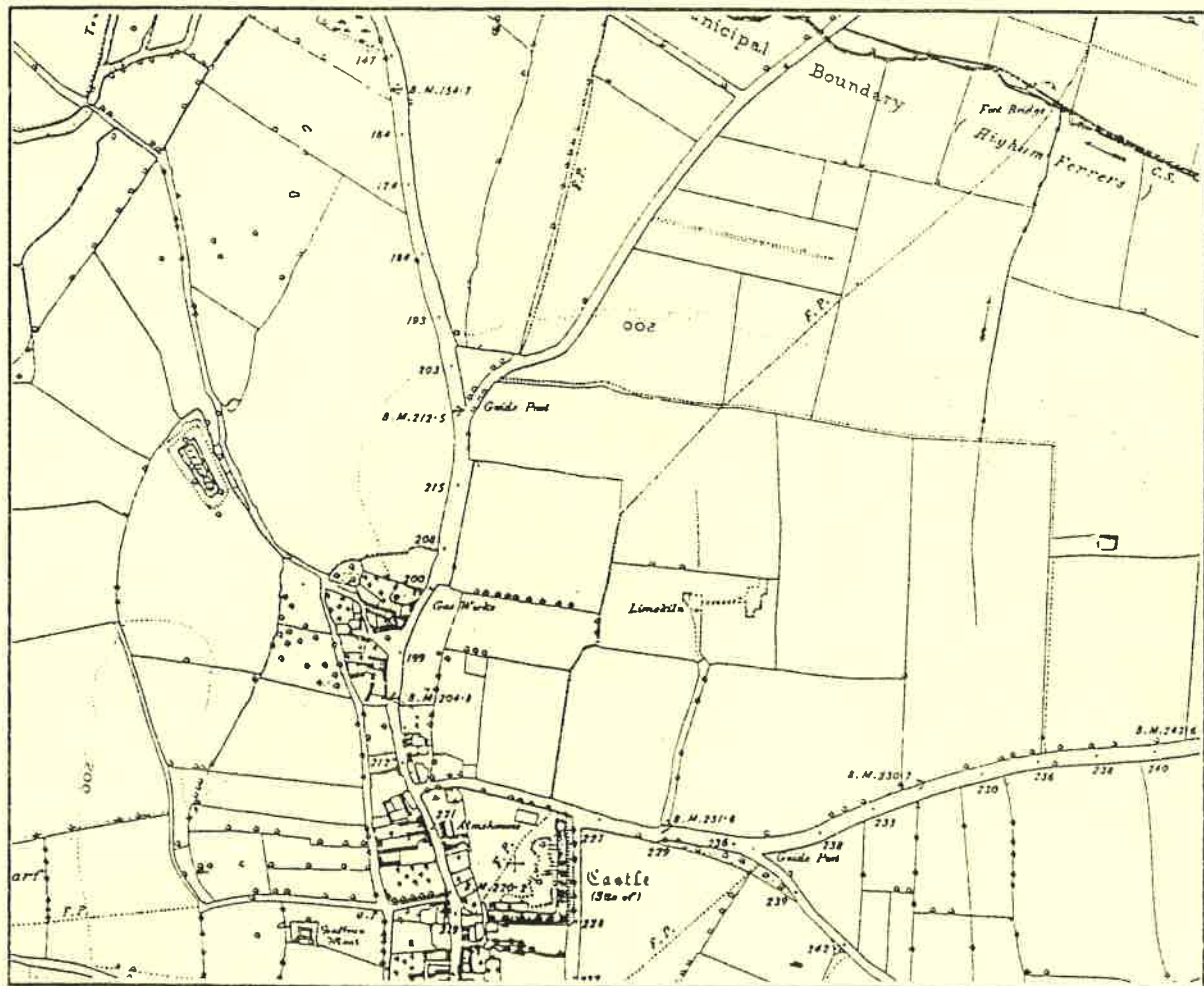


Client: Charles Wells Limited

# Land off Station Road/North End, Higham Ferrers, Northants.

NGR SP 9597 6928

## Archaeological Evaluation Report



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

January 1996

# Land off Station Road/North End, Higham Ferrers, Northants

## *Archaeological Evaluation*

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*Cover map is the 1888 6 inch Ordnance Survey 1st edition*

## *Land off Station Road/North End, Higham Ferrers, Northants*

### Archaeological Evaluation

#### *Summary*

*In December 1995 an evaluation was carried out on land owned by Charles Wells Ltd, situated in the south-east corner of the field already investigated as part of an archaeological project jointly funded by The Duchy of Lancaster and English Heritage (OAU forthcoming), to the east of Kings Meadow Lane, Higham Ferrers. The evaluation was centred on an area already stripped as part of the previous excavation and included the stripping of three evaluation trenches and selective excavation of late features in order to gain some understanding of the extent and character of the deposits within this stripped area. A probable medieval building, possibly a squatter dwelling on part of the common waste, was investigated along with associated drains, a stone-lined pit and an oven. From the scarcity of evidence near to the A6 (Station Road/North End), to the east of the site, there do not appear to be any other medieval or post-medieval houses fronting the road. The line of the original Kings Manor Lane was discovered to the south of the site. The medieval features were cut into a series of deposits comprising pits, ditches, a possible 'sunken featured building' and amorphous layers, which from the amount of St. Neots Ware within these features, appear to date from the late Saxon/early medieval period. The earliest feature on the site is the Anglo-Saxon enclosure ditch, the line of which appears to have been used as an open field boundary, during the medieval period, until the fields were enclosed in 1839.*

#### **1 Background**

During the recent excavation, jointly funded by The Duchy of Lancaster and English Heritage and undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit, of a large Iron Age and Saxon settlement in the field between Station Road/North End and Kings Meadow Lane, Higham Ferrers, Northants, an area approximately 27 x 18 m across was stripped of topsoil on land owned by Charles Wells Ltd. Initially a single 3-m wide machine-dug trench was inadvertently excavated across the land, owing to confusion over land ownership. It was subsequently established that the south-east corner of the field had been sold c. 10 years ago to Charles Wells Ltd, but had remained under the same tenant farmer as the remainder of the field. Following the excavation of the trench The Duchy of Lancaster gained permission via Robinson and Hall, land agents for Charles Wells Ltd, for the OAU to undertake further limited work.

- 1.2 While the small open-plan area (Area C) was intended to answer several very specific questions related to the adjacent Saxon excavation, it actually revealed the remains of a stone-founded building(s) of medieval date with associated stone-lined drains, stone-lined pits, pitched stone surfaces and a more general build up of soil and stone deposits. Several pits and post-holes were also revealed and a possible Saxon sunken-featured building may also exist on the site.
- 1.3 The existence of the medieval structure could not be predicted as an earlier adjacent evaluation trench by Northants Archaeology Unit was devoid of features. However, 18th-century map evidence indicates that the property frontages may have been set

back some distance from the highway. Consequently it is possible that the earlier trench fell within the 'sterile' area between the buildings and road.

- 1.4 The parcel of land in question was not part of the original outline planning application for residential development, made by The Duchy of Lancaster to East Northants District Council in 1988 and approved in October 1989. Consequently any prospective future development of this land parcel will be subject to PPG 16 (DoE 1990).
- 1.5 Although it is understood that there are at present no firm development plans by the land owners, Charles Wells Limited, it was suggested that it would be in their best interests to establish the nature of the archaeological remains on the land in advance of any future planning application.
- 1.6 While the archaeological work undertaken by the OAU on the site prior to the additional evaluation, was considered to be mutually beneficial to both the OAU and Charles Wells Ltd (ie. it has augmented the overall archaeological understanding of the area, and will have reduced the level of work required and hence the cost of further evaluation), it was not sufficiently extensive for the County Archaeologist to make an informed decision on any future development proposals.
- 1.7 Consequently, discussions took place between Glenn Foard of Northants Heritage and Bob Williams of Oxford Archaeological Unit concerning the appropriate additional level of work required to clarify the extent of the remains and characterise in more detail what had already been uncovered. These are summarised below.

## **2 Aims**

- 2.1 To establish the extent of the medieval structural evidence and associated deposits.
- 2.2 To provide further information about the character, date, quality of survival and extent of archaeological remains already revealed in the area stripped of topsoil.
- 2.3 To determine whether the medieval activity has truncated evidence of the earlier Saxon enclosure ditch and associated features, or protected the upper levels from subsequent erosion and agricultural activities.
- 2.4 To establish whether the building frontage onto Station Road/North End was set back some distance from the highway as suggested above.
- 2.5 To establish whether there are additional structures fronting the footpath to the south, which is known to have been a significant route in the post-medieval period.
- 2.6 To investigate and comment on the historic map evidence in relation to the results of the excavation
- 2.7 To make available the results of the investigation.

### 3 Strategy

- 3.1 The additional work consisted of two trial trenches, each approximately 15 m long and aligned east to west, between the existing stripped area and the hedgeline on the west side of Station Road/North End. A further 20 m long trial trench, aligned approximately north-west to south-east, was excavated between the south end of the stripped area and the boundary of the electricity sub-station to the south.
- 3.2 Trenches were machine excavated by a JCB using a 1.6m wide toothless bucket, and supplemented by minimal hand excavation of archaeological deposits in order to confirm the general date and character of any deposits located.
- 3.3 Particular care was taken when machining the trenches in order to avoid machining through medieval occupation layers which are already known to survive above the natural subsoil.
- 3.4 Hand excavation was undertaken in the area previously stripped of topsoil to establish the date and character of certain visible features and to establish the depth of the surviving stratigraphy related to the medieval structure and the Saxon deposits.
- 3.5 To avoid unnecessary further disturbance to the medieval and earlier deposits, selected sections of the post-medieval ditch running across the site were excavated to provide evidence of the depth of certain deposits and features, through which the ditch had been cut.
- 3.6 The clay backfill of two suspected recent geotechnical pits was emptied, to a maximum depth of 1.2 m., providing further evidence of the surviving deposits.
- 3.7 A small section was excavated to establish whether an oval feature near the north edge of the site was a late Saxon sunken-featured building and to establish its relationship with the Saxon enclosure ditch.
- 3.8 All of the trenches and Area C, the initial open area excavation, were planned at a scale of 1:50 and sections drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written recording was in accordance with the standard OAU method (Wilkinson 1992) and the methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (OAU 1995)
- 3.9 The work was monitored by Northamptonshire Heritage.
- 3.10 The site archive including finds (subject to the landowners agreement) will be offered to Northampton Museum.

## 4 Geology and Topology

- 4.1 The Charles Wells land is situated in the angle between the A6 and Kings Meadow Lane. It is 1km south-east of Irthlingborough and 2.2km south-west of Stanwick (Fig 1). It lies on the eastern side of the Nene Valley and occupies the high ground, 65 OD, on the prominent ridge which the rest of Higham Ferrers also occupies and where there are extensive views over the valley to the north and the west.
- 4.2 The geology of the evaluation area is made up of Upper Estuarine series clays and silts and Great Oolitic Limestone.

