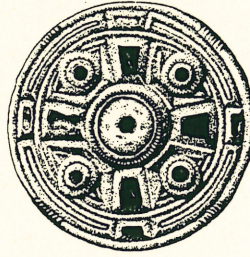




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Archaeological Field Unit

Saxon and Medieval Structural Remains at Thrapston Road, Spaldwick

Duncan Schlee

1996

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. 127

Commissioned By McLean Homes East Anglia Ltd

**Saxon and Medieval Structural Remains
at Thrapston Road, Spaldwick**

D E Schlee MSc.

1996

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Report No 127

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SUMMARY

Beam slots and post holes representing at least two buildings and a series of associated ditches and pits, dated to the Late Saxo-Norman/Early Medieval period, were defined within the excavation area. It is clear from the alignment of features that these remains do not pre-date the construction of the Bishop's enclosure since they are aligned with a property boundary that appears to date from the post-enclosure layout of the village, but which is different from the alignment of the present day along the Thrapston road. There were no features that appeared to pre-date the Bishop's Palace enclosure.

The ambiguity of the ceramic dating evidence makes it less clear as to the date at which the village underwent its re-development, though Taylor's (1989) suggested twelfth century date still seems the most likely.

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	BACKGROUND	1
2.1	Topography and Geology	1
2.2	Village Morphology and History	1
2.3	Archaeological potential of the Site	3
3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY	5
3.1	Desktop Study	5
3.2	Cartographic Evidence	5
3.3	SMR Archive	5
3.4	Aerial Photographic Assessment	6
3.5	Archaeological Evaluation	6
3.6	Deposit Model	7
3.7	Open Area Excavation	7
3.8	Limiting Factors	8
4	RESULTS	8
4.1	General description of Archaeological deposits	8
4.2	Phasing and grouping	8
4.3	Dating	9
4.4	Summary of Phases	10
4.5	Summary of Finds	12
5	FEATURE AND GROUP DESCRIPTIONS	12
5.1	Phase 1	12
5.2	Phase 2	16
5.3	Phase 3	22
5.4	Phase 4	25
5.5	Phase 5	27
5.6	Phase 6	29
5.7	Phase 7	31
5.8	Natural Deposits	33
6	DISCUSSION	34
6.1	Interpretation	34
6.2	Saxo-Norman and Medieval Period	34
6.3	Late Medieval period	35
7	CONCLUSION	36
8	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	37
9	BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES	37

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Pottery Report	39
Appendix B	Air Photographic Survey	48
Appendix C	Bone Analysis	52
Appendix D	Analysis of flotation samples	54
Appendix E	Table of finds	55

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Site location Plan	2
Figure 2	Plan of Spaldwick village	4
Figure 3	Trench section showing sequence of deposition	7
Figure 4	Table of pottery dates within phases	9
Figure 5	Section through post hole 132 in Building A	13
Figure 6	Plan of features in Phase 1	14
Figure 7	Plan of features in Phase 2	17
Figure 8	Section through ditch 113	18
Figure 9	Section through Pit 46	19
Figure 10	Section through E-W property boundary	22
Figure 11	Plan of features in Phase 3	23
Figure 12	Plan of features in Phase 4	26
Figure 13	Section through wood lined pit 81	27
Figure 14	Plan of features in Phase 5	28
Figure 15	Plan of features in Phase 6	30
Figure 16	Plan of features in Phase 7	32
Figure 17	Sherd illustrations	47

SAXO-NORMAN AND MEDIEVAL STRUCTURAL REMAINS AT THRAPSTON ROAD, SPALDWICK. 1996.

1 INTRODUCTION

Archaeological work was commissioned by Mr. Jim Woolnough, of McLean Homes East Anglia Ltd. to assess the archaeological potential of the proposed development site and the impact of the development on the archaeological record. The development involves the construction of 18 houses with access, services, and landscaping, on an area of approximately 1.1 hectare. The excavations were supervised by D.E. Schlee of the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Field Unit, in accordance with the design brief produced by the Archaeology section of Cambridgeshire County Council (planning app. no.:H/1401/94) November 1995.

Initial evaluation took place between November 30th and 6th December 1995. Although the majority of the site was found to be devoid of archaeological deposits, some apparently significant archaeological deposits were revealed in the street front area. Due to difficulties encountered in satisfactorily evaluating the character and extent of survival of these features due to the presence of a bungalow on the property, a second stage of evaluation was proposed. The additional evaluation work took place between January 8th-11th 1996, in advance of further preparation and development of the site and following demolition of the bungalow and removal of its foundations.

As a result of the evaluation work, it was decided that a large area of the street front property should be stripped of overburden in order to get a full plan of the surviving features. Full excavation of the deposits under threat was undertaken between January 25th 1996 and February 9th 1996.

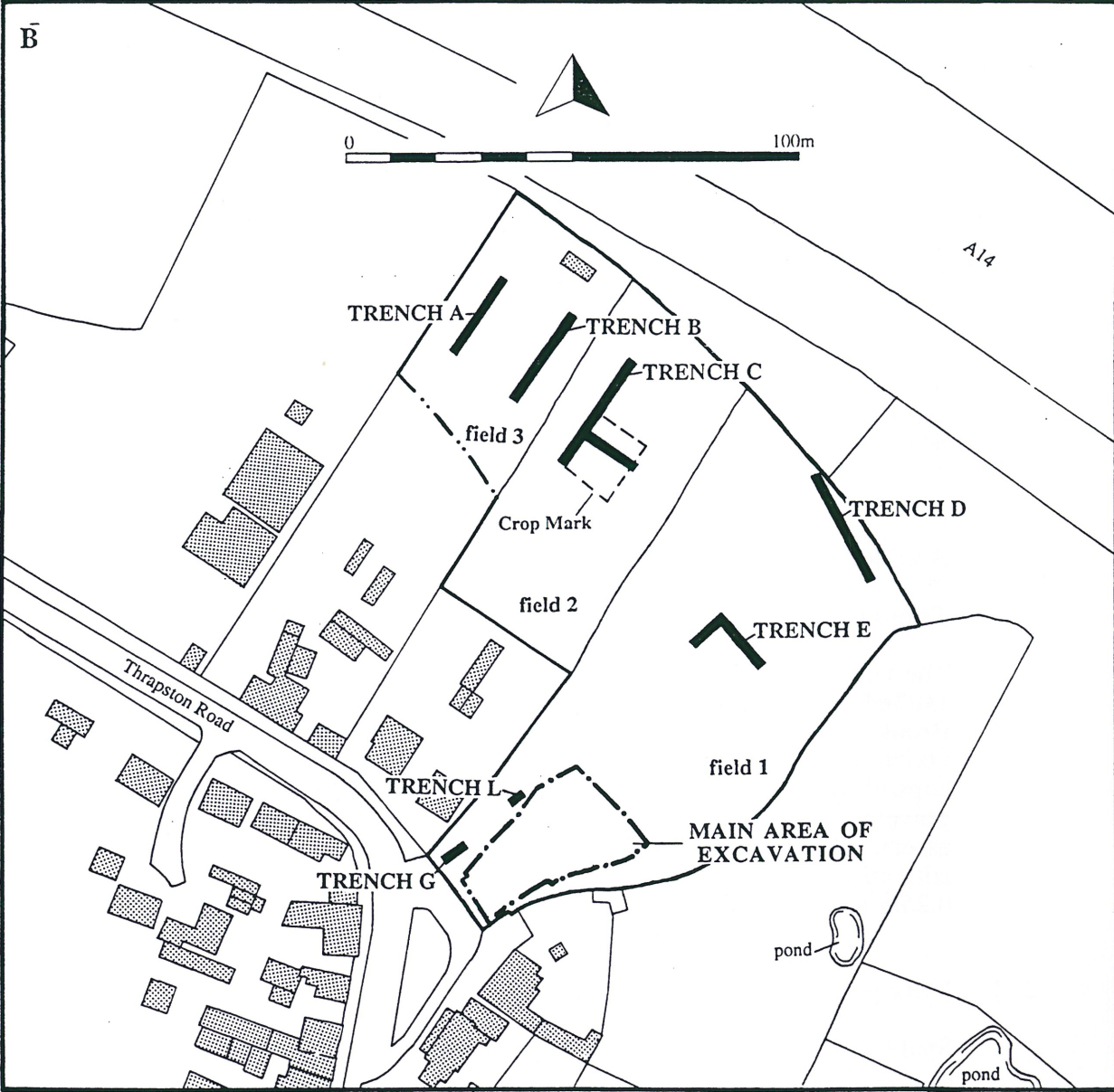
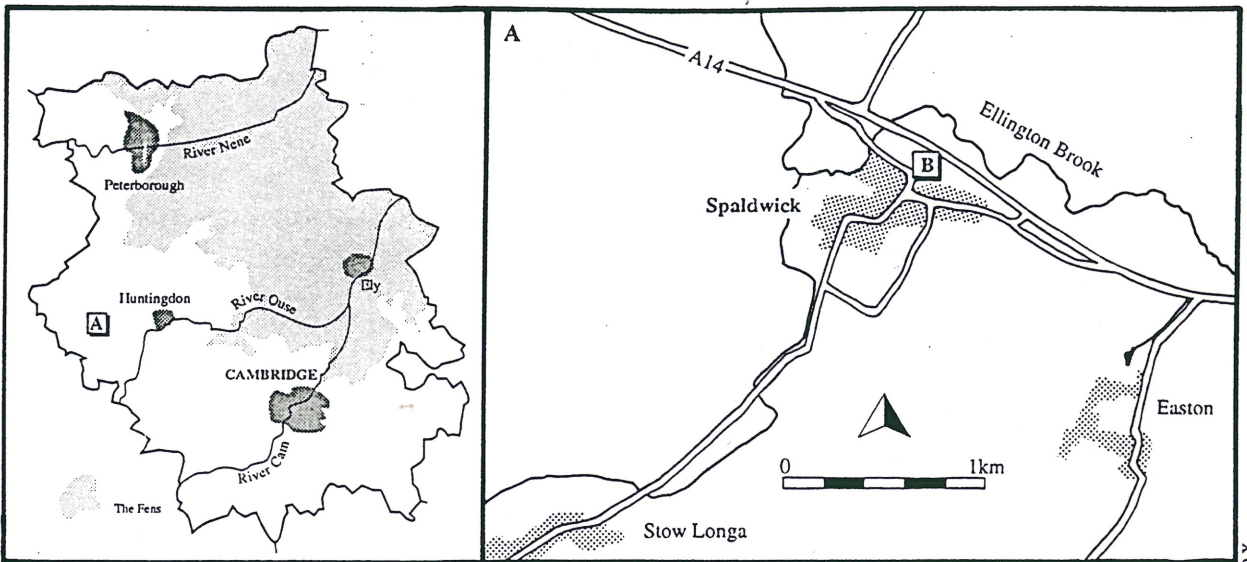
2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and Geology

The village of Spaldwick lies 11 km west of Huntingdon (See Fig. 1) on the 1st/2nd gravel terraces of the Ellington Brook (a tributary of the Alconbury Brook) which flows west-east to the north of the site. The gravels overlie Oxford Clays. The results of engineers structural test pits show that beneath the 'topsoil' at a depth of between 0.5m and 1.0m, there is a variable sequence of gravels, sand, and silty clay, representing the top of the terrace deposits associated with the Alconbury Brook. What is referred to as topsoil is in fact a silty clay alluvium (2), up to 0.80m thick. The true topsoil is approximately 0.25m thick.

2.2 Village Morphology and History

Spaldwick has been recognised by Taylor as an example of a village that has acquired its present form as a result of conscious planning, rather than a less organised "organic" growth (Taylor, 1989). The main feature of the village is the "D" shaped enclosure (see Fig. 2) which contains the parish church, the Old Rectory, and open grassland. This land shows clear traces of earthworks including a possible windmill platform, walls of a substantial building, ponds



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Figure 1 Site location plan

and enclosures. This whole collection has been interpreted as a "village site" (RCHME,1926 (1)).

In 991, the two estates of Somersham and Spaldwick, were left to the Abbey of Ely by Brithnoth, Ealdorman of Essex. At that time the Spaldwick estate included Stow Longa, Easton, Little Catworth, Barnham and Upthorpe. In 1109, this estate was transferred to the Bishopric of Lincoln (Taylor, 1989).

Taylor considers the remains within the enclosure to be the administrative centre of the Spaldwick estate (including farm buildings and agricultural land), and a palace belonging to the medieval Bishops of Lincoln. Spaldwick was not as important a palace as those at Buckden or Lyddington. As with these sites, however, it may have been surrounded by landscaped gardens and an alternative interpretation of the earthworks surrounding the church at Spaldwick is that they represent a palace site and gardens rather than associated settlement. If this is so, the question arises as to where the rest of the village was located at this time.

There are three likely dates for construction of the enclosure, either before 991, (for which there is no evidence), after 991, when the estate was obtained by the Bishops of Ely (for which there is also no evidence), or after 1109 when it changed hands to the Bishops of Lincoln. Taylor argues that the later date would be consistent with evidence of similar development in other villages. This redevelopment had the effect of putting the village on its present day east-west alignment, with the High Street and village green possibly forming an approach to the main gates of the estate centre (see Fig. 2).

The shape and location of the settlement in Saxon times is not known, although the trend in villages in this part of Huntingdonshire is to lie along a succession of south-west route ways. It seems possible that the sunken trackway that forms the western extent of the enclosure, links the Spaldwick Road and the road that runs up to Beltons Hill, forming just such a south-west-north east axis. The likely location for the early settlement before construction of the enclosure is therefore along, and between, the Thrapston and Spaldwick roads, in largely the same location that the enclosure was constructed (see Fig. 2).

2.3 Archaeological Potential of the Site

It is important to recognise that Spaldwick was the administrative centre of a major Saxon estate by at least the late 10th century (VCH,1926, 342;VCH,1932,97-8) and this estate was the large holding given to the Bishops of Lincoln in 1109. It thus represents a class of settlement apart from the standard Saxon to Medieval village in both the pre-conquest and post Episcopal replanning periods. While studies of similar villages to Spaldwick have occurred in other parts of the country, little work has occurred on examples within Cambridgeshire. An opportunity to study the development of a settlement of this type is undoubtedly therefore, very significant.

No recorded archaeological excavation has previously taken place in the village. As a result, there has been no opportunity to ascertain the true nature of the archaeology within the earthwork enclosure, the time at which it was constructed, or the location and alignment of the Saxon settlement.

The majority of the excavation site lies on the outskirts of the village, on vacant land (rough pasture and scrub) behind the present day street-front properties and garden plots. Access to the site is via a small piece of street frontage near the centre of the village at the eastern end of the Thrapston road, where it makes a right angled turn towards the village green (Fig. 1). The location of the site near

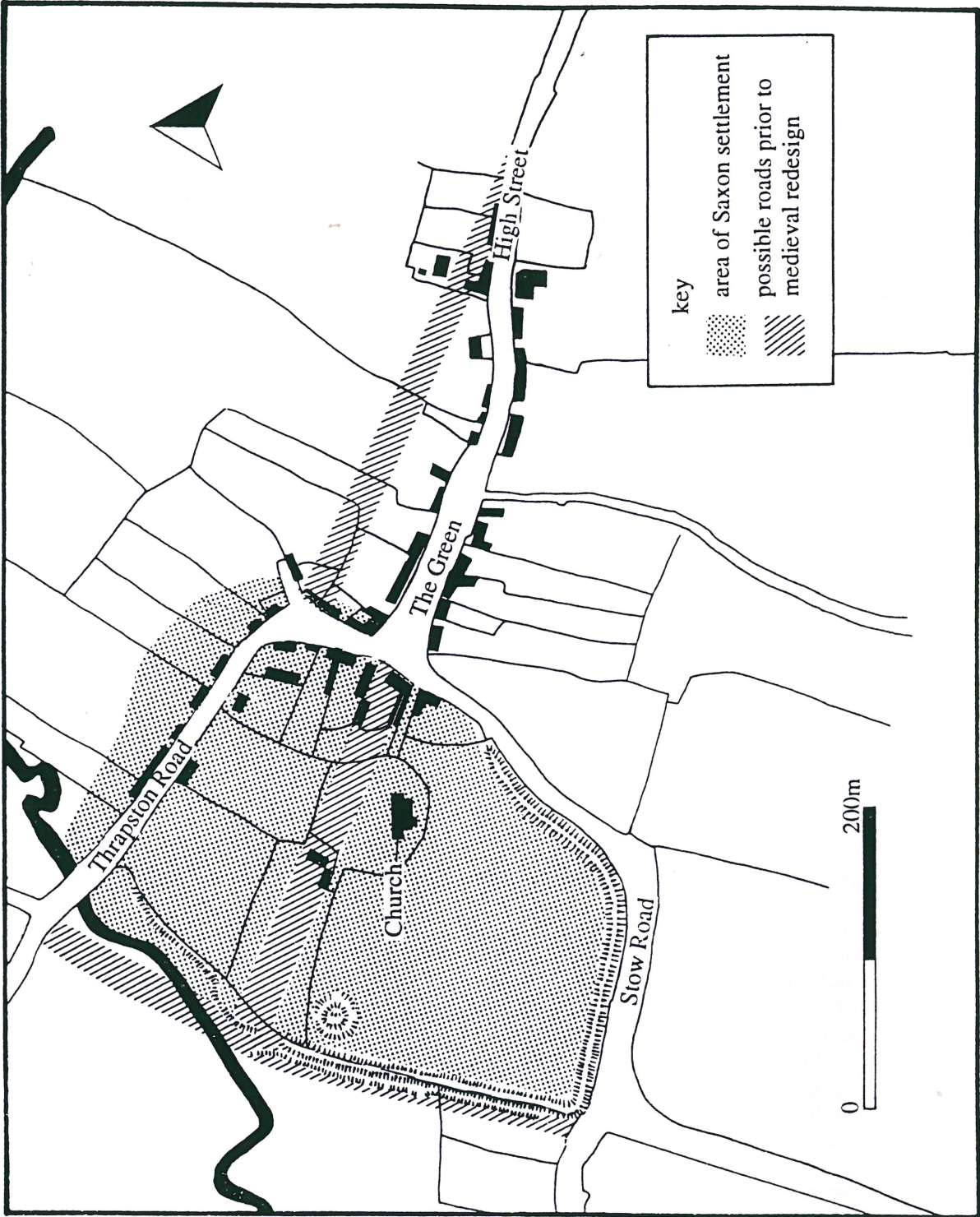


Figure 2 Plan of Spaldwick

the heart of the village, and its position in relation to the Thrapston Road and the Bishops palace enclosure, strongly suggested that the area might provide archaeological evidence of earlier phases of settlement, that could clarify the developmental history of the village (as outlined above), even though it lies outside the earthwork enclosure itself. The specific land-use history of the street front portion of the site did, however, suggest that there may have been damage to, or complete destruction of, any archaeological evidence that might be present. A range of methods were therefore used to ascertain the archaeological potential of the site.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Desk Top Study

A desk top study was carried out of the available documentary sources relating to the area to be developed and the village of Spaldwick as a whole. The study was based on cartographic and written documents available in the Huntingdon Records Office (HRO), and the Cambridgeshire Sites and Monuments Office (SMR). Documentary evidence was sparse, mainly consisting of maps and an article on the morphological history of Spaldwick by C.C. Taylor (1989).

