

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results



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Summary

In June 2007 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Channel 4's *Time Team* at Codnor Castle, Derbyshire, a Scheduled Monument, centred on NGR 443360 349980. The fieldwork comprised six machine-excavated evaluation trenches.

The village of Codnor is mentioned in Domesday Book, and the castle may have begun life as a Norman earthwork motte and bailey fortress. Today all that survives is a three-storey chamber block, with fragments of lodgings built against a curtain wall, flanked by rectangular turrets.

The exact extent and layout of the Castle is not known. Sketches from the 18^{th} century hint at an impressive, if ruined, complex of buildings. Dating of the various building stages and construction at Codnor remains contentious. Part of the curtain wall in the upper court has been dated to *c*. 1200 (when the castle became the seat of the Lords Grey), and the southern court seems to have been a later addition to the castle, but it is probable that the castle evolved (rather than being rebuilt) from at least the early 13^{th} century onwards.

The evaluation involved the excavation of six trenches, three in the lower court to examine the approaches to the gatehouse and three in the upper court to explore the rear of the extant gatehouse and to trace the curtain wall of the upper court. The trenches in the lower court encountered a large moat, approximately 6m wide and 3m deep, with substantial masonry abutments that would have supported a drawbridge. Pottery recovered from the fills of the moat indicates that this probably fell out of use and was backfilled in the 16th or early 17th century. The finds from the lower fills suggest that the moat was probably open from the early 13th century. The lower fills also produced a notable find, a gold noble of Henry V (1413-1422), struck at the London mint.

Although much of the archaeology in the upper court had been heavily disturbed by post-medieval and modern coal extraction and garden features, excavations here revealed part of the back wall of the gatehouse, which appears to have been built in the early 13th century, and parts of the northern and eastern curtain wall, including the footings of a tower or turret on the northern wall. Occupation deposits were found within the turret, although these appear to relate to a fairly late phase in the use of the castle.

The Time Team evaluation has demonstrated the extent, character and condition of the castle remains and has shown that despite the later industrial use of the area, substantial and important medieval remains survive below ground. Analysis of the finds suggests that the masonry castle was probably established in the early 13th century and continued in use until the 16th or early 17th century.

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Surveying was undertaken by Henry Chapman of the University of Birmingham, the geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Ian Wilkins and Emma Wood of GSB Prospection and the earthworks survey was undertaken by Stewart Ainsworth of English Heritage. The excavation was undertaken by Phil Harding (of Wessex Archaeology), Kerry Ely, Matt Williams, Raksha Dave, Tracey Smith, Paul Blinkhorn, Neil Holbrook and Ian Powlesland of Time Team and local diggers Barry Lewis, Gareth Davies, Panagiota Markoulaki, Peter Webb, Richard Parker, Scarlett Rose, and Angie McCall, who were assisted by local metal detectorists Jonathan Smith and David Hallam On-site recording, finds co-ordination and processing was undertaken by Vaughan Birbeck and Laura Catlin of Wessex Archaeology.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment undertaken by Wessex Archaeology, including management (Lorraine Mepham), finds (Lorraine Mepham, Nicholas Cooke and Jessica Grimm), environmental analysis (Chris Stevens), report (Vaughan Birbeck), and illustrations (Kenneth Lymer). The pottery was assessed by Dr Chris Cumberpatch (freelance specialist) and the gold coin was identified by Dr Martin Allen of the Fitzwilliam Museum.

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to carry out archaeological recording and post-excavation analysis on an archaeological evaluation by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at Codnor Castle, Derbyshire, centred on NGR 443360 349980. The fieldwork, comprising six machine-excavated evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey and an earthworks survey was undertaken between 12th and 15th June 2007 by Time Team and local archaeologists.
- 1.1.2 Codnor is approximately two miles north-west of Heanor, six miles southeast of Alfreton, and 12 miles north-east of Derby. It lies on the East Pennine Coal measures, a group of sedimentary rocks comprising interbedded mudstones, siltstones and sandstones with subordinate beds of coal and ironstone. Ironstone is known to outcrop locally and small scale surface workings are common. (British Geological Series, Sheet 125). The site lies in undulating grassland at a height of approximately 130m AOd.
- 1.1.3 The site is owned by UK Coal Mining Limited. The castle and associated earthworks (**Figure 1**) are a Scheduled Monument (No. 21376). The land is currently not in agricultural or residential use. The standing remains of Codnor Castle are currently in the early stages of consolidation and restoration. Farm buildings close to the castle site, Castle Farm, are occupied and run as a dairy farm by a tenant farmer of UK Coal Mining Limited. The site is occasionally used for stock grazing and is accessible by the public.

1.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The following historical information is summarised from works by Barbara Meeks, including an MA dissertation, an article from East Midlands Historian magazine and other more general sources (Meeks 2002; 2003).

1.2.1 The name Codnor is believed to derive from Cod(d)a's Ofer, meaning ridge. The village of Codnor is mentioned in the Domesday Book and both it and the castle stand on ridges. In addition to the upstanding masonry remains there are extensive earthworks to the east of the castle, at the southern end of which is a possible site for an earlier timber motte and bailey castle. Water for the castle may have been supplied by a pond to the south, now dry. Another pond existed to the west and wells are still in use to the east of Castle Farm. The majority of castle remains are constructed from local sandstone known as 'skerry'.

- 1.2.2 The main surviving building at the castle, the chamber block, stands just over 7 metres in height and stands in the upper court of the site. The longest wall is to the west, with shorter remaining sections to the north and south. The eastern wall includes the remains of two towers projecting into the moat, with only the lower section of these features surviving. The original building in the upper court must have been much larger, suggested by the presence of two fireplaces on the outer face of the north wall. The south wall includes a small window like opening and traces of a doorway or large window at first floor level. The curtain wall extending south from the main building has garderobe shafts emptying into the moat. A curtain wall runs along the south side of the upper court. This has two D-shaped towers flanking the main entrance.
- 1.2.3 The lower court now encloses the garden of Castle Farm. A photograph taken during the 1986 archaeological survey shows an archway that is no longer visible. Sections of wall are present on both the east and west sides of the lower court. The east wall is constructed of stone and some brick, including a blocked opening. The west wall includes two small chambers and a fireplace, suggesting the presence of former buildings in this location.
- 1.2.4 The majority of documentary sources identify the southern end of the curtain wall on the east side of the upper court as being the oldest surviving stonework. F.C. Corfield in the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* of 1892 dates the lower 20 courses at this location to around 1200 and the upper section to 1330. The southern court appears to be a later addition to the castle. However, differential stone and brick type within the structure of the lower court over time. Dating of the various building stages and construction at Codnor remains contentious. The towers, for example, have been attributed to the first Henry Grey of Codnor, or much later; to the 15th century. Standing remains at Codnor suggest that the castle evolved (rather than being rebuilt) from at least the early 13th century onwards.
- 1.2.5 A sketch map of the site held by the University of Nottingham, of unknown date, shows a 'traditional site of' the castle chapel, in the vicinity of Ormonde Fields House, approximately 600m west of the castle. A field at this location has been known as Church Close and human remains and coffins are reported in the vicinity from the mid 19th century. However, a document of 1542 specifies the chapel as being within the castle, although this source is uncertain. A local newspaper report of 1921 describes gravestones around the wall of the lower court.
- 1.2.6 Following extensive documentary research and site survey work, Barbara Meeks (2002) has speculated that the first stone building at Codnor was most likely built in the early 13th century. The date of further building work is not clear, however, several events may have inspired such work. Edward I and II visited Codnor in 1293 and 1322 respectively. Henry de Grey was created baron in 1299 and Richard Grey a Knight of the Garter in 1404. The building of nearby Wingfield House, very similar to Codnor in its layout, may have inspired the Greys to improve their own seat. The Grey family became Lords Grey of Codnor in 1299, being the senior of Derbyshire's two peerage

families. Codnor Castle was their seat, the centre of Codnor Park and the family were figures on the national stage.

- 1.2.7 Documentary evidence relating to Codnor includes maps, plans, County rolls, photographs and previous studies, both antiquarian and modern. The earliest image of Codnor Castle is an engraving of 1727 showing extensive building remains in what appears to be the upper court. Photographs from 1888 show the ruins in a much denuded state, with even 20th century photographs showing now vanished parts of the main building and walls of the upper court, which suffered a major collapse as recently as 1980. The earliest documentary mention of the castle appears in 1308. Later accounts include antiquarian descriptions from the late 1890s and local newspaper reports regarding the erosion of the site from 1921.
- 1.2.8 When the male line of the Grey family died out in 1496 a member of the Zouche family inherited the estate through a marriage connection with the Greys. The castle and the surrounding Codnor Park were among the last of the Zouche's property in Derbyshire to be sold when in 1634 they were acquired by Archbishop Neile and his son Sir Paule. Their descendants sold them to Sir Strevnsham Master in 1692, who appears to have been the last person to live in the castle (Riden 1973, 20); however, as the castle was described by Leyland as 'ruinous' in 1545 and Castle Farm, which is at least partly constructed from re-used castle masonry, was built in c. 1640 this is uncertain. Around 1800 the castle and associated land was bought by Jessop and Co. for mining and in the mid 19th century much of the upper court was dug over, which is likely to have severely damaged any below ground remains. The castle remains were left abandoned for many years and have become progressively more dilapidated, although consolidation and restoration of the castle remains by UK Coal Mining Ltd. is now in progress.

