Trenches 1, 2, 3, 9, 11, and 16, and smaller quantities were recovered from stratified contexts (ploughsoil **101**, garden soil **103**, and subsoil **104**). The finds recovered from different deposits are summarised in Table 1, below, and are catalogued in *Appendix 4*.
- 4.2.2 Approximately 15% of the artefacts have been dated to the medieval period, with the remainder being post-medieval. Details of the pottery and clay tobacco pipe are set out below, followed by a brief record of the other categories of finds. Whilst these finds, where they are dateable, corroborate the pottery and clay pipe evidence, they have little other relevance for the interpretation of the site.
- 4.2.3 **Pottery:** the earliest pottery type recovered was northern gritty ware, dated to the twelfth to mid thirteenth century, with plough soil **101** producing six fragments, and subsoil **104** producing two fragments. These were fairly small in size, but did not show any marked signs of abrasion. One base was present, but there were no rims. Five partially reduced ware body fragments were also recovered, dated to the thirteenth to fourteenth century, four from plough soil **101**, and one from unstratified deposits within Trench 16. Six fragments of late medieval reduced green-glazed ware were recovered, dated to the fifteenth to sixteenth century, with five from ploughsoil **101** and one from subsoil **104**.

4.2.4 Of the post-medieval pottery, most fragments were brown-glazed red earthenware, or slight variations, such as black-glazed red earthenware and brown-glazed orange earthenware. The majority were dated broadly to the late seventeenth to early twentieth century, but smaller quantities could be dated more precisely by form or decoration. The vessels represented included pancheons, bowls, crocks, jars, plates, and platters, with many of the vessels decorated with lines, dots, and concentric circles of white slip.

	Pottery (medieval)	Pottery (post- medieval)	Clay tobacco pipe	Bottle glass	Window glass	Ceramic building material	Animal bone
U/S		50	12	2	1		
U/S Tr 1		5					
U/S Tr 2							1
U/S Tr 3		7					
U/S Tr 9		8					2
U/S Tr 11		1					2
U/S Tr 16	1						
101	15	1					
103		5	2				1
104	3	5	3			1	
Total	19	82	17	2	1	1	6

Table 1: Finds by type and context (U/S = unstratified)

- 4.2.5 A bird whistle was of particular interest within the assemblage of brownglazed red earthenware (Fig 5), with the head and tail missing, and white slip to indicate the wings. It was recovered from garden soil *103*, and is likely to date to the eighteenth century.
- 4.2.6 The post-medieval pottery assemblage also included some stoneware, and white earthenware storage jars and bottles, and small quantities of tableware. A single fragment of white salt-glazed stoneware was recovered, dated to the eighteenth century, and white and buff earthenware factory-made slipware fragments, dating from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century, were also retrieved. Two fragments of painted and transfer-printed bone china, possibly teacup rims, were dated to the same period, as were a 'Willow' transfer-printed plate, and a 'Broseley' transfer-printed cup base.
- 4.2.7 *Clay tobacco pipe:* seventeen fragments of clay tobacco pipe stems were recovered, two of which included bowl bases. Of particular interest was a stem with a rouletted maker's mark around it, with the text 'T.GRENOH', thought to date to the early eighteenth century (Fig 6). No record of this maker could be found (Oswald 1975; Jackson and Price 1974; Davey 1985).

- 4.2.8 **Bottle glass, window glass, and ceramic building material:** a fragment of a cobalt blue glass poison bottle and a complete very light turquoise glass burst lip bottle were recovered from unstratified deposits, and were dated to the nineteenth to early twentieth century. A fragment of window glass, also unstratified, was dated to the same period. A single brick fragment was recovered from subsoil **104**, and was not closely dateable.
- 4.2.9 Animal bone: six fragments of animal bone, including one tooth, were recovered during the watching brief, only one of which, from garden soil 103, was stratified. Cows and indeterminate medium and large mammals were represented, with one of the fragments showing signs of butchery. All the fragments were interpreted as food waste.
- 4.2.10 *Discussion:* the pottery recovered from stratified deposits shows continuous low-level use of the area from the twelfth to mid thirteenth century onwards, with ploughsoil *101* dating broadly to the medieval period, and subsoil *104* dating to the medieval and post-medieval period. The small group of medieval sherds adds to the scant information on medieval pottery use in the Lune Valley and North Lancashire in general. The later assemblage includes a good selection of brown-glazed red earthenwares, with many different vessel shapes and patterns of white slip-trailed decoration present. This is of interest as these wares are likely to have been locally produced. The bird whistle was again probably a local product. Clay tobacco pipes formed a relatively large proportion of the total assemblage, and the presence of a marked stem from what may be a previously unrecorded maker is of local significance.

