

Chapter 6: The Medieval and Post-Medieval Periods

INTRODUCTION

Evidence for medieval and post-medieval activity was scattered throughout the sites excavated on the project. This mostly consisted of boundaries, ridge and furrow, lynchets and other features reflecting agricultural land use. There was little evidence of settlement, and Street Farm was the only site where medieval and post-medieval buildings were examined. A post-medieval dewpond was excavated near Daglingworth Quarry. Quantities of medieval and later finds were recovered from superficial contexts at several sites where no other associated archaeological features were found. A few sherds of early Saxon pottery from two sites – Latton and Duntisbourne Leer – are significant for their rarity in this region, and are also mentioned in this chapter.

The persistence of Roman landscape features into medieval and later times is a characteristic of a number of sites. This most clearly applies to Ermin Street and also to other Roman roads and trackways. The post-Roman elements of the road investigations are more conveniently dealt with in Chapter 5, although a few minor trackways and cobbled surfaces are included in the present chapter. Post-Roman features on a number of the other sites are included in Chapter 4, either because they are very minor (such as the wheel ruts at Field's Farm, Birdlip Quarry and other sites) or because they develop from Roman ones and naturally take their place in the narrative of the Roman site. This particularly applies to the ditches and plough-soils at Latton 'Roman Pond' and the ditches at Exhibition Barn.

The archaeology at Street Farm comprises the bulk of this chapter. The evidence from the other sites forms a more miscellaneous collection and is considered under topics which include, among others, surface scatters of material, agricultural features (particularly ridge and furrow), boundaries, trackways, and the river channels at Weavers Bridge. The locations of all these sites are shown on Figure 6.1.

STREET FARM

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Introduction

The village of Latton, Wiltshire, lies on the first gravel terrace between the floodplains of the river Churn and Ampney Brook. The centre of the village is situated to the north-east of Ermin Street (A419) although cartographic evidence indicates that houses have existed at a distance from the village centre since at least the late 18th century, fronting the Cirencester Road on both sides (Figs 6.6–6.7).

The development corridor south-east of Street Farm passed through the land between the A419 and the backfilled Thames and Severn Canal, skirting behind the present properties on the south-western road frontage, and rejoining the line of the A419 south of

Latton (Figs 4.32 and 6.2). There was potentially some impact on archaeological remains relating to earlier buildings in this area. Evaluation in 1991, which was aimed at finding possible house platforms, revealed little except a possible Roman quarry pit and cobbled surfaces of probable post-medieval date which lay close to the modern road (CAT 1991, 61–3). For the stage 3 mitigation an area of 2.1 hectares was archaeologically stripped and a strategy of sample excavation adopted. Initially, a 6 m-wide corridor along the south-western edge of the site was stripped and recorded in advance of the construction of a haul road. This identified dense quarry pitting, some linear features and the foundations of a limestone building (building 164). The haul road was diverted to allow detailed excavation of this building. Building 164, which is the main subject of this chapter, proved to be a medieval kitchen which had undergone modifications and a probable change of use in the post-medieval period.

The quarry pits were examined by sample excavation. Two trenches positioned to examine the possible Roman quarrying are described in Chapter 5. A third trench lay within the backfilled Thames and Severn Canal and was abandoned.

In October 1996, following the main excavation, the line of a new water main was stripped under archaeological supervision. Several property boundaries were recorded, extending from the road towards the main excavation area. The boundaries overlay extensive quarry pitting, mostly of post-medieval date and probably associated with the maintenance of the road. A possible roadside ditch, or a continuation of the linear Roman quarry (Chapter 5), was also excavated.

Medieval and later quarrying

Throughout the site much of the natural gravel had been affected by small-scale quarrying. Very few of the quarry pits could be clearly defined due to later disturbance. The Roman pits are described in Chapter 5. Medieval quarrying was recorded underlying building 164 (see below) and the pitting extended to the north and north-east, towards the modern road. The pits displayed a great variability of size and shape but were generally shallow. In many instances the depth of the pits coincided with the level of the modern water table and this may have influenced the depth to which they were originally dug.

The main area of regular, closely cutting pits was recorded between boundaries 1 and 2 (Fig. 6.2). The upper fills of these pits were identical and the individual pits were roughly rectangular with an average width of c. 2 m and an average length of c. 3 m. Where excavated, the depth did not exceed 0.4 m. Much of the rest of the site had also been affected by

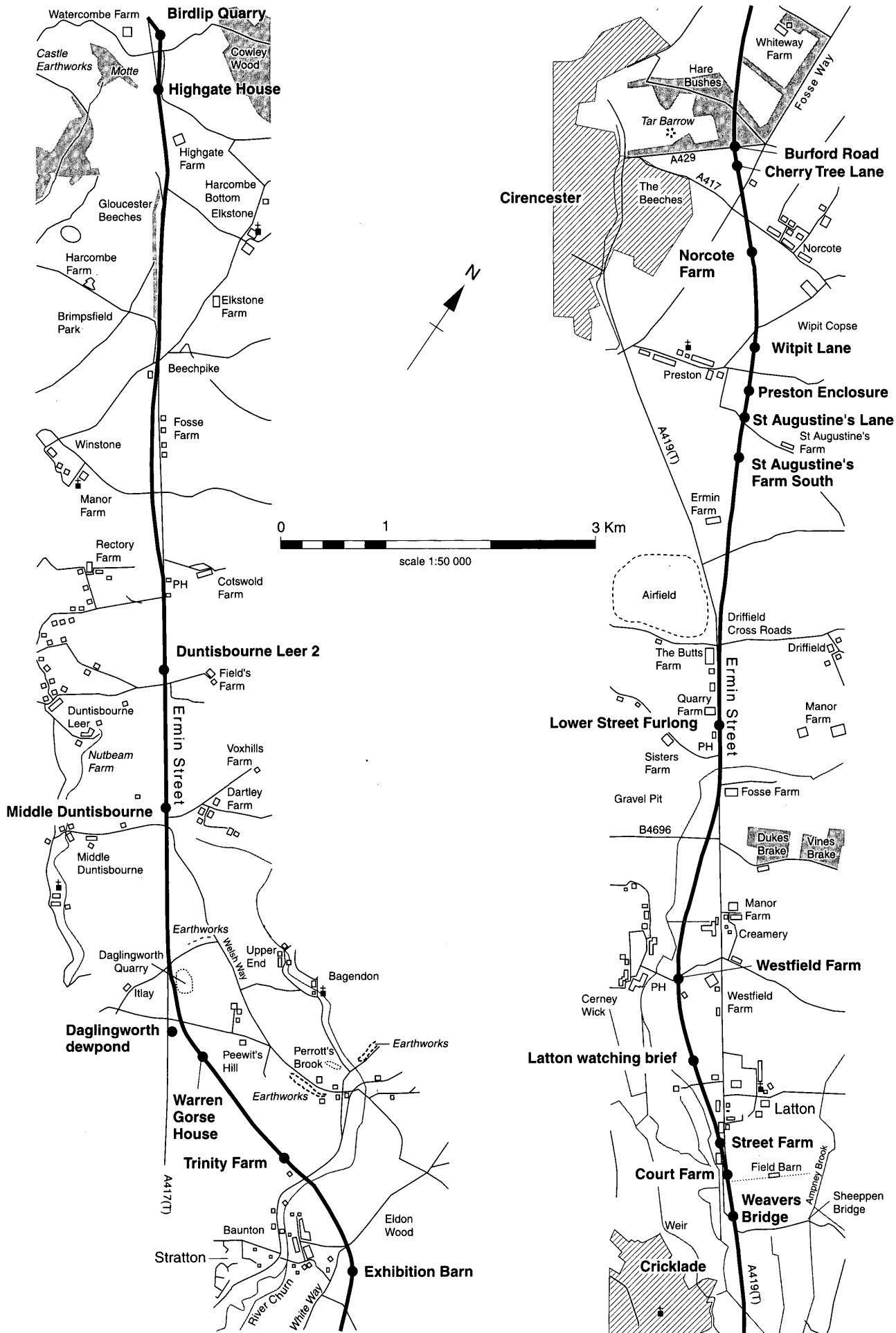


Figure 6.1 Locations of medieval sites.

quarrying, although regular, rectangular pitting was only clearly present in two areas, to the east and west of boundary 3 and two areas immediately to the east and west of boundary 7. The pits in these areas had similar dimensions to those found between boundaries 1 and 2. Post-medieval red earthenware pottery was recovered from pits in the eastern area of boundary 3 (contexts 540, 541 and 542). All of the areas of this later, regular quarry pitting appeared to respect the line of the post-medieval plot boundaries that stretched back from the road frontage.

Building 164

Summary

Building 164 was a rectangular stone-founded structure, located approximately 22 m from the present A419 and positioned roughly parallel to it. It appears to have served as a kitchen block in its earliest form, as it contained the remains of three ovens, two of which may have been in use simultaneously. A large range of grains, pulses and legumes were preserved in burnt deposits associated with their use (Table 8.58, see Pelling, Chapter 8). Artefactual evidence associated with the building was limited, but the pottery recovered suggests a construction date in the 13th-14th century. This construction phase (Phase 1) of the building showed a sequence of modifications to the structure and has therefore been divided into three sub-phases (Phase 1a, 1b and 1c – shown on Fig. 6.3). Little or no evidence was recovered of associated contemporary structures. This is most likely a reflection of the limited nature of the excavation as well as truncation by later features

It is not clear when the Phase 1 building fell out of use but there is a complete lack of the commoner later 16th- and 17th-century pottery types of the region, suggesting a hiatus in use at that time (see Blinkhorn and Jeffries, Chapter 7). The new building (Phase 2) was probably constructed in the early 18th century and seems to have had a different function, with a lack of occupation debris suggesting that it probably served as an outbuilding. Several major modifications were made to this building and it has also been divided into three sub-phases (Phases 2a-c).

Phase 1a (Fig. 6.3, Plate 6.1)

The original rectangular building was oriented north-west – south-east and had external dimensions of 8.9 m by 5.2 m. Its foundations (265) survived to an average depth of 0.15 m and were bottomed onto underlying quarry pits (430, 505, 507, 508, 512, 571, 598, 624) and natural gravel. The walls, which did not survive above foundation level, were 0.7 m wide, of unbonded, roughly-dressed limestone blocks. Later rebuilding had removed the majority of the north-eastern wall. No direct evidence of a doorway survived but it may have been located at the most southerly point of the north-eastern wall, as the south-east wall shows no evidence of ever having been bonded to the

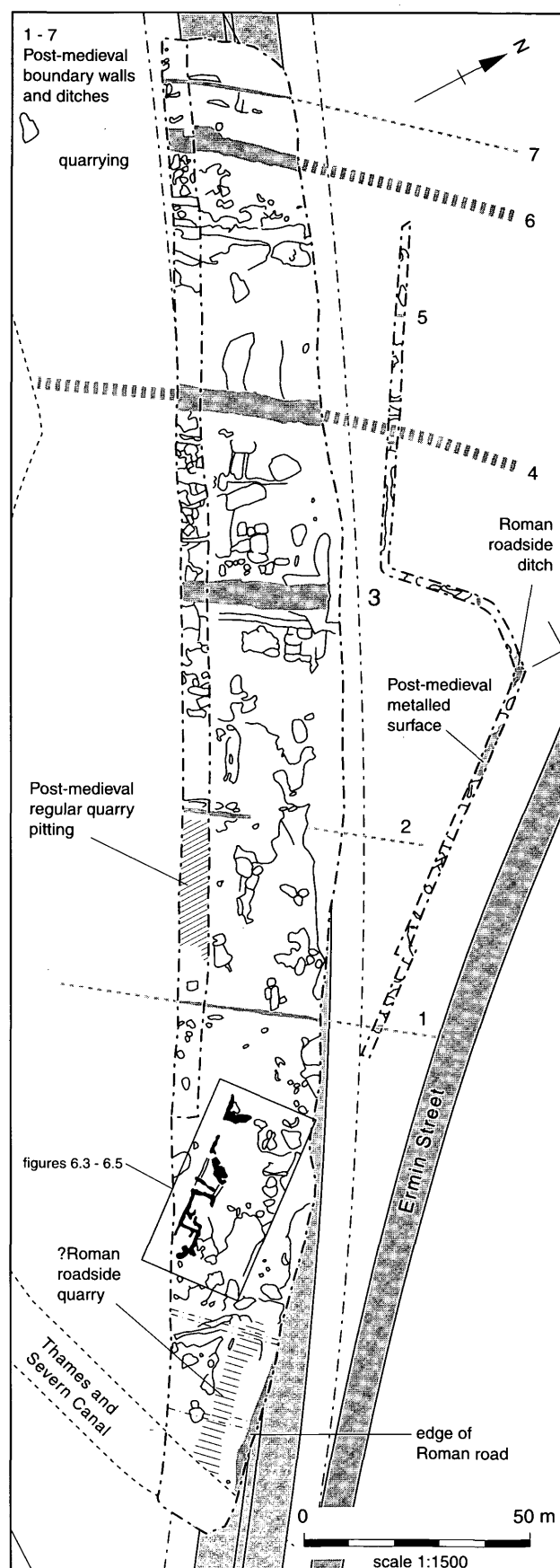


Figure 6.2 Street Farm, trench plan.