1.3 Previous Archaeological Work

1.3.1 Very little archaeological work has been undertaken on the remains of Codnor Castle. It has been suggested that a number of archaeological investigations were conducted in and around the castle site during the late 1800s and mid 1900s, but no records of these investigations can be located. There have been three non-intrusive surveys undertaken on the castle in recent years. In 1986 Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust carried out a standing building survey; this work produce scale drawings of standing remains as they existed at that time. In 1993, S.T. Walker and Partners Architects were commissioned by Amber Valley Borough Council to conduct a survey of the standing remains at Codnor Castle. This work included a photogrammetric survey of the site and a full condition report on existing standing remains. In March 2007, Dearne Valley Archaeological Services were commissioned to carry out a geophysical survey at the site by the Codnor Castle Preservation Society. Three areas for survey were agreed with English Heritage, Derbyshire County Council and UK Coal. The survey work conducted utilised a fluxgate gradiometer and a Geoscan RM15. The results of the survey identified a number of possible archaeological features in both the Upper and Lower Courts that may be related to the castle ruins.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled by Videotext Communications (Videotext Communications 2007), providing full details of the circumstances and methods of the project, as summarised here.

Extent

2.1.2 The extent of sub-surface archaeological remains within the area defined as 'the site' were to be determined, and the site placed within the landscape context of surrounding archaeological remains. The work was also intended to inform future interpretation and management of the site.

Date sequence/function

2.1.3 The date range represented by preserved archaeological remains was to be determined by a combination of trial trenching, documentary research and topographical survey, and also the function of these remains within the context of the castle. Work would also attempt to confirm, if possible, the presence of a timber built motte and bailey on site.

Character/condition

2.1.4 The state of preservation of existing subsurface archaeological remains was to be established, including the determination of the impact of ironstone quarrying carried out in the area during the 1860s, and more recent coal mining works on surviving archaeological deposits.

Regional research agenda

- 2.1.5 The East Midlands is not heavily castellated. Many of the existing castle sites have a well documented and long history of research, albeit largely antiquarian, which is not the case at Codnor. Although the introduction of the castle to England is generally ascribed to the Norman Conquest, the East Midlands area has several notable pre-conquest defended sites, and Codnor Castle may therefore have pre-conquest origins (Lewis 2006, 194-6).
- 2.1.6 The investigation of Codnor Castle, then, could provide data to help understand the growth and development of castle sites in the post-conquest and, possibly, the pre-conquest period. An exploration of the immediate vicinity of the site could aid in an understanding of ancillary buildings and hence the organisation of a high status estate, poorly understood in the region (Lewis 2006, 193, 212-3)

3 METHODS

3.1 Survey

3.1.1 All survey work on the site was carried out using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system. All Time Team surveys, earthwork and geophysics, are compatible with each other. Surveys are related to the National Grid/ Ordnance Datum.

3.2 Geophysical Survey

- 3.2.1 The castle site was investigated using a combination of resistance survey (Geoscan RM15 resistance meter), Ground Penetrating Radar (Pulse EKKO 1000 GPR unit with a 225MHz frequency antenna) and magnetic survey (Bartington Grad 601-2 fluxgate gradiometer). The results were analysed using a mixture of GSB and commercial software.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions were difficult over part of the survey area due to sloping topography in the northeast section and patches of large nettles elsewhere. Surrounding the castle were a metal fence and scaffolding; these have resulted in magnetic disturbance in the gradiometer data. Trees have affected the resistance data along the eastern edge, giving spurious high readings.

3.3 Earthworks Survey

3.3.1 An earthwork survey was undertaken by Stewart Ainsworth (English Heritage), and his report is included here (see below). Investigation concentrated on the earthworks immediately surrounding the standing remains of Codnor Castle. It was conducted to Level 2 (RCHME 1999) standards. Existing maps and plans provided as part of the project (eg Videotext Communications 2007, fig 6; OS 1:2500 and 1:10000) were used as the base for analysis. No measured survey was undertaken at this stage: a full survey was to be undertaken by English Heritage in 2007.

3.4 Excavation and Recording

- 3.4.1 A total of six machine trenches were excavated; three in the lower court (trenches 1, 2 and 5) to examine the entrance and approach to the upper court and the moat and three in the upper court to explore the rear of the extant gatehouse and to trace the curtain wall of the upper court. A mechanical excavator (360° slew or mini-digger) fitted with a toothless bucket, was used to remove the overburden from the trenches. All machine work was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological deposits. All trenches were then cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits were excavated. All spoil arising from the excavations was scanned with a metal-detector by experienced metal detectorists.
- 3.4.2 The standard Wessex Archaeology recording systems were used and all contexts and features were recorded using standard *pro-forma* record sheets. A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered was made, usually at a scale of 1:20; sections were drawn as appropriate. The OD height of all principal strata and features was indicated on appropriate plans and sections. A photographic record of the investigations and individual features was also prepared.

4 **RESULTS**

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the full geophysical report (GSB 2007) and results of artefact analyses are retained in the archive. Brief context descriptions are presented in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Geophysical Survey

- 4.2.1 Results from the magnetic data (**Figure 2B**) largely show anomalies that may be associated with the past coal mining. These features will have severely damaged any archaeological remains. Another hindrance to the interpretation of the magnetic data is the disturbance that has been caused by the metal fence and scaffolding surrounding the castle remains, effectively masking the buried remains.
- 4.2.2 The resistance data (**Figure 2A**) are clearer than the magnetic in showing the archaeological remains, but still affected by the mining activity and thus difficult to interpret. Walls and features associated with the castle have been noted which were confirmed through excavation. Other high resistance anomalies have the potential of being archaeological due to their location and similar orientation to the standing remains.
- 4.2.3 Ground Penetrating Radar results (**Figure 2C**) show an area of high amplitude which correspond to an area within the resistance data. Little else was noted within the data apart from a handful of areas of increased response which may have some archaeological potential.

4.3 Earthwork Survey

- 4.3.1 The site is located on the east-facing slopes immediately below a north to south oriented ridge. As well as falling to the east the slopes also gently fall toward the south. This aspect of the site geography is important to the analysis of its earthwork form.
- 4.3.2 The earthworks appear to indicate that the site consists of at least three main phases;
 - Phase 1. At the core of the site is a rectangular, ditched enclosure measuring c. 100m north to south by 80m. The ditch averages 14m in width and is of variable depth, ranging from nearly 2m where it has been cut into the slope, to being barely traceable. It is now only visible on three sides (west, north and east) and is of variable survival: it is at its most distinct at the north-west corner and along the east side. It is now incomplete as a recognisable single enclosure due to later phases of activity on the site (see below). At the south, its line is traceable as a low broad hollow across the southern courtyard of the castle, and the rounding of the south-east corner can still be identified as a fall amongst the later disturbances east of the courtyard wall. There is now no trace of the north-east and south-west corners. The west and east ditches

have been cut into and along the east-facing slope, thereby exaggerating their depth compared to the levels to the west, whilst the north ditch (where it survives) has a fall to the east. There is clear evidence of a bank on the outside of the ditch on all sides but the south, although again this has been heavily modified by later phases. The platform enclosed by the ditch, which has been levelled onto the slope), would have originally measured c. 70m north to south by 50m and its size and shape appear to have been retained throughout the evolution of the site. There is no obvious entrance to the first phase enclosure although it might have been at the south which affords the easiest access in relation to the topography. This side has also clearly been retained as the entrance through the later phases. The topography of the site, with slopes falling in two directions, would also indicate that the ditch is unlikely to have ever been a continuous water-filled moat as a defence in this earliest phase without substantial dams to retain water on the slopes along the north, west and south sides (of which there is no evidence). Water could have been retained in the east arm of the ditch by the counterscarp bank (see below) although just one wet arm seems unlikely as a defensive feature, unless it had a separate function as a fishpond. The results of coring indicated that flowing water may have been maintained along the north and east ditches but not standing water, and that this was possibly related to the later ornamental gardens (see below).

It has been alleged that the earliest phase was a timber motte and bailey earthwork (Videotext Communications 2007; Meeks 2002) but there is no evidence for this. The motte proposed by Meeks is the large kidney-shaped mounding at the south-east, with the ditched enclosure to the north-west proposed as being the bailey. This interpretation is unsustainable. The mounding at the south-east is in fact a truncated remnant of the outer bank of the successive phases of enclosures and garden terraces associated with the occupation of the site, culminating in a viewing platform (see below). This feature has subsequently been truncated by the route of the Ormonde Incline, a 19th-century tramway whose line is still perpetuated in the fenceline across the fields (OS 1881; 1961), and the construction of the buildings and farmyard access to the west. The result of these changes makes the earthwork appears mound-like. The ditched enclosure to the north-west is clearly a separate enclosure in its own right.

