

# **Investigations into the Site of Carlton Hall**

by

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## 1. THE INVESTIGATION SITE

1.1 The site is in the village of Carlton near Market Bosworth behind a row of houses known as Hall Terrace, numbers 42-46 Main Street. It lies to the east of Saint Andrew's Church and is within the historic core of the settlement at Ordnance Survey grid reference SK 3985 0505.

1.2 Hall Terrace currently comprises three cottages fronting the road (Figure 1). On the eastern end of the terrace is Penwood Cottage which is attached but angled back by



Figure 1. Hall Terrace and Penwood Cottage. December 2017. The location of Figure 2 is marked with a rectangle.

some 15 degrees from the road indicating that it is not a contemporary building. The brickwork of Hall Terrace fronting the road showed evidence of arrow-slit ventilation holes, indicating that this building was originally agricultural. The vents were presumably bricked up when the barn was converted into dwellings, and were visible for many years: number 44 was the last to be rendered in 2016 (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Bricked-up arrow slit ventilation hole.

1.3 Another relevant fact is that Hall Terrace was thatched before being re-roofed. A photograph (Figure 3) shows the roof to be a simple steep gable, with eaves above the first floor windows. There are three central chimney stacks.



Figure 3. Penwood Cottage and Hall Terrace, probably c.1920. Hall Terrace is thatched. The first bay of Penwood Cottage has been demolished.

1.4 The site entrance is at the western end of the terrace. Just inside it and set back from the road is the shell of a wash house (Figure 4). The shell of a utility block (Figure 5) is behind the gardens of Hall Terrace. This and the wash house are thought to have been built on the orders of Charles Tollemache-Scott soon after the turn of the twentieth century.



Figure 4. Wash house.





Figure 5. Utility block.

1.5 To the south west of the utility block, substantially in line with the site entrance, is a modern prefabricated garage. The larger building occupying the south western corner of the site is an engineering workshop. This is in two parts: the rear is a Nissan type structure, while the front is a poly-tunnel. The excavated cellar is 2m to the north of the poly-tunnel.

1.6 The current landowner Mr D Bream lived in Hall Terrace from 1931 to 1965 and recalls using the cellar as an air raid shelter during World War II. His sister reported that her father Mr W Bream and Mr Parker, another resident, exposed the cellar after discovering the slabs covering the entrance steps. At that time it became apparent that there was a well below the floor of the cellar. Prior to the installation of a water main in the village in c1950 this was used to supply water to the adjacent Penwood Cottage. Flowing water could be heard in the cellar when the hand pump at Penwood was operated. The cellar was filled in and the roof was destroyed as a safety measure in about 1969. The floor of the cellar above the well was sinking and was considered a danger to local children.

1.7 Recently a hole appeared on the site, leading to the suggestion of a second, previously unknown cellar. The investigations began in this area in order to ensure that the area was safe. Eventually, the void proved to be caused by a collapse into the known cellar, the landowner initially being misled by his recollection of its location.

## **2. SITE TOPOGRAPHY**

2.1 The entrance to the site is reasonably level and that level continues to the prefabricated garage and utility block. The landowner has stated that there is a cobbled area on the southern side of the utility block. This level was extended some years ago when a large building was installed, but this was later replaced by the present prefabricated garage. The soil had been pushed south and retaining walls had been installed to the east, south and west of the garage. To the west the ground level is 800mm above the entrance level. Behind the garage the soil level is 210mm above the level at the front of the garage. To the east it is 200mm reducing to zero at the side of the utility block. The west boundary is approximately 600 mm above the entrance level at the north end increasing to 1200mm at the southern end. The land behind Hall Terrace has been garden for all of living memory and was probably gardened for many years before.

## **3. VILLAGE FOLKLORE**

3.1 The land behind Hall Terrace is known by the older residents of the village as the site of Carlton Hall, but for many years the only surviving evidence of buildings was the cellar.

Folklore and memories concerning the Hall include the following:

3.2 A person born in 1884 told a young relative that she hurt her back moving milk churns at 'Hall Farm'. This suggests that there was a farm on the site around the turn of the twentieth century. This is not corroborated by people alive today who would have heard stories from their parents.

3.3 Carlton Hall burned down. This is a serious possibility but not dated.

3.4 A lady lived there before marrying and moving to Keyham Hall.

3.5 A stair case from the Hall was transferred to Bosworth Hall. Tollemache-Scott had a lot of work done on Bosworth Hall soon after the family bought the estate in 1885. However, he did not own the Carlton site until 1897. This could be true but it may only have been used at Bosworth Hall; it is doubtful if it was used in the hall itself.

3.6 A person born in 1895 and living in Hall Terrace in the nineteen fifties said there had been a row of 3 cottages running North to South on the western boundary of the site. These coincide with buildings shown on earlier maps. There is a possibility that the existing buildings were initially six cottages. They could then have been converted to three cottages or they were gradually abandoned reducing in number.

3.7 A local girl, Nora Alcock, whose memoirs of the village date from about 1920, did not refer to any cottages other than Hall Terrace on the site, nor did she refer to the Hall. However, her memoirs do not refer to a disused chapel lower down the village which was still standing at that time.

## **4. THE IDEA SUGGESTED BY CARLTON HALL**

4.1 Since perhaps the start of the eighteenth century the traditional concept of 'The Hall' is of a large or very large house, pleasantly situated in substantial private grounds. It would be home to a gentleman, often Lord of the Manor, and his family who were supported by a number of live-in servants. The family would enjoy a life of relative luxury, financed from local land and property. This often extended to thousands of acres and many of the buildings in the village. Properties at Osbaston, Shenton and Willesley are typical local examples.

4.2 There is no evidence to suggest that any such property has ever existed in Carlton. Indeed, the known facts deny it. Most of Carlton was part of the Bosworth estate until the 20th century, and land bordering the village was part of either the Gopsall, Appleby or Osbaston estates.

4.3 It is possible that a substantial house was built for a more remote member of one of these families but again there is no supporting evidence. Indeed, most facts related to Carlton Hall are negative. The current church dates from 1764 but there is no record of benevolence from a wealthy family, and there are no memorials to their ancestors. The available church records, basically baptisms marriages and deaths date back to 1574 but no family is awarded special mention as would be expected of a wealthy family. Equally the available poll books, electoral registers and trade directories offer no suggestion of a gentleman of independent means living in Carlton, though these do not cover the period before 1700.

4.4 The oldest available detailed maps date from about 1840 and show a range of buildings behind Hall Terrace but no large house associated with a significant parcel of land. The buildings may have been a farm, perhaps including an attached house near the southern limit of the site. The tithe apportionments of 1849 list Samuel Knowles, a wealthy Nailstone farmer, as owner of the entire Old Hall site. He also owned much of the land on either side of Main Street (formerly known as Butt Lane) leading up to the Bosworth to Barton road. At that time there were no buildings on this land; nor did the thirty acres fit in naturally as part of another farm. It is possible that this land together with the Hall site buildings once formed a small independent farm. Extending this idea further, Samuel Knowles may have bought the land and farm from the Bosworth Estate but there is currently no evidence to support this particular idea.

