Archaeological Field Unit

Bronze Age, Roman, Late Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval Remains in Huntingdon Town Centre, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Rachel Clarke

June 2004

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. 724

Commissioned by *Cambridgeshire County Council*
Property and Procurement

AFU Reports

Distribution List: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

Site Name: Huntingdon Town Centre

Site Code: HUN WB 04 Report No.: 724 Date Sent: .....

☑ **Author(s)**

☐ **Relevant Specialists** (please list:)

☑ **Client** (how many copies?) 1

☑ **Project Archive**

+1 for Paul Spoerry

☑ **Office Library**

☑ **Principal Archaeologist,**
SMR Office, Room A108,
Castle Court, Shire Hall,
Castle Hill,
Cambridge CB3 OAP
Box No.: ELH1108

☐ **A. Baker,**
Librarian,
Haddon Library,
Downing Street,
Cambridge CB2 3DZ

☐ **County Archivist,**
County Records Office,
Room 001, Shire Hall,
Cambridge CB3 OAP
Box No.: RES 1009

Huntingdon Sites ONLY:

☑ **Local Studies Librarian,**
Huntingdon Library,
Princess Street,
Huntingdon PE1 1RX

☐ **Chris Jakes,**
Cambridgeshire Collection,
Central Library,
Lion Yard,
Cambridge CB2 3QD

Fenland Sites ONLY:

☐ **Local Studies Librarian,**
Wisbech Library,
1 Ely Place,
Wisbech PE13 EU

☑ **Felicity Gilmour,**
National Monument Record,
Kemble Drive,
Swindon SN2 2GZ

☐

Peterborough Reports ONLY:

☐ x 2 **Ben Robinson,**
Archaeological Officer,
Peterborough Museum & Art Gallery,
Priestgate,
Peterborough PE1 1LF

For English Heritage projects:

☐ **Philip Walker,**
Inspector of Ancient Monuments,
English Heritage,
Brooklands,
24 Brooklands Avenue,
Cambridge CB2 2BU

For DC funded reports via the Cambs planning process send to:

2 ☑ ~~003~~ (inc. SMR) **Andy Thomas,**
Principal Archaeologist,
Land-Use Planning
Room A107, Castle Court,
Shire Hall, Castle Hill,
Cambridge CB3 OAP
Box No.: ELH1108

For English Heritage projects:

☐ **Chris Scull,**
Archaeology Commissions,
English Heritage,
23 Savile Row,
London W1X 1AB

Please tick/add numbers of reports sent in the relevant boxes

Bronze Age, Roman, Late Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval Remains in Huntingdon Town Centre, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Rachel Clarke

June 2004

Editor: Elizabeth Popescu
Illustrator: Emily Oakes

With contributions by Ian Baxter, Nina Crummy, Carole Fletcher and Val Fryer

Report No. 724

Cambridgeshire County Council
Fulbourn Community Centre
Haggis Gap, Fulbourn
Cambridgeshire CB1 5HD
Tel (01223) 576201
Fax (01223) 880946

arch.field.unit@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
http://edweb.camcnty.gov.uk/afu

SUMMARY

The Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council conducted an evaluation within Huntingdon Town Centre (TL 2380 7170) between the 23rd February and 8th April 2004. The site comprises a roughly triangular area of c. *2.1ha, bounded by George Street to the north, Market Hill and Prince's Street to the east, Walden Road to the west, and the Bus Station to the south. The evaluation follows on from a desk-based assessment, and was designed as an initial investigation in advance of the Huntingdon Town Centre Modernisation Scheme, which involves the construction of purpose-built office accommodation and other buildings on the site.*

Archaeological features and deposits were identified in each of the six trenches excavated, which were located in areas of the proposed development that are currently accessible. The earliest evidence comprises several sherds of Bronze Age pottery, redeposited in a medieval pit, close to Walden Road. Tentative evidence of Roman occupation was also recovered in the form of a possible feature or layer in a trench close to Prince's Street, and as residual sherds in later deposits in several of the other trenches. No Saxon features were identified, although it is possible that these are located below the Late Saxon and medieval levels in some of the trenches, and/or elsewhere within the development area. A small number of features containing Saxo-Norman pottery were recorded in several of the trenches, most of which are likely to be post-Conquest in date.

The most significant results from the evaluation relate to the medieval period (predominantly the 13th and 14th centuries), and features of this date were present in all six trenches. A range of features characteristic of urban settlement, including dense zones of pitting, remains of timber buildings, cobbled surfaces and a possible well, were recorded. The most concentrated areas of medieval archaeology were found in Trench 1, the northern end of Trench 2, the western end of Trench 3 and Trench 4. This evidence clearly shows that settlement had expanded away from the primary street frontage zones close to the High Street and Market, into more secondary areas to the rear of these zones, and along the back lanes. This correlates with documentary sources, which indicate that Huntingdon was a successful and prosperous settlement in this period.

Evidence of urban contraction in the later medieval period was also evident in the trenches, where an extensive cultivation layer was encountered sealing the medieval features. This suggests that this part of the town was reclaimed for agricultural purposes, a situation that apparently remained unchanged for centuries. This again supports the documentary evidence, which suggest that Huntingdon suffered a period of decline from the 14th century onwards. In the post-medieval period, cartographic sources, such as Speed's map of 1610, show that most of the development area lay within laid gardens to the rear of Walden House and Lawrence Court. This was reiterated by the archaeological evidence, which included a garden soil and a small number of brick drains, walls and levelling layers.

The finds from the evaluation have provided evidence of bio-industrial activities such as tanning and horning, in addition to cottage industries such as antler working, possible cat-skinning and cloth manufacture. The animal bone assemblage comprised largely primary butchery waste, and also included two human bones, possibly from a disturbed burial. Environmental remains include evidence of crop processing in the medieval period, and manuring in the late medieval and post-medieval periods. The pottery from the site is predominantly domestic in character and comprises both cooking vessels and tablewares. A small quantity of metal objects was also present in the assemblage from the site, including a spike possibly from a wool comb, a musket ball and a number of iron nails.

The evaluation has clearly demonstrated the survival of well-preserved, stratified sequences of archaeological deposits across the proposed development area, and has shown that there is high potential for the survival of environmental remains.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF PLATES

LIST OF APPENDICES

LIST OF TABLES

Drawing Conventions

Sections

Limit of Excavation

Cut

Cut - Conjectured

Soil Horizon

Soil Horizon - Conjectured

Intrusion/Truncation

Top of Natural

Top Surface

Break in Section

Cut Number 118

Deposit Number 117

Ordnance Datum 18.45m OD N

Plans

Limit of Excavation

Deposit - Conjectured

Natural Features

Intrusion/Truncation

Sondages/Machine Strip

Illustrated Section S.14

Cut Number **118**

Layer Number 119

Modern

Archaeological Feature

Archaeological Deposits (layer)

Excavated Segments

Machine cut sondage

Brick wall remains

Drain remains

Cobbles

Bronze Age, Roman, Late Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval Remains in Huntingdon Town Centre, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation
(TL 2380 7170)

1 INTRODUCTION

An initial programme of evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council, within areas of the proposed development that are currently accessible. Six trenches were excavated over a seven week period from 23rd February until 8th April 2004. The main objective of the evaluation was to recover as much information as possible on the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of the site. The state of preservation of archaeological features or deposits was also to be determined (Kenney 2003a).

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The development area is located on the Pleistocene First and Second Terrace Gravels of the River Great Ouse (BGS 1975, Sheet 187), below which the solid geology comprises Upper Jurassic Oxford Clays. The surface geology encountered in the trenches varied from slightly sandy clays to calcareous gravels. The water table was reached at *c.* 1.5m below the current ground surface in all six trenches.

The site lies within the town of Huntingdon, just to the west of the modern centre where the medieval High Street and market place are located. The ground surface within the development area is relatively flat, although there is a gradual slope down along Prince's Street from around 14.8m OD at the southern end of the site to 13.7m OD near All Saint's Church to the north. George Street, which forms the northern boundary to the development, slopes up from this corner to the west, to a height of 16.3m OD, and Walden Road, which forms the western boundary slopes down again to the south, to around 15.2m OD. The ground surface within the Walden House car park, however, is noticeably lower (*c.* 0.75m) than that of George Street to the north and Walden Road to the west.

The modern layout of the town appears to retain many boundaries and holdings set out in the medieval period.

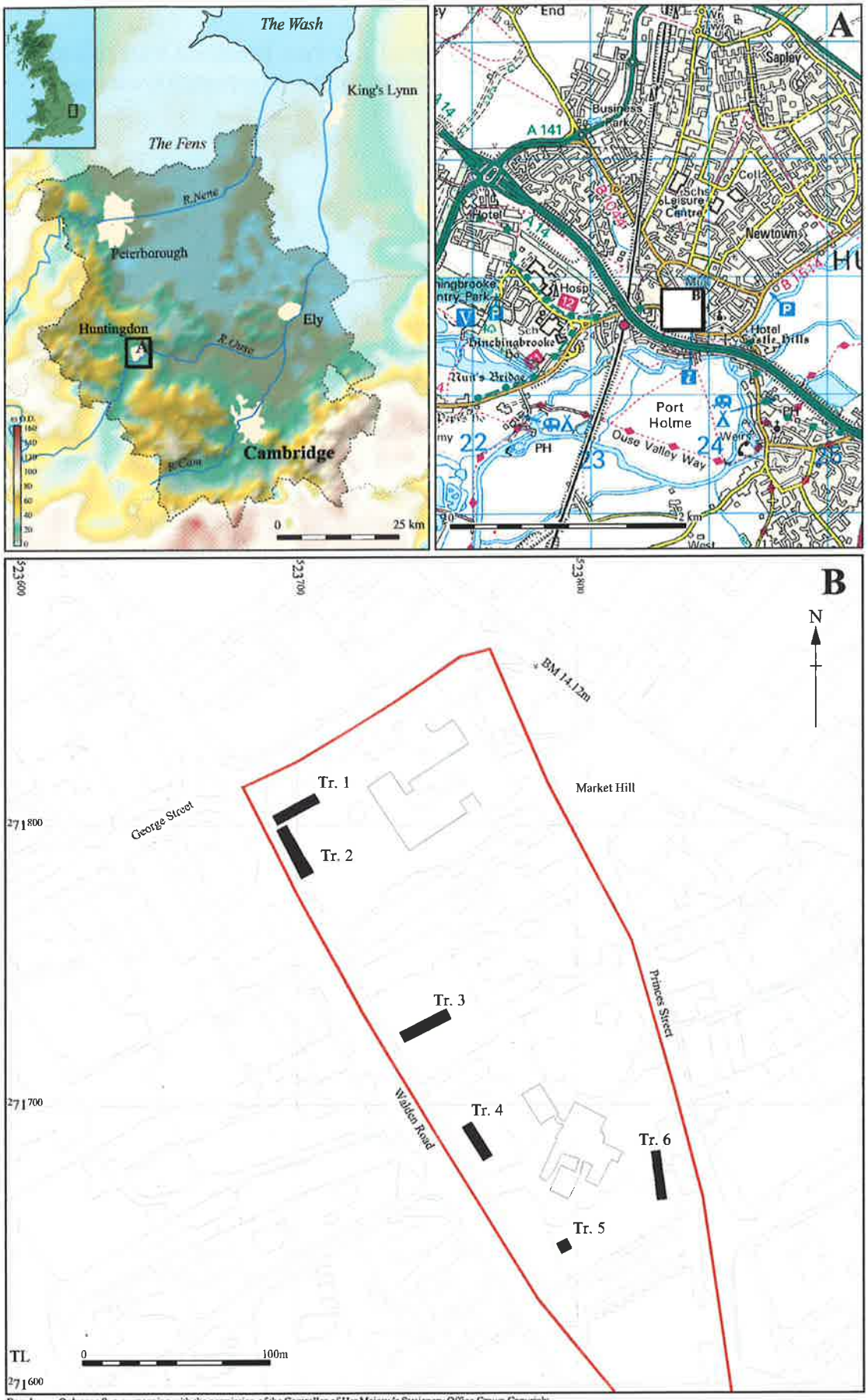


Figure 1 *Location of trenches (black) with the development area outlined (red)*

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A desk-based study was commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council Property and Procurement in 2003 to assess the archaeological potential of the land likely to be affected by the development (Kenney 2003b). This was compiled in response to a basic outline proposal and was based on draft plans of the development that were available at that time. The following summary is based on the results of this report.

3.1 Prehistoric

The development site is located within the Ouse Valley, an area rich in prehistoric remains. A Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age ceremonial complex lies to the west of Huntingdon, at Brampton. Aerial photographic work in the vicinity has also identified the presence of Neolithic monuments including henges, a cursus and a long mortuary enclosure, in addition to Bronze Age burial monuments and Iron Age/Romano-British field systems.

Prehistoric artefacts, largely of Neolithic and Bronze Age date, have also been found within Huntingdon. The presence of such artefacts is unsurprising given the preference of early prehistoric populations for low-lying gravels. Testament to this is the major Late Neolithic ceremonial complex at Rectory Farm, Godmanchester, which lies about 1km to the south-east of the development area. Iron Age finds have been located most recently within Huntingdon at Watersmeet, including Scored Ware pottery dating from the Middle to Late Iron Age (Cooper and Spoerry 1998).

3.2 Roman

There is some evidence, comprising chance finds and three unpublished excavations, for Roman activity in Huntingdon. The town is sometimes regarded as either a suburb of Godmanchester, and/or ribbon development northwards along Ermine Street, which probably ran to the east of Prince's Street/Market Hill. The evidence, in summary, consists of a villa site overlooking Alconbury Brook, and two investigations within the town that revealed metalled Roman road surfaces. Within the roadside zone, various remains have been found, including burials, roadside ditches and occasional structures. The Roman period SMR entries to the north of the site imply that a range of activities was undertaken, whilst the presence of a villa site to the south of the site (on the high riverbank) suggests that related remains may be present in this area.

3.3 Anglo-Saxon

New research into the location of the documented Danish and Saxon burhs at Huntingdon indicates that the Late Saxon settlement was sited in the southern part of the area later enclosed by the medieval town ditch to the north-east and the bar dyke to the south-west (Spoerry 2000). Although there is still much dispute regarding the location of the late 9th to early 10th century Danish burh, it is possible that the development site lies just within the burghal defences.

The process of Late Saxon urban development eventually resulted in the very substantial town documented by Domesday Book, which records that there were 256 burgesses (freemen who were heads of households), two churches and a mill in the town. The survey also refers to the twenty properties cleared to make way for the castle (Spoerry 2000). Both documentary and archaeological data suggest that the main area of immediately pre-Conquest settlement extended from the later High Street to the east, as far as bar dyke at the end of Mill Common to the west.

The major element in the post-Conquest medieval townscape is the castle, built in 1068 and at least partially destroyed in 1174. The imposition of the castle onto the pre-existing Saxon town necessitated the movement of the river crossing, and made it necessary to lay out a new High Street and, probably, market place.

The development site appears to lie within the Late Saxon town, and is in a key position in the general location at which a market place might be anticipated.

3.4 Medieval

The two or three centuries following the Conquest saw a period of population growth and increased prosperity over much of England. Huntingdon was a very successful town during this time because of its status as Shire town and by providing a bridged crossing on Ermine Street, which still formed the basis of the route later to become the Great North Road and A1. In addition, Huntingdon collected tolls for all those going to St Ives fair, one of the largest gatherings in the country. By the early 14th century Huntingdon had sixteen churches, two priories, a friary and three hospitals; all the hallmarks of a thriving centre.

The 14th century was the period during which fortunes changed for Huntingdon, an extreme example of a trend seen all over the country. During the late 13th and 14th centuries there are many references to disputes between the borough and landowners restricting river flow and riverine access further downstream from Huntingdon. In addition, the construction of a bridge at St Ives and the demise of St Ives fair all weakened the local economy.

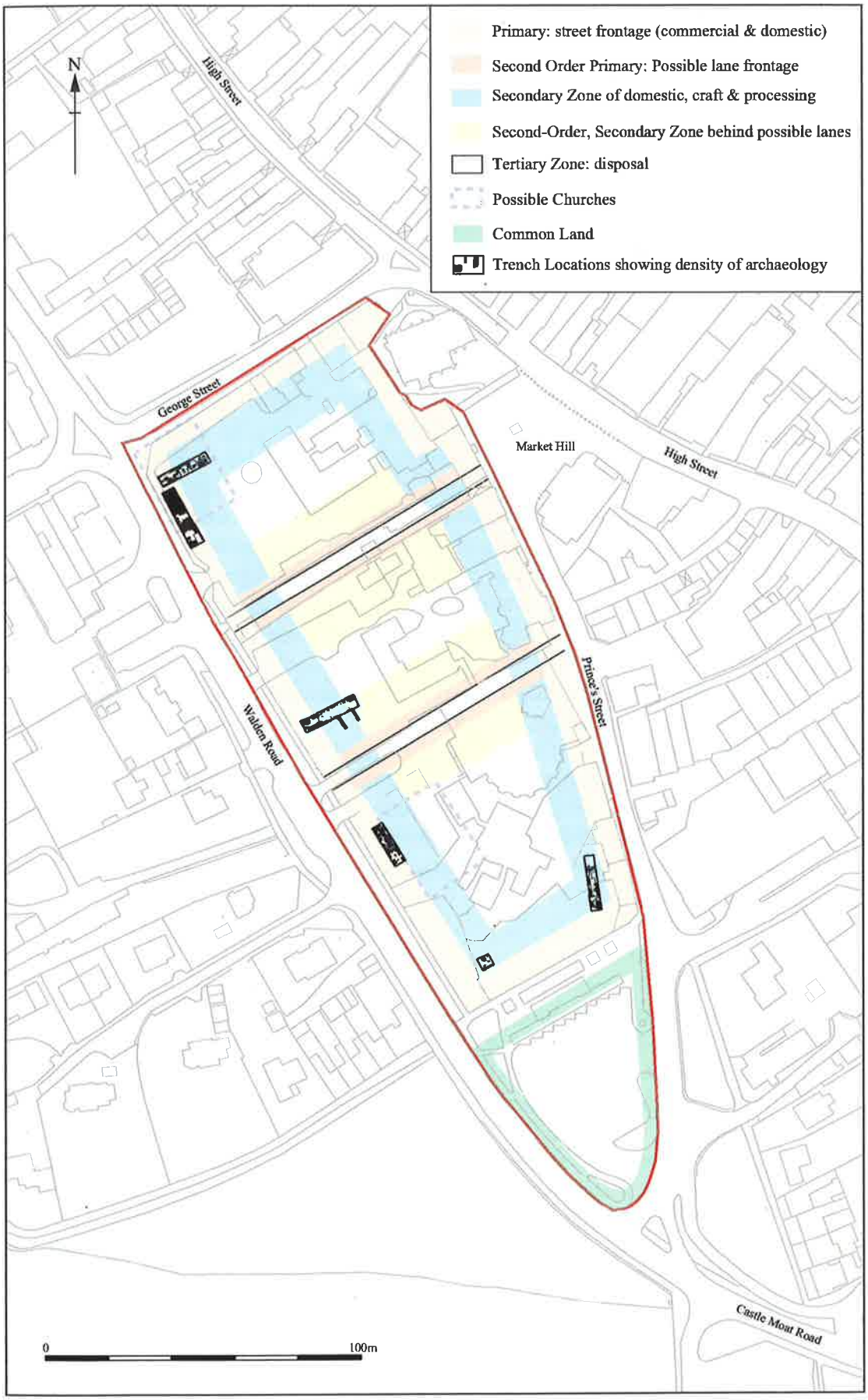


Figure 2 *Trench location with density of archaeology overlaying a model of the probable post-Conquest medieval landscape*

This situation was compounded by countrywide overpopulation and several years of failed harvests, followed by several waves of plague. It seems that there was a particularly severe visitation of the Black Death to Huntingdon itself, and the shortage of people and poor state of the local economy is regularly attested to in documents dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. Six of the churches are not mentioned in documents after the mid-14th century and by the 16th century only four (St Mary's, All Saints, St Benedict's and St John's) were still functioning.

During the medieval period, the street frontage perimeter of the development site may have been extensively built up, and areas that are now open may have housed structures (Fig. 2). The typical medieval urban pattern would be densely packed buildings along road frontages, with industrial processes and waste disposal located behind, often at the end of long narrow burgage plots. Evaluations carried out to the west of Walden Road at The Views (Cooper & Spoerry 1998) and to the rear of 9/10 George Street (Cooper 2000) revealed the presence of medieval features dating to the 13th and 14th centuries. The density of features across these two adjacent sites increased with proximity to Walden Road, although the easternmost features were largely quarries. This fits the general pattern outlined above, although there is no confirmation of street frontage structures from these investigations.

Although no direct evidence exists, it is reasonable to expect that buildings would have surrounded the many urban churches, including St Botolph's (SMR 02805), which may have lain within the southern half of the subject area. St George's church (SMR 02593) may have stood at the extreme north of the development site. Houses probably lined the lane that would become Prince's Street, and shops would have surrounded Market Hill, operating from a *'sellar'*, with living accommodation above (Dickinson 1972).

3.5 Post-medieval

Huntingdon suffered during the 15th-century War of the Roses and in the Civil War of the 17th century, and throughout this time documents still refer to 'the poor decayed town'. It was only with the rise of the coaching trade in the 18th century that the town found another role and prosperity returned.

It is this point in the development of the town that the earliest surviving maps depict. These maps, namely John Speed's map of 1610 (Fig. 3), the 1752 plan of the Hospital Lands and Thomas Jeffery's 1768 map (Fig. 4), all show the development area as having structures along George Street, Market Hill and Prince's Street, as well as along the southern edge. This edge is the modern northern boundary of the bus station, but in the post-medieval period it formed the southern limit of urban construction along the north edge of Mill Common. The 1572 survey of the town indicates that George Lane (now Street) existed, as did a lane later to become Prince's Street. One entry describes 'Saffron Yard', possibly a dyers', and this may have existed at the southern end of the

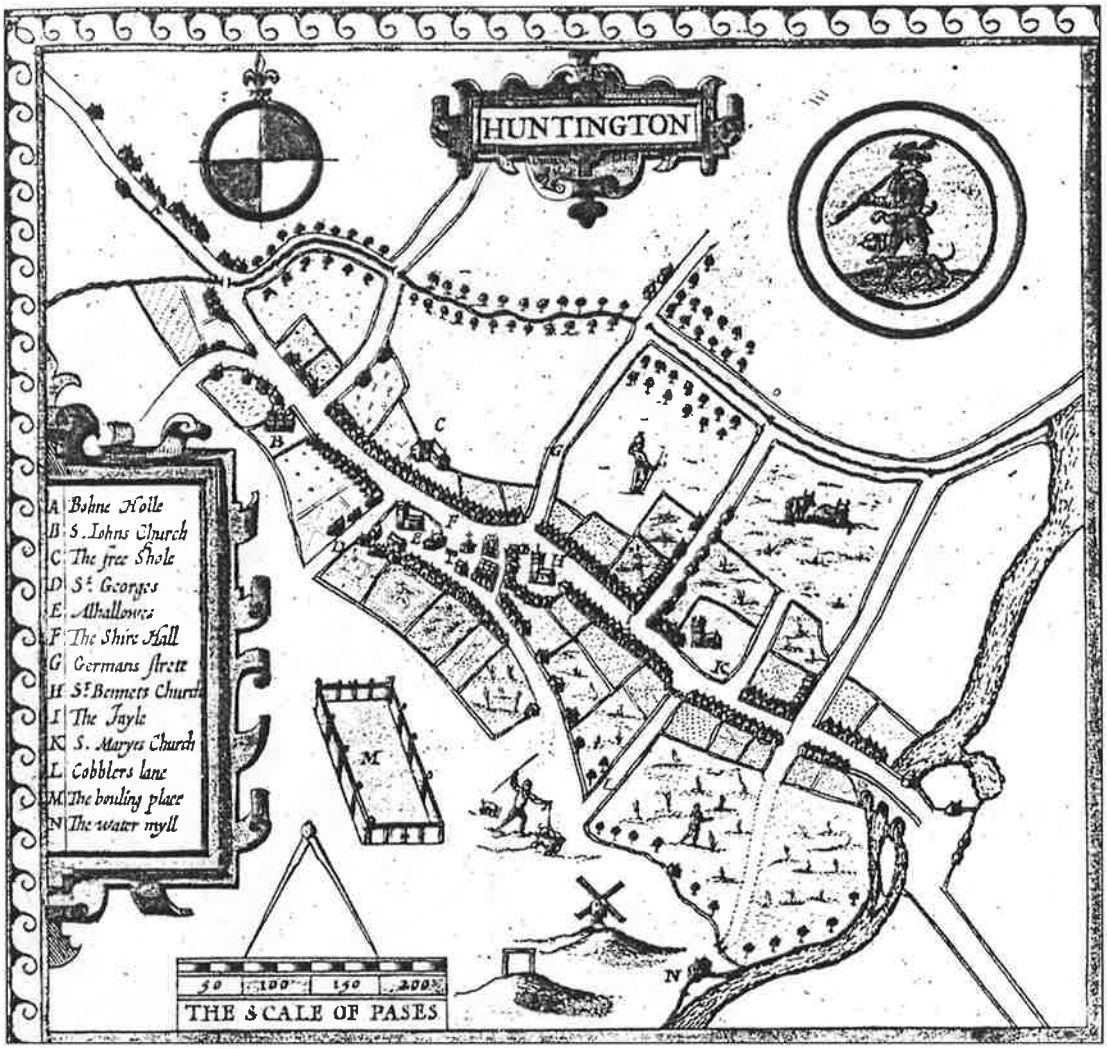


Figure 3 *John Speed's map of Huntingdon (1610)*

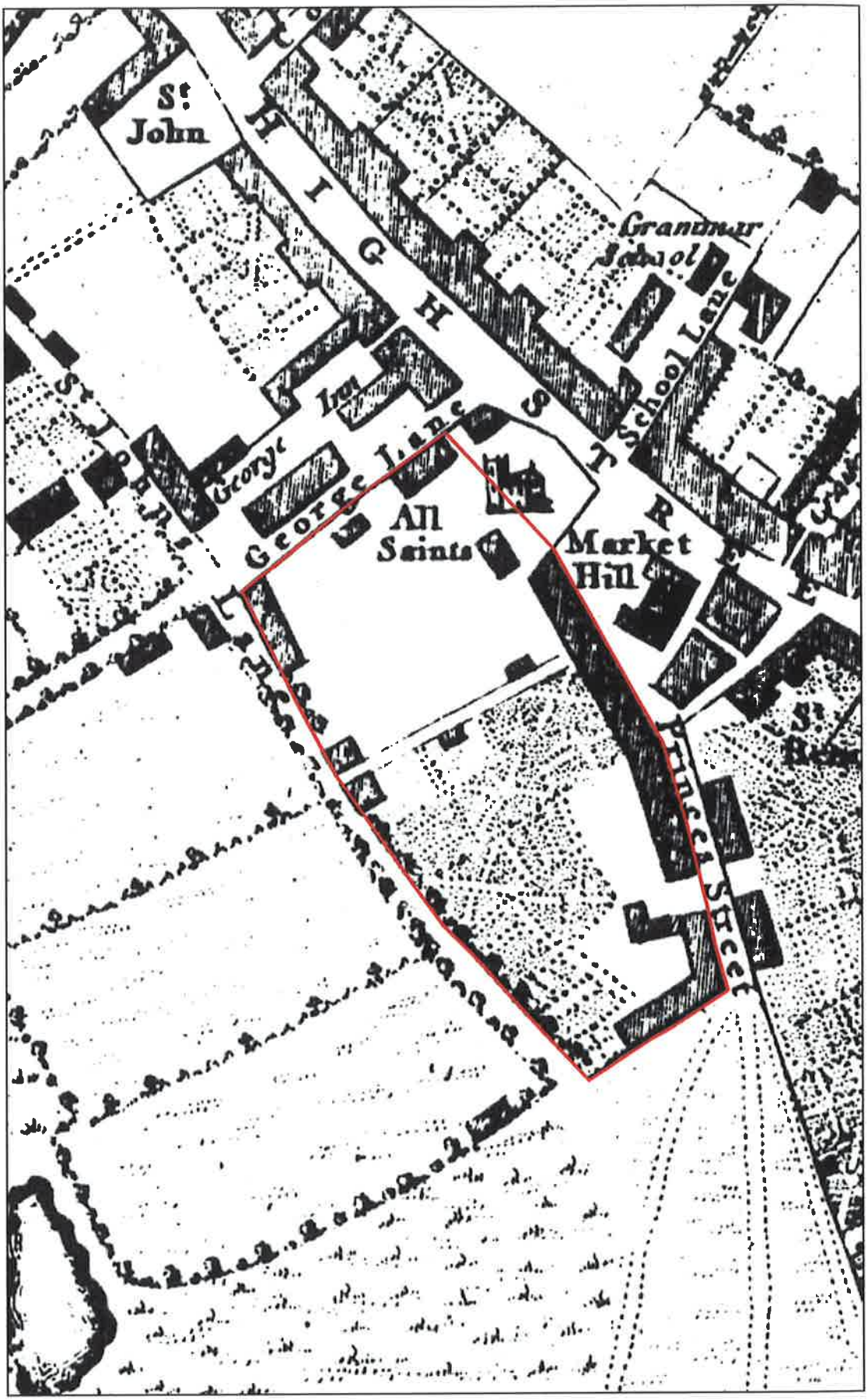


Figure 4 *Detail from map of county of Huntingdon by Thomas Jeffery (1768) showing development area (red)*

development area. Malting was an important industry in the town during the 18th and 19th centuries, and a malting was once located along the southern edge of the development, since demolished. The southern wall of this building was retained and now forms the boundary to the bus station.