• Phase 2. This phase is marked by the addition of the courtyard to the south, probably complete by the 14th century at the latest (Videotext Communications 2007). Although there is evidence from the *Time Team* excavation that the ditch at the south remained open, the site had clearly expanded beyond the original rectangular enclosure to the north, and this ditch at the south now formed part of the entrance arrangements. This expansion appears be evidenced in the earthworks elsewhere on the site. To the west of the southern courtyard an access track now runs between the courtyard wall and the field to the west. A scarp which separates the two is probably the western scarp of a ditch which was added to continue the line southwards of the original west ditch of the Phase 1 enclosure.

A gatehouse might be expected to have been positioned at the south central frontage of the courtyard during this phase. A road from the south marked on a 1722 map of Codnor Park would appear to be the same as or close to the present road. A field boundary to the east of the present road is marked on the 1881 OS 1:2500 map and leads directly towards the centre of the southern courtyard; this may be the older and original approach from the south, which has subsequently migrated slightly to the west onto its present line. It is possible that the road into the farm complex from the present road marks the original route to a home farm (a building is shown to the west on the 1722 map and apparently within the enclosure of Codnor Castle). An earthwork scarp which runs parallel to this road, in the field to the north, may mark the northern limit of this route to the farm. At the same time as the southern courtvard was added it is also likely that changes were made to the east of the original enclosure but it is not possible to separate the components of that expansion from those of Phase 3, other than that there are a number of additions in the earthworks all clearly later than Phase 1.

Phase 3. The changes evident in the earthworks to the east however, indicate . that although the main building complex was still mainly confined to the original enclosure platform (with the addition of the southern courtyard and ancillary buildings) the site had spread out from its original core as a series of enclosures and substantial earthwork terraces. It is clear that the site had evolved, or was in the process of evolving, into a courtyard complex surrounded by an elaborate network of ornamental gardens before its demise in the mid 16th century (see below). In the field at the west, a number of regular, low earthworks are likely to be the remains of orchards, paddocks and kitchen gardens etc. In places they clearly overlie the remains of the Phase 1 counterscarp bank to the ditch. Although some may be quite late in date and of minor agricultural interest (possibly associated with the home farm noted above), others fit in with the overall axial pattern of the site and its structures and are likely to form part of this expansion as a garden. Also at the west, mid-way along the steep slope marking the western side of the original ditch, is a well-engineered terrace on the slope; this forms part of an open-ended compartment which overlies the former ditch, and may be a small garden feature. Evidence for expansion of the site at the south is now lost under the later farmyard and colliery buildings and no earthworks were noted beyond the line of the former Incline. OS maps (OS 1:2500, 1881-1961) show a circular 'Dovecote' immediately to the south but this was obscured by waste at the time of inspection.

The main evidence for elaboration in the gardens occurs at the east. Here can be seen a huge, flat earthwork terrace, c. 140m in length, which runs parallel to the original east ditch. In part it may incorporate part of the original counterscarp bank of the Phase 1 enclosure, although the whole feature appears to have been 'moved' to the east as the gardens on this side have evolved. This terrace is c. 30m out from the original ditch-line, from which in places it is separated by a berm. Projecting from the berm into the ditch, and opposite the standing remains of the hall is what appears to be the remains of a small earthwork dam or bridge abutment across the ditch. At the south, it can be seen that the large terrace formerly curved toward the south-

east corner of the ditch, presumably following its line, but that then a large earthwork was added at the south-east end. Subsequent to this, the upper levels of the terrace appear to have been raised, extended and laid over the extension suggesting a complex sequence of events. At the north of the terrace, a mixture of regular and informal low scarps also suggest a complex chronology. The north-east corner of the original ditch has been completely removed and what appears to be a large, curving feature has been cut. This has a well-formed, flat terrace around its north arc (suggesting it is not surface mining) and coring in this area indicated that water had been standing here, suggesting an ornamental pond. The earthworks may indicate that this has itself replaced the northern end of a succession of decorative ponds which were located along the east ditch of the original enclosure, possibly fed by a water-channel running along the north ditch. The drop in level from west to east would have dictated that if any water features were located along the north ditch they would have to be a series of separate, small steppedponds or a simple channel, but along the east ditch, the terrace (or even original counterscarp bank) would have acted as a dam on the slope and allowed a larger pond or series of ponds to be achieved along the line of the ditch. The evidence of the possible dam or bridge abutment along the east ditch to the south might indicate that this was the site of a timber? bridge which would have provided access onto the terrace from the main platform and thus the hall and other courtyard buildings. The large earthwork terrace is clearly a major feature, and its position would have afforded extensive views over the vale to the east and north and would have also taken in much of Codnor Park. The addition of the earthworks at the south-east corner would have made a perfect location for a viewing platform as part of a walk around the periphery of the castle on its most prominent landscape side.

The overall form of these earthworks suggests that they are remains of ornamental gardens associated with the occupation of Codnor Castle. However, the lack of a fully understandable morphology at the north may suggest that this end was either incomplete or in transition, although it is possible that later land use has interfered with the survival of features.

It is understood that the site was purchased by the Zouche family in 1508 and that that by 1545 the site was described by Leyland as in ruins (Meeks 2002). It is unlikely that any gardens of this scale would have evolved after that latter date and therefore the context for the creation of them should be considered to be of the early 16th century although they may have evolved from an earlier layout. Elaborations of the east wall of the southern courtyard - in the form of brick crenellations dated to 16th century - were noted during the survey (R. Morris pers. comm.). These also may be the sort of features that might be expected as part of formal garden architecture during this period. A drawing by Nathaniel Buck dated 1727 shows an avenue of trees along the terrace to the east. This may indicate a continuity of use or legacy as a garden through into the early 18th century, possibly associated with occupation of the building which now forms part of Castle Farm. This may provide the context for the raising of the upper levels of the terrace noted above.

4.3.3 The least informative earthwork remains, particularly in relation to the overall evolution of the site, were on the platform of the original enclosure, despite the fact that this seems to have retained its identity throughout the various changes. Although remnants of a range along the north side could be tentatively identified, the remainder of the platform had been heavily disturbed by destruction and levelling of the site as well as later coal and ironstone mining and spreading of resultant waste. It is understood from the work of other specialists on site that the platform is likely in its final form to have contained a courtyard arrangement of buildings of which the present standing structure was a hall on the east range.

Later features

4.3.4 A small number of possible bell-pit/shafts could be identified within the area and numerous, miscellaneous digging scars and waste-dumping spreads of material could be identified. At the south-west, two cigar-shaped hollows cut into the west side of the Phase 2 ditch noted are silage-clamps which examination of OS mapping indicates were cut sometime between 1939 and 1962.

4.4 The Castle and Associated Remains

- 4.4.1 Trenches 1 and 5 were located to examine the approaches within the lower court to the gatehouse in the southern wall of the upper court (**Figure 3 & 4**). Trench 1 encountered a substantial moat (113) with a masonry revetment or drawbridge support on its northern side (104). Trench 5 located a roughly metalled surface (503) comprising local sandstone cobbles laid directly onto the metalled clay substrata. This surface abutted a masonry wall or revetment towards the northern end of the trench (119). It was soon apparent that the masonry was revetting the southern side of a substantial moat and that the metalled surface was broadly contemporary with it. After recording the trench was backfilled and trench was extended in order to expose the full width of the moat and the revetments or drawbridge supports on both sides. Trench 2 was excavated across the moat to the west of trench 1 to examine the form and alignment of the moat and its relationship with the southern curtain wall of the upper court (**Figures 3 & 5**).
- 4.4.2 Immediately to the south of the entrance to the upper court, in trench 1, the moat was approximately 6.5m wide and 2.70m deep with vertical, masonry revetted sides. The shape of the base is unknown as the full depth was established by augering due to the excessive depth of the feature. The southern revetment (119) was traced for 2m, but continued beyond the eastern and western sides of the trench, it was 1.20m wide and built of fairly regularly coursed, roughly faced local sandstone (skerry), bonded with a pale yellowish brown sandy mortar. The northern revetment (104) was 5.90m long with returns to the north at approximately 45° to the revetment; it was 1m wide and over 2m high, within the moat. Again the revetment was built in fairly regularly coursed, roughly faced local sandstone, bonded by pale yellowish brown sandy mortar with a rubble core. To the west, in trench 2, the moat was approximately 9m wide with steeply sloping, slightly irregular sides. The northern side of the moat in trench 2 was 3m to the south of the southern wall of the upper court, approximately the same distance as the

northern edge in trench 1. Although very little of the moat fills in trench 2 were excavated, augering established that the moat was in excess of 2.50m deep.