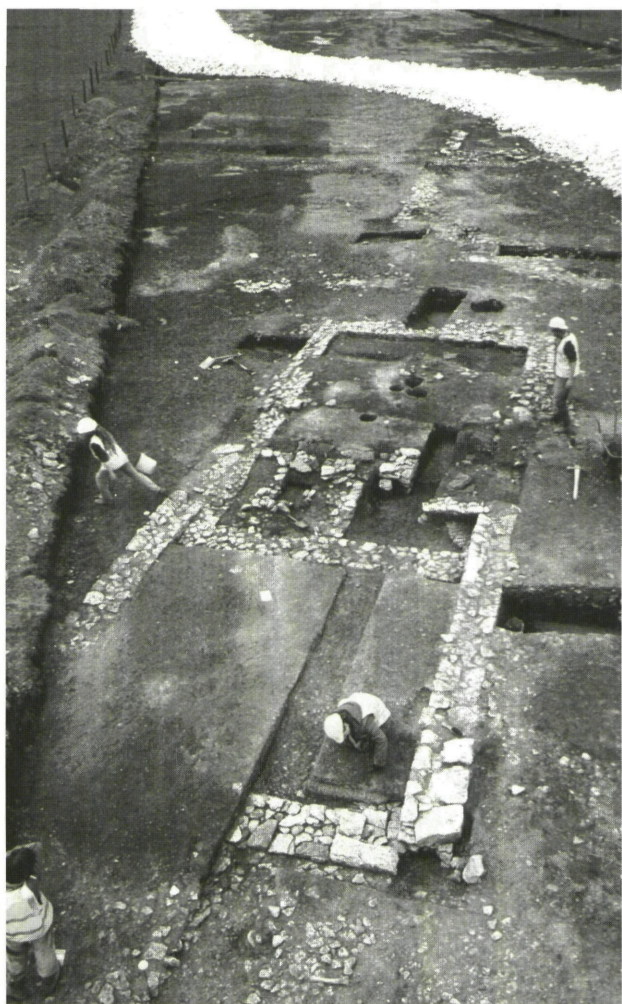


Plate 6.1 Street Farm. Building 164 under excavation. The 18th-century building (foreground) overlies the medieval kitchen.

missing section of the north-east wall. A small sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware pottery no earlier than the early 13th century was retrieved from the build of wall 265. A layer of compact silty clay and gravel (561) sealed the quarry pits beneath the structure. This layer was up to 0.08 m thick and probably formed the original floor of the building.

Two ovens (567 and 516) were associated with Phase 1a. A roughly circular flue, measuring 0.60 m by 0.50 m, was built into the northern corner of the original outer wall. The wall was increased to a thickness of 1.1 m in order to accommodate the flue, creating an external chimney (582), 1.2 m wide. The depth of the foundations was also increased to 0.4 m, with the flue extending to the full depth. This serviced a roughly circular oven (567), measuring 1.70 m by 1.75 m, with an internal chamber with a diameter of approximately 0.8 m. Very little of this survived apart from the foundations, which were constructed of roughly hewn limestone slabs showing traces of a pale sandy mortar (564), bedded within a shallow construction cut (581). Within the construction cut, a layer of compact, burnt orange sandy clay (579 = 577) up

to 0.09 m thick formed the original oven floor. The top of this layer (578) was of a similar composition but contained fragments of charcoal. Two charcoal layers within the oven (602 and 613) were sampled for environmental remains and found to contain a high proportion of chaff, which had probably been used as fuel (Table 8.58).

There were two cuts within the oven chamber, the earliest of which (573) was shallow and located within the entrance. This was filled with a mixed burnt deposit, probably derived from the clay base of the oven and resulting from the action of raking-out of the chamber. It was truncated by a roughly circular cut (575), 0.40 m by 0.37 m and 0.32 m deep, with a flat base. It coincided with the flue within the build of wall 265 and was probably cut in order to unblock it.

The other phase 1a oven (516) was located in the southern corner of the building against wall 265. It was roughly square, measuring 2.1 m by 2.0 m north-east - south-west, and was constructed of limestone rubble and was clay-faced with roughly dressed limestone slabs, of which up to four courses survived. The north-western half of the oven chamber contained two limestone hearth-stones (569) and both these slabs and the facing stones of this area of the chamber were burnt red. The surface of the floor layer (561) was also strongly affected by heat immediately in front of the oven. A thin spread of charcoal (503), probably raked-out from the oven, overlay the clay floor and the hearth stones and petered out by pit 596 (see below). Three sherds of pottery dating from the 13th century were recovered from this spread. There was also a thin layer of charcoal (517) within the oven chamber. The layer was overlain by a deposit of sandy loam (548) which contained burnt limestone fragments and probably derived from cleaning the sides of the flue.

A shallow pit (596), 1.2 m in diameter and 0.30 m deep, was cut through the clay floor adjacent to a gully (598), aligned north-west by south-east, and a posthole (594), 0.25 m in diameter and 0.24 m deep. The function of these features was not clear. Pit 596 was subsequently backfilled with limestone fragments and gravel in a matrix of silty clay (597) which contained two sherds of pottery dating from the early 13th century. A heavily truncated pit (617) was located towards the south-eastern end of the building. This feature contained a mixed compacted fill of gravel, limestone and clay and was probably associated with the initial construction of the building.

Phase 1b (Fig. 6.3)

At a later date, a layer of gravel (502) was deposited over charcoal layer 503, and formed a new floor surface in the south-eastern half of the building. The north-west limit of the layer was in a straight line, suggesting that it had once abutted a wall, so that the building had at that stage been divided into two rooms. The north-west room had internal dimensions of 3.6 m north-west to south-east and 4.1 m north-east to south-west. The south-east room measured 3.8 m

north-west to south-east and 4.1 m north-east to south-west. Three layers of charcoal (472, 500 and 501), overlay the gravel layer (502) in the south-east room, implying the continued use of oven 516. Layer 500 produced sherds of Tudor Green Ware with a production span of c. 1380–1550 and Cistercian Ware datable to the period c. 1475–1550. New hearth-stones were laid in the oven that covered the earlier ones and partially overlay layer 503 (see above). The charcoal layers were cut by an oval feature (473) of uncertain function.

In the eastern corner of the building a new oven (563) was constructed of pitched limestone. The limestone slabs were rammed into firm clay (623) lining a shallow cut to form a hearth at least 1.5 m long and 1.1 m wide. The north-western half of the oven was destroyed by later modifications to the building but the surviving portion suggests that the hearth was originally circular. No burnt material was associated with the oven but the surface of the limestone forming the central part of the hearth was heat-reddened. The hearth had been contained by a curving wall (609) constructed of roughly hewn limestone and extending beyond the original line of the north-east wall (265) of the building. The external angle between the oven and the wall of the building was squared off with roughly coursed limestone (586), 0.28 m deep, which probably formed the foundation of an external chimney.

No evidence for a new floor surface was found in the north-western room, although a very mixed silty clay layer (558), with a maximum thickness of 0.03 m, probably represented occupation debris associated with its use. It did not extend over the base of oven 567 which suggests that the oven was still present, although, to judge by the absence of burnt material, not in use. A shallow circular pit (509), measuring 1.95 m in diameter,

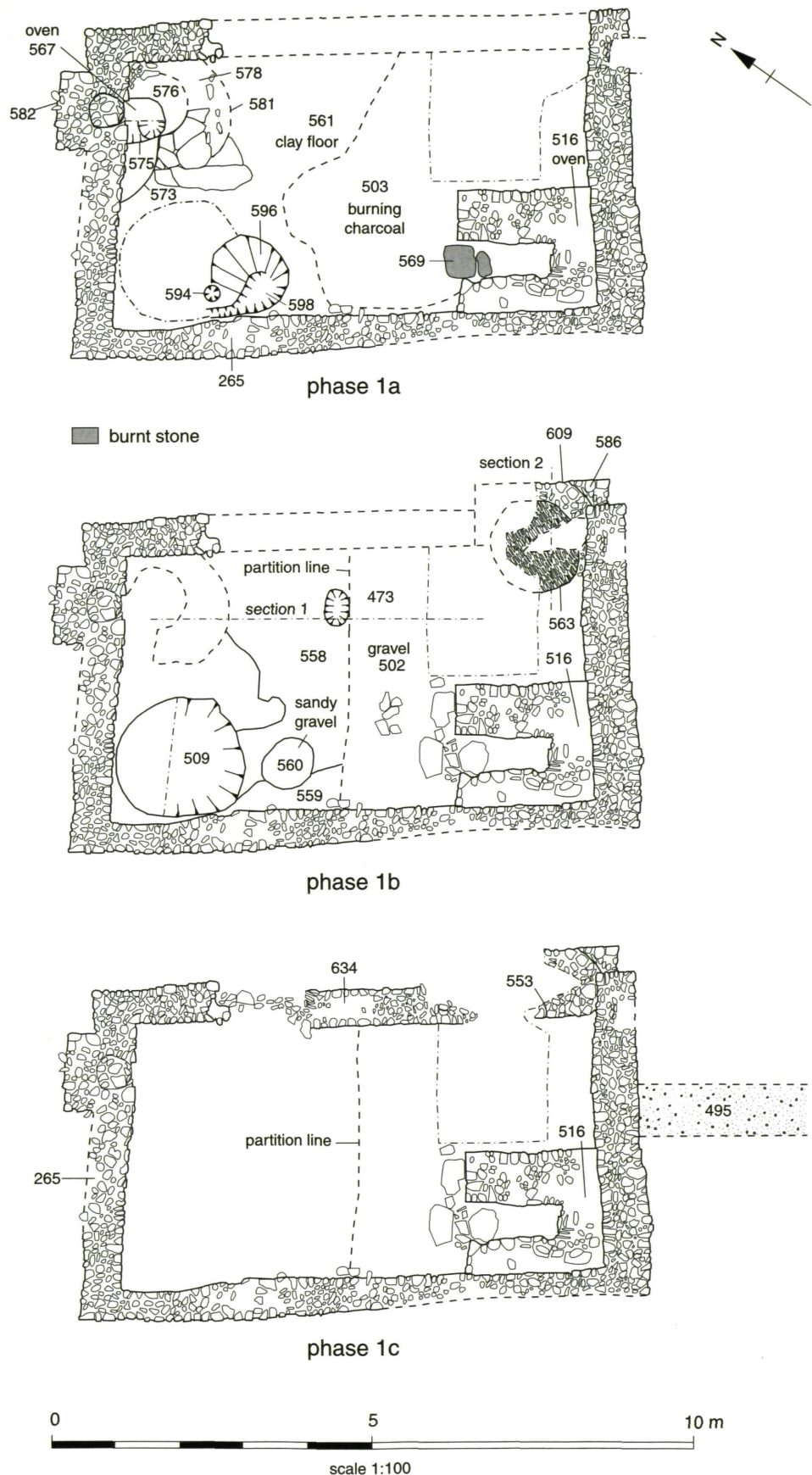


Figure 6.3 Street Farm, phase 1.

cut layer 559 in the western corner of the building. Its function is unknown but it was filled with a brown silty clay which did not contain charcoal or other burnt material. A layer of silty sand and limestone fragments (559) overlay 558 and was dumped against the south-west wall of the north-west room, probably to level the surface. A patch of sandy gravel (560) overlay 559.

Phase 1c (Fig. 6.3)

The building was re-ordered again when oven 563 was demolished and the flue was blocked with uncoursed limestone rubble (553) placed directly onto the hearthstones. Wall 265 was rebuilt to the north-west of the oven and a doorway into the north-west room was constructed. The new section of the wall (634) was 0.55 m wide and constructed of limestone facing stones with a rubble core. It was slightly offset to the south-west of the existing wall. The building probably remained partitioned during this phase but it is not certain if oven 516 remained in use.

Any deposits contemporary with the use of the building had been removed by later activity on the north-west, north-east, and south-east sides. However, to the south-west the Phase 2 extension had protected the underlying deposits. A layer of clay loam (621), 0.10 m thick and containing gravel and limestone fragments, had built up or was deposited against wall 265 on the south side. A compact layer of gravel and limestone fragments in a silty loam matrix overlay this and formed a metallised yard surface (495). Pottery from this layer includes sherds of later medieval and transitional wares of the mid-16th century or later.