4.2 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING RESULTS

4.2.1 The results of the assessment are shown in Table 2. The sample contained charcoal, mostly less than 4mm in size, in common quantities. In abundant quantities were burnt coal/clinker and metallic clinker. Charred cereal grains were found including Avena (oats). Modern roots and insect remains were present as well as sand. Other plant remains included a Corylus avellana (hazelnut) fragment, Sambucus nigra (elder), Rubus fructicosus (blackberry), Chenopodium album (fat hen), Urtica dioica (common nettle). Chrysanthemum segetum (corn marigold) and *Polygonum aviculare* (knotgrass).

Context	Feature	Flot description	Plant remains	Potential
104	Possible	420 ml. charcoal	CPR Cereals (2) including Avena,	Good
	medieval	(3), clinker (4),	Corylus avellana fragment WPR (2)	
	plough	metallic clinker (4),	including Sambucus nigra, Rubus	
	soil	coal (1), sand (4),	fructicosus , Chenopodium, Urtica	
		insect remains (2),	dioica, Chrysanthemum segetum,	
		modern roots (2)	Polygonum aviculare	

Table 2: An assessment of charred and waterlogged plant remains from Hornby Institute (Plant remains scored on a scale of 1-4, where 1 is rare (1-5 items). WPR = waterlogged plant remains)

- 4.2.2 **Discussion and potential:** the assessment of the charred plant remains from **104**, a possible medieval ploughsoil, has demonstrated their preservation within the sample. The presence of cereal grains and weeds of cultivation such as *Chrysanthemum segetum* could suggest these were being grown in the vicinity. Wild plants such as *Sambucus nigra* and *Rubus fructicosus* give an insight into the background flora of the field margins, and could also be used as a food source.
- 4.2.3 The high numbers of clinker and charcoal fragments from the sample suggest that the waste may come from some activity, such as iron working, which was taking place in the vicinity and this was being spread on the fields. The high proportion of sand in the sample may be due to the site's close proximity to the river.
- 4.2.4 There is the potential for the further analysis of charred and waterlogged plant remains from *104* which will provide a greater insight into the local ecology and economy of this area of Hornby during the medieval period. It is recommended that the remaining 20 litres of the sample should be processed and that the combined flots be taken to further analysis. There is very little environmental evidence for the Lune valley and a lack of medieval records from the North West, so further data would significantly add to the knowledge we have of this period in the Hornby district.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

- 5.1.1 In total, seventeen trenches and one elevator shaft pit were excavated during the groundworks, which also included an area of ground reduction to the south of the present building. The area to the north side of the existing building is known to have been a garden area before it became a car park. The apparent dump of cobbles observed in the west-facing section of Trench 4 (Plate 2) is, therefore, best interpreted as a soakaway pit for the drainage of excess water and is considered to be of little archaeological importance. The feature interpreted as a cobble footing observed in Trenches 4 and 8 is probably also related to the garden. From its appearance, it was not a footing for a structural wall but more likely to be a non-load bearing garden partition or ornamental wall. It is considered very likely to be post-medieval, probably nineteenth or twentieth century.
- 5.1.2 Whilst the ploughsoil *101* located in the elevator shaft is thought to be medieval in origin, with finds dating to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries being present, further late medieval and post-medieval finds, representing the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, were also recovered. This evidence, when combined with the evidence of the rear boundary ditches of burgage plots identified in Hornby in 2002 (OA North 2002b), demonstrates activity on an east/west aligned burgage plot that fronted onto Main Street. These plots were used to grow produce and rear a small number of livestock, as well as holding small-scale industries. The ploughsoil *101* was present not only in the elevator shaft, but also observed in section in Trench 10 and possibly in Trench 12. However, there was no evidence in Trench 11 as it had probably been removed during the construction of the entrance road to the farm, along which this trench was aligned.
- 5.1.3 Pit *100* was devoid of diagnostic finds, but as it was effectively sealed by the plough soil, it must date to between the twelfth and sixteenth centuries. Considering that it was only small and shallow and that its fill *102* was identical to the ploughsoil above, it is likely that it was dug and deliberately backfilled in a relatively short space of time. There was no evidence of silting to suggest that it had been open for a long period.
- 5.1.4 The subsoil *104* observed beneath the topsoil to the south of the Institute was very similar, if not identical in colour, texture and consistency to the identified ploughsoil *101*. Pottery sherds dating to the twelfth or thirteenth centuries and to the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries were recovered. However, unlike the ploughsoil, fragments of kaolin pipe were also retrieved, one probably dating to between 1700 to 1720 (J Dawson, *pers comm*) and there were further finds of pottery sherds dating from between seventeenth and twentieth centuries. Whilst some of this post-medieval material may well be intrusive, the result of root action or bioturbation, it suggests an extended period of use as a soil from possibly as early as the twelfth century all the way through to the time the Institute was first built, after which it was buried by imported topsoil.