- 4.4.3 The earliest fill of the moat revealed by excavation (116) comprised a pale grey silty clay with sparse stone and charcoal inclusions; this was examined in a small sondage against the northern revetment. This was over 0.50m thick and was overlain by over 1.5m thickness of later deposits. No finds were recovered from this deposit and excavation halted when it was suspected that this deposit either contained, or sealed, possible waterlogged timbers. A bulk environmental sample recovered from this fill contained a single seed of ribwort plantain (Plantago lanceolata) along with small quantities of charcoal, coal and hammer scale. Fill 116 was overlain by 115, a pale grey silty clay with common stone and charcoal inclusions. Only a single sherd of pottery, datable to the 13th-15th centuries, was recovered from this deposit, along with a single fragment of possibly medieval roof tile. Fill 115 was in turn overlain by a 0.50m thick deposit of pale-mid brownish grey silty clay (114); the majority of this deposit was excavated by machine in c. 0.05m thick spits and the resulting spoil carefully scanned for artefacts. In addition to a gold noble of Henry V (1413-1422) that was probably deposited prior to c. 1470, a fairly large assemblage of 15th-16th century pottery was recovered; the small quantities of post-medieval pottery also recovered from this deposit may be intrusive. A bulk environmental sample recovered from deposit 114 contained frequent fragments of hazelnut (Corylus avellana) and a single grain of oats (Avena sp.) along with small quantities of charcoal and coal and relatively large quantities of hammer scale.
- 4.4.4 The upper fills of the moat (107, 109, 110, 111 and 112) all comprised brown or brownish-grey silty clay loams, from which later medieval and small quantities of early post-medieval (16th-17th century) pottery was recovered. Assuming that the moat was regularly maintained during the occupation of the castle, it appears that the fills probably formed in the later medieval and early post-medieval periods, suggesting that the moat was no longer an important defensive feature by this time. A single, small sherd of Mottled Ware, datable to the 18th century, was the latest datable find recovered from the upper fills.
- 4.4.5 The three trenches excavated in the upper court (Figures 3, 6-8) were targeted on the gatehouse (trench 3), the approach to which was examined in trenches 1 and 5, and on anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (trenches 4 and 6). Although the majority of archaeological deposits in trench 3 (Figure 6) had been removed by a later quarry (303), a short length of *in situ* masonry wall, including a probable threshold, survived in the south-east of the trench. The east west wall (306) was traced across the whole 5m width of the trench, although it was reduced to footings in the western side. The wall was 1m wide and comprised roughly faced local sandstone in irregular courses, bonded with pale yellowish brown sandy lime mortar with a rubble core. A probable threshold, 1.25m wide, was exposed in the eastern side of the trench. This indicated that the medieval floor or ground level was approximately 126.33m OD, with the eastern end of the exposed wall

standing up to 0.50m above this. This was assumed to represent the northern wall of the gatehouse, suggesting that it was approximately 4.5m from north to south.

- 4.4.6 Although no surviving floor surfaces were encountered either within or to the north of the probable gatehouse, a small, irregular hollow (309) in the natural substrata, within the structure, was found filled with a possible occupation deposit of dark grey silty clay with common charcoal inclusions (308). The small assemblage of pottery recovered from this deposit included three sherds of Stamford ware, datable to the late 11th to mid 13th century and two sherds of 17th century yellow ware. It therefore appears that this deposit probably represents the abandonment or even partial demolition or robbing, of the castle's fabric and the earlier medieval pottery is residual. Deposit 308 was overlain by a series of rubble and mortar deposits (307, 305 and 304) that appear to represent demolition, robbing and the collapse of the southern wall of the upper court. A bulk environmental sample recovered from deposit 308 contained a few unidentified cereal grains, which were absent from the moat samples. It also produced several snail shells of Discus rotundatus and Aegopinella sp.; both are common in shaded conditions and may indicate some overgrowth in the area during the formation of this deposit, reinforcing the interpretation that this represents the abandonment or demolition of the buildings.
- 4.4.7 Trenches 4 and 6 were targeted on two areas of high resistance in areas assumed to be in the vicinity of the northern and western curtain walls. Trench 4 (Figure 7) located the northern curtain wall, although later industrial or garden features probably caused the high resistance anomaly; trench 6 (Figure 8) located the western curtain wall and a turret, although here the high resistance anomaly was probably due to a later industrial feature. The 6.7m length of the east-west aligned northern curtain wall encountered in trench 4 (403) was 1.50m wide and built of roughly faced local sandstone in irregular courses with a rubble core, bonded with pale yellowish brown sandy lime mortar. Only the foundations and a single lower course survived.
- 4.4.8 Trench 6 located the north-south aligned western curtain wall (605); although heavily robbed, enough survived to show that the wall was of similar build to the northern curtain wall, 1.50m wide and built of roughly face local sandstone in irregular courses with a rubble core, bonded with pale yellowish brown sandy lime mortar. Abutting the western side of wall 605 were the truncated remains of a circular turret or tower (606). This was of similar construction to the curtain wall and was approximately 5m in diameter externally and 3m internally. Within the turret, on the northern side, a small hearth (617), approximately 1.20m wide, had been cut into the turret wall and lined with bricks (616). The bricks were of similar dimensions to those noted elsewhere within the castle and are assumed to be of a similar late 15th or 16th century date. Also within the turret was a possible occupation deposit (615), a very dark grey-black sandy clay with localised heat reddening and abundant charcoal inclusions. This deposit was not excavated, but appears to have been broadly contemporary with hearth 617.

4.5 Later Features and Deposits

- 4.5.1 Features and deposits relating to the later garden and industrial use of the castle were encountered in trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. In trench 1 two approximately square masonry settings (Figure 4: 117 and 118) were found cut into the upper fills of the moat and sealed below the modern topsoil. A further masonry setting (206) was found in a similar stratigraphic position in trench 2. The function of these settings is unclear and as no datable finds were recovered, their date is uncertain; however, their stratagraphic position suggests an 18th century or later date and it is possible that they represent some form of garden feature associated with the post-medieval farmhouse. A wide, shallow, linear feature (602) filled with loose local stone with common voids, recorded immediately below the topsoil in trench 6, may also represent some form of garden feature, although its function appeared to be drainage. A possible embankment deposit (412) abutting the northern side of wall 403 in trench 4 (Figure 7), along with the broadly contemporary possible redeposited clay lining (414), may also represent some form of garden feature such as a pond, although it may be that these deposits represent the construction or maintenance of the earlier moat.
- 4.5.2 A large part of trench 3 was occupied by a large irregular feature with near vertical sides (Figure 6: 303) cutting through the rubble and mortar deposits (307, 305 and 304) that appear to represent demolition, robbing and the collapse of the southern wall of the upper court. Only a single sherd of Brown Glazed Coarseware, of 17th or early 18th century date and a single small offcut of lead sheet were recovered from the fill of this feature (302), but the very dark grey-black sandy loam fill, with common coal and local stone inclusions and its stratigraphic position suggest an industrial origin. Of more certain industrial origin was the subcircular feature (611) that cut through the western side of turret 606 and the overlying demolition or robbing deposits (Figure 8). This was partially sealed below a very dark stone and coal deposit (614), which was almost indistinguishable from the fill of the feature (602); this probably represents upcast from the excavation of the feature, which probably represents a bell pit or mine shaft for the extraction of coal or ironstone. Another possible industrial feature (416) was recorded in trench 4 (Figure 7); however, as this was not excavated, this is uncertain.
- 4.5.3 In trench 4 two masonry features, comprising low, circular retaining walls (Figure 7: 406 and 409), were recorded abutting the southern and the northern side of wall 403. These were constructed of reused worked local stone and brick bonded with pale grey lime mortar with a local stone and brick rubble core. Within these circular settings were deposits of degraded brick and local stone rubble deposit in a pale yellowish grey sandy loam matrix (407). The function and date of these features is uncertain and they could be interpreted as either industrial or garden features. Both features were sealed below a substantial deposit of coal debris (402) of probable industrial origin.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Finds were recovered from all six of the trenches excavated, although very few finds came from trench 5. Most material was concentrated in trench 1, dug across the moat. The assemblage is largely late medieval or early post-medieval in date. Of particular interest is the recovery of a gold coin of Henry V, dated *c*. 1415-20.
- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench are presented in **Table 1**. Subsequent to quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned in order to gain an overall idea of the range of types present, their condition, and their potential date range. Spot dates have been recorded for selected material types as appropriate (pottery, metalwork). All finds data are currently held on an Access database.
- 5.1.3 This section presents an overview of the finds assemblage, on which is based an assessment of the potential of this assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the site in its local and regional context, with particular reference to the construction of the medieval castle and its later development. Contributions to this finds report have been made by Dr Chris Cumberpatch (pottery) and Dr Martin Allen (gold coin).

