

## Hopwood Millers House Dig Summer 2019

The summer season focused on the area between the house and the Trub Brook 10 metres to the north.

Previous years have revealed garden features, yards, paths and drains dating to the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. This part of the site has also provided a small but increasing amount of evidence of earlier archaeology.



*Early surface pre-dates the millers house. It appears to have been constructed to form a shallow bowl the deepest part being close to the tree shown in the photograph.*

In area A we started to remove some of the later features just to the north of doorway into the house. We were able to confirm that the path to the foot-bridge had been altered at the southern end. The surface and step of the earlier path was uncovered. The base of the path consisted of brick, sand and ash which would probably have supported a flagstone paving. The stone paving would have been recovered and reused when the path was replaced. This was a common practice as stone paving was expensive and could be easily reused.

A section of the cobbled surface which runs along the north wall of the house (to the right of the tree in the above photo) was systematically removed. The upper level of loose cobbles overlay a more compact cobbled surface. Beneath this were compacted layers of sand and cobbles with grey silt layers formed when silt laden water percolated through the layers. These deposits covered a continuation of the early pebble surface. Only a small section was uncovered.

Further west we have more yard surfaces and the foundations for two boundary walls. Changes in the surface composition suggest some enclosed areas. These may have sheds or pens for small farm animals such as chickens.

A deep drain is thought to be a western continuation of the under floor drain found in 2015.

Area B was severely affected by the wet weather in the late summer and autumn. For several weeks we were unable to excavate in this area due to flooding. During dry periods we were able to establish that the archaeology is more complex than a simple ditch. Insufficient work has been done to interpret our findings. The area has been covered temporarily until we can resume our excavation.



*Ditch section*



*Yard surface surfaced with crushed brick through which a large pit had been inserted.*

At the eastern end of the site outside the north-east corner of the house the 2018 trench was extended. Measuring less than 2 metres by 3 metres it has produced a large number of archaeological features mainly dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A continuation of the cobbled path and yard surface occupied the western end of the trench. The purpose of a large pit in the yard surface is not certain but a gully running from the eastern side might indicate that it had been use as a reservoir for water and may have originally contained a water butt. The tenants in the 20<sup>th</sup> century had vegetable plots in the area to the east of the house and a water butt would have provided a handy source of water.

At the eastern end the yard surface had been cut through in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to install a ceramic sewer pipe. The trench had been backfilled but it had not been resurfaced.

A total of 8 drains have been identified in the eastern part of the trench. Mostly dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Not all were in use at the same time. Several of the drains had been partially dismantled to accommodate later drains. The latest drain is a ceramic sewer pipe dating to the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and took the waste water from the kitchen extension on the south side of the house and from the workers accommodation at the east end of the house.

The reason there are so many drains in a small area is that drains from the south and north and east sides of the house converge at this point before discharging into the Trub Brook which lies about 10 metres to the north.

The most interesting and earliest of these drains is located almost 1 metre below the ground surface. The drain is rectangular in section and unlike the other drains seems to be constructed entirely from stone. Significantly it pre-dates the construction of the east gable of the house and runs at an angle to the house suggesting that its function was not connected with drainage from the house.



*The capstone of the early drain on the left of the photograph measures approximately 80 cm in diameter. The land drain on the right was installed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century had cut through the earlier drain. The land drain had been modified to take the water from the earlier drain and covered with the smaller cap stone (centre right).*



## Small Finds



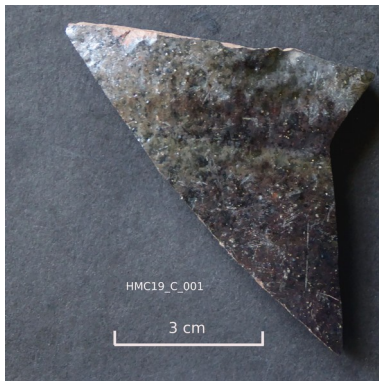
*Sherd of over-glaze hand painted creamware. Late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century.*



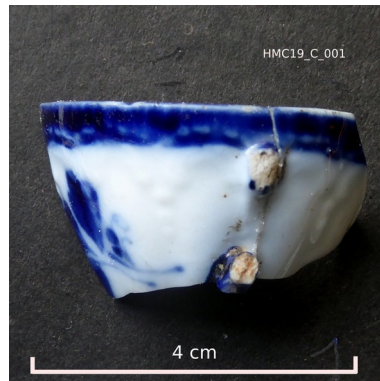
*Sherd of unglazed coarse earthenware. The carbonised residue on the inside suggests that this was a cooking pot. 18<sup>th</sup> century.*



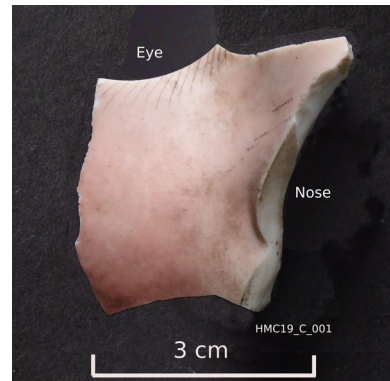
*Rim sherd from a type of industrial slipware known as encrusted ware. This was created by pressing small pieces of clay into the surface. The glaze has been lost from around the rim but speck of glaze suggests this had been a greenish-blue. Early 19<sup>th</sup> century.*



*Coarse black glazed earthenware vessel. Used for storage or food preparation. 18<sup>th</sup> century.*



*Miniature porcelain tea cup with "flow blue" design. Miniature tea sets became popular in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This one probably dates to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.*



*Fragment of the face from a ceramic dolls head. This is the second to be found on the site and probably dates to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.*



## Diggers



*Group photograph of the 2019 digging team*



*Lucy looking justifiably pleased with herself having carefully removing intact a very fragile cow bone from area B*



*Muriel and Lucy casting shade on the archaeology. The trees cast a dappled light on the archaeology spoils the photography.*