4.5 There can be no doubt that the site has been known for many years as the site of Carlton Hall. Clearly, Hall Terrace is a modern title based on this but with no hall, what are the origins of the name? It could have been Hall Farm, usually the farm nearest to the hall, but in this case perhaps home to the Hall family. Alternatively, since the land opposite the Gate Inn was in Hoop Hall it may have once been called Hoop Hall Farm. Neither of these possibilities carry much conviction; perhaps the name will never be explained.

## **5. RELEVANT DOCUMENTS**

### **5.1 Tithe Maps**

The oldest detailed maps of Carlton available were produced as a result of the 1836 Tithe Act and probably date from the following decade. Unfortunately, details of the relevant buildings on the two copies available have been obscured by colouring. However, a skeletal map produced for an appeal meeting in 1846 was probably copied from the same original and does show the details (Figure 6).

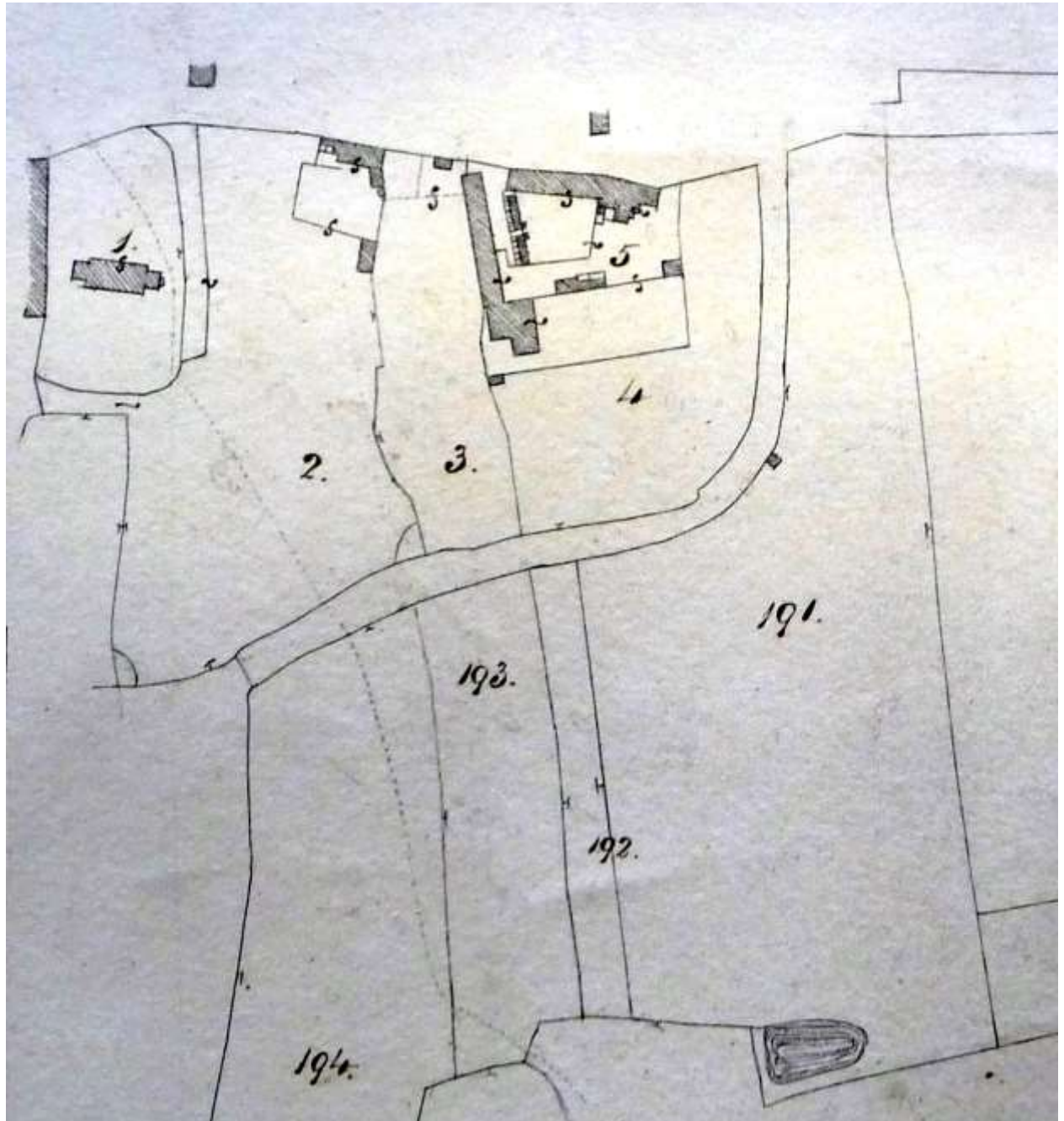


Figure 6. Detail from an appeal hearing map, 1846. Reproduced with permission ROLLR.

The large block to the north, adjacent to the road is Hall Terrace and Penwood Cottage. The two are attached, the building line of the latter being at an angle of some 15°, taking it away from the road at the eastern end. Originally, Hall Terrace was probably an agricultural building.



The biggest block shown on the maps is an elongated building running approximately north to south along the western boundary of the site. The northern end of the block is of similar size to Hall Terrace and with evidence from later maps this is assumed to be six cottages. Perhaps these were later converted into the three of local rumour. To the south, continuing from the cottages, the maps show a building of a similar width which extends over the surviving cellar. At the southern end, the structure appears as a rectangular block minus one of its corners. Its western wall is also offset from the building line of the cottages. It is thought possible that these two more southerly buildings were the Hall itself or the site of it. For future discussions the six cottages are referred to as Block A, the middle section Block B and the most southerly building Block C (Figure 7).

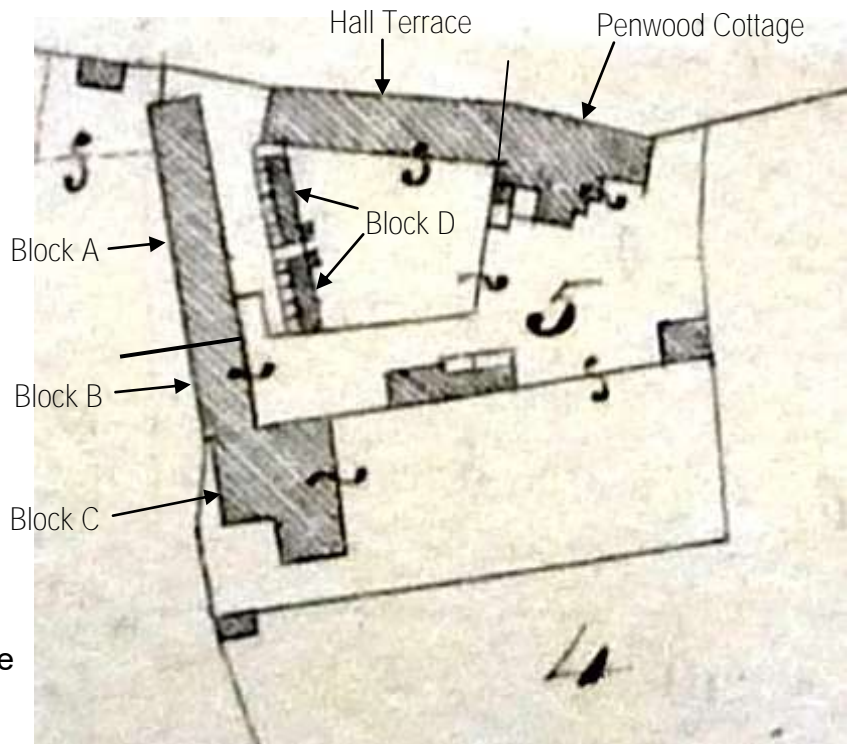


Figure 7. Identification of buildings.