5.2 Pottery

Introduction

- 5.2.1 The pottery assemblage consists of 98 sherds (3864g) and represents a maximum of 79 vessels. The data are summarised in **Table 2**; full details are held in the project archive. The assemblage consists largely of later medieval and post-medieval material with a small earlier medieval component.
- 5.2.2 For reasons set out in detail elsewhere (Cumberpatch 2004; 2007a) medieval pottery in Derbyshire is poorly known in comparison to neighbouring areas and this inevitably limits the degree of precision possible in the identification and interpretation of individual pottery assemblages. For this reason a number of sherds have not been identified to specific types and have been ascribed generic names based upon their individual characteristics. Notes on the fabrics and forms are included in the archive data table. Similarly the proposed date ranges are derived from the character of the sherds.

The assemblage

5.2.3 The identification and date range for the Stamford ware sherds from possible occupation deposit 308 is based upon the work of Kilmurry (1980) and Young and Vince (2005). The Nottingham wares have been identified with reference to the unpublished type series for the city (Nailor and Young 2001) and to an ad hoc type series created for the assessment of pottery from a site in the Lace Market area of Nottingham (Cumberpatch 2007b). Very little Burley Hill ware (Cumberpatch 2002-3) was identified amongst the

assemblage and while this may be a chance factor (given the small size of the assemblage) or related to the supposed de Ferrers connection with the Burley Hill potteries, it may also be seen as supporting the 13th to 14th century date for production at the Burley Hill site, albeit involving negative evidence. Further work on a number of sites is required before the question of the date of these potteries will be resolved.

- 5.2.4 A substantial proportion of the assemblage has been described as Midlands Purple type ware and it should be noted that this term is a rather poorly defined one which refers to a regional tradition rather than to a specific ware type. The range of fabrics encompassed within this designation includes both oxidised and reduced types with varying proportions of quartz grit and other inclusions. Typically fabrics show signs of having been fired to high temperatures, accounting for their frequently semi-vitrified character. Glazes are, as the name implies generally a purple colour although they may have green mottling or even be largely green with extensive purple mottling. The date range of the Midlands Purple wares is as poorly established as their definition and, although an early date has been proposed for Full Street (Coppack 1972), a later date, more in line with evidence from elsewhere in the region, has been proposed for the Codnor Castle material, with variations in proposed dates between individual sherds and vessels (as noted in the data table) being based upon the specific characteristics of the sherds in question.
- 5.2.5 The closest known potteries producing Cistercian ware and Yellow ware are located around Ticknall (Spavold and Brown 2005) although the one identifiable decorative motif (topsoil context 101; **Figure 9, Plate 3**) closely resembles examples from Wrenthorpe in West Yorkshire (Moorhouse and Roberts 1992). This may not be particularly surprising given that many such motifs seem to have been shared by the Cistercian potteries. A small number of sherds were classified as Cistercian / Blackware, reflecting the difficulty in distinguishing the two categories in the case of small body sherds. Ticknall is probably also the source of the Yellow ware and the stamp decorated dish from possible occupation deposit 308 is particularly notable (**Figure 9, Plate 4**) as no parallels are known to the author.
- 5.2.6 Imported pottery was limited to a single sherd of Raeren type stoneware (demolition deposit 404). One sherd, a piece of a Later Medieval Gritty ware, had been worked after breakage into a rough disc. Such pot discs are relatively common on sites of all types and periods and must have fulfilled a variety of functions, although exactly what these were remains a matter of conjecture.

Conclusion

5.2.7 With the exception of a small amount of Stamford ware, the greater part of the pottery assemblage was of later medieval and early post-medieval date and as such represents a potentially useful and informative group, in spite of its small size. The problems evident in the data table and outlined in the discussion above, notably the lack of chronological precision reflect wider problems with the archaeology of medieval Derbyshire and particularly with our understanding of the organisation of the pottery industry and its changes over time. In view of this, the full significance of the assemblage must await

future developments in our understanding of the medieval pottery industry of Derbyshire.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and Mortar

- 5.3.1 This category includes some whole or partial bricks, other bricks fragments, and pieces of roof tile and floor tile. The bricks are mostly in coarse, poorly wedged fabrics with a heavily mottled appearance; they are all unfrogged, and the more complete examples fall within a size range of 240 x 120-3 x 55-7mm (9½ x 5 x 2¼ inches), consistent with a late medieval or early post-medieval date (late $15^{\text{th}}/16^{\text{th}}$ century).
- 5.3.2 The roof tiles vary in coarseness and may include some medieval as well as post-medieval examples; measurable widths range from 187mm to 190mm (c. $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches); attachment was by means of a small, central nib on the underside of the top edge. Two slightly curved tile fragments may be from ridge tiles.
- 5.3.3 One plain, unglazed floor tile with a bevelled edge came from topsoil in trench 1; a second possible floor tile fragment was identified in upper moat fill 204.
- 5.3.4 Other building material was recovered in the form of mortar, mostly from trench 6.

5.4 Stone

5.4.1 Building material was also represented in stone, in the form of roofing slate, and local sandstone ('skerry'), used for walling and possibly also roofing. A large lump of a white mineral, possibly quartz, from upper moat fill 107 is of unknown origin and uncertain function, as is a small piece of galena from moat fill 114.

5.5 Glass

- 5.5.1 Eight fragments from a high quality, thin-walled vessel came from trench 1 topsoil. These may all come from one vessel, a lid with vertical edges and a folded shoulder, of late 16th or early 17th century date (Willmott 2002, 74-5, type 16.1). The lid would probably have fitted on a goblet. Glass lids are comparatively rare archaeologically, and their distribution tends to be in the south of England (*ibid.*, 74).
- 5.5.2 A heavily oxidised base fragment from trench 2 topsoil is from a vessel of unknown form, but a late medieval or early post-medieval date is likely. Other fragments of glass recovered are either later post-medieval, or are too heavily degraded to identify.

5.6 Coins

5.6.1 The gold coin is a noble of Henry V (1413-22), struck at the London mint, in the Tower of London. It belongs to class E. The chronology of the coinage of

Henry VI is quite uncertain at present, but a reasonable estimate of the date of class E would be between c.1415 and c.1420.

- 5.6.2 Gold nobles of Henry V were still available in relatively large quantities in 1464, as shown by the Fishpool, Blidworth (Nottinghamshire) hoard, found in 1966 and probably buried in 1464. The Fishpool hoard included 258 Henry V gold nobles, 45 of which belonged to class E. All gold nobles minted between the introduction of the denomination in 1344 and 1465 were effectively eliminated from circulation by the introduction of new gold coins in 1465 (the ryal and angel), and by a subsequent recoinage of the old gold coinage. Thus it is unlikely that the Codnor noble was lost later than c.1470.
- 5.6.3 There have been many substantial hoards from the 15th century containing gold coins (the Fishpool hoard was the largest, containing about £400 in gold in all), but medieval English gold coins are relatively rare as individual finds. Dyer's analysis of medieval coin finds from 33 rural settlement excavations, yielded only one gold coin (a quarter noble) (Dyer 1997).
- 5.6.4 The inscription on the reverse of the coin is IHC AVTEM TRANSIENS PER MEDIV' ILLORV' IBAT ('But Jesus, passing through the midst of them, went on his way'). This text is based on the Gospel of St Luke (ch. iv, v30), which in the Vulgate reads "Ipse autem transiens per medium illorum ibat" (Evans 1900, 244-5). Evans discusses the significance of this inscription, showing that it was widely believed to have amuletic powers in the Middle Ages, as a protection against thieves (*ibid.*, 245-7).
- 5.6.5 The obverse design of the king standing in a ship, which first appeared on gold nobles in 1344, is believed to refer to the naval victory of Edward III at Sluys in 1340. A medieval English rhyme by the well-known poet Anon. has this to say of the design of the noble: "For foure things our noble sheweth unto me, King, ship, and sword and power of the sea" (*ibid.*, 249).
- 5.6.6 The gold noble was worth 6 shillings 8 pence (6s. 8d.). This sum in 1450 is equivalent to £166 in 2006.

(http://measuringworth.com/calculators/ppoweruk/)

Other coins

- 5.6.7 Apart from the gold coin, a single silver penny and two copper alloy jetons were recovered. The first of these is a silver penny struck for Alexander III of Scotland at the Berwick mint (trench 1 topsoil). The reign of Alexander III was the first in which a Scottish ruler produced large quantities of coinage, prompted by the increase in foreign trade and the influx of foreign silver into the country. The penny found is one of the coins produced as part of his standardised re-coinage of c. 1280. For the first time half pennies and farthings were also struck, mirroring the reforms of the English coinage under Edward I. The example found was probably struck at Berwick, which was then under Scottish control.
- 5.6.8 The two copper alloy jetons (trenches 5 and 6 topsoil respectively) were both probably struck in Nuremberg in the late 15th, or more probably during the

16th century. These are 'stock' jetons of the 'rose/orb' pattern. Jetons were reckoning counters used in medieval accounting and mathematical calculations. They were used in conjunction with checkerboards or cloths in order to record values and sums of money. Specialist tokens for this purpose were produced from the late 13th century onwards, and they were in widespread use from the 14th century until the late 17th century, when they were made redundant by the increasing spread of Arabic numerals. Nuremberg took over from Tournai as the main European centre for jeton manufacture in the 16th century. Prior to this, designs on jetons usually reflected those on contemporary coins, and jetons were often minted under government authority. The only controls on the minting at Nuremburg were those imposed by the Guild organisation, and new designs flourished. The presence of jetons on the site of may indicate that some form of accounting or book-keeping was taking place.