Phase 2a (Fig. 6.4)

The building was rebuilt during this phase upon the foundations of the Phase 1 structure, except at the north-west gable end where the original wall may have been re-used. A slight realignment of the walls, however, meant that the south-west and north-east walls did not fully overlie the earlier foundations. The new building was extended by 4.7 m to the south-east and measured 13.4 m from north-west to south-east and 5.1 m from north-east to south-west. The north-west wall reused the foundations (265) of the earlier building but the flue of oven 567 was blocked with limestone rubble. The new walls (north-east wall 260, south-east wall 353 and the south-west wall 264) were constructed of roughly-hewn limestone rubble with no bonding material and survived to a maximum height of four courses (0.26 m). They were appreciably narrower than the earlier walls, with an average width of 0.5 m. Post-medieval pottery was recovered from the construction trench of wall 353. All of the internal structures of the earlier building and its south-west wall were levelled and the Phase 1 foundations were sealed by a compact, yellowish brown silty clay layer (262) that was up to 0.24 m thick. This deposit formed the floor, or floor make-up layer, of the new building. Layer 262 produced a pottery assemblage with a *terminus post quem* of the mid-16th century or later and included

medieval wares that were almost certainly redeposited. In the south-east part of the building, the layer was overlain by another of sandy gravel (423) which was perhaps the remnants of a floor. To the north-west, patches of limestone fragments (547) may have had a similar function.

The position of the original doorway is probably indicated by an alteration in the construction of wall 264, 4.5 m from its north-west corner, and suggests the doorway was originally c. 3 m wide. There was no evidence of an opposing doorway, although had one existed it would have been obscured by later modifications.

Phase 2b (Fig. 6.4)

The doorway was partly blocked with limestone rubble (263). The rubble narrowed the doorway to c. 1.75 m, with flat limestone slabs (456), up to 0.50 m across, forming the threshold. A new doorway was constructed in the north-east wall (260) at a similar date. A baffle entrance was formed by the construction of an internal L-shaped wall (261) with foundations of roughly-hewn, limestone fragments, six courses of which survived to a depth of 0.40 m. The building appears to have remained without division.

Phase 2c (Fig. 6.5)

A square pit (388) was cut into the entrance way up against wall 261. A stone-lined drain or gully (580) linked the pit to an external, stone-lined pit or tank (587=588). It was not clear whether these features were capped and it is possible they put this doorway out of use. The tank was c. 1.5 m wide and filled with a greyish brown sandy silt (591), which probably accumulated during use. It contained sherds of 19th-century pottery. The feature was not completely excavated. The doorway in the south-west wall, which had been reduced in size during Phase 2b, was blocked with further limestone rubble (570). It is unclear whether this was strictly contemporary with the modifications on the other side of the building.

Associated structures

The deposits outside building 164 were not extensively sampled. Later 19th- and 20th-century pitting affected much of the area and the earlier structural remains were very fragmentary. In addition, a water main that ran across the northern part of the area had completely destroyed a 2 m strip parallel to the street frontage. A limited number of small hand-excavated trenches were dug in order to establish the depth and date of deposits. All the traces of surviving structures are likely to be contemporary with, or later than, the latest phase of building 164.

The south-east wall of building 164 was robbed out by trench 429. A layer of limestone rubble (391) partially overlay the robber trench and extended to the south-east, forming an external surface. Further traces of the surface abutted the north-east wall (260)

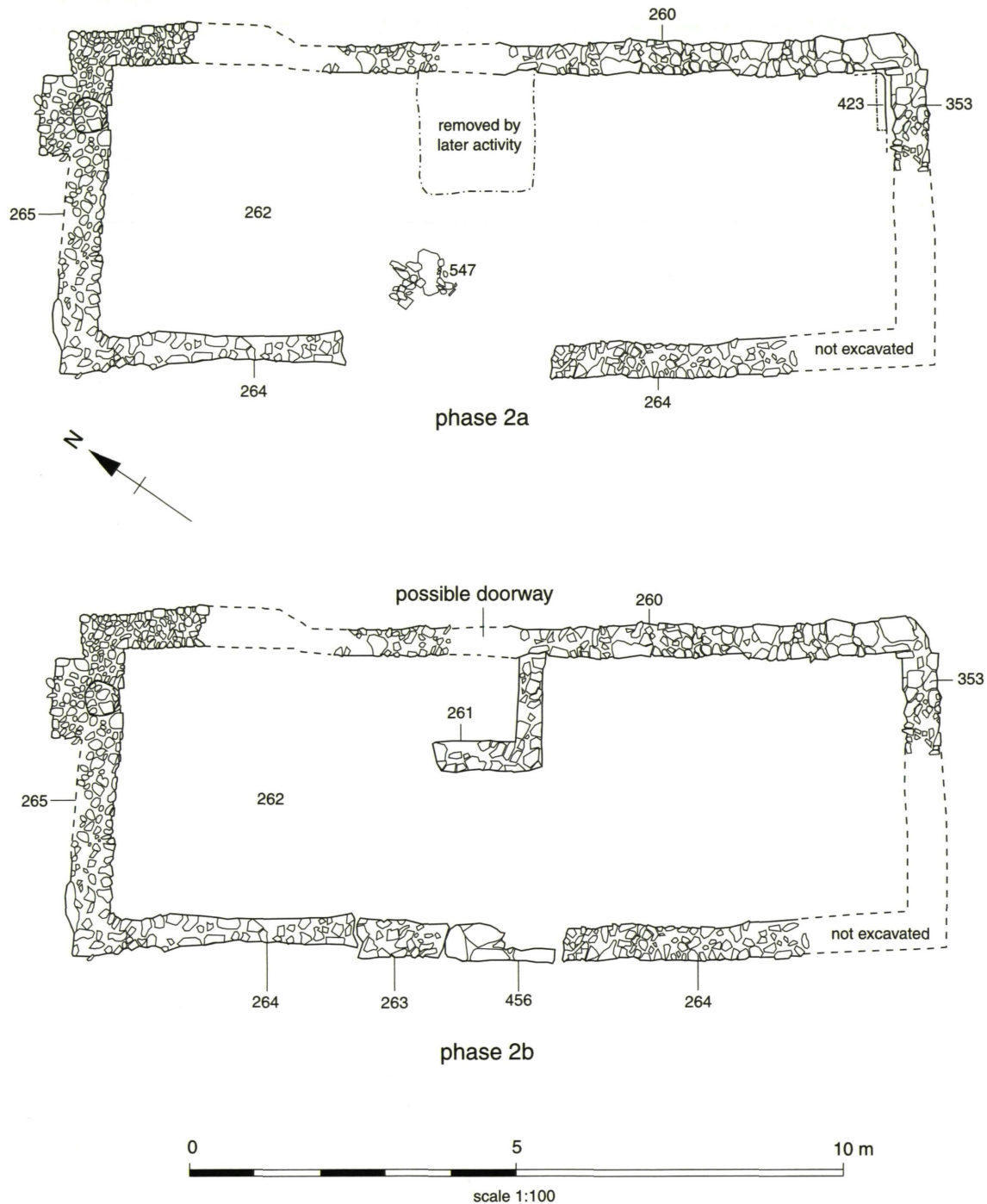


Figure 6.4 Street Farm, phases 2a and 2b

and extended at least 9 m to the north-east of it. Its full extent was not established within the excavated area. Several stone-packed postholes (321, 325, 327, 329) were recorded in the surface and it is probable that they were part of a wooden structure south-east of building 164 and stratigraphically later. A layer of brown silty clay (358) overlay surface 391 in places and may have accumulated during the use of the post-

built structure. A clay pipe bowl (cat. 737) dating to the late 17th century was recovered from 358 although this is residual. There was no relationship between the stone-lined tank (587) and surface 391, but since 391 did not overlie the tank it is possible that the surface was contemporary with it. To the east of the tank, a drain (290) ran east-west cutting surface 391. It was constructed of, and capped with, flat limestone slabs.

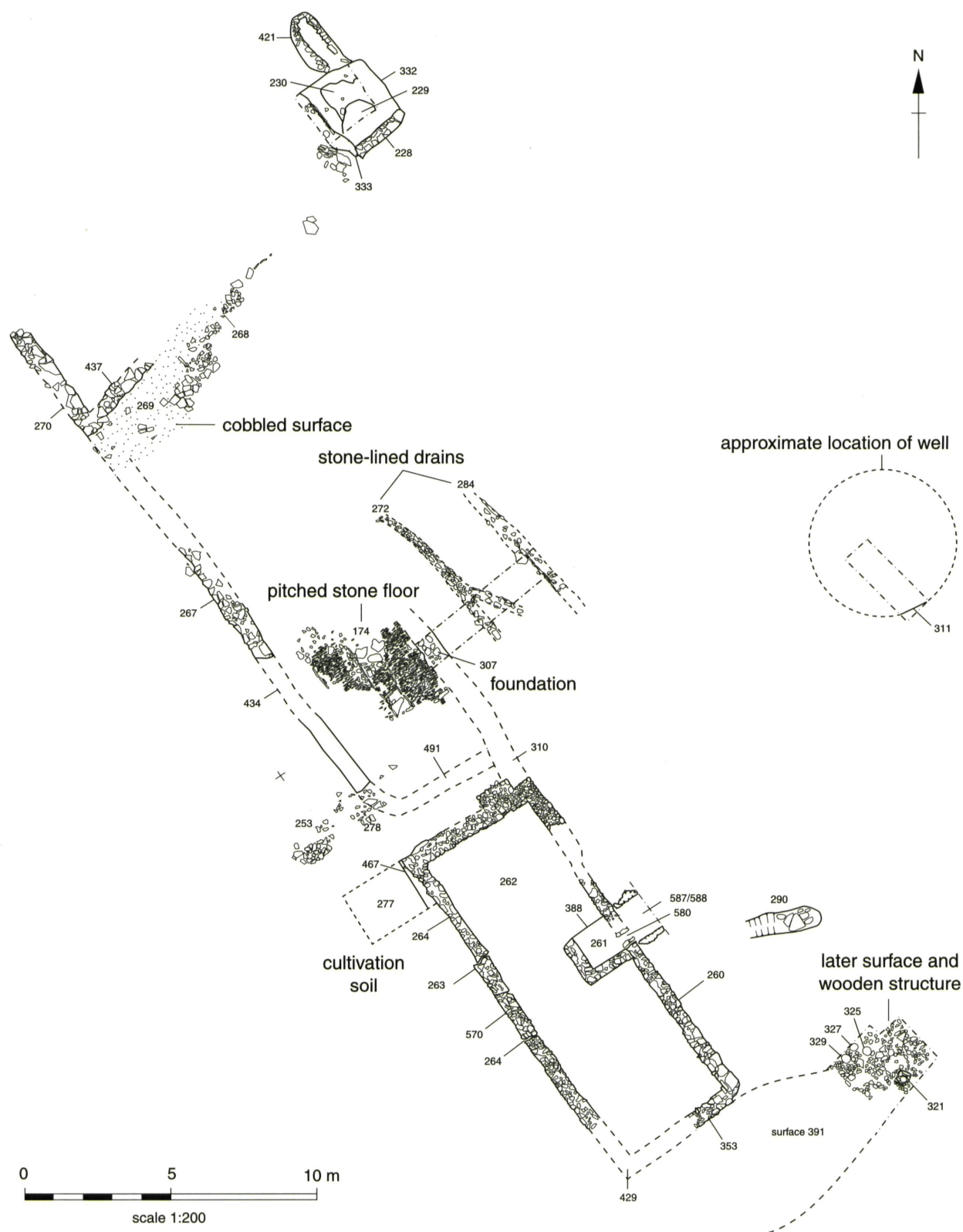


Figure 6.5 Street Farm, phase 2c.

Pottery dating to the 19th century was recovered from the build of the drain.

To the south-west of building 164, a vertical-sided cut (467) respected the line of wall 264. It was at least 15 m north-west to south-east and 0.3 m deep, and contained a dark grey-brown clay loam (277) which produced a single sherd of pottery with a *terminus post quem* of the mid-16th century. It is interpreted as a cultivation bed associated with Phase 2 of building 164.

Two parallel wall remnants (267 and 307) were located to the north-west of building 164 and were oriented from south-east to north-west. They were on the same alignment as building 164 and probably formed another structure. Robber trench 491 ran between the two walls on the south-eastern side, and a fragment of wall (253) continued this alignment to the south-west. An irregular limestone rubble layer (278) between the remnant of wall (253) and the robber trench (491) probably derived from the robbing of the wall. Wall 267 (= 270) extended the alignment of wall 264 (building 164) for at least 21 m. Where it survived, it was constructed of limestone rubble, of which only one course remained. The line of the rest of the wall was preserved by robber trench 434. Both pottery and a clay pipe bowl of 19th-century date were recovered from the build of 267. A short section of wall (437) abutting wall 267 at an approximate right-angle also yielded 19th-century pottery.