## 5 Historic Background

- 5.1 Higham Ferrers is a rare example in Northamptonshire of a Saxon village which developed borough status. The main Kettering to Bedford road (A6) ran over the bridge crossing at Irthlingborough to 'High-ham'. A plan of 1789 made for The Duchy of Lancaster shows an area in the northern half of the town known as The Bury. This may indicate the outline of the late Saxon defensive *burh*. Adjacent to this in the north-west corner, and some 250 metres from the development area, is the site of the earthwork castle built by William Peverel in 1086. The Anglo-Saxon settlement in the development area probably represents the predecessor of the *burh* and castle and is a rare example of such continuity. It is highly probable therefore that the settlement gradually migrated southwards to form the nucleus of what is now Higham Ferrers.
- 5.2 During the medieval period Higham Ferrers expanded and to the south of the evaluation area the remains of a 15th-century pottery kiln was found during construction work in the grounds adjoining Messrs Chamberlains factory at SP 959 692 (Hall 1974). Little of the kiln structure survived, but 11.5 cwt. of pottery, broken up into 63, 000 sherds averaging about a third of an oz each, was found in the flue. The dating evidence for this kiln comes from two references in the Court Rolls dated 1436 and 1467 for a kiln in Higham Ferrers and since no other kiln has been found in the area, it has been assumed that the references refer to this example. The pottery took the form of a series of bowls and jugs in a hard course grey sandy fabric.
- 5.3 The only other known site of possible medieval date, near to the site of the evaluation, is to the north, where a windmill can be seen on the 1737 Estate map (Fig 6). It is thought that this now lies under the A6.
- 5.4 The 1737 Estate map (Fig 6) shows very clearly that by this date there was no sign of any dwellings on the site of the Area C excavation. The excavation area falls within the sterile area which is between the field boundary to the west and the road itself to the east. This gap between road and field is fairly common in pre-enclosure landscapes. The field to the west would have been one of the open fields of the village. This can be seen clearly by the furlong strips laid out within the main field, called Townend Furlong, seen both on the 1737 and the 1789 estate maps. The

sterile area between the road and the open field boundary is probably what used to be the roadside waste used as village common land or green road. This type of common land is often found either side of the main road into a village and often leads, as it does here, to a larger piece of common land. It would have been used to either graze animals, as a droveway or used by carts to avoid the ruts in the roadway.

- 5.5 The 1839 enclosure map shows that upon enclosure The Duchy of Lancaster became the owner of the Townend Furlong and also the strip of old common land discussed above. It appears that this strip of common land was then incorporated into the enclosed field to the west of the road. However, the road still appears to be wide on the 1888 1st ed 6" OS map, but this seems to have resulted from the land on the eastern side of the road not having been incorporated into the field to the east at the time of enclosure. This can be clearly seen by the way that the road is represented on the 1888 map (see map on the cover of this report).
- 5.6 It appears therefore that the possible house uncovered in Area C, if it is of medieval date, would have been built on the common land and therefore technically an illegal squatter dwelling encroaching on the village common. This cottage had obviously fallen into disuse and disappeared well before the open field and common lands had been enclosed. Figure 6 shows the location of the evaluation area in relation to these features and there is certainly no visual evidence to suggest there was once a cottage on this spot. Squatter cottages were often built by the poorest members of society and one would therefore not necessarily expect it to be a particularly substantial, well-built structure.

## 6 The Evaluation Trenches

### 6.1 Trench Descriptions

The following is a brief summary of the main features found within each trench. Plans of Area C and the trenches can be found in Figure 3.

#### 6.1.1 Trench 32

18 m long - aligned east-west situated between the existing stripped area and the hedgeline on the west side of Station Road/North End.

The reason behind the investigation of this area was to establish whether any buildings fronted onto Station Road/North End or whether they were set back some distance from the highway as suggested in 1.3 and indicated by the 18th-century map evidence.

The topsoil in this trench (3091) was 0.20m in depth and below this was a layer 0.12m thick (3092), which has been interpreted as either an earlier plough soil or garden soil. Sealed by this plough/garden soil (3092), 0.90m to the east of Area C, was a ditch orientated in a north-south direction (3095, Family Number 3142, Fig 5 -

Section 9). It had a U-shaped profile and cut the natural clay/limestone to a depth of 0.36m. It was 1.30m wide and had two clay/silt fills (3093, 3094), the primary fill (3094) being very stony. The upper fill (3093), contained one piece of hand-made 6th-8th-century Saxon pottery and one piece of St. Neots Ware (9th/10th-early 11th-century). The ditch was the only feature excavated in this trench. To the east of this ditch the trench was taken down to natural and only three ephemeral postholes/small pits were seen, with plough marks running north-south. The ditch appears to form the boundary between the area of quite dense archaeology to its west and an area which was comparatively sterile to the east.

### 6.1.2 Trench 33

15 m long - aligned east-west situated between the existing stripped area and the hedgeline on the west side of Station Road/North End.

The reason behind the investigation were the same as for the trench above.

This trench is of similar character to Trench 32. The topsoil (3116) was 0.22m deep and sealed a layer, 0.16m deep, which has been interpreted as either a garden soil or an earlier plough soil (3117). A stonier layer below 3117 is probably the lower strata of the layer above (3118), and is 0.14m deep. Layer 3118 overlies a ditch. (3122, Family Number 3142), running north-south, on the same alignment as that in Trench 32, approx 1.50m east of Area C. The ditch, which was 2.00m wide and 0.60m deep, was U-shaped with an irregular base (Fig.5 - Section 10) and was wider both at the base and on the surface than that in Trench 32. It has four fills (3125, 3120, 3119, 3121), all clay or clay/loam fills with limestone and occasional charcoal inclusions. The ditch fill 3119, contained three pieces of St. Neots Ware and two pieces of the 15th-century, local grey ware, produced in the kiln to the south-west. The ditch was of a slightly different character to that in Trench 32. However, if it is the same ditch, this discrepancy could be accounted for by the fact that instead of it being cut into the natural substrate it had been cut into the top of an earlier pit (3124). The ditch in this trench also seemed to form the boundary between the area of quite dense archaeological deposits to the west and the blank area to the east.

Ditch 3122 cuts an earlier U-shaped pit (3124). This pit is cut into the natural to a depth of 0.94m from the base of 3118 and has three fills (3126, 3123, 3127). 3126 is the uppermost surviving deposit and seems to be made up of redeposited crushed limestone. 3123 is a very dark brown/grey friable clay/loam and contained three pieces of St. Neots Ware. The primary fill, 3127, was a very distinct mottled greyish/green clay with occasional charcoal flecking. At the time of excavation it was thought that it may have contained a high faecal content and so a sample was taken for analysis, and the results of which can be found in section 9.1. This pit has been interpreted as a late Saxon/early medieval waste pit and is similar to 3096 found to the west, in Area C.

The rest of the trench to the east of the ditch appeared to be virtually sterile.



### 6.1.3 Trench 34

16 m long - aligned north-west south-east

This area was opened to investigate whether there are additional structures fronting the footpath to the south of the main site, which is known to have been a significant route in the post-medieval period.

A large area of rubble spread (3077) and redeposited natural (3075) were discovered at the southern end of the trench. This is thought to represent the line of the post-medieval road/track-way referred to above. These deposits showed up as being 10 metres wide within the trench and continued under the southern edge of Trench 34. It was decided, after consultation with the County Archaeologist, that these features should be left *in situ* until such time as further mitigation measures might be requested.

A possible pit (3076) could be seen to cut the redeposited natural, and 3078 could be another pit, cutting the rubble road surface (3077). It contained sixteen pieces of the 15th-century local grey ware from the kiln to the south-west. A post hole (3073) cut 3074, thought to be the remnants of an earlier plough soil to the north of the trackway, and 3072 could be a pit cut into the same material. The pitched limestone surface (3071) is probably the same layer as that seen in Area C and numbered 3010. 3010 contained 12 pieces of the 15th-century local grey ware.

### 6.1.4 Trench 35

2.70m - aligned North-west south-east

Originally Trench 34 was designed to extend from the southern limit of Area C to the fence behind the electricity sub-station. However this was not possible as it would have had to cut through the pre-existing 'right of way' running east-west across the field. Therefore Trench 34 stopped just short of this footpath and Trench 35 was opened up the other side, to the south of the footpath. It was totally machine excavated, recorded and back filled quickly due its close proximity to the footpath.

The trench revealed what is probably a ditch (3053) aligned east-west, underneath topsoil (3050) 0.23m deep. The trench was not big enough to define the shape, character and depth of the ditch, but it appeared to be quite substantial and was over 0.60m deep from the present day ground surface. It contained two, possibly three fills of clay/loam. The lower fill, 3052, contained seventeen pieces of 15th-century local grey ware.

## 6.2 Summary of results from outlying trenches.

In Trenches 32 and 33 it was clear that where the trenches were placed there were few occupation deposits between Area C to the west and the road to the east. The boundary between the quite dense archaeological material to the west and the

apparently quite sterile area to the east appears to be delineated by the north-south ditch (3142) found in both Trenches 32 and 33. The ditch therefore appears to be property boundary, possibly of the medieval tenement related to the possible building found in Area C.

These trenches have demonstrated that there was no buildings fronting onto the road at its present position, within the area investigated.

Trench 34 shows that the density of occupation decreases southwards from Area C, although there is no definite sign of a property boundary, similar to that in Trenches 32 and 33, delineating the tenement boundary from the road/track to the south. The discovery of the roadway/trackway in this area is of considerable importance and will warrant further investigation. There does not appear to be any sign of any buildings fronting this roadway/trackway in the area stripped.

The possible ditch found in Trench 35 could possibly be on the same alignment and related to the trackway found in Trench 34.

## 7 Area C

### 7.1 Introduction

The following is a brief summary of the main features investigated within Area C. Descriptive details of each context numbered and the artifacts appear in the Archaeological Context Inventory.

The area stripped measured 27 metres north-south and 18.5 metres east-west. Only the contexts which were excavated or where the context contained pottery, collected during cleaning, were given context numbers. Area C encompassed Trench 13, one of the trenches dug as part of the larger excavation carried out during the earlier Duchy of Lancaster/English Heritage funded project (OAU forthcoming) as explained in 1.1 above. The contexts within this Trench 13 have been numbered differently and start from number 400.

The stripped area revealed a variety of mainly late Saxon/early medieval deposits including the remains of a stone-founded building(s) of medieval date with associated stone-lined drains, stone-lined pits, pitched stone surfaces and a more general build up of soil and stone deposits. Several pits and post-holes were also revealed and a possible Saxon sunken-featured building may also exist on the site. The line of the Saxon enclosure ditch, although obscured by several later deposits in places, can be traced across the site, as can several other ditches and gulleys.

So as not to disturb these deposits too much in this evaluation, 'windows' into the deposits were dug, by excavating post-medieval and modern features and recording the sections to enable an assessment to be made of the character, survival and extent of certain deposits. The possible 'sunken featured building' was examined in accordance with the aims and strategy mentioned in section 3.7. The results of this

are described and put into their context within Area C in section 7.2 below. A more general discussion of the rest of the features not recorded in section or hand dug can be found in section 7.3.

## 7.2 Results of Excavation

### 7.2.1 The Small Geotechnical Test pit (3066).

This test pit which is 2.00m by 0.90m was excavated to a depth of 0.45m. It revealed two features, a stone-edged pit (3062), which was visible on the surface, and a stone-lined drain (3060), which was not.