5.7 Metalwork

- 5.7.1 Apart from coins, the metalwork includes objects of copper alloy, iron and lead. The copper alloy provides the most detailed evidence for lifestyle and activities. Objects include personal items, mainly dress accessories (buttons, lace tags, belt/buckle fittings, strapend, pins, a possible purse mount, dagger chape), and other miscellaneous fittings (possible book clasp and drape rings). Where datable, these objects appear to be of late medieval or early post-medieval date (15th to 17th century); the dagger chape, for example, has a ?late 15th/early 16th century parallel from London (Egan 2005, cat. no. 1071), while one belt-end or buckle plate with rocker-arm ornament is paralleled by two objects from Norwich, one of 15th century date and the other late 16th/early 17th century (Margeson 1993, cat. nos. 148, 257).
- 5.7.2 The iron is not so easy to identify, as most objects are heavily corroded. Most appear to be nails or other structural items; no other objects are identifiable.
- 5.7.3 The lead appears to consist almost entirely of waste fragments, but there are four items of interest two decorative ventilation grilles, cast in tracery patterns, a weight (¾ oz), and a decorated spindle whorl, all from moat fill 114. Similar ventilation grilles have been found at Battle Abbey in Sussex (Hare 1985, fig. 48, nos. 1a, 1b), while the spindle whorl has an almost exact parallel from Leicester in an early 16th century context (Clay 1981, fig. 51, no. 71). There are also three lead musket shot, of a size and manufacture consistent with a 17th century (perhaps Civil War) date; all are distorted through impact.

5.8 Animal Bone

Introduction

5.8.1 Hand collected animal bone material was present for the following trenches: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 (small animal bone and fish bone observed in sample flots is commented on below: **section 6.6**). All 346 bones recovered are probably late medieval or post-medieval in date (on the basis of associated pottery), and have been treated as a single assemblage.

Condition and preservation

- 5.8.2 The overall condition of the bone is fair to good with only two contexts in poor condition (301 and 408). As 12% of the bones were gnawed, canid and rodent scavenging might be a significant biasing factor. Rodent gnawing marks were observed on a goose tibiotarsus from topsoil context 601. Prior to deposition, the bone must have been reachable by rodents and dogs. Only one burnt bone was observed.
- 5.8.3 The low number of loose teeth corresponds with the low number of mandibles and the almost total absence of crania. The presence of an articulating pig lower front leg (right side: distal humerus and complete radius and ulna) indicates that at least some of the material came from primary deposits.

Species proportions

5.8.4 The assemblages is dominated by cattle and supplemented by small proportions of sheep/goat and pig (**Table 3**). Besides the remains of the usual domesticates, the post-medieval assemblage contained the remains of cat (404), rabbit (404; might be intrusive), chicken (404), goose (601) and fish (101). A number of pieces of deer antler were also found (contexts 107, 114 and 204). The antler derived from naturally shed antlers as well as from animals killed during the hunt. The piece found in context 107 (unshed) displays several chop marks. Moat fill 114 also contained some post-cranial deer bones, a clear indication that deer were hunted. No attempt was made to assign the deer remains to either red or fallow deer.

Population characteristics

- 5.8.5 From the bones identified to species (n=213), 22% can inform on the age at death of the animal and 10% can inform on the phenotype of the animals. The material contained bones from both juvenile and adult animals, indicating that the inhabitants of the castle site ate veal steak and piglet as well. The presence of chicken and goose indicates that they were possibly kept on site to provide eggs and a ready source of meat.
- 5.8.6 Moat fill 112 contained a cattle metacarpus with a GL of 184 resulting in a height at the withers of 113 cm. The sheep/goat metacarpus from topsoil context 601 with a GL of 126 provides a height at the withers of 62 cm. Both are normal medieval/post-medieval values.

Butchery

5.8.7 4% of the fragments showed signs of butchery and it was noted that most of the material was very fragmented. The material was not characterised by a particular type of waste, although heads were rare but this might be incidental as the assemblage is quite small.

5.9 Other Finds

5.9.1 Other finds comprise one clay tobacco pipe stem, a small quantity of ironworking slag (mainly from trench 1), and a few oyster shells. Apart from the clay pipe, none of these are datable.

5.10 Potential and Further Recommendations

- 5.10.1 The finds assemblage is small. Structural materials are relatively common, but other material types are sparsely represented. Dating evidence suggests a focus of activity in the late medieval or early post-medieval period (late 15th to 17th century), and the few earlier medieval finds were largely residual, and of insufficient quantity to inform an understanding of the site at this period. There is, however, sufficient evidence amongst the later finds to illustrate the high status lifestyle expected on such a site (gold coin, imported pottery, high quality vessel glass and personal items, deer bones).
- 5.10.2 The finds have already been recorded in some detail; further analysis is unlikely to provide any further refinement of the site chronology, or significant advances in an understanding of the site. Any publication should utilise information presented in this document, in conjunction with the supporting data.

6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken from 13th to 15th century features during the excavations. That from trench 3, 308, was thought to be an occupation deposit, whilst the remaining two samples came from an upper fill (114) and the basal fill (116) of the moat (113). The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals, and also tested for hammerscale.
- 6.1.2 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 - x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 4**). Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).
- 6.1.3 All three flots were quite large, with very few roots within them. All three in particular the largest from the upper moat fill (114) also contained frequent fragments of coal. Generally the samples contained relatively little material other than wood charcoal and coal. The presence of hazelnut, along with occasional fish and animal bones, signifies that some of the material in the moat includes domestic waste. The general absence of charred grain may imply that crops were generally not processed or possibly even regularly stored here or that such activities were conducted else where in the complex.
- 6.1.4 The relatively high presence of wood charcoal, coal and hammerscale, especially within the upper fill of the moat (114) may indicate that a reasonable proportion of the waste can be related to metal-working within the castle grounds.

6.2 Industrial waste

6.2.1 All three samples were tested using a magnet and found to contain reasonably high quantities of hammerscale. All that seen was flake hammerscale associated with smithying. The highest quantity was within the upper fill of the moat (114), whilst the occupation deposit had the lowest quantities.

6.3 Charred plant remains

- 6.3.1 None of the samples contained high amounts of charred plant remains. The occupation deposit (308) contained a few unidentified cereal grains, which were absent from the moat samples.
- 6.3.2 The lowest sample from the moat (116) contained a single seed of ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), while the upper fill (114) contained fairly frequent fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) and a single grain of oats (*Avena* sp.).

6.4 Charcoal

6.4.1 Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 4**. The sample from the upper fill of the moat (114) contained many larger fragments, many of which could be seen to be ring-porous and therefore probably of oak (*Quercus* sp.). Mixed with the wood charcoal and in the case of (114) almost in equal proportions were frequent large lumps of coal along with megaspores.

6.5 Land snails and fresh/brackish water molluscs

6.5.1 Several shells of *Discus rotundatus* and *Aegopinella* sp. were seen within the possible occupation deposit (308) in Trench 3. Both are common in shaded conditions and may indicate some overgrowth in the area during the deposition of the deposit.

6.6 Small animal and fish bones

6.6.1 A few small animal bones and fish bones were noted, and recorded in the flots (**Table 4**). These included a single vertebrae of eel (*Anguila anguila*) in the basal fill of the moat (116).

7 DISCUSSION

7.1.1 The evaluation has demonstrated the extent, character and condition of the castle remains and has shown that despite the later industrial use of the area, substantial and important medieval remains survive below ground. Analysis of the finds suggests that the masonry castle was probably established in the early 13th century and continued in use until the 16th or early 17th century.

7.2 Extent

7.2.1 The extent of the upper court has been demonstrated by the location of the northern and western curtain walls; the court was approximately 60m from north to south and 30m east to west. The moat, which was between 6.5m and 9m wide to the south of the upper court, can be clearly seen as a substantial earthwork around the western, northern and eastern side of the upper court.

7.3 Date sequence/function

7.3.1 Although no datable features or deposits clearly associated with the original construction of the castle were recorded, architectural features visible in the upstanding walls and the general finds assemblage confirmed that the masonry castle was probably built around the beginning of the 13th century. The walls of the lower court appear to be later in date, as they appear to have been built across the original moat. It therefore appears that the castle evolved gradually to its final form, rather than as a series of major rebuilds, although the earthwork survey identified three phases of earthworks associated with the construction and development of the castle. The dating of the later deposits associated with the castle suggest that it fell out of use towards the end of the 16^{th} or in the early 17^{th} century, probably shortly before the post-medieval farmhouse was built. The small quantity of residual Stamford ware pottery recovered from possible occupation deposit 308, while it may date to the earliest phase of the masonry castle, could indicate medieval activity on or around the site between the Norman Conquest and the early 13^{th} century.