Wall 307, located 4.2 m from and opposite 267, had also been robbed. The robber trench (310) was up to 0.25 m deep and the footings of 307 survived in the base to a depth of 0.2 m, suggesting that they formed part of a more substantial wall than 267. Within the space bounded by walls 267 and 307 was a well-made surface of pitched limestone (174) with a central gutter. The surface extended for at least 4.0 m north-west by south-east and for 3.0 m north-east by south-west. The relationship between 174 and walls 267 and 307 had been removed by the wall robbing, but it is likely that the walls and floor were coeval. To the north, patches of rough cobbled surface (269) overlay robber trench 434 and appeared to respect wall 437. Nearby, a deposit of roughly squared limestone blocks (268) may represent collapse from wall 437.

To the east of wall 307 lay two drains or soak-aways (272 and 284). Drain 284 was partially excavated and consisted of a vertical-sided cut, 0.45 m deep, the sides of which were lined with roughly dressed limestone slabs 0.06 m thick. Drain 272 was not excavated. A well (311) lay to the east of the drains although its extent was not determined. It was lined below a depth of 0.20 m with roughly-hewn limestone slabs (306) which formed a circular well shaft about 1 m across. This was filled with a waterlogged clay loam (305) containing 18th- and 19th-century pottery. The well was not excavated below the first course of the lining. A layer of clay gravel (304) overlay 305 and 306 and filled the upper 0.2 m of 311. It also contained 18th and 19th-century

pottery. This layer extended beyond the well cut, representing the disuse and backfilling of the well.

To the north, a short length of wall (228) formed the south-east side of a small structure which had external dimensions of 3.0 m north-west by south-east and 2.7 m north-east by south-west. The wall survived to a length of 2.1 m and had a width of 0.6 m. It was constructed of roughly-hewn limestone, one course of which survived to a height of 0.1 m. The south-west edge of the structure was formed by a narrow trench (333) lined on the north-west side with limestone slabs, probably packing stones for a wooden fence or wall. The other two sides of the structure probably remained open. The floor of the structure was made up from layers of compact clay (332= 229, 230). Immediately to the north-west of the clay floor, and contemporary with it, was a rectangular pit (421), 2.2 m long, 1.2 m wide and 0.5 m deep, that was lined with rough limestone fragments on three sides. The function of the structure is unknown. Pottery from the floor of the structure dated to the later 19th century.

Post-medieval property boundaries (Fig. 6.2)

The site was crossed by a number of property boundaries, extending from the street frontage (the modern A419) to the Thames and Severn Canal, all but one of which are shown on the 1805 Inclosure map. The 1805 map and the OS first edition map of 1875 also record several buildings located on and behind the street frontage (Figs 6.6–7).

Boundary 1 (wall 12) was of dry-stone construction and consisted of irregular blocks of limestone which survived to a maximum of six courses. Three sherds of post-medieval red earthenware pottery were recovered from the build of the wall. The continuation of this wall was recorded within the pipe trench investigations, immediately behind the street frontage. The boundary appeared on the 1805 Inclosure Award map but was not shown on the 1875 Ordnance Survey map.

Boundary 2 (wall 19) was parallel to boundary 1 and had a similar construction. It extended from the south-western edge of the excavation for a distance of 15 m but it had been removed by later activity to the north-east and was also not present within the pipe trench. Like boundary 1, boundary 2 appeared on the 1805 map but not on the 1875 map.

Boundary 3 (ditch 14) was 4.6 m wide, 0.5 m deep and extended from the south-western edge of the excavation for a distance of 35 m to the north-east edge of the site where it was overlain by structure 543. The ditch appeared on the 1805 Inclosure map but had apparently gone by 1875. However, a number of trees survive on the same alignment in the field to the south of the road corridor.

Boundary 4 (ditch 133) was at least 5 m wide and was visible as a ditch before the excavation began. It could not be excavated because of the high water table. Further to the north, within the pipe trench, the boundary was preserved as a limestone wall-footing

(918), of dry-stone construction. It appeared on both the 1805 and 1875 maps.

Boundary 5 (wall 875) was recorded within the pipe trench and was a limestone wall of dry-stone construction. Post-medieval and 19th-century pottery sherds were recovered from the build of the wall. The wall overlay a feature which may have been an earlier ditch on the same alignment, although it was not possible to establish this within the confines of the trench. Its fills produced similar pottery, indicating that it may have been backfilled to allow the construction of the wall. The boundary continued as a ditch to the south but this could not be excavated. The boundary appears on the 1805 Inclosure award map, extending from the street frontage back to the canal but by 1875 the boundary stopped short of the road corridor and did not reach the canal.

Boundary 6 (ditch 93) was at least 3.5 m wide and 1.2 m deep. It was revealed within a machine-excavated slot but could not be recorded fully because of the high water table. The ditch extended across the full width of the road corridor. This boundary appeared on both the 1805 and 1875 maps.

Boundary 7 (ditch 77) was 1 m wide and 0.5 m deep and also extended across the whole width of the road corridor. This boundary only appears on the 1875 Ordnance survey map subdividing a larger property shown in 1805.

Other structures

Two short lengths of wall (469 and 471) were recorded almost immediately to the north of boundary 1. They probably formed part of a small building with an uncertain function. Pottery indicates a 19th-century date which is contemporary with the latest phase of building 164 to the south-east.

Along the north-east edge of the site, behind the existing houses of Latton village, walls 543 and 458 were recorded crossing the ditch for boundary 3. Wall 543 may have been the foundation for a small structure with wall 458 perhaps forming the former property boundary of buildings fronting onto the A419.

Discussion of the site

Chronology

There were few datable finds from the Phase 1 structure but despite this, it is still possible to construct a tentative chronology. The quarry pits underlying the building produced very little pottery, with the exception of 430 and 512 which yielded a total of nine sherds (534 g) of medieval Cotswold wares. The relatively large size of the sherds would suggest that they are contemporary with the back-filling of the features. Such pottery was in production from the mid-12th century onwards and this corresponds reasonably well with the chronology of the ceramic assemblage from the building. The foundations (265) produced a single sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware with a *terminus post quem* of the earlier 13th

century. The rest of the pottery from this phase comprised four sherds of Minety-type wares in charcoal spreads 503 and 517 and two sherds from the fill 597 of pit 596. This would suggest that the building was occupied during the 13th-14th centuries in its earliest phase.

The dating evidence for Phase 1b, while similarly slight, suggests that the alterations to the structure took place during the 15th century. The assemblage comprises three small sherds of Tudor green and Cistercian ware, which occurred in floor layer 500, and a sherd of Minety-type ware, from the levelling deposit 559 (cat. 204). The Tudor Green and Cistercian types were tablewares which were current during the 15th and earlier 16th centuries. The other sherds include a fairly large fragment of a sooted Minety-type ware vessel with an internal glaze. This is likely to be of a similar date, as the internal glazing of vessels is a feature that was far more common in the later medieval period. Two sherds of the same material were found in the patch of gravel (560) that overlay the levelling deposit 559.

The final occupation of the building during Phase 1c is difficult to date because of the paucity of evidence. However, the presence of red earthenwares in yard deposit 495, coupled with the lack of Ashton Keynes redwares, suggests that the structure went out of use in the mid-16th century.

It is equally problematic to ascribe a chronology to the earliest occupation of the Phase 2 structure. It is likely that the medieval and early post-medieval material was redeposited but, as noted in the pottery report (see Blinkhorn and Jeffries, Chapter 7), the absence of locally produced Ashton Keynes ware at the site suggests that the second phase of the structure does not predate the later 17th century and that the structure was not occupied during the later 16th and 17th centuries. Early 18th-century pottery is present,

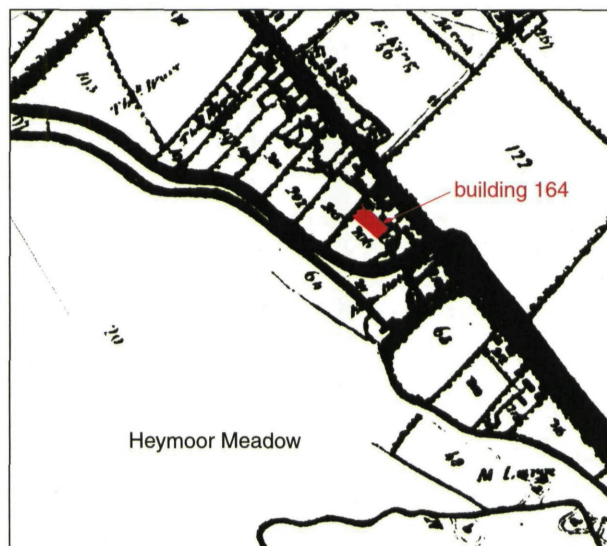


Figure 6.6 1805 Inclosure Map.

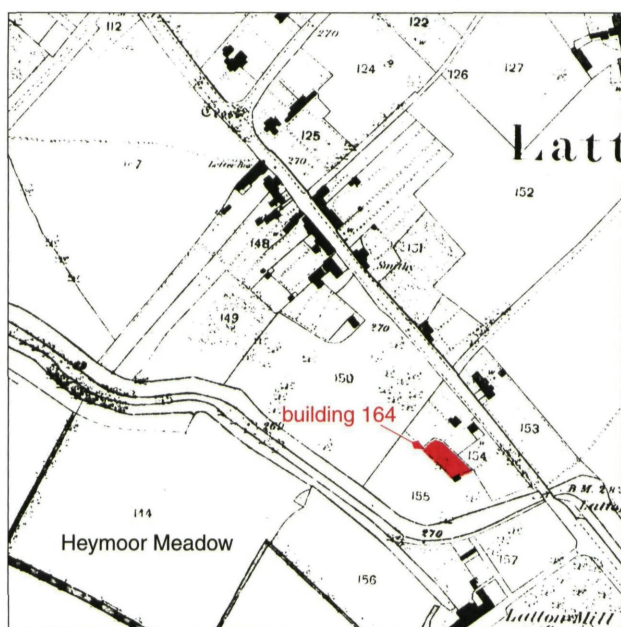


Figure 6.7 1875 OS 2'' Map.

such as the Westerwald Stoneware mug-base of that date, and several types of wares were present that predate the mid-18th century. On ceramic grounds the structure appears to have been disused by the middle of the 19th century. This is confirmed by cartographic evidence which indicates that this building was standing in 1805, but had disappeared by 1875 (Figs 6.6–6.7).

Building 164 and associated structures

The Phase 1 building can be interpreted as a bake-house or kitchen block and appears typical of those which are known from the period. While the fact that it seems detached is partly due to the limited nature of the excavations, such buildings, because of their inherent fire risk, were often kept well apart from other buildings in a settlement (Platt 1978, 57–8). Examples of very similar buildings, dating from the 13th–16th century, have been excavated at Great Linford, Buckinghamshire (Mynard and Zeepvat 1992). Here, nearly all the crofts examined in the village contained bake-houses and/or brew-houses either as detached buildings or as blocks attached to the dwelling. Five were quite clearly identifiable as detached buildings, four of which were of a similar size and with the same range of features as building 164. The type therefore appears to have been common. Building 164 was undoubtedly associated with a dwelling to the east which may have had a frontage on the road. The dwelling need not have been of any great status, although it is not possible to infer status from the kitchen alone since it is clear from sites such as Great Linford and also Dean Court, Cumnor, Oxfordshire (Allen 1994), that both manor houses and

cottages had kitchen blocks of quite similar size and form.

It is uncertain whether building 164 would have been entirely stone-built, although it may be reasonable to assume that the chimney stacks were. The structural evidence, including the shallowness of the wall foundations, is very similar to that from the medieval buildings at Great Linford, all of which were considered likely to have been timber-framed on dwarf walls (Mynard and Zeepvat 1992, 50) although perhaps not fully timber-framed (Smith 1992). Even on the limestone uplands at Upton, Gloucestershire, the evidence suggests that the medieval buildings were timber-framed on walls about 2 ft (0.6 m) high (Hinton and Rahtz 1966, 102), so it appears that construction technique need not have been determined by the availability of local stone. At Dean Court, however, quite similar evidence for wall foundations, added to large amounts of rubble and roof tile, has suggested construction in stone (Allen 1994, 421). The lack of demolition rubble at Street Farm might suggest the use of timber framing, or alternatively the re-use of the stone in later periods. The deeper foundation of the north-west wall may be significant and indicate a different structural technique at this end of the building. The fact that this was the only wall which was not comprehensively rebuilt from the foundations in Phase 2 may also be taken to indicate that this wall had survived to be re-used – something which would not have been possible with full timber framing and may suggest stone. However, the use of combinations of materials in different walls is not unusual in medieval buildings (Smith 1992, 130), so that if the north-west end wall were stone-built it need not imply that the whole building was.