3.2 Cartographic Evidence

The earliest maps available for Spaldwick are two enclosure maps from 1775 and 1776. These show that the property boundaries of the proposed development site have not changed appreciably since that time. On the enclosure maps, one building is shown to occupy the area of street frontage presently occupied by a bungalow. Since it is not clear how the 1776 street lies in relation to the road layout today, it is not clear exactly where this building stood in relation to the present street frontage. The fields behind the street front properties do not appear to have changed appreciably in function or size since 1776.

The next available map was the 1926 edition Ordnance Survey map. Although the property boundaries and function of the fields remain unaltered, the street front property appears to have been replaced with a more substantial building or buildings. More recent maps show the street frontage property with the bungalow that occupies the site today. From the cartographic evidence and from surviving foundations encountered during the evaluation, it is clear that this site has undergone several re-developments since the 1775 map was drawn. Apart from these maps, no evidence was found to indicate when the various buildings that have stood on the site were built or demolished.

The southern boundary of the property is an irregular shape and appears to be defined by a ditch, stream, or drain. It also appears that the village end of this property boundary was for at least some of its history, defined by a lane or alley-way (see Fig. 2).

3.3 SMR Archive

The SMR maps and database entries for Spaldwick mostly relate to standing Medieval and Post Medieval buildings (733a/b, 04549a), stone crosses etc. (911, 734, 722), and a gravestone (721). One stray find, (a medieval token) is recorded (840). Apart from these entries there are extensive traces of ridge and

furrow systems in the fields surrounding Spaldwick (719, 09853, 09855). The main focus of interest is however, the area between Thrapston Road and Stow road, to the west of the village green, immediately to the south of the proposed development area. As mentioned above, this area is largely open, with extensive evidence of earlier buildings, banks and ditches, visible as undulations in the overlying grassland. This is interpreted in the SMR as a deserted or shrunken medieval village (719). There is no record of any previous archaeological excavation in the village. The lack of any stray archaeological finds relating to the Saxon origins of the village may be a consequence of the realignment of the settlement in the medieval period, which may have either masked the earlier deposits, or shifted the focus of the village to an area where there was no former settlement.

3.4 Aerial Photographic Assessment

An assessment of the archaeological potential of the site from aerial photographic evidence was commissioned (Appendix B) in order to identify any features within the assessment area, or features in the immediate vicinity, that might have a bearing on the positioning of trenches during the assessment itself. Although the fields surrounding Spaldwick contain extensive traces of ridge and furrow agriculture, the specific area of assessment did not contain any traces of archaeological features. A rectangular feature visible in field 2 was believed to be a modern garden feature (see below and Appendix B).

3.5 Archaeological Evaluation

After the desk top study to evaluate the potential of the site from the existing archive evidence, an archaeological evaluation of the land was undertaken to ascertain whether this potential was realised. The land under assessment appears to have been largely abandoned for a number of years, having become overgrown with young trees, shrubs, brambles and long grass.

Since a bungalow still stood on the site at the start of the evaluation, problems were encountered in adequately evaluating the character and extent of the archaeology in the street front area. The evaluation was therefore undertaken in two phases. The first phase indicated that the majority of the site (behind the street front), was devoid of archaeological deposits, but that potentially significant deposits and cut features did indeed survive in the street front area. The feature identified in the air photographic survey was found to be caused by polythene tubing. Following the demolition of the bungalow and removal of the associated hard standing, the second phase of evaluation was undertaken to ascertain the extent, concentration, and character of the archaeological features prior to stripping the area for a large open area excavation.

The weather was cold and heavy snow flurries interrupted work towards the end of the first phase of evaluation. For the second phase, working conditions were even more unpleasant, with heavy rain making the overburden (already disturbed by the demolition of the bungalow) very muddy and soft. Recognition of features was hampered by ground water collecting rapidly in the cut trenches, and a leaking water pipe.

The results of the evaluation excavations are already presented in full elsewhere (Schlee 1996). Only a brief summary of the results and methodology will be given here. The positions of the evaluation trenches outside the main area of excavation are shown in Figure 1.

3.6 Deposit model

From the results of the evaluation excavations a deposit model was produced indicating the extent of archaeological deposits within the development area. Although most of the site contained no archaeology, the street front area showed survival of significant cut features. The second stage of evaluation showed that archaeological deposits survived beneath the bungalow foundations. These were believed to extend back from the Thrapston Road street front, for a distance of approximately 40m. At the time, the linear feature in the eastern end of Trench M was thought to represent an eastern boundary to the archaeological features. During the main excavation however, it became apparent that archaeological features may have continued further eastwards. No archaeological deposits were present in Trench E, indicating that the earlier settlement did not extend this far back from the street front. The main concentration of features was in the southern and eastern area of the site. There appear to be fewer features towards the street front. There also appears to have been some truncation of the archaeological deposits which possibly accounts for an apparently low concentration of features to the north. Late medieval activity seems to have removed any land surface associated with the earlier settlement. Approximately 0.40m of topsoil and late medieval deposits sealed the natural clays in which negative (cut) Saxo-Norman and medieval features were preserved. Figure 3, a section in Trench F from the first evaluation, illustrates the late medieval layers (8, 9 and 10) overlying Saxo-Norman features cut directly into natural clays.

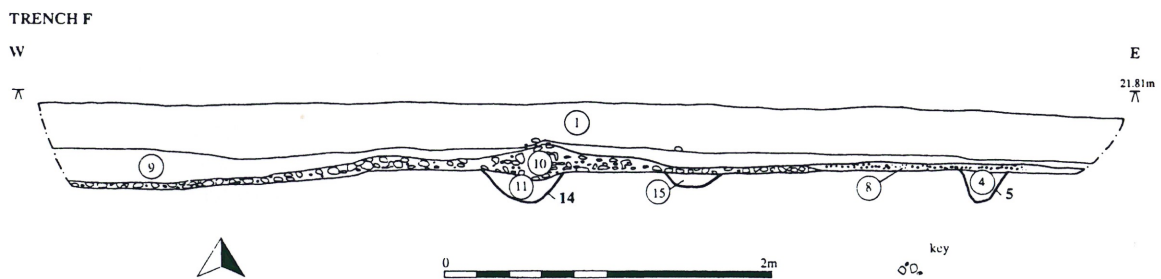


Figure 3 Trench section showing sequence of deposition

3.7 Open Area Excavation

From the results of the evaluation it was clear that significant archaeological features survived in the street front area. Since one of the most important aspects of these features was their orientation and alignment in relation to the lay-out of the present day village, it was decided that a large open area excavation would be the best way of ensuring that the character and orientation of the features would become clear.

The evaluation had revealed late medieval cobbled surfaces compacted into the top of the natural clays which sealed earlier features. While no ground surface was associated with these features, they survived as negative features cut into the clay. In light of this, it was decided to machine the later medieval cobbling away, where possible, in order to maximise exposure of the earlier features during the limited time available for excavation. The whole street front area was stripped down to the top of the natural clays into which archaeological features were cut (approximately 0.40m below the ground surface). The stripped area extended from the street front, 40m to the east to what was assumed from the assessment to be the limit of surviving archaeology (Fig. 1).

Features were excavated by hand and recorded according to standard AFU procedures. Trench edges and a pre-excavation plan were plotted using a total station (EDM and electronic theodolite), and excavated features were planned by hand. Pits postholes and small linear features were half sectioned or fully excavated. Larger features were sampled with one or more sections being excavated where appropriate.

3.8 Limiting factors

Freezing weather conditions throughout the main excavation period, meant that initial stripping of the overburden and cleaning of the cleared area, was difficult. Heavy frosts meant that the ground was frozen for much of the day, occasionally thawing in the afternoon to produce sodden working conditions.

The extent of the stripped area was dictated by limits of time, staffing, spoil removal, the presence of trees, and the supposed limits of the archaeology ascertained during the evaluations.

It became apparent towards the end of the excavation that archaeological features continued eastwards beyond the limit of the excavation, but limited time prevented further excavation.

4 RESULTS

4.1 General description of archaeological deposits

With the exception of some ditches, pits and post holes, the majority of features were generally very shallow. To some extent this is due to disturbance and truncation in later periods. The distribution of surviving archaeological features may therefore be a result of differential preservation rather than reflecting the original distribution of buildings and other features.

To the east of the site, however, where the density of features appears to be greater, and the amount of modern intrusion to be less, depth of survival is not greatly improved. This may suggest that to the north and west of the site, where the intensity of later truncation and intrusion is greatest, evidence of ephemeral structures (such as beam slots), may have been obliterated entirely. This makes interpretation of the surviving structural elements more problematic.

Due to this truncation, over the majority of the site, most features are sealed directly below topsoil and cut directly into the underlying natural. There are, however, some stratigraphic relationships between cut features which physically indicate different phases of activity.

4.2 Phasing and grouping

The three ways of interpreting the collection of features excavated are by their spatial association, their stratigraphic relationships, and the dating evidence obtained from pottery recovered from the excavated features. The overall lack of stratigraphic relationships, the wide date ranges of the ceramic evidence, and constraints on the area available for excavation, all conspired to make phasing grouping and interpretation of features problematic.

Features have been grouped together that appear to share alignments, functional characteristics, stratigraphic relationships, or which appear likely to form buildings or parts of buildings. Where individual features do not seem to be associated with neighbouring features, but have a distinct date range, they have been grouped together within a phase. Except for the buildings and the southern property boundary, few of the features could be grouped to form coherent or meaningful sets of features. Some of the groups contain a wide range of pottery dates and some phases are only defined by stratigraphic relationships between features within a single date group.

4.3 Dating

Dating of the features and phases is based primarily on the ceramic evidence recovered during the excavation. Analysis and interpretation of the ceramic assemblage presents a few problems and is discussed in detail in Appendix A, but some aspects will be discussed briefly at this stage.

The length of the excavation meant that most features could only be sampled, rather than fully excavated. Consequently the quantity of ceramics recovered from some features, groups, and phases is not large. This has implications both for interpreting the functional character of the pottery, and the accuracy and reliability of the dating evidence.

During the evaluation stages, it was thought that much of the pottery was of Late Saxon date, suggesting that considerable Saxon remains might survive on the site. More detailed post-excavation analysis however, indicated that much of this pottery was in fact of medieval date (see Appendix A), although some Late Saxon to Saxo-Norman features were indeed present.

Pottery from features grouped in different phases, shows considerable overlap in the date range. This is partly due to a lack of fine resolution in dating ceramic types for this period and the long span of production for certain pottery types, but is probably also a result of continuity in the use-history of the site. Consequently, it is difficult to separate groups and phases, where stratigraphic relationships are lacking. Closer analysis of the pottery has allowed a slightly tighter range of dates to be attributed to the various phases, as is indicated on the table below (Fig. 4).

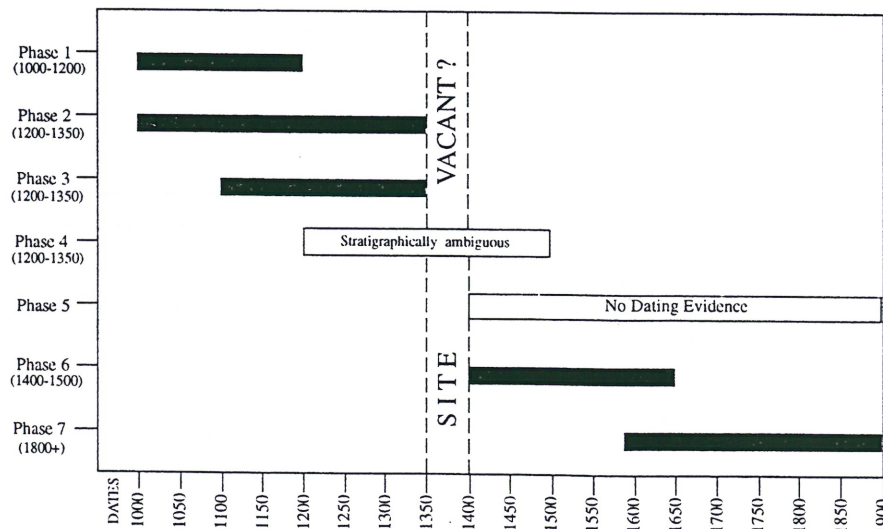


Figure 4 Table of pottery dates within phases

4.4 Summary of phases

A "phase" does not necessarily imply a group of archaeological features that coincides with a specific historical period. The following Phases are defined by dating evidence from pottery and stratigraphic relationships which indicate distinct archaeological events within broader date-groups. As will be apparent in the text, the interpretation and allocation of features to a particular phase is sometimes difficult. For this reason, in the interpretation section of this report, Phases 1, 2, 3, and 4, will be discussed as a continuity of occupation, but at this stage it is useful to break the site up into its constituent parts.

Plans of the site showing the features attributed to each phase accompany the feature and group descriptions in Section 5.

Phase 1 (1000-1200)

The earliest pottery dates (1000 to 1200), were recovered from beam slots associated with the two clear structural groups (Buildings A and B). Elsewhere on site, early pottery dates occur only in feature **24** (fill 22), and **34** (fill 33). **24** is a post hole within beam slot **26**, possibly the remnant of another building. **34** is a pit base or post hole. Since **34** is possibly associated with other similar features which contain slightly later pottery, the early date for this feature may be a result of residuality. Due to the uncertainty of their association both with buildings A and B and with other features, these two features have been assigned to Phase 2.

Two features contain date ranges between 1000 and 1350. **127** (fill 126) appears to be a pit that cuts beam slot **129** (part of Building A). The pottery in this feature covers a wider date range, but is still possibly contemporary with the rest of Building A. In addition, its location in relation to building A, strongly suggests it is structurally associated. Pit **140** (fill 123) also cuts beam slot **129** and contains early pottery, but is very unlikely to be contemporary with Building A (hence its allocation to Phase 3).

Cut **14** (fill 11), appears to be part of Building B, but contains pottery dating up to 1350. In this case the later material may be intrusive, since during excavation the feature was seen to be sealed by cobbled surface 10, but was heavily disturbed by root or animal activity.

Phase 2 (1200-1350)

The majority of other features, although not stratigraphically related to buildings A and B, may nevertheless be associated with them. They all contain pottery with a date range between 1200 and 1350. Although these dates are later than the dates for buildings A and B, since these features generally respect the alignments of the buildings (or at least do not appear to overlie or cut any of them), they may reflect continuity of activity during the period that the buildings were standing. In addition, there is no good evidence for later buildings within the area of excavation, more closely associated with these features than Buildings A and B.

Phase 3 (1200-1350)

There are a number of features that are demonstrably later than the features assigned to Phase 2 in that they are stratigraphically later than them. These

features are cut into the earlier features which seem to have been completely or partially filled in by the time the later features were cut. The date range of the pottery recovered from these features is, however, also within the 1200 to 1350 bracket, suggesting that the buildings and their associated features may have gradually fallen out of use during this period. There is no evidence of a new settlement phase associated with these features, and it seems likely that Phases 2, 3, and 4, represent continuity of occupation and abandonment of the site.

Phase 4 (1200-1350)

Features that are definitely, or probably, stratigraphically later than Phase 3 features. Dating evidence from the pottery however also falls within the 1200-1350 range. The features themselves are difficult to interpret individually and as a group, but again, are probably continuous with Phases 2 and 3. They have been phased separately because while they cannot be physically associated with the earlier phases, they are demonstrably stratigraphically earlier features in Phase 5.

Phase 5 (no reliable dating evidence)

Burnt features that are definitely later than Phase 4. There is no dating evidence for this phase of activity and no clear structural associations, but it is clear from their locations and stratigraphic relationships that they cannot be associated with the preceding phases.

Phase 6 (1400-1500)

The next phase of features and deposits contains pottery with a date range between 1400 and 1500. From this evidence there appears to have been a break in activity on the site between 1350 and 1400-1450. Although this is possibly associated with a change in land use or settlement pattern, it also coincides with a generally recognised decline in population, and social cohesion throughout Britain at this time. The causes of this decline are widely debated, but are probably due to a combination of events. The issue is summarised concisely in Bigmore (1979).

This phase is mostly represented by a layer of soil and a cobbled surface associated with later occupation on the site. In the assessment phases of this excavation, these deposits were found to be masking the earlier features, and were removed along with the topsoil when the area was stripped for full excavation. Some of the deposits survived, however, in cut features and undulations in the natural ground surface. Due to truncation in later periods, no evidence survives of any buildings associated with this phase.

Phase 7 (1800+)

Lastly, a series of drains, post holes and other cut features and deposits containing pottery dating between 1800 and 1900, were located throughout the site. These are presumably associated with the buildings that have stood on the site, but for which no other evidence survives.

4.5 Summary of finds

The quantity of finds recovered from the assessments and main excavation is not great. While most of the finds are pot sherds, there is also a fair quantity of animal bone (mostly from layer 10). A tabular summary of the quantities and weights of the different finds categories recovered is included with this excavation summary (Appendix E). None of the assemblages are large enough to justify analysis on a statistical basis. Environmental sampling was limited to the burnt features in Phase 5 in order to ascertain the origin of these deposits. A number of lumps of iron slag were recovered from the fills of features in Phase 4. All finds have been processed and are currently stored at the AFU office in Fulbourn. The finds are described in more detail in the appendices and discussion section.

5 FEATURE AND GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

The following feature descriptions are divided up into the phases defined above according to the dating evidence they contained. Where possible they are further grouped according to possible spatial, functional, and structural associations.

5.1 PHASE 1 (1000-1200 AD)

Building A

119, 120, 126, 127, 128, 129, 131, 132, 135, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147.

These features appear to represent part of a building consisting of beam slots and post holes. Two possible roof-supporting postholes are present within the area of excavation. These post holes are, however, not very substantial (see fig. 5). The building appears to have been truncated to the north by post medieval activity. From the proportion of the building that survives within the excavation area it is not clear whether the building is orientated on an east-west or north-south axis. Feature 127 may mark the north-east corner of the building, which would make its western side 8.0m long, its east-west dimensions are not certain.

- 119 Post hole cut. Circular in plan with gradually sloping sides. A slight depression in the base of the cut may represent a post setting but there is no post pipe visible in the fill. Diameter 0.90m, depth 0.30m. Likely to be structurally associated with post hole cut 132.
- 120 Fill of 119. 10YR 4/2. Compact dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional pebbles and flint gravel and occasional charcoal flecks.
- 126 Fill of 127. 10YR 5/4 dark yellow brown sandy clay with occasional flint gravel and flecks of charcoal.
- 127 Pit/post hole cut. Subcircular (approx. diameter 0.80m) cut, with concave sides, a level base 0.20m deep. believed to cut the fill of beam slot 129, but this is not certain. 127 may represent a post hole associated with the possible end of 129 (see below).
- 128 Fill of 129. 10YR 4/5 dark yellowish brown silty clay with lumps of yellow clay. Occasional gravel and charcoal flecks.