The maps show that the land to the rear of the Market Hill and Prince's Street frontage properties was open in this period, and occupied by gardens. These appear to have been associated with some of the main properties to the east, such as Walden House in the north of the development area and Lawrence Court in the south. There is very little urban development indicated along Walden Road, although the line of this road was widened to the east when the ring road was created (David Hufford pers. comm.). Within the development area, numerous properties along the Prince's Street, Market Hill and George Street frontages are Grade II Listed Buildings, many of which are cellared.

4 METHODOLOGY (Figs 1 and 2)

Six trenches, between 4m and 20m long and 3m and 4m wide, were mechanically excavated using a 1.8m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. Trenches 1 and 2 were located in the car park to the rear of the council offices at Walden House in the north-west of the development area, parallel to George Street and Walden Road respectively. Trench 3 was located in a grassed area to the rear of Gazeley House, at right angles to Walden Road; Trench 4 was positioned to the south of this in a public car park behind the library, parallel to Walden Road. Trenches 5 and 6 were situated in car parks to the rear of properties close to Prince's Street and the bus station area.

The position and size of the trenches were approved by the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office, who also monitored the work, prior to the start of the evaluation. Several of the trenches had to be shortened, however, once the evaluation had started. Trench 1 was shortened from 20m to 18m to avoid the root system of a large tree to the east and Trench 3 was also reduced to a length of 18m because of a live, low-pressure gas pipe at its eastern end. Trench 4 was moved into the car park adjacent to Walden Road to prevent damage to a sub-surface drainage system in the library car park, and was also shortened to 15m to avoid a tree and allow a safe working area for the wheeled excavator. Trench 5 was reduced in size from 10m x 4m to 4m x 4m because of the presence of several trees, and Trench 6 was shortened to 17m to avoid a live drainage pipe at its southern end, and narrowed to 3m as a result of limited space.

A service check was undertaken prior to the start of works, and a cable detector was also used to check each trench before excavation. Tarmac was removed with the aid of a breaker in Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5, and taken off site; hardcore, rubble and gravel layers in the car park areas were machine-

excavated and, where possible, stored separately from the soil-based overburden. Several of the trenches were stepped for health and safety reasons due to the depth of overburden and archaeological deposits, provision for which had been allowed for by the extra width of the trenches.

In most trenches, the medieval level (Period 4, see below) was encountered at between 0.6m and 1.3m below the current ground surface, although the average depth was around 1m. The natural surface geology was present at a depth of up to 1.6m below the surface, suggesting that there has been considerable levelling/make up over large parts of the development area. The depth of stratified medieval and earlier deposits was in excess of 1m in several areas. The encroaching ground water was present at between 1.5m and 1.6m below the ground surface in all trenches, making it impossible to fully-excavate the sequence. Because of the density and complexity of archaeology in some of the trenches, it was agreed with the County Archaeological Officer to excavate a sample of the exposed features/sequences, rather than every feature. Environmental samples were taken from several deposits, mainly of medieval date. The extensive medieval and post-medieval layers were, in general, removed by mechanical excavator to reveal the medieval features sealed below them, although in the deeper, stepped trenches parts of these layers were left *in situ*.

The trenches were planned at 1:20 or 1:50, and sections were drawn at 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50. Context listings for all features are presented in Appendix 5.

5 RESULTS

As was anticipated by the desk-based study, areas of stratified archaeological deposits were encountered in all six trenches, with very little evidence of modern truncation or disturbance. Seven main periods of activity have been identified, spanning the Bronze Age through to the post-medieval period. Phasing is based on the stratigraphic relationships combined with pottery spot-dates. No definitive evidence of Saxon occupation was found, and most of the pottery indicates a post-Conquest date. It is possible that Saxon features may be present in some areas, however, such as Trenches 1 and 2, where areas of the medieval stratigraphy were left *in situ*.

The following broad periods have been identified:

Period 1: Bronze Age (*c.* 2000-1000 BC)
Period 2: Roman (AD 43-410)
Period 3: Late Saxon to early medieval (*c.* AD 900-1200)
Period 4: Medieval (*c.* AD 1200-1350)
Period 5: Late medieval (*c.* AD 1350-1500)
Period 6: Early post-medieval (*c.* AD 1500-1800)
Period 7: Post-medieval/modern (*c.* AD 1800-present)

5.1 Trench 1 (Figs 5 and 6, Plates 1 - 3)

Trench 1 was 18m long, and was orientated north-east to south-west, parallel to George Street in the north-west corner of the development. Period 4 features were exposed directly below the Period 5 layer and later overburden, cutting the natural geology at the western end of the trench, at a depth of *c.*1m below current ground level (*c.* 14.27m OD). A cobbled surface was encountered in the middle part of the trench, overlying earlier features, and a mass of intercutting pits was revealed at the eastern end, where the trench was stepped.

5.1.1 Period 1: Bronze Age

No evidence of Bronze Age activity was identified in this trench.

5.1.2 Period 2: Roman

No evidence of Roman activity, other than occasional sherds of pottery residual in later contexts, was identified in this trench.

5.1.3 Period 3: Late Saxon to early medieval

The earliest features and deposits were identified below the Period 4 cobbled surface (see below), and comprise two pits (**160** and **178**) recorded in the western/central part of the trench. Pit **160**, located against the northern edge of the trench, was excavated and found to be quite deep (0.6m), with vertical sides. Pit **178**, to the south, was planned but not excavated as it was located in an area of potentially complex stratigraphy. Small quantities of pottery were recovered from the lower fills of pit **160** and are datable to the period AD 900-1200, although a post-Conquest date is most probable. Animal bone was also retrieved from this pit, and species include sheep, cattle and goose.

Sherds of similarly dated pottery also occurred as residual elements in Period 4 and later deposits in this trench. This, combined with the evidence from the two pits, is further indication that additional features of this date are likely to be present both within the trench and in the wider vicinity.

5.1.4 Period 4: Medieval

The vast majority of features in Trench 1 are dated to the medieval period and comprise postholes, numerous pits, a possible well and a cobbled surface. Although there is more than one subperiod within this main period, the cobbles and features that cut it are grouped together at this stage for ease of description. The features are described from west (where the archaeology was less dense) to east across the trench.

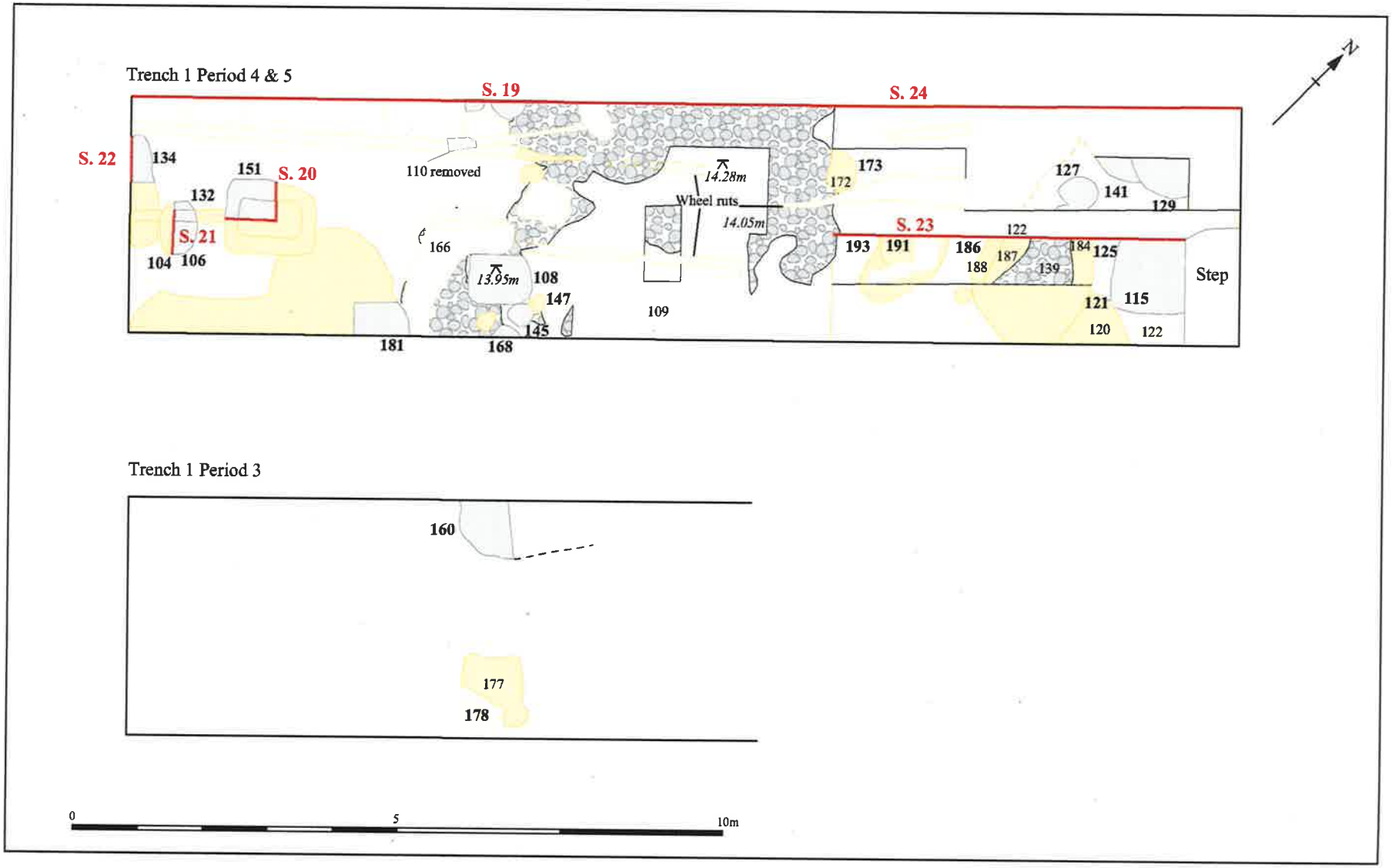


Figure 5 *Trench 1 plans showing excavated and possible archaeological features*

Features at the western end of the trench

The westernmost feature was a pit (**134**), which was partly exposed against the edge of the trench. This feature cut the natural clay, was sealed beneath a Period 5 layer (156) and cut by a ?wheel rut (**132**, see below). The full shape and size of the pit is not known, although the slightly squared edges suggest that it might be rectangular. The excavated sides of pit **134** were almost vertical, breaking to a generally flat, but slightly concave base, with an overall depth of 0.48m.

A large (0.78m x 0.54m) and fairly deep (0.43m) posthole (**106**) was located to the immediate east of the pit, and was also cut by **132**. A very clear postpipe (**104**) was present, set slightly off-centre within the main posthole cut. The fill of the postpipe was much looser than the surrounding flinty clay packing, and contained abundant charcoal and clear evidence of charred plant remains. Analysis of a sample taken from this feature (which was fully excavated) identified cereal grains, weed seeds and nutshell fragments, representing either cereal processing waste or semi-cleaned grain. Although no other postholes were located in proximity to **106**, it is likely that similar features are present beyond the limits of the trench. Several postholes were also identified in Trench 2 to the south, further indicating the presence of timber buildings in this area. The pottery from both the posthole and pit in Trench 1 has broadly similar dates, spanning the period AD 1200-1400, although that from the postpipe may be slightly earlier (AD 1150-1250).

A sub-rectangular cut (**151**), with vertical sides and aligned roughly south-west to north-east, was located *c.* 0.5m to the east of posthole **106**. A quadrant was excavated, although the base was not reached due to the depth of the feature and the presence of petrol contamination. A hand auger was used to assess the unexcavated depth of the feature, which combined with the excavated part suggests that it was at least 1.6m deep. The vertical sides and the depth of this feature indicates that it might be a small well, possibly associated with the features to the west, especially as it contained pottery of a very similar date. Other finds from the silty fills in this feature mostly comprise animal bones, including fish, pig and cattle, indicating that it was deliberately infilled with domestic rubbish. Overlying the uppermost fill of feature **151** was a shallow, rectangular, gravel-filled cut or depression (**149**), which may just be a slump of gravely material into the top of the well.

Two large pits were present to the south of well **151,** one of which (**181**) was investigated, although the base was not reached. This pit appeared to be cut by well **151**, and cut gravely layer 166 (see below); its relationship with an unexcavated pit in the south-west corner of the trench was not possible to distinguish on the surface. Pottery of a similar date range to that from the other features in this area was recovered from pit **181** and from the surface of the unexcavated pit (183). The latter also produced pieces of animal bone, suggesting that these features were infilled with domestic rubbish.

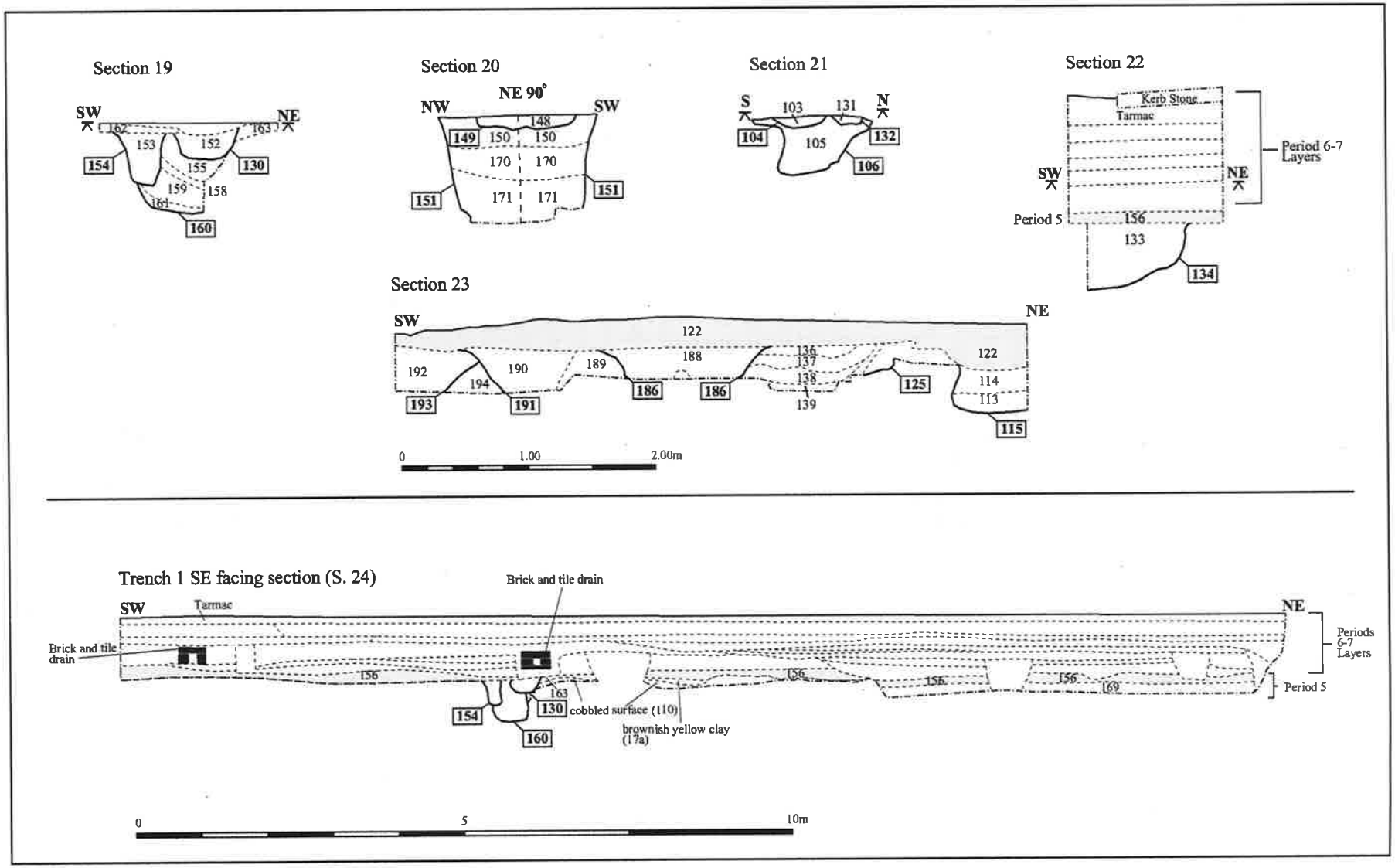


***Figure 6** Trench 1 selected section drawings*

A narrow rut (**132**), on the same alignment as the trench, was the latest feature in this group and cut through three of the features (**134**, **106** and **149/151**). This feature was visible extending for *c.*1.6m from the west end of the trench, and had a shallow, slightly U-shaped profile with a compacted gravely fill. A small quantity of Saxo-Norman (AD 900-1200) pottery was recovered from this fill, which is clearly redeposited, and it is not certain whether the fill represents material compacted into the rut by later activity, or a deliberate infilling. A second, very similar feature (**124**) was located *c.* 1.2m to the north of, and parallel to, **132,** running towards the cobbled surface (110). This, and several similar features in the area of the cobbles, is also likely to be a wheel rut, probably from a cart.

Cobbled surface 110 and associated features and deposits (Fig. 5, Plates 1-3)
Overlying the Period 3 pits (**160** and **178**) was an extensive cobbled surface (110), which was present extending over an area in excess of 6.5m, mainly in the central part of the trench. This surface consisted mostly of rounded stones between 40mm and 120mm in size, with occasional more angular and slightly larger stones up to 180mm, and set within a sandy silt matrix. The surface was quite smooth, but undulating and patchy in places where it had subsided into underlying deposits and features, such as the Period 3 pits described above. Where excavated, the cobble surface was found to be up to 0.12m thick, although it was much thinner in places, consisting of a single layer of stones. Several features cut the surface (see below), which also contributed to giving the layer an uneven appearance. Narrow linear cuts, similar to **132**, were also visible over parts of 110 and are likely to represent cartwheel ruts possibly associated with the use of this surface.

Sherds of pottery and fragments of animal bone were found pressed into the surface, often between cobbles, which may relate to its use or, more probably, disuse. The pottery indicates that the surface is probably contemporary with the features to the west, although the spot-dates for both the features and the surface (AD 1200-1350) are quite broad. A small patch of laid cobbles (139) was also present in the top of one of a series of pits located to the east of the main surface (110), which may be related. The cobbled surface was probably originally much more extensive, and seems only to have survived where it has slumped into the top of earlier features; similar evidence was found in Trench 2 (see below).

Patches of brownish yellow clay (163 and 179) and areas of redeposited gravel (166), of varying thickness overlay the cobbled surface in places, which may be remnants of floor surfaces and/or patchy repairs to the cobble surface. This would have become necessary as the cobbles slumped into the underlying soft pit fills, causing depressions to appear. These layers were removed in part to reveal the cobbles beneath, and in turn were found to be cut by several features, most of which appear to be shallow postholes. A group of four small, sub-circular postholes (**143**, **145**, **147** and **168**) was found to cut gravel layers 164 and 165 (not on plan) close to the southern edge of the trench. One of these (**145**) contained a small quantity of pottery datable to AD 1200-1400, similar to that from layer 165. Two small, possibly sub-circular postholes

(**130** and **154**) were also excavated against the northern edge of the trench, one of which (**130**) cut clay layer 163. Both contained pottery with a similar date range to that from the other features in this period. An unexcavated posthole was recorded cutting 110 to the east of 130 and 154, and pottery recovered from the surface of this feature suggests that it is also of a comparable date.

These features clearly represent a change in use/or activity within this main period, although the similarity of pottery spot dates to that from stratigraphically-earlier features suggests that this happened within a fairly short time frame. The postholes may indicate that small, temporary structures or fences were erected over the previously open cobbled area, perhaps during a period of urban expansion to the rear of the main frontage properties.

Pit complex at the eastern end of the trench
The eastern part of the trench was dominated by a series of intercutting pits, of which a sample were excavated (Fig. 5). The petrol contamination was particularly severe here, especially in the lower deposits of the pits. A small, central baulk was left in at this end of the trench, to show the relationship of the Period 5 layer (122/156, see below) and the underlying features.

The deepest pit (**115**) was located almost 1.2m below the current ground surface, in the south-east corner of the trench, and was at least 0.8m deep, although the water table was reached at *c.* 1.7m, preventing full excavation. This pit, which is of uncertain shape as too little was exposed, contained several clayey silt fills and may have been cut by an unexcavated pit (**121**) on its western edge. The latter feature appeared to be cut by another large, oval pit (**125**). This was only partly-excavated and seemed to contain a variety of fills, including a layer of apparently well-laid cobbles (139) below its upper fills, which was exposed but left *in situ*. A pit (**186**) cut pit **125** to the west, and in also cut another pit (**191**) to the east, although again, only the upper parts of these features were investigated.

Similar features, comprising two partly exposed pits (**127** and **129**) and a posthole (**141**), were located on the northern side of the small central baulk, all of which were investigated. Posthole **141,** a shallow sub-circular cut, may have been cut by pit 125 to the south, although this relationship was not certain. Pit **127** was very shallow, and also had an uncertain relationship with pit **129**, which was much deeper (0.58m) but not fully excavated due to petrol contamination.

The finds recovered from these pits are very similar to those from other Period 4 features in the trench and mostly comprise pottery and animal bone, indicative of rubbish disposal. The pottery is also of a comparable date (AD 1200-1350) to that from the other features, suggesting contemporary activity across the trench.

Plate 1 *Trench 1 looking south-west*

Plate 2 *Detail of cobbled surface (110)*

5.1.5 Period 5: Late Medieval

Overlying all of the Period 4 features was a *c.* 0.25m-thick greyish-brown sandy clay silt layer (156; Fig. 6, S. 24), which also comprised contexts 122, 109, 162, and possibly 169 (see below) and 182. The finds from this layer are mixed and include animal bone, shell and pottery, the latest date for which is AD 1300 or later, although Period 4 pottery is also present. This layer is probably a buried cultivation soil and represents a complete change in land use/activity on the site. A sample was taken from this layer, analysis of which identified small quantities of cereal grains, chaff and weed seeds, which may indicate the scattering of manure.

A small pit (**108**) cut layer 109 towards the middle of the trench, and could belong to either Period 5 or 6; no dating evidence was found to further define this.

A brown clay silt layer (169), at least 0.3m thick, overlay the pits at the eastern end of the trench. This layer may be part of layer 156, which was similar in colour and consistency, or may be a separate deposit. If layer 169 is part of 156, then it has slumped quite noticeably, probably into the top of (unexcavated) underlying pit fills. Finds from this layer comprise pottery, animal bone (including cattle and sheep, and wild species such as raven), and an iron strap (SF 2), which may be part of a box-fitting. This suggests that domestic refuse was incorporated into the layer, probably through cultivation. The pottery is of a similar type and date to that from the Period 4 features below.

5.1.6 Periods 6 and 7: Post-medieval to modern

The Period 5 layer was cut by construction cuts for brick drains and wall foundations close to the western end of the trench, which relate to post-medieval and/or Victorian buildings that once fronted onto Walden Road. These in turn were sealed beneath several layers of redeposited gravel and stone chippings, which are levelling layers for the construction of the present car park surface.