The interior ovens have close parallels at other sites. Circular oven 563, with a bordered, pitched stone floor, is similar to that in the possible bake-house complex in Croft G, Great Linford (Mynard and Zeepvat 1992, fig. 26, feature 71), and also at Dean Court (Allen 1994, fig. 48, feature 421), both also of 13th–15th century date. A number of circular oven features at Great Linford are interpreted as copper bases used in brewing, although it is not clear how this interpretation was reached. In the north-west corner of building 164, pit 509 (which may have replaced 596 in the earlier sub-phase) has quite a precise parallel with pit 1503 at Dean Court, the purpose of which was essentially unclear, but which may have been the site of a tank or vat for steeping grain in the brewing process (Allen 1994, 431, fig. 50). The association between a steeping tank or 'coble' and a malting kiln is known from sites such as Canal Street, Perth (Coleman 1996), where the coble was a square, plank-lined pit about 3 m across. Square, thick-walled ovens such as oven 516 are commonly interpreted as malting kilns, and this may be an indication that building 164 was used for brewing as well as baking, although there was no evidence for this from the charred remains. The abandonment of the building in the 16th century can be attributed to changes in the design of dwellings in the post-medieval period which

led to kitchens being more closely integrated with the living area.

The rebuilding and extension of building 164 (Phase 2), which probably took place in the early 18th century, followed a period of disuse which appears to have lasted a century or more. During this time the original kitchen block probably collapsed, at least partly, but the fact that the new building used the earlier wall foundations on the long axes, resulting in the construction of a building of the same width as the earlier one, suggests that enough of the old building must have survived for its plan to be re-used. It has already been suggested that the north-west gable wall might have been standing to be incorporated into the new building.

The new structure had narrower walls than the medieval one and a timber-framed construction appears likely. There are few clues as to the function of the building in Phase 2. There is no suggestion that it was a dwelling and the 3 m-wide doorway on the south-west side in Phase 2a indicates that it was probably a barn. There may have been an opposed doorway as well, which would be typical of barns for crop storage, although, if this were present, the remaining wall indicates that it would not have been as wide. A single doorway, presumably facing away from the dwelling and the main arable fields, could be taken to indicate that the barn was used to store hay from the floodplain meadows (Heymoor Meadow on the 1805 Inclosure map, Fig. 6.6). It is likely that controlled rights to grazing and hay shares operated for the inhabitants of the parish, as they did for the inhabitants of Cricklade on North Meadow at this time (Whitehead 1982).

The main access to the Heymoor Meadow appears to have been via Street Farm to the north, but there is clear cartographic evidence from a slightly later period of a bridge across the Churn at Latton Mill, which is the obvious point of access to the meadows from the southern part of Latton, and this would have been very convenient for building 164 before the canal separated this plot of land from the mill, and the river itself, in the 1780s.

Changes to the building in Phases 2b and 2c are difficult to explain. A change in function is implied by the narrowing of the entrance in Phase 2b, unless the rubble wall 263 can be interpreted as a consolidation of the threshold rather than a blocking wall. Internally, the L-shaped baffle appears too small to have enclosed a functional room or alcove, and the slightly greater depth of its foundation suggests that it may have supported a stairway to a loft. Modifications to this area in Phase 2c, with the insertion of a drain and exterior tank are also not readily explained, particularly as the south-west entrance seems to have been blocked at the same time resulting in no clear point of access to the building. On stratigraphic grounds it is possible that the drain and tank were inserted after the building fell out of use.

The patchy remains to the north-west of building 164 are difficult to interpret but the main wall alignments, 307 and 267/270 with related robber

trenches, continuing the long axis of the building, would seem to indicate a range of farm buildings here. A long narrow building is shown here on the 1805 Inclosure map (Fig. 6.6). The shallower foundations of the south-west wall and the 19th-century date of its construction suggest that this building may have been modified from one which was initially open on this side. The pitched stone surface, 174, with associated drains appears to be contemporary with the building and suggests that it was for housing animals. It is possible that it was a cowhouse, although it is rather narrow and would not have housed many animals. It may have been for pigs. It is less likely to have been for sheep who would normally have been housed in the fields, if at all. In his survey of the agriculture of Gloucestershire, Turner noted that most farmers dairied a little for home consumption and kept their animals in stalls where they were fed hay, chaff, barley meal, oats and bran (1794, 8). The animal shelter would logically have been positioned next to the barn if the latter were used for storing and preparing fodder and straw, and such an arrangement of barn and cowhouse appears the most likely interpretation of this range. While the later transformations to building 164 are difficult to understand it need not have ceased being a barn. Some barns (such as chaff barns in Cornwall and bank barns in the north) had storage space in lofts loaded through upper floor doors or pitching eyes (Barnwell and Giles 1997, 102–104, 129–131) and need not have had a wide entrance at ground level. Traditional barns were also adapted to various developments in the 19th century and it is possible, for instance, that the use of alternative animal feeds, particularly oil cake from around 1830 (*ibid.*, 6), made an entrance for wagons redundant.

To the north-east the small square structure with attached trough would appear to be an emplacement for agricultural machinery of some sort. The well, lying to the east of the range, appears to have been filled in during the 19th century, although it is shown on the 1875 Ordnance Survey map.

Despite the extremely tentative nature of this interpretation it is possible to place it within the general context of agricultural developments from the early 18th century. The century saw an intensification of farming practices linked to, among other things, the breeding and care of livestock and the production of manure for the arable fields (Barnwell and Giles 1997, 4–5). There was also a tendency towards the improvement of farm buildings in the interests of greater efficiency, although this process may have come relatively late to Latton whose fields were not enclosed until 1805 and are uniquely and specifically labelled 'common fields' in Whitworth's 1783 survey for the Thames and Severn Canal. It was probably the re-organisation of land under enclosure which accounts for the demise of the farm buildings in this plot, although the canal may have had an earlier adverse effect on the suitability of the buildings for their purpose, particularly if access to Heymoor Meadow had been important. The ranges of buildings evident in 1805, and apparently enclosing a farmyard, had

disappeared by 1875. It is interesting to note that a new building had sprung up on the other side of Ermin Street by this time, and, although there is no indication that it is a farmhouse, such a re-orientation of the farm towards the gravel terrace is something which may well have resulted from a rationalisation of landholding. The re-organisation of both land and farm buildings was commented on favourably by Turner during the time when enclosure was in progress in the region:

Farm Houses and Offices in the old inclosures are frequently unhandy and inadequate to the farms annexed to them, which, doubtless, arises from the improvements in husbandry since their building. In the new inclosures, they are generally speaking very conveniently situated, with sufficient shed room for cattle and implements. (Turner 1794, 19).

MISCELLANEOUS EVIDENCE FROM OTHER SITES

By Helen Drake, Andrew Mudd and Kate Atherton

Summary

The evidence for medieval and later activity within the road corridor was widespread, but limited to miscellaneous features and finds which, on the whole, did not form coherent units for analysis. Most of the evidence recovered consisted of individual finds scatters, ditches, quarries, walls and plough furrows. There were no features related to settlement sites other than those already described at Street Farm. The evidence for road construction in the post-Roman period is for the most part contained in Chapter 5, although some other evidence of road surfaces appears below.

A thematic summary of these features and finds is presented below in a highly abstracted form. Detailed descriptions can be consulted in the archive.

Finds scatters

Early Saxon pottery from Latton and Duntisbourne Leer

Three sherds of early Saxon pottery were recovered during the scheme-wide watching brief just west of the lane running south from Street Farm (Fig. 4.32). One sherd came from a shallow ditch on a similar alignment to the ditches which contained Roman pottery, while two sherds came from the soil on the edge of the field which was interpreted as a headland. Early Saxon pottery, associated with burnt daub and animal bone, was discovered in a pit in this field in 1995 in an evaluation connected with the Esso Midline Project (Wilts. SMR SUNE400). This strongly suggests an early Saxon settlement in this area, although there is no clear evidence of one from the cropmarks.

Two small sherds of early Saxon pottery also came from the upper fill of a Roman trackway ditch at Duntisbourne Leer Area 2 (Chapter 4, Fig. 4.12). It is possible that these are associated with a nearby

settlement although this must remain speculative on such limited evidence.

Witpit Lane

Although no trace of settlement was found at this site, which lay immediately to the south of Witpit Lane, large quantities of medieval material were collected during fieldwalking and evaluation. Three evaluation trenches in this area all recorded medieval finds from superficial layers with one (Trench 1991/530) yielding c. 45 sherds of pottery, mainly from the 11th–13th century, in addition to charcoal, slag, coke, iron nails and a silver halfpenny of Henry III (1218–42). However, no features were found. A geophysical survey of the area also proved negative.

The excavation of 70 x 25 m within the road corridor also failed to reveal any settlement-related features, medieval activity being represented only by a plough-reduced headland at the southern edge of the site which was respected by five plough-furrows. These and the later drains are described below (see ridge and furrow). Material from limited hand-excavation comprised around 40 sherds mostly of medieval green-glazed Minety Ware of the 12th–14th century. Some bone, fired clay and a horseshoe fragment were also recovered. The concentration of pottery and other finds appears high for a manuring scatter although there is little clue as to what else it might represent. The site lies about 0.5 km north-east of the village of Preston and a little further from a possible deserted medieval settlement north of Witpit Copse (Glos. SMR 7364) and the finds would be unlikely to represent dumps from that far away. It is possible that there was a settlement here, the evidence for which had been completely ploughed out, or that there was a nearby site of some sort. Gerrard (1994b, 118) has speculated that there may have been a nearby kiln producing green-glazed ware.

There is possible evidence of medieval crofts on the other side of Witpit Lane from the number of small, narrow fields running back from the lane which are shown on an estate map of 1687 as well as on the Inclosure map of 1770. These are of a very similar size to the properties within the village of Preston, and, although they may have originally been agricultural allotments rather than dwellings, the latter appears at least as likely on the cartographic evidence. The new road crossed this area cutting the corner of a block of woodland which appears to be a 19th-century plantation, but during the watching brief ground conditions were too wet for stripping and the area could not be examined.

Cherry Tree Lane

The excavation at Cherry Tree Lane (Fig. 3.28) yielded two unusual items of interest in the assemblage of post-medieval material. The topsoil contained a fragment of a glass linen smoother or slick-stone (cat. 666), an item which can occur on glass manufacturing sites in the 16th century (see Cropper, Chapter 7). A possible

'melt' glass fragment was also recovered from the topsoil at a later stage, and there is therefore a slight suggestion of glass production somewhere in the area.

Two hearths or shallow ovens (4 and 15) discovered in the excavation are of unknown purpose and date. They cut the lower colluvium here and almost certainly post-date the Iron Age features on the site (Chapter 3). A medieval or later date is considered probable. They were of rectangular form, about 1 m by 0.6–0.8 m and 0.1–0.2 m deep. Both had been carefully constructed with near vertical sides although hearth 15 had more rounded corners than the square hearth, 4. Each contained a burnt fill of dark silt-clay containing charcoal and burnt limestone. The blocks of limestone were located in the upper half of the features and may be an indication that the rims of the hearths had been lined. There were clear indications of burning *in situ*. The hearths would seem unlikely to be connected with glass production, but perhaps indicate some other low-level industrial activity here in the medieval period or later.

Ridge and furrow

There was evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation at a number of sites, particularly in the parishes of Latton and Preston. This type of cultivation evidence is broadly placed in the medieval to early post-medieval period, and the excavations could add little more precision to dating the specific examples encountered. However, in some instances a relative chronology of cultivation and other agricultural features was evident and could be used to suggest a development of land use.

Latton

At Westfield Farm two distinct series of ridge and furrow were evident in Area 2 (Fig. 4.31) with three broad furrows oriented approximately east-west cutting a group of narrow furrows aligned approximately at right-angles. The broad furrows were 3–4 m wide and spaced 15–16 m apart (centre to centre). Only one yielded any finds in the form of a sherd of red earthenware of the 16th century or later. The furrows would therefore seem to be part of a post-medieval strip-farming system. These furrows were seen further east in Evaluation Trench VII and in the watching brief. They are also visible on air photographs (Plate 4.5). A broad furrow was also recorded in Area 1 west of the Cerney Wick road. This was aligned north to south at right angles to the post-medieval field boundary ditch. It appeared to stop about 20 m short of this ditch which may indicate the existence of a broad headland.

The narrow furrows were in some cases barely evident but appeared to form a pattern of furrows spaced about 7 m apart. Their alignment closely follows that of the Roman boundary ditch 31/32 (Chapter 4) and it is possible that they represent the medieval utilisation of a pre-existing field system.