The map also shows a long narrow building structure (Block D) running parallel to Block A. There appear to be a series of open enclosures immediately on the western side of this building which resemble animal pens. Indeed, the whole structure could have been a row of pig sties. They were in two groups, of eight and six with a passage way between the two groups. There was a form of barrier starting at the northern end of Block B, passing along the southern end of Block D and continuing to the wall of Hall Terrace at the junction with Penwood Cottage. The enclosure thus formed is typical of a farm yard in this area.

There was a second barrier dividing the remainder of the site into two sections. This started at the northerly corner of Block C and incorporated two smaller building blocks. Again, the area behind Penwood Cottage and these buildings could have been used for agricultural purposes. The clear area to the east of Block C may have been gardens or an animal enclosure. Although one is outside the main site the two small buildings could have been closets.

## 5.2 Knowles Sale Documents

Immediately following the death of Samuel Knowles, Hall Terrace and other land around it passed to his wife. After her death the land and property was sold by the executor appointed to effect Samuel's will. The purchasers were the Right Honourable Charles Douglas Baron Sudeley and Charles Savile Roundell. They were both lawyers and members of Lincoln's Inn in central London. Baron Sudeley was an M.P. and married

Ada Maria Katherine Tollemache. Roundell was also an M.P. and married Julia Anne Elizabeth Tollemache. The purchase could have been on behalf of the Tollemache family as Agnes Tollemache owned the land around the site. Soon after the sale Hall Terrace became part of the Bosworth Estate which at the time, was administered by Charles Norman Lindsay Tollemache Scott, husband of Lady Agnes Mary Manners Tollemache.

The document produced in connection with the sale by the trustee of Samuel Knowles in 1897 included 5 parcels of land and contained the following paragraph:

*“ All that freehold messuage or tenement situated in the village of Carlton aforesaid known as The Old Hall together with the house shop outbuildings and premises now in the occupation of Thomas Sherwin and also all those 12 cottages and all that croft or close adjoining the same premises together with the field known as Brick Kiln Close containing 4 acre 1 rod and 8 perches or thereabouts. “*

That paragraph was included in the sales documents when the property was bought by the present owner but it referred to what had been included in previous sales.

Thomas Sherwin moved to Carlton sometime between 1881 and 1891 and died in 1906 so the document was written during that period. This suggests that there were 12 cottages at that time.

### 5.3 Alterations on Later Maps

The 1885/6 OS map detail (Figure 8) closely resembles the 1846 map with three differences. Firstly, divisions between the cottages are detailed supporting the previous assumption. Secondly, Block A appears to have been extended by an outlined area which protrudes into the road way. This was probably a garden area surrounded by a fence. Finally, there was also an alteration to the barrier now enclosing Penwood Cottage with the rear of Hall Terrace.



Figure 8. Detail of 1885/86 Ordnance Survey map

There was a further map produced to support the Knowles family sale but this was in skeletal form concentrating on the relevant land (Figure 9). On it the buildings are shaded with the exception of Block B which was in outline only. However, the 1904 OS map shows normal shading, suggesting an error on the Knowles map. It is also possible that Block B was a shell for a time and later re-roofed.



Figure 9 Detail of the Knowles family sale map. Reproduced with permission Mrs Betty Buck.

The 1885/6 OS map was subject to a revision started in 1901 and published in 1904 (Figure 10). It shows Block A divided into four sections not six, the northern end of that block shown in outline only. Perhaps some parts of the walls (and floor) of this end section survived. Equally the outline could indicate a garden surrounded by a fence. Block B remains the same size but has a small square resembling a porch attached at the eastern side. Block C looks identical to that on the 1846 map.

There were other changes on the 1904 map. Block D was replaced by two small buildings resembling domestic outhouses and the barriers were altered. Two of the small detached buildings are missing and a third near to Penwood is larger. Block C is now open to the rear of Hall Terrace and there is a barrier from the south west corner of Hall Terrace, encompassing the two new domestic outhouse blocks and the 'porch' of Block B. The barrier around Penwood Cottage is also different, now more closely associating that cottage with the Old Hall site.

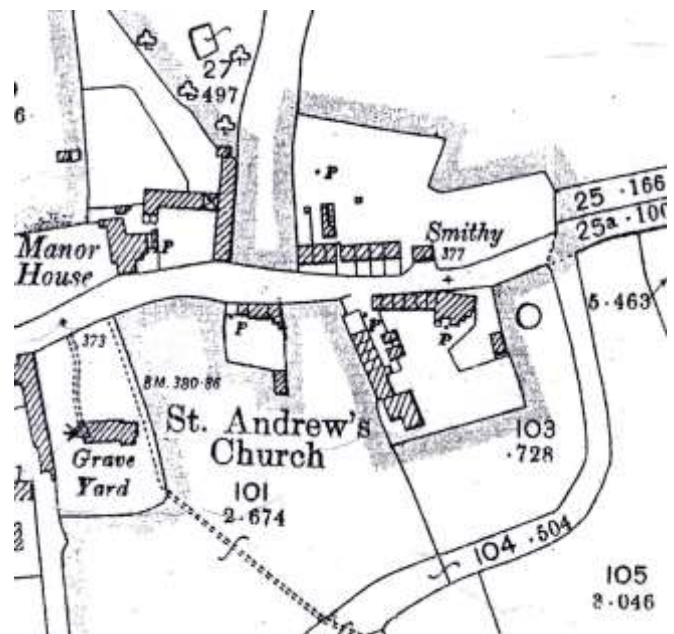


Figure 10 Detail of Ordnance Survey map 1904.

#### 5.4. Analysis of the Available Documentation

The site has sometimes been called 'Hall Farm' and both the existing buildings and the available maps support this concept. The brickwork of Hall Terrace certainly suggests air vents in an agricultural building. Block A was probably six cottages at some stage but could equally have started life as agricultural buildings such as cow sheds. Were this the case, alterations probably follow the end of agricultural activity. At that time (as now) it would have been prudent to convert structurally sound buildings into cottages rather than building on roadside 'green field' sites elsewhere in the village. Even in the days as a working farm it is possible that some of the buildings were tied cottages occupied by the labourers.

Block B is above the cellar and that or an earlier building in that position started life as domestic accommodation. It is possible that it was later used for agricultural purposes. Block C is considered most likely to be the house or part of it although its shape is something of a mystery. The offset in the building line of the western wall of Blocks B and C may result from two distinct stages of building. This does not preclude the possibility that both Blocks B and C were a single residence. Farm houses were quite large because storage space was required and they often provided accommodation for young employees. It is noted that on a comparison of floor space Blocks B and C together are considerably smaller than the former village rectory.

