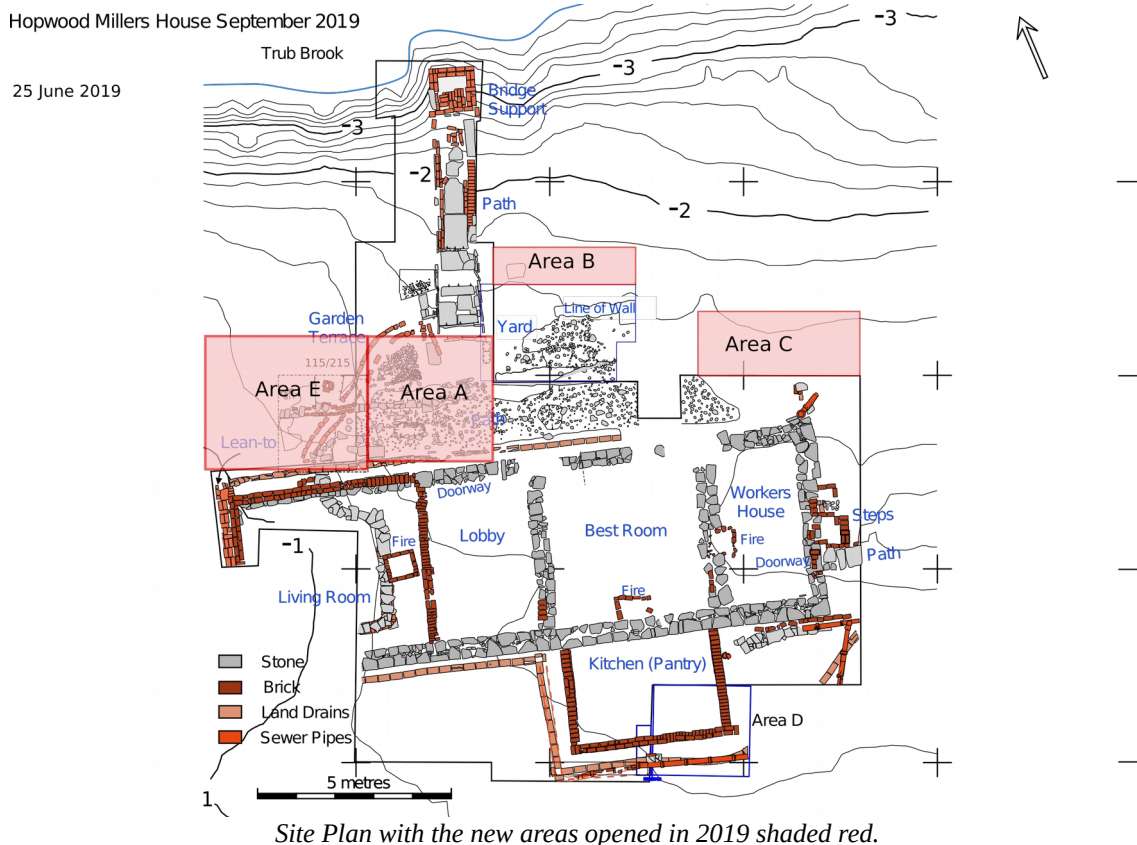


# Hopwood Millers House 2019 Spring Update

The 2019 season officially started on the 30 April.

The focus of this years excavation is to the north of the house to reveal more of the late garden features and the much earlier earlier surface which lies beneath them.



At the east end we have extended Area C by 1.7 metres on the north side. This area has already revealed several interesting features including a continuation of the crushed brick surface, a large circular pit about 1 metre in diameter and at the eastern end the edge of a small section of cobbled surface. These features lie directly below the top soil which has also produced some interesting small finds from the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.



Area C. The photograph shows the trench looking west. The large pit is visible with its dark fill and the red deposit of crushed brick approximately 80 cm wide running from east to west. At the top end the later cobbled surface is visible. To the lower right of the photograph a small section of broken paving stones is visible and we think the originally the surface was paved. The paving would have been laid on a thin bed of sand which originally covered the area as far as the cobble surface. The paving could have been reused and were often removed and sold when a building was demolished.

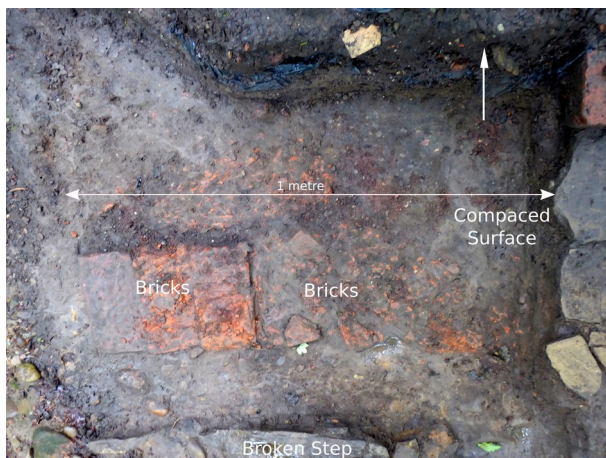
Area B was extended by 1 metre on the north side. It has taken some time to remove several layers of levelling deposits but we are now almost down to the level of the earlier ditch like feature found in 2018. We are finding evidence of a compacted deposit of pebble and flagstone fragments about 0.8 metres wide running south to north on the western side the “ditch”. We think that the deposit may have supported a wall. If this is the case then it is likely to be earlier than the 19<sup>th</sup> century since it is not shown on any of the maps of that period.