5.2 **Trench 2** (Figs 7 and 8, Plates 4 and 5)

Trench 2, which was 20m long and ran north-west to south-east (parallel to Walden Road), was positioned at right angles to, and to the immediate south of, Trench 1. The natural surface geology, where exposed, comprised a mixed 'dirty' orange gravel, silt and clay, which was found to overly clean, loose river gravels in the south-east corner of the trench. A similar range of features and deposits to that in Trench 1 was revealed, including postholes, pits, a shallow ditch, gravel layers and patches of cobbles. The more dense and potentially complex archaeology was located at the northern end of the trench, in proximity to Trench 1. The Period 5-7 layers were all removed by the

Plate 3 *Trench 1 looking north-east*

mechanical excavator, below which the Period 4 features were exposed at a depth of *c.* 1m (14.19m OD) below the current ground surface. Petrol contamination, in the form of a strong odour, was particularly severe in this trench, and as a result only a sample of the features was excavated. The features are described from south to north.

5.2.1 *Period 1: Bronze Age*

No evidence of Bronze Age activity was identified in this trench.

5.2.2 *Period 2: Roman*

No evidence of Roman activity, other than occasional sherds of pottery residual in later contexts, was identified in this trench.

5.2.3 *Period 3: Late Saxon to early medieval*

Although no features were identified that can be assigned to this period, it is likely that they are present below the Period 4 layers in the northern half of the trench. The similarity of the sequence of Period 4 layers to that in the middle of Trench 1, combined with the presence of residual sherds of pottery possibly datable to AD 900-1200, strongly suggests that Period 3 features are present here.

5.2.4 *Period 4: Medieval*

As was found in Trench 1, the features identified across Trench 2 date predominantly to Period 4. These were, on the whole, sealed beneath the Phase 5 layer similar to that encountered in Trench 1.

Features in the southern half of the trench
A pit (**253**) was investigated at the southern edge of the trench and is of unknown size and shape as it extended beyond the limits of excavation to the south. The pit was, however, over 2m across, steep-sided and at least 0.7m deep, although the base was not reached due to petrol contamination. Finds from the pit comprise animal bone and pottery, the latter dating to AD 1200-1350.

Located a few metres to the north of pit **253**, was a linear cut or depression (**248 /250**), which ran south-west to north-east across the trench. This feature comprised two distinct deposits on the surface. One was a very dark greyish brown silt with frequent decayed tree roots (247), whilst the other (249) was a much paler yellowish brown with dark greyish brown mottles. Although two cuts were assigned, it is likely that only one feature was represented, with two very different fills. Both cuts were very shallow (0.25m deep), which combined produced a gently-sloping concave profile. It is possible that feature **248/259** is the remains of a ditched boundary running

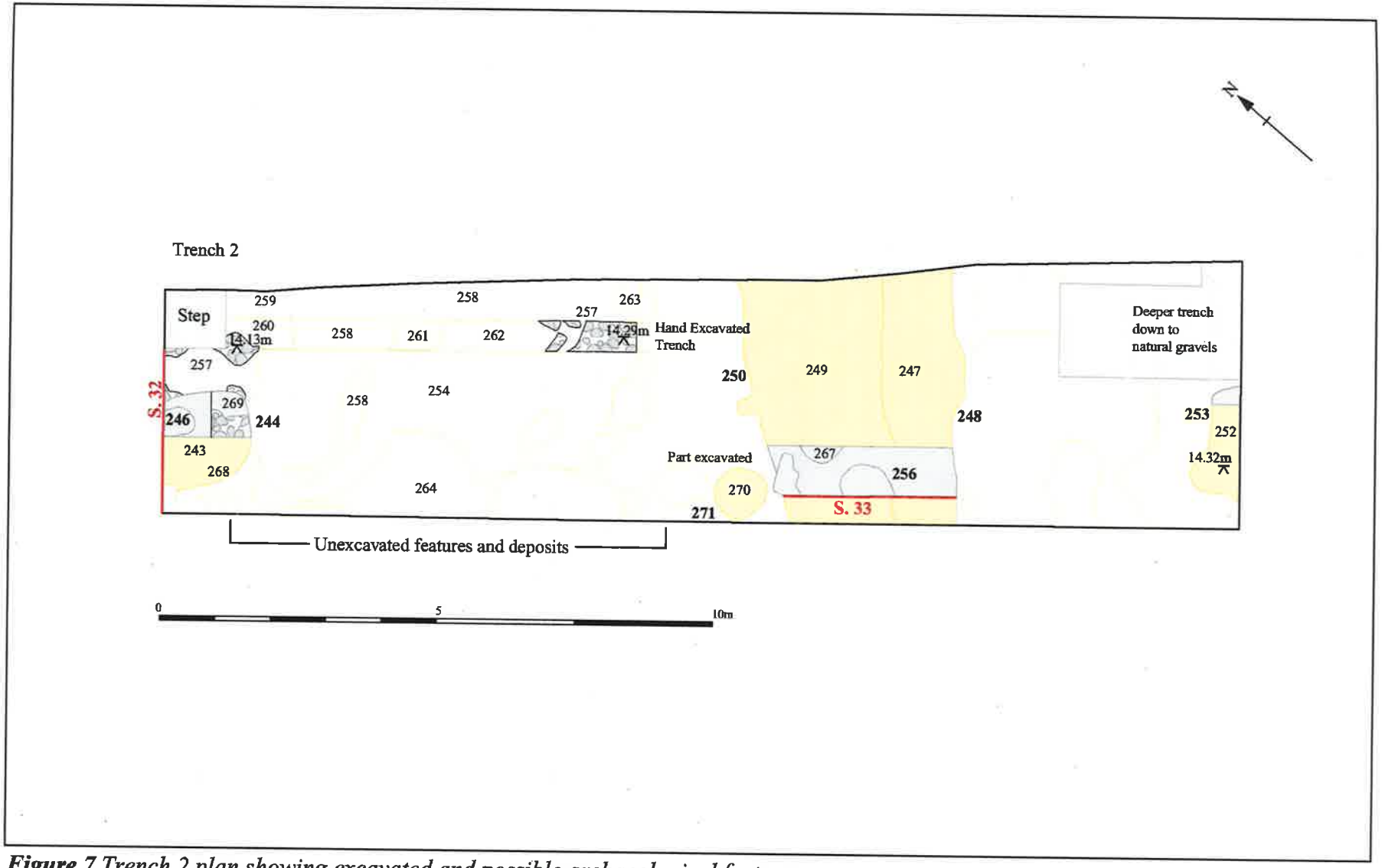


***Figure** 7 Trench 2 plan showing excavated and possible archaeological features*

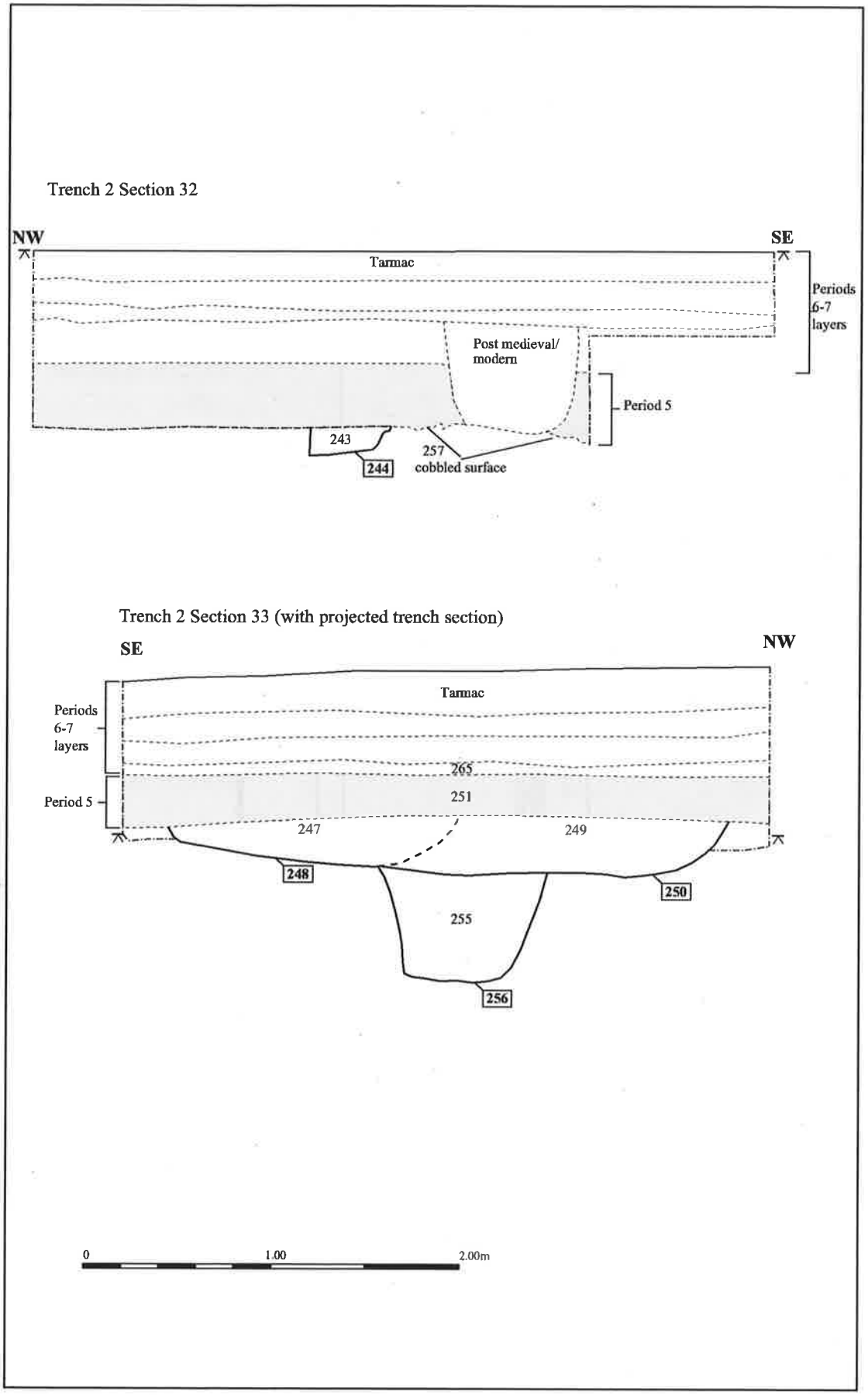


Figure 8 *Trench 2: selected section drawings*

parallel to George Street. It is not possible to ascertain at this stage whether this feature could be the remains of a boundary for a property located on George Street to the north, or whether it relates to a plot running from the direction of Walden Road (?formerly St John's Lane) to the west. A further, but perhaps less likely, possibility is that it was a boundary associated with secondary development along one of the medieval lanes, such as that whichnow runs to the rear of the Falcon Tavern to the south. Pottery recovered from fill 249 indicates a 13th to mid-14th century date, which is similar to that from pit **253** to the south, and most of the other datable features in this trench.

Revealed below this feature were two, or possibly three, postholes one of which (**256**) was excavated and found to be quite substantial. Posthole **256** cut the natural gravel and was *c.* 0.9m across and 0.6m deep, with very steep sides and a slightly concave base. No postpipe was identified, but the size and shape of this feature suggests that it held a substantial timber post, most probably for a large building. The petrol contamination was particularly severe in this feature, and had clearly stained the lower third of the silty fill. Pottery recovered from posthole **256** is relatively closely spot-dated to the period AD 1150-1250, and is slightly earlier than that from ditch **248/259,** which truncated it. This evidence hints at some spatial reorganisation in this period, with the dismantling/removal of existing timber buildings perhaps to make way for the establishment of new property boundaries.

Two other similar, but smaller, features were revealed to the immediate north of **256,** one of which (**271**) was partly excavated. These features suggest that additional postholes are likely to be present beneath ditch **248/259** and elsewhere in the trench, and provide further evidence for at least one timber building in this area.

The 2-3m of the trench to the immediate north of these features comprised very mixed deposits of 'dirty' orange gravel with patches of dark greyish brown silt. The latter are likely to be discrete features, such as postholes, although some were very irregular and may simply be the result of root or animal disturbance.

Features and deposits in the northern half of the trench

The northern half of the trench also comprised a very mixed sequence of deposits, with no evidence of the natural geology, suggesting dense/complex layers and features here. A narrow trench was hand-excavated through the upper part of this sequence, close to the eastern edge of the trench. The earliest deposits encountered appear to be the fills of features (259, 260, 261, 262), none of which were further investigated but which are likely to be pits. Overlying the features at the southern end of the small trench was a patch of cobbles (257) very similar in appearance to cobble surface 110 in Trench 1. As in Trench 1, the cobble layer appears to have survived where it has sunk into hollows formed by subsidence of the underlying pits and other features, and is likely to be preserved below the gravel layers (254 *etc*) across this part of the trench.

Overlying the cobbles to the south and unexcavated features to the north of the small trench, was a mixed gravel and silt layer (254), which appeared to cover much of the northern half of the trench. Layer 254 may equal layers 164/165 in Trench 1, as it was similar in appearance to these deposits. This layer, which dipped noticeably to the north and east, probably represents attempts at levelling or consolidating this area, where the underlying pit/feature fills were clearly subject to subsidence. Pottery from 254 is of the same date (AD 1200-1400) as that from the equivalent layers in Trench 1. A thin greyish brown silty layer (263) overlay 254, and is probably a remnant of Period 5 layer 251 (see below).

Investigation of a large, shallow depression (**244**) at the northern end of the trench identified more of the cobble surface 257. The cobbles were revealed in the base and sides of the depression, and were overlain by a layer of bright yellowish orange gravel (269), very similar to layer 166 in Trench 1. The identification of further patches of these cobbles at the northern end of the trench suggests that this surface could be quite extensive. It is very likely that these cobbles are a continuation of surface 110 in Trench 1, located a few metres to the north.

A posthole (**246**), which was planned and not excavated, was also uncovered in the base of the depression (244); pottery from the surface of which also indicates a date of AD 1200-1400. A gravely layer (268) overlay layer 269, and is probably equivalent to layer 254 in the hand-excavated trench to the south-east. The fill (243) of hollow/depression **244** was very similar to the overlying layer 251 (Period 5), and layer 263 in the hand-excavated trench, suggesting that the layer had slumped into the depression, sealing the cobbles and other layers below it.

Although only a sample of this sequence was investigated, the deposits are very similar to those in Trench 1, with comparable stratigraphic relationships, and clear evidence of slumping of surfaces and layers. This strongly suggests the presence of areas of complex pitting of Period 4 or earlier date in the northern half of the trench.

5.2.5 Period 5: Late medieval

An extensive greyish brown sandy silt layer (251; Fig. 8), between 0.15m and 0.48m thick, was recorded overlying the deposits and features in Trench 2. This was probably a buried topsoil/cultivation layer equivalent to layer 156 in Trench 1, and contained residual (AD 1200-1400) pottery, animal bone and a whetstone (SF 8).

5.2.6 Period 6: Early post-medieval

A layer (265), similar to 251, but darker grey in colour and with frequent tile and brick fragments, overlay the Period 5 cultivation layer, and is likely to be a post-medieval cultivation/garden soil.

Plate 4 *Trench 2 Posthole 256 and associated features*

Plate 5 *Trench 2 working shot with Trench 1 in the background (infilled)*

5.2.7 Period 7: Post-medieval to modern

Overlying the Period 6 layer was a *c.* 0.75m thick sequence of modern redeposited gravel and stone levelling layers and tarmac for the car park, the same as those encountered in Trench 1.

5.3 **Trench 3** (Figs 9 and 10, Plate 6)

Trench 3 was 18m long and aligned south-west to north-east, at right angles to Walden Road, in a grassed area to the rear of Gazeley House. Periods 5 to 7 layers were mechanically excavated to a depth of 0.6m at the east end, and 1.2m at the west end, where the sides were stepped. A dense concentration of intercutting pits was present at the western end of the trench, to the east of which were several pits and other features located close to the northern and southern edges. Root disturbance was present in this trench, resulting in some quite diffuse horizons, and a very disturbed-looking natural clay.

5.3.1 Period 1: Bronze Age

Several sherds of Bronze Age pottery, probably from a bucket urn, were recovered from a partially-exposed pit (**042**) in the north-west corner of the trench. Although the pottery is residual, the quantity and size of the sherds strongly suggests that features of this date could be located nearby.

5.3.2 Period 2: Roman

No evidence of Roman activity, other than occasional sherds of pottery residual in later contexts, was identified in this trench.

5.3.3 Period 3: Late Saxon to early medieval

Several features containing pottery dating to *c.* AD 900-1250 were recorded in the trench, and they have been assigned to this period on this basis. Two large pits (**014** and **040**) were located at the western end of the trench, although the full dimensions of these are not known as they extended beyond the trench limits. Pit **014** was at least 2.4m long and 0.7m wide and may have been oval in plan, whilst pit **040** was at least 1.8m across, and possibly sub-rectangular in plan. The water table also prevented the full-excavation of these pits, which were cut into the natural gravel, although pit **014** was at least 0.54m deep, and pit **40** located to the immediate north, at least 0.4m deep. Pit **040** may have been cut by a Period 4 pit (**038**), although this relationship was not clear on the surface and no dating evidence was retrieved from pit **038** to support this.

Pit **066**, located a few metres to the east, also contained pottery of a similar date. This pit cut natural clay, was relatively shallow at 0.32m, and was in excess of 0.77m wide. The shape of this pit is not certain, and it may in fact represent two pits, the westernmost of which was cut by a circular pit or large

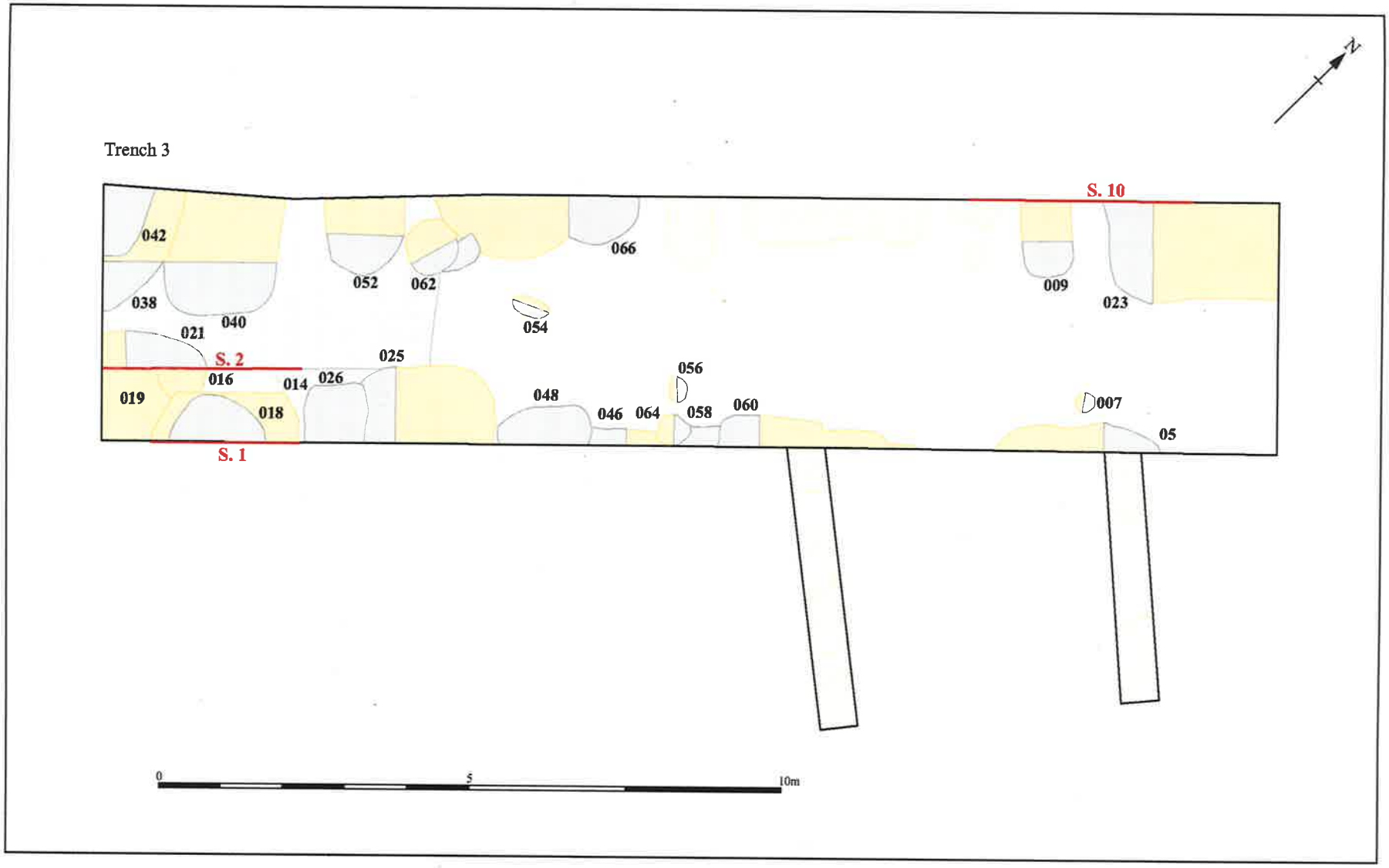


Figure 9 *Trench 3 plan showing excavated and possible archaeological features*

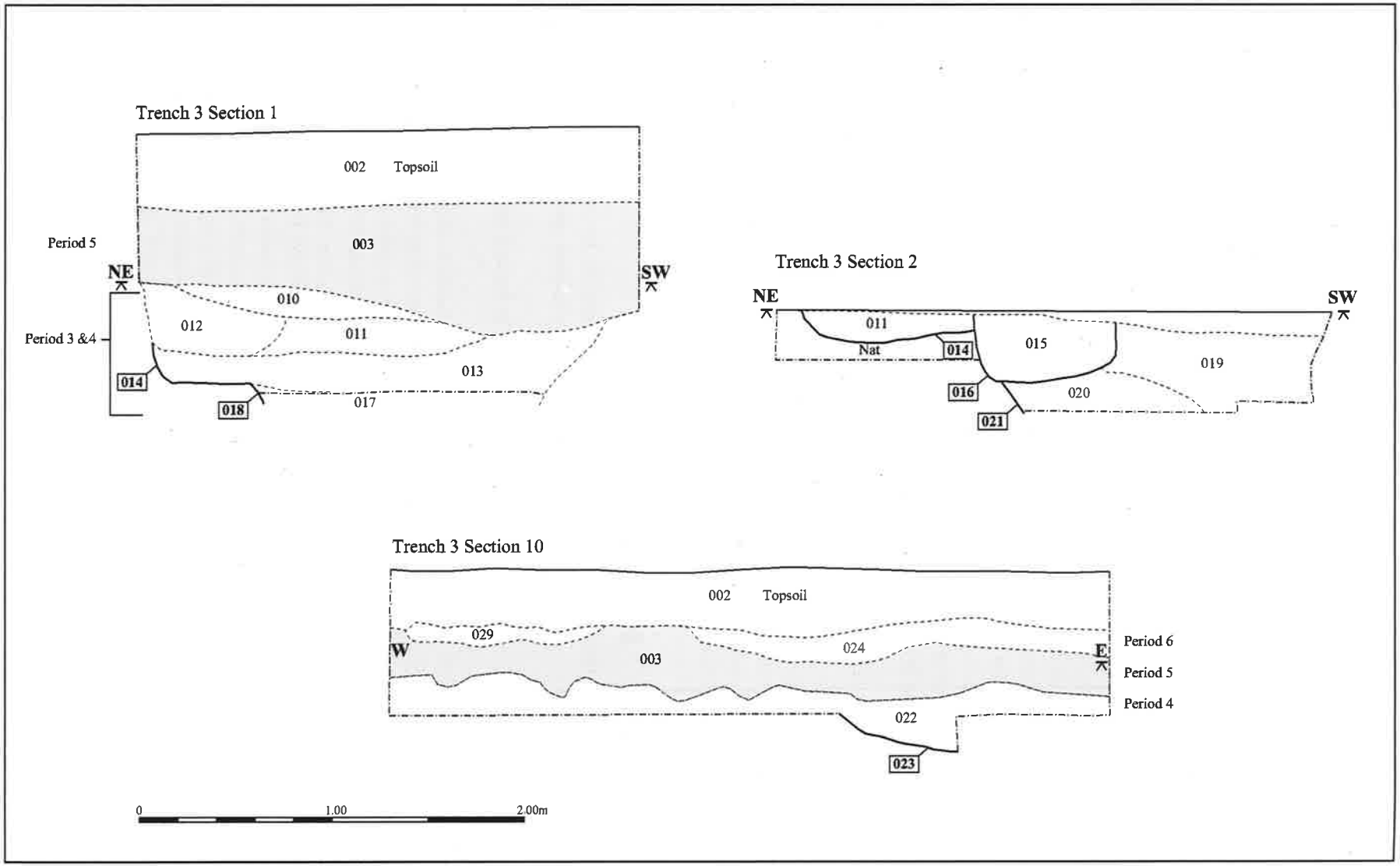


Figure 10 *Trench 3: selected section drawings*

posthole (**062**). Pit **062**, which measured 0.9m across and survived to a depth of 0.4m, also appears to date to Period 3. An oval pit (**052**), which was at least 0.23m deep, may also have been cut by **062** and could belong to this phase, although no dating evidence was retrieved and the relationship was recorded in plan only.

A small, oval posthole (**056**), 0.36m across and 0.10m deep, which was located to the south-east of pit **066** and to the north of several Period 4 features, also contained Period 3 pottery. A second posthole (**007**) of similar size and shape and even shallower depth, was located several metres to the north-east of posthole **056.** No dating evidence was recovered from this posthole, although it is possible that it belongs to this phase, or perhaps Period 4. Pit **005**, a cut partially-exposed against the southern edge of the trench, was located to the immediate south of posthole **007.** This pit was also very shallow (0.10m), and contained a small quantity of pottery of a similar date to that from the other features in this period. A small trench was machine-excavated at approximate right angles to the main trench, to the south of pit **005**. This revealed the southern edge of the pit, and the northern edge of another pit, demonstrating that pitting continues in this direction. The shallow nature of the features at this end of the trench may indicate truncation from activity in later periods.

The postholes in this period may be the remains of temporary outbuildings, or fences demarcating burgage plots or different areas of activity. The pits could have been for rubbish disposal, although the relatively small quantities of pottery and other rubbish may indicate that this was not their primary function. It is feasible that this was an area of semi-industrial activity, and the presence of possible tanning waste, as evidenced by the types of animal bone present in the features in this trench, may support this.

5.3.4 Period 4: Medieval

Very similar features, mostly comprising pits, were also identified in Trench 3 and are broadly dated to the period AD 1200-1400. A group of seven intercutting oval pits (**016, 021, 018, 026, 025, 048** and **060**) were partly exposed against the southern edge of the trench, all of which were investigated. The exposed dimensions of the pits ranged from 0.75m to *c.*1.3m across and between 0.2m and 0.6m deep, although the water table prevented full excavation of any of these features. Finds from the pits mostly comprise pottery and animal bone, although shell and small quantities of slag were also recovered. A small machine-excavated trench was opened to the south of pit **060**. This revealed the southern edge of the pit, and the edges of at least two further pits, further indicating that the area of pitting continues to the south.