The stone-edged pit (3062) was not only cut by the modern geotechnical pit but also by the post-medieval ditch (3141) to the east. The lining is made up mainly of small stones (0.10m by 0.10m) with some larger limestone blocks which appear on the surface as quite a consistent lining, but in section only extend downwards one course. The lower sides and base of the pit were not lined with limestone blocks. The pit had been cut into a general amorphous rubbly layer (3009) and through an earlier orange/brown subsoil/ploughsoil (3064) into the natural to a total depth of 0.16m. The main fill of this pit (3061) is a silt/clay deposit with some limestone inclusions. The other fill is a very small band of reddish burnt soil (3063). Neither fill gives any clue as to the original function of this stone-edged pit.

The stone-lined drain (3060) could not be seen on the surface, despite the fact that the upper fill (3058) did not appear in the excavated section to have been overlain by any other material (Fig.5 - Section 6). Its approximate course has been marked on Figure 3 by dotted lines. This discrepancy can probably be explained by the fact that the colour and consistency of this upper fill was quite similar to the material the drain had been cut through (3009). The drain was 0.68m wide in the north-facing section and 0.60m in the south-facing section and 0.39m deep. In the south-facing section the stone drain was made of two large limestone slabs which have been stood on their sides. In the north-facing section the construction was the same with the addition of a large capping stone on top of the two outer slabs.

Although no direct relationship could be established on the surface it is possible that this drain is associated with another stone-lined drain approximately 0.80m to the south. This was not excavated but can be seen to run approximately east-west. The drain seen in the sections of this test pit runs approx north-east south-west and if its alignment is hypothetically extended it would join the east-west drain approx 1.0m to the south-west.

The only pottery found within this complex of features was from 3009, the layer into which both the stone-lined pit (3062) and the drain (3060) were cut, from which five pieces of possible St. Neots Ware were picked up during cleaning.

### 7.2.2 The Large Geotechnical Pit.

This pit was excavated by machine to a depth of between 0.50m to 1.20m and the sections cleaned by hand. The base of the geotechnical pit was not discovered, it was only taken down as far as the deposits, seen in the edges, extended. The three sections recorded revealed some interesting features, not all of which were seen on the surface due to the similarity in fills and the general spread of layers in this area.

The south- (Fig.4 - Section 1) and north- (Fig.4 - Section 2) facing sections revealed two ditches which could be traced through both sections. One of these ditches is the main Saxon enclosure ditch (Family Number 3143). This enclosure ditch can be traced in plan running north-south across most of the site apart from where it had been cut by 3057 and covered by Layer 3031. It had also been cut by the east-west ditch (Family Number 3139), the pit filled by 3020 and the east-west stone-lined drain in the south of the site. In the south-facing section (Fig.4 - Section 1), where it is numbered 3085, only the top eastern corner was revealed from the excavation of the test pit. However, even in this partial section, it can be seen cutting the early ploughsoil/subsoil (3083) and the natural to a depth of 0.42m.

In the north-facing section (Fig.4 - Section 2) a larger part of this ditch (Family Number 3143) was revealed (numbered 3112 in this section), although still only the eastern half of it was exposed. Here, again it was cut through the same ploughsoil/subsoil (here numbered 3109). It was hand excavated to a total depth of 1.05m, below the machine dug bottom of the trench, which stopped here at 0.60m. The ditch displayed the typical, narrow U-shaped base seen in other sections cut across it in the earlier excavations on The Duchy of Lancaster land (OAU forthcoming). In both the north-and south-facing sections only one fill was present within the cut of the ditch (3084 in the south-facing section and 3113 in the north facing one).

The other ditch (Family Number 3140) seen in both the north- and south-facing sections of the geotechnical pit, can also be traced in the section dug to the north. (Fig.4 - Section 7) within Trench 13 (413). In the south-facing section of the test pit (Fig.4 - Section 1, numbered 3087) had been cut through the ploughsoil/subsoil (3083) and the natural to a depth of 0.48m. Where its full profile can be seen it is 1.66m wide with a U-shaped profile. In the north-facing section (Fig.4 - Section 2, numbered 3110) it cuts through the same material but is much narrower and shallower, being only 0.66m wide and 0.24m deep. This suggests that it may be terminating to the south of this point. It is filled, in both sections, with a similar dark brown silt/clay deposit. It can be traced on the surface running side by side with the enclosure ditch up to the northern edge of Trench 13 where it appears to disappear underneath the same layer, 3031, that also obscures the enclosure ditch (3143). To the south of the test pit it appears to merge with the enclosure ditch (3143) but it is not clear which ditch cuts the other.

The other section recorded within this geological test pit was the east-facing section (Fig.4 - Section 3). Within this section three pits were evident, none of which were clearly defined on the surface for the reasons stated above. They comprised two relatively shallow pits (3102 and 3098) which both cut through an amorphous layer of material (3021), and a much deeper pit (3096) which is cut by both of the shallower pits and sealed by 3021. The shallowest of the three pits (3102), as well as cutting through 3096, is cut through 3021 and the ploughsoil/subsoil (3108) underneath 3021, and is 0.32m deep. It contained one mid-brown clay/silt fill. The other pit, 3098, cuts the ploughsoil/subsoil to the south, and is 0.50m deep. It contained two clay/silt fills (3101 & 3099).

The earlier pit (3096) is a deep, U-shaped feature sealed by 3021. The overall depth of the pit is not known, as its base was too deep to excavated without shoring. It was, however, excavated to an arbitrary depth of 1.39m and was up to 1.54m wide. The upper of the two fills (3097), 0.94m thick, was an orange/grey clay/silt, presumably deposited as a result of a phase of deliberate backfilling of the pit. It contained a piece of St. Neots Ware. The lower fill is very interesting in that it is very similar to 3123 in Pit 3124, seen in Trench 33. It is dark grey/brown and very organic, though not water-logged, its depth is unknown as the bottom was not reached.

### 7.2.3 Sections through the Post-Medieval Ditch, family number 3141

Two sections dug through this ditch at the southern end of Area C were excavated to reveal the nature of the deposits associated with the remains of a stone-founded building(s) of medieval date together with the associated stone-lined drain and pitched stone surfaces.

The southern-most section (Fig.4 - Section 5) revealed that the east-west wall (3135), seen on the surface, extended to a depth of 0.23m and consisted of three or four courses of rough limestone blocks, making the wall 0.20m wide. There did not appear to be any mortar between the blocks and they had been laid in a trench 0.29m wide.

Wall 3135 appears to have been abutted by a pitched limestone surface (3022) to the south. This limestone surface extended 0.60m southwards from this east-west wall. The limestone surface also extended up to, but not beyond, the north-south wall which joined at right angles to the wall seen in Section 5 and runs along the wall (3135) to its eastern-most extent. This indicates that the two walls and surface are associated. No evidence was seen to indicated the presence of the other two walls needed to complete an enclosed area or building.

At the eastern end of the east-west wall (3135) there appears to be a linear feature, of the same thickness as the wall, although it is did not contain any evidence of being a stone wall. At the junction between this possible wall slot and the wall 3135 is a possible oven base consisting of heavily burnt large fragments of fired clay (3082). An analysis of this fired coal can be found in section 8.3. This north-south feature

is 3.5m long and 0.33m wide. At its northern-most end it meets what is clearly another stone-built wall running east-west at right angles to it. This stone wall is extant for 2.3m, before it disappears underneath the eastern edge of the excavation.

There is also a vague suggestion of another possible wall slot, running north-south (3130), at right angles to this east-west wall, therefore forming a possible building enclosed on the north, south and east sides. However, evidence of 3130 being part of a wall could not be seen in Section 4, where if it was present, one would expect it to have been visible. All 3130 shows up as is a clay/silt fill with rough cobbling. However, within the area enclosed by these three possible walls was a pitched limestone surface (3134) and what looked like a rubble infill (3132). These two contexts do not appear to exist to the west of the post-medieval ditch (3141). The rubble infill (3132) can be seen to be cut in the west-facing section (Fig.4 - Section 4) by a stone lined drain (3129).

The stone-lined drain (3129), 0.19m deep and 0.50m wide, only extends 0.25m eastward beyond the post-medieval ditch and 2.50m to the west of the post-medieval ditch where it stops. Before it disappears at this point it cuts the gully filled with 3023, which itself cuts the early north-south ditch 3139. In the section through the drain (Fig.4 - Section 4) there appears to be no obvious structure to the positioning of the stones. However, in plan it appears that, at least in some places, the edges are made up of limestone blocks and capped by large limestone slabs.

This complex of narrow walls, drains and pitched stone surfaces would need further detailed investigation to sort out the sequence and characteristics of the features. In particular it is difficult to ascertain whether the walls represent the outline of a building or whether they represent a series of boundary walls associated with yard surfaces. It is important to note however that all the features described within this area occur on a slightly raised platform of land, visible to the eye and seen on the contour survey carried by the developers. This immediately suggests that it was raised and levelled deliberately as a house platform.

The features associated with the possible building, as investigated in these two sections across the post-medieval ditch, do not exceed the depth of 0.24m. The exception to this was the pit (3138) which cut 3134 and was seen in the southern-most slot excavated from the post-medieval ditch. It was filled with a dark grey silt/clay with charcoal and burnt clay inclusions, and which extends deeper than the post-medieval ditch, to an unknown depth.

No pottery was found in either the deposits relating to the walls or drain. However one piece of St. Neots Ware was found within both the limestone surface (3022) and the deposit cut by the drain to the west of the post-medieval ditch (3013).

A third section of the post-medieval ditch was excavated to the north of the wall and drain, within the original line of Trench 13. This was excavated specifically to reveal the depth and character of a circular stone-lined oven (3079), 5.0m to the north of the possible building. The oven's diameter is 1.50m, and three courses of limestone

blocks, with evidence of reddening, line the edges of the oven to its full depth of 0.14m, cut into the natural clay. The lowest of these courses is made up of much smaller limestone blocks than the upper two. There appears to be some traces of mortar between the limestone blocks and randomly scattered within the fill of the oven itself (3080). There appears to be some evidence of *in-situ* burning within the fill of the oven including the reddened stone lining and flecks and small lumps of burnt clay, red in colour within the fill itself. The oven itself does not immediately seem to be associated with any of the other features as described above.

#### 7.2.4 Section within Trench 13.

An area was excavated within the evaluation Trench 13 as part of the original excavation funded jointly by The Duchy of Lancaster and English Heritage, but is written up as part of this evaluation report as it falls mainly within Area C and the land owned by Charles Wells Ltd. This particular area within the trench was chosen for excavation because it seemed to be in a complicated area of interconnecting features which could not be understood in plan. The results of this excavation can be seen in Fig.4 - Section 7.

One of the earliest features excavated within this sequence is Ditch 415 (Family Number 3139). It runs on a north-west to south-east alignment and is cut to a depth of 0.80m into the natural and contains two fills (417 and 416). This ditch can be seen in plan to cut the Anglo-Saxon enclosure ditch (3143).

Ditch 415 (Family Number 3139) can be seen in Section 7 to have been cut on a different alignment, at a later date, by the north-south ditch 413 (Family Number 3140). This recut is 0.71m deep with three fills (414, 408 and 405). This north-south ditch can be seen in both the north-and south-facing sections (Fig.4 - Sections 1-2) seen in the large geotechnical pit as 3087 & 3110. To the north of Section 7 the line of this ditch is obscured by the general amorphous layer 3031, which also overlies and obscures the edge of the Anglo-Saxon enclosure ditch.

