

Chapter 3

The late Saxon period (c 850–1050)

by Steve Teague

THE INHERITED LANDSCAPE (PHASE 3)

The latter part of the Roman period (Phase 2.4; c AD 350/75–400/50) saw the accumulation of ‘Dark Earth’ over all the latest discernible occupation horizons, although the nature of its formation, despite intensive study, still remains far from certain (see Chapters 2 and 5). Where it survived on the site it was usually described as a single homogeneous deposit and found to be up to 0.5 m thick sealing all evidence of Roman occupation and was directly overlain by mid-9th century deposits (see Phase 4.1 below). There was no evidence for deposits datable between the end of its accumulation and the earliest late Saxon deposits found on the site. In order to maintain a contiguous sequence of phasing this intervening phase has been allocated to Phase 3.

Modern terracing had removed nearly all traces of the Dark Earth from the Discovery Centre site and had also affected its upper levels within the central area of the Northgate House site (for extent of Dark Earth see Chapter 2, Fig. 2.24). Alongside the west frontage of Brudene Street its upper surface was found to directly underlie the earliest street surfaces and flanking occupation levels, datable to the 9th century or later. Similarly alongside Snitheling Street, where late Saxon occupation levels survived, these directly overlay its surface. The lack of any recognisable intermediate deposits suggests either that they had been deliberately removed during the re-occupation of the site in the mid 9th century or that the ‘Dark Earth’ continued to accumulate up to this time. Where its upper levels survived within Property BW 2 (see Section NH271, Fig. 3.3 below), little evidence for preparation work such as terracing for structures was found and its thickness was largely consistent, following the topography that was in place during the Roman period. Its surface across the Northgate House site was represented by a gentle but consistent slope from west to east, from c 52.8 m to c 49.00 m OD, with little evidence for the possible terracing identified from the Roman period.

It is probable that the new inhabitants of the mid 9th century inherited an overgrown site devoid—in this area at least—of any visible evidence for its

Roman occupiers. Presumably vegetation clearance would have been necessary before the laying out of streets or buildings. If vegetation burning was utilised, however, no stratigraphically early charcoal-rich deposits that could be interpreted as such were found. If the upper levels such as turf/topsoil had also been removed, then any clearance horizons would also have been removed, perhaps together with ephemeral evidence of earlier (post-Roman) activity.

It has been noted (see Biddulph, Chapter 2) that the late Roman pottery groups recovered from the Dark Earth deposits were usually large, in relatively good condition, and contained little obviously residual material from the underlying levels. This suggests contemporary middening rather than cultivation during the late Roman (and later) period, and a similar conclusion was reached by micromorphological analysis of the soil (see Macphail and Crowther, Chapter 8).

The few sherds of late Saxon (and occasionally later) pottery found in the Dark Earth are most likely to be intrusive given their rather uneven distribution across the site and the high levels of pit digging in the late Saxon period (Table 3.1). In areas where pit digging was less intense, such as the area excavated within the northern half of Property BW 2 (see below), no post-Roman pottery was contained within the assemblage of 75 (1.4 kg) sherds. A single sherd (weighing 4 g) of early-middle Anglo-Saxon organic-tempered pottery (see Cotter, Chapter 7) was recovered from Dark Earth remnants that survived close to the north-east corner of the Discovery Centre site and may

Table 3.1: Intrusive post-Roman pottery within Dark Earth deposits on Northgate House

Area	No of Sherds			%
	Pre-Roman	Roman	Post-Roman	Post-Roman
Wessex central area	1	947	18	1.9%
Brudene Street Frontage	2	426	16	3.6%
SW area	1	427	12	2.7%
Total	4	1800	46	2.5%

suggest some contemporaneity with the deposit. However, no other contemporary finds, residual or otherwise, were identified from the site. Its find spot, some 9–15 m west of the Roman north-south street that led to the North Gate, may be of some significance.

A single sceat fragment, possibly of mid to late 8th-century date (see Allen, Chapter 7), was the only middle Saxon find on the site. It was found in a Anglo-Norman pit in association with the fragmentary remains of a penny of Athelstan (924–939) suggesting the objects were originally intended for re-use and were probably brought in to the site together.

THE LATE SAXON PERIOD (PHASE 4)

Phasing methodology

Contexts throughout the site were grouped hierarchically according to their relationship with other closely related stratigraphic units (pit group, structural evidence, yard area etc.) and then allocated a spatial location identifier according to the property in which they occur (eg Property BW 2; see below). Where the evidence survived, and also where the extent of excavation allowed, some attempt was made to describe the structural development of buildings in terms of their function and status through the incorporation of the finds and environmental evidence in their description. A similar approach was adopted with the description of the pits to their rear, the vast majority of which were not

bottomed by hand-excavation. Often no direct stratigraphic link could be made with the structures, though where possible comparisons between material found in pits and within buildings have been used to suggest associations (eg metalworking evidence).

Contexts allocated to the late Saxon period (Phase 4, 850–1050) were phased on the basis of their stratigraphic position and the dating of associated pottery (Table 3.2). Analysis of the pottery (see Cotter, Chapter 7) identified two dominant late Saxon fabrics, chalk-tempered ware (MBX) and chalk and flint-tempered ware (MAV). The former occurs throughout the late Saxon period but is often the only pottery present in stratigraphically early contexts, while the latter occurs alongside chalk-tempered pottery in stratigraphically later contexts. The introduction of glazed Winchester ware (MWW) and other wheel-thrown finewares such as the later type of Michelmersh-type ware (MMU and MZM) is traditionally thought to be broadly contemporary and dates from *c* 950–1050 (see Cotter, Chapter 7). Although their occurrence is relatively rare in the assemblage, these wares are often associated with contexts that also contain chalk and flint-tempered ware (MAV) suggesting some contemporaneity.

Based upon this model for the ceramic phases, the contexts on the stratigraphic matrix were phased according to presence or absence of flint-tempered ware (MAV) and wheel-thrown and finewares and were grouped into two sub-phases (4.1 and 4.2) with due regard to their stratigraphic position. No detailed sub-phasing was attempted for those areas of the site that were not subject to detailed excavation, or where detailed cataloguing of the pottery was not undertaken. Of the 1953 contexts that were allocated to the late Saxon phase, a total of 1606 (or 82.2%) could be sub-phased.

The phasing was supplemented by a programme of scientific dating that comprised on-site archaeo-

Table 3.2: Phasing allocation for Phase 4

Phase	Date	Pottery fabrics present	No of contexts	%
4	<i>c</i> 850–1050	No detailed catalogue	347	17.8%
4.1	<i>c</i> 850–950	MBX MDL MSH	474	24.3%
4.2	<i>c</i> 950–1050	MAB MAQ MAV MBN MBX MDL MFGY MBEAU MMU MPIN MSV MWW MZM WWX	1132	57.9%
Total			1953	100.0%

Table 3.3: Archaeomagnetic dated hearths phased to the late Saxon period (Phase 4)

Context	Hearth Ref	Phase	Calibrated date (95% confidence)
NH1276	SG1-8	4.2	975-1102
NH2156	WOA	4.1	580-1125
NH2391	WOD	4.1	800-1125
NH3506	WOJ	4.1	436-1175
NH3576	WOL	4.1	498-1148
NH3680	WON	4.2	914-1121
NH4261	WOE	4.2	979-1165
NH4523	WOK	4.1	1065-1245
NH4692	WOM	4.1	880-1093
NH4733	WOO	4.1	559-1084
NH7513	WOI2	4	498-1125
NH7522	WOI1	4	559-1084

Table 3.4: Radiocarbon and Bayesian dating from late Saxon phased contexts (Phase 4)

Context	Lab. No.	Phase	C14 Calibrated date (95% confidence)	Posterior density estimate (95% probability)
NH2156	SUERC-13908	4.1	900–1040	900–1010
NH2156	OxA-17174	4.1	780–980	780–980
NH2391	SUERC-13914	4.1	770–970	840–950
NH2391	OxA-17137	4.1	690–890	840–900 (86%) or 920–950 (9%)
NH2424	SUERC-13915	4.1	880–1020	880–980
NH2424	OxA-17179	4.1	870–980	880–970
NH3175	SUERC-19286	4.2	770–990	940–1000
NH3175	SUERC-19285	4.2	670–890	680–880
NH3260	SUERC-19284	4.2	890–1030	930–990
NH3260	SUERC-19280	4.2	880–1020	920–990
NH3494	OxA-17181	4.1	780–970	910–970
NH3494	SUERC-13917	4.1	880–1020	900–970
NH3578	OxA-17172	4.1	770–940	770–900
NH3578	SUERC-13906	4.1	890–1020	890–950
NH3587	OxA-17173	4.1	780–970	830–940
NH3587	SUERC-13907	4.1	730–970	830–940
NH3664	SUERC-13910	4.2	900–1030	890–1010
NH3664	OxA-17178	4.2	780–980	780–790 (1%) or 810–980 (94%)
NH4379	SUERC-19288	4.2	900–1030	940–1010
NH4379	SUERC-19287	4.2	880–1020	930–1000
NH4394	OxA-17184	4.2	780–970	910–980
NH4394	SUERC-13919	4.2	880–1020	900–980
NH4507	SUERC-13920	4.1	780–1010	890–960
NH4580	OxA-17183	4.1	780–960	860–950
NH4580	SUERC-13918	4.1	830–1010	880–950
NH4697	SUERC-13909	4.1	780–990	770–920
NH4697	OxA-17177	4.1	770–940	770–890

magnetic dating of 18 hearths and a subsequent programme of targeted radiocarbon dating that was confined to the western frontage of Brudene Street (Tables 3.3 and 3.4). These results and the limited coin dating evidence formed the basis of Bayesian modelling that was used to test the validity of the dating of these sub-phases (see Chapter 6). With rare exceptions (Hearth WOK and radiocarbon sample SUERC-19285) the scientific dating results are in broad agreement with the phase dates that were established through the ceramic dating. All calibrated archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon dates are quoted at the 95% confidence level.

The organisation of the description: streets and properties

The location of the trenches and the overall distribution of the late Saxon features is shown on Figures 3.1 and 3.2. The trenches are shown here in relation to the late Saxon street layout as currently understood from documentary and archaeological sources. This corresponds closely, although not precisely, to the modern street layout of the area (see Chapter 1, Fig. 1.6). The excavations confirmed that modern Staple Gardens does indeed follow the line of its late Saxon predecessor, known by the 12th century as Brudene Street. On the west side of the

excavations, the suggested line of the most westerly late Saxon street, known by the 12th century as Snitheling Street, is based on Keene's analysis (1985, figs 72–4). He concluded that Snitheling Street lay to the east of the line of modern Tower Street. It is likely that the original east edge of Snitheling Street is still marked in the modern topography of the area by the high retaining wall that defines the rear of properties fronting onto the east side of Tower Street. This wall marked the western edge of the present development site (see Chapter 1, Fig. 1.6). It retains a 1.9 m high terrace to the west, and if Keene's analysis is right, late Saxon Snitheling Street would have occupied the eastern edge of this terrace.

Brudene Street may have occupied a similar position at a terrace edge, since there is a high retaining wall between its eastern side and the Discovery Centre site, with a drop in ground level in site of c 1.9 m. However the origins of this terrace are unclear since recent terracing on the west side of the Discovery Centre site has removed nearly all but the earliest Roman levels alongside this frontage. A third street corresponding to the northern arm of modern Tower Street (flanked by the northern edge of the Discovery Centre site) appears to have been in existence by 1300 (Keene 1985, fig. 72). It may have originated as a lane along the south side of the



Fig. 3.1 Plan of all features, Phase 4.1 (c. 850-950)



Fig. 3.2 Plan of all features, Phase 4.2 (c. 950–1050)

parish church of St Saviour that is first recorded in 1172, and may have existed in the mid 11th century (Keene 1985, 643), but ultimately it led to the North Gate.

No part of Snitheling Street was seen in the present excavations, but early surfaces of Brudene Street were recorded and are described below. The archaeological results are presented here in relation to the late Saxon street layout, on the east and west frontages of Brudene Street (Properties BE 1–5, BW 1–6), and on the east frontage of Snitheling Street (Properties SE 1–3).

Property boundaries

During the later medieval period the area of the present excavations appears to have been all but abandoned for occupation, and was largely turned over to gardens and orchards until 19th-century redevelopment (see Chapter 1). As a result, little evidence of late Saxon and medieval property boundaries survives either in early maps and plans, or in the modern topography of the area. On the Northgate House site the only evidence for boundaries that survived into the later medieval and post-medieval period were the 13th-century and later boundaries of the Archdeacon of Winchester’s property, which may be depicted by Godson’s 1750 Map of Winchester (see Chapter 1, Fig. 1.7c).

Given the lack of documentary evidence, the reconstruction of the bounds of the late Saxon and early medieval properties that we propose here was achieved almost wholly on the archaeological evidence alone. The basis on which individual property boundaries were identified is set out in Table 3.5. The lack of later medieval and post-medieval occupation on the site meant that there

were few long-lived boundary features such as stone walls. Only two such boundaries were found on the site. Both relate to later medieval masonry structures but their origins could be shown to date from the late Saxon period. A substantial wall footing (see Chapter 4, Phase 6) probably marked the south boundary of the Archdeacon’s residence in the 13th to 14th centuries and lay *c* 1 m north of the boundary predicted (albeit tentatively) by analysis of the documentary evidence (Keene 1985, fig. 72 Property 247). This replaced an earlier fence that was abutted to the north by structures and pits of late Saxon and early medieval date (see Property BW 2 below and Chapter 4). Similarly, on the east side of Brudene Street the south side of a medieval cellar and adjoining boundary wall (see Chapter 4, Property BE 5) corresponded closely with the south boundary of Property 269 (Keene 1985, figs 72–4), a boundary that could also be shown by the archaeological evidence to have originated during the late Saxon period. In a few cases, late Saxon and Anglo-Norman boundaries were indicated by the presence of fencelines.

During excavations at The Brooks in 1987–8 (Scobie forthcoming; see Chapter 5), the evidence of pit grouping and building extents was used to identify individual properties and property boundaries. This was found to correlate closely with property boundaries shown on maps of the area up to and including the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey plan. This methodology has been adopted for the present project. On the east side of Brudene Street, Keene locates the boundaries of several later medieval properties (1985, figs 72–4 Properties 267 West B, 267 West A, 253 and 269) and there is a fairly good correlation with the archaeological evidence (particularly towards the north), which suggests

Table 3.5: Evidence for property boundaries

Property	Archaeological Evidence				Keene Tenement No (1985, Figures 72–74)
	Phase 4.1	Phase 4.2	Phase 5	Phase 6	
BE 1	PC (N)	PC(N)	F(N)	267 West B	
BE 2		PC(N), PC(S)	PC(N)	F(S), PC(N)	267 West A
BE 3	PC(S), PC(N)		PC(S), PC(N)	PC (S)	Unnumbered plot between 267 West A and 253 (Fig. 72)
BE 4		PC(S)/F(N),BR(N)	PC(S), PC, BR (N)	PC(N)	253
BE 5 (W)		F(E), PC (E), F(S)	PC(E)	BR,BW(S), PC(E)	269(S)
BE 5 (E)		F(W)	PC(C)	BR(W), PC (S)	269 (S)
BW 1	F(N)	PC (N)	See BW 2(S)	BW (N)	245/246
BW 2	F, PC(S), BR, PC (N)	BR (N and S)	BR (N and S)	BW (S)	247
BW 3	See BW 2(N), BW 4(S)	See BW 2(N), BW 4(S)	BR (N and S), PC(N)		
BW 4	BR, PC(S), see BW5(S)	BR, PC(S), PC (N)	BR (S), PC (N)		
BW 5	BR(S), BR(N)	BR(S), BR(N)	PC (S)		247/248
BW 6	BR, PC (S)		PC (S)		248
SE 1			BR, PC(S), PC (N)		245/246 (Fig. 72)
SE 2		BR(S), (PC), F?(N)	BR?(S)		247
SE 3	PC (S)				

Key to boundary Evidence: PC: Pit Cluster F: Fence-line BR: Extent of building remains BW: Boundary wall

five properties (BE 1–5). On the west side of Brudene Street the archaeological evidence suggests at least six properties (BW 1–6). The evidence for the Snitheling Street frontage suggests at least three properties (SE 1–3) and a further two (SE A–B) can be construed from the evidence of Cunliffe's excavations (1964).

During analysis it became clear that evidence from some of the properties suggested a more complex pattern, and that some of the proposed properties may have been subdivided into two or more. For example the arrangement of the pit clustering within Property BE 4 suggests the property could be subdivided equally into three separate plots of 1 perch. Similarly the pit clustering within Property BW 4 suggests that this property could be subdivided into two plots measuring 1.0 and 1.1 perches. Elsewhere along this frontage the evidence is less convincing, partially as a result of the lack of excavation within the Properties BW 2 and BW 3. However, where possible subdivisions were identified, pits and any structural elements contained within them were allocated separate stratigraphic group numbers in order to allow for the comparison of differences in the socio-economic evidence.

The configuration of the excavations did not allow the opportunity to investigate the boundaries that defined the rear of the properties and most are likely to have fallen outside the area of the investigations. It is likely that these were originally demarcated by fences rather than more substantial features such as ditches. Documentary evidence (Keene 1985) and the study of the modern topography suggest that the boundaries between the rear of the properties on Brudene Street and Snitheling Street corresponds closely to the extant modern boundaries, particular in the southern part of the site. To the rear of Properties BW 1/2 this corresponds closely to the apparent northwards return of the Archdeacon's wall and the west wall of the adjacent medieval Structure NH8536 within Property BW 1 (see Chapter 4), a boundary apparently respected by earlier pits within the adjacent Property SE 1 (see below). The position of the boundaries to the rear of the properties on the east side of Brudene Street remains uncertain but documentary evidence (Keene 1985) and Godson's map of 1750 suggests that the boundaries lay immediately to the east of the excavations (see Chapter 1, Figs 1.5 and 1.7c).

THE EARLY SURFACES OF BRUDENE STREET

The street surfaces were recorded in section at numerous locations along the west edge of Staple Gardens, illustrated here in Figures 3.3 to 3.7 (see Figs 3.1–2 for location of street sections). Within Properties BW 2 and BW 3 a 5 m length of frontage was fully excavated exposing a thick sequence of hard gravel surfaces that was confined alongside

the eastern edge of the excavated area (Fig. 3.3). By the end of Phase 4.1 it had become completely covered or encroached on by floor levels pertaining to structures. Here three major sequences of metalling and associated silting were identified, the earliest (Street NH8644; see Fig. 3.3) was abutted by (and therefore pre-dated) the earliest structural evidence within Property BW 2 (see Property BW 2, Phase 4.1, Structure NH8625 below). The second metalling (Street NH8607; see Figs 3.3–4) pre-dated the construction of Structure NH8526, though the structure may have been contemporary with the third metalling (Street NH8609; see Figs 3.3–4). Subsequently Structure NH8529 (Property BW 2, Phase 4.1) and its successor Structure NH8530, the latter of pre-Conquest origin, both postdated the latest visible surfaces of the street, by which time it had been totally encroached upon within the excavated area.

The first phase of Street NH8644 (NH4702) directly overlay the surface of the Dark Earth at a point where it had slumped into a slight and extant underlying terrace, at approximately 0.2 m below the level towards the west (see Fig. 3.3). It comprised a single course of tightly packed small flint cobbles that extended for c 3 m from the eastern limit of the excavation. It was directly overlain by a second surface (NH4701) of fine angular flint gravel, the lack of occupation silts between them implying that the second surface was laid soon afterwards. The second surface had become very worn and was overlain by a thick accumulation of trampled green-stained grey silt (NH4700) that also overlay the postholes of Structure NH8625 suggesting that it had ceased to be used (see Property BW 2 structures below). The silt contained sherds of pottery with a flinty reduced brick-earth fabric and chalk-tempered pottery (fabric MBX) with simple undeveloped rims—forms that may indicate a mid-late 9th-century date. Repairs of chalk gravel and chalk were followed by a further accumulation of green-stained silts (NH4595=NH4697) that produced a considerable quantity of animal bone presumably deposited by the occupiers of adjacent structures. Radiocarbon samples from silt NH4697 produced calibrated dates of 770–940 (OxA-17177) and 780–990 (SUERC-13909), recalibrated by Bayesian modelling to 770–890 and 770–920, suggesting a date prior to 920 (see Table 3.4). The silts also produced a bone spindlewhorl datable to the 10th to 11th centuries (SF Cat no. 172) and a few sherds of madder-stained pottery implying dyeing and weaving were undertaken close by.