#### 5.5. Examining the possible options

Blocks B and C could both have been part of the house.

One or the other could have been agricultural but the cellar implies Block B was domestic at an early stage. Both could have been agricultural buildings with Penwood Cottage as the farm house. However under those circumstances the hall would still be standing and would not be described as "the site of" the old hall.

Block D with the small open enclosures may have been pig sties or sheds for rearing young animals. Apart from agricultural uses the purpose of these buildings is unclear although twelve cottages would require outhouses at that time. The 1885/6 map certainly shows the pig sty style Block D when both major buildings were divided into groups of six.

The enclosure to the east of Block C was maintained for several decades, and could have been the farm garden, rick yard, or stock yard. It is probable that the open enclosures near the sheds were used to corral animals on a temporary basis possibly while pens were cleaned out. This practice would have made pedestrian access for visitors to the house in Block C difficult.

The 1904 map shows a more domestic layout possibly reflecting the end of the agricultural activities on the site. Block C is open to an area which is perhaps gardens and Block A has a much more domestic appearance with outhouses in front of it. Block B has gained what appears to be a porch now providing better access from the road. A pond is shown at Penwood Cottage; a feature which survived well into living memory. When the property was sold in 1944 it was described as a small holding of 4 acres.



The concept that the old Hall site was a farmstead is a perhaps a probability but not a certainty. The air vents in Hall Terrace are a strong indicator. This block may have been stables but where was the demand for so many horses?

Many questions could be answered by knowing the chronology of the site. However, all the historic maps show the outline of Blocks A, B and C substantially unchanged over a period from about 1840 until 1904. Coupled with the knowledge of the cellar, any remains of these buildings must be the initial target of archaeological excavations.

## **6. EXCAVATIONS**

### **6.1. Initial Work and Planning**

Initially, attention was focused on the hole assumed to be caused by a collapse into an underground void. Expansion of this exposed an underground chamber originally with an arched roof that had partially collapsed onto debris below. At the time this was thought to be either a cellar or an underground water cistern. The peak of the roof was found to run east to west with the end butted up to a substantial wall, later found to be the western wall of Block B. The roof itself was constructed of bricks generally some 225 mm thick. The lower sections, to the north and south, consisted of a few courses of two bricks laid flat one above another as in a sloping wall. The rest of the roof was formed by a series of single bricks laid on end as headers (Figure 11).



Figure 11. North-west corner of the cellar showing recess and bottom of collapsed arched roof.

Further expansion of the hole revealed a recess some 230mm deep formed by excluding bricks from the end wall of Block B. After removal of more waste debris and estimating the size of the chamber, it was decided that manual labour was insufficient. Consequently, a local volunteer excavated the chamber using his own mechanical digger. Unfortunately, with limited space for spoil it was not possible to empty the chamber completely and consequently, the western end was excavated first. After examining and recording the details, the eastern end was opened by depositing the spoil back into the void left in the western end. Eventually, the chamber proved to be some 2750mm by 4750mm and 2000mm high to the apex of the arched ceiling, all measurements being internal. On seeing it partially exposed, the land owner realised that this was the cellar used during WW II and subsequently backfilled.

In reality, the dominant reason for excavating was to find remaining evidence of buildings on the site, even the chance of relating finds to a hall. Excavation had already exposed a substantial brick wall, and according to the 1904 map this was in the predicted position of the western wall of Block B. One noticeable feature of the wall was the consistency of the top course of bricks. Had the wall above been removed solely to eliminate a surface obstruction, the top is likely to have been uneven.

Following the discovery of brickwork as a reference point, the 1904 map was scaled up to predict the positions of the remaining outer walls of Blocks B and C. Four trenches were then planned in hopes of intersecting other walls of buildings (see Figure 12). In practice seven trenches were dug, one of which was simply an extension of one already planned. Trench 6 was intended to investigate the ground level near Block A and Trench 7 to expose the outside of the eastern wall of the cellar.

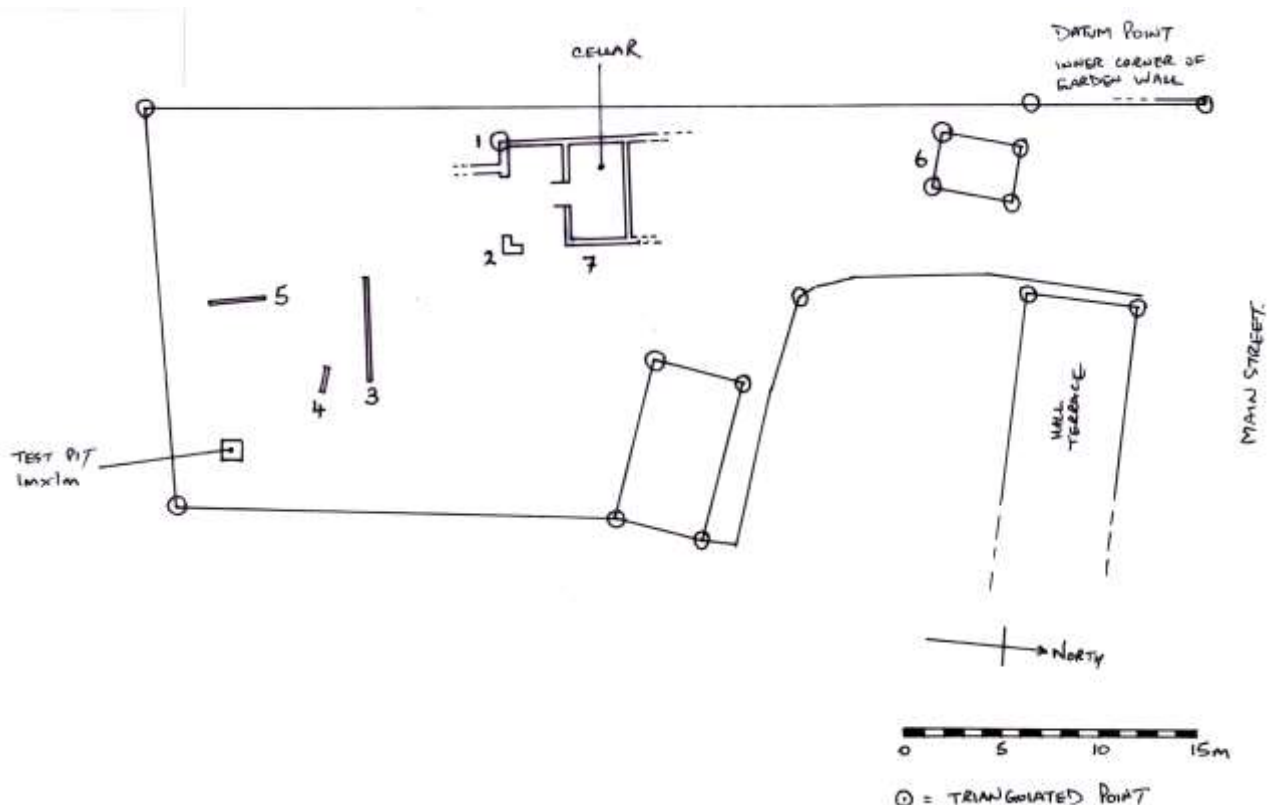


Figure 12. Site plan showing excavation trenches and cellar.