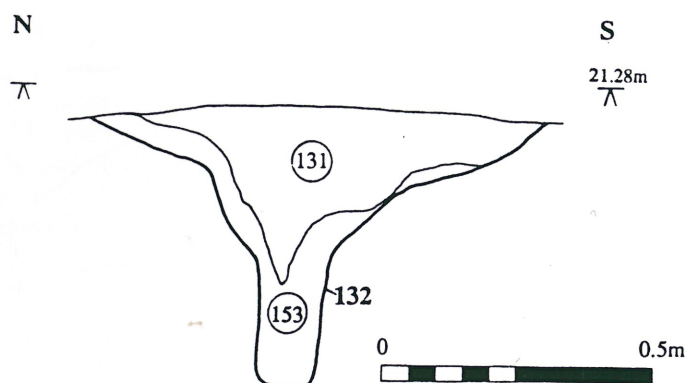


Figure 5 Section through posthole 132 in Building A

- 129** Beam slot cut, 9.8m long, 0.40m wide, and up to 0.20m deep, with vertical sides and a level base. Aligned N-S, it forms the western side of Building A. To the south, it curves towards the S-E, forming a probable doorway between beam slot 144 and in association with post hole 145 and. 129 is truncated by pits 139 and 140. To the north, it either terminates where associated with pit/post hole 127, or else its continuation northwards is truncated by twentieth century disturbance (it may have extended as far as the northern end of ditch cut 113).
- 131** Fill of 132. 2.5Y 4/2 dark greyish brown silty clay. Occasional pebbles, chalk and charcoal flecks.
- 132** Post hole cut. Circular (diameter 0.80m), with sides sloping down to a rectangular post pipe 0.10m wide. Total depth 0.60m. This feature appears to be associated with post hole 120, forming central supports within Building A.
- 135** Post hole cut. An additional post hole 0.12m deep, contained within cut 132. Also rectangular. maximum length 0.20m
- 143** Fill of 144 and 145. 2.5Y3/2 Dark greyish brown plastic clayey silt with occasional pebbles and flint gravel. Occasional charcoal flecks.
- 144** Beam slot cut. Linear 0.15m deep, 0.33m wide, aligned E-W, forming the southern side of Building A. The total length of the cut is unknown, but 2.60m lies within the area of excavation. The gap between the western terminus of 144 (which contains post hole 145) and 129, forms a doorway in association with post holes 147 and.
- 145** Post hole cut. Square-ish post hole within, and forming the terminus of beam slot 144. Length 0.24m, width 0.26m, depth 0.25m.
- 146** Fill of 147. 2.5Y 3/2 dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles, flint gravel, and charcoal flecks.
- 147** Post hole cut. Positioned just to the west of the western terminus of beam slot 144. Circular in plan, stepped in profile where post pipe continues deeper. Diameter 0.25m, depth 0.12m. It appears likely to be associated with the end of beam slot 129, possibly representing a doorway structure.

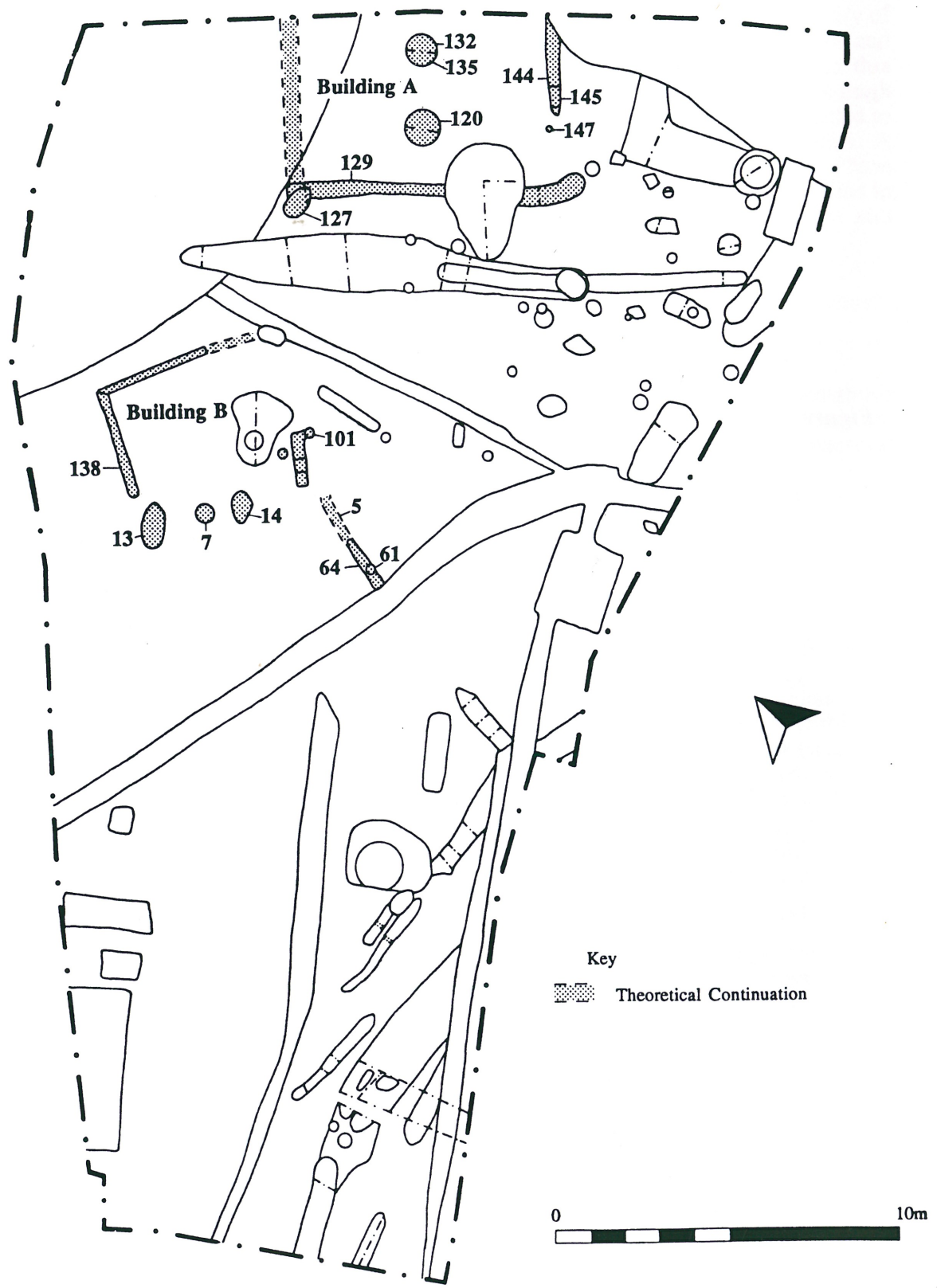


Figure 6 Plan of features in Phase 1

Building B

6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 137, 138, 100, 101.

These features may represent a small structure (an outhouse or shed?), or possibly part of an otherwise truncated larger building. The south-western side is believed to consist of three post holes. The other sides consist of beam slots, but survival is patchy, especially in the south-west corner. Other linear features in the vicinity (see below), may be associated with this structure, but are on sufficiently different alignments to make this uncertain.

- 6 Fill of 7. 5Y 3/2 dark olive brown slightly sandy silty clay with occasional flint gravel and nodules. Moderately compact.
- 7 Post hole? cut. Circular (diameter 0.70m, depth 0.20m), with concave sides continuous with concave base.
- 11 Fill of 14. 10YR 3/3 dark brown plastic silty clay.
- 12 Fill of 13. 5Y 3/2 dark olive grey, moderately compact, friable, clayey silt with occasional coarse sand and gravel and occasional charcoal flecks.
- 13 Post hole? cut. Sub-rectangular with curved ends. Appears to be aligned with 7 and 14, and possibly with 137, to form a possible structure (Building B). Depth 0.40m.
- 14 Post hole cut. Sub-circular (diameter 0.80m), with steep irregular sides and an uneven base. Possibly a post hole associated with 13 and 7 (part of Building B).
- 137 Fill of 138. Plastic silty clay with occasional pebbles.
- 138 Beam slot cut. L-shaped. Length 3.8m, width 0.25m, depth 0.10m). Part of possible building B. Appears to be truncated, or too ephemeral to survive to the SE.
- 100 Fill of 101. 2.5Y 4/2. Dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional flint pebbles and chalk nodules. Depth 0.13m.
- 101 Post hole cut. Circular (diameter 0.25m), vertical sides with concave base (depth 0.13m).

Structural features, possibly associated with building B

4, 5, 61, 62, 63, 64.

These features have the characteristics of a beam slot structure but their alignment and possible structural associations are not clear. They are possibly associated structurally with beam slot 26, although significantly different in character. As a group they are more similar to the features forming Building B, but the two are not well aligned.

- 4 Fill of 5. 10YR 4/1 dark grey silty clay with occasional large cobbles.
- 5 Beam slot? cut. Same feature as 64. Aligned SW-NE. Linear cut with steep sides and a flat base Maximum depth 0.34m, width 0.46m. Length uncertain due to truncation at both ends.
- 61 Post hole cut. Rounded square with vertical sides and a level base. within beam slot 64 / 5. (width 0.24m, length 0.24m, depth 0.23m).
- 62 Fill of 61. 2.5Y 4/2 dark greyish brown plastic clayey silt with occasional flint gravel, pebbles and chalk chips.

- 63 Fill of 64. 5Y 3/1 very dark grey plastic clayey silt with moderately frequent flint gravel, pebbles and occasional chalk chips, and moderate flecks and fragments of charcoal.
- 64 Beam slot cut. The same as 5 (excavated in assessment phase) Depth 0.11m, length 1.92m, width 0.22m.

5.2 PHASE 2 (1200-1350 AD)

Possible post alignment

31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 50, 51

These features form a line of post holes possibly representing a fence. It is presumably associated with Building A. There is a possible entrance between features 36 and 45 since they appear relatively far apart. In addition, two unexcavated features (A and B on plan) may represent post settings for supporting a gate associated with this entrance. It was not possible to locate continuations of this possible fence line to the east or west, possibly due to later truncation.

- 31 Fill of 32. Dark olive brown, slightly sandy silty clay. With moderate charcoal flecks, occasional mussel fragments.
- 32 Pit/post hole cut. Sub-circular (length 0.95m, width 0.85m), shallow (depth 0.15m) cut that appears to be associated with other similar features, forming a line of possible post holes.
- 33 Fill of 34. Dark olive brown, slightly silty sandy clay with occasional pebbles, gravel, and charcoal flecks.
- 34 Pit/post hole cut. Sub-circular, (length 1.00m, width 0.85m) shallow (depth 0.15m) cut. Similar to and possibly aligned with 32 etc.
- 35 Fill of 36. Dark olive brown, slightly silty sandy clay with occasional pebbles, flint gravel, and charcoal flecks.
- 36 Pit/ post hole cut. Truncated during third phase machining, but originally of similar dimensions to 32 / 34 (length 0.90m, width 0.80m, depth 0.15m) One of a row of apparently aligned features possibly forming a fence line.
- 44 Fill of 45. 10YR 3/2. Compact, plastic, very dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional gravel and pebbles.
- 45 Pit/post hole cut. Subrectangular (length 0.97m, width 0.55m), shallow cut (depth 0.11m). Similar to, and on same alignment as, 32 / 34 etc. The gap between 36 and 45, may indicate an entrance way.
- 50 Fill of post hole 51. Stiff, plastic, lightly sandy clay with occasional pebbles and gravel and charcoal flecks.
- 51 Post hole cut. Circular (diameter 0.34m) cut, with vertical sides and a slightly concave base (depth 0.14m). Smaller than, but possibly associated with 32 / 34 since it is on a similar alignment.

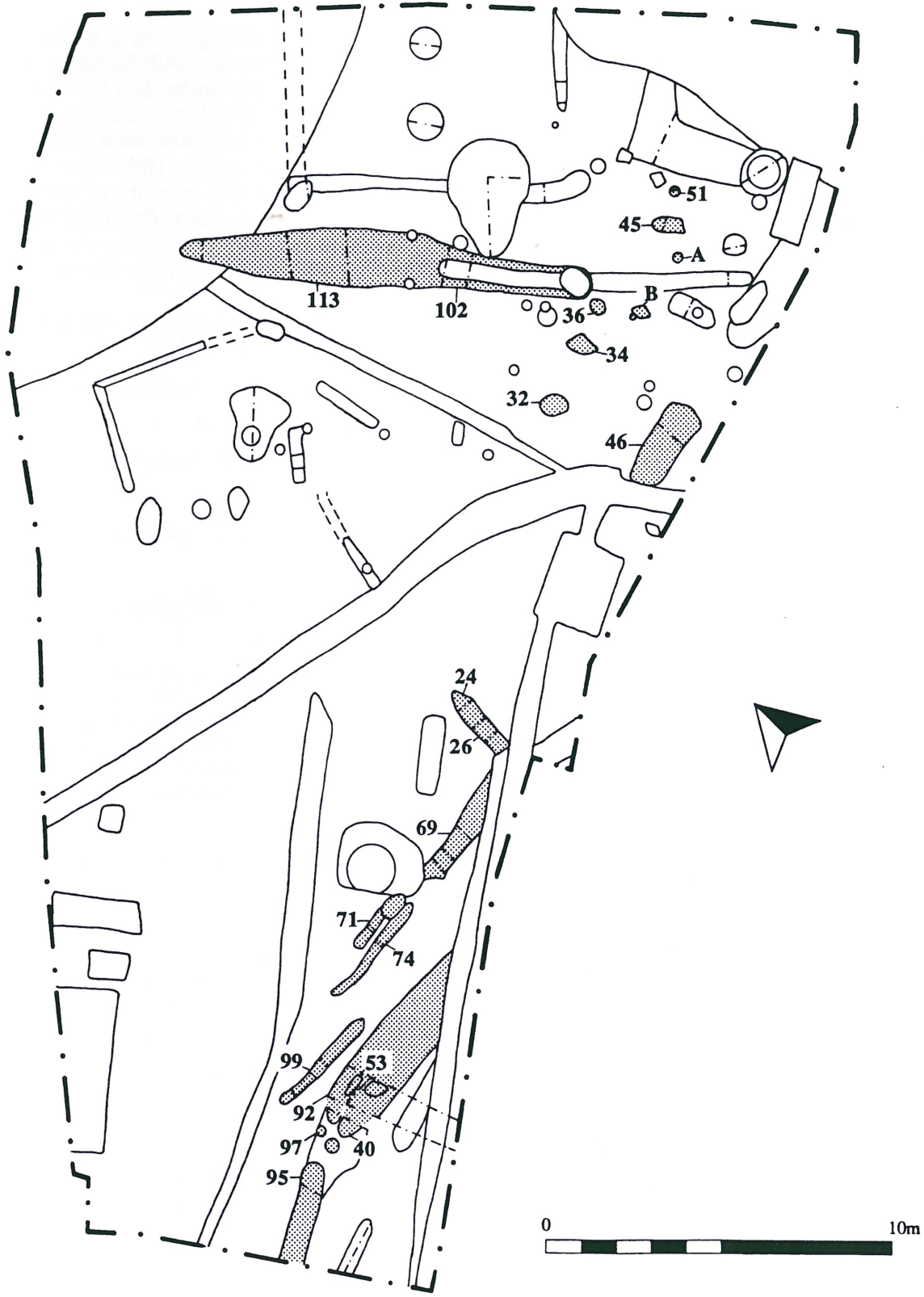


Figure 7 Plan of features in Phase 2

Ditch

102, 103, 107, 106, 113, 112, 125.

This ditch runs parallel to the western side of Building A on a north-south alignment, It does not appear to be associated structurally with building A, but may be a related drainage feature or property boundary ditch. It is truncated by linear ditch **89/104**, which is on the same alignment, but continues further south. It is likely that **89/104** was dug in order to drain into ditch **102** which must have been at least partially filled in by the time ditch **104** was cut. The effects of truncation, however, make it appear that **102** was out of use when **104** was cut. This interpretation is supported by the greater width of the ditch at the northern end (beyond the end of **104**), and the evidence for the ditch being re-cut (see below), suggesting that the ditch was cleared out after **104** was cut.

- 102** Linear ditch cut with slightly concave sides and a gradual break of slope down to a fairly even, flat base. Depth 0.30m, width 1.14m, length <1.80m.
- 103** Fill of **102**. Slightly sticky, 10YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown clay silt with occasional pebbles..
- 107** Fill of **106**. 2.5Y Very dark greyish brown slightly sticky clayey silt with occasional small pebbles
- 106** Linear ditch cut? I am doubtful that this really exists. It is probably the western side of ditch **102** / **113**.
- 112** Fill of **113**. Friable 5Y 3/2 dark olive grey silty clay, with moderate cobbles and gravel, with chalk and sandstone flecks.
- 113** Linear ditch cut same as **102**. sides irregular, the base of the pit widens and deepens to the south. Depth 0.79m, width 1.85m, length <1.80m. There appeared to be a gully in the base of the cut and the increased depth of the cut, in comparison to the section cut further to the south, may suggest that the ditch was dug out or re-cut. This possibly supports its interpretation as some kind of drainage ditch. The apparent uniformity of the fills may suggest that ultimately the ditch was intentionally back-filled rather than gradually silting up.
- 125** Fill of **113**. Plastic 5Y 5/3 olive clayey silt with moderate cobbles, flint gravel and frequent flecks of charcoal.

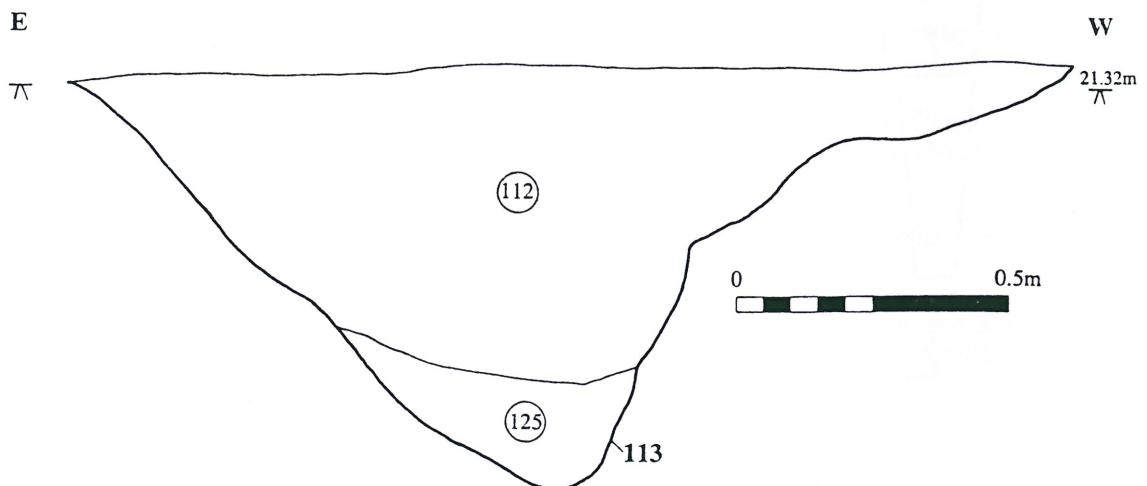


Figure 8 Section through ditch **113**

Pit

46, 58, 76, 77, 78.