The second phase of street (Street NH8607) comprised two surfaces of well-compacted orange gravel (NH4690 and NH4685), each up to 0.12 m thick, the latter supporting a hard surface of tightly packed, rounded flint pebbles (see Figs 3.3–4). The earlier surface pre-dated the second structure on the BW 2 frontage (Structure NH8526), though the second surface was contemporary with its use. It

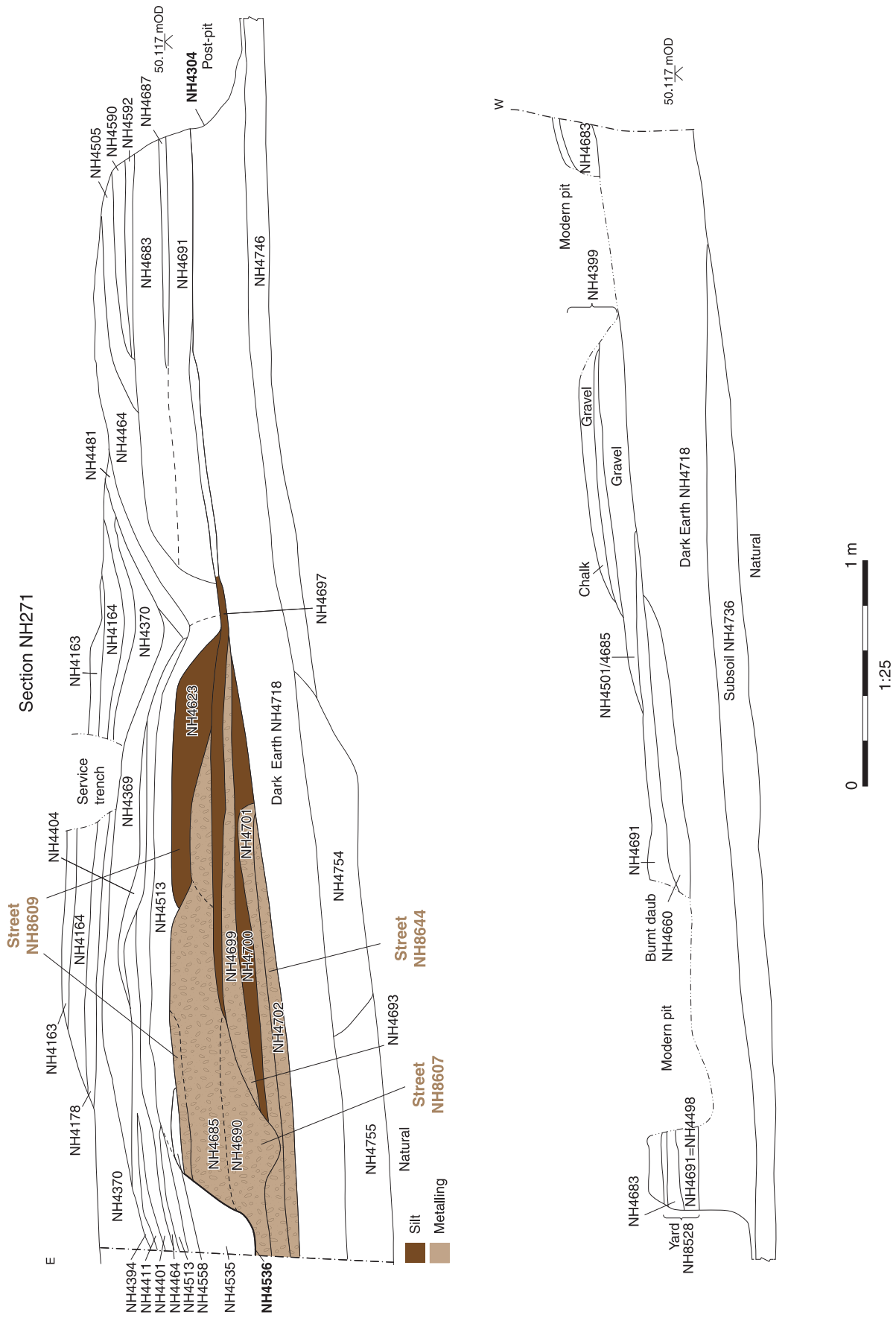


Fig. 3.3 Section through Brudene Street and showing adjacent occupation levels in Property BW 2, Phases 4.1 and 4.2

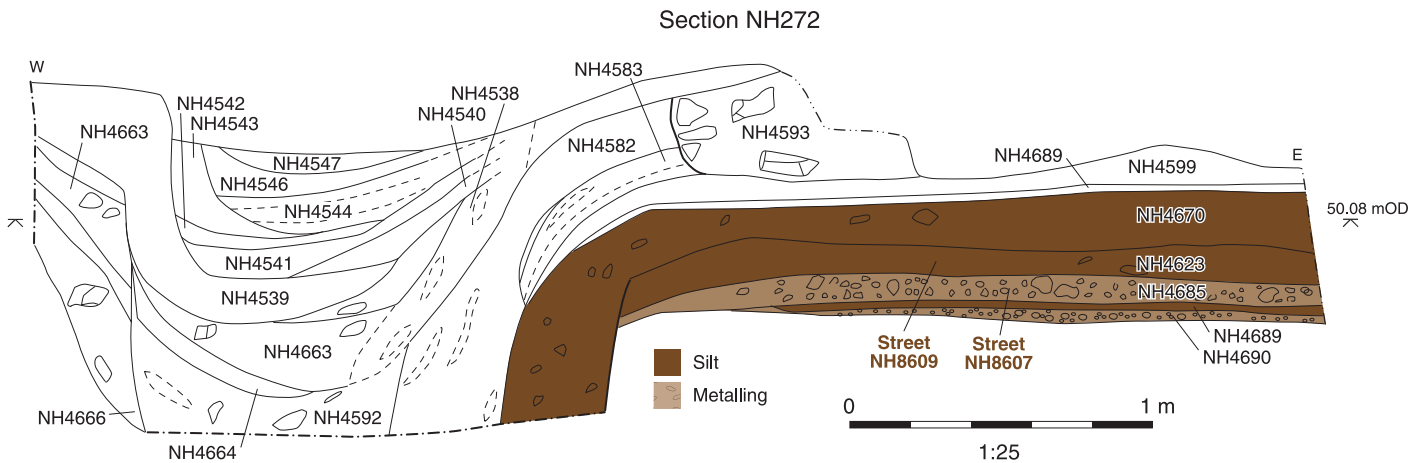


Fig. 3.4 *Brudene Street surfaces (Phase 4.1) and slumping Anglo-Norman deposits exposed on the south side of Property BW 3*

extended *c* 2 m further west than the first phase of street (Street NH8644), implying that the street had been widened at this point. A clayey silt (NH4689) that developed over the first surface (Fig. 3.4) contained a large quantity of chalk-tempered pottery (Fabric MBX) and a sherd of late Saxon sandy ware (Fabric MSH) suggesting a date before 950 (see Cotter, Chapter 7).

The latest visible phase of street (Street NH8609; see Figs 3.3–4) was contemporary with the use of Structure NH8526, seeming to dog-leg around its north side (within adjacent Property BW 3), and was completely encroached on by its successor, Structure NH8529 (see below). It comprised two well-compacted, coarse angular gravel surfaces (NH4684 and NH4644, not on section), each 0.05–0.10 m thick. These surfaces had become very worn and uneven, perhaps as a consequence of use by horse and cart. The earliest surface (NH4684) was overlain by thick trampled greenish silt (NH4623) that contained a large quantity of animal bone and some smithing debris, possibly associated with the nearby structure. The relatively high frequency of dog gnawing on the bones suggests that this rubbish was left to fester in the street. The pottery was predominantly chalk-tempered ware (Fabric MBX), with sherds of late Saxon Sandy ware (Fabric MSH) implying a date before the mid 10th century, despite the presence of two sherds of more flinty ware, tentatively identified as fabric MAV (*c* 950–1050). The later surface showed evidence of repairs (NH4559) with chalk and gravel and was similarly overlain by thick rubbish-rich silts (NH4670).

Within the unexcavated area, close to the boundary with Property BW 1, a succession of compacted gravel surfaces overlain by thick occupation silts were recorded within the sides of a service trench (see Fig. 3.5). The earliest surface (NH4247), directly overlying the Dark Earth

(NH4248), comprised a hard matrix of flint pebbles that was overlain by a second surface of pebbles in a hard reddish clay matrix (NH4246). These surfaces are reminiscent of the earliest phase of street that was excavated further north (see Street NH8644 above), and pre-dated the earliest floors in this area. They therefore probably represent the equivalent surfaces of Brudene Street. A thick silt (NH4244) overlain these surfaces, above which was evidence of later metalling (NH4243).

Within Property BW 4 and pre-dating the earliest structure (Structure NH8566) was a succession of flint surfaces recorded within a beam trench (Street 8565; Fig. 3.6). Like those seen in Property BW 2, they extended *c* 5 m from the east side of the excavation, the earliest surface (NH3730) resting directly upon the surface of Dark Earth (NH3398) that appeared to have been terraced. Two further surfaces (NH3725 and NH3627) directly overlay the earliest surface, the later of them (NH3627) comprising compacted orange gravel up to 0.25 m thick. A small quantity of chalk tempered pottery (Fabric MBX) was found associated with these surfaces. A similar sequence of unexcavated gravel surfaces were recorded within a sewer trench that cut the south side of the property (not illustrated)—the latest of which was overlain by a thick dark grey brown clayey silt (NH3587) that contained much animal bone suggestive of dumping onto a street. Two samples for radiocarbon dating produced consistent calibrated dates of 780–970 (OxA-17173) and 730–970 (SUERC-13907), refined by Bayesian modelling to 830–940. Such dates are comparable to the latest visible gravelled surfaces found within Property BW 2 suggesting that encroachments by structures onto the street within the excavated area had similarly been completed by the mid part of the 10th century.

Further metalling (Street NH8587) was recorded on the east edge of Property BW 5 to the north (seen

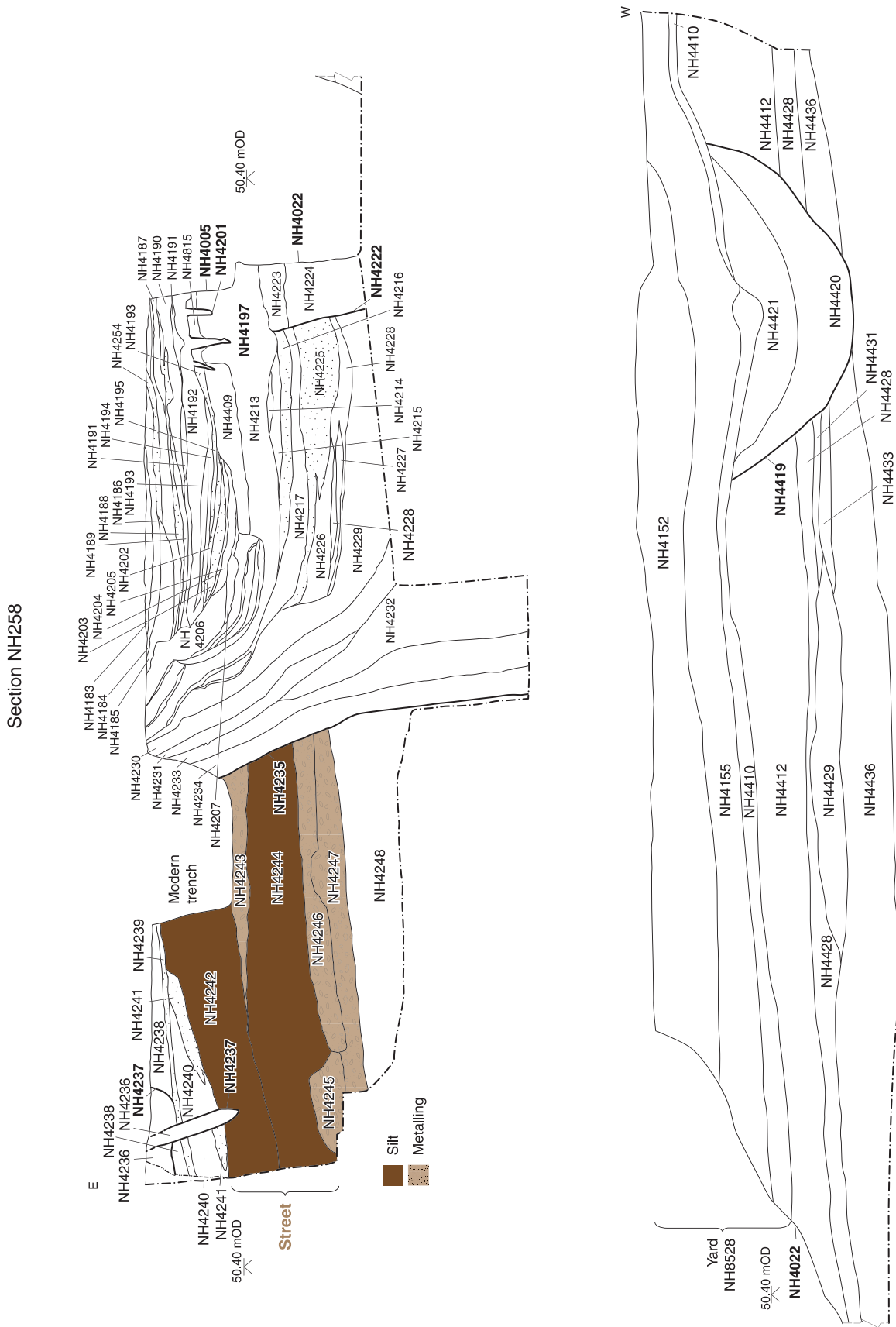


Fig. 3.5 Saxon Brudene street surfaces (unexcavated) and overlying Anglo-Norman floors exposed on the south side of Property BW 2 (slumping into Phase 4.1 cesspit NH4235)

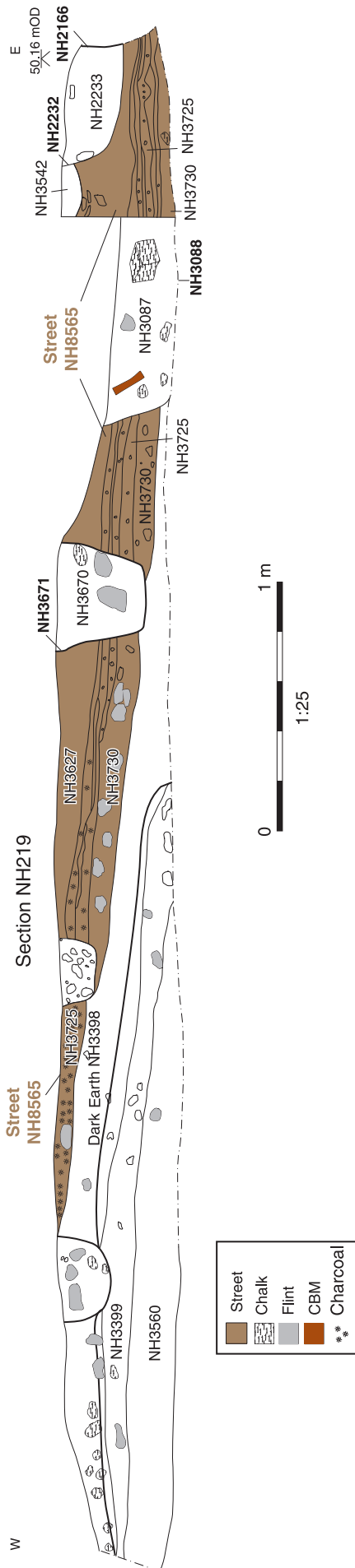


Fig. 3.6 Section through Brudene Street and flanking occupation within Property BW 4

in Figure 3.7), to the south of floor surfaces associated with Structure NH8586. As in Property BW 4, the street surfaces survived where they occupied a terraced area within the Dark Earth (NH2034 and NH2054). The earliest surface (NH2724) comprised a thin spread of redeposited natural gravel, 0.05 m thick, overlain by a thick clay silt (NH2712). This was in turn overlain by a further dump of redeposited natural gravel (NH2333) that was up to 0.4 m thick, which seems to have acted as bedding for overlying tightly packed cobbled surface NH2137 that formed a hard solid surface. Unlike the earlier surface (NH2724), it extended up to 3.3 m west into the excavated area. No similar street surface deposits were seen beneath the floor levels of Structure NH8586. This could mean that the structure had encroached onto the street by this point, or that the cobbled surface in fact represented a lane or passage to the south of the building, rather than part of the street. The only dating from the sequence came from a thick greyish brown clayey silt (NH2213) overlying cobbles NH2137 (not shown on section), which produced sherds of late Saxon chalk tempered ware (Fabric MBX). A small single sherd of flinty ware, possible fabric MAQ (c 1000–1250), if correctly identified and not intrusive, could suggest a date late within this period.

BRUDENE STREET EAST

Property BE 1 (Fig. 3.8)

Phase 4 pits

The pits within this property formed two clusters, separated by a strip of c 1.2 m that was devoid of features. The larger group (Pit Group CC7056), located to the north, comprised six pits that cut through the latest surviving surfaces of the Roman street (Street CC1703; see Chapter 2) implying that the thoroughfare had ceased to function by this date. The southern group (Pit Group CC7058) comprised 5 pits, similarly located largely cutting through the Roman street.

Pit Group CC7056 was characterised by regular rectangular pits. Most were not bottomed, although the largest (CC1100) was augered and found to be 2 m in depth, the basal 0.42 m of fill comprising loosely compact soft green black (cess-like) sandy silt (see Macphail and Crowther, Chapter 8). The vertical and unweathered sides of the pit suggest that it was originally timber-lined or otherwise protected from the elements. Two smaller pits (CC1469 and CC1427), aligned with its southern side, may also have functioned as cesspits, the latter containing mineralised faecal bran. The large vertical-sided circular pit CC1153, 2.1 m in diameter, could have been a well, although at its excavated depth of 0.8 m it contained domestic refuse and possible cess. A small quantity of ironworking debris including slag, furnace fragments and hammerscale was found within pits CC1208 and

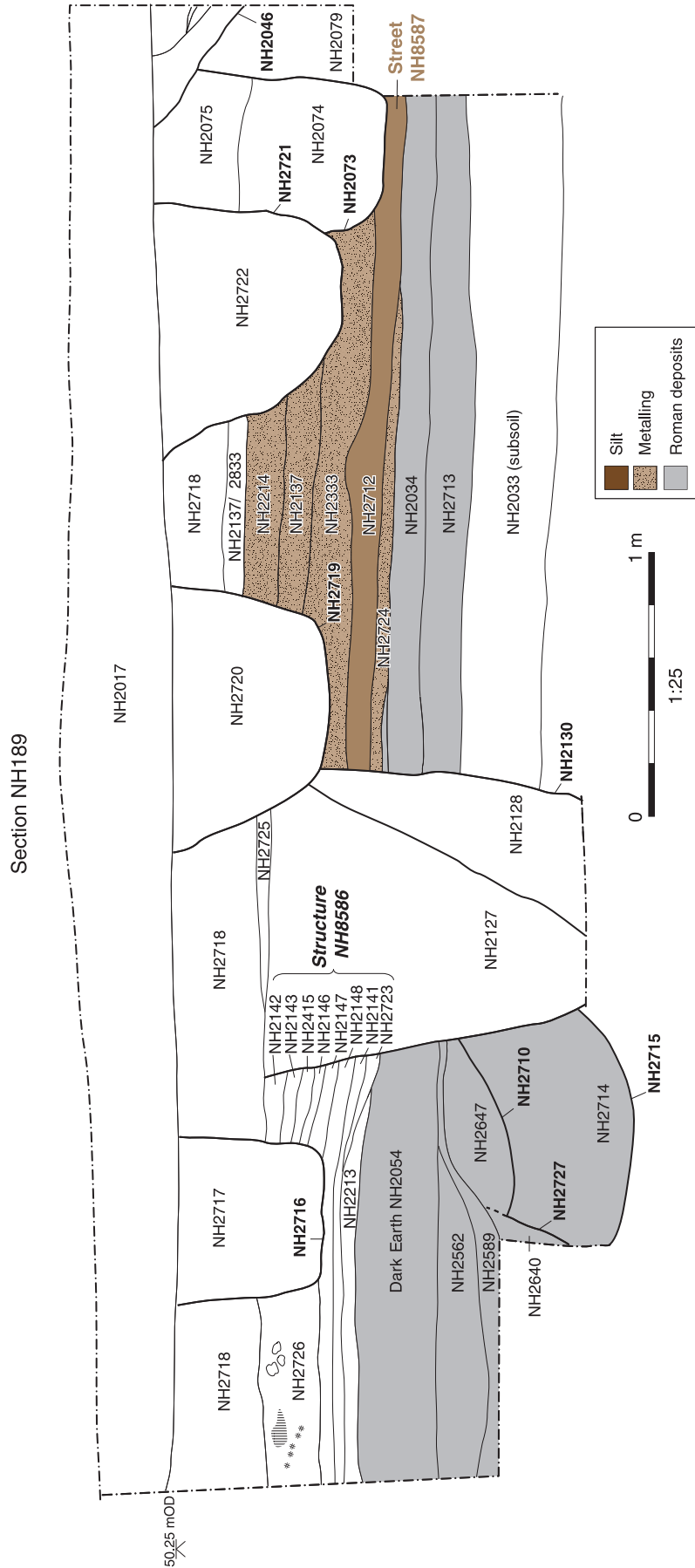


Fig. 3.7 Section through floors pertaining to Structure NH8586 (Property BW 5) and later deposits

CC1427, indicating that smithing was being undertaken in the immediate vicinity, presumably within structures located towards the west. Possible copper-alloy slag from pit CC1100 suggests the production of more elaborate items and a copper alloy mount with traces of gilding was also found within the pit (SF Cat no. 341; see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.31).

The southern group (Pit Group CC7058) contained five pits. The largest, rectangular pit CC1010, measured 3.7 m across and was excavated to a depth of 1.24 m. It contained a rich and diverse assemblage of animal and fish remains, with cessy fills including mineralised faecal remains. The pit also contained ash and charcoal-rich tips containing iron slag, hammerscale flakes and cinder, suggesting sweepings from a nearby smithy. Smaller rectangular pit CC1346, although containing some cess-like fills, produced predominantly iron metalworking waste, including much slag and a large part of a smithing hearth bottom. The remaining three pits within this group were shallow and of indeterminate purpose, although they contained some domestic refuse.