In view of previous levelling of the site and the disturbances through gardening, recent pottery sherds were discarded initially. However, after very early pottery was recognised near the surface, the spoil heaps were sieved through a 1cm mesh and all artefacts retained.

In addition, a one metre square test pit was dug in the south eastern corner of the site where disturbance was expected to be minimal.

## 6.2 The Interior of the Cellar

### 6.2.1 The Western End of the Cellar

Mechanical excavation of the western end of the cellar revealed a discontinuity in the original brickwork of the southern wall which was thought at the time to be the entrance to the cellar. A total of four wall recesses were also revealed, one in each of the north and south walls and two in the western end (the wall of Block B). All four were of similar construction with arched tops but the one in the south wall was wider (630mm) than those in the west and north walls (430mm). What was noticeable was each recess was as high as practicable from the floor. The niches were formed by leaving out bricks from the two inner courses such that the outer course formed the back of the recess (Figure 13A & B).



Figure 13A SW corner of the cellar.



Figure 13B NW corner of the cellar.

Unfortunately there was insufficient room to remove all of the debris to expose the floor of the cellar. (This material was of little archaeological interest being rubbish dumped in c1969.)

### 6.2.2. The Eastern End of the Cellar

The eastern end was emptied partially to floor level although the floor itself was not visible due to water standing to a depth of some 300mm. A probe was used to confirm the position of the well by testing the surface of the floor in various places. Water was deeper near the eastern wall suggesting that the floor had sunken somewhat in the known position of the well.

The landowner said that the floor over the well was brickwork similar to the rest of the cellar floor. He also said that there was a gully in the bottom of the cellar which previously drained water into a collecting point some distance away to the northwest.



Recently, the pipe was damaged when the nearby house was built. Significantly, the exposed pipe was constructed as a brick culvert rather than a ceramic pipe.

Exposure of the eastern end of the cellar revealed a corresponding corner in the brickwork of the southern wall, again consistent with this being the edge of the cellar entrance. At a later date, the upper steps of the cellar entrance were excavated. Each step consisted of a layer of bricks on edge over a lower course lying flat as in a wall. This resulted in a rise of some 170mm and tread of 225 mm. The flight was approximately 750mm wide.

There were also five more recesses, two in the southern wall and three in the northern wall. Strangely these were dissimilar in size, some being formed by omitting three courses of bricks and one recess only two. All of them had flat tops rather than arched and no obvious support for the bricks immediately above the recess (Figures 14A & B). A total of nine niches were found: running clockwise from the entrance stairs, they measured 630, 430, 430, 430, 280, 220, 250, 320 and 300 mm wide respectively.



Figure 14A NE corner of the cellar.



Figure 14B SE corner of the cellar.

Exposure of the east wall of the cellar displayed some curious features. Starting from the north end it was as expected but after some distance there was a vertical straight joint in ten courses in the upper section of the wall which could have continued upwards in the top course which had been removed (Figure 15). Further south was a second straight joint but the brickwork south of that joint was set back behind the main face of the wall by about 50 mm. That setback continued for about 700mm southwards before the line of the brickwork once again followed the main line of the wall (Figure 16).

The 50 mm setback in the line of the bricks started at the floor of the cellar and continued to the top of the wall. Built in to the wall was an arch consisting of 2 courses of bricks on their edge and appearing to start at floor level and peaking at the centre of the well. This arch was to take the weight of the wall off the edge of the well to prevent the side of the well being pushed in by the weight of the wall. This was common practice in this situation.





Figure 15. East wall of cellar. Note lead pipe and straight joint in brickwork.



Figure 16. East wall of cellar. Note top of arch just above water level.

The section of brickwork between the two straight joints was narrower and not to the same standard as the rest of the brickwork; this may represent an infilled aperture. The thickness of that section and for some distance either side was only 2 bricks not 3.

Protruding from the wall above the well was a lead pipe which the owner said was the remains of the suction pipe to the well which he had removed when the cellar was filled in. The pipe had been added after the wall was built as it was not mortared into the wall.

Three different brick sizes were used in the cellar: 60x220x110mm, 60x225x110mm and 55x220x110mm, the latter being used only for the roof. The arch was butted up to the two end walls of the cellar such that none of the roof was above the walls. With this configuration the walls could be continued upwards to form the structure of a building above.

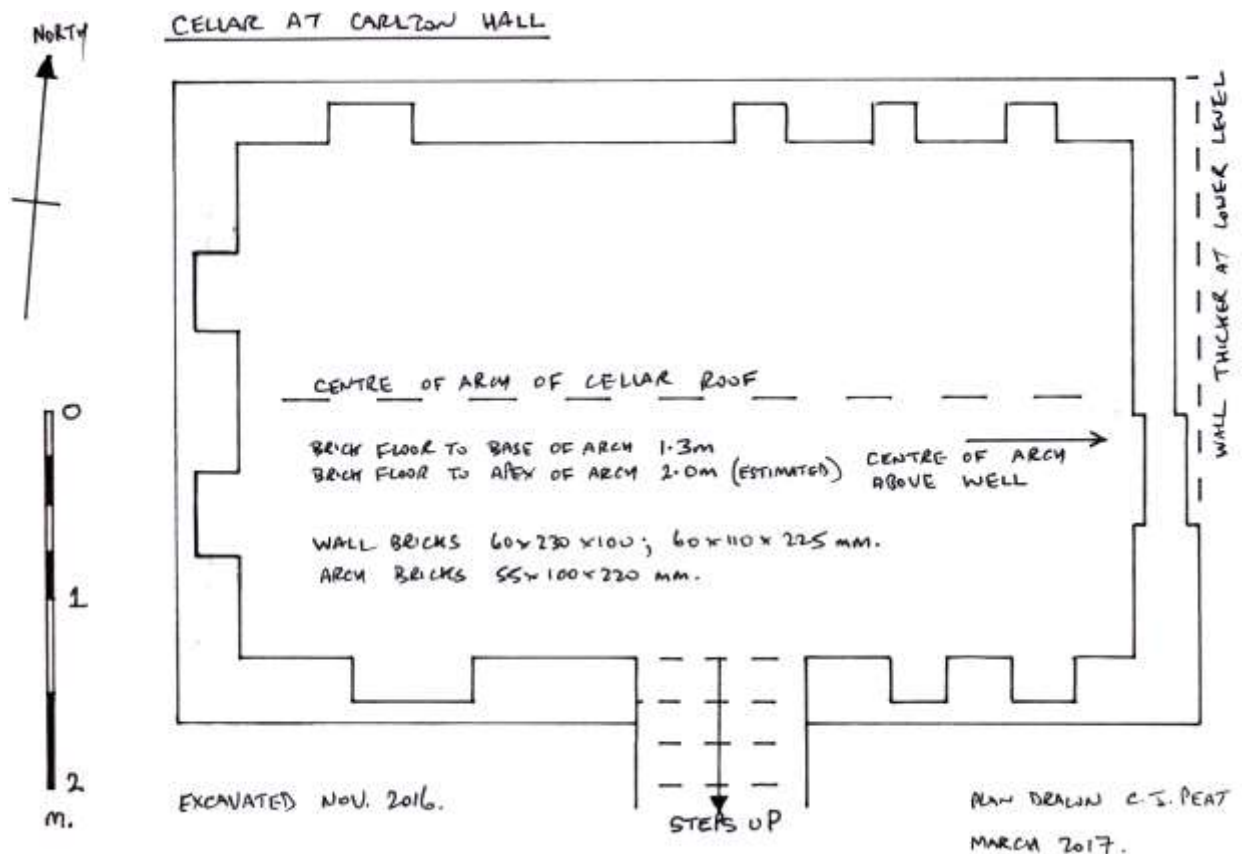


Figure 17. Plan of cellar

However, in this case the overall length of the cellar was 5480mm including walls; the equivalent dimension of Block B, the building above, was 5890mm. The difference of 410mm virtually precludes the use of the cellar wall as a foundation for either an external or internal wall of Block B.