Also seen in this section is Gulley 418, not traceable on the surface. This shallow gulley is only 0.22m deep. It was filled with just one fill (419) and there is no relationship between this ditch and 415 and 413 discussed earlier. Pit 420 cuts Ditch 415. It is 0.52m wide and 0.52m deep. It contained two dark brown/grey silt/clay fills (403 and 404).

#### 7.2.5 The possible 'Sunken Featured Building'

After the northern half of Area C was cleaned up, as part of the earlier Duchy of Lancaster excavation (OAU forthcoming), what looked like a 'sunken featured building' was noted, possibly cutting the enclosure ditch. This was an important observation as if it proved to be so, the fact that it appeared to cut the early Anglo-Saxon enclosure ditch would mean that it would be a rare late example of a 'sunken featured building'. To prove or disprove this theory the south-western quadrant was removed from the possible 'sunken featured building' (3057) as part of the evaluation

where it appeared to overlay the edge of the enclosure ditch (Fig. 4 - Section 8). Once it was established that Feature 3057 did cut Ditch 3143 no further excavation was deemed necessary. It was 0.24m deep, 2.90m wide and 5.10m long. Unfortunately the feature did not display any definite evidence that it was a 'sunken featured building', and while the depth and shape are not untypical for 'sunken featured buildings' no postholes or indicative finds were found. The only pottery associated with the fill of this feature (3056) were seven pieces of possible St. Neots Ware, dated to 9\10th-early 11th-century.

### 7.3 Other unexcavated features

No more is known about the other remains visible within Area C other than what can be deduced from the soil plan of the area seen in Figure 3. Most of Area C is covered with amorphous layers, gulleys, pits with the occasional postholes, none of which suggest any pattern. These features seem to be less dense west of the enclosure ditch (3143). Evidence associated with the possible building, apart from the stone-lined oven, appears to be bounded by the east-west ditch 3139. Whether this is just coincidental or whether these ditches were open at the same time is not known.

The vast majority of the pottery found during the cleaning of these unexcavated features seem to be dated from the 9th to the 13th centuries, with a few pieces of the 15th century local grey ware scattered about.

## 8 The Finds

### 8.1 Pottery by Lucy Whittingham

256 sherds have been selected for a preliminary identification in order to assess the date of the pottery. The total assemblage ranges in date from Early/Middle Saxon through to Post-Medieval, though the majority of the sherds are Late Saxon. The assemblage comprised of 7% Early/Middle Saxon, 42% Late Saxon, 11% Early Medieval, 39% Late Medieval and 1% Post-Medieval.

The eighteen sherds of Early/Middle Saxon pottery are substantial hand-built fragments in a shelly limestone tempered fabric. Several cooking vessels are represented by slightly inturned rims and examples of "pouched" lugs. These forms are known in domestic wares of c. 400-900AD.

One hundred and six sherds of Late Saxon St Neots-type Ware date from the late 9th or early 10th to 11th centuries. Several cooking pots with everted rims and bowls with inturned rims are typical products of this industry.

A small number of sherds (29) are from a variety of Early Medieval wares of the 12th to 13th century. Both calcareous and sand tempered wares are present, some of which may be regional imports. Six oxidised shell-tempered sherds may be examples of 12th-century developed St Neots-type ware. Nine sherds of limestone tempered



Lyveden/Stanion Ware date from the 13th to 14th centuries. Two fine sand tempered sherds of Stamford Ware can be given a general date of 10th to 13th century and one fine sand tempered sherd may be a 13th-century Potterspury product. Twelve sherds in a number of limestone or sand-tempered fabrics remain identified.

Ninety six sherds in a hard fired greyware are the products of a 15th-century kiln known in the vicinity (Hall 1974). Vessels include large jars and bunghole cisterns which are usually indicative of a late 14th or 15th-century date. An additional three sherds in a Midlands Purple-type Ware are also possible products of this kiln.

One handle from a Cistercian cup is an early post-medieval product of the 16th century. Two later post-medieval sherds are from an 18th-century Staffordshire tankard and a ubiquitous glazed red earthenware vessel of 16th to 18th-century date.

## 8.2 Small Finds by Leigh Allen

Nine metal objects were recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage comprised one copper alloy and eight iron objects. The copper alloy object was a cast copper alloy cauldron leg (SF101) from context 3001, a cleaning layer. Such cast vessels were in common use throughout the medieval period. The iron objects included a simple D-shaped buckle frame (SF63) common throughout the medieval period, recovered from context 3002 associated with pottery of late Saxon/early medieval date. A horseshoe fragment (SF42) of early medieval form was recovered from context 3004 associated with 15th century pottery and two whittle tang knives, one possibly medieval (SF101) the other post-medieval (SF104 and 105) in date were recovered from context 3049, a post-medieval ditch. The remaining four iron finds were unidentified sheet and strip fragments.

### *Copper alloy*

**Vessel fragment**, copper alloy, incomplete.

Possible fragment of a cast copper alloy straight ridged cauldron leg. Such vessels were in use throughout the Medieval period (S Margeson 1993, 90, fig.57, No.562).  
L:44mm

SF101, Ctx:3001.

### *Iron*

**Buckle frame**. iron, complete.

D-shaped iron buckle frame with pin.

Common through out the Medieval period

SF63, Ctx:3002.

**Horseshoe**. iron incomplete.

Tip of the arm of a horseshoe, the web is narrow there is the remains of a single lozenge shaped hole nail hole and a calkin.

Horseshoes with narrow webs were found in contexts dating as early as 10th century

continuing to the 12th and 13th centuries at Winchester (I H Goodall 1990, 1055).  
 L:57.5mm  
 SF42, Ctx:3004

**Whittle tang knife, iron, incomplete.**

Cutting edge and flat back parallel. The tip is missing as is the tang. There is a shaped expansion or bolster between the blade and the tang. Bolsters were first introduced during the 16th century (I H Goodall 1990, 839).

L: 104mm  
 SF104 + 105, Ctx:3049

**Whittle tang knife, iron, incomplete.**

The blade edge and flat back run parallel, the tip is missing, the tang is slightly curved. L: 98mm

SF101, Ctx:3001

**Sheet, iron, incomplete.**

Curved fragment of thin iron sheet, slightly lipped around the edge.

L:71mm  
 SF99, Ctx:3049.

**Strip, iron, incomplete**

Rectangular strip of thin iron sheet, broken at both ends.

L: 143mm  
 SF70, Ctx:3005

**Strip, iron, incomplete**

Rectangular strip of thin iron sheet, broken at both ends.

L: 192mm  
 SF71, Ctx:3005

**Strip, iron, incomplete**

Rectangular strip with rectangular cross section, broken at both ends.

L:91mm  
 SF103, Ctx 3049

### 8.3 Fired Clay by A J Barclay

Seven contexts produced a total of 18 pieces of fired clay weighing 1525 g. Most of the fired clay can be described as structural and is thought to have been derived from a medieval oven.

*Structural clay*

Context 3082 contains 12 fragments of fired clay of which nine have impressions of wattle-work. Some of the fragments have two surfaces. one wiped (outer) and the other (inner) broken with wattle impressions. Most of the fragments have one flat or slightly curved surface, although two can be described as corners with flat edges at

90°. The impressions indicate rather substantial wattles that have been interwoven perhaps around horizontal rods. However, all of the wattles appear to run in one direction and no fragment contains evidence for both horizontal rods and vertical sails. All of these fragments are oxidised to a reddish brown colour indicating that the clay had been burnt. It seems likely that the clay represents wall daub that has broken away from wattle work either during or prior to being fired. Alternatively the fired clay could be from the outer surface from an oven and that it has been baked or fired in situ.

#### *Amorphous pieces*

Contexts 3014, 3021, 3024, 3049, 3052 and 3097 produced six amorphous fragments weighing a total of 50g. These fragments occur in a range of shell or limestone tempered fabrics. These could also derive from burnt structures, but in the absence of diagnostic features it is difficult to be certain.

#### *Discussion*

Fired clay is a good indicator of domestic activity. Most if not all of the fired clay described above may derive from structures built partly from wattle work. The oxidised condition, the corner and concave surfaces and the apparent fragmentary nature of the material from 3082 may indicate that it is burnt wall daub, that has been redeposited rather than part of an oven lining or cover.

## **9 Environmental Potential**

During the main excavation of the Saxon settlement to the west of the evaluation area an environmental sampling programme, principally for the recovery of charred plant and faunal remains, was undertaken. In addition a column for mollusca analysis was taken from the enclosure ditch fill approx 15m to the north of Area C. Consequently only one environmental sample was taken and processed during the evaluation, from the bottom of the pit found in Trench 33 (3127), where the nature of the fill was noted to be distinctly different to the other such deposits elsewhere on the site.

### **9.1 The results of the analysis of 3127 by Greg Cambell**

Fill 3127 was thought to have a high faecal content, with organic material possibly preserved by phosphate mineralisation.

A 1.0 kg sub-sample of deposit 3127 was subjected to bucket flotation, with the flot caught on 200 micron mesh, and the 4-0.2 mm residue retained. The small quantity of charred plant remains appears to be dominated by wood charcoal in unidentifiable small pieces. Seeds are present in the flot, but may be modern, since modern roots are also present. However, the residue was dominated by particles of the silt clay matrix of the deposit having undergone secondary mineralisation to form small irregular grey-green nodules. Preservation of organic material by mineralisation in those deposits with a high faecal content can therefore be anticipated for the site.

## 10 Interpretation

The majority of the features within Area C are the inter-related ditches, gulleys, layers and pits which were cleaned but not excavated and which extended over all the area to the east of the main Anglo-Saxon enclosure ditch (3143). These features, although unexcavated, contained a predominance of St. Neots Ware pottery, dated to the 9/10th-11th-century. The features which were excavated and which revealed a majority of similar pottery were; the east-west ditch 3139, the north-south ditch 3142 and 3140, the pits 420, 3096 and 3124 and the possible 'sunken featured building' 3057. This seems to indicate there was quite a dense area of occupation in or around this area in the late Saxon/early medieval period.

The feature thought to be a 'sunken featured building' contained pottery dating to the early 9th/10th - 11th-century, making it contemporary with the other features within this area. It definitely cuts the Anglo-Saxon enclosure ditch but from the limited excavated evidence its original interpretation as a late Saxon 'sunken featured building' cannot be substantiated.

The main group of identifiable features within Area C are those associated with the possible house structure. This had been built on top of a slightly raised platform and consisted of walls, shallow drains and stone-lined pits/ovens. It was not possible within the limits of this evaluation to establish the exact form of these features or their relationship between each other, and none appeared to be very substantial. The dating of these features remains problematical, since no pottery was found relating directly to the structure. The only definite statement that can be made is that the building had been cut through layers containing St. Neots Ware pottery, indicating that it is post-eleventh century and therefore later than the majority of features within this area.

It was thought initially that the eastern boundary of this property was the ditch found in Trenches 32 and 33 (3142). This marks the edge of the occupation spread to the west and the relatively sterile area to the east. This boundary does not coincide with any seen on the historic mapping, and if associated with the medieval structure, was possibly filled in when the squatter house fell into decay and the whole area reverted back to common land, to the condition seen in the 1737 estate map. However, the pottery from the ditch seems to indicate that the ditch was backfilled at a fairly early date judging from the St. Neots Ware present in the fills. Consequently it may be that this ditch is a boundary ditch relating to the earlier phase of late Saxon/early medieval occupation rather than associated with the later structure.