Property BE 2 (Figs 3.8–9; Plate 3.1)

Phase 4.2 pits

Three groups of pits were identified within Property BE 2. Pit Group CC7007, consisting of five pits, was located within the southern half of the property. Pit Group CC7013 comprised two pits located against the proposed northern boundary of

the property. Sequences of floor deposits from later structures that had slumped into two of the pits in these groups are described separately under Group CC7009 and Group CC7014 below. Pit Group CC7012 comprised at least three pits that were not excavated because of time constraints, and are not described any further.

Within Pit Group CC7007, only pit CC1339 was excavated to its base, the remainder being excavated only to mitigation level. Three of the pits were rectangular in plan (CC1397, CC1522 and CC1339) and, with circular pit CC1234, may have lain along a boundary with the property to the south. Pit CC1522 contained cess-like fills at its excavated depth, and an equal-armed balance (SF Cat no. 211; see Chapter 7 Fig. 7.27) and a padlock key (SF Cat no. 303) were recovered from its upper backfill. These objects are datable to the 10th to 13th century, and are indicative of the weighing and storage of precious items nearby. Pits CC1397 and CC1339 probably also served as cesspits; the former presumably contained decayed organic material within its lower unexcavated fills, since its upper excavated fills comprised a sequence of severely slumped compacted chalk deposits (Group CC7009 below). It is possible that circular pit CC1234 may have served as a well although this was not tested by augering. The sixth pit (CC1392) was set back immediately to north of the others, implying that it may represent the latest pit to be dug. A small quantity of iron smithing debris was recovered from pits CC1234, CC1339 and CC1392.

To the north, Pit Group CC7013 represented the earliest pits identified alongside the presumed



Plate 3.1 Floor group CC7014, slumped into pit CC1352, Property BE 2, Phase 4.2, looking east

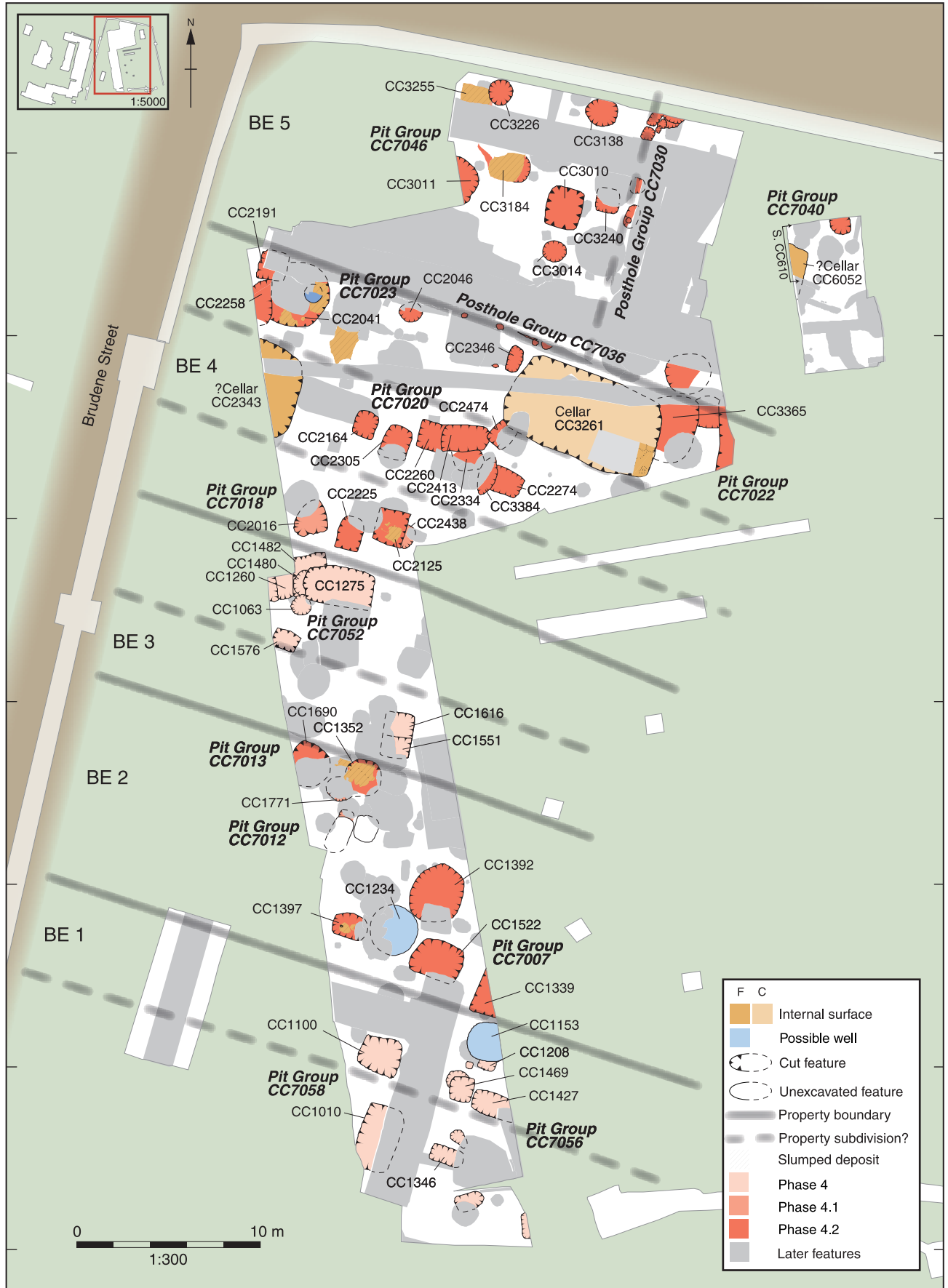


Fig. 3.8 Brudene Street (East), Plan of all features, Phase 4 (850–1050)

boundary with Property BE 3 within an area possible occupied by a structure later in the phase (Fig. 3.9). It comprised three pits, two of which (CC1771 and CC1690) had been largely removed by later pitting. The third (CC1352) contained possible slumped floors to its excavated depth and is discussed below (Group CC7014).

Phase 4.2 structural evidence

Slumping into two of the pits were a succession of possible floor deposits, suggesting that structures had occupied the area soon after the infilling of the pits. Group CC7014 represented the upper fills of pit CC1352, located adjacent to the northern

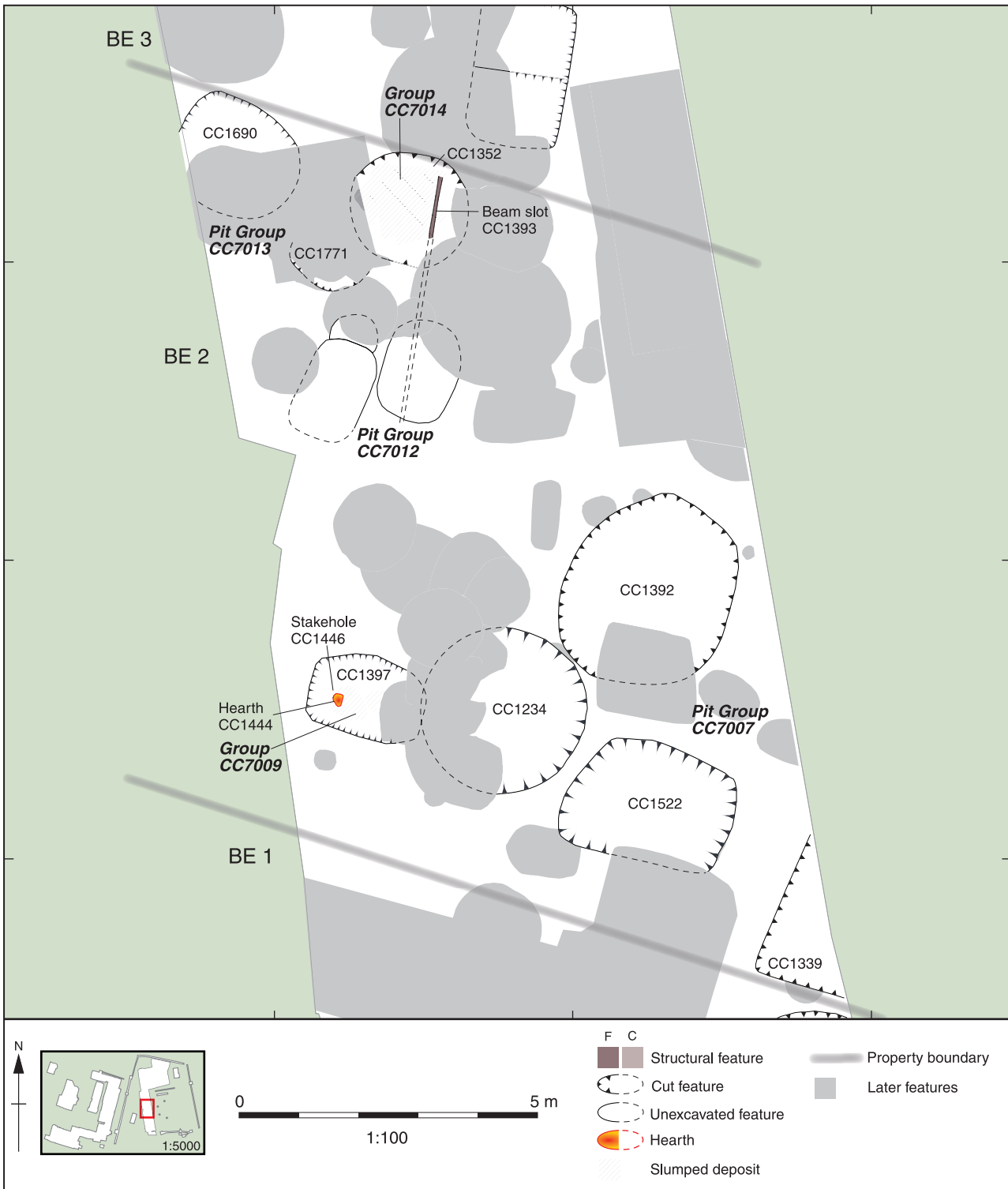


Fig. 3.9 Plan showing slumped floor groups CC7009 and CC7014 within Property BE 2, Phase 4.2

boundary of the property, and Group CC7009 those within pit CC1397 against the southern boundary.

Group CC7014 (Fig. 3.9; Plate 3.1)

The excavated fills of pit CC1352 comprised a sequence of interleaved deposits of thick compacted chalk and firm charcoal or ash-rich silts (Group CC7014), the earliest of which had slumped almost vertically from the top of the pit to its excavated level of 1 m. Given the nature of this sequence it is likely the deposits postdate the filling of the pit and derived from overlying occupation deposits that had sunk into a deep hollow formed as a consequence of the decay of underlying soft organic fills located below the excavated levels of the pit. Within the sequence was a straight narrow flat-bottomed slot (CC1393) that crossed the pit from north to south for a length of 1.24 m. It measured 0.09 m in width and 0.07 m in depth and appeared to have delimited the eastern extent of the possible floor deposits. It would have been too narrow to have held a beam for an external wall, so perhaps it supported an internal panel screen.

Micromorphological analysis of the deposits suggests that they represented coarse and fine fragmented floor deposits derived from domestic kitchen waste (see Macphail and Crowther, Chapter 8, thin sections CCM130B and CCM130A). The charcoal deposits contained a rich and diverse selection of animal and fish remains confirming the micromorphological analysis that they represented sweepings from a nearby domestic hearth within a kitchen. The presence of hammerscale implies that iron smithing was also being undertaken close by. The deposits also produced several closely datable objects including a riveted bone mount (SF Cat no. 313; mid 10th–late 11th century), a bone spindle whorl (SF Cat no. 168; 10th–11th century) and most notably an elaborately decorated bone spatula (SF Cat no. 189; late 10th–early 11th century; see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.26). The spatula has a very distinctive style of figurative incised decoration, which featured an acanthus or flower-like motif.

Group CC7009 (Plate 3.2)

The earliest excavated fills of pit CC1397 comprised a succession of three thick and compacted chalk surfaces interleaved with thin loose spreads of clean brown-grey silts. These generally contained few finds, apart from CC1531 which contained some sherds of MAV ware indicating a date after the mid 10th century. The latest chalk floor was cut by stake-hole CC1446 providing further evidence for the structural nature of these deposits. Overlying these levels was a well-laid surface of yellowish mortar (CC1437) with a heavily scorched area (CC1444) on its southern side, indicating the position of a hearth. This was overlain by a thin charcoal-rich silt containing a high concentration of both flake and spherical hammerscale, which would imply *in situ* iron smithing. An abundance of charred hazelnut shells (representing the sole evidence for fruit and



Plate 3.2 Floor CC1437 (Group CC7009) with scorched area (?hearth) slumped into pit CC1397, Property BE 2, Phase 4.2, looking west

nuts) suggests the shells were used as fuel for smithing and metalworking (see Carruthers, Chapter 8). Re-flooring with compacted chalk followed, overlain by a thick succession of mostly charcoal-rich silts and ash that contained further hammerscale, a smithing hearth bottom and possible smithing slag. This appears to have represented a sustained period of activity since several sherds of post-Conquest pottery were associated with the latest levels. An abundance and wide variety of animal and fish remains also suggests that food was being prepared/consumed within the immediate area.

The floors were similar to those slumped into pit CC1352 (Group CC7014) located some 7 m to the north, and could form part of similar structures, possibly associated with cooking and craftworking within backyard areas.

Property BE 3 (Fig. 3.8)

Phase 4 pits

At total of nine pits have been allocated to the late Saxon period, although it was not possible to subdivide these between Phases 4.1 and 4.2. Six of the pits (Pit Group CC7052) formed an intercutting sequence against the proposed northern boundary of the property, with a further two pits located close to the proposed southern boundary, and one roughly centrally located between them. There was a notable lack of evidence for any pits to the east of Pit Group CC7052, which persists into

Phase 5 (see Chapter 4), suggesting the possibility that a *c* 2 m wide strip here may have been set aside for access.

The pits of Pit Group CC7052 appear to have been cut sequentially from west to east. These pits were characteristically rectangular in shape, becoming larger over time. The original function of the pits is uncertain, although pit CC1482 was augered and found to be 2.74 m deep with organic cess-like rich brown silt near its base. All these pits could have served as successive cesspits, although only the upper backfills were excavated, containing domestic refuse. The earliest pit, CC1260, contained a fairly diverse selection of animal bone and a possible bronze stylus tip (SF Cat no. 219). Shallow circular pit CC1063, which cut the southern edge of this pit, contained furnace mould and crucible fragments and a 10th- to 11th-century bone lucet (SF Cat no. 292) that may have been used for textile working.

Pit CC1576 probably also originally functioned as a cesspit. At its excavated depth of 1.45 m it contained stained compacted chalk that could have acted as a seal for underlying cess before the pit was used for rubbish disposal. The upper fill of the pit contained a particularly rich and diverse assemblage of animal, fish and marine shell deposits. The presence of deer and a variety of sea fish (including sea bream, plaice, thornback and mackerel) implies that the occupants enjoyed a wide variety of food. A bone spatula could offer further evidence for

the perhaps higher status of the occupants.

Rectangular pits CC1616 and CC1551, located close to the southern boundary of the property, may have served a different purpose from those situated to the north. These pits were bottomed at 0.85 m and 0.9 m respectively and were filled with sequences of interleaved dumps of burnt clay and charcoal-rich silts indicative of an industrial process. Neither pit contained any slag or other metalworking debris, but pit CC1551 produced some fragments of vitrified hearth-lining implying that some process that required a high temperature was being undertaken. This pit also produced a bone eyed weaving implement (SF Cat no. 178) datable to the 11th to mid 12th century.

Property BE 4 (Figs 3.8, 3.10–11; Plates 3.3–4)

Phase 4.2 pits

Pit Group CC 7018

A group of four pits (Pit Group CC 7018) were located near to the southern boundary of Property BE 4 (Fig. 3.8). Rectangular pits CC2225 and CC2125 were probably cesspits, but pits CC2438 and CC2016 were somewhat irregular and shallow, and their function is not clear. Rectangular, straight sided pit CC2225 (Plate 3.3) measured 1.78 by 1.4 m in plan and was fully excavated to its base, reached at a depth of 1.5 m.

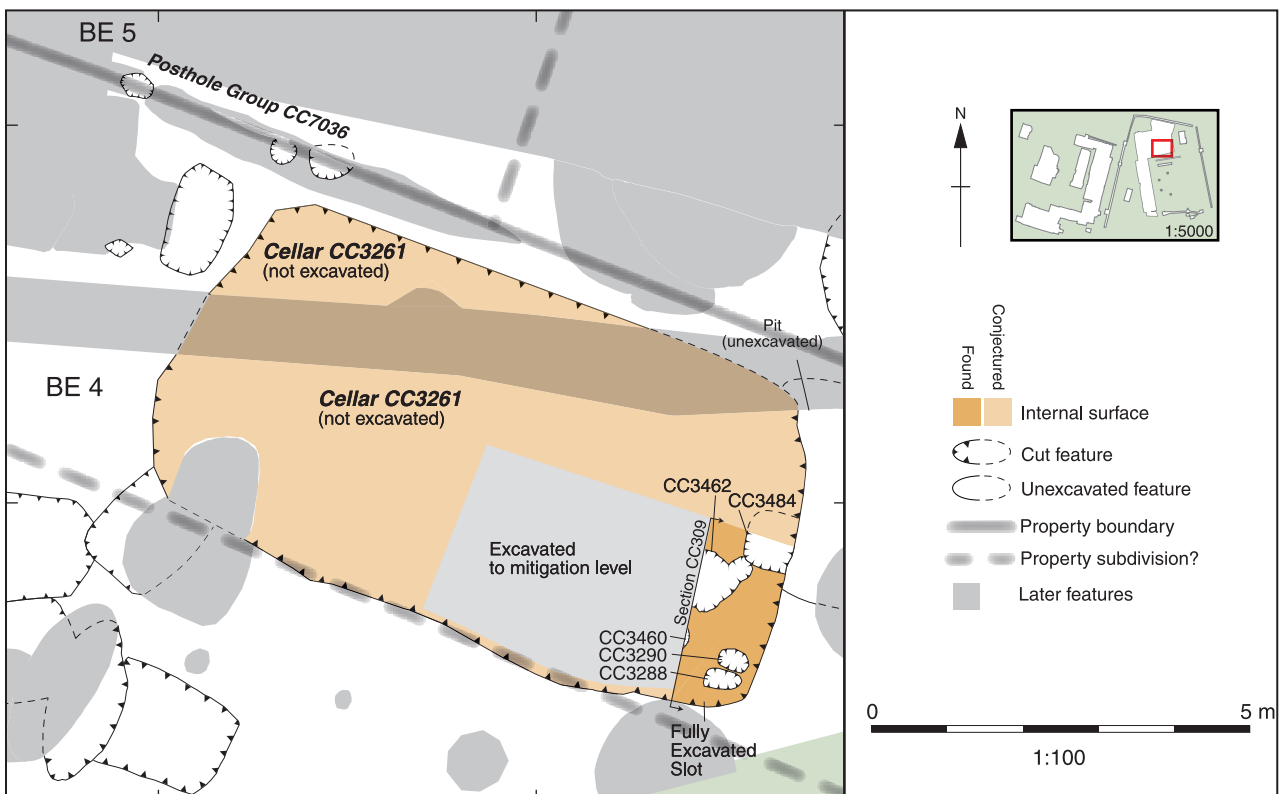


Fig. 3.10 Plan of cellar CC3261 (Property BE 4), Phase 4.2

Its basal fills contained cess-rich silts with one fill (CC2449) consisting of over 90% faecal concretions. The presence of frog and toad remains within bottom fill CC2458 suggests that the pit was left open at least long enough for these creatures to fall into it. The cess also contained a rich assemblage of diet indicators including cherry, plum, celtic beans, fish (predominantly herring and eel) and herbs/spices (including garlic, mustard seed and hedge parsley). The notable presence of opium poppy seeds suggests the alleviation of pain or perhaps the spicing-up of a monotonous diet (see Carruthers, Chapter 8). The pit also contained hammerscale and a bone spindlewhorl (SF Cat no. 170) indicating that smithing and spinning were undertaken by the occupants. Butchered horse bones were also present; such meat was probably for feeding dogs since horse meat was not normally eaten in late Saxon England (see Strid, Chapter 8). Adjacent pit CC2125 was of similar dimensions but was not bottomed at 0.7 m (mitigation level), but presumably also represented a cesspit. Hammerscale and several iron blades/knives (SF Cat no. 276,

269) add to the evidence for smithing in the vicinity. The pit also contained sherds of pottery stained with purple madder and an eyed weaving implement (SF Cat no. 180 dated 11th to mid 12th century), providing evidence for textile working.