7.4 Character/condition

7.4.1 Although heavily truncated by post-medieval masonry robbing, postmedieval garden features and industrial quarrying and dumping, substantial parts of the masonry castle survive below as well as above ground. In the upper court, these are generally sealed below up to 0.50m of probable quarrying debris and earlier demolition or robbing deposits. Possible waterlogged deposits in the base of the moat could potentially provide important evidence for the medieval environment and economy of the castle. Although the short length of wall exposed in trench 3 was the only part of any internal building revealed by excavation, it is possible that the remains of other buildings may survive within the upper court, possibly masked by later industrial dumping, although quarrying in this area may have damaged any surviving remains. Little or no industrial disturbance was recorded in the three trenches excavated in the lower court and it is possible that the remains of internal buildings or structures could survive in this area.

8 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1.1 A short article, probably between 2000-3000 words with two or three supporting illustrations, based on the results, finds, discussion and figures in this assessment report, in the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* or *Medieval Archaeology* is suggested as an adequate level of publication given the results from this project. This would comprise a brief introduction detailing the circumstances of the project and the aims and objectives; a

results section detailing the structural remains recorded, with finds information integrated into the text as appropriate; and a brief discussion of the results, with reference to the original project aims and objectives.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1.1 The project archive, which includes all artefacts, written, drawn and photographic records, and digital data, is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the site code CCD07 and Wessex Archaeology project code 65306. The paper archive is contained in one lever arch file. In due course, Time Team will transfer ownership of the archive to Derbyshire Museums Service.

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Material	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 4	Tr 5	Tr 6	TOTAL
Pottery	62/2672	12/378	9/336	15/478	-	-	98/3864
Medieval	25/1108	9/170	4/16	-	-	-	38/1294
Post-Medieval	37/1564	3/208	5/320	15/478	-	-	60/2570
Ceramic Building Mat.	61/16082	21/3528	25/5934	10/2512	-	4/942	121/28,998
Mortar	21/396	-	19/563	6/373	-	39/2543	85/3875
Clay Pipe	-	-	1/1	-	-	-	1/1
Stone	10/6140	-	5/398	1/740	-	-	16/7278
Glass	16/68	1/9	2/1	1/16	-	-	20/94
Slag	28/1242	8/187	-	-	-	-	36/1429
Metalwork (no. objects)	48	37	15	8	15	11	132
Coins	2	-	-	-	1	1	4
Copper Alloy	12	5	2	-	6	2	27
Iron	10	1	7	7	2	4	31
Lead	24	31	6	1	6	4	72
Animal Bone	197/4373	26/676	5/147	116/969	-	2/41	346/6206
Shell	2/20	-	1/7	2/15	-	-	5/42

Table 1: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)

Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type

		No.		
Ware Type	Date Range	sherds	Wt. (g)	ENV
Brown Glazed Coarseware	C17-C19	4	277	2
Buff Sandy ware	C13-C15	2	17	2
Burley Hill 001	C13-C14	1	3	1
Burley Hill 001 type ware	C13-C14	1	2	1
Burley Hill type ware	C13-C14	1	82	1
Cistercian ware	<i>c</i> .1450 <i>-c</i> .1600	12	357	8
Cistercian ware type	c.1450-c.1600	3	81	1
Cistercian/Blackware	C16-C17	2	21	2
Coal Measures Purple type ware	C15-C16	1	7	1
Coarse Sandy ware	C13-C15	11	158	7
Later Medieval Gritty ware	C15-C16	1	19	1
Later Medieval Sandy ware	C15-C16	1	56	1
Later Medieval Slipware	later med	1	30	1
Midlands Purple type ware	C15-C17	24	1519	23
Mottled ware	C18	1	1	1
Nottingham Early Green Glazed ware type	mid C13	2	53	2
Nottingham Light Bodied Gritty ware	C14-C15	9	745	6
Nottingham Light Bodied Gritty ware type	C14-C15	1	38	1
Oxidised Sandy ware	later med	1	28	1
Purple Glazed Coarse Sandy ware	C15-C16	1	11	1
Raeren Stoneware	C15-mid C16	1	22	1
Reduced Sandy ware	C13-C14	2	27	2
Redware type	late C16-C17	1	10	1
Sandy ware	C13-C14	1	23	1
	mid/late C11-	3	13	3
Stamford ware B	early.mid C13			
Stoneware	post-medieval	2	4	2
Yellow ware	C17	5	119	3
Yellow ware type	C17	3	141	2
TOTALS		98	3864	79

ENV = estimated number of vessels

Species	NISP	%
Cattle	134	40
Sheep/Goat	31	9
Pig	28	8
Dog	1	0
Deer	11	3
Other	3	1
Bird	5	1
Unidentified	125	37
Total	338	99

Table 3: Animal bone species list and percentages (NISP)

Table 4: Assessment of the charten plant remains and charcoa	able 4: Asse	ssment of the c	harred plant	remains and	charcoal
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											Residue
Feature type/no	Context	Sample	size	flot	size	Grain	Chaff	seeds	Charcoal	Other	Charcoal
			litres	ml				charred	4/2 mm		>5.6mm
Trench 1 Moat (113) - Later Medieval											
upper fill	114	2	10	1500	0		С	B(h)	100/100	-	
									ml		
basal fill	116	3	10	150	0	-	-	С	20/10ml	smb- (C)	
										eel-(C)	
Trench 3 11 th - E/M 13 th century											
Occupation	308	1	10	120	50	С	-	-	10/10ml	moll-t (C)	-
deposit										smb- (C)	

KEY: A^{**} = exceptional, A^{*} = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs; NOTE: ¹ flot is total, but flot in superscript = % of rooty material.

Appendix 1: Trench Summaries

TRENCH ·	· 1 NG	NGR: 443350 349940				
Dimensions	– 12.8m x 8.5m Gre	Ground Level – 123.80-124.40m OD				
Context	Description	Depth				
No.						
101	Dark brownish grey silty clay loam top stone inclusions.	0-0.40m				
102	Mid yellowish brown sandy loam with c. Demolition or collapsed material north of y	0.40m+				
103	Mid yellowish brown sandy loam with c. Demolition or collapsed material south of y	Jemolition or collapsed material north of wall 104. Same as 103. And yellowish brown sandy loam with c. 75% local stone rubble. Demolition or collapsed material south of wall 104. Same as 102.				
104	East-west wall in roughly faced local syllowish brown sandy lime morta Buttress/supporting wall for drawbridge ac	stone bonded with pale ar. Irregular coursing. cross moat 113.	0.40-2.25m+			
105	Eastern return of wall 104.		0.40m+			
106	Western return of wall 104.		0.40m+			
107	Pale – mid brownish grey silty clay loam. Cut by later masonry setting 118. Same as	. Upper fill of moat 113. 110.	0.40-0.80m			
108	Rubble core of wall 104.		0.40m+			
109	Mid brownish grey silty clay loam deposit same as 107. Upper fill of moat 113.	below 103. Probably the	0.40-0.80m			
110	Pale – mid brownish grey silty clay loam. Cut by later masonry setting 117. Same as	0.40-0.80m				
111	Dark brownish grey silty clay with abune Fill of moat 113. Same as 112.	0.80-1.70m				
112	Dark brownish grey silty clay with abune Fill of moat 113. Same as 111.	0.80-1.70m				
113	Cut of moat, approximately 6.50m wide and 2.70m deep with vertical (reveted in masonry) sides. Not fully excavated due to depth. Depth established by auger. Filled with 107, 109, 110, 111, 112, 114, 115 and 116					
114	Pale-mid brownish grey silty clay winclusions. Fill of moat 113. Pottery, ani recovered. Sample No. 2	with common charcoal imal bone and gold coin	1.40-2.10m			
115	Pale-mid grey silty clay with common of inclusions. Lower fill of moat 113.	charcoal and local stone	1.70-2.10m+			
116	Pale grey silty clay with common charco inclusions. Lowest (excavated) fill of moat in machine excavated slot, but these could health and safety considerations. Sample N	al and sparse local stone t 113. Large timbers seen l not be recovered due to lo. 3.	1.90-2.30m+			
117	Small, rectangular setting of local stone, and 0.10m thick, cuts upper fill of me medieval or modern garden feature.	0.60m long, 0.50m wide oat 113. Probable post-	0.40-0.50m			
118	Small, rectangular setting of local stone, and 0.10m thick, cuts upper fill of mo medieval or modern garden feature.	0.60m long, 0.50m wide oat 113. Probable post-	0.40-0.50m			
119	East-west wall south of moat in roughly with pale yellowish brown sandy lime m Butress/supporting wall for drawbridge recorded as 502 in trench 5.	faced local stone bonded ortar. Irregular coursing. across moat 113. Also	0.40-0.70m+			
120	Mottled yellowish brown-pale grey sil sandstone inclusions. Natural substrata. On	lty clay with common ly seen in auger.	3.10m+			