5.1.5 The palaeoenvironmental assessment provided evidence of industrial activity in the vicinity, together with information on potential local food sources. Given the relative paucity of environmental evidence for the Lune valley, and the lack of medieval records from the North West region as a whole, further palaeoenvironmental analysis of the remaining sample would contribute to a slow growing corpus of information.

5.2 FURTHER WORK

5.2.1 The buried soil, the pit, the finds assemblage and the palaeoenvironmental analysis combine to provide archaeological evidence of clear local significance, especially considering the scant information currently available for the district. Any further archaeological work around the Institute and Hornby itself would potentially contribute a great deal to the limited archaeological record thus far collated and improve our understanding of the development of Hornby, together with a greater insight into the local ecology and economy, from the medieval period through to the present day. Consultation with LCAS has led to their recommendation for further palaeoenvironmental assessment to be undertaken as detailed in *4.2.4* above.

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7.1 LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Location map

- Figure 2: Groundworks location plan
- Figure 3: Plan of pit cut 100 (below) and west-facing section of pit cut 100 (above)
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7.2 LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: Trench 1, west-facing section

- Plate 2: Trench 4, collapsed west-facing section showing cobble spread
- Plate 3: Wall in Trench 4, facing south
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- Plate 7: Trench 15, west-facing section.

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Harrison Pitt Architects (hereafter the client) propose to demolish part of the Village Institute, Main Road, Hornby, Lancashire and erect a two storey extension. This project design has been prepared in accordance with a brief from Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) in response to an application for planning permission (Planning Application Number 1/03/00181/FUL) LCAS have advised that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during development.
- 1.1.2 The Hornby Village Institute is located on the east side of Station Road at NGR SD 58556 68296.
- 1.1.3 The settlement of Hornby is recorded in the Domesday Book although the Scandinavian origins of the name suggest that it was settled during the 9th or 10th centuries. During the 13th century the Neville family created a new borough at Hornby, possibly shifting the earlier settlement from the Castle Stede area to the north of the present settlement. The ground within the borough was divided into burgage plots, evidence of which was found during an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in September 2002. Two north/south ditches were revealed dating to between the 12th and 14th centuries and thought to be the rear boundary ditches of burgage plots that may have had their frontage on or close to present day Station Road. The pattern of property division has been fossilised in the modern property boundaries of the settlement core.
- 1.1.4 The Village Institute appears to lie within the medieval borough and therefore there is potential for survival of such archaeological features or deposits. An excavation carried out by OA North at Strands farm in November 2002 located features relating to the medieval settlement. In addition, a large amount of pottery sherds were found, the quality and range of which may reflect Hornby's rebirth of economic status during the eighteenth century resulting from the increasing long-distance trade which took place at that time.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 OA North has had experience with archaeological investigations in Hornby together with considerable experience of the evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large-scale projects during the past 24 years. Watching briefs have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.2.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to provide for accurate recording of any archaeological deposits that are disturbed by ground works for the proposed development.
- 2.2 *Permanent Presence Watching Brief:* a watching brief, during associated ground disturbance, will determine the quality, extent and importance of any archaeological remains on the site.
- 2.3 **Report and Archive:** a report will be produced for the client within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.1.1 A programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the topsoil stripping activities in the course of the proposed development works. A systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation.
- 3.1.2 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid co-ordinates where appropriate). Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large-scale plan provided by the Client. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 3.1.3 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more dimensioned sections will be produced.
- 3.1.4 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified by the machining process, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and where appropriate sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated (ie selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal).
- 3.1.5 It is assumed that OA North will have the authority to stop the works for a sufficient time period to enable the recording of important deposits. It may also be necessary to call in additional archaeological support if a find of particular importance is identified or a high density of archaeology is discovered, but this would only be called into effect in agreement with the Client and the Merseyside Archaeological Officer and will require a variation to costing.
- 3.1.6 *Human Remains:* any human remains uncovered will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial. Merseyside Archaeological Service and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Home Office license, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. An application will be made by OA North for the study area on discovery of any such remains and the removal will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations, and if appropriate, in compliance with the 'Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981.
- 3.1.7 *Treatment of finds:* all finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines.
- 3.1.8 **Treasure:** any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.
- 3.1.9 All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained on advice from the recipient museum's archive curator.
- 3.1.10 *Contingency plan:* in the event of significant archaeological features being encountered during the evaluation, discussions will take place with the Archaeological Officer, as to the extent of further works to be carried out, and in agreement with the Client. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design.