Pit Group CC7023

A number of pits attributed to Phase 4.2 (CC2258, CC2191, CC2041, CC2046, CC2346) were identified along the northern boundary of the property, although they had been heavily truncated by construction of a Second World War air raid shelter here (Fig. 3.8). Three formed an intercutting cluster. The earliest of this group was pit CC2191, which was much truncated, small and rectangular. It was not fully excavated but probably represents a cesspit. A bone (possibly ivory) pin-beater of 5th- to 10th-century date (SF Cat no. 174), used to adjust the weft whilst weaving, was recovered from the pit. Sub-circular pit CC2041 cut its east side, and measured about 3.3 m across. Although not fully excavated, its underlying fills were presumably soft and organic (cess?) to account for the considerable slumping of

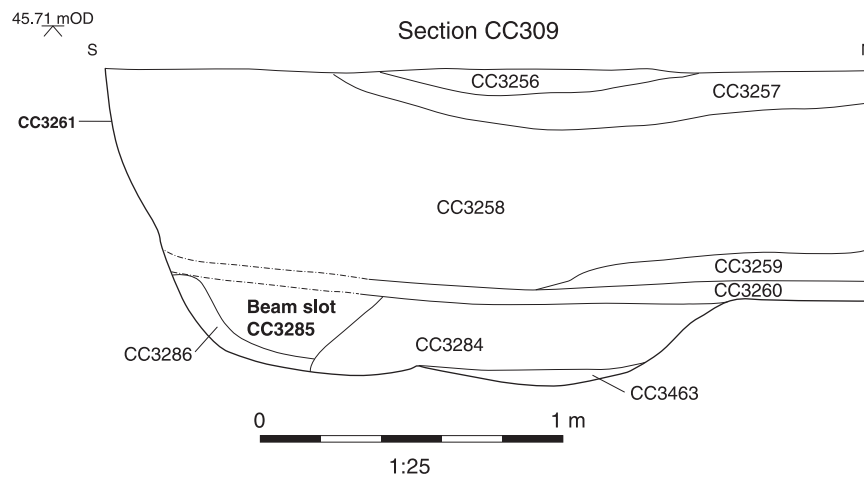


Fig. 3.11 Section through cellar CC3261 (Property BE 4), Phase 4.2



Plate 3.3 Cess pit CC2225, Property BE 4, Phase 4.2, looking west



Plate 3.4 Cellar CC3261, as excavated, Property BE 4, Phase 4.2, looking west

overlying floor deposits (see Group CC7024, below). The latest pit, a much truncated rectangular pit (CC2258) was shallow, at 0.82 m depth, with well-preserved cess at its base (CC2259). This cess layer contained a diverse selection of fish remains, predominantly eel, but including other freshwater fish (gudgeon, carp, trout) and a small selection of marine fish (ray, herring). Also notable were a selection of pulses including field bean, peas and other legumes. Pit CC2046 to the east was circular, with a diameter of 1.2 m, and could have served as a well, perhaps the forerunner to the elaborate chalk-lined well later located immediately to its west (see Phase 5 below). A brown-stained silt against its edges may have represented evidence for a timber-lining, although this could not be determined at the depth excavated.

Immediately to the south was a much larger, rectangular pit CC2343. Although only partially exposed, it measured *c* 5 m across, its excavated fills comprising a homogeneous mid-grey soil, possibly indicative of rapid infilling. Augering of its unexcavated fills revealed its total depth to be 2 m, with its basal fill comprising laminated deposits of moderately compacted chalk suggesting trampled floor deposits. On the basis of the observed dimensions of this feature, and the nature of its fills, it is suggested that it was a cellar pit.

Pit Group CC7020

This group represented seven square/ rectangular pits, all measuring 1.2–1.4 m across (Fig. 3.8). They were located centrally and towards the east of Property BE 4 in an area that remained essentially unexcavated below a maximum depth of 0.3–0.6 m. No geoarchaeological probing was available since there was no further impact from the development below the levels excavated. Consequently only general suggestions can be made concerning their likely function and distribution, although several contained artefactual and environmental evidence worth commenting on. Four of the pits (CC2260, CC2413, CC2334, CC2474) were stratigraphically earlier than cellar CC3261 (see below) and these formed a 'linear' cluster, the latest (CC2474) located to the east. It is conceivable that western outliers (CC2305, CC2164) were dug before the cluster to their east. Pit CC2413 contained two large fragments of smithing hearth bottoms and sherds of rare late Saxon wheel-thrown pottery, North French greyware (875–1000)—the only sherd found on the site (Fabric MFGY; see Cotter, Chapter 7)—and Portchester Ware (925–1050; Fabric MBN; see Cotter, Chapter 7). Many of the pits contained green-stained fills implying that most served as cesspits although only pit CC2164 was excavated to a sufficient depth to provide a rich enough sample for analysis, confirming the presence of mineralised faecal concretions (with bran). The pit was also particularly rich in fish remains, largely eels, but including herring, mackerel and ray. Sloe (or cherries), celtic field beans and peas were also being

consumed. Pit CC3384 (possibly one of the latest) produced a key for a mounted lock (SF Cat no. 307) that compares with similar examples found in mid 11th- to mid 13th-century contexts elsewhere at Winchester (Goodall in Biddle 1990, 1028 nos. 3781–85, fig. 327). However, the pottery from the pit would suggest a pre-Conquest date. Perhaps significantly, a barrel padlock (SF Cat no. 305; see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.30) of 10th- to 11th-century date was found with adjoining Phase 5 pit CC2373 (see below), although this had cut into earlier late Saxon pit CC2474 and is possibly residual from it.

Pit Group CC7022

A group of three pits to the east of cellar CC3261 (see below) were left unexcavated, as their upper levels remained below mitigation level (Fig. 3.8). All three are presumed to be post-Roman in date since they cut Roman Street CC1703 (see Chapter 2). One of the pits (CC3365) was also cut by cellar CC3261.

Structural evidence—Cellar CC3261

(Figs 3.10–11; Plate 3.4)

Located towards the rear of the property was a large rectangular pit that measured 8.5 by 4.6 m in plan, its longer northern edge flush against the boundary with Property BE 5. Its south-west edge appeared to have clipped but otherwise respected the latest pit that formed part of the largely unexcavated Pit Group CC7020 (see above). All but the very upper part of its fills lay below mitigation level but they appeared to comprise two main episodes of infilling, probably in rapid succession. The earlier comprised dumps of chalk that were deposited from its west side, followed by dumps of fairly homogeneous loamy soil. Its (surviving) depth of 1.2 m was revealed by the excavation of a slot along its east side, against its south-east corner (Fig. 3.11). Several shallow postholes measuring less than 0.05 m depth were found cutting the base of the feature and are interpreted as bracing posts that may have held horizontal timbers lining its east side. Two of the postholes (CC3288 and CC3290) formed a pair and were located on its south-east corner while a third was located 1.1 m along the eastern edge. There was evidence for a possible beam void (CC3285) along its southern side but this could not be established with any certainty within the limited area excavated. No trampled deposits that could be attributed to floor deposits were identified although thin and loose ashy silt that overlay the base may have been derived from timber planking above or alternatively from the dismantling of the structure.

Property BE 5 (Figs 3.8, 3.12; Plate 3.5)

Phase 4.2 boundaries

Property BE 5 contained clear evidence for an early boundary (Posthole Groups CC7036, CC7030). Posthole Group CC7036 comprised a straight line of

four circular postholes that had diameters of between 0.3 and 0.6 m and varied in depth from 0.08 to 0.35 m. It is probable, given the degree of truncation that has occurred, that they were originally significantly deeper. All were filled with a similar greyish brown silty clay, and two also contained sherds of late Saxon chalk and flint-tempered ware (fabric MAV) suggesting a date after *c* 950. They may have represented a timber precursor to boundary wall CC7337 (see Phase 6, Chapter 4), since they directly underlay its foundations and followed its alignment exactly.

However, the postholes did not extend eastwards beyond the north-west corner of possible cellar CC3261 (see above), implying a degree of contemporaneity with the structure. To the west, the boundary was truncated, but otherwise respected, by the construction of the south wall of cellar CC7044 (see Phase 5, Chapter 4). Also, if projected westwards, it would be respected by Pit Group CC7023 (Property BE 4, Phase 4.2) and medieval well CC2039 (Property BE 4, Phase 5) to its south.

At right-angles to Posthole Group CC7036 was a second line of postholes (Posthole Group 7030) that were cut (but otherwise respected) by Phase 6 pit CC3220 to the west and similarly by the west wall of medieval structure CC7038 to the east (see Phase 6, Chapter 4). They also apparently delimited the eastern extent of Phase 4.2 Pit Group CC7046 (see below), implying that Property BE 5 may have been sub-divided in two tenements at an early date (hereafter BE 5 (W) and BE 5 (E)). An eastwards return of the boundary was suggested by the presence of two early postholes on the line of the demolished brick and flint wall that until recently delimited the present street frontage. Here, two very truncated postholes were seen beneath the wall during its reduction to foundation level. The

postholes of Posthole Group 7030 were fairly large, up to 1.1 m across, and were presumably originally significantly deeper than their surviving depths of 0.1–0.3 m, given the degree of truncation that had occurred in the area. As such, they seem too substantial for simple fence posts, and it is possible that they formed part of the wall of a structure located within proposed Property BE 5 (E). The postholes at the street frontage were replaced on at least one occasion, implying some longevity of this structure/boundary. Due to subsequent disturbances it not clear whether the postholes originally extended southwards to meet the boundary (Posthole Group CC7036) between Properties BE 4 and BE 5. However, later structures in this area (Phase 5 pit CC3322 and Phase 6 well CC3077) appear to respect this alignment, arguably occupying a position immediately inside the south-western corner of Property BE 5 (E).

Phase 4.2 Property BE 5 (W)

Pit Group CC7046

The earliest phase of pitting comprised nine largely discrete rectangular or circular pits. Several of the pits (CC3010, CC3184, CC3226 and CC3138) contained structural evidence datable to Phase 5 (see CC3031–35, Chapter 4, Phase 5) slumped within their upper fills, indicating that they pre-date structures identified within the area. Two circular pits (CC3138, CC3226) measuring respectively 1.8 m and 1.3 m in diameter flanked the existing frontage of Tower Street, presumably the northern boundary (and contemporary street frontage?) of the property. Pit CC3138 was augered and found to be 2.7 m in depth. It contained a thick chalky, compact dark grey brown silt clay at its base

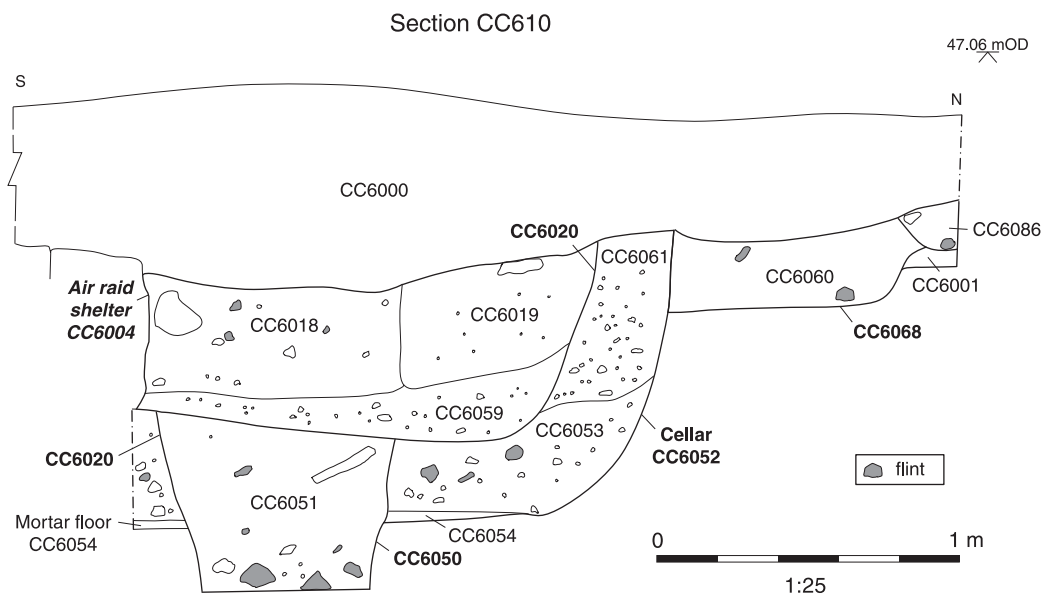


Fig. 3.12 Section through ?cellar CC6052 (BE 5 East) and later features

overlain by further apparent episodes of rapid infilling with well-consolidated clays and chalk. The lack of organic deposits seems to preclude its use as a cesspit and given that its depth was significantly above the known water-table, it could not have served as a well. It is possible that pit CC3226 served a similar purpose though its earliest excavated fill comprised a ?capping of burnt clay, possibly derived from a process that utilised considerable heat. Similarly circular pit CC3014, (bottomed at a depth of 0.6 m) seems to have been used for a purpose other than rubbish disposal given the lack of such material from its fills. It is likely that rectangular pits CC3010 and CC3184 contained soft organic fills below their excavated levels to account for the considerable slumpage of overlying occupation/consolidation deposits that had occurred. The earliest excavated fills of both pits contained much domestic refuse, including butchered horse bones and a smithing hearth bottom from pit CC3184. Rectangular pit CC3011 (partially exposed) to the west, and truncated pit CC3240 adjacent to the eastern boundary, may also have originated as cesspits before their final use as rubbish pits.

Structural Evidence

Evidence for possible occupation surfaces within proposed Property BE 5 (W) survived slumped into pit CC3184 (Group CC7035). The earliest

comprised compacted chalk (CC3128) over which was a dark brown clay silt, followed by a succession of compacted chalk or gravels interleaved with grey silts. These deposits overlay the latest fills of the pit, comprising compact chalk rubble and gravelly silt, possibly capping the pit, and therefore cannot have been used to seal underlying cess or other pungent organic matter. Their laminated nature suggests a prolonged period of accumulation implying that they may represent surfaces, occupation and make-up levels associated with an overlying structure. A possible pine marten bone, a species valued for their fur, which was reserved for the aristocracy during the medieval period, was recovered from one such deposit. Also recovered was a copper alloy pin, possibly used for an annular brooch or buckle, and dated from the later 12th to 15th centuries. However, such a date does not correspond with the ceramic dating (predominantly fabric MAV with some Winchester ware), which implies a pre-Conquest date. Further occupation deposits survived slumped over pits to the south and may represent later extensions to the structure to which these deposits pertain (Phase 5, Groups CC7031–34).

Phase 4.2 Property BE 5 (E)

Only two features attributable to the pre-Conquest period were found within Property BE 5 (E), both



Plate 3.5 ?Cellar pit CC6052 showing floor CC6054 on its base, Property BE 5 (E), Phase 4.2, looking west

confined to the north-west corner of the sprinkler tank excavation (Pit Group CC7040). Vertical sided pit CC6052 was partially exposed, but probably rectangular, and was bottomed at a depth of 1.1 m (Fig. 3.12; Plate 3.5). Its base contained a thin and compact mid-light brown/beige chalky mortar (layer CC6054 on Fig. 3.12) that probably represented a floor, over which was homogeneous loamy soil, indicative of rapid infilling. Although too little of this feature was exposed to allow detailed interpretation, it may have been part of a cellar, and is comparable in depth to cellar CC3261 within adjacent Property BE 4 (see above), although it lacked any evidence for timber lining. A shallow pit of uncertain function was located to its north-east.

BRUDENE STREET WEST

Property BW 1

Phase 4.1 yard and pits

Little of the area of this property was available for investigation (Fig. 3.13), and it had been extensively disturbed by later activity (see Fig. 3.14 below). The earliest evidence comprised a thick spread of redeposited natural gravel (NH4371) that had been laid directly over the surface of the Dark Earth. It was seen in two small exposures within Property BW 1, but appeared similar to and broadly contemporary with the gravel yard found within adjacent Property BW 2 (NH8528), although the evidence for the stratigraphic relationship between them had been removed by a modern trench. The area exposed was too small to warrant further interpre-

tation, suffice to say that it probably represented an exterior yard to the rear of a structure that flanked Brudene Street to the east. A small pit (NH4364) filled with loose gravelly silt and a possible posthole appear to have been associated. Subsequently a thick deposit of dark silty clay containing sherds of madder-stained pottery accumulated over surface NH4371 before a second surface of thick gravel was laid. This was in turn cut by a small and shallow pit (NH4287) containing domestic rubbish.

Phase 4.2 pits

The area seems to have remained open and set aside for the digging of pits, presumably serving the occupants of structures to the east (see Figs 3.14 and 3.16 below). The largest was shallow rectangular pit NH4345 (Fig. 4.16), partially exposed against the limit of excavation, which contained a rounded vertical-sided shaft lined with rammed chalk, suggesting that it may have served as a well (see Section, Fig. 3.5 above). Its excavated fills comprised gravel-rich silts and grey silty loams, indicative of rapid infilling. Pit or well NH4345 cut a vertical-sided circular(?) pit NH4289, that lay largely outside the excavated area (Fig. 3.16), but may also have served as a well. It was seemingly rapidly infilled with alternating dumps of gravel and grey silt to the depth excavated. It also contained hammerscale and burnt hazelnut shells, indicative of smithing activity. A third pit, NH4278 (Fig. 3.16), with similar fills, contained many burnt hazelnut fragments and a disc brooch (SF Cat no. 121; see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.24) datable to the 10th century.



Fig. 3.13 Earliest occupation within Properties BW 1–2, Phase 4.1



Fig. 3.14 Plan of Structure NH8526 and contemporary features (Property BW 2), Phase 4.1

Property BW 2

Phase 4.1 structural evidence (Figs 3.13–15; Fig. 3.3; Plate 3.6)

Relationship between Structures on Property BW 2 and Brudene Street

The earliest post-Roman activity, directly overlying Dark Earth deposits, comprised a number of postholes and deposits associated with burnt daub implying the existence of one or more structures (Structure NH8525) (Fig. 3.13). The relationship between these postholes, successive structures in this location, and successive surfaces of the street to the east, is key to understanding the chronology of the development of the project area in the late Saxon period. The postholes of Structure NH8525 respected the earliest street surfaces and the silts that built up over the top of them (Street NH8644 on Fig. 3.3). This demonstrates that they were in contemporary use, and (arguably) that Structure NH8525 was constructed after the establishment and earliest metalling of Brudene Street. Subsequently Structure NH8525 went out of use and its postholes were sealed by further layers of gravel street surfacing and silt build-up (Street NH8607 on Fig. 3.3). The location of these surfaces suggests that the street had been widened slightly to the west. A second structure, Structure NH8526 (Fig. 3.14), was constructed over the western edge of Street NH8607, thus encroaching slightly on the line of the widened street. The street was subsequently

resurfaced again (Street NH8609 on Fig. 3.3) and Structure NH8526 appeared to respect the west edge of this latest resurfacing, which implies a slight narrowing of Brudene Street again. Street NH8609 was the latest street surface seen in the excavations. The third successive building on the property, Structure NH8529 (Fig. 3.15), subsequently encroached significantly on Brudene Street, extending some 3 m eastwards across the street frontage line associated with Structure NH8526.

Structure NH8525 (Fig. 3.13)

A double line of postholes spaced *c* 1 m apart followed the western edge of the street but did not extend beyond the boundary with Property BW 3, suggesting that it was in existence by this time. A further posthole (NH4740) formed an approximate right-angle to their west, on an alignment close to that of the later boundary between the two properties. The north-south alignment of posts may represent two phases of construction, with the earlier represented by oval postholes NH4716, NH4725 and NH4729, measuring 0.36–0.55 m across with depths of 0.17–0.32 m. The later postholes (NH4721, NH4727, NH4731) to their east were more rounded and substantial with diameters of 0.43–0.59 m and depths of 0.26–0.55 m. All were filled with soils containing flecks of burnt daub, but otherwise almost indistinguishable from the Dark Earth that they cut. None contained dating evidence apart from residual Roman pottery and coins (common throughout the Dark Earth) but they included large brick/tile fragments used for packing.



Plate 3.6 Structure NH8525 showing burnt ?sill-beam NH4734 and hearth NH4733 with postholes forming part of its east wall, Property BW 2, Phase 4.1, looking east

Perpendicular to the southern limit of the postholes was a thin linear spread of dark grey ‘ash’ (NH4734) containing fired clay fragments, possibly representing the impression of a burnt sill-beam (Plate 3.6). It was *c.* 0.21 m wide, surviving for a length of 1.76 m, and suggests that the structure had been subjected to a fierce fire. Immediately to its north a small circular spread of burnt clay that directly overlay the Dark Earth indicates the presence of a hearth (NH4733). An archaeomagnetic sample (WOO) taken from the hearth produced a date of 559–1084. Approximately 1 m further to the north was a small, shallow rectangular pit (NH4713) measuring 0.8 by 0.3 m in area and 0.25 m deep, ‘lined’ with a compact green-stained sandy silt that contained a high concentration of flake hammerscale. This offers convincing *in situ* evidence that secondary smithing was undertaken within the structure, possibly adjacent to its north wall. The pit was backfilled with redeposited Dark Earth that contained fragments of an oven wall, some with the remains of thick white (burnt grey) lime wash on its interior surface and many with interwoven wattle impressions. This possibly represents the remains of a discarded ?domestic oven perhaps used for baking bread, since charred bread-type grain was present within the pit.

Structure NH8643 (Fig. 3.13)

Located some 5 m to the south-west of Structure NH8525 was further evidence for an early structure that, like Structure NH8525, may also have been destroyed by fire. The rather fragmentary remains directly overlay the Dark Earth, and were probably

largely cleared when overlying gravel Yard NH8528 (see below) was constructed. A short length of a possible earth-fast sill (NH4686) was discernible and represented by a thin linear spread of burnt clay aligned parallel with Brudene Street. There was a possible return to the east at its north end implying that it may have represented the north-west corner of the structure. Partially overlying the possible sill but otherwise confined to its east (internal?) side was a dump of fired clay fragments totalling over 8.2 kg in weight (NH4660 and NH4661; not shown on plan) that formed a significant part of a nearby demolished oven, similar in nature to the fragments found within adjacent Structure NH8525. No evidence for flooring was found, though a thin spread of greenish grey silt was recorded below the demolished oven remains. This contained a large fragment of smithing hearth bottom and a significant quantity of iron slag and is perhaps associated with smithing activity that was undertaken within Structure NH8525.