Ditch 3139 appears to be the same ditch which encloses the entrance of the main Anglo Saxon enclosure ditch (3134). The line of this ditch (3139) was traced during the earlier excavations on the Duchy of Lancaster land (OAU forthcoming) by cutting sections through the ditch at suitable points. The line of the ditch in Area C clearly follows this alignment. The two areas where it meets the Anglo Saxon Enclosure ditch were investigated. At the western meeting point, excavated as part of the earlier excavation, the ditch 3139 sealed off the entrance at a later date and this

relationship also appears to be the same where it was investigated in Area C. i.e 3139 cuts the enclosure ditch 3143. In Area C, as at the western meeting point, this later ditch, sealing the Anglo-Saxon enclosure ditch, appears not to terminate where it meets the earlier ditch but carries on beyond it.

Ditch 3139, contains within its different fills and along the whole of its length within Area C, a comparatively high amount of St. Neots Ware, to the virtual exclusion of any other pottery, therefore making it contemporary with many of the features within Area C, dated to the Late Saxon/Early medieval period.

The Anglo-Saxon enclosure ditch (3143) appears to be cut or overlain by seemingly all of the deposits associated with it in Area C. It contains the highest concentration of Saxon pottery of all the features on the site. Interestingly the high density of both the late Saxon/early medieval and the medieval occupation debris seems only to be present to the east of this Anglo-Saxon enclosure ditch. In contrast to the west of the enclosure ditch where only the odd pit and post hole were noted.

The Anglo-Saxon enclosure ditch also seems to coincide with the alignment seen on the 18th-century estate maps of the Townend open field boundary. Perhaps this early Saxon boundary at this point continued to be used through the medieval period, up until the enclosure of the field in 1839. The medieval plough furrow (3019) associated with the ridge and furrow of the open field system seems to stop at the western edge of the Saxon ditch which strengthens the possibility that this boundary was still being used up until the field was enclosed.

The other hypothesis is that the ditch with the family number 3140 (which only a short section can be seen in plan but which can be seen in Sections 1.2 & 7), which, where seen, follows the alignment of the enclosure ditch albeit a bit further to the east before it merges into the enclosure ditch, may be the boundary associated with the open field.

Trench 34 revealed the possible former line of the Kings Manor Lane trackway, currently followed by a modern footpath. This seems to coincide with its position as seen on the 18th-century estate maps. However, it is very difficult to establish its exact alignment from the historic mapping due to it not being clearly defined as a roadway on the common land. The building in the corner of this piece of common land next to the road seen on the 1727 estate map seems to be in the same position as Trench 35. However the limited size of this trench made interpretation difficult, and what was revealed looked more like a ditch than anything else.

Whether the medieval deposits have truncated or protected Anglo-Saxon deposits is difficult to establish, although on the balance of the evidence it seems likely that the later deposits have sealed some earlier deposits preventing subsequent plough damage.

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January 1996

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*Archaeological Context and Finds Inventory*

Context No.	Context Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Pottery no.	Pottery Date	Comments
3001	Layer		0.20m-0.30m	2	C6-C7	Topsoil <i>S.F.101</i> . <i>Pb vessel frag</i> & <i>Whittle tang knife frag</i>
3002	Fill	2.60m				Unexcavated possible ditch fill <i>S.F.35</i> & <i>63 Quernstone of Neidermendig Lava frag</i> & <i>Fe buckle frame</i>
3003				5	C9/C10-eC11	Same as 3056 <i>S.F.34 Fe Knife</i>
3004						Same as 3016 <i>S.F.42 Fe horseshoe frag</i>
3005				4	C15-C16	Same as 3105 & 3103. Family Number <i>3141 S.F.70</i> & <i>71: 2 Fe strip frags</i>
3006	Fill	1.66m		1	C12-C13	Unexcavated ditch fill
3007	Fill	1.65m		1	?C11-C13	Unexcavated ditch fill
3008	Fill	3.00m		1 1 5	C6-C7 C9/10-eC11 C15	Unexcavated Enclosure Ditch fill Family Number <i>3143</i> .
3009	Layer	1.60m+	0.14m	5	e-med	Rubble Spread
3010	Layer	3.50m+		12 2	C15 C12-C13	Unexcavated Limestone Rubble
3011	Fill	0.80m		3	C15	Unexcavated cultivation slots
3012	Fill			1	C12-C13	Same as 3133
3013	Layer			1	C9/10-eC11	Same as 3131
3014	Fill	1.90m		8	C15	Unexcavated possible ditch fill <i>Fired clay</i>
3015	?Layer	3.60m		1 4	C15 C9/10-eC11	Unexcavated
3016	?Fill	5.20m		1	C15	Unexcavated limestone rubble
3017	Fill	2.00m		8 1	C9/10-eC11 ?C12-C13/14	Unexcavated possible fill of 3139
3018	Fill	2.30m		9	C12-C13	Unexcavated ditch fill. Same as 3086, 3111, 408. Family Number <i>3140</i>

Context No.	Context Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Pottery no.	Pottery Date	Comments
3019	Fill	2.00m		1 1	C18-C19 C16	Unexcavated plough furrow
3020	Fill	1.00m+		1	C9/C10- eC11	Unexcavated pit fill <i>Possible plaster</i>
3021	Layer	2.40m	0.10m	3	C9/C10- eC11	Amorphous Layer <i>Fired clay</i>
3022	Layer	1.40m	0.08m	1	C9/C10- eC11	Limestone surface
3023	Fill	0.40m		3	C9/C10- eC11	Unexcavated fill of gulley
3024	Fill	0.90m		6	C9/C10- eC11	Unexcavated possible pit fill <i>Fired clay</i>
3025	Fill	1.75m		3	C9/C10- eC11	Unexcavated possible pit fill
3026	Fill	1.80m		1 1	C9/C10- eC11 ?C12- C13	Unexcavated possible feature
3027	Fill	0.40m		?1	C9/C10- eC11	Unexcavated possible posthole
3028	Fill	0.35m		2	C12-C13	Unexcavated fill of gulley
3029	Fill	1.80m		1 2	e-med- C11-C12 C10- eC11	Unexcavated fill of possible ditch/gulley
3030	Layer	1.90m		11 1	C9/C10- eC11 C15	Unexcavated layer of limestone rubble
3031	Layer	6.50m		14	Saxon	Unexcavated amorphous layer
3032	Fill	1.60m		2	C9/10- eC11	Unexcavated fill of ditch. Family Number 3139
3033	Fill	1.80m		1 1	C9/10- eC11 C12-C13	Unexcavated fill of possible ditch
3034	Fill	2.10m		1	C12-C13	Unexcavated pit fill
3035						Outside evaluation area. Trench 30 <i>Quernstone of Neidermendig Lava frags</i>
3036						Outside evaluation area, Trench 30
3037						Outside evaluation area, Trench 30



Context No.	Context Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Pottery no.	Pottery Date	Comments
3038						Outside evaluation area, Trench 30
3039						Outside evaluation area, Trench 30
3040						Outside evaluation area, Trench 30
3041						Outside evaluation area, Trench 30
3042						Outside evaluation area, Trench 30
3043						Outside evaluation area, Trench 30
3044						Outside evaluation area, Trench 30
3045						Outside evaluation area, Trench 30
3046						Outside evaluation area, Trench 30
3047						Outside evaluation area, Trench 30
3048	Cut	o.70m	0.24m			Cut of ditch filled by 3049. Family Number 3141
3049	Fill	0.70m	0.24m	1 34 11  1	C12-C13 C15 C9/10- eC11 C10-C13	Fill of gully 3048. Family Number 3141 <i>S.F. 99: Fe sheet frag, 103: Fe Strip, 104 &amp; 105: Whittle tang knife frags. Glass, 2 flints, fired clay &amp; Possible plaster.</i>
3050	Layer		0.22m			Topsoil in Trench 35
3051	Fill	2.50m+	0.42m+			Upper fill of ditch 3053, Trench 35
3052	Fill	1.50m+	0.26m+	17	C15	Fill of ditch 3053, under 3051, Trench 35 <i>Fired clay</i>
3053	Cut	2.50m+	o.42m+			Cut of ditch filled by 3051 & 3052, cuts 3054. In Trench 35
3054	Fill	1.04m+	0.10m+			Fill of 3055, cut by 3053. in Trench 35
3055	Cut	1.04m+	0.10m+			Cut of partially excavated ditch or pit. Filled by 3054. in Trench 35
3056	Fill	2.90m	0.26m			Fill of possible SFB 3057. Cuts 3067

Context No.	Context Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Pottery no.	Pottery Date	Comments
3057	Cut	2.90m	0.26m			Possible SFB, filled with 3056
3058	Fill	0.68m	0.08m			Upper fill of drain 3060
3059	Fill	0.50m	0.31m			Lower fill of drain 3060
3060	Cut	0.68m	0.39m			Cut of drain, filled by 3058 & 3059
3061	Fill	2.00m	0.16m			Fill of stone edged pit 3062
3062	Cut	2.00m	0.16m			Cut of stone edged pit, filled with 3061 & 3063
3063	Fill	0.25m+	0.03m			Fill of 3062
3064	Layer		0.24m			?Roman plough soil/subsoil. Same as 3089, 3083, 3109 & 3108
3065	Fill	0.27m	0.45m+			Modern clay fill of 3066
3066	Cut	0.27m	0.45m+			Modern pit, possibly geotechnical pit, filled with 3065
3067	Fill	2.10m	0.22m+	1 1	C6-C7 C9/10- eC11	Fill of Enclosure ditch 3068, Family Number 3143. Cut by 3056
3068	Cut	2.10m	0.22m+			Cut of enclosure ditch, Family Number 3143
3069	Layer		0.23m			Topsoil in Trench 34
3070	Layer		0.16m			?Garden soil/lower plough soil in Trench 34
3071	Layer	0.70m+				Unexcavated pitched limestone surface in Trench 34.
3072	Fill	0.60m+				Unexcavated possible gully in Trench 34
3073	Fill	0.55m				Unexcavated posthole in Trench 34
3074	Layer	2.90m				Unexcavated ?redeposited natural in Trench 34
3075	Layer	2.80m+				Unexcavated ?limestone dump in Trench 34
3076	Fill	2.20m				Unexcavated fill of possible pit in Trench 34
3077	Layer	8.10m+				Unexcavated possible road surface
3078	?Fill	2.40+		16	C15	Unexcavated fill of possible pit or layer in Trench 34