### 6.3 Trench 1

This trench was dug to confirm the interaction of the walls of Blocks B and C, two sections of which were thought to be the walls of the house. The 340mm wall already discovered, being the western wall of Block B, continued southwards for several metres before arriving at the south western corner of Block B. This is consistent with the maps. Beyond the corner the wall headed east being the southern wall of Block B. After only about 600mm the wall had been removed (Figure 18). The trench was further extended in an easterly direction and to a lower level. This exposed a foundation of Carlton stone (Figure 19). Some 1000mm away from the outer corner, a second wall foundation continued south as expected from the maps, this being the discontinuity in the building line of Blocks A, B and C. Again the junction of the walls was of stone but slightly further south the wall was constructed of bricks (Figure 20). There was a deposit of used mortar lying on top of the masonry but not the amount expected if a substantial wall had been removed. Indications were that the two walls had been built concurrently as there was no obvious joint line in the stones. None of this masonry was disturbed.

Trench one contained a single sherd of 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery and 10 others dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century.



Figure 18. Trench 1. Corner of building.



Figure 19. Foundation of Carlton Stone.



Figure 20. Connection of brick wall to Figure 19 above.



## 6.4 Trench 2

This trench was dug to confirm the width of Block B and the continuation of the north wall of Block C. The east wall of Block B was exposed at its predicted limit, revealing a single layer of bricks forming the corner with the east wall (Figure 21). One brick was removed temporarily in order to test the supporting material by probing with a trowel.



Figure 21. South east corner of Block B.

This met a compacted layer of clay but no masonry. There was no evidence of the southern wall of Block B continuing to the east as the northern wall of Block C as shown on the maps. In particular, the eastern surface of the wall was smooth giving no indications of bricks having been tied into another wall. However, the exposed corner was very close to the modern, concrete retaining wall at the side of the garage. Remains of the wall could have been destroyed when this was installed. A little more used mortar was found in this trench but again much less than expected from the demolition of a substantial wall.

A hole was dug between Trenches 1 and 2 to confirm the presence of the common wall between Blocks B and C. It revealed two large flat pieces of stone at foundation depth. Trench 2 contained 7 sherds of medieval pottery and 11 others dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 6.5 Trench 3

This trench was intended to expose the eastern wall of block C. It was dug in an east to west direction in order to cross the targeted wall. A distinct layer of light-brown soil containing a considerable number of small stones was discovered below the top soil. This layer was deliberately not excavated to preserve its integrity but there was pottery directly on it. There was also a considerable percentage of carbon but an insignificant amount of mortar. The layer was exposed further both to the east and west. The surface was undulating in depth below ground by a few centimetres but was generally continuous.

At one point the layer had been cut by a shallow trench (Figure 22). This was quite narrow and intersected trench 3 at an angle of about 30 degrees. Clearly, this excavation was more modern; the fill included early 20<sup>th</sup> century glass bottles with square bases, rusty metal tins etc. There was also a metal object resembling a window fitting. At the east end of the trench the layer of light brown soil ceased, being terminated by a 150mm flat stone. Unfortunately the trench could not be excavated further east due to the presence of a concrete path. It is possible that this trench was insufficiently deep to expose the remains of the wall of Block C.

Trench 3 produced 6 sherds of Iron Age pottery, 2 sherds from the Roman period and 2 medieval jug handles. In addition, there were 26 pottery sherds dated specifically to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, 16 sherds from the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century and 41 sherds from either the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century. Three pieces of 18<sup>th</sup> century glass were also retrieved along with a sample of 9 pieces of demolition residue.



Figure 22. Trench 3. Layer of stones and cross-cutting drain.

#### 6.6. Trench 4

This was dug as an extension to Trench 3 but was offset to avoid the concrete path. It continued eastwards beyond the limits of Trench 3 but produced little of interest. The west end did show signs of the brown soil layer, but this was not so well defined.

Trench 4 produced 11 sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery and 44 sherds from the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century. Two pieces of painted wall plaster and a white-ware jug handle were also discovered.

#### 6.7. Trench 5

This trench was excavated across the south side of block C. At the southern end of this trench below the garden soil there was undisturbed natural heavy clay. Further north along the trench was evidence of an earlier shallow trench at right angles to the excavation trench (Figure 23). On the edges of this trench infill were medium sized stones.



Figure 23. Trench 5. Stones and shallow cross-cutting trench.

The natural clay soil continued to the north of this shallow trench but had been cut by another shallow trench parallel to the first one. Above this were remnants of bricks, and in this trench were broken bricks. At the same level at the side of this trench was a collection of sherds of pottery, and infill with soil (Figure 24). Further north along the trench was compacted red sand/ shale but at a higher level. This sand resembled the natural sub soil found in a test pit dug some





Figure 24. Trench 5. Layer of stones.

metres away. Again the sand/shale was not disturbed.

Trench 5 produced 13 sherds of medieval pottery, 24 pottery sherds dated to the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century and 29 sherds from the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century. Other finds included 40 sherds of heavily glazed pottery dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century and 23 sherds with a flower design. Six samples of demolition material were also retained.

### 6.8. Trench 6

This trench was intended to investigate earlier ground levels on the site. It was dug along the southern wall of the wash house. The blue brick damp course of the building was used as a horizontal reference, this being at the current ground level along the east wall. Further to the west, the blues were several courses below ground level implying that material had been deposited since the wash house was built. This suggests that the walls and floors of the cottages are quite deep underground on the west side (Figure 25).



Figure 25. Trench 6. Southern wall of Wash House.

Trench 6 produced 2 sherds of heavily glazed pottery dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### 6.9. Trench 7

This trench was dug to investigate the anomalies of the east wall of the cellar. The northern end of the trench was positioned to expose the 10 straight joints in the brickwork. The southern end extended beyond the south east corner of the cellar. Recent soil disturbance was expected to the east because this was close to the modern concrete retaining panels.

After removing the topsoil, a cobbled surface was exposed running alongside the

southern section of the wall. It climbed steeply nearer the south corner of the wall and continued beyond the cellar (Figure 26). With the exception of 2 bricks on edge, the construction was of glacial stone cobbles laid on their ends to maximise the depth of stone.