Pit NH4419 (see section on Fig. 3.5 above), was probably contemporary with Structure NH8643, since both predated the earliest surfaces of an overlying gravel yard (Yard NH8528). This pit was roughly circular, measuring 1.44 m in diameter and 0.7 m in depth. It contained a dark silty, slightly organic basal fill with cess patches and had been backfilled with redeposited Dark Earth. Given its proximity to the structure it could have served as a latrine. The pit pre-dated the boundary fence between Properties BW1 and BW 2 (Posthole Group NH8527), suggesting either that the boundary was not in existence at this time or that it lay further to the south.

Structure NH8526 (Fig. 3.14; Plate 3.7)

Rectangular Structure NH8526, probably timber-built, was identified flanking and contemporary with the latest (visible) metallings on the western edge of Brudene Street (Street NH8609). It had seemingly encroached onto the western edge of the earlier street surfaces (Street NH8607) that had overlain the eastern part of earlier Structure NH8525, implying that the earlier structure had been cleared and the area remained open for a period of time. Charcoal from the silting on the earlier Street NH8607 produced calibrated radiocarbon dates of 770–940 and 780–990 (OxA-17177 and SUERC-13909). Bayesian modelling has refined these dates to 770–890 and 770–920 respectively (see Chapter 6). No elements of the walls or frame of the structure survived, and its extent was delimited by the survival of its floor deposits. The walls were probably constructed on earthfast sill-beams, since the northern, eastern and western extents of the floor deposits were often sharply defined, the northern floor limits corresponding closely with the proposed line of the boundary with Property BW 3. The structure seems to have extended no more than 3.8 m back from the street frontage and measured up to 2.9 m wide, its southern extent apparently

delimited by a slight encroachment onto the gravel yard to its south (see Yard NH8528 below).

Its earlier floor (NH4692) comprised compact clay that had been baked hard by intense heat and may have represented a working surface for some industrial process that required a high temperature. Archaeomagnetic sampling (WOM) produced a date of 880–1093. A thin layer of yellow-grey silt above (NH4687) was relatively devoid of charcoal and lacked any evidence for industrial activity (eg hammerscale) though it contained a small quantity of cinder, animal bone and fish remains indicative of domestic activity. Above, a new floor (NH4682) was laid, comprising compacted chalk with a thickness of 0.15 m, suggesting a major refurbishment of the structure. Several large fragments of smithing hearth bottoms and large lumps of iron slag were recovered from the basal level of the floor and had perhaps been used as hardcore. It is unclear whether this material had been brought in from elsewhere or was derived from activity associated with the underlying burnt floor NH4692. A small clay hearth (NH4658) was located near the centre of the inferred south wall. The evidence from the associated thin occupation silts and charcoal spreads suggests that the floor of the structure was kept relatively clean, perhaps indicating a domestic rather than an industrial function. However, one deposit (NH4556) contained

a large quantity of charred hazelnut shells (384 fragments) that might have been collected as kindling for smithing hearths and kilns (see Carruthers, Chapter 8). A second larger clay hearth (NH4557) was associated with a charcoal spread (NH4580) that produced calibrated radiocarbon dates of 780–960 (OxA 17183) and 830–1100 (SUERC-13918). Bayesian modelling refined these dates to 860–950 and 880–950. A Phase 4.1 date is supported by a rather limited pottery assemblage comprising chalk-tempered ware (Fabric MBX).

The structure was then re-floored with compacted chalk (NH4527), which had become heavily worn through use. Further clay hearths (NH4523 and NH4524) were added towards the south wall of the structure and the former was archaeomagnetically dated to 1065–1245 (WOK). This date is considered unreliable since an overlying hearth NH4261 (see Structure NH8529 below) produced a more consistent date of 979–1165 (WOE). This is reinforced by a radiocarbon sample from charcoal spread NH4507 that overlay the hearths, which gave a calibrated date of 780–1010 (SUERC-13920), enhanced by Bayesian modelling to 890–960. This date is in agreement with pottery from occupation silt NH4526 that also overlay the floor, which contained abundant late Saxon chalk-tempered ware (Fabric MBX) and fresh sherds of



Plate 3.7 The latest surface of Brudene Street (Street NH8609) with the chalk floor of Structure NH8526 to its west. (The floor deposits of later Structure NH8529 can be seen overlying the street on the top left-hand corner), Property BW 2, Phase 4.1, looking south-west

late Saxon sandy ware (Fabric MSH), which is conventionally dated to before *c* 950. A small quantity of iron slag was recovered from occupation silt NH4526, but the lack of other evidence for industrial activity suggests that Structure 8526 had a primarily domestic function.

Yard NH8528 (Figs 3.14–15)

An extensive area of gravelled yard (Yard NH8528) was located to the south/south-west of Structure NH8526 and overlay Structures NH8525 and NH8643 (Figs 3.3 and 3.5). The surfaces survived as isolated islands between later pits and disturbances although they were shown to abut the inferred south wall of Structure NH8526. Their southern extent was probably delimited by a line of later postholes (see Posthole Group NH8527 below) that may have defined the southern limit of the property at this time. However, a modern service trench had destroyed the relationship with gravel surfaces (eg NH4371) found within Property BW 1, so it was not possible to establish if the two areas represent the same yard or not, although both were stratigraphically early. At least two surfaces were extant. The earlier (NH4410, Fig. 3.5 and NH4691, Fig. 3.3) comprised fine well-compacted orange gravel *c* 0.1 m thick. The later (NH4152, Fig. 3.5 and NH4683, Fig. 3.3) was more substantial, measuring up to 0.2 m thick and comprising well-compacted angular gravel with occasional larger flint nodules. In the area adjacent to Structure NH8526, the second surface was overlain by trampled silts (NH4592; see section on Fig. 3.3). This contained much animal bone (mainly cattle, pig, sheep/goat), some fish remains (including eel and herring) and a large part of a chalk-tempered spouted pitcher (see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.13, no. 81), presumably dumped from the nearby structure.

Fence Line (Posthole Group NH8527)

Cutting the southern extent of the second surface of Yard NH8528 were postholes NH4283 and NH4158, aligned at right-angles to the street (Figs 3.14–15). Three further postholes (NH4078, NH4060 and NH4067) located further west followed this line exactly, suggesting contemporaneity. This alignment could be traced for a length of nearly 9 m and, if projected 3 m eastwards, would correspond with the southern edge of cesspit NH4235. Postholes NH4158 and NH4283 were more substantial than the others, measuring 0.6 and 0.8 m in diameter respectively; both were 0.35 m deep. The postholes to west were generally smaller measuring 0.3–0.62 m, although they were of similar depth. They lay less than 1 m north of Wall NH4068, which probably delimited the boundary with Property BW 1 during the 13th–14th centuries (see Chapter 4), and could therefore mark a precursor to it.

Structure NH8529 (Fig. 3.15)

Structure NH8526 appears to have been enlarged by at least 3.1 m to the east, forming Structure

NH8529 and thus encroaching significantly onto the surfaces of Brudene Street (see Fig. 3.3) implying that the street had been narrowed at this point. The structure also appears to have been enlarged northwards across the boundary with Property BW 3 by about 1 m and to the south across Yard NH8528, although its western extent seems to have remained unchanged. As with its predecessor it was probably constructed on sill-beams, although these were not identifiable during excavation. The extent of the building was represented by the extent of the floors which were particularly sharply defined along its western and northern sides. A short length of an otherwise truncated shallow slot (NH4536; see section in Fig. 3.3) may have defined its eastern side and had been cut into the underlying street surface. It contained a small circular posthole (NH4537). Overall, the structure may have measured 7.3 m from the street frontage and at least 4.5 m in width, although the southern extent of the floor deposits was not seen as the floors lay below mitigation level.

The structure had a thin floor of compacted chalk (NH4505–4513), measuring no thicker than 0.06 m, that showed evidence for heavy wear (see Fig. 3.3). No major repairs of the floor seem to have occurred, apart from patching with mortar, gravel and chalk. A succession of small baked-clay hearths was recorded within the southern half of the structure. One of the earliest (NH4457), located adjacent to the west wall, may have been delimited by a rectangular arrangement of stakeholes possibly supporting a cauldron or similar cooking vessel. Certainly the associated charcoal sweepings produced no evidence for industrial activity. In contrast, hearth NH4491 was associated with spreads of charcoal and trampled silts that contained evidence for metalworking including flake hammerscale (NH4481) and fragments of crucible, some with copper droplets adhering (contiguous layers NH4464, NH4403, NH4411; see Fig. 3.3). It is possible that the ubiquitous small fragments of fired clay found in these deposits could be from moulds used for the manufacture of small copper (alloy) objects. The pottery associated with the structure at this point comprised predominantly late Saxon chalk-tempered (MBX) ware with some sandy ware (MSH) implying a date prior to 950. A few sherds of the pottery were stained with madder-dye, and another sherd had a hole pierced through it, possibly for use as a spindlewhorl. This suggests that dyeing and spinning were also undertaken within the structure.

The latest hearth (NH4261) was more substantial. It measured 1.2 m across, and the clay (0.2 m thick) had been baked hard throughout, providing a particularly suitable sample for archaeomagnetic dating (WOE). This gave a date range of 979–1165 for its final firing. A charcoal sweeping (NH4394) associated with the hearth produced radiocarbon dates of 780–970 (OxA-17184) and 880–1020 (SUERC-13919), recalibrated by Bayesian modelling



Fig. 3.15 Plan of Structure NH8529 (Property BW 2) and features in Property BW 1, Phase 4.1

to 910–980 and 900–980 respectively. The presence of a sherd of late Saxon wheel-thrown sandy ware (Fabric MZM) in a make-up deposit immediately underlying charcoal NH4401 would suggest that Structure NH8529 continued to be occupied to shortly after 950. Fragments from at least two crucibles (see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.14, no. 88) were recovered from charcoal NH4394 suggesting that the hearth could reach temperatures sufficient to melt the copper. Fragments of a Roman copper-alloy earring (SF Cat no. 30) from the charcoal may have represented metal scrap intended for reworking. The relatively wide range of remains of animals and birds (including domestic fowl, sheep/goat and pig) and fish (mainly herring, but including trout, eel, plaice, cod and flat-fishes) indicate the inhabitants had access to a fairly diverse range of foodstuffs.

Phase 4.1 pits

Six pits were attributable to Phase 4.1 and are therefore broadly contemporary with the structures described above, although it was not generally possible to associate the pits stratigraphically with individual structures. Of these, pit NH4419 has been described above (Fig. 3.13), as there was good evidence that it was contemporary with the earliest structures on this property (Structures NH8525 and NH8643).

Well NH4300 (Fig. 3.14) was located immediately adjacent to the west wall of Structure NH8526 and its successor NH8529 but was sealed by the floors of its westward extension, Structure NH8530 (see below). The pit was rectangular with straight vertical edges and measured 3.1 m by 2.55 m in area. Owing to the considerable subsidence of the overlying floors of later Structure NH8530 it was not possible to investigate its fills below its uppermost deposit of loose orange gravel (NH4362); this was similar to the gravel used to construct Yard NH8528 and suggests a reversion of the area to yard use. Geoarchaeological investigation located the base of the feature at 43.49 m OD (c 6.8 m below the surface), a level 0.57 m above the base of nearby chalk-lined well NH4019 (see Property BW 2 – Phase 5 below), suggesting that it was probably a well. Its basal levels comprised three similar fills of (cessy) dark brown silt, each 0.15–0.4 m thick, separated by voids 0.8 m in depth probably formed as a result of the considerable decay and shrinkage of organic content, suggesting its final use as a cesspit. The primary silt (NH4679) contained fish bones and cereal pollen that had presumably passed through the gut of the inhabitants, the latter implying that individual(s) had been near an arable field or in an area of cereal processing when the pollen was swallowed. The other taxa present suggest the presence or utilisation of heathland (heather), possibly for flavouring a drink, meadow grassland or rough grassland (black knapweed, thistle and grass), possibly for animal fodder or

bedding that was discarded into the cesspit, and woodland (pine). The latter was probably some distance from the site (Vaughan-Williams *et al.* 2005).

Cesspit NH4235 was located within the largely unexcavated area to the south of Structures NH8526 and NH8529 (Figs 3.14–15), although part of its southern side was excavated after overlying levels associated with Structures NH8538 and NH8539 (see BW 2, Phases 4.2/5 below) had been sampled for soil morphology. Although its northern extent was not revealed, evidence from the considerable degree of slumping from the overlying floors suggests that the pit was square and measured c 2.3 m across; an excavated sondage revealed its depth to be c 1.85 m. Its basal levels (see Fig. 3.5 NH 4233–35) comprised cessy grey silts that contained a significant assemblage (2.5 kg) of chalk-tempered ware (fabric MBX), largely from heavily sooted jars that had probably been used for cooking. The pit was also fairly rich in fish bone, with identifiable bones being predominantly from herring, though other fish (flat-fishes, trout and eel) were also present. It is not clear whether the pit was associated with Structures NH8526 and NH8529 or with a structure occupying the frontage to their south that was not seen because this area was not excavated. Flake hammerscale and a small quantity of iron slag also recovered from the pit suggests secondary smithing was undertaken close by, perhaps associated with similar activity that was identified within the earlier levels of Structure NH8529.

Pit segment NH4614 (Figs 3.14–15) lay largely outside the excavated area though it was apparently sealed by Yard NH8528 since its upper fills consisted of slumped orange gravel from the yard surface. The pit probably served as a cesspit though its lower fills remained unexcavated. Similar intersecting pits (NH4560, NH4562, NH4792; Fig. 3.15), located immediately to the north of cesspit NH4235, lay mainly below mitigation levels—though their presence suggests that this area was set aside for disposal of waste over a sustained period of time.

Phase 4.2 structural evidence (Fig. 3.16; Plate 3.8)

Structure NH8530

The latest surviving phase of structure within the property appears to have maintained a similar sill-beam construction (in its original form) to its predecessors (Structures NH8526 and NH8529). It was enlarged to the west over earlier well NH4300 (Phase 4.1) and appeared (at least at its latest state) to occupy the whole frontage of the property, although only the later floors of the central part were exposed within the mitigation area. However a 1.2 m wide ‘island’ of stratigraphy (see Group NH8538 below) exposed on either side of service trenches was investigated at its southern extent where floor deposits had slumped into cesspit NH4235 (see Phase 4.1 pits, above). The structure may have been

L-shaped in plan with its eastern arm (or frontage) measuring at least 11.2 m in length and 5.6 m at its maximum exposed depth to the east. The western extent of this arm coincidentally corresponded with the western limit of the mitigated area since this represented the extent of the floor deposits at this point, abutted by a compact area of gravel (NH4405; see Phase 5, Chapter 4), probably an exterior yard surface containing a chalk-lined well. Due to later disturbance and the similarity of the floors it was not certain whether the west arm was an integral part of the structure or represented a separate structure in itself. Posthole NH4495 may have defined its south wall given that floor deposits did not extend beyond it, suggesting that this arm was 3.5 m in width. The northern extent of the structure corresponded closely to earlier Structure NH8526 suggesting that the 'encroachment' on to Property BW 3 by its successor (Structure NH8529) had been reversed.

The structure was floored throughout by compacted chalk (NH4370; see section on Fig. 3.3) up to 0.12 m thick. Its western arm had been similarly floored with thick compacted chalk (NH4086) that had extended over and slumped considerably into well NH4300 (Plate 3.8). The soft underlying ground at this point had been recognised by the constructors since thick dumps of compacted gravels and clays underlay the floor in an attempt to stabilise the area, implying that a relatively short period had passed since the pit was filled. A thin charcoal-rich grey silt (4369) overlay the floor, associated with a small fired clay hearth (NH4317) or possibly with other hearths located within the unexcavated area to the south. This was

devoid of any industrial evidence but contained much fish bone, almost exclusively herring, and a large quantity (343 fragments) of charred hazelnut shells (see below).

The floor within the northern part of the east arm of the structure was repaired several times before being levelled with mid grey brown clay to support a re-flooring with chalk (NH4277). This levelling deposit (NH4164) contained a rich assemblage of animal bone including a possible deer bone, which would imply a potentially luxury element to the diet. The pottery was dominated by chalk-tempered ware (Fabric MBX) but with sherds of Portchester ware (MBN), Michelmersh ware (MMU) and late Saxon Sandy ware (MSH) suggesting a pre-Conquest date. The structure was provided with a further floor of thick chalk (NH4126–NH4384) representing the final or latest surviving significant floor of the structure, exposed across its full area (but unexcavated within the mitigation area). This floor was supported by thick make-up of brown mottled clay that contained two small sherds of pottery possibly attributable to the post-Conquest period (Fabric MBK; c 1050–1150), although sherds of Winchester ware were also present (see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.17, no. 133). The Fabric MBK sherds may have been intrusive, since subsequent repairs to level the floor (NH4381) located towards the south of the structure produced pre-Conquest Winchester ware and a possible late Saxon import (see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.17, no. 142), although a pre-Conquest origin of this fabric cannot be discounted (see Cotter, Chapter 7). Furthermore, two samples from an overlying spread of charcoal (NH4379) were radiocarbon dated



Fig. 3.16 Plan of Structure NH8530 and contemporary features (Properties BW 1–2), Phase 4.2

(SUERC-19287, SUERC-1928) producing consistent calibrated dates of 880–1020 and 900–1030 respectively. Bayesian modelling has refined these dates to 930–1000 and 940–1010. The surviving evidence suggests that the structure continued to have a predominantly domestic function; two bone spindlewhorls (SF Cat nos 160–1) were recovered from intercutting postholes NH4145/4147 and one (SF Cat no. 163) from earlier make-up NH4322.

The floors at the south end of the structure appear to have been part of a kitchen area since they comprised a prolonged accumulation of charcoal-rich silts associated with a succession of chalk floors and hearths, investigated by a small sondage (see section, Fig. 3.5). The earliest floor comprised well compacted chalk (NH4229), 0.2 m thick, that supported spreads of burnt sandy clay that had probably been disturbed from a nearby hearth. Above was a charcoal spread (NH4226) that was rich in burnt hazelnut shells (482 shells) and contained garlic mustard seeds used to flavour food. It is suggested that roasting makes the nuts last longer in storage, it makes them more digestible, and enables them to be ground into flour. The presence of a charred flax seed suggests that oil may have been extracted or that flax was used for medicinal purposes, since black nightshade seeds were also present in some quantity. Black nightshade is thought to have been used externally to relieve inflammation, and flax seeds are known for

their laxative properties (see Carruthers, Chapter 8).

The internal and domestic nature of the occupation is further emphasised by the soil micromorphology analysis, which identified these as chalk floors intercalated with trampled ash, charcoal and fine burned bone-rich microlayered deposits of near-domestic hearth (kitchen) origin, and burned brickearth clay and silts (loess) of hearth origin (see Macphail and Crowther, Chapter 8, samples NHM253D-E). A group of stakeholes associated with a subsequent floor (NH4225) may have formed part of a structure associated with hearth NH4205. Thick charcoal deposits (NH4217 and NH4221) above contained a rich assemblage of fish remains including herring, cod, whiting, eel and scad. Several further episodes of chalk refloorings followed, probably in an attempt to level up the underlying soft ground, associated with further clay hearths constructed on top of hearth NH4205. Soil micromorphology analysis identified these as trampled floor deposits mainly composed of hearth rakeout including much burned food waste (bone and eggshells), but also burned coprolitic/latrine and stabling waste (ibid., NHM253F). The only evidence for industrial activity was found with charcoal deposit NH4212 where a small quantity of flake hammerscale was found suggesting that limited secondary smithing was being undertaken close by. The area continued to serve as a kitchen into the post-Conquest period (see Phase 5 below).



Plate 3.8 Floors of the western extension of Structure NH8530 slumping into earlier ?well NH4300, Property BW 2, Phase 4.2, looking north-east

Phase 4.2 pits

The area to the west of Structure NH8530 would appear to have been external since a small surviving patch of gravelled yard (NH4405) was recorded with deposits of Phase 5 (see below). Only shallow pit NH4564 could be attributed to Phase 4.2 (Fig. 3.16), although it is possible that Phase 5 cesspit NH4339 may also originally date to this phase since only its upper fills were excavated, and showed a high degree of slumpage.

Property BW 3

Phase 4.1 structural evidence (Fig. 3.17)

Levels pertaining to Phase 4.1 lay below mitigation levels over the majority of the excavated frontage of Property BW 3 except for a 2.2 m wide strip adjacent to the boundary with Property BW 2, and partially within ground beams (for the new development) towards the north. Two postholes, NH4549 and NH4736, and two small stakeholes were identified close to the suggested line of the boundary with Property BW 2 to the south and may have represented a fence. No other evidence

for structures was found within the excavated area alongside the boundary with Property BW 2 and this area appears to have remained open during this period. This is supported by the presence of an early but unexcavated pit that cut the western edge of the original alignment of Brudene Street over which floors pertaining to Phase 5 had severely slumped (see Chapter 4). Similarly, where contemporary levels were exposed within beamslots to the north these appear to represent surfaces that were possibly associated with the edge of Brudene Street or external areas to its west (see above). It seems unlikely that the property was unoccupied during Phase 4.1, and any associated structures must have been located within the unexcavated areas.