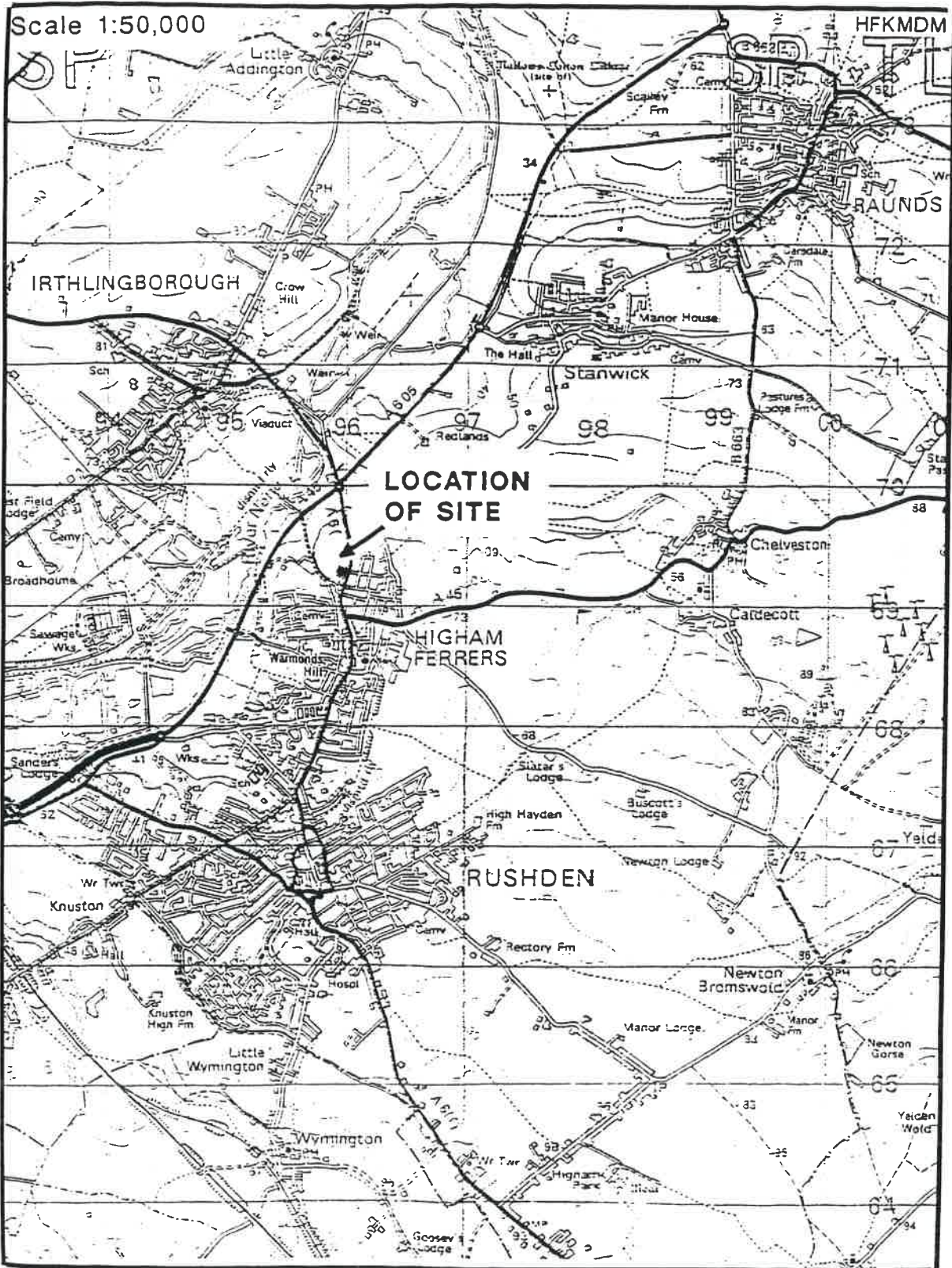
Context No.	Context Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Pottery no.	Pottery Date	Comments
3079	Cut	1.50m	0.14m			Cut of stone edged oven, filled with 3080
3080	Fill	1.50m	0.14m			Fill of oven, 3079
3081	Layer					Natural clay
3082	Fill	1.10m				Unexcavated hearth. <i>Fired clay</i>
3083	Layer		0.28m			?Roman plough soil/subsoil. Same as 3064, 3089, 3109 & 3108
3084	Fill	0.96m+	0.42m+			Upper fill of Enclosure ditch 3085, Family Number 3143.
3085	Cut	0.96m+	0.42m+			Cut of Enclosure ditch, filled by 2084, Family Number 3143.
3086	Fill	1.66m	0.48m			Fill of ditch 3087, Family Number 3140
3087	Cut	1.66m	0.48m			Cut of ditch, filled by 3086, Family Number 3140
3088	Layer					Natural clay/limestone
3089	Layer		0.16m			?Roman plough soil/subsoil. Same as 3064, 3083, 3109 & 3108
3090	Fill	1.20m	0.40m+			Dark brown, organic. lower fill of pit 3096
3091	Layer		0.20m			Topsoil in Trench 32
3092	Layer		0.12m			?Garden soil/lower plough soil in Trench 32
3093	Fill	1.30m	0.19m	1 1	C6-C8 C9/10- eC11	Upper fill of ditch 3095 in Trench 32, Family Number 3142
3094	Fill	0.88m	0.17m			Lower fill of ditch 3095 in Trench 32. Family Number 3142
3095	Cut	1.30m	0.36m			Cut of boundary ditch, filled with 3093 & 3094 in Trench 32, Family Number 3142
3096	Cut	1.54m	1.39m+			Cut of deep ?medieval pit, filled with 3097 & 3090
3097	Fill	1.48m	0.94m	1	C9/10- eC11	Upper fill of pit 3096. Overlain by 3021 <i>Fired clay</i>
3098	Cut	1.50m	0.50m			Cut of pit filled with 3100 & 3099

Context No.	Context Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Pottery no.	Pottery Date	Comments
3099	Fill	1.26m	0.25m			Lower fill of 3098
3100	Fill	0.88m	0.24m			Upper fill of 3098
3101	Fill	1.31m	0.32m			Fill of 3102
3102	Cut	1.31m	0.32m			Cut of ditch or pit filled with 3101
3103	Fill	0.68m	0.23m			Fill of ?post-med gully 3104, Family Number 3141
3104	Cut	0.68m	0.23m			Cut of ?post-med gulley, filled with 3103, Family Number 3141
3105	Fill	1.20m	0.30m			Fill of ?post-med gulley 3106, Family Number 3141
3106	Cut	1.20m	0.30m			Cut of ?post-med gulley, filled with 3105, Family Number 3141
3107						Same as 3141
3108	Layer		0.20m			?Roman plough soil/subsoil. Same as 3064, 3083, 3109 & 3189
3109			0.28m			?Roman plough soil/subsoil. Same as 3064, 3083, 3108 & 3189
3110	Cut	0.66m	0.24m			Cut of ditch, filled with 3111, Family Number 3140
3111	Fill	0.66m	0.24m			Fill of ditch 3110, Family Number 3140
3112	Cut	1.04m+	1.05m+			Cut of enclosure ditch filled with 3113, Family Number 3143
3113	Fill	1.04m+	1.05m+			Fill of enclosure ditch 3112, Family Number 3143
3114	Layer					Natural stoney clay
3115	Layer					Natural band of limestone
3116	Layer		0.22m			Topsoil in Trench 33
3117	Layer		0.16m			?Garden soil Trench 33
3118	Layer		0.14m	3 2	C9/10- eC11 C15	?Lower Ploughsoil/bottom of garden soil in Trench 33
3119	Fill	1.16m	0.22m	3 2	C9/10- eC11 C15	Upper fill of ditch 3122 in Trench 33, Family Number 3142 <i>Slag</i>

Context No.	Context Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Pottery no.	Pottery Date	Comments
3120	Fill	0.50m	0.30m			Fill of ditch 3122, in Trench 33, Family Number 3141
3121	Fill	0.34m	0.30m			Lower fill of 3122 in Trench 33, Family Number 3142
3122	Cut	2.00m	0.60m			Cut of boundary ditch, filled by 3119, 3125, 3120 & 3121 in Trench 33, Family Number 3142. Cuts 3126
3123	Fill	0.98m	0.33m	3	C9/10-eC11	Dark fill of pit 3124, in Trench 33.
3124	Cut	0.98m	0.52m			Cut of possibly medieval pit, filled with 3126, 3123, 3127, in Trench 33
3125	Fill	0.32m	0.22m			Lower fill of ditch 3122, in Trench 33, Family Number 3142
3126	Fill	0.54m	0.24m			Upper fill of pit 3124, in Trench 33
3127	Fill	0.84m	0.09m			Lower 'green' fill of pit 3124 in Trench 33
3128	Fill	0.50m	0.19m			Fill of drain 3129
3129	Cut	0.50m	0.19m			Cut of drain, filled with 3128
3130	Layer	6.00m+	0.10m			Amorphous layer
3131	Layer	1.10m	0.06m			Possible early ploughsoil/subsoil similar to 3064, 3083, 3108, 3109 & 3189
3132	Layer	1.30m	0.04m			Possible limestone surface
3133	Fill	0.90m+	0.30m+			Fill of pit 3138
3134	Layer	3.00m	1.10m			Possible pitched limestone surface
3135	Wall	0.28m	0.20m			Wall, orientated roughly east west, within cut 3036
3136	Cut	0.28m	0.29m			Cut for wall 3035
3137	Layer	1.30m	0.06m			Stoney Layer
3138	Cut	0.90m+	0.33m+			Cut of possible pit, filled with 3133
3139	Family Number	1.60m	0.56m			East West ditch cutting and closing the Enclosure ditch (3143). Consists 415, 3032, 3025 & 3017.

Context No.	Context Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Pottery no.	Pottery Date	Comments
3140	Family Number	1.70m	0.74m			North South ditch consisting of cuts 413, 3110, 3087
3141	Family Number	1.40m	0.30m			Approx north south post medieval gully, consists of cuts 3106, 3104, 3048.
3142	Family Number	1.30 - 2.04m	0.40- 0.60m			North South ditch forming the eastern boundary to medieval tenement.
3143	Family Number	2.60m	1.10m +			Anglo Saxon Enclosure Ditch. Consists of cuts 3068, 3085, 3112.
400	Layer		0.24m			Topsoil in Trench 13
401	Cut	0.64m	0.06m			Cut of unexcavated plough furrow in Trench 13
402	Fill	0.64m	0.06m			Fill of unexcavated plough furrow 401, in Trench 13
403	Fill	1.54m	0.30m			Upper fill of possible medieval pit 420 in Trench 13
404	Fill	0.90m	0.26m	2	C9/10- eC11	Lower fill of possible medieval pit 420 in Trench 13
405	Fill	2.90m +	0.23m	14 1	C9/10- eC11 C10-C13	?Upper fill of ditch 413 in Trench 13. Family number 4140
406	Fill	0.48m	0.08m			Lower fill of ?posthole 409 in Trench 13
407	Fill	0.64m	0.10m			Charcoal upper fill of ?posthole 409 in Trench 13
408	Fill	1.50m	0.50m	6	C9/10- 12	Fill of ditch 413 in Trench 13. Family Number 3140 <i>Quernstone of Neidermendig lava frags</i>
409	Cut	0.74m	0.18m			Cut of possible posthole, filled with 406 & 407, in Trench 13
410	?Layer	0.42m +	0.09m			Unexcavated possible layer cut by 409 in Trench 13
411	?layer	0.50	0.06m			Unexcavated possible layer in Trench 13
412						Natural in trench 13
413	Cut	2.60m	0.70m			N-S Cut of ditch filled by 405, 408 & 414 in Trench 13. Family number 3140. Cuts 417, upper fill of earlier ditch

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Context Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Pottery no.</b>	<b>Pottery Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
414	Fill	0.66m	0.23m			Lower fill of ditch 413 in Trench 13, Family Number 3140
415	Cut	2.30m	0.80m			NW-SE Early ditch in Trench 13, filled by 417 & 416. Family Number 3139
416	Fill	0.43m	0.10m			Lower fill of early ditch 415 in Trench 13
417	Fill	0.80m +	0.70m			Upper fill of early ditch 415 in Trench 13. Cut by 413
418	Cut	0.50m +	0.22m +			Cut of ditch in Trench 13, filled with 419.
419	Fill	0.50m +	0.22m +			Fill of ditch 418 in Trench 13, cut by 420
420	Cut	0.52m	0.52m			Cut of possible pit, cuts 419, in Trench 13