Several of the pits, and a small undated ?posthole (**064**), were cut by a shallow (*c.* 0.15m) linear ditch (**046/058**), which extended for approximately 8m along the southern edge of the trench. Very few finds were retrieved from this ditch,

***Plate 6** Trench 3 looking north-east*

other than occasional sherds of medieval pottery and some fragments of coal, which are probably intrusive. The ditch, which may be the remains of a boundary post-dating the main phase of pitting, was sealed beneath the Period 5 layer (003), suggesting that it is a medieval rather than a post-medieval feature.

Two pits (**042** and **038**), which were located against the north-western edge of the trench, could also belong to this period. No dating evidence was recovered, other than residual Bronze Age pottery from pit **042,** which cut pit **038**. Pit **038** may have cut Period 3 pit **040,** and as both were sealed beneath the Period 5 layer (003), they have been assigned to this phase. Too little was exposed of these pits to be certain of their size and shape, but that which was visible suggests that they might be quite large, and at least 0.4m deep. No other finds were retrieved to suggest what their function might have been.

An elongated, shallow, oval posthole (**054**), 0.55m across, was located to the east of the main pit groups and contained a sherd of pottery datable to this period, and a piece of fired clay. A large, shallow (0.2m) sub-rectangular pit (**023**) with a relatively flat base and very diffuse edges was investigated in the north-east corner of the trench. The fill of this pit, and that of pit/ditch terminal (**009**) to the west, comprised a root-stained, redeposited natural clay, suggesting that these may have had a horticultural function. Two possible features with very similar diffuse edges and mottled clay, rooty fills were located to the west of features **023** and **054**, which were not investigated.

5.3.5 Period 5: Late medieval

A *c.* 0.3m-thick layer of greyish brown sandy silt clay (003) was present across the trench, overlying Phase 4 features. This is probably equivalent to the Period 5 layers (156 and 251 *etc.*) in Trenches 1 and 2 respectively and is likely to be a later medieval cultivation layer. No finds were recovered from this layer, although animal bone was noted in section.

5.3.6 Period 6: Early post-medieval

A similar, but thinner (0.18m) and stonier, layer (024/029) was present overlying Period 5 layer 003 in the eastern third of the trench, from which a small quantity of 17th-century pottery was retrieved. This could also be a cultivation layer, or perhaps related to horticultural activities.

5.3.7 Period 7: Post-medieval to modern

A Victorian rubbish dump, containing numerous bottles and pottery, was excavated by machine at the western edge of the trench, and other smaller dumps and areas of burning were also observed during machining. These represent relatively recent activity, dating to when this area was a garden associated with Gazeley House and, in some places, truncated the medieval deposits below. No evidence of post-medieval or Victorian buildings was found in this trench.

5.4 Trench 4 (Figs 11 and 12, Plate 7)

Trench 4, orientated north-west to south-east, was located to the south of Trench 3, and parallel to Walden Road, in a car park to the rear of the library. Period 5-7 layers were removed across the trench, except in the north-east corner, where an area of the Period 5 layer (351) was left *in situ*. Period 4 features and deposits were exposed across the length of the trench, comprising postholes, pits and layers, of which a representative sample was excavated. At the southern end of the trench, where pitting was less intensive, features were cut through natural clay at a depth of 0.8m below the current ground surface (14.08m OD). Denser pitting was present at the northern end of the trench, where features and layers were also revealed at *c.* 0.8m below the ground surface (14.12m OD). Features are described, where possible, from north to south.

5.4.1 Period 1: Bronze Age

No evidence of Bronze Age activity was identified in this trench.

5.4.2 Period 2: Roman

No evidence of Roman activity was identified in this trench.

5.4.3 Period 3: Late Saxon to early medieval

A large pit (**405**), of unknown shape, was partly exposed against the western edge of the trench and contained pottery datable to AD 900-1200, although a post-Conquest date is most probable. The pit was 0.76m deep, with very steep sides and contained three silty fills, that produced animal bone in addition to pottery. This pit appeared to cut three small pits/postholes, none of which were excavated, although there may be finds contamination with the fills of these (406, 407 and 408). A single human bone has been identified amongst the animal bone assemblage from the pit, which may derive from a disturbed burial. One posthole fill (406) was notable for the quantity of animal bone visible on the surface, some of which was collected for analysis, and found to consist largely of cat bones. An iron object (SF 11) retrieved from the surface of an unexcavated pit (which might be part pit **405**, or possibly a later feature) has been identified as a spike from a fibre-processing tool, either a wool-comb or a flax heckle. This evidence provides some further indication of the types of activities, which appear to have included cloth manufacture, being undertaken in this area.

It is likely that additional Period 3 features are present below the Period 4 levels, particularly at the northern end of the trench. A possibly linear feature was revealed, but not excavated, in the base and side of Period 4 pit **377**, which may support this theory.

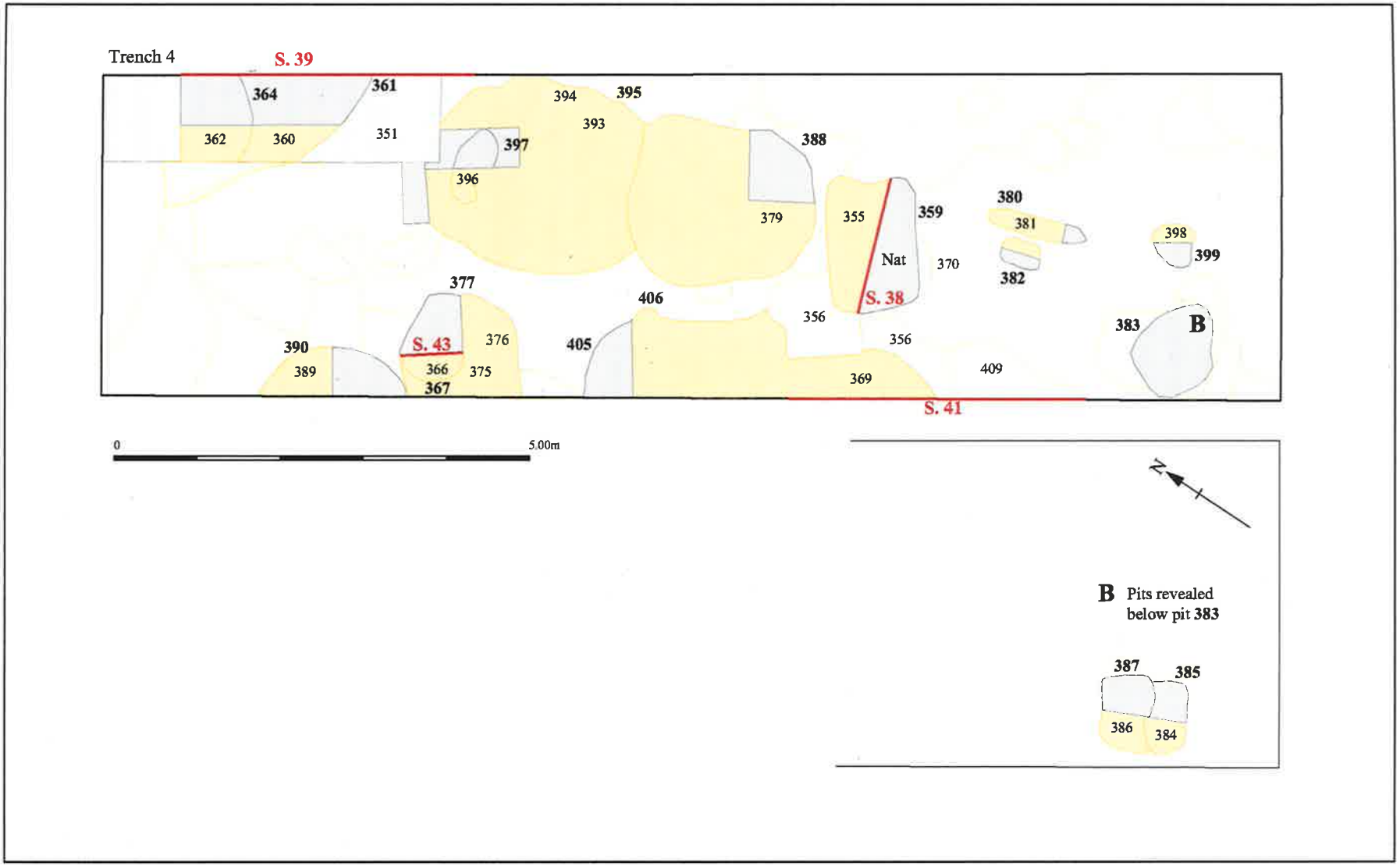


Figure 11 *Trench 4 plan showing excavated and possible archaeological features*

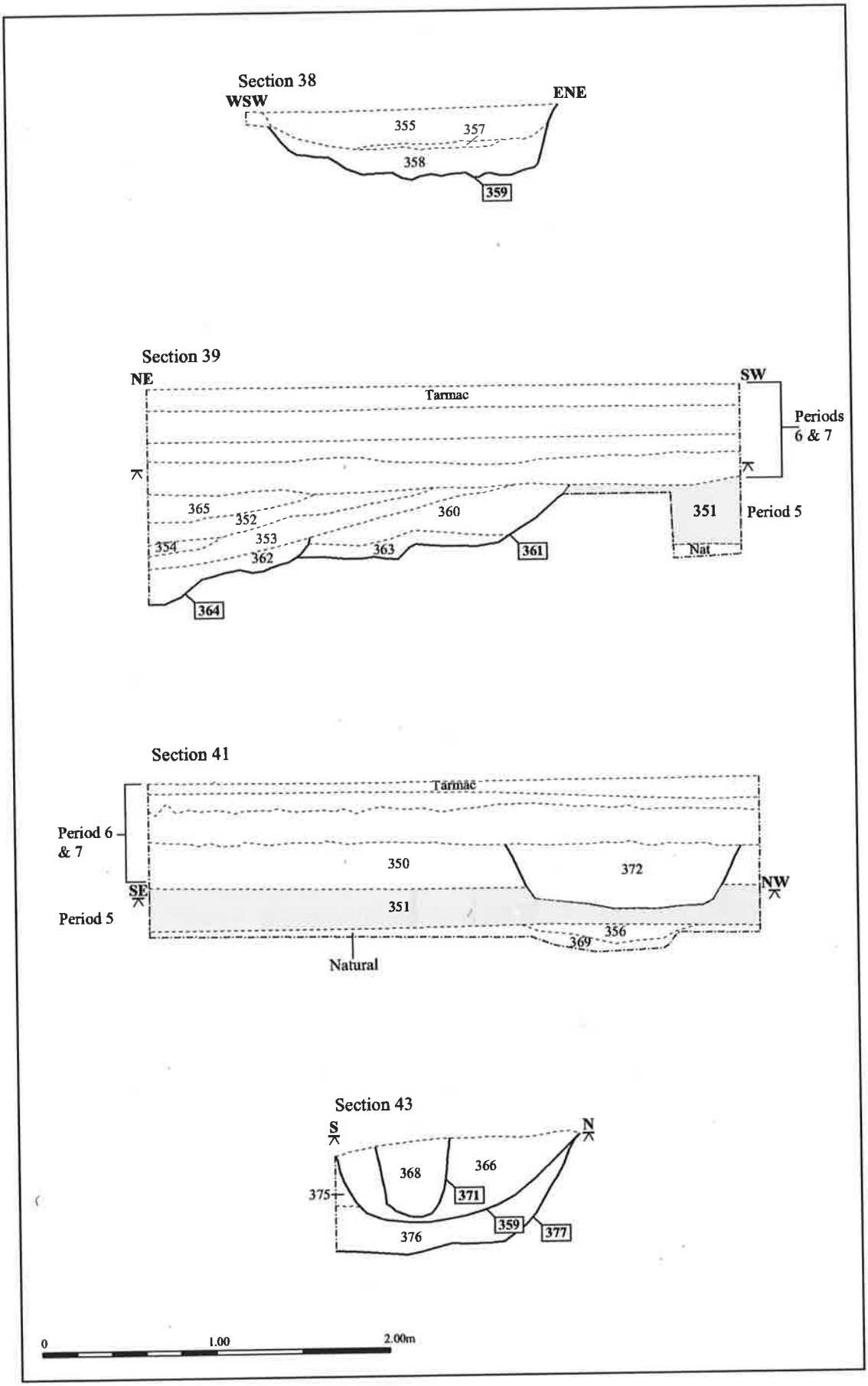


Figure 12 *Trench 4: selected section drawings*

5.4.4 Period 4: Medieval

As with the previous trenches, most of the excavated features seem to belong to Period 4, and contained pottery datable to AD 1200-1400.

Two large pits (**390** and **377**) were half-exposed at the northern end of the trench, both of which contained silty fills, which produced Period 4 pottery and animal bone. Pit **390** was the deepest at 0.6m, although it was not fully excavated due to the water table, whilst pit **377** was fully excavated and found to be 0.3m deep. Both pits measured over a metre across, with steep sides, and in the case of pit **377**, a fairly flat base. Pit **377** was cut by a large posthole (**367**) containing a clear postpipe (**371**) with a loose, dark fill (Fig. 12, S.43). This postpipe appeared to be relatively recent on the surface, and may in fact belong to Period 5 or later. Period 4 pottery was recovered from the fill of the posthole, although this could be redeposited from earlier pit **377**. A single human bone was also recovered, possibly from a disturbed burial.

A large oval pit (**395**), or sequence of pits, with a distinctive series of superficial deposits was partly investigated to the east of pit **377**. The pit measured in excess of 2.5m across, and was cut by a small pit (**397**), and possibly by a large sub-rectangular pit (**388**) to the south. A small quadrant was excavated through the upper fills of pit **395**, to a depth of 0.36m, revealing a relatively complex depositional sequence. On the surface the deposits comprised a ring of dark greyish brown silt (394), around a thinner ring of brighter orange gravely silt (393), surrounding a central oval of brownish grey silt (391). These probably represent slumped deposits, possibly later fills/layers into the top of the pit, which may be quite deep. Pottery recovered from the central slumped deposit (391) is of a similar date range to that from pit **388**, which cuts pit **395**. No finds were recovered from the lower excavated fills in this pit. Small pit **397** was revealed below deposits 391 and 392, further suggesting that they are slumped remnants of later layers that have subsided into the top of pit **395**.

A quadrant was also excavated in the south-east corner of pit **388** to the south, which had very steep sides and a slightly stepped base, and measured at least 2m across. The base of the pit was reached at a depth of 0.55m, although the water table was also encountered at this point. Pottery of a similar Period 4 date was retrieved from its single silty clay fill, in addition to animal bone, including horse, cattle and pig, and small quantities of shell. Pit **388** also cut a small posthole on its eastern edge, which was not excavated.

Located to the immediate south of pit **388** was a sub-rectangular pit (**359**), measuring 1.65m across and 0.4m deep, with an uneven but generally flat base. This pit cut a spread of material (356) to the west, which was very similar in appearance to the upper fill (355) of the pit, and which may have overlain Period 4 pit **405**. Fill (355) was a distinctive, mottled sandy silt with occasional small stones and less frequent flecks of chalk and fired clay. This overlay a thin lens of very dark reddish brown silt/ash (357), which in turn

overlay a primary deposit of slightly less mottled clay (358), all of which contained pottery of a similar date. Animal bone, including pig, sheep and cattle, and possibly fish, was recovered from this feature. The pit also cut a possible (unexcavated) posthole or small pit (fill 370) to the south, pottery from the surface of which is of a similar date to that from the pit. The shape and distinctive fills of this feature (and spread/layer 356) indicates that it may have had a different function than the majority of other pits/features in the trench.

Two sub-rectangular postholes (**382** and **399**) of comparable size were located to the south of pit **359**. These may be related, although **382** was narrower and much shallower (0.1m) than **399**, which was deepest towards the south (0.27m). A roughly linear spread of brown sandy clay (380) lay to the immediate east of posthole **382**; this was very shallow with diffuse edges and may be the very truncated remains of a small slot.

A complex group of small, intercutting pits and/or postholes was partly investigated in the south-west corner of the trench, to the west of posthole **399**. The earliest of these (**387**) was roughly rectangular in shape, with moderately steep sides and a base that sloped south-eastwards to a depth of 0.21m, where it was truncated by pit **385**. The latter pit was oval in shape, in excess of 0.85m across, 0.36m deep with a concave profile. Both pits were truncated by another, larger sub-oval pit or hollow (**383**), which measured 1.10m in length and was 0.2m deep and had a shallow, uneven base. Period 4 pottery was present in two of the pits (**385** and **387**), in addition to small quantities of animal bone.

Additional features are present below the excavated pits in this sequence, and in other areas across the trench, which were planned but not excavated.

5.4.5 Period 5: Late medieval

Overlying the majority of features in the trench was a 0.25m-thick layer (351), which was very similar in appearance to layer 156 *etc.* in Trenches 1-3 to the north. This layer was left *in situ* in the north-east corner of the trench, where a localised sequence of Period 5 and 6 pits and dumped layers was investigated. The earliest feature in the sequence was a 0.4m deep pit (**361**) of unknown shape and overall dimensions, which appeared to be cut by a second pit (**364**). Natural clay was observed in the base of this pit. Both pits contained Period 4 pottery, although a musket ball was also recovered from the fill of pit **364**, which is likely to be intrusive from the overlying Period 6 layers.

5.4.6 Period 6: Early post-medieval

The two Period 5 pits were sealed beneath a sequence of thin dumped layers, all of which dipped towards the north-east (Fig. 12,). The earliest deposit (353) comprised a 0.12m-thick layer of mid brownish grey, slightly stony clay silt, which contained animal bone and pottery datable to *c.* AD 1600 or later.

***Plate** 7 Trench 4 working shot looking north, with pit 388 in foreground*

Overlying this was a 0.07m-thick layer (354) containing frequent brick, tile and mortar fragments, over which was another more silty layer (352) with fewer inclusions which contained pottery datable to the 17th century or later. These layers were also revealed in plan at the northern edge of the trench, where they are likely to mask/slump into earlier deposits and features similar to those present in the rest of the trench. Above 352 was a much stonier layer (365), which was sealed beneath an extensive post-medieval layer (350), both of which were removed by machine.

Layer 350 was 0.25m thick and comprised a mid-greyish brown sandy silt with occasional stones and brick/tile fragments. A small quantity of pottery retrieved from this layer during machining is dated to the 17th century or later. The layer is very similar to equivalent post-medieval layers in other trenches, particularly in Trenches 5 and 6 to the south and east, and probably represents a cultivation/garden soil.

5.4.7 Period 7: Post-medieval to modern

A probable linear ditch (**373**) running approximately north-east to south-west, was recorded in section, cutting Period 6 layer 350. No finds were recovered from this feature, which was removed by machine, but its stratigraphic location suggests that it is post-medieval or modern in date. It was sealed beneath the 0.4m thick concrete and hardcore levelling for the car park surface.

5.5 Trench 5 (Figs 13 and 14, Plate 8)

Trench 5 was the smallest of the six trenches, at 4m x 4m, and was located in a car park to the rear of the HPDC building (formerly Lawrence Court). The trench was stepped due to the depth of deposits. The natural clay was encountered at 1.5m (13.41m OD) below the current ground surface, and the water table was reached *c.* 0.10m below this. Very few medieval (Period 4) features were identified, and no features or pottery of earlier date were present. The Period 5 layer was slightly thicker in this trench, and was overlain by Period 6 layers and a Period 7 wall foundation.

5.5.1 Period 1: Bronze Age

No evidence of Bronze Age activity was identified in this trench.

5.5.2 Period 2: Roman

No evidence of Roman activity was identified in this trench.

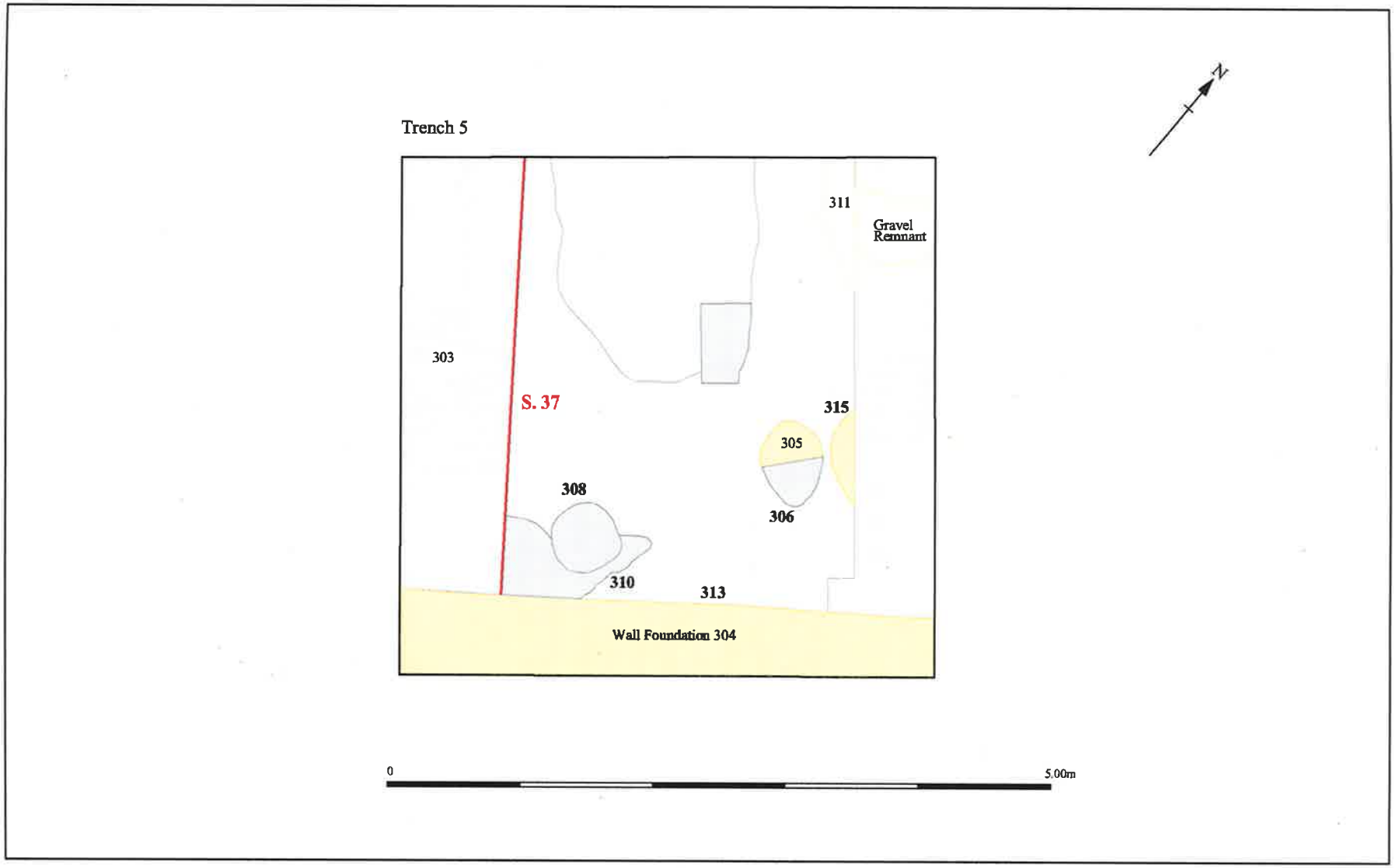


***Figure 13** Trench 5 plan showing excavated and possible archaeological features*

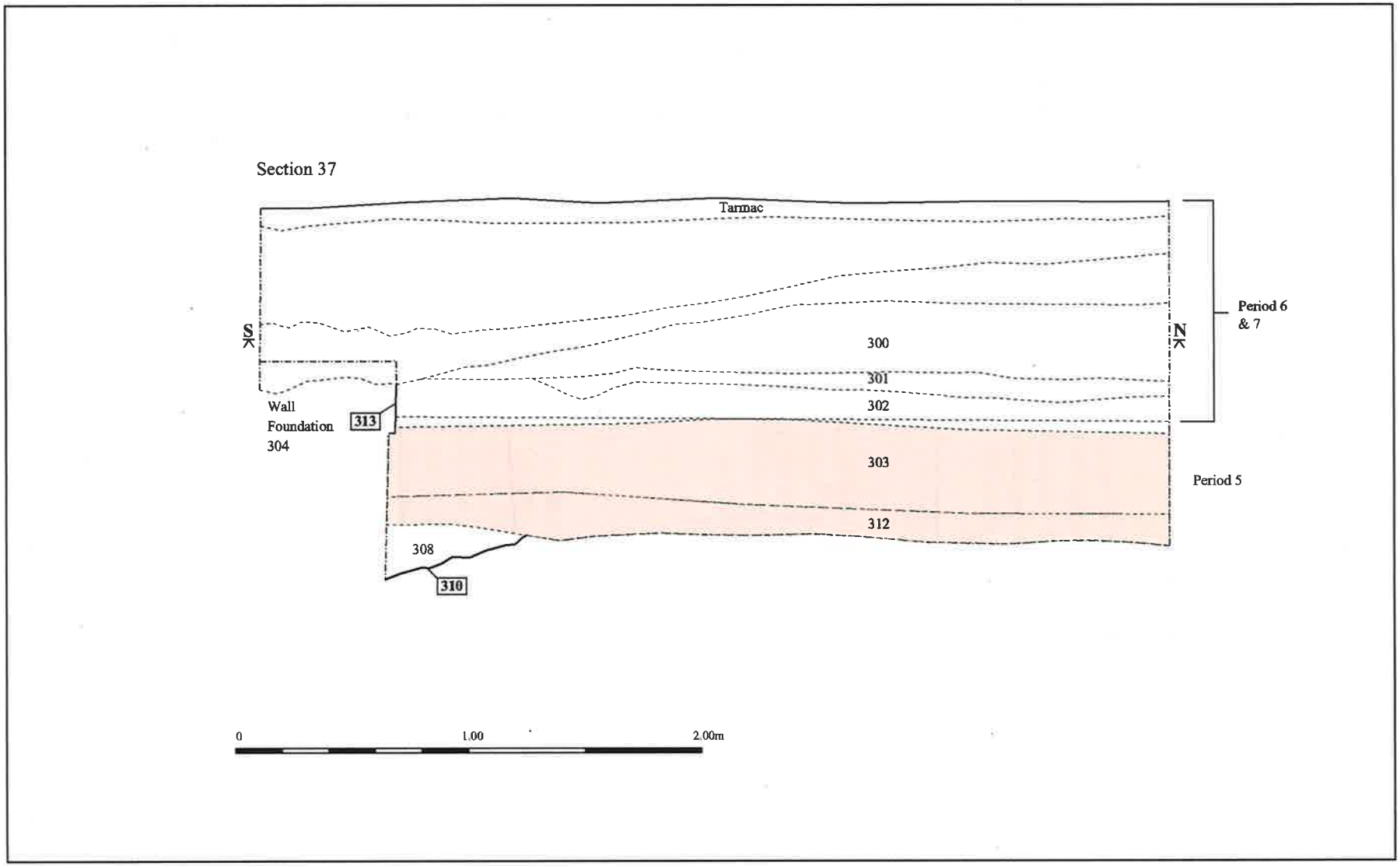


***Figure 14** Trench 5: selected section drawing*

5.5.3 *Period 3: Late Saxon to early medieval*

A shallow, irregular hollow (**310**) located in the south-west corner of the trench, contained a small quantity of Period 3 pottery and may date to this period.