Phase 4.1 pits

Only one pit (NH3721) could be assigned to this phase; it was sealed by occupation layers associated with the subsequent Phase 4.2 structure on the site, Structure NH8556 (see below). The pit was ovoid, measuring 1.6 by 0.58 m across and 0.7 m in depth, with straight vertical sides apart from its north end which sloped in. Given its rather restricted size, it

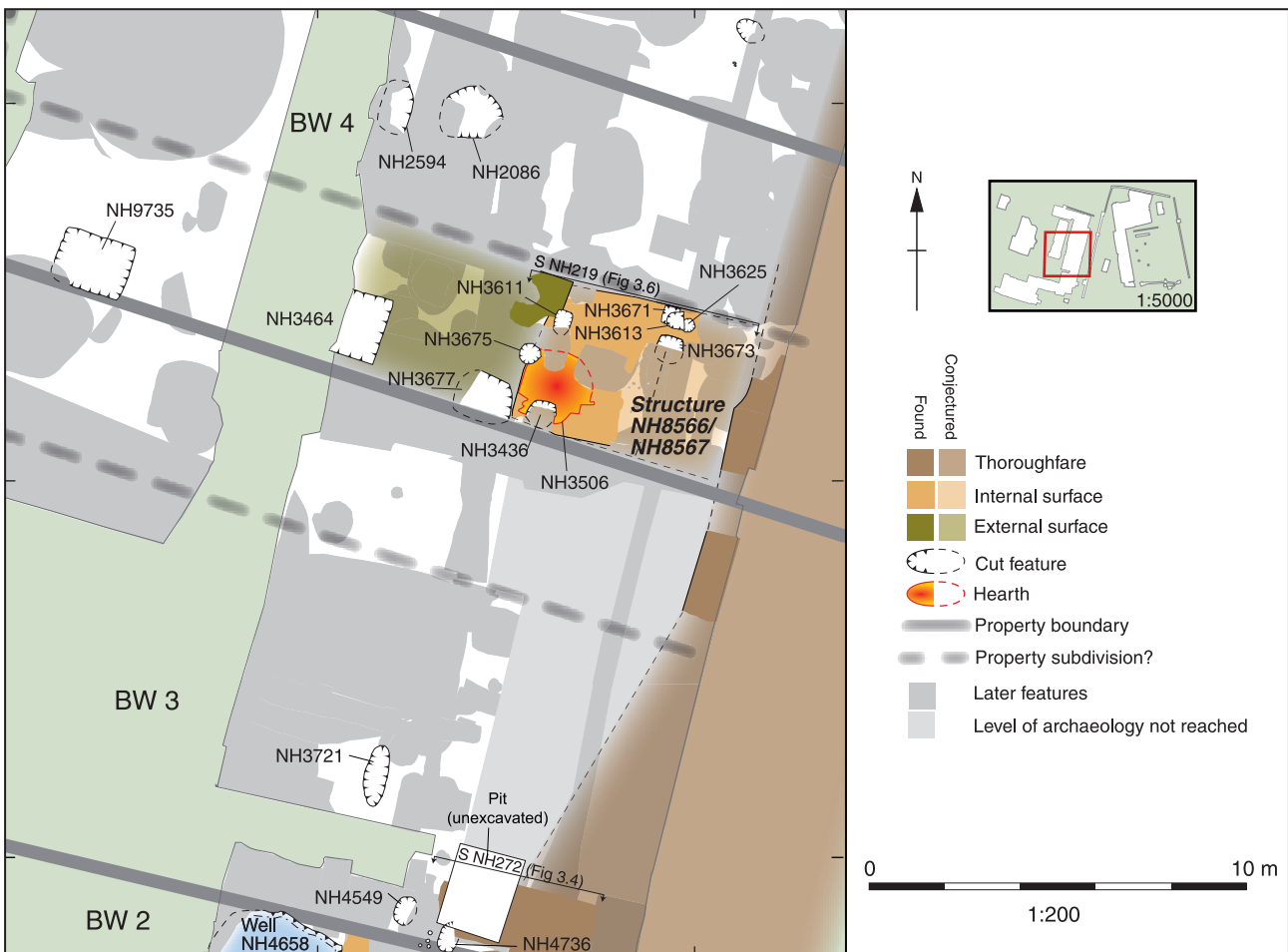


Fig. 3.17 Plan of Structures NH8566/NH8567 (Property BW 4) and contemporary levels in Property BW 3, Phase 4.1

may have had a structural purpose although no evidence for a post was found within its homogeneous fill of firm dark orange-brown silty clay. Although later activity may have removed much of the evidence, there was a complete absence of pre-Conquest pits within the relatively undisturbed area towards the north of the property. This may support the view that this area remained open for access from an early date (eg as a lane) or was set aside for other use.

Phase 4.2 Structure NH8556 (Fig. 3.18; Plate 3.9)

As with Phase 4.1, evidence for structural remains along the frontage lay largely below mitigation level although slightly more evidence was recorded from the beam slots for the new structure. Immediately to the west of the unexcavated area, towards the south of the property, was a succession of hearths and floors probably from within a structure for which no other evidence was seen (Structure NH8556), and probably associated with metalworking. This structure would have measured at least 2.9 m north-south, corresponding to the extent of its surviving surfaces, and continued eastwards beyond the excavated area. Its earliest levels comprised a large

hearth (NH3680) constructed with a fired clay pad measuring 2.3 by 1.6 m and up to 0.1 m thick that directly overlay the Dark Earth. The hearth was archaeomagnetically dated (WON) to 914–1121 and was contemporary with an adjacent rectangular pit (NH3806) that contained similar fire-hardened clay at its base (NH3782; see Plate 3.9). The pit measured at least 1.5 by 1.2 m and was 0.64 m deep and may have served to contain a fire of considerable heat. Numerous charred hazelnut fragments recovered from the pit may have comprised fuel for smithing and metalworking. Charcoal spreads (NH3679 and NH3669) associated with the use of the hearths produced metalworking evidence, the former flake and spherical hammerscale indicating hot iron working, while the latter produced crucible fragments showing that copper alloys were being melted and cast. Further hearths were added, associated with compacted scorched chalk surfaces and charcoal spreads, and pit NH3806 continued in use as a fire pit. However, there was little further metalworking evidence, and the presence of animal and fish remains indicates the hearths may have been used to cook food. One charcoal spread associated with flint-tempered pottery (Fabric MAV) produced a calibrated radiocarbon date of 900–1030



Fig. 3.18 Properties BW 3 and BW 4, Phase 4.2



Plate 3.9 Fire pit NH3806 within Structure NH8556, Property BW 3, Phase 4.2, looking east

(SUERC-13910), refined by Bayesian modelling to 890–1010. Several sherds of madder-stained pottery were found throughout these levels indicating that textile dyeing was undertaken.

Exterior Area

Phase 4.2 levels within the frontage area were reached within the small area of a modern beamslot located in the north-east corner of the property, and comprised apparent external surfaces (Group NH8558; Fig. 3.18) either pertaining to Brudene Street or to a yard/lane leading off the street (see Property BW 3 Phase 5, Chapter 4). The earliest surface exposed comprised a rather worn and uneven area of compacted chalk with traces of flint pebbles adhering overlain by greenish-brown clay silt. Further surfaces of gravel and chalk were laid and overlain by well-trampled greenish-grey silts containing domestic refuse. A large fragment of a smithing hearth bottom and iron slag was also recovered implying that metalworking was undertaken close by.

Property BW 4

Phase 4.1 structural evidence (Fig. 3.17; Plate 3.10)

Structure NH8566

To the north of Property BW 3, the excavations were more substantially affected by the truncation of late Saxon levels, as a result of the site's position on the south-eastwards sloping hillside. Within Property

BW 4 evidence for the earliest structures only survived within the southern part of the excavated area. In addition, because of the effects of the underlying west-east slope, the level of the late Saxon archaeology also fell from west to east across the site. This resulted in two phases of late Saxon activity lying above impact level, and therefore being excavated, in the west, whereas on the east side only the later Saxon activity lay above impact level, and earlier deposits remained unexcavated. The exception to this was at the very eastern edge of the excavated area, where deeper excavation of beamslots allowed the recording of these underlying layers. Here, structural deposits were seen to overlie gravel metalling probably representing early surfaces of Brudene Street (Street NH8565; see section on Fig. 3.6). At the south edge of the property a modern pipe trench had destroyed all evidence for the relationship between Property BW 4 and BW 3 to the south.

The earliest evidence from Property BW 4 suggests the presence of a structure towards the street frontage (Structure NH8566), with a yard behind. The structure was represented only by surviving floor and occupation surfaces, which were clearly stratigraphically earlier than the postholes associated with the rebuild (Structure NH8567; see below). This suggests that the structure was of sill-beam construction. It extended at least 4.1 m north-south and 5.8 m east-west and encroached eastwards by at least 3 m upon the earlier street surfaces. Its earliest floor was of thin and rather worn compacted chalk (NH3723), exposed in a modern ground beam trench to the north. Towards the south the floor comprised a pink/cream 'mortar' suggesting that there was a subdivision within the structure. A charcoal-rich silt (NH3720) above the floor to the north produced flake hammerscale, but little slag, implying secondary smithing being undertaken within this part of the structure. A wide range of animal bone (cattle, pig, sheep) and fish remains (including plaice, mackerel and herring) suggests that food was also being prepared and consumed. This activity may have been associated with a fired clay hearth located towards the south (NH3576) that has been archaeomagnetically dated to 498–1148 (WOL). A subsequent chalk floor (NH3575) overlay the hearth and supported charcoal-rich silts that were presumably derived from a nearby hearth that was not seen within the excavated area. Among these, charcoal deposit NH3578 produced calibrated radiocarbon dates of 770–940 (OxA-17172) and 890–950 (SUER-C13906), reduced by Bayesian modelling to 770–900 and 890–950. The latest floor (NH3506) comprised compacted yellowish clay up to 0.1 m thick that had been extensively scorched red by intensive heating (Plate 3.10), especially at its northern extent where archaeomagnetic sampling (WOJ) produced a date of 436–1175. Although a small quantity of hammerscale was present within an associated occupation deposit (NH3504) there was no other evidence for industrial activity. The



Plate 3.10 Scorched floor NH3506 (Structure NH8566), Property BW 4, Phase 4.1, looking south (see Fig. 3.17)

hearth probably served a predominantly domestic function and this is supported by charcoal sweepings NH3494 that contained a wide variety of wood taxa including oak, hazel, hawthorn group, ash and field maple (see Challinor, Chapter 8). Also present were fish bone (mainly herring but also eel, trout and flat fish) and a small, fairly diverse animal bone assemblage. A date for this final floor and hearth in the first half of the 10th century is suggested by radiocarbon samples (OxA-17181 and SUERC -13917) that produced calibrated dates of 780–970 and 880–1020 respectively, reduced by Bayesian modelling to 910–70 and 900–70.

Structure NH8567

Structure NH8566 appears to have been re-built or remodelled using postholes rather than sills, to form Structure NH8567, which encroached slightly further eastwards over earlier metallings of Brudene Street (Street NH8565; see section Fig. 3.6). Its western side appears to have been defined originally by rectangular postholes NH3611, NH3675 and NH3436 since these coincided with a division between floor deposits to the east and a probable gravelled yard surface (NH3674) to the west. Similarly, the floor deposits did not extend north beyond postholes NH3671, NH3613, NH3625, and those pertaining to the structure during Phase 4.2 (see NH3425 and NH350; Fig. 3.18). The southern extent of the structure had been truncated by a modern service trench though it is possible that it was defined by the position of later posthole

NH3277 (see Phase 4.2 below). The structure probably measured about 4.2 m in width and extended at least 6.1 m from the street frontage. An internal posthole (NH3673) may have subdivided the structure into two roughly equal bays, as seems to have been the case in Phase 4.2, though unfortunately the floor deposits within the eastern bay lay largely below the level of excavation.

The west bay was predominantly floored with thin compacted chalk that had become heavily worn and was replaced on at least two occasions, the latter in use after 950 judging by the presence of Winchester ware pottery from occupation above it. Although there was little recovered from the floors to suggest anything other than domestic occupation, posthole NH3625 contained a significant quantity of flake and spherical hammerscale as well as many fragments of iron including plate and nails. This would strongly imply that, despite evidence to the contrary from the floors, smithing activity had taken place in the area.

Phase 1 pits

Three pits attributable to Phase 4.1 were located along the proposed boundary with Property BW 3, their alignment corresponding with the surviving southern extent of Structures NH8566 and NH8567. Two of the pits (NH3464 and NH9735) were rectangular with vertical straight sides and measured 2 m and 1.8 m in length respectively, the former at least 1.8 m in depth. A truncated pit (NH3677) located

close to the western extent of Structure NH8566 but pre-dating its construction was of a similar form. Though none were bottomed they may have served as cesspits before their final use for the disposal of domestic refuse. The unweathered and vertical sides of pit NH3464 suggest either that it did not remain open for any length of time or that it was originally timber-lined or enclosed. The pit contained a considerable quantity of animal bone, largely cattle and sheep/goat but also a small quantity of fowl and horse. The pit also contained sherds of madder-stained pottery from two or three vessels suggesting dyeing was undertaken close by. Similar pottery was present in make-up deposits (NH3387) of Phase 4.2 and may have been residual from Phase 4.1.

Towards the north were two heavily truncated pits (NH2594, NH2086). Pit NH2594 contained large fragments of smithing hearth bottoms and sawn off and shaved bone-working waste in its basal fill, that may be associated with similar activity identified within Structures NH8566 and NH8567. This pit contained much animal bone including a sizeable quantity of horse bones, a meat that was not normally eaten during this period and therefore probably fed to dogs belonging to the occupants. Also present in the pit were the remains of a deer, perhaps indicative of a more refined diet. Adjacent but much truncated pit NH2086 served as a cesspit and contained cess-rich deposits for its whole depth of 1 m, including mineralised bran and much bread-type free-threshing wheat grain.

Phase 4.2 Structure NH8567 (Fig. 3.18; Plate 3.11)

Structure NH8567 (see Phase 4.1) continued in use in its previous state through Phase 4.2 as a two-bayed structure, though most of the excavated

evidence was obtained from its west bay. Postholes continued to be replaced along its north wall (NH3503, NH3425) in the same line as the Phase 4.1 structure but extended eastwards to the limit of the excavation suggesting, together with the presence of floors in this area, that the building had further encroached onto the street by this time. The position of posthole NH3230, although largely unexcavated, suggests the partition wall between the two bays was maintained. The floors within the west bay continued to be of compacted chalk, repaired or replaced on several occasions and each associated with charcoal-rich occupation silts presumably derived from a nearby hearth or oven. An approximately rectangular arrangement of stakeholes around an otherwise truncated area in the centre of the west bay may have marked the position of such a hearth. The presence of Winchester ware (Fabric MWW) from an early makeup deposit NH3384 would suggest a date after the mid 10th century. Radiocarbon dates obtained from debris associated with later floors produced calibrated dates of 890–1030 (SUERC-19284) from occupation deposit NH3260 and 770–980 (SUERC-19286) from subsequent occupation spread NH3175. Bayesian modelling has reduced the date ranges to 930–980 and 940–1000, which suggest occupation remained within the second half of the 10th century.

The earliest exposed floor level (NH3542) within the east bay comprised compacted chalk, its surface lying approximately 0.2 m below the level of the earliest floor within the west bay. This could be a reflection of the topography of the underlying Brudene Street whose surfaces occurred at a lower level than the flanking structures and perhaps prevented run-off from the street. A subsequent area of scorched clay (NH3439) located close to the north of the structure and associated with floor repairs



Plate 3.11 'Cob' partition wall NH3359 within Structure NH8567, Property BW 4, Phase 4.2, looking east

indicated the position of a hearth. Two further floors of compacted chalk (NH3376), 0.1 m thick, were subsequently laid, supported by a thick make-up of clay and gravel containing much animal bone, oyster shell and several sherds of madder-stained pottery, possibly to raise the area to the level of the west bay. At this point the east bay may have been partitioned by the addition of a partition wall (NH3359) that was constructed directly on top of floor NH3374. It was constructed with yellowish 'mortar' in a brown silty clay reminiscent of a cob wall (Plate 3.11) and measured 0.15 m in width, surviving for a height of 0.25 m above the floor. It did not extend further than 0.27 m into excavated area and delimited a surface of coarse and tightly packed flint cobbles to the north (NH3383) suggesting an external surface perhaps leading off from the street. A short stub of 'wall' (NH3300) of similar width, comprising unmortared chalk rubble, may have been contemporary and corresponded with the division between the east and west bays of the structure.

Evidence of smithing, predominantly flake hammerscale, was found throughout the sequence within the west bay suggesting that the structure continued to be used for secondary smithing. A small amount of bone-working waste was also recovered, including a possible unfinished spindle-whorl from occupation layer NH3168 suggesting a more diverse range of activities. The floors of the west bay were also rich in fish remains throughout, predominantly herring, though the remains of eel, whiting, mackerel, sea bream, garfish, trout, plaice and other flat fishes show that the occupants prepared and consumed a diverse selection of sea and freshwater fish.

Phase 4.2 pits

Two distinct groups of pits were recognised, Pit Group NH8583 located to the rear of Structure NH8567 and a larger Pit Group NH8574 that was situated to their north and possibly flanking the west side of an otherwise unseen structure. Pit Group NH8583 comprised four rectangular or square pits, all measuring 0.96–1.2 m in length and 0.5–1.15 m in depth. Little was obtained from their fills to indicate their original purpose although all were seemingly rapidly backfilled with domestic refuse and redeposited natural. Pit Group NH8574 comprised eight pits of similar size and shape to Pit Group NH8583; none was deeper than 1.4 m, and most were considerably shallower. Several of the pits showed evidence of weathering deposits implying that they had remained open for an appreciable period of time though the general low density of domestic waste or other organic material contained within them seems to preclude their primary function as cess or refuse pits. Given their rectangular arrangement it is possible that they may have represented post-pits forming part of a substantial timber structure but no evidence was obtained to support this.

Property BW 5

Phase 4.1 structural evidence (Fig. 3.19)

Evidence for structures from this and later phases comprised mainly postholes and other cut features located towards the frontage area. Horizontal layers such as floors survived only within the extreme southern end of the area and within a small lower-lying area close to the north end. Given the degree of later truncation sufficient evidence survived to suggest two separate structures (NH8585 and NH8586) occupying the frontage from the outset and throughout the pre-Conquest period.

Structure NH8585

Structure NH8585 was located adjacent to the proposed boundary with Property BW 4 and comprised a small area of chalk flooring and occupation silts associated with two phases of hearths. No structural features were found, implying that it was of sill-beam construction. The earlier hearth (NH2391) was fairly large, measuring 2.05 m across, comprising fired clay set in a shallow pit. This represented the earliest occupation above the Dark Earth and was archaeomagnetically dated to 800–1125 (WOD). Samples from the hearth also produced calibrated radiocarbon dates of 690–890 (OxA-17137) and 770–970 (SUERC-13914). Bayesian modelling has refined these dates to 840–900 and 840–950 respectively which could imply a date in the second half of the 9th century for the use of the hearth. Two nearby stakeholes (NH2427 and NH2429) appeared to be associated and perhaps represent part of structure to support a cauldron or similar cooking vessel. The structure may have been remodelled, perhaps after a period of disuse, since the hearth had become levelled with a mid-brown clay silt (NH2292) which contained a smithing hearth bottom and a horseshoe (SF Cat no. 225) datable to the 9th or 10th century. The silt levelling layer supported a compact chalk surface NH2282 representing the earliest discernible floor surface within the structure. A charcoal lens below gave calibrated radiocarbon dates of 870–980 (OxA-17179) and 880–1020 (SUERC-13915), refined by Bayesian modelling to 880–970 and 880–980 respectively. Cutting into the floor and contained within a small shallow pit was a small fired clay hearth, NH2156, that was located immediately to the north of earlier hearth NH2391. The hearth (WOA) gave an archaeomagnetic date of 580–1125 and charred plant remains from its matrix produced calibrated radiocarbon dates of 780–980 (OxA-17174) and 900–1040 (SUERC-13908), refined by Bayesian modelling to 780–980 and 900–1010 respectively. It was not clear whether the hearth was associated with this structure or its successor, Structure NH8589 (see Phase 4.2), although a date around the mid 10th century seems likely.

Structure NH8586

Overlying the possible Brudene Street surfaces (Street NH8587; see section Fig. 3.7), Structure NH8586 comprised a succession of four compacted chalk floors, each measuring 0.03–0.05 m thick, and associated occupation deposits that survived in a small area along the east side of the excavated area and adjacent to the boundary with Property BW 6. No other structural elements were present, suggesting a sill-beam construction—though their southern extent corresponded with that of later post-built Structure NH8590 (see Phase 4.2). Little was obtained from the floors to indicate the use of the structure although a sherd of madder-stained pottery recovered from occupation above the earliest floor suggests dyeing was undertaken.

Phase 4.1 pits

Given the spatial arrangement of the pits within Property BW 5, they have been grouped with either southern Structure NH8585 or northern Structure NH8586. The upper fills of some of the pits contained pottery dating after 950, suggesting that they were used over a considerable time or

that they represented later accumulation over the top of the pits after their fills had settled. Where appropriate these upper fills will be discussed in Phase 4.2.

The southern group

Pit Group NH8591: A possible boundary was represented by two postholes (NH9628, NH 9571) and three narrow and elongated pits (NH9626, NH9550 and NH2700). These were aligned with the northern edge of the succeeding post-built Structure NH8589 (Phase 4.2), but they could also have been associated with the earlier Structure NH8585. Pit NH2700 was 0.8 m wide and had steep sides (75–85°) with a concave base at a depth of 0.83 m, and extended for length of at least 1.6 m. Its lower fills comprised weathered natural implying that it remained open before it was rapidly infilled. Pits NH9550 and NH9626 were of similar profile, the full length of NH9626 visible at 2.7 m, and each contained weathered deposits at their base. If the earlier postholes delineated a boundary then the pits could represent a more substantial replacement, though no evidence was forthcoming for any post-pipes. Alternatively their size suggests they could have formed part of a more substantial structure.