Area E which was opened in the summer of 2018 and has now be extended on the north and west side. This is now a fairly large area measuring 4 metres by 2.5 metres. The top soil and a layer of demolition rubble have been remove to reveal a sandy deposit which may have been a bed for paving removed during demolition.

Over the coming weeks we will be removing the sandy layer to expose the deeper archaeology.

A section of Area A originally opened in 2015 has been reopened with the intention of removing part of the later archaeology in order to investigate the early surface which we think continues below it.

In 2015 we suspected that the south end of the path way to the footbridge had been altered. We have now been able to confirm this. Removing the later surface revealed deposits of sand and ash which had been used to raise the level. Below this we found a line of bricks of which 3 were still intact and 3 badly damaged but still in place The bricks were set at a slight angle to the later course of the path. On the north side of the bricks were the remains of hard compacted surface of gritty-sand and it would seem that the earlier path was not paved. By raising the level for the later path the stone step to the south became redundant and the top broken off. By re-aligning the path it pointed directly towards the house doorway.



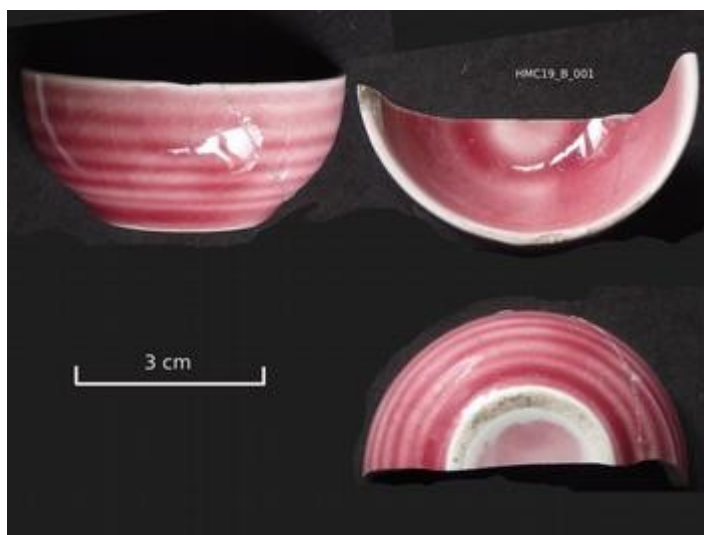
*Remains of an earlier path at the south end of the footbridge pathway. The later alterations would have aligned the path to the house doorway.*

### Small Finds

We have had a varied selection of small finds. The finds have come from the top soil or later archaeological levels and as would be expected are mostly of 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> century date but with and occasional 18<sup>th</sup> century find.



*Rim sherd of encrusted ware. The glaze at the rim is missing but a small fragment suggests that it was originally pale blue-green. Early 19<sup>th</sup> c.*



*Half of a small bowl found as three sherds. 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> c.*

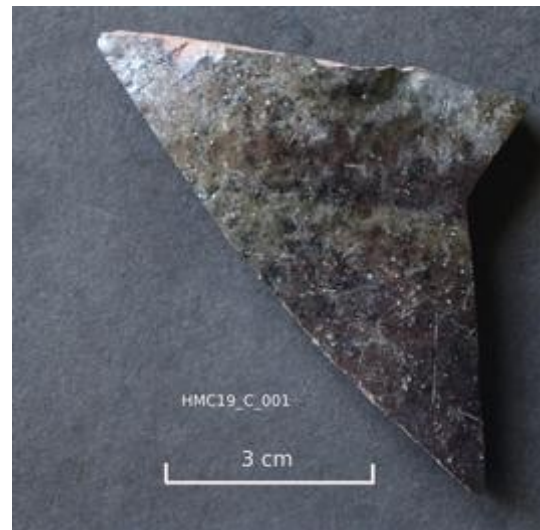


*Heavily corroded large iron key. Probably 19<sup>th</sup> c.*





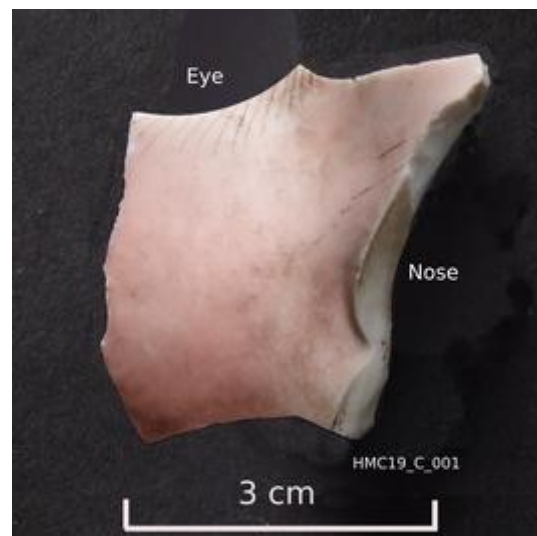
*Variegated slip decorated white earthenware.  
Mid 19<sup>th</sup> c.*



*Coarse Blackware probably 18<sup>th</sup> c.*



*Stoneware known as Black Basalt and invented by Wedgwood in the 1760's. A teapot spout probably not Wedgwood but manufactured by one of the many potters who copied the process, Mid 19<sup>th</sup> c.*



*Part of the face of a doll. The position of the eye, lower lashes, and nose can be seen. Unglazed porcelain painted pink. Late 19<sup>th</sup> – Early 20<sup>th</sup> century.*