This feature may be associated with linear feature 150, but is significantly different in character and its association must therefore be tentative (see Fig.9). The upper fills of this pit contained evidence of local iron smelting in the form of lumps of iron-rich slaggy "blooms". A brief explanation of the iron smelting process is available in Hodges (1989). Lower fills suggest the feature gradually silted up, suggesting a possible drainage function.

- 46 Pit cut. Rectangular with curved ends, aligned E-W. Moderately steep, slightly concave sides which step down towards the bottom to form a level base. Depth 0.05m, width 1.10m, length 3.0m. Originally thought to be pit at terminus of linear cut 150, but in retrospect it seems more likely that 46 cuts 150.
- 58 Fill of 46. 2.5 Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown slightly sandy clayey silt with occasional gravel, pebbles, moderate charcoal flecks and fragments with occasional burnt clay/daub flecks. Looser and more friable than 76. Depth 0.20m.
- 76 Fill of 46. 2.5Y 4/4 olive brown, moderately compact, friable, sandy silty clay, with occasional gravel and pebbles. Thickness 0.15m.
- 77 Fill of 46. 5Y 4/3 Olive, moist ,sticky (wet) slightly sandy silty clay with occasional gravel. Maximum thickness 0.25m. Appears to be primary fill, probably natural silting up through weathering.
- 78 Fill of 46. 5Y 5/3 Olive to 5Y 6/4 Pale olive, moderately compact, friable, mottled sandy clay with moderate gravel, and occasional Charcoal and burnt clay flecks. This deposit is probably weathered natural, the charcoal and burnt clay are probably present due to root action etc.

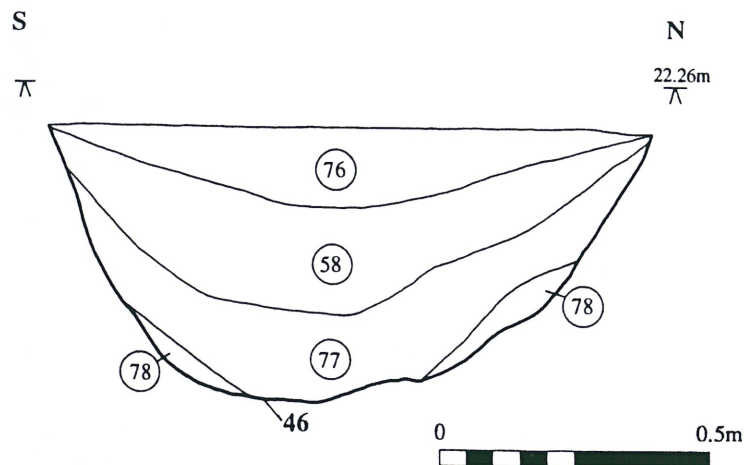


Figure 9 Section through pit 46

Possible Beamslots or Fence Lines

18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 74, 75, 98, 99

These linear features, although characteristic of structural beam slots, do not clearly form a coherent building. They may represent fence lines running parallel to the property boundary immediately to the south and turning north towards Building B. Alternatively they could be the vestige of a building, the majority of which has been truncated.

- 18 Linear ditch cut. Triangular section of ditch that ran across the corner of Trench I in the second phase of evaluation. A wide based U-shaped ditch. Unfortunately, its Stratigraphic relationships are truncated by a modern drain cut, but it appears most likely to be a continuation of property boundary ditch cut 47. Alternatively, it could be a continuation of linear cut 69, which may either be structural, or else a fence trench.
- 19 Fill of 18. Mid grey brown friable slightly clayey silty sand with occasional cobbles, pebbles, and flint gravel.
- 20 Linear ditch cut. Appears to be a re-cut within ditch 18, perhaps supporting its interpretation as a fence trench or beam slot.
- 21 Fill of 20. Mid to dark greyish brown friable slightly clayey silty sand with occasional cobbles, pebbles, gravel and occasional charcoal flecks.
- 22 Fill of 24. Mid grey mottled with light orange mottling, firm, plastic, slightly silty clay, with occasional gravel and fragments of charcoal.
- 23 Fill of 24. Light grey with frequent orange mottling, firm, plastic, slightly silty clay, frequent pebbles and gravel, occasional flecks of charcoal and burnt daub/clay.
- 24 Post hole cut. Oval post hole at the end of beam slot 26, depth 0.18m, length 0.80m, width 0.60m, with vertical sides and a flat base.
- 25 Fill of 26. Dark brown/ grey firm, plastic, slightly silty clay with occasional pebbles and cobbles and frequent flecks of charcoal.
- 26 Beam slot cut. Linear beam slot on an NE-SW alignment. Length >1.3m, width 0.50m, depth 0.30m. Appears to be approximately at right angles to linear cuts 69 and 18 / 20, supporting their interpretation as being structural, although their characteristics are somewhat different. Unfortunately the exact relationship between these features is uncertain due to truncation by a modern drain cut.
- 67 Fill of 69. 2.5Y 4/1 Dark grey soft, plastic, silty clay with occasional flint gravel, pebbles, and charcoal flecks.
- 68 Fill of 69. 5Y 4/2 Olive grey compacted firm, fine silty clay with occasional chalk flecks, flint gravel, pebbles, and charcoal flecks.
- 69 Beam slot? Cut. Width 0.75m, depth 0.30m. U-shaped linear with a flat base, on an approximate E-W alignment. Possibly structurally associated with cuts 18 and 26 but its Stratigraphic relationships are truncated by a modern drain cut. It appears to terminate (but is also truncated by modern well cut 88), to the west. It is possibly also structurally associated with 70 and 74 to the west.
- 70 Beam slot? cut. Linear cut on an E-W alignment, depth 0.09m, width 0.30m, length 2.0m. It appears to terminate (and to be truncated by modern well cut 88), to the east. The eastern terminus also appears to contain a post hole 0.80m by 0.40m. The gap between 70 / 74 and 69, may be an entrance way.
- 71 Fill of 70. 10 YR 3/2 Dark greyish brown, plastic, sandy silty clay with occasional flint gravel and frequent flecks of gravel.

- 74 Beam slot? cut. Running parallel to cut 70 and the property boundary ditches, on an E-W alignment. 0.09m deep, >2.0m long, 0.20m wide, with roughly vertical sides and a flat, sloping base.
- 75 Fill of 74. 10YR 3/2 Dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent flint gravel and flecks of charcoal.
- 98 Fill of 99. 5Y 3/1 Very dark grey, soft loose, clayey silt with occasional gravel, pebbles and charcoal flecks.
- 99 Beam slot? cut. Running parallel to the property boundary ditches and possible beam slots 70, 74, 69, and 18. Length >4.0m, width 0.40m, depth 0.13m. Although apparently a beam slot, it does not appear to make any structural sense, and may be a fence post trench.

East-West Property Boundary

37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 52, 53, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97,

A series of closely associated parallel linear ditches to the south of the site, probably forming a property boundary. There seems to be a possible entrance between ditch 95 and 40. The general alignment of these ditches seems to be on an east-west axis, slightly straighter and further north than the southern property boundary that exists in the present day.

- 37 Fill of 40. 2.5Y 4/1 Dark grey, compact, friable, silty clay with occasional flint gravel.
- 38 Fill of 40. 2.5Y 4/3 Olive brown compacted silty clay with occasional flint gravel, pebbles and chalk flecks.
- 39 Fill of 40. 2.5Y 5/4 Light olive brown very compacted clayey silt with occasional chalk and chert pebbles.
- 40 Linear ditch cut. A V-shaped linear on an E-W alignment, interpreted as a property boundary ditch. Cut 95 is believed to be a continuation of the same feature, the gap between the two being an entrance way (as is the case with cuts 43 and 30). Depth 0.18m, length 10.0m, width 1.0m.
- 41 Fill of 40. 2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown very compact silty clay with occasional chalk and chert pebbles and gravel.
- 52 Fill of 53. 2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown, very compacted, plastic, silty clay with occasional flint gravel.
- 53 Post hole cut. Narrow (0.20m) rectangular (0.60m long) cut with vertical sides, presumed to have been a plank (or post hole) associated with the property boundary.
- 92 Linear ditch? cut. On an E-W alignment, parallel to, and probably cut by linear cut 40. Depth 0.22m length >2.0m, width 0.57m. Possibly a shallow/truncated ditch cut, or a fence post trench. Irregular sides, flat sloping base. Appears to contain possible post hole cut 53.
- 93 Fill of 92. 2.5Y 4/1 Dark grey fairly compacted friable fine silty clay with moderate chalk and flint pebbles, gravel, occasional cobbles.
- 94 Fill of 95. 2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown fairly compacted clayey sand with occasional pebbles and gravel.

- 95 Linear ditch cut. Wide U-shaped shallow butt-ended ditch. Width 0.70m, depth 0.23m, length unknown. Aligned E-W. terminates to the east, with gap before associated cut 40, forming an entrance way.
- 96 Fill of 97. 2.5Y 4/1 Dark grey fairly compacted friable fine silty clay with moderate chalk and flint pebbles, gravel, and occasional cobbles.
- 97 Post hole cut. Immediately to west of butt end of cut 92. Presumably associated with possible entrance way in the property boundary ditches. Circular, 0.90m, deep, diameter 0.23m.

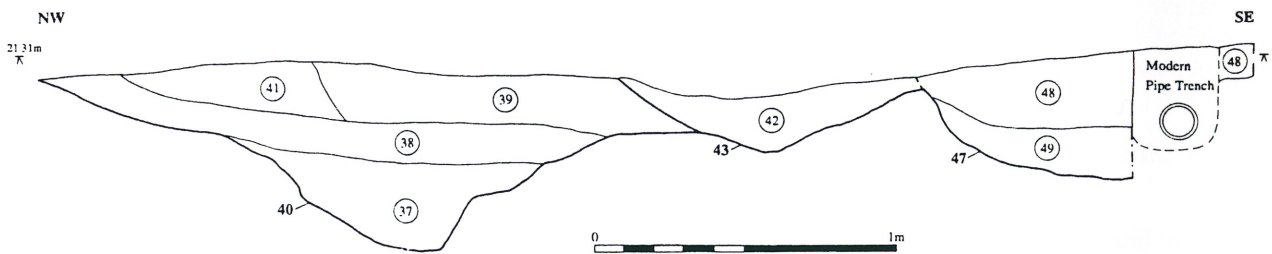


Figure 10 Section through east-west property boundary

5.3 PHASE 3 (1200-1350 AD)

East - West Property Boundary

29, 30, 42, 43.

A stratigraphically later, shallow ditch, running parallel to the main east-west property boundary, but slightly to the south. It appears to reflect the possible entrance way present between ditches 95, 92, and 40, indicating that the property was re-defined during the site's history (see Fig.10).

- 29 Fill of 30. Light olive brown, soft, sticky, slightly silty sandy clay with frequent gravel, moderate pebbles.
- 30 linear cut on an E-W alignment. 0.40m wide, 0.10m deep. Originally thought to be a possible beam slot, but in relation to the other linear features, is probably the base of a truncated ditch associated with cut 43, the gap between the two being an entrance way (as is the case with cuts 40 and 95).
- 42 Fill of 43. 2.5Y 4/1 Dark grey very compact fine silty clay with frequent pebbles and gravel.
- 43 Linear ditch cut. A V-shaped linear on an E-W alignment presumed to be a property boundary ditch. Appears to be associated with cut 30, the gap between the two forming an entrance way (as is the case with cuts 40 and 95, immediately to the north).

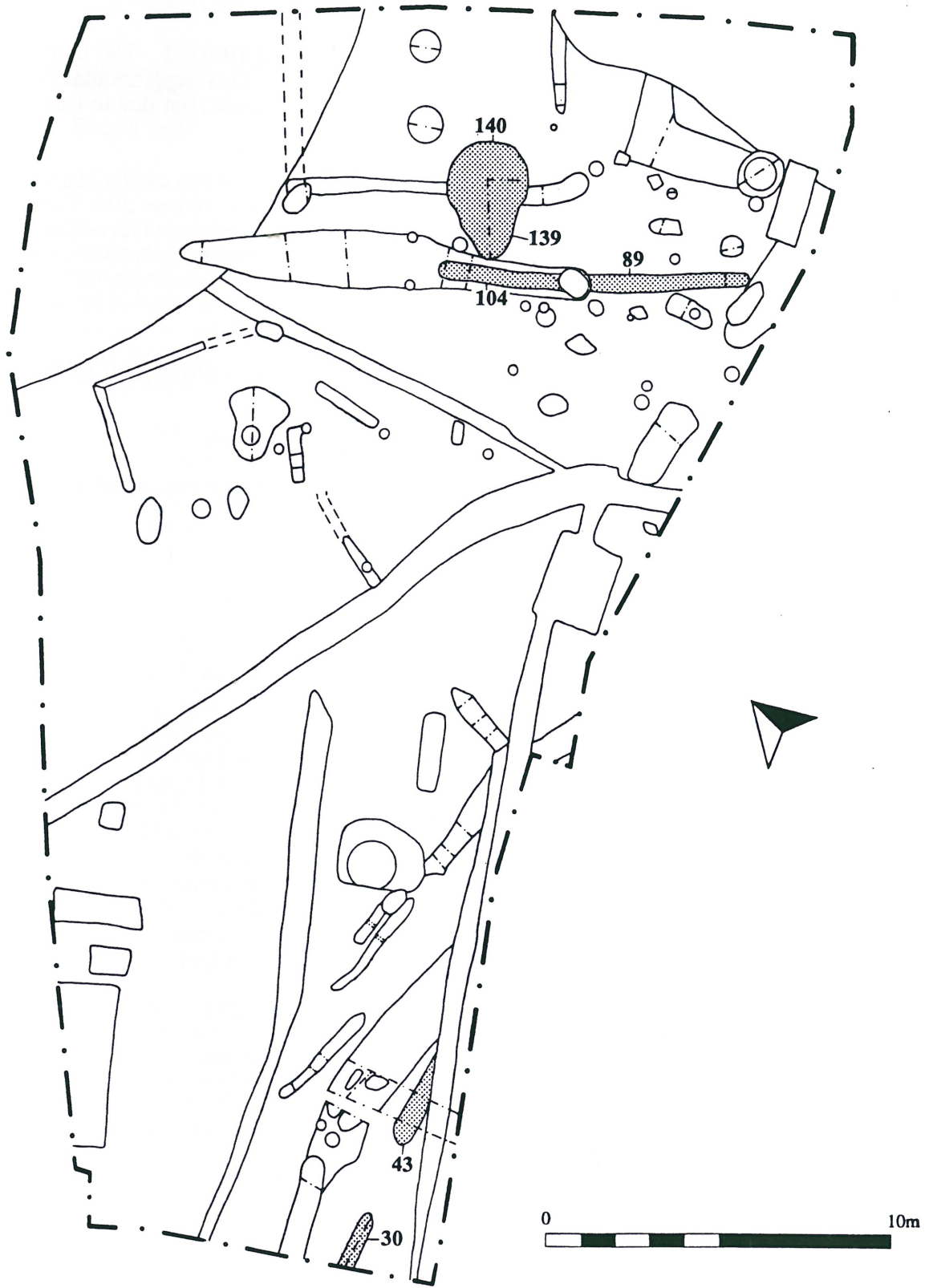


Figure 11 Plan of features in Phase 3

Drainage Ditch

89, 90, 104, 105.

A drainage ditch running between feature **150** and **102/113**. The latter must have been partially in-filled when **89/104** was cut. This suggests that Phase 3 represents a continuity of use with the preceding phases, but due to truncation they appear as stratigraphically discrete phases.

- 89** Linear ditch cut. A linear cut on a NW-SE orientation, 0.20m deep, 0.52m wide and 3.22 m long, with concave sides continuous with a rounded base. This feature may either be intended as a drain between feature **150** and ditch **113**, or else it may represent a fence line associated with the possible entrance way between features **46** and **150**. Although originally interpreted as a possible beam slot, on excavation **89** did not seem to have the right characteristics, and did not appear to be structurally related to any other features in the vicinity. (same as **104**).
- 90** Fill of **89** (same as 105). 5Y4/1. Clayey silt with moderate large pebbles, flint gravel and occasional charcoal flecks.
- 104** Linear ditch cut. Same as **89**. A wide U-shaped linear cut.
- 105** Fill of **104**. Same as 90. 2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown clay silt with occasional pebbles.

Intercutting Pits or Well?

121, 122, 123, 139, 140.

Two apparently intercutting pits that cut beam slot **129**, of Building B. This suggests that Building B had been demolished by this time. The dating evidence from these features is however, still within the 1200-1350 range and the cuts would appear to recognise the edge of ditch **113/102**, suggesting that these pits do not greatly post-date the occupation features. A possible explanation for this is that although Building B must have been demolished by this time, it may not mean that the settlement as a whole had been abandoned. An alternative interpretation for these features is that they are part of a well structure. **140** is very circular with vertical sides, but unfortunately it was not possible to excavate the feature below a depth of 1m in order to Ascertain for sure whether it was indeed a well shaft. In the light of this possibility, and the dating evidence, these features have been allocated to Phase 3.

- 121** Fill. A 0.20m thick spit off the top of fills 122 and 123 to avoid contamination by a modern intrusion. Compact mottled olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) slightly sandy silty clay, mixed with yellow green sandy clay. Occasional cobbles and flint gravel, and charcoal flecks.
- 122** Fill of **139**. Very compact. Same as 121. Maximum depth 0.60m.
- 123** Fill of **140**. Very compact. Essentially impossible to distinguish from 122, but mixed with more green-yellow clay in bands. Minimum depth 1.0m (not fully excavated).
- 139** Pit cut. A sub-circular cut in plan with irregular sides, stepped to the west. During excavation it was considered clear that this pit truncated cut **140**, this was not however apparent in the fills visible in the section. Dimensions and shape uncertain. Max. Depth 0.80m
- 140** Well? cut. A circular cut in plan with concave, fairly steep sides. At the limit of depth of excavation, the cut appeared to become square or rectangular with vertical

sides. This may represent the top of a well shaft, but time and practicality prevented further excavation (below 1 m from surface) to determine this possibility. Diameter 2.40m, depth minimum 1.0m (not fully excavated).