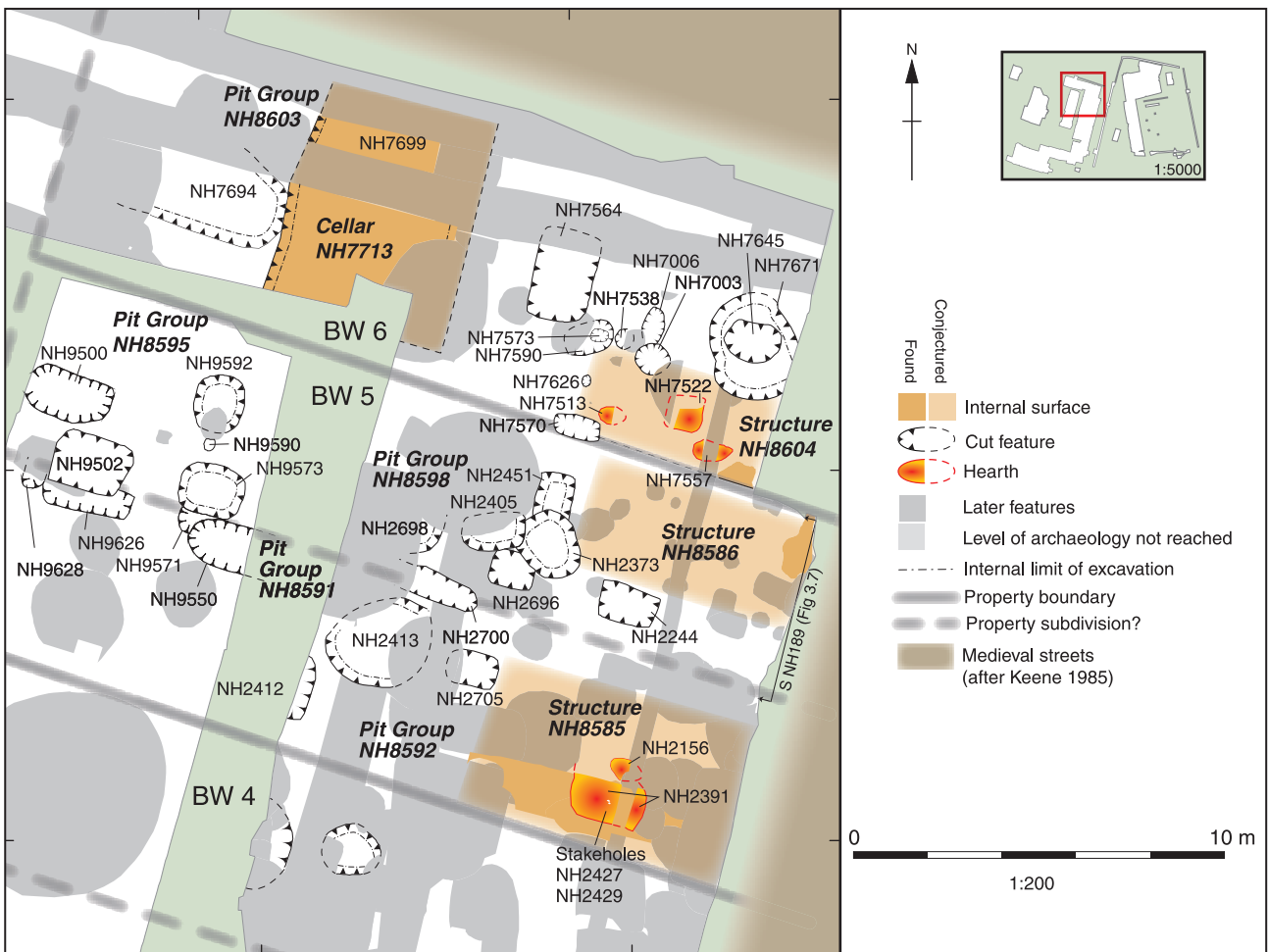


Fig. 3.19 Plan of Structures NH8585 and NH8586 (Properties BW 5 and BW 6), Phase 4.1/4

Pit Group NH8592: Three pits located immediately to the west of Structure NH8585 are considered broadly contemporary with the structure. The largest, vertical sided pit NH2413, was possibly circular and measured *c* 2.7 m across with a depth of at least 2.7 m (although it was not excavated to its base). Its vertical and unweathered sides suggest that it was originally protected by a timber lining suggesting a possible use as a well rather than cesspit since its fills did not show any marked degree of slumpage caused by the decay of underlying organic matter. However, it served finally for the disposal of domestic refuse, and contained a large amount of cattle, sheep and pig bones. Sub-rectangular pits NH2412 and NH2705 were no deeper than 1.4 m, the former containing a large animal bone assemblage similar to that within adjacent pit NH2413.

The northern group

Two discrete pit clusters were identified to the west of Structure NH8586, both of which included pits in a distinct west-east alignment parallel to Pit Group NH8591. The east group (Pit Group NH8598) comprised six pits, three of which were intercutting. The west group (Pit Group NH8595), located towards the rear of the property, were excavated rapidly; these pits did not contain closely datable finds and can only be assigned to the general late Saxon Phase 4.

Pit Group NH8598: This comprised four sub-rectangular cesspits, three of which formed an intercutting cluster (NH2451, NH2373, NH2405) with a fourth pit, NH2244, located *c* 1 m to their east, suggesting that this area had been set aside for toilet use for a considerable period. The earliest of the cluster (NH2451) measured 1.48 m by 1 m in plan and its base was revealed at depth of 2.3 m. At its base were thick deposits of cess-rich silts that contained mineralised faecal concretions of bran with numerous fly pupae, suggesting that the contents had been exposed sufficiently to allow infestation by insects. Also contained within the cess were seeds of cherry/sloe, apple and a possible imported fig, the latter suggesting that the occupants at this time enjoyed a wide variety of fruit. The presence of straw could suggest that it was used as toilet paper or to dampen smells (see Carruthers, Chapter 8). The cess also contained a significant quantity of flaked hammerscale presumably representing sweepings from a nearby hearth or floor where smithing had been undertaken. Also obtained from the pit was a possible heckle tooth from a comb used to remove the fibrous core and impurities from flax, prior to weaving into linen. Interestingly, a charred fragment of possible cultivated flax was also present in the cess. The next pit in the sequence, NH2373, was slightly larger at 1.9 m across but shallower at 2.1 m and was presumably dug after the infilling of the earlier pit, though its north edge sloped in, as if to avoid disturbing its lower fills. It also contained a sequence of cess-rich

deposits that contained rushes, possibly used as toilet paper. Pit NH2244 was similar in size to pit NH2451 and contained a thin greenish grey cessy silt at its base, at a somewhat shallower depth of 0.58 m. The pit presumably lay outside the building on the street frontage, which like its successor (Phase 4.2, Structure NH8590), lay immediately to its north.

Pit Group NH8595: Pit Group NH8595 comprised four pits, two of which abutted Pit Group NH8591 to the south; the other two, located immediately to their north, were therefore presumably dug subsequently. The rectangular pits closest to the boundary (NH9502 and NH9573) measured 2 m and 1.75 m in length respectively and were not bottomed at 1.8 and 1.6 m, though both were probably used as cesspits as there were green cessy silts adhering to their sides. Pit NH9500 was of similar size but shallower, with its base at 1.34 m. It contained no cess and had been rapidly filled with dumps of homogeneous dark soil containing refuse and an appreciable quantity of iron slag. The fourth pit (NH9592), potentially the latest, was sub-circular and contained cessy fills at its excavated depth of 1.6 m.

Phase 4.2 structural evidence (Fig. 3.20; Plate 3.12)

The frontage continued to be occupied by two separate structures, Structures NH8589 and NH8590, replacing Phase 4.1 Structures NH8585 and NH8586 respectively. No *in situ* horizontal deposits had survived later levelling, though a sequence of probable occupation deposits were found slumped into earlier cesspits close to their western sides. These often contained pottery significantly later than the underlying pit fills, and are discussed with the associated structure groups below.

Structure NH8589

Structure NH8589 was defined by a rectangular arrangement of small oval pits that may have supported timber uprights for a substantial timber structure measuring *c* 6.1 m in width and extending from the frontage for a length of at least 7 m. The north side corresponded to the line of Pit Group NH8591 and the south side to the extent of the floors of earlier Structure NH8585. The structure extended over cesspit NH2076 (see pits below) implying that the earlier structure did not extend this far north. The pits were of similar size, all measuring between 0.8–1.2 m across and most were between 0.35–0.45 m in depth, containing single fills of firm dark grey-brown silty clay. No evidence for post-pipes was found, suggesting that the posts had been removed after the dismantling of the structure before the pits were deliberately infilled. Several of the posts had been replaced on at least one occasion, possibly resulting in the narrowing of the structure, suggesting that it had stood for a significant period of time. The remains of floor and occupation surfaces were found slumped over possible Roman pit NH2497, located partially under the west side of

the structure, but extended westwards beyond it. A thick sequence of alternating deposits (Group NH2322, Plate 3.12) comprising at least nine compacted chalk surfaces and overlying occupation deposits may represent interior floors that have otherwise been truncated. It is possible that they were floors that formed part of an otherwise undefined west bay of the structure or perhaps they were levelling for an external area around an entrance way. The latter view would seem to be reinforced by soil micromorphology that suggests that these layers were deposited under wet conditions and represent 'domestic space waste disposal of floor and hearth debris, cereal pollen of probable cess origin, where grass pollen likely from floor coverings' (see McPhail and Crowther, Chapter 8, thin section NHM187B).

Structure NH8590

Approximately 1 m north of Structure NH8589 was a second cluster of postholes that formed no coherent plan though an approximately rectangular arrangement could be suggested. The postholes were smaller than the adjacent structure, mainly oval in shape and mostly measuring 0.32–0.56 m across. It is possible that they represent a later phase of Structure NH8586 (see above) since the eastern postholes cut its latest surviving floor. Several showed evidence for post-pipes, one with a diameter of *c* 0.15 m, implying a fairly insubstantial structure.

Phase 4.2 pits

Pit NH2076 was located within the east end of Structure NH8589 but apparently pre-dated its construction since it was cut by a posthole of the north wall. If so, it could have been contemporary with its predecessor Structure NH8585 (see above), which may not actually have extended this far north. The pit was sub-circular measuring *c* 1.9 m across and was excavated to a depth of 1.3 m, which revealed soft greenish brown sandy silt suggesting the pit had been used to dispose of cess. Two of the Phase 4.1 cesspits, located immediately behind Structure NH8590, were apparently re-cut and re-used. Pit NH2451 was emptied of its contents to a depth of 1 m and its base lined with crushed chalk to form pit NH2520. A thin layer of charcoal and hearth debris overlay the crushed chalk lining, possibly to neutralise the odour of the cessy silt that subsequently overlay it. The pit was sealed by a further dump of crushed chalk, and was then used for the disposal of domestic refuse including a sherd of madder-stained pottery. Adjacent pit NH2405 was similarly emptied to depth of 0.9 m to form a new cesspit, pit NH2531. It too was finally sealed by laminated chalk and charcoal before being rapidly infilled.

A very large pit centrally located within Property BW 5, pit NH2237, which measured 4.4 m across, may have served as a well, though no evidence was



Plate 3.12 Floor group NH2322 (Structure NH8589) slumped into earlier pit NH2497, Property BW 5, Phase 4.2, looking south

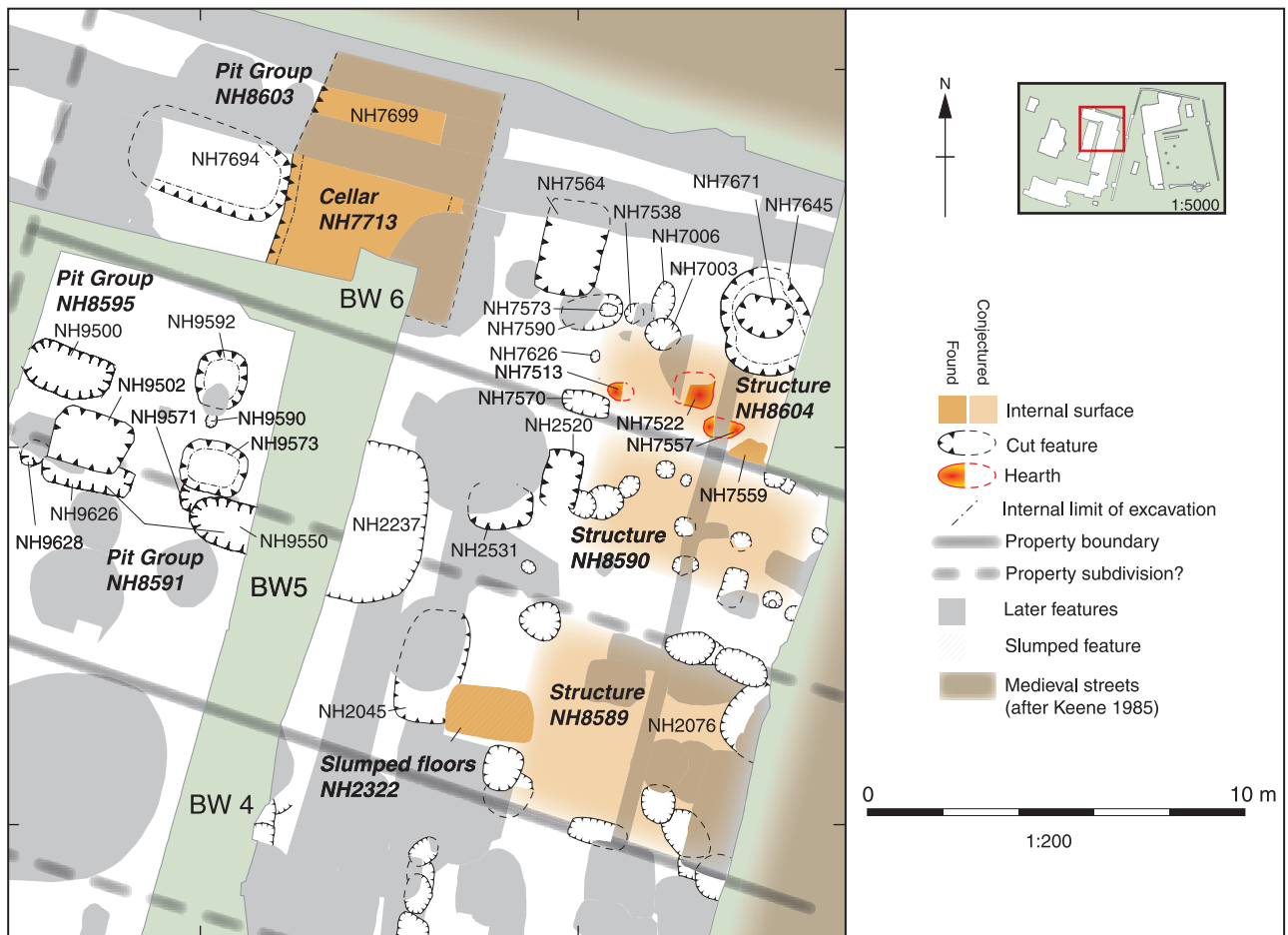


Fig. 3.20 Plan of Properties BW 5 and BW 6, Phase 4.2/4

found for a lining at its excavated depth of 2 m. Its location immediately adjacent to later well NH2495 (see Phase 5) could imply that it was replaced by the more elaborate chalk-lined, post-Conquest, example. The presence of sandy flint-tempered pottery (fabric MAQ; dated *c* 1000–1250) and a riveted bone mount datable to the mid 10th to late 11th centuries (SF Cat no. 322) suggest an 11th-century date, and the upper fills contained post-Conquest pottery (see Phase 5). Whatever its purpose it was eventually rapidly filled with domestic refuse including considerable quantities of animal bone that predominantly comprised cattle, with lesser amounts of sheep/goat, pig and occasional fowl. Fish remains were mostly of herring, with occasional salmon, scad and flat fishes. Sherds of Winchester ware within the lower excavated fills may suggest the inhabitants had access to more refined tableware (see Chapter 7, Fig. 7.16, no. 131 and Fig. 7.17, no. 134). Flake hammer-scale from ash dumps, presumably sweepings from nearby hearths/floors, indicate that secondary smithing was undertaken close by. Indeed nearby Phase 4.1 pit NH2373, that may have been levelled around this time, contained large fragments of smithing hearth bottoms.

Property BW 6

Phase 4 Structure NH8604 (Fig. 3.20)

Later truncation had effectively removed all horizontal stratigraphy down to the surface of the Dark Earth and the only surviving evidence for structures along the frontage comprised several hearths, a scatter of small pits and a remnant of possible floor and occupation deposits. Two hearths (NH7513 and NH7522) comprised irregular areas of burnt clay that apparently directly overlay the Dark Earth, archaeomagnetically dated to 498–1125 (WOI2) and 559–1084 (WOI1) respectively. Given their stratigraphic position, they are the earliest surviving evidence for structural activity within the property, though closer dating was not possible. A third hearth (NH7557=7559) was contained in a shallow oval pit, measuring 1 m across, that had been lined with burnt clay after a thin layer of ash had been deposited within it. The ash was rich in flake hammer-scale implying that secondary smithing was undertaken close by and perhaps derived from sweepings from a floor associated with the structure. A thin patchy spread of charcoal (NH7589) located immediately adjacent to the

hearth also contained a significant quantity of flake hammerscale suggesting some degree of contemporaneity. However, this deposit also included spherical hammerscale suggesting that hot working was also undertaken, feasibly associated with one or more of the hearths.

The southern extent of charcoal spread NH7589 was sharply delimited and perhaps corresponded to the edge of a sill beam that defined the extent of the structure. This aligned with flat-bottomed pit NH7570 which, at its shallow depth of 0.17 m, may have represented an otherwise truncated beam-slot; pit NH7570 also corresponds to the northern extent of Property BW 5. Two postholes (NH7626 and NH7573) were aligned at right angles to its north, perhaps representing the line of its west wall. The lack of further postholes to the north could suggest that posthole NH7573 and posthole NH7538, located a short distance to its east, represent the line of the north wall.

Phase 4 pits

Most of the associated pits were subject to only limited investigation. Pits NH7645/7671 were located towards the street frontage and possibly respected the northern extent of the structure. Only the upper 0.5 m of their fills were investigated and these comprised dumps of compacted chalk, redeposited natural, charcoal and Roman building rubble that probably represented consolidation after their final use, especially if the structure had later extended over them. Madder-stained pottery and antler waste offer evidence for dyeing and bone/antler working, material that could have been dumped from the adjacent structure. Rectangular pit NH7564, though essentially unexcavated, is similar to contemporary pits elsewhere on the site and given its location, immediately to the rear of the structure, could have served as a cesspit. Pit NH7694, located towards the west of the property, contained brownish organic fills that produced domestic refuse and presumably was dug as a cess or rubbish pit.

Rectangular pit NH7713/NH7699 must have served a different function, possibly a cellar, on account of its large size. It measured at least 4.9 m across (north-south) but could not have extended beyond the boundary with Property BW 5 since it was absent from the area to the north of pits NH2337 and NH9592. Similarly, it measured at least 4.6 m east-west. The pit is assumed to have been of considerable depth since its fills (as exposed along sides of two modern service trenches) were sharply inclined to almost vertical throughout its length, and had been tipped from its western edge. Where observed the edges of the pit were sharp and vertical implying that they had been protected from the elements by a lining. A small sondage that was excavated close to its east edge revealed burnt 'timber plates' (NH7665) that survived as charcoal, offering evidence for

surviving *in situ* timber lining. Whatever its function, its fills, which included compacted chalk and redeposited natural gravel, were suggestive of rapid infilling and consolidation.

SNITHELING STREET

Property SE 1 (Fig. 3.21)

The evidence for occupation within Property SE 1, especially during Phase 4.1, was comparatively slight. This could result from truncation of late Saxon levels across the area, as here the post-medieval garden soils generally directly overlay the Dark Earth. The only features that were recognised were those cut into the Dark Earth. However, there seemed to be a lower density of pitting here than elsewhere. Two pit clusters were determinable, separated by large areas of apparent open space where no evidence for other activity survived. It is possible that these areas were occupied by structures whose flimsy construction (eg sill-beam) left no trace in the archaeological record. A case in point is the area between the 'linear' arrangement of Pit Group NH8619 situated to the west and Pit Group NH8611 located c 6 m to the east. The area between was free of pitting, a situation that continued into the post-Conquest period.