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Figure 1



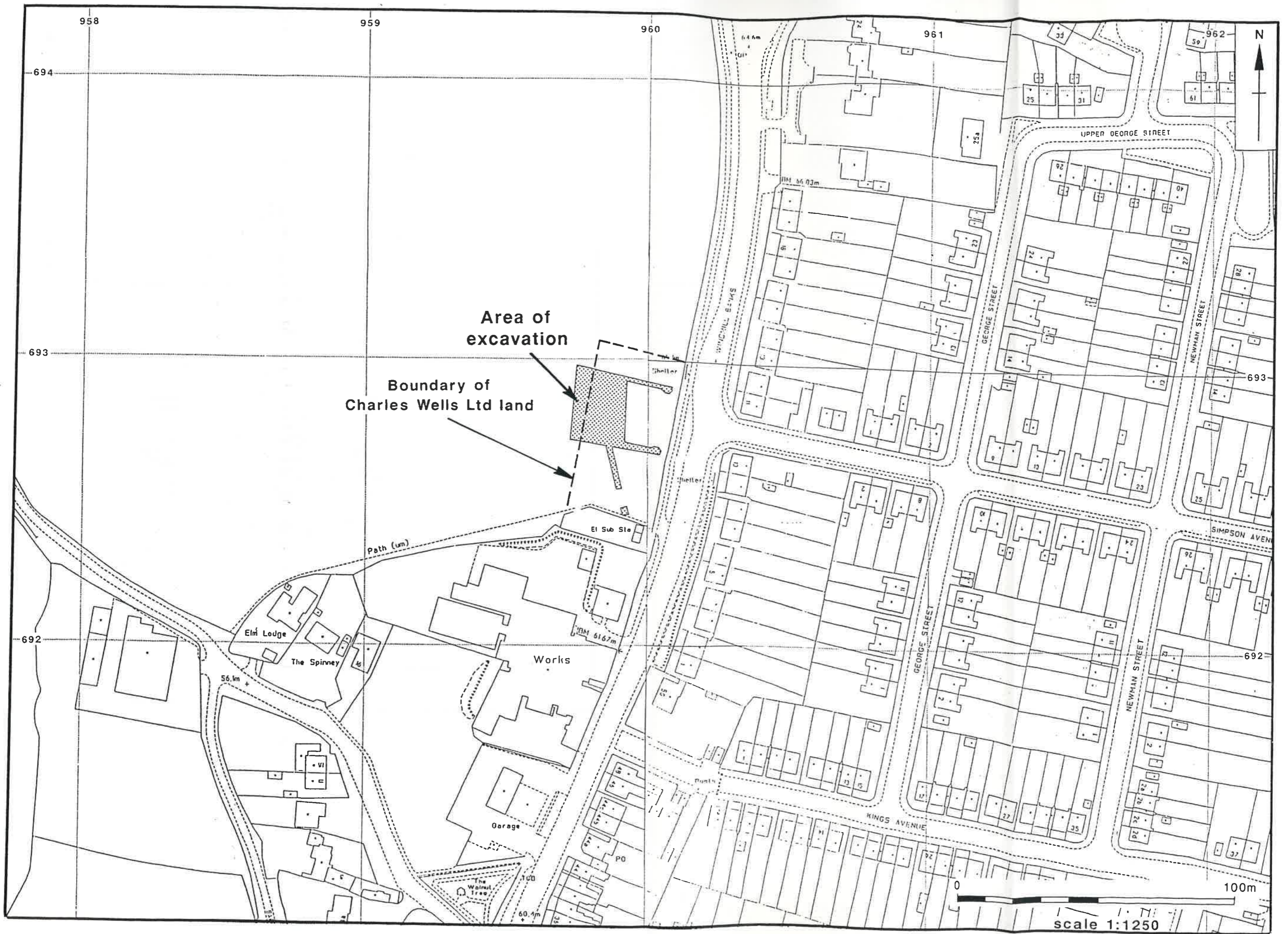
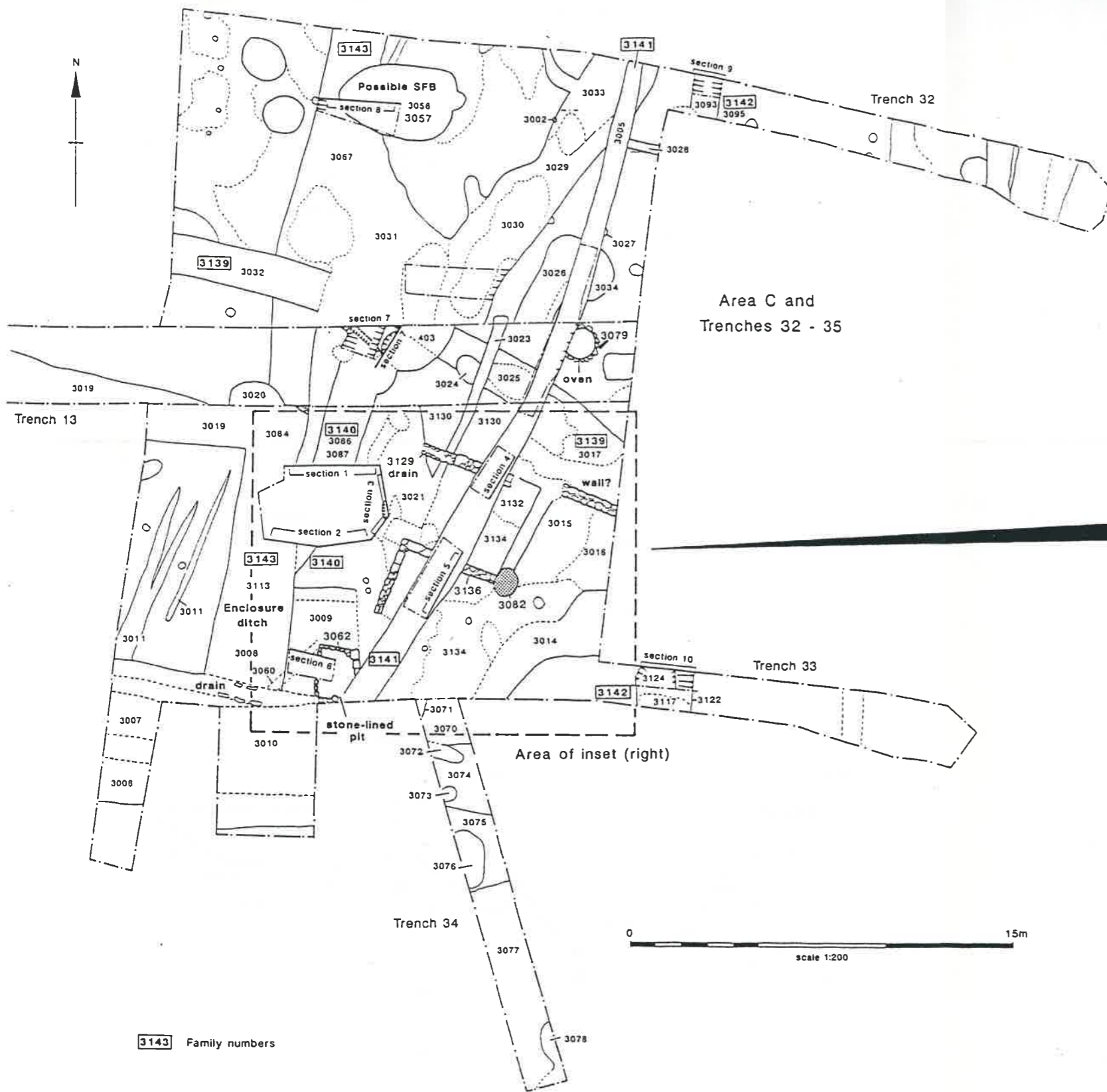


Figure 2



3143 Family numbers

Footpath

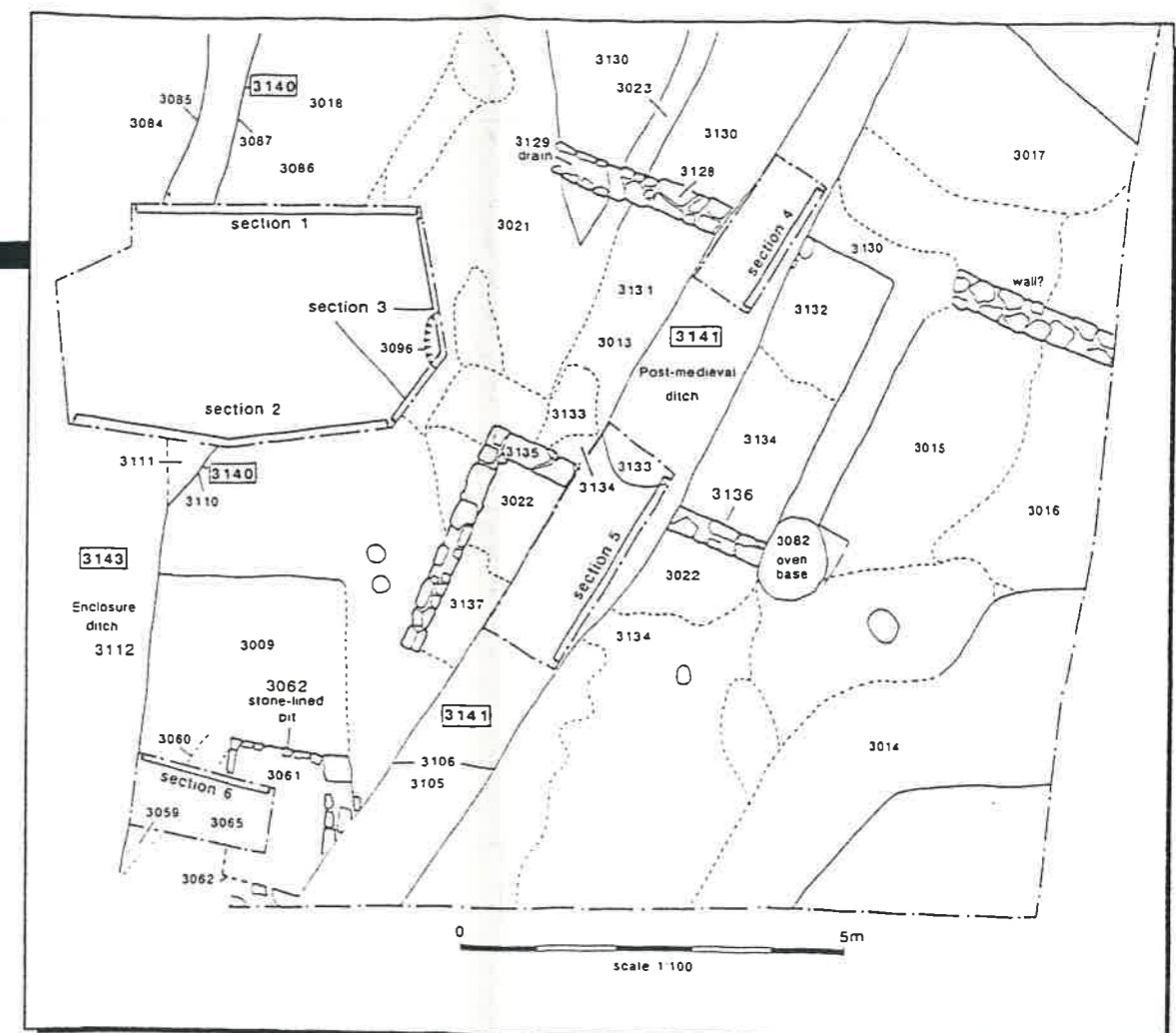
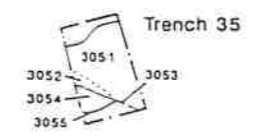