5.4 **PHASE 4** (1200-1350 AD)

Drain cut?

66, **80**,

This feature appeared to cut linear feature **89**, and to respect the possible access way between features **46** and **150**. Bearing in mind the effects of truncation on the appearance of features it may be that they are all roughly contemporary. The function of this feature is unclear but its position and possible associations suggest it may have had a drainage function from **150** to **89**. Although **80** is probably broadly contemporary with Phase 3, it is included in Phase 4 because it is stratigraphically later.

- 66 Fill of **80**. 5Y 4/1 clay silt with moderate cobbles and flint gravel, frequent charcoal flecks and occasional snail shells.
- 80** Linear ditch on a N-S orientation. Depth:0.12m, Length 1.88m, width 0.70m. concave sides continuous with a rounded base. The northern end of this linear feature cut into the side of linear **89**. Although not clearly associated with other features in the vicinity, it does form a pretty good right angle with the end of linear cut **150**, and may be associated with the possible entrance way between cuts **150** and **46**.

Eastern Linear Features

54, 55, 149, 150, 151, 152.

These features were originally thought to represent a property boundary with an entrance way between **150** and pit **46**. Post hole **152** was thought to be associated with this entrance. On excavation, however, **46** was found to differ markedly from **150 / 54** and has therefore been grouped separately. The shallowness of these features suggests they are not ditches. Since features **80** and **89** are probably drains, it seems likely that **150** too is associated with drainage. It is also possible that **54** and **150** are not in fact associated. The straight, right angled edges of **54** may suggest it represents the corner of a demolished building. If so, it is not likely to be associated with the Phase 1 buildings. The position of burnt deposit 148 indicates that **54** must have been backfilled and out of use by the time 148 (and the other burnt features) were deposited, supporting the idea that these are later than the Saxo-Norman/medieval occupation. In this case, **150** and **152** should probably be included in Phases 2 or 3, but have been placed in Phase 4 due to their stratigraphic and functional ambiguity.

- 55 Fill of **54**. 10YR 3/2 Very dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional cobbles and flint gravel.
- 54** Linear cut. This feature, although truncated to the east by twentieth century disturbance, and to the so by Well cut **81**, appears to be L-shaped. Before excavation this was thought to be a 1.60m wide property boundary ditch, however on excavation it was found to be only 0.18m deep. Unfortunately insufficient amounts of the feature were exposed to be able to say what it was or what it relates to. It may however be the remnant of a building foundation trench.

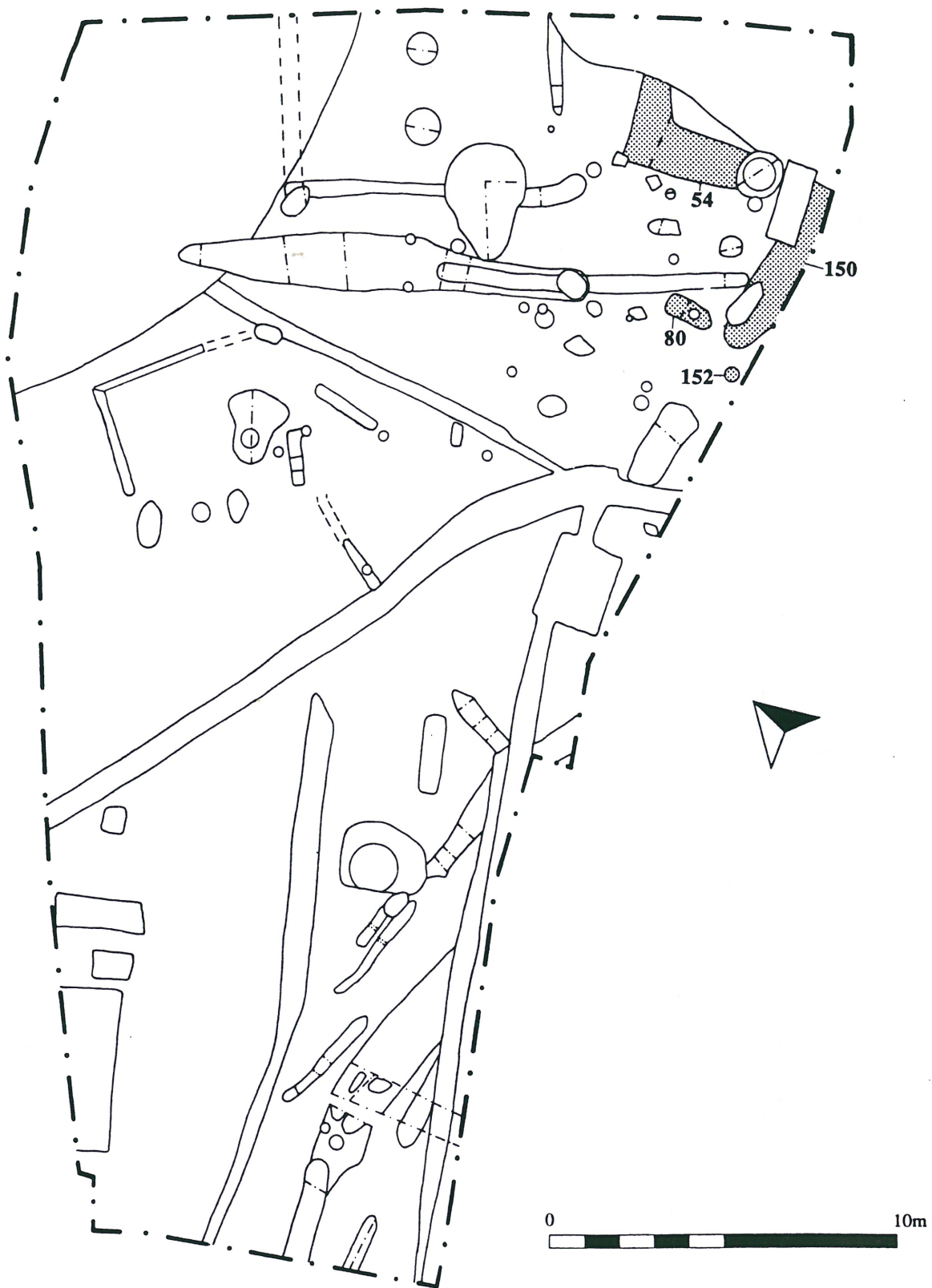


Figure 12 Plan of features in Phase 4

- 149 Fill of **150**. 2.5Y 4/1 Dark grey compact friable silty clay with occasional pebbles. Depth 0.15m, length >5.0m, width 0.98m
- 150** Linear ditch? cut. Wide shallow U-shaped linear ditch on a roughly E-W alignment with gently sloping sides and a flattish base.
- 151 Fill of **152**. 2.5Y 4/1 Dark grey compacted friable silty clay with occasional pebbles and large subangular flints. Depth 0.09m, diameter 0.32m.
- 152** Post hole cut. Circular with gradual sloping sides and concave base. 0.09m deep, diameter 0.32m.

5.5 PHASE 5 (1400-1650 AD?)

Wood lined pit

56, 57, 79, 81, 86.

This feature cuts a feature (**54**) tentatively attributed to phase 4. It is a clay lined pit with a circular wooden lining and base, probably a water butt (see fig. 13). As such it is tempting to functionally associate this feature with the burnt features for which there is no dating evidence, but which are also stratigraphically later than phase 4. There is, however, no physical stratigraphic evidence to prove their association.

- 56** Circular, vertically sided pit with a flat base. Depth 0.45m, diameter 0.88m.
- 57** Fill of wood lined pit. 2.5Y 4/3 olive brown silty clay with occasional pebbles and cobbles. Depth 0.45m, width 0.88m.
- 79** Pit lining. 2.5Y 5/4 light olive brown clay with occasional flint pebbles. Lines the sides of cut **81**. Maximum thickness 0.32m, minimum 0.18m.
- 81** Construction cut for wood lined pit. Irregular, sloping sides and a level base. Depth 0.45m, diameter 1.58m.
- 86** Traces of a wooden lining which appears to have covered the base and sides of the feature. The presence of a few apparently irregularly positioned iron nails suggests that some or all of the wooden lining may have been nailed to the clay lining.

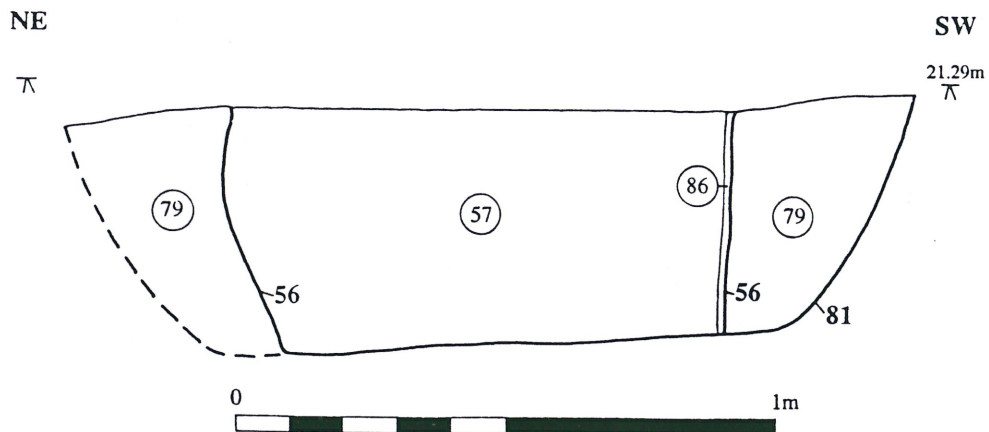


Figure 13 Section through wood lined pit **81**

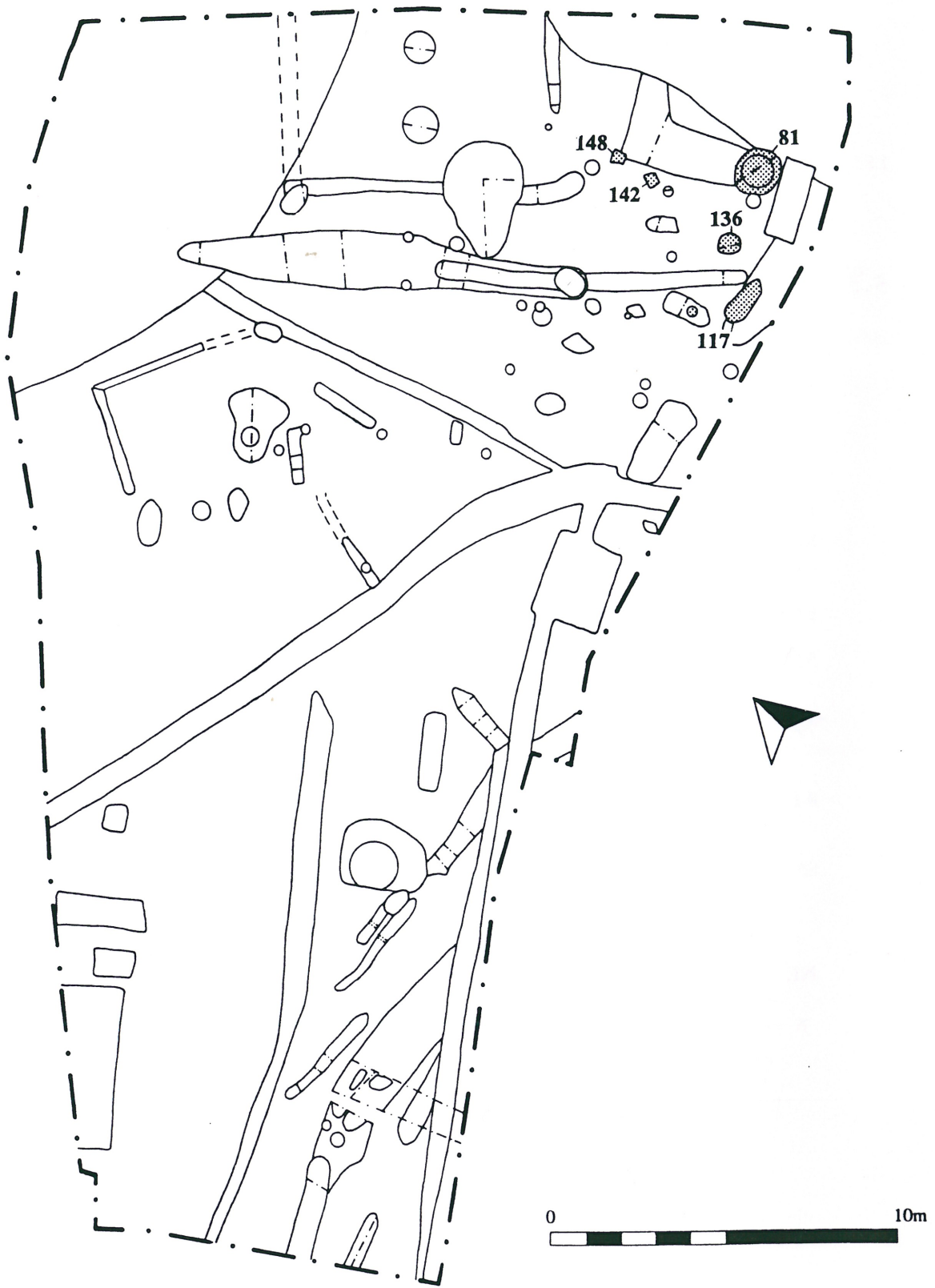


Figure 14 Plan of features in Phase 5

Burnt patches

117, 118, 124, **136**, **141**, 142, 148.

This group of burnt patches possibly represent some kind of industrial activity. No dating evidence was recovered from any of the deposits, but their stratigraphic relationships suggest they are likely to be later than the medieval phases. It was originally thought that this group of deposits might be associated with metal working but little evidence survived to support this interpretation. Evidence for iron smelting exists in the form of lumps of iron slag recovered from the fills of Pit **46**, ditch **40** and **102** linear feature **150**, but if, as it appears, the burnt deposits are later, the iron slag is from stratigraphically earlier or stratigraphically ambiguous deposits and cannot therefore be linked to the later activity. Small samples were taken from these burnt deposits to look for evidence as to their origin. While no convincing evidence was found for iron smelting, these samples did contain charred cereals and wood charcoal, suggesting a domestic origin (see Appendix D). These burnt patches are presumably the bases of truncated pits cut down to the top of the natural clays

- 117 Layer. 5YR 2.5/1. Black organic material, probably disaggregated wood charcoal. This is possibly the remains of a burnt timber, but does not appear to be of any structural significance.
- 118 Layer. 2.5Y 3/4 Dusky red. Part of 117, probably burnt earth, suggesting that 117 was burnt in situ.
- 124 Fill of **136**. 2.5YR 3/4. Dusky red deposit of burnt clay and some charcoal. Possibly the remnant of a small smelting furnace, since the deposit contained small magnetised nodules. These did not however prove to be metallic and it is likely that they are just small bits of gravel that have been magnetised through being heated. Cut **136** in which 124 was deposited does however resemble a clay smelting furnace, the bulk of which has been truncated, leaving only the burnt earth at the very base.
- 136** Cut/Furnace? Sub circular, shallow feature (length 0.70m, width 0.52m, depth 0.08m) with a slightly rounded base. Surrounding earth appears to have been heavily burnt. Although poorly preserved this feature may be the remnant of a smelting furnace. If so, the technology employed would suggest a medieval date, while the stratigraphy suggests a later date.
- 141** Cut? Possibly a cut number assigned to contain layers 117 and 118.
- 142 Deposit. 2.5YR 3/5 Dusky red. Another patch of burnt earth and charcoal. Less likely to be the remains of a furnace, but possibly a pile of discarded hot coals.
- 148 Deposit. 2.5YR 3/2 Dusky red burnt clay and charcoal fragments. Possibly the remnant of a furnace or a pile of hot coals.

5.6 PHASE 6 (1400-1500 AD)

Late medieval deposits

8, 9, 10, (39), 114, **115**, 116.

These deposits represent external surfaces and occupation debris belonging to a phase of occupation of the site of which all other traces have been demolished or truncated. Ceramics recovered from Context 39 have been dated to between 1400-1600. While in retrospect this is stratigraphically impossible (since 39 appears to be cut by 42, which contains earlier pottery), it is likely that the ditch

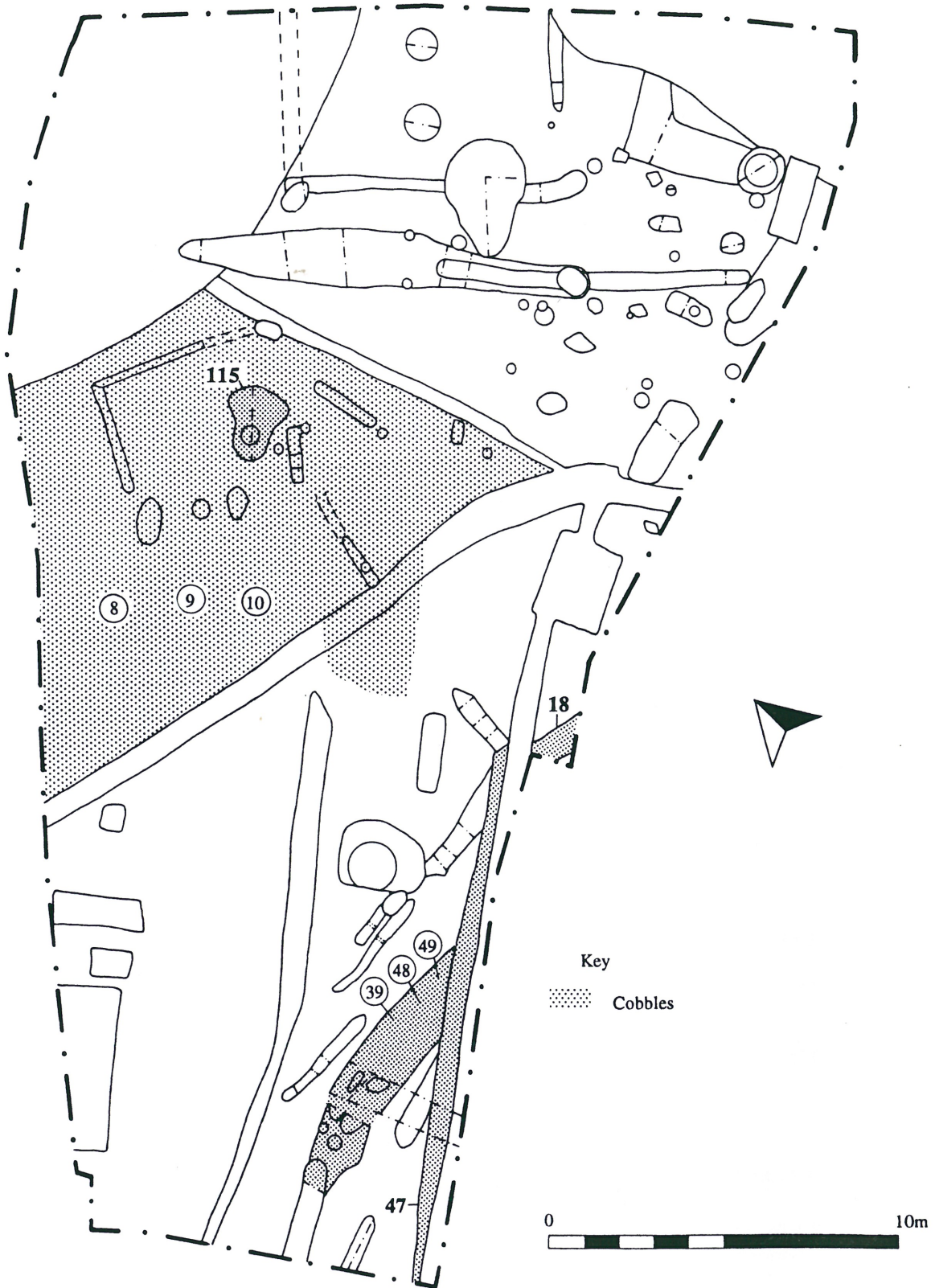


Figure 15 Plan of features in Phase 6

deposits in this area may have been overlain by late medieval deposits (see above), which filled a depression formed by the ditch. These were then perhaps mistaken for ditch fills during excavation.