3.2 ARCHIVE/REPORT

3.2.1 *Archive:* the results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines

(*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct.

- 3.2.2 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client, and a further copy submitted to the County Archaeological Officer and a digital copy on CD within eight weeks of completion of fieldwork. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above
- 3.2.3 *Confidentiality:* all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

4 PROJECT MONITORING

4.1 Monitoring of this project will be undertaken through the auspices of the County Archaeologist, who will be informed of the start and end dates of the work.

5 WORK TIMETABLE

- 5.1 OA North could commence the archaeological programme of works within one to two weeks of receipt of written notification from the client.
- 5.2 The duration of the archaeological presence for the watching brief is as yet unknown, being dictated by the schedule of works.
- 5.3 The client report will be completed within eight weeks following completion of the fieldwork.

6 STAFFING

- 6.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Emily Mercer BA (Hons) MSc** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 6.2 The watching brief will be supervised in the field by either an OA North project officer or supervisor experienced in this type of project. All OA North project officers and supervisors are experienced field archaeologists capable of carrying out projects of all sizes.
- 6.3 Present timetabling constraints preclude detailing at this stage exactly who will be undertaking the watching brief element of the project.

7 INSURANCE

7.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

Context No	Туре	Description	Interpretation
100	Cut	Truncated, circular shallow cut with concave sides and a flat base	Cut for shallow medieval pit
101	Layer	Soft mid to light brown vary sandy-clay with charcoal flecks	Medieval plough soil
102	Fill	Soft mid to light brown vary sandy-clay with charcoal flecks	Single fill of medieval pit cut <i>100</i>
103	Layer	Loose, dark brown sandy-clay with charcoal flecking	Probable post-medieval garden soil
104	Layer	Soft mid-brown very sandy-clay with charcoal flecks and occasional pebble	Subsoil, being a probable medieval plough soil with continued use into the pot- medieval period

APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT TABLE

APPENDIX 4: FINDS CATALOGUE

Tr	Ctxt	Material	Qty	Description	Date range
-	U/S	Ceramic	6	Thin clay tobacco pipe stems with narrow bores and no signs of reduction	19 th - early 20 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	1	Thin clay tobacco pipe stem with narrow bore, reduced and blackened on part of surface and on one cross-section	19 th - early 20 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	5	Thick clay tobacco pipe stems with medium-wide and wide bores, including two refitting fragments, one of which has a bowl base with a large flat spur	17 th - mid 19 th century
-	U/S	Glass	1	Very light turquoise sheet window glass	19 th - early 20 th century
-	U/S	Glass	1	Cobalt blue poison bottle body fragment with vertical ribs	19 th - early 20 th century
-	U/S	Glass	1	Very light turquoise burst lip small complete bottle, lots of bubbles in glass, 'No 15' embossed on base, 58mm high, 40mm base diameter	19 th - early 20 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	1	Bone china hollow-ware rim fragment with pink lustre stripe along edge and black transfer-printed image of trees and shrubs	Late 18 th - 19 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	1	Bone china hollow-ware rim fragment with yellow (?) and pink painted enamel flowers (?) and a grey enamel outline transfer-print?	Late 18 th - 19 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	1	White salt-glazed stoneware base fragment	18 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	1	Self-glazed buff-coloured stoneware jam jar rim with groove for tie-on lid and panels of vertical ribbing	Mid 19 th - mid 20 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	1	Self-glazed buff-coloured stoneware hollow-ware rim	Late 18 th - early 20 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	1	Brown-salt-glazed grey stoneware blacking bottle rim	Late 18 th - early 20 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	1	Olive-green-glazed greyish stoneware jar (?) fragment	Late 18 th - early 20 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	1	White earthenware jar (?) fragment with very faint bluish underglaze transfer- print of areas of even stippling, with remains of multi-coloured enamel transfer-print (?) on top in brown, yellow, and orange	Late 18 th - early 20 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	1	White earthenware rim fragment	Late 18 th - 20 th