East of Latton 'Roman Pond' broad ridge and furrow is clearly visible as cropmarks (Plate 4.5). Some of this was recorded in the watching brief (Fig. 4.32). Although dating evidence was not recovered from the furrows themselves, they were stratigraphically late. An interpretation of the air photograph indicates that they cut across the largest, and what appears to be the latest, of the field boundaries in this area towards the western side of the field. The furrows were about 16 m apart and up to 6 m wide. On the eastern side of the field was found a layer of soil (22), about 1 m deep and 20 m wide, which was interpreted as a headland. The chief interest of this feature is that three sherds of early Saxon pottery came from it and an adjacent ditch (see Finds Scatters, above).

Further south-east at Court Farm broad ridge and furrow is also evident on air photographs (Chapter 4 and Plate 4.3). A number of linear features were found truncating the Roman quarry pits in the excavated area although none were closely datable. A small amount of medieval coarseware came from features at the north-west end of the site (32 and 42, Fig. 4.15) but the others were without finds. Most of these features were interpreted as shallow ditches up to 0.3 m deep although a consideration of the air-photographic and geophysical evidence suggests a pattern of ridge and furrow is present with furrows spaced at approximately 15 m intervals. The clarity of the geophysical evidence in particular indicates that these furrows are quite substantial which may account for their ditch-like appearance.

Between Spine Road and Latton Creamery abundant ridge and furrow was recorded in the watching brief. This is clearly visible on air photographs and the evidence, which extends outside the road corridor, was plotted by the Royal Commission in 1993. The block of ridge and furrow recorded in the watching brief ran at right-angles to Ermin Street and appeared to be quite regular, with furrows spaced at 7 to 10 m intervals. Pottery of the late 12th to 14th centuries was recovered from two of them. The cropmarks show broader ridge and furrow in this field on a more or less perpendicular alignment and possibly another phase on a similar alignment. However, the relationship between these patterns is not clear. A single long furrow running parallel to Ermin Street was also recorded at the Spine Road junction (chainage 3500) further north-west.

Preston

All the sites in the parish of Preston had evidence for ridge and furrow with the exception of Ermin Farm. The large area stripped at St Augustine's Farm South and St Augustine's Lane revealed extensive traces of ploughing which had truncated the prehistoric features at those sites (Chapters 2 and 3). However, no dating evidence was obtained from any of them.

The densest pattern of furrows was seen on Site Na, St Augustine's Farm South, where two series of furrows, one broad and one narrow, formed a lattice pattern. Both series were spaced at approx-

imately 9 m intervals and were aligned with the current field boundaries. It was not possible to discover the relationship between them. The broader series, aligned north-east to south-west, was found in Site O where eleven furrows were recorded. A single furrow on a roughly east-west alignment was found in Site Nb. At St Augustine's Lane traces of a system of furrows were found running north-west to south-east. They were spaced at intervals of about 9 m and roughly aligned with the lane to the south. The watching brief to the north of the site recorded ridge and furrow on the same alignment as far as Ampney Lane.

At Preston Enclosure broad ridge and furrow was recorded on the site and is also visible as a cropmark (Plate 3.1). The furrows were unevenly spaced at 8 m to 14 m intervals. Material recovered from the furrows included medieval wares and post-medieval sherds of the 16th-18th centuries.

The excavations just south of Witpit Lane revealed five furrows aligned north-south. These respected a headland which extended between 10 m and 20 m from the field boundary at the southern end of the site. The system of ridge and furrow was seen to continue in the watching brief as far as Witpit Lane. The furrows were 7-8 m apart and contained a single shallow fill of grey-brown silt-clay. Furrows 10 and 27 contained no dating evidence. Furrows 6 and 22 yielded solely medieval material in the form of three sherds of Cotswold type Oolitic ware, and a late 12th to 14th-century jug handle in addition to bone and fired clay. Furrow 4 contained a larger quantity of material, consisting of bone, flint, nails and 28 sherds of pottery, the majority of which was medieval. Two residual Roman fragments were also found along with one sherd of post-medieval red earthenware pottery. It is unclear whether this post-medieval sherd provides an approximate date for the ridge and furrow or whether it can be considered intrusive. The site was crossed by a series of five shallow post-medieval ditches which appeared to have been intended for drainage. They followed the alignment of the earlier furrows quite closely except two which ran at right-angles as feeders. However, they did not run in the bottoms of the furrows and, in contrast to the pattern of drains at Norcote Farm (below) may have been laid out without regard to the earlier topography.

At Norcote Farm a number of wide furrows ran across the site from north to south at 6-8 m intervals. They were up to 2 m wide. Medieval and post-medieval pottery and a piece of medieval floor tile were recovered from the fills. Land drains filled with limestone ran down the centre of each furrow, indicating that the furrows were visible until early modern drainage improvements.

Other sites

Two plough furrows (5 and 30) were noted in the excavations at Lower Street Furlong. The furrows were 13 m apart and were aligned east-west across the site. Both were 3 m wide and 0.30 m deep, with a flat base and each

contained a single fill of light brown sandy-clay. Two post-medieval pottery sherds were found in the fill (6) of furrow 5.

A number of furrows aligned north-west to south-east were also recorded in the watching brief north of Itlay.

Lynchets at Birdlip Quarry (Fig. 6.8)

The Roman features uncovered at Birdlip Quarry, had been truncated by later ploughing. The extent and depth of this varied, appearing to have had a negligible or limited impact within the dry valley, but a relatively severe impact on the hill slope and at the western extension to the site. The most dramatic evidence for this was a series of five lynchets that were cut into the side of the hill but which had not been visible before the site was stripped. The lynchets were up to 5 m wide and 0.35 m deep although the upper lynchet was somewhat less substantial. They ran in relatively straight lines that formed terraces with moderately steep edges on the up-slope side and flat bases tapering into the lower hill slope. The bases of the lynchets were normally scored with plough marks and it is likely that they were created by ploughing along the contours over a long period rather than the deliberate, labour-intensive excavation of the terraces by hand. The plough marks tended to be lighter on the down-slope side of each lynchet, suggesting that the bedrock had, to some extent, been protected by a 'positive lynchet' in this area. The resulting terraces would have been between approximately 10-12 m wide.

There was no secure dating evidence for the lynchets although they were clearly post-Roman. They were filled by a mid brown or slightly reddish brown silt loam with abundant fine weathered fragments of limestone. This was similar to the pre-modern ploughsoil (4) from which a single sherd of green-glazed pottery, dated from the 13th to the 14th century, was retrieved.

Plough marks were common over most of the Birdlip Quarry excavation area that lay outside the dry valley except where limestone bedrock outcropped. Ploughing appears to have been deepest in the western extension to the site where scoring ran the length of this part of the site over 0.5 m below the modern ground surface. Curiously, deep ploughing was restricted to the southern part of this area leaving some earlier archaeological deposits intact on the northern edge of the site where the modern topsoil was actually shallowest, indicating probable differences in land use in post-Roman times. A fragment of clay tobacco pipe from the lower colluvial ploughsoil (20) suggests that ploughing continued into the post-medieval period. The plough marks were evident up to the stone rubble in Area A, ploughing presumably continuing at a shallower depth. Plough marks were again present at the east of Area A, cutting undisturbed silt within the dry valley itself. These are thought to belong to the same cultivation regime although there is no stratigraphic reason why they could not be Roman.

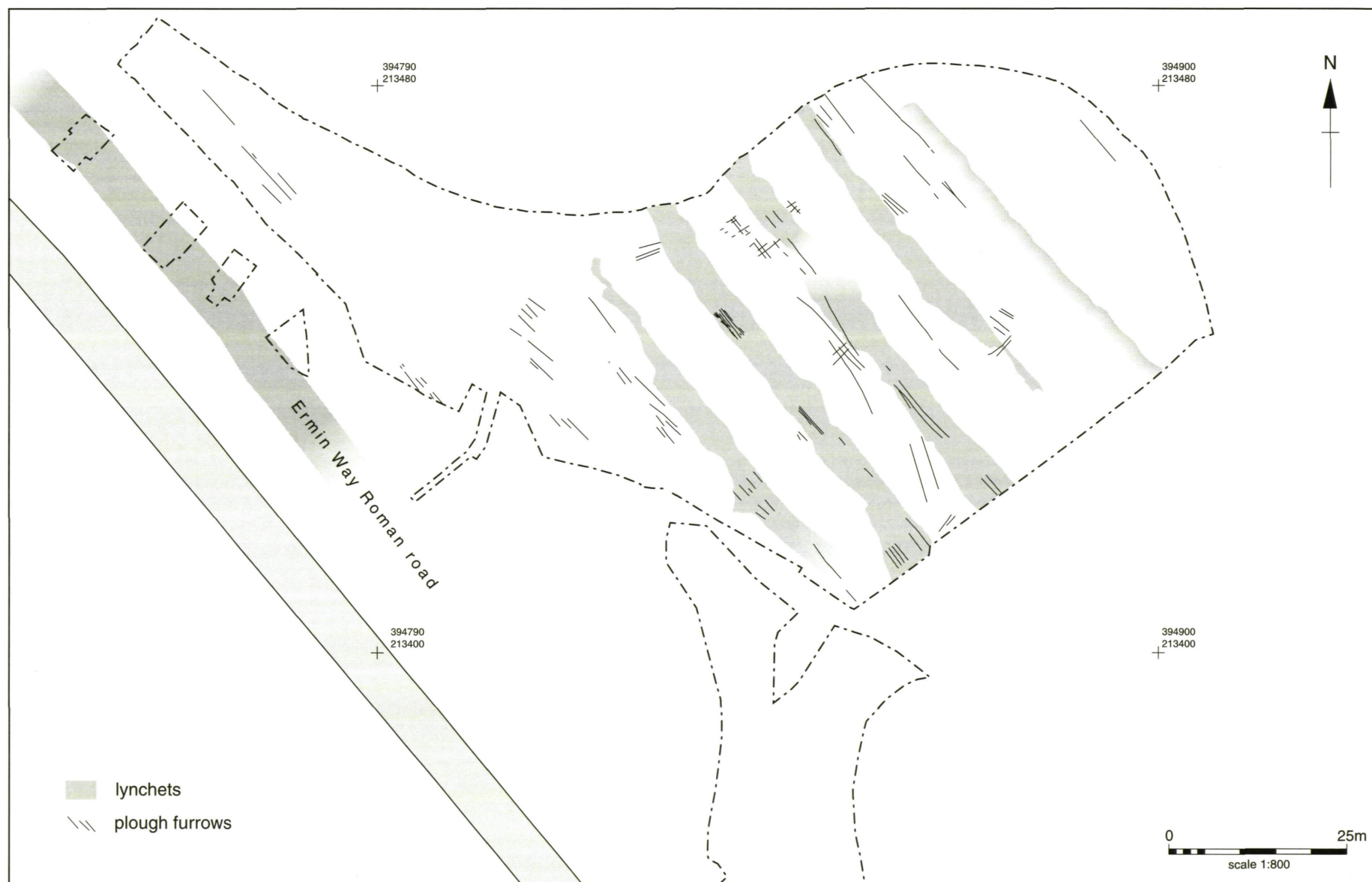


Figure 6.8 Birdlip Quarry, plan of lynchets.

Daglingworth Quarry Dewpond (Fig. 6.9, Plate 6.2)

A rectangular cropmark (RCHME ref. SP 0005/6) at Daglingworth Quarry proved to be a dewpond. The feature measured c. 7 m by 12 m and contained a rubble backfill that was removed by machine. The limestone below was hand-cleaned and a quadrant was removed to uncover a series of undated loose rubble fills from an earlier quarry cut.

Description

The lining of the dewpond was a tenacious blue-grey clay (122), 0.20 m thick, below a thin deposit of lime-based mortar (128), into which a stone surface (133) was set. The sides of the feature were constructed of courses of roughly-squared slabs (0.20 m by 0.10 m by 0.05 m), placed on edge. The sunken central area was made of large roughly-hewn limestone blocks (0.40 m by 0.40 m by 0.05 m). The clay lining extended beyond the edges of the limestone and was probably intended to prevent damage to the sides of the pond. The primary fill of the dewpond was a light grey-brown silt with frequent small limestone inclusions (120) which was up to 0.10 m thick. This layer extended over the entire area of the structure and was probably formed when the pond was in use. The thinness of the deposit suggests that the pond was either in use for a short period of time or that it was regularly cleaned. Deposit 120 contained a number of finds, including ten sherds of 19th- and 20th-century pottery and a base and body fragment from a 20th-century green-tinted mould-blown bottle.

A deposit of backfilled limestone rubble (124, 130, 131) lay over the silty layer and was mixed with clay towards the edges of the feature. The rubble consisted of stones that were mainly moderately flat and double-faced and therefore similar in appearance to stones used in drystone walls. Medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from this deposit during the evaluation phase. The fill was sealed by a thick (0.20 m) capping of a light grey-brown lime-based mortar (125) and this in turn was overlain by the ploughsoil horizon (126).