Figure 3

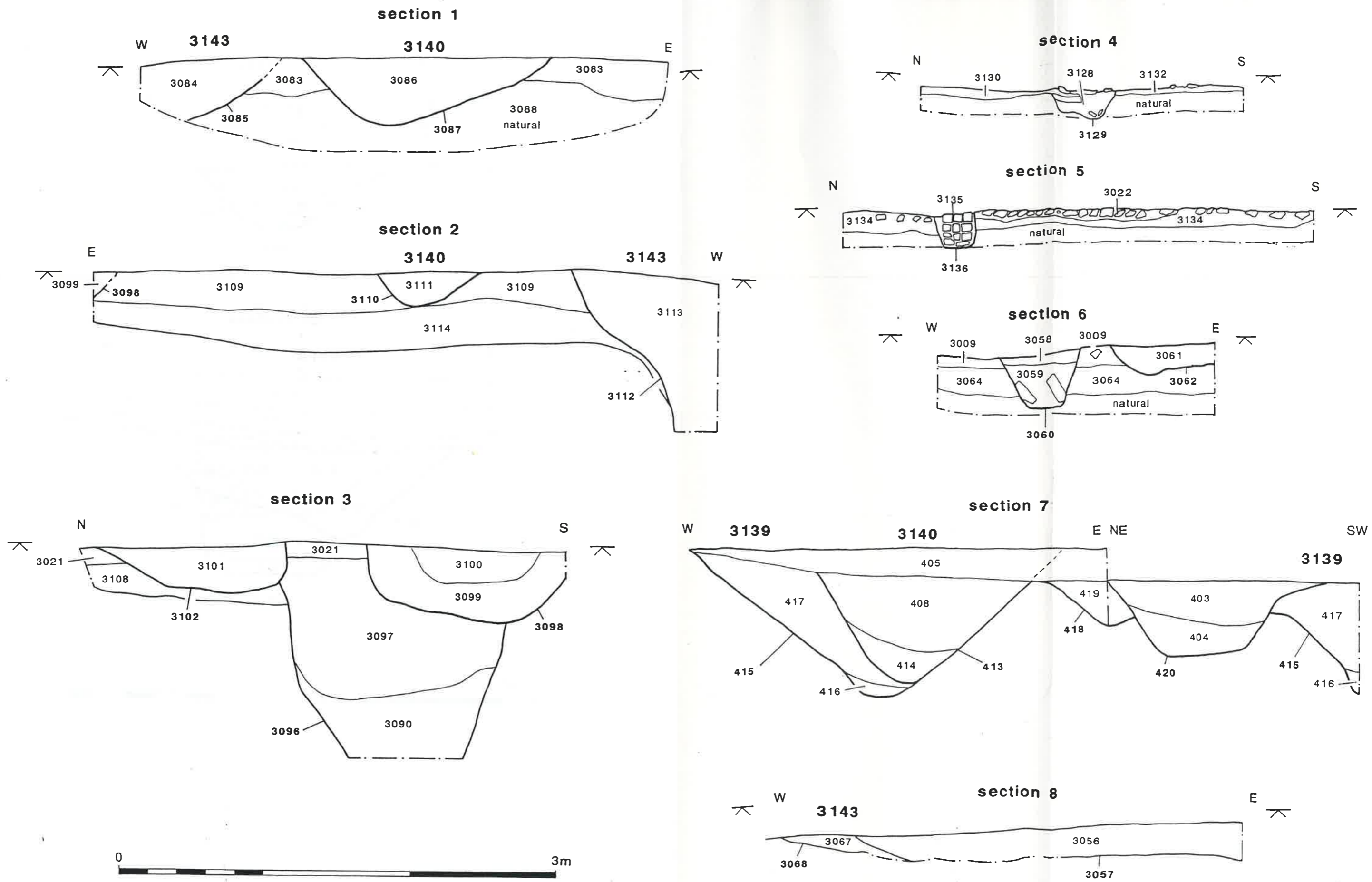
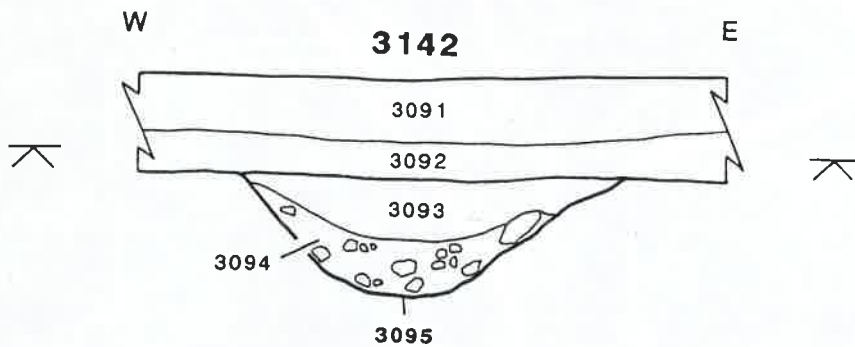


Figure 4

section 9



section 10

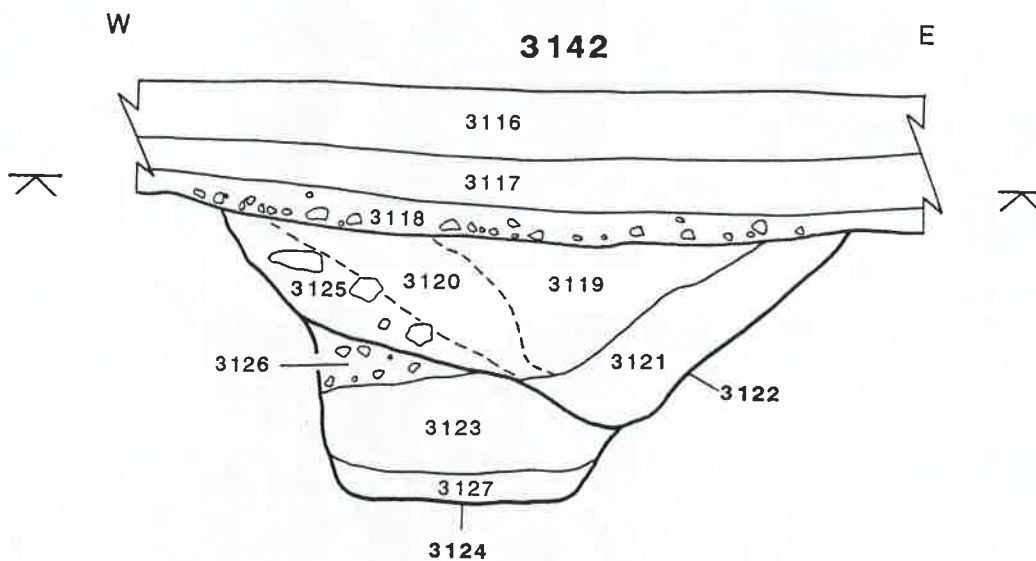
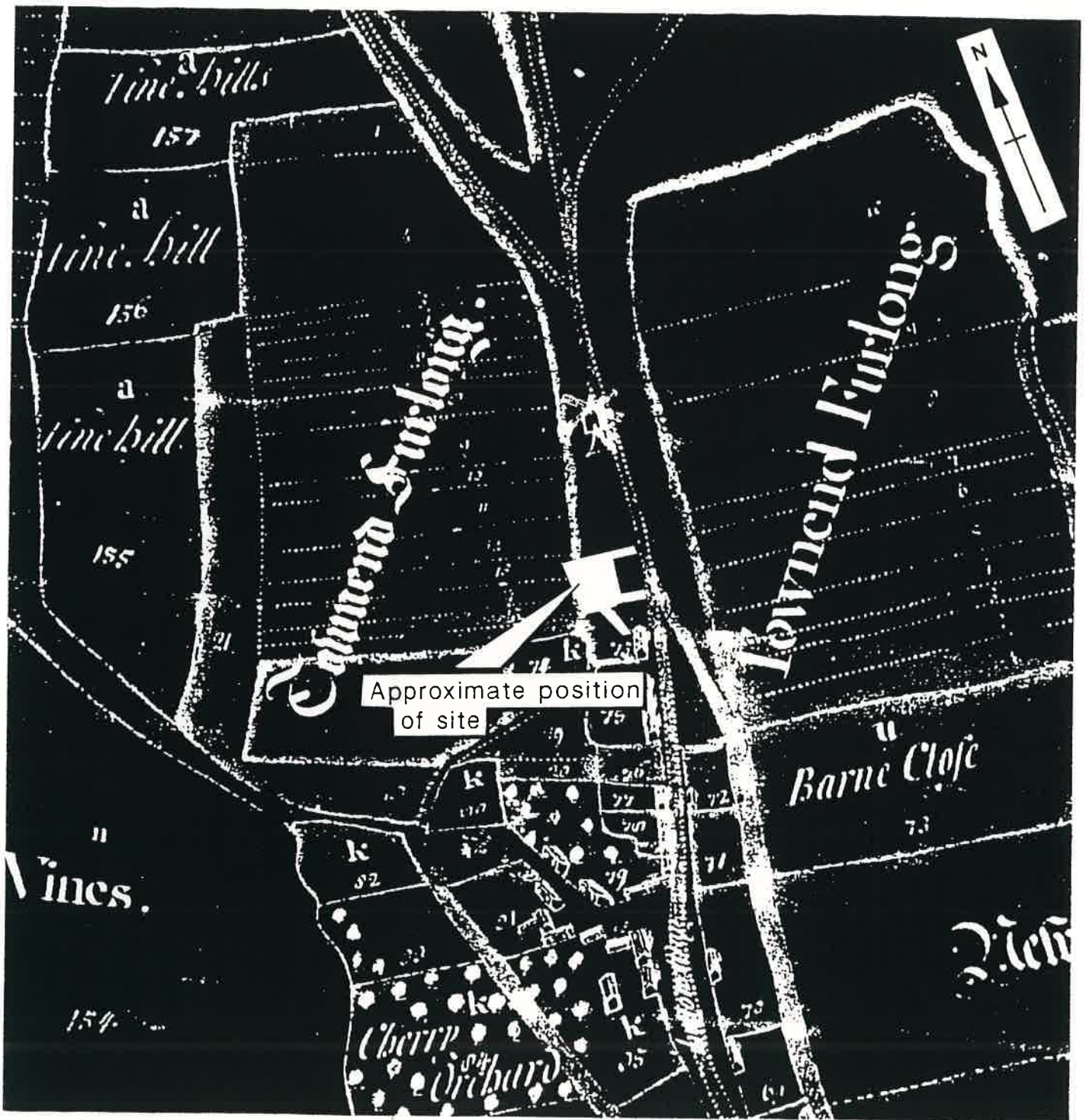


Figure 5



1737 Estate map

Figure 6

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