- 8 Layer. Small flint gravel probable surface. Maximum depth 0.40m width (within Trench F) >2.50m. Full extent uncertain.
- 9 Layer. 2.5Y Olive brown moderately compact clayey silt with occasional sand and small pebbles. Up to 0.10m thick, length (within Trench F) >6.0m, width 1.60m. Full extent uncertain.
- 10 Layer. Cobble surface with a matrix of silt with flecks and fragments of charcoal. Appears to be associated with layer 8. This layer appears to be a cobbled surface laid directly on top of natural clay deposits, sealing all earlier features, suggesting that earlier ground surfaces may have been truncated. Full extent uncertain.
- 114 Fill of 115. 2.5Y 4/1 Dark grey compact fine silty sand with occasional flint and chalk pebbles and charcoal flecks. Depth 0.18m Length 1.80m, Width 2.0m.
- 115 Irregular sub circular shallow feature, thought to be a tree bole. Depth 0.25m, Length 2.20m, Width 1.20m.
- 116 Fill of 115. 5Y 5/4 Olive compact clayey sand with occasional flint pebbles and charcoal flecks.

Late medieval ditch.

47, 48, 49.

This ditch marks a change in alignment in the property boundary from the Saxo-Norman / medieval boundary ditches, which appear to run on a more strictly east-west alignment, to the slightly crooked line that still exists in the present, a few metres to the south.

- 47 Ditch cut. U-shaped linear cut on an approximately E-W orientation, with steep sides becoming more gradual towards the base. Truncated along its length by modern drain/sewer cut. It is not clear what happens at its Eastern end due to truncation and position in relation to the edge of excavation. Depth 0.47m width >0.60m, length 16.0m.
- 48 Fill of 47. 2.5Y 5/3 Light olive brown compacted clayey sand with occasional pebbles and gravel. Depth 0.23m, width >0.60m.
- 49 Fill of 47. 2.5Y 5/2 Greyish brown fairly soft plastic clayey sand with occasional flint and pebbles. Depth 0.15m, width >0.60m.

5.7 PHASE 7 (1800+ AD)

Post medieval and modern features

1, 17, 59, 60, 65, 72, 73, 82, 83, 84, 85, 87, 88, 91, 108, 109, 110, 111, 130.

Not all post medieval and modern features were dug or assigned context numbers. They are generally associated with the bungalow that occupied the site prior to the development, or with earlier buildings of which little or nothing survives.

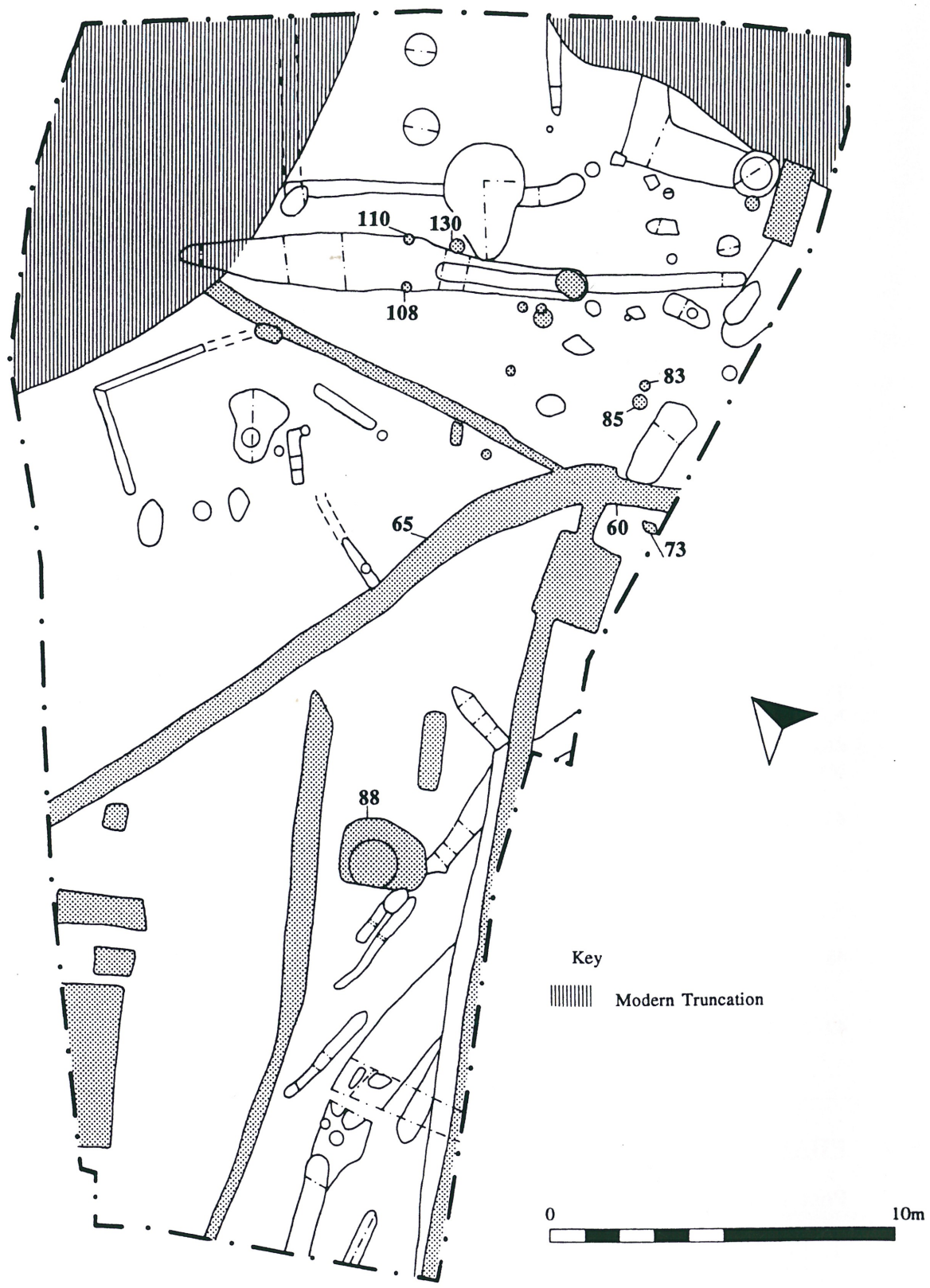


Figure 16 Plan of features in Phase 7

- 1 Layer. Topsoil. 10YR 4/2 Dark greyish brown sandy clay.
- 17 Layer. Modern make-up layer. Not recorded.
- 59 Fill of 60. Not excavated.
- 60 Drain cut. Not excavated.
- 65 Drain fill and cut. Not excavated.
- 72 Fill of 73. 10YR 5/4 Dark yellow brown sticky plastic sandy clay with occasional pebbles and flecks of charcoal. 0.18m thick, length 0.20m, width 0.10m.
- 73 Post hole cut. Sub circular very steep, almost vertical sides with a concave base. oriented N-S. Depth 0.18m, length 0.20m, width 0.10m.
- 82 Fill of 83. Very compacted mid grey sandy clay matrix with frequent gravel, sand, and pebbles packed between large cobbles and flint nodules. Presumably post packing, but no post pipe visible.
- 83 Post hole cut. Circular vertical sided, flat, level base.
- 84 Fill of 85. 2.5Y 3/1 Very dark grey moderately compact, friable, slightly sandy silty clay with occasional pebbles.
- 85 Post hole cut. Circular with vertical sides and a flat, level base.
- 87 Fill of 88. Not excavated
- 88 Well cut. Not excavated
- 91 Layer. Appears to be topsoil.
- 108 Post hole cut. No description.
- 109 Post hole fill. 10YR 3/3 dark brown.
- 110 Post hole cut. No description.
- 111 Post hole fill. 10YR 3/3 dark brown.
- 130 Post hole. Sub-circular. Diameter 0.12m, depth 0.05m, vertical? sides, level base.

5.8 Natural deposits

2, 3, 15, 16, 27, 28

These context numbers were allocated to layers or features believed, or found on excavation, to be natural deposits.

- 2 Alluvium. 10 YR 6/6 and 5/4 Brownish yellow sandy clay. Darker at top, lighter at base. Depth 0.70m.
- 3 Natural. Mixed gravels, sand and clays. 10YR 6/6, 2.5Y 8/6, 2.5Y 7/6, 5B 6/1.
- 15 Layer. Silty sandy clay.
- 16 Fill/natural?. 10YR 3/3 Dark brown silty clay.
- 27 Fill of 28. Mid olive-brown sandy silty clay with occasional flint pebbles, charcoal? flecks and weathered chalk flecks. Depth 0.20m. Possibly natural or post medieval.

- 28 Linear ditch. No trace of this feature could be found when the whole area was stripped. It was suggested during excavation that this may have been a natural feature, and this would indeed appear to be the case.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Interpretation

Ground conditions prevented the sampling (for dating evidence) and recording of all the features exposed, but it appears that the density of features declines towards the street front. Reasonably sized, unabraded sherds with crisp breaks, occurring with other cultural material such as bone and burnt daub fragments recovered from cut features, suggests that there are features and deposits associated with habitation at the site.

It is clear that several episodes of re-development on the site have resulted in some damage and truncation to the underlying features. The fact that the cobbled surface 10 in Trench F and I, lies directly above, and is pressed down into, the natural clays (into which the Saxo-Norman features are cut), suggests that the ground surface associated with the Late Saxon and medieval periods was stripped at some time in the fourteenth century.

Despite having phased and grouped features as far as is possible, given the vagaries of their relationships, functions, and dating evidence, each individual phase does not appear to have much coherence. It seems justifiable, however, to consider at least Phases 1-4 as an uninterrupted continuity of occupation activity.

6.2 Saxo-Norman and Medieval Period

There is no evidence for pre 900 activity in the excavation area. Although the evidence is very sparse (only a few sherds) the earliest range of pottery dates were recovered from a series of beam slots and post holes that form at least two buildings. Building A, although only partly within the excavated area, appears to be a large, possibly domestic, building. If the two post holes which presumably supported the roof, are taken to indicate the central east-west axis of the building, its western side can be estimated to be 8.0m long. Since the eastern side of the building lies outside the area of excavation, it is impossible to ascertain the total number of roof posts, so the east-west extent of the building is unknown. In the south-west corner, there is an entrance into the building. The western beam slot extends south and curves slightly, forming a possible "storm porch". The ends of the two beam slots (129 and 144) that form this entrance, are each associated with a post hole which it is believed represent support posts for a doorway (see Fig. 6).

Building B (see Fig. 6) is either a small shed or out-house, or a single room within a larger building of which little, or nothing more survives. It may, however, be associated with the beam slots/fence lines running parallel to the east-west property boundary ditches along the southern edge of the site (see Fig. 7).

There are several features that may be associated with these two buildings. The most easily interpreted of these are described in Phases 2 and 3, consisting of drainage ditches, a possible fence line and gate-way associated with Building A, and the southern property boundary.

The other features in the eastern corner of the excavation (assigned to Phase 4), are more problematic. The wide, shallow, linear features (54 and 150), seem too shallow to be ditches, and not enough of them occurs within the area of excavation to be sure of their shape and alignment. Drainage ditches (89 and 80) appear to be intended to drain from linear feature 150 to 113/102 suggesting that 150 may also have had a drainage function. Feature 54 may, in retrospect, be a later feature, possibly the remnant of a building foundation cut. As such it would appear not to be contemporary with the Phase 1 buildings.

With the possible exception of ditches 113/102 and 89/104, which may have formed a boundary between Buildings A and B, the only clear property boundary is in the south-west corner of the site. Although only partially within the area of excavation, this boundary would appear to be more strictly on an east-west alignment than the present day property boundary. It seems highly likely that this boundary has essentially persisted throughout the history of the site, since it appears to have been re-cut several times, each time shifting slightly further south (see Fig. 10). What is uncertain, however, is what form this boundary (which was presumably sufficiently large to have persisted so long), may have taken in the Saxo-Norman period.

Two alternatives may be considered, but must remain tentative since the evidence that might support them lies outside the area of excavation. The most likely explanation is that there was a stream running along this boundary line. This may have been modified or utilised as a drain in Saxo-Norman times. Indeed, away from the street frontage, the property boundary is still defined by a water carrying ditch, which appears to have been linked to the post medieval drainage features that were encountered during the excavation. This ditch, drain, or stream, may well have been more substantial feature in the past.

The other alternative (though the two are not mutually exclusive), is that there was a road, track, or access way that ran at least partially along the line of the property boundary. Cartographic evidence supports this possibility. The 1776 enclosure map of Spaldwick (see Fig. 2) clearly shows a short lane giving access to two houses on the southern side of the property boundary. A vestige of this lane still exists today as a parking space in the corner of the triangular green at the corner of Thrapston Road. It seems likely, given the alignment of the Saxo-Norman buildings that were exposed during the excavation, and their distance from the present day street, that they were aligned along this lane, rather than along the Thrapston Road.

6.3 Late Medieval Period

As is illustrated in Figure 4, there is a clear break in the pottery dates between Phase 3 and Phase 6 (Phases 4 and 5 are sufficiently ambiguous to be disregarded in respect of their dates). Pottery from Phases 2 and 3 is dated to no later than 1350. Phase 6 has pottery dates that are no earlier than 1400. This suggests there is a brake in occupation at the site and this is borne out by the archaeological evidence.

Considerable truncation of the Saxo-Norman/medieval features appears to have occurred, since there is no survival of a contemporary land surface. Since it was found that in places late medieval deposits directly overlay earlier features cut into natural, with no evidence for intervening deposits, it can be assumed that this truncation occurred just before the deposition of late medieval layers and features.

It is unclear exactly how long the intervening period was, and there is no archaeological evidence to suggest what may have occurred on the site during this time. The lack of any archaeological evidence for occupation or other activities that might have spanned this period, may indicate that the site was abandoned or underwent a change of use.

An alternative explanation is that the settlement as a whole may have undergone a period of decline. General decline around this period is a recognised event throughout the region, but its causes are less clear. One of the explanations is the decline in population caused by the ravages of the "Black Death" and its effects on economic productivity. Other possibilities include reduced crop yields as a result of soil degradation and climatic change, difficulties in meeting increases in taxation, and intentional depopulation in order to enable a general trend in land use change from arable production (which was in decline) to pasture for sheep farming. These issues are summarised in Bigmore (1979) chapter 4 (and elsewhere).

Occupation activity seems to start again with the features assigned to Phases 5 and 6. It is at this time that the land-surface associated with the early medieval features must have been removed and the cobbled surface that contained, and was overlain by, late medieval pot sherds, was laid down. This surface might be interpreted as a yard surface belonging to a late medieval building, any trace of which has been removed by subsequent building episodes.

The cluster of burnt features and the probable water butt, in the eastern corner of the site (assigned to Phase 5) are all stratigraphically later than Phase 4 features. Unfortunately no reliable dating evidence was recovered from any of these features and it is possible that they are associated with the late medieval phase of activity on the site. All that survived of these features was patches of burnt natural clay. Samples were taken to ascertain the origin of these burnt features, which were originally believed to be evidence of iron smelting since feature 136 was thought to resemble a small iron smelting furnace. The results, however, suggest they have a domestic, rather than an industrial origin (see Appendix D). They were presumably formed by hot oven-waste being disposed of into small pits which were cut through topsoil (which was later truncated) to the top of the natural clay (or fills of earlier features). It is this argument that suggests they belong to a later phase.

The only other late medieval feature is a ditch cut along the southern edge of the site. This ditch marks the change (however slight), from the early medieval property alignment to that which exists in the present day.

7 CONCLUSIONS

The ceramic evidence from the foundation trenches for the two buildings on the site provides a date range (1000-1200) that falls either side of the likely date for the construction of the Bishop's Palace enclosure (after 1109). The other features on the site, that appear to be associated with these buildings, contain pottery which is significantly later in date. This suggests that the archaeological remains may represent a continuity of occupation on the site from, at the earliest, 1000 AD and continuing until, at latest, 1350.

If Taylor is correct in considering a twelfth century date for the re-planning of the village as being most probable, i.e. after the ownership of Spaldwick was transferred to the Bishops of Lincoln in 1109 (Taylor, 1989), it might be expected that this would be reflected in the archaeological record at the site (if the buildings are considered to date from their earliest possible date 1000). As

discussed above, however, the archaeological features appear to respect approximately the same alignment throughout the use of the site and there is no archaeological evidence for a significant change around the probable date for the creation of the palace enclosure.

There are two ways to account for the apparently uninterrupted settlement pattern. The archaeological and ceramic dating evidence can be taken to suggest an earlier date for the construction of the estate centre and Bishop's Palace and re-planning of the village (i.e. after 991 when the estate was obtained by the Bishops of Ely). Alternatively, the latest possible date for Buildings A and B (1200), can be taken to show that there was no settlement on the site until after the most likely date for the village re-planning (after 1109).

In either case the buildings do not reflect the character of the village before construction of the Bishop's Palace enclosure. Although the buildings appear not to be aligned along the Thrapston road (as is the case in the present day), they do seem to be aligned along the line of a drain and possible lane that define the southern property boundary of the site (the latter is present on the 1776 map of Spaldwick). This boundary appears to be part of the village plan from the time the Bishop's Palace enclosure was constructed (which differs only slightly from that of the present day), suggesting that all the archaeological remains in this area relate to this event.

In conclusion, while it has been shown that all the archaeological features post-date the construction of the Bishop's Palace enclosure, the excavation has not provided irrefutable evidence of the character of the village before this event, or of the exact date that the re-planning occurred. On balance, given Taylor's documentary evidence, the ambiguity of the earliest dating evidence from the buildings, and the apparent continuity of settlement up to 1350, that the early twelfth century is the most likely date for the re-planning of the village and that no earlier settlement existed on the Thrapston road site.