Discussion

The term dewpond is usually applied to ponds that are artificially constructed on land, particularly downs, where there is no adequate supply of water from springs or surface drainage (Pugsley 1939). They were either square or circular and were carefully constructed to capture rainfall and reduce evaporation because they were not fed by any external source of water (Rackham 1986). A few examples, such as this one, are found near roads on hillsides to collect the surface run-off from the road (Clutterbuck 1865). Most of the sources relating to dewponds date from the 19th and early 20th century when

they were still in use and being built. An article published in *Farmer's Weekly* (8 April 1938) records photographically how a dewpond was constructed. A hollow was first excavated with the sides sloping at a gradient of 1:3, and then lined with puddled clay. Slaked lime in powder form was deposited to seal the clay, which in turn was covered with a layer of straw. The material removed during the creation of the hollow was then replaced, and rammed into the primary layers to create a hard surface. The Thorpe Downs dewpond, described by Slade (1877) in his treatise on dewponds, was similarly constructed with '...a layer of clay about 12 inches thick, mixed with lime to stay the progress of earthworms, and covered over with first a coating of straw (to prevent the sun cracking the clay), and finally with loose rubble.....'. Other examples (Clutterbuck 1865; Martin 1915; Pugsley 1939) also describe this method, with only minor variations in the materials used and the sequence in which they were deposited. Straw was not always used and concrete or chalk puddle were occasionally used instead of clay to form the lining. This initial layer was essential in the construction of dewponds as it provided a firm impermeable base for the structure. Dewponds were always shallow, with

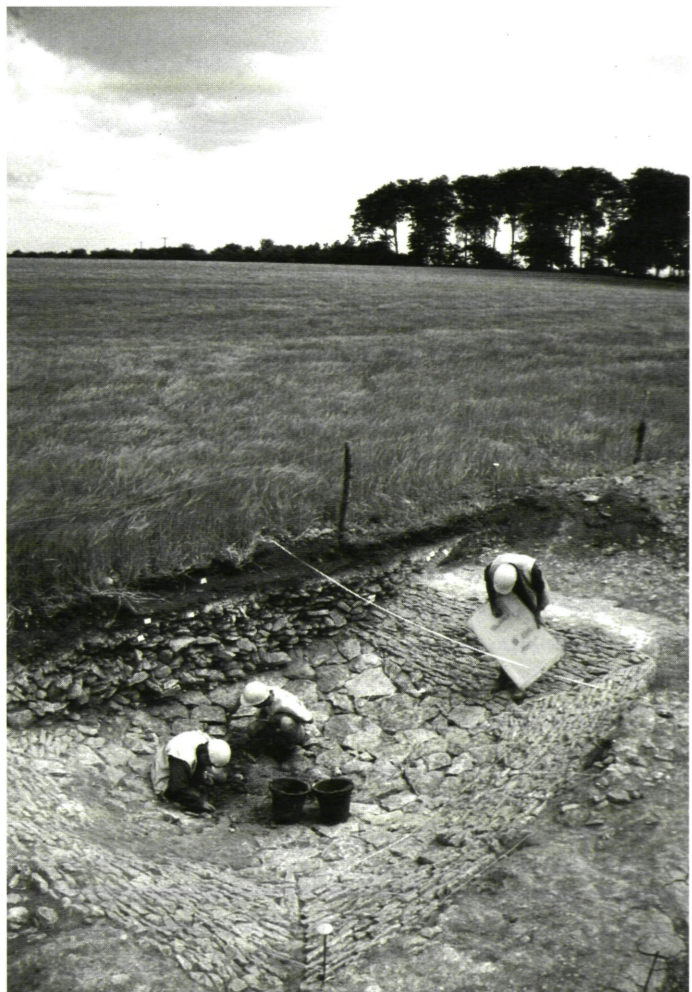


Plate 6.2 Daglingworth Quarry dewpond.

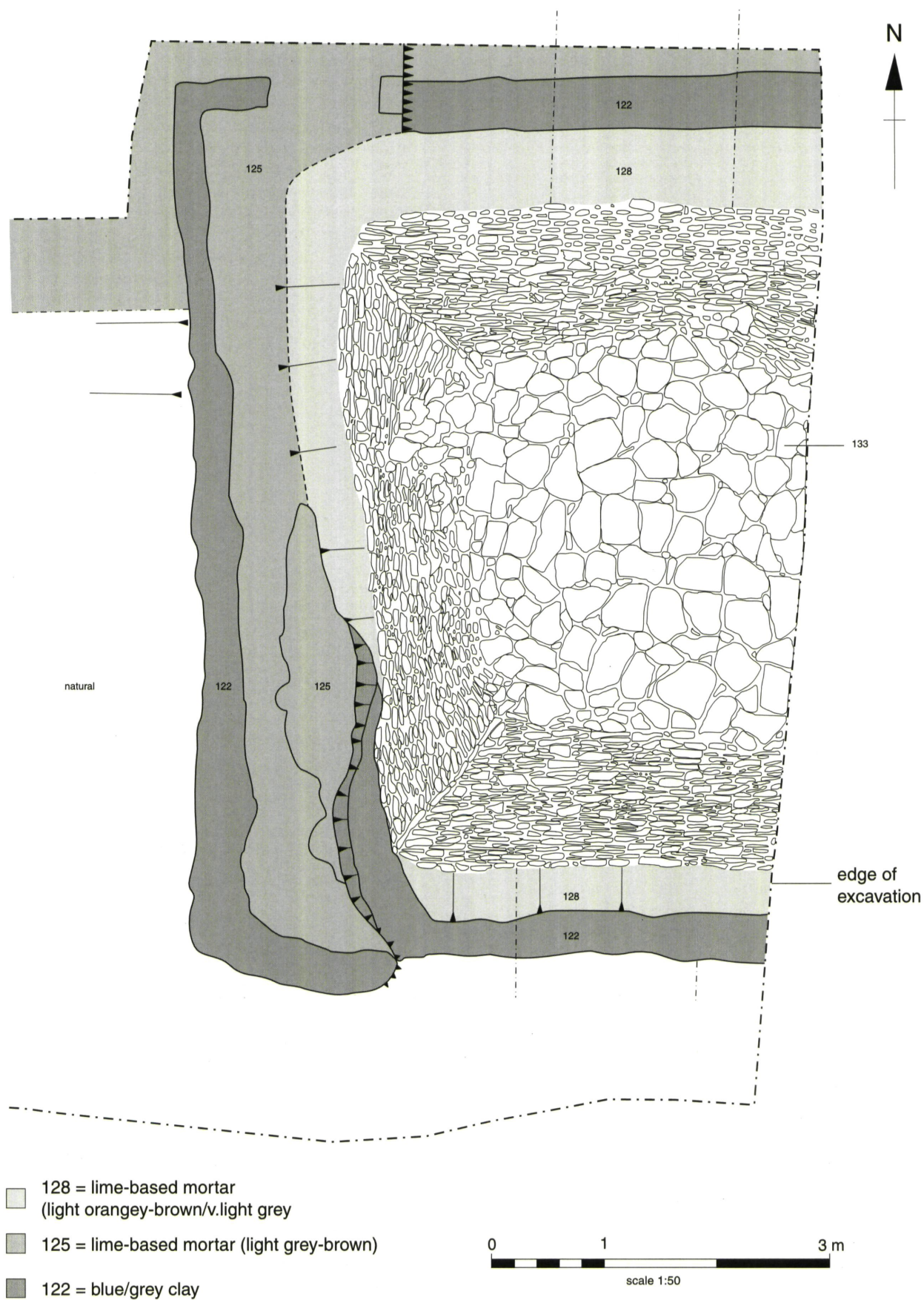


Figure 6.9 Daglingworth Quarry, plan of dewpond.

none of the examples cited being more than two metres deep. Once constructed, water was usually introduced by either transporting it to the dewpond or, in the case of a bad winter, the pond was filled by snow (Clutterbuck 1865; Slade, 1877; Martin, 1915).

Only three other examples have been recorded in Gloucestershire. A circular dewpond, with an approximate diameter of 10 m and a lining of limestone blocks, was found at Coberley Cricket Ground. The latter was first recorded in 1863 and was apparently not present in 1838. The second dewpond, at Macaroni Farm in Eastleach, was built c. 1789 and only fell into disuse during the Second World War. The third example is situated in the parish of Minchinhampton but has not been excavated. The Daglingworth dewpond clearly represents one of the more carefully constructed examples recorded. No finds were recovered from or beneath the pond's lining and the date of its construction is not clear. It is probably safe to assume that, like other structures of this type, it was built in the 18th or 19th century, and from its position may have been associated with road improvement at this time, perhaps with the aim of collecting water draining off the road. The finds from fill 120 suggest an early 20th-century date for its last known use. The fact that it is not depicted on maps between 1816 and 1938 cannot be taken as evidence of its non-existence at this time.

Boundary ditches

Boundary ditches of medieval and later date were commonly encountered although their significance in terms of their contribution to an understanding of the landscape and its development was not normally clear. In some cases a relationship with Roman boundary ditches was apparent. These have generally been described in Chapter 4. Ditches relating to Ermin Street and Burford Road have been described with the sections through those roads in Chapter 5. The following is a brief summary of the remaining significant evidence.

The ditches at Exhibition Barn are one group which are particularly interesting as they seem to be showing a continuous development from Roman through to modern times. They have been described in Chapter 4 and are shown on Figures 4.33–34. The Roman roadside ditch at Birdlip Quarry also appears to have had a persistent influence on later land use (Chapter 4). The stratified sequence in Area 2A clearly showed that a medieval/post-medieval ditch (1310) followed precisely the same course as the Roman ditch (Figs. 4.98; Figs 4.98–99, sections 275 and 296). This also appears to have been the case in Ermin Street Trenches 1 and 2 to the north. In Ermin Street Trench 3, south of the settlement site, a minor Roman ditch was recut in the medieval and/or post-medieval period and the alignment was later followed by a drystone wall and a modern hedgerow (Fig. 4.101, section 302).

The field boundaries at Latton 'Roman Pond' have also been described (Chapter 4). The sequence of six intercutting ditches forming group 430 (Fig. 4.28,

sections 40, 1 and 26), almost certainly represents the continuous maintenance of this boundary since the Roman period although there was little supporting artefactual evidence.

Further west the post-Roman features (chiefly ridge and furrow) at Westfield Farm have been discussed above. The boundary ditches at this site and land as far as Latton Creamery are shown in Figure 4.31. In Westfield Farm Area 1 the re-cut east-west ditch represented a field boundary which was evident until at least 1875. To the north, ditch 5, found in the watching brief is also shown on the 1st edition OS map of 1875. The field boundaries in the Latton Creamery site and Evaluation Trench V are part of the post-medieval 'ladder' pattern of narrow fields which are evident from cropmarks. It is unclear whether this was a pre-enclosure pattern or one which resulted from the enclosure of a large field or fields.

Walls

Daglingworth Warren Gorse House (Area 2)

A small trench was opened up specifically to examine boundary features at the junction of the parishes of Bagendon, Baunton and Daglingworth. Three extant drystone walls (203, 204 and 207) were recorded in section. There was no dating evidence for any of them. Their foundations were built upon a colluvial soil directly under the modern topsoil. Wall 207, between Daglingworth and Baunton was the best construction and may have been repaired or rebuilt quite recently. It was 0.63 m wide and had been capped with concrete. Wall 203 between Daglingworth and Bagendon was the widest at 1.30 m, and wall 204, between Baunton and Bagendon was 0.8 m wide. The foundation for an earlier wall (202) was located parallel to wall 204 and 2.4 m to the north. It was visible as a linear spread of limestone rubble that measured 1.82 m wide by 0.22 m deep. No relationships between the drystone walls were established and there was no indication of boundary features earlier than the stone walls.

Burford Road and Ermin Street sections

Drystone walls were encountered in a number of the road sections where they formed field boundaries or revetments to the sides of the highway. None could be dated conclusively but (with the exception of one or two examples of probable Roman date, discussed in Chapter 5) all would appear to be post-medieval constructions.

The southern side of Burford Road was delimited by a substantial drystone revetment (Fig. 5.9, Trench 5, 566; Fig. 5.10, Trench 6, 605) which was intended to prevent road deposits from slipping in to the large quarries here. The wall was probably associated with the construction of the 'macadamised' road in the early 19th century, although modern repairs had clearly also been undertaken to 566. There was another drystone wall on the northern side of the road in Trench 3 (305). This appeared to be more or less contemporary with

the early 19th-century road deposits, defining a road corridor about 20 m wide. However, it was built upon a thin layer of gravel and silt (306) which directly overlay a Roman quarry pit (319), and which contained a decorated medieval copper alloy stud from a horse harness (cat. 557), so it is possible that the wall was earlier than this.