The Landowner said that the area had been ploughed regularly in recent years after the cellar roof was destroyed, but previous to that it could not be ploughed. In later years an engineering business had operated on the site and the area had been levelled and compacted. The path would have been destroyed had it continued to the south.

Further to the east of these cobbles there was a layer of gravel containing plastic wall plugs.

Clearly, this had been disturbed in recent years. On the west side beyond the cellar wall there was a rubbish deposit of square-based glass bottles, rusty tins and the remains of electrical batteries. A metal rod, approximately 250mm in length, was discovered within the layer of stones. It had been driven vertically downwards between the stones.



Figure 26. Trench 7. Outside of eastern wall of cellar.



Figure 27. Trench 7. Exposed stones.

Below the glacial stones but beyond the south wall of the cellar three sizeable stones were exposed. They were approximately 400mm from the line of the east wall of the cellar (Figure 27). The three stones partially overlapped each other and were roughly at the same level as the south eastern corner of Block B as exposed in Trench 2.



Below the layer of stones the soil was extremely sandy and contained full and broken bricks and pieces of orange roof tile. As this was removed, the structure of the outer face of the end wall was exposed. It gave the impression that originally the whole wall had been three bricks thick but the outer layer had since been removed (Figure 28). The area of bricks that had been removed was centred on the area containing the straight joints (aperture). The bricks had been removed beyond and below the edges of the original aperture and below the bottom of the aperture.



Figure 28. Trench 7. Outside of east wall of cellar.



Figure 29. Trench 7. Slope of stony soil.

As the trench was excavated, the sandy soil continued to be present in the northern end of the trench, but a layer of stony soil progressively appeared in the southern end of the trench. As the sandy soil was removed, the stony soil appeared at a lower level producing a steep slope towards the centre of the aperture (Figure 29). It was not a consistent slope but was in steps. A line of large stones also appeared across the trench, i.e. from the cellar

wall to the outer side of the trench (Figure 30). It was also noted the bottom layer of the 10 courses of bricks was laid on soil not mortar.

Below the stony layer were small pieces of slate. A few of these had square corners but none contained fixing holes. The slate was at a level slightly below the bricked up aperture. Lower still the soil again became very sandy and still contained brick debris and broken tiles (Figure 31). Digging was then abandoned due to the difficulty of working in a narrow trench.

During the digging process the lead pipe revealed in the cellar was found to continue through the trench, declining slightly towards the eastern edge. It also turned north slightly in the direction of Penwood Cottage. There was a wiped joint in the pipe run near the cellar wall. This would have been used to allow the bend to be put into the



Figure 30. Trench 7. Outside eastern wall of cellar. Row of stones.

Figure 31. Trench 7. Outside eastern wall of cellar. Layer of brick and tile debris.



pipe where it turned downwards after passing through the wall (Figure 32).

Numerous sherds of pottery were found in Trench 7, all dating from the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 6.10. Test pit.

A one metre square test pit was dug in 10cm spits and reached a natural surface of medium red sand at 600mm depth. All spoil was sieved and artefacts retained, but nothing of great interest was recovered. A sample of the natural soil was retained.

The natural subsoil was red sand but heavy brown clay is known to exist only a few metres away. Local people said that both types of sub-soil are common in the area.



Figure 32. Trench 7. Outside eastern wall of cellar. Lead pipe with wiped joint where it passes through the cellar wall.



### 6.11. Pottery and glass

Altogether 311 sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> century and older pottery and glass were recovered from the excavations, together with numerous fragments of 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery.



Figure 33. Examples of pottery sherds recovered. (1) Iron Age; (2) Roman; (3) Medieval; (4) Medieval Jug Handle; (5) Medieval Jug Handle; (6) 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century referring to Leicester Infirmary; (7) 18/19<sup>th</sup> Century; (8) 16<sup>th</sup> Century; (9) 17/18<sup>th</sup> Century White Jug Handle; (10) 18<sup>th</sup> Century Glass; (11) 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The ages of the sherds recovered were:

Iron Age	6
Roman	2
Medieval	22
16 <sup>th</sup> century	1
17/18 <sup>th</sup> century	61
18 <sup>th</sup> century	26
18 <sup>th</sup> century glass	3
18/19 <sup>th</sup> century	167
19/20 <sup>th</sup> century	23
20 <sup>th</sup> century	numerous

## 6.12 General appearance of the site

Below the surface the area was surprisingly devoid of brick bats, slates, tiles and other debris, this being on a site where a variety of buildings have stood and been demolished. Perhaps this is to be expected in the surface layer which has been gardened for many years. However, on this site far more work had been done to remove the walls etc. Based on the limited evidence of the current excavation the western wall of Block B was the only wall of any size left on the site.

## **7. INTERPRETATION**

### 7.1. Trenches 1 and 2

Trenches 1 and 2 exposed the common wall between Blocks B and C and the junction of the two west walls of those blocks. Foundations were partially of Carlton stone and partially of brick and were substantial implying a quality building. The south eastern corner of Block B was exposed but there was no evidence of the northern wall of Block C beyond that point. Trench 1 contained both brick and stone foundations, Trench 2 contained only brick, but two stones were found in the extra hole between the two trenches. The pottery was generally above the foundations, and could not be used to date the structure. There appeared to be insufficient demolition mortar for the expected size of the wall above.

### 7.2. Trench 3

Trench 3 was sited to cross the predicted position of the east wall of Block C but did not expose any evidence of it. Perhaps the excavation trench was insufficiently deep. If that was the case the light brown soil layer must have been spread over the area after the wall was demolished.

As pottery was directly on the surface of the light brown layer, these sherds were probably still in their original position. Also, as the trench was dug well beyond the expected position of the wall the light brown layer was spread east and west of the mapped position of the wall.

The spoil was not sieved for pottery fragments until after the early pottery sherds had been discovered, so it is possible that the early pottery was stratified. However it is more likely the early pottery was disturbed when the area under the present garage was levelled. If so it may have just skimmed the top of the deposits. The depth removed is estimated to be from zero to around 100mm. If it was redeposited by the digger, it was pushed back some distance from the garage and there may be parts of a feature still remaining to the east and south of the garage.

#### 7.4. Trench 4

This was simply an extension of Trench 3 but offset due to an obstruction at surface level. No wall structure was found but again the light brown layer terminated at a similar distance eastward as in Trench 3.

#### 7.5. Trench 5

Trench 5 exposed a layer which, arguably, could have been the base of the south wall of Block C. It was certainly in the position predicted from the maps. Pottery dated from the 17<sup>th</sup> century was found at the side of the inner face of the wall but there was no indication of the light brown layer of soil seen elsewhere. The natural sub-soil in the area is either heavy clay or red shale; this trench produced both in close proximity.

#### 7.6. Trench 6

Trench 6 showed that the ground level along the western boundary was raised by some 600mm above the early 20<sup>th</sup> century ground level. It is possible that the lower walls and floors of the cottages in Block A remain undisturbed.

#### 7.7. Trench 7

The exposed layer of glacial stones was certainly man made and involved some care in the laying. Although it was angled steeply it could have been a path to provide access around the buildings. There was a marked change in ground level in that area which was distorted by the levelling for the building. The southern end was quite shallow (450mm) and could have been destroyed by gardening. However, whatever the reason, the construction was relatively modern.