5.5.4 *Period 4: Medieval*

Pit/hollow **310** was cut by a similarly shallow (0.10m), circular pit or posthole (**308**), which produced no finds but was sealed beneath a ?Period 5 layer (312). A slightly deeper (0.16m), oval posthole (**306**) was located *c.* 1m to the north-east of **310**, which did produce a small amount of Period 4 pottery, and may also have been sealed beneath Period 5 layer 312. A large patch of pale yellow
clay (311) was also investigated in the northern part of the trench, but was found to be of geological origin.

5.5.5 *Period 5: Late medieval*

A 0.15m thick layer (312) overlay the Period 3 and 4 features, and was very similar to layer 303 (see below), but slightly firmer and with mottles of redeposited clay. This was cut by a possible clay-filled pit (**315**) of unknown dimensions, which was recorded in the west-facing section of the trench only. Layer 303 overlay the pit and layer 312 elsewhere, and was very similar to equivalent Period 5 layers identified in all of the trenches. Pottery datable to AD 1150 or later, which is likely to be residual, and several pieces of animal bone were recovered. This is very similar evidence to that found in the other trenches, and further indicates the presence of an extensive late medieval cultivation layer. All Period 5 features and deposits were removed by machine within the central, stepped, part of the trench.

5.5.6 *Period 6: Early post-medieval*

A 0.18m-thick layer of dark brown clayey silt with lumps and mottles of orange brown clay (302) overlay Period 5 layer 303. Layer 302 is very similar to equivalent Period 6 layers (350, 201 *etc*) encountered in other trenches, and also contained fragments of brick, tile and animal bone.

5.5.7 *Period 7: Post-medieval to modern*

The Period 6 layer seemed to be cut by the foundation for a brick wall (**304**), which ran parallel to the southern trench edge and was *c.* 0.65m wide and survived to 0.4m in depth. The foundation, which was mortared with Portland cement, was very roughly made and there was clear evidence of re-used material including a possible millstone visible in the base of the wall. The orientation of the wall is similar to that of the surviving 18th-century malting wall which now forms the boundary to the bus station to the south. The wall, and Period 6 layer 302, was overlain by a 0.18m thick layer of redeposited (natural) orange gravel, which in turn was sealed beneath a thick 'dirty' gravel

Plate 8 *Trench 5 looking south-east*

layer (300). Overlying these layers, which are similar to those identified in Trench 6 to the east, were layers of gravel and stone hoggin, providing make-up for the car park surface.

5.6 Trench 6 (Figs 15 and 16, Plates 9 and 10)

Trench 6 was 18m long and orientated approximately north-to-south to the rear of a row of 18th-century cottages fronting onto Prince's Street to the east. This trench produced the only tangible evidence of Roman (Period 2) occupation, in addition to later periods. The trench was machined to various levels because of the depth of deposits and the presence of brick foundations and a modern utility service.

5.6.1 Period 1: Bronze Age

No features or pottery of Bronze Age date were identified in the trench.

5.6.2 Period 2: Roman

A large feature (**234**) or layer, with a pale yellow clay fill (210) containing Roman pottery, was identified towards the centre of the trench, at a depth of 1.5m below the current ground surface. Several Period 3 or 4 features cut this feature/layer, and its full dimensions other than the depth (0.4m at the deepest) are not known, making interpretation difficult.

5.6.3 Period 3: Late Saxon to early medieval

A 0.4m deep, steep-sided pit (**207**) was partially exposed against the western edge of the trench, and found to contain Period 3 pottery. This pit cut Period 2 layer/fill 210 and was sealed beneath ?Period 4 layer/fill (211). A small, oval posthole (**209**), located to the north of pit **207**, contained no dating evidence and could relate to either Period 3 or Period 4.

5.6.4 Period 4: Medieval

Several large features of unknown dimensions were exposed in the base of the trench, of which a sample was excavated. At least two large pits were recorded, one of which (**229**) was excavated and found to be 0.3m deep and contained three clay silt fills, the lowest of which had a slightly greenish tinge to it. This pit may have been cut by a large, unexcavated feature of unknown shape or size, to the west, and cut Period 2 layer/fill 210.

A deep sequence of thick layers was investigated to the north of the pit, although the encroaching water table prevented full excavation of these deposits, which comprised very mottled silty clays with iron panning/staining and fragmentary snail shells. These layers (230/233/231 and 232) were hand-excavated to a depth *c.* 0.7m below the machine level, and then augered and found to continue for at least a further *c.* 0.8m. Period 4 pottery and animal

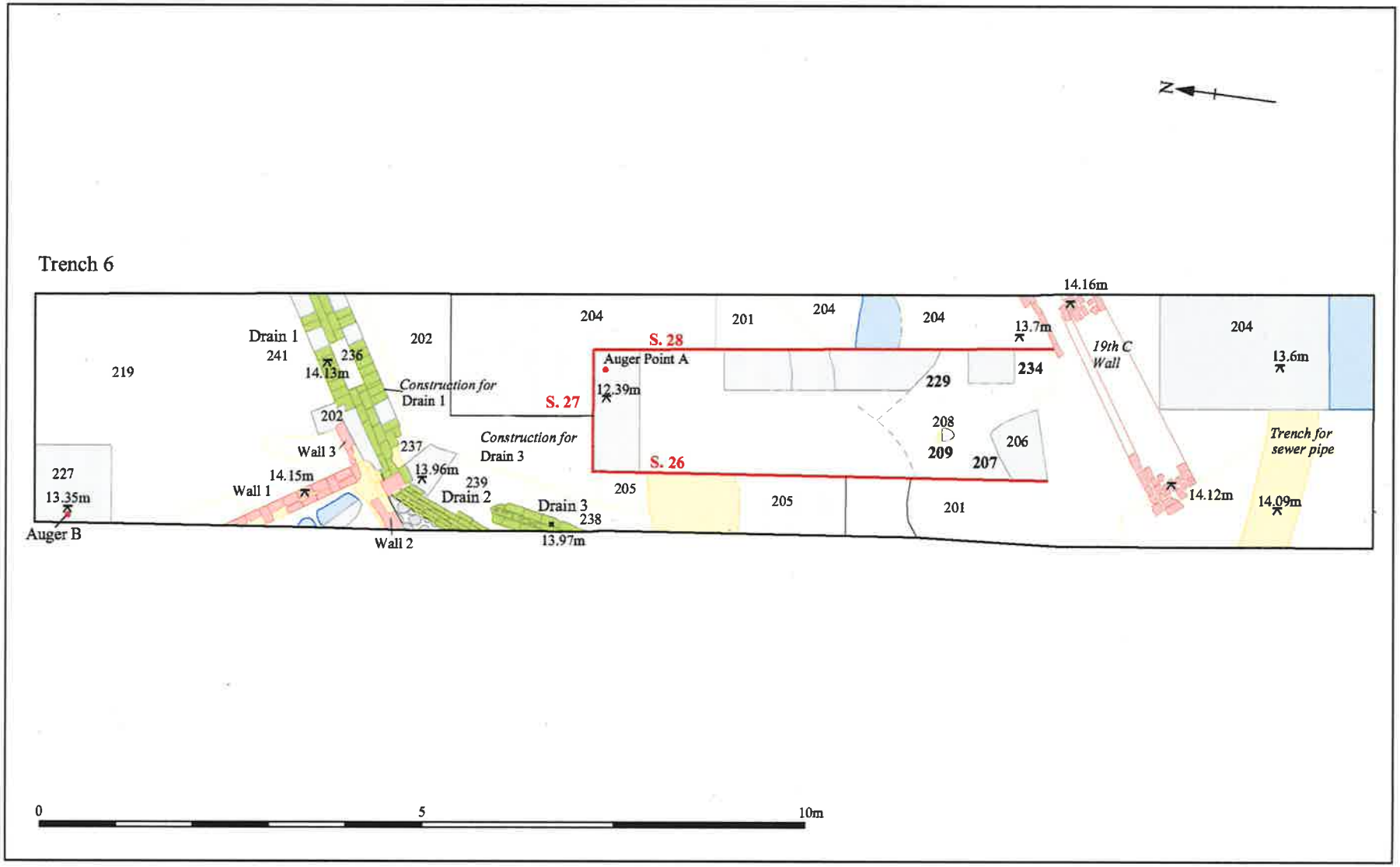


Figure 15 *Trench 6 plan showing excavated and possible archaeological features*

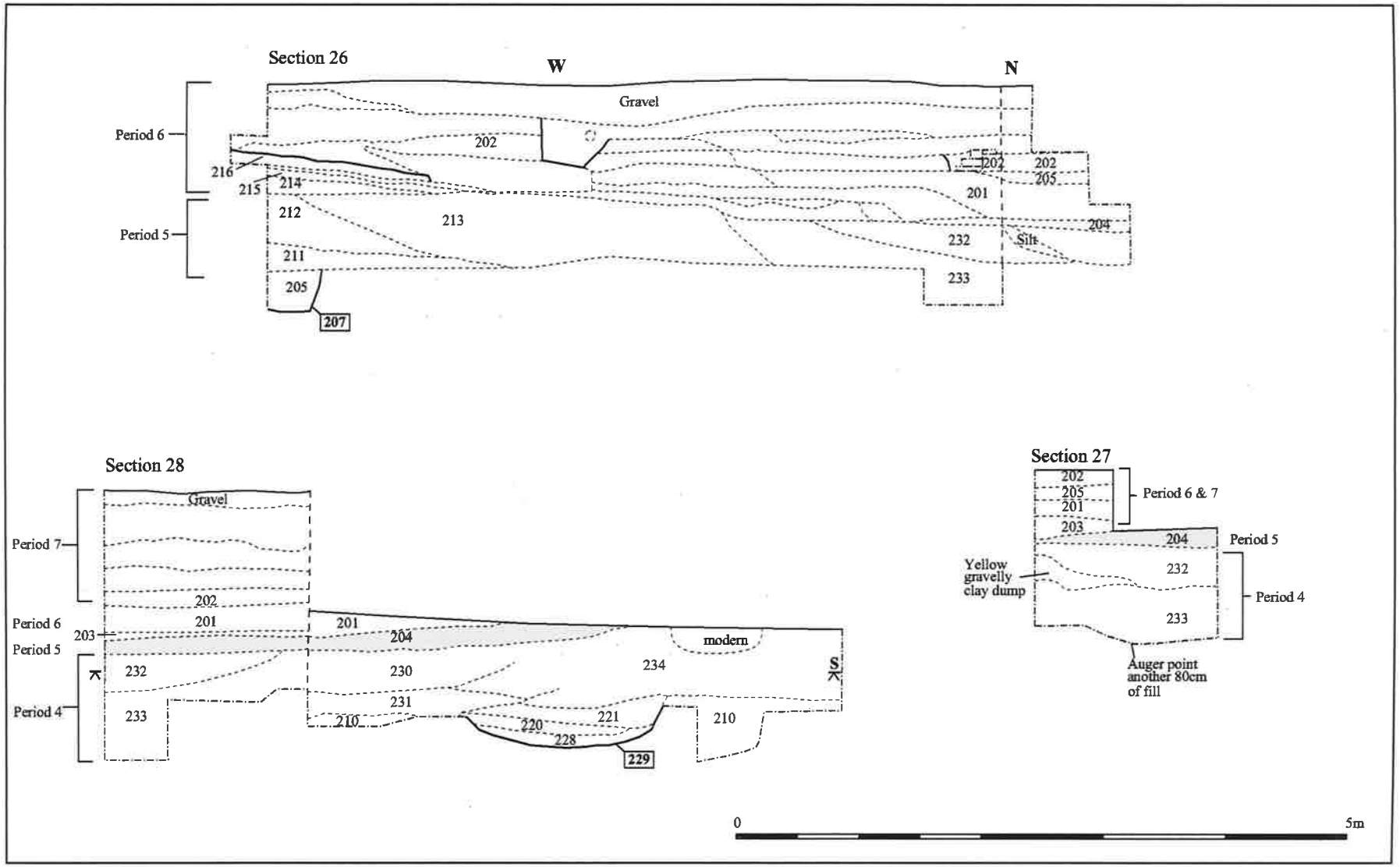


Figure 16 *Trench 6: selected section drawings*

bone was recovered from these extensive layers, which may be the fills of a massive feature such as a quarry or a ditch, the edges of which lie beyond the limits of excavation. A sample was taken from layer/fill 233, which contained small quantities of cereal grains, seeds and fish bone.
Several layers (211-216), comprising silts, clays and more humic deposits, overlay these fills/layers, and were recorded in the east-facing section. These all tipped downwards to the north and east, and overlay the pits, suggesting that they probably belong to a slightly later phase, although no dating evidence was recovered.

5.6.5 Period 5: Late medieval

A 0.12m thick layer (204) of mottled dark grey and brown clay silt overlay the Period 4 layers/fills, and is probably equivalent to the Period 5 layer(s) identified in the other trenches. This layer was sampled for finds retrieval and to assess environmental potential. Pottery datable to AD 1350-1500 was recovered from the layer, which also contained evidence of cereal grains/chaff and seeds of common weed plants, in addition to nutshell fragments and a single possible seed of field bean. This type of material may be indicative of refuse scattered across a garden area, possibly in the form of manure or night soil.

5.6.6 Period 6: Early post-medieval

The Period 5 layer (204) was overlain by a distinctive, fairly thin (0.08m) deposit of orange gravel (203), which was also uncovered (as 224) in a hand-excavated test pit located in the north-west corner of the trench. Above 204 was a 0.3m-thick, slightly stony layer (201) of dark grey clay silt with frequent brick and tile fragments and occasional animal bone. This layer is probably equivalent to the Period 6 cultivation/garden soil present in most of the other trenches excavated. Pottery, including part of a pipkin, from this layer is datable to a period of AD 1500-1650 or later. Similar evidence, including cereal grains/chaff and weed seeds, to that from layer 204 was also identified in a sample taken from this layer.

A localised sequence of gravely and more soil-based deposits (202 and 222-227) was investigated in a test pit in the north-west corner of the trench, all of which are post-medieval. These may represent levelling layers, possibly associated with the construction of Lawrence Court in the 18th century and/or the cottages fronting onto Prince's Street to the east, or perhaps a later stage of reorganisation/construction.

5.6.7 Period 7: Post-medieval to modern

Another layer of orange gravel (202) overlay Period 6 layer 201, which was very similar to layer 203, but was thicker and possibly more extensive, and may be equivalent to layer 301 in Trench 5. Layer 202 is also probably a levelling layer, possibly associated with a series of brick drains and wall

Plate 9 *Trench 6 looking south-west*

Plate 10 *Detail of Trench 6 drains and associated deposits*

foundations that were exposed at the northern and southern ends of the trench. The group of drains comprised three separate elements (**238**, **239** and **241**) running on different alignments, which converged close to the western edge of the trench. Brick samples were taken from the drains, several of which are 18th century types. However, the bricks are mortared with Portland cement, suggesting that they are all 19th-century structures in which earlier materials have been incorporated. The remains of a pocket watch (SF 5) of 19th or 20th century date was recovered from the fill of drain **241**, suggesting that this feature was in use until fairly recently. Patches of cobbles and clay (unnumbered) were also visible abutting one of the drains (239) and a brick wall (242). These could be the remains of external and internal surfaces, possibly associated with stables or other former buildings in this area.

A second, very substantial brick wall foundation aligned north-east to south-west was also left *in situ* at the southern end of the trench, which is likely to be contemporary with the drains to the north.

The walls and drains were sealed beneath layers of 'dirty' gravel (219), overlain by a very dark layer with fragments of coal, in which dumps of 19th- and 20th-century pottery (200) were found. A layer of stone chippings/hardcore overlay this, above which was the loose gravel surface of the car park.

6 DISCUSSION

The evaluation has clearly demonstrated the survival of well-preserved, stratified sequences of archaeological deposits across the proposed development area. The remains are particularly dense in Trenches 1 and 4, the northern end of Trench 2, and the western end of Trench 3. In these trenches Late Saxon and medieval features, including pits, postholes, a possible well and a cobbled surface, were revealed below late medieval and post-medieval layers. The results from this stage of investigation have provided important new evidence for the development of the town from prehistoric to post-medieval times, much of which can be related to documentary, cartographic and historical sources.

6.1 Bronze Age

The likelihood of uncovering remains of Bronze Age date was considered to be relatively low, and so the presence of pottery of this date in Trench 3 is a useful addition to the history of the town. The pottery is clearly residual, but its presence suggests that other material of this date may be located nearby.

6.2 Roman

The presence of a probable Roman feature or layer in Trench 6 is less unexpected because of the relative proximity of Ermine Street, which may have run just to the east of Prince's Street/Market Hill. Occasional sherds of Roman pottery were also present in later features in Trenches 1, 2 and 3, which may be indicative of low-level activity in the vicinity during this period.

6.3 Anglo-Saxon and Late Saxon

No evidence of the documented Danish and Late Saxon burhs was identified by the evaluation. A number of Late Saxon/early medieval features were recorded in five of the trenches, however, and sherds of pottery of this date were a common occurrence in later deposits in these trenches, indicating a degree of residuality. It is very likely that further remains of this date are present within unexcavated parts of some of the trenches, and within the development area as a whole. The evidence from the evaluation certainly suggests that occupation extended into this part of Huntingdon in this period.

6.4 Medieval

The most significant results from the evaluation relate to the medieval period, and features of this date were present in all six trenches. A range of features characteristic of urban settlement, including dense zones of pitting, remains of timber buildings, laid surfaces and a possible well, were recorded. The most concentrated areas of medieval archaeology were found in Trench 1, the northern end of Trench 2, the western end of Trench 3 and Trench 4.

The results from Trenches 1 and 2 are unsurprising given the proximity to the medieval road frontage of George Street to the north, and All Saints church and Market Hill to the east. The density and relative depth of stratified remains in this area suggests fairly intensive occupation in the 13th and 14th centuries. There appear to have been some changes to the types of activity/occupation in these areas over a relatively short time. In Trench 1, and probably Trench 2, areas of dense pitting seem to have been levelled and surfaced with cobbles, probably for a yard or perhaps a track way. The discovery of layers and patches of gravel filling hollows in the cobbles indicates that attempts were made to consolidate the surface as it slumped into the underlying soft pit fills. It is this slumping which appears to have ensured the survival of this surface, at least in part. Further areas of the surface will undoubtedly survive in the northern part of Trench 2, and to the south of Trench 1, and possibly elsewhere in the car park. The presence of a small number of pits and/or postholes cutting the cobbled surface may suggest that there was a change in use at some point in the latter part of this period, when buildings and associated activity may have encroached here.

Similar evidence was found at two previous evaluations carried out to the west of Walden Road at 'The Views' (Cooper and Spoerry 1998) and to the rear of 9/10 George Street (Cooper 2000), where medieval features dating to the 13th and 14th centuries were revealed. The feature density across these two adjacent sites increased with proximity to Walden Road, although the

easternmost features were largely quarries. These results, combined with those from the recent evaluation, clearly show that occupation was extensive in this period.

The identification of postholes, some of them quite substantial, in several of the trenches, is significant as it demonstrates the presence of medieval buildings on the site. It is not certain at this stage whether these would relate to frontage properties, perhaps onto George Street, or more temporary structures to the rear of these. They may also represent secondary urban development along the back lanes, such as that which survives to the rear of the Falcon Tavern to the south of Trenches 1 and 2. The remains in Trench 1, and the northern parts of Trench 2 are more characteristic of street-frontage development, and the evidence from these trenches strongly suggests that similar remains are present in other areas of the car park, particularly along the George Street frontage.

The density and extent of medieval features within large parts of the evaluated area supports the historical evidence, which indicates that Huntingdon was a prosperous and successful town in this period (Kenney 2003a, 8). Settlement had undoubtedly expanded away from the primary street frontage zones close to the High Street and Market, into more secondary areas to the rear of these zones and along back lanes leading off from the High Street and/or Prince's Street (Fig. 3).

It was suggested by the desk-top study that two of the 'lost' medieval churches of Huntingdon might be located within the development. St George's church was thought to have possibly been located in the north-west corner of the Walden House car park, where Trenches 1 and 2 were located, although no evidence to indicate the presence of a church was found here. St Botolph's may have been located in the vicinity of Trench 4, to the west of the library, although no features were found which might support this. However, two small human bones were identified within the animal bone assemblage from Trench 4, which could come from a disturbed burial. This tentative evidence may suggest the proximity of a burial ground, and perhaps one of the 'lost' churches.

The evidence for medieval activity was less concentrated in Trenches 5 and 6, although this may be false impression as only small areas were exposed in these trenches. There is certainly a massive feature of unknown size and shape in Trench 6, which may be a quarry or a substantial ditch.

Finds from the medieval deposits are also indicative of domestic occupation, and provide some illumination on the different types of activities that were being undertaken across the development area in this period. The pottery from the trenches comprises both kitchen and table wares, and includes cooking pots, glazed pitchers and storage jars (Appendix 1). The animal bone assemblage from all trenches comprised mainly bones deriving from primary butchery waste, although that from Trench 4 includes more evidence suggestive of secondary butchery or even kitchen waste (Appendix 7). The

evidence from the evaluation also shows that bio-industrial processes such as tanning and horning were probably being undertaken fairly close to the centre of the medieval town together with cottage industries such as the working of deer antler and the skinning of cats. The discovery of a spike from a fibre-processing tool, either a wool-comb or a flax heckle, in Trench 4 suggests that cloth manufacture was being undertaken close to here. The presence of possible post-medieval metal objects (Appendix 2) within deposits containing medieval pottery suggests a degree of residuality/reworking, which is not unexpected in an urban environment.

Further evidence includes the identification of cereal processing waste from a sample in Trench 1, and the presence of slag in several of the features such as those in Trench 3 (Appendix 6). This latter trench may lie on the boundary between two burgage plots running from the High Street area, as the areas of pitting seemed to be delineated, although no physical evidence of a boundary was found. This may have been in the form of a bank or hedge, which will not have survived archaeologically, although the two shallow postholes identified in the trench could be the remains of fences. The mass of pits at the western end of the trench may suggest that this was the 'back-end' of the plot, located at some distance from the contemporary street frontage.

6.5 Late medieval

A complete and widespread change in the layout and extent of this part of the town seems to have occurred in the later medieval period. This was represented by a thick cultivation soil, which sealed the medieval features and deposits below. This layer (or equivalent layers) was recorded in all trenches, and contained fragments of bone, pottery and small quantities of poorly-preserved charred plant remains. No definitive dating evidence was recovered from this layer, as much of the pottery was residual. However, it is likely to have formed, or been deliberately created, in the 14th century at the earliest, as it sealed features of this date, and the latest pottery dates to the period AD 1350-1500. Environmental evidence indicates the scattering of manure or 'night soil' within the layer; further indication that it was cultivated.

The presence and extent of this layer suggests that the areas of urban settlement within the proposed development were abandoned in the later medieval period, and the land reclaimed for farming. This supports the results of the desktop study, which showed that Huntingdon suffered a period of decline and population decrease in the 14th century (Kenney 2003b, 8). The rapid expansion in the preceding centuries clearly came to a halt and it seems likely that the town shrank to a much smaller size, certainly within the area evaluated, although pockets of occupation may have survived away from the central urban core. This area may have been farmed for several centuries; there is certainly little evidence from the evaluation to suggest that any further domestic occupation took place.

6.6 Post-medieval

A thinner, stonier layer (or layers), containing 16th- and 17th-century pottery, sealed the late medieval cultivation soil in most of the trenches. This was similar in character to the earlier layer, although a higher percentage of animal bone and fragments of brick and tile was present, indicating that this is also likely to be a cultivation soil.

These results are in keeping with the cartographic evidence for this period of the town's history. Speed's map of 1610 (Fig. 3) shows clearly demarcated plots, including formal gardens, in the area of the proposed development, to the rear of the main 18th-century street frontage properties. The former medieval lanes separate the plots, and link the High Street and market area to a long lane running north-west to south-east, probably St John's Lane (later the line of Walden Road). This situation had remained largely unchanged by the time of Thomas Jeffery's map of 1768 (Fig. 4) which indicates that the development area was divided into planned gardens associated with the early 18th-century Lawrence Court in the south of the site and the late 17th-century Walden House in the north. A malting is also shown on this map at the southern end of the evaluation area; this has since been demolished, but the south wall was retained and now forms the boundary for the bus station.

It is likely that the layer(s) identified in the trenches relate to these gardens, and it is possible that paths and other related features might survive within the development area. The various brick drains and foundation and associated levelling layers identified in Trenches 5 and 6 in particular, may relate to outbuildings (such as stables) or later developments associated with Lawrence Court, the cottages fronting onto Prince's Street, or perhaps the malting.

7 CONCLUSIONS

The results of this evaluation are particularly significant since they have already provided an insight into the origins and development of this historic town from the Bronze Age through to the post-medieval period. The work has demonstrated that well-preserved, stratified archaeological deposits are present across the development area, and has shown high potential for the survival of environmental remains. There is also great scope for studying the development and layout of the town, from primary street frontages, such as George Street, to secondary expansion/colonisation to the rear of these, and along the more minor lanes.

Some indication of zonal activity has been provided by the evaluation, such as the areas of pitting, which may have been located to the rear of burgage plots. Evidence of bio-industrial activities such as tanning and horning was found, in addition to cottage industries such as antler working, possible cat skinning and even cloth manufacture. The pottery from the site, however, is predominantly

domestic in character and comprises vessels deriving from both kitchen and service areas. The small quantity of metal objects from the site, including nails, a box-fitting, several pins, a spike possibly from a wool comb, and a musket ball, provide some additional evidence for different areas of activity. The assemblage as a whole shows the potential for further remains of this type within the development area.

The absence of Saxon archaeology in the trenches is also of note, although it is possible that remains of this date are preserved below some of the medieval levels, and elsewhere within the development area. The initial (negative) results from the evaluation may indicate that the original Danish settlement could indeed be located in the vicinity of the castle, close to the river to the south-east of the site.

Of particular interest is the evidence for the expansion of the town, initially in the Late Saxon period, and then more comprehensively in the medieval period, followed by an apparent period of contraction in the later medieval period. The cyclical development in medieval towns is highlighted as an area for further research and exploration in the Eastern Counties (Ayers 2000, 28). One particular area of debate amongst historians is the perceived decline of towns in the late medieval period. Although this is not always clear in the archaeological record, there is certainly evidence from the evaluation of a significant change in the topography and extent of the town in this period.

The contraction of the urban area in the later medieval period, and the subsequent farming/cultivation of this part of the town have undoubtedly helped to preserve the medieval and earlier stratigraphy in remarkable condition. The only recent disturbance has been from very occasional brick-built features, tree roots and buried services. Petrol contamination was present in Trenches 1 and 2, which although unpleasant to work in does not appear to have had an overtly detrimental effect on the archaeology, or even the environmental remains, within these trenches.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank Cambridge County Council Property Services (in association with DE Clegg), who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Aileen Connor, and site staff comprised Tony Baker, Tom Lyons, Sam Whitehead, Steve Graham and Abby Antrobus. Particular thanks are due to Derek Barfoot, the Hall Keeper on site, whose assistance was invaluable, and to the Project Manager, Andrew Hall. Thanks are also due to the specialists: Ian Baxter, Carole Fletcher, Nina Crummy, and Val Fryer, and to Shannon Cliff for processing the finds. The illustrations are by Emily Oakes.

The brief for archaeological works was written by Andy Thomas, County Archaeology Office, who, in addition to Kasia Gdaniec, visited the site and monitored the evaluation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albarella, U. 1996	'The Mammal, Bird and Amphibian Bones' in Oakey, N. and Spoerry, P. 'Excavations at Orchard Lane, Huntingdon, 1994'. *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* **LXXXV**: 147-149.
Albarella, U. 1996	'The Mammal, Bird and Amphibian Bones' in Oakey, N. and Spoerry, P. 'Excavations at Orchard Lane, Huntingdon, 1994'. *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* **LXXXV**: 147-149.
Albarella, U. and Davis, S.J.M., 1994	*The Saxon and Medieval animal bones excavated 1985-1989 from West Cotton, Northamptonshire.* London: English Heritage AML Report 17/94.
Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group 2001	Draft: *Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material* (3rd Draft)
Ayers, B., 2000	'Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval (Urban)' in J. *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties. 2. research agenda and strategy.* East Anglian Archaeol. Occas. Pap 8
Baker, J.R, and Brothwell D.R., 1980	*Animal diseases in archaeology* London Academic Press
Baxter, I. L., 2000a	*The mammal, bird and amphibian bones from Chief's Street, Ely, Cambridgeshire.* Report prepared for CCC AFU.
Baxter, I. L., 2000b	*The mammal and bird bones from 49-55 Lynn Road, Ely, Cambridgeshire.* Report prepared for Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust.
Baxter, I. L., 2000c	*The mammal, bird and amphibian bones from Stukeley Road, Huntingdon.* Report prepared for CCC AFU.
Baxter, I. L., 2001	*The mammal, bird and fish bones from Jubilee Terrace, Ely, Cambridgeshire.* Report prepared for CCC AFU.
Blake, H. and Davey, P., 1983	Guidelines for the Processing and Publications of Medieval Pottery from Excavations. Directorate of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings Occasional Paper 5
Boessneck, J., 1969	'Osteological Differences between Sheep (*Ovis aries Linne*) and Goat (*Capra hircus Linne*)' in Brothwell, D.R. and Higgs, E. (eds.) *Science in Archaeology*, pp. 331-359. London: Thames and Hudson.
Brenan, J., 1998	'Furnishings' in G. Egan, *The medieval household, Medieval finds from excavations in London* 6 (London), 65-84
British Geological Survey	Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales).

(BGS), 1975 Solid Drift Edition, Map Sheet 187.

Cooper, S., 2000 *Medieval Remains at 9/10 George Street Huntingdon*, Cambridgeshire County Counc. Archaeol. Field Unit Rep. No. A161

Cooper, S., and Spoerry, P., 1998 *Roman and Medieval Deposits at The Views, Huntingdon*, Cambridgeshire County Counc. Archaeol. Field Unit Rep. No. A134

Cooper, S., and Spoerry, P., forthcoming *Excavations at Stukely Road, Huntingdon*, Cambridgeshire County Counc. Archaeol. Field Unit Rep. No. A134

Crummy, N., 2002 'From self-sufficiency to commerce: structural and artefactual evidence for textile manufacture in Eastern England in the pre-Conquest period', in D. G. Koslin & J. E. Snyder, *Encountering medieval textile and dress: objects, texts, images* (New York/Basingstoke)

Crummy, N., 2004 *Report on the small finds and bulk metalwork from Watersmeet, Huntingdon*, for Archaeological Solutions, site code HAT 717

Davis, S.J.M., 1992 *A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites.* London: English Heritage AML Report 19/92.

Dickinson, P., 1972 *Survey of Huntingdon 1572*, Huntingdon Local Hist. Soc.

Driesch, A. von den., 1976 *A guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites.* Peabody Museum Bulletin 1, Cambridge Mass., Harvard University.

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

English Heritage, 2001 *Centre for Archaeological Guidelines: Archaeometallurgy*

Fryer, V., 1999a Waterlogged and charred plant macrofossils and other remains from St. Germain Street, Huntingdon (HUNSTG 99). Assessment report for RPS, February

Fryer, V., 1999b Charred and waterlogged plant macrofossils and other remains from Phase 2 contexts, St. Germain Street, Huntingdon. Assessment report for RPS

Fryer, V., 2001 Waterlogged and charred plant macrofossils and other remains from Ditch A47, St. Germain Street, Huntingdon. Assessment report for RPS, September 2001

Grant, A., 1982 'The Use of Tooth Wear as a Guide to the Age of Domestic Ungulates' in Wilson R., Grigson, C., and Payne S., (eds) *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*, pp. 91-108. BAR British Series 109, Oxford.

Kenney, S., 2003a Specification for archaeological evaluation: Town Centre Modernisation, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

Kenney, S., 2003b — Town Centre Modernisation, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

Kratochvil, Z., 1969 — Species criteria on the distal section of the tibia in *Ovis ammon* F. *aries* L. and *Capra aegagrus* F. *hircus* L. *Acta Veterinaria (Brno).* **38**: 483-490.

Medieval Pottery Research Group, 1998 — *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms.* Med. Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1

Medieval Pottery Research Group, 2001 — *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics.* Med. Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Oakey, N., 1997 — 'Excavations at Orchard Lane, Huntingdon' *Proc. Cambridge Antiq. Soc.*, 85, 123-58

Payne, S. and Bull, G., 1988 — 'Components of variation in measurements of pig bones and teeth, and the use of measurements to distinguish wild from domestic pig remains.' *Archaeozoologia* **2**: 27-65.

Payne, S., 1969 — 'A metrical distinction between sheep and goat and goat metacarpals. In: Ucko, P. and Dimbleby G. (eds.) *The domestication and exploitation of plants and animals,* pp. 295-305. London: Duckworth

Payne, S., 1985 — Morphological distinctions between the mandibular teeth of young sheep, *Ovis*, and goats, *Capra. Journal of Archaeological Science* **12**: 139-147.

Pritchard, F., 1991 — 'The small finds' in A. Vince (ed.), *Aspects of Saxo-Norman London:2, Finds and Environmental Evidence*, London Middx Archaeol. Soc. Special Paper 12 (London), 120-278

Spoerry P., 2000 — *The Topography of Anglo-Saxon Huntingdon*, Proc. Cambridge Antiq.. Soc. Vol LXXXIX

Spoerry, P., forthcoming — *The Topography of Medieval Huntingdon,* Proc. Cambridge Antiq. Soc

Stace, C., 1997 — *New Flora of the British Isles.* Second edition. Cambridge University Press

Walton Rogers, P., 1997 — *Textile production at 16-22 Coppergate*, The Archaeology of York 17/11 (York)

APPENDIX 1: THE POTTERY

by Carole Fletcher

1 METHODOLOGY

The basic guidance in MAP2 has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991). In addition the MPRG documents 'Guidance for the processing and publication of medieval pottery from excavations' (Blake and Davey 1983) and 'A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms' (MPRG 1998; 2001) act as a standard.

Spot dating was carried out using the AFU's in-house system based on that used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described types. All sherds have been counted and weighed. Sherds warranting possible illustration have been flagged, as have possible cross-fits. All the pottery has been spot dated on a context-by-context basis. Cambridgeshire County Council, Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) curates the pottery and archive until formal deposition of the site archive.

2 INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND AND THE ASSEMBLAGE

The evaluation produced a moderate assemblage of post-Roman pottery, weighing 18.418 kg.

Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the following text are:

Colne type ware	COLNT
Lyveden–Stanion	LYST
Post–medieval Red ware	PMR
Thetford Type ware	THET
Shelly ware	SHW
St Neots or Developed St Neots type ware	NEOT
Stamford or Developed Stamford	STAM/DEST

Major medieval fabric types in the assemblage include COLNT from Cambridgeshire, which lies approximately 18km to the east of Huntingdon and LYST and SHW, both from Northamptonshire. Earlier fabrics include NEOT, which is produced at various sites around the Huntingdonshire-Bedfordshire border and STAM, a fine white ware from Lincolnshire. The later medieval period is not well represented with little pottery recovered that dates specifically to the mid 14th century and later. Only a small amount of this has tentatively been identified as late LYST, and only a few sherds of Late Medieval Reduced ware were recovered. Post-medieval pottery including PMR was recorded in the upper levels of all trenches and indicates some activity on the site in the 16th and 17th centuries with an upsurge of activity in the 18th and early 19th century. In addition to the medieval and post-medieval material, a small amount of unabraded Bronze Age pottery (0.276

kg) was recovered from a pit in Trench 3, and a number of Roman sherds were also identified, mainly as residual material within medieval contexts.

Late Saxon or early medieval vessels consist of NEOT bowls and jars (both vessel types are often sooted), STAM jars and glazed pitchers and THET storage jars. Vessel types represented in the medieval assemblage include jars, bowls and unglazed jugs in the COLN fabrics; the SHW vessels include some unglazed jug sherds but are predominantly jars, many of which are sooted indicating their use in food preparation. LYST appears to be the dominant glazed ware on the site during the 13th and 14th centuries, however a few sherds from Grimston ware jugs were also identified including a strut from a face jug, which indicates that a small number of other glazed medieval wares were reaching the site. In the later medieval period the number of decorated jugs and sooted jars decreases as styles and food preparation methods change. The post-medieval period sees the introduction of new vessel types including drinking mugs or tygs in glazed earthenware or imported German Stone wares. During the 18th century English Stone wares appear and glass bottle fragments become a more common find on the site alongside fine bone china cups and the ubiquitous willow pattern plate.

Time constraints have made a trench-by-trench assessment difficult but the overall impression is that while Trench 1 has some residual Saxo-Norman pottery, the earliest feature is post-Conquest in date. Most of the remaining features fit comfortably into the 13th to 14th centuries, with cut features producing glazed jugs and various cooking and storage vessels.

Trench 2 has the smallest number of excavated contexts and is therefore the most difficult to draw any conclusions about. It produced some Saxo-Norman material, but is mainly medieval in date, although it also produced a few sherds from a glazed vessel.

Trench 3 has the largest number of contexts containing pottery of 10th to 12th century date and contains two Late Saxon or early medieval features and a number of ?residual Saxo-Norman sherds in other contexts. Bronze Age pottery, though redeposited in a later feature, was also extracted from this trench. The remainder of the contexts are mainly medieval and produced a range of glazed jug sherds and unglazed vessels.

Trench 4 very obviously has a phase of post-medieval activity not seen so clearly in the other trenches. Medieval contexts produced a range of glazed jugs and unglazed jars, all clearly domestic.

Trench 6 produced several Late Saxon or early medieval features, only one of which produced pottery. The remaining contexts are mainly medieval in date with jars and unglazed jug sherds recovered. Few glazed sherds were identified suggesting that while still domestic in nature the assemblage is perhaps more orientated towards preparation of food rather than serving or consumption, or that it represents an assemblage from a lower status dwelling.

3 CONCLUSIONS

The pottery assemblage recovered from the evaluation is broadly domestic in character, with a predominance of jars and bowls in the Late Saxon or early medieval period. Tablewares in the form of jugs become more commonplace alongside cooking vessels in the features dating to the 13th and 14th centuries indicating domestic refuse from a household or households of some status rather than poor hovels. Ceramic activity on the site appears to have lessened during the 15th century, suggesting a change of use in the site. However, the pottery sherds though only moderately abraded are not large, suggesting some reworking of the deposits from which they were excavated. This assemblage is important in dating the activity on the site and in providing information about the supply of pottery to medieval Huntingdon. It should be considered in relation to other Huntingdon assemblages including the pottery from Stukeley Road (Cooper & Spoerry forthcoming), Orchard Lane (Oakey 1997) and St Germain Street (Spoerry forthcoming).

APPENDIX 2: THE METALWORK

by Nina Crummy

1 SUMMARY

Twenty items were examined for assessment. Stratigraphic and ceramic evidence suggests that many are medieval, but one is probably Roman and others are post-medieval or modern. The functional categories present are very limited. They are listed in Table 2 by trench number and within trench by context number.

2 CONDITION

The copper-alloy and iron objects are encrusted with corrosion products but appear to be reasonably stable. The single lead object is uncorroded and in good condition.

All the items are packed to a high standard of storage in polythene bags or crystal boxes supported by pads of foam. The bags and boxes are stored in airtight boxes with silica gel and humidity indicator strips.

3 ASSEMBLAGE

A summary catalogue is given in Table 2. The assemblage can be divided by trench number and material thus:

Material	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr	Tr 4	Tr 6	Totals
copper-alloy	2	2	-	1	2	**7**
lead	-	-	-	1	-	**1**
iron	8	-	1	2	1	**12**
Totals	**10**	**2**	**1**	**4**	**3**	**20**

Table 1: Metal finds by trench number and material

Trench 1 produced the highest number of objects, most of which are undatable iron nails. Dated objects consist of an iron strap fitting with expanded terminal (SF 2), typical of a range of box mounts of the medieval period (Brenan 1998, 69-84), a small medieval or, more likely, post-medieval dress pin (SF 14) made from drawn wire, and an unusual large copper-alloy nail with a decorated head (SF 1) that again is probably more likely to be post-medieval than medieval.

From Trench 2 came a small dress pin (SF 7) and a copper-alloy coin or token (SF 6), the latter certainly and the former probably of post-medieval date. The details of the coin's surfaces are obscured by corrosion, but its size suggests that it probably dates to the 17th century.

A single iron nail shank fragment came from Trench 3.

Of the four objects from Trench 4 one is a spike from a fibre-processing tool (SF 11), either a wool-comb or a flax heckle. Spikes of this type are frequently recovered from Late Saxon and early medieval towns, and some have recently been found at the Watersmeet site, Huntingdon (Pritchard 1991, 135; Walton Rogers 1997, 1727-31; Crummy 2004). Over this period cloth manufacture shifted from the countryside into the towns, where it is linked to the rise in industrial specialisation and the establishment of the guilds (Crummy 2002).

Trench 4 also produced part of an iron tongue-ended strap or similar fitting (SF 12) and a musket ball (SF 9). While many of the latter occur on Civil War battlefield sites, they need not necessarily belong to that period and are also common in post-medieval and modern contexts.

An iron fitting of probable Roman date (SF 13) came from a layer within Trench 6, but it is not itself typologically diagnostic of this period. The other two items from the trench are post-medieval, a jeton used for casting accounts (SF 4) and the case of a 19th- or early 20th-century key-wound pocket watch with part of the fob chain (SF 8). The case has a band of relief decoration around the rim.

The functional categories defined in Crummy 1983 and 1988 show that the assemblage consists chiefly of general fittings, mainly nails, a preponderance typical of an urban occupation site. The absence of any other noticeable assemblage characteristic reflects the small size of the assemblage, but the recovery of the fibre-processing spike is a useful indicator of local industry.

SF	Context	Trench	Feature type	Material	Identification	Date
-	103	1	post pipe fill	iron?	shank (?nail)	-
-	103	1	post pipe fill	iron	nail	-
-	107	1	pit fill	iron	nail	-
14	107	1	pit fill	copper-alloy	small dress pin	medieval to post-medieval
-	109	1	layer	iron	nail	-
-	110	1	cobbles	iron	nail	-
1	137	1	layer/fill	copper-alloy	nail with decorative head	(late medieval to) post-medieval
2	169	1	layer	iron	strap fragment with expanded terminal, ?box fitting	medieval
-	169	1	layer	iron	nail	-
3	180	1	pit fill	iron	nail or holdfast head & short part of shank	-
7	247	2	ditch fill	copper-alloy	small dress pin	medieval to post-medieval
6	245	2	post hole fill	copper-alloy	coin or token	post-medieval
-	47	3	pit fill	iron	nail shank	-
10	356	4	layer	copper-alloy	shaft fragment?	-
9	362	4	pit fill	lead	shot, musket size	late medieval to post-medieval
11	369	4	pit fill	iron	spike, probably from wool-comb or flax heckle	medieval
12	391	4	pit fill	iron	tongue-ended strap fragment?	-
13	210	6	layer	iron	U-shaped (bent?) fitting	Roman?
4	225	6	layer	copper-alloy	jeton, probably Nuremberg	late medieval to early post-medieval
5	236	6	drain fill	copper-alloy	pocket watch with part of fob chain	Victorian to modern

Table 2: Catalogue of metal finds

APPENDIX 3: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL AND FIRED CLAY

by Carole Fletcher

1 METHODOLOGY

The basic guidance in MAP2 has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991). In addition, the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG) 'Draft: Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material' act as a standard. Assessment was carried out using the Archaeological Field Unit's in-house system. A basic fabric classification has been carried and out and all fragments have been counted, classified, and weighed.

All the Ceramic Building Material (CBM) has been recorded on a context-by-context basis; this information was entered directly onto a full quantification database (Access 2000). The AFU curates the CBM and other archive material until formal deposition of the site archive.

3 QUANTITY, DATE RANGE, BIAS AND CONDITION OF MATERIAL

The fieldwork generated a small assemblage of 75 fragments (6.213 kg) of ceramic building material, including unstratified material, from 37 contexts. A small amount of Roman material is present in the assemblage, in the form of a single sherd of *Imbrex* from context (210), and two other possibly Roman tile fragments from contexts (105) and (028). In addition, three fragments of stone roof tile were recovered, and although not ceramic it is important to note that other building materials are represented on the site. There is no material identified categorically as medieval and it would appear that the main period represented is post-medieval, for the most part from the 17th century onward, with bricks and roof tiles both showing signs of re-used before they are discarded.

The assemblage, and the fragment size (0.082 kg), is small and statistical analysis is not viable. There are no near complete tiles or bricks. It is likely that the micaceous CBM on the site was produced in Essex, with other manufactured locally.

Where bulk samples have been processed for environmental remains, there has also been some recovery of CBM. These are only small amounts, however, and serious bias is not expected to result.

Main form types

The form types represented in the assemblage are summarised below:

Form	Brick/ Tile	Brick	Tile	Peg Tile	*Imbrex* or Ridge tile	Lining?	Daub	Unclassified /Fired Clay
Weight	0.268	3.393	1.550	0.317	0.077	0.016	0.119	0.243
Count	7	6	29	6	1	2	3	32

Table 3 Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay: Main form types

The form descriptors used are in some cases self-evident i.e. *Tegula* others less so. Where a single surface survives, either upper or lower, the material has been classified as brick/tile, where both surfaces survive the material is classified as tile or brick. Those fragments with no surviving surface features have been recorded as unclassified. No effort has been made to identify specific types of tile other than the obvious forms at this stage, as further measurements would be required. The material provisionally recorded under the heading 'Lining?' is awaiting further investigation. The material appears to have been burnt *in situ* and is slightly magnetic and feels heavy, and may be some form of hearth lining.

The CBM assemblage, although small, can provide information pertaining to local and regional trade, also evidence for settlement function.

APPENDIX 4: CLAY PIPE

by Carole Fletcher

1 METHODOLOGY

The basic guidance in MAP2 has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991). All fragments have been counted and weighed and recorded on a quantification database (Access 2000).

2 THE ASSEMBLAGE

The evaluation produced a very small assemblage, of nine fragments of clay pipe stem, one fragment of heel/spur and three fragments of clay pipe bowl, in total weighing 0.039 kg. The bowl fragments are too small to enable identification and the partial heel/spur fragment bears no marking.

APPENDIX 5: LITHICS

by Carole Fletcher
Geological identifications by Scott Kenney

1 METHODOLOGY

The basic guidance in MAP2 has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991) and the assessment was carried out using the AFU's in-house system. All fragments have been counted, classified, and weighed.

All the fragments of quern, worked stone or flint have been quantified on a context-by-context basis; this information was entered directly onto a quantification database (Access 2000), which allows for the appending of further data.

2 BIAS

There are not expected to be any inherent biases in the assemblage. Where bulk samples have been processed for environmental remains, there has been no recovery of quern, millstone worked stone or flint

3 THE ASSEMBLAGE

The fieldwork generated a very small assemblage of worked material, which is detailed below.

Quern
Vesicular lava
A single fragment of vesicular lava (Niedermendig lava) quern, with a small amount of surviving grinding surface, was recovered from context 391. The fragment also shows traces of burning suggesting its reuse, possibly as a hearth stone, before its final deposition. Weight 0.280 kg.

Whetstone
One fragment of Biotite Schist whetstone (SF 8) weighing 0.083 kg was recovered from context (251). The whetstone is approximately rectangular in shape, 70 mm long and 23-25 mm wide, both ends are broken; one in antiquity the other more recently. The whetstone shows evidence of various levels of use or wear on three sides, the most worn side is highly polished with a very definite concave surface. A slight gouge occurs across part of the surface; this appears to be old damage possibly caused during use. The opposite surface of the whetstone also shows signs of heavy use, and is highly polished and concave with heavy wear on one edge; it also shows recent damage possibly caused during excavation. The third side is only slightly worn, polishing is evident but the surface is still relatively flat. The final side shows some use along one edge but otherwise remains relatively unpolished.

Flint

Only one worked flint was identified in the assemblage, a retouched blade broken in antiquity weighing 0.007 kg

Other Worked Stone

Limestone

Two pieces of stone roofing slab provisionally identified as limestone were recovered from context (302) and one other fragment was identified in context (140). Though identified here as roofing material traces of mortar were identified on only one fragment from (302).

APPENDIX 6: METAL WORKING DEBRIS

by Carole Fletcher

1 METHODOLOGY, INTRODUCTION AND THE ASSEMBLAGE

Basic guidance in MAP2 has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991) All fragments have been counted and weighed and recorded on a quantification database (Access 2000).

Evidence for metalworking was recovered from thirteen contexts during the evaluation and relates to both iron smelting and smithing. No associated structures were identified on site, however tap slags, smithing, and fuel ash slags were all recognised.

The evaluation produced a very small assemblage, of 24 fragments of slag, in total weighing 0.362 kg. The basic identification and quantification of slag recovered is summarised in Table 4.

Function	Smelting Slag	Smithing Slag	Undiogniostic Slag	Fuel Ash Slag
Weight in kg	0.195	0.102	0.047	0.018

Table 4 Identification and quantification of slag.

Fuel ash slag can be produced in domestic hearths, although ironworking was recognised in two contexts (027 and (221); the latter also produced two small fragments of what the author has tentatively described as hearth lining. Smelting slags were recognised in six contexts, including two which produced no pottery. Of the remaining contexts, one is dated to the 13th to mid 14th century and three contain pottery dated from the 10th to mid 12th century. By comparison, the three contexts that produced smithing slags all occur in contexts dated to the 13th to mid 14th century (spot dating provided by the author).

In the early medieval period both rural and urban sites produce evidence for metalworking, but from the medieval period onwards the tendency is for metalworking to be more commonly located in the urban centres (English Heritage 2001). It is not, therefore, unexpected to find remains of ironworking on the site even if the actual structures for ironworking are absent as hearths and furnaces have to be cleaned out periodically and the resulting residues deposited in nearby pits or ditches.

Hammer scale was recovered from two soil samples but these were taken from layer (201) that dates to the 16th century and a late medieval layer context (204). No sampling for hammer scale was undertaken in contexts producing slag, however this, and the metalworking debris, recovered from the site suggest that metalworking activity was taking place somewhere very close to the site.

APPENDIX 7: THE MAMMAL AND BIRD BONES

by Ian L. Baxter

1 INTRODUCTION

A total of 160 'countable' (see below) animal bones was recovered from the site (Table 3). This is a relatively small assemblage of animal bones and its usefulness regarding the economy of the site and town, and local husbandry regimes is consequently limited. Although only an evaluation excavation, this site is important as one of the few archaeological investigations conducted in recent years in the centre of the medieval town. Earlier recent excavations have been focused on the southern suburbs (Albarella 1996; Baxter 2000c). One cattle fragment was recovered from a feature tentatively dated to the Romano-British period. Only a few fragments were recovered from Late Saxon/early medieval (*c.* AD 900-1150) and post-medieval (16th century AD and later) features and the primary focus of this report is on the medieval (AD 1150-1400) deposits.

2 METHODS

All of the animal bones assessed from the site were hand-collected. There is likely, therefore, to be a collection bias against the recovery of the smaller bones of mammals, birds, amphibians and fish. A scan of the residues from the samples from the site (processed at a later date) demonstrated the presence of bone fragments, including occasional fish bones (Rachel Fosberry, pers. comm.).

The mammal bones were recorded on an Access database following a modified version of the method described in Davis (1992) and Albarella and Davis (1994). In brief, all teeth (lower and upper) and a restricted suite of parts of the skeleton was recorded and used in counts. These are: horncores (if measurable), skull (zygomaticus), atlas, axis, scapula (glenoid articulation), distal humerus, distal radius, proximal ulna, carpal 2+3, distal metacarpal, pelvis (ischial part of acetabulum), distal femur, distal tibia, calcaneum (sustenaculum), astragalus (lateral side), centrotarsal, distal metatarsal, proximal parts of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd phalanges. At least 50% of a given part had to be present for it to be counted. The presence of large (cattle/horse size), medium (sheep/pig size) and small (cat/dog size) vertebrae and ribs was recorded for each context, although these were not counted.