A drystone wall was found alongside Ermin Street in Trench 3, at Birdlip Quarry, (Fig. 4.101, section 302) where it followed the line of a recent hedgerow. This may have been the same wall which was recorded at Cowley Underbridge (Trench 6, wall 639 – Fig. 5.3) which was probably early 19th century in date. At The Highwayman (Fig. 5.7) two stratigraphically late walls, 514 and 515, appear to have bounded the early modern road construction which would have been restricted to a narrow 4 m-wide corridor as a result. There was another boundary wall (546) on the northern side. At Dartley Bottom (Fig. 5.2) a boundary wall (870) on the northern side of the road may have been of turnpike or more recent date.

Quarry pits

Quarry pits were identified on a large number of sites on different geologies. It was of some importance to distinguish Roman quarry pits from later ones, but the features often yielded little artefactual material and were nowhere extensively sampled. As a result their dates are not always clear. Quarry pits demonstrated or thought to be of Roman date have been described and discussed in Chapters 4 and 5. Apart from any artefactual and stratigraphic dating evidence, the Roman pits appear to have been characteristically smaller and shallower than later ones. This may be because those encountered were primarily or exclusively dug to provide roadstone. Later, building stone became a more significant material (at least on limestone geology) and quarries appear to have been larger. Linear quarries also appear to have been dug to provide material for field walls.

Lower Street Furlong

Post-medieval quarrying had affected much of the south-east corner of the site. A large, irregular quarry pit (24) was identified measuring at least 20 m by 10 m. It was not fully excavated and its depth was therefore not established. Post-medieval pottery was recovered from the upper fill.

St Augustine's Farm South

Two linear quarry pits (3175 and 3177) were uncovered during the stripping of the southern end of Area O. Quarry pit 3175 was 5 m wide and 0.48 m deep with a flat base and stepped sides. It extended for 34 m within the excavation area and for an unknown distance beyond. The quarry followed the line of a standing drystone wall suggesting that it may have been dug to provide stone for the wall, although this lay 20 m away.

The pit appeared to have been left open to fill naturally. It is possible that the quarry served as a field boundary, although it was too broad to have been intended purely as a ditch.

Quarry pit 3177 had a similar profile and depth to quarry 3175 although only 4 m of the feature lay within the excavation area. It contained three fills of grey-brown silt-clay, which were banked up against the south-eastern edge of the cut. It appeared to have been deliberately backfilled from the south-eastern edge. Two sherds of red earthenware pottery, dating from the mid 16th century onwards, were recovered from the latest fill, 3176.

Exhibition Barn

Two quarry pits (6 and 14) were noted at this site. Pit 6 was in an isolated position in the southern part of the site. It was circular, 8 m in diameter and c. 2.5 m deep with a flat base and steeply sloping sides. The primary fill (5) yielded part of a yellow-green, mould-blown glass bottle dated to the 17th or 18th centuries. The small size of the pit suggests that it had served no more than a local need. The full extent of quarry pit 14 was not exposed and it may have been sub-rectangular or linear in plan (Fig. 4.34). It lay close to and parallel to the medieval ditch 22 and the quarry may have been for the construction or repair of a field wall, although none currently exists on this alignment. Alternatively, it may have been dug for another purpose at the edge of the field. A quadrant was sample-excavated to a depth of 1.20 m without its base being reached. The latest fill contained a single sherd of medieval pottery dating from the 13th century onwards (Table 7.32).

Burford Road

The quarry pits on both sides of Burford Road have been described in Chapter 5. The large quarry on the southern side appears to have been an important source of building stone in the post-medieval period. It was next to, but not the same feature as, Hare Bushes Quarry, which appears on the 1875 1st edition Ordnance Survey map and was a source of Great Oolite and finds of fossil eggs in the mid 19th century (Gerrard and Viner 1994, 137). A large area of quarrying was found extending further away from the road during the watching brief in this area. These features presumably relate to the expansion of Hare Bushes Quarry from the late 19th century.

Highgate House

A large linear quarry (266), flanking Ermin Street, was recorded during the excavation and the subsequent stripping of the road corridor. It was 10 m wide and 2.90 m deep and had a flat bottom. It contained no datable material, although its size and linearity strongly suggests that it was post-medieval and may have provided building material for the road, or for drystone walling alongside it. Three further (undated) quarry pits were observed to the north-west in the

watching brief and four modern quarry pits in the length of road between Highgate House and Highgate Farm.

Trackways and cobbled surfaces

There was abundant evidence for road use in medieval, and particularly, post-medieval times. The road constructions relating to Ermin Street and Burford Road have been described and discussed in Chapter 5, as has the post-Roman development of The Lynches Trackway. The more inconclusive traces of cobbling at Sly's Wall South and Duntisbourne Leer, which may be post-Roman, are in Chapter 4. Wheel ruts were ubiquitous on all sites adjacent to Ermin Street and indicate that post-medieval traffic used a relatively wide corridor on both sides of the metalled road surface. Most of this evidence will not be described here, although the hollow way at Middle Duntisbourne represents an extreme effect of post-medieval road use and is of some interest for that reason. The post-medieval hollow way at the Trinity Farm site, Bagendon, is also described below.

Middle Duntisbourne hollow way

An irregular linear spread of soil was identified along the north-eastern limit of the investigated area and parallel to Ermin Street (Fig. 3.35). The spread, consisting of worn limestone fragments within a brown silty deposit, proved to be a series of deep ruts which converged into a single hollow way track towards the north-west. The hollow way had a width of 5 to 7 m and a depth of 0.40 m, with parallel ruts, 1.5 m apart, in the base.

The ruts and hollow way had formed more than 10 m to the side of Ermin Street indicating that the main highway had become unusable or at least inappropriate for the volume and nature of the traffic using it. The surface of worn limestone yielded a single sherd of Ashton Keynes pottery suggesting a date of mid 16th to late 18th century for the use of the route, which is entirely compatible with what is known of the state of the highways in the late medieval and early modern periods. Traffic-related objects recovered included over twenty horseshoe nails and several hobnails. A deposit (196) well within the rutting yielded, in addition to horseshoe nails, a fragment of a cast mould decorated rumbler bell, an object which was part of a horse harness and which dates from the early post-medieval period onwards. A similar object was recovered from the topsoil at the same site.

Trinity Farm hollow way

A series of linear features were recorded crossing the site south-east to north-west (Fig. 2.9). The profile through the features suggests that they represent the course of a shallow hollow way (42) and associated wheel ruts (features 40, 41 and 43). Feature 42 was a c. 2.5 m wide depression that was located between

features 41 and 43. It had a shallow U-shaped profile, 0.20 m deep. Finds dating to the late 19th or early 20th century indicate that the trackway had been in use until recently. Its course coincides with an existing footpath which also appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1875.

The Thames and Severn Canal (Figs 6.6-7)

Part of the disused and backfilled Thames and Severn Canal was located in the excavations at Court Farm and Street Farm in Latton although nowhere was it examined by excavation. The canal, finally completed in 1789, linked the Stroudwater Navigation at Stroud to the Thames at Inglesham and had originally been a wide canal with 44 locks. It was plagued by problems throughout its existence, caused by a shortage of water, poor workmanship and competition (Russell 1971, 20). Eventually it was abandoned and was backfilled between 1927 and 1933. The line of the canal is still visible in some sections of the modern landscape with an earthen bank along its north-eastern edge.

The canal appears on 19th-century maps closely following the River Churn south of Cirencester. East of Latton, the North Wiltshire Branch Canal was built in the early 19th century as a spur, joining the Thames and Severn Canal at Latton Lock and 'The Basin'. South of Latton the canal ran to the rear of properties fronting Ermin Street and narrowed to less than 15 m wide to pass under Ermin Street at Latton Bridge before turning to follow the edge of the turnpike road south to Cricklade Wharf (near Weavers Bridge).

In the current project the canal was located at the extreme south-east corner of the Street Farm excavations. At Court Farm the course of the canal was seen to turn roughly 45 degrees at the north-west end of the site and run along the edge of the excavation area. Its chief effect here was to truncate all the Roman deposits immediately fronting Ermin Street.

Weavers Bridge: river channels and water control ditches

At the northern end of the excavation area, which examined the late Roman site (Chapter 4), were a number of braided river channels cut by drainage ditches (Figs 4.38-39). The area was characterised by extensive floodplain activity with two main alluvial deposits also identified.

River channels

The major river channel (130) ran east-west truncating the late Roman midden. It was about 20 m wide and 0.4 m deep. A further six, smaller channels were identified on a more north-south or north-west-south-east alignment. All were shallow and, like channel 130, with flat bases. Finds were sparse but consistent with a medieval date. A group of sherds from a late 12th- to 14th-century vessel came from one of the fills (fill 45 of channel 44). An environmental sample from channel 120 (Tables 8.51-8.52, sample 6; see Pelling,

Chapter 8), contained waterlogged plant remains which were mostly of aquatic species characteristic of slow-flowing or stagnant water bordered by tall, dense vegetation. The charred assemblage, in contrast, contained a high percentage of free-threshing wheat rachis and some cereal grains typical of the medieval period.

A group of five *in situ* worked wooden stakes (105, 106, 107, 108 and 139) were grouped towards the southern edge of channel 130. All were made from oak heartwood and showed evidence of careful tooling. Their tips were slightly blunted and/or crumpled, which indicates that they had been driven into the ground see Mitchell, Chapter 7. Their function remains unclear but, since waterlogged material was present in the adjacent channel, they may well have been associated with the channel, serving as mooring posts or part of a bridge or jetty.

Alluvium

Two main deposits of alluvium (91 and 92), both overlying and cut by floodplain-related features, were identified at the northern end of the site. Both consisted of blue-grey silt-clays, with the later of the two deposits (91) being heavy mottled. A number of finds were recorded from the lower deposit (92), including horseshoes, animal bone fragments, and a human skull (see Boyle, Chapter 8). A column sample through the deposits recovered some charred plant remains from the base (Table 8.51, sample 8; see Pelling, Chapter 8). These were dominated by grain of free-threshing wheat with occasional other food plants of a medieval character, a date confirmed by the presence of a shell of the mollusc *Hellicellinae*, which is generally regarded as a medieval introduction. Like the charred remains from the river channel, the presence of economic plant species, probably from the dumping of processing waste, suggests settlement nearby.

Drainage ditches

Four ditches were identified which, where relationships could be established, were shown to cut the river channels. Three ran on approximately north-south alignments and were between 3–4 m wide and 0.22–0.5 m deep with regular U-shaped profiles. An environmental sample (Table 8.52, sample 7; see Pelling, Chapter 8) was taken from a clean deposit of blue grey clay in ditch 20. This contained a waterlogged plant assemblage indicative of a muddy ditch, with terrestrial species much more common than aquatic ones. The insect assemblage suggested lush vegetation as well as possible grazing land or hay meadow.

Discussion

Not many conclusions can be drawn concerning medieval activity on the site. Shifting river meanders clearly indicate intense and prolonged hydrological processes in the post-Roman period, the development and causes of which lie outside the scope of this investigation. However, a few observations can be made from cartographic and air-photographic evidence. The broadest river channel from the excavations can be seen to be following the general east-west alignment of one of the major river channels shown on the Andrews and Drury map of 1773 (although it is not the same channel depicted) which relates to the drainage pattern before the Thames and Severn Canal was completed in 1789. It is probable that the present channel lying immediately west of the site (and which is not shown on the Andrews and Drury map) took most of the flow from the earlier channel which remained as a mere ditch. An earlier palaeochannel, which appears to have been a branch of Ampney Brook, is evident from cropmarks north-east of the site (shown on Fig. 4.37). This probably had a pre-Roman origin since it appears to have been crossed by a (presumably) Roman ditched trackway south of Sheeppen Bridge but was respected by another trackway to the east (RCHME NGR Index No. SU 1094/28 and 29). The palaeochannel ran on approximately the same alignment as the north-south channels and drainage ditches in the excavated area and it is possible, although this point is highly speculative, that this was an earlier natural alignment of the drainage system which retained some significance in the medieval period.

Human activity at this time is evident from the charred plant remains. These came from one of the river channels and also from the alluvium (Table 8.51, samples 6 and 8) and consisted of cereal remains which appear to indicate dumps of crop processing waste. This economic evidence, which contrasts with the evidence for the natural environment from waterlogged plants, must have derived from a nearby settlement. None is known from immediately adjacent to the site, although a scatter of 13th–14th century pottery has been recorded from a little over 200 m north of Weavers Bridge (Wilts. SMR SU09SE 455) (Fig. 4.39). The pottery scatter coincides with the location of Latton Lower Mill on the Andrews and Drury map which had ceased to exist by 1875. Material of 13th- to 14th-century date has also been imprecisely located in the area of Cricklade Wharf (also called Latton Wharf) (Johnson 1991, 10) and it is possible that a settlement existed closer to Weavers Bridge. The scatter may be related to (undated) features recorded in the watching brief just north of the old wharf on the other side of the A419.