Phase 4.1 pits

The few features that could be tentatively attributed to this phase comprised rather truncated and poorly dated small shallow pits of uncertain function, forming the earliest features within Pit Group NH8611 (see Phase 4.2 below) together with isolated pit NH8064. Those within Pit Group NH8611 appeared to form a north-south alignment (NH5191, NH5089 and posthole NH5200) suggesting that they may have delimited a division or boundary. Only isolated pit NH8064, located to the south-east, was of note. Given its location, it may have belonged to an adjacent property to the south of Property SE 1, the boundary of which became more evident during Phase 5. Pit NH8064 is similar to the early rectangular cesspits found elsewhere on the site. It measured at least 0.84 m across and had soft organic fills to its excavated depth that contained much domestic waste. The presence of late Saxon sandy ware (Fabric MSH) within its fills would suggest a date no later than the mid 10th century. Several of the pottery sherds were stained with madder implying that dyeing of cloth was undertaken at this time

Phase 4.2 pits

Pit Group NH8619 comprised three small rectangular cesspits (NH6158, NH6231 and NH6138) measuring 1.6–2 m in length and 1.1–1.4 m in width. All the pits had straight vertical sides that showed little evidence for weathering; two were 2



Fig. 3.21 Plan of Property SE 1, Phase 4.2

m deep and the third (NH6158) was somewhat shallower at 1.1 m. All contained dark brown organic silts at their base, and the two deeper pits were rich in mineralised remains including faecal bran and fly pupae and remains of apple, pear, sloe/cherry, Celtic bean, peas and other legumes. These pits also produced evidence for more luxurious, imported foodstuffs and spice, including a possible peach stone from pit NH6231 and a fennel mericarp from pit NH6138 suggesting the occupants enjoyed a more refined diet, indicative of higher status. The fennel may have served a medicinal use since the pit also contained a significant quantity of opium poppy seeds, used to relieve pain, though both could also have been used to flavour food. Shallower pit NH6158 showed evidence for a timber lining since it contained a narrow slot 0.075 m deep around the edges of its base, possibly to support timber planks that were presumably held by horizontal bracing. Whatever the original function of the pit, the timbers were removed before the pit was used to dispose of cess and rubbish that included a considerable quantity of madder-stained pottery. Several different vessels were represented, and further madder-stained sherds were present in pit NH6138, implying that dyeing formed an important aspect of the lives of the occupants of the property. The presence of a cultivated flax seed within pit NH6158 suggests that linen may have been manufactured on site prior to dyeing, though flax seeds are also known for their laxative properties. Some operations required heating or boiling and portable earthenware

vessels such as cooking pots could have been used for this.

Pit Group NH8611 similarly comprised three small rectangular pits (NH5138, NH5148 and NH5052). The deepest, vertical-sided pit NH5052, measured 1.82 m by 1.17 m in plan but was excavated only to a depth of 1.55 m. It had been rapidly infilled with domestic refuse that included lenses of cesty silts and given its similarity to the pits to the west may have also served as a cesspit. The pit contained a broken horseshoe of 10th- to 11th-century date, hammerscale and sherds of madder-stained pottery, the latter possibly derived from the same activity as found in timber-lined pit NH6158 to the west. Pit NH5148 and NH5138 were of similar size but only 1 m and 1.1 m deep respectively. Both contained a single homogeneous fill of dark loamy soil that contained domestic refuse.

Circular pit NH5009 located to the east could not have functioned as a well given its depth of 1.1 m, but it had evidently remained open long enough for a thin weathering deposit to accumulate above its base. As with pits in Pit Group NH8611 it was thereafter rapidly infilled with dark loamy soil and dumps of domestic refuse that included a considerable quantity of oyster shells. The basal fill of the pit contained fresh sherds of chalk-tempered ware implying a pre-Conquest date, though the presence of flinty (fabric MAB; dated c 1000–1250) and sandy wares (fabric MAQ; dated 1000–1250) in the backfill could imply an 11th-century date, the latter having a fine sandy fabric similar to post-Conquest fabric MBK.

Property SE 2 (Fig. 3.22; Plates 3.13–14)*Phase 4.2 structural evidence**Early activity*

Hearth NH1277 represented the earliest evidence for occupation and was located towards the north of the property. It comprised a small oval pit measuring 0.83 m across and 0.14 m deep, lined with clay scorched red through intense heat. No associated surfaces were found suggesting that it may have represented a sporadic external activity, perhaps relating to metalworking since a small amount of iron slag was found in its backfill. A rough surface (Yard NH1161) comprising coarse flint nodules and large fragments of Roman tile that partially overlay the disused hearth may have represented a working surface relating to the same activity. A clean yellowish brown silty clay (NH1154) subsequently accumulated over much of the area, indicative of a period of inactivity and perhaps represented a developed turf line.

Structure NH8624 (Plate 3.13)

The earliest clear evidence for structures was found towards the west of the excavated area, presumed to be closer to the frontage of Snitheling Street. All that survived later levelling was a thin and patchy floor of compacted chalk that overlay the possible turf horizon NH1154 (Plate 3.13). The southern extent was fairly sharply defined and, to a lesser degree, its

eastern and north limits, though later truncation had probably removed all traces of the floor near to the western edge of the excavation. The surviving areas of floor suggest a structure that measured at least 2 m across (north-south) by at least 1.9 m east-west. The lack of structural features would suggest that it was constructed on earth-fast sills that had left no evidence in the archaeological record. A patch of burnt clay (NH1151) located against the proposed north wall of the structure probably represented the remains of a hearth, but nothing else was found to indicate the function of the structure.

Structure NH8642

Further fragmentary structural evidence was found some 3 m to the south of Structure NH8624, possibly occupying a property to the south. A north-south 'linear' pad of re-used Roman flat tiles (NH1211), laid flat onto the surface of the Dark Earth, may have acted as a foundation pad or baseplate for a sill. No contemporary levels survived to its west, though abutting its east side was a mid yellowish brown silt (NH1204). This may have represented an exterior accumulation and contained pottery (fabric MAQ) probably attributable to the 11th century. This was overlain by a thin and patchy gravelly clay (NH1170) that may have represented a rudimentary, possibly external surface. Finally, a 0.12 m thick accumulation of grey-brown silt clay (NH1169) developed over the surface, abutting the possible foundation pad NH1211, suggesting the structure was still standing.



Plate 3.13 Chalk floor of Structure NH8624, Property SE 2, Phase 4.2, looking north

Fragments of oven wall including a wedge-shaped piece of oven furniture, possibly a prop, suggest domestic activity; otherwise no other evidence was found. These levels were cut by post-pit NH1136 that defined the south wall of Structure NH8622 but sealed posthole NH1247 that corresponded to the northern extent of pad NH1211. Since this posthole apparently coincided with the northern extent of the Structure NH8642 and the southern extent of later Structure NH8622, it may have represented part of a boundary. The position of Phase 5 pit NH1005 (see Chapter 4) against the southern side of this proposed boundary would offer further evidence for this.

Structure NH8622 (Plate 3.14)

Cutting into the surviving deposits of Structures NH8624 and NH8642 was a rectangular arrangement of small pits, some with impressions of large posts at their bases, which formed a substantial timber structure. This could have been part of a building fronting onto Snitheling Street to the west. The north wall is represented by pits NH1156, NH1119 and NH1087, and the south wall by pits NH1223, NH1201 and NH1136. The structure may have extended further eastwards since pit NH1149, located 4.8 m to the east, was similar in character. The structure formed by the main group of postpits was square within the excavated area and measured



Plate 3.14 Post-pit NH1117 (Structure NH8622), Property SE 2, Phase 4.2, looking east

c 5.1 m in width (from the centre of the posts). If this formed part of a building with a gable end fronting onto Snitheling Street it could have measured 10.2 m in length. The configuration of the posts was not entirely symmetrical or fully understood, although the following arrangement can be suggested. The north-east and south-east corners were represented by pairs of posts (NH1119/NH1087 and NH1136), the post-impressions set 1.2–1.3 m apart, the latter contained within a single post-pit. The posts within the northern wall, judging by the evidence of the post impressions at the base of the pits, were round with diameters measuring between 0.4–0.5 m. Here the posts were each set in the northern end of elongated oval pits measuring 1.5–2 m in length and up to 0.9 m wide with their depths varying from 0.83 to 1.39 m. All three post-pits of the north wall had concentrations of large flint nodules at their north end, presumably as packing around the posts, though there was no evidence for post-pipes, suggesting that the posts had been deliberately removed. The gradient of the southern side of each pit was shallower than the other sides, perhaps to assist with easing the heavy post into the pit. The posts of the south wall, apart from the south-east corner, did not correspond symmetrically with their counterparts on the north wall and were set in smaller and shallower pits, although the surviving evidence suggests they held posts of a similar size.

There were three similar pits contained internally within the rectangular arrangement (NH1117, NH1212 and NH1082) whose function is difficult to ascertain, though given their size they presumably had a load-bearing function, perhaps to support a staircase at the east end of the structure (Plate 3.14). Later levelling had removed all evidence for floors apart from a spread of compact chalk that overlay post-pit NH1156 and patchy brown clay that similarly overlay post-pit NH1119, both of which abutted the position of their respective post-pipes.

Dating for the construction of the structure is problematic given that the fills of the post-pits probably date from its dismantling. Only a single sherd of coarse grained sandy pottery could be dated to after the Conquest; otherwise the presence of Winchester ware and other late Saxon wheel-thrown sandy wares suggests a mid 10th- to mid 11th-century date. It is notable that one post-pit (NH1156) contained a fragment of worked Quarr stone, possibly a wall fragment, a stone which was used quite extensively in ecclesiastical building in Anglo-Norman Winchester, including the cathedral, but becomes rare after the later 12th century as the quarry on the Isle of Wight was worked out.

Phase 4.2 pits

Pit Group NH8533 comprised four pits that were clustered within the footprint of Structure NH8622. Pit NH1152 was probably rectangular and 0.99 m deep, and was cut by post-pit NH1156 and therefore

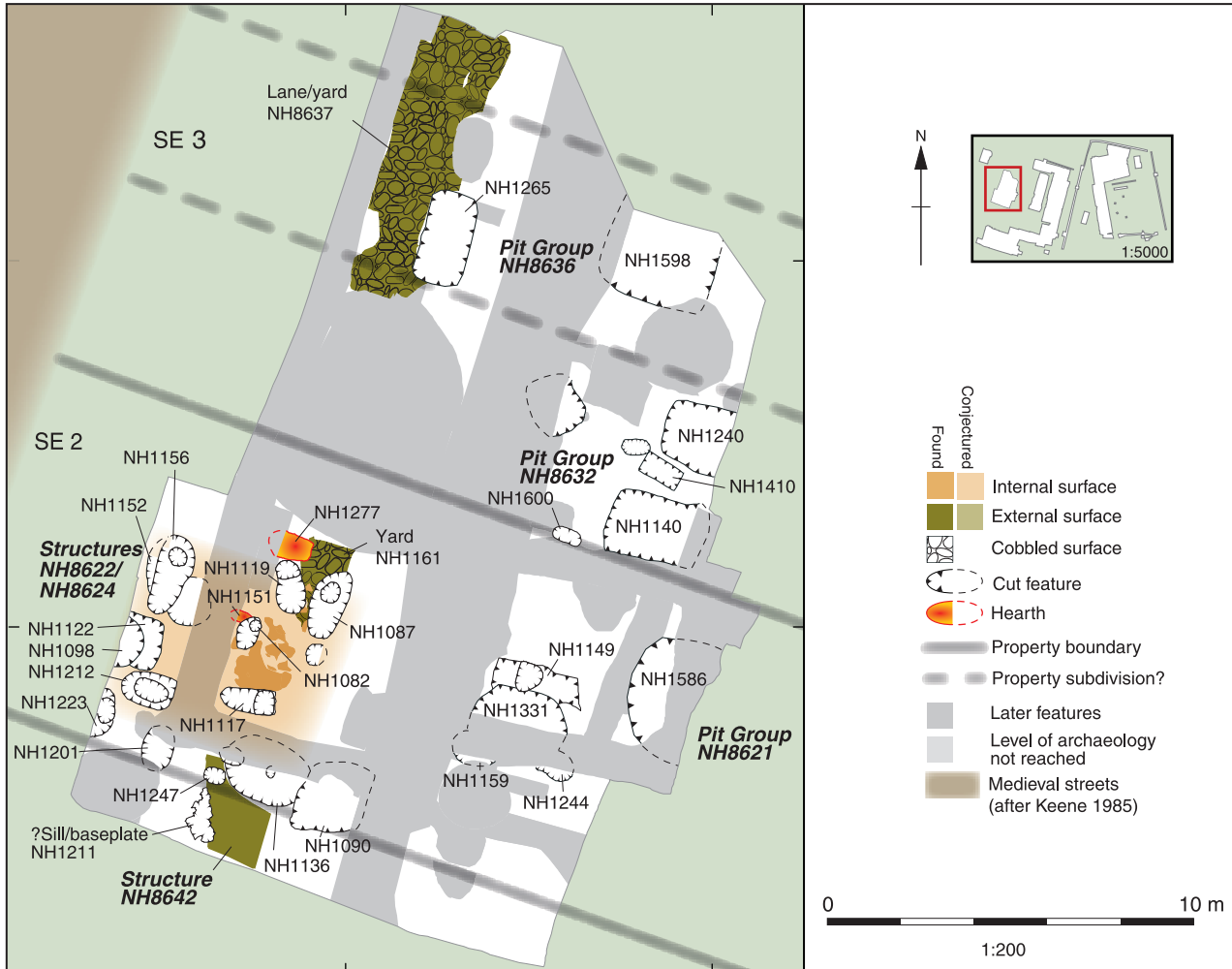


Fig. 3.22 Properties SE 2 and SE 3, Phase 4.2/4

pre-dated the construction of Structure NH8622. It had been rapidly infilled with brown clay and soil containing chalk-tempered ware (Fabric MBX) with flint tempered ware (Fabric MAV) implying a date after the mid 10th century. Intercutting pits NH1098 and NH1122 may also be contemporary; the earlier pit (NH1122) was circular, measuring 1.5 m in diameter and 0.78 m in depth. It appears to have been left open for a sufficient period of time to allow for a thick accumulation of weathered material on its base. Nothing was contained within the pits to indicate their function though the presence of a madder-stained pottery sherd in pit NH1152 would suggest dyeing was undertaken in the vicinity.

Five pits (Pit Group NH8621) located to the east of Structure NH8624 are likely to have been contemporary with its use or its successor, Structure NH8622. Four of the pits (NH1586, NH1331, NH1159 and NH1244) were cut by the footings of the chapel excavated here by Barry Cunliffe in 1960 (see Phase 5) and pit NH1586 was partially investigated during those excavations (Cunliffe 1964, fig. 58, Pit M6), though details and its finds were not published. It was probably circular, measuring c 3 m across, and had been rapidly infilled with thick alternating

deposits of compacted clay and dark soil to its excavated depth of 0.95 m. Its use as a well cannot be precluded, and if so, the dating evidence suggests that it had gone out of use prior to the Conquest since one fill (NH1589) contained a large part of a spouted pitcher in a chalk and flint fabric that had a simple undeveloped rim type, indicative of a mid 10th- to mid 11th-century date. Adjacent pit NH1331 was circular and of a similar diameter to pit NH1586 and excavated to a depth of 0.93 m. The nature of its earliest fills suggests that it had been left open to allow significant erosion of its sides before being rapidly filled with dumps of redeposited natural and dark soil, fills similar to those found within pit NH1586. The pit contained domestic refuse including chalk-tempered ware and late Saxon sandy wares (Fabrics MBX and MSH) implying a date prior to 950, though the presence of small sherds of flintier MAV ware could also imply a later date. Two further pits located immediately to its south had been largely removed by the footings of the chapel though shallow pit NH1159 contained a greenish fill suggesting it had been used to dispose of cess. The fifth pit NH1090 apparently clipped the eastern edge of post-pit NH1136 that formed part of Structure

NH8622 and seemingly post-dated its construction. It was probably circular measuring in excess of 1.68 m in diameter and excavated to a depth of 1.12 m. Its earliest excavated fill comprised compact chalk rubble, possibly deposited to cap the pit, followed by a succession of slumped deposits that were probably laid for consolidation. Evidence from the earliest of these consolidation layers suggests a pre-conquest date but included coarse grained sandy ware (Fabric MAQ) which is datable to *c* 1000–1250.

Post-pit NH1149 cut pit NH1331. The function of this post-pit is unclear. It was similar to the post-pits and postholes that formed Structure NH8622 but there is no further evidence to suggest whether it was associated with Structure NH8622 or not. It is possible that it was associated with the construction of the medieval chapel (see Chapter 4).

Property SE 3 (Fig. 3.22)

Phase 4 boundary evidence

The earliest surviving evidence for the boundary between Property SE 3 and Property SE 2 to the south is probably posthole NH1600. It corresponded to the southern extent of Pit Group NH8632 and also to the northern extent of the medieval chapel. During Phase 5 (Chapter 4) a short row of postholes/small pits (Phase 5 Pit Group NH8631) probably demarcated a property subdivision on the line proposed here, although it is not certain if the property was subdivided in this way during Phase 4. However, the later post-row does appear to correspond to the northern extent of Pit Group NH8632. The distance between the two lines of postholes measured *c* 5.5 yards or 1 perch, corresponding to the general width of properties seen elsewhere. Any evidence for structures to the west would have been removed by a large quarry pit NH1034 (Phase 5, Chapter 4) and by later levelling to its north.

Phase 4 pits

Pit Group NH8632

Three vertical-sided rectangular pits were excavated in a row towards the east of the area. The southernmost pit (NH1140) was cut by the footings of the medieval chapel and measured 2 m by at least 1.8 m and was excavated to depth of 1 m. Its north-east corner was cut by a feature that can be equated with pit M5 from the 1960 excavations (Cunliffe 1964, fig 58). The pit contained thick and fairly compact gravel-rich clayey soils suggestive of rapid infilling and consolidation, the soil perhaps derived from the cutting of the adjacent pit NH1240. This was probably undertaken after the mid 10th century since a lamp-bowl in flinty fabric MAV was recovered from one fill. The fills contained a large fragment of smithing hearth bottom and fragments of furnace lining with thickly vitrified surfaces

indicative of intense heat. The presence of iron slag including fragments with fayalitic runs would suggest that both smelting and smithing were undertaken probably from a workshop nearby on the property, presumably located to the west. Adjacent pit NH1240 was of similar dimensions and was excavated to a depth of 0.95 m. Its lowest excavated fills probably date to the pre-Conquest period and comprised soft dark brown sticky clays rich in domestic refuse including animal bone and oyster shells. In contrast its upper fills were compact and gravel-rich representing final filling and consolidation and possibly date to the 11th or 12th century (see Phase 5).

Small rectangular pit NH1410 was 'sandwiched' between pits NH1140 and NH1240, its positioning suggesting that it may postdate both. The pit was straight-sided, measured 0.95 by 0.5 m and 0.55 m deep, and may have served a structural purpose given that its upper fills contained large flint and chalk nodules, perhaps packing around a post that had subsequently been removed.

Pit group NH8636

Two rectangular pits were located to the north of postulated boundary with Property SE 3. The earlier (NH1265) measured 2.6 by 1.3 m and was positioned flush against the line of the boundary, apparently respecting the eastern edge of a possible lane/yard NH8637 (see below). It was filled with mid grey-brown silty clay to its excavated level of 0.53 m and contained domestic rubbish including cattle, sheep/goat and pig bones. A small quantity of iron slag suggests nearby metalworking. The second pit (NH1598) was comparable in size and form to the large squarish pits to the south (Pit Group NH8632) though its excavated fills contained pottery suggesting a post-Conquest date for its filling (see Phase 5). The pit was hand-excavated to a depth of 1.55 m and thereafter by machine, which revealed its total depth to be 4.55 m, a depth considered too shallow for the pit to have served as a well. The basal fill of the pit comprised thin sticky mid-dark grey silty clay, a sample of which was retrieved from the machine bucket for analysis. This contained a small quantity of largely indeterminate charred cereal grains and several fragments of hazelnut shells, but lacked any evidence for mineralised remains. Also present was a quantity of flake and spherical hammerscale that presumably originated from the sweepings of nearby smithing. Above were deposits of re-deposited natural gravel perhaps derived from weathering of the open pit. The subsequent fills comprised greenish organic silts, representing its use for the disposal of cess. This also contained a significant amount of hammerscale and a quantity of waste derived from bone-working suggesting a variety of trades were undertaken on the property. The cessy fills were subsequently capped by a thick deposit of clay before its subsequent use as a rubbish pit (see Chapter 4).

Phase 4 Yard or Lane NH8637

A strip alongside the western part of the property appears to have been open throughout the late Saxon period and also remained devoid of pits throughout the medieval period. A thin sequence of deposits survived to suggest the area may have been used to provide access, possibly forming part of a lane leading from the north. Curiously the late Roman Dark Earth, extant elsewhere (if not previously removed by modern levelling) was absent and late Saxon levels resided directly upon the truncated and thin remains of the early Roman subsoil, suggesting that the prevailing east-west slope had been terraced to provide a level platform. The earliest level comprised an extensive thin and clean dark brown silty clay (NH1356) sealing two small and very shallow pits that contained a small quantity of late Saxon chalk-tempered pottery. A metallated surface (NH1327) comprising closely packed small rounded pebbles (20–50 mm in diameter) was laid and abutted the western extent of silty clay NH1356. It was aligned approximately SW-NE and measured a maximum 1.6 m in width, extending for a distance of least 7.6 m cross the full width of the property. The surface was compact and well worn and showed evidence of repair with larger and more angular flints. A patchy and thin dark brown silty clay (NH1302) that contained

animal bone and iron slag fragments was allowed to develop over the surface, before a second surface of gravel and coarse flints was laid (NH1289), which extended further west than the earlier surface, itself allowed to become very worn. Further patchy repairs comprising gravel and coarse flints followed, though much of this evidence may have been removed by modern truncation. A large fragment of smithing hearth bottom was recovered from repair NH1259, apparently utilised as part of the metallating but perhaps originally derived from contemporary smithing activity identified within Property SE 3 (see Pit Group NH8632).

The need for a lane here is somewhat puzzling given that Keene (1985, figs 72–4) places Snitheling Street some 7 m to the west at this point. If it led from the north arm of this street, which Keene suggests lies *c* 40 m to the north of the excavated area, then this would have bisected several properties. It is unlikely that it represented an early alignment of the street itself since no trace of it was found within Property SE 1 and indeed it may not have extended into the adjacent property, this area having been destroyed by the excavation of large Anglo-Norman pit NH1034. It seems that the most likely explanation is that it represented a 'private' lane leading from a point from the western arm of Snitheling Street to access the area behind structures that occupied the area to its east.