Tr = Trench; Cxt = Context; Qty = Quantity

Tr	Ctxt	Material	Qty	Description	Date range
-	U/S	Ceramic	1	Self-glazed beige earthenware bowl rim with factory-produced slipware decoration of white slip stripe and band with dark brown/black mocha on top	Late 18 th - 19 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	3	Red earthenware flower pot fragments	Late 18 th - 20 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	11	Black-glazed red earthenware coarseware fragments, including rims from two pancheons, and two different crocks, and one body fragment unglazed internally	Late 17 th - early 20 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	2	Fine black-glazed red earthenware hollow-ware thin-walled fragment, and black-glazed red earthenware thinnish- walled hollow-ware base	Late 17 th - early 20 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	1	Black-glazed red earthenware teapot (?) rim with enamelled painted white flowers and gold leaves	Late 18 th - early 20 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	16	Brown-glazed red earthenware, various thicknesses, including three pancheon/dish base fragments, one pancheon/dish rim with white slip stripes, three body fragments with internal white slip stripes, two body fragments with external slip stripes, and strap handle fragment	Late 17 th - early 20 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	1	Self-glazed orange earthenware plate (?) base with white slip-trailed decoration	Late 17 th - 19 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	2	Red earthenware fragments with glaze no longer present: base fragment with internal white slip coating (pancheon?), and body fragment brown-glazed internally and externally	Late 17 th - early 20 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	2	Light orangey-brown-speckled-glazed pinkish earthenware rim fragments from pancheons or similar vessels, one partially reduced and blackened on exterior	Late 17 th - early 18 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	1	Speckled brown-glazed red earthenware hollow-ware thin-walled cup (?) fragment with white slip stripes	Late 17 th - early 18 th century
-	U/S	Ceramic	1	White slip-coated (inside and out) red earthenware thin-walled hollow-ware vessel fragment with tortoiseshell decoration in brown over the white slip	Late 17 th - 19 th century
1	U/S	Ceramic	1	Water-worn white earthenware hollow- ware fragment with blue factory-made slipware stripe/band	Late 18 th - early 20 th century
1	U/S	Ceramic	2	Red earthenware flower pot rim, with exterior impressed VELL N	Mid 19 th - 20 th century

Tr	Ctxt	Material	Qty	Description	Date range
1	U/S	Ceramic	1	Brown-glazed red earthenware bowl (?) base with white slip-trailed circle in centre of base	Late 17 th - early 20 th century
1	U/S	Ceramic	1	Black-glazed red earthenware jar (?) fragment	Late 17 th - early 20 th century
2	U/S	Bone	1	Adult cow metatarsal, left-hand-side	Not closely dateable
3	U/S	Ceramic	1	White earthenware plate rim to base, with 'Willow' transfer-printed pattern	19 th - early 20 th century
3	U/S	Ceramic	6	Brown-glazed red earthenware, various thicknesses, including hollow-ware with external white slip stripe, and pancheon (?) rim fragment, blackened on rim	Late 17 th - early 20 th century
9	U/S	Bone	2	Rib fragment with cut marks, and tibia fragment	Not closely dateable
9	U/S	Ceramic	1	White earthenware jar (?) base	Mid 19 th - mid 20 th century
9	U/S	Ceramic	1	Self-glazed buff-coloured stoneware small jar rim (59mm external rim diameter) with groove for tie-on lid	19 th - early 20 th century
9	U/S	Ceramic	1	White earthenware large cup base with cobalt blue 'Broseley' transfer-printed pattern	19 th - early 20 th century
9	U/S	Ceramic	3	Brown-glazed red earthenware: platter/dish rim with white slip stripes, bowl (?) near to rim with white slip stripes, cup or other fine hollow-ware rim with white slip stripe on rim	Late 17 th - 19 th century
9	U/S	Ceramic	1	Light-brown-speckled-glazed light pinkish orange earthenware pancheon (?) near to rim with white slip stripes and apparent pie-crust edge	Late 17 th - early 18 th century
9	U/S	Ceramic	1	Thin-walled black lustrous-glazed hollow-ware fragment with strap handle terminal	Late 17 th - early 20 th century
11	U/S	Bone	2	Refitting large mammal tibia fragments	Not closely dateable
11	U/S	Ceramic	1	Black-glazed red earthenware hollow- ware base	Late 17 th - early 20 th century
16	U/S	Ceramic	1	Partially reduced green-glazed ware: hollow-ware with oxidised inner surface and some quartz grit inclusions	13 th - late 14 th century
-	101	Ceramic	6	Northern gritty ware, two with spattering of brownish glaze, one base fragment, one slightly abraded	12 th - mid 13 th century