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APPENDIX A

THRAPSTON ROAD, SPALDWICK. REPORT ON THE SAXON AND MEDIEVAL POTTERY

Paul Spoerry BTech, PhD

1 Introduction

An assemblage of pottery of 352 sherds, 4,783g, deriving from 45 contexts was recovered from all stages of evaluation and excavation. The assemblage includes 23 post-medieval sherds from later contexts, but the majority of the assemblage is of late-Saxon to late medieval date.

The assemblage is dominated by shell-tempered (shelly) pottery, the most common fabric types being Developed St Neots Type Ware at 35.2% of sherds and St Neots Type Ware at 21% of sherds. Another shelly fabric known simply as Shelly Ware constitutes 14.2% of the sherds in the assemblage.

This assemblage derives from several centuries of occupation, but is not in fact very large. Quantification has been carried out by sherd count and weight of pottery, but it was not deemed worthwhile to consider other methods of calculation of the 'amount' of material represented.

2 Shell-Tempered Pottery

2.1 Dating problems

Traditionally St Neots type ware has been given a date-range from the late ninth to late twelfth centuries, with some variants of the basic fabric having narrower brackets within this range (Denham 1985, Table 11, 54). Developed St Neots ware was last re-assessed in detail 15 years ago (Gryspeerd 1981) and it still seems reasonable to see it as existing alongside more traditional forms of St Neots type ware in the late twelfth century, before replacing it after 1200. The categorisation of many body sherds to either one or the other fabric type is often difficult, and more so in groups such as this, which appear to span the period of changeover. Thus in the Spaldwick assemblage, where a division between St Neots type ware and Developed St Neots ware sherds has been made, it must be accepted that in some cases the opposite categorisation may seem almost equally valid. Despite these problems with many sherds, especially those with larger surface area and/or elements of vessel form, the division is reasonably clear.

Dating of the groups from this assemblage thus poses problems where the dominant types are subject to such uncertainties. This is not only difficult at the change between St Neots type ware and Developed St Neots ware, but also in terms of the actual end date for the presence of Developed St Neots ware, and shelly pottery in general

It has long been recognised that shelly pottery runs on very late in Lincolnshire and this has been recognised to a slightly lesser extent in Northants and Hunts (Tebbutt *et al* 1971). At Spaldwick Developed St Neots ware is found alongside Colne C ware, a type that Healey attributes to the fifteenth to sixteenth century (Healey, Malim and Watson forthcoming), and also with Orange Sandy ware, again late medieval in date. Moorhouse's Orange Sandy ware appears to have a fifteenth to sixteenth century distribution that covers parts of Beds, Hunts and Northants (Moorhouse 1974). Coppack's Orange Sandy ware,

however, which is related in fabric to Cambs Sgraffitto ware, is found at Denny Abbey near Cambridge in construction levels as early as 1327-42, and is still present in deposits of early-mid 16th century date (Coppack 1980, 223). It is not certain which type the Spaldwick material is most alike, but either way it could date to the period 1400-1550, lending support to the suggestion that shelly pottery is still in use at Spaldwick in the fifteenth century.

The presence of St Neots type ware alongside Developed St Neots ware, with no indications of residuality or re-working, indicates that groups from the transitional period, perhaps in the late twelfth century, are present. More evidence for the dating of Developed St Neots ware in this assemblage comes from a few contexts where it is present alongside glazed jug fragments from the Lyveden-Stanion, Brill-Boarstall and Pottersbury industries, probably of thirteenth to fourteenth century date. Thus we have groups representative of both extremes as well as the central period of the date-range for Developed St Neots ware (see above), from the late twelfth and fifteenth centuries. Unfortunately there are not enough good examples of vessel types in these groups to study whether significant variation exists in the forms at the two extremes.

In conclusion, the assemblage has small groups representative of several centuries of activity, but that in a total of 352 sherds this does not provide enough individual data points for many statistically valid comparisons to be made. It is evident, however, that Developed St Neots ware and Shelly ware are present at Spaldwick in groups from the late twelfth to fifteenth centuries which highlights the longevity of shell-tempered material in this region.

Shelly ware (Shelly ware) is the third type of shelly pottery forming a significant part of this assemblage. It is a type that has stylistic similarities, as well as the obvious fabric association, with the St Neots type products. Tebbut *et al* (1971, 55-58) identified this type at Ellington where it was called a 'harsher limestone gritted ware' and identified as a coarse product of the Lyveden-Stanion industries. The bowl forms represented here (Nos 18 and 19) are classic examples of a type known from Lyveden and Ellington).

2.2 Forms and vessel types of Shelly wares

The three main types of shelly pottery are all dominated by sherds from cooking pots. These all appear to be wheel made which is in keeping with that observed by Tebbut *et al* at Ellington, but for Shelly ware it is at odds with the coil construction observed in the Lyveden kiln group (Bellamy 1983). The two St Neots type ware cooking pots rims are from small vessels and are of fairly simple out-turned shape, whilst those in Developed St Neots type ware are from larger vessels, are more sharply out-turned or everted, and exhibit piecrust decoration and more complex shapes. The Shelly ware cooking pots show a group of forms that are further developed, with piecrust decoration and thumbing below the rim both represented, and shouldered vessel forms also present.

Bowls are also present in all three fabrics, however they are most common in St Neots type ware where variants on the classic in-turned rim are present (Nos. 4 and 6). In addition there is one example of a bowl in St Neots type ware with a rounded profile (5), and also a piece of a spouted bowl, again a recognised St Neots type ware vessel form and very typical of the late Saxon period in general. The Developed St Neots ware bowl form represented is straight-sided and bucket-like with a rolled rim (13). It is debatable whether this should in fact be classified as a jar, like 11 and 12. The two Shelly ware bowl forms, as

mentioned above, are familiar from the Lyveden industry both having angled sides with a change of angle just under the rim with external cordon, either plain 18 or thumbled 19.

A few sherds of jars were identified, these being narrow-necked vessels superficially like cooking pots but with rim forms that often suggest lid seating or a sharp evertion to help secure a flexible covering (e.g. 11 & 12). No St Neots type ware jars were found, vessels of this type being present in only the later fabrics, Developed St Neots ware (five examples) and Shelly ware (three examples). The fact that all examples showed some sooting suggests that they were not exclusively for storage and probably performed varied functions within the kitchen as covered cooking and warming pots as well as purely storage-related functions. Small sherds from jugs, none exhibiting any glaze, in both Developed St Neots ware and Shelly ware were also identified. Again the fact that these were not observed in the earliest fabric, St Neots type ware, is in line with expectations.

3 Other pottery types present

A few sherds of Stamford ware were recovered at Spaldwick, all with the earlier form of clear glaze and thus unlikely to be dated much after 1150. Most of these sherds appear, however, to be residual being found in groups with later pottery. No Developed Stamford ware was found which may suggest that the access to the ceramic market at Spaldwick that the Stamford industry apparently enjoyed prior to 1150, may have been denied, or not achieved, in the subsequent century. The growth of the Lyveden-Stanion industry producing glazed products at much closer proximity is one obvious explanation.

Although only representing about 8% by weight of the relevant groups, Lyveden-Stanion glazed pottery of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries is the most common 'high medieval' fineware on the site. As already mentioned, this is probably to be expected bearing in mind the proximity of this major pottery producer. In addition a little Brill/Boarstall and Pottersbury glazed ware was identified, although the small size of these pieces and a lack of diagnostic traits makes them difficult to date precisely.

Orange Sandy ware has already been mentioned in respect of the dating of the later contexts containing shelly pottery. This type was briefly discussed by Moorhouse in 1974, but he stated at that point that he found none in the Denny Abbey assemblage (Moorhouse 1974, 54). The Denny report (Coppack 1980) does, however, contain much Orange Sandy ware which, although superficially like that defined by Moorhouse must therefore be rather different. We thus have two Orange Sandy wares in the Cambridgeshire region, neither of which has been satisfactorily tied to a production site. It is not certain which type is present at Spaldwick, although the location is much closer to the sites where Moorhouse recognised his material (Moorhouse op. cit.). At Spaldwick it is present as a few sherds from jugs and an angled bowl.

Moorhouse's 1974 paper focuses on Late Medieval Reduced ware (here LMR), a predominantly grey pottery type of the mid fifteenth to sixteenth centuries found across the same region as Orange Sandy ware (centred on Hunts and parts of Beds, Bucks and Northants). It is found in a variety of vessel types but the most commonly found appears to be the angled bowl, of which one example was found at Spaldwick along with fragments from a cooking pot. Moorhouse did not find any evidence to suggest that LMR was made at any of the known production centres in the region. More recently excavations at Colne in Cambridgeshire found evidence for the production of angled bowls in a

sometimes reduced sandy fabric, perhaps similar to LMR (Healey, Malim and Watson forthcoming) but not identical, whilst similar forms were produced in a reduced sandy fabric at Glapthorn Northants (Jill Johnston pers. comm.). It would seem likely that LMR was made at more than one centre, suggesting a shared 'tradition' rather than a single product. Whether the material found at Spaldwick was made at Glapthorn, Northants is not yet known, but this option seem entirely plausible.

The Colne kiln waster assemblage was composed of three wares (Healey, Malim and Watson forthcoming), A and B being thirteenth to fourteenth century in date, and C being late medieval, perhaps of fifteenth to sixteenth century date. Colne C ware, a hard-fired, often orange, but occasionally buff or grey smooth sandy ware has been recognised in four context groups at Spaldwick. The forms present are an angled bowl (20) and a jug. Both these types are known from the kiln site.

4 Phase Assemblages

The phases as identified by the excavator include pottery groups of widely varying size. In all, only three Phase groups are of sufficiently large size to enable valuable comparisons to be made. These are Phases 2, 3 and 6. Phases 2 and 3 are both of twelfth to fourteenth century date, whilst 6 is of fifteenth to sixteenth century date.

4.1 Dating

The Phase dates have derived from the individual spot dating of context groups. Where many of the groups consist of only one or two sherds this can cause great problems in assigning accurate dates.

The proposed dates for the whole Phase Assemblages is as follows:

Phase 1	1000-1150
Phase 2	1200-1350
Phase 3	1200-1350
Phase 4	1200-1350
Phase 5	one residual sherd
Phase 6	1400-1500
Phase 7	1800+

There is one problem that needs looking at with Phases 2 and 3. Both assemblages are dominated by the shelly fabrics, but the proportions differ in such a way that Phase 3 appears earlier by possessing much more of the earlier type, St Neots type ware.

Table 1 Most common pottery types in larger Phase Assemblages; percentages of the total weight of pottery

Pottery Type	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 6
St Neots type ware	4.8%	50.6%	0
Developed St Neots type ware	47.6%	29.6%	18.9%
Shelly ware	30.6%	3.7%	18.5%
Lyveden-Stanion glazed ware	7.8%	10.3%	5.5%
Colne C ware	0	0	13.2%
Late Medieval Reduced ware	0	0	10.7%
Orange Sandy ware	0.2%	0	25.7%

Table 1 illustrates this point; if Phase 3 were later than Phase 2 one might normally expect that the proportion of St Neots ware would not go down, as it is believed to be mostly superseded by Developed St Neots ware and possible Shelly ware by the thirteenth century. In actual fact the reverse occurs and an explanation must be sought. It is possible that there is massive residuality in the Phase 3 contexts, but the evidence of the sherd size and condition does not support this. An explanation could be that an erroneously-Phased context group is skewing the Phase 3 results, however, on more detailed study it is evident that the largest context groups in Phase 3 are all from one sequence of related features, and there is no possibility that one context is out of place. They all contain more St Neots type ware than later types and this suggests that the sequence of deposition is all of one period, again discounting residuality as a explanation.

4.2 Functional Assemblages

The only other way of explaining the pottery type differences in Phase 2 and 3 is that the Phase 2 and 3 assemblages are from different types of feature representing different functional assemblages. The functional assemblages for Phases 2 & 3 are given in Table 2.

Table 2 Vessel type in Phases 2, 3 & 6; Quantification by Weight showing percentage of pottery for which vessel ID is possible

Vessel Type	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 6
Bowls	13.8%	8.8%	24.6%
Cooking Vessels	48.8%	79.7%	43.4%
Jugs	17.6%	11.5%	32%
Jars (Storage)	14.2%	0	0
Other	5.6%	0	0

Table 2 is illuminating in that it confirms that the Phase 2 and 3 functional assemblages are indeed a little different. Phase 2 includes a wider variety of vessel types besides cooking pots, which dominate in Phase 3. This includes storage vessels as well as more of all other types. The implications of this are hard to assess, however, as both of the assemblages are representative of domestic kitchen material.

The Phase 6 assemblage is different again. In keeping with general trends in the late medieval period, cooking vessels have declined in importance from Phase 3, being replaced in this case with more bowls and jugs. This is again, however, a domestic kitchen assemblage and does not indicate a change in the activities represented beyond known developments in cooking and eating practices between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries.

5 Group Assemblages and Spatial Factors

The site assemblage was studied for comparisons that might have significance due to differences in location within the site. Only one valuable opportunity offered itself, that being a comparison between Phase 2 and 3 features at the northern end on the site with Phase 2 features at the southern end. Table 3 shows a comparison of the functional assemblages.

Table 3 Functional Assemblage Comparison; Groups in Northern and Southern areas of site (Quant. by weight)

Vessel Type	Northern Group	Southern Group
Bowl	6.1%	11.3%
Cooking Pot	69.8%	45.2%
Jug	10.6%	24.6%
Jar	13.6%	10.5%
Other	0	8.5%

Both functional assemblages are indicative of domestic, kitchen-related, activity, however it seems likely that a slightly wider variety of tasks beyond cooking are represented by the southern group, perhaps indicating a more important table component. This is confirmed in terms of the types of pottery present in that 8.2% of the northern group is medieval glazed wares, whereas these same types constitute 14.3% of the southern assemblage. Bearing in mind that the northern group appears to derive from a group of features associated with the development of a structure, or structures, and adjacent refuse-disposal, whereas the southern group is from a sequence of property boundaries much closer to the street frontage, these differences seem reasonable. The southern group could have derived from disposal by a variety of properties and individuals, in contrast to a single property assemblage with the northern group.

6 Conclusions

This is a fragmentary assemblage having all the hallmarks of domestic material; mainly cooking pots with some bowls. Glazed finewares are not common and are mostly of Lyveden-Stanion type, although Brill/Boarstall and Pottersbury types are also present. Context groups from the eleventh-twelfth, thirteenth-fourteenth and fifteenth centuries are represented and it is evident that shelly pottery is present throughout this sequence, with St Neots type ware slowly replaced by developed St Neots ware and Shelly ware in the thirteenth century. The latter is almost certainly a product of the Lyveden-Stanion industries and the former two types are characteristically local, with production probably in the middle Ouse valley.

The late medieval groups show the appearance of Orange Sandy ware and Late Medieval Reduced ware, plus Colne C ware, but there is not enough material from this period to illuminate these known types, or their dating, any further.

The assemblage has many similarities with that described in the assemblage from a hall and moated site at Ellington, the village immediately east of Spaldwick (Tebbutt *et al* 1971). The Ellington group does not, however, exhibit any post-fourteenth century material and so a little information concerning the local late medieval assemblage, including the longevity of Developed St Neots ware and Shelly ware, has been learned.

7 Illustrated sherds

St Neots Type Ware: Surfaces mostly oxidised red-brown, but part-blackened externally through usage. (all vessel types) Core almost always reduced mid dark grey. Abundant fine shell.

- 1 Simple, rounded and out-turned rim of small cooking pot.
- 2 Internally bevelled, out-turned rim of small cooking pot.
- 3 Rim of bowl with straight-sided, slightly carinated, profile.
- 4 Rim of in-turned bowl.
- 5 Simple rim of large bowl with slightly rounded profile.
- 6 Rim of sharply inturned bowl.
- 7 Spout, probably from spouted bowl.

Developed St Neots Type Ware: Surfaces red-brown or buff-brown with some external blackening through usage on all vessel types. Grey core. Abundant fine shell.

- 8 Everted, piecrust rim with external bevel from a small cooking pot.
- 9 Everted, piecrust cooking pot rim with external upright facet or 'cordon'.
- 10 Everted bevelled and finger-impressed cooking pot rim.
- 11 Externally rolled and flattened rim of jar or cooking pot.
- 12 Externally thickened and lid-seated jar rim.
- 13 Out-turned and externally thickened rim of deep bowl or jar.

Shelly Ware: Shell less common, but larger, than for St Neots types. Some vessels reduced mid-grey throughout, others almost wholly oxidised to red-brown. Surfaces often in contrasting shade of same general colour (either slightly reduced, or oxidised). Both bowls are well sooted whilst some sooting (but less) on cooking pots.

- 14 Upright, bevelled rim of shouldered jar or cooking pot.
- 15 Everted, fingernail-impressed, cordoned cooking pot rim.
- 16 Out-turned, piecrust/fingernail-impressed and externally cordoned rim from large cooking pot.
- 17 Upright, externally bevelled rim from cooking pot or jar with rounded profile.
- 18 Angled bowl rim with flat-top and external bevel.
- 19 Angled bowl rim with flat-top and external thumbbed cordon.

Colne C Ware

- 20 Flanged rim from angled bowl. Hard, orange-brown fabric throughout with dark brown 'wiping' on surfaces. Moderate fine quartz sand inclusions plus occasional grog and calcareous flecks

Late Medieval Reduced Ware

- 21 Triangular-profile flanged rim from angled bowl. Dark grey-black throughout with abundant quartz sand.

Lyveden-Stanion Glazed ware

- 22 Rounded, out-turned rim of jar or cooking pot with mid green glaze over most of external surface. Buff surfaces with mid-grey core. A little quartz sand and moderate ooliths.