TRENCH	- 2	NGR: 443340 349940			
Dimensions	s – 14.50m x 1.80m	Ground Level – 124.20-125.10m OD			
Context	Description	Dn	Depth		
No.	_		_		
201	Dark brownish grey silty clay loam stone inclusions.	topsoil with common local	0-0.40m		
202	Mottled yellowish brown-pale gress sandstone inclusions. Natural substrate	0.40m+			
203	Cut of moat, approximately 9m wide sides. Not fully excavated due to dept	0.40-1.20m+			
204	Very dark grey friable silty clay, uppe	0.40-1.20m			
205	Construction cut for modern masonr fill (204) of moat 203.	0.40-0.80m+			
206	Crudely built masonry setting, appro- thick. Probably some kind of post- feature.	0.40-0.80m+			
207	Construction cut for northern wall substrata.	0.40-0.90m+			
208	Northern wall of upper court, stand modern ground surface.	s approximately 3-4m above	0-0.90m+		
209	Pale-mid yellowish brown well comp local stone inclusions. Lower fill of m	acted silty clay with common oat 203.	1.20m+		

TRENCH	- 3	NGR: 443345 349955		
Dimensions	s – 7m x 5m	Ground Level - 127.00-127.	30m OD	
Context No	Description	on	Depth	
301	Dark brownish grey silty clay loam stone inclusions.	0-0.25m		
302	Very dark grey-black sandy loam w coal inclusions. Fill of modern feature	with common local stone and 2303.	0.25-1.30m+	
303	Very large irregular feature with 1 represents 19 th or 20 th century industri wall 306 and demolition/collapse depo	0.25-1.30m+		
304	Pale yellowish brown sandy loar inclusions. Probably represents the of wall and tower to the south. Same allocated to material within the doorw	0.25-1.30m		
305	Pale yellowish brown sandy loam inclusions. Same as 304.	0.30-0.75m		
306	East-west wall in roughly faced lo yellowish brown sandy lime a doorway/threshold noted in eastern sid	ocal stone bonded with pale mortar. Irregular coursing, de.	0.50-1.30m+	
307	Mid yellowish brown sandy loam inclusions sealed below deposit 305 phase of demolition, or may be the san	0.75-1m		
308	Dark grey silty clay with common char deposit 307. Possible occupation d irregular feature 309. Sample No. 1.	1.00-1.05m		
309	Very shallow (0.05m maximum), ver 308. Probably represents a natura disturbance, in the natural substrata.	y irregular feature filled with al hollow, or perhaps root	1.00-1.05m	
310	Mottled yellowish brown-pale gre sandstone inclusions. Natural substrat	y silty clay with common a.	1.00m+	

TRENCH	- 4	NGR: 443355 350005		
Dimensions	– 6.7m x 5.5m	Ground Level – 126.80-128.	50m OD	
Context	Description	on	Depth	
No.			_	
401	Dark brownish grey silty clay loam	0-0.30m		
	stone inclusions.			
402	Black coal debris. Industrial dump.	0.30-0.70m		
403	East-west wall, 1.50m wide, in rou irregular coursing, bonded with pale mortar with a rubble core. Probable no	ghly faced local stone with yellowish brown sandy lime orthern curtain wall.	0.30-0.80m+	
404	Pale yellowish brown sandy loam inclusions. Demolition deposit to the s	with c. 60% local stone south of wall 403.	0.30-0.70m	
405	Pale yellowish brown sandy loam inclusions. Demolition deposit to the r	with c. 60% local stone north of wall 403.	0.50-0.80m	
406	Low (0.40m) circular retaining wall of reused worked local stone and brick bonded with pale grey lime mortar with a local stone and brick rubble core, 0.90m wide. Butts southern side of wall 403. Probable garden feature.			
407	Degraded brick and local stone rubbl grey sandy loam matrix within retaining	0.50-0.60m+		
408	Mid-dark brownish grey silty deposit, south of wall 403, with common inclusions. South of wall 403, east of w	east of retaining wall 406 and local stone, mortar and tile wall 406.	0.50-0.80m	
409	Probable circular garden feature buil pale grey lime mortar butting against excavated.	t of local stone bonded with northern side of wall 403. Not	0.35m+	
410	Deposit of mortar, plaster and tile ru sandy loam matrix, overlying deposit	bble in a mid brownish grey 407.	0.40-0.50m	
411	Pale grey silty clay loam deposit with Partly overlies wall 403 and deposit 4	c 50% local stone inclusions. 12.	0.30-0.40m	
412	Mid-light yellowish grey silty clar inclusions abutting north side of wal embankment.	y with c. 60% local stone 1 403, possibly some form of	0.70-1.20m	
413	Dark greyish brown silty clay with a inclusions, fill if possible industrial cu	bundant local stone and coal t 416.	0.50-1.20m+	
414	Mid yellowish grey silty clay. Redep the lining of a post-medieval/moder cut by possible industrial feature 416.	posited natural clay, possibly n garden feature (lake/pond),	1.00m+	
415	Dark grey-black silty clay loam with inclusions. Upper fill of possible indus	abundant local stone and coal strial feature 416.	0.30-0.50m	
416	Possible large cut of industrial (coa 413, cuts 414 and 405. Not excavated.	l mining) origin. Filled with	0.30-1.20m+	

TRENCH - 5		NGR: 443350 349930		
Dimensions – 10m x 1.80m		Ground Level – 123.90-124.10m OD		
Context	Description		Depth	
No.				
501	Dark brownish grey silty clay loam stone inclusions	0-0.40m		
502	East-west wall south of moat in roug with pale yellowish brown sandy lin Buttress/supporting wall for drawbr recorded as 119 in trench 1.	0.40m+		
503	Metalled surface, comprising rough Abuts south side of 502/119. Not exca	ly laid local stone cobbles.	0.40m+	

TRENCH						
Dimensions	50m OD					
Context No.	Description	Depth				
601	Dark brownish grey silty clay loam topsoil with common local stone inclusions.	0-0.25m				
602	Cut of probable garden feature or large french drain, 1.5m wide and 0.35m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. Cut demolition deposit 614.	0.25-0.60m				
603	Loose local stone fill of feature 602 with common voids.	0.25-0.60m				
604	Pale yellowish brown sandy loam with c. 60% local stone inclusions. Probable demolition deposit within tower/turret 606. Same as 614, 607, 608 etc.	0.80-1.00m				
605	Heavily robbed wall, 1.50m wide, in roughly faced local stone with irregular coursing, bonded with pale yellowish brown sandy lime mortar with a rubble core. Probable western curtain wall.					
606	Foundations of probable circular tower or turret abutting western side of wall 605, approximately 5m external and 3m internal diameter. Built in roughly faced local stone with rubble core Bonded by pale yellowish brown sandy lime mortar.	0.65-1.20m+				
607	Pale yellowish brown sandy loam with c. 60% local stone inclusions. Probable demolition deposit to east of wall 605. Same as 604, 614, 608 etc.	0.80-1.00m				
608	Pale yellowish brown sandy loam with c. 60% local stone inclusions. Probable demolition deposit to the west of tower/turret 606. Same as 604, 607, 614 etc.	0.80-1.00m				
609	Probable cut feature to the east of wall 605. Shape uncertain. Not excavated. Cuts demolition deposit 607.	1.20m+				
610	Mid greyish brown sandy loam fill of cut 609. Not excavated.	1.20m+				
611	Large sub-circular cut, approximately 2.5m by 2m with vertical0.80-1.20m+sides. Probable 19th or 20th century mine shaft. Filled with 6120.80-1.20m+					
612	Very dark grey – black sandy loam with abundant local stone and 0.80-1.20m+ coal inclusions. Fill of 611.					
613	Mid greyish brown silty clay deposit to the west of tower/turret1.00-1.20m606. Sealed below 608. Investigated with a small sondage.					
614	Very dark grey sandy loam with c. 60% local stone and coal 0.25-0.80m inclusions. Probable upcast deposit associated with mine shaft 611. Cut by feature 602.					
615	Possible occupation or burning deposit within tower/turret 606. 1.00m+ Very dark grey-black sandy clay with localised heat reddening and abundant charcoal inclusions. Not excavated.					
616	Brick and mortar hearth cut into northern internal wall of 0.80-0.90m tower/turret 606. 1.3m by 0.60m. Back wall seen in section standing 1 course high bonded with pale grey sandy lime mortar.					
617	Cut of hearth 616. Quite crudely chopped into wall 606 then lined with mortar base upon which the back wall rested.	0.80-0.90m				







Trench location plan with medieval remains













Plate 3: Cistercian ware pottery



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