Tr	Ctxt	Material	Qty	Description	Date range
-	101	Ceramic	4	Partially reduced green-glazed ware: two fairly large refitting fragments with mottled olive green glaze internally and orangey brown glaze externally. Decorated with incised diagonal lines. Small fragment with olive green glaze; hard-fired fragment with colourless glaze spatter, quartz grit in fabric, oxidised on surfaces	13 th - late 14 th century
-	101	Ceramic	5	Late medieval reduced green-glazed ware, including two refitting base fragments, glazed internally and externally with olive green	15 th - 16 th century
-	101	Ceramic	1	High-fired purplish-black-lustrous- glazed hollow-ware base	17 th century
-	103	Tooth	1	Cow lower molar	Not closely dateable
-	103	Ceramic	2	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragments - medium stems with wide bores	17 th - mid 19 th century
-	103	Ceramic	2	Black-glazed red earthenware hollow- ware fragments, including half of base of small vessel (external base diameter 67mm)	Late 17 th - early 20 th century
-	103	Ceramic	1	Speckled-brown-glazed orange earthenware small plate	Late 17 th - 19 th century
-	103	Ceramic	1	Light orange earthenware with red slip and white slip-trailed decoration almost complete profile smallish plate	Late 17 th - 18 th century
-	103	Ceramic	1	Very dark brown/black-glazed red earthenware bird whistle with white slip to indicate the wings, and hole through the body, legs broken, head and tail missing	18 th - early 20 th century
-	104	Ceramic	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem with small round flat-bottomed spur, rouletted decoration around stem with maker's name 'T.GRENOH', and fully reduced core, thick stem with medium-wide bore	Early 18 th century
-	104	Ceramic	2	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragments, one thick stem with medium-wide bore, one narrow stem with very wide bore	17 th - mid 19 th century
-	104	Ceramic	1	Late medieval reduced green-glazed ware jar (?) base, olive-green-glazed internally and externally	15 th - 16 th century
-	104	Ceramic	2	Northern gritty ware, one with spatter of green glaze, small but not overly abraded	12 th - mid 13 th century
-	104	Ceramic	3	Brown-glazed red earthenware: jar (?) rim, pancheon (?) body, very thin-walled fineware hollow-ware body	Late 17 th - early 20 th century

Tr	Ctxt	Material	Qty	Description	Date range
-	104	Ceramic	1	Brown-glazed buff-coloured earthenware with black shiny coating on exterior and pie-crust rim	Late 17 th - early 18 th century
-	104	Ceramic	1	Orange earthenware platter rim to base, apparently a waster with completely over-fired, blackened vesicular glaze	Late 17 th - early 20 th century
-	104	Ceramic	1	Red earthenware brick (?) fragment	Not closely dateable



Figure 1: Location Map



Figure 2: Groundworks Location Plan



Figure 3: Plan of pit cut 100 (below) and west-facing section of pit cut 100, (above)



Figure 4: Illustration of bird whistle from 103



Figure 5: Illustration of kaolin tobacco pipe stem manufactured by *T.GRENOH* from 104



Plate 1: Trench 1, west-facing section



Plate 2: Trench 4, collapsed west-facing section showing cobble spread



Plate 3 : Wall in Trench 4, facing south



Plate 4 : Partial excavation of Pit 100, facing south



Plate 5 : Subsoil 104, facing east



Plate 6 : North-facing section through topsoil and subsoil 104



Plate 7 : Trench 15, west-facing section