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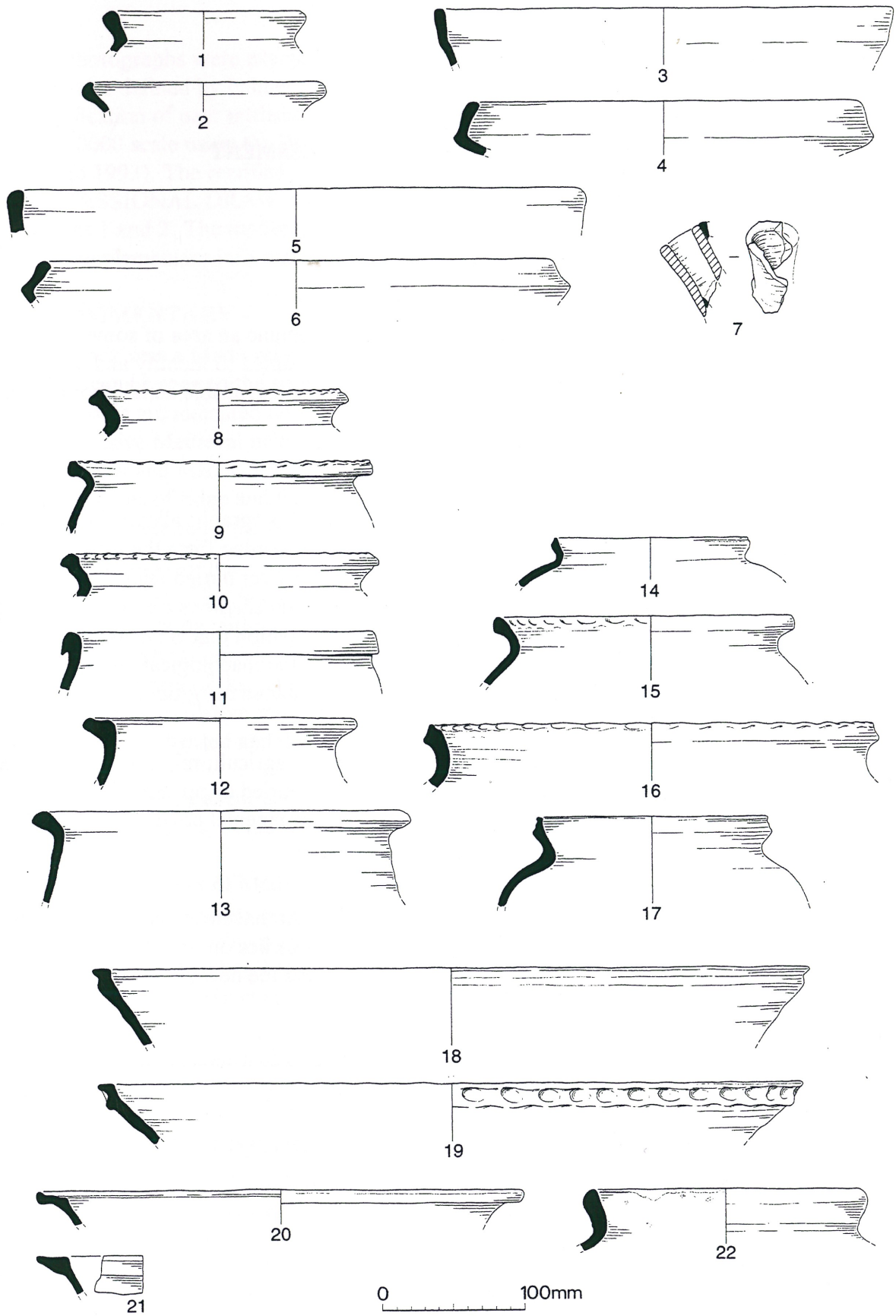


Figure 17 Sherd illustrations

APPENDIX B

TL 129730, SPALDWICK

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT

Chris COX MA MIFA

1: INTRODUCTION

This aerial photographic assessment was commissioned to examine an area of some 1.1 hectares centring T1129730 at Spaldwick, Cambridgeshire. It aimed to identify and accurately map any archaeological, recent, and natural features showing on available aerial photographs and thus provide a guide for field evaluation.

2: ARCHAEOLOGY FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Detailed interpretation of contemporary and historical aerial photographs allows the accurate mapping of archaeological sites. Archaeological features are recorded from the air as cropmarks (caused by the differential growth of crops or grass over buried features), soilmarks (caused by differences in soil colour over ploughed features) and shadows cast by upstanding earthworks. Aerial photographic interpretation provides information that is not easily detected by other means. It is a complementary part of multi disciplinary archaeological investigation and provides a cost effective landscape overview and accurate guidance for ground based investigations.

Aerial photographic evidence is, however, limited by seasonal, agricultural, meteorological and environmental factors which affect the extent to which either buried or upstanding archaeological sites can be detected under a given set of environmental conditions.

2.2: The Study Area

The archaeological study area, as defined by Cambridgeshire Archaeology, comprises grassed gardens and an area which was wooded in 1988. The study area lies on the northern edge of the modern village of Spaldwick, between Thrapston Road and the new alignment of the A14.

Within the limits of the extent of Ordnance Survey mapping made available within the timescale of the assessment, an area extending to 1 km either side of the area was examined.

3: PHOTO INTERPRETATION AND MAPPING METHODOLOGY

Coversearches were made at the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs (CUCAP) and the National Library of Aerial Photographs (NLAP) in Swindon. Due to the short timescale of the assessment, the oblique photographic collection at NLAP was manually searched, and the County record Office in Huntingdon was not visited. The site was covered directly by vertical photographs. Its immediate environs were covered by specialist obliques, taken to record the Medieval village.

Photographs consulted are listed in the Appendix to this report.

The photographs were examined by eye and under 1.5x and 4x magnification, according to the principles defined by Palmer and Cox, 1993. Stereoscopic viewing, which may have assisted identification of past settlement, was not possible in this case. Features identified were mapped at 1:10000 scale using the Bradford Aerial Photographic Rectification System, AERIAL 4.2 (Haigh 1993). The rectified data were then processed through the graphics package PROFESSIONAL DRAW, to combine the information with digitised modern features as in Figures 1 and 2. The modern 1:10000 OS map background was used to fix mapping control, with supplementary information taken from a faxed copy of the 1:2500 map.

4: COMMENTARY

Spaldwick was a Medieval settlement, and characteristic earthworked remains of the former village can be seen to the south of the study area. The locations of the former village earthworks are indicated on Figure 1. Integral to, and outlying, these earthworks is a typical and cohesive Medieval field system, seen on aerial photographs as upstanding remains of ridge and furrow and associated headlands. Some of the ridge and furrow is very degraded. There are no traces of ridge and furrow within the study area, but landuse in the study area is not suitable to determine the former extent of Medieval fields.

The study area contains a rectilinear ditched enclosure, which was seen on vertical photograph RC8-Kn BN 14. This feature is recorded and shown in detail at 1:2500 by Figure 2. It is slightly upstanding, although the lack of a printed stereo pair to this photograph prohibits further interpretation. The feature is likely to have been part of a modern garden feature, upon which the owner of the property may be able to comment. Its use cannot be determined, beyond this speculative statement, from the available aerial photographic sources. The feature appears to be disused and degraded.

The immediate adjacent area at Manor Farm contains traces of linear ditched and slightly embanked features, of unknown date, and unrecognisable pattern.

The adjacent areas of Medieval earthworks have been targeted by aerial archaeologists and are well recorded. The extent of the former village is, however, unclear. Construction of the modern village centring on Thrapston Road, the church and High Street, has probably obliterated the interface between Medieval settlement and fields, which is likely to be situated in, or adjacent to, the study area.

5: REFERENCES

Haigh, J.G.B., 1993. A new issue of AERIAL - Version 4.2. *AARGnews* 7, 22-25

Palmer, R., and Cox., C., 1993. *Uses of aerial photography in archaeological evaluations. Institute of Field Archaeologists, Technical Paper 12.* IFA, Birmingham..

6: APPENDIX

Aerial photographs consulted

Source: Cambridge University Collection

Oblique photographs

70 LIN 263 - 263

4th December 1932

Vertical photographs

RC8-Kn BN 14-16

16th July 1988

1:10000 colour prints

Source: National Library of Aerial Photographs

Oblique photographs

TL 1272 1 - 5

25th April 1954

Assessment area only visible in the far background of these photos, which concentrate upon the Medieval earthworks.

The NLAP vertical photographic collection was not searched due to time constraints.

7: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to thank:

Duncan Schlee, Cambridgeshire Archaeology, for provision of base map data.

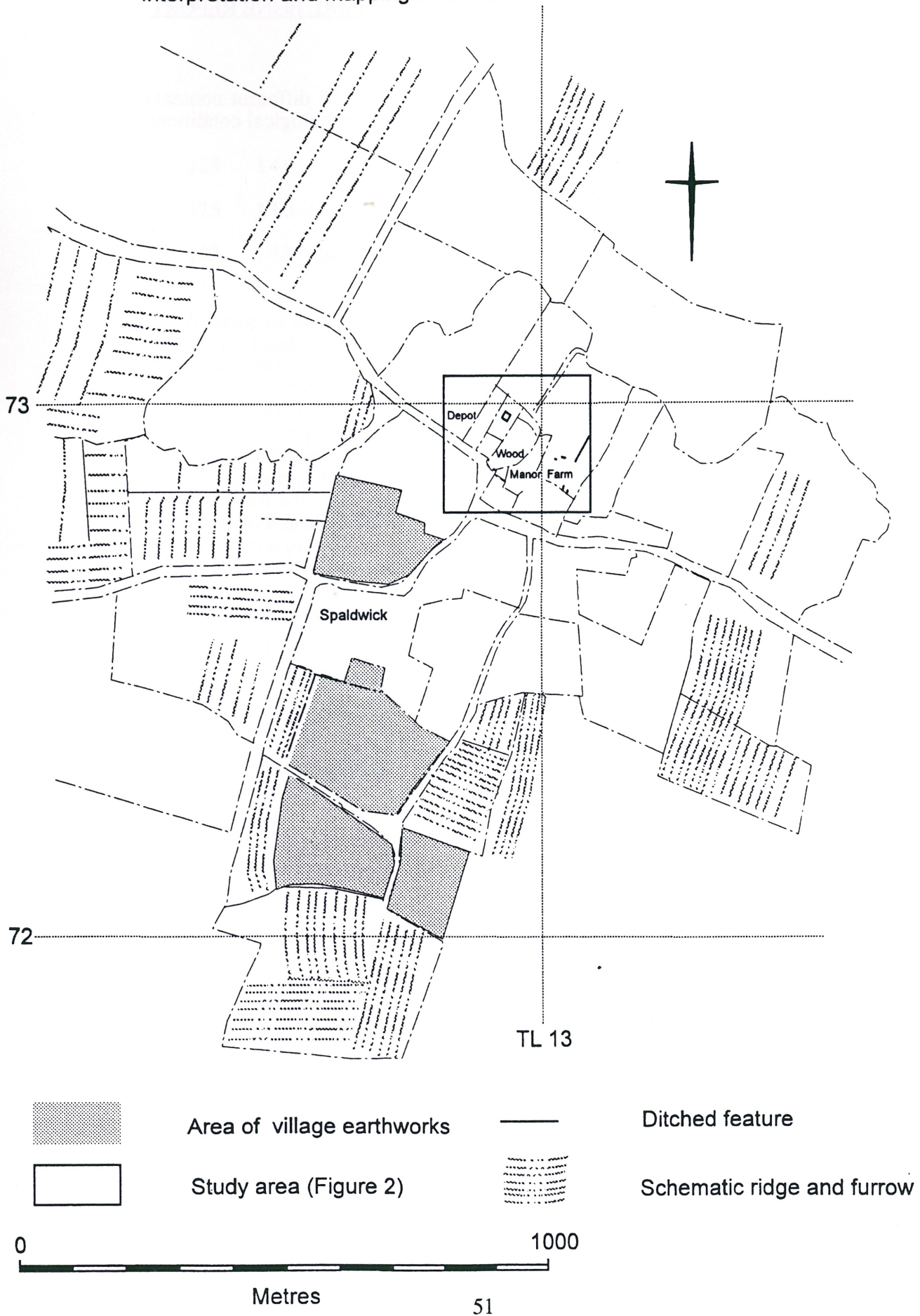
NLAP and CUCAP aerial photographic library staff for coversearching and access.

Juliet Edwards for professional childcare services to accommodate the assessment timescale.

TL 129730, Spaldwick, Cambridgeshire

Figure 1: Information mapped from available aerial photographs.

Interpretation and mapping at 1:10000



APPENDIX C

THRAPSTON ROAD, SPALDWICK. ANIMAL BONE REPORT

Lorrain Higbee MSc.

14.46g of animal bone was hand excavated from 18 different contexts. No evidence of butchery marks was apparent. Some pathological conditions were noted on some bones.

<u>Fill</u>	<u>feature</u>	<u>contents</u>
38	40	Scapular? fragment (Cattle). Skull fragment of large mammal. 4 indeterminate fragments.
37	40	loose canine (Pig). 3 mandibular fragments (Pig).
41	40	Left tibia (Sheep/goat). Juvenile metapodial (Cattle?). Loose fragmentary canine (Pig). Diaphysis? radii (medium mammal). 8 burnt/ calcined indeterminate fragments.
42	43	Juvenile metapodial (Cattle?) with pathological new bone growth.
57	56	Hyoid (Large mammal). Vertebra fragment (large mammal). Residual stony fossil.
58	46	Fragment of pelvis (Sheep/goat). Right mandible Sheep/goat. Metacarpus (Cattle). Tibia (Sheep/goat). 2 Horn core fragments (medium mammal). 3 Indeterminate fragments.
63	64	2 Indeterminate fragments.
67	69	Calcaneus (Cattle).
68	69	Calcaneus (?Cattle). 4 Indeterminate fragments.
71	70	Rib (Large mammal).
90	89	2 Indeterminate fragments.
94	95	1 Indeterminate fragment.
112	113	Humerus (Sheep/goat). Loose molar (horse). Metapodial (Sheep/goat). 24 indeterminate fragments

114	115	Right mandibular fragment (small mammal ? i.e. weasel/stoat). Metapodial (Cattle). Radius (?red deer). Mandibular hinge (Cattle). 12 Indeterminate fragments.
121		4 Unidentified fragments.
122	140	2 Unidentified fragments.
125	113	1 Unidentified fragment
143	144	1 Unidentified fragment.

Because of the small size of the overall assemblage, and the small quantity of bones from individual contexts, it is not possible to suggest with any confidence, the likely processes and events by which the range of bone recovered came to be deposited on the site. Although the majority of the bone is of domestic food animals, the fragmentary condition of many of the bones, and the feature types from which they were recovered (mostly ditches, beam slots and post holes), suggests that the bone is probably derived from rubbish that was lying around the site or within the soil, and only incidentally became deposited within features. This, coupled with a low proportion of good meat-bearing bones, and the absence of features that were obviously pits for the intentional disposal of domestic waste, further suggests that the bone is derived from a number of different sources and events.

APPENDIX D

ANALYSIS OF FLOTATION SAMPLES, THRAPSTON ROAD, SPALDWICK.

D.E. Schlee MSc.

Four samples were taken from a group of burnt features and deposits in the south east corner of the site. The origin of these deposits was uncertain and it was intended to ascertain whether they were the result of possible metal working on the site, or if they had a more domestic origin. The samples were processed using a Sirraf-type flotation machine, with flots collected in a 0.5 mm mesh.

The shallowness of the deposits makes it likely that they are the bases of features cut to the top of the natural clay, the majority of which have been truncated. The heavy residues were sorted in order to see if any fragments of metal working slag, splashes of molten metal etc. could be recovered. A magnet was used to attempt to recover such items, but only very few were found to be magnetic. The apparent lack of evidence for metal working suggests that the magnetic particles are probably just iron-rich nodules and pebbles within the natural soil, that have become magnetised through heating of the ground when the deposits were laid down.

Although no good evidence for metal working was recovered, some charred and un-charred plant macrofossils were present. Although not present in large quantities, these may suggest that the burnt deposits originate from a domestic hearth rather than an industrial process.

Cereal grains were generally puffed and distorted through charring. The peas and possible Horse-beans were better preserved but fragmentary.

Although the non-charred seeds are of more robust types, and may be contemporary with the rest of the deposits, it is more likely they are less ancient and therefore intrusive. The general ubiquity of brambles and elderberry, however, mean that their presence or absence is of little consequence.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Sample 1</u> | 1 Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>).*
3 Elderberry (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>).*
1 Barley grain (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>).
3 Indeterminate cereal grains. |
| <u>Sample 2</u> | 4 Elderberry (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>).*
9 Bread wheat grains (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>).
2 ? Horse-beans (<i>Vicia faba</i>).
3 Peas (<i>Pisum sativum</i>).
3 Indeterminate cereal grains. |
| <u>Sample 3</u> | 1 Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>).*
2 Elderberry (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>).*
3 Indeterminate cereal grains.
1 Pea (<i>Pisum sativum</i>). |
| <u>Sample 4</u> | 4 Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>).*
6 Elderberry (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>).*
6 Bread wheat grains (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>).
11 indeterminate cereal fragments.
4 Indeterminate weed seeds.* |

* Not charred, probably not ancient.

APPENDIX E

TABLES OF FINDS FROM EXCAVATION AND EVALUATION AT
THRAPSTON ROAD SPALDWICK

SPALDWICK, THRAPSTON ROAD 1996 (Excavation) - Finds Types By Context (in grammes)															
Trench	Context	Pottery Weight	Pottery Count	Tile & Brick	Fired Clay	Clay Pipe	Metals Fe	Metal Slags	Stone	Worked Stone	Lava Quern	Glass	Animal Bone	Shell	Total Weights by Context
	37	112	9												112
	38	589	28					957					155		1701
	39	131	14			3								8	142
	40	118	9					10					115		243
	41	449	24				69	140					122		780
	42	303	19	33									34	4	374
	48	53	4	365										6	424
	50	5	3												5
	52	68	3												68
	55	26	4												26
	57	9	1				52						126		187
	58	105	4	38				1709							1852
	58												228		228
	59	249	17			8									257
	63	9	3										1		10
	65	23	4	3			35					3			64
	66	41	8												41
	67	56	11										35		91
	68												43		43
	71	80	10					14					51		145
	75	23	1	109											132
	90	173	23					9	244				19	1	446
	93								1028						1028
	94	66	8										17		83
	103	13	1												13
	105	26	3												26
	112	453	39		23			38			54		143		711
	114	84	8				25			221			293		623
	121	114	13	7			14						36		171
	122	456	29							277					733
	123	184	12												184
	125	29	1										10		39
	126	5	1												5
	128	14	2												14
	134								69						69
	143	1	2					3					3		7
	149							858							858
Total Weights by Finds Type		4067	320 sherds	555	23	11	195	3738	1341	498	54	3	1431	19	11935

SPALDWICK, THRAPSTON ROAD 1996 (Evaluation) - Finds Types by Context (in grammes)

Feature	Context	Pottery Weight	Pottery Count	Brick/ Tile	Daub	Clay Pipe	Animal Bone	Shell	Charcoal	Metals Fe	Metal Slags	Total Weights by Context
Tr F	u/s	17	4	50	104		163					497
Tr F	4	26	5									26
Tr F	6	39	5				10			20		79
Tr F	9	7	1	47			72			7	16	221
Tr F	10	23	2	3			53		1	20		153
Tr F	11	15	1									15
Tr F	35	4										4
Tr F	16	76	5									76
Tr F	16	14	1									14
Tr H	17	77	4	68		4	10	12				181
Tr I	10	233	8	256			840			23		2192
Tr I	19	11	1									11
Tr I	21	98	2									98
Tr I	22	18	2									18
Tr M	31	6	1									6
Tr M	33	24	1									24
Tr M	35	19	2									19
Total Weights by Finds Type		707	45 sherds	424	104	4	1148	12	1	70	16	3634



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