For birds the following were always recorded: scapula (articular end), proximal coracoid, proximal scapula, distal humerus, proximal ulna, proximal carpometacarpus, distal femur, distal tibiotarsus, and distal tarsometatarsus.

'Non-countable' elements of particular interest were recorded but not included in the counts.

The separation of sheep and goat was attempted on the following elements: dP_3, dP_4, distal humerus, distal metapodials (both fused and unfused), distal tibia, astragalus, and calcaneum using the criteria described in Boessneck (1969), Kratochvil (1969) and Payne (1969 and 1985).

Wear stages were recorded for all P_4s and dP_4s as well as for the lower molars of cattle, sheep/goat and pig, both isolated and in mandibles. Tooth wear stages follow Grant (1982).

Measurements are retained on the Access database. These in general follow von den Driesch (1976). All pig measurements follow Payne and Bull (1988). humerus HTC and BT and tibia Bd measurements were taken for all species as suggested by Payne and Bull (1988) for pigs.

3 PROVENANCE AND PRESERVATION

The animal bones primarily derive from pits but also from a ditch and postholes. Preservation of the bone surface was generally good but variable even within contexts.

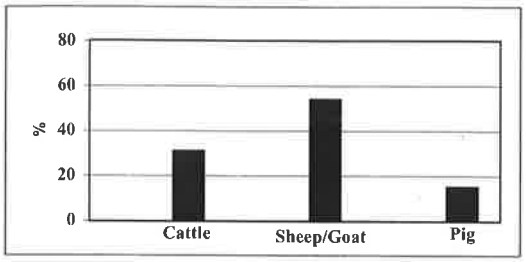
4 FREQUENCY OF SPECIES

As with all European urban and suburban sites of any period the animal bone assemblage from Walden Road is dominated by the bones of the main domestic species – cattle, sheep/goat and pig (Table 3). Domestic fowl and goose also represent a significant element of the assemblage. Wild species are rare, and confined to bird species and deer antler fragments, which suggests that hunting and wildfowling played a negligible role in the food provision of the site. Comparison with other recent excavations undertaken in Huntingdon show a closer resemblance to Stukeley Road (Baxter 2000c) than Orchard Lane (Albarella 1996) with sheep more numerous by number of identified fragments (NISP) than cattle. Pig is more prominent at Walden Road than at Stukeley Road but less so than at Orchard Lane However, sample sizes for all these sites are quite small and similar disparities are observable at recently excavated small sites in Ely (Fig. 17).

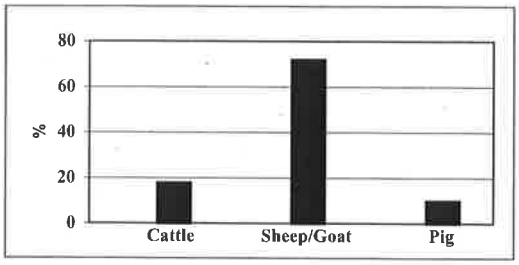
5 RESULTS BY TRENCH

5.1 Trench 1

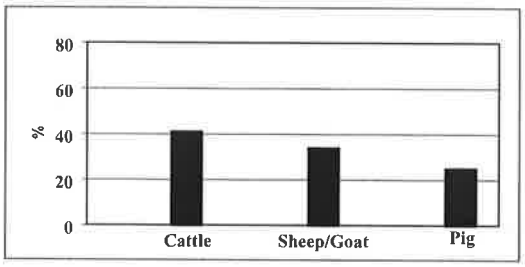
The bones of cattle and sheep/goat are numerous in this trench and pig is much more frequent than in Trench 3 (see below). Chicken (including juveniles), goose and fish bones are also represented. However, once again non meat bearing skeletal elements comprise the majority of the assemblage which primarily consists of primary butchery waste. Deer antler fragments were recovered from two contexts. Where identification is possible red deer (*Cervus*



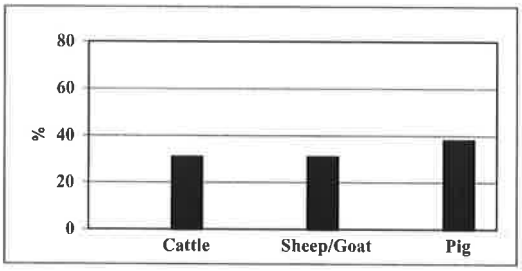
Walden Road, Huntingdon
Medieval (1150-1400 AD)
Tot NISP = 107



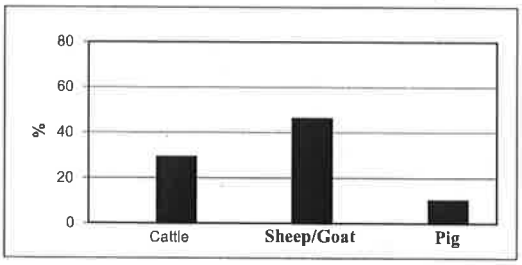
Stukeley Road, Huntingdon
Medieval (1150-1400 AD)
Tot NISP = 277



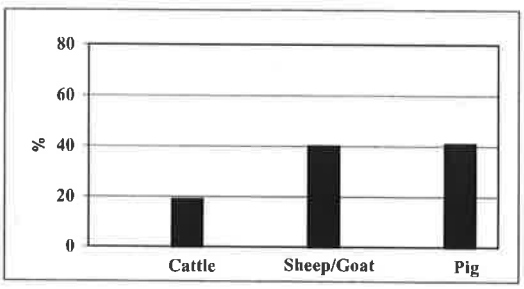
Orchard Lane, Huntingdon
Saxo-Norman (900-1150 AD)
Tot NISP = 59



Jubilee Terrace, Ely.
Medieval (1200-1500 AD)
Tot NISP = 58



Chief's Street, Ely.
Mid-Late Saxon
Tot NISP = 85



Lynn Road, Ely.
Medieval (12th-late 14th AD)
Tot NISP = 37.5

Figure 17 *Walden Road, Huntingdon compared with other Saxo-Norman and Medieval sites in Cambridgeshire*
(Stukeley Road based on Baxter 1999; Orchard Lane based on Albarella 1996; Jubilee Terrace based on Baxter 2001; Chief's Street based on Baxter 2000a and Lynn Road based on Baxter 2000b)

elaphus) is the species present. Although the antler fragments have no cut or saw marks they are probably waste from craft-working. The proximal ulna of a raven (*Corvus corax*) was found in medieval layer (169). A red kite (*Milvus milvus*) bone was found at Stukeley Road (Baxter 2000c). Both of these urban scavengers would have been ubiquitous during the medieval period.

5.2 Trench 2

Although the assemblage from this trench is very small it does include major meat bearing bones from the major domestic species together with wing and leg elements from domestic fowl.

5.3 Trench 3

Cattle and sheep/goat fragments occurred in similar frequency in this trench. Two chicken bones (one juvenile) and single fragments belonging to pig and horse were also recovered. Two goat horncores were found along with a goat proximal radius. Also three cattle horncores, including a juvenile frontal, and a rounded sheep horncore were found in these pits. With the exception of occasional cattle and sheep sized rib fragments, none of the bones recovered are meat bearing elements suggesting that the fills of these pits consist of primary butchery and, possibly, industrial waste from tanning and/or horning rather than kitchen or table refuse.

5.4 Trench 4

The assemblage from this trench includes a relatively high frequency of meat bearing skeletal elements from sheep and pigs. The remains of these species are more frequent in this trench than those of cattle, which comprise scattered primary butchery waste. Fish bones, goose and chicken wing and leg bones were also recovered. The remains of juvenile and adult cats are relatively common in these deposits. No cut marks were seen on any of the cat bones although the skinning of cats was a popular medieval cottage industry. Cat bones bearing cut marks were previously reported from Stukeley Road (Baxter 2000c). Two human metacarpals were found in Saxo-Norman pit (402) and medieval pit (366). These may be derived from disturbed burials.

5.5 Trench 5

This trench produced a tiny assemblage including bones of sheep and pig.

5.6 Trench 6

The main domestic food species are again largely represented by elements expected in primary butchery waste. Chicken bones again include juveniles and two juvenile domestic cat bones were also recovered from features in this trench. A sheep radius found in context (231) has a proximal exostosis ascribable to 'penning elbow' resulting from trauma caused when run through pens or races (Baker and Brothwell 1980).

6 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The Walden Road site is important for illustrating the kinds of deposits that may be expected from further excavations in the town centre of Huntingdon. While most of the trenches have produced assemblages derived from primary butchery and, possibly, the activities of tanners and horners in the vicinity of Trench 3, the material from Trench 4 is qualitatively different including more evidence suggestive of secondary butchery or even kitchen waste. It is evident from the animal bones recovered from this evaluation that bio-industrial processes such as tanning and horning were probably being undertaken fairly close to the centre of the medieval town together with cottage industries such as the working of deer antler and the skinning of cats. The human bones recovered also suggest the proximity to one of the 'lost' churches, or at least its churchyard to Trench 4. Any future development within the centre of Huntingdon should be sensitive to the archaeological potential of these sites.

Taxon	**Period**					**Total**
	?Romano-British	**Saxo-Norman (c.900-1150 AD)**	**Medieval**	**Post-Medieval**	**Late Post-Medieval C18th-19th)**	
Human (*Homo sapiens*)	-	1	1	-	-	**2**
Cattle (*Bos* f. domestic)	-	8	33	3	-	**44**
Sheep/Goat (*Ovis/Capra* domestic)	-	9	58	2	-	**69**
Sheep (*Ovis* f. domestic)	-	(2)	(18)	-	-	**(20)**
Goat (*Capra* f. domestic)	-	-	(2)	-	-	**(2)**
Deer (*Cervus/Dama* sp.)	-	-	-	+	-	+
Pig (*Sus scrofa*)	-	1	16	1	1	**19**
Horse (*Equus caballus*)	-	-	3	-	-	**3**
Cat (*Felis catus*)	-	+	4	-	-	**4**
Fowl (*Gallus* f. domestic)	1	1	9	1	-	**12**
Goose (*Anser/Branta* sp.)	-	2	-	-	-	**2**
Raven (*Corvus corax*)	-	-	1	-	-	**1**
Fish (*Pisces* sp.)	-	-	3	1	-	**4**
Total	**1**	**22**	**128**	**8**	**1**	**160**

Table 5: Number of identified specimens (NISP)

'Sheep/ Goat' also includes the specimens identified to species. Numbers in parentheses are not included in the total of the period. '+' means that the taxon is present but no specimens could be 'counted' (see text).

APPENDIX 8: THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS

by Val Fryer, with a note on the shell by Carole Fletcher

1 INTRODUCTION

Five samples were taken during the investigations for the extraction and evaluation of the plant macrofossil assemblages.

2 METHODS

The samples were bulk floated by a member of the AFU team, collecting the flots in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 4. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants including fibrous and woody roots, seeds and arthropods were present throughout.

3 RESULTS OF EVALUATION

3.1 Plant macrofossils

Cereal grains/chaff and seeds of common weed plants were present at varying densities in all assemblages examined. Preservation was moderate to good, although a number of the cereal grains and weed seeds were puffed and distorted, probably due to high temperatures during combustion.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), rye (*Secale cereale*) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded, with wheat being predominant. Although rachis nodes of both bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) and rivet wheat (*T. turgidum*) types were recorded from Sample 1 (103, fill of 104, Period 4), other chaff elements were rare. Cotyledon fragments of indeterminate large pulses were noted from three samples, and a single possible seed of field bean (*Vicia faba*) was present in Sample 3 (layer 204, Period 5).

Weed seeds and nutshell fragments were present at a very low density in all but Sample 2. Segetal weeds were predominant, but wetland plant macrofossils (namely saw-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) and spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) nutlets) were noted in Sample 1. The latter sample also contained small fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell.

Charcoal fragments were common throughout. Other plant macrofossils were rare, but pieces of charred root/stem and indeterminate culm nodes and seeds were recorded.

3.2 Other materials

The fragments of black porous 'cokey' material, black tarry material and the siliceous globules are probably mostly residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains and straw/grass) at very high temperatures. However some small pieces of fuel coke were intrusive within Sample 2. Other remains were generally rare.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Despite the low density of chaff and weed seeds, the material from Sample 1 may be largely derived from either cereal processing waste or semi-cleaned grain. The puffed condition of some macrofossils within this assemblage may indicate that the material was burnt at a sufficiently high temperature to compromise the original composition of the deposit, thereby giving a false impression of the predominance of grain and the more robust chaff elements. Three of the remaining samples are from probable cultivation horizons, and it would appear most likely that the retrieved material is indicative of refuse scattered across a garden area, possibly in the form of manure or night soil.

The potential for plant macrofossil survival at this site would appear to be very high, and any results obtained would significantly supplement data already gained from excavations within Huntingdon (*cf.* Fryer 1999 a and b; 2001).

5 SHELL

by Carole Fletcher

The evaluation produced a very small assemblage comprising 0.223 kg of Common Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shell and 0.004 kg of what is most likely to be the Common Mussel (*Mytilus edulis).*

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5
Context No.	**103**	**201**	**204**	**233**	**156**
Cereals and other food plants					
Avena sp. (grains)	xcf			xcf	xcf
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x	x	x	x
(detached embryos)	x				
Large Fabaceae indet.	xcotyfg		xcf		x
Hordeum sp. (grains)				x	x
(rachis nodes)	x				xcf
Secale cereale L. (grains)	x			xcf	
(rachis nodes)	xcf				
Triticum sp. (grains)	xxx		x	x	x
T. aestivum/compactum type (rachis nodes)	x			x	
(rachis internode)	x				
T turgidum type (rachis nodes)	xx				
Vicia faba L.			xcf		
Herbs					
Agrostemma githago L.	xcffg				
Anthemis cotula L.	x				x
Asteraceae indet.	x				
Atriplex sp.	x				
Fabaceae indet.				x	
Lithospermum officinale L.	x				
Small Poaceae indet.			x		
Large Poaceae indet.	x				x
Polygonum aviculare L.	x				
Ranunculus sp.	x				
Rumex sp.					xcf
Scandic pecten-veneris L.	xcf				
Sherardia arvensis L.	x				
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.)Schultz-Bip	x				
Vicia/Lathyrus sp.	x		x		
Wetland plants					
Cladium mariscus L.	x				
Eleocharis sp.	x				
Tree/shrub macrofossils					
Corylus avellana L.	x				
Other plant macrofossils					
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxx		x		xx
Charred root/rhizome/stem	x	x			x
Indet.culm nodes	x				
Indet.seeds	x		x	x	
Other materials					
Black porous 'cokey' material	xx	xx	x		xx
Black tarry material			x		x
Bone		x			x
Ferrous globules		x			
Fish bone	x			x	

Table 6: Plant Macrofossils and other remains

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5
Context No.	**103**	**201**	**204**	**233**	**156**
Marine mollusc shell frags.	x				
Mineralised soil concretions				xx	
Siliceous globules	xx			x	
Small coal frags.	x	xxx	x		x
Small mammal/amphibian bone	x		x		x
Vitrified material	xx		x	x	x
Sample volume (litres)					
Volume of flot (litres)	**0.3**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**50%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Table 6: Plant Macrofossils and other remains (continued)

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 10 – 100 specimens xxx = 100+ specimens
coty = cotyledon fg = fragment

APPENDIX 9: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Trench	Cut	Category	Feature	Length	Width	Depth/ Thickness	Description	Spot Date (AD)
001	3	001	Finds	-				Finds from machine excavated overburden & post-med make-up layers	19th/20thC
002	3	-	Layer	topsoil			0.4	Dark brownish grey loam with rare sand & rare small & med sub-angular stones. Overlies layer 003 at E. end of trench	0
003	3	-	Layer	subsoil			0.37	Mid grey sandy silty clay with occ small rounded stones & med sub-angular stones. Medieval layer/buried soil	0
004	3	005	Fill	pit			0.1	Mid - dark grey sandy silty clay with rare small sub-angular stones; rare charcoal flecks, medieval pot & animal bone recovered.	?900-1200
005	3	005	Cut	pit	1.32	0.41	0.1	Oval cut with shallow, sloping sides, imperceptible break of slope to concave base. Full extent of feature not known. Truncated medieval rubbish pit.	0
006	3	007	Fill	posthole			0.05	Mid yellowish grey sandy silt clay with rare charcoal flecks, rare small stones	0
007	3	007	Cut	posthole	0.28	0.26	0.05	Circular cut with shallow sides and concave base.	0
008	3	009	Fill	ditch			0.07	Similar to 022. Disturbed / redeposited natural & topsoil	0
009	3	009	Cut	ditch	1.8	1.33	0.07	Linear / butt end with moderate sides, imperceptible break of slope to base. Full dimensions unknown	0
010	3	014	Fill	pit				Mid greyish brown clay silt with occ small stones & charcoal flecks uppermost fill of pit 014	1200-1350
011	3	014	Fill	pit				Brownish orange slightly silty, clayey sand with moderate - freq small stones, middle fill of pit 014	0
012	3	014	Fill	pit				Mixed pale yellow orange & darker reddish orange silty clay with occ stones	
013	3	014	Fill	pit				Mid -dark grey brown with occ orange mottles clayey silt with occ - moderate small stones. Rare charcoal flecks, lowest fill	1000-1200
014	3	014	Cut	pit	2.45	0.7	0.54	Oval cut with steep sides, sharp break of slope, flat base. Broad and shallow pit	0
015	3	016	Fill	pit				Dark grey brown clayey & v sandy silt with moderate med stones, rare charcoal flecks, fill of small pit	1200-1400
016	3	016	Cut	pit		0.75	0.34	Circular with v steep sides, sharp break of slope, flattish base.	0
017	3		Fill	pit				Very similar to 13 but slightly greyer and siltier. Uppermost pit fill, truncated by pit 14.	0
018	3	018	Cut	pit	1.5	0.6	0.2	Oval cut with steep sides. Not bottomed	0
019	3	021	Fill	pit				Mixed mid & dark grey brown clayey silt with occ stones	0
020	3	021	Fill	pit				Similar to 011. Appears to be redeposited natural.	0
021	3	021	Cut	pit	1.6	0.7	0.5	Oval with fairly steep sides. Not bottomed	0

APPENDIX 9: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Trench	Cut	Category	Feature	Length	Width	Depth/ Thickness	Description	Spot Date (AD)
022	3	023	Fill	pit		0.2		Dark brownish grey orange sandy clay with rare small rounded stones, redeposited natural	1200-1300
023	3	023	cut	pit	2.6	1.75	0.2	Sub-rectangular cut with gently sloping sides, gentle break of slope, flat, slightly irregular base. Full dimensions unknown	0
024	3		layer				0.18	Dark brownish grey sandy silt clay with freq small rounded & subangular stones. Stoney post-med layer immediately beneath topsoil	17thC
025	3	025	cut	pit	1.3	0.65	0.6	Oval with moderately steep sides, sharp break of slope. Filled by 027, 028. Not bottomed. One of a series of pits	0
026	3	026	cut	pit	0.95	1	0.6	Rectangular cut with vertical, slightly undercutting in places, sides, filled by 029-032. Not bottomed	0
027	3	025	fill	pit				Mid grey brown slightly sandy clayey silt with moderate med stones, rare charcoal flecks, possibly cut by ditch 46	1150-1300
028	3	025	fill	pit				Mid grey brown slightly sandy and clayey with occ small stones	1200-1350
029	3	026	fill	pit				Mid grey brown slightly sandy clayey silt with occ small stones	1200-1400
030	3	026	fill	pit				Mid grey brown sandy clayey silt with moderate - frequent small stones, backfill or dump deposit	1200-1400
031	3	026	fill	pit				Mid grey brown sandy clayey silt with occ small stones, v occ charcoal flecks	1200-1350
032	3	026	fill	pit				Mid-pale brownish orange slightly silty, v sandy clay with frequent medium stones	0
033	3	035	fill	pit	0.3	0.9	0.18	Mid greyish brown silty sand with sub rounded stones	900-1200
034	3	035	fill	pit	0.3	0.9	0.3	Dark grey sandy silt with occ sub-rounded flint, gravel, charcoal-rich layer	0
035	3	035	cut	pit	0.3	0.9	0.3	Small oval pit cut into the top of larger pit	0
036	3	038	fill	pit	1.1	0.8	0.4	Orange sand, slight clay content with sub rounded flint gravels	0
037	3	038	fill	pit		0.7	0.1	Greyish mid-dark brown silty sand with occ sub rounded flint pebbles	0
038	3	038	cut	pit	1.7	0.7	0.4	Pit filled by 036, 037 & 043	0
039	3	040	fill	pit	1.8	1.7	0.4	Mid greyish brown silty sand with occ-moderate sub-rounded flint gravels. Not bottomed, water table reached	900-1200
040	3		cut	pit	1.8	1.7	0.4	Sub-rectangular cut with steep, straight sides, filled by 039, 033, 034	0
041	3	042	fill	pit	1.25	0.75	0.4	Greyish mid brown silty sand with occ sub-rounded flint gravels. Not bottomed - water table reached. Contained sherds of **Bronze Age** pottery.	0
042	3		cut	pit	1.25	0.75	0.4	Cut with straight, steep sides	0

APPENDIX 9: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Trench	Cut	Category	Feature	Length	Width	Depth/ Thickness	Description	Spot Date (AD)
043	3	038	fill	pit	1.7	0.4	0.1	Mid brown silty sand. Upper fill of pit, ? tipping downwards to the north	0
044	3	046	fill	ditch				Mid dark grey brown slightly sandy & clayey silt with occ small stones and charcoal fragments	1150-1250
045	3	046	fill	ditch				Brownish yellow sandy clay fill	0
046	3		cut	ditch	2	0.22	0.15	Linear cut with straight, shallow sides, gentle break of slope, ?flat base. Filled by 044, 045	0
047	3	48	fill	pit	0			Mid grey brown slightly sandy, clayey silt with moderate small stones. V occ charcoal flecks	1200-1350
048	3		cut	pit	1.2	0.6	0.26	Rectangular cut with steep, nr vertical sides, moderate break of slope, flattish base	0
049	3	047	finds	finds				Finds assemblage from 047	1200-1350
050	3	052	fill	pit	1.1	0.7	0.15	Orange silty sand clay with sub rounded flint gravels, not bottomed. Lower fill ?redeposited natural	0
051	3	052	fill	pit	1.1	0.7	0.1	Mid greyish brown silty sand with occ sub rounded flint gravels	0
052	3		cut	pit	1.1	0.7	0.25	Oval/linear cut with steep, straight sides, filled by 050, 051. Not bottomed - water table reached	0
053	3	054	fill	posthole		0.11		Dark brownish grey sand silt clay with rare small stones, rare charcoal flecks	1200-1400
054	3		cut	posthole	0.53	0.3	0.11	Oval cut with fairly steep sides, imperceptible break of slope, concave base.	0
055	3	056	fill	posthole				Mid dark grey brown slightly sandy clay with occ small stones, rare charcoal flecks	900-1150
056	3		cut	posthole	0.36	0.27	0.1	Oval cut with steep sides and flattish base.	0
057	3	058	fill	ditch	1.35			As 044	1200-1400
058	3		cut	ditch	1.35	0.15		Linear cut with straight, gentle sides, imperceptible break of slope, gently concave base.	0
059	3	060	fill	pit				Mid grey brown sandy, clayey silt with occ small stones, rare charcoal flecks	1200-1350
060	3		cut	pit	0.7	0.563	0.33	Rectangular cut with moderate - steep, straight sides, moderately sharp, rounded break of slope, flat base	0
061	3	062	fill	pit	0.9	0.85	0.4	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with occ-moderate sub-rounded flint gravels	900-1200
062	3		cut	pit	0.9	0.85	0.4	Circular with N side very steep, flat base. Small round pit	0
063	3	064	fill	posthole				Mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt with small occ stones	0
064	3		cut	posthole	0.38	0.22	0.04	Circular with moderate sides, sharp break of slope, flat base.	0
065	3	066	fill	pit		0.32		Mid greyish brown, orange mottles sandy clay silt with occ small rounded stones	900-1150
066	3		cut	pit	1	0.77	0.32	Circular / oval with shallow sides. Shallow pit of uncertain function.	0

APPENDIX 9: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Trench	Cut	Category	Feature	Length	Width	Depth/ Thickness	Description	Spot Date (AD)
100	1		finds					General finds retrieval during machining of trench.	1500 plus
101	1		finds					Pottery from stones / cobbles 110 from N. part of trench.	1200-1350
102	1		finds					Number allocated to general finds retrieval	1200-1350
103	1	104	fill	posthole		0	0	V dark grey/ yellow mottles silty clay with occ small / med subangular stones, some burnt, charcoally fill.	1150-1250
104	1		cut	posthole	0.28	0.22	0.42	Oval cut with vertical sides, sharp break of slope, flat base.	0
105	1	106	fill	posthole		0.43		Mixed yellowish grey brown slightly sandy silty clay with freq medium angular flints. Rare chalk/charcoal flecks. Packing	1200-1350
106	1		cut	posthole	0.78	0.54	0.43	Sub rectangular cut with vertical sides, slightly undercutting on s. edge sides.	0
107	1	108	fill	pit				Mid dark grey brown sandy silt, slightly clayey with freq stones. Brick & tile fragments, charcoal/ mortar flecks	1200-1350
108	1		cut	pit	0.9	0.75	0.25	Rectangular cut with nr vertical sides, sharp break of slope, flat base.	0
109	1		layer		5	2	0.13	Mid grey brown clayey silt with mod small / med stones. Rare charcoal, extensive layer in centre/se of trench	1200-1400/1300or later
110	1		layer	cobbles	3.5	2.4	0.12	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt, slightly clayey with v. frequent stones 4-12cm.	1200-1350
111	1	112	fill	pit	0.5	1	0.5	Pale greyish brown silty sand with occ charcoal	0
112	1		cut	pit				Uncertain shape with uncertain sides/base. Pit in E end of trench in cluster of medieval pits	0
113	1	115	fill	pit	0.8	0.8	0.2	Mid grey silt with occ charcoal flecks, lowest fill of 115	0
114	1		fill	pit	0.8	0.55	0.3	Mid greyish brown silty sand with occ med flint pebbles, subrounded	900-1200
115	1		cut	pit	1	1	0.9	Pit of unknown size with vertical sides - only SW side visible, moderate 45dgs break of slope, flattish base. Excavated in box section.	0
117	1		fill	pit		0.7		Pale grey silt with occ charcoal, flint gravels, revealed & recorded in section	1150-1250
118	1		cut	pit		0.56	0.9	Pit with moderately steep sides, slightly concave base, in SW section. revealed & recorded in section	0
119	1		fill	pit		0.8	0.8	Brownish yellow slightly clayey silt with occ charcoal flecks largely revealed in box section	0
120	1	121	fill	pit		0.4	0.2	Mid greyish brown silty sand	0
121	1		cut	pit		0.7	0.8	Linear ? cut, shallow then breaks to steep sides. Revealed and recorded in section.	0
122	1		fill/layer	uncertain				Fill/dump leveling recorded in section (medieval pit sequence)	0
123	1		cut	pit		0.15		Pit with 30dgs sides, flat base. Recorded in section	0
125	1		cut	pit	1.5	1.5		Rounded cut only partly excavated	0

APPENDIX 9: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Trench	Cut	Category	Feature	Length	Width	Depth/ Thickness	Description	Spot Date (AD)
126	1	127	fill	pit		0.8	0.2	Single silty fill of small pit	0
127	1		cut	pit		0.8	0.2	Circular? Cut with straight, shallow sides, sharp break of slope, flat base.	0
128	1	129	fill	pit		1.4	0.58	Brownish grey silty clay with occ subangular stones 2-6cm not bottomed - contaminated by petrol. Augered	1200-1350
129	1		cut	pit		1.4	0.58	Circular ? with straight, almost vertical sides, sharp break of slope, not bottomed, contaminated	0
130	1		cut	pit		0.5	0.2	Circular with v steep sides, rounded break of slope, gently concave base.	0
131	1	132	fill	wheel -rut		0.06		Dark greyish brown gravelly sand silt clay with frequent small stones	900-1200
132	1		cut	wheel -rut	1.6	0.18	0.06	Narrow, linear cut/rut with concave sides	0
133	1	134	fill	pit			0.48	Dark greyish brown, occ brown mottles slightly sandy silty clay with occ med rounded stones, occ charcoal	1200-1400
134	1		cut	pit	1.6	0.3	0.48	Rectangular? with steep, nr vertical sides, sharp break of slope, slightly concave base.	0
136	1		fill/layer	?pit				Gravelly/sandy upper fill in pit in medieval pit sequence	0
137	1		layer/fill					Pale brown slightly silty sand with occ flint pebbles recorded mostly in section	1200-1350
138	1		layer/fill					Orangey yellow sand with mod- freq flint gravel recorded mostly in section	0
139	1		layer/fill					Brownish grey silt with cobbles- layer of cobbles infilling pit?	0
140	1	141	fill	pit		0.55	0.15	Mid brown silt sand with fine flint gravels 100% excavated	1200-1350
141	1		cut	pit		0.55	0.15	Circular with slightly concave sides and flat base.	0
142	1	143	fill	posthole				Mid grey brown sand silt, faintly clayey with occ small stones, rare brick. tile flecks	?1200-1500
143	1		cut	posthole	0.36	0.25	0.08	Sub rounded with moderate, straight sides, imperceptible break of slope, rounded/concave base.	0
144	1	145	fill	posthole				As 142	1200-1350
145	1		cut	posthole		0.4	0.18	Circular with steep sides, imperceptible break of slope to rounded/concave base.	0
146	1	147	fill	posthole				As 142	0
147	1		cut	posthole		0.21	0.05	Circular with moderate sides, rounded break of slope, flattish base, v shallow.	0
148	1	149	fill	slump?		0.18		Mid brownish grey with orange mottles silty sandy clay with frequent small angular stones	0
149	1		cut	pit	1	0.55	0.13	Rectangular cut with fairly steep but shallow sides, moderate break of slope, fairly flat base.	0
150	1	151	fill	pit/well		0.13		Mid brownish grey sandy clay silt with occ sub-angular stones	1200-1400
151	1		cut	pit/well		0.85		Sub rectangular with v steep, almost vertical sides. Filled by 150, 170, 171.	0

APPENDIX 9: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Trench	Cut	Category	Feature	Length	Width	Depth/ Thickness	Description	Spot Date (AD)
152	1	130	fill	pit /				Mid - dark grey brown sandy silt, slightly clayey with moderate small stones	1200-1350
153	1	154	fill	posthole				Mid - dark brown clayey sandy silt with occ small stones	0
154	1		cut	posthole	0.32	0.16	0.4	Sub rounded cut with vertical sides, sharp break of slope, flattish base.	0
155	1	160	fill	pit				Mid-dark grey brown sandy silt, faintly clayey with occ med-large stones, occ charcoal flecks	0
156	1		layer		18	4	0.25	Mid-dark greyish brown sandy clay silt with occ med / small rounded stones, occ small angular stones. Master number	0
157	1		finds					Finds assemblage	1150-1250
158	1	160	fill	pit				Mid grey brown faintly clayey sandy silt with moderate no.s of small stones	0
159	1	160	fill	pit				Dark grey brown sandy silt with occ med stones and small chalk and charcoal flecks	900-1200
160	1		cut	pit	0.9	0.75	0.6	?Rectangular cut with steep sides and concave base, filled by 155, 158, 159, 161	0
161	1	160	fill	pit				Mid faintly olive brown clayey and sandy silt with occ small stones, some grits	900-1150
162	1		fill				0.07	Mid - dark grey brown sandy silt, faintly clayey with occ small stones, rare charcoal flecks, machine excavated, seen in section.	0
163	1		layer				0.1	Pale brownish yellow & mottled grey brown silty clay and clayey silt respectively with occ small stones, rare charcoal, brick/tile	0
164	1		layer				0.12	Mid pale orange brown silty, v. sandy clay with moderate - frequent small stones, rare charcoal flecks, recorded in section	0
165	1		layer				0.14	Slightly orange brown v silty sand, faintly clayey with frequent small stones, rare charcoal flecks	1200-1400
166	1		layer		1.75	1.75	0.13	Pale yellow clayey sand with v frequent gravel	0
167	1	168	fill	posthole				Mid grey brown sandy silt, faintly clayey with occ small stones, rare brick/tile flecks	0
168	1		cut	posthole	0.5	0.17	0.12	Oval cut with steep sides, sharp break of slope, flat base.	0
169	1		layer		1.8	0.65	0.3	Mid brown clay silt with small - med subrounded stones	1200-1400
170	1	151	fill	pit		0.32		Mid yellowish grey brown slightly clayey sandy silt with rare medium angular stones, occ small angular stones	1200-1400
171	1	151	fill	pit		0.4		Dark brownish grey slightly sandy silt with rare small & med angular stones, not bottomed, fuel contamination (augered : 80cm)	Post-med?
172	1		fill	pit	0.7	0.5		Greyish brown slightly clayey silt, visible in plan - not excavated!	1200-1400

APPENDIX 9: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Trench	Cut	Category	Feature	Length	Width	Depth/ Thickness	Description	Spot Date (AD)
173	1		cut	pit	0.7	0.5		Oval cut visible in plan - not excavated. Truncates 169, 110	0
174	1		layer		0.5	0.3	0.03	Mid grey brown, orange mottles silt sand, faintly clayey with occ small stones, some charcoal flecks	0
175	1		layer					Mid grey brown v silty sand, slightly clayey with moderate small - med stones, occ charcoal flecks	0
176	1		fill					Mid brownish orange silty/clayey sand with frequent gravel: not excavated	0
177	1	178	fill	pit	0			Mid dark grey brown v sandy silt with moderate medium / large stones revealed in plan - not excavated	0
178	1		cut	pit	1.8	1.25		Oval cut seen in plan - not excavated	0
179	1		layer					Brownish yellow silty clay with few small rounded stones	1150-1250
180	1		fill	pit			0.18	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay silt with rare large stones	1200-1400
181	1		cut	pit	2	1.6	0.18	Oval cut with gradual sides becoming steeper towards base. Large cut only partially exposed against southern baulk.	0
182	1		layer				0.1	Greyish brown silty clay	1200-1400
183	1		finds					Finds from cleaning over 156	1200-1400
184	1	125	fill	pit				Black sandy silt pit fill (?primary) recorded largely in section, only part-exc.	
185	1	125	fill	pit				Orange brown silty sand, ?secondary fill of pit only part-exc, recorded in section largely	0
186	1		cut	pit				Pit of unknown shape/sides/base revealed in section, only top part-exc, dimensions	0
187	1	125	fill	pit				Black silt/charcoal with charcoal lens in medieval pit 125, only part exc	
188	1	186	fill					Mid greyish brown silty sand with occ mixed flint gravels, charcoal, baked clay, chalk, fill only part-exc, mostly seen in section.	0
189	1		fill	pit?				Possible pit fill recorded in section in complex area of medieval pits	
190	1	191	fill	pit				Orange clay sand with occ stones, pit fill recorded mostly in section, part-exc	
191	1		cut	pit				Pit revealed in section and plan, only part-exc	0
192	1	193	fill	pit				Greyish brown sandy silt with occ chalk, charcoal, gravel pit fill revealed in section, part-exc only in hand-exc slot	0
194	1		fill	pit?				Mid brown silty sand with occ charcoal, patches of redeposited natural. Unknown fill/layer revealed in section	0

APPENDIX 9: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Trench	Cut	Category	Feature	Length	Width	Depth/ Thickness	Description	Spot Date (AD)
195	1		layer	finds		0.2		Layer seen in section - removed by machine, probably modern / Victorian.	19thC
196	1		layer	finds				Layer with brick & tile fragments Finds only- removed by machine	0
197	1		layer	bricks				Sample of C19 brick drain at W. end of site	0
198	1		finds					No. assigned to finds from pit(s) in corner of trench	13thC
199	1		finds					Bricks from wall exc by machine. About 7 courses deep. Possibly C18th?	0
200	6		finds					Dump of post-med pottery in topsoil.	19th& 20thC
201	6		layer				0.29	Dark brownish grey clay silt with freq small/med angular & rounded stones. Occ chalk flecks, freq brick/tile frags	1500-1650 later
202	6		layer					Full extent unknown- ?across full width and length of trench.	0
203	6		layer				0.08	Mixed dirty orange sandy gravel. No finds	0
204	6		layer				0.12	Dark grey with brown mottles slightly clayey silt with occ small angular & rounded stones, freq charcoal flecks	1350-1500
205	6		layer					Dark grey silty clay layer below 202, above 201	0
206	6	207	fill	pit	0.6	0.85	0.4	Pale mid greyish brown silty clay with fine flint gravels	900-1200
207	6		cut	pit	0.6	0.85	0.4	Sub rounded cut with steep and straight sides, flat base.	0
208	6	209	fill	posthole				Slightly greyish pale - mid brown clayey silt with occ fine gravel / coarse sand	0
209	6		cut	posthole		0.3	0.15	Circular cut with concave, moderately steep sides, flat base.	0
210	6	234	layer		0.4			Mid - pale yellow brown faintly sandy v clayey silt with occ stones, rare charcoal flecks	Roman?
211	6		layer					Yellow brown clayey silt with occ gravel- layer removed by machine, overlying pit 207	0
212	6		layer					Mid brownish grey clayey silt with occ flint gravel, charcoal flecks- layer removed by machine, overlying 211	0
213	6		layer					Mid brownish grey clayey silt layer removed by machine, possibly fill/slump?	0
217	6	218	fill	posthole				Dark greyish brown v clayey silt with occ med stones. 100% excavated	0
218	6		cut	posthole		0.34	0.11	Circular with nr vertical sides, sharp break of slope, flat base.	0
219	6		layer					Orange with patches of grey gravel with patches of grey silt. Post-med leveling layer/surface	0
220	6	229	fill	pit				Dark greenish grey sandy silt clay with rare small stones medieval pit/feature fill	1200-1350
221	6	229	fill	pit				Dark brownish grey clay silt with freq. charcoal	1200-1400

APPENDIX 9: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Trench	Cut	Category	Feature	Length	Width	Depth/ Thickness	Description	Spot Date
222	6		layer					Mid grey brown silty clay with occ stones, brick/tile, mortar- post-medieval soil/layer	18thC-19thC
223	6		layer					Dark grey/pale yellow brown silt/clay, occ orange gravel, tile, brick, mortar. Post-med soil	0
224	6		layer					As 202	0
225	6		layer					Dark grey silt with Hard panned interface between 224 and 226	post-med
226	6		layer					Pale calcareous gravel and sand, loose layer	1500 & later
227	6		layer					Dark brownish grey clay sand with occ stones occ pot and bone. Post-med layer	post-med
228	6		fill	pit				Green sandy clay with occ large stones. Cess-like primary fill	1200-1350
229	6		cut	pit				Unknown cut filled by 221, 220, 228. Only one clear edge to south	0
~~230~~	~~6~~		~~fill~~					~~Dark brownish grey silty clay with dark orange mottles/iron pan, snail shells~~	Roman & 1150-1350
231	6		fill					Greenish brown silty clay with similar to 230, less orange	1200-1400
232	6		layer		1.5	0.6	0.32	Yellowish brown slightly silty clay- largely redeposited natural clay.	0
233	6		layer		1.5	0.6	0.4	Dark greyish brown silty clay with few charcoal flecks, small gritty stones, not bottomed, water table reached	1200-1350
234	6		cut	pit/ditch	0.6	0.45	0.39	Not clearly visible but with moderate sides, Not bottomed, small box section excavated	1200-1350
235	6		layer					Homogenous layer exc by machine	0
236	6		fill	drain				Dark brown fill of brick drain	1720 or later
237	6		fill	foundation				Fill of construction cut for brick drain	1200-1350 ®
238	6		fill	drain				Sample from brick drain (No. 3)	0
239	6		fill	drain				Sample from brick drain (No. 2)	0
240	6		fill	drain				Fill of construction cut of drain (No. 3)	0
241	6		fill	drain				Brick sample from drain (No. 1)	0
242	6		fill	wall				Brick sample from 19thC brick wall	0
243	2	244	fill	pit				Slightly yellowish brown, a bit mixed clay silt with freq small - med stones	med or post-med
244	2		cut	pit		1.8	0.12	Circular cut with straight, v shallow sides, imperceptible break of slope, flat base.	0
245	2	246	fill	posthole		0.5		Brownish grey clay silt with occ small stones, few charcoal flecks, petrol contamination - not excavated	1200-1400
246	2		cut	posthole				Circular pit filled by 245. Not excavated due to contamination	0

APPENDIX 9: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Trench	Cut	Category	Feature	Length	Width	Depth/ Thickness	Description	Spot Date (AD)
247	2	248	fill	ditch		0.25		Dark yellowish grey slightly sandy clayey silt with freq small stones	1200-1350
248	2		cut	ditch	4	0.25		Linear cut with gentle sides, imperceptible break of slope, slightly concave base	0
249	2	250	fill	ditch		0.15		Mid yellowish brown clay silt with occ small stones, occ charcoal flecks	13thC- mid 14thC
250	2		cut	ditch	4	0.2	0.15	Ditch filled by 249	0
251	2		layer		5.5	1.5	0.48	Mid grey brown sandy silt, faintly clayey with moderate small stones, rare charcoal flecks	1200-1400
252	2	253	fill	pit	2	0.7		Brownish grey clay silt with v few small stone,s not bottomed - deep & contaminated	1200-1350
253	2		cut	pit	2	0.7	0.7	V irregular, shapeless blob with v steep, vertical in places, straight sides, v sharp break of slope, not bottomed	0
254	2		layer		7	3.5	0.05	V. yellowish brown silty sand with v freq small stones	1200-1400
255	2	256	fill	posthole		0.61		Dark yellowish grey clayey silt with occ small rounded stones	1150-1250
256	2		cut	posthole		0.9	0.61	Oval with vertical sides, sharp break of slope, slightly concave base. Two other ?assoc. post holes to the north	0
256	2		cut	posthole		0.9	0.61	Circular posthole filled by 255.	0
257	2		layer		1.75	0.55		Mid grey brown clayey and sandy silt with v freq stones, medium, rounded & angular stones	0
258	2		layer		2	0.55	0.07	Orange silty sand with v freq stones & pea grit	0
259	2		fill	pit	1	0.55		V dark brownish grey sandy silt with occ - moderate med stones, charcoal flecks	0
260	2		layer					Brownish orange silty & clayey sand with freq gravel	0
261	2		layer		1	0.55		Dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate med stones	0
262	2		layer					Layer similar to 260 but slightly cleaner	?900-1200
263	2		layer		1	0.75	0.03	Mid greyish brown clayey sandy silt with moderate med stones	1200-400
264	2		finds					Pottery from surface of unexc. pit	0
265	2		layer					Dark grey slightly silty clay with brick and glass frags. Post-medieval layer overlying 251	0
267	2		finds					Finds from surface of unexc posthole cut by 248	0
268	2	244	fill	pit				Mid greyish brown silt with v freq med stones	0
269	2		layer		0.8	0.8	0.03	Orangey yellow clayey sand with moderate small stones	
270	2	271	fill				0.05	Gravelly fill, only part-excavated	

APPENDIX 9: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Trench	Cut	Category	Feature	Length	Width	Depth/ Thickness	Description	Spot Date (AD)
271	2		cut	posthole	1.00	0.90		Circular, shallow ?posthole only partly excavated.	
300	5		layer		0.26			Mixed light brown sandy silts with moderate - frequent small stones, occ brick frags, seen in all sections of trench.	1720 or later
301	5		layer				0.18	Brownish orange sand with frequent small stones	0
302	5		layer				0.18	Dark grey sandy clayey silt with occ - moderate small stones, occ brick & tile frags, rare charcoal frags	1150 or later
303	5		layer				0.3	Mid orangey grey brown slightly sandy clayey silt with moderate med stones, visible in all sections of trench	
304	5		deposit	wall	4	0.65		Bricks and other stones forming two courses.	
305	5	306	fill	posthole		0.16		Dark brownish grey silty clay with occ small rounded stones, occ small sub-angular stones	1200-1350
306	5		cut	posthole	0.59	0.39	0.16	Oval cut with moderately steep sides, imperceptible break of slope, concave base.	
307	5	308	fill	posthole				Mid grey brown clayey silt with occ small stones, v occ charcoal flecks	
308	5		cut	posthole	0.52	0.46	0.1	Posthole with imperceptible break of slope, slightly irregular base.	
309	5	310	fill	natural				Mid brown clayey silt with occ med stones, v occ charcoal flecks	900-1200
310	5		cut	natural	0.85	0.6	0.25	Only nw edge visible in excavation area - gentle, slightly irregular sides, imperceptible break of slope.	
311	5		layer		0.25			Light brownish yellow clay with very rare small rounded stones	
313	5		cut	construction		0.65	0.4	Linear with vertical sides, sharp break of slope, cut for wall	
314	5		layer	dump		0.15		Mid yellowish brown / orange slightly sandy clay. Recorded in section	
315	5		cut		0.8	0.3		Unknown shape, with curving sides, imperceptible break of slope, concave base. Not a particularly convincing cut	
350	4		layer					Mid-dark grey brown clayey silty sand, post-med layer	17thC and later
351	4		layer			0.25		Mid orange grey brown sandy silt with occ-moderate small stones, across trench	1200-1350
352	4		layer	slump?	1.2	0.5		Greyish brown silty clay with rare small rounded stones, rare chalk flecks	17thC or later
353	4		layer	slump		0.1		Mid brownish grey clay silt with small rounded and angular stone- the musket ball from 362 may derive from this layer	1200-1350
354	4		layer	dump?				Mid brownish grey silt with rubble, generally small pieces	1600 or later

APPENDIX 9: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Trench	Cut	Category	Feature	Length	Width	Depth/ Thickness	Description	Spot Date (AD)
355	4	359	fill	pit				Mid grey brown/ pale brownish yellow mottles slightly clayey sandy silt with occ small stones, v occ chalk frags, occ charcoal frags	1200-1350
356	4		layer		1.5	1.25	0.16	V. similar to 355, chalk flecks, less mottled	1200-1350
357	4	359	fill	pit				V dark dull red, silty ash	1100-1350
358	4	359	fill	pit				Similar to 355, no mottling	1200-1400
359	4		cut	pit	1.65	1.05	0.4	Rectangular with steep, slightly uneven sides, flat, slightly uneven base. Filled by 355, 357, 358	0
360	4	361	fill	pit				Mid brownish grey clay silt with freq small angular stones, rare charcoal & chalk flecks possible finds contamination with overlying 353	1200-1350
361	4		cut	pit	1.6	1.2	0.4	Oval? with moderate sides, moderate break of slope, flat base with slight step.	0
362	4	364	fill	pit				Dark grey clay silt with rare small angular and rounded stones, includes musket ball	1200-1350
363	4	361	fill	pit				Mid yellowish brown clay silt with rare small stones, occ charcoal flecks, no finds - dirty natural	0
364	4		cut	pit	0.9	0.5	0.2	Oval? with slightly irregular sides, moderate break of slope, concav base. Excavated by arbitrary slot, including cut 351 also. Filled by 363	0
365	4		layer	dump				Mid brownish grey silt clay with frequent small stones similar to 353	0
366	4	367	fill	pit		0.7	0.3	Light grey brown silt sand, moderate sub angular stones	1200-1300
367	4		cut	pit		0.7	0.3	Sub circular with steep sides, sharp break of slope, concave base. Filled by 366, 368, 371	0
368	4	371	fill	posthole	0.21	0.1	0.21	Mid grey brown silt sand with small angular stones	0
369	4		fill	pit				Mid greyish brown clayey, sandy silt with moderate small stones, rare charcoal flecks. Not fully excavated	1200-1300
370	4		fill	pit				Orangey grey brown v sandy silt with occ - moderate stones, unexcavated	13thC and mid 14thC
371	4		cut	pit	0.21	0.1	0.21	Rectangular with steep sides, sharp break of slope, concave base.	0
372	4	373	fill	ditch				V dark brownish grey sandy silt with occ - mod med stones, brick/tile frags, occ charcoal & chalk flecks, recorded in section	0
373	4		cut	ditch	4	1.3	0.37	Linear with steep sides, sharp break of slope, flat base, filled by 372, seen in trench sections (on both sides)	0
374	4		layer	0				Finds retrieval	1200-1350
375	4	377	fill	pit		0.96	0.12	Light orange brown slightly clayey silt with rare sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks	0
376	4		fill	pit		0.13		Mid brown silt with few small stones	1200-1400
377	4		cut	pit		1.25	0.26	Sub circular with steep sides, sharp break of slope, concave base, filled by 376, 375	0

APPENDIX 9: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Trench	Cut	Category	Feature	Length	Width	Depth/ Thickness	Description	Spot Date (AD)
378	4	383	fill	pit				Mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate medium stones, occ chalk & charcoal frags	1200-1400
379	4	388	fill	pit		0.52		Dark brownish grey with orange mottles silty clay with occ small angular stones	1200-1350
380	4		layer		1.14	0.14	0.03	Brown sandy clay with occ small stones and rare med stones	0
381	4	382	fill	posthole	0.48	0.32	0.1	Mid brown sandy clay with rare med stones	0
382	4		cut	posthole	0.48	0.32	0.1	Sub rectangular with steep sides, sharp break of slope, concave base.	0
383	4		cut	pit	1.1	0.95	0.2	Oval / irregular shape with sides, imperceptible break of slope, uneven base.	0
384	4	385	fill	pit				Greyish brown sandy silt with moderate - freq small stones	1200-1350
385	4		cut	pit	0.85	0.55	0.36	Oval with moderate sides, imperceptible break of slope, rounded / concave base.	0
386	4	387	fill	posthole				Greyish brown with orange mottles v sandy silt with moderate small stones	1200-1400
387	4		cut	pit	0.8	0.63	0.21	Rectangular with moderate - steep sides, sharp break of slope, flat, asymmetrical base.	0
388	4		cut	pit	0.72	2.8	0.55	Oval with steep, almost vertical sides, steep break of slope, undulating base.	0
389	4		fill	pit		0.6		Mid brown clay silt with v few small stones not bottomed - too deep	1200-1400
390	4		cut	pit		1.9	0.9	Circular with steep, straight sides, sharp break of slope, not bottomed base.	0
391	4	395	fill	pit				Mid greyish brown clayey sandy silt with occ small stones	1200-1350
392	4	395	fill	pit				Pale brown silty clay with v occ small stones, chalk & charcoal flecks	?Roman & medieval
393	4		fill	pit				Orange clayey sand with occ med stones	0
394	4	395	fill	pit				Mid grey brown clayey sandy silt with occ small stones & charcoal flecks	0
395	4		cut	pit	2.5	2.3	0.36	Large oval pit filled by 391, 392, 393, 394	0
396	4	397	fill	pit				Dark greyish brown sandy & clayey silt with occ - moderate small stones	0
397	4		cut	pit	0.88	0.5	0.18	Oval with moderate becoming steeper sides, part-exc	0
398	4	399	fill	posthole		0.26		Dark brownish grey clay silt with small - med rounded stones, occ charcoal flecks	1200-1350
399	4		cut	posthole	0.49	0.47	0.27	Sub circular with steep edge on south side, moderate break of slope, concave base.	0
400	4		finds no.	finds				No. assigned to finds from NW central part of trench	1200-1350
401	4		fill	posthole				Finds from top of unexc post-hole, S end of trench	1600 or later
402	4	405	fill	pit		0.52		Mid brown clayey sandy silt with occ med stones, rounded & sub-angular	1000-1200
403	4		fill	pit		0.62		Mid dark brown sandy clayey silt with occ med stones	900-1150
404	4	405	fill	pit		0.76		Mid brown clayey sandy silt with occ small-med stones	
405	4		cut	pit	0.7	0.85	0.76	Oval with steep-vertical sides, sharp BOS, irregular, concave base. Filled by 402, 403, 404	0

APPENDIX 9: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Trench	Cut	Category	Feature	Length	Width	Depth/ Thickness	Description	Spot Date (AD)
406	4	-	fill		0.4	0.3		Mid light brown sandy clayey silt fill of unexcavated pit	0
407	4	-	fill	posthole	0.21	0.26		Mid brown sandy clayey silt with charcoal flecks, chalk flecks- fill of unexcavated post hole	0
408	4	-	fill		1.2	0.6		Mid brown sandy clayey silt with chalk frag- fill of unexcavated linear feature.	0
409	4	-	fill	pit				Finds from top of unexc pit, N end trench	1600 or later

REGISTERED • ORGANISATION • IFA

Cambridgeshire County Council
Education, Libraries and Heritage

The Archaeological Field Unit
Fulbourn Community Centre
Haggis Gap
Fulbourn
Cambridge CB1 5HD
Tel (01223) 576201
Fax (01223) 880946