The indications from the excavation finding and various soil mixtures may be as a result of work carried out in connection with the aperture. The removal of the outer courses of brick suggests that the aperture was inserted sometime after the wall was built. Construction of the aperture would have resulted in some bricks being replaced along its edge. This gives the indication that there was a straight joint to the north of the aperture in the original construction. However that could be misleading. At the south side the aperture also indicates a straight joint but here there was a 50mm step back in the wall to be accommodated.



The conclusion arrived at is that the aperture was added some time after the cellar was constructed. It was added by digging from the east towards the cellar wall. The outer course of bricks was removed and the hole was made in the wall. The trench was left open for some time and the soil gradually fell into the trench. That resulted in the layer of stony soil across the trench. At a later date the aperture was bricked up again in a crude manner. The fact that the bottom course of bricks in the aperture was laid on soil indicates the trench had filled with soil up to the bottom of the aperture.

In all probability the aperture was for a window. It was not a practical access to the cellar as it did not extend to floor level. It could have been for handling materials into the cellar but not very satisfactorily. The layer of slate could have been deposited in the open trench soon after it was dug. The fact that the infill below the aperture was similar to that above implies the trench may have been backfilled after the bricking up was complete.

The ground level to the east of the cellar was considerably lower than around the cellar. It is likely that when the hole was dug for the cellar a trench was dug to allow the soil in the cellar to be removed without throwing it out of a deep hole. It could have been wheeled out in barrows. In addition some of the bricks could have been transported along the trench to build the walls. The sandy soils and building debris was then used to backfill the trench.

Although the walls were very close to the modern concrete panel fence, it is possible that the 3 stones uncovered below the stone path were part of the building foundations. They were in the predicted position of the eastern wall of Block B and at an appropriate depth but outside the width of the cellar.

#### 7.8. The Eastern Wall of the Cellar

A key feature of the eastern wall is the 50mm vertical step in the internal surface running from top to bottom of the cellar. This, again, implies an intended feature. The outside surface of the wall was flat, the offset being taken up within the thickness of the wall. The offset in the wall suggests a specific use for the cellar demanding the installation of a particular piece of equipment. It was noted the offset was not central to the arch and therefore the well. No further explanation is yet available.

It seems reasonable to assume that the well was sunk to supply water for nearby use rather than Penwood Cottage which is some distance away. The suction pipe was installed by cutting away the eastern wall of the cellar, the hole being only partially refilled.

At some stage Penwood was a small holding with facilities for cows and other stock. These demand much more water than simple domestic use and may have prompted the installation of an additional supply. The 1904 map shows a pump at Penwood and another near the entrance to the Hall site. Wells are not shown on the map, but the landowner said that there were two near Hall Terrace in addition to the one of interest.

It is possible that a pump was originally installed in the cellar, but this does not seem a practical idea. The only advantage of it being situated in the cellar was it was inside the building, but water would then have had to be carried into the upper rooms. A pump could have been installed on the ground floor of the building above.

#### 7.9 The purpose and use of the cellar

The cellar would have been relatively expensive to build and was probably intended as a cool storage space for a substantial residence above. It may have been intended for salting meats and the storage of hams, cheeses and vegetables such as potatoes. Liquids such as beer, cider and wine may have been stored in barrels or bottles. However, none of these regular uses of a cellar explain the vertical step in the eastern wall.

It has been suggested that the recesses in the walls were designed to accommodate lights, either candles or oil lamps, providing light but protecting the lights from accidents in the limited space. The apertures were positioned close to the top of the walls, and the height would allow the light to spread around the area. They were also positioned around the walls, but if these are indeed candle niches, the quantity is surprising. By the standards of the times two strategically placed candles would have illuminated the cellar adequately. In addition, the limited height of perhaps 250mm for the small recesses is hardly suitable for a candle.

The reason for the two types of recess, either arched or flat topped, is a mystery. Indeed, to compound the issue, some recesses are bigger than others.

The fact that there are two types could indicate the cellar was partitioned across the centre with two separate uses, but the access was through the house (assumed). Food could have been stored in one part and coal or wood etc. in the other half. However fuel would have to be carried through the house.

#### 7.10. Pottery

Some of the pottery was of high quality. By comparison, the quantity and age of the pottery changed considerably in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Also pottery sherds found in Trenches 3 and 5 with some at the side of the 'possible' wall points towards a 17<sup>th</sup> century building. There were also two fragments of lead which had been used to hold window glass.

#### 7.11 Composition and layout of the buildings

Making the assumption that Blocks B and C were the more likely positions of the Hall gives several options:

The Hall consisted of both Blocks B and C:

There is no evidence in the foundation that walls was added later. Another possible anomaly is the mixture of Carlton Stone and brick foundations. The only sighting of Carlton Stone was at the intersection of the two walls. Could the brick foundation be of a later date? Also the only other possible base of a wall (Trench 5) had virtually no foundation.

If the Hall did consist of both Blocks it is difficult to explain the shape of the building, Block C being offset from Block B and the shape of Block C. There does not appear to be any restriction to cause a rectangular building to have a corner missing. Similarly the two Blocks could have been in line. It is noticeable that the boundary of the site is curved giving access to the south west corner of Block C.

The Hall consisted of Block B only:

There is a fundamental problem between Block B and the cellar. The eastern wall of the cellar and the eastern wall of Block B were two separate walls only 410mm apart. This implies a different date of construction between the two. However there was no indications of a wall beyond the south east corner of the cellar, meaning it was not an outer wall.

## **8. CONCLUSIONS**

8.1 It is difficult to draw many conclusions with the excavation being very limited in order that further work can be carried out.

8.2 One striking feature was the lack of masonry remaining underground where excavation was carried out. The one wall remaining was just below ground level.

8.3 The extent of that wall northwards could not be investigated due to obstacles. It is worth noting that the cellar steps were covered over without the cellar being back filled. The west wall was probably capped off and terminated at the south west corner. Was that done to protect the integrity of the cellar for some reason?

8.4 If Blocks B and C were contemporary the most likely date was late 17<sup>th</sup> century. That is based on the increase in pottery sherds discovered and the sherds discovered at the side of a "wall" in Trench 5. The cellar could well have been that period. A more extensive excavation should shed more light on both buildings, providing foundations still remain in place. The west and south walls of Block C and possibly floors could be present due to the higher ground levels. Block A could produce similar findings along the western side.



8.5 Surprisingly, the excavations revealed early pottery since dated as Iron Age, Roman and Medieval. These could support claims of such early settlements on the site over those periods and pottery from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and onwards make later residential use of the site more likely.

8.6 The cellar excavation produced two questions, the purpose of the recesses and the setback in the face of the eastern wall. Neither of these questions warrant further excavation of the cellar and if there are answers to either questions they will come from knowledge and experience of historians.

8.7 Regarding the name Carlton Hall, it has been passed down in history and is stated in documents as The Old Hall. Additional excavation may provide information about the standard of the building but not the name. It is possible another document could be discovered and provide